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THORA, in "THE PRODIGAL SON."

South African News.—Another feature of the production was the début, in this country, of Miss Maude Stewart Drewry, who played the part of Thora with power and passion, her scene with Helga, when the latter's machinations were exposed, being magnificent. Miss Drewry, at what was her first performance in our midst, showed that she was more than equal to the onerous part allotted to her, and she rapidly became a favourite with those in front.

Cape Times.—The part of the true and tender Thora was played by Miss Maude Stewart Drewry. She invested her reading of the character with infinite charm. Thora's winsome manner and slight girlish figure made the tragedy of her early death the more pitiful. It was in the scene where this death occurred that Miss Drewry reached a very high level of fine acting. Indeed, it is as fine as anything seen in the Opera House for many a long day.

Owl.—Miss Maude Stewart Drewry is new to South Africa, but she quickly showed herself to be an actress of considerable power. She made of Thora a very charming and attractive personality, and altogether Mr. Rayne is to be congratulated on his latest recruit.

Review.—Miss Drewry, who appeared for the first time in South Africa, invested the part of Thora with impressive delicacy and sweetness. It is a part which, in proper hands, cannot fail to be effective, and Miss Drewry missed none of her opportunities.

East London Daily Despatch.—Miss M. S. Drewry, as the gentle Thora, was admirable. She was able to rise to that degree of passion which the gentlest characters are capable under great strain. As the betrayed wife in the scene with her sister, Helga. Miss Drewry touched the true note of tragedy.

Mosquito.—The character of Thora, the much-suffering wife of Oscar, was played with great sympathy by Miss M. S. Drewry. Miss Drewry is a very attractive addition to Mr. Rayne's company, and her first appearance here was an unqualified success.

Transvaal Critic.—Miss M. S. Drewry is a stranger to Johannesburg, but I am glad to welcome her as an actress of exceptional power, particularly in the high, strong, emotional line. She presents the living Thora with splendid success—the impressionable girl captured by Oscar's volatile ability, the heart-broken wife, enduring the anguish of seeing her inconsistent husband fallen under the witcheries of a more fascinating sister. Miss Drewry ought to go a long way in her profession.

Photo by J. Watson.

MISS MAUDE STEWART DREWRY.

KATE, in "THE MANXMAN."

Transvaal Critic.—Miss M. S. Drewry presents Kate Creegan for the first time. She may be proud of the achievement. From the thrilling scene of Pete's return, and her mad appeal to Philip to right the wrong, her audience fell down and worshipped the emotional actress, the woman whose flesh creeps at her husband's touch, who clings fondly to hope until she is thrust aside by Philip's mingled ambition and cowardice. In the climax of the play, where Pete is told that he is neither father nor beloved, Miss Drewry's grim story was beautifully told—voice, gesture, manner all contributing. Altogether a splendid character.

Transvaal Leader.—Kate Creegan was acted by Miss Maude Stewart Drewry, who gave a charming representation of the tavern-keeper's daughter. The development of the careless Kate of the first act into the beautiful, loving, and erring woman of the second, and lastly, into the distracted wife and mother of the latter half of the play, was exceedingly well represented.

Transvaal Advertiser.—Miss M. S. Drewry played the difficult part of the, at first, bright and witty Kitty and the misguided lover and wife in a manner that could not fail to be admired.

Star, Johannesburg.— A fine companion picture was presented in the shape of the portrayal of the part of Katharine, by Miss Drewry, who at one bound advanced considerably the reputation she has already earned. In the first act, especially, she played with a full realisation of the significance of the character—half merry, half tragic—which won ready applause.

ESTHER, in "CASTE."

Transvaal Advertiser.—Miss M. S. Drewry as Esther again sustained her reputation. Her performance was charming, natural, and more than pleasing. Miss Drewry is to be congratulated on a charming performance, marked by good elocution and excellent acting.

Cape Times.—Very charming, indeed, was Miss Drewry in the part of Esther, and in the acute scene, when D'Alroy is leaving for the war, she reached a very high altitude of dramatic fervour.

DICK, in "TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS."

East London Daily Despatch.—But the success of the evening was undoubtedly Miss Drewry; she was the vagabond as one sees him in London, and in the wayside gipsy caravans.

Natal Mercury.—The little vagabond, Dick, was given by Miss M. S. Drewry, and she was eminently successful, and the best Dick ever seen in Durban.

Pretoria News.—Miss Maude Stewart Drewry as Dick was very natural and boyish, full of fun and good spirits, never overdoing her part, even in her most trying scene, where she recognises her old home.

LADY VENETIA, in "UNDER TWO FLAGS."

Cape Times.—Miss Maude Stewart Drewry as Lady Venetia added yet another to her many successes.

East London Daily Despatch.—Lady Venetia was charmingly impersonated by Miss Maude Stewart Drewry, whose personality was quite in keeping with her rôle.

East London Daily News.—Miss M. S. Drewry made a charming Lady Venetia, and repeatedly brought down the house with her sympathetic interpretation of a difficult part. Her charm as an actress is undeniable, and she shone to her best advantage on the stage last night.

Disengaged.
Strathmore, Cosbycote-avenue, Herne Hill, S.E.

TOURING COMPANIES.

LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.
Mr. WM. L. DOBELL, with Répertoire.
29th Year of Tour. P. H.'s, SUNNINGHILL, SLOUGH, and MARLOW.
Perm. add., Christie House, Staple Hill, Bristol.

DOTTRIDGE and LONGDEN'S ENTERPRISES.
"VILLAGE BLACKSMITH," P., Preston.
"MIDNIGHT MAIL," Vacation.
"ALADDIN," C., Wigan.
"ROBINSON CRUSOE," E., Oldham.
Vacant:
"VILLAGE BLACKSMITH," April 8, Aug. 6.
"MIDNIGHT MAIL," May 20 Aug. 6.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham

DOTTRIDGE, LONGDEN, and LIVESEY'S CO.,
"THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH."
"THE MONEY MAKER."
Jan. 7, THEATRE ROYAL, DEWSBURY.
Absolutely the Biggest Financial Success Touring.
Wanted, Big Theatres for
April 8 and August Bank Holiday.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, EMPIRE, OLDHAM.

THE COMPTON COMEDY COMPANY.
under the Direction of EDWARD COMPTON, in the Round of Old English Comedies. Twenty-sixth Year of Tour. Stage-Manager, HENRY CROCKER. Business-Manager, Mr. H. B. FITZGIBBON, to whom all communications should be addressed.
Jan. 7, OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.

E. HILL-MITCHELSON'S CO.'S.
Two New Productions,
Autumn, 1907.
Book Plays, Novelties.
Productions Surpassing all Previous Efforts.
Entirely New Situations and Plots.
P.O.W. THEATRE, GRIMSBY.

E. HILL MITCHELSON and H. FINEBERG'S
"THE TRAITOR,"
By E. Hill-Mitchelson.
Vacant Jan. 28, Feb. 4.
THEATRE ROYAL, WOLVERHAMPTON.

CHARLES MACDONA'S COMPANIES.

"MR. POPPLE" (OF IPPLETON), Jan. 7, Norwich.
"WHITE CHRYSANTHEMUM," Jan. 7, Kilmarnock.
"MR. HOPKINSON," Vacation.
"ARE YOU A MASON?" Jan. 7, Eccles.
"GAY PARISIENNE," Jan. 7, Mansfield.
"THREE LITTLE MAIDS," Jan. 7, Whitehaven.
"COUNTRY GIRL," Jan. 7, South Wales and Midlands.
"CHINESE HONEYMOON," Jan. 7, Ireland.
"TOREADOR," Jan. 7, Scotland.
"A NIGHT OUT," Tour starts Spring, '07.
"DR. WAKE'S PATIENT," Tour starts next Aut.
THEATRE ROYAL, COLCHESTER.
Vacant Dates,
Feb. 11 (?), 25, March 11, 25, Easter.
OPERETTA HOUSE, CLACTON-ON-SEA.
Vacant dates from January onward.
All communications to London Offices, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W. Telegrams, "Cockeyed, London." Telephone, 6,920 Gerrard.

New and Grand Revival
of
CLAUDIAN.
WILLIAM MACLAREN
as Claudian.
LILY C. BANDMANN
as Almida.
Supported by their Company
of
Recognised Artists.
Full Chorus
and
Principal Dancer.
One of the
Greatest Artistic
and
Financial Successes
of
1906.
Now Booking Autumn, 1907.
Jan. 7,
VICTORIA T., BROUGHTON, MANCHESTER.

MISS MARY AUSTIN
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E. VIVIAN EDMONDS'
COMPANIES.
"WOMAN AND WINE."
By Arthur Shirley and Ben Landeck.
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By Geo. R. Sims and the late Wilson Barrett.
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All Communications, E. VIVIAN EDMONDS,
AQUARIUM THEATRE, GREAT YARMOUTH.

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"THE BELLE OF MAYFAIR,"
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Jan. 7, COUNTY T., READING (6 nights).
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(6 nights).
Vacant March 18, Sept. 2, Nov. 4, 11.
Address, MILTON BODE, County Theatre, Reading.

Season 1906-7.
E. STEVENS and R. C. BUCHANAN
Present the following Pantomimes:
"CINDERELLA,"
Marlborough Theatre, London.
"RED RIDING HOOD,"
New King's Theatre, Sunderland.
"THE FAIR ONE WITH THE GOLDEN LOCKS."
Gaiety Theatre, Leith.
"JACK THE GIANT KILLER,"
"CINDERELLA."
Scotland's Provincial Theatres.
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"THE LONDON FIREMAN."
Only vacant dates,
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"HER MARRIAGE VOW,"
By Owen Davis.
Production Aug. Bank Holiday.
Vacant Sept. 16, 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14, Nov. 25.
Messrs. Garside and Knowles beg to state they have secured the rights to perform the above from the Author and his American Managers through their British Agent. Also for sole rights of extensive plant of printing.
Produced for Copyright purposes by them at O. H., Dudley, Oct. 11 last.

IDA MOLESWORTH & MARK BLOW'S
"UNDER TWO FLAGS,"
"A SAILOR'S SWEETHEART,"
"AT CRIPPLE CREEK."
Vacant Feb. 4 25, March 4, 11, 25.
11, St. Edmund's-terrace, Regent's Park, N.W.

MISS FRANCES DELAVAL'S CO.
"HER LOST SELF," by Nita Rae. "THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH," by F. A. Scudamore. Vacant Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4. TUDOR THEATRE, FERNDALE.

By arrangement with G. M. Polini,
GEORGE HENRY
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"THE SLEDGE HAMMER,"
A Domestic Play in Four Acts,
by Wilson Barrett.
A few spring dates still vacant.
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MISS EMMA HUTCHISON
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MR. PERCY HUTCHISON.
"THE FREEDOM OF SUZANNE,"
with MISS MABEL LOVE and Mr. Percy Hutchison.
Tour reopens Feb. 4, CORONET THEATRE.
"PUBLIC OPINION,"
with Miss Emma Hutchison.
"COUSIN KATE," "COUNTRY MOUSE."
"ON THE LOVE PATH," "SATURDAY TO MONDAY"
Address,
PERCY HUTCHISON, 4, Finchley-road, N.W.
Telephone 2195 Pad.

Miss EMMA HUTCHISON and Mr. PERCY HUTCHISON have made arrangements with Mr. Otho Stuart for the entire provincial rights of Mrs. Henry De la Pasture's successful Play,
"PETER'S MOTHER,"
Now running at Apollo Theatre.
Three Companies will start out in the early Spring.
All coms., PERCY HUTCHISON, 4, Finchley-rd., N.W.

HENRY SWINERD'S COMPANY.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY
By Wilfred Carr.
A
Musical
Comedy
Novelty.
Now in Seventh Year of Continuous Tour.
First-class Company, including:—
Mr. H. C. BARRY.
Wanted, Feb. 4,
March 4, 18,
April 1, 22, 29,
May 6, 13, 20.
General-Manager, Mr. J. W. CORDINER.
Jan. 7, H. M. T., CARLISLE (return).

ALFRED NORTHWAY and
W. V. GARROD'S TOURS.
"THE PRODIGAL PARSON."
48th Consecutive Week. Feb. 4 vacant.
Jan. 7, THEATRE ROYAL, MACCLESFIELD.

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS."
Vacant, Jan. 7, 14, Lancs. or Yorks.
Also Easter.
HORACE STANLEY,
THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD (4th visit).

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
Vacation.
Only Vacant Dates,
Feb. 4, 11, and 25.
Miss MAUD HILDYARD,
MARINA THEATRE, LOWESTOFT.

T. EDWARD WARD'S CO.
Grand Easter, 1907, Production
of an entirely new play by Walter Howard,
"SECOND TO NONE,"
A Story of the Royal Scots Greys.
Production, GRAND JUNCTION T., MANCHESTER. T. E. WARD, T. R., Sunderland.

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AN UNWEDDED WIFE.
All Scenery carried.
Ten varieties of Pictorial Posters and Eight Lithos.
Special 16pp. Throwaway.
ETHEL VAN PRAAGH
in title role.
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in Répertoire
of
Shakespearean and other Plays,
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"CARMEN."
Tour starts Christmas.
A Few Spring Dates Vacant.
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"THE HOUR OF HER TRIUMPH,"
by W. Hibbert. Five Complete Sets Carried.
Vac. Feb. 11, March 4, 18, April 29, and August Bank Holiday. Jan. 7, SCUNTHORPE, 3 nights.

MR. H. HAMILTON STEWART,
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MR. CHARLES FROHMAN, presents
"SHERLOCK HOLMES."
Vacant Feb. 18. WALTER J. BAYLISS,
Next, GRAND THEATRE, BLACKPOOL.

Mr. C. WATSON MILL presents
The Romantic Picturesque Play,
"A WARNING TO WOMEN,"
Wanted, Theatres with large holding capacity, for Jan. 21 and 28,
Feb. 11 (?),
April 8 and 15,
May 6 and 13.
Only Vacant Dates.
C. WATSON MILL, COURT THEATRE, BACUP.

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MR. SILVANUS DAUNCEY AND
MR. M. V. LEVEAUX'S TOURS
With MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER'S COS.
in the Enormously Successful Play,
"THE WALLS OF JERICHO,"
from the GARRICK THEATRE, LONDON.
Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1907.
Address, Mr. SILVANUS DAUNCEY,
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BERT COOTE'S
Fourth Annual Tour of this Highly Successful Play,
THE FATAL WEDDING.
Everything the same as Original Production
Splendid Cast. New Specialities in the
Celebrated Children's Scene.
Autumn Dates Fully Booked.
All arrangements complete.
Address,
BERT COOTE, 150, Oxford St., W.

Mr. WENTWORTH CROKE PRESENTS
MISS MINNIE PALMER
in
"MY SWEETHEART."
No Vacant Dates until after Easter.
Apply WENTWORTH CROKE,
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"ROBINSON CRUSOE," T. R., Smethwick.
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"THE FORTY THIEVES," T. R., Jarrow.
"SINBAD THE SAILOR," T. R., Leigh.
Managers are cordially invited to see the above productions with a view to arranging next season.
FRED J. LITTLE, T. R., SMETHWICK.

Mr. J. A. CAMPBELL'S COS.,
in the New Moral Drama,
THE SIN OF HER CHILDHOOD.
By J. A. CAMPBELL.
Vacation till Easter.

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By J. A. CAMPBELL.
Another Success at the West London Theatre.
Copy of letter received from Wm. Bailey, Esq.:
Dear Campbell,—
I am very pleased indeed with "The Little Breadwinner," and shall book it for a better date to return. It has not had a chance, being the week before Xmas. Under the circumstances, you will perhaps pardon me if I add 5% on your share in appreciation of the splendid production.—With all good wishes, yours truly,
(Signed) WILLIAM BAILEY.
Dec. 31, METROPOLE, GATESHEAD (six nights).

THE OLD FOLKS AT HOME.
By J. A. CAMPBELL.
Production takes place Sept. 30 at Junction Theatre, Manchester, for two weeks.
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METROPOLE, GATESHEAD.

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CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE,
"ALADDIN,"
Twice Daily, at 3.15 and 7.30.
NEW ROYAL THEATRE, KING'S LYNN,
Jan. 7, "BLUEBEARD."
"THE CHRISTIAN"
(by arrangement with Wentworth Croke).
Jan. 7, Touring through CORNWALL.
"THE SILVER KING"
(by arrangement with Wentworth Croke),
Jan. 7, Touring through CORNWALL.
"THE FOUR JUST MEN"
(by arrangement with H. A. Saintsbury),
Tour starts Feb. 11, HALIFAX.
"FLORODORA,"
Tour starts Feb. 11, WOLVERHAMPTON.
"THE BELLE OF NEW YORK,"
Tour starts March 4, KING'S, HAMMERSMITH.
"OLIVER TWIST."
Tour starts Feb. 11, TORQUAY.
N.B.—"THE EARL AND THE GIRL," "THE BELLE OF MAYFAIR," and "THE ETERNAL CITY" (small towns only), start August Bank Holiday.
WILLIAM MARTIN, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

By Arrangement with Mr. William Greet,
Complete Savoy Production,
"THE SHULAMITE,"
A Dramatic Episode of Life on a Boer Farm.
Vacant Feb. 18. Feb. 18. Feb. 18.
Address all coms., Mr. THEODORE, 25, St. Ann-street, Manchester.

THE MYSTICAL MUSICAL PLAY.

Owing to his inability to cancel several long-standing foreign Contracts **SERVAIS LE ROY** is reluctantly compelled to postpone Re-production until **July 27th, 1907,** when the Play will visit No. 1 Theatres only.

"LADY KINTON'S NECKLACE,"

whilst retaining its great drawing features, its unique presentation and extraordinary novelties, will further add to its great possibilities, and, with song and chorus, will become the one

UNIQUE MYSTICAL MUSICAL PLAY.

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LE ROY—TALMA—BOSCO.

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Twenty-second Year of Tour.
"MAN TO MAN."
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Famous IRISH COMPANY.
Famous Irish Company.
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"WHAT THE BUTLER SAW,"
A Great Success Everywhere.
Now Booking Spring Dates 1907.
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MR. LIONEL RIGNOLD
has secured the Sole Rights of
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"WHY SMITH LEFT HOME,"
"WRONG MR. WRIGHT."
For particulars apply to Mr. LIONEL RIGNOLD.

MR. WILLIAM GREET'S COMPANIES
Week commencing Dec. 31,
"EARL AND THE GIRL" (M.), LEICESTER.
"EARL AND THE GIRL" (N.), ST. HELENS.
Address, re Dates, to ALEXANDER TELFORD,
LYRIC THEATRE, W.

THE LOVE THAT WOMEN DESIRE.

By G. Carlton Wallace,
Author of "The Village Blacksmith."
Vacant March, Whit week.

Next Production,

THE LANCASHIRE LAD.

Address, G. CARLTON WALLACE,
COURT THEATRE, BACUP.

ALFRED PAUMIER, WALTER HOWARD'S COS.

THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING.

A Romantic Play by Walter Howard.

ANNIE SAKER,
ALFRED PAUMIER,
AND PRINCIPAL COMPANY

"THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID,"
a Romantic Play by Walter Howard.

Jan. 7,
OSBORNE THEATRE, MANCHESTER.

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY.

EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S NO. 1 CO.
NOTICE.
The above Farcical Comedy is one of the very few that still Make Money.
Theatres not playing Pantomime during January and February cannot do better than book this Comedy. It's funnier than a Pantomime! The children love it!
Now Booking Spring, 1907.
Jan. 14, 21, and 28, Feb. 11.
April 1, May 13, and Autumn from Aug. 5, on.
Managers with above Vacant Dates kindly write.
Wanted, to lease, a good Provincial Theatre.

E. C. STAFFORD, en route,
or C/o SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.,
26, Southampton-street, Strand, W.C.

FRANK E. BURDETT'S TOUR.
"THE INDIAN MUTINY."
Vac. Jan. 28 and April 15.
Address, FRANK E. BURDETT,
Jan. 7, EDEN, BISHOP AUCKLAND (return).

G. M. POLINI AND AUSTIN MELFORD'S
Specially Chosen Companies in
Henry Arthur Jones's Great Play,
"THE SILVER KING."
H.M. OPERA HOUSE, BLACKPOOL,
Jan. 7. All Spring settled. Several dates vacant in Autumn. For Dates, POLINI, 93, Penge-road, S.E.
Other coms., AUSTIN MELFORD,
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G. M. POLINI AND LAUDERDALE MAITLAND
are Presenting the Great Lancashire Play,
by Ernest Martin and Fewlass Llewellyn,
"THE COAL KING,"
a Drama of Intense Human Interest, which has anticipated all the Thrilling Episodes, which have recently occurred in Coal Mine Life.
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Vacant Feb. 4, 25, and March 11.
For dates, POLINI, 93, Penge-road, S.E.
Other Coms., L. MAITLAND, en route.

BARON H. HARRISS
presents by arrangement with
Mr. GEORGE MUSGROVE,
the Latest American Musical Comedy,
"THE PRINCE OF PILSEN,"
with a Company of over 50 London Artists, including
Mr. HARRY KILBURN,
Mr. FRANK CRIMP,
and
Miss SOPHIE HARRISS.
Everything carried, including Conductor and Leader.
Autumn Tour of eighteen weeks just finished, and acknowledged by Proprietors, Managers, Public, and Press to be one of the best staged, magnicently dressed, and perfectly played musical comedies that has ever visited their respective theatres.
Christmas Tour started Dec. 22, and is fully booked for 46 weeks in 1907. Wanted, First-class Theatre for a Season for Xmas, 1907, and on.
N.B.—This is the only company now playing "The Prince of Pilsen." All communications to be addressed BARON H. HARRISS, Theatre Royal, Hanley. Jan. 7, THEATRE ROYAL, ROCHDALE.

JAMES KIDDIE'S PANTOMIMES.

Season 1906-07.

"ALADDIN,"
PRINCE'S THEATRE, PORTSMOUTH.
Every Evening until further notice.

"CINDERELLA,"
GRAND THEATRE, MIDDLESBROUGH,
Every Evening until further notice.
Vacant Feb. 11.

DICK WHITTINGTON,"
Jan. 7, THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH, one week.
Vacant Feb. 18.
Managers of First-class Theatres are cordially invited to witness these Pantomimes with a view to arranging Production, Christmas, 1907.

Sole Proprietor, Mr. JAMES KIDDIE.

General Secretary for all James Kiddie's Enterprises. Mr. THOS. SWINTON.
Address all communications to
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.

FRED ACTON and HARRY C. NASH'S TOUR.
"BETWEEN THE LIGHTS."
Vacant July 15 and 29, Sept. 2 (?) and 16, Nov. 4, and on.
Address, FRED ACTON, T. R., Stockport.

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RENAD BROTHERS'
Celebrated A
"SWISS EXPRESS." Gilt-edged
"SWISS EXPRESS." Attraction.

"PUSS IN BOOTS." "PUSS IN BOOTS."
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Produced at the
GRAND THEATRE, HULL,
on Boxing Day.

The "Eastern Morning News,"
in noticing the production of
"PUSS IN BOOTS,"
Wrote as follows:—
A TREMENDOUS OUTBURST OF APPLAUSE
at the finish of the Pantomime.
WHAT BETTER VERDICT
than that could those responsible for the
GRAND THEATRE PANTOMIME
DESIRE?
MUCH DEPENDS
upon the expressed judgment of the first night's audience.
THERE WAS NO QUESTIONING
it at the Grand Theatre, when the curtain fell amidst a
BLAZE OF COLOUR AND BEAUTY,
and the crowded audience were
COMPELLED
to give expression to the
ENTHUSIASM
which surged up within them.
IT IS THOROUGHLY DESERVING
the hearty reception which the audience accorded it, and it is
EQUAL TO THE BEST
that has ever been seen in Hull.

"PUSS IN BOOTS,"
Company of Eighty,
Full Chorus and Ballet,
Cinématograph Effects,
Electric Flying Ballet.

The "Yorkshire Post" says:—
"The Village of Golden Grain,"
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"The Royal Barracks,"
and
"The Palace of Sunshine"
would
MAKE THE FORTUNE
of any Pantomime.

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"PUSS IN BOOTS"
Met with an Enthusiastic Reception.
It is the best Pantomime seen for some years. It is
MAGNIFICENTLY STAGED,
PRINCIPALS CHARMING,
COMEDIANS EXCRUCIATINGLY FUNNY.

"PUSS IN BOOTS," GRAND THEATRE, HULL.
"PUSS IN BOOTS," GRAND THEATRE, HULL.
"PUSS IN BOOTS," GRAND THEATRE, HULL.
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"PUSS IN BOOTS," GRAND THEATRE, HULL.

All Communications to C. and F. RENAD.

MISS VIOLET STERNE,
MR. NORMAN MACOWAN,
AND COMPANY,
in
"MONSIEUR BEAUCAIRE,"
"A SOLDIER OF FORTUNE,"
and
"MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE."
Above complete and beautiful productions may be booked separately or in conjunction. Only two dates vacant, April 1 and 22. Now booking Autumn.
Address, MACOWAN, Oak Cottage, Tiptree, Essex.

MR. H. F. MALTBY AND CO.
"THE YOUNGEST OF THREE."
Only vacant Spring date March 11 (South).
Re dates, WYN WEAVER, GRAND THEATRE, CROYDON. Other coms., H. F. MALTBY, 21, Lenlcs-rd., Worthing.

FRED BENTON'S COMPANY,
"THE FRENCH SPY,"
Written by E. Hill-Mitchelson.
Vacant Jan. 28. Vacant.
Address, FRED BENTON, CARLTON T., SALTLEY.

MR. WALTER MAXWELL'S COMPANY,
"THE LION AND THE MOUSE,"
"THE LION AND THE MOUSE,"
"THE LION AND THE MOUSE,"
"THE LION AND THE MOUSE,"
"THE LION AND THE MOUSE,"
"THE LION AND THE MOUSE,"
by arrangement with Charles Frohman,

Vacant Jan. 28, Feb. 4, Feb. 18, March 4.
Vacant Jan. 28, Feb. 4, Feb. 18, March 4.

Address,
WALTER MAXWELL, Opera House, Cork.

THEO BOUWMEESTER,
having acquired the sole right from the Association of French Authors to produce in England the great emotional domestic drama by the famous author Louis Legendre, originally produced at the Comédie Française, Paris, entitled
"SOULS"
(JEAN DARLOT),
will shortly tour same with an exceptionally strong cast, in conjunction with his successful production of
"WHO IS GUILTY?"
"WHO IS GUILTY?"
protean drama, in which Mr. Bouwmeester appears in eight different characters (vide Press).

Correspondence for remaining dates,
CYRIL MELTON, 130, Linkfield-road, Isleworth, London; or
THEO BOUWMEESTER, 91, Norroy-road, Putney, London.

From the Waldorf Theatre.
MR. J. MAUNDY-GREGORY
presents Mr. H. B. Irving's Latest London Success.
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Address, 108, Gloucester-road, Regent's Park, N.W.

MISS ROSEMARY REES,
Address,
34, Oxford-gardens, North Kensington, W.

MISS GRACE RICHARDSON,
Address,
Glentworth, Palmer's Green, N.

MISS CONSTANCE ROBERTSON
Re-engaged by Otho Stuart, Esq. Address, Adelphi T., or 9, Rosetti-mans., Cheyne-walk, S.W.

MISS EAST ROBERTSON,
Standard Theatre.
Disengaged Spring.

MISS MARIE ROBSON
(Mrs. Graham Woods), Lingford Carson Répertoire. T. R., West Bromwich.

MISS RUBY ROMA,
"Saints and Sinners," "Middleman," and "Judah." Jan. 7, Public Hall, Treharris.

MISS LILIAN ROSEBERY
Bottom of the Bill,
London Pavilion.

MISS GLADYS ROSE-JONES,
As Leslie Tremaine, Kennington Panto.
Perm. Address, 4, Elgin-avenue, Maida Vale, W.

MADAME MARIE ROYCE,
Ballet Mistress.
Grand Theatre, Leeds.

MISS ETHEL RUSSELL, Re-engaged by Messrs. Armitage and Leigh for Tour of "Leah Kleschna." Jan. 7, T. R., Preston.

MISS KATHLEEN RUSSELL,
Lead, Disengaged.
14, Elgin-avenue, W.

MISS MAUD RUSSELL
(Mrs. Frank M. Thorne), "Napoleon the Great" Co. Jan. 7, Grand, Mansfield.

MISS FRANCES RUTTLEDGE,
Lead, "The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning" Co. Jan. 7, Terriss Theatre, S.E.

MISS MAY SAKER,
Miss F. Glossop-Harris's Co., Manuelita, in "Carmen." Next week, Pier, St. Leonards.

MISS NESTA SANDFORD,
Address,
Jan. 7, Star T., Swansea.

MISS LIZZIE SCOBIE,
Disengaged.
Address, 77, Rectory-road, Burnley.

MISS MAUDE SCOTT,
Jimmie, in "The Prince of Pilsen."
Jan. 7, Theatre Royal, Rochdale.

MISS SCOTT-WATSON,
Disengaged, Lead.
47, Wymering-mansions, W.

MISS SOPHY SHENTON,
Address,
8, West-terrace, Wherry Town, Penzance.

MISS HAMILTON SMITH, Contralto
Vocalist, Harp, Mandoline, Banjo, and Guitar Soloist. Mansfield House, Clifton Gardens, W.

MISS FLORENCE SMITHERS,
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MRS. E. STATHAM STAPLES
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MISS BLANCHE STEELE,
Hallatt and Howard's Co.,
"Her Love Against the World."

MISS GERTRUDE STERROLL,
Letters, &c.
9, Upper Chadwell-street, Myddelton-square, E.C.

MISS EDITH STEWART,
"The 100 to 1 Chance,"
Jan. 7, Empire, Islington.

MISS ADELAIDE STONEHAM,
Disengaged. Drama, Musical, Comedy.
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MISS MAUD E. STONER,
Dis. Jan. 19. Mr. A. B. Tapping's Co., Esther Summerson and Nancy "New Boy," P., Hastings.

MISS KATE SYDNEY,
Disengaged for Specials,
41, Lyric-road, Barnes, S.W.

MISS GERTRUDE TATE,
Stella, "The Electric Man" Co.
Jan. 7, Theatre Royal, Margate.

MISS GEORGETTE THIERRY,
and BERNARD LIELL,
58, Arundel-avenue, Sefton Park, Liverpool.

MISS MURIEL THOMPSON, Hester Thornbury, "Master and Man," Lady Isobel, "East Lynne." Jan. 7. T. R., West Bromwich.

MISS ELLALINE THORNE
(Ivy),
Pantomime, Marlborough Theatre, London.

MISS N. THORNE-HALLAM,
Met. T., Gateshead. MISS MARGUERITE THORNE. Dis. Character and Com., Old Women.

MISS LOUIE TINSLEY,
Elvira, "Cinderella." Dis. Spring.
Marlborough Theatre, N.

MISS MAUDE TOWNSEND,
Susan, "Quality St.," &c. Mr. Walter Maxwell's Répertoire Co. O. H., Cork. Dis. Jan. 14.

MISS ANNIE TRAVERS,
Disengaged, Character, &c.
28, Noel-street, Islington, N.

MISS HELEN TYTLER,
Con. tour Mrs. Mellon, "Mr. Vanderveldt."
Dis. Com. and Char. 37, Aldridge-road-villas, W.

MISS ELLA VANE
Leading Lady, Mr. Augustine Knight's "Assassin" Co. Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.

MISS HILDA VAUGHAN, with Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler's Comedy Co. in South Africa. Address, C/o "The Era."

MISS ROSSLYN VAYNE,
Barbara, "Two Little Vagabonds."
Jan. 7, T. R., York.

MISS EUGENIE VERNIE Concludes Successful Engagement with Edward Terry. Esq. Disengaged. 312 High-rd, Brondesbury, N.W.

MISS HELEN VICARY,
Disengaged.
Carysfort, Beaumont-road, West Kensington.

MISS HELENA WALBRAN,
Vaudeville Sketch Company.
Jan. 7, Sadler's Wells Theatre, Islington.

MISS WARD,
Marcelle in "Man and Wife."
Address, Theatre Royal, Sunderland.

MISS ADA WATSON,
Edith Adams in Baron H. Harris's "Prince of Pilsen" Co., Theatre Royal, Rochdale.

MISS FLORENCE WATSON,
Principal Girl.
Grand Theatre, Islington.

MISS MARGARET WATSON,
Disengaged, Lead or Comedy.
9, Hayter-road, Brixton-hill, S.W.

MISS DAVIES WEBSTER,
Address,
38, Flanders-mansions, Bedford Park, W.

MISS JOAN WELLMAN,
Disengaged.
10, Gainsborough-mansions, West Kensington, W.

MISS DRUSILLA WILLS,
at Liberty, Comedy and Character.
28, Biddulph-mansions, Elgin-avenue, W.

MR. ALEC ALEXANDER,
Lead, "The Woman Who Gambles."
Jan. 7, Treherbert; 10th, Maesteg.

MR. ALEC ALVES,
"What the Butler Saw,"
Jan. 7, Alexandra Theatre, Greenock.

MR. HENRY ARMSTRONG,
Address,
Terry's Theatre, W.C.

MR. T. WELDON ATHERSTONE,
Napoleon, "The Duchess of Dantzic."
Address, Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon.

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Address,
6, Maitland-street, Bedford.

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Grand Theatre, Eccles.

MR. and MRS. H. K. AYLIFF
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MR. MAURICE E. BANDMANN,
Address,
Theatre Royal, Calcutta.

MR. ARTHUR J. BARCLAY,
Manager, East Ham and Walthamstow Pals.
Address, Parkside, The Drive, Walthamstow.

MR. J. J. BARTLETT,
Address,
12, Angel-road, Hammersmith.

MR. CHARLES B. BEDELLS,
Disengaged, Lead or Heavies.
Address, 42, Liverpool-street, King's Cross, London.

MR. IVAN BERLYN,
Disengaged,
10, King-street, W.C.

MR. STUART BLACK, Father Lamplugh, "Christian" (Howard's). Engaged Mollison, Esq., for Rosse, &c., Penzance.

MR. WILLIE BLACK, Ali Baba, Little and Darcy's "Forty Thieves" Panto. Dis. Feb. 18, Offers Invited. T. R., Jarrow.

MR. ALAN BORTHWICK,
The Old Retainer in "Dorothy o' the Hall,"
New Theatre.

MR. CHARLES BOULT,
Dis. Feb. 18. General-Manager, Little and D'Arcy's "Sinbad" Panto. 60, Leigh-rd., Leigh.

MR. CLIFFORD BOWN,
Touring India and the East.
Address, Theatre Royal, Calcutta.

MR. and MRS. T. B. BRABAZON,
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MR. and MRS. W. RUDDLE BROWN
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West End-lane, N.W.

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Mrs. C., Dis. 22, Linden-gardens, Chiswick, W.

MR. GEO. E. CARLETON,
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"The Village Blacksmith" Co.

MR. ALBERT CAVANAH,
General Manager and Stage Director,
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Maclaren's "Proof" Tour.

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Touring America. Coms., c/o. MARINELLI'S Agency, 1440, Broadway, New York, U.S.A.

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Old Men, Character, or Comedy. Disengaged for Spring Tour. New Gaiety, Leith.

MR. C. F. COLLINGS
Iachimo in "Cymbeline." Disengaged
Jan. 14. Grand Theatre, Birmingham.

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Mr. Leonard Mortimer's Co.
London Halls only.

MR. SYDNEY COMPTON,
Disengaged for Heavy Lead and Old Men.
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MR. and MRS. WILFRID COMPTON
Stage-Management and Helena, "The Breed of the Treshams." Jan. 7, Gaiety, Hastings.

MR. TOM W. CONWAY,
Baroness,
Marlboro' Theatre, Holloway, N.

MR. BERNARD COPPING, Lead.
MISS ISA BELLINGTON, Comedy, "The Electric Man," Theatre Royal, Margate.

MR. J. W. CORDINER,
Jan. 7,
Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle.

MR. WILLIAM CORRI,
Musical Conductor and Composer.
Address, 1, Geneva-road, Brixton, S.W.

MR. VERNON COWPER,
"When the Clock went Wrong."
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Invites Offers.
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Leads, Stage or Business Management,
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MR. W. CRONIN-WILSON,
Understudying Mr. Roughwood.
Lyric Theatre.

MR. JULIAN CROSS,
Prince of Wales's Theatre.
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MR. HENRY DEAS,
Arrangements complete.
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MR. GUY DENE, Acting-Manager and Principal, Light Comedy, in "Saints and Sinners," and "Judah," Next, Pub. Hall, Treharris.

MR. JACK DENTON,
Lily (Ugly Sister), King's, Hammersmith.
Disengaged Feb. 4.

MR. HENRY DE SOLLA,
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MR. and MRS. HENRY DOUGHTY
(Miss Vera Leslie) can accept special engagement. Add., 23, Hugh-st., Eccleston-sq., S.W.

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MR. WELLESLEY DRAPER,
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Theatre Royal, Dover.

MR. CECIL DU GUE,
Starring, Frou Frou, Camille, &c.
Opera House, Perth.

MR. ALBERT C. DUNCAN,
Managing, "Sleeping Beauty" Pantomime.
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MR. and MRS. T. W. DUNSCOMBE
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MR. and MRS. E. C. EDWARDS (Miss Bella Power), Com., Old Men, Women. Mr. E., Southend; Miss Power, Met., Birmingham.

MR. GEORGE ESS,
Musical Director,
Dottridge and Longden's "Robinson Crusoe."

MR. CYRIL ESTE,
at Liberty.
Bedford-road, Rushden, Northants.

MR. HUGH FLEMING, Advance-Director, Baron Harriss's "Prince of Pilsen" Co.
T. R., Dewsbury.

MR. and MRS. HAWLEY FRANCKS
(Miss Beryl Graham), Disengaged.
Address, Bridge Farm, Ford, Aylesbury.

MR. & MRS. CHARLES FRANMORE,
Address,
17, Peter-street, Rawtenstall.

MR. W. H. GARBOIS,
as Ellis Jordan,
"A Wife's Triumph" Co., on tour.

MR. W. V. GARROD,
Title-rôle, "The Prodigal Parson."
Jan. 7, T. R., Macclesfield.

MR. and MRS. WILLIE GARVEY
(Kitty Jones), K. J., "Lancashire, Ltd.," Huddersfield; W. G., Dame, with Robert Arthur.

MR. GELDERD,
Disengaged.
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MR. ALFRED GODDARD,
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His Majesty's Theatre.

MR. DOUGLAS GORDON,
Engaged by Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler.
Address, C/o Messrs. Wheeler, O. H., Cape Town.

MR. HERBERT GREVILLE,
Care of B. and F. Wheeler's Comedy Co.,
Opera House, Cape Town, S.A.

MR. ERNEST GRIFFIN,
as Caius Lucius, in "Cymbeline,"
Grand Theatre, Birmingham. Dis. Jan. 12, '07.

MR. LAURENCE GROVE thanks Mr. Van Biene for Engagement. At Lib. Juv. and Light Comedy. Next, 69, Huron-rd., Up. Tooting.

MR. JACK HAMPTON,
Disengaged.
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MR. ST. JOHN HAMUND,
(Mr. Shadwell Clerke.).
Mr. Frank Curzon's "White Chrysanthemum" Co.

MR. HERBERT HARDEN,
as Father David in "Under the Seal."
Duchess, Balham.

MR. A. C. HARDIE, Re-engaged by Miss Hildyard for Spring Tour, Lowestoft, 15th. 31, Ladbroke-road, Notting Hill Gate, N.

MR. FRANK HARDING,
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MR. GEORGE H. HARKER,
Disengaged.
Transvaal Villas, 63, Edith-road, Ramsgate.

MR. CHARLES HARLEY,
Sir Timothy Crewys "Peter's Mother."
Jan. 7, Theatre Royal, Worthing (3 nights).

MR. W. S. HARTFORD,
At Liberty, Lead or Panto.
47, Godolphin-road, Shepherd's Bush, W.

MR. J. COURT HARVARD, Disengaged February for Production, Stage-Management. 29, Salisbury-rd., Wilton-rd., Dalston.

MR. MURRAY HATHORN,
Disengaged.
Add., Fairfield Villa, Quedgeley, Gloucester.

MR. FRANCIS HAWLEY,
Business-Manager, "The Earl and the Girl."
Jan. 7, Opera House, St. Helens.

MR. T. P. HAYNES,
Disengaged.
Address, care of "The Era."

MR. JERROLD HEATHER,
Starring, as Phillip Carnaby, "The Love That Women Desire." Salford. Dis. Summer.

MR. DALZIEL HERON,
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Address, 39, Harpenden-road, W. Norwood, S.E.

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MR. A. S. HOMEWOOD. All Business communications to be made direct to Mr. CECIL BARTH, 8, Melina-place, St. John's Wood, N.W.

MR. ALFRED H. HOOK,
Acting Manager,
Athenaeum Theatre, Lancaster.

MR. and MRS. WILL HOOK (Miss Daisy Carlton) "At Cripple Creek" Co.
Jan. 7, New Theatre, Oxford.

MR. FRANK HOWARD,
Manager, Lester Collingwood's "Blue Beard." Jan. 7, Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.

MR. and MRS. GEORGE HOWARD
(Miss Clara Earle), at Liberty Feb. 4.
39, Russell-square, Brighton.

MR. ROBERT H. HOWARD,
Tony, in "My Sweetheart."
Jan. 7, T. R., Darlington.

MR. and MRS. WILSON HOWARD
(Miss Carlotta Anson).
All communications, 9, Berwick-st., Manchester.

MR. ERIC HUDSON,
Martin Mason, "At Cripple Creek."
Jan. 7, Six Nights, New T., Oxford.

MR. and MRS. FREDK. HUDSON
(Miss Viola Jennings).
Perm. address, Viola House, Redditch, Worcester.

MR. REGINALD A. HUNT,
Producer and Stage-Manager of Elliston's "Mother Goose" Co., Theatre Royal, Bolton.

MR. and MRS. F. JACQUES
(Minnie Raynor), address C/o Bandmann, T.R., Calcutta. Mr. JACQUES, Camden T., N.W.

MR. G. WALLACE JOHNSTON,
Sir Lucius O'Trigger, &c, with Mr. Edward Compton. Jan. 7, Opera House, Northampton.

MR. T. ARTHUR JONES,
Touring the Success, "Life's Sweetest Sins."
Address, 26, Wightman-road, Finsbury Park, N.

MR. S. MAJOR JONES,
Stage-manager for F. W. Wyndham, Esq.'s, Panto, "Aladdin," Tyne Theatre, Newcastle.

MR. F. JOYNSEN-POWELL,
Disengaged.
Address, 29, Oxberry-avenue, Hurlingham, S.W.

MR. WHITFORD KANE,
Address,
Theatre Royal, Belfast.

MR. OGILVY KEITH,
Address,
Charlmont, Western-parade, Southsea.

MR. and MRS. EDGAR KENT
(Miss Ada Clarke),
Permanent Address, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent.

MR. CLAUDE KING,
Leading Business,
Theatre Royal, Calcutta.

MR. RICHARD HENRY LACE,
Address, this week, Assembly T., Durham.
Perm. Address, 19, Parkfield-drive, Liscard.

MR. JAMES R. LA FANE,
Sparrowgrass, and Producer, Mr. Mouillot's "Jack and the Beanstalk," Pier Pav., Eastbourne.

MR. PHILIP LESLIE,
at Liberty.
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MR. D. LEWIN-MANNERING,
Disengaged.
Address, 100, Earl's Court-road, S.W.

MR. H. LAWRENCE LEYTON,
Disengaged.
Ad., 10, St. Andrew's-mansions, W. Kensington, W.

MR. FRANK LISTON,
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London Pavilion.

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(Miss M. Edwards/, Mr. L., "Village Blacksmith"; Mrs. L., Ivythorn, Windsor-rd., Torquay.

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To-night, Queen's T., Manchester; next week A.A.

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Aldwych Theatre.

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En route, or Ashdale, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.

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MR. and MRS. W. MANFREE (Miss Amy Wood) and AMY MANFREE, Dis., Joint or Single. 35, Dorothy-rd., Clapham Junction.

MR. JERROLD MANVILLE,
Disengaged Jan. 5.
105, Allison-road, Harringay, N.

MR. PERCY MARSHALL,
Disengaged.
Address, 16, Mill-lane, Hampstead, N.W.

MR. ALFRED MARTIN, Advertising Manager, Milton Bode's Pantomime, New Theatre, Cardiff; at Lib. Spring.

MR. ERIC MAYNE,
Address,
Jan. 7, 1, South-place, Kennington Park, S.E.

MR. ERIC G. MERRIE,
Manager, "At Cripple Creek" Co.
New Theatre, Oxford, Jan. 7.

MR. GEORGE T. METCALFE,
Acting-Manager, Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer's Tour. Address, Kilkenny Theatre, Kilkenny.

MR. GEORGE MILLER,
Mrs. Crusoe,
Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham.

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178th Consecutive Week,
"A Traitor Prince" Co.

MR. G. MORETON-WILLIAMS,
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MR. HARRY ADAIR NELSON,
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MR. DAVID G. NOBLE,
Lead, Lyric, Hammersmith. Offers invited Jan. 14. 48, Agate-road, Hammersmith.

MR. ALFRED NORTHWAY,
Heavy lead. "The Prodigal Parson" Tour. Jan. 7, Theatre Royal, Macclesfield.

MR. & Mrs. CHARLES C. OMMANNEY
(Miss Lena Pierpoint), Leads, Mme. Alice Esty Co. Perm., 55, Talgarth-road, London, W.

MR. GUS OXLEY,
Disengaged Spring. Disengaged Spring.
Terry's Theatre, Strand, W.

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Town and Suburbs only.
121, Victoria-street, Westminster.

MR. ASHTON PEARSE,
Disengaged.
Perm. Add., 65, Redcliffe-road, South Kensington.

MR. F. W. PEDGRIFT,
Baritone and Juvenile Lead. Perm. address, 9, Rusham-rd., Balham, S.W. T. N., 470 Battersea.

MR. and MRS. FRED W. PERMAIN
(Miss Florence Le Clercq), c/o Messrs Wheeler, 11, Greenmarket-sq., Cape Town, S. Africa.

MR. and MRS. FRANK E. PETLEY,
Dis. Jan. 21, week, Town only.
Add., 10, Oberstein-road, London, S.W.

MR. DONALD PRICE-EVANS,
Title-rôle, "The Private Secretary" Co.
Theatre Royal, Lincoln.

MR. STANLEY PRINGLE,
at Liberty.
6, Brunswick-gardens, W.

MR. WILLIAM PRINGLE,
Capers, in "Cinderella."
Marlborough Theatre, Holloway, N.

MR. RULE PYOTT,
Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler's Comedy Co.
Address, C/o Messrs. Wheeler, O. H., Cape Town.

MR. CECIL H. RAYMOND,
Baron Alphonse, "The Assassin" Co.
Jan. 7. Metropole, Gateshead.

MR. W. E. RICHARDSON,
Mrs. Crusoe, Borough Theatre, Stratford.
Disengaged Feb. 2.

MR. HARRY RICHARDSON,
Conductor, Composer, "Cinderella," Marlborough Theatre. Dis. Spring. Residency Preferred.

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Mr. Forbes Robertson's American Tour
Letters addressed A.A. forwarded.

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44, Lamb's Conduit-street, W.C.

MR. BASSETT ROE,
Address,
10, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

MR. STANLEY ROGERS,
Address all communications,
124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

MR. ERNEST RUSTON,
Disengaged, Lead, or Heavies,
Devonia Cottage, Thames Ditton.

MR. WILLIE SCOTT,
Ugly Sister, "Cinderella," Elephant and Castle Theatre. Spring offers invited.

MR. ARCHIE SELWYN,
Disengaged. Juvenile, Light, Comedy, and Boy's Parts. 123, St. George's-rd, Belgravia, S.W.

MR. and MRS. JOHN B. SHINTON
(Ada M. Ryder), Good Offers invited.
Jan. 7, T. R., Brighouse.

MR. THOMAS SIDNEY,
at Liberty,
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MR. E. STANTON-SHARP,
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and Miss KATE PARRY.
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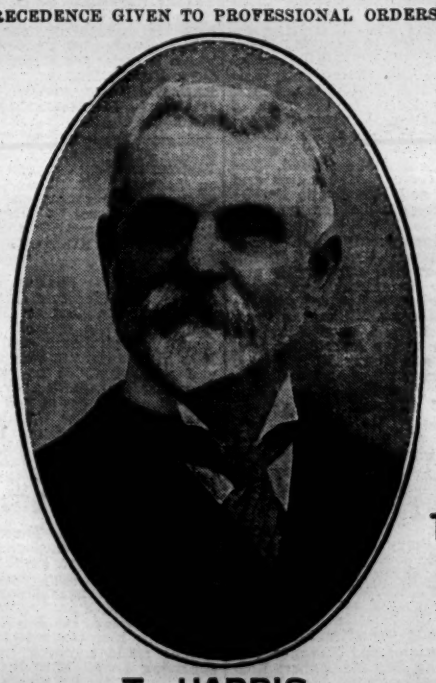

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UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL.

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Nov. 23, 1906.

Dear Mr. Harris,—You have made a splendid succe s of my satin gown. It looks lovely, and I am delighted with it. Many thanks. Enclosed please find cheque in settlement of account herewith. Faithfully yours,

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN. — HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—The D'Oyly Carte company opened a fortnight's engagement on Monday with *Iolanthe*. The house was crowded. Mr. George Sinclair took the part of Private Willis in place of Mr. Fred Billington, who is ill, and played it exceedingly well; Mr. Charles R. Walenn imparts a decided individualistic touch to the Lord Chancellor; and Miss Hope Hastings shows an easy command of the part of Phyllis. Mr. Albert Kavanagh gives a finished interpretation of Strephon; Mr. Leicester Tunks makes a capital Mountararat; and Mr. Strafford Moss, the principal tenor, sings very finely. Miss Theresa Kassam plays the Fairy Queen with all her customary dignity and grace. The chorus work is excellent. The repertory for the week includes *The Mikado*, *The Gondoliers*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and *The Yeoman of the Guard*.

PALACE THEATRE. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Mr. Harry Grey is enthusiastically applauded; the Wedburns are equally popular; and Mr. Jack Crawley appears with much success in a novel act, "The Regimental Smoking Concert." Among the other clever artists in the programme are: Miss Arabella Allen, in a series of vivid Dickens impersonations; Miss Olive Armadale, a dainty comedienne; Mr. Cecil Lidden and Miss Elsie Hayward, whose four piano selections are effectively blended with comedy; the Cliffs, daring and graceful equilibrists; and Adelina, who gives some remarkably clever sketches of celebrities. In place of Mr. Jock Whiteford and Miss Hettie Lee, who were unable to appear, the management had engaged Mr. A. McGill, an accomplished tenor vocalist; Mr. Will Bell, a popular Irish comedian; and Mr. A. E. Watson, an adept in ventriloquism. The Bioscope show, "The Doctor's Boy," proved highly amusing.

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Denton; Stage-Manager, Mr. Fred Thomas.—Mr. James Hare's company is here in *A Destroyer of Men*. The piece is generally well played, particularly by Miss Irene Clifford as Olga Mischia, Mr. James Hare as Karl Mischia, and Mr. Harold B. Lewis as Count Starevitch; whilst the humorous element is well sustained by Mr. Ross Warren as Coco Tachoski and Miss Alice Buckland as Nina Pattakake.

ALDERSHOT. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo E. Williams. — A highly-appreciated change here is the production of *The Girl Behind the Counter* on a first visit, Mr. Mouillot's talented company giving a praiseworthy rendering of this popular musical comedy. Besides the capable acting there are many well-rendered musical contributions, and the spectacular effect is good. Mr. H. D. Clarke is a decided hit as the gay old General; whilst Mr. Howard Cridland's Viscount is invested with sufficient ludicrous action and mannerism to make it successful. Mr. Arthur Cartwright gives a fine swinging impersonation of Charlie; Mr. Fred Park is capital as Dudd, and he and Miss Dorris Langdon (Susie) are heartily received for their clever business. Miss Nora Brocklebank as Winnie is good; and Mr. Jules Charmettes is excellent as Duval. Misses Winifred Knightley (Lady Willoughby), Olivia Eltone (Millie), Edith McIntosh (Ninette), and Messrs. Geoffrey Allsopp (who is also stage-manager), A. M. Moore, and Wm. Amery do well in smaller yet important parts.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—The pantomime *Dick Whittington* is running with great smoothness. The artists have settled down to work, and the comedians, in particular, have had time to see where improvements can be effected and new "wheezes" introduced with advantage. Judicious cutting has brought the entertainment within reasonable limits, and a good three hours' fun is provided by Dick (Miss Daisy Morrell), Alice (Miss Millie Doris), Miss Clairette Florence as the Fairy Queen, and the comedians, Messrs. Frank Dalleno, Will Dennis, Fred Acton, Jack Simpson, Juan and McQue, Messrs. Correze and Keith, the Schallers, Sisters Chornley, Raynor Troupe, the Estos, the Belle Trio, and a host of auxiliaries.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—The artists engaged here include the Simpsons, who give a refined musical act; Russell Carr, a decidedly clever ventriloquial expert; Little Ruth, a young songstress who can be heard with much pleasure; Mons. Slippere (assisted by Miss Ramsay), a blind novelty pianist and baritone singer; and the Three Bros. Curran, in a farcical boxing act, *Taking the Census*. Fred Karno's production, *The Smoking Concert*, causes much merriment; the Bioscope depicts "The Midnight Sun"; and the programme concludes with the equestrian spectacle, *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, by Claude Ginnett and company.

ATTERCLIFFE.—PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—Mr. Fred S. Peake and company are presenting here a costume sketch, entitled *The Hypocrite*, in which a thrilling sword-fight, partly sustained by a lady, is introduced; the Kurios are responsible for a pantomimic absurdity, winding up with some cleverly executed smoke-pictures; Mr. U. C. Ugo, under the title of "Mirthful Mysteries," performs some clever conjuring tricks; Miss Winnie Scott, comedienne and dancer, is an acceptable turn; Drum and Major give a boisterous comedy item; Max Millian is a smart equilibrist; Mr. Clayton's "Attergraph" pictures are well received; and Mr. Fred Hallam is an acceptable comedian.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—For the New Year week Mr. Chas. Macdona's company in *A Chinese Honeymoon* is the attraction. Mr. Harold Cotter as Hang Chow, the Emperor, acts the part exceedingly well; Mr. Louis Ashmede and Mr. Frank Sutton appear to advantage as the Lord Chancellor and Lord High Admiral respectively; Mr. J. Maxwell Edwards as Tom Hatherton makes an excellent impression; the Mr. Pineapple of Mr. Ernest Sefton is good; Mrs. Pineapple is admirably played by Miss May Davis; Miss Alma Bolton makes a capital Mrs. Brown; Miss Kitty Clayton is irresistible as Fi-Fi; and Miss May Stevenson in the character of Princess Soo-Soo is very fascinating.

BACUP. — NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Dudley Harcourt.—M. C. Watson Mill's No. 1 company is appearing here this week in *A Warning to Women*. Mr. C. Watson Mill is the author, and representative of the leading male part, Dr. Marcus Dread, which he plays with considerable power. The central figure is the dipsomaniac, Moira Kennion, portrayed by Miss Rosalind Tate with a firmness and finesse beyond all praise; Mr. George Harvey is a picturesque Shaun; Mr. N. Carter Slaughter an amusing Lord Eversleigh; Mr. W. Palliser Acock scores a success as Ferdinand de Joules; Mr. G. M. Davidson is a duly impressive Rev. Emanuel Wallace; and Mr. Norman B. Cannon as the blind Fergus McNaughton scores well. Miss Emmie Barton is bright as Sheila Kennion; Mr. Gerald Nolan droll as Mike McQuack; and Mr. Henry Rutland acts with much pathos as the old Squire Kennion. Miss Edith Rutland does well as the crippled Myles O'More; and Miss Ellen Beverley makes the most of her part as Molly O'More.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—The favourable opinion formed at the commencement of the run of *Sinbad* is confirmed upon a second visit. The principals having thoroughly settled down into their parts work in harmony together, giving the utmost pleasure and amusement to the audience. Miss May Hart is full of vivacity as Sinbad, singing and dancing with the happiest results. The success Miss Mollie Wynne has scored as Zanem must be most gratifying to the clever little actress. The leading trio of comedians, Mr. E. W. Coleman (FitzGubbins), Mr. Percy Baverstock (Grinbad), and Mr. Arthur Royce (Mrs. Sinbad), each contributes his share of fun ungrudgingly, to the satisfaction of old and young alike. Miss Clodagh Brown has introduced an extra *pas seul*, which she executes in excellent style.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—In every respect the current bill is typical of the best talent available. The Ford and Barris Trio are winning high favour in their song and dance interlude. In connection with this act a local competition is nightly taking place for substantial money prizes. The manager of these smart lads has also introduced Corporal Gray, a Scotch piper, and his two sons, whom he saw performing in the Bath streets. The Rohda Bros. present a new gymnastic speciality that secures them rounds of applause; physical endurance in another form is given by those smart athletes The Athlones, who are unsurpassed in their line. Miss Florence's mimicry of a Dutch girl is full of jollity, and her reception is most cordial; Cavalli and his dummy companion Tommy give a ventriloquial act that causes great amusement; Will Musgrave, with his "goey" songs, gets in higher favour upon each succeeding visit, as does Lillie Soutter with her low comedy ditties; Rose Pink, a juvenile comedienne, dances in capital style; Raymond's Bio-Tableaux include "An Artist's Dream," a coloured film of great excellence.

BATLEY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Whitty. — Mr. H. A. Jordison's pantomime *Cinderella* is a bright, brisk, and breezy show. It goes with an uninterrupted swing from start to finish, is admirably staged and costumed, and is very well stage-managed. Miss Iris Banfield makes a splendid Prince, and is always active and alert; the Dandini of Miss Mabel Ashton is a great success; Miss Helen Raye as Cinderella plays with *naïveté* and charm, and renders her numbers very sweetly; Miss Louie Davies has a small part as Princess Pearl, which she handles with care and intelligence. Mr. Charles Martell is an admirable Baron; he sings and dances and jokes with success. Messrs. Edwin Garth and Howard Ward as the Ugly Sisters cause endless merriment; Mr. John Bennet is very funny as Pimple; and some smaller parts are well acted. The specialities include Bennet and Martell, a droll pair; Earle and Melville, and the Starlight quartette of dancers. Altogether the pantomime is a great success.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Birket Winning's version of *Sapho*, presented by Miss Annie Bell and company. In the title-rôle Miss Bell was wonderfully successful, playing the part with much power and passion; the difficult rôle of Jean Gausin was capitally sustained by Mr. Otto Minster, an able actor, and he shared some of the honours of the performance with Miss Bell. Mr. George Antley must be commended for his admirable impersonation of Uncle Cesaire; and praise is also due to Little Miss Doris E. Graham for her clever interpretation of Joseph, a child; Miss Clara Greenhalgh was all that could be desired as La Sombreuse; and it would, indeed, be difficult to excel Messrs. H. Langford and Laurence Kingsley in their respective rôles of Eugene Flamant and Paul Deshelette; Miss Florence Graham acquitted herself well as Machaume. Other parts were admirably sustained by Miss Grace Chester, Miss Dorothy Crowther, Miss Gladys Oliver, Miss Lucy Desmond, and Messrs. Oliver Rogers, Pringle Roberts, and Mrs. T. Stead.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Harris. — Unquestionably the Christmas pantomime, *Mother Goose*, has proved a great success, and is now running merrily. Mr. Fred Warden is reaping the reward of his energetic efforts in the liberal patronage bestowed. Who, indeed, could desire a more beautiful stage-picture than the concluding scene, "Heartsease"? Many of the songs have become popular favourites, viz., "Borneo," "There's a Man in Manitoba," "Jennie Lee," &c. Miss Carlotta Levey is nightly accorded quite an ovation for her rendering of "Cheyenne," "Sympathy," &c.; Miss May Moore Duprez continues to display unflagging vivacity; her songs, "Louisa Schmidt" and "On the Rhine with Stem," are well received; Miss Elsie Roby, a lively Lady Biddy, obtains well-merited approval for her rendering of the ear-haunting "Borneo"; Mr. Martin Adeson in the title-rôle works indefatigably, and renders the most valuable assistance; Miss Molly Macintyre as Jill is dainty and charming, singing "Au revoir, my little Hyacinth," in delightful style.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker. — Mr. Charles Fisher's operatic burlesque company heads the bill, and presents, with success, the speciality, entitled *The Music Master*; Techow's Cats exhibit the very perfection of training; much amusement has been created by the Arthur Lloyd Trio, in their sketch, *Little Charlie; or, The Twin Sisters*; Miss Lilieth Leyton, supported by Mr. John Spurling, produce with every element of success their comedy sketch, *The Order of the Bath*; Mr. Charles Pastor is an exceedingly droll comedian; and a hit has been made by Edwards and Espinosa, the smart instrumentalists and dancers; Hall and Earle, clever eccentric acrobats, and Mr. Geo. Adams, a splendid baritone, complete the fine bill.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Alhambra Dramatic Company is appearing this week in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Miss Nina Blake-Adams, as Eliza Harris, distinguishes herself by the excellence of her emotional acting; much praise is due Mr. Horace Denton for his finished impersonation of Uncle Tom; while the villainies of Simon Legree are depicted in a lurid manner by Mr. Percy M. Stevenson; Mr. Cyril Grier is seen to advantage as Mr. St. Clair; and an impersonation of no little merit is that of Phineas Fletcher, by Mr. H. Hesselgrave; Mr. Tom H. Solly (who is also responsible for the admirable stage management) creates much amusement as Marks, the lawyer; and Little Violet must be commended for her realistic interpretation of Little Eva; Miss Roma Tremayne furnishes a good interpretation of Cassie; and Miss Mattie Crawford is a vivacious Topsy; Miss Belle Luscombe appears to great advantage as Aunt Chloe; and Mr. Elmore Frith impersonates Mr. Haley with no little skill; Miss Alice Clarke deserves praise for her capital impersonation of Aunt Ophelia.

ULSTER HALL.—Proprietors, Belfast Corporation.—Poole's Myriorama commenced, on Monday, the last week of their stay here, which has been so successful. In addition to the series of moving pictures, which have given general satisfaction, the fine variety programme has proved a great source of attraction.

BILSTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Battersby; Musical-Director, Mr. J. E. Machin.—The new drama *Robin Hood* is here. Mr. F. B. Woulfe capitally enacts the King of Sherwood Forest; a regal King Richard is found in Mr. Clifford Rean; and Mr. Bob Anderson makes a distinctive Friar Tuck. Will Scarlett is ably played by Mr. Alfred Wade; Mr. Wm. Macready figures prominently as the supposed Lord Hutningdon; and Miss Ethel Griffies's Marian is an excellent portrayal. Both Elwynne and Maude have good representatives in Misses Winifred Symonds and Edith Lorraine. Mr. H. Ernestine is a capital Prince John.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's pantomime *Little Bo Peep* is in the second week of a highly successful visit, crowded houses having been the rule during the engagement.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Dr. Walford Bodie, in his clever electrical entertainment, is the centre of attraction. Other prominent turns are supplied by the Bogannys the Lunatic Bakers; Walter Emerson, comedian; Bertha Duckett, male impersonator; the Brothers Ashley, in their amusing boxing act; Larola, comic juggler; Rose Cabani, comedienne; and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—Few dramas have received better appreciation than *The Village Blacksmith*, which is being played here this week by Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company. Mr. Sam Livesey deserves commendation

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for his manly rendering of John Strong. Mr. Joseph Carter gives a capital impersonation of the villainous Captain Leo; he is ably supported by Mr. Edwin Maydew as Lucas Marlow. As Jeremiah Parkins, Mr. Thos. E. Marshall is well placed. Miss Louie Adair's interpretation of the character of Kate Strong could scarcely be improved upon; Mrs. T. C. Livesey is seen to advantage in the rôle of Sal Parkins; Miss Cassie Le Grande is successful as Ruth Parkins; and Bertha Hanbury is all that can be desired as Harry Strong. The wrestling scene in the last act elicits loud applause.

BLACKBURN. — THEATRE ROYAL.— Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Manager, Mr. Reginald C. Yorke.—Miss Emilie Polini and company are here in the popular play, *Sunday*, which has proved a powerful attraction for New Year's week. Miss Polini compares very favourably with any of her predecessors in the title-rôle, and that is saying a good deal. Mr. Leonard Pogden is hardly less successful as Colonel Brinthorpe, his work being dignified and restrained. The four "boys" are played by Messrs. William Lockhart, Sidney Rennet, Cecil Yapp, and Arthur Vezin, and each of these gentlemen does well; while Mr. Ernest A. Douglas, as Tom Oxby is also good.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Mr. Andrew Melville's company in the favourite play, *Driven from Home*, is drawing big houses here.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—A good entertainment is contributed to by the Duood Trio, vocal and instrumental musicians; Francis and Alfred, comic jugglers; the Chee-yon-soy family of Chinese conjurors; Wallace Whitney, character comedian; the Three Merrills, comedy and trick cyclists; Beattie Foster, low comedy artist; and George Hall, comedian and sifflеur.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—*Claudian*, ably presented by Mr. William Maclaren and company, is proving most attractive here this week. The title-rôle is played by Mr. Maclaren in a manner that proves his fitness for so arduous a task, and even those who saw his famous predecessors in the part willingly bestow on him their approval and admiration. Almida finds a painstaking exponent in Miss Lily C. Bandmann, who merits sincere approbation for a charming performance; Mr. F. Owen Chambers does well as Thariogalus; whilst Mr. C. T. Chaloner as Belos, Mr. Douglas Earle as Agazil, and Mr. Weeton Hubbard as Alcares, also contribute convincing impersonations. Miss Lena Oswald scores a success as Galena; and Miss Rosa Webster is quite satisfactory as Serena.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Mr. Edward Marris's pantomime company is here this week with *Robinson Crusoe*, which has caught on in the most satisfactory way. Miss Verna Reed well befits the principal boy's part; and Miss Elfie Vincent's Polly is sweet and lovable. Three excellent comedians are Mr. James Graydon (Mrs. Crusoe), Mr. Joe Waldron (John Willie Crusoe), and Mr. Harry Russell (Will Atkins), who are ably assisted as fun providers by Miss Etty Waldron as Matilda Crusoe and Mr. Alec Kashma as Captain Mainbrace. Specialities are introduced by the Waldrons, Thalian Glee Singers, Russell and Reed, and Chandler and Payne.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred. Waller.—The place of honour in this week's bill is occupied by Lulo Hodgon and Harry Lowther, who prove themselves very diverting in a little sketch, entitled *Barmaids*. Captain Lamar's Tennessee Guards, in their lightning drill and wall-scaling act, is another popular turn. Other artists are Mlle. Yetta, in a wire act; Arthur Aldridge, vocalist; Lill Elfreda, vocalist and mimic; Mlle. Eldee, pose plastique; Silent Taif, the eccentric wizard; Bros. Corcoran, musicians; the Elgars, vocal entertainers; and Guy Ryder, sifflеur.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. C. Moody.—Mr. J. R. Cassidy's company has appeared here, and, as on a former visit, has scored a decided success with the thrilling drama, entitled, *Holy (!) Russia*. The company has, on this occasion, been piloted by Mr. Albert H. Moody, son of the respected lessee of the "Royal," and who has just made his début as an advance business-manager. To Mr. J. Rice Cassidy every credit is due for a powerful rendering of the part of Colonel Richard Forrest; to Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy every praise is due for a fine embodiment of Renée Rubinoff. The remaining members of an exceptionally strong company did full justice to their respective parts.

GAIETY.—Proprietor, Councillor John Grantham; General-Manager, Mr. Arthur James.—The management have provided a strong attraction by the engagement of the Lovelaces in a series of illustrated songs; J. R. Barrie, baritone vocalist, has also paid a successful return visit; the Gaiety Bioscope, in special pictures, continues to draw.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Tudor.—The Edison Electric Pictures and variety attractions are still in possession here, and are meeting with generous support.

BOSCOMBE. — HIPPODROME.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—A clever turn is provided here this week by the Mackweys, in a bustling knockabout act; Miss Maud Courtney is a pleasing singer, who also tells some funny stories; Burnetti shows his versatility by imitating well-known musicians of the day; Marriott Edgar, the man in red, is a popular comedian; the Mysterious Mr. C. is a good raconteur and vocalist; Harry Cotton, comedian, renders his songs in capital style; Onda and Artell give a daring performance on the trapeze; the Hippodrome pictures conclude the programme.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—*Jack and the Beanstalk*, written by Mr. F. Leslie Moreton, with music by Francis Knowles, is certainly the best pantomime seen here for some years. Much of the success achieved is due to Mr. Rowland Stewart, the popular manager, who, having obtained the confidence of the patrons of the theatre, is trusted by them to see there is an absence of anything vulgar or suggestive in the production, with a result that full houses have been the rule twice daily. Miss Adele Barry as Jack, and Miss Daisy Kersey as Marjory, are both well up to their parts; and a success is scored by Miss Katie Yates as Stella, whose candle song is rapturously received. Miss Lydia Bland has a charming voice and does well as Luna, while Miss Lucy Kipling in the part of Colin has small opportunity to display her undoubted talent. Dame Trot is the bright particular star of the piece as played by Mr. Edwin Kipling, who in the schoolroom scene makes the house simply ripple with laughter. Mr. Alick Macmillan, a clever comedian, is another great success in the part of Donald McHaggis; while as Asparagras and Marrowfat, Mr. James R. La Fane and Mr. Lionel Gadsden respectively are deservedly popular. Among the specialities are the Miltons, in their comic skating act, introducing their dog Tiger; and Les Americaines, a distinctly clever troupe of singers and dancers; while some local children in Dutch song-scena and Gollywogs have been cleverly trained by Mr. J. R. La Fane, who is also responsible for the whole production, and deserves great credit for his work.

SHAFTESBURY HALL.—West's Pictures are drawing large and appreciative audiences twice daily. The programme is varied from time to time, and is always instructive and amusing. Miss Ethel Walker, a talented and refined humorist, appears at each performance in her remarkably clever musical sketches; and Mr. Harold Kingston, who has a fine baritone voice, sings several songs.

BRADFORD.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Mr. Laidler's enterprise is noticeable in the improvement in *Cinderella* since the first representation, and the pantomime is now at its best. Much applause greets the beautiful scenery and pretty dresses. Miss Florrie Forde, the Prince, scores with some good songs, notably "The Zuyder Zee," "Susannah's long stocking," "Matrimony," and "Colombo." Miss Alice Williams, in the title-rôle, sings with success. "The maid and the man in the moon" and "Fairies have gone to bed." "Au revoir, my little hyacinth," is capitally sung by Miss Edith Coolville, the Princess; Miss Nellie Sheffield is bright as Dandini; Mr. Tom Moore is genuinely funny as Peter the Page. The other comedians combine well in introducing funny business, and there is some smart dancing by the Toreador Girls.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empire, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Those delightful entertainers, Bella and Bijou, who are favourites here, are on a return visit with their very amusing up-to-date sketches, *The Motor Car* and *The Suffragettes*; there is novelty in the clever bar performance by Mason and Bart, as "Comrades on a Deserted Isle"; J. W. Hall, the comedian, in his original style, is diverting; the quaint musical knife-grinders, Zanfretta and Napio, are clever and amusing; Horace Jones, the Welsh comedian, is distinctly humorous; in a spectacular naval act Carlos Cæsaro displays remarkable skill, strength, and smartness; Walter Bellonini, on a return visit, again elicits applause for his remarkable skill in juggling; excellent turns by the Solario Duo, operatic vocalists and musicians, and by Marie Empress, comedienne, find favour; and there are some capital pictures shown by the American Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. R. H. Foster.—Raku, the clever Japanese exponent of Ju-jitsu, is defeating all comers here this week, and causing quite a sensation with his assistants in an exposition of the art. Ida Kathrena, as a mechanical doll, is very amusing; those eccentric French musicians, the Four Maisanos, on a return visit, are clever and diverting; a smart entertainment in conjuring is submitted by Satsuma, a Japanese; in a pot-pourri by Gravetia and Parr skill is displayed in clay-modelling, sand-painting, and character impersonating of a versatile order; Ethel Loftus, comedienne, is an amusing exponent of broad comedy; a diverting musical turn is submitted by Learto and his clever dog, "Babs"; the Donnas Trio, on the trapeze, do some clever work as equilibrists; and excellent pictures are shown by Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—On Monday Mr. George Edwardes's company entered upon the second and closing week of their engagement here, and continued their performances of *Two Naughty Boys*. Mr. Nelson Keys and Mr. William were very entertaining as the two mischievous boys, Max and Moritz; Mr. Reginald Crompton as the village schoolmaster, Mr. George Franklin as Hans, the miller, and Mr. Richard Kavanagh as Widow Bolt added to the fun of the play. Miss Kate Bishop's Granny Bauer was well played; Miss Daisy Stratton as Grizel and Miss Lydia Flopp as Gretchen sang and danced themselves into high favour; and the remaining characters were ably sustained.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.—*Cinderella* is attracting crowded houses here, and bids fair to have a long and prosperous career. Miss Gracie Moore as the Prince wins enthusiastic applause for her admirably-rendered songs; Miss Evelyn O'Connor is a dainty Cinderella, and, with Mr. Jack O'Connor, as the Page, contributes some very amusing specialities. Miss Kittie Clinton makes a lively Dandini; and Miss Winnie Chapman is a graceful Fairy Godmother. Messrs. Syd Walker and Cliff Lake as the Ugly Sisters are an entertaining pair; and Mr. F. Hulme Sharp is humorous as the Baron. Miss Maud Percy, the principal dancer, achieves much success; and the Florodora Girls contribute some acrobatic dances.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—The bright and merry pantomime closes its fortnight's run here this week. Mr. Dan Thomas's droll and clever impersonation of Widow Twankey merits unstinted praise; Mr. Fred Hutchings makes an amusing Vizier; Miss Daisy Yates is a vivacious Aladdin; Miss Amy Bellwood acts gracefully as the Princess; while Mr. Arthur Jenner as the Emperor and Mr. Arthur Mordant as Abanazar are highly successful. Pleasing variety turns precede the pantomime. Rita and Roma, versatile vaudeville entertainers, are well received; the Maitland Comedy Trio are amusing in their laughable absurdity, *The Picture*; Martine and Son, American song illustrators, maintain their popularity; Charles Denton, comedian, makes a decided hit; Jennie Reeve is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Rene Ring, comedienne, is also successful, and the Alhambrascope pictures are amusing.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—There is a capital company here this week. Bob Hutt and company appear in *Welcome Home*, and provide an abundance of mirth; Jennie Hartley is a charming singer and graceful dancer; the London Vaudevilles are very entertaining in their speciality, *Monks at Play*; the Three Sisters Onetti are accomplished gymnasts, and are especially effective on a revolving trapeze; Bert Williams, ventriloquist, submits an excellent turn; Espinosa and Neilson, international dancers, win hearty applause; Rita Bell, "the Little Hollander," gives a pleasing performance of singing and dancing; Terry and Bentley are refined comedy artists; Adams and Ward, comedy comedians, are well received; and the Barrascope pictures are interesting.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—The fairy play, *Little Hans Andersen*, is running well here, and attracting large audiences. Miss Mabel Lavelle is a great favourite as the Princess; Miss Evelyn Hughes as Karen dances delightfully; Mr. R. Foster Knox is very funny as the Lord Chamberlain; Mr. J. Edward Pearce as the Emperor and Mr. L. Pryce Hamer as the Prince give capital impersonations; and the dances of the Misses Elsie and Mabelle May are warmly appreciated.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—The pantomime *Humpty Dumpty* bids fair to be one of the most successful produced here. Since the opening night it has, with advantage, been somewhat curtailed, it now playing close and smoothly. The principals are decidedly popular in their respective parts, and the magnificent scenery and costly dress are duly admired.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—*Cinderella* is proving successful here, the pantomime going with an agreeable degree of smartness not always expected so soon after production. The principals all score, and the dresses and scenery are all that can be desired.

PALACE THEATRE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. V. Welchman.—Boswell's stage circus tops the bill here; the show is attractive, all the animals evincing excellence of training. Alice Hollander is the happy possessor of a pleasing and cultured contralto voice, her songs are all selected with taste, and she obtains well-deserved applause. Nelson and Thomas amuse with their sketch *A Fight for a Fiver*; the Three Consul Girls are smart vocalists and acrobatic dancers; Denby and Dent score with their "up-to-date" comedy act; Jimson's novelty sketch *The Burglar's Surprise* is amusing, and serves well to introduce three excellently trained dogs; Rogers and Weston have a good Hebrew comedy scena *In Answer to an Advertisement*; Mark Leslie, dusky comedian and eccentric dancer, obtains considerable applause; and the entertainment concludes with a good display of Vernon's Imperial animated pictures.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Marie Dainton, mimic, heads the programme, she obtaining considerable applause for her clever mimicry of popular lady artists. Charles Whittle, comedian, is always popular here, his quiet style and genuine humour being quite irresistible; the Two Kays have a pretty vocal scena in which they impersonate several characters in excellent style, both ladies singing well and with considerable taste; Harwood's Juveniles successfully present a novelty scena, *A Children's Christmas Eve*—they all sing and dance well, the entertainment being in every way attractive; King and Hoffman have a smart comedy absurdity, *The Sleeping Car*; Clifton and Gibson amuse as knockabout and patter comedians; Nicker and Evans excel as ball-punchers, boxers, &c.; and Walter Wallace, comedian, obtains applause. The performance concludes with animated pictures projected by the Empire Bioscope.

COLSTON HALL.—Poole's Myriorama is here for a short season, attracting a large attendance at each entertainment.

BROMLEY.—LYRIC THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Purcell; Assistant-Manager, Mr. David Watson.—A second visit is well worth being paid to *Jack and the Beanstalk* at Bromley. The performance now runs more smoothly, and plays more closely, a result due to the tireless energy displayed by the stage-manager, Mr. Harry Willots, who also successfully plays the Demon Discord; Miss Nellie Montague is excellent as the Baroness, singing with ability. "Stoway," which rouses the enthusiasm of the audience; the comedians have all improved their parts, especially in the case of Mr. Harry Burton as the Dame; the Two Dewars as Fanfare and Blowhard have introduced some new patter and jokes; Mr. Chris Baker as the Baron introduces an excellent song, "Maria," and later in the evening a good policeman ditty, which causes endless amusement; Fairy Rosebud is artistically played by Miss Marie Badouin, who, although suffering from a severe cold, charmingly renders "Alice, where art thou?"; Miss Grace Rosaire is a graceful Princess Lovebird, and during the evening sweetly renders "My Little Hyacinth" and "Dreamland"; a delightfully pretty Phyllis is that of Miss Dot Irving, who introduces some excellent dancing; the pantomime is brought to a conclusion by a good old-fashioned harlequinade by Mr. Tom Dewar as Clown, Mr. Harry Dewar as Pantaloon, Miss Maud Annesley as Harlequina, Miss Dot Rivers as Columbine, and Mr. Chas. Rawlings as Policeman.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—*The Prince of Pilsen*, which has proved a grand holiday attraction, commenced its second week here on Monday to an overflowing house. Mr. Harry Kilburn (Hans Wagner), Miss Sophie Harriss (Mrs. Maddison Crocker), Mr. Frank Crimp (Carl Otto), Mr. Roy Sydney (Lieut. Tom Wagner), Mr. Bernard Russell (Earl of Shrimpton), Mr. Ernest Gifford (Francois), Mr. Maddison Rich (Cook's Courier), Miss Connie Leon (Sidonie), Miss Maude Scott (Jimmie), Miss Alice Nixon (Nellie Wagner), Miss Ada Watson (Edith Adams), and Mr. G. W. Hulme (Sergeant Bric), and the other members continue to give much pleasure.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—A capital entertainment is given here this week by Weisker's Theatroscope and variety company. The pictures are exceedingly fine, and are thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. Billy Richardson, with his stump orations, causes continuous laughter; Hess and Lister are smart on roller skates; Mary Bruce sings several songs in an artistic manner; Arthur Woodville, comedian, is encored for his clever dancing; and T. Arthur, descriptive vocalist, is good.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The programme here this week is one of general excellence. Joe Reichen's dogs are wonderfully well trained, and their performance calls forth applause; the Seven Wulfrunas, in *Fun in a Café*, are highly appreciated; and Viviana is a clever dancer. Les Montaldos, in a Parisian speciality performance, are well received; and Jack Truman, vocalist, is encored. Eric, in a ventriloquial entertainment, is very good; the Grosvenors are acceptable singers; and "The Wonders of Niagara," shown by the New Empire Theatroscope, is an interesting picture.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. H. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—Some capital turns are given here this week. The Three Romas, in their wonderful feats of strength, are enthusiastically applauded; the funny business of Rezene and Robini causes much hearty laughter; Pueblo and Cropp are responsible for some clever dancing; Miss Gracie Lawn sings and dances well; Letine is extremely good as a female impersonator; George and Leila give a pleasing turn; and J. C. Heffon does well as a comedian. Raymond's bio-tableaux is up to its usual standard of excellence.

BURY (LANCS.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. Lester Collingwood's comic pantomime is now in its second, and last, week's run. Good business is being done, and there is every reason to reiterate the favourable opinion expressed last week.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—A good programme is provided here, and includes Han Var and Anna Lee in an act, entitled, *The Golfer and the Maid*; "Beautiful Lillian," trick cyclist; Spry and Monti, in a humorous sketch, entitled *The Dandy Guardsman*; Craig, Roze, and Craig, gymnasts; Ray and Miles, comedians; the Three Transfields, lady instrumentalists; J. O. James, banjoist; Daley Denner, clog dancer; J. Alston, comic singer; and the Lynchs, with American picture songs.

THE HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead; General-Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—The novelty of a racing act, "Horse *v.* Cyclist," is introduced by Kraemar and Brann; Wragg and Wragg are expert military athletes; the Marvellous Days give an exhibition of thought-reading; the Leotard Bros., clowns; Chas. Valvo, ventriloquist; Nellie Navette, burlesque actress; and Oscar Luck's company, in *Kismet*, make a fine show.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—This week Mr. Clifton Alderson's company is appearing here in *A Soldier and a Man*. The piece is admirably staged, and as Harold Sinclair Mr. John D. Saunders is all that could be wished; and is well supported by Miss Ruby Loncrame, who plays charmingly. Miss Ethyle Murray is an excellent Sergeant Jim; Mr. Leonard Lawrence earns the applause of the gallery as the villain, Hubert Walgrave; Mr. Ernest G. Batley makes the most of the part of Jim Farrow. Mr. Robert B. Drysdale (Colonel Sinclair), Mr. A. W. Norman (David Milbury), Mr. Wilfred Graham (Jake Harding), Mr. C. W. Spencer (Sergeant Wicks), Mr. Lionel Money (Colonel Westlake), Mr. A. Leslie (Sergeant Tomkins), Mr. G. Tomlinson (Major Bassett), Miss Winifred Love, Miss Emily Levettez, and Miss Page Ford all materially contribute to the success of the piece.

CARDIFF. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—*No Wedding Bells for Her* returns this week to the city of its birth. Miss Lizzie Montague again gives a striking delineation of Lola. As Dick Delver, Mr. Percy Shaw is exceptionally good; Miss Grace Battersby makes a charming heroine; Mr. Stuart Lomath is conspicuous by his rendering of the Rev. Frank Hatherleigh; Mr. Arthur Linay in the part of Harold Trevelyn could scarcely be improved upon; and special mention should be made of Mr. George Herbert, whose interpretation of the old actor, Horatio Fane, leaves nothing to be desired. The piece is livened by the comedy of Simkins and Peggy (Mr. Fred Skelton and Miss Bessie Franks respectively), who are responsible for many a laugh.

KING'S THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Holles.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's powerful company is presenting here *The Female Swindler*. Miss Grace E. Leslie as Lu Valroy gives a fine delineation; no less striking is Mr. Joseph Millane as Jack Coulson; Mr. John Belton is a good Abraham Mikestein, Mr. Guy Ellis a fine Harold Travers, and Mr. Clarence Ibbotson a funny Billy Binks. Miss Florrie Kelsey (Mary Andrews), Miss Mary Dawson (Mary Mee), and Miss Edith Gray (Mrs. Poppem) complete a good all-round company.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—Another capital comedy sketch is given here this week by Mr. Sidney Bacon and his talented company, entitled *The Duchess of Tooting*. The success of this original farce is forcibly shown by the laughter and applause from the audience. Mr. Tom Costello's up-to-date song, "The Lady Suffragettes," is well received; Percy Honri is popular; and James Brady, eccentric comedian; Frobel and Ruge, aerial comedians; Kitty Marion, comedienne; Jeannie Mackay, soprano; the Three Ramoniers, in a clever balancing act; and Frank C. Young and Kathleen De Voie, in their speciality dances, are also among the attractions.

NEW THEATRE.—Sole proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—On Boxing Day Mr. Robert Redford produced, in conjunction with Mr. Milton Bode, the pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*. The whole production is lavishly staged, and the dresses are one blaze of brilliancy; and the scenery, painted by Messrs. T. E. Ryan, Stanley Schuter, and T. F. Dunn, is also a prominent feature. The Butterflies' Ball is a feast of rich colour, the costumes being magnificent, and the gigantic crystal butterfly, lit with hundreds of electric lights, is a pretty spectacle. The final scene, the King's Pageant, is symbolic of the four countries of the British Isles, and the curtain rises on a pretty design of the Prince of Wales's feathers. A network of purple thistles, a delicate screen of shamrock, and a huge crystal globe set in a bower of roses, on which stands Britannia with an illuminated shield, form a pretty series of allegorical stage pictures. The principal boy, Miss Annie Purcell, comes with a deservedly great reputation. She has a couple of tuneful songs which cannot fail to become the rage here, and these are rendered in a style which is most bewitching. "The little glow-worm" and "Zuyder Zee" are the most popular of this charming artist's numbers. Miss Norah Guy, in the title-rôle, makes a very successful début, and no doubt will become an immense favourite. A particularly pleasing pair are Ted and May Hopkins, the well-known Welsh artists. It is safe to say that these clever comedians will be largely responsible for the great success the pantomime is sure to obtain. Their inimitable Welsh patter is irresistible, and their jokes keep the house in a state of uproarious merriment. Ted's rendering of Lewis Bach and May's portrayal of Bo-Peep are clever and entertaining impersonations. Mr. Ainsley Burton plays funnily as the Squire, and Mr. Jay Laurier as Johnny Stout helps the merry-making considerably; Messrs. Keith and Merson, as Johnny Green and Simple Simon, also being responsible for much of the laughter. As Tom, the Piper's Son, Miss Agnes Tandy does well; Miss Sybil Viney as Mary is well placed; and Miss Nellie Duval should be mentioned for her capable work as the Fairy Queen. The Collins-Stella Troupe of lady dancers appear successfully; the Royal Welsh Singers render "The Soldiers' Chorus" in excellent style. The pantomime has been produced by Mr. George Rowlands, under the direction of Mr. Milton Bode, and the orchestra is under the bâton of Mr. Frank Seddon, who, with Mr. George Burnley, has arranged the music.

CARLISLE.—THE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palace Theatre, Carlisle, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—The Larnthaler Troupe of Tyrolean vocalists and dancers are topping the bill here this week with their beautiful Swiss Mountain scena, and meet with a rousing reception; Roma and Romani, speciality instrumentalists, score an unprecedented success; the famous duettists and dancers are an amusing and popular turn; Mamie Cannon, trick pianist and vocalist, meets with unmistakeable marks of approval, as also do Hoppit, Tony, and Terry, in their circus comedy act; Herr Addison's troupe of performing terriers are much appeciated; and Joe Humphreys, vocal comedian, does well; the Pepiscope completes a most attractive programme with some capital films.

H. M. THEATRE. — Lessees, Mr. Thomas Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's company in *The Three Little Maids* is the attraction here this week. There was a packed house on Monday night. Miss Mabel Kerridge made a vivacious and pleasing Ada Branscombe; Miss Daisy Sylverton was an admirable and charming Hilda Branscombe; Miss Eva Weigh was delightful as Edna Branscombe; Lady St. Mallory was in the excellent hands of Miss Kate Graham-Beck; and Miss Laura Wright, Gretchen, and Mr. Bert Barton, Cupid, caused endless amusement with their clever dancing and funny business; Mr. Frank Henderson simply revelled in the part of Lord Cheyne, and soon became an immense favourite; Mr. Eric Barrington made a typical Frenchman as M. de L'Orme, and proved himself the possessor of a fine tenor voice; the part of Bryan Molyneaux lost nothing in the hands of Mr. Frank Wilson; Mr. Burgess Barratt was effective as the Rev. Mr. Branscombe and Lady Rosemary Venetia Grafton and Lady Marjory were well played by Misses Hilda Stericker, Bertha French, and Nellie Clapton respectively. Other parts were in excellent hands.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman.—Mr. Hilliard Vox and company are here with *Alaska*. Mr. Vox is a capable Skookum Jim; Mr. H. Naylor Grimson, the villain of the piece, Ned Larson, contributes a telling piece of work; Baptiste is capably interpreted by Mr. G. W. Millington; Miss E. Turner Elliott in the part of Jesse Dalton is to be commended; Miss E. Hastings Walton ingratiates herself with the audience as Alaska. Mr. J. Howarth creditably depicts Lieut. Harding; Mr. Albert Rogers proves amusing as Pompey Cæsar; and Miss Leslie Wynne plays up to him cleverly as Widow Casey. The "Widow's Mite" finds an intelligent exponent in Winnie Webster.

CHELTENHAM.—OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Mr. Peter Davey's pantomime, *Goody Two Shoes*, produced on Boxing night, continues its successful career this week. Miss Ernestine Desborough as Crispin is a delightful young gallant, and her singing is an acceptable feature; Mr. Wyn Weaver as the Earl of Godiva, and Mr. Tom E. Sinclair as Dame Durden, have elaborated their fun, and cause much merriment, aided by Mr. Ernest Noble as Peeping Tom; Miss Ethel Beech as the Chevalier Hurley, Miss Phyllis Back as Margot, and Miss Rona Edwards as Goody, all work hard, and contribute to the success; and the musical turns of the Sisters Thurban, and the acrobatics of Levano, have established themselves in popular favour. The stage-management is in the capable hands of Mr. Tom Taylor, whose handiwork is seen in the briskness and smartness with which the business is carried through. The augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Leonard Gautier.

CHESTER.—ROYALTY THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Now in its second week, Mr. George Brydon-Phillips' pantomime company in *Little Red Riding Hood* is winning good opinions all round. A very funny Squire is presented by Mr. Fred Maple; Mr. Maitland Marler is still well to the fore as Granny; Mr. Henry De Solla's Lawyer Slyfox would be hard to improve upon, his song "Too lazy to live" securing a good reception; Mr. Dennis Curzon has at present very little opportunity as Johnny Stout; Mr. Bilbee Taylor is as funny as ever as Simon; Miss Kitty Malone, the principal boy, has introduced "A different girl again," which promises to become popular, and also has a very pretty number entitled "Snowflakes"; Miss Lily Palmer has little to do as Jack, but does that little well; Miss Amy Maple as Jill, the village belle, is undoubtedly the pantomime belle. The principals are ably assisted by a large chorus. The whole is under the direction of the proprietor, Mr. Geo. Brydon-Phillips. Mr. Frank Corrie is the musical director, and Mr. Sydney Grahame is the courteous business-manager for Mr. Brydon-Phillips.

MUSIC HALL.—Agents, Messrs. Philipson and Golder.—Dr. Seaton's Animated Picture and Variety company commenced a five-nights' visit on Tuesday. Mr. Cyril Clarke's Bioscope throws some good pictures on the screen. Illustrated songs are given by Miss M. Lisle. Dr. Seaton in his Japanese plate and dish spinning is good; and Mr. Wm. Kingsley's hand-bell solos are well rendered.

CHORLEY (LANCS.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hemingway.—Mr. A. E. Smith's *Aladdin* opened here on New Year's Eve to a bumping house, and was capitally received. Miss Florrie Curette as Aladdin has a fine physique and a good style; as the Princess, Miss Emay Leycester is capable, her dancing being particularly smart; Pekoe is well rendered by Miss Bessie Carlton, and Miss Connie Irwin smartly undertakes the Genii of the Lamp. Mr. Fred Ramsdale makes a hit as Widow Twankey. The Bros. Padley are funny as Nab'em and Catch'em; and the specialities include the Padley Bros., acrobats and hand balancers; Mr. Oliver Chew, whistler, and the Silverdale Troupe of lady dancers.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's drama, *Her Forbidden Marriage*, was presented by his own company on Monday before a large audience. Mr. Henry Lonsdale as George Madison was a typical hero, his clear, incisive tones carrying his audience with him throughout; whilst Miss Gertrude Bonser made a young but extremely clever and charming Lucy. Miss N. Hunt, though obviously labouring under the disadvantages of a severe cold, looked and acted well as the aptly-named Lady Lucretia, and she received every assistance from Mr. Louis Hector and Mr. Leonard Maxwell as the villainous Charles Devereux and Geoffrey Broughton respectively. The vacillating Sir George Lancaster was capitally depicted by Mr. Rolande York, and Miss Nellie Fletcher ably sustained the part of the Mother Superior; whilst the lighter touches were deftly added by Mr. Arthur Hickman as John William and Miss Madge Yates as Patty. At the close of the performance the company and the audience, led by the orchestra, sang Auld Lang Synne and the National Anthem.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Ben de Frece.—Peter Gotz, the light-weight wrestler, tops the bill, and his challenges have caused immense excitement and several acceptances. Dale and Vale contribute a series of clever dances, and are much applauded; Maudie Vera is a charming comedienne, and, moreover, dances in a very taking style; the Sisters Selwyn, a dainty pair of duettists, are loudly applauded for their smart dancing; whilst Robbie Roy, the limelight reflector, is quaint in his Scotch airs, and Bessie Lind scores with her popular songs.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—Mr. Walter Maxwell's company produced here on Monday night, for the first time in Cork, *The Lion and the Mouse*, by Charles Klein. The play is a powerful and well-constructed one, and its reception was most enthusiastic. As John Burkett Ryder (the Lion) Mr. Leslie Carter scored a great success, and was warmly applauded throughout; Miss Christine Silver as Shirley Rossmore (the Mouse) proved herself a clever emotional actress, and came in for a large share of the applause. As Mrs. Ryder Miss Elspeth Dudgeon was most satisfactory; and Mr. Rupert Lister as Alfred Scott was excellent in this small part.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—There is a good all-round entertainment here this week. The Four Spanish Goldins are capital jugglers, spinners, and dancers; Anita Wayman possesses a well-trained soprano voice; Kiaro is a wonderful hand jumper; the Caris, in *Fun in a Café*, display some fine double somersaulting; Florence Carlow is a capital comedienne; Zasman a clever gymnast; and the Three Panamas are smart acrobats.

COVENTRY. — THE EMPIRE. — Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. A. Rand.—Mr. T. E. Dunville, the well-known comedian (by the way, a native of Coventry), heads the bill here, and contributes some humorous songs, for which he is accorded a hearty reception. Tripello, the well-known saxophonist, causes great delight with some of his musical selections; Mr. James Stewart, the tramp at the piano, gives an exceptionally smart performance, and is well received; the St. Julian Sisters, duettists and dancers, are very pleasing; Mona Macdonald is a dainty comedienne; Harold Hughman gives some clever mimicry; Frank Bernard and Co. present a funny sketch, entitled *Hello*. The Bioscope pictures conclude.

THE OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Wm. Bennett.—Mr. Milton Bode's No. 1 Company is paying a visit here with *The Belle of Mayfair*. Exceptionally meritorious is the rendering of the funny character of Sir John Chaldicott by Mr. Harry Parker. Mr. Gwynn Alwyn is seen to advantage as Hugh Meredith; Mr. Edward Hugonnet is good as the Hon. Raymond Finchley; Mr. Haddon Cave is the Earl of Mount Highgate; Miss May Yates gives a charming rendering of Julia Chaldicott; and Miss Mabel Dent submits a clever impersonation of her maid, Pincott. Miss Daisy Irving as the Princess gains favour for her dainty singing; Miss Leslie St. John ably fills the part of the Gibson Girl (Miss Diana P. Cholmondeley); Miss Emily Stevens and Miss Aurelie de Loviere are Lady Chaldicott and the Countess of Mount Highgate respectively.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren's No. 1 company is this week appearing here in *Proof*. Mr. Gerald Kennedy gives a powerful rendering of Pierre Lorance, and

the truest spirit of farce, goes with a roar of laughter from beginning to end. Another mirth-provoking sketch, entitled *Practical Joking*, presented by Lee and Kingston, is well appreciated; and Rosie Archer, in her imitations of music hall artists, scores most successfully. The Lyons Trio in a funny absurdity entitled *The Parson, The Lady, and The Butler*, elicit hearty applause; and as an actor-vocalist Frank Harwood makes a most favourable impression; Charles Russell, in a smart song scena, "It's a wonder what music can do," is accorded a flattering reception; and the Empire pictures are still a potent feature of the programme.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—This week's attractions include Griffin and Dubois, premier acrobatic eccentrics, who head the bill; the Three Moxons amuse in their sketch, *Fun with the Tourist*; and the comedy juggling act of Wisper is well received. Tom Lloyd, comedian, is as big a favourite as ever, and is recalled nightly; and Miss Sadie Early, comedienne, is talented and sings her songs admirably. The Warsaw Brothers, comedy artists, submit an excellent musical turn; and Dave Cornell, comedian, relates amusing stories with success. Miss Beattie Bloom is a vivacious comedienne; and W. B. Raby is an acceptable comedian. The Bioscope shows some more than usually interesting pictures.

ROUND ROOM, ROTUNDA.—The Irish Animated Photo Company entered on another week's engagement here on Monday. The whole entertainment is going strongly. Amongst the artists engaged special praise is due to Miss Helen Andrews and Mr. Walter Thompson, American comedy duo, who give some charming selections which merit applause; and Mr. Ralph W. Giggins in illustrated songs.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—The Moore-Kennedy company's pantomime *Dick Whittington* entered the second week of a most successful run on Monday. Mlle. Lucretia as Dick has increased her popularity, and her fine figure is shown to advantage in the numerous and costly costumes she wears. In addition to those noticed last week Mr. Tom Lewis as the Demon Rat, Mr. Percy Victor as Alderman Fitzwarren (and also stage manager), Mr. Fred Fulton as Betsy Mary Ann (the cook), and Mr. Will Tozer as the Emperor, all work well in their respective parts, their efforts doing much for the success of the pantomime. Mr. B. Kennedy is the courteous and businesslike general manager.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Nightingale.—A capital programme is provided here this week, headed by Frank Cumminger, the world's record sand dancer, who displays marvellous skill; the two Madges are clever juvenile artists, whose acting and singing come in for cordial applause; the Sisters Ely are talented duettists; another good turn is that of the Saletos, who go through a difficult balancing act in a neat and artistic manner; E. W. Silman, comedian and dancer; Ivy Gallard, American comedienne; and Stylo, a juggler with hoops, are all good turns, and add lustre to the programme. The Empire Bioscope is as entertaining as ever.

DUNDEE.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams. — The beautifully-staged pantomime, *Mother Goose*, has made a hit, and crowded houses nightly enjoy to the full the feast of good things provided by the management.

PALACE THEATRE. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—A capital holiday programme is presented here this week, pride of place being given to Rose Elliot, "the singer of sensible songs," who is now an established favourite with Dundonians; Bugler Carr is a marvellous equilibrist and musician, and Meier and Mora, American speciality artists, score in their original and clever turn; Allan and Hart, a couple of exceedingly clever dancers and duettists, provide delectable fare, as does also a very amusing comedy sketch, entitled *Little Wonder*, in which the troubles of domestic life are laughingly portrayed; Louis Kerno, Fred Collins, and Jack Charman, comedians of distinctly different types, all score big hits, and a hearty reception is also accorded Marie Wilton, who sings very sweetly; the Bioscope, with a capital supply of new films, completes an attractive bill.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—The Kingston Dramatic company had a very hearty welcome back to the scene of many of their former triumphs on Monday evening. The drama presented was *A Rogue's Daughter*, which was done full justice to. The acting of Miss Emily Peel as Lady Mynard left nothing to be desired; Mr. A. W. B. Kingston gave a spirited rendering of the hero, Frank Tyler; while the despicable Colonel Foster had a talented exponent in Mr. Jack Armitage; Mr. Harry Egan, an able comedian, supplied the comedy business; and Miss Flo Stansfield as Lettie Grey filled a very difficult part with praiseworthy ability; a different play is staged nightly, which says much for the versatility of this talented company.

KINNAIRD HALL.—Wm. Hamilton's Excursions opened here on Monday evening before a delighted house. Mr. Claude Howell makes an ideal guide, and the pictures are as instructive as they are beautiful, the dioramic effects being well managed; a capital variety company, comprising Walton and Lester, the world's worst wizards; Desmonti and Mora, triple bar artists; Eugene and Willie, acrobatic musical artists; Brothers Walters, comedians; Tom Taylor, a singing collier; and a series of animated pictures complete the entertainment.

GILFILLAN HALL.—Calder's Cinematograph and Concert company are located here for the holiday season. The pictures are new, and are mostly humorous in tone. The Concert company is also enjoyable, and includes Mr. John Morrison, in songs and sketches; Miss Jessie Jolly, an entertaining comedienne; and Miss Clare Buchanan, who renders well-known songs in excellent voice.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mr. R. A. P. Williams's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, was produced for the first time here on Monday night before a packed house. The book, by Mr. Arthur Lee Todd, is very well written; the music, selected and arranged by Mrs. R. A. P. Williams and Mr. Wm. Hartley, is sparkling and catchy; and the dresses are exceptionally fine. The nine scenes into which the pantomime is divided are all painted by Mr. R. W. Miller, and reflect great credit on the artist. There is no lack of comedians, foremost amongst whom is Mr. George Melvin as Helen McMutchin, the babes' nurse, who contributes in no small degree to the success of the pantomime; Jeames, the Baron's man-of-all-work, finds a very able exponent in Mr. Alec. Allison; the villains are most amusing characters, and are delineated by the Stebbings; the Babes, Mr. Jack Chant and Mr. Walter Emery, are very droll, their pranks being full of mischief; Mr. Charles Howarth does ample justice to the part of Sir Rowland Buttre, the wicked Baron; Robin Hood finds a gallant and capable exponent in Miss Mai Duncan, whose singing was highly appreciated; Miss Alice Campbell made a congenial Sweetheart as Maid Marian, her dancing making her a favourite; Miss A. Gellally gives a capital representation of Robina, Queen of the Fairies; the chorus, composed of Robin Hood's Merry Men, is in capable hands. Interspersed throughout the pantomime are specialities by clever artists, including the Three Henriques, comedy acrobats; Sisters Kennedy, speciality dancers; Bros. Allison, sand dancers; Chant and Chant, comedy duo; Mlle. Aladina, with her charming flight of specially-trained cockatoos; and De Henau, the marvellous artist with his toes.

EASTBOURNE.—DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Devonshire Park and Baths Co., Ltd.—Under the management of Murray, King and Clark, Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company, in *Peter's Mother*, forms the current attraction. Mr. Charles Harley fills the small part of Sir Timothy Crewys with conspicuous success; Miss Ruth Mackay could scarcely be excelled in the name-part, which fits her like the proverbial glove; while Mr. Percy Hutchison is seen to the utmost advantage as Peter Crewys. Miss Mary Griffiths (Lady Belstone) and Miss Florence Harwood (Miss G. Crewys) portray the baronet's unlovely sisters with admirable skill and differentiation; Mr. Billie Norwood's John Crewys is an impersonation of especial prominence in a good all-round cast, which further includes Mr. F. G. Thurstans (an amusing Canon Birch), Mr. Townsend Whitling (a thoroughly satisfactory representative of Dr. Blundell), Miss Violet Ley, Miss Hilda Honnis (a fairly acceptable Sarah), and Mr. Bruce Smith. *Chalk and Cheese* precedes.

PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. G. Hayes.—Mr. Frank Bertram's principal company is appearing in *The Breed of the Treshams*. Mr. H. Tripp Edgar's impersonation of Lieut. Beresby is absolutely incapable of improvement, so excellent is it even to the minutest particular; Mr. Oswald Lingard (Viscount Dorsington) repeats his clever portrayal with conspicuous success; as also do Mr. George Traill (Colonel Sir Henry Curwen), Mr. Cecil Klein (Cornet the Hon. Francis Tresham), Mr. Gerald Clarke (Cornet Kit Peyton), and Miss Celestine Bertram (Batty). Mr. Richard A. Green contributes a thoroughly good interpretation of the part of the villainous colonel the Hon. Clement Hungerford; while Mr. Harold Wagner (Colonel Bagshaw) and Mr. Gifford Reynolds (Captain Stanhope) admirably interpret unexacting rôles. Miss Nellie Clyde proves herself a charmingly sympathetic representative of the Hon. Margaret Hungerford; and others meriting mention are Mr. Ellis D. Carlyle, Mr. Wilfred Compton, Miss Violet Agnew, and Miss Miriam Holt.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Smith.—The big-line turns this week are those of Macdonald and Hunting, a remarkably successful pair of singers, dancers, and mimics; Marie Jones (assisted by Ernest Munro), in a strikingly clever protean sketch, entitled *The Way to Win a Bet*; and Lady Quartette, who, attired as bon-bons, prove themselves admirably cultured operatic vocalists. Nellie Cotter is a popular coon and comedy songstress; Fyne and Hurley cause roars of laughter as "The Coster and the Swell"; and the programme is completed by Mabel Le Roy (comedienne), Pollo (lady gymnast), Marlow and Manton (sketch *Other People's Babies*), and Hippodrome pictures. Yesterday was anniversary night, thirty-six turns being billed to appear.

PAVILION.—Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. E. A. Brown.—Mr. C. Hayden-Coffin gave an afternoon concert recital yesterday, assisted by Herr Von Leer's Bijou Viennese Orchestra. Mr. Frank Mummery was the accompanist.

DEVONSHIRE PARK.—Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. E. A. Brown.—A popular concert by Miss Amy Willis, Mr. Charles Copland, and the Municipal Orchestra, and a grand popular New Year concert by Miss Margaret Cooper, Miss Helen Mar, Mr. Alan Turner, Mr. Philip Lewis, and Mr. Gilbert A. Alcock, have constituted the week's special attractions.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull.—The second week's run of *The Merveilleuses* has emphasised the favourable verdict which this brilliant production received on its opening night. The music of Mr. Hugo Felix is delightful; and Mr. Harold Vicars is to be complimented on his success in the conductor's chair. Mr. Eric Thorne as St. Amour, happy as ever in his own fantastic style, compels continuous laughter whenever he is on the stage; Mr. Jack Cannot and Mr. Legai Robertson as the two detectives are very diverting, the topical song of the former being greatly enjoyed. Mr. Robert Hale, always a sound and pleasing actor, makes an admirable Lagorille; the more serious part of Dorlis finds a finished exponent in Mr. W. Talleur Andrews; and the two strongly-contrasted feminine rôles, the Illyrine of Miss Deborah Volar and the Lodoiska of Miss Anna Hickish, are characterised both as regards singing and acting by all needful charm and esprit. Of the many pleasing lyrics scattered through the piece Miss Volar's "Cuckoo" song is an outstanding example; another successful number falls to Mr. Willie Warde, jun., and Miss Dora Langham, who play Monsieur and Madame De Gouttères; and the dancing of Miss Vivian Talleur gains most enthusiastic encores.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—The most notable item in this week's bill is the novel turn of the Three Olympiers, whose classical tableaux, entitled *Beauty in Bronze*, deservedly secure the warmest tributes of approbation. George Gilbey, as "the Goalkeeper," gains distinction and applause for his songs and amusing patter; and the comedy element is also well sustained by Charles Kay, Esta Stella, and Charles Mildare, each of whom contributes an entertaining turn. The last-named artist is an accomplished silleur, while the lady excels as a danseuse. The Macarte Sisters appear in a clever and graceful act on the wire; Alexandra Edwin is a delightful vocalist; Conway and Leland make the house merry with their curious one-legged antics; the *100 to 1 Chance* sketch submitted by France and Stewart, and the *Smash and Dash* of Mr. Arnold Bell's company, are both much to the taste of the audience; and the bioscope is quite up to date with a good series of animated pictures.

EXETER. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—*Aladdin*, now in its second week, is drawing large houses. Miss Rose Helene is thoroughly at home in the title-rôle, and her songs, which are invariably well received, give ample scope for her charming voice. Miss Lulu Louden as the Princess is a great favourite; the Dame of Mr. E. W. Avery provides much amusement; and Mr. Fred Fowler increases his reputation as a clever comedian in his clever portrayal of the Magician; Mr. Harry Emeric as Wishee Washee deserves commendation; Mr. J. H. Booth is very funny as the Emperor; and Mlle. Ebba Darcier as a maid of honour is very charming; Baroux and Bion are capital knockabouts, and the Pauline Sextett are graceful dancers; Douplessi is a marvellous contortionist and hand-ring exponent.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. J. B. Mulholland's company, in *The Electric Man*, is a great attraction here this week. Mr. Bernard Copping appears as Walter Everest, and the electric man and acquits himself with distinction. Mr. Hastings Lynn is exceptionally good as Jack Strange; Mr. Augustus Wheatman as Mr. Jobbins is excellent; Mr. W. H. Rotherham is thoroughly successful as General Pomeroy; Miss Dorothy Hullah displays marked ability as Mrs. Everest; and the same may be said of Miss Amy Fanchette as Mrs. Anderson. Miss Gertrude Tait makes a charming Stella; Miss Isa Bellington is seen to advantage as Mary; and Mr. James Penryn deserves a word of praise as the constable.

GATESHEAD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. M. S. Hammond; Licensee, Mr. Edward Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harold Arnold.—*Sinbad the Sailor* now runs with delightful smoothness, and large audiences have shown their appreciation in a marked manner. Very refreshing is Miss Fifie Gordon's impersonation of the sailor hero, her singing and dancing meeting with abundant praise. Miss Beatie Kent (Sadie) has a host of admirers; the Misses Tennis and Lawn (Selim and Yosan) make a huge hit with a duet; Salida and Vone (King and Queen) are satisfactory; Mr. Tom Collins (Mrs. Sinbad) is a big favourite; Mr. Herbert Fuller (Vanderdecken) and Mr. Tod Squires (Tinbad) work hard and achieve success; Bishop and Vale supply the knockabout business to the satisfaction of everyone; the Old Man of the Sea receives capable treatment at the hands of Mr. George H. Keith; and Miss Agnes Fancheux, as the Fairy, does well; the other members of the company do their work in a capable manner. The pantomime concludes with a harlequinade, which is relished by the youngsters.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas France.—One of the best dramas seen here for a long time is *The Little Breadwinner*, as interpreted by Mr. J. A. Campbell's company. The most prominent figure in the play is Mr. Eugene Santley, whose depiction of the Quaker Lord leaves nothing to be desired. An excellent Richard Laurence comes from Mr. Matthew Boulton; and Mr. Alfred Maurice in the part of Joseph Prior proves himself a sterling actor. Very humorous is Mr. Stanley Leedham in the rôle of Charles Prior; a remarkable success is achieved by little Emmie Thomas in the title-part; Miss Mary Fulton is a success as Margaret Daventry; Miss Nellie Thorne-Hallam is seen to advantage as Kate Cherry; very creditable is the performance of Miss Jenny Bostock as Bridget O'Flannagan; Miss Kitty Melville's Ruth Cherry is satisfactory; and Miss Lissa Young is well suited to the part of Bobby Trott.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—Miss Marie Dagmar and Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company in *The Tyrant* has drawn large audiences to this house. The title-rôle is played in a convincing manner by Mr. Roy Forteseque; Mr. Somerfield, as Homodei, has a part which suits him to a nicety; Mr. Lionel Atwill as Rudolph plays admirably; Miss Marie Dagmar as Tisbe supplies a clever rendering of a difficult part; and Miss Lalla Shelton is a capable exponent of Belle.

GLASGOW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—*Dick Whittington* continues to draw crowded houses here, and the holiday rush has been phenomenal. The clever impersonations that Mr. Bransby Williams introduces in the part of Fitzwarren are much enjoyed, and the hearty laughter occasioned by the clever comedy of Mr. Will Evans and Messrs. Downes and Langford in their respective parts proves their popularity. Miss Madoline Rees as Dick, Miss Lena Vere as Alice, Miss Mena Brae as Zoe, and Miss Edna Morgan as the Prince of Morocco form an excellent quartette of principals. Mr. W. P. Frame's Scotch cook has a host of admirers, and the smart dancing of the Ziller Girls evokes hearty applause.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—*The Catch of the Season* has enabled the Royalty to secure a big share of the holiday crowds. Mr. Frank Lincoln as Jermyn and Miss Moya Mannering as Angela carry through their parts with lots of verve and go, the result being a decided success for both artists. Mr. E. H. Kelly does well as the Stuttering Dundreary, and clever performances of the "Ugly Sisters" are given by Misses Isobel Dickens and Florence Lee. Master Grata as Bucket is a strong favourite; Miss Ida Mann is suited in the part of Lady Crystal; and Miss Belle Napier makes a most attractive Lady Caterham.

KING'S.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. Hugh Macfarlane.—*See-See*, the new Chinese comic opera, proves admirably suited to the tastes of holiday audiences, and crowded houses, both at matinée and evening performances, have testified their delight at the attractive impersonation of the title-part by Miss Lily Elsie, the neat dancing of Miss Topsy Sinden as So-Hie, the fine baritone songs of Mr. Leonard Mackay as Yen, the fascination of Miss Amy Augarde as the fortune-teller, Mai-Yai, and the amusing business introduced by Messrs. Frank Danby and W. H. Rawlins as Hang-Kee and Cheoo respectively; Miss Alice Hatton as Lee, and Misses Sybil Grey, Octavia Barry, and Lilian Hewetson as Cheoo's wives, and Miss Daisy Wallace as Humming-Bird all give able support.

GRAND, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. D. Macfarlane.—*The House that Jack Built* is now in full swing and drawing bumper houses. Miss May Mara, as Prince Veritas, nightly receives well-deserved encores for her singing. The part of Jack by Miss Luna Love, and Jill by Miss Frances Kapstowne, are attractively rendered; while the children parts of Tommy Tucker by little Miss Maudie Francis and Marjory Daw by Wee Mona are simply charming. Mr. Fred Kitchen as Dame Trot keeps the fun going perpetually, ably seconded by Mr. Harry Lappo as the henpecked Mr. Trot; Mr. Fred Whittaker as the Cat is very amusing, and tickles the fancy of the juveniles. The Harmony Four provide lots of fun and some finely-blended snatches of harmony. The flying ballet is a triumph of airy grace and daring, performed in a blaze of electric light. The 14th Black Hussars are a welcome novelty; and altogether the Grand has undoubtedly scored a success with this year's pantomime. Matinées daily since Christmas have been required to accommodate the rush of patrons.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch. Nowhere in the city have more lengthy or more patient queues been seen than at the doors of the Princess's, which proves that *Mother Goose* has caught the public fancy in no uncertain fashion. Miss Ethel Campbell makes a beau-ideal Robin, and Miss Ella Retford, as Marguerite, sings and dances with brightness and animation from the first scene to the last; the comicalities of Mr. Austin Lenton as Mother Goose, Mr. Wal Croft as MacGander, Mr. Harry McClelland as the Baron, and Messrs Foreman and Fannan as two policemen keep the fun going to a running accompaniment of laughter and applause. The Sisters Hall again prove their ability in numerous duets, and the funny business of the 'bus and the moving track, the poultry shop scene, the riding lesson, and circus scenes gives the audience almost a surfeit of good things.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—*The Babes in the Wood* are "doing well" since their arrival here. Miss Rose Hamilton, as a principal boy, renews the good opinion held of her performance in Glasgow on a former occasion. Miss Lucy Lynch makes a pretty Princess, and the Babes are played in dainty style by Misses Blanche Albert and Ada Merry. Messrs. Albert and Edmunds, as the Broker's Men, introduce lots of fun, and another clever couple of comedians are Messrs. Bernard and Weston; Mr. Mark Tapley as the Dame and Mr. Ernie Sparks as Tommy also prove able providers of fun; and a host of attractive choristers and dancers give brightness and animation to the more important scenes.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, J. H. Oakden.—Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, is doing holiday business here. The production is excellent in every way, and a very successful run is assured. With a strong band of comedians, there is no lack of fun, and much enjoyment is the result.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Mussett.—Fred Karno's company, in *Mumming Birds*, is just the sort of turn holiday crowds want. Then there is Nilsson's Butterflies, in a flying ballet, with lantern effects; Los Granadas give a specially good bar and spring mattress display with a host of clever feats; Baker and Balfe are clever xylophonists, and the gentleman dances neatly; Charles Stevens sings "Ballooning" with good effect; Ernest Torrence's illustrated songs take well; Jess Thorne gives a touch of eccentric comedy; Goggin and Davis are smart coloured artists; while *Red Riding Hood*, played by wolves, and the bioscope, with all the latest films, complete the bill.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Herbert Darnley's company, in a lively sketch, *The Freaks*, which has been brightened up considerably since last week, forms the chief turn here; and the efforts of Madge Merry, Georgina Leno, Bertie Wright, Albert Weston, Chas. H. Adeson, &c., are much enjoyed. Chorley and Connor are strong favourites, their patter being smart and up to date. Sam Elton, who made the Shah laugh, is able to repeat the feat with Glasgow amusement-seekers; Tom Woottwell is a clever comedian; and Barrington, eccentric pianist; Kathleen Radford, vocalist; and the elaborate film of *Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp* make up a well-varied and attractive holiday menu.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—A company truly phenomenal for a provincial theatre appears here this week, and the holiday pleasure-seekers have been hanging around the doors of this popular house from early morn till dewy eve. Miss Vesta Victoria is first favourite, and gives all her latest ditties in her own inimitable style. Then Miss Lottie Collins, as a giddy widow and other clever characters, sings and dances with lots of her former dash and spirit. Another star is Austin Rudd, who has a strong hold on the Glasgow public, and has to work hard accordingly to satisfy their demands for encores. Fred Keeton is a comedian who is going strong here, and his "Blind Boy" parody is highly popular. The Seven Zerbinis give a splendid musical turn, with lots of elaborate scenic and lighting effects. The Brennans are a smart couple of step-dancers, with a most imposing array of belts and trophies. The Dayton Troupe of Risley Artists are about the cleverest turn of the kind seen here for a long time; Arthur Slater, as a whistler, is a big favourite; Lilian Boanas is an Australian vocalist of much ability; the Carina Sisters give an artistic musical turn; Mabelle May is a particularly smart dancer; the Hartfords submit a bicycle display; and Percy Farrimond and the Sisters Lotus contribute vocal items.

COLISEUM. — Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—A big attraction is provided here in a condensed version of Scotland's favourite drama *Rob Roy*, in which Mr. Leo Stormont acts well as the outlaw and sings "Macgregor's Gathering" with much effect. Mr. Forrest Niven as Dougal, Mr. George Hunter as the Bailie, and Mr. Frederick Harker as Capt. Thornton give able support, and the choruses are rendered by a large body of singers. The Delevines give a lively turn entitled *Flipp and Flopp*, Harry Rogers and Co. appear in a well-told little sketch, with dramatic incidents. Albert Christian's powerful voice is heard in various stirring songs. The Wheelers give a clever, daring, and most amusing bicycle act. Arthur Lynn, vocalist; Gus Dallon and Harry Sims, comedians, complete a good programme.

PALACE. — Sole Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—Wal Pink's company in the screaming absurdity *Repairs* is the leading item in the programme here. Diamond and Beatrice give their artistic musical melange; De Vere and Kenwick contribute some amusing burlesques of popular songs; Charlie Dixon scores as an eccentric comedian. Amusing and clever turns are also given by Sisters Melba, Kate Lind, J. W. Ellison, and Alburtus and Altus.

GAIETY, LTD.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Howard; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—A good holiday bill here includes Barney, Burke, and Bray, in their amusing speciality *London to Madrid*; Attilla Bros. in their feats of strength; Pimple's Arabs, headed by the clever Pimple himself; and also Greta May, Joe Hennessy, George Bernard, Fred Dice, Victoria Boys, and the Wallonells.

HARMONIC CONCERTS.—Musical-Sec., Mr. Wm. Biggam.—For their New Year attractions, the Harmonic got together three different companies of such exceptional length and variety that it must suffice merely to record the fact that all the best available talent, local and imported, was included in them.

GLOSSOP. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. Allan Wilkie and company are here this week, and opened on Monday in *The Two Orphans of Paris*. Mr. Allan Wilkie presented a good impersonation of the part of Pierre; and Mr. Herbert Morgan was seen to advantage as Jacques; to Mr. G. A. Marsh was due warm recognition as Armand Chevalier de Vaudrax; Mr. A. Mather was effective as Count de Linier; Mr. George Munro scored as Le Frochard; Mr. C. M. Dockwray made a typical doctor; Mr. Wilton Rose as Marquis de Presles, and Mr. T. Coleman as Count Du Mailby were prominent; as the Two Orphans Miss Carrie Baillie (Louise) and Miss Ine Cameron (Henriette) gave clever portrayals; Miss Daisy Horrocks played with much feeling the character of Countess de Linier; prominent also were Mr. Ian Fleming as Pickard, Mr. Ernest Digges as Marius, Mr. Wulf Frazer as Martin, Mr. B. Sullivan as Lafleur, Miss Hunter Watts as Marianne, Miss Elly O. Dempsey as Genevieve, Miss H. Faucit as Florette, Miss D. Easton as Julie, and Miss A. Scotti as Cora. The week's programme includes *The School for Scandal*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, and *The Ticket of Leave Man*.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE. — Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—The Marconis give a show which is a distinct novelty as far as Gloucester is concerned, and meet with a capital reception. Mack Ollive and Miss Daisy Baldry are responsible for a clever whistling performance, and Miss Lily Flexmore wins great applause for her wonderful dancing; the Alberto Troupe of equilibrists are particularly skilful; Tatten Hall (comedian) appears with much success; Carl Howard, in his "cod" conjuring act, causes roars of laughter; and Lee and Arden are smart, especially in the dancing line; Messrs. Fox and Melville are interesting song illustrators; Sill and Silcott, with an acrobatic skit, "Lively Luggage," are amusing; and Miss Lily Foy is a comedienne of ability; the Bioscope shows some good films; and Evan Evans, a Welshman, at the piano, also appears.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. J. E. Tomlinson.—The Theatre Royal opened here on Boxing night to an overflowing house, when Mr. J. E. Tomlinson and his wife, Miss Lizzie Palmer, presented *The Secrets*. Mr. J. E. Tomlinson gave a careful and dramatic rendering of Ibrahim Al Murad; Mr. W. Summers, in his dual parts, first as the breezy lieutenant, and then as a deaf mute, was a particular favourite. As the Caliph of Balsora, Mr. W. Richards was excellent; Mr. V. T. Raymond with Miss Kate Lever, as Peter and Winnie Wilkins, kept the audience in a particularly good humour. The heroine of the piece was nicely portrayed by Miss Lizzie Palmer (Mrs. J. E. Tomlinson). The Tivoli Quartette Troupe of dancers were applauded. The attraction this week is *An Abandoned Woman*, presented by Mr. Harry Foxwell and Co. The principal part, that of Ninon Malvoisin, is extremely well depicted by Miss Georgette Thierry; Mr. B. J. Leill is powerfully effective as Phillipe Malvoisin; Mr. Wolston is particularly good as Capt. Herbert Seaton; Mr. Geo. Gormley is a capital Sir Marmaduke Seaton; Mr. Harry Foxwell causes great hilarity as Paddy Boyle. He is ably supported by Miss Elsie Dean as Sally Sloper and Mr. Will Glaze as Sammy Sharpe; Mr. P. Morton Wright is well placed as Robert Saunders; Little Frances Maddocks is a clever Mona Dean; Mrs. Harry Foxwell acts gracefully and effectively as Eleanor Dean.

GRAVESEND. — GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. David Hart.—At the top of a good bill this week is Joe Peterman's musical comedy extravaganza, *The Belle of the Orient*. As Ike Novinski Joe Peterman is excellent, and as the Belle Florence Vie is admirable; Kib Keen is a highly amusing coloured comedian; Ted Cowan, comedian, is extremely popular; Gracie Bird, a speciality artist and dancer, renders a coon song in good style; and Alice Blandford, who styles herself the New Zealand Nightingale, has a sweet voice; Stacey and Williams, patterers, comedians, and dancers, are an exceptionally good turn.

NEW PUBLIC HALL AND THEATRE.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. R. Feaver Clarke.—Jury's Imperial Bioscope is here for the week. Some of the animated pictures are marvels of clearness, and the specimens of coloured photography are really beautiful. Songs suitably illustrated by Mr. George Bishop are capitally rendered, and the sketches by Mr. Edward Idlam, society entertainer, are decidedly good.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. Edward Graham-Falcon's pantomime *Aladdin* continues to draw large audiences. Miss Blanche Marion (Aladdin) and Miss Nina Moore (the Princess) have established themselves first favourites, and all the artists taking part work hard to make the pantomime a success.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert.—So successful has been the grand spectacle, "A Fête in Tokio," that it is being repeated this week, and much admiration is expressed when the brilliantly lighted arena is filled with picturesque groups of Japanese acrobats, singers, dancers, and onlookers.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Mr. Herbert Ralland's principal company, in the popular comic opera, *La Poupée*, continues to attract large audiences.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—A delightful and entertaining item is *Casey's Circus*, a sketch, which deservedly tops the interesting programme billed here this week. The military scena, entitled, *The Young Recruit*, has been retained for another week; a diverting comedy sketch by Conway and Garland is another popular item. Excellent turns are also provided by R. T. Meikle, baritone; Vosper, mimic; Harry Leybourne, society entertainer; and Martin Henderson, concertina soloist. The Empire pictures complete the show.

PAVILION THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. A. White.—The bill here includes Athos Troupe of acrobats and ball punchers, who submit an excellent turn; Jack Neil, comedian, soon makes himself acceptable to the audience; Billy Hobbs, coon comedian, is also good; Mount and Corelli are appearing in a smart musical sketch, *The Stage-Struck Waifs*; Connie Marie, a clever comedienne and dancer; and Myra Love, a charming vocalist, are considerable aids to the success of the programme; and the Paviscope pictures complete the bill.

TOWN HALL.—Mr. G. W. Walker opened here on Monday, with a first-class cinematograph show, and a series of fine pictures are being shown. In addition to the pictures, a smart variety company comprises Fred W. Millis, ventriloquist; J. C. McDairmid, mimic; Madame Patti Hicks, violinist; and Miss Ivy Kildare, vocalist.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry.—*The Coal King* is presented here this week. Tom Roberts, the young mine manager, is portrayed in manly fashion by Mr. Lauderdale Maitland. Miss Gertrude Valentine fulfils all requirements as Grace Shirley, and other prominent members of the company are Mr. Cole Aspinall, who admirably realises the "Coal King," Sir Reginald Harford, Mr. Escott Robson as Walter Harford, the scheming usurper, Mr. Frank Dalton as the unfortunate Dick Shirley, Mr. John Coghlan as Seth Baker, and Miss Sinna St. Clair as Mad Ann. The comedy element is provided by Mr. Alfred Terriss as Jim Williams, and Miss Enid Ross as Araminta.

CURRY'S TIVOLI.—Managing Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—*Number 99*, as presented by Mr. Fred Kitchen and Mr. Frank Lister's company, is an interesting sketch of considerable dramatic merit. The eccentricities of Little Ganty have caused much merriment, whilst the veteran, Sam Redfern, has also scored as a humourist. The Llewellyn sketch company presented *Two Wicked Maids*, which combines refined comedy with high-class vocal work. The Three Seabornes proved smart acrobats and equilibrists, and others appearing are Woodward and Walton, rag-time dancers, and Madge May, comedienne.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. T. A. Edwards; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—The Jackley Trio's sketch, in which are introduced some sensational somersaulting and table-leaping feats, is a popular turn, whilst George, who appears in conjunction with the Trio, caused roars of laughter with his whistling conversation. A capitally trained troupe of animals is seen in Henry Abdy's dogs. Mlle. Marvelle's cockatoos and macaws also provided an interesting performance. Charles Silburn is successful as a comedian, C. H. Gould and company are responsible for an amusing sketch, and Steeley and Downton, with a medley of singing, dancing, and patter, Dan Robins, balladist, and Minnie Fenton, a pleasing Scottish comedienne, also appear.

GUERNSEY.—ST. JULIAN'S HALL.—Lessee, Mr. C. Robt. Perkins.—On the 28th ult. Messrs. Armitage and A. Leigh's company opened here in *Lucky Durham*. The house was packed, and the excellent interpretation gave general satisfaction. Mr. Edmund Kennedy played the part of John Durham with earnestness; Mr. Arthur Leigh's delineation of the Hon. Reginald was not only consistently good, but exceedingly clever; Lord Mountfallon was excellently placed in the hands of Mr. Robert Forsyth; Mr. W. F. Simmons Lynn proved very acceptable as Arthur Walcombe; and Mr. A. E. Walken was an ideal Mr. Fallerton. Miss Alice Esther Belmore was charming as Helen; Miss Frances Wolverton mastered the difficulties of Lady Mountfallon with extreme credit; and Miss Florence Dulhunty was admirable as Margaret.

GUILDFORD.—BOROUGH HALL. — Proprietors, The County Halls, Ltd.—A great favourite with Surrey audiences, *The Sign of the Cross*, was presented here on Monday and Tuesday evenings under the direction of Messrs. Henry Chatteli and G. W.

manner; Corporal Holbig and Corporal Queiss were well portrayed by Mr. Richard Fielding and Mr. Francis Bithell respectively. The play is preceded nightly by the curtain-raiser entitled *Nan*.

HASTINGS.—PIER PAVILION.—Pier Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. J. D. Hunter's 28th annual Christmas pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, which is attracting crowded audiences, may rank with any of the previous Christmas seasons' successes. Mr. John A. Thomson and Mr. J. D. Hunter are responsible for the book, the music being composed and arranged by Mr. Surtees Corne. The story is admirably preserved throughout, intermingled with plenty of drolleries and whimsicalities; as the Baron Sherlock Holmes Mr. Lauri Wylie creates great fun, introducing later his mimicking mannikins; Miss M. Sadie, with a coquettish figure and winsome face, gives a delightful representation of Prince Allfair; in the title-rôle Miss Cissie Wade, with an unaffected grace, meets with a very appreciative reception; Mr. Fowler Thatcher as Tommy Green, and Mr. George Mayer as Johnnie Stout are exceedingly funny; Miss Beattie Lyndon as Rosa, the Baron's daughter, acts with charming brightness and cleverness; in the part of Boy Blue Miss Vera Dudley is altogether attractive; Dame Trot has a capital exponent in Mr. J. D. Hunter, his quiet humour being very telling and quaintly comical; Mr. H. Saguin represents the wolf; the ladies contribute some charming songs, the dresses make a brilliant show, and are in exquisite taste, whilst the scenery is exceedingly pretty.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Under the management of Mr. Charles E. Hamilton the musical comedy, entitled, *The Sweet Girl*, is here this week. Lola, an operatic singer, is well played by Miss Claudia Lasell in the title-rôle, and she shines equally as actress, singer and dancer. The part of Fritzi Weyringer, played by Miss Alice Lethbridge, is conspicuous for its winsomeness and charm. Mr. Douglas Phillips gives an excellent sketch of Florian Lierlich. Dick Kenyon is well represented by Mr. Lister Morrah. Mr. Geo. De Lara as the Count's secretary, and Mr. Edwin Ramsdale as the Major Domo are both excellent. Mr. Fred Eastman as Count Liebenberg is diverting.

ST. LEONARDS PAVILION THEATRE.—Piermaster and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—One of the most amusing and entertaining nautical comedies is being played here, entitled *The Cruise of the Saucy Sally*, by Mr. Lawrence Brough and an excellent company. Mr. Brough is capital as Herbert Jocelyn; an ancient mariner, Jack Buncombe is well represented by Mr. Percy Marshall; Mr. Hewson Elliott makes a typical Welsh M.P.; Mr. Tom Mowbray is very good as the shipbuilder; a cleverly drawn sketch is presented by Mr. Hilary Younge as Capt Jocelyn; Miss Kate Milford is a charming representative of Rosie; Miss Bessie Harrison makes a brisk and vivacious mother-in-law; the music mistress, Cecile, receives full justice at the hands of Miss Winnie Redmaine; the two maids quite realise their characters, and admirable sketches are seen of the respective parts by Miss Ethel Stone and Miss Vera Vinall.

HASTINGS HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Miss Katie Hill, a pleasing vocalist, takes the place of honour on the programme; the Australian vocalist, Tom Mills, has a fund of patriotic songs and recitations; Wright, Ismay, and Wright, are versatile and expert dancers; a new series of films are both instructive and amusing; the Bioscope also gives life size portraits of the proprietor and acting-manager; Miss Dolly Robson proves herself an excellent juvenile artist; Bonetti and Corrie are remarkably smart in burlesque juggling; some clever character sketches are given by Mr. Harry Russon, his recitations especially being much appreciated.

HEREFORD.—DRILL HALL.—Manager, Mr. A. Lovesey.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company with *My Sweetheart* has paid a visit here. Miss Minnie Palmer plays Tina with delicacy and charm, her singing causes unalloyed delight, and her quick changes from humour to pathos are excellent. Mr. Robert H. Howard is the Tony. He is most successful both in his songs and acting. Mr. Leslie Tyler is good as Harold Bartlett, a part which requires careful treatment; the Joe Shotwell of Mr. Fred Leonard is distinctly clever and well sustained throughout; Mr. Alfred May gives an amusing rendering of the part of Dudley Harcourt, which, owing to the illness of Mr. A. Ibberson, he had to take at very short notice. The rôle of Mrs. Fleeter is assumed by Miss Silvester, and this experienced and charming actress presents the character in finished style.

HORWICH.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fred Lewis.—Mr. Phil Herman and company in *Fritz* provide the holiday attraction here. Mr. Herman still plays and sings with unimpaired vigour; Mr. Hugh Carmichael gives a telling impersonation of Col. Crafton; Mr. E. Roby is responsible for a fine rendering of the New York lawyer, Gregory Graham; Mr. Percy Vale plays Augustus in good style; Mr. H. Buckland is a typical New York tough; Mr. M. Pears gives a good account of himself in his concertina variations; Judge Jelico has a dignified exponent in Mr. Geo. Lloyd; Miss Florrie Hall plays Katrina with feeling; Miss E. Maguire's portrayal of Lena is artistic; and Little Schneider is prettily played by Little Dot Brown.

HOYLAND.—METROPOLE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. R. Baker.—*The Hour of Her Triumph* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Clifton Earle is a manly Jack Vernon, and Mr. F. J. Webb is an excellent Eugene Harberry; Messrs. Chas. E. Sutton and James Stuart as Harold Clavering and Rosenis Montmorency respectively are very good. The humorous element is well supplied by Mr. Louis Nanton as Ben Brodie, ably assisted by Messrs. Lallah Price and Nancy Doris as Martha and Jennie Jinks respectively; Miss Mamie Stanton is an admirable Linda Denton; and as Nellie Clavering Mrs. M. Danvers Smith wins approval; Miss Maude Yorke as Rose Denton is all that can be desired.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—A visit from Mr. Edward Compton and company is always a pleasure, particularly to the playgoer surfeited with musical comedy. Mr. Compton's revival of *Edmund Kean* brought together a large and enthusiastic audience on Monday. Mr. Compton's ripe experience and cultured methods are artistically applied in the part of the great tragedian. His support was, as usual, of the highest quality. Miss Mackenzie, who is rapidly progressing in her art, played Amy Bellair with much sympathy; Mr. Henry Crocker gave a clever and reliable interpretation of the part of Tabberer; Mr. Dennis Cleugh as Murcot and Mr. G. Wallace Johnston as Lidcombe were excellent; Miss Marie Hassell made a delightfully vigorous Mrs. Troup; and Miss Adeline Ancaster played with care as Lady Lidcombe. The other plays down for performance during the week are *Davy Garrick*, *The Desperate Lover*, *The School for Scandal*, and *She Stoops to Conquer*.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The bill this week is filled by Miss Florence Baines and company in the musical travesty, *Miss Lancashire, Limited*, in which Miss Baines's special gifts are afforded full scope for display.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—The prediction attempted in the last notice has been fully realised, and the various elements which contribute to make a pantomime have been so happily welded together that success is the result. The Cinderella of Miss Mora Hersee has become quite the hit of Hull, and this little lady can be congratulated on so soon making a mark. The Prince Florizel of Miss Barbara Babbington is a very pleasing piece of work. The comedians are well to the fore, and Miss Gregson and Mr. Wade as the Two Ugly Sisters are prominent features of this capital show.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr Wynn Miller.—The Grand pantomime this year has revived all the memories of some of the great successes achieved at this house in past times. From the first it was seen what the result was likely to be. The stage pictures are notable for their fine colouring and artistic grouping. Miss Rita Everard is a refined principal boy who relies on sheer merit to secure a front place. The Fairy Queen, Miss Ivy Moore, has a very sweet voice, which she knows how to effectively use. Miss Winnie La Barte is full of resource, and is extremely popular with the large audiences. Mr. Rowland Hill is a clever comedian who can take a female rôle without vulgarity. Mr. Lynn, as the King, has a fat part, which he fills with credit. The ballet is a fine show. *Puss in Boots* is a pantomime worth seeing.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Morton's, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. George Morton.—*Man and Wife*, a drama with a Napoleonic theme, is quite up to the standard of work seen at this house, with the result that big houses have been the rule during the current week. As the hero, Trevere, Mr. John F. Traynor exhibits all the attributes associated with such a rôle. Marcelle as interpreted by Miss Ward is a fine piece of character delineation. Miss Polly Denville is a very pleasing Rosette. Mr. Val Gully and Mr. Sydney Bryant add an acceptable comedy touch to the play.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Tom Lunn.—Appearing here are the Ten Loonies, Litan, the Two Dixons, Bosco, Fred Villiers, and Telka.

THE PALACE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Jno. S. Barnett.—Mrs. John Lawson, assisted by some capable artists, presents *The Devil's Sunday*, which provides a most thrilling entertainment. Other clever artists include Nina Gordon (a clever mimic), Princess Pauline, the Coloured Meisters, Petram's Marionettes, Frazer and Mac, Parker and Parr, and the Paxton Trio.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—A good all-round list of artists is appearing here.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Crowded houses assemble here to see the pictures, which are having a record run.

HYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Variety is the order here this week, and crowded audiences have been the result. The Great Lavails go through a sensational gymnastic and breakaway bar act, and are vociferously applauded for their exceedingly clever turn.; Auto contributes a funny musical act; Master Joe Dewhurst, the "boy nightingale," delights with exquisite renderings of several songs, and the vocal items by the Lancashire Mill Lads are greatly appreciated; Codgh is a silleur of more than ordinary ability; Adey Faban is very successful as a vocalist; Emil Alfonso's foot-balancing performance is well received, and Cleland is responsible for roars of laughter. The Stanleys, in their musical absurdity, *A Broken Promise*, create diversion; and Mlle. Yolande scores as a singer.

OHMY'S CIRCUS.—Bumper houses have this week rewarded the proprietor's efforts to please. Claude Ohmy continues to hold the attention of his audience with his horsemanship; the Sisters Ohmy (three) perform some graceful acts on horseback, and the double act on two horses by Ironi and Miss Pinder is very clever. Mlle. Yvetta's performing horses, dogs, &c., are well trained; the Man Frog gives a marvellous performance; and the Wire King creates a sensation in his slide down the wire; Alvantee is very clever on the trapeze; August and September still continue to create roars of laughter.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*Sinbad the Sailor* is being presented here by Miss Lena Stanton and Harry Josephs' company, in which Miss Lena Stanton works very hard and with good results as Sinbad. The Princess finds a suitable representative in Miss Marie Santley, and equally praiseworthy is Miss Ethyl Errol as Capt. Selim. Miss Norah Neville sings and dances in a charming manner; Miss Dolly Richardson is admirable as Fairy Good Fortune; Mr. Bruce Green as Mrs. Sinbad, makes the most of the part; Little Keeno is a lively Tinbad; and Messrs. Adrian Romer and Chas. Leamington are successful, respectively, as the Caliph of Bagdad and Grand Vizier. As the Old Man of the Sea Mr. B. N. George is good. The following specialities are introduced:—The Alhambra Girl, excellent dancers; Little Keeno, boy comedian; Wyman, trick skater; P. J. Durney, globe walker; and the Deroneys, wire walkers, spade dancers, &c.; "J.," in "The Don and the Dunce"; and Farrell and Gorman, musical eccentrics.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. T. Knightall.—Bond and Ivo at the head of the bill here are clever handcuff manipulators; Demi and Semi present a musical show of much merit; Yettmah gives a good exhibition of Japanese magic; J. H. Kavanagh, comedian, remains another week; Fred Austin is to the front as a baritone vocalist and pianist; and Nellie Jetts, serio and dancer, Arthur Bond, comedian and dancer, and Miss Beaumont, songstress, are capable entertainers.

INVERNESS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Burgess.—Miss Grace Warner and company opened their second week here on Monday with *The Little Widow*. Miss Warner acted and sang well as Mrs. Constance Rattlebrain; Mr. George Gordon was distinctly good as McWilkins Potter; Mr. J. Leighton Leigh as Dr. Arthur Potter was excellent; while the part of the Butler was ably played by Mr. R. Brown; Miss M. Stamer as Mr. Wilkins Potter, and Miss Hilda Herne as Emily Randal, and Miss Kathleen Cranston as Sophinispa, were well placed for the three last nights of the week. *Lady Audley's Secret* is billed.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jerold E. Reed.—Messrs. Paumier and Howard's company is paying a return visit with the successful drama, entitled *The Midnight Wedding*. Mr. Alfred Paumier gives an excellent rendering of Paul Valmar; Mr. Clinton Baddeley plays with force the part of Capt. Rudolph von Scarsbruck; Mr. Ernest E. Imerson is well placed as Lieut. Eugene von Strelsburg; Mr. F. W. Freeman is admirable as the Crown Prince Leopold. Messrs. James E. Page, Edward Fletcher, and Algie Spalding cause endless amusement as Sergeant Max, Corporal Otto, and Private Bobo respectively. Miss Annie Saker gives a charming rendering of the Princess Astrea von Stretsburg; Miss Marion Fawcett does full justice to the part of Rozel; and Miss Ada Champion is very good as Kathie.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. Robert Perkins.—*Under Two Flags* was played here on Boxing Night, and the two following evenings. Miss Mary Thorne's representation of Cigarette was capital; Mr. Wellesley Draper made an excellent Louis Victor; and Mr. Harry Benson an excellent Rake; Mr. Robert Faulkner impersonated Lord Rockingham; and Colonel Chanteroy was well played by Mr. Arthur Elwyn; Mr. Joseph Cowell appeared successfully as Captain Claude; and Miss Mabel Ormonde made a charming Princess Venetia Corona; Mr. Fred Beck being good as Ezra Baroni. *Lucky Durham* was presented here by Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's principal company as the New Year attraction. Mr. Edmund Kennedy made a hit as John Durham; Miss Frances Wolviston gave a finished performance of Lady Mountfallon; Miss Alice Esther Belmore figured to advantage as Helen Vallerton; and Mr. Robert Forsyth made a capable Lord Mountfallon.

KETTERING.—AVENUS THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—Miss Rose Moncrieff's pantomime of *Little Red Riding Hood* is continuing its successful career here. Miss Ethel Marile is very popular as Red Riding Hood; Miss Blanche St. Marie is an admirable Robin Hood; and Miss Jennie Lattour is an excellent Fairy Bluebell. The comic element is well to the front, and is highly appreciated. Mr. Jack Heath is very funny as Granny, and is ably supported by Mr. Harry McGorman as Baron Badlot and Mr. Fred McGorman as Lawyer Fox. The eccentricities and clever dancing of Messrs. Burns and Bentley are the cause of hearty applause; Mr. Montague Moulton is good as the Wolf. The musical arrangements are in the capable hands of Mr. Will Blewitt, and the costumes and scenery leave nothing to be desired.

KIDDERMINSTER.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—We have a return visit this week from the American-Indian actress-authoress, Go-Won-Go-Mohawk, in the sensational drama, entitled *Wep-Ton-No-Mah, the Indian Mail Carrier*. Mr. C. W. Charles ably portrays the character of Colonel Stockton; Mr. Edward Leroy is a capital Manuel Lopes; Captain Franklin is in the capable hands of Mr. Henry P. Kennedy; and Miss Mamie Goepel is a pleasing Nellie Stockton; Go-Won-Go-Mohawk in the title-rôle is realistic. The play is well staged.

KILMARNOCK.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Major Ward.—The attraction for the New Year holidays is Mr. Fred Karno's company in *His Majesty's Guests*; Mr. Dick Kitchen as Sergeant Lightning provokes mirth; Mr. Frank Morton as Lord Essem does much to sustain the interest; Mr. Charles Usher as Mr. Miffin acts cleverly; Mr. Thomas Moss as Harry is realistic; Mr. Harry Howe as Bunker is responsible for many laughs; and the same is true of Mr. Sid Kearns as Mr. Minks; Miss Edie Ager as Dolly Miffin is vivacious; Miss Kittie Brunton makes an effective Miss Manley; Miss Leonora Castelle as Lady Maud Essem is interesting; and Mr. Tom Manardo as Selina is capable.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Lessee, J. Bannister Howard; Business-Manager, Herr B. Pareezer.—A well-staged production has been attracting large audiences here this week in the shape of *The Fatal Wedding*, presented by Mr. Bert Coote's company. The whole performance is a most creditable one, the outstanding feature being the acting of Miss Marie Wilson, the clever youngster who plays the part of Jessie. Howard Wilson is sustained in a dignified and capable manner by Mr. Ernest Owtrim; the villain's part of Robert Curtis is ably taken by Mr. Guy Hastings; Mr. C. H. Hughes makes a vivacious and amusing Frenchman; Mr. Cyril Melton is droll as Peter Schwartz; as the heroine, Miss Katherine Clarke gives a pathetic rendering of the part of Mabel Wilson; whilst Miss Leah Marlborough is imposing and decidedly sinister as the adventuress, Cora Williams. Miss Julie Temple, as Bridget, causes much fun. The specialities presented in Act III. deserve special notice. The performers are all youngsters, and worthy of the applause that their successful efforts call forth. Miss Dolly McCalla's two songs, with choruses, "Yankee Doodle Dandy" and "Cariban," are warmly applauded. Miss Ivy Westaby sings sweetly; and Master Walter Aubrey step-dances very well; whilst little Miss Marie Wilson adds to her laurels by her singing and dancing.

KIRKCALDY.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager Mr. John Burton.—This week we are favoured with a visit of Mr. Chas. Macdona's company, in *The White Chrysanthemum*. In the rôle of Sin Chung, we find Mr. Richard Telford, a comedian of undoubted abilities, who causes no end of laughter. He is ably assisted by Mr. H. E. Garden as Lieut. Belmont, and Mr. Jamie Dallas as Private Perks—both intensely amusing. Mr. H. Langdon Bruce is excellently suited as Lieut. Armitage; Mr. Shirley Lea makes a capital Admiral; Miss Muriel George gives a delightful rendering of the title-rôle; Miss Wilmot makes a great hit as Cornelia, introducing a fine American accent, and singing and dancing beautifully; Miss Dorothy Sephton is charming and refreshing as Betty. The scenery and dresses are lovely, and the chorus is powerful.

ADAM SMITH HALL.—Lessees, Kirkcaldy Entertainment Committee.—The annual New Year entertainments are being provided this week. The Nonpareil Trio, Ara, Nora, and Zebra, top the bill, and give a smart turn, entitled *Indian Pastimes*. Others who take part are the Five Abadaroffs; Les Uniques, on the ladders; Miss Rene Best, comedian; Maros, triple bar comedians; Archie Cameron, comedy vocalist; the Ettenas, the Royal troupe, dancers; Morimura, Japanese illusionist, assisted by Miako; and J. B. Preston, Scotch comedian. The music is by Carl's Bijou Orchestra.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Lessees, Kirkcaldy Carnival Committee.—The Royal Tokio Troupe of Japanese performers head the bill here this week, and give a marvellous display. Next in order of merit comes J. D. Hayworth, a clever Scotch comedian. Mr. Alf. Ripon is the smartest ventriloquist we have seen here for some time. Others who are successful are Miss Jenny Weir, contralto; Mr. J. C. Middleton, baritone; the McCarrons, dancers; Billy Hannah, negro comedian; and Ardrie Letta, conjurer. Mr. Murdoch Gilmour ably assists at the piano.

LANCASTER.—ATHENÆUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hook.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is occupying the boards here in *Cripple Creek*, and the drama has been followed throughout with keen interest. Mr. Stanley Bedwell, who plays Joe Mayfield, is the beau ideal of a gallant hero. Mr. Eric Hudson gives a fine study of Martin Mason; and Manuel Alverez, played by Mr. Oscar Power, is equally successful. An excellent make-up and fine elocutionary powers render Mr. Arthur D. Layland's impersonation of Wahketah a fine one. Reggie Harwood is energetically rendered by Mr. Will Hook, whose presence on the stage is ever an excuse for laughter. Miss Agnes Verity's melodious voice and handsome presence fit her well for the part of "Dynamite" Ann, and Miss Lily Beagle is charmingly natural as Belle Gordon. Miss Daisy Carlton adds brightness to the piece as Maggie Mason, her singing being a special feature; and Little Rosie Hopkins plays with intelligence as Tatto.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. John Porter and W. J. Fergusson; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Martin.—Messrs. Holland and Wood's pantomime *Aladdin* is the attraction this week, and the management may be heartily congratulated on the efficient manner in which the story has been staged anew so as to fit in with the two houses nightly system. The pantomime is produced under Mr. Holland's personal supervision, and the various scenes (nine in number) also reflect high credit on the artists. As Aladdin Frances Haskoll does exceedingly well; Florence Wood is a winsome Princess Balroubadour; she has a pleasing voice and her singing of a Dutch song merited a well-deserved encore. Mr. George Reeves causes roars of laughter with his whimsical sayings and doings in the rôle of Widow Twankey. Abanazar is effectively embodied by Mr. Percy Curry, and a couple of clever knockabout artists are found in Nash and Noel, who, as Bo-Bi and Bo-Ko, are prominent in the numerous comic interludes. Miss Dolly Tree, who appears as Pekoe, acquits herself in admirable style, and the same remark applies to Bibby Tree and Portia Tree as Souchong and Congou respectively. Mr. Louis Bishop makes the most of Mi-Ti-Hi, Emperor of Japan, and Mr. Walter Watson as Wishee-Washee is commendable. The dances by the Sisters Tree are graceful and particularly pleasing. Kendrick and Laura, vocalists and dancers, and Nash and Noel, comedians, all have specialities which are well received.

PALACE.—Proprietors, Messrs. J. and C. Fell; Manager, Mr. John Fell.—Harriett Vernon is the star this week, and she has a good reception; her dresses are superb, and she sings in a pleasing manner. Leslie Race sings well, as also does Mr. Harry Wright. Miss Nellie Cannon, comedienne; Miss Peggy Fame, vocalist; Frank Aylmer and Daisy Turner, in a comedy act; and Edison-Swan animated pictures complete the bill.

LEAMINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—*A Chinese Honeymoon* is being played here with conspicuous success by Mr. Milton Bode's company. As Fi Fi Miss Gwennie Harcourt is very clever; Mr. Harry Jennings gives an excellent portrayal of Tom Hatherton; as Soo Soo, Miss Nancy Rossitter is charming; Hang Chow finds an able exponent in Mr. Rudolph Kloss; and as Chippie Chop, Mr. Allerton Turner is exceedingly capable; as Mr. Pineapple, Mr. George Rydon is extremely clever; and Mrs. Pineapple, as played by Miss Gladys Ward, as also worthy of praise.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—*The Sleeping Beauty* is more than fulfilling expectations. Mr. T. W. Volt as King, Mr. Albert Le Fre as Valet, and Mr. W. H. Powell as Nurse, are a trio of comedians of proved ability, and each has elaborated his part skilfully. Miss Julia James has gained confidence, and acts her part of Beauty with rare charm and grace; whilst that clever and vivacious lady, Miss Katie Vesey, has sung and danced herself into high favour as principal boy. As second boy and girl Miss Rosie Wren and Miss Edith Adeson are more than capable; and all concerned work together with such verve and briskness as permits of no dull moment.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—*The Forty Thieves* has settled down and is working briskly, the principals are playing well together, and a three-and-a-half hours' feast of clean fun and frolic is the result. The principal comedians, Mr. Bob Selvidge and Mr. Harry Dent, are nightly introducing new drolleries and side play, which add to the general merriment; and the leading ladies, Miss Bessie Cohen, Miss Elsie Cooke, and Miss Maisie Ellinger, have thus early established themselves in popular favour. There are a number of attractive specialities, notably the Imperial Sextette of male voices, whose glee-singing is a much-admired feature; the Eight Merry Mascots, vocalists and dancers, are of a high order of merit; and the Manchester Mites, a troupe of well-trained juveniles, who dance with rare ability.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson's picturesque revival of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* continues to attract extensive and distinguished patronage to the popular Queen's, full houses being the rule. The popular front-of-the-house manager, Mr. Charles Bush, has happily fully recovered from the effects of his injuries in the recent East Riding railway accident. A matinée performance of *The Taming of the Shrew* on Wednesday was eminently successful.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss Empires, Limited; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—J. W. Rowley is a leading light here this week, and a big reception continues to be accorded the veteran comedian. That clever raconteur, G. W. Hunter, is again in the bill, and his turn is amongst the most popular; Syd May finds a ready acceptance for his excellent mimicry; Boyd and Gilfain make a big success of a fine vaudeville speciality; an enjoyable vocal turn is that given by the Welsh Wanderers; Griff and Alpha combine in jugglery and comedy, mostly the latter; a novel and amusing ventriloquial turn by Vernando is well received; as also are the wonderful acrobatic feats executed by Paulinetti and Piquo; La Danseuse justifies her title in a neat exhibition; and some excellent Bioscope pictures complete.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; General-Managers, Mr. Claude Shayler and Mr. Charles Weldon.—The visit of Victoria Monks is a star attraction this week, and the clever lady pleases all with excellent new songs, rendered with irresistible vivacity. That accomplished Risley acrobatic troupe, Ergotti and King Luis, ably fill the bottom of the bill; whilst another clever and amusing acrobatic show is that submitted by Wild, Willie, and West. T. W. Royal upholds his reputation as a champion dancer; there is a sensational cycling act by Arthur Kenny, which arouses interest; eccentric gymnastics are the feature of Jack Rae's turn; Gus Barra presents his burlesque musical speciality; and, amongst others, Ada Parker, coon songstress and dancer, is very popular. The Barrascope pictures are interesting.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Fred W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sam. Jones.—Chas. E. Colby and Lily May, the ventriloquist and dancing doll speciality, form a novel top-of-the-bill turn here; Frank Lynne is vastly amusing; the Lorrisons contribute a comedy episode, which is very entertaining; Ada and Lucien Grey prove themselves vocalists of merit; Carl Lynn is a clever animal mimic; a knockabout cycling act by the Walter Arleys is a feature; the Bros. Zampa, one-legged acrobats; and the Norman and Leonard Trio, with musical speciality, are also appearing with success.

ALBERT HALL.—Catlin's Royal Pierrots successfully opened their season here on Monday, and a bright and enjoyable performance has been witnessed throughout the week.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General and Business-Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—A splendid impression has been created here by Mr. Chas. Macdona's principal company in the funny musical play *Mr. Popple (of Ippleton)*, which we noticed last week. We should not omit, however, to mention the liberal manner in which Mr. Macdona has both staged and dressed the play, no expense having been spared to make the production in every particular a perfect one.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—The delights of pantomime have caught on at this theatre, and a veritable reign of merriment is started nightly from the rising of the curtain till the finale of Mr. Milton Bode's fairy pantomime of *Aladdin*, reminding old playgoers of many happy bygone Christmas annuals. Mr. E. R. Beaumont, the business-manager here, who has a great experience in producing, is to be highly complimented on the exceptional clever style in which he has done his work. The members of the company, without exception, have become warm favourites with the patrons of the theatre, and our predictions of last week are being fulfilled.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertram G. Iles.—The chief attraction here this week is Fred Eustace and company, who are presenting the sketch *Our Curate* in good style. It proves of a most entertaining nature and is capitally staged. Mr. Fred Eustace is good as Jack Russell, and Miss Mary Eustace also plays well as Mary Neville. Other parts are played by Mr. Charles Gordon, Mr. Herbert Lloyd, Mr. Walter Graham, and Mr. John Miller. Plenty of merriment is created by Sydney James's Strolling Players in a burlesque of *Macbeth*, in which some clever dancing, comedy, and singing are introduced with the best results by Mr. Sydney James, Mr. Gilbert Fernie, Miss Seymour James, and Mr. Ernest Devereux. Herr Fritz is an illusionist of ability, his various tricks being done with commendable neatness and dexterity. Albertus and Millar, in a scene at the fair, create hearty laughter, their juggling with clubs being really smart. Other artists entertaining are the Lavender Sisters, capital duettists; Jimmy Shields, the popular one-legged comedian and dancer; Harry Coates, the singing navvy; and Harry Lawson, comedian. A feature of the programme is the American Bioscope, the pantomime of *Aladdin* being thrown on the screen.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Miss Josephine Colona and company, under the management of Mr. Arthur St. John, are again the principal attraction here this week, and are presenting the tragedy *Faust*, the parts of Marguerite and Mephistopheles being played in admirable style by Miss Josephine Colona and Mr. Arthur St. John. Other characters deserving of praise are Mr. Horace Booth (Faust), Mr. E. Aldworth (Valentine), and Miss Ida St. John (Martha Schwarthin). Walter H. Palister's Bioscope is again a special feature with films of the pantomime *Aladdin*, &c. Mr. E., in a pictorial novelty entertainment, gives a good turn; Rosini is smart as a magician; the Evalos are excellent in their jocular juggling; Harry Vardon is a capital ventriloquist; and Carrie Victoria, comedienne, is also pleasing.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—The popularity of *The Fair One with the Golden Locks* pantomime has been strongly evidenced this week by crowded houses at the daily matinée and evening performances, which have been carried through with unremitting zest and energy on the part of the performers, and with most gratifying success as regards all concerned. The local talent, represented by sixteen little girls carefully trained by Mr. John Darlison, contribute two of the most charming numbers of the piece; the beautiful effects displayed by Alma, Abdullah, and La Superbe in their Electra's Bower scene elicit universal admiration; while Miss Beatrice Bonnie, Miss Gertrude Branscombe, and Miss May Lupino, with Messrs. James Chippendale, Barry Lupino, Will Letters, Hilton Frances, and others, find their efforts cordially appreciated.

LIMERICK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Robert Fogerty.—The Royal was occupied on New Year's eve by the F. R. Benson Shakespearian company, with *Macbeth*. Mr. Arthur Phillips in the title-rôle, was meritorious; Mr. Bernard Merefield made a capital Duncan; and as Malcolm, Mr. Charles Maunsell enacted the part with ability; the rôles of Banquo and Macduff were cleverly enacted by Messrs. Frank Darch and Bernard Limpus; and the rôles of Lennox, Ross, Doctor, and Seyton were capably filled by Messrs. Manning Sproston, Ernest Bodkin, H. Somerset, and Gubbay; Miss Mary Forrester efficiently filled the rôle of Fleance; whilst the rôles of Witch, Gentlewoman, and Hecate were admirably filled by the Misses May de Launay, Kathryn Stocks, and Burchill; the heavy rôle of Lady Macbeth fell to Miss Christie Laws, a very forcible and realistic actress. *As You Like It* drew an appreciative audience on Tuesday.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—The Christmas annual, *Aladdin*, is going along right merrily, and receiving great public patronage. New business and songs have been added since the opening night.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—*Mother Goose* has caught on, the gorgeousness of the pantomime proving a power of attraction. The popular house in Fraser-street is having its share of playgoers' money.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—*As Good as Gold*, presented by Mr. Samuel James's good all-round company, is paying a first visit to the north-end house. Mr. H. H. Barrington affords much satisfaction as Mark Williams; Mr. William Heilbronn makes a manly Lieut. Stanton; Mr. Richard Ferris submits a careful study of Sir Richard Wharncliffe; a deal of good humour results from the efforts of Mr. Ernest Carter as Horatio Spanker; Miss May Hastings plays with discretion and sweetness the rôle of Nora Williams; Miss Irene Tracey affords the utmost satisfaction as the Kipper; Miss Kate Froude is a stately Kate D'Arville; and Miss Edith Carr acts neatly as Madge Merry.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—This week's programme includes Chas. Magilton's pantomime absurdity, *The Trippers*, which is very funny, and is fully deserving of the hearty applause accorded; Mdlle. Lumiere's fairy grotto is a seasonable turn; another clever turn is that of the Lowenwirth Brothers; Joe Conway is as good as ever; and Ruth Molloy certainly pleases her audience.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—A return visit of *The Traitor* has been the big attraction here this week, presented by Messrs. Harris Fineberg and E. Hill-Mitchelson's company. All the strong points of this well-written play have been effectively brought out. Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan, an actor of much ability, held his old-time part of No. 1, and played with distinction; Mr. Bensley Evans, exercising every discretion, made a fine Prince Rudolph; Mr. T. W. Hurst provided an acceptable Captain Ross; Miss Isabel Hunt's Lieut. Nicholas was one of the best drawn characters in the cast, it being given with a sympathetic touch and much restraint; Miss Effie Bartlett exhibited high qualifications as Zulu, a countess; Zicka, with some excellent points, came from Miss Gwynne Warren; Miss Olive Lanty was a lively Japanese; the rôle of Elsie Dupres found in Miss Katharine Vere a commendable exponent; Mr. Fred Haming was a humorous Jack Boult.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Lingford Carson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—Mr. Carson's company is here for a second week, playing the drama *Master and Man*. Mr. Charles Draycott, an able actor, held the rôle of Humpy Logan, playing with much dramatic strength; Mr. Sydney C. Cranston threw plenty of spirit into the part of Jack Walton; Mr. Ernest J. Fare made an excellent Robert Carlton; Miss Muriel Thompson proved a charming Hester Thornbury, and played with a deal of sympathetic feeling; Miss Mona Summers had a sweet child's part; Miss Louise Willward afforded every satisfaction as Ke

NEW EMPIRE.—Manager, Mr. W. A. Totten.—Little Hackenschmidt, the boy wrestler, is here, drawing huge crowds. The rest of the company includes: Miss Eva Lynn, the clever Australian speciality dancer; Miss Florence Bell, a dainty comedienne; the Two Dots, in *A Motor Muddle;* Miss Marie Rosebury, a charming burlesque artist; Will Merit and Dot Moore, *The Reporter and the Actress;* the Three Cheers, with *Dick Whittington;* Leedo, eccentric comedian; and Ferma and Hitchings, in a sketch, *Pity the Blind.*

LONDONDERRY. — OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. W. Payne-Seddon.—Mr. F. Garman's company is here this week in *Under the Czar,* Mr. G. Smyth as Captain Johnson is capital, and Zeroslaff is well played by Mr. W. Howard. Miss Lillian Herries scores as Soula Gregorovitch; Mr. R. Merring plays Granovski in good style; and as Kovesky Mr. Geo. H. Doyle is excellent.

LONG EATON.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Convict life is depicted this week by Mr. Bulmer's company in *Sentenced for Life.* Mr. Ernest Vaughan is Captain Derrick, the villain, who murders his uncle, and falsely throws the blame on the son, nicely represented by Mr. Edward E. Louis. The horrors of convict life are set forth in detail, Mr. Morris Maude scoring as the pastor. Miss Madge Douglas is Adele Grey, Miss May Neilson sings acceptably, and Miss Mary Dalby figures as Lady Stillwell, while plenty of merriment is provoked by Mr. James F. Firth. Mr. Reg. Oldroyd and Mr. Archie Scar are brimful of eccentricity.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—*The Blue Moon,* presented by Mr. Mouillot's company, is a great draw this week. As Chandra Nil Mlle. Marguerite Maudin sings sweetly and acts in a charming manner; Miss Dorma Morgan as Evelyn Ormsby is amusing in her artless treatment of the part; Miss May Audrey shows marked ability as Millicent Leroy; the Lady Brabasham of Miss Mary Glanbrane is also good; Mr. F. J. Rooney as Captain Jack Ormsby is manly and dignified; Mr. F. W. Bowes in the comical part of Moolraj causes roars of laughter; and Mr. Chas. Stephenson is irresistibly funny in the part of Private Charles Taylor. Major Vivian Callabar is in the capable hands of Mr. Victor Wallace, and Mr. Basil Mercer in the rôle of Bobbie Scott is well suited.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Louis J. Beard.—On Monday evening and during the week Mr. Graham Falcon introduced his production of *The Bluebell in Fairyland* at this theatre, where it has been received with full and appreciative audiences. The name-part is ably played by Miss Florence Somers, and, amongst others, her song, "Only a penny," was well rendered; as the reigning Queen Miss Constance St. Bride is perfection itself, and her excellent voice is heard to great advantage in the "Land of Sunset Glow"; Miss Vera Vizard, Bluebell's good fairy, gains hearty applause with her fairy songs; and Messrs. Bishop and Resty, as Blib and Blob, who supply the comedy, sustain their respective parts successfully; Dorothy, a child, portrayed by Miss Haidee Fitch, dances very well, and a better company of dancers than the Verona Troupe has not visited Luton for a very long time; Mr. Lawrence Emery's Dickie, the crossing sweeper, is excellent, as also is Mr. Lennard's Sleepy King. The play is well staged, and the dresses and scenery are quite fresh and new.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—On New Year's Eve Mr. Robert Perriss's company, under the direction of Karl H. Edwards, opened in *A Fight for Millions.* Mr. John C. Carlyle as Tom Manley portrays the part in realistic fashion; Mr. Alec Grant as Richard Dudley gains much appreciation; Mr. Karl H. Edwards as Willie Neverwork proves himself an able actor, and Mr. F. Ames' exposition of Solomon Moses is admirable. Miss Alwynne Ermon shows great ability as Pearl Rivers. An excellent performance is that of Miss Nora Kingsley as Miss Hudson Rivers; Miss Elma C. Turner both looks and acts well as Helen Dudley; Miss Rosie Kearns cleverly plays May Brady, and Miss Dorothy Wilkinson is charming as Little Madge.

MAIDENHEAD.—TOWN HALL.—Secretary, the Town Clerk.—Under the local direction of Mr. G. W. Bowes, we have three performances of Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk.* The company is well selected, and plays well together, the scenery is exceptionally good, and the dancing is gracefully executed by a bevy of young and pretty ladies, led by the Three Dandies. Percy Galino is well received in his bone and banjo solos; and R. Lomas shows remarkable agility as the man-monkey; Mr. Harry Harcourt is irresistible as Mother Hubbard; Miss Ella Rose sings well as Britannia; and Miss Edith Wallis and Miss Maggie Allwood gain well-deserved favour as Jack and Jill.

MAIDSTONE.—CORN EXCHANGE.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Beslee.—*The Girl from Kay's* is the attraction here this week, and as played by Mr. Edward Marris's company, under the direction of Mr. Jennings Read, proves very popular. Miss Harriett Fawn as Winnie Harborough makes a great hit, her singing, dancing, and acting being received with loud applause. Miss Marie Greenhouse, as Norah Chalmers, is the possessor of a good soprano voice, and sings her sobbing song with great effect. Miss Lilian Rignold as Ellen is a graceful dancer; as Hoggenheimer, Mr. James Salter keeps the house in one continual roar, his smart "gags" and funny make-up all contributing to the merriment of the evening. Mr. Louis Edmunde as Joseph gives a clever and humorous character-study; Mr. Walter Nugent as the Hon. Percy Fitzthistle is amusing.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Stanley Baskerville.—The Marvellous Avolos head the bill here this week, and give a clever and smart show. The Scottish Meisters are always popular in Maidstone, and are re-called again and again; Prince Ishmael is a clever Indian conjuror; the Donatos, one-legged acrobatic clowns, are clever; Bert Weston, comedian, and Miss Dorothy Dundas, vocalist, are popular. Lade Henderson (descriptive vocalist), Cento (acrobatic monkey), and the Bioscope complete the programme.

MANCHESTER.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—In accordance with the custom of the last few years at this theatre, the Christmas attraction steers clear of pantomime in favour of a popular musical piece from London. This time it is *The New Aladdin,* sent up by Mr. George Edwardes, equipped with a good company and an elaborate setting, and strengthened by a full chorus and an augmented orchestra under the direction of Mr. Ernest Vousden. Miss Gertrude Glyn plays the principal boy's part, Lally, and moves vivaciously throughout; while Miss Ida Rene imparts considerable charm to the rôle of the Princess. Miss Trixie Snowden looks well and acts neatly as Millie Farquhar; and equally pleasing and successful is Miss Mary Fraser as Jennie, the Princess's maid. Miss Irene Verona gives a clever performance as the Spirit of the Ring. At the head of the comedians Mr. George Gregory figures as Tippin, and his business is invariably good and entertaining; Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., adds a smart and busy impersonation of the Genie of the Lamp. Others who do well are Mr. John Brabourne as the Lost Constable; Mr. Frank Hector as Cadi, a disgraced ambassador; Mr. Ernest Mahar as General Ratz; and Mr. W. J. Manning as Ebenezer, Lally's uncle. All the minor parts are suitably filled, and the entire performance, enlivened by numerous songs and much good dancing, is brilliant and attractive. The piece remains for some time.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edwardstone Shirra.—Mr. John Hart's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood,* produced here last week, is now going with complete smoothness from the first scene to the last. The final *ensemble,* that of the Carnival in the Palace, is a veritable triumph, and must rank among the most costly and magnificent in the country. Some changes which have taken place since the first night include the deletion of Mr. Wilkie Bard's song about "Playthings" and the addition of "Hello! hello! hello!" by Mr. G. H. Elliott, who adds to his success by this popular vocal item.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—*The Babes in the Wood* are introduced here this week by Messrs. Cullen and Carthy. The story (unfolded last week at the Grand Junction Theatre to enormous houses) follows the well-known lines; the scenery is picturesque, the dresses are pretty, and the music throughout is well rendered by the principals, chorus, and orchestra. Miss F. Carlile as the dashing Robin Hood and Miss Nancy Thornton as the winsome Maid Marian both captivate the audience by their charming style. The babes are played with great success by little Elsie Jordison and little Dolly Cullen, a pair of smart juveniles who sing and dance exceptionally well. Miss Gertrude Martini makes a charming Fairy Queen. Messrs. Cullen and Carthy are well to the fore as the robbers, and they keep the house in roars by their clever eccentricities. Mr. Arthur Stratton makes plenty of capital out of his rôle of the bold, bad Baron, whose secretary has a droll exponent in Little Cluley. As Dame Peggy Mr. George Casey is good; and clever variety business is added by the Sisters Volbecque and the Empire quartette of dancers. The pantomime is enlivened by many popular songs, and is proving a big success.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—An exceptionally smart turn is provided here this week by Haley's clever juveniles, including Dot and Spot, the smallest duettists before the public; Smith and Johnson, the popular coloured duo, appear with success in an artistic drawing-room scene; Clown Charlton is particularly good in his eccentric musical variety act, and Primavesi is a very clever juggler. Clever items are also provided by Mastow, mimic; Lily Watson, patter artist; Ridgwell, comedian; and Rolo and Florence in a novel speciality act, *The Wrong Clue;* an interesting film is shown on the Bioscope; J. W. Rickaby, the well-known comedian, was unable to appear on the occasion of our visit owing to indisposition.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The attraction here this week is provided by Messrs. Polini and Melford's company in the ever-popular drama *The Silver King.* Mr. Fred D. Daviss follows worthily in the footsteps of notable predecessors as Wilfred Denver; Miss Daisy Scudamore enters sympathetically into the character of Nellie Denver, the patient and suffering wife; and Mr. Edward J. George is seen once more in his old-time life-like portrayal of the faithful Jaikes. Among other notable impersonations Mr. L. St. George Lowther gives a sinister and powerful depiction of Captain Skinner, "the Spider." Mr. Byron Pedley makes an excellent detective, Baxter; Mr. George Belmore is very good as Corket, the delinquent clerk; and Miss Viola Holland looks and acts well as Olive Skinner. The play is excellently staged.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Berry.—Great pleasure is occasioned here this week by a visit of M. Auguste Van Biene and his company in *A Broken Melody.* M. Van Biene's performance as Paul Borinski is, of course, admirable; and he is splendidly supported by Miss Kate Hallam as Mabel; while Miss Grace Lester as the Duchess de Verviers, Mr. Edward Van Biene as Dickson, and Mr. Henry Ludlow as General Ivanoff render valuable assistance. The remaining parts are well filled. The week's programme includes a performance on Friday of *The First Night,* a one-act comedy in which M. Van Biene appears as Dupard, an old French actor.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The programme here is headed by John Warren, whose business with the magic carpet constitutes a wonderful conjuring show. George Kirk and company score decisively in *Grip,* a condensed and exciting drama. Good turns are added by Godfrey James, a vocalist from the collieries; Russell Brandon, a clever acrobatic dancer; the Amoros-Werner troupe in their pantomimic juggling episode; Jordan and Harvey, the happy Hebrew comedians; Damerael Rutland and company in their comical caper, *House Full;* the Two Cromwells, clever jugglers; and Johnnie and Charlie, comedy acrobats. The Bioscope shows pictures interesting and up to date.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. Peter Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Fred Karno's *Football Match,* produced last week for the first time, is attracting record "gates." In addition to this huge allurement, we have here Rita Resdan, an accomplished comedienne; the Xentrix Girls, protean, singing, and dancing artists; and Herbert Clifton, the "thousand pound voiced" mimic, whose vocal achievements are wonderful and pleasing. The Palace pictures portray all the latest events.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—*The Flood* retains its popularity here as a magnificent water spectacle; Strassburger's Lilliputians, half a dozen diminutive variety performers, give an exceedingly smart show; Arif Hemet, magician to Persian Royalty, presents a number of neat and clever illusions; the Aurora troupe of cyclists give a wonderful performance, including that of the "tea-cup" track; and other excellent turns are submitted by the Celtic Comedy Trio of Harmonists, Charles Coverdale, original vocalist, the Anartos, musical comedians, Gaumont's Chronomegaphone, and a couple of pleasing items by the choir.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—The star attraction here this week is Jessie Huddleston, of comic opera fame, who is delighting with several well-rendered songs; as usual F. V. St. Clair, the ever-popular extempore vocalist, makes a big hit; the Mayvilles, in their clever Lilliputian act, are well received; and Florence Schuberth, burlesque artist, is excellent; others who contribute entertaining items are the Three Pirmans, in a novelty act, entitled *Dans le Jardin;* the Two Jays, comedians; Cliff and Kean, in comedy dancing act; and Harry Winburn, comedian; on the occasion of our visit the Sisters Cardigan, duettists and dancers, did not appear; Raymond's Vivagraph completes.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A very good programme here this week is headed by Henry Herne and company in *Blackmail,* a sketch including a cleverly-arranged water scene; Hallam and Stanton submit their amusing railway-station episode, *A Broken Journey;* Silbon's miniature circus is highly entertaining; Francia, mandolinist, plays extremely well; and other capital business is contributed by Little Tichbourne, a clever comedian and dancer; Jerry and Leo, the comedian and the ventriloquist; the Vekeys, wonderful banjoists; the Five Casino Girls, accomplished instrumentalists; Ce Me Marie, contortionist; and a series of amusing pictures on the Bioscope.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The chief attraction here this week is Messrs. Clarence C. Corri and Edgar Dereve's musical mixture, *Office Hours,* presented by a first-rate company, including Messrs. Frank A. Wood, Geo. Danvers, jun., Arthur White, Edgar Dereve, and the Misses Jessie Wilton and Florence Leigard, with Miss Dora Kennedy as principal dancer; Fred and Maud Vypond are smart in a sketch, *The Mechanical Doll;* Shawlene gives a really marvellous whistling entertainment; and Clown Zertho introduces his wonderful troupe of performing dogs with success. Diana Hope and company are good in an episode, *Her Good Name;* Arthur *Holland* is a refined vocal comedian; and George Rae a Scotch comedian of the eccentric order. On the night of our visit a lively comedian (unnamed) appeared as deputy for Alice Stayne, comedienne. The Bioscope Pictures are enjoyable.

HIPPODROME, HULME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Harry Daniels and company head the bill here this week in a musical absurdity, entitled *Rents,* which causes no end of laughter; Florence Smithers is particularly good as Dolly, the Slavey, in a smart comedy sketch, *Hard Lines,* and is ably supported by Owen Dacroy and company; Janette Hall, lady baritone, has a good voice, and renders two songs in fine style; exceptionally amusing are Brull and Hemsley as the Dainty Damsel and the Dancing Dude; and Hilda and Leigh, in a sketch of comical situations, entitled *Another Man's Wife,* are highly diverting; the Naval Quintette, including Edgar Harper, provide a very enjoyable turn in singing and dancing; and others who appear with success are Edward Ind, comedian; Herbert Bates, tenor; and Johnson and D'Evere, in a really clever bicycle act; the Bioscope Pictures are good.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield Theatre Company; General-Manager, Captain Cecil Clayton.—Good houses continue to patronise Mr. Herbert Barr's pantomime, *Aladdin.* Miss Maudie Vincent as Aladdin has many admirers, her singing being very successful; Miss Lora Lyndon as Princess dances daintily and sings prettily; Mr. W. Sherlock as Abanazar and Mr. W. Dane as the Vizier cause great amusement. Duncan and Morton as the policemen are still very popular, every entrance being greeted with laughter. Mr. Dan Phillips as the Widow is extremely funny; Miss D. Wilson makes the most of the part of the Vizier's son. Among the specialities are turns by Ya Fan Keto, Jap magicians; Duncan and Morton, the Sisters Lyndon, Mme. Coredlia, the Empire Troupe of dancers, Ohio Male Quartette, Mlle. Tankerville, and others.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Herbert Darnley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Tom Jennings.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company is here this week in the amusing play, *Are You a Mason?* Mr. H. L. Tracy in the rôle of Frank Perry was excellent, and received great applause. Amos Bloodgood was admirably interpreted by Mr. E. H. Paterson; Miss M. Fareleigh made a charming Mrs. Perry; Miss A. Grace proved herself an accomplished artist in the rôle of Mrs. Bloodgood; Miss D. Gregory played the part of Lott to the life; Mr. Cossart as George Fisher was very successful; Mr. G. R. J. Austin shone in the part of Hamilton Travers. The one-act play, *The Ruby Heart,* precedes, and during the interval the bioscope presents a series of pictures.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Exclusive Manager, Mr. Edward Michael; Business-Manager, Mr. A. Austin-Leigh.—Mr. Alexander Loftus's company opened here on Monday with the musical comedy, *The New Barmaid.* Largely responsible for the fun, which is kept up with unflagging vigour throughout, is Mr. Alexander Loftus, in the rôle of Bertie White. As William White, Mr. James Grant is also excellent. Miss Amy Preston as Ethel Joy is charming, and makes a striking impression in the song, "I'm a merry barmaid." She is also an expert dancer. In the part of Dora Heather, Miss Violet Osmund is also conspicuously successful as a pleasing singer, dainty dancer, and vivacious actress.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; Business-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—In Mr. Frederick Mouillot's pantomime, *Aladdin,* now in its second week, all the artists have thoroughly settled down to their respective parts, new features have been introduced, and the whole production runs with the smoothness of clockwork. Miss Minnie Love continues to retain the good impression she created from the first as Aladdin. Her singing is good and her acting pleasing. Mr. Mat Melrose is particularly successful as the Widow Twankey; Miss Lala Melrose is a charming Princess; and Miss Violet Kenyon does well as Pekoe, the Emperor being efficiently sustained by Mr. A. J. Nicholls. Mr. W. P. Owen as Abanazar and Mr. Cecil Fowler as the Grand Vizier are satisfactory, and plenty of fun is introduced by Welda and Wynne as the Chinese policemen, and in their speciality juggling and dancing act. Mr. F. A. Arthur is as fantastic as needs be as the Slave of the Ring, and Miss Zoe Gilfillan plays and sings well as the Genie of the Lamp. The Berlin Quartette give some delightful dances.

MERTHYR TYDFIL. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Lewis Gilbert.—A dramatic treat is provided here this week in *The Walls of Jericho,* played by Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company, under the direction of Mr. Silvanus Dauncey and Mr. M. V. Leveaux. Mr. A. E. Anson is an excellent Jack Frobisher; a capital representation of Hankey Bannister is presented by Mr. G. A. Brandram; Mr. Cyril Baleine is in every way successful as the Marquis of Steventon; Mr. A. W. Tyrer invests the part of Harry Dallas with the necessary subtlety; and Mr. George Percy plays with skill as Bertram Hannaford. As Lady Frobisher Miss Gladys Mason gives an excellent reading of the part; a delightful impersonation of Lady Lucy Derenham is presented by Miss Nora Wynne; Miss Marguerite Cellier is sympathetic as Lady Westerby; Miss Edith Cuthbert is good as Miss Mornington; and the remaining characters are well represented.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—An excellent and diversified entertainment here is contributed to by Effie White, dancer; the Nettas, vocalists; La Belle Lily and Albert, gymnasts; Ada Gatley, wire artist and juggler; the Wambas, hand-bell ringers; and Hyde and Beeman, comedians.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. Jas. Stillwell and company are this week playing here in *The King's Secret.* Mr. Paul E. Teulon scores a success in the rôle of Captain Fairburn; the Egyptian, Hassan Alfar, is cleverly played by Mr. Jas. Stillwell; Mr. Atherton Edwards is well placed as Count Bernstein; Mr. Laud Richard Brooklyn is interesting as Lieut. Dorincourt. Miss Zana St. George gives a powerful and skilful embodiment of the Egyptian adventuress, Zenopa; Miss Cissie Clemmett is a graceful and pleasing Zeila Fairburn; Miss Lena Lattridge is successful as Birdie.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—The visit of Mr. Frank Curzon's company in the Japanese play, *The White Chrysanthemum,* has been attended with marked success, and although it has now entered upon the second week of its stay here it continues to draw large audiences.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. W. R. Chatto.—Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime, *Cinderella,* continues to draw large houses here, and now that the stiffness natural to the early stages has worn off, everything is going with an easy swing. The music is bright, tuneful, and catchy, and the scenery and dresses are beautiful. Mdlle. de Rose, as the Prince, is a dashing principal boy; and Miss Edith Harmer is a charming and impassive Cinderella; Miss Zena Pana gives a representation of Dandini; and the rôle of Pimples, the page, could scarcely be better placed than in the hands of Mr. Tom Payne, who is both clever and funny; the rôles of Cinderella's sisters are played by Messrs. Sydney Benson and W. G. Wesley, and are successful in causing much laughter; Mr. Dick Thomas is amusing as the Baron; and Mr. J. H. Hawtry is good as Malico; Miss Ada Tyrrell is conspicuous as a pleasing Lord Stiff; and Miss Rose Pareezer and Miss Nellie Barrett are highly competent as the Fairy Godmother and the Marquis de Cadie. The speciality act by Houpla and Hecla is exceedingly good, and the chorus and augmented orchestra render valuable assistance.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles Rembyes.—An excellent bill of fare this week includes McDonald's melody makers, in a clever phantom scena, *The Burglar's Dream;* very well received is the song contributed by Daniel Llewellyn, the Welsh baritone; the Society Quartet render some fine part songs, and give a clever display of dancing; Mollie Maverne is a clever character vocalist; and Marba and Verity give a clever acrobatic turn; Marcus Boyle, comedian, causes much laughter; and Lillian Neville provides some excellent singing. Other turns are Gladys Whitton, and Dick Kendal, comedian.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Alf. Graham.—An exceedingly good programme is provided here this week. The Virginians, a troupe of coloured artists pay a return visit, and, as usual, score a big success; the Ringling Trio, American eccentrics, cause much laughter in their absurdity, *The Manager's Lunch;* and the refined speciality and musical comedy scena, provided by Gold and Sterling, is very entertaining; Vera Mayne provides some catchy songs; and Zara and Arno score in their comedy bar act; Harry Morris, comedian, does well, and other turns are provided by Flo D'Orville and the Palascope.

MORECAMBE.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee, Lieut. Julian Malvern; General-Manager, Mr. C. M. Julian.—Mr. Chas. Harrington's No. 1 combination has been well received in *Uncle Tom's Cabin.* Mr. J. Carr is the Uncle Tom, and he gives an admirable performance; and Mr. Leslie Beaufort is a capital George Harris; Mr. Chas. Harrington himself plays St. Clair; Mr. J. H. Rogers makes the most of Legree; and Mr. W. Langford is an amusing Marks; Miss H. Hathaway gives a refined rendering of Eliza Harris; and Miss Hettie Johnson is good as the Creole, Cassie; Little Minnie is a clever Eva; Miss S. Stella, as Topsy, creates much fun. There is a full chorus and some excellent varieties are introduced in the plantation festival in the fourth act.

MOTHERWELL. — NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant.—Messrs. R. C. Buchanan and Ernest Stevens are this week presenting the fairy pantomime, *Cinderella.* Miss Lilly Eylvan is a dainty and demure exponent of the title-rôle; and Miss Madge Daly is a dashing Prince. The Ugly Sisters are aptly impersonated by the Misses Edith Baswell and Grace Desmond; Miss Phyllis Melville sings charmingly as the Fairy Godmother, and Miss Elsie Cooper looks well as the Snow Queen; Mr. Freddy French is extremely funny as the Baron; Mr. Ted Young works hard as Tiny, his wife; Mr. Harry Ray is diverting as Capers, and Mr. Frank Barclay does well as Dandini. There is an excellent chorus, and the Waverley Girls appear in a series of dances.

NEATH.—CASTLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Hagger, jun.—The pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* is having another successful week here. Mrs. Will Hagger is a charming Robinson Crusoe; Miss Kate Sylvester is a capital Polly Perkins; Miss Templeton as Britannia is a success; Miss F. Giddings is smart as Belle Taylor; Miss Kento as Princess Koko Nibs is good; Mr. Will Hagger is funny as Captain Will Atkins; Mr. James Hagger scores in his representation of Dame Crusoe, as does Mr. Geo. Stanley as Friday. Mr. Jack Desmond as the Cannibal King in the palace scene introduced some smart conjuring tricks. The transformation scene is excellent, showing the breaking dawn and Cupid's bower.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—Testimony of the attractiveness of the twenty-fourth annual pantomime produced in Newcastle under the management of Messrs. Howard and Wyndham is forthcoming in the unbroken succession of crowded houses *Aladdin* is drawing to the Tyne Theatre. One can safely predict a long and very successful run for this entertainment, with so great a centrepiece in Mr. Harry Lauder. No more lavish and pretty spectacle has Mr. Wyndham given his Newcastle patrons than this present pantomime, and this is saying a very great deal; and with regard to music and the comedy element, the production has also perhaps never been excelled in the "coaly" city. The ample scope given Mr. Lauder is being taken the utmost advantage of by that famous comedian, and his The McSwankey and the Widow Twankey of Mr. Dan Crawley are two impersonations presented in a finished and mirth-provoking manner, and fairly bring down the house. Messrs. Lauder and Crawley work together indeed admirably, and quite a famous scene is their tea-garden gossip act and burglary. Mr. Imro Fox's clever feats of conjuring and mystery in the part of Abanazar continue to be a great source of attraction and wonder, especially to the juvenile members of the audience; and Mr. George F. Ide, Mr. Arthur Dandoe, and Mr. Harker Nicholls all ably contribute to the general effectiveness of the pantomime. As principal girl the management must be deemed most fortunate in having secured Miss José Collins, an artistic vocalist; while the part of Aladdin is ably assumed by Miss R. Ravenberg in the place of the late Miss Featherstone.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Langham.—*Aladdin* continues to draw crowded houses to the Theatre Royal, and a long and successful run of Mr. Robert Courtneidge's really beautiful production seems assured. A tremendous favourite is Mr. Neil Kenyon proving, his whimsical and quaint reading of the part of the Widow Twankey nightly meeting with many marks of appreciation. Mr. Charles Harvey, Mr. Fred Allandale, and Mr. Alfred Clark have all settled well down to their respective parts, though it would not perhaps be without advantage if the management were to provide greater scope for the last mentioned artist in the part of the Emperor. From the point of view of music, this, the tenth of Mr. Arthur's pantomimes in Newcastle, is distinctly pleasing, the many fine songs so beautifully rendered by Miss Florence Smithson meeting with most enthusiastic receptions, as do the efforts of Miss Lily Morris, really one of the most sparkling of principal boys of recent years engaged at a Newcastle pantomime. Miss Kitty Cavendish and Miss Rosie Begarnie are other members of the company whose efforts meet with well deserved appreciation, and all the minor parts still continue to be most ably filled.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. W. Rowe; Business-Manager, Mr. E. B. Clarke.—Another of Mr. Walter Melville's successful dramas is reaping its most deserving reward by filling this popular house during the holidays. *A Girl's Cross Roads* is a play full of interest throughout, thrilling and pathetic incidents being relieved by some capital fun at intervals. Mr. Charles Franmore as Farmer Meadows gave an excellent interpretation of that character, showing his dramatic power with much skill; Miss Hilda Beverley, in the chief part of Barbara Wade, was in great demand, and earned for herself golden opinions from her audiences; Miss Florrie Zillwoode, as Nellie Meadows, the wayward girl, was good; Miss Jessica Black as Constance Cornell, and Mr. Wilson Ginning as Jack Livingstone, were all that could be wished.

GRAND THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. Bacon and Bolam; Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—There is abundance of excitement provided here this week in the military drama, *Death or Glory Boys.* Mr. Hill Michelson has secured a good company, and all work well with each other and gain well-deserved success. The principal parts are filled by Mr. George Drapier, Mr. Hill Michelson, and Miss Violet.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—A more entertaining bill for the holidays than provided here this week could not possibly be desired. Miss Madge Lessing takes premier honours and meets with a hearty reception. The Kellinos, ten in number, are a smart set of acrobats; Cliff Ryland has an inexhaustible fund of humour, and keeps his audience in continuous roars of laughter; *Crystal Gazing* is a delightful entertaining sketch, produced by Wm. H. Day and Miss Laura Dyson; May Orchard makes a hit with her song; and the Chester Sisters are banjoists, vocalists, and dancers of exceptional merit. Cairns and Lynch are expert American buck dancers; whilst Master Clifford (son of Cliff Ryland) is a promising comedian and dancer. The Sisters Brenton, comediennes and dancers, and the Bioscope, complete the programme.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—For the New Year the management are to be congratulated on the excellent programme provided. Heading the bill are the Six Brothers Luck, in their wildly hilarious pantomime, *The Hotel Grande.* Another turn which finds much favour is the Richards Trio, who perform some startling acrobatic feats; *Satan Subdued* is a scena wonderfully conceived and produced by Dr. Ernst and company; Ted Saunders gives some wonderfully life-like impersonations of well-known stars; E. Mountefore and company's sketch, *The Little Colonel,* gives great satisfaction; and Allsop and Beckwith create roars of laughter in their comic sketch, *I'm Coming Downstairs.* The Cartos Brothers' hand-balancing feats are most artistically performed; Anthony, Charles Sloman, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, and Barrascope pictures are the remaining features of a most successful entertainment.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*Dick Whittington,* now in its second week, is becoming more and more popular, and Messrs. J. D. Hunter and Mr. Sidney Cooper are to be congratulated. A charming Dick is seen in the person of Miss Emily Taylor, and a winsome Alice in Miss Rosalie Jacobi. Dick sings the "Zuyder Zee" in Dutch costume and sabots, which gives excellent effect to the song, and in the "Hyacinth" song, Miss Jacobi looks a real picture in her frock, lavishly decorated with hyacinths, and her singing of the number is one of the features of the performance. Miss Renée Ashley (Sir Rowland) this week substitutes "Cheyenne," a cowboy ballad, for last week's song, "Nona," and is highly successful. For dash and go Miss Florrie Bray (Captain) is certainly one of the best in the cast, and her popular song, "It's a different girl again," is always met with a catchy chorus from sweet little cherubs. As the Demon Rat, Mr. W. Williams (who, by the by, should be heard more often) sings a capital song in the first scene. Miss Marjorie Seymour as the Fairy of the Bells has also a voice of excellent quality, and in her song, "My sweet wild rose," she shows considerable taste. Mr. H. Rose as Idle Jack is a humorist of a high order; and Mr. Chas. Wood is not only responsible for lots of laughter as the Cook, but is also an extremely clever impersonator. Mr. W. Ellerslie (Alderman Fitzwarren) is responsible for a good deal of genuine fun; and Mr. Frank Carson, who plays the Emperor, gives in addition a smart song and dance turn with Corelli Livesay (Mrs. Carson), and an excellent imitation of roller-skating.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—An amusing farce, *The Houseboat,* by John Leopold's company, is a source of much amusement here. Another extremely popular sketch is *Aunt Matilda,* by Frank Elliston and company. Speedwell, lightning painter, is most entertaining; Fred Elton is responsible for a classical musical turn; and the Saphos give a comedy bar act that is applauded. The Matweef-Hugoston Troupe of Russian Singers and Dancers are smart in daring tricks; and Sybil St. Elmo, with a charming soprano voice, sings delightfully. Fine pictures on the American Bioscope complete the bill.

TREDEGAR HALL.—The World's Animated Picture Company, under the direction of Mr. J. Atroy, are accorded good houses here this week. Variety is given by Mlle. Violi, a musician of a high order; Jessie W. Frazer, a smart songstress; and Atroy, who performs some difficult juggling tricks. A special feature of the pictures is the coloured views in *Aladdin.*

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—Mr. George Dance's company is here on a return visit with *Veronique.* The title-rôle is admirably played by Miss Ethel Negretti, who is well supported by Mr. Roland Bottomley as Florestan, Miss Doris Greville as Agatha, Miss E. Devonshire as Ermerence, Miss Maud Leonard as Aunt Benoit, Miss Isobel Vivian as Denise, Mr. Percival Knight as Monsieur Loustot, Mr. Scott-Cullen as Seraphin, and Mr. Tom Seymour as Monsieur Coquenard, a very comical performance. Mr. Clement Locknane ably directs the full chorus and orchestra.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans.—The Three Sisters Grovini give a clever acrobatic display; Williams and Warden are amusing cross-talk comedians; Clara Victor is a character vocalist with a good voice; Walter Stanley's comic songs are appreciated; Francis O'Flynn ranks as the best of banjo players; C. Vincent displays seasonable pictures; Wal Phillips, comedian; and Edgar Forrest's comedy company also contribute to the programme.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—The holiday attraction here has been Messrs. Dan Thomas and Fred Clement's company with the pantomime *Dick Whittington,* which has drawn large audiences. In the title-rôle Miss Trixie Cotterell scores a well-deserved success; Miss Madge Goodall makes a charming Princess, and Miss Mabel Hind as Alice is a favourite; as Old Fitzwarren Mr. Fred Clements is responsible for much hearty laughter; Mr. Sam Michello is funny as Betsy; Mr. Syd Crossley makes the most of Idle Jack; Mr. Charles Dare is good as Billy Sim; and Mr. Pete Almonte is an amusing Cat; specialities are introduced successfully by Mlle. Estelle's quartette of acrobatic dancers, Maddow (ventriloquist), &c.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—A strong bill of fare is put forward here, headed by the Zaddos, clever comedy gymnasts, in *The New Recruit;* Messrs. Oakley and James, speciality artists; the Sisters Russell

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—*Robinson Crusoe* is running very smoothly in the second week. New songs and business have been introduced by Miss M. Ruby, Miss Venie Clements, and the Sisters Cora, who have established themselves as prime favourites. The comedians include Tom Fancourt, Arnold Richardson, Harry Ray, and Flockton Foster, and the merriment is kept up to the end.

COLOSSEUM.—Manager, Mr. W. Eastwood.—Messrs. Levy and Cardwell's pantomime *The Sleeping Beauty* is being played to large audiences in the second week of its visit. Wee George Wood still occupies first place as a laughter-maker, and Miss Dolly Dodds goes strong, along with Miss May Gibson and Miss Kitty Trewhitt.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Howgate.—At the top of the bill here are the Willie Hale Duo, who give a capital all-round act; J. G. Grahame and Zerlina Harrington, assisted by H. Naverny, play very well in a dramatic episode, entitled *A Daughter of Pleasure*. Arley's Combination appears in a gymnastic pot-pourri, introducing some well-trained dogs; Chas. Dare's Minstrels are excellent vocalists, and have caught on; Lottie de Abbey, character impersonator, is another excellent turn, and the Bros. Webb are capital musical clowns. Horace White, ventriloquist, is good at the piano; and Harry Bancroft, actor-vocalist, meets with success. A humorous picture is depicted by the Royal Dottoscope.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Nuttall.—The capital programme here is headed by Cole and Rags, who cause much merriment with their funny juggling. The Clarkes, banjo duo, manipulate their instruments in a clever manner; Natalia and Diana are smart in their turn on the revolving trapeze; and the Pasquali Bros. are a pair of marvellous acrobats. Oakdene is loudly applauded for his ventriloquial entertainment; Frank Hope is a sensational trick cyclist; and T. C. Edwards, baritone vocalist, does well. The Dottoscope, with some new pictures, concludes.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Bentz.—*Goody Two-Shoes* has now entered into its third week, and during the holidays the pantomime has been attracting phenomenal business. The scenery is charming. Worthy of special mention is the last scene, Goody's Ancestral Hall, which reflects much credit on the artist, Mr. W. McCulloch; it is a triumph of lofty and ornate stage architecture. The grand procession of lords and ladies, pages and grooms-in-waiting, that takes place, with its brilliant massing of colour and gorgeousness of grouping, cannot be too highly praised. A more striking result is attained, and the charm of the colour scheme is apparent, when the wedding cortège has filled the stage. The costumes are a particular feature of the production; and Miss Nellie Walters, costumier to the theatre, who is responsible for nearly all the dresses, is to be complimented; Mr. Bert W. Stephens conducts the increased orchestra with marked ability and success; Mr. Frank Bentz has rendered signal service by writing additional lyrics; the electric light that has just been installed on the stage gives opportunity for some admirable effects, and is under the artistic care of Mr. W. Morton; while the limelight and gas arrangements are undertaken successfully by Mr. W. Cosgrove; the mechanical effects and stage machinery by Mr. Jack Murday, and the properties by Mr. Wilfred Murday, are in all respects adequate and complete. Altogether the pantomime is a huge success, which may perhaps be attributed to the directing intelligence of Mr. Savile, under whose personal control and direction the pantomime is produced, with the services of Mr. Frank Sutherland in the responsible part of stage-manager.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Wilson.—A fine holiday programme is being submitted here this week. The Brothers Luck, in the pantomime absurdity, *The Demon of the Cellar*, cause continuous laughter from start to finish; Frances Letty excels as an American coon comedy artist; Barton and Ashley, in a comedy duologue, entitled *Canal Boat Sal*, are highly diverting; Harry Briggs obtains applause as a triple-voiced vocalist; Gillin, a unique ventriloquial humorist, is decidedly clever; the Alekarno Trio are very fine exponents of comedy Risley and tumbling acts; George Westland, Scotch comedian, provides capital fare; Collins and Rice are successful as comedy speciality artists; and the Hippodrome Bioscope is interesting in its series of pictures.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Tom Toy.—For the holiday week the following artists have been engaged: The Great Sartis, in a comedy musical act; Parkie Roberts, eccentric comedian; Nellie Duval, American comedienne and dancer; the Smalleys (Nellie and Seth), vocalists, dancers, and performers on the triple horizontal bars; Lily Pinder, comedienne; Crosby and Walker, comedians; H. M. Somers, comedian and dancer; and Bob Pearson, vocal comedy humorist.

PENZANCE.—ST. JOHN'S HALL.—Mr. John A. Thomson's *Aladdin*, the pantomime of this year, was under the local direction of Mr. S. J. Liddicoat. The scenery, dresses, lighting, and speciality turns were all above the average. Kurie, the Royal Minstrel; Sing Ling Chin, in his juggling act; Mr. Ernest Douri, as a talented sifleur and banjo soloist; Mr. Bert Goldin, a really clever speciality dancer; and the Three Sisters Alltree, as acrobatic and ballet dancers, all won hearty appreciation. The transformation scene, entitled "All the Year Round," was a particularly artistic picture.

PERTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Messrs. William Mollison and Durward Lely's company has been specially engaged here for the New Year holidays in *Beside the Bonnie Briar Bush*, and the success of the venture is evident from the crowded houses nightly. Mr. William Mollison excels in his powerful portrayal of Lachlan Campbell, and is accorded unstinted approbation; Mr. Archie W. Chappell is responsible for a spirited delineation of Lord Hay; and Mr. D. Lyall is happily placed as his father Earl Kilspindie; Mr. Kendall Chalmers creates considerable amusement as Tammas Mitchell; Mr. Maclaren makes a desirable piper as Sandy McPherson; a better exponent of the old school doctor than Mr. W. A. Mackersy's William MacClure could hardly be imagined; and Mr. Eric Mayne's Rev. John Carmichael is an ideal portrayal; Mr. Alec. F. Thompson proves a host of entertainment in his capable and amusing portrayal of the Wee Postie, Archibald McKittrick; Miss Alice Francis shows exceptional talent as Kate Carnegie; Miss Edith Blair Staples is responsible for a good share of the evening's success as Annie, the Dairymaid; Miss Martha Stewart as Geordie (a laddie) and Miss Jeannie Fitzgerald as Jeannie (a lassie) are successful; and Miss Evelyn McNay's talent is shown to the fullest advantage in her delightful rendering of Flora Campbell.

PETERBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—The domestic drama, *The Little Drummer Boys*, is being presented here this week. Mr. F. Fuller makes a good impression as General Kingsley; Mr. Fred Emery as Captain Frank Carsdale gives an excellent performance; Mr. Archie Helsby is well placed as Captain George Darrell; Mr. Charles Gallier does well as Lieut. Allen Kingsley; Quinery O'Quirke and Timothy Trimmer are in the capable hands of Mr. Harry Tyndon and Mr. Frank Hoyd; Mrs. Kathleen Magee makes an excellent Margaret Rivers; Mrs. Mildred Eversleigh acquits herself admirably as Alma Kingsley; and special mention should be made of Miss Maggie English as Eric Carsdale, and Miss Lily Beverley as Jack Smith, who add considerably to the success.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—The pantomime *Blue Beard* is rapidly getting into smooth working order, and is proving a great draw to young and old alike. Mr. George Brooks as Sister Ann is making a bold bid for first place amongst the comedians; Miss Muriel Langley as Selim sings the attractive numbers falling to her lot in such fashion as to demand persistent encores; Miss Peggy Primrose, a lady of particularly fascinating manner, is a dainty little Fatima; and Miss Josephine Gordon's "Song of Andalusia" is one of the tit-bits of the performance.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Williams.—Mr. Bert Coote's company in *The Fatal Wedding* has been re-engaged for another week, and the popular support bestowed quite justifies the management in the course adopted.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Top line on the bill is this week given to the Tom Davis Trio of Cyclists, the turn being one of exceptional daring; Miss Cordite's lasso-throwing is very interesting, and is warmly appreciated; the Zelovas are accomplished acrobatic equilibriste; Cissie Curlette does some clever mimicry of farmyard voices; Grant and Grant have some good coon songs, and the three Sisters Jonghmans are accomplished operatic artists. Other interesting items are Fred Herbert (topical vocalist), May Boss (vocalist), and Vernon's Pictures.

PORTH. — THE PALACE (LATE OPERA HOUSE).—General-Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—A good programme here includes Marie Collins, who is enthusiastically received; Bandoni, the one-man band; Fredrica's toy terriers, a turn which gives entire satisfaction; Dot, the cake-walking pony; the Four Sisters Sligo, a quartette of charming ladies; Dene and Dawson, in a mirth-provoking sketch, entitled *Stage Aspirants*; Mike Cray, eccentric comedy juggler, and his dog Dooley; Harry Bent, society humorist; Carlotta Lunn, American comedienne; Belford and Mars, vocal comedy entertainers; and Phinas and Aida, revolving novelty equilibrists; the Palace Electric Bioscope depicts the new film, "Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp."

PORTSMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—*The Blue Moon* is running very smoothly and well here for the second week.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. Joseph L. Barry has again written the book for the pantomime at this house, the title chosen being *Little Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp*, which was presented by Mr. James Kiddie to packed and delighted audiences on Boxing Day. The story is on the old familiar lines, and winds up with an excellent transformation scene, entitled "Japanese Boy's Dreams," designed and painted by Mr. James Greenhalgh, after which a capital mirth-provoking harlequinade is provided, and Messrs. Tom Rayne (Clown), George Hough (Pantaloon), Will Anderson (Policeman), and Misses Ida Thompson (Harlequin), and Nellie Baillie (Columbine) acquit themselves most creditably. Miss Marie Beresford is bright in the title-rôle, and fills the part with great credit, singing her numbers most successfully. She is ably supported by Miss Ruby Aiston as the Princess, who plays very sweetly, and makes a dainty appearance, her duets with Aladdin being quite a pleasing feature. Miss Zena Page also does very well, and makes a charming Prince Pekoe; Miss Kitty Kildare as Radia, the Lady of the Magic Lamp, is most effective, singing her songs with much expression, and being well backed by her attendant Lumino, a part taken by Miss Minnie Grey. Mr. Arthur Aiston as Abanazar is very droll; and the Widow Twankey of Mr. Jack Cromo is funny, and takes well. Nanti Oof, the Emperor of China, is well placed in the hands of Mr. Harold Batt; Mr. Tom Kelso plays Wishee Washee for all it is worth, and scores; Bossi and Wrong 'Un, two members of the Pekin police force, are most divertingly depicted by Bliss and Bliss. Miss May St. Pierre as Fan Tit proves successful. The augmented orchestra is under the able direction of Mr. Ernest Bernhardt.

EMPIRE PALACE. — Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—A bright and attractive bill of fare is being submitted here for the holiday folk. Charles Baldwin and company in *The Bank Clerks*, in two scenes, give an interesting and decidedly good turn; Frank Leslie, vocal comedian, made a good impression, and receives an encore for his well-rendered song, "The kerb millionaire"; Ethel Dunford, vaudeville artist, with good stage appearance, sings well; Marco Boy is a successful magician and illusionist; the Sisters May, duettists and dancers, are a smart pair; Virto and Irene, with their refined musical act, receive a double encore for their exceedingly tuneful playing; the Vetter Bros., acrobats, do some surprising feats on the bar and rings; Sinclair and Whiteford, in the favourite comedy sketch, *Getting Even*, hit the popular taste; Selby and Myers, intricate dancers, are good; and Payne's Bio-photoscope, with up-to-date pictures, completes a capital programme.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Executors of the late Mr. Wm. Johnson; Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—This week a first-class company is here in *The Night of the Party*, which has met with a hearty reception. Miss Beatrice Mervyn is seen to great advantage in the rôle of Lady Hampshire; Miss Stanley Ronalds gives a thoroughly effective impersonation of Gipsy Vandalier; and Miss Lillian Williams makes a most attractive Paulina. Mr. Frank Frayne has an excellent representative in Mr. Frank H. Denton; Mr. Sebastian Smith causes unlimited merriment as Mr. Crosbie; Mr. Douglas Munro submits a clever rendering of Mr. Flamber; and others who contribute appreciably to the success of the performance are Mr. Ernest Rivarz (Alderman Hargen), Mr. Stanley Arthur (Mr. Bogle), and Mr. Chas. J. Bruce (Mr. Roundle).

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Fred Granville's company is appearing here this week in an excellent pantomime based on the story of *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Bertha Cousins has been happily chosen as principal boy in the part of Robin Hood. Miss Hettie Lind as Maid Marian sings some tuneful songs which gain many encores; Mr. Norman Hall as Sir Broker de Pawn keeps the house in continuous laughter; Merry Mavis has a dainty exponent in Miss Queenie West, who contributes some graceful dances. Burgling Bill and Gentle Georgie are two humorous characters in which the Kimberley Boys display genuine comic ability; Mr. Joe English creates much wholesome fun as Araminta Koffkake; Mr. Eric Strange is endowed with a fine voice, and sings some capital songs in the part of Razzle Dazzle: Friar Tuck is excellently embodied by Mr. Dan Mining. Master Harry Boden and Miss Edie Bell in the title-rôles well deserve the applause called forth by their exceptionally clever acting and dancing. Miss May Cornish is a bright and vivacious Little John; and Cissie Bodina comes in for a good share of the plaudits for her singing as Sylvania, the Fairy Queen. A speciality, introducing the Three Graces in their classical poses, is greatly appreciated. The excellent and well-chosen chorus merit praise. The pantomime is handsomely staged, and altogether an undoubted success.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—The chief attraction here this week is a pantomimic production, entitled *The Brewery*, in which Bert Bernard's company evoke great hilarity. Lady Julia is a wonderfully intelligent ape; Ragulus combines great skill with comic ability in his manipulation of tennis balls; Alf Gibson and Will Walton are popular comedians; Willie Haig's funny falls create much laughter. Others who appear with success are the Paolos, in an admirable exhibition of physical strength and classical poses; the Egertons, in a first-rate trapeze act; and the Bendons, in an enjoyable comedy song-scena. Bioscope pictures complete.

RAMSGATE. — AMPHITHEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—To audiences who have not been slow to express their appreciation Miss Blanche St. Albans and Mr. J. Leicester Jackson's company has been presenting the cleverly-constructed domestic drama *Her One Great Sin*. Mr. C. Quinton Fulford makes a successful appearance as Arnold Thornhill; Miss Lydia Donovan is an admirable leading lady as Grace Warhurst; and as Reuben Warhurst, the hero, Mr. J. Cecil is extremely popular. A clever child actress sustains the part of Gracie Warhurst; and Charlie, the flower-seller, is impersonated in excellent fashion by Miss Phyllis Damain.

RAWTENSTALL. — GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. George Dickinson.—A packed house witnessed the opening performance of Mr. Edward C. Jazon's company in *Aladdin* here on Monday. Miss Edna Latonne is a charming and accomplished Pekin hero; Miss Florrie White makes a fascinating Princess; Mr. J. C. Morris is a capital Widow Twankey; and as Abanazer Mr. Harry Vernon creates plenty of fun; Mr. Cyril Carle is an excellent Emperor; Mr. A. Kavardos an excellent Snowball, and Mr. B. Best as Gin Sling is admirable; Messrs. George and Edwards as Ping and Pong keep the house in roars of laughter.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Cowley.—Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy produced their pantomime of *Little Red Riding Hood* at this theatre, with complete success, on Boxing Night. The scenery is highly effective, the costumes tasteful and elegant, the staging excellent, and the production throughout deserves unstinted commendation. Miss Verona Philis acts very charmingly in the title-rôle; Miss Ada Twibell makes a dashing Boy Blue, her singing also being greatly applauded; Miss Emma Don is a most attractive Prince Charming, and makes a decided hit in her "Ballooning" song; the Fairy Glowworm is well impersonated by Mlle. Tessie D'Alberti; Mr. E. Ridgwell is successful as Lupus the Wolf; the comic element is well to the front, with Mr. J. Templar Ellis as Baron Badlot, the Bros. Lavelle as Johnny Green and Jimmy Stout, Mr. G. H. Penn as Simple Simon the Baron's Page, and Mr. Harry Home as Dame Trot, all of whom are highly diverting; the specialities include the Acme Quartette, who dance with much grace and agility; the Don Black and White Comedy Team, the Bros. Lavelle (speciality artists), and the Four Hearnes (comedy acrobats). Mr. Frank Ayston is general-manager, Mr. E. Ridgwell stage-manager, and Mr. Aug. T. MacInnes musical-director, all three being very efficient in their respective positions.

LARGE TOWN HALL.—Messrs. H. and F. Poole's Myriorama, which has paid an annual Christmas visit to Reading for many years past, is again proving a great source of attraction during the holidays. The entertainment quite sustains its high reputation. The Myrioramic views have been brought up to date by the introduction of many new and realistic scenes, and the Bioscopic pictures include subjects of a very diverting character. The variety programme, which is such a popular feature of these entertainments, includes the original Geo. French Troupe of acrobatic cyclists; Mr. Harry Dowsett, an excellent eccentric comedian; the Acmes, in an original comedy musical act; Miss Florence Hamilton, a charming soprano vocalist; the Snow Family, eccentric knockabouts and expert skaters; Houston, the Chinese illusionist; Mr. Fred Poole makes an excellent cicerone.

BAKER'S HIPPODROME is still located here, and has been doing excellent business during the Christmas holidays.

REDHILL.—MARKET HALL.—Market Hall Company, Proprietors; Mr. A. Simmonds, Secretary.—Mr. John A. Thompson's pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, the current attraction here, opened to good business on Boxing Night, under the local management of that successful veteran, Mr. G. W. Bowes. The scenery is very attractive, and the cast most capable; Miss Millicent Davis is charming in the title-rôle, which is well suited to her piquant style; Miss Marie Curtis makes a dainty Alice; the Billie Taylor and Dollie Dimple of the Misses Hilda and Molly Hypatia respectively leave nothing to be desired, their singing and dancing being heartily applauded; Mr. Tom Gilbert is decidedly funny as Mrs. Crusoe, whilst Messrs. Alf. Bert as Will Atkins, Robbie Graham as Capt. Mainbrace, Billie Bracey as Tommy Tickle, James Newry as King Ping Pong Poo, and Carl Moneta as the Man Friday, ably sustain their several characters; a feature of the production is the delightful singing of Miss Carman Cecil, a handsome and shapely Fairy Coral; the Kennedy Sisters, in their dancing, evoke applause; in the palace scene the clever antics of Mr. George Huntley's donkey, Hezekiah, and his goat Ike, cause much amusement; the Allan Brothers, boy jugglers, do some really clever work; the "Conjurer Unmasked," a laughable skit by the Codinas, fairly capture the house; the transformation scene, "The Birth of the Rose," is very pretty and greatly appreciated; the performance is under the musical direction of Mr. William Draper; Mr. Pau E. Draco is acting-manager for Mr. Thompson.

RHYL.—QUEEN'S PALACE.—On Monday evening Mr. Chas. Chaplin presented the popular pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*. In the title-rôle is Miss Florrie Poole, whose spirited acting and clever dancing render her a most attractive principal boy; Miss Ivy Dene as Polly Perkins is dainty and artistic, her song, "Fire Fly," being very popular; Mr. Bob Stevenson gives an amusing impersonation of Mrs. Crusoe; Mr. Tom Poole makes a clever and humorous Will Atkins; Mr. Harry Collins as the Cannibal King sings a laughing song very cleverly; Messrs. Arnett and Beavers work well together as Yo-ho and Heavo-ho. This pantomime is in eight scenes, which effectively illustrate the story. The whole is produced by Mr. Harry Collins, under the supervision of Mr. Alfred Selwyn.

CENTRAL HALL.—Mr. A. Cheetham still continues his Silvograph entertainments. Some excellent and up to date films are shown twice nightly.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*The Spider and the Fly* is the title of the play in possession of the boards here this week. Miss Amy Venimore as the Spider, Stella Grey, cleverly enacts her part; Miss Nina Vaughton infuses much pathos in the rôle of Edith McAllister; and Cyril and Welby Girdlestone have excellent representatives in Mr. Stanley Gordon and Mr. Ellis Preston.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Smith and Co.—John H. Tomkinson's No. 1 Royal Gipsy Company is here this week. Songs, dances, and jokes are submitted, and the second part of the programme includes turns by the Rizarelis, lady gymnasts; the Regars, eccentric acrobats; Little Vio Lette, juvenile comedienne, and Mlle. Vanda, lady juggler on the revolving globe.

EMPIRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Mr. C. Parker's Six Æolians, in a vocal and dancing act, submit a capital turn; the Sisters Walton are pleasing vocalists; Mlle. Renée in a musical act quite captivates the house; and Dick Bradley (tramp trick cyclist), Charles Danton (comedian), Serpentello (contortionist), Mint and Mart, comedy sketch artists, and the Empire Bioscope complete the programme.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Local playgoers are being highly favoured in having for the New Year week Mr. Edwin C. Jazon and company with the pantomime *Cinderella*. Mr. Stan Aubrey is very funny as Baron Crooked; and Miss Flo Melville gives a charming portrayal of the title-rôle, singing with telling effect. Mr. Charles Preston as Arabella and Mr. Alfred Brooks as Isabella are responsible for much fun and amusement. Miss Louie Herman is smart as Prince Brilliant; and Miss Madge Bryce is a sprightly Dandini. Miss Florrie Burnette is charming as Queen Bountiful. Specialities are introduced by Messrs. Pearce and Ward, burlesque boxers and knockabouts; Onda and Leon, triple-bar performers; Stan Aubrey, legmania artist, and Harding and Preston, expert dancers; and special mention must be made of McCann's performing Irish terriers and leaping hound, who give a remarkable turn. The musical portion of the performance is effective; the mounting and scenery are excellent, the ballets also being very pleasingly presented.

RUGBY. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geoffrey Fulton.—This week Mr. Henry Leigh is presenting *The 'Varsity Belle*. Miss Josephine Ellis as Gaye Sparkleton is successful; Mr. Paton is excellent in every way; Miss Kathleen O'Brien as the Professor's wife is very good; and Miss Emma Rainbow as the mother-in-law displays ability; Mr. James Danvers as Professor Septimus Stoney contributes materially to the success, and in his musical sketch in Act 3, where he is supported by Miss O'Brien, he scores a hit; Mr. Edward Chester as Mr. Sparkleton gives a humorous rendering; Mr. Harley West and Mr. Roy Barraclough as the two undergraduates make the most of their opportunities; Mr. Frank Lilliput works hard as Runyard, the college scout.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company is here with *The Love that Women Desire*, and full houses are the result. Mr. J. O. Stewart makes a fine Squire Abington; Richard Abington is successfully presented by Mr. Alfred Brandon; Mr. J. Heather gives a good portrayal of Philip Carnaby; a satisfactory Sybil Thorburn is presented by Miss Lalla Stanhope; the outcast, Frank Hardy, is a piece of good work, by Mr. Leonard Montgomery; Mr. John Hignett is well placed as Dennis O'Rourke; P.C. Sowerberry (a comic policeman) has an excellent exponent in Mr. J. W. Wilkinson; Miss Cicely Desmond makes a charming Madge Abington; and Miss Nita Imeson an amusing Pattie.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director and Licensee, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Sable Fern heads a most enjoyable programme here with her catchy songs. A novel gymnastic act shows the cleverness of the Marlo Dunham Trio; and Richard Corbin's Dogs are very amusing. The other turns include Frank Zaro, comedian; Leo Douglas and Co., in *The Funny Office Boy*; Ida Evilo, in a daring and graceful trapeze act; Three Dusky Princes, coloured comedians and dancers; Cyrus Dare, mimic; Leslie and Player, comedy duettists and patterers; and Marie Gibson, vocalist.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—The popular comedienne, Ada Fawn, catches on with her songs; a marvellous contortionist and instrumentalist is Max Duffek; Gorman's Youngsters (10 girls) give a clever scena, *The Wait*; *The Window Cleaner* is a most laughable sketch by Henry Carlton and his company; good turns are also given by Fred and Lillie Monckton, in *Are Wives Dummies?*; Ellis and Watts, comedians and expert dancers; Standing, the singing mill lad; and Chas. Lestree, juggler.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan. — Mr. Ronald Grahame's pantomime, *Aladdin*, is now in full swing, and runs briskly. The catchy musical items sung by the members of the company are greatly enjoyed.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. Sidney Beltram.—Mr. Edward Marris's company in *The Orchid* formed an excellent holiday attraction here, the attendance on Monday night taxing the accommodation of the house. Mr. Charles Seymour as Mr. Chesterton is distinctly good. As the Hon. Guy, Mr. Sinclair Holden does well; and Mr. Geoffrey Berwick is successful as Dr. Fausett; Mr. Harry Walsh stands out prominently as Meakin; as the irascible French Comte, Mr. W. B. Chewd is exceedingly droll; Miss Dorothy Vernon as Lady Violet is charming in appearance, and sings well. Thisbe is ably played by Miss May Hawthorne. An excellent Caroline is found in Miss Florence Allen; Miss Maud Vena is a clever Countess, and Miss Sissie Brand a delightful Zelie.

SHEERNESS.—THE PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Phil Reymond.—A capital company occupies the boards here this week. Mr. Rex Carvell is a clever ventriloquist and mimic; Miss Alma Dora is a smart comedienne and dancer; Eustace and Eyre are loudly applauded for their laughable comedy act, *Tompkins, Jun*"; Mr. Phil Reymond, the popular comedian, still continues a big favourite, his well-rendered comedy songs going better than ever. The Langhams cause much fun with their comedy sketch, *My Stage-Struck Aunt*; and May Mansell's Mannikins conclude a first-rate evening's entertainment.

SHEFFIELD. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont—*The Dairymaids*, the splendidly staged musical play from the Apollo Theatre, has proved a great success here. Miss Violet Lloyd has charmed the Sheffield public as Peggy, and her dainty acting, tuneful vocalism, and graceful manner have delighted her many local admirers. That old favourite, Miss Edith Blanche, gives a finished impersonation of the rôle of Lady Brudenell, and other accomplished ladies in the strong cast are Miss Madge Avery, Miss Cissie Sephton, and Miss Rhoda Gordon. Mr. Lionel Victor causes great merriment as the comical sailor, Joe Mivens; Mr. E. Statham Staples is a first-rate representative of Sam Brudenell, and other well-known artists who do clever work are Mr. Forbes Dawson, Mr. Alec Fraser, and Mr. George Desmond. The "Sandow Girls" scene is a loudly-applauded feature of Mr. Courtneidge's elaborately mounted production.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John art; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—As anticipated last week Mr. John Hart's fine pantomime, *Mother Goose*, has proved a great triumph, and large audiences by day and night have revelled in the beauty of the scenery, the poetic charm of the ballets, the exhilarating quality of the music, and the fun of the low comedians, to say nothing of the fascinating ladies who adorn the artistic dresses that always form a special feature of Mr. Hart's notable annuals. Miss Daisy Jerome has made a great hit as Gretchen, and other prominent favourites are Miss Maisie Gay, a graceful Colin; Miss Sylvia May, the pretty Jill; Mr. J. E. Nightingale, a mirth-provoking Mother Goose; Mr. Harry Roxbury, the quaint Jack; Mr. G. P. Polson, the characteristic Laird of Borderland; Mr. Jack Pleasants, the lugubriously funny Alexander; and the agile Valdo Brothers, who cause roars of laughter as the intelligent "mokes," and do some smart tumbling.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—For the 39th consecutive season the old home of spectacle and jollity has "struck oil," and *Dick Whittington* is nightly winning gold galore for himself and the management. Miss Alma Obrey's imposing appearance, dashing style, and distinct articulation all combine to make her a successful principal boy for a large theatre like the Alexandra. As Dick she is a prime favourite, and her principal songs and "scenas" are enthusiastically encored. Probably "The Zuyder Zee" is her most popular number. Miss Ethel Bryant is a deserved favourite as Alice, and her songs and dances are warmly applauded. The Sisters Brookland delight the audience with the catchy "Bamboo Bungalow," and dance cleverly. Mr. Alf Clegg is good as the Cat, and the fun-makers, Messrs. Gilbert Rodgers, J. W. Gallagher, Mr. Kennedy Allen, Pete and Juno, Frank Bentham, and Jack McKenzie, are on good terms with Mr. Forsdike's patrons. The Fairy Queen is gracefully represented by Miss Blanche De Verne; Mr. Leo King is the time-honoured Demon King, and Mr. Jack Bangs looks well as the Sultan of Morocco.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The bill of the Empire is headed by Mr. Paul Martinetti, who appears this week in the celebrated pantomimic episode, *A Terrible Night*, supported by the talented artists who have given the "King of Mimes" their loyal support for many years. Kelly and Ashby are great favourites here, and other smart and original performers are the Two Motramos, in a novel act; Browning and Wally, Edie Veno, Mr. Dan Conroy, eccentric comedian; Mr. Walter King, vocalist; Mr. George Newburn, vocal entertainer; Beattie and Blanche; and Mme. Marie Duma, operatic vocalist.

GRAND PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—Pallister's Bioscope, with variety turns, are pleasing large audiences nightly.

ALBERT HALL.—The Joseph Poole Myriorama is doing big business. Good turns are introduced by the Four Rosaires, acrobats; the Boleros, comic bar performers; the Tissots, living marionettes; Eilleen and Mayne, two pretty and clever young instrumentalists; the Franko Midgets, juvenile conjurors; Mr. Jack O'Rourke, character comedian; Mr. Harry Meir, tramp juggler; and Mr. Bert Berry, cicerone and mimic.

MONTGOMERY HALL.—Hulbert, ventriloquist; Prof. De Lil, conjurer; and the Imperial Picture Co. are engaged here.

SHREWSBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Mr. William Greet's bright and highly talented company was here on the first three nights of the present week with *The Earl and the Girl*. Mr. Alfred Donohoe was a droll Jim Cheese; Mr. Thos. Kennard as Dick Wargrave acted with ability and sang effectively; Mr. Leslie Owen performed creditably the part of the Hon. Crewe Boodle, and numerous other male parts were in very good hands. Miss Gertrude Simpson made a charming and vivacious Elphin Haye; Miss Lena Hicks as Liza Shoddam was bright and smart; Miss Ida Stratham acted capitally as Daisy Fallowfield; Miss Kathleen Gerard was an amusing and capable Mrs. Shimmering Black; Miss Winnie Plumpton was successful as Miss Virginia Bliss.

SOUTHAMPTON. — PALACE. — Sole Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—The Milton Ray's company of comedians is very popular this week in the musical farcical comedy *The Cruise of the Calabar*, which creates incessant laughter; Galetti's monkey comedians submit an interesting and clever turn; W. H. Downs is a fine vocalist; Marion Scott is a chic comedienne; the Jansons excel as gymnasts; and Mignonette Kokin is a dashing comedienne and dancer.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. P. Howell.—Mr. Fred Karno's company is this week again appearing in *Moses and Son* with triumphant success. Kisbey is a delightfully droll patterer, and his performance is extremely mirth-provoking; Adey Spencer—who, by the way, is a Southampton lady—creates quite a furore as "The Girl from the Hat Shop"; V. L. Granville is a splendid character impersonator; and the Kielings Trio excel as comedy acrobats.

PHILHARMONIC HALL.—Mr. Walter Jeffs' New Century Pictures are proving a great draw. The pictures are excellent, and the entertainment from start to finish is one of the best that has visited Southampton.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—PIER PAVILION.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. E. Angless; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—A striking testimony of the popularity of roller skating was given on Wednesday evening, on the occasion of the New Year's Grand Carnival and Sports, when a large number entered for valuable gold and silver prizes. The chief event was the Challenge Cup Race Championship of 50 laps between Mr. R. H. S. Coleman and the courteous acting-manager, and this proved an exciting encounter. Another notable feature was the hockey match between Southend and Westcliff Clubs, who competed for a silver challenge cup, presented by Mr. H. J. Rose. Other events included races for gentlemen, with sack and obstacle races, and a tug of war. The splendid selections of music by the Red Band were heartily appreciated.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—*Bluebeard*, which is produced by Mr. Louis Ducane, under the personal supervision of Mr. Charles Constant, is here again this week, and the pantomime certainly merits commendation for the excellent manner in which it is played by a good all round company. The reception accorded is even more hearty than last week, and the new songs, with really clever dances, win rapturous applause. Mr. Louis Ducane sustains the title-rôle with success; and in Miss Ina Bowman a talented artist is found in her interpretation of Selim, whose singing wins many recalls; Messrs. Gus Danby, Alec Godfrey, and Mac Stuart provide hearty merriments in their respective characters, and the latter, assisted by Miss Theresa Stuart, gives remarkable speciality dancing acrobatic feats; Miss Florence Hersee renders "The Starlight Queen" in pleasing style, whilst Miss Clara Sefton and Little Felicia sing delightfully; the Arabian Troupe of Lady Dancers are very attractive; as are also the Sisters Warner in their singing and dancing.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS. —Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens, Co., Ltd.; Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—Mr. James Welch, supported by his capable company, furnishes a seasonable and diverting entertainment here this week in the new farcical comedy, *When Knights were Bold*. In the rôle of Sir Guy de Vere, Mr. J. Welch has ample scope for his versatility, and creates roars of merriment. Miss Audrey Ford submits an admirable impersonation of Rowena; Mr. Ed

STALYBRIDGE.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Frone; Acting-Managers, Messrs. W. A. Jackson and E. E. Hardie.—An excellent programme is presented here, the principal features being Bob Hamilton, Scotch comedian; the Three Bros. Huxter, champion leapers; the Gregson comedy trio, in a farcical speciality, *The Dummy*; Sam Dalton, eccentric comedian; Mlle. Magna, in statuary poses; Rodin, comedy cyclist; Harry May, comedian; Hector and Sultan, comedy grotesques; Lilian Travelli, vocalist, and others.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—Mr. Junius Booth and an excellent company are here in a new version of *Monte Cristo*. In the character of Edmond Dantes, Mr. Junius Booth displays his powers as an actor to the fullest extent, and he is admirably supported by Messrs. E. H. Templeton (Nortier), C. W. Crowe (Mondego), Leonard Marshall (De Morcei), J. W. Braithwaite (Caderousse), Augustin Bowerman (Dandlers), Miss Emma Robberds (La Carcoute), Miss Clare Elstob (Mercedes), and Miss Alice West (Sophie).

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. T. Barrasford, Will Sley, and Fred Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Heading the bill here are the Martelloni Troupe of lady acrobats, who give a neat and clever performance, for which they are loudly applauded. At the other end are Will Vay's Juveniles, who are again well received in *Life in the Slums*. Appearing also are Leon and Leon, banjoists; George Prince, Miss Helen Martin, Will Goodwin, Selby and Myers, all of whom are good in their respective lines of business, and the Barrascope.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—Mr. Charles Chard's pantomime *Cinderella* continues here this week, and is attracting crowded audiences at every performance. The comicalities of Mr. Harry Pleon as Pimples are heartily enjoyed; and Miss Cecilia Kent contributes her full share of the fun as Ethel, one of the ugly sisters; Miss Kitty Phelps as Prince Perfect has gained in popularity; and Miss Mary Newell as Cinderella acts and sings with pleasing grace and charm; whilst the Sisters Terry as Dandini and Eglantine are now great favourites.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, the Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—Capital business is being done here this week with Mr. Jack Haddon's pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, which combines an abundance of fun and many items of a pleasing and delightful character. Smart comedians are Messrs. Barrett and Knowles, who, as the Squire's flunkeys, Dip and Dap, provide most of the mirth, and certainly are the hit of the pantomime; Mr. Hal Forde makes a clever and amusing Dame; and Mr. Alfred Maynall causes plenty of laughter as Silly Billy; whilst Mr. Jack Haddon acts the part of the Squire very amusingly; Miss Kitty Upton as Jack is a graceful and refined principal boy; and Miss Nellie Burdette, who appears as Dora, achieves success in her songs, "Zuyder Zee" and "Snowflakes."

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—HIPPODROME THEATRE. Proprietors, Messrs. Geo. and Robt. Nicholson; Manager, Mr. Ainsworth.—The Clement Trio head the bill here this week, their marvellous acts on the trapeze astounding all. The Steinway Quartette of male voices are excellent in their scena, *Songs of the Sea*, and are highly appreciated; the Villions, in their comedy act, are good, their feats on cycles being of a high order; Emily Oliver gives an artistic song and dance, which is well received; Silly Billy Elliott, an old favourite here, scores greatly with his humorous songs and patter; Miss Pleydell does excellently in her speciality act, her songs and dancing being capital. The popular Peggy Pryde is enthusiastically received; the Norman Sketch Co. cause great amusement, and the Pictoscope completes the bill.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Councillor J. Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—John Terry and Mabel Lambert head the bill this week with American character-sketches, and are enthusiastically received; Jock Walker sings funny Scotch songs; Bros. Zenary's marvellous feats on the trapeze are highly appreciated; Phil Mouat possesses a good baritone voice, and sings his songs in dramatic style; the Bounding Dillons, in their comedy gymnastic performance, cause great amusement; Ike Scott and Son, old favourites here, are well received; the Sivronis, in burlesque comedy, score greatly, and the Bioscope shows interesting pictures.

STOURBRIDGE.—ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—Managerees, Miss Maude Lynton.—Mr. Edward Marris and company appeared here in *The Cingalee* the first three nights of the week. Mr. Frank Manger as the Right Hon. Harry Vereker did very well; while Miss Ethel May as Nanoya in the title-rôle acquitted herself admirably. Mr. Hugh Webb was a characteristic Boobhamba; Mr. Coope Edmunds as Sir Peter Loftus was very good; Mr. W. J. Austin as Bobby Warren sang admirably, and Mr. Arthur Ferris as Chambbuddy Ram fairly brought down the house. Miss Kathleen Kennedy as Peggy Sabine played excellently, and Miss Millie Gordon was a winsome Aingy Loftus.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Edward Gray.—Messrs. Hill and Ayrton's company is here playing *A Gambler's Daughter*. Mr. Robert Ayrton quickly wins favour as Desmond O'Dare; Dick, the Weasel, is capitally played by Mr. Harry Barham; Mr. Alfred Saunders is good in the Hebrew character, Solomon Solomons; Miss Adria Hill as Mildred and Miriam Grant acts throughout with marked ability. Cartia, a Spanish girl, is cleverly portrayed by Miss Lottie Sanders; and Auntie Zeb, a negress, as played by Miss Harriett Lloydall, is most amusing.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alf Manners.—Swindon's first pantomime, *Sinbad the Sailor*, has undoubtedly settled down into a distinct success, and now goes with a capital swing. This production, by Messrs. Alfred Manners and Samuel James, with its lavish outlay in the way of excellent scenery, charming dresses, and capable artists, will long be remembered in and around this town. The staging, under the supervision of Mr. J. W. Hemming, is very successful, while the augmented orchestra and chorus (70 in number) do good work under the bâton of Mr. Herbert Summerville. Of Miss Fanny Robina's fine performance as Sinbad it would be difficult to speak too highly. She puts all the necessary dash and vivacity into her work, and uses her pleasing voice to excellent effect, being encored for each song. Miss Evelyn Geldard is particularly successful as Selim; Miss Norah Haywood is pleasing as Sadie, and has become popular with her delightful dancing abilities, while Miss Nellie Beacon is deservedly applauded for her well-rendered songs. As the Dame, Mr. Will Crackles is a genuine success, causing roars of laughter throughout. But perhaps the feature of the whole pantomime is the admirable star turn contributed by Mr. Harry and Miss Ivy Ongar in the Palace of Gold scene, their expert displays of national dancing are remarkably clever and graceful. Messrs. Hans and Lux appear as Diggles and Daggles respectively; Mr. Harry Ongar is bright and amusing as Tinbad, and Miss Ivy is pleasing as Yosan.

TAMWORTH.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Manager, Mr. F. Hughes.—On Monday Messrs. W. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson's company, by arrangement with Mr. Brandon Thomas, appeared here in *Charley's Aunt*. Mr. Tom McFarlane, in the title-rôle, kept the large audience in a continual ripple of laughter; Mr. Percy Tyler as Stephen Spettigue was mirth-provoking; Mr. T. S. McCausland Stewart as Sir Francis Chesney looked every inch an aristocrat; Mr. Basil Lynn as Jack Chesney and Mr. Arthur Claremont as Chas. Wykeham, the Oxford undergrads, were exceptionally good; Mr. W. A. Stoltuck as Brasset was a most amusing scout, Miss Grace Baring a decided success as Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez; and Miss Sybil Grieg as Amy Spettigue and Miss Ernestine Holker as Kitty Verden won golden opinions. Miss Norah Johns as Ela Delahay was also good. The piece was well mounted.

TON-Y-PANDY.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth's company in the pantomime *Aladdin* has been received with enthusiasm by large audiences here. The well-trained chorus and the augmented orchestra are under the direction of Mr. Omar Dean. Most of the scenery is by Moss and Stoll, but part has been executed in a praiseworthy manner by Mr. J. Nella (of the Royal Theatre). Mrs. Sam Duckworth is to be congratulated on the way she has arranged the ballets and processions. Mr. W. Harvard acts as stage-manager. Miss Edith Royal is a delightful exponent of the title-rôle, her singing making her a great favourite; Miss Lily Stuart is a charming Princess, and introduces some smart dances; Mr. Michel Madden as Widow Twankey is extremely funny, and his songs are encored. Abanazar is in the safe hands of Mr. Walter T. Hybart, who undertakes the part with marked success; Mr. Percy Vere as Wishy-Washee is very amusing; Messrs. Cliff and Astley as the Chinese Sheerblocks cause much laughter whenever they appear; Mr. Harry Verdon makes an excellent Emperor; the Sisters Cameron as Pekoe and Nicee are valuable additions to the cast; and Miss Lilly Palmer makes a graceful Fairy.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Mr. John A. Thomson is responsible for the pantomime this season, and is to be congratulated on the great success with which he has produced *Little Red Riding Hood*. A clean, dainty, wholesome pantomime, it is very prettily staged with plenty of character and go, the principal scenes being the crowning of the Queen of the May at the end of the first act, and the waif's dream of Fairyland at the conclusion of the performance. In the name-part Miss Ella Willmer is a charming brunette, and dances daintily; Miss Beatrice Varley makes a dashing principal boy, with plenty of vivacity; and these are well supported by Miss Ivy Boulton as Boy Blue, and Miss Kate Pennington as the Baron's daughter; the Baron is taken by Mr. George Newham, who, with Mr. Fred Latimer as the Dame, are the principal comedians, and they work well together in every scene; some excellent fooling is also contributed by Mr. Fred Anderson as Tommy Green, and Mr. Lovell Rowland as Simple Simon, whilst a special word of praise should be given to Miss Fay Desmond, who not only makes a delightful Fairy Queen, but sings with great acceptance.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Charles Carey; Manager, L. J. Gunnell.—Messrs. Lockwood, Crossman, and Foster's company, in *Sergeant Brue*, has been well received this week. Mr. E. Russell gives a humorous interpretation of the title-rôle; Mr. T. Shelford and Miss Ella Daincourt are very successful as the son and daughter respectively of the Sergeant; Mr. C. McLagan is responsible for much merriment as Crookie Scrubbs; and Miss Edith Housley as Lady Bickenhall, Miss Constance Berkeley as Daisy, and Miss Allen Macdonald as Mabel all give excellent impersonations. Mr. Henry Chichester is admirable as the Police Magistrate; and Mr. A. Stroud as Gerald Treherne, Mr. W. Jordan as the Solicitor, and Mr. Clive McKee as the Inspector put in some good work. This remark equally applies to Miss Balfour, Miss O. Ward, Miss M. Herne, Miss L. Potter, Mr. A. Chichester, and Mr. H. Loyde in their respective rôles.

TYNEMOUTH.—PALACE AND WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietor, Mr. J. H. Graham; Manager, Mr. Lindon Travers.—This week the bills are headed by Fred Frampton, burlesque entertainer. Another excellent turn is Mr. C. F. Best, who scores as McBunker the Mountebank; Dorothy Payn, soubrette, has a flattering reception; Signor Silvo, with his musical mélange; and Alice Braunstein, vocal entertainer, also contribute acceptable turns.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Sherwood and Co.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company in the play *Leah Kleschna* is paying a first visit here this week. Mr. Paul Belmore gives a fine performance as Monsieur Garnier; Mr. William F. Grant is exceedingly good as Paul Sylvaine; Mr. Hamilton Deane's portrayal of Raoul Berton is admirable; and Mr. Campbell Goldsmid is good as Schram, Mr. Roland Daniel being well placed as General Berton. Miss Bessie Rignold gives a talented and artistic portrayal of the title-rôle, her rendition being full of merit. She is ably supported by Miss Ethel Russell as Madame Berton and Miss Helene Belgrave as Claire Berton. Miss Violet Thorold makes a winning Sophie; Miss May Hamond as Frieda is pleasing; and Miss Edith Summers is effective as Charlotte. The piece is well staged.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Mme. Albertine Melich's troupe of highly-trained cockatoos give an interesting and wonderful performance. Mlles. Lucia and Viata are clever on the trapeze; the Two Daniels, comedy artists, prove amusing. Other turns comprised R. C. Note, vocalist; Miss Daisy Davenport, comedienne; and Mr. Harry Seaton, vocalist, proves popular.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—The week's programme here is headed by John Le Hay and Co. in the comedy-operetta, *Poor Beggar*, which proves most attractive. Alice Maydue, character comedienne; the Wolpert Trio of Springboard Acrobats; the Imperial Russian Troupe of expert singers and dancers; Nellie Coleman, the versatile and funny little woman; Dome, comedy clay modeller; the Two Butterflies, gymnasts; and the American Bioscope complete the bill of fare.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Ethel Van Praagh and J. Edward Whitley's company in *An Unwedded Wife*, are here this week. Miss Ethel Van Praagh in the title-rôle gives a delightful rendering; Mr. J. A. Grove is well placed as David Drummond; Mr. Kingsley Royden makes an excellent Frank Armstrong; Mr. E. St. Clair Forbes submits a capital portrayal of Philip Blackstone; and Mr. J. Edward Whitby does exceedingly well in the part of P.C. Russyin.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Willmott.—Excellent holiday fare has been provided for the patrons of this house. The Three Ferganas are an exceptionally smart troupe of equilibrists; Amy Anderson and her company serve well in the sketch *The Banana Queen*; and Mlle. Zant's Juveniles provide a good turn. The Wiltons are capable vaudeville artists, and Tony Iveson is a capital pianist; Ruby Dhal is a dainty comedienne, and Leo Trainer an up-to-date character vocalist. The Bioscope depicts some fine pictures.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby.—Mr. Fred Benton's company, in *The French Spy* is paying a return visit here this week. Mr. Beresford Lovett admirably portrays the part of Captain Sommers, and the rôle of Lieut. Maxwell is in the able hands of Mr. L. Chaseby; Mr. Max Coutts does excellent work as Count Romanoff and as Petross Romanoff Mr. G. Sherraton wins the appreciation of the audience; Mr. Fred Benton scores a decided success in the part of Fritz, the strong man; Knipps, the waiter, is humorously presented by Mr. Seymour Perry; as the Countess Ande, the French spy, Miss Madge Devereux gives an interesting rendering; Miss A. Harrison Tate makes the most of her opportunities in her interpretation of Olga; and Julie, as played by Miss Ella Seton, is all that could be desired.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—Mr. Beaudyn's company with *The Beautiful Fiend* has made a successful visit here this week. Mr. Montague Beaudyn, in the rôle of Ivan Paulovitch, gave a finished interpretation; Wanda Lubinoff was powerfully portrayed by Miss Crowe; Miss Irene Munro was remarkably good in the part of Nadine Karateff; Mr. J. P. McBride gave a clever impersonation of the character of Count Fedor Karateff; the comedy element was smartly submitted by Mr. Harry Oates as Christopher Crackles, and as Patty Woodlands Miss Annie Clunn was all that could be desired; Mr. Albert Wray did very well in the part of Sergius Strogoff, as did Mr. W. Robertson Foulis in the portrayal of Malachi.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. H.W. Player.—Pat Rafferty appeared here on Monday night and with his funny patter and songs kept the audience in excellent humour; Miss Lilly Hales was well received; a clever sketch was introduced by H. C. Lovell and Co., entitled *Mam'selle Pom Pom*, in which H. C. Lovell, R. Sutherd, and Miss Annie Stevenson caused roars of genuine laughter; Miss Elsie Earle submitted some good songs; praise must be given to Mr. C. Wordley Hulse and his company for the powerful dramatic effect obtained in *The Fight in the Forge*; a smart turn was presented by Mr. Matt Hardy; the Borghetti troupe achieved some marvellous head balancing; and the Hippodrome pictures are a great attraction.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Sindon.—Miss Lillian Beszant's company is here this week in *An Actor's Romance*. Mr. E. Eardley Howard gives a fine portrayal of Harold Davenport; Mr. C. E. Clive handled the rôle of Robert Livingstone in an able manner; Mr. Harry Agar Lyons submits a manly and pleasing impersonation of Jack Woodford; Mr. Edgar E. Stephenson scores as Charlie Cummings; Mr. Percy Warlow is good as Ikey Isaacs; Miss Lillian Beszant is a vivacious and winning Dotty Dillingham; Miss Beatrice Hone displays pathos in the rôle of Louise Davenport; Miss Flo Nelson cleverly sustains the part of Florence Hastings; Miss Marion Ryder plays the rôle of Phyllis Davenport in fine style; and Miss Alice Leon is effective in her embodiment of Mary.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Raws; Responsible-Manager, Mr. John Cassidy.—Mr. Harry Starr is paying another visit to Stanley and *Otto the Outcast*. *Carl the Clockmaker* was with his successful plays, *Carl the Clockmaker* performed on Monday night. Mr. Harry Starr admirably sustained his many rôles, his singing and dancing being heartily appreciated; Mr. Will Hee lent able assistance as Arthur Attwood; Mr. Edwin Firth was creditable as Maurice Helmore; the role of Hans Conrad was cleverly handled by Mr. Chas. Gabe; Mr. Bernard Beattie gave a powerful portrayal of Count Ivan Neiklevitch; Mr. Wm. Miller, ably assisted by Miss Ella Crossley, were responsible for the humour, as Narkey Nabbs and Jerusha J. Picklefinch; Miss Madge Blundell charmingly played the rôle of Madge Ryder; Miss Kate Norris was a pretty and winsome Lena Harrigan.

WEXFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. E. P. Ronan.—Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer is here for the first time with some of her most successful productions. *Mary, Queen of Scots* was performed on Monday night, the part of that ill-fated Queen being played with power and pathos by Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer. Miss Katherine Herbert's impersonation of Queen Elizabeth was excellent, and through all the scenes of the tragedy she maintained this high level. Miss More Dunphie was very sympathetic as Queen Mary's nurse Hannah; and Miss Adelaide Cecil as Margaret Curl did well. The Earl of Leicester was admirably represented by Mr. F. Skein, and the part of the Earl of Shrewsbury was quite safe in the capable hands of Mr. A. J. Vincent. Mr. Leonard Cheetham as Lord Burleigh and Mr. Robert Pittard as Sir Amias Paulet were efficient in their respective rôles, and a special word of praise is due to Mr. Sydney Bland for his portrayal of the part of Sir Edward Mortimer.

WEYMOUTH.—ROYAL JUBILEE HALL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. J. Nobbs.—Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, is running here, and is an enormous success. Miss Beatrice Varley as Prince Alfair won a triumph from the first, her acting and singing being loudly applauded. Miss Ella Wilmer as Red Riding Hood was most successful, and soon became a favourite; Miss Ive Bolton as Boy Blue and Miss Kate Fennington as the Baron's daughter Rosa were excellent in their respective parts. Mr. Fred Anderson as Tommy Green and Mr. Lovell Rowland as Simple Simon were amusing; but most of the fun of the piece is in the hands of Mr. Geo. Newham as Baron Sherlock Holmes and Mr. Fred Latimer as Dame Trot, who kept the house in roars of laughter at each performance. Miss Fay Desmond was very successful as the Fairy Queen, and has a remarkably fine voice. Mr. Bert Hammond was good as King Winter, as also was Mr. Albert Victor as the Demon Wolf. The first act was a pretty setting, concluding with a rustic ballet and the crowning of the Queen of the May. The second act shows the forest, introducing a most effective hunting ballet, and the concluding scene was a splendid production representing the palace, and amidst dazzling dresses and scenery, rejoicings and revelries there was a grand procession of jewelled amazons. "The Waif's Dream of Fairyland" forms the transformation scene. Mr. Arthur Sheldrake, who composed the musical numbers, is deserving of the highest praise, as also is Miss Ella Wilmer, who arranged the dances and ballets.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—The New Year attraction here is Mr. Dickie Clare's company with *Lucky 'Liza*. The farce goes very well indeed and creates roars of laughter. Mr. Dickie Clare is most energetic and his work in the triple rôles of Silas Slim, the Judge, and the French waiter, is very funny. Mr. P. W. Benson handles the part of Peter Pettitoe cleverly, and Mr. Syd Hind as Paul Pettitoe is not one whit behind. The Biffins of Mr. J. W. Forrest is an excellent performance. The Barnaby Blatherwick of Mr. A. W. Thompson teems with humour; and Mr. Bert Collins makes the most of the part of Tompkins, the Court usher. Mr. George Minto is extremely funny as P.C. McGurke, Miss Bella Russell hits off the peculiarities of Maria Pettitoe with ability, and Miss Hesta Brownie is amusingly sentimental as the romantic Virginia Blatherwick. In the title-rôle Miss Madge Brownie is charming, and quite wins the hearts of her audience. Mention should not be omitted of the dances by the Sisters Mascott and Miss Queenie Bell.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—An exceedingly well-appointed pantomime, *Aladdin*, is presented by Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company in the presence of large audiences. Mr. Daley Cooper, as Abanazar, the "modern Maskelyne," leads a capital cast of "immortals," and Aladdin is charmingly represented by Miss Fanny Wright. Miss Kitty Brewster is charming as Princess Badroulbadour, and Mr. Julian Mack is a most entertaining Widow Twankey. Mr. Victor Roxborough, Mr. Geo. Robins, the Bros. Brooks, Miss Jannie Hallsworth, and Miss Louie Collier are also very successful in their respective characters. As specialities the Brewster troupe and Robins and Collier lend attraction to the production.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Admirable comedy is furnished by James Toner, imitator of popular vocalists; Vasey and Ramsay, in a dancing act; Morny Cash, the Lancashire Lad; Eily Adair, comedienne and dancer; the Bros. St. Clair, who play football on cycles; the *Peaccmaker* comedy sketch; and the McConnell Trio, vocalists. The Pichel troupe are excellent in a risley act; and George Young, a blind collier, is a marvellous performer on the concertina. Isa Hilton, Scots contralto, has a remarkably fine voice, which she uses with good effect. Miss Hilton proves a great favourite and meets with a capital reception nightly. Tock and Tord are also exceedingly well received in a bar performing and wrestling act.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Buhl and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival. The pantomime of *Dick Whittington* continues to attract large audiences, and is giving great satisfaction. Mr. Bob Hutt, Mr. Rolando Martin, Mr. Fred Danvers, and the Fimans, are all responsible for much of the fun; and Wallan, the juggler, and the Six Lancashire Lasses, are also very popular. All the other artists continue to give satisfaction.

EMPIRE PALACE.—This week's bill is headed by Theo Boumeester, the Dutch protean character-actor, who, with his own company, appears in *Who is Guilty?* The Wartenburg Bros. give a good exhibition of foot juggling; Picitt and Lizette appear in *The Crazy Cook*, and are well received; the programme also includes the De Breans, seiographists; Hillman and Russell, vocalists and comedians; Alice Maple, comedienne; Bert Lytton, comedian; and C. V. Adams, comedian.

HIPPODROME.—This week's entertainment consists of *The Grip of Iron*, which is being played by Messrs. Knight and Denman's company; the principal characters are well acted by Mr. Fred Powell, Mr. George Denham, Miss Rosabel Dodd, and Miss Muriel Inglis; while Mr. Wallace Curnock, Mr. A. G. Polson-Turner, Mr. T. R. Lockwood, Mr. John Brittain, and Mr. Norman Tracey do justice to their respective parts.

WORKINGTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Manager, Mr. Falconer Jackes.—There was a large and appreciative house on Monday night to witness *The Taming of the Shrew* by Mr. Benson's Shakespearean company. As Petruchio Mr. Henry Herbert was debonair and clever; Miss Dorothy Green as Katharina was equally spirited, and the scenes between them afforded great pleasure; Mr. R. Davis was excellent as Baptista; and Mr. P. Merivale scored as Vincentio, Mr. G. Ames as Lucentio, and Mr. H. Morrell as Hortensio. Miss Louise Graeme was a charming Bianca

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls.—This week France and Francis do a clever acrobatic turn; the Brothers Tarrant cause roars of laughter with their smart patter; Miss Lily Gaston, male impersonator, scores with her dancing; Mr. Dan Ashton, the original Lancashire collier, gives his character sketch, "The Collier Lad"; Miss Vinnie Loftus sings with success; and the gorgeous pantomime, "Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp," is presented by the electric tableaux machine.

YORK.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—*Goody Two Shoes* was produced on Boxing night by Mr. Charles Card's company. In the title-rôle Miss Annie Casey is a decided attraction, and has gained a host of admirers. Miss Florence Black is a handsome Roland, her singing and acting being of a high order to merit. Mr. James Kurry as Sammy is a host in himself; he causes much merriment throughout the piece. The Sisters Bronson get through a lot of hard work, and their efforts are highly appreciated; James Topping is a very clever Simple Simon; whilst Mr. Sydney Dean gives a thoroughly humorous rendition of the Dame. Cyrus and Maud with their donkey do well, and the performance of Sword and Robb calls for special mention.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—The New Year attraction here is Mr. John Tiller's grand Christmas pantomime *Dick Whittington*. Miss Jessie Templeton as Dick Whittington is a clever actress, with a sweet voice and good figure, and all her songs are well received; Miss Dorothy Gould is a demure and winning Alice; Miss Lizzie Hay as Princess Zuleikah is a dainty actress, and brings down the house with her Dutch song and dancing; Helda Vining makes the Emperor a pleasing personality; Will Lytton as Jack Idle causes much laughter, his local hits being much appreciated; George Ellis-ton is one of the principal fun purveyors as Eliza, and is untiring in his efforts, and his immediate success must be very gratifying to him; as the Captain and Mate Teddy Gibbs and Barny Dixon are distinctly amusing; Mr. Gaston Morel as the Cat is deserving of a special word of praise for his smart performance; and Mr. Herbert Garside makes the most of his part as Fitzwarren. The dancing and singing of the group of eight children are well received.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

AT a meeting of the Committee of the Heads of Departments' Association on Tuesday two applications for membership were granted and two stage-managers elected as honorary members. It was decided to hold the annual general meeting on Friday, the 25th, when the election of officers, the annual dinner, amendments to rules, and the celebration of "Federation Day" will be dealt with. One of the proposed amendments to rules is intended to provide for the admission of stage-managers, who, alone, among those connected with the stage have no society to which they may belong.

THE Variety Artists' Federation have invited the Theatrical Sports Committee to combine the theatrical sports with those which the Federation will provide at the Crystal Palace on Thursday, June 27, on which day the celebration in London of "Federation Day" will take place. The scheme is a large one, and of such a nature as to be most attractive to the public. Similar arrangements will be made in Manchester and other cities at home and abroad.

AT a meeting of the Committee of the "Daymen's" branch at 29, Wellington-street, Strand, on Friday, a number of applications for membership were considered. A report was presented as to the work of the joint committee acting for the alliance, and great satisfaction was expressed at the result attained so far.

THE Savoy Theatre stage staff received a Christmas box of 10s. each. At the Lyric Theatre Mr. Lewis Waller sent direct to the homes of the staff a joint of meat with his compliments and good wishes.

THE fund raised for the benefit of the staff, musicians, and others employed at the Hippodrome, Brixton, is being distributed in weekly sums in proportion to the wages which they would have received had the theatre remained open.

AT the interview which took place last week between Mr. Frank Macnaghten, Mr. F. Baugh, Mr. Frank Gerald, of the V.A.F., Mr J. B William and Mr. Jesson, of the Musicians' Union, and Mr. William Johnson, of the Stage Employees' Society, an amicable agreement was arrived at. The aim of the Musicians' and Stage Employees' Societies is to secure rates of pay recognised by their respective societies and the employment of members, in order that a definite agreement may be established between the management and the societies covering both the duties and the rights of the men employed. As was pointed out, the societies cannot control non-members, and to avoid the probability of friction in the future, all employees, whether in the band or on the stage, should be members of their society, and the society held responsible for the due and proper performance of the duties entrusted to each man. This arrangement is as much to the advantage of the management as it is to the societies.

THE National Association of Theatrical Employees has received applications from many provincial cities in the United Kingdom for assistance to form a local branch of the Society, and there is every indication that the stage employees generally are waking up to a sense of responsibility for their own welfare. The societies included in the Alliance are helping in this work.

AT the Alhambra Theatre the "pros' money" has recently become a bone of contention. For several years past the "tips" and payments for services received from artists, amounting to a considerable sum, have been shared among the entire stage staff twice annually. An attempt has been made by two heads of departments to exclude, as and from Jan. 1, the night hands from participating in this fund, but the proposal was resented, and it has finally been decided by the management that the taking of "tips" should be prohibited in future, and anyone guilty of asking for or accepting "tips" would be discharged. The action of the V.A.F. in calling upon their members to refrain from giving tips has, no doubt, much to do with this decision.

AFTER the performance of *The Amateur Socialist* on Saturday last Mr. W. G. Farrell presented, on behalf of the stage staff, a silver-mounted walking stick to Mr. E. Dagnall, the stage-manager. Mr. Farrell, in making the presentation, expressed the appreciation of the stage staff for the kindness and courtesy shown them by Mr. Dagnall, and trusted that he had not had occasion to feel that he at any time needed to use a stick on them. Mr. Dagnall, in replying, said he was much pleased with the present they had made him, and he was more than satisfied with the staff, and hoped they would all be together again.

THE first fancy dress skating carnival in connection with the great asphalt rink at the Crystal Palace will take place on Wednesday evening, Jan. 9. The programme includes a grand march, an exhibition of fancy and trick skating by Mr. A. T. C. Bridge, a comical fancy dress hockey match by members of Sanger's Circus (including Pimpo) and Crystal Palace team, concluding with the judging and prize distribution. The classes comprise ladies' and gentlemen's most handsome costumes, ladies' and gentlemen's most original costumes, advertisement class (ladies and gentlemen), comical class, and a children's class. Numerous prizes will be given.

AMUSEMENTS IN BIRMINGHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*The Queen of Hearts* is meeting with the success it so truly deserves, the house being crowded at every performance, night and morning. Mr. George Robey and his brother and sister artists work in admirable style and accord, and the pantomime is already assured of a long and prosperous run.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Crusoe's Adventures* is attended by full houses at the matinées as well as in the evenings, and the production promises to become one of the most successful ever known here.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*Cymbeline* is visited by large audiences, who applaud with much enthusiasm the beauties of this grand revival, in which a truly sumptuous production receives its proper complement in the perfection arrived at in the acting. Miss Edith Turner's impersonation of Imogen is delightfully good throughout; she is powerful in her scorn and exquisitely tender in her pathos, and the audience frequently rises to her. Mr. Vincent Clive as Leonatus Posthumus gives a finished performance, in which faultless elocution and virile force stand prominent. Mr. C. F. Collings as the lying Iachimo acts most artistically; Mr. Stanley Lathbury as Cloten is worthy of much praise; Mr. Walter Raynham makes a steady Belarius; Mr. Arthur Soames is admirable as Pisanio; and Mr. William Dexter as Cymbeline, Miss Barbara Fenn as the Queen, Mr. Arthur Monroe as Philario, and others are deserving of the utmost commendation. The woodland and floral sets, the Battle scene, and the Cave of Belarius are wonderfully well contrived, and for this Messrs. Hugh Freemantle and William Palmer are to be credited.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—*Cinderella* is running with extraordinary smoothness and success, and crowded houses may be expected here for many weeks to come.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*An Englishwoman* met with full appreciation on its revival here last Monday by the Metropole company. A full house was present, and the applause was frequent and well deserved. Mr. Percy Dawsone in particular gave a highly meritorious performance as Capt. Frank Earlsworthy; Mr. Austen Milroy acted in a firm and convincing manner as Major Gurdon; Mr. Francis Everard did well as Fred Chatsworth; Mr. Fred A. Mackensie met with his usual success as Silas Mayne; and Mr. J. Hindle Taylor as Pipkins and Mr. Chas. Linley as Ruggles were conspicuous. Miss Rose Ralph was acclaimed for her splendid acting as Sylvia; and Miss Florence Mayhew as Grace Warner, Miss Amy Corelli as May Wildmere, and others were cordially approved of. Mr. Andrew Emm as the Rev. Robert Everard infuses much vitality into the play.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The Babes in the Wood*, which has won for Mr. and Mrs. John Walter's company the most favourable comment, concludes here to-night (Saturday).

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*The Girl Who Lost Her Character* is playing finely and to crowded audiences, Mr. Douglas Bruce's company being responsible this visit. Miss Ethel Bracewell portrays the titular rôle, Molly Vernon, with irreproachable taste, and obtains the full sympathy of the house; Miss Oda M. Ryder acts with fascinating charm as Rose Seymour; Mr. John B. Shinton invests the rôle of the Rev. Robert Everton with many pleasant virtues; Mr. George Steel acts in a stirring manner as Jack England; Mr. Frank Adair proves a capable exponent of villainy as Capt. Geoffrey Caversham; Miss Lydia Mannington deserves credit for her fine acting as Marian Franklyn; Mr. Geo. Mitchell is good as James Sutton, and Mr. Harold Macartney is successful as Weatherby. Mr. George H. Asquin shines in the humorous rôle of Dick Punch, Miss Daisy Meynard scores as Isabella Jones, and Mr. John Wilson as Purvis is well to the fore.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Mme. Alice Estv who makes her first appearance at the Empire this week, in an operatic scena entitled *Betta the Gipsy*, displays a voice of considerable culture and flexibility. Two powerful scenes from Dickens, the one from "Oliver Twist," the other from "The Old Curiosity Shop," are given with much dramatic power by Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lucas. Phil and Nettie Peters are a couple of comedy artists from the States; the Stavordale Quintette are remarkably fine banjo players and harpists; Ginnett's *Rejected Remounts* is not new, but the sketch loses none of its attraction by repetition; the Dandies, Mascotte Trio, lady gymnasts, Henry A. Moore

PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT BRADFORD.

Mr. Hart's brilliant pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, which was successfully produced on Boxing Day at the Theatre Royal, will certainly rank amongst the best of his many charming effects in the way of a Christmas feast, containing, as it does, all the elements of success. Mr. Doyle is, as usual, the author of the "book," which is smartly written, and brim full of witticisms and local allusions, and the twelve scenes by Messrs. Hall and Tritschler are a succession of harmonious stage pictures beautiful and delicate in colouring. The costumes are lovely in design and colour; Miss Kate Brandon has the control and direction of the charming Corps de Ballet, and delightful and entrancing music by Mr. Harry Rushworth adds greatly to the charm of the production. Mr. Doyle has furnished a coherent story in the orthodox way. In the Port of Hull (which is the first scene) it begins with the hero's wedding, and his subsequent detention by the Press Gang. The Suffragettes are an amusing incident, Dame Crusoe entertaining with a speech, and then we are taken to her cottage, where there is a smart midshipmen's chorus. On the Way to the Docks is an uproariously funny scene, with a moving track, and The Deck and subsequent Wreck of the Saucy Sue are fine bits of stagecraft, the tableaux ending with "Robinson on the Raft." Mention should be made of the chorus of juvenile sailors, who do smart cutlass drill on deck. The Home of Neptune is a most effective scene, with a beautiful ballet of charming water nymphs, and a remarkable transformation is made to The Beautiful Isle of the Sea, where everybody appears again, and Crusoe, after some amusing business, rescues Friday from the savages. In King Cariboo's Kraal there is more fun, Billy Williams, the Burnells, and May Henderson eliciting roars of laughter. Crusoe's Hut is a lovely picture, and here again the fun is rampant. Crusoe is rescued by British Bluejackets, and the finale is The Masque, a charming combination of movement, dazzling brilliancy, and colour, eliciting great applause.

The company is well balanced and clever. Mlle. Du Roche, who takes the part of Crusoe, has a sweet voice and a charm and grace of manner which at once win admiration. Mr. Oliver J. Round is quaint and particularly dry and humorous as Mrs. Crusoe, with her funny Suffragette speech. As Billy Crusoe Mr. Frank Calvert's humour is very amusing. Miss Mabel Sealby daintily and brightly fills the part of Polly Hopkins, betrothed to Crusoe. There is a strong element of burlesque in Witty Wattie Walton's assumption of the Privateer Will Atkins. Anything more diverting than the quaint humour of Mr. Fred W. Graham as Captain Hokum would be difficult to imagine. Miss Ivey Roze plays Harry Helm brightly. As King Koko Cariboo Mr. Billy Williams is genuinely original and funny. Miss Marjorie Langdon is charmingly picturesque as the dusky Princess. The Four Burnells, Messrs. Bert, Joe, Andy, and Alf, in their respective parts of Friday, Saturday, Hokey-Pokey, and Wankey Fum, elicit roars of laughter; and Miss May Henderson's success as Topsy is at once genuine and complete. Mr. T. C. Maxwell's fine voice is heard to advantage as the Demon, Davy Jones, and Miss Mab Paul's fine stage presence fits her well for the part of Fairy Seapearl. There is, without doubt, a long and prosperous voyage in store for Robinson Crusoe.

"DICK WHITTINGTON" AT DEVONPORT.

Mr. Geo. S. King has signalled his accession to the management of the Metropole Theatre, Devonport, by placing before the public a pantomime which has seldom before been excelled in Devonport. The chosen theme is *Dick Whittington and His Cat*, and in the book written by Mr. Fred Watson, the old, old story is strictly adhered to. Room is made for any amount of local hits, and, in addition, several popular songs are introduced. The musical conductor, Mr. E. Graham-Dunstan, is responsible for the main portion of the music, and it is tuneful to a degree. There are eleven scenes, and these are all accompanied by appropriate effects. The wreck of the "Washing Tub" is perhaps the most effective, but the gorgeous transformation, The Bower of Love, also deserves special mention. In the Palace scene, various specialities are introduced by the company, Lieut. Chard's performing dogs being an additional attraction. The company throughout is a very powerful one. To Miss Emily Custance falls the part of Dick, and she fills the rôle in a capable manner. As Alice Miss Hetty Gale is superb, and she quite captivated the audience with her winsome acting. Mr. William P. Sheen, in addition to being the producer of the pantomime, enacts the part of Caroline, the cook, in a mirth-provoking manner. The Idle Jack of Mr. Walter Dale is a real character-study, and he is to the fore throughout, as also are Carr and Carr, the Captain and Boatswain of the "Washing Tub." Miss Eileen Sheila Desmond is an ideal Good Fairy; while Mr. F. Durning-Fraser is equally good in the opposite direction as Malevolentio. Thomas, the Cat, is in the capable hands of Mr. Harry Gilmore; and the other parts are also well enacted. Altogether it is a really good show, and the crowded houses to date testify to the public's appreciation.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT DOVER.

The pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*, which was produced at the Theatre Royal on Boxing Day, has been running this week with great success. The book, by Messrs. Brian Daly and M. East, is most amusingly written, and the music, by Mr. J. Nurnberger, is both appropriate and melodious. Great admiration has been excited by the excellent scenery and charming dresses, which are a valuable assistance in forming the pretty stage pictures. Miss Agnes Paulton at once established herself a firm favourite with her captivating impersonation of the title-rôle. Her admirably-rendered vocal contributions are received with enthusiasm, the most popular being perhaps "London town" and "Joe, Joe, Joe!" "Run, run, you little ones," followed by a graceful dance, is only one of the pretty numbers allotted to Miss Maud Denny, who plays Polly Perkins in a most delightful manner. Miss Eileen Cuthbert as the Fairy sings with much expression, and renders her lines with commendable clearness of enunciation; Miss Ada Davidson, a dashing Jack, looks exceedingly well, her song of "Roses, roses everywhere" being made particularly effective by the distribution of rosebuds among the audience; and Miss Lily Breme, a graceful Nellie, has a most tuneful voice and a charming manner. The fun-making owes much of its success to the untiring zeal of the clever comedian Mr. Will Smith. As Mrs. Crusoe he works hard and well, and fully deserves the plaudits that greet the conclusion of the scenes in which he takes part. Mr. Henry W. Hatchman plays Will Atkins with the skill of an experienced actor; and Messrs. Chas. H. and William Phydora also add to the fun with two highly-amusing and hilarious portrayals. Mr. W. Venner as Davy Jones and Mr. Brian Daly as King Hokey play with a fine appreciation of their part in the story; Mr. H. E. High acts Friday in a truly whimsical fashion, and also contributes a clever turn on the roller skates; several pretty and neatly-executed dances are given by the Four Diamonds; and the Phydoras contribute a novel and exceedingly smart musical act.

"SINDBAD" AT DUBLIN.

On Boxing Day Mrs. Michael Gunn produced the pantomime of *Sindbad the Sailor* at the Gaiety Theatre, and it was witnessed by a thronged audience. The production was under the direction of Mrs. Michael Gunn, with the assistance of Mr. Clarence Hunt, to whom great credit must be given for their excellent and merited energies. The book of words has been written by Mr. Edwin Hamilton and Mr. I. M. Lowry, who have done their work well. Mr. I. M. Lowry, associated with Mr. Clarence Hunt, is responsible for the lyrics, and the musical portion was arranged by Mr. W. S. Navarro, who is to be congratulated for his successful and pleasing composition.

There are eleven scenes, the first being the Port of Balsora—a beautiful picture—where we meet sailors, slave-dealers, gipsies, water-dealers, &c., in some well-chosen choruses, together with a pretty umbrella dance. Miss May Beatty was a charming Sindbad, with a pleasing and effective manner, and with an excellent voice which was heard to great advantage, particularly in "I was dreaming" and "Moon, moon." Miss Blanche Astley acted and sang very nicely as Zorilda; and the Princess was excellently portrayed by Miss Nina Osborne; and Miss Agnes Gunn made an admirable Spirit of Adventure. Mr. Gus Walker as Mrs. Eliza Sindbad was humorous, and his songs, "Jilted" and "I am the girl for him," were capitally sung. Mr. T. E. Finglas as Pompey in his coon songs and dances was particularly good, and received numerous encores; Mr. G. H. Snazelle was amusing as Captain Smackanhit, and his fine voice was heard in several numbers with excellent effect; another clever character was that of Tinbad, by Mr. Edward Lauri, who made the most of his part; and Mr. Fred Arthur was a distinguished Sultan and sang his topical song, "Budget," with great ability. Mr. Cecil Kingsley acted well as the Grand Vizier, and his rendering of "My Japanesy Girl" received a hearty encore. All the other parts were capably filled, and Mme. Malvina Cavaallezzie's Quartette of Dancers are deserving of special praise for their graceful and clever dancing. The scenery was painted by Mr. James A. Hicks and the ballets arranged by Mme. Noir and the Misses Crawford.

"THE SLEEPING BEAUTY" AT HANLEY.

There is not a dull moment in Mr. Elliston's pantomime of *The Sleeping Beauty and the Mystic Yellow Dwarf*. It is compact, and runs with a smoothness rarely seen. The story is capitally presented, and amusing items follow each other in rapid succession, making an entertainment of which Mr. Elliston should feel proud.

In Part I. there are some fine stage settings, including the Palace of King Half-a-Crown, where we are introduced to Mr. Alf. Bishop as the King. He is exceedingly funny, his song, "Wearing the breeches," being a capital item. Mr. Dave O'Toole is the Queen, and his acting, business, and songs are, without doubt, exceptionally clever, a taking item being "Anything that's wearing trousers." Miss Lillie Vane makes a dainty principal girl; she has a nice appearance and a pleasing manner, and possesses a voice of good quality. Miss Agnes Molteno as the Fairy Queen contributes a clever and artistic performance, her rich voice being heard to great advantage in "Sleep, gentle beauty, sleep," at the conclusion of which is a beautiful tableau. Miss Erme Gordon's first song is "The Man from Manitoba," which is cleverly rendered, and will become most popular. She has a fine stage presence, and acts her part of the Prince in a thoroughly capable and artistic manner. "Zuyder Zee" is also a highly successful song of Miss Gordon's, in which she receives much assistance from Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of dancers. Miss Ada Tilley as the Grand Chief of Court, does some good work, her Japanese song (during which she is assisted by the Morton Trio) being capital. Mr. J. W. Churchill as Count Incognito is well suited, his singing of "Hello, a different girl again," being most rousing; he contributes largely towards the success of the production. In The Queen's Garden scene Miss Tilley and Mr. Churchill give an imitation of amateur melodrama which is admirable. The Morton Trio are beautiful singers, and their various numbers are received with great enthusiasm. The Howards, in their musical turns, are much appreciated, their cornet playing being admirable; Miss Lottie Stone's dancers are most accomplished, their ballets being quite a feature. Part I. finishes with Ganty's Electra's Bower, which is a truly wonderful conception; three fountains are in full play, behind which Electra is seen flying.

Part II. opens with a capital song by the Princess, Miss Vane, viz., "Wouldn't you like to learn to love me," which is much admired. Miss Molteno has another song, in which she scores her usual success. Mr. Dave O'Toole is amusing in a stump speech on the Suffragettes. Mr. Lonnen Meadows is seen as the Yellow Dwarf, and his acting is really clever. As stage-manager he also is deserving of the highest congratulations. Mr. Carlile Vernon handles his orchestra well. The scenery is admirable, The Castle of the Yellow Dwarf being an exceptionally fine set. There are crowded houses nightly, and judging from the appreciation shown by the audiences, Mr. Charles Elphinstone and Mr. Elliston will have a most successful season.

"DICK WHITTINGTON" AT SOUTHAMPTON.

To devise a pantomime which will delight children while keeping their elders amused is no light task, but Mr. Fred Mouillot's *Dick Whittington*, which is running merrily along at the Grand Theatre, Southampton, well and worthily fulfils its mission as a clean, wholesome entertainment. It is essentially a children's pantomime, but there is much that will please the "grown-ups" as well. It is refined, witty, picturesque, is supplied with delightful music, and abounds in fun of the boisterous order. The scenery—particularly "Highgate Hill" and the "Palace of Morocco"—is splendid, the dresses are handsome, and the ballets (arranged by Miss Pauline Rivers) are admirably executed. Mr. Guyton Heath, on whose shoulders the onus of the production has fallen, is to be heartily congratulated on the success he has achieved; whilst a word of praise must also be given to Mr. Bruce Lindley, the energetic stage-manager, who has worked hard and successfully to second the efforts of his chief.

The cast has been most judiciously chosen, one and all working well together for the all-round success of the show. For the name-part, Dick, no better choice could have been made than that of Miss Millie Engler, who is no stranger to Southampton. Miss Engler has a fine presence, is the possessor of a pleasing voice, and plays the part in an engaging manner. She successfully features the most popular song of the season, "By the side of the Zuyder Zee," with a dainty chorus of Dutch damsels, which wins golden opinions. It is a sweetly-pretty ballad, tastefully sung by Miss Engler. Miss Florrie Sainders, another artist well known to the habitués of the theatre, makes a decidedly vivacious and spirited Alice, dancing smartly and singing with considerable fervour, one of her best efforts being "The bamboo bungalow." Miss Joan Deering as the good fairy Campanolia proves herself a capable and fascinating vocalist. The Misses Queenie Le Brunn (Lord Slightall) and Ivy Proudfoot (Princess) also score heavily. First and foremost amongst the comedians we must mention Mr. Percy Cahill, who thoroughly grasps the humour of the part of Idle Jack. He gives a very droll reading of the idle apprentice, and is rewarded with continuous outbursts of applause. Mr. J. W. Hooper's amusing episodes as the Cook never fail to create laughter, and during the time Messrs. Cahill and Hooper occupy the stage the fun waxes fast and furious. The catch-phrase "You are like our Georgie" is already all over the town. Mr. Robert Rivers adds to the fun as Fitzwarren; Mr. Bruce Lindley is effective as the Emperor, whose attendant is well played by Mr. Ivan Ewart. The Bowery Boys as the Captain and Lieutenant introduce some clever knockabout business; and Mr. Anthy is an agile Cat. The work of the chorus deserves recognition, as does the conscientious work of the conductor, Mr. Warwick Moore, who, with the assistance of Mr. Sullivan Brooke, was responsible for the bright and tuneful music of the production.

"DICK WHITTINGTON" AT SUNDERLAND.

Mr. Chas. E. Machin's annual pantomime was produced on Boxing Night at the Avenue Theatre, and had a most successful and hearty "send off." There was a crowded holiday audience, who appeared to thoroughly enjoy the performance from start to finish. Mr. Machin has again left the production entirely in the hands of Mr. J. F. Elliston, with the most excellent results. The rehearsals were under the personal direction of the producer, who has been ably seconded in his arduous labours by his chief, Mr. Lewis Leslie. The well-known story is fairly well adhered to throughout, but the author has allowed considerable latitude with his book, so as to enable him to introduce the necessary opportunity for much fun and lively frolic. It is divided into two parts, with eleven scenes, the first of which is a capital set, representing On the Road to Cheapside; and Scene 3 shows Fitzwarren's Stores, likewise of admirable quality; whilst Old London Bridge affords ample opportunity for a grand processional display, depicting the Old London Guilds and Dick's Dream. Scene 7 brings us to London Docks, with the good old ship the Saucy Sarah ready to start on her voyage. Then we are quickly transferred to the Empress's Palace at Morocco, and by a later transmission to the Gardens of the Guildhall. The book is by Mr. J. Hickory Wood, and has been brought quite up to date. The spectacular effects, if not on extravagant lines, are sufficiently pleasing to the eye.

The title-rôle is entrusted to Miss Madie Scott, a young lady of graceful presence, that secures her the public favour on her first appearance. Her work is full of vivacity and energy, whilst the rendition of her various numbers is distinctly pleasing. Possessing a sweet voice, she shows evidence of having received a good musical training, whilst her acting is all that can be desired. In "Everybody works but father," with a refrain that is immediately caught up by the audience, and also in the now popular "Zuyder Zee," with juvenile chorus and dance, a distinct success is scored. Miss Veronica Brady makes an attractive Alice Fitzwarren, and her clever step-dancing proves most successful. Miss Violet Morgan, who undertakes the part of Mary Ann, is much in evidence. An artist of the Louie Freear type, she keeps the house in rare good humour, and in her impersonations of various variety artists she earns a distinct reputation, and also scores in a quaint rendition of "A Soldier's Life." Miss Flo Chevalier is another artist who is to be commended on her interpretation of "Polly Peach," earning well-deserved applause for her song, "There's a man in Manitoba," sung with plenty of "go" and verve; whilst her bright vivacity is notable throughout. The generally unsympathetic rôle of the Empress of Morocco is entrusted to the stately Miss Gertrude Lytton with the happiest of results, her vocal numbers being received with nothing but praise. Miss Clorinda Thurtell is fully equal to the demands of the Fairy Queen, her tall, graceful appearance standing her in good stead, and her vocal abilities are perhaps best displayed in "The rose of my heart," which is received with every mark of favour. As to the comedians, chief honours easily go to Mr. Tom Foy, the Idle Jack of the pantomime. His quaint, quiet humour evokes much mirth, whilst his "localisms" rarely fail to hit the mark. In "My brother's little farm" he scores instantaneously, and his burlesque of "Sousa's Kelile Band" is very funny. Mr. Bert Harrow proves entertaining as Alderman Fitzwarren. Mr. J. C. Scalter, a comedian who is extremely popular in the North Country, makes an excellent Gertrude, the cook, distinguished by a strong flavour of the local vernacular. Both in patter and dancing he is extremly smart. Messrs. Jack Foy and Tod Lowen, as Captain and First Mate respectively of the Saucy Sarah, add a fair quota of fun, and the former is amusing in a parody on "The old apple tree." Mr. Ted Foy as Mouser, the cat, proves a clever acrobat, and his smart antics amuse the younger spectators especially. As to the specialities, premier position is given to the smart and agile Aquamarinoff Troupe of Russian dancers, whose exhibition of their National dances is invariably well received. The dressing and staging are fully equal to the requirements. The costumes are by M. Alias, from designs by Mr. Howard Russell.

"PETER PAN" AT MANCHESTER.

In place of the usual pantomime, Mr. J. M. Barrie's delightful fantasy, *Peter Pan*, was staged at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, on Monday, Dec. 24. The first-night audience saw at once the quality of the novelty, and soon showed unmistakable signs of satisfaction. Miss Zena Dare's interpretation of the title-rôle is a clever, graceful, sympathetic performance from first to last, and the revelation of a charming personality. An unqualified success is attained by Miss Ela Q. May as Wendy. This little lady must continue to win all hearts, as she did on the first night, by her unforced style and delicious "motherly" ways. Supremely good also is the work of Mr. Lionel Mackinder, who, to a smart and amusing delineation of Mr. Darling, adds a truly fearsome impersonation of Captain James Hook, the pirate. Much of Mr. Barrie's wit is lavished on the latter character, and Mr. Mackinder revels in it. In appearance he is as ghastly and terrifying a buccaneer as ever sailed under the black flag; his leer is positively wicked, and he reaches the very lowest depths of malice—an expression excruciatingly funny to the audience—when, impelled to dance by a sudden sprightly outburst of the orchestra, and as suddenly baulked in the middle of his dance by the cessation of the music, he turns upon the conductor the grin of a hyena. Mr. G. W. Anson as Smee and Mr. Stratton Mills as Starkey figure as typical members of the crew of the pirate ship—if Smee at the sewing-machine may be accepted as representing the domestic side of the ship's company. Beside these, Miss Irene Rooke is admirably natural as Mrs. Darling; Masters Walter Cross and Philip Tonge are distinctly clever as John and Michael; Mr. George Lupino gives as intelligent a version of the dog Nana as could be desired; Miss Mabel Lamont is sufficiently pert and inscrutable as Liza, "the author of the play"; Miss Hettie Muret as the singing Mermaid and Miss Minnie Mills as Baby Mermaid add to the effect; and as the two chief Redskins, Great Big Little Panther and Tiger Lily, Mr. Humphrey Warden and Miss Florence Wells appear with the traditional picturesqueness and dignity. Miss Phyllis Monkman contributes the Pillow dance with great success. An opulent production of the piece was promised, and in respect of cast, costumes, and general staging, the promise is certainly fulfilled. Phenomenal bookings and full houses suggest a long and successful run.

PRESENTATION.—At the New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, after the opening performance of *Bo-Peep* on Christmas Eve, Mr. J. Callaghan, the musical director, was presented with a silver-mounted biscuit jar, subscribed for by his colleagues in the orchestra. The presentation was made by Mr. J. C. Kelly, and Mr. Callaghan suitably responded.

MR. HENRY DE SOLLA, who is playing Lawyer Sly Fox in the pantomime, *Red Riding Hood*, at the Royalty Theatre, Chester, is also responsible for the stage-management of the production.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, DEC. 19.—Miss Eleanor Robson, who is evidently determined to let her admirers see her in a variety of rôles during her present engagement at the Liberty Theatre, is appearing in a new four-act comedy, by Clyde Fitch, entitled *The Girl Who Has Everything*. The story is only mildly interesting, but several of the characters are cleverly drawn, and the piece is admirably acted by Miss Robson and her fellow-players. The girl who has everything in this instance is the girl who has love; that being the sum total of human happiness, according to Mr. Fitch. She is Sylvia Lang, twenty years old, and wealthy. She lives with her brother-in-law, Guy Weems, and her sister, Mrs. Molly Weems. The latter dies, leaving her children to the care of Sylvia, and her fortune to her dissipated husband. A month before her death she had made a will leaving her property to Sylvia, in trust for her children. Believing that undue influence has been brought to bear, Sylvia engages a young lawyer, Philip Waring, to contest the will, and falls in love with him. The widower, Guy Weems, opposes the suit, and presently causes a breach between Sylvia and her sweetheart. This he does by defaming the memory of his dead wife, and persuading Waring to believe that she was implicated in an amorous intrigue, the exposure of which would bring disgrace upon Sylvia. The lawyer thereupon advises the discontinuance of Sylvia's suit, without being able to give his reason for so doing, and Sylvia, believing him to be faithless, repudiates him, and wins her case. Then Weems urges Sylvia to marry him, but is repulsed, this scene being the climax of the play. Finally, Waring's mother explains the circumstances to Sylvia, and her love affair ends happily. As Sylvia Lang, Miss Robson is delightfully girlish and winsome; Mr. H. B. Warner acquits himself well as Philip Waring; and other important characters are ably represented by Miss Isabel Irving, Miss Ada Dwyer, Mr. Reuben Fax, Mr. Earle Brown, and Master Donald Gallaher.

"THE LIGHT ETERNAL," a romantic play of early Rome, by Martin V. Merle, has had a short run at the Majestic Theatre. The scenes are laid in Rome during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian. Artemia, the Emperor's daughter, discovers that Marco Valerius, the man she loves, is a Christian, and, in her blind worship of the Roman gods, herself signs the warrant for his death by wild beasts in the arena. Marco Valerius has won a medal for declamation offered by the Emperor, and has been appointed to a place in the Royal military service. The subject of the oration being the willingness of the real philosopher to die for the truth, the young man in an excess of excitement blunders into substituting the word "Christian" for philosopher and "faith" for truth. When confronted with his former friend, Carvinus, son of the Prefect of Rome, and asked to explain, he openly avows that he is a Christian. It then develops that Carvinus is in love with Artemia, and that she has begun to look with favour upon Valerius, who is made Captain of her bodyguard. An impassioned love-scene between the pair is interrupted by the arrival of Carvinus, who bears a warrant for the arrest of Valerius. The revelation that her lover belongs to the hated faith turns Artemia against him, and she delivers him up to his enemy. The subsequent proceedings involve her repentance, her acceptance of Christianity, and her effort to save the man she loves. The "great scene" of the play takes place in the throne-room of Diocletian, and shows the Emperor's attempt to force Valerius on his knees before the altar of Jupiter. A thunderbolt shatters the altar, and leaves in its place a shining sword suspended in the air. But Diocletian is unmoved, and the final scene shows Valerius on his way to the Coliseum, where he is to be given to the lions.

MR. DAVID BELASCO is to have a new playhouse in West Forty-fourth-street, to be called the Stuyvesant Theatre. Miss Blanche Bates laid the corner-stone last week, the theatre being "christened" with wine by the Misses Reina and Augusta Belasco.

"THE PARISIAN MODEL," a musical comedy, by Harry B. Smith and Max Hoffman, has scored an emphatic success at the Broadway Theatre. Miss Anna Held is the star, and she is as attractive as ever. Her song, "I can't make my eyes behave," has to be repeated again and again. Anna, the Parisian model (Miss Held), comes into a large fortune through the death of an old lady who has taken a great liking to her. Julien, her artist lover, suspects that she has come by so much money in some less commendable manner, and is always declaring his intention of leaving her. The model does her best to shock him, and keeps him in a constant state of perturbation until the time comes for her to explain. The costumes are decidedly "startling," and some of the songs and dances are of the variety known as "spicy"; but Broadway likes that sort of thing, and Miss Held has decidedly renewed her popularity after her long absence. The piece is handsomely mounted, and some novel features are introduced, which are the best of their kind seen on the local stage for some time. In the final scene the stage is transformed into a skating-rink, with Miss Held and the entire company on rollers.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Dec. 31, the Operetta by Goldfaden, entitled

"DOCTOR ALMASADA."

The Jewish Operatic and Dramatic Company produced on Monday night Goldfaden's operetta, *Doctor Almasada*, which met with a very favourable reception, and, although it is not a particularly effective play, it says much for the ability of the Yiddish artists that they were able to endow it with so much vitality, especially in view of the fact that the cast was a very small one. The piece is fairly well mounted, and the overture and many numbers—distinctly reminiscent of modern melodies, despite the place of action being Palermo in the fifteenth century—were excellently sung by a strong chorus assisted by the admirable orchestra, so well controlled by Professor Ferdinand Staub. The stage-management on the whole was good, although it was difficult to understand why, in Act 2, a scene in Italy should have a background of Windsor Castle fronted by Russian shops. Mme. J. Kayzer ingratiated herself into the hearts of the audience by the refined and graceful manner in which she portrayed Isabella; and Miss Mary received well-merited appreciation for her pleasing exposition of Elvira; while Mme. Goldstein acquitted herself well as Miriam. Mr. N. Hamburger was hardly suited as Alonzo, although he presented an intelligent reading of the part. As Don Diego, Mr. J. Fineberg proved himself quite equal to the task, giving an impersonation which was marked by force and vigour; while the commanding presence of Mr. N. Isaacowitch helped to make his performance of Don Pedro stand out with excellent effect. As Dr. Almasada, Mr J. Goldsmith entered thoroughly into the spirit of the character, and gave an earnest and artistic representation that was entirely free from staginess, while his rendering of the vocal numbers allotted to his share was greeted with considerable applause. Praiseworthy and competent support was given by Mr. J. Scherman as Gomez. During the week, *The Witch*, *The Bigamist*, *The Flag of Judah*, and *The Robbers* have been played.

We regret to learn that Lieut. Julian Malvern, the lessee of the Royalty Theatre, Morecambe, is laid up with an attack of bronchitis.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LA MÔME AUX BEAUX YEUX."

A Drama, in five acts, by M. Pierre Decourcelle. Produced at the Ambigu on Dec. 30.

La Môme ..... MLLE. VERA SERGINE
Madeleine Nerville ..... MLLE. VERA SERGINE
Mme. Nerville mère .... MME. AIMÉE TESSANDIER
Emilienne ..... MLLE. NORIS
Florestine ..... MLLE. DESROCHES
Jenny ..... MLLE. DHERBLAY
Alice Darbelles ..... MLLE. DIVONNE
Raymond Darbelles ..... M. ANDRÉ CALMETTES
Bonnefoy, dit Ciboulot ..... M. DECORI
Victor Fermont ..... M. JANVIER
Nerville ..... M. CAILLARD
Jacques ..... M. GREY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, JAN. 3. — One day perhaps someone will write the secret history of the Paris theatres, and we then will know why it is that pieces produced at the Chatelet are by M. Victor de Cottens, and that most of the dramas brought out at the Ambigu bear the signature of M. Pierre Decourcelle. And as neither of these gentlemen can claim to rank among our best dramatists, it would be interesting to know why they are more favoured than their more talented colleagues. It does not seem a difficult problem, yet nobody has been able to solve it. *La Môme aux Beaux Yeux* is a melodrama of the ordinary type. It is on the time-honoured lines, and not a single new idea is introduced into it. But the great reproach we make the author is that he complicated the plot so terribly as to make it extremely difficult to follow the personages through the intricate situations. Those who leave the theatre without a headache can deem themselves lucky. The story is as follows:—Madeleine, the wife of a business man, bears a striking resemblance to "la môme aux beaux yeux" (the girl with the beautiful eyes), a frequenter of the Folies-Bergère and night cafés. And this resemblance will be understood when I inform you that the "môme" is an illegitimate daughter of Madeleine's father. That Madeleine, a society woman, does not know of her sister's existence need hardly be said. Darbelles, a medical practitioner, is in love with Madeleine, who repels his advances. Nerville, Madeleine's husband, is suddenly ruined by some unlucky speculations, and resolves to go to Klondyke, leaving his wife and little boy in charge of his friend, Darbelles. And, having discovered that the "môme" is leading a dissolute life, he resolves to take her with him, to get her away from her bad entourage. Unfortunately, the "môme" has been foolish enough to speak about the affair with some of her friends, and poor Nerville is waylaid by them, robbed of his money, and thrown, half-killed, on the rails of the Mulhouse express; and, in order to carry out their plan, the robbers locked the "môme" in a cellar. She arrives at Darbelles' house, mad with fright, and dies in the doctor's arms, without having been able to say what befell Nerville. And when the doctor sees that girl who resembles the woman he loves, he hits upon a horrible plan. He gives Madeleine Nerville a sleeping draught, tells everybody of Madeleine's death, and the "môme" is buried under the name of Madeleine. This scene—the best of the piece—is very well arranged, for we are shown Madeleine awaking from her sleep, and witnessing her own funeral. Madeleine expresses her surprise at all this, but when the doctor tells her that he resorted to this strange proceeding from love, she simplifies matters by throwing her arms round his neck. We are now half-way through the drama, and an interval of eighteen years ensues. Yes, eighteen years! And when the curtain rises again, curious things have occurred. Nerville, poor devil, did not die from his wounds, nor was he run over by the Mulhouse express. It would have been better for him if he had. The express was late—as it sometimes happens with French expresses—and the railway officials have dragged him off the rails. But on him were found papers of an escaped convict (which one of the robbers had slipped into his pocket), and he is sentenced and sent out to a penal settlement. Why did he not speak? Why, during eighteen years, did he not write a line, either to his wife or to his friend Darbelles? These are questions which M. Decourcelle alone can answer. But he returns at last to see his wife married to Darbelles. He also meets his would-be murderers, and the hour of reckoning arrives. One of the assassins tries to settle the matter by shooting Nerville, but the latter, for once, is in luck, and the bullet kills Dr. Darbelles. But during these eighteen years a new generation has sprung up. We knew in the beginning that Madeleine had a little boy, whom we again meet as a twenty-year-old youth. Moreover, Madeleine has had from her second husband a daughter, whose acquaintance we make when she is seventeen. And the "môme," although dead, helps to complicate matters by contributing a son. All these young people fall in love with one another, marry, and no doubt have children, which, however, M. Decourcelle has been considerate enough not to add to the long list of *dramatis personæ*. If the play is weak, the cast is strong, and the author has every reason to feel grateful to his exponents, who, one and all, were admirable.

IT is not necessary to touch upon the plot of *Madame Butterfly*, which had such a successful run on your side of the water. Sufficient to say that it was received with much favour by the public. M. Carré certainly did wonders in the way of mounting, on which he evidently had bestowed endless trouble. The different tableaux were really works of art. As regards the interpretation, M. Clément acquitted himself well; but Mme. Marguerite Carré, in the name-rôle, was somewhat lacking in charm, both in her singing and her acting.

THE THÉÂTRE DES ARTS, under the new management of M. Landay, has inaugurated its season with *De l'Amour aux Larmes*, a three-act comedy by M. Maurice Lefèvre, of which the least said the better. The second piece was an adaptation of Aristophanes' *Clouds*, which, as everybody knows, contains a violent attack on Socrates and his teachings. The adaptation is by M. Sacha Guitry, the talented son of the actor-manager of the Renaissance. Although it is not in any way "Greek," but Parisian, in treatment, it proved to the taste of the audience, and met with a hearty reception. It is said that during the rehearsals of the *Clouds*, the author had in one of the scenes a costermonger on the stage, who called out "Carrots and potatoes for sale!" until someone reminded him that, in the days of Aristophanes, the latter delicacy was unknown.

"THE TYRANT OF PADUA."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—May I call attention through your valuable paper to the fact that in June, '99, I produced at St. George's Hall an adaptation of Victor Hugo's play, *Angelo, Tyrant of Padua*? I mention this as I note that the drama *The Tyrant*, lately produced at the Osborne Theatre, Manchester, by Miss Marie Dagmar and Mr. F. Somerfield, is taken from the same source, and as my play—christened *A Woman's Sacrifice*—may shortly be revived, I would like to establish the priority of my claim.—Yours faithfully,

ALICE CHAPIN.

47, Wymering-mansions, Elgin-ave., W.
Jan. 1, 1907.

ON Saturday evening last Mr. Oliver J. Round, the Mrs. Crusoe of Mr. John Hart's pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Bradford, was suddenly taken ill, and at a moment's notice the resourceful stage-manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle, was called upon to fill the rôle, which he did with much success.

THEATRICAL LAW IN 1906.

BY ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B.

The past year has had some very interesting legal features to those concerned in theatrical and musical matters. First and foremost must come the Musical Copyright Act of 1906. It has been a matter of notoriety to all connected with music that the path of the composer and the publisher has been a hard one. No sooner had the former given to the world the benefit of his talents, expecting to receive the just reward for his labours, than the dreaded pirate seized his prey, and the composer had the bitter mortification of seeing his compositions hawked about at every gutter. Not only did he get no profit from the wares sold by the itinerant, grubby vendor, but his property was seriously damaged. The law would protect his watch, which, after all, could be replaced, but it would not prevent the product of his brains, which was a much more important matter, from being stolen. Publishers, too, could not risk their money in purchasing property which could be taken away from them at once. The consequence was that enterprise was checked, and there was a very great danger of popular song-writing becoming a thing of the past. Now, happily, that is all averted, and music composers for the future can compose happily and peacefully. But it is a marvellous thing that (presumably) intelligent men could have taken up the attitude assumed by Mr. Caldwell. One only has to read his speeches in the House of Commons to gasp with wonder that a representative of the people, elected to make laws to further justice, to protect property, and to increase the well-being of the community, could have had such an extraordinary idea of his duties. My own impression is that Mr. Caldwell, M.P. (we must never forget the M.P.), being a Scotsman, and wishing to take away the reproaches against his countrymen of joking "wi' difficulty," determined to perpetrate a huge joke, and this was his effort.

But in the chorus of praise which has been given rightly to those who have at length redressed the grievances of the music hall, I do not think that sufficient mention of the good work done by *The Era* has been made. For years past *The Era* has been to the fore in discussing the subject, in opening its columns to the publisher and composer, and in advocating their claims in leading articles, and it is owing very greatly to these efforts that the new Act has been passed, though, of course, the credit for the passing of the Bill is pre-eminently due to Mr. T. P. O'Connor, who so ably engineered it through Parliament.

The Act itself has the great merit of being short, and its provisions seem clear. Its operation will be watched with great interest, and we shall soon see if the lawyers can pick holes large enough to drive the proverbial coach-and-four through it.

Another matter of general interest during the past year has been the conflict between the theatres and music halls over the Sketch Question. There is no doubt that the theatres have scored; but their success is due to an ancient statute, made in the dark ages, when the modern development of both theatres and music halls could not have been foreseen. Lest, however, I be accused of exaggeration, I must say that the expression "dark ages" refers to the year 1843, and the "ancient statue" of the Theatres Act of that year. After all, in these quickly changing times sixty-three years is a long time; and in framing Section 11 of the Theatres Act, 1843, I do not think our grandfathers meant to hit the modern thirty-minutes' sketch at the halls. That section made it an offence to perform any stage play at a place not licensed as a theatre. The reason for this was two-fold. The safety of the audience at such a place was to be considered, and also the morality, or otherwise, of the play. Neither of these would apply to the modern music hall. For there is no place at which the County Councillor looks with such a searching eye. Woe betide the licensee in November, when he comes for his renewal, if an artist has offended the austere morality of the County Council! He will have a bad quarter of an hour indeed. Everyone knows that managers of music halls nowadays will not allow any indecency in songs or sketches. Indeed, plays appear in theatres which would not be allowed for one moment in the halls. And the County Council are just as much down on any imperfection in the exits. It must, therefore, be admitted that the reason for Section 11 of the Theatres Act, 1843, cannot apply to-day. Yet it was on this technicality that the theatres won. It is pleasant to know that after battles at many of the principal police courts in London the two combatants have signed a treaty of peace; and it is to be hoped that this civil war will not break out again.

Another interesting feature of the past year has been the growth of the V.A.F. I remember many years ago proposing such a union to the late Herbert Campbell and Dan Leno. Their answer was that it was impossible, as music hall artists would not stick together. Well, they seem to have done so now, at any rate; and I hope the V.A.F. will continue to look after the interests of its members. I suggest to that body that it should endeavour to get all artists to sign no contracts without first submitting them to the Federation. My experience has been that artists will sign anything, so long as they get the much-wished-for contract. Certainly it is rather hard to expect the fair part of the profession, at any rate, to wade through a document closely printed on both sides; but in no other business would people sign a document on which their bread-and-butter depended without carefully reading through it, and, if necessary, having its provisions altered. I look upon music hall artists as, on the whole, requiring more protection than any other members of the community, though I can readily recall some of them who could hold their own with anyone for astuteness and business care. In these days of Unions there is much good to be accomplished by the V.A.F., and I wish that body every success.

One of the most interesting cases in the Courts last year was that of Mr. Gus Elen against the London Music Hall. The action was brought by Mr. Elen for damages for libel by the London Music Hall in printing his name in small letters on the bills, instead of "starring it." It had been decided in Russell *v.* Notcutt in 1896 that it might be a libel to print an artist's name third on the list of artists instead of first. In that case the well-known vocalist, Miss Ella Russell, was the plaintiff, and her action was against Mr. Percy Notcutt. Miss Russell won her case, obtaining £100 damages, and the verdict was upheld in the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal pointed out that it might be a libel, though it was not done maliciously. In Mr. Elen's case the jury found for him, and gave him damages. The case is undoubtedly important, as it is, as it were, the complement of Miss Russell's case. It may now, therefore, be considered settled law that it may be a libel to bill a star artist inconspicuously, though it must be carefully borne in mind that the question is always one for a jury, and I do not advise every artist who considers he or she is not billed properly to rush into litigation.

MAKES THE SKIN AS SOFT AS VELVET.—Beetham's "LAROLA" preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold, winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, chaps, &c., and KEEPS THE SKIN SOFT, SMOOTH, and WHITE at all Seasons. INVALUABLE for the COMPLEXION, DELIGHTFULLY SOOTHING AND REFRESHING after walking, golfing, cycling, motoring, dancing, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles, 1s., 1s. 9d, and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. BEETHAM and SON, CHELTENHAM.—[ADVT.]

"THE FRENCH HUSSAR."

A Romantic Irish Drama, in Five Acts, by J. W. Whitbread, produced at the Queen's Royal Theatre, Dublin; on Monday, Dec. 24.

Tony Bassett .....MR. HARRY RICHARDSON
Major Barton .....MR. JAMES DALY
Captain Montague Croft ....MR. RYLAND LEIGH
Tom Burke .....MR. FRANK LYNDON
Capt. Geo. Augustus Bubbleton
MR. ION IRELAND
Charles De Meudon .....MR. BYRNE DAWSON
Darby McKeown .....MR. JAMES O'BRIEN
Ted Malone .....MR. TOM BAYLEY
Napoleon .....MR. DANE CLARKE
General D'Auvergne .....MR. JAMES DALY
General Berthier .....MR. C. ROMER
De Beauvais .....MR. LAWRENCE BYRNE
Mehee De La Touche .....MR. ION IRELAND
French Officer .....MR. OWEN THOMPSON
Chief Secretary of Ireland .....MR. C. ROONEY
Josephine .....MISS MADELINE HURST
Marie De Meudon .....MISS CECILIA DARE
Marie Bubbleton .....MISS AMY WHINGATE
Kitty Malone .....MISS JENNIE GLENN
Mary Malone .....MRS. E. B. BRADY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The French Hussar, described as a romantic Irish drama, has been dramatised from Charles Lever's well-known novel, "Tom Burke of Ours," by Mr. J. W. Whitbread, who has achieved another brilliant success. The play has many sensational and stirring scenes. It was produced on Christmas Eve before a large and appreciative audience by Mr. J. W. Whitbread's company of Irish players, under the direction of Mr. Dane Clarke. Judging from the applause and enthusiasm with which the drama was received it will have a successful run. The plot may be briefly summarised.

The first act opens at Cromore House, Tom's home, where we make the acquaintance of Bassett, the rascally lawyer of the Burke family, and Captain Croft, alias Ferguson, the fourth heir in present succession to the Burke estates. This individual boasts that in five years he will have the other three heirs removed from his path, and so secure everything to himself. Croft, professing a friendship for Tom, prevails upon him to join the Irish party, then about to strike a blow for the liberation of their country. Croft is really in the service of the English garrison as a spy. He entrusts Tom with some documents for the French Emissary, and directs him to the cottage of Ned Malone—a patriot Irish farmer—and while proceeding there he meets Marie, the Emissary's sister, with whom he falls in love at first sight.

In Act III. the scene is changed from Ireland to France, and in the Garden of Versailles appear Napoleon and Josephine, Ministers of the Court, and De La Touche, a secret agent of Napoleon, though in reality working against him. Tom encounters the Emperor's displeasure by displaying his affection for Marie, whom Napoleon has promised La Touche will be his wife, and meets with numerous exciting adventures, following pretty closely Lever's novel. Eventually he receives the Legion of Honour, and becomes one of Napoleon's most trusted friends. Then comes the startling news from Ireland that Tom is the owner of Cromore owing to the demise of his brothers, and the scene changes back to his native land. Croft believes that Tom is dead, and is about to take possession of the estates when Tom arrives in Dublin. In the end Croft and Bassett are arrested, and, after all the hero's trials and tribulations the curtain rings down on the triumph of virtue, the downfall of vice, and the happiness of Marie and Tom Burke of "Ours."

Mr. Harry Richardson played the rôle of the villainous Attorney of Law, Tony Bassett, capitally, and had a most able accomplice in Mr. Ryland Leigh as Captain Montague Croft. Mr. Frank Lyndon displayed ability as the hero, Tom Burke, and Mr. James O'Brien had ample scope to indulge in quaint Irish humour in the part of Darby McKeown, known as "Darby the Blast." Miss Jennie Glenn was particularly good as Kitty Malone. Mr. Dane Clarke, in his characteristic reading of Napoleon, acted with considerable skill and ability. Mr. James Daly, in the dual rôle of Major Barton and General D'Auvergne, sustained these parts admirably, as did Mr. Ion Ireland those of Captain Geo. Augustus Bubbleton and Mehee De La Touche.

Miss Madeline Hurst submitted an excellent portrayal of Josephine, and Miss Cecilia Dare was pleasing and effective as Marie De Meudon. As Marie Bubbleton Miss Amy Whingate did very well; and Mr. Byrne Dawson made a good French Emissary (Charles De Meudon). Ted Malone was well represented by Mr. Tom Bayley, as was Mary Malone by Mrs. E. B. Brady. Mr. C. Romer as General Berthier, Mr. Lawrence Byrne as De Beauvais, and Mr. C. Rooney as the Chief Secretary were all good in their respective rôles. The staging, scenery, and dresses were all that could be desired, and Mr. P. M. Levenston provided the incidental music.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, Dec. 31, Drama, by Walter Melville, "THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."

Instead of pantomime at Messrs. W. and F. Melville's popular London house we have good, full-blooded melodrama for our Christmas fare. Mr. Walter Melville's stirring play, *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning*, is an excellent specimen of its kind, and, well acted, well staged, and beautifully mounted, no doubt it will attract vast audiences for several weeks to come. Mr. Roy Redgrave gives a fine, breezy impersonation of the jolly Jack Tar, Willie Mason, and in the more serious aspect of the part he acts with becoming pathos. Mr. Walter Thornton gives a fine study of gentlemanly villainy as James Harcourt. Mr. Willie Read is a comic Johnny Walker, his eccentricities being the cause of much mirth. Mr. Frank Robertson is seen to advantage as the manly Jack Fenton; Mr. John Nolan is an excellent Bill Slater; Miss Nannie Meade displays much talent in the part of Vesta le Clere, and looks very handsome; Miss Frances Ruttledge has an arduous part in that of the ill-fated heroine, and acts with unaffected pathos; Miss Marie Kildare considerably brightens the play with her brisk and spirited performance as the light-hearted music hall star, Poppy Slater; Miss Fyfe Alexander acts with much feeling as Lucy Coventry; and Mr. Kenneth Black is good as Richard Fenton.

THE Grand Theatre, Forest Gate, has a Christmas attraction in *The Babes in the Wood*, by Gilbert Hudson, which was given an enthusiastic welcome. There is plenty of fun and not a grain of vulgarity in the book, and the members of the company never miss an opportunity of creating laughter. Miss May Neilson as Robin Hood played in a dashing style, and soon established herself first favourite. As Maid Marion Miss Annie Lerigo was graceful and refined. A charming pair of Babes was found in Miss Lily Hill as Jack and Miss Bertha Evelyn as Jill. Mr. John Hill as Richard III. and Mr. Wal Barker as Catesby kept the audience in laughter the whole time they were on the stage. The Robbers were realistically played by the two MacGregors. Mr. Tom Nelson as the Baroness was extremely funny. The incidental music was done full justice to by the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. J. Neiman. The scenery is by Mr. Ernest Hall.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. W. L. Richards, the talented *chef d'orchestre* of Belfast Empire, was, on the 24th ult., the recipient of a handsome conductor's bâton from the members of his orchestra as a mark of esteem.

DEATH OF MR. HENRY WESTLAND.

Mr. Henry Westland, the actor, who died on the 27th ult., was born in London on Sept. 14, 1838, and his first professional engagement was at the Theatre Royal, Leamington, opening there on Easter Monday, 1861. In the winter of the same year he joined the company of the Theatre Royal, Dublin, and played there during the "starring" engagements of Charles Matthews, G. V. Brooke, Charles Kean, and John Drew, in the various plays in which those actors played the leading rôle. For the season 1862-3 Mr. Westland was re-engaged for the same theatre, but afterwards joined the Theatre Royal, Brighton, under the late H. Nye Chart's management, for two seasons. In the autumn of 1865 he played at the Lyceum Theatre, under Mr. Fechter's management; and in August and September, 1866, at the Haymarket, during an engagement of Miss Amy Sedgwick, he appeared as the Baron, *The Stranger*; Glavis, *The Lady of Lyons*; Trueworth, *The Love Chase*. For the winter season, 1866-7, he was engaged by Mr. Sefton Parry for the New Holborn Theatre, and at the same house in the following season played Mr. Chouser in the famous racing drama, *Flying Scud*. A little later, at the same house, he played the part of Mowbray Darens in Tom Taylor's unsuccessful piece, *The Antipodes*, in the cast of which he was associated with Miss Ellen Terry and Miss Charlotte Saunders. In 1869-70 he fulfilled an engagement at the Globe Theatre, under Mr. Sefton Parry. Subsequently he was engaged on various tours, viz., in 1870 with Mr. Boucicault, in 1871 with Mr. Arthur Garner's Royalty company, and during the winter season, 1872-3, for leading business at the Amphitheatre, Liverpool. In 1874 he was engaged by Mr. John Hollingshead for a tour with Mr. Lionel Brough and Miss E. Farren, and in 1875 went to the United States with the late Mr. J. L. Toole, of whose company he was a member for the long period of twenty-seven years.

Henry Westland, or, to give him his proper name, Henry Robert Brame, was laid to rest in the picturesque graveyard of Old Willesden Church on Wednesday afternoon. He is in goodly company. Not very many paces from his little allotment of ground is the vault which contains the remains of Charles Reade. In the same vault, by the way, lies interred the body of Laura Seymour, the artist for whom Reade bore so great an affection that he erected a tomb to her memory, and willed that he should be buried in it beside her.

Previous to the interment of Mr. Westland, a funeral service was held at St. Andrew's, Willesden, at twelve o'clock, the Rev. Ernest Morgan, the vicar, officiating here and at the graveside. The principal mourners were Mr. Wm. Brame (son), Mrs. E. Brame (sister-in-law), Mrs. Harry Brame (daughter-in-law), Mrs. Syde (niece), Mr. W. H. Reed, Mr. and Mrs. David Seaward, and Mr. Charlesley, Mr. George Shelton, and Mr. A. C. Marler, old friends of the deceased, attended the service in the church.

The grave in which Mr. Westland was buried also contains his wife, who died in 1895, and his daughter, Minnie Esther Hancock, who passed away in 1899. Mr. Westland's coffin bore the inscription :—

HENRY ROBERT BRAME,
Died December 27, 1905.
Aged 68 years.

Several beautiful floral tributes, bearing affectionate messages, were sent. "To our beloved father, from Will and Triss," said one; others, "Love and deep sympathy, from Mrs. Brame and Dolly"; "In loving memory, from Conny" (daughter-in-law); "A tribute from an old schoolfellow, W. H. Reed"; "With the deepest sympathy and respect, from the members of the Constitutional Club, Willesden Green"; and from Mr. George Shelton, and Mr. A. C. Marler.

"DOROTHY O' THE HALL."

Dorothy o' the Hall has returned to the New Theatre, where Messrs. Paul Kester and Charles Major's play was originally produced last spring, and ran until July. Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry have, since that date, successfully toured the provinces with the piece, which has everywhere been a source of delight to country playgoers who have had the privilege of witnessing it. Quite an admirable specimen of the romantic drama is *Dorothy o' the Hall*, the authors having so skilfully used the material at their disposal that scenes of comedy and melodrama follow one another in rapid succession. The characters, too, are ably sketched; and the period of the play lends itself to ornate and picturesque surroundings. There are only two changes in the cast, Mr. Alan Borthwick succeeding Mr. Ernest Imeson as an old retainer, and Miss Lilias Waldegrave appearing as Mary Stuart in the place of Miss Adeline Bourne.

In the part of Dorothy Vernon, Miss Julia Neilson finds abundance of opportunities of displaying her abilities as a versatile actress, with a charm of manner and a fine presence that are responsible in no small degree for her popularity. The fair Dorothy is a young lady of various moods, and subject to sudden changes of temper; but Miss Neilson proves quite equal to the task set her, whether the heroine of the romantic story be engaged in fighting a duel, and thus giving proof of her skill as a swordswoman, or whether she is listening to the ardent wooing of her lover, Sir John Manners. This part is just suited to Mr. Fred Terry, who happily possesses every qualification for the effective representation of a gallant of the period. His graceful bearing and air of distinction are quite in keeping with the character of the Earl of Rutland's son, and the love scenes between Sir John and Dorothy are delightfully natural. Mr. Terry presents an exceedingly handsome appearance in the picturesque costume of the period, and altogether may be congratulated on a performance of striking merit and fascinating interest. Mr. J. Carter-Edwards is an actor of wide experience, and nothing could be better than his portrayal of Sir George Vernon, the lord of Haddon Hall, and a stern father, who insists on the most complete obedience from his children. Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw does all that is possible with the part of Sir Malcolm Vernon; and Mr. D. J. Williams renders valuable service as Lord Burleigh. Mr. Frederick Groves does good work as the Earl of Rutland; and the same remark applies to Mr. Malcolm Cherry's Sir William St. Loe. Mr. Horace Hodges succeeds in impersonating the faithful jester, Perkin, with a judicious and effective blending of humour and pathos. Miss Miriam Lewes assumes the part of Queen Elizabeth with befitting dignity and power; Miss Lilias Waldegrave plays with credit the part of Mary Queen of Scots; Miss Claire Pauncefort scores as Lady Vernon; and Miss Mary Mackenzie makes the best use of her opportunities as Jenny Foxton. Miss Marion Sterling as Bess, Mr. W. A. Haines as Mark, Mr. George Dudley as Gregory, and Mr. Alan Borthwick as an old retainer, all deserve favourable mention. *Dorothy o' the Hall*, on returning to her old home, had a very favourable reception on Monday evening, the principals being enthusiastically recalled at the close, and can confidently count on being welcomed by many new friends.

PRESENTATION.—On Monday evening the members of Mr. Lingford Carson's répertoire company, who, during the last fortnight, have played *A Modern Adventuress* and *Master and Man* at the Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, presented Mr. Fred L. Arthur, the esteemed manager of that place, with a turquoise and pearl breast-pin and an engraved sovereign-purse

DR. W. H. CUMMINGS AT BUXTON.

The second day of the Musicians' Conference at Buxton, which began on Tuesday, was marked by an important address on Voice Culture, delivered in the Grand Hall of the Empire Hotel by Dr. W. H. Cummings, the principal of the Guildhall School of Music. The chairman of the morning was Mr. Charles Hancock, of Leicester, who reminded his audience of the prominent part the North Midland section had played in the history of the Incorporated Society of Musicians and of the peculiar fitness of Dr. Cummings to deal with the subject of vocal culture, on which he was to discourse. He recalled a performance of Bach's St. Matthew Passion music in Westminster Abbey, under the late Sir Joseph Barnby, and paid a high tribute to the artistic way in which Dr. Cummings then sang the recitatives. "I sincerely wish it were possible," he added, "for our vocalists of the present day to receive such a lesson as I then had, for my own experience is that in the delivery of recitatives our singers are, speaking generally, woefully deficient."

Dr. Cummings prefaced his address by saying that the manner in which he came to sing the recitative alluded to by Mr. Hancock was rather curious. Sims Reeves refused to do it, and said no one would undertake it but Cummings, "and he was such a donkey he would undertake anything." He paid £2 for the full score, and with that and the Gospels before him he tried to imbue himself with the subject. He commenced his singing career as a chorister in St. Paul's Cathedral, he said, sixty-eight years ago, before he was seven years of age. During the few years he remained in St. Paul's choir he was taught the music used in the Cathedral service, but his voice was left to grow, no special instructions being given as to its use or abuse. Mistakes in the rendition of the service music were genially corrected by the master, William Hawes, aided by a charming little riding-whip—which he applied to their backs with benevolent impartiality, and which they found a very stimulating tonic. After referring to his early musical connection with the Temple Church, and the valuable lessons he got from James Bennett, one of the principal tenors there, Dr. Cummings continued: "Later on I was articled to John William Hobs, noted for his exquisite taste in singing, and a popular song composer. I learned much from him, and married one of his daughters." Coming to his subject, Dr. Cummings insisted on the necessity of the vocal student having the co-operation of a skilled and expert master to detect and correct the faults which the student could not discover for himself, and strongly condemned the use of the laryngoscope in teaching or learning the art of singing. The late Signor Garcia, the inventor of the laryngoscope, more than once expressed to him his great regret at the unwise and improper use which was frequently made of his invention, which he never intended as an aid to teach singing. In all matters of vocalism, the ear was surely the ultimate judge. Vocal colour and expression, proper breathing, and avoidance of the tremolo habit having been treated, Dr. Cummings said he was frequently asked by a beginner, "How long will it be before I can earn money by singing—three, six, or nine months?" For himself, he conscientiously believed that no singer ought to begrudge three to five years in acquiring the indispensable technique of his art. He regarded as impudent quackery many of the advertisements of the day which unblushingly declared that "Mr. So-and-So guarantees a perfect, permanent, natural voice for singing and speaking; no failures; easily acquired," or which announced a system that guaranteed, "irrespective of age, a perfect singing and speaking voice of full compass without a break," and that "could be acquired by correspondence." An old musician, Galliard, in 1743, said: "There have been singers who valued themselves for shaking a room, breaking windows, and stunning the auditors with their voice." What a pity these singers lived nearly two centuries ago! Some of the newest composers might have been glad of their services now.

In the evening Mr. J. Carlowitz Ames, of London, gave a lecture-recital on "The Tendency of Modern Music."

ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY.

A vast audience assembled at Queen's Hall on New Year's Night, when the Royal Choral Society gave a performance of *The Messiah*, under the conductorship of Sir Frederick Bridge. The principal soloists were Mme. Clara Butt, Miss Gleeson-White, Mr. Lloyd Chandos, and Mr. Watkin Mills, and good results were secured both from vocalists and chorus. Miss Gleeson-White sang "Come unto Him" with rare artistic expression, and in the contralto music Mme. Clara Butt's fine voice was heard to great advantage. Mr. Lloyd Chandos sang "Comfort ye" with no little dignity, and Mr. Watkin Mills interpreted the bass music with taste and musicianly skill; while the orchestra rendered the overture finely, and throughout the performance admirably supported the singers. Mr. H. L. Balfour skilfully presided at the organ.

HOCKEY.

MISS CECILIA FOWLER'S ELEVEN v. MISS WINIFRED BRADLEY'S ELEVEN.

Played near Clifton Downs on Christmas Day. At the commencement of the game, Miss Gracie Leonard unfortunately fell and broke her arm. Miss Lillie Clayton, who was on the field, went on in her place. The following were the teams:—

MISS FOWLER'S ELEVEN. — Miss Ethel Bowman, goal; Miss Ivy Bowman and Miss Lilla Carter, backs; Miss Cecilia Fowler (captain), Miss Lillie Belding, and Miss May Dadley, half-backs; Miss Gracie Leonard, Miss Minnie Leonard, Miss Alice Bernard, Miss Bertha Godfrey, and Miss Trixie Maynard, forwards.

MISS BRADLEY'S ELEVEN.—Miss May Fisher, goal; Miss Rosie Davies and Miss Alice Gibbs, backs; Miss Edie Lawrence, Miss Gertrude Thomas, and Miss Minnie Stevens, half-backs; Miss Winnie Bradley (captain), Miss Nellie Lawrence, Miss Alice Mitchell, Miss Maude Burgess, and Miss Florrie Hooper, forwards.

Referee, Miss Laura Thompson. Result: Miss Fowler's Eleven, nil; Miss Bradley's Eleven, 1 goal. Miss Minnie Stevens scored the only goal.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

M. HENRI WALENN'S ELEVEN v. BRISTOL X.L.C.R. A.F.C.

Played near Bristol on Dec. 29. A. Mattock, Jules Walenn, and A. E. Bailey scored the goals for their respective sides. In the evening an enjoyable concert was arranged. In the match the following were the teams:—

M. WALENN'S ELEVEN.—W. J. Horton, goal; A. Hamlin and F. Thorne, backs; H. Walenn, F. Harrison, and J. Walenn, half-backs; H. Edwards, E. Huntley, A. Mattock, P. Hewlett, and E. Bowman, forwards.

BRISTOL X.L.C.R. A.F.C.—H. Belding, goal; J. Lewis and A. Cox, backs; A. E. Bailey, H. Slade, and F. White, half-backs; J. Aubrey, E. Palmer, H. Clements, L. Clayton, and E. Belding, forwards.

Referee, L. Hamlin. Linesmen, H. Hare and J. Leonard

Result: M. Walenn's Eleven, 2 goals; Bristol X.L.C.R. A.F.C., 1 goal.

"THE MAN OF THE HOUR."

A Play, in Four Acts, by George Broadhurst; produced at the Savoy Theatre, New York, on Dec. 4, 1906.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Here we have an illuminative exposition of the ways and tricks of the professional politicians, "as practised in any large city in America," which is the indefinite locale of the play. In other words, it is a dramatisation of what the Americans call "graft." Alwyn Bennett, the "Man of the Hour," is a young man of good instincts, whose chief pursuit has been the spending of the fortune bequeathed to him by his father. He is suddenly made to realise his uselessness by the protest of a young woman named Dallas Wainwright, whom he loves. She is the niece of Charles Wainwright, a successful financier, whose fortune has been built on the ruin of a man who trusted him, and who killed himself when he was led to believe that his investments were worthless. Wainwright employs as his private secretary a young man named Henry Thompson, who turns out to be the son of the man he has ruined, and who has taken the post in the hope of finding an opportunity for revenge. Bennett has a rival in Scott Gibbs, a rich man, prominent in business and society, who, though outwardly respectable, is a sneak and a scamp. Gibbs, Wainwright, and a dishonest political "boss" named Harrigan are the principals in a scheme to secure a franchise for a street railway which, apparently granted by the city for a definite period and an equitable consideration, in reality contains a clause making it in effect a contract in perpetuity, and allowing the company complete control of a number of valuable privileges. To secure the passage of the Bill the conspirators must seat a man in the Mayor's chair, who will be subject to their orders. Bennett has had some experience in politics, and the schemers decide to elect him to the office. Then, to their great surprise, he develops a backbone, takes a stand for honesty in the conduct of municipal affairs, and refuses to be either intimidated or bribed. In an angry interview between Harrigan and Bennett, the "boss" charges the Mayor with ingratitude, and attempts to browbeat him, finally urging that Wainwright has invested not only his own money, but his daughter's entire fortune in the stock of the railway company. Bennett is thus placed between the choice of vetoing the Bill, in accordance with his public duty, or of approving it to save the fortune of the woman he loves. Bennett decides to veto the Bill, and the furious Harrigan threatens to pass it "over the veto." This is an effective climax, and it is reached in an uncommonly effective manner. The next move on the part of the corrupt politicians is to accuse Bennett, in the presence of Dallas Wainwright, of using his position as Mayor to enable him to make money in stock speculations. Bennett has, in fact, lent Percy Wainwright the money necessary to save his sister's fortune; but the girl, drawing a false conclusion, indignantly repels him, and accepts Gibbs. Bennett's enemies also undertake to prove that his father, whose character was unimpeachable, was himself a "grafter" on a large scale. But, with the assistance of James Phelan, a ward politician, who hates Harrigan, and the co-operation of Wainwright's secretary, Thompson, who has no end of important information, he is eventually able to defeat the "ring" at every point. There is a capital scene, showing two committee-rooms in the City Hall when the final session of the Board of Aldermen is in progress. The Franchise Bill is to be passed or killed. Harrigan requires fourteen votes to pass the Bill over the Mayor's veto. He has thirteen, but an Alderman on whom he relies for the fourteenth vote weakens at the last moment. Then Harrigan suggests that Gibbs shall offer to relinquish Dallas Wainwright, so that Bennett may win her, if Bennett will allow the Franchise Bill to pass. But the girl overhears Gibbs when he makes the offer, which is refused with contempt, and also learns the truth about the so-called stock speculations; and, having broken with Gibbs, accepts Bennett. Harrigan thinks he still has a trump card in his threat to expose the dishonesty of Bennett's father. But Bennett tells him that the story has been given to the Press by himself, together with a pledge to repay to the city every dollar that may have been lost through any irregularity in his father's transactions.

The play has attracted more than ordinary attention, and provoked considerable discussion in the newspapers, the critics agreeing that it is one of the best plays of the season. An excellent company is employed in its interpretation, the principal characters being represented in a lifelike manner by Messrs. Frederick Perry, James E. Wilson, John Flood, Frank MacVicars, George Fawcett, Douglas Fairbanks, Geoffrey Stein, and Misses Lillian Kemble and Harriet Otis Dellenbaugh.

DEATH OF MISS AMY WYNTER.

Amongst those who can go back a quarter of a century, and who have been directly concerned with the stage, many will doubtless remember the "beautiful Sisters Wynter." Amy—one of these—after varied experiences in town, appearing at the Gaiety and elsewhere, toured with Miss Maude Branscombe in *The Millionaire*, playing Kate Guyon. Afterwards she was engaged to appear in *The Nightingale*, when, on the eve of production, the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, was burnt down, the company including Messrs. Austin Melford, E. Dagnell, John Wainwright, and George H. Harker (who subsequently became her husband). Miss Wynter appeared in *The Twins*, *Confusion*, and many other comedies, and in *The Golden Ladder* as the matron. This was her last engagement. Since then her life has been passed "far from the madding crowd." Cultured, refined, and gentle, those who knew her will regret to learn that, in the prime of life, the "call" came, and peacefully she left for the "Light beyond."

PRESENTATIONS.—On Friday evening, at the Grand Pavilion Theatre, Bridlington, Mr. Bruce Green, whose representation of Mrs. Sinbad in the pantomime of *Sinbad the Sailor* is one of the hits of the piece, was presented by Miss Lena Stanton and Mr. Harry Joseph with a beautiful leather dressing-case as a mark of their appreciation of his services. Mr. Green is one of the oldest members of Miss Stanton's company, and was enthusiastically applauded on coming to the front to acknowledge the gift. On Saturday evening Miss Stanton was presented by Mr. Palmer, the manager of the theatre, with an elegant silver-mounted umbrella, as a souvenir of her company being the first to present a pantomime in the new theatre. Miss Norah Neville, who takes the part of Irza, was the recipient of a gold bracelet and a number of other small presents.

THE fame of Sir Walter Scott is perpetuated in Cranston's London hotels (unlicensed), which are named after the great novelist. The Ivanhoe, the latest of these palatial buildings, was erected to meet the increased demand for accommodation in these popular hotels, and to prevent as far as possible a recurrence of the disappointment and inconvenience to visitors who have been unable hitherto to secure rooms. The Ivanhoe, situated in Bloomsbury-street, the Kenilworth, in Great Russell-street, and the Waverley, in Southampton-row, are all high-class establishments, where excellent cuisine and every modern equipment are available.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR has been presented by the Music Publishers' Association of America with a handsome scroll inscribed with certain resolutions adopted by the Executive Committee of the Association in expression of their gratitude to Mr. O'Connor for his labours in connection with the Musical Copyright Bill. A facsimile of the scroll appears on another page.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM was among the victims of the recent severe weather, and was obliged to pass Christmas Day in his bedroom. The eminent actor has now, we are glad to hear, sufficiently recovered to undertake a journey to Egypt, where, by doctor's advice, he will spend the remainder of the winter. Easter will in all probability see Sir Charles back again in town in preparation for his contemplated season with Miss Mary Moore at the Criterion.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER has been duly adopted by the Unionist and Conservative Association of South St. Pancras as a candidate for the representation of the ward at the London County Council elections in March. The widespread popularity of Mr. Alexander should be the means of directing public attention to the attitude adopted by London's governing body towards the stage, and, at any rate, ensure the presence of a trusty advocate of the drama at their assemblies.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE will officiate at the City Temple in the capacity of lecturer on the 17th inst., when he will deliver an address on the Drama in the hall devoted to the Young Men's Literary and Debating Society, conducted by the Rev. R. J. Campbell. The lecture is the outcome of a long-standing promise made by the eminent actor to the famous pastor, between whom a warm friendship exists. Mr. Tree will in all probability compare the Drama of the past with that of the present, and will urge the claims of the stage as a moral and educating force.

AMONGST those who have sent wreaths to the lying-in-state of the late Baroness Burdett-Coutts are Mr. and Mrs. George Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Pinero, Miss Violet Vanbrugh, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Irving, and Mr. George Grossmith.

MR. AND MRS. TREE, Mr. and Mrs. George Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Collins, Mr. Lewis Waller, and Miss Evelyn Millard were among the guests at a luncheon which followed the distribution of hampers by the Lord Mayor, in connection with his Cripples' Fund, at the Guildhall on Monday. In a speech at the luncheon, the Lord Mayor said he hoped to start his Cripples' Home and Training School before his year of office expired. Among the later donations to the Fund is the amount of £77 8s. 4d., realised by the recent Lyric Theatre matinée.

MR LEWIS WALLER is rendering himself especially agreeable to his youthful patrons at the Lyric, the children at each performance during the Christmas holidays being presented with a little booklet in which the story of Robin Hood and his merry men is told, illustrated with photographs of some of the characters. *Robin Hood*, by the way, reaches its 100th night on Thursday next.

MISS EDITH WYNNE MATTHISON is to take up the rôle of Greeba in *The Bondman*, to be produced at the Adelphi this evening, in place of Miss Lily Hall Caine, who has been compelled by ill-health to surrender the part. The former young actress has decided to shorten her name for professional purposes, and will in future be known simply as Miss Wynne Matthison. Miss Wynne Matthison has several quick studies to her credit. She undertook Violet Oglander in *The Lackey's Carnival*, by Henry Arthur Jones, at a week's notice. Her memorable performance of *Everyman* was the result of less than a week's rehearsal, although playing nightly in répertoire; while she sustained the Lady of Lyons at three days' notice, and made her first appearance as Rosalind after only two brief rehearsals, but with the greatest success. And now Sir Henry Irving's last leading-lady is appearing in Mrs. Patrick Campbell's part in *The Bondman*, at the Adelphi, after only a few days' notice.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR has received the following telegram:—"T. P. O'Connor, Esq., M.P.,—The commercial travellers of the music publishing trade, at their annual dinner, held at the City of New York, Holborn, drank with great heartiness to your health and continued prosperity, and they tender you their sincere thanks.—TOM GREENLN, Chairman."

MR. ARTHUR COLLINS has decided thus early upon his next Christmas pantomime, which is to be *Dick Whittington*, written by himself and Mr. Hickory Wood. The civic hero was last seen at Drury Lane in 1894. The late Sir Augustus Harris, Cecil Raleigh, and Henry Hamilton collaborated. Dick was impersonated by Miss Ada Blanche, and the Alice was Miss Marie Montrose. The lamented Dan Leno and Herbert Campbell were the principal comedians; and Miss Lily Harold, who is this year the hero of the pantomime at Terry's, was "second boy."

MISS MARIE STUDHOLME had a "special turn" at Olympia on Thursday afternoon. It was no less than a christening ceremony whereat the lady officiated. The babes were two elephants belonging to the Fun City at Olympia, and previous to the function, at which they were designated Tweedledum and Tweedledee, while on their way to the Prince of Wales's Theatre, managed to free themselves from the trollies to which they were chained, and caused no little excitement in the Hammersmith-road. However, they were soon secured and taken back to Olympia. It was decided to abandon the christening on the stage of the Prince of Wales's Theatre, so Miss Studholme was good enough to take a trip to Shepherd's Bush, where, in Olympia's circus ring, she poured a little champagne on the trunk of each elephant, and named them Tweedledum and Tweedledee respectively.

MR. CHARLES FROHMAN has fixed upon Thursday next for the reopening of the Aldwych with the new musical play, *Nelly Neil*, the book of which is by C. M. S. McLellan and the music by Ivan Caryll. Miss Edna May will make her welcome reappearance as Nelly Neil, an aristocratic young lady with leanings towards the "simple life." She tries to convert people to that ideal, but in the end herself relinquishes her cherished principles. Variety is secured in the scenes, which are laid at a Fruit and Flower Shop in Regent-street, in the neighbourhood of Hampstead Heath, and in the Courtyard of the Savoy Hotel.

"THE BELLE OF MAYFAIR" has made a decided hit at Daly's Theatre, New York. The piece is played with admirable spirit by a company that includes several popular favourites. The song, "Why do they call me a Gibson Girl?" is repeatedly encored, and so is the number, "And the weeping willow wept." Miss Christie MacDonald, Miss Irene Bentley, Miss Valeska Suratt, Miss Alice Knowlton, and Mr. Van Rensselaer Wheeler carry off the principal honours.

MR. CHARLES CARTWRIGHT has been prevented by illness from appearing at the Lincoln-square Theatre, New York, in Paul Wilstach's play, *The Eastman Case*, the production of which has been postponed till January.

MR. CYRIL MAUDE has fixed upon Monday, Jan. 28, for the opening of the Playhouse, when he will present, by arrangement with Mr. Charles Frohman, the successful farcical comedy, *Toddles*, which will then be played for the 170th time. Since the old Avenue closed the means of access have multiplied, and playgoers from practically every suburb may be taken to its very door. The extension of the tramway system along the Embankment and the recent completion of the Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton Railway have conduced to this desirable result. The Charing Cross stations of the South-Eastern, Chatham, and Dover, and the District Railways are within a few yards of the theatre, and the Charing Cross station of the Baker-street and Waterloo Tube is close by. In June, moreover, the tube from Charing Cross to Hampstead, *vid* Euston, will be ready for use, and the electric cars which now run from Islington to Aldwych will be linked up with those of the Thames Embankment ere long. It will be readily admitted, therefore, that the new theatre occupies a unique position.

MISS EMMA AND MR. PERCY HUTCHISON produced *Peter's Mother* last Monday at the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne. The play and company made an instantaneous success, the theatre being so crowded at every performance that it was found necessary to arrange for an extra matinée for to-day. The company is an exceptionally strong one, and is headed by Miss Ruth Mackay, a late member of Mr. Tree's company, and Mr. Eille Norwood, who will play Mr. Kerr's part until he is required in London. Mr. Norwood has greatly enhanced his reputation during his recent engagements as leading man with Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. Maude, and Miss Emery, and is such an admirable comedian that it is incredible that the Metropolis should spare him even for a short period.

MR. HUTCHISON himself appears as Peter, and, by all reports, realises exactly the author's conception of the selfish and conceited youth. The company also includes Mr. Charles Harley, Mr. Townsend Whitling, Mr. F. G. Thurstans, Miss Mary Griffiths, Miss Florence Harwood, and Miss Hilda Honiss. The local Press declares that Mr. Hutchison has never brought a stronger company to Eastbourne, each member of the cast having been chosen exactly to fit each particular part, and the result is an artistic triumph for the astute young actor-manager, whose name has never yet been associated with a failure. The piece has unmistakably made a great and well-deserved success at its inauguration, the advance booking after Monday's performance going up to over £100 on the week. Another company with the piece will be sent out early in the spring.

MISS TITA BRAND, who has just returned from a tour of Shakespearean recitations in Switzerland and Belgium, has been specially engaged by Mr. Benson to play in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Leeds for five weeks.

MISS ELLALINE TERRISS officiated as the good fairy of Guy's Hospital on the 28th ult., when she organised a concert for the inmates of the institution. Mr. Seymour Hicks contributed to the entertainment, and among other favourite artists who brightened the afternoon were Miss Rosina Filippi, Messrs. Angelo, Sam Walsh, Laurance Caird, Grundy, Armand Kalisz, and Stanley Brett, and Misses Barbara Deane, Louie Pounds, and Aimée Parkerson. Miss Terriss also announced her intention of supporting a bed for ten years, and a cot for a like period, in the Luke and Charity Wards, and Mr. Golding Bird and Sir Alfred Fripp, in accepting the gift on behalf of the hospital, said that the bed should be known as the "Ellaline Terriss" bed and the cot next it as "Betty's Cot"—a graceful compliment to the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hicks.

THE Victoria Club, an institution recently established in Glasgow for the accommodation of lady members of the theatrical profession, gave an "at-home" in the Regent Hall on the 21st ult. The Lord Provost of the city was among the visitors, and in the course of the afternoon said it was a splendid idea to provide a club for the young ladies who came to the city to amuse the community during the festive season. He hoped they would take advantage of the facilities offered in the club-rooms, and said that nothing would give greater pleasure to those who promoted the movement. It was an excellent work, and he trusted the citizens would give it the support it deserved. Mr. Bransby Williams, who also made a valuable contribution to the entertainment, spoke on behalf of the theatrical ladies, who were all agreed, he said, on the good idea of this new club started on their behalf. He wished the club every success.

A COMMUNICATION from the Actors' Association, of London, appreciative of the Victoria Club movement, was read. Among those who helped to provide an enjoyable afternoon's amusement were Mr. Moore, of the Empire, who gave imitations; Mr. Cyril Keightley, who recited "How We Beat the Favourite"; Miss Forsyth, who read "The Inventor's Wife" and a gobelin story; the Harmony Four, from the Grand pantomime, who sang with fine effect; and Miss Madoline Rees, the Royal principal boy

ON Thursday next a performance of Mr. Lingford Carson's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, supplemented by a concert, will be given in the Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, in aid of the funds of the New Children's Infirmary, which will be opened on that day by H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany. Messrs. Carson and Kendall have given the free use of the theatre, and guaranteed the raising of £200, while the Lord Mayor has taken a box, and many other prominent citizens have booked the whole of the extra stalls.

MR. CECIL BROOKING writes:—On Dec. 9 I had the honour to be seen off from the Park Station at Johannesburg by the venerable actor, Mr. Fred Bartlett, formerly of the firm of Roberts, Archer, and Bartlett. I am sure it will interest all Mr. Bartlett's old friends and many of the younger generation who have met this admirable old man in South Africa during the last six years to know that "Daddy" is very well and hearty, and working hard for Mr. Haviland at His Majesty's Theatre. Mr. Bartlett has borne the slings and arrows of a fortune that was indeed "outrageous" with remarkable fortitude and true British pluck. Six years ago he sailed for Africa a broken man with a life's work undone and all his ambitions crumbled into dust. Since 1899 this brave old worker has turned his hand to whatever presented itself in South Africa, and earned the respect and love of the profession and public in that country. Mr. Bartlett cherishes a hope that he may yet see England and an English rose-garden again.

MR. GORDON CRAIG'S artistic inspirations have inspired confidence in Mme. Eleanora Duse, who has engaged him as designer of the scenery and costumes for all her future productions and revivals. Mr. Craig's work for the great Italian actress's revival of Ibsen's drama, *Rosmersholme*, at Florence, won high praise locally.

MISS MAUDE ADAMS, the famous American actress, has introduced, with complete success, the new act, written by Mr. J. M. Barrie, for *Peter Pan*, in which Peter carries his friends to the bottom of the sea, where they encounter a very interesting coterie of mermaids and sea monsters.

THE ceremony of cutting the Baddeley cake will be observed at Drury Lane on Monday evening, Twelfth Night falling this year on a Sunday. The operation will be performed in the saloon of the theatre by Mr. Harry Nicholls, the master of the Drury Lane Fund, to whom the duty falls by tradition. The function, it may be recalled, was founded by Richard Baddeley, who appeared in many plays at Drury Lane, and on his death in 1794 bequeathed a sum of money for the annual purchase of cake and wine, to be dispensed to the Drury Lane company on Twelfth Night.

THE business-manager for Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton's tour will be Mr. Alfred Wareing, who has just completed two years' engagement as provincial manager for Mr. Tree. Mr. Wareing, who commenced his theatrical career under the banner of Mr. F. R. Benson, was at one time concerned with literature. He assisted the late William Ernest Henley in the preparation of that beautiful folio edition of Shakespeare on which the poet was working when he died. The management of Mr. Tree's recent visit to the provinces, it may be added, was placed in Mr. Wareing's hands, and was carried through by him with conspicuous success.

MR. CARL HENTSCHEL, who gave birth to the happy idea of the Savoyard gathering on Sunday, designed a handsome souvenir for the occasion. It consisted of a tastefully-printed booklet, containing a myriad portraits of famous Savoyards, beginning with those of Mr. W. S. Gilbert, the guest of the evening, the late Sir Arthur Sullivan, and Mr. and Mrs. D'Oyly Carte. Mr. Rutland Barrington, Miss Leonora Braham, Mr. Richard Temple, and many other popular artists are depicted in character, and portraits of Mr. George Edwardes and Mr. François Cellier also grace the pages of the brochure. Miniatures of scenes from various operas are another agreeable feature of the work, and a tabulated record of the whole of the Gilbert and Sullivan productions serves to complete a valuable memento.

INTERLEAVED in the souvenir was a letter to Mr. Hentschel from Mrs. D'Oyly Carte, in which she said:—"May I be permitted to send you a few lines with my warmest wishes for the success of the banquet on Sunday, and to express my great regret that my health has not allowed me to accept the very kind invitation of the O.P. Club to be present on the occasion? I have, as you know, for two years been in very indifferent health, and the strain and anxiety of the last two months have been a heavy tax upon my strength. While the gathering on Sunday must sadly suggest to our hearts many vacant places, and bring with it memories of happy days now past, I rejoice that Mr. Gilbert is able to attend, and that he will be surrounded by so many dear friends who have, with us all, been servants of the public for so long, and who have so largely contributed to the success of the operas. In all of us Savoyards, young and old, the elevating influence of the operas creates a sentiment, I had almost said of reverence, for them which grows deeper and sweeter as time works its inevitable result."

MUCH of the success which has been achieved by Mr. Mulholland's pantomime at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, is due to the producer, Mr. C. St. John Denton, who has expended the best of his acknowledged experience and skill in the gorgeous production of *Cinderella*. Mr. Denton's artistic care is evident everywhere—in the harmonious arrangement of the dresses, the effective groupings, the smoothness of the running, and in many other valuable ways.

MR. JACK HAMPTON, who sucessfully played George Giddens' part (Horace Wibsey) in *Public Opinion*, with Mr. Percy Hutchison, has just returned from a twenty weeks' engagement with Mr. William Haviland's company in South Africa. Mr. Hampton played, among other parts, Launcelot Gobbo, in *The Merchant of Venice*, Dr. Kaspar (the leading comedy part), in George R. Sims' new play, *Nat Harlowe*, and the Second Witch in *Macbeth*.

THE Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, seems to have entered upon a fresh lease of life under the new management of Murray King and Clark. The very best attractions have ben promised, and *Peter's Mother*, Miss Annie Hughes in *Tommy*, Martin Harvey in *The Only Way*, &c., are already underlined for production this month. The prices have been judiciously arranged to suit all purses, with the result that reserved seats and cheaper parts are alike liberally patronised.

THE Lord Mayor's crippled children spent an enjoyable day at the Crystal Palace last Thursday, when Mr. J. Bannister Howard invited them to witness his pantomime of *Aladdin* in the theatre. The children, who also visited the circus, were regaled with buns and oranges from the Crystal Palace Company, toys from the *Evening News*, and chocolates from the Mazawattee Company and Mr. Howard.

NEGOTIATIONS are on foot by which Mr. J. W. Currans will be found once again in management at a London theatre. Mr. Currans has long been laid aside by illness, but renewed health has given stimulus to his latent activity, and he has some surprises in store for London playgoers. A decade ago Mr. Currans' name was widely known in matters theatrical, and he has been connected with a host of notable successes in the past. He exploited the French theatrical campaign at the St. James's with entire Parisian companies and productions, under Raphael Felix and MM. Valnay and Pétron. Amongst his many successes in the English language he can count *New Babylon* at the Duke's Theatre, and a varied series of productions with Dolaro, D'Oyly Carte, and others at the Royalty and Opera Comique. Mr. Currans was also connected with the Criterion when Sir Charles Wyndham made his first appearance at that house. He has engaged Mr. Wallis Mackay, the original "Captious Critic," as his "literary adviser" in his fresh undertaking.

THE next discussion of the Dramatic Debaters is thus quaintly announced:—"Under an Act passed in the reign of Charles II. for the Preservation of Public Morals, the charge brought by the Spirit of the British Nation against the British Drama for illegally flirting with the Foreign Drama will be heard in the Dramatic Debaters' Court, Frascati's, Oxford-street, W., on Sunday evening, Jan. 13, 1907, at 7.30 p.m. The Court will be open to the public, who are requested, should they desire to be present, to apply for ticket of admission to Mrs. Bevans, hon. sec., Dramatic Debaters, 21, Bedford-place, W.C."

"THE DOCTOR'S DILEMMA" was put into the evening bill at the Court Theatre on Monday, when a full house gave it a hearty greeting. The cast of Mr. Bernard Shaw's "tragedy" is practically the same as on the production of the piece, the talented exponents of the various parts acquitting themselves with their customary skill. Mr. Eric Lewis repeats his fine rendering of Sir Ralph Bloomfield Bonnington; Mr. William Farren, jun., is again the kindly old physician, Sir Patrick Cullen, to the life; Mr. Ben Webster submits once more his intelligent study of Sir Colenso Ridgeon; Blenkinsop and Schutzmacher are cleverly interpreted by Mr. Edmund Gurney and Mr. Michael Sherbrooke; Mr. Cutler Walpole is played by Mr. James Hearn with rare dramatic effect; and Mr. Granville Barker's performance of Dubedat is as artistic as ever. Miss Lilah McCarthy is still a graceful and impressive Jennifer; and Miss Clare Greet, as Sir Colenso's nurse-housekeeper, helps considerably towards the effect of the performance.

IN order to correct certain misrepresentations which have been current in English theatrical circles, we have the best authority for stating that Messrs. Shubert control absolutely the following list of theatres, and, moreover, in most cases are the owners of the houses. The Shubert circuit commences in New York, where they are the exclusive lessees and managers of the New Casino Theatre, the New Lyric, the Princess, the New Lincoln Square, the Majestic, and the Herald Square Theatres. In addition to these six theatres, on May 1 this firm take over the historic Daly's Theatre. It may be added that they are also lessees of the newly-built Hippodrome, one of the largest theatrical buildings in the world.

THE circuit then continues to the Shubert Theatre, Brooklyn; the Lyric, Philadelphia; the Shubert, Newark, N.J.; the Belasco, Pittsburg; the Belasco, Washington; the Majestic, Boston; the Court, Springfield; the Nelson, Worcester; the New Shubert, Utica; the Grand Opera House, Syracuse; the Lyceum, Buffalo; the Garrick, Chicago; the Shubert, Milwaukee; the New Shubert, Kansas City; the New Shubert, Denver; the Mary Anderson, Louisville; the New Colonial, Cincinnati; the Hyperion, New Haven; and also theatres in Toledo, Aakron, Geneva, Northampton, Maddison, Albany, and various other cities and towns throughout the United States, giving them a season of from thirty-eight to forty-two solid weeks for all their attractions.

SPECIAL matinées of *Macbeth*, in which Mr. Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh will appear, will be given at the Garrick Theatre every Wednesday and Thursday, beginning on the 16th inst. These matinées will in no way interfere with the run of *The Morals of Marcus*, which will be played every evening and on Saturday afternoons.

MR. FORBES ROBERTSON, owing to a slight affection of the throat, was again unable to play at Brooklyn, New York, on Dec. 13, so Mr. Halliwell Hobbes played his part of Cæsar in Bernard Shaw's play of *Cæsar and Cleopatra* for four performances Mr. Forbes Robertson is happily by latest advices quite well again.

THE Council of the Actors' Association held their usual meeting on Tuesday last, when there were present—Mr. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), Mr. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman), Mr. Henry W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, Messrs. Cecil Barth, Acton Bond, Burton Cooke, Thalberg Corbett, F. Cremlin, Quinton McPherson, Walter Russell, Spencer Trevor, and Charles Cruikshanks (sec.). Gwendoline Bishop, Ada King, Eleonora Hammond, Kitty Carew, and Alfred Bristowe were nominated for election to the association, nine new members were elected, and four former members were reinstated.

THE secretary reported that the new system of insurance against accident, loss of luggage, &c., was in operation, and coupons, together with copies of the 1907 A.A. Year-book, were being issued to all those members whose subscriptions for the current year were paid. The hon. solicitors reported they had advised several members. Questions of alleged insanitation, &c., at provincial theatres were considered. The offer of accommodation in a provincial town for the establishment of a branch or auxiliary office of the Association was gratefully accepted. Questions as to the arrangements of details were discussed, and the secretary received instructions. The collection on behalf of the Actors' Benevolent Fund was announced at £1 10s. The collection in aid of the Actors' Orphanage Fund reached 19s. 6d.

THE Finance and General Purposes Committee held a meeting last Tuesday, when there were present Mr. Acton Bond (chairman), Messrs. A. E. Drinkwater, C. Aubrey Smith, and Chas. Cruikshanks (sec.). Several matters in connection with finance were discussed, and the secretary received instructions.

THE Social and Library Committee held a meeting last Monday, when there were present Mr. A. E. Drinkwater (chairman), Mesdames Hylda Franklin, Georgina Hamilton, Margaret Parker, Messrs. Cecil Barth and Arthur Morris, and Miss Lucy Sibley (hon. sec.). The chairman reported upon various matters concerning the holding of the first of the series of social meetings. It was decided that the meeting should be postponed from Jan. 4 to Jan 18, when it was agreed that Mr. A. E. Drinkwater should take the chair. It was decided that the appointment of a librarian or librarians (honorary) be considered at the next meeting of the Library Committee. The next meeting of this committee was fixed for Monday next, at three o'clock.

MR. FRANK CURZON has acquired from Mr. Frederick Lonsdale a comedy, named *A Worm and Some Early Birds*, which he proposes to produce shortly at one of his West End theatres. Mr. Lonsdale, who is a newcomer in the dramatic arena, is also writing an original comic opera for Mr. Curzon.

MISS ROSINA BRANDRAM, all will regret to hear, is lying dangerously ill from laryngitis and bronchitis. The popular Savoyard has been seeking health for some time past at Southend, but recently caught a chill, which has had lamentable results.

MISS GERTIE MILLAR took the opportunity afforded in the interval between a rehearsal and the evening performance at the Gaiety on Tuesday of entertaining the sixteen little girls who appear with her in *The New Aladdin*. An enormous Christmas tree, towering towards the ceiling, occupied the green-room, and a huge christmas cake was cut and distributed by Mr. George Edwardes. Big balloons and gifts galore, together with a large box of toys presented by a gentleman unknown, were distributed amongst the little revellers, whose delight was unbounded.

MR. HUNTLEY WRIGHT will be welcomed back to Daly's, where he will shortly take up the part of St. Amour in *Les Merveilleuses*. The return of Mr. Wright to Mr. Edwardes, from whose management he seceded some eighteen months ago, is made by arrangement with Mr. Charles Frohman, under whose auspices the inimitable comedian has appeared in the interim.

AN Indian drama, entitled *Adulola, the Lily of the Ockotchee*, by Mr. Donald MacLaren, the characters of which are entirely composed of redskins, is shortly to be offered to Londoners by Mr. H. Reeves-Smith. The piece comes from America, and the elaborate production, by Mr William A. Brady, will be transferred to this country in its entirety. Before bringing the piece to London Mr. Reeves-Smith will present it in several provincial centres, he himself playing, as in America, the leading part of Lonawonda.

THE dispute between the managers of the Deutsches and Kleines Theatres, Berlin, as to the rights of *Bunbury*, a German version of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, has reached white-heat, and the issue is awaited with eager interest by all the theatre-going public. Each theatre produced it on Thursday, the Deutsches under the name of *Bunbury*, the Kleines under the title, *A Trivial Comedy for Serious People*. As the matter stands at present, Director Reinhardt, of the former theatre, is forced to pay 5,000 marks (£250) for every performance of *Bunbury* on his stage.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY has arranged to commence a lengthy tour of the provinces on the 21st inst. at the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne. He afterwards visits the chief towns of Great Britain, the tour, as at present arranged, ending on May 11 at Portsmouth. Mr. Harvey will be supported by the accomplished Miss N. de Silva, and the two leading artists will be accompanied by the company which has now for a long time been identified with their splendid success. Whilst new plays and revivals are being developed, Mr. Harvey will depend upon his famous répertoire, which includes *Hamlet*, *The Corsican Brothers*, *The Only Way*, *A Cigarette-Maker's Romance*, and *The Breed of the Treshams*. The stage will be again under the direction of the long-experienced Mr. H. J. Loveday, whilst Mr. Frank B. O'Neill remains Mr. Harvey's business-manager.

AFTER *The Reformer* and *The Campden Wonder*, which are to be produced shortly at the Court, eight matinées of *The Philanderer*, by Bernard Shaw, will be given, with Mr. Ben Webster in the title-rôle. The cast will also include Mr. Eric Lewis, Miss Lillah McCarthy, Miss Wynne Matthison, and Miss Dorothy Minto. Following *The Philanderer* will be a series of matinées of Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*, which will be specially notable for Mr. Louis Calvert's appearance in the part of Dr. Stockmann.

THEO. BOUWMEESTER, the Dutch actor who made so favourable an impression in his protean drama, *Who is Guilty?* at various London halls a couple of years back, has acquired from the Association of French Authors the English rights of a three-act drama by Louis Legendre, entitled *Souls*. The piece was originally produced at the Comédie Française, and Mr. Bouwmeester, who will play the principal part of Jean Darlot, is arranging for its early presentation in London.

BARON HARRISS'S *Prince of Pilsen* company, which has been secured as the Christmas and New Year attraction at the Victoria Theatre, Manchester, has well justified its selection by the astute directors of that handsome playhouse. Since the opening night, when the leading residents of Manchester were numerously represented, crowded houses have been the order of the evening, so much so that a series of special matinées had to be organised. Miss Sophie Harriss, the prima donna of the company, has endeared herself to her audiences by her spirited rendering of the part of Mrs. Crocker, and has had to pay the penalty of popularity by being in constant request to open bazaars and lay foundation-stones in the district.

MR. J. F. ELLISTON'S pantomime of *The Sleeping Beauty and the Mystic Yellow Dwarf* is now playing to record business at the Theatre Royal, Hanley. Proof of its success may be found in the fact that no less than 1,575 people paid ordinary price for admission to the matinée on Thursday afternoon last to the pit alone, the other parts of the house being equally crowded. The cast is an exceptionally strong and well-selected one. The pantomime is under the experienced stage-managment of Mr. Lonnen Meadows, and goes with admirable smoothness from start to finish. Mr. Albert C. Duncan represents Mr. Elliston in front of the house.

The second "social" evening will be held at the Managers' Club, Savoy Mansions, on Sunday, Jan. 20, when Manager E. Lockwood will provide the artists. A very pleasant time is anticipated. The popularity of the Managers' Club is increasing every day. Its central position and its well-equipped rooms are causing it to become the favourite rendezvous for managers.

DR. W. H. CUMMINGS, the principal of the Guildhall School of Music, who read an interesting paper on "Vocal Cultivation" at the Musicians' Conference on Wednesday, took part in the discussion the following day on Dr. Pierce's paper dealing with composition. Speaking of allowing a young genius to go his own way, Dr. Cummings mentioned that a young boy was sent to him a year or so ago with a great pile of his own music. The music, which had been highly praised by some critics, was absolute rubbish, and yet the father was advised not to let this lad be placed under old dry-as-dusts. Education was as necessary for a young genius as for anyone else, and no one was capable of writing poetry, or music, or anything else unless he had learnt the grammar of his art.

MR. H. B. IRVING'S great success in *The Bells* in Chicago will doubtless be repeated in Boston, in which city he makes his first appearance next week. That play and Mr. W. L. Courtney's adaptation of *Markheim* seem to be most popular with American playgoers.

MISS MURIEL GODFREY-TURNER has completely recovered from her late severe indisposition for which she was ordered by her medical advisers to take a long sea voyage, and is back again in England, ready to commence work in a few weeks under the management of Mr. Russell Rosse. The success of last year's Classic Répertory Tour has convinced Mr. Rosse that there is an undoubted market for this class of attraction, and dates have already been booked at Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dublin, and the large provincial towns. A special feature—and an interesting one—will be Miss Godfrey-Turner's appearance as Rosalind at one of the leading suburban theatres in a special production of *As You Like It*. *Camille* will also be included in the list of pieces to be produced.

MR. BRYDON-PHILLIPS'S *Little Red Riding Hood* pantomime has caught on at Chester, the attendance, in spite of the weather, being quite up to the average, and the advance booking is going steadily ahead. Last Saturday the Duke of Westminster's party occupied two boxes.

MR. RUTLAND BARRINGTON and Mr. C. Hayden Coffin had a hearty reception at the morning concert held on Thursday at the Chiswick Town Hall in aid of the funds of St. Alban's Church, Acton Green. The concert was given under the direction of Mr. Henry A. Lytton. Miss Helen Mar told some of her American "stories," and Mr. Harry Nicholls, Mr. George Ridgwell, Mr. Ashley Weaver, and Mr. Rowan Clancy, violinist, also appeared.

SHAKESPEARE for schools was warmly recommended by Professor Gollancz, Professor in English Literature of King's College, at a conference of teachers convened by the County Council on Thursday. Professor Gollancz thought that the dramatic instinct in children ought to be utilised in educational matters, and that a festival should be held every year at which a part of one of Shakespeare's plays might be recited and acted in all schools.

A CLOSER examination of the ruins of the Royal Court Theatre, Warrington, reveals the fact that the extent of the damage sustained by fire on Christmas morning has been a trifle exaggerated. True, the roof has gone, but the main walls, which are 2ft. thick, are all intact, whilst the front of the theatre has not been even singed. The floor and plaster of the circle have suffered somewhat from falling slates, &c., but that is all. It is satisfactory to record that the whole of the damage, except as regards scenery, &c., is covered by insurance. Plans for the entire reconstruction of the stage and auditorium, the erection of the dressing-rooms, re-arrangement of entrances, &c., are already nearing completion, at the hands of Mr. F. Bennett-Smith, and the theatre is expected to be finished for August Bank Holiday.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

MR. W. S. GILBERT, in his speech at the Hotel Cecil on Sunday, at the O.P. Club's Savoyard dinner, told the following interesting anecdote of Sir Arthur Sullivan:—"I was introduced to him, thirty-seven years ago, by my friend, Fred Clay. Our acquaintance began merrily enough with a jest, to which he often referred in after years. I was at that time engaged in writing a three-act blank verse comedy, called *The Palace of Truth*. One of the characters is a musical impostor, who had succeeded in establishing a reputation by the use of high-flown technical commonplaces. Curious to know how one of his speeches would impress a skilled composer, I turned it from blank verse to colloquial prose, and said to him, 'My friend, Fred Clay, and I have been discussing a technical point upon which you may be able to throw some light. My contention is that, if a musician who is a master of all instruments has a musical theme to express, he can express it as readily upon the simple tetrachord of Mercury, in which, as we all know, there are no diatonic intervals whatever, as upon the more elaborate dis-diapason with the three tetrachords, and the redundant note which, as I need not remind a composer of your distinction, embraces in its perfect consonance all the simple, double, and inverted chords.' He thought it over for a few seconds, and then said that he was not prepared with an answer off-hand, but that he would think it over and let me know. I believe he left me under the impression that he had been speaking to a master of thorough-bass and counterpoint—an illusion that was quickly dispelled at our first business interview. I may state at once that I took the speech bodily from the article 'Harmony,' in the 'Encyclopædia Britannica.'"

THE Duchess of St. Albans, from whom the late Baroness Burdett-Coutts inherited her vast wealth, used to tell a good story of an amusing but rather embarrassing occurrence in the Liverpool Theatre. Said the Duchess, alluding to her theatrical career as Harriet Mellon, "I was to perform a new piece, something like those pretty little affecting dramas they get up now at the minor theatres; and in my character I represented a poor, friendless orphan girl, reduced to the most wretched poverty. A heartless tradesman persecutes the sad heroine for a heavy debt owing to him by her family, and insists on putting her in prison unless someone will go bail for her. The girl replies, 'Then I have no hope—I have not a friend in the world.' 'What! will no one go bail for you to save you from prison?' asks the stern creditor. 'I have told you that I have not a friend on earth,' was my reply. But just as I was uttering the words, my eyes were attracted by the movements of a sailor in the upper gallery, who, springing over the railing, was letting himself down from one tier to another, until finally reaching the pit he bounded clear over the orchestra and footlights, and placed himself beside me in a moment, before I could believe the evidence of my senses. 'Yes, you shall have *one* friend, at least, my poor young woman,' said he, with the greatest expression of feeling in his honest, sunburnt countenance. 'I will go bail for you to any amount. And as for you (turning to the frightened actor), if you don't bear a hand and shift your moorings, you lubber, it will be the worse for you when I come athwart your bows.' The house was instantly in an uproar. Some laughed, others screamed, the sailor's comrades cheered him on from the gallery, and there was such general confusion that the curtain had to be dropped, while the orchestra played the National Anthem."

MISS MELLON was once paying a morning visit to the wife of an actor in the company to which she was attached. In the same house, which was let off in tenements, was a poor lodger who had met with an accident. Flannel was urgently needed, and there was none to hand. Miss Mellon retired to a back room, returning in a few moments with a supply torn into strips. She said to the man's wife, "Here, good woman, is what is required: apply it instantly—it is well aired!" She had taken off her own petticoat.

IT was owing to a trip which Irving took on board the *Walrus*—the fine steamer which the Baroness once chartered for a yachting party—that Irving took the fancy to play Shylock. He said to Mr. Bram Stoker, who records the fact in his "Reminiscences":—"I never contemplated doing the drama, which did not ever appeal very much to me, until when we were down in Morocco and the Levant. You know the *Walrus* put into all sorts of places. When I saw the Jew in what seemed his own land and his own dress, Shylock became a different creature. I began to understand him; and now I want to play the part—as soon as I can."

MR. STOKER records an interesting instance of the Baroness's delicate consideration for a professional guest: "A gathering of friends had been asked to Stratton-street to meet Liszt. Lady Burdett-Coutts very thoughtfully had the pianos removed from the drawing-rooms, lest their presence might seem as though he were expected to play. After a while, Liszt noticed the absence, and said to his hostess:—

"'I see you have no pianos in these rooms!' She answered frankly that she had had them removed so that he would not be tempted to play unless he wished to do so.

"'But I would like some music,' he said, and then went on: 'I have no doubt but that there is a piano in the house, and that it could be brought here easily.' It was not long before the servants brought into the great drawing-room a grand piano worthy of even his hands. Then Antoinette Sterling sang some ballads in her own delightful way with the contralto whose tones went straight to one's heart.

"'Now I will play,' said Liszt. And he did!"

THE following incident possibly gave rise to the rumour that Irving was, at the commencement of his career, "financed" by the Baroness:—When he was undertaking the provincial tour in the autumn of 1878—the first under his own management—his friend, Mrs. Hannah Brown, the lifelong friend and companion of the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, pressed on him a loan of fifteen hundred pounds. She had wished him to accept a larger sum, but he limited the amount to this. Indeed, he took it only to please her; such a sum went but a small way in the vast enterprise on which he had entered. Unhappily she died before he began to play in his own theatre. The sum which she had lent was repaid to her executor in due season.

THERE was a time, long before the introduction of "checking" apparatus and the general improvement in the status of the money-taking staff, when they had a legendary reputation for dishonesty. During the run of the pantomime of *The Forty Thieves* at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, the said thieves were enacted by comedians, assisted by other male auxiliaries of the establishment. On a certain Saturday night the curtain was late in rising, and John Knowles, the manager, who was always "on time," whistled through his speaking tube to ascertain the cause of the delay. Back came the answer, "We're three thieves short, sir." Knowles, who was fuming in the box office at a "shortage" in the pencilled first returns, said, "All right, I'll send round three of the money-takers!"

MR. GILBERT AND THE "O. P's."

A very successful dinner was given last Sunday evening at the Hotel Cecil by the O.P. Club. The chief guest of the evening was Mr. W. S. Gilbert; and many noted Savoyards, past and present, were also among the guests. The president of the Club, Mr. Sidney Dark, was in the chair. Among those present were Mr. W. S. Gilbert and Mrs. Gilbert, Miss Geraldine Ulmar, Mr. Percie Ripple, Mr. François Cellier, Mr. John Clulow, Miss Jessie Rose, Mr. F. Glenister, Miss Decima Moore, Mr. C. H. Workman, Miss Isabel Jay, Mr. Henry Lytton, Miss Henri, Mr. Frank Thornton, Miss Nancy McIntosh, Miss Ruth Vincent, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hentschel, Mr. Rutland Barrington, Mr. George Grossmith, Miss Jessie Bond, Miss Fortescue, Mr. Richard Temple, Mr. Courtice Pounds, Miss Agnes Fraser, Mr. Walter Passmore, Miss Lilian Coomber, Mr. Robert Evett, Miss Louie Pounds, Mr. Scott Russell, Mr. W. Pett Ridge, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Collins, Mme. Liza Lehmann, Mr. Edward German, Mr. Frank Curzon, Miss Esther Pasture, Mrs. Gatti, Mr. John Gatti, Mr. David Bispham, Mr. McDonald Rendle, and Mr. Adrian Ross.

MR. SIDNEY DARK proposed the toast of "The King," who he said was a regular attendant at the Savoy Theatre, which proved that His Majesty was in sympathy with the object of the gathering.

In proposing the toast of "The Savoy Opera," Mr. Dark expressed his sorrow that Miss Rosina Brandram was prevented from being present that evening, but she was unfortunately too ill to come up from Southend-on-Sea. Mr. Durward Lely had been snowed up in the Highlands, and Miss Leonora Braham had written from Birmingham that as she had to be in Hull on Monday morning, the state of the weather had prevented her from being present. Further, Mr. George Edwardes had succumbed to the prevailing epidemic of influenza.

MR. W. S. GILBERT, on rising to respond, was greeted with prolonged and enthusiastic cheers. In the course of an interesting speech, he said, speaking of the Savoyards:—Death has sadly thinned our ranks. Alfred Cellier, our esteemed conductor; Miss Everard (the original Little Buttercup), George Bentham (the original Alexis in *The Sorcerer*), Alice Barnett (the stately Lady Jane of *Patience* and the Fairy Queen in *Iolanthe*), poor little Emmie Owen, D'Oyly Carte, our enterprising manager; our three stage-managers, Richard Barker, Charles Harris, and William Seymour; and, lastly, my old friend and invaluable coworker, Arthur Sullivan—whose untimely death in the fulness of his powers extinguished the class of opera with which his name is so honourably identified, a composer of the rarest genius, and who, because he was a composer of the rarest genius, was as modest and as unassuming as a neophyte should be, but seldom is. I am not at my merriest when I remember all that he has done for me in allowing his genius to shed some of its lustre upon my humble name, and it is a source of sincere gratification to me to reflect that the rift that parted us for a time had been completely bridged over, and that at the time of his lamented death the most cordial relations existed between us.

Sullivan and I are credited—or discredited—with one conspicuous failure, *Ruddigore; or, The Witch's Curse*. Well, it ran eight months, and, with the sale of the libretto, put £7,000 into my pocket. In the blackness of my heart the worst I wish to my rival dramatists is that they may each have a dozen such failures, and retire upon the profits. By the way, it is not generally known that, bending before the storm of Press-execration aroused by its awful title, we were within an ace of changing it from *Ruddigore; or, The Witch's Curse*, to *Kensington Gore; or, Robin and Richard were Two Pretty Men*.

I have no doubt whatever but that Mr. Rendle is about to do full justice to the excellent Savoy company of the eighties and nineties; but while we accept all he may have to say about the company that is now unhappily dispersed, let us be just to their successors. In Mr. Workman we have a Jack Point of the finest and most delicate finish, and I feel sure that no one will more readily acknowledge the triumph he has achieved in their old parts than his distinguished protagonist, Mr. George Grossmith, and his immediate predecessor, Mr. Walter Passmore. The Phœbe of Miss Jessie Rose (I am glad that the part is still played by a Jessie) will be welcomed by the large-hearted Jessie Bond (I am very sorry, but I can *not* call her Mrs. Ransom) as a worthy successor to her own brilliant achievement; and Mr. Clulow's Wilfred Shadbolt is a performance which Mr. Denny and Mr. Lytton will not despise.

It is a source of infinite pleasure to me that I see so many old Savoyards here to-night, and it is still more delightful to know that so many of them have prospered, and are now, in the plenitude of their powers, earning salaries varying from that of an Under Secretary of State to that of a Prime Minister. And when the operas revert, as they will, to their original proprietors, we (or our executors) will hold out our hands to George Grossmith, to Rutland Barrington, to Walter Passmore, to Robert Evitt, to Henry Lytton, to Courtice Pounds, to Charles Kenningham, to Durward Lely, to Frank Wyatt, to John Le Hay, to William Denny, to Richard Temple, to Ruth Vincent, to Geraldine Ulmar, to Isabel Jay, to Nancy McIntosh, to Louie Pounds, to Agnes Fraser, to Decima Moore, and to Rosina Brandram—Rosina of the glorious voice that rolled out as full-bodied Burgundy rolls down—Rosina whose dismal doom it was to represent undesirable old ladies of sixty-five, but who, with all the resources of the perruquier and the make-up box, could never succeed in looking more than an attractive eight-and-twenty (it was her only failure)—to all of these will we hold out our hands and implore them to return to the arena in which they achieved so many triumphs for themselves—and for us.

The toast of "The Savoyards" was proposed by Mr. T. McDonald Rendle, and Miss Jessie Bond (in place of Miss Rosina Brandram) and Mr. George Grossmith replied.

MISS JESSIE BOND said:—I have been forced against my will by Mr. Hentschel to return thanks in place of Miss Rosina Brandram, whose absence we very much regret. It is impossible for me to do justice to my theme, therefore I can only say thank you very much for all your kindness, and I shall leave Mr. Grossmith to say what I feel but cannot express.

MR. GEORGE GROSSMITH, in a very interesting speech, recalled the fact that he was introduced to Mr. Gilbert, his first critic, forty years ago. He spoke charmingly of his successors in Savoy opera.

MR. RUTLAND BARRINGTON proposed the toast of the "Savoy Lovers," by whom, he said, he understood all those who had attended the Savoy, and have loved the play, the music, and the players.

MR. CARL HENTSCHEL responded in a neat and appropriate speech.

A delightful programme of music, consisting of excerpts from the Savoy operas, was gone through, the songs being sung by Savoy favourites. Mr. Courtice Pounds, Mr. Henry Lytton, and Mr. Robert Evett were unfortunately unable, on account of bad colds, to take part in the programme as arranged. Miss Isabel Jay, Miss Lilian Coomber, Miss Agnes Fraser, Miss Jessie Rose, Mr. Rutland Barrington, Mr. Richard Temple, Mr. Scott Russell, Mr. C. H. Workman, and Mr. Walter Passmore gave great delight to an enthusiastic audience.

Mr. Gilbert also proposed the healths of the president, Mr. Sidney Dark, and of the hon. treasurer, Mr. Carl Hentschel, complimenting specially Mr. Hentschel upon the charming illustrated menu that he had prepared and designed, which Mr. Gilbert said he would retain for the remainder of his life as a delightful souvenir.

MR. SIDNEY DARK responded; and Mr. Carl Hentschel wished all present a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN A. ATKIN.

Mr. John A. Atkin, who died at Ramsgate on Wednesday, was born in Nottingham, and was educated at the High School there. His father and grandfather were well-known figures in the Lace Market, and close friends of Sir Robert Clifton, Bart. Mr. Atkin practised as a dentist at Bulwell, Mansfield, and Cavendish-square, London. In 1870 he was a member of the South Notts Yeomanry. Of a roving disposition, he went out to South Africa and took a claim on the Diamond Fields, and was one of the first prospectors on the famous Pilgrims' Rest Mine. He fought with the Boers in their war against the Seccoceni tribe, and against them with the English in 1877 in the first Zulu War. He was made Sheriff of Leydenburg, but was obliged to leave Africa on account of wounds received. He had an assegai through his ankle and one in his back. He had malarial fever and nearly all other fevers known. He visited the States on sixteen occasions, and once went with Buffalo Bill trading out West with the Indians. He bought a farm in South Carolina, which was not successful, and on returning to England he took up his profession of dentist again. His first acquaintance with the theatrical profession was at the Princess's Theatre, London, when he appeared with Wilson Barrett in *Claudian*. After a short time on the boards, Mr. Barrett advised Mr. Atkin to go in for the business side of the profession. His exact words were:—"You have a slight impediment in your speech which is fatal to your success as an actor. Take up the business side of the profession, and you may bring your own company to this very theatre." His prophecy was fulfilled to the letter. He joined Messrs. Lablache and Coyne with *The Galley Slave*, *The Old Love and the New*, and *Blind Justice*, playing parts in these productions, but shortly after taking the position of business-manager. He went as manager to Terry's in 1887, being engaged by Mr. Chas. Arnold for his *Hans, the Boatman* production. In February, 1888, he took over the entire

Photo by Whitlock, Wolverhampton.

MR. J. A. ATKIN.

management of Edouin and Greet's tour of *The Grip of Iron*, later on acquiring from that firm the entire provincial rights in the drama, which he controlled for about fifteen years. Having disposed of his interest in *The Grip of Iron*, he in March, 1899, produced *The Bell Ringer*, for a special fortnight at the Queen's, Manchester, in the autumn of the same year starting a touring company with the drama at the Grand, Islington. Later, he toured *The Span of Life*, and became manager for Mr. Fred Melville of *Her Forbidden Marriage* company, which position he held at the time of his death.

At Christmas the company opened at Ramsgate, and, during the week, having taken a severe chill, Mr. Atkin grew rapidly worse, and pneumonia having developed, he expired in the presence of his wife (Miss Florence Nelson), who had journeyed from her engagement in the North on hearing of his dangerous condition..

He was proud of the record he held with *The Grip of Iron*, having actually represented this drama upwards of a year (fifty-two weeks of "return dates") in both Liverpool and Manchester, as well as about 5,000 times in other towns, large and small. At various times he played all the male characters in this drama, and was always ready in a case of emergency to take any of them up at a moment's notice. No man in the profession was better known or more popular with those with whom he was associated; and his widow will have the sincere sympathy of his many friends.

DEATH OF MISS MINNIE LESLIE.

We regret to announce the death of the well-known comedienne, Miss Minnie Leslie, who passed away on Wednesday last, at her home on the Lancashire moors. A Londoner by birth, she commenced her professional career with Roberts, Archer, and Bartlett, at the Theatre Royal, Croydon, some twenty-three years ago. Displaying great aptitude for parts now associated with Miss Louie Freear, her renditions of Belinda (*Our Boys*) Fanny Squeers, the Marchioness, and Little Nell (*The Old Curiosity Shop*) soon advanced her in the profession of her choice. In fact, her versatility was remarkable, and no part semed to come amiss to her, though her petite appearance naturally prevented her from appearing to great advantage in characters not usually assigned to chambermaids. Her touching portrayal of Louise in *The Two Orphans* was greatly admired, and Jack-in-the-Box became one of her favourite parts. She was the original exponent of many rôles, amongst others Ben, in *Rogues and Vagabonds;* Martha, *By Sheer Pluck;* Bessie Blazer, *A False Wife*. Although universally recognised as one of our best "boy" actresses, she was equally at home in broad comedy, and her quiet and artistic playing of the "slavey" Fi-Fi in Mr. George Dance's *A Chinese Honeymoon* company will be pleasantly remembered. In Glasgow she was an enormously popular player, and fulfilled six seasons in pantomime and stock with Mr. Richard Waldon, at the Princess's Theatre, where her Effie Deans, Chuckey (*The Stowaway*), Nan (*Good for Nothing*), and Sam Willoughby were regular "hardy annuals." During the past summer she played the juvenile leading part in *How Money's Made*, and last August took up her part of Bessie Blazer with Mr. F. Marriott-Watson's company, *A False Wife*, which she continued to play until comparative recent weeks. Deceased suffered from an internal complication, and died whilst awaiting an operation. Much sympathy and kindly feeling will be extended to her husband, Mr. John Cecil. The little village churchyard at Harwood will witness the last sad rites.

THE ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

PROGRESSION AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

We cannot too strongly recommend to the notice of the profession at large the many substantial benefits that members of the Actors' Association enjoy. It is pretty generally known that the advantages include free medical advice in every theatrical town in the country, and free legal advice; but actors and actresses do not seem to be so well acquainted with the fact that an accident insurance scheme has been in operation for the past twelve months. The advantages to be derived from this accident insurance cannot be too widely understood, and we here give the five clauses showing the conditions under which compensation will be made:—

1. That the claimant shall be travelling on tour with a theatrical company or going to, or returning from, a professional engagement or rehearsal at the time of the delay, loss, or damage, and shall give notice in writing of his or her claim to the Actors' Association within 48 hours of discovery of the delay, loss, or damage.

2. That proof satisfactory to the Actors' Association be given as to the artist's salary, and also as to the value of the lost property, and that the owner had used reasonable care with a view to the safety of such property. Further, he or she shall, should the Actors' Association so desire, appear before a Commissioner for Oaths for the purpose of verifying his or her claim.

3. (a) That should the lost property be recovered after the Actors' Association shall have made a payment in respect thereof, then such recovered property shall belong to the Actors' Association to sell or otherwise dispose of as the Actors' Association shall think fit. (b) In the event of the recovered property being of greater value than the amount paid by the Actors' Association, then the Actors' Association shall hand over such recovered property to the owner thereof on such owner returning to the Actors' Association the amount of compensation received, less such a sum, if any, as may or shall have been expended by the owner for new property, and such new property shall then belong to the Actors' Association to sell or otherwise dispose of as the Actors' Association shall think fit. In any event, the amount payable by the Actors' Association for property in respect of any one loss shall not exceed £10.

4. That no compensation will be paid until seven days from the receipt of notice of claim by the Actors' Association.

5. The Council of the Actors' Association for the time being undertake to investigate all claims, and no compensation will be paid either in respect of salary or lost property unless sanctioned and approved by such Council, whose decision shall at all times be absolutely final.

It may be remembered that, at a meeting organised by one of the commissioners in the autumn at Newcastle, over which Mr. H. B. Irving presided, the latter gentleman stated that, if the benefits of the insurance policy were fully realised, it could not fail to appeal to every actor and actress in the United Kingdom. The policy, it was pointed out, gave members of the A.A. benefits which, in the ordinary way, would cost them more than their subscription. This was obtained by organisation and combination, and the greater the number who joined the Association, the greater the benefits accruing therefrom.

We would ask our readers to consider for one moment the amount of railway travelling they may be called upon to do during the year. No one can foretell when or how an accident may happen. Fortunately, accidents to theatrical people on our iron roads have been in the past extremely rare—a state of things due to the infinite care exercised by the British railway authorities in the management of their lines—but this does not negative the possibility of a catastrophe occurring in the future. To those who, in the course of their work, travel thousands of miles a year, it must be a great satisfaction to feel that, should an accident happen, and they are members of the A.A., they will receive monetary compensation to tide them over whatever misfortune such accident may occasion them. It should be borne in mind that the Association policy differs from the ordinary newspaper or diary policy in that, apart from death claims, it affords compensation during total or partial disablement. Under the existing arrangements between the railway companies and theatrical managers, it is impossible for an artist to obtain compensation for accidents unless he holds the Association policy, or is the possessor of a personal policy. The Council of the Association have now secured a further insurance policy covering the risks of loss of private luggage whilst on tour, and it also covers compensation for inconvenience caused by the miscarriage of luggage, whether the loss arises from carelessness on the part of railway servants or from fire. This, like the accident policy, has been effected without any increase of the annual subscription, and it must undoubtedly appeal to every travelling member of the profession.

Another very important privilege that has just been arranged in consultation with the Theatrical Managers' Association and the Touring Managers' Association, is that of payment for rehearsals when these rehearsals exceed certain reasonably defined periods. At the first glance this may not appear to be of great significance; but it may be pointed out that an agreement of this kind arrived at by the three representative bodies will establish a custom which will be quoted in future legal actions. The arrangement which has been arrived at is as follows:—That for London productions, artists who are members of the Actors' Association will only be required to do three weeks' rehearsals without payment. For further rehearsals which may be necessary they will be paid one-third of the salary agreed upon, so that if the play should prove a failure, and be withdrawn at the end of a few nights' run, they will have received some solatium for their work. On the other hand, if the piece lasts for more than four weeks, the manager has the right to deduct the amount paid for rehearsals. In regard to provincial tours, a fortnight's rehearsal is to be given when the rehearsals take place in London, and one week's rehearsal only when the rehearsals take place in the country. Beyond these limits of time the same arrangements as to payment and one-third salary are to be carried out.

Before leaving the subject of the Actors' Association, it might be pointed out that a very large amount of routine work is done at the weekly meetings of the Council, the deliberations in connection with which cannot be made public. During the past few months a progressive movement has been set on foot by the improved organisation of the commissioners, who are now presided over by a committee, the chairman of which is Mr. Brandon Thomas. The commissioners hope before long to establish local centres for the benefit of their touring members, and, thanks to the generosity of a lady interested in the Association, the first of these local centres will probably be started at Ramsgate. Other developments which are now being dealt with by the commissioners are a series of social afternoon gatherings, the first of which is to take place at 10, King-street, on Friday, the 18th inst. The proceedings will include addresses by well-known people, to be followed by a short debate. Light refreshments will be obtainable during the afternoon. It is also intended that a comprehensive library of dramatic literature shall be available to the members of the Association within a short space of time, and already promises to present valuable books have been made.

We think sufficient reasons have been advanced in this article to induce every actor and actress to become a member of the Actors' Association; and, in conclusion, we would refer our readers to a letter, signed by Mr. Brandon Thomas, which appears in this week's issue. The little Red Book and Diary for 1907 issued by the Association gives the fullest particulars as to its scope and operations, which can certainly now be described as extremely comprehensive.

THE ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Will you allow me to point out to the members of the Actors' Association, through the medium of your valuable columns, that this is the season for recruiting new members for the New Year starting to-day?

If a steady effort is made now by every individual member of the Association to augment our numbers substantially, they will be doing excellent work for the good of the profession, they will be helping the friends introduced to material benefits which non-members don't appreciate because they don't know of their existence, and they will be helping themselves because increased funds mean increased privileges for the members.

The subscription of 15s. annually works out at the small sum of about 3½d. per week, and, owing to the labours of the Council, the advantages for members are now greater than ever. These may be ascertained in detail from the valuable little "Red Book," a new edition of which is published to-day. To those interested, I would mention a few of these advantages:—

Free medical aid in every theatrical town.
Free legal advice and assistance.
An insurance policy against accidents which would cost members as private individuals more than the entire annual subscription.
A new insurance policy, just introduced by the Council, against *loss of private luggage*, and consequent loss of salary through such a misfortune.

It is perhaps as well to refer to the routine work that is constantly going on for the benefit of the members. The inner work of the Council is necessarily private, but it would cause some surprise to the profession at large if they knew the good that is being done by innumerable arbitrations, the amicable settlements of disputes, financial and otherwise, and the protection of members' interests generally.

A movement is on foot by which members of the Association are to receive payment for rehearsals both in London and the provinces when these exceed certain prescribed limits of time. Both the Managers' Associations have agreed to this, and surely this advantage to members is sufficient to increase the numbers greatly.

I would, therefore, recommend non-members to join at once, so as to reap these benefits and help us to obtain additional ones during the current year. As the insurances do not become effective until the current subscription is paid up, members are urged to send without delay so as to obtain the benefits in full. Co-operation is strength, and means material and substantial benefits to all.

I am, sir, yours faithfully,

BRANDON THOMAS,
Chairman of Commissioners.

10, King-st., Covent Garden, W.C.
Jan. 1, 1907.

"CARMEN."

A New and Original Play in Four Acts, adapted from the French novel of the same name by Prosper Merimée, with the Music from Bizet's Opera. Produced at the Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmunds, on Dec. 31.

Captain Zuniga, ...MR. DUNCAN YARROW
Lieut. Mina .....MR. EDWARD LANDOR
Corporal Don José ..MR. FRANK CELLIER, JUN.
Corporal Morales .....MR. COTTON HOLMES
Sergeant Valqueres ....MR. A. WILSON-WYNNE
Sergeant Lopez .....MR. STANLEY ROBERTS
Il Dancairo .....MR. PERCY H. VERNON
Il Remendado .....MR. BASIL DEAN
Pedro .....MR. WALTER CARR
Escamillo .....MR. EDWIN BEVERLEY
Lillas Pastia .....MR. HERBERT HALFORD
Boy .....MASTER SYDNEY SKIPP
Carmen .....MISS FLORENCE GLOSSOP-HARRIS
Frasquita .....MISS NORA GOULDEN
Mercedes .....MISS NITA ASHBY
Michaela .....MISS KATE TURNER
Manuelita .....MISS MAY SAKER
Dolores .....MISS IRENE WOODFORD
Juanita .....MISS MARION BIRD
Old Peasant Woman .....MRS. EDWARD SAKER

The production of *Carmen* may be fitly described as an auspicious opening to the Glossop-Harris tour. The plot of the play being practically the same as that of Bizet's opera, there is no need to give a résumé of it; it suffices to say that the dramatisation gives the principal characters admirable scope for the display of their histrionic powers. Mr. Frank Cellier plays Don José with considerable ability; the conflict between love and duty, which is the chief characteristic of the part, is forcibly emphasised, particularly in the tavern scene, where honour bids him obey the bugle-call, and Carmen pleads with her lover to remain. Again, at the conclusion of the play, when José, maddened at the mocking indifference of his false love, stabs her to the heart, Mr. Cellier's acting rises to a fine pitch of dramatic intensity. Mr. Edwin Beverley's portrayal of Escamillo, the toreador, is marked by dash and vigour, and he looks the part to perfection. A pleasing touch of comedy is supplied by Mr. Percy Vernon and Mr. Basil Dean as the smugglers, Il Dancairo and Il Remendado; and Mr. Edwin Landor also excites mirth as the dissolute Lieut. Mina. As Captain Zuniga and Corporal Morales, Mr. Duncan Yarrow and Mr. Cotton-Holmes make the most of their opportunities. Miss Glossop-Harris's performance as Carmen will considerably add to her theatrical reputation. The varying moods of the gipsy, now the bewitching syren who wins men's hearts only to break them, then the light-hearted peasant, and anon the revengeful woman, swayed by stormy passions, all are depicted with exquisite delicacy of touch. The night scene in the mountain pass, where Carmen, by the flickering lantern light, reads her fate in the cards, and sees in them the black shadow of her impending doom, is particularly fine. A very creditable performance is that of Miss May Saker as Manuelita, brooding over the hopes Carmen has blighted, and thirsting for revenge; Mrs. Edward Saker, as a fruit-seller, has little to do, but does it exceedingly well; Michaela is in the hands of Miss Kate Turner; and as Frasquita and Mercedes Miss Nora Goulden and Miss Nita Ashby acquit themselves exceedingly well. Minor rôles are creditably filled by Misses Irene Woodford and Marion Bird, and Messrs. Wilson-Wynne, Stanley Roberts, Walter Carr, Herbert Halford, and Sydney Skipp. The mounting of the play is excellently carried out, the mountain pass in Act 3, with its realistic storm, being a marvel of scenic beauty. The music, which is arranged by Mr. Henry Creak, adds considerably to the success of the drama. The production is under the general supervision of Mr. Frank Cellier, with Mr. Percy H. Vernon as stage director, and the acting management is in the capable hands of Mr. Max Jerome. Despite the inevitable small drawbacks of a "first night," the play went smoothly from start to finish, and was received with hearty favour by the patrons of Mr. Bade Monteñore's admirably-appointed theatre. The company's répertoire includes *Much Ado About Nothing*, *A Winter's Tale*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *As You Like It*, *Camille*, *King René's Daughter*, &

COVENTRY HIPPODROME OPENING.

New Year's Eve witnessed the opening, after many months of hard work on the part of all concerned, of the new Hippodrome, Coventry, and a large audience gave every evidence of admiration at the new building, in the erection of which the greatest taste has been displayed. From the vestibule, with its mosaic floor, a short flight of marble steps leads to the box-office hall, and two fireproof staircases on either side give access to the circle and orchestra stalls. Two other fireproof staircases lead, from either side of the main entrance, to the gallery. The auditorium is divided into orchestra stalls, pit stalls, pit, circle, and gallery, affording seating accommodation for over 1,700 people. In addition, there are two large boxes at either end of the circle, tastefully and luxuriously furnished. The large panelled ceiling and cove have been artistically decorated, while the glittering sun-burners in the centre ensure perfect ventilation. The decorations of the front of the circle and gallery are neatly executed, with predominant tints of cream and old gold. The decorations surmounting the boxes are of an Oriental type, and the proscenium opening, with full emblature above the centre, is treated with a background of eggshell green embellished with gold, and flanked on either side by stately Corinthian columns. Above the proscenium opening and over the boxes are a number of artistically-painted picture-panels, while the Coventry arms appear in a prominent position over the front of each of the boxes. The walls are done in crimson and gold, while crimson predominates in the upholstery work. The tableaux curtains are of Rose du Barry crimson plush, and the same material is employed in covering the tops of the partitions at the back of the circle, and also along the edge of the balcony. The seats in the circle and pit stalls are covered with crimson velvet plush, while the orchestra stalls are upholstered in bright gold, affording a pleasing contrast of colour. The flooring is covered with a Wilton pile carpet, having an effective pattern in gold. The orchestra is enclosed by a massive brass rail, from which crimson curtains are suspended. The chief illuminant is electricity, the three-clustered frosted bulbs throwing a soft yet powerful light over all parts of the house, and the indicators at either side of the proscenium opening are illuminated by the same agency. A duplicate installation of gas is provided for use in case of emergency. The exits are numerous, a fireproof curtain is provided, and there are numerous fire appliances conveniently arranged about the building. An efficient system of hot-water heating has been installed, and there are three cosy refreshment rooms, one on each tier. The scenery and stage fittings have been done by Fred Wilkins and Brothers, of Liverpool.

On Monday, a torchlight procession, headed by the Coventry Military Band, proceeded from Grey Friars' Green to the New Hippodrome, where a huge crowd speedily filled the house in every part, the City Council and the principal Corporation officials, and many other prominent citizens, being present. A round of applause greeted the rising of the curtains, disclosing the Coventry Co-operative Choir and the band, who joined in rendering the National Anthem under the baton of Mr. John Potter. During an interval in the programme, Mr. T. M. Sylvester (the manager) stepped before the curtain and announced that Mr. R. Halpin (one of the directors) would say a few words.

Mr. Halpin, after thanking the public of Coventry for their support, said:—"The two-house-a-night movement in Coventry is not a very old one. In the year 1903 Mr. Sylvester, our most excellent and energetic manager, discovered Coventry, among other places, as being suitable for the introduction of this form of entertainment, and I venture to assert that his judgment has proved to be quite sound; it was a thing which was wanted. Twelve months after the opening of the old Hippodrome the present company was formed to take it over. Since then we can honestly say that we have had no right to complain of the support and patronage of the citizens of Coventry. With regard to the programmes, I think everyone who has attended the performances in the old house will agree with me that they have been of a very high order. Looking to the future, I cannot give you any better guarantee of the programmes that will be submitted to you from time to time than to say that Mr. Sylvester will still occupy his position as manager. Ladies and gentlemen, we are on the eve of a New Year, and the directors of this company desire to wish everyone in Coventry a happy and prosperous year. (A Voice: "Same to you sir," and applause.) My friend is good enough to say, 'same to you'; it is in your hands, it rests with you whether the year 1907 shall prove a happy and prosperous year for the Hippodrome. We are content, and have perfect confidence in leaving it in your hands. I can only express the hope that this house in which we are assembled to-night will be one in which everyone will feel comfortable; we think they will and hope they will; and if they feel comfortable we have no fear and no doubt as to the success of the undertaking. This is a Coventry undertaking, and we appeal to Coventry citizens to support us."

The programme for the opening week has a seasonable item in the pantomime, *Captain Kidd; or, The Pirates of Wapping*, which was followed with interest on Monday night. The Gordon Highlanders go through a series of evolutions and exercises with marvellous rapidity, and in the second part of their entertainment they give a clever display of high-wall scaling. The Smythsons arouse much merriment with their comedy sketch, *The Lie Alarm*. Woodhouse and Ward are a pair of clever and daring cyclists, who also introduce much comic business into their performance; and other good turns are contributed by Miss Georgina Leonard, ballad and descriptive vocalist; McCann, speciality comedy skater; H. Clifford, comedian; and Frank Cass, character and descriptive vocalist. The Hippodrome pictures include a film depicting "A Trip to Niagara."

"Lady Huntworth's Experiment" is to be revived at the Haymarket on Saturday next, with Miss Compton and Miss Polly Emery in their original characters of Lady Huntworth and Keziah respectively. Mr. Charles Hawtrey, Mrs. Calvert, Miss Wiehe, and Mr. Weedon Grossmith will also be in the cast. *Lady Huntworth's Experiment* will be preceded by a new comedy in one act, by Mrs. de la Pasture, called *Her Grace the Reformer*. Mr. Frederick Harrison contemplates the production at the Haymarket later in the season of an entirely new comedy by Mr. Carton.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Van Biene have just concluded a ten months' engagement with Mr. Lingford Carson's *Drama of Life* company, as general-manager and leading lady, and return to him again on August Bank Holiday. Meanwhile, they are playing a special engagement as Dickson and Mabel in *The Broken Melody*, and on March 4 commence their third engagement with Mr. T. E. Ward, as business-manager and leading lady, in his *Man and Wife* company. It may be added that both his father and Mr. Carson have again entrusted Mr. Van Biene with the bookings of their respective tours of *The Broken Melody* and *The Drama of Life*.

Messrs. Johnson and Potter, the proprietors of the ill-fated Court Theatre, Warrington, desire to express their grateful thanks to the large number of resident and touring managers throughout the country who have sent sympathetic messages respecting the disaster of Christmas Day. Such kindly feeling is deeply appreciated by them.

ANTIPODEAN GOSSIP.

By Frederic Melville.

MELBOURNE, Nov. 26, 1906.—Theatrical business all round is having a good time in the land of the "Southern Cross," Rickards, the vaudeville King, especially being the one that does not seem to get a losing week. His business has been phenomenal, and I have had a good chance to observe it, as I remained at the Tivoli Theatre, Sydney, two months, and at the Melbourne Opera House, where I am at present completing another two months, the houses have been so large that, despite the size of the theatre, on many occasions quite a number of people have had to be provided with improvised accommodation — for instance, extra chairs within the rails of the orchestra amongst the musicians.

For the past two months the big novelty attraction has been "La Motogirl," which is acknowledged to be the most remarkable novelty ever imported by Mr. Rickards, and is the means of attracting to the theatre people who have never before entered a vaudeville house. The Australian Press with one accord unite in saying the act is a brilliant success. The Alaskas, a Continental act, although the male end of it is an Englishman, have made a decided hit, and seven curtain calls are their usual allotment. The act consists of very skilful tumbling, combined with some very graceful work done by the lady assistant, who wears very pretty and expensive costumes.

The steamers are continually bringing some of your well-known London performers over to stand their trial before the critical Australian audience. It does not matter what he or she has done in England or the world, no matter how big the reputation or name, it must be made over again in Australia, as the people have their own ideas here of what *they* think is good; the result is, a London or provincial sketch team can come over and have just as much chance of bringing the house down as one of London status, who might wind up with a solitary curtain. I have noticed acts absolutely unknown in the big West-end halls of London described here as being great, and go with acclamation, so you see Australia is a great place for many of the English performers who cannot get the big opportunities in London to come and try their luck.

An Australian engagement with Harry Rickards is one of the most pleasant events that can happen. Compared with the hustle and worry of American, Continental, and English provincial work, this is one long dream. No worry with your baggage—there are men appointed to do the worrying—one show nightly, two matinées weekly. The week starts on a Saturday night and ends on a Friday. This change of beginnings and endings seems to make the time slip away very quickly.

The long dream I just alluded to is, however, only possible to be indulged in in the event of your act being successful, otherwise the time will not be so diverting, as the gallery, particularly the Sydney, will brook no interference with what they consider the goods, and will let you know it nightly all the time. The plan of taking not the slightest notice of them, but just going straight ahead with your work, is the best recommended method to adopt. A good rousing chorus, in which they join, is a thing that goes well with the gallery boys, and most of the English comic singers generally have such a song for them. Harry Bedford, for instance, catches on finely with them with his songs and dances, and is a big favourite. Duncan and Godfrey, of *Me and 'Er* fame, are here, both the above sketch and *A Sceneshifter's Lament* going splendidly. Casselli and James, banjo players from London town, receive quite an ovation nightly for their "Poet and Peasant" and imitations of "The parson will now pray," on the banjos, the last-named having caught on strong.

Selbo, the juggler, another new arrival, is considered here to be among the greatest ever seen. He is certainly very clever, and does some very adroit things with one hand.

Nellie Kilburn arrives here to-day, en route for Manilla, where she is engaged with Levy, of a circuit there. Her choruses go well with the gallery boys on the Rickard theatres.

Brinn, the "Cannon King," as he is billed here, has made a success, and his stay is extended by the management. He returns to-day from New Zealand, as does the entire company Mr. Rickards sent on a tour of the four cities there, viz., Christchurch, Dunedin, Auckland, and Wellington, finishing up with Hobart, in Tasmania.

One of the Tate *Motoring* companies and his *Fishing* are making the New South Wales people exercise their risible faculties.

Larry Lewis and Violette Stockwell have also made a good impression; the former gentleman's quaint method of delivering his songs made him an instant favourite. He remained here seven weeks, and is now in Sydney.

"Dreamland," an outdoor attraction that was started this summer at St. Kilda, the only summer resort of Melbourne, is got up on a miniature Coney Island scale. About £10,000 sterling is supposed to be behind the venture. The weather has been dead against it from its commencement. A free circus is given afternoon and evening, in return for sixpence admission charged, and a band discourses sweet music. Looping the death-trap is given free on the grounds. On the first performance of the "death ride," the trap that the bicycle and rider strike refused to open, and "Chevalo, the Fearless" was dashed to the ground. It was reported his skull was fractured, but he was again in the saddle yesterday, so the injury must have been a little exaggerated.

Mr. Salambo, of fire-eating reputation, well known in England, is the managing-director of "Dreamland," and promoter of the scheme.

This is the month of November (the last part of it), supposed to be Australian summer, and yet overcoats are worn; the weather is so changeable.

I cannot conclude this letter without saying that Mr. Fred Aydon, manager of Rickards' Opera House, Melbourne, is a most courteous gentleman, a good business man, and one with whom all newcomers will be delighted to make an acquaintance.

Mr. Otho Stuart has found a fresh aspirant for dramatic honours, of whom he has obtained a new comedy for use at the Apollo when the success of *Peter's Mother* shall be exhausted. The new author is Mr. John Valentine, an Englishman who for some years has been resident in America, and his play is called *The Stronger Sex*, a title which at once recalls Mr Pinero's *The Weaker Sex*. In the new piece will appear Miss Nina Boucicault, Mr. Leonard Boyne, Miss Lillian Braithwaite, Miss Marie Illington, Mr. Paul Arthur, Mr. Philip Knox, and Miss Gertrude Scott.

At Barrow-in-Furness Royalty *What the Butler Saw* is proving an excellent attraction. Mr. Lionel Rignold is very happy in the part of the Butler; Miss Ada Blanche plays the part of Mrs. Barrington admirably; Mr. Charles Fawcett scores as Jack Barrington; Mr. Reddick Atchison as Sir Chas. Foden handles the part in a very able way; Miss Marie Daltra as Miss Foden is pleasing; and Miss Jennie Wignez is capital as the maid.

Sherlock Holmes is paying a welcome visit to His Majesty's Theatre, Barrow-in-Furness. Mr. A. Hamilton Stewart appears in the character of the detective, and his performance is really excellent; Miss Georgina Wynett gives a clever delineation of Madge Larabee; Mr. James Slea is good as Profesor Moriarty; Mr. Stephen Ewart as James Larabee, Mr. Stanley Logan as Dr. Watson, and Miss Constance Lee as Alice Faulkner play their respective parts with successful results.

The following sums for the Milton Wellings Fund have been received:—Mrs. John Maxwell, £2 2s.; W. Paxton, £1; E. M. C., 2s. 6d.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(From our own correspondent.)

SYDNEY, Nov. 20.—Messrs. Meynell, Gunn, and Varna have secured the Palace Theatre, and on the 17th they produced *The Little Stranger*, for the juvenile rôle in which they had imported Master Willie Parke. His acting of Tom Pennyman was clever, and he became instantaneously popular, and the other parts in the production were sustained by Mr. Harry Hill, Mr. James Lindsay, Miss Violet Dene, Mr. Pulteney Murray, Mr. Frank Hawthorn, Miss E. Guilford-Quin, Mr. John W. Deverell, Mr. H. Halley, Miss Florence Seymour, Miss Florence Leigh, and Miss Helen Russell.

Mr. Bland Holt revived *The Lights o' London* at the Theatre Royal on the 17th, and the evergreen melodrama, well mounted and capitally acted, was received with manifest delight by a large audience. Mr. and Mrs. Bland Holt were, of course, the showman Jervis and his large-hearted wife. Mr. Walter Baker and Miss Ross were Harold Armytage and Bess Marks, with Mr. Albert Norman as the scoundrel Clifford Armytage, and the gamekeeper's daughter, Hetty Preene, gave Miss Harrie Ireland her favourite opportunities, old Seth being a capital character study by Mr. Arthur Styan. The rest of Mr. Holt's capable company loyally helped in telling the powerful story. The dive into Regent's Canal was achieved amid tumults of acclamation, the scenery was good, and all concerned to make the approval of the playgoers heartily deserved.

The Fatal Wedding was revived at the Criterion by Messrs. Meynell and Gunn on the 17th, with little Maisie Posner in the child rôle. The scene where the kiddies do vocal and terpsichorean riots is as lively as before, and the house is packed every night. On the 24th *The Midnight Wedding* will be staged here. *The Virginian*, at Her Majesty's, is still increasing in favour and attendance, its absolutely natural humour, love-making, and lawlessness creating a more profound impression with each succeeding performance.

The Tivoli patrons welcomed Mr. Larry Lewis and Miss Violet Stockello with genuine delight on Saturday night. The "turns" of both are distinctly clever. "The Alaskas" still continue to astonish all and sundry, and Mr. Harry Tate's company provokes as much laughter in its new sketch, *Fishing*, as it did in *Motoring*. Mr. Post Mason, Cassie Walmer, and a host of others who swell Mr. Harry Rickards' big bill, give a sparkling and ever-changing programme.

Mr. William Anderson has transformed the Bondi Aquarium and Pleasure Grounds into a vast arena of sport, pastime, amusement, and entertainment. It will be opened shortly in the name of "Wonderland City," and Mr. Anderson will personally manage the concern.

Madame Amy Sherwin had a crowded hall at her second concert, and her fine voice was never heard to better advantage. Mr. J. Edward Sykes, besides sharing the piano accompaniments, gave the organ support to Willesby's "Crossing the Bar" and Sullivan's "Lost Chord." Encores were many and enthusiasm high. Mr. Arnold Gange (baritone) and Mr. Clement Harvey (solo pianist) are great favourites. Herr Hugo Gorlitz announces two more concerts, one at the Y.M.C.A. Hall and one at the Town Hall. Meanwhile Madame Sherwin is "doing" Bathurst and Orange.

Miss Minnie Hooper, who trains dancers and ballets for the various theatres, gave a pupils' exhibition at the Palace Theatre on the 14th, and a surprisingly clever show it was. Little Bessie Sutton and Miss Nellie Lead were especially good, and an abnormally long programme of interesting items were given to a large and delighted audience.

Miss Mabel Lane, who came here with the *Ben Hur* company some time ago, died in a private hospital on the 13th, and her remains were taken to her birthplace in Victoria for interment.

SYDNEY, Nov 27, 1906.—*The Midnight Wedding* is the latest Criterion bill of Messrs. Meynell and Gunn. The military and romantic events are picturesquely staged, and Mr. Harcourt Beatty (late of Nellie Stewart's company) was engaged to strengthen the cast. Mr. E. Vaughan supplied some very fine scenery for Mr. Walter Howard's drama, in which the principal parts were acted by Mr. Harcourt Beatty (who had a warm reception), Miss May Congdon, Mr. Charles Vane, Mr. Conway Wingfield, Miss Winifred Gunn, Mr. Tom Cannam, and Miss Dina Cooper. The production was stage-managed by Mr. C. R. Stanford, who also played Father Gerard, and Mr. John Gunn directed.

"The Virginians" still holds Her Majesty's stage, and the truly human and humorous story draws large and delighted audiences. If time permits before the return of Miss Tittell Brune, a version of "Under Two Flags" called *Cigarette* will be staged. The Christmas productions, *Parsifal* and *Alice in Wonderland*, are in active rehearsal.

Mr. Bland Holt has struck oil with his revival of *The Lights o' London* at the Royal, and no successor is as yet announced.

"The Little Stranger," played at the Palace by Master Willie Parke and Messrs. Meynell, Gunn, and Varna's large company, has suited the humour of playgoers, and the pretty little theatre resounds with laughter and applause.

The Tivoli habitués welcomed Stewart and Lorraine most cordially on the 24th, and the latest of Mr Harry Rickards' importations became favourites in their neat, unique turn of instrumentation and song. Harry Tate's *Fishing* company, the Alaskas, and Larry Lewis are the principal entertainers of the present week.

Harry Clay's variety company is touring the suburbs. The Lyceum Hall has moving pictures and little Bessie Sutton, the clever child performer. The Haymarket Hippodrome has *His Natural Life* as its attraction; and the Pavilion at Manly has concerts and bioscope.

Last Monday the Scottish Societies patronised the Sherwin Concert, when the programme, given by Miss Amy Sherwin, Mr. Harold Gange, and Mr. Clement Harvey, chiefly consisted of Scotch song and instrumental themes.

Mrs. Isabel E. Ruthven, who has invented a kindergarten system for teaching music to young children, gave a performance at the St. James's Hall on the 21st, when a drama called *The Quarrel of the Notes* was acted. In this, sections of children, representing the various notes used in music, disputed the way of King Semibreve, to the great delight of a crowded audience. The drama was written by Mrs. Ruthven, and the music composed by Mr. F. B. Ruthven. Miss Rawson (the Governor's daughter) and the Lady Mayoress were present.

Mr. Eugene Goossens, formerly conductor of the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company, died on Sunday last at Liverpool, after a brief illness. Mr. Goossens, who was in his sixty-first year, was born in Belgium, and at an early age gave evidence of musical genius. He studied under Mechelaar, the famous choirmaster of Notre Dame, and afterwards went to the Conservatoire Royal, Brussels, where, in 1864, he secured his diploma and medals for violin and composition. On reaching England, Mr. Goossens obtained the goodwill of Carl Rosa, and his first attempt at conducting the orchestra of that great impresario's company established his reputation. The deceased gentleman, who severed his connection with the Carl Rosa combination about fourteen years ago, was warmly esteemed in Liverpool, where he acted as a teacher of music and choirmaster at St. Ann's Church, Edgehill.

THE MUSICAL YEAR.

The great event of the musical year 1906 is, of course, the passing of the Musical Copyright Bill, chiefly by the exertions of Mr. T. P. O'Connor. The year has, musically, been a very eventful one. It opened brilliantly with the grand opera season at Covent Garden, beginning with the *Ring*, conducted by Dr. Hans Richter. Two cycles were given under this eminent conductor, and fine performances were presented of *Die Meistersinger*, *Tristan*, *Walküre*, and *Der Fliegende Holländer*. Apart from the *Ring*, large audiences have been present when such standard works as *Faust*, *Carmen*, and *Rigoletto*, with strong casts, have been presented, and among modern composers Puccini has become more popular than ever, and the numerous performances of *La Bohème* (with Mme. Melba and Caruso) and *Madama Butterfly* (with Mme. Giachetti) drew the largest houses of the season. Verdi's *Aïda* and *La Traviata*, handsomely mounted, proved very attractive. *Don Giovanni* and Tschaikowsky's *Eugène Onegin* were also given, and on July 6 Gluck's opera, *Armide*, was produced for the first time in England, the beautiful mounting of which work doing the Royal Opera Syndicate the greatest credit. The other new operas produced were André Messager's *Les Deux Pigeons*, Peter Cornelius's bright and humorous *Barber of Bagdad*, and Massenet's charming work, *Le Jongleur de Notre-Dame*. After the close of the grand opera the Moody-Manners Opera Company gave a highly successful season of opera in English at the Lyric Theatre, fine performances being given of *Lohengrin*, *Tannhäuser*, Verdi's *Trovatore*, Tschaikowsky's *Eugène Onegin*, Mozart's *Nozze de Figaro* (in which Mme. Moody greatly distinguished herself), *Faust*, *Lucia*, and Meyerbeer's *Huguenots*. Among the artists appearing at the Lyric during the Moody-Manners' season may be mentioned that fine singer, Mr. Joseph O'Mara, Mme. Blanche Marchesi, Mme. Fanny Moody, Mr. Manners, and Mme. de Vere, all of whom rendered yeoman service in the cause of opera in English. In the autumn the San Carlo Company gave a season at Covent Garden, which, with two exceptions, was mainly devoted to Italian opera. The San Carlo Company were fortunately able to secure the services of Mme. Melba, Mme. Giachetti, that clever young artist Signor Zenatello, and a newcomer, Mme. Maria Gay, who achieved a record success in *Carmen*. Other talented artists were Mme. de Cisneros, Mme. Kirkby Lunn, Signor Sammarco and Mme. Suzanne Adams. In the list of operas *Madama Butterfly* and *Carmen* were each given nine times, *Bohème* seven, and *Faust* six. *Aïda* was mounted five times, and *Rigoletto* and *Tosca* four each; while *Traviata* was only given on three nights, and Cilea's *Adriana Lecouvreur* twice. The only novelty produced was Giordano's *Fedora*, which only gained a partial success. Although the season was brief, a high level was reached in the performances, and there is every reason to think that the financial results have equalled expectations. It is manifestly impossible to more than refer to the perfect host of concerts given last year, as they averaged something like twenty-seven a week throughout the year; but mention must be made of Mr. Wood's excellent series of promenade concerts given in the autumn at Queen's Hall. At these concerts the programmes included new works by British, German, Belgian, and Finnish composers. Of the new compositions introduced one of the most successful was Mr. R. Vaughan-Williams's "Norfolk Rhapsody," based on folk-tunes from East Anglia. In December the *Yeomen of the Guard* was revived at the Savoy Theatre, this being the first of a series to be given of the Gilbert-Sullivan operas; and at the Prince of Wales's Theatre a musical version of *The Vicar of Wakefield*, by Mme. Liza Lehmann, was successfully produced. Excellent results also have been shown by our great music schools during the past year, the Royal College of Music giving a capital performance of Sir Charles Stanford's *Shamus O'Brien*, at the Scala Theatre, and the Royal Academy two acts from Verdi's *Falstaff*; while a clever rendering of Barnett's *Mountain Sylph* was given by the students of the Guildhall School. The chief musical event of the past year was the retirement of the great prima donna, Mme. Adelina Patti, who, before an immense and enthusiastic audience at the Albert Hall, took her farewell of the London musical public. Mr. Joseph Bennett, the musical critic of the *Daily Telegraph*, also retired last year, and great interest was aroused by the visit to London of the famous Dr. Grieg, who, at Queen's Hall, before a huge audience, gave two concerts, the programme of the first being orchestral, and including the *Peer Gynt* Suite, and of the other concert consisting of pianoforte solos and vocal items. The Royal Choral Society gave, at the Royal Albert Hall, Mr. Coleridge-Taylor's *Hiawatha*, *Elijah*, and the *Messiah*. From New York the intelligence comes that *Madama Butterfly* has proved as great a success in that city as in London, the title-rôle being sung by Mme. Elsa Szamosy, a Hungarian vocalist, recommended by the composer. The general advance of music during the past year promises well for the future.

Presentation.—Mr. Archie Howells, the musical director at the Canterbury, was presented on Wednesday last with a silver cigar holder, ash tray, and box of cigars from Mendel, the blind pianist.

Mr. Editor.—Sir,—In your report of the pantomime at the King's Theatre, Gateshead, you state that the mechanical effects were by Mr. A. George, but they were made by yours truly, Charles Watts.—Grand Theatre, Islington, Jan. 1, '07.

Mr. Seymour Hicks and Mr. Walter Slaughter have arranged to produce next Christmas a novel version of *Cinderella*. At least three hundred children will be engaged in the pantomime, in which beautiful and elaborate scenes of new design are to be revealed.

Mr. Charles Hannan's successful fantastical comedy, *The Electric Man*, has been purchased for South Africa by Mr. Leonard Rayne, who will produce the piece in that country during the coming spring. Mr. Rayne intends himself to sustain the rôle of the Electric Man.

Mr. A. C. Harrison has engaged Mr. Sidney Beltram, a gentleman well known in theatrical circles, as manager of the New Theatre Royal, Seaham Harbour.

Miss Hanid Alexander, the clever juvenile entertainer, who has made a great success at the Walthamstow Palace this week, can boast of quite an exceptional professional record for so young an artist. For three successive seasons Miss Alexander played the title-rôle in *Little Red Riding Hood* with Mr. Robert Arthur, and was offered a renewal of the part for the present season. This, however, the young lady was unable to accept, as, after this week, she starts on a fourteen weeks' tour in Germany, visiting most of the principal cities. In addition to this, the young lady has to record a three years' engagement on the Stoll tours, and two years with Mr. Walter Gibbons. It is given to few entertainers in their early "teens" to achieve such a varied experience.

Mr. Charles Edgar Stelling, comedian, was initiated into the mysteries of the Terriers' Association on Sunday. Terrier Tom Burnett was in the chair at the initiation.

At the London Pavilion on Monday the Seldoms will present a new and striking pose, entitled "The Wrestlers," after the work of Lambeau, the famous Belgian sculptor.

ON THE ROAD, JAN. 7.

Are You a Mason?—Grand T., Eccles.
Assassin.—Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
At Cripple Creek.—New Theatre, Oxford.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs.—Theatre, Kilkenny.
Beautiful Fiend.—Grand T., Walsall.
Beauty of Bath.—T. R., Chatham.
Belle of Mayfair (Bode).—County T., Reading.
Benson, F. R. (N.).—O. H., W. Hartlepool.
Benson, F. R.—Queen's Theatre, Leeds.
Benson, F. R. (S.).—T. R., Waterford.
Blue Moon.—T. R., Brighton.
Breed of the Treshams.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
Bulmer, Mr.—Theatre Royal, Windsor.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—Huddersfield.
Cassidy, J. Rice.—Palace T., Newcastle.
Chinese Honeymoon (Bode).—G. T., Wolverhampton
Chinese Honeymoon (Macdona).—Ireland.
Christian, The (Croke).—T. R., Aston.
Claudian.—Victoria T., Broughton.
Coal King.—T. R., Crook.
Compton Comedy Co.—O. H., Northampton.
Country Girl (Macdona).—South Wales and Midlands.
Dairymaids.—Victoria T., Burnley.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
D'Oyly Carte.—New T., Aberdeen.
Driven from Home.—Grand T., Nelson.
Earl and the Girl.—O. H., Leicester.
Earl and the Girl (N.).—O. H., St. Helens.
False Wife.—Spennymoor.
Female Swindler.—Grand T., Luton.
Fight for Millions.—T. R., Burslem.
French Spy.—Carlton T., Saltley.
Gay Parisienne.—Mansfield.
Gipsy Jack.—Opera House, Kidderminster.
Glossop-Harris' Repertoire Co.—St. Leonards.
Go-Won-Go-Mohawk.—Dudley.
Grip of Iron.—Lyceum T., Long Eaton.
Honour Thy Father.—O. H., Dunfermline.
Hour of Her Triumph.—Scunthorpe.
Indian Mutiny.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Slough and Marlow.
La Poupee (Ralland).—Royalty T., Barrow.
Little Breadwinner.—T. R., Whitehaven.
London Fireman.—Royalty T., Llanelly.
Love That Women Desire.—Court T., Bacup.
Man and Wife.—Theatre Royal, Sunderland.
Manxman.—Irving T., Seacombe.
Merveilleuses.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Midnight Wedding.—Osborne T., Manchester.
Monte Cristo.—Alexandra T., Widnes.
Moody-Manners (A.).—Dublin.
Moody-Manners (B.).—Woolwich.
Mr. Popple.—Norwich.
My Sweetheart.—T. R., Darlington.
Napoleon the Great.—Grand T., Mansfield.
Orchid, The.—Dunbar and Kelso.
Peter's Mother.—T. R., Worthing.
Prince of Pilsen (Harriss).—T. R., Rochdale.
Private Secretary.—T. R., Lincoln.
Prodigal Parson.—T. R., Macclesfield.
Proof.—Theatre Royal, Tony-pandy.
Robinson Crusoe (Marriss').—T. R., Blackburn.
Royal Divorce.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Sapho (Annie Bell).—Queen's T., Dublin.
Sherlock Holmes.—Grand T., Blackpool.
Silver King (Polini).—O. H., Blackpool.
Spider and the Fly.—Queen's T., Keighley.
Spring Chicken.—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
Still Alarm.—Grand T., Newcastle.
Three Little Maids.—Whitehaven.
Toreador (Macdona).—Scotland.
Traitor Prince.—T.R., Houghton-le-Spring.
Traitor, The.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
Unwedded Wife.—Junction T., Manchester.
Village Blacksmith.—T. R., Dewsbury.
Walls of Jericho.—Grand T., Swansea.
What the Butler Saw.—Alexandra T., Greenock.
When Woman Hates.—T. R., Windsor.
White Chrysanthemum (Curzon).—O. H., Coventry.
White Chrysanthemum (Macdona).—Kilmarnock.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—T. R., Bilston.
Woman and Wine.—Aquarium, Yarmouth.
Worst Woman in London.—Clare ice T., Pontypridd.
Youngest of Three.—Grand T., Croydon.
10.30 Down Express.—T. R., Chesterfield.
£1,000 Reward.—Alexandra T., Hull.

MENTAL MAGNETISM.

To the Editor of The Era.

Sir,—Will you kindly allow us to correct Mr. Howard Crispin regarding the statement in last week's *Era re* the first production of mental magnetism in 1904-5? The above entertainment was first introduced into this country by Verbeck at the Princes Hall, Piccadilly, 20 years ago, and afterwards introduced at the Royal Aquarium by Guibal and Maria Gréval, who were previously interpreter and assistant to Herr Verbeck. Silent telepathy, or thought transmission, without word, sign, or action, was first introduced by those well-known entertainers, Charles and Lillian Morritt, and in all parts of the world by yours very truly,

THOMAS AND LILLIAN HOWARD.

Tredegar Hall, Newport, Jan. 2.

"The Broken Melody" is to be seen at the Hackney Empire on Monday next. Mr. Van Biene, to whom the success of the play is due, was born in Holland in 1851. A pupil of Servais, at fifteen he was playing the 'cello in the Opera House at Rotterdam. A year later he and the 'cello arrived in London, to do battle with whatever things might be. Says Van Biene:—"I did not speak one word of English; I had just my poor 'cello, my art, and my youth. One day, as I was playing, a stranger stood and listened to one, two, three of my solos. Then he asked me kindly why, since I played so well, I must play in the streets? I told him, and he gave me his card, bidding me call on him next day. That was Sir Michael Costa, and in a few days my 'cello and I were in the orchestra at Covent Garden, and I played in the streets no more."

Mr. Andrew Roy, who has sung with Caruso in *Rigoletto*, at Covent Garden, will be heard at the Hackney Empire next week in the American march song, "Good-bye, sweet Marie," which has been illustrated exclusively for the Moss-Stoll Empires by Lloyd Langdon.

At the Northampton Palace of Varieties the proprietor, Mr. Fred H. Anderson, has collected the handsome sum of £16 17s. 6d. for the local Poor Children's Christmas Dinner Fund.

Mr. Albert Wyndham, who makes a great speciality of Shakespearean scenes, is by way of putting in an appearance at the Middlesex on Monday as the Duke of Clarence, in *Clarence's Dream*.

Mr. Charles Dixton, owing to the success he achieved at the Standard and Middlesex last summer, will shortly reappear with his comedy-sketch, *Uncle Obadiah*, in the variety theatres conducted by Mr. Frederick Baugh.

Roland Oliver's exciting dramatic episode, *Her Last Dance*, will be presented at the Chelsea Palace next week. There is a great fight for life between a man and a woman, the only two characters in the playlet, originally produced at the New Cross Empire in July last. Mr. H. Naylor Grimson plays his old part of Count Charles Kelmore, and Miss Queenie Fraser-Brunner has been specially engaged to support him.

Messrs. Harrington and Tate are now busily engaged in writing and composing an entirely new and original dramatic sketch, in two scenes, for the popular actor-vocalist Mr. George Leyton, who has been making a huge success everywhere with the same firm's *The Wreck of the Birkenhead*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. H.—*Mr. George Alexander commenced management on his own account at the Avenue, Feb. 1, 1890, with Hamilton Aidé's* Doctor Bill. *The name-part was first played by Mr. Fred Terry. Mr. Alexander took it up on March 15.*

SAILOR.—*The late Mr. Fred Leslie made his first appearance at the Old Gaiety as Jonathan Wild, in Stephens and Yardley's burlesque,* Little Jack Sheppard, *Dec. 26, 1885.*

MARGATE. — The Tyranny of Tears, *by Haddon Chambers, was produced at the Criterion, April 6, 1899. Mr. (now Sir) Charles Wyndham played Mr. Parbury; Mr. F. Kerr, George Gunning; Mr. Alfred Bishop, Colonel Armitage; Mr. Stanley Pringle, Evans; Miss Maude Millett, Hyacinth Woodward; and Miss Mary Moore, Mrs. Parbury. The piece was revived at Wyndham's Theatre, Jan. 29, 1902.*

F. B. T.—La Fille de Madame Angot *(adapted by H. J. Byron) had its first English production at the Philharmonic Theatre, Islington, on Oct. 4, 1873. Another version, by H. B. Farnie, was produced at the Gaiety on the following Nov. 10.*

C. WILLSON.—*We have no records. You might obtain the information by writing to the editor of one of the local journals.*

E. M.—Becky Sharp, *a one-act play, adapted by J. M. Barrie from Thackeray's "Vanity Fair," was first performed at Terry's Theatre on June 3, 1893, with Miss Janet Achurch in the title part. The author resides at Black Lake Cottage, by Farnham.*

F. W. C.—Dombey and Son, *a play in three acts, adapted by John Brougham from Dickens's novel, was first performed at Burton's Theatre, New York, in 1850, with the author as Joe Bagstock; and revived at Daly's Theatre, New York, in September, 1885; and at the Star Theatre, New York, in 1888. Captain Cuttle, a dramatic sketch in three acts, by John Brougham, was produced at the Gaiety Theatre, London, on Nov. 20, 1880, with Mr. W. J. Florence in the title part.*

C. BAILLIE.—*A notice of the revival of* Captain Brassbound's Conversion *at the Court Theatre on April 16 last appeared in "The Era" of April 21.*

JIM.—*Miss Marie Lloyd appeared as Polly Perkins in the pantomime of* Robinson Crusoe *produced at Drury Lane Theatre on Boxing Day, 1893.*

J. B.—*Charlotte Cushman appeared at the Haymarket Theatre in December, 1845, when she played Romeo to the Juliet of her sister, Susan.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth** or **Death** or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny.**

The charge for a notice of **Marriage**, not exceeding forty words, is **Two Shillings and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

DEATHS.

ATKIN.—At Ramsgate, on Jan. 2, passed away John A. Atkin, age 49, late proprietor of "The Grip of Iron." Deeply mourned by all.

BURTON.—Suddenly, at Motherwell, Scotland, Monday, Dec. 31 '06, of acute bronchitis, Edith, elder daughter of John and Alice Amelia Burton.

CLANCARTY.—Dec. 31, at Garbally Park, Ballinasloe, co. Galway, of cancer, the Countess of Clancarty (formerly Belle Bilton, variety comedienne and burlesque actress), aged 38.

COURTENAY.—Dec. 21, at 72, Beever-street, Oldham, from heart failure, Eliza, widow of the late Lindo Courtenay, in the sixty-fifth year of her age.

CROSSE.—On New Year's morning, after several months' illness, patiently borne, Edward Crosse, musical director and composer, aged 56. Funeral to-day at 12 o'clock, at Brompton Cemetery.

FEATHERSTONE.—Jan. 1, at Newcastle, of typhoid fever, Bessie Featherstone, comedienne.

GOOSSENS.—Dec. 30, at Liverpool, Eugene Goossens, musical conductor and composer, aged 60.

GREENSHIELDS.—On New Year's morning, at his residence, 113 Lilford-road, London, S.E., Thomas Charles Greenshields, aged 61, of syncope, the dearly loved father of Maude, Kittie, and Jessie Merrick (Mrs. Jackson Hayes) and Mrs. George Brooks (Sisters Brand). For more than thirty years on the staff of "The Daily Telegraph." Deeply mourned by his sorrowing wife and children.

HARKER.—On Dec. 30, at Canton, Cardiff, Emma Kate (Amy Wynter), wife of George H. Harker, and second daughter of the late "Pat" Keane, Esq., of Southampton. "Pax."

HAMPSON.—In loving memory of my dear brother Harry (of Hampson Bros.), who died Jan. 4, 1906. Gone, but never forgotten by his loving brother Erney.

LESLIE.—Passed away on Jan. 2, at her home, Harwood, Lancashire, Minnie Leslie, wife of John Cecil, in her thirty-ninth year.

MANDERS.—Dec. 28, Alma Helen Isabell, the beloved child of James and Henrietta Manders, aged 3 months.

MILL.—Dec. 28, of consumption of the throat, Robert Reid Mill, loved husband of Flora Hemming (née Hastings), 64, Willesden-lane.

MILTON.—Dec. 17, in the Egyptian Government Hospital, Suez, from abscess of the liver, E. C. Milton, formerly of Stack and Milton (horizontal bar performers).

SAMWELLS.—Jan. 1, after short illness at Edinburgh, Mrs. John Samwells, aged 95 (mother of Amy Samwells, costumier). Deeply regretted.

WESTLAND.—Dec. 27, Henry Westland, actor, aged 68

WRIGHT.—On the 28th Dec., at her residence, Minnie Wright, the beloved wife of Leonard Wright, Stage-Manager, Hippodrome, Lowestoft, after one week's illness.

IN MEMORIAM.

ADAMS.—In ever loving memory of our darling mother, Sarah Ann Adams (Cicely Nott), widow of Saml. Adams, Esq., who fell asleep Jan. 3, 1900. Ever deeply mourned by her devoted children, Ada Blanche, Edith Tully, Rosie Courtneidge, and Addie Peacock.
"We lov'd her; ah! no tongue can tell
How much we lov'd her, and how well.
God lov'd her too; He thought it best
To take her home with Him to rest."

ANDERSON. — In affectionate memory of Robina Anderson, who fell asleep Jan. 6, 1900. Never forgotten by one of her girls, Florrie Robina (Mrs. T. Reed Pinaud).

ANDERSON.—In loving memory of Auntie Robina Anderson, who left us Jan. 6, 1900. Gone, but never forgotten by Fanny and Florry Robina.

ASHBEE.—In loving memory of Ashton Ashbee, died Jan. 2. R.I.P.

HARPER.—In loving memory of my lifelong friend, Charles Harper, of 3, Lidlington-place, N.W., Professor of Music, late of the Royal Academy, Sacred Harmonic, Covent Garden, and Savoy. Died Jan. 5, 1893. Interred in St. Pancras Cemetery, Finchley. Always thought of and ever grieved for by Elise.

HARRISON.—In loving memory of Frederick L. Harrison (of Fred and Lillie Harrison, Variety Artists), who died on Jan. 9, 1904, after a long and painful illness, bravely borne. "Do not forget me."

LLOYD.—In ever-loving memory of Richard William de la Rue Lloyd (father of Amy Elvira), who died Jan. 4, 1899, at 67, Swinton-street, London, W.C. Deeply mourned by his devoted wife and children.

SHEPHERD.—In loving memory of Sidney Alfred Shepherd, third son of Walter and Henrietta Catherine Shepherd, who died at Stafford Jan. 8, 1905, whilst on tour.

SPENCER.—In loving memory of my dear husband (George Spencer), who died Jan. 2, 1906. Never to be forgotten by his sorrowing wife, ALICE FONTAINBLEAU.
I miss you when the morning dawns,
I miss you when the night returns;
I miss you here, I miss you there,
My husband, I miss you everywhere.

WENTWORTH.—In ever loving and tender remembrance of my darling fiancée, Bessie, who passed peacefully to rest on Jan. 6, 1901.
Time but the impression stronger makes,
As streams their channels deeper wear.
—ALEC ROSS.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list

Adair, Mr. Frank
Adams, Mr. A. D.
Ahrensmeyer, Mr. H.
Anthony, Mr. Mark
Ardie, Mr. Arthur
Armstrong, Mr. W. J.
Armitage, Mr.
Arnold, Miss Maud
Ball, Mr. A.
Barrett, Mr. Medley
Barwick, Mr. Edwin
Barton, Miss Dora
Batson, Mr. J. Hastings
Bean, Mr. Leonard
Bellington, Mrs. J.
Bennett, Mr. Edwin
Benson, Mr. T. W.
Boggis, Mr. P. H.
Boothman, Miss
Bosco, Mr.
Bostock, Mr. F.
Brierley, Mr. C.
Buckingham, Mr. F.
Bunce, Mr. H.
Burnetti
Burrow, Mr. C. Kennett
Butt, Miss Clara
Byrne, Mr. T.
Cabley, Mr. G. H.
Capper, Mr. Chas.
Carney Bros.
Carson, Mr. J. W.
Chaplin, Mr. Sydney
Child, Mr. H. G.
Chipperfield, Mr. J.
Clark, Mr. Alfred C.
Clark, Mr. Chas.
Cole, Mr. Billy
Cottell, Mr. Harry D
Combes, Mr. Arthur
Conrad, Mr. Harry
Conrad, Mr. Wallace
Conway, Mr. Martin
Costello Bros.
Crige, Miss Marie
Cronin, Mr. Morris
Crowe, Miss Sidney
Currie, Mr. Carne
Curzon, Miss A.
Cuthbert, Miss Edith
Cutler, Miss Kate
Dagmar, Mrs. M.
Danby, Mr. Frank
D'Artigan, Mr.
Davies, Mr. Harry
Dawson, Miss Jenny
De Vere, Mr. Harry
Donald, Mr. John
Donaldson Bros.
Donaldson, Mr. Leon
Donlo, Mons.
Donna, Mrs. L.
Douglass, Miss A.
Eaton, Mr. W. G.
Eckert, Miss K.
Edgar, Mr. Ralph
Edgar, Mrs. Richard
Edney, Mr. Geo.
Edouin and Edwards
Ella, Miss Edna
Ellinger, Miss M.
Elliott, Miss Violet
Elton, Mr. S.
Elvo, Mr. J.
Fansons, The
Fields, Miss Fanny
Forrester, Miss M.
Foster, Mr. H. Flocton
Franks, Mr. C. W.
Fradette, Mrs.
Fraser-Brunner, Miss Q
Friend, Mr. T. H.
Garde, Mr. and Mrs.
Gardenes, Mr. Chas.
Gilbert, Brothers
Gillete, Miss Jessie
Gillies, Mr. Bob
Gordon, Mr. J. L.
Gortz, Mr. Peter
Gotham Quartette
Gray, Miss Mona
Gray, Mrs. O. S.
Grey, Mr. Harry
Grey, Miss M.
Groves, Mrs. Harry J.
Gwenn, Mr. and Mrs. E
Haddon, Miss Blanch
Hallam and Stanton
Hallam, Mr. and Mrs. H
Hammond, Mr. Augustus
Handel, Miss Z.
Handle, Mr. E.
Hardeen, Mr. Theo.
Harris, Miss Winifred
Hart, Mr. Arthur
Hastings, Mr. W.
Hawkes, Mr. A. J.
Hayden-Clarendon, Mr.
Hemmings, Miss Bessie
Herberts, The Four
Herman, Dr. Carl
Hodges, Mr. Horace
Hogan, Mrs. E.
Hoggan-Armadale, Mr. E
Hope, Mr. Roland
Hope, Mr. Stanley
Huntley, Mr. G. P.
Hylton, Mr. A. M.
Ibbetson, Mr. Clare
Irving, Mr. L.
Irwin, Miss C.
Jones, Miss Alma
Judge, Mr. R.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.
Kerr, Mr. Henry
Kioto, Mr. N. T.
Kirkdale, Mr. R. D.
Lane, Mr. M. G.
Lee, Miss Maisie
Lee, Mr. John
Lee, Mrs.
Leslie, Miss Marion
Leesing, Miss Madge
Levante, Miss M.
Lewes, Miss Miriam
Leyton, Mr. Geo.
Linde, Herr
Lindon, Miss M.
Loftus, Miss Kitty
Lovegrove, Miss P.
Lovell, Mr. H. C.
Lytham, Mr. R. A.
Lytton, Mr. Bert
Lytton, Miss Keith
MacDermot, Mr. Marc
Mace, Mr. Fred
Macfarlane, Mr. J. H.
Mack, Mr.
Mackersey, Mr. W. A.
Marsh, Mrs. H. V.
Marsdene, Miss Beatrice
Martino, Signor
maude, Miss W.
May, Miss Madge
McNulty, Mr. Alec
Melba, Miss Mabel
Menzies, Miss Marie
Mexicans, The
Milburn, Mr. J. H.
Milsted, Miss M.
Milsted, Mr. Robert
Mollison, Mr. William
Monks, Miss Victoria
Montefiore, Mr. Eade
Morgan, Sisters
Morritt, Mr. Chas.
Morton, Miss Effie
Murray, Mr. Leslie H.
Murray, Mr. Tom E.
Murray, Mr. S.
Napier, Mr. Fredk.
Nates, Miss Annie O.
Nelson, Mr. A. Adair
Nelson, Miss Molly
Nero, Mr. Michel
Nerrey, Mr. T.
Newland, Mr. J. G.
Nicholls, Mr. H. H.
Norman, Mr. Norman V.
North, Miss R. V.
Obray, Miss Alma
Orr, Mr. Ben
Pakenham, Mr. R. J.
Patterson, Mr. J.
Pattison, Mr. Bart
Parker, Mr. Louis
Payne, Miss Lilian
Peachey, Mr. John
Pettigrove, Mr. B.
Polini, Mrs.
Poluski, Mr. Will
Poplar, Mr. Fred
Powell, Mr. A.
Powell, Mr. Morris
Quest, Miss M.
Radford, Mr. Harry
Raleigh, Mr. Cecil
Raslo, Mr. Colin
Raynor, Miss D.
Reader, Mr. Solman
Reeve, Mrs. Wybert
Rigby, Mr. F.
Robertson, Miss Beatrice
Roberts, Miss Amy
Rosenau, Mr. F. A.
Roxbury, Mr. Harry
Russell, Mr. Harry
Sablanc, Miss Sylvia
Sansburry, Mr. V.
Scudamore, Miss Daisy
Seale, Mr. George
Selbo
Sevening, Miss Nina
Shaw, Miss E.
Sims, Miss Violet
Small, Mr. Harold
Smith, Prof. J.
Sorley, Mr. E.
Southgate, Mr. R. E.
Spittle, Mrs.
Stanton, Miss J.
Stelling, Miss Florence
Stewart, Mr. Chas.
Stewart, Mrs. Hamilton
St. John, Miss Florence
Stoneham, Miss A.
Sutherd, Mr. Dick
Tapley, Mr. Joseph
Toy, Mr. Henry
Tristram, Mr. W. Outrim
Tweed, Miss L
Vascoe, Mrs.
Vassar, Dr. Carl
Vergin, Mr. H.
Vernon, Miss H.
Vincent, Miss Elsie
Vincent, Mr. S.
Virginia
Walker, Mr. Whimsical
Warren, Miss Lillian
Warren, Mr. Ross
Waterfield, Mr. C.
Watson, Mr. Dock
Webster, Mr. Ben
Whiteford Mr. Jock
Whitehead, Mr. Arthur
Wilson, Mr. Ned
Wontner, Mrs. Arthur
Wright, Miss Helen K.
Wright, Mr. Bert
Zampas, The
Zedora Mr. Leo

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen :—

Mrs. Edward Saker—Saturday, Jan. 5.
Grace Baring—Saturday, Jan. 5.
Tom E. Cliffe—Saturday, Jan. 5.
David S. Bispham—Saturday, Jan 5.
J. Hermann Dickson—Saturday, Jan. 5.
Madge Barry—Sunday, Jan. 6.
Gordon Craig—Sunday, Jan. 6.
Ben Davies—Sunday, Jan. 6.
Howard Russell—Sunday, Jan. 6.
Frank Copeland—Sunday, Jan. 6.
Albert Wainwright—Sunday, Jan. 6.
Albert C. Duncan—Sunday, Jan. 6.
Mrs Mouillot—Monday, Jan. 7.
A. P. Kaye—Monday Jan. 7.
Edith Sherwood—Monday, Jan 7.
Hilda Shirley—Tuesday, Jan. 8.
R. Cowley Polhill—Tuesday, Jan. 8.
(Miss) C. Stroud-Wilson—Tuesday, Jan. 8.
Harry Bransby—Tuesday, Jan. 8.
C. H. Pullen—Tuesday, Jan. 8.
Flora Blake—Tuesday, Jan. 8.
E. S. Willard—Wednesday, Jan. 9.
George Conquest—Wednesday, Jan. 9.
F. C. Imbert—Wednesday, Jan. 9.
C. B. Keston—Wednesday, Jan 9.
John Lawson—Wednesday, Jan. 9.
C. M. Daly—Wednesday, Jan. 9.
Jessie Bond—Thursday, Jan 10.
Charles Rex—Thurday, Jan. 10.
Sybil Lonsdale—Friday, Jan. 11.

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SPENNYMOOR, CAMBRIDGE T.
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OF
ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHIES.

NAME.	DATE.
Abrahams, Messrs. F. & M.	March 31, 1906.
Alexander, Mr. Alex.	June 2, 1906.
Ashcroft, Late Mr. W. E.	October 27, 1906.
Ashton, Mr. George	May 5, 1906.
Ashton, Miss Margaret	September 1, 1906.
Ball, Mr. Alf	September 1, 1906.
Barbour, Mr. William	March 3, 1906.
Barclay, Mr. Arthur J.	May 26, 1906.
Barlow, Miss Billie	March 10, 1906.
Barnett, Mr. Orlando	October 6, 1906.
Barrasford, Mrs.	February 10, 1906.
Beatty, Miss May	November 10, 1906.
Beecham, Mr. Charles	Dec. 22, 1906.
Bertoldi, Late Miss Ena	April 7, 1906.
Billington, Mrs. John	January 20, 1906.
Bordin, Signorina Maria	September 15, 1906.
Brickwell, Miss Mamie	Nov. 24, 1906.
Brookfield, Mr. Charles	Dec. 22, 1905.
Brooks, Mr. George	Dec. 29, 1906.
Brough, Mr. Lionel	May 13, 1905.
Brown-Potter, Mrs.	March 3, 1906.
Burton, Mr. John	March 10, 1906.
Butt, Mr. Alfred	August 25, 1 906
Carrington, Miss Eva	February 24, 1906.
Cavalho, Miss Sylvia	March 3, 1906.
Cellier, Miss Marguerite	May 26, 1905.
Cinquevalli, Mr. Paul	May 5, 1906.
Clark, Mr. William	March 3, 1906.
Clark, Mr. T. Sealey	May 19, 1906.
Collier, Mr. Hal	May 19, 1906.
Conquest, Mr. Arthur	May 26, 1906.
Coote, Mr. Bert	June 16, 1906.
Corri, Mlle. Ghita	September 22, 1905.
Costello, Mr. Tom	September 15, 1906.
Cotterell, Mr. Sid	July 14, 1906.
Courtice, Mr. Thomas	Dec. 22, 1906.
Craven, Mr. Tom	Dec. 15, 1906.
Crisp, Late Mr. Henry	May 26, 1906.
Cruikshank, Mr. Alfred	March 17, 1906.
Culloch, Mr. Arthur	November 10, 1906.
Dacre, Mr. Harry	Dec. 1, 1906.
Dallas, Mr. J. J.	July 7, 1906.
Dampier, Mr. Alfred	May 12, 1906.
Deering, Late Miss R.	July 14, 1906.
De Gracia, Mr. G.	May 19, 1906.
Dixon, Mr. Robert	Dec. 8, 1906.
Dobson, Mr. E. H.	August 12, 1905.
Donegan, Mr James E.	May 20, 1905.
Duff, Master Harry E.	April 29, 1905.
Dyball, Mr. George H.	January 13. 1906.
Elliott, Late Mr. J. B.	May 26, 1906.
Elen, Mr. Gus	September 23, 1905.
Gastelle, Miss Stella	July 15, 1905.
Gatti, Late Mr. Stefano	October 20, 1906.
Genée, Mlle.	September 22, 1906.
Godfrey-Turner, Miss M.	October 28, 1905.
Gibbs, Miss Edith	March 3, 1906.
Grace, Miss Amy	January 13, 1906.
Gray, Miss Dora	January 13, 1906.
Grey, Miss Isabel	July 7, 1906.
Grove, Mr. Fred	March 10, 1906.
Grein, Mr. J. T.	Nov. 11, 1905.
Hamlyn, Mr. J. D.	January 20, 1906.
Hansen, Miss Laura	January 20, 1906.
Harris, Mr. Thomas	February 24, 1906.
Harrington, Mr. John P.	Dec. 8, 1906.
Harriss, Miss Sophie	April 7, 1905
Harvey, Late Mr. Eddie	September 1, 1906.
Hastings, Miss Nora	March 10, 1906.
Heron-Brown, Miss Edith	June 16, 1906.
Hey, Miss Muriel	September 15, 1905.
Hitchens, Mr. H. J.	September 8, 1906.
Holloway, Mr. Baliol	April 15, 1905.
Hunter, Late Mr. Harry	October 20 1906,
Illington, Miss Margaret	June 2, 1906.
Irving, Late Sir Henry	Oct. 21, 1905.
Jerrard, Late Mr. J. F.	April 28, 1906.
Juliette, Mdlle.	January 13, 1906.
Karno, Mr. Fred	August 12, 1905.
Kinghorne, Late Mr. Mark	November 10, 1906.
Kingston, Miss Bertha	February 24, 1906.
Kinnaird, Miss Helen	March 3, 1906.
Knowles, Mr. J. Forbes	July 7, 1906.
Lamonte, Miss Syria	November 10, 1906.
Lauri, Mr. Edward	July 28, 1906.

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THE ERA
SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1907.

A FRIEND OF THE DRAMA.

The death of the Baroness BURDETT-COUTTS removes from us a lady whose virtues and charities were world-famous, and who was always a warm friend of the stage. The absurd statement that the late Sir HENRY IRVING had been "financed" by the Baroness was denied and disproved immediately after his death; and the publication of Mr. BRAM STOKER'S authoritative "Reminiscences" put an absolute end to the ridiculous tradition. But the fact that it was made showed how strong was the sympathy of the Baroness with the eminent actor and his artistic enterprise. Unlike some who ignore the sources of their wealth, the Baroness BURDETT-COUTTS always acknowledged her debt to the drama, through the noble generosity of her relative the Duchess of ST. ALBANS. The story of the second marriage of Mr. THOMAS COUTTS, the richest private banker of his day, is not only dramatic and interesting; the narrative includes a pretty piece of "poetical justice." Mr. COUTTS, being left a widower by the death of his first wife, naturally thought he had a right to please himself as to the choice of a second. The person who found favour in his eyes was a Miss HARRIET MELLON, a hardworking actress who had made her first appearance on the stage as a child of ten years old. At twelve, little Miss MELLON played Phœbe in *As You Like It*, at Ulverston, in Lancashire. In 1794, SHERIDAN saw her act in *The Romp* and *The Belle's Stratagem;* and, on the strength of his promise of an engagement at Drury Lane, HARRIET and her mother came to London. In the following year she appeared as Lydia Languish in *The Rivals;* but she was so much overcome by the size of the theatre and the grandeur of her companions—the company at Drury Lane then included Mrs. SIDDONS, Mrs. JORDAN, and Miss FARREN—that she was attacked by stage-fright, and was unable to do herself justice. She was retained, however, in the company, and for some years played secondary parts. She was described as a "countrified girl, blooming in complexion, with a very tall, fine figure, raven locks, ivory teeth, a cheek like a peach, and coral lips." Her good nature made her immensely popular in the theatre; and she soon obtained engagements to sustain principal parts in the provinces. It was while she was fulfilling an engagement at Cheltenham that an elderly gentleman of modest appearance took a box at the Cheltenham Theatre. THOMAS COUTTS was at this time seventy years of age. He was grandly charitable, but very economical—a combination of qualities so unusual as to be pronounced eccentric. He had another peculiarity which placed him in the category of "originals"—he chose his wives to please himself, and not to satisfy his friends. By his first wife, a governess, he had three daughters, who all married well. When the first Mrs. COUTTS, who had been a confirmed invalid, died in 1815, the old banker and Miss MELLON were privately married at St. Pancras Church; and soon after Mrs. COUTTS made her "farewell appearance" on the boards in the part of Audrey in *As You Like It*. COUTTS'S daughters resented their father's second marriage, and he made a new will, from which their names were omitted. The marriage turned out well. Miss MELLON made the banker completely happy for the remaining seven years of his life; and when he died he left her the whole of his wealth.

Mrs. COUTTS was admittedly one of the most generous and good-natured women in London. She offered to divide the princely fortune, of which she was now the possessor, with the daughters; but they met her proposal with insult and abortive attempts to "upset" the will. In spite of this, however, Mrs. COUTTS gave them £20,000 apiece, which they ungraciously accepted.

The punishment of the trio was, however, incomplete; and the finishing touch to their mortification was put by the marriage of Mrs. COUTTS to the Duke of ST. ALBANS. Before this, she had been annoyed by some ladies of title at Sir WALTER SCOTT'S house at Abbotsford; but the author of "Waverley" took the offenders to task, remarking on the "shabby behaviour" of those who hunted after invitations to Mrs. COUTTS'S grand balls and fêtes in London, and afterwards, if they met her at another house, "tipped the cold shoulder." The lecture had its proper effect.

In 1827, Mrs. COUTTS became the Duchess of ST. ALBANS; and she afterwards took a great fancy to Miss ANGELA BURDETT, the child of the third daughter of Mr. COUTTS and Sir FRANCIS BURDETT, the celebrated politician. The kind old Duchess invited the young girl to come and live with her; and, after the Duchess's death, she left Miss COUTTS the whole of her property, with the exception of legacy and a life pension to her second husband. When she felt her end approaching, the Duchess asked to be laid on the bed where "TOM COUTTS" had breathed his last; and there in August, 1837, she died.

It is not necessary to tack a "moral" on the above story, which has all the qualities usually attributed to romance. If a pendant to the tale were needed it was supplied by the spectacle of the coffin of the late Sir HENRY IRVING, covered with a profusion of flowers, as it lay, in the October of 1905, in the Baroness BURDETT-COUTTS'S house in Stratton-street. In her life-time she was always a warm friend of the drama and music, and many members of those professions were guests at her garden-parties at Holly Lodge, Hampstead.

"RAFFLES" AT THE COMEDY.

Raffles, the Amateur Cracksman, has this week celebrated its 150th performance, a run that affords unquestionable evidence of the sustained popularity of the play, the joint authors of which are Messrs. E. W. Hornung and Eugene W. Presbrey. In this production much depends upon the actor who plays the title-rôle, and happily in Mr. Henry Ainley is found a representative of the character quite capable of overcoming the difficulties which it presents. Mr. Ainley, as the amateur cracksman, can be complimented on a remarkably clever study, in which, it is evident, attention has been given to the minutest detail; so that as the result we have a finished portrayal of the young man of polished manners but with criminal instincts. The easy, gentlemanly demeanour of Raffles, the cracksman and cricketer, is admirably assumed; while a quick change of expression at the hint of danger is like a flashlight in revealing to the audience the impostor who is an honoured guest at Lord Amersteth's mansion. Altogether it is a piece of work which will advance Mr. Ainley's already high reputation as an actor. Mr. J. L. Mackay can also be commended for his clever and convincing embodiment of Curtis Bedford, the American detective, who bears a close resemblance to Sherlock Holmes. The alertness shown by this remarkable thief-catcher is well maintained throughout, while the humour, which is one of the prominent features in the character, is expressed with delightful effect. Mr. Graham Browne plays the part of Harry Manders with genuine feeling, and contrives by many skilful touches to render the character real and lifelike. Mr. Laurence Irving as Crawshay, the common or garden burglar, has little to do, but all the same does not fail to impress the audience by his boldly outlined portrait of the rough, ill-conditioned housebreaker; and scores in the thrilling scene with Raffles in the last act, when his partner in crime disarms him by a vivid description of the Old Bailey on the occasion of a trial for murder. Mr. Frederick Volpe supplies a capital sketch of Lord Amersteth and Mr. Courtney Foote is good as Lord Crowley. Miss Jessie Bateman is able to infuse a large amount of girlish charm into the part of Gwendoline Conran, and achieves well-merited success. Miss Sarah Brooke as Mrs. Vidal makes the best use of her opportunities in a somewhat conventional part, and Miss Florence Sinclair deserves high praise for her neat and natural impersonation of the French maid Marie. Miss Hilda Thorpe is a dignified Lady Melrose, and Miss Elise Clarens a vivacious Lady Ethel. Mr. Horton Cooper as Goldby is well placed and Mr. Arthur Minton's Merton is also worthy of meritorious mention. *Raffles* is preceded by Robert Marshall's comedietta, *A Wire Entanglement*, excellently played by Mr. Graham Browne, Mr. Donald Calthrop, Miss Sarah Brooke, and Miss Palmer.

THE time and place of the preliminary examination of the competitors for the best pianoforte performance of Miss Marjorie Slaughter's Intermezzo, "Betty," now being played at matinées of *Alice in Wonderland*, has been altered to eleven o'clock on Tuesday next at the Hicks Theatre (instead of twelve o'clock at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, as originally announced). The examiners will be Messrs. Percy Fletcher, Maurice Jacobi, and Eugene Ascherberg, and Miss Marie Slaughter. In the final examination Messrs. Edward German and Hamish McCunn will also assist.

THE Broadway Theatre will be given up on Saturday afternoon next to the protégés of the Playgoers' Club, who have arranged for the pantomime *Cinderella* to be witnessed by the poor children who annually visit pantomimes under their care. Princess Louise has promised to be present.

MR. GEORGE GRAVES sailed from Southampton on Wednesday for America. The popular comedian is to open in due course in the part of General des Ifs in *The Little Michus* at Daly's Theatre, New York.

"THE LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY."

An American Drama, in Four Acts, produced at the Lyric Opera House, on Monday evening, Dec. 31, 1906.

Tom Manby,	MR. DAVID G. NOBLE
William Farren	MR. EDWIN WILDE
James Hammond	MR. FRED TERRISS
David Morris	MR. ALEC FORBES
Silas Kidder	MR. A. P. KAY
Rev. George Medhurst	MR. CHAS. ELLISTON
Rose Prescott	MISS HILDA BAYNTON
Mrs. Manby	MISS NELL GILMORE
Ruth Manby	MISS MAY SETON
Little Nellie	MISS DOLY SWIFT

The Lighthouse Robbery—the name of whose author is not mentioned on the programme—is a play of strong human interest, and its production this week at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, has found favour with local playgoers. The failure of so many American dramas in this country has been due to their impossible situations and to the fact that, from a literary point of view, they were of a very low standard. This complaint, however, can scarcely be levelled against *The Lighthouse Robbery*, which is, at any rate, free from absurd improbabilities. Our hero is Tom Manby, a fisherman, and in the first act we learn that he has rescued from a watery grave an elderly man of the name of David Morris, or Uncle David as he is called throughout the piece. Uncle David tells the story that years before he had been a rich man, but he had been unfortunate enough to lose both his money and his wife, owing to the machinations of some scoundrels. He sails from England along with his pretty daughter, but on the way William Farren, his late clerk, threw him overboard, and, although he was saved, he is unable to discover the whereabouts of his daughter. In the meantime, William Farren, alias Hammond, has the girl, now called Rose Prescott, and described as his maid, in his keeping, and it is a desire of his equally villainous son to make her become his wife. Rose, however, is in love with Manby, and, in order to get the fisherman out of the way, young Hammond secures him a comfortable situation in Boston; and, in order to ensure the success of his suit, Hammond forges Tom's signature to a letter, which says that the latter is dying from fever, and that he (Tom) releases Rose from their engagement. A year ensues, and Rose comes to tell Uncle David of her impending marriage with James Hammond. It is to take place that very day. Uncle David, who is living with the Manbys, is, of course, surprised to hear of Tom's death, but he refrains from immediately denying the false report, as he prefers that Tom shall himself give the refutation *in propria persona*. Previous to this James Hammond has made an attempt to steal a considerable sum of money won by Tom in a lottery, but he is prevented by the presence of a little girl in Tom's charge, whom Hammond attempts to murder by drowning. The child, who dies as the result of the immersion, was wearing a locket given to her by Rose, and this was handed to Uncle David to return to its former owner. The locket established the identity of the would-be assassin, and in the end Uncle David claims Rose as his long-lost daughter, the careers of villainy of the Hammonds are put an end to, and the lovers eventually join hands at the altar.

The piece is really well acted. A vigorous, sturdy, and affectionate fisherman-hero is found in Mr. David G. Noble, and Mr. Alec Forbes is seen in an altogether admirable character-study of the old man, Uncle David, the latter part of whose life has been a series of unhappy incidents. Mr. Fred Terriss portrays in realistic fashion the villainies of James Hammond; while a capable exponent of that worthy's father and confederate in crime is furnished by Mr. Edwin Wilde. Miss Hilda Baynton is sweet and unaffected, and acts in a charming manner in the rôle of Rose Prescott. A talented little child-actress, Miss Dolly Swift, plays with surprising naturalness the part of a little waif, and her death-scene is particularly affecting. Mr. A. P. Kay supplies most of the comedy. As the stage-struck Silas Kidder, he is a most amusing personage. Miss Nell Gilmore is to be congratulated upon her impersonation of the elderly Mrs. Manby, whose daughter, the winsome Ruth Manby, is represented in excellent style by Miss May Seton. Mr. Charles Elliston is good as the Rev. George Medhurst. A word of praise can be given to the scenery.

COPYRIGHT CONVICTION.

Martin Godfried, alias George Turner, was charged on Tuesday on a warrant, and also on a summons at the Thames Police Court, with selling pirated music. Mr. H. Houston, instructed by Mr. H. Bray Becher, prosecuted. It was decided to take the summons first. Counsel said the accused was one of the largest surviving pirate music-dealers.

Lazarus Cadamartri, an ice-cream dealer, of 5, Paper Hall-street, Bradford, stated that about the middle of November he sent an order to George Turner, 39, Park-street, Limehouse, for copies of "Down the Vale," "Asleep in the Deep," and "Ora pro Nobis." He also enclosed a postal order for 5s., and received in return fifty copies of the above pieces, which he sold for 4d. and 6d. each. Witness had not been dealing in pirated music very long.

Mrs. Margaret Bardle, of 39, Park-street, Limehouse, stated the accused had letters addressed to her house.

Arthur Preston stated the copyrights of the three songs were vested in Messrs. Boosey and Co., Messrs. Sheard, and Messrs. Hopwood and Crew.

Mr. Mead said it had not been proved the copies were pirated, and the summons would be dismissed.

Accused was then charged on a warrant with dealing in pirated music.

Mr. Preston deposed that in November he wrote to prisoner for a list of music, in the name of Cohen, and received a list on Nov. 4. Witness sent an order, and enclosed a postal order for 5s. That letter was addressed to Park-street. He afterwards received a parcel containing pirated copies of music. No publisher's imprint was at the bottom. The copyright was vested in various firms which belonged to the association.

Mrs. Bardle said she had received letters for the prisoner for about six months.

In answer to the charge, prisoner said it was his first offence, and he would give up the business.

Mr. Mead fined him £5, and said if he came before him again he would go to prison for the full term. It was a most disgraceful traffic. In addition to the penalty, prisoner would have to pay 23s. costs.

MR HARRY RANDALL, recovered from his recent indisposition, took up his rôle in *Sindbad* on Monday afternoon. Mr. Arthur Conquest, who played the part for the first few performances, has been presented with a cheque by the directors of Drury Lane. Mr. Arthur Collins marked his appreciation of Mr. Conquest's splendid service by presenting him with a gold cigarette case upon which are engraved the words: "A friend in need is a friend indeed. He came, he saw, he conquered."

"THE GONDOLIERS," the second of the series of Gilbert and Sullivan revivals, is due at the Savoy on Tuesday, Jan. 22, and will be played for the remainder of the week. Afterwards it will be run alternately with *The Yeomen of the Guard* until the production of the third revival. The cast of *The Gondoliers* will comprise Messrs. C. H. Workman, A. Johnstone, John Clulow, Pacie Ripple, Richard Green, and Overton Moyle; Miss Louie René, Miss Marie Wilson, Miss Lilian Coomber, and Miss Jessie Rose.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"RINGELSPIEL,"
Comedy, in Three Acts, by Hermann Bahr, produced at the Deutsches Theatre, Dec. 20.

Eggers	HERR STEINRUCK
Frau Eggers	FRAU SORMA
Rune Dohn	FRAULEIN WASA
Harold	HERR WASSMANN
King	HERR WEGENER
Domenica	FRAULEIN HOFLICH
Zodak	HERR GROSSMANN
Gigio	HERR MOISSI
Silvia	FRAULEIN LORM
Johann	HERR TECHEL
Franz	HERR SCHOLZ
Betty	FRAULEIN HENSEL
Violet	FRAULEIN KIELBLOCK
Fitz	FRAULEIN MULLER
Susanne	FRAULEIN ROTHE
Ilse	FRAULEIN GARDIKE
Mario	HERR TEUKE
Bill	HERR MULLER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, DEC. 27.—Herr Bahr is a well-known dramatist and writer of books; he hails from Vienna, where his plays are usually most cordially received, while in Berlin he is also popular. *Ringelspiel*, however—truth compels me to say—was the reverse of successful, and only the author's standing warrants mention of the piece. The word "Ringelspiel" signifies, in Viennese dialect, a merry-go-round, and it is the merry-go-round of life that is intended as the principal theme. The scene is laid in Venice, and very few words will suffice for the plot, which is neither in good taste nor even entertaining. A young married man named Eggers has a liaison with someone else while his fair wife is enjoying much the same thing with her friend in Vienna. Egger's *chère amie* is—strange to relate—a very wearisome person, and one is puzzled to discover where the fascination lies, while his legitimate spouse is gay, clever, and charming. Mme. Eggers comes to Venice to beg her husband to set her free, and finds him devoted to Rune Dohn. She is in no wise disturbed, but on the contrary, and everything bids fair to go off smoothly. Then comes an act where the scene is laid on the strand. All the persons of the play, more or less, appear in bathing costume or go paddling. Here the charming little Mme. Eggers loses her heart to an unusually romantic waiter, who sings tenor and quotes Dante, and she deserts both her husband and her lover for him. To use a vulgarism, this action "took the cake," and the majority of the audience either hissed or cried "Pfui!" (shame). Herr Bahr's admirers stood their ground in his defence, and answered with cries of "Bravo!" so that it was no little time before peace was restored. Only respect for Frau Agnes Sorma, who gave a delightful impersonation of Frau Eggers, prevented a still stormier scene. The acting throughout was good, and the piece was very well staged. It was labour lost, for the play will assuredly be removed from the bill within a very short time.

HERR ROBERT MISCH'S new comedy, *Kinder*, which was produced for the first time on any stage at the Neues Theatre last Friday, was an undisputed success. It is true that plays in which the principal interest is centred in juveniles and their doings are not to everybody's taste, but the children's "milieu" is the latest mode here, and many people bow to it. *Kinder* is a "grammar-school comedy," the author says, and a few of the scenes, which are laid in the schoolroom and examination-room, are very amusing. The customary love episode between a sixth-form boy and a "Backfisch" is not omitted, nor the inevitable attempted suicide of a "modern" lad—from whom the revolver is wrested just in the nick of time. The cast was capital, the difficulties that beset the path of adult artists when they give the rôles of children being very creditably overcome. Herr von Fielitz, an actor new to Berlin, gave a remarkably good rendering of the part of the "primus," Walter; and Fräulein Alice Hall, in the rôle of the precocious schoolgirl, was excellent. A word of high praise must not be forgotten for the humorous manner in which Herr Schindler—an old Berlin favourite—gave the part of one of the school professors. If the rendering bordered on caricature (as it did) no exception could be made to it, for the audience caught the spirit of the fun, roared with laughter, and applauded the clever artist by open stage. Herr Misch, whose previous plays have never failed of their mark, was called repeatedly and very cordially applauded.

AT the Trianon Theatre the latest French farce, *Wo ist der Papa?* by M. de Féraudy—German translation by Benno Jacobson—is drawing well. It is a particularly highly-spiced, risky piece, but has just managed to escape the disfavour of the censorship. As the title indicates, the search for a father is the chief theme. The mother—a hot-blooded Spaniard—has so many friends that the search is difficult in the extreme, and success almost impossible. As, however, some benevolently-disposed friend offers a substantial sum of money to the father when he discovers himself, there are at length endless applications. Finally, a disinterested soul is found who adopts both mother and child, so that the very drastic piece comes to a happy, and even moral, termination. The interpretation was extremely vivacious, and the audience laughed till they cried. As a curtain-raiser to the longer farce, a one-act satirical comedy, by M. Mauvey, translated by Herr Max Schoenau, entitled *Herr Hups*, was given for the first time. It made no particular impression, only serving as an excellent opportunity, in the one grateful rôle of the piece, for the talents of Herr Max Laurence, a rising actor.

"SALOME" is still being performed twice or three times a week at the Royal Opera to a crowded house each night. Dr. Richard Strauss has sent a very flattering letter of thanks to the orchestra expressing his gratitude at the admirable way in which they interpreted his music. The composer says the greatest praise is not great enough; he could not imagine a more faultless interpretation. In this opinion everyone who has heard *Salome* will certainly concur.

THE Bernhard Rose Theatre—formerly the Carl Weiss—produced an old farce under a new face just in time for the holidays, and with tremendous success. The author, Leopold Ely, has long passed away, and his amusing pieces are known to few of the present generation. *Berliner Raubvögel* (Berlin birds of prey), the recent production, has been modernised by Herr Bernhard Rose, and its humour is broad and smart. It was admirably acted and mounted, so that a lengthy run is certain to result.

"OLYMPISCHE SPIELE," a new three-act farce by Herren Kraatz and Max Neal, has been received with great favour at the Residenz Theatre at Wiesbaden, and is shortly to be produced here. The piece, which is a parody on *Sherlock Holmes*, is reported to be exceedingly laughable.

THE Figaro Theatre opens to-night with a couple of new pieces, a one-act drama by Sartène, entitled *Die Claue*, and a persiflage by MM. Timmory and Manoussi, bearing the title *Der Kavalier*. Leo Poldi's burlesque, *Unterm Bett*, and Mark Twain's comedy, *Der Chicago Landwirth*, are in the bill for the following days.

THE Spanish Play Cycle continues is dreary way at the Neues. Echegaray's play, *Zwei Sonnen*, translated by Hans Ossip, was the latest effort, and it met with but a poor reception, notwithstanding good acting.

MR. HAYDEN COFFIN will be the hero of Mr. Robert Courtneidge's production of *Tom Jones* at Easter. Miss Carrie Moore and Mr. Dan Rolyat, who won such bright laurels in *The Dairymaids*, will also be in the cast, the former as Honour and the latter as Partridge.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

MISS MARIE LLOYD has returned to the stage this week, and London gladly welcomed her on the last night of the Old Year at the Tivoli and the Metropolitan. At the latter house, where she is the chief attraction of Mr. Jack Edgar's New Year bill, she was most warmly greeted, and though exceedingly nervous did justice to her high reputation by her rendering of "The Custom of the Country," her song of Sunny Spain, and her introspective monologue, which we may call "Lady Jane." Marie is wearing some lovely dresses and a wonderful hat, and never looked better.

MISS CECILIA LOFTUS is now associated with Miss Lilian Blauvelt and Mr Maurice Farkoa in the success of the piece, *The Magic Knight*, at Weber's, New York. It is a musical burlesque of *Lohengrin*, and a satire at the expense of Wagner, written by Victor Herbert. Signor Caruso has heard it, and laughed heartily. Miss Loftus, who was the Marguerite in Sir Henry Irving's last revival of *Faust* at the Lyceum, is an admirable example of the theory of heredity. Originally a mimic at the early age of fifteen she appeared as Haydée in *Don Juan Junior* at the old Gaiety, and has succeeded since in every form of stage play—comedy, burlesque, and fairy piece.

MR. TOM CRAVEN, who will appear next week at the Metropolitan, will, early in February, give Camberwell variety-lovers the chance of witnessing yet another of his numerous productions, in the form of his long-anticipated musical duologue, *The Understudy*. Mr. Craven has written for this sketch some quite original lyrics, and it contains many striking novelties.

THE next production at the Alhambra is to be a modern and magnificent Monégasque ballet, entitled *The Queen of Spades*, which is quite ready for presentation. It has been invented by Signor Alfredo Curti and composed by Signor Mario Costa, whose exquisite "La Vie de Pierrot," "La Frangesa," and other melodies have rung throughout Europe. In every detail it will present the greatest possible contrast to the classical *L'Amour*, still in the zenith of its popularity. Signorina Alexia, a danseuse of great charm, has been specially engaged; and that intelligent mime, Miss Julia Seale, will make a welcome reappearance after a long absence on the Continent, where she has been undertaking most important rôles.

SIGNORINA MARIA BORDIN, having entered into an Italian engagement prior to her début at the Alhambra in June last, the management had perforce to permit her to return temporarily to Milan, where she is prima ballerina assoluta at La Scala, but she is replaced in *L'Amour* by Signorina Emma Morino, who will also sustain an important rôle in *The Queen of Spades*.

MR. CHARLES WARNER has been appearing at the Colonial Theatre, New York, and is to be seen at the other vaudeville houses under the management of Mr. Percy G. Williams in the one-act play *Heard at the Telephone*. The reception accorded to Mr. Warner was enthusiastic in the extreme, his vivid portrayal of mental agony being calculated to stir the blood of the most blasé of theatregoers. In the same bill at the Colonial last week was Mr. Jack Lorimer, Scotch comedian, who made his American début and an unmistakable success simultaneously.

MR. ALBERT CHEVALIER has been the star attraction at the Alhambra Theatre, in Harlem. He, too, has been under engagement to Mr. Percy G. Williams for a few weeks before returning to England, and his songs have been keenly enjoyed and heartily applauded by large audiences.

MRS. PRESTON, the mother of the world-famous Sisters Preston, the Three Prestons, and Belle Preston, celebrated her birthday on New Year's Day at her home in Clapham, and from an early hour the old lady was almost incessantly receiving congratulations from her throng of music hall and theatrical friends.

As a singer of Gaelic songs many years ago, Flora McDonald gained much fame in Scotland and the North of England. When in open competition at the Rotunda, Dublin, she gained first honours for Jacobite singing, her reputation was further added to. Her father was the Rev. Duncan McIntyre—who, by the way, conducted the funeral service over the Right Rev. Donald McLeod—and Mrs. Preston had many of her parents' accomplishments, speaking, besides her native Gaelic, French, Italian, and German. On her recent birthday the duties of host and hostess fell to those talented members of her family—Misses Joanna and Bell and Messrs. George and Jock—who played attendance on the mater as well as looking after the comforts of the houseful of friends. Miss Jessie Preston (Mrs. Jack Sterling) sent a telegraphic message from Rome.

THE Music Hall Ladies' Guild continues to do good work. The lady secretary has received promises from influential friends to get young Courtenay into an orphanage, and quite a large batch of letters have been received containing heartfelt expressions of thanks for boots, clothing, and food received by necessitous applicants during the Christmastide. In some instances the gratitude has been overwhelming. Messrs Spiers and Pond have given great assistance to the Guild, and thanks to the firm are here recorded.

MR. HARRY RELF (Little Tich) concluded a most successful year of office as "King Rat" on Sunday evening, when, on behalf of the popular and influential fraternity, he was presented with a handsome gold medallion, emblazoned with the symbols of the Order, as a souvenir of his presidentship.

MR. HARRY RANDALL has come into the Old Drury production of *Sindbad*, which he was unable to do on Boxing Night in consequence of a regrettable indisposition, from which he has now happily recovered. He took up his part—which has been played by Mr. Arthur Conquest—on Monday afternoon.

THE Terriers will have their annual dinner and social on Sunday next at their head-quarters, the Dover Castle Hotel. President Jesse Sparrow will be in the chair.

MISS DAISY JAMES, at the Putney Hippodrome, is hitting the popular fancy with her excellent songs, and more especially with her sketch of the Gibson Girl which has both grace and charm to recommend it.

THE 495th meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held on Wednesday afternoon, when Mr. Joe O'Gorman occupied the chair. Other members present were Messrs. Harry Mountford, Fred Neiman, Harry Blake, Albert Voyce, Douglas White, and Charles Coborn. Dr. J. Gibbe Bent, M.D., of Vollam House, Southfields, was appointed as hon. medical officer and Mr. Harry Fowell, of the Royal Hotel, George-street, Lancaster, as agent. The report of the sub-committee re the dinner and dance was considered, and after alterations had been made, was accepted.

THE latest quotations of music-hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1⅛; Canterbury, ⅜; Empire (15s. pd.), 1⅛; ditto (10s. pd.), 1; London Pavilion Ord., 4⅛; ditto, Pref., 5; London Coliseum, ⅛; Metropolitan, ⅜; Moss Empire, 4⅜; ditto, 5 per cent. Pref., 3⅛; Oxford, 6⅜; Palace, 15-32; Tivoli, 6⅜; Var. Cons. Theatres, 12s.

MR. JAMES FIONI, the well-known variety agent of Liverpool, has become sole lessee of the Hippodrome, Stalybridge, and has effected various changes, Mr. James D. Williams, late of the Ardwick Empire, Manchester, being appointed conductor of the orchestra, while Mr. W. A. Jackson and Mr. Eugene E. Hardie (the previous manager) undertake the duties appertaining to the general-management.

EXTREMELY sad are the circumstances of the death of Miss Bessie Featherstone. The poor girl must have been very ill when she played the part of Aladdin on Boxing Day, bravely keeping up her spirits and putting a cheerful manner on while struggling against a fell disorder. And the great audience applauding her in the Tyne Theatre, charmed by her smiles and gestures, would have no thought of her terrific efforts against the powers of destruction—would never dream that this clever and accomplished young creature was about to leave the stage for her death-bed!

MISS GWENNIE HASTO, a favourite at the Palace Theatre, is now in the pantomime at King's Theatre, Edinburgh, where her extraordinary fanciful dancing is being rewarded with loud cheers nightly.

THE second annual supper and dance in connection with the Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow, was made the occasion of a presentation from the staff and a few friends of a beautiful diamond ring to Mr. Samuel Lloyd, the manager, and a silver flower-stand to Mrs. Lloyd. Bailie Connell, a leading magistrate in the city, in making the presentation, spoke in eulogistic terms of Mr. Lloyd's excellent work as manager. "The man you know," Mr. W. F. Frame, from the Royal pantomime, caused much merriment by his remarks. Mr. Lloyd, in his reply, commented on the harmonious feeling which existed between the management and staff. Dancing followed, and an enjoyable gathering broke up in the wee sma' hours.

REGRET and sympathy have been evinced in Paisley at the illness of Miss Carrie Foy, the Peter Piper in Mr. J. H. Savile's pantomime of *Goody Two-Shoes*. The pantomime had only been running for a week when Miss Foy contracted diphtheria, and was taken to the local hospital for infectious diseases, where she is receiving every attention and most careful treatment. Miss Foy proved herself during the short time she was assuming the character of Peter Piper a charming actress, displaying abilities that went far to ensure for her a pantomime triumph.

MR. DAN CRAWLEY has presented Mr. T. W. Connor, the well-known author-composer, with a tea service of silver. Mr. Connor, whose brilliant successes in the song line have been in foremost evidence for very many years, and whose work is much sought after by the first artists of the time, was responsible for many, if not most, of the songs of the late George Beauchamp and Herbert Campbell.

THE site of the new Barnsley Empire, which is to be erected at a cost of £20,000 is about midway between the Queen's Hotel and the Harvey Institute, and opposite the Devonshire Hotel. It is also close to both stations and the tram termini. The building is designed by Messrs North and Robin, whose plans have already passed the authorities. The opening is arranged for August Bank Holiday. The managing director of the company, Mr. Will Smithson, for many years past has been the proprietor of the Theatre Royal and Opera House, Merthyr Tydfil.

MR. BRANSBY WILLIAMS mourns the loss of an uncle, who passed away last week. The actor's success as Fitzwarren at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, has surpassed his most sanguine anticipations, and he is in receipt of tempting offers both for theatre and hall.

CARLTON, who is playing very successfully in Mr. Chute's production of *Humpty Dumpty* at Bristol, entertained on Saturday night the principals of the pantomime in celebration of his birthday. He made a genial host, and his health was toasted with a three times three.

THE many friends of the popular Mr. Alfred Edwardes, manager of the Hanley Grand Theatre, will regret to hear that he has met with a serious accident. In hastening to catch a car near his residence on Christmas night the slippery state of the road caused him to fall, and he sustained a compound fracture of the ankle. We hope to hear of a rapid recovery.

BARRINGTON, the musical expert, who plays the piano in the most extraordinary positions, has submitted his new act to Mr. Alfred Butt, who has secured him for the Palace, where he commences an engagement of several weeks on the 21st inst.

A VERY dainty and attractive young lady at the New Tivoli Palace, Liverpool, this week is Miss Dolly Andrews, the latest acquisition to the variety stage. We predict a great future for this rising star, as she is rightly termed.

THE wife of Paulus, the famous singer (from whom he was divorced five years ago), brought an action on Saturday claiming the proceeds of the benefit performance recently given for him. She is entitled to £16 a month alimony, but Paulus is too poor to pay it. It was pointed out that the money would be sufficient to buy Paulus an annuity, which would be his only means of support. On the ground that French law forbids a creditor to touch the sole means of livelihood of the debtor, the Court non-suited Mme. Paulus.

MR. D. W. JAMES, solicitor, Tonypandy, writes calling attention to a statement which was made in Mr. Justice Neville's Court on Dec. 14. It was an application for an injunction to restrain Ted and May Hopkins appearing at the Hippodrome, Tonypandy, in alleged breach of an agreement to appear at Perth. Counsel said that "since the proceedings had commenced the female defendant (he understood) had married the manager of the Hippodrome." Mr. James asks us to say that Mr. Harry Baldry (the manager of the Hippodrome) and Miss May Hopkins were married at the Registry Office, Greenwich, on May 21, 1904, and that they have lived together ever since as frequently as Miss Hopkins's engagements have permitted.

MR. D. A. HOLMES presided over the ordinary meeting of Barnum and Bailey, held on Monday at Winchester House, and moved the adoption of the report. He referred to the great loss the company had sustained by the death of Mr. Bailey and the evil affects of competition in America. Mr. Washington Cole, formerly a partner of Phineas T. Barnum, and later of Mr. J. A. Bailey, had been elected managing-director, and he did not think it advisable to declare a dividend.

LITTLE CLIFF, who has fortunately placed his bookings with Mr. Tom Pacey, is booked up for four years, a testimony the value of the *vis comica*.

A SOLICITOR applied to Mr. Horace Smith, at Westminster on Monday, for licences to enable four young children of ages ranging from 10½ to 13½ years to perform at the Royal Standard. It was arranged that their last performance should begin at 10.20 and last from twenty to twenty-five minutes. Mr. Horace Smith was sure this was too late for young children, and eventually sanctioned an arrangement for the children to be out until 10.30 for a week only.

THE Variety Artists' Federation will hold a general meeting at the small hall of the Horns, Kennington, to-morrow (Sunday) evening, at 7 o'clock. The meeting has been called to consider the advisability of increasing the entrance fee, and only members will be admitted.

MR. AND MRS. EDWARD H. LUCAS, who are giving most successfully at the Empire, Birmingham, scenes from "Oliver Twist" and "The Old Curiosity Shop," have received an invitation from the Dickens Fellowship of Hull, where they open on Monday at the Palace.

MR. HERMAN FINCK'S overture, "Melodious Memories," is being played nightly at the Palace Theatre, under the direction of its arranger, with the greatest success. It includes upwards of sixty airs of European fame, and ought to become a favourite with bandmasters, for the music is woven together with a fine sense of contrast, and is also admirably orchestrated.

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. E. C. Milton, of Stack and Milton, a celebrated pair of gymnasts, whose fame as horizontal bar performers was world-wide. Mr. Milton died on his way home, after a two years' engagement in India and China, at the Egyptian Government Hospital, which he entered for the purpose of undergoing an operation.

THE first Yiddish music-hall in London was opened on Tuesday night in Christian-street, Whitechapel, the very heart of the alien quarter. It is called The Princess, and is run on the two-houses-a-night system, the prices of admission ranging from 3d. back rows to reserved seats at 1s. 6d. each. The opening of this new hall has been largely advertised by huge Yiddish and English posters in the East End, and crowds of Russians, Poles, and Germans waited for the opening of the doors.

ACCORDING to the Paris critics, M. Le Bargy sets the fashion in men's clothes in *la Ville Lumiere*, and we shall be able to judge of his claims to be a modern Beau Brummel when he arrives in London. So far our arbiter of the latest things in masculine matters sartorical, oddly enough, has been a woman—Miss Vesta Tilley—who, it is presumed, will show us some novelties when she appears at the Palace Theatre in about a fortnight's time. When last in New York Miss Tilley's clothes as a male impersonator were so approved of by the American dudes that she was prevailed upon to give a series of lectures on "How to Dress," to men only.

WHEN Miss Vesta Tilley returns to London and to the Palace Theatre in about a fortnight's time she will include in her repertoire a number quite out of her usual line, nothing less than a domestic scena, delicate in sentiment, which should be a decided novelty.

THE Musical Copyright Act seems already to have extinguished the trade in pirated music. Its penalties of fine and imprisonment are extended to "every person who prints, reproduces, or sells, or exposes, offers, or has in his possession, for sale, any pirated copies of any musical work, or has in his possession any plates for the purpose of printing or reproducing pirated copies of any musical work." The police are empowered to arrest without a warrant offenders against the Act upon "a general written authority" given by the owner of the infringed copyright.

THE Lord Mayor's crippled children, who visited the Crystal Palace on Thursday, were presented with buns and apples at Clapham Junction. Upon arriving at the Palace they were conducted to Sanger's Circus, and presented with toys. When taken to the pantomime of *Aladdin* each child got a packet of chocolate. At the end of the pantomime they had a meat tea prepared by Messrs. Lyons, and then visited other shows.

LITTLE AGNES TINA, the wonderful prodigy that Mr. Jesse Sparrow has discovered, has been making the most extraordinary success at the Empire, Camberwell. Mr. J. L. Shine was so impressed by her wonderful mimicry of his friend, Harry Lauder, and, finding that she had forgotten the wonderful stick that Harry uses in his celebrated song, "Stop your ticklin', Jock," after searching everywhere, had the good luck to find a magnificent stick, even, if possible, better than Harry's, which he presented her as a New Year's gift. The child is delighted, and rewarded him with a most grateful kiss.

MESSRS. SINCLAIR AND PARR, the well-known actor-vocalists, must be congratulated on their most miraculous escape. On Monday night these gentlemen were returning home, having just finished their turn at the Standard and Euston, when their brougham was dashed into by another from the opposite direction. The accident took place right opposite the Town Hall, Kennington Green, and the force of the collision was so great that the coachman who was driving Messrs. Sinclair and Parr was thrown completely up in the air, and landed on his head in the road on the tram lines. His injuries proved so severe that he was at once conveyed to St. Thomas's Hospital. Both carriages were shockingly wrecked. The wheels of the two vehicles got jammed tightly together, and this fortunate circumstance enabled Messrs. Sinclair and Parr to leap promptly out of their carriage, and not only escape injury, but quieten the horse, which was badly cut, and making frantic efforts to bolt.

MISS ADA TWIBELL was specially engaged by Messrs. Little and Darcy for the part of Boy Blue in *Red Riding Hood*, and is making a big success at the County Theatre, Reading, her songs, "When there isn't a girl about" and "A different girl again" being loudly encored nightly.

MR. MAURICE HERBERT HOFFMAN, theatrical manager, who has filed his own petition in bankruptcy, has been engaged in the theatrical profession for the past eighteen years, and until about four years ago was making an income of £300 or £400 a year. In September, 1902, he became lessee of the Palace Pier Theatre, Brighton, but it was carried on for only seven months, when the lessors took possession owing to the rent not having been paid. The debtor returned his liabilities at £1549 9s. 5d., of which £1189 9s. 5d. were unsecured, and assets nil. He attributed his insolvency to losses at the Palace Pier Theatre. An order for summary administration has been made.

MR. R. A. ROBERTS, who has returned to the Palace Theatre, where he first exploited his quick-change farce, *Lucinda's Elopement*, under the Morton régime, hails from Liverpool, where he used to perform *en amateur*. He then joined a local stock company, and after gaining valuable experience, came into Messrs. Maskelyne and Cooke's entertainment as a chapeaugraphist and an entertainer at the piano. Biondi, it will be remembered, on his first appearance at the Tivoli, was seen in a farce written specially for Fregoli, and in another and more original piece he was a failure. Mr. Roberts is his own author, and, as a character actor, is far in advance of the two Italians mentioned.

WE hear of the wonderful success of La Motogirl in Australia, where she has puzzled and delighted audiences at the Opera House, Melbourne, and the Tivoli, Sydney. Mr. Harry Rickards considers her the biggest draw he has ever imported.

THE usual monthly meeting of the Committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund will be held at the York Hotel on Wednesday next at 2 p.m.

MISS FLO HASTINGS has suffered a severe bereavement in the death of her husband, to whom she had been married but two years. She had left the stage, but is now compelled to return, and is anxiously seeking engagements.

LE ROY, TALMA, AND BOSCO are playing to standing-room only at the Colysée Royal, Lisbon, a place holding over 7000 people. There are ninety-nine private boxes—one short of the hundred—and on Christmas night the place was literally packed. It was, indeed, the largest audience the clever trio have ever played to.

MISS CONSTANCE MOXON'S monologue, *A Toff for Ten Minutes*, has been rebooked by Mr. Geo. Adney Payne and Mr. Henri Gros for all their halls, and her date-book is fast filling up at other halls.

DAN LENO, JUN., the son of the late famous comedian of the same name, has been secured by Mr. Will Collins, the district-manager for Moss' Empires London circuit, to appear at Hackney, Holloway, Stratford, Shepherd's Bush, and New Cross Empires at an early date. The young comedian bears a striking likeness to his father, and as he will essay the identical business his parent made so popular with the British public, and will, furthermore, be seen as an expert dancer, there can be scarcely any doubt of his success.

MLLE. GHITA CORRI, who was specially engaged by Mr. Frank Macnaghten to produce her new seasonable scena at the Palace, Blackburn, last week, where she achieved an unqualified success, is the principal vocalist at the Birmingham Town Hall to-night (Saturday), where she sings Senta's Ballad (*Flying Dutchman*) and Verdi's "Ernani, involami," at the New Year's Festival Concert given by the Philharmonic Choral Society.

MR. FRED BOWYER'S new sketch, *Crystal Gazing*, is realising all the good things that were said about it when launched at the Hackney Empire. At Nottingham this week a local paper refers to it as being "like the scent of new-mown hay." Mr. W. H. Day and Miss Laura Dyson have worked their parts up splendidly.

MR. ALFRED LESTER (of *Scene-shifter* and Gaiety fame), who will return to the Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, in March next, has commissioned Messrs. Harrington and Tate to write him a new scena, and has also "placed" several orders for songs of a novel character with the same author and composer.

THE directors of the Empire have decided to present another series of living pictures and statuary, which it may be remembered were so popular when first introduced at the premier variety theatre in Leicester-square. The new series, which is now in preparation by Mr. Wilhelm, will include in the first instance popular masterpieces by eminent British artists, largely selected from the Tate Gallery and private collections. Among them, to mention only a few, will be representative works of Watts, Millais, Leighton, Alma-Tadema, Marcus Stone, Sargent, and Dicksee. Marble statuary and bronzes will also be well represented. The first production of these life-like reproductions will take place in about three weeks' time.

AFTER the football match between All England and all France at Richmond this afternoon both teams have been invited to visit the Empire, where Mr. Harry Hitchens intends giving the boys a good time.

WHEN speaking of the Achmed Ibrahim Troupe of Bedouin Arabs, an alleged "critic" once dismissed them with the commendation that "the steeds did great credit to their trainers!" They open an engagement in Paris at the Cirque Métropole next week, and this prevents them remaining with the pantomime at Derby, in which they have scored a conspicuous success.

THE corporation of the progressive borough of Southend-on-Sea are already making arrangements for their next season's entertainments on the East Parade Bandstand, and invite offers for one or three years, from Easter Saturday, March 30, to Sept. 30 (Sundays excluded). Lessees of the enclosure will be permitted to place chairs round the bandstand and charge for their use, and also to make collections.

AT the Queen's, Poplar, on Monday evening, Mr. Jack Woolf will produce a sketch on the subject of "Lady Audley's Secret." Mrs. Bennett is to appear as Lady Audley, and Mr. Albert Ward will play the principal male rôle. Mr. Woolf informs us that it is to be an elaborate production as to scenery and mounting. Mr. Woolf will also present for the first time on Monday at the Queen's a dramatic playlet, entitled *Monte Carlo*, in which Mrs George Daventry will take the leading woman's part.

MISS CARRIE LAURIE brought nine of her performing children to the North London Court on Saturday and asked Mr. Fordham to license them for a week's show at the Hackney Empire. She had the necessary certificates of physical fitness. Mr. Fordham thought 10.30 was altogether too late for children eleven years of age. They ought to be in bed at nine o'clock. He would license them until 9.30.

OWING to the great success of Mr. J. L. Shine with *Hogmanay* at the Empire, Camberwell, this week, he has been re-engaged for next week, when he will produce a new and original one-act sketch, written by himself, entitled *An Actor's Art*. In this sketch Mr. Shine will play seven characters.

LADY HALDON has secured the rights of Arthur Shirley's very realistic sketch, *Two Pictures*, and will produce it on Monday at the Chelsea Palace. It is said to be strong in situations and intensely human.

DR. A. AMBROSE, coroner, has been informed of the death, by suffocation, through an escape of gas, of a dwarf lad, named Larkins, who was attached to a company performing at the Walthamstow Palace. The lad appears to have neglected to turn the gas quite off in the bedroom at the house at which he was lodging, and was found dead in bed the next morning.

A CONTRIBUTION of eleven shillings has been sent in by Mr. George Smythson, and clothing, books, and Christmas cards have been received from Mrs. Barnett.

AT the Putney Hippodrome at matinée performance has been instituted every Thursday, and the first of these took place on the 3rd inst.

MISS ELSIE EARLE has again scored another great success this week at West Bromwich, in her song-scena, *Holly and Mistletoe*, which is blessed with a most picturesque setting. She intends to produce other song-scenas on a more extensive scale. Elsie made her first appearance when three years old in *Hans the Boatman*, and has played in *Two Little Vagabonds*, *East Lynne*, *Kitty Grey*, *The Lady Slavey*, *The Belle of New York*, *The Country Girl*, and in the pantomimes *Dick Whittington*, *Aladdin*, *Babes in the Wood*, &c.

MISS CONNIE EDISS, who starts for the Cape on Saturday next with the Springboks, has this week purchased no fewer than four more specially-written songs from Messrs. John P. Harrington and Jas. W. Tate, wherewith to start her forthcoming campaign in South Africa. These are entitled, "I did it very well," "Painting," "Little girl from Paris," and "Pity," and complete a total of six numbers written and composed for the Gaiety Girl by these popular writers.

THE beautiful Princess Estelle de Broglie, wife of Prince Robert de Broglie, has been engaged to appear at the Tivoli on Monday next, when she will make her first professional appearance at a variety hall in Europe. Prince Robert is the scion of a Royal family dating back to the Holy Roman Empire. His grandfather was the late Duke Albert de Broglie, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador to the Court of St. James, and holder of many other high offices in France; and Duke Albert's grandfather was one of the principal lieutenants of Lafayette in America, being afterwards guillotined by Robespierre.

THE circumstances attending the marriage of the Prince and Princess were exceedingly romantic. She was the beautiful Estelle Alexander, a Californian girl, singing with the Opéra Comique company in Paris; and a few days after her meeting the Prince, they eloped and went to Milan, where they were married. The Prince's father, on hearing of his son's alliance, became furious, and immediately disinherited him. Forgiveness, however, was promised if he would renounce his bride and have the marriage annulled according to French law; but this offer the bridegroom peremptorily refused, and, in order to earn a subsistence, the young couple determined on the stage, and at the Tivoli the Prince will lead the orchestra, while the Princess, a cultured vocalist, with a voice of exceptional quality, will render a number of songs.

AUSTRALIA, India, and Africa have been the scenes of such songs as "The Miner's Dream," "India's Reply," and "Bravo! Dublin Fusiliers," but Ceylon is chosen for "The Planter's Reverie," which Mr. Leo Dryden will produce on Monday at the Palace, Walthamstow. A young tea-planter has just received letters from home, one of which describes a jolly night in London. In his reverie the planter pictures a night in the West with the boys, when the native servant enters to announce "tiffin" (lunch). He observes a bottle of whisky on the side table, and, under the impression that "sahib" is asleep, helps himself liberally, and commences to beat a gong, arousing the planter from his day-dream and scampering off. The Britisher recounts his reverie in song, when the boy returns bedecked with an old top-hat, and, under the influence of the spirit, sings in comical fashion the chorus of the song. Something similar occurred to Mr. Dryden at Colombo when en route to Australia in 1905.

MANY members of the musical profession will sincerely regret to hear of the death of Mr. Edward Crosse, the originator of the Anglo-Hungarian Band, who died in the dawn of the New Year at his residence in Gloucester-crescent, Regent's Park, after an illness of nine months. The career of the deceased gentleman was one of strenuous work from his early youth. When not more than twenty-three years of age he succeeded Mr. James Weaver as *chef d'orchestre* at the Alexandra Opera House, Park-street, Camden Town, which afterwards became the Park Theatre, and assisted at the début of Mr. J. W. Turner, the now veteran tenor, at that house, in *Marguerite*, an operetta by Mr. Thorpe Pede. He composed the ballet music for the first pantomime at the same house, and later became connected with George Sanger, as musical conductor at old Astley's, where he composed and arranged the music of at least two pantomimes.

MR. CROSSE, in 1879, was appointed musical-director of the Philharmonic, then run as a music hall, with Mr. Alfred Young as manager. Mr. Arthur Roberts, then a rapidly-rising comedian, was a star of the programmes at the Islington house, where, as a Christmas novelty, the late Frank Hall wrote a comic version of "Lalla Rookh," for which the music was composed and arranged by the deceased. In the early 'eighties he was musical-director for a time at the Comedy, and for a short season at the Trafalgar-square Theatre, and Toole's.

IN 1884 he started an English band devoted to the interpretation of Hungarian music, and to the acquirement of memory programmes; and before long he had not only acquired a mastery of the national Hungarian instrument, the czimbalo, but could boast of a répertoire of concert and dance music which his orchestra could play without a note in front of them.

AMONG those who played for him were Mr. Karl Kaps, Mr. Herman Finck, Rudersdorff (a clever 'cellist), and many other musicians who have attained to good positions in the profession. It was he who arranged the celebrated minuet which was danced at the Duchess of Devonshire's in the year of the Diamond Jubilee, and when Mr. Beerbohm Tree was producing *Trilby* Mr. Crosse was consulted respecting the music, which our readers will remember is Hungarian in the celebrated scene just previous to the death of Svengali. The deceased always retained his love for the highest forms of instrumental music, and nothing delighted him more than sharing the pleasures of playing in a quartet of Beethoven or Mozart at his own house. A staunch friend, a genial comrade, and a good fellow, Edward Crosse will be much missed by a large circle and by his sorrowing wife and family. He died at the age of 56.

MISS HILDA JACOBSON, the well-known musical comedy favourite, is the principal attraction on next week's bill at the Glasgow Empire. As patrons of the Empire well know, Miss Jacobson has a most melodious voice, and is a great favourite in the city on the Clyde. Miss Hilda Jacobson first appeared on the stage with her cousin, Miss Julia Neilson, but it was her work in *Florodora* at the Lyric which brought her into wide public notice. At Edinburgh last year Hilda had a most unpleasant experience. The house at which she was staying caught fire in the middle of the night, and she just escaped from the flames to stand out in the street for three hours with—how shall we put it?—nothing but her "nighty" on, or precious little more.

MR. H. CURLINE BALDRY, general manager of the Hippodrome, Tonypandy, writes as follows:—"On Nov. 19 I had a sketch here, entitled *The Collar Stud*, and during the week two of the members—Messrs. Elliott and Hall—contracted double pneumonia, resulting in Mr. Hall's death and leaving Mr. Elliott stranded in this town for the last nine weeks. I have much pleasure, however, in stating that I succeeded in collecting £6 1s. 6d., which I have handed to the Rev. Greenaway of this town, and enabled Mr. Elliott to get to London. I desire to thank the artists who so readily came to my assistance."

MISS ADELA CRISPIN, now fulfilling her first pantomime engagement at Paisley, was the last Dolly in the evergreen *Will, the Witch, and the Watchman*, upon its recent revival at St. George's Hall. During her association with Maskelyne and Cooke for some years past Miss Crispin has taken part in all their recent sketches and illusions, and was the original Mascot Moth, as well as the original lady medium of Mental Magnetism.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

MISS CLARICE MAYNE, the charming comedienne and mimic, in addition to her successful mimetic entertainment, is nightly singing at the Oxford and Paragon with the greatest possible success Messrs. Pelham, Butts, and Rule's comedy ditty, "She didn't come from Borneo," which is published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Company, in their "Sixpenny Successes."

"I'VE built a bamboo bungalow for you" is now being extensively sung on the American stage in vaudeville, and latest advices to hand from Mr. Fred Day (representing Messrs. Francis and Day in New York) to the publishers of the song, the Monte Carlo Publishing Company, record its complete success in unequivocal terms. Mr. Day also speaks most hopefully of the American future of three other songs published by the same firm, viz., Mr. Ernest Shand's "Dearly beloved brethren," "I'm thinking always of you," and "Rosie is waiting."

MR. FRED ERICK writes:—"As the paragraph in your issue of Dec. 22, in which you stated that the popularity of the song, 'I can't make it out, can you?' was 'a feather in the cap of Fred Erick' was unsolicited by me, I would be pleased if you would kindly publish the enclosed facts in answer to Mr. Bert Delmar. I have been working the song for the last eighteen months with great success in London and the provinces, and my assignment from Mr. Delmar makes over to me the sole London rights, it being stipulated also that in case of publication my name must be given as the *original* singer."

"MY SUGAR-PLUM," by Harry Dacre, though only written in November last, has contrived to secure a place in many of the best pantomimes, and the "Successful Song Syndicate," who are running Mr. Dacre for all he is worth (and that is a good deal), inform us that copies are in great demand. The success of the song in Glasgow and elsewhere has induced a number of artists to take it up, and in a few weeks it is anticipated that the "boy in the street" and the ubiquitous piano-organ will be doing their best to cloy us with the sweetness of the "Sugar-Plum."

THE last nights of the old year will not readily be forgotten at the headquarters of the "Sixpenny Pops" in Denmark-street, for the "wise virgins" of the music trade were stocking their shelves with copies of Messrs. Francis and Day's popular numbers in view of the 50 per cent. advance in wholesale price, which took effect on Jan. 1. For some weeks prior every item in the catalogue of over 300 numbers had been stocked in huge quantities, necessitating the employment of struts to hold up the extensive floors, and the pro tem. hiring of a large warehouse close by to act as a "chapel of ease"; the permanent staff was augmented, and the rush was waited for. It came.

MANAGER JOHN SMITH has witnessed many periods of stress and struggle when a great popular song has been in public demand—and Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter have published many such—but never before experienced so arduous a time or had so herculean a task to cope with. Demands for trifles of seventy, eighty, and ninety thousand copies had to be put on one side, while bulkier orders were got out of the way, and at four printing establishments weary overseers night and day watched rocking floors of machines vomiting forth gigantic reprints of the entire catalogue, the while frantic papermakers begged per telephone from mill to mill for paper from friendly co-traders.

ALL the vast crowd of personal applicants for copies were at length satisfied, and the myriad orders by wire and letter attended to—(one big provincial buyer is reputed to have taken an empty granary near Manchester in which to stock his order)—and Mr. Smith was at length thankful to be able to end several "all-night sittings" with an extra special "watch night" service of hard work, dismiss his tired staff, and reach home at Willesden in time to wish the milkman a Happy New Year.

MISS KITTY WAGER'S song, "The girls at the Penny Bazaar," by Albert Hall and Fred Poplar, has proved a tremendous hit at the Metropolitan, the habitués of which fine hall dearly love a singable chorus. It has been published by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter.

MR. ERNEST SHAND has just accepted from the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., who during the last few weeks have issued thirty songs, a new song, entitled "When the stars are shining bright," the music being by the popular American composer, Jean Schwartz, and the lyrics adapted by Gilbert Wells. This song will be produced next week.

MR. BERT COOTE'S Kiddies are featuring "My Dixieland Daisy," with a special version written by Mr. Coote himself, in their *Fatal Wedding* troupe, and also on the halls. This number will shortly be published by the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd.

THE fine rendering at Glasgow by Miss May Mars of "I want Molly," by F. W. Leigh and T. W. Thurban, has resulted in very large orders for copies from Messrs. Francis and Day, the publishers of the song.

MISS MADGE LESSING, on the Stoll tour, has been delighting holiday audiences with her delightful singing of that droll Dutch character ditty called "Henry Klein," a successful importation of Messrs. Francis and Day from America.

MISS LILY HAROLD, who has made a big success in the song, "Snowflakes," in pantomime at Terry's, will, after the run, produce the morceau at a leading hall, with special scenery, effects, and assistants. Messrs. Francis and Day have a steady and increasing demand for this pretty number.

MR. WILLIAM FRANCIS, JUN., who so ably acts as lieutenant to Mr. Fred Day in the control of the New York branch of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, landed in England a few days since, in view of his father's serious illness.

THE demand for Messrs. Francis and Day's "Sixpenny Pops" in Australia is a fast-growing one, and the great and well-known house of Allan and Co. Proprietary, Ltd., of Melbourne, are printing large editions daily by arrangement with the London firm. Among the songs in greatest demand are "Hear the Pipers calling, Jenny mine," "Wooden hut," "In the shade of the old apple tree," "Walking home with Angeline," "Starlight," and "Teasing."

THE Plymouth Borough Coroner, on Monday last, held an inquest on Frederick Wallace, aged 69, the part-proprietor of a music hall in Martin-street, Plymouth, who committed suicide by hanging on the preceding Saturday. From the evidence it appeared that the music hall had been by no means a success, and this had unhinged deceased's mind. He had some time previously threatened to take his life, but his threat was not regarded seriously. A verdict of "Suicide whilst temporarily insane" was returned.

MR. GEORGE CASEY made a great success as Dame in Cullen and Carthy's pantomime *Babes in the Wood*, "Waiting at the church" being one of the hits of the show.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE PALACE.

"Where are the Christmas novelties, where the seasonable attractions?" asks the praiser of times past. "Not all at the theatres, I hope," replies the variety lover, feeling somewhat anxious lest his favourite halls should be left without what is generally known as suitable fare, through the effulgence of so many of the stars irradiating the sphere of pantomime. Mr. Alfred Butt has been able to easily meet the demand for special attractions for the holidays by putting on the immensely popular Mr. R. A. Roberts—whom we last saw in London at the Coliseum—in an entirely new production, entitled *Ringing the Changes*. This is absolutely the best thing this remarkable performer has accomplished, either in the way of character-acting or quick-changing, and we have no need of Italian or foreign artists to play the part of a modern Proteus while we possess Roberts, whose "story of quaint deception" is told nightly to an accompaniment of laughter and applause. The action takes place in Diddler's Chambers, Bloomsbury. James Diddler, to please his uncle, Major Wagstaffe, has taken to the law, but prefers Ruff's "Turf Guide" and the racecourse to the study of evidence. The Major is quite satisfied if he looks in occasionally and sees his young relative quietly seated at a table reading; and Diddler, knowing this, has an exact counterpart of himself made in wax, and, with the help of an Italian *chef*, the deception is quite successful. With the figure silence is golden, and a Sphinx-like nod of acquiescence is all the conversation attempted by him when his clients consult him. The Major has been "ensnared" by Miss Flossie de Vere; but he is disentangled by the testimony of a cabman. There are eight characters in all, each of them played with a greater finesse and delicacy than Mr. Roberts has exhibited before. Mrs. Priscilla Wiggins is a rich and unctuous creation—not more so, perhaps, than the clever sketch of the actor of the old school. Mr. Roberts has caught, too, with great exactness, the manner and speech of the "ikey" cab-driver of the present day, between whom and the Jehu of twenty years ago there is as much difference as exists between the conductors of a horsed 'bus and a Vanguard. The dialogue is excellent, and far above anything that Mr. Roberts has yet given us. *Ringing the Changes*, indeed, is a delightful entertainment, and will greatly increase the reputation of its author, both as writer and actor. The music, by Mr. Herman Finck, adds considerably to the attractions of the novelty.

Christmas Eve is an artless episode by Mr. Harry M. Vernon, who has borrowed his ideas mostly from *Editha's Burglar*, a playlet that had an excellent run both at the theatres and halls some dozen years ago, the late Mr. Harry D. Burton making an excellent reputation as the cracksman. The burglar in *Christmas Eve*, strangely enough, is about to "crack a crib" that isn't worth the trouble, as little Barbara Dorchester, the only occupant of the combined room, is the daughter of a man who is doing time, and her mother, a hard-working actress, has been compelled to take all her valuables to the pawnshop. Jim Tubbs, who is not blessed with much variety of phrase in his conversations with the child, recognises an old pal of the gaol-yard in her father, and immediately plays the part of Santa Claus by putting twopence in her stocking. Miss Marie Montague plays Barbara very prettily, and Mr. Irve Hayman appears as the burglar.

Chirgwin, now happily quite recovered from his attack of influenza, is quite in his old form; and Little Tich's special engagement is being fulfilled by that unique little comedian in a way that has already established him a firm favourite at the fine house in Shaftesbury-avenue. Princess Trixie delights the youngsters by her equine amiability and high intelligence. Her spelling feats are quite remarkable—not more so than her feats in matching colours.

The Bioscope is just now projecting a fine series of pictures on the screen—pictures that have been obtained at great expense through the exertions and skill of operators specially sent to South Africa. We now see the hippopotamus in his lair, and the hunt of the enormous river-hog, his pursuit, his capture, and the killing of him supply a thrilling and most interesting succession of films. A sportsman and his native guide are first seen stalking the big game, and the creature is as lively a specimen of pachyderm as one would wish to meet. A fascinating and enthralling subject indeed! Other turns in the programme are Evan Evans, Welsh comedian; Parney and Jenkins, eccentric comedians; Mimi Nevada, vocalist; the Palace Girls; Florence Yaymen, a smart dancer and coon parodist; Alexandre, bird imitator; and Les Molasso, a quartet of extraordinary dancers.

THE TIVOLI.

The "coming of Arthur" to the Tivoli has been synonymous with good business, and large audiences have been laughing heartily at Mr. Herbert Shelley's burlesque, *Robbing Hood*, in which the oratorically funny Roberts plays the part of Robin Waller, without any apology whatever to Lewis at the Lyric. We have lately seen the gay, insouciant comedian as an Imperial Roman, now we see him as an archer, who draws a bow at a venture and brings down "a spring chicken" already trussed, which is hastily despatched to George Edwardes at the Gaiety. Maid Marian he, of course, rescues many a time and oft, but is unable to prevent her marriage with a peer—a "baron" honour of which she wishes to rid herself by divorce. The case is tried in the last scene with the outlaw of Sherbert Forest as judge and Friar Tuck as advocate. Robin also becomes a suffragette, and "behaves as sich." The scheme of travesty is such that it may be continually added to, and the almost endless resources of Mr. Arthur Roberts in the matter of gag may be trusted to increase the fun at every opportunity. Miss Ruby Celeste plays Maid Marian with a sense of humour; Mr. Charles Goold is an excellent Friar Tuck; the Sheriff of Nottingham is represented with sufficient malapertness by Mr. Chris Van Bern; and Miss Evie Reid is a droll Cupid. The scenery by Bruce Smith includes well-painted pictures of the Heart of Sherbert Forest, the Turret of Not-in-'Em Castle, and Ye Olde Village of Aldwych. Mr. Willie Clarkson has supplied some excellent costumes.

Miss Nellie Wallace, who is now quite an established favourite with the Tivoli patrons, exercises her eccentric style in the song called "In the cottage with the roses at the door"—a dwelling that is not so Arcadian in its simplicity as the title would seem to suggest. "I can't go to sleep" is another of Miss Wallace's humorous numbers. Datas, the memory man, is quite at home at the Tivoli, where he seems to be, if we may say so, more in touch with his audiences than is the case in a larger area. He is quite happy in his replies, and those who try to be funny at his expense—and there are always would-be humorists in a music hall gallery—are easily shut up by his retorts. Miss Amber Austa presents a most original turn, and eccentricity is largely and profitably developed by her during her act, in which she wears a very charming dress. Her turn is evidently growing in favour, and deservedly so. Precisely the same praise may be given to Herbert La Martine, a wonderful dancer, whose eccentric acrobatic solo is a thing to be seen. We think Herbert will be making his movements even more eccentric than they are at present. His bâton manipulation is positively bewildering in its smartness.

Miss Alice Raymond, who has before been heard at a Strand music hall—to wit, the Lyceum—is about the cleverest lady instrumentalist at present on the variety stage, and her double and triple-tonguing in the "Columbia Polka" on the cornet is a clever exhibition of the art of playing that difficult instrument. She is joined by Mr. John Kurkamp, who temporarily directs the orchestra, in the famous "Miserere" scene from *Il Trovatore*, and another selection from the same opera is "The Anvil Chorus," which is exceedingly well given. Mr. Charles Norton and Miss Clarice Mayne are both clever mimics. Clark and Hamilton repeat their pretty scena, *Chrysanthemum*; Dutch Daly's jokes bear the complexion of old favourites; and Miss Marie Lloyd, who made her reappearance on Monday, was acclaimed with enthusiasm, and was rewarded with a magnificent bouquet. Other turns in Mr. Wilson's scheme of holiday amusement are Tambo and Tambo, and Ryder Slone.

THE CANTERBURY.

"The old firm" has been relied upon by the Canterbury management for the provision of the Christmas novelty, and well has Mr. Joe Elvin sustained his reputation as a fun-maker. The new sketch, which has been written by Frank Couch and Wal Pink, is entitled *Trespassers Beware!* and introduces Mr. Elvin as a cockney lover of aquatics who has a day on the river, loses the rudder of the boat, and lands on the lawn of one of the riverside residences, the owner of which is for the moment absent. The sculler falls into the water, and is rescued by means of a boathook by a couple of "welshers" who have just fled from a neighbouring racecourse. The bookmakers pick up a sealed letter from the solicitors of the owner of the house, a retired Indian Army officer, warning him that some relations in Calcutta dispute his right to the property, and are going to take forcible possession. The tipsters use the letter as a means of extracting a sovereign from the oarsman, and induce him, on the promise of a reward, to take care of the house during their absence. The only suit of clothes he can find to change for his own dripping garments is an Indian officer's uniform, and thus arrayed receives the real owner, and, at the point of his cutlass, runs him into an adjoining hothouse. The spot has been selected as the scene of the construction of a picture by the Calcutta Cinématograph Company, and when the actors arrive, the name of their firm is sufficient to mark them out as the prey of the vigilant caretaker, who promptly compels them to join the other captive. A "handcuff king" comes along, and he is forced to chain all the prisoners together, and march them off to the station-house, while the caretaker remains triumphantly "on guard." The sketch is effectively written, and possesses a freshness which is very welcome. As the cockney oarsman, Mr. Elvin has a part in which the singularities of his style are thoroughly employed. From the moment he emerges half-drowned from the water to the time he parades his unfortunate victims in chains, laughter is incessant, and the droll incidents multiply so fast as to allow no rest to the risibilities. Mr. Elvin is well supported by the members of his company, and the sketch, which is brightened by Mr. Kenneth Lyle's music, has a pretty riverside set, provided by Mr. Syd Cook.

The holiday bill is one which reflects the skill in selection possessed by Mr. Geo. Adney Payne and his general-manager, Mr. Fred Miller. Among the artists best received is Mendel, the blind pianist, who begins his marvellous entertainment with the First Movement of Mendelssohn's No. 1 Concerto, which was deliciously played. A repetition of a piece played by an entire stranger is then given, and on the night of our visit took a most difficult form, but was successfully accomplished. Improvisations of Liszt on the fine old ballad, "Killarney," were also furnished, and the remarkable performance concluded by the playing of two tunes on the piano at one time, while the performer himself sang a third. Mendel was throughout applauded to the echo. A hit of no uncertain kind is also made by Mr. Harry Marte, a smart comedian, who sings a good song and dances in a way that moves the Canterbury critics to enthusiasm.

A capital chorus song has been secured by Miss Marie Kendall, in "England is good enough for me," while humour is imparted into the song "Go away!" which Miss Kendall also turns to topical purposes, with the result that encore verses have to be added. Mr. Chris Richards revels in eccentricity in his ditties and dances. His antics are many and various, and the comic surprises which he has in store keep the audience constantly in laughter. "Pro's at the Races" are pictured by Mr. Charles Norton, who shines conspicuously as a mimic. His counterfeit presentments of Joe Elvin, Eugene Stratton, R. G. Knowles, Wilkie Bard, Chirgwin, and Gus Elen, who all arrive on a racecourse, approach very nearly to the originals, and the merit of the impersonations is cordially recognised. Mr. Rex Fox is intrepid and versatile, and well deserves the title of "Wire King"; Miss Nellie Wallace gives a couple of songs, to which her quaint personality and droll style lend the utmost piquancy; the Gotham Comedy Quartet are welcome contributors to any variety bill; and the long programme also embraces the Four Aces, acrobats; Mr. Phil Ray, comedian; the Sisters Caselli, speciality dancers; Miss Alice Raymond, cornetist; Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope; Valazzi, "cannon ball king"; and Mr. Wallace Selkirk's juvenile spectacle, *In Bonnie Scotland*, a remarkable fact about which is that the whole of the children engaged in the spectacle are from the parish of Lambeth, and have been trained by Mr. Selkirk in one week.

HOLLOWAY EMPIRE.

The Holloway Empire management have started the New Year with an excellent programme, in which the leading place is taken by Mrs. Brown Potter and company, in the historical sketch, by Kennedy Cox, entitled *Mary Queen of Scots, and the Murder of Rizzio*. This is taken from the play which was produced at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, a few months ago, and it forms an admirable sketch, with a thrilling, sensational scene to wind up with. The scene is the Queen's supper room, Holyrood Palace, and, when the curtain rises, Mary's only companion is the Italian, Rizzio, Her Majesty's partiality for whom has aroused the jealousy of her husband, Lord Darnley. Rizzio is a handsome youth, and delights his Royal mistress by singing to her songs which remind her of Italy, the charming land of which she was a resident for some years. From another part of the ancient Palace a sound of revelry proceeds; and this is explained by the fact that my Lord Darnley is engaged in entertaining some of his boon companions. The Queen and her secretary are about to engage in certain business of State, when they are startled by the tramp of armed men, and a loud knock at the door. Lord Rivers demands admission, and, on a refusal from the Queen, threatens to gain an entrance by force. Rizzio blows out the wax candles, and conceals himself in a recess behind a curtain. Lord Rivers is then admitted, and, in spite of the Queen's protests, proceeds to make a search of Her Majesty's private apartments, even her bedroom, when Rizzio springs from his place of concealment, and is seized by the troopers under the command of Lord Rivers. The Queen pleads in vain for her favourite. His Lordship stabs the struggling prisoner to the heart, and with a smothered groan he falls dead. The Queen is left alone with the murdered man, and on this scene the curtain falls. Mrs. Brown Potter gives a vivid portrayal of Mary Queen of Scots, realising with the skill of an accomplished and experienced actress the pathos which underlies the part of the unhappy woman, who was soon herself to meet a violent death. Charm of manner and a dignified bearing in the presence of Lord Darnley's emissaries, are leading features of an impressive performance. The gentleman who represents Rizzio sings a couple of songs in admirable style; and the part of Lord Rivers is also well played.

Another notable item in the current bill is the appearance of Messrs. Verno and Voyce, in their vocal burlesque, entitled *Jack Sheppard; or, The Burglary at the Grange*. Jack, with the assistance of Blueskin, burgles the old mansion, but

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At a Meeting of the Music Publishers' Association of the United States, through its Executive Committee, held in the City of New York, on Thursday, October eighteenth, Nineteen Hundred and Six, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, the

Hon. T. P. O'Connor, M.P.

through his untiring efforts and zeal in the British Parliament, was instrumental in securing the enactment of the beneficent copyright legislation protecting the rights of authors, composers, and publishers in their properties against piracy, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Music Publishers' Association of the United States in grateful recognition of the signal service rendered by him to the cause of music, tenders to him its heartfelt thanks, and as a token of appreciation, be it further

Resolved, that these Resolutions, properly Engrossed, be forwarded to the

Hon. T. P. O'Connor, M.P.

and that a copy thereof be spread upon the minutes of the Association.

James F. Bowers
President

Charles B. Bayly
Secretary.

AMES & ROLLINSON, N.Y.

SCROLL PRESENTED TO MR. T. P. O'CONNOR.

The above scroll was handed to Mr. T. P. O'Connor at the ERA Offices on Tuesday by Mr. Charles Warren, the London representative of the firm of Witmarks, on behalf of the Music Publishers' Association of America.

discovering his mother's portrait, becomes sentimental, and restores the property to its rightful owner, declaring he will not rob the people who were kind to his maternal parent. Mr. Albert Voyce, the author of the burlesque, gives a capital portrayal of Jack Sheppard, and Mr. A. W. Verno plays and sings the part of Blueskin most effectively. Both meet with a highly favourable reception.

Mr. C. St. John Denton and George Rowlands' company of juveniles is here on a return visit, and is again appearing in *The Punch and Judy Girl*. The youngsters play their parts with much spirit, singing and dancing in a manner that gives the impression they are enjoying the fun and frolic. Little Marjorie Lawrence again distinguishes herself by her remarkable dancing. The Giretti Sisters are applauded for their graceful and daring gymnastic performance up aloft; and the lady and gentleman known as Les Voces sing "Killarney" and other selections with marked success. Kahn and Kahn have won a high reputation for a clever conjuring act, in which all the tricks are neatly accomplished; and one of the two appearing subsequently as Professor Dunning, affords agreeable evidence of his powers as a ventriloquist. Mr. Jack Camp sings a burlesque ballad, and cracks jokes concerning himself with his usual quaint solemnity of expression and manner, winning abundance of applause. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden appear with decided success in their well-acted duologue, *Two to One*, in which the former plays two characters. The American Bioscope pictures illustrate a story of deception, the culprit being a married man, and "A Difficult Problem," an amusing episode. The front of the house continues to receive the careful supervision of Mr. Chas. W. Adams; and Mr. Forbes Russell is the capable musical-director.

THE DUCHESS, BALHAM.

The record business that was done at this popular hall during the Christmas holidays does not at present show any sign of falling off, and the capital and interesting programme that Manager Ross is presenting to his patrons this week is proving a huge draw. At the top of the bill are Joe Elvin and company, in a laughable sketch entitled *Two for Three-halfpence*, which is having a most hearty reception. The inimitable Joe causes roars of laughter for his impersonations of the absent husband, and whilst he is on the stage he fairly makes one's sides ache. Unfortunately, the sketch is only a short one, and the end, which comes all too soon, is the signal for applause of the most hearty description. Gladys Mavius, a regular Balham favourite, is making one of her periodical visits to this hall, and judging by the applause that greets her number she has lost none of her old popularity. She is giving a couple of capital numbers, "The land across the sea" and "Rosie's waiting for me," the choruses of which are taken up in no half-hearted manner. In her second number she has the assistance of a very clever little artist, in whom nerves seem to be an unknown quantity, and who sings and dances as if she were quite an old hand at the game.

Unfortunately, Barney Stuart was unable to put in an appearance on the evening of our visit, but a most efficient substitute was found in Mr. G. H. Elliott, who proved himself to be the possessor of a very fine voice, which he used with considerable effect in the song "Loo, Loo." Howard and Collinson, who may always be sure of a most hearty welcome here, are again delighting Balhamites with their interesting and novel show, entitled *The Porter and the Parcel*. One of the brightest and best turns of the evening is that of pretty Lucy Weston, a charming comedienne, who is singing a couple of very amusing songs, entitled "Not quite sure" and "As you walk down the Strand." The scoring powers of these are greatly enhanced by the demure way in which Lucy sings them. A perfect storm of applause awaits her at the conclusion of her turn, and she has many times to bow her acknowledgments. Clown Barker, assisted by Miss Rozsika and a number of highly-trained animals, is nightly presenting an entertainment which is always popular. His clever canines are almost human in their sagacity, and his "bucking" donkey also adds considerably to the fun. Gus Garrick proves himself to be a most capable mimic, with a very original manner. He is giving capital impersonations of several of our leading musical artists, including Sam Mayo, Harry Champion, and a Scotch comedian. He brings his turn to a conclusion with a most laughable burlesque of La Belle Otero, giving also the favourite Parisian dance, "La Maxixe." The original manner in which he does this fairly convulses the house, and the applause he obtains is certainly well-earned. Los Rupertos are a couple of acrobats whose style is neat and facile, and whose turn is marked by many original and clever tricks, which they perform with surprising dexterity. The Mozondos, with their amusing barrel tumbling-act, are well received; and a pleasant evening is brought to a conclusion by a series of entertaining pictures on the Bioscope depicting "Fox-hunting." From the first to the last this series is followed with great interest. The orchestra, under the leadership of Mr. Charles Longmaid, adds considerably to the enjoyment of the evening. Manager Ross, who has recently been down with a slight attack of pleurisy, has again returned to welcome his many friends.

SOUTH LONDON PALACE.

POOR CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCE.

For several years past the management of the South London Palace have organised a New Year's free treat for the poor children of Southwark. Mr. William Payne, who in the middle of last year was appointed manager on the death of Mr. Frank Weeks, carried out this pleasant custom on Tuesday afternoon, when some four thousand children were entertained at the popular music hall in London-road. The Mayor of Southwark (Ald. R. D. Hilton, J.P.), the deputy-Mayor (Ald. M. R. C. Davis), and the ex-Mayor (Ald. J. O. Devereux), Councillors R. W. Bowers and E. T. Hall, and other aldermen and councillors of the borough were present, in addition to Mr. R. K. Causton, M.P.

During an interval many of these gentlemen appeared on the stage, and were introduced by Mr. William Payne, who made a brief speech, in which he said how delighted he was to see the children enjoying themselves, and that they had to thank the Mayor and the other gentlemen on the committee for assisting in the arrangements connected with the entertainment.

The Mayor stated that he, too, was pleased to be in the theatre that afternoon; and Mr. Causton, M.P., thanked his Worship for his presence and for his kindly help, and asked the children to give a ringing cheer for the management of the South London.

The youngsters were provided with tea and buns, cakes, oranges, and apples both as they entered the building and as they left. The various artists who appeared before them could not have had a more enthusiastic and appreciative audience. The programme was just such an one that the kiddies would be most interested in. There were Professor Rosser, with his capital Punch and Judy Show; Miss Queenie May, with her pretty rendering of "Snowflakes" and a song about a motor; Mlle. Rene, the talented girl juggler; Mr. Fred Neiman, the mystifying ventriloquist; the entertaining Raymond Trio; Mr. Joe Archer, the clever comedian and singer; and Miss Jessie Preston; not to mention the delightful stories pictorially told in amusing fashion by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope. Mr. Charles E. Howells, the musical conductor, ably directed the efforts of the orchestra, one of the items being his own march, "A Happy New Year to All."

DEATH OF LADY CLANCARTY.

Though she was unknown to the present generation of music hall patrons, the announcement of the death on Monday of the Countess of Clancarty, the celebrated and beautiful Belle Bilton, will be received with sincere regret by many who knew her in 1889, when she and her sister, Flo Bilton, used to sing "Fresh, fresh as the morning" at the Royal. It was during one Saturday afternoon at the Holborn house that she was introduced to Viscount Dunlo, the son and heir of the fourth Earl of Clancarty in the peerage of Ireland, and one fine morning—July 10, 1889, to be exact—the young couple walked into the Registry Office, Hampstead, and went through the civil form of marriage before Mr. Herbert Bridger, the registrar, signing the book as, respectively, Isabel Maude Penrice Bilton and William Frederick Le Poer Trench—by courtesy Viscount Dunlo, the witnesses being Flo Bilton and Mr. Minshull Ford.

There is no doubt that the bridegroom's father bitterly resented the marriage, and the viscount, who was barely twenty-one, was packed off to Australia. The beautiful Belle, therefore, still appeared with her sister, and fulfilled her engagements as usual. She was engaged by Sir Augustus Harris in the Drury Lane production of *Beauty and the Beast*, sustaining the rôle of Beauty; and also took the title-rôle in the comedy-opera, *Venus*. An action for divorce was brought at the instigation of the Earl in 1890, when Sir Charles Russell, afterwards Lord Russell of Killowen, was counsel for

[*Photo by Bassano.*

THE LATE MISS BELLE BILTON (LADY CLANCARTY).

the petitioner. This then eminent barrister allowed his zeal for his client to lead him astray, and, in order to influence the jury against Lady Dunlo he sweepingly attacked the whole of the profession to which she belonged. The summing up of Sir James Hannen was in favour of the respondent, and the jury pronounced her guiltless of the charge brought against her.

Such an inauspicious beginning of married life would have brought disaster into most ménages; but on the death of the fourth Earl in 1891, when the young couple took up their residence at the ancestral seat, Garbally Court, Ballinasloe, County Galway, the young countess, blessed with a sweet disposition and infinite tact, at once ingratiated herself with the neighbouring gentry by her charm of manner and love of sport, and became the idol of the tenantry, who christened her the Lady Bountiful of the village, and unaffectedly mourn her loss. Twin boys were born to the young couple in 1891, and the survivor is Lord Kilconnel. Another son and daughter blessed the union. Lady Clancarty succumbed to cancer, for which two years since she underwent the serum treatment in Paris. She was thirty-eight years of age.

The funeral took place on Thursday afternoon, the cortège leaving Garbally Court for the Protestant Church of St. John's, where is situated the family vault. From an early hour the tenantry began to assemble, and shared the duty of carrying the coffin to the church, two miles distant. All business was suspended in the little town of Ballinasloe as a mark of respect. Lord Clancarty walked immediately after the casket, accompanied by his cousin, Lord Ashtown, and behind them were Lord Kilconnel and Lord Clonbrock. The bereaved husband's magnificent wreath consisted of lilies, forget-me-nots, and asters, and bore the inscription: "To my darling Belle, from her sorrowing husband, Freddie," followed by a verse from the lamented lady's favourite hymn. There were also tributes "from her sorrowing children," and from Adeliza Countess of Clancarty (widow of the fourth earl), and from Lady Kathleen Le Poer Trench.

THE BRITANNIA.

One of the principal attractions at the Britannia this week is an original Eastern sketch, entitled *The Kingdom of Hate*, written by C. Douglas Carlile. The scene is The Hall of Silence at Lasha, but the Governor, Latsan Kahn, has a good deal to say, and he says it in a loud voice and with commanding action. He is a tyrant of the worst description; and does not hesitate to set at defiance the power of Britannia. He avows that he is governed by no laws; and in this spirit he meets Captain Jack Rayne, an English officer, who comes to demand the release of his wife, Ethel, a Red Cross nurse, who has been captured by the Governor's followers. Instead of releasing his captive, the Eastern despot has the young officer arrested and bound to a post. Then Ethel is brought into the hall, and the Khan determines to torture Rayne by branding with a red-hot iron the arm of his wife. This dastardly deed is accomplished in the presence of the unhappy woman's husband, and the tyrant also indulges in his diabolical temper by striking his prisoner, who can only retaliate by bitter, scornful words. However, Rayne finds an unexpected friend in May Thornton, known as the Gushi, who, left alone with the Captain, quickly liberates him. She has, it appears, lived in the Eastern land for nine years, but fosters a deadly hatred for the despotic Governor. She makes the discovery that Jack Rayne's wife is her own sister. Latsan Kahn returns, is infuriated by finding that the English officer has escaped, and is about to wreak his vengeance on Ethel when he is confronted by May Thornton and a drawn sword. At this crisis a company of English soldiers, led by Captain Rayne, break into the place and the Governor is shot dead. Miss Carlotta de Yonson ably doubles the parts of the sisters Ethel and May. Mr. C. Douglas Carlile is a bold and manly Captain Rayne, and Mr. Charles A. Carlile gives a vigorous embodiment of Latsan Khan. Galdan, the Kahn's attendant, is well played by Mr. Langdale.

Mr. Wal Pink and Mr. Jeff Vendome's company is appearing here in the sketch entitled *The Daybreakers*, a mixture of comedy and serious business, in which a gang of coiners are concerned. The piece abounds in comic knockabout business and concludes with a sensational raid on the coiners' den and capture of the criminals. Mr. Jeff Vendome is highly amusing in his original character of a railway guard; and he is ably supported by the company.

Mr. Hyram Travers, the coster comedian, is here, and scores with his ditties, "Bank Holiday" and "Yes, yes, yes." The Brothers Henres do well in a juggling and club manipulating act, and other turns include Ashby and Moore, Dutch delineators and expert dancers; Bessie Spear, juvenile comedienne; George Leonard, light comedian; Gracie Kebble, coon comedienne and dancer; and R. Abrahams and company, in *Fun in a Pawnshop*, in which is introduced a comic boxing exhibition. "The Gay Deceiver" is well illustrated by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux. Mr. James McCarthy is the acting-manager here, and Mr. Carl Hamlin is the conductor of the orchestra.

SADLER'S WELLS.

A seasonable flavour is imparted to the entertainment at Sadler's Wells by the inclusion in the programme of a pantomime. The production is presented from a street urchin's point of view by the far-famed "Casey-court Boys," who thus find a fresh field for their eccentricities. The extravaganza is called *Mick Whittington*, and involves the appearance of Mr. and Mrs. Casey in the parts of the Emperor of Morocco and the Fairy Queen respectively. The story is presented on pantomime lines, and includes primitive representations of Fitzwarren's shop, Highgate-hill, the ship at sea, the coast of Morocco, and the Emperor's palace—all produced in the grotesque fashion with which Mr. Harry Cadle's clever troupe is associated. "Specialities" are done in the Palace scene, during which a clever little man, who has appeared as an animated scarecrow, does a skilful dance; a mock conjuring entertainment is given, a "ballet" of all nations takes place, and a dusky Princess does a clog dance. Songs and choruses are given in fine style, and Mr. Bob King, the leading comedian, distinguishes himself as Mrs. Casey.

The mirthful nature of the bill is further sustained by *The Battle of the Belles*, presented by Mr. Fred Moule's company, which is chiefly notable for a fight between two women, and for the drolleries of a most original waiter furnished by Mr. E. D. Nicholls, who has elaborated the part since the first production of the sketch. The pugilistic ladies are interpreted by Miss Stella Carmichael and Miss Ada Frank; Mr. Fred Moule gives a realistic representation of the laughing publican; Mr. Courtney Robinson makes a gallant soldier, and Miss Ada Lucelle is a refined and graceful Laurie Lindon. The sketch is as exciting as ever, and produces the customary ebullitions of laughter on the part of the audience. Still another sketch is found in *Nicodemus*, which is played in dumb show by Mr. Chas. Vandyke and company. A ghost and a demon figure in the little piece, and trick furniture is effectively employed, with the result that the house is continuously hilarious during its progress.

Novelties in the display of strength are furnished by Pauldow, a young man of muscular physique, who begins his show with a remarkable test of endurance—bearing a man held aloft on one hand up a high staircase and down the other side, only occasionally using his hand to steady himself on his precarious way. The skilful performer is able to do a handspring while clutching a weighty barbell, and after holding up a couple of 56lb. weights suddenly lets them drop to the full extent of a chain to which they are attached. The performer concludes his feats by doing the "splits" on a couple of low stools fitted with wheels, while bearing a 100lb. barbell, and returning to an upright position. The tricks are done with praiseworthy finish, and the artist wins loud recalls. Mr. Will Bacchus, a jovial coster comedian, sings of a precocious youngster who is "going to be a coster like his father," and afterwards touches a note of wholesome sentiment in his ballad of a coster, of whom it can truly be said "He's the hottest bit of stuff you ever tasted." Mr. Bacchus has a resounding voice and pleasing expression, and his songs go right home, while his dancing gains great admiration. "A Venetian Tragedy," in which some interesting and exciting views of the City of Canals are presented, is portrayed on Raymond's Bio-tableaux; the promise of a peep into the future is held out by Mahatma, and the Singing Mill Lads, who come straight from the loom to the stage, are an attractive feature of the programme; which also includes Blanche and Diacoff, in their "great cycle whizz," and J. Hegarty, comedian and sifleur. Mr. Frederic Baugh is general manager for Frank Macnaghten, who controls the old-established hall, and Mr. Pete Murray fills with his customary ability the post of acting-manager.

THE PUTNEY HIPPODROME.

Pantomime in town and country depletes the ranks of the variety artists, but this notwithstanding, the programme provided by Mr. Clifford King for the numerous patrons of the Putney Hippodrome is this week lengthy, varied, and of an excellent character. The opening overture, consisting of popular refrains, is crisply played by Mr. Allington's orchestra. The first turn is Miss Amy Marsden, a maiden of the Vesta Victorian era, who gives a quaint version of "Come, birdie, come," and, in a second effort, tells in song of some extraordinary happenings whilst the mocking bird was singing on the tree. Mlle Roza's well-trained canines display great agility on revolving tables and in other tricks, the turn finishing with a diverting football match, during which a small fox-terrier gamely defends his charge by "heading out" a perfect bombardment of well-directed shots at goal.

After Miss Gladys Wilson has rendered a couple of songs, Lieut. Albini presents his illusion, "The Lady in Black," the success of this item being enhanced by the entertaining patter between the Professor and the members of the audience who volunteer to assist. One of the best turns of the evening is that of Miss Daisy James, whose impersonation of the Gibson Girl is very enthusiastically received. The New York Nippers, in a dormitory scene, sing and dance themselves into favour, the most juvenile member of the sextette being precociously amusing. Another exceedingly clever dancing turn is furnished by the Delomes, a lady and gentleman, who first appear in a neat song and dance, and afterwards in their special scena, *The Phantom Clogs*, an ingenious arrangement rendering everything invisible except the feet of the performers. A comical interlude by Bob and Jenny Leonard evokes much laughter, which is caused by the adventures of the former, a good-looking member of the Force, with a country girl, a lady about town, and a coster girl, the turn ending up with some nimble dancing. The Sisters Pine appear in a slavey duet, one being a smart parlourmaid and the other a slatternly kitchen wench. They wind up a really good turn by an operatic duet. The musical mélange of Mabel Bright and company affords intense satisfaction and introduces a clever dance between Red Indian chiefs and squaws in costume. Mr. Arthur Lennard contributes two items—"If I had been born a girl" and "Mother"—the contrast between the two giving the actor-vocalist ample opportunity for displaying his versatility. In reply to a very vigorous re-demand on the night of our visit he added another song descriptive of experiences with a bad cigar. Stiddar and Dunbar, in a musical comedy speciality, introduce solos on the pianoforte and 'cello, the lady singing and dancing very cleverly. Another smart turn is that of Clive and Clark in American song and dance. The concluding item is Ruffell's Bioscope with new subjects.

DEATH OF BESSIE FEATHERSTONE.

A sad gloom was cast over theatrical circles on Tyneside by the announcement of the death on Tuesday morning of Miss Bessie Featherstone, who was cast for the title-part in the pantomime of *Aladdin* at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, this season. During the trying period of rehearsals it was evident that Miss Featherstone had not entirely shaken off the effects of a recent attack of influenza. Her indomitable courage, however, kept her at work, and on the first night she played with a vivacity and gracefulness that quickly gained the favour of the audience. Miss Featherstone played again on Christmas Eve and on Boxing Day, but each appearance must have been an exhausting effort, for she was then forced to take to her bed, the illness terminating with her death, at her rooms in St. Mary's-place, Newcastle. The cause of death was typhoid fever. Dr. Matthews attended her in her illness, and had the assistance of Dr. Beattie and trained nurses, whilst the patient's mother and sister were also in continual attendance. Her death was hastened by the news of her husband's decease. She visited Newcastle, it may be added, for her fourth pantomime under the Howard and Wyndham management, having played first at Edinburgh, then at the Tyne Theatre, and last year at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, scoring in every case a personal success that went far to make the pantomimes the favourites they were in every case. During the year Miss Featherstone was

[*Photo by Foulsham and Banfield.*

THE LATE MISS BESSIE FEATHERSTONE.

chiefly engaged in London, the West End houses, such as the Tivoli, the Oxford, and the Pavilion, being her strongholds.

Miss Featherstone was a pantomime actress both spirited and refined, and to her fine figure and commanding stage presence she added a personal charm that went far to secure her the favour of her audience. Her charm of manner was not altogether a thing of the stage, for in her private life she was a gracious and kindly lady, and one who was ever ready to help forward a good cause. Her share in the Lifeboat Saturday matinée in Newcastle two years ago will be remembered. Miss Featherstone was one of the first to express her willingness to contribute to the programme, and when the day came she did not spare herself in fulfilling her word. Her career on the stage was not a long one. It had been happy, and was full of promise. The news of the fatal termination of her illness has caused genuine regret in Newcastle and to her friends of the profession, prepared as they were for the worst, the sad news was a matter of profound grief, for the lady was held in the warmest esteem by all who had the pleasure of being associated with her.

Immediately on receipt of telegraphic intimation of Miss Featherstone's death, Mr. Fred W. Wyndham travelled from Scotland to Newcastle to extend his deep and practical sympathy with the family, whose friendship he valued. Telegrams of condolence with Miss Featherstone's relatives, and of sympathy with the management of the Tyne Theatre and the members of the pantomime company, have been received from all quarters of the United Kingdom at the Westgate-road house.

QUEEN'S.

Mr. Jack Woolf has a capital programme at the Queen's this week, and, before going on to speak of the programme, we might refer to one or two improvements which have recently been effected in the house. The most up-to-date appliances for heating the establishment, and, in addition, to make the auditorium free from draughts, massive curtains have been fixed at the main entrances and exits. These attentions by Mr. Woolf are not lost upon his patrons, for the Queen's is becoming more popular with every week of its added existence.

Messrs. J. G. Johnson and company offer a capital dramatic sketch in *In an Old Country Lane*. The story of the love of the village blacksmith for a farmer's daughter, of the latter being unjustly accused of stealing her own father's money, and being renounced by him, of the villainous scheming of a hypocritical churchwarden, of the return from a foreign country of the blacksmith, whither he had gone to seek a fortune, and of the eventual turning out well of all things, is told in realistic fashion by the various members of the cast. Mr. J. G. Johnson is seen in an admirable character-sketch of a wastrel; and Mr. James Storey gives a commendable embodiment of the sturdy blacksmith. Miss Ethel Storey acts with charm and sincerity in the rôle of the heroine; and, as the deceived father of that young lady, Mr. Johnston Merritt treats us to a well-considered portrayal of an old man. Mr. W. S. Hartford is amusingly sanctimonious in the part of the churchwarden. The little piece is ably mounted.

Two musical mimics and comedians, who bestow upon themselves the somewhat original stage-names of Halt and Attention, contrive to keep their hearers amused with funny anecdotes and repartee. One of them sings in quite agreeable style a tale of the stage, called "The Gleaming Footlights," and the other, to his coadjutor's pianoforte accompaniment, submits vocal imitations of a military band. Mr. Ronald Bayne and Miss Evelyn Hope appear in a scene from *David Garrick*, the gentleman impersonating Garrick and the lady taking the part of Ada Ingot. It is an interesting trifle. Messrs. De Voy, Hurst, and Fredericks present their laughable absurdity, *The Darktown Insurance Depôt*, which tickles the fancy of the audience immensely. The Davenports offer an attractive show, in which magic and illusions play the principal part. The manner in which they produce a thimble from seemingly nowhere is mystifying to the closest observer. The Sisters Stratton distinguish themselves in the singing of duets and in dancing; and Clark and Gold, the American banjo artists, provide a most entertaining musical, dancing, and gagging turn. Talented character duettists come along in the persons of the Brothers Ralston, their "Coster and Gentleman" scene being much appreciated. Then there is an engaging comedienne in Miss Ruby Holly; while from Mr. Chris Clark we get some smart "character business." The New Bioscope's pictorial representation of a prospector's romance in the goldfields is vivid and realistic.

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE.

Few turns on the variety stage of recent years have attracted so much attention or caused so much discussion as that of La Milo. Since this lady left the London Pavilion, where she made her first appearance in England in the early part of last year, and fulfilled a long engagement, she has been seen in her series of classical poses in many of the leading towns in the country; and in practically all of these towns has her performance—we say performance for lack of a better word—been attacked. Fortunately, however, wherever these attacks have taken place La Milo has found champions who have valiantly defended her, and she has been able, quite rightly, to proceed on her way rejoicing. To our mind, La Milo's act needs no defence, and we are unable to appreciate the attitude of those who profess to consider it an undesirable item in a public entertainment. The several representations of famous statuary are all extremely beautiful, and the white and cold appearance of the various figures, together with the perfect pose, makes it difficult to realise that La Milo is not inanimate. La Milo, however, is not the only attraction at this fine hall at Shepherd's Bush this week, for the programme is of all-round excellence, and when the curtain rises, "standing room only" is the order of the day or rather night. A very clever and amusing quarter of an hour is that provided by Holden's Mannikins. We do not remember ever to have seen a better marionette show; the movements of the figures are fascinatingly life-like. A form of entertainment on the music hall stage which seems to be increasingly popular is that of illustrated songs. Charles Robinson showed himself the possessor of an excellent baritone voice, and the pictures accompanying his singing were really excellent. One of Mr. Robinson's songs was the pretty "Cheyenne." Theo Hardeen gives an exciting exhibition of handcuff manipulating. We understand that Hardeen has been challenged to allow himself to be fastened in a regulation punishment suit by some ex-officials of the Metropolitan Police, and that he has accepted the test, the attempt to release himself being fixed for the second performance on Friday evening. Victor Newman gives admirable and well-conceived imitations, one of Mr. Tree as Svengali and the other of the late Sir Henry Irving as Matthias. Lily Langtry sings and dances in her usual lively style, her songs being "A day at the Zoo" and "A day excursion." Frank and Jen Latona provide a very popular medley item. Both artists are excellent musicians, and whilst Frank is a fine comedian, and has some extremely funny patter, Jen has a very pretty voice and two or three charming songs. Her singing of "Maria" was loudly encored. Mention must also be made of her very delightful playing on the piano. Hurley and Cole, in a song-scena, "Let bygones be bygones," easily find the favour of the audience; and Miss Marie Kendall, a great favourite at Shepherd's Bush, obtains enthusiastic applause for her two typical songs, cleverly rendered, "England" and "Come away." The programme is completed, as usual, by the American Bioscope, which this week illustrates an exciting incident of the Cromwellian War, entitled "The Curfew." A compliment should be paid to the kindly and courteous management, in front, of Mr B. G. Maclachan.

RICHMOND THEATRE.

It must not be supposed for one moment that, because King Pantomime is everywhere in evidence, the management has to any extent relinquished its efforts in providing an attractive New Year's bill for the *habitués* of this pretty theatre. That his efforts are appreciated goes without saying, and on the night of our visit the items met with the cheeriest of receptions, for, whatever else may be said of Richmond audiences, it would be impossible to deny they are ever enthusiastic. A capitally rendered overture, "Pennon and Plume," is sufficient to put everyone in good humour; it is followed by Mr. Sydney Dolf, who is billed as "doing a little of everything." He imitates the juggler, the lady star, and the languid swell; and this is followed by his impersonation of "a minstrel up to date," a welcome reminiscence of nigger minstrelsy. Truly Mr. Dolf's versatility is remarkable. The Kents (Harry and Cissie) win immediate favour, and they deserve it. Mr. Harry Kent recites with considerable ability, "A Coster's Episode." He also sings "The Town Brigade," while Miss Cissie dances off to volleys of applause. Then dainty Miss Lena Willard sings quite prettily about an almond-eyed Celestial who came all the way from Lhassa town, and fell in love with a charming English maiden. Miss Willard's second contribution is equally happy. Her imitations hugely amuse the audience, and are loudly applauded. We have before commented on more than one occasion on G. P. Newall's droll sketch, *The Knight Jester*. It is undoubtedly a distinctly funny piece of fooling. Mr. Max Guy, who for the nonce is wielding the bâton of Mr. Norfolk Megone, does admirably, as is demonstrated to the full in a really excellent selection from *Mr. Popple*, arranged by J. A. Crellman. Ruby Bijou dances quite charmingly, *à la* Trilby, and wins a premier place in the evening's list of honours. Mr. E. R. Dainez again demonstrates to what extent the sagacity of dumb animals may be cultivated and developed. To watch his pony, Handsome, go through its wonderful feats is a lesson in animal training. Even the innate obstinacy of the much-maligned ass is overcome by Mr. Dainez; indeed, his Smiler is quite a model of submission and obedience. The hounds, too, are wonderful specimens of the canine race. Mueller and Coyne evidently hail from the "other side"; their patter causes much laughter, and they amuse the audience to the full. A great reception awaits Mr. Arthur Lennard, who sings first, "Advice to Girls," and next, "If he had been born a girl." Mr. Lennard's second song deals with domestic topics and foibles of the moment; it is admirably given, for Mr. Lennard has a style of his own, and one that the younger school might do worse than imitate. His phrasing is excellent, and his humour apparent in his "Story of a cigar." Vernon's Bioscope still provides novelty, evinced in several scenes.

HORACE WHEATLEY IN LEEDS.

Mr. Horace Wheatley, who has been appearing at the Leeds Hippodrome this week, has introduced a novelty in the way of patter. On the stage he has a picture of his old friend McIntyre, of whom he tells some racy stories. He is as good a raconteur as ever, and still one of the best dancers of his time.—*Yorkshire Evening Post*, Saturday, Dec. 29.

IN DUBLIN.

There is, perhaps, not one among the many popular favourites who has so great a hold upon the Dublin public as Mr. Horace Wheatley, and he has on all occasions justified his right to a high place in popular esteem. His songs and his patter are delightfully amusing, and cause roars of laughter, while his clog-dancing is a rare treat. He is certainly a master in this branch of his art, while as a comedian he ranks second to none in his own particular line. His songs appealed greatly to the audience, and he was warmly and deservedly encored.—*Dublin Press.*

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

LORD GEORGE SANGER, the "Father of the Road," and the revered president of the Showmen's Guild, will again preside and deliver a presidential address at the annual meeting of the Society in London.

BY kind permission of the lessee, Mr. T. E. Read, the meeting will take place at the World's Fair, the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, on Jan. 23, at half-past eleven in the forenoon.

THE annual ball and supper for the showmen of the North of England will be held in the Empress Ballroom, Bolton, in connection with Bolton winter fair. This social function has become a great event, and its chief promoters, Market Superintendent Robert Pike, and his brother, Mr. William Pike, work like Trojans to make each succeeding festival better than the previous record celebrations. Mr. T. Hurst, hon. secretary to the Showmen's Guild, throws himself heartily into the work.

THIS year a new and interesting feature will mark the event—nothing less than a showmen football match, to be played on the Bolton Wanderers' ground. We anticipate that this will prove a big hit, and we understand that the gate money will be given, along with the profits of the supper and ball, to the Guild funds.

THE annual business committee meeting and the public meeting of the Guild will take place for the seventeenth consecutive year in Manchester, on Jan. 16. The committee will meet for business at the Black Lion Hotel, Salford, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, and the public meeting will take place at four o'clock in the afternoon, at the Memorial Hall, Albert-square. For particulars of both Manchester and London meetings see advertisements.

THE Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union will hold their next meeting at Bolton on Jan. 8. For place and time of meeting see advertisement.

OUR Welsh correspondent sends the following items of news:—Henry Scard and Wadbrook's electrograph are at Pontypridd; J. Dooner and Son, with their electric cinématograph, are also at Pontypridd, and Douter, with roundabouts and other novelties.

AT Morriston are H. Studt and Son with their well-known concerns, and with them John North, J. Day and Booth, with varieties, etc.

FOR New Year's holidays at Normanton (Yorkshire) are Vicker's Portable Theatre; Harry Ashington, with cinématograph and marionette theatre, presenting drama and pantomime; Wallett, with shooting-range; and Messrs. Blackburn, Miller, Wallser, Walker, Burton, and Bassett, with varieties, stalls, etc.

A CASE of great importance as to the liability of showmen was decided last week before Judge Sir Wm. Selfe at the Brompton County Court.

George Seaby, a boy of ten, of Walham-avenue, Fulham, was plaintiff with his father, and the defendant was Mr. J. Manders, the owner of the Lillie-road fair grounds at Fulham.

Mr. Wildey Wright represented the plaintiff, and Mr. Wallace, K.C. (with him Mr. Lunge) appeared for the defendant.

Plaintiff's counsel stated that the action was brought to recover damages in respect of severe personal injuries and life-long disfigurement sustained by the boy on Sept. 28 last. On the evening of that day the child accompanied his brother and a friend to the fair grounds, but, not having a halfpenny, could not indulge in the luxuries of a swing as they did. He was allowed to give them the necessary start, however, and had them set going fairly well when his attention was diverted. Turning round again, "the boat" caught him full in the face, breaking his nose and flattening it beyond recognition. In view of the fact that invitation was held out to the public to enter the fair grounds for nothing, and that the public mostly attracted was of the infant class, he (learned counsel) should submit that insufficient precautions were taken by the defendant to guard against such an accident, and that there had been negligence on the part of the defendant's servant in not seeing that the child plaintiff was properly protected from the swings.

Mr. William Robert Pether, consulting engineer, said he had seen the swings, and considered they were not properly protected. When he had seen such contrivances before they had always been protected by a fence, bar, or rope.

Mr. Wallace submitted that no negligence had been proved, and that if defendant was held responsible, the managers of all the schools where swings were in daily use in the playgrounds would be liable for every petty accident that occurred. The swings owned by defendant were exactly similar to those found in fairs and playgrounds all over England.

Mr. Wildey Wright: They have been removed from the schools on account of their danger.

Mr. Wallace: No; that is not so. Counsel, continuing, said the boy was warned of his danger, and submitted that he was guilty of contributory negligence.

The judge pointed out to the jury that although they might not have much doubt as to the contributory negligence of a grown-up person in such circumstances, they would have to consider whether a child of ten could be held similarly liable.

The jury found for the defendant.

THE Rev. T. Horne will conduct Divine service and preach at Olympia to-morrow (Sunday) at 5 p.m. All show-people are invited to attend. He will also hold a service for the children and young people of the fair at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, at half-past eleven in the forenoon. To this service also the parents and friends of the show-children are invited.

MR. F. COOPER, better known in Showland as "Uncle Fred," sends us the following verses, with many good wishes for all show-folk for the New Year:—

A FEW LINES ON JOINING "THE NIGHT IN JAPAN" COMPANY.

'Twas at the time of Christmas cheer
I left my home and wife so dear;
Once again to tread the stage,
As I'd done before, in a former age.
My darling laughed and cried, then shed a tear
As these words she whispered in my ear—
"You'll send for me if you're ill?"
"I'll soon return, if 'tis God's will."
"Oh, I'd love to hear the audience cheer
The little story you've written here,
And see you wave a dainty fan—
Then talk of England and Japan;
I know for 'gags' you're never stuck—
Good-bye, my love, good luck, good luck."

UNCLE FRED.

LARGE cycle works have just been erected at Redditch, and a new industry has been started in the manufacture of motor-cars. Trade is very good, and first-class attractions should do well at the Public Hall. The fairground is in an excellent position, on the Royal Hotel yard, and is situated in the market-place. The annual pleasure fair is held during the August holidays.

AT Holloway's New Empire Theatre, Henley-in-Arden, this week, the following plays have been performed: *My Sweetheart, Maria Martin, Life's Cross Roads, Crimes of Paris, Sweeney Todd,* and *The Factory Girl.*

THE EDUCATION OF THE SHOWMAN'S CHILD.

Ever since the days of the late George Smith the executive officers of the Showmen's Guild have kept a most vigilant watch over all proposals to deal with the children of the fair-ground.

This is a most important work, and that it is necessary is seen from the perseverance of would-be educational reformers who from time to time try their 'prentice hands in framing legislative proposals to bring all children who travel from town to town, from fair to fair, within what they are pleased to term "the educational net." Showmen recognise that the intention of these educational zealots is both admirable and honest; but at the same time showmen are bound to object to and vigorously protest against their methods and plans.

We dealt at length a while back with a Bill introduced by a private member, and ostensibly intended to help the children of tramps and criminals. This Bill was so crudely drafted that all children whose parents must travel to earn their living would be penalised just as severely as the casual tramp and criminal. That Bill was blocked in the House of Commons by friends of the travelling-show people. Had it passed into law it would have inflicted a terrible injustice upon the whole body of show-people.

In the House of Lords the other week a question was put on the paper, and appeared in the orders of the day for Dec. 19:—

"The Lord Farrer to ask the Lord President of the Council whether the Government are aware of the great number of van-dwellers and other nomads in the home counties whose children receive no regular education, and whether they would be prepared to afford facilities for legislation, either by extending the provisions of the Canal Boat Acts to such nomads or upon the lines of the Temporary Dwellings Bill of 1887."

Mr. F. Millar drew the attention of the Rev. T. Horne to the question, and Mr. Horne, as chaplain to the Showmen's Guild, was asked to deal with the matter.

The following interesting correspondence took place between the hon. chaplain and the Right Honourable the Earl of Crewe, Lord President of the Council, and Education Minister.

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.
President, Lord George Sanger.
Hon. Chaplain and Organiser, the Rev. T. Horne.
Dec. 18, 1906.

To the Lord President of the Council,—My Lord, the committee of the above society (representing the van-dwellers and showmen of the United Kingdom) have had before them the terms of the question on the orders of the House of Lords in the name of Lord Farrer. We respectfully submit for your lordship's consideration the following information as touching the education of show and circus children:—

(1) The great majority of showpeople have permanent homes, and at these settled residences of the family the children come under the ordinary and the regular educational machinery. (2) Showmen are keenly anxious to give their children the best education possible, and many of the more wealthy of them send their children to good public and private schools. (3) I have made a personal canvass of some of the largest fairs in the country, taking a careful census of the child life in the caravans, and the result of my investigations has been to show that in the movable homes of showpeople at fair times a smaller percentage of children of school age are to be found therein than might be found in the same number of house-dwellers in the artisan or middle-class quarters of towns.

The showpeople, knowing that I have given the best years and work of my life to their educational and spiritual welfare have asked me at this extremely short notice to write to your lordship, in order that, as a class, they may not be reckoned as either gipsies, itinerant hawkers, or tramps.

When, in 1887, efforts were made to class show-children as gipsies or canal-boat children, it was proved to the satisfaction of the House of Commons that to do so would inflict a terrible injustice on a worthy and industrious class of people.

(4) We wish also to point out that full facilities now obtain in every town for show children to attend school for short periods of time; but that prior to 1892 or 1893 the conditions under which the school grant was given practically closed the school doors against show and circus children. Since that embargo was removed every advantage has been taken by the parents to send their children to school for short periods of time in towns where they may be located. School managers and the clergy now encourage the children to attend school, and through the hon. local chaplains of our Guild this is now increasingly done.

For the information of the Board of Education I will gladly furnish all necessary proofs that, as touching the children of the travelling showpeople, all that is needed is the wise extension of existing facilities, and the recognition that show children are being educated, and that their parents are keenly anxious to give them every possible mental and intellectual equipment for their work in life.—I am, my lord, your obedient servant, THOMAS HORNE, hon. chaplain.

The Lord President's secretary sent the following reply:—

Privy Council Office, Dec. 24, 1906.

Dear Sir,—I am desired by Lord Crewe to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th inst., and to say that the question to which you refer was subsequently withdrawn; but that, if the matter is again brought forward, your representations will receive his careful consideration.—I am, yours faithfully, G. E. G. MURRAY.

The Rev. T. Horne.

We need hardly point out the great importance of keeping the powers that be in full possession of the real facts that govern show life, and that any attempt to legislate for show children, along the lines of the Canal Boat Acts or the Movable Dwellings Bill of 1887, will meet with the most determined opposition of the showman and his hosts of friends.

AT the Alexandra Fair Meadow, Penzance, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Burnett have pitched their portable. The structure, known as "His Majesty's Theatre," is replete with every comfort. Plush tip-up chairs as orchestra stalls, upholstered seats as pit, and a large and well-arranged amphitheatre as gallery meet the requirements of the large audiences which assemble to sample the good fare provided. A nightly change of bill, including well-mounted and effectively-played drama, rollicking farce, and clever individual vaudeville turns, is apparently much to the taste of the local amusement-seeking inhabitants of the town and district, and there is no doubt this well-appointed temple of Thespis will enjoy a successful run of many weeks.

MR. T. E. READ'S record programme at the World's Fair, Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, is drawing tremendous crowds to this popular home of amusement, notwithstanding the inclement weather during the Christmas holidays. The circus programme is equal to the best ever given. The intrepid Caicedo absolutely revels in his sensational performance on the high wire, and the daring and graceful feats in mid air of the Siegrist, Silbon, and Viennese Troupe of nine aerialists are indeed marvellous. Bostock and Wombwell's menagerie has been greatly increased; the three lots of lion cubs, from three weeks old, are a rare novelty. Many changes are made in the various side-shows and other attractions, and a mammoth programme can be seen for the popular sixpence.

THE PIPES AND DRUM.

A STORY OF THE ROAD.
BY THE REV. T. HORNE.

Shall I tell you why we all love it,
That well-thumped, weather-worn drum?
Like the pandean pipes above it,
With a voice that is never dumb.
It speaks of a time in our history
Which none of us wish to forget,
Or to cloak it around with mystery,
As some do who move in our set.

Yes, the yarn of the pipes and the drum
Is a tale well worth repeating,
To the honour of dad's old chum—
That's his son you heard at the meeting.
As partners together for many a year,
Better men never worked at their graft;
When they cackled their wheezes 'twas good to hear
How the yokels all tittered and laughed.

'Twas the day of the one-waggon walk up,
When one prad dragged the whole lot,
When you had to parade and to talk up,
When a solda was all that you got.
Their round was in one-eyed Wales.
They were stuck at a place called Cumbran;
The folks were as hard as nails,
The takings not paying for scran.

Then the horse sickened and died, sir,
And father caught cold and was bad;
But Jim, like a true pal, tried, sir,
To cheer up and strengthen the dad.
Misfortunes fell fast and furious,
For the Toberman seized for the rent;
And the people, suspicious and curious,
Thought the devil his angels had sent.

For three weary weeks dad was ill,
And Jim—like a great-hearted friend—
The fever fiend fought with a will,
And was ready to fight to the end.
Tho' the slang was in pawn for the rent,
Says Jim to the dad, "Never mind;
So long as you're well, I'm content,
And a way out of this hole we'll find."

With a few fantocina, the pipes, and the drum,
They started for Gloucester one day;
They busked on the roads, did dad and his chum,
Till the old man broke down on the way.
How they got into Monmouth, God only knows,
There a kind-hearted soul took them in;
She'd a heart in her bosom for showmen and shows—
Pity makes the whole world akin.

Dad had a relapse, was worse than before;
He couldn't bear Jim from his sight.
And when his mind wandered would *patter* and *door,*
As though on the *steps,* and all right.
Then Jim would answer, "*Hi, hi, Mr. Master,*"
To dad's "*Walk up; be in time,*"
Would whack the old drum, and play the pipes faster—
All pathos was that pantomime.

One night as he humoured the dad,
Softly playing the pipes and the drum,
Poor Jim, himself almost mad—
For the turn of the fever had come—
Was startled by a knock at the door,
And a well-known voice said, "May I come?"
'Twas good George Wombwell who stood on the floor,
Drawn there by the pipes and the drum.

The show at the Toll Bar delayed,
George heard the sounds hard by.
Soon his way to the cottage he made—
He didn't leave dad there to die.
He was tenderly taken to George's own van,
And fed on the fat of the land.
To be with friends is new life to a man,
'Tis a tonic that wealth can't command.

So now, sir, you hear the true story,
The romance of the dad and his chum,
And that is the halo of glory
Surrounding the pipes and the drum.

ABERAVON FAIRS.

MR. STUDT'S AGREEMENTS WITH THE COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of the Aberavon Town Council committees was held on Tuesday, in last week.

For many years the running of the two Aberavon fairs in September and April has been left in the hands of Mr. Henry Studt, who worked the events up from a small beginning to their present-day success. The price previously paid by Mr. Studt for holding the fair was £25 a year, and it was thought that a larger sum should be demanded, or that the Corporation should run the fair themselves.

At a previous meeting it was decided to ask Mr. Studt to pay £100 a year for the privilege of running the fairs.

Mr. Hy. Studt attended the meeting and clearly explained the whole conditions, and after a discussion it was decided to enter into an agreement with Mr. Studt to runs the fairs for £70 for the first year, increasing by £10 a year to £100, until such time as the Corporation require the field for building or any other purposes excepting a fair; that the Corporation have the right to the grazing of the two fields, and that an undertaking be given Mr. Studt that no large shows be allowed in the Cattle Market three weeks before the fairs. Mr. Studt agreed to these terms.

Mr. Studt asked that the date of the September fair be altered from the first Monday to the first Thursday in the month, as the present arrangement made it come too near Neath, and allowed no time for shifting from one place to the other. This question was deferred.

AT the Victoria Theatre, Barry Dock, the pantomime still continues. A more complete and prettier pantomime in a portable is impossible. The scenery is sublime, costumes excellent, and Cinderella's coach is really fine. The children, under the coaching of the proprietor, go through their parts in fine stye. Mr. John Johnson, as one of the Ugly Sisters, keeps the house in continuous laughter; his patter is refined, but funny. Special songs and new jokes continue to draw packed houses. The transformation scene arranged by Mr. Johnson is magnificent, and well worth seeing.

GREAT DRAW.

GRAHAM,

The Human Marionette.

"A Sure Top."

Agent,

GEORGE BARCLAY.

NEW CROSS EMPIRE.

A crowded and enthusiastic holiday audience assembled on the night of our visit to do justice to the excellent fare provided at this handsome Hall by the indefatigable and popular management so ably represented by Mr. Ernest Bridgen. Proceedings opened by the overture, conducted by Mr. Louis la Rondelle, and brilliantly rendered by the band, which is one of the most attractive features of this establishment. Mr. J. G. Graham and company presented the novel dramatic episode *The Yellow Fang,* written by John C. Brandon. the action of which passes in an opium den in Chinatown, San Francisco; it is well and powerfully written, capitally staged and admirably interpreted by all concerned. The sensational wire-walker, Wynham, had an enthusiastic reception for his highly clever and interesting performance. Lottie Lennox, who is a warm favourite in this district, was greeted with much laughter and applause for her clever rendering of her popular songs, "I feel so lonely" and "Ain't it nice to have a father?"

Ernest Shand made a very welcome reappearance here in his cleverly-written and as cleverly interpreted songs, entitled "Look at the weather," "Oh dearly beloved brethren," and "Eve! Eve! Eve!" The audience were so delighted with Mr. Shand's turn that they were loth to lose him even at the end of the third song.

Katie Traill, the charming comedienne, at the piano was favourably received in "Sailing in my balloon." The Vasilescu Troupe of eccentric pantomimists appeared in a comedy act on the triple bar, and also gave an exhibition of skill as comedy cyclists, meeting with considerable applause. Billy McClain, Miss Cordelia, and company appeared as coon singers, dancers, and entertainers in a Southern scena, entitled *The Hottest Coon from Dixie,* and won general approval. Lilian Lowe sang delightfully, and was enthusiastically applauded in "Flight of ages" and "The song that reached my heart." Peggie Lennie and Walter Hast appeared in an attractive turn, entitled *The Sea Nymph,* a poetic fantasy, and had every reason to be well pleased with their reception, which was enthusiastic. The Three Tauberts delighted all with their skilful performance of "La Mattiche" and other items on xylophones. The large audience dispersed at the end of this long and liberal programme in excellent humour, a fact materially contributed to by the courtesy of the management, who do all that is possible to make frequenters of their halls cosy and comfortable as well as giving them the best of variety talent.

EALING HIPPODROME.

Mr. E. W. James, who, for a time, is without a second-in-command, is presenting this week a most attractive programme. Holiday crowds are of the merriest, and the choruses of popular songs—of which there are many—are caught up with great spirit. First honours must be given to the Craggs. The word "go," or the French term, *elan,* most aptly describes the remarkable turn of these world-famed acrobats, who are appearing here in their latest merriment creator, *Laughterland.* The plot is simple enough, but forms a happy medium for the whimsicalities of this clever family. The humour is genuinely funny, while the unique way in which the expert troupe plays the old English game of rounders is simply marvellous. Skill, daring, and grace are alike associated in this excellent presentation of modern acrobatics. Mr. Herbert La Martine is just one of those versatile artists whose popularity is never in doubt; he is agile as a dancer and melodious as a vocalist, which he proves in his two songs, "The Yankee Doodle Boy" and "Water-Melon Vine," while his bâton manipulation is quite a bewilderment of gyrating curves. Mr. Tom Leo, the "lazy comedian," exploits his song, "Lazy," for all it is worth. His notion is to put the work out, and, in the end, the audience is not only singing his song, but thoroughly enjoying the task. The Ellimans do not belie their title as genuine musical entertainers. They are true artists, and their refined entertainment is the musical *bonne bouche* of the evening. As duettists or soloists they are altogether admirable. A pot-pourri of popular tunes, played as a duet with concertinas, and most admirably supported by the Hippodrome band, under the direction of Mr. W. Neale, is received with rapturous applause, each refrain being eagerly taken up by the "upper house." A word for the fair member of the duo, who is handsomely gowned in heliotrope. Miss Minnie Atkins has two successful numbers, "When the blue moon shines" and "Ebenezer," in which her fine contralto is of great service in securing her a well-merited recall. The members of Lionel Vaughan's company appear in their "latest London laughing success." *In Trouble,* by Stanley Adams. The incidents of the scena take place at the Palace Hotel, at Brightlink, and the idea of the two men, who are exactly similar in appearance, is well worked up in the merry plot. Miss Violet Carlyle is the fortunate possesor of two tuneful melodies, "My tiny firefly" and "Mountain Maid," this last being allied to a picturesque setting. Here is the representation of an encampment in the woods of the Far West, while a glowing log-fire adds warmth and colour to a pretty scene. The chorus of the "Mountain Maid" is caught up by the whole house, which, in the best of tempers, showered down its applause upon the evidently gratified vocalist. A welcome interlude is that of Stelling and his canine comedian, Kiswiski, a knowing Irish terrier. This clever little dog works a sort of Morse signalling with his tail, and walks upon his "hands" to save his shoe-leather. Mr. Reuben Hill, character and vocal comedian, is entertaining with his song, "Come along, little girls," and the ladies seem quite willing to respond to the invitation. Donald Hall and company are responsible for a song, and an exquisite little scena, "Will you dance with me, Marie? The acceptability of "Ballooning" was soon shown by a whistling accompaniment, but the success of the talented couple is reserved for the scena. In his charming song, "Marie," an altogether different note is struck. Mr. Hall receives here most valuable aid from his charming partner. She has only a silent part, but her silence is more eloquent than words. The expression of reviving love is most tenderly portrayed, and her final acceptance of her recovered sweetheart's invitation to "Dance with me, Marie," most pathetic.

TERPSICHORE claimed homage on Monday evening when a merry gathering assembled at the Opera House, Covent Garden, to welcome in the New Year. The auditorium presented a brilliant appearance, being crowded with dancers in original and gorgeous costumes. There were ten valuable prizes, the first, a handsome sable muff, being awarded for the costume "Events of 1906." Amongst other noticeable dresses were "Good Health," "To Cairo," "Auld Lang Syne," "Spaten Beer," "Killarney," "New Year's Greetings," a pale pink satin dress trimmed with cards, flowers, and parcels, to say nothing of flowing ribbons with the seasonable motto "Wishing all my friends a Happy New Year"; and "Holly and Mistletoe," a pale green brocaded silk dress trimmed with the representative products which were responsible for its title, and a quantity of swansdown to represent snow. To the popular music of Dan Godfrey's band the fun was carried or until the small hours of the morning. Mr. W. Clarkson took a special prize for a lady's dress entitled "Rest."

CONNAH'S QUAY FAIR was continued from Monday to Friday of this week. Among the features of the fair were Mr. J. Symonds' four-abreasts, Mrs. G. Symonds' electrograph, juvenile roundabouts, and park swings, and other stalls too numerous to mention.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR

MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS,
ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

This Scale does not apply to "Trade" Advertisements in these Columns.

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COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.,
Feb. 25, March 4, 18, 25, April 1, 8, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
Feb. 25, March 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
March 25, May 6, 13, 20, Aug. 5, 12, 19, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
Feb. 18, Mar. 18, 25, April 1, 11 (3 nights), 15, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 25, April 1, 8, 15, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
Feb. 11, March 4, 25, April 1, 22, 29, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
Feb. 18, March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 29, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
March 11, 25, April 1, 29, May 13, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for GRAND T., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
May 6, onwards.
METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD,
April 22, May 6, onwards.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD
Feb. 18, March 4, 25, April 8, 15.
Address, SIDNEY BACON,
Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
March 18, April 1, 8, 15, 29, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
Feb. 25, March 4, 18, 25, April 15, May 6, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY,
Jan. 21, Feb. 4, 18, March 4, 11 (3 nights only), on.
Add., E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 11 and 18, 1907. L. CARSON, Keighley.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

Lessee and Manager, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 25, April 8, 15, 29, and Sept. 23.
WILLIAM MARTIN,
3, Bedford-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, A1 Attractions, for QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH,
March 18 (?), 25 (?), April 1 (?), 22, 29, on.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE,
March 18, April 1 (?), April 8, 15, 29
(3 or 6 nights each).
Musical Attractions and Best Dramas only.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, JULIAN MALVERN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, Easter, Whit, July 1, 8, on. Bookings include "The Earl and the Girl," "The Blue Moon," "Mr. Popple," "The Girl Behind the Counter," &c.
Address,
CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for
Feb. 18,
March 18, 25,
April 8, 15.
Address,
THOS. SWINTON.

THEATRE ROYAL, SHREWSBURY.
WANTED, Jan. 21 and Jan. 28. First-class Companies only entertained, good musical comedy preferred. Also Feb. 11 and 18. Write, W. C. DORNTON, Business-Manager.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Pantomime, March 4, one week.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

THEATRE ROYAL, ILKESTON.
Manager and Licensee, Mr. L. F. A. ROGERS.
WANTED, Companies, March 4, April 1, onwards.
Silence a courteous negative.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, Feb. 4 and 18, April 8, only Vacant Dates till Autumn.
Address, GERALD HARDING.

WANTED, Big Musical Attraction, Jan. 21, Grand, Radcliffe.
Address, SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

WANTED, Attractions, for Jersey and Guernsey, Feb. 18, 25, March 4 and 11.
PERKINS, Opera House, Jersey.

DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, Dates, Jan. 14, 15, 16 (3 nights), Feb. 4, 18, 25, March 11, April, and onwards. Wire, MURRAY KING, 2, Hungerford-rd., London, N.

WANTED, good Panto. or Dramatic Co., Feb. 11, Osborne Theatre, Manchester. WM. B. BROADHEAD, Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, Good Company, Jan. 28, Wednesbury; also Panto., Feb. 25, Bilston, March 4, Wednesbury. Wire, HARRY BATTERSBY, T. R., Bilston.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, May 13 and 27, June 10 and 17, July 8 and 15.
Apply, T. W. ROWE.

WANTED, good Company, Jan. 17 (three nights).
MANAGER, King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 4, and on, with exceptions.
W. E. POTTS.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Inverness, Attractions for Feb. and March. Vacant dates apply, CAMERON BURGESS.

WANTED, a Special Attraction, for Whit. Week, which is also Race Week this year. Receipts last Spring Race Week over £724.

SIDNEY COOPER, Lyceum, Newport.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, Musical Comedy or Big Attraction for Easter.
CHARLES CAREY.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-Class Companies.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER,
Vacant Jan. 28, March 18, onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH,
Vacant Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, onward, with exceptions.
(Last three nights of each week).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY,
Vacant Jan. 14, March 4, onward, with exceptions.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY,
Vacant Feb. 11, March 28, April 1, onward, with exceptions.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE,
Vacant Jan. 21, 28, March 4, onward, with exceptions.

"THE LOST CHORD,"
Vacant Aug. 5, 19, onward, with exceptions.

"SPAN OF LIFE,"
Vacant Jan. 21, Feb. 18, onward, with exceptions.

"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S,"
Vacant Jan. 14, Feb. 4, April 1, onward, with exceptions.

"CINDERELLA,"
Vacant Feb. 11, 18, onward, with exceptions.

Companies "Farmed" through Fit-ups.

To Let, on Royalty, "THE PRAIRIE FLOWER" and "OUR BRITISH EMPIRE."
Excellent plants printing.
All communications to
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District.
Holds £90 at Ordinary Prices.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions for March 18 (?), April 1 (?) and 15, May 6, on, with exceptions

The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions Touring.

All Applications for Dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.
The leading Theatre of the Town.
The only Theatre in the Town lighted by electricity.
Stage capable of any Production Touring.
Can fly any size Cloth.
WANTED, Known, none but the best Companies booked at this Theatre.
This week, "SHERLOCK HOLMES,"
Next week, "THE SHULAMITE,"
to be followed by Miss Minnie Palmer, in "My Sweetheart"; Miss Decima Moore, in "All-of-a-Sudden Peggy"; "The Lion and the Mouse"; "His House in Order"; &c., &c.

Vacant Dates, March 4, 11, 25, April 8, May 6, and certain later; now booking Autumn.

Apply, CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.

NEW
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BELFAST.
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BELFAST.
(next C.D. Railway Station).
Proprietors, Alexandra Theatre Co.
Above handsome new Theatre will be opened Easter,
replete in every detail, and will be run purely as a Drama House.

Popular prices: Boxes, 10s. 6d.; Orchestra Stalls, 1s. 6d. (tip-ups); Circle and Pit Stalls, 1s. (tip-ups); Pit, 6d.; Gallery, 4d.
Heated by Radiators.
Lighted by 'Sunbeam" acetylene.
Stage dimensions, 38ft. deep by 60ft. wide.
Can fly 18ft. Cloths.
WANTED, the biggest Drama Productions, April 15, onwards.
Queen's, Dublin.
Booked in conjunction.

J. LEICESTER-JACKSON, Marine Cottage Morecambe.

AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, SUNDERLAND.
WANTED, High-class Musical Comedy or London Successes for the following dates, 1907:

Feb. 11,	April 22,
Feb. 18,	April 29,
March 4,	May 6,
March 11,	May 13,
March 18,	May 20
March 25,	and onwards.

Address, CHAS. E. MACHIN.

WANTED, Special Attractions for the New Theatre in Aberdeen, March 4.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-street, S.W.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEST BROMWICH.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Comic Opera, Musical Comedies, &c.,
Vacant Feb 4, on. Add., HERBERT VERE.

ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for Feb. 18, March 25, and May 6.

Apply, Manager, C. TRENCHARD.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for Feb. 11, 25, March 18, 25, and April 1.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-street, S.W.

LYCEUM THEATRE, STAFFORD.
WANTED, Companies Jan. 31 (3 nights), Feb. 4 (6 nights), and on.
JAMES ELPHINSTONE.

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.

WANTED, Good Company, Jan. 14 and 21, owing to company cancelling;
also Easter, and on.
W. PAYNE SEDDON, Londonderry.

DUMFRIES and HAWICK,
Vacant Feb. 18, March 4 and 18, April 1
(not drama).
W. PAYNE SEDDON, Londonderry.

THE SPA, WHITBY.
Vacant July 1, and on.
W. PAYNE SEDDON, Londonderry.

WANTED, First-class Powerful Dramatic Company for Theatre Royal, York, Jan. 28.
Apply, WADDINGTON and SONS. Exceptionally fine date.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb. 18, March 11, 18, 25, April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 7, 20.

Apply, JAMES KIERNAN, Owner and Manager.

CASINO, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.
WANTED, First-Class Fit-up Companies, Musical Comedy preferred; Share or Rent.
Apply, THORNELL, Casino, Bexhill-on-Sea.

WANTED, good Companies all Descriptions, for Treherbert and Maesteg (three days each), Jan. 14, 21, 28, and Feb. 4. Wire or write, POOLE, Theatre, Gloucester.

WANTED, Good Dramatic, Variety and Picture Co.'s, and Variety Artists in all Lines, Monday next, onwards. Palace, Bridlington (Manager, J. W. DELMAR).

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity.
Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres, March 11.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 11 and March 11. Apply,
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, March 11, Aug. 5.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE,"
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 18, 25, April 1.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 21, Feb. 11, March 4.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Theatres, March 4 and 11.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatre, Jan. 21.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 18, April 22, 29, and May 20. TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 28, May 20, and Sept. 23. TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Jan. 21, March 11, 18
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Standard T., London, E.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

WANTED, weeks of Jan. 21 and Feb. 4, Scala Production.
Wire or write, W. W. KELLY,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED Theatres, Jan. 21, on.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Shakespeare Theatre, Altrincham.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.,
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, Feb. 11 (through transferring), and Easter; only Vacant Dates.
Address, Ashdale, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.
Aut., 1907, Grand Production, "Rollicking Rory."

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."

WANTED, Feb. 4, March 4, 18.
Address, J. W. CORDINER,
H.M. Theatre, Carlisle (return).
See Companies' advertisements, page 2.

MISS MARY NEIL AND MR. GEORGE KIRK'S "HER LUCK IN LONDON" CO.
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, March 4, Sept. 2, 9, 16, 30, Oct. 7, Nov. 25, Dec. 16, 23, 30.
Only Vacant Dates 1907.
CHARLES A. LEICESTER,
Add., 2, Belgrave-st., Euston-rd., London, N.W.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Jan. 28 and Feb. 11, for this great Attraction, a sure draw; new uniforms, &c.; band of drums, fifes, and bugles for parade. F. G. KIMBERLEY, Vauxhall, The Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

Mr. ARTHUR BOURCHIER'S CO., in
"THE WALLS OF JERICHO."
WANTED, First-class Theatres for
Feb. 11,
Feb. 18,
March 11,
April 15.
Address,
Mr. SILVANUS DAUNCEY, 22, Charing Cross, S.W

WANTED, First-class Theatres, Feb. 4 and 11, for "Aladdin." Company of 50.
E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

"BLUEBELL IN FAIRYLAND."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, Easter, to follow Tyne, Newcastle. E. G. FALCON, County T., Bedford.

WANTED, Jan. 21 (follow Belfast), 28, Feb. 4, April 1, for "Her Lost Self." "The Biggest Scamp on Earth." DELAVAL, Tudor T., Ferndale, S. Wales.

MARRIS'S "CRUSOE."
WANTED, for above Astounding Success.
Feb. 4 Feb 4, Feb. 4.
See Companies Advt., or better still, see Show at T. R. Blackburn, Jan. 7.

FRANK J. PITT and CHARLES HALLING'S CO.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, for this Successful Attraction,
April 29 (?),
May 13, 27,
June 17, 24, July 1, on, with exceptions.
Alex., Hull, Jan. 7.

"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS."
By arrangement with Mr. Martin Harvey.

WANTED, Jan. 28, for this perfect production.
EUGENE BERTRAM,
Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, onward, with exceptions, for the above Attraction. Address,
F. BROOKE WARREN,
8, Wellington-road, Southport.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY." No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Jan. 14, 21, and 28, Feb. 11, April 1, May 13, Autumn from Aug. 5.
Address, E. C. STAFFORD, c/o Samuel French, Ltd., 26, Southampton-street, Strand, London, W.C.
Wanted, to Lease, a good Provincial Theatre.

MR. ARTHUR HARDY'S CO., "BEAUTY AND THE BARGE," including Mr. Blake Adams as Captain Barley.
WANTED, Jan. 14, 21, Feb. 11, March 4, Ap. 1.
Write or wire, ARTHUR HARDY, 89, Comeragh-road, West Kensington.

LINGFORD CARSON'S CO.,
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, for this well-known Money-maker, Jan. 21 and Feb. 18 (through obliging), Jan. 21, Feb. 18 (between Manchester and Cardiff).
Wire for Jan. 21. Wire for Jan. 21.
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
The New Romantic Military Drama, by Geo. A. De Gray. Produced with unparalleled success Dec. 31, at Prince's Theatre, Accrington. Refer. Managers wishing to secure this fresh novelty send vacant dates Sept. and on, to follow Broadhead's theatres. CARSON, to-day, Accrington; next, Gaiety Theatre, Burnley.

EDWARD McLEAN'S TOUR.
"THE HERO OF THE FLAG."
WANTED, Feb. 11, 18, 25, March 4, and on.
LESLIE VYNER, Surrey Theatre, S.E.

WANTED, Theatres, for Musical Attractions, Jan. 14, 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18, Easter.
Com., CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

"THE ANARCHIST TERROR."
WANTED, Jan. 14 and 21. Sixth Year of Tour.
Also, "THE SORROWS OF SATAN."
Either or both plays.
Wire, LOIE ESMOND, Music Hall, Burntisland.
Jan. 7, Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank.

WANTED, Jan. 21 (to follow Manchester), for Strong Attraction. Everything carried. Address, HALDANE CRICHTON, Midland Hotel, M'chester.

Fred Karno's Pantomimical Absurdity,
"SATURDAY TO MONDAY."
WANTED, Good Theatre, Midlands, for Jan. 21,
through fire at Warrington.
Apply, FRED KARNO, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"WHEN IT WAS DARK,"
Superb Production,
Exceptional Cast,
Feb. 21, 22, 23, April 1, Aug. 6.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Dates, for this Fine Domestic Play.
A Répertoire of Strong and Successful Dramas can be arranged for when desired, including "The Little Outcast," "Day to Day," &c., &c.
Vacant
Feb. 4, 11, 18, March 4, 11, 18.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, for this Great Romantic Play, Jan. 14, Jan. 14,
April 1 (?), May 20, and on.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MORTON POWELL'S ATTRACTIONS.
WANTED, Dates, for
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES,"
Jan. 14, Jan. 14,
April 1, May 20.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
and Exceptionally Fine Répertoire, including
"LITTLE OUTCAST," "DAY TO DAY,"
Feb. 4, 11, 18, March 4, 11, 18.
Well Acted, Well Mounted, Well Advertised.

MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

LINGFORD CARSON'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, Managers, to kindly Note that any of my Plays not produced satisfactorily, please acquaint me immediately.—Faithfully yours,
LINGFORD CARSON.

WANTED, First-class Autumn Dates, for "The Drama of Life," August, on. L. CARSON, Keighley.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S COMPANIES.

WANTED, First-class Theatres,
"OLIVER TWIST."
(By arrangement with Mr. Tree.)
Easter Week, and April 8, 9, 10 (3 nights), to precede New Theatre, Oxford.

"THE FOUR JUST MEN."

(By arrangement with H. A. Saintsbury.)
Vacant Feb. 18, 25, March 4, Easter, and April 15.
WILLIAM MARTIN,
3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
WANTED, Feb. 18 and 25,
Easter and Whit Vacant,
Rapidly Booking Autumn.
Best Theatres Booked and success of this Soul-absorbing Play continued.

Jan. 7, Irving Theatre, Seacombe.

E. H. KNIGHT AND GEORGE DENHAM'S CO.
"THE GRIP OF IRON."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 4, April 15, onwards, and Autumn.
Enormous success at Royal, Wolverhampton.
GEORGE DENHAM,
this Royal, Wolverhampton; next, New, Consett.

WANTED, Theatres, for the following Attractions:—
"VILLAGE BLACKSMITH," April 8, Aug. 6.
"MIDNIGHT MAIL," May 20, Aug. 6.
Miss HILDYARD, Feb. 4, 11, and 25.
Wire, DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

"AN UNWEDDED WIFE."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Jan. 21, Feb. 4.
J. EDWARD WHITTY,
to-day G., Walsall; next, Junction, Manchester.

WANTED, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, "Revenge," and "Death or Glory Boys" Star Co., including E. Hill-Mitchelson. E. HILL-MITCHELSON, P. O. W. Theatre, Grimsby.

"THE FRENCH SPY" CO.
WANTED, Theatre, Jan. 28, Jan. 28, Jan. 28,
for this Magnificent Production.
Address, FRED BENTON,
Carlton Theatre, Saltley.

MISS EMMA HUTCHISON and
MR. PERCY HUTCHISON'S COMPANIES.
"PETER'S MOTHER."
WANTED, Dates.
In consequence of the enormous success of this piece, a third Company will be sent out in Jan. to the smaller towns. For dates apply
Mr. PERCY HUTCHISON, 4, Finchley-road, N.W.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR,"
By Eva Elwes.
WANTED, Jan. 21, Feb. 11, March 4 (to precede Queen's, Liverpool).
Sumptuously Staged, Big Plant of Special Cut Printing, and a Cast second to none touring.
The name a guarantee.
E. A'DELL, Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
WANTED, Feb. 25, Easter, Whit, May 27, June 17, July 15, 22.
BEAUDYN and LIVESEY,
Theatre Royal, Houghton-le-Spring.

Miss MURIEL GODFREY-TURNER and CLASSIC REPERTOIRE COMPANY.
WANTED, Spring Dates for Above, with exceptions. Wire, RUSSELL ROSSE, Lyceum T., Edinburgh.

WANTED, Dates for "Souls," originally produced at the Comedie Française, Paris; strong piece, with a strong cast, in conjunction with "Who is Guilty?" Protean Drama. See Companies Page. Apply for dates, CYRIL MELTON, 130, Linkfield-road, Isleworth, London.

For all other correspondence, THEO. BOUWMEISTER, 91, Norroy-road, Putney, London.

"THE ASSASSIN," by E. Hill-Mitchelson.
WANTED, April 1 (through Warrington fire), April 29 (in place of Grand, Islington), Aug. 5, Sept. 30, Oct. 21, Nov. 25, Dec. 23.
AUGUSTINE KNIGHT, Metropole, Gateshead.

"LA POUPEE."
"LA POUPEE."
Herbert Ralland's Principal Company.
WANTED (unexpectedly vacant) Jan. 28, Feb. 18, 25, and several Spring Dates.
Address,
RALLAND, King's Theatre, Edinburgh.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Jan. 28, Feb. 4,
for this Funny Show.
DICKIE CLARE, Theatre, Middleton.

WANTED, Jan. 14, 28, "At the World's Mercy," Lancs. or Yorks. preferred, 89th week of tour. Wire, MELVILLE, 36, Cobden-st., Barnoldswick.

"THE SLEDGE-HAMMER."
WANTED, Good Theatres,
Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 25.
GEORGE HENRY,
4, Duke-street, Adelphi, W.C.

MARRIS'S "CRUSOE."
WANTED, for above Astounding Success, Feb. 4, Feb. 4, Feb. 4.
See Companies Advt., or better still, see Show at T. R., Blackburn Jan. 7.

MARRIS'S "CRUSOE."
WANTED, for above Astounding Success, Feb. 4, Feb. 4, Feb. 4.
See Companies Advt., or better still, see Show at T. R., Blackburn, Jan. 7.

"FOR AULD LANG SYNE."
WANTED, Aug. 5, onwards.
FRED BULMER, T. R., Windsor.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, March 4, 11, 25, Easter.
FRED BULMER, T. R., Windsor.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
FRED BULMER, T. R., Windsor.

"SINBAD."

WANTED, Feb. 4, for this Pantomime, now being performed at Royal West London Theatre. Address, G. BRYDON PHILLIPS,
Royalty Theatre, Chester.

WANTED, Feb. 4, "Under Two Flags," or "Sailor's Sweetheart," MARK BLOW,
11, St. Edmund's-terrace, London.

THEATRES WANTED.

MISS EMMA LITCHFIELD'S COMPANY,
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
WANTED, Theatres of large holding capacity, for Miss Litchfield's Greatest Success,
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
Produced Xmas Eve with enormous success.
Vacant Dates Feb. 4 (Wales), 18 (North of Birmingham), March 4, on, with exceptions.
MISS EMMA LITCHFIELD
in the following Characters:
Nora Grosvenor,
Sarah Ellen Murthwaite, a Lancashire Lass,
Old Rebecca, a Jewess,
and
Molly O'Flynn, from Killarney,
supported by a powerful company, including
Stuart Cleveland as Manuel Teixeira,
introducing the trained horse, Firelight.
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
The Great Novelty Drama.
Write, STUART CLEVELAND, Boro' Theatre, Heywood.
Wire to the Theatre Royal, Macclesfield.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR,"
by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
Many thanks to H. Fineberg, Esq., for transferring "Soldier's Honour" production at the Star, Liverpool, to another date on account of Mrs. Kimberley's illness. Production will now take place at the Junction, Manchester. Many thanks to Messrs. Broadhead for same. Easter vacant, all Autumn settled.
"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, Jan. 14, 28, Feb. 25, Easter, special cast. Refer F. Morgan, Esq., re piece at T. R., Scarboro'. Racehorses toured. Wire for this big Attraction to F. G. KIMBERLEY, The Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

FRANK M. THORNE'S CO.,
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this Money-maker, Feb. 11, March 18, Easter, and on.
FRANK M. THORNE,
Grand Theatre, Mansfield.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, for
JAMES KIDDIE'S
Colossal Gorgeous Pantomime,
"CINDERELLA,"
Vacant Feb. 11.
"DICK WHITTINGTON,"
Vacant Feb. 18.
Address,
THOS. SWINTON, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

"HOME, SWEET HOME."
The Great Domestic Play.
By FRANK LINDO.
WANTED, Good Theatres (North),
Feb. 11 and 18.
Feb. 11 and 18.
Feb. 11 and 18.
Address, FRANK LINDO, Eccentric Club, London, W.

"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
By Geo. R. Sims.
WANTED, important Theatres, Feb. 11 (Midlands or London), March 18 (London or South), only vacant dates.
H. HOLLISTER,
Opera House, Wakefield.

WANTED, Dates, Jan. 28, Feb. 4 and 18, March 4, April 1, 8, and 15, "TOMMY," by Jerome K. Jerome
Miss ANNIE HUGHES as TOMMY.
A striking success.—Daily Telegraph.
Address, MISS ANNIE HUGHES,
4L, Portman-mansions, Baker-street, W.

"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
WANTED, Feb. 18, for above Pantomime, now being performed at Chester, Manchester and Dalston to follow.
Address, G. BRYDON PHILLIPS,
Royalty Theatre, Chester.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, Jan. 21 and 28.
Address, 283, Edge-lane, Liverpool.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, Jan. 21 and 28.
Address, 283, Edge-lane, Liverpool.

MR. and MRS. JOHN E. TOMLINSON'S "SECRETS"
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, Feb. 4 and 11, March 4 and 11, April 1, onwards.

Address,
JOHN E. TOMLINSON, Opera House, Harrogate.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Feb. 11, Feb. 11, Feb. 11,
to follow two weeks Manchester, F. Denman-Wood's Pantomime, "Dick Whittington," forty-five people, strong Speciality. Wire, Wire, Wire.
WOOD, Theatre, Ashton.

"THE INDIAN MUTINY."
WANTED, Good Theatres,
Jan. 28 and April 15.
FRANK E. BURDETT, Eden, Bishop Auckland.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PANTOMIMES.
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
An Unprecedented Success. Dec. 17, at Star Theatre, Liverpool, packed business nightly. Refer Mr. Harris Fineberg. Dec. 24, at Theatre Royal, Hyde, broke all records for the theatre. Dec. 31, at Prince's Theatre, Preston, playing to holding capacity nightly. Refer Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff. Refer. Refer. Verdict everywhere:—The finest and funniest pantomime we have ever seen. Company forty-five strong, all travelled. No locals. Grand specialities.
WANTED, Theatres, for this Colossal Combination of Talent, Jan. 28 (between Blackburn and Barnsley), also Feb. 11 and 18. N.B.—An ideal pantomime for once or twice nightly.
Wire, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.
"THE FORTY THIEVES."
Another Great Success. Refer T. Allan Edwardes, Esq., Grand Theatre, Derby. A big show for big theatres. Vacant Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11.
Address, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Aug. 19, 26, Sept. 16, 23,
FRED BULMER, T. R., Windsor.

WANTED, Known, "The Silent Witness," unexpectedly vacant Jan. 7, to follow Aberystwyth. Wire, to-day, NEVILLE, Scunthorpe; then, Aberystwyth.

WANTED, Theatres, &c., Jan. 14, 21, 28, on, for Arnold's Star Variety Companies, ten recognised Acts. Thanks J. Larder, Esq., for five weeks' Contracts at Palace, Leigh; doing my second week and record business. Managers please refer. I guarantee only recognised and genuine Acts, over 500 to select from. Two Companies this week, Pavilion, Altrincham, Palace, Leigh; two next week, P., L., and Empire, Dundee. If you want Variety, arrange with the man who understands. J. ARNOLD, Dramatic and Variety Agent, this, Palace, Leigh; next, Empire, Dundee.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"THE GOLDEN LADDER."
WANTED, following Artists, to Open Feb. 4:—
Leading Actress, for Lillian Grant;
Comedian, for Peckaby;
Character Comedian, for Dixon;
Heavy Man, for Peranza;
Chambermaid, for Tearer;
Responsible Actor,
Good Carpenter, and Wardrobe Mistress.
All particulars, recent photographs, latest refs., E. VIVIAN EDMONDS, Aquarium T., Gt. Yarmouth.

WANTED, those Ladies and Gentlemen who have played in "Little Lord Fauntleroy" with Mr. Carey and are Disengaged for one or two weeks early in February, to communicate.
CHARLES CAREY, Opera House, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, immediately, for Madame Revere, in "Man and Wife," tall, dignified, powerful Actress, part small but important. Address, with full particulars and photos., to T. E. WARD, Theatre Royal, Sunderland.

WANTED, Character Actor, for Small Part and Assistant Stage-Manager.
Rehearse Tuesday.
References and terms first letter.

SAM DUCKWORTH, Royal, Ton-y-Pandy.

ARTISTS WANTED.

HENRY CARLTON'S CO'S.
WANTED, Smart Young Gentleman, for Quick Comedy; must have very smart appearance, good delivery; small, but important, parts, to superintend setting of stage, and assist management generally. To the right man, a very long, comfortable engagement; total abstainer preferred; must be willing and obliging. All wardrobe found. Send age, height, recent private photo., last two references, and absolute lowest terms, to
HENRY CARLTON, Empire, Rochdale.
N.B.—People in Manchester can call between 8 and 10 to-night, at Hippodrome, Salford.

WANTED, Lady for small important Juvenile Part, must be young and pretty; long tour; Amateur not objected to. Apply, Box 4,168, care of "The Era."

"REVENGE."
WANTED, First-class Aristocratic Character Actor, for Military part (Pathos and Power). Photos. and references, E. HILL-MITCHELSON, Curry's Theatre, Grimsby.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, Good Low Comedian (short preferred), to rehearse Lowestoft, Jan. 15. Latest photos., references, and actual lowest terms (only vacancy), Miss MAUD HILDYARD, Marina Theatre, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Good Juvenile Man and Character Old Man, for Special Week, Jan. 21. Rehearse 17th, Liverpool. Lowest terms, photos., &c., letters only, to Miss ELAINE GRANT, 24, Peel-street, Prince's Park, Liverpool.

WANTED, for important Tour, two Refined and Clever Amateur Actors; no premium required, no salary paid. Particulars, Box 4,169, "The Era."

WANTED, immediately, some Smart, Good-looking Young Amateurs, for Musical Comedy; good salaries; must have strong voices. Apply, between 11 and 4, to Operatic Bureau, 112, Great Portland-street, W.

WANTED, for Fred Buxton's Entertainers on Tour, and Summer Season, Isle of Man, Two High Sopranos (not mezzo), and Two Deep Contraltos; must be young, refined, good readers, and used to part singing.
Terms and particulars,
with two weeks' address, photo. if possible, to
Town Hall, Mirfield,
Yorkshire.
Preference given to those
playing Orchestral Instrument.

WANTED, for London and No. 1 Tours, Choristers; must be young, of good appearance, and have excellent voices. Apply to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233A, Regent-street.

WANTED, Twelve Pretty Chorus Ladies, good voices and figures; also Six Smart, Pretty Acrobatic and Step-dancers; also some Pretty Girls, over 13, to learn dancing, for troupes.
Call, 11 to 4,
Mr. SINCLAIR, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Dancers for Monte Carlo, three months. Call, Percy Hall, Percy-street, 3 to 5, any day

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, by Actress, Engagement, in Town, Middle-aged part, or Old Lady (if part good). Box 4161, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Miss Hamilton Smith, in her celebrated Entertainment, with Harp, Mandoline, Banjo, and Guitar, Recitations, and Sketches, including Selections from "The Christmas Carols." Address, Mansfield House, Clifton-gardens, Maida Vale, W.

WANTED, by Gentleman, young, good appearance, and with fair experience, Engagement with good class Company, touring Drama, Modern Play or Répertoire; experience under recognised management chief object. Box 4,167, care of "The Era."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, First-class Specialities, for Pantomime. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Good Second Boy, for Pantomime.
Apply, between 3 and 4, Monday,
West London Theatre, London.

WANTED, immediately, good, refined, dashing Principal Boy, for First-Class Fit-up Pantomime, eight weeks yet to run, must be young, sing and dance well. Address, with photo. and full particulars, JOHN A. THOMSON, Theatre Royal, Torquay.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, immediately, by Miss Trixie Toole, Soubrette, Dancer, late Principal Girl Messrs. Maddox, Balmain, Collingwood, Thomson. 6, Sandringham-street, Scarboro'.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, a Good Scenic Artist, to combine Stage-Management. State age, experience, salary required, and references. Apply, J. W. CHAPMAN, Grand Theatre, Doncaster.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts, for Brilliant, Effective Scenery, attractive settings, lowest prices. Carlyle Scenic Studio, W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-rd., S.W.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, high-class work, twenty years' reputation. Compare terms, models. BOSTOCK, Scenic Studio, Rumford-street, C.-on-M., Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Scenery.—A. G. Betts, Scenic Artist, late of the Grand Theatre, Leeds, and now at the County T., Reading, Contracts for Scenery of every description; nothing too large or too small. Address, County Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, Known, that Sidney Beltram, Scenic Artist, has completed all Arrangements pro tem. Address, Theatre Royal, Seaham Harbour.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Acting-Manager, of Good Address, and undeniable references, competent bookkeeper, and understand management of bars, disciplinarian and hustler. Apply, stating experience, age, references, terms, and enclosing photo., T. A. EDWARDES, Grand Theatre, Derby.

WANTED, smart, energetic Man, to Manage a London Music Hall; must be well up in the whole of the duties.
Write, stating experience, and
salary required, to
Box 4,162, "The Era" Office.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, for a Music Hall, in London, Smart Stage-Manager, used to quick work; an Electrician, must be well up in his business; Fireman, and Big Attendants, for night work; also Fly-men.

Only applications from experienced men will be entertained.

Apply, Box 4,176, "The Era."

WANTED, Smart, Sober Advance Agent, for Touring Trades Exhibition. Permanency. Send references and salary wanted, Box 4,172, "The Era."

WANTED, immediately, Assistant Advance Agent. Terms, MAGGIE MORTON, Town Hall, Wellington, Salop.

WANTED, immediately, Strong Young Baggage Man; sobriety and attention indispensable; lengthy engagement to good man. Address full particulars to JOHN A. THOMSON, T. R., Ryde.

WANTED, thoroughly practical Billposter and Property-man Combined, to look after pony and trap; willing to make himself useful; married man whose wife would clean theatre preferred. State lowest terms, age, latest references, apply, MARK H. LINDON, Theatre Royal, Stanley, Co. Durham.

WANTED, Two Smart Billposters, reliable.

References to DE REES, LTD., Newport, Mon.

WANTED, Wardrobe Mistress, Resident; must have good experience, and first-class references. Apply, Mr. FRED KARNO, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell.

WANTED, Known, W. C. Burns, concluded 2½ years Pilot for Bostock's Royal No. 1 Road Show, late Manager Grand Varieties, Sheffield (3 years ago); also, previous to then, General-Manager Neilson (Sig. Galeffi, proptr.) English Grand Opera Co.; &c., &c.

Now rusticating at
18, St. Mary's-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, by a Gentleman, post of Assistant-Manager, Box-Office, or Similar Post in London Theatre or Music Hall; small salary.

Box 4,163, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Assistant-Manager or Advertising, age 24; 8 years' experience; excellent references. A. COCKAYNE, 7, East street, Plumstead.

WANTED, Engagement, in Box Office, by Miss L. H. Dale, late Theatre Royal, Stockton-on-Tees. 55, Ware-street, Norton-road, Stockton-on-Tees.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Musical Conductor (Pianist), for Pantomime. Address, with full particulars, (mark envelope "Conductor") to JAMES KIDDIE, Grand Theatre, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Conductor (Violinist), at Once; permanency for young, painstaking man. Apply, with full particulars and lowest terms, W. R. King, The Dalston Theatre, N.E.

WANTED, immediately, First-class Musical Director for a Provincial Hall; must have held similar position; only experienced man need apply. Address, Box 4,173, "The Era."

WANTED, Conductor (Violin), well up in Variety Business, open Monday. Wire to-day. MOODIE, Alhambra, Edinburgh. Other Good Musicians communicate.

WANTED, Conductor who thoroughly understands his business, for the Variety Stage to Open at Once. Reference, terms, &c., to J. F. ELLISTON, Grand Theatre, Bolton.

WANTED, First-Class Leader (Violin) and Solo Cornet, good, permanency; sobriety essential. References to H. HINCHCLIFFE, Conductor, Palace, Carlisle.

WANTED, for East Ham Palace, Second Violin and 'Cello, to open Jan. 7. Apply, BASSETT, 19, Brunswick-square, Camberwell.

WANTED, Violinist, experienced in Variety business. State lowest terms and references to T. W. MOYES, Manager, Palace, Grimsby.

H. AND F. POOLE'S MYRIORAMA.

WANTED, to Commence Monday, Jan. 14, at Newbury, Solo Cornet, wear evening dress, and assist fittings. Apply, POOLE, Town Hall, Reading.

PALACE, ABERDEEN.

WANTED, Good Second Cornet Player; permanency to suitable man. Open at once. References. WALTER GILBERT.

WANTED, for Reading Professional Town Band, Good Bombardon, E flat horn; steady and reliable. Terms, shares. SEC., Horn Hotel, St. Mary's Butts, Reading.

WANTED, at Once, for the Croydon Town Band, good E flat Horn Player. Terms, shares. WALTERS, 51, Waddon New-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Good 'Cellist, for White Star Mediterranean Service, sail Jan. 23. Engagement until end of July or early August. C. W. BLACK, 19, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-Class 'Cello and Cornet, permanency. Apply, stating age, experience, with last two references and salary required, to RESIDENT MANAGER, King's Theatre, Cardiff.

THEATRE ROYAL, BOLTON.

WANTED, 'Cellist, to Open Jan. 14, or before, sober and competent. Apply, AINSCOUGH, M.D.

WANTED, Pianist and Vocalist, steady and useful, others don't apply. State age, wage, BLOOM'S Royal Auction, Darlington.

WANTED, good Orchestral Pianist, for small Band. Lady or Gentleman, ten weeks' Tour. Apply, with terms, MANAGER, Trades Exhibition, St. Albans.

WANTED, Lady Pianist, Good Comedian, Soprano, also Baggage Picture Tour. 159, Sherwood-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, First-class Pianist, open at once. Permanency. Address, W. E. POTTS, Opera House, Dunfermline.

WANTED, Drummer (full Tympany), used to Variety Business, to Open at Once. Apply to J. S. BARNETT, Palace Theatre, Hull.

WANTED, Musician Attendants, E-flat Bombardon, Flute, and Piccolo, wages £30 per year, rising £1 annually to £35, and an extra allowance to bandsmen, amounting to about £3 annually, with board (no beer), lodging, washing, and uniform. Apply to the MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, Surrey County Asylum, Brookwood, Woking.

WEST END PIER, MORECAMBE.

WANTED, good Band, for Easter. Send fullest particulars and lowest terms. BAND, West End Pier, Morecambe.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Company of Instrumentalists, or Instrumentalists and Vocalists, to occupy Band Pavilion at Girvan during the summer months of 1907.

Apply, stating terms and giving references, to TOWN CLERK, Girvan.

Ocean Liner Bands.

WANTED, Players on Violin, Piano, 'Cello, Bass, Flute, and Clarionet, for immediate and future sailings. Send permanent addresses and references. Letters will be answered as vacancies occur. No stamps. Address, J. O. SHEPHERD, 11A, Myrtle-street, Liverpool. Former applicants please write again.

WANTED, Trained Musicians, at Once, for the 6th Middlesex Regiment (Militia). Bonus will be offered on enlistment and on termination of training. Special advantageous terms will be supplied on application to the BANDMASTER, Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.

WANTED, First-class Instrumentalists, for The Palace, Blackpool, Easter, Whitsuntide, and Season. References, &c., to F. H. JEPSON, Musical-Director.

WANTED, 100 Lady Instrumentalists, Strings, Reeds, and Brass, permanent Engagement; only expert performers required. Apply SECRETARY, 52, Charing Cross-mansions.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violinist), Disengaged, composer of Music, "Silver King," &c. Dramatic Music, &c., composed and arranged. 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, as Musical-Director, for Seaside, Pavilion, Kursaal, &c. Band supplied, by Composer, Arranger, and experienced Conductor, having Large Library of Music and Uniforms. Testimonials from High Officials. Address, Box 4,157, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as Musical Director or Leader, Variety or Drama; good references. J. ROBINSON, 132, Graham-road, Dalston, N.E.

WANTED, Re-engagement by Smart Young Musical-Director (Piano, Violin), Composer, Arranger, Music Hall preferred. HENRI ROCHELLE, c/o Burbridge, 22, Knowle-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or First Violin, Theatre or Variety Business, London preferred. SIMPSON, 58, Collier-st., King's Cross, N.

WANTED, Known, Bandmaster, Kneller Hall Certificate, many years' experience with Military Band and Orchestra, desires Re-engagement; unexceptional testimonials and references. Address, Box 4,154, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Re-engagement by Musical-Director (Violin), Theatre, Variety, or Tour; steady, efficient, and experienced; references; own library. Disengaged Monday next. Wire or write, MORRIS, Musical-Director, Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle.

WANTED, Known, William T. Gliddon, Mus. Director, nine years G., Islington, composer of "The Fisher Girl," &c., Disengaged Jan. 26. 30, Aytoun-road, Stockwell, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement by Violin and Viola respectively, joint or singly; good references. B. A., Lorne Villa, Southcote-road, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Engagement by good, experienced Violinist, any business. G. W., 33, Brewerton-road, Oldham.

WANTED, Known, Violinist, two years in present Theatre, desires Change as Répétiteur or Second in First-class Theatre; excellent refs. Box 4,159, "The Era."

WANTED, Permanent Engagement, Violinist. Conductor; supply Good Orchestra, reliable men. Apply, CONDUCTOR, Pentland House, 32, North-side, Wandsworth Common, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements, by two Violinists (together), Variety or Dramatic; reliable; good refs. Terms moderate. Address, VIOLINIST, 78, Birstall-street, Leicester.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Violinist, experienced Solo and Orchestra; Piano accompanist combined. References. Miss KATE HUSBAND, 4, Lansdowne-street, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Solo Cornet, Variety Business or Otherwise, for the Coming Season. W. BUCHER, Avon Cottage, Gore's-lane, Freshfield, near Southport.

WANTED, at once, Engagement by First-Class Solo Cornet, just finished four years' engagement (Australia). Address, HARRY HODGKISS, 59, Rawstorne-street, Clerkenwell, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Arthur Faulkner, late principal cornet, Tower, Blackpool, and Derby Castle, Douglas (Tower 10 years). 15 Varley-st., Miles Platting, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionet, solo or otherwise, military or string, experienced. H. C. GARNER, The Porches, Rainhill, near L'pool.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionettist (late Army), Orchestral or Military, thoroughly experienced Variety work. W. NEIGHBOUR, 112, Heigham-road, East Ham.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Double Bass, through closing theatre. Testimonials and references from first-class conductors. CONTRA BASS, 22, Church-street, Leominster.

WANTED, by Double Bass Player, good Permanent Engagement; thoroughly experienced, Variety or Dramatic. Box 4,160, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Good Double Bass, four strings, variety preferred, last place four years. Add., JOHN EVANS, 33, Queen's-rd., Tipton.

WANTED, Engagement, as Trombone, Theatre or Hall, in London; thoroughly experienced; good ref. R. SHERRINGHAM, 34, Eglinton-rd., Plumstead.

WANTED, Engagement by Trombonist, Theatre or Music Hall, or Deputising. Through closing. ROBT. THRELFALL, 77, St. Luke's-road, Southport.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, for Little Girl, on 'Cello; also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLE, 35, Granville-square, King's Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, by experienced Lady 'Cellist, evening engagement in London, Sundays excepted. Address, 'CELLIST, 118, Elgin-avenue, W.

WANTED, Known, Maud Estlin Grundy, age 19, Harpist; Brilliant Soloist. 58, Antrim-mansions, England's-lane, Hampstead, London.

WANTED, Known, Solo Harpist, at Liberty, Hotels, Cafés, any kind of good work accepted. Address, Box 4,166, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by experienced Lady Flautist, Engagements; well up in Orchestra and Solos. LILLIAN LEVENS, 149, Upper Thomas-street, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement, by Brilliant Pianist, Student of Leipzig Conservatorium, excellent Sight-reader, thoroughly experienced in Dramatic and Variety, but would prefer Café; Up-to-date Stock, for Band or Solo. Apply, W., 20, Milton-street, Burton-on-Trent.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist, Orchestral, good sight reader, excellent accompanist, abstainer, just finished tour. R., 59, Amesbury-avenue, Streatham Hill, S.W.

WANTED, by Pianist, who can combine Viola or Second Violin, Re-engagement, any business: highest references. 24, Theresa-road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Pianist, any business, theatre preferred, arrange, conduct, or double clarionet. Good refs. PARRY, c/o Stevens, 107, Whyndham-rd., Camberwell.

WANTED, by Double Drummer and Tympanist, Theatre or Music Hall Engagement; thoroughly experienced. MUSICUS, 25, Cadogan-street, Sloane-square, S.W.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Mme. H. E. Angless's Ladies' Orchestra, open to accept engagements. From three to thirty performers. 78, Norwood-road, Herne Hill, S.E.

WANTED, Known, the Bradfield Ladies' Orchestra, excellent Soloists and Vocalists (three to twenty performers). Miss BRADFIELD, 4, Porteus-road, Paddington.

WANTED, Known, Shikissimma Band, Ladies' Japanese Orchestra, at Liberty, magnificent costume, large répertoire. Address, Glenthorpe, Chesterfield-road, Newbury.

WANTED, Known, The Vrasatzka Band, at Liberty for Piers, &c., three to thirty performers; uniforms, soloists. H. P. Thomas, 54, New Bond-street, W.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands, apply, Bureau, 8, Bedford-ter., Kensington. Quartet Disengaged, scarlet and gold or evening dress.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND NEW CIRCUS, HYDE, CHESHIRE.

WANTED, the Greatest Talent that Money can procure. Big Sensations, and Novelties in all Lines, Useful Circus Turns, Clowns, &c., at Once and for Future Dates.

Address, KING OHMY,
Ohmy's Grand New Circus, Hyde.

CIRCUS, HULL.

WANTED, Lady and Gentlemen Riders, Artists of every description, Jan. 21, 28. Address, EDWARD EMERSON, General-Manager.

WANTED, Easter, Whitsuntide, onwards, High Rope, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Cyclists, Lithos., memos., lowest terms, permanent address, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, for several large Fêtes and Galas within fifty miles of Birmingham, High Rope, Flying, and any Aerial Novelties, Acrobat Troupe, Three Bars, and all kinds of Acts, for Whit Week and Aug. Bank Holiday and other dates. Apply, stating lowest terms, enclosing sample litho., MANAGER, 48, Dale End, Birmingham.

WANTED, Easter, also May, June, July, Aug., wire, Acts, Acrobats, Gymnasts, Comedians, Cyclists, Novelties, lithos., bills. WOOD, Caterer, Cheese-lane, Bristol.

WANTED, a Good Trapeze Performer, for Leaps, &c., weight not more than 9st. Full particulars, METEOR, Belmont, Stoke, Devonport.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence

WANTED, John Irvin and Miss Pinder, Bare back Equestrians. Another success, Ohmy's Circus, Hyde, making our twenty-third return with the King. Liberty for Stage or Circus. Thanks to those that wrote about our Horse; it is still for sale. Reason for selling, we are retiring from the Circus Business.

For Sale, 1 Horse,
2 Collie Dogs (one rides, and other tricks),
Flight of Pigeons, 2 sets of Tack,
Juggling Things, Dresses, &c.

Can be seen at 144 High-street, Deptford, London.

WANTED, Known, Domino, a Pure Arabian Talking Donkey, Complimented by Public and Press. Big Success. Hengler's Circus, London, till further notice.

WANTED, Les Steckels, Gymnastic Speciality, Feb. 11, 18, 25. This week, Circus, Spennymoor; Monday, Corn Exchange, Dalkeith, Scotland. Agent, STEBB.

WANTED, Known, Bodey Bros., Comedy Triple Bar Gymnasts. Wire for Monday and Jan. 14, 10, Fillwood-road, Fishponds, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lolo, Charming Lady Gymnast, Graceful Trapeze and Teeth Speciality Artist. Next week, People's Palace, Portsmouth; also Little May, Graceful Contortionist and Acrobatic Dancer. Liberty Feb. 4.

WANTED, Known, Four Zolas, Lightning and Herculean Acrobats, Balancers, and Tumblers, just finished Ohmy's Circus. Liberty Jan. 7, and on. Address, 40, Tiverton-road, Bournbrook, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Bros. St. Clair, the great Comedy Knockabout Cyclists and Football Players, returned to England after three years' Continental Tour. Terrific success this week Hip., Wigan; Lib. Jan. 21, Feb. 4 and 11. 197, Grey Mare-lane, Openshaw, Manchester.

WANTED, Jan. 14, Joe Hastings, Jumper, Lecturer, Journalist, English, Greek, or Latin. Empire, Hull; next, Hippodrome, Wakefield.

WANTED, by First-Class Hand and Head Balancer and Tumbler, Engagement with Troupe or Sketch. SCROGGS, 32, Stonehill-road, Gunnersbury, W.

WANTED, Known, to King Ohmy, Circus, Hyde.

We, the undersigned, publicly thank you for paying full salaries, although no performance on Xmas Day or Night:—
John Irving and Miss Pinder,
Austin and Austin, Alberto Troupe,
Zola Troupe, A. France,
Mlle. Yvette,
August and September,
Harry Dale (Ringmaster).

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, for Queen's Theatre, Castleford, Jan. 14, onwards. Small town; money sure. State lowest first letter. No best offers. BEANLAND and EMERSON, Queen's, Castleford. Silence a polite negative, pro tem.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Jan. 14, onward.
WM. B. BROADHEAD, Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Jan. 14, Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; hall small. P. REYMOND, as above.

WANTED, Variety Artists, for Jan. 21 and onwards. Write, JOHN ORTON HAYES, People's Theatre, Taunton, Som.

Scarborough.

WANTED, Monday, Jan. 14, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines. Nothing too Big. Full particulars to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists all Lines, Jan. 14 onwards. Lowest terms, &c., Big Gala Acts, May 20 onwards.
EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. 'Phone 09251. Wires, "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Concerts and Halls, for present and future dates. SCOTTISH MUSICAL AGENCY, 107, George-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines.
J. FELL,
Proprietor, Palace, Lancaster.

WANTED, Artists in every Line, for Scotland, including Empire, Paisley. Will share with big Tops. Terms must be low. DREW BAYLEY'S Agency, 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, nothing too big. Saturday, Jan. 12, and every Saturday following. Write, VICTOR W. ROWE, 28, Herbert-road, Stockwell, S.W.

PALACE OF VARIETIES, LEIGH.

WANTED, for Feb. 4, one week, Artists all Lines, Specialities, Double and Singles. Lowest terms (money sure) to WALLACE WHITNEY, 42, Scarboro'-street, West Hartlepool.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

SCOTTISH SUMMER ENTERTAINMENTS CO.

WANTED, First-class Al-fresco Artists, Summer Season, Duncon (private ground), Ayr (private ground), Prestwick (private ground), and Saltcoats (private ground). Full particulars, Box 4,158, "The Era."

WANTED, Artists, Singles and Double Turns, two weeks, Jan. 21, Feb. 4, onwards. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WEST END PIER, MORECAMBE.

WANTED, High-class Artists. State fullest particulars and lowest terms. Reply, ARTISTS, West End Pier, Morecambe.

WANTED, Artists wishing to be Booked for First-class Music Hall Engagements communicate with BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now, onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Stars on shares, Good Variety Combinations, Jan. 14, 21, on. GEO. SAPHRINI, Palace, Boston.

DEETRICH'S VAUDEVILLE BUREAU,
31, Islington, Liverpool.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, the Bigger the Better, for immediate Date. Send photos., lithos., and absolute lowest terms. Happy New Year to All.

WANTED, Artists, of all Descriptions, for Leicester, Sheffield, Sandgate, and Dover.

Write or call, with full particulars, J. W. JOHNSON, Variety Agent, 86, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Jan. 14, and other dates.
THE DAYTON FAMILY, Tivoli, Manchester.

WANTED, Artists, immediate dates, for Alhambra, Edinburgh. Send vacant dates and absolute lowest. I can book you. VENTOM SWIFT, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Empire Palace, Dover, and the Alhambra, Sandgate. FRED DURHAM'S Variety Agency, 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W. Telephone 15, Brixton.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Jan. 7, on. FRED DURHAM'S Agency, 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone, 15 Brixton.

WANTED, Artists of every description, for the South Coast and Midlands.
DAVE HYMAN, 167, Stamford-street.

WANTED, Alhambra, Edinburgh, Rehearsal, 12 o'clock Sabino, Fred Dice, Nellie Duval, Cookeon, Sheila McNeil, Bioscope, The Smalleys.

WANTED, Known, Stanhope and Co., Variety Agents, have removed their offices to 12, Buckingham-street, Strand.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.

WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession,
Acts New in Dublin, for the above,
the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland,
Direct or through Agents.
All communications to WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, for Jan. 14, 21, 28,
Stars in all Lines,
Stars in all Lines,
Full up for smaller items
State towns at liberty for.
Can fix big numbers any odd weeks.
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Jan. 14, 21, 28, Feb. 18, 25.
AYTOUN'S AGENCY Stars, Stars, Stars.
AYTOUN'S AGENCY Comedians, Comediennes,
AYTOUN'S AGENCY Big Star Specialities.
AYTOUN'S AGENCY 120, Kennington Park-rd.,
AYTOUN'S AGENCY S.E.
AYTOUN'S AGENCY Wires, "Antics, London."
AYTOUN'S AGENCY 'Phone, 1949 Hop.
Harland and Rollinson wire address.
Thomson's Topweights and Reuben Hill write.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.

WANTED, Big Stars, salary or share. Call for Monday, Jan. 7 (rehearse 1 o'clock), Austin and Cowan, Bertha Norwood, Hurman, Vasey and Ramsey, Bioscope, Drum and Major, Lambton, The Jansons, and Burg, Haud, and Wise. JAMES FIONI'S Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Big Stars and Novelties, Jan. 14, onwards. Will the following Artists please attend Rehearsal, Monday next, Jan. 7:—
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
The Ramlos, Joe Hennessy, Trippello, Daisy Ray, Royal Victoria Boys, S. L. Spry, Sadie Seymour, Jack Mansfield, Bioscope, The Olmars.
Big Novelty Acts Wanted for Immediate Dates. Call for Jan. 7:—
HENGLER'S CIRCUS, LONDON.
Red Riding Hood, Caban's Ponies, Donkeys, and Dogs, The Whittington Trio, Prince Fee Lung, Two Dominoes, Bioscope, and Clown Felix.
Stars with Immediate Vacancies call or write.
ALFRED SAKER and Co., 17, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, for King's Hall and Hippodrome, Westcliffe (2s. 2d. from London), the Greatest Stars in the Business, for Jan. 14, and onwards, Jan. 14.
Call Monday, at 1 o'clock, for Bioscope, Marion Wills, Musical Palmers, Miss Brereton, L. Derrick, Ruby Bijou, Miss Fontainbleu, Altea, The Woellhafs, The Balzens, Daisy Almer, Jack U. C. M. Write absolute lowest and billing matter to PAUL VANDY'S Agency, above. Don't forget, I book any act that has made a success at Hippo., Accrington.

WANTED, Stars and Big Attractions in all Lines, with Vacancies, to write
BARNARD'S Agency,
24, Islington, Liverpool.
Happy New Year to All.

JESS VERNO'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Big Stars, Big Numbers. Anything Big, the Bigger the Better. Jan. 14, 21, 28, and onwards.
Also Good Comedy Act, Jan. 21, for Hyde.
Wire or write, with full particulars, 16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.

LEO FRITZ'S AGENCY,
40, Glenshaw-mansions, Brixton-road, S.W.
Telephone, 457 Brixton.

WANTED, Stars, and the Greatest Acts in the World. Acts of every description, for Jan. 14, and onwards. I will give any suitable act a written guarantee for nine months' solid work. Write, wire, or call, LEO FRITZ, as above.
P.S.—Will my clients kindly forward photos., if any?

WANTED, Stars, Sketches, Second Sight, Cinématograph, and all lines, for London, Jan. 14, onwards. Lowest, &c., by letter only. HERBERT COLE'S Agency, 121, St. George's-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, First-Class Star Turn (must be novelty), for Open-air Fête in Midlands, on Whit Monday and Tuesday, 1907. Apply, with full particulars and terms to Box 4,153, "Era" Office, before Jan. 15, 1907.

JOSEPH POOLE'S MYRIORAMAS.

WANTED, for Immediate and Future Dates, First-class Variety Turns.
Long Engagement to suitable people.
Good Comedian write.
J. W. POOLE, "Verona," Malmesbury.

WANTED, Good Turns of any Description, to give Trial Show with a view to Engagement on Well-known Vaudeville Circuit. Exceptional Opportunity for Good Amateurs. No fees or expenses. Write, enclosing stamped addressed envelope, THE MANAGER, Sadler's Wells Theatre, E.C.

WANTED, Talent of all Description, for Empire, Merthyr. Those known to me communicate, with terms, dates, &c., DAN NOBLE, Empire, Hull.

WANTED, for Town Hall, Falkirk, N.B., Variety Talent and Specialities, Feb. 25, March 4, 1907. Terms to R. SILVESTER, Hippodrome, Barrow.

WANTED, Talent in all Lines, new to London.
only Members of the Federation need write.
'PAPA BROWN,
8, Cleveland-house, Hackford-road, Brixton, S.W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Something New and Up-to-Date,
Something New and Up-to-Date,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Jan. 7, onwards.
Send at once, Terms, Dates, and Lithos.
Those having a Good Act can rely on Immediate Work.
I can give you nine months' solid work.
Also Wanted, Big Acts, of all Kinds, for the Coming Season, for the Seaside.
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street,
41, Oxford-street,
Manchester.
Manchester
Telephone 09144.
Telegraphic address, "Variety, Manchester."

ROYAL HIPPODROME, BELFAST,
Now in Course of Erection,
and
when
Finished
will be the Largest and Handsomest Building in Ireland.

WANTED, February, onward, all the Finest Acts in the World.
Price no object.
New and Novel Turns of every Variety.
The above is Booked in conjunction with TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.

WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.

Rehearsal, Monday next, 2 o'clock, for Miyaki, Arleys, Cade Burnett, Miniature Florrie, Vernon's Bioscope, Decars, Adey North.

WANTED Big Acts, on sharing terms. Letters, SMITH and Co., Red Lion Hotel, Rochdale.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.

WANTED, Star Acts, all Lines, absolute lowest, once nightly. Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

WANTED, Jan. 14, onwards, for North, South Wales, Sunderland, South Coast, Variety Speciality Acts all lines. J. GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, cheap, Comedy Acts, for Monday next, Jan. 7, to wire lowest terms; also for other dates.

DALTON'S Agency, "Granbeste Withington."
29, Mauldeth-road West, Withington, Manchester.

WANTED, Comedy Acts, all Lines, those doing two acts preferred, for Empire, Shildon, Jan. 14, and onwards. Wire or write, LOMAS, 19, Canterbury-street, Liverpool.

DUDLEY CASTLE.
DUDLEY CASTLE FETES,
Whitsuntide, May 20, 21, 22, 1907.

WANTED, Known, the Committee will be glad to hear of Novelties and Attractions for the above, Artists, Aeronauts, Fireworks, &c., &c. Applications to be sent in not later than Saturday, Jan. 19, addressed to W. WOODHOUSE and J. M. HOUGHTON, Secretaries, Town Hall, Dudley. Artists not hearing in reply by Feb. 4 to accept as a negative.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, Hugh Wigglesworth, late General-Manager Blackpool, Morecambe, &c. Address, C/o Webster and Girling, 150, Strand, London, W.C.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Top Liners, for London and Provinces,
Acts with vacant dates in Jan. and Feb.
apply immediately.

THE ALBEMARLE SYNDICATE, 157, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Tops of Bills who have odd weeks vacant to send full bookings, &c., to FRANK LYNNE, City Varieties, Leeds.

PALACE THEATRE,
CORK.
Manager, HENRY KEMBLE.

WANTED, Jan. 14, 21, and onward,
Big Specialities,
Jugglers,
Cycle Acts,
Musical Shows, &c.
Must be refined, or useless.

Call Monday, Jan. 7,
Astley's Circus,
Frank Whiteloy,
Edith St. Clare,
Glenroy Troupe,
Herbert Cecil,
Fred Neiman,
Sisters Hunter,
George Adams,
Mannon Troupe.

JOHN H. TOMKINSON'S ROYAL GIPSY CO., Est. 1888.

WANTED, to open Jan. 14, for Tour, Refined Speciality; also bright Serio and Dancer. Particulars, TOMKINSON, Music Hall, Chester.

CIRCUS, SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.

WANTED, Jan. 14 and on, Specialities of every description.
Address, C. ALGIE.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, DURHAM.

WANTED, Speciality, suitable for Bottom of Bill, Jan. 14; also Artists in all Lines, new to Stanley preferred, Feb. 4, 11, March 4 and 11, and on. Silence a courteous negative.
Address, JOHN CASSIDY.

WANTED, good powerful drawing Speciality, for week commencing Jan. 14. Terms must be moderate. Address, with full particulars, JOHN A. THOMSON, Theatre Royal, Torquay.

TUDOR HIPPODROME, BLYTH.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, Jan. 21, on, one show nightly, and Sunday Concert. Tudor, Blyth.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WITHERNSEA.

WANTED, Known, the Council are prepared to receive Offers from Pierrot Troupes for the Sole Right to give Performances on the Beach of this Popular Seaside Resort for the next three years.

Offers, which must include a substantial deposit to be paid on signing the Agreement, to be sent to me not later than Saturday, Jan. 12, 1907.

The agreement may be seen at my office at any time.

FREDK. J. GARDAM,
Clerk to the Council.
16, Parliament-street, Hull.

WANTED, Everything and Anything Good. Those new to London can have a trial show. Those that have written before, write again. Keep me posted every week. BILLY HENDERSON, 30, Handforth-road, Brixton-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, First-class Combinations or Good Picture Show for Hippodrome, Barrow, to open Jan. 14 or 21. Share or rental. Must have good printing; also must be a good show to follow. R. Silvester's, who could not stay longer. Address, TONY RICHARDSON, Manager, Hippodrome, Barrow.

JULIAN CLARKE'S HIGH-CLASS VARIETY CO.

WANTED, immediately, clever Sisters (young), sing and dance, capable of single turn; Advance Agent, must be steady and reliable, used to fit-ups. Always an opening for clever children.

Wire or write, MANAGER, 22, Bath-row, Birmingham.

WANTED, Lady Soprano or Comedienne; must play Stringed Instrument (not Mandoline). Write, MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, 4, Porteus-road, Paddington, W.

WANTED, Smart Girls for Sketch, good appearance; must sing and dance. Apply, between 12 and 1, Mr. FRED KARNO, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, young, tall, fine Heavy Lady Duologue, one used Music Halls. Photo., &c., references, terms (letters only), CADOGAN, 9, Cambridge-road, Battersea.

WANTED, Knockabout Pantomimist, for Dude part.
Full particulars,
W. B CRABTREE, Hippodrome, Hulme, Manchester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, immediately, for Sketch, Short Smart Comedian (young). Letters only in first instance, with full particulars, to F. E., 27, Venetian-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, tall young Gentleman (competent), for Sketch Moderate terms. London and Provinces. E. MADELLE, 140, Acre-lane, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Character Actor; must be pianist, of good appearance; for long music hall engagement. Write for appointment, McCANN, 33, Atnol-mansions, S. Lambeth-road, S.W.

WANTED, Small Clever Boys and Girls,
Vocalists,
Comedians,
Dancers,
Acrobats, &c., &c.
Exceptional opportunities and long engagement.
HARRY CADLE, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Boys, good Dancers or Singers, for established Music Hall Troupe, age 14 to 15. Photos., particulars, to STANLEY, Stanley's Urchins, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Mexborough.

WANTED, Known, Stage (Variety), beginners desirous obtaining Engagements write at once, enclosing addressed envelope. HARRINGTON, 20, Bishopsgate-street Without, E.C. Letters only.

WANTED, an Operator, Gaumont's machine, thoroughly competent, electric light, half-hour's show nightly, willing to be generally useful. Long engagement to the right man. References as to efficiency and character, lowest terms, and full particulars. BEANLAND and EMERSON, Queen's T., Castleford.

WANTED, good Operator, for Cinématograph, travelling abroad; none need apply but those with first-class reference and guarantee. Apply evening, 8 to 9, Ponsonby-hall, Ladbroke-square, London, W.

WANTED, First-Class Operator, also two or three steady and useful men, for Cinématograph Show; good wages to the right men. CORTRELL, American Enterprise, Show Ground, Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Operator, with own Cinematograph Vent., or Good Entertainer. State lowest in first letter, LEE, Hanbury Ground, Bargoed.

WANTED, Operator, understanding Slides, with good Cinématograph and Comic Films; no fancy price. Address, Box 4,171, "The Era."

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, six or twelve nights, Monday next, by Alma Curzon, Comedienne; distance no object. Wire, 12, Wellington-road, Egremont, Birkenhead.

WANTED, by Nellie Elder, Comedienne, Monday next. Empire, Stockport, Terrific success. Just concluded third return. This, Hippo., Dewsbury.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Magna, in beautiful Classical and Artistic Poses; Magna, in Venus de Milo, is a wonderful conception of the great work, the figure is perfect, while the pose and draping are sublime in every detail.—Press notice. Jan. 7, Hippodrome, Lowestoft, address.

WANTED, Monday, Sisters Ely, the Talented Duettists, Vacant through hall closing. Success, and recalled nightly. Empire, Dudley. Wire.

WANTED, Monday next, by Grosvenors (Three Sisters'. Singers of Popular Melodies in Harmony, between Burnley and Greenock. Wire, Empire, Burnley.

WANTED, Known, Extract from the Dublin Mail, Tuesday, Jan. 1, '07:—
It is rarely that we have a comedy juggler like Wisper in Dublin, and (as he says himself) his style is one of his own. His juggling was up to the usual standard, and his "business" was greatly enlivened by his original and witty remarks.
Thanks Henry Kemble for Offer.
Still Vacant, Jan. 7, 14, and 21.
Wire, Tivoli, Dublin.
also Miss Beattie Bloom, Smart Serio.

WANTED, by Martinengo, Solo 'Cellist and Baritone, in his great Scena, "His Last Melody," a refined and clever act. Own scenery carried. Jan. 14 and 21, through disappointment. City of Varieties, Leeds.

WANTED, by Sam Paul, Jan. 14, on, Comedian and Actor Vocalist; usual success Pavilion, Ilkley. Address, 18, Church-street, Ilkley.

WANTED, immediate and future dates, Shamrock Green, Comical Conjurer; anything good, clean, entertaining. 13, Horseman's-row, Dublin. Assistant Com. (lady).

WANTED, Monday next, Dan Ashton, Collier's Song Scena and the Empire's Stump Orator. Wire, Empire, Wrexham; after Sat., 2, Marshall-street, Openshaw.

WANTED, Known, Ted Wootton, Laughing Comedian, Fourth Year with F. J. Little's "Forty Thieves." This, Royal, Darlington; next, Royal, Jarrow. Vacant Feb. 25.

WANTED, by Bob Hartley, Comedian, Patter, Dancer, Jan. 7 and 14. Wire sharp, 2 Court, 2 House, Well-lane, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Harry Jennings, Comedian, in Songs, Patter, and Clever Dancing, Lib. Monday. Wire, Aquarium, Rothesay, N.B. (any distance). This week, top of bill and doing four turns each house.

WANTED, Known, Little Hackenschmidt again scoring heavily with Bert Megson's Combination; complimented by management, adding new honours to his reputation as Undefeated World's Champion Boy Wrestler. Worthy pupil of a worthy master. Wire, Empire, Llanelly, S. Wales.

WANTED, by De Laurier, Imitator of Modern Statues, and Sculpture Figures of Celebrities of the Day, a Novelty. Sure Success. Com. to D. L., 12A, Victoria-house, 8th. Lambeth-rd., S.W.

WANTED, Known, the Miniature Hercules, Vacant, Wire, Alhambra Theatre, Edinburgh. Wanted, at once, a First-Class Agent, for this Act. Letters to A. Theatre, Edinburgh. Compliments of the season to all.—Miniature Hercules.

WANTED, Engagements by E. Mortimer, the famous Children's Entertainer, Conjuring, Vento., Sketches, &c.; one hour's sparkling fun. 32, Broadway, Wimbledon.

WANTED, Known, W. Salmon, Trick and Musical Cyclist, vacant Jan. 7 and 14. Wire, Hippodrome, Yarmouth.

WANTED, to join Pantomime Sketch or Troupe, by Smart Tumbler, Pantomimist, Knockabout, Trap Worker, speak lines; have novel Tumbling Speciality; with Lady for small part; own f.t-up; useful man; references. Vacant Jan. 21. LYONS, Pantomime, Grand Theatre, Croydon.

WANTED, Jan. 14, Wanted, Jan. 14, also Jan. 21, 28, by the Great Original Kyoto and his Mysterious Comedy Japanese Box. This is a laughing and applauding hit. A clever contortionist, a comedy conjurer, juggler, and Oto, the only performing pug dog. Also Miss May Geraldine, a sprightly comedienne, vocalist, and dancer. Great success, Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy. Jan. 7, Gaiety, Chatham. Wire at once. Don't miss these two acts. We guarantee a sure success anywhere.

The Great and Only.

WANTED, Jan. 7, and on, Jack Sheppard, World's Greatest Handcuff King and Prison Breaker, the only one who will allow anyone to pour boiling lead into the keyholes of the Handcuffs. Also Miss Ruby Vesta, in the Greatest Trunk Mystery on the Stage, sure draw, big Top, Challenges.
Wire, this, Olympia, Sunderland;
next, 249, Bond-street, Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, through Breach of Agreement, Picit and Lizette, Magical Pantomimists, are Vacant Jan. 14. Managers requiring a Big Comedy Dumb Act should book the Great Illusionary Absurdity, "The Crazy Cook." See other advert., and wire to Empire, South Shields.

WANTED, The Percys, Monday next (Harry Lillie), Duettists, Dancers, Specialty Performers. Distance no object. Wire, Palace, Boston.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Dates, by The Lyricos, Vocal Entertainers, Tenor and Soprano, exceptionally good voices. This, Philharmonic, Southampton; next, Corn Exchange, Northampton.

WANTED, Monday next, for Duos "Pity the Blind" and "A Motor Muddle," to precede Hippo., Putney. Wire, FERINA, New E., Llanelly.

WANTED, Known, Sterling and Cashen, Comedy Singing, Patter, and Dancing Act. Vacant Feb. 4 and 11. Thanks G. and F. Peel, W. Sley, R. Cass, F. Durham, F. Baugh, F. Macnaghten, Barnard, Robinson, Horner, Worswick, &c., for Offers. This, Grand, Halifax; next, Tivoli, Dublin.

WANTED, Known, Herbert Lenton, assisted by Scroggs, in Refined Speciality Act, "Los Espanolas," at Liberty. Address, 9, Woodland-road, W. Bridgeford, Nottingham.

WANTED, Jan. 14, onwards, by The Woellhafs, Great Comedy Act. Many thanks to Messrs. Rosen and Bliss, Durham, Johnson, Algie, Fioni, Morgan, &c., for offers. 120, Merrow-street, Walworth, S.E. Jan. 7, King's, Westcliffe.

WANTED, Known, The Two D's (D'Argan and Dene), Great Success of Act. Luncheon à la Magique. Liberty Monday next. Wire, Queen's, Castleford.

WANTED, Monday next, Esdale Bros., Comedians, enormous success Park Palace, Liverpool. Wire, 33, Shaw-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Reszki and Raszki, Gymnastic Grotesques and Tumblers, vacant Jan. 7, onwards. For terms, apply, 6, Beech-grove, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Jan. 7, Hector and Sultan (the Men who Make them Laugh), the World's Greatest Eccentric Grotesques. Wire for Monday. Great Success this week, Hippodrome, Stalybridge.

WANTED, Jan. 7 and 14, by The Carls, Comedy Trampoline Speciality, that can follow them all, just finished three months' successful Continental Tour. Big success everywhere.
Wire, Palace, Cork;
after Sun., Grand, Peter-street, Manchester.

WANTED, by Lambert and Glover, Jan. 7, 14, for their screaming absurdity, "The Wrong Room." Enormous success. Wire, Grand, Halifax.

WANTED, by Attilas, Grecian Gladiators and Sensational Strength Act; big success. Wire, Gaiety, Glasgow; vacant 14th and 21st.

WANTED, Monday and Feb. 11, by Gravetta and Parr, Clay Modellers, Impersonators, Jugglers, &c., &c., Pot-Pourri. Wire, Palace, Bradford.

WANTED, Monday, also 14th, Les Buenas, unequalled Hand Jumping Speciality, Hand Balancing extraordinary; a safe investment. Wire, to-night, Palace, Boston; after, 97, Wheeler-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Jan. 7, 14, 21, by Titan, Telka, and Wyllie (three acts), Strong Man Act, Musical Turn, and Ballad Vocalist. Hippodrome, Hull.

WANTED, by the Five Halyards, Jan. 14, 21, in their New Comedy Musical Scena. Address, 32, Ford street, Coventry.

WANTED, Jan. 21, by Primrose Quartette male vocalists). Enormous success, Palace, Lancaster (return). Refer management. Jan. 7, Circus, Bury.

WANTED, Jan. 21 and Feb. 18, by Los Granadas, World's Greatest Bar and Trampolin Novelty. Agent, TOM SHAW; or New Olympia, Liverpool.

WANTED, by R. J. Golding, Ventriloquist and Illusionist, Feb. 11, onward. Perm., 32, Courtenay-road, Walthamstow, London.

WANTED, Jan. 28, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist, two smart acts. Monday, Corn Exchange, Berwick-on-Tweed.

WANTED, by H. Sylvester, part in Sketch, Music Hall, smart, reliable. Terms low. Next week, General Post Office, Leicester.

WANTED, Jan. 28, onwards, with exceptions, for Wal Pink's latest and best musical comedy duologue, "The Gasfitter." Bottoming bill, and glorious success, Palace, Lancaster. Retained next week to produce our other act. "The Two Sports." Good agent wanted. Offers to AYLMER, 4, Lindon-square, Lancaster.

WANTED, Monday next, by Tom Davis's Sketch Co. Gigantic Success of Furguson's Dog. Ask Horace Livermore, Esq. Wire, Hippo., Sheerness.

WANTED, Monday next, by Billy Ross and Co., Greatest Comedy Act on the Stage. Starring, Grand, Sheffield. Wire for Draw.

WANTED, Known, The Aristocrats, a novel Concert Party, seven First-Class Artists, new and original entertainment, Vacant for Piers, &c., Whit Week until end of July, Share or Cert. Communications, GEORGE ESS, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Lion Show. Finest and Cleanest Collection of Full-grown Male Lions, vacant March 25, April 15 and 29. Special Sensation, 4 Newborn Lion Cubs. Play to Record Business Everywhere. Only Lion Show in this Country. Week Jan. 7, Regent Theatre, Salford.

WANTED, Known, Dates for Sergt.-Major Williams' Excelsior Troupe of Performing Dogs, including Rose, the Champion Somersault Dog of the World. Second Week of Tour, Kitts and Bellamy's Pantomime, "Cinderella." Jan. 7, New Royal Theatre, West Stanley, Co. Durham.

WANTED, Monday next, Le Clair, Performing Dogs, including Spot, in his Sensational High Dive. Wire for Monday, Drill Hall, Dundee.

WANTED, from Jan. 21, Chard's Dog Circus. Panto., "Dick Whittington," Metropole Theatre, Devonport.
Now the whole talk of Plymouth. Free Jan. 21.

WANTED, Known, Spangeletti's Dog and Pony Circus, sure winner, Liberty Jan. 7, 14, 21. Wire or write, 173, Queen's-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Devereux's Troupe of Funny Dogs, the dogs with human brains, Liberty Jan. 28. Hippodrome, Spennymoor.

WANTED, The Cheers, with their Wonderful Performing Cats. Special scenery by Ernest Howard, Esq., Real Whittington Chimes, in their Original Scena, "Dick Whittington," Vacant Jan. 14 and 28. Great success, Alhambra, Edinburgh. Address, Empire, Paisley.

WANTED, Jan. 14, and onward, by the Boston Bioscope Co. We give a show, not play at it; also Gilroy, Ventriloquist, an Amalgamation of Originality and Refinement. Playing return two weeks, after three weeks away. Refs. Wood write. Coliseum, Blackpool.

WANTED, Jan. 14 and 21, for Durham Bioscope, latest subjects, Slides of Conductor and Taps. HICKS, Regent Theatre, Salford. Also Single Turns.

WANTED, Engagements, Public or Private, Harmon's Bioscope, Marionettes, also Royal Punch and Judy, with Toby. 326, Earlsfield-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements, for Up-to-date Bioscope, complete change weekly, 15 minutes to 2 hours. LINDSAY, 16, Standford-avenue, New Brighton.

WANTED, Managers of Theatres and Large Halls to send vacant dates. "Eclipse" Picture Company. Share or Certainty. Record success everywhere. Address, GENERAL-MANAGER, Drill Hall, Macclesfield.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Electrical, Simpkin, Wilkinson, and Gibson, Kirkstall-road, Leeds, manufacture four and six pole Showmen's Dynamos (improved pattern), also new Flame Arc Lamps, geared motors, for driving organs and roundabouts, large stocks, cable, carbons, globes, incandescents, all classes of repairs; new line, direct coupled portable electric plants, driven by paraffin.

WANTED, Known.—Write or call at Greene's, Falmouth-road, London, S.E., for .22 ammunition, rifles, globes, targets; absolutely cheapest market

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, the Annual Meeting of the United Kingdom Showmen and Van-dwellers' Protection Association,
The Showmen's Guild
(President, Lord George Sanger),
will take place in Manchester at the Memorial Hall, Albert-square,
Jan. 16, 1907, at 4 p.m.
Speakers:—Rev. H. Norburn, Rev. T. Horne, T. Watson Wright, Esq., C. Howard, Esq., and F. Bibby, Esq.

The London Meeting
will take place at the
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL,
Islington,
by kind permission of E. T. Read, Esq.
(Lessee of the World's Fair),
on Jan. 23,
at 11.30 in the forenoon.
Lord George Sanger will Preside, and Deliver a Presidential Address. Supported by the Rev. T. Horne (Hon. Chaplain), F. H. Pedgrift Esq. (Hon. Treas.), F. Millar, Esq. (Parliamentary Agent), T. Watson Wright, Esq. (Guild Solicitor), and other gentlemen.
T. HURST, Hon. Sec.

Annual Committee for Business Purposes
at the Black Lion,
at 11.30 in the forenoon of Jan. 16.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, that the next Meeting
of the
British Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union will be held at the
Wheatsheaf Hotel, Bolton,
on Tuesday, Jan. 8,
at 10 a.m.,
when all Members are requested to attend.
Signed,
THOS. HURST, Sec.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know. Simons, of 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch, is going ahead with up-to-date Lines in Field Glasses, Fancy Goods, Clocks, Jewellery, &c. Send for Special Xmas Supplement. There is no cheaper house for you.

WANTED, Known, Auction Marts and others, R. Owens, Manufacturing Chemists and Dry salters, 15, Rosamond-st., West Manchester, making up good lines. Good profit. Write for samples.

WANTED, Showmen to save money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of specially prepared paints, colours, varnishes, brushes, &c., and every requisite for decorating caravans, roundabouts, swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Known.—A Word to the Wise is Sufficient. A Client writing June 25, 1906, says:—Bag puncher took £309 in a little over three months. For price, write Sole Agents to the Makers, viz., the Mills Novelty Co. MINERVA AUTOMATIC Co., 120, York-rd., King's Cross, London, N. Largest Variety of Automatic Machines in the trade. No Junk. Don't buy worn-out machines of old pattern; get a genuine Mills 1906 pattern.

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£50 in three weeks.

WANTED, Known, this is what the Fairy Floss Candy Machine can do. Nothing like it for money-making. To be sold outright, or on deferred payments, as agreed upon. Every machine a fortune. For terms and particulars apply,
ELECTRIC SWEETMEATS, LTD.,
36, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Showmen's Letter Cloths made and attractively painted in fancy colours; all kinds of Showmen's Painting undertaken. ROCHE, Artist, 22, Lansdown-road, Lee, London, S.E.

WANTED, all Freaks and Novelties visiting Ireland
to communicate with
PRO. SMART,
27, Patrick-street, Limerick.

Also Wanted,
to Purchase for Cash,
a Good Waxwork,
or would hire or share with same.

WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, Open at Once, Sale of Books and Postcards allowed. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, First-class Novelties of every Description, for Portsmouth Wonderland.
Wire or write,
MERSANO, 125, Queen-street, Portsea.

WANTED, Novelties, to open Monday. Shares or Salary. A good Fat write in. PROPRIETOR, 100, Lower-marsh, Lambeth, London.

WANTED, Signor Durland's Exhibition, Gateshead-on-Tyne. Novelties, all sorts, premises 90ft. long, well lighted with gas, good window for show.

WANTED, good Novelties, to send now and future dates for four of the best Shops in London. Good Ghost Show write in. Shares or salary. PROFESSOR RUBY, Casino, 25, Whitechapel-road.

WANTED, good Side Show, Touring Exhibition, for ten weeks in South Wales; sharing terms. Apply, MANAGER, Trades Exhibition, St. Albans.

MURPHY'S NEW ENTERPRISE.

WANTED, Operators, Electricians, Handy Men, to travel with above; all the year round to competent workers. MURPHY, Garrison, Sunderland.

WANTED, three weeks, from Jan. 28, through change of dates, Fanning's Mannikins. Thanks to Madam James and C. James, Esq., for full salary and present Christmas. FANNING, Mannikins, Waxworks, Dublin.

BLACKPOOL SANDS.

WANTED, Known, the South Shore Pleasure Beach is the only site in Blackpool for Open-air Attractions.
The grounds are forty acres in extent, right on the sea front, and are situated immediately next the Promenade at the Electric Tramway Terminus. From April 1 to Dec. 31, 1905, 4,000,000 passengers were carried on these tramways. The permanent attractions now include the "River Caves of the World," "Maxim Flying Machine," "Sea Circus," &c. Great Canadian Water Chute now being erected for next season, commencing at Easter. For sites and concessions for really good Novelties address, PROPRIETORS, 14, Balmoral-road, Blackpool.

THE SENIOR EXHIBITIONS.

WANTED, Known, a few Spaces to Let in this Successful Touring Exhibition (third season), Handkerchiefs, Cutlery, Pencils, Photos., and Selling Novelties; also a Cinematograph wanted. Particulars, Royal Public Rooms, Exeter.

WANTED, to Let, Ground, in good positions, for Galloping Horses, Switchbacks, Picture Shows, Circuses, Side Shows, &c.
Apply for particulars to
E. A. GILBEY,
The Pear Tree, Lewisham, London, S.E.

To Showmen and Roundabout Proprietors.
WANTED, to Let, Ground for Machine or Show, in good positions. Apply, Exhibition Grounds, Tooting Broadway.

WANTED, to Let, good Spaces, on good dry ground, for small joints. Apply, MANAGER, Pictures, Bullace-lane, Dartford.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100, 101, and 102A, Houndsditch, has Special Departments for 9ct. Rings, Secondhand Watches Unredeemed Pledges, and Cheap Jewellery. Send for Special Xmas Supplement. All up-to-date Lines.

WANTED, to Sell, Waxwork Exhibition, sixty figures, good dresses, drapery, scenery, organ, travelling cases, &c., complete, cost £300, price £50, bargain; Doll Frame, complete, thirty figures, £7; Avery Weighing Chair, cost £20, price £6; Football Panel, cost £9, price 60s.; Ammunition, Guns, Targets, Glass, &c. Write us for quotation. Established sixty years. Also Fair Goods. Telephone 12923 Central. STACEY, Settles-street, London, E.

WANTED, to Sell, Pullman Living Carriage, built by Orton, Burton-on-Trent, road or rail, Malakoff top, separate bedroom, stove, and fittings, size 19ft. by 7ft.; also portable kitchen, 7ft. by 6ft. Apply, Mrs. M. C. SINCLAIR, Public Hall, Coalville, Leicestershire.

WANTED, to Sell, 52-key Barrel Organ, two figures. Cost £65 two years ago; take £40. CLOWES, Varieties, Coleford, Somerset.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman, Silver King (regd.), Auctioneer, Valuer, Expert and Authority to the United Kingdom and Van Dwellers' Association, Auctioneer to Lord George Sanger (England's Greatest Showman), and Leading Showmen of Great Britain. Sales and Commissions conducted in any part of the World. If you want to Buy or Sell anything connected with the Business, consult TOM NORMAN, Auction Office, Manor Farm, Dallington, Sussex.

WANTED, Known, that owing to the Crystal Palace Riding Machines having been withdrawn at the Sale by Auction in London recently, I am prepared to consider offers for the disposal of the same by private treaty. Full particulars, with cards to view, &c., can be obtained from TOM NORMAN, Auction Office, Dallington, Sussex.

WANTED, to Sell, a Road Living Van, by Howcraft, of West Hartlepool, in use 5 years; one set of Harness, and Mare for same. Together or separate; cash. Apply, J. MARCHALL, Trafalgar-street, Coventry.

WANTED, to Sell, a Cinématograph Booth, 50ft. by 30ft., two new Waggons, made by the Gourock Company. To be sold, a bargain. Address, R. SILVESTER, Hippodrome, Barrow.

WANTED, to Sell, a Set of Auction Vans, Telescope, one of the best on the road, New Tent, everything up-to-date. Curio seekers save stamps. Apply, Box 4,164, "Era" Office.

WANTED, to Sell, Panelled Living Wagon, 10ft. by 6ft. 6in., mahogany panels, 22in. wide, skylight, brass fittings, and stove. Price 30s. CLOWES, Varieties, Coleford, Somerset.

WANTED, to Sell or Hire, Portable Electric Light (compound) Engine and Dynamo, in truck, for 30 arcs, with 12 arc lamps and all gear, £225; 1 Electric Light Engine, in truck, by Green, Leeds, £150; 1 Dynamo, Lawrance Scott, Norwich, for 20 arcs, £35; large quantity Cable, &c, &c., 1 Miniature Traction Engine, perfect working model, suitable for stage or advertising purposes, £20. W. REYNOLDS, Engineer, Bedford.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, Husbands, Babies, Love-Letters, Palmistry, Lunatics', Marriage, and Liars' Licences. MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square, W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, Ten Automatic Picture Machines, cost £7 each to manufacture, made in solid oak, polished, very handsome machine, reason for selling, going abroad. Open to offer. Address, AUTOMATIC, 60, Carlisle-street, Edgware-road, London, W.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines of Every Description; Best and Cheapest. WORMALD, 123, Blythe-road, Olympia, Kensington, London. Established 1887.

WANTED, to Sell, Two Handsome State Coaches (the property of the late Duke of Cambridge), excellent advertising medium, together with four-in-hand harness, cheap. K., 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Known, 5 No. 1 Saloon Rifles, in good condition. Will take £2 the 5, cheap at double. WALCOT, 1, Duncan-terrace, Angel, Islington, London.

WANTED, immediately, Small Electric Shooting Gallery and Fishing Pond, for one month, in First-class Exhibition. Hire or sharing terms. Apply, immediately, PHILLIPS, 5, Railway-st., Newport, Mon.

WANTED, to Buy, Set Galloping Horses, second-hand lot, for cash. BERT ELLIS, Stanley-road, Chingford, Essex

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For further particulars and to treat,
apply to the
Liquidator,
Mr. RICHARD OVER,
at the office of the company, 5, Railway-terrace, Rugby.
Dec. 27, 1906.

WANTED, to Sell, ingoing of small Music Hall, with all fittings, including Bioscope machine. Letters, COOK, 9, Salisbury-street, Liverpool.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.

"The Era" Annual, 1906, is welcome as containing carefully compiled lists of the pieces produced during the past year in London, the suburbs, and the provinces, in Paris, and in Berlin. The rest of it is curious and entertaining reading. There is the almanack with its "memorabilia of theatrical events occurrences, &c." There are besides a score of stories and other articles contributed by theatricals a very good one being Miss Louie Freear's set of verses, "'Boy Bob' at Sea," which has humour, feeling, and swing. The book contains many theatrical portraits. As a book of reference the Annual is of great use and value, and while some of its contents doubtless appeal more keenly to the professional than to the outsider, any thoughtful person may derive from its study much amusement and no little insight into the conditions, the magnitude, and the complexity of the English theatre of to-day.—Morning Post, Jan. 22.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.

"The Era" Annual appears once more in its familiar binding, a compendium of information and amusement for all who are interested in theatrical affairs. In the calendar will be found an array of anniversary dates, some recent, some recalling memories of old times and actors and actresses long passed away. The summary of new plays produced during the past year is admirably done, its value being increased by the alphabetical list which is appended. Well-known actors and actresses contribute stories in accordance with a custom justified by its success.—Daily Telegraph, Jan. 18, 1906.

FRED KARNO'S COMPANIES.

GLASGOW. GRAND.
PANTOMIME,
"The House that Jack Built."

Fred Kitchen, The Harmony Four, The 14th Black Hussars, Kirby's Flying Ballet, Miss May Mars, Miss Luna Love, Miss Frances Kapstowne, Sisters Hopkins, Little Maudie Francis, Wee Mona, Bob Sloan, Fred. Whittaker, Helier Le Maistre, Miss Genevera Tree, Harry Lappo, supported by a chorus and ballet of 150 performers.
Produced by HAROLD L. HILLIARD,
Under the personal supervision of FRED KARNO.
General-Manager, Mr. J. B. HELM; Stage-Director, Mr. T. ELLIS-BUXTON; Stage-Manager, Mr. KENNETH MACLEOD; Musical-Director, Mr. HENRY HENDERSON. AN ENORMOUS SUCCESS.

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PALACE. **"Moses and Sons."**

Messrs. Albert Bruno, Herbert Landeck, Anthony Gordon, J. Springsohn, Nat Lewis, Bernard Katz, Gipsy Dolin, H. Myers, Phil Sinclair, D. Asher, W. Davis, N. Goodman, B. Hart, Frank Lester, F. Westcott, M. Rutherford, E. H. Carl, Harry E. Stafford, L. Banjamin, Fred Bentley, Misses Aggie Morris, Janet Reeve, Madge Rockingham, Ethel Boyce, Rosa Abrahams, Lydia Weber, Leah Holland, Bertha Hymans, Kate Hymans, Blanche Newmann, Etty Ray, E. Silve, B. Asher, C. Gordon, M. Crammonde.
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Musical Director, S. CLARKE RICHARDSON.

MOTHERWELL.
NEW CENTURY THEATRE.
"His Majesty's Guests"

Messrs. Dick Kitchen, Frank Morton, Harry Howe, Tom Manardo, Alec Munro, Sydney Bolton, Charles Usher, B. Moore, S. Gossing, Frank Douglas, Mike Johnson, Misses Leonora Castelle, Kitty Brunton, Chloey Johnson, Margaret Ruby, Daisy Hester, Edith Ager, Amy Hermance, Marjorie Gossling, Maud Darrell, E. Terry, J. Hylton, K. Elthorn, G. Moore.
Manager, Mr. HARRY A. DOOLEY.
Musical-Director, Mr. F. H. J. MORAN.

AMERICA, U.S.
POLI THEATRE. SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
"Smoking Concert."

Messrs. Billie Reeves, George Welch, Will Stanley, Charles Emerald, Jack Osborne, Reed Almonti, Will Crackles, J. Aubrey, W. Fern, Bert Clark, Misses Mabelle Welsh, Minna Dixon, Amy Minister.
Manager, Mr. A. REEVES.

DUBLIN.
EMPIRE. **"Saturday to Monday."**

Messrs. C. W. Matthews, James Fletch, Fred Palmer, J. W. Bradbury, Dick Harcourt, Victor H. Crawford, T. McDonough, George Cooper, C. Herbert Summers, Sydney Lansdown, Bertie Crew, W. Lawrence, E. Pablo, Misses Amy Rogerson, Ada Maskell, Daisy Stone, Lucy Walden, Kathleen Dennis, Valetta Rushton, Muriel Palmer, Louie Arnold.
Manager, Mr. LYNDON GREENWOOD.
Musical-Director, Mr. A. D'ALBERT.

BELFAST.
EMPIRE. **"Early Birds."**

Messrs. James Le Fre, Bob Lewis, Chas. Wragg, Bert Williams, Will Moran, Frank Melroyd, Will Lorenzi, George Craig, E. B. Giles, jun., Geo. Farnley, Ernest Stone, B. Dean, Misses Marie Dayton, Sara Dudley, Louie Decubas, Marjorie Williams, Rosie Mayville.
Manager, CHAS. SEWELL.

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Special production of the Famous Old-Time RICHARDSON'S SHOW.

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Manager, Mr. J. M. JONES.

MANCHESTER.
PALACE. **"The Football Match,"**

Messrs. Harry Weldon, Ernie Myers, Robb Gilmore, Will Poluski, jun., Brien McCullough, Bertie White, Jack Royal, Jack Murray, A. E. Johnstone, John E. Doyle, Alec Thomas, Mark Milton, Miss Lily Lonsdale, Miss Eunice Bell, Ethel Milton, supported by the Karno Troupe of comedians and pantomimists, Arthur Forrest, Jimmy Russell, Sydney Chaplin, Fred Bendo, Chas. Sivado, and Miss Amy Forrest, and two real first-class football teams, comprising well-known football players selected from the leading clubs of the United Kingdom, including W. C. Athersmith (late Aston Villa), Jas. W. Crabtree (ditto), Fred Spikesley (late Sheffield Wednesday), and chorus and auxiliaries of over a hundred artists. Manager, ARTHUR FORREST.

Members of the Profession will perhaps be pleased to know that I have succeeded in my action in the American Courts for Pirating my Sketch, "Mumming Birds." Intending Pirates will please note that I intend to take the most stringent action against offenders in this respect.

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CALLS FOR MONDAY, JAN. 7, 1907.

Wires: "Twigsome, London"

THE LONDON HIPPODROME.

"Treasure Ship in Fairy Seas," Chung Ling Soo, Tschernoff's Dogs, Cruikshank, The Kremos, Maningos, The Tupps, Rio Brothers, Selma Braatz, Marzella's Birds, Morris and Vincent, Althoffs, Chronomegaphone, Lavater Lee.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal at 1.30 for :—
Mdme. Esty and Co., "Crystal Gazing, Ethel Ra Leslie, Mdme. De Dio, Prince Kokin, Five Bogannys, Petram Sisters, Harry Drew, Sisters Brenton, Bioscope.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
"The Freaks," Bioscope, Macarte Sisters, Harry Russon, Alma Grey, Two Bostons, Anartos, Hilda Jacobson, J. W. Rowley.

ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
"Our Curate," Bioscope, Elsie Bernard, Illustrated Song, Chas. Mildare, Hale and Francis, Alexandra Edwin, Lilieth Leyton and Co., Griffin and Dubois.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
"Rob Roy," Bioscope, "House Full" Co., Esta Stella, Conway and Leland, Frank Darwin, Gertrude Bradshaw, Seven Perezoffs, The Allisons, Madge Gray.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
The Dandies, Jimmy Shields, Griff and Alpha, G. W. Hunter, Paulinetti and Piquo, "Rogues of the Turf," Nina Gordon, Russell Brandon, Bioscope, Gus Dallon, Gordon.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Happy Holland," Clarice Netta, Dan Conroy, Edie Veno, Mason and Bart, Mr. and Mrs. Lucas, Kelly and Ashby, Carlos Cæsaro, Horace Jones.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"La Vivandiere," Paxton Trio, Bellonini, Princess Pauline, Stavordale Quartette, Coloured Meisters, Ruth Doris, Alice Maydue, Bioscope, Frazer and Mac.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Three Olympiers, Browning and Wally, Sam Elton, Boyd and Gilfain, Pat Carey, La Danseuse, The Meymotts, Cambrian Trio, George Gilbey, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Dick Turpin," Syd May, Harry Clifford, Stein Eretto Troupe, Prof. Vox, Two Butterflies, Clarke and Glenny, Solari Duo, Marie Empress, Barrington.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"The Magic Carpet," Bioscope, George Newburn, Zanfretta and Napio, Three Merrils, Harry Lawson, Marie Duma, Lindon's Vaudeville Co., Strassberger's Lilliputians.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
"Bo Peep," Bioscope, Sisters Grovini, Vetter Bros., Torbay, Fred Elton, Little Tichbourn, Huxter Bros.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
J. F. Elliston's Co., in "Puss in Boots."

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"The Earthquake," Frank Harwood, Rosie Archer, Genaro and Theol, Lyons Trio, Lee and Kingston, De Wynne Bros., Pat Rafferty, Los Granadas, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
A. Van Biene and Co., Ike Scott and Son, Orpheus, Gladys Mavius, Newhouse and Ward, Karno Four, Peggy Pryde, "Lily of Killarney," Illustrated Song, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
The Boy Army, Laurie's Kindergartens, Selbini Troupe, Sadie Simpson, Sisters Anderson, Alice May and Co., Allan Hanbury, Ray Maskell, Bros. Webb, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
"The Skirmishers," Prof. Dunning, Kahn and Kahn, Verno and Voyce, The Findens, Sisters Geretti, Les Voces, Jack Camp, Punch and Judy Girls, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Ernest Shand, Lilian Lowe, Vasilescu Troupe, Lennie and Hast, Kate Traill, Billy McClain and Co., Three Tauberts, Wyndham, "The Yellow Fang," Bisocope.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Madge Lessing, Dot Hardy, Michael Nolan, Agnes Hazel, Four Royal Welshmen, Burns and Burns, The Robertys, The Bandurrias, Matthew Brodie and Co., Bioscope, Alf Thomas.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Frank and Jen Latona, Mascotte Trio, Hurley and Cole, Jordan and Harvey, Holden's Marionettes, Theo Hardeen, Sylvesta, Dusty Rhodes, Chas. Robinson, Bioscope.

PHILHARMONIC HALL, ST. MARY-STREET, CARDIFF.
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EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Tom Costello, Frobel and Ruge, Three Ramoniers, Young De Voie, Percy Honri, James Brady, Jeannie Mackay, Kitty Marion, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Harry Anderson, Winnie Derson, Three Guitanos, Northern Troupe, Wilson and Waring, The Ohms, Alexander, Bioscope, Tom Lytton.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
The Leopold Troupe, The Saphos, Matweef Troupe, Sybil St. Elmo, Carney and Armstrong, Speedwell, Harold Hughman, Six Primrose Girls, Bioscope, Maxford and O'Neil.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
La Milo, Ernesto, Die Schultzenlieserlyn, Schenk Bros., Lily Tiso, Hetty Chattell, Buddha's Blackboard, John Le Hay and Co., Bioscope.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Nilsson's Flying Ballet, Herr Fritz, Renard Trio, Harry Coates, "A Bolt from the Blue," May Orchard, Johnson and Bert, Schwartz Bros., Bioscope, Rosina Caselli.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 11 for :—
"The Flood," Bioscope, Strolling Players, Illustrated Song, Lena Willard, Wotpert Trio, William Gourlay, Albertus and Millar, Phil and Nettie Peters.

SIR EDWARD MOSS'S ANNUAL CARNIVAL,
WAVERLEY MARKET, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal at 10 a.m., for
Paul Conchas, Prof. Duncan's Dogs, Spissel Bros. and Mack, Spessardy's Bears, Sauteron Wonders, Heeley and Meeley, Techow's Cats, Burrows and Burton, and all artists, side shows, &c., engaged.

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Karno's "Saturday to Monday," Kathleen Radford, Pictures, Arthur Lloyd Trio, Chas. Pastor, Lily Esplin, Hall and Earle.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Karno's "Early Birds," Katie Cohen, Bros. Hayes, Pictures, Harry Leybourne, Jess Thorne, Albert Christian, Baker and Balfe.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Wal Pink's "Repairs," Hettie Lee, Rumbo Austin, Three Sisters Chester, Picitt and Lizette, Pictures, Rene Best, Cliff Ryland.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.
Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Kathleen Cogan, Geo. Payne and Co., Harry Harte, Fitzroys, Spencer and Marks, Pictures, Menotti.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Abdullah Arabs, Walter King, Spry and Austin, George Westland, Bioscope, Raie Walters, Two Cromwells, Norman Leonard Trio.

THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
George Victor, H. J. Kisbey, Tom Yorke, V. L. Granville, Richardson Taylor, Lily Burnand, Queenie May, Millie Payne, Bessie Benson, Frank Bernard and Co., in "Hello," The Monktons, The Bransbys, Otto and Olga, Musical Sylvo, Pictures.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Both performances: "Moses and Son," Lily Burnand, Will Van Allan, Wolmer Young, Dixon Sisters, The Brontes, Athas and Collins, Derenda and Green, Percival, Pictures.

EMPIRE, COVENTRY.
Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
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Harry Tate's Co., Talbot and Pierce, Imperial Russian Troupe, J. A. Wilson, Carina Sisters, Henry A. Moore, Monte Myro Troupe, Marguerite Ismay, Bioscope.

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Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras (Fifteen for those engaged at the London Coliseum). Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, or at least TWO WEEKS, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagement cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

N.B.—Silence in every case a polite negative. Artists are requested not to enclose stamped envelope. Letters marked "Private" will be delayed.

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"CHEYENNE,"
"I CAN SEE RED ROSES BLOOMING,"
"BOY BLUE,"
"COME BACK TO BORNEO,"
"IN MY PAGODA,"
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"HENNY KLEIN,"
"IT IS THE SCARECROW,"
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Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns.

Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not re-booked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follows :—

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HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.
John Tiller and Co. in "Aladdin," Dick Kendall, Fioretti and Ely, Pictures, Victoria Monks.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.
Nat Clifford, Ida Ross, Sam Morrison, Starr and Jerome, Tennyson and Wallis, Adams and Ward, Chas. Cardow, Mabel Le Roy, Pictures, Wild, Willie and West.

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Lydia Yeamans, T. W. Royal, A. E. Clifford, Ada Parker, Villions, Bros. Kragg, Rogers and Weston, Harold Parkes, Pictures, Martelloni Troupe.

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READ THEM! READ THEM?
Then wire for Copies and Permission FREE!

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Big hit.—LUNA LOVE, Grand, Glasgow.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Went enormously; great hit to-night.—ETHEL CAMPBELL, Princess's, Glasgow.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Audience sing immediately.—FLORRIE BRAY, Lyceum, Newport.

"ISLE OF ANGLESEY." Terrific success.—ANNIE PURCELL, Cardiff.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Encored.—EDW. LEWIS, Theatre Royal, Birmingham.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Double encore.—EMMA DON, County Theatre, Reading.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Splendid encore.—GLADYS HUXLEY, Theatre Royal, Nottingham.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." A great success.—ROSIE SYLVESTER, Borough Theatre, Stratford.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Terrific hit here.—RENAD BROS., Grand, Hull.

"ISLE OF ANGLESEY." Very big success.—LULU LOUDEN, Theatre Royal, Exeter.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Going great here.—LILY MAXWELL, Grand, Woolwich.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Great hit; encored.—MARION MAY, Dalston Theatre.

"NELSON FROM HIS MONUMENT." The success of the Pantomime.—LILY IRIS, Prince's, Poplar.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Terrific success.—BEATTIE KENT, King's Theatre, Gateshead.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Big success.—LILIAN LEA, King's, Sunderland.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON" and "NELSON FROM HIS MONUMENT." Great success.—DAISY MORELL, Ashton-under-Lyne.

"NELSON FROM HIS MONUMENT." Terrific success.—MAUDE BEAUMONT, Manchester.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." The hit of our Pantomime.—SPRIGHTLY, Broadway, New Cross.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Taken up heartily by audience.—EMILY CUSTANCE, Metropole, Devonport.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Big success.—MAUDIE VINCENT, Grand, Mansfield.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Going fine.—ISABEL DILLON, Blackpool.

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FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, JAN. 7, 1907.

PROVINCIAL CIRCUIT.

SPECIAL NOTICE.
Rehearsal at all Halls, Monday, at 12-0 sharp.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Silbon's Circus, Cissie Coman, D. W. Watson, Two Sprees, Percival and Morley, Pallister's Bioscope, Blanche and Diacoff.

PALACE, LINCOLN.
Silvertone Quartette, Ethel Yorke, Johnny Holland's Co., Virto, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Gus Hindell, Donnas Trio, Francis and Alfred.

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Fred Suthern and Co., Harry Vardon, Carrie Victoria, Pallister's Bioscope, Chee-you-say Family.

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PALACE, BRADFORD.
Grant and Grant, Counsell and Mills, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Fred. Land, Takio, Harwood's Juveniles, Gicardo, Gondolier Glee Singers, Dora Lyric.

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Yukio Tani, Learto, Rohda Bros., Miss Florence, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Dan Robans, Four Maisanos, Rose Elliott, Lillie Soutter.

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THE BRITANNIA.
Matinée Monday.
Vandyke Troupe, Bertha Winder, Edward Ranier and Co., The Cardiffs, Raymond, Fred Casburn, Cissie Dryden, Will Bacchus, Willie Gardener, Mich Whittington Co.

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Matinées Monday and Thursday.
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SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
Fred Maxwell and Co., Californian Girls, Ettenas, Horace Monto, Jock Walker, T. C. Jacques, Raymond, Leslie Bell and Co., Susie Marney, Ashbey and Moore, Vaudeville Co.

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WILLIAM H. SNOW,
Town Clerk.

Southend-on-Sea,
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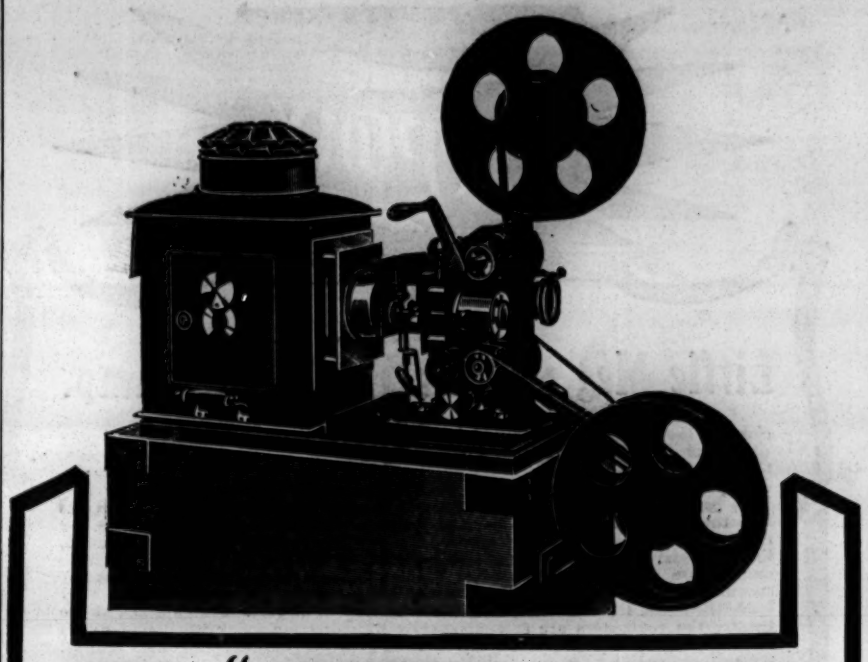

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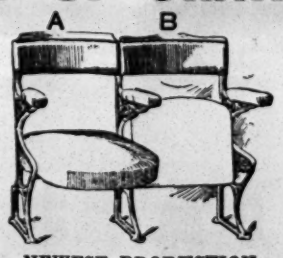

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Alphabetically Arranged—Limited to Three Lines.

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ACHMED IBRAHIM'S GREAT Troupe of Ten Bedouin Arabs. The genuine Success. Jan. 7, Cirque Métropole, Paris.

ACMES, THE, Musical Speciality. This week and next, Poole's Myriorama, Town Hall, Reading.

AKBAR, Gymnast; BELLA LEABURN, Comedienne, Vacant Jan. 21, 28. Address, Hippodrome, Lowestoft.

ALBANO TROUPE, Own Company, Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.

ALBERTO TROUPE, Head, Hand, and Wire Equilibrists. This, Palace, Gloucester; next, Palace, Porth, South Wales.

ALBINI, LIEUT., Mysterious Lady in Black. Great Laughing Hit. Hippo., Putney. Return Feb. 4. TOM SHAW and Co.

ALEXANDER'S, JOHN, Burlesque Company. Grand Theatre, Bolton.

ALMERO, of Aerial Norwegian Spar Fame, also smart wire act. Agricultural Hall, London. Vacant Feb. 25. Offers invited.

ALVANTEE, King of the Slanting Wire. Finish Ohmy's Circus to-night; opens Monday Olympia, Sunderland. Liberty Jan. 21.

AMBER, ALLEN, as Maudie, Ugly Sister, Chas. Chard's Panto., Theatre Royal, Stockport. Mon. next, T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne.

ANDREWS, MISS DOLLY, the Rising Star. This, New Tivoli, Liverpool. Coms., 6, Grosvenor-rd., Hoylake. Open to Buy Songs.

ANTILL, GEO. I Lead, Others Follow. "Over the Sea," by Percival Lanley, P.F.D.H. Monday, Palace, Porth.

ARIEL and ASTARTE, Smartest and Prettiest of all Gymnastic Pot-Pourri Acts. Jan. 14, Gaiety, Glasgow. Free Feb. 17.

ARTHUR, FRED. Instantaneous Success, the Sultan, one opinion only—great. "Sinbad." Gaiety T. Dublin.

ASHDOWN, PERCY, Author-Composer and First-class Arranger. 56, Clapham-road, S.W. Happy New Year to all.

ASHLEY, BROS. "Next, Please." Argyle, Birkenhead; 7th, Hippodrome, Paisley. G. BARCLAY and FORTUNE and GRANVILLE.

ASHTON, DAN, Collier's Song Scena and Stump Orator, Vacant Monday, 7th, 14th. Wire, Empire, Wrexham. See Artists' Wants.

ATLAS, the Beautiful MISS VULCANA. SISTERS ATLAS, the Society Athletes. Emp., Portsmouth. Require 14th.

AUBREY, STAN, Comedian. Ye Baron, in "Cinderella." This, T. R., Rotherham; Jan. 7, T. R., Attercliffe.

BALDRY, H. CURLINE, Manager, Disengaged Shortly. Address, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy, S. Wales.

BANDON, SID, Metropolitan and Chelsea. Enormous success of "Chums," by Alf Ellerton.

BANDONI, One Man Band, and Original Concertina King, Palace, Porth. Monday, Palace, Gloucester.

BARD, GRACIE, Pretty and Refined Coon Delineator. Concludes Grand, Gravesend; Mon., Middlesex. Thanks D. HART.

BARKER, BROS., Comedians and Patterers. Vacant Jan. 7, 14. Wire, 118, Embden-st., Hulme, Manchester.

BARKER, MR. HARRY, Hit at Gaiety, Birmingham. Jan. 7, Hippo., Scarboro'. Thanks for New Year contracts.

BARTHOLOMEW, SISTERS, The Bright and Attractive Pair. Second Boy and Girl, Grand, Islington.

BAYNE and HOPE (Ronald and Evelyn), in "An Emperor's Divorce" and "David Garrick." H., Hastings.

BEATRICE, SISTERS (NELLIE and MAY), Duettists and Dancers. Next, P., Bow. Vacant Feb. 11. 35, Florence-st., Islington, N.

BEAUMONT, MISS M., Principal Boy, Rotunda, Liverpool. Offers invited 1907-8.

BELFORD and MARS, Comedy Duo, "The Postman and the Maid," "The Singing Master," &c. Jan. 7, P., Gloucester.

BELLA and BIJOU, Society Entertainers. Address, care of "The Era."

BELLONINI, WALTER, Address, On Tour.

BELROSE and DE VELIN, "Cinderella" Panto., T. R., Hull. Parts and Speciality. Vacant Feb. 25.

BENSON, BESSIE, in a Refined Singing and Dancing Act. This, Palace, East Ham. Jan. 7, Granville, Walham Green.

BENT, HARRY, the Mimic; also CARLOTTA LUNN. Monday, Palace, Gloucester.

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BERNARDO, Idiotic Juggler. Monday, Palace Theatre, Plymouth.

BEVERLEY, NORA, Vocalist. Jan. 7, Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield.

BIGLOW, DAN, Comedian. Shacabac, Lester Collingwood's "Blue Beard," success. This, T. R., Bury; next, Blackburn. Songs wanted.

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BLANCHE and DIACOFF, Original Cycle Act, This Week, Sadler's Wells, Seventh Return; Next Pavilion, Leicester.

BLARNEY and KENNARD, Terrific Success, as Ruffians, "Babes in Wood," T. R., Croydon. Complimented by Samuel James, Esq.

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BODEY BROS., Triple Bar Gymnasts, Vacant, Mnoday, 10, Fillwood-road, Fishponds, Bristol.

BONNIE, BEATRICE, Principal Boy, New Gaiety Theatre, Leith, Edinburgh.

BOSANQUET, Empire, Islington. Jan. 7, Palace, Plymouth. Cheered to the echo at the Etoile Palace, Paris; engaged to return.

BOSTOCK, N. C., and NELLIE ELLIENE, Two Star Turns. Vacant Jan. 7. Wire, 163, Hardshaw-street, St. Helens.

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BOURNE, LITTLE TICH, This, King's, Longsight; next, Palace, Bordesley. All coms., DUDLEY LESTER.

BOWERY BOYS, THE, Comedians. a Genuine Success, Captain and Mate, Panto., Grand T., Southampton.

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BRADLEY, HARRY, and LAURA TRUMAN. When motoring, call at Red Lion Hotel, Costock, between Not'gham and Loughboro'.

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CAINE, ANDIE, Principal Comedian, R. Arthur's Panto., Her Majesty's, Dundee.

CAMBO, the Musical Monkey. Vacant 14th. Address, 59, Urquhart-road, Aberdeen.

CAMERON, LOUDOUN, The Celebrated Conjurer, "The Superior Performer." Till Jan. 12, Albert Hall, Swansea.

CAMERONS, THE (JIM and MARIE), Refined, Original Comedy Artists, Dec. 31, Palace, Kilmarnock; Jan. 7, Pavilion, Greenock.

CARNEY, J. H., Comedian, the Man of Many Characters. Next, E., Rochdale. At Lib. Jan. 21, 28. Opening for Funny Songs.

CAREY, MR. PAT, Ireland's Representative, Empire Palace, Bradford.

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CARLTON, HENRY, The popular comedian, in his famous evening dress comedy, "One Night Only," E., Rochdale.

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CHARD'S DOG CIRCUS, Panto., "Dick Whittington," Metropole Theatre, Devonport. Free Jan. 21.

CHARNLEYS, THE, thank F. Denman Wood, Esq., for offer of Re-engagement, Panto., '07-'08. Mon., Theatre Royal, Stockport.

CHEERS, THE, with Their Wonderful Performing Cats. Special Scenery, Chimes. This, Alhambra, Edinburgh; next, Em., Paisley.

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CONWAY, HUGH, Character Comedian; LIL DE LAUR, Serio, Ballad, and Descriptive Vocalist. Vacant Jan. 28, on. A., Scarboro'.

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CORNISH, WILL, in his Unique Musical Bell Act. This week, Emp., Islington; next, Empire, Holborn.

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COYLE, MR. FRANK, in a Class by Himself, the Continuous Comedian. Dec. 31, Tivoli, South Shields; Jan. 7, Palace, Aberdeen.

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CULLEN and CARTHY, and LITTLE CLULEY. Robbers, "Babes in the Wood." Hippodrome, Stockton.

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DALY, MADGE, Usual Success, Principal Boy, Theatre, Motherwell. Monday next, Ayr.

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DANIELS, THE TWO, Happy Negro Comedians and Expert Dancers. Require Jan. 28. Address, Empire Theatre, Hull.

D'AUBYN, MINNIE, Playing Prince in "Cinderella," with Great Success at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham.

DAUNTON-SHAW TROUPE, Australian Cyclists. Monarchs of the Wheel, in Pantomime. Jan. 7, Royal, Jarrow.

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DAYTON FAMILY, THE, Tivoli, Manchester.

DE HENAU and MLLE. ALADINA, Phenomenal Marvellous Painter, and Cockatoos. Town Hall Theatre, Falkirk.

DELEVINES, THE, New Act, "Flipp and Flopp." Hippodrome, Paisley.

DENE and DAWSON, "Stage Aspirants." One long laugh. P., Porth; next, Grand, Hanley. Please note, this act is ours.

DENT, BERT, Manager, Barnard's Palace, Greenwich, S.E. Palace Buffet open on Sundays.

DE ROSE, MDLLE, J. H. HAWTREY, Principal Boy. Malicio. Grand Theatre, Middlesbrough.

DE VOY, HURST, and FREDERICKS, Jan. 7, 1907, Empire, Dudley. Liberty Jan. 22, North.

DICK and DOROTHY, Speciality Artists. Dec. 31, Palace, Derby; Jan. 7, Barnard's, Chatham. Agent, B. HENDERSON, Esq.

DILLONS, BOUNCING, Dec. 31, Grand Theatre of Varieties, Stockton-on-Tees; Jan. 7, Palace Theatre, Grimsby.

DIXON, CHARLEY, KATE LYND, Thank all for best wishes. All letters, en route, or per. 69, Roan-street, Greenwich, S.E.

DOLLY, AGNES, and MAUD, The Factory Nightingales. Starring London. Two Halls Nightly. Ad., 286, Kingsland-rd., N.E.

DOMINOS, TWO, Clown and Donkey. Enormous Success Hengler's Circus, London. All Coms., 71, Kennington-road, London.

DONNAS TRIO, THE, Balancing Trapeze Act. Mon. next, Lincoln Palace. Agency, R. Cass, 30, Maiden-lane, Strand.

DORRIS, MISS RUTH, Gigantic Success, Olympia, Liverpool. Monday, Jan. 7, Empire, Leeds.

DOUGLAS and GORDON, "Scotch and Polly," Jan. 7, Hippodrome, Ipswich.

DOYLE and GIBSON, Comedians, Levy and Cardwell's Panto., Colosseum, Oldham. Agent, H. BURNS, Hartlepool.

DRYDEN, CISSIE, Macnaghten London Circuit. Agents, FORTUNE and GRANVILLE.

D'S, TWO (D'Argan and Dene), Luncheon à la Magique. Q., Castleford. Perm. ad., 1, Hawkins-st., Camp-rd., Leeds.

DU BARRIE, SISTERS, Male Impersonators and Expert Dancers, the only two of their kind travelling. Jan. 7, Paisley.

DUNCAN and MORTON. "Aint we popular?" Success as Chinese Policemen. Next, King's T., Sutton-in-Ashfield.

DUNDAS, DOROTHY, Charming Vocalist. Dec. 31, Hippo., Maidstone.

DUNDAS, F. H., Actor-Vocalist. Vacant Monday. Wire for a Turn. Hippodrome, Hulme, Manchester.

DUNNING, and KAHN and KAHN, Great success, Empire, Holloway. Monday, Empire, New Cross.

DURHAM'S, FRED, Variety Agency. Telephone, 15 Brixton. 1A, Lougborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

DU ROCHE, MDLLE., Principal Boy, "Robinson Crusoe" Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Bradford.

DYSON, MISS LAURA, Specially Engaged to Tour Moss and Stoll Empires. Empire, Nottingham.

ELFREDA, LILL, London's Greater Star Mimic.—Gibbons. Tremendous Success, Blackpool; next, Paragon and Holborn Empire.

ELLA'S, MISS, Best Existing Lion Show. Jan. 7, Regent Theatre, Salford.

ELLERTON, A., Author. Dunville's "Swimmer." Little Tich's "Twenty-Third"; Sheridan's "Mottoes." 90, Vassal-rd., Brixton.

ELLIOTTS and SAVONAS, Musicians, Cyclists, &c. Empire, Wolverhampton.

ELSWORTHY, MISS DOLLY, Sole Proprietress, "Orange Girl" Company. Next week, Duchess, Balham.

ELTON and ELMA, Comedy Bar Act, Dottridge and Longden's Panto., "Robinson Crusoe." Empire Theatre, Oldham.

ELVIRA, AMY, Burlesque Artist. Permanent Address, 67, Swinton-st., London, W.C.

EPLETT, JESSIE, Character Vocalist, Solo Drummer, and Expert Dancer, Sure Success Everywhere. Hippo., Lowestoft. C/o "Era."

ERNESTINE TROUPE, Re-engaged by Director Blache, one month, Alcazar, Dijon, France. Toujours Success.

ESCALADERS, THREE, Dec. 24 and 31, Theatre Royal, Worthing. Jan. 7 next, Theatre Royal, Colchester.

ESDALE BROS., Comedians. Enormous Success, Park Palace, Liverpool. Vacant Monday. Wire, 33, Shaw-street, Liverpool.

EUSTACE, FRED, "Our Curate." Jan. 7, Hippodrome, Glasgow.

EVILO, IDA, Novel Trapeze Act, To-night, Regent, Salford. Lib. Jan 7, on. Add., 34, Tilton-rd., Small-heath, Birmingham.

FAME, PEGGY, Monday, Hippodrome, Wakefield. New Songs in preparation. One must be original for others to copy, eh?

FARRELL and GORMAN, Musical Eccentrics. Jan. 7, Theatre Royal, Glossop.

FAWN, MISS ADA, Monday Next, Jan. 7, Hippo., Queen's Park. Big Success, "Rosebud," by Will Letters, Esq.

FERINA and HITCHINS, "Pity the Blind" and "Motor Muddle." Vacant next week, to precede Putney. Wire, Empire, Llanelly.

FIMANS, THE, Captain and Mate, Milton Bode's "Dick Whittington," New Theatre, Cambridge.

FITZROYS, THE, Society Gymnasts, Empire, Merthyr.

FONTAINBLEAU'S Famous Troupe of Dogs. Tremendous success daily. Agricultural Hall, London. Jan. 7, King's Hall, Westcliffe.

FORD, MISS RAY, Big Success on my return Hippo., Ipswich; next week, Central Hall, Sheffield. Thanks Lily Woolf.

FORD, SISTERS, Second Boy and Girl, Dan Thomas's "Aladdin." Conclude, Alhambra, Brighton; Mon., Hippo., Eastbourne.

FORREST'S, EDGAR, COMEDY COMPANY. Big Success, Palace, Northampton. Monday, Hippodrome, Maidstone.

FORTUNE and GRANVILLE, Savoy House, 115, Strand, London, W.C. Telegrams, "Waggishly." 'Phone, 1,309 Gerrard.

FRASETTIS, LES, Croydon and Standard. 1, Fieldsway-house, Highbury, N.

FREDRICKS, CARL, and YA PYN KETO FAMILY, Emp. and Stage-Manager, "Aladdin," King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

FRENCH'S, GEORGE, TROUPE, and THE SNOW FAMILY, on Tour. For Terms and Dates, 14, Second-av., Queen's Pk., London, W.

GANNON, NELLIE, Concludes Lancaster. Monday, Hippo., Wakefield. H. W. ditto. Watch us both.

GENTRYS, Refined Comedy Artists, in Mirth, Music, Dancing, and Acrobats. All coms., Theatre, Crystal Palace, S.E.

GERMAINE, the Wizard, Open. C/o "The Era" Office.

GINGER the Shoeblack, Ventriloquially Introduced by VENO THE VENT. New, Novel, Ventriloquial Scena.

GOLD, HARRY, Comedian. with Kloof and Fields, "Aladdin" Panto., playing Emp. and Specs. Letters, see Back Page.

GRAHAM, the Human Marionette, 'Phone, 849 Brixton. Business representative, GEO. BARCLAY.

GRANADAS, LOS, A Big Hit on the Moss and Stoll Tour. Monday, New Olympia, Liverpool.

GRANT and ALLEN, Pantomime. Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

GRAPHO and JACKSON, "Ye Ruffians." Lyceum Theatre, Glasgow. Third week.

GRAY, GEORGE, GRAY, GEORGE. V.A.F. No. 2000. V.A.F.

GREEN, MR. TOM, Latest Picture, "Punch and Judy." 106, Fairholme-road, Croydon.

GRENFELL, MISS EDITH, with own Sketch, "A Case for Recession."

GRIFFEN, WATTY, the Flexible Marvel. Big Success, Donkey and Speciality. G. T., Derby. Lib. March 4, also Panto., 1907-8.

GROVINI, THREE SISTERS, Famous Acrobats. Monday, Bordesley Palace, Birmingham.

HALL, J. W., Grand, Bolton.

HAMPSON, CHARLIE, Grotesque Act. Dogs and Pigeons. Victoria T., Stanley, Durham. FORTUNE and GRANVILLE, NEIMAN and Co.

HANDEL and LEE, Artistic Musical Act, Re-engaged Owing to Success Another Week, Montgomery Hall, Sheffield. Free 14th.

HANVARR and ANNA LEE, "The Golfer and the Maid." Theatre Royal, Oldham.

HARRIS and WORTH, "Jack the Giant Killer," Grand T., Falkirk, N.B.

HART and CO., Dramatic and Variety Agents. 7, Lancaster-house, Rushcroft-rd., Brixton. Tele., 116 Brixton.

HARVEY BOYS, Enormous Success, "That Was Me," Canterbury and Euston.

HASTINGS, CLARA, Refined Songstress, recalled nightly; 3 songs each house. Empire, Hull. Next, Hippo., Wakefield.

HAYDEE, London Halls. 53, Third-avenue, Manor Park.

HAYES, LILY, Clever Young Comedienne and Dancer. Great success at Wigan Hip. This, Stoke Hip.; next, Lanc. Hip.

HENDERSON, FAMOUS, Blind Musical Genius. Mon., Friday, V. T., W. Stanley; Sat., Harmonic Concerts, Glasgow.

HERALD COMEDY FOUR, Tivoli, Grimsby. Vacant, Jan. 14. Wire, Wire, Wire.

HERBERT, FRED, Premier Topical Vocalist. Palace, Bristol.

HILL, ROWLAND, Principal Comedian in "Puss in Boots," the Success of the Pantomime Season. G. T., Hull.

HINTON and WOOTON, Vacant Monday through Stalybridge changing. Address Market-place, Willenhall, Staffs.

HOWARDS, THE (RALPH & NELLIE), Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Hanley.

HOWELLS, MR. ARCHIE, Musical Director, Canterbury, Westminster Bridge-rd. Many Thanks to Mendel for Presentation.

HULBERT, Ventriloquist, and DE LIL, Illusionist. Vacant Jan. 28, on. Two Smart Acts. Mon., Corn Ex., Berwick-on-Tweed.

HUMBER, FANNIE, Concludes Liverpool. Jan. 7, Tivoli, Grimsby.

HUNTER, G. W., Comedian and Raconteur. Jan. 7, Empire, Newcastle.

HUXTER, THREE BROS., Talented, Artistic, and Refined. Jan. 7, Palace, Bordesley.

HYMACK, MR. Empire Theatre, Leicester-square, W.C. Second Month.

IRIS, MAMIE, an ideal Red Riding Hood, dainty, neat, and smart. Royal Theatre, Chester.

IRIS, MISS LILY, 26, Buckingham Palace-mansions, Westminster.

IVES, SAM, the Unequalled Ball-Puncher, Touring India. Genuine Success. Vac. June 24, on. Coms., c/o Thom. Cook, Bombay.

JAMES, CHAS. A., Waxworks and Varieties, 30, Henry-street, Dublin. Always openings for Novelties.

JAYS, THE TWO, Patter Comedians. Dec. 31, big success, Tiv., Manchester. Vacant, Monday. Wire.

JOEL, ELSA, Vocalist, Jan. 14, Euston. Tremendous success in new Double Act. FOSTER, or ASHTON'S.

JONES, MARIE, Most Versatile Protean Actress. Proprietors and Agents see this act. Jan. 7, Hip., Crouch End.

JONES, THEODORE, Touring "Jack Sheppard" and "Prodigal's Return." Wanted, Jan. 14 and 21. Jan. 7, Queen's, Poplar.

JOSEPHINE, MISS (Sister to Mdlle. Lucretia). Princess Charming, and a charming Princess too. Opera House, Dudley.

JUDGE, SISTERS, with their marvellous performing Cockatoos, Parrots, and Macaws. P. P., Portsmouth.

KAIL, ALBERT, Comedian and Dancer, Big Success, Panto., Lyceum, Sheffield.

KAY, CHARLES, Success, "A Muddled Melody." Last Week, Hippo., Glasgow; this, Empire, Edinburgh. BLANCHARD'S Agency.

KEENE, BILLY, & JESSIE ADAMS, Terrific Success with the Society Pierrot Party, Touring through India. Success everywhere.

KEIR (DONALD) and KEMPTON (MABEL), Premier Vocal Duettists. This, Hippo., Dewsbury; next, Hippo., Lancaster.

KEITHS, THE ORIGINAL MUSICAL, (CARLINA and CHARLIE), Monday, Jan. 7, Gaiety, Glasgow.

KIARO, JULES, the World's Champion Hand Jumper and Pyramidist. Jan. 7, Tivoli, Dublin. Vacant Jan. 14, Feb. 4, March 4.

KYOTO, the Original One. MAY GERALDINE, Comedienne, Success, Hippo., Tony-y-Pandy. Jan. 7, G., Chatham. Vac. Jan. 14.

LA MARA, CHUMMIE, No vacancies. Coms., 120 Royal-road, Kennington Park, S.E.

LAMBERT and GLOVER (late Comedy Theatre, London. Enormous Success of "The Wrong Room." Address, Grand Theatre, Halifax.

LAROLA, the Funny Man with Funny Ways. This, Birkenhead; Monday, Merthyr. Agents, BARCLAY and Co.

LASSAH, LILLIE, Panto., Principal Boy, Crystal Palace, Happy New Year to All.

LAURENCE, LILLIE, Hippodrome, Colchester. Agents, FRED NEIMAN, 108, Strand, London.

LAWRENCE, BROTHERS, Vocalists and Dancers. This, T. R., Hyde. Per., 2, Carlton-court, Glasgow. Vacant 7th and 14th.

LAZERN, the Mystic. Jan. 7, Ealing; 14th, vacant through disappointment. Perm., 96, Kennington-road, S.E.

LEARTO and Clever Dog Babs. Great Success, Palace, Bradford. Next week, Palace, Blackburn.

LE FRE, ALBERT, Comedian. Grand Theatre, Leeds.

LEIGHTON, CHARLES, the Burlesque Entertainer at the Piano. Mon., Jan. 7, Grand Theatre of Varieties, Bolton.

LENTON, HERBERT, And Scroggs, in refined Speciality Act. At Lib. 9, Woodland-rd., W. Bridgeford, Nottingham.

LEON and LEONIE (GEORGE and KITTY), Musical Act. Usual Success, this, Hippo., St. Helens; next, Hippo., Accrington.

LEONS, TWO, and MITZI, Still on Tour. Hippodrome, Spennymoor, Co. Durham; also MELITA. What a New Year! All Scotch.

LEO-VILLE, Conjurer; MADGE POLLARD, Sand Dancer. Liberty Jan. 14, Big Success. Two Turns. Mon., Haymarket, Liverpool.

LESLIE, BROS., Jan. 7, Hippodrome, Brighton.

LEZOR TROUPE, the Miniature Musical Comedy, "A Night in Japan." This, Gaiety, Birmingham; next, Lyric, Liverpool.

LI-CHANG-HI, the Popular Chinese Conjurer. Jan. 7, Palace, Kilmarnock.

LILIAN BROTHERS, Refined Music, Speciality Gymnasts, par excellence. Jan. 7, Hippodrome, Stoke.

LISTON, MERRY MARIE, Big Hit, Principal Boy, Lester Collingwood, Panto., Next, Blackburn. Coms., J. F. ELLIS, or BROOKS.

LISTON, MR. HARRY, MISS LUMLEY, open for halls, concerts, or two sketches. Letters, St. George's Hall, W.

LORCH FAMILY, Risley Act, including Three Ponies, Donkey, Thalia Theatre, Elberfeld, Germany. Vac. May 6, June 3 and 17.

LORD, MURRAY, and LORD, This week, Palace, Cork. Next week, Lyric, Liverpool.

LOTTO, LILO, and OTTO. Trick Cyclists. 2, Lambeth Palace-road, S.E.

LOVELACES, THE, American Song Illustrators. This, Gaiety, Blyth; Monday, Argyle, Birkenhead.

LOVELL, NELLIE, the Great, Incomparable Male Impersonator. Vacant Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28. Offers, Wire, 88, Boston-st., Hulme, M'ter.

LUIGO'S SERENADAS, Singers and Dancers, "Ashore in Venice." This Hip., Hulme; next, H., Ashton. Manager, EDGAR HARPER.

LUMIERE'S, MDLLE., Original Grotto Dances. Usual Big Success, Lyric, Liverpool. Monday, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

LYNCH, AGNESE and ARTHUR, in American Picture Songs. This, Bury; Monday, Palace, Aberdeen. Thanks to Mr. D. J. Clarke.

LYRICOS, THE (Wheelan and Dalcourt). This, Philharmonic, Southampton; next, Corn Exchange, Northampton.

LYTTON, BERT, the Swell Comique. This week (return), Empire, Wolverhampton; next week (return), Grand, Halifax.

MACS, THE NEW, the Conversational Jesters. No. 1 Rag Time Dancers. 7th, King's T., Hammersmith, W.

MALONE, MOLLIE, The Irish Gem. The Irish Gem.

MARCONIS, THE GREAT, Electric Wonders, Playing to Houses Packed Nightly by the Elite of Gloucester; next, Palace, Porth.

MARLO, the Clever Young Juggler. Jan. 7, Circus of Varieties, Bury.

MARLOW and MANTON, "Other People's Babies." Jan. 7, Hippodrome, Hastings.

MAROS, THE, Quaintest of All Three Bar Acts. Success, Entertainments, Kirkcaldy Monday, Hippo., Paisley. Lib. Jan. 21-28.

MARTIN, MISS GEORGIE, Fifth Consecutive Year with the Smart Set Entertainers. Next, The Baths, Coventry.

MARTIN, MISS HELEN, Hippodrome, St. Helens. Jan. 7, Park Palace, Liverpool.

MARTINETTES, THREE, Comedy Artists. Great success, Carnarvon. Vacant Mon., and on. Ad., 27, Sidney-st., Manchester.

MASON, MR. FRED, the Originator of Word Whistling. Jan. 7, Palace, Glasgow.

MAXWELL and FRANCES TOM and (his Daughter) VIRGINIA. Address, 646, Streatham High-road, London, S.W.

MAY, MR. HENRY W., Musical-Director, Empire, Shepherd's Bush. All kinds of music composed and orchestrated.

MAYE, PERCY, Barnard's, Woolwich. Big Hit Nightly, 8 and 10 o'clock.

MAYS, THE (JAMES and MAUD), Splendid Success, Pantomime, "Jack and the Beanstalk," Grand Theatre, Nottingham.

MAYNALL, ALF, Silly Billy, "Jack and the Beanstalk" Panto. Jan. 7, Prince's Theatre, Preston.

MAYNE, ERNIE (of Cupid fame). Address, Queen's Theatre, Longton.

McASKELL, Victoria Hall, Hudderfield; to follow, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, Sunderland, Scarboro', Plymouth, Bristol, Stockton.

McKAYS, THE, Palace, Manchester. Thanks to Fred Karno, Esq., for full week's salary Christmas week.

McNEIL, DAVE, Comedian, This Scotch Comedienne, This Week and Next, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

McNEIL, SHEILA, Great success Shildon. Next, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

McQUEEN, FOUR SISTERS, Operatic Vocalists. At liberty. Vac. 14th, 21st 28th. Wire, King's Head Hotel, Darlington.

MOXONS, THREE, Eccentric Acrobatic Comedians, Usual Success, this, T., Dublin; next, H., Wigan.

NEWHAM and LATIMAR, Dame Trot and Baron, Opera House, Torquay. Enormous Success.—Vide Entire Press.

MFALL, JOHN E., Gardeners' Arms, 10, Market-st., and 5, Manse-lane, Greenock, opposite Empire Theatre. "The Era," &c., kept.

MILES-STAVORDALE QUINTETTE (the Original Act). South Africa. Address, ANGER and BAUER, 50, Rupert street, W.

MILSTED, EMMIE, and JOE BELL, Principal Girl. Comedian. "Forty Thieves," Grand Theatre, Derby.

MILTON'S MARIONETTES, On Tour. Coms., "The Era" Office, London.

MININGS, Sketch Specialists (DAN and ALVINA), now with Hilda and Leigh's "Funniest Sketch on Earth." Hippo., Lancaster.

MOHAMED BEN MOHAMED Troupe of Eight Soussa Arabs. An unique entertainment. Flora. Theatre, Altona, Hamburg, Ger.

MONTAGUE, LEO, Sends Greetings from India, wishing all friends a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

MORELL, MISS DAISY, Glorious Success, "Dick Whittington, T. R., Stockport. An ideal Principal boy.—Vide W. Press.

MORRIS, J. C., a Genuine Laughing Success, as Widow Twankey, "Aladdin" Co., Jan. 7, Muncaster Theatre, Bootle.

MOZZETTO, The Famous Juggler. All Coms., Aylsham, Norfolk.

MUIR and BARTLETT Have Worked this week, Middlesex, Holborn Empire, and H., Crouch End. Mon., Tivoli, Manchester, again.

MULVEY and MIRIAM, Panto., T. R., Hull. EDELSTEN and PARKER'S Agency.

MUNROE, MR. WALTER, Collins's, "I'm Coming Back to Dublin," F., D., and H.

MYERS, ERNIE, and LILY LONSDALE. Palace, Manchester.

NEIMAN'S, FRED, Ventriloquial Minstrels. Palace Theatre, Cork.

NAT, Novelty Comedian and Artistic Dancing Masterpiece, vacant Feb. 11, 25. All coms., Plough Hotel. Holborn, Newcastle, Staffs.

NELL, FOUR SISTERS NELLY, "The Vision of Terpsichore. Perm. address, C/o V. Golden, 12, Little Newport-street, W.C.

NORA, NELLIE, Dainty Instrumental Act. Always successful. This, Victoria Hall, S.E.; next, return, Hippo., Dewsbury.

NOTE, R. C., and DAISY DEVONPORT. This, Hip., Wakefield; next, E., Paisley. Thanks Drew Bailey.

OBO BROS., A Laughing Success as Ugly Sisters, Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham.

O'CONNOR and BRADY Permanent, 83, Crescent, South Tottenham, London.

O'FLYNN, FRANCIS, the Celebrated Banjoist. This Week, Palace, Northampton. Jan. 7, Palace, Bath.

O'MALLEY and BROWN, "The Corsican Brothers." Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool.

ONDA and LEON, Conversational Gymnasts. Jan. 7, Theatre Royal, Attercliffe.

ONDA BROS., and WILL ONDA and COMPANY, Pantomime, Crystal Palace.

OSBORNE, CHARLIE, The "Extra Special" Author and Entertainer, 54, Fortess-road, London, N.W.

PALMERS, THE MUSICAL, Mon. next, King's Hall, Westcliffe-on-Sea; also Miss DAISY PALMER, Serio and Dancer.

PANLO BROS., Comedy Acrobats. &c. Vacant March 11 onwards. Offers, 9, Salisbury-street, Islington, Liverpool.

PARLATO, Facialist and Impersonator, Mechanics' Hall, Scarborough.

PAYNE'S, WALTER, Biophotoscopes. Films for Hire, Films for Sale. 346, Brixton-road, London.

PENLEY, FLO, ENGLISH, GEORGE, The Empire, Camberwell, Nightly, "In Ould Kildare."

PHELPS, MISS KITTY, Prince, Charles Chard's "Cinderella" Co., Theatre Royal, Ashton-under-Lyne.

PHILLIPS and TERRY, Jan. 7, Hippodrome, Margate. Southampton to follow.

PIRMANS, THE THREE, Pantomime Novelty Gymnasts, Big, Tivoli, Manchester. Mon., Hippodrome, St. Helens. Coms., E. Pirman.

POLLARD BROS., the Ugly Sisters, should prove among the mainstays of the pantomime.—Vide Press, The Broadway, S.E.

POOLE, LOTTIE, and FRANK WEIR, L. P., Principal Girl, on Tour; F. W., Wishee Washee, Crystal Palace, London.

POOLE, SISTERS, the Winsome. Great Success, and Captivating all Hearts, as Fizzali and Norilda in "Forty Thieves," Derby.

PRIMAVESI, Unique Juggler. Monday, Hippodrome, Salford.

PRINELLAS, THE, with their Cornfield and Farmyard, "A County Flirtation," Hippo., Stoke. Next, Hippo., Wakefield.

RAE, GEO., Scotch Comedian. Great Success, this, Queen's Park Hip., Manchester. Jan. 7, Hip., Ashton. D. BAYLEY, Glasgow.

RALLIS, LES, "The Artist and His Monkey. Big success, Bedford. All coms., 25, Horsedge-street, Oldham.

RAPPO and ELLA, Big Success Palace, Stoke Newington. Thanks to Fred Neiman for Contracts. All coms., FRED NEIMAN.

RAY, HARRY, and LILLIE CALDEN, Enormous success. Will Atkins and Dusky Princess, "Robinson Crusoe." Em., T., Oldham.

RAPER, GEO., the Quaint Comedian. This Week, T. R., Ilkeston; next, T. R., Glosop. Vacant Feb. 25.

RAPLEY, GEO., Atkins, Little and Darcy's "Crusoe." Theatre Royal, Smethwick.

RAY, MISS VIOLET, Violoncello Soloist and Soprano Vocalist. Jan. 7, Palace, Northampton. At Lib. Jan. 14.

REED, MR. LESLIE, V.A.F., Cremorne, Havelock-road, Great Yarmouth. Good Apartments. Terms Moderate.

REDFERN, RUBIE and ELSIE, Second Week, Paragon. Jan. 7, Palace, Walthamstow.

REGAN and RYAN, A Success in a Success. Court Theatre, Liverpool.

RELL and BUTT, High-class Novelty Comedians. Undoubtedly the smartest pair of comedians seen in Dover.—Vide Dover Times.

RESDAN, MISS RITA, London's Dainty Male Impersonator, playing return Pal., Manchester; Mon., Hip., Coventry. G. BARCLAY.

RESZKI and RASZKI, Gymnastic Grotesques. Vacant Jan. 7 and 14. Wire or write, 6, Beech-grove, Dewsbury.

RICH and RICH, Mother Goose and Jack. Theatre Royal, Bolton.

RICHARDS, ARTHUR, RENEE WALON, MASTER WILLIE, Boy Comedian. Enormous Hit, P., Boston; Mon., P., Northampton.

RIOGOKU FAMILY, THE, Manager, Y. Hamamura, Apollo Theatre, Vienna.

ROBY, ELSIE, Palace Theatre, Belfast. Pantomime Season.

ROGERS and WESTON, Premier Hebrew Comedy Artists. Tremendous success, Palace, Bristol. Monday next, Pavilion, Newcastle.

ROWLEY, J. W., Empire, Glasgow. Address, 166, Main-street, Gorbals; also for MISS ELLA DEAN.

ROYAL WELSH MEISTERSINGERS. Immediate success.—Vide Era. Specially Engaged, T. R., Leicester. Manager, Herbert Jones.

ROYAL WELSH SINGERS (Ten Gentlemen), specially engaged. Milton Bode's panto. New T., Cardiff. Manager, EDWARD HEATH.

RUBYS, THE THREE, Are a Success in Panto. Second year with Mr. Lester Collingwood. Prince's T., Blackburn.

SABINO, Man of Many Instruments. Conclude to-night, success Town Hall. Mon., Alhambra, Edinburgh. At Liberty Jan. 21.

SALMON, W., Demon Trick and Musical Cyclist. Vacant Jan. 7 and 14. Wire Hip., Yarmouth; after Sun., Albany-ter., Burnley.

SANDY and CARL, Great Success, Billy and Jenny, "Crusoe," Dalston Theatre, London. To be Corse.

SANFORD and LYONS, Comedians and Simultaneous Dancers. Grand Theatre, Leeds. T. SHAW.

SANTOI, MARIE, and CO., Britain's Anglo-Japanese Representatives. Next, G., Stockton. D. HART, Esq., Gravesend.

SCOREYS, THE FOUR, On Panto. Tour, "Babes in the Wood," Speciality and Parts. 33, Wilton-street, Southampton.

SCOTT, MISS MAIDIE, Dick, in "Dick Whittington." Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

SCOTT, MISS WINNIE, This week, Palace, Attercliffe. Jan. 7, Palace, Kilmarnock.

SELBY and MYERS, Comedians and Twin Dancers, Jan. 7, West Bromwich.

SELBYS, THE, Musical Eccentrics, Have no Vacant Dates; Superior Talent Always makes its Mark. Albert Hall, Swansea.

SHERLOCK, FRANK, Permanent Address, 54, Gassiott-road, Tooting, S.W.

SHIELDS, JIMMY, The Famous One-Legged Comedian and Dancer. Empire Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

SHIPLEY, SAM, Comedian, Vacant Monday. Wire offers, Circus, Spennymoor. Mon., 1, Goodwin-st., Salford. B. WORTH.

SILCOTT, THREE SISTERS, Pantomime, Theatre, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

SILVO, MUSICAL, Jan. 7, Granville, Walham Green.

SIVANES, THE (BILLY and POLLIE), in Original Comedy, "Cinderella" Panto., Grand, Brighton.

SLIGO, FOUR SISTERS, in their Novel Irish Instrumental and Vocal Speciality. This, P., Porth; next, P., Gloucester.

SMALLEYS, THE, Empire, Raisley. Monday next, Alhambra, Edinburgh; Lib. Jan. 14.

SMITH and JOHNSON, Success Metropole, Manchester. Jan. 7, Hippo., Bury. Sole Agent, R. CASS.

SMYTHSONS, THE, "Love Germs," fully protected. New Hippo., Coventry; next, Hippo., Dewsbury.

SNOW and FARRON, Second Season Big Success, King and Princess, with G. Bryden Phillips, "Sinbad" Panto., West London T.

SOLO, FRED (Solo and Mayo), "Dick Whittington" Panto., T. R., Nottingham. Third Season with Robert Arthur, Esq.

SPENCER BROTHERS, LTD., Aeronants, 45a, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N. Telegraphic Add., "Aeronaut, London."

STACEY, ARTHUR, the Original Eccentric Comedian and Dancer. Just concluded a highly successful provincial tour.

STANLEY'S URCHINS, Griffin and Drake's Pantomime, "Beauty and the Beast." This, T. R., Barnsley; next, P. O W. T., Mexboro'.

STAR, JESSIE, the Only Female Harry Lauder. Jan. 7, Gaiety, Glasgow. Jan. 14, Broadhead's. Sole Agent, DREW BAYLEY.

STAVORDALE QUINTETTE, THE, the Original and Only Act of its Kind. Jan. 7, Empire, Leeds.

STEBBINGS, EDGAR, Variety Agent, 23, Egerton-street, Hulme, Manchester. 'Phone, 09261. Wires, "Stebbing, Manchester."

STEINWAY QUARTETTE, Big Success Hippodrome, Stockton. Vacant Jan. 7, 14. Write or wire, as above.

STEWART, LILY, Dainty Comedienne and Dancer. Big success Principal Girl, T. R., Ton-y-Pandy; next, Lyceum, Pentre.

ST. JOHNS, THE, Musicians, Campanologists, Patterers, and Dancers. This Genuine Act at Lib. Jan. 14. Mon., Hippo., Bury.

STOWE BROS., THE GREAT, Boy Wonders, Originators of All They Do. No Vacancies. BURNS, Exclusive Representative.

STRATTON, SISTERS, This Week, Queen's Palace, Poplar; next week, Hippodrome, Margate. H. J. DIDCOTT, Esq.

STUART QUARTETTE, Lady Vocalists and Dancers, Panto., Gaiety, Dundee.

STYLO, Wonderful Juggling Effects with Hoops. Jan. 7, Grand Theatre, Halifax.

SWAN, BERT, and MARIE VESTA, "In Nelson's Days." Touring in India.

SYLVESTO, MDLLE., Unique Speciality. Liberty March 18, 25. Agents, DE VERE, TOM SHAW, 206, Lambeth-road, S.E.

TAFT, HARRY, Dec. 31, Empress, Hartlepool. Jan. 7, Palace, Sunderland.

TALLY HO! TRIO, Erne Chester, W. Doust, Eric Farr. Broadway Theatre, Deptford, S.E.

TAMAMOTO, C., the Japanese Blondin. Liberty, Jan. 7, Wire, 43, Altenberg-avenue, Northfield-lane, W. Ealing, London.

TEMPLES, THREE ROYAL, including LOUIE GILBERT. This, Hippo., Wakefield; next, Macnaghten London Circuit.

TERRY, WILL, Song Writer. Jan. 7, T. R., Glossop.

THORNE, LOTTIE, Boy's part, Mabel Bright's Co. This week, Hippo., Putney; next, Ipswich.

THORNE, MISS ROSALINE, Dramatic Vocalist. Perm. add., 32, North Side, Clapham Common, S.W.

THORNTON, NANCY, Terrific Success, Osborne Theatre. Thanks all Friends for Wires. Next, Hippo., Stockton.

THORPE, HARRY, and ZOE COE, in Comedy Episode, "My Burglar," Enormous Success this week, Em., Brixton; next, Hip., Leeds.

TISO, LILY, Jan. 7, Palace, Leicester. Agents, SOMERS and WARNER

TOMKINSON'S, J. H., Royal Gipsy Co. On Tour. Always vacancies for good artists. Next, Music Hall, Chester.

TOMLIN, CLAUDE (late Harry Tomlinson). This, Roscommon, Liverpool; next, Hip., Dewsbury. Thanks Fred Wilmot.

TRANSFIELDS, THREE, Musical Speciality. Conclude Varieties, Bury. Mon., Surrey Theatre.

TRENT, MISS CISSY, The original "Dainty Dancing Doll." On tour. Coms., 4, Kelso-place, Kensington, W.

TWIBELL, ADA, Big Success as Boy Blue in "Red Riding Hood," Lyceum Theatre, Crewe.

VALDOS, LES, Pantomime, Sheffield Theatre Royal. Fourth year with John Hart, Esq.

VALVO, The Military Ventriloquist. King's, Longsight. VERNO'S Agency.

VANDYKE'S, CHARLES, "Sensations" and "Nicodemus." Jan. 7, Britannia Theatre, N.

VERNO'S, JESS, AGENCY, 16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, Merriment. 'Phone, 2076 Royal.

VINCENT, Acrobatic Table Expert. Jan. 7, Barnard's, Chatham.

VIOLI, Lady Instrumentalist. Public Hall, Risca.

WALKER and MAY, Coloured Duo; WALKER, only Blind Comedian and Dancer. 69, Mostyn-rd., Brixton, S.W.

WALKER, ETHEL, Queen of Humorists at Piano. Vac. Monday. Always appreciated. 48, Devonshire-rd, Ealing, W.

WALKER, MARIE, Trombone Virtuoso, Fairy Queen, and Speciality. This, G., Radcliffe; next, Royal, Shrewsbury.

WALLACE, DAVE, MARIE TILLEY, Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy, Down for Two Songs. Audience Demand Four Songs, then Yell for more.

WALTON and LESTER, The World's Worst Wizards. 59, Oakmead-road, Balham, London.

WAMBAS, THE; LA BELLE LILY and ALBERT, Novelty Gymnasts, Comedy Musicians. This, T. H., Merthyr; next, P., Porth.

WARREN, LILIAN, and MYSTERIOUS LILITH. Lib. Feb. 4. All coms., Moss's Waverley Carnival, Edinburgh.

WATSONS, FAMOUS, New Business, Songs, and Novelties. Enormous Success, London, nightly. Address, 21, Oval-mansions, S.E.

WEDBURN, MRS. JAMES (The Wedburns), née Amy Carina. Perm., 65, Elsenham-road, Southfields, S.W.

WEDBURNS, Comedians, Vocalists, &c. Tremendous Success at Aberdeen. This week, Pal., Dundee.

WELDON, HARRY, January, Month, Palace, Manchester. Coms., Vaudeville Club, or TOM SHAW.

WELDON, IRENE, Dainty Vocalist and Dancer. This week, Empire, Camberwell. Next, Hippodrome, Putney.

WESTON, MISS MARIE, This week, usual success, Tivoli, Barrow. Next week, Hippodrome, Stoke.

WHITELEY, FRANK, Comedian. Great Success Queen's Hall, Castleford. Monday next, Jan. 7, Hippodrome, Bury.

WILDER BROTHERS, Pyrotechnic Artists, Gala and Fête Agents, 29, Great Francis-street, Birmingham.

WILKINSON'S, MATT, Laughter-Makers, and VIOLET BEATRICE, Boy Impersonator. Theatre Royal, Merthyr.

WILLIAMS and WARDEN, Conclude Palace, Northampton. Monday, Theatre Royal, Oldham.

WILSON, J. A., and Private Towser. Empire Palace, Coventry. Sole Agent, TOM SHAW, London.

WISPER and BEATTIE BLOOM want Monday, also 14th and 21st. Wire, Tivoli, Dublin. Thanks Henry Kemble for Offers.

WOELLHAFS, THE, Versatile Pair. Great Comedy Act. (See "Wanted" column). King's Hall, Westcliffe.

WOOD, CARRIE, Refined Comedienne and Expert Dancer. Perm. address, 351, Coldharbour-lane.

WOODFORD'S, KITTY, Canine Circus and Orchestra. C. W. POOLE'S Myriorama, Colston Hall, Bristol.

WOODWARD, CHAS., Actor Vocalist. London, nightly.

WYZE, F., and A. ADNA, Presenting high class Operettas, Hippo., Bury. Agent, BENTLEY.

YAMAMOTO and KOYOSHI, Celebrated Japanese Equilibrists. Friedrichsbau T., Stuttgart. 30, Rue d'Orsel, Paris.

YATES and CO.'S Agency, F. V. St. Clair, the famous author. GODFREY YATES, 41, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool.

YOUNG, TED, Enormous Success as the Barroness, in "Cinderella." New Gaiety Theatre, Ayr.

ZARMAH and his Zoological Statuary of Wild Animals. Specially engaged 8 weeks, Olympia, London. Vacant Feb. 18.

ZASMA, Electric Gymnastic Scena, entitled, "An Evening's Pleasure." Alhambra, Brighton.

ZELOVAS, THE, Continental Acrobatic Equilibrists, P., Plymouth; next, Palace, Bristol. Thanks Rosen and Bliss, Tysoe Smith.

Ready early in January.
FORTIETH YEAR OF PUBLICATION.
1907—THE ERA ANNUAL—1907
will be the most complete
Dramatic Dictionary of Dates and Theatrical Treasury of Knowledge
Ever Brought Before the Public.
It will also be found to be the most interesting Annual of the year, containing as it does many Stories told by Members of the Dramatic and Musical Professions.
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NOTICE.

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TERRIERS. The ANNUAL DINNER and SOCIAL will take place on SUNDAY, Jan. 6, at DOVER CASTLE HOTEL. Early application necessary. Number limited (for Terriers only). For further particulars apply to HARRY LESTER, Secretary, 4, Kennington-road, S.E.

M. H. A. R. A.

Notices.

The Secretary desires the addresses of Karr and Kooney, Alma Curzon, Woodhouse (Woodhouse and Wells), Prince Kuroki, A. Hemet, and Miss Lily Flexmore.

Mr. J. Horne, Bridge Hotel, Spennymoor, has been appointed as Agent in that town.

MUSIC HALL LADIES' GUILD.

President, Miss MARIE LLOYD.
Treasurer, Mrs. F. KARNO.
Secretary, Miss A. DE GREY.
Address,
69, Primrose-mans., Prince of Wales'-rd., Battersea.

The latest London Success.
RAPPO and ELLA,
the World's Greatest Equilibrists.
Creating a Sensation at Palace, Stoke Newington.
One week vacant, Monday next.
Specially engaged for PALACE THEATRE, SHAFTESBURY-AVENUE.
Sole Agents, FRED NEIMAN and Co., 108, Strand, London, W.C.

QUICKO, Vocalist and Quick-change Artist. Cheered, Recalled Twice Each House, Central Palace, North Shields, Return Engagement. Complimented by Proprietor.

CHARLIE DENMAN,
CHARLIE DENMAN.
Big Success Dalton's Panto.
All Bookings by Sole and Exclusive Agent, RICHARD CASS, 30, Maiden-lane, Strand.

ERIC, a Real Ventriloquist, with Something Fresh, away from the Hackneyed Style.
Monday next,
THE TIVOLI, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

BERT WILLIAMS, Ventriloquist, Thanks Mr. Lucas, Empire, Bristol, for Comfortable Engagement, and Full Salary, Xmas Week. HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON. PEEL'S Agency.

STYLO, always producing Novelty Effects with Hoops. STYLO, entirely different to all others.
Jan. 7, GRAND THEATRE, HALIFAX.

THE FOUR SHERRYS, Comedy Risley Acrobats.
Big success, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.
Monday,
QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.

For Terms, Vacant Dates, Lithos, and Particulars of

LE RENDEZ VOUS

apply to

O. MAUS DAYTON,
Manager of the Dayton Company (9 in Number),
TIVOLI, MANCHESTER.

P.S.

All Contracts made for our Old Act shall, of course, be fulfilled with our Old Act, according to Contracts.

THE DAYTON FAMILY

(6 In Number 6)

GRAPHO and JACKSON, Versatile Comedians and Burlesque Actors. Tremendous success as Burgling Bill and Gentle Geordie, in J. Gar Kiddie's "Babes in the Wood" panto. An ideal pair of robbers. Would be of value to any pantomime. The rbbers' curse is exceedingly up-to-date with local allusions. An artistic pair of comedians.—Vide Press. LYCEUM THEATRE, GLASGOW, Third Week. New Music Hall Act in preparation. A screamer.

A Wonderful and Marvellous Mimic is
CARL LYNN,
the King of Animal Mimics.—Vide Press.
This, City, Leeds.
Monday, GRAND, CLAPHAM.
and all the Gibbons' Circuit to Follow.
Only Vacant Dates, 1908, April 22, May 6, 27, June 3, 17, July 1, 8, 15, 22, Aug. 12, Sept. 23 and 30.
All Coms. to Mr. W. HALL, Business-Manager, 11, Market-place, Hyde, Manchester.

The new comedian with new ways.—
Oswald Stoll, Esq.
ALLAN HANBURY,
Comedian and Raconteur. This, E., Hackney; next, E., HOLLOWAY. Sole Agent, R. CASS.

BERT
COOTE'S KIDDIES

Performing most successful numbers in Costume, from
THE CELEBRATED CHILDREN'S SCENE
From
THE FATAL WEDDING.
Dec. 31, STANDARD and HAMMERSMITH.
A TRIUMPH!!

IRISH-INDIAN MAIDS.

Smartest Troupe of Girls on the Continent.
Booked two years ahead.
Return Dates Everywhere.
Costumes, John Hyman and Co.
Jan. 1 to 15, APOLLO THEATRE, DUSSELDORF.
„ 16 to 31, CENTRAL THEATRE, CHEMNITZ.

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YANKEE DOODLE GIRLS

An entirely New and Novel turn in American Spectacular Songs and Dances.
Especially engaged by Mr. Robert Arthur for CAMDEN THEATRE PANTOMIME.

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YANKEE DOODLE GIRLS

Mr. Samuel James's Pantomime,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.

12 PARIS GIRLS 12

Specially engaged for La Scala Theatre, Paris, for the New Revue, "BON JOUR TOI."
A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS.
At the termination of the above engagement, this Troupe will be converted into
THE CONTINENTAL YANKEE DOODLE GIRLS.
Tour opens Feb. 16. CIRCUS CARRÉ, AMSTERDAM.

RADIUM GIRLS.

Having purchased the Sole Rights of this great novelty, Managers and Agents please note it will be produced at the CAMDEN THEATRE during the next two weeks.
BERT COOTE, 150, Oxford Street, W.
TELEPHONE, 6648 Gerrard.

THIS COLUMN IS RESERVED FOR A FEW OF

PACEY & REEVES' CLIENTS

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Top of the Tree.

G. H. ELLIOTT,

The Chocolate-Coloured Coon.
Another Great Success.
THEATRE ROYAL, MANCHESTER.

Mr. G. H. Elliott, as Pete, the Baron's page, has a part which is largely in the nature of a speciality, and it needs only to be said that his performance on the opening night was in his best style for it to be understood that his contributions to the entertainment were among the most successful features of the evening. Mr. Elliott has two "featured" songs, "I've built a bamboo bungalow for you" and "Under an umbrella," both of which were vociferously encored.—The Era, Dec. 29.

One of the Best.

WALTER STANLEY,

LONDON
and
COLLINS'S.

Booked by Hy. Rickards, Esq., for Australia.

HERBERT LA MARTINE.

No connection with Artists using similar names. Fully booked by PACEY and REEVES only.
TIVOLI, Third Week.

ED. E. FORD,

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ED. E. FORD,
The Australian Sundowner,
The Paradoxical Physiognomist,
PALACE, BLACKPOOL.

You can Never Beat

DAVID POOLE,

the Novelty Ventriloquist,
Booked every Hall of Note in London.
Vacant Dates 1908 Only.
Communications re London,
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Dainty, Neat, Refined, and Sweet,

THE SISTERS HALL,

Vocalists.
Panto., PRINCESS'S T., GLASGOW.

Always Successful.

FRED CLEMENTS,

Light Comedian,
Panto., STALYBRIDGE.

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3 SAN REMO GIRLS,

Principal Dancers,

AQUARIUM, GT. YARMOUTH.

Booked by Hy. Rickards, Esq., for Australia.

TERRY & BENTLEY,

in their Screamingly Funny Absurdity,
"AFTER THE HUNT."
HIPPO., NORWICH.

STERLING & LOVE,

(LEO, ADDIE.)
T. R., LEICESTER.
Panto., Milton Bode, Esq.

FRED LAND,

Versatile Comedian.

The Era, Sept. 29.—Fred Land, the man with the short stick and the sharp wit, was an outstanding item.

This week, Stoke Newington; Monday, PALACE, BRADFORD. Rebooked Hammersmith, 7 Dates.

Booked by H. Rickards for Australia.

FRANKIE,

The Juvenile Juggling Wonder,
Personally Complimented by Paul Cinquevalli, Esq., at Blackpool. Booked Barrasford Tour.
Monday, PALACE, DERBY.

There is only one Memory Man.

DATAS.

No fake in this show. The man to make the people laugh, also puzzle them. The only act of its kind in the world.
Monday (3rd week), TIVOLI.

Booked by H. Rickards for Australia

ANNIE LAURIE,

Comedienne.

Opened Dec. 29, TIVOLI, SYDNEY.

Always Successful.

W. H. DOWNS,

The Coloured Vocalist.
From the Gaiety Theatre, London.
Monday, SOUTH LONDON.

Booked by H. Rickards for Australia.

AMIEL,

the Greatest Bender in the World
on a Pedestal.
ALHAMBRA, PARIS.

THE KATOS,

Komical Kidgets.
Monday next,
EMPIRE, PORTSMOUTH.

The Laughter Makers.

BLAKE & GRANBY,

Comedy Duologue Artists.
Great Success with Harry Rickards.
Arrived from Australia.
Monday, THEATRE ROYAL, OLDHAM.

"The Stable Lad's Story," by Robson and Elton (not a free song). A Great Success.

FRANK BOYCE,

Character Vocal Comedian.
Monday, GRAND, HALIFAX.

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THE GREATEST NOVELTY ON EARTH.
THE CAT KING.

LEONI CLARKE.

200 ROYAL CATS, &c., 200.
Cats, Rabbits, Canaries, and Monkeys, &c.
Always Something New.
Greatest Domestic Animal Trainer of the World.
HIPPODROME, LEEDS.
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SOMETHING NEW AT LAST.
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MAUD ROCHEZ

and her
Monkey Theatre of Varieties
Opened at
The Theatre, Richmond,
Dec. 3.
Immediately Engaged
for all Dates open by Moss-Stoll, Ltd.

Jan. 7, OLYMPIA, DORTMOND, GERMANY.
One Month.

MAUD ROCHEZ
Will Return to London
June 10, 1907.
Exclusively Engaged for the
LONDON HIPPODROME.

The Era, Dec. 8.—Maud Rochez presents a variety theatre run entirely by monkeys, and wonderful they are; the orchestra is composed entirely of Darwinian species, the scene-shifters and supers are of the same type, and the "artists" are also monkeys. Their programme, too, is quite clever. They conjure, juggle, wrestle, motor, dance, steeplechase, play musical instruments, and, in short, their versatility is amazing; the chef d'orchestre would put Sousa to the blush. Nothing funnier than this has been seen for a long time, and Miss Maud Rochez must have spent much time and patience in teaching her pupils.

MAUD ROCHEZ,
To save Managers
a Lot of Unnecessary Trouble,
all Communications
must be made to
My Sole and Exclusive Agent,
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MISS DOLLY ANDREWS

THE RISING STAR.

THIS WEEK,

NEW TIVOLI PALACE, LIVERPOOL

All Communications,

6, GROSVENOR ROAD, HOYLAKE.

ENORMOUS SUCCESS.
SUCCESS. SUCCESS. SUCCESS.

CABAN'S FRENCH CIRCUS, Now appearing Hengler's Circus, London, twice daily, the hit of the programme; also Princess Fayette, in the new style of Parisian Driving. Managers, agents, and proprietors invited to see my new act, novel, original, clever, and funny, entitled "Wee McGregors's Kindergarten Animals." Three good acts, fit to top, bottom, and middle any bill. For vacancies all communications to C. CABAN, HENGLER'S CIRCUS, LONDON.

ZARMAH, ZARMAH,

The Talk of All London, of
the World's Greatest Wild Animal Trainer,
Specially Engaged for the Eight Weeks' Season,
At a Big Salary, by the International
Mammoth Fun City Co., Olympia.
One of the Most Exciting Acts
Ever Seen in London.
"Have you seen Zarmah?" is the Bye-Word at
Each Performance.
If not, See Him.
All the Press Proclaim Him the Lion King.
All Proprietors, Managers, and Agents,
Are Specially Invited to See This Act
Re Vacant Dates for 1907.

PAULETTI, the Human Cat.

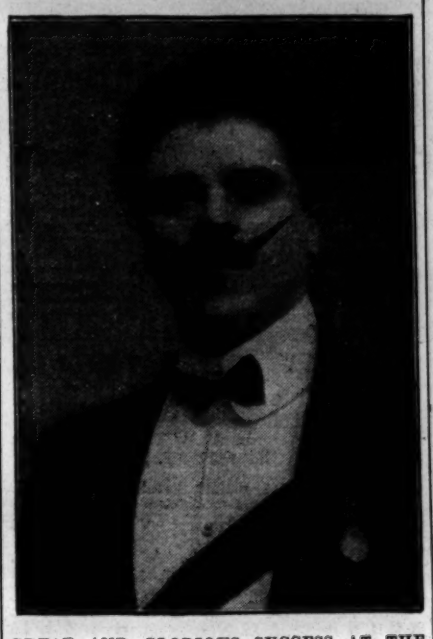
Dudley News, Dec. 29, 1906: Mons. Pauletti, as Tibby, the cat, shows himself at once to be a clever athlete and gives a marvellous exhibition in bicycle riding. Next, LYCEUM, STAFFORD.

VALESCO'S AUSTRALIAN CIRCUS.

Ponies, Dogs, and Monkey, including the Charming Little Pony, Daisy, and the World-Renowned Riding Dog, Dado. Great Success, Carnival, Newcastle. Congratulated by the Manager. Agents, FRED NEIMAN and Co., and FORTUNE and GRANVILLE.

Dr. WALFORD BODIE,

M.D.



GREAT AND GLORIOUS SUCCESS AT THE EMPIRE, HACKNEY.

READ! READ!! READ!!!

THE HACKNEY EMPIRE.

Last night's audiences filled every part of the house, and so great was the crush that the seats might easily have been booked twice over. Even standing room was at a premium. . . . The chief attraction of the week is Dr. Walford Bodie, who gives a very novel and edifying exhibition of bloodless surgery, and effects some wonderful cures from paralysis with the aid of electricity. All the patients treated have been discharged from the London hospitals as incurable. One of the cases dealt with last night was a twelve-year-old child —Louisa Cleary, 39, Southwark-street—who had been paralysed from birth and been discharged from Great Ormond-street Hospital, Guy's Hospital, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and the London Hospital, as being beyond all human aid. She was carried on to the stage, and, it was stated, was so afflicted that she walked on her ankles, and then only with difficulty. After Dr. Bodie had performed an apparently simple feat in bloodless surgery and applied his electric treatment, the child for the first time in its life gained the entire use of the affected limbs; and the joy which it displayed at being able to raise its arm and leg and run about, was quite touching to see. Dr. Bodie explained that the secret of his method was that he practically ran the risk of his life in every case he undertook, inasmuch as it was necessary to pass a high voltage of electricity through his body to accomplish what to the lay mind was little short of a miracle. He then proceeded to pass three million volts through his body, making himself a human resistance coil for the time being. By means of the electricity he was able to light a cigarette with his fingers, and ignited a linen handkerchief with the current which passed through his body from his right hand to his left. In the same way he lit a number of gas-jets with a banana held between his teeth. A series of electrical experiments which he performed on certain members of the audience who volunteered to go on the stage caused intense amusement.—Hackney and Kingsland Gazette, Dec. 12.

ENORMOUS SUCCESS
UPON HIS RETURN TO

ARGYLE THEATRE, BIRKENHEAD.

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Telegrams—"Bodieism, Lond on." 'Phone 1325 Hop.

PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. ARTHUR JEFFERSON,
Metropole Theatre, GLASGOW.

LOTTO, LILO, and OTTO,
the World's Greatest Comedy Cyclists.
Monday, Jan. 7.
THE EUSTON, 7.5.
THE OXFORD, 8.40.
THE EUSTON, 9.55.
THE PARAGON, 10.25.

Read what the Daily Telegraph of Dec. 26 says:—"... And as to turns as applied to bicycles, one has to see Lotto, Lilo, and Otto go through their performance before being truly entitled to say that one has seen real trick cycling. This trio do some remarkable evolutions on their wheels, and in the end the two male members finish up with a bicycle polo match, with a huge rag ball, which is not only a screamingly funny performance, but is also extraordinarily fast and very expert of execution."

Business Communications,
TOM SHAW, or LOTTO'S AGENCY.

TOM DAVIES TRIO,
Motoring in Mid-Air, A Real Sensation.
This Week, Palace, Plymouth.
Next Week, PALACE, BRISTOL.
Thanks to Oswald Stoll, Esq., for Contracts for 1908.

WALTER STANTON,

WALTER STANTON

THE GIANT ROOSTER

Visiting Europe for a few weeks

After Six Years in America.

Open for immediate, also next year's Pantomime Have been the feature of the best.

Agents, VOLTA and O'MEERS,
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Facile Princeps.

MDME. CLAESEN'S LIVING ART BRONZES.

Two Ladies, Four Gentlemen.
The most Superb Reproduction
of Living Bronze Statuary
ever presented.
The absolute Originators
of this style of Performance.
Ab uno disce omnes,
or, in other words,
from one example you may learn all.
MDME. CLAESEN'S LIVING ART BRONZES.
Supreme in its Grandeur,
Original in Conception,
Unique in its Presentation.

Directors are requested
to Note that
this is not a representation of Strong Men and Indecent Poses, but a Performance of the highest class, that appeals to all Patrons in every part of the Theatre.

ART WILL LIVE FOR EVER.
The subjects comprise most of the finest examples of the great Masters, selected from all the most famous Galleries in Europe, and as a climax some magnificent Patriotic Tableaux.
HENGLER'S, GLASGOW.

Directors, Managers, are invited to witness this, the most superb Production of the Age.

Free Jan. 14.

Communications,
MDME. CLAESEN,
or
G. ZALVA,
Hippodrome, Scarboro'.
Telephone, 288.
Telegraphic Address, "Zalva, Scarborough."

England's Best Song and Dance Artist.

LITTLE CLIFF

The Greatest Boy Artist in the World.

LITTLE CLIFF

Made such a success in Australia, that the following letter was received by him in Melbourne:

CLIFF, Opera House, Melbourne, Sept. 12, 1906.

Mr. Rickards has cabled out for me to re-engage you for another twenty weeks. Can you see your way to fulfil the wishes of Mr. Rickards? Please see Mr. Aydon on the subject.

Yours respectfully,
JOHN LEETE.

The above speaks for itself. It was impossible to stay longer than the contract time, viz., twenty weeks, on account of Pantomime bookings.

Photo. by Lang Sims.

LITTLE CLIFF.

Press Notices would fill one page of the "Era."
Now playing special part of
SHRIMP, in "Cinderella,"
CAMDEN THEATRE, LONDON.
The "Era," Dec. 29, 1906, says:—
Another prime favourite is Little Cliff, who is seen as Shrimp the Tiger. He is a clever dancer, and his song, "Good-night, Mr. Brown, I'm Out," with a capital dance after, was among the chief successes of the pantomime.

LITTLE CLIFF

Is fully booked for the next four years by his business-managers,
TOM PACEY, of PACEY AND REEVES,
186, Brixton-road, S.W.

ATROY,
Society Juggler,

PUBLIC HALL, RISCA.
Own Co.

THE TWO CROMWELLS, in their Unique Juggling Speciality,
Just Concluded, Richmond Theatre, Hippo., Maidstone, Stoll's, Glasgow, Exchange, Berwick, Alhambra, Brighton, Empire, Islington, Stoll's, Manchester, Concludes to-night. Monday next, EMPIRE, WALSALL.

Vide Era: Richmond Theatre.—Neat-handed and dexterous juggling is got through by the Cromwells, who successfully mystify the audience, and leave them asking how it is done: the secret is the Cromwells'.

The above all Booked by T. SHAW and Co.
Permanent Address, 28, Rifle Butt-road, Brighton.

THE FAMOUS KELLINOS,
A Greater Success than ever, in
"A FETE IN VENICE,"
"A FETE IN VENICE,"
PUBLIC HALL, BARNSLEY,
with Own Star Company.
All Artists Engaged, See Call.
Thanks to Managers for Offers for Jan. 28; have Filled Same.

We have another Gigantic Act in Preparation.
Like all our Former Ideas, it will be on
a Most Elaborate Scale
With New and Picturesque Scenery,
and altogther a Most Brilliant Production.
A Few Vacancies in 1908, for which
Apply En Route.

Sensational happenings outside an Hotel. Los

GRANADAS,
World's Greatest Bar and Trampol'n Performers. A big hit on the Moss and Stoll Tour.
Monday, NEW OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.

THE ALSKARNO TRIO,
Refined Comedy Risleyists, Tumblers, &c.
Liberty Jan. 14, through Barring; also June 10.
This, Hippo., Paisley;
Next, PALACE, GLASGOW.

SKETCHES.

MR. JOHN LAWSON,

Jan. 7.

MIDDLESEX and CAMBRIDGE.

The Famous

GLENROY TROUPE,

Phenomenal Success on Tour.
At liberty Jan. 14, 28, Feb. 4, 18, 25, 1907.
An Act away from all Others.
Jan. 7, PALACE THEATRE, CORK.
ASHTON'S Royal Agency.

Incomparable
Juvenile
Spectacles.

SELKIRKS,
in
"BONNIE SCOTLAND,"
Monday,
PARAGON.
Business Managers,
G. and F. PEEL.

SIDNEY BACON
introduces
THE DUCHESS OF TOOTING.
Monday, Jan. 7,
EUSTON EMPIRE
and the PALACE, HAMMERSMITH,

"THE MANIAC."
Monday, Jan. 7,
EMPIRE, STOCKPORT.

Ring up 1048 Hop for
CHARLES DIXTON
and his Superior, Unsurpassable, and Meritoriously Successful Comedy Sketch,
"UNCLE ORADIAH,"
A continuous ripple of merriment, culminating in one long loud roar of unrestrainable laughter.
Vacant Dates, Jan. 14 and 21, to precede the Macnaghten Vaudeville Circuit.
HARRY S. HART, Star Palace of Varieties, S.E.

JOHN LEOPOLD'S COMPANIES.

"THE HOUSEBOAT,"

Supported by John Leopold's Elastic Comedians.
EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
General-Manager, JOHN LEOPOLD, Jun.
Agents, R. WARNER and Co.

MRS. HUGH DE BEERA AND CO.
"THE LADY OF THE ROSES."
Says Mr. De Groot, Manager, Crouch End.—A most delightful show.
This, Crouch End; Mon., TIVOLI, M'CHESTER.

JOHN F. PRESTON'S
Mammoth Productions,
"ROGUES OF THE TURF."
Six Principals, Unlimited Auxiliaries, Every Scene and Property Carried, and Three Thoroughbred Racehorses.
Booked and Rebooked Everywhere.
A Solid Success.
Jan. 7, EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
"SAVED FROM THE HAREM,"
Produced with Enormous Success.
16 London Halls Booked after First Production.
Gorgeous Scenery, by G. Herbert Wallis, C. Markham, and others.
Lovely Dresses and Uniforms, by L. Benjamin, Sam May, and others.
Four Real Coloured Men, Twenty Harem Ladies, Six Principals, Dancers, and Numerous Supers.
100 Properties Carried. Jan. 7, PARAGON.
Sole Business-Manager, Messrs. G. and F. PEEL.

LIZETTE KITCHEN'S Great Irish Spectacular Sketch, "Donnybrook." Forty Performers. Rearranged by Fred Kitchen. Music by Dudley Powell. Roscommon, Liverpool. Principal London Halls shortly. Sole agents, FRED NEIMAN and Co., 108, Strand, London, W.C.

ALBERT WYNDHAM
Shakespearean Répertoire Sketch Company,
"CLARENCE'S DREAM."
THE MIDDLESEX, Jan. 7, 1907,
Second Week.

ROLAND OLIVER'S CO. in
"HER LAST DANCE,"
The most exciting Dramatic Episode ever written. Special music composed by Louis La Rondelle. Mon., Jan. 7, 1907, CHELSEA PALACE.

Important Notice.

"CODOLOGY." I Hereby Give Warning that the Act and Title are fully protected, having proved my claim at the High Courts of Justice, before the late Justice North, in the case of Hughes v. Henri. See "The Era," "Stage." London and Provincial Papers, June 24, 1894.—Signed, GREAT HUGHES. Finish to-night, Empire, South Shields; the talk of the town, enormous success. Next week, OXFORD, MIDDLESBROUGH. Communications direct, or TOM SHAW, Esq.

"You're still a friend of mine."
O'MALLEY and BROWN,
Pantomime Season, "Mother Goose,"
SHAKESPEARE THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
All Communications Direct.

WILLIAMS and WARDEN, described as Irish cross-talk comedians, proved to be past-masters in the art of patter, and their efforts were the scource of continual hilarity.—Northampton Chronicle, Jan. 1. Finish to-night, Starring, Palace, Northampton. Mon., T. R., Oldham.

The Latest and Original Novelty.
THE LANNONS,
the only recognised Champion Dancers
in the World, the Real Article, in their
New and Original Comedy Act,
"The Policeman and the Maid."
Tremendous Success. Encored and cheered to the echo nightly, PALACE, CARLISLE.
Four calls each House, and was compelled to do an encore. The public say THE LANNONS are the Greatest Dancers
that have ever appeared in Carlisle.
This is the talk of Every Town we visit.
Proof of success, return again July 8, 1907.

ARTHUR BROMLEY and LINA FONTEIN,
Produced New Act, entitled "A Double Deception," at Hippodrome Hull, Monday, Dec. 31.
Another Winner.

"The Man Behind the Music Stand."

Jan. 7, EMPIRE, BURNLEY.
Comes., CLAXTON OF BENTLEY.

The Acme of Illustrated Melody.
FOX and MELVILLE, Syndicate Halls, London. Mon., PAL., EAST HAM. Fully Booked 1907. New York Herald:—While Fox and Melville have pictured melodies, this is something new in the illustrated song line, for, as a rule, with an illustrated singer there is no melody.

THE DUNVILLES,
Britain's Premier Comedy Instrumentalists,
Vocal Dance and Patter Artists,
Enormous Success of Their Latest Creation.
"Les Domestiques de la Maison."

FORTUNE and FAME (late Padley Bros.), the Famous Comedians and Acrobats, Now Playing Chinese Policemen, "Aladdin" Co., and What a Success! The Hit of the Pantomime. Our Bye-word the Talk of the Town, "Hasn't he got a mukky face?" Monday, THEATRE ROYAL, DARWEN.

CADOGAN and WINGROVE, "A Clerical Complication," by Arrangement with Muir and Bartlett. A Few Vacant Dates. 9, Cambridge-road, Battersea-park, S.W.; or Bartlett, Tivoli, Manchester

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This, this, this, this, this, this.
CLIFF RYLAND,
He is original and that is everything nowadays.—Nottingham News. His humorous patter brought forth roars of laughter.—Leicester Post. Cliff Ryland keeps his audience in roars of laughter.—North Mail. SOUTH SHIELDS Mon., 4th month Tour.

FRANK DUNLOP,
In his Impersonation of
Evan Evans,
the Pattering Welshman,
PALACE THEATRE, W.
Sole Agent, R. Cass, Esq.

MISS MARIE LLOYD,
TIVOLI
and
METROPOLITAN.
HUGH JAY DIDCOTT, Sole Representative.

MISS FLORRIE GALLIMORE
and
JOSIE DELAINE.
Monday next,
NEW TIVOLI, LIVERPOOL.

MISS VESTA VICTORIA,
Jan. 5, Sailing for New York.
Address, 14, Stockwell Park-road, S.W.

MISS ALEXANDRA DAGMAR,
Jan. 14, EMPIRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Agent, GEO. FOSTER.

L. L. LILY BURNAND,
MIDDLESEX
and
PUTNEY.

MISS SABLE FERN,
An English Singer of English Songs.
PAVILION,
GLASGOW.
FRANK LEO. G. and F. PEEL.

MISS CONSTANCE MOXON.
EMPRESS, BRIXTON. "A Toff for Ten Minutes," Musical Monologue appealing alike to a West or East End audience. "Some spark of human nature lies hidden in every heart."

ETHEL RA-LESLIE,
Beautifully costumed
as a gentleman of old.—Vide Stoll.
Sixth Moss and Stoll Tour.
Manor House, Brancaster-rd, Streatham, S.W.

FANNY ROBINA, FLORRY COOPER.
See FANNY ROBINA as
SINBAD.
You don't require to see another.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, SWINDON.

De Première Qualité.
MISS MARGARET ASHTON,
Indisposed.
All immediate engagements cancelled.

MISS FRANCES LETTY,
Coon Comedy Girl.
The Incomparable Coon Chorus Singer. Tremendous Reception, HIPPODROME, PAISLEY. Thanks Agents for offers. Business representatives, WILL OLIVER and SYDNEY HYMAN, LTD. A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all.

The Star Low Comedy Queen.
MILLIE PAYNE,
Unrivalled in her own original style.
New Songs for her "dud" Imitator to Copy, "Silly Sally, Oh," "Ring the Bell, Sammy," "Listen to the Humming Bird," and a New Idea in "I'll Play You at Your Own Game Now."
Palace, Camberwell, 8.30, Genuine Success; Standard, 9.20, Terrific Yells for More; Camberwell, 10.15. Bigger than Ever. Returns Everywhere, '07, '08, '09. Jan. 7, GRANVILLE and CAMBRIDGE. Many thanks to all friends for numerous Xmas and New Year cards.
Sole Agent, SILLY BILLY OLIVER.

An Actress of the Nellie Farren type.
MISS DOLLY HARMER,
The Rum 'Un.
This, Hippo., Accrington; next, LYRIC, LIVERPOOL. Panto. 1907-8 Vacant.

Emmie's Christmas Tree.
Tremendous Success Everywhere.
EMMIE AMES,
Monday, Jan. 7, NEW GAIETY, GLASGOW. Sheilds, Gateshead, Hull, Merthyr, &c., to Follow.

MISS BERTHA STUART,
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MISS BERTHA STUART,
Scotch Character Vocalist,
Indisposed.
All Immediate Engagements Cancelled.
Communications,
HENRY KEMBLE.
Cork.

The Latest and Greatest Success.
MISS RAIE WALTERS,
Monday next, THEATRE, WALSALL.
Thanks all other Agents for Offers.
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Everybody's Favourite,
In South Africa until further notice.
All communication to OLIVER and HOLMES, 1 Cranbourn-street, W.C.

ADA CERITO,
Comedienne. Monday, Jan. 7.
PALACE, EAST HAM, 7.35.
PALACE, EAST HAM, 9.25.
THE OXFORD, 10.30.
Terrific Success of Latest Song, by Cecil Lidden and Alf Lotto, entitled "Half-time change over." Published by Clark and Hamilton, 41, Charing Cross-rd., W.C. Bus. Coms., TOM SHAW, or LOTTO'S Agency.

KATE SHERRY,
HEW MORAN,
Seen to Great Advantage in their Original Musical Sketch at the Hippodrome, Glasgow,
"THE NEWHAVEN FISHWIFE."
Vide Era. Vac. Jan. 14. 53, Sauchiehall-st., Glasgow.

MDLLE. LUCRETIA,
Principal Boy, "Dick Whittington."
Is an ideal Dick, with charming figure, beautiful actress, good voice, and clever dancer.—Vide Press. Highly complimented. O. H., DUDLEY.

ELSIE EARLE,
in the most successful song-scena, "Holly and Mistletoe." All scenery, properties, &c., carried. Beautiful wardrobe. Great success. This week, Hip., W. Bromwich. Vac. Mon. next and 28th. Wire self, or G. and F. PEEL.

BEATRICE BONNIE.

BEATRICE	A genuine Prin. Boy.	BONNIE.
BEATRICE	Viz.,	BONNIE.
BEATRICE	A grand appearance,	BONNIE.
BEATRICE	Figure superb,	BONNIE.
BEATRICE	Songs sung to	BONNIE.
BEATRICE	Deafening	BONNIE.
BEATRICE	Applause,	BONNIE.
BEATRICE	and	BONNIE.
BEATRICE	Every word	BONNIE.
BEATRICE	Heard distinctly	BONNIE.
BEATRICE	In all parts of the Theatre.	BONNIE.
BEATRICE	Making a big success.	BONNIE.

NEW GAIETY T., LEITH, EDINBURGH.
Booked by BROOKS'S Agency.

MISS JESS THORNE,
Quaint Comedienne.
Moss and Stoll Tour.
This, Empire, Glasgow; next, EMPIRE, BELFAST.
N.B.—Funny, refined songs required.

EMMIE MILSTED,
The Dainty Coloured Maid.
An Original Principal Girl. Instantaneous Success as Morgiana. JOE BELL, Comedian. Laughs.
GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.

MISS EMILY LYNDALE,
Big Success, Glasgow,
Jan. 7,
PALACE, ABERDEEN.
Return to Africa Shortly.

"Sunshine and Shadow."
MISS HARRIETT VERNON,
in her latest Successes,
"When You are Saying Good-bye,"
"Back, Back, to Pimlico,"
"Sunshine Row."
On Tour.
Representative, LESLIE RACE,
Coms., care of "The Era."

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Resting.
All communications to 178, Charing Cross-rd., W.C.

MISS MILLIE HYLTON,
Jan. 7,
THEATRE ROYAL, NORWICH.

MISS LELIA ROZE,
Prince.
"CINDERELLA,"
MARLBOROUGH THEATRE, N.

Singer of Novelty Songs.
MISS RACHEL LOWE,
NOTICE TO MANAGERS AND ARTISTS.
The song, "They all go to church on Sunday," is my Personal Property.
Any Person Singing this Song, or any Manager Allowing same to be Sung, without Written Permission from my Publishers, will be Prosecuted without Further Notice.
RACHEL LOWE.
Mr. Albert Strong,
Solicitor.
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DAISY DORMER,
MAID MARIAN,
THEATRE ROYAL, EDINBURGH.
Thanks to my friends for wires on opening night. Usual success.

MISS BILLIE BARLOW,
On Tour.
All communications,
PALACE, ABERDEEN.

A Star that Never Fails to Shine.
GERTIE GITANA,
Jan. 7,
NEW HIPPODROME, WEST BROMWICH.
Agents, G. BARCLAY & Co.
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MISS LILLIE SOUTTER,
Portrayer of Comedy Characters.
Monday next, PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Great Success of Song, "Tumpty, No. 1."
DIDCOTT'S Agency only, 6, John-street, Adelphi, W.C.

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Principal Boy.
METROPOLE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

BONNIE MAUD MARLOW and
JOLLY J. H. CREW.
Billed by Oswald Stoll, Esq., as a Smart Comedienne and a Refined Comedian.
Big Hit, EMPIRE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

MISS SADIE SIMPSON,
A Solid Success wherever She Appears.
Only six weeks Vacant in '07.
Mon. next, EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
WILL OLIVER.

MISS ROSE HARVEY,
Wishes the Compliments of the Season to all her friends.
Address, 9, Glengariff-mansions,
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MISS LINA VERDI,
GRETCHEN, "Mother Goose,"
CROWN THEATRE, PECKHAM.
Instantaneous Success.
Agents, G. and F. PEEL.

MISS DAISY JAMES,
the Original "Gibson Girl."
The rage of Putney.—Vide Press.
Next Week, Jan. 7,
OPERA HOUSE, YORK.
MISS DAISY JAMES,
the Original "Gibson Girl."
The craze of Putney.—Vide Press.
Coms., 65, Sudbourne-road, Brixton Hill, S.W.

The Comedy Queen,
AMY ALLNUTT.
Another big hit. Principal boy LYCEUM, GLASGOW. Vacant for 1907-8. Offers invited. Address as above.

Great Success of "Mansions," by Chas. Collins,
"The Pastry Girl," by Collins and Castling,
"Leave the Girl Alone," by Murphy and Castling.
MISS ROSE CABANI,
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KATIE MARSH,
Actress, Vocalist, and Dancer,
LONDON, SHOREDITCH.
Katie is a Big Success everywhere.
Katie is well booked up. WILL OLIVER, Agent.

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England's Premier Burlesque Actress,
Principal Boy with
Francis Laidler, Esq.,
PRINCE'S THEATRE, BRADFORD.

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GANEM, "Forty Thieves,"
PRINCE'S THEATRE, POPLAR.

"Labor Omnia Vincit."
MISS BARBARA BABINGTON,
Speciality Vocal Actress, Character Artist, and Comedienne.
(Late Première Geo. Dance's "Country Girl" Co.
Principal Boy,
THEATRE ROYAL, HULL.
Unbounded Success as Prince Florizel,
"CINDERELLA."
Songs, Changes, and Specialities Cheered and Cheered Again.
Complimented by Mr. Elliston, Mr. Morton, and the Entire Local Press.
Specially Retained. Palace Theatre, Hull, March 18, 1907.
As it was expected, Miss Barbara Babington makes a splendid Prince Florizel, and sings in a captivating manner. She has all the necessary dash for the part she plays.—Hull Daily News, Dec. 27, 1906.
Miss Hersee deserves so fine a lover as Miss Barbara Babington brings to her in the part of Prince Florizel. Miss Babington is a model of elegant symmetry; she makes a graceful principal boy.—Hull Daily Mail, Dec. 27, 1906.
Miss Barbara Babington is a charming principal boy, and Hull playgoers are justly proud that she can claim a family connection with the city. Miss Babington has a pleasing voice, and her grace of manner and deportment make her a perfect "boy." Last night she was presented with a bouquet; before the pantomime is many days old she will have won favour with the town.—Eastern Morning News, Dec. 27, 1906.
Dealing with the fai rmembers of the cast first, Miss Barbara Babington is to be congratulated upon the favourable impression she has created as Prince Florizel. Endowed with a taking style she sings and acts in a manner that wins her a host of admirers.—The Stage, Jan. 3, 1907.
Agent, WILL OLIVER.

MISS CISSIE and NETTIE DU CANE.
Brilliant Success,
Little Nettie as ADORA, Encored and Re-called Nightly in her Eccentric Song and Dance.
Complimented by C. F. Williams, Esq. Managers and Agents should See this Turn.
The Misses Du Cane won the close attention of the large audience on their appearance, Miss Cissie Du Cane by her beautiful singing, and her sister Nettie, by her clever and spirited dancing.—Western News, Dec., 1906.
THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.

Miss LULU RICHMOND'S
CALIFORNIAN GIRLS,
This week. Foresters';
Next, SADLER'S WELLS.
Flattering success on the Macnaghten's London Circuit.

MARIE LOFTUS,
Resting.
Address, 28, Brixton-hill, S.W.

Has no rival for sprightliness and liveliness.
MISS L. LANGTRY,
Terrific Success, Shepherd's Bush, Monday, NORWICH, Jan. 14, Ipswich. Return to London, Jan. 21. Thanks to Mr. Gros. for postponing Palace, Chelsea, Feb. 25. Always open to Buy Refined Songs.

MISS LILLIE LANGTRY'S Welcome return to her admirers in the Metropolis, whose reception is a most cordial one. Sparkling and effervescent as ever, the tireless comedienne keeps spectators in a state of excitement by the energy which she infuses into her singing and dancing. The ear of the audience is kept amused by the humour of her songs, and the eye is kept constantly on the move to follow the rapid steps of the popular comedienne, who is able to preserve her vivacity and charm even when careering along the stage at lightning speed. Determined efforts are made to extract an encore from this popular young lady.—The Era, Dec. 15.

The Inimitable
PATTY YOLE,
Communications,
GEO. REGAN, Court Theatre, Liverpool.

LIL HAWTHORNE,
NEW YORK.
Address,
1168, E. 19th Street,
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The world's great sand dancer.—Vide Oswald Stoll.
The World's Original Barefoot Sand Dancer.
MY FANCY,
ROYAL, HOLBORN.
All communications to Empire, Camberwell.

"Look Before You Leap," Murphy and Lipton.
MISS AGNES HAZEL,
Comedienne,
Stoll Tour Again,
EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
No Weeks to Spare.

MISS MAY HENDERSON,
as Topsy in Panto. "Robinson Crusoe,"
THEATRE ROYAL, BRADFORD.
All coms. to BILLY HENDERSON, 30, Handforth-road, Brixton-road, London, S.W.

The Australian Nightingale.
MADAME
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LONDON and COLLINS'S.
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"The Fancy Dancer."
MISS GWENNIE HASTO,
Enormous Hit.
Panto, KING'S THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
Xmas, 1907-8, Theatre Royal, Birmingham.
No Vacancies.
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Success. Success. Success.
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MISS VERONA PHILIS, Immense Success. The charming young actress and vocalist, F. J. Little, Esq.'s "Red Riding Hood" Co., title-rôle. Thanks her Reading friends for flowers and chocolates. Next, Th., Crewe. Kind regards to dear Auntie Lelia. Letters, 3, Highwood-road, London, N.

AUSTIN and COWAN,
Jan. 7,
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Agent, JAMES FIONI.

BREWSTERS,
Parts and Specialities, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's Panto., "Aladdin," Court T., Wigan.
Miss Kitty Brewster, Principal Girl.
Mr. JOHN E. BREWSTER, General-Manager.

TOM FANCOURT & JENNIE RUBIE,
Panto., EMPIRE, OLDHAM. Enormous success of Mrs. Crusoé. Jennie Rubie, Aphrodite. Tom Fancourt as Mrs. Crusoe was inimitable.—Manchester Sunday Chronicle.

RUBY and ARTHUR AISTON,
Principal Girl and Abanazer,
James Kiddie's "Aladdin," 3rd Season.
PRINCE'S THEATRE, PORTSMOUTH.
Until further notice.

ROMA and ROMANI,
the Classical Musical Act,
Next week OLDHAM.
Sole agent, WILL OLIVER.

In Their Own Line.
TED and MAY HOPKINS,
The Popular Welsh Comedian,
and his Charming Sister,
NEW THEATRE, CARDIFF.
Pantomime.

PICITT and LIZETTE,
Magical Pantomimists,
Creators of an Entirely New Line of Business.
Presenting the Great Illusionary Absurdity,
"THE CRAZY COOK."
Original Illusions, Original Comedy.
Fifty trained Birds and Animals.
The Most Realistic Kitchen Set ever Staged.
Monday, EMPIRE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Coms., CASS'S Agency, 30, Maiden-lane, Strand.

THE HAVERLEYS, America's Premier Song Illustrators. Finish Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth, to-night. Fifth return, and great success. Next Week, EMPIRE, STOCKPORT.
Agents, GEO. FOSTER, ERNEST DE VERE.

Proprietors, Managers, and Agents, Note,
JIMMY "The Same Firm," CHARLIE
O'CONNOR and BRADY,
With New Ideas, Novel Ideas, and Original Ideas. In Fact, the Funniest Act Imaginable.
Through not Fixing Panto.,
At Liberty for Few Immediate Dates.
Permanent,
83, The Crescent, South Tottenham, London.

New, Novel, and Original.
THE MARKIES
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THE MARKIES
(Lady and Gent),
In Their Vocal and Instrumental Comedy Sketch.
This week,
EMPIRE, CAMBERWELL.

BLANCHE and POWELL,
in a High-Class Vocal, Musical, and Comedy Act. Astounding success, re-engaged everywhere. Thanks Mr. Sley for dates booked.
"The Era" Office.

The New Team.
MARQUIS and MIGNONETTE,
Presenting their New and Clever Comedy Act,
"LITTLE WILLIE."
One of the Finest and Smartest Double Acts before the Public. Conclude, Tremendous Success, Chelsea Palace. Monday next, METROPOLITAN MUSIC HALL, EDGWARE-ROAD. Managers and Agents Especially Invited to see this New Act. Vacant Jan. 14, on. Address, MET. MUSIC HALL, W.

FRED. and LILLIE MONCKTON
Present their latest screaming Comedy Episode,
"ARE WIVES DUMMIES?"
Instantaneous success. Re-booked by Messrs. Broadhead's. Vac. Jan. 14, Feb. 11, on.
Managers and Agents invited to see above.
Jan. 7, GRANVILLE P., Walham Green, London.

DE GRACIA'S
Comedy and Athletic Elephants,
Originators of "Cricket," and "Barber's Shop."
CIRQUE DESPARD PLEDGE,
NANTES, FRANCE.

Great Success of Song-Scena.
MR. GUS ELEN,
OXFORD and COLLINS'S.
Business Expert, Mr. GEO. FOSTER.

"The Boy and the Eagle," by E. W. Rogers.
MR. ARTHUR LENNARD,
OXFORD
Nightly.
"If I had been born a girl."
"If I had been born a girl."
By Fred Murray and Chas. Hilbury.
"If I had been born a girl."
Published by B. Feldman and Co.
Sole Agents, Messrs. TOM SHAW and Co.

"There is a Happy Land," T. W. Connor;
"Would you mind passing the salt?" Reekie and Lawrence. Published Francis, Day, and Hunter.
MR. GEORGE BROOKS,
LIZZIE DANIELS, T. R., PLYMOUTH.
FRED HIGHAM, 9, York-road, S.E.

MR. ALF GIBSON,
Open to Purchase Funny Songs.
Open to Purchase Funny Songs.
PALACE, LANCASTER.
Business-Managers, G. and F. PEEL.

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The Merriment Merchant.
HIPPODROME, SALFORD.

"He can's keep his eyes off the girls."
MR. W. J. CHURCHILL,
THEATRE ROYAL, HANLEY, Pantomime.
"And another thing, my wenches."
Churchill is one of the Hits of the Show.

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The Whistling Man in White.
No Vacancies in 1907.
Agent, E. DE VERE, Esq.,
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MR. LEO DRYDEN,
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WALTHAMSTOW.
Business-Manager for Madame Ada Colley.

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At Liberty.
Coms., "Wattle Bloom," Broomwater, West Teddington.

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MR. AUGUSTIN SYMONDS and Miss KATE PARRY. Address, New Theatre, Cardiff.

MR. ALGERNON SYMS, Disengaged Feb. 7. Disengaged. Perm. add., 3, Springdale-road, Clissold Park, N.

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MR. and MRS. DOUGLAS VIGORS (Miss Lucy Beaumont). D. V., "Peter Pan." L. B., Dis. Feb. 3. 35, Bridge-av., Hammersmith.

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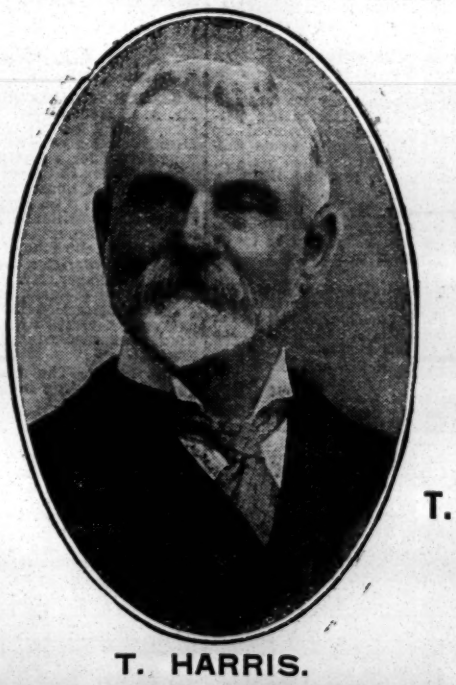

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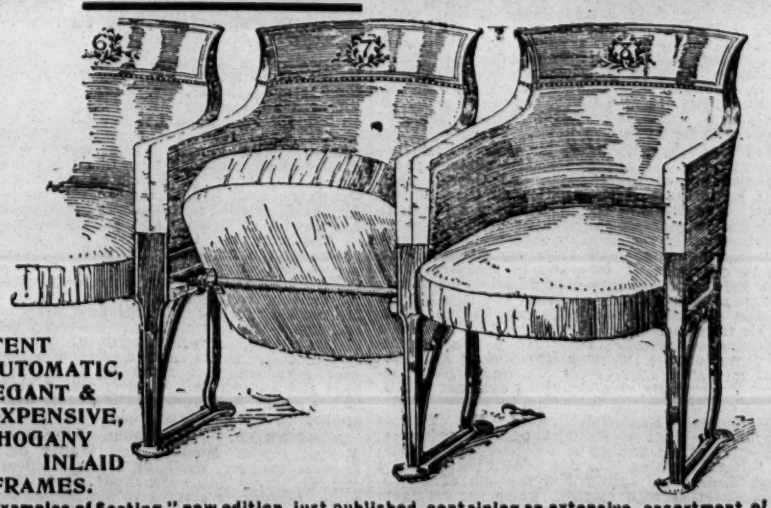

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NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

LONDON.

DEC. 1. *The Cricket on the Hearth*, adaptation, in three acts, of the Christmas story, by Charles Dickens (Mr. W. H. C. Nation's season)—Terry's.
" 1. *Simoon*, by August Strindberg, translated and arranged by Frank Castles and Edith A. Browne (New Stage Club)—Bloomsbury Hall.
" 1. *Time: A Passing Phantasy*, by F. Norreys Connell—Bloomsbury Hall.
" 1. *The Stronger Woman*, by August Strindberg, translated and arranged by Frank Castles and Edith A. Browne.
" 3. *A Matrimonial Advertisement*, farcical play, in one act, by Richard Clarke—Marlborough.
" 6. *The Proud Princess*, operetta, in three acts, book by Charles Knight, music by Clement Courtney (produced by amateurs)—All Saints' Parochial Hall, Peckham.
" 3. *Tommy*, play, in three acts, adapted by Jerome K. Jerome from his novel of "Tommy and Co."—Camden.
" 4. *Chester Mystery Plays*, first produced about 1328—Blomsbury Hall.
" 10. *The Jungle*, melodrama, in four acts—Dalston Theatre.
" 10. *Toddles*, transferred from Duke of York's to Wyndham's.
" 10. *Robin Hood*, play, in five acts, by Dennis Cleugh and Cecil Jones—Crystal Palace Theatre.
" 10. *The Weavers*, translation by Mary Morison, of the drama, *Die Weber*, in five acts, by Gerhart Hauptmann (originally produced at the Deutsches Theatre, Berlin, in February, 1893)—Scala.
" 12. *The Vicar of Wakefield*, light romantic opera in three acts, founded on Oliver Goldsmith's novel; lyrics by Laurence Housman and others, music by Liza Lehmann (originally produced at Prince's, Manchester, on Nov. 14, 1906)—Prince of Wales's.
" 24. *Robinson Crusoe*, pantomime, by H. E. Bowes—Dalston Theatre.
" 24. *Aladdin*, pantomime, by Fred Bowyer—Crystal Palace.
" 24. *Sinbad*, pantomime, by J. Hickory Wood—West London.
" 24. *Babes in the Wood*, pantomime, by Frank Dix—Grand, Fulham.
" 24. *Aladdin*, pantomime, by Mark Melford—Shakespeare, Clapham.
" 24. *The Forty Thieves*, pantomime, by Frank Dix—Coronet.
" 24. *Cinderella*, pantomime, by Brian Daly and John M. East—Elephant and Castle.
" 26. *Sindbad*, pantomime, by J. Hickory Wood and Arthur Collins; music composed and arranged by James M. Glover—Drury-lane.
" 26. *Red Riding Hood*, pantomime, by Newman Maurice (Mr. W. H. C. Nation's season)—Terry's.
" 26. *Mother Goose*, pantomime, by Brian Daly and John M. East—Crown, Peckham.
" 26. *Cinderella*, pantomime—Broadway, New Cross.
" 26. *Robinson Crusoe*, pantomime, by "I am Query"—Borough Theatre, Stratford.
" 26. *Humpty Dumpty*, pantomime by Frank Dix—Kennington Theatre.
" 26. *Cinderella*, pantomime, by Stanley Rogers—Marlborough.
" 26. *Cinderella*, pantomime, by J. Hickory Wood—King's, Hammersmith.
" 26. *Cinderella*, pantomime, by Frank Dix—Camden.
" 26. *Goody Two Shoes*, pantomime, by Paul Valentine—Alexandra Palace.
" 26. *Jack and the Beanstalk*, pantomime, by Newman Maurice—Grand, Islington.
" 26. *The Forty Thieves*, pantomime, by Fred Bowyer—Prince's, Poplar.
" 26. *The Babes in the Wood*, pantomime, by Arthur Linforth—Grand, Woolwich.
" 26. *Bluebeard*, pantomime, by Hugh Mytton—County, Kingston.
" 31. *The Lighthouse Robbery*, American drama, in four acts—Lyric, Hammersmith.

REVIVALS.

DEC. 1. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Shakespeare's comedy—Adelphi.
" 8. *The Yeomen of the Guard; or, The Merryman and His Maid*, written by W. S. Gilbert, composed by Arthur Sullivan (originally produced at the Savoy Theatre, Oct. 3, 1888)—Savoy.
" 11. *Macbeth*, Shakespeare's tragedy, arranged by Arthur Bourchier—Garrick.
" 11. *The Websters*, play, in three acts, by Frank Kingston—Terry's.
" 16. *On the Side of the Angels*, play, in four acts, by W. L. Courtney (The Pioneers)—Court.
" 24. *Dorothy o' the Hall*, play, by Paul Kester and Charles Major.—New.
" 27. *The Beauty of Bath*, transferred from Aldwych Theatre to the Hicks Theatre (opening of the latter house).
" 27. *Antony and Cleopatra*, Shakespeare's tragedy, arranged by Herbert Beerbohm Tree—His Majesty's.

PROVINCES.

DEC. 4. *When Other Lips* drama, in four acts by T. Arthur Jones (copyright performance)—Alexandra, Sheffield.
" 8. *Lanciotto and Cecilia*, opera, in three acts, written by Frances M. Kay, music by Seymour Reeves—Wretham-road Assembly Rooms, Birmingham.
" 17. *The Tyrant*, drama, in four acts, by Fred C. Somerfield and Frederic Ludovic—Royal Osborne Theatre, Manchester.
" 17. *The Silver Stick*, musical Cornish play, in two acts, written by Alfred England, music by Carl St. Amory—Opera House, Northampton.
" 17. *The Dandy Duke; or, The Man Who Wasn't*, musical burlesque, in two acts, written and composed by Vere Smith, lyrics by D. Eardley Wilmot, Stephen Eaton, and Vere Smith—Theatre Royal, Brighton.
" 24. *Robin Hood*, drama, in four acts, by Clifford Rean—Star Theatre, Liverpool.
" 24. *The French Hussar*, Irish drama, in five acts, by J. W. Whitbread—Queen's Royal Theatre, Dublin.
" 31. *Carmen*, play, in four acts, adapted from the French of Prosper Merimée, with music from Bizet's opera—Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmunds.

PARIS.

DEC. 6. *Piff! Paff! Pouff!* fairy play, three acts and thirty-seven tableaux, by Victor de Cottens and Victor Darlay—Chatelet.
" 7. *Le Voleur*, comedy, three acts, by Henry Bernstein—Renaissance.
" 15. *La Savelli*, play, four acts and seven tableaux, by Max Maurey—Théâtre Réjane.
" 21. *Où est Moreau?* farce, three acts, by P. Bonhomme and G. de Téramond—Bouffes.
" 23. *Bat' d'Af!* play, five acts and eight tableaux, by A. Bernède and Aristide Bruant—Théâtre Molière.
" 28. *Madame Butterfly*, Japanese tragedy, by L. Illica and G. Giacosa, music by Giacomo Puccini—Opéra Comique.
" 29. *De l'Amour aux larmes*, play, three acts, by Maurice Lefèvre—Théâtre des Arts.
DEC. 29. *Les Nuées*, adapted from Aristophanes, by Sacha Guitry, four acts—Théâtre des Arts.
" 30. *La Môme aux beaux yeux*, melodrama, five acts, by Pierre Decourcelle—Ambigu.

BERLIN.

DEC. 1. *Der Heimliche Koenig*, four-act comedy, by Ludwig Fulda—Lessing.
" 5. *Salome*, opera, in one act, by Richard Strauss—Royal Opera.
" 7. *Liselott*, comedy, in four acts, by H. Stobitzer—Berliner.
" 7. *Wo ist der Papa?* two-act farce, by M. de Féraudy—Trianon.
" 20. *Ringelspiel*, comedy, in three acts, by H. Bahr.—Deutsches.
" 21. *Kinder*, four-act comedy, by Robert Misch—Neues.
" 21. *Vergnügte Feiertage*, three-act volks-play, by L. Ottomeyer—Luisen.
" 22. *Der Helfer*, four-act play, by Felix Philippi—New Schauspielhaus.
" 22. *Künstlerblut*, operetta, in three acts, by E. Eysler—Central.
" 22. *Der Sorgenbrecher*, burlesque, in four acts, by A. Philipp—Deutsch Amerikanisches.
" 25. *Der Kavalier*, one-act comedy, by MM. Timmory and Manonisi—Figaro.
" 25. *Die Klaue*, one-act play, by J. Sartène—Figaro.
" 25. *Der Chicago Landwirth*, one-act farce, by Mark Twain—Figaro.
" 29. *Cousin Bobby*, operetta, in three acts, by Carl Millöcker, text by MM. Jacobson and Wagner—Des Westens.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

THE New Alliance of Variety Artists, Musicians, and Stage Employees has, through its secretaries, Messrs. Frank Gerald, J. B. Williams, and William Johnson, had an interview with Mr. Tozer, Mr. Adney Payne, and Mr. Sutton, representing the Tivoli, Oxford, and other variety houses. The interview took place at the office of the Syndicate in Durham House, Strand, and the result is that the directors named will submit the proposals made on behalf of the Alliance to the members of the Entertainment Proprietors' Association, and a further interview will take place early next month, when the matter will be again considered in conference. The proceedings on Tuesday were of an amicable nature throughout. It was admitted that so far as the stage staff were concerned, the abolition of the "tips" had made a difference to the men which the management ought to take into consideration.

THE agreement with Mr. Gibbons comes into force at all the halls under his control on Monday next. Mr. Gibbons's enterprises include the Royal, Holborn, the Empire, Islington, the Duchess, Balham, the New Grand, Clapham, the Hippodrome, Ealing, and the Empire, Croydon.

A MEETING of stage-managers was held last week to consider their relations to the movement initiated by the Alliance. Mr. Harry Mountford presided, and among the representatives of the Alliance present were—Mr. Frank Gerald, V.A.F., Mr. William Johnson, general secretary N.A.T.E., Mr. C. C. Bartram, Mr. A. Voyce, and Mr. Harrison. The questions submitted were discussed, and the meeting adjourned until this week-end.

AN agreement was signed on Thursday between the Alliance and Mr. Frank Macnaghten, which covers all the halls under the Macnaghten control so far as the interests of the variety artists and musicians are concerned, and all the London halls so far as members of the stage staff are concerned. The stage employees will receive the rates recognised by the Society, and all stage employees are to be members of the National Association of Theatrical Employees. This agreement is, practically, the charter of the Alliance, and is being agreed to by other proprietors.

THE General Staff branch of the N.A.T.E. met on Wednesday to deal with the large number of applications for membership received, and letters were read from many towns and cities in the United Kingdom asking for information and assistance to form a local branch. It was decided to give the Alliance full power to deal with the interests represented by the branch.

THE local branch secretary of the A.M.U. is helping the stage employees to form a branch in Oldham. A meeting with that end in view will be held in Cork on Sunday.

MR. DONALD MACLEAN, assistant-stage-manager of the Comedy Theatre, was taken suddenly ill on the 3rd inst. and died the following day, heart failure and congestion of the lungs being the immediate cause of decease. The funeral took place on Saturday, Mr. Arthur Chudleigh, the manager, and Mr. A. Palmer, the master carpenter, being present, among the friends and relatives of the deceased. The stage staff sent a wreath, as did the attendants of the front of the House. Others came from Mr. Chudleigh, Mr. Clifton Brooks, stage-manager, the members of the company, Mr. Harry Thompson, master carpenter, Duke of York's Theatre, and Mr. Burbick, property-master of the same house. Mr. MacLean, who was a native of New Zealand, was very popular with the staff at the Comedy, for whom he was instrumental in getting a goose and sundry other seasonable gifts at Christmas.

THE American Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees have recently raised the wages of the travelling men, the rates being now as follows:—Master carpenter, $40 per week; assistant and flyman, $30 per week; all extra men, $30 per week; property man, $30 per week; assistant property man, $25 per week; electrician, $30 per week; assistant-electrician, $25 per week.

WE regret to announce the death of Mrs. Andrews, the mother of Mr. R. Andrews, Mr. Frank Curzon's master carpenter, and of the late Miss Bessie Wentworth. Mrs. Andrews died on Saturday last, and was buried on Wednesday in the family grave at Tooting Cemetery, beside her daughter. The floral tributes were beautiful and numerous. Among those who attended the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. R. Andrews, Mr. A. C. Andrews, Mr. C. Andrews, Mr. C. Aube, Mr. C. Chapman, Mr. A. Roos, Mr. Arthur Palmer, Mrs. Knowles, Mrs. Whittlesea, and Mr. and Mrs. George MacDonald. The whole of the arrangements were admirably carried out under the supervision of Mr. T. Dunkley, of Westminster Bridge-road.

THE DARLINGTON STATION FIRE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—May I correct through the columns of valuable paper the various reports which have appeared with regard to the fire that occurred at Darlington Station on Sunday last? It is true that the entire company of *My Sweetheart* and the whole of the scenery were on the train that was on fire, but nothing connected with this company was damaged as reported, and the statement in an evening paper that my papers and private property was destroyed is also without foundation.
Yours faithfully, P. HOWARD STURGESS
(Mr. Wentworth Croke's company manager).
Theatre Royal, Darlington, Jan. 10, 1907.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews.—This week Mr. Harry Benet presents his pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, which was much appreciated by the crowded audience on Monday night. Miss Ray Anderson makes a dashing Robinson Crusoe, her songs being well received. Miss Marion Williams as Polly is quite captivating; Miss Lily Carver is seen to great advantage as Capt. Tea Pot. Mr. Denis Lyndon is decidedly original and quaint as Mrs. Crusoe; Mr. W. Melville-Page as Little Willie adds greatly to the fun; and so does Mr. Tom McKay as Friday, who also contributes some clever dancing. The remaining characters are in the capable hands of Mr. E. Curtis, F. Sietru, Mr. F. Clive, and the Misses Grace Wilson, Trixie Bascombe, and Wynnie Russel. The Garnet Quartette of Dancers are a great success. In the Palace scene, Clivetta, juggler; Read and Wright, top boot dancers; and the Peritas, acrobats, give turns of high merit. The scenery is especially good. The musical-director is Major L. Hornsey.

ABERDEEN. — HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—The D'Oyly Carte Company opened the second week of their present visit with *The Mikado*. The house was crowded in every part. Miss Rassam excelled herself as Katisha; Mr. Walenn played Ko-Ko with many happy individualistic touches; Mr. Moss made an excellent Nanky-Poo; and Miss Hastings was wholly suited to the part of Yum-Yum. Miss Evans was a piquant Pitti-Sing, and Miss Mabel Burnege also played one of the "little maids" with marked charm. Mr. Kavanagh in the title-part, was in fine voice, and Mr. Tunks gave a good rendering of Pish-Tush.

PALACE THEATRE. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—*Casey's Circus*, a most amusing burlesque, is the principal attraction here this week, with that versatile comedian, Mr. Tom Woottwell, as a good second. Miss Billie Barlow is an exceptionally piquant comedienne; the Mezettis are exceedingly clever acrobats; and among the other successful artists are the Lynches, in their American picture songs; Mr. Frank Coyle, a highly original comedian; Miss Marie Wilton, a graceful dancer and singer; and Miss Emily Lyndale, a pleasing vocalist.

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventom; Stage-Manager, Mr. Fred Thomas; Musical Director, Mr. Alf. Carter.—Good houses are being drawn by the fine performances of Mrs. Frank Bateman's company in *No Wedding Bells for Her*, the staging, scenery, and dresses being very elaborate. Miss Lilly Montague gives an admirable portrayal of Lola Delaspierre; Mr. Stuart Lomath as Frank Hatherleigh, a clergyman, plays the part to the life; as does also Mr. George Herbert as Horatio Fane, an old actor; Mr. Percy Shaw as Dick Delver, the detective, is very good, and Mr. Arthur Linay as Harold Trevelyn, Mr. Will Skelton as Simkins, Mr. Robert Lord as Adonis Tightfist, Miss Grace Battersby as Doris Fane, and Miss Ellen Owen as Marie Flail help valuably towards the success of the representation.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. B. Barnes.—Mr. Fred Granville's pantomime company, *Babes in the Wood* opened here on Monday to a packed house, and every item was applauded to the echo. Miss Cissie Bodina makes herself immensely popular with her performance of Robin Hood; Miss Hettie Lind gives a charming portrayal of Maid Marion; as the Babes, Harold and Lucy, Master Harry Boden and Miss Edie Bell prove to be particularly clever children; Mr. Joe English is responsible for much fun as the Dame; Miss Belle Carr is very good as Will Scarlett; and Madge Holdford must be complimented for her portrayal of Allan a' Dale. Misses May Day, Nellie Price, May Cornish, and Queenie West are excellent in their respective parts; Miss Maud Lind plays the good Fairy with effect, her numbers being well rendered; Bungling Bill and Gentle Georgie are divertingly depicted by the Kimberley Boys; and Mr. Norman Hall is mirth-provoking as the Wicked uncle, Brokah de Pawn. The Three Graces, in their unique poses, prove a valuable attraction. The dresses and scenery are particularly fine.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Potter, Vandy, and Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Parsons.—A good bill is provided at the above hall this week. The McConnell Trio are very successful in *A Musical Mistake;* Amy Anderson and Co. are well received in the musical scena, *The Banana Queen;* Ely Adair is very bright and pleasing; Billy French is a smart coon singer; Ernest Montanore and Co. must be highly complimented for an excellent sketch, with first-class acting; Jenny Hartley is duly appreciated; Leon and Leoni are admirable musical experts; and the Hippo Pictures complete a good show.

ALDERSHOT. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—The popular musical play, *Bluebell in Fairyland*, is from start to finish a scene of brilliance, and unstinted praise is due to Mr. E. G. Falcon's talented company, who use every effort to bring about a successful issue. The principals are:—Misses Florence Somers, Constance St. Bride, Vera Vizard, Emily Wall, Bertha Johnson, Messrs. Lawrence Emery, Frank Lennard, J. H. Bishop, Chas. Resti, Harry Douglas, whilst there are some forty or fifty in smaller parts, and the chorus.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Revill.—*Dick Whittington* has only made a brief stay (two weeks) with us, and has now gone to fulfil engagements elsewhere. In his place has come on the scene *Cinderella*, her little glass slipper, and her train of burlesque attendants, comedians, and coryphées. Chief among those who give the pantomime vitality are Miss Nancy Newell, who makes a sympathetic and dainty Cinderella, and Miss Kitty Phelps, who has a brisk and airy way which sits well on the Prince. Mr. Allen Amber and Miss Cecilia Kent, as Maudie and Ethel, are eccentrically funny; Mr. Robt. Williams as the Baron, Messrs. Yorick and Yorick as brokers' men, eccentric knockabouts; and Mr. Harry Pleon as the baron's page, cause great laughter. Miss Minnie Terry is a dashing, impulsive Dandini; Miss Bella Terry is sweet and neat as Eglantine; and Miss Ethel Davies as the fairy godmother, Sunbeam, is elegant of figure, graceful in movement, and sings sweetly.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—The present company for the week includes Gorge Ray, a humorous Scotch comedian; Fred and Maud Vypond, who are favourites; Sam Redfern, negro eccentric; Harry Briggs, described as a triple-voiced vocalist; Wragg and Wragg, Royal military athletes; Clown Charlton, in his eccentric musical variety act; the Six Brothers Luck, in *Blazes*; the Naval Quintette, in *Ashore in Venice*; and the Bioscope.

ATTERCLIFFE. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chris. A. Wordsworth. — To a house crowded in every part Mr. Edwin C. Jazon presented on Monday evening his pantomime, *Cinderella*, a production full of "go" from start to finish, abounding with tuneful music, tasteful dresses and scenery. Miss Flo Melville is a vivacious Cinderella; as Prince Brilliant Miss Louie Hurman is most captivating, and makes an ideal principal boy; Miss Madge Bryde is pleasing as Dandini; Miss Ada Pierce as Dorothy is seen to advantage; Miss Florrie Burnette is graceful and winsome as Queen Bountiful, and her songs are rendered in excellent taste; Mr. Stan Aubrey as Baron Crooked, Mr. Charles Preston as Arabella, Mr. Alf Brookes as Isabella, and Mr. Fred Ward as Buttons are a quartette of comedians who cause endless mirth by their witty sallies and comical by-play; in this direction excellent service is also rendered by Messrs. Onda and Leon as Staff and Roller; specialities are introduced by Pearce and Ward, burlesque boxers; Onda and Leon, triple-bar performers; Mr. Stan Aubrey, legmania artist; Harding and Preston, expert dancers; and McCann's performing dogs. The stage and business arrangement of the company is in the hands of Mr. F. Strachan.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—A programme of all-round excellence is provided here this week. The Jackley Trio, including the whistling comedian, George, give an acrobatic act of much merit; a pleasing turn, which is most acceptable, is provided by that popular humorist, Mr. Wilson Blackledge, his representation of a village concert meeting with hearty applause; Rosel gives a clever and daring gymnastic exhibition; Miss Minnie Fenton is a Scottish comedienne of much merit; Steeley and Dowton are seen to advantage in a burlesque scena; Mr. T. Wordley Hulse, assisted by a good company, gives a highly dramatic and sensational sketch, entitled *The Fight in the Forge*; Mr. Charles Rose is an excellent comedian and dancer; and Mr. Clayton's Attergraph pictures are up to date.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—On Monday Mr. R. C. Buchanan and Mr. Ernest Stevens presented *Cinderella*, by Stanley Rogers, music by Harry Richardson. Miss Madge Daly as the Prince makes much of the part, singing well and tunefully; Cinderella is sweetly played by Miss Lily Eyton, who sings well, and is admirably supported by Mr. Harry Ray, as Capers, who is a specialist in dancing and knockabout business. Mr. Frank Barclay raises the character of Dandini to the high level of grand opera, with his sympathetic voice and cultured style. The Baron has an amusing delineator in Mr. Freddie French, and his partner the Baroness is admirably presented by Mr. Ted Young, whose songs receive encores nightly. The two daughters are well taken by Miss Edith Barwell and Miss Grace Desmond, and the Duke of Whistbridge has a fine representative in Miss Madge Allan. The Fairy Godmother is attractively played by Miss Elsie Cooper.

BACUP. — NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Dudley Harcourt.— Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company is here this week with the romantic play, entitled *The Love that Women Desire*. Mr. Jerrold Heather acts with power and effect as Philip Carnaby; and Squire Abingdon is commendably presented by Mr. J. O. Stewart; Mr. Alfred Brandon is responsible for the characterisation of the villain, Richard Abingdon; whose accomplice, Madge Abingdon, is successfully embodied by Miss Cicely Desmond; Frank Hardy is portrayed with good dramatic effect by Mr. Leonard Montgomery; Mr. Graham Winsford as Dr. Brandrath and Mr. Hugh Wallace as the Rev. Arnold Cathorne, both give an excellent account of themselves; Mr. John Hignett as Dennis O'Rourke and Miss Nita Imeson as Pattie Swift cause much amusement; Mr. J. W. Wilkinson is droll as P.C. Sowerberry; Miss Lalla Stanhope gives an admirable impersonation of the part of Sybil Thorburn; and Miss N. Griffiths is successful as Mariquinha, an Indian maiden.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone. —Mr. Herbert Ralland's company in *La Poupee* is here. The Lancelot of Mr. Arthur Cozens is an amusing presentment, and Father Maxime is well done by Mr. Walter Balfour. The Hilarine of Mr. Fred Seymour is brimful of humour and eccentricity; and Alesia is capitally and vivaciously embodied by Miss Mysie Devine.

HIS MAJESTY'S.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr William Greet's company in *The Shulamite* is here. Mr. Algernon J. Hicks gives a good rendering of Simeon Krillet, and Mr. Charles Fancourt makes an excellent Robert Waring; while Miss Ruth Shepherd is a sympathetic and artistic Deborah Krillet.

TIVOLI THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting.—Attracting here are Mr. George Formby in some amusing songs; the Three Orros, clever gymnasts; Miss Hall, a vocalist of much merit; and Fred Horsfall, a clever singer. The Champions are successful comedians; Eric does a novelty act; and Mlle. Eldee gives an artistic turn.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—*Sindbad* entered upon its third week on Monday with every sign of lasting popularity. The second half of the pantomime has been considerably brightened up by the introduction of several new songs and jokes. Miss May Hart (Sindbad) gives the rousing song with chorus, "My Soldier Boy." Miss Mollie Wynne (Ganem) now renders the popular "Zuyder Zee" in Dutch costume, with clog dance. To Miss F. Cameron (Kali) has been allotted the taking air "Cheyanne," which she sings in capital style. Two fresh ditties, "How dare you!" and "Not in England," fall to Mr. Percy Baverstock (Grinbad), and this smart comedian gets hearty recalls for his extra labour. Mr. Arthur Royce (Mrs. Sindbad) and Mr. E. W. Coleman (Fitz-Gubbins) are always to the fore in the funmaking. A special meed of praise is due to the ladies and children of the chorus, together with the orchestra, for their share of work in making the pantomime a success.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—An exceptionally good programme is provided this week, including, as it does, the Courtiers (consisting of four ladies and five gentlemen), who entertain with melody and refined humour that secures them many encores. Charles Collette and Joan Derry present their new farce, *Tea for Two*, which is received with applause. Notwithstanding that Harry Freeman craved the indulgence of the audience on account of a severe cold, he is not allowed to depart until he has given a trio of his popular songs. Francis O'Flynn gains success as a banjo virtuoso; Belle Braham, the popular pictorial songstress, gives her latest selections with unmistakable enjoyment to he audience; Cairns and Lynch contribute some excellent buck dancing in wooden shoes; Marion Scott's singing of "The man in Manitoba" is accorded a warm reception. Raymond's bio-tableaux depicts "The Tragic Wedding."

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. J. W. Whitbread's Irish company opened here on Monday, and presented the new drama, *The French Hussar*. The piece met with great success here, not a little of which was due to the impersonation of Tom Burke by that capital actor, Mr. Frank Lyndon. His acting left nothing to be desired. Mr. James O'Brien (a great favourite here) as Darby, "the blast," created much merriment with his exceedingly humorous impersonation. Mr. Dane Clarke must be commended for his realistic impersonation of Napoleon; and Miss Jessie Glenn furnished a vivacious interpretation of Kitty Malone. Miss Madeline Hurst portrayed Josephine, Empress of the French, excellently; and the iniquitous attorney-at-law, Tony Bassett, was realistically embodied by Mr. Harry Richardson. Mr. Ryland Leigh exhibited exceptional skill in his impersonation of Capt. Montague Croft; and Miss Cecilia Dare distinguished herself as Marie De Meudon. Mr. Tom Ireland in the dual rôles of Capt. Bubbleton and Mehee de La Touche rendered able assistance; and other parts were well sustained by Miss Amy Whingate, Miss E. F. Brady, and Messrs. Jno. Daly, Byrne Dawson, Tom Bayley, and C. Romer. It should be added that this company is under the able direction of Mr. Dane Clarke. During the week *Charles O'Malley* and the *Colleen Bawn* have also been presented.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris. — The Christmas pantomime, *Mother Goose*, continues to be a great attraction, and Mr. Warden deserves the heartiest congratulations on the triumph he has achieved. An enormous hit has been achieved by that clever comedienne Miss May Moore Duprez; and Mr. Martin Adeson also works very hard to please, and succeeds admirably. There are not many dull moments when he and Mr. Wm. Cromwell (Jack) occupy the stage. Miss Carlotta Levey's songs have won the popular favour; and Miss Molly Macintyre delights all with her charming rendering of "Au Revoir, My Little Hyacinth." Miss Elsie Robey commands much success by her vivacious and charming interpretation of Lady Biddy, singing "Borneo" with rare charm. We have nothing but praise for the excruciatingly funny 'bus scene and the concluding scene, "Heartsease," an exquisite stage picture.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General Manager Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Mr. Fred Karno's company heads the bill, and presents with great success the amusing sketch, *Early Birds*. Mr. Albert Christian is paying a return visit, and has been heartily welcomed; his fine baritone voice has been heard to the utmost advantage. Baker and Balfe are aptly described as marvellous xylophonists; a good reception nightly has been accorded the Bros. Hayes, who appear in their comedy act, *The Porter and the Professional*, which is certainly very funny. Mr. Harry Leybourne's mimicry of stars is surprisingly realistic; and Miss Katie Cohen's cultured vocalism gains many admirers. Jess Thorne, comedy artist, and the Empire Pictures complete a fine programme.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Alhambra Dramatic Company is appearing this week in the sterling drama, *London's Curse*. Mr. Horace Denton is seen to great advantage as George Montgomery; and that charming actress, Miss Nina Blake-Adams, furnishes a clever impersonation of Mabel Montgomery. The villainies of Abraham Scroby are realistically depicted by Mr. Percy M. Stevenson; and that capital comedian, Mr. Tom H. Solly, is exceedingly humorous as Mussels. Mr. Elmore Frith sustains the difficult rôle of Dr. Cameron with much credit to himself; and Mr. Cyril Grier acquits himself admirably as Rev. Ernest Langton. A special word of praise is due to Mr. R. S. Innes—a new-comer—for his decidedly funny impersonation of Rory Drummond. Miss Roma Tremayne interpreted the rôle of Lena Montgomery with much grace and charm; and Miss Mattie Crawford was a vivacious Lottie Smithers. Mr. H. Hesselgrave was all that could be desired as the repulsive Marley; and other parts were well sustained by Messrs. Ed. Smythe, F. Parker, and T. Oakley. The Alhambra Bioscope exhibits a capital picture this week, entitled "A Pleasant Day (?) in the Country."

BILSTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Battersby; Musical-Director, Mr. J. E. Machin.—On Monday *Hamlet* was played here by Mr. Allan Wilkie, who made a very intelligent Danish Prince; Miss Ina Cameron was a painstaking Ophelia; and Miss Carrie Baillie a satisfactory Gertrude; the Ghost had an awe-inspiring exponent in Mr. Herbert Morgan; the fine exposition of Laertes by Mr. G. Alex. Marsh was well received; as also was Mr. T. Coleman's Polonius. *The Merchant of Venice, Corsican Brothers, Romeo and Juliet, Othello, The Bells,* and *David Garrick* were underlined for the week.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Mr. George Dance's company is delighting large audiences with a spirited and delightful performance of *Veronique*. Miss Ethel Negretti is in the title-rôle, and her performance is rapturously received; as Florestan Mr. Roland Bottomley appears to advantage; Mr. Tom Seymour creates amusement as Coquenard; and Mr. Percival Knight gives a humorous rendering of Loustat; Miss Doris Greville is in every respect an excellent Madame Coquenard; the Countess is cleverly played by Miss Edith Devonshire; Miss Isobel Leonard is a charming Denise; and Aunt Benoit is adequately represented by Miss Maud Leonard.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke. — Hill and Whittaker, talented instrumental and vocal artists, are again appearing here with much éclat, and Mr. J. W. Ashcroft, the veteran Irish comedian, is fulfilling a highly successful return engagement; Spry and Monti have made a hit in *The Dandy Guardsman;* the New York Nippers are popular in an amusing turn; and a strong combination also includes Miss Nelly Farrell, a talented Irish comedienne; the Sisters Marion, accomplished duettists; Hallam and Stanton, versatile artists, in *A Broken Journey;* the Lovelaces, song illustrators; Mr. Fred Keeton, character comedian; and Brown's Royal Bioscope. Mr. Ernest Denney is musical director.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*The Queen of Hearts* is playing to full houses. Mr. George Robey as the Queen continues to please; Miss Ethel Haydon has rare vocal charm; Miss Millie Lindon scores with her well-emphasised singing and acting as the Prince; and Messrs. Edward Lewis, Tom Hearn, and T. A. Shale, together with the Misses Valli-Valli and Helen Cecile, are very popular.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Crusoe's Adventures* is being received with every favour, and Miss Georgina Delmar, in her fascinating performance of the voyager, is ably supported by the Misses Lulu Valli, Nell Emerald, Louie Collier, &c., and Messrs. J. F. McArdle, Fred Wright, jun., Colin Coop, Geo. Miller, and the Hayters, &c.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*Cymbeline* has drawn most appreciative audiences, and is to be withdrawn to-night, after a successful run of three weeks.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—*Cinderella* is winning fresh laurels for Mr. Collingwood, who has again put on a pantomime both merry and ornate. He is reaping his reward in full houses.

METROPOLE THEATRE. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*Saved from the Sea* affords the Metropole company many opportunities. Mr. Percy Dawsone acts Dan Ellington in a hearty, robust manner; Mr. Austen Milroy scores heavily as Richard Trenton; Mr. Edward Finlay ably portrays Peter Scalcher; Mr. Fred A. Marston's utility is seen in the part of Jim Weaver; Mr. Andrew Emm is humorous as Billy Snooks; Mr. Vernon Proctor shines as Jenkins; and Mr. Francis Everard is adequate as the Governor of the Gaol; Miss Rose Ralph gives a delightful representation of Nan; Miss Amy Corelli is admired as Polly Blake; Miss Bella Power, in the rôle of Mrs. Blake, shows to advantage, and Little Gladys secures sympathy for the boy, Jack.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The French Spy* appears here with a strong company, headed by Mr. Fred Benton, whose acting as the strong man, Fritz, is one of the salient features of the representation; Miss Madge Devereux is dramatic in her handling of the title-rôle; Miss A. Harrison Tate plays Olga with distinction; Mr. Beresford Lovett invests the character of Capt. Summers with desirable force; Mr. Max Coutts gives a clever study of Count Romanoff; Mr. L. Chaseby works well as the lieutenant, Maxwell; Mr. G. Sherraton acts in admirable fashion as Petross Romanoff; Mr. Seymour Perry makes a humorous Knipps; and Miss Ella Seton fills the part of Julie conspicuously well.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*The Christian* is fulfilling a most successful engagement here with Mr. Wentworth Croke's No. 1 Company, including Miss Grace Chalmers, whose Glory Quayle is hailed with the utmost satisfaction; Mr. Frank Tennant's Hon. John Storm is a highly finished performance; Mr. Charles Hill is an able representative of Parson Quayle; Mr. Edward Ling does creditably as Father Lamplugh; Mr. Charles E. Dering is successful as Archdeacon Wealthy; Mr. Frederick Scarth acts with sang-froid as Lord Robert Ure; and Miss Vashti Wellborn's Polly Love is well rendered.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—*Bo-Peep*, which is being produced this week by Dean Tribune, is a tabloid pantomime written on recognised lines. The familiar story is told in an entertaining manner to the accompaniment of tuneful music and pretty dances. Strasberger's Lilliputians make up for their lack of inches by their extraordinary ability, while another item which has the stamp of originality is that given by Lindon's Vaudeville Entertainers in a comedy mélange, *Monks at Play*. The Three Dumonds, strolling players; George Newburn, mimic; Marie Dumas, soprano; the Three Merrills, trick cyclists; Harry Lawson, comedian; and Zanfretta and Napio, eccentric musicians, are also responsible for attractive items.

GAIETY.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—*The Little Stowaway*, a dramatic sketch, under the direction of Ethel Arden and George Abel, Ltd., holds the premier position on the bill this week. It is one that has always been a favourite with Gaiety patrons, and this week they show no deterioration in enthusiastic applause. Grahame and Harrington enhance their reputation with a dramatic episode, *A Daughter of Pleasure;* Tate and Tate give an exceedingly smart, up-to-date performance as comedy acrobats; the Bob Hanlon Troupe display considerable ability in their double somersaults and Pirouettes; Lily Lena is a charming comedienne; Dolly Moore is a delightful juvenile male impersonator; Stewart and Morgan, in their musical scena, *Leaving Ireland*, receive the plaudits of a delighted audience; T. G. Callaghan is a quaint comedian.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford.—That clever and popular comedian, Nat Clifford, is paying a welcome return visit; as "The Bounding Navvies," Wild, Willie, and West display an agility and freedom of action, in conjunction with comedy, which secures them considerable popularity; Charles Cardow has an excellent imitation of the modern drama; while Tennyson and Wallis are capital comedians and cross-talkers; Starr and Jerome are excellent sand dancers, and Adams and Ward good comedians. Ida Rose, Sam Morrison, and Mabel Le Roy complete the programme.

BORDESLEY PALACE. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The chief turn this week is supplied by John Warren and Company, in a mystifying act entitled *The Magic Carpet*. Mr. Warren also introduces some smart conjuring. The Grovini Sisters are clever tumblers and acrobats, and the Vetter Bros. present their muscular turn in attractive and novel manner; the performance of the Huxter Bros. is of a distinctly different character. Their astonishing long-distance somersaults earn enthusiastic applause from the audience. Little Tichbourn is a smart young comedian and long boot dancer; Fred Elton gives a pleasing musical and vocal item, and Torbay, shadowgraphist, appeals effectively to the audience.

CURZON HALL.—Signor Volpi's Royal Italian Circus continues to attract appreciative audiences, several new items being added.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—The boards here are occupied this week by Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company in *The Indian Mutiny*. Mr. Edward M. Hamilton as Lieut. Manley gains much appreciation; Messrs. Villiers Stanley and J. S. Sheddon play with distinction Nebu Singh and Abul Khan; Ra Goonga is in the capable hands of Mr. Ernest Keand; Mr. Cyril Harrison is a satisfactory Captain Manley; and Mr. John Davidson is well placed as Major Ingleby. A sympathetic Ghuz-nah is seen in Miss F. Melrose Millett; and Miss Lillie Grey as Mrs. Major Ingleby and Miss Agnes Kingston as Kate Ingleby are also worthy of mention. Mr. Cecil Morand is amusing in the rôle of Terry O'Brien.

BLACKPOOL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—AN unusually fine performance of *Sherlock Holmes* is being given here nightly this week by Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart and Co., and their efforts are meeting with the success they merit. Mr. Stewart, as the famous detective, has a part to which he is eminently suited, and carries all before him; the virtuous celestials applauding him to the echo. Dr. Watson is carefully played by Mr. Stanley Logan; James Larrabee finds a most capable exponent in Mr. Stephen T. Ewart, an actor well known and admired by Blackpudlians; Mr. James Skea (Professor Moriarty), Mr. Fred Bell (John Forman), and Mr. Henry Littlejohn (Sir Edward Leighton), likewise give a good account of themselves. A charming and painstaking performance of Alice Faulkner is contributed by Miss Gladys Harvey; Miss Georgina Wynter cleverly enacts the part of Madge Larrabee; and Miss Dot Selby supplies a creditable portrayal of Mrs. Faulkner. Other parts are in efficient hands; the staging is highly effective.

OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—*The Silver King*, played by Messrs. Polini and Melford's company, is again the attraction here. Mr. Fred D. Daviss gives a very powerful rendering of Wilfred Denver; and Nellie Denver has a sweetly sympathetic exponent in Miss Daisy Scudamore; Mr. Edward J. George continues to play Jaikes as he alone can; whilst Mr. L. St. George Lowther, as The Spider; Mr. George Belmore, as Henry Corket; and Mr. Arthur Wright as Elijah Combe also merit commendation.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred. Waller.—The premier place on this week's bill is occupied by the Werner Amoros Troupe of jugglers and comedians, whose turn is particularly good. Other contributions to a capital programme are Carrie Joy, comedienne; Harry Morris, a clever mimic; The Ringling Trio, American eccentrics; Oakley and James, in "A Tit-Bit of Everything"; The Kyasyas, athletes and weight-lifters; Ed. B. Ford, comedian; and The Wheelers, cyclists; Vernon's Imperial Bioscope is a perennial attraction here.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. C. Moody.—Mr. James Kiddie's company is here, with *Dick Whittington*. In the nom-rôle Miss Adele Rosye is charming; Miss Leah Laurie wins favour for a pretty conception of the part of Alice. Others to whom praise is due include Bass and Guinness, quaint comedians; J. H. Wakefield, Fred Spencer, Alec Kendal, Archie J. Milne, Mesdames Gladys Kildare, Lily Jeffries, Florence Hilton, Annie Broughton, the Three Sisters Kilner, and the Le Belle Troupe of Parisian dancers.

GAIETY.—Proprietor, Councillor John Grantham; General-Manager, Mr. Arthur James.—In addition to animated pictures, Mr. James has provided an excellent attraction in the form of a spectacular pantomime, entitled *Starlight's Dream*, which has been most successfully interpreted by local children.

HIPPODROME.—The Apex Animated Picture Company is presenting here the latest invention, viz., the Chronophone.

BOLTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—On New Year's Eve Mr. J. F. Elliston presented to a large and appreciative audience his 27th annual pantomime, the subject chosen this year being *Mother Goose*. The book, which is brightly written, and up-to-date with songs and local allusions, is the work of Mr. J. Hickory Wood, and an exceptionally good combination of artists is engaged in the production. The parts of Mother Goose and her son Jack are in the hands of those clever comedians Charlie and Harry Rich, and the part of their Dutch servant, Gretchen, has afforded Miss Lola Patey an opportunity of displaying exceptional abilities, her impersonation, including the song, "By the side of the Zuyder Zee," with chorus of midget singers and dancers, being admirably done. Of the remaining comedians, Mr. H. O. Wills (Lord Pudsey), Mr. Leonard Maitland (Wibsey Slack), and Mr. W. Fullbrook (Mayor of Tapham), make the most of their opportunities, the latter's "astronomical" sketch being very amusing. Of the ladies, Miss Isabelle Dillon figures prominently as a dashing principal boy, Colin, Jill being nicely impersonated by Miss Pauline Hague. The Demon King and the Fairy Queen are respectively undertaken by Mr. Charles Homer and Miss Violet Ashcroft. Dances, &c., are given by the Eight Tiny Tots, a troupe of midget dancers, Miss Lottie Stone's quartette of lady dancers, and the Four Rosebuds. The incidental music is composed and arranged by Messrs. Wm. Closs and J. Ainscough, the latter of whom is musical director, and the whole is produced under the personal direction of Mr. Elliston.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—La Roland, in her phenomenal success, entitled "Mysterious Grotto Dances," heads the bill here, where she is supported by an old Bolton favourite, J. W. Hall, comedian; Sid Herman, Hebrew comedian; Ivy Lennard, characteristic vocalist; Carl Rosine, magician; John Alexander and his pantomime company in *The Troubles of a Tourist;* the Tennessee Guards, in a wonderful exhibition of lightning gun drill and wall scaling; Charles Leighton, "the man at the piano"; Bob Hamilton, Scotch comedian; De Vere and Kenwick, American comedy duo, introducing burlesque pictures on popular songs; Oakdene, comedy ventriloquist, in his nautical ventriloquial scena, "The Stowaway"; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

BOOTLE. — MUNCASTER THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Manager, Mr. H. Pennington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young. — Crowded houses are witnessing Mr. E. C. Jazon's *Aladdin*. As Aladdin Miss Edna Latonne plays with plenty of dash, and renders her songs in a pleasing manner; Miss Florrie White makes a capable Princess Badroulbadour, Miss Lila Lingard a pleasing Pekoe, Mr. J. C. Morris an amusing Widow Twankey, and Mr. Harry Vernon an effective Abanazar; spirited performances are given by Miss Flo Russell as Bercour and Miss Blanche Vernon as Caramel; Mr. Cyril Carle is a capable exponent of the Emperor; Mr. B. Best leaves nothing to be desired as Gin Sling, the Vizier; and the Genie of the Ring and Slave of the Lamp are respectively well played by the Sisters Varley; Messrs. George and Edwards work hard as Ping and Pong; the specialities are distinctly good, the Sisters Reno, in various national dances, being exceptionally smart and clever; a refined and neat performance is given by Kayardos' equilibrist and cannon ball juggler; also a clever contortion act by Mar Merlin. The scenery and dresses are pretty, and chorus and ballet well trained.

BOSCOMBE. — HIPPODROME.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's pantomime, *Aladdin*, is playing to fine houses here this week. The book is by F. Leslie Moreton, Francis Knowles being responsible for the music, the whole being produced under the stage direction of Mr. A. J. Nicholl. Miss Minnie Love as Aladdin, a decided success, fully merits the applause she receives for her singing and acting; Miss Lala Melrose makes an attractive Princess; and Miss Violet Kenyon is good as Pekoe. Miss Zoe Gilfillan as the Genie of the Lamp has an excellent voice; Mr. Mat Melrose is whimsical as Widow Twankey, causing much mirth; Mr. A. J. Nicholls appears to advantage as the Emperor; and Mr. W. P. Owen is a droll Abanazar. The specialities include Welda and Wynne, who, as the Chinese policemen, introduce some clever juggling and dancing; and the Four Berlin Belles are a particularly able set of dancers. The arduous task of conducting is well sustained by F. Gompertz Leake.

BOSTON.—PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. Saphrini.—This popular place of amusement was crowded on Monday to witness an excellent bill of fare that does great credit to the management. Mr. Chas. Morritt caused a sensation with his marvellous illusions. He also introduces and works Beulah, the mysterious lady thought-reader and the blind man who is gifted with a wonderful memory. Charlie Bradford is a very good comedian; Miss Brenda Leslie with illustrated songs was encored; The boy Samson, weight-lifter and wrestler, challenges all comers under twenty years of age, and was successful in throwing three opponents on Monday; and the American Rayograph shows some very good pictures.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—Mr. Mouillot's well-balanced company in *The Girl Behind the Counter*, opened here on Monday. The play is beautifully staged and dressed, and met with a cordial reception. Mr. H. D. Clarke as the General has a part in which he simply revels; Mr. Howard Cridland, too, makes a success of Viscount Gushington, and Mons. Jules Charmettes as Mons. Duval invests the character with much humour; Mr. Arthur

very droll and entertaining page; and great fun is also provided by Mr. Syd Walker and Mr. Cliff Lake as the Ugly Sisters, and by Mr. F. Hulme Sharp as the Baron. These four comedians make a great hit with their travesty of the suffragettes, and by their many grotesque bits of nonsense keep the audience in the happiest of moods.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—An excellent programme is sustained here this week. The Six Imrie Girls win cordial applause in their novel act, *American Girls at Practice*, their club exercises being especially effective; the Treshams are very diverting in their sketch, *Roads Up*; Frank Lynne, American comedian, contributes several amusing songs; Woodward and Walton are clever rag-time dancers; the Wilton-Heriot Trio make a great hit in their sketch, *Beauty and the Bounders*; Florence Deighton is a pleasing double-voiced vocalist; the Ashers (Agnes and Mike) achieve success in *The Earl and the Girl*; Tom Parker evokes hearty laughter with his comic songs; Zasma is a clever trapeze artist and performer with heavy weights; Madge Osmond is a juvenile male impersonator; Florence Carlow is a dainty comedienne and dancer; and the Alhambra-scope pictures are excellent.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—There is a capital company here this week. George Leyton, assisted by numerous auxiliaries, wins hearty applause for his treatment of the dramatic episode, *The Wreck of the Birkenhead; or, A Tale that will Never Die*; the Leslie Brothers, musical comedians, merit unstinted praise for their clever and amusing turn; the Ergotti and King Luis troupe are well received in their fine risley act; David Poole, novelty ventriloquist, is very entertaining; Arthur Kenny, the sensational cyclist, accomplishes some wonderful feats; My Fancy, "the Queen of Sand Dancers," submits a good turn; Martinetti and Grossi, novelty surprise artists, are amusing; Harry Desmond is a droll comedian; Simosa San is effective in her juggling and balancing speciality; and the Barrascope pictures are interesting.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Little Hans Andersen is still attracting large audiences here. The fairy play has been brightened by the introduction of fresh business by Mr. R. Foster Knox (Merman), Mr. George Howard (King of the Copper Castle). Miss Evelyn Hughes (Karen) adds new dances to her part, and Miss Mabel Lavelle (Princess) contributes fresh songs. The dances by the Misses Elsie and Mabelle May are especially pleasing features of the performance.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—*Humpty Dumpty* is proving highly successful, full houses being the rule at each performance. The scenery and dresses are quite up to the high standard to which we have been accustomed, and the staging generally is on a magnificent scale. Miss Sybil Arundale and Miss Maud Darling are both highly successful as principal boy and girl; the comedians, Mr. Horace Mills, Mr. Bert Gilbert, and the Brothers Griffiths, work hard and effectively in keeping the pantomime sufficiently lively; and the Tiller "Superba" Quartette score in speciality dances.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—*Cinderella* appears to hit the popular taste, for the attendance is good at each performance. The pantomime is staged with much liberality, the dresses being tasteful and the scenery exceptionally fine. The company is hard working and efficient, Miss Mimi Fisher, as Prince Charming, deserves much commendation for a smart and effective performance of the part; Miss Dolly Denton is in every way pleasing in the title-rôle; and Miss Cissy Hilton makes a capital Dandini. The Ugly Sisters are cleverly portrayed by the Misses Cherry Wardroper and Blanche Bayley, and Miss Alys Eden, who sings sweetly, makes a graceful and effective fairy godmother. The comedians all work hard, Messrs. Karr and Kooney as the broker's men; Mr. Alan Wye, as the Baron; and Mr. A. G. Spry as the Page. Contrary to usual traditions, there is no Dame in this pantomime.

PALACE THEATRE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Bella and Bijou head the programme, their capital entertainment being always well appreciated here. Both the lady and gentleman are exceptionally bright and amusing, and their sterling ability as vocalists adds much to the attractiveness of the turn. Tom Davis Trio scores heavily in "Whirling the Whirl" on motor cycles in mid-air; the Three Sisters Jonghmans obtain applause for their harmonised popular songs; May Bass is a pleasing vocal comedienne; the Zelovas are clever acrobatic equilibrists; Gilbert Girard is successful as an animal and instrumental mimic; the Seddons, lady juggler and comic waiter, do a good turn; and Fred Herbert is successful in topical songs. The performance concludes with "Where's There's a Will, there's a Way," depicted by Vernon's Imperial bioscope

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—The programme here is headed by an attractive turn by Countess Romanow, the lady presenting a series of graceful and artistic poses, entitled "Iris," the intervals between the poses being utilised by the Bioscope in depicting various incidents in her life, including how she came to adopt the stage as a profession. Milton Ray's company has a capital sketch, in three scenes, *The Cruise of the Calabar*; The Cullane Trio score with a comedy absurdity, *Over the Garden Wall*; the Hartfords do an exceptionally clever bicycle act; Charles Rutland, comedian, obtains applause; Vernando does a good ventriloquial turn; the Greys are pleasing operatic vocalists; and Joe Conway, comedian, is appreciated. The performance concludes with a good display of Empire animated pictures.

COLSTON HALL.—Poole's Myriorama, animated pictures, and a strong variety show continues to attract a large attendance at each performance.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA, LTD.—Manager and Lincensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Mr. William Maclaren is paying a welcome return visit with *Claudian*, in which he ably sustains the principal character; Almida is ably presented by Miss Lily C. Bandmann; Mr. Chal. T. Chaloner as Belos and Miss Maud Garth as Edessa cause much laughter. Mr. F. Owen Chambers makes an excellent Tetrarch; Mr. Douglas Earle gives a fine performance as Agazil; Alcares is a good study by Mr. Weston Hubbard. In the prologue Mr. S. Brisco Farbridge (the Holy Clement), Mr. Edmund Grogan (Theorus), and Miss Rosa Webster as Serena are most successful. The choruses are well rendered, and Miss Amy Hardcastle does a pleasing cymbal dance. The scenery and dresses are excellent in every detail.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The habitués of this house are favoured this week in witnessing Mr. Robert Courtneidge's excellent company in *The Dairymaids*. Miss Violet Lloyd is a distinct success as Peggy. She has a charming stage presence, and a delightful voice, which is highly appreciated. An old favourite here is Mr. Lionel Victor, who is funny as ever in his new rôle of Joe Mivens. Another clever mirth provoker is Mr. E. Statham Staples, who undertakes the part of Sam Brudenell. Miss Beryl Vaudrey's sweet voice is heard to advantage as Helene and a delightful performance is given by Miss Cissie Sephton as Eliza. Miss Rhoda Gordon is a charming Winifred; Miss Edith Blanche is a most stately Lady Brudenell; Mr. Forbes Dawson is a smart Doctor O'Byrne; Mr. George Desmond is good as Lieut. Brudenell; and Miss Madge Avery is sufficiently stern as Miss Pychase; the Sandow Girls are a most acceptable diversion. Mr. Albert Bartlett is the conductor of the orchestra and Mr. J. B. Gordon the general-manager.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—A delightful programme is presented here this week. The Lukushima troupe of Japanese give a pleasing and varied turn of balancing and risley acrobatics. The Apollo Glee Singers are accorded a hearty reception for their masterly performance. Arthur Bromley and Lina Fontein in *A Musical Birthday* are most acceptable, and Mark Merry, comedian, tickles the audience with his songs. The five Casino Girls give a good selection of popular music on brass instruments; Chas. J. Johnson sings coon songs; Miss Yetta trips the light wire gracefully; and the New Empire Theatroscope projects a funny picture, "The policeman's little run and King Ko Ko's visit to Paris."

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. H. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—Mr. Henry E. Leigh's company is appearing here in the *'Varsity Belle*, a farcical comedy. In the title-rôle, Miss Josephine Ellis, an actress of undoubted ability, acquits herself with distinction; Professor Septimus Stoney, in the hands of Mr. James Danvers, is acted to the life; and in Act 3 he is responsible for some clever work in his musical sketch, receiving good support from Miss Kathleen O'Brien as Eve Stoney. Miss Tessa Myers is pleasing and winsome as Maud Stoney; and Miss Emma Rainbow cleverly sustains the part of Mrs. Parker. The Professor's mother-in-law, Theocritus Ward Sparkleton, is well placed in the hands of Mr. Edward Chester, and Mr. R. Harley West (George Barker), Mr. Roy Barraclough (Albert Perrin), and Mr. Frank Lilliput (Runyard) all deserve mention. The comedy is preceded by a dramatic episode, entitled *The Last Hour*.

BURY (LANCS.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's No. 1 company is appearing here in *The Two Little Drummer Boys*. Mr. Fred Emery ably impersonates Capt. Carsdale, and Mr. Archie Helsby acts the part of Capt. Darrell with much ability. The two drummer boys are effectively played by Miss Maggie English (Eric) and Miss Lily Beverley (Jack). As Alma Carsdale, Miss Mildred Eversleigh is charming, and Miss Kathleen Magee, is successful as Margaret Rivers. The fun is supplied by Miss Edie Macklin, Mr. J. Magrath, and Mr. Harry Lyndon.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. Harry Roxbury's company heads the bill here with a merry musical mélange, *The Prince of Monte Carlo*. It is run on comic opera lines, and is very successful. Other turns include Ernest Nelson, a local "Sandow," who performs feats of strength; Marlo, juggler; the St. Johns, instrumentalists, dancers, and comedians; Primrose Quartette; Sisters Darnton, duettists; and Jessie Burnett, comedienne and dancer.

THE HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead; General-Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—The principal show here is Haley's Juveniles, a company of splendidly trained children; other notable turns are Frederica's troupe of performing toy terriers; Willie Haig, a clever acrobat; L. C. Smith and C. Johnson, coloured artists, who sing well; F. Whiteley, comedian and dancer; Carr and Rose, in a little sketch; Lily Watson, comedy patter artist; and Ridgewell, character comedian.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore.—Mr. Newman Maurice's pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, is attracting large audiences this week. Fun in abundance is provided by Mr. Fred Walker as Granny; Mr. Chas. Comfrey and Mr. Jackson Hayes as the Baron and Lawyer Fox are amusing; Mr. Bernard Davis (the Wolf) is the possessor of a fine voice; and Messrs. McKie and McKay as Pen and Ink cause much laughter; a winsome Red Riding Hood is found in Miss Ida Taylor; Miss Kitty Carrie is a bold and dashing Robin Hood; Fairy Bluebell is prettily played by Miss Maisie Kelly; and Miss Ruby Parsonage and Miss Tessie Venu dance well as Jack and Jill. The stage-mounting is unusually good, and the Snow Ballet worthy of special mention.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—An excellent pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, was produced here on Monday night by Mr. Milton Bode. Of the principals Miss Gladys Warren as Dick is an easy first, having a charming appearance and a nice voice; Miss Flo Challis as Tommy is also a favourite; Miss Kathleen Severn as Alice is well suited to the part; Mr. Rolando Martin is excellent as the Lazy Apprentice; Mr. Bob Hutt is very funny as Fitzwarren; as is Mr. Fred Danvers as Matilda; Messrs. H. and E. Fimans as Captain Scrapper and Bill Oakum are most comical; a special word of praise is due to Mr. Carne Curre, who is a very agile Cat. In the variety element introduced, Wallace gives a remarkably clever juggling turn; and Collins' Six Lancashire Lasses are graceful in speciality dances. Mr. C. A. Wenman is responsible for the stage management.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—*Red Riding Hood* has surpassed all expectations, and the rush to see the finest production yet staged in Wales has brought forth the announcement that the duration of the pantomime will be longer than anticipated. The costumes and scenery are pronounced to be the most extravagant yet seen in Cardiff, while the local opinion of the artists is most flattering to the selection of Mr. Milton Bode. Ted and May Hopkins are gaining a great reputation as the cleverest of Welsh comedians; Mr. Ainsley Burton (the Squire) and Mr. Jay Laurier (Johnny Stout) are already great favourites; the principal boy and girl, Miss Annie Purcell and Miss Norah Guy respectively, are two very capable artists; Messrs. Keith and Merson are the smartest couple imaginable; Miss Nellie Duval as the Fairy Queen achieves success; and two capital portrayals are those of Mr. Walter Walton (the Demon) and Mr. Stanley Fields (the Wolf).

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—*In Sight of St. Paul's*, presented by Mr. Arthur Carlton, has drawn good houses this week. Mr. Ernest R. Allen undertakes the part of Tom Chichester in a very able manner; the delineation of Harry by Mr. W. H. Domoney leaves nothing to be desired; Mr. Herbert Cecil makes the most of the character of John Gridston; and Mr. Henry Gilpin deserves praise for his portrayal of Bildstein. Miss Gussie Everett's Cynthia Dell is powerful; and Miss Cissie Bellamy makes a charming Eileen.

KING'S THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Holles.—*As Good as Gold* is being presented here by a talented company of artists under Mr. Fred S. Jennings. Miss May Hastings is clever as Nora Williams; Mr. H. H. Barrington as Mark Williams achieves success; Lieut. Stanton is represented in manly fashion by Mr. Wm. Heilbronn; and Mr. Richard Ferris as Sir Richard Wharncliffe proves a reliable exponent.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—The amusing Hebrew comedians, Jordan and Harvey, cause uproarious laughter here with their patter; Frank and Jen Latona present a taking musical turn; Dusty Rhodes is a smart comedian; Theo Hardeen manipulates all sorts of handcuffs in an amazing manner; and the mysterious Sylvesta proves most entertaining. Holden's Mannikins, a perfect marionette show; Chas. Robinson, in beautifully-illustrated songs; Hurley and Cole, in a song-scena; the Mascotte trio of lady gymnasts, and the ever-welcome Bioscope complete a capital programme.

CARLISLE.—H. M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company in *Dare-Devil Dorothy*, is the attraction this week. In the title-rôle Miss Dorothy Desmonde displays considerable versatility, and is quite a success. That excellent comedian Mr. H. C. Barry makes Silas Crump a very prominent character; his eccentric humour fits the part exactly, and he is deservedly a big favourite. Variety turns are quite a feature of the performance, and Miss Dorothy Desmonde's fine rendering of popular ballads, Miss Nellie Harcourt, American soubrette (a clever dancer), the Misses Mabel and Lillie Blake, acrobatic dancers, Miss Marie Vere, soprano vocalist, and Mr. H. C. Barry, in funny songs, are much appreciated.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—The top of the bill is occupied by the Six Æolians, who introduce many novel and striking effects in their clever vocal and dancing act; the Pasquali Brothers are, we should think, absolutely "the last word" as hand balancers and equilibrists; Miss Fatmah Diard has a charming voice and delightful style, and she soon became a warm favourite; the Mayvilles are responsible for much laughter in their clever novelty act. A smart trapeze act by Natalia and Diana, Mr. Bert H. Delmar in his mimetic monologue "At the Halls," Wyndham and Waters in a funny and well-worked sketch entitled *The Professor and his Pupil*, and the Pepiscope, with new pictures, are popular items of an excellent and well-varied programme.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Cr. Hy. Masterman.—Mr. George Testo Sante and company are playing *The Life of a Showman* here to good houses. Mr. Aurele Labat successfully interprets the part of the villainous Hendrick Marias; Mr. Edward Warden gives a good reading of the Rev. Cyril Arliss; Mr. Chas. Osborne plays the rôle of Stickers with telling effect; and in the hands of Mr. George Testo Sante, Brien Leader is made a most popular character; Miss Amy McNeil displays ability in the part of Agatha Winter; while mention should be made of the good work done by Mr. Fred Vaughan as Ned Chuckers. The comic element is by no means lacking, and Messrs. Frank Sante, Will Lindsay, and Miss E. Lewis as Tommy Allthere, Ben Tec-Tac, and Angela Matton are largely responsible for the humorous element. Master Harry Warden has a capital part in Dickie; while Miss May Warden plays with natural ease as Lynette Leader.

CHATHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. Geo. G. Ridley.—Mr. George Dance's company is this week doing splendid business with *The Beauty of Bath*. Mr. Leslie Holland, in addition to undertaking the duties of stage-management, plays in breezy style Mr. Seymour Hicks's part, Lieut. Richard Alington. In the title-rôle we have Miss Gladys Guy, with a pleasing manner and a sweet voice; Mr. Frederick C. Leister makes a sufficiently dignified Viscount Bellingham; smart dancing is one of the chief features of Mr. Jack Crichton's Sir Timothy Bun; the character of Lord Quorn is capitally played by Mr. Alex Chentrens; Miss Edith Cruikshanks makes a natural Mrs. Alington; and very amusing are Miss Ida Laurie and Master Sydney Grata, as Mrs. Goodge and her son. Mr. Sheriff Clunes makes a popular Mr. Beverley, and Miss Jessie Fraser contributes some neat dances. The dresses, scenery, and general staging reflect great credit on Mr. Dance.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Here we have Lillian Victoria, character impersonator; Dale and Vale, pedestal dancers; Luigi Salvino, in a well-liked musical act; Leonard and Larry, duettists and patterers; Vincent, who somersaults from the top of some half a dozen tables; W. H. Merrie, eccentric comedian; Dick and Dorothy, on a welcome return visit; Mdlle. Von Etta, who mystifies with her neatly-worked illusions; Lacey's Erascope, with a particularly interesting film; and Mr. F. V. St. Clair, who gets his customary rousing reception.

THE GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. F. E. Donne.—One of the leading items here is the sketch, *Charley's Uncle; or, What Has She Got?* which is rattled through by Mr. Bates Maddison's company, including Mr. Robert Barton (Chas. Mendham), Mr. Jos. R. Tate (Mr. Overproof), Miss Margaret Huntley (Dolly), and Miss Lucy Beaumont (Sarah); the Eight Lancashire Lads fairly bring down the house with their singing and dancing; Kyoto scores with his burlesque and conjuring; Bert Williams is a ventriloquist with funny dialogue; and Ma Geraldine, comedienne; Charlie Williams, Scotch nigger and big boot dancer; and May Fallowfield, soubrette, complete the list.

CHELTENHAM.—OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—A powerful attraction this week is provided by the visit of Mr. George Dance's premier company in *The Little Michus*. The foster sisters are charmingly impersonated by Miss Alice Coverick as the bold and engaging Marie Blanche, and Miss Gipsy Dale, a winsome and dainty Blanche Marie; both ladies have pleasing voices, and do excellent work in the concerted music. As Gaston Rigaud Mr. Wm. Everard is a gallant and picturesque lover, possessed of a good tenor voice; Mr. Robert C. Harcourt plays judiciously the part of the bourgeois lover, Aristide Vert; Mr. Foster Courtenay is a brilliant representative of the eccentric General des Ifs; Mr. Gilbert Child's agile impersonation of Bagnolet is also full of quaint conceits, and he wins the favour of the audience with his clear singing and nimble dancing. The elder Michus are ably represented by Miss Mary Young and Mr. Leon Simpkin, the former singing admirably and the latter giving a well-defined study of a genuinely humorous part. Miss Bessie Mackenzie is graceful as Mlle. Herpin, and gives a vivacious fan song; Miss Mary Forbes as Mme. du Tertre sings with much charm; and Mlle. Marjorie as Mlle. St. Cyr is a solo danseuse of singular grace, and gives a novel *pas seul* in the last act. Mr. Otto Manns directs the augmented orchestra in a skilful manner.

CHESTER.—ROYALTY THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Mr. Geo. Brydon-Phillips' pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood* is drawing large audiences here. A second edition will be produced on Monday.

MUSIC HALL.—Agents, Messrs. Phillipson and Golder. — This week we have a visit from Mr. John H. Tomkinson and his Gipsy company. Miss Evie Lynn is heard and seen to advantage in song and dance; Vio Lette is a smart male impersonator; Walter Wallace repeats his well-known ventriloquial turn; the Recars are a couple of smart acrobats. Amongst others who appear are Harry Plowden, the Two Dees, and the Rizarelis.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Herbert J. Montague.—The attraction here this week is Miss Louie Esmond's company, under the direction of Mr. Edward Neville, in the drama *The Sorrows of Satan*. Mr. Neville makes a highly successful Prince Lucio Rimanez, Mr. H. Evan Gibbon gives a good reading of Geoffrey Tempest, Mr. Fred Cherry is seen to advantage as Morris, Mr. W. Langely makes a capital valet, Miss Louie Esmond looks and acts charmingly as Diana Chesney, Lady Sybil Elton is safe in the hands of Miss Nita Langford, Miss Rosie Neville gives a fine interpretation of Mavis Clare, and Miss Cecil Bryne is also worthy of mention as Mrs. Grimbes.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—Mr. Harry Graham's *Red Riding Hood* opened a week's engagement here on Monday. The Great Escaladers gave a daring exhibition of ladder and other balancing, which was followed with marked attention; Miss Mabel Kessler, as Boy Blue, who sang well, contributed excellent solos on cornet and posthorn; Miss Eunice Young as Margery Daw and Miss Rosie Juden as Riding Hood were both successful; and the charming singing of Miss Renee Van Aken as Fairy was much appreciated; Miss Winifred Hamilton looked well as Prince Charming; Miss Grace Stafford was effective as Mary Muffit; and Dame Trott was ably represented by Mr. Arthur Drew; Mr. James Wood cleverly depicted Baron Badlot; and Messrs. Grant and Kelly made the most of the parts of Johnny Stout and John Green respectively.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de' Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Ben de Frece.—The chief turn here this week is a highly dramatic episode, entitled *The End of the Story*, which introduces some very smart sword-play, the cast including Messrs. Barrington Foote and Douglas Hamilton, and Miss Diana D'Orsay; Hector, in his unique wire and hoop-rolling speciality, is deservedly applauded; Stacey and Williams, comedians, make a big hit, a like remark applying to Lily Lawrence, a comedienne with a particularly forcible style; Cissie Lupino, speciality danseuse, is a charming young lady, with a tasteful style of dancing; and Tom Dunmore appeals successfully as an eccentric comedian.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. Ernest Abbot and his company are paying a most successful visit this week. On Monday night *A Wife's Triumph* was produced. Mr. Ernest R. Abbot fills the rôle of Frank Wilton with great distinction, and as Robert Dewhurst Mr. Douglas C. Phelps gives entire satisfaction; Messrs. W. H. Garbois and Mr. Weedon Ross are excellent in their respective rôles of Ellis Jordan and Julius Hartman; Mr. Edwin Keene as Ben Bradford and Miss M. Tennant as Margery Crib are excessively funny; Miss Ada Abbot in the rôle of Bessie Dewhurst is really good; and as Alice Wilton Miss Dorris Dew is clever. The other parts are well sustained by the remainder of the company. *Sapho* was produced on Tuesday night with Miss Ada Abbot as Fanny Legrand; and during the week *Trilby* and *East Lynne* were also billed.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—Mr. Walter Maxwell's company entered on its third week's engagement here on Monday night, when *The Lion and the Mouse* was repeated. Miss Christine Silver as the Mouse played with much power and proved herself a very clever actress, and Mr. Leslie Carter filled the rôle of the Lion with his usual ability. The other parts were capably filled.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—The patrons of this popular place of amusement are treated to a capital entertainment here. The Mannon troupe of knockabout artists appeared in a pantomime sketch *Uncle Yank*; and other turns included Miss Edith St. Clare, comedienne; Herbert Cyril, comedian; Miss Amy Eastwood, soprano; Mr. Charles Russell, in a song scena; Mr. Geo. Adams, baritone vocalist; Frederick Neiman and his ventriloquial minstrels; and the Glenroy troupe.

COVENTRY. — THE EMPIRE. — Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. A. Rapd.—A high standard of excellence is maintained at this popular house; Mr. Harry Tates's No. 1 company is appearing in the comedy sketch *Motoring*; Marguerite Ismay and her five white coons are seen in an Indian scena, *Kickapoo*, some fine dancing and singing being given; Henry A. Moore is given a hearty reception as a monologue artist and mimic; the Imperial Troupe of Russian singers and dancers are well received; J. A. Wilson with his dog, Private Towser, gives a pleasing entertainment, and is clever; the Monte-Negro Troupe are very amusing; the Sisters Carina introduce a splendid musical exhibition; Clarissa Talbot and Albert Pearce give a comedy, entitled *The Spider and the Fly*. The Bioscope pictures are included.

THE OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—Mr. Frank Curzon's No. 1 company is here in *The White Chrysanthemum*, to which a hearty reception was accorded on Monday night. Much amusement is afforded by Mr. Davy Burnaby as Lieut. Chippendale Belmont; Mr. F. Pope Stamper as Lieut. Reg. Armitage is very capable, his singing and acting being much admired; Mr. St. John Hamund is seen to advantage as the peppery admiral, Sir H. Armitage, K.C.B.; Mr. O. E. Lennon as Sin Chong provides much humour, and is heartily received, he being ably supported by Mr. Harry Paulton as Private Perks; Miss Dorothy Court as the heroine, Sybil Cunningham, gives a charming impersonation; Miss Gracie Sinclaire is effective as Cornelia Vanderdecken; Miss Maisie North is clever as a society lady, Betty Kenyon. The songs and dances throughout the piece are all well received.

THE HIPPODROME.—A very good programme was put before a fairly good house on Monday evening. Lady Mansell's Juveniles in *A Concert Rehearsal* were applauded for their fine dancing and singing; Herbert Lloyd, the diamond king, gave an original sketch, which was much appreciated; Stanley Coope and Co. cause great amusement with their farcical absurdity, *The Lady Doctor*; other contributors to the programme were Zaro and Arno, comedy bar experts; Rita Reeden, male impersonator; Jemmy Lynn, comedienne; Rose Reval and Arthur Pearl. A very good set of animated pictures concluded a first-rate night's entertainment.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company is on a return visit with *The Face at the Window*. Mr. T. W. Dunscombe is a capable Paul Gouffet; Mr. Scott Leighton as the Chevalier Lucio Delgado deserves praise; Mr. Alfred Warne as Henry de Brisson submits a careful study; Miss Marie Barrett as Marie de Brisson acts in a finished manner; Mr. C. Alan Huieson is funny as Peter Pottleberry; and Miss Gladys Newcombe makes a sweet and winsome Babette. Mr. Gilbert Hall faithfully interprets the part of Lucien Cortier; Mr. George Phythian as Le Blanc, the mad doctor, has a part to his liking; and Miss Marie Tennant as Le Pinan pleases.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor, J.P.—Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy's pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, opened here on Monday to a full house. Miss Verona Phillis in the title-rôle wins the hearts of all with her graceful presence; Miss Emma Don as Prince Charming infuses plenty of dash into the part, and the singing of her various numbers is distinctly pleasing; Miss Ada Twibell is a bright and vivacious Boy Blue; Miss Molly Hackett as Miss Muffit is a favourite; and Miss Cissie Robey as Margery Daw is commendable. Mlle. Tessie D'Alberti as Fairy Glowworm charms everyone with her singing; Mr. J. Templar Ellis is original and funny as Baron Badlot; and Mr. Harry Howe makes an excellent Dame Trott. The Bros. Lavelle provide continuous amusement as Johhny Green and Jimmy Stout; and Mr. G. H. Penn contributes a droll impersonation of Simple Simon. Mr. E. Ridgwell as the Wolf deserves commendation. Clever dances are executed by the Acme Quartette. Specialities by the Don Black and White Comedy Team, the Bros. Lavelle, and the Four Hearns are enjoyable. The scenery is gorgeous, and the dresses lovely.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—Mr. Peter Davey's pantomime company is presenting *Goody Two Shoes* here this and next week, and the whole show is full of merit. The music, by Mr. J. H. Russell and Mr. Leonard Gautier, calls for special mention; the dresses are picturesque and rich; and the chorus is quite in keeping with the general excellence of the production. Mr. Hugh B. Pinnock's book is well written. Miss Ernestine Desborough's finished portrayal of Crispin wins general admiration, and Miss Ethel Beech as the Chevalier Hurley is admirable. Miss Ethel Bryan deserves a warm tribute of praise for her delightful performance of Goody, a part which suits her to a nicety; Miss Phyllis Back is a bewitching Margot; Miss Violet Broughton is a comely Timothy Twigg; and dainty ladies give satisfaction as the Tea Girls and 'Prentice Boys. Mr. Wyn Weaver's business, facial expression, and humorous acting as the Earl of Godiva are highly relished; Mr. Ernest Noble never fails to amuse as Peeping Tom; Mr. Tom E. Sinclair is the right man for the part of Dame Durden, being immensely funny; and adequate assistance is given by Messrs. Reginald Ring, Greville Bros., T. Brooklyn, and Lionel Weston as Marcodison, John Barleycorn, the Town Crier, and Giles. Mr. E. Levano is a smart acrobat, and the Sisters Thurban are awarded a cordial reception for their instrumental turns. Miss Florence Swinden is a clever dancer.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—Mr. James's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* is still being well received here. Misses Daisy Lane and Flo Varley have established themselves firm favourites as Maid Marion and Robin Hood; Miss Dorothy Oswald sings her numbers sweetly as Fairy Diamonde; Misses Beatie Benson and Lily Farrer are a pleasing little pair as Bertie and Gertie; Mr. Harry Carman is a host in himself, and makes a whimsical Baroness Snatchall; Mr. Allan Dale does wonders with the part of Baron Snatchall; Messrs. Blarney and Kennard introduce well-thought-out comic business as Rob and Plunder; and the smaller rôles are looked after in a satisfactory manner. A brisk harlequinade is well worth mentioning.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr Walter Gibbons; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—Mr. Alec Hurley and his brilliant company are causing a great sensation here in the comedy scena *The Coster's Beano*; the Four Jumels give an interesting musical act; Billy Hobbs is commendable in coon song and dance; Lucy Weston is an agreeable comedienne who sings creditably; Sam Mayo, immobile comedian, as usual receives quite an ovation; the Brothers Zampa submit astounding jumping and acrobatic feats on one leg; Fielding and Hull are exhilarating society vocalists; and the sketch *The Mysterious Mrs.* is enacted in first-rate style by Messrs. Arthur Estcourt, George Claremont, W. Johnson, Arthur Byron, and Misses Daisy Norman and Barbara Bateman. Others in the bill are the Marsumas, comedians on wheels, and Alice Blandford, vocalist.

DARLINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Miss Minnie Palmer and company, under the direction of Mr. Wentworth Croke, are the attraction this week. Miss Palmer is still in the front in musical comedy, her embodiment of Tina being greatly applauded. Mr. Robert H. Howard is smart in his impersonation of Tony; Miss Elsie Forster in the rôle of Peck-a-Boo is very pleasing; Mr. F. W. Leonard scores as Joe Shotwell; Mr. Richard Elliott is clever in the part of Dr. Oliver; Mr. Leslie Tyler shines as Harold Bartlett; Mr. Alfred Ibberson as Dudley Harcourt affords every satisfaction; Mrs. H. B. Russell as Mrs. Hatzell is greatly appreciated; Miss Mildred Silvestre makes a typical Mrs. Fleeter.

DARWEN. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—Mr. A. E. Smith's company is this week appearing in the pantomime *Aladdin*. Miss Florrie Curette makes a good principal boy; Miss Bessie Carlton sings nicely as Pekoe; Miss Emay Leycestor dances well as the Princess; and Miss Connie Irwin appears with credit as the Genii of the Lamp. Mr. Fred Ramsdale is excruciatingly funny as the Widow Twankey; the Bros. Padley provide amusement as the Chinese Policemen; and Mr. Arthur Warren (Abanazar), Mr. Percy Beresford (Grand Vizier), and Mr. Frank Wheatcroft (the Emperor) are all well placed. Specialities are presented by the Padley Bros., acrobats and hand balancers; the Silverdale troupe of lady dancers; and Mr. Oliver Chew, whistler.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles. Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Albert Orton.—On Monday night the pantomime of *The Forty Thieves* entered on the third and last week of its run. Miss Emmie Milstead has scored all through; Miss Edna Cragge has thoroughly vindicated her selection for the part of Abdallah; Miss Flo Warner has made herself a popular figure; and the Sisters Poole and Messrs. Burley and Burley are outstanding features of the performance; while Messrs. Sid Cotterell, Dan Agar, Allan Carruthers, Joe Bell, Watty Griffin, and Carthage Caldcleugh are all highly deserving of another special mention. Among the new features this week are Mr. Henry Abdy's canine hippodrome and Mlle. Marvelle's cocokatoos and macaws.

PALACE.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—The premier attraction here this week is the Schiavonis Troupe of lady and gentlemen acrobats, who provide an excellent turn, and are cordially received. W. Permane's educated bears are a very intelligent set of animals, and their performance reflects great credit on their trainer; Frank Hartley, an accomplished juggler, gets a good reception; Edwards and Dacre, comedy artists, are fairly irresistible; Chas. H. Gould and Co. submit a most amusing sketch, entitled *A Matchless Match*; and Maud Laverne, burlesque artist, scores with her charmingly rendered songs. The Bioscope is, as usual, very entertaining.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—The pantomime *Dick Whittington* has now got into excellent working order, and is running with commendable smoothness. All the up-to-date songs are included in the show, their popularity being evinced by the manner in which the refrains are taken up by the audience.

DONCASTER. — NEW THEATRE AND EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*Miss Lancashire, Limited* provided a continuous ripple of laughter here on Monday evening.

William Henry Thompson was capital; and Miss Pattie Groves displays a rich vein of humour in her impersonation of Bridget Thompson; the title-rôle was brightly played by Miss Florence Barnet, who, with song and patter, fully upheld her reputation.

DOVER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Ltd.; Chairman of Directors, Mr B. Carter; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred C. Dew.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is this week paying a return visit with *Under Two Flags*, and is, as usual, drawing crowded houses nightly. Mr. Wellesley Draper, a finished actor of experience and skill, portrays Bertie Cecil with a nice appreciation of the chivalrous nature of the Guardsman, and his success is instantaneous. The many moods and contradictory traits in the character of Cigarette are cleverly and sympathetically depicted by Miss Mary Thorn. A good stage presence and resonant voice are of considerable assistance to Mr. Robert Faulker in making a decided hit as Lord Rockingham. Mr. Charles West sketches well the unprincipled young rake Barklie Cecil, and Mr. Charles Brooke is an impressive and dignified Lord Royellieu. Mr. Arthur Elwyn as Colonel Chanteroy acted the part with ability; and the Captain de Chanrellon of Mr. Joseph Cowell is also a noteworthy piece of work. A highly amusing skit of the money-lender Baroni is contributed by Mr. Fred Beck. An admirable study of Rake is given by Mr. Harry Benson, who not only causes much hilarity in his amusing comedy scenes, but succeeds in touching just the right note of pathos in the more serious moments of the play. Miss Mabel Ormonde, a stately Princess Corona, acts in a most pleasing manner; and Miss Madge Stevens plays Lady Beatrice with good effect. A dainty and captivating impersonation of Lavinia is to be commended as the work of Miss Amy Maitland.

DUBLIN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—On Monday night Messrs. Moody-Manners' company entered on another week's engagement here, when *Carmen* was played before a large and appreciative audience. Mlle. de Lussan achieved a distinct triumph in her portrayal of Carmen, her vocal items were heard to great advantage, and met with well-deserved applause; and Mr. Joseph O'Mara as Don José was in remarkably fine voice, his solos being admirably sung. Miss Kate Anderson as Michaela sang with much charm and grace, and as Escamillo Mr. William Dever did extremely well, singing and acting with earnestness and ability. Miss Watt as Frasquita and Miss Alvord as Mercedes were both acceptable in their respective parts. Messrs. Bailey and Moppett were also exceedingly good as Il Remendado and Il Dancairo. The choruses were sung in praiseworthy style, and the orchestra was all that could be desired. On Tuesday night *The Merry Wives of Windsor* was repeated, and met with a good reception. *The Huguenots, Lohengrin, Eugene Onegin, Romeo and Juliet*, and *Maritana* are also billed.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Chas. Hyland.—*Sinbad the Sailor*, which has entered on its third week here, continues to draw packed and delighted audiences nightly. All the artists are accorded a warm reception, and the songs and clever dances are greatly enjoyed. Miss May Beatty continues to charm the hearts of the audience by her interpretation of Sinbad, as does also Miss Blanche Astley as Zorilda. Mr. Gus Walker is mirth-provoking as Mrs. Eliza Sinbad, Miss Agnes Gunn plays with credit the rôle of "the Spirit of Adventure." Mr. T. E. Finglass as Pompey elicits applause for his clever coon singing and dancing; Mr. Edward Lauri is very droll as Tinbad; Miss Nina Osborne is pleasing in the rôle of the Princess, and the part of the Sultan has a good representative in Mr. Fred Arthur. Mr. Cecil Kingsley makes an admirable Grand Vizier, and the Cavalazzie troupe deserve commendation for their excellent dancing.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; Acting-Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson.—On Monday night Miss Annie Bell's company presented *Sapho*. In the title-rôle Miss Annie Bell played with success, her dramatic style and commendable enunciation securing marked approval, and Mr. Otto Minster was particularly good as Jean Gausin. Mr. Oliver Roger's acting as Father Legrande was productive of considerable amusement, and Mr. George Antley well sustained the part of Césaire. Eugène Flamant had an excellent exponent in Mr. Pringle Roberts, and the parts of Caoudal and Paul Dechelette were successfully undertaken by Messrs. H. Langford and Lawrence Kingsley.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—Another capital list of turns is billed here this week. Fred Karno's troupe of comedians in *Saturday to Monday* cause roars of laughter nightly; the Arthur Lloyd Trio score successfully in their sketch *Little Charlie, or the Twin Sisters*; and Kathleen Bradford sings and dances herself into favour. The antics of Hale and Earl are no less amusing than their acrobatic display is clever, and Lily Esplin displays ability as a comedy artist; Charles Pastor is a comedian with a style peculiarly his own, and is warmly applauded; and the Empire pictures are up-to-date.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The company this week is one of all-round excellence. The Sisters Onetti give a clever gymnastic display which is well received; Barney, Burke, and Bray are exceedingly funny in their absurdity *From London to Madrid*; and the Sisters Lytton are a charming pair of duettists whose success is undoubted. Mlle. Sylvia's tableaux vivants come in for loud applause, and Stirling and Cashen, comedy duo, gain approval for their efforts to please. Liggins and Murlone render some vocal items in good style, and Laura Lorne is a pleasing character vocalist. Other acceptable turns are Gillen, ventriloquist, Kiaro, novelty equilibrist, and the Bioscope with the latest films.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. M. Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Go-Won-Go Mohawk is here this week, with *Wep-Ton-No-Mah*. The principals in the cast are practically the same as on its last visit.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Nightingale.—The bill is headed this week by George M. Schilling, who relates his remarkable experiences during a walk round the world; the Donatos deserve a special word of praise for their clever turn as one-legged clowns; an amusing sketch, entitled *The Darktown Insurance Depôt*, is given by De Voy, Hurst, and Fredericks; Joe Dale is an excellent descriptive vocalist; and other good turns are supplied by Violet Frances, comedienne; Daley and Collins, cross talk comedians; and Mora and Flora, in a quick change and musical act.

DUNDEE.—PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—The star turn this week is Harry Grey, "the Australian Nugget," whose ludicrous get-up and quaint humour are the cause of much hearty laughter; in one of his songs a novel and very effective use of the bioscope is made. Attila Brothers, gladiatorial marvels, give a fine exhibition of weight-lifting, and their posing is very artistic; the Wedburns are old favourites here, and, as usual, score heavily; Lidden and Hayward present an excellent comedy sketch, the male member being a clever trick pianist; Will Bell, a capital Irish comedian and dancer, proves very popular, as does also George W. Kenway, who successfully mimics several leading music-hall artists; Olive Armadale, a dainty comedienne, with a taking style and exceptionally sweet voice, gets a flattering reception; Mabel Higson, comedienne and dancer, and Phil Rees, double-voiced vocalist, both score in their respective lines; and the Bioscope, with some very fine films, completes.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—The brilliantly successful pantomime *Mother Goose* entered on the third week of its run on Monday. Miss Gertie Douglas and Miss Winnie Darrell, the principal boy and girl respectively, have many admirers; and Mr. Sam Thomson, the leading comedian, has made a tremendous hit. All the other members of the company work hard and well, with the result that the panto goes with a swing that is truly delightful.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—In an excellent variety programme this week the chief attraction is Charlie Green, the English heavy-weight wrestler, who challenges all and sundry to meet him. Several local wrestlers have accepted his challenge, and some exciting bouts have been witnessed during the week. Miss Eva Frere has a good budget of songs, which she sings very sweetly. Chas and Grin are well received, their humour and patter being very enjoyable. The Levines score in an acrobatic sensation "The Dude and his Page," in which they display some marvellous feats of balancing. Whirlo, "the monkey cyclist," presents a smart act in trick riding. The Two Olives, comedy artists, Jean Gordon, dice manipulator, and Alec Alexander, vocalist, complete a varied and attractive bill.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company opened a two-nights' engagement on Monday in the musical play *The Toreador* before a packed house. Mr. Richard Adams sustained the part of Pettifer with credit; Mr. Fred Thompson did excellent work as Sir Archibald Slackett; and Mr. Herbert Wills did ample justice to the part of Augustus Traill. Mr. Sidney Granville admirably sustained the rôle of Carajolo; Mr. Henry Arthur was a capable Governor of Villays; Mr. Robert Rous had a genial rôle, and contributed largely to the success of the piece as Sammy Gigg; Miss Leah Howard was exceptionally good as Susan; Miss Winsome Etherington acquitted herself with credit as Dora Selby; Miss Gwen Clifford scored as Mrs. Malton Hoppings; Miss Nina Carlton gave an exceptionally good impersonation of Donna Teresa; and Miss Beatrice Rowe was successful as Nancy Staunton.

EASTBOURNE.—DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Devonshire Park and Baths Co., Ltd., under the management of Messrs. Murray, King, and Clark.—A bright, clever, and tuneful attraction is offered here by Miss Claudia Lasell and her excellent company, who are appearing in *The Sweet Girl*, under the management of Mr. Charles E. Hamilton. The scenery and dresses are strikingly pretty, and novelty is everywhere apparent. Miss Claudia Lasell possesses all the life and charm to ably assume the part of Lola; Miss Alice Lethbridge is an attractive Fritzi, and her exquisite grace and refinement in her dances is one of the happy memories of the performance; Miss Muriel Harding, pleasing in manner and appearance, is an excellent Countess Lizzi; Mr. Fred Eastman, drollest of comedians, as Count Liebenberg, cleverly keeps the house in constant laughter; Mr. Algernon Newark as Anthony Strauss does admirable work, and introduces with fine effect his clever mimicry; Mr. Lister Morrah, as Dick Kenyon, sings and acts in a bright and effective manner; Mr. Douglas Phillips must be accorded high praise for his vocal work, and he is an earnest Florian; Mr. George de Lara is a refined and diverting Plewney; and Mr. W. H. Page is a very worthy Schmitt. A very fine and well-trained chorus and augmented orchestra are under the direction of Mr. K. E. Irving.

PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—The first of the pantomimes here, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, is presented by Mr. Mouillot's capable company, and fun and beauty are judiciously blended. Miss Lucy Kipling (Jack), tall, handsome, and refined, is a principal boy of the very best type; and in Miss Katie Yates she has a partner who is a clever, dainty, and charming Stella, and her song, "Snuff your little wicks," is ably given; Miss Roberta Pulleyne, pretty and attractive, and Miss Daisy Kersey, bright and vivacious, are another able and successful couple; while Miss Lydia Bland, as Luna the Fairy, scores with her well-rendered songs. Les Belle Americaines Troupe are prominent, and their smart, clever dances arouse enthusiasm. Mr. Edward Kipling is a vastly entertaining Dame Trot; his performance is genuinely humorous, and without any suggestion of vulgarity. Mr. W. G. Sutton is a happy and genial King Grumpus; Mr. Alick MacMillan as MacHaggis supplies plenty of humour served up in excellent Scotch fashion; and Mr. Lionel Gasden and Mr. J. R. La Fane are very good villains as Marrowfat and Asparagus. The Miltons introduce their diverting skating act, and play Jack's cow.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Smith.—Mr. Dan Thomas and company are again delighting audiences here with *Aladdin*. A large share of the work falls on Mr. Thomas, and as Widow Twankey he worthily upholds his reputation of being one of the liveliest and funniest dames in pantomime. Mr. Fred Hutchings ably seconds his efforts, and keeps the fun moving rapidly as the Vizier; Mr. Arthur Mordant is quite a success as Abanazar; Mr. Arthur Jenner is an imposing Emperor; and very good and comical work is done by Messrs. Haverly and Homer as Slip and Slop. The pretty face and figure of Miss Daisy Yates and her fine fund of vivacity all help to make her work as Aladdin pleasing and popular; Miss Amy Belrose is a dainty Princess; the Misses Emmie and Cissie Ford do satisfactorily as Pekoe and Catchee; Miss Marie Lewis and Miss Minnie Saunders are able representatives of the Slaves of the Ring and Lamp; and the Four Dandies are clever and expert dancers. The scenery is pretty, and the pantomime brisk and funny.

ECCLES.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Hamilton Baines; Manager, Mr. Ernest Hales; Secretary, Mr. P. Ryan Smith.—Mr. Charles Macdona's chief company in *Are You a Mason?* is here this week. Mr. Ernest Cossart gives a carefully considered and able rendering of George Fisher; the character of Amos Bloodgood is capably impersonated by Mr. E. H. Paterson; the Frank Perry of Mr. Howard L. Tracy is worthy of the approval given by the audience; Mr. Buchanan Wake makes a good John Halton; Mr. George Austin as Hamilton Travers is laughable; Mr. Victor Kerr is a clever Ernest Morrison; Miss Adelaide Grace deserves credit for her capital portrayal of Mrs. Caroline Bloodgood; Miss Margaret Fareleigh, Miss Babs Stuart, and Miss Madge Merrique take the respective parts of Eva, Annie, and Lulu with satisfactory results; Miss Dora Gregory as Lottie is highly amusing.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull.—*The Merveilleuses*, presented here by Mr. George Edwardes's company, is played by a cast of uniform excellence. Dr. Hugo Felix is fortunate in having his music interpreted by vocalists so admirable as Miss Deborah Volar, Miss Anna Hickish, and Mr. W. Talleur Andrews, while the comedy element is safe in the hands of such talented actors as Mr. Eric Thorne, Mr. Jack Cannot, Mr. Legai Robinson, and Mr. Robert Hale. Mr. Hale's impersonation of the dandy Lagorille shows what versatility this clever player possesses. Mr. Willie Warde, jun., and Miss Dora Langham in the rôles of Monsieur and Madame De Goutieres are nightly encored for their smart duet; and Miss Vivian Talleur evokes the loudest applause for her graceful dances. The chorus is well drilled, and the dresses and scenery are extremely beautiful.

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's delightful pantomime *Cinderella* is running with the smoothness and briskness which result from repetition, and the spectacle is attracting large audiences. Miss Phyllis Dare's impersonation of the title-part has lost none of its freshness and vivacity; Miss Gwennie Hasto has won golden opinions by her graceful dancing; Miss Marie Rignold has elaborated her part of the stage-struck Arethusa, her acting showing much fertility of invention; Miss Vera Vere is admirable in the strongly-contrasted character of the saucy Mopsa; and Miss Violet Englefield's Rudolph is full of dash. Mr. Dan Rolyat, who has afforded much mirth to thousand of playgoers, was, unhappily, laid aside by illness on Monday, and Mr. W. H. Ashdowne, who played the part of Baron Lacklands on the occasion, is entitled to high praise for his comic resource and individuality. Mr. John Humphries as Daisy, Mr. Stephen Adeson as Choddles, and Mr. Ray Russell as Dandini brighten up their scenes by their unforced humour and excellent business.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Mme. Alice Esty heads an attractive bill with a finely-rendered operatic scena, *Betta the Gypsy*, in which she is well supported by the members of her company, including Miss Lena Pierpoint, Mr. Crawford Kent, and a good chorus. An interesting sketch, entitled *Crystal Gazing*, is successfully produced by Mr. William Day and Miss Laura Dyson; the two Sisters Petram cleverly conduct an amusing marionette performance; the Five Bogannys carry through a capital acrobatic display with much spirit and humour; and the Brenton Sisters, comediennes and dancers, give a lively turn. Mr. Harry Drew, the Welsh bass vocalist, sings several popular songs with powerful effect, greatly to the enjoyment of his audience; Prince Kokin, Japanese juggler, presents a very smart exhibition of his skill in balancing and other dexterous feats; Miss Ethel Ra Leslie contributes some characteristic songs in finished and artistic style; De Dio appears in her weird dances and gyrations in earth, air, fire, and water with extraordinary effects obtained by the aid of flowing draperies and electric lights; and the American Bioscope shows a selection of good films.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—The humorous spectacle *Ally Sloper's Big Water Carnival* still retains its place as the main attraction on a good holiday programme. Among the more recent items of variety entertainment by which the carnival is preceded Herr Addison's troupe of trained fox terriers take the lead; considerable diversion is provided by *The Costers' Outing*; and the comicalities of Neddy Vokes furnish unlimited amusement. In all respects the bill is kept up to a high level, and the passing weeks duly evidence the continued popularity of Mr. Cooke's well-known house.

EXETER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—The third week of the Christmas pantomime *Aladdin* opened on Monday, and the production has continued to draw large houses. Miss Rose Helene as Aladdin is a great favourite; and Miss Lulu Louden as the Princess, by her winning and pleasing manner scores one of the hits of the pantomime. Miss Blanche Browne as Prince Pekoe sings charmingly. The Dame (Mr. E. W. Amery) as usual provides much merriment; and Mr. Fred Fowler as the Magician, while introducing local and topical allusions in a most amusing manner, deserves commendation for his clever acting. Another talented artist is Mr. Harry Emeric (Wishee Washee), and Mr. J. H. Booth is good as the Emperor of China. The Royal Tokio Troupe give a clever exhibition of balancing and tight-rope walking; and Messrs. Baroux and Bion are smart knockabouts. The augmented orchestra is under the able direction of M. Legrand.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—The pantomime, *Jack the Giant Killer*, is running its last week here. It has been one of the most successful ventures of the theatre, and has been well patronised. Miss Eily Helene, as the principal boy, has, right up to the finish, maintained a freshness and piquancy in acting and stage presence which have been quite charming. On Wednesday evening a complimentary benefit was given on her behalf. What has proved a unique attraction throughout the run was the dancing of Mlle. De Dio in "Terpsichore's Dream," the limelight effects playing upon the sinuous evolutions of this accomplished lady being nothing short of bewildering, as they were also bewitching.

TOWN HALL.—Mr. R. A. P. Williamson of the Gaiety Theatre, Dundee, presented *The Babes in the Wood* pantomime to an enthusiastic audience here on Monday night for a week's run. Miss Mai Duncan makes a charming Robin Hood; Mr. George Melvin is well received as Helen McMutchin, the babes' nurse, a part which he interprets in the Harry Lauder vein of humour. The other leading characters are well sustained. A feature, and a very popular one, is the number of specialities interpolated throughout the production.

FARNWORTH.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. Morton Powell.—Pantomime holds sway this week, and we are having the story of *Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp* placed before us by Mr. Ronald Grahame's company. Miss Celestine Brandon in the title-rôle is all that could be desired as a pantomime principal boy, being endowed with a fine figure and a good singing voice; Miss Lucy Fitzroy as the Princess is charming, and sings and dances admirably; Miss Edie Cameron as My Sweete is a very capable artist, whilst Miss Edna Hana as Pekoe acts throughout with great animation; the part of the Widow Twankey is in the capable hands of Mr. Gilbert Hart, who contributes largely to the success of the show; Mr. Tony Freedman as the Grand Vizier is another comedian whose efforts meet with the reward they deserve; Mr. Wilfred E. Brandon as Abanazar works hard and successfully throughout the performance; Messrs. Grant and Allen cause great amusement as the Policemen. Several specialities are introduced, including the Cambrian Glee Singers and the Clifton Trio of Dancers. The scenery and dresses greatly enhance the production, which is a capital one in every way.

FLEETWOOD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—Miss Emma Litchfield's company, under the direction of Mr. Stuart Cleveland, is presenting this week *A Clever Impostor*. Mr. Stuart Cleveland is seen to advantage in the title-rôle; and Mr. Herbert Evelyn makes an excellent Captain Desmond; Mr. John Worth a capable Stephen Grosvenor; Miss Maud Steeple as Margaret gives the right touch of avariciousness to the rôle; Miss Isabel Singleton is good as Maisie Grosvenor; and Miss Florence Gomer as Annie Pleasant and Mr. Edward Swinton as Jim Brightside supply the humour. Mr. Robert W. Lynn is well suited as Bob Darnforth; Mr. Eric Dare as Harris and Mr. William Waring as Matakan both do justice to their respective parts; and Miss Emma Litchfield is really excellent as Nora Grosvenor.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Peter Davey's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, met with a cordial reception here on Monday. Mr. Charles McCann causes hilarity in his impersonation of the Baron; Mr. Alfred Sandoe and Mr. Charlie Clark make a hit as Blustering Bill and Dare-Devil Dick; Mr. William Benson works with happy results as Martha Maiscypop; Miss Millie Henderson gives a bright representation of Jasper; Miss Ethel Rainforth is a vivacious Felicita, singing and dancing charmingly; Miss Alice Bowes as Chrissie (the girl babe) takes the part in a dainty manner; and Miss Queenie Harvey as Reggie is all that can be desired; Miss Margery Chard, a successful Titania, sings in a captivating manner; and Miss Cissie Clark as Puck is smart, both in acting and dancing. The scenery and electrical effects are very fine.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stear.—Mr. Bert Coote's *Fatal Wedding* company appeared here for three nights last week. Howard Wilson and Robert Curtis were well played by Messrs. E. Owtrunn and Guy Hastings respectively. Miss Katherine Clarke was a pathetic Mabel, and Miss Leah Marlborough gave a powerful study of Cora, the adventuress. The comedy element was safe in the hands of Mr. C. H. Hughes and Miss Julia Temple. Jessie, "the little mother," was charmingly played by Miss Marie Wilson. The children's scene went as well as ever. This week we have Miss Rose Moncrieff's company in *Little Red Riding Hood*. The title-rôle is represented by Miss Ethel Maries, and Miss Blanche St. Marie is a dashing Robin Hood. Messrs. Burns and Bentley introduce some clever dancing, and the scenery and mounting are effective.

GATESHEAD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. M. S. Hammond; Licensee, Mr. Edward Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harold Arnold.—*Sinbad the Sailor* continues to attract large audiences. New songs and a fund of topical patter have been added.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas France.—Mr. Augustine Knight is presenting *The Assassin* here this week. Mr. Knight is a decided success in the part of Prince Demetri; Mr. Ed. E. Ashby ably depicts Ivan Ipanoff; Mr. Theo. Balfour is an excellent Duke Carl; Mr. Edwin Jenner is a clever Capt. O'Neil; Mr. Chauncy Morris a creditable General Nicol; and the comedy element, of which there is abundance, is well looked after by Messrs. C. H. Raymond (Alphonse), Tom Taylor (Peter), and Miss Marie E. Robertson (Katrina). Very praiseworthy is Miss Ella Vane's impersonation of Countess Wanda; and as the volatile American, Connie Jonathan, Miss Hettie Senior is very popular; Miss Frances Waring fills the rôle of Nita with distinction.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—*Her Nameless Child*, presented by Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company, forms the attraction at this house. Mr. J. W. Evelyn plays Anthony Ford successfully; Arthur Ford receives good treatment at the hands of Mr. F. R. Gwyn-Richardson; Mr. Ellerslie Pyne is an excellent Lord Woodville; Mr. Alvin Sawyer as Tom Rivers, Miss Grace Harlington as Bessie Brookes, and Miss Madge Trevelyan (Crayont) fill the comedy rôles with credit; Miss Pattie Hastings makes an excellent Phyllis Ford; and a clever rendering of Lady Sybil emanates from Miss Grace Jones.

GILLINGHAM (Kent).—HIPPODROME.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. F. R. Griffiths.—Pictures continue to form the main attraction here, and are well received by fairly good audiences. Interesting items are also introduced by Miss Katie Johnstone, a pleasing vocalist, and Miss Dolly White, a little local lady, who is a clever male impersonator.

GLASGOW.—GRAND, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. D. Macfarlane.—*The House that Jack Built* is proving a phenomenal success here, and the only regret is that the theatre, large as it is, is far too small to accommodate the crowds who seek admission. Mr. Fred Kitchen as Dame Trot is always merry and bright, and his facility in the devising of new and funny business is evident at every performance; Miss May Mars, who was unfortunately off duty last week owing to a severe cold, is now back in her place as the Prince, and received a most hearty welcome from the large audience. Her songs go well, and she possesses the happy knack of being able to combine well with the comedians, the result being that some of the best scenes in the pantomime are those in which the dignity and grace of the Prince are brought into immediate contrast with the eccentricities of Mr. Fred Kitchen as the Dame; Miss Luna Love as the hero, Jack, is a strong favourite, and her "Zuyder Zee" and "Starlight Sue" songs are repeatedly encored; Miss Frances Kapstoune is an attractive Jill, and two popular favourites are the little girls who play Marjory Daw and Tommy Tucker (Wee Mona and Maudie Francis), both of whom are remarkably agile dancers; Mr. Harry Lappo as the Dame's youthful husband, Mr. Fred Whittaker as the clever and life-like Cat, and the Harmony Four in their musical specialities, are also of immense value; the business of the 14th Black Hussars is also as striking as it is original, and their musical selections are much enjoyed.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—Of the success of *Mother Goose* here the best and most conclusive proof is found in the fact that additional matinées have been found necessary for every day this week—a most unusual occurrence for the week after the holidays in Glasgow. Miss Ethel Campbell and Miss Ella Retford make a fine dashing couple as Robin and Marguerite, and their song and dance items are well received; the Sisters Hall are also strong favourites, while the funny business of Messrs. Austin Lenton, Wal Croft, Harry McLelland, and Foreman and Fannan is, if possible, more excruciatingly comic than it was at the start of the run.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—The pantomime at the Metropole continues to draw crowded and enthusiastic houses, and *The Babes in the Wood* seems likely to prove one of the most successful annuals seen at this theatre. Miss Rose Hamilton makes an ideal Prince Radiant, and her songs, which are many, go with a fine swing, while her acting is always bright and full of animation; Miss Lucy Lynch as the Princess is also a bright little actress, and plays her part well; Miss Ada Martine shines in song and dance, and many of the most catchy ditties in the piece fall to her lot; Miss Patti Bella imparts much vivacity to the part of Sir Bertie Boulevard; Miss Vinnie Edmunds as Mollie and Misses Blanche Albert and Ada Merry as the Babes also add their quota to the general success. Of comedians there is no lack here, and Messrs. Albert and Edmunds as the two ruffians claim first consideration. Their business throughout is good, and they are full of resource; Messrs. Bernard and Weston as the King and his faithful Page are another clever pair of fun providers; Mr. Mark Tapley as the Widow and Mr. Ernie Sparks as Tommy also give valuable assistance; a word of praise is due Miss Cecilia Maude for her singing in the part of the Fairy Sunshine, the special favourite being the pretty ballad, "When Love comes a-knocking at the door"; the airship and the railway station scene provide much lively fun, and the whole pantomime runs brightly from start to finish.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's highly successful pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, is now running its third and last week before setting out for fresh fields and pastures new. During the holidays it was extensively patronised, and the efforts of Messrs. Dawson Dewick, Harry Albery, T. D. Tandy, Farr and Farland, and Grapho and Jackson, as comedians, were highly enjoyed; while Miss Amy Allnutt as Robin Hood, Miss Belle Travers as Maid Marian, and Baby Lilybelle and La Belle Sylvia as the two Babes were one and all worthy of the highest praise.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Mussett.—A good programme is submitted here this week, one of the attractions being the engagement of Miss Hilda Jacobsen, the musical comedy star, who was seen to much advantage in an original operetta, entitled, *10 p.m.* J. W. Rowley continues as great a favourite as ever; and Herbert Darnley's company is responsible for a laughable performance, entitled *The Freaks*; other items of special interest include the Two Bostons, the novelty showmen; the Macarte Sisters, novelty wire act; Harry Russon, character comedian; Alma Gray, expert dancer; the Two Anartos, in sketch, *The Morning Mail*; and the American Bioscope with new pictures.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The chief turn this week is a cleverly acted condensed drama, by Fred Eustace and company, called *Our Curate*, in which Mr. Eustace plays the title-rôle, depicting a clergyman who can handle his "mauleys" when required in defence of his parishioners; while Miss Mary Eustace makes a very effective heroine; Hale and Frances are American eccentrics who give a pleasing display of juggling with hoops; it is pleasant to listen to such a fine soprano voice as that of Alexandra Edwin; Elsie Bernard is a clever American comedienne; Ernest Torrence has a powerful baritone voice, which he uses to good purpose, while his songs are finely illustrated by lantern slides; Lilith Leyton and John Spurling give an amusing sketch, entitled *The Order of the Bath*; Charles Mildare is an accomplished singer and whistler, who gives realistic imitations of the singing of birds; Griffin and Dubois are acrobats who do clever feats in a laughable way; the fine orchestra begins, and the Bioscope usually ends, a very interesting entertainment.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—This week the principal item in the programme is Joe Peterman and his company in the highly amusing extravaganza, *The Belle of the Orient*; another popular feature is Marie Dainton's clever imitations of well-known theatrical and musical stars; Jack Whiteford, the energetic Scotch comedian, meets with a hearty reception; Sable Fern's tuneful ditties go remarkably well; America's funniest jugglers, Cole and Rags, give an amusing show; and Jack Neil's songs and patter are fully appreciated.

COLISEUM. — Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Sam Gething; Acting-Manager, Harry Burdette.—Mr. Leo Stormont and company are still here in *Rob Roy*. Mr. Stormont is very fine as the bold outlaw; and Miss Madge Flynn is also successful as Helen; Mr. Forest Niven's Dougal and Mr. Geo. Hunter's Baillie are the other outstanding characters; Madge Cory is heard in a dialect turn; Frank Darwin is an actor-vocalist, who does well; Esta Stella has a gratifying reception, singing and dancing charmingly; Gertrude Bradshaw is a charming soprano vocalist; the Allisons make a good appearance in a matrimonial vocal sketch; Conway and Leland, the monopedes, deserve the warm applause they receive; Damarael Rutland and company, in a boisterous domestic sketch, *A House Full*, provide much fun; the Seven Serezoffs are marvellous jugglers. The Bioscope is also in the programme.

PALACE. — Sole Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—A good all-round programme is submitted here this week. The King's College Boys are the principal entertainers, and their rendering of both part songs and solos is a vocal treat, which is thoroughly enjoyed by the audience; Henri Bekker, conjurer, who displays wonderful skill, has had also a capital reception; the other contributors to the programme include the Cormans, comedy duettists; Mark Leslie, coon comedian; Morny Cash, a clever comedian; Fred Mason, whistling coster comedian; Allsopp and Bekwith, comedy artists; Chas. E. Colby and Lily E. May, ventriloquist and dancer, in their smart speciality act; the Gilberts, expert dancers; and the Alskarno Trio, risley acrobats.

GAIETY, LTD.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Howard; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Bowerman. — Ara, Zebra, and Vora, are much appreciated in their *Indian Pastimes*; Marcus Boyle is a good patter comedian; the Musical Keiths are a praiseworthy turn; Jessie Star has some capital songs; and Emmie Ames does well in "Emmie's Christmas Tree"; Ada Whitton is successful as a male impersonator; Frank Newbury, comedian and whistler; the Garden Quintette, dancers; the Sisters Clare, comediennes and dancers; and the Gaiety Bioscope are included in the programme.

GLOSSOP. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Miss Lena Stanton and Mr. Harry Joseph's company, in the pantomime, *Sinbad the Sailor*, is this week proving a great attraction. Miss Stanton sustains Sinbad in a clever manner, her singing of "Snowflakes" being loudly encored; Miss M. Santley is captivating as Princess Zazora; whilst Miss E. Errol (Capt. Selim), Miss Norah Neville (Irza), Miss L. Richardson (Princess Fatima), and Miss Jennie Bradbury (Queen) are conspicuous in their respective parts; Mr. Bruce Green as Mrs. Clifford Gibson Sinbad is good as a mirth-maker, and is also successful in the song, "Catch of the Season"; Little Keeno is exceedingly droll as Tinbad the Tailor, and brings down the house with his impersonations of popular music hall stars; Mr. F. Derley gives a good delineation of Captain Cuttle; and Mr. A. Romer (Caliph of Bagdad) and Mr. C. Leamington (Grand Vizier) are a couple of good characters; Mr. George is effective as the Old Man of the Sea; and other important parts are in the safe hands of Mr. Southey (Storm King), Mr. Farrell (Biglad), Mr. Gorman (Quizlad), Miss Dolly Richardson (Fairy Good Fortune), Mr. G. Raper (Kingrusty, M.U.G.), Miss E. Streathley (Adventure), Miss Marie Muire (Industry), Miss Elsie Streathley (Energy). Specialities are well gone through by the Alhambra Girls, vocalists and dancers; Wyman, acrobatic trick skater; P. J. Durney, globe walker; the Deronkeys, wire-walking, spade-dancing, &c.; Farrell and Gorman, musical eccentrics; Little Keeno, boy comedian.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE. — Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—The company is this week headed by the Cumberlands troupe of cyclists, who meet with a great reception. Jean Seul, Indian illusionist, performs his "Black Magic" to the amazement of the audience; Bandoni, the one-man band, is good, and his concertina specialities are praiseworthy; Messrs. Gold and Sterling as the artist and the Welsh girl, are a most entertaining pair, who win much applause; Mlle. Ada Gatley in her graceful swinging wire and juggling act, gives a neat and clever show; and Messrs. Elliott and Warne, with a tumbling and dancing act, prove very expert. The Four Sisters Sligo introduce a novel Irish vocal and musical speciality, and Belford and Mars are smart patterers and comedy entertainers. Mr. Harry Bent gives impersonations of well-known comedians, and Miss Carlotta Lunn, ballad vocalist, sings with taste. The Bioscope, although last, is always looked forward to with expectancy.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. J. E. Tomlinson.—Mr. Stanley Carlton's company, in the drama *A Marriage of Vengeance*, occupies the boards this week. Mr. Stanley Carlton as Paul Earnsliff gives a capital representation; Mr. Sidney Finnes puts considerable force into his rendering of the character of Geoffrey Vannock; Mr. E. Kellen Taylor is highly successful as Glynne Earnscliff; Mr. Edward Fryer cleverly imp

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—An excellent programme is headed here by the Chronophone (Gaumont's patent) pictures, that sing, talk, and dance with phenomenal success. Stylo, the marvellous hoop manipulator, makes a welcome reappearance; Alex Keith and Julia Kent, in their latest comedy, *The Waiter and the Barmaid*, evoke enthusiastic plaudits; another brilliant turn is provided by the Reynolds's Minstrel Quintette; "Its the girl" is quaintly rendered by Frank Boyce; Marstro and Mlle. Oretta (eccentric equilibrists), and Bert Lytton (character vocalist) are good, and Bert Woodward (the coon on wheels), is as popular as ever.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Ed. Harrison.—Mr. Jno. Tiller's *Dick Whittington* pantomime is being presented here twice nightly to crowds. Mr. Will Lytton's Idle Jack is distinguished by quaint songs and patter; the broad comedy of Mr. Teddy Gibbs as Sammy Saltpetre and Mr. Barney Dixon as Horatio Marlinspike keep their auditors in continuous laughter; Mr. Herbert Garside, an old favourite here, is equally successful in the character of Fitzwarren; Eliza is humorously presented by Mr. George Elliston; and Mr. Gaston Morel is as busy as a "bee" as the cat. Miss Jessie Templeton makes an ideal Dick Whittington; a delightful Alice is found in Miss Dorothy Gould; and the Princess Zuleikah of Miss Lizzie Hay is a fascinating performance.

HANLEY.—ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—The pantomime, *Sleeping Beauty*, is still running briskly, and business continues excellent. Mr. J. W. Churchill has introduced a new song, which is really amusing, and his performance throughout is most diverting; Miss Lily Vane continues her admirable impersonations as Beauty Allfair; Miss Esme Gordon is a dashing principal boy; Mr. Alf Bishop, Mr. Dave O'Toole, Mr. Lonnen Meadows all do really fine work; and Miss Agnes Molteno and Miss Ada Tilley also score. The Morton Trio, the Howards, and Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of dancers are specialities which will be long remembered. Ganty's "Electric Bower" is undoubtedly a great feature in the evening's entertainment.

GRAND.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwards.—The Ten Loonies head the bill this week in the clever performance. Ulrick is seen in some wonderful barrel feats, which are much appreciated; Toch and Tard provide an amusing and highly interesting turn; J. H. Greener has a good baritone voice, which is heard to advantage. A capital sketch is given by Miss Lillie Dene and C. G. Dawson; Lillian is a smart trick cyclist; Harry Maynard is a character vocalist of much ability; and the pictures are capital

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Fielding-Smith.—Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Tomlinson's company, in the well-known drama *Secrets — — —*, was the attraction here the first three nights of this week. The company is a good all-round one. Mr. J. E. Tomlinson was effective as Ibrahim, the money-lender; Mr. Wilson Summers appeared with success as Lieut. Herbert Markham, the breezy hero. The comedy was in the hands of Mr. Victor T. Raymond and Miss Katie Lever as Peter and Winnie Wilkins. Mr. Lal Abdul Cottman made a capable Kara Mesrour; Miss Lizzie Palmer as the Christian maid, Ismalia, gave a creditable performance.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—Messrs. Dan Thomas and Fred Clements are presenting, twice nightly, their pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, and the attractive costumes, bright music, taking songs, and choruses, and heaps of fun render the production completely successful. Miss Trixie Cotterill is entrusted with the rôle of Dick, and her sparkling vivacity at once marks her a favourite; dainty in all she does, Petite Mabel Hind makes Alice a firm favourite; Mr. Fred Clements undertakes the character of Old Fitzwarren satisfactorily; a capital representation of the Cat is given by Pete Almonti, his efforts being repeatedly applauded; irresistible humour is freely dispensed by Sam Michello, Syd Crossley and Chas. Dore, who are respectively appearing as Betsy, Idle Jack, and Silly Jim. Others who gain appreciation are Harry Pastor, as the Captain; Ida Bell, as the Emperor; Madge Goodall, as the Princess; and specialities by Mlle. Estelle's Excelsior Quartette, Peto, the man monkey, and Baddow, ventriloquist, are appreciated.

HASTINGS.—PIER PAVILION.—Pier Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. A. B. Tapping and a strong company are producing *Poor Jo* this week. Mr. A. B. Tapping as Tulkinghorn is an ideal family lawyer; as the pompous Sir Leicester Dedlock, Mr. E. Maule Cole deserves credit for a good piece of acting; Mr. Algernon Syms cleverly hits off the Rev. Chadband. Miss Naomi Nelison depicts the French temperament admirably; Miss Helen Anderson is very natural in the title-rôle, and Miss Kate Wingfield gives a most intelligent representation of Lady Dedlock.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Mr. Frank Bertram's company opened a week's engagement here on Monday in *The Breed of the Treshams*. Mr. H. Tripp Edgar gained warm praise for his performance as Lieut. Reresby; Mr. Oswald Lingard submitted an admirable impersonation of Viscount Dorsington, and Mr. Richard A. Green as Col. the Hon. C. Hungerford was scarcely less successful; Mr. Cecil Klein's Cornet the Hon. F. Tresham was a fine character delineation. Miss Celestine Bertram made a convincing Batty, Miss Nelly Clyde a charming Margaret; and Miss Violet Agnew as Mrs. Bagshaw and Miss Miriam Holt as Helena Pierrepont gave meritorious performances. Mr. Wilfred Compton ably stage-managed.

HASTINGS HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Miss Dorothy Vincent, an attractive vocalist and comedienne opens a good programme. Mr. Walter Wallis is a highly amusing comic character comedian; Miss Clare Chadwick's quartette of lady operatic vocalists introduce some pleasing selections; some amusing films are seen on the bioscope, particularly one of pathetic significance, "The lost necklace"; a laughable comedy sketch is given by Marlow and Manton; Miss Nellie Cotter sings with good taste; Macdonald and Hunting give some excellent imitations of American singing and dancing; a popular comedian is seen in Mr. Charles Denton; a well-acted scena from *A Royal Divorce* is introduced by Ronald Bayne and Evelyn Hope.

ST. LEONARDS PAVILION THEATRE.—Piermaster and Entertainment Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—Miss Florence Glossop-Harris, supported by Mr. Frank Cellier, jun., and company, are presenting a series of classical plays. The company is large and effestive, and the pieces are exceptionally well mounted. The original play, *Carmen*, from Prosper Merimée's opera, and Alexandre Dumas' *Camille* have been successfully produced. In the last-named play Miss Florence Glossop-Harris takes the titular character with much refinement; Mr. Edwin Beverley is natural as Mons. Duval; as Armand Duval, Mr. Frank Cellier, jun., shows a finished piece of acting. Comte de Varville is finely acted by Mr. A. Cotton Holmes; in the part of Gaston de Rieux, Mr. Percy H. Vernon shows himself a sound actor; Mr. Duncan Yarrow is no less happy in the character of Gustave. Miss Irene Woodford cleverly depicts the womanly part of Juliette; Miss Marion Bird gives an excellent rendering of Francine; Mrs. Edward Saker is quite at home in the part of Madame Prudence; Miss May Saker and Miss Kate Turner are equally successful in the respective characters of Nanine and Nichette. Mr. Edward Landor does the part of St. Julien full justice.

HEREFORD.—GARRICK THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. Barnsley.—*When a Man Hates* is being presented by Messrs. Green and Hinton and company. Mr. Travis Green plays the part of Pietro Danelle to perfection; Mr. Arthur Hinton gives a performance of nerve-trying intensity as Paul; Miss Leila Zellwood shows dramatic power as Olga Gwynne; Miss Jennie Clare's Dolly is bright and vivacious, and Mr. Henry Compton is good as Smart.

HORWICH.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fred Lewis.—Mr. Howell Webb's company, in *The Convent Bell*, is paying a return visit, and meets with a very hearty reception. The company is a good all-round one, and the piece well staged. Mr. Webb fairly revels in the part of Pickle Podds, and Christine Valgrave, in the hands of Miss Emily Huby, is a powerful impersonation.

HOYLAND.—METROPOLE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. R. Baker.—Messrs. Pardoe's company is here this week in *Cinderella*. Miss Lottie Holland as Prince Charming is a fine principal boy, her vocalism and dancing being excellent; Miss Beatrice Shamrock in the title-rôle is charming, and her songs were well received; an excellent Princess Rosella is found in Miss Nelly Rose, whose dancing is heartily applauded; and Miss Ada Stelling is good as Dandini. Mr. Tom Hume is a funny Baron No Cash; and Miss Violet Rivers as Eva and Miss Louie Bright as Maud are responsible for much laughter. Mr. Geo. Hyam as Scoots is smart in his patter and songs; the Bros. Hannaway as Blobbs and Blabbs are capable comedians and dancers; Miss Constance Bellamy scores as Fairy Rose Leaf; and as Father Time Mr. Tom Griffith comes in for applause. Specialities are introduced by the Four Desmond Girls, dancers; Bros. Hannaway, clog dancers; Zenieth, as Jacko the monkey; the De Veres, Continental acrobats; and special mention should be made of the Pardoes, in their marvellous human skipping-rope and human bundle act.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—Mr. J. W. Turner's English Opera Company is here for the week with a well-selected and popular programme. In *Maritana* Mr. Turner showed all his usual skill in acting, and the veteran tenor's singing was a fine object lesson to many a younger vocalist. The Maritana was Miss Kitty Brownless, and her clear articulation and freshness of voice won a thoroughly deserved success; Miss Jessie Dennis was a satisfactory Lazarillo; Mr. John Ridding was energetic as Don José; and Mr. S. Clifford sang well as the King of Spain. The well-trained chorus was bright and alert under the direction of Mr. T. Lawton. The other operas down for performance are *The Bohemian Girl*, *The Waterman*, and part of *Il Trovatore*, *Satanella*, *The Lily of Killarney*, and *The Daughter of the Regiment*.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The boards of this popular house of varieties are for the week in possession of the fine old Carl Rosa Opera Company. An attractive series of works is announced, including *Faust*, *Tannhauser*, *Maritana*, *Il Trovatore*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Carmen*, and *The Bohemian Girl*. The favourite, *Faust*, was presented by a cast in which Mr. Edward Davies acted and sang brilliantly in the title rôle; Miss Grace Nicoll sang artistically in the exacting part of Marguerite; in Mr. Arthur Winckworth an almost ideal portrayer of Mephistopheles was found, his fine voice and finished acting being greatly effective; Mr. Dillon Shallard sang with much sympathy as Valentine; Miss Dorothy Mayfield was a good Siebel; Miss Douglas Wilson happily cast as the dull-witted Martha; and Mr. F. Clendon was vivacious in the small part of Wagner. The big chorus and largely augmented band, conducted by Mr. Eugene Goossens, contributed much to the completeness of the production.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—The constant peals of cheery children are ample testimony to the manner in which Mr. Morton's *Cinderella* adds to their amusement. The musical items are now the common possession of the street boy, whilst the witticisms of the comedians are heard on many sides. Miss Barbara Babbington has a striking personality, and she has already made a host of friends. The nightly gift of flowers as they fall into the auditorium from the hands of the aerial ballet is a feature always eagerly expected.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr Wynn Miller.—The success of this pantomime has been such that already Mr. Hart has cancelled an engagement which was to have followed the present run. The life, colour, and movement of the stage crowds, the splendid scenic effects are all contributory to the admiration with which it has been received. The sabot dance of the Edene Troupe, who accompany Miss Marie Nielson in her Zuyder Zee scena, is an especial feature in this show. As the cat, Mr. B. Kellino has made a distinct hit. The Fairy Queen (Miss Ivy Moore) has a beautiful contralto voice, which she uses with considerable artistry, her rendering of "Snowflakes" being an excellent vocal effort. Crib and Crib are sufficiently funny enough to make the most blasé critic laugh.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—The play this week is proving an admirable attraction for the large number who patronise this very popular playhouse. It has some striking situations and a cleverly constructed plot. As the wronged wife, Miss Daisy Halling has every opportunity to shine. Needless to say, she avails herself of it to the full. The two exponents of the new and old school of detectives are Messrs. Chas. Halling and Mr. Frank Dallas, who respectively impersonate Vincent Rainsworth and Inspector Gilbert. Miss Lym Darlington has a striking contralto voice.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Tom Lunn.—Appearing here are *The Enemy of Man*, a powerful little story, presented by Frances Harrold and company; a clever act by Ben Harris's Nippers, a novelty bicycle race by Hall and Wilson, Silly Billy Elliott (a special favourite), Johnny Walker, Voldam Bros., and Alexander Royal.

THE PALACE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Jno. T. Barnett.—*Happy Holland*, an artistic operetta, presented by Jake Friedman, is the leading attraction here. The bounding billiardists, Kelly and Ashby, are very clever; Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lucas give realistic scenes of some of Charles Dickens's immortal characters. Other good turns include Mason and Bart, Edie Veno, Horace Jones, Carlos Cæsaro, and Dan Conroy.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Lachie Thompson's Topweights appear in a clever boxing and wrestling act; Adelina excels in an impersonation of our late Queen and other celebrities; Bertha Duckett is a smart male impersonator. Other favourites include Marie York, the Vaudevilles, Harry Leaton, Two Daniels, and Dan Noble.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—The New Century Animated Pictures are entertaining packed houses, this being their thirteenth week.

HYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Variety is still drawing large houses here. The Onatis Troupe give a clever juggling performance: Clarke's Nippers are a smart quartette; the Two Mephistos are clever contortionists; George Young, the blind collier musician, is a success; Los Toreadors create roars of laughter; Lei is a funny ventriloquist; Mlle. Omega performs some graceful feats on the wire; Vosper astonishes by his skilful manipulation of paper and his impersonation of distinguished men; the Juvenile Saletos are dexterous acrobats, and Ellis and Watts are successful as duettists and dancers. The pictures shown by means of the Electric Featherscope are very clear.

OHMY'S CIRCUS.—Good business is being done here this week. The bill is headed by Aerian and Ostara, whose daring aerial feats hold the audience spellbound. The performing horse, "Japan," furnishes a remarkable instance of what can be done by patient training; the Brothers Alberto (Hilton and Wooton), in their football match on bicycles provide a novel and entertaining turn; Claude Ohmy and Mr. Yelding in their rival jockey and other equestrian acts are very smart; Miss Lilly and Miss Ada are accomplished horsewomen; and Zavolo and Mons. Footitt provide skilful juggling entertainments. The clowns, headed by August and September, raise hurricanes of laughter.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—A variety company occupies the boards here this week. Fred Baugh and Miss Rosa Neale provide a laughable duologue; Jones and Mansfield are successful in *The Prodigal's Return*; the Bros. Esdaile are eccentric comedians; in *Outflanked*, Mr. Henry Coutts figures as a quick-change artist; the Albano Troupe of musicians give an excellent musical treat; Mr. W. R. Grey gains much favour as a ventriloquist; Birch scores as a concertina manipulator; May Neilson is a clever dancer; and Harry Wynne, comedian, and the Pocket Opera Company in *Claude Duval* also appear.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. T. Knightall.—A clever Japanese magic performance is provided by Yettmah. The Grahams, in a living marionette entertainment, are successful; Norah McEvoy is applauded for her songs; Rex and Rell impart pleasure by their songs and dances; and Herbert Potts, comedian; Louie Rell, male impersonator; and Rex Graham, comedian, complete.

INVERNESS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Burgess.—Mr. John A. Thomson's company is here for three nights with the pantomime *Dick Whittington*. The company is a strong one, and the scenery and dresses are pretty. Miss Fay Garnet Vayne in the title-rôle appears to great advantage, her singing being very good; Miss Isla Garnet Vayne as Alice Fitzwarren sings and dances with nice taste; Messrs. Long and Beal as Alderman Fitzwarren and Pimple are responsible for much of the fun; Captain Bunting has a clever representative in Mr. Sid Morelli; Mr. William Nixon is good as the Emperor of Morocco; Mr. Joe Rowlands as Idle Jack causes much laughter; Mr. E. Young Fixott as Betsy Jane (Fitzwarren's cook) is very amusing; Mr. Victor Garnet Vayne is an agile cat. All the other parts are well done.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Grey.—*Lights Out* has been played here this week, by Mr. J. Maunder-Gregory's company. The important part of Klara Volkhardt is finely represented by Miss Frances Davis, an accomplished actress; Mr. Charles Esdale creates a favourable impression as Lieut. von Lauffen; Sergeant Volkhardt has a manly representative in Mr. Lionel D'Arragon; and Mr. Richard Fielding gives a clever rendering of Corporal Helbig.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—A diversified programme is being provided for the current week, one of the chief items being Miss Mabel Bright and company in a vocal *mélange*, called *Girls Will be Girls*. The Montagu Brothers appear in a sketch entitled *The Sculptor's Dream*, an artistic performance; James Eadie and Cissy Ramsden make a good impression in a pot-pourri act; Little Zola proves himself to be an amusing comedian; Lily Langtry is enthusiastically applauded; and Douglas and Gordon are responsible for a droll absurdity.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jerold E. Reed.—The attraction this week is Messrs. Little and D'Arcey's pantomime company, in *The Forty Thieves*. Miss Minnie Silcott makes an ideal Abdallah; and Ganem is carefully embodied by Miss Violet Silcott; and Miss Marie Silcott is charming as Morgiana; Mr. Willie Black is droll as Ali Baba; Mr. James Ferguson is quite at home in the part of Cogia Baba; and Mr. Ted Wooton makes a good Cassim Baba; Messrs. Malone and Conley are excellent in their respective parts of Hassarac and Hassaric. Specialities are introduced by the Esmeralda Troupe of dancers, the Daunton Shaw Troupe of cyclists, and the Sisters Silcott, first-class vocalists and dancers.

KEIGHLEY.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Carson.—Messrs. Carpenter and Cooper's company with *The Spider and the Fly* is paying its first visit here this week. A capital performance of Cyril Girdlestone is given by Mr. Stanley S. Gordon; Welby Girdlestone is exceedingly well played by Mr. Ellis J. Preston, who also ably undertakes stage-management; Mr. H. C. Lanceley's Rev. Mr. McAllister is admirable; Miss Amy Venimore gives a talented and artistic portrayal of Stella Grey, the Spider; Miss Nina Vaughton's Edith McAllister is full of merit; Mr. Charles A. Preece is very energetic; and his Remus Roe teems with humour; Mr. Charles Russell puts in some good work, as does Mr. Reginald Payne. Praise must also be bestowed upon Miss Lucy Murray, Miss Ada Palmer, and Miss Winnie Barton.

KILMARNOCK.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Major Ward.—Mr. Charles Macdona's principal company occupies the boards this week in *The White Chrysanthemum*. Mr. Richard Telford's interpretation of Sin Chong, and Mr. Jamie Dallas's eccentricities in the character of Private Perks, are irresistibly funny; Mr. Shirley Lea as the irascible admiral, is distinctly clever; Mr. H. Langdon Bruce as Lieut. Armitage, and Mr. H. E. Garden as Lieut. Belmont, are most successful. Miss Muriel George in the dual rôle of Sybil Cunningham and O'San, makes a good impression; Miss Wilmot gives a lively rendering of the part of Cornelia, and is ably supported by Miss Dorothy Septon as Betty.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Lessees, J. Bannister Howard, Ltd.; Business-Manager, Herr B. Panizer.—Lynn has never seen a brighter or better pantomime than *Bluebeard*, for the successful production of which Mr. Louis Du Cane is responsible. The tuneful music is the work of Mr. J. G. Hahn, who ably conducts. Miss Isa Bowman proves a capable principal boy in the part of Selim; Mr. Gus Danby as Bamboozlem is funny, the two together giving an excellent "take-off" of grand opera. Mr. Louis Du Cane is an admirable Blue Beard. The performance of Mr. Alex. Godfrey as Pimple is most humorous. Mr. Johnny Clegg, too, is very much at home as Sister Ann, and helps the fun along in an irresistibly taking manner. Miss Florence Hersee makes a dainty and fascinating Fatima, and Miss Cissie Thompson proves a fine and capable Cashim. The excellence of the specialities introduced is quite an outstanding feature of the entertainment. Mr. Mac Stuart and Miss Theresa Stuart as Stuart and Stuart give a clever variety turn. The Sisters Warner are responsible for clever turns. Indeed, the whole performance is rounded off with many excellent features. The costumes, the artistic scenery, the bevy of smart girls, and excellent comedians combine to make a production that should run with unabated success to the close of the pantomime season. Mr. W. Collard, as business-manager, capably controls the front of the house.

KIRKCALDY.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Burton—This week the well-known Russell-Rosse répertoire company is appearing in *A Pair of Spectacles*, *Caste*, and *Our Boys*. The company is a strong one, and does justice to these famous comedies. Messrs. A. J. Harding and Norman Clark may be specially mentioned as being entrusted with the bulk of the work.

LANCASTER.—ATHENÆUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hook.—*The Span of Life* occupies the boards this week, and the drama is very well presented by Mr. Arthur Carlton's company. Miss Guinevere Shinton gives an admirable impersonation of the heroine, Kate Heathcote; Mr. R. S. Trelawney submits a fine portrayal of the hero Richard Blunt, and Mr. Sanderson Moffat is well suited to the villain's part, Dunstan Leech. The comic element is introduced by Mr. Sam Roberts as Nutty Brown, and Miss Kitty Russell as Shrove Tuesday. The Brothers Stebbing, acrobats, add to the success of the play.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. W. J. Fergusson and John Porter; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Martin.—Horace White, novelty ventriloquist, is placed at the head of the bill here, and his entertainment wins rounds of applause; a very funny sketch, *Another Man's Wife*, is capitally presented by Hilda and Leigh, and the Sisters Aindow supply a pleasing musical turn; Ferris and Farnley are eccentric comedians; Keir and Kempton sing very well; Rezene and Robini are comical gymnasts, and Lily Hayes sings and dances well. The Hippograph, in a series of new pictures, is still an attraction.

PALACE.—Proprietors, Messrs. J. and C. Fell; Manager, Mr. John Fell.—The bill is this week headed by Mr. Alf. Gibson, comedian, and he is accorded a good reception. The Brothers Lawrence, comedians, cause roars of laughter, and Titan supplies a marvellous turn. A comedy musical act is supplied by Wyllie; Mlle. Telka is a pleasing vocalist, and Monti J. Howe, speciality artist, is well received. The Edison-Swan pictures complete a first-rate bill.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—After judicious pruning by the experienced and energetic producer, Mr. Edward Cadman, the Grand pantomime, *The Sleeping Beauty*, has, up to the present, enjoyed a career of pronounced success. The work of the principals is full of freshness and originality, and there is a plenitude of good wholesome fun. The lavish scenic display and magnificent dresses continue to evoke spontaneous admiration at every performance. The audience being particularly enthusiastic over the scenes "Night and Morning" and "The Butterflies' Ball," which close the respective acts.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—Mr. John Tiller's pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, has got into excellent working order, and goes with snap and brightness from start to finish. As already indicated, the scenery and mounting are on a scheme of lavish splendour never before attempted here, whilst, in the hands of Mr. Bob Selvidge, Mr. Harry Dent, and their worthy associates the fun is never allowed to flag. Ali Baba's donkey, as presented by Mr. Sam Poluski, jun., is a quaint animal, and amuses the juveniles vastly. New songs and business are being introduced nightly.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—The success anticipated for Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean season at the Queen's is being more than fulfilled, for large and enthusiastic audiences are the rule nightly. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is running smoothly, and the sumptuous and elegant mounting of the piece evokes many expressions of admiration. Mr. Benson as Lysander, Mrs. Benson as Titania, Miss Tita Brand as Hermia, and Miss Leah Hanman as Puck score artistic triumphs in their respective parts; the bucolic humour of Bottom is portrayed with rare fidelity by Mr. George R. Weir; and the Peter Quince of Mr. E. A. Warburton is also a most satisfactory and convincing effort. *Twelfth Night* was presented by the company at a well-attended matinée on Wednesday.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss Empires, Limited; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—The dramatic playlet, *La Vivandiere*, a condensed version of *Under Two Flags*, is admirably staged here this week, and the acting of Miss Isabel Derry and her company in the principal parts is of a high order of merit. Alice Maydue is singing dialect songs in her best style, and readily finds favour; the Coloured Meisters once again encounter a rousing reception for their fine vocal turn; and those accomplished musicians, the Stavordale Quintette, easily maintain a notable reputation; the Paxton Trio do some wonderful feats in the way of hand balancing; that sound juggler, Walter Bellonini, retains the attention of his audience through a clever act; Fraser and Mac are to the fore with a comedy instrumental act; Ruth Doris and Princess Pauline are a pair of pleasing comediennes; and an interesting show of Bioscope pictures completes.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; General-Managers, Mr. Claude Shayler and Mr. Charles Weldon.—At this popular Barrasfordian house the Warsaw Bros. are an outstanding feature, with a clever and comical musical show; Leoni Clarke is arousing interest by his wonderful collection of trained animals; the New York Comedy Four combine harmony and comedy very successfully; the vocal and instrumental speciality by Dr. Ernst and Co. never fails to evoke lavish applause; an excellent comedy sketch is presented with ability by Harry Thorpe and Zoe Coe; that clever pair of speciality dancers, Espinosa and Neilson, arouse the enthusiasm of their audience; and there are acceptable contributions by Anthony, comic conjurer; the Cartos Brothers, expert hand balancers; Ted Saunders, a more than usually correct mimic; and Minnie Mace, comedienne and dancer.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—A mirthful sketch, *Three of a Kind*, cleverly played by Arden and Abel's company is the *pièce-de-resistance* here, and proves a very attractive lead; the Bros. Bright are stars in the gymnastic world, and shine brightly; Onda and Artell introduce comedy into their acrobatic act with success; Cline and Clark are well-known as coon specialists and enhance their reputation; and notable success is also achieved by Martinengo, with vocal and instrumental contributions; George Prince, comedian; and Charles Stanton, speciality vocalist.

ALBERT HALL.—Catlin's Royal Pierrots continue a season of pronounced success at this hall, their clever entertainment of song, dance, and diverting farce, ably led by Mr. Will Catlin, proving very enjoyable to full houses.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General and Business-Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—A welcome return visit of Mr. William Greet's No. 1 company, presenting the delightful musical comedy, *The Earl and the Girl*, is the attraction here this week. Mr. William Stephens repeats his mirth-provoking portrayal of Jim Cheese with the greatest success, and Miss Frances Earle is a charming and dainty Elphin Haye; Mr. Arthur Harrold both sings and acts well as Dick Wargrave; Mr Percy E. Wright is good as the Hon. Crewe Boodle; Miss Jennie Richards is well placed and amusing as Liza Shoddam; Miss Gertrude Melville is vivacious and clever as Daisy Fallowfield; and Mr. H. Courtin as Bunker Bliss; Miss Beatrice Anderson as Mrs. Shimmering Black; Mr. W. Norman as Downham; Mr. Green Taylor as Mr. Talk; Miss Joan Clifford as Virginia Bliss, and Mr. Fred W. Patrick as Mr. Hazel, are also responsible for clever and successful delineations of their respective parts. The chorus is strong and well-balanced, and altogether the perfomance is a thoroughly good one.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—The pantomime of *Aladdin* is now in its third week, and the various artists engaged work together in a most commendable manner. Miss May Marton is a favourite in the title rôle, and Miss Janet Reynolds as the Princess is prominent with a dainty portrayal. Both Miss Ethel Wilson as Pekoe and Miss Lovell as Nicee are smart. The comedians are untiring in their efforts as merriment merchants, chief among whom are Mr. Tom Owen as the Widow Twankey; Mr. Clifford Morgan as Abanazar; Mr. Frank Couch as the Vizier; Mr. Leo Sterling and Mr. Happy Attwood as the Chinese policemen; and Mr. Tommy Nelldon as the laundry man. The Royal Welsh Meister Singers and Leo Sterling, the musical comedian, gain much applause, and the pretty scenery and tasteful dresses of the excellent operatic chorus and principals are also greatly admired.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertram G. Iles.—Crowded houses here on Monday evening practically received La Milo with open arms, and gave the famous poseuse a magnificent reception. She charmed everyone, and her visit, which has created quite a sensation, is a pronounced success. The interludes between were filled up with some clever lightning caricatures of public men by Cruickshank. At the other end of the bill is John Le Hay and company, who are presenting a most enjoyable and cleverly-constructed comedy operetta, entitled *Poor Beggar*, which created an excellent impression and much merriment. The Brothers Schenk, head and hand equilibrists, score with a smart show; the Schutzenliestern Quartette are delightful vocalists; Buddha's blackboard proves an interesting and inexplicable illusion; Ernesto is an excellent musical equilibrist and juggler; and both Hettie Chattell, burlesque actress, and Lily Tiso, a pretty comedienne and dancer, give entertaining turns. The Bioscope is retained, and creates the usual amount of interest.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Sibbon's miniature circus, introducing ponies, dogs, and cats, lead here this week, and the clever performance is heartily appreciated; Blanche and Diacoff return, and are accorded a warm welcome for their famous bicycling feats on a teacup track. In connection with this engagement an amateur competition is being held. Cissie Coman is well received for her illustrated songs; Percival and Morley create hearty laughter with a well-played little sketch: D. W. Watson, the one-armed cornet and post-horn soloist, well maintains his popularity; the Two Sprees are versatile vocalists and dancers; Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope, which has become quite a fixture, is again a special feature of the programme.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Rousby.—Messrs. F. J. Little and Mr. Fred Darcy's pantomime, *Sindbad the Sailor*, opened here to a crowded house on Monday night. Miss Marie Reeve is a highly popular Sindbad, her liveliness and vocal ability winning her much success; Miss Amy Calcott makes a charming Zorilda, her singing and dancing being much admired; Mr. Albert E. Mann plays Mrs. Sindbad with unfailing humour; Mr. Walter Adams as Tindbad works hard, and keeps the fun going with his droll songs and sayings; Messrs. Newes and Sullo as Baccah and Stoppah are first rate knockabouts; Miss Marian Ellis as the fairy, Lustre, is worthy of high praise, her singing being excellent; Miss Nell Brough as Selim has plenty of dash, her whistling solo being greatly appreciated; the marvellous Westwoods, comedy cyclists, bring down the house for their daring performance; Dobits and Buxton, operatic vocalists, sing in grand style; the Calcotts, banjoists, Knoto, contortionist, and Les Beaux Belles, singers and dancers, all contribute largely to its success.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—Mr. Stanley Rogers' fairy pantomime, *The Fair One with the Golden Locks*, continuing its phenomenally successful run, still draws crowded houses. Monday evening's performance was marked by the return to the cast of Mr. Barry Lupino, who had been laid aside for a few days by an affection of the throat, and the genial comedian received a cordial greeting. The piece goes with undiminished vigour. The brilliant spectacle, entitled "Electra's Dream," in which Alma, Abdullah, and La Superbe appear, is a great achievement in electric lighting effects.

LINCOLN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner, Mr. Frank King.—That *The Private Secretary* still retains its power to amuse is shown by the hilarity with which the representation is greeted this week. High commendation is due to Mr. Donald Price Evans as the Rev. Robert Spalding, and to Mr. W. Hargreeves as the choleric Cattermole, Miss Ashford being ably interpreted by Mrs. Alfred Davis. Miss Dora Gray and Miss Beth Elliott also appear with success. *My American Admirer* is an excellent curtain-raiser.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Sydney Arthur.—Vocal harmony of a high order is furnished by the Silvertone Quartette; excellent turns being given also by Francis and Alfred, jugglers, and by the Donnas Trio on the trapeze. Gus Hindel, Virto, Ethel Yorke, and Johnny Holland's company in *The Millionaire* are also successful.

LIVERPOOL.—ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—The stage here this week is occupied by Mr. Peter Thompson's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, from the pen of Peter O'Dicks. The whole production is bright and attractive, and full of up-to-date songs, besides having plenty of smart dialogue. Well presented and prettily dressed, the pantomime has proved a draw, good business having been done during the week. The Babes are represented very nicely by the dainty Misses Renee Grahame and Babs Lloyd, upon both of whom was bestowed loud applause for their smart dancing and singing; Miss Maude Beaumont was a dashing Robin Hood; an attractive Maid Marian was submitted by Miss Lou Langley; the Danbys caused nearly all the laughter with their antics as the Ruffians; Mr. Wilton Marsh was a merry bad Baron; Mr. T. G. Vane assisted with the fun as the humorous Nurse; a pretty Fairy Queen was depicted by Miss Maudie Grayson; Mr. Arthur Ainsley and Miss Lelia Lakeman efficiently filled the rôles of the Spirits of the Old and New Years; and able assistance came from Mr. Willie Barrett (Simple Pimple) and Mr. Fred Paget (Friar Tuck). Some clever specialities were introduced by N. T. Kioto, Japanese equilibrist; Babs Lloyd, mimic and coon dancer; Rosa Walmsley, skipping-rope dancer; Renee Grahame, male impersonator; the Yankee Quartette of acrobatic dancers

Westleigh; Mr. Sydney Grant was an able Walter Clifford; Mr. Cecil Ravenswood acted with force as the poacher Warriner; Mr. Robert Wilton was careful and reserved in the character of the clergyman, Denham; Miss Florence Palmer was a sweet Lilian Westleigh; Miss Beryl Ravenswood showed much care as the poacher's daughter; Miss Ada Maud played with satisfactory results as the gipsy, Old Meg; and Miss Florence Cameron was a lively Nancy Grey. The Royal Bioscope had some particularly fine pictures.

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Here this week the "Royal" Stock Dramatic Company have given a fine rendering of the drama, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, in which real negroes have been introduced. Mr. Charles Herberte made an ideal Tom; Mr. Walter Foster played well as Phineas Fletcher; Mr. Francis E. Wybert filled the part of Mr. Shelby with every satisfaction; Mr. H. G. Brandon, an able artist, was a capital Marks; Mr. Albert Sember acted with great effect as the slave, George Harris; the villainous Legree found in Mr. Frank S. Strickland an able exponent; credit is due to Miss Sara Blumenthal for her very complete Aunt Ophelia; Miss Florence Barnes proved a lively Topsy; Miss Violet Macfarlane showed much tenderness as little Eva; Miss Lilian Burns acted with discretion as Eliza; Miss Lina Nazeby earned recognition for her Cassie, and Miss Harriett George did the most with Aunt Chloe.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—The principal feature of the programme here this week is the comedy sketch entitled *Teddy Smiles, the Sportsman*, which is produced by the well-known comedian Will Hebden, assisted by a good all-round company. The whole affair proves exceedingly enjoyable. Hill and Mack are a pair of able comedians, vocalists and dancers; the comedy ventriloquism of Cavalli is a pleasing item; Zernyi's work as a contortionist is remarkable; and Kennedy and Manion are smart juvenile vocalists and dancers.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.—A second edition and last two weeks are announced of Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime, *Puss in Boots*.

OLYMPIA, LTD.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—For yet another week the grand spectacle, *The Earthquake*, is in the bill. It has proved a powerful attraction. The Lyons Trio of pantomimists, with their sketch of *The Parson, Lady, and Butler*, cause screams of laughter; Haidee Lee and Wallace Kingston present a pleasing artistic comedy tit-bit, *Practical Joking*; the De Wynne Bros. perform some remarkable head and hand balancing; as contortionists Genaro and Theol want a lot of beating; Los Granadas are immensely amusing as the "bounding boys"; and others in the list are Frank Harwood, character vocalist, and Rose Archer, a clever mimic.

ROSCOMMON.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot.—A deal of the evening's entertainment here this week consists of the Bioscope showing the Moir-Palmer fight; a return of *Donnybrook; or, St. Patrick's Day*, by Lizette Sutherland and her company of juveniles, is welcomed; and Daisy O'Malley is a winsome comedienne and dancer.

HAYMARKET.—Licensee, Mr. J. S. Childs.—Harry Calden's Sketch Company is here with *A Sprig of Shamrock*; Miss Florence Leo Ville has a charming turn as a conjurer and jester; Miss Madge Pollard, a neat serio and sand dancer, makes her first appearance in Liverpool; Jack Hylton, who earns much applause, is an eccentric comedian of considerable merit; Jake Euston has a good turn as comedian and coon dancer; and the Bioscope shows some capital pictures.

TIVOLI. — Proprietors, Liverpool Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. James Marks.—An acceptable bill of fare is given at this pretty theatre this week. Miss Florrie Gallimore comes with her popular and amusing songs, which take immensely; Harry Champion earns a cordial reception for his capital songs; Miss Josie Delaine receives hearty applause at the conclusion of her *Mirror and the Maid* scena; continuous laughter follows the comedy sketch, *The Dancing Master*, provided by Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor; the remarkably intelligent show by Galetti's monkey comedians is watched with interest; as a comedian and patterer Mr. Charles V. Adams is exceedingly funny; Mignonette Kokin wins much favour for her songs and eccentric dancing; some especially good conjuring comes from Ormonde Penstone, assisted by his Chinatown belle; and Teau-Ngo and Los Rupertos introduce a novel equilibristic act

REYNOLDS' EXHIBITION.—The seasonable show at this old-established and popular place is the marionette pantomime of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. It is one of the best of its kind seen here for years, and the attendance of families has been exceedingly satisfactory.

LLANDUDNO.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. R. Chaplin.—This week the boards here are occupied by Mr. John Gerant and company in the military drama, *At Duty's Call*. As Harold Alison, Mr. Gerant acts powerfully; Mr. Harry Scott as Capt. George Alison is excellent; Mr. Walter P. Carr in the part of Jack Spencer is good; Mr. Ernest St. John as General Gordon contributes a first-rate portrayal; Mr. Harry Ugar as Terry, with song and dance, is much appreciated; Miss Eva Belle's comicalities as Mary find favour; and Miss Jeannie Weston as Salema, and Miss Lily Crammonde as Dora, both do well.

LONG EATON.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Messrs. E. H. Knight and G. Denham's company appear this week in *The Grip of Iron*. Mr. Fred Powell is as successful as ever as the Strangler; Mr. Wallace Curnock is capable as Paul Blanchard; Mr. George Denham creates amusement as the Smiler; and Miss Rosabel Dodd as Cora and Miss Maggie Stuart as Sophie are loudly applauded.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company is paying a return visit this week with the ever-welcome *Gay Parisienne*. Mr. Will Harman in the rôle of Ebenezer Honeycomb is most amusing, and acts with great spirit; Mr. Squire Day is also good as Major Forsdyke; Mr. Phillip Moore is well suited in the part of Tom Everleigh; Mr. J. Fitz-James as Hans is excellent; and Mr. Bloomfield scores as Fritz; Miss Nance O'Neill is a graceful Norah; as Mlle. Julie Bon-Bon Miss Lillian Talbot is dainty, and dances with much energy; Miss Holford Beringer is a capital Mrs. Honeycomb; and Miss Madge Soutter is successful as Ruth.

LOWESTOFT. — MARINA — Managing-Director, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Bright and tuneful music, clever songs and dances, are associated with the pantomime, *Aladdin*, which is presented here this week after a fortnight's successful run at Yarmouth. Mr. Graham Falcon's company has already received full notice in these columns, and it only remains for us to say that each and all have thoroughly settled down to his or her allotted task, and that the whole entertainment works throughout with commendable smartness. Praise is due to Miss Blanche Marion (Aladdin), Miss Nina Moore (Princess), Mr. Jack Waller (Abanazar), Mr. Claude Dampier (the Widow Twankey), and Mr. Harry Kirk (the Emperor). The scenes are wonderfully bright and effective, and the chorus work well together. Mr. Gerald Alexander is the business manager, and Mr. David Cruickshank is responsible for the stage duties. Mr. H. E. Stone ably conducts the orchestra. Some smart specialities are introduced in the palace scene.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Mr. Walter Melville's No. 1 London company in *The Female Swindler*, under the charge of Mr. O. Silverstone, occupies the theatre this week. The name part is ably sustained by Miss Grace Leslie, who proves herself an accomplished artist; Miss Florrie Kelsey as May Andrews successfully portrays the character of the ward; Mr. Clarence Ibbotson is responsible for the comedy, and is irresistible as respectively Lord Hitchitt, Billy Binks, the Scotchman, and the Washerywoman. The part of Abraham Mickstein is in the able hands of Mr. John Belton; Mr. Stanley Radcliffe ably sustains the character of the villain; Captain Stanton and Mr. Kenyon scores in the part of the retired merchant, Mr. James Oliver.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley. — Messrs. Arthur Northway's and W. V. Garrod's company in *The Prodigal Parson* is here this week. As the Rev. Tom Godley Mr. W. V. Garrod gives a vigorous impersonation; Mr. Arthur Northway is a clever Enoch Jaggins; Mr. O. Redmonde an interesting Phil Drive; Mr. W. Hayward an effective Ben Jaggins; Miss Lydia Hart a pleasing Gretchen; Miss Vera Fordyce a sympathetic Fern Godley; and Miss G. Conover a satisfactory Myrtle.

MAIDSTONE.—CORN EXCHANGE.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Beslee.—*The New Barmaid*, played by Mr. Alexander Loftus's company, is drawing crowded houses here. Mr. Loftus is well suited as Bertie White; and as Colonel Claymore and Captain Loveburv Mr. Harry Collie and Mr. James Hawkes are popular. Mr. James Grant as William White and Mr. S. Hall as Mons. Bonsor both do well; Miss Violet Osmund as Dora Heather is excellent, her singing and dancing being especially good. Miss Amy Preston as Ethel Joy and Miss Winifred Preston as Lady Moulton also deserve mention.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Stanley Baskerville.—A good bill is headed by the Bros. O'Brien in a marvellous display on the triple bars; Ross and Grayson are a quaint comedy couple, their piano playing being received with enthusiasm; J. H. McCann is a clever acrobatic skate dancer; Hughes and Elliott please with clever sand-dancing; Edgar Forest's Sketch Company amuses with a comedy sketch; the Adderley Bros. are smart musical mimics; Georgie Beaufort, comedienne; and He and She, dancers, together with the Bioscope, complete the bill.

MANCHESTER.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—*The New Aladdin* at this theatre continues to go in fine style in the hands of Mr. George Edwardes's company.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—*The Midnight Wedding* is presented here this week by Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's talented company. In the principal parts of the Princess Astrea and Paul Valmar Miss Annie Saker and Mr. Alfred Paumier are particularly successful; and good work is done by Mr. Clinton Baddeley as Captain Rudolph von Scarsbruck, Mr. F. W. Freeman as the Crown Prince, Mr. Ernest E. Imeson as Lieutenant Streisburg, and Miss Marian Fawcett as Safanella. In light rôles, Miss Ada Champion, and Messrs. James E. Page, Edward Fletcher, and Algie Spalding are entirely satisfactory; and the scenery and dresses are brilliant and elaborate.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A capital pantomime of *Aladdin* is presented here this week by Messrs. Holland and Wood. All the requirements of a successful travelling show are here supplied in full. Miss Frances Haskoll plays Aladdin in free and vigorous style; and her *vis-à-vis*, the Princess, is daintily impersonated by Miss Florence Wood, who has a very good singing voice. Fine fun, and plenty of it, is supplied by the comedians; notable among whom are Messrs. Nash and Noel, two eccentric members of the Imperial Police; Mr. Percy Curry, an impressively queer magician; and Mr. George Reeves, a typically funny Widow Twankey. Others worthy of mention are Miss Poppy Holland, Mr. Walter Watson, Miss Ada Jenner, and Miss May Harvey; while valuable help, in the way of specialities, is contributed by the Three Trees (Dolly, Bibby, and Portia), accomplished vocalists and dancers; Kendrick and Laura, also excellent singers and dancers; the Chameleon Cave Guards, in a military march, with electrical colour effects; and Messrs. Nash and Noel, eccentric comedians. The production is embellished with elaborate scenery, dresses, and effects, and contains the usual complement of popular and successful songs.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. R. Flanagan. Acting-Manager, Mr. Gus Flanagan.—Messrs. Phelps and Tilbury's romantic comedy-drama, *The Blind Foundling*, is the attraction here this week. The play is written by Mr. Chas. H. Phelps, who sustains with distinction the picturesquely dramatic rôle of Gerald Dalton, a fallen artist. Miss Belle Tilbury as Isabel, Dalton's wife, gives a delicate and sympathetic rendering; Miss Mabel Hall excites interest in her depiction of Fairy, the foundling; Mr. Lawrence Brien presents a neat delineation of Parson Ray; and acceptable humour is interpolated by Mr. R. Earl as Dick Dobbins, Miss Ray Watson as Winnie Dobbins (both of whom add vocalism to their accomplishments), and Mr. John Byron as Algy, the London "Johnnie." The scenery is effective.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Miss Ethel Van Praagh and Mr. J. Edward Whitty's company is here this week in the successful play *An Unwedded Wife*. The drama is of distinctly good quality, and it is staged with excellent effect. Miss Van Praagh gives a very fine depiction of Marian, the "unwedded wife", and Mr. J. Edward Whitty is also very well placed as David Drummond. Mr. E. St. Clair Forbes as the villainous Blackstone is correspondingly excellent; and great praise is due to Little Dorothy for her clever and appealing depiction of Reggie. Others who do well are Mr. Logan Darra as John Hawthorne, Mr. Milton Bedford as Lennox, and—in humorous parts—Mr. Richard Purdon, Mr. Harry Townley, and Miss Jessie Gillette.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Berry.—On Monday Mr. Richard Flanagan took a benefit here, a big attendance of the public and a huge popular programme signalising the event.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—A picturesque electrical act is shown here this week by Nillson's flying ballet of ladies in mid-air. Rosina Caselli and her little Mexican dogs are a big turn, the diminutive canines exhibiting really wonderful intelligence and cleverness. Harry Trevanion and company are seen in a dramatic sketch, *A Bolt from the Blue*; Johnson and Bert give their clever absurdity, *The Queer Customer*; the Schwartz Brothers, Continental parodists, offer a very amusing turn; the Three Renards add a smart exhibition of novelty gymnastics; Herr Fritz, illusionist, presents a variety of magical surprises; and other pleasing turns are contributed by May Orchard, juvenile comedienne, and Harry Coates, the singing navvy. The Bioscope depicts the pantomime of *Aladdin*.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. Peter Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Fred Karno's latest success, *The Football Match*, is still being played here, and the efforts of a capable company, including Messrs. H. Weldon, Will Poluski, jun., Ernie Myers, Robb Gilmore, and Miss Lily Lonsdale (who sings nicely), are greatly appreciated. In addition, we have an exceptionally clever and amusing acrobatic, hand-balancing, and juggling act by the Three Laurels; and a capital performance by Lux's well-trained dogs. Rosie Lloyd, a first-rate comedian, makes a decided hit; Leah Adell, in her vocal scena "Memories," is pleasing, and *Kismet*, a dramatic episode, is well played by Mrs. Oscar Luck's company. The Palace pictures are excellent.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—That sensational, dramatic, and aquatic spectacle *The Flood* is still the attraction here, and is undoubtedly a perfect triumph of realism. A capital turn is offered by Phil and Nettie Peters, a smart American comedy duo; and Sydney James's Strolling Players are particularly successful in a pleasing vocal burlesque. Lena Willard is a charming comedienne, a neat dancer, a sweet singer, and a clever impersonator; the Wotpert Trio present a unique spring board performance, and are well received; William Gourlay is good in his speciality dancing act, "The Scarecrow"; and some excellent cornet playing and club swinging is done by Alburtus and Millar. "O Peaceful Night" is well rendered by the choir; Miss Madge Robertson sings "In Dreamland" in fine style; and "Where there's a will there's a way" is an amusing film shown by the Bioscope.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Miss Hugh De Burn and company, including Messrs. George Arbuthnot, Cecil Lane, and Miss Delia Curzon, head the bill here this week in a delightful old English comedy entitled *The Lady of the Roses*, in which Mrs. De Beera acts charmingly. The Dayton Family are expert risley performers, and, as usual, are well received. Ruth Molloy makes a big hit in her clever imitations of music-hall stars; George and Leila are decidedly good in a smart and refined musical skit, *The Noble Volunteer*; Childie Stuart is a *chic* comedienne; Ted Waite, a comedian of the accentric order, amuses with two songs; Daisy Wright and Crazy Elton are good dancers; Lily Foy is a pleasing comedienne; and Carl Howard in his "Concoction of Comedy and Magic" is highly amusing. Raymond's Vivagraph completes.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The top turn here this week is a clever and entertaining musical mixture in one scene, entitled *Office Hours*, presented by Clarence C. Corri, who is responsible for the music. Edgar Dereve, author of the words, figures in the company, which is quite a successful combination. The programme includes also the Three Brothers Curran, in a smart boxing act; Brull and Helmsley, the damsel and the dude, in their music-shop diversion; Chas. Valvo, an up-to-date ventriloquist; Leotard Brothers, the comical clowns and marvellous hat-throwers; Victor Courtney, speciality artist; the Edgertons, in an American novelty act; and a clever but unnamed deputy for Shawlene. The Bioscope is pleasing, as usual.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Tom and Marie Motramo are to the front here this week, and, as usual, create no end of laughter with their smart patter, and delight with their musical entertainment. Ada Fawn, comedienne, is accorded a warm welcome, and sings three songs in capital style; the Two Paolias give a clever muscular exhibition, with poses; Will Walton is a first-rate comedian; Raglus causes much laughter with his tennis ball manifestations; and amusing also are the Evalos in a comic juggling act. Mr. "E." is a smart patterer and an up-to-date joker; the Vekeys are expert banjoists; and Beatty and Blanche are dainty comediennes and dancers. "The Midnight Sun" is the Bioscope subject.

HIPPODROME, HULME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—*The Smoking Concert* here this week, under the direction of W. B. Crabtree, is a vastly amusing affair, and is responsible for considerable merriment. Henry Herne and company are seen to advantage in their greater water sensation, *Blackmail*; and some good whistling is done by Arthur Slater, the man in white. The Bendons appear with success in an original comedy song scena; Vowles and Bryan are good in song and patter; and the Brothers Pimm are smart in a quick-change act. Others who contribute enjoyable items are Ce Me Marie, the "Eastern Wonder"; and Conway and Garland, comedians. The Bioscope pictures are amusing.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield Theatre Company; General-Manager, Captain Cecil Clayton.—Mr. Frank Thorne's company occupies the boards here with *Napoleon the Great*. In the title-rôle Mr. Hugh Montgomery proves himself a very powerful actor, and is appreciated. Mr. Harry Earlesmere as Colonel Lavernes plays with great success; and Colonel Meuron is ably portrayed by Mr. Phil Harper. In the exacting part of Marie Walewska Miss Leslie Warner is very successful. Miss Maud Russell does justice to the character of Mlle Marbocsy. Miss Florence Thorne scores as Mère Dumont, as also does Miss Marie Harcourt in the rôle of Marcelle Choupin. Mr. Albert Sinclair makes a capital Sergeant Choupin and Mr. Frank M. Thorne a successful Pierre Pomponnet. Mr. Bartlett Garth is a capital Paul Laczinska.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Herbert Darnley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Tom Jennings.—Dr. Walford Bodie occupies the premier position amongst various excellent items which have been provided by the management this week. Interesting and amazing electrical experiments together with a demonstration of "bloodless surgery" upon local subjects have proved a great attraction. Dollie Robson, "Dr. Bodie's Prodigy," also gains a good share of applause. Bella Skene well merits her inclusion in the bill of fare, as does Harry Hoyland, who sings "The New Mephisto." Nellie Langtry, operatic vocalist, is keenly appreciated and loudly applauded. Tom N. Mills, Australian actor and vocalist, is well received. The Nano Bros. put in some clever work on the bars; and the Bonanzas, acrobats and staircase performers, excel in their own particular line of business. Some excellent Biograph pictures are also on view.

MARCH.—PUBLIC HALL THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. Joseph Collingwood.—Messrs. Kloof and Fields' company occupied the boards here on Saturday and Monday last with the pantomime *Aladdin*. The company is a well-selected one, and includes some good artists. Miss Cissie Ramsey as Aladdin, Miss Florence Lewis as Princess Yosan, Little Billy Kloof as Widow Twankey, and Mr. F. G. Fields as Abananza are all worthy of praise, and are well supported by the other artists. The dresses and scenery are attractive and appropriate, and the music and songs bright and pretty. Some good specialities are included in the programme.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Exclusive Manager, Mr. Edward Michael; Business-Manager, Mr. A. Austin-Leigh.—Mr. J. B. Mulholland's company has been appearing here this week in *The Electric Man*. Merriment is the keynote of the comedy from start to finish. The principal character, Walter Everest, is a rôle in which Mr. Bernard Copping works particularly hard and very successfully, both as the young man about town and his electric counterpart, his representation of the machine-made man being particularly clever. Mr. Hastings Lynn, as Jack Strange, is always alert, and the part could not be in better hands. Mr. Augustus Wheatman gives a good representation of Mr. Jobbins, the private inquiry agent; and Mr. W. H. Rotheram plays well as General Pomeroy. Miss Dorothy Hullah enacts the part of Mrs. Everest with humorous appreciation of its possibilities; Miss Amy Fanchette gives a laughable portrayal of the Cockney landlady; Miss Gertrude Tate makes an altogether charming Stella; and Miss Isa Bellington a delightful Mary. The piece has been preceded each evening by *A Case for Rescission*.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Joint Proprietors, Messrs. F. Monillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—With a return to variety this week there has been an attractive programme. The Sisters Stratton, dancers and duettists, have been most successful; Robbie Roy, Scotch comedian, has proved quite a fund of amusement; Rose D'Alberg dances daintily and sings delightfully; Mozarto gives a novel show as an instrumentalist; and Joe Mac, comedian and dancer, has been much appreciated. Phillips and Terry present an amusing sketch, *The Revolt of Man*; and the pictures are, as usual, interesting.

MERTHYR TYDFIL. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Lewis Gilbert.—A programme full of good things is submitted here this week, and includes the Gotham Quartette; Sisters Pine, in a screaming comedy, *Maggie's Day Out*; Violet Beatrice, boy impersonator; Matt Wilkinson and company in a sketch, entitled *The Registry Office*; Rose Cabini, comedian; Larola, the funny man; the Leonards (Bob and Jennie); and the Theatre Bioscope, with a rare display of good pictures.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—The company engaged here this week is one of all-round excellence, and includes the Fitzroys, society gymnasts; J. T. Daniel, character comedian; Arnetti, musical eccentric; Hopkins Bros., Welsh comedians; Denby and Dent, comedians; Kex and Ford (Harry and Wal), cross-talk comedians; and the Biograph displays several new pictures of an interesting description.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Messrs. Griffin and Drake's pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*, is the attraction here this week. Miss Emmie Hands is delightful as Beauty, singing with rare power and charm; a dashing Prince is found in Miss Vesta Fay, who also sings well; Mr. Chas. Rowen is a hughly diverting Baron; Mr. Mark Merrit and Mr. Walter Rollat make a pair of lively and amusing dames; as Flip and Flop Mr. Owen Edwin and Mr. Will Atom contribute their full quota to the excellent comedy; Mr. Mark Lane is a source of abundant merriment as Twiddleums; as the fairy, Starlight, Miss Gladys Wells uses a sweet voice to excellent advantage; Miss Maud Drake is a pleasing Margery Maydew. The specialities are of exceptionally high class, and include Mlle. Collard, with her burlesque lions and tigers; Stanley Urchins, singers and dancers; the Griffin troupe of juvenile dancers; Lambert and Hands in a song-scena; the Three Sisters Geronde, vocalists and dancers; and Miss Carrie Sylvester, coloured vocalist.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas Imeson.—*A Royal Divorce* is being presented here by Mr. W. W. Kelly's company. Miss Edith Cole in the part of the Empress charmed all by her pathos and intense passion. In the hands of Mr. Frederic Victor Napoleon is very effectively presented. As the Marquis de Beaumont Mr. Graham Woods acquits himself creditably; Miss Agnes Imlay is pleasing as Marie Louise; Mr. Claude Agnew does full justice to the part of Talleyrand; and Stéphanie de Beauharnais has a clever representative in Miss Ellen Richmond.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. R. W. Chatto.—Mr. James Kiddie's company, in *Cinderella*, has had a most successful run. On Monday evening the Japanese sailors from the stranded "Awa Maru," who had been invited, sang their national anthem, and at the conclusion the building fairly shook with the rousing cheers given for the Japs. Mlle. De Rose makes a delightful Prince; Miss Edith Harmer a charming Cinderella; Mr. Tom Payne an amusing Page; and Mr. Dick Thomas a droll Baron.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles B. Rembges.—The Five Powells, who head the bill here, create roars of laughter as "the Deserters"; Cyrus Dare's imitations of children are clever; the San Kwani troupe provide a clever conjuring and acrobatic display; and Lottie Lennox sings some catchy numbers in excellent style. Harry Cotton, comedian, causes laughter; Freeman and French score in their comedy *A Broken Honeymoon*; Walter Clyde provides some excellent singing; and the Empire pictures conclude the programme.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Alf Graham.—A bright programme is presented here this week. The star turn is Hughes in an amusing burlesque entitled *Codology*. A very effective exhibition of gymnastics is given by the Loma Trio; the Four Geraldos in juggling are clever; and the Sivronis, comedy artists, please. Fred Villars, vocal comedian, does well, and Will Sullivan causes laughter. Other turns are Mabel La Blanche, and the Palascope.

MOTHERWELL. — NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant.—Mr. Fred Karno's company is this week appearing in *His Majesty's Guests*. The Sergeant Lightning of Mr. Dick Kitchen is a creation of irresistible drollery; Mr. Frank Morton sings well, and acts in a natural manner as Lord Basem; Miss Leonora Castelle is a handsome and dashing Lady Maud; Dolly Miffen has a suitable exponent in Miss Edith Ager; and Miss Kitty Brunton does well as Miss Manley. Mr. Chas. Usher is aptly suited as the successful business man, Mr. Miffen; Mr. Sid Kearson is highly amusing as the clerical, Mr. Minks; the same applying to Mr. Mike Johnson as the German doorkeeper. There is abundance of pantomime business, and a really efficient chorus under the baton of Mr. F. H. G. Moran.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—*Aladdin*, the tenth annual pantomime at the Theatre Royal under the management of Mr. Robert Arthur, continues to run a happy and successful course. The principals have one and all settled down well to their various rôles. The bulk of the work still falls upon the favourite Scottish comedian, Mr. Neil Kenyon, whose quaint representation of the Widow is a really clever character study. Messrs. Charles Harvey, Fred Allandale, and Alfred Clarke are all proving favourites. Nightly Miss Lily Morris wins applause for her graceful and dashing portrayal of Aladdin. Owing to indisposition, Miss Florence Smithson, the Princess, was unable to appear on Monday night. In Miss Olive Wade the management are, indeed, fortunate in having at hand a very capable understudy, her songs all being rendered sweetly. Miss Kitty Cavendish, in the part of the Irish girl, gains much appreciative applause, and the well-trained and strong chorus continues also to be a feature of this most attractive production.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—All points to an unprecedentedly successful run at the Tyne Theatre of *Aladdin*, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham's twenty-fourth annual Newcastle pantomime. Universal praise is being gained by Mr. Harry Lauder's impersonation of the much-travelled Scot, and his four songs, all marked by the finished rendition of the true artist, are being hummed all over the city. An energetic and versatile Widow Twankey is Mr. Dan Crawlay, who ably seconds Mr. Lauder as a mirth-provoker. Indeed, Messrs. Lauder and Crawley may truly be described as the happiest couple ever seen on a Newcastle stage. In the hands of Miss Beryl Somerset the part of principal boys is played with rare grace and vivacity, and Miss Jose Collins continues to win favour by her charming representation of the Princess. All the other principals are gaining popularity, especially Mr. Imro Fox and Mr. Harker Nicholls.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. W. Rowe; Business-Manager, Mr. E. B. Clarke.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company *In Holy Russia* opened here on Monday. Mr. J. Rice Cassidy as Colonel Richard Forrest is quite successful, and Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy as Renee Rubinoff, receives frequent recalls.

GRAND THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. Bacon and Bolam; Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—Messrs. Granville and Osmond's company in *The Still Alarm* is paying a visit here. The turning out of the fire brigade works the audience to a high pitch of enthusiasm.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Mr. J. F. Preston's company are here in *Rogues of the Turf*. Mr. Preston gives a fine impersonation of Joe Farman; Mr. Horace Custins makes a first-class jockey, Sammy; and other members of the company lend adequate support. Mr. G. W. Hunter is full of fun; the Dandies are well received; Griff scores heavily with his assistant Alpha; Paulinetti and Piquo perform smart gymnastic feats; Jimmy Shields is popular with his eccentric dancing; Russell Brandow, acrobatic dancer, wins much applause; Nina Gordon performs wonders on the piano, and Winnie Gordon, siffleuse, meets with much appreciation. Gus Dalton, comedian, and the American Bioscope complete the bill.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Lydia Yeamans is once more starring at this popular hall, with her pretty voice and her inimitable mimicries. Her pianoforte accompaniments are played by that talented musician F. J. Titus, and the combination is admirable in every way, their turn meeting with the heartiest approval of the audience, who applaud vigorously. The Martelloni troupe of lady acrobats give a surprisingly neat exhibition; T. W. Royal is an expert clog dancer; Ada Parker sings coon songs admirably; and another coon singer, equally popular, is Mamie Cannon, who scores heavily; the Villions, acrobatic cyclists, are in much request in their new comedy act; the Krags Bros. go through some novel gymnastic feats; *In Answer to an Advert*, is a comedy scena well staged by Rogers and Weston, and A. E. Clifford, versatile comedian; Harold Parker, comedian, and the Barrascope complete.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*Dick Whittington*, produced by Messrs. J. D. Hunter and Sidney Cooper, entered upon its third week on Monday. Never before in the history of Newport has such patronage been bestowed upon any entertainment, which is bright, breezy, and most enjoyable.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—Heading the bill here are Carl and Mary Ohm in a circus turn, with bears, ponies, monkeys, and dogs, which show careful training. Alexander does some daring trick cycle acts; Wilson and Waring, in a *Bit of Nonsense*, are enjoyable, and the Northern Troupe of International Dancers provide a taking turn. Harry Anderson's songs are well received; Minnie Derson (comedienne) is attractive, and the Three Guitanoes are clever acrobats. Tom Lytton, a comedian of merit, and the Bioscope complete the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE. — Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Herman.—This week we have the annual visit of the Compton Comedy company, with Mr. Edward Compton and Miss Mackenzie, supported by Messrs. Henry Crocker, Dennis Cleugh, Philip Gordon, G. Wallace Johnston, Vernon O. Crabtree, Montague Lane, Charles Rogers, Hubert C. Brett, and Mesdames Marie Hassell, Marion Le Strange, Adeline Uncaster, Rose Parker, Barbara Pigot, and Nellie Walters in *David Garrick*, *The Desperate Lover*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The School for Scandal*, *Edmund Kean*, and *The Rivals*.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans.—Lockhart's elephants, presented by Capt. Taylor, head the bill this week, and have been a source of great interest; Violet Ray is a good vocalist and a capital violoncello player; Empress, the lady handcuff manipulator, gives an attractive show. Other interesting items are furnished by A. Richards, character comedian; the Two Madges, juvenile artists; Sphinx, magician; Renee Walon, comedienne; C. Vincent, and the Hesse trio of acrobats on the wire.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—*The King's Secret*, presented by Mr. James Stillwell's company, has had a cordial reception here. As Captain Douglas Fairburn Mr. Paul E. Tuelon gains much appreciation; Mr. James Stillwell is responsible for a capital impersonation of Hassan Alfar; Mr. Laud Richard Brooklyn is good as Lieut. Dorincourt; Mr. Herbert Benstone acts well as Count Bernstein; and Mr. Charles Crosby makes the most of Lawyer Swivinton. As Zenope Miss Zana St. George shows ability; Miss Lena Lattridge is a pleasing Birdie; Miss Katherine Barnett a satisfactory Satar Newark; Miss Cissie Clement a clever Leila; and Miss Violet Barley-Clarke a successful Charlie Fairburn.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The Richards Trio, the Giddy Golfers, top the bill here, and meet with a hearty reception; Mr. Will and Miss May Lannon, pedestal dancers, have made a hit; and the Sisters Grosvenor prove themselves to be capital vocalists. Mr. Harry Barclay, comedian, is popular; Miss Vera Mayne, vocalist, is pleasing; Mr. James Toner as a mimic is successful; and the Bio-Photoscope still meets with much appreciation.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company in *Mr. Popple of Ippleton* is here this week. Mr. Alfred Longley does well as Freddy Popple; Miss Millie Hylton is charmingly dressed and plays and sings excellently; Miss Florence Plunkett is pleasing as Louise; Miss Cora Lingard deserves special praise for her acting, singing, and dancing; Miss Alice Rene and Miss Stella S. Andrie ably represent the jealous wives of Henry and Doring, who are represented in a capital manner by Messrs. Sydney Courtenay and James Stevenson; Mr. L. Bulloch Webster as Norman Popple plays well; Mr. Robert MacLachlan is successful as Jacques Kenyon, whilst Mr. Tom May as Platt causes much fun and merriment. Every number and part went with the greatest smoothness, due in no small measure to Mr. H. R. Matthews as conductor.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. F. W. Fitt.—Boswell's circus is quite an attraction here this week. Richardo and Salving are very clever as balancers; Tom Stuart gains much appreciation as an actor-vocalist; Marie Terry and J. S. Barnett are pleasing comedy artists; the Bohemians (Will and Madge) are very good in their instrumental acts; Lily Tabras is quite a favourite in her singing and dancing; whilst the Hippo Bioscope is this week immensely successful.

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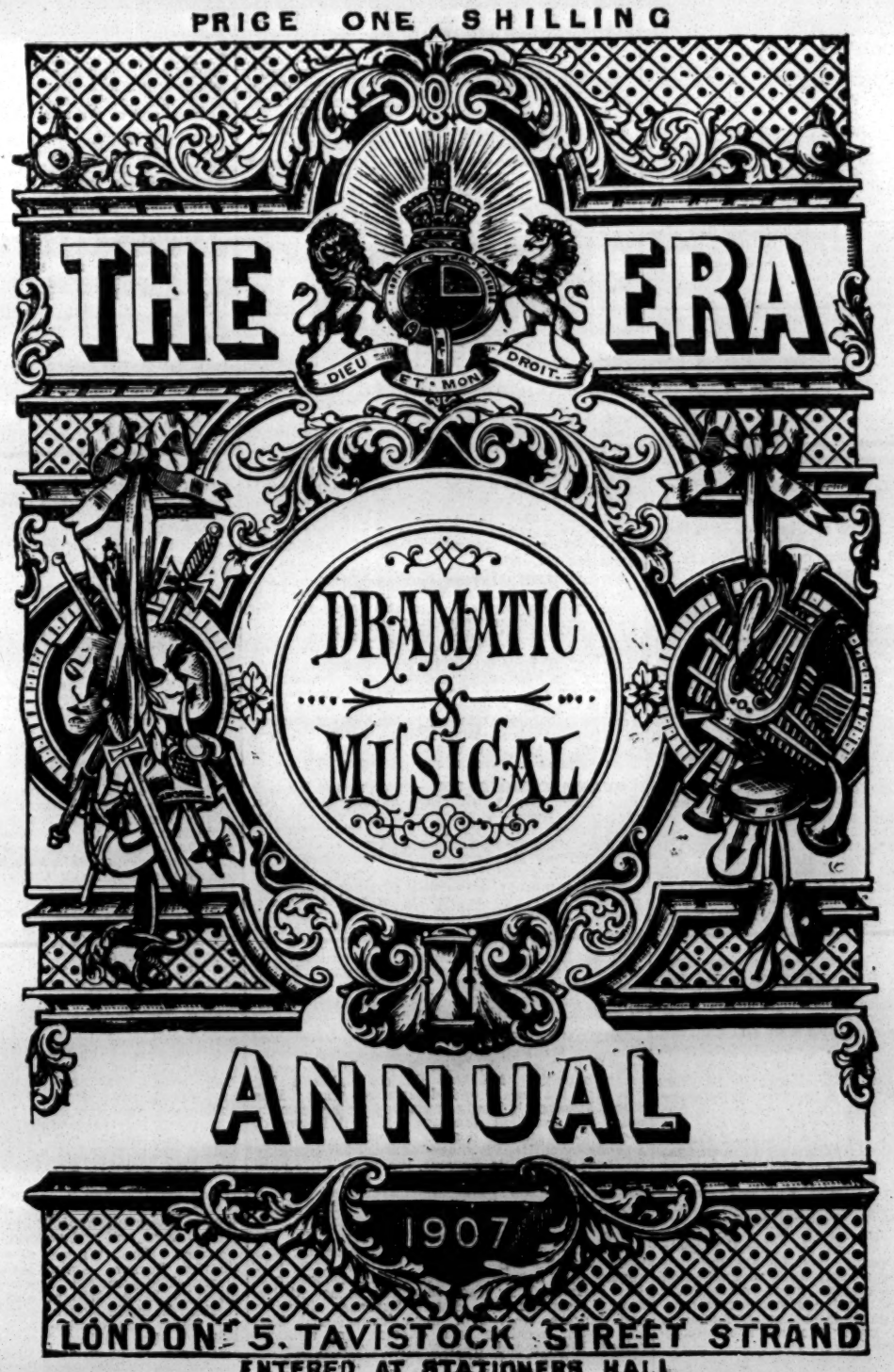

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OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill. — *At Cripple Creek*, admirably acted by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company, has made a decided hit here this week, the theatre being packed full with a most appreciative audience on Monday night. Mr. Stanley Bedwell is an ideal Joe Mayfield, his delineation of the manly miner being full of effective points; Mr. Eric Hudson is uncommonly good as the villain, Martin Mason, and is well supported by Mr. Oscar Power as Manuel Alvarez; Mr. A. D. Layland is exceedingly popular as the Indian Wakketah; and Mr. H. Leander is an amusing negro; the comic element is supplied by Mr. Will Hook as Reggie Harwood and Miss Daisy Carlton as Maggie Mason, who sing and dance together with great success; Miss Agnes Verity plays with power the difficult part of Dynamite Ann; Miss Lily Beagle acts pleasantly as Belle Gordon; and the part of the child, Little Tatto, is cleverly taken by little Rosie Hopkins.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Bentz.—The pantomime, *Goody Two-Shoes*, is having a merry and successful career. Miss Maggie Bowman, in the title-rôle, is a sprightly actress, and dances delightfully; Miss Marie Adair as Roland sings nicely and acts charmingly; a sweet and fascinating Dolly Dimple is furnished by Miss Adela Crispin, who particularly distinguishes herself; Miss Nelly Horsley, who is, owing to the illness of Miss Carrie Foy, impersonating Peter Piper, makes a good impression; Miss Florence Lister as Mephisto and Miss Lena Wylie as Fairy Goodheart are both charming, their accomplished singing being a particular feature of the pantomime. Of the "funny fellows," Mr. Peter Bermingham, who represents Sandy Sapps, takes a leading place. He has installed himself in high favour, and does an immense deal to minister to the amusement of the audience. Mr. Jack Foley as Dame Freckles is responsible for much fun; as Simple Simon Mr. Tom J. Morton is alert and comical all through, his facial flexibility adding to his other accomplishments; Mr. Harry A. Gribben is remarkably droll in his impersonation of the Baron Grabb, and by his histrionic skill imparts a strong individuality to the character. The brothers Thomas and James Passmore as Tom and Phil prove themselves very comical in their "business," and very agile knockabouts; as Smirk and Smile Messrs. Claremont and Victor contribute a capital acrobatic and handbalancing exhibition. The pantomime is strengthened by the inclusion of the Tricky Trio (Misses Dolly Lancaster, Queenie Hollingsworth, and Maisie Rawlins), a sprightly and smart set of dancers.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Wilson. — The Seven Zerbinis are prominent here this week with *The Enchanted Glen*; a particularly pleasing comedy act, *Flipp and Flopp*, is submitted by the Four Delevines; the Brothers Ashley cause much merriment with *Next, Please*; the Maros are smart bar eccentrics; and the list also includes the names of Harry Nation, comedian; Tray and Rich, black and white faced comedians; Connie Morri, comedienne and dancer; Gus Merriman, negro mimic; the Sisters Melba, vocalists and dancers; and the Hippodrome Bioscope, with entertaining pictures.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Tom Toy.—Appearing with considerable success this week are Pimple's Arabs, a marvellous combination of youthful performers; Marie Rosebery, a *chic* comedienne; R. C. Note, a popular singer; the Three Cheers, in a *Dick Whittington* scena, introducing performing cats; Cullan and Coyle, refined eccentric comedians; Dainty Daisy Davenport, comedienne and dancer; and Mark Anthony, a quaint humorist.

PENTRE. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Sole Owners, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Counsell.—Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth's pantomime *Aladdin* is being presented here. Miss Edith Royal in the principal rôle is capital; Kitty Cameron, a youthful but talented artist, gives an agreeable performance of Pekoe; the fun waxes fast and furious when Mike Madden appears on the scene as Widow Twankey, and he is well supported by Percy Vere as Wishy Washee; Reg. Astley and Harold Cliff, knockabouts, contribute merriment; and Walter T. Hybart is well placed in the rôle of Abanazar. The flying ballet creates a pleasant sensation.

PETERBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—On Monday night a hearty reception was given Mr. Charles Macdona's company in the musical comedy, *The Gay Parisienne*. Miss Lilian Talbot scores a distinct success in the title-rôle; the Ebenezer Honeycomb of Mr. Will Harman is an impersonation of irresistible drollery; Mr. Squire Day is well placed as Major Fossdyke; Mr. Philip Moore as Tom Everleigh plays the part creditably; Mr. Clifford Seyler ably sustains the character of M. Pompier; Miss Madge Soutter is lively and comical as Ruth; and Miss Nance O'Neill successful as Norah.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—The pantomime *Bluebeard* is now going very strong, and promises to be one of the most successful of the many Mr. Williams has produced. Mr. George Brooks as Sister Ann is a very popular comedian; Miss Peggy Primrose is *chic* and vivacious in her song "Shy Ann"; Miss Muriel Langley infuses plenty of dash and vim into the part of Selim; and the Sisters Gilbert's accomplished singing and dancing are also a strong feature of the performance.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. C. F. Williams; Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant.—Mr. Bert Coote's company in *The Fatal Wedding* has been retained for the third successive week by reason of the great success achieved.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—This week's programme is interesting and diversified. Leonard Barry is amusing in his scena, *The Moucher's Walk*; the Ford Trio, who, by the way, were quite recently performing in the London streets, doubtless find their popular reception at the halls more acceptable and remunerative; Jimson's sketch is very interesting, and is well received; Mersano has something novel in the coin and card business; Bosanquet gives a clever musical performance on a number of instruments made by himself; Bernardo is a humorous comedy juggler; and Lily Luxmore an accomplished acrobatic dancer. Other items are Edwin Barwick, vocalist, and Vernon's Pictures.

PORTH. — THE PALACE (LATE OPERA HOUSE). — General-Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—This week a capital variety programme is provided here. It includes the Alberto Troupe, marvellous hand, head, and wire equilibrists; Sam Dalton, vocal and eccentric comedian; Effie White, in her kaleidoscopic dance; La Belle Lily and Albert, high-class gymnasts; the Marconis, electrical wonders and demonstrators; Miss Lilian Travelli, ballad vocalist; Geo. Antill, comedian; the Two Wambas, in their comedy musical act; the Three Whirligigs, in a wonderful pot-pouri of singing and dancing; and the Palace Electric Bioscope.

PORTSMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. George Edwardes's company in the musical fairy play, *Two Naughty Boys*, is here for a fortnight. Max and Moritz, the Two Naughty Boys, are played by Messrs. Nelson Keys and William Spray, who simply revelled in their respective parts; Mr. Reginald Crompton was very good indeed as the Schoolmaster; Mr. George Franklin as Hans did excellent work, and scored with his song, "The Jolly Miller"; Mr. Lewis Grande gave a truly able presentation as the Farmer's Boy; Grizel and Gretchen, the two good little girls, were well portrayed by Miss Daisy Stratton and Miss Lydia Flopp; Granny Bauer was delightfully sustained by Miss Kate Bishop; Mr. Richard Kavanagh made an amusing Widow Bolt; Master Roy Lorraine ably spoke his lines as the Brownie King; and Miss Marie Lohre as Daffydowndilly acted gracefully and danced well; a word of praise may be said of the dog Fritz, cleverly played by Master Ernest Hollom; and also of the donkey Lulu, smartly worked by Messrs. Almonte.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate. —The capital pantomime, *Little Aladdin*, is going swimmingly at this house. Large and appreciative audiences testify to its great popularity.

EMPIRE PALACE. — Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—A very strong programme is in evidence here this week.—The marvellous Craggs, with their latest acrobatic and pantomimical sketch, *Billy*, score immensely; Kitty Clover and company in comedy sketch, *Mr. There's Heir*, are most amusing; the Strads, musical sketch artists, give an extremely clever mélange, and gain much applause; Mill May and Therese, singing protean artists, are graceful and clever ladies, who give an excellent and refined turn; the Katos, in their lilliputian act, are as much liked as ever; Ingram and Irving, speciality entertainers, gain cordial greetings for their efforts; Johnny Dwyer, comedian, is very humorous in his patter, and can sing a good song; Gladys Whitton is a youthful singer, possessing a good contralto voice; Atlas, Vulcana, and Sisters Atlas are a great additional strength to the bill; Payne's Bio-Photoscope concludes the show.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Executors of the late Mr. Wm. Johnson; Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—The boards this week are held by Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company in *Leah Kleschna*. The message of the playwright loses nothing in its interpretation by this very able company; Mr. Paul Belmore is intense and powerful in his study of Kleschna; Mr. William F. Grant's Paul Sylvaine is a very convincing presentment of a noble character; Mr. Hamilton Deane's conception of Raoul Berton, the high-born hooligan, is a piece of good work; and Mr. Campbell Goldsmid as Schram gives, with a suggestion of much reserve force, an admirable rendering of a complex character; Miss Bessie Rignold in the title-rôle is fine in tragedy, and equally successful in pathos. The play is well mounted, the last set being a notable example of scenic art.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Jack Haddon's company is appearing here this week in *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Miss Kitty Upton is a handsome and pleasing representative of Jack, rendering her songs agreeably; Miss Nellie Burdett, a charming Dora, scores a great success; Messrs. Barrett and Knowles, as Dip and Dan, keep the house in continuous laughter; Mr. Hal Forde, a good baritone, in the character of Dame Trotter, sings some acceptable songs; Mr. Alfred Maynall as Silly Billy supplies a good share of the fun; and others who ably sustained their respective parts are Mr. Jack Haddon as Squire Musty, Mr. H. A. Langlois as Grumbles (the giant), Miss Marie Rayner as Discordier, and Miss Jeanne Langlois as Harmonia. Enjoyable variety turns are given by Messrs. Barrett and Knowles, Messrs. Forde and Sterling, the Sisters Florencie, H. A. Langlois, and the Alhambra trio of dancers.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—The programme submitted here this week includes as its chief attraction Claude Ginnett and company in *Turpin's Ride to York*, which is received with great favour; Gorman's Youngsters appear with success in a pretty scena, entitled *The Waif*; Charles Lestree is an expert juggler; Clown Zertho introduces well-trained performing dogs; Standing, the singing mill lad, renders some popular songs; and other good turns are those of Russell Carr, ventriloquist; Edward Ind, comedian; and Nellie Navette, burlesque actress and speciality dancer.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—Mr. Fred Granville is here with the drama *For Better or Worse*. Mr. Edmund T. Sayers, in the part of Horatio P. Ranter, keeps the house in continual good humour; Mr. Wm. Sage is a capital Lieut. Hector Dalrymple; Mr. Chas. Whitlock as Capt. F. Hillard and Mr. Robert Forder as Major G. Crawford display power; and Mr. Charles Doyle as Ned Earnshaw leaves nothing to be desired. Miss Georgina V. France is a successful Olive Heathcote; Miss Jenny Sage a popular Dolly Delaney; and Miss Dolly Vardon a lively Melinda Little. Miss Harrietta Taylor also acquits herself well as Belle Baverstock.

RAMSGATE. — AMPHITHEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—During the past week large audiences have assembled to witness performances of Mr. D'Esterre's Elephant and Castle pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*. The show has gone with a swing. Miss Agnes Paulton is charming in the title-rôle, her graceful acting and sweet singing being greatly appreciated. Miss Maud Denny makes a capital appearance as pretty Polly Perkins; and Miss E. Guilbert plays the Fairy of Romance in a manner worthy of high praise. The cannibal potentate, King Hokey, finds a suitable representative in Mr. Brian Daly; and Mr. H. E. High, a funny Friday, also contributes a clever speciality turn on skates. Mr. W. Stevens and the Phydoras add much to the attractiveness of the pantomime; the Four Diamonds dance smartly; and the remaining parts are well filled.

RAWTENSTALL. — GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. George Dickinson.—Mr. Walter Melville's fine combination of artists gave an admirable presentation of the powerful play *A Girl's Cross Roads* here on Monday evening. Miss Hilda Beverley as Barbara Wade gave a powerful and clever impersonation, being especially brilliant in the third act. As John Meadows Mr. Charles Franmore was also most successful, his portrayal being indeed thoroughly delightful. Mr. Wilson Gunning made an excellent Jack Livingstone, and Mr. Cyril Vernon was equally good as Dr. Weston. Miss Florence Zillwood gave an artistic interpretation as Nellie Meadows; and Miss Jessica Black submitted a delightful portrayal as Constance Cornell. As Tilly Vane and Toby Turvey Miss Mabel Scudamore and Mr. Fred Ingram proved to be excellent comedians, the latter being especially clever. Mr. Gerald Jordan gave a good impersonation of Cuthbert Lumley.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode.—Mr. Milton Bode's own company is occupying the boards this week with the popular musical comedy, *The Belle of Mayfair*. The part of Sir John Chaldicott is taken in capital style by Mr. Harry Parker. Miss May Yates as Julia, Miss Mabel Dent as the Lady's Maid, and Miss Emily Stevens as Lady Chaldicott, all sustain their parts with marked ability. The play is put on the stage in the complete and elaborate style characteristic of all Mr. Bode's productions.

LARGE TOWN HALL.—Messrs. Poole's myrioramic entertainment is still drawing crowded houses, and a most successful season here will terminate tonight. A splendid series of animated pictures has been exhibited, the very clever "Pantomime with a Motor Car" being especially well received, and a first-class variety show has given great satisfaction.

REDHILL.—MARKET HALL.—Market Hall Company, Proprietors; Mr. A. Simmonds, Secretary.—Messrs. Henry Chattell and G. W. Bowes are presenting *The Sign of the Cross* at this house. The Mercia of Miss Nancy York is a charming character study; Miss Winifred Williamson as Stephanus is equally strong; Miss Lena Gordon is a dashing Berenicel; and Miss Katie Johnson a vivacious Dacia. The Poppœa of Miss Kathleen Day is very good. Mr. Wallace G. Court is a fine Marcus Superbus; Mr. Burton W. Yaldwin ably embodies the cruel unrelenting Nero; Mr. Cyprian H. Matthews as Tigellinus and Mr. Lionel Yaldwin as Lucinius are equally satisfactory in their several characters; the comedy work of Mr. Donald McAdam as Glabrio creates much amusement. The Favius of Mr. W. Burton also deserves mention. Mr. John Galbraith is the acting-manager, and the company is under the business-management of Miss Harriett Greet.

ROCHDALE. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*The Prince of Pilsen* makes its first appearance here this week, and is affording great delight to large audiences. Mr. Harry Kilburn is a host in himself as Hans Wagner; Mr. Frank Crimp, with his capital voice, makes a fine Carl Otto; Mr. Roy Sydney is prominent as Lieut. Tom Wagner; Mr. B. Russell is realistic in his portrayal of Arthur de Willoughby Rossmoss; and Mr. Ernest Gifford submits a vigorous impersonation of Francois; Miss Ada Watson does well as Edith Adams; Miss Connie Leon is a saucy and piquant Sidonie; Miss Alice Nixon makes a charming Nellie Wagner; Miss Maud Scott as the mischievous Jimmie is full of gaiety, and Miss Sophie Harriss sustains the principal lady, Mrs. Maddison Crocker, with delightful and charming effect. The scenery is bright and tasteful, and the beautiful dresses win the admiration of everyone.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Smith and Co.—The Arleys, in a gymnastic pot pourri, submit a highly pleasing turn here; Code Burnette, actor-vocalist; the Decars, in a burlesque scena, *Off to the Races*; Adby North, comedian; Tarro Myaki, Japanese wrestler; and Vernon's Bioscope complete.

EMPIRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Nelson's Newsboys' Quintette head the bill here; Carlton and his comedy team submit an amusing absurdity, *One Night Only*; other items include Neirona and King, with an exhibition of shooting; Lozelle, gymnast; J. S. James, bone expert; J. H. Carney, comedian; and the Empire Bioscope.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey and company are here this week with *The Wearing o' the Green*. Mr. Leslie Austen is excellent as Shamus M'Dermott, and Mr. Chalmers Mackey is quite irresistible as Barney O'Hea. Mr. David M'Farlane is seen to advantage as Connor Martin, and Mr. St. John Stuart is deserving of mention as Gerald Courtney. Mr. Arthur Prescott as Michael Kenny gives a capital rendition of the part. Miss Nana Flensberg is sprightly as Biddy M'Guin, her songs and dances being well received, and Miss Adele Liddon is seen to advantage as Mrs. McDermott. Mrs. Chalmers Mackey as Norah M'Grath gives a highly finished rendition of the rôle.

RUGBY. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geoffrey Fulton.—This week Mr. Arthur Gibbons is presenting *Little Red Riding Hood*. The pantomime is well staged and the scenery is excellent. Miss Nellie Banks makes a charming and vivacious Red Riding Hood; Miss Nina Terri as Maid Marion is very successful; as Prince Bountiful Miss Janet Lawton is a prime favourite; Miss Maud Ferguson also does well as the Wolf. The fun is in the capable hands of Mr. Geo. Westland as the Baron, Mr. Ted Mac as Dame Marjory, Mr. T. J. Banks as Johnny Stout, and Mr. Sam Johns as Tommy Thin.

RYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Alleyn M. Hylton.—Mr. John A. Thomson's popular pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, was here on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings, matinées being also given on the last two days. Miss Edith Wallace found scope for the display of a nice voice as Jack; while as Jill Miss Maggie Allwood sang and danced effectively; Miss Georgie Mansell made a good impression; and Miss Nellie Stewart acted charmingly as Little Bo Peep; Miss Ella Rose was a dignified Britannia, and sang admirably; the humorous side was ably depicted by Messrs. Teddy Worth, Harry Harcourt, Wallace Bosco, and Percy Galino, who respectively sustained the parts of Tommy Tucker, Mother Hubbard, Sir Peter Piffin, and Billy Piper; Mr. R. Lomas gave an exhilarating and novel rope-climbing entertainment; and Mr. Percy Galino proved himself a refined performer with the bones; Mr. S. W. Brooks directed the musical side of the performance; and Mr. Reginald Maddox stage-managed admirably. The company includes a comedy and efficient chorus.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*The Tyrant*, a drama treating of incidents in Venice, made interesting, was presented on Monday before a full house, when Mr. Fred C. Somerfield ably sustained the part of the Avenger Homodei. The title-rôle had an excellent exponent in Mr. Roy Fortescue. Miss Marie Dagmar's acting as Tisbe added to her reputation, and Miss Millie Ford made good use of her opportunities as Lady Katherine. In comedy parts Mr. Sydney Lynn (Victor), Mr. Wilton Drury (Nobbo), and Miss Lizzie Chambers (Reginella), were responsible for much laughter. The other members make most of their opportunities. The dresses and staging were very creditable.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director and Licensee, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Miss Ella's troupe of performing lions are a good draw; Barton and Ashley, in their sketch, *Canal Boat Sal*, are exceedingly funny; Hope and Wayho (Eva and Jack) make an excellent impression with their scenes from Charles Dickens's works. The programme also includes Hicks Clerks in *Day at the Seaside*; Max Milian clever equilibrist; Rene and Smith, American comedy and speciality artists; Guss Barra, comic musical motorist; Charles Denbow, comedian; and Daisy Pearl, comedienne.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—A very enjoyable programme is presented this week. *Hard Lines* is a comic sketch, which includes Miss Florence Smithers in her character of Dolly, Mr. Owen Dacroy, Miss Barley Clarke, and Mr. A. Leslie Martin. *Rent* is a very amusing panto. sketch, played by Harry Daniels and company; J. W. Rickaby pleases with his comic business; Bros. Durant are smart grotesque acrobats. The other turns include Walter Curtis, merriment merchant; Gus Harris, with his songs; Primavesi, smart juggler; and Chris Masters, character vocalist.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. Alfred B. Cross and company are here this week with *The Manxman*. Cæsar Cregeen is capitally portrayed by Mr. Frank Etheridge; Philip Christian is well enacted by Mr. Sydney C. Kearne. Ross Christian, Dr. Mylcreest, Monty Missit, and Professor Mawley are adequately impersonated by Messrs. Dudley Stuart, Tom Bowron, W. Hilton, and F. Lynton. Nancy is cleverly played by Miss Nelly Freeland, and Miss Mona Spearing is satisfactory as Miss Christian. Miss Minnie Watersford is a powerful Kate Cregeen, and Mr. Alfred B. Cross is as popular as ever in the character of Pete.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. Sidney Beltram.—A welcome return visit is this week being paid by Mr. Edmund Tearle, supported by Miss Kate Clinton and company. *Othello* was presented on Monday. Mr. Tearle appeared in the title-rôle, and portrayed the part with his well-known ability, frequently eliciting hearty applause. Iago was excellently embodied by Mr. Bernard Turner; Mr. Clifford Marle as Cassio was entirely successful; Roderigo was powerfully played by Mr. Neale Fitzwilliam; Mr. G. T. Greig did well as Montano; Desdemona was presented in finished style by Miss Esther Tearle; and Emilia was carefully treated by Miss Mary Campbell. *Jeanie Deans, Ingomar, Three Musketeers*, and *Hamlet* made up the week's répertoire.

SHEERNESS.—THE PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Phil Reymond.—Fair houses are the rule here this week. Miss Minnie Lomas scores as a balladist; Mr. Gus Daniels makes a big hit with his comic and descriptive songs; Miss Marie Florence is loudly applauded for her comedy songs and excellent dancing; Mr. Phil Reymond, the well-known and popular comedian, continues a prime favourite, his character songs being highly relished; Miss Lillie Thomas, the clever little local lady, is making a great success in her popular songs; and the programme concludes with a comedy sketch by the Elsons, entitled *The Tables Turned*, which causes roars of laughter.

THE HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. F. Leighton.—An excellent programme here for this week includes the Maitland Comedy Trio, who appear with unbounded success in the comedy act, *The Picture*; Tom Vine, comedian, is accorded a hearty reception; the Sisters Lavender, duettists and dancers, meet with much favour; and Cliff and Dean, vocalists and dancers, are well received; Lincoln and Warren, trick cyclists, provide an interesting turn; and Rumbo Austin, comedian, scores; a capital selection of films, projected by Vernon's Bioscope, completes an interesting bill.

SHEFFIELD. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Mr. J. Garkiddie's *Little Bo-Peep* opened for a week on Monday. The "book," by Mr. George Burton, is full of wit and fancy, and the scenery, dresses, &c., are artistic. Miss Susie Beavan is a favourite with local audiences, and as Boy Blue she looks handsome, and acts with great vivacity; Miss Lizzie Payne is a bright and attractive Bo-Peep; a better Granny Brown than Mr. J. W. Groves could not be desired, and he causes roars of laughter. Other hard-working low comedy merchants are Messrs. Gilroy and Gross, Mr. Fred McLean (a quaint Baron Hardup), Mr. Bert Allen, Mr. Albert Kail, and Mr. Harry Wren. There is a bevy of graceful and talented young ladies, including Miss Katie La Blanch, Miss Nora Beverley, Miss Millie Maxwell, and Miss L. Handley; and smart specialities are introduced by the Solon Trio, the Lorrenz Quartette, and the Hammersley Ballet Troupe.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*Mother Goose* continues its successful run.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—The triumphantly successful annual, *Dick Whittington*, is playing to crowded and delighted houses. Miss Alma Obrey is a great favourite as Dick, and her featured song, "The Zuyder Zee," is nightly encored; Mr. J. W. Gallagher causes roars of laughter with his quaint songs, funny patter, and eccentric mannerisms; Mr. Alf. Clegg is a popular Cat; and Mr. Gilbert Rodgers acts and sings with his usual distinction as Fitzwarren. A welcome feature is the energetic dancing of the Monaco Troupe; and Miss Blanche De Verne, the Sisters Brookland, and Miss Ethel Bryant are all warmly applauded.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The famous and always popular equestrian sketch, *Black Bess; or, Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, is being performed this week to delighted and enthusiastic houses by Mr. Fred Ginnett's company. The piece is well staged, and Mr. Ginnett presents a characteristic portrait of the dashing "knight of the road." Black Bess has a well-trained representative, and the pathos of the death scene within sight of the twin towers of York Minster loses none of its old significance. The Two Little Butterflies, smart boy and girl trapeze artists, are loudly applauded; Mr. Syd May submits some clever imitations; Vox is a humorous ventriloquist; and other talented artists are the Stein-Eretto troupe of hand acrobats; Clarke and Glenny, in *The Haunted House*; Mr. Barrington, pianist; the Solari Duo, instrumentalists and vocalists; Mr. H. Clifford, descriptive singer; and Miss Marie Empress, a pretty comedienne.

GRAND PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—The company here this week includes Mr. Fred Southern and company in a well-constructed sensational sketch; Miss Carrie Victoria, comedienne; the Chee-Yan-Say troupe of conjurers; Pallister's Bioscope, with new pictures; and Mr. Harry Vardon, an amusing ventriloquist.

ALBERT HALL.—The Joseph Poole myriorama and variety combination are still pleasing large audiences; the efforts of Eileen and Mayne, the Boleros, the Four Rosaires, the Franko Midgets, the Two Tissots, and Harry O'Rouke are thoroughly appreciated; and the biograph pantomime, *Aladdin*, is enthusiastically applauded.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Victor Samson.—*Little Red Riding Hood*, written and produced by Mr. Herbert Lemley, is being played twice nightly.

SHREWSBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Mr. A. E. Smith's bright and pretty pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, is here this week. Miss Marie Walker is an attractive Fairy Queen Flora; Mr. Wm. Greene makes a capital Demon King; Miss Kathleen Garnon is a dashing principal boy as Robin Hood, and her singing is particularly effective; Mr. J. H. Maxwell, an old favourite here, is droll, clever, and hardworking as the Baron; M. W. S. Hutchinson as the Dame acts capably; Miss Rosie Morris and Miss Ivy Rochfort are a zealous and tuneful pair as Reggie and Cissie; Mr. Reed and Mr. Learne are most amusing and energetic as Weary Willie and Tired Tim; and Miss Elsy Douglas acts, dances, and sings spiritedly and successfully as Maid Marion; Miss Marie Walkers, trombone soloist; Mr. W. S. Hutchinson's capital ventriloquial turn; Mr. Wal Bendene's marvellous contortions; Messrs. Reed and Lerne's smart quips and cranks; and an agile troupe of lady dancers add to the smartness of the pantomime.

SMETHWICK. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—There is a capital pantomime here this week. Messrs. Little and D'Arcy's *Robinson Crusoe* being staged. Elaborate dresses and scenery are carried. As principal boy Miss Marion May's attractive style wins the hearts of everyone. Miss Cissie Conyers is a daring and dashing Captain; Billy Crusoe and Jimmy Crusoe are entertaining as played by Messrs. Carl and Sandy, who have a most diverting boxing bout; Sarah Crusoe is screamingly Funny as played by Mr. Fred Lloyd whose patter and songs were excellent. Mr. George Rapley, as the sweet-tempered buccaneer, is really droll. A jolly dog is Mr. Charles Denman; and Mr. Jack May is a clever monkey. Polly's father is well played by Mr. Will Hicks; Miss Beatie Moore is a pretty Fairy Queen; and a specially effective Man Friday is Mr. Sydney T. Russell, and Mr. Tom Shenton and Miss Bertha St. Ruth also distinguish themselves. The Three Zaracs introduce a side-splitting sketch, and the marvellous Ladderites are responsible for thrilling feats.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—The Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—An exceptional attraction for this week is provided by Mr. Percy Norman, whose company gives a pleasing performance of *A Woman Worth Winning*. Mr. Sidney Barton is well suited as the Czar; Mr. Gilbert Standing gives prominence to the part of Amos Pauloff; Fergus Lovinskie has in Mr. A. B. Mackay a clever impersonator; Mr. Percy Norman is a capable General Borinski; Messrs. E. Hall Eldon and E. C. Edwards are humorous exponents of Bertie Scribbles and Peter Popples respectively; Miss Iris Daventry is effective as Lola Kalnovky; and Miss Ida Mackay is an interesting Katerina. Miss Maud Buchanan gives an admirable delineation of Roma Pauloff.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. E. Angless; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless. —This popular skating rink continues to draw more enthusiasts daily, who are well rewarded with good sport on a splendid maple floor. On Wednesday evening several events of last week's most successful fancy dress carnival were a special attraction, which comprised the semi-final and final of the gentlemen's race, obstacle race final, and the hockey match between the Pavilion and Westcliff Skating Clubs for the silver challenge cup.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS. —Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens, Co., Ltd.; Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—By arrangement with Mr. Fred Harrison and Mr. Cyril Maude *Beauty and the Barge* is this week being presented by Mr. Arthur Hardy's well-selected company, including Blake Adams, who in the principal rôle of Capt. James Barley repeated his former successes, and created much merriment by his versatile and diverting interpretation of the character; Ethel Smedley had a charming and vivacious representative in Miss Dido Drake, who lent ample assistance to the amorous captain; Mrs. J. Braithwaite infused any amount of fun into the part of Mrs. Baldwin, which was very successfully depicted; Miss Lilian Locke enacted the rôle of Mrs. Porter with excellent effect; Tom Cod had a capital exponent in Mr. Fred Knight; Mr. Edward Coventry played well as Lieut. Seton Boyne, R.N.; the irascible Major Smedley had a characteristic impersonator in Mr. Walter Pemberton; whilst Mr. Charles A. White was good as John Dibbs. As a curtain-raiser *Jerry and a Sunbeam* was presented.

ALBERT HALL WINTER GARDENS.—Lessee, Mrs. Charles Parker; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Mertz.—The principal turn here this week is supplied by James Willard and company, in a diverting dramatic sketch, entitled *Did He Deserve It?* which was capitally played by Mr. James Willard, Miss Mildred Carr, Miss Queenie Elliott, and Mr. G. Evision, assisted by "Tiger," a clever mastiff dog. Other good items were presented by Cyclumina, in an electric cycle act; Ruby Dahl, with her merry mannikins; Perrette and Mona, in their comedy quick-change musical double turn, entitled *Teasing the General*. The programme for the week includes Charles Maw, the one-armed strong man; Chorley and Connor, comedians and dancers; Mlle. Victoria Dagmar, horizontal bar and gymnastic rope act; Jennie Sydney, comedienne; Seymour Jackson, tenor vocalist; and the Bioscope with the latest films.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Good houses are witnessing Mr. Charles Chard's company in *Goody Two Shoes*. Miss Annie Casey in the title-rôle wins favour by her charm of style; Miss F. Black as Roland is also well received. Ample comedy is supplied by Mr. J. Topping (Simple Simon), Mr. Sydney Dean (Dame Freckles) and Mr. James Kurry (Sammy Sops). Miss Julie Fuller is good as the demon king, and a couple of good workers are found in Miss L. Bronson and Miss Gladys Bronson. Cyrus and Maud and their wonderful performing donkey also score.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson. — *Repairs*, an amusing pantomime sketch, by Wal Pink's company, is brim full of merriment, and is responsible for large audiences. The refreshing humour of Cliff Ryland, raconteur, is always effective; a clevery enacted sketch, *The Crazy Cook*, is smartly contributed by Picitt and Lizette; the Sisters Chester, in a vocal, musical, and dancing act, retain their popularity; amusing comedy is introduced by the Rumbo Austin's acrobatic navies; and other popular turns include Hettie Lee, comedienne and dancer, Rene Best, comedienne, and the Bioscope.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. K. Hall and Jos. Sweeney.—Helen Charles, an exceptionally clever mimic, is the star turn here, and is creating a great impression; Bugler Carr, in a musical and equilibristic act, submits a novel turn; the Three Clarions, in a musical absurdity, are pleasing; Miss Myra Love, dainty comedienne, receives deserved applause; and the remaining items, Henry Lee, comedian and mimic, Jack Rae, comedy gymnast, and the Tivoli Bioscope, all have their admirers.

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE. — Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—Mr. F. Marriott Watson's play, *A False Wife*, is paying a second visit here. Miss Florence E. Florence gives an artistic portrayal of Estelle de Lussan; Mr. Watson fills the rôle of Jean Berand in an able manner; Mr. Fred H. Constable deserves commendation for his rendering of George Manefield; as Agnes Weyland Miss Annie Hylton displays ability; Miss Ivy Chandos as Bessie Blazer is a decided success; Mr. Elton Morgan as Ben Rattler, and Mr. Allen Charles as Archibald Brown Tee, both provide excellent fun; Miss Flo Morgan does well as Sarah Bernstein; and Mr. Harold Wallace submits a mystic portrayal of Zorak.

STAFFORD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—The Moore-Kennedy pantomime company in *Dick

order. Next in importance on the bill is the Aurora Cycling Troupe, a really clever combination; Doody and Wright, Australian comiques, submit a rattling turn; Harry Taft, the whistling comedian, is clever and amusing. The programme also includes Maudie Ford, comedienne; Meier and Mora, speciality artists; E. J. Sheldon, comedian; Allan and Hart, protean artists; and Vernon's Bioscope pictures.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Edward Gray.—Mr. Herbert Barr's *Aladdin* pantomime company opened here on Monday. The pantomime is rich in colour, the dresses and scenery being especially fine. Aladdin is played by Miss Maudie Vincent, a pretty, pleasing, and tuneful artist; the Princess is charmingly portrayed by Miss Lora Lyndon; Miss Dorothy Wilson's Pekoe is played in a dainty and captivating style; Abanazar as acted by Mr. W. Sherlock is indeed droll; and Mr. David Phillips as the Widow Twankey is responsible for loud laughter throughout; Mr. Carl Fredericks is a stately Emperor; and the Vizier is in the capable hands of Mr. Wilfred Dare, who scores well; Messrs. Duncan and Morton as Bo-Be and Pe-Ter, the policemen, work well together, and create much merriment; Little Della as the Genie of the Ring is a clever little artist; and the specialities are all good. Special mention should be made of Mlle. Zerina Tankerville's toe dancing, Miss Peggy Lyndon in a musical act, and Madame Cordelia in an electric picture dance.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Swindon's first pantomime, *Sinbad the Sailor*, is still moving merrily and successfully, but despite its drawing powers it has to terminate with this week owing to arrangements previously made. All the leading artists have become extremely popular, especially Miss Fanny Robina in the title-rôle. She is delightful throughout, putting plenty of spirit into her work. As Sadie Miss Norah Haywood has made herself a great favourite, her dances being particularly fine. Miss Evelyn Geldard is bright and pleasing as Selim, while Miss Nellie Beacon as Fairy and Miss Florence Inman as Youson each deserve special mention. The fun is plentiful, Mr. Will Crackles (the Dame), Mr. Harry Ongar as Sinbad, with Messrs. Hans and Lux, each contributing a share. In addition to the excellent dancing turn given by the clever Ongars (Harry and Ivy), a charming turn is given by Miss Florry Cooper, whose capital voice is heard to fine effect in two songs, "The stars are angel faces" and "Right at the top." She should be highly complimented on her great success.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—The pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, by Mr. J. A. Thomson's company, has achieved a great success here, and is drawing crowded audiences. The principal boy part is entrusted to Miss Beatrice Varley, a young lady of graceful presence, that secures for her the public favour at her first appearance. Her work is full of vivacity and energy, whilst the rendering of her various numbers is distinctly pleasing, her particular success being the now popular song "Snowflakes"; as Red Riding Hood Miss Ella Willmer is all that can be desired, and she quite captivates the audience with her winsome acting, her attractive manner making her at once a favourite; Miss Ivy Boulton as Boy Blue fills the part in a very creditable style, and is well supported by Miss Kate Pennington as Rosa; the humorous side of the programme is sustained by Mr. Fred Latimer as Dame Trot, and Mr. George Newham as the Baron, both of whom fill their respective parts in a manner causing continuous laughter. They are also responsible for some clever burlesque dancing. Miss Fay Desmond is a charming Fairy, with pleasing and effective ways, and an excellent voice, which is heard to great advantage, especially in "My Tiny Firefly"; Mr. Fred Anderson is a mirth-provoking Tommy Green, his song as a yokel being extremely funny; and Mr. Lovell Rowland also deserves praise for his Simple Simon, to which part he does full justice; mention should also be made of the character of Wolferino, in which Mr. Victor acquits himself well, and of Sandy, which Mr. Fred Boulton makes a real character study; some particularly good variety turns are also introduced, including Mlle. Bartenelli, who is a clever contortionist, some of her feats being really marvellous; and Paulo, the boy juggler. The chorus have been well trained.

TREHERBERT.—POOLE'S OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Poole; Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—Mr. Morton Powell's company in *The Woman who Gambles* opened here on Monday. Mr. Alex Alexander made a dashing Count Otto Steinbach; Mr. H. Sinclair proved himself an able exponent of the part of Baron Cartzlaw; Mr. Reginald Fox was good as Lieut. Karl Ctzarteriski; Mr. A. Richards caused roars of laughter as the Hon. Bertie Bray; Miss Louisa Peach in the title-rôle, by a fine performance, proved herself an able and talented actress; Miss Florrie Halton as Cora Gouldhart was effective; Miss Lily Malvern as Stella Melakoff gave a capital reading of her part.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Carey; Manager, Mr. L. J. Gunnell.—Mr. J. D. Hunter's pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, commenced a fortnight's season on Monday. Miss Cissie Wade made a charming Red Riding Hood; Miss Vera Dudley a dashing Boy Blue; and Miss M. Sadie a sprightly Prince Alfair. Mr. L. Wylie was the wicked Baron, and Mr. H. Fegum the Wolf; while Miss E. Cliffe was the Fairy Queen and Miss Lyndon the Baron's daughter. The fun of the pantomime was well maintained by Mr. J. D. Hunter, whose Dame Trott was uproariously funny; and he was well supported by Messrs. F. Thatcher and F. Mayer as Tommy Green and Johnnie Stout; while Mr. Bertram C. Gunnell proved himself a real comedian in his first-rate impersonation of Wearie Willie. The specialities in the Palace scene included Miss Rosa Rosetti in a musical mélange, Miss Vera Dudley in Dutch song and dance, and Mr. Wylie and his mannikins.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company in the musical play, *The Blue Moon*, was here during the first three nights of this week. Mlle. Marguerite Nondin depicts the parts of Blue Moon in a successful manner; Mr. F. W. Bowes is very droll and diverting as Moolraj; Mr. Charles Stephenson causes roars of laughter as the funny and irresistible Private Charlie Taylor; Mr. F. J. Rooney capably presents the character of Captain Jack Ormsby; Mr. Victor Wallace makes a capital Major Callabon; and Mr. Basil Mercer scores as Bobbie Scott; Mr. Fred Inwood is well placed as Prince of Kharikar; Miss Mary Glanbrane as Lady Brabasham sustains her part in a commendable manner; Miss Dorma Morgan is charming as Evelyn Ormsby; and Miss May Audrey is a vivacious and clever exponent of Millicent Leroy.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Stanley and Vandyke create much merriment in their laughable sketch, entitled *On the Shelf*. Miss Clara Hastings, comedienne, sings in good style; Miss Nellie Gamion, descriptive vocalist; Miss Peggy Fame, comedienne, wins favour; the Prinellas ably present a rural sketch; and Mr. Joe Hastings contributes some smart jumping feats. Mr. Harry Wright, comedian, also delights.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—At the head of the bill here are the Abdullah Arabs in feats of pyramid building, which are marvellous. Maie Walters, comedienne and dancer, is good; and Walter King, the doleful comedian; Spry and Austin, vaudeville artists; the Two Cromwells, clever jugglers; George Westland, a lively Scotch comedian; the Norman-Leonard Trio, in a musical sketch, and "Aladdin" on the American bioscope complete the list of attractions.

GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. Beaudyn's No. 1 Company is here in *A Beautiful Fiend*. Mr. Montague Beaudyn sustains Ivan Paulovitch very creditably; Miss Sydney Crowe charmingly portrays the title-rôle; Mr. J. P. McBride does well as Count Karateff; Mr. Herbert Sheardon as Sergius Strogoff is good; Mr. Harry Oates makes a comical Christopher Crackles; Nadine Karateff is cleverly played by Miss Irene Munro; and Miss Annie Clunn is successful as Patty Woodlands.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Willmott.—The singing of Parks's Eton Boys forms the chief feature of the entertainment here; the Sisters Belmont are charming dancers and vocalists; and Harry Eden has some wonderful dogs; Charley Best is versatile; Leo Vincent is an original ventriloquist; Cavern and Cave score well; Barney Kane is a quaint Scotch comedian; and a sketch, entitled *A Morning Dip*, and the Royal Bioscope complete.

WEDNESBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby. — Mr. and Mrs. John Walters' *Babes in the Wood* is drawing crowded houses here. Miss Bertha Cousins as Robin Hood is loudly applauded; Miss Fanny Adamson makes a sprightly and bewitching Maid Marion; Dolly Dimple is ably presented by Miss Jessie Yonde; and as Dame Flossie Miss Ally Benson is a prominent figure; the Baron is humorously portrayed by Mr. Ernest Thirlway; the Babes, Bertie and Cissy, are admirably rendered by Miss Kitty Chester and Baby Blyth respectively; and excellent fun is provided by Messrs. Traynor and O'Connor, as Blustering Bill and Wavering Wally. The variety includes the Emerald Quartette of acrobatic dancers and the Sweet Sixteen ballet troupe.

WEST BROMWICH. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—A good house assembled on Monday to witness Mr. Lingford Carson's company in *A Modern Adventuress*. William Delby was smartly played by Mr. M. Carroll; Mr. Sydney C. Cranston did well in the character of Harry Delby; the Wallace Danton of Mr. Ernest J. Fare was all that could be desired; Mr. Will White appeared to distinct advantage as John Crompton; and one of the features of the success was the emotional acting of Mr. Charles Draycott in the rôle of Pietro Danelli. Mr. H. Scatchard gave a clever impersonation of Steve Meredith; Mr. J. Dobson Clyde made the most of the detective; Miss Marie Robson gave a sympathetic rendering of Vivette Delby; and Miss Nellie W. Warden as Sally Hodges was quaint, Miss Muriel Thompson furnishing a finished interpretation of Violet Meredith.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Player.—A successful return visit is being paid here by the Six Brothers Luck in their pantomime *The Hotel Grand*. A good turn is given by Francis Lyric; Selby and Myers receive encores for their singing and dancing; Mr. Richard Tinberg gives smart character-studies from famous plays; the Seven Wulfrunas cause incessant amusement in their knockabout act; interesting music is submitted by Diamond and Beatrice; Miss Gertie Gitana displays great talent as a vocal actress, and well deserves all the applause accorded her; and Frank Cass contributes a good song.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Lessee, Mr Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. Herbert E. Feather—An enthusiastic audience welcomed Mr. F. R. Benson's (North) Shakespearean Company, which commenced a week's visit on Monday with *The Taming of the Shrew*. The rôle of Petruchio was entrusted to Mr. Henry Herbert, and the interpretation was entirely satisfactory. Miss Dorothy Green's delineation of the part of Katharine was perfect in every detail, her treatment of the part being naturalness itself. The character of Bianca was remarkably well played by Miss Louise Graeme. Gremio found an able exponent in Mr. Reginald Owen. Mr. Henry Morell's style as Hortensia was excellent, and Mr. Reginald Davis was especially effective as Baptista.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—The *Topsy-Turvy School* of Irish comedy by Collinson's company provokes one continued roar of laughter. Their performance is brimful of good dancing and singing and irresistible jokes. Satsuma, Japanese magician, is neat and smart; Arthur Aldridge, a tenor of unusual ability, gains popularity with some good songs; the marvellous Herculean equilibristic feats of the Wilfords cause astonishment, which develops into unbounded enthusiasm; Beattie Foster, low comedy artist, and George Hall, sifflleur and vocalist, contribute entertaining numbers, and amusing pictures on the Bioscope are thoroughly enjoyed.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Messrs. Chas. S. Kitts and Somers Bellamy's pantomime *Cinderella* is here this week. Miss Rhoda Windrum's Cinderella is a charming piece of work; the rôle of Prince Brilliant is well sustained by Miss Jennie Lynwood; Miss Madge Haines is a genial and rollicking Dandini; Mr. W. T. Riley, Mr. Bert McNallie, and Mr. J. Oliver Russell work well together as the Baron and the two Ugly Sisters; and Mr. Chas. S. Kitts is responsible for some refined humour as Billy Boy; specialities are given by the Three Sisters Gage, a trio of smart and active dancers; Messrs. Ford and Ford, patter comedians; and Baby Eileen, a tiny little singer and dancer.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Raws; Business-Manager, Mr. John Cassidy.—The programme here this week includes Miss Nora Bremner, a smart speciality dancer; Walter Levalle, a good comedian; Charley Hampson, with a well-trained dog and pigeons; Martin Henderson, the blind concertina player; Miss Nellie Belmore, a clever serio; the Bros Tarrant, who give a smart turn; Valesco's Circus of performing animals; and Little Lottie Lonsdale, child artist, in dances and song.

WHITEHAVEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Clark.—Mr. Charles Macdona's principal company is engaged here in the musical play, *Three Little Maids*. Mr. B. Barratt is painstaking as Mr. Branscombe, whose three daughters have charming exponents in Miss Mabel Kerridge (Ada), Miss Daisy Sylverton (Hilda), and Miss Eva Weigh (Edna). The part of Lady St. Malory is canital in the hands of Miss Kate G. Beck, and her three protéges have pleasing representatives in Miss Milda Stericker, Miss Bertha French, and Miss Nellie Clapton; Mr. Frank Henderson is amusing as Lord Cheyne; Mr. Eric Barrington good as the Frenchman; Mr. Frank Wilson acceptable as Brian Molyneaux; and Mr. Bert Barton amusing as Cupid.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. James Kiddie.—This week Mr. Junius Booth, the well-known American actor, is here with *Monte Cristo*. Mr. Junius Booth presented a fine study of the complex character of Edmund Dantes; the Danglers of Mr. Augustine Bowerman was excellent; Mr. G. W. Crowe's performance of Fernand was commendable; Mr. Walter Huron made a sound and capable Villefort; Mr. Leonard Marshall played De Morcef in polished fashion; the Caderousse of Mr. J. W. Braithwaite could hardly have been improved upon; Miss Clara Elstob was well suited as Mercedes; Miss Alice West made the most of Sophie Danglers; and Miss Emma Robberds was distinctly successful as La Carconte.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's *Aladdin* has again proved an artistic and financial success, the theatre having been well filled nightly.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Clito wins universal admiration in her classical poses; the Beau Ideal Troupe of children are capital singers and dancers; Belloni's parrots and cockatoos are well-trained; the Musical Shipbuilders play various instruments well; and Great Recco gives an original absurdity entitled *How to become an Acrobat*. Olive Veno is a good dancer, and the Three Moxons are clever acrobatic comedians. Barny Noble, in stories, Steve McCarthy, Irish coon, and Marie Kendall, vocalist, also prove very popular.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival. —The bright and breezy *Chinese Honeymoon* is being played here by Mr. Milton Bode's excellent company. The part of Mr. Pineapple is admirably depicted by Mr. George Rydon; Mr. Rudolph Kloss is an excellent Hang Chow; Mr. P. Allerton Turner is an effective Chippie Chop; Mr. Leonard May does well as Hi Lung; and Mr. Harry Jennings is a successful Tom Hatherton. Miss Nancy Rossiter is a charming and attractive Soo Soo; Miss Gladys Ward is seen to advantage as Mrs. Pineapple; Miss Maud Adams is an able Mrs. Brown; Miss Bertha Buckley is a capable Mi-Mi; and Miss Gwennie Harcourt is a very clever and amusing actress, who displays great ability in the character of Fi-Fi. Beautiful frocks and effective scenery add greatly to an already very attractive production.

EMPIRE PALACE.—A good bill is provided here this week. The Seven Savonas and the Six Cycling Elliots give excellent performances at different houses. The Shelleys present a comedy duologue, *Betsy's Blunder*; Luis Hardt is an exponent of physical culture; and Mlle. Lumiere appears in her electric fairy grotto. Other attractions are Marriott Edgar, the man in red; the Sisters Williams, burlesque artists; Zaid, performer on the rings; and Millie Williams, comedienne.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—This week's attraction consists of *The Traitor*, which is being played by Messrs. E. Hill-Mitchelson and Harris Fineberg's company. The principal characters are played by Mr. Bersley Evans, Mr Stephen E. Scanlon, Miss Isabel Hunt, Miss Katharine Vere, and Miss Effie Bartlett.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is here this week in *Peter's Mother*. Mr. Charles Harley, an old Worthing favourite, does excellently in the character of Sir Timothy Crewys; Miss Ruth Mackay charmingly portrays the part of Lady Mary Crewys; Mr. Percy Hutchison puts in some fine work as Peter Crewys; Miss Mary Griffiths is highly amusing as Lady Balstone; as is Miss Florence Harwood as Miss G. Crewys; Mr. Eille Norwood gives a manly portrayal of John Crewys; Mr. F. G. Thurstans scores in the part of Canon Birch; Mr. Townsend Whitling ably acts the rôle of Dr. Blundell; Miss Hilda Honnis is extremely winsome as Sarah; Herr C. Adolf Seebold has installed his own electric plant, and the light is giving every satisfaction; Mr. Seebold intends to inaugurate a new régime here. The first three evenings and Wednesday matinée are to be given up to dramatic performances, while the remaining evenings are to be worked on the two performances a night plan, the programme to consist of variety items.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls.—This week a capital all-round company has entertained the patrons here. Mr. Ernest Heathcote proves himself smart as an eccentric; Mr. J. K. Tideman and Mr. Harry Royde provide much amusement with their comic singing; Miss Josie Watson contributes an acceptable turn; Mr. Harry Daubney as a ventriloquist is entertaining; and the pictures continue to prove attractive.

YORK.—ROYAL—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—*Two Little Vagabonds* is one of the most popular dramas which visits York, and its reception this week has been most enthusiastic. Miss Edith Martin is pathetic as Wally, and Miss Josie Beltram lively and interesting as Dick. Both these artists play together admirably; Lionel Ellis as Bill Mullins gives a powerful rendering of a heavy part; and Miss Evelyn Shaw as Biddy causes vast amusement.

OPERA HOUSE. — Managing-Director, Mr. William Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke. — Daisy James is the bright particular star this week, and has made hosts of friends. Horace Wheatley's Irish witticisms find great favour, and in both song and dance he is an adept. The charming speciality artist, Nello, gives a pleasing show, and the Elgars sing tunefully; Elwanger and company give a clever sketch, and the Boighette Troupe, in their own line, have few equals.

"THE ERA."

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THEATRICAL INVENTIONS.

The concise descriptions that we give below of recent patent applications are specially contributed by Messrs. Howard and Co., patent agents, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, London, W.C., who will assist readers in any patent matters.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

18652.—Artificial eyelashes. Mme. Devrient, Abbey-gardens, Abbey-road, London, N.W. These cut from strips of silk fabric having two selvedges united by cross-threads. Longitudinal threads retain the material in proper condition while it is being cut into shape. For fixing the eyelashes the selvedge is bent at right angles and gummed.

APPLICATIONS.

29593.—Thomas William Newey, 128, Colmore-row, Birmingham. Improvements in braces for supports for stage scenery and for other like uses.

2.—Ludwig Szentgyorgyi, 31, Bedford-street, Strand, London. Improved apparatus for indicating occupied seats or the like in theatres and similar places of amusement.

211.—Alfred Demarest Starr, 70, Chancery-lane, London. Improved apparatus for producing the illusion travelling in a ship.

IT was in the year 1853 that the General Theatrical Fund, which had been in evidence for thirteen years, was incorporated by Royal Charter, and its dinner at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, with the Hon. F. H. Berkeley in the chair, was a jubilant one. The chairman, in proposing the "Army and Navy," coupled with the toast the name of Mr. P. T. Cooke, who, in his reply, said that it was so long since he had had anything to do with the real Navy that he had forgotten all about it. Charles Dickens, the trustee of the Fund, proposed the health of the chairman, and made a bright, commonsense speech, not remarkable for wit or brilliancy. In the course of the evening a "new Bacchanalian glee for three voices," called "Let Concord Tune the Strain," composed by Mr. Alfred Mellon, was sung; and amongst the subscribers for the year were Benjamin Webster, Charles Kean, Mrs. Theodore Martin, William Creswick, and Mme Celeste.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"VERGNUGTE FEIERTAGE."

Volks-Play, in Three Acts, by L. Ottomeyer, produced at the Luisen Theatre, Dec. 26, 1906.

Lehmann	HERR HUENER
Frau Lehmann	FRAULEIN ALBANO
Arna	FRAULEIN SPIEGELBERG
Marie	FRAULEIN SERVADIO
Baron Winterstein	HERR BACH
Erich	HERR MEYER
Dornreich	HERR BIEDERBACH
Klotz	HERR MERLER
Grosskopf	HERR FLESSBURG
Levy	HERR ALBRECHT
Muller	HERR WELLER
Auguste	FRAU WILLE-BACH
Schutzmann	HERR GARTNER
Oberkellner	HERR MEWES
Minna	FRAULEIN MEINOW
Fritz	HERR SCHULZE
Hänschen	FRAULEIN WEGNER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, JAN. 3.—This was just the right kind of piece for the Christmas holidays, and it will assuredly enjoy a run well into the New Year. It is a judicious admixture of excellent sentiments, bright humour, and a little good-natured satire—in a word, an ideal volks-play. The Berlin lawyer, Lehmann, has a second wife of aristocratic lineage and tastes to match. He cannot deny her anything, and to pay her extravagant bills has recourse to dishonesty. Not that he means to be dishonest; he borrows gradually from trustee money in his keeping until the sum is a fairly large one, always with the intention, of course, of paying it back. One day, unexpectedly, the money is demanded; Lehmann sees himself, in his mind's eye, already in the dock, and flees the country. He goes to America, where he is lucky in all he undertakes, and returns to his home a wealthy man. He has many surprises in store for him. The disgrace he feared was never known outside his own family, for the deficit was made up at the last moment out of the savings of Auguste, the faithful cook. Frau Lehmann has become a changed character, having opened a shop, and is working hard for a livelihood. Lehmann arrives just on Christmas Eve, in time to make everybody happy, and the piece ends to the chimes of the church bells. The acting of Frau Wille-Bach as the jewel of the kitchen—Auguste with the golden heart—was delightful to see. It was the most grateful rôle of the play; but all the chief characters are natural and convincing, and were one and all well sustained. The author thoroughly deserved the enthusiastic "call" allotted to him.

A NEW operetta, by Herr Eysler, text by MM. Stein and Lindau, met with an exceedingly cordial reception at the Central Theatre last week. The title is *Künstlerblut*, and—as the name implies—the scene is laid in Bohemian or artistic circles, the action passing in Vienna. The authors have written an unusually good book round a feminine David Garrick theme, and Herr Eysler's music is vivacious and pleasing, if not highly original. Fräulein Mia Werber, and Herren Marx, Peer, and Deutsch gave first-rate renderings of their respective parts; chorus and orchestra, under Herr Redl's capable conductorship, were all that could be desired; while the mounting was pretty and tasteful. The Central is certainly furnished with a one-piece bill for many weeks to come.

AT the New Schauspielhaus a new four-act play, by Felix Philippi, entitled *Der Helfer*, has made a decided hit. It is a serious play, well conceived and constructed, and was admirably interpreted by some of the first members of this very high-class company. The plot may be told in a few words. Senator Oddendahl—head of an ancient and reputedly wealthy house—goes to a young bank-director for help, begging the loan of 400,000 marks to save him from ruin. Now, the banker has a liaison—all unknown to anyone but himself and his mistress—with Beate, the Senator's frivolous young daughter. Oddendahl comes to the banker just at the close of a visit from Beate. The young man helps the old one, who thanks him with fervent gratitude. When his daughter's disgrace becomes known to the Senator, he bitterly upbraids the betrayer, and the latter offers to make good his fault and marry Beate, although he has no great liking for the idea of matrimony. The girl, however—and here the scene reminds one strongly of a similar one in *Magda*—will not accept for her husband the man whose mistress she has been. She casts the blame of everything upon her surroundings, and Oddendahl declares they must all work to pay back the debt they owe. Beate, upon hearing of her lover's generosity, softens, and we conclude—as the curtain falls—that a wedding may transpire after all.

"COUSIN BOBBY," Karl Millöcker's sparkling little operetta, achieved a tremendous success at the Theatre des Westens on Saturday evening. It is given as a reason why this work has not hitherto been performed that the book was, in its original condition, too poor and trivial. Be that as it may, it is a matter of wonder that enterprising managers could neglect any work of the deceased Operetta King, and it is—musically speaking—a gem of its kind, quite equal to *Gasparone* and the *Bettelstudent*. Herren Jacobson and Wagner have written a capital modern libretto, Director Below arranged for a first-rate cast and effective staging, and Kapellmeister Saenger conducted—a fact which guarantees a good performance. The plot is so full of whimsical complications that a detailed description would be almost impossible. The action passes in the Saxon Switzerland. Sauftleben, proprietor of the Reform Hotel, is expecting the arrival of a wealthy nephew from Macedonia, to whom he hopes to wed his pretty, but portionless, daughter. Bobby Spielvogel, impresario of the Macedonian Variety Troupe, turns up, impecunious and ready-witted. He is taken for the anticipated kinsman, and fills the situation to a nicety. When Agamemnon—the real nephew—arrives he is taken for a new waiter and when his mother and sister put in an appearance later on the fun and confusion increase. After endless misunderstandings everything comes to a satisfactory termination, each lover wedding his lass according to the dictates of his heart. Foremost in the admirable cast were Fräulein Doninger and Herr Fritz Werner—the latter in the title-rôle. Artists, authors, and manager were called and applauded to the echo, over a dozen floral arrangements and laurel wreaths being handed up.

ON New Year's Eve a performance of *Der Freyschutz* was given at the Royal Opera, with Fräuleins Destinn and Dietrich and Herren Grüning, Hoffmann, and Griswold in the chief rôles. The house was crowded, and the audience was an enthusiastic one. At the New Royal Opera (Krolls) Lortzing's pretty little *Czar und Zimmermann* filled the bill. An excellent cast had been provided, including Frau Herzog, Herr Liebau, and Herren Berger, and Knüpfer; and here, too, applause was unusually hearty.

Two new operas of importance will be performed for the first time the first week in February, one in Berlin and the other at Vienna. Our Royal Opera will produce Tschaikowsky's *Pique Dame*, a work which was acquired last season, and announced for last January. At the Imperial Opera House, in the Austrian capital, rehearsals of Schilling's *Moloch* are going on daily, under the superintendence of the composer and the Intendant-General, Herr Mahler. The new work is reported to be unusually fine.

MILLOCKER'S pretty little comic opera, *Cousin Bobby*, is holding the boards at the Theatre des Westens, to the exclusion of everything else. Crowded houses are the result, and nightly ovations for Fräulein Doninger and Fritz Werner, who score in the principal rôles.

"DIE SCHOENE UNGARIN."

Musical Farce, in Four Acts, by MM. Manstedt and Weller, produced at the Schiller, Jan. 4, 1907.

Misebeck	HERR HUENER
Fritze	HERR MEWES
Irma	FRAU WILLE-BACH
Miklos	HERR KELLER
Schroeder	HERR RUFF
Lilli	FRAULEIN URMAINSKA
Von Schoenfeld	HERR BIBERACH
Triller	HERR FLESSBURG
Walzebock	HERR ALBRECHT
Fräulein Haeppchen	FRAULEIN HULPTEL
Lore	FRAULEIN WUNSCH
Frau Mücke	FRAULEIN MILSITZ
Hennig	HERR BERGER
Lotte	FRAULEIN TESCA
Laura	FRAULEIN LINDEMANN
Wentzel	HERR STOLLHOF
Hedwig	FRAULEIN REKLING
Klärchen	FRAULEIN MUELLER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Jan. 10.—This amusing piece is not new, but it came as a novelty to the large audience, who welcomed it with enthusiasm. It has stood the test of time well, and has been further improved by the addition of some up-to-date couplets and jokes. A narration of the plot is perhaps unnecessary, the story of the "beautiful Hungarian," Irma von Berénczy—who sets every man by the ears—being fairly well known. The music—which is from the facile pen of Herr Gustav Steffens—is pretty, but proved the weak point of the otherwise capable cast. With the exception of Frau Wille-Bach's impersonation of the title-rôle, the singing left much to be desired, although the acting was very good and bright. The Luisen company is first-rate in either tragedy or comedy, but it draws the line at musical plays. Frau Wille-Bach was altogether charming as Irma, and Fräulein Urmainska and Herr Huener gave capital renderings of their respective parts. The piece was well staged, the orchestra admirable, and *Die Schoene Ungarin* will undoubtedly see a number of performances.

IN the bill of the "Kammerspiele" (chamber plays) at the Deutsches two early works of Goethe's have had a place—*Die Geschwister*, a one-act drama, and *Die Mitschuldigen*, a three-act comedy. The former, having a couple of very grateful rôles—those of the brother and sister, Wilhelm and Marianne—is always a safe draw on any stage when adequately acted. Herr von Winterstein and Fräulein Höflich, although they are artists whose talents nobody would think of disputing for a moment, did not do these particular characters full justice. Director Reinhardt is a past-master in the art of mounting his plays—witness the splendid manner in which his Shakespearean dramas are staged; but he lays less stress upon the judicious assortment of his casts and upon the individual acting. As a matter of consequence, a slovenly tone has crept in, when it is not—as is the case in Shakespeare's comedies—one of burlesque and caricature. The performance of *Die Mitschuldigen* was more successful, Herr Arnold, in the part of the landlord, being very humorous.

NEVER within my knowledge has such a neck-and-neck struggle for the rights of a piece taken place as that between Directors Reinhardt and Barnowsky (of the Deutsches and Kleines Theatres) for the possession of Oscar Wilde's *Bunbury*, alias *The Importance of Being Earnest*, alias *A Trivial Comedy for Serious People*. The German version was announced for New Year's night at both houses, and it was literally at the eleventh hour—two hours before the doors opened—that the conflict was decided in favour of the Kleines, and Herr Reinhardt, all in a hurry, put on *Man and Superman* instead. This naturally meant a tremendous puff for the piece, and there was an unprecedented rush for tickets at the Kleines, many being sold by dealers outside the doors at fabulous prices. The piece met with a thoroughly cordial reception, and the interpretation was excellent all round, so that a long run will assuredly follow.

OUR third Schiller Theatre was opened in the suburb of Charlottenburg on New Year's Day. When the former Walhalla Theatre, in the heart of the city, was altered and reopened as a people's theatre, with modest prices and a company to match, and called the Schiller, a good many people doubted its ultimate success. The undertaking has prospered beyond all expectation. A second Schiller Theatre (the former Friedrich Wilhelmstädtisches) opened in the North of Berlin some years ago, and the third house is a handsome new building, which will certainly fill a want in the West. Schiller shares are now coveted as paying concerns; the companies are high class, and the performances rank with those of any good average theatre in Germany.

THE new Figaro Theatre not yet being quite finished, and the company becoming impatient, the directors have decided to begin operations in the theatre of the Secessionshaus until their own is ready. Consequently the début of the Figaro company was made here last week, and may be recorded a success. Four one-act pieces comprised the programme, several of them being novelties to Berlin audiences. *Der Kavalier*, a persiflage by MM. Timmory and Manouisi, opened the evening's entertainment, at once putting the audience in good humour. *Die Klaue*, a dramatic fragment by Jean Sartène, followed, admirably acted by Frau Olga Wohlbrück (one of the directors) and Herr Kupfer. The chief success of the evening was Mark Twain's farce, *Der Chicago Landmann*, which, as is superfluous to relate, bristled with wit and humour. Leo Poldi's very broad farce, *Unterm Bett*, was the last piece on the programme, and that, too, made its mark. The acting of all four plays was capital, and the auspices of the new undertaking are decidedly favourable.

HERR ADOLF PHILIPP'S new piece at his theatre, the Deutsch-Amerikanisches, is drawing well. The title is *Der Sorgenbrecher*, and although the author terms it a burlesque, it partakes more of the character of a farcical volks-play. "Sorgenbrecher" means one who drives dull care away, a type of the "little ray of sunshine" familiar to us all. This estimable person, Karl by name, is an easy-going, rakish young fellow with a kind heart. Having made his native haunts too hot to hold him, Karl goes off to the land of dollars, returning—reputedly—a millionaire. His wealth consists entirely of diamonds, which he found at Klondyke. His person sparkles with the glittering jewels; his coffers are full of them, and his generosity is as great as ever. He pays all his old debts and those of his friends with diamonds, and the money-lenders are more than satisfied. Suddenly the bubble bursts. The jewels are all discovered to be paste, and there is lamentation and gnashing of teeth. But Karl holds the receipts in full of the Jews, and manages to get into a good situation, which enables him to marry his old sweetheart and live happily ever after. The piece is laughable, and being very well acted—Herr Philipp himself taking the name-part—is, as has been already stated, proving a considerable attraction.

THE handy little date book for 1907 issued by Mr. T. Harris, manager of the Chemical Cleaning and Dyeing Company, is now ready, and furnishes a valuable guide for theatrical managers and all connected with the profession. Among its most useful features are lists of London and suburban theatres, with their telephone numbers, and also of provincial theatres, all alphabetically arranged. The names and addresses of billposters in all the towns of the United Kingdom are also set out in similar order, and tabulated pages for records of receip

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

"ALADDIN" AT THE SHAKESPEARE.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

That the above pantomime has caught the public fancy is amply testified by the enthusiasm which prevails throughout each performance, and Mr. Dudley Bennett and those associated with him in its production must feel very gratified by the enormous success that has attended their efforts.

Since the opening night several new numbers have been introduced, and the principals having thoroughly worked up their respective parts, the whole performance goes with a bang from start to finish. The gorgeous scenery and dresses were fully described in a former notice, and it is sufficient to say that they could not very well be surpassed. Miss Winifred Hare as Aladdin continues to charm all comers with her attractiveness and vivacity, and is indeed an ideal principal boy. Her singing, too, is greatly admired, and amongst her numerous songs the most popular are "Why do the girls love Charlie?" "Hello! Hello! Hello!" and "Banish sorrow till to-morrow," the last-named of which is sung with great effect, and fairly brings down the house. Miss Mary Hay has established herself a warm favourite with the audience, and her refined manner and dainty appearance are well suited to the rôle of the Princess. Her chief songs, "My Prince" and "Zuyder Zee," are rendered with much expression, and find immediate favour. Miss Marion Hargrave as Pekoe plays with success; and Miss Ethel Ivimey is an engaging Pitti Sing. Miss Vera Thompson as Hi-Tid-Li and Miss Ethel Ford as Hi-Ti are also acceptable in their respective parts. Owing to the continued illness of Mr. Mark Melford, the rôle of Widow Twankey is being filled by Mr. Dan Lyndon, who proves himself a worthy substitute, and scores a distinct success; making the most of every opportunity and working with untiring energy, his quaint antics and witticisms cause uproarious laughter. As Abanazar, Mr. Arthur Reynolds is a host in himself, and is extremely diverting throughout; he is especially successful in the songs "Let me sing" and the topical song "Boodle." The Ethairien Brothers as Wishee Washee and Ki-Ki well deserve the hearty applause that is accorded them for their clever knockabout business, and in parts that allow plenty of scope for their comicalities they are particularly amusing. Mr. J. H. Goldsworthy as the Emperor also contributes a meritorious performance. The clever speciality dancing of Susie and Protti is still a leading feature, and special mention must be made of the minuet, arranged by Signor Protti, and executed with much grace by a number of artists dressed in Old English costumes. Mr. J. Collins's troupe of see-saw girls also contribute their quota of dances, and an encore is always demanded for their swing song and dance. A word of praise must also be accorded to the chorus, who render the concerted pieces with due effect, and to the excellent work of the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Sidney Shaw. The comfort of the audience is, as usual, well looked after by Mr. E. de Hague Body, Mr. Bennett's popular acting-manager.

"CINDERELLA" AT THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

Cinderella is now quite at home at the Elephant and Castle, and with capital songs, pretty music, and an abundance of good, wholesome comedy, is attracting large audiences. Miss Gracie Taylor as the Prince Splendid introduces a new song, "My Irish Daisy," whilst her original songs go with a great swing. As Cinderella, Miss Alice Digby sings and dances daintily; whilst Miss Nora Morra as Dandini is as full of life and go as ever, her song, "Peggy machree," being a great favourite. The comedians now work much more together, and introduce a deal more clever business. Mr. Herbert Rule as the Baron and Mr. Arthur Carlton as Toddles, his page, introduce much capital fun; as the two elder daughters of the Baron, Mr. Willie Scott and Mr. Arthur Watts are delightfully effeminate; as the broker's men, Mr. Harry Rennoir and Mr. Mount Stephen are an indefatigable pair, and, as boisterous knockabouts, are a great success. The motor-'bus adds to the fun, the laughter being loud and long whilst unfortunate pedestrians endeavour to catch it. The Aroza Belles, as acrobatic dancers, show much skill, and are much appreciated. Mme. Van Dalle sings sweetly as the Fairy Godmother; Mr. S. Leddard as the Herald declaims distinctly; whilst as courtiers the Misses Violet Varcoe, Maggie Edwards, Sissie Salisbury, and Miss Essex are effective. Mr. R. A. Neville as acting-manager looks most carefully to the comfort of the audience.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Jan. 7, 1907, the Tragic Comedy, in Five Acts, by Jacob Gordon, entitled "THE MUSICIAN."

The Jewish Operatic and Dramatic Company still continue to hold the boards here, evidently to the great satisfaction of their Yiddish patrons. On Monday night they presented the tragic comedy by Jacob Gordon, entitled *The Musician*, which has the merit of not being wearisome, and at the same time contains many forcible situations, together with good dialogue and an interesting story. The play was well mounted, and was favourably received by a well-filled house. We should just like to mention that it would be a decided advantage if the various scenes throughout the progress of the piece were shown on the programme, and we trust the Yiddish management will see their way clear to adopt this simple plan—always in force at all other theatres—in order that their audiences may realise where the particular action is taking place. Mr. S. Feinman makes a picturesque Zelig Itzek, and gives a fine performance, varied by occasional outbursts of passion, whilst his spirited rendering of the part roused the house to enthusiasm. Mr. N. Hamburger as Achtafel did all he had to do sufficiently well; while Mme. Berman was a decided success as Miss Jane, and Miss R. Bryh distinguished herself favourably as Perele. Mr. J. Goldsmith acted with much skill as Pinchas Zlotsky, holding his powers well in hand; while Mr. M. Gusofsky as Herschuni was in every respect an impersonation of the highest order. All praise must be given to Mr. Isaacowitch for his masterly exposition of Count Bluchovsky; and Mme. Goldstein played Feiga in a highly creditable manner. Reizele was portrayed in a tender and sympathetic style by Mme. J. Kayer; and that popular favourite, Mr. J. Scherman, was exceedingly good as Noti Myer, into which character he thoroughly infused the necessary business and humour. During the week *The Son of the Star, Menasha, The Bigamist, The Wise Man, The Savages*, and *Sulamith* have been played, whilst on Wednesday night the benefit of Mr. S. Feinman took place, who thought the opportunity was too good to be missed, and therefore presented a handsome diamond ring to the esteemed acting-manager, Mr. Fred Brown, as a remembrance for all the attention and kindness he had given him during his engagement at the Pavilion Theatre.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 7, the Musical Play, entitled "THE SPRING CHICKEN."

The first production to follow pantomime at the Dalston Theatre is the Gaiety musical comedy, entitled *The Spring Chicken*, which is brightly presented by the members of Mr. George Dance's company. Mr. J. S. Durant as the advocate, Gustave Barbori, is chiefly noticeable for the amount of energy which he displays in his embodiment of the character. The same element predominates in the case of Mr. Harry Averell, Barbori's head clerk, who comes out best in the parasol duet with Miss Chrissie Ralland, who is a petite Rosalie. Mr. Fred Payne causes many a hearty laugh by his quaint acting as Mr. Girdle, the advocate's father-in-law; and Miss Nellie Kavanagh as Mrs. Girdle becomes a decided favourite with the audience, her songs, "In Regent-street" and "I guess," being encored in most determined fashion. Miss Vivienne Clare is light and interesting as Dulcie Barbori; Mr. A. Drinkwater as the Baron Papouche provides a good sketch of a familiar stage character; and Miss Clarice Cartner is a dignified Baroness. Mr. C. Brierley as Girdle's son, and Miss Lilian Errol as the niece of Girdle, do well as a couple of frolicsome youngsters. Mr. Edwin Dodds as Felix, head waiter at "The Crimson Butterfly," is responsible for a good deal of merriment; and Mr. E. Cecil Moylan as the proprietor of the restaurant impersonates to the life the excitable foreigner. The orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Knight Pearce.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

MELBOURNE, Nov. 27, 1906.—PRINCESS'S THEATRE (Lessees, The Brough-Flemming Comedy Company).—After a most successful run of two weeks, *Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace* was withdrawn on Friday evening in favour of a revival of *Dr. Wake's Patient*, which was presented to a large and enthusiastic audience on Saturday evening. Mr. Flemming's admirable realisation of the full-blooded Devonshire farmer has improved by age, and is undoubtedly the finest character he has presented to Melbourne playgoers. Miss Beatrice Day repeated her excellent performance of Lady Gerania; Lady St. Olbyn is certainly one of Mrs. Brough's cleverest impersonations; Mr. Carter Pickford made a satisfactory Dr. Wake; the rest of the characters were admirably played by Mr. Macmahon, Miss Gordon Lee, Miss Emma Temple, Miss Bessie Major, Mr. J. Forde, Mr. Dundas Walker, and Miss Kate Gair. The comedy was mounted with its usual completeness and received with as much delight as on its first representation.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE (Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson; Business-Manager, Mr. George Tallis).—Bumper houses are the order of the day at this theatre, and, judging from present appearances, *The Spring Chicken* has come to stay. On Saturday evening the burlesque *The Fatal Marriage; or, A Deadly Wedding*, was re-introduced, and proved highly successful. Miss Morrell has established herself a firm favourite with Melbourne audiences, her rendering of the two numbers, "Rosalie" and "Gently," nightly calling forth genuine applause. The mounting is on the usual lavish scale which characterises all Mr. Williamson's productions.

THEATRE ROYAL (Lessee, Mr. William Anderson; Business-Manager, Mr. Julius Grant).—The sensational melodrama *The Power and the Glory* continues to attract large audiences. On Saturday night the many striking incidents in the performance were loudly applauded, and the various members of the company met with enthusiastic receptions. On Saturday evening next Mr. Anderson will stage *The Face at the Window* for a brief season of twelve nights.

OPERA HOUSE (Proprietor, Mr. Harry Rickards; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Aydon).—A remarkably clever turn was presented for the first time on Saturday evening in the shape of Messrs. Caselli and James, expert banjoists, who gave a finished performance, which met with instant approval from an enormous house. Messrs. Caselli and James are among the first arrivals of the numerous star artists engaged by Mr. Rickards on his recent visit to London. Seibo, the champion club manipulator and plate thrower, repeated his wonderful act; the Cabiacs astonished with their acrobatic feat; Keely and Agnes gave an eccentric turn; Duncan and Godfrey appeared in a new sketch; while interesting items were contributed by the Sandow Girls, Miss Maud Fanning, Mr. Arthur Elliott, Tom Dawson, Alf Lawton, and a host of others.

THE Gaiety Theatre, under the able management of Mr. Joe Solomons, continues to draw large houses. Artists now appearing with great success include the Three Swifts, Frank York, Nancy Symmonds, Elsie Babs, Reuben Davis, Doris Baker, Winnie Bond, Arthur Morley, Jack Hagan, Frank Melvin, and Fred Ireland.

SYDNEY, DEC. 4, 1906.—"Wonderland City" is the latest and greatest of Australasian ventures in the arena of entertainment. Mr. William Anderson, having secured a suitable site, at an expenditure of £20,000, has transformed the place into a delectable spot. On the 1st inst., although hardly ready for the public, he opened his twenty acres of shows, shelters, and every kind of thing that could gladden and entertain. The Premier officially declared "Wonderland City" open in the presence of 20,000 people. Five thousnad electric lights, large and small, made the place a veritable fairyland. Dells, grottos, cosy bowers, a maze, a switchback, helter-skelter, a vast skating-rink, and cognate methods of time-passing were largely patronised. The King's Theatre, seating 800, was densely packed with visitors, who were treated to a variety entertainment. Mr. Anderson himself planned and supervised everything with the aid of Mr. C. W. St. Julian, and "Wonderland City" will be managed by Mr. I. Josephs, whilst Mr. Anderson attends to his other ventures.

"TURNED UP" is Messrs. Meynell, Gunn, and Varna's change of bill at the Palace, and Mark Melford's fun-maker vastly delighted our local playgoers. Mr. James Lindsay has a capital part in Bones, once so popular with the late Robert Brough. Mr. Lindsay captured the favour of his public, and made a genuine success of his comedy. Mr. H. Halley was a capital Captain Medway. The cast included Miss E. Guildford Quin, Messrs. Harry Hill, J. W. Deverell, Frank Hawthorne (specially good), the Misses Bernard, Violet Dene, Helen Russell, Florence Leigh, and the little nigger boy, Master Willie Parke. The production was directed by Mr. H. W. Varna, and preceded by *Wig and Gown*.

"THE VIRGINIAN" has caught on so strongly that the Waldron-Humphrey-Kirkwood company at Her Majesty's will need no change of bill until the arrival of Miss Tittell Burne, who opens in *La Tosca* on the 8th inst. with Mr. J. C. Williamson's dramatic company, in which Mr. Thomas Kingston will be the Baron Scarpia.

"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING" is turning people away at he Criterion, just as *The Fatal Wedding* did, and with much better reason, having its superiority as a drama in mind. Mr. Harcourt Beatty makes Paul Valmar a veritable hero of romance; and Miss May Congdon, with Mr. Chas. Vane and the rest of Messrs. Meynell and Gunn's large company of adults and "kiddies," tell the story of adventure and triumphant virtue with nightly success.

THE Tivoli folk gladly welcomed Miss Leonie Dixon in her clever songs and dances; and Miss Gladys Conway and Mr. Joe Lashwood gave a good performance on their opening night. Tom Dawson came back and joined the company, which includes the Alaskas, Stewart and Lorraine, Harry Tate's *Fishing* party, Miss Cassie Walmer, Pat Mason, Irving Sayles, and a host more of Mr. Harry Rickard's specially selected artists. Mr. J. C. Late, the general-manager, returned from New Zealand during the week.

The Bondman reaches its hundredth representation on Wednesday afternoon at the Adelphi. In the evening the management will celebrate the event by presenting a copy of the cloth-bound edition of Mr. Hall Caine's play, containing numerous illustrations, to every member of the audience.

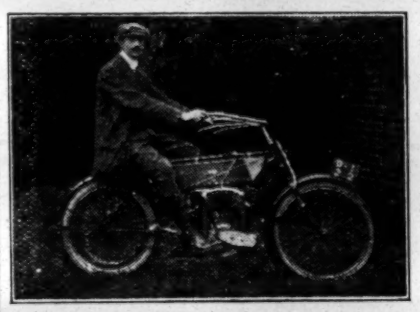
THE MOTOR CYCLE AND THE PROFESSION.

We are all long-suffering as far as Sunday travelling is concerned, writes Mr. F. C. Dee, business manager, for the *Freedom of Suzanne* company, and it was not until I had had a surfeit of Sunday's tedious journeys by rail that I decided to invest in a motor-cycle as a means of passing a more pleasant "day of rest" than the "cooped up" confinement I had undergone on the S.E. and C.R. and L.B. and C.R. I had already proved to my own satisfaction its usefulness in running round the outskirts of the town (in which I was resident-manager) in checking extra printing positions, and a light runabout of moderate power and convenient size appealed to me in the motor-cycle on tour. So I made a start with a 2-h.p. engine, and by adding a strong luggage carrier, extra wide mudguards, and afew other sundries I had soon transformed the machine into a very serviceable mount.

I must confess I was a trifle uneasy at the first few initial attempts, but with a bit of luck I got to my destinations safely, and in fairly good time. To fight some of the hills around Yorkshire and Derbyshire it needed more than a 2-h.p., and until I had a machine of 3½-h.p. I never really tasted the delights of motoring. Of course, the initial outlay on the machine's purchase is the only item that need worry the hesitating purchaser, the expenses to follow are for upkeep, such as petrol, grease, and tyres. One gallon of petrol, costing 1s. 3d. will last an average rider 90 to 120 miles, whilst grease is even less expensive. As regards tyres, I generally run through a set every year; but as these are included in the original outlay, they cannot be taken into consideration, and any novice, after one or two attempts should be able to repair a puncture or burst.

It is abundantly clear to me, from members of profession I have met, that a good many would avail themselves of this form of locomotion if they could be satisfied in the knowledge that they would not be having constant breakdowns, but I can assure them that since the motor-cycle has now reached such a high pitch of efficiency they can set their minds at ease on this count. All who have goods to sell will tell you that the most expensive is the cheapest in the long run. So with motor cycles: buy a good one, and your trouble is at an end. I have never spent a penny on repairs beyond tyres, which (by my own laziness) I have not troubled to repair, and this would not amount to more than 10s. in a season. Having ridden as a pleasant combination of business and pleasure since 1903, I do not hesitate to ask our sporting element to give "the sport" a trial, feeling, when once they have tasted the delights, they will become thorough converts to our theatrical motoring ranks, to which I have added two members in *The Freedom of Suzanne* company this autumn tour alone.

In this company we have four motor-cyclists, and strange to say, they all write Vindee Special motor-cycles, one having a side-car attached for a passenger. The fashion in motor-cycles, as with ladies' hats, changes every season, and it is only the desire to be up-to-date that I have had the latest in machines every year, my present mount being a 5-h.p. Vindee Special, and with so much power I am convinced that unmountable hills are few and far between. In conclusion, I would say



that I shall be only too pleased to offer intending purchasers any assistance I can in the choice of a machine most suitable to work for which it is required. Beyond the original outlay, the only expenses in up-keep are:—Petrol, 1s. 3d. a gallon, lasting 90 to 120 odd miles; grease, 1s. 6d., lasting three or four hundred miles; but one must not forget that one's "digs" bill will run up accordingly, for the motor-cycle is the best appetiser one could wish for.

ACTORS' COMMONWEALTH.

There is a happy little community of actors and actresses at Terry's Theatre, who are running a pantomime on co-operative lines. The fact that they are doing so must not be accepted as an indication that the theatrical profession generally have adopted the principles of Karl Marx, but is due to the pluck and resourcefulness of the pantomime company referred to.

After two weeks' rehearsal of *Little Red Riding Hood* at Terry's, Mr. Samuel James, who was "running the show" in conjunction with Mr. W. H. C. Nation, produced the pantomime on Boxing Day, and on the following Saturday a notice was placed at the stage-door, stating that the production would come to a conclusion at the fall of the curtain that evening. The notice indicated something in the way of a dispute between Mr. Nation and Mr. James. Into that it is not necessary to enter. There was a meeting of the principal members of the company, and they decided that the pantomime should not be terminated so quickly. Mr. Nation also played a part in the deliberations, and it was eventually agreed that all the people who were receiving a salary not exceeding £3 should be paid in full, and that the other artists should share whatever balance was remaining, pro rata according to their previously arranged salaries. Mr. Nation consented to give them the same percentage that he had offered to Mr. James, and, furthermore, generously guaranteed that the "takings," so far as the artists were concerned, should not fall beneath a certain amount.

"We went on," said Mr. Fred Storey, in telling the story to our interviewer, "and last Saturday the lesser people were paid in full and the principal members of the company shared the balance. And the show is still going on! It is a great mistake for people to talk jeeringly of a 'commonwealth,' and to suggest that actors and actresses don't work well together. The people here are simply like a big family, and support each other just as if they were assisting to present a pantomime for Mr. Collins at Drury Lane, and getting their salary in the ordinary way.

"How long will the pantomime last? Well, we may go on for ten or twelve weeks, for all we know at present. There have been very good audiences, and proof of the satisfactory condition of affairs is to be found in the fact that Mr. Nation has this week bettered his previous offer to us, and has guaranteed us more money."

Mr. Storey, who is playing the part of Lawyer Fox in *Red Riding Hood* at Terry's, was engaged for the pantomime at very short notice. He was appearing in *The Merchant of Venice* at Liverpool when the call to London came, and he was only able to secure a week's rehearsal for the present production. It was, of course, a quick study, and, we are pleased to say, a successful one.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA. 1850—1900.

(COPYRIGHT.)

In these columns it is proposed to give a strictly alphabetical arrangement of the titles of plays produced during the last fifty years. It will be the most complete list ever published, and should prove invaluable to authors desiring to discover whether a certain title has ever been used, and when. To members of the dramatic profession it will be useful in determining the dates of plays in which they have achieved successes. Our readers are politely requested to advise us of any omission or inaccuracy which they may notice.

This list as soon as complete will be published in cheap book form.

TELEGRAM, Strand, Nov. 23, 1857.
TELEPHONE GIRL, Wolverhampton, May 25, 1896.
TELEPHONE, THE, Strand, April 22, 1878.
TELL AND THE STRIKE OF THE CANTONS, Strand, Dec. 26, 1859.
TELL RE-TOLD, St. George's Hall, Feb. 17, 1894.
TELL WITH A VENGEANCE, Alexandra, Liverpool, Sept. 4, 1867.
TEMPEST OF THE HEART, East London, March 18, 1868.
TEMPESTS IN TEACUPS, Forest Hill, Dec. 13, 1899.
TEMPTER, THE, Haymarket, Sept. 20, 1893.
TEMPEST TOSSED, Marylebone, Nov. 15, 1886.
TEMPLAR, Princess's, Nov. 9, 1850.
TEMPTATION, Theatre Royal, Scarborough, Aug. 12, 1898.
TEMPTATIONS OF THE GREAT CITY, Theatre Royal, Bath, Oct. 3, 1898.
TEMPTED, Theatre Royal, Longton, Dec. 2, 1872.
TEMPTED, FALLEN, AND SAVED, Theatre Royal, Cheltenham, Oct. 24, 1871.
TEMPTED, THE, Theatre Royal, Norwich, Nov. 24, 1871.
TEMPTING BAIT, Opera Comique, Oct. 16, 1875.
TENANT FOR LIFE, Sadler's Wells, Nov. 1, 1858.
TENDER CHORD, Charing Cross, April 19, 1873.
TEN MINUTES FOR REFRESHMENTS, Olympic, Jan. 14, 1882.
TENNIS, Theatre Royal, Swansea, March 6, 1893.
TEN OF 'EM, Drury Lane, Dec. 2, 1874.
TENTERHOOKS, Comedy, May 1, 1889.
10.30 DOWN EXPRESS, Bootle, June 19, 1899.
TERAPH, Theatre Royal, Darlington, Jan. 26, 1900.
TERAPH, THE, Court, May 29, 1900.
TERESA, Camberwell, May 16, 1898.
TERMAGANT, THE, Her Majesty's, Sept. 1, 1898.
TERPSICHORE, Lyric, July 12, 1894.
TERRIBLE FRIGHT, St. George's Hall, June 18, 1884.
TERRIBLE SECRET, Drury Lane, Oct. 28, 1861.
TERRIBLE TINKER, Astley's, Dec. 27, 1869.
TERRIBLE TRILBY, Brighton, March 12, 1896.
TERROR OF LONDON, Grecian, Oct. 23, 1879.
TERROR OF PARIS, Opera House, Burnley, July 2, 1894.
TERRORS OF A GAY CITY, Cradley Heath, Jan. 21, 1897.
TERRY; OR, TRUE TO HIS TRUST, Parkhurst, April 27, 1891.
TESS, Blackpool, Jan. 5, 1900.
TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES, St. James's, March 2, 1897.
TEST, A, Ladbroke Hall, Dec. 15, 1885.
TEST MATCH, Camberwell, Oct. 1, 1900.
TEXAN, THE, Princess's, June 21, 1894.
THAD; OR, LINKED BY LOVE, Grecian, July 29, 1872.
THAMES, THE, Surrey, Sept. 29, 1879.
THANKS TO JACK, Eastbourne, April 11, 1891.
THAT AWFUL BOY, Prince of Wales's, Southampton, Jan. 15, 1891.
THAT AWFUL LEGACY, Stalybridge, Sept. 27, 1898.
THAT BEAUTIFUL BICEPS, Drury Lane, Sept. 23, 1876.
THAT BEAUTIFUL WRETCH, Opera House, Liverpool, Dec. 26, 1881.
THAT BLESSED BABY, Adelphi, Feb. 11, 1856.
THAT CHARMING MRS. SPENCER, Ipswich, Nov. 18, 1897.
THAT COUPLE FROM CUBA, Edinburgh, May 27, 1898.
THAT DOCTOR CUPID, Vaudeville, Jan. 14, 1889.
THAT DREADFUL BOY, St. George's Hall, Dec. 26, 1882.
THAT FATAL HOUR, Shepherd's Bush, Oct. 8, 1895.
THAT FATAL MENU, St. George's Hall, Oct. 29, 1894.
THAT GIRL, Haymarket, July 30, 1890.
THAT HORRID BIGGINS, New Royalty, Jan. 29, 1866.
THAT HOUSE IN HIGH STREET, Strand, July 28, 1856.
THAT IDIOT CARLO, Theatre Royal, Blackburn, Feb. 12, 1891.
THAT MYSTERIOUS NOVEL, Steinway Hall, April 2, 1897.
THAT NAUGHTY CAN CAN, Princess's, Edinburgh, Nov. 24, 1873.
THAT RASCAL RUDOLPH, Bayswater, March 29, 1897.
THAT RING, St. George's Hall, May 4, 1893.
THAT'S WHY SHE LOVED HIM, Theatre Royal, Preston, May 8, 1876.
THAT TELEGRAM, Globe, Nov. 12, 1888.
THAT TERRIBLE GIRL, Royalty, March 9, 1895.
THAT TERRIBLE TURK, Shakespeare, April 4, 1898.
THAT WOMAN IN PINK, Terry's, April 30, 1891.
THAT YOUNG MAN, Vaudeville, Dec. 23, 1884.
THE 15TH OCTOBER, Alhambra, March 22, 1875.
THEFT FOR A LIFE, Prince of Wales's, Wolverhampton, April 23, 1877.
THEMIS, Royalty, March 29, 1880.
THEN! AND NOW! St. George's Hall, March 30, 1891.
THEN FLOWERS GREW FAIRER, Ealing, Feb. 18, 1892.
THEODORA, Gaiety, July 11, 1885.
THEODORA, ACTRESS AND EMPRESS, Surrey, April 9, 1866.
THEORY AND PRACTICE, Terry's, April 28, 1893.
THERE AND BACK, Theatre Royal, Bath, Dec. 7, 1895.
THERESE, Princess's, April 26, 1850.
THERESE RAQUIN, Royalty, Oct. 9, 1891.
THERE'S MANY A SLIP 'TWIXT CUP AND THE LIP, St. George's, Jan. 4, 1877.
THERMIDOR, Opera Comique, May 23, 1892.
THESPIS AMONG THE OLYMPIANS, Gaiety, Dec. 26, 1871.
THEY ALL LOVE JACK, Bootle, Oct. 3, 1898.
THEY WERE MARRIED, Strand, June 17, 1892.
THIEF MAKER, East London, Feb. 1, 1878.
THIEVES! THIEVES! Olympic, March 12, 1857.
THIRD CLASS AND FIRST CLASS, Britannia, Aug. 1, 1859.
THIRD TIME, St. George's Hall, Feb. 22, 1896.
"1313," Folly, May 7, 1879.
£30,000; OR, THE DREAD SECRET, Elephant and Castle, Oct. 11, 1875.
THIRTY-THREE NEXT BIRTHDAY, Princess's, Nov. 22, 1858.
THIRTY YEARS IN SIBERIA, Standard, Sept. 22, 1896.
THIS HOUSE TO LET, East London, Sept. 11, 1869.
THIS PLOT OF GROUND TO LET, Alexandra, Jan. 26, 1874.
THISTLE AND RAMPANT LION, Dundee, March 11, 1872.
THIS WOMAN AND THAT, Globe, Aug. 2, 1890.
THIS WORLD OF OURS, Theatre Royal, Brighton, July 20, 1891.
THOMAS THE RHYMER, Marlborough, March 30, 1894.
THOMPSON'S VISIT, Standard, Sept. 23, 1872.
THORGRIM, Drury Lane, April 22, 1890.
THORNEYCROFT COUSINS, Wolverhampton, April 17, 1888.
THOROUGHBRED, Toole's, Feb. 13, 1895.
THOSE HORRID GAROTTERS, Olympic, Feb. 3, 1873.
THOSE MYSTERIOUS SHOTS, St. George's Hall, June 28, 1894.
THOSE . . . . . PUT ASUNDER, Acton, Dec. 15, 1897.
THOSE TERRIBLE TWINS, Theatre Royal, Cardiff, June 25, 1900.
THOSE VOLUNTEERS, Theatre Royal, Bath, Sept. 20, 1875.
THOU SHALT NOT KILL, Shakespeare, July 31, 1899.
THREAD OF SILK, Crystal Palace, Nov. 3, 1881.
THREATENING EYE, Prince of Wales's, Greenwich, May 12, 1885.
THREE BEARS, Haymarket, Dec. 26, 1853.
THREE BEGGARS, Royal Academy of Music, July 28, 1883.
THREE BLACK SEALS, Astley's, April 25, 1864.
THREE BLIND MICE, Theatre Royal, Grimsby, March 5, 1883.
THREE CONSPIRATORS, Theatre Royal, Belfast, Oct. 16, 1874.
THREE CUCKOOS, Haymarket, March 13, 1850.
THREE DOCTORS, Hatfield, Feb. 6, 1896.

THEATRICAL WEDDING.

A pretty and interesting wedding took place on Tuesday, at All Saints' Church, Norfolk-square, W., the contracting parties being Mr. Frank Beresford, who returned from South Africa the previous week, having concluded his fourth engagement as leading man with Mr. Leonard Rayne, and Miss Dorothy Mahomed (Dorothy Milne), second daughter of the late Dr. Mahomed, of Guy's Hospital, and Mrs. Mahomed, of 152, Harley-street, W. The Rev. W. Boyd officiated, and the service was choral, the solo being admirably rendered by Mr. Fred. W. Carter.

The bride, who looked charming in white crêpe de chine, with jasmine wreath and veil, attended by two little bridesmaids in white silk, with wreaths of forget-me-nots, was given away by her brother, Dr. Deane, the bridegroom being supported by his brother, Mr. J. Cooke Beresford, as best man. Amongst the numerous congregation were Mr. and Mrs. Raine Kennedy (Miss Wynne Matthison), Mr. Leonard Rayne, Mrs. Tennyson Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Fallowes (Miss Annie Leaf), Mrs. Geoffrey Pearson, Miss Maud Stewart-Drewry, Mr. Stanley Drewitt, Miss Hilda Sims, Miss Ethel Chown, Mrs. Darley Hartley, Mrs. Chas. J. Davies, and Miss Katherine Brook. A reception, which was largely attended, followed at 152, Harley-street, the residence of the mother of the bride. Later in the day the happy couple left for Aldeburg, Suffolk, where the first part of the honeymoon will be spent.

MEMORIAL TO MR. JOHN A. ATKIN

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I have been approached by many old friends of the late Mr. John A. Atkin who desire that something shall be done to perpetuate the memory of one who was universally beloved, and whose loss is now widely mourned, and, being one of his oldest friends, I venture to make this appeal through your valuable columns.

It has been proposed that there should be erected a headstone to his grave, Mrs. Atkins's permission for which having been freely given. The following gentlemen have already signified their willingness to act as a committee:—Tom H. Taylor, *The Worst Woman in London* and *The Female Swindler* companies; W. R. King, manager, Dalston Theatre; Harry Chappell, manager, Standard Theatre; &c., and we guarantee at once £5.

—Yours faithfully, ASHLEY PAGE.

Standard Theatre, Jan. 10.

N.B.—Any friends of the late Mr. J. A. Atkin wishing to participate in this movement should send their contributions to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, hon. treasurer, at *The Era* offices. All contributions will be duly announced in these columns.

"THE BONDMAN" AT ADELPHI.

The Bondman, interrupted in its successful run at Old Drury by the sway of King Pantomime, has gone to the traditional home of melodrama, the Adelphi, and has found there an environment equally as advantageous as that at the National theatre. It was played on Saturday night at the Strand house to a storm of enthusiastic encouragement, which completely justified Mr. Otho Stuart's interesting experiment, and the reception of Mr. Hall Caine's play reminded one of the first nights at the historic house in the eighties, when the lamented Will Terriss, as the true British hero—with ringing tones and manly voice—was the idol of pit and gallery. The play has been shorn of certain realistic details—such as the much-advertised cow and the haystack; but in all essentials the performance is quite equal to that given at Drury Lane, most of the excellent company selected by Mr. Arthur Collins for the first performance again doing duty.

The chief exception was the substitution of Miss Edith Wynne-Matthison for Mrs. Patrick Campbell in the part of Greeba. The younger actress has established her right to a leading position at a London theatre by her admirable work as a tragedienne at the Court, in such parts as Electra, and the pathos of her beautiful performance of Everyman touched the hearts of devout listeners on both sides of the Atlantic. In the part of Greeba there is much silent suffering in the second act, and few opportunities for display until we reach the scenes in Sicily. Miss Wynne-Matthison, however, treated the interlude of Jason's declaration in the second act with infinite delicacy and tact, and hearts went out to Greeba in her agonising doubts as to the fate of the man to whom she had so solemnly plighted her troth. The interview with Jason at the President's house in Sicily sounded, however, a more strenuous note, and the actress rose to the full heights of a really fine dramatic situation, and handled it with genuine power. The house was delighted, and curtain calls proclaimed an assured triumph.

Mr. Frank Cooper's performance of Jason was what it always has been—magnificent, and that playgoers remembered this fact was apparent as soon as the ragged, unkempt sailor made his appearance in the Hall of Fairbrother Farm. The cheers from all parts of the house must have been gratifying evidence to Mr Cooper of his excellent work, and he made haste to justify the good opinion so felicitously expressed by again enthralling the house in every scene of importance wherein Jason figures. *The Bondman* would be worth seeing, if only for the firmness and virility of an impersonation that will live in the memory. Jason, the vagabond, bitterly revengeful, and Jason softened by love—magnanimous, big-hearted—were in splendid contrast.

In the great sulphur mine scene Mr. Walter Hampden, who succeeds Mr. Henry Ainley in the part of Michael Sunlocks, gave fine effect to the sufferings of the deposed President, and the impression created was exceedingly moving. Mr. Hampden was somewhat nervous in the earlier scene, but warmed to his work, and his success was never in doubt.

Mr. Lal Brough's amusing study of senility has gained considerably since the first night, and Grandfather, with his funny little trot and his shrewd remarks, kept the house laughing whenever he was on the stage.

That fine actor, Mr. Henry Neville, could not improve on his entirely satisfying representation of Adam Fairbrother, and the dear old farmer, with his simple faith and deep affection, again stood out as a most lovable character.

Miss Marie Illington's Mrs. Fairbrother reminds one strongly of George Eliot's Mrs. Poyser in "Adam Bede." Expediency is the primary plank in her philosophy, and her advocacy of the doctrine of what may be termed "an eye to the main chance" is punctuated with many shrewd observations, to which Miss Illington's crisp delivery and excellent accentuation of points do most complete justice.

Mr. Austin Melford has advanced his reputation considerably as an actor by his really fine embodiment of the degenerate priest, Father Ferrati, which evoked the admiration of the Delphians on Saturday as much as it had done at Old Drury. It was a genuine triumph, and Mr. Melford deserved the cheers that greeted him at the conclusion of his scene in the President's house, and again in the final phase of the drama at the Presbytery on Lonely Island.

It is Mr. Oscar Adye's fortune to be associated with the careers of interesting stage villains, and he was quite at home in emphasising all the essentials that go to establish Dr. Boni's right to the sound detestation of gallery and pit, and though never under-acting the part, he did not fail to realise its sinister import.

Mr. Francis Chamier gave the necessary foreign air and warmth to the part of the Marshal of Police; and Miss Dora Clements was characteristic in a small part.

Miss Florence Wood's Christian Ann—a small part—was the essence of good-nature, kindliness, and common sense; and mention should also be made of the good work done by Miss Grace Edwin, Miss Rhoda Ray, Miss Eily Malyon, Mr. Fred Grove, Mr. Stephens, and Mr. Hewetson. It is interesting to note that "Mr. Derwent," who appeared as one of the convicts in the sulphur mines, is a younger son of Mr. Hall Caine.

AMUSEMENTS IN NEW ZEALAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

WELLINGTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Thursday, Nov. 1.—Messrs. Willoughby and Ward's company opened a nine nights' stay with *The Man from Mexico* to a fairly full theatre. The farce is rattled through in good style, and the principal parts are played by Miss Grace Palotta, Mr. Hugh J. Ward, and Mr. George Willoughby, of whom it may be said that the two latter work exceedingly hard. Mr. Ward's playing is delightful; Mr. Willoughby plays with great restraint, and is of great service in a poor part; whilst Miss Palotta struggles gamely with another and even poorer rôle. Smaller parts are played by Misses Olive Wilton and Gillian Scaife, Messrs. Edward Bonfield, Reginald Wykeham, C. Warburton Gamble, and A. Cornell.

THEATRE ROYAL.—The Fuller entertainment still attracts considerable audiences, who seem mightily pleased with the fare provided.

OPERA HOUSE.—Saturday, Nov. 10. — To-night, Messrs. Willoughby and Ward staged *The Talk of the Town*, and the large audience shrieked with laughter at the humours of the piece. Miss Palotta was delightful as a stage Américaine; Mr. Ward again contributing work of the highest calibre; and Mr. Willoughby abetting with a good and consistent piece of work as the prize-fighter. The season closed on Nov. 12, and has been a very real success, the houses having been uniformly full.

A NEW hall is being erected at Abertillery, Mon., by the proprietor, Mr. A. Tilney, upon the site hitherto occupied by his sawmills, which have been rebuilt on adjacent land. The inside dimensions are 110ft. long by 45ft., giving seating accommodation when completed for 2,000. There will be end and side galleries, with separate exits upon three roads from these, as well as those from pit and stage. The new hall is to have every accommodation in dressing-rooms and sanitary appliances, whilst the comfort of both professionals and patrons will be studied in regard to warmth, ventilation, &c. The architects for the building, which is expected to be finished in about two months, are Habershon and Faulkner, of Newport.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MR. WILLIAM GIFFARD.

Like many others, Mr. Giffard began the serious part of life—that of earning a living—in quite a different sphere to the attractive surroundings of the stage. He was educated with a view to becoming an engineer, but in consequence of indifferent health went out to Canada and took up farming. This was followed by an experience in the backwoods, trapping and lumbering—hard, but health-giving work. An occasional visit to a large city such as Toronto, and a night at the theatre, to which at all times Mr. Giffard was considerably attached, brought on the "acting fever" which has more or less incapacitated him for other employment ever since. In America Mr. Giffard fulfilled one or two engagements for which the remuneration promised was not forthcoming and the experience, though useful, was dearly bought.

Returning to England seventeen years ago, he again encountered "Mr. Bogus," and upon one occasion had the distinction of assisting in the carrying of the scenery from one town to another. The forgetfulness of the "Ghost" to even shuffle, let alone walk, induced Mr. Giffard to seek new fields. Some of his earlier engagements were with the late Frank Scudamore's plays. A tour as the "jeune premier" in *The Flying Scud* followed, and then a period under the management of Mr. Henry Dundas. After that, Mr. Giffard was in the original production of *The Dark Continent*, Messrs. Morell and Mouillot's first venture, and he also supported Mr. Mouillot in his répertoire, including *The Bishop of the Fleet*, *Garrick*, and *The School for Scandal*.

In 1892 Mr. Giffard joined the then famous Calvert and Helmsley Répertoire Company. They played classical drama, comedy, melodrama, and farce, appearing often in six to eight pieces weekly. It was a school of acting in the full sense of the term. Enthusiasm and love of work for work's sake was the dominating tone. Mr. Louis Calvert, with all the traditions of his great father and his own remarkable intuition for stage management, was the lead, supported by Miss May Harvey, an actress of exceptional brilliance. Mr. Calvert produced and the company had the privilege of appearing in many notable performances for the Independent Theatre Society and the Arts Club of Manchester and Liverpool. Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Richard II.* (the latter without scenery), Goethe's tragedy *Clavigo*, Ibsen's drama *Rosmersholm* and his comedy *An Enemy of the People*, and Browning's *Blot on the 'Scutcheon* were some of the works. Many of the performances took place in the one time Gentlemen's Concert Hall at Manchester, the site of which is now occupied by the Midland Railway Company's hotel.

The company occasionally played Ibsen's comedy *An Enemy of the People* on tour, and there are two rather amusing anecdotes in connection with these performances. At a well-known fashionable Lancashire seaside resort the theme of the comedy—a contaminated water supply—happened to be a burning local question, and upon the night the company played the piece the opposing factions in the Town Council occupied the private boxes facing each other. The frequent allusions to the folly, the selfishness, and the determination to stifle the truth by the municipal authorities in the play were hugely enjoyed by both sides as typical of each other. The other little tale is the remark of a disgusted pitite, who was heard to say as he left the theatre, "That ain't acting—all that sort o' thing 'appens at 'ome every day." Truly a compliment to the extraordinary naturalness of the dialogue and action. Few authors

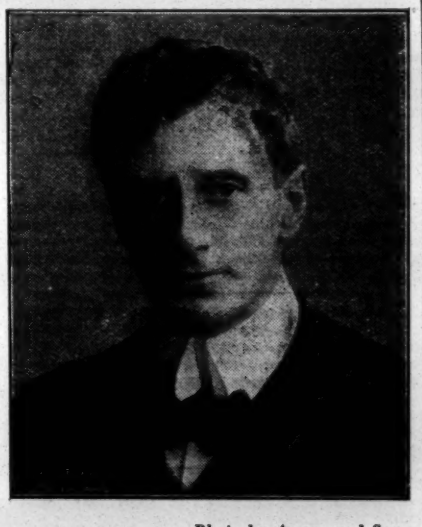


Photo by Annan and Son.

MR. WILLIAM GIFFARD

more deserve the gratitude of artists than Henrik Ibsen, for he indeed wrote "actors' parts."

Upon one occasion, during the annual visit to the Isle of Man, the company had a special production of *Richard III.* On the first night Mr. Calvert, who is a most enthusiastic fisherman, caused some considerable anxiety as the opening time drew near by his non-appearance. After an uneasy search, the coming Richard was discerned bobbing up and down in a row-boat in Douglas Bay, more intent upon landing a large codfish than eager for the fray with Richmond.

In 1893 Mr. Calvert and Mr. Helmsley dissolved partnership, and Mr. Giffard was appointed business-manager, with occasional special parts and understudy to Mr. Calvert. It was then a combination one might well be proud to manage, unequalled save by the Benson and Compton companies. It was while with Mr. Calvert that Mr. Giffard had the happiness to meet his wife. She shared all the leads with Miss Ada Mellon. Of course there was Mrs. Louis Calvert with the company, a charming and clever actress, who played the mothers both for and to the company. That fine old costume drama *Proof* was one of the staple bills, and upon one occasion at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, there was a difficulty in casting the part of the Grand Dame. At the last moment Mrs. Charles Calvert volunteered to take up the part, and Mr. Giffard had the pleasure of going from Newcastle to Manchester to escort Mrs. Calvert north. She received an ovation upon her appearance, and remained with the company a long time.

In 1896 Mr. Calvert, in conjunction with Mr Flanagan, commenced that series of remarkable Shakespearean revivals at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester. For many months the company had the details of *Henry IV.*, Part 1, under consideration, but just previous to the production Mr. Giffard commenced a long period of touring in costume drama, with his wife in the leads. Their first venture was *No Cross, No Crown*, followed by *The Black Bishop*, *The Red Coat*, *A Bid for Fortune*, and at one time a répertoire including *Garrick*, *Monte Cristo*, and *Proof*. In 1901 the company had the privilege of appearing in a production of *Richelieu* for the benefit of Mr. Jonathan Dewhurst, himself appearing as the Cardinal—a grandly impressive performance.

Mr. Giffard is the author of several plays, and writes under the name of Barry Williams. He attributes his success as a producer and stage-manager to the training he had under Mr. Louis Calvert, and speaks of that gentleman in terms of enthusiastic admiration.

THE LATE MRS. EDMUND PHELPS.

Mrs. Edmund Phelps, who died on the 2nd inst. at 22, Sandown-gardens, Goodmayes, the residence of her son, was the daughter-in-law of Samuel Phelps, and her father, John Hudspeth, was an actor who was for a long time conneced with the old Queen's Theatre, afterwards the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Tottenham Court-road. Under the name of Henrietta Hudspeth she, in 1862, appeared at Sadler's Wells Theatre, under the management of her distinguished father-in-law. Then followed an engagement with Mme. Celeste at the Lyceum Theatre, and a season at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, then under the control of Mr. Mercer Simpson. At the Lyceum she appeared in a now forgotten play, entitled *Paris and Pleasure*. It was there she met Lydia Thompson, George Vining, Henry Neville, and John Drew. Since then she has played in all the principal theatres in London and the provinces. The younger generation of playgoers will remember Mrs. Phelps best as a member of Mrs. John Wood's company, at the Court Theatre. It was during this engagement she played Lady M'Phail in A. W. Pinero's comedy, *The Cabinet Minister*, and the cook in Mr. F. Horner's *The Late Lamented*. Years ago Mrs. Phelps toured America with Charles Wyndham, appearing in *Pink Dominos*,

Photo. by W. E. Wright

MRS. EDMUND PHELPS.

Brighton, *Naval Engagements*, &c. Those who remember *A Night Out* at the Vaudeville will have a pleasant recollection of her performance in that amusing piece. She filled an engagement with Mr John Hare at the Garrick Theatre, toured many years ago with H. B. Conway in old comedies, and she appeared as Lady Grey in *A Gaiety Girl*. When a complimentary benefit was given Mr. James Perfect, on his retirement from the position of manager of the Parkhurst Theatre, Holloway, she recited with the same charm of manner that always characterised her acting a rhymed address, specially written for the occasion by Mr. R. T. Baines.

On Nov. 25, 1904, Mrs. Phelps was given a benefit matinée at His Majesty's Theatre, organised by Mr. Tree, Mr. A. F. Henderson, Miss May Warley, and others. The programme included *The Man Who Was*, with Mr. Tree as Limmason, and Messrs. Arthur Bourchier, George Alexander, Cyril Maude, and other well-known actors and actresses appeared in other plays. A cablegram was received from Sir Charles Wyndham, who was in America, expressing his intention of contributing fifty guineas. The proceeds of the benefit amounted to over £400.

Edmund Phelps, the husband of the deceased actress, was in his day a prominent actor who played leading parts. He made his first appearance in London at Sadler's Wells, when he was seen on Nov. 21, 1860, as Uric, in Lord Byron's gloomy tragedy, *Werner*, his father appearing in the title-rôle. Mr. Edmund Phelps died quite suddenly at a comparatively early age. The death of his widow has caused deep sorrow amongst her relatives and friends. She was not only an excellent actress, but a refined, charming woman, whom to know was to esteem.

In the prettily-situated Highgate Cemetery Mrs. Phelps was laid to rest on Monday afternoon. The funeral was a very quiet affair, and very few were present save the principal mourners. The absence of anything like a crowd on the present occasion was no doubt due to the fact that Mrs. Phelps was not known to the present generation.

The funeral cortège left the house at 22, Sandown-gardens, about noon, and arrived at the cemetery at half-past twelve. The first carriage was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Phelps (son and daughter-in-law); in the second were Mr. Samuel May, Miss Geoghan, Mrs. E. Burnley, and Mr. Thomas T. Hulbert; in the third, Mrs. Langdon Bruce, Miss Farr, Mrs. Clements, and Mrs. Portway.

The coffin, which was of polished oak, with handsome brass fittings, bore the inscription :—

SARAH ELIZA PHELPS,
Died 2nd January, 1907,
Age 67 Years.

The Rev. Mr. Bingley, the Cemetery Chaplain, officiated at the Burial Service. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. H. Dyer and Sons, of Seven Kings and Forest Gate.

Among the wreaths were several beautiful specimens of the florists' art. A harp of white chrysanthemums and pink roses bore the message from the children of the deceased, "In affectionate remembrance of our dear mother"; another, a cross of white chrysanthemums and arum lilies, said, "In ever-loving memory, from Mrs. Plowman and Harry and Alice Plowman"; and others, "In loving memory of my dear mother, from Kate"; "In affectionate remembrance, from Colonel and Mrs. Edwards"; "In affectionate remembrance of a dear old friend, from May Warley"; "In deep regret and sincere sympathy, from Mrs. Samuel May and nieces"; "In loving and affectionate memory, from Vera and Thomas"; and a pretty laurel wreath from Mr. and Mrs. F. Paget. Mr. H. Plowman, of Haverstock-hill, who was the executor of the family, attended at the graveside.

MR. GEO. HENRY, who has acquired the rights of the late Mr. Wilson Barrett's play, *The Sledge-Hammer*, and is taking it on tour this month, has engaged Mr. Howard Brenan to play the late actor-author's part of Everard. Mr. Brenan is one of the youngest juvenile leading actors on the stage, being only twenty-three.

MR. FRED W. WARDEN, of the Palace Theatre, Belfast, invited the children of the local workhouse to the matinée of the successful pantomime *Mother Goose* on Friday. The compliment was highly appreciated by the Board of Guardians, who tendered their best thanks to Mr. Warden for his generosity.

CHATS WITH DRAMATIC AUTHORS.

MR. FRANK STAYTON.

Practical views on the drama are always acceptable, and these Mr. Frank Stayton, by virtue of a varied experience and deep reflection, is able to give. Mr. Stayton puts no limits to the capacity of the British dramatist, and prophesies that, with the proper facilities, a brilliant future is before him. Born on Christmas Day, 1874, in the Isle of Wight, Mr. Stayton has travelled the five Continents, enlarging his appreciation of life as a whole and always seeking to turn it to dramatic account. The plays from his pen which have seen the light number half-a-score, but he has in hand some thirty or more pieces not yet produced, most of them, he declares, much better than those that have been seen. Mr. Stayton's literary effusions have also included a number of short stories and letters to the newspapers on the lack of dramatists and the reading of plays.

"I commenced to write plays from the cradle," says Mr. Stayton. "I remember adapting *Mr. Barnes of New York*—without permission—when I was fourteen; there was one scene entirely my own. Mr. Barnes, urgently needed in Corsica, arrived in Marseilles just in time to miss the steamer. Undaunted, he threw off his coat, dived in, swam after the steamer, and caught her. On reflection, this feat was scarcely a good advertisement for the steamship company, but it made an admirable 'curtain' to my third act. The play, however, was not accepted, other adaptors cutting me out.

"I was very versatile; I imitated Gilbert, Robertson, Byron, and Pinero. I don't suppose the originals would recognise the imitations. The dramatic critic of a Sydney newspaper gave me considerable encouragement, wading methodically through reams of terribly impossible manuscript. I persevered. In 1893 my first play was produced. I wasn't in the least excited; but on the next day horribly ashamed. I wanted to crawl away and die. The papers cut me to ribbons. At nineteen one feels these things. Years later Mr. Arthur Playfair produced a farce, written in conjunction with Mr. Argles, called *Our Cousins*. Miss Sophie Larkin, Miss Lillie Belmore, Mr. Playfair, Miss Bessie Major, Miss Astor, my sister, and Mr. T. P. Haines were in the cast. The play had a successful run in the provinces, but has never been played in London. In 1901 I produced *The Despatch Bearer* at Richmond, with Miss Terry Lewis, Mr. Yorke Stephens, and a good cast. The play was toured for some time and did very well. In the spring of that year *Mrs. Willoughby's Kiss* was given a trial performance at Brighton, where it met with an extraordinarily fine reception. In 1902 Mr. Curzon produced it at the Avenue, where it failed to attract—after six weeks' excellent business. The play, as I originally conceived it, was a study of a sentimental egoist with a daughter who was not afraid to be direct, and I believe it contained some strong scenes; but the characters had to be whitewashed for London, and, between two stools, the play fell to the ground. The same thing happened with *The President*, produced by Mr. Hawtrey at the Prince of Wales's Theatre in 1902. Originally a comedy of character finishing with a grim, but inevitable, tragedy, it was thought wiser to rewrite it as a farce. But the change of environment did not suit it, and, in spite of the superb mounting given to it by Mr. Hawtrey, the play was received with righteous indignation by the Press, and was withdrawn after

Photo by Hana.

MR. FRANK STAYTON.

seventeen performances. It was in this play that Mr. Hawtrey made his first appearance as a vocalist.

"*Angelina's Lover* was played in front of *Little Mary* at Wyndham's, and has since been played a good many times by Miss Lloyd. *A Maid from School* was tried by Miss Loftus during the same year, afterwards taken to Terry's, where it had a short run. But its production was a mistake; it put me back years."

The future of Mr. Stayton, however, presents a brighter outlook. "Mr. Oscar Asche," he continues, "is about to try a new play of mine called *The Two Pins*. This is a mediæval comedy specially written for Mr. and Mrs. Asche. The great majority of my plays are still hunting for managers to produce them, both here and in America. They are certainly far in advance of anything I have had produced, but play-placing is a terribly trying occupation. The man who has something to say, and endeavours to express himself in dramatic form, must have the patience of Job, the perseverance of a spider, and the self-control of an Indian if he is to succeed. He has to fight ignorance, prejudice, conservatism, the inherited ideas of yesterday as to what constitutes a play; he must learn to take disappointments philosophically; and he must try to learn to laugh as his plays come back to him with methodical regularity. He must learn dependence upon his own judgment, to have the courage of his opinions, faith in the future, and he must never show it when he is hurt. There are too many dramatists and not enough managers. There are plenty of good plays; but managers are not looking for good plays. They are looking for plays with long and dominating parts for certain actors. The smallest character in a play should be as well-drawn and as well-acted as the principal part. The play is the thing, and until managers realize that—until they engage actors to fit the parts instead of commissioning dramatists to fit the actors—play-producing will continue to be an unprofitable amusement.

MISS MARGARET MURCH (better known as Daisy Murch) having terminated a successful stock season at the Elephant and Castle Theatre will now be seen in the halls, having been engaged by Mr. J. G. Grahame for lead in *The Yellow Fang* on the Stoll tour.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, JAN. 2.—*The Law and the Man*, a drama in four acts and a prologue, now running at the Manhattan Theatre, is founded on Victor Hugo's novel, "Les Miserables," Mr. Wilton Lackaye being the author of the latest stage version of that voluminous work, a thoroughly satisfactory dramatisation of which would seem to be an utter impossibility. Mr. Lackaye has constructed a melodrama of the old-fashioned sort, and has probably succeeded as well as any who have essayed the same task before him. He has summed up the difficulties he encountered in the remark that if the entire book were put upon the stage it would take twenty-four hours to play it. In a witty speech on the opening night he told how a friend asked him several months after he had completed the play, under the title of *Les Miserables*, if any manager had accepted it. "Accepted it," he replied, "why, they can't even pronounce it."

The play has nine scenes, covering a period of nineteen years. In the prologue, Jean Valjean has just been released from the galleys, and is begging for shelter in the streets of Diton. He is befriended by the good Bishop Welcome, whose silver candlesticks he purloins. In the first act we see Jean as the Mayor of Meme. He gives Fantine her liberty in a stirring passage, and in the second scene surrenders himself in court at Arras to save an innocent man. This is one of the strongest situations in the play, the court scene being realistic and impressive. In Act II. Jean comes as the outcast to Thenardier's inn, and carries off Cosette, the daughter of Fantine. The third act shows the garden of the house where Jean is living in retirement as the wealthy and prosperous Le Blanc, the fatherly guardian of Cosette. Ten years have passed, and Cosette is a maiden with a sweetheart. The conspirators gather and inveigle the harassed hero to the den of thieves, from which he escapes by the window a minute after the soldiers burst in. The first scene of the last act shows the wedding breakfast, and at the end the old man appears, and tells the bridegroom, Marius, the truth about himself. The final scene discloses Jean in his lodgings, and presently Cosette and her husband arrive only to see their benefactor die.

Mr. Lackaye's Jean Valjean is a graphic and moving portrayal. Others in the cast who distinguish themselves in prominent rôles are Miss Jeffreys Lewis, Miss Josephine Sherwood, and Messrs. Melbourne MacDowell, John D. O'Hara, and Frederick Esmelton, the latter, as the wheelwright, Champmathieu, being particularly praiseworthy.

MR. HENRI DE VRIES, whose protean sketch, *A Case of Arson*, aroused extraordinary interest last season, is appearing at the Bijou Theatre in a new American play, in a prologue and three acts, entitled *The Double Life*, which has for its theme the curious mental condition known as aphasia. The author of the play is Mrs. Mary Roberts Rinehart, a magazine writer, whose name appears on the programme as Rinehart Roberts. Crude and ordinary in its earlier scenes, the drama becomes intensely interesting and exciting in the second act, and when the final curtain falls one retains the impression of having seen a play which is decidedly "out of the ordinary." The rôle assumed by Mr. De Vries is that of a wealthy young New Yorker, who, while travelling in the coal-mining regions of West Virginia, meets highway robbers, and is shot in the head. The robbers, having accomplished their purpose, leave the traveller for dead. The wound, however, is not a fatal one, and the young man eventually regains consciousness. While life is spared to him, his memory is gone, and after vainly trying to remember his name, and establish his identity, he begins his career anew. Thereafter, he is known as Joe Hartman, a name given to him by an old physician, who finds him on the road, and nurses him back to bodily health. Hartman becomes a miner, and as such passes through many vicissitudes, until a shock restores his memory, his name, and his former position in society. As Joe Hartman he rears a family, and there is a pretty romance, which concerns his daughter, Molly, who falls in love with the son of one of the owners of the mine where Hartman is employed. It is due to this romance, and a false construction put upon the attentions of the young miner to Hartman's daughter, that the memory of the man is restored, together with the realisation that twenty of the best years of his life have been spent at the hardest kind of work, while he is actually one of the owners of the mine in which he has laboured.

Mr. De Vries, whose acting of the double part of Frank van Buren and Joe Hartman, shows a complete mastery of the art of pantomime and facial expression, gives a performance that is well worth seeing, and is frequently applauded. Mr. Harry Dodd, as Dr. Storm, a whole-souled country physician, contributes a capital characterisation. Miss Sarah Truax is sincere and womanly as Mrs. Hartman; and Miss Sibyl Klein, as Molly, is charming.

AT Weber's Theatre a new entertainment in two parts, entitled *Dream City* and *The Magic Knight*, made a big success on Christmas night. Such a company as is now under engagement to Mr. Joe Weber has never been brought together on the stage of this unique and popular little house since the days when it was known as Weber and Fields's Music Hall, the list of entertainers including such well-known names as Miss Cecilia Loftus, Miss Lillian Blauvelt, and Messrs. Maurice Farkoa, Otis Harlan, Will T. Hodge, Frank Belcher, Lores Grimm, and others.

Dream City, by Edgar Smith and Victor Herbert, is a clever "skit" on the methods of the modern suburban builders. Wilhelm Dinglebender, a Long Island farmer, played by Mr. Weber, is offered a good price for his property by J. Bilkington Holmes (Otis Harlan), a land "boomer," who wants to transform the fields into a modern city. Under the influence of his own home-made wine Dinglebender falls asleep over the plans, and dreams that all the wonderful things Holmes has promised to do have come to pass. A palace has risen on the site of the old homestead, skyscrapers occupy either side of a thoroughfare that was formerly a lane used for driving home the cows, the police are women, opera is given free every night, and nobody labours, for every citizen is a millionaire. The second act shows the Dream City in operation in all its magnificence. Dinglebender tires of it in time, and expresses a wish to be back in Malaria Centre, with his ague, his shrewish wife, and his summer boarders. He dreams that this may be accomplished by pressing a secret button, and exploding the hidden mines beneath the city beautiful, when the pastoral character of the place will be restored. The button is touched, and the Dream City goes up in flames. There is a change of scene, and Dinglebender discovers himself 'neath the shade of the old apple-tree once more. The piece is crowded with comicalities, and Victor Herbert's music is delightful. Messrs. Weber, Hodge, and Harlan are the principal funmakers, and Miss Loftus, as Nancy Dinglebender, gives a series of imitations of local favourites, which brings down the house. On the opening night she "took off" Miss Rose Stahl, in a scene from *The Chorus Lady*, in such a lifelike manner that the audience roared with delight. Mr. Maurice Farkoa makes himself very popular in a new song, "I fancy you," and other vocal contributions, which are rendered in a highly artistic manner.

The Magic Knight, to which the second half of the programme is devoted, is a travesty on grand opera in general, and *Lohengrin* in particular, in which Miss Lillian Blauvelt, Mr. Farkoa, Mr. Belcher, and Miss Cora Tracey win the chief honours.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

THE announcement of the receipts of the performances on Actors' Day, which was made at the meeting at the St. James's Theatre on Thursday afternoon marks a new epoch in theatrical charity. It is true that more might have been done, and that 67 per cent. of those who were playing on Actors' Day have still to make good the undertaking they gave to the committee. But the fact that over fourteen hundred pounds has been received shows that the idea has taken root, and the number of defaulters is likely to grow smaller year by year. We agree with Mr. Cecil Raleigh that Actors' Day is "one of the finest ideas that have ever emanated from the profession." We give a full report of the meeting elsewhere.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM is staying at Nice, and on Friday of last week paid a visit to Monte Carlo, where he lunched at the Hotel Metropole. Visitors to the Riviera have frequently indulged the hope that Sir Charles would treat the residents and the visitors in the principality to some of his well-known impersonations. Accustomed as the popular actor is to triumphs at home, it is predicted that if he were to appear at the Casino Theatre his welcome would equal, if not exceed, in warmth any of his former receptions.

REVERENCE to the memory of the late Baroness Burdett-Coutts was paid by a number of distinguished people connected with the stage at the funeral at Westminster Abbey on Saturday. Included among the crowded congregation were Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., and Mrs. O'Connor, Mr. and Mrs. H. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Maude, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Irving, and Mr. George Grossmith. Mr. Edward Terry, who is Upper Warden of the Worshipful Company of Furriers, of which the deceased lady was a freeman, represented the Guild at the ceremony.

MISS ELLEN TERRY may confidently look forward to a demonstrative welcome on her forthcoming tour in America, where she is held in estimation as high as that which she enjoys in her native country. The popular actress sails to-day by the Philadelphia for New York, where she starts a tour under the management of Mr. Charles Frohman which is arranged to last up to May next. Her répertoire will include *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*, *The Good Hope*, *Nance Oldfield*, and in all likelihood *The Merchant of Venice*. Mr. James Carew, Mr. W. T. Lovell, Mr. Rudge Harding, Miss Beatrice Forbes-Robertson, and Miss Suzanne Sheldon will be among the company.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE has already decided upon the works which will form the programme of his Shakespeare Festival this year, *Julius Cæsar*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *The Winter's Tale* being included in the series. Mr. Stephen Phillips's new version of *Faust* is among Mr. Tree's contemplated productions, but as September next is the date fixed for the delivery of the manuscript its appearance on the stage of His Majesty's is still in the distant future. Meanwhile, *Antony and Cleopatra* is being played to overwhelming audiences.

THE ceremony of cutting the Baddeley cake was well and truly performed on Monday for the third year in succession by Mr. Harry Nicholls, the master of Drury-lane Lodge. The gathering, which took place in the saloon of the National Theatre, was attended by Mr. Arthur Collins, Mr. Walter Passmore, Miss Queenie Leighton, Mr. Harry Randall, and the rest of the company. Before cutting the cake Mr. Nicholls explained the origin of the ancient custom, the first record of which dates back to 1796, since which period it has been kept up without a break.

THE Irving Memorial Committee held a meeting on the 2nd inst., when the chairman (Mr. Cecil Raleigh) was supported by Messrs. Acton Bond, Lewis Casson, John Hare, Martin Harvey, Alfred Kendrick, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). Mr. Edward Terry was unanimously elected a member of this committee, and Mr. George P. Bancroft was also elected to that body. Matters in relation to the publication of the list of subscriptions were discussed, and the secretary received instructions to approach certain editors on the question. In connection with the right to contribute to the memorial, it was unanimously agreed that all acting-managers should be admitted to the subscribers' list. The meeting was adjourned till Thursday, when Mr. John Hare occupied the chair, supported by Mr. G. P. Bancroft, Mr. Acton Bond, Mr. Lewis Casson, Mr. Martin Harvey, Mr. A. W. Pinero, Mr. Edward Terry, Miss Ellen Terry, and Mr. Charles Cruikshanks. Further subscriptions were announced, and a discussion took place as to the choice of a sculptor for the proposed memorial. The meeting was eventually adjourned until Friday, the 18th inst., at three.

MR. CYRIL MAUDE has selected *The Drums of Oude*, a one-act play, by Austin Strong, to precede *Toddles*, with which he will open the Playhouse on Monday, Jan. 28. *The Drums of Oude*, which deals with an incident of the Indian Mutiny, will be remembered as an interesting item of the triple bill produced at the Comedy on April 5 last. Mr. Kenneth Douglas will again be in the cast, which will also include Mr. Charles Maude and Miss Nancy Price.

BY the death of Sir Henry Perceval de Bathe, K.C.B., Mrs. Langtry becomes Lady de Bathe. The famous actress and Hugo de Bathe, who succeeds to the title, were married in September, 1899, the wedding taking place in a little church in Jersey, Mrs. Langtry's birthplace. The family of De Bathe is of great antiquity, Hugo de Bathe, according to Debrett, having accompanied Earl Strongbow to Ireland in 1172. The baronetcy dates from 1666, but lapsed, and was renewed in 1793 by sign-manual.

MISS JULIA NEILSON and Mr. Fred Terry will this evening revive *The Scarlet Pimpernel* at the New Theatre for a limited number of performances. Their new play, in which great interest has been aroused, will be produced at an early date.

MR. LEWIS WALLER has sent to the Actors' Benevolent Fund a further sum or £6 17s., which he collected by means of his autograph; and Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry have forwarded an additional sum of 13s. 6d. Mr. Tree sends daily batches of postal orders which he has received in exchange for his autograph.

THE Queen has graciously given her immediate patronage to the special matinée of *The Red Lamp*, which Mr. Beerbohm Tree is giving at His Majesty's Theatre on Thursday, Feb. 28, on behalf of St. Mary's Hospital for Women and Children at Plaistow. All who assist the matinée will be helping a very good cause, and Viscountess Parker, who, with the help of an influential committee, materially assisted by Mr. Arthur J. Coke, is making all the arrangements, should experience no difficulty in obtaining support for her generous efforts.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR," a new drama by Eva Elwes, will be produced by Mr. E. O'Dell at the Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood, on Monday.

MR. EDWARD TERRY, whose recent appointment as a Justice of the Peace for the County of Surrey has given such general satisfaction, lives at Barnes, where he has long taken an active part in public affairs. He added to his social work by presiding at a meeting at the local Public Hall on Tuesday and by taking the chair at the foundation of a rifle club. Mr. Terry is probably one of the best travelled men in the country, practically every part of the globe being known to him. His many philanthropic offices have recently been enumerated in this column, but his activities as an actor, nevertheless, remain as far-reaching as ever. Mr. W. S. Gilbert, of course, has long been a member of the Justices' Bench, and Mr. Thomas Lucas, the managing-director of the New Theatre, Oxford, and Mr. W. B. Redfern, who holds a similar position at the New Theatre, Cambridge, both write "J. P." after their name.

TEN new numbers have been composed by Mr. Leslie Stuart for the second edition of *The Belle of Mayfair*, which will be brought out at the Vaudeville in about a week's time. Among the novelties will be "The Pine Girl," for Miss Billie Burke and chorus; "The Lady with the Goggles and the Veil," for Mr. Farren Soutar; "I'm Military Mad" (song and dance), for Mr. Sam Walsh; and other tuneful numbers for Miss Louie Pounds, Miss Maud Boyd, Mr. Courtice Pounds, Miss Ruby Ray, and Mr. Charles Angelo. The harlequinade which formed so seasonable an embellishment of the popular piece will now be discarded in favour of fresh business in what will practically constitute a new second act.

MR. ALLEYN C. HYLTON, the manager of the Theatre Royal, Ryde, is arranging a benefit performance to take place on Tuesday under the patronage of Princess Henry of Battenberg, Governor of the island, in aid of the sufferers by the recent disaster to the lifeboat Selina, when two members of her crew were drowned. A strong local committee has been formed, including, among others, the Mayor of Portsmouth (Councillor C. Dye), the Mayor of Ryde (Alderman A. J. Coombes), Mr. Michael Maybrick ("Stephen Adams"), and General Fetherstonhaugh.

THE value of the Academy of Dramatic Art has been further enhanced by the appointment of a number of gentlemen to honorary positions on the staff. Among those who have already accepted the invitation of the Council are Sir Felix Semon, K.C.V.O., Dr. John Harold, and Dr. C. Percival White, as hon. physicians; Sir Anderson Critchett, C.V.O., as hon. ophthalmic surgeon; Mr. J. Mansbridge, as hon. dental surgeon; and the Hon. Charles Russell, as hon. solicitor.

THE German opera season at Covent Garden opens on Monday with *Die Meistersinger*, to be played without cuts. H.M. the King and T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Christian, and Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll, have graciously accorded their patronage to the season.

THE Redskins who figure in the Indian drama, *Adulola*, which Mr. H. Reeves-Smith is bringing over from America, are used only as supernumeraries, the principal parts being played by well-known actors, including Mr. Reeves-Smith himself as the Chief of the Ockotchees. It is claimed for the piece that it is a dignified, poetic, romantic drama, with a strong plot, and several stirring situations. The action is laid in the region of the Great Lakes, and the period is about 1756.

MISS JULIA MARLOWE and Mr. E. H. Sothern will make their long-promised appearance in London at the Waldorf early in May, when they will present a play, entitled *The Sunken Bell*, an English transcript by Charles Henry Meltzer of Hauptmann's *Die versunkene Glocke*. The famous American artists will also bring with them a number of Shakespearean productions, with which they intend to embark upon a European tour.

"MY DARLING" will make her first curtsey at the Hicks Theatre on Monday, March 4. Miss Marie Studholme's charming personality will admirably fit a character which is appropriately called Joy Blossom. Mr. Henry Lytton will have the part of a guardsman, Mr. J. F. McArdle will play the character of the proprietor of an irresponsible daily paper, and M. Armand Kalisz will also be in the cast.

MR. OTHO STUART has decided upon Tuesday, the 22nd inst., as the date of the production at the Apollo of *The Stronger Sex*, the new play by John Valentine, a fresh aspirant for playwright fame. It will be preceded by a new one-act piece, entitled *The Peacemaker*, written by E. M. Bryant, another of those new authors for the discovery of which Mr. Stuart is gaining so deserved a reputation. In the cast of the later piece will be Mr. Philip Knox, Mr Athol Stewart, Miss Ina Pelly, and Miss Lilian Braithwaite.

MR. DALLAS WELFORD has made a humorous hit in America in the name-part of R. C. Carton's funny farce, *Mr. Hopkinson*, and has won the distinction of being able to make Philadelphians laugh, a feat with which few Englishmen have hitherto been credited. Business is accordingly very great, record houses being secured at the Chestnut-street Theatre the fortnight before Christmas—usually the worst two weeks in the whole year. Mr. Welford has signed a five years' contract with Messrs. Frank Curzon and J. K. Hackett, the latter gentleman having determined to "star" the popular comedian during the summer at Chicago in a farcical repertory, and then transfer him to a London theatre in a new American play.

PRINCESS HENRY OF BATTENBERG and Princes Alexander and Maurice of Battenberg enjoyed the performance of *The Merveilleuses* at Daly's Theatre on Monday, and on the same evening the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and suite visited the Hicks Theatre, to witness Mr. Charles Frohman's production of *The Beauty of Bath*.

MR. NEIL FORSYTH, the popular manager of the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, has been the object of many congratulations on the announcement of his engagement to Miss Mollie Cathcart, niece of Dr. George Cathcart, the eminent physician. The wedding is to take place in London in March. Mr. Forsyth's association with Covent Garden began during the late Sir Augustus Harris's management, and on the latter's death, in 1896, Mr. Forsyth was appointed manager of the theatre. He is a member of the Victorian Order, and among his other decorations are the Palmes Academiques, the Saxe-Coburg Order of Art and Knowledge, and the Order of Isabel, of which he is a Chevalier. Mr. Forsyth is a brother-in-law of Mr. Frank Rendle, the lessee of Covent Garden during the autumn and winter months.

TWO THOUSAND youngsters have already visited Drury Lane, in accordance with the arrangement which the Playgoers' Club make each year on behalf of the poor children of London, and to-day 2,000 little ones will be taken to the Broadway, New Cross, and 2,000 more are invited to the Elephant and Castle. The Marlborough, Holloway, will entertain 1,000 on Jan. 19, and 2,200 will enjoy the delights of the Grand pantomime on the 26th. Arrangements are also in progress for visits to the West London, the Prince's, Poplar, the Camden, the Fulham, the King's, Hoxton, and the Crystal Palace. In addition to the entertainment, every child is presented with suitable refreshments.

MISS SOPHIE HARRISS, whose talents as an artist added to her gift for stage-management are brought to bear with such excellent results upon Baron Harriss's new edition of *The Prince of Pilsen*, has been relating some amusing experiences on tour to the inevitable interviewer. Letters from ladies requesting permission for their maids to view her stage gowns by Bischoff or her Maison Neuve millinery for the purpose of taking patterns therefrom are numerous, and she has grown quite accustomed to invitations to have her arms and hands submitted to the modeller in wax; but when she received the other day a letter written in all seriousness by the representative of a forthcoming exhibition expressing his unqualified admiration for her dexterity in concocting an *absinthe frappée* during the progress of the play, and offering her magnificent terms to superintend the American bar, she frankly owned to experiencing feelings of a mixed order.

MESSRS. CHARLES AND FREDERICK RENAD'S charming production of *Puss in Boots*, now playing to record houses at Mr. John Hart's Hull theatre, bids fair to continue with like business during the remainder of the run. Such are the drawing powers of the production that Mr. Hart, on seeing the performance, at once arranged to cancel an important pantomime booking in favour of *Puss in Boots*, the run being thus extended from four weeks, as originally arranged, to six.

MISS LYDIA DONOVAN, who, it will be remembered, successfully toured *The Strange Adventure of Miss Brown* and other farcical comedies for several years, has, we are informed, secured the sole theatre rights of *Her One Great Sin* from Miss Blanche St. Alban and Mr. J. Leicester Jackson. She will tour the piece in the early spring with a company of well-known artists, together with renovated scenery and new properties. Miss Donovan will continue to play Grace; and Mr. C. Quinton Fulford, to whose hands the business-management will be entrusted, will enact Arnold.

IN pursuance of his project of making the way easy for productions at the West End without incurring heavy financial liabilities, Mr. Edward Michael now announces that he is in a position to let the Imperial Theatre for any period from a week to ten years. It will also be available for performances by societies, and, indeed, negotiations are now pending under which the Stage Society may give its February performances at this handsome house.

MR. AUSTIN MELFORD would seem to hold the record for having appeared in more plays from the pen of Mr. Hall Caine than any of his brother actors. He was the original Amos Drew, in *The Good Old Times*, produced at the Princess's by the late Wilson Barrett; he created the part of the Deemster, in *Ben My Chree*, at the same theatre, afterwards touring England and America as the Bishop in the same play; and, later, he appeared as Philip, in *The Manxman*, at the Lyric Theatre; also as Stephen Orry, in Mr. Barrett's version of *The Bondman*, produced in America. In the autumn of 1905 he played the Factor at Drury-lane; and last autumn his success as Father Ferrati, in *The Bondman*, was so marked that when he reappeared in the same part at the Adelphi on Saturday night, he received quite an ovation.

MISS NORA LANCASTER has had to refuse a very tempting offer to appear for two years as leading lady under Messrs. Williamson's management in Australia. Miss Lancaster, who is the daughter of the celebrated Miss Wallis (Mrs. Walter Reynolds), has given ample proof of accomplishments both inherited and acquired. During her brief career the young actress has been engaged by Mr. Forbes Robertson as juvenile leading lady; by Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree (on his last tour) for Ethel Newcome, and Miss Tree's rôle in *Business is Business*; and by the late Sir Henry Irving, who secured her services for two years, when she appeared as Beatrice in *Dante* at Drury Lane, and subsequently throughout his American and provincial tour, in Miss Lena Ashwell's part in *Dante*, and other rôles in his répertoire. Miss Lancaster, it will be remembered, quite captured Manchester as Galatea and Imogen in two of Mr. Flanagan's recent revivals, playing the latter rôle in the longest run of *Cymbeline* on record.

MISS MAUDE MAY MURRAY is making a great impression with her beautiful electrical dance in the pantomime at the Prince's Theatre, Poplar. She is a pretty and graceful dancer, and her performance is certainly one of the best features in the pantomime.

MISS MURIEL WILFORD, who gave a season at the Comedy Theatre some time ago, has won great success in the United States, where she is appearing as Mrs. Sheldon in Clyde Fitch's play, *Her Great Match*.

MANY members of the theatrical profession will deeply regret to learn that Mr. Arthur Wheeler, for many years acting-manager at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, passed away on Thursday night (last week) as the result of a severe attack of pneumonia. Mr. Arthur Wheeler succeeded his grandfather as box-office keeper, eventually becoming acting-manager at the theatre, and on his retirement, in 1903, to undertake the control of the Colonnade Hotel, adjoining the theatre, he was accorded, by the kindness of Mr. H. Cecil Beryl, a complimentary benefit. The deceased gained many friends by his extreme courtesy and genial disposition. He leaves a widow and three young children to mourn his loss. His remains were interred at the Extra Mural Cemetery, Brighton, last Tuesday.

MR. CECIL DU GUE, who has recently concluded a successful tour in the title-rôle of Mr. Walter Reynold's play, *Mr. Smith*, has been specially engaged by Mr. Richard F. Symons to star as Sartorys (*Frou-Frou*), Armand (*Camille*), and other leads in his répertoire company.

A LARGE number of the artists appearing in the pantomime at Bath engaged a motor-'bus on Sunday, and made a trip to the charmingly-situated Roman Catholic College, at Downside Abbey, near Bath. The visitors were heartily welcomed by the reverend Abbot, who kindly entertained them to tea.

MR. FRED BURNS, the second son of Mr. Felix Burns, a well-known composer of dance music, has been appointed musical director of H.M. Theatre, Carlisle. Although only nineteen years of age, Mr. Burns has been for some time organist and choir-master of St. Bede Church, and several of his compositions are already highly popular.

MR. H. B. BRANDRETH, the enterprising manager of the Kennington Theatre, has the satisfaction of seeing the operatic pantomime, *Humpty Dumpty*, attracting as large houses as the weeks go by as at the opening performances. The pantomime has been judiciously pruned, with the result that it has gained in brightness. The cast has been strengthened by the inclusion of Mr. Fred Bowyer as Twinkle Star, and gives a really first-class impersonation. Mr. R. H. Douglass, the King, and Mr. Arthur Rigby, the Queen, are as amusing as ever, and in the railway scene, where they figure with Messrs. Moon and Morris, knockabout comedians, keep the house in roars. Miss Yvonne Lamor as Humpty, and Miss Georgina Middleton as Curly Locks, are even warmer favourites than at first. The songs and dances of the Crystals, who support the rôles of Jack and Jill, also continue to be enthusiastically acclaimed.

MR. JAMES WELCH will give Londoners an opportunity of sampling the new farcical play, *When Knights were Bold*, written by Charles Marlowe, at Wyndham's, on Tuesday, the 28th. The piece, which has already enjoyed a prosperous run of some three months in the provinces, was originally produced at Nottingham. Mr. Welch has a very funny part in that of a Baronet with modern inclinations, who is so pestered by the frequent allusions made to the past ages of knighthood that he has a dream in which he imagines that he is back in the days of Cœur de Lion. The dream forms the second act of the piece; but the third, in which the Baronet feigns madness, and thus cures his friends of their fondness for the days of old, is being rewritten.

ABOUT sixty members of the crew of the unfortunate Japanese mail steamer (Nippon Yusan Kaisha) Awa Maru, which is still lying stranded on the rocks at Redcar, accepted the invitation of Mr. Robert Arthur's acting-manager, Mr. W. Ker Chatto, to witness the pantomime *Little Cinderella* at the Grand Theatre, Middlesbrough, on Monday. At the close of the performance the Japanese National Anthem was sung, the audience standing and applauding enthusiastically.

MISS FLORA HASTINGS (Mrs. R. R. Mill) has suffered a severe bereavement in the death of her husband, to whom she had been married but two years. She had left the stage, but is now compelled to return, and is anxiously seeking engagements.

MISS ANNIE HUGHES begins her tour of *Nan and Tommy* at Eastbourne on Thursday next. Brighton follows, and then Miss Hughes approaches the metropolis so near as Kingston. In the part of the delightful hoyden of Buckstone's comedy Miss Hughes is unexcelled, while her rôle in Mr. Jerome K. Jerome's play not only reveals that popular humorist at his best, but affords the charming actress opportunities for the display of the most admirable phases of her art.

MR. HARRY J. CRANE has been confined to his bed during the last four weeks with a severe attack of sciatica, against which he had struggled for months previously. Thanks to the unremitting care and attention of his medical adviser, he is now rapidly on the road to recovery, and hopes to be at work again very shortly.

MR. LUSCOMBE SEARELLE, we regret to learn, has been in a critical condition of health for the past fortnight at his rooms in Savoy Mansions. He has now nearly recovered, and was out for the first time on Wednesday. Through his illness, negotiations for the production of *Mizpah* had been suspended, but have now been renewed, and the probability is that the play will be produced on Easter Monday at a West End theatre.

"THE FORTY THIEVES" pantomime now running so successfully at Mr. Clarence Sounes' Prince's Theatre, Poplar, must shortly be withdrawn, owing to important bookings. From Monday next a second edition will be given, and this, together with the general brilliance of the production, will ensure for the remainder of the run a continuance of the excellent business this pantomime has been doing since its commencement on Boxing Day.

MR. J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S *Aladdin* pantomime has been doing magnificent business at the Crystal Palace Theatre twice daily. As the business continues so good, Mr. Howard has decided to give two performances daily next week.

THE musical world has learnt with deep regret of the death of Mr. Edgar F. Jacques, who for many years has provided the analytical notes for the promenade and other concerts at Queen's Hall. Mr. Jacques, who was fifty-seven years of age, was of French descent, and settled in London as a pianoforte teacher and organist. Later he became editor of the *Musical World* and of the *Musical Times*. He has also lectured before the Royal Institution, the Royal Academy of Music, and the Musical Association.

MISS FLORENCE NELSON (Mrs. John A. Atkin) begs, through the medium of this column, to thank Mr. Fred Melville for his extreme kindness and generosity during and after her late husband's illness.

MISS MARY AUSTIN and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds have to all appearances secured another gold mine in *Woman and Wine*, which is breaking records everywhere. The Aquarium Theatre, Great Yarmouth, is being filled this week at early doors, which is the more remarkable considering that it is out of season. Special theatre trains are being run nightly from all surrounding districts.

THE West London pantomime, *Sindbad*, has proved even a bigger success than last year's *Little Red Riding Hood*. On several nights standing room has been at a premium, and last Saturday Mr. W. Bailey wished his theatre had been as large again, hundreds being turned away. Despite the crowded houses which have been the rule, Mr. Bailey has not relaxed his well-known charitable impulse, 200 aged male inmates of the Marylebone Workhouse having recently been enabled to witness an afternoon performance of the pantomime.

MR. H. CURLINE BALDRY has just concluded his third successful season as general-manager for Mr. David Taylor, at the Hippodrome, Tonypandy, South Wales, where for the last twelve weeks the inhabitants of the Rhondda Valley have been supplied with the finest talent money could procure. Mr. Baldry leaves Tonypandy with every good wish from his host of friends. His well-known tact and businesslike methods may be relied upon speedily to secure him an appointment.

THE Playgoers' Club are in no way relaxing their efforts for the entertainment of their members. The third Cinderella Dance of the season will take place at the Hotel Cecil on Monday, and the following Saturday Mr. Willie Clarkson will take the chair at the house dinner and concert in the Club Rooms. On Monday, Jan. 21, an informal debate on *Antony and Cleopatra* will be opened in the Club Rooms by Mr. Douglas Crichton; and on Sunday, the 27th, Mr. Joseph Litt will read a paper at the Hotel Cecil at eight p.m. on "Musical Comedy," with Mr. Louis Bradfield in the chair.

A "SUFFRAGETTE" verse, written by Arthur Elliot, and dropped into Arthurs and Scott's song "It's a different girl again"—a song which has proved the hit of every pantomime in Great Britain—has been the cause of some friction at Terry's Theatre. A gentleman prominently connected with the house, and who is evidently in sympathy with the votes-for-women movement, strongly objected to the particular verse and chorus, and the author-producer declared that if they were omitted the curtain would not rise. Happily the dispute has been amicably settled, and Miss Lily Harold, assisted by eight "Suffragettes" (who are afterwards dispersed by a pantomime policeman), is scoring strongly with this celebrated song.

MEMENTOS of Wagner are already attaining a high value. At a recent auction in Berlin the original score of the famous "Schuster-lied," from *Die Meistersinger*, was bid up to £130, while a collection of about twenty letters to the operasinger, Franz Betz, realised £70.

MISS ISABEL JAY has been retained for the title-rôle of Mr. Paul Rubens' new musical play, *Miss Hook of Holland*, which is to follow *The Vicar of Wakefield*, whose last days at the Prince of Wales's are imminent. The date of the production will, in all probability, be Jan. 31. Mr. G. P. Huntley has been allotted the part of the heroine's father.

MR. R. H. MORGAN, a South American impresario, is in London booking companies. A vast field for dramatic exploitation offers itself in the Southern portion of the New World as well as in the North, and to those who possess the right quality success should inevitably lie in wait.

MR. EDOUARD JOSE has just returned from the Cape after a successful three years' engagement with Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler as general manager of their South African enterprises. He has permitted himself no cessation in his activities, and has already started negotiations for several companies to visit South America.

BARON H. HARRISS, whose second tour of *The Prince of Pilsen* promises to eclipse the successes of his former one, may be said to be reaping the reward of his own acute observation and sound judgment. When witnessing the production of this latest American musical comedy at the Shaftesbury Theatre his practised eye at once detected where a few judicious alterations would give it an added attraction for English audiences, and the consequence is that several numbers the interest of which was solely transatlantic have been replaced by items of a nature which appeal more to the general public, and the stage costumes constitute the *dernier cri* in dainty creations from the ateliers of Regent-street and the Rue de la Paix. Baron Harriss, who, by the way, has large interests in several London and provincial ventures, has been invited to open the New Bridlington Spa Theatre with *The Prince of Pilsen* company.

MR. NORMAN V. NORMAN, who has been spending the last three weeks shooting in the West of England, was one of the guests at the Gloucester County Hunt Ball last week. Mr. Norman is now paying a visit to the South of England, but will shortly return to the Western Counties to appear at several charity performances in aid of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Hospitals. Mr. Norman will commence his spring tour in February.

M. GEORGES TROUILLOT, former Minister of Commerce and Industry and also of the Colonies of France, delivered an interesting address on Thursday afternoon before a distinguished audience, including H.R.H. Princess Christian, Commander Huguot, of the French Embassy, Consul-General Auzcoy, Lady Ardilain, the Hon. Mrs. Orry, and Sir Thomas and Lady Brooke Hitching. It was the occasion of the inauguration of the new premises of the Berlitz Schools of Languages (at 321, Oxford-street), of which Her Royal Highness Princess Christian is a pupil, in addition to other members of Royalty at home and abroad. M. Trouillot maintained that the teaching of the French and English languages holds the foremost position over any other, and dilated upon the bond of friendship and the "entente cordiale" thus encouraged. The Minister concluded an eloquent address, which was delivered in French, by congratulating all those who laboured in the cause of languages, and, therefore, he considered, in the spread of universal peace and the proper understanding between the various nations.

No fewer than thirty plays dealing with *Faust* are on record, the first being Christopher Marlowe's, which was written in 1588. In Mr. W. G. Wills's famous version at the Lyceum in 1885 the late Sir Henry Irving was Mephistopheles, Mr. George Alexander the hero, and Miss Ellen Terry Margaret.

AT the Amateur Players' Association, 92, Victoria-street, on Wednesday evening an address on "The Possibilities of the One-Act Play" will be delivered by Mr. F. D. Bone. On the same occasion a one-act play entitled *Lizzie Epathalie*, by Mr. Sabben Clare, will be produced by Mr. Ernest Mayer in illustration of the lecture.

UNDER the auspices of the Social-Democratic Federation, at the Chandos Hall, Maiden-lane, this evening, a dramatic recital of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner" will be given by Mr. H. S. Dymond Stuckey. The reading will be illustrated by lantern views and will be supplemented by vocal and instrumental music.

"THE MORALS OF MARCUS" have made a great impression at Buda-Pesth, where, under the title of *Mirza*, the successful Garrick play has just been produced at the Municipal Theatre. The leading local journal prophesies that it will enjoy as great a popularity as *Trilby* achieved at the same theatre. For his forthcoming matinées of *Macbeth* at the Garrick Mr. Bourchier has engaged Mr. Cyril Keightley to play the part of Macduff, Mr. Matheson Lang being obliged to take up a previous engagement to play Othello in to-night's revival at Manchester.

THE Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, on Thursday evening held a brilliant audience, the occasion being the holding of a benefit in aid of the Building Fund of the new Children's Infirmary, which institution was that day opened by H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress occupied a private box, and all the stalls, of which there were several extra rows, and the circle were filled by prominent citizens. In addition to Mr. Lingford Carson's charming pantomime *Babes in the Wood*, items were given by a host of local artists, while as many of the workers at the neighbouring theatres as could get away hastened to offer their services. The management of the theatre (Messrs. Carson and Kendall) have guaranteed £200 towards the most worthy object.

THE late Sir Henry De Bathe was buried at West Stoke, near Chichester, on Wednesday. Among the floral tributes laid upon the grave in the little churchyard were wreaths from Mr. and Mrs. Bourchier and Mr. Weedon Grossmith.

THE municipal theatre at Lemberg was the scene of an alarming uproar on the occasion of the first performance of a comedy entitled *We*. The Socialists present protested against the tendencies of the piece, which deals with the revolutionary fights in Russian Poland, and represents the Socialists as Anarchists and murderers. During the performance of the piece there was loud shouting and hissing; crackers, thrown into the parterre, exploded and produced a panic; and finally the play had to be interrupted and the theatre emptied, several arrests being effected.

SIR FREDERICK BRIDGE has selected a comprehensive list of subjects for his forthcoming lectures. The first, to be delivered on Jan. 15 at Gresham Hall, relates to "Pelham Humfrey and his Music," the second deals with "French Violinists of the Seventeenth Century," the third is descriptive of "Rameau's Operas," and the last will concern one of Palestrina's contemporaries, Jakob Händl, who was born in 1550 and died in 1591. The last three of these lectures will be given at the City of London School. Sir Frederick, it may be added, has recently compiled a book giving the birthdays of prominent musicians, with Shakespeare quotations.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

At the recent Savoyard dinner at the Hotel Cecil, there was a good deal of reminiscence, chiefly of an anecdotic nature. The following incident, which occurred during the reign of *Pinafore*, may, perhaps, be added to the collection. There had been a quarrel between two ladies of the chorus, followed by a rather emotional scene; and one of the pair complained to the management. Mr. Gilbert was present when the case was tried, and his trained legal mind applied itself at once to obtaining evidence. "You say she insulted you," said the author of *Trial by Jury*. "What was it that she said?" "She said"—— sobbed the lady, "she said"——' "Well, what *did* she say?" "She said I was no better than I should be!" "But *are* you?" asked the interlocutor. "Yes, I *am!*" was the passionate reply. "My dear young lady," said Mr. Gilbert, soothingly, "don't worry. You can easily alter *that*."

The *Daily Mail*, in its issue of last Tuesday, said:—"Under shelter of the fact that England is not an adherent of the Berne Copyright Convention, German dramatic authors and theatre directors are engaged in wholesale piracy of English novels capable of dramatisation." There is an error here; England signed the Berne Convention, and is a member of what is known as the Copyright Union. At the same time, we have no doubt that German dramatic authors are doing what English dramatic authors have been held to have the right to do, namely, to dramatise a novel written by a British subject and copyrighted by that subject. It was stated by Lord Hatherley, in the case of Tinsley v. Lacy, that the only way in which an author can prevent other persons from representing as a drama the whole, or any part, of his composition, is himself to publish the work in the form of a drama, and so bring himself within the scope of dramatic copyright. Undoubtedly, this is a grave omission in our copyright laws. In our opinion, if a man writes a novel or a story and duly protects it here, it should carry with it the right of dramatisation; but as shown in the case of Tinsley v. Lacy, this is not so. The convention gives British subjects the same protection as they would have had in their own country; and as the English Government does not look after the rights of its subjects in this particular, it can hardly be expected that foreign dramatists will do so.

The reception given to Mr. John Masefield's ghastly little play, *The Campden Wonder*, at the Court Theatre on Tuesday afternoon was not encouraging to the purveyors of horrors à *la* Théâtre Libre. The audience simply gasped at the conclusion; and if the author's desire was to horrify he certainly succeeded It must be owned, however, that the impression was created, not by physical, but by moral means. No murder is actually committed; and the awful thing about the piece is the insensibility and obduracy of the monster, who not only gets his brother and his mother hung, but goes to the gallows himself, and all in order to injure his brother, of whom the wretch is jealous because he—the brother—is getting two shillings a week more wages than is earned by the unnatural ruffian. The real case, which was tried at Campden, in Gloucestershire, in 1660, was full of mysteries. John Perry, the servant of the missing man, first protested his innocence, then implicated his mother and brother, and finally retracted his confession. The missing man turned up two years after the execution, with a romantic excuse for his absence.

In Mr. George Broadhurst's play, *The Man of the Hour*, which has scored a distinct success at the Savoy Theatre, New York, the principal characters are supposed to represent certain leading local politicians. Here are two passages from the play:—"The woods are full of indictments and investigations and subpoenas, but I notice there's damned few rich men in jail to-day." "When I bury the hatchet with him his head'll go with it." At the beginning of the piece a political "boss" enters into a "deal" with a railroad magnate to get a Franchise Bill passed, and his first question is, "How does it interest me?" "I'll carry fifteen thousand shares to your private account," is the answer. "In two days there'll be a jump of twenty-five points, and you can clean up $275,000 profit." This, however, is not enough for the "boss." "That's all I get," he retorts, "while you are making millions.

The tailor at times comes nobly to the help of the aspiring actor. The other day, a comedian, whose engagements had hitherto been in the minor theatres and the provinces, was "secured" for a special part at an aristocratic London theatre. He had been "resting" for some time, and his chance of being able to pay a big bill which he owed to his tailor had seemed hopeless. It was, however, absolutely necessary that he should appear well clad at the theatre; so he went to his sartorial creditor, and laid the case frankly before him. "But Mr. Blank," said the tailor, "your bill is already——" "Oh, yes, I know; but this is your only chance," replied the actor. "I am engaged on trial at £12 a week. Can you make me a frock coat as good as George Alexander's?" "Certainly, Mr. Blank, I can; but——" "Then do me a morning suit, and I shall probably be re-engaged on the strength of it. And then——" The tailor gave a great gulp, and made the plunge. "I'll do it!" he said; and he did it. Instead of the rather "rorty" individual whom the company at the West-end had expected to see, they were astonished by the arrival at rehearsal of a dandy of the first water, irreproachably clad. The re-engagement was secured, and the tailor got his money—or, at least, part of it.

The late Joe Eldred's theatrical management was a continual struggle, but he was never a "bogus" manager. "How are you, Joe?" a friend enquired of him one Saturday afternoon. "Oh," was the cheerful reply, "I've had a rotten week; but thank God, I've paid the cuckoos (the company) full up!" He was "very short" one treasury day, with only a ten-pound note to meet a twenty-pound bill; so he cut the note neatly in half, and, going to a friend, said: "Here's a nice look out! A man who owes me a 'tenner' sends me half of it to-day—for 'safety,' as he says—and is sending the other half to-morrow!" "Oh," said the good-natured friend, "give me the half-note, and I'll give you a ten-pound note for it. You can give me the other half to-morrow." This was done, and Joe then took the other half of his note to another friend, and obtained another ten. After performance at night, he honourably paid the money back to both.

On one occasion, through expensive litigation and the loss of a law suit, he was in imminent danger of arrest. He was playing in York, and, on the last night of the week's engagement, about ten o'clock two officers of the law gained entrance behind the scenes for the purpose of obtaining possession of Joseph's body. The bailiffs were received with effusion, and, being ushered into his dressing-room, were treated with lavish hospitality. Brandies and sodas, with cigars, were the order of the night, while Joe went on playing Quilp in *The Old Curiosity Shop*, which piece, to the wonder of the actors and audience, seemed unnecessarily prolonged. At last the curtain fell, the Minster clock tolled the hour of twelve, and Joseph dressed to go home. "I've got a cab waiting, Mr. Eldred," said the chief officer, as the trio passed the stage-door and gained the street. "Cab! What for?" said the actor innocently. "Why," replied the officer, "I've a warrant for your arrest." "Oh, nonsense," said Joseph. "You cannot arrest me; it's Sunday!"

ACTORS' DAY.

GENERAL MEETING AND REPORT.

Sir Squire Bancroft presided over a meeting of actors and actresses at the St. James's Theatre on Thursday afternoon convened for the purpose of hearing the report of the organising committee of the Actors' Day scheme, and of confirming the appointment of an advisory board. Sir Squire was supported by Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. Laurence Irving, Mr. A. E. Drinkwater, Mr. William Devereux, Mr. Cecil Raleigh, Mr. Aubrey Smith, Mr. Brandon Thomas, Mr. Cecil Barth, Mr. Acton Bond, and Mr. Charles Cruickshanks. There was a goodly assemblage of members of the profession of both sexes occupying seats in the auditorium.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said: It is my first duty to state that I have received telegrams and letters, expressing regret at inability to be present and sympathising with the objects of the meeting, from Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. John Hare, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Frederick Harrison, Mr. Lionel Brough, Mr. Norman McKinnel, Mr. John Hart, Mr. Chute, of Bristol, and others. I will only briefly say that with all my heart I commend this fund to your generosity and your sympathy, to your wisdom and your sense of justice. In spite of the stumblings of its baby footsteps, if properly nurtured and if strongly upheld I truly hope and I firmly believe that Actors' Day Fund is destined to be a means of destroying much of the misery that is common to our own as to every other calling. I shall now call upon Mr. Arthur Bourchier to remind us of the history of the scheme.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier said: Barely a month ago it was my privilege to be present at a meeting at the Garrick Theatre which I think I can describe as one of those meetings that mark a red-letter day in the history of the British stage. Two things must have impressed themselves upon the public—the dignity and unity of the profession. That is the keynote which Actors' Day is striving at. At the meeting referred to we were all there to worship at the shrine of the memory of the greatest actor, Sir Henry Irving, in whose mind the idea of Actors' Day originated. Sir Henry once said that if only we could get enough money to put all our charities into one great institution, enormous benefits would accrue. It was eventually suggested that there should be an annual matinée, the proceeds of which should be given in aid of Actors' Day. Well, some time ago two of our most brilliant youngsters suddenly hurled upon us the Actors' Union, and they rushed to me for counsel. I said, "Let us ring up all the other managers and people in London," and when I tried to do so I found they were all out. The youthful twain then said, "What are we to do?" Finally I suggested that one night in the year be set apart for the purpose of the Actors' Day Fund. Mr. Tree, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Maude, and myself were asked if we would meet the Council of the Actors' Association. We agreed to do so, and at the meeting it was decided that a letter indicative of something in the nature of Actors' Day should be sent out to the profession to ask if they would support it. The result was that Actors' Day began last October. It came from the hearts of the profession, and the heads of the profession were very willing to give their heads to those hearts. I believe that a very satisfactory start has been made. We did not meet with any opposition, but unfortunately we had renegades to deal with. There were people who signed the papers who have since absolutely defaulted. Whatever may be the initial difficulties and differences of opinion, I feel sure that the dignity of the profession will only be served by everybody supporting the scheme in its infancy.

Mr. A. E. Drinkwater, in submitting the report of the Organising Committee of Actors' Day Fund, said: In presenting a report on behalf of the Organising Committee of the Actors' Day, I propose to be very brief, and give a statement of facts only. Before the appointed date we had 2,214 promises of support. In estimating the probable results from this number of individual promises, allowance had to be made for those who were out of England at the time, and for those who might not be in engagements on Actors' Day. After careful examination, I find that about 40 per cent. must be deducted on account of one or other of these causes. This reduces the effective number to about 1,300. Of these 1,300 who may be estimated to have been playing on Oct. 18, there are many whose contributions are not yet to hand. Some 300 who were not on the register have sent in their contributions, and have since been added. Deducting these from the total number of contributions received, I find that about 33 per cent. of those who may be estimated to have been playing have yet to make good their undertaking, and the committee hope that they will do so as soon as possible. It is, so far, satisfactory to know that contributions are still coming in. There are several reasons for the fact that the full number does not appear on the list of subscribers. The committee gratefully acknowledge the cordial assistance they have received from a large number of managers and acting-managers; at the same time, they regret that some did not give the members of the companies the same facilities for sending in their contributions in one combined sum. They hope, however, that next year this difficulty will be removed, and that we shall be able to count on the co-operation of all concerned. This difficulty, however, has, at any rate, shown the interest of a large number of actors in Actors' Day. It should, I think, be recorded to the credit of, especially a large number of the rank and file playing in the country, that where this difficulty has arisen they have themselves sent in their individual contributions. The total amount received to date is £1469 2s. 1d. It will, I think, be satisfactory for everyone to know that all preliminary expenses were met by a guarantee fund, privately subscribed by members of the council of the Actors' Association. I hope, too, it will be satisfactory to all subscribers to know that careful economy has been exercised throughout. We have been working at the scheme for about a year and a half. At times there have been large correspondence to be dealt with and various notices to be sent out to all theatres and companies. To cope with this, the services of typewriters have been, from time to time, called in, but the cost of this, under £25, is the total amount of the expenses incurred, with, of course, the exception of actual out-of-pocket expenses covering printing, postages, stationery, &c. The committee realised from the first the great difficulties that would attend the carrying out of their scheme. They could not hope that they would, in such a complex experiment, be able to hit at once, in all cases, on the effective means of meeting the many difficulties that inevitably arose; but they have done their best under the circumstances. They have found out in what directions their difficulties lay; and, believing, as they do, that the Actors' Day will ultimately be an institution recognised and loyally supported by all actors and actresses, they are resolved to do all in their power to secure, in the future, its complete success.

Mr. Cecil Raleigh, in supporting the report, stated that for the future their watchwords should be "self-respect, self-reliance, and unity." They did not want the patronage of Dives, but they did want a united Lazarus. He thought it worthy of mention that the idea of a universal matinée in aid of Actors' Day originated in the brain of the late Mr. Edgar Bruce, and was subsequently mooted by Mr. Lestocq. On the computation that there were 250 places of amusement in England to-day—although he understood that the exact number was 260—and say that each collected £50 once a year, that would result in an aggregate of £12,500. Or even supposing that only £25 from each theatre was netted, that would mean an annual total of £6,250, with which sum an enormous amount of good could be done. After various schemes had been considered, the conclusion was arrived at that the best method of obtaining money was to have a night performance, and it was hoped that the members of the profession would combine in carrying out the project. They should unite all their charities. Mr. Tree had written them a letter inquiring as to what was intended in regard to the Actors' Benevolent Fund, but it was most earnestly to be hoped that Mr. Tree and his company would not withhold their subscriptions. As to the manner of dealing with the old funds, they should remember that they had appointed an advisory board who would give to the subject of the distribution of the funds the utmost consideration. Let the Actors' Day scheme go on, and in the fulness of time there would come a perfect system of distribution.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree stated that as Mr. Raleigh had referred to him he would take up the points that gentleman had raised. He was not opposed to the scheme, and he would join with his confrères in anything that would tend to the increased respect in which their profession was held. He thought they should do away with all public appeals, including the dinners, and he was in favour of the fusion of all the funds. They were all much indebted to the gentlemen on the committee who had given so much of their time to the subject of Actors' Day. He himself came there in a spirit of humble inquiry and not of opposition, and there was a great number of actors and actresses in the same position. He had sent a little instalment of £25 to Mr. Drinkwater, but before contributing further he felt he would like to know in what manner the fund was to be distributed and in what proportion the various existing theatrical funds were to benefit. It was his intention, with the help of his company, shortly to give a special matinée for the theatrical funds. Concluding, Mr. Tree said that it was only by understanding difficulties beforehand that they were able to overcome them, and if the advisory committee had made up their minds as to the distribution of the funds, the money already received would be more than doubled at the next Actors' Day collections.

Mr. George Alexander remarked that when the subject of Actors' Day was mooted last year it created an extraordinary amount of enthusiasm throughout the profession, and now Actors' Day was an accomplished fact. Mr. Raleigh had referred to the matinée scheme, and it should be pointed out that that touched the pockets of the public and of the manager. Many members of the profession had expressed themselves willing to give up a certain amount of money, and the other people who had not done so could at least come forward with their ideas and submit them to the advisory board. He could assure his hearers that this great scheme would prove of lasting and beneficial service. A large number of artists earning small salaries in the country had responded nobly, and that was the example all should follow. The question of the disposition of the fund should surely be left in the hands of the ambassadors they had appointed that day. Mr. Tree had expressed the wish that all the theatrical funds should be rolled into one, and it could be pointed out that the materialisation of that wish would mean a considerable saving of money. The Actors' Day advisory board would occupy a similar position to that of King Edward's Hospital Fund board, and actors could, in sending their subscriptions, allocate them to any charity they liked.

Mr. Laurence Irving considered that Actors' Day was the best, the most righteous, and most necessary scheme that had ever been placed before the theatrical world. And yet what a vast army of eager but shallow-hearted ladies and gentlemen had promised their support but withheld their money! What a thing it would be to see actors and actresses working in unity! It seemed to him that this scheme offered every possible motive for welding them all into one united body. They all ought to pledge themselves to do everything in their power to make the first anniversary of Actors' Day reap a much better harvest than had been announced that afternoon. A writer had recently stated that the literature read by actors was confined to newspaper notices about themselves, and that they were selfish. Let them show that that was untrue, and let them also prove that they were capable of concerted action for the common good

Mr. Edward Terry stated that Actors' Day was to be the means of collecting a large amount of money to assist their other funds, and it was not intended to operate to the detriment of any existing theatrical charity. A suggestion had been made by someone that one of the objects of Actors' Day fund should be the lending of money. He would reply to that by saying that every Thursday he and his fellow members on the committee of the A.B.F. lent from £60 to £90, and there was no need to start another loan fund. He himself was very much interested in the Royal General Theatrical Fund, which was an admirable provident institution open to the lesser members of the profession, and only a small subscription was asked.

Mr. Terry then read out the list of names of gentlemen constituting the advisory board. These were Mr. Blake Adams, Mr. Henry Ainley, Mr. Oscar Asche, Mr. Allan Aynesworth, Mr. Alfred Bishop, Mr. C. Hayden Coffin, Mr. Alfred Denville, Mr. Kenneth Douglas, Mr. Laurence Irving, Mr. H. A. Saintsbury, and Mr. Sidney Valentine.

In reply to a question it was pointed out that seven of these were members of the Actors' Association and four were not.

The Chairman then moved the adoption of the report, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Hayden Coffin proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. George Alexander for the use of his theatre, and Mr. Aubrey Smith, in seconding, paid a high compliment to Mr. A. E. Drinkwater for his labours in connection with the organising work of Actors' Day fund.

A vote of thanks to Sir Squire Bancroft for presiding concluded the proceedings.

THE ACTORS' DAY MEETING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—It is to be regretted that lack of time at the "Actors' Day" meeting at the St. James's Theatre prevented a vote of thanks being accorded Mr. A. E. Drinkwater. I feel sure this was the unanimous sentiment of all present in appreciation of the patience, care, and time so ungrudgingly given by him in the good cause.—Yours faithfully, IVAN BERLYN.

The Actors' Association, Jan. 10.

The play to follow *La Vierge d'Avila*, now running at the Théâtre Sarah-Bernhardt, Paris will be *Les Bouffons*, by M. Zamacois. The scene is laid in 1557, during the reign of Henry II., when kings and nobles engaged jesters to amuse them. Mme. Sarah Bernhardt will impersonate the rôle of a chivalrous youth, and the great actress is delighted with her part.

Mr. Editor,—Sir,—Last week you stated that Miss Fraser Brunner was supporting me in *Her Last Dance*. This was an error, of which the fault was mine.—Yours faithfully, H. Naylor Grimson.

"THE REFORMER."

A very Light Comedy, in Three Acts, by Cyril Harcourt, Produced at the Court Theatre, at a Matinée, on Tuesday, Jan. 8.

Sir Rupert Yeld	Mr. Allan Aynesworth
The Earl of Crowborough	Mr. Sydney Brough
General Carew	Mr. O. B. Clarence
Captain Reginald Ross	Mr. John L. Mackay
Eric Lowndes	Mr. Hubert Harben
Thomas	Mr. Edmund Gwenn
Ferrers	Mr. Allan Wade
Mrs. Rockingham	Miss Eva Moore
Sybil Carew	Miss June Van Buskirk

It is sometimes the happy fate of the schoolboy, when summoned to a private interview in the head-master's room, to receive, instead of the expected lecture, a cake from home. Something of the same experience was enjoyed at the Court Theatre on Tuesday. We always go to the Sloane-square establishment prepared to be serious, or, at any rate, to take our diversion in some quaint and superior way. But there is nothing cryptic or eccentric about *The Reformer*. It is an amusing and agreeable comedy, with just a pretence at social philosophy. As the American complained of "Paradise Lost," it "proves nothing"; but the hearty laughter which it evoked on Tuesday afternoon showed that it appealed to an audience amongst which were many members of the profession. There is just a hint of ethics at the outset—enough to excuse the production of the play at the Court. Toleration, always toleration, is the lesson taught by the philosopher of the piece, Sir Rupert Yeld. He is supposed to be very immoral; he is certainly extremely plausible. In act one, Eric Lowndes, an eligible young man, is "discovered" making love to an attractive young lady named Sybil Carew; and she gives him her photograph, with her signature attached. Then appears on the scene Mrs. Rockingham, a smart and lively widow, who is engaged to the Earl of Crowborough, a hearty but dense young nobleman, who is a lukewarm partner in the arrangement. Mrs. Rockingham is a clever, ambitious woman, who thinks that an affectation of severe morality will help her to make a position for herself in society; and so she has resolved to ostracise several notorious *roués* by excluding them from her assemblies. One of the offenders, says Mrs. Rockingham, is Eric Lowndes, who once, when she was still a married woman, wanted her to elope with him. When Miss Sybil hears this she determines to have no more to do with the culprit, and entrusts Sir Rupert Yeld with a commission to get back her photograph. Sir Rupert is himself one of those whom Mrs. Rockingham has resolved to ignore, and in an amusing scene he exposes her pretences, analyses her motives and character, and ends by giving her a smacking kiss on the mouth. Mrs. Rockingham is highly indignant, and declares war to the knife with him. So ends the first act.

In the second we have the spectacle of the Earl of Crowborough chafing under his engagement, and longing to be off and away to shoot tigers in Bengal with his friend, Captain Reginald Ross. Lowndes's example and encouragement, however, hold the Earl to his allegiance. Sir Rupert interviews Eric, and makes demand for the photograph, and Lowndes is so completely taken aback by this example of female fickleness that he resolves to go tiger-shooting himself, drawing with him in his change of plan, Crowborough, who writes a letter to Mrs. Rockingham breaking off their engagement, and prepares to leave for India.

In the last act, Yeld, who is really in love with the widow, continues his calm, but sage and determined proceedings. He persuades Sybil that Lowndes's fault is not unforgiveable—it is eventually ascertained that it was another person of the same name who wanted Mrs. Rockingham to elope—and sends a "wire" which brings back the young man from Dover. When Mrs. Rockingham realises that she has been jilted by Crowborough she is furious; but Yeld suggests that she shall marry him, and pretends that it was she who threw over the Earl. After slight demur she consents, and the play ends. A testy old General, with the hobby of correcting his manservant's pronunciation, supplies the "comic relief."

The production was notable for the very fine comedy performances given by Mr. Allan Aynesworth and Miss Eva Moore, in the principal parts. Mr. Aynesworth, who on this occasion wore a very becoming beard, enacted Sir Rupert Yeld with admirable point, polish, and repose, and gave the fullest value to the cool cleverness of the philosophic man-of-the-world. Miss Eva Moore made the most fascinating of smart widows, and played the part with the spontaneous naturalness, delicate finish, and bright humour which she has accustomed us to expect from her. Mr. Sydney Brough had a rôle which suited him down to the ground in that of the Duke of Crowborough, and treated it in a broad and droll way that was irresistible. Mr. O. B. Clarence's "natty" style and ultra-clear enunciation helped him to make the accurate and irritable General Carew very amusing; and Mr. Edmund Gwenn was very comical and characteristic as Thomas. Mr. John L. Mackay was entirely efficient as the easy-going Nimrod, Captain Reginald Ross; and Mr. Hubert Harben was duly earnest and ardent as Eric Lowndes. Mr. Allan Wade did useful work as Ferrers; and Miss June Van Buskirk played Sybil Carew easily and pleasantly. *The Reformer*, which was very well received, was followed by a play in three scenes, by John Masefield, performed for the first time, and entitled

"THE CAMPDEN WONDER."

Mrs. Harrison	Miss Dolores Drummond
The Parson	Mr. Edmund Gurney
Mrs. Perry	Miss Carlotta Addison
John Perry	Mr. Norman McKinnel
Richard Perry	Mr. H. R. Hignett
Tom Constable	Mr. Norman Page

Value will doubtless be claimed for *The Campden Wonder* on the ground of its being a "slice out of life." There are, no doubt, instances on record of crimes committed with inducements which seem, to the ordinary person, absurdly inadequate, and that of John Perry in Mr. Masefield's piece is one of these. The villain's motive is simply hatred of his brother, because the latter is a sober, decent fellow, while John is a blackguard and a drunkard. A farmer named Harrison is in the habit of making long absences from home, and John, in order to bring his brother down, swears that his mother, Richard, and himself have murdered Harrison between them. On this evidence they are all three condemned to be hanged, John holding out to the last with brutal obstinacy. There is an awesome effect in the prison, when the trio, after an agonising scene, are led off to execution; and then in comes Mrs. Harrison, with the news that her husband is very much alive, having simply been "gallivanting" at Gloucester. Unfortunately, the good lady has mistaken the date of the execution, and comes just too late to save the innocent from death. A memorable performance was given by Mr. Norman McKinnel in the rôle of John Perry. Mr. McKinnel's impersonation of the immovable monster was terribly convincing, and the house was hushed as John Perry growled out his strong, sullen, obdurate utterances. Mr. McKinnel's facial play was admirable throughout, and his whole reading of the character was quite powerful and predominating. Mr. H. R. Hignett gave a vigorously expressive embodiment of Richard Perry; and Miss Dolores Drummond's comedy talent was once more displayed as the spirited and loquacious Mrs. Harrison. Mr. Edmund Gurney made the best of an unthankful task as a prosy parson; and Miss Carlotta Addison was unimpeachably excellent as Mrs. Perry, her acting in the prison scene being particularly pathetic. Mr. Norman Page was satisfactory as Tom Constable. A word of gratitude is due to the very agreeable entr'acte music provided by Mr. Theodore Stier and his orchestra.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, Thursday, Jan. 10.—This has been a quiet week, and M. Francis Robin, who has just opened his small playhouse, Le Trétau Royal, has seized this opportune moment to bring out a few small sketches that found favour with the fashionable audience that crowded the place. *La Traite des Planches* is an amusing trifle by MM. André Barde and Jack d'Avise. Lilette, having discovered that her husband has a mistress, a young actress, decides to join the profession, and applies to a shady agency to secure her an engagement. She has some unpleasant adventures, is grossly insulted by a low fellow, a member of a third-rate company, and returns to her husband cured of her desire to shine in public. Her husband breaks off his liaison, and both have profited by the lesson. The authors have drawn a capital picture of this agency, where the naïve Lilette is made to sing *risqué* songs of which she fails to understand the meaning.

The second piece, *Octave*, is from the pen of MM. Yves Mirande and Géroule. When the curtain rises we see Octave lying on his bed. He rubs his eyes, yawns, and notices with surprise that he is in evening dress. Did he come home so drunk that he was unable to undress? He wants to know the time, but his watch is gone. So is his money, his ring, and scarfpin. He looks around him, and sees other things that startle him—flowers and funeral wreaths around the bed and candles on the table; on his writing-table letters on black-edged paper. He opens one of these, and reads that he is to be buried the next day. He is believed to be dead! And he smiles grimly when he perceives that his valet has clothed him in his old dress suit, having no doubt kept the new one for himself. Hearing voices on the stairs, he throws himself on the bed and closes his eyes. The door opens, and his mistress enters, followed by an undertaker's man. He has bequeathed her all his money, and he has to listen how the woman haggles with the man, and insists on everything being done as cheaply as possible. She even bargains over the tombstone. And all these details being satisfactorily settled, she falls into the arms of Octave's friend, Henri, and arranges to live with him in a little country house. After they have left the room Octave jumps off the bed. He has heard enough, and the curtain drops. This lugubrious farce, excellently played by M. Le Gallo, raised roars of laughter.

"L'Ete de la Caumartin," the little *revue* that concluded the night's entertainment, was fairly amusing. The principal dramatists, artists, and politicians come in for their share of chaff, and Mlle. Franville made a big hit with her capital imitations of Mme. Jeanne Granier, Miss Crampton, Mlle. Lavallière, &c. Some of the jokes are, perhaps, somewhat spiteful, but people caricatured in a *revue* are not expected to show themselves too thin-skinned.

Mlle. Astral has not abandoned litigation concerning *La Savelli*, the play now running successfully at the Réjane Theatre. The lady playwright obtained from a judge sitting in chambers an order for the seizure of the prompter's copy of the play, with the view to proving that M. Max Maurey's version of M. Gilbert Augustin Thierry's novel is an infringement of the rights of dramatisation granted her several years ago by M. Thierry. The manuscript was duly "seized" from the prompter's hands by a police commissary, and sealed by an officer of the Paris Courts, over which M. Ditte presides. A further order of the Court decreed the breaking of the seals, and when this had been done in the presence of a formidable array of legal luminaries,, Mlle. Astral's counsel, M. Philippe, argued that the manuscript did not correspond with the play as performed at the Théatre Réjane. On M. Philippe's application, M. Ditte ordered M. Baitry to proceed to the theatre with a competent staff of stenographers, and to place before the Court a verbatim report of the words actually uttered on the stage.

Following Mme. Lina Cavalieri's example, another music-hall star intends to go over to the "regular" stage. Mlle. Jane Dancrey, the graceful dancer, has a delightful voice, which for the last two years she has carefully trained, and she will make her final bow to the manager of the Folies-Bergère, with whom she is on the best of terms, because, as she asserts, he never takes off his hat when speaking to a lady. Mlle. Dancrey will appear at the Moulin-Rouge in a lyric comedy by M. Paul Ferrier, for which M. Hirchman has written the music, and afterwards she will give us an opportunity of applauding her in *La Vie de Bohème* and *Cavalleria*. We wish this clever artist, known to London audiences, every success.

Miss Lawler, who made such a successful début in a *revue* at the Scala, again appeared in public, but this time as defendant before the Justice of the Peace of the 9th District. She was summoned by Mme. Evrard, one of the dressers at La Scala. The first thing the plaintiff complained of was that Miss Lawler had made use of bad language, had applied to her the name of a quadruped with two humps, and had closed a long string of epithets with the famous monosyllable that has come down to us from the battle of Waterloo. Nor is this all. According to Mme. Evard, Miss Lawler even went so far as to hit her in her "stomachs." The latter statement created much sensation in Court, and the public felt inclined to look upon Mme. Evrard as a phenomenon, when it dawned upon them that this lady must have been thinking of the before-mentioned quadruped when she gave these particulars. Miss Lawler indignantly denied the charge. Mme. Evrard, she said, refused to to help her dressing, whereupon she "gave her a bit of her mind," but without making use of the incriminated words. As to the assault, Miss Lawler asserted it was a wicked story. She admitted having pushed the dresser out of her room, but in a gentle manner. Both parties having called their witnesses, the judge awarded Mme. Evrard £4 damages. "That's £2 per stomach," remarked the usher of the Court under his breath.

M. Le Bargy having divorced his wife, Mme. Simone Le Bargy, the question arises under what name that lady will in future appear before the public. Other actresses before her have divorced, but they always took care to add their own name to that of their husbands. When Mme. Sarah Bernhardt lost her husband, M. Damala, or when Mme. Simon-Girard ceased to be Mme. Max, the public did not notice any change on the bills. With Mme. Le Bargy it is different. When she married the great sociétaire of the Comédie-Française she became his pupil, and was glad to be engaged at the Gymnase under a name so well known. To-day she repents her imprudence. Having in a short time won fame with the public who know her as Mme. Le Bargy, it is not pleasant for her to have to adopt a pseudonym. Fortunately, the public will always recognise her under no matter what disguise, and several of our managers have already made her tempting offers. Thus, M. Guitry is preparing in her honour a revival of *La Femme de Claude*; and M. Samuel, the Variétés manager, is willing to pay he ra gigantic salary if she will accept a rôle in *Le Grand Casimir*...

On Saturday next our Fine Arts Ministry will decide who is to succeed M. Pedro Gailhard in the management of the Opéra. M. Aristide Briand is anxious to secure M. Carré, and to replace him at the Opéra-Comique by M. Porel. This combination, however, presents serious financial difficulties, and it is therefore not imporbable that M. Messager and M. Broussan will become joint directors of our first lyric stage.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

MEMORIES OF BELLE BILTON.

BY ONE WHO KNEW HER.

That Miss Belle Bilton (the late Lady Clancarty) commenced her professional career in the music halls, as has been generally reported, is a mistake. It was in the February of 1881 that she and her sister Flo first appeared at Elliot Galer's Theatre, Reading, in the chorus of the children's *Les Cloches de Corneville* company. The proprietor of this combination was the late Charles Bernard, although his first wife was really the owner of the company, and out of her private means financed it, in addition to making all the dresses and taking a loving interest in the venture. Following Reading, the company went to the Gaiety, London, playing under the late John Hollingshead's régime a series of matinées with considerable success. A long tour followed, and continued until the November of the same year, during which the little artists played at all the leading provincial towns, finishing at Elliot Galer's Opera House, Leicester.

Amongst others of the company who have since been successful in their profession were:—Messrs. Bertie Coote, Cecil Barth, Daly Cooper, the O'Connell Family, Misses Carrie Coote, Josephine Henley, Belle Black, and more than one well-known dancer, pupils of Miss Lizzie Gilbert, who had a troupe of little dancers in the same opera. The musical director was Mr. "Jimmy" Glover's uncle, Mr. W. F. Glover, and the general-manager and producer Mr. Russell Rosse.

In connection with the company was an authorised travelling school, held every day excepting Mondays and Saturday for three or four hours. The juveniles were not only taught the three R's, but French, and also the practice and theory of music. Prizes were given, and in a competition for the best imaginative story Belle Bilton came out first, the story being printed in the Derby and other provincial papers. Its title was "This House To Let," and it described the wanderings of a ne'er-do-well, who, after reformation, comes back to his village and his mother, only to find this placard on the old cottage. In the December of the same year (1881) the two sisters went to the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, and played small parts in *Dick Whittington*, and the following Christmas found them at the Comedy, Manchester, again in pantomime.

The children's *Les Cloches de Corneville* numbered seventy-eight children and eighteen adults, the latter being composed of matrons and male attendants. The smallest salary of this juvenile combination was thirty shillings a week and their board, washing, and lodging. Pocket money was given to the amount stated by their parents, and the treasurer had a bad time of it when he came to deduct amounts that had been disbursed during the week for tarts, &c.

It has been mentioned that Lady Clancarty had a special liking for painting, and for this fact the writer can vouch. It was on her birthday during this tour that he gave her her first serviceable box of paints. Her first use of it was to paint his portrait, and though the attempt was most emphatically successful in one way as far as colouring and magnitude were concerned, he did not think it then at all flattering.

The initial worries of that tour he will never forget. The first journey was to Middlesbrough, and because it was taken in a special train the youngsters thought the line belonged to them. During a stop there was an entire exodus of them to the refreshment-rooms. At the next station the doors were locked, but what did that matter? They climbed out all over the place like young monkeys, and how the milk and buns disappeared! And not a refreshment lady attendant said an unkind word or wondered why there were not more coppers in the till!

"Yes," writes our correspondent, "there was worry, but bless me, when I look back to it what pleasant worry! Their sorrows were mine, and their pleasures mine; and there is not one of them now whom I would not like to meet after all these years, and like to be young again with them, talking over the times when they were caught red-handed stealing the apples out of a dignified bishop's grounds in a certain cathedral town, which were, unfortunately, too near the dressing-room windows. By the way, the said bishop had a summons taken out against the delinquents. I can hear a chuckle now from one well-known comedian and another respected member of the Stock Exchange when they read this confession. For I had to get them out of the town by certain methods which, at that time, I did not wish them to emulate or understand.

"No wonder Lady Clancarty endeared herself to the Irish tenantry and all around her. As I write I look at one of her childish letters to me, and the commencement is, 'Dear Daddy,' telling me of her little worries and troubles, but mainly full of her hopes and ambitions for the future."

NEW HALL AT SOUTHEND.

Upwards of one thousand persons crowded into the King's Hall, West Cliff, Southend-on-Sea, on Monday, the occasion being the opening of West Cliff's new place of amusement. The builder, Mr. E. H. Adams, has spared neither money nor effort to erect one of the prettiest halls to be found outside of London. The auditorium, with the small, cosy balcony at the end, has seating accommodation for 700, handsome tip-up chairs being placed in the fauteuils and the balcony. Access to the building is gained from Hamlet Court-road, through an arcade which is in keeping with the general character of the hall. The floor is embellished with mosaic designs, whilst in the roof are some fine examples of Cloissonne glass, which are inscribed with the names of notable composers. At the end of the arcade is a box-office, crush-room, manager's office, and at the rear a fair-sized kitchen. Above is the balcony, a large banqueting hall, and the refreshment room. Neat mahogany fittings, with embossed plate-glass panels, are provided, and a luxurious pale green carpet covers the floors and broad staircase. Maple wood, with invisible nailing, has been used for the floor of the hall, which is specially suitable for dancing. A small stage, fully equipped, completes the hall, which, it should be added, is heated by the most modern hot-water system, whilst the lighting, by electricity, is perfect, electroliers of very handsome design being utilised. The safety of the public as regards fire has been very carefully considered, and emergency exits open outwards into a spacious right-of-way into Anerley-road, by which the building, when crowded, could be emptied in about three minutes. Messrs. Paul Vandy and J. E. Adams are the proprietors of the hall, and Mr. Vandy, who has frequently delighted Southend audiences with his marvellous juggling feats, will undertake the management.

A high-class entertainment was given on the opening night, amongst the performers being the Musical Palmers, who played on a variety of instruments, and were loudly applauded; Miss Dora Barrington, who possesses a rich soprano voice, was encored for her songs; and other very creditable turns were given by the Woellhafs, comedy duo; Miss Daisy Almer, comedienne; Miss Altea, rolling globe equilibrist; the Derricks, musical comedy artists; Miss Marion Wills, in *The Troubles of a Stage-Manager;* the Balzens, Japanese jugglers; Miss Fontanbleau, with her high-leaping dogs; and Miss Ruby Bijou, a remarkable dancer.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

DEATH OF MR. TOM BOWMAN.

His many friends in the profession will learn with much regret of the sudden death of Mr. Tom Bowman, who up to Saturday night last was playing in the production of *The Flood* at the Hippodrome, Manchester, under the management of Messrs. Moss and Stoll. He had been in indifferent health for some time past, but as late as six o'clock on Monday evening he was prepairng to attend business when he completely collapsed and died at 1.45 a.m. on Tuesday.

Born in 1841, the deceased actor was for fourteen years in the 15th King's Hussars, stationed in India, and it was upon selling out of this regiment that he started his professional life. His career on the stage extended over thirty years, and included three years' engagement at the Pavilion, London, in the old "stock" days, with Mr. Isaac Cohen, twelve months with the late Fred Fredericks at Stratford, E., and more recently with Miss Ethel Arden, Mr. John Wainwright, and many others.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—We beg to make an appeal on behalf of the late Thomas Bowman Closs, professionally known as Tom C. Bowman, who died suddenly on Jan. 8, at the age of 65. Poor Mr. Bowman had fallen on bad times previous to his engagement in the production of *The Flood*, and owing to that and ill-health he died destitute, leaving a wife to mourn his loss. We urge his brother and sister artists not to let this poor old man, whose life has been spent in the profession, and who died in harness, as it were, go to a pauper's grave.

The smallest donation will be thankfully received and duly acknowledged. Whatever may be left after funeral and other expenses will be handed over to his widow.

TOM E. CONOVER } Hon.
TOM McINERNEY } Treasurers.

Amounts already subscribed from Manchester Hippodrome:—

	£	s.	d.
The Manchester Hippodrome & Ardwick Empire Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
Oswald Stoll	1	1	0
Allan W. Young	0	10	6
E. P. Morgan	0	5	0
Harry Denvil	0	5	0
Harry Garnham	0	5	0
C. E. Burnall	0	5	0
Austin Walters	0	2	6
W. M. Harle	0	10	6
Tom E. Conover	0	10	6
Tom McInerney	0	10	6
Miss M. Stafford Smith	0	10	6
Other Members of *Flood* Co.	1	8	0
John Wainwright	0	10	0
Alfred Haines	0	10	0
Orchestra and Choir, per Mr. Haines	0	14	3
Front of House Staff, per Mr. E. P. Morgan	0	12	0
Stage Staff and Extra Ladies and Gentlemen, per Harry Denvil	1	12	3
Advertising Staff, per Harry Garnham	0	11	9

Contributions, which are to be forwarded to the hon. treasurers, will be acknowledged in our columns.

THE MUSIC HALL SICK FUND.

The usual monthly meeting of the Management Committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund was held on Wednesday, at the York Hotel, York-road. Mr. W. J. Wainratta (vice-president) occupied the chair, and there were also present Messrs. Frank Heath, Tom Carney, J. Mulcaster, and W. West.

Mr. Heath (the hon. treasurer), reported that the bank-books showed for the past year a satisfactory increase in the income of the Society, and with judicious management there was every prospect that the financial position would continue to show an improvement.

It was mentioned by Mr. West, who was a member of the original committee, that the Society will have completed its fortieth year of existence in a few months, having been established in the autumn of 1866. The resolution to found the institution was unanimously adopted at a meeting held on Aug. 22, 1866, at Weston's Music Hall, Holborn, presided over by Mr. Wm. Holland. The original scheme included the erection of almshouses in the neighbourhood of Watford for such members of the music-hall profession as, by election, were entitled to become inmates; but this part of the scheme was never carried into effect. The first committee elected consisted of Mr. W. Holland (chairman), Mr. Frederick Strange (vice-chairman), and Messrs. Arthur Lloyd, Chas. Morton, Edwin Villiers, J. Sweasey, Cæsar A. Long, John Nash, H. J. Leah, W. West, H. D'Alcorn, C. Sloman, P. Corri, W. Page, R. Leggett, W. St. Aubyn, J. H. Jennings, Bedford Reuter, Anson, and W. Julian, with power to add to their number. Mr. J. R. O'Hara was elected secretary and Mr. W. St. Aubyn hon. solicitor. Mr. O'Hara held the post of secretary only a short time, and was succeeded by the late Mr. G. W. Hunt, known to fame as the author of the stirring patriotic song, "We don't want to fight," sung with great success by the late G. H. Macdermott. Of the original committee there remains only Mr. Wm. West, well known in his day as a negro comedian and stump orator, who at Wednesday's meeting was temporarily granted a small weekly sum to help meet his necessities. He is now seventy-four years of age, and has been a member of the music-hall profession about half a century. Mr. Frank Heath, the hon. treasurer, has been a member of the committee some twenty-three years, and has given much time and work towards promoting the well-being of the Fund, which is by far the oldest Friendly Society connected with the variety profession.

An interesting statement was made by Mr. C. Sloman, who moved the first resolution at the meeting held in August, 1866. He said that his recollection went back to the year 1825, when the first music hall proper was opened. It was known as the Rotunda, and was situated in the Blackfriars-road.

Opportunity is offered for the obtaining of valuable stands at Ramsgate, the Corporation of which are now inviting applications from musical troupes for three "pitches" on the sands at the popular watering-place, and one at Louisa Gap, Broadstairs. Tenders, which should be addressed to the Chairman of the Sands Committee, should be delivered to the Town Clerk by Jan. 24.

Carl and Carr are now fulfilling their third season with Mr. Arthur Carlton, and the merriment of audiences at the Metropole, Devonport, is much increased by their droll antics and amusing conversations as the Captain and Mate in Mr. Carlton's production of *Dick Whittington*.

The Gillingham Hippodrome closes to-day, after a successful fourteen weeks' run of animated pictures. This has been brought about by the wintry weather of the past two or three weeks, which militates against the success of a building of this class, which is only a temporary one of wood and corrugated iron. It will open again in the spring.

The boom in art reproductions by mere humans continues, and artistic perfection is reached by Mme. Claesen's company of two ladies and four gentlemen, who reproduce groups of bronze statuary with wonderful accuracy. The subjects chosen include some of the finest examples of the great masters, and are selected from all the most famous galleries in Europe.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

For other Halls see page 23.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

The most important item in this week's programme at the Islington Empire is the engagement of Mr. Arthur Roberts and company in the new tabloid comedy entitled *The Woman Who Was*. The one-act play called *The Man Who Was* is a tragedy, in which Mr. Tree takes the title rôle; *The Woman Who Was* is a farce, in which that favourite comedian, Mr. Arthur Roberts, sustains the leading part. The idea is wildly extravagant—a man assuming the character of an assistant at a Bon Marché, and in that capacity attending to the requirements of the lady customers. But then we have Mr. Arthur Roberts in the principal part; and so we cease to be concerned with the improbabilities of the plot, and give ourselves up to the hearty enjoyment of the humours of the new production. Those who have had an opportunity of seeing Mr. Roberts in a female character are fully aware how funny he can be in this rôle, and how telling is his rendering of the short crisp dialogue. The popular comedian is quite in his element when he is persuading lady customers to purchase dress materials of all shades, or in taking the measurement of a slim waist. The business carried on in a modern Bon Marché is most amusingly burlesqued; and the new assistant causes much confusion by sticking the addresses of purchasers of goods indiscriminately upon the parcels sent out. Mr. Roberts' quick change from a buxom lady, with fair hair, to a policeman of stolid appearance, is worthy of mention; and the merry little piece is throughout played to the accompaniment of much laughter. Mr. Roberts is supported by an excellent company, whose names are not given in the programme, but who play their respective parts in vivacious style, and share in the success achieved.

Mr. Fred Holland, who is well-known in the cricket world as a member of the Surrey team, recently made his début on the variety stage; he is not only a fine batsman, but, possessing a good voice, he can sing a song in excellent style, as evidenced by his spirited rendering of "The lads of the fire brigade," a ballad in praise of the doings of London's gallant firemen, which is received with loud demonstrations of approval. Mr. Holland, who is six feet in height, has a bright, happy style, and his reception nightly is of the heartiest character possible. Mr. V. L. Granville, character impersonator, is on a return visit, and scores in his intensely dramatic embodiments of Wilfred Denver, in *The Silver King*, and Fagin, the Jew, in the condemned cell, a thrilling crisis being reached when the old man hears the clock strike the fatal hour, and is confronted by the hangman. Fernee's Juveniles give an attractive musical performance, the girls taking the leading part. One of these possesses a good voice, and sings a ballad in a style that would do credit to a much older artist. Another member of the troupe wins applause with a smart song and dance; and the whole entertainment is animated and pleasing. Sibb and Sibb, a lady and gentleman, are skilful and well-practised double trapeze artists, who win the favourable verdict of the audience. Mr. Lloyd Morgan, comedian, scores with a topical ditty. Mr. Charles Fanning is a comedian who depends upon patter for his success, and has a quaint method that is extremely effective. The Mozondos, in a comedy tumbling act, meet with deserved success; and Fraser and Haley, two young ladies, sing a duet in a manner that brings them plenty of applause. The Czar's Russian dancers, known as "the original Royal Troupe," give their songs and dances, which are characteristically national, and quite different from the ordinary terpsichorean contributions. The Bioscope presents a series of pictures, by means of which Londoners can gain a good idea of the pleasures and perils of fox-hunting. The front of the house is carefully looked after by Mr. George L. Wilson, the manager, and Mr. A. Petersen has the direction of a capable orchestra.

CHELSEA PALACE.

A double event is scored this week at the cosy hall so successfully governed by Mr. Henri Gros, where the programme contains two new sketches, in each of which at least one of the characters meets with a violent end. The first in the bill is *Her Last Dance*, a dramatic episode by Roland Oliver, which deals with the duplicity of an adventurer who poses as a French Count, and not only steals the heart of a young English dancer, but also purloins from her a pearl necklace of fabulous worth. As she is to be married to the "Count" the following day, the girl is about to give up her profession, and indulges in a final pas seul as a farewell. When she has finished her dance she discovers that her lover has left his overcoat behind him, and as she picks it up her eye falls upon a letter in a feminine handwriting, which protrudes from the pocket. She reads the note, and learns that it is from her Count's real wife urging him to steal the necklace, and return to her. The dancer turns in dismay to her jewel-case, and finds the trinket gone. Upon the return of her lover for his coat, she announces her intention of fetching the police, and when the spurious nobleman shows signs of resistance, she bombards him with art pots and other missiles, which he skilfully wards off with a chair. The girl manages to secure a dagger, and eventually stabs him to the heart, herself falling over his prostrate body. Mr. H. Naylor Grimson well maintains the character and accent of a foreigner, and acts with energy and power; and his fair companion gives a sympathetic performance of the artist, indulging also in a graceful dance.

The second playlet introduces Lady Haldon, who, some two years ago, appeared in a comedy sketch, and now woos the tragic muse. She is the heroine of a dramatic episode by Arthur Shirley, entitled *Two Pictures*, in one of which she is the wife of a gambler who has ruined himself by betting till he is in the depths of despair. The gambler's evil genius puts a different complexion on his trouble, declares that the husband has been unfaithful, and induces the lady, like the wife in *East Lynne*, to leave him. Like Lady Isabel, too, she is cast off by her betrayer, but falls a victim to drink. Her husband has, meanwhile, inherited a fortune, and longs for the return of his wife, who now gains a livelihood by selling matches in the street. In her besotted condition she enters her old home, and on meeting her husband and his false friend, she denounces the latter. She asks her husband to declare whether he has been unfaithful to her, and on his indignant denial she points to her betrayer and bids her husband kill him. He needs no second injunction, and after a terrific combat, the villain is choked to death, and the wife, who has been stabbed during the struggle, falls lifeless. The characters of the happy wife of the opening scene and the degraded woman of the close are vividly contrasted by Lady Haldon, who infuses no little dramatic intensity into her performance. She is admirably supported by the two other members of her company, who conduct their struggle with real earnestness.

The general entertainment is contributed to by Miss Alma Bignell, a petite comedienne, who sings love ballads and dances neatly enough to gain repeated recalls. Mr. Tom E. Hughes strikes a very eccentric note as a henpecked husband, and his grotesque mannerisms as "One of the Upper Ten" are equally irresistible. Mr. Albert Whelan, though an Australian entertainer, has long since become a naturalised favourite with English audiences, and his remarkable whistling powers, his lifelike imitations of popular artists, no less than his singing of an original coon song, are applauded to the echo. The illustrated songs of Martine and Son, in which the ballads "A picture no artist can paint," and "In the shade of the old apple tree," are sung by a sweet-voiced youth and accompanied by coloured pictures, are greatly enjoyed. Miss Sylvia Du Barry wins a flattering reception for her cultivated rendering of "Sing me to sleep" and "Il bacio." Kilo's exquisite reproductions of statuary by Mlle. Irma Lorraine are interspersed by Maurin's brilliantly-illuminated fountain display; the recital in song of a noble deed done by a British workman, admirably declaimed by Mr. Sid Bandon, touches a loudly responsive chord in the auditorium; and Felix De Marce's performing ponies are an attractive feature of the bill. Mr. "Teddy" Swanborough, although still invalided, is able occasionally to visit the hall, where matters are meanwhile left safely in the hands of Mr. J. Norman Berlin, the acting-manager.

THE BEDFORD.

Excellent business at the Camden Town house is reported by Mr. A. F. Lovesy, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas's experienced manager, and though the holiday season has reached its close the house still accommodates two crowded audiences nightly. The chief novelty that is being presented in the current programme is an Oriental comedy extravaganza known as *Ladyland*, the libretto being by Richard Elton, and the music by Denham Harrison, the musical director of Hengler's. The latter catches the ear of the audience with some attractive melodic themes, which, however, are none too well given; but the conversations of the different characters do not enable one to gather a clear idea of the plot. This, however, is a matter of but slight importance. The scene is laid near the Equator in a country where polygamy rules. A Pasha of many daughters (eight) is anxious to get them off his hands by marrying them to one unfortunate male; but Gwendolen, who has been kidnapped apparently from Whitechapel, puts other notions into the girls' heads, and each wants a hubby of her own. With the arrival of Gwendolen's former Cockney sweetheart, servant to a certain Gussie, sent out on behalf of a syndicate to prospect for a railway that is to run through the Pasha's dominions matters become more lively, and Cupid has a chance. Gussie falls in love with the Princess Catchim, the chief daughter, and that is all we need say of the plot. The dude railway prospector belongs to the category of parts coming under the title of "stage impossibilities," but the gentleman playing it is not without talent. One dark-eyed young lady who interlards her conversation by a plentiful use of the phrase "Lorlumme," endeavours, with poor success, to sing a coon song. In her comic extravagances she causes laughter, and her efforts to be amusing are better conceived than another would-be funny member of the cast. The lady who plays the Princess has a fine figure, and does not lack charm; but she would sing better if she understood the value of distinct articulation. The chorus ladies look well in their Turkish dresses.

Mr. George D'Albert and company appear in the human episode *'Tis Never too Late to Mend*, a title which brings back to our memories the first night of Charles Reade's famous drama, and the excitement over the brutalities of the gaol governor. At the Bedford Mr. D'Albert, who is an expressive singer with dramatic instincts, appears as the Rev. Arthur Stirling, the prison chaplain, and reaches the hearts of all by his vivid and effective style. Mr. Alf. Davis, a descriptive singer on a lower plane than Mr. D'Albert, has a subject that appeals successfully in his number, "That's when the teardrops start." Among the comedians are Mr. Hardie Palm, who tells the tale of a can of tinned meat from Chicago, which, according to his showing, could be quite eloquent on its own account. The song has humour, but the author has overshot the mark by unhumorous exaggeration. Mr. Victor Travers appears as a member of a village fire brigade, an impersonation to which, but a few years since, the genius of Dan Leno gave effect. Mr. Travers is not a Leno, but he affords much satisfaction to the Bedfordians.

Early in the evening Miss King and Mr. Maurice Hoffman appear in a bright little comedietta, known as *The Sleeping-Car*. This is occupied by a young lady and gentleman, who as chance would have it, turn out to be an engaged couple bound for the same destination. The acting is good, and the trifle quite successful. The Virginians are an alert and hard-working quartet of coloured performers, who cut capers as coon dancers and singers; Tucker and Evans successfully combine ball-punching and comedy in a sketch entitled *Bertie's Troubles;* Wright, Esmay, and Wright have a unique speciality dancing act; and Florence Vincent agreeably asserts her right to be considered a charming comedienne. The Imperial Bioscope shows all the latest pictures, which are most interesting.

ROYAL ALBERT.

Mr. Arthur G. H. Hunt, the proprietor and manager of the Royal Albert, has made himself immensely popular in Canning Town, and his cosy music hall is quite a favourite resort for all classes. This week he has a pretty full programme. One of the best items is that of Mr. Leo Tell, who is quite a master of mimicry. He gives a vocal representation of all manner of musical instruments, including the cornet, trombone, 'cello, and flute, and he also imitates dogs, cats, horses, and other animals. During Mr. Tell's performance a handsome electrically-decorated and worked frame is to be seen in the background of the stage, and this gives an indication of the object or animal that is vocally mimicked. Mr. Tell is to be congratulated upon a very interesting turn. Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, the "factory nightingales," delight their hearers with their rendering of various numbers, including "Come back to Erin" and "Mona"; and Mr. G. W. Foster has an amusing parody on "Sweet Marie." Mlle. Rita and Mr. Fred C. Roma can be commended for the versatility they display in a high-class vaudeville entertainment, their songs, dances, and contortionistic business being greatly appreciated by the audience. Miss Rose Waller pleases everybody with her good style of delivery, and her character-song "Men" goes extremely well. The Izons submit a laughable comedy act entitled *The Captain and the Mate;* and from Mr. Harry Village we get a number of original funny songs, that called "The Grandfather's Stick" being particularly humorous. Mr. George Davis and his company are seen in the absurdity *Jack's Uncle*. The story of how a young man attempts to get money and sympathy from his uncle on the pretence that he has a child, and the amount of hypocrisy he has to maintain to prevent the deception being revealed, is explained in capital fashion by Mr. Davis and the artists who support him. Mr. Herbert Darnley's company of comedians in the physical culture skit *Muscles* and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux conclude the list. The last-mentioned, it may be said, have an attractive series of cinematographic views depicting a runaway marriage by motor-car.

Miss Beatrice Worth, whose professional career has been hindered by a long illness, is now rapidly reaching the convalescent stage, and will shortly resume business.

Presentation.—At the Hippodrome, Hastings, on Saturday night last, Mr. Tom N. Mills, the Australian vocalist, and a brother Terrier, presented Mr. Walter Norman (manager) with a beautiful gold and ruby ring in token of long friendship.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps. *The Era* is posted on Saturday in time to reach London Subscribers by the *first* Town Delivery, and Country Subscribers should receive their Papers by the *first* London Post. Address, the Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

ON THE ROAD, JAN. 14.

A Little Vagrant.—T. R., Sheffield.
Are You a Mason?—Ashton-under-Lyne.
Assassin.—T. R., Castleford.
At Cripple Creek.—Queen's T., Swindon.
At Duty's Call.—Leigh.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs.—T. R., Limerick.
Beautiful Fiend.—T. R., Stafford.
Beauty of Bath.—O. H., Cheltenham.
Belle of Mayfair (Bode).—Grand T., Southampton.
Benson, F. R. (N.).—Grand T., Durham.
Benson, F. R.—Queen's T., Leeds.
Benson, F. R. (S.).—T. R., Wexford.
Between the Lights.—Grand T., Chorley.
Blue Moon.—T. R., Brighton.
Breed of the Treshams.—T. R., Dover.
Bulmer, Mr.—Theatre Royal, Croydon.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—T. R., York.
Cassidy, J. Rice.—Miners' T., Ashington.
Chinese Honeymoon (Bode).—T. R., Blackburn.
Chinese Honeymoon (Macdona).—Scotland.
Christian, The (Croke).—Dalston Theatre.
Claudian.—T. R., Middlesboro'.
Coal King.—Court T., Bacup.
Compton Comedy Co.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
Country Girl (Macdona).—South Wales.
Dairymaids.—T. R., Halifax.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
D'Oyly Carte.—O. H., Middlesborough.
Driven from Home.—Prince's T., Accrington.
Earl and the Girl.—Empire T., Oldham.
Earl and the Girl (N.).—T. R., Birkenhead.
False Wife.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
Female Swindler.—Aquarium, Yarmouth.
Fight for Millions.—T. R., Colne.
French Spy.—Alhambra, Stourbridge.
Gay Parisienne.—Cambridge.
Gipsy Jack.—Prince's T., Horwich.
Glossip-Harris' Repertoire Co.—Garrick T., Hereford.
Golden Ladder.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Go-Won-Go Mohawk.—Bilston.
Grip of Iron.—New T., Consett.
Her Fatal Past.—Junction T., Manchester.
Her Lost Self.—T. R., Belfast.
Her Love Against the World.—P. O. W., Grimsby
Honour Thy Father.—Lyceum T., Govan.
Hour of Her Triumph.—Middleton.
Indian Mutiny.—New T., Blyth.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Leighton Buzzard & Rushden
La Poupee (Ralland).—Athenæum T., Lancaster.
Lion and the Mouse.—Grand T., Swansea.
Little Breadwinner.—Queen's T., Workington.
Love That Women Desire.—P.O.W., Mexboro'.
Man and Wife.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
Manxman.—Grand T., Rawtenstall.
Merveilleuses.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Midnight Wedding.—Junction T., Manchester.
Moody-Manners (A.).—Cork.
Mr. Popple.—Colchester.
My Sweetheart.—H.M.T., Barrow-in-Furness.
Napoleon the Great.—O. H., Dudley.
Orchid, The.—Dumfries and Castle Douglas.
Peter's Mother.—Grand T., Bournemouth.
Prince of Pilsen (Harriss).—T. R., Dewsbury.
Private Secretary.—O. H., Bury.
Prodigal Parson.—Lyceum T., Crewe.
Proof.—New Theatre, Aberdare.
Robespierre.—Gaiety T., Ayr.
Rogues of the Turf.—Lyric T., Liverpool.
Royal Divorce.—T. R., Macclesfield.
Saints and Sinners.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
Sapho (Annie Bell).—Queen's T., Keighley.
Sherlock Holmes.—T. R., Huddersfield.
Shulamite.—Bury St. Edmunds.
Silver King (Polini).—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Spider and the Fly.—Sunderland.
Spring Chicken.—Leicester.
Still Alarm.—T. R., North Shields.
Three Little Maids.—West Hartlepool.
Torrador (Macdona).—Scotland.
Traitor Prince.—T. R., Crook.
Traitor, The.—T. R., Jarrow.
Unwedded Wife.—Prince's T., Blackburn.
Village Blacksmith.—Prince's T., Preston.
Walls of Jericho.—O. H., Coventry.
Warning to Women.—Court T., Bacup.
Wearin' o' the Green.—Glossop.
What the Butler Saw.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
When Woman Hates.—T. R., Croydon.
White Chrysanthemum (Curzon).—O. H., Northampton.
White Chrysanthemum (Macdona).—Motherwell.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—T. R., Wednesbury.
Woman and Wine.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Worst Woman in London.—T. R., Smethwick.
10.30 Down Express.—Alexandra T., Hull.
£1,000 Reward.—King's T., Gainsboro'.

MATINEES AT GLASGOW.

Mr. E. Bostock, resident-manager of the Zoo and Hippodrome, Glasgow, sends us the following letters, which correct certain misstatements printed last week in a contemporary:—

Dear Sir,—On behalf of Mr. Darnley and all the members of *The Freaks* company, I have the pleasure of conveying to you their hearty and united thanks for the kind manner in which you have treated us over the extra matinées. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated by us all, and we wish you that continued prosperity which your upright and generous dealing entitles you to.—I remain, dear Sir, on behalf of Mr. Darnley and the members of *The Freaks* company, yours faithfully,

W. M. A. ARMOUR,
General Manager of *The Freaks* company.

Zoo and Hippodrome, Glasgow.
Jan. 5, 1907.

We, the undersigned artists, have pleasure in stating that we have appeared at the Zoo Hippodrome, Glasgow, during the week ending Jan. 5, 1907, that we have worked at *all* performances, and have received payment in full therefor.

(Signed) R. HAYES
KATHLEEN RADFORD
TOM WOOTTWELL
GEO. BARRINGTON
SAM ELTON
CHORLEY & CONNOR
WM. A. ARMOUR.
for H. Darnley's *Freaks* co.

Zoo and Hippodrome, Glasgow.
Jan. 5, 1907.

THE BRIG O' AYR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—As we have so many excellent artists from Bonnie Scotland, will you please give me space to call their attention to the ardent appeal that is being made by Lord Rosebery and many others for help, in the shape of donations (if ever so small), to assist in preserving the "auld brig o' Ayr." I am certain it only requires to bring such an appeal before their notice to evoke a liberal response.

The perpetuation of the memory of the dear Ayrshire ploughman—the genius of Scottish song—has a just claim on every laddie and lass born in the land o' the leal, and I therefore appeal, through the columns of the leading musical and dramatic journal, for help to retain and restore "the auld brig." I have given half a guinea, and will give more if the required sum be not collected in time.

May I suggest that Mr. Sam Gething, of the Empire, Glasgow, be chosen to act as receiver of sums sent.—Yours truly,

J. W. ROWLEY.
(An admirer of Robbie Burns.)

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. HOBBS.—*38, Portland-place, W.*

L. PRIESTLY.—*Apply to the Secretary, the Actors' Benevolent Fund, 8, Adam-street, Strand.*

A. E. RICHARDS.—*By referring to pages 28 and 29, and also the last pages of* The Era, *you will probably ascertain the whereabouts of the lady.*

E. OSWALD BROOKS.—*The licence of Cremorne Gardens lapsed for ever on Oct. 6, 1877.*

SAM COOK.—*He is generally supposed to belong to the Hebrew race, but we have no definite information on the point.*

J. FLYNN.—*Patrick Feeney, the Irish comedian, was born in Roscommon, Ireland, Nov. 19, 1850. When he was quite a child his parents came to England and settled in Birmingham.*

BILLSON.—*As the lady's name is not in our "Dramatic Cards" list we cannot say where she is playing. You might, however, search our provincial correspondence columns.*

H. B.—(1) *We do not know who holds the rights.* (2) *A letter addressed to Mr. H. Blinn, care of the Actors' Association, 10, King-street, Covent Garden, will no doubt find him, as he is a member of the Council.*

SAWDUST.—*Jan. 6, 1901.*

E. T.—(1) The Princess of Trebizonde *was produced at the Gaiety Theatre on April 16, 1870, with Miss Nellie Farren as Regina.* (2) The Brigands, *opera-bouffe, founded on* Les Brigands, *libretto by H. S. Leigh, was produced at the Globe Theatre on Sept. 13, 1875. Another English version, with libretto by W. S. Gilbert, was produced at the Avenue Theatre, London, on May 9, 1889. We are unable to supply other dates required or information as to copyright.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth or Death or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence, every additional word One Penny.

The charge for a notice of Marriage, not exceeding forty words, is Two Shillings and Sixpence, every additional word One Penny.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

COOKE.—At Edinburgh, Jan. 10, the wife of Leicester Alfred Cooke, of a daughter.

LEWIS.—On Dec. 1, at Sydney, Australia, Violet Stockwell (wife of Larry Lewis), of a fine daughter. Both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

BERESFORD—MAHOMED.—On Tuesday, the 8th inst., at All Saints' Church, Norfolk Square, W., by the Rev. W. Boyd, Frank Beresford to Dorothy Mahomed (Dorothy Milne). South African papers please copy.

BURNS—CHARLES.—On the 7th inst., at Hartlepool, Harry Burns to Helen Lennard Charles, daughter of the late Madame Lennard and Thomas Charles.

DEATHS.

ANDREWS—Jan. 5, Mrs. Andrews, mother of R. Andrews, master carpenter, and of the late Miss Bessie Wentworth.

BOWMAN (CLOSS).—Jan. 8, at Manchester, Thomas Bowman Closs, professionally known as T. C. Bowman, actor, aged 65.

FAUE.—On Jan. 8, at her residence, Mary Ann Faue, the beloved wife of James Faue, of the Three Faues, Risley performers. Foreign papers please copy.

FRANCE.—On the 5th inst, at Glasgow, "Abbie," the beloved sister of Frank H. France. Interred at the Dean Cemetery, Edinburgh.

MCCOLLUM.—Dec. 29, suddenly, Mrs. McCollum, widow of the late Thomas McCollum, formerly proprietor of the Royal Amphitheatre, High Holborn.

O'ROURKE.—On Jan. 6, at Sheffield, the wife of Johnny O'Rourke, of a daughter.

PHELPS.—Jan. 2, at 22, Sandown-gardens, Goodmayes, the residence of her son, Sarah Eliza (Mrs. Edmund Phelps), actress, aged 67.

WHEELER.—Jan. 3, of pneumonia, Arthur Wheeler, for many years acting-manager of the Theatre Royal, Brighton.

WALLER.—Jan. 8, at Manchester, Pauline, the beloved mother of Edgar O. Waller, manager of King's Theatre, Nottingham. R.I.P.

IN MEMORIAM.

ANDERSON.—In ever loving memory of Walter Reddick Anderson, who passed peacefully away, in his 36th year, on Jan. 7, at Greenock. Interred at Greenock New Cemetery, N.B., Jan. 9, 1907. R.I.P.

ANDERSON.—In ever loving and affectionate remembrance of my dear pal, Walter Reddick Anderson. Sadly missed by his friend, Arthur G. Smyth-Bowen, née George Beale.

Courteous and calm, in friendship true,
He passed his life 'midst golden hue
Of charities sincere.
And, as we mourn his spirit gone,
We know that aye, across the bourne,
His memory all revere.
Requiscat in pace.

HARCOURT.—In memory of my beloved husband, Fred Harcourt, who died Jan. 12, 1906.
I shall never see your like again;
As time goes on your absence brings more pain.
From his ever-loving wife, Lilian Warren.

HARCOURT.—In memory of my beloved father, Fred Harcourt, who died Jan. 12, 1906.
May I always follow the noble example you set me.
From his sorrowing son, Harold.

HARCOURT.—In loving memory of Fred Harcourt, who died Jan. 12, 1906. From his ever-sorrowing mother, brothers, and sisters.

MACCABE.—In loving memory of Joseph Maccabe (Joe Mac), died Jan. 11, 1893. Gone, but not forgotten by his wife, Alice Maydue.

READ.—In loving remembrance of my dear husband Theophilus Read, of the "World's Fair," Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, who departed this life Jan. 16, 1906. "Still ever with us in thought."

READ.—In ever-loving memory of my dear father, Theophilus Read (late lessee and partner, "World's Fair," Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington), who departed this life, Jan. 16, 1906. Deeply lamented by his only son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren. "Never forgotten."

FOR SYMPATHY.

Mr. and Mrs. JOHN BURTON desire most earnestly to thank the following for sympathy and assistance in their sad bereavement: R. C. Buchanan, for leave of absence; Frank Withers, for fulfilling duties; Ernest Stevens, Stanley Rogers, William Lowe, Charles Crosier, W. H. Garbois, &c., for kind letters; the "Cinderella" Co., "The White Chrysanthemum" Co., Kirkcaldy Theatre staff and band, Messrs. Macmasters and Barclay, Mr. Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. Stark, Mrs. Gibson, and Mr. and Mrs. Braid, for beautiful wreaths, memorials, &c. Gratitude and grief too deep for words.

THE Skating Carnival held at the Crystal Palace last week was a remarkable success, and drew an enormous audience. The monster asphalte rink was crowded with ladies, gentlemen, and children in elaborate costumes. Many distant parts of the country were well represented, and a good number of those who are frequenters of the Covent Garden balls were to be seen gracefully gliding about. After an excellent exhibition of fancy and trick skating by Mr. A. T. A. Bridge, the rink superintendent, one of the most amusing fancy dress hockey matches ever seen upon skates was played by members of Sanger's Circus and the Crystal Palace team, including the delightfully funny clown "Pimpo." Screams of laughter greeted the amusing, and what must have been at times painful, antics of the players, and if this particular item in the programme could only be repeated a few times more before Sanger's Circus leaves Sydenham it would be sure to attract crowds. About 130 entered for the various competitions, and some beautiful prizes were given away by Mr. Louis Sinclair, the wife of the managing-director of the Crystal Palace. The second gymkhana of the season will take place on Saturday next.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Acton and Nash
Adair, Mr. Frank
Ahrensmeyer, Mr. H.
Ainslie, Miss M.
Anthony, Mr. Mark
Ardie, Mr. Arthur
Armstrong, Mr. W. J.
Armitage, Mr.
Arthur, Miss Lily
Asdown, Mr. James, W.
Barnett, Mr. C. A.
Baroni, Mr. Harry
Barrett, Mr. Medley
Barwick, Mr. Edwin
Barton, Miss Dora
Bean, Mr. Leonard
Bella and Bijou
Bellington, Miss Isa
Bent, Mrs.
Boothman, Miss
Bosco, Mr.
Bowman, Miss Isa
Boyne, Mr. Leonard
Brierley, Mr. C.
Britton, Mr. Arthur
Brock, Miss Olive
Brooks, Mr. John
Buckley, Mr. V.
Burnell, Mr. Fred
Burnetti
Burrow, Mr. C. Kennett
Cabley, Mr. G. H.
Callam, Mr. John
Carle, Mr. Leo.
Carney Bros.
Carson, Mr. J. W.
Chesney, Mr. E.
Chippendale, Mr.
Chipperfield, Mr. J.
Clark, Mr. Chas.
Clive, Mr. Wybert
Combes, Mr. Arthur
Conrad, Mr. Harry
Conrad, Mr. Wallace
Conway, Mr. Martin
Cornell, Mr. D.
Comstock, Mr. Martin
Cronin, Mr. Morris
Cunningham, Mr. James
Currans, Mr. J. W.
Curzon, Miss A.
Cuthbert, Miss Edith
Cutler, Miss Kate
D'Abbertson, Miss Maud
Dagmar, Mrs. M.
D'Artigan, Mr.
Daunton, Mr. Geo.
De Groot, Miss Sara
Delmar, Mr. Neville
De Marce, Mr. Felix
Deomes, Mr. H.
Diamond, Mrs.
Dickson, Mr. J. Bernard
Donaldson Bros.
Donaldson, Mr. Leon
Douglass, Miss A.
Earle, Miss Clara
Eaton, Mr. W. G.
Edgar, Mr. Ralph
Edgar, Mrs. Richard
Edouin and Edwards
Edwardes, Mrs. E. C.
Ellinger, Miss M.
Elliott, Miss Charlotte
Elliott, Miss Violet
Elton, Mr. S.
Elvo, Mr. J.
Fansons, The
Fields, Miss Fanny
Foster, Mr. H. Flocton
Franks, Mr. C. W.
Fradette, Mrs.
Fraser-Brunner, Miss Q
Friend, Mr. T. H.
Fuller, Miss Louie
Garde, Mr. and Mrs.
Gardenes, Mr. Chas.
Gilbert, Brothers
Gilbert, Mr. Louis
Gillete, Miss Jessie
Gillies, Mr. Bob
Gortz, Mr. Peter
Gotham Quartette
Gray, Miss Mona
Grey, Mr. Harry
Grey, Miss M.
Gribbens, Mr.
Gwenn, Mr. and Mrs. E
Hallam and Stanton
Hallam, Mr. and Mrs. H
Handel, Miss Z.
Howard, Bros.
Hawkes, Mr. A. J.
Hayes, Miss K. Simpson
Hemming, Mr. J. W.
Herberte, Mr. Chas.
Herberts, The Four
Hogan, Mrs. E.
Hope, Mr. Stanley
Hudson, Mr. Eric
Irving, Mr. L.
Irwin, Miss Connie
Ishmael, Prince
Jones, Miss Alma
Judge, Mr. R.
Keddle, Mr. H. A.
Keen and Waller
Keightley, Mr. Cyril
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.
Kerno, Mr. and Mrs. L.
Kerr, Mr. Henry
King, Mr. S.
Kirkdall, Mr. R. D.
Lauri, Mr. Edward
Lee, Miss Maisie
Leslie, Miss Marion
Lewes, Miss Miriam
Lewis, Mrs. Alwyn
Linde, Herr
Lovegrove, Miss Phillis
Mac and Hill
MacDermot, Mr. Marc
Mace, Mr. Fred
Macfarlane, Mr. J. H.
Mack, Mr.
Mackay, Mr. Wallis
Mackersey, Mr. W. A.
Magee, Miss K.
Marba and Verity
Marsh, Mrs. H. V.
Martin, Miss Sylvia
Maude, Miss H.
Mayne, Miss Rae
Mayne, Mr. Eric
McNulty, Mr. Alec
Melba, Miss Mabel
Menzies, Miss Marie
Milsted, Miss M.
Milsted, Mr. Robert
Mollison, Mr. William
Montefiore, Mr. Eade
Morritt, Mr. Chas.
Morton, Miss Effie
Mudie, Mr. Geo.
Murray, Mr. Tom E.
Murray, Mr. S.
Myers, Mr. J. W.
Nates, Miss Annie O.
Nerrey, Mr. T.
Newland, Mr. J. G.
Noel, Miss Maudie
Norman, Mr. Jim
Norman, Mr. Norman V.
North, Miss R. V.
Obray, Miss Alma
Orr, Mr. Ben
Osnani, Herr. Jean
Otley, Mr. C.
O Toole, Mr. Dave
Panamas, The
Patterson, Mr. J.
Payne, Miss Lilian
Pettigrove, Mr. B.
Polini, Mrs.
Poplar, Mr. Fred
Powell, Mr. A.
Powell, Mr. Morris
Pratt, Miss Edith
Quest, Miss M.
Radford, Mr. Harry
Raleigh, Mr. Cecil
Rawson, Mr. T. W.
Ray, Miss Belle
Reader, Mr. Solman
Reeve, Mrs. Wybert
Relph, Miss Phyllis
Rigby, Mr. F.
Riley, Prof. Tom
Roadnight, Mr. C.
Robertson, Miss Beatrice
Roberts, Miss Amy
Roslo, Mr. Colin
Russell, Miss Bijou
Scott, Mrs. V.
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Seale, Mr. George
Selbo
Small, Mr. Harold
Southgate, Mr. R. E.
Spargo, Mr. J.
Spittle, Mrs.
Sprake, Mr. Henry J.
Stanhope, Miss Winnie
Stanton, Miss J.
Stelling, Mr. George
Stewart, Miss Madge
Stewart, Mr. Chas.
Stewart, Mrs. Hamilton
St. John, Miss Florence
Stone, Mr. W.
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Vyner, Mr. Leslie
Walker, Mr. Whimsical
Wallace, Mr. C. C.
Webster, Mr. and Mrs. B.
Whitehead, Mr. Arthur
Whyte, Dr. Karl
Williams, Miss Lillian
Wilson, Mr. Ned
Wontner, Mrs. Arthur
Yokio Tani
Yorke, Mr. Leonard
Zedora Mr. Leo

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Lady Bancroft—Saturday, Jan. 12.
Fred Annersley—Saturday, Jan. 12.
John Strange Winter—Sunday, Jan. 13.
Haidée Wright—Sunday, Jan. 13.
John B. Murray—Sunday, Jan. 13.
May Lilian Levey—Sunday, Jan. 13.
Tom Cecil—Sunday, Jan. 13.
Edward Compton—Monday, Jan. 14.
Dolly Harmer—Monday, Jan. 14.
Nellie Walters—Monday, Jan. 14.
Sam Redfern—Monday, Jan. 14.
Helen Palgrave—Tuesday, Jan. 15.
Fay Rivington—Tuesday, Jan. 15.
Jean de Reszke—Tuesday, Jan. 15.
Rutland Barrington—Tuesday, Jan. 15.
Ashley Beale—Tuesday, Jan. 15.
Mabel Kessler—Tuesday, Jan. 15.
Minnie Cunningham—Tuesday, Jan. 15.
J. Forbes Robertson—Wednesday, Jan. 16.
Chris Van Bern—Wednesday, Jan. 16.
Janet Achurch—Thursday, Jan. 17.
Philip Sefton—Thursday, Jan. 17.
Richard Warner—Thursday, Jan. 17.
Sam Poluski—Thursday, Jan. 17.
Amy McKay—Thursday, Jan. 17.
Olga Nethersole—Friday, Jan. 18.
Johnnie Schofield—Friday, Jan. 18.
Amy Grace—Friday, Jan. 18.

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Dated this 5th January, 1907,
PHILIP J. RUTLAND,
of 67 and 69, Chancery-lane, London, W.C.,
Solicitor for the said Executrix.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Annual for 1906, published at a shilling from 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, combines utility and entertainment. Its former aspect is exemplified by the record of the plays produced last year in London, the provinces, Paris, and Berlin; it also includes an obituary for the year, and lists of the United Kingdom's theatres and music halls. The attractive side of the Annual comprises numerous stories by stage celebrities, whose portraits illustrate the text. It is a delightful budget of good things. Mr. T. P. O'Connor's appreciation of the late Sir Henry Irving is brief, but tender and impressive.—Financier, Jan. 23, '06.

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OF
ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHIES.

NAME.	DATE.
Abrahams, Messrs. F. & M.	March 31, 1906.
Alexander, Mr. Alex.	June 2, 1906
Ashcroft, Late Mr. W. E.	October 27, 1906.
Ashton, Mr. George	May 5, 1906.
Ashton, Miss Margaret	September 1, 1906.
Atkin, Late Mr. John A.	Jan. 5, 1907.
Ball, Mr. Alf	September 1, 1906.
Barbour, Mr. William	March 3, 1906.
Barclay, Mr. Arthur J.	May 26, 1906.
Barlow, Miss Billie	March 10, 1906.
Barnett, Mr. Orlando	October 6, 1906.
Barrasford, Mrs.	February 10, 1906.
Beatty, Miss May	November 10, 1906.
Beecham, Mr. Charles	Dec. 22, 1906.
Bertoldi, Late Miss Ena	April 7, 1906.
Billington, Mrs. John	January 20, 1906.
Bordin, Signorina Maria	September 15, 1906.
Brickwell, Miss Mamie	Nov. 24, 1906.
Brookfield, Mr. Charles	Dec. 22, 1906.
Brooks, Mr. George	Dec. 29, 1906.
Brough, Mr. Lionel	May 13, 1905.
Brown-Potter, Mrs.	March 3, 1906.
Burton, Mr. John	March 10, 1906.
Butt, Mr. Alfred	August 25, 1906
Carrington, Miss Eva	February 24, 1906.
Cavalho, Miss Sylvia	March 3, 1906.
Cellier, Miss Marguerite	May 26, 1906.
Cinquevalli, Mr. Paul	May 5, 1906.
Clancarty, Late Lady	Jan. 5, 1907.
Clark, Mr. William	March 3, 1906.
Clark, Mr. T. Sealey	May 19, 1906.
Collier, Mr. Hal	May 19, 1906.
Conquest, Mr. Arthur	May 26, 1906.
Coote, Mr. Bert	June 16, 1906.
Corri, Mlle. Ghita	September 22, 1906.
Costello, Mr. Tom	September 15, 1906.
Cotterell, Mr. Sid	July 14, 1906.
Courtice, Mr. Thomas	Dec. 22, 1906.
Craven, Mr. Tom	Dec. 15, 1906.
Crisp, Late Mr. Henry	May 26, 1906.
Cruikshank, Mr. Alfred	March 17, 1906.
Culloch, Mr. Arthur	November 10, 1906.
Dacre, Mr. Harry	Dec. 1, 1906.
Dallas, Mr. J. J.	July 7, 1906.
Dampier, Mr. Alfred	May 12, 1906.
Deering, Late Miss R.	July 14, 1906.
De Gracia, Mr. G.	May 19, 1906.
Dixon, Mr. Robert	Dec. 8, 1906.
Dobson, Mr. E. H.	August 12, 1905.
Donegan, Mr James E.	May 20, 1905.
Duff, Master Harry E.	April 29, 1905.
Dyball, Mr. George H.	January 13, 1906.
Elliott, Late Mr. J. B.	May 26, 1906.
Featherstone, Late Miss B.	Jan. 5, 1907.
Elen, Mr. Gus	September 23, 1905.
Gastelle, Miss Stella	July 15, 1905.
Gatti, Late Mr. Stefano	October 20, 1906.
Genée, Mlle.	September 22, 1906.
Godfrey-Turner, Miss M.	October 28, 1905.
Gibbs, Miss Edith	March 3, 1906.
Grace, Miss Amy	January 13, 1906.
Gray, Miss Dora	January 13, 1906.
Grey, Miss Isabel	July 7, 1906.
Grove, Mr. Fred	March 10, 1906.
Grein, Mr. J. T.	Nov. 11, 1905.
Hamlyn, Mr. J. D.	January 20, 1906.
Hansen, Miss Laura	January 20, 1906.
Harris, Mr. Thomas	February 24, 1906.
Harrington, Mr. John P.	Dec. 8, 1906.
Harriss, Miss Sophie	April 7, 1906.
Harvey, Late Mr. Eddie	September 1, 1906.
Hastings, Miss Nora	March 10, 1906.
Heron-Brown, Miss Edith	June 16, 1906.
Hey, Miss Muriel	September 15, 1906.
Hitchens, Mr. H. J.	September 8, 1906.
Holloway, Mr. Baliol	April 15, 1905.
Hunter, Late Mr. Harry	October 20. 1906,
Illington, Miss Margaret	June 2, 1906.
Irving, Late Sir Henry	Oct. 21, 1905.
Jerrard, Late Mr. J. F.	April 28, 1906.
Juliette, Mdlle.	January 13, 1906.
Karno, Mr. Fred	August 12, 1905.
Kinghorne, Late Mr. Mark	November 10, 1906.
Kingston, Miss Bertha	February 24, 1906.
Kinnaird, Miss Helen	March 3, 1906.
Knowles, Mr. J. Forbes	July 7, 1906.
Lamonte, Miss Syria	November 10, 1906.
Lauri, Mr. Edward	July 28, 1905.
Lazarus, Mr. A.	May 5, 1906.
Le Hay, Mr. John	August 26, 1905.
Leggett, late Mr. Richard	February 3, 1906.
Le Roy, Servais	June 23, 1906.
L'Estrange, Mrs. Louise	July 15, 1905.
Lewes, Miss Miriam	June 16, 1906.
Liddon, Miss Adele	August 26, 1905
Livermore, Late Mr. L. C. J.	October 13, 1906.
Livesey, Mr. Carter	March 24, 1906.
Loftus, Miss Kitty	January 20, 1906.
Love, Miss Mabel	December 16, 1905.
Lugg, Mr. William	October 6, 1906.
Mackinlay, Mr. Sterling	September 9, 1905.
Macmillan, Mr. J. T.	May 26, 1906.
Maude, Mr. Cyril	June 2, 1906.
Miller, Mr. Fred.	October 6, 1906.
Miller, Late Mr. Kennedy	March 10, 1906.
Millis, Mr. F. W.	May 5, 1906.
Milstead, Mr. Robert	Dec. 22, 1906.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1907.

DEATH AND THE DRAMA.

A rather interesting discussion has been lately carried on in the *Tribune* about the death scene in Mr. BERNARD SHAW'S play *The Doctor's Dilemma*, recently produced at the Court Theatre. The argument was originated by Mr. WILLIAM ARCHER, who asked if anyone had been "moved" by Dubedat's death-scene in the piece. Mr. ARCHER—who evidently was not "moved"—complains of Mr. SHAW'S avoidance of "straight" emotion in the scene; and also of the promptitude with which the artist's wife, on ascertaining that he has expired, goes off to dress in her prettiest attire, as he had desired her to do almost with his last breath. Mr. ARCHER contended that Mr. SHAW had represented an "abnormal" death scene, and had therefore confessed his inability to deal seriously with normal human experience.

In all this we think Mr. ARCHER was unfair to Mr. SHAW. With all his faults, Mr. SHAW has seen a good deal, and, as the schoolboys say, he "knows something." The real weakness of Dubedat's death-scene we will deal with presently. But, so far from it being abnormal, it seems to us to come very near the average experience.

Civilised and literary persons, protected for the most part from the realities of existence, are apt to develop what we may call a "British-Museum-Library" view of things in general. This view, valuable and agreeable in many ways, needs to be corrected by the semi-brutal contact of low life. It is astonishing how serenely the more animal sections of society regard death. Uninfluenced by the halo of pathos that has gathered around a natural phenomenon, and as acquainted with death as with a pot-house "pal," they are on familiar terms with the old fellow with the spear and skeleton. The fact is that it is only when a death is what we may call "well mounted"—when all the inevitable prose can be shifted on to the shoulders of doctors, nurses, and servants, so that the young ladies can skim the cream of sentiment—that Death itself is "pathetic." SHAKESPEARE, who knew death as he knew life, never lingers over a dramatic demise. Antony, one of the most talkative of moribunds, says all he has to say, assisted by stimulants, in twenty lines. Hamlet, Lear, and Cæsar are not verbose in making their exits from this world. And Death in real life astonishes the novice by its brevity and simplicity. He feels inclined to say, "Is *that* all?" One reason for this surprise is the great length given to deaths on the old-fashioned stage. We do not find in reality the extraordinary tenacity of life combined with sustained loquacity and elaborate rhetoric which are so common in the blank-verse plays of the last generation. By the time the end comes, both the dying person and the spectators are generally too worn out to have "much to say."

This is not to infer that Death is never pathetic; it depends. What was there pathetic in the death of the Duke of WELLINGTON, for instance? The fine old fellow, after a slight attack of indigestion, was found one day asleep in his chair. What could be more satisfactory than such a conclusion? WOLFE, expiring at Quebec in the midst of his triumph; TURNER, murmuring "The sun is God!"; and BLAKE singing songs as he "went off," scarcely inspire us with sadness. Two things make death pathetic—physical pain and discontent. DANTON going to the scaffold and leaving things in a "fearful hash"; ANDRE CHENIER cut off in his prime with a brain full of unwritten poems; the criminal with a look back on a wasted life, are to be pitied; so are those who suffer agony in the body before they go. But Mr. SHAW has not used either of these motives. Mr. ARCHER says that Mr. SHAW, by avoidance of moralising, has shown his inability to say anything worth saying about Death. In this sense Mr. ARCHER is right; but Mr. SHAW is by no means wrong. There is nothing worth saying about Death. "Mr. SHAW," says Mr. ARCHER, "might have filled in the time with a great philosophic scene." It is really cruel of Mr. ARCHER to egg Mr. SHAW on in this way. Let us parody Desdemona and say: "Do not learn of him, BERNARD, though he be thy preceptor-in-chief!"

A protracted illness like consumption does actually produce in the patient's friends a kind of insensibility. It is not that they are not sorry to lose him; but when the patient, like CHARLES II., is an "unconscionably long time dying," the fount of tears gets dried up. A marvellously patient endurance of the sordid offices of the sick-bed is a more eloquent testimony of affection than floods of easy weeping.

Why, then, all this admitted, and the accuracy of Mr. SHAW'S observation endorsed, is Dubedat's death-scene tedious? Simply because Mr. SHAW has not condescended to construct his play. The death-scene does not advance the action. The motive of the piece is the hesitation of the doctor as to which he shall save—a commonplace and quite virtuous man or a scamp of real genius. The only logical development of the idea would be by a conviction arrived at by the doctor which *was* the righteous decision to make. But no such development takes place. It will not do to say that such was impossible of invention; Mr. SHAW should have thought of that before he commenced his play. The death of Dubedat is the result of the physician's resolve, and does not influence it; and what morally amounts to a murder is motived by the doctor's desire to "possess" the pretty widow—the world-old DAVID-and-URIAH idea, in fact. It matters not; Mr. SHAW'S public just now will take anything he likes to give them. And the matter of *The Doctor's Dilemma* is of his best. It is as good as the East End observation in *Candida* or the slum-landlord knowledge in *Widowers' Houses*. When are we to have a revival of the latter piece? Knipcheese we can never forget; and many of us would like to see him again.

THE ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

The Subscription Committee of the Actors' Association met on Friday, the 4th inst., Mr. C. Aubrey Smith (the vice-chairman) being supported by Messrs. Cecil Barth, J. Cooke Beresford, Acton Bond, Burton Cooke, and Thalberg Corbett. Questions in connection with the weekly or quarterly payments of subscriptions were considered at considerable length, and ultimately it was agreed that definite action be postponed until after the question of payment for rehearsals was settled.

The Social and Library Committee held a meeting on Monday, when Mr. Cecil Barth (chairman) was supported by Mesdames Rose Mathews, Margaret Parker, Kathleen Russell, Messrs. Clive Currie, Arthur Morris, and the hon. sec., Miss Lucy Sibley. The hon. sec. reported she had approached Mr. Cecil Raleigh, who had kindly consented to give an address, entitled "Counting the Cost," at the first social afternoon, to be held in the saloon of the Actors' Association on Friday, the 18th inst., from four o'clock to six. The address would be followed by a short debate. Light refreshments will be obtainable during the afternoon. All members were invited to attend and to bring a professional friend who was not a member of the Association, and the committee expressed the hope that members would not only take note of these facts, but also make them known to others as far as possible. The appointment of a librarian was discussed and suggestions made.

The Commissioners' Committee held a meeting on Monday last, with Mr. Brandon Thomas in the chair. There were also present Mesdames Georgina Hamilton, Rose Mathews, and Lucy Sibley, and Messrs. Cecil Barth, Clive Currie, Quinton McPherson, and Chas. Cruikshanks (sec.). The question as to carrying on operations at the proposed Ramsgate centre was considered, and ultimately the matter was referred back to the Council for certain information. Other subjects of interest were discussed, and the secretary received instructions.

The Council held their usual meeting on Tuesday last, when there were present: Mr. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), Mr. Henry W. Mote (hon. sol.), Mesdames Kate Phillips and Saba Raleigh, and Messrs. Cecil Barth, J. Cooke Beresford, Acton Bond, Burton Cooke, C. Hayden Coffin, Thalberg Corbett, F Cremlin, Quinton McPherson, Walter Russell, Brandon Thomas, Spencer Trevor, Fredk. Volpe, and Chas. Cruikshanks (sec.). A question in connection with the alleged insanitation of a provincial theatre was considered, and the secretary received instructions. The hon. solicitors reported the recovery of the balance of an amount due from a manager to a member, and also that they had advised several ladies and gentlemen on points submitted.

The secretary reported that Mr. Cyril Maude had very kindly placed the Playhouse at the disposal of the Council for the purposes of holding the sixteenth annual general meeting of the members of the Association, on Tuesday, Feb. 19, at 2.30 p.m., when Sir Squire Bancroft (the president) would occupy the chair.

The following ladies and gentlemen were nominated for election:—Henley Attwater, Marian Ripley, Frank Beresford, Hilda D. Sims, Sydney Bland, and Leslie Palmer. Two former members were reinstated and two others nominated for reinstatement. The suggestion-book was considered, and entries made. Reports from the Subscription Committee, Social and Library Committee, Commissioners' Committee, and Finance and General Purposes Committee were received.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee held a meeting on Tuesday last, when there were present Mr. Acton Bond (chairman), Messsr. J. Cooke Beresford, C. Aubrey Smith, and Chas. Cruikshanks (sec.). Questions in connection with the carrying on of operations at the Ramsgate centre were discussed, and ultimately the resolution of this committee on the subject was agreed to be submitted to the Council. It was also agreed that, in view of the increased advantages resulting from the new schemes of insurance, the provisions of Article 7 should in future be more rigidly adhered to, and the question of cancellation of the membership of those in arrear on March 31 next be placed before the Council for consideration at their first meeting in April.

MR. H. B. IRVING'S Waldorf production, *Lights Out*, is proving a great success in the provinces, where its originality and dramatic freshness seem to appeal to dress-circle and pit alike. Mr. Maundy Gregory is presenting the play with an exceptionally sound company.

MR. SANDON PERKINS, for some time manager for Mr. Robert Arthur at Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee, and for several years with the Hutchison plays, is now managing "Our Navy" at the Polytechnic during Mr. A. J. West's absence abroad. Mr. Perkins informs us that business is booming, "House full" being the order every day.

MISS FLORENCE BENTLEY has been recently starring in *The Throne of Terror*, appearing in the principal theatres of Scotland. The company finished last Saturday week, and are now enjoying a short vacation, Miss Bentley taking the opportunity of visiting friends of over twenty years' standing in Birnam Dunkeld, a suburb of Perthshire.

"NELLY NEIL."

A Musical Play, book and lyrics by C. M. S. McLellan, music by Ivan Caryll, produced at the Aldwych Theatre on Thursday, Jan. 10.

Billy Ricketts	MR. JOSEPH COYNE
Nordheim, alias Donetti	MR. E. DAGNALL
Duke of Tysmoke	MR. HERBERT SPARLING
Viscount Larktenbigh	MR. LANGFORD KIRBY
Duke of Penge	MR. A. T. GULLIFER
Earl Bursley	MR. HENRY WARREN
Mr. Tizzle	MR. J. J. DALLAS
Captain Neil	MR. ROSS HARWOOD
Orloff	MR. AKERMAN MAY
Smith Minimus	MASTER STEWART FORTESCUE
Simcoe	MR. FRANK WALSH
Gustave	MR. WILLIAM JEFFERSON
Inspector of Police	MR. ERNEST CRAMPTON
Bank Messenger	MR. DERRICK KNOWLES
Princess Rasslova	MISS KITTY GORDON
Countess of Rokeby	MISS MOLLIE LOWELL
Lady Dulcie Oddling	MISS EDITH NEVILLE
Mrs. Neil	MISS MARY BROUGH
The Hon. Muriel Vickery	MISS GERTRUDE LESTER
Lady Theo Thirtle	MISS KATHLEEN WARREN
Lady Noreen Jenks	MISS MANON MARGOTTINE
Lady Mollie Brent	MISS LOUIE LYNTON
Lurlina Tizzle	MISS ETHEL ALLANDALE
Verbena Tizzle	MISS AMIE PAYNE
Crystal Kibblewhite	MISS GERTRUDE THORNTON
Gwendoline Gecks	MISS GERTY LATCHFORD
Phœbe Hacker	MISS FLOSSIE HOPE
Gloriana Tribb	MISS CARRIE BOWMAN
Myrtle Dimity	MISS MAUDE MORRISON
Maud Arklight	MISS FLORA PRINCE
Isabel Nestle	MISS ELFRIEDA SALBER
Chloris Van Quiver	MISS MARGARET DALRYMPLE
Preciosa Patterson	MISS GRACE KIMBALL
Timmy Tucker	MISS ESTELLE CHRISTY
Nelly Neil	MISS EDNA MAY

Nelly Neil is an echo or imitation of *The Belle of New York*. In that enormously successful piece, the heroine, a pretty young woman who belongs to the Salvation Army, leads a rich youth from the paths of dissipation to those of respectability. In *Nelly Neil*, she is a Socialist, and her captive is the son of a banker. The celebrated Salvation ditty in the one piece suggests a Millenium song in the other; and the appearance of the religious reformer in showy attire at the head of her supporters in the one play is "doubled" by Miss May's entry in elaborate military uniform in the other. But, after all, it is waste of time to analyse the libretto of an up-to-date musical play; the only thing to do is to describe it.

The scene of the first act of *Nelly Neil* is a noted fruit shop in Regent-street. A party of peers enter in great anxiety about their sons and daughters, who, under the influence of the teachings of Nelly Neil, a Socialistic lecturer, have assumed the attire of costermongers and flower-girls. The peers come to see Nelly and to remonstrate with her; but they themselves fall victims to her beauty and charm. A young man named Billy Ricketts, the son of a wealthy banker, turns up at the fruit shop, meets Nelly Neil, and falls in love with her. We now come to the Anarchist underplot. Mr. Tizzle, foreman at the fruit shop, is implicated with a Russian revolutionist, the Princess Rasslova, in a plot to blow up Ricketts' bank. The bombs to be used are sent to the shop in peach-boxes, and are discovered by the police; who, however, arrest nobody. It is the design of the Princess to throw suspicion on Nelly Neil and her patroness, the Countess of Rokeby, who has a farm near London, where she demonstrates the beauty of the "simple life." Here, in the first scene of the second act, the Princess pursues her plans. A party of Russian Anarchists, disguised as gipsies, are encamped in a field on the farm; but they, too, "feel the gentle power" of Nelly's preachings, and are almost ready to desert their nomadic life and take to farming. The Princess, in order to rally them, sings them a spirited song. All these manœuvres are observed with an interested eye by a detective named Nordheim, who, under the alias of Donetti, has crept into the confidence of the Anarchists. In the last act, which takes place in the courtyard of the Savoy Hotel, Nelly appears at the head of her Socialistic supporters, all being attired in showy military uniforms. Nordheim, instead of arresting the Countess and the protégée, takes the Princess into custody; Nelly accepts Ricketts; and so an end.

Nelly Neil is beautifully dressed and mounted, and the expectations caused by preliminary statements were certainly not disappointed, Mr. Percy Anderson having been commissioned to design the costumes and the uniforms. This experienced artist has done his work remarkably well. Some yellow and orange costumes of dancers in the first act are very pretty, and the walking-dresses of another female contingent are superb. The gipsies are clothed in garbs of rich and varied hues; and all the female principals are marvellously adorned. The scene in the last act when the stage is filled with showy uniforms is positively dazzling, and must have been very expensive. As backgrounds to all this splendour, Mr. Walter Johnstone has supplied an elaborate reproduction of the interior of a Regent-street fruit shop, Mr. Hugo Barnuch has contributed a pretty garden set and an elaborate effect of extensive cornfields, and Mr. W. Helmsley has represented accurately and artistically the courtyard of the Savoy Hotel. Warm praise must be given to the general excellence of the production by Mr. Sydney Ellison, assisted by that able stage director, Mr. A. E. Dodson.

Miss Edna May's celebrated calm and famous refinement were again employed with happy results at the Aldwych on Thursday. As Nelly Neil, she acted with her wonted suavity and sweetness, and delivered the songs allotted to her with agreeable distinctness of enunciation. Mr. McLellan and Mr. Caryll have given Miss May some pleasing and effective numbers, notably her Socialist song looking forward to the time "When the poor and the rich won't know which is which." It has a memorable air, and is likely to be popular. Miss May has also a tuneful ditty, "Heigho, how pretty!" and an effective item is "We like to whistle as we walk out," the words of which are paraphrased by Mr. Paul West from a song by Mr. B. F. Smith. Mr. Joseph Coyne has a style and method of his own, and his reading of the rôle of Billy Ricketts was evidently to the taste of the audience, who laughed heartily at his eccentricities, and warmly applauded his smart song in the last act, "That is what the doctor calls the jiggly-jigs." Mr. Coyne also won warm approval for his share in a duet with Miss May in the second act, "All life for me and you is now," and his alertness and oddity kept things alive whenever he was on the stage. Miss Kitty Gordon won a hearty recall to the stage by her spirited and dramatic rendering of the ballad, "Let us take to the road," in the second act, and played Princess Rasslova sharply and briskly. Mr. E. Dagnall grappled bravely with the ungrateful—almost obstinate—part of Nordheim, a burden under which a less resourceful and competent comedian might have collapsed. Mr. Herbert Sparling was duly emphatic and authoritative as the Duke of Tysmoke; and Mr. Robb Harwood made the most of the little character of Captain Neil. Mr. Akerman May gave a fine, resolute, and powerful performance as Orloff, the leader of the Anarchists; and Mr. Ernest Crampton was comically self-inflated as the Inspector of Police, Miss Mary Brough working hard as Mrs. Neil. Miss Ethel Allandale and Miss Amie Payne acted and danced with quick vivacity and much expertness as Lurlina and Verbena Tizzle, a couple of parts containing germs of humour which the author might easily have cultivated still more completely. The large number of performers to whom subordinate rôles had been allotted sustained them with commendable care and conscientious earnestness, despite the fact that, in many cases, the material at the artist's disposal was meagre. For instance, Mr. J. J. Dallas had little scope for his ability as Mr. Tizzle; Miss Hope and Miss Bowman, however, were fortunate in having a charming duet to sing in the last act, and did it full justice. Miss Mollie Lowell as the Countess of Rokeby had little to do but to look handsome and aristocratic, and performed those functions admirably, besides making the most of her few opportunities. Mr. Ivan Caryll's capacity as a composer is superior to anything demanded in a piece of this kind, but now and then the well-known quality of his work could be felt, notably in the song and chorus in the second act. *Nelly Neil* appeared to give complete satisfaction to the audience at the Aldwych Theatre on Thursday, and is likely to entirely answer the purpose for which it was written—of pleasing the particular public to which it is addressed.

"THE SHADOW OF A LIE."

A Domestic Drama, in Four Acts, by Lascelles Hasbrouck. Produced at Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill, on Thursday, Jan. 10.

Lord Avondale	MR. G. ESDALE
Donald Cameron	MR. ROBERT CASTLETON
Hon. Ferdinand Howard	MR. CORYTON DAY
Count Knowscoffski	MR. ISAACSON
Felix Bertrand	MR. ERNEST HOWE
Helen	MISS ETHEL TEALE
Mrs. Bertrand	MRS. GODFREY
Lulu Van Slyte	MISS G. HEINRICH
Servant	MR. H. E. P. LUMSDALE
Footman	MR. HOLDSWORTH FISHER

This new play was presented at Ladbroke Hall on Thursday evening by the Thalia Dramatic Society. Whatever chances of success Mr. Lascelles Hasbrouck's domestic drama might have had, they were considerably discounted by the fact that certain members of the cast were imperfectly acquainted with their parts, and this caused several of the scenes to drag. The characters are of the conventional type, including our old friend the foreign count of doubtful antecedents, the slangy daughter of an American millionaire, and the idiotic dude with an eyeglass. The plot is not without interest, but much of the dialogue is artificial and pointless.

The play opens at Monte Carlo, where Felix Bertrand is living in rooms with his supposed wife, Helen. He is associated with a certain Count Knowscoffski in a conspiracy to cheat at cards those who accept his invitation to his apartments; and from a conversation between him and the Russian Count we learn that he has had an angry scene with Helen, but he believes that he has succeeded in compelling her to become a confederate in his carefully-laid plans to swindle his guests. There is a mirror in the room hanging just above a piano, and the pianist is enabled to see the cards held by certain of the gamblers. The lady has been instructed to play certain melodies, which shall be a signal to Bertrand and the Count as to what cards are held by their opponents. But when Donald Cameron joins in a game of poker for high stakes he wins, which is explained by the fact that Helen, instead of acting as a confederate, has purposely misled the would-be swindlers. She makes this confession in an interview with Donald Cameron, who has fallen in love with her, and is indignant at the manner in which she is being treated by Bertrand. He asks her to elope with him but she refuses, preferring to remain true to the man she believes to be her husband. Left alone with Bertrand, he bitterly denounces her for her wilful disobedience to his instructions, and, losing his temper, resorts to personal violence. This painful domestic scene is interrupted by the entrance of Count Knowscoffski and the real wife of Bertrand; she is apparently under the protection of the Russian, who resents the strong language which his gambling confederate uses towards the lady, and challenges him to fight a duel. Bertrand excuses his conduct to Helen by the plea that he believed his wife was dead. In spite of the awkward position in which she finds herself, Helen is rejoiced that she is at any rate a free woman. The scene of the next act is the lawn at Avondale Lodge. Three years have elapsed, and Helen has become the wife of Lord Avondale, who is quite ignorant of her past so far as her connection with Felix Bertrand is concerned. Donald Cameron comes on a visit to his old friend Lord Avondale, and of course recognises Helen, who implores him not to betray her secret to her husband and he promises he will be silent, though he believes the best course to adopt would be for her to make a full confession to Lord Avondale. To Helen's dismay the Russian Count and Mrs. Bertrand put in an appearance, and demand their price for keeping silence concerning her past. Bertrand was killed in the duel with the Count. There is more trouble for Helen, as a compromising conversation between her and Cameron is overheard by Avondale, who jumps to the conclusion that his friend and his wife are both false. However, matters are put right in the last act, and the evil results of "the shadow of a lie" are effectually remedied.

The Society had secured the valuable services of Mr. Robert Castleton, a professional actor of considerable experience, for the part of Donald Cameron; and he gave a sound embodiment of the character. Miss Ethel Teale's performance of the rôle of Helen had many good points. She admirably depicted the feelings of the woman who believes that her happiness is dependent upon keeping from her husband a knowledge of her past, and in the earlier scenes Miss Teale also made a favourable impression. Mr. Ernest Howe as Felix Bertrand was a handsome villain, and did justice to the part; Mr. G. Esdale was emphatic, though a little stiff, as Lord Avondale; and Mr. Coryton Day was a very inane and irritating representative of the Hon. Ferdinand Howard, whom such a smart girl as Lulu Van Slyte, the American millionaire's daughter, would surely not have been so eager to win and wed. This part was well played by Miss G. Heinrich. Mr. Isaacson was fairly satisfactory as Count Knowscoffski; Mrs. Godfrey was a gushing Mrs. Bertrand, but had to depend upon the prompter for her lines; Mr. H. E. P. Lumsdale and Mr. Holdsworth Fisher as two men-servants completed the cast. The new piece was preceded by a musical monologue, by Mr. Gerald Lindley; and an excellent programme of music was given by the St. James's Orchestra of amateurs, under the personal direction of Mr. Sydney W. Toms.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—Will you kindly correct the statement made by your Newport, Mon., correspondent in his report last week of the Lyceum pantomime of *Whittington*, in which he alluded to May Corelli Livesey as Mrs. Carson? This is an error, as I am Mr. Carson's wife, although at present I am not working with him. We have played each season previously a joint engagement with Mr. Sidney Cooper, but this year I am under different management. My stage name is Marian L. Ford, and my permanent address is 5, Ward-street, Burslem, Staffs.—Yours faithfully, MARIAN CARSON.

THE parts of Ganem and Abdallah were played at very short notice with great success during the week at the Coronet by Miss Jose Hammersley and Miss Mabel Seymour respectively. It is hoped that Miss Cressie Leonard, who has made a gratifying hit in the former rôle, will be back on Monday.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

MR. GEORGE ADNEY PAYNE, Mr. Henry Tozer, and Mr. Henry Sutton, representing the Syndicate Halls, met in friendly conference the general secretaries of the Variety Artists' Federation, the Amalgamated Musicians' Union, and the National Association of Theatrical Employees at 1, Durham House-street, Strand. The points at issue—one of which was, of course, the barring clause—were discussed at length, and the claims put forward by the allied societies will be laid before a special meeting of the London Entertainments Protection Association in the course of the next fortnight.

THE question of payment for matinées in existing contracts, which was the one point of difference between the Macnaghten directorate and the V.A.F., was settled on Wednesday at a meeting between Mr. Fred Baugh, Mr. Macnaghten's general manager, and the joint committee of the V.A.F., the Amalgamated Musicians, and the Stage Employees Society. The discussion was quite an amicable one, and the settlement arrived at comes into operation on Monday next.

A SIMILAR meeting has been arranged between Messrs. Richards and Burney, of what are known as the L.C.C. halls (London, Collins's, and Cambridge), and representatives of the allied societies mentioned in the above paragraph.

MISS VESTA TILLEY will join the Palace programme on the 28th inst., when "London's Idol," in addition to her extensive light répertoire, will sing a song entitled "King Baby," a number in a sentimental vein, and one that is quite new to her on the variety stage.

THE Variety Artists' Federation meeting, held at The Horns, Kennington, on Sunday evening, passed a resolution to raise the entrance fee to 10s. 6d. Musical conductors are now eligible for membership provided they have been in such a position six months.

MRS. LANGTRY is now in America, where she is taking a record salary and sharing the honours of vaudeville with Mr. Dick Knowles. Through the death of Sir Henry Percival De Bathe, the fourth baronet, her husband succeeds to the title, and she becomes Lady Hugo Gerald De Bathe. They were married in July, 1899. Sir Hugo is in the Army, and is serving in Agra. The creation of the baronetcy dates from 1801.

IT has just come to the knowledge of the committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild that some person has obtained, and is wrongfully using, an application form for assistance issued by the society, and is endeavouring to obtain subscriptions, apparently for the benefit of the Guild, from members of the profession. This person is absolutely unauthorised to collect subscriptions for the Guild, and we are asked to say that donations and subscriptions should only be given or paid to ladies of the committee or sent to the Secretary, at 69, Primrose-mansions, Prince of Wales-road, Battersea Park, when they will be at once gratefully acknowledged.

"BURNING TO SING" will probably be withdrawn from the Empire in a fortnight or three weeks' time. This course is necessary, to make way for the new series of living pictures and statuary which is in active preparation. The former will be fifteen or sixteen in number, to commence with, and will include such popular subjects as Leighton's "Bath of Psyche," from the Tate Gallery; Alma Tadema's "Silent Greeting," from the same collection; "The Huguenot" of Millais, and Sargent's "Ellen Terry as Lady Macbeth."

OF statuary, the subjects will be fewer, and in no sense anything approaching the recent displays of enamelled models at other variety theatres. They will include Lord Leighton's bronze "Athlete with a Python," and the marble statue, "The Girdle," by W. Colton, both from the Tate Gallery, and some others not yet determined on.

HERBERT LA MARTINE, while driving his motor-cycle in company with Horace Reeves (son of the well-known agent, Fred Reeves) on Saturday afternoon met with quite a painful accident to his knee through his cycle skidding. Young Reeves's foot was also badly pinched by being caught in the spokes of the wheel. With the kind assistance of two policemen the spokes had to be cut before he could be released (also by the policemen). La Martine fared much worse through having his knee dislocated. Although suffering great pain, he pluckily did his turns at the Ealing Hippodrome and the Tivoli, being kindly favoured by the management of those halls.

AFTER his performance at the Tivoli on Saturday young La Martine was presented with a handsome bouquet of roses, decorated with the Stars and Stripes, from Captain Fred Sterling, of the Rough Riders, U.S.A. The recipient was greeted with loud applause.

MR. AUBREY FITZGERALD, a musical comedy favourite at many West End theatres under the George Edwardes, Frank Curzon, and other managements, will make his first appearance on any music hall at the Tivoli on Monday. He has two new songs, which are both smart and tuneful.

MR. HAYDEN COFFIN has been secured by Mr. Alfred Butt to appear at the Palace Theatre, where the favourite actor-vocalist sang "Melisande from the wood" with great success on the anniversary night in December. He will sing a number of selections from his well-known répertoire, and possibly may be persuaded to give one or two well-known numbers from the musical plays in which he has appeared.

MISS MILDRED DEVERE appeared in a new sketch entitled *A Night in Montmartre*, at the Comedy Theatre yesterday afternoon. The story of the sketch, which only lasted twelve minutes, and was written and produced by Mr. Tom Terriss, is mainly told by pantomimic action. Olga, an American dancer, loses her way at night, and eventually gets among "Apaches" in the slums of Montmartre. They recognise who she is, and, under threats, compel her to dance, which she does, to the singing of "Quand l'amour meurt" by the chief of the hooligans. Finally, after watching her opportunity, she seizes the revolvers of two of the gang and fires them, thereby calling the police, who come to her rescue.

ROLAND, the illusionist, whose performance at the Holborn Empire on Monday was such a brilliant success as to justify Mr. Walter Gibbons in immediately securing him for his London and suburban circuit, has nominated Mr. Harry Day as his sole and exclusive agent—an excellent choice. Last week Roland had the honour of mystifying King Alfonso and Queen Ena of Spain.

MR. C. F. AKED, addressing his congregation in Liverpool on Sunday last, said the young men of to-day went to the music-halls, the saddest entertainment in the whole world, civilised or uncivilised. He believed there was nothing nowadays in music-halls and pantomime performances that invited condemnation on the grounds of indecency and pruriency; condemnation was on the grounds of brainlessness, lowness of tone, and cheapness of sentiment! Oh, indeed! Mr. Aked. Yet we think more brains are required to invent and produce a good act than a bad sermon, full of views narrowed by imperfect mental vision and unleavened by experience.

THE New Parthenon, Liverpool, has changed hands, and on Monday next Mr. Fred E. Weisker, of the Westminster, will open it as a variety house, Mr. Edwin W. Smith being the manager.

THE Belfast Hippodrome Company has been registered, the head office being at Ocean Buildings, Donegall-square, East Belfast. The nominal capital is £25,000, in 25,000 shares of £1 each. The names of the first directors are Chas. W. Henderson, Jas. K. Black, Wm. Sley, Frederick Willmott, and Edward J. K. Savage.

MR. WILLIAM B. BROADHEAD, of Manchester, made an application at Liverpool on Thursday to the theatrical licensing Bench for a provisional licence for a proposed variety theatre to be erected at the corner of Lodge-lane. It was mentioned that there was no place of amusement in the neighbourhood, which had a population within a reasonable radius of 100,000 people. The edifice would cost about £25,000, and accommodation would be provided for over 2,000 people. The plans satisfied the building surveyor of the Corporation, and the application was of a similar character to that made for other places in the city. The Clerk of the Court, in answer to objections, pointed out that Benches in other parts of the country had found the consideration of plans under similar circumstances very advantageous.

BUT the Bench, by a majority, declined to grant the application. The character of the opposition may be gauged from the evidence. The solicitor against the granting stated that Mr. John Ritchie, an ex-Lord Mayor of London, chairman of some safe works in the locality, objected on behalf of his employees, who, however, as was pointed out, were able to take care of themselves; and a sidesman of a neighbouring church said the theatre would be an inducement to young people to go wrong, because such places were a form of evil, leading youths to smoke and steal from their employers. One of the magistrates went so far as to ask whether there was a guarantee that the work of erecting the building would not come from Manchester!

LIVERPOOL has again demonstrated its well-known generosity where the cause of charity is concerned. The recent matinée given at the Olympia for the benefit of the funds of the Liverpool Food and Betterment Association realised the sum of £300, which is believed to be a record for the provinces, if not for the country. After handing over to the Association the amount mentioned, the sum of £3 9s. 10d. is being carried forward to next year's account, for it is hoped to make the benefit an annual one. The income of this first attempt included a donation of twenty guineas from Moss' Empires, Ltd. (per Mr. Oswald Stoll), and ten pounds from Sir Alfred L. Jones.

THE marriage took place at Hartlepool on Monday, by special licence, of Mr. Harry Burns, manager of the Empress Theatre, to Miss Helen Lennard Charles, daughter of the late Mme. Lennard and Mr. Thomas Charles. Councillor Robt. Everton, proprietor of the Empress, acted as best man, and the bride was given away by Miss Anita Denti, of London. The bride's mother, Mme. Lennard Charles, was a well-known artist, especially at the South London Palace in the days of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Poole, and performed several times before Queen Victoria. Her daughters have also been honoured by Royal patronage. The bride, a talented pianist, vocalist, and mimic, has engagements up to 1908, when she will retire from the stage.

THE bridegroom, Mr. Burns, is well known as the manager of the Empress, Hartlepool. Four years ago he came there for a fortnight, but remained with Councillor Everton as manager, the house having become most popular under his rule. He is the proprietor of several companies, and has had much to do with pantomime productions. The newly-married couple have been the recipients of many congratulations.

BELFAST, the commercial capital of Ireland, is rapidly forging ahead as an amusement centre. Already it has the Royal and Palace, under the management of Messrs. Warden, Ltd.; the New Belfast Alhambra; also the Empire, run on a working arrangement with the Moss and Stoll Syndicate. The Belfast Alhambra Hippodrome is in course of erection, and will be opened about Easter; and now the New Alexandra Theatre (as advertised in *The Era*) will also be erected in the course of the year. The latter will be run on purely dramatic lines and cheap prices, and will cater for a suburb with a population of about 80,000.

IT is understood that the land upon which the Royal Court Theatre at Warrington stood before it was so unfortunately burnt down is about to become the property of Moss' Empires, Limited, who, it is stated, intend to shortly commence the erection of a new music hall on a scale similar to their other palatial houses.

DR. WALFORD BODIE, who has been spending Christmas week at the Manor House, Macduff, nearly lost his date at the Argyle, Birkenhead. He left Macduff on Friday (4th) for a journey of fifty miles, and arrived at Aberdeen on Saturday night. As luck would have it, the first North British train arrived from the South (four days late) on the same night, and the Doctor therefore was able to leave on the Sunday afternoon. After cutting through several big, heavy snow-drifts, and passing the sad scene of the Scotch Express disaster, he arrived in Liverpool only four hours late. His train was the only one that got through, as the line from Dundee to Aberdeen again got blocked up, three trains being derailed by the snow. Dr. Bodie had a record week at Birkenhead, and is rebooked to return at a big increase. He opens at Terriss's Theatre on Monday.

MR. ALFRED SELWYN, the popular lessee of the Empire, Hull, on Friday last entertained to a well-spread supper the members of his Hull staff. Supporting Mr. Selwyn were Mr. A. E. Ramsdale (solicitor) from London, Mr. Leach, Mr. Sydney Tolfree, of the Wakefield Hippodrome, Mr. Harry Slingsby, Mr. Selwyn's Hull manager, and representatives of the Press. A very enjoyable time was spent, the company dispersing at four o'clock a.m. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Selwyn for his kindness.

MISS LILIETH LEYTON, on Jan. 3 at Belfast, met with an accident which prevented her appearing on the Friday and Saturday evenings at the local Empire, where she was fulfilling an engagement in her well-known sketch, *The Order of the Bath*. However, at a few hours' notice Miss Dulcie Lloyd (of the Arthur Lloyd Trio) undertook to play Miss Leyton's part, and on Friday and Saturday evenings (twice nightly) that lady appeared, with considerable success in the duologue, in addition to playing her own part in *Little Charlie; or, The Twin Sisters*. Miss Lilieth Leyton and Mr. Spurling expressed their gratitude to Miss Lloyd for so capably stepping into the breach by making her a handsome present. Happily, Miss Leyton has recovered, and is in harness again.

A SPECIAL matinée to the inmates of Milton Asylum and Workhouse was given by permission of the directors at the Portsmouth Empire Palace on Thursday, when the following artists gave their services: Ingram and Irving, Gladys Whitton, Kitty Clover and Co., Mill, May, and Theresa, the Strads, the Katos, Atlas, Vulcana, and Sisters Atlas, Johnny Dwyer, and the Craggs. Popular pictures were also thrown on the screen by Payne's Bio-photoscope.

THE Terriers have arranged for their annual dinner and ball to take place at the Horns, Kennington, on Sunday, March 17, St. Patrick's Night.

THE postponed annual general meeting of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund will be held at 1, Durham House-street, Strand, on Friday next, at 1.30 o'clock, to receive the report of the committee and the accounts of the Fund for the year ending Aug. 31, 1906, and to elect officers.

AN interim dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum has been declared by the New Tivoli, Limited, for the half-year ended Dec. 31, 1906. Congratulations to Messrs. Payne, Tozer, and Sutton, and their manager, Mr. Joseph Wilson.

THE fifth anniversary of the Islington Empire will be celebrated on Friday evening next, when the two performances will commence at 6 and 9.10 o'clock. A number of West End artists have kindly consented to appear, in addition to the excellent company engaged under the management of Mr. George L. Wilson.

CARL HERTZ, the great conjurer, is top-liner at Hackney Empire next week. He will present his latest illusion, "The Bridal Chamber," which involves the instantaneous production from nothing of a complete bedroom, including a solid 7ft. bed, with bedding, upon which is reclining the bride. Born in San Francisco, of German parents, Mr. Hertz followed the calling of a draper for some time, travelling all over the States for four or five years.

HE then came to England, making a sensation with the "birdcage" trick, for which he obtained a huge advertisement because the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals contended that he killed a bird every time he performed it. He wrote to the Society, and offered to do the trick with a bird marked by any of its officers, assuring them that they were entirely mistaken, and pointed out that they were ruining his business. Eventually matters were arranged, and he went to the offices of the Society in Jermyn-street, and performed the trick with a bird which had been secretly marked. They were quite satisfied.

THE advantage of having one's wife in the business is that important secrets do not leak out, and no doubt Carl Hertz is happy in the knowledge that, when inventing a new illusion for our amusement, he has to impart the key of the mystery to no one but his life-partner, Mlle. d'Alton, the heroine of the bridal chamber. Not only are Carl's secrets safe, but his performance is greatly enhanced by the presence of so beautiful and gracious an assistant.

THE great dancing expert, My Fancy, is an attraction at the Hackney Empire next week. This winsome lady has danced on gold, an incident that came about in this manner. "When starring with Charles Godfrey company in Western Australia," says My Fancy, "no sand was procurable for my dance, so the people in the place said they would get me some gold dust, and accordingly they brought a quantity. Of course it was mixed with quartz, but when I put it in water I could see the gold grains shining ever so prettily. I kept some of it by me for a long time, and carried it about, but it gradually wasted away, and I do not think there is any left now."

MR. SYDNEY PAXTON has been engaged by Mr. Alfred Moul as business-manager for the Zancigs on their forthcoming tour. It is anticipated that their enormous success at the Alhambra, where business is still beating all records, will be continued in the provinces.

THE fourth "Twelfth Night" celebration made another pleasant happening at the Chelsea Palace on Monday night. No sooner had the last pleasure-seeker departed than the lifting of the curtain disclosed a charming drawing-room, with the cake, set on a centre table, as the chief attraction. Mr. Berlin, in a few felicitous phrases, called upon Mr. Lyon to cut the cake—a ceremony that he has performed every year since 1904, when the celebration was inaugurated.

AFTER congratulating the staff upon the good feeling existing between them and the directors, Mr. Lyon stated that he was sure they regretted, with him, the continual illness of their highly-respected managing-director, Mr. Henri Gros, and their jovial manager, Mr. Edward Swanborough, or, as he called him, "Dear Old Teddy," and sincerely hoped that they both would soon be in a perfect state of health. Their two former acting-managers, Mr. Harry Bawn and Mr. Leon Zeitlin, were with them again to show their respect for their old comrades by coming long distances after their night's work.

WITH much ceremony, and with a few mystic words, which two or three assembled seemed to understand, the cake was cut and distributed, with the usual additions. After the health of the directors had been drunk, and speeches had been given by Messrs. Henry Bawn, Leon Zeitlin, and Angelo Asher, a very pleasant meeting was brought to a close.

MISS BARBARA BABINGTON, a client of the evergreen, energetic Will Oliver, who recently scored at the Tivoli and Collins's, has made a great success on her first attempt as principal boy at the Theatre Royal, Hull, and doubtless we shall soon hear more of this young and talented artist.

DOUGLAS AND GORDON, Scottish comedy artists with a high provincial reputation, make their début before a Brixton audience at the Empress on Monday next.

THE pupils of Miss Mabel Lauri, niece of the late Charles Lauri, will, on the evening of the 30th inst., perform a pantomime, the subject being *Cinderella, at the Drill Hall* (Bloomsbury Rifles), Chenies-street, Tottenham Court-road. The "book" and the music are by Miss Lauri, assisted in the latter department by J. Airlie Dix, who will conduct the orchestra.

THE Terriers had their annual dinner and social on Sunday, at their head-quarters, the Dover Castle Hotel, Westminster Bridge-road. A most enjoyable evening was spent. About sixty sat down to a sumptuous feast. Amongst those present were Messrs. Jesse Sparrow (president), in the chair, Douglas White (hon. treasurer), G. P. R. Burgess (hon. solicitor), Charlie Pratt and Sam Salter (hon. trustees), H. Cory Woodrow (hon. auditor), Will Van Allen, George Pearson, John Moore, Joe Lawrence, Tom Burnetti, W. H. Atlas, Arthur Simmons, W. L. Murray, G. Wyman, Leon and Will Bassett, Percy Ford, F. H. Kohler, E. C. Webb, M. McDowall, J. C. Moore, H. Flamme, P. B. Searle, H. Hough, W. and H. Jeapes, H. H. Maisner, A. Willson, A. Clapp, Sam Stockton, Alf. Cawthorn, B. Woodger, Harry Gage, E. Johnson, F. Gage, Ben Whiteley, Joe Aarons, Will King, Arthur Dome, E. E. Cooke, T. C. Callaghan, G. V. O'Connolly, Harry Kato, Charlie Jerome, Spot, Charlie Stelling, A. Appleyard, Charlie Cornish, S H. Kent, and Harry Lester (secretary). After the loyal toasts and speeches, the social commenced. Among those contributing were Alf. Cawthorn, Will Van Allen, W. L. Murray, Charlie Stelling, Percy Ford, Joe Lawrence, and Charlie Pratt (the sensation of the evening). J. C. Moore presided at the piano, and Spot acted as M.C. The arrangements were most satisfactorily carried out by the secretary, Harry Lester.

MR. WILL OLIVER, with all the boyish enthusiasm of half a century of years, rejoices in the success of his numerous clients, who have been sending him the best wishes for the New Year, and, what is even more cheering to him, accounts of their success and increased demands for their services. He does not languish for decorations, the orders he appreciates most being those for new contracts. May his shadow never grow less!

IT is Miss Flora Hastings (Mrs. R. R. Mill), who through the loss of her husband is compelled to return to the stage, and is seeking engagements. In our "Gossip" paragraph last week the name given was Miss Flo Hastings, once a popular burlesque artist, whose husband, Mr. Jack Crawley, is, happily, alive, and has recently been endowed with a legacy of £500.

MR. MENDEL, the blind pianist, intends introducing on Monday next, at the Oxford, for the first time outside the concert platform, the Finale from Saint-Saëns' G minor Concerto. His répertoire of classical pieces for which he has had so much hearty applause—showing the vast advance in the musical tastes of the public—includes Concerto No. 1 (Mendelssohn), presto movement, first week; Polonaise, Op. 72 (Weber) arranged by Liszt, second week; and Rondo (from the Concerto No. 2 of Beethoven), third week.

MISS LOUISA PEACH will be at Collins's next week, with her comedy sketch *Taming a Husband*. Mr. Kyburn-Dellar will appear as the husband, and Mr. Conrad Clerke as the bachelor friend Colonel Adams.

THE music of *Robbing Hood*, at the Tivoli, is from the practised and accomplished pen of Mr. Ernest Bucalossi, who has shown his customary aptness in his melodic settings of solos and choruses.

ONE of the sensations of Mr. Clarence Sounes's pantomime at the Prince's, Poplar, is the aerial dances of Miss Maude May Murray. This is the second year Mr. Sounes has secured this speciality. Managers and agents on the look-out for something new should not fail to see a turn that has not yet toured the halls.

MISS BESSIE BUTT, whose dancing at the London Coliseum last year was one of the pleasantest recollections of that house, has scored an indisputable success as Cinderella at the Alexandra, Birmingham, and is already one of the greatest pantomime favourites ever seen at that house. At the night performance on Saturday she took no fewer than twenty-six calls

MR. WALTER GRAHAM, "the human marionette," was personally engaged by Sir William Treloar to appear at the Guildhall on Dec. 31, but owing to the time fixed for his appearance clashing with his two music hall contracts, he was unable to be there. The non-fulfilment of his engagement has been a deep disappointment to Mr. Graham.

MR. TOM LEAMORE, who has been playing this week with his usual success at the Euston, has just published the following songs with the Shapiro Von Tilzer Music Co.:—"She's my daughter," by Collins and Castling; "The sad story," by C. Collins and Nat Clifford; and "What a friend," by C. Collins. Mr. Leamore opens next week at the Palace, Stoke Newington, and the Hippodrome, Crouch End, and returns to the Paragon on Jan. 21 after six weeks' absence.

THE Portsmouth Empire Palace, Limited, present an annual report upon which the directorate may be highly congratulated. The balance of profit, after charging interest on Debentures, dividend on Preference shares, and transferring £300 to structural improvement reserve account, is £4,806 16s. 2d. The directors recommend a balance dividend of 10 per cent. (free of Income-tax), making, together with the interim dividend already paid, 20 per cent. for the year. The amount to be carried forward to next account will be 4,351 6s. 8d. Captain E. H. Warren Wright retires by rotation, and offers himself for re-election.

THE Arizona Troupe and Will Percival, who have been making a big success for fourteen weeks in the U.S.A., are now touring Cuba with the Oriental Circus for sixteen weeks. They then join the Adam Forepaugh and Sells Bros. Circus for thirty-two weeks to tour through U.S.A. and Canada.

MR. STANLEY DOUGLAS last week was called upon to deputise for Mr. J. K. Reynolds at the Haymarket, Liverpool, at two hours' notice, and successfully appeared there with his own sketch, *Her Only Crime*.

THERE was a remarkable demonstration of popular sympathy at the funeral at Bristol on Monday of Miss Bessie Featherstone, whose lamented death at Newcastle-on-Tyne whilst fulfilling an engagement as principal boy at the Tyne Theatre was announced by us last week. Hundreds of persons assembled at the cemetery, and flowers came from members of the profession in all parts of the country.

MR. HUGH WIGGLESWORTH'S Manchester variety agency is now amalgamated with Messrs. Webster and Girling's agency, at 150, Strand. Judging from Mr. Wigglesworth's past successful experience as a manager (at Blackpool Victoria and North Pier Pavilions, and Morecambe Pier Pavilion) and his thorough knowledge of the variety stage, this amalgamation should prove of value to the profession in general, and proprietors and managers in particular.

CONSIDERABLE damage was done on the 6th inst. through an outbreak of fire in a railway truck containing the pictorial paraphernalia and costumes of Poole's Myriorama, while on its way to Bishop Auckland. Strenuous efforts were made by the members of the company to extinguish the flames, and one was severely burned about the hands and feet. The fire, which occurred a few miles from Darlington, was eventually extinguished by water from the tanks at one of the stations.

MR. WILLIE PHILLIPS and Miss Ada Terry have been starring this week at the Margate Hippodrome, and have made a big success with their sketch *The Revolt of Man*. Miss Terry is to be congratulated on her recovery from a severe attack of laryngitis.

THE latest quotations of music hall shares are as follows:—Alhambra 1⅞, Canterbury ⅜, Empire (15s. pd) 1¼, Do. (10s. pd) 1, Lon. Pav. Ord. 4⅜, Do. Pref. 5, Lon. Coliseum ¼, Metropolitan ⅜, Moss Empire 5, Do. 5 p.c. Pref. 3⅝, Oxford 6⅜, Palace 11s., Tivoli 6⅜, Var. Cons. Theas. 13s.

THE 496th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Music-Hall Artists' Railway Association was held on Wednesday, when the following were present:—Messrs. Fred Millis (V.P.), Douglas White (hon. treasurer), Harry Blake, Charles Coborn (V.P.), W. H. Clemart (president), and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). Mr. Fred Millis was voted to the chair. The minutes having been confirmed, questions regarding the funds were dealt with. Two matters of the change of agencies were adjourned, and Mr. Burton H. Harland was appointed as agent at Sandgate. The hon. treasurer's statements were passed as read, and it was announced that forty new members had joined during the week.

MEMBERS of the profession will be pleased to hear that Mr. Fred Karno has succeeded in his action in the American Courts restraining persons from playing his sketch, *Mumming Birds*. His new production, *The Football Match*, at the Palace, Manchester, has scored a big success, and on the conclusion of the run there will immediately start on the Moss and Stoll Tour.

THE new wing which has just been added to Mr. Karno's premises in Vaughan-road makes them the most complete and best equipped for theatrical purposes in London. With his pantomime, *The House that Jack Built*, at the Grand Theatre, Glasgow, Mr. Karno is now breaking records, it being now in the sixth week of its run. It is anticipated that it will run another six.

MR. WAL CROFT, who made us laugh at the Marlborough by his admirable impersonation of a pawky Scot in the London production of *A Trip to the Highlands*, is exerting his humorous power with the most hilarious effect in the production of *Mother Goose* at the Princess Theatre, Glasgow, where he is playing nightly the part of The MacGander. He has a very laughable parody of "Annie Laurie," which evokes shouts of laughter. MacGander does not belong to the Kailyard school, but he is immensely funny "for a' that."

IT will be remembered that the definition of *chauffeur* as given in Mr. Gus Elen's lexicon is "Hot 'un." That is why the eminent coster comedian drives his own car. He visited *The Era* buildings the other day with his charming wife on his way to the "great Fun City" at Olympia. Gus thinks it would be a good idea if the stars only performed, like the great operatic artists, on alternate nights.

MR. GEORGE LEYTON, the military and naval actor-vocalist, is proud of a charitable record, which does credit not only to his heart but to his patriotic instincts. With the close of 1906 he has handed to different poor and needy Crimean veterans the sum of £2,094 3s. This sum does not include the £30 he gave the week before last to the Liverpool Hot-Pot Fund.

THE claims of St. Cecilia are being recognised more and more every year by our leading music-hall turns, and this week at the Empire, Camberwell, the novel turn of the Markies is a proof of this statement. They present their instrumental act, entitled *From Pavement to Stage*, in an excellent stage, and in the second set—a drawing-room—an elaborate electrical fit-up makes a brilliant picture. Their success has been immediate and well deserved.

MR. HAROLD P. HOWELL, acting-manager of the Hippodrome, Southampton, contradicts an erroneous statement made in a contemporary last week that the management of that house, which belongs to the De Frece Circuit, gave three matinées and stopped payment for Christmas Day. It paid all salaries in full, and gave the customary two matinées.

"MAM'SELLE POM POM" (a bright little musical comedietta), played by Mr. H. C. Lovell and company, is this week at the top of the bill (in place of Clark and Hamilton) at the Hippodrome, Crouch End. It is accorded a most flattering reception, screams of laughter punctuating the dialogue from the rise to the fall of the curtain.

"THE PUNCH AND JUDY GIRL" is again making a success at the New Cross Empire this week, the singing and dancing of these young performers being much admired, and the show, if possible, going with greater vim than on the previous visit.

IT is gratifying to lovers of pantomime to know that at Drury-lane, with all its comprehensive installation of every known modern device in place of former cumbersome contrivances, the old "star trap" still obtains. When Arthur Conquest—once only, alas! in the course of the "opening"—springs up through the "star" as the Old Man of the Sea, and with malignant face of intensest hate, approaches his enemy with the well-known Conquest crouching, limping gait, what memories arise of the time when great George as Spitz the spider crab, as Roly Poly, or as Rokoko, the rock fiend, courted death nightly, and thrilled children and elders alike at the Grecian, and elsewhere—notably at the Alhambra, when in the "spectacular macedoine" of "Venice" he played Trappistino il Diavolo, Chief of the Venetian Police!

MR. AND MRS. JOHN E. NASH (Miss Lil Hawthorne) sailed on the White Star liner Celtic, Jan. 2, for New York.

AT the Ealing Hippodrome this week, Lazern, the Mystic, is delighting large audiences with his sleight-of-hand problems and cleverly-executed illusions.

MR. GEORGE NEWBURN, the popular mimic, concludes to-night a highly-successful provincial tour, and opens in town on Monday at the Palace, Hammersmith, the London, and Collins's.

MR. HORACE LANE, the latest recruit from the regular stage, who has just made a successful trial trip at the Tivoli, has come to stay. He belongs to that new and welcome type of light comedian that modern audiences have taken to. Smartly and elegantly dressed, Mr. Lane dispenses smart comedy, and bright, humorous, and, above all, melodious songs. He has been fitted with some excellent numbers by Messrs. A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott which will be duly published by the Star Music Co.

MLLE. TROUHANOVA, a dancer who has been performing at Monte Carlo, has had a narrow escape. Accompanied by her mother and some friends, she was driving in a motor-car along the Beaulieu road, when something went wrong with the steering wheel. The car rushed into the rocks by the roadside and was smashed. The dancer's mother received several cuts and bruises, but the artist and the other occupants fortunately escaped unhurt.

AT the invitation of Sir Alfred Dobbin on Wednesday last Mr. Fred Neiman gave his ventriloquial entertainment at the gymnasium in the barracks at Cork, and was congratulated on all sides on his remarkable gifts.

LITTLE SAMSON, whose real name was Larkins, who belonged to Herbert Darnley's *Muscles* company, whose accidental death from asphyxiation by gas was reported in our columns last week, was buried at Finchley Cemetery on Wednesday. A number of wreaths sent by members of the profession covered the casket.

THE Two Bostons write: "Will you allow us to state that the announcement in *The Era* that we are at Hammersmith this week is incorrect. We are on the Moss and Stoll tour."

ALL the members of the South African football team, "The Springboks," accepted the invitation of Mr. Alfred Butt to witness the programme of the Palace Theatre on Thursday night.

LITTLE ZOLA, who is out of pantomime this year, reports that his receptions in the Eastern counties, at the Norwich and Ipswich Hippodromes, belonging to Mr. E. H. Bostock, have surpassed his most sanguine anticipations. He has also been gratified at receiving from Mr. J. L. Graydon contracts up to 1909, and several dates from Mr. Oswald Stoll.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

R. P. Weston and F. J. Barnes are responsible for a really humorous ditty, "He started in a very small way." In these days when good comic songs are as scarce as black pearls this is welcome news. The Star Music Co. have secured this number, which will be issued shortly in their sixpenny editions.

Advices from pantomime producers in all parts of the country fully justify the publishers' high opinion of that catchy song, "Sailing in my balloon." At the Broadway, S.E., audiences are so persistent with encores that Miss Lily Sprightly has to sing the last verse and chorus three times before she is allowed to retire. The Star Music Co. are the lucky publishers.

Miss Hetty King is featuring with success at the Court Theatre, Liverpool, three of the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd.'s, publications, viz.: "When I get back to Piccadilly," "In a hammock built for two," and "I want a Gibson Girl," for which the publishers have had large demands.

The Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., have just secured for publication from Mr. Chas. Collins a new song, entitled "What a friend," which is being featured by Messrs. Tom Leamore and George Collins. The publishers will shortly issue this song in their popular sixpenny edition.

Mr. Harry Champion has just accepted from the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., a new song, written and composed by T. F. Robson and J. Chas. Moore, entitled "Let's have a ditty from Brown," which he intends to produce very shortly.

Miss Lily Morris has made a huge hit at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, with Charles Wilmott and Herman E. Darewski, jun.'s charming Japanese song, "Home again, my cherry blossom," which bids fair to become one of the foremost songs of the year. It is published by Messrs. Francis and Day

Mr. John F. Lambe has published a new number with Messrs. Francis and Day, entitled "Won't you come back again to Ehren on the Rhine?"

Mr. Harry Randall, now happily recovered from his indisposition, is causing one of the biggest roars of laughter in *Sindbad* at Drury Lane by relating how Mrs. Swizzle (of the Fulham-road) soaked two dog biscuits in fourpenny ale and served them up to her lodgers as a tipsy cake! The "gag" is from the pen of Edgar Bateman.

Miss Kate Carney received a letter this week the address of which must have considerably amused—if it is not against the rules—the officials of the G.P.O. It ran thus:—

It's not for the Belle of New York,
For Fifi or Mr. Bronson;
Try B****** H*** (221)
And ask for "'Liza Johnson."

Mr. Dennis Drew opens at Shepherds Bush on Monday with his scena, *Back to Barracks*. Kenneth Lyle's spirited song, "The beat of the drum," which is sung in the sketch, will be issued immediately by Messrs. Francis and Day as a "Sixpenny Pop."

Miss Marie Lloyd's new Spanish song, "Tiddley-om-Pom," is by Fred W. Leigh and Orlando Powell. It is in the press, Messrs. Francis and Day being the publishers.

A very melodious song, and one which has been redemanded at Hengler's at every performance of *Red Riding Hood*, has been secured by Messrs. Francis and Day. It is by Arthur Comber, with music by Denham Harrison, and is called "As the river flows to the sea." It is artistically rendered by Prince Charming (Miss Maggie Robertson).

Also being issued from Messrs. Francis and Day's establishment are two numbers, named respectively "A sad good-bye" and "Two loving eyes," by C. Hector and Miss Vi Carlyle, sung by that popular lady; "My poor heart went pitter-patter" (Harry Champion), by R. P. Weston; "The sunbeam and the rose," by Jack Thompson; "Golden Eyes: an Indian romance," by Fred Godfrey; "My sweet Italian maid," by T. F. Robson; and "Read between the lines" (Miss Sable Fern), by Frank Leo.

The unqualified success of the charming song, "Queen of Old Samara," in this country has been endorsed by our American cousins to such an extent that Messrs. Francis and Day have acquired the American rights for immediate publication by their New York house. Mr. Fred Elton is receiving unlimited applause for his artistic rendering of the song on the Stoll tour.

"THE COLLAR STUD" AT TONYPANDY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA

Sir,—My attention has been called to a paragraph in *The Era* of last week. I refer to the item in the "Variety Gossip," referring to the recent visit of *The Collar Stud* to Tonypandy, and the subsequent death of Augustus N. Hall and serious illness of Brown Elliott, two members of the company

As I am closely connected with the successful sketch referred to, the somewhat unhappy phrasing of this paragraph has caused me considerable annoyance. The following may give your numerous readers a more correct view of the case than the afore-mentioned paragraph conveyed:—

(1) Both Hall and Elliott were considerably in advance of their salaries before they opened in Tonypandy.

(2) Although the salary from the management was duly handed over to Hall, as manager for the company, I have not, up to the present, received *one penny piece*.

(3) One member of the company (Mrs. Wilson Summers), through some misunderstanding with my representative, did not take her salary, and I, as a consequence, had to pay twice, so to speak.

(4) How a portion of the money found upon Hall was disbursed, the following excerpt from a letter in my possession will explain:—"Nurse, £3 3s.; landlady, £5 6s.; undertaker, £4."

As a matter of fact, I am some £25 out of pocket through this unfortunate affair, over which (and I quote from a letter of Mr. Baldry's received on Tuesday) "you (meaning myself) are no more to blame than I am."

I may add, in conclusion, that from all that has come to my knowledge since his death, Hall was too ill to personally render me any account of what had been done with the money handed to him.

The tale with regard to that still remains to be completed—in the law courts.

Trusting you will give the same publicity to this letter that you have already given to the obnoxious paragraph referred to,—I am, yours faithfully,

HUBERT BARTLETT.

Tivoli, Manchester, Jan. 10, 1907.

P.S.—I have omitted to mention that Hall had been in my employ only five weeks, and Elliott two days when they opened at Tonypandy; further, that I was personally in Scotland at the time.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"AN ACTOR'S ART."

A Comedy Sketch, in One Act, by Mr. J. L. Shine, Produced, for the First Time, at the Empire, Camberwell, on Tuesday Evening, Jan. 8.

J. L. Shine, an Actor
A Lancashire Farmer
Gerald Guiness .....
Old Irish Applewoman
George Grant .....
A Scotch Elder .....
A Coster ....Mr. J. L. Shine

Gerald Guiness .....Mr. Fred Shine
George Grant .....Mr. Alec Crichton
Arthur Bifkins .....Mr. R. Gilder
Mary Russell .....Miss Blanche Colmer

Owing to the sudden indisposition of Mr. J. L. Shine on Monday, the production of this brilliant little comedy sketch had to be postponed till Tuesday evening, when at both houses Mr. Shine, his comedy, and his carefully-selected company were accorded a most enthusiastic reception. The story unfolded in this cleverly conceived and admirably constructed little playlet concerns the private enquiry firm of Messrs. Guiness and Grant, who have just received a scathing letter from a lady client, asking for the return of her money, as the firm had failed to give her the information asked for. The partners are discussing this communication, when their mutual friend, J. L. Shine, the actor, and his sweetheart, Mary Russell, call. He is soon put into possession of the facts, and tells the canny Scots that he is not surprised at their failure, as their methods are wrong, and, instead of employing flat-footed ex-police officers, whom anyone can detect, they should employ actors for their work, who are masters in "the art of make-believe." Guiness and Grant both pooh-pooh the idea, and Shine is told that "actors are a conceited lot." He is somewhat nettled at this, and at once offers to debit £500 to the firm's account if he fails to come in and out of their office without their identifying him within two hours. Guiness and Grant eagerly accept the challenge, as it is a £500 to nothing chance for them. Shine and his sweetheart have hardly got off the premises when there enters a Lancashire farmer who has lost his daughter, and puts the tracing of her into the firm's hands. Guiness goes out with the farmer to wire to the Yard, and Grant is surprised to find his partner returning so quickly; but it is Shine so admirably disguised that even his partner has no idea of the deception. The actor makes an excuse to get away, and when Guiness returns and says he has been detained at the telephone Grant thinks his partner has been drinking. Whilst in the midst of an angry altercation they are interrupted by the entrance of a garrulous old Irish applewoman, whom eventually they have to eject. Grant says he will settle with his partner when he comes back from the bank. Shine then comes in disguised as Grant, and poor Guiness is delighted to find him in a better temper than when he left. Shine makes an excuse to slip away, and confusion worse confounded ensues when Grant returns, bent on having it out with Guiness. They are just coming to blows, when a Scotchman intrudes. It is needless to say that this is also Shine, and his departure paves the way for the entry of a typical London coster, who informs the partners that he has overheard Shine telling his sweetheart that he is coming disguised as his valet. It, however, begins to dawn on the mystified partners that all their visitors have been Shine in disguise, including the clever impersonations of themselves, and that their chance of claiming the £500 is nil. They, however, cling to a last hope, and when Mary Russell and Shine's secretary come to enquire after Shine they seize the valet and claim the wager. The appearance of Shine in their midst dispels their last hope. Shine, however, generously promises to put the £500 into their business, as he is sure the lesson he has taught them, that "the actor's art" is not to be despised, will be for their ultimate good. Unreserved praise is due to Mr. J. L. Shine for his finished impersonations. His whole performance only went to prove to the hilt the truism, "that the new school of actors have a vast deal to learn from the old." His efforts were most loyally supported by Miss Blanche Colmer as Mary Russell, Mr. Fred Shine as Gerald Guiness, Mr. Alec Crichton as George Grant, and Mr. R. Gilder as Shine's valet.

"IN THE DAYS OF KING CHARLES."

This new Musical Scena was produced for the first time at the Empire, Camberwell, on Monday last.

In a pretty scene, by Frederick A. Munns, representing a picture-gallery in an historical castle, a party of children are, with song and dance, enjoying themselves in the ruddy glow of the fire. Pretty little Elsie Videau is asked by her companions if she has ever heard the legend of her ancestress, cruel Lady Ann. She says she has, and that the ghost of Lady Ann always appears on the eve of Christmas, and she should so much like to see her. A panel in the gallery slides open, and Lady Ann appears, and is questioned by the child as to why she killed her lord. The Ghost comes forth, and while all the children gather around with terror-stricken faces, she recites to them "The Oath of Lady Ann," which tells how, "in the days of King Charles," her lord, a Royalist, went forth to fight against the Cromwellian troops, and, after engaging in a continuous combat for two days, he finds himself near his home. He determines to rest awhile, but before doing so makes his wife, Lady Ann, take an oath that should the Cromwell soldiers make their appearance she will seize a dagger and kill him, to save him falling into their hands. Distracted by fear, she at last takes the oath, and her lord at once falls into a heavy sleep. Some time after Lady Ann is startled by the appearance of the soldiers on the crest of the hill, and as they come nearer she recognises Cromwell's men. Remembering her oath, she seizes the dagger, and in her agony of mind and fears for her husband's safety, plunges it into the heart of her sleeping lord. The officer of the troop presents a document to Lady Ann which is a free pardon for her husband from Cromwell.

After the recital of this gruesome story, the ghost of Lady Ann retires whence she came, telling the child Elsie that now she has told her story to one of her descendants her spirit will rest in peace.

As my Lady Ann, Miss Edith Blande holds the attention of her audience by her high dramatic and elocutionary powers; the little girl sings and dances charmingly, while the rest of the children do all that is asked of them thoroughly and well.

Others in the programme here this week are Flo Penley and Geo. English in their musical duo *In Ould Kildare;* Jock Walker, the Scotch comedian; the Markies, in a musical scena, *From Pavement to Stage;* Cardow Cadets, in a humorous vocal mélange, *Last Night Ashore;* Max Duffax, musical contortionist; Tots Davis, the winsome and dainty danseuse; Charles Ashdowne, a clever legmania artist; Violet Nunn, a charming comedienne; and the Empire pictures.

On New Year's morning there passed away in Edinburgh, at the advanced age of ninety-five, Mrs. John Samwelt, the oldest equestrienne in the circus business. She was connected with most of the leading circus proprietors of the present and last century. Up to within a week of her death she was in full possession of all her faculties and able to go about as usual. She, unfortunately, sustained a chill, which culminated fatally.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE PAVILION.

Mr. Frank Glenister has been very fortunate in his choice of attractions of late, and may be credited with a boom in art studies, represented by perfectly-figured ladies in the nude. Mr. W. T. Stead, a leading writer of the Western hemisphere, and a stickler for purity, pronounced the exhibition of La Milo—a beautiful Australian girl—a perfect and pure entertainment, and all London rushed to the Piccadilly-circus house to see the undraped posings of that lady in well-known works of sculpture, chosen from the art galleries of Europe. The exhibition of the Seldoms, who, we believe, come from Germany, has not received the *imprimatur* of Mr. Stead, but the crowds do not keep away from the London Pavilion on that account, and every evening sees a house packed in all parts eager to view a series of marble groups which we think have not been equalled in the history of the halls. Our memory carries us back to the time when Mark Johnson in his statuary act was a prominent attraction; but public taste has much advanced since then, as those who remember the crude effects of the old act will admit when they view the artistic perfection of the Seldoms. A particularly fine study is "The Sabine Woman," from the Bologna Gallery, and a group full of virility is "The Wrestlers," after Lambeau, the Belgian sculptor; but nothing in the whole series approaches the admirable posing of "Reaching the Winning Post," after Boucher, of Paris. The turn keeps the house intently watching, but the applause that breaks out on its conclusion proves beyond a doubt that the Seldoms have scored a triumph.

Mr. Emlyn Jones and his Emerald Ladies' Quartette return time after time to this popular house, and evoke the liveliest interest and heartiest appreciation by their fine singing. Such familiar numbers as "Killarney" and "The Lost Chord" are beautifully harmonised and delicately rendered. The harmony of the plantation is effectively illustrated by the Kentucky Four, who include a very lively dancer known as Topsy, "the whirlwind."

An attractive feature of the programme is the number of humorous turns. Those happily-associated partners, Mr. Athas and Miss Lizzie Collins evoke considerable laughter by their latest success *The Lady and the Scarecrow*. The drollery of Howard and Collinson are none the less enjoyable because the lady ("the parcel") is capable of a clever imitation of a doll. Mr. Phil Ray, who is fixed up at this house for some time, "goes" better than ever in his abbreviated patter—an original idea of his own; Mr. Chris Richards, a wonderful dancer and a comic hat-manipulator, though he gives us nothing fresh, is most eccentric in his general behaviour; Mr. Harry Ford, another Pavilion favourite, must get better songs if he wishes to sustain his reputation as a comedian; but Mr. Whit Cunliffe needs nothing better at present than his "Hello, hello, hello!" which is being sung in every pantomime in the British Isles. Mr. Carter Livesey and Miss Lilian Rosebery, assisted by Mr. Albert Mason, present *The Would-Be Actors*, and evoke roars of laughter; Mr. Ambrose Thorne and the Pavilion Girls repeat their success in *The Practical Tactical Nautical Man*, a well-dressed and taking scena; Mr. Albert Whelan deserves his success for his clever whistling and still more clever imitations of Chirgwin, Harry Lauder, and Gus Elen; Mr. Kit Keen, by his bone-playing, revives slumbering recollections of the past glories of minstrel entertainments; and other turns in a full and excellent bill are contributed by the Cape Girls, the Pavilion Girls, Mr. Hal Forde, Miss Mignon Tremayne, and the Brothers Horne.

THE EUSTON.

Messrs. George Adney Payne and Fred McAvoy enter into a contract with each of their patrons, from god to stallite, to give them a good entertainment for current coin of the realm tendered at the box-office, and they announce this fact in an ingenious advertisement, issued as a cheque, backed by a printed list of the company. The chief star of the present bill is Tom Leamore, who has lately lapsed into the sentimental mood in a new character, which at least proclaimed his versatility. At the Euston, however, he reverts to his familiar eccentric business, by which he leaped into fame directly after he discovered that he was something a great deal more than a clog-dancer. It is difficult to get songs that strike an original vein of humour, and Mr. Leamore depends in the main on droll exaggeration and a wealth of incongruous detail. Both are to be found in his first song, "I'm the prodigal son," and in his second he indulges in a deal of patter concerning the duties of a London County Council custodian of our public parks. As a backer of horses, he naturally wishes for a racing track, and his patter concerning it, and his views of the economic conditions of the municipal service, are in quite the Munchausen vein.

Two vocalists make their mark at the Euston, and are deservedly encored for their excellent singing. Mr. Ian Colquhoun has a suitable vehicle for the display of his deep basso in the rollicking song, "To-morrow will be Friday," which he renders very finely indeed. Miss Daisy Davidson, the New Zealand soprano, gives the somewhat sugary and commonplace musical phrases of Carl Zeller's song, "The Nightingale," with all the necessary culture and style, but is heard to much greater advantage in a bravura song, in which her top notes ring out clear and true—much to the delight of her many admirers, who show their appreciation of her numbers by hand and voice.

Rough-and-tumble humour is to be discovered in the laughable boxing act of the Harvey Boys. Though without the services of the lamented Eddie Harvey, the business has lost nothing on the score of mirth-making, the youngest of the pair showing no little ability as a comedian. The boxing set-to is refereed by a speechless policeman, a part that is capably handled, and the sketch goes exceedingly well. Acrobats have, it seems, to be comedians, nowadays, in order to retain the rank of star attractions, and the funny man of Price and Revost fulfils this condition in a way that keeps the audience shaking with laughter. His assumed "clumsiness" is the cleverest exhibition of clowning that we have seen on the variety stage for years.

Mr. J. P. Ling is what may be termed a drawing-room humorist, and his experiences at a country entertainment obtain apt and whimsical treatment. The audience laugh consumedly at the tenor who invariably comes in a half-tone below the proper pitch in the country choral society's rendering of the hackneyed "Hail, smiling morn," and the lady afflicted with shortness of breath, singing "Come back to me," is also decidedly funny. Lotto, Lilo, and Otto play many fantastic and other tricks with bicycles, and also "play up" in an interesting game of bicycling polo, in which there is no lack of humour. Mr. Frank Leon takes his step-dancing quite seriously, and the audience become prodigal of applause when he indulges in "triple pats." The final item of the bill is *The Duchess of Tooting*, a musical comedy in miniature, of which the lyrics and music are by George Sheldon. The predicament of Charles Cash, whose father thinks he has married the Duchess of Tooting, instead of which he has taken to wife a lady of the halls, known to fame by her celebrated impersonation of the Duchess of Tootsie Wootsie, is the theme of a sufficiently amusing imbroglio, illustrated by song and dance and well-turned verses. The company includes Mr. Harry Latimer, Mr. Harry Buss, Mr. Frank Hertje, Miss Rhoda Paul, Miss Dora Heritage, and Miss Josie Farrington, and all do well. Misses Frazer and Haley also contribute to the programme, which is musically directed by Mr. Victor Opferman, except when Mr. George Sheldon, the composer of the musical comedy, undertakes to conduct his own work.

THE MIDDLESEX.

The popular hall in Drury-lane bore its customary aspect of fulness on the occasion of a recent visit, when a crowded audience sat and stood from early to late in the full enjoyment of a programme that once more reflected Mr. J. L. Graydon's capacity for selection. Every excuse for remaining to the end was furnished in the engagement of Mr. John Lawson and company in the sketch by Richard Pole, entitled *The Devil's Sunday*, which was recently renamed *Vanity*, but has now had its original title restored. The sketch makes a powerful impression, Mr. John Lawson's vivid portrayal of the convict out on bail being a vivid exposition of acute anguish. The mental torture which the betrayed husband feels is depicted in every lineament of his face, and the sudden access of passion which leads to the murder of the faithless wife is assumed with startling fidelity. The house cheers vehemently during the progress of the sketch, and at the end the clever artist is accorded an ovation.

A good beginning to the evening's entertainment is made by Miss Rene Ring, an attractive singer and dancer, who wins general favour. The Twin Brothers Dean look spick-and-span in white flannels, and after whistling a duet, indulge in a dance in which the variety and regularity of their steps are agreeably apparent. One of the performers also does a dance while seated on a chair—a feat difficult of accomplishment, and liberally rewarded. Mr. William Giffin selects a pathetic ballad to display his talents as a vocalist, afterwards giving a moving recitation of "The face on the floor," in which to show his ability as an actor, and in both departments he excels sufficiently to gain the attention and approbation of the house.

Fun is awakened by the appearance of Goodman, Holles, and Co. in their sketch of *The Little Charwoman*, in which the impersonator of the title-rôle shows marked versatility by playing the part of a flower-girl, a Dutch maiden, and a coon songstress. Comedy also asserts itself agreeably in *Getting Even*, the popular sketch presented by Sinclair and Whiteford. Mr. Fred Sinclair is the cause of unlimited merriment as the namby-pamby, but cynical, husband, his voice and appearance being exactly in accord with the part, while his female impersonation is also a remarkable one. Adequate assistance in the merriment is rendered by Miss Gracie Whiteford as the impulsive wife, whose assumption of male attire is attended with such dire results. Stidder and Dunbar supply an entertainment in which the piano and 'cello figure usefully, the young lady doing a doll song and dance admirably. She also assists in the playing by her partner on the 'cello of "Eileen Alanah," by appearing as a "living picture" in illustration of the song.

A severe test of the appreciation of Middlesex patrons is furnished in a Shakespearean excerpt, called *Clarence's Dream*, but Mr. Albert Wyndham and his company, who long since succeeded in putting the beauties of the bard forcibly before a variety audience, emerge victorious from the ordeal. The episode is taken from the first act of *Richard III.*, and introduces the dream scene of Clarence, his appeal to his intending murderers and his brutal slaughter by one of the ruffians. Mr. Wyndham invests his performance of the title-rôle with picturesque solemnity, and his delivery of long speeches in blank verse elicited loud and frequent cheers. Clifton and Gibson are expert knockabout comedians, and prove vastly popular with their burlesque of a second-sight performance and a well-arranged medley. Miss Gracie Bard commands the voice as well as the ear of the audience in the refrain, "Remember me to mother dear"; and Miss Mollie Doon, who makes a smart cantinière in her first song, also sings "I wish I were you" and dances neatly. Loud applause is accorded the Sisters Selwyn for a couple of charming duets; the new Bioscope displays new and interesting pictures; and others in the long programme are the Bensons, in a musical comedy act, Alec Kennedy, and Athas and Collins.

CAMBERWELL PALACE.

Patrons of the Palace at Camberwell are largely reinforced by the added means of transit furnished by the tramway extension, by which residents in the rapidly-growing suburb of Dulwich may be set down at the door of the elegant hall. Of this advantage they avail themselves to the full, and the result is found in houses packed twice nightly. A potent attraction of the current bill is supplied by that mammoth producer, Mr. Fred Karno's latest effort, entitled *Moses and Son*, from the pen of Mr. Karno himself, in conjunction with Fred Kitchen and Harold Gatty, with music by Dudley Powell. The sketch enjoys the distinction of being presented by a company composed entirely of Hebrew artists, with one notable exception, in the case of Mr. Albert Bruno, who makes a very eccentric personage of the caretaker at the banker's, who has the presumption to make love to the daughter of the house. Mr. Bruno is a finished comedian, but does not fear to strike a pathetic note at the end, when the resourceful Perkins, who has been posing as a millionaire at a ball in Park-lane, is denounced by his employer and degraded before all the company. Miss Leah Morris is entitled to commendation for her share of the performance; and Miss Janet Reeve, Miss Madge Rockingham, Mr. Herbert Landeck, and Mr. Anthony Gordon assist in the completeness of the production, the novelty and interest of which keep the audience engrossed to the very end.

The warmest welcome of the evening is extended to Miss Lily Burnand, the announcement of whose number is received with a round of applause. She is in her best form, and invests her song, "Now she's got her picture on the post-card," with vivacity and charm. The sentiment of "Stowaway" is as touching as its tunefulness is agreeable to the ear, and Miss Burnand, dressed in a becoming principal boy's costume, does justice to both, with the result that her success is emphasised in many recalls. A popular demonstration is also accorded to Percival, who prefaces his séance at the pianoforte with many droll diversions, while his burlesque of various executants at an evening party is interesting as well as humorous. His imitations on the piano of a musical box and a drum and fife band are greatly relished, and the swelling tones of a church organ are realistically reproduced on the same instrument, and listened to with delight.

The vagaries of a "musical tramp" are amusingly presented by Mr. Will Van Allen, who obtains many a laugh for his absurdities, but manages to secure loudly-expressed approbation for his playing of the viola, and for the finale of the overture to *William Tell* on the banjo, a feat of no small magnitude, efficiently performed. Mr. Woolmer Young puts a large amount of expression into the singing of a descriptive song, with the refrain, "Shuffle and deal," which meets with hearty cheers. Derenda and Green, "creative comedy jugglers," keep the audience in a condition of mirth and astonishment, pleasingly mingled, their combination club juggling being not the least expert of their numerous feats. Vernon's Bioscope supplies an exciting film in "The Drunken Mattress," the adventures of which keep the house in a roar of laughter. Manifestations of mirth are also abundant during the sketch, *Saucy Maud*, presented by the Brontes; the comicalities of Athas and Collins are similarly effective; and the Dixon Sisters, bâton swingers, dancers, and singers are among the attractions of the bill. Mr. P. A. Lennon rejoices with reason at the flourishing state of affairs that exists at the hall, to which he has contributed greatly by his tactful and energetic management.

HACKNEY EMPIRE.

High-class music forms an important part in the programme submitted this week at the Hackney Empire. Mr. Auguste Van Biene is here in a playlet, in one act, entitled *The Master Musician*, which was produced for the first time on Monday. In a poorly-furnished attic in New York lives Heinrich Klein, a veteran musician, who has been reduced to a state of dire poverty. However, he finds a staunch little friend in Jennie, a lodging house slavey, and an orphan, whose feeling towards the grey-haired old man is that of a daughter for a father. He is starving, so she brings him her own poor breakfast. The weather is cold, and his supply of fuel has given out, so Jennie, risking the wrath of her mistress, surreptitiously fetches coal and wood from the cellar. The musician, in the midst of his poverty, continues to cherish a fond memory of the girl he loved when he was a young man, and hoped to win fame and fortune as a musical genius. He has her portrait still, and shows it to his sympathetic little friend; and then, taking his beloved 'cello, he plays several selections, concluding with "Home, Sweet Home." There is a knock at the door, and it is an agreeable surprise to find that, instead of the landlady, demanding the rent, a well-dressed lady enters. She is a pupil of the professor's, and Jennie does not hesitate to inform her of the poverty-stricken condition of the old man, who, however, refuses to receive any money until he has earned it. The visitor sees the portrait, and recognises an aunt of hers. She promises the Professor that he shall see his old sweetheart again. They take their departure together, leaving poor little Jennie in tears; but the Professor returns in a few minutes, and to her great joy, promises that she shall also quit the dingy lodging-house and share in the good-fortune that awaits him. Mr. Van Biene presents a pathetic portrayal of the master musician who has reached the lowest depths of poverty, and in his handling of the 'cello displays all his wonted skill and sureness of touch. Each selection is received with loud applause, but, generally speaking, the more familiar the melody, the greater is the applause. Miss Lena Burnleigh wins general favour by her admirable performance of the part of Jennie; and Miss Rose Summers does well as the Professor's pupil, Miss Carlisle. Mr. Percival Goffin is the musical-director for Mr. Van Biene.

Mr. Edward Arthur and company are also appearing here in two scenes from the popular opera, entitled *The Lily of Killarney*. Mr. Edward Arthur ably doubles the parts of Myles Na Coppleen and Hardress Cregan, and sings the music with excellent effect. Mr. Arthur Gribbon is a robust Mr. Corrigan; and Mr. David Fuller is good as Danny Mann; Miss Fanny Edwards completing the cast as Mrs. Cregan. The performance concludes with the duet, "My heart's delight," between Hardress Cregan and Danny Mann, well sung by Mr. Edward Arthur and Mr. Fuller.

Newhouse and Ward score all through in their cycle act, both showing remarkable skill in the management of the machines. One of the two indulges in a good deal of genuinely comic business, and they also vary the performance by introducing a speciality, entitled *The Amateur Marksmen*, which also excites considerable merriment. Miss Peggy Pryde is the recipient of a hearty welcome, and this favourite comedienne, in quite her best form, sings "He had never been there before," followed by "Bother the men," given in the character of an elderly dame with a formidable-looking umbrella, who is evidently a Suffragette, for she boasts of the fact that she has just "come out of Holloway." Lastly, Miss Pryde, in a dress typical of Australia, gives in telling style "The song of the thrush," the catchy refrain being well taken up by the audience. Mr. Andrew Roy, who has had considerable experience in grand opera, scores with "Sing me to sleep," and the American march song, "Good-bye, sweet Marie." Both these popular selections are illustrated by coloured pictures thrown on the screen. Ike Scott and his son do an amusing turn, finishing with a song and dance; Miss Gladys Mavius, the Canadian girl, meets with deserved success; the Karno Four, in the comic pantomime, *The Dinner Hour*, cause abundance of laughter; and the artist known as Orpheus, in his musical scena, entitled *The Solitary Rehearsal*, plays on various instruments, including the musette, the saxophone, the oboe, and the post-horn, a phonograph accompaniment being a feature of the performance. The American Bioscope displays a series of pictures illustrative of an episode, entitled "Waiting at the Church." Mr. John Christie, the acting-manager here, is always found at the post of duty; and the overture this week is of a classic character, Wagner's "Flying Dutchman," played by the excellent orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Walter Johnson.

NEW SKETCHES AT THE QUEEN'S.

"MONTE CARLO" AND "LADY AUDLEY'S SECRET."

Under the supervision of Mr. Jack Woolf, the energetic manager of the Queen's, Poplar, two new sketches were submitted for the first time on Monday night to a large and approving audience. The first of these, entitled *Monte Carlo*, possessed the strong flavour of the suitable requitement of villainy at the hands of justice, which at one time was supposed to be so dear to transpontine audiences, and which seems now to be equally popular in regions where the Mosaic dispensation is in the ascendant. A young naval officer—Lieut. Harry Marston—is seized with the gambler's mania, and, under the influence of an expert swindler, Capt. de Tare, succeeds in getting rid of his patrimony, being even, by the machinations of the latter, made to appear as the utterer of forged notes at the gaming tables. Suicide seems to be his only refuge. Unknown to him, and under the influence of a warning dream, his mother has come to Monte Carlo, and, by a system of hedging, has won back all the money he has lost. But the villain, disguising himself as a friendly priest, succeeds in getting her winnings. Lieut. Marston discovers the rascality of de Tare, and is shot in a dastardly fashion by the latter while engaged in duel. Mrs. Marston eventually unmasks the whole treachery, and deals out justice to De Tare to the satisfaction of everyone. Mrs. George Daventry gives a stately representation of the devoted mother, whose efforts to save her son, it is to be regretted, proved futile. Mr. Keith Fraser is certainly a handsome naval officer, though it is rather surprising to find an officer of the King's Navee gallivanting about a casino in full uniform. Mr. G. L. Doughty is a very capable villain, whose only fault seems to be a somewhat too great geniality of disposition. The piece is very prettily staged, the background being a capital view of the famous shores of Monte Carlo.

The other piece is a production of Mrs. Bennett and Mr. Albert Ward of a version of that ever-fascinating tale, *Lady Audley's Secret*. As Lady Audley, Mrs. Bennett maintains her high reputation as a character actress, imparting to the changing subtleties of the adventuress's arts an actuality which might have even conquered the doubts of Sir Michael's sceptic nephew Robert. The latter character is really too well acted by Mr. Albert Ward, who gives to it an amount of backbone and energy which the original in the novel certainly did not possess. Mr. C. L. Perry is alike dignified and doting as Sir Michael Audley. Mr. G. L. Doughty as George Talboys and Mr. Keith Fraser and Miss Frances Alleyne as the gamekeeper and his wife fill their respective parts in good style. The scenery, especially the old-world garden, is very picturesque, and, as in the previous piece, is very creditable alike to the producers and the management of the Queen's.

For other Variety Notices, see page 13.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

THE forthcoming meetings of the Showmen's Guild must engage the serious attention of all fair ground traders and open-air amusement caterers, and, in fact, all who desire to preserve to the busy workers of the Empire full opportunity of reasonable and necessary recreation and rest from toil.

THAT the Showmen's Guild, in defending the trade interests of itinerant entertainers, is also preserving the people's local and national holidays is not sufficiently recognised; yet this truly national work for years has had no effective or organised champion but the Showmen's Guild, and it is carried on entirely by the ability, and at the entire cost, of that body.

WE have again and again pointed out how intimately bound up with the maintenance of local holidays, governed by the time of the fair or wakes, are other vast industries and commercial enterprises.

TAKE, for example, that "perpetual fair" by the sea, Blackpool. Why, its very life and prosperity depends upon the maintenance and the ordered sequence of the fairs and feasts of the workers. Yet the great shows a the seaside never contribute a penny to the fighting funds of the one society that defends these fairs and holidays of the people. With Blackpool we may link Douglas, New Brighton, Morecambe, Llandudno, Rhyl, Cleethorpes, Scarborough, Bridlington, Whitby, and a dozen smaller seaside resorts on the same coast, or within railway access of the great industrial belt of England, stretching from Leicester to Newcastle.

REPEATEDLY has the Showmen's Guild defeated schemes for the suppression of fairs and local holidays, and it is no exaggeration to say that, behind this bulwark of defence, the great seaside pleasure cities have grown and prospered.

AGAIN and again have employers in huge districts determined to abolish all local holidays in their area of employment, the supposed advantage of all employers of one district closing their mills, shutting down their work for ten days or a fortnight, being obviously a great gain to the employer, but not so to the people.

IMAGINE if you can the problem of dealing with two millions of people in a week. That would have been the problem if the Leeds and district employers had succeeded some few years ago in consolidating the holidays for the workers under their control. Think, if you can, of Lancashire only having one fortnight, and all its towns rushing to the sea in that one and only time of exodus from labour.

EMPLOYERS cannot see—they say it is not their business to see—the tremendous social and economic upheaval this plan of theirs would bring in being; yet it was left entirely to the organised showmen to meet this threatened danger, and it is to their honour and credit hat they have won in every instance—in every fight.

To maintain the old order and succession of the British fairs, and thus provide a governing and eminently practical sequence of the summer exodus to the sea, has been the work of the Guild. The great seaside resorts know when to expect the Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield, Halifax, and Dewsbury workers; so, too, in Lancashire, Blackburn, Burnley, Darwen, Oldham, Ashton, Stockport, and Hyde—all these follow in their fixed time, and so the showmen by the sea have a succession of busy weeks, and not one or two terrible and impossible invasions. Who would, or could, cater for a mere month's or six weeks' season at the sea? The whole thing is, on the face of it, ruinous and impossible. Yet only the showmen have battled for the present order of things.

IN trying to understand the attitude of the employers of labour at Burslem, in the recent movement in the Town Council to abolish the wakes, we found that the real motive was that Burslem might take the lead in abolishing all fairs in the Potteries in order that employers might fix one holiday, and one only, for the whole district. "The fight for Burslem Wakes" we found was the defence of the local holidays for the whole of the district, and the attack on Burslem the retrogade movement to curtail the all too few holiday times of the people.

WE have referred to the closely identified interests of the seaside caterers with showmen who maintain our fairs; but the matter does not end there, as we demonstrated in several articles last summer, dealing with the railway pleasure traffic and its growth, owing to the sequence of fairs. We venture further to assert that the immense development of the variety stage and permanent palaces of pleasure and amusement are closely linked with the security of the people's fixed times of local holiday and cessation from toil. It is a truism to assert that the fair is both the parent and the nursery of the theatre and the music hall; yet all these allied interests leave the defence of our local and national holidays to the travelling showman.

WE give in another column a full list of the subscriptions to the Showmen's Guild, the only existing organisation that defends the local and national holidays. That list tells its own tale. Not a creditable one for the allied interests, or for the greater world of shows. Not even creditable to the trades and industries supplying showmen with goods and material for their daily work. We cannot grumble over much at showmen when we find people quite as much interested as they are utterly indifferent as to who does the work or who pays, so long as they are secure and safe in their business.

To their credit, it must be admitted that some few of the manufacturers and traders have sent subscriptions; but compare the subscriptions with the interests involved, and then you will see how necessary and how urgent it is for all classes concerned in providing entertainment for the people to combine and to support adequately all defence work that preserves the workers' holidays and opportunities of amusement.

As the trade paper of all shows, all entertainers, travelling the country or fixed in towns or cities, we have, in season and out of season, recognised this solidarity of interest, even when some of our friends thought the travelling showman and the itinerant entertainer not quite "classy" enough for *The Era*. We confess that in this impartial view of the unity of interest in all sorts and conditions of showmen we have had at times but poor appreciation of our work; but we have always had the real heart of showland with us, and that has been our more than sufficient reward.

WHAT is the end of the whole? It is for a wider recognition of the community of interest that binds all entertainers of the people in one conscious and helping brotherhood; and, above all, we plead that the fighting guard of the people's holidays—the old Showmen's Guild—shall have enough funds and to spare for its supremely urgent and necessary work

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

DEAR SIR,—The enclosed cutting from a newspaper printed fifty years ago speaks for itself. The Sheffield pleasure fairs at Whitsuntide and Christmas are bigger than were ever dreamt of even thirty years ago, when the "superior person" still spoke hopefully of their ultimate extinction, and we have also frequent visits from Collins's and other "carnival" combinations.—Yours truly,

A LOVER OF SHOWS, BUT NOT IN THE BUSINESS.

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

TAKEN FROM THE "SHEFFIELD DAILY TELEGRAPH," NOV. 29, 1856.

PREACHING AT THE FAIR.—The following paragraph appeared in all the London journals about Sheffield Fair:—"Preaching at Sheffield Fair."—On Tuesday an instance of religious zeal was manifested at Sheffield under somewhat unusual circumstances. It being the winter cheese and pleasure fair, there was an unusual throng of people in the town, and the Revs. James Moorhouse and W. Wilkinson, two of the most popular clergymen in the town, along with several other clergymen, ministers of other denominations, and town missionaries, took advantage of the occasion to deliver religious addresses to the people who had assembled to witness the entertainments of the fair. They chose a situation in the Haymarket (which adjoins the principal route to the fair ground), so as not to interfere with the movements of the crowd, and to be beyond the reach of the music and noise of the fair ground; and they used a waggon for a platform. The ministers succeeded in attracting around them a large assemblage of persons, who listened very attentively, and conducted themselves in a quiet and orderly manner. The addresses, with short intervals for singing, were continued for about two hours, and no attempt was made to interrupt or disturb the proceedings. Tracts were distributed to the listeners, and to other persons on or about the fair ground, a grant of 20,000 having been made by the Religious Tract Society for the purpose. The ministers were so well received that it is expected they will renew their addresses."—Since Tuesday the weather has been too cold to admit of out-door preaching. If the opponents of fairs can manage to get the ground-rent raised a little higher, we shall soon get rid of all the booths and other exhibitions at our fairs, which will be going a long way towards finally sweeping them away. Already the ground-rents are so high that those poor creatures be decked as kings and queens and heroes and heroines scarcely earn salt after paying the tolls.

FIFTY years ago, and now, despite the conspiracy of Corporations in those days, following the bad lead of the City of London in abolishing Bartholomew Fair by exorbitant rents, fairs exist and prosper in all our great centres of life, Sheffield itself having two great fairs, one at Whitsuntide and the other at Christmas—two of the best fairs in Yorkshire, and still under Corporation control, and run for the benefit of the people, and for the easement of the city rates.

NEVER has so much sensation been caused in Glasgow as the Dahomey Amazon Warriors created at Burnette's Novelty Palace, Argyle-street, during this festive season. Hundreds were turned away, and special police precautions were taken to deal with the congested state of the traffic in the immediate vicinity. Hogmanay was an occasion of extraordinary excitement at the Palace, as presentations were the order of the evening. Chieftain Angazza Lobogolo (Tom Brown) was the gratified recipient of a solid gold medal from Mr. Fred R. Burnette. Mrs. Burnette presented Princess Gooma with a handsome necklace and earrings. Some gentlemen friends of Mr. and Mrs. Burnette also gave the Princess six valuable native armlets. Each member of the troupe received an appropriate gift in sterling metal. On behalf of the Dahomey Warriors Mr. Bert Miles, the English representative, responded in suitable words, and was delightfully surprised when Mr. Tom Brown handed him a silver cigarette case, subscribed for by the Warriors and staff of the Palace. The proceedings wound up with "Auld lang syne," a real Scotch Hogmanay being ended in truly happy style.

THE first showmen's banquet and ball will take place at Olympia on Monday evening, Jan. 21, by kind permission of the directors both of Olympia and of the International Fun City Co. The event is the first of its kind ever held at Earl's Court, and promises to be one of the most brilliant affairs ever organised amongst showmen. Lord George Sanger will take the chair part of the evening, and will be assisted by Mr. F. H. Payne, managing-director of the New Olympia Co. The committee is composed of all the principal showmen at present appearing at Olympia with their various entertainments, and the vice-presidents include the most prominent and influential gentlemen in London. Mr. Arthur Dashwood, chairman of the executive committee, and Mr. A. Carden, hon. secretary and treasurer, are working strenuously to achieve a success, no stone being left unturned to make the occasion a memorable one.

AT the Royal Hotel Yard, Redditch, this week, are Clarke's electric motor cars, park swings, shooting saloons, cokernut sheets, &c., Wilson's shooting saloons, and other attractions by Messrs. Chipperfield and Taylor.

REDDITCH annual pleasure fair is held during the August holidays, but it is thought it would be a good plan, if possible, to make it a little earlier, or else about the middle of August, when more attractions would be available. During the August holidays people leave the town, and there is no river or pleasure gardens to attract visitors from other towns. The Urban District Council has the letting of the ground for amusements, and the more patronage obtained, the better it is for the ratepayers.

THE pleasure fair at Stourbridge is due on March 30. Easter fairs will be held at Malvern Link, and Abberley Valley and Halesowen.

FROM the *Western Mail* of a recent date we take the following paragraph of interest to show people:—

"Considerable interest was taken in the wedding of two dwarfs at St. Catherine's Church, Pontypridd, the contracting parties being Carlisle Percy Harley, a native of Worthing, Kent, and Emily Maud Phillips, of Hereford, both of whom travel with Messrs. Wadbrooks, the cinématograph entertainers.

"Attired in the orthodox style, all that was to be seen of the bridgroom, who was surrounded and hidden from view by the schoolboys of the locality, was his glistening "bell topper" as he walked to the church, to which the bride drove in a cab. The bridegroom dispensed with the assistance of a "best" man, but the bride, who looked like a little school-girl, and who was tastefully dressed in a grey material, with hat to match, and carried a bouquet of spiræa, was accompanied by two bridesmaids—one a little girl of six, who exceeded the bride in stature, and the other a tall young lady, who was a decided contrast to the diminutive bride.

"In the church, where the Rev. J. Thomas, B.A., officiated, only the favoured few in the front seats were able to get a glimpse of the happy pair as the ceremony was performed, and whilst the bride was shy and tremulous—judging by her voice—the bridgroom plighted his troth in almost stentorian tones. Bride and bridegroom afterwards drove off in a cab to the station, amidst the cheering of the assembled crowd, the destination being Brighton, where the honeymoon will be spent. The total height of the pair is 7ft. 4in."

WE are quite sure that all their friends in showland will unite with us in every good wish for the happy couple.

RUSHDEN kept its New Year fair with the following shows and entertainments in attendance:—Bostock's menagerie, Thurston's cinématograph theatre, gondolas, and motors, Harvey's school of boxers, and the usual crowd of stalls, throwing games, &c.

THE attendance of the young people of the World's Fair at the Guild service, held in the large schoolroom at the Royal Agricultural Hall, on Sunday morning last, was extremely gratifying. The service, meant for the young people only, was conducted throughout by the Guild Chaplain, the Rev. T. Horne, who addressed the children on the Epiphany gifts brought by the wise men to the Infant Saviour. The children, in their answers to the questions of the Chaplain, showed marked intelligence. Mr. T. E. Read, the lessee of the fair, not only gave Mr. Horne carte blanche to use the Hall, but also interested himself in bringing the little show-folk to the service. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Taylor, of the cinématograph, lent their harmonium, and one of their working staff played the hymn tunes. These services will be continued (D.V.) during the season of the fair.

STATE BIOSCOPE FILMS.—Animated records depicting Parisian State ceremonies, great gatherings of public and national interest, festivals, manœuvres, and the like, are to be handed down for the use of future generations of students of French national life and customs. The municipality of Paris has decided to establish a bureau for the sole purpose of acquiring and preserving such films, thus recognising the value of the bioscope as an educational factor. On this side of the Channel we are slowly awakening to the importance of this modern invention. The general public always wants "to see the wheels go round," and such subjects as the making of a railway, of a great newspaper, of whisky, of champagne; the methods employed in the herring, whaling, oyster, salmon, and logging industries; the exploitation for emigration purposes of our various colonies and dependencies; the working of cotton, tea, coffee, sugar, and tobacco plantations, meet with enthusiastic acceptance wherever exhibited. Mr. Charles Urban has for years made a study of this class of photographic reproduction, and the present perfection of industrial and manufacturing subjects—with "interior" results equal to the best daylight exposure—is entirely owing to the enterprise of this pioneer of cinematography. These present-day business methods and the State functions of our generation will prove of inestimable value in the future, but no official movement has hitherto been made to secure the subjects. For electioneering purposes, too, animated pictures are proving not only of present use, but they will serve as permanent records of the methods of our time, and thus be more serviceable than any still-life pictures or verbal and statistical descriptions.

ANOTHER INTERESTING WEDDING IN THE SHOWMEN'S WORLD.

No one for a moment can say that the showman's life is devoid of interest even at the worst of times, or that it does not possess a certain charm, a Bohemian attraction, which, like a magnet, draws attention from all classes of the community alike. Even the inhabitants of Barry Dock (that much-governed seaport) were aroused from their usual routine of "being allowed to breathe" sort of life, and gave vent to their feelings in a very whole-hearted manner on Monday last by assembling in a goodly number in the vicinity of Messrs. Dooner's Theatre de Bioscope to catch a glimpse of the bride elect, Miss Sophia Dooner, on her departure to St. Paul's Church, where she was to be "tied for life," as one woman in the crowd remarked, and "God bless her I hope she'll be happy," replied another, which, generally expressed the feelings of all present, particularly as the name of Dooner is well known and respected by most of the inhabitants in Barry Dock and district.

Punctually to time the bashful bride, after two attempts to face the waiting bombardment of confetti and other matrimonial munitions of war, of which the expectant spectators had quite a large supply, with timid face wreathed in most bewitching smiles, made her way in difficulty amidst a furious cannonade of the aforesaid stuff, to the carriage in waiting, followed by her bridesmaids, Misses Lily Dooner (sister) and Rose Pillenger (Bristol); Mr. Jas Dooner (father), who gave the bride away; Mr. Richard Dooner (brother), who acted as best man; Mrs. R. Dooner, Mr. Harry Scard, of Wadbrook fame; Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson, Victoria Theatre, Barry Dock; and others.

The bridegroom, Mr. Alexander Ross Miller, musician, of Perth, Scotland, walked to church, though not unnoticed—unfettered then, but soon to be harnessed with those golden fetters given away on all such occasions, and may they always prove so to be, real 18 carat golden ones.

The marriage ceremony was performed by the vicar, the Rev. Mr. Weatherall, and the service was a full choral one, in which the splendid choir of St. Paul's played a leading part, and as the organ swelled forth the "Wedding March" at the conclusion of the service, not one amongst the large congregation assembled but wished health, wealth, and happiness to the newly-wedded pair.

After the usual formalities—signing registers, &c.—were gone through, the company were photographed within the precincts of the church, and then as blithe—er—as all are on such occasions, the merry party drove to Culley's Hotel, Barry Dock, where a numerous company of guests sat down to luncheon, and over "bumpers of the best," toasts were drunk and good wishes expressed, till at 3.30 the happy pair had to bid good-bye to their friends, from whom they had a grand set-off to London, where they will spend the pleasures of their honeymoon.

Amongst the numerous guests, besides those already mentioned, were Miss Harriet Dooner, Mrs. Bunter, and the Misses Pillinger (Bristol), Miss Wright, &c. The bride and bridegroom were recipients of many costly and useful presents from numerous friends and wellwishers.

THE popular annual Showmen's Supper and Ball, which has been so appreciated and patronised during past years, will take place at the World's Fair, Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, on Wednesday, Jan. 23, on which night it will celebrate its 14th anniversary. We cordially wish the event the success it so justly deserves, and that Mr. T. E. Read, the lessee and manager, will have a pleasant time amongst his numerous friends and well-wishers.

GREAT DRAW.

GRAHAM,

The Human Marionette.

"A Sure Top."

Agent,

GEORGE BARCLAY.

SHOWMEN'S GUILD SERVICE AT OLYMPIA.

At the request of the resident showmen, and with the hearty consent and co-operation of the Board of Directors of "International Fairs," Ltd., the Guild Chaplain, the Rev. T. Horne, conducted Divine Service at the great "Fun City" on Sunday last at 5.30 in the afternoon. The improvised church was a segment of the vast auditorium of the circus-ring, and was in every way adapted for its purpose. The whole of the arrangements, the provision of the piano, pianist, and soloist, and much detailed work of organisation, was under the immediate direction of Mr. Cochran, managing-director, and Mr. Wallace Jones, chief of the staff. Mention must also be made of the great help rendered by Mr. Dashwood, acting-manager of Sedgwick's Menagerie. With such churchwardens as these the hon. Chaplain was able to devote himself entirely to the work of his office.

The prominent showpeople at the service were Messrs. R. Sedgwick, J. Craddock, J. Dashwood, Sedgwick Brothers and families, Biddall Brothers and families, J. Pedley, Mr. and Mrs. Gould, Mr. and Mrs. Burnett, Mr. and Mrs. Rowe, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. White, Mr. and Mrs. Hussey, Mr. and Mrs. Mayne, Mr. and Mrs. Peters, Mr. and Mrs. Holdsworth, Mr. and Mrs. Manning, several members of the working staff of the exhibition and machines, and, in fact, a good congregation of attentive and devout worshippers. The service was the order of the Guild taken from the Book of Common Prayer. With the Chaplain was Mrs. Horne and the Rev. Dr. Shields, vicar of St. Matthew's, West Kensington, the parish in which Olympia is situated. The vicar of Olympia, at the end of the Guild service, commended the work of the showpeople, and expressed his thanks for, and approval of, Mr. Horne's special work amongst showpeople.

The Rev. T. Horne, in treating of the subject of his discourse—"Christ and the pleasures of the people"—drew a word-picture of the beginning of Christ's ministry when He "manifested forth His glory" by "miracle" at the Marriage Feast in Cana of Galilee. Here we saw, he said, that strange being, the poor carpenter of Nazareth, the austere and ascetic Son of Man—the prophet already acclaimed and already gathering disciples—at a marriage—the most common, the most ordinary of all occasions of neighbourly rejoicing and local festivity; Christ at the marriage table; Christ amongst His friends and neighbours. Yet behind all this common and ordinary interest of human life lies the first of God's great sacraments, the sacrament of holy matrimony, the mystery of all human relations, and the binding force of all organised society. The Christ of God blesses by His presence all family joys, all common, ordinary, and extraordinary times of social intercourse, of festivity, of amusement, and of merriment.

A deeply human touch is given to the scene by another fact, "the Mother of Jesus was there." She who knew so much of the hidden life and character of that Mysterious Being whose human nature was of her—her child—yet the very Son of God, "born of the Virgin Mary," yet "conceived by the Holy Ghost." She knew the profundity of His powers; yet, knowing this, she prompts Him to exercise His inherent power to do what?—why, to provide more wine!—to see to it that His friends, that her friends might have sufficient store of wine for the feast, that the entertainment might not fail nor the refreshment of the guests be stinted. That "wine that maketh merry the heart of man," in this grand instance "the good wine" might flow on—that merriment and the fulness of joy might prevail. So did the blessed mother of God desire, and so she moved her blessed Son to provide.

We are sometimes told, he proceeded, that the mysteries of holy religion are too difficult for the man of simple ideas to follow. Well, here in words of the Holy Mother, we have all the Christian duty in one short phrase—full, complete, and telling—"Whatsoever He saith unto you do it." Grasp the sayings of the Christ of God—assimilate the powers of His command, "Love thy neighbour as thyself and thou art in the way of salvation." Search His Holy Word for His words of love—"Whatsoever He saith unto you do it"; "He that doeth the will of My Father shall know of the doctrine."

To his show friends, the preacher said, never forget that Jesus blessed, and Himself provided for the merriment of the people; that He constantly identified Himself with the common joys of life—contented even to "pipe in the market-place" that children might dance—so great His interests in all the concerns of humanity.

You have a work to do, he concluded, that Jesus Christ will bless and prosper if you take unto it something of His spirit and labour for the necessary relaxation, festivity, and merriment of His toil children. To provide the amusements and pleasures of the people is an important work in the national life. Try and uplift that great endeavour. Do it in the spirit of the Christ of God. Do not be ashamed. Have a "good conceit" of yourself; and, above all, let it be honest work—the best of your talent for the service of humanity and for the glory and praise of God.

These services are open to all showmen and their friends, and will be continued on the Sunday afternoons at 5.30 during the continuance of the Fun City at Olympia. Next Sunday the subject will be "Christ's Compassion for the People"; preacher, the Rev. T. Horne.

A DISCLAIMER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In your issue of the 5th inst. you state that I am about to play a condensed version of *The Broken Melody* in the music halls. Whilst thanking you for your courtesy in noticing my appearance on the variety stage, I wish to point out that the sketch alluded to, *The Master Musician*, is in no way a condensed version of *The Broken Melody*, nor has it the faintest connection with the same, except that I and my 'cello appear in it. Moreover, my principal reason for entering into a contract with Messrs. Moss and Stoll for a twenty-three weeks' tour in 1907 and 1908 is to give me a rest from *The Broken Melody*, in which I have continuously appeared now close on 5,000 nights; and as my tour of the same will be resumed on Aug. 5, this correction is very necessary, in view of the interest of the authors and theatre proprietors with whom I hold many years' contract, and who will naturally infer from your paragraph that I should be breaking same by appearing in variety theatres with a condensed version of a play that has proved itself superior to all words and conditions of business for just on fifteen years.

Thanking you for your appreciation of my work, and regretting to trouble you with this disclaimer, which I am bound to do, owing to the many interests concerned,—Yours always,

AUGUSTE VAN BIENE.

Gower Hotel, N.W., Jan. 10.

PRESENTATION.—At the Empire Theatre, Southend-on-Sea, on Wednesday night Mr. George Conquest, the popular managing-director, was presented with a large framed testimonial from the staff and a smaller one from a few personal friends, with a gold sovereign case and matchbox, suitably inscribed, to commemorate his fiftieth birthday. Both testimonials, which are beautifully executed, are the work of Mr. Fred Whisstock, a local artist.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—In last week's notice for Devonport you allude to Carr and Carr. It should have been, yours truly, CARL and CARR, Metropole Theatre, Devonport.

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MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS, ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

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OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER, May 6, 13, 20, Aug. 5, 12, 19, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER, Feb. 18, Mar. 18, 25, April 1, 11 (3 nights), 15, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON, Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 25, April 1, 8, 15, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD, March 25, April 1, 22, 29, May 20, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON, Feb. 18, March 25, April 1, 15, 29, May 6, 13, 20, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER, March 11, 25, April 1, 29, May 13, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON, March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, THEATRE, READING.

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Address, SIDNEY BACON, Metropole T., Gateshead. Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD, March 18, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON, Feb. 25, March 18, 25, April 15, May 6, 13, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY, Jan. 21, Feb. 4, 18, March 4, 11, 18, 25 (3 nights only), on.
Add., E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for March 18, 25, April 8, 15.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

BRIDLINGTON SPA THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.
This theatre is being built on the site of the old one, and will be opened July 22, 1907. Holding value £100. New scenery and electricity throughout. Vacant dates, with exceptions.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only, between July 22 and Oct. 31.
HENRY HAGUE, General-Manager.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 11 and 18, 1907. L. CARSON, Keighley.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, May 13 and 27, June 10 and 17, July 8 and 15.
Apply, T. W. ROWE.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Pantomime or First-class Attraction, March 4, also Companies, April 8, May 6, 13, Aug. 5, and on, with exceptions.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 15, May 6, 13, and 20 (Whit).
Communicate, HARRY YORKE.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEST BROMWICH, Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Gen.-Man., Mr. Herbert Vere.
WANTED, First-Class Melodramas, Musical Comedies, &c., vacant dates, March 11, on.
Address, HERBERT VERE.

SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE, RAMSGATE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Jan. 28 and Feb. 18.
Address, HENRY BOWMAN.

GRAND T.'s, CHORLEY and RADCLIFFE.
WANTED, Big Musical Attractions, Feb. 25, March 4, April 1, Grand, Radcliffe; also March 11, April 8, 29, on, both houses. Address, SANTE, Radcliffe.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for T. R., Hebburn, Musical preferred, Feb. 18, March 11, 18, 25, April 15, 22. Re business now done at this theatre refer the following Managers: W. V. Garrod ("Prodigal Parson"), G. M. Montanini ("A Traitor Prince"), Carlton Wallace ("Love that Women Desire"), H. A. Jordison (Pantomime "Cinderella"). C. ELDERTON.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, April 1. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, Perth, Feb. 11, March 4; Paisley, Feb. 18, 25, March 18. Apply, J. H. SAVILE, Paisley.

THEATRE ROYAL, YORK.
WANTED, an Exceptionally First-class Attraction, for Feb. 11. Apply, WADDINGTON and SONS.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, really good Dramas, or other First-Class Attractions, March 25, April 18.
E. H. PAGE.

PARDOE'S THEATRE, MIDDLETON, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Panto. or Musical Show, Jan. 28; also Sound Dramas, Feb. 18 and 25. Good Shows, Good Business. Fullest particulars, W. PARDOE, T. R., Lincoln.

THEATRE ROYAL, ILKESTON.
Manager and Licensee, Mr. L. F. A. ROGERS.
WANTED, Companies. Vacant March 4 (Pantomime required), April 15, onwards.
Silence a courteous negative.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb. 18, March 11, 18, 25, April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 7, 20.
Apply, JAMES KIERNAN, Owner and Manager.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, POPLAR.
The Premier Theatre of East London.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb. 25, March 4 and 11 (through transfer).
Address, with full particulars, CLARENCE SOUNES.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Feb. 11, March 4, and on, with exceptions.
W. E. POTTS.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-Class Companies.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant Jan. 28, March 18, 25, onward, with exceptions

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant Feb. 11, 18, 25, March 4, onward, with exceptions
(Last three nights of each week).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant Jan. 14, March 4, 18, April 1, onward, with exceptions.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant Feb. 11, April 1, 8, onward, with exceptions.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant Jan. 21, 28, March 4, onward, with exceptions.

"THE LOST CHORD."
Vacant Aug. 5, 19, onward, with exceptions.

"SPAN OF LIFE."
Vacant Jan. 21, Feb. 18, March 4, onward, with exceptions.

"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S."
Vacant Jan. 14, April 1, 8, onward, with exceptions.

"CINDERELLA."
Vacant Feb. 11, 18, onward, with exceptions.

Companies "Farmed" through Fit-ups.

To Let, on Royalty, "THE PRAIRIE FLOWER" and "OUR BRITISH EMPIRE."
Excellent plants printing.

All communications to
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

The Premier Theatre in the Furness District.
Holds £90 at Ordinary Prices.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 15 (first vacant date) and May 6, on. The Spring bookings for the above include Lionel Rignold and Ada Blanche in "What the Butler Saw," "La Poupée," Charles Chard's Pantomime "Goody Two-Shoes," James Kiddie's "Dick Whittington," "Human Hearts," "The Night of the Party," Norman V. Norman, "Two Little Vagabonds," Miss Maud Hildyard, "The Traitor," Allan Wilkie, "Sapho," "Lucky Durham," "A Warning to Women," "In Holy Russia," "The Power of the Cross," "Lights Out," J. B. Mulholland's "The Electric Man," &c.

The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions Touring.

All Applications for Dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.
The leading Theatre of the Town.
The only Theatre in the Town lighted by electricity.
Stage capable of any Production Touring.
Can fly any size Cloth.
WANTED, Known, none but the best Companies booked at this Theatre.
This week, "THE SHULAMITE."
Next week, MINNIE PALMER, in "MY SWEETHEART,"
to be followed by Miss Decima Moore, in "All-of-a Sudden Peggy"; "The Lion and the Mouse"; "His House in Order"; &c., &c.

Vacant Dates, March 4, 11, 25, April 8, May 6, and certain later; now booking Autumn.

Apply, CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.

WANTED, High-Class Musical Comedy or latest London successes, for the following dates:—
March 4,
March 11,
March 18,
March 25,
April 22, and onwards.
Address, CHAS. E. MACHIN,
Avenue Opera House, Sunderland.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-Class Companies, for vacant Spring Dates,
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
March 11, 18, 25, April 8, June and July.

PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22.

Easter vacant through disappointment at Hastings and Folkestone. Big Musical Comedies Wanted; Whit Week also vacant, both Theatres; must be Big Shows, or not entertained.
H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, First-class Musical and Dramatic Attractions,
QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH
March 18, April 1, 22, 29, May 13, 20, 27.
ALBERT T., BRIGHOUSE, Mar. 18, Ap. 1, 8, 15, 29.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18.

Wire, Wire, Wire.

R. C. BUCHANAN, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, JULIAN MALVERN.
WANTED, good Pantomime, Jan. or Feb. (three or six nights), also First-Class Attraction, Easter, Whit, July 1, 8, and on.

Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for Jan. 28, Feb. 11, 25, March 18 and 25.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-street S.W.

THEATRE ROYAL, SOUTH SHIELDS.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 11 and 18, April 22, July 15.
Address, J. and F. COULSON, T. R., South Shields

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic Co., through transfer, Feb. 18, also March 25, April 15 and 22.
Address, JAMES ALEXANDER.

WHITSTABLE ASSEMBLY ROOMS THEATRE.
WANTED, Dramas, Musical Comedies, Bioscopes, &c., two or three nights, vacant Feb. 18 and on. A good fill-in for Companies in the neighbourhood. Can arrange other towns to make week. Address, THE GENERAL MANAGER.

WANTED, Jan. 21, for Strong Dramatic Attraction. Everything carried. Wire, HALDANE CRICHTON, Theatre, Radcliffe; next, St. James's, Manchester.

WANTED, Best Companies, for Jan. 28 and Feb. 4 (three nights), onwards. Now booking for the season. Apply, PHILLIPS, Coliseum, Aberystwyth.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Inverness, Attractions for Feb. and March. Vacant dates apply, CAMERON BURGESS.

COUNTY HALL, ST. ALBANS.
WANTED, Good Companies, with own Scenery, Feb. 18, onwards, Easter Vacant. Now booking Autumn Dates. Good stage; permanent proscenium, footlights, headlights, &c. Sharing terms only. Apply, A. ROWDEN.

CASINO, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.
WANTED, First-Class Fit-up Companies, Musical Comedy preferred; Share or Rent.
Apply, THORNELL, Casino, Bexhill-on-Sea.

COMPANIES WANTED.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 8, 15, 29, Sept. 23, and Oct. 7.

WILLIAM MARTIN,
3, Bedford-street, Strand, London, W.C.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. CORTON.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres, March 11.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 11 and March 11.
Apply,
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, March 11, Aug. 5.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE,"
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 18, 25, April 1.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 21, Feb. 11, March 4.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Theatres, March 4 and 11.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatre, Jan. 21.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 18, May 20, and Sept. 30.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Theatres, April 8, 29, and May 6.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Jan. 21.
March 11, 18
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Week of Feb. 18,
Scala Production.
Wire or write, W. W. KELLY,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 18,
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Public Hall, Wrexham.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.,
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, Easter; only Vacant Date.

Address, Ashdale, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.
Aut., 1907, Grand Production, "Rollicking Rory."

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."

WANTED, Feb. 4, March 4, 18.
Address, J. W. CORDINER,
Cambridge T., Spennymoor (4th visit).
See Companies' advertisements, page 2.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Jan. 28 and Feb. 11, for this great Attraction, a sure draw; new uniforms, &c.; band of drums, fifes, and bugles for parade. F. G. KIMBERLEY, Vauxhall, The Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

FRANK J. PITT and CHARLES HALLING'S CO.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, for this Successful Attraction, April 29 (?), May 13, 27, June 17, 24, July 1, on, with exceptions.
King's, Gainsboro'.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, for Musical Attractions, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 25, March 11, Easter. Communicate, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, Feb. 4. March 4, 11, 25, Easter.
FRED BULMER, T. R., Croydon.

"FOR AULD LANG SYNE."
WANTED, Aug. 5, onwards.
FRED BULMER, T. R., Smethwick.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
FRED BULMER, T. R., Smethwick.

WANTED, Dates, Feb. 4 and 18, March 4, April 1, 8, "TOMMY,"
by Jerome K. Jerome
Miss ANNIE HUGHES as TOMMY.
A striking success.—Daily Telegraph.
Address, MISS ANNIE HUGHES,
41, Portman-mansions, Baker-street, W.

WANTED, for Miss Lydia Donovan's Company, in "Her One Great Sin" (by arrangement with Miss Blanche St. Albans and Mr. J. Leicester Jackson), Feb. 4, 11, 25, March 18, 25, April 15. Miss LYDIA DONOVAN, 30, Effingham-st., Ramsgate.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY," No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Jan. 21 and 28, Feb. 11, April 1, May 13, Autumn from Aug. 5.
Address, E. C. STAFFORD, O. H., Bury.
Wanted, to Lease, a good Provincial Theatre.

WANTED, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, "Revenge," and "Death or Glory Boys" Star Co., including E. Hill-Mitchelson. E. HILL-MITCHELSON, P. O. W. Theatre, Grimsby

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Aug. 19, 26, Sept. 16, 23,
FRED BULMER, T. R., Windsor.

WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, April 1, Miss Frances Delaval's Company, "Her Lost Self" and "The Biggest Scamp on Earth."
Address Theatre Royal, Belfast.

WANTED, Large Theatre, for Easter, for "The Price of Her Soul." Address,
JOHN H. SHINTON, 44A, Morat-street, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, First-Class Theatre, Easter, for "Bluebell," to follow Tyne, Newcastle.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

MR. ARTHUR HARDY'S CO., "BEAUTY AND THE BARGE," including Mr. Blake Adams as Captain Barley.
WANTED, Jan. 21, Feb. 11, March 4, April 1.
Write or wire, ARTHUR HARDY, 89, Comeragh-road, West Kensington.

MISS EVA MOSS AND REPERTOIRE CO.,
"CAMILLE." "FROU-FROU." &c., &c.
WANTED, Feb. 11 (to follow Harrogate), Feb. 25 (to precede Tunbridge Wells), also Easter.
RICHARD F. SYMONS, Alexandra Theatre, Greenock.

"THE ASSASSIN."
WANTED, April 1 (in place of Warrington), April 29 (in place of Grand, Islington), Aug. 5, Sept. 30, Oct. 14, 21, Nov. 25.
AUGUSTINE KNIGHT, T. R., Castleford.

"AN UNWEDDED WIFE."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 21, Feb. 4 (?),
See Companies' Page.
J. EDWARD WHITTY,
This, Junction, Manchester; next, P., Blackburn.

"THE ANARCHIST TERROR."
WANTED, Jan. 21, 28, various, on.
Concluding third Buchanan Tour. Refer.
Also, "THE SORROWS OF SATAN."
Either or both plays. Wire to-day and Jan. 14,
LOIE ESMOND, Gaiety T., Clydebank (2 weeks).

THEATRES WANTED.

LINGFORD CARSON'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, Managers, to kindly Note that any of my Plays not produced satisfactorily, please acquaint me immediately.—Faithfully yours,
LINGFORD CARSON.

WANTED, First-class Autumn Dates, for "The Drama of Life," August, on. L. CARSON, Keighley.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for
"WHEN IT WAS DARK,"
Feb. 18, 19, 20 (three nights), 25, 26, 27 (three nights), April 1, June 24, July 1, 8.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Dates for
"HONOUR THY FATHER,"
"THE LITTLE OUTCAST,"
"DAY TO DAY."
Feb. 4, 11, 18, March 4, 11, 18.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Dates, for this Brilliant Production, Jan. 17, 18, 19 (three nights),
April 1.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
"OLIVER TWIST."
(By arrangement with Mr. Tree.)
Easter Week.

"THE FOUR JUST MEN."
(By arrangement with H. A. Saintsbury.)
Vacant Feb. 18, 25, March 4, Easter, and April 15.

WILLIAM MARTIN,
3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

CHARLES CONSTANT'S "BLUEBEARD" PANTOMIME.
WANTED, good Theatre, Feb. 7, 8, 9, for above successful Pantomime, to precede Aldershot.
WILLIAM MARTIN,
3, Bedford-street, Strand, London, W.C.

"HOME, SWEET HOME."
By Frank Lindo.
The "Record" Domestic Play.
WANTED, Feb. 11 (North),
Only Vacant Spring Date.
Mr. FRANK LINDO,
Miss MARION WAKEFORD.
Everything carried.
Magnificent new plant of printing by Allens.
Few Autumn Dates Vacant.
Address, FRANK LINDO, Eccentric Club, W.

"WOMAN AND WINE."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, for few remaining Autumn Dates.
Playing to Enormous Business,
Everything Carried.
Company of Twenty-eight Artists,
Crowds of Auxiliaries.
Money refused nightly this week at Great Yarmouth.
E. VIVIAN EDMONDS,
Alexandra Theatre, Hull.

Messrs. ARMADALE and WARREN'S CO.,
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, vacant Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, onwards, with exceptions,
for the above Attraction.
Address, F. BROOKE WARREN,
8, Wellington-road, Southport.

"A BROKEN HEART."
WANTED, Big Drama Theatres,
March 11, April 1, 8, 15.
Bookings include P., Newcastle, Sunderland, Leicester, Leigh, Alex., Birmingham, St. Helens, Exeter, Oldham, Coventry, Castleford, Barnsley.
HARRY FOXWELL, 226, Central-drive, Blackpool.

FRANK M. THORNE'S CO.,
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this Money-maker,
March 18, April 29 (?), May 6,
and Whit.
FRANK M. THORNE, Opera House, Dudley.

"THE SLEDGE-HAMMER."
WANTED, Good Theatres,
Jan. 28, Feb. 11 and 25, also Easter.
GEORGE HENRY,
T. R., Wolverhampton; or 4, Duke-street, Adelphi.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, Jan. 21.
Wire, 283, Edge-lane, Liverpool.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, Jan. 21.
Wire, 283, Edge-lane, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, for
JAMES KIDDIE'S
Colossal Gorgeous Pantomime,
"CINDERELLA."
Vacant Feb. 11.
"DICK WHITTINGTON,"
Vacant Feb. 18.
Address,
THOS. SWINTON, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

WANTED, Dates. For a Big Draw Book "DICK WHITTINGTON," produced by Horace Barri, Regent Theatre, Hackney, London. Originally booked one week; extended to four. Refer. Witness performance immediately. Vacant 21st inst., onwards. Address, above.

PETER THOMPSON'S
"BABES IN THE WOOD" Pantomime.
WANTED, Feb. 11, for this Genuine Success, Lancashire preferred.
Address, WALLACE CHILDS,
Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" PANTOMIME.
WANTED, Jan. 28 (North), Feb. 11 and 18 (Midlands). Dresses, scenery, properties, &c., far above the average. Concludes to-night three weeks' enormous business at the Aquarium, Scarboro'. A smart, bright show, without a dull moment. Grand specialities, including the famous Revell Troupe of Pantomimists, the Raynors, the Two Dianas, and other attractions. Address all coms. to BERT A. RUTLEY, Pavilion Theatre, Bridlington.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
WANTED, Feb. 25, Easter, April 15, Whit, May 27, June 17, July 15, 22.
G. M. MONTANINI,
Theatre Royal, Crook.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
WANTED, Theatre. Unexpectedly vacant, Jan. 28, through transferring. Wire for Jan. 28. Wire for Jan. 28. G. M. MONTANINI, to-day T. R., Houghton-le-Spring; next week, T. R., Crook

MISS EMMA LITCHFIELD'S COMPANY.
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
WANTED, Feb. 4, 18, March 4,
Miss Litchfield's Greatest Success,
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
Beautiful Scenery, Excellent Printing,
Brilliant Company,
including the Highly-trained Horse Twilight.
The Great Successful Novelty Drama.
Wire, CLEVELAND, Fleetwood. Write to Bootle.

EDWARD McLEAN'S TOUR.
"THE HERO OF THE FLAG."
WANTED, Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, and on.
LESLIE VYNER, Surrey Theatre, S.E.

H. A. SAINTSBURY AND CO. in
"ANNA OF THE PLAINS."
WANTED, Feb. 4, Easter, and May 13. See Companies Advert., Page 2.
Address, PERCY PURDEY, Chislehurst, Kent.

MISS BONWIN CARLTON'S CO.
"THE PLUCKY NIPPER."
WANTED, March 4 (precede Edmonton, third visit), April 1 (precede Bootle, third visit), 22, 29 (follow St. James's, Manchester, third visit).
EDWARD SURREY, 56, Stanford-avenue, Brighton.

WANTED, Jan. 28 and Feb. 4, Jan. 28 and Feb. 4 "At Duty's Call." Above dates Vacant for this Big Attraction. Wire or write, JOHN GERANT, T. R., Leigh, Lancs.

"THE TRAITOR," E. Hill-Mitchelson and Harris Fineberg's Magnificent Production.
WANTED, Feb. 4. E. HILL-MITCHELSON, to-day, P.O.W., Grimsby; next, Court, Wigan.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Feb. 4, 11, and Easter.
HARRY FOXWELL, 226, Central drive, Blackpool.

THEATRES WANTED.

Pantomime,
Pantomime,

"SINBAD."
"SINBAD."
"SINBAD."

One of the biggest successes ever produced at Royal West London Theatre, even rivalling last season's "Little Red Riding Hood."

WANTED, Feb. 4, Wanted, Feb. 4,
Thanks C. P. Cooke, Esq., for offer, Grand, Nottingham.

Can be seen this week at West London.
Wanted also, Theatre for Christmas Season 1907-8.

Address,
G. BRYDON-PHILLIPS,
Royalty Theatre, Chester.

Pantomime,
Pantomime,

"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."

WANTED, Theatre, Christmas Season 1907-8. This Pantomime has again maintained its reputation as a safe and reliable money-maker.

The Chester public unanimous in its praise.

Manchester and Dalston to follow.

Thanks John Hart, Esq., for offer Feb. 18.

Address,
G. BRYDON-PHILLIPS,
Royalty Theatre, Chester.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, for this eminently Successful Play, Feb. 18 (?), 25, and March 4, and few later.
New special plant of printing by Allen.
Beautifully mounted and splendidly played.
The rights of "DIVORCED" having been secured, this can be played (if necessary) in conjunction.
This, Irving, Seacombe;
Jan. 14, GRAND, RAWTENSTALL.

"THE FRENCH SPY."

WANTED, Wanted, Jan. 28.

FRED BENTON, Alhambra, Stourbridge.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, Feb. 4 and 11, for "Aladdin," company of fifty.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

ARTHUR JEFFERSON'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Feb. 11 (South),
for
DR. WALFORD BODIE.
Address, A. J., T. R., North Shields.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

HENRY SWINERD'S COMPANY.
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."

WANTED, for above, through releasing Mr. Barry, First-Class Principal Comedian for Silas Crump, must sing and dance well, or useless, and be used to Musical Comedy. To Rehearse on or about Jan. 21. Twelve months' engagement to suitable man. Photos., two last references, and full particulars in first letter (if working, state where can be seen) to J. W. CORDINER, Cambridge Theatre, Spennymoor. Kindly note.—References for parts played twelve years ago not entertained.

"A LIFE'S STORY"
and "A MARRIAGE OF VENGEANCE."
WANTED, Smart Young Comedian and Chambermaid, to sing. Rehearse next. Long tour, run through summer. Photo., particulars, lowest terms, CARLTON, Theatre, Houghton-le-Spring.

WANTED, Actress, for Low Comedy Part in Music Hall Sketch; Song and Dance unnecessary. State parts played, when at liberty, and salary, Box 4,195, "The Era."

WANTED, a smart Child, to play Little Lord Fauntleroy shortly.
CHARLES CAREY, Opera House, Tunbridge Wells.

"THE YOUNGEST OF THREE."
WANTED, Responsible Gentleman; must be tall. Apply, with photos., references, terms, &c., H. F. MALTBY, 21, Lennox-road, Worthing.

WANTED, Gentleman to play Responsible Parts; must be very tall. Full particulars, W. HOWARD ASHLEY, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

WANTED, for Fit-up Tour (répertoire), Two Responsible Gentlemen, capable of good parts. Age, terms, references, GORDON, Post Office, Littleport, Cambs.

WANTED, Small Part Man, open P., Southampton Monday. Those in district preferred. Rehearse Sunday. Also Leading Lady. BARTLETT, Tivoli, Manchester.

WANTED, Good-looking Young Amateurs, for Musical Comedy; good salaries; must have strong voices. Apply, between 11 and 4 to Operatic Bureau, 112, Great Portland-street, W.

WANTED, for London and No. 1 Tours, Choristers; must be young, of good appearance, and have excellent voices. Apply to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233A, Regent-street.

WANTED, Soprano, to tour, must have sung Marguerite and other Prima-donna rôles. Salary and rail; lowest figure, no offer made.
ANDRE BYLAND, 69, Gidlow-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, Ballad Vocalists (lady and gent.), must be small, youthful-looking, and possess powerful voices; long engagement. CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand.

WANTED, Lady Soprano or Light Comedy Vocalist; must combine Stringed Instrument for Ladies' Orchestra. MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, 4, Porteus-road, Paddington.

WANTED, by an Actor of reputation, Lady or Gentleman Amateur to finance Sketch of considerable prospects, and play part in same, an exceptional opportunity for capable and suitable person. Refs. exchanged. Apply, H. C. JOYE, '05 Club, 36, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Managers and Agents to see Miss Maude Murray's Aerial Dances, Prince's, Poplar. Good Agent write. Vacant dates from Jan. 28, end of Panto.

WANTED, by Actress, Engagement, in Town, middle-aged part or old lady (if part good). First-class references. Box 4,204, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Miss Kitty Christine, Soub., Chamb., Boys; Sing and Dance. Address, 9, Southchurch-beach, Southend-on-Sea.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, immediately, First-Class Soubrette, for Principal Girl.

Send photos., height, age, terms, to
J. GAR KIDDIE,
Opera House, Kirkcaldy.

JAMES KIDDIE'S PANTOMIMES.
WANTED, through releasing, First-class Vocalist, for Fairy Queen, also Musical-Conductor (Pianist), used to Pantomime. Address with full particulars, to JAMES KIDDIE, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c.; to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE, and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

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WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Known, that Sidney Beltram, Scenic Artist, has completed all Arrangements pro tem. Address, Theatre Royal, Seaham Harbour.

WANTED, Contracts, for Brilliant, Effective Scenery, attractive settings, lowest prices. Carlyle Scenic Studio, W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-rd, S.W.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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WANTED, a Stage-manager, one thoroughly used to music hall work; must be stage carpenter, with own tools. Apply, J. WOOLF, Wonderland, Whitechapel, E.

WANTED, Amateur Gentleman, Assistant to well-known Dramatic and Variety Managers; Managerial experience in both branches guaranteed; permanent salaried engagement. Premium, £10. Box 4,188, "The Era."

WANTED, Smart Man, for Front of the House, able to regulate staff and superintend advertising department. State full particulars, age, height, experience, and references; abstainer preferred; permanency to a suitable man. A. E. PICKARD, Britannia Panopticon, Glasgow.

WANTED, immediately, First-class Advance Representative, for Tour in West Indies; must know country well. Address with full particulars, Box 4,192 "The Era."

WANTED, for Continental Tour, Smart Young Man, for Baggage and play part, used to Mime, Pantomimes, Knockabout or Acrobat preferred, must speak German, foreigner not objected to, immediate work. Apply, 12 a.m., LUCK'S Warehouse, 78, St. Agnes-place, Kennington, back of Park.

ROYAL CARL ROSA OPERA COMPANY.
WANTED, Strong Assistant, to travel with baggage, make himself generally useful. Send full particulars, references, to Mr. VAN NOORDEN, Theatre Royal, York.

WANTED, an Electrical Engineer, for a New Theatre in the North, to take charge of a large Gas Engine, and Complete Electric Installation; must be thoroughly competent, and have highest references. Address, with lowest terms, Box 4,189, "The Era."

WANTED, First-class Carpenter, for Pantomime. Terms and references to
ROGERS,
124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

WANTED, steady, reliable Billposter. Apply, with references,
BILLPOSTING Co., Pinfold-street, Sheffield.

WANTED, a man with good experience of arranging Tableaux and Art Statuary Poses, must be energetic and have original ideas; good prospects and permanency. Apply Box 4,206, "The Era."

WANTED, Man and Wife, Man for Billposting, Wife as Cleaner and Checker; both make themselves generally useful. Lowest terms, references, photos., first letter, SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

WANTED, thoroughly experienced Wardrobe Mistress, for Mr. Mollison's Shakespearean Tour. References and terms to SIDNEY COOPER, Lyceum Theatre, Newport.

WANTED, Known, W. C. Burns, Disengaged to run or manage any First-Class Show where management is needed; now finished two-and-half years' Pilot E. H. Bostock's No. 1 Road Show, third engagement with same; six years total with Mr. Bostock; late manager Grand Varieties, Sheffield; late manager Galeffi-Neilson Opera Co.; late general-manager (five years) Transfield's Hippos., &c.; life abstainer; undeniable advertising expert, notably Press; also Hustler; well versed in bars, two houses and book-keeping; exceptional references. 18, St. Mary's-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, by well-known Provincial Management, a summer stock season, certainty preferred. All particulars in first instance, Box 4,182, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as Assistant-Manager or Advertising, eight years' experience; excellent references; age 24. A. COCKAYNE, 7, East-street, Plumstead.

WANTED, by Advertiser, tall, smart appearance, Engagement in town or country, as Stage and Entertainment Manager. Highest references. Reply, Box 4,198, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Edward Walpole, Advance Representative, at Liberty, Theatres, or Fit-up. References. Wire or write, 33, Southchurch-avenue, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, Known, Young Man, smart appearance, seeks situation as clerk, view learn Assistant-Managership; excellent character, covering 9 years, passed Guarantee Society. Small salary in exchange for services. Box 4,191, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Electrician, twelve years' practical experience, able to do all classes of wiring, stage effects, arc lamp, making and resistance winding and engine and dynamo, attendant desires Situation with First-Class Theatre or Company. Box 4,179, "The Era."

WANTED, Permanency, by Practical Electrician; used to gas, limes, arcs, effects; can combine other duties; first-class refs. Apply, Box 4,200, "The Era."

WANTED, Permanency, by Practical Electrician, used to gas, limes, arcs, effects; can combine other duties; first-class refs. Apply, Box 4,200, "The Era."

WANTED, by Stage Carpenter, a Job; good Bench Hand. C. H. W., 171, Church-street, Fulham-road.

WANTED, Engagement, by Carpenter, Good All-round Practical Bench-hand, age 30. Address, CARPENTER, 64, Dongola-road, Philip-lane, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement as Bill Inspector, could combine Bar-Management; experienced and competent; excellent references. J. DALE BRADLEY, 15, Pulman-street, Hull.

WANTED, by Young Man, Situation as Assistant or otherwise; no previous experience; excellent reference from last employer. Smaller salary. 19, Languard-road, Southsea.

WANTED, Known, Smart Call Boy, wishes to join Company; could play part or assist stage-manager. Write, ISAAC SEQUAH, Opera House, Leicester.

WANTED, by Lad, aged 15½ years, situation, will do anything to get in profession, disengaged March 1; no experience. A. TOWELL, 84, Queen's-road, Peckham, S.E.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED Leader, 'Cello, Clarionet and Cornet, for Suburban Theatre, for Jan. 21, week, and other Special Weeks. Apply, with lowest terms, to HAROLD MARCH, Musical Director, 14, Lenthall-road, N.E.

WANTED, for Greenock Pavilion, Musical Director (play Violin), Trombone, Flautist, Pianist. Terms, particulars, HOWARD GALPIN, M.D., Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, for the North, fully qualified and competent Musical Conductor, to open on the 21st; only those used to the twice-nightly system need apply, stating references and salary required.
Apply, Box 4,196, "Era" Office.

WANTED, a Good Leader (or First Violin), Engagement, any Business, Variety preferred. Address, VIOLINIST, 266, Liverpool-street, Salford.

WANTED, Pianist-Conductor, to tour. If able to provide First and Second Violins and 'Cello quote lowest for all, or separately.
ANDRE BYLAND, 69, Gidlow-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class Violinist, to Open Jan. 21. Send lowest terms and copies of references, to Mr. JOHN HORGAN, Manager, Opera House, Cork.

WANTED, Violins, as Leader and Répétiteur, Variety or Dramatic; reliable; good refs.; can open at once. VIOLINIST, 78, Birstall-street, Leicester.

WANTED, Good Solo Cornet, for Cambridge Music Hall, London, to open Monday next. LEON THOMAS, 399, Romford-road, Forest Gate, E.

WANTED, Bombardon, to Double String Bass, Open Feb. 11, permanency.
ALEX. CORRISON,
Conductor, Penzance Military Band.

WANTED, Euphonium, for Permanent Staff Rifle Brigade, ex-Army man, under 30; good character, former service restored; combine string instrument if possible; London district only. P. GUEST, 100, Hewitt-avenue, Wood Green.

WANTED, First-Class Trombone, also Euph., lead Church processions, near London Bridge, nightly Jan. 28 to Feb. 2, 7.15 to 8.30. Rehearsal 22nd. Terms, refs., Box 4,209, "The Era."

WANTED, 'Cello Player, for a Permanent Engagement in London Restaurant, to commence at once; must be used to restaurant work. Box 4,197, "The Era."

WANTED, Good 'Cello and Drums, to open Jan. 28. Terms, age, and references, to CHAS. ELPHINSTONE, Grand Theatre, Hanley, Staffs.

WANTED, an Oboe Player.
Apply,
Mr. W. COLLINS,
Empire, Shepherd's Bush, W.

WANTED, Good Flautist, well up in Opera and Musical Comedy, to open Jan. 21. Address, FRED TAYLOR, Musical Director, T. R. Blackburn.

WANTED, Flute and Piccolo, must be good, steady, evening dress. Terms, 30s.; permanency; open Jan. 21. MITCHELL, Oxford, Middlesbrough.

GAIETY THEATRE, DUNDEE.
WANTED, Good Pianist, used to Music Hall Bus.; must be thoroughly steady and reliable. Short tour with Panto., and permanent engagement after if suitable. Terms, age, and refs., W. HARTLEY.

WANTED, Drummer, used to Varieties; permanent. Will Messrs. Slack and Lear write in. Terms, 35s. Box 4201, "The Era."

WANTED, Mandoline Players and Guitar Players. Apply by letter. SMITH, c/o 11, Leicester-place, Leicester-square, W.C.

WANTED, by a Smart Cavalry Regiment, recently home from India, good Solo Cornet, two good Violinists, and a 'Cellist; extra pay and every possible advantage given to good performers; very little duty. Apply, BANDMASTER, Somerset Barracks, Shorncliffe Camp.

WANTED, Trained Musicians, at Once, for the 6th Middlesex Regiment (Militia). Bonus will be offered on enlistment and on termination of training. Special advantageous terms will be supplied on application to the BANDMASTER, Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.

WANTED, 50 Instrumentalists, Ladies. Interview essential. Professionals only. Paid long engagements. Write, EDWARDS, 55, Upper Gloucester-place, N.W.

WANTED, Lady Instrumentalists, for Easter onwards, two First Violins, Cornet, and Bass; must be good. Apply, with terms and latest references, to Miss BARKER, 85, Eastbourne-road, Birkdale, Southport, Lancs.

WANTED, Bandsmen for large Ocean Mail Steamers, four Violinists and three Pianists. Apply to HETHERINGTON'S, 163A, Strand, W.C.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers :—

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To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street,, W.C.
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"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, "A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

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"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

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WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violinist), Disengaged, composer of Music, "Silver King," &c. Dramatic Music, &c., composed and arranged. 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Bandmaster, Kneller Hall Certificate, many years' experience with Military Band and Orchestra, desires Re-engagement; unexceptional testimonials and references. Address, Box 4,154, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Engagement, as Musical Director (Violin or Pianoforte), Variety or Dramatic, through change of management. W. FORSTER, Conductor, King's T., Gateshead-on-Tyne.

WANTED, immediately, Engagement as Leader or First Violin, can combine Piano, compose, and arrange; experienced all lines; Music Hall preferred; first-class references. Address, VIOLINIST, Bush Hotel, Piper's-row, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Engagement as Musical-Director (Violin), Theatre, Variety, or Tour, First-class Répertoire; highest refs. AUGUSTE DENTON, 86, Victoria-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Engagement, by Conductor (Violin), or as leader, thoroughly experienced and reliable, best refs., variety or theatre. Wire or write, HERBERT STONE, 8, Hardwick-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, William T. Gliddon, Mus.-Director, nine years G., Islington, &c., Disengaged Jan. 26. 30, Aytoun-rd., Stockwell, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement by a First-Class Violinist or Viola, suitable for everything, London preferred. M., 35, Gosfield-street, Portland-road, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Violinist, well experienced, any business; good references. G. W., 33, Brewerton-road, Oldham.

WANTED, Engagement as Second Violin or Viola, well up in Variety business.
SMITH, 130, Peckham Park-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Re-engagement as First or Second Violin or Viola, any business, London or Suburbs preferred. BURBRIDGE, 22, Knowle-road, Brixton.

WANTED, by First Violin, offers for permanency, First-Class Theatre or Hall; open Feb. 4 certain (perhaps earlier); excellent refs.; abstainer. C. VINT, His Majesty's Theatre, Dundee.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, as First Violin or Leader, First-Class References. Reply, ROBINSON, 132, Graham-road, Dalston, London, N.E.

WANTED, Engagement by good Second Violin, in or around Manchester preferred. Apply, A. SEDGWICK, 13, Young-street, Manchester.

WANTED, immediately, Engagement, by Young Lady Violinist, Soloist or Orchestral; tour or permanent; good appearance; refs. Box 4,199, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by an efficient Solo Cornet, combine first violin, dramatic or variety, reliable, can open at once. Wire, JONES, 131, Rupert-street, Norwich.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Solo Clarionet, Military or String. Address, H. C. GARNER, The Porches, Rainhill, near Liverpool.

WANTED, by Young Man, 21, Engagement with Double Bass or Second Cornet. J. A. BURTON, 8, Radnor-street, Swindon, Wilts.

WANTED, Engagement, through closing, by Trombone, Grand Theatre, Islington; any Business. Apply, TROMBONIST, 3, Barford-street, Liverpool-road, Islington, London.

WANTED, Engagement, Trombone, experienced, Theatre or Music Hall, late Moss and Stoll Tour. Address Box 4,185, "The Era."

WANTED, by First-Class Trombonist, combine Euphonium, Engagement, any business; young and reliable. C. ABBOTT, 6, Harcourt-street, Marylebone, W.

WANTED, Engagement, as Bombardon, any business; thoroughly reliable. Address, HARRY WOODAGE, 6, Parnell-road, Clevedon, Somerset.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, for Little Girl, on 'Cello; also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLE, 35, Granville-square, King's Cross-road, W.C.

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WANTED, Engagement by young 'Cellist, five years' theatrical experience; tall and good appearance. MEISENHEIMER, Leamington.

WANTED, by Experienced Lady 'Cellist, evening engagement in London, Sundays excepted. Address, 'CELLIST, 118, Elgin-avenue, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Oboeist, experienced, Orchestral or Military, any capacity. CHARLES SIMKINS, 124, Wiggin-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Maud Estlin Grundy, age 19, Harpist; Brilliant Soloist. 58, Antrim-mansions, England's-lane, Hampstead, London.

WANTED, Known, Æneas Gibson, First-class Harpist and Pianist, immediate engagement, young, gentlemanly travel abroad. MUSIC SELLER, 164, Bayswater-house, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flute (Piccolo Soloist), Theatre, Orchestra, or business, London; references; reliable. MUSICUS, 74, Kenning-hall-road, Clapton, London, N.E.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo, experienced in all Kinds Business; thoroughly reliable; permanency or deputy. FLAUTIST, 137, Northwold-road, Clapton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flautist, any business. Address,
16, Anderson-road, Park Estate, Tipton, Staffs.

WANTED, by Pianist, Engagement, London, brilliant player, sight-reader, accompanist, lady orchestra, &c. EDWARDES, 1, Market-place, Staplehurst-road, Hither Green.

WANTED, by Accompanist, Engagement in Town; also Composer of any style of Music. Address, Box 4,178, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist, Orchestral, permanency preferred, Café or Theatre in Town; excellent references. R., 59, Amesbury-avenue, Streatham Hill.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Drummer and Effects, theatre or music hall, abstainer. Refs. WALKER and CRYER, 34, Myrtle-place, Bingley, Yorkshire.

WANTED, Known, Mme. H. E. Angless's Ladies' Orchestra, open to accept engagements. From three to thirty performers. 78, Norwood-road, Herne Hill, S.E.

WANTED, Known, the Bradfield Ladies' Orchestra, excellent Soloists and Vocalists (three to twenty performers). Miss BRADFIELD, 4, Porteus-road, Paddington.

WANTED, Known, to Corporations, Piers, Hotels, the Vrasatzka Band, disengaged; brilliant uniforms; excellent soloists. H. PHILIPPE THOMAS, 84, New Bond-street, W.

WANTED, Engagement, through closing, by Powell's Family Orchestra, Violin, Piano, Cornet, Double Bass, Theatre, Music Hall, &c.; experienced. Palace, Bridlington.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands, apply Bureau, 8, Bedford-terrace, Kensington. Quartet Disengaged, scarlet and gold or evening dress.

WANTED, Engagement, for Small Tenting Brass or Reed Circus Band, including Drums; eight performers. References. Apply, LEADER, Box 4,186 "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, either Hotel, Restaurant, or Seaside; have First-class Répertoire of the Latest Music; can provide as many musicians as required. Conductor, N. WELTMANN, Sky Peals House, Hale End-road, Woodford Green.

WANTED, Known, Shikissimma Band, Ladies' Japanese Orchestra, at Liberty, magnificent costume, large répertoire. Address, Glenthorpe, Chesterfield-road, Newbury.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

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WANTED, Jan. 14, 21, 28, onward,

MARTINO'S AGENCY	Acrobats, Jugglers,
MARTINO'S AGENCY	Gymnasts, Benders,
MARTINO'S AGENCY	Any Sensation
MARTINO'S AGENCY	that can be performed
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MARTINO'S AGENCY	I can and will place the
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Write or wire, 125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

CIRCUS, HULL.
WANTED, Lady and Gentlemen Riders, Artists of every description, Jan. 21, 28. Address, EDWARD EMERSON, General-Manager.

WANTED, Circus Acts, Big Novelties, for Tenting Season, Big Gala Acts for Summer Season. Terms, dates, lithos., EDGAR STEBBINGS, Agent, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Novelties, Gala Attractions, Aërial and Ground Acts, all Lines, May 20, on. Lithos., memos., terms, GEORGE BURTON, T. R., Hyde, near Manchester.

WANTED, Easter, Whitsuntide, onwards, High Rope, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Cyclists. Lithos., memos., lowest terms, permanent address, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Muscular Gymnast and Posturer. State lowest and full particulars. Good Amateur not objected to. Box 4,187, "The Era."

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

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WANTED, John Irvin and Miss Pinder, Bare-back Equestrians, Pigeon Charmers, and Foot Equilibrist, Hengler's Cirque, London, Every Evening until further notice.

WANTED, Known, Lillian Davies, Bare Back Equestrian, now appearing Hippodrome, New York, Liberty for Tenting Season. Address, Irvinstown, co. Fermanagh, Ireland.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Two Dominos, Clown and Donkey. The Beautiful Arabian Donkey, with a Brain, whose pedigree is traced for over two thousand years. A comic act. At Lib. Jan. 28. Com., Hengler's Circus, London.

WANTED, Known, Bros. Austin, Talking, Tumbling Clowns, Eccentric, Pyramid of Chairs, and Foot Equilibrist. Success, Ohmy's Circus; Hippodrome, Spennymoor; Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh, to follow. At Liberty Feb. 11; summer settled. All letters, Circus, Hyde.

WANTED, Neddy Vokes, Europe's Funniest Musical Comedian, Talking Knockabout Clown, shortly at Liberty, home or abroad. Address, Royal Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Les Steckels, Gymnastic Speciality, Feb. 11, 18, 25. Finish to-night, Carnival, Dalkeith; next three weeks, Aldershot. All coms., Agent, STEBBINGS, Manchester.

WANTED, Jan. 14, 21, by Los Dorians, up-to-date Stage Aerial Gymnasts. Wire, ALGIE'S Circus, Spennymoor.

WANTED, Jan. 21 and 28, The Maros, Funniest Three-bar Comedians. Usual success, Hipp., Paisley; Monday, Grand, Bolton. Address above.

WANTED, De Ora, Speciality Gymnast, Gigantic Success, Britannia, nightly. Vacant Jan. 14 and 21, through flaw in Continental contract. Distance immaterial.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lolo, Charming Lady Gymnast, Graceful Trapeze and Teeth Speciality Artist, assisted by Little May, the smallest Lady Clown now appearing on the stage; also Little May, in her Graceful Contortionist and Dancing Act. This, People's Palace, Portsmouth; next, Agricultural Hall, London.

WANTED, Monday next, and Jan. 21, Mayeno Troupe (ladies and gentlemen), Gymnasts, Acrobats, Wire Walkers, &c., also at Liberty for First-class Galas, with number of suitable Acts. Usual success Palace, Kilmarnock, where wire for Monday; after, 30, Great George-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Four Zolas, Lightning and Herculean Acrobats, Tumblers, and Hand-balancers, at Liberty Monday, 14th, 21st, Empire, Dudley; Jan. 28, Palace, Northampton; Free Feb. 4. All coms., 40, Tiverton-rd., Bournbrook, Birmingham. Wire for Monday.

WANTED, Known, Bert Leonard Trio, Herculean Gymnasts and Equilibrists This, Hippodrome, Norwich. Wanted, Agents to see this act. Next week, Agricultural Hall, London. Vac. Jan. 21.

WANTED, Known, Joe Hastings, Champion Jumper and Lecturer. But what a speaker! Hats off. Probably at Liberty shortly. Hippodrome, Wakefield.

WANTED, by Gymnast, Engagement, in Comedy Bar Act, or other act. WILL AUBRY, General Post Office, Glasgow.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

DERBY, GRIMSBY, ATTERCLIFFE, AND STOKE.
WANTED, Variety Artists, for above Towns. Novelties, Star Vocalists, and Speciality Acts of every description. Artists are specially warned against accepting engagements for Attercliffe, if already booked for the Empire Theatre, Sheffield. If, by an oversight, they may have signed such agreements, they are invited to return their contracts to Derby for alteration of date, Attercliffe being barred by the Moss' Empires, Ltd., to those artists holding engagements for their Sheffield Empire. If already booked for Attercliffe, and offered dates for Empire, Sheffield, they are advised to see that permission for the Attercliffe date is endorsed on their Moss' Empires contract. All communications to T. A. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Jan. 28, on. Full for Jan. 14 and 21. Thanks to those who have written; impossible to answer all. Busy preparing for opening Jan. 14. Must be new to Castleford. Reply, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Queen's Theatre, Castleford.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, Jan. 21, Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; hall small. P. REYMOND, as above.

Scarborough.
WANTED, Monday, Jan. 21, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines. Nothing too Big. Full particulars to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines Jan. 21, onwards.
WM. B. BROADHEAD, Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Jan. 21, and onwards.
A. E. PICKARD, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Feb. 4, and on.
JOHN CASSIDY, Vic. Theatre, Stanley, co. Durham.

WANTED, High-class Variety and Sketch Artists from Whitsuntide, onwards. State fullest particulars and vacant dates. ROBERTS, Victoria Pier, Blackpool.

DR. WALFORD BODIE'S ROYAL MAGNETS.
WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Jan. 28, onwards. Specialities and Sketches. Long and comfortable engagement. Fares paid after joining. Also required, Two Smart Girls, for Troupe of International Dancers; state age experience and photo. if possible. All letters, address to Dr. WALFORD BODIE, 163, Blackfriars-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines.
J. FELL,
Proprietor, Palace, Lancaster.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now, onwards. Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT,
Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, onwards.
CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, good, to give their services at Concert (Benefit), in North London, end this month, may lead to good summer work. Write, WILTON DAVIS, 42, Linton-street, Islington.

WANTED, Artists wishing to be Booked for First-class Music Hall Engagements to communicate with BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, for George Royle's "Troubadours," Victoria Pier, Blackpool, the greatest and best of Al Fresco Artists, funny comedians, clever comediennes, and first-class performers in all lines. Season Easter to Oct.
Good Novelties and Specialities for odd weeks.

Age, experience, and photo.
(to be returned),
to GEORGE ROYLE,
5, Mylne-street, London, E.C.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Empire, Merthyr, immediate and future dates.
Manager, ISRAEL PRICE.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Empire Palace, Dover, and the Alhambra, Sandgate. FRED DURHAM'S Variety Agency, 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W. Telephone 15, Brixton.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Jan. 14, on. FRED DURHAM'S Agency, 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone, 15 Brixton.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Feb. 4, near Manchester.
Address, WILL ONDA, Crystal Palace, London.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Stars, share or salary. Good combinations entertained, but must have star attraction. Jan. 21 and later. GEO. SAPHRINI, Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Al Fresco Artists for Dunoon (private ground on new esplanade), and Prestwick (sole permit, and third season). Full particulars to HOWARD and SAWYER, 11, Delaval-road, Whitley Bay, Northumberland.

GRAND PAVILION, CARNARVON, NORTH WALES.
WANTED, Jan. 21 and onward, Star Artists in all Lines,
Address,
JAMES W. BOSTOCK, as above.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Big Variety Turns,
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Novelties and Sensational Acts,
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Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,

For Immediate and Future Dates, for London, Liverpool,
Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle,
Glasgow, Belfast,
Dublin, Manchester, Bolton,
Wolverhampton, Oldham,
Hartlepool, Shields, Barrow,
Carlisle, Darlington,
Hull, Middlesbrough, Stockport,
Blackpool, Morecambe,
Brighton, Boscombe, Margate,
Portsmouth, Southampton,
Bath, Lincoln, Leicester, Bradford,
Halifax, Sheffield, Blackburn,
Lancaster, Stockport, Burnley, Derby,
Attercliffe, Stoke, Grimsby.
St. Helens, Accrington, Warrington,
Bury, Hanley, Stockton, &c., &c.
Send, at once, terms, dates, and lithos.
Those having a good act can rely on getting Immediate Work.
WILL SLEY,
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41, Oxford-street,
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Manchester.
Telephone, 09144.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."

WANTED, Artists all Lines, for Scotland,
Feb. 4, on.
J. G. ANDERSON, 6, Gt. Clyde-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists, immediate dates, for Alhambra, Edinburgh. Send vacant dates and absolute lowest. I can book you. VENTOM SWIFT, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

BARNARD'S AGENCY,
24, Islington, Liverpool.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Specialities, &c. Thanks to all applicants.
Keep office posted.

COVENTRY HIPPODROME.
Proprietors, COVENTRY HIPPODROME Co., LTD.
WANTED, Agents and Artists to please Note that from Dec. 23, 1904, no Contracts will be recognised unless signed by the Secretary and Manager. T. M. SYLVESTER, Manager; G. E. WRIGHT, Secretary.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession,
Acts New in Dublin, for the above,
the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland,
Direct or through Agents.
All communications to WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

EDGAR STEBBINGS, the Provincial Agent,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester."
Telephone 09261.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Big Variety Stars,
Big Specialities,
for every Hall of note in the Provinces.
Big Acts for Fêtes, Galas.
Big Acts for Seaside, Piers, &c.

Terms, Bookings, Lithos., to
EDGAR STEBBINGS,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester."
Telephone 09261.

WANTED, for Jan. 21, 28, and Feb. 4,
Stars in all Lines,
Stars in all Lines,
Full up for smaller items
State towns at liberty for.
Can fix big numbers any odd weeks.
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Big Stars.
Call for Monday, Jan. 14, rehearsal 1 o'clock: Harry Roxbury's "Prince of Monte Carlo" Co., &c.
JAMES FIONI'S Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Big Stars, Big Numbers, Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11, onwards.
I can place you.
Wire or write, with full particulars,
JESS VERNO'S Agency,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone, 2076 Royal.

WANTED, for Whit Week and August Bank Holiday, three days, Special Turns, Latest Novelties, High-rope Walkers, and Small Shows, Bands, &c., for Franklin's Gardens, Northampton.
Address, TOM UPTON,
Gordon Arms, Orton, Peterboro'.

WANTED, to commence Feb. 4, for two weeks, First-class Speciality Turns. Full particulars, lowest terms, to VICTOR HAMILTON, Kinnaird Hall, Dundee. Hector write.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
Rehearsal, Monday next, 2 o'clock, for Dayton Family, Alex Victor Duo, Three Beyers, The Percys, Mabel Luzerne, Vernon's Bioscope, Cecilian Family, The Wheelers.
WANTED, Big Acts, on sharing terms. Letters, SMITH and Co., Red Lion Hotel, Rochdale.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
WANTED, Star Acts, all Lines, absolute lowest, once nightly. Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

HIPPODROME, SCARBORO'.
WANTED, a Couple of Good Acts. Monday next, wire lowest,
ZALVA, Scarboro'.

WANTED, to Open Monday, here, Chas. Morritt's Co., Good Double Comedy Act, and Single Turn. Wire lowest, BRADFORD, Palace, Boston.

LEO FRITZ'S AGENCY,
40, Glenshaw-mansions, Brixton-road, S.W.
Telephone 457 Brixton. Office hours, 10 till 5.
WANTED, the Greatest Acts in the World, for Jan. 21, onward. Send full particulars to above. Write, wire, or call.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

ROYAL
HIPPODROME,
BELFAST,
Now in Course of Erection,
and
when
Finished
will be the Largest and Handsomest Building in Ireland.
WANTED, February, onward, all the Finest Acts in the World.
Price no object.
New and Novel Turns of every Variety.
The above is Booked
in conjunction with
TIVOLI THEATRE,
DUBLIN.
WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Jan. 21, onwards, the best of Variety Acts. Note, I can fix you.
GANNON, West-grove, Bristol. Telephone, 2636X.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, for Webster and Girling's Agency, 150, Strand with which is amalgamated Wigglesworth's Provincial Agency. Address, as above, to HUGH WIGGLESWORTH, General-Manager, late of Blackpool, Morecambe, &c.
Distinct Novelties required for Outdoor Fête, Easter Monday, Wales. Prof. Ted Heaton communicate.

WANTED, Startling Novelties, Gala Attractions, Aërial and Ground Acts, all Lines, May 20, on. Lithos., terms, &c., GEORGE BURTON, T. R., Hyde, near Manchester.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.
WANTED, to commence Jan. 21, at Dundee, First-class Novelty. Lowest terms, W. HAMILTON, Kinnaird Hall, Dundee.

TUDOR'S HIPPODROME, BLYTH.
WANTED, First-class Combinations, one show nightly, and Sunday concerts, Jan. 21, on. TUDOR, Blyth, Northumberland.

WANTED, Talent of the best, for Galas, North of England, stage and otherwise, week commencing June 17 and onwards. LEMPRIERE and GREEN, Midland Caterers, 70, Holloway-head, Birmingham. Any wanting to do business with us must quote rock bottom.

WANTED, Big Tops and Bottoms, for Jan. 21, onwards; also Star Artists, of all kinds, for Great Britain and Ireland. Send list of bookings to FRED NEIMAN and Co., 108, Strand, London, W.C. Telephone, 8488 Gerrard.

WANTED, Big Tops and Artists, in every Line, for the North, also Big Tops; sharing terms. Empire, Paisley, 21st and on. DREW BAYLEY, Agent, 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, Tops of Bills who have odd weeks vacant to send full bookings, &c., to FRANK LYNNE, 12, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W.

CIRCUS, SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, for Jan. 21, and on. Specialities, of Every Description.
Address, C. ALGIE.

WANTED, Novel Specialities, May 20, four days, twice daily, Northampton. Terms, lithos., MCASKELL, Gaiety, Glasgow.

WANTED, Good Doubles doing Singles, Good Serios, &c., Cavalry Theatre, Monday on. SAUNDERS, Tintern Villa, Aldershot. Artists must bring band parts.

WANTED, Summer Varieties, Tynemouth Palace. Address, J. H. GRAHAM, 1, St. Andrew-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. LINDON TRAVERS, Manager.

WANTED, for King's Hall Hippodrome, Westcliff-on-Sea (2s. 2d. from London), the best in the business, all Lines except those requiring big stage. Billing matter and lowest terms first letter, for Jan. 21 and onwards, Jan. 21. The hall is very small, and once nightly, so please remember this when asking for big salaries. Call at 1 o'clock Monday for "The Phantom Ship." Milner Verren, The Groves, Alfonza, Miss G. Hope, Queenie Seymour, W. Hurlstone, J. H. McCann, G. Bernard, Marquis and Mignonette, Sid Stanto and Bioscope. PAUL VANDY'S Agency, King's Hall, Westcliff-on-Sea.

LEAS PAVILION,
FOLKESTONE.
Musical-Director, Mr. DARCY CLAYTON.
WANTED, First-Class Costume Concert Parties, also Single Artists, for Summer Season, from March 25 to end of Oct. Apply by letter, with fullest particulars, and where can be heard, and absolutely lowest Summer terms, to Mr. DARCY CLAYTON, 75, Brecknock-road, London, N.W.

PIER PAVILION, DOVER.
WANTED, First-Class Concert Parties, from Easter onwards. Apply,
Mr. F. C. DEW, Theatre Royal, Dover.

WANTED, for Royalty Theatre, Morecambe, Good Variety Companies, during the Winter Season, 3 or 6 nights. Address, with lowest sharing terms, CHAS. M. JULIAN.

WANTED, Known, exceptional tour offered to refined Singing Comedian and to Soprano, both must be young, smart appearance, and good dancers. Reply in first instance by letter, enclosing photo., and stating where can be seen working, to Box 4,206, "The Era."

WANTED, Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 11, Town and Provinces, Star Comedians, Comediennes, Specialities, and all Lines; also Paris and French Provinces, the Biggest and Best of Acts. Must send fullest particulars, lowest, lithos., and state last appearances in France, and where. For Scotland I want Good Singing Turns, early dates. Contracts await Riogoku Family, Jackles, Percy Victor, Spry and Monti, Ladderites, Craig, Rose, and Craig, Abadaroffs, Ettenas, and others. GEO. AYTOUN, 120, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E. Wires, "Antics, London." 'Phone, 1949 Hop.
AYTOUN'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Big Star Comedian and Comedienne, Jan. 21. Will the Artists engaged for our various enterprises please note that they must in all cases attend rehearsal? Pleased to hear from Stars with immediate vacancies. Rolands and Alf. Seigel wire addresses. ALFRED SAKER and Co., Dramatic Variety and Circus Agents, 17, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, good Knockabouts, dumb turns; also Variety Artists, for Easter. Send full particulars, VALENTINE'S Agency, 8, Dean-street, Oxford-street, London.

WANTED, a really funny Comedian, sing and dance preferred, to rehearse Tuesday; long tour through summer if suitable. Apply, with full particulars, photo., last three references, &c. G. M. MONTANINI, Theatre Royal, Crook.

WANTED, a Smart Tumbler, Pantomimist, Knockabout, and Trap Worker. Full particulars, Box 4,184, "The Era."

WANTED, Boys and Girls, with really good voices; also Dancers, Comedians, Acrobats; must be over fourteen. CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, or KING, Olympia, Liverpool.

WANTED, Lady Skaters, at once, for an entirely new Stage Act.

Send photos. and full particulars to
JOSEPH ONZELLA,
3, King-street, Camden Town, N.,
or apply personally,
any day between 11 a.m. and 10 p.m.,
ALEC PAYNE'S Skating Rink,
Olympia,
London, W.

WANTED, First-Class Bioscope, sixty to ninety minutes, change of pictures weekly, must be A1. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Empire, Stafford.

WANTED, Operator, with own Bioscope, Vent., or Good Entertainer. State lowest first letter, LEE, Hanbury Hotel Ground, Bargoed.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Monday next, by Stelfane, Lady Conjurer, two acts if required. Wire, 45, Lambeth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Engagements by Little Maude Evans, known as Little Lottie Lonsdale. Last week, Victoria Theatre, Stanley, with startling success. Write or wire, 13, Summerhill-terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Proprietors and Managers to see this Act, Magna, one of the most beautiful Classical and Artistic Posing Acts in Sculpture on the Stage. Great success Hippodrome, Lowestoft, Monday, Jan. 14, Terriss Theatre, London. This is a posing act in sculpture, not a picture show.

WANTED, Known, Princess Gooma (of Youribah) and Dahomey Amazon Warriors (Director, Tom Brown), at Lib, Jan. 20, on, Sensation of Glasgow Panto. Season. Fifteen minutes or one hour's show. Fire and Glass Dancing; Native Wrestling; &c. All communications, BERT MILES, F.O.S., care of "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Three Sisters Holman, on Tour with "Blue Bell" Company (No. 1), have no connection whatever with any other Troupe. This, Theatre, Aldershot; next, Theatre Royal, Canterbury.

WANTED, Monday first, by Sisters Du Barri, Male Impersonators and Dancers; the only two of their kind. Wire, Rutherglen, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Two Sparks (Sisters), Speciality Duettists, at Liberty March. All coms., 119, Church-street, Warrington.

WANTED, Monday, by Atlas, Miss Vulcana, and Sisters Atlas, including the most wonderful and beautiful classic poses ever seen on any stage, by Miss Vulcana. Wire, Sat., Empire, Portsmouth; after, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Jan. 14 and on, Jack Sheppard, World's Greatest Handcuff King and Prison Breaker; also Ruby Vesta, in the Greatest Trunk Mystery on the Stage. Wire, this, starring, Exhibition Hall, Newcastle; next, 249, Bond-street, Byker, Newcastle.

WANTED, Known, Neddy Vokes, Europe's Funniest Musical Comedian, shortly at Liberty, home or abroad. For dates, address, COOKE'S Royal Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Monday next, and Jan. 21, through obliging Management, Martinengo, Solo 'Cellist and Baritone, Scena, "His Last Melody." Wire, C. of Varieties, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Vulcaris, the Scottish Grosmith, a Virile, Versatile Piano Entertainer, complete Recital with own Bioscope. Next, Colosseum, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Dan Gregory, Musical and Acrobatic Eccentric, just concluded six weeks' engagement Hippodrome, Yarmouth; Lib, Jan. 14. All correspondence, 83, Third-avenue, Manor Park, Essex.

WANTED, Known, Raglus, Eccentric Lawn Tennis Ball Manipulator, in a smart drawing-room entertainment, Vacant Feb. 25. Next, Hippodrome, Ashton, Broadhead Tour.

WANTED, Known, Gus Merriman, formerly known as Gus Balsiger, Black Singing and Musical Page Boy and Human Steam Engine. Address, Hippodrome, Paisley. Liberty Jan. 14 and 21. Happy New Year to All.

WANTED, Monday, by Harry Plant, Novel Comic Musical Act, also Comedian. Big success, second week. Wire, 60, Leigh-road, Leigh, Lancs.

WANTED, Known, Vacant Jan. 14, 21, Dan Ashton, Lancashire Collier and Empire's Stump Orator, always interesting, instructing, and entertaining. Borough Theatre, Heywood, Lancashire, or WILL SLEY.

WANTED, Known, Braithwaite Higham, Novel Deceptionist and Marvellous Painter in Smoke; no immediate vacancies.

WANTED, Engagements by Henri Hartz, the Great Continental Magician and Illusionist, assisted by Mlle. Vallera and Tena, introducing the greatest act ever seen in Great Britain, including the one and only Chinese Levitation Mystery, the talk of Newcastle.
Only vacant dates this year, Jan. 14, 21, 28.
Wire for Monday,
Exhibition, Newcastle-on-Tyne, wire, wire.

WANTED, Monday next, also Jan. 21 and 28, by Li-Chang-Hi, the popular Chinese Conjurer. This week, great success Bottom Bill, Pal., Kilmarnock; wire for Monday.

WANTED, Jan. 14. Wire, Gaiety Chatham. The Original Kyoto. This act a laughing and applauding hit. A sure draw. Also May Geraldine, a sprightly Comedienne, Vocalist, Dancer, also Vacant Jan. 21, 28. After Saturday, 25, Devonshire-house, Bath-terrace, London S.E.

WANTED, Monday next, Arthur Richards, Eccentric Comedian, Renée Walon, Sweet Singer, Dainty Dancer. Wire, Palace, Northampton.

WANTED, Jan. 14 and 21, by Brothers Lawrence, Vocalists and Champion Ragtime Dancers. This week, Bottom of Bill, Palace, Lancaster. Thanks DALTON'S Agency for London Contracts. Perm., 2, Carlton-court, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, to Proprietors and Managers, after Feb. 4 The Mozondos will be Known as Gladys and Alber, in a New Act. (Signed) Mozondos, Jan. 10, '07.

WANTED, Monday next, by Reszki and Raszki, Gymnastic Grotesques and Tumblers, also Jan. 21. Apply, 6 Beech-grove, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Known, the Two D's (Dargan and Dene), luncheon à la magique. Mon., Aquarium, Scarboro'. Vacant Jan. 21 and 28. A sure draw.

WANTED, Known, to all Music Hall Agents and Proprietors, we are the Original Costello Bros., Comedy Acrobats and Knockabout Comedians. Thank Managers for Contracts. Start tour Jan. 28. Coms. to be addressed care of "The Era."

WANTED, Monday, also Jan. 28, by Cullan and Coyle, Refined Comedians, with New and Original Business. Wire for a Sure Success, 4, Ashton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, by The Carls, Comedy Trampoline Speciality that can follow them all, Jan. 14 and Feb. 4. Just finished successful Continental Tour. Big success everywhere. Roars of laughter and applause. Big Speciality for Panto. Wire for Mon. 22, Clifford-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, and Jan. 21, by Titan Telka, and Wyllie (3 acts), Strong Man Show, Musical Act, and Ballad Vocalist. Palace, Lancaster.

WANTED, Known, The Musical Palmers, third week Exhibition Hall, Newcastle. Thanks Paul Vandy, Esq., for selecting us to Top his first Bill at King's Hall, Westcliff. Monday, Palace, Camberwell.

WANTED, Five Abadaroffs, Comedy Act, Jan. 21, 28. Sure success. Monday, Palace, Attercliffe; or 95, Stretford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Jan. 14, 21, and 28, by Gilroy, Vent., and Boston Bioscope. Still bang up to-date; must have Monday. Wire, GILROY, Colosseum, Blackpool.

WANTED, Jan. 14, 21, and on, by Gulliver, First-class Ventriloquist. One Act or Répertoire. Address, 46, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, by R. J. Golding, the Ventriloquist and Illusionist, Feb. 11, onward. Permanent address, 32, Courtenay-road, Walthamstow, London.

WANTED, Jan. 28, Feb. 11, on, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist, two smart acts. Monday, Hippodrome, Lancaster.

WANTED, immediate dates for strong and sensational Dramatic Sketch, "Her Only Crime," all effects carried. See great fight between man and woman. S. DOUGLAS, Haymarket Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED Known, Pauletti, Eccentric Acrobatic Cyclist, a Great Laughing Act, Free April, onwards, Galas, Tenting. This, Lyceum, Stafford; next, Opera House, Buxton.

WANTED, Known, W. Salmon, Trick and Musical Cyclist, vacant Jan. 14 and 21. Wire, 25, Albany-terrace, Burnley.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Lion Show, Finest and Cleanest Collection of Full-grown Male Lions on the British Stage, vacant March 25, April 15 and 29. Special Sensation Four New-born Cubs. Week, Jan. 14, Grand Pavilion, Carnarvon, North Wales.

WANTED, 21st, onwards, Le Clair's Performing Dogs, including Spot, in his sensational dive. Next week, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

WANTED, few dates from Jan. 21. Now the whole talk of Plymouth. CHARD'S Dogs, "Dick Whittington" Pantomime, Devonport.

WANTED, week of Feb. 18, onward, for Snow and Farron's Mascot Minstrels, thirty minutes' to two hours' show, concluding with their original Plantation Scena.
The Brighton Standard says, speaking of Snow and Farron's Mascots: The rattle of the bones, the jingle of the tambos, and the beautiful harmonised choruses, take your memory back to the palmy days of the Moore and Burgess Minstrels at the St. James's Hall.
Communications,
26, Grosvenor-street, Camberwell.

For Pavilions, Winter Gardens, &c.
"THE GIPSIES AND THEIR JESTER."
the famous Costume Comedy Concert Party.

WANTED, Known, a few vacant weeks for next Summer.
Apply to DARCY CLAYTON,
75, Brecknock-road, London, N.W.

WANTED, Known, Two Young Men wish Engagement in comedy sketch, or acrobatic act can do acrobatic speciality. WILL AUBRY, General Post Office, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Legmania Posturer wishes to join Troupe or Comedy Act; can work funny or straight. For particulars please write, W. LAWRENCE, 211, Waterloo-street, Oldham.

WANTED, by Tumbler, Pantomimist, &c., Engagement, with troupe or sketch. CAPEL, 608, Garratt-lane, Tooting, London, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements, Public or Private, Harmon's Bioscope, Marionettes, also Royal Punch and Judy, with Toby. 326, Earlsfield-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements, Bioscope, 20 minutes or two hours. Special terms for summer. BAINTON, c/o MacDonald, 17 Buccleuch-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, Operator, eleven years' experience, lime and electric (both currents), used to two hours' continuous shows; steady and reliable. Can open at once, without or with first-class Bioscope (electric). Address, BIOSCOPE, 50, Newmarket-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, by Bioscope Operator, Engagement; competent, electric or lime. Address, WHITEHOUSE, Station Drug Stores, Staplehurst-road, Hither Green.

WANTED, Known, Operator, at Liberty, with or without own Machine and Apparatus; used to all lights. ARTHUR CLARK, c/o G.P.O., Glasgow.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman, Silver King (regd.), Auctioneer, Valuer, Expert and Authority to the United Kingdom and Van Dwellers' Association, Auctioneer to Lord George Sanger (England's Greatest Showman), and Leading Showmen of Great Britain. Sales and Commissions conducted in any part of the World. If you want to Buy or Sell anything connected with the Business, consult TOM NORMAN, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand. Change of address.

WANTED, Known, that owing to the Crystal Palace Riding Machines having been withdrawn at the Sale by Auction in London recently, I am prepared to consider offers for the disposal of the same by private treaty. Full particulars, with cards to view, &c., can be obtained from TOM NORMAN, Auction Office, Dallington, Sussex.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Tom Norman, Showman's Auctioneer, &c., attends all Principal Fairs, Feasts, &c., and transacts business with, and for, showmen and travellers of all grades, is desirous of representing one or more large firms, on terms. Satisfactory results guaranteed. References, bank and leading showmen. Apply, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, London.

WANTED, Known, that Mr. Tom Norman will hold an Important Sale by Auction, on land near the Agricultural Hall, Islington, on Wednesday, Jan. 23 next (Showmen's Meeting Day), commencing at 2 p.m., prompt, in which will include three first-class Road Living Waggons, also three very useful Horses, the property of a Private Gentleman, who has been touring with same. These horses are seven years old, and worth the notice of Showmen, Brewers, or District Council. Further entries are invited for this large and important sale. Terms moderate. Particulars, TOM NORMAN, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, Tavistock-street, London.

WANTED, Known, Electrical, Simpkin, Wilkinson, and Gibson, Kirkstall-road, Leeds, manufacture four and six pole Showmen's Dynamos (improved pattern), also new Flame Arc Lamps, geared motors, for driving organs and roundabouts, large stocks, cable, carbons, globes, incandescents, all classes of repairs; new line, direct coupled portable electric plants, driven by paraffin.

WANTED, Known.—Write or call at Greene's, Falmouth-road, London, S.E., for .22 ammunition, rifles, globes, targets; absolutely cheapest market

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100, 101, 102a, Houndsditch, is going ahead with up-to-date Lines in Field Glasses, Fancy Goods, Clocks, Jewellery, &c. Send for Special Xmas Supplement. There is no cheaper house for you.

WANTED, Known, Auction Marts and others, R. Owens, Manufacturing Chemists and Dry salters, 15, Rosamond-st., West Manchester, making up good lines. Good profit. Write for samples.

MAKE MONEY FAST.
£50 in three weeks.

WANTED, Known, this is what the Fairy Floss Candy Machine can do. Nothing like it for money-making. To be sold outright, or on deferred payments, as agreed upon. Every machine a fortune. For terms and particulars apply,
ELECTRIC SWEETMEATS, LTD.,
36, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that the Gourock Ropework Co., Ltd., Largest Tent Manufacturers in the World, have a large stock of New and Secondhand Circus Tents made from their famous Rotproof and Waterproof Tent Canvas, "Birkmyres Cloth." The most durable and waterproof Canvas for Showmen's Tents &c. Buy from Manufacturers and save middlemen's profit. GOUROCK ROPEWORK CO., LTD., Lancaster-place, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen to call, on Jan. 23 and 24 next, at Prospect Works, Oxford-road, New North-road, London, N. (Bedford's old shop), to witness a Demonstration of a Most Wonderful Light. Demonstrations in the afternoon and evening. SAVAGE and Co.

WANTED, Known.—A Word to the Wise is Sufficient. A Client writing June 25, 1906, says:—Bag puncher took £300 in a little over three months. For price, write Sole Agents to the Makers, viz., the Mills Novelty Co. MINERVA AUTOMATIC Co., 120, York-rd., King's Cross, London, N. Largest Variety of Automatic Machines in the trade. No Junk. Don't buy worn-out machines.

WANTED, Known, Showmen's Letter Cloths made and attractively painted in fancy colours; all kinds of Showmen's Painting undertaken. ROCHE, Artist, 22, Lansdown-road, Lee, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Cheapest and Best House for Job Lots Linoleum and Oilcloth, for auctioneers, &c. WARD, 95, Stretford-rd., M'chester.

WANTED, Novelties, for Present and Future Dates. Great Success this week of the Sisters Ridley, in their Renowned Drawing-room Entertainment. Good Fat write or wire for Monday. PROPRIETOR, 100, Lower Marsh, Lambeth, London.

WANTED, for Signor Dunland's Exhibition, Gateshead-on-Tyne, Novelties, all sorts, premises 90ft. long, well lighted with gas, good window for show

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, the Annual Meeting of the United Kingdom Showmen and Van-dwellers' Protection Association,
The Showmen's Guild
(President, Lord George Sanger),
will take place in Manchester at the Memorial Hall, Albert-square,
Jan. 15, 1907, at 4 p.m.
Speakers:—Rev. H. Norburn, Rev. T. Horne, T. Watson Wright, Esq., C. Howard, Esq., and F. Bibby, Esq.

The London Meeting
will take place at the
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL,
Islington,
by kind permission of E. T. Read, Esq.
(Lessee of the World's Fair),
on Jan. 23,
at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.
Lord George Sanger will Preside, and Deliver a Presidential Address, Supported by the Rev. T. Horne (Hon. Chaplain), F. H. Pedgrift, Esq. (Hon. Treas.), F. Millar, Esq. (Parliamentary Agent), T. Watson Wright, Esq. (Guild Solicitor), and other gentlemen.
T. HURST, Hon. Sec.

Annual Committee for Business Purposes
at the Black Lion,
at 11.30 in the forenoon of Jan. 16.

WORLD'S FAIR,
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL, ISLINGTON.
Twenty-eighth Consecutive Year.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. E. READ.

WANTED, Known, the Fourteenth Annual Supper and Ball, in connection with the above, will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 23.
The Annual Meeting of the Showmen's and Van-Dwellers' Protection Association taking place on the morning of the same day (Jan. 23), President Lord George Sanger, who will deliver a presidential address, supported by the Rev. T. Horne (Hon. Chaplain), F. H. Pedgrift, Esq. (Hon. Treasurer), F. Miller, Esq. (Parliamentary Agent), F. Watson Wright, Esq. (Guild Solicitor), and other Gentlemen.
T. HURST, Hon. Sec.

Tickets, admitting to supper and ball, 4s. each. Chairman, T. E. Read, Esq.; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. Medcalf (Star and Garter); Mr. C. Day, Hon. Sec.
See next week's issue.

TOURING EXHIBITION.

WANTED, Known, Vacancies for a few Novelty Stands for the South Wales Tour, also one good in and out Side Show, Mirrors or anything good:
Market Hall, Aberdare, Jan. 21 to Feb. 2.
Town Hall, Pontypridd, Feb. 5 to 16.
Drill Hall, Merthyr, Feb. 19 to March 2.
Market Hall, Llanelly, March 5 to 16.
Address, MANAGER, Trades Exhibition,
Ebbw Vale, Mon.

WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, Open at Once, Sale of Books and Postcards allowed. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, and First-Class Shows.
A. E. PICKARD, American Museum, Glasgow.

WANTED, for Dudley Trades Exhibition, through disappointment, classical side show, electric shooting gallery, fishing pond, and lady palmist, open Monday, one month. Communicate immediately, MARSTON, Secretary, above.

WANTED, First-class Phrenologist and Character Reader. Big business guaranteed. Open Tredegar, Feb. 19. CASTON'S Famous Waxworks, Commercial-street, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, to join at once, a young man, used to Auction Business. Theo Daniels please write. W. H. GRANT'S Bazaar, Monaghan.

WANTED, Known, "The Queen of the Ocean," the Most Extraordinary Phenomenon ever Known. Entirely New to England and Ireland. The formation of this lady's hands are identical to the claws of a lobster, whereas her feet resemble those of the crab. Although handicapped, as one might think, by these wonderful formations, the lady is able to do anything with her hands that any other human being can. She is a splendid needlewoman, piano player, &c. Splendid lithos. At Liberty Jan. 14. For terms, &c., apply to PAUL BABAULT, Impresario, c/o Pickard's American Museum, Glasgow. After the 16th inst., 20, Rue de la Station, Forest lez Bruxelles, Belgium. Just concluding eighth week at Pickard's Museum, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Princess Gooma (of Youribah) and Dahomey Amazon Warriors (Director, Tom Brown), at Lib, Jan. 20, on, Sensation of Glasgow Panto. Season. Fifteen minutes or one hour's show. Fire and Glass Dancing; Native Wrestling; &c. All communications, BERT MILES, F.O.S., care of "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Mlle. Flo (Tattooed Lady) and Ydac (Cabinet Mystery), Liberty Mon. CADY, care of Bain, 7, North Lindsay-st., Dundee.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen in want of a Big Novelty for Fairs, Minni Letta's Rolling Stage for Sale, and all Machinery connected with same. Can be seen working daily at the Olympia. Address, 11, Addison Park-mansions, Kensington, W.

WANTED, by Lady Character Reader, correct, reliable, Engagement; half shares or salary. Write, Mrs. MIDDLETON, G.P.O., Glasgow, till called for.

WANTED, Known, Disengaged, Doorman and Lecturer, Walter Freeman, concludes to-night Waverly Carnival, with Prince Colibri. Thanks Captain Lloyd for comfortable engagement and £2 present. Offers invited. Permanent address, 46, Moss-street, Paisley. Distance no object.

BLACKPOOL SANDS.

WANTED, Known, the South Shore Pleasure Beach is the only site in Blackpool for Open-air Attractions.
The grounds are forty acres in extent, right on the sea front, and are situated immediately next the Promenade at the Electric Tramway Terminus. From April 1 to Dec. 31, 1905, 4,000,000 passengers were carried on these tramways. The permanent attractions now include the "River Caves of the World," "Maxim Flying Machine," "Sea Circus," &c. Great Canadian Water Chute now being erected for next season, commencing at Easter. For sites and concessions for really good Novelties address, PROPRIETORS, 14, Balmoral-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, for Trades and Novelties Touring Exhibition, opening Monday, Jan. 14, at Town Hall, Chesham, Bucks.

Spaces to Let for
Glove Cleaner, Handkerchief Embroidery, Sketch Artist, Glass Blower, and Gold Plating.

Address,
MANAGER, Exhibition,
Town Hall, Chesham.

WANTED, to Let, Ground, in Good Positions, for Switchbacks, Picture Shows, Circuses, and Auctioneer. Apply, HART, Boleyn Tavern, Green-street, Upton Park.

THE SENIOR EXHIBITIONS.

WANTED, to Let, Spaces, for Cutlery, Photographs, &c. The most successful exhibition touring. Third season, Devon and Cornwall. Write particulars, Assembly Rooms, Teignmouth, Devon.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100, 101, and 102a, Houndsditch, has Special Departments for 9ct. Rings, Secondhand Watches, Unredeemed Pledges, and Cheap Jewellery. Send for Special Xmas Supplement. All up-to-date Lines.

WANTED, to Sell, Set of Auction Vans, Telescope, one of the best on the road, New Tent, everything up-to-date, bargain. Apply to Box 4,190, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, Road Living Wagon, built by Howcroft 3 years ago, panelled outside with carved work, fitted inside with mahogany and electric plated fittings, 11ft. long, 6ft. 6in. wide. No reasonable offer refused. For particulars, apply to the Owner, H. THURSTON, JUN., Station-road, Rugby, Warwicks.

WANTED, to Sell, the whole of my Handsome Carved and Gilded Double Wagon Front; also the largest and best Organ in England, Marenghi make, eighteen months old; also Back Wagon, good as new. Price ALD particulars, WILLIAM TAYLOR, Electric Coliseum, Agricultural Hall, Islington, London.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

OLYMPIA, OLYMPIA, OLYMPIA.
WANTED, Known, First Annual Showmen's BANQUET AND BALL, to be Held at the OLYMPIA, MONDAY NIGHT, JAN. 21, at 12 p.m. President, B. W. ROSE Esq. Vice-Presidents, Sir WILLIAM BULL, M.P., A. E. GATCOMBE, Esq., ROBERT CROSSMAN, Esq., E. DAOUST, Esq., CHAS. B. COCHRAN, Esq., WALLACE JONES, Esq., ERNEST H. ALTMAN, Esq., HAROLD BIRKETT, Esq., J. AMERY PARKES, Esq., FRED KARNO., Esq., CECIL BROUNE, Esq., GEORGE TAYLOR, Esq. Chairmen, F. H. PAYNE, Esq., and LORD GEORGE SANGER, Committee, P. Collins, W. Sedgwick, F. Wilson, W. Lee-Neve, Sid Jefferies, J. Wentworth, J. Lynch, Bros. Biddalls, G. Smith, T. Knighton, J. White, J. Allport, J. Wilson, J. Osborne, Barron Bros., Fred Bibby, Mellor Bros., W. Jones, J. Whyatt, G. B. Sadler. Chairman of Committee, Arthur Dashwood. Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, A. Cardew.
Special Notice to all Showmen. The above gentlemen of the Committee will have great pleasure in hearing from any Showman who would like to be present at the above Banquet and Ball. Tickets can be obtained from any of the Committee, and Secretary. Address, Olympia.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, Important,
that the Annual General Meeting of the
BRITISH ROUNDABOUT PROPRIETORS' AND SHOWMEN'S UNION
will be Held at the
Black Lion Hotel, Salford,
on Wednesday next, Jan. 16, at 11 a.m.,
for the Transaction of Important Business,
when all Members are requested to Attend.
(Signed) T. HURST, Secretary.

WANTED, to Sell, Large Rail Waggon, 18ft., nearly new, with Living Compartment. T. METSON, 2, Westmoreland-place, Harrogate.

WANTED, to Sell, a good Shuttered Ground Booth, 48ft. by 30ft.; also good Bioscope, Apply EDMONDS, 17A, Levenhall-street, Chester.

WANTED, to Sell, First-Class Travelling Cinématograph Show complete, with Marquee to hold about 200 people, furnished Living Van (sleep 2), with Operating Window, Cinématograph, and Lantern complete, with 3,000ft. up-to-date Film, faultless, light to perfection. Actual cost, 1d. per hour; been running three shows nightly.
A fortune for anyone.
Sole reason for selling, going abroad.
Particulars, Box 4,180, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, Cinématograph Show, 50 by 30, with blue tilt, three paintings, &c., and second-hand cinématograph tilt. SAUNDERS, Tent Maker, Wisbech.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, Husbands, Babies, Love-Letters, Palmistry, Lunatics', Marriage, and Liars' Licences. MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square, W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, every Description, new and secondhand. Machines exchanged. WORMALD, 123, Blythe-road, Olympia, Kensington, London.

WANTED, Known, to Juvenile Roundabout Proprietors, and others interested, one of the latest stamp of Juvenile Motor Car Roundabouts is now open at the Olympia, London. This is a machine that can be well adapted for Fair Grounds, Pleasure Gardens, and any places of amusements, either under cover or in the open air. Riding capacity Forty-five Juveniles.
Inquirers and intending purchasers post early to the Originator and Maker, W. H. HALSTEAD,
Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire.

WANTED, to Sell, one of my Helter Skelter Lighthouses, or Slipping the Slip. Having three of the best in England and only requiring two purchasers can have their choice of either, goes on two loads. Now you want a real good money-taker, hurry up; first come first served. For price, particulars, &c., apply P. COLLINS, Gondola Works, Walsall.

WANTED, to Sell, Engraving Machine, Two-headed Giantess, Three-legged Mummy, Human-faced Seal, Part Dog-Calf, and Paintings. MARWOOD, 53, Crisp-street, Poplar.

WANTED, to Sell, Set of Seven Distorting Mirrors, in cases, with velvet hangings, fine condition, three large (3ft. by 2ft.), four smaller (2ft. square). Will sacrifice for £9 to clear; cost over £20. Write or wire, D., 8, Alwyne-square, Canonbury, N.

WANTED, to Sell, Japanese Wishing Wheel, Novelty, for Exhibitions and Fairs, sure money-maker. Particulars, PATENTEE, 39, Lodore-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Purchase, Distorting Mirrors, full size,
ten or twelve,
at once,
must be cheap.
Full particulars, Box 4,152, "The Era."

WANTED, to Buy, Set Galloping Horses, second-hand lot, for cash. BERT ELLIS, Stanley-road, Chingford, Essex

WANTED, to Buy, six or more Automatics, known as the "Lyfo" Machines, must be in good condition and in working order. Box 4,183, "The Era."

WANTED, Situation as Traction Engine-driver. All letters addressed to Mr. W. MILLS, c/o Mrs Duckworth, 67, King-street, Farnworth, near Bolton, Lancs.

WANTED, an experienced Centre Driver, sober habits, for Relph and Pedley's Razzle Dazzle Apply by letter, Olympia, Kensington, London, W

WANTED, for W. C. and S. Hancock, Plymouth, one or two good Traction Drivers, must be used to show hauling, a centre driver, for four-abreast, and a working manager for Cinématograph Show; also a man to take charge of Helter Skelter two or three men for motors and roundabouts, and a working staff for show. Pimple write in. Also a Cinématograph Operator and two Lady Paraders for show; yearly situation to suitable people. None other than those thoroughly used to the business need apply.

WANTED, the Address of Vi M. Cody, or Montana, expert rifle shot. Last heard of in Ireland. Sister very ill. Mrs. BARRY, Clayton Vale Hospital, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, the Seventy Thousand Showmen who use the Columns of "The Era" and are moving about should know that they can make "The Era" Offices their Permanent London Address. Letters received will be held till called for, or immediately re-addressed according to instructions. Address all communications respecting the Letter Department to the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Showmen who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any Railway Bookstall to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED TO SELL.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, to Sell, Pantomime, "Babes in the Wood," now being played at Grand Theatre, Fulham; "Forty Thieves," now being played at the Coronet Theatre; "Red Riding Hood," now being played at Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-street, S.W.

WANTED, to Sell, Production of "Mother Goose," now running to Record Business; or open to arrange at a good Twice-nightly Theatre next season. R. A. P. WILLIAMS, Gaiety Theatre, Dundee.

WANTED, to Sell, the entire Production of the Pantomime of "Robinson Crusoe," on easy terms. Managers are invited to see this at Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, on Monday, 21st, or during the week. Box 4,181, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Fred Karno is Disposed to Sell, after Completion of Run, the Pantomime, "The House that Jack Built," Grand Theatre, Glasgow, in its entirety. Can be seen nightly at the above theatre. The success of the Provinces; beating all records.
Apply, FRED KARNO, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell.

WANTED, to Sell, on termination of run, the entire production, Mr. Savile's Successful Pantomime, "Goody Two-Shoes." Can be seen Jan. 14, 21, Paisley; Jan. 28, Feb. 4, Perth.

WANTED TO SELL.

RUGBY TOWN HALL COMPANY, LIMITED.
In Voluntary Liquidation.

WANTED, Known, For Sale, by Private Treaty, the Town Hall Buildings, comprising Assembly Room, 77ft. by 32ft. 6in., having splendid Acoustic properties, and very convenient retiring rooms, with good sanitary arrangements attached; on the Ground Floor a room about 30ft. square, suitable for small meetings, &c.; and other rooms now occupied as offices and show rooms; also a large Hall, well adapted for and frequently used as an auction mart for furniture sales, &c., and for holding large public meetings; gas and water laid on throughout; there are also eight lock-up shops and cellarage, commanding good rents. The property is situate in the centre of the town, and has considerable frontage to the two principal business streets.
For further particulars and to treat, apply to the Liquidator, Mr. RICHARD OVER, at the office of the company, 5, Railway-terrace, Rugby.
Dec. 27, 1906.

WANTED, Known, to Buyers,
Mr. CLARENCE SOUNES
is prepared
to Sell in its Entirety
(at the conclusion of the run)
the Enormously Successful Pantomime,
"THE FORTY THIEVES,"
Now Running at the Prince's Theatre, Poplar,
to Big Business.
The best pantomime in suburban London.—Vide Press and Public.
The scenery, dresses, and entire production fit for any theatre in the Kingdom.
Managers on the outlook for an excellent Pantomime Investment are invited to see this Magnificent Show. No time should be lost in doing so. First come, first served.
Mr. Sounes is willing to accept a moderate figure. Be advised; see it. A rare chance.
You can either write, telegraph, or 'phone (64 East) for particulars.
All communications,
Prince's Theatre, Poplar, London, E.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, to Sell,
Cheap to Clear,
50,000ft. of Films,
all good subjects,
Comics, Tragedy,
Travel, Sacred Subjects.
Lengths from 50ft. to 1,000ft.
List ready.
Jury's Imperial Pictures,
142, Long-acre,
London, W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, 20,000ft. of Films, from 1d. per foot. A. CHEETHAM, Silvograph Pictures, Rhyl. Send for list.

WANTED, to Sell, about 6,000ft. Films, mostly new, machine, stand, complete show. Lot £50. DAVIES, 50, Slaney-street, Newcastle, Staffs.

WANTED, to Sell, large stock of Films, majority good as new, from 1d. per foot. POOLE, Palace, Gloucester.

WANTED, to Sell, Undetectable Leg Paddings, Tights, Animal Skins, Blondin Donkeys, Elephants, Cows, &c. MAYERS, 22, Shepperton-road, Islington, London.

WANTED, to Sell, 80 Tip-up Chairs, upholstered in crimson plush, good condition; also 15 Benches, 18ft. long, upholstered ditto. Apply, W. C. HORNER, Empire, Burnley.

WANTED, to Sell, Tights, Symmetrical Paddings, Woven Animal Dresses, Masks, Shoes, &c. H. J. BOXALL, 166, Waterloo-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, to Sell, Concert Grand Pianoforte (Broadwood), cost £155, splendid tone, rosewood case, suit Concert Stage, £25. LESLIE, Arcadia, Portsmouth.

WANTED, to Sell, 8 First-class Illusions, together or separate; or exchange Big Conjuring stuff. FREDRICKS, Theatre, West Bromwich.

WANTED, to Sell, Coloured Song Slides, eight Anchored, 3s. 6d.; eleven Volunteer Organist, 5s.; twelve Excelsior, 5s.; six Apple Tree, 3s.; six Killarney, 2s. 6d.; others. MORRIS, 18, Tweed-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, to Sell, all Kinds of Trick Musical Instruments, Electric and otherwise. Sole British Manufacturer, LISLE, 5, Cuthill-road, Camberwell.

WANTED, to Sell, or Let, "Sweet Columbine," Farcical Play, two acts, small cast. Roars of laughter; audience spellbound. Principals only apply. Box 4,207, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, Typewritten Comedy and Dramatic Sketches, Stock Dramas, Duologues, Comedy written up. HAL COLLIER, Hippodrome, Wakefield.

The Publisher, "The Era,"
5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London, W.C.
"Dear Sir,—I ordered the following advertisement to appear in your paper for two insertions.

"'WANTED, to Sell, Self-acting Pianoforte, two barrels, twenty tunes, perfect condition, cost £44; what offers? MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square, W.C.'

"Kindly do not insert my advertisement again, as the self-acting piano which I had to sell has been sold to Mr. Jack Woolf, of Wonderland fame, Whitechapel-road, E. I had also ten other applicants through my advertisement in 'The Era.'
Yours faithfully,
J. H. MEURICE.
"39, Argyle-square, W.C. Oct. 9, 1906."

WANTED TO BUY.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence

WANTED, to Buy, 160 Secondhand Tip-up Stalls, must be in excellent condition. State lowest, where can be seen, give dimensions, to HAGUE, Spa Gardens, Bridlington.

WANTED, to Buy, the following Cloths: Street, Garden, Landscape, and Wood Cloth; must be in good condition. State where can be seen and dimensions.
HAGUE, Spa Gardens, Bridlington.

WANTED, to Buy, Double Box Trick, as used by late Dr. Lynn, good condition and cheap; or would exchange another Illusion. GREGG, 21, Valley-road, Harrogate.

WANTED, Trick Dog, young preferred, Somersault, Flip-flap, Walk Upright, Die; any small breed. State fully which tricks, price, where seen before 16th. Fancy pricers save stamps. If country, on trial. Box 4,194, "The Era."

WANTED, to Buy, a small Front Leg Dog, for Hand Balancing; also some Trick Dogs. Box 4,210. "The Era."

WANTED, to Purchase, two tame Wolves or small Bear, in good condition. WYNEMA, Stewart's Waxworks, High-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, to Purchase, Novelty Musical Instruments, suitable for ladies. Address, TINA TRANSFIELD, 7, Gladstone-street, London-road, S.E.

WANTED, to Buy, Good Comedy Piano Act; good price paid for right stuff; or would Buy Good Idea. Address, Box 4,202, "The Era."

WANTED, Tableaux Curtains. Wire at once, colour, size, condition, lowest, and where seen, ARTIST, 61, Vauxhall Bridge-road, Victoria, London.

WANTED, to Buy, Complete Bioscope; must be cheap, for spot cash. Particulars, Mr. ALEXANDER, Princess Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED TO LET OR HIRE.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
*Each Additional Six Words, Sixp

WANTED TO LET OR HIRE.

WANTED, to Let, Victoria Rooms, Cheltenham, seat 1,000, vacant Jan. 28 (1 week), Feb. 25 (1 week), April 8, onwards Silence polite negative. Dramatic Licence.

WANTED, to Let on Lease, Good Site for Theatre in Popular District in Nottingham. Apply, ARTHUR CARLTON, Worcester.

WANTED, to Let, the Rights of Advertisement Curtain, at Temperance Hall, Merthyr. Manager, Mr. ISRAEL PRICE.

HIPPODROME, STALYBRIDGE.
WANTED, to Let, Advertising Rights of Programmes (only), at once. Address tenders to MANAGER.

WANTED, to Hire, Hall for the coming season, for Refined Entertainments. Particulars by letter, MANAGER, 23, Burchell-road, Leyton, E.

PARTNERS WANTED.

Genuine, honest offer, and sure winner.
WANTED, Partner (Brass Player, Stage-experienced), with small capital, on equal shares, for Grand and Novel Musical Comedy Act. Everything complete on hand, including magnificent lithos. Act commanding £50 to £60 weekly. All can be seen daily, between 2 and 5 p.m. Address, Box 4,193, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, a well-known Actor requires financing (Comedy), or would form syndicate, lady or gentleman of refinement. Highest references and every investigation.
Box 4,211, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Smart Tumbler, late Ameen Abau Hamad Troupe, Liberty to join sketch, or partner. TOM RUSSELL, Curzon Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, Partner, for Combined Show under Canvas, good working Circus Family preferred. Outlay and profits equally shared. Box 4,205, "The Era."

WANTED, Lady, Genuine Artist, join Speciality Gentleman, successful, original, novel, musical comedy duo. Age, photo., particulars, Box 4,203, "The Era."

WANTED, Active Partner, in Well-known Variety Agency.
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Aberystwyth,
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GLASGOW HERALD, Dec. 14, 1906.
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THE ERA, Dec. 22, 1906.
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The ANNUAL DINNER and SOCIAL will take place on SUNDAY, Jan. 6, at DOVER CASTLE HOTEL. Early application necessary. Number limited (for Terriers only). For further particulars apply to HARRY LESTER, Secretary, 4, Kennington-road, S.E.

M. H. A. R. A.

Notices.
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EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—
Kellinos, Cliff Ryland, Three Sisters Chester, The Dandies, Master Clifford, "The Freaks," Russell Brandon, Allisons, Bioscope, Ethel Dorina.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Mme. Esty and Co., Harry Drew, "Crystal Gazing," Victor Travers, Two Butterflies, Torbay, Ida Kathrina, Prince Kokin, Bioscope, Spissel Bros. and Mack.

ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Raku, Ethel Ra Leslie, Petram Sisters, "Terry," Five Bogannys, Virto, Toreadors, Bioscope, Aurora Troupe, Ferris and Parnley.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
"Rob Roy," Sisters Brenton, Lopez, Paulinetti and Piquo, Johnson and Bert, William Gourlay, Tucker and Evans, Bioscope, Mme. De Dio.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Paul Conchas, Harry Lawson, Coloured Meisters, Princess Pauline, Mr. and Mrs. Lucas, Fraser and Mac, Paxton Trio, "Happy Holland," Harold Hughman, Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"The Magic Carpet," Marie Duma, Les Uniques, Bellonini, Lee and Kingston, Stein Eretto Troupe, Esta Stella, Harry Clifford, Prof. Vox, Marie Empress.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Tribune's "Bo Peep" Co., Frank Harwood, Edie Veno, Dan Conroy, Carlos Cæsaro, Kelly and Ashby, Browning and Wally, Cambrian Trio, Bioscope.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Ginnett's "Dick Turpin," Rose Archer, Lyons Trio, Chas. Mildare, Pat Rafferty, Lindon's Vaudeville Co., Ruth Doris, Godfrey James, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Madge Lessing and Co., Meymotts, Marsella's Birds, Boyd and Gilfain, Park's Eton Boys, Renard Trio, Three Olympiers, La Danseuse, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Alexandra Dagmar, Carl and Mary Ohm, Burns and Burns, Hetty Chattell, Sarnthaler Troupe, "House Full" Co., Fred Holland, Sam Elton, Bioscope, Speedwell.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
"The Devil's Sunday," Bioscope, Tom Lytton, Los Granadas, May Orchard, Sisters St. Julian, Alice Maydue, Pat Carey.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
J. F. Elliston's Pantomime, "Puss in Boots."

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"The Earthquake," Techow's Cats, Arthur Lloyd Trio, Zaafreta and Napio, Hall and Earle, Chas. Pastor, "Mick Whittinton," Bioscope, Phil and Nettie Peters, Barrington.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Carl Hertz, Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Lieut. Travis, Wartenburg Bros., Sinclair and Whiteford, My Fancy, Frank Bernard and Co., Schwartz Bros., Bioscope.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Van Biene and Co., Ike Scott and Son, Orpheus, Gladys Mavius, Newhouse and Ward, Karno Four, Peggy Pryde, Edward Arthur and Co., Bioscope, Andrew Roy.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
"The Skirmishers," Prof. Dunning, Kahn and Kahn, Verno and Voyce, The Findens, Sisters Geretti, Les Voces, Jack Camp, Punch and Judy Girls, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
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Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Frank and Jen Latona, Mascotte Trio, Hurley and Cole, Jordan and Harvey, Holden's Marionettes, Theo Hardeen, Sylvesta, Chas. Robinson, Dusty Rhodes.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Tom Costello, Frobel and Rugs, Three Ramoniers, Young and De Voie, Percy Honri, James Brady, Kitty Marion, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
La Milo, Harry Anderson, Winnie Derson, Three Guitanos, Northern Troupe, Wilson and Waring, Alexander, Fred Elton, Bros. Corcoran Bioscope.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—
Leopold Troupe, The Saphos, Matweef Troupe, Sybil St. Elmo, Carney and Armstrong, Trippello, Primrose Girls, Parker and Parr, Little Tichbourne, Bioscope.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"The Flood," J. H. Scotland, Die Schultzenlieserlyn, Avolos, Harry Russon, Alma Gray, Schenk Bros., Bioscope, Illustrated Song, Seven Perezoffs.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.
Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Corri's "Heartstrings" Co., Chas. Craston, Maggie Rimmer, Marco, Pictures, Fred Culane and Co., &c., &c.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
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THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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"A Bolt from the Blue," David Poole, Anartos, Bioscope, Sisters Grovini, George Westland, The Delevines, Clarice Netta, Carrie Joy.

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Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras (Fifteen for those engaged at the London Coliseum). Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, or at least TWO WEEKS, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagement cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

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"CHEYENNE,"
"I CAN SEE RED ROSES BLOOMING,"
"BOY BLUE,"
"COME BACK TO BORNEO,"
"IN MY PAGODA,"
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"IT IS THE SCARECROW,"
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Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

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New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follows:—

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ALHAMBRA, PARIS.
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Grand Variety Company.

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Grand Variety Company.

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"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Double encore.—EMMA DON, County Theatre, Reading.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Splendid encore.—GLADYS HUXLEY, Theatre Royal, Nottingham.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." A great success.—ROSIE SYLVESTER, Borough Theatre, Stratford.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Terrific hit here.—RENAD BROS., Grand, Hull.

"ISLE OF ANGLESEY." Very big success.—LULU LOUDEN, Theatre Royal, Exeter.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Going great here.—LILY MAXWELL, Grand, Woolwich.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Great hit; encored.—MARION MAY, Dalston Theatre.

"NELSON FROM HIS MONUMENT." The success of the Pantomime.—LILY IRIS, Prince's, Poplar.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Terrific success.—BEATTIE KENT, King's Theatre, Gateshead.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Big success.—LILIAN LEA, King's, Sunderland.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON" and "NELSON FROM HIS MONUMENT." Great success.—DAISY MORELL, Ashton-under-Lyne.

"NELSON FROM HIS MONUMENT." Terrific success.—MAUDE BEAUMONT, Manchester.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." The hit of our Pantomime.—SPRIGHTLY, Broadway, New Cross.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Taken up heartily by audience.—EMILY CUSTANCE, Metropole, Devonport.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Big success.—MAUDIE VINCENT, Grand, Mansfield.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Going fine.—ISABEL DILLON, Blackpool.

"SAILING IN MY BALLOON." Big success here.—GEORGE ESS, Empire, Oldham.

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CALLS

FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, JAN. 14, 1907.

PROVINCIAL CIRCUIT.

SPECIAL NOTICE.
Rehearsal at all Halls, Monday, at 12-0 sharp.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Chee-You-Say Family, Marion Scott, J. Hegarty, Cissie Coman, Pallister's Bioscope, Edwards and Dacre, Les Eldines, Johnny Holland's Co.

PALACE, LINCOLN.
Blanche and Diakoff, Geo. Hall, Belle Braham, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Two Kays, Rose Elliott, Fyne and Hurley, Rilley and Taylor.

GRAND, SHEFFIELD.
Diana Hope and Co., Gicardo, Dan Robans, Rose Pink, Two Sprees, Pallister's Bioscope, Donnas Trio.

PALACE, BATH.
Galetti's Monkeys, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Brilliant and Brilliant, Mignonette Kokin, Beattie Renee, Walker and May, Fred Herbert, Gondolier Glee Singers.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Lillie Soutter, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Wyndham and Waters, Letine, Cavalli, Lorrisons, Cairns and Lynch, Gus Hindell, Zerbinis.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
John Tiller's "Dick Whittington."

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Yukio Tani, Harry Vardon, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Fred Land, Dora Lyric, Wilfords, Rosine, Dick Cruikshanks and Co.

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Harwood's Juveniles, Learto, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Three Gregsons, Silly Billy Elliott, Sophie Knight, Four Maisanos.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
"La Vivandiere," Meier and Mora, Singing Mill Boys, Harry Maxam, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Francis O'Flynn, Silbon's Circus, Muir, Bartlett, and Co.

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Matinée every Monday.
The Brontes, Gladys Whitton, Sisters Selwyn, Jack Walker, "The Daybreakers," T. C. Jaques, Ethel Yorke, Bros. Henres, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

THE BRITANNIA.
Matinée Monday.
Lade Henderson, Charles Woodward, Minnie Wren, Will Driscoll, Dolly Golden, Arnold Bell and Co., Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Vi Carlyle, Leslie Bell and Co., Friscari.

FORESTERS.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Terry and Lambert, The Ettenas, The Bransbys, Horace Monto, Will Bacchus, Nellie Chandos, Tom Bass, Mlle. Haydee, Susie Marney, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Vaudeville Sketch Co.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
Carlotta De Yonson and Co., Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, Ray Royal, Bertha Winder, Les Sados, The Four Herberts, George Leonard, The Three Transfields, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, "The Gorilla's Revenge."

SURREY THEATRE.
All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band parts.
Matinée every Monday.
Arthur Croxton, Sisters Beatrice, Cissie Dryden, Edward Ranier and Co., The Cardiffs, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, The Californian Girls, Frank Gerald and Co., Dare's Minstrels, Ashby and Moore, Harry Ford.

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ALHAMBRA, SANDGATE.
Vi Raynor, Mahatma, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, The Rival Buskers, Josie Watson, Harry Royde, Madge Morley and Co.

Notice.—All artists carrying Scenery must have it Fireproof, according to L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

All Bill Matter or Notification of Appearance must be sent in 14 days prior to opening. All Artists must attend Band Rehearsal, or their Contracts may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

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CALL for Monday, Jan. 14, 1907.
7. Twice Nightly. 9.
Rehearsal, at 11 o'clock, for
Victoria Monks, J. H. Crew, Maud Marlow, Barton and Ashley, Vernon Trompe, Lilian Warren, Sisters Llewelyn, Allen and Hart, Countess Romanow.

GREENOCK PAVILION.
Rehearsal, at 2 o'clock, for
Cole and Rags, Wal. Robins, Minnie Scott, Sisters Grosvenor, C. J. Johnson, Lillian Beanns.

All bill matter must be sent to Glasgow 14 days ahead. Failing this, Artists will run the risk of having their contract cancelled. By order, SAMUEL LLOYD, General Manager.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.
NEW HIPPODROME.
CALL for Monday, Jan. 14.
Rehearsal 1 o'clock for:
Edgar Forrest and Co. in "My Friend the Enemy," Dave Wallace, Marie Tilley, Alskarno Trio, Jules Kiaro, Williams and Warden, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

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All must attend; no excuses.
Signed,
WALFORD BODIE, M.D.

CALL for Monday, Jan. 14, 1907.
TH. ROYAL, MERTHYR. Rehearsal at 1 o'clock sharp, which all artists are requested to attend:—Gertie Gitana, Fred Earle, Lloyd Phillips' Co., Henry Hilton, Time and Money Richard Finberg, Sadie Seymour, and Rowe's Bioscope.

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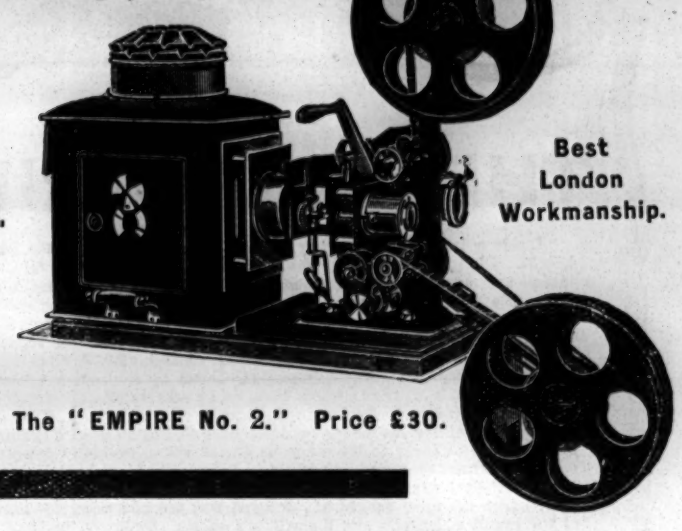

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ELLA'S, MISS, Best Existing Lion Show. Jan. 14, Grand Pavilion, Carnarvon, N. Wales.

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ELLIOTTS and SAVONAS, Musicians, Cyclists, &c. Ardwick Empire, Manchester.

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ESDALE BROS., Comedians. Big success this week. Vacant Jan. 21; next Glasgow. All letters, 28, Ayres-rd, Manchester.

EUSTACE, FRED, "Our Curate." Jan. 14, East Ham Palace.

EVILO, IDA, Novel Trapeze Act, Monday, Tivoli, Dublin. Vacant Jan. 21.

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FAWN, MISS ADA, Monday Next, Jan. 14, Tivoli, South Shields. Big Success, "Rosebud," by Will Letters, Esq.

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FERRIS and FARNLEY, Eccentric Patter Comedians. Every evening, Zoo, Hip., Glasgow. For terms, FORTUNE and GRANVILLE.

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FRASETTIS, LES, Hippodrome, Brighton.

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FRENCH, GEORGE, Baron, "Cinderella." Marlborough, Holloway; next year, Grand, Glasgow.

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GRANT and ALLEN, Pantomime. Empire Theatre, Cradley Heath.

GRAPHO and JACKSON, "Ye Ruffians." King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy.

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GREEN, MR. TOM, New Picture Productions Shortly. 106, Fairholme-road, Croydon.

GROVES, THE, for a Hearty Laugh, and another laugh to follow each succeeding laugh, see "The Lady Sculptor." K. H., Westcliff.

GROVINI, THREE SISTERS, Famous Acrobats. Monday, Empire, Coventry.

HALL, J. W., The Empire, Rochdale.

HAMPSON, CHARLIE, Grotesque Act, Dogs and Pigeons, Theatre Royal, Exeter. Agents, FORTUNE and GRANVILLE, NEIMAN.

HANVARR and ANNA LEE, "The Golfer and the Maid." Hippodrome, Lancaster.

HARRIS and WORTH, "Jack the Giant Killer," Theatre, Coatbridge.

HART and CO., Dramatic and Variety Agents. 7, Lancaster-house, Rushcroft-rd., Brixton. Tele., 116 Brixton.

HASTINGS and FIELDS, Clever Comedians and Dancers, thank Mr. Gannon for Contracts. All Coms. to 115, Hope-st., Salford.

HASTINGS, CLARA, Soubrette. Again the hit of the bill. Three songs each house. Hippodrome, Wakefield.

HAYDE, London Halls. 18, Princess May-road, Stoke Newington, N.

HAYES, LILY, Clever Young Comedienne and Dancer. This, Lancaster Hipp.; next, Oldham Hipp.; vac. Jan. 21, wire.

HENDERSON, FAMOUS, Blind Musical Genius, Saturday Harmonic Concerts, Glasgow. Jan. 14, Palace, Derby.

HENRIETTE and SELINA, the Famous Young Venetian Vocalists and Soloists. No Vacancies. All coms. c/o "Era."

HENO, PROFESSOR, Conjurer, Ventriloquist, and Punch Show, 20 minutes to 2 hours. Per. Add., 23, St. James's-st., Brighton.

HERALD COMEDY FOUR, Address, Tivoli, Grimsby. Two or Three Immediate Dates at Liberty.

HERBERT, FRED, Premier Topical Vocalist. Palace, Bath.

HILL, ROWLAND, Principal Comedian, Grand Theatre, Hull. The Success of the Pantomime Season.

HINTON and WOOTON, Theatre Royal, Oldham.

HOWARDS, THE (RALPH & NELLIE), Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Hanley.

HULBERT, Ventriloquist, and DE LIL, Illusionist. Vacant Jan. 28, on. Two Smart Acts. Mon., Hippodrome, Lancaster.

HULME, F. S., Comedian. Jan. 7, Hippo., Oldham. Jan. 14, Royal, Warrington. Comic Songs Wanted.

HUMBER, FANNIE, concludes Tivoli, Grimsby. 14th, Opera House, St. Helens.

HUNTER, G. W., Comedian and Raconteur. Jan. 14, Empire, South Shields.

HUXTER, THREE BROS., whose Phenomenal Long-distance Somersaults are a Continual Source of Wonder. P., Bordesley.

HYMACK, MR. Empire Theatre, Leicester-square, W.C. Second Month.

IRIS, LITTLE MAMIE, Dainty, Neat, and Refined. An Ideal Red Riding Hood. Usual Success. Theatre Royal, Chester.

IRIS, MISS LILY, 26, Buckingham Palace-mansions, Westminster.

IVES, SAM, the Unequalled Ball-Puncher, Touring India. Genuine Success. Vac. June 24, on. Coms., c/o Thom. Cook, Bombay.

IZONS, THE (ADA and ARTHUR), Thank A. Selwyn, Esq., for five dates. This, Royal Albert; next, Hippo., West Bromwich.

JAMES, CHAS. A., Waxworks and Varieties, 30, Henry-street, Dublin. Always openings for Novelties.

JONES, THEODORE, Touring "Jack Sheppard" and "Prodigal's Return." Wanted, Jan. 14 and 21. Wire, Queen's, Poplar.

JOSEPHINE, MISS (sister to Mdlle. Lucretia), Princess Charming, Second year with same proprietors. Opera House, Buxton.

JUDGE, SISTERS, with their marvellous performing Cockatoos, Parrots, and Macaws. Agent, RICHARD CASS.

KAY, CHARLES, "The Muddled Melody." Moss and Stoll's Richmond Theatre, Man., Mr. B. BLANCHARD, 49, Charing Cross-mans.

KEENE, BILLY, & JESSIE ADAMS, Terrific Success with the Society Pierrot Party, Touring through India. Success everywhere.

KEIR (DONALD) and KEMPTON (MABEL), Premier Vocal Duettists. This, Hippo., Lancaster; next, Hippo., Leeds.

KEITHS, THE ORIGINAL MUSICAL, (CARLINA and CHARLIE), Monday, Jan. 14, Palace, Aberdeen.

KEMBLE, BERT, the Talkative Fellow. Humour with Refinement.

KEMBLE, HENRY, Manager, Palace, Cork. Third Year.

KIARO, JULES, Champion Hand Jumper and Pyramidist, Tivoli, Dublin. Jan. 14, Hip., Burton-on-Trent. Vac. Feb. 4, Mar. 4.

KING, LEO, Character Dramatic Baritone, successfully playing Demon King Rat, Alex. T., Sheffield. A few weeks open Feb. 18, on.

KYOTO, the Original One. MAY GERALDINE. Enormous success, Gaiety, Chatham. 25, Devonshire House, Bath-terrace, S.E.

LAROLA, the Funny Man with Funny Ways. This week, Merthyr; next, Derby. Agents, BARCLAY and Co.

LASSAH, LILLIE, Principal Boy, Crystal Palace, "Aladdin."

LAURA MURIEL, Refined Comedienne, Descriptive. Big Success. Lib. Monday. 132, Prince-st., Ardwick, Manchester.

LAVELLE BROS., Quaint Comedy Acrobats, Green and Stout, Little and D'Arcy's "Red Riding Hood." 12th, O. H., Kidderminster.

LAWRENCE, LILLIE, This week, Hip., Colchester; next week, Hip., Margate. Agent, FRED NEIMAN, Esq., 108, Strand.

LAZERN, the Mystic. Ealing Hippodrome. Perm., 96, Kennington-road, S.E.

LEAMORE, TOM, Grove Lodge, Brixton-road, S.W. 'Phone, 565, Brixton.

LE FRE, ALBERT, Comedian. Grand Theatre, Leeds.

LEIGHTON, CHARLES, Entertainer at the Piano. Emphatic Success last week, Empire Theatre, Bradford. This, Grand, Bolton.

LENNER, T. W., Eccentric Comedian; also FLORRIE WRIGHT, Dainty Songstress. Want Monday next. 37, Middle-street, Leicester.

LEONARD, BERT, Trio Herculean Gymnasts. This, Hippo., Norwich; next, Agricultural Hall, London. Agent wanted.

LEONS, TWO, and MITZI, Still on Tour, Hippodrome, Spennymoor, co. Durham; also MELITA.

LEO-VILLE, Lady Conjurer, Jester. MADGE POLLARD, Serio, Sand Dancer. Success. This, Haymarket, Liverpool. Lib. Monday.

LESLIE, BROS., Jan. 14, Hanley.

LEZORS, Miniature Musical Comedy, "A Night in Japan." This, L., Liverpool; next, H., St. Helens. Coms., M. Santoi, or above.

LI-CHANG-HI, the Popular Chinese Conjurer. Usual Success, this week, Palace, Kilmarnock.

LILIAN BROTHERS, Refined Musical Speciality Gymnasts, par excellence. Jan. 14, Pavilion, Newcastle.

LILLIAN and AGOUSTE, Comedy Contortionists; and SAVARO, Bird Mimic. Lib. April 1, tenting or otherwise. 65a, Ellen-st., E.

LISTON, MERRY MARIE, Big Hit, Principal Boy, Lester Collingwood's Panto., P. T. Blackburn. Next, Salford.

LISTON, MR. HARRY, MISS LUMLEY, Comedy Sketch Couple. Songs. Open for Halls, Concerts, Piers. St. George's Hall.

LLOYD, LITTLE BABS, Big Success in Pantomime, Rotunda T., Liverpool. Monday, Grand T., Eccles. Vac. March 11. AYTOUN.

LORCH FAMILY, Risley Act, including Three Ponies, Donkey. Scala Theatre, Hague, Holland. Vac., May 6, June 3 and 17.

LORD, MURRAY, and LORD, This, Lyric, Liverpool. Return to town after 30 weeks run in Provinces, Royal Albert.

LOUBERTS, FOUR, in their Great Comedy Act. Big Hit in "Aladdin" Pantomime. Lib. Feb. 4 and 11. County T., Bedford.

LOVELACES, THE, American Song-Illustrators. Usual Success, Argyle, Birkenhead. Monday, Hippodrome, Oldham.

LUIGO'S SERENADAS, Singers and Dancers. This, Hippo., Ashton; next, Palace, Oldbury. Manager, EDGAR HARPER.

LYNCH, AGNESE and ARTHUR, in American Picture Songs. This, Aberdeen; next, Palace, Dundee.

LYNDO, FRED E., the New Burlesque Comedian, Ibrahim, and Stage-Manager, L. Collingwood's "Blue Beard" Co. "The Era."

LYNDON, BEATTIE, Big Success as Princess Rosa, J. D. Hunter's Panto., O. H., Tunbridge Wells. Scoring with "Snowflakes."

LYTTON, BERT, the Swell Comique. Great Success, this week, Grand, Halifax; next week, Albert Hall, Southport.

MACS, THE NEW, the Conversational Jesters. No. 1 Rag Time Dancers. Jan. 14, King's T., Hammersmith, W.

MALONE, MOLLIE, The Irish Gem. Great success of New Irish Song.

MARCONIS, THE GREAT, Electric Wonders, Houses Packed to Overflowing this week at Porth. Next week, Hippo., Ealing.

MARLO, the Clever Young Juggler. Jan. 14, Hippodrome, Huddersfield.

MARTINETTES, THREE, Comedians. Great Success, Palace, Leigh. Sail for America June. Vac. Mon. Wire, 27, Sidney-st., Man.

MARTINI, MISS GERTRUDE, and ENA CHATBURN thank Messrs. Cullen and Carthy for full salary Christmas week. Stockton.

MASTON, Master Mimic. Great Success, This, Lyric, Liverpool; Next, Warrington. Fast booking up for 1907. VERNO, Liverpool.

MAXWELL and FRANCES TOM and (his Daughter) VIRGINIA. Jan. 14, Alhambra, Brighton.

MAY, ALICE, "Tranquillity," Jan. 7, Holloway; 14th, New Cross Empire.

MAY, MR. HENRY W., Musical-Director, Empire, Shepherd's Bush. All kinds of music composed and orchestrated.

MAYE, PEROY, Return, Regent, Salford. See Back Page.

MAYNALL, ALF, Jan. 7, Prince's Theatre, Preston. Jan. 14, Artillery Theatre, Woolwich.

MAYNE, VERA, Terrific Success, Oxford, Middlesbrough. Communications, Jan. 7, Empire, Hull.

MAYS, THE (JAMES and MAUD), Comedy Artists. "Jack and the Beanstalk." Grand Theatre, Nottingham. Vacant Feb. 4.

McASKELL, Monday, Gaiety, Glasgow. Aberdeen, Dundee, Sunderland, Scarborough, Plymouth, Bristol, Porth, Gloucester, to follow.

McNEIL, SHEILA, Scotch Comedienne, Alhambra, Edinbro'. Monday, Empire, Paisley; vacant 21st.

MERSANO, the Mysterious Sailor. Palace, Bristol.

M'FALL, JOHN E., Gardeners' Arms, 10, Market-st., and 5, Manse-lane, Greenock, opposite Empire Theatre. "The Era," &c., kept.

MILES, BERT, F.O.S., Advance Agent and Representative, Dahomey Warriors.

MILES-STAVORDALE QUINTETTE (the Original Act). South Africa. Address, ANGER and BAUER, 50, Rupert street, W.

MILLAR, PROFESSOR, Manager and Entertainer. Care of "The Era."

MILSTED, EMMIE, and JOE BELL, Principal Girl. Comedian. Jan. 14, Hippodrome, Stoke.

MILTON'S MARIONETTES, On Tour. Coms., "The Era" Office, London.

MOHAMED BEN MOHAMED, Troupe of Sousa Arabs. Flora, Altona, Hamburg.

MONTAGUE, LEO, still creating mirth with the Gardner-Brown Vaudeville Co. on their 3rd visit to Jubblepore, India.

MOONEY, MARK, Loonie Comedian, Thanks Miss Camille Clifford for kind wishes. Address, 19, Airedale-square, Bradford.

MORELL, MISS DAISY, An ideal principal boy.—Vide Weekly Press. "Dick Whittington," Grand Theatre, Chorley.

MORRIS, J. C., a Genuine Laughing Success as Widow Twankey, "Aladdin" Co. Jan. 14, Theatre Royal, Rotherham.

MORTIMER, the Humorous Cartoonist and Novelty Society Entertainer. Vac., 21st on. 32, Broadway, Wimbledon, S.W.

MOXONS, THREE, Eccentric Acrobatic Comedians. Usual success. This, H., Wigan; next, H. Bury, "What, again?"

MOZZETTO, The Famous Juggler, Jan. 14, Grand, Manchester.

MUIR and BARTLETT'S CO.'S. "Wanted, a Wife," H., Brighton; "Collar Stud," P., Southampton. 131, Camberwell New-rd.

MULVEY and MIRIAM, Panto., T. R., Hull. EDELSTEN and PARKER'S Agency.

MUNROE, MR. WALTER, Jan. 14, Standard. "I'm coming back to Dublin," F., D., and H.

MYERS, ERNIE, and LILY LONSDALE. Palace, Manchester.

NEIMAN'S, FRED, Ventriloquial Minstrels. London Hall nightly.

NELL, FOUR SISTERS NELLY, "The Vision of Terpsichore. Perm. address, C/o V. Golden, 12, Little Newport-street, W.C.

NELSON and THOMAS, "On the Ra-Ta," &c. Vacant Jan. 21. Palace, Attercliffe.

NEWHAM and LATIMAR, Dame and Baron, Opera House, Torquay. Perfection. Wonderful. Alone worth a visit.

NOBLE and VENO, the Consistent Two. Mon., Hippo., Stockton; then Sunderland, Shields, Dundee, Aberdeen. ROSEN and BLISS.

NORA, NELLIE, Dainty Instrumental Act. Vac. Jan. 28, through Stalybridge changing. This, Hip., Dewsbury; next, Hip., Wakefield.

OBO BROS., A Laughing Success as Ugly Sisters, Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham.

O'CONNOR and BRADY Permanent, 83, The Crescent, South Tottenham, London.

O'FLYNN, FRANCIS, the Celebrated Banjoist and Composer. This week, Palace, Bath; next week, Palace, Southampton.

O'MALLEY and BROWN, Alexander and Mayor in "Mother Goose." Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool.

ONDA and LEON, Conversational Gymnasts. Jan. 14, Theatre Royal, Chesterfield.

ONDA BROS., and WILL ONDA and COMPANY, Pantomime, Crystal Palace.

ORCHIDS, THE ORIGINAL (VIOLET and HARRY), Vocal Comedy Duo. Full for present. Mon., Westminster M. H., L'pool. VERNO.

OSBORNE, CHARLIE, The "Extra Special" Author and Entertainer, 54, Fortess-road, London, N.W.

PACKER, TOM, Seventy-five inches of Clean Comedy. Big success, panto., Gaiety, Dundee.

PALETTE, the Lightning Sketch Artist and dog Max. This, Institute, Keighley; next, Victoria Theatre, Stanley, Durham.

PALMERS, THE MUSICAL, Monday next, Palace, Camberwell, London. MISS DAISY PALMER, as Drummer, Dancer, &c.

PARKER, MYSTERIOUS, thanks J. T. Scott, Esq., for five months' tour, box of cigars, and four months' contract.

PARLATO, Facialist and Impersonator, Mechanics' Hall, Scarborough.

PAULETTI, the Cycling Acrobat. Big Success, Cat and Speciality, Lyceum, Stafford; next, O. H., Buxton.

PAYNE'S, WALTER, Biophotoscopes. Films for Hire, Films for Sale. 346, Brixton-road, London.

PEARSON'S, GEORGE, AGENCY, Manager, Mr. George Pearson, 6, Dunstan-road, Honor Oak, S.E.

PHILLIPS and TERRY, "The Revolt of Man." Hippodrome, Southampton.

PICKARD, A. E., American Museum, Glasgow. Britannia Panopticon, Glasgow.

PIRMANS, THE THREE, Novelty Pantomimic Gymnasts. H., St. Helens. Mon., H., Accrington. No Vacs. until 1908.

POOLE, LOTTIE, and FRANK WEIR, LOTTIE, Alice, in "Dick"; FRANK, Wishee Washee, Crystal Palace. Both Successful.

POOLE, SISTERS. Derby Express: Handsome Fizzali and pretty and admirable Zorilda. "Forty Thieves." Jan. 14, Hippo., Stoke.

PRIMAVESI, Unique Juggler. Monday, Hippodrome, Hulme, Manchester.

PRINELLAS, THE, in Rustic Scena Just added, Porkie, the Dancing Pig. Hippo., Wakefield; next, Hippo., Stalybridge.

RAE, GEO., Scotch Comedian and Dancer. Big success this, Hip., Ashton. Jan. 14, Gaiety, Glasgow. Open to buy good songs.

RAGLAN, WILL, and KITTIE SHERRELL, Smart Comedy Couple. "Red Riding Hood." T.R., Colchester; next, L., Bromley.

RALLIS, LES, "The Artist and His Monkey." Vacant Jan. 14 and 21. Com., 25, Horsedge-street, Oldham.

RAPER, GEO., King Krustymug, in "Sinbad." This, T. R., Glossop; next, T. R., Grantham.

RAPLEY, GEO., Atkins, Little and Darcy's "Crusoe." Theatre Royal, Aston.

RAPPO and ELLA, the World's Great Equilibrists. Monday next, City, Leeds. All coms. FRED NEIMAN and Co., 108, Strand.

RAY, HARRY, and LILLIE CALDEN, the talk of Oldham. Will Atkins and Dusky Princess. Jan. 14, Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

REDMOND, BROS., Willie Green and Johnny Stout, Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee. Originators of "Willie, Come Here."

REED and LERNE, the Novel Comedians, Terrific Success, as the Ruffians, T. R., Shrewsbury; Jan. 13, Avenue T., Kettering.

REED, MR. LESLIE, V.A.F., Cremorne Tavern, Havelock-road, Gt. Yarmouth. Good Apartments. Terms Moderate.

REES, PHIL, Double-voiced Vocalist and Impersonator of Coloured Stars. Pal., Dundee. Next week, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

REGAN and RYAN, A Success in a Success. Court Theatre, Liverpool.

RESDAN, MISS RITA, London's Dainty and Gifted Male Impersonator. Receptions on return, Hip., Coventry. G. BARCLAY.

RESZKI and RASZKI, Gymnastic Grotesques. At Lib. Jan. 14 and 21. All Coms., 6, Beech-grove, Dewsbury.

REZENE and ROBINI, Comic Gymnasts. Liberty Monday, also Jan. 21 and 28. 1 Fulford-mans., Fairmead-rd., Holloway, N.

RICH and RICH, Mother Goose and Jack. Theatre Royal, Bolton.

RICHARDS, ENA, Canadian Comedienne and Dancer. Great Success this week, Ton-y-Pandy; next, Northampton.

RIOGOKU FAMILY, THE, Manager, Y. Hamamura, Apollo Theatre, Vienna.

ROBY, ELSIE, Palace Theatre, Belfast. Pantomime Season.

ROWLEY, J. W., Empire, South Shields. Address, 22, George-street; also for MISS ELLA DEAN.

ROYAL WELSH MEISTERSINGERS. Tremendous Success, Panto., Theatre Royal, Leicester. Manager, Herbert Jones.

ROYAL WELSH SINGERS (Ten Gentlemen), specially engaged. Milton Bode's panto. New T., Cardiff. Manager, EDWARD HEATH.

ROZEL, Le Roi de l'Air, Palace, Attercliffe.

RUBYS, THE THREE, Pretty and Effective Pot-pourri Act, None Like it. Always successful. P.O.W., Salford.

RUSSELL, BAY, Dandini, "Cinderella," King's, Edinburgh. Disengaged Spring.

SABINO, Man of Many Instruments, Concludes To-night Alhambra, Edinburgh Mon., Gaiety, Glasgow. At Liberty Jan. 21.

SALMON, W., Trick and Musical Cyclist. Vacant Jan. 14, and 21. Wire, Albany-terrace, Burnley.

SANDY and CARL, Jimmy and Billie, "Crusoe," T. R., Smethwick; next, T. R., Aston. How they laugh.

SANFORD and LYONS, Comedians and Simultaneous Dancers. "We're very much obliged." Grand Theatre, Leeds. TOM SHAW.

SANTOI. MARIE, and CO., the Renowned Japanese, Going Bigger every Day. Next, Camberwell, and Walham Green. D. HART.

SAUNDERS, HARRY, Caterer Select Military Concerts, 1st Army Corps, Aldershot. Happy New Year to "Xmas Burglars."

SCOREYS, THE FOUR, on Panto. Tour. Address, 33, Wilton-street, Southampton.

SCOTT, MISS MAIDIE, Dick, Avenue, Sunderland.

SCOTT, MISS WINNIE, Enormous success, Palace, Kilmarnock. Jan. 14, Pavilion, Greenock.

SEABORNES, Equilibristic Wonders. On Tour. Jan. 14, Pal., Gloucester. Re Fêtes and Galas., communicate to WILDER BROS.

SELBYS, THE, the New Firm, the Solid Firm, Firm as a Rock, in fact, "On a Rock." Next Address, Gwyn Hall, Neath.

SHAMROCK TRIO, THE, This, Metropole, Hoyland; next, Theatre R., Lincoln. BEATTIE SHAMROCK, Cinderella.

SHIELDS, JIMMY, ANNIE SHIELDS, and SIX YOUNG SHIELDS, Empire, South Shields.

SHIPLEY, SAM, Always a Success. Monday, Empire, Belfast; then Dublin and Cork. BEATRICE WORTH, mending.

SILCOTT, THREE SISTERS, Pantomime, Theatre, Seaham Harbour.

SILVO, MUSICAL, Jan. 14, Hippodrome, Putney.

SIVANES, THE (BILLY and POLLIE), "Cinderella" panto, Grand, Brighton. Billy Sivane, terrific hit as Phantom Broker's Man.

SKENE, BELLA, Huge Success Nightly. Hippodrome, Mansfield, Notts.

SLIGO, FOUR SISTERS, Irish Instrumental and Vocal Speciality. This, Palace, Gloucester; Next, G. Pav., Carnarvon, N. Wales.

SMALLEYS, THE, Finish to-night, Alhambra, Edinburgh. Mon. next, Victoria Theatre, Stanley, co. Durham.

SMARTE BROS., Novel Acrobatic Eccentrics. Big Success, Animal Parts, "Mother Goose" Panto., T. R., Bolton. No Vac.

SMITH and JOHNSON, Success, Hippo., Bury. Jan. 14, Hippo., Preston. Sole Agent, R. CASS.

SMYTHSONS, THE, "Love Germs," fully protected. Hippo., Dewsbury; next, Oxford, Middlesbrough.

SNOW and FARRON, King and Princess, West London Theatre. Second year with, and complimented by, George Bryden Phillips, Esq.

SOLO, FRED (Solo and Mayo), "Dick Whittington" Panto., T. R., Nottingham. Third Season, with Robert Arthur, Esq.

SPARKS, THE TWO, Speciality Duettists, Panto., Grand Theatre, Falkirk; Next Week, T. R., Coatbridge.

SPENCER BROTHERS, LTD., Aeronauts, 45s, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N. Telegraphic Add., "Aeronaut, London."

STACEY, ARTHUR, the Original Eccentric Comedian and Dancer. Jan. 21, Gaiety, Chatham (Return).

STANERT and YONDI, This, T. R., Wednesbury. Jan. 14, Opera House, Blackpool.

STANLEY'S URCHINS, Specially engaged for "Beauty and the Beast." This, P.O.W. T., Mexboro'. Theatre, Brighouse.

STAR, JESSIE, the Only Female Harry Lauder. Enormous Success this week, Gaiety, Glasgow. Jan. 14, Broadhead's.

STAVORDALE QUINTETTE, THE. the Original and Only Act of its Kind. Jan. 14, Empire, Portsmouth.

ST. CLAIR, BROTHERS, Comedy Cyclists and Football Players. Monday, Palace, Cork.

STEBBINGS, EDGAR, Variety Agent, 23, Egerton-street, Hulme, Manchester. 'Phone, 09261. Wires, "Stebbing, Manchester."

STEINWAY QUARTETTE, Permanant, 19, Kennington Park-road, S.E. Jan. 21, Palace, Plymouth. Vacant Feb. 4.

STEWART, LILY, Dainty Comedienne and Dancer. Big success Principal Girl, Lyceum, Pentre. Next, T. R., Pontypridd.

ST. JOHNS, THE TWO, Enormously Successful Musical Act, Lib. Monday, also Jan. 21. 21, Granby-street, Liverpool.

STRATTON, SISTERS, This week, Hippodrome, Margate. Next week, London. RICHARD CASS.

S.T.'S, THE, the Only Female Comedy Barrel Act, and LA BELLE ROSIE, Dainty Serio, on Tour.

STUART QUARTETTE, Lady Vocalists and Dancers, Panto., Gaiety, Dundee.

STYLO, Wonderful Juggling Effects with Hoops. Address, Jan. 14, 30, Dock-street, Leith.

SWAN, BERT, and MARIE VESTA, "In Nelson's Days." Touring in India.

SYLVESTO, MDLLE., Contortionist. Liberty Monday, Jan. 14. Agents, DE VERE, TOM SHAW. Wire, 206, Lambeth-road, S.E.

TAFT, HARRY, Jan. 7, Palace, Sunderland. Jan. 14, Empire, Dundee.

TALLY HO! TRIO, Erne Chester, W. Doust, Eric Farr. Broadway Theatre, Deptford, S.E.

TAMAMOTO, C., the Japanese Blondin. Next, People's Palace, Portsmouth. Liberty, Jan. 28.

TAYLOR, E. FRANK, Original Comedian, Coms., 50, Elizabeth-st., West Gorton, Manchester.

TEMPLES, THREE ROYAL, including Louie Gilbert. Resting by doctor's orders. Resume business, Jan. 21.

THORNTON, NANCY, Next, Hip., Queen's Park. Thanks Cullen-Carthy for bouquet, also offer for next year.

TISO, LILY, Jan. 14, Empire, Middlesbrough. Agents, SOMERS and WARNER.

TRANSFIELDS, THREE, Lady Instrumentalists. London, Nightly. Agents, DE VERE and SLEY.

TRENT, MISS CISSY, The original "Dainty Dancing Doll." On tour. Coms., 4, Kelso-place, Kensington, W.

TWIBELL, ADA, Big Success as Boy Blue in "Little Red Riding Hood." Opera H., Kidderminster. Offers invited 1907-8.

VALDOS, LES, Pantomime, Sheffield Theatre Royal. Fourth year with John Hart, Esq.

VALVO, The Military Ventriloquist. Hippo., Hulme, Manchester.

VAN BERN, CHRIS, Comedian, Grab, the Sheriff, Tivoli, London, 9.30. No Vacant Dates.

VANDYKE'S, CHARLES, "Sensations" and "Nicodemus." Jan. 14, Palace, Northampton.

VERNO'S, JESS, AGENCY, 16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, Merriment. 'Phone, 2076 Royal.

VINCENT, Acrobatic Table Expert. Jan. 14, Albert Hall, Southport.

VIOLI, Lady Instrumentalist. Public Hall, Risca.

VOLBECQUE, SISTERS, Still a Success. Thank Cullen and Carthy for full salary Xmas week. Hip., Queen's Pk., Manchester.

WALKER and MAY, Coloured Duo; WALKER, only Blind Comedian and Dancer. 69, Mostyn-rd., Brixton, S.W.

WALKER, JOHNNY, Comedian of Good Spirits. This, Hippodrome, Hull; next, Hippodrome, Scarboro'.

WALKER, MARIE, the cleverest woman trombone player in the world.—Encore. T. R., Shrewsbury; next, Kettering.

WALKER'S COMEDY NIPPERS; REKLAW, Globe Speciality. Success this, Theatre Royal, Castleford; next, T. R., Barnsley.

WALTON and LESTER, The World's Worst Wizards. 59, Oakmead-road, Balham, London.

WAMBAS, THE; LA BELLE LILY and ALBERT, Gymnasts, Comedy Musicians. Vac. 21st. P., Porth; next, Pav., Carnarvon.

WARNER, FLO, Great Success, Principal Boy, Grand T., Derby; next, Hip., Stoke, with F. Granville, "Forty Thieves."

WATSON, D. W., the Triple-tongueing Cornetist and Coach Horn Artist. Monday next, Empire Palace, Belfast.

WATSONS, FAMOUS, New Business, Songs, and Novelties. Enormous Success, London, nightly. Address, 21, Oval-mansions, S.E.

WEBB, BROS., the Musical Clowns. Moss and Stoll Tour.

WEDBURN, MRS. JAMES (The Wedburns), née Amy Carina. Perm., 65, Elsenham-road, Southfields, S.W.

WELDON, HARRY, Fourth week. Fred Karno's Football Match, Palace, Manchester. Agent, TOM SHAW, Esq.

WESTON, MISS MARIE, fast booking 1907-1908. Coms. to perm. add., 92, Mersey-road, Walthamstow, London.

WHITELEY, FRANK, Comedian. Great Success, Hippodrome, Bury. Monday next, Jan. 14, Palace, Cork.

WILDER BROTHERS, Pyrotechnic Artists, Gala and Fête Agents, 29, Great Francis-street, Birmingham.

WILKINSON'S, MATT, Laughter-Makers, and VIOLET BEATRICE Boy Impersonator. Regent, Salford. (4th visit.)

WILLIAMS and WARDEN, Conclude Theatre Royal, Oldham. Monday, Hippodrome, Burton-on-Trent.

WILSON, J. A., and Private Towser. Theatre Royal, Oldham. Sole Agent, TOM SHAW, London.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.

"The Era" Annual, 1906, is welcome as containing carefully compiled lists of the pieces produced during the past year in London, the suburbs, and the provinces, in Paris, and in Berlin. The rest of it is curious and entertaining reading. There is the almanack with its "memorabilia of theatrical events occurrences, &c." There are besides a score of stories and other articles contributed by theatricals a very good one being Miss Louie Freear's set of verses, "Boy Bob' at Sea," which has humour, feeling, and swing. The book contains many theatrical portraits. As a book of reference the Annual is of great use and value, and while some of its contents doubtless appeal more keenly to the professional than to the outsider, any thoughtful person may derive from its study much amusement and no little insight into the conditions, the magnitude, and the complexity of the English theatre of to-day.—Morning Post, Jan. 22.

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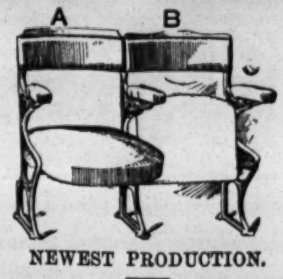

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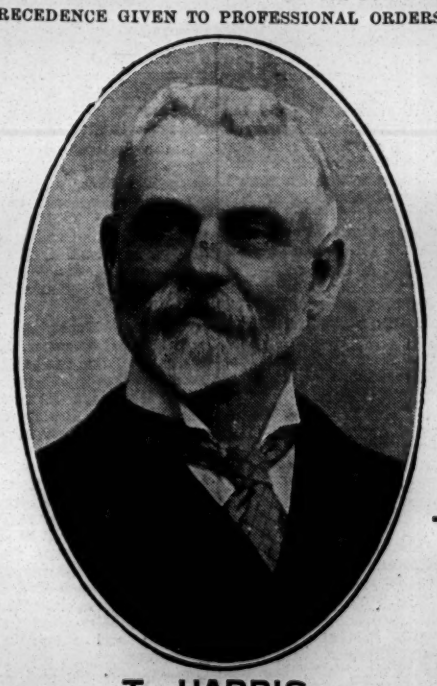

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UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL.

Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, S.W. Nov. 23, 1906.

Dear Mr. Harris,—You have made a splendid success of my satin gown. It looks lovely, and I am delighted with it. Many thanks. Enclosed please find cheque in settlement of account herewith. Faithfully yours, ADA BLANCHE.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. L. Andrews.—Mr. W. Maclaren's company is paying a welcome return visit this week in *Proof*. Mr. Gerald Kennedy make a fine, manly Pierre Lorance; Mr. W. J. Butler plays with exceptional power as Lazare; Mr. Welford Bailey is a thorough success as Chamboran; Mr. G. Ridgway Thorne makes the most of his part of Victor; and the same may be said of Mr. Carl Beechy as the Duke d'Aubeterre. Miss May Grimshaw appears to advantage as Valentine; Miss Beatrice Shirley is excellent as Adrienne; Miss Phena Powell is a capable Mme. Dupret; and Miss Avory as the Duchess d'Aubeterre is worthy of special mention. The minor characters are in good hands, and the scenery and mounting leave nothing to be desired.

ABERDEEN.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—The play this week is *What the Butler Saw*, a piece which is thoroughly appreciated. Mr. Lionel Rignold is exceptionally amusing as the Butler; Miss Ada Blanche gives a delightful impersonation of Mrs. Barrington; Mr. Charles Fawcett makes an enjoyable Jack Barrington; and Messrs. Alec Alves, George Ascott, Harry Rignold, and Roy Byford all play effectively in the parts of Sir Charles Foden, General Dunlop, Abraham Wehnstein, and Professor Shale. The other characters are most capably represented.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Messrs. Doody and Wright, the Australian comedians, are warmly applauded; a sprightly sketch, *The Banana Queen*, is cleverly played by Miss Amy Anderson and company; and Mr. Ernest Montefiore and his company appear with success in a dramatic and musical sketch, *The Little Colonel*. Attilla Brothers give a striking display of their feats of strength; and among other artists whose turns are appreciated are Rogers and Weston; Mr. Harry Cotton, a clever comedian; Miss Mabel Hyson, a graceful dancer; Mr. Fred Villars, an accomplished vocalist; and the Musical Keiths, who are instrumentalists of exceptional skill.

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessees, Carlton and Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. W. Ventom.—Miss Elaine Verner's company occupies the theatre this week in *Saints and Sinners*. Mr. Harding Thomas, a gifted actor, proves an excellent Jacob Fletcher, playing with both power and pathos; Mr. Edgar Kent also makes a conspicuous success as Capt. Fanshaw; a fine performance is that of Mr. John J. Hooker as Samuel Hoggard, who, with Mr. Guy Dene as Prabble, provides the humorous element; Mr. Edward Kent as George Kingsmill deserves credit; Miss Ada Clarke makes a good Lydia; and a very touching and natural exposition of Letty Fletcher is given by Miss Elaine Verner, who deserves the highest credit for her fine performance. *The Middleman* was to be presented on Thursday.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—On Monday Mr. Andrew Melvill's company opened here in *Driven from Home*. Mr. Felix Pitt did well as Anthony Ralbrook; Mr. Leonard Aardale deserves special praise for his reading of Willie; Mr. John Brook gave a painstaking performance of Dick Saunders; Mr. Fred Sandy must be complimented on his portrayal of Geoffrey Waring; Mr. Fred C. Imbert was responsible for much fun as John Anderson; Mr. C. Lingham was good as David Wilson; and Miss Beatrice Western proved herself an artist in the dual rôles of Laura and Walter; Miss Enid Wilde being bright and chic as Margaret Bailey; Barbara Ashdown was carefully rendered by Miss Lizzie Ingles.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Parsons.—The top of the bill here is the Dreadnoughts, in a wonderful exhibition of rifle-shooting; Barney Armstrong provides an amusing turn; Helen Martin sings successfully some excellent numbers; the Three Pirmans are clever and funny; Drum and Major are duly appreciated; the Carlyles gave an interesting performance; Lena Brunton is very good; and the Bio. pictures are very amusing.

ALDERSHOT.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—The popularity of the drama *Man to Man* seems to increase with age. The piece is capably acted and effectively staged, and the acquisition to the cast of so skilful an actor as Mr. Frank E. Petley in the leading rôle of George Gordon greatly adds to the success. Miss Gertrude Price touches the sympathies of the audience with her clever conception of the persecuted Ethel; Mr. Raymond Thomas plays the villain with coolness and resource; and Mr. Geo. E. Clive is successful as the mad parson. Mr. Frank Hill is capital as Convict Bill, his prison-life vernacular and make-up causing much fun. Miss E. Stalman and Mr. C. Gaskell do well as Lavinia Dove and Plumtree respectively; and Misses Ada Travers, L. Hartell, and Emmie Litchfield, and Messrs. A. Moore, D. Osborne, and C. Linney also help materially.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—We are having a week of comedy in place of pantomime, a revisit being paid by *Are You a Mason?* of which Mr. Charles Macdona's company gives a finished interpretation. Mr. E. H. Paterson is a humorous Amos Bloodgood, whose son-in-law is undertaken with ability by Mr. Howard L. Tracey; Mr. Ernest Cossart is amusing as George Fisher; and Messrs. Buchanan Wake, George R. J. Austin, Victor Kerr, and C. W. Hamond are also very effective. Miss Adelaide Grace sustains the part of Mrs. Caroline Bloodgood with a good deal of piquancy; Miss Margaret Fareleigh as Eva acts with refinement and delicacy; and Miss Babs Stuart and Miss Madge Merrique are agreeable as Annie and Lulu. The play is preceded by *A Bad Penny*.

THE EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—The leading item in this week's programme is another "star turn" by the Brothers Luck. Their pantomime sketch this time is called *The Hotel Grande*, by Chris. Davis. Among the individual turns, Victor Courtney sings the "Boot's Lament"; a refined vocal comedian is Harry Tomlinson; and a diverting Scottish comedienne is found in Miss Jessie Star; Wright, Ismay, and Wright, who give a taste of their quality in a dancing act; Mr. "E" as a patterer is excellent; Max Duffek, a musical contortionist, performs on seven different instruments; the Evalos as jugglers are clever and humorous; Ragius as a lawn-tennis ball manipulator is smart; and pictures of Santa Claus conclude.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Cris W. Wordsworth.—Picture entertainment is again the attraction here, the services of Mr. Baker E Belphor, the well-known concert vocalist, being retained.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—A strong programme here is headed by the Five Abadaroffs, in a clever comedy acrobatic performance. Other interesting items are:—Miss Maudie Ford, speciality sand-dancer; Raynor and Reece, vocalists and dancers; Mr. W. Permane with his highly-trained bears; Mr. Clayton's up-to-date pictures; Nelson and Thomas, in laughable absurdities; Mr. Arthur Goodman, "tramp juggler," with original methods; and Mr. Charles Sloman, comedian.

BARNSLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—Mr. Geo. Testo Sante is paying a return visit here with *The Life of a Showman*. The play centres round Mr. Sante, whose clever impersonation of Brian Leader, a circus acrobat, evokes much applause. He is ably supported.

PUBLIC HALL.—Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Hoey.—Mr. Jasper Redfern's company here this week includes the Royal Tokio Troupe in a clever speciality act. Prince Fee Lung is an entertaining illusionist; Violet Leslie a pleasing soprano vocalist; and Maud Strathmore a successful comedienne. The Two Jollions are good society entertainers, and animated pictures are also an attraction.

BARNSTAPLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Bridge Trustees; Manager, Mr. Harry Ashton.—Mr. Edward Marris's company, in *The Girl from Kay's*, gave two performances here this week. In the title-rôle, Miss Harriet Fawn appeared to great advantage; Miss Marie Greenhouse, as Nora Chalmers, was sympathetic in the part; Miss Lillian Rignold gave a clever version of Nora's maid; Miss Lena Laton undertook the arduous rôle of Mrs. Chalmers with good effect; Mr. James Salter did well as Hoggenheimer; Percy Fitzgerald was admirably delineated by Mr. Walter Nugent; very clever, too, was Mr. Louis Edmonde's portrayal of the Hall Porter, being admirably backed up by Mr. J. R. Tyrell as Pepper, the ubiquitous waiter. Messrs. Stanley Ravenscroft, Edward Christopher, Edwin Forde, and Bertie Strathmore capably sustained their respective parts. An especially interesting turn was that of the Pierrot Trio.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Charles Chard's pantomime *Goody Two Shoes* is here. The heroine is Miss Annie Casey, who acts easily and naturally; and the hero, Roland, is played vivaciously by Miss Adeline Yohle, who also sings quite artistically. The Simple Simon of Mr. James Topping, the Phil and Tom of Messrs. Sword and Borb, the Dame Freckles of Mr. Sydney Dean all reach an amusing level of comedy; and the bad Baron is broadly drawn by Mr. W. Cyrus. The Sammy Sopps of Mr. James Kurry reaches a high level of humorous, original caricature.

HIS MAJESTY'S.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in *My Sweetheart* is here. Miss Minnie Palmer as the heroine is of course the great attraction; Mr. Robert H. Howard is a pleasing Tony; and Mr. Russell as Mr. Hatzall and Mr. Alfred Ibberson as Dudley Harcourt prove pleasing comedians. Miss Millie Silvestre is a clever Mrs. Fleeter; and Mr. Fred W. Leonard as Joe Shotwell causes much fun. Miss Elsie Forster's Peek-a-boo is admirable, Mr. Leslie Tyler a good Harold Bartlett, and Mr. Alfred May gives a neat character-study of Farmer Hatzell.

TIVOLI THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting.—The Colonial Comedy Four give a very entertaining scena, *The Tramp's Intrusion;* and the Pasquali Brothers prove exceedingly clever hand balancers and equilibrists. Natalia and Diana prove pleasing aerial gymnasts; Astin and Cowan are smart vocal entertainers; Walter Emerson is a good comedian; and Marie Gibson a pleasing vocalist.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—*Sinbad* concludes its month's run to-night. Congratulations are due to Mr. Peter Davey, the producer, for having given the Bath public so refined and high-class a pantomime. Three gentlemen who deserve recognition for their efforts are Mr. Harry Turner, jun., stage-manager; Mr. W. F. C. Schottler, musical-director; and Mr. George Mallett, the general-manager. For the last week a special attraction has been the comedy juggler Kado, who, coming direct from a Continental engagement, scores a gratifying success.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schubert.—Mr. Macnaghten, who was himself present on Monday, as usual is giving his patrons full value for its (admission) money this week. Galetti's monkey comedians are a novel animal act that causes much amusement; the nom-de-plume of Brilliant and Brilliant aptly describes the xylophone playing of these clever musical ladies; the singing of the Gondolier Quartette secures applause; Mignonette Kokin wins a big success in her Dutch girl impersonation; Fred Herbert, the topical vocalist, makes a hit; and return visits are being paid by Walker and May, and Beattie Renee in her dialect interlude with dance. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are as interesting as ever.

BATLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Whitty.—A laughable farcical absurdity, entitled *Lucky Liza*, is causing great hilarity here. Mr. Dickie Clare impersonates three characters with great success; Mr. Syd Hind in a dude part is smart and capable; Messrs. T. W. Benson and A. W. Thomas as two irascible old gentlemen are thoroughly acceptable; and Mr. Bert Collins is decidedly funny. Miss Madge Brownie is a smart comedienne; Miss Vesta Brownie does well in a smaller part; and Miss Bella Russell plays the sour, old Mrs. Pettitoe very well. The Sisters Mascott introduce some graceful dances, and the Scotch dances by Miss Queenie Bell are cleverly executed.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Miss Frances Delaval and company opened here on Monday with the new drama, *Her Lost Self*. Miss Frances Delaval furnished a clever impersonation of Philipine Marcel; Mr. G. Osmond Tearle must be commended for his capital assumption of the villain, Norman Esmond; and Mr. Cecil Grey was quite equal to the requirements of the rôle of Wilfred Daventry, his acting being all that could possibly be desired. Mr. Matty Practice furnished a humorous impersonation of Tom Flyaway, and was ably assisted by Miss Molly Monagan as Bridget Mahone, who succeeded in creating much merriment. Miss Min Johnson was a charming Dorothy Daventry, and Miss Clare Sullivan impersonated Lucille and Dorothy (mother and daughter) capably. Other rôles were impersonated by Mrs. Edmund Lyons and Messrs. Leslie York, Fred Lillywhite, L. W. Halfpenny, Fred Taylor, W. Seven, etc. During Acts II. and III. specialities were introduced by Tiny Carrie Johnson, which were quite a feature.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Warden, Limited; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—Notwithstanding the success of the Christmas pantomime, *Mother Goose*, Mr. Fred W. Warden is reluctantly compelled to announce its withdrawal to-night. Benefits are the order of the day. Miss May Moore Duprez (Gretchen) appealed on Wednesday night to her numerous admirers, and richly deserved the bumper benefit accorded her; on Thursday night Mr. Martin Adeson was the recipient of a splendid benefit; on Friday night Miss Carlotte Levy (Colin) drew an enormous house on the occasion of her benefit, when extra attractions were provided.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Mr. Fred Karno's company again tops the bill, and provides plenty of amusement with the humorous comedy extravaganza, *Saturday to Monday*. The Macarte Sisters appear to much advantage in their unique act; and a hit has been

made by Leons, Conway, and Leland, aptly described as the Merry Monopedes. Mr. D. W. Watson plays the cornet skilfully, and also appearing are Mr. Sam Shipley, a droll comedian, and Miss Kathleen Radford, vocalist and dancer.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Alhambra Dramatic Company is appearing here this week in the drama *The Guiding Star* with undoubted success. Miss Nina Blake-Adams gains the utmost admiration for her skilful impersonation of the dual rôles of Madge Goodwin and Gladys Goodwin; and much praise is due to that clever actor Mr. Horace Denton for his assumption of Jack Hilton. It would indeed be difficult to excel Mr. Percy M. Stevenson's impersonation of Harold Hager; and Miss Nora Tremayne furnishes a fine piece of character acting in her impersonation of Mother Hager. Mr. Cyril Grier appears to the utmost advantage as Martin Hardcliffe; and Mr. Elmore Frith scores as Farmer Dean. Mr. Tom H. Solly, who is also responsible for the admirable stage-management, creates much amusement by his impersonation of Bob Bowser; and Miss Mattie Crawford impersonates Dolly Dean with no little ability. Miss Belle St. Clements is undoubtedly excellent as Pattie; and Mr. Ed. Smythe furnishes a delightful impersonation of Hon. Algy Allenbury. Miss Alice Clarke is capital as Mrs. Slater; and other rôles are admirably sustained by Messrs. F. Moselle and T. Oakley. The Alhambra Bioscope exhibits a fine film, "Mr. and Mrs. Smith at the Seaside."

BILSTON. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. H. Battersby; Musical-Director, Mr. J. E. Machin.—Go-Won-Go-Mohawk again presents *Wep-Ton-No-Mah* with her accustomed vigour here, and is well supported.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—A return visit from Mr. William Greet's *The Earl and the Girl* company is proving highly popular. As Jim Cheese Mr. Alfred Donohoe is an important factor in the success, the impersonation being a most humorous and able one. Mr. Thomas Kennard acquits himself with both histrionic and vocal ability as Dick Wargrave, and Miss Gertrude Simpson is a winsome and tuneful Elphin Haye. The Hon Crewe Boodle is well embodied by Mr. Leslie Owen; Mr. Ernest A. Plumpton is a capital Downham; Miss Lina Hicks is amusing as 'Liza Shoddam; Miss Kathleen Gerrard is well suited as Mrs. Shimmering Black; Miss May Frederika gives an excellent rendering of Flora; and Mr. Greville Hayes as A. Bunker Bliss, Mr. Sam Lysons as Mr. Jack, and Mr. Tom Stephens as Mr. Hazell accord good assistance. Miss Winnie Plumpton as Miss Virginia Bliss, and Miss Ida Stratham as Daisy Fallowfield, are most efficient, and the augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. W. Stephenson.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Miss Claire Romaine, an accomplished comedienne, heads an excellent combination, which also includes Mr. Horace Wheatley, a capital raconteur and comedian, always a favourite here. Other prominent turns are those of Harry Edson and his marvellously-trained dogs; Sydney James and his Strolling Players; Marriott Edgar, comedian; Roma and Romaine, musical artists; Ted Waite, comedian; Frank Leon, dancer; Lambeth and Robertson, Scotch sketch artists; Miss Lizzie Kirk, serio and dancer; and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—The present crowded state of the Theatre Royal, and the enormous advance bookings thereat, is a striking testimony to the wisdom of Mr. Tom B. Davis and his policy, and that Mr. Davis has again scored in securing Mr. Robert Arthur's pantomime, *The Queen of Hearts*, there is no possible doubt whatever. The production is sumptuous, and the cast excellent, making the pantomime one of extreme beauty and a matter for congratulation all round. Mr. Geo. Robey works assiduously as the Queen, being in capital form; Miss Millie Lindon is effective in her own particular placid and artistic style as the Prince; Mr. Edward Lewis as the Knave of Hearts proves himself a very king among comedians; Mr. T. A. Shale is popular as the King; Mr. Tom Hearn scores as the Grand Slam, and makes a great hit with his speciality to boot; Miss Valli-Valli is a dainty Estrella; Miss Ethel Haydon is graceful and mellifluous as Fortuna; and Miss Helen Cecile gives a clever enactment of the malignant Armida.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Crusoe's Adventures*, in which Mr. J. F. Graham's acute artistic feeling makes itself obvious throughout, has settled down into a steady and very popular success. The artists are happy in their places. Mr. J. F. McArdle's Will Atkins is well calculated to please the children as well as adults, his efforts being always legitimate and successful; Miss Georgina Delmar makes a handsome and dashing hero, and is a favourite with everybody; Miss Lulu Valli is a sprightly and attractive Polly Perkins, and her vocal contributions are rapturously applauded; Miss Nell Emerald invests the rôle of Princess Apollinaris with a frolicsome spirit and humour which are heartily relished by all; the Haytors continue to hold their own as Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; Mr. Geo. Miller's endeavours as Mrs. Crusoe, somewhile termed lady Suffragette, are invariably productive of mirth; Mr. Fred Wright, jun., scores many good points as Billy Crusoe; Mr. Colin Coop as that amiable despot, Koko, acts and sings with goodly unction; Miss Louie Collier gains an ovation for her singing in the rôle of Roma; and Miss Clara Stanton as the Captain and Mr. Fredk. Hobbs as Davy Jones are conspicuous. The songs are numerous and successful.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—The farewell visit of Mr. J. W. Turner and his world-renowned English opera company is announced here, and pleasure in the visit and regret in the parting are everywhere visible. On Monday *Satanella* was performed, with the veteran and favourite tenor as Count Rupert. Mr. Turner sang in his best style, and received an ovation. Miss Kitty Brownlees displayed agreeable powers of vocalisation in the title-rôle, and Miss Jessie Dennis as Stella, Miss Maude Esdale as Bertha, Miss Christine Gomez as Lelia, Mr. Geo. Ridding as Brocacio, Mr. Sidney Clifford as Arimanes, and Mr. Richard Cummings as Hortensio supported with their well-known ability. On Tuesday *The Bohemian Girl* was rendered, Mr. F. J. Hargrave appearing as Thaddeus, Miss Christine Gomez accounting for the rôle of Arline in a highly satisfactory manner. *The Puritan's Daughter* on Wednesday afforded the public another opportunity of hearing Mr. Turner, his singing as the Earl being much cheered. *The Daughter of the Regiment*, *The Lily of Killarney*, *Faust*, and *Maritana* have also been included in the week's programme.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—Mr. Collingwood's protégé, *Cinderella*, has grown into a big success since Boxing Night, and will probably establish a record here. The house is invariably full, and delight in the scenery and dresses, and enthusiasm in the artists, is rife always. Miss Bessie Butt's pretty looks and manners and mobile expression, as Cinderella, have made her everybody's favourite, insomuch that the town is full of her praises. Miss Butt's talent and energy are wonderful. The Bros. Obo have also made their reputation here as the Ugly Sisters, their impersonations being consistently and truly funny, and always devoid of offence; Miss Minnie D'Aubyn acts as the Prince with easy, good-humored self-possession, and displays an excellent singing voice and a fine figure; the Sisters Lunelle as Dandini and Rosini are pert and pretty, and excel in several vocal and terpsichorean essays; Mr. Harry Talbot invests the Baron's rôle with much hearty humour; Mr. J. G. Aitken delivers himself as Buttons in a robust style which is well appreciated; Messrs. D'Arcy, Kelway, and Syd Sylvester display much humorous ability as the broker's men; Miss Marie Le Frane, who has understudied the rôle of Cinderella with much success, dances nimbly and sings well as the Duchess; Mr. Fred Barnes is featured in his highly-successful song, "Never without a girl"; and the Misses Gladys Clare and Vera Guedes shine as the Fairy and Demon respectively. Florence and Lilian adorn the Palace scene with their musical speciality; and Jackson's Eight Lancashire Lads appear.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—This week Mr. Walter Melville presents, for the first time here, the new and absorbing play, *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning*, which on Monday took the crowded audience quickly by storm. Miss Frances Ruttledge acted in the titular rôle with much feeling and abandon; Miss Rose Webster realised all the lovable qualities of Lucy, both in manner and appearance; Miss Nannie Meade displayed the baser qualities of Vesta Le Clere with much zest and ability; Mr. Walter Thornton's acting as James Harcourt was incisive and always effective; Mr. John Nolan gave a creditable study of the man with a past, Bill Slater; Mr. Frank Robertson was sympathetic and manly as Jack Fenton; Mr. Kenneth Black acted with fine dignity as the elder Fenton; Mr. Roy Redgrave won a hearty reception with his frank and breezy style as the sailor, Willie Mason; Mr. Willie Reade proved a clever actor of humorous rôles as Johnny Walker; and Miss Marie Kildare acted with amusing vivacity as Poppy Slater.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—Mr. Andrew Melville and company appear here to full and friendly houses nightly in the drama, *In a Woman's Grip*. Mr. Percy Dawsone's manly rendition of the hero's rôle, Frank Haydon, is received with great favour; Mr. Austen Milroy acts the villain's part, Maurice Stanton, with perfect sang-froid and much ability; Mr. P. C. Henry gives a striking impersonation of the old sailor, Sharkey; Mr. Edward Finlay plays with fine skill as Lambert; and Messrs. James Meadows, Arnold Winters, Francis Everard, and C. Ashley are competent in their rôles. Mr. Fred A. Marston is successful as Dick Langley; and Mr. Andrew Emm, with his comicalities, as Dick Butters, keeps the audience in a delighted state of mind. Miss Jessie Zatman gains much sympathy as Lilian Fairley; Miss Rose Ralph's fine, handsome presence and marked ability is seen in the triple rôles, viz., Mrs. Langley, Convict 43, and Princess Zuroff; and Little Polly Hughes is perfect in the part of Little Mary.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred D'Arcy's company is giving Astonians their first taste of pantomime this season with *Robinson Crusoe*, which is well relished. Miss Marion May takes everybody's fancy as the hero, all her essays, vocal and otherwise, being submitted in a manner most attractive; Miss Nelly Moore makes a fascinating heroine as Polly Perkins; Miss Cissie Conyers scores with her dashing style as the Captain; Miss Bertha St. Ruth as the Princess, and Miss Beattie Moore as the Fairy Queen, lend capital support; Mr. George Rapley leads in the humorous element as Will Atkins; Mr. Fred Lloyd's appearance as Mrs. Crusoe is marked with much laughter; Mr. Will Hicks adds to the mirth as Richard Hopkins; Mr. Sydney T. Russell gives effective aid as Friday; Messrs. Sandy and Carl, as the sportive twins, lend much diversion; and Mr. Tom Shenton, Mr. George Jones, Mr. A. Selwood, Mr. Chas. Denman, Mr. Jack May, and the Silros shine in the cast. The Three Zaracs, in a clever comic sketch, and the Ladderites, in their smart speciality, also appear in the pantomime, in which the Sydney Quartette are other conspicuous figures, being much applauded for their ability in dancing.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Alexandra Dagmar, who holds premier position this week, is as vivacious and charming as ever. She introduces several new songs and some excellent stories, which are well received. Carl and Mary Ohm prsent a clever animal act, the steeplechase by monkeys and dogs being very amusing; the Sarnthaller Troupe charm the audience with their clever singing and dancing; Damerael Rutland and company are the cause of much merriment in their sketch, *House Full*; Speedwell, described as a lightning painter, executes pictures at a rate little short of marvellous; Sam Elton, comedian; Fred Holland, the "Surrey cricketing vocalist"; Burns and Burns, comedians; and Hettie Chattell, burlesque actress, contribute enjoyable turns.

GAIETY.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Heading the bill this week are Charles Parker's Six Æolians. This is a classic turn, the singing and dancing alike being admirably executed. *The Lost Coon* is a smart musical comedy, presented by Dinah Morris and company. The songs and dances harmonise with the coon business in an effective manner. The Four Cattaneos are expert comedy acrobats; and James Willard and company score well in a dramatic episode, *Did He Deserve It?* Arthur Alldridge has a really fine tenor voice, his songs being received with great enthusiasm; Cliff and Kean, in their dancing act, are also accorded a hearty welcome; Tiny Arnold, said to be the smallest artist in the world; Collins and Croft, in illustrated songs; and Menetti and Mora, comedy bar performers, complete the programme.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The Warsaw Brothers, who top the bill this week, give a capital comedy act, in which they combine music with fun in a really delightful manner; Mme. Roma's Six Smire Juggling Girls present a novel act, entitled *American Swells at Practice*; the New York Comedy Four are as humorously harmonious as ever; while Ingram and Irving are a couple of comedians who introduce a comedy boxing bout in their performance. The Carpos Brothers present many novelties in a hand-balancing turn; Richardson Taylor is a ventriloquist of more than average ability; Billy Elliott, comedian; Myra Love, comedienne; and Fred Horsall, are responsible for a fair share of the applause.

BORDESLEY PALACE. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The dramatic element this week is provided by Mrs. John Lawson and company, in the sketch, *The Devil's Sunday*, which holds the attention of the audience throughout. As Fay Faber, Mrs. John Lawson displays great histrionic power. She is ably supported by a strong company. Alice Maydue has some really funny dialect songs, which are loudly applauded; the St. Julian Sisters are a pair of pleasing singers and dancers; Los Granadas, with their bar act, are responsible for much merriment; and Tom Lytton scores as a comedian. May Orchard, juvenile comedienne, is well received.

CURZON HALL. — Signor Volpi's Royal Italian Circus is still attracting good audiences. Frequent changes are made in the programme. The Cee Mee Troupe are still providing as much laughter as astonishment with their aerial gymnastics; and Nimble Nip and Wee Wullie, the clowns, continue to be great favourites with the children.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—Crowded audiences are being attracted here by Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime, entitled *Dick Whittington*. Miss Adele Roze as principal boy is bright and vivacious, and her several songs are warmly applauded; Miss Laurie is admirably placed as Alice Fitzwarren; Fairy Belle is prettily played by Miss Gladys Kildare; whilst Miss Florence Hilton as Sir Algeron de Mash is quite a favourite. Much amusement is created by Messrs Bass and Guinness as Silly Peter and Lazy Larry; Mr. Fred Spencer as Amelia Florence gives a good delineation of the old maid of doubtful age; and Mr. J. H. Wakefield is an amusing Alderman Fitzwarren. Mr. Bert Hindson as Thomas, the Cat, and Mr. Archie J. Milne as Rodento are also excellent. Some clever dancing is provided by the Saxon Trio.

BLACKBURN. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Manager, Mr. Reginald C. Yorke.—Large audiences are being drawn to this place of amusement by Mr. Milton Bode's company in *The Chinese Honeymoon*, which has lost none of its popularity with Blackburn audiences. Moreover, Mr. Bode's company is qnite as good, if not better, than any that has visited the town in this musical comedy, and in every respect the production is an excellent one, not the least noticeable feature being the artistic scenery and dressing of the piece. The various artists, too, are clever, Mr. George Rydon in the part of Mr. Pineapple getting the extreme of humour out of his opportunities. Miss Gwennie Harcourt is a pretty Fi-fi, her singing being capital, and she has gained a lot of applause for her "Sousa" song in particular. Miss Gladys Wood (Olive Pineapple) and Miss Nancy Rossiter (Soo-Soo) both act charmingly and sing well; while Miss Maud Adams as the stern mother-in-law, Mr. Harry Jennings as Tom Hatherton, and Mr. Rudolph Kloss as the Emperor are effective. The chorus is strong.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Miss Edith Van Praagh and Mr. G. E. Whitty's company is appearing here in *An Unwedded Wife*.

PALACE THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—Mr. John Tiller's pantomime *Dick Whittington* is being run on the two-houses-a-night system at the Palace this week, and the capable company gets plenty of fun, much clever dancing, several catchy songs and choruses, and some pretty stage pictures into their two hours' entertainment. Miss Jessie Templeton is Dick, and in addition to a fine stage presence is a good vocalist. Miss Dorothy Gould as Alice supports her well; while Miss Hilda Vining is a stately Emperor of Morocco. Mr. Will Lytton as Jack Idle proves an extremely funny fellow, and along with Mr. George Elliston (Eliza, the cook) Mr. Teddy Gibbs, Mr. Barney Dixon, and Mr. Sidney Vincent the audience are provided with plenty of comedy. Gaston Morel does some clever acrobatic work as the Cat, while the Tiller Quartette of dancers introduce some pretty movements.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. and Mrs. John Walter's pantomime company is here this week with *The Babes in the Wood*. Specialities are introduced by the Sweet Sixteen Ballet Troupe and the Emerald Quartette of acrobatic dancers.

GRAND THEATRE. — Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson. Mr. Edmund Tearle and company are paying another visit here this week with the usual round of plays. *Othello* was the attraction on Monday, when Mr. Tearle once again essayed the rôle of the dusky Moor with his well-known ability; and Mr. Bernhardt Turner scored a success as Iago. Cassio was well played by Mr. Clifford Tearle; Mr. Malcolm Tearle made a stately Duke of Venice; and Desdemona found a charming exponent in Miss Esther Tearle. *Hamlet*, *Julius Cæsar*, *Ingomar*, *Jeanie Deans*, and *The Three Musketeers* also have a place in the week's bill.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The premier turn here this week is Belloni with his performing cockatoos. The great Penstone, illusionist is also a favourite; and Mlle. Renee, musical entertainer, receives a cordial reception nightly. Other contributions are rendered by Harry Walker, comedian; Selby and Myers, vocalists and dancers; Smiler Lee, comedian; Genaro and Theol, equilibrists; Fred Casburn, comedian; and Rene and Smith in a comedy *pot-pourri* act.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. C. Moody.—Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company has fulfilled a successful week's engagement here with the popular military drama, entitled *The Indian Mutiny*. Mr. Edward M. Hamilton as Lieut. Manley gave a capital rendition, and met with a hearty reception; as Captain Manley, Mr. Cyril Harrison was much in evidence; and the Major Ingleby of Mr. John Davidson was a satisfactory performance. The Terry O'Brien of Mr. Cecil Morand created much amusement; and the Ensign Blake of Mr. G. Birch met with recognition. To Mr. Villiers Stanley every praise is due for a vigorous interpretation of Nebu Singh; and to Mr. J. S. Sheddan hearty applause was accorded for a powerful performance of Abul Khan. Mr. Ernest Keand gave a good rendering of Ra Goonga; Miss F. Melrose Millett as Ghwynah was sympathetic, and was received with much favour.

ALEXANDRA HALL.—Lessee, Mr. A. C. Moody.—The Edison Animated Picture Company, under the direction of Mr. Walter Johnson, accompanied by the Brompton Boys' Orphanage Band, is meeting with liberal patronage.

TUDOR'S HIPPODROME.—The Apex Animated Picture Company and the Chronophone continue to draw good audiences.

THE GAIETY.—Proprietor, Councillor John Grantham; General-Manager, Mr. Arthur James.—The spectacular pantomime, *Starlight's Dream*, continues to have a successful run, novel items being introduced which have proved most enjoyable. Several new musical numbers have been added by Miss Rosie Graham, the popular musical directress.

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL (LIMITED).—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—Mr. Elliston's pantomime, *Mother Goose*, which has entered on its third week, is doing excellent business.

GRAND THEATRE (LIMITED).—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—Mr. Tom Davis's Trio, "Whirling the Whirl; or, Motoring in Mid-air," has had an enthusiastic reception during the week; Clown Barker and Miss Rozsika have a refined comedy act with highly-trained dogs, ponies, and monkeys; J. G. Grahame, jun., and Zerlina Harrington appear in a dramatic episode, entitled *A Daughter of Pleasure*; Madge Osmond is a dainty male impersonator; and Fred Dunstone (patter comedian), the Two Cymros (Welsh vocalists), Fioretti and Elly (in a clever spade-jumping act), the Sisters Caselli (expert dancers), Gus Arundel (comedian), Maros (clever triple-bar comedian), Miss Minnie Fenton (Scotch comedienne), and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope are the other attractions.

BOSCOMBE. — HIPPODROME.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—Miss Marie Loftus is paying another visit to Boscombe, and her répertoire includes the scena "Singers Past and Present." Herbert Clifton gives imitations of various well-known artists. Miss Lily Flexmore (contortionist), the Musical Schaffers, Cosgrove and Burns, The Greys (talented singers), and Charles Somers (comedian) also contribute. The Hippodrome Pictures conclude a capital programme.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—*Peter's Mother*, which had been eagerly looked forward to, was presented by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's clever company on Monday, and was received with genuine manifestations of approval. Mr. Charles Harley gives a remarkably good sketch of Sir Timothy Crewys, a small but effective part; Mr. Percy Hutchison as Peter is very successful in the character, which suits him admirably; the John Crewys, Q.C., of Mr. Eille Norwood is a strong piece of acting; Miss Ruth Mackay as Lady Mary plays brilliantly; and Miss Hilda Houess as Sarah is well cast. Miss Mary Griffiths and Miss Florence Harwood as the Baronet's sisters are very good, which remark also applies to Mr. F. G. Thurstons as Canon Birch and Mr. Townsend Whitling as Dr. Blundell.

BRADFORD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson. — *Robinson Crusoe* is now in the full tide of success, and Mr. Hart's delightful fare is being enjoyed by crowded audiences nightly.

THE EMPIRE. — Moss' Empires, Ltd. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig. — The equestrian spectacle *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, being presented here this week by Fred Ginnet and company, who introduce novel cinematograph and scenic effects, is a popular item of the programme. The acting is effective, and Mr. Ginnett's highly-trained mare Bess is put through a wonderful performance during the progress of the piece. Pat Rafferty sings his Irish songs in genial style; Rosie Archer is a clever mimic of music-hall celebrities; in the vaudeville entertainment *Monks at Play* The Lindons sing well; the vocalism of Godfrey James, "the pit boy," is of good quality; Ruth Dorris is an attractive comedienne; as a sifleur Charles Mildare is distinctly clever; and the pictures shown by the American Bioscope are highly diverting.

PALACE THEATRE. — Lessee, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. R. H. Foster.—There is an attractive bill of fare here, to which Lillie Soutter, comedienne, contribues cleverly. Cavalli is a smart ventriloquist; Cairns and Lynch are expert "buck" dancers; as the amiable idiot and the dainty soubrette the Lorrisons are diverting; Letine is clever as a female impersonator; Wyndham and Waters are a quaint pair of comedians as *Professor and Pupil*; Gus Hindell is a good comedian; *The Enchanted Glen* is a brilliant and picturesque setting, in which the clever Seven Zerbinis provide excellent music; and there are some fine films shown by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BRIDLINGTON. — GRAND PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles Palmer.—Mr. Bert Albert Rutley is here this week with his pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*, written by himself. Miss Gertrude Rowan as Crusoe is an admirable exponent of the part, both her acting and singing being excellent; Miss Poppie Howard as Captain Kettle finds plenty of scope for her versatile talent; Miss Gertie Wasley is smart as Polly Perkins; Miss Conquest as Dolly, Miss Ana Ashburn as Jack, and Miss Edwards as Flossie are equally good. Mr. Billy Moore makes a capital Will Atkins, the pirate; Mr. Will Raynor as the Bo'sun and Mr. Rutley as Dick Gargeye are very funny; and the Mrs. Crusoe of Mr. Billy Fiffe affords plenty of scope for this capital artist's special talent as a first-rate comedian. Mr. Fred Alberto gives a robust rendering of the Cannibal King; Miss Ida Irving as the King's daughter is very good; and the same may be said of Miss Madge Maynard as the General of the Army. Mr. Fred Buckley is a remarkably nimble Man Friday; and Miss Nellie Riches as the Fairy Liberty shines in her part. The pantomime is beautifully dressed, and the various songs and choruses are well rendered. The variety turns include the clever Revell Troupe, in their amusing absurdity *Mischief*, which is highly applauded; Mr. Billy Moore, in a lightning gun drill; the La Roi quartette of dancers; Mr. Billy Fiffe, Scottish comedian and dancer; The Reynolds, duettists and dancers; La Mascotte, in a transformation dance; and the Two Dianas, eccentric comedians and acrobats.

PALACE AND WINTER GARDENS.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Delmar.—There are some excellent variety artists at the Palace this week, including Miss Lily Gaston, a smart male impersonator and top-boot dancer, in the latter of which she scores a great triumph; Miss Vinnie Loftus, comedienne; Miss Minnie Percival, mandolinist; and Miss Ella Wynne, soprano vocalist. Mr. Carl St. Clare is a clever mimic, and possesses a good male soprano voice, which he uses to advantage in his lady impersonations. The Royal English Animated Picture Co. show a good series of pictures.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company is still here with *The Blue Moon*, and continues to attract large and delighted audiences.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.—The pantomime *Cinderella* is running splendidly here, and seems destined to enjoy a long and prosperous career. Miss Gracie Moore as the Prince, Jack and Evelyn O'Connor as the Page and Cinderella respectively, Miss Kitty Clinton as Dandini, Mr. F. Hulme Sharp as the Baron, and Messrs. Walker and Lake as the Ugly Sisters have fully established themselves as great favourites.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—There is an excellent company here this week. Harry Tate achieves great success in his absurdity entitled *Motoring*; Maxwell and Frances (Thomas and Virginia) display capital singing, dancing, and humour in their vocal comedy scena; the New York Nippers sing and dance themselves into favour in their vocal scena, *Bedtime*; Stidder and Dunbar (the boy with the 'cello and the electric girl) submit a smart turn; J. C. Crawley is highly successful in a noved act, *The Regimental Smoking Concert*; the Five Bon-Bons are amusing in their pantomime trap scene, *Hot Time for One*; Kenneth and Kane win hearty applause in their comedy duo, *Just a Few Words*; May Geraldine is a pleasing comedienne; Bert Marsden is an entertaining comedian; Miss Rose Cass sings and dances admirably; and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—A capital programme is sustained here this week. J. P. Ling wins enthusiastic applause for his clever mimetic duologue; Leoni Clark submits a fine turn with his trained cats, monkeys, rats, mice, and canaries; Mona Mona is a dainty comedienne and dancer; La Foy poses gracefully in a wealth of colour tones; the Frasettis are deservedly applauded in their musical act; the Waltons are clever speciality gymnasts; Oakdene, comedy ventriloquist, is very effective in the nautical scena, *The Stowaways*; George Leyton repeats his great success in the dramatic episode, *The Wreck of the Birkenhead*; Laurie Stuart is cordially received; and the Barrascope pictures are amusing.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—*Little Hans Andersen* is still attracting large and delighted audiences here. New songs and amusing pieces of business have been introduced. Miss Mabel Lavelle (the Princess), Miss Evelyn Hughes (Karen), and Mr. Foster Knox (Lord Chamberlain) merit special praise for their thoroughly artistic impersonations.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Full houses testify to the popularity of *Humpty Dumpty* at this theatre. The pantomime is in every way attractive, the scenery is exceptionally effective, the costumes are rich and tasteful, and the entire company of competent artists works hard and well together. Good and taking songs are allotted to the principals, full justice being done to them; and the ballets and speciality dances are all up to the high standard expected here. Mr. David Fisher, jun., appeared as the King on Monday evening in consequence of the indisposition of Mr. Bert Gilbert. He played the part in excellent style, and obtained much applause. All the principals are popular in their respective parts, and the pantomime goes right merrily from start to finish.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—*Cinderella* attracts full houses at each performance, the audience evidently being highly pleased with the latest "Royal" pantomime. The comedians have added new jokes and business which appear to hit the popular taste, and new songs have been introduced by several of the principals. The scenery is exceptionally good, the dresses are tasteful, and the pantomime runs smothly. The Cinderella coach, illumniated with electric light, is well in keeping with the surroundings, and the pair of ponies are sufficiently small and pretty to be attractive.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Leonard Barry is here with his new edition of the successful song-scena, *The Moucher's Walk*, introducing the up-to-date Lady Candidate and other amusing persons. The beautiful Lilian presents an exceptionally clever and graceful exposition of trick and fancy cycling; Bernardo scores as a funny juggler; Miss Fatmah Diard has a well-trained voice which she uses in artistic and pleasing style, obtaining much applause; Charles Collette and Joan Derry amuse with their duologue, *Tea for Two*; Martine and son, singing picture artistes, obtain appreciation for a pleasing turn; Mersano is an expert at coin and card manipulation; and Ford and Barris, trio of legmania dancers, vocalists, and bone soloists, are popular with all parts of the house. The performance concludes with interesting animated pictures depicted by Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Dan Thomas's pantomime sketch, *Aladdin*, tops the bill; there are several effective scenes, and the company is a competent one. Joe Reichen's dogs are trained to a high state of perfection, the exhibition being both novel and interesting; Jane Temple, American comedienne, renders her coon songs in pleasing style; Haverley and Homer are successful as patter comedians and dancers; the Brothers Adderley obtain applause for their comedietta, *An Officer's Servant*; Cardow Cadets (five in number) please with their musical entertainment; and Duval, stump orator, amuses with a burlesque lecture on temperance. Animated pictures, projected by the Empire Bioscope, conclude the entertainment.

COLSTON HALL.—Poole's Myriorama continues to attract good houses. There is a strong variety company, including the Leo Tardy Trio, who perform difficult trapeze feats in mid-air, one of the artists doing a sensational dive from the roof.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Mr. Bert Coote's company is on another visit with *A Fatal Wedding*. In the third act Miss Marie Wilson, Miss Ivy Westaby, Miss Dolly McCalla, and Master Walter Aubrey, distinguish themselves. Mr. Ernest Outtrim is a successful exponent of Howard Wilson; Mr. Guy Hastings as Robert Curtis is clever; little Miss Marie Wilson is a charming Jessie; Miss Leah Marlborough makes an excellent Cora Williams; the unfortunate wife is cleverly portrayed by Miss Katherine Clarke; Miss Julia Temple as Bridget, Mr. C. H. Hughes as Toto, Mr. Cyril Melton as Peter Schwartz, and Mr. Jack Waring as O'Reilly, lose no opportunity of keeping the audience in excellent humour.

BURNLEY. — VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company is presenting *Robinson Crusoe*. Miss Margaret Ruby makes a handsome Crusoe; Miss Venie Clements is bright and prepossessing as Polly; the Sisters Cora as Jack and Sally are clever little ladies; and the fun is kept merrily going by Mr. Arnold Richardson as Billy Crusoe, whose Lancashire dialect is very funny. Mr. Tom Fancourt as Mrs. Crusoe, Mr. Stockton Foster as Captain Cusslotte, Mr. Harry Ray as Will Atkins, and Elton and Elma, a smart pair of knockabouts. Mr. Ernest Laws as the Cannibal King is heartily encored for his songs; Miss Lily Calden is very good as Starry Eyes; and Miss Jenny Ruby does well as Aphrodite. The Monte Carlo troupe of dancers add to the general excellence, and Mr. George Ess directs the orchestra.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The Robertys Family head the bill here this week in a turn of balancing and juggling; Fred Lester sings "The Village Blacksmith," which is beautifully illustrated; Ellis and Watts are smart patter comedians; the Richards Trio in *Giddy Golfers* are tricky and funny; and Mr. Herbert Bates' rendering of "The Death of Nelson," evokes an encore; Effie Stewart is a clever dancer; Claude Feldman's Beau Ideal troupe of juveniles submit a pleasing turn; and the New Empire Theatroscope shows a funny picture.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—OPERA HOUSE (NEW HIPPODROME).—Proprietor, Mr. H. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Walter.—Variety reigns here again this week, and some clever turns are given by Marie Tilley, comedienne and dancer; Jules Kiaro, hand-jumper and pyramidist; Dave Wallace, comedian; the Alskarno Trio, comedy risley acrobats; Williams and Warden, Irish cross-talk comedians; and Edgar Forrest and Co. in the amusing sketch, *My Friend the Enemy*. Raymond's Bio Tableaux are also in evidence.

BURY (LANCS.). — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's company is here playing *The Private Secretary*. Mr. Donald Price finds ample scope for his abilities in the title-rôle; Mr. W. Hargreaves appears successfully as Mr. Cattermole; Mr. W. T. Elworthy ably sustains the part of Mr. Marsland; Miss Dora Gray as Edith Marsland, and Miss Beth Elliott as Eva Webster, are both capital. Others characters well played are by Mr. James E. Hussey as Harry Marsland, Mr. R. Reade as Douglas Cattermole, Miss Cecil Wade as Mrs. Stead, and Mrs. Alfred Davies as Miss Ashford.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Sons; General-Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—A large portion of the programme is filled by a burlesque entitled *The Smoking Concert*, played by a capable company of comedians, by arrangement with Fred Karno. Other turns include the Three Oscars, tumblers and dancers; the Edgertons, trapeze artists; Clown Charlton, musical artist; Will Walton, comedian; Chas. Lestree, juggler; the singing mill lad, Standing; and the Five Casino Girls, instrumentalists.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore.—Local playgoers are afforded a rich treat this week by the visit of Mr. H. Theodore's company in *The Shulamite*, richly staged and finely acted.

Charles Fancourt; and Mr. Herbert Belmore is a manly Jan Vanderberg. Miss Ruth Shepherd in the title-rôle acts with intense feeling, coupled with fine dramatic power; Miss Emily Levettey as Simon's sister, Anna, plays with much ability; and Miss Chrissie Bickerstaff is a realistic Kaffir girl.

BUXTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Arthur Willoughby.—The pantomime *Dick Whittington*, by the Moore-Kennedy company, is a capital all-round show, the variety turns by Pauletti (the cycle expert), Victor's Marvellous Dogs, and Little Hatch (the 3ft. 10in. marvel) being excellent. An exceptionally strong cast includes Mlle. Lucretia, whose principal boy was a smart performance. Mr. Will Sandes deserves special commendation, not only for his humorous study as Idle Jack, but also for his clever knockabout business. Mr. Clarence Turner played well as Captain Bunting, and Mr. Fred Fulton's Betsy Mary Ann was a diverting performance. As the Fairy Queen Miss Molly Revell, with her fine voice, was admirably suited to the part, and Miss Helena Barton made a charming Alice Fitzwarren. Others deserving of special mention were Mr. Tom Lewis, the Demon Rat; Mons. Pauletti, as Tibby, the cat; Mr. Percy Victor, as Alderman Fitzwarren; Miss Josephine Townsend, Miss May Vincent, and the Palace Royal Quartette of Lady Dancers.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—*Lights Out* made a first appearance here on Monday night, and was finely rendered by Mr. J. Maundy-Gregory's company. Mr. Lionel D'Arragon scored as old Sergeant Volkhardt, his acting in the last scene being most impressive; Miss Frances Davie, as Klara, was a pathetic figure and thoroughly consistent; Mr. Charles Esdale was excellent as Lieutenant von Lauffen; as were also Mr Kenneth Brampton (Lietenant von Howen), Mr. Francis J. Bithell (Corporal Queiss), Mr. Richard Fielding, Mr. Frederick Clifton, Mr. Alfred B. Allen, Mr. J. Clive Ross, Mr. Lambert Plummer, and Mr. W. Victor. The drama was preceded by the one-act play, entitled *Man*, in which Miss Eileen Barry enacted the title-rôle.

CARDIFF.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James.—Pantomime is the attraction here, Mr. Newman Maurice presenting *The Babes in the Wood* to full houses. The principal girl and boy are Miss Daisy Lane and Miss Flo Varley, two capable artists, possessing good voices and a dashing style. As the Babes, Miss Lily Farrer and Miss Beatie Benson prove a charming couple. The comedians are most successful and amusing, Mr. Allan Dale as the Baron, Mr. Harry Carman as the Baroness, and Messrs. Blarney and Kennard as Rob and Plunder proving an excellent group of mirth-makers.

NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robt. Redford.—*Red Riding Hood* is still the rage here, and "House full" is a frequent sign outside the New Theatre. New songs, jokes, and comic business are introduced most successfully.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—The drama presented here this week is *Her Forbidden Marriage*. Much interest centres in the piece here owing to the appearance of Miss Nellie Fletcher as the Mother Superior. Miss Fletcher, who is accorded a great ovation for her clever rendition, is the daughter of a former lessee of the theatre. The character of Charles Devereaux is skilfully impersonated by Mr. Louis Hector; George Madison has a particularly manly exponent in Mr. Henry Lonsdale; as Lucy, Miss Gertrude Bonser is particularly charming; Miss Fitzgerald, as Lady Lucretia is certainly an actress of ability; and comedy is well represented by Mr. Fred de Vere and Miss Teresa Gilmore.

EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—At the head of this week's bill we have a return visit of the Six Brothers Luck in their original pantomime spetch, entitled *The Hotel Grande*, and in which they create much fun with their amusing business. For the first time in Cardiff, Otto Menotti produces his original sensational novelty, the 20th Century Bicycle Track, his balancing performance being undoubtedly wonderful; the Four Royal Welshmen are melodious and pleasing singers; Dot Hardy (character comedian) receives a great ovation; Michael Nolan, in his humorous Irish song and recitation, is really good; while the Robertys (whirlwind dancers) prove exceptionally clever; a splendid musical turn is given by the famous Bandurria Troupe of delightful mandolinists; and the Two Bostons, in tit-bits of burlesque, are certainly funny; Agnes Hazel, a pleasing comedienne, and the American Bioscope complete a fine programme.

CARLISLE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Mr. Robert Macdonald this week presents the emotional drama *Human Hearts*, by Hal Reid. Mr. W. D. Fazan, in the part of Tom Logan, shows histrionic ability; Mr. Ernest Gray capably depicts the villain, Fredrick Armsdale; Mr. E. H. Dobell is responsible for good character-acting as Jem Mason; Mr. Fred Lester is a great favourite as the half-witted Jimmy Logan; Deputy-Warder Weston is humorously played by Mr. Henry Walton; Miss Maud Lindon is a powerful Jeannette Logan; Miss Dora Watson a good Ruth Larkins; and Miss Reana Roberts an ingenuous Gracie.

THE PALACE.—Proprietors, the Palace Theatre, Carlisle, Limited; Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls. Boswell's stage circus, which is topping the bill here this week, is meeting with undoubted success. The Celtic Comedy Trio submit some harmonious singing and funny business; a bright and taking turn is contributed by the Goldinis, carpet spinners and bâton swingers; the Jansons, gymnasts, meet with approval; Fred Keeton is funny in a couple of songs; Miss Hall, lady baritone, does well; and Lidden and Hayward are seen to advantage in a sketch, *The Midnight Express*. The Pepiscope is still a popular item.

CARMARTHEN.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—On Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday of this week Mr. Will Stone's Twentieth Century Animated Pictures and Royal Marionettes have drawn good houses. The pictures shown were of a most amusing and original character, and the antics of the marionettes, who were ably manipulated by Mr. Will Stone, caused roars of laughter. Mme. Stoll, who possesses an excellent voice, rendered very effectively a number of songs, which were appropriately illustrated on the screen.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Cr. Hy. Masterman.—This week Mr. Augustine Knight is presenting Mr. E. Hill Mitchelson's drama, *The Assassin*. As Prince Demetri Mr. Knight does the character full justice; Mr. Edward E. Ashby's exposition of Ipanoff is an admirable piece of work. Miss Ella Vane is responsible for some good work as Countess Wanda; Miss Hettie Senior plays in a straightforward manner as Connie Johnson; Miss Frances Waring is excellent as Nita; Mr. Cecil H. Raymond causes much laughter as Baron Alphonso; Mr. Theo Balfour makes a dignified Duke Karl; Mr. Chauncey Morris gives an able representation of General Nicol; as Katrina Miss Marie E. Robertson is bright and vivacious; as Captain O'Neil Mr. Edward Jenner succeeds admirably; Mr. Tom Taylor, with many disguises, proves diverting as Peter; and Mr. Jack H. Smith plays well as Evangie.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. Geo. G. Ridley.—This week we have the first pantomime of the season, *Dick Whittington*; the version is Mr. F. Leslie Moreton's, and the company is toured by Mr. Mouillot, under the management of Mr. Guyton Heath. In the title-rôle Miss Millie Englor makes quite a hit, her songs, "A different girl again" and "By the side of the Zuyder Zee," being well rendered, and her lively interpretation of the character has much to do with the success. Alice finds a neat representative in Miss Florrie Saunders, who scores with "Bamboo bungalow" and several acceptable dances; Miss Joan Deering as the Fairy Campanolia gives some enjoyable songs, in which she accompanies herself upon the violin; Miss Ivy Proudfoot makes a pleasing Princess Almida; Mr. Charles Leoville, a sprightly cat, greatly amuses the juveniles; Selina, the cook, and Jack, the idle apprentice, have admirable representatives in Messrs. J. W. Hooper and Percy Cahill respectively, their topical duet, "So says the man in the street," creating heaps of fun. The Bowery Boys as Captain Bluster and Lieut. Blinker are quite favourites; while Mr. Robert Rivers gives able assistance as Fitzwarren. The costumes and scenery are excellent.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—The Deer Family top the bill here with their sensational act, *Indians of the Past*, which is most favourably received; F. V. St. Clair remains from last week, and in addition to several smart topical songs gives a recitation describing the recent gallant action of the Chatham bluejacket Obeney in saving several lives at a fire in the Kingsland-road. The Norman and Leonard Trio, on a return visit, are giving their clever musical act, *The Itinerant*; roars of laughter are created by Fred Lawerance and company in *My Landlord*; and other attractions in the bill are Walter Ennis, comedian; Wilton, Heriot, and company in *An Anglo-American Alliance*; and pictures by the Erascope.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. Frank E. Donne.—Here we have Gracie Bard, comedienne; Charles Ashdowne, a nimble legmania dancer; Ida Ross, with a jödelling song; Leslie Race, a descriptive vocalist, who renders in breezy style "The days of long ago"; Starr and Jerome, in their latest scena *Mazeppa*; Alice Blandford, styled the New Zealand nightingale; Spencer and Marks, in *The Stage-Struck Waifs*; amusing pictures projected by means of the Edisonograph; and last, but by no means least, Miss Harriett Vernon, who on the opening night scored an immediate triumph, her songs, "Back, back to Pimlico," "When you are saying good-bye," and "Sunshine Row" all being thoroughly enjoyed. Her "Sunshine and shadow," with special scenery and effects, fairly brings down the house.

CHELTENHAM. — OPERA HOUSE. — General Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—On Monday evening another of Mr. Geo. Dance's well-selected companies presented *The Beauty of Bath*. Miss Gladys Guy is a vivacious and charming exponent of the title-part; Mr. Leslie Holland is well placed as the ardent Lieut. Alington, scoring a triple encore in his topical song, "Humpty Dumpty"; Miss Edith Cruikshanks plays with genuine emotional effect as Mrs. Alington, and makes the most of her dramatic opportunities; Mr. Sheriff Clunes is natural and unaffected as Beverley, and sings with artistic effect; Miss Maggie White as the Hon. Dorothy Quorn is successful with her comic songs; Master Sydney Grata plays with buoyancy the part of Lemon Goodge, the programme boy; Miss Ida Laurie is amusing as Mrs. Goodge; Mr. Reggie Gray neatly plays the stage dude, Lord Quorn, and has a chic companion in Miss Jessie Fraser as Miss Truly St. Cyr, her lively solo, "Lord Gollywog," being favourably received; Mr. Fred Pedgrift does well as the Honourable Mr. Gorst, using his fine baritone voice with considerable effect in the taking solo, "The Beauty of Bath"; Mr. Jack Crichton, as Sir Timothy Bun, has an unexhaustible fund of grotesque business; Mr. Fredk. C. Lester is good as Viscount Bellingham; and the augmented orchestra is conducted by Mr. Gordon Stamford.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Although in its fourth and last week here, Mr. Geo. Brydon-Phillips's *Little Red Riding Hood* pantomime shows no sign of diminishing in popular favour. Miss Amy Maple, a vivacious Jill, obtains a rousing reception at each appearance, and is easily first favourite. No praise is too high for Mr. Henry De Solla's performance as Lawyer Slyfox, Mr. Maitland Marler is an ideal Dame as Granny. Mr. Billee Taylor's Simple Simon is conceived and played on broad lines, which are successful throughout. A word of praise is due to the popular resident-manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine, for the manner in which he looks after the comfort of his ever-increasing patrons.

CHESTERFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Armstrong.—Mr. Edwin C. Jazon's pantomime *Cinderella* is this week's bill of fare. Miss Flo Melville is a charming Cinderella; Miss Louie Harman an ideal Prince Brilliant; Miss Madge Bryde a pleasing Dandini; Miss Ada Ward a capable Dorothy; and Miss Florrie Burnetto a captivating Queen Bountiful; Messrs. Stan Aubrey, Charles Preston, Alf Brookes, and Fred Pearce are a quartette of comedians who cause endless amusement. Specialities are introduced by Pearce and Ward, burlesque boxers; Onda and Leon, triple-bar performers; Mr. Stan Aubrey, legmania artist; Harding and Preston, expert dancers; and McCann's performing dogs.

CORPORATION THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. J. Cranston.—Mr. Charles Constant's pantomime *Blue Beard* is the attraction here. The part of Selini is ably taken by Miss Isa Bowman, who is well supported by Miss Florrie Hersee, the Arabian Troupe of Lady Dancers, Mr. Johnny Clegg, Mr. Louis Du Cane, Mr. Alec Godfrey, and Gus Danby.

CHORLEY (Lancs). — GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hemingway.—Mr. Frank Denman-Wood's really excellent pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, opened here on Monday to a fine house. The scenery and dresses are admirable. Dick Whittington is entrusted to Miss Daisy Morell, whose work is full of vivacity and energy; Alice is charmingly undertaken by Miss Millie Doris, who is a distinct success; Mr. Jack Simpson is a clever Cat; Idle Jack is presented by Mr. Will Dennis, an old favourite here; Larboard and Starboard are humorously given by Mr. Juan and Mr. Billy McQue; and Mr. Fred Acton as Fitzwarren, and Mr. Frank Dalleud as Martha Muggins, are distinctly good. Correze and Keith, in a capital equilibrist act, The Estos, The Charnleys, Juan and McQue, and the Schallers are all capital in their various turns.

COATBRIDGE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—Messrs. R. C. Buchanan and Ernest Stevens' pantomime company opened on Monday with *Jack the Giant Killer*. Miss Eily Helene is a great attraction as Jack; Miss Esme Cozens gives a good performance of Margery Daw; Miss Winfred Murray portrays fascinatingly the part of Daisy; and Miss Pattie Fairley makes a successful appearance as Queen Caressa. Mr. Gilbert Payne shows capability as Simple Simon; Mr. Johnny McElroy impersonates Dame Gabble in good style; and King Fad is cleverly undertaken by Mr. Harry Farrow. The piece is produced under the direction of Mr. Stanley Rogers.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—Mr. Charles Macdona's special company in *Mr. Popple* opened here on Monday. The title-rôle was in the hands of Mr. Arthur Longley, whose easy style of acting proved a source of unbounded merriment; Miss Millie Hylton, as La Bolera, sang and acted in her well-known style, giving unbounded satisfaction, and she was called on the conclusion of each act; Mr. L. Bullock-Webster played Norman Popple in a polished manner, and looked extremely well as a man about town; Mr. Tom May gave a natural delineation of the character of Platt; Miss Cora Lingard was an exceedingly naïve Violet; and another character most favourably commented upon was that of Louise, as portrayed by Miss Florence Plunkett. Mr. Sydney Courtney, as Geo. Hennay; Mr. James Stevenson, as Henry Doring; and Miss Stella St. Andrie and Miss Alice Rene, as their respective wives, made a very effective quartette.

HIPPODROME. — Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's pantomime, *Aladdin*, is drawing capital houses here nightly. Tastefully mounted and with plenty of local and topical hits, it reflects the greatest credit on the manager, Mr. A. J. Nicholls, and the conductor, Mr. James Hargreaves. Miss Minnie Love is really a very smart Aladdin; Miss Lala Melrose makes quite a captivating Princess, and the pair contribute largely to the success; Miss Zoe Gilfillan sings with power and sweetness as the Fairy; Mr. Mat Melrose is a really quaint Widow Twankey; Mr. W. P. Owen a capital Abanazar; and Mr. Cecil Fowler a typical Grand Vizier; whilst Mr. A. J. Nicholls, with his happy style, makes an ideal Emperor; Welda and Wynne demonstrate the cleverness of a pair of Chinese policemen in excellent juggling; and the dancing of the Berlin Belles, a quartette of charmingly-attired young ladies, is greeted with thunderous applause.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Messrs. E. H. Knight and G. Denham's company is paying a welcome return visit here this week with *The Grip of Iron*. Mr. Fred Powell is as good as ever as Iagon, and as Paul Blanchard Mr. Wallace Curswek is a success. Lorentz de Ribas is in the capable hands of Mr. G. Polson Turner; Mr. T. R. Lockwood as Alphonse de Conon and Mr. John Brittain as Dodot are clever as the rival detectives; as the Smiler, Mr. George Denham is highly amusing; Miss Rosabel Dodd distinguishes herself as Cora Simmonet; and as Sophie Blanchard, Miss Muriel Inglis is most effective. Miss Maggie Stuart also does well as Marie Guerin.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—Mr. Ian Maclaren's Shakespearean and Old English Comedy Company opened a week's engagement here in *David Garrick*. Mr. Maclaren as David Garrick acted in fine style; Miss Edith Coleman as Mabel was most successful; and Mr. B. Iden Payne as the Alderman acquitted himself well. *The Merchant of Venice, Othello, Romeo and Juliet*, and *Hamlet* are also in the répertoire.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—A most artistic interlude is being presented here by Mr. Rex King, who is a fine character-actor as well as an accomplished ventriloquist. His protean act is a decided novelty, and he scores most unmistakably. The Three Sisters Onetti, in a gymnastic performance, are marvellous; Harry Desmond, comedian, contributes two good songs; the Sisters Lytton, vocalists, sing some pretty numbers; Sterling and Cashen, duettists and dancers, also please in their turn; and Frank Whiteley (character comedian), the Brothers St. Clair (trick cyclists), and the Ringlings also entertain.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—A large house greatly appreciated a return visit of *The Walls of Jericho*, presented by a capital company under the direction of Mr. Silvanus Dauncey and Mr. M. V. Leveaux. Mr. A. E. Anson scores a success as Jack Frobisher; Mr. George A. Brandram is good as Hankey Bannister; Mr. Cyril Baleine scores as the insignificant little Marquis. Mr. Gladys Mason is a charming actress, and, as Lady Alethea Frobisher, she excels; Miss Nona Wynee is seen to advantage as Lady Lucy Derenham; Miss Marguerite Cellier is successful as Lady Westerby. Other characters deserving of mention are Mr. A. W. Tyrer (Harry Dallas), Miss Edith Cuthbert (Miss Mornington), and Miss Leonora Thomas (the Duchess of Skye).

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. A. Rand.—One of the chief features of a capital bill this week is a dramatic sketch, entitled *A Bolt from the Blue*, by Harry Trevanion and company, which is well staged and full of interest. The Delvines give a comedy mélange, which provides plenty of amusement; Mr. David Poole is a clever and rather original ventriloquist; the Two Anartos are seen in a pleasing comedy sketch; the Grovini Sisters are clever acrobats; Clarice Netta is a good soprano; and Mr. George Westland (comedian) and Miss Carry Joy (comedienne) also appear. The biograph pictures conclude.

HIPPODROME. — Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—A well-varied and attractive programme is this week provided here. The chief turn is the Lukushima Troupe of Japanese acrobats and jugglers in some neatly executed feats; Spessardy's bears prove very intelligent and funny; Messrs. C. Wordley Hulse and company give a clever dramatic scena, entitled *The Fight in the Forge*; Corman's Juveniles are responsible for some clever singing and dancing; Sinclair and Parr, as operatic duettists, are well received; The Ottawas, in a smart turn, produce good music from out-of-the-way articles; Walter King and Phil Herman are both capital comedians; and a capital set of Bioscope pictures concludes.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John H. Morton.—Crowded houses are witnessing Mr. Ronald Grahame's pantomime, *Aladdin*. Miss Celestine Brandon in the hero's part is winning much favour; Miss Edna Hana makes a capital Pekoe; Miss Lucie Fitzroy a winsome Princess; Miss Jessie McIndoe plays the Slave of the Lamp with taste and feeling; Miss Myra Stewart is quite at home as Sparklet, the Slave of the Ring; Mr. Gilbert Hart as Widow Twankey makes a great hit; and Mr. Wilfred E. Brandon is a capital Abanazar.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—*Goody Two Shoes* finishes a successful two weeks here to-night.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—Mr. Bulmer's company in *Sentenced for Life* is attracting appreciative audiences here this week. Mr. R. Brancepeth Nevill as Sir Wallace Stillwell is good; Mr. Ernest Vaughan depicts the villain, Captain Paul Derrick, in a telling manner; Mr. Edward E. Louis as Lieut. Roy Stillwell acts with power; Mr. Maurice Maude earns distinction as the Rev. Martin Orris; Mr. James E. Frith as Percy M. Gentle proves himself an excellent comedian; Mr. Arthur Reand does well as Bill Sharkey; and Mr. Reg. Oldroyd as Tob, the Tadpole, creates much merriment. Miss Madge Douglas ably sustains the rôle of Adele Gray; Miss May Neilson as Kate Rennel deserves praise; and Miss Mary Dalby gives a fine impersonation of Lady Stillwell.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Walter Gibbons; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—An enjoyable bill of fare is here this week. Very creditable is the performance of Mr. George d'Albert and company in the graphic sketch *It's Never Too Late to Mend*; Evelyn Taylor, comedienne, sings her songs with effect; the Raymond Trio of instrumentalists and dancers give a pleasing turn; Frank Elliston and company are highly amusing in the sketch *Aunt Matilda*; the Three Amaranths bring down the house with their marvellous acrobatic dancing; Carl Lynn is an inimitable animal mimic; the Czar's Russian Dancers are unflagging in their efforts to please; Alec Kennedy is an excellent actor-vocalist; and due recognition is given to Mr. Ernest Leicester, Miss Violet Fulton and company in the richly-mounted sketch *The Mystery of the Cliff*.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—There was a full house to witness Mr. Edward Marris's pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, prettily played, well staged, and beautifully costumed. Miss Marie Gerard and Mr. Geo. Brentwood (owing to the indisposition of Reed and Russell) played the parts of Crusoe and Will Atkins admirably. Mr. Joe Waldron is responsible for droll comedy; Miss Elfie Vincent makes a sweet Polly; Mr. James Graydon as the Dame is excellent; Mr. Alec Kathma as Captain Mainbrace is good; Mr. Jack Kashma is clever as Crusoe's dog; Mr. Ernie Hampson is a capital Man Friday; the Waldrons submit a clever song and dance sketch; and Misses Chandler and Payne are responsible for a spirited rendering of the "Zuyder Zee." The Thalian Glee Singers contribute some excellent glees.

DARWEN. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson. — Miss Florence Baines and company are here this week in *Miss Lancashire, Limited*. Miss Baines is excellent as Mary Ellen Thompson, the Lancashire lass, and is well supported by Miss Kitty Jones, as Eva Lancashire; as Bertha, Miss Muriel Johnston displays considerable ability; Miss Pattie-Groves is admirably placed as Bridget Thompson; and Mr. Walter Hicks, as Grant, the butler; Mr. Payne Fletcher, as William Henry Thompson; and Mr. R. C. Hicks, as Fox, the solicitor, are all that can be desired. Isadore Moses, John Higgins, and Harry are in the capable hands of Messrs. Sam Leslie, David Donaldson, and Burt Burton respectively.

DEAL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. C. White.—Messrs. Henry Chattrel and G. W. Bowes' *Sign of the Cross* company paid a one-night visit on Tuesday. That this fine play has lost none of its charm was proved by the full house and the enthusiastic applause of the audience. Mr. Wallace G. Court as Marcus, Mr. Burton W. Yaldwin as Nero, Mr. Lionel Yaldwin as Tigellinus, Miss Nancy York as Mercia, and the rest of the large and competent company played admirably.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company occupies the boards this week with *East Lynne*. Mr. Alfred Beaumont is eminently successful as Archibald Carlyle; Miss Julie Kennard as Lady Isabel submits presentments at once graceful and refined, and merits unstinted praise; Levison is capably accounted for by Mr. Eric Mayne; Mr. Cecil Hayward is amusing as Lawyer Dill; Mr. H. Rutland is a manly Richard Hare; and Mr. C. C. Gratton is capital as Justice Hare. Barbara Hare is charmingly played by Miss Ethel Saville, and Miss Hardacre is entirely adequate as Cornelia Carlyle. The diverting rôle of Police-Constable Bullock is well sustained by Mr. Alfred Tate; Miss Jessie Boyes, a clever child actress, gives an intelligent study of Little Willie, whilst little Isabel is nicely played by Miss Ethel Rae.

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—An excellent programme here this week is headed by Tom Lloyd, comedian, whose songs cause much hearty laughter; the four Kurios are responsible for some absurdities which are both clever and amusing; Larola is a success as a comic juggler; Martin Henderson, a blind genius, provides a musical entertainment which is highly appreciated; Eno is a capable mimic of music-hall stars; Bessie Travis is a clever lady ventriloquist; and Rose Cabani is a very acceptable comedienne. The Palace Bioscope concludes with some first-rate films.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Geo S. King.—*Dick Whittington* appears to have reached the acme of success, a matter to be by no means wondered at, bearing in mind the fact that the company is an exceedingly accomplished one, and the members, individutlly and collectively, work their hardest to ensure the success of the production. The vocal items receive innumerable encores, and are entrusted to the following capable artists:—Miss Hettie Gale ("Firefly" and "Widow Doolan"), Miss Emily Constance ("Ballooning" and "Zuyder Zee"), Miss Rae Rosenthal ("Wearing my heart away"), Miss Cissie Cleveland ("It's a different girl again" and "Meet me at the Posada"), Mr. F. D. Fraser ("Nelson from his monument"), Mr. W. P. Sheen ("The Cat"), and Miss Lillian Ramsdale ("Man from Manitoba"). Miss Eny Durell made her début on Monday as the Fairy Queen, and scored a great success.

DEWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The Northern Theatre Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Asquith.—*The Prince of Pilsen* is being played here this week by Mr. Baron H. Harriss's company. Miss Sophie Harriss plays the important part of Mrs. Maddison Crocker, and her characterisation lacks nothing in point or distinction. Mr. Harry Kilburn is a host in himself as the eccentric Hans Wagner; Miss Connie Leon is delightful as the French maid Sidonie; Miss Alice Nixon very prettily characterises Nellie Wagner. Her vocal work is of such merit as to receive rightful recognition. Mr. Frank Crimp possesses a baritone voice of agreeable strength, range, and tone, and his assumption of Carl Otto is notable for its dignity and manliness. Mr. Roy Sidney plays Lieut. Tom Wagner in appropriate fashion, his nautical gait and mannerisms suiting the character; and Mr. Bernard Russell as the Earl of Shrimpton is an acceptable exponent. The Vasser Girl, Edith Adams, is played with good effect by Miss Ada Watson; Mr. Ernest Gifford creates plenty of amusement in the character of François. The chorus of daintily-gowned ladies render a good account of themselves; and much might be said in eulogy of the artistic dancing of Miss A. Vincent as Dollie Dixie. The full chorus and augmented orchestra are ably handled by the musical director, Mr. Albert Vernon. Mr. Herbert Higgins is the general-manager of this really excellent company.

DONCASTER. — NEW THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—Mr. J. Car Kiddie's pantomime, entitled *Little Bo-Peep*, attracted a crowded house on Monday evening. The singing and dancing are delightful, the dresses and costumes quaint and handsome, and the pantomime has the advantage of having a number of specialities, including grand tableaux of living statuary, a charming ballet of white china, the Solon Trio, the Lohrenz Quartette, with a coon song and dance, and the Hammersley ballet troupe of lady dancers.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Chas. Hyland.—*Sinbad the Sailor* continues to attract large audiences nightly. Miss Mary Beatty as the principal boy is as engaging as ever, and Mr. Edward Lauri as Tinbad and Mr. Gus Walker as Mrs. Sinbad are both irresistibly funny; Mr. Tom Finglass is particularly good as Pompey, his coon songs and dances being deservedly applauded, and Messrs. G. H. Snazelle and Fred Arthur are entertaining as the Captain and the Sultan. Other artists who deserve mention include Miss Blanche Astley as Zorilda, Miss Agnes Gunn as the Spirit of Adventure, and Mr. Cecil Kingsley as the Grand Vizier.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company entered on their last week here on Monday, when *The Huguenots* was presented. Mme. de Vere, who has a voice of excellent power, played Valentine brilliantly; Mr. Joseph O'Mara's interpretation of Raoul was delightful, vocally and histrionically; Miss Kate Anderson sang beautifully as Marguerite of Valois; and Mr. Charles Manners, in a remarkably good representation of Marcel, sang his music with excellent taste and ability. Mr. Charles Magrath's San Bris was perfectly satisfactory, and the rôle of De Nevers was played with credit by Mr. William Devers. Herr Richard Eckhold conducted. *Lucia di Lammermoor, The Lily of Killarney, Carmen, Faust, Marriage of Figaro, Il Trovatore*, and *The Bohemian Girl* are in the week's bill.

QUEEN'S THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. M. Dawson.—*Under the Czar* has met with acceptance here this week, Mr. Fred Jarman's all-round able company presenting it. Mr. Wilson Howard did justice to the character of Nicholas Yeroslaff and Miss Lilian Herries exercised much judgment as Sonia Gregorovitch; Captain Johnson had an able expenent in Mr. Gerald Smythe; Miss Beatrice Annesley was an excellent Siomka; Mr. George H. Doyle a capital Zakhar Kovesky; and the rôle of Zara Bhura was well enacted by Miss Madge Clare. As Michael Granoviski Mr. Victor Gordon was admirable, and Mr. Louis Weston was good as Paul Ignod.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allan; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Geo. H. Marsh.—Mr. Fred Karno and company are again topping the bill with *Early Birds*, which arouses great laughter; Baker and Balfe, xylophonists and dancers, are warmly appreciated; Katie Cohen sings several songs very sweetly; ample fun is provided by the Bros. Hayes in their sketch, *The Porter and the Professional*; Jess Thorne is an acceptable comedy artist; Albert Christian, baritone, scores a distinct success; and Raie Walters, comedienne, and the De Wynne Bros., head and hand balancers, are accorded a good reception. The Empire Pictures are entertaining.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Foremost here this week is Herbert Lloyd, who is mirth-provoking in his new comedy act; Grant and Grant, the American Octoroons, make a big success, and Rosie Lloyd, with catchy songs, is well received. As a versatile comedian J. H. Carney provokes much amusement, and Mabel Marius supplies an

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interesting turn; Secardo Bros., comedy acrobats, give an exceedingly smart show; and other admirable turns are provided by Mlle. Ameda, novelty entertainer; Dick Kendall, a brisk comedian and dancer; and Ida Evalo, lady gymnast, and the Bioscope concludes a well-varied entertainment.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. Frank R. Thorne's company, in the romantic drama *Napoleon the Great*, opened to a very appreciative house on Monday. Mr. Hugh Montgomery's Napoleon is a powerful and well-studied piece of acting that received to the full the applause it merited; Mr. Phil Harper makes a noble and true Colonel Jules Meuron; and Mr. Henry Earlesmere is well placed as Colonel Lavarennes. Mr. Frank M. Thorne, in the amusing character of Pierre Pompennet, soon proves a strong favourite; Miss Leslie Warner's rendering of Marie Walewska is admirable; Miss Maud Russell as Mademoiselle Leonie Marbœuf, proves herself a clever actress; Miss Marie Harcourt as Marcelle Choupin and Miss Florence Thorne as Mère Dumont are also well received.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Nightingale.—At the top of the bill here this week we have Tom Davis and company in an absurdity entitled *Furgusoni's Dog;* and Howe and Ardie, comedy acrobats and gymnasts, occupy the bottom of the bill with an exceptionally smart turn. Ethel Loftus, a clever comedienne, is here again; Sylvia Martin, the lady horse trainer, gives an interesting performance; Carson Hicks, comedian, has some good songs and dances; the Sisters Ford, vocalists and dancers, are another popular turn; and Fred Harrington, vocalist, is well received.

DUMFRIES.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. E. Potts; Manager, Mr. Payne Seddon.—For the first three nights of this week we were favoured with a visit of Mr. Edward Morris' company in *The Orchid*. Miss Dorothy Vernon was popular in the part of Lady Violet Anstruther; Miss Florence Allen made an amusing Caroline Vokins; Miss Cissie Brand, a smart Zelie Rumbert; and Miss Trilby Collier an effective Josephine Zaccary. Mr. Harry Walsh, as Meakin (the gardener) kept the house laughing the whole evening; Mr. Sinclair Holden, as the Hon. Guy Scrymgeour, gained favour; Mr. Geoffrey Berwick, as Dr. Ronald Faussett, was very successful; and Mr. Len. Neville, as Zaccary, was all that could be desired.

DUNDALK.—TOWN HALL THEATRE.—Proprietors, Urban Council.—This week Mr. Payne Seddon presents Mr. Charles Macdona's company in *A Chinese Honeymoon*. Miss Kitty Clayton does some admirable work as Fi Fi, keeping the house in hilarious humour. As Mr. Pineapple Mr. Ernest Sefton is well suited; Miss May Davis is well adapted to the part of Mrs. Pineapple; as Soo Soo Miss May Stevenson is a great success; Hang Chow is safe in the hands of Mr. Harold Cotter; and Mr. Louis Ashmeade is a good Chippie Chop. Mr. J. Maxwell Edwards as Tom Haterton is all that can be desired.

DUNDEE.—PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—A capital bill of fare is presented here this week, the top-liner being Tom Woottwell, who at once made a big impression. Harry Taft and Frank Coyle, comedians, both make decided hits, the former winning rounds of applause for his whistling of two of Sousa's marches; Agnese Lynch, a singer with a pleasing soprano voice, is heard to great advantage, the pictures by which her songs are accompanied being beautiful exhibitions of colour; the Mezzettis give a marvellous exhibition on the triple bars, the antics of the little man causing roars of laughter; Cambo, the musical man monkey, is a decided novelty, and proves a very entertaining turn; Prof. Milne contributes a well-worked ventriloquial turn; and Billie Barlow and Emily Lyndale, comediennes, provide enjoyable fare. The Bioscope completes a varied and attractive bill. A special word of praise should be accorded to Mr. Geo. Mundell's capable orchestra, whose brilliantly-played selections are now quite a feature of the programme here.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—The pantomime *Mother Goose* entered on its last week on Monday evening. It has proved a great success, and has broken all records at this house. On Thursday Miss Gertie Douglas, the popular principal boy, took a well-earned benefit.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—*The King's Secret*, a drama with much to commend it, is being played here by Mr. James Stillwell's company. As Captain Fairburn Mr. Paul E. Teulon gives a splendid representation of a British naval officer; Boatswain Jack is admirably played by Mr. Harry Liddle; as Lawyer Swiverton Mr. John Burgess gives a fine character-study of the part; the pushful American, Jonathan Newark, is capitally played by Mr. Duncan Bell; while Mr. James Stillwell gives a powerful delineation of the villain, Hassat Alfar. Miss Katherine Barnet as Star Newark, an American girl, acts with delightful vivacity; and Miss Fann St. George, an actress of great ability, gives a very fine rendering of an Egyptian adventuress.

KINNAIRD HALL.—Wm. Hamilton's Excursions are proving very successful here. The scenic pictures are of rare beauty and interest, while a delightful variety entertainment and amusing animated pictures further add to the enjoyment of the entertainment.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E Potts.—The Russell-Rosse répertoire company is fulfilling a week's engagement here, and opened on Monday night before a good house with the famous comedy *A Pair of Spectacles*. Mr. A. J. Harding is a very capable Mr. Benjamin Goldfinch; Mr. Norman Clark is exceptionally good as Uncle Gregory; Mr. J. B. Pearson is a clever exponent of Percy; Mr. Frank Liston sustains with credit the part of Dick; Mr. F. J. Hampton successfully undertakes that of Lorimer; and Mr. W. E. Chance does ample justice to the rôle of Bartholomew. Miss Rachel de Travis makes a good Joyce; Miss Ida Phillips is a delightful Mrs. Goldfinch; and Miss E. N. O'Connor a sweet Lucy. *Caste* and *Our Boys* are included in the week's programme.

EASTBOURNE. — PIER PAVILION. — Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—*The Little Stranger*, acted by Mr. Charles Steuart and company, is paying a second local visit. Master Edward Garratt possesses unique qualifications to play the part of the baby, and Tom Pennyman, and this phenomenally tiny comedian causes loud laughter at every sentence he speaks. Mr. Charles Steuart is always an interesting and natural Dick Allenby; Mr. George Bellamy has an impressive solemnity which is admirably used in the rôle of Paul Vronsky; Mr. Athol Forde is a spirited representative of General Allenby; Mr. Hubert Druce is exceedingly good as the nervous Sir George Peacock; Mr. H. Lawrence Layton is a distinguished Hon. Alec Howard; and Mr. J. Carl Lyle works hard and well as Eames; Miss Mary Allestree is responsible for admirable work as Mrs. Dick Allenby; Miss Daisy Atherton is a charming and attractive Effie; Miss Mary Stuart and Miss Alice C. Greene share the honours which certainly fall to them as Mrs. Allenby and Lady Peacock; and Miss Dora Hole does excellently as the nurse. *The Second Mrs. Grundy* is the curtain-raiser, and it is notably well played by Miss Daisy Atherton and Mr. Hubert Druce.

ECCLES.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Hamilton Baines; Manager, Mr. Albert Orton; Secretary, Mr. P. Ryan Smith.—Mr. Peter Thompsons pantomime company is here this week with *The Babes in the Wood*, which has caught on in the most satisfactory manner. As Robin Hood, Miss Maude Beaumont is a great success; Miss Lou Langley is a sweet and dainty Maid Marion; a capital Baron is found in Mr. Wilton Marsh; the Danbys as Tim Tired and Willie Wearied keep the audience well amused; Mr. F. G. Vane scores as Evelean; a clever rendering of the Babes is given by Miss Renée Grahame and Miss Babs Lloyd; Miss Minnie Moran makes a fine Will Scarlet; and the acrobatic exhibition given by N. T. Kioto is exceedingly clever .

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull.—Mr. George Edwardes's company entered upon the closing week of the present engagement in *The Merveilleuses* last Monday, in presence of a large audience.

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard. —The *Cinderella* pantomime continues its brilliant run, and is still drawing full houses. Miss Gwennie Hasto's clever dancing is greatly admired; Miss Violet Englefield and Miss Dorothy Chard have become special favourites; and the drolleries of Mr. Dan Rolyat and Mr. John Humphries provoke irresistible merriment. Mr. Stephen Adeson and Mr. Bay Russel also contribute largely to the fun.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—There is, as usual, much variety in the programme here this week. It is refreshing to see a performance so artistic as that of Mr. Henry J. Corner's *The Dandies*. Their singing is admirable, their dancing is graceful and clever, and the whole turn is marked by a pleasing air of refinement. The Kellinos arouse enthusiasm by their exhilarating, daring, and humorous acrobatic display; the Allisons are talented actors, excellent singers, and smart dancers; the Three Chester Sisters give an enjoyable performance of drum and banjo playing, and skilful dancing; Mr. Cliff Ryland, humorist, has a droll manner, and his speeches are evidently appreciated by his audiences; Miss Ethel Dorina is extremely good in her exposition of dances of different nationalities; Master Clifford makes an extremely successful appearance as a dancer, and equally good is Mr. Russell Brandon's effective acrobatic dancing turn. Mr. Herbert Darnley's company of comedians is also in the bill with a heterogeneous musical farce entitled *The Freaks*, and the Bioscope shows some novel films.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—The management keep up the attractions of this perennially popular place of holiday entertainment by the timely addition of novelties to the bill of fare, and prominent in this week's programme come interesting exhibitions of horsemanship by Miss Rose Montero and Nicolini. This last-named artist, in the guise of a Mexican rough-rider, performs some very daring feats. Mlle. Yetta shows originality in her introduction of a cake-walk on the slack wire, and a great deal of genuine fun is got out a burlesque bull-fight. Novel and Toney appear in a clever staircase act; a nautical scene act by Mr. Leicester Alfred Cooke, entitled *Homeward Bound*, is presented with great effect; and the big water carnival, *Ally Sloper*, still provides unlimited amusement.

EXETER. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—*Aladdin* continues to attract crowded houses at every performance. Miss Rose Helene, who is making such a success in the title-rôle, has a new song, "Ballooning," which goes with a capital swing. Miss Lulu Louden is a captivating Princess, and sings "The Scarecrow" with success. Mr. E. W. Avery and Mr. Fred Fowler respectively as the Dame and the Magician, continue to provide most of the fun, and prove themselves clever comedians. Mr. J. H. Booth as the Emperor and Mr. Harry Emeric (Wishee Washee) ably support the leading comedians. Mlle. Ebba Darcier as a maid of honour sings very sweetly, as also does Miss Blanche Browne as Pekoe. The new specialities introduced this week are Ivy Valescoe's Australian stage circus and Charlie Hampson's performing dogs and pigeons. Both specialities are decidedly good.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—Mr. Fred Karno's No. 1 Company has occupied the stage here this week with *His Majesty's Guests*. The farcical comedy was presented with a verve and go that secured pronounced success. The important rôle of Sergeant Lightning (Mr. Dick Kitchen) was the life and soul of the piece. Mr. Frank Morton proved an able exponent of the part of Lord Easem, and was ably supported by Miss Leonora Castelle, as Lady Maud Easem, his companion in crime; Mr. Charles Usher made a dignified Mr Miffin; and Mr. Alex. Munro (Harry), Mr. Harry Howe (Bunker), Mr. Sid. Kearns (Mr. Minks), Mr. Mike Johnson (Fritz), Mr. Tom Manardo (Selina), and Mr. S. Bolton (Josiah Giles) also filled their respective parts with ability. Miss Edith Ager was an engaging and charming Dolly, and Miss Kitty Brunton successfully hit off the foibles of the new woman in the part of Miss Manley.

FARNWORTH.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. Morton Powell.—We are favoured this week by a visit from Mr. Douglas Bruce's company in *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*. The title-rôle is played by Miss Ethel Bracewell, who gives an admirable all-round representation. Miss Lydia Mannington as Marian Franklyn proves herself a capable actress, and Miss Oda M. Ryder as Rose Seymour is to be congratulated on her rendering of a by no means easy part. The character of Isabella Jones is well played by Miss Daisy Meynard. Mr. J. B. Shinton is suitably placed as the Rev. Robert Everton, and Mr. George Steel as Jack England gives a manly and convincing performance. Capt. Geoffrey Caversham is a very real character in the capable hands of Mr. Frank Adair, who makes the most of every opportunity. Mr. G. Mitchell and Mr. Harold Macartney as James Sutton and Weatherby give a good account of themselves. Mr. G. H. Asquin is responsible for the humorous element as Dick Punch, and his efforts meet with success. The play is adequately mounted.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Messrs. E. Lockwood, R. Crossman, and P. M. Foster's company opened here, on Monday, with *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. E. Russell appeared as Sergeant Brue with his customary success; Mr. T. Shelford, as Michael Brue, sang and danced well, his efforts being repeatedly applauded; Miss Ella Daincourt was a winsome Aurora Brue; Miss Constance Berkeley played with humour the part of Daisy; Miss Aileen Macdonald was vivacious as Mabel Widgett; Mr. Arthur Stroud sang and acted in a bright and effective manner as Gerald Treherne; Mr. Henry Chichester was well suited as Mr. Crank; Mr. Charles McLagan was exceedingly droll as Crookie Scrubbs; and Miss Edith Houseley, as Lady Bickenhall, sustained her part in a capable manner.

GATESHEAD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. M. S. Hammond; Licensee, Mr. Ed. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harold Arnold.—*Sinbad the Sailor* terminates his stay here this week. Miss Fifi Gordon as Sinbad has won many encomiums, and her "Zuyder Zee" song and dance has made a phenomenal "hit." Miss Beatie Kent has also many admirers. The comedian-in-chief, Mr. Tom Collins, has afforded infinite amusement; and another factor in the success is the work of Mr. Herbert Fuller. Mr. Tod Squires, Messrs. Bishop and Vale, Misses Tennis and Lawn, and Solida and Vone have lent invaluable aid.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas France.—Mr. F. Marriott-Watson's company is here in the drama, *A False Wife*. To Miss Florence E. Florence go the chief honours, her Estelle de Lussan being deserving of the highest praise; Mr. Fred H. Constable submits a polished rendering of George Mansfield; Mr. Watson himself takes care of Jean Beraud, and does the part full justice; and the comedy element is contributed with success by Mr. Elton Morgan as Ben Rattler, and Mr. Allan Charles as Archibald Tee. Miss Annie Hylton is effective as Agnes Weyland; Miss Ivy Chandos makes a lively Bessie Blazer; and Miss Flo Morgan is seen to advantage as Sarah Bernstein. In addition to the drama, animated pictures of the Nelson and Gans fight have been shown.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—Mr. Ernest R. Abbott and company are appearing here in *A Wife's Triumph*. Mr. Abbott does full justice to the rôle of Frank Wilton; Miss Ada Abbott gives a clever rendering of Bessie Dewhurst; and the humorous work of Mr. Edwin Keene, in the part of Ben Bradford, is much enjoyed.

GLASGOW.—ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—*The Catch of the Season* entered on its fourth and last week on Monday and a crowded house evinced the heartiest interest in the comedy as interpreted by Mr. George Dance's company. Mr. Frank Lincoln is specially well placed as the Duke of St. Jermyns, and in song, dance, and humour of dialogue he is equally happy. Miss Morya Mannering as the pretty Angela is also a strong favourite, and when masquerading as the Irish heiress she acts with infinite variety and versatility. Master Grata as the love-sick pageboy, Misses Isobel Dickens and Florence Lee as the two elder sisters, and Miss Belle Napier as the Fairy Godmother also add to the success, and the large and attractive chorus make the concerted music a specially delightful feature.

KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane. —*See-See* completes its month's run here this week and has proved an excellent entertainment for the holiday season. The humour provided by Mr. Frank Danby and Mr. W. H. Rawlins, the spirited singing of Mr. Leonard Mackay and Miss Amy Augarde, the dancing of Miss Topsy Sinden, and the charming embodiment of the title-rôle by Miss Lily Elsie have made the comedy a veritable feast of good things. Miss Daisy Wallace, Miss Octavia Barry, Miss Sybil Grey, and the other principals ably add their quota to the list of attractions, and the first visit of this musical comedy has been a notable success.

METROPOLITAN, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—*The Babes in the Wood* still continues to attract large audiences nightly, provided as it is, by an array of capable artists who combine to make the performance an undoubted success. As Prince Radiant Miss Rose Hamilton has established herself a great favourite, and is most successful in her songs. Miss Lucy Lynch makes a charming Princess Dainty, and Miss Pattie Bella is a popular Sir Bertie. A very creditable performance is that of Miss Ada Martine as Dolly Daydream. Messrs. James Albert and Edmund Edmunds as Horatio Hardface and Sammy Softun are very amusing. Other favourites are Bernard and Weston, Mark Tapley, Ernie Sparks, Miss Cecilia Maude, and Mr. Reginald Hamilton.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—At the popular Govan house pantomime has given place to melodrama, the attraction for the present week being Mr. T. Morton Powell's company in *Honour thy Father*. Mr. Walter M. Cameron appears as Gabriel Garth, the ruined farmer, and gives a touching picture of the kindly old man; a smart, breezy representative of the young sailor, Capt. Halyard, is found in Mr. Bertram H. Ross; the thankless part of Duncan Bly is played with telling effect by Mr. W. R Winning; Mr. Claude Merton cleverly doubles the parts of Job Merry and an inventive lunatic named Bloggs; an agreeable touch of humour is imparted to the scenes by Mr. Fred Rolls as Copplestone and Mr. W. H. Melrose as Pennycomquick; Miss Mabel Coleman gives a pleasing interpretation of the sympathetic rôle of Lilian Garth; as the heiress, Mercy Merry, Miss Muriel Dean acts and dresses with becoming taste; Miss Kate Newton portrays the character of Mrs. Garth with much feeling; Poppy Cornleigh, the farm servant, is represented in sprightly fashion by Miss Ada Salmon, and a graceful Violet Wilfred is found in Miss Maud Gray.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Chas. Mussett. — Mme. Alice Esty, a prime Glasgow favourite, is a brilliant success in *Betta, the Gipsy*, a fine operatic scena, in which she is supported by a capable company. Victor Travers is a host in himself, and makes everyone merry. Harry Drew sings "Honour and Arms" in fine style, and Ida Kathrena, in a turn of the *La Poupee* order, meets with great success. The Bioscope is a fine interlude this week, and is much enjoyed. Torbay is a shadowgraphist of the first water. Prince Kokin varies with an agile and neat display of Japanese jugglery; *Crystal Gazing*, in which Mr. W. H. Day and Miss Laura Dyson are seen is a delightful fantasy. The Two Butterflies, juvenile gymnasts, provide as pretty a turn in gymnastics as Glasgow has seen for a long time, and the programme is strengthened by the funny and bustling acrobatism of Spissell Bros. and Mack, who keep the house roaring.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—At the top of the bill this week is Raku, the Japanese exponent of Ju-Jitsu. In consequence of a slight injury Raku did not appear in the early part of the week, but his place was taken by a friend, who gave an excellent display of the Japanese method of self-defence. Ethel Ra Leslie is a pleasant singer, who appears in male costume of the David Garrick period. The Aurora troupe of trick cyclists do some astonishing feats of cycling. Ferris and Farnley are capital comedians and agile dancers. Edward Cranston and Co. present the exciting Irish racing scene called *Terry, or True to His Trust*. The Five Bogannys give a novel Risley performance. The Sisters Petram's marionette entertainment is exceedingly pleasing. Virto, the musical instrumentalist, shows that fine music and comic effects can be produced from the same instrument. The Toreadors enact a queer bull-fight in which the "toro" part is taken by a lively donkey, which is supplied with long horns. Animated pictures complete an entertaining programme.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—Victoria Monks makes an early and most welcome return visit here, and the crowds attracted nightly are proof of the hold she has on the Glasgow public. Barton and Ashley are also prime favourites, and their funny duologue is enthusiastically received. A striking series of tableaux in statuesque poses is given by the Countess Romanow, interspersed with comic pictures on the Bioscope. The Grosvenors give several musical selections with excellent effect; and in more elaborate operatic scores the Sisters Llewellyn have made a decided hit. Maud Marlow's catchy scenes are well received, as also are the amusing ditties of J. H. Crey. The Five Vernons contribute some taking selections on the xylophone. Allan and Hart, duettists, complete a first-rate programme.

COLISEUM.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—An attractive programme is arranged here this week. Leo Stormont and company (now in their third week) are still drawing appreciative audiences with their condensed version of *Rob Roy*. The variety attractions on the programme include De Dio, skirt dancer, who, with the aid of limelight effects, gives a really wonderful exhibition; William Gourlay, comedy artist; Paulinetti and Piquo, gymnasts; Lopez, dental athlete; Johnson and Bert, comedy acrobats; Tucker and Evans, boxing and ball specialists; Brenton Sisters, comediennes and dancers; and the Bioscope with a novel series of pictures.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldron; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—Joe Peterman and company are back once more in *The Belle of the Orient*, and have had a hearty reception. The Jumels score as musical experts; Woodward and Walton sing and dance well; Ada Parker, in a series of coon songs and dances, makes quite a hit; Walter Stanley has had a great reception, and scores with quaint songs and sayings; Miss Hulo Hodgson and Mr. Harry Lowther appear in a breezy episode entitled *Barmaids*; Miss Rosie Revat is a good comedy artist. The Bioscope pictures are also on view when time permits.

GAIETY, LTD.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Howard; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Bowerman.—The bill here is headed by Duse Mohamed, in *The Jew's Revenge*, which has had a very good reception. The Carney Bros. appear in a clever vocal act; the efforts of Geo. H. Rae, Scotch comedian, are highly appreciated; and the horizontal bar performance of Ariel and Astarte is daring and smart. Other acceptable turns comprise the Dunvilles, in musical comedy act; Sabino, the man of many instruments; Darnton Sisters, duettists; Macaskell, comic conjurer; and the Gaiety Bioscope.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—This week Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mackey's company is here with *The Wearin' o' the Green*. Mr. Arthur Rose gives a good delineation of Shamus McDermott, with songs; Mr. H. Sainsbury is well placed as Sir George Courtney; Mr. St. John Stuart is exceedingly good as Gerald Courtney; Mr. David McFarlane as Connor Martin and Mr. Arthur Prescott as Michael Kenny score as the evildoers of the piece; Mrs. Chalmers Mackey as Norah McGrath acts in a capable manner; Miss Adele Liddon gives a pathetic reading of Mrs. McDermott; and Mr. Charles Mackey (Barney O'Hea) and Miss Nana Flensberg (Biddy McGinn) provide plenty of fun.

GLOUCESTER.—PALACE.—Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—Miss Marie Collins heads the bill, and is excellently received. Little Canty, a most comical little man, is also starred. The Seabornes are a trio of clever equilibrists and acrobats, who merit the applause bestowed on them. The Three Whirligigs (two ladies and one gentleman) present a pleasing performance of singing and dancing; and Simosa San is a neat lady juggler. Morimura, a Japanese illusionist, introduces some smart conjuring; and Charles Banks and his dog, Woof, earn appreciation. Lilian Travelli, burlesque artist, sings a good song; and Sam Dalton, comedian, contributes some capital songs. The Bioscope is still a feature in the programme.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John E. Tomlinson.—A welcome change has been provided at this theatre by Miss Rose Moncrieff's company in *Little Red Riding Hood*. The pantomime, which is full of fun and frolic, is meeting with great success. Miss Blanche St. Marie is an excellent principal boy, and is loudly encored for her popular songs; Miss Ethel Maries plays the title-rôle in a sprightly manner, and sings and dances with much spirit; as Jack Miss Flo Templar is all that can be desired; Miss Dot Irving makes a good impression with her coon songs and clever dancing; as the Dame, Mr. Jack Heath is the principal laughter-maker; Messrs. Burns and Bentley give an excellent account of themselves as the Lawyer's Clerks; Mr. James Harold as Baron Badlot contributes largely to the success, and he is ably assisted by Mr. Fred McGorman as Lawyer Fox; Miss Jennie Lattour is a charming Fairy, with a good voice. Specialities are introduced in the Palace scene by Messrs. Burns and Bentley and Mr. James Harold.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — ROYAL AQUARIUM. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. Walter Melville's original drama, *The Female Swindler*, is attracting large houses this week. In the title-rôle Miss Grace E. Leslie acts with force and fervour; as John Coulson Mr. Joseph Millane is successful in a Sherlock Holmes part; Mr. J. Belton gives a clever character study of Abraham Mikestein; Mr. Clarence Ibbotson appears successfully in four different characters; Geoffrey Ward is capitally represented by Mr. Stanley Radcliff; and Miss Florence Relsey is excellent as May Andrews.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Miss Eva Moss and company, under the direction of Mr. Richard F. Symons, opened here on Monday with *Camille*. In the title-rôle Miss Moss distinguishes herself by the excellence of her emotional acting; much praise is due to Mr. Cecil Du Gue for his finished impersonation of Armand Duval, and the Count de Varville is ably represented by Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce. Mr. George Picket makes a capital Gaston Rieux, and Mr. J. Poole Kirkwood as M. Duval and Mr. Harold Vane as Gustave deserve mention. Miss Phyllis Manners as Madame Prudence is good; Miss Violet Campbell as Olimpe, Miss Edith Conner as Nichette, and Miss Wynne Hanley as Nanine are all that could be wished. *Frou-Frou* and *East Lynne* are also billed.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. H. L. Skiwington.—Toch and Tard head the bill here with an exceptionally smart acrobatic performance; the Loma Trio neatly execute some gymnastic feats; and Chester and Lee's marionette show is good. An excellent turn is that presented by the Dancing Gilberts; Marie Raymond, comedienne, is accorded a warm welcome; Fred Mason, comedian, scores with his singing and whistling, and the Empire pictures are excellent.

PAVILION THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. A. White.—"The mysterious Lilith," as presented by Mme. Harcourt, is mystifying crowded houses here. Lilian Warren is successful in illustrated songs; Cole and Rags, American jugglers, have been accorded a capital reception; Charles J. Johnstone is a coloured comedian of the first water; Winnie Scott, a charming comedian and dancer; Wal Robbins, musical speciality; Lilian Boanas, Australian vocalist, and the Paviscope pictures conclude the entertainment.

GUILDFORD. — BOROUGH HALL. — Managers, The County Halls Co., Ltd.—Our first pantomime reached here on Monday, when Mr. John A. Thomson—always popular in Surrey's county town—presented *Jack and the Beanstalk*, under local direction of Mr. G. W. Bowes. It proved a rollicking, good, old-fashioned entertainment, with pleasing songs, bright dances, and beautiful scenery. The Three Dandies especially proved attractive in their dances; while Percy Galino got applause for his capital bone and banjo solos; and Mr. R. Lomas is exceptionally agile as the Man Monkey. Mr. Harry Harcourt as Mother Hubbard wins shouts of laughter; Miss Edith Wallis is a popular Jack; and Miss Maggie Allwood a dainty Jill. As Britannia, Miss Ella Wallis well sings some pretty songs.

HALIFAX. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD. — General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—A great attraction is provided here this week by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company, in *The Dairymaids*. First mention must be made of Mr. Lionel Victor for his whimsical conception of Joe Mivens; he is ably seconded by Mr. E. Statham Staples, who, as Sam Brudenell, assists in keeping the ball of fun rolling. A typical Captain Fred is found in Mr. Alec Fraser; Mr. Forbes Dawson gives an excellent study of Dr. O'Byrne; Miss Violet Lloyd as Peggy gives a delightful interpretatoin of the Dairymaid; and Miss Cissie Sephton (a great favourite here) cannot be too highly commended as Eliza. Miss Edith Blanche as Lady Brudenell and Miss Rhoda Gordon as Winifred have congenial rôles.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—The Three Demons made their initial appearance here on Monday in a devil's table suspending cycling act, an astounding performance; the ever-popular Stanley Cooke made a decided hit with *The Lady Doctor*, a sketch that is distinguished by bright comedy; J. W. Magers had a big ovation for his American story-telling and fine basso singing; a seasonable item, *The Holly and Mistletoe*, was interestingly interpreted by Elsie Earle; Arthur Woodville worked hard in a refined entertainment; La Belle Nello, contortionist, was well received; Pueblo and Crop, the Petter Brothers in *The Page's Recreation*, and Chas. Stevens, light comedian, also contributed.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Ed. Harrison.—Yukio Tani, the scientific exponent of wrestling, holds the premier position here in a strong bill; Harry Vardon, the up-to-date ventriloquist, is as popular as ever; a flattering reception is accorded Dora Lyric for her rendition of "All that glitters is not gold"; Dick Cruikshank and company are irresistibly funny in their representation of *Bridget's Idea;* Fred Land is an eccentric comedian; the Wilfords (herculean tumblers), together with Carl Rosine (handcuff manipulator), are assured of success.

HANLEY. — ROYAL, LTD — Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Mr. Elliston's pantomime, *Sleeping Beauty*, has entered upon the last week of its season here. Mr. Dave O'Toole has scored triumphantly as the Queen; Mr. J. W. Churchill makes a most amusing Count; Mr. Alf. Bishop is a great favourite as the King; Mr. Lonnen Meadows, as the Yellow Dwraf, is all that can be desired; Miss Esme Gordon is a principal boy of first-class quality; Miss Lily Vane is a dainty Beauty Allfair; Miss Tilley acts and sings cleverly; Miss Agnes Molteno is most successful in her well-rendered vocal items; and the Howards, in their musical act, Miss Lottie Stone's dancers, the Morton Trio, and Ganty's Electric Bower contribute largely towards the success.

GRAND, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—The premier position is held this week by Strassburger's LiHiputians, these midgets being capital. The Leslie Brothers contribute a much-appreciated musical turn; the Mackways, in their act, "whirling on the wire," are a huge success; the Brothers Bright, in a strong act, provide a good turn; Leslie and Anson, in their comedy duologue, are capital; Kate Lynd is good; Charlie Dixon does well; Harry Freeman scores his usual success; and the pictures are excellent.

HARROGATE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Fielding Smith.—Pantomime reigns here again this week. It is the ever-popular story of *Cinderella*, played by Messrs. Kitts and Bellamy's company. Miss Madge Haines is a fine, dashing Dandini, and is possessed of a good voice, which she uses to great advantage; Miss Rhoda Windrum is a pretty Cinderella, and appears with great advantage, especially in her scenes with Billy Boy the Page (Mr. Charles Kitts), who throughout works hard; Miss Jennie Lynwood is a handsome Prince Brilliant; and Messrs. Ford and Ford appear as the broker's men. Mr. J. Oliver Russell and Mr. Bert McNallie represent Rosalind and Patricia respectively, and Miss Enida Riley is a handsome Fairy Goodheart.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Everton and Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier. — The array of talent chosen for this week is one that is meeting with every mark of approval from well-filled houses. The entertainment by Picitt and Lizette, *The Crazy Cook*, is unique, and their illusions are performed with a dexterity that is astounding; Bert Woodward, the comedy cycling coon, is always popular here; the quick-changes by little Lizzie Leaver are wonderfully well done; the astounding equilibristic exhibition by Bugler Carr evokes applause; the Levans, song illustrators, are certainly up to date in what they do (the idea of combining bioscope and song is a novelty here); an attractive number is contributed by Ben Harris and his nippers; Leonard and Larry indulge in some really smart patter. A. J. Gamble, Scotch comedian, and the Bioscope are also on the list.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Mr. Peter Davey's company on Monday opened here in *The Babes in the Wood*, excellently stage-managed by Mr. Buckstone Clair. Miss Margery Chard, a handsome Titania, sang well; Miss Cissie Clark, an alert and active Puck, gave pleasure with her dancing; the Babes were in the capable hands of Miss Alice Bowes (Chrissie) and Miss Queenie Harvey (Reggie), and the former sang very sweetly; Miss Ethel Rainforth as Felicita and Miss Millie Henderson as Jasper gained much applause for their graceful *danse à deux*, and their songs were well received; Mr. William Benson as Martha was amusing as the Nurse, with good comic business; Mr. Charles McCann's Baron was a comic creation; and Mr. Alfred Sandoe (Bill) and Mr. Charlie Clark (Dick) as the villains were duly entertaining.

PIER PAVILION.—Pier-Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. A. B. Tapping and an excellent troupe of artists are appearing in the farcical play, entitled *The New Boy*. Mr. Tapping has never given us anything livelier than his sketch of Archibald Rennick—he wins the laughter and the favour of all, and the title-rôle could hardly be in more competent hands; Mr. E. Maud Cole gives a most effective sketch of Dr. Candy, of Birchgrove School; Mr. Algernon Syms, as Felix Roach, is excellent from an artistic point of view; Mr. Langford Reed is a typical French master; Miss Kate Wingfield submits a capital portrait of Mrs. Rennick; as Nancy Roach Miss Maud Stoner acts throughout with bright animation and merry humour; Mr. J. Forsyth successfully depicts Stubber; and Bullock, the pupil, finds a faithful interpreter in Mr. Robert Taylor.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Some quite new and original turns this week are receiving hearty applause. Miss Lily Brammer is a pleasing vocalist, who accompanies herself on the piano; Lincoln and Warren are clever trick cyclists; Mr. Bernard Katz effectively renders some good bass songs; the Hippodrome pictures are still an attractive feature; a very comic coster sketch is

HORWICH. — PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fred Lewis.—Mr. Henry Bedford and company, in *Gipsy Jack*, form the attraction this week. The piece is admirably staged. Mr. Bedford, in the title-rôle, gives a telling rendering; Mr. David Curtis plays the rascally Lawyer to perfection, being ably assisted by Mr. Robert Gilbert as Gerald Skinner; Mr. Cecil Churton as Rev. Francis Harvey is creditable; and Mr. Sid Bedford as Joe Banks, and Mr. Archie Brown as Charley Bates, are humorous. Miss Bessie Bedford's May Harvey is a fine performance; Miss Frances Foley's impersonation of Hagar is excellent; and Miss Jenny Huggins had a capable exponent in Miss Jenny Risley.

HOYLAND.—METROPOLE.— Lessee and Manager, Geo. S. King; Acting-Manager, Geo. R. Baker.—On Monday Mr. Herbert Hollister's company presented *The Lights o' London*. As Harold Armytage Mr. Horace E. Herbert shows to advantage; Mr. Herbert Humber is an excellent Clifford Armytage; Mr. Chris. Mason as Jarvis and Misses Nellie Fern and Renee Douglas as Mrs. and Shakespeare Jarvis respectively are very good; Mr. Herbert Hollister makes an excellent Seth Preene; and the humorous element is well supplied by Mr. George Wallace as Philosopher Jack, assisted by Messrs. F. H. Waters, E. H. Dolby, T. Raymond, and Miss W. Eves. Miss Constance Davey as Hettey Preene is very capable, and an excellent Joey is found in little Rita Wallace. Miss Jennie Burgoyne in the rôle of Jess displays great ability.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—*Sherlock Holmes* is here on a return visit, with the title-part well played by Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart. Mr. James Skea is fine as Moriarty; Mr. S. T. Ewart displays much cleverness as Jim Larrabee; and Mr. Ed. Mervyn is smart as Prince. Miss Gladys Harvey makes the most of her opportunities as Alice Faulkner; Miss Rosalie Notrelle is trim as the ward Therese; and Miss Georgina Wynter a convincing Madge Larrabee. Mr. Stanley Logan showed discreet reserve as Dr. Watson; and Master Cedric Sutherland was smartly quaint as Billy.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—Back to varieties, the bill this week includes the Davis-Gledhill Trio, in their novel and entertaining cycle contests; Chas. F. Best a humorous and original acrobatic comedian; E. W. Selman, comedian and dancer; Miss Ivy Gallard, comedienne; Eldra and his clever dog, in a well-planned entertainment; Burg, Haud, and Wise, comedians; Miss Lillian Rigby, in a bright musical medley; Marlo, an expert young juggler; Marstro and Mlle. Oretta, in a novel and daring acrobatic act; and Gaumont's invention, the Chronophone, a combination of bioscope and phonograph.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—The pretty pantomime, *Cinderella*, has now practically entered upon its last lap, with the result that, to meet the demands made by the juveniles, whose presence at the matinées has been such a special feature of this show, an extra matinée has been arranged. The Morton management state that their box-office returns, the true test of success, have exceeded any previous production.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Jno. Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—The Brothers Renad should feel highly gratified that their efforts in *Puss in Boots* have been attended with so much satisfaction to the playgoing public, and met the taste of the patrons of the popular parts of the house. The comedians have played their parts well, and Miss Rita Everard, of whom we spoke in special praise at the initial performance, has justified everything that has been said concerning her. A more refined principal boy it would be difficult to discover. This lady has now introduced fresh songs, which largely add to her success.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Mortons, Ltd. — General-Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton. — That well-known drama, *Women and Wine*, is a great attraction at this house, and the reception accorded it has been of the most cordial nature. Its plot is strong, and the situations are of a striking character. As John Seymour, an old Hull favourite, Mr. John S. Haydon, renews very pleasant memories of fine work; Miss Joan Periera furnishes a clever study as La Colombe.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Tom Lunn.—Sydney Bacon's sketch, *The Maniac*, tops the bill. The remaining company includes the Mayvilles, Craig, Roze, and Craig, Billy Richardson, Ray and Nulles, Carl Howard, and Lily Foy.

THE PALACE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. S. Barnett.—Jno. S. Warren introduces a mystery, *The Magic Carpet*, and also performs some very clever conjuring tricks; Walter Bellonini exhibits considerable ability as a juggler; Lee and Kingston give an acceptable comedy tit-bit; Esta Stella is very sprightly and a dainty dancer. Other good turns include Les Uniques, the Stein-Ercetto Troupe, Marie Duma, Harry Clifford, and Professor Vox.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Stanley and Vandyke top the bill, and cause much laughter in their sketch, *A Broken Promise;* Harry Wright's vocal hits score a success; Peggy Fame is a popular artist; Russell Hatton appears in a rendering of Dickens's "Christmas Carol"; Nellie Gannon gains much applause; and Ted Hershall complete.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Many humorous and instructive pictures are shown here.

HYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. K. Feather.—Crowded houses have nightly testified their hearty appreciation of Mr. James Kiddie's production, *Little Cinderella*, here this week. Mlle. De Rose makes a dashing Prince Perfect; Miss Edith Hames, a dainty Cinderella, sings tunefully; and Miss Zena Pana infuses plenty of dash into her impersonation of Dandini. Heading the comedians is Mr. Tom Payne, who, as Pimples, keeps the audience in one roar of laughter. The two ugly sisters find vivacious and humorous exponents in Messrs. Sydney Benson and G. W. Wesley; and the Baron, as impersonated by Mr. Dick Thomas, is a very mirth-provoking personage. Miss Rose Pareezer, a bewitching Fairy Sunbeam, sings several numbers in a delightful manner; and the evil genius, Hilario, is well impersonated by Mr. William Verto.

OHMY'S CIRCUS.—Heading the bill here this week are the Arthur Saxon Trio, whose marvellous feats of strength are nightly enthusiastically applauded; Mons. Russall Zasma is a clever gymnast and acrobat; and the tumbling and other acts of the Brothers Zargo France are neatly performed. Messrs. Yelding and Claude Ohmy, in their equestrian feats, continue to gain great applause; and Miss Ada Ohmy's graceful movements on horseback are much appreciated. Another smart performance is the globe act by Claude Ohmy; August and September are as funny as ever; and fun is also provided by the Brothers France and Funny Austin. The other items include Miss Lilly, with her two performing ponies, a war sketch by members of the company, and a series of living pictures.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Mr. Arthur Gibbons presents his pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, this week. Mr. Ted Mac, as Dame Marjory, evokes considerable merriment; and the same remark applies to the Johnny Stout of Mr. J. T. Banks; Miss Nina Terri as Maid Marion is a dancer of more than average merit; Red Riding Hood is nicely enacted by Miss Nellie Banks; and the Prince Bountiful of Miss Janet Lawton is commendable. Miss Helena Parsons is a pleasing Dolly Mayflower; Miss Eva Santan is successful as the Fairy Queen; and Mr. Geo. Westland as Baron Badenough and Miss Florrie Turner as Jack Horner deserve mention.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. T. Knightall.—The Harmonics please with their duets; Heath and Heather, in *The Blind Flower Girl*, are successful; Yettmah, magician, again appears; Eric Vance is applauded for his bass songs; Irene Santley is a soprano of merit; Herbert Potts, comedian; Ethel Gale, serio; and Harry Carter, comedian, are all worthy of mention.

INVERNESS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Burgess.—Miss Grace Warner and company are this week playing *The Scarlet Clue* and the *Artful Valet*. On Monday *The Scarlet Clue* was given. Miss Warner sustains rôles calculated to test her versatility, and it will suffice to say that all demands imposed upon the accomplished actress were met with evident ease and grace; Mr. George Gordon as Michael Stanton was seen at his very best; Mr. J. Leighton Leigh, as Billy the Rotter, kept the house in continuous laughter; Mr. F. Heywood as Croker and Mr. Arthur St. Clair as Jack Esmond are well placed.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Acting-Manager. Mr. Leonard Grey.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company commenced a week's engagement here on Monday, opening with *Carmen*. Mlle. Zelia de Lussac played the title-rôle with much charm and effect; Miss Alice Boaden was excellent as Michaela, the peasant girl; Mr. Charles Carter was successful in the part of Don José; while Mr. Marshall Vincent was well suited in the character of the bull-fighter, Escamillo. Messrs. R. Brookes and S. Lansdale, as the Smuggler and Il Dancairo respectively, and Messrs. Van Lechterop and G. Gorst rendered able assistance to the cast as Morales and Zuniga. A word of praise is also due to the Misses L. Thoms and M. Wood as the cigarette girls. The orchestra, which was augmented for the occasion, was well conducted by Mr. Harrison Frewin, and the opera was staged in the most satisfactory manner. *Faust* and *Tannhäuser* have also been produced with strong casts, and exceptionally large audiences have been the rule.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The chief item of a varied and attractive programme here was a laughable sketch, by Royston Keith and company, entitled *All Change Here*, the lady of the company being an excellent singer. Other turns included Tom Stuart, a character-actor and mimic, who pleased the audience greatly by his impersonations; Miss Gena Mason and Miss Lilly Tabiar, two pleasing vocalists; the Brothers Huxter, clever tumblers; Terry and Bentley, an amusing lady and gentleman; and the American Comedy Four, entertaining and clever vocalists.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr Jerold E. Reed.—This week Mr. E. Hill Mitchelson's company is paying a return visit with *The Traitor*. Mr. Bensley Evans gives a manly rendering of Prince Rudolph; Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan is powerful in the title-rôle; Mr. A. McCullock is well placed as General Hertz, and Mr. T. W. Hurst is excellent as Captain Ross, R.N. Miss Katherine Vere makes an ideal Elsie Dupres; Miss Gwynne Warren does justice to the part of Countess Zicka; Miss Effie Bartlett is an effective Zulu, and Mr. F. Haming a droll Jack Boult, being ably assisted by Miss O. Lanty as Cen-Cen; Miss Isabel Hunt as Lieut. Nicholas is excellent.

KEIGHLEY. — QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Carson.—*Sapho* greatly pleased Monday's audience. The company are undoubtedly very capable, and include talented artists in Miss V. St. Lawrence (Sapho) and Mr. Otto Minster (Jean Gaussin), who practically bear the burden of the play on their shoulders; Mr. Geo. Antley, as Uncle Cesaire, is a big favourite; Mr. Oliver Rogers (Le Grande) is very humorous; Mr. H. Langford, Mr. Pringle Roberts, and Mr. Roy Milton render able support.

KETTERING.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—The attraction this week is Mr. A. E. Smith's pantomime of *Babes in the Wood*. Miss Kathleen Garnon is a dashing Robin Hood, and Maid Marian is daintily represented by Miss Elsy Douglas; while the Babes are charmingly portrayed by Miss Rosie Morris and Little Ivy Rochefort. The comic element is admirably sustained by Messrs. Reed and Lerne, Mr. J. H. Maxwell, and Mr. W. T. Hutchinson, who cause continuous merriment. Excellent specialities are introduced by Miss Marie Walker on the trombone, and Wal Bendene, contortionist; and the Palace troupe render some effective dancing.

KIDDERMINSTER. — NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—The boards are occupied this week by Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy's pastoral pantomime, entitled *Little Red Riding Hood*. In the title-rôle Miss Verona Philis is very pleasing; Miss Ada Twibell as Boy Blue well supports her; Prince Charming is played by Miss Emmadon in dashing style; Mr. E. Ridgwell as the wolf is active, while Mr. J. Templar Ellis as Baron Badlot is funny. The Bros. Lavelle as Johnny Green and Jimmy Stout (the tired pair) cause roars of laughter by their quaint and eccentric methods.

KILMARNOCK.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Major Wand.—Another of Mr. Charles Macdona's companies is attracting good houses this week in the perennial comedy, *A Chinese Honeymoon*. The artists entrusted with its interpretation revel in their parts. Mr. Ernest Sefton's impersonation of Pineapple is highly diverting; Mr. Harold Cotter makes a pompous and delightful Hang Chow, being ably supported by Mr. Louis Ashmede as Chippy Chop and Mr. Frank Sutten as Hi Lung; Mr. J. Maxwell Edwardes in the part of Tom Hatherton acts and sings with good taste; Miss May Davis displays versatility in the character of Mrs. Pineapple; and Miss May Stevenson as Soo-Soo, Miss Louie Leighton as Mi-Mi, and Miss Alma Bolton as Mrs. Brown are all clever and effective.

KIRKCALDY.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Burton.—Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's company is appearing this week in *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Amy Allnutt is a satisfactory Robin Hood; Miss Belle Travers is delightful in the rôle of Marian, and renders her musical numbers in good style; Mr. Leonard Charles is a very effective demon, and his singing in association with Miss Nora Prendergast (a pleasing Fairy Queen) is much admired; the two Babes have capable exponents in Misses Lillybelle and Sylvia—the little ones are clever, and sing and dance wonderfully. There is no lack of the comic element, Messrs. D. J. Tandy (Uncle), Harry Albery (Dame), Farr and Farrand (Pages), Grapho and Jackson (Ruffians), and Mr. Dawson Dewick as Soft Sammy all contributing to the fun. Mr. Dewick is also responsible for the stage-management. The banjo solos of Messrs. Farr and Farrand deserve special notice. Others who are successful are Miss Kathleen Emmet and Miss Nellie Dyson. The chorus give good assistance.

LANCASTER.—ATHENÆUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hook.—Mr. Herbert Ralland's company opened here on Monday with *La Poupee*. Mr. Fred Seymour was exceedingly good as Hilarius, and Mr. Arthur Cozens and Mr. Walter Balfour were most successful in the parts of Lancelot and Father Maxime respectively. Miss Mysie Devine made a hit as Alesia, and the other parts were well sustained.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Martin.—Mr. Chas. Raymond's Clito in a series of poses is drawing remarkably large audiences this week; Hanvarr and Anna Lee supply a clever sporting act, *The Golfer and the Maid*; Nada Moret is a comedienne of ability; and De Lil, illusionist, fairly baffles his audience. Charles Cardle, baritone; Hulbert, ventriloquist; De Vere and Kenwick, in a comedy act, all add to the success of the entertainment. The Hippograph continues to be an attraction.

PALACE.—Proprietors, Messrs. J. and C. Fell; Manager, Mr. John Fell.—King and Delane, in a musical burlesque, *The Rival's Arrival*, head the bill here, and are accorded a good reception. The Monckton's are funny in a comedy act, *Are Wives Dummies?* and the Days are extraordinary thought-readers. The Two Daniels are smart dancers, Cullen and Coyle have some good patter, and other items include Harry Leaton, comedian; Young Igo, comedian; and the Edison-Swan Animated Pictures.

LEAMINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton.—Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—The comic opera, *The Little Michus*, is being played here to large houses, and the management are to be congratulated upon securing such an excellent company as Mr. George Dance's for its presentation. Mr. Foster Courtenay scores a great success in the character of General Des Ifs; and the Little Michus—Marie Blanche and Blanche Marie—have charming representatives in Miss Alice Coverick and Miss Gipsy Dale. The part of Gaston Rigaud is ably sustained by Mr. William Everard; and as Bagnolet Mr. Gilbert Childs is exceedingly good. Miss Mary Young is an excellent Madame Michu; and the character of Pierre Michu finds an able exponent in Mr. Leon Simkin. Some clever dances are introduced by Mlle. Marjorie, and a capable chorus and orchestra, under the bâton of Mr. Otto Manns, do much for the success of the piece.

LEEDS.—EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—Deane Tribune's clever tabloid pantomime *Bo-Peep* is the leading line this week, and with the popular comedian himself dispensing any amount of fun and frolic in a big part, makes a capital half-hour's entertainment; Kelly and Ashby are doing their well-known billiard act with undiminished success; Browning and Wally find their acrobatic and gymnastic comedy turn high in popular favour; whilst the original naval speciality by Carlos Caesaro and some fine vocal work by the Cambrian trio of ladies meet with unstinted applause. Dan Conroy, comedian, is going as well as ever; and other popular contributors to the programme are Frank Harwood, character-vocalist, and Edie Veno, comedienne.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; General-Managers, Mr. Claude Shayler and Mr. Chas. Weldon.—The illusionist Gustave Fasola is at the top of the bill this week, and with a mystifying show attracts and interests good houses. The Bensons are amongst the most popular entertainers, their musical and vocal comedy being much enjoyed; Nat Clifford, a favourite comedian, is doing well; an excellent gymnastic turn by the Brothers Krags is a feature; Adams and Ward contribute comedy and acrobatics in enjoyable style; and Keir and Kempton with comedy sketch are in high favour. Other good and successful turns are done by Winona, with shooting speciality, and Leah Adell in a captivating vocal scena.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—The feature of the week's bill is a fine picture film of the recent Moir-Palmer boxing match, every important detail being depicted most clearly. At the foot of the bill Collinson's Comedy Company appears in a mirth-provoking knockabout sketch; the Macdonald Trio are prominent with a clever musical speciality; Rappo and Ella bring a novel pot-pourri act. The comedians are Mark Tapley and Andy North, and both prove smart. The Lannons are here again with dancing speciality; whilst Laurin and Cinders, in musical extravaganza, and Ruby Dahl's marionettes are amongst the most popular turns.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General and Business Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—The musical comedy *The Spring Chicken* is being introduced to local playgoers here for the first time this week by Mr. George Dance's chief company, and is meeting with a splendid reception. The entire production is done in a lavish manner, and the full chorus and special orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Knight Pearce, are also adjuncts that add to a bright entertainment. Mr. Fred Payne creates great merriment as Mr. Girdle, and is aided and abetted in that department in excellent style by Mr. Edwin Dodds as Felix and Mr. J. S. Durant as Gustave Babori. Miss Nellie Kavanagh scores a well-deserved success as Mrs. Girdle, and Miss Chrissie Ralland as Rosalie is deserving of high praise for a charming embodiment. Miss Clarice Cartner as the Baroness Papouche is very good, and as Baron Papouche Mr. A. Drinkwater is capital. Both Mr. C. Brierley as Stephen-Henry and Miss Lilian Errol as Emmy-Lou are amusing as a couple of youngsters. Others who also deserve a meed of praise are Mr. Harry Averell (Boniface), Mr. Cecil Moyland as the proprietor of the Crimson Butterfly, and Miss Florence Wix as Dulcie Babori.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—To-day the pantomime of *Aladdin* terminates its career so far as this theatre is concerned. During its run of four weeks the various artists engaged have worked with a will that reflects great credit upon them.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertram G. Iles.—Premier position is held here this week by the famous John Leopold company in the sketch *The House Boat*, which is well staged, and affords plenty of amusement. Carney and Armstrong prove most entertaining in their singing, whistling, and acting; the original Matweep-Hugoston troupe of Russian singers and dancers return, and give a remarkably clever acrobatic display; Parker and Parr, Welsh vocal entertainers, score a well-deserved success; Sybil St. Elmo is an operatic vocalist who wins favour; The Saphos display cleverness in a comedy bar act. Others entertaining are Trippello, in a musical turn; the Six Primrose Girls, singers and acrobatic dancers; Little Tich Bourn, comedian and big-boot dancer; and the American Bioscope is retained, and depicts "Curfew shall not ring to-night."

PAVILION THEATRE. — Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Heading this week's bill is the Chee-you-say Family of Chinese conjurors. Johnny Holland and Co. create hearty laughter with the farcical absurdity *Our Betsy*. Edwards and Dacre are smart comedy duologue artists; Marion Scott is a popular comedienne; Cissie Coman, in pictorial songs, is retained over another week; Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is again a special feature of the programme; Les Eldines in the sketch *Our Slavey*, and J. Hegarty, comedian and sifflеur, are also entertaining.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Rousby.—Mr. John Gerant and Co., with the military drama *At Duty's Call*, is the attraction here this week. Mr. Harry Scott furnishes a manly impersonation of Capt. Geo. Alison, and the villainies of Harold Alison are realistically portrayed by Mr. John Gerant; Mr. Ernest St. John portrays General Gordon with good effect; Miss Lily Crammonde endows the rôle of Dora Drummond with many fascinating features; Miss Jeannie Weston acts with undoubted skill as Selema. The humour of the piece is abundantly supplied by Mr. Harry Ugar and Miss Eva Belle as Terry O'Hallaron and Mary respectively.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—The Paris Modern Theatre Company is occupying the above hall this week with a wonderful series of coloured animated pictures. The programme, which embraces a wide range of subjects, is amusing, instructive, and interesting.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—The concluding week of the pantomime, *The Fair One with the Golden Locks*, has been marked by a special performance, initiated by Mr. R. C. Buchanan, for the benefit of Leith Hospital, which took place on Thursday afternoon. All the members of the company and the local staff of the theatre gave their services for the good cause, and a "bumper" house, crowded in every part, showed the heartiest appreciation of the piece and the players, whose efforts have gained not only the plaudits but also the thanks of the whole community. The performance, under the patronage of Provost Mackie and Town Councillors, was cordially supported by the public, and realised a handsome sum.

LIMERICK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Robert Fogerty.—The return visit of the Bandmann-Palmer company is very welcome. On Monday that eminent actress appeared as Catherine in the piece entitled *From Washerwoman to Duchess*, before a very appreciative audience. Mr. F. Skein was a clever Fouché, and as Napoleon, Mr. Sydney Bland, a careful artist, showed ability. Mr. Robert Pittard was very realistic as Marechal Lefebvre, and as Launes Mr. Ashmore Vincent was characteristic.

LINCOLN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank King.—The Marvellous Pardoes are presenting *Cinderella* with great success this week. Miss Lottie Holland as Prince Charming and Miss Beattie Shamrock share the principal honours, while the humour of Mr. Tom Hulme and other comedians is decidedly entertaining. Mr. Tom Griffith's songs are a feature of the performance, and he was vociferously encored for "The Storm Fiend" on Monday evening. Specialities by Mr. John Pardoe (Mr. William Pardoe being off, unfortunately, through illness), the Desmond Girls, the Three De Veres, and others were enthusiastically received.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietors, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arthur.—A return visit of Blanche and Diacoff, who cycle at a terrific speed around an almost perpendicular track, is proving a big success, a cycling competition being run in connection with the turn. The Two Kays sing capitally; Belle Braham's pictorial songs go well; George Hall's whistling makes a hit; and items from Rose Elliott, Fyne and Hurley, Reilly and Taylor, and Raymond's Bio Tableaux are extremely well received.

LIVERPOOL. — ROTUNDA THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—The old-time *Silver King* still possesses drawing powers, which is shown by the large amount of patronage bestowed upon it here this week. It has been presented in good style by Messrs. Polini and Melford's company, the members of which did it full justice. Mr. Fred D. Daviss made an admirable Wilfred Denver, playing with much dramatic power; a tender and sweet Nellie came from Miss Daisy Scudamore; Mr. Edward J. George again distinguished himself as Jaikes; Mr. L. St. George Lowther presented a capital picture of Captain Skinner; the part of Henry Corket was in the careful keeping of Mr. George Belmore; Mr. Arthur Wright handled the rôle of Elijah Combe with every satisfaction; Messrs. S. Bingham and S. Hatchway did the utmost with Binks and Bronson; Miss Flossie Hale Daviss and Master Douglas Thomas showed discretion as Cissy and Ned; and Miss Mary Simpson was good as Mrs. Gamage.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—J. F. Preston and company top the bill here with an intensely dramatic sketch, entitled *Rogues of the Turf*. The piece is well played by Mr. J. F. Preston and Miss M. F. Barlow, and others. A clever turn is that of the Bros. Pim, who delight the audience with their comedy bar act; Blake and Granby are laughable in their sketch, *The Man in Possession;* Nellie Farrell comes in for a gratifying reception; the Fergano Trio are smart equilibrists; Yorkshire Tom, mimic, is good, as is Leo Tramor, comedian.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—*The Ugliest Woman on Earth* has paid a return visit to the popular Star, and done good business. Included in Mr. Frederick Melville's company are Miss Beatrice Homer, who with the highest ability holds the title-rôle; Mr. Philip Darien is particularly well suited to the part of Jack Merriman; Mr. Edlin as Tubby and Miss Nellie Jackson as Aggie Brown cause much laughter; Miss Nell Oliver presents a most satisfactory Rose Courtenay; Mr. Leyton Cancellor had the heavy part of Hubert Gold, of which he gave a meritorious performance; Miss Violet Macaree submitted a capital picture of Morita; Mr. Allan Davonport was Tam Redvers, and Mr. Charles Barrett Antonio.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Lingford Carson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—Mr. Carson's bright and tuneful pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, remains a second week, to the delight of patrons.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—This is the last week of Mr. John Tiller's pantomime, *Aladdin*, which has proved exceedingly popular during its month's run. Included in the general programme are the Villions troupe of acrobatic cyclists, who have merited and secured a most flattering reception; Anthony, a funny conjurer, whose work is much enjoyed; Chas. Cardow, a smart comedian and entertainer; Ted Saunders, with his clever imitations of leading stars; and Mamie Cannon, a lively and neat coon comedienne.

NEW PARTHENON.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Manager, Mr. Edwin W. Smith.—This old-established place reopened on Monday under new proprietorship. At the top were Clark and Glenney with their especially funny act, *The Haunted House;* Dolly Andrews, a dainty comedienne, who recently made her début on the stage, had a flattering reception for her neat singing and dancing; some excellent Irish songs came from the character-vocalist Don Cameron; Leo Vincent showed considerable powers as a ventriloquist; and others in the bill were Warden, Reed, and Co., speciality artists, and Zernyi, contortionist.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—Here this week the "Royal" Stock Company is presenting *Her Fatal Past*. Mr. Percy Boucher arouses great laughter with his Jonathan Nobbs; Mr. Harry Tresham makes a fine Mark Desmond; Mr. Sydney Grant is a meritorious Gilbert Fernside; Mr. Cecil Ravenswood plays well as Leonard Fernside; Mr. Robert Wilton ably portrays Dicky Bird; Miss Florence Palmer proves a popular Honor Symes; Miss Beryl Ravenswood excels in the dual rôles of Ruth Fernside and Belle de Lara; and Miss Florence Cameron is amusing as Kitty Springwell. The Royal Bioscope has some fine pictures.

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Here this week the "Royal" Stock Dramatic Company has appeared in *The Slave of Sin*. Mr. Charles Herberte was well placed as Professor Morley; Mr. Albert Sember acted with power as Gordon Morley; Mr. H. G. Brandon proved a humorous Alphonse; Miss Lina Nazeby made a striking Ida Ross; the part of Mother Moocher was in the trained keeping of Miss Sara Blumenthal; Miss Lilian Burns distinguished herself as Elsie Beresford; and others who afforded strong support were Miss Florence Barnes (Clara Jenkins), Mr. Frank S. Strickland (Dr. Selby), Mr. Walter Foster (Wiley), and Mr. Francis E. Wybert (Stephen Fletcher). The Royal Bioscope has some unusually good pictures.

PARK PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments; Mr. Fred Willmot.—The south-end house has a capital programme this week. At the top is the popular Florrie Gallimore, who has a rousing reception for her old and new favourites; Captain Devereux's performing dogs are a source of keen interest; Billy French renders in good style several coon ditties; as a club manipulator Joe Hennessey is an acceptable turn; the Royal Victorian Boys are excellent international dancers; Josie Frettelli's scena, *The Mirror and the Maid*, is richly enjoyed. Also in the bill are Mac and Hill, singing and talking comedians; and Watkins, eccentric comedian.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—Foremost here this week are Miss Zeta Grey and company, with the comedy scena, *A Lancashire Lass*, which is full of good singing and fun; Clark and Glenny cause much laughter with their sketch, *The Haunted House;* T. C. Edwards renders several songs in excellent fashion; the Orchids are smart patterers and vocalists; some acceptable coon singing and dancing are provided by the Two Wiltons, and Harry Mantell, comedian, also appears.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.—The final week of Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime, *Puss in Boots*, is announced.

HAYMARKET.—Licensee, Mr. J. S. Childs.—Harry Calden's sketch company remains another week, this time playing *Hurrah, Boys, Hurrah*, which is in five tableaux. Miss Alma Curzon shines as a comedienne; George Harris gives a neat society entertainment; some taking songs come from Harry Chester, comedian; and Bowman and Belle as vocalists, dancers, and paper-tearers receive well-deserved applause. The Bioscope shows some excellent films.

OLYMPIA, LTD.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—The Earthquake remains in the bill, and has proved a magnet. Harry Cadle's "Casey Court" pantomime of *Mick Whittintun* was richly enjoyed; Techow's cats were watched with keen interest; Hall and Earle, comedy acrobats, were responsible for a deal of laughter; the Arthur Lloyd Trio with the sketch, *Little Charlie*, were particularly amusing; Barrington, the trick pianist, was loudly applauded for his really clever efforts; Zanfretta and Napio, the musical knife-grinders, proved an excellent turn; Phil and Nettie Peters, with their amusing comedy, *This Side*, gained much approval, and Charles Pastor, a clever comedian, also appeared.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors, Liverpool Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. James Marks.—This latest addition to the number of local places of amusement is being well supported, and success is bound to follow if excellent programmes such as that offered this week are put forward. Recently the "boards" had to be shown before the curtain went up, while it is particularly noticeable that the class of patron is as good as that which enters any other local theatre whatsoever. Miss Marie Dainton heads the bill, and is heartily applauded for her particularly neat imitations of her sister artists; Hill and Whitaker, a couple of accomplished musicians, have a most flattering reception, their old nigger melodies and banjo and harp selections "bringing down the house"; J. H. Darnley and company are very diverting in their laughable sketch, *What a Night!* the Seven Wulfrunas give every proof of their ability as comedy acrobats; the Sisters Marion are talented juvenile duettists; and also in the bill are Joe Mac, comedian and dancer; the Bros. Levett, vaulters; and Lozelle, gymnast.

ROSCOMMON.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Foremost here this week is Georgina Leonard, a popular vocalist, with some good pieces; the Sisters

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Belmont sing several neat duets and dance well; the Faulkner Trio have a very funny sketch, *Rival Tourists;* Toney Iveson, the tramp at the piano, proves highly amusing; and others in the programme are Frew and Frow, character comedians and dancers; and Gertie Cunningham, serio and dancer.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—A very bright entertainment is being given here this week by Dr. Leon Vint and his Globe Choir and Scenorama; Madame Vint adds much to the show with her wonderful second sight manifestations. The principal variety artists are the charming and clever Sisters Parez, novel instrumentalists; Miss Sylvia Phillips, a clever and dainty Welsh young lady, comedienne and sketch artist; Miss N. Hartmann, a high-class ballad vocalist; Miss Victoria Drew, L.C.M., a very good high soprano; Miss Georgina Jeans, a clever Welsh contralto; Miss Rachael Morgan, Australian contralto; Miss Gertie Gordon, quick-change artist and clever dancer; Miss Gertie Vint, a charming coon vocalist; Mr. James Molloy, humorist. Miss Maud Hummerston is the pianist for the troupe, and Dr. Vint is a most efficient guide, philosopher, and friend.

LONDONDERRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. W. Payne-Seddon.—Mr. R. A. P. Williams's company is appearing in *The Babes in the Wood* pantomime here this week with great success. Miss Mai Duncan is a vivacious Robin Hood, and Miss Alice Chant is capital as Maid Marian; the Queen of the Fairies is nicely played by Miss Gellatly; Mr. George Melvin is a lively Helen McMutchin; and Mr. Charles Howarth plays the Wicked Baron very well. The production includes a number of capital variety turns.

LONG EATON.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—A variety company, headed by Mr. Claude Ginnett's *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, occupies the boards this week. There are half a dozen well-trained horses, but the impressive finale, in which the death of Black Bess occurs, is a remarkable performance. The ever-popular story is watched with interest. The variety business at the close is excellent, and pictures by the Imperial Bioscope are quite up to date. The musical mélange is very good.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—The members of the *Gay Parisienne* company gave a variety entertainment on the first three nights of this week. Capital turns were submitted by Miss Lilian Talbot, Miss Holford Berinager, Miss Madge Soutter, Miss Nance O'Neill, Mr. Will Harman, and Mr. Leslie Waller. The Imperial Glee Singers scored a great success. Mr. Arthur Carlton's company in *The Span of Life* appeared on Thursday.

LOWESTOFT. — MARINA.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. A. Smith.—*The Tyrant* is being presented this week for the first time locally. Special mention must be made of the artistic performance of Miss Marie Dagmar as Tisbe. Another fine piece of acting was that of Mr. Fred C. Somerfield, who handled a most difficult rôle in a masterly manner. Praise must also be accorded to the Misses Lallah Shelton, Millie Ford (a pretty and charming Lady Catherine), and Miss Lizzie Chambers. Mr. Roy Fortescue, in the name-part, seemed to revel in his work.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—The season of animated pictures and variety amalgamation, now in its uninterrupted run of nine weeks, has been the greatest success since the opening of the building. The huge auditorium is packed nightly with enthusiastic audiences. The pictures, of the highest possible quality, are thrown on the screen with a steadiness and precision that reflects much credit on the operator. The variety company includes Zenora, equilibrist; Leslie and Flayer, comedy artists; Nora Doone, singer and dancer; and the ever-popular Leslie Reed.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Business-Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Miss Rose Faith's company in the costume play, *No Cross, no Crown*, was here the first three nights of the week. Mr. W. Carridan ably portrays Sir Francis Luttrell; and Messrs. Harrison Chapman and Herbert de Ville ably reproduce Professor Nebb, an old tutor, and Austin Blake, a lawyer, respectively. Miss Rose Faith is successful as Clare, the second Lady Luttrell; and Miss Gwen Stewart as Lady Margaret Luttrell and Mistress Gray is very good. The dresses are bright, and the play is well received by good houses.

MACCLESFIELD. — ROYAL. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—*A Royal Divorce* is being presented here by Mr. W. W. Kelly's company. Miss Edith Cole as the Empress charms all by her pathos; as Napoleon, Mr. F. Victor presents the part very effectively; Mr. C. Agnew makes a capital Talleyrand; and as the Marquis De Beaumont, Mr. Graham Woods acquits himself admirably. Miss Agnes Imlay is pleasing as Marie Louise; and Miss Ellen Richmond is very charming as Stephanie. Mr. A. Grenville does extremely well as General Augereau; and Miss Gertrude Entwistle gives a clever representation of Blanche.

MANCHESTER. — ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Drama gives way to pantomime here this week. It is the story of *Cinderella*, told by Mr. Martin Byam, and produced under the direction of Mr. Theodore Adye. A big audience manifested delight at Monday's performance, for the company is an excellent one, and the staging quite brilliant. Chief among the comedians is Mr. Edwin Garth, whose humour as Arabella, one of the ugly sisters, is quite in his best style; Mr. Howard Ward as Dulcibella, is also very amusing. Capital fun is added by Messrs. Bennett and Martell, as Pimple and the Baron respectively; and Messrs. Earle and Melville are brisk and entertaining as a couple of knockabout comedians. Miss Helen Kaye is a charming Cinderella; Miss Iris Bamfield makes a dashing Prince; and Miss Louie Davis as Princess Pearl dances in a style worthy of high praise. Others who do well are Miss Mabel Ashton as Dandini and Miss Mary Clarke as the Fairy; while among the specialities, the dancing of the Starlight Quartette is very good. Many popular songs are introduced, and the entire production is a credit to all concerned.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Henry Herne's great water sensation, *Blackmail*, is the principal attraction here this week. Another big turn is that of Clown Zertho and his wonderful dogs; capital business is added by Carr and Rose, operatic vocalists; Leon and Leoni, expert musicians; Arthur Slater, the whistling man in white; the Leotards, comical clowns and hat-throwers; Ce Me Marie, a wonderful contortionist; Walter Curtis, comedian; Chris Masters, character vocalist; and a fine series on the bioscope.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. R. Flanagan; Manager, Mr. Gus Flanagan.—Mr. Fred Granville presents here this week an interesting musical drama, entitled *For Better or Worse*. A trio of officers of the Guards—Captain Hilliard, Major Crawford, and Lieut. Dalrymple—are conspicuous in the action, and these rôles are ably filled by Mr. Charles Witlock, Mr. Robert Forder, and Mr. Clement Burge respectively. Mr. Edmund T. Sayers as the actor, Horatio P. Ranter, gives a particularly good performance. Among the ladies, Miss Georgina V. France is capital as Olive Heathcote, the merchant's daughter; Miss Harrietta Taylor and Miss Mabel Wood give clever depictions of two burlesque artists; and Miss Dolly Varden is amusing as Melinda, the cook. Clever specialities are added by the Clements.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—*The Midnight Wedding*, last week's success at the Royal Osborne Theatre, is the attraction here this week.

QUEEN'S THEATRE. — A notice of the revival of *Othello* will be found in another column.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—An exceptionally fine musical turn is offered here this week by the famous Savonas, the storm scene from *William Tell* being rendered in a most realistic and masterly manner, gaining unstinted applause. Wonderfully clever and amusing are the Craggs, in their acrobatic sketch, *Billy*, and they are deservedly well received; Ernesta does some juggling and equilibristic feats in a highly finished way; Horace Jones, a capital Welsh comedian, makes a decided hit; and Jack Neill sings a Scotch song in good style, and amuses with smart patter. Mona Macdonald is a charming comedienne; Percival is good at the piano; considerable laughter is caused by the Monte Myro Troupe; and Arnold Bell's company appears in an absurdity, entitled *Smash and Dash*. "That Gem of a Slavey" is an amusing film shown on the bioscope.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. Peter Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Fred Karno's *Football Match* is still the big attraction here; the Four Rio Brothers appear with success in a neat gymnastic novelty; Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor are seen to advantage in a delightful dancing scena; Annie Nelson, ballad vocalist, sings well; Diamond and Beatrice present a pleasing musical novelty; and the Two Hartfords are clever in their equilibristic cycle act. Very funny are the Palace pictures.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—*The Flood*, a wonderful spectacle, still holds the chief place in the programme here. This tremendous sensation is supplemented by the Seven Perezoffs, in a comic juggling pantomime, entitled *An Evening in a Parisian Café;* Harry Russon, an accomplished actor-comedian; the Avolos, who do wonderful things on six upright poles; J. H. Scotland, an excellent operatic basso; the Scheull Brothers, smart head and hand equilibrists; the Schutzenlieslern Quartette of charming singers; Alma Gray, clever singer and dancer; two pleasing items by the choir; and "The Runaway Van," a comic and exciting subject on the bioscope.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Miss Sylvia Cavalho tops the bill here this week in *Lulu*, an interesting episode in the life of an actress, and plays with dramatic skill, ably supported by Mr. Clifford Pembroke, Mr. Frank Wood, Miss Ida Chapman, and Miss Alice Drummond; Kate A. Traill is an excellent singer; F. H. Dundas is a descriptive vocalist with a good style; and exceedingly clever are Onda and Artell, in their gymnastic act. Gillin, a smart ventriloquist, is well received; Daisy Read sings and dances nicely; and other good turns are those of Percival and Morley, in a duologue, *Turtle Doves;* the Allens, in a musical act; De Voy, Hurst, and Fredericks, in an absurdity; and Rose D'Alberg, comedienne. Raymond's Vivagraph pictures are good. Austin Rudd, the popular comedian, is billed, but on the occasion of our visit did not appear.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Fred S. Peake and company are to the front here this week, in that excellent dramatic sketch, *The Hypocrite*, and are well received; Fred and Maud Vypond are delightful entertainers, and are greatly appreciated; Frederica's performing toy terriers are well trained; the Pichel Troupe of Risleyists perform some daring feats; Nellie Navette dances well; the Aeronauts are clever grotesque acrobats; and Johnson and D'Evere are good in a cycle act. Other smart items are contributed by Vowles and Bryan, in song and story; and Conway and Garland, comedians. "The 100 to 1 Shot" is depicted on the bioscope.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Messrs. Cullen and Carthy's capital pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, is here this week, adapted to suit two performances nightly, and is attracting good houses. The company is a strong one, and includes, besides Messrs. Cullen and Carthy, as the Robbers, Miss F. Carlile (Robin Hood), Miss Nancy Thornton (a charming Maid Marion), Miss Gertrude Martini (Fairy), Dolly Cullen and Elsie Jordison (the Babes), and Messrs. Arthur Stratton (Baron), Little Cluley (Bantam), and George Casey (Dame). Specialities are added by the Sisters Volbecque.

HIPPODROME, HULME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The Bounding Pattersons head the bill here this week, in an exceptionally clever act; as usual, Tom and Marie Motramo, musical comedy artists, cause roars of laughter; La Roland, in her "mysterious grotto dances," gives a pretty and effective turn; the Paolias are fine specimens of muscular perfection; and Gus Harris scores in his dramatic song-scena, *The Synagogue*. Other successful items are those of Charles Valvo, ventriloquist; Primavesi, juggler; Tom Reed, comedian; and Beatty and Blanche, comediennes and dancers. "The Wrong Clue," an interesting film, is depicted on the bioscope.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield Theatre Company; General-Manager, Captain Cecil Clayton.—A good house attended here on Monday, when Mr. Edward Marris's company opened a three-nights' engagement with *The Cingalee*. Mr. Arthur Ferris plays Chambhuddy Ram with infinite humour; Mr. Frank Manger scores heavily as the Hon. Harry Vereker; and as Bobby Warren Mr. W. J. Austin is a decided success. The part of Boobhamba is excellently rendered by Mr. Hugh Webb; Mr. Coope Edmunds is an amusing Sir Peter Loftus; Miss Ethel May is a vivacious Nanoya; and Miss B. Frey admirably impersonates the part of Lady Patricia Vane. Peggy Sabine is in the capable hands of Miss K. Kennedy. The staging is, as usual, praiseworthy.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Herbert Darnley; Resident-Director, Mr. Tom Jennings.—This is the last week of variety at this house for the present. The current programme is largely composed of pictures, projected by Vernon's Imperial Bioscope. Mr. Ryder Davies gives some interesting turns, and receives applause.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Exclusive Manager, Mr. Edward Michael; Business-Manager, Mr. A. Austin-Leigh.—The nautical, comical pantomime (from the Elephant and Castle Theatre, London) depicting in humorous manner *The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*, was presented here on Monday by Mr. J. M. East's company. Speciality turns are introduced most effectively by the Four Diamonds, H. E. High (a clever roller skater), and the Phydoras (particularly smart musical experts). Miss Agnes Paulton, a fascinating Crusoe, sings very well indeed; Mr. Will Smith is exceedingly funny as Mrs. Crusoe; Mr. H. E. High sustains the part of Man Friday in a particularly humorous manner; Miss Eileen Guilbert sings delightfully in the part of the Fairy Romance. The Bros. Phydora put plenty of active fun into the roles of Ben, the Bosun, and Mick, the Mate, and Miss Ada Davidson does well as Jack. Miss Maud Denny sings pleasingly, and as Polly Perkins sustains her part with grace and vivacity. Mr. Henry W. Hatchman, as Will Atkins, the "heavy villain," is also good.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Joint Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—The variety entertainment this week is really a good all-round show. Lily Lawrence, comedienne, is an attractive turn, and Fred Harrison, eccentric comedian, causes plenty of genuine amusement. Cissie Lupino, speciality dancer, is exceedingly clever; Les Zelovas, in their novel acrobatic and gymnastic pot-pourri, are worth seeing; and Geo. W. Foster, comedian, meets with an enthusiastic reception. Gerbardi Mohr, described as the somersault king, is very smart.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company occupies the boards here this week with the drama *The Love that Women Desire*. Mr. Jerrold Heather is prominent with a thoughtful interpretation of Philip Carnaby; Mr. J. O. Stewart is a capital Squire Abingdon; Mr. Alf Brandon is well placed as Richard Abingdon; Mr. L. Montgomery presents a forcible portraiture of Frank Hardy; Miss Lallah Stanhope gives evidence of dramatic skill in the rôle of Sybil Thorburn; Miss Cicely Desmond is a charming Madge Abingdon; and Miss N. Griffiths a capable Mariquinha.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—*Claudian* pays a return visit here this week. The company is that of Mr. William Maclaren, who in the title-rôle is apt and natural; of genuine merit, too, is the acting of Miss Lily C. Bandmann as Almida; Mr. Douglas Earle as Agazil has a thorough grasp of the part; and Mr. Charles Chaloner as Belos and Miss Maud Garth as Edessa are responsible for much vivacity. Mr. F. Owen Chambers does full justice to the part of Thariogalus; and Mr. Weston Hubbard gives a clever study of Alcares. In the prologue, Mr. S. Brisco Fairbridge as the Holy Clement, Mr. Edward Grogan as Theorus, and Miss Rosa Webster as Serena acquit themselves with credit. A clever cymbal dance is given by Miss Amy Hardcastle, and the scenery and dresses are pretty.

OPERA HOUSE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. K. Chatto.—The visit of the D'Oyly Carte Répertoire Company caused enthusiasm on Monday evening, when *The Mikado* was presented. Mr. Albert Kavanagh as the Mikado was very amusing; Nanki-Poo found a clever representative in Mr. Strafford Moss, whose singing and acting were alike excellent; Mr. Chas. R. Walenn, an excellent comedian and a capital vocalist, caused roars of laughter as the Lord High Executioner; Mr. Fred Billington, in his old part of Boo-Bah, provoked laughter; Pish-Tush was in the safe keeping of Mr. Leicester Tunks; and Mr. Fred Drawater was in excellent form as Go-To. Miss Hope Hastings made a pleasing Yum-Yum; and the Misses Lulu Evans and Mabel Burnege was equally attractive. Miss Theresa Rassam acted with much ability as Katisha.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles G. Rembges.—Lily Burnand provides the star turn here this week, and scores a distinct success with some of her latest songs; Bosanquet is a novel and ingenious violinist, and introduces the Bosanquephone; a very entertaining turn is provided by Edward E. Ford, the Australian sundowner; and Nanny Goldman, Mr. Holles, and company cause much laughter in their sketch *The Little Charwoman*. Will Freedo, comedian and dancer, does well; and Alsopp and Beckwith create roars of laughter. Other turns are Steeley and Dowton and Lily Tiso, comedienne and dancer.

OXFORD PALACE. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Alf. Graham.—There is a capital programme presented here, the chief attraction being entitled *Prince Arthur*, which is produced by Arthur Wyndham and Co. It is an extract from Shakespeare's *King John*, and the story is told in a concise and clear manner. The Smithsons cause roars of laughter in the sketch *Love Germs;* the Marlo-Dunham Trio give an exceptionally smart triple-bar display; Wallace Whitney is an excellent character comedian; and Charles Vincent, comedian, pleases. Other turns are provided by Beattie Foster, comedienne, and Jesso, versatile artist.

MOTHERWELL. — NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's principal company is here in *The White Chrysanthemum*. Miss Muriel George is particularly good as O San, her singing being a feature of the production; Miss Wilmot Kosteck is effective as the cute Yankee girl, Cornelia Vanderdecken; and Miss Dorothy Sephton is altogether charming as the society lady, Betty Kenyon. Mr. H. E. Garden jumps at once into popular favour as the irresponsible Chippy; Lieut. Reginald Armitage is capably sustained by Mr. H. Langdon Bruce; Mr. Shirley Lea does well as the peppery old Admiral. Sir Horatio Armitage; Mr. Richard Telford is good as Sin Chong; and is well supported by Mr. James Dallas as Private Perks. There is a bright and tuneful chorus, under the bâton of Mr. J. M. Hutcheson.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. W. Rowe; Business-Manager, Mr. E. B. Clarke.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company is here in *The Face at the Window*. Mr. T. W. Dunscombe appears in the rôle of the French detective, Paul Gouffet; he displays much vigour and tact in the part, and is well received. Mr. Scott Leighton, as Lucio Delgado, could not be better placed.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—Now in its fourth week, Mr. Robert Courtneidge's production of *Aladdin* continues to provide delightful entertainment for crowded audiences, with whom Mr. Neil Kenyon as the Widow Twankey, Mr. Chas. Harvey as Abanazar, Mr. Fred Allandale as Pekoe, Mr. Alfred Clark as the Emperor, Miss Florence Smithson as the Princess, Miss Lily Morris as Aladdin, and Miss Kitty Cavendish as Biddy, one and all prove great favourites.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—Record houses continue to be the rule at *Aladdin* at the Tyne Theatre. Nothing funnier in modern pantomime has perhaps been seen in Newcastle than the tea-table scene between Mr. Harry Lauder and Mr. Dan Crawley, two comedians who work capitally together all through the piece. Miss Beryl Somerset in the title-part and Miss José Collins as the Princess both are proving very popular, and all the other principal parts continue to be ably filled.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bacon and Bolam; Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company in that popular play, *Leah Kleschna*, is playing this week to well-filled houses. Mr. Paul Belmore gives an admirable impersonation of Monsieur Garnier; Mr. W. F. Grant gains much sympathy as Paul Slyvaini; Mr. Hamilton Deane is exceedingly good as Raoul Berton; Mr. Campbell Goldsmid and Mr. Roland Daniels as Schram and General Berton are admirably represented. Miss Bessie Rignold, in the title-rôle, gives a most realistic portrayal of the character, and is accorded a hearty reception at the fall of the curtain. She is accorded adequate support by Miss Ethel Russell (Madame Berton), Miss Helene Belgrave (Claire Berton), Miss Violet Thorold (Sophie), Miss May Hammond (Frieda), and Miss Ethel Summers (Charlotte).

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Jake Friedman and his company in a Dutch operetta, entitled *Happy Holland*, are top of the bill here this week. The piece is certainly original, and comprises, amongst a host of good things, a Dutch ballet, which comes in for special appreciation from the audience; a number of catchy songs and some very sweet concerted music are introduced. In the dual rôle of Jakey Codlevassel and Fraulein, Mr. Friedman has parts well suited to him. Paul Conchas performs some clever juggling feats, and is assisted by a comedian who keeps the house in roars of laughter. Mr. and Mrs. Lucas give a pleasing turn in their scene from Dickens' *Old Curiosity Shop*, and are heartily applauded. The Coloured Meisters are a troupe of finished vocalists; the Paxton Trio give some smart hand-balancing feats; Harold Hughman displays much merit in imitating birds and animals; Harry Lawson is a comedian who is ever popular here; Frazer and Mac, in their comedy instrumental act, score heavily; Princess Pauline, comedienne, renders her songs in good style. The Bioscope completes the programme.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Sam Mayo, the "original immobile comedian," has been very successful here. Another interesting turn is that of the King's College Boys in excerpts from opera, and their combined efforts are much appreciated. Some smart conjuring tricks by Henri Bekker mystify everyone, and the Lilian Brothers give a capital performance on the trapeze and rings. A most amusing sketch, *My Burglar*, is given by Harry Thorne and Zoe Coe. Sam Spira is a clever mimic; his impersonations of children at a party are worthy of special mention. Mark Leslie does well in his coon song and dance; Amurat, a musical athlete, supports a piano and man on his chest whilst playing a cornet; Bertha Duckett is a great success in her male impersonations. The Barrascope pictures provide much amusement this week.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Newport's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, in its last week here, continues to draw good houses. The transformation scene, the "Seasons," is indeed a work of art and generally admired. De Lello and Metz, clever young acrobats and jugglers, are nightly warmly recognised; and Chas. Wood's impersonations are appreciated. Walter Payne's pictures contribute in no small degree to the success.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Major Gallaghar; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Page.—Tom Costello meets with a warm reception here; Percy Houri is a clever concertinist; Frank Darwen and Gertrude Bradshaw were absent on Monday evening, and W. P. Dempsey, Dot Harding, and Jennie Mackay deputised. Demsey sang with much drollery, and captured the house; Miss Mackay was well received; and Dot Harding danced with a grace that was delightful. Jas. Brady, eccentric comedian, contributed comic songs; the Three Ramoniers contributed clever balancing feats; Froby and Ruge gave a comedy acrobatic turn; Kitty Marion was successful in a military song; and Frank C. Young and Kathleen de Voie gave a terpsichorean novelty, "Dancing by book." The Chronophone makes its first appearance here.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—Mr. Frank Curzon's well-selected company opened here on Monday in *The White Chrysanthemum*. Miss Dorothy Court, who has a sweet voice, gives a most effective performance of the title-rôle; Miss Gracie Sinclaire is very good as Cornelia Vanderdecken; Miss Marie North makes a bewitching Betty Kenyon; genuine comedy is furnished by Mr. Davy Burnaby as Lieut. Chippendale Belmont; Mr. F. Pope Stamper sings and acts with ability as Lieut. Reginald Armitage; Mr. St. John Hamund makes a big success as Admiral Sir Horatio Armitage, K.C.B.; Mr. O. E. Lennon is full of fun and agility as Sin Chong; and Mr. Harry Paulton, jun., makes the most of his opportunities as Perks.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans.—An enjoyable programme is put forward this week. Miss Madge Grey creates enthusiasm by her humorous imitations; the Pauldos, in their speciality act, give an interesting display of strength; John Cronow, facial expert, rapidly portrays a number of notabilities; Charles Vandyke and company of pantomimists appear in *Nicodemus*, with laughable results; Charles Russell's patriotic song is well received; and other good items are the Palace pictures by C. Vincent, songs by Ena Richards, song and dance by the Two Rubies, and a turn by Max Milian, equilibrist.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's company is presenting *The Still Alarm* here this week. Mr. Matthew H. Glenville, in the rôle of Jack Manley, acts with good effect; Mr. George Arthur as John Bird plays with ability; Mr. Tom Beasley ably depicts Willie Manley; Mr. Fred Osmond makes a good Doctor Wilber; and Mr. Lewis Gordon is seen to advantage as Franklyn Fordham. As Elinor Fordham, Miss Maud Warburton gives a capital portrayal; Miss Mabel Veriton is a satisfactory Mrs. Manley; and Miss Gertie Reed is popular as Carrie Wilber.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—Nelson's Newsboys' Quintette, comedians, vocalists, and dancers, top the bill here, and are thoroughly successful; Miss Eunice Ames, comedienne, comes in for a capital reception; and Mr. Harry Bancroft, actor-vocalist, is very popular. The Eagletons, comedy artists, are entertaining; and Master Arthur, vocalist, Messrs. France and Francis, acrobatic comedians, and the Bio-photoscope are all successful.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Frederick Melville's powerful company is here this week in *The Beast and the Beauty*. Mr. Herbert Ford is successful as Jack Barrymore; Mr. William Passmore cleverly impersonates the old Earl of Loman; Mr. Bernard Mervyn is excellent as Henry Denver; and Mr. Eric Campbell is good as Samson. Miss D. Gwynne appears as Delilah Vane, and is much appreciated; and Miss Lydia Audrey charmingly acts the part of Violet, exciting much sympathy.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—An excellent programme is provided this week. George Formby, "the silly singer of silly songs," had a capital reception; the Ergotti and King Leni troupe of Risley artists do some clever tricks; Leo Tell gives a good turn with his mimicry of musical instruments and farmyard stock; Hector, the Wire King, astonishes with his feats on the wire; Will McIvor is successful as an actor-vocalist; Lillie Langtry is a charming comedienne; Donatas, the one-legged clowns, are much appreciated; Edith Courtney, ballad singer, wins much applause; Fred Southern and company, including Miss May Emery, convulse the audience with laughter in their absurdity *The Private Hotel;* and the Hippodrome Bioscope exhibits some very comical pictures.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—The fourth week of *Dick Whittington* opened on Monday to a crowded audience, and the spontaneous merrmient was even more pronounced than in the former weeks. Miss Madeline Du Val, as graceful as ever in her portrayal of the name part; Miss Gladys Huxley, retaining all her vivaciousness as Alice; and Miss Maud Lake, looking charming as the Princess of Morocco, are accorded warm receptions and encores for their songs. Miss Maud Holland's clear and resonant tones ring out true and sweet in her song; and Mr. Fred Maguire richly earns spirited praise for his fine rendering of Handel's song "Revenge." The comedians, Messrs. Harry Brayne, Bert Danson, Fred Solo, and Bert Lloyd, continue to make their business as humorous as it is possible, and are amply rewarded by continuous laughter. The Cat, as presented by Mr. Johnny Fuller, is a special favourite with the children, who applaud to the echo his comicalities and clever acrobatic feats.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—*Jack and the Beanstalk* continues a merry and bright performance, and immensely popular with the patrons of this theatre. Miss Daisy Silcott puts a large amount of energy into her rôle as Jack; and Miss Phyllis Yorke makes a sprightly Princess. Miss Ruth Wallace looks charming as the Fairy, and sings pleasantly; while the Sisters Brand evoke hearty plaudits for their smart dancing. Mr. Charles Marston as the Demon uses his fine baritone voice to good effect in a song; the Misses Lily Lloyd and Frances Hunter also add a considerable share to the entertainment. In the fun-making, the comedians spare nothing in their efforts to please, and the honours are fairly equally distributed between Messrs. James May, Charles Gardner, A. G. Lytton, and Condor and Elgar. Mention should also be made of the neat dancing by the Yankee-Doodle Girls.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Bowmaker.—La Milo has made her appearance here this week to audiences which have packed the house. Her classical poses are remarkably faithful, perhaps the most interesting being that of the Venus de Milo. Between the representations her manager (Cruickshanks) gives an exhibition of his marvellous gift in lightning pictures. An exceedingly smart artist is seen in Alexander, whose trick cycling on a table evokes loud applause; Wilson and Waring introduce an amusing sketch, a special feature being the quick changes of costume by Waring; Fred Elton proves himself a capable pianist, and his vocal efforts cause the greatest hilarity; some capital fooling is indulged in by the Three Guitanos as eccentric acrobats; and the Corcoran Brothers submit a musical turn. The Northern Troupe of International Dancers add to the enjoyment of the evening; and the American Bioscope supplies a series of humorous films. Harry Anderson makes an entertaining character-vocalist; and Winnie Derson earns warm approbation.

NUNEATON. — PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENTS CO., LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Mr. Edward Marris's company is affording great satisfaction to good houses in *The Duchess of Dantzic*. The honours of the evening undoubtedly rest with Miss Blanche Leford, who, in the title-rôle, sings charmingly, and acts with a natural drollness that is highly pleasing. Miss Lily Hildroe as Renee is a dainty little character, and Miss Norah Melton is well placed as Lisette. Mr. R. Mansell Fane gives a capital portrayal of Sergeant Francois Lefebyre, Mr. Frank Bradley has a thorough grasp of the part of Napoleon, and Mr. Dan F. Roe does excellent work as Papillion. Among others in this excellent cast are Mr. L. Winter, Mr. G. Mannering, Mr. Vernon de Ville, Mr. Cecil W. Pache, Miss Muriel Wilson, Miss Poppie Dale, Miss Gwen Carr, Miss Lilian Drake, Miss Nancy Liddell, Miss Eva Lifun, Miss Sophie Allbut, Mr. Herbert Pinoch, and Mr. G. R. Gordon.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Mr. William Greet's principal company is paying a welcome return visit here this week with the popular musical comedy *The Earl and the Girl*. Mr. William Stephens, in his original character of Jim Cheese, is as successful as ever, being well supported by Miss Jennie Richards as 'Liza Shoddam. Miss Frances Earle is dainty and pleasing as Elphin Haye; and Miss Gertrude Melville is a clever Daisy Fallowfield. Miss Beatrice Anderson is a vigorous, strong lady, Mrs. Black; and Miss Joan Cliffard is good as Virginia Bliss. Mr. Arthur Harrold sings well as Dick Wargrave; and Mr. Percy E. Wright is very good as the Hon. Crewe Boodle. Mr. Fred W. Patrick is capital as Host Hazel; and Messrs. Courtin, Norman, and Taylor, in the respective parts of Bunker Bliss, Downham, and Mr. Talk, contribute much to the success of the comedy.

COLOSSEUM.—Manager, Mr. W. Eastwood; Messrs. Levy and Cardwell's pantomime, *The Sleeping Beauty*, will be withdrawn this week. Benefits to the principal artists were given, on Wednesday evening, Miss Dolly Dodds and Miss May Gibson; Thursday, Miss Kitty Trewhitt and Wee Georgie Wood; and Friday, Messrs. Doyle and Gibson.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Howgate.—Miss Fanny Wentworth heads the bill; she is a capital entertainer. Sid May gives some excellent impersonations of various artists; Tate and Tate, comedy trampolin artists, are clever; *Nancy Sykes*, an episode from "Oliver Twist," is well played by Miss Georgette Thierry and Mr. Bernard Lielt, supported by Miss Daisy Rochefort and Messrs. Hodgson and Doyle; Hinton and Wooton are good in football on bicycles; Bert H. Delmar, in a mimetic monologue, does well; Espinosa and Neilson are capital song and dance artists; the Royal Dottoscope shows a couple of interesting pictures.

HIPPODROME. — Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Nuttall. — Frank Caffrey, Irish comedian, meets with a good reception; and so does Lazern, the mystic, an illusionist. W. T. Ellwanger and company cause much laughter with a funny sketch, *The Peacemaker;* Lilly Hayes is a charming comedienne and dancer; the Lovelaces sing some good songs, well illustrated; Massona is neat in his juggling act; and Mark Merry is a quaint comedian. The Dottoscope is again showing new pictures.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill.—For the fourteenth year in succession the management here has engaged a company of Mr. Milton Bode's for the annual pantomime, and the reception accorded to *Dick Whittington* on Monday by a packed house proved their judgment to be again correct. Miss Gladys Warren makes an ideal Dick, her face and figure exactly suiting the part and her acting and singing being quite good; Mr. Bob Hutt works hard and successfully as Fitzwarren; Mr. Rolando Martin is a droll Idle Jack; Mr. Fred Danvers a most amusing Cook; and the Firmans are whimsical as Captain Scrupper and Bill Oakum. Miss Flo Challis makes a capital Tommy Trot; Miss Kathleen Severn sings and acts daintily as Alice; Miss Beatrice Lane does well as May; Miss Nellie Lauraine is an imposing Empress of Morocco; Miss Wanda Zaleska agreeably fits the part of Fairy; and Mr. Carne Curre fairly earns the applause liberally bestowed on him by the children for his clever performance of the Cat. Some excellent dances are contributed by Collins' Six Lancashire Lasses; and Wallau shows himself to be a very clever juggler.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager,

Eric is an amusing ventriloquist; Harry Leybourne, comedian and dancer, is received with great favour; a capital draw is Satsuma, Japanese juggler; Jack Rae, comedy gymnast and hat manipulator, contributes an entertaining number; Hetty Lee, soubrette and dancer, gives an excellent and refined turn; J. K. Macfarlane, Scotch comedian, is exceedingly funny; the De Breans, sciographists, furnish an entertaining turn; and the Hippodrome Bioscope concludes the show.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Tom Toy.—A bright programme is presented here this week. The star turn is the Casey Circus, which elicits applause; Dick Dunford, Irish comedian and dancer, is entertaining; the Two Olivers, American comedy artists and expert dancers, are excellent; Frank Leayton, comedian, makes a hit; the Sisters Du-Barrie, male impersonators and top-boot dancers, give a commendable show; and Shiela McNeil, styled "The Lass frae Killiecrankie," is applauded.

PENTRE. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Sole Owners, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Counsell.—Messrs. Travies Green and Arthur Hinton's company is here this week in *Home, Sweet Home*. Mr. Arthur Hinton as Stephen Armitage portrays the rough, but true-hearted, fisherman to the life; Miss Leila Zillwood as Joan gives an admirable interpretation of the simple fisherman's daughter and the haughty Duchess; David Armitage is cleverly depicted by Mr. Frank Hudspeth; the Duke of Ancaster in the capable hands of Mr. Henry Compton; Mr. Percy E. Davidson portrays the gay aristocrat, the Hon. Percy Ashfield, in humorous fashion; and is admirably seconded by Miss Jennie Clare as Sybil Fay, her songs being excellently rendered. Mr. Travis Green as Lucas Lyle is seen to advantage; and Little Dolly Turner gives a pathetic portrayal of Dora.

PERTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company had a very successful three nights' engagement here in *The Toreador*. Mr. Sidney Granville's delightful rendering of Carajolo, a toreador, was well received; Mr. Robert Rous created considerable amusement as Sammy Gigg; Mr. Fred Thompson elicited hearty applause in his clever impersonation of Sir Archibald Slackett; and Mr. Herbert Willis was no less successful as Augustus Trail. Mr. Richard Adams was admirably adapted to the pleasing rôle of Pettiter; Mr. Henry Arthur made a striking Governor of Villaya; Mr. George Martin's Rinaldo and Mr. Daniel Maston's Moreno were excellent; while Messrs. Arthur Penborn Harry Playfair, Fred Graham, and Owen Ford were successfully placed as Bandmaster, Mr. Probitt, Waiter, and Porter respectively. Miss Gwen Clifford scored as Mrs. Malton Hoppings; Miss Nina Carlton's forceful impersonation of Donna Teresa was accorded unstinted approbation; Miss Winsome Etherington's Dora Selby and Miss Beatrice Rowe's Nancy Staunton fully merit the applause with which their efforts were greeted; Miss Leah Howard's talent was shown to considerable advantage in Susan; Misses A. Chambers and Winifred Downing were well adapted to the parts of La Belle Bolero and La Belle Otera; Misses Florence Wood, Doris Ainsley, M. Carlton, and Edith Mason were admirable bridesmaids; and Miss Cicely Ashbourne's solo dance was given with much acceptance.

PLYMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—Notwithstanding *Blue Beard* is now drawing to the end of its career, its popularity shows no signs of waning. Plenty of new business has been recently worked in, which has had the effect of increasing the attractiveness of the production, while the various artists have now become strong local favourites. Miss Du Cane is nightly encored with her song concerning the vicissitudes of Mr. Brown; Messrs. George Brooks, Frank Bertram, and Wilfrid Shine share the honours as comedians; Miss Peggy Primrose as Fatima is extremely winsome; and Miss Muriel Langley still sustains the rôle of leading boy.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. C. F. Williams; Manager, Mr. Percy Williams.—Mr. Chas. Locke's company, in *The Streets of London*, is doing good business at Stonehouse. Mr. Charles Locke is very versatile and humorous as Dan Piffy; Mr. Cecil A. Melton is an accomplished Badger; Miss Ethel Kay is a sympathetic heroine; Miss Elaine Vanbrugh makes a good adventuress; and Mr. Chas. Baird a creditable villain.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Bella and Bijou return after a comparatively short absence, but with some excellent new business, their skit on the Suffragettes being immensely enjoyed; the Seddons are another excellent turn, and fully deserve their enthusiastic reception; the Maitland Comedy Trio present a highly-diverting sketch, entitled *The Picture;* the Three Missouris return after a lengthy interval with their irresistibly funny number, *Captain Kettle;* Gilbert Girard is an accomplished animal mimic; Will Bell is a smart step-dancer; and Edie Maddison is an attractive vocalist and dancer. Vernon's pictures complete a good evening's enjoyment.

PORTH.—THE PALACE (late OPERA HOUSE).—General-Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Heading the bill this week are the Cumberlands, athletic acrobatic cycling wonders, who give an excellent performance. Other turns are Joe Conway, the boy comedian; Gold and Sterling, in *The Welsh Girl and the Artist;* Garvetta and Parr, in their double potpourri act, *There's Going to be a Show;* Clark's Nippers, in their speciality; Rita and Roma, versatile vaudeville entertainers; Mlle. Rita, in her marvellous contortion dance; Miss Billie Burford, a smart vocal comedienne; and the Palace Electric Bioscope, with up-to-date films.

PORTSMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—The very able company of Mr. George Edwardes still holds the stage here with *Two Naughty Boys*, whose pranks have been highly appreciated.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary Mr. W. Pratt.—An excellent all-round programme is offered to the patrons of this house for the current week. The Stavordale Quintette of Banjoists and Harpists give a popular musical turn; Frank Maura, the Mexican wonder, is a clever equilibrist and balancer; the Delomes, dancers, please greatly; Kitty Clover and company, in *The Pet of the Ballet*, again score well; Culpitt and Adele are amusing; the Sauterons are expert jumpers; the Three Panamas, in an acrobatic dancing potpourri act, are much appreciated; the Three Brothers Curran give a smart boxing act; Jock Whiteford, Scotch comedian, is most diverting; and Payne's Bio-Photoscope, with some new pictures, completes the bill.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late Mr. Wm. Johnson.—This week Mr. Geo. Dance's principal company is here on a return visit with *Veronique*. The part of Florestan is admirably taken by Mr. Roland Bottomley, who renders his songs with sincere expression; Miss Ethel Negretti is a captivating Hélène; Mr. Tom Seymour creates much amusement as Coquenard; Mr. Percival Knight capably defines the humour of Loustot; Agatha has a clever exponent in Miss Doris Greville; and Miss Edith Devonshire makes an excellent Countess.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—Harry Daniels and company head the bill here this week in a funny musical farce, entitled *Rent*, which evokes continuous hearty laughter. Very pleasing and popular entertainment is provided by Haley's Juveniles; Harry Carlton and his two fellow comedians cause great merriment; and others who contribute successfully are Lily Watson, comedy patter artist; Smith and Johnson, coloured duo; Harry Briggs, triple-voice vocalist; Wragg and Wragg, military athletes; and Ridgwell, character comedian. Excellent bioscope pictures complete.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. George T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—As usual, Hardie and Von Leer's company, with *The Two Little Vagabonds*, is meeting with well-merited success. The vivacious and animated Dick of Miss Edie Martin and the sad little waif of Miss Josie Beltram deserve unstinted praise. Miss Rosslyn Vane as Barbara and Miss Grace Heywood as Marion Thornton treat their respective parts very naturally. Mr. Lionel Elias as Bill Mullins gives a capital rendering; Mr. Arthur E. Melbourne is a distinct success as George Thornton; and Mr. Sidney Vantier does well as Capt. Darville.

RAMSGATE. — AMPHITHEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—A great deal of amusement has been caused by the performances given this week by Mr. J. B. Mulholland's company, in the eccentric farce, *The Electric Man*. Mr. Bernard Copping is in all respects admirable in the dual rôles of Walter Everest and the Electric Man, and the many diverting situations in which he finds himself are presented very cleverly. As his mystified landlady (Mrs. Anderson), Miss Amy Fanchette adds considerably to the merriment; Jack Strange, the young medico who is a friend of Walter, is a part handled with skill by Mr. Hastings Lynn; and Mr. A. Wheatman, as Mr. Jobbins, private enquiry agent, is thoroughly successful. The Misses Gertrude Tate and Isa Bellington charmingly impersonate the characters of the fiancées of Walter and Jack. *The Electric Man* has been preceded at each performance by a laughable curtain-raiser, entitled *Obliging a Friend*.

RAWTENSTALL. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. George Dickinson.—Mr. Alfred B. Cross and company are here this week in *The Manxman*, which was performed on Monday night before a large and appreciative audience. Mr. Cross, as Pete, gave a wonderfully clever and natural impersonation, frequently receiving well-merited applause. As Kate Cregeen Miss M. Watersford was truly excellent, her interpretation being both powerful and womanly; Mr. Sydney S. Kearns, as Philip Christian, was also successful in his portrayal of this character; and Mr. Dudley Stuart was equally good as Ross Christian; Mr. Frank Etheredge made a typical Cæsar Cregeen; and Mr. Tom Bowron an acceptable Dr. Mylcreest. Miss Kitty Livesey was an excellent Bella Kelly; Miss Mona Spearing a clever Miss Christian; and Miss Nellie Freeland was good as Nancy.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*Two Little Drummer Boys* occupies the boards here this week. Mr. Frank Fuller as General Kingsley is all that could be desired; Mr. Fred Emery wins favour as Captain Frank Carsdale; Mr. Archie Helsby cleverly portrays the part of Captain George Darrell; and Mr. J. Magrath as Corporal O'Quirke is very amusing. Miss Maggie English and Miss Lily Beverly are well placed as Eric Carsdale and Jack Smith; Miss Edie Macklin makes a bright and lively Molly Meadows; Miss Mildred Eversleigh wins all hearts as Alma Kingsley; and Miss Kathleen Magee is a typical Drunken Meg.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Smith and Co.—The Dayton Family top the bill here this week. Rs Risley acrobats they are hard to beat. The Cecilian Family submit a refined turn as musicians, dancers, and impersonators. Other items include the Alex Victor comedy glee singers; the Wheelers, in *A Tramp's Holiday;* the Three Beyers, trapeze artists; the Percys, duettists and dancers; Mabel Luzerne, vocalist; and Vernon's Bioscope.

EMPIRE. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thos. Hargreaves. Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—J. W. Hall had a gratifying reception here on Monday evening; Herr Fritz, with his illusions and tricks, quite mystifies his audience; Maud Ross, dancer; Will Mitcham, vocal and musical comedian; Almon, the upside-down marvel; Jack Ross, double-voiced vocalist; and pictures by the Empire Bioscope, complete the list.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Again are local playgoers being entertained with pantomime, Mr. Edwin C. Jazon and company providing the attraction with *Aladdin*. Miss Edna Latoune is very smart in the title-rôle, her songs being well received; Miss Florrie White is a pleasing Princess; Miss Lila Lingard a sprightly Pekoe; and Miss Blanche Vernon an effective Caramel. Mr. Cyril Carle as the Emperor is seen to advantage; Mr. B. Best scores as the Grand Vizier; Mr. Harry Verno is a successful Abanazar; and Mr. J. C. Morris an amusing Widow Twankey. Messrs. George and Edwards are responsible for much of the fun as Ping and Pong; Misses Beatrice Sinclair and Pattie Holden, as Slave of the Lamp and Genius of the Ring, contribute considerably to the success. Specialities are introduced by Kavados, cannon ball juggler; the Sisters Varley, vocalists; the Sisters Reno, with an excellent terpsichorean turn; and Max Merlin, in a really sensational performance.

RUGBY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geoffrey Fulton.—Mr. T. Arthur Jones and company are this week presenting *Life's Sweetest Sins*. Mr. T. A. Jones as Captain Harold Marson gives a masterly rendering; Mr. Oswald Douglass as Dr. Colbrooke is excellent; and Mr. Robert Lawin as Kimberley Coutts and Mr. Clem Horlock as the Rev. Ed. Gray are both good. Mr. Edgar Morgan is clever and humorous as Bob Tanner; as Ernie Wodestone Mr. Fred Wilson is good; Miss Hazel Dent is clever and artistic as Doreen Rivers; as Fay Colbrooke Miss Mary Ainslie makes the most of her opportunities; and Miss Elsie Walton as Bess Grayson is excellent.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. Lester Collingwood's comic pantomime, *Blue Beard*, written by Ernest Dottridge, commenced a week's run on Monday, and is drawing crowded houses. Mr. S. Lockridge makes a satisfactory Bluebeard; Ibrahim is very funny in the hands of Mr. Fred Lindo; Miss Marie Liston, a sprightly Selim, gets much applause for her singing; Fatima is charmingly presented by Miss Millie Warde, who also sings well; Mr. Harry Tilbury keeps the house in roars as Sister Anne; Cassim and Beda are represented by the Sisters Gladys and Irene Wingrove, who do some good dancing; Mr. Fred Warwick as Shakabac and Mr. Dan Biglow as Shakaleg, with Messrs. Wheeler and Wilson, keep the fun rolling. Specialities are also given by the Valerie Girls, novelty dancers; and the Three Rubys, in an acrobatic and trapeze act.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—A good programme is being given here. Percy Maye cleverly disguises himself as a female. A very enjoyable turn is given by the Primrose Quartette. The sketch, *Poor Beggar*, by John Le Hay, supported by Miss Mary Duggan and Charles Cautley, is very amusing; Matt Wilkinson, with J. Bryant, Stanley Gabrielle de Bonheur, and Violet Beatrice, have a clever dramatic episode, *The Fisherman's Daughter* Vernando, the ventriloquial barber; Lowenwirth Bros., Hebrew dialect comedians; Cline and Clark, smart dancers; George Prince, crazy comedian; and Miss Alexandra, Royal burlesque actress, also appear.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—There is plenty to keep the audience laughing in Holland and Wood's comic pantomime, *Aladdin*, written and invented by Charles Wilmott and William Holland. Abanazar is very comical as presented by Percy Curry; Frances Haskoll does well as Aladdin; George Reeves is good as Widow Twankey; and a funny Wishee Washee is Walter Watson. Nash and Noel do several specialities; the Three Trees (Dolly, Bibby, and Portia), vocalists and dancers; Kendrick and Laura, vocalists and dancers; and Chameleon Cave Guards, in military manœuvres with electric colour effects, are among the other specialities.

SALISBURY.—COUNTY HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr. T. Brinsmead.—Crowded and appreciative audiences are witnessing Mr. John A. Thomson's *Jack and the Beanstalk*. In the title-rôle, Miss Edith Wallis scored a great success; Miss Maggie Allwood made a charming Jill, singing and dancing in a bright manner; Miss Georgie Mansell as Johnny and Miss Nellie Stewart as Bo-Peep caused great amusement; Miss Ella Rose as Britannia was most successful; as Sir Peter Pippin Mr. Wallace Bosco was excellent; Mr. Harry Harcourt as Mother Hubbard made the most of the part; and Mr. Teddy Worth as Tommy Tucker and Mr. Percy Galino as Billy Piper did well.

SCARBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietress, Mrs. Henry Mayhew; Manager, Mr. Fred P. Morgan.—The great attraction here this week is Fred Granville's pantomime company in *The Babes in the Wood*. All the members of the company are brilliant artists, which the audience soon recognise by their unstinted applause at every performance. Miss Cissie Bodina, as Robin Hood, established herself a warm favourite, and is well suited to the rôle; Miss Hetty Lind, as Maid Marion, is full of life and go, and her songs, particularly "Zuyder Zee," could not have been better received; the Kimberley Boys, as Burgling Bill and Gentle George, are responsible to a large degree for the success the company have attained here; Mr. Norman Hall, as the Wicked Uncle, has a part that fits him exactly; as the village school mistress, Mr. Joe English obtains many laughs; Mr. J. McLanley as Friar Tuck assists materially in the completeness of the production; as the Fairy Miss Maud Lind sings with excellent effect; the Babes are Master Harry Boden and Miss Edie Bell, who win general favour for their admirable performance. The specialities are up to date, and include the Three Graces, who, as living statues, give particularly fine studies and classical poses. The Three Bodinas submit an excellent rendering of "The Bandolero" and "The Soldiers' Chorus" (Gounod); the Clancy Girls evoke the liveliest interest and heartiest appreciation for their dancing and acrobatic performance.

PEOPLE'S PALACE AND AQUARIUM.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Morgan.—Mark Anthony is the star here this week, and with his songs and clever imitations is the cause of unlimited merriment; the Elgars, with selections from light opera, are both possessed of excellent voices, which they use to great advantage; T. E. Johnston is always a favourite with local audiences; the Brothers Tarrant, comedians, are very droll; La Tosca, on the silver wire, gives an excellent performance, and is equally at home on the rolling globe; the Two D's are amusing with their magic luncheon; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope concludes an enjoyable entertainment.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. George Zalva. — The great attraction here is Lackie Thompson's Topweights, who give a first-class exhibition of boxing, wrestling, and club-swinging; Miss Marie Yorks, comedienne, deserves her success by the dainty way in which she renders her songs; Dan Noble, Jimmy James, and Johnny Walker are all able comedians who contribute to a popular programme; the Hartz Trio give a sensational turn as illusionists; and the animated pictures are appreciated by the audience.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company holds sway here this week with *The Power of the Cross*. Mr. George A. de Gray, the author of the play, gives a weird and striking impersonation of Baron Wolf Curzola; and Rita Lascelles is strongly presented by Miss Mildred Cottell. Gerald Fairfax (Mr. Charles Linney) and Dr. Leslie Fairfax (Mr. Alexander J. Haviland) are both well played. Benjamin Hawke is carefully looked after by Mr. L. Fred Tenaur; and Blanche Kingsley is ably acted by Miss Phyllis Vaughan. Mr. A. Read plays the part of David Kingsley with all due dignity; and Margaret Seaton is skilfully presented by Miss Stanley Burt. The comic relief is well sustained by Mr. Richard E. Nugent as Timothy O'Dowd and Miss Etta Turner as Dolly Gray.

SHEERNESS.—THE PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Phil Reymond.—The bill here includes the Dancing Toy Soldier, a very eccentric turn; Miss Marie Florence, who makes a big hit with her serio songs and expert dancing; Mr. Gus Daniels also scores in his comic and descriptive songs; Mr. Phil Reymond continues a big favourite, his clever comedy songs being loudly applauded; Mr. Horace Sade Leggett is a good comedian and dancer; and the Sisters Chancit are a clever pair of duettists and dancers.

THE HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton.—Crowded audiences still continue to patronise the excellent programmes here. Amongst the prominent turns this week are Rose, Ross, and Rosert, who create endless amusement in the comedy act *Always Moving;* Daisy de Roy, comedienne, gains a pleasing reception; the Gartell Trio, in a musical item, are eminently successful; the Woelhaffs (Fred and Marie), in a combined musical and burlesque act, gain hearty applause; Lillian Devon,, comedienne, possesses a pleasing style both in song and dance; and a similar compliment is due to Cissie Ferndale, burlesque actress. Eugene Brant, eccentric comedian, is deserving of praise; and the usual display of pictures concludes a most enjoyable programme.

SHEFFIELD. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's pantomime company opened to a good audience on Monday in *Aladdin*. Miss Fanny Wright, the popular Ganem of last years' Royal annual, acted with vivacity and refinement as Aladdin; Miss Kitty Brewster was quite a picure of Oriental beauty as the Princess, and her performance gave the utmost pleasure; Mr. Daley Cooper, who has often amused local playgoers since his first appearance on the Royal boards with the famous children's *Cloches de Corneville* in 1881, again showed his ability as a burlesque actor in the part of Abanazar, and in song, dance, and patter he was alike successful. Mr. Julian Mack was a funny and resourceful representative of Widow Twankey Mr. Picton Roxborough made a most imposing Chinese Emperor; and the Brooks Brothers kept the fun going. Clever specialities were introduced by the Brewster Troupe, Messrs. Robins and Collier, and the Brooks. Mr. Rylestone deserves credit for a splendid production.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The successful annual, *Mother Goose*, has proved one of the regular old-fashioned Royal pantomime triumphs, and "Boxing Night business" is still the rule. The Bros. Valdo are immense favourites; Miss Daisy Jerome wins encores nightly; Miss Maisie Gay continues to charm as the handsome principal boy Colin; Mr. Jack Pleasants as a fun-purveyor is simply "A1 at Lloyd's"; and all the other performers are on good terms with the habitués of the theatre.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—"Is pantomime declining?" If the crowded state of the Alexandra nightly be any criterion of the general taste, the answer is an emphatic "No." *Dick Whittington* is still running smoothly.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The refined and delightful Miss Madge Lessing appeared for the first time in Sheffield on Monday, and was received with cordial applause. Mr. Harry B. Meynott, the inimitable Mr. Bronson in *The Belle of New York*, assisted by his fair and vivacious partner, appeared with great success in a smart little comedy. The Three Olympiers in their bronze statuary act were loudly applauded; Park's Eton Boys were enthusiastically received; Mlle. Marzella's birds were deservedly applauded; a daring and graceful aerial show was given by the Renard Trio; and other items were Boyd and Gilfain, duettists; La Danseuse, characteristic dancer, and the American Bioscope.

GRAND PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—The company here includes Miss Diana Hope and company in a dramatic sketch; the Two Sprees, comedians; Miss Rose Pink, comedienne; Mr. Dan Robins, Gicardo, the Donnas Trio, and Pallister's Bioscope with new pictures.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietor, Mr. Victor Samson.—*Babes in the Wood* is being played twice nightly.

ALBERT HALL.—The Joseph Poole Myriorama season terminates to-night.

SHREWSBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Mr. Weedon Grossmith's successful farcical comedy, *The Night of the Party*, was admirably played here on the first four nights of the present week by a talented company. Miss Beatrice Mervyn acted with grace and discretion as Lady Hampshire; Miss Lena Grantham was a capable Mrs. Young; Miss Florence French as the loud Gipsy Vandeller infused plenty of life and action into the part; Miss Marion Lewis was successful as Nannie Portland; Miss Gertrude Manners was capable as Baby Hastings; Miss Lillian Williams acted capitally as the housemaid Paulina; Mr. Aidan Lovett was a dignified Sir Charles Hampshire; Mr. Frank H. Denton as the embarrassed Mr. Frank Frayne acted with care and ability; Mr. Sebastian Smith as the irrepressible Crosbie was exceedingly droll and clever throughout; Mr. Douglas Munro as the pompous servitor Mr. Fambour made the best use of his opportunities; Mr. Chas. J. Bruce was a satisfactory Mr. Roundle, footman; Mr. Stanley Arthur made a most amusing Mr. Bogle; Mr. Ernest Rivarz as the self-conscious Alderman Harper acted creditably; and other male parts were in good hands.

SOUTHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fred Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Large and appreciative audiences have this week been welcoming Mr. Milton Bode's excellent company in *The Belle of Mayfair*. Mr. Harry Parker as Sir John Chaldicott makes the hit of the evening, and creates roars of laughter. He is well supported by Miss Emily Stevens as Lady Chaldicott. Miss May Yates is exceedingly vivacious as Julia, singing and dancing admirably. Mr. Edward Hugonett is good as the Hon. Raymond Finchley, and Mr. Gwyn Alwyn sings remarkably well as Hugh Meredith. Miss Daisie Irving is a successful vocalist, and plays the Princess daintily; Miss Mabel Dent is a pert little maid; and Miss Aurelie de Loriere scores as the Gibson Girl. Mr. Hugh Nolan is the business-manager of the company.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. William Trussell —*La Vivandiere* is a capital military sketch, in which Miss Isabel Derrie plays the part of Cigarette with great success, Silbon's miniature circus; Francis O'Flynn, banjoist; Muir, Bartlett, and company in a diverting sketch, *The Lost Collar Stud;* Meier and Mora, ball punchers; the Singing Mill Boys; and Harry Maxam, comedian, also contribute to the programme.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; acting-Manager, Mr. H. P. Howell.—Mr. Walter George's "Smart Set" entertainers occupy the place of honour, and submit a pleasing turn. Dan Filmer is a droll comedian; Hallam and Stanton sing admirably; Ethel Dove, comedienne and dancer; the Athos troupe of acrobats; and Bert Bernard's pantomimists in a knockabout sketch, *The Brewery*, all add their quota to the entertainment.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—Quite a sensational play is the attraction for this week, namely, S. Buchanan Rogerson's drama, entitled *When it Was Dark*. Mr. Cyril Austin-Lee, in the principal rôle of the Rev. Basil Gortre, is a striking personality, and his interpretation is a thoroughly masterly one. Mr. George H. Pitt is responsible for the portrayal of the millionaire, Constantine Schuabe, and his efforts are well rewarded. Sir Robert Llewellyn has in Mr. Arthur B. Murray a forcible and clever impersonator; while Mr. H. B. Summerville is well suited as Harold Spence. Mrs. Morton Powell gives a dignified and realistic portrayal of Helena Byars; Miss Elizabeth Watson is entrusted with the difficult rôle of Gertrude Hunt, and displays considerable talent and tact that win well-merited recognition.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens, Ltd.; Secretary Mr. R. Singleton.—The habitués of the Opera House are favoured by a visit from the distinguished American actress, Mrs. Russ Whytal, and her well-selected company, who on Monday night presented Mr. J. M. Barrie's charming play *Alice Sit-by-the Fire*. Mrs. Russ Whytal in the part of Mrs. Grey fascinated the audience by her brilliant and vivacious delineation; Miss Beatrice Bramah depicted the character of Amy Grey very artistically; Miss Lucie Verrier as Leonora Dunbar did exceedingly well; Fanny had a smart exponent in Miss Beresford; Mr. J. J. Bartlett submitted a highly creditable character-study of Colonel Grey; Stephen Rollo was well played by Mr. Aubrey Mallalieu; and Mr. T. Pauncefort presented a good portraiture of Cosmo Grey. The play was preceded each evening by a one-act comedy, entitled *The Royal Flower*.

ALBERT HALL, WINTER GARDENS.—Lessee, Mrs. Charles Parker; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Mertz.—Mr. W. J. Ashcroft, "the original solid man," heads the bill here this week, the veteran comedian receiving quite an ovation from large audiences. Capital turns are also supplied by Wild Willie and West in their comedy acrobatic trampoline and trap scene, entitled *The Three Bounding Navvies;* Mount and Corelli, society entertainers, in their musical duologue *The Master and the Maid;* Bob Hamilton, the popular Scotch comedian; Jessie Jukes, vocalist and dancer; Little Bobbie, "the gallery boy"; Bert Lytton, the swell comique; W. C. Webber, bass vocalist; and the Bioscope with the latest films.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred. Coulson.—Mr. Lingford Carson's No. 1 Répertoire Company appeared here on Monday and Tuesday, in *A Modern Adventuress*. In the title-rôle, Miss Muriel Thompson was seen to advantage; Mr. Charles Draycott was successful as the sculptor, Pietro Donelli; the Vivette Delby of Miss Marie Robson was meritorious; Mr. Will White submitted a clever sketch of the honest Yorkshireman, being ably supported by Miss Nellie V. Warden as the slavey. The company performing on Wednesday presented *The Octoroon*, on Thursday *The Heart of a Hero*, and on Friday *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—J. W. Rowley, comedian, a strong favourite, scores an undoubted success; *The Order of the Bath* is cleverly presented by Lilith Leyton and John Spurling; Griff and Alpha, in the comedy-scena, *The Clown in Apartments*, are as entertaining as ever; Nina Gordon, Scottish lady mimic, convinces the audience of her ability; and other acceptable turns are G. W. Hunter; Jimmy Shields, one-legged comedian; Clara Greets, comedienne and dancer; the Players, comedy artists and dancers; and the Bioscope.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors, Messrs. J. K. Hall and Jos. Sweeney; Business-Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—The principal turn is Ada Fawn, comedy artist, who receives an ovation; a smart acrobatic performance is submitted by the Two Eltons; the Marblesque Trio, in their statuary posing act, are in great demand; Watson, the miniature "Hercules," appears to advantage; and other attractive items are Andy Fagan, comedian and dancer; Daisy Wood, speciality dancer; and the Tivoli Bioscope.

SPENNYMOOR. — CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company is appearing here in the musical comedy *Dare-Devil Dorothy*, which has been seen on these boards on three previous occasions. Mr. H. C. Barry presents an excellent impersonation of Silas Crump; Miss Dorothy Desmonde, in the title-rôle, is quite successful; Miss Nellie Harcourt as Judith is full of vigour and piquancy; as Ruth Montrose, Miss Marie Vere gives a good account of herself; Messrs. Henry C. Ward, Walter Ashley, Deane Cliffe, and Arthur Hartley as Captain Dudley, Harold Vivian, Featherstone Haugh, and Hawkins are all capable artists; and the Misses Lily and Mabel Blake contribute several pretty dances. Mr. J. W. Cordiner still fills the responsible position of manager to the company.

STAFFORD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—Mr. Beaudyn's company is presenting *A Beautiful Fiend* here. Mr. Montague Beaudyn is seen to advantage as Ivan Paulovitch; Mr. J. P. McBride makes an excellent Count Karateff, and Mr. Harry Oates ably supplies the humour as Christopher Crackles. Miss Irene Munro as Nadine Karateff gives the right touch of pathos to the rôle; Miss Annie Clunn is good as Patty Woodlands; and Miss Sidney Crowe presents a fine study of Wanda Lubinoff.

STALYBRIDGE. — HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Managers, Messrs. W. A. Jackson and Eugene E. Hardie.—The programme here includes the Sell Bros., clever acrobatic comedians; the Prinellas, in a pretty duologue, entitled *The Farmyard Flirtation;* the Mackeys, comedians and dancers; the Katos, excellent living marionettes; Miss Nellie Elders, Tyrolean vocalist; the Adras, in their classical poses; Fred Graham, comedian; and Mr. Harry Roxbury's company, in *The Prince of Monte Carlo*.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, the St. Helen's Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—This week an attractive variety programme is presented. The artists include the Great Lavails, novelty gymnasts; Brull and Hemsley, "the dainty damsel and the dancing dude"; Auto, instrumentalist; Little Zola, comedian; Miss Fannie Humber, instrumentalist and dancer; Mike Cray, comic juggler, and dog Dooley; Mr. Fred Emmell's sketch company, including, Miss Ruby Loucraine; Mr. George Young, the blind collier musician; Lyston, ventriloquist; the Schiavony troupe of lady and gentleman acrobats; and the Tennessee Guards in military display. Mr. Loader, the genial manager, took his annual benefit on Thursday, when extra attractions were provided.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. T. Barrasford, Will Sley, and F. Wilmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—The bill of fare here this week includes Lady Julia, the ape with the human brain; Bob Hutt's company in the absurdity *Welcome Home;* N. C. Bostock, the comic king, always welcome here; Miss Nellie Ellien, comedienne; Miss Agnes McKellar, Scotch soprano; Hardie Palm, comedian; the Bros. O'Brien, with horizontal bar act; Miss Jennie Hartley, comedienne and dancer; and Snowball and Miss Dolia, comedy artists.

STOCKPORT. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—A cordial reception has been accorded Mr. Louis Calvert's company, appearing here for the first time in *Sunday*, a drama which has commanded the close interest of large audiences from start to finish. Miss Emelie Poloni's acting in the title-rôle was delightfully realistic; and Mr. Leonard Pagden gave a natural impersonation of Colonel Brinthorpe. As Tom Oxley Mr. Ernest A. Douglas was thoroughly capable; and Jacky was impressively presented by Mr. Arthur Vezin. Towzer, Davy, and Lively had able representatives in Mr. Wm. Lockhart, Mr. Sidney Rennee, and Mr. Cecil Yapp respectively; whilst Mrs. Naresby was charmingly played by Miss Rosalind Ross.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—The principal attraction this week is Roland, illusionist, who is most entertaining; De Henan, the armless wonder, is highly pleasing; and the Carls' acrobatic display in *Fun in a Café* is clever and amusing. Bert Weston, comedian and story-teller, meets with a gratifying reception; Mlle. Aladina, with her trained cockatoos, is very successful; L. B. Athol, character artist, in a vocal production, *Dreamland*, is greeted with much applause; and Beattie Bloom, comedienne, and Wisper, comedy juggler, both receive a full share of appreciation.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Geo. and Robt. Nicholson; Manager, Mr. W. Ainsworth.—Mme. Yeamans Titus is at the head of a capital

applauded; Olive Veno, in her speciality, is good, her song and dance being very artistic; the Davenports are old favourites here, their illustions being both clever and amusing; Ethel Somers, as a "many-sided entertainer," is capital; Bruce's Scotch collies are an excellent turn. The Pictoscope, as usual, completes a capital programme.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Councillor J. Batty; Manager, Mr. W. Batty.—Hadj Abdullah's Arabs are a favourite turn here; Sadler and Ross are very funny; Marlow and Manton, in a sketch, *Other People's Babies*, are amusing; Stewart and Morgan, vocalists, are good; Joe Humphreys is a character-vocalist of a high order; James Toner, the "newsboy mimic," is much appreciated; the Four Juggling Geraldos are smart, and Payne's Bioscope completes the programme.

STOKE.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr. H. Miller.—Mr. Fred Granville this week presents his pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*. Miss Emmie Milsted as Morgiana sings and acts admirably; Miss Edna Cragge makes a dashing Captain; Burley and Burley are diverting as the policemen; Mr. Sid Cotterel is quite a host in himself as Fitz Hassarac; and Mr. Watty Griffen is excellent. The specialities include Henry Abdy's canine hippodrome; Mlle. Marvelle's cockatoos and macaws; the Sisters Poole; and the Oriento Troupe of Acrobats.

STOURBRIDGE. — ALHAMBRA THEATRE. —Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—*The French Spy* is proving a strong attraction here this week. Mr. Fred Benton, under whose direction the company appears, plays a prominent part as Fritz, a German strong man; in the title-rôle Miss Madge Devereux proves herself an accomplished actress, and the same way be said of Miss A. Harrison Tate as Olga. Mr. Beresford Lovett as Captain Sommers is a conspicuous figure, and Mr. Max Coutts finds favour as Count Romanoff; Mr. Hugh Travers gives a dignified impersonation of General Trepoff. Much of the comic element is 'n the trustworthy care of Messrs. Charles Digby and Seymour Perry.

SUNDERLAND.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—Mr. J. F. Ellis-ton's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, written by Mr. J. Hickory Wood, is still drawing crowded houses. Miss Maidie Scott, a dashing Dick, scores by her various vocal efforts; Miss Veronica Brady is entrusted with the important part of Alice, to which she does ample justice, her song, "Timinee," winning for her many admirers. She is also a dancer of considerable ability; Mark Sheridan keeps the house in constant good humour, his plate-breaking scene being exceptionally funny.

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Stevens and Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Carlo.—*Little Red Riding Hood* is to be withdrawn to-night. The comedians are led by Mr. George Le Clerq, who has become quite popular in his impersonation of Johnny Stout. He is ably assisted by Mr. Ben Brown, who gives a whimsical rendering of Jimmy Green.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Hemingway. —Messrs. Carpenter and Cooper's company, with *The Spider and the Fly*, is the attraction at this theatre. Mr. Stanley S. Gordon gives a capital rendering of Cyril Girdlestone; Mr. Ellis J. Preston infuses considerable power into the rôle of Welby Girdlestone; Mr. Chas. A. Preece is amusing as Remus Roe; and Mr. H. C. Lanceley is seen to advantage as the Rev. McAllister. Miss Nina Naughton gives a refined and pathetic rendering of Edith McAllister; as Stella Grey Miss Amy Venimore is excellent; and Miss Lucy Murray is a bright and winsome Molly.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Managers, Messrs. Alfred Browne and S. B. Stringer.—An excellent all-round bill is provided here this week, the place of honour being held by Harry Grey (billed as the Australian Nugget); Mlle. Flora Lumière's electrical fairy grotto is worthy of special praise; Mlle. Victoria Dagmar, gymnast; Stanley and Greenop, banjoists; Olive Armadale, comedienne; Maxford and O'Neill, cross-talk comedians; the Wedburns, comedians; Brady and Johnston's comedy-sketch company, in *Turning the Tables*; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope are also among the attractions.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Edward Gray.—Messrs. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson's company opened on Monday for three nights with *Charley's Aunt*. Mr. Basil Lynn as Jack Chesney, Mr. Tom Macfarlene as Lord Fancourt Babberley, Mr. A. Claremont as Charles Wykeham, and Mr. Percy Tyler as Stephen Spettigue all work well together; and Mr. T. S. McCavilland makes Colonel Chesney a capital character; and Miss Grace Baring is good as Donna Lucia.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE—Proprietor and Responsible-Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Swindon's first pantomime is now a thing of the past, it having terminated on Saturday last amid intense enthusiasm. It was followed on Monday by the first production in this town of that sensational American drama, *At Cripple Creek*. This play, containing as it does numerous good points, is splendidly staged throughout, and is capably acted by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company, under the business management of Mr. Eric G. Merrie. Mr. Stanley Bedwell gives a particularly fine study of the part of Joe Mayfield, his work being deservedly appreciated. The villainous parts are strongly presented by Mr. Eric Hudson as Martin Mason and Mr. Oscar Power as Manuel Alvarez. Miss Agnes Verity stands out very prominently with an excellent impersonation of Dynamite Ann; while Miss Lily Beagle is delightful as Belle Gordon, and Miss Daisy Charlton scores as Maggie. Little Rosie Hopkins is bright and pleasing as Tatto, and Mr. Will Hook causes considerable merriment as Reggie Harwood; Mr. Arthur D. Layland, the stage manager, must also be complimented on his success as the Indian.

TON-Y-PANDY. — ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. S. Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—The boards are occupied this week by Mr Ernest Adrim's company, in the musical farce *Our Irish Visitors*. Mr. Ernest Adrim is very successful as Colonel M'Mahon,. Mr. J. W. Braithwaits is good as Mr. O'Brady, Gilly Softsolder is in the safe hands of Mr. Alfred D. Adams, and the remaining characters are all satisfactorily rendered.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—*Little Red Riding Hood*, played by Mr. John A. Thomson's company, concludes its visit here this week. Large audiences continue to patronise the performances, and this week a number of new songs have been introduced, giving the pantomime a swing which is rarely to be found after a fortnight's stay. New dances and specialities have been worked in with good results. Miss Ella Willmer, in the title-rôle, is dainty and captivating, her dancing being especially admired. As Prince Allfair Miss Beatrice Varley continues to be a favourite, and her songs are repeatedly encored. As Tommy Green Mr. Fred Anderson is as sprightly as ever; and with Mr. Lovell Rowland as Simple Simon provokes much merriment. Miss Ivy Boulton as Boy Blue and Miss Kate Pennington as Ro-sa also do excellently; Mr. Fred Latimer (the Dame) and Mr. George Newham (the Baron) work well together, and cause general hilarity. Mr. Fred Boulton is also extremely good as Paddy, as is also Mr. James Pulo as Sandy. As Johnny Horner and Margery Daw respectively Miss Bessie Carlisle and Miss Edith Carew are very successful. Miss Fay Desmond (the Fairy) uses her fine voice to advantage in her song, "Carmenia and the fairies." There is an excellent chorus, who, working well together, contribute much to the success of the pantomime. There are some excellent specialities, the Howards being particularly good in their mystifying performance of telepathy. Mr. Frank Medhurst is the general-manager, and Mr. Arthur Sheldrake is the musical director.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Carey; Manager, Mr. L. J. Gunnell.—The second week of Mr. J. D. Hunter's pantomime of *Little Red Riding Hood* is proving an even greater success than the first. On the night of our visit, owing to the sudden illness of the leading comedian, Mr. Bertram Gunnell took the part of the wicked Baron at the shortest notice, and scored a big success. Mr. J. D. Hunter himself has made a great hit as a suffragette in a humorous sketch. Further mention may be made of the specialities in the Palace scene. Miss Rosa Rosetti is an accomplished performer on the violin and 'cello; and Miss Vera Dudley has a charming Dutch song and dance; while Miss Sadie, the principal boy, has a new song, which is well received.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—The pantomime *Cinderella* was produced here on Monday by Mr. Charles Chard's company. Miss Nancy Newell makes a winsome and dainty heroine; Miss Kittie Phelps is dashing and vivacious as Price Florizel; Mr. Harry Pleon as Pimples contributes largely to the success; Miss Minnie Terry does well as Dandini and, with her sister, Miss Bella Terry, as Eglantine, renders some vocal numbers in good style. Miss Ethel Davies is charming as Fairy Sunbeams; the part of the Demon is effectively rendered by Mr. John Syme, who sings well; Mr. Robert Williams is comical as the Baron; Messrs. Yorick and Yorick, highly amusing brokers' men, contribute a fine acrobatic turn; Miss Allen Amber is seen to advantage as Maudie, one of the Ugly Sisters; and Miss Cecilia Kent is good as the other. The New York Quartette dance smartly.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Tarro Myaki, Japanese ju-jitsu wrestler, gives a clever performance here; Miss Helen Charles, mimic and siffleuse, contributes a clever, refined turn; the Nettas (Will and Dol), duettists, merit appreciation; Miss Nellie Nora appears in a pleasing musical act; Adelina in her speciality is successful; the Vaudevilles, sketch artists, are amusing; Miss Carrie Elliott and Mr. Tom Warde, comedy artists, prove popular; and an excellent performance is given by Mr. Shaw Lene, whistler and comedian.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Marguerite Ismay and her White Coons present a capital sketch, entitled *Kickapoo;* Griffin and Dubois are clever acrobatic eccentrics; the Sisters Carina, in their musical mélange, are capital; Clarissa Talbot and Albert Pearce give an enjoyable turn in their song-scena, *The Spider and the Fly;* Alexandra Edwin, soprano, is successful; and Tom Hughes, comedian; Alburtus and Millar, in a very bright and charming act; and the American Bioscope, complete an excellent programme.

GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. Chas. Watson Mills' company occupies the boards here this week with *A Wrecker of Men*. Mr. Frederick Biron appears successfully as Jim Murley; the Risca Mallison of Miss Olga Audré is charmingly portrayed; Mr. Thompson Carruthers makes a capital Eric Melville; as Pharosaphus, Mr. Milner Noble is good; Miss Beatrice Reynolds is well placed as Slopper; and Miss Cissy Podmore makes a sympathetic Doris Melville.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES. —Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. Fred Willmot.—An excellent entertainment is submitted here this week. A musical sketch, *A Night in Japan*, is a special item. Mr. Stephen Harland, as Lieut. Vernon, scores in a round of popular songs; a winsome Geisha girl is Miss Tina Franks; and Mr. W. S. Power is an exceedingly funny Wishee-Washee. The McConnell Trio delight all in their musical mélange, *A Musical Mistake;* F. S. Hulme is an up-to-date comedian; and Eily Adair a vivacious comedienne. Renson and Waite are expert patterers and dancers; and Marton is a clever mimic. Billy Richardson, stump orator, is as popular as ever; and the bioscope pictures are a delightful collection.

WEDNESBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Kuner. —On Monday Mr. Allan Wilkie's Shakespearean company opened here in *Hamlet*. The title-rôle was admirably portrayed by Mr. Wilkie; Mr. G. Alexander Marsh's interpretation of Laertes created a favourable impression; Claudius was effectively played by Mr. John Paley; an artistic rendering of Polonius was given by Mr. George Munroe; and Miss Carrie Baillie made a charming Ophelia; Miss Eily O. Dempey being responsible for excellent work as the Queen. The Ghost was successfully presented by Mr. Herbert Morgan. On Tuesday evening *The Merchant of Venice* was admirably staged. *The Corsican Brothers, Romeo and Juliet, Othello*, and *The Bells* are also in the répertoire.

WELLINGBORO'.—EXCHANGE HALL. — Good audiences witnessed the performances on Monday and Tuesday of *The Duchess of Dantzic* by Mr. Edward Morris's excellent company. In the title-rôle, Miss Denny Fitzherbert was a great success; and Renee de St. Mezard was charmingly interpreted by Miss May Hollom. Mr. Mansell Fane's version of François had many excellent features; and the prominent part of Napoleon was admirably carried out by Mr. Weldon Atherstone. Mr. Frank Attree was so good as Papillon that one wished to see more of him and Miss Hettie Ludlow. Mr. D. Fitzgibbon and many others acquitted themselves in good style.

WELSHPOOL. — TOWN HALL. — *The Worst Woman in London* was last Monday staged here by Miss Inez Howard's company, the several members of which fully sustained their well-earnt reputation by giving a most able representation of the drama. Miss Dora Price won golden opinions for her well-studied portrayal of Frances Vere, and all the other parts were in good hands. The escape on the telephone wire in the last act was realistic and exciting.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—Mr. Herbert Barrs' company opened here on Monday with *Aladdin*. The title-rôle was well played and dressed by Miss Maudie Vincent; the Princess was all that could be desired; Mr. Will Sherlock was responsible for much fun as Abanazar; Mr. David Phillips as Widow Twankey kept the house in continual roars of laughter; and Mr. Carl Fredericks did well as the Emperor.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Player. —The comedy-sketch *Three of a Kind*, under the direction of Miss Ethel Arden and Mr. Geo. Abel, tops the bill here this week. *The Captain and the Mate*, by the Izons, is well received; the celebrated local whistler, Mr. Frank Newbury is greeted with applause; a unique comedy juggling act is presented by the Cromwells; a smart turn is given by Perrette and Mona, entitled *Teasing the General;* the Paytes provide some good songs; Tom Smith makes his turn very entertaining; applause greets the Jackson Troupe of singers and dancers; and several interesting pictures are shown.

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA. — KING'S HALL. — Proprietors, Messrs. P. Vandy and J. E. Adams; General-Manager, Mr. Paul Vandy.—Another very fine variety programme has been provided at this new and increasingly popular place of amusement. The Three Chantos' unique spectacle, the phantom ship, heads the programme. Sid Stanto as a trick instrumentalist is decidedly clever; Marquis and Myronetti give a breezy little comedy, *Little Willie;* Alfonzo revolves barrels and crosses on her feet with marvellous rapidity; J. H. McCann goes through some remarkable feats on roller-skates; Miss Gabrielle Hope imitates Sousa and other composers on the piano to the delight of all; Walter Hurlstone, concertino soloist; George Bernand, with his little scena, "The Charge of the Light Brigade"; The Groves in a tricky comedy skit; Miss Queenie Seymour, the pretty dancer; and Mr. Miller Verren, vocalist, complete the complete the company.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. Herbert E. Fecther. —Mr. Charles Macdona's company is here in the musical play, *Three Little Maids*. On Monday evening the songs and choruses were repeatedly encored. The trio of Branscombe girls, Ada, Hilda, and Edna, have charming exponents in the Misses Mabel Kerridge, Daisy Sylverton, and Eva Weigh. The merriment caused by the acting of Mr. Frank Henderson as Lord Cheyne commences at the rise of the curtain, and is kept going constantly until the fall. Mr. Eric Barrington as M. de L'Orme, and Mr. Frank as Bryan Molyneaux, creditably acquit themselves; Gretchen is brimful of vivacity, as depicted by Miss Laura Wright, and her dances, in conjunction with Mr. Bert Barton (excellent as Cupid), are vociferously re-demanded. Others who ably fill the rôles allotted to them are Miss Kate Graham-Beck as Lady St. Mallory, the Misses Hilda Stericker, Bertha French, and Nellie Clapton, as the protégées of Lady St. Mallory, Miss Maud Madle as Miss Price, and Mr. W. Burgess Barratt as the Rev. Mr. Branscombe.

PALACE. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Learto and his clever dog, Babs, in musical comedy; the Gregson Comedy Trio, in a speciality act, *The Dummy;* and the Four Maisanos, in musical eccentricities that are at once decidedly amusing and remarkably clever, have all appeared before a West Hartlepool audience previously, and their reception on the present occasion is most gratifying. The bioscope pictures are particularly good this week; capital ballads are rendered by Sophie Knight; Harwood's Juveniles, in a novel scena, *A Children's Christmas Eve*, are a strong item on the programme.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Poole is paying a return visit here; beside the pictures, the programme includes a powerful variety company.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Raws; Responsible Manager, Mr. John Cassidy.—The programme here this week includes the Oetzman Troupe, Rodin, Will Palette, Bella Leaburn, Nellie Du Val, Akbar, and Magna.

WEXFORD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. E. P. Ronan. — Mr. F. R. Benson's South Shakespearean Company opened on Monday with *The Taming of the Shrew* to a delighted and enthusiastic audience. Mr. Bernard Limpus gave a capital interpretation of the part of Petruchio; and with Miss Christie Laws, a charming actress, who did full justice to the rôle of Katherina, shared the honours of the evening; Miss Kathryne Stocks was a graceful and fascinating Bianca; Mr. John Cairns was excellent as Baptista; Mr. Otto Hazlewood as Vicentio was well placed; and the Lucentio of Mr. Charles Maunsell left nothing to be desired. Messrs. Bernard Merefield and Leo Briggs, as Tranio and Grumio, extracted all the humour possible out of their respective parts; and the Pedant of Mr. Ernest Bodkin was very good. *Romeo and Juliet, As You Like It, The Merchant of Venice, Hamlet*, and *Macbeth* are billed for the remaining nights of the week.

WIGAN. — ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co. — Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's company has appeared here in the military play *Revenge*. Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson takes the part of Prince Orloff; and Mr. Geo. Daiper as Capt. Loris Vanessa endows the character with considerable power and vitality. The King is represented by Mr. Jerrold Ord; and Count Musant by Mr. Francis Serle. Miss Alice Baxter is a vivacious and coquettish Cora Brook; and Miss Violet Carlyle as the Queen acts the part gracefully and sympathetically. The villainess, Draga Vanessa, has a capable exponent in Miss Amy Ellam; and Miss Maud Stuart and Miss Ada Douglas as Tusha and Olga and Miss Grace Aimiers as Lieut. Maurice play their respective parts admirably.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co. — Francis and Alfred, comedy jugglers, are remarkably clever and amusing entertainers; and Mason and Bart, as comedy gymnasts, win great popularity. The Cellos, musical entertainers; Spry and Monti, in a comedy scena; Percy Farrimond, local singing collier; and the Silverstone quartet of vocalists and dancers, are also well received. Harry Taylor, a local aspirant to music-hall fame as a comedian, is a humorous singer of great promise. Excellent comedy is also furnished by Keen and Waller, George Collins, John Alexander and pantomime company, and Frank Boyce.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival. —There was a capital house on Monday last to welcome Mr. Edward Compton and company on the occasion of another visit. It so happened that it was the eminent comedian's birthday, and he was the recipient of a bouquet of flowers, which he acknowledged with one of his excellent little speeches. *Davy Garrick* was the attraction for the evening, and Mr. Compton played with his accustomed ability, which time does not detract from; Mr. Henry Crocker, as usual, made an admirable Alderman Gresham; and Mr. Denis W. Cleugh was a capable Tom Tallyhaut. As Violet, Miss Mackenzie was very successful indeed, and on each succeeding visit her genius is displayed to greater advantage; Miss Marie Hassell is very effective as Mrs. Rumbelow; and Miss Barbara Pigot does capitally as Selina Sowerberry. The friends of Gresham are ably portrayed by Mr. Philip Gordon, Mr. G. Wallace Johnston, and Mr. Vernon O. Crabtree. The play was preceded by a one-act comedy, *The Desperate Lover*, which met with much approval. *Edmund Kean, The School for Scandal*, and *The Rivals* were also included in the week's programme.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Baldwin's Bank Clerks are the leading item in this week's bill, and they give a good entertainment; the Borgheti Troupe of acrobats are clever. Other attractions include Montague Biggs, female impersonator; Deane and Dawson, comedians; Marie Elsie, vocalist; and Charles Clarke, comedian.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME. — *The Sledge Hammer* is being produced here by Mr. George Henry's company, the principal characters being ably impersonated by Mr. Frank Litchfield, Miss Marion Ashley, Mr. Howard Brenan, Mr. A. J. Murray, and Mr. Arthur Chisholm.

WORKINGTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Manager, Mr. Falconer Jackes.—On Monday night there was a good house to witness Mr. J. A. Campbell's company in *The Little Breadwinner*, when stirring interest was manifested in its development. Mr. E. Santley as Dorrington presented a fine embodiment; Mr. M. Boulton was effective as Richard, and Mr. S. Leedham was popular in the part of Charles. As Joseph Prior Mr. A. Maurice proved a capital villain; Miss Mary Fulton acquitted herself excellently as Margaret, riveting the attention of her auditors; Miss J. Bostock was satisfactory as Bridget, and so, too, was Miss N. Thorne-Hallam as Kato. Little Emmie Thomas won applause as Meg. Other popular parts were Miss K. Melville as Ruth and Miss Lissa Young as Bobby.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is here this week with *Under Two Flags* and *A Sailor's Sweetheart*. In the first-mentioned piece Mr. Wellesley Draper gives a refined yet withal a manly impersonation of the character of Bertie Royellien; Mr. Charles West does well as Barklie; Mr. Charles Brooke capably enacts the character of Lord Royellien; Mr. Robert Faulkner excellently presents the character of Lord Rockington; Mr. Harry Benson is a favourite as Rake; Mr. Arthur Elwyn does well as Colonel Chanteauroy; as does Mr. Joseph Cowell as Captain Claude; Mr. Fred Beck is a typical Ezra Baroni; Miss Mabel Ormonde well delineates the character of Princess Venetia; and Miss Amy Maitland acts with natural force.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls.—This week a capital all-round company has provided a splendid entertainment here. Chas. H. Gould and company, in their new farcical comedy sketch, *A Matchless Match*, caused roars of laughter, the characters being Archibald Weddum (an amateur matrimonial agent), Mr. C. H. Gould; Bertie Bachelor (looking for a wife), Mr. W. King; Lottie Green (looking for a husband), Miss Nellie Atkin. Mr. Joe Huda, a refined negro entertainer, had a great reception; while Mr. Seth King, character comedian; Mr. Jake Euston, coloured comedian and dancer; Mr. Harry Plowden, a quaint comedian; and the pictures were also good.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—The annual visit of the Carl Rosa Opera Company is an interesting event, vastly enjoyed by local playgoers, who have crowded the theatre this week, and been most enthusiastic in their applause. As Lohengrin, on Monday, Herr Julius Walther delighted all by his masterly rendering of this fine part; the fresh voice of Miss Grace Nicholl has lost none of its charm and beauty, and in the trying rôle of Elsa this brilliant artist repeated a wonderfully clever performance; a newcomer is seen in Mme. Marie Alexander, who sang the music allotted to Ortrud with perfect taste and expression; Mr. Arthur Winkworth looked Henry the Fowler to the life, and rendered his songs with his accustomed vigour; Mr. Frederick Clendon as the Herald was sufficiently declamatory, and was most successful in his vocal efforts; Mr. Dillon Shallard, in the rôle of Telramund, is entitled to unstinted praise. *Il Trovatore, Carmen, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Tannhäuser*, and *Faust*, were given during the week.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—Mr. J. W. Rickaby's return visit is proving a huge success; Florence Smithers and party are clever in their sketch; Hector and Sultan do well; the Brothers Ashley, in their sketch, score heavily; Bu-Val, Sid Bandon, Les Marsumas, and the Bioscope complete the company.

FREEMASONS AT WORK.

Robert Burns Lodge, No. 25 on the register of the Grand Lodge of England, and with a history dating back to the year 1750, held its installation meeting on Monday last at the Frascati Restaurant, when Mr. Herbert Brook was installed Master by his predecessor in the chair, Mr. J. K. Boddy. Mr. Brook was for a period of upwards of twenty years one of the late Mr. D'Oyly Carte's most trusted and experienced managers, and during that period he visited not only every town of importance in the United Kingdom with the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, but being a gifted linguist, he was in sole charge of the company which played for so long in Berlin, Vienna, and many other large cities on the Continent. In addition to this he, on several occasions, visited America, in the same capacity.

The installation ceremony was most impressively performed by the retiring Master, and Mr. Brook at its conclusion appointed and invested his officers. Mr. W. S. Penley and Captain John Barlow, both Past Grand Treasurers, were unavoidably prevented from being present; but Mr. E. H. Bull, the present Master of the Lodge of Asaph, a very old friend and brother-manager of Mr. Brook's, was able to be present and support his old colleague on this interesting occasion.

A banquet followed the business, the new Master presiding, the usual toasts being interspersed with an excellent programme of music.

The Earl's Court Lodge, which has amongst its members many members of the theatrical and musical professions, held a very successful ladies' night on the 10th inst., in the Alexandra and Balmoral Halls of the Trocadero Restaurant. Upon the arrival of Mr. S. Mussell (the reigning Master), and Mrs. Mussell, the latter was presented by Mr. J. Worth (Past-Master and Treasurer), in the name of the Lodge, with a magnificent bouquet. The W.M., assisted by his wardens, Messrs. Ernest Jones and T. Leete, received guests numbering about 150, after which the company adjourned to the banqueting room and partook of a well-chosen dinner, served in this noted establishment's best style. In consequence of the long amusement programme, the toasts were limited to those of "The King," proposed by the W.M.; "The W.M.," proposed by Mr. Albert J. Taylor, I.P.M.; and "The Ladies and Visitors," proposed by Mr. W. S. Lyon, P.M.

Excellent arrangements for the entertainment of the company were made by Mr. G. L. Sharpe, and, thanks to the efforts of the Misses Hylda Felstead, Annie Grew, Messrs. Charles Bennett, Duncan Meffan, Charles Pond, Maurice Garland, and Whit Cunliffe—the last-named stepping across from the Pavilion to oblige with his ever-popular "A different girl again"—a most enjoyable evening was spent. During the proceedings, elegant souvenirs were presented to the ladies. Several letters and telegrams of regret were received from several of the members, including Sir Edward Letchworth, Col. Blunt, Col. Watts, F. H. Pedgrift, Harry Bawn, Gilbert Gerard, E. Lester, and C. Walton.

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Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

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Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

Mr. A. A. Strong has compiled an exceedingly useful volume dealing carefully, intelligently, and fully with the law bearing upon things theatrical. As a book of reference this excellent digest will be found invaluable.—*The Era.*

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"HERTHA'S HOCHZEIT,"

Comedy, in Four Acts, by Max Bernstein,

Produced at the New Schauspielhaus on Jan. 12.

Heyden	HERR BORES
Hertha	FRAULEIN GASNY
Paul	HERR A. KLEIN, JUN.
Rosenthal	HERR ARNDT
Von Brockdorff	HERR STARNBURG
Lutz	HERR WALDEN
Fräulein Löning	FRAULEIN JONA
Fräulein Hesse	FRAULEIN STRUNZ
Fräulein Scheffer	FRAULEIN MARLAND
Fräulein Dr. Brant	FRAULEIN MAREN
Schmidtner	HERR ANSPELDER
Frau Schmidtner	FRAULEIN CARLSEN
Giesenhagen	HERR SIEBERT
Mennlein	HERR NETZBACH
Frau Pfannschmidt	FRAULEIN VON SEYPPERTITZ
Witwe Frenzel	FRAULEIN BERGER
Fanny	FRAULEIN ELVEN
Erste Dame	FRAULEIN CONSTANTIN
Zweite Dame	FRAULEIN GELBERN
Dritte Dame	FRAULEIN SORGER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Jan. 17.—Dr. Max Bernstein is as clever a lawyer as he is a dramatist, and that is saying a good deal. He lives in Munich, where he has a large practice, and he gets through a quantity of literary work in addition. His wife, too, is well known in literary and dramatic circles under the name of Ernst Rosmer. Dr. Bernstein's latest play was most cordially received. It is in the author's brightest and wittiest manner, and although it would improve by energetic cutting (three acts would more than suffice), the excellent acting kept the audience in the best of humours from start to finish. Dr. Bernstein used to write serious plays, but he has found that the majority of theatre-goers like to laugh, and his natural wit and smart satire stand him in good stead. In *Hertha's Hochzeit* the principal figure is one Rosenthal; he is not particularly original—we have seen his counterpart in many plays—but he is so eager to help everyone, so ready in "Rath und Tath," that we always welcome him. The not very interesting heroine, Hertha, is the only daughter of the wealthy Commerzienrath Heyden. She dabbles in the emancipation of woman, and spouts Ellen Key and others who profess not to recognise the necessity of matrimonial fetters. Hertha even discloses her sentiments at a public meeting, where she is opposed by a young engineer named Lutz, and completely routed. Lutz is poor, but he is in love with Hertha, and although it takes the length of nearly four acts to unite them, in the end the self-willed, haughty young millionairess is as tractable and as much in love as any man could wish. Herr Heyden himself is the poorest-drawn character. His fortune is far greater than his wit, and his chief ambition is to gain a decoration for his button-hole in the shape of a distinguished order. So he puts up bronze statues *ad infinitum* in the hope of pleasing his Sovereign and catching his attention. This character, also, is not new in German comedies. In the capital cast Herr Arndt as Rosenthal made the greatest hit, but Fräulein Gasny, Herr Walden, and Herr Klein were very good too; while the suffragettes were humorously portrayed by Fräuleins Marland, Jona, Maren, and Struntz. Dr. Bernstein was present, and had to appear before the curtain some six or seven times in response to the hearty applause.

THE Schiller Theatre N. gave a remarkable performance one afternoon last week. It was a new volks-play by Rudolf Greinz on a very old theme, *Das Tiroler Krippenspiel von der glorreichen Geburt unseres Heilandes*. The performance, which was in aid of a charity, was under the immediate patronage of Princess Radziwill and a bishop, and attracted a large audience, who followed the six highly original scenes with devout attention. It was rather strange to hear the shepherds who kept their watch by night speaking the dialect of the Tyrolese hills, but the Angel (Fräulein Wachner, of the Royal Schauspielhaus) spoke in beautiful High German, and was apparently understood. The Holy Kings, Joseph and Mary, and King Herod all appeared in turn to speak their lines, and the Schiller company did their best with the unusual characters entrusted to them. It was a mixture of *naïveté* and art, but not without a degree of charm. The incidental music was descriptive and appropriate, and the same may be said of the mounting.

THE revival of Ibsen's play *Wenn Wir Toten Erwachen* at the Lessing last week proved—as was only to be expected—a great success in all senses of the word. This "epilogue" is undoubtedly the most ideal and beautiful of the famous dramatist's works. It was his last will and testament to the friends who loved him—his "pax vobiscum"—and if only for this reason it will live for ever. The performance was another triumph for Dr. Brahm, whose unerring taste has gained for his theatre the reputation of "Germany's first stage." Not only was the cast a faultlessly even one, but incomparable harmony reigned down to the smallest detail. Fräulein Triesch was, unfortunately, hindered by indisposition from taking the part of Irene—which she created some years ago here—but an admirable substitute was found in Fräulein Dumont. Herr Bassermann as Rubek, Herr Marr as the "Bear-Killer," and Fräulein Wuest in the rôle of Maja, each and all carried their audience with them. The impression created was almost too profound for applause, but in the foyer nothing was heard but expressions of the greatest appreciation.

THE new Gebrüder-Herrnfeld Theatre was recently opened in the Kommandanten Strasse, in the City. It is a handsome little building both inside and outside, and seats close upon 900 persons. The Brothers Herrnfeld are popular, up-to-date managers, and their theatre has always been the acknowledged centre of melodrama and burlesque, while they themselves are actors of no mean parts.

MME. SUZANNE DESPRES commences her season at the Neues Theatre to-night. The opening piece is *La Fille Elisa*, a three-act drama by Jean Ajalbert, to be followed by a one-act comedy by Jules Renard, entitled *Poil de Carotte*. Mme. Desprès is accompanied by the entire company of the Théâtre de l'Œuvre, and eight performances have been contracted for thus far.

THE Royal Schauspielhaus has revived *Hamlet* after an interval of some weeks. Herr Matkowsky is giving the title-rôle, which has become one of the eminent actor's best characters. The part of Ophelia was taken by Fräulein Wachner, but the account rendered of it was not so satisfactory as that of many other rôles in the talented young artist's repertory. Herren Pohl, Staegemann, and Vollmer were worthy of much commendation, and the mounting was particularly fine.

A NEW departure for our latest Schiller Theatre took place in the form of the first of a series of chamber concerts on Sunday afternoon. The acoustics of the new building are excellent, the artists were first-class (Herren Zajic, Kwast, Hasse, and Grünfeld played a Mozart quartet), and a crowded audience tendered enthusiastic applause.

I MUCH regret to record the death of the esteemed playwright and song-writer Dr. Arthur Pserhofer at the early age of thirty-five. He was an Austrian by birth, and equally popular in Vienna and Berlin. Dr. Pserhofer died of inflammation of the lungs at a private hospital here, and the body will be removed to Vienna.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

SHOWMEN IN COUNCIL.

The eighteenth annual meeting of the United Kingdom Showmen and Van-Dwellers' Protection Association (The Showmen's Guild) took place on Wednesday, Jan 17, at the Memorial Hall, Manchester.

Mr. Wm. Gibson presided, and supporting were the invited speakers, the Rev. H. Norburn, Rector of St. Agnes, Birch, hon. local chaplain; Charles Howard, Esq., hon. local solicitor; and the Guild organiser and chaplain, the Rev. T. Horne; T. Watson Wright, Esq., Guild socicitor; and Mr. T. Hurst, hon. sec. The members of the executive council and committee present included Messrs. George Green, V.P. (Glasgow), P. Collins, V.P. (Walsall), T. Collins, V.P. (Liverpool), G. H. Kemp, V.P. (Leicester), Geo. Cornwell, V.P. (Bolton), T. Payne, V.P. (Ashton), T. Whiting, V.P., R. Newall, V.P., Wm. Clark, V.P. (Manchester), H. J. Wallis, V.P. (Liverpool), E. P. Holland (Macclesfield), Wm. Shuttleworth, J. Geoghegan and E. Geoghegan (Oldham), H. R. Hibbert, J. Jewell, and R. Ingham. Members of committee: Messrs. W. Keyes (London), Enoch Farran (Doncaster), J. Ravenscroft (New Brighton), J. Wilson (Preston), J. Walker, V.P. (New Mills), Prince Samouda (London), Messrs. Mercer, John Ingham, W. Steward, Jewell, Horton, Cordwell, Hughes, Watt, R. Deeks, G. Wallis, A. Hibbert, Chadwick, and Horrocks, and Mesdames Whiting, Mercer, Massey, Holmes, Deeks, Cordwell, Ingham, Miss Green, and others. Amongst the hon. members and friends of the Guild were Messrs. E. W. Ward (*Cameo*), representing the V.A.F., Tom Smith (G.C.R.), Wm. Kemp (L. and N.W.R.), R. Pike, Wm. Pike, Fred Bibby, and other gentlemen.

The CHAIRMAN, in his opening remarks, dwelt with great satisfaction and pleasure upon the acceptance of the Society's work by the Corporation and the general public. He had attended and had taken part in the meetings of the Association in various parts of the country, and it had delighted him to see the cordial manner in which their work had been received, and to hear the verdict of public approval expressed by the municipalities upon that work. He believed that if show people realised the importance of their Trade Protection Society—that if they understood how it had prevented serious injury to them and their business, all would unite in one solid body to further and to strengthen that work. (Applause.) He would ask Mr. Horne, in the temporary absence of the Hon. Secretary, to read

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The Rev. T. HORNE, on rising to read the report, was most warmly received. He read the report as follows:

THE UNITED KINGDOM
SHOWMEN'S AND VAN DWELLERS' PROTECTION ASSOCIATION,
THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.
President, LORD GEORGE SANGER.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

There are two things that your Executive Council must ever keep in mind: The first is, that the primary objects of your organisation shall be achieved; and the second is that the Society shall be maintained in such working efficiency that not only justifies, but increases, the public esteem that its long and honoured career has won.

Your executive officers for the past seventeen years have worked hard and with signal success for these two things: (1) The defence and vindication of the fair ground industry; and (2) the uplifting and betterment of show life in all its branches. Past experience has fully justified the working policy of the Executive Council, and to-day the travelling showman occupies an honoured place in the industrial evolution of the Empire.

It is now recognised that to provide the necessary amusement at our fairs, feasts, wakes, and general holiday times, is an integral part of our complex national life, and that showmen carry on an industry as honourable and as necessary as any other trade or calling in the Commonwealth.

The old puritanical prejudice against popular amusements for the people is fast dying out, and both on social and on scientific grounds it is becoming recognised that amusements and recreation are increasingly necessary to counteract the strenuousness and the exhaustion of modern industrial life

At last, after centuries of neglect and abuse, the showman takes his proper place in the national economy. It is extremely gratifying to your executive officers to point out the many proofs of this great advance in the status of showmen, and the ever-increasing recognition of that fact by corporations and public bodies, and especially by the greatest tribunal of all—the Imperial Parliament.

Your Executive Council is convinced that only the most determined adherence to the policy and work as set out above will conserve the position and influence of the Guild, and also lead to even greater success in the immediate future.

Early in the year your Executive Council had to open up negotiations with the London County Council with regard to an order of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee of that body, prohibiting living vans (the homes of the workers) drawing on the open spaces at Hampstead, Blackheath, and Wormwood Scrubs at the Bank Holiday fairs controlled by the County Council.

Your Executive arranged a conference on the matter with the London County Council; the president (Lord George Sanger), the chaplain (the Rev. T. Horne), F. H. Pedgrift, Esq. (of *The Era*), and hon. treasurer for London, with twelve representative metropolitan showmen, formed the deputation.

The veteran showman and Guild president, Lord George Sanger, presented the case for rescinding the order against living vans so convincingly that the prohibition was removed, and vans again allowed with the shows on the open spaces.

Another extremely satisfactory outcome of this conference was the desire to co-operate with your Society shown by the County Council in order that the Bank Holiday fairs on London's great open spaces might all the better serve the interests of the people at holiday times.

Your Executive Officers are convinced that the lead thus given by the great London County Council will have a great influence with other public bodies. Instances of this gratifying fact are already to hand. The meeting of your Society at Gloucester Fair was presided over by the Mayor. The City Sheriff, the Town Clerk, and a considerable number of the Aldermen and City Councillors attended the gathering. The same thing also marked the Guild meeting at Hull Fair, where the Mayor presided, and was supported by a large attendance of the City Council. The meeting at Rotherham Fair (in the absence of the Mayor) had for its chairman the Rev. Canon Goodall, the Vicar, and with him were members of the Corporation and local clergy. The annual meeting at King's Lynn (one of your Society's oldest fixtures) was again held in the Town Hall, under the presidency of the Mayor and the patronage of the Aldermen, Borough Councillors, and the local clergy, and to finish this unbroken record of success as regards meetings in 1906, mention must be made of the gatherings at Bolton, the annual meetings at Manchester, London, Porth (Wales), Longsight, and the special meeting at Gorton Wakes.

Your Hon. Organising Chaplain has attended and spoken at all these important meetings during the past year, and your Executive look forward to the year 1907 with confident hope that even more gatherings may be held than in the past most successful and encouraging year.

Your Committee again rejoice in the decreasing number of Parliamentary Bills seeking powers to penalise the show and fair ground business. This has entirely resulted from the thorough and persistent manner in which your Executive Officers have met and repelled every attack.

During the past year four Bills of serious importance were introduced into Parliament, three private Bills by public bodies, and one Bill by a private Member of the House of Commons. Your Committee have again to make the gratifying report that each Bill was successfully dealt with, and the proposals touching with our interests either withdrawn or amended.

In the appended report of our Parliament Agent, F. Millar, Esq., details of the private Bill legislation are given. In this report your Committee only attempt to deal with the greater issues and deeper principles at stake. The most important of the Parliamentary victories of 1906 was that of the Middlesex County Council Bill. For many years past showmen had been asking:—Is it possible for the wit of man to devise a form of words that should effectively abate the nuisance and danger to public health of gipsy and squatter settlements, and yet be free from harm and danger to the business interests of travelling show people?

We rejoice greatly that the Middlesex County Council has been the first to recognise the fundamental difference between the business of the showman and the itinerant gipsy. Committees of the House of Commons dealing with private Bills have repeatedly thrown out clauses aiming at bringing the gipsy under local government as regards sanitation and police matters.

The opposition to these clauses has been carried on entirely by the organised showmen, in order to compel local authorities to recognise the essential differences between the trade of the showman vandweller and the avocations more or less dubious of the travelling tinker and squatting gipsy.

The Committee of the House of Commons dealing with the Middlesex Bill recognised that showmen ought to be exempt from the gipsy sanitary and settlement clauses. The difficulty, of course, was to clearly define the business of the showman, and to separate it from any confusion with gipsies dwelling in vans or tents, and travelling hawkers trading in vans.

The following amendment to the objectionable clause was finally agreed upon:—

"This section shall not apply to any person dwelling in a tent or van or other similar structure who is a showman or roundabout proprietor or stallholder—not being a pedlar or hawker. Nor to any landowner who suffers any land to be occupied by such persons in such manner aforesaid."

There are several considerations of great interest to showmen arising out of this last victory of theirs in the Parliamentary arena. The first and most important is that, for the first time in private Bill legislation a clear and understandable definition of fair-ground trader, whether he be showman, roundabout proprietor, or stallholder, is set out in an Act of Parliament.

Up to the present time no such definition has been embodied in legislation, and its accomplishment marks another upward step in the status and public recognition of the showman's avocation in life. Hitherto draughtsmen of Parliamentary Bills have refused to recognise any difference whatever in the classes of people using tents or vans.

In season and out of season we have pleaded for the recognition of the showman separate and apart from other classes of people using tents and vans, and it is to us an occasion of great satisfaction that what we have so persistently advocated has been at length obtained.

Your Committee gladly record that the other two private Bills, those of Pontefract and Wallassey, were amicably settled, and your interests fully protected. There remained only the Bill introduced into the House of Commons by a private Member; a Bill which revives under worse conditions some of the most objectionable features of the notorious Movable Dwellings Bill of the late George Smith. The ostensible object of the Bill is to provide for the education of vagrant children, but it is so badly drafted that all children of parents whose working life necessitates moving from place to place would be brought under the powers and penalties of the Act should it unfortunately become law. There is not the slightest effort made to distinguish the child of the respectable showman, or fair-ground trader, from the child of the habitual tramp and wandering criminal, and we have not the slightest hesitation in saying that you are face to face with the greatest invasion of your domestic rights, and are liable to the most terrible degradation ever attempted against you and your avocation in life.

The Bill was introduced by Mr. Spicer, and backed by Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Toulmin, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Mr. Lewis Haslam, Mr. Vivian, and Mr. McLean:—

Be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. When a child is so moved from place to place as to prevent such child from receiving regular education under the Elementary Education Acts, 1870 to 1902, the parent or person having the custody or charge of such child shall be guilty of an offence against this Act, and shall be liable, upon summary conviction, to imprisonment with hard labour for a term not exceeding three months, and such child may be adjudged to be a child of vagrant parents within the meaning of this Act.
2. Any constable may take into custody without a warrant and charge before a Justice of the Peace with the commission of an offence under Section 1 of this Act, any person whom he shall have cause to suspect of having committed such an offence, and such Justice of the Peace may order the detention of such person in prison until the charge is heard, and such constable may take charge of any child in respect of which an offence is suspected, and deliver him for safe custody to the master of the workhouse of the parish or union in which the aforesaid person has been apprehended until the charge is heard.
3. When any parent has been convicted of an offence under Section 1 of this Act, the Court may adjudge any child in respect of which an offence has been committed to be a child of vagrant parents, and may order that the child of vagrant parents shall be received into the workhouse or the union in which the parent was taken into custody, or the child was adjudged to be a child of vagrant parents, whereupon Section 1 of the Poor Law Act, 1889, as amended by Section 1 of the Poor Law Act, 1899, shall apply, and the Guardians of the poor of such union shall be empowered as regards such child of vagrant parents, *to pass a resolution vesting in themselves*, as provided by the said section, *the rights of the parent or parents of such child*. If the Court orders such child of vagrant parents to be received into a workhouse, the Court may order that the whole or any part of the cost of the maintenance of such child shall be provided by the parent of such child, and paid to the Guardians by whom such child is maintained.

There are other clauses in this precious Bill providing for certain contingencies as to the cost of maintenance or the emigration of children at the hands of the Guardians of the Poor, and to be met by the County Council. Your Committee only deal here with the material clauses in this extraordinary proposal.

First of all notice that the Bill would create an entirely new offence; it makes the parents guilty of a criminal offence if they move from place to place, taking their children with them. No attempt is made to distinguish between parents and parents, children and children, showmen and itinerant traders. Circus, variety, and theatrical children, and their parents, would all come under the stigma and power of this law, and would be classed with criminal parents and tramps as being vagrants, and subject to the pains and penalties of the Act. In the second clause it gives any constable power, on suspicion, without any warrant, to apprehend the parent and to take the child to the nearest workhouse. Now, we ask you to imagine how this would affect some of the most interesting of our travelling shows. For instance, the small circus or variety show, in which every member of the family takes part. The show enters a town; the constable, with the responsibility of this act upon his shoulders, notices that one or two of the children appear to him to be under the age of fourteen. He is empowered, without any warrant from a magistrate, to lodge the parents in prison, and to take the children suspected to be under fourteen to the nearest workhouse. The parents are in prison, the children are pauperised, and the show is sold up to pay the expenses of the prosecution. There is nothing in the Bill to prevent the picture we have drawn you from being realised in fact. You must not forget that in all legislation it is not the pious intention of the legislators that becomes law, but the actual wording of the Bill when it passes Parliament and has become part and parcel of the statute law of the land.

Your Committee met this Bill with the most determined opposition, so that when it was introduced it was blocked, and prevented passing into law. The travelling showman has many friends in the House of Commons, and there were no difficulties in finding Members to block, and, if necessary, oppose, the measure.

The important point to be remembered is, that it is only by the constant vigilance of your officials and the maintenance of your Parliamentary defence work in the fullest efficiency that your trade rights and domestic and civil liberties can be preserved.

Your Committee have petitioned the Home Secretary against the proposed abolition of fairs at Shipdham (Norfolk), Mitcham (Surrey), Writtle (Essex), and also against inimical by-laws proposed by the Chester County Council.

Great interest was evoked over the showmen tenants' fight for their vested interests at Mitcham. Despite the fact the Home Secretary refused to abolish the fair, the Conservators of Mitcham Common lands, acting with the owners of the tolls, issued a notice prohibiting the showmen drawing on the fair green. The old tenants decided to draw on and hold the fair as usual. This resulted in three representative showmen being cited before the High Court, and all showmen will watch with interest the result of the action.

Another very important instance of corporation interference with the fair rights and franchise of the people has engaged your Executive in strenuous public work. In response to the invitation of an influential local committee, important action was taken to defend your fair rights at Burslem Wakes, and at the same time to arouse the people to defend their old-time pleasure fair.

We so effectively stirred up the people of Burslem that the local authorities are face to face with the plain truth that, on the wakes question, they do not represent public opinion. We trust that better and wiser counsels will prevail, and that the people of Burslem will retain their wakes

On all sides there are evidences of a growing sense of fellowship and unity amongst travelling show-people. The magnificent example and the stirring words of our revered leader and president, George Sanger, his continued devotion to the interests of his people, and his munificent annual donation to your funds, have provoked a larger response to our appeal for the necessary money to do your work.

Your Commitee earnestly hope that an effort will be made in 1907 to place the Parliamentary Defence Fund in such a sound financial position that all necessary action to safeguard your interests may be taken as occasion shall arise.

At the many interesting meetings on the fair grounds in the past year a constant feature was the unanimous conviction that found the most gratifying expression that the "Vandwellers' Society" (the mother of all showmen trade organisations) was doing a grand and most necessary work for all who earn their daily bread travelling from fair to fair.

Signed on behalf of the Executive,
LORD GEORGE SANGER, President.
REV. T. HORNE, Organiser and Hon Chaplain.
T. HURST, Hon. Sec.

THE UNITED KINGDOM SHOWMEN AND VAN DWELLERS' PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

Report of Parliamentary Agent on Opposition to Private Bills, Session 1906.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

By Clause 31 of this Bill it was proposed to inflict a penalty of £5 on any "tent-dweller, squatter, gipsy, or other person" who used as a dwelling-place any tent or van or other similar structure within one hundred yards of any street or dwelling-house, so as to cause annoyance, injury, or disturbance to residents, and also on any landowner who should cause or suffer any land to be so occupied. Although, of course, it was well understood that this clause was primarily directed against gipsies and other objectionable persons, it was clear that the words of the clause were so wide as to include every travelling showman, and there was the danger that some bigoted magistrate might construe the words "annoyance, injury, or disturbance" as applying to the mere presence of the vandwellers without any specific objectionable acts on their part. The promoters of the Bill were invited to enter into negotiations, but they made no response until the Bill was in Committee and the Association had actually appeared by counsel. The Association's representatives were assured that there was no intention of interfering with *bond-fide* showmen, and on an undertaking being given to insert words approved by counsel to effect this object, the opposition was withdrawn, and the clause finally passed in a satisfactory form.

PONTEFRACT CORPORATION BILL.

By Clause 76 of this Bill it was proposed to confer upon the Corporation wholly new powers in connection with the Statute Hiring Fair held in November. These new powers provided for the fixing of the hours during which the fair might be open, and regulating the erection of booths, tents, &c. By Clause 80 it was further proposed to prevent the holding of any market or fair without the licence of the Corporation. These were powers which, at the instigation of the Association, had been frequently refused to other Corporations, and the interference with the holding of markets and fairs had been very fully gone into in the case of the Halifax Corporation Bill of 1902, and the clause struck out after a very clear expression of opinion on the part of the Committee. This was done, notwithstanding that the Halifax Corporation was in a far stronger position through having obtained a prohibitory clause some years ago, which, however, by an oversight, did not provide a penalty. These facts being represented to the Corporation, they agreed to amend the Bill in accordance with the Association's wishes, but as the Committee struck out the clause on other grounds, the question of amendment did not arise.

WALLASEY TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENTS BILL.

This Bill provided by Clause 21 for the making of by-laws in regard to the foreshore and seashore, and the placing of stalls and stands thereon, and by Clause 122 it was proposed to enact a penalty of £5 for the playing of steam organs. A petition was duly deposited, but as the promoters subsequently agreed to withdraw Clause 122, and the local showmen did not appear to attach much importance to Clause 21, the petition was withdrawn, and the Bill passed with Clause 122 omitted.

FREDERICK MILLAR.

Mr. GIBSON, from the Chair, moved the adoption of the report, and the proposition was seconded by Mr. E. P. HOLLAND.

The Rev. H. NORBURN supported the adoption of the report. To him, he said, two things were self-evident: first, the tremendous zeal and unceasing labour of their organiser and senior Hon. Chaplain, the Rev. T. Horne. (Cheers.) Mr. Horne's work was written large all over the history of their movement, and they had reason to thank God that such a man espoused their cause and stood for them in every emergency. The second thing that struck him in hearing the annual report was the marked difference, in the treatment of show-people, between the Church and the world. The Church, by her principles and, he confidently asserted, in most instances by her known action, recognised that show people were on an equality with all other classes in the community. It was the duty of the vicar of a parish to treat alike the parishioner of a few days and the parishioner who dwelt in the parish for years. (Applause.) Now, what were the conditions that the world meted out to showmen? In many cases to view them with suspicion and to hamper them with unjust and injurious restrictions. Corporations and public bodies, but for the protective work of their Guild, would have driven them off the road, and would have compelled them to turn their ability and capital to other kinds of enterprise. (Applause.) That to him would have been a lamentable loss to the people, more especially to the working classes, who needed the amusement they so well provided, and the holidays that fairs gave them. The busybodies who trusted to hard and fixed laws, who would legislate away all the individual liberty of the people, the poeple who believed in making rules and regulations for everything and everybody, were the enemies of the commonwealth, and not, as they fondly imagined, its chief guardians and promoters. (Applause.) He, for his part, would rather see the people (as it occurred yearly in his parish) enjoy themselves rationally and whole-heartedly at the wakes-time than that their liberty and joy of life should be taken from them. (Cheers.) Every year he gladly welcomed the showpeople to his parish. They came to his church, they brought their children to be baptized, and their young people attended his Sunday school. They were only his people for a week once a year, but he confessed that he loved to have them, and he would do his best for them. (Applause.) Referring to the Vagrant Children Education Bill mentioned in the annual report, he protested most earnestly against such mistaken proposals—proposals to cast an unjust stigma upon show parents, whom he had ever found ready to give their children the best education obtainable. He remembered with pleasure the bright, intelligent children he had taught in his own schools—children sent from the show vans at the fair—and he resented the imputation cast upon the parents that such bonny and bright children needed an yspecial legislation. He concluded by expressing a fervent wish for the continued prosperity and usefulness of the Guild, and that his long-time friend and brother Chaplain, the Rev. T. Horne, might be long spared to them to continue his important work amongst show-people. (Cheers.)

Mr. CHARLES HOWARD, in supporting the resolution, congratulated the executive officers on the excellent tale of work in 1906. For many years he had come to that meeting, and they all knew the burden of his message. It was, "Rally round and support the Guild." He rejoiced that during the past year there had been a larger contribution to the funds of the society, and he trusted that in the present year a yet greater increase would reward the labours of the committee. (Applause.)

Mr. T. WATSON WRIGHT, Guild Parliamentary Solicitor, in a vigorous speech, supported the adoption of the report. What the Guild executive had worked for, he said, with such signal success and perseverance, was in sight at the present moment. From 1900 to 1907 they had defeated over sixty corporations and public bodies in their endeavour to pass restrictions on the show and fair grounds. But that was not all. Every Session of Parliament some hundred or more private Bills were sent to the Imperial Parliament. All these private Bills sought powers over and above the common law. These powers meant the curtailment of somebody's private liberty, somebody's vested interests. Corporations, unless deterred, would ask for all sorts of powers, and it was their work to examine all these proposals and to take such action as shall preserve the trade and business rights, the social and domestic liberties of their people. (Applause.) He was glad to assure them that, after their last year's work, there were only two corporations, Rawtenstall and Penrith, with Bills entered for the next Session containing proposals touching their trade interests, and these, he added, were matters easily capable of amicable adjustment. (Cheers.) What a different tale to the busy record of the early years of Parliamentary defence! It was now recognised in both Houses of Parliament that laws entirely meant for gipsy life were not applicable to show life, and he referred with great satisfaction to the part he had taken in the compromise with the Middlesex County Council. He was proud to be the author of the exemption clause in the Middlesex Act, that set out the true position of fair-ground traders as contrasted with gipsies and itinerant hawkers. He read the words of the clause, as embodied in the annual report, and detailed the stages of the severe fight they had with the Middlesex county authorities before they would listen to reason. All this arduous work meant costly outlay, but it was money well spent, for it raised the position of all those who travel the fairs. (Cheers.) The probability was that in the Session before them they would have no need to take action, but if they had, his hearers might rest assured that he and the other officials of the Guild would continue to safeguard their vested interests, and do all that they could to promote the best interests of showland. (Cheers.)

The report was then submitted to the vote of the meeting, and it was carried unanimously.

The Hon Secretary, Mr. T. HURST, read the financial statement for 1906:—

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
Lord George Sanger's annual donation	100	0	0
Members' subscriptions	179	4	6
Rotherham Fair Benefit	25	17	0
By advertisers in the Year Book	27	11	0
Proceeds of Bolton Ball	22	14	8
By sale of books	2	5	0
	£357	12	2

PAYMENTS.

	£	s.	d.
Defence of Fairs	41	1	0
Printing and Stationery	37	17	10
Salaries	34	4	0
Expenses of Meetings	32	14	0
Petty Cash, Postage, &c.	16	3	3
Sundries	12	6	0
Grant to Parliamentary Defence Fund	182	16	1
	£357	12	2

On the motion of Messrs. WM. CLARK and WALLIS, the financial statement was passed with acclamation.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of officers.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 1907.
President: LORD GEORGE SANGER.

Vice-Presidents: H. Ashington, Leeds; E. T. Read, London; E. H. Bostock, Glasgow; Frank C. Bostock, London; J. W. Bostock, London; John Barker, Norwich; B. T. Burnett, Manchester; Wm. Clark, Manchester; John Collins, Liverpool; P. Collins, Walsall; Geo. Cornwell, Bolton; F. Turner, London; Robert Dixon, Salford; George Green, Gasgow; B. Howden, Boston; T. Harniess, Rotherham; G. H. Kemp, Leicester; R. Newall, Manchester; James Norman, London; Tom Norman, London; Thos. Payne, Ashton; H. Studt, Wales; Jacob Studt, Gloucester; John Studt, Wales; Wm. Toft, Dublin; D. Turnbull, Belfast; J. W. Waddington, Leeds; H. J. Wallis, Liverpool; J. Wilmot, Glasgow; J. Whiting, Manchester; Coun. G. T. Tuby, Doncaster; W. H. Marshall, Bradford; John Cottrell, Manchester.

Hon. Treasurers: Wm. Mitchell, Heywood; F. H. Pedgrift, *The Era*, London.

Hon. Secretary: T. Hurst, Broadhurst Farm, Clifton, Manchester.

Trustees: Frank Turner, London; John Wilmot, Glasgow; B. Mitchell, Heywood; Wm. Mitchell, Heywood; H. Thurston, London.

Solicitors: T. Watson Wright, C.C., 7, Friarlane, Leicester; Charles Howard, 33, Princess street, Manchester.

Parliamentary Agent: Frederick Millar, 25 Victoria-street, Westminster.

Hon. Chaplain and Organiser: Rev. T. Horne, *The Era* Offices, London.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1907.

Alf Ball, Geo. Beach, Wm. Beach, Jacob Jewell, W. Biddall, T. Burgin, J. B. Butlin, Wm. Chaplain, W. Clark, jun., J. Creighton, R. Dooner, R. Ingham, H. Forrest, Swales Forrest, J. Geoghegan, W. Gibson, Fred Gray, S. Mercer, T. Hartshorn, J. Hastings, H. R. Hibbert, Edmund Holland, J. Ingham, Ed. Lawrence, James Leo, J. North, C. Marfleet, G. Marshall, W. H. Marshall, A. Martin, J. Monte, R. Monte, S. Plinston, E. Geoghegan, H. Scard, Wm. Shuttleworth, C. Thurston, jun., James Wilmot, W. Wilmot, W. Wilson.

The HON. SECRETARY read the balance-sheet of the Bolton Ball Committee for 1907, and the announcement of the substantial surplus of £21 19s. 4d. provoked great applause. Messrs. R. and W. Pike, of Bolton, to whose labours the result is greatly due, were enthusiastically thanked. In their replies both gentlemen declared their readiness at all times to help in the good work of the Guild.

The HON. CHAPLAIN (the Rev. T. Horne), at the request of the chairman, gave a short address, touching on several interesting points of Guild work not dealt with in the annual report. He had attended meetings at London, Manchester, Porth (Wales), Wanstead Flats, Mitcham, Gloucester, Longsight (Manchester), Gorton, Hull, Rotherham, and Burslem. At Porth, Longsight, Gloucester, and at Rotherham (with the hearty assistance of hon. local Chaplains), he had conducted services in show booths, and had also preached in the parish churches of the fair-grounds. The thing that had most impressed him was the intelligent and sympathetic interest in show people and show life that these meetings, services, and sermons had quickened and increased in the public mind. He had (with the Bishop of London's consent and licence) determined to give more of his time to this important side of the work of the Guild. He looked forward this year to taking twenty or thirty such services and meetings on the fair-grounds of the Kingdom. (Cheers.) To do this work he had longed for many years past. Now he had begun with 1907, taking services for show-people at the World's Fair, Islington, and at Olympia, Kensington. He hoped to give all necessary time, not only to their secular concerns, but also to their educational and spiritual welfare. (Cheers.) God had called him to this great enterprise, and he knew that it would be welcomed and valued by show-people all over the country. (Great applause.)

An extremely pleasant duty was next imposed upon the Chaplain, the presentation of gold medals to the victorious Lancashire team of showmen footballers, and of silver medals to the vanquished Yorkshire team. There was a scene of great enthusiasm, and with the announcements of committees, the two London social reunions, the supper and ball at the World's Fair and the similar function at Olympia, with complimentary votes to the chairman, speakers, and retiring officers, the meeting terminated.

OUR readers may be reminded of the annual meeting of the United Kingdom Van Dwellers' Protection Association, which will take place at the World's Fair, Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, on Wednesday, when a presidential address will be given by Lord George Sanger. On the evening of the same day the 14th annual supper and ball will take place. A strong and influential committee has the matter in hand, and is using every endeavour to make the coming event even more successful than its predecessors. An excellent menu has been arranged for the supper, after which the guests will adjourn to the large and commodious ballroom, handsomely decorated for the occasion, where they can enjoy themselves to their hearts' content until the early morning hours.

WADEBROOK'S Electrograph is still attracting large crowds at Pontypridd; Haggar's modern show is at Aberdare; Crecraft, with pictures and varieties, at Porth; Chipperfield at Bridgend with bioscope and varieties; and Baker's circus at Blackwood.

MESSRS. BARKER AND THURSTON successfully continue their carnival at the Agricultural Hall, Norwich, and their motor-cars and cinematograph show are well patronised. Among the side shows are W. Abbott's, George Hearn's, H. Parkin's, H. Westropp's shooting galleries, W. Westropp's, Joshua Holmes's, I. Norman's, Mrs. Abbott's and Charles Abbott's doll shows; R. Holmes's fish saloon, George Summers's penalty football, Avory's weighing-chair; T. Bond's bottle-breaking saloon, Bray's automatic machine, Candy King and Mackintosh's toffee, with Mason's rolled gold do good business.

THE International Fairs Company of Directors are using their best endeavours to make the first annual banquet and ball by showmen at Olympia a huge success. The application for tickets has surpassed all anticipations, and the event promises to be among the greatest in the annals of showmen gatherings. The king of showmen, Lord George Sanger, will take the chair a portion of the evening.

IT must be highly satisfactory to Messrs. L. Gaumont and Co. to note the brilliant success of the three chronophone shows which are at present being run by the President at the Market-place, Bolton, by Mr. Sidney H. Carter (of the New Century Picture Co.), at the Temperance Hall, Bolton, and by Capt. Payne at the Fairground, Oldham. A simultaneous hit has thus been scored by an ingenious form of "mechanical entertainment," which puts before us not only "speaking likenesses," but "pictures which live in voice and motion." The smoothness with which this clever contrivance runs elicits warm appreciation whenever it is presented, and the enterprising gentlemen who are the lucky possessors of the novelty are to be complimented on their keen business foresight.

(*For other Showmen Articles see page 23.*)

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

"CINDERELLA" AT THE CAMDEN.

Mr. Robert Arthur is well aware of the high pantomimic traditions of this house, and in his production of another Christmas version of *Cinderella*—the most popular of children's stories, which has been adapted by Mr. Frank Dix—he has worthily sustained them. Fun, frolic, and fancy are a triumvirate of good qualities that may be found in each scene, and great care has been taken to give every opportunity to the clever actors engaged to force the fun. There are wittily-turned jests, amusing lines, and plentiful gags, and what may be most deservedly praised is that the dramatic situations of the story receive clever musical illustration. Two instances of this are the scene in the forest where the Prince's retainers treat with contumely the fairy godmother, who is succoured by the cinderwench heroine, and the incident of her sudden departure from the ball. Though the harlequinade is missing, there is fooling in plenty. Camden audiences begin their laughing soon after the rise of the curtain, and once the note of humour is sounded there is a merry chorus of mirth resounding through the house that does not cease until the tableau curtains fall on the complete good fortune of Prince and kitchen-maid.

The cast of *Cinderella* at the Camden is one of level excellence. A special favourite with the house is Little Cliff, a youth possessing remarkable powers as a dancer and comedian. He plays the part of Shrimp, and without ever being obtrusive he scores most unmistakably in every scene in which he appears. He has his great chance, however, in the Palace scene, in which he sings "Good-night, Mr. Brown, I'm out" with rare spirit and entrain, and adds to his triumph by one of the most eccentric dances possible. He is cheered and cheered again. It is to be hoped that the lad will not be spoiled by success, for he has the stuff of which good entertainers are made, but his future is largely in the hands of those who are responsible for his artistic education. Mr. George Hughes and Mr. Josiah Alexandre are happily associated in the parts of Baron Balderdash and Pickles, the lovelorn page, and contribute clever musical interludes with concertinas and mandoline and autoharp. Their diction, too, is excellent, and Mr. Alexandre's constant inquiry, "Has anyone been asking for me?" is invariably received with a burst of laughter. Mr. Hughes has a capital song in the Palace scene, in which a well-written and scathing verse concerning the recent naval riots at Portsmouth goes down particularly well. To Mr. Alexandre is entrusted the tuneful number, "It's a different girl again," which is chorussed in every part of the house. The elderly sisters are represented by Mr. Harry Herbert and Miss May Lillian Levey, who play admirably into each other's hands. Mr. Herbert makes the shrewishness of Anona one of the most comic things in the pantomime, and his command of comic expression proclaims him a true droll. He patters and sings with conspicuous success, and the duet, "Our 'ands 'ave met, but not our 'earts," the success of which he shares with Miss Levey, is a genuinely whimsical interlude. Miss Levey (one of the famous sisters) acts the acidulated spinster with much resourceful "business." In the Palace scene she scores one of the hits of the evening in a "Suffragette" song, wherein she wears a cap and gown, and—contrary to the usual practice—does not make up ugly, but gives her pretty face a chance. She looks very queenly in a black velvet robe, which she wears in the concluding scene, and completely justifies her selection for a part which is generally allotted to a male comedian. Miss Nancy Langtyre looks a handsome Prince Peerless, and makes a gallant and debonair suitor for the hand of the maid of the hearth. Miss Langtyre's most successful selection is "Au revoir, my little hyacinth," in which she is assisted by a gentleman possessing a nice tenor voice, placed in the dress circle. Miss Lilian Hubbard, a pretty and dainty Cinderella, plays with considerable dramatic force in the Forest scene, where the heroine protects the fairy godmother, and also gives sympathetic treatment to the Kitchen scene, wherein she sings "Whispers of love," Mr. Harry Fragson's waltz song, which he introduced in the last Drury Lane pantomime. Miss Meg Hamylton is a smart and dapper Dandini, and scores in a song with a patriotic tendency; Miss Enid Errol dances with considerable grace in her solos; Miss Ethel Dunbar is an effective Fairy Flora; and Miss Coralie Wingate is well placed in the part of Quillino. Mr. Frederic Jacques gives a humorous touch of burlesque to the part of the writ-server—a broken-down actor, named Mr. Beerfoam Wood; and Mr. T. H. Wood as Aconite sings particularly well J. W. Cherry's famous song, "Will o' the Wisp." A pleasant feature of the pantomime is Bert Coote's Original Yankee Doodle Girls, who appear in the ballroom scena in a John Bull and Brother Jonathan episode, which might well be called "Hands across the sea." The youngsters are headed by Miss Ivy Aberdare, a clever little girl, and the dances and evolutions of the youthful crowd add much to the attractiveness of the pantomime. The augmented orchestra and powerful chorus are most capably directed by Mr. George F. Ford, and the ballets have been cleverly invented and arranged by Mlle. Elise Clerc, the favourite prima ballerina of the Empire. The music, which we have already praised, is composed by Jullien H. Wilson and J. O. Shepherd.

"THE FORTY THIEVES" AT THE CORONET.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

The Forty Thieves at the Coronet have made Notting Hill Gate and the environs ring with their fame, and nightly march to success with the "open sésame" to their patrons' purse-strings. All the artists are in fine fettle, and their "business" is much matured and expanded, and this despite the fell fiend influenza, which has deprived some of their voices, whilst others have been temporarily laid low. All last week Miss Crissie Leonard, the charming and immensely popular principal boy, was too unwell to play. Luckily Mr. Robert Arthur and his able lieutenant, Mr. Edward Lytton, have gathered together a clever and versatile band, so that all went well, and no one would have guessed that so much shuffling of the cards had been necessary in the cast. Miss José Hammersley was promoted to the part of Ganem, and very excellently she fulfilled the rôle of deputy, and was on all hands voted a comely, graceful, and accomplished principal boy. Miss Mabel Seymour cleverly stepped into the breach also, and as Abdallah, captain of the forty thieves, she gained golden opinions by her ability, readiness, and resource. Happily, Miss Crissie Leonard was so far recovered as to be able to reappear on Monday and to repeat her triumph as Ganem, a performance instinct with brightness, grace, and vitality, to which her pretty presence gives added charm. Her song, "A different girl again," was capitally rendered with dash and sparkle, and in the duet with Morgiana, "Whispers of love," she helped to captivate the audience. Mr. Johnny Schofield is one of those resourceful and indefatigable comedians who approach as near as anyone can to the impossible task of making bricks without straw, for he can conjure up merriment from nowhere, and make fun out of nothing. As Cogia, alias Weed o' the Desert, his wit is never *weedy*, nor does his latent humour ever *desert* him for an instant. A very quaint old bird is this irrepressible old woman, whose experiences even embrace the fifth row of the ballet. His ditty "Let me sing" is funnier than ever, and the fireman who assists him in the fun-making also deserves most favourable mention. "In the pale moonlight" and in the duet with Ali Baba, "Up went the price of soap," and, indeed, all the time he holds the boards, he keeps the audience in shrieks of laughter. Miss Beatrice Willey is a delightful Morgiana, and her song "Hyacinth," with its pretty floral choral effect, is always encored. Miss José Hammersley has resumed her rôle of Abdallah, and warbles very sweetly the pretty ballad "Love's last word," Miss Bijou Dreno is a fascinating Kogan; and Miss Dorothy Firmin a most captivating Zabarah. Their duet, "You've got another little girl in your eye," takes tremendously, while their other sweetly pretty "Umbrella" duet and dance is one of the gems of the show. Miss Firmin also dances most gracefully in the scene of voluptuous allurement ending in the death of Cassim, a part splendidly played by Mr. George W. Cockburn. Mr. Harry Cole, despite a dreadful cold, was very funny in song and dance and dialogue, and both Mr. Harry Zietz as Abbas and those droll comedians Messrs. Dale have much improved their "business." Altogether success is writ large on this, Mr. Robert Arthur's third Coronet pantomime.

"THE BABES" AT THE GRAND, WOOLWICH.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

While there was certainly little enough to find fault with in the first performance of this pantomime, there is now observable that general improvement and brightening-up that are the natural results of repetition and careful revision. New numbers have been introduced, a few judicious cuts have been made, the performers are now fully at home with their parts, and the whole pantomime goes with a swing from start to finish.

As Robin Hood Miss Mary Ambrose has thoroughly made good her hold upon her audience, her fine voice and the assured ease of her acting having made her a firm favourite. Miss Ambrose's songs are all well received. Miss Lily Maxwell continues to charm all hearts in the character of Maid Marian, for she both sings and dances well, and throws herself into her work with a spontaneous gaiety and abandon truly delightful. She has been provided with a new song, entitled "What's become of the songs?" which she delivers with much spirit. Miss Nellie D'Alvo is a charming Marjory Daw, and proves herself a sprightly dancer and vocalist; her lullaby song continues to find favour, and her rendering of a new number, "The Zuyder Zee," which she sings in an appropriate and fascinating Dutch costume, and accompanies with a clever clog dance, is enthusiastically redemanded. Miss Violet Worth is an attractive and lively Will Scarlet, and puts in a deal of good work. A strong point has been made of the comedy element in this pantomime. The Brothers Harrison have worked up the parts of Raitz and Taxis until it may be said that every line, and, indeed, practically every movement, has been made to tell with laughter-provoking force. A great success is a song, "On the links," with local topical allusions. It should be mentioned that one of the brothers being unfortunately ill, his part is for the present being undertaken by Mr. Castle, who comes through the ordeal very creditably. In the rôle of Mary Ann Spankhurst Mr. Fred Lincoln proves that it is possible for a practised comedian to play a Dame without the least vulgarity, but still in such a manner as to get many hearty laughs, and give the most genuine enjoyment. His song and dance, "Good-bye, my lady love," is received with roars of laughter, and loudly redemanded. Mr. Charles W. Anson, who plays Baron Verdigris, has also firmly established himself in the good graces of his audience. Mr. Frank Lawton has slightly elaborated the character of Winston, and now sings a duet with the Baron, "Oh! Angeline," which goes down well. Mr. Lawton's *pièce de résistance* is, however, of course, his whistling. Mr. Jack Hughes does good work as Friar Tuck, and makes a hit with the "Bandolero" song; Miss Daisy Webb plays the Fairy gracefully, and now has a song, "The shadow of the pyramid," which she sings with good effect; and Mr. J. Sandbrook makes the most of the Demon. The Babes are prettily portrayed by Miss Maisie Richardson and Miss Zeta Russell, and the latter young lady continues to win much praise for her clever toe-dancing. The performance is followed by an old-fashioned harlequinade, well calculated to please the children, the various characters being played on standard lines by Mr. Dick McKay (clown), Mr. Castle (pantaloon), Mr. Fred Valla (harlequin), Miss Nellie D'Alvo (columbine), Mr. Coppem (policeman), and Miss Henson (nurse).

"CINDERELLA" AT THE BROADWAY THEATRE.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

This highly-successful production has now reached its fourth week, and is going with a briskness that is perfectly delightful. The scenery is very beautiful, the dresses handsome and costly. Miss Lucy Caine, in title-rôle, is very dainty and charming, and her singing of the numbers allotted to her, especially of "Hyacinth," evokes warm applause. Miss Beatrice Edwardes is a handsome and dignified Prince Perfect, singing her numbers with exquisite taste; especially popular is her "Soldier" song. Miss Lily Sprightly is a dashing and vivacious Dandini, always alert and brisk; there is no doubt of her popularity, and she is on excellent terms with her audience, who join heartily in the chorus of her catchy song "Ballooning." Miss Maud Sprightly is a charming and graceful Princess Belle, but we regret that she has not more opportunities of showing her ability.

Clever Miss Florrie Sprightly presents one of her excellent comedy impersonations as the Baroness, and she is seen at her best—which is very good indeed. Miss Lilian Cecil is an attractive Fairy Godmother, and sings "Far away" in capital style. Her attendants are charmingly impersonated by Miss Elvira Stuart and Miss Dolly Hunt. The Tally-ho Trio are the life and soul of the pantomime; their quaint comedy is most amusing, and is never vulgar. Mr. Eric Parr is the Baron, Mr. Ernie Chester and Mr. W. Doust are Puffer and Duffer, the broker's men, and their singing is very good. The Brothers Pollard (Edward as Flossie and Fred as Gertie) are amusing; their excellent acting and quaint make-up add greatly to the success of the performance.

Mr. Fred Cary is funny as Peter, and his rendering of "Let me sing" is one of the many hits of the pantomime. Mr. George Grogie plays the Boy from the corner shop in amusing style; the Eight Sunrays brighten all the scenes in which they appear by their charming personalities and clever dancing. The chorus is well-trained. Mr. Louis Calvert, the popular lessee, and his no less popular representatives, Messrs. William Giffard (manager) and T. N. Walter, acting-manager), must be congratulated on a complete success; while all due honour must be accorded to Mr. F. Stanhope, who is responsible for the production.

"BLUE BEARD" AT KINGSTON.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

Considerably improved by the addition of new songs and fresh jokes, the pantomime, *Blue Beard*, at Kingston is now going stronger than ever, and the company having settled down to their work, it runs smoothly from beginning to end. Mr. Peter Davey's eleventh venture is admitted on all hands to be the best of the series. Miss Nell Richardson, who plays the principal boy with a fine dash, has become a great favourite with all parts of the house; and Miss Nellie Groves as the principal girl has enhanced the good impression created by her at the earlier performances. Another favourite is Miss Edna Seaton, a clever little Australian artist, who plays a Dutch girl, and is nightly applauded for her sabot dancing. Miss Dorothy James, who appears as Miss Silvery Thames, and Miss Nellie James, who impersonates a dashing naval lieutenant, must also be included amongst the favourites of the show. Mr. Edwin Brett, who plays Blue Beard with remarkable humour, works exceedingly hard, and contributes largely to the success, his efforts in this direction being ably seconded by Mr. Harold Carson as Mustapha, and by Mr. Sydney Young as Sister Anne.

"MOTHER GOOSE" AT THE CROWN.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

The coffers of the Crown have been heavily laden by the Peckham pantomime, *Mother Goose*, which, in the fourth week of its career, gives every promise of achieving the longest run among suburban annuals. The excellence of the company, the splendour of the mounting, and the general brightness of the production combine to induce visitors again and again to renew acquaintance with Mr. Cecil Paget's latest effort. Favourites of former years are again conspicuous in the success gained, and no artist is higher in popularity than Miss Alice Lloyd, who bewitches all with the radiance and grace of her impersonation of Jill. The audience in its entirety becomes a victim to her charm and vivacity, and the fascinations of the part are increased by the elegant and tasteful costumes which she wears. Miss Lloyd's songs and dances are of surpassing tunefulness and neatness, and in her latest addition, "Sin," the comedienne gives a dissertation on the ethics of morality, which is rendered with perfect expression; whilst "The tourist and the maid" is sung with piquancy. Foremost in favour is also the Mother Goose of Mr. Tom McNaughton, who outrivals himself in the rôle. He detaches himself in a wonderful way from his music-hall mannerisms, and it is difficult to recognise in the weirdly quaint old lady the "patter" comedian of the variety theatre. Mr. McNaughton revels in his numberless opportunities, and Mother Goose receiving a declaration of love, inviting frank criticisms on her features, or breaking a photographic camera with her face are only a few of the humorous effects of a remarkably droll impersonation. A gallant appearance is made by Miss Violet Loraine, a handsome and débonair Prince Lothario, singing blithely and giving distinction to the pantomime by her animation and vivacity. Her handsome costumes become her well-proportioned figure excellently, and her songs, "Trust a man" and "Rosie is waiting," are tunefully delivered. The success of Miss Edie King as Phyllis is assured from first to last, but the reception gained by her song "Let me show you," in which the various styles of dancing are represented, is one to be proud of. A buoyant Rustic Robin is supplied by Miss Dora Poole, who gives every effect to the popular "Different girl again."

A large share in the fun is taken by Mr. Ernest Rees, who invests the part of Septimus Snatchall with unobtrusive drollery that cannot be resisted, and his songs, "Potted meat from Chicago" and "All girls are lovely to me," are the cause of general mirth. The merriment is largely added to by Mr. Fred McNaughton, whose conception of Jack as a boy in short frocks and pinafore is of the most fantastic kind. A dainty maid is presented in the pretty person of Miss Lena Verdi, who plays the part of a Dutch girl, in which she sings "Zuyder Zee," assisted by an octet of ladies, and adds a clog dance, which is enthusiastically encored. Miss Verdi's noted imitations are also the theme for hearty praise, her realistic presentiments of such widely divergent personalities as Miss Vesta Tilley and Miss Vesta Victoria gaining great acclamation. Mr. John M. Campbell's King Geezer is one of the quaintest monarchs that ever wore a crown, and his lugubrious expression is well suited to the song "How dare you?" with which he makes a hit. The Demon of Folly has an impressively fierce exponent in Mr. Leonard Russell, whose cultivated baritone is effectively exercised; and as the Fairy of Wisdom Miss Edna Knollys looks well, and sings agreeably. The Golden Goose, as represented by Mr. Leon Dubois, is a sagacious bird, with an eye for humour, and Wm. Phillips and Chris Zietz endow the Family Cow with droll propensities. Miss Irene Ross, a talented child, gives an affecting rendering of the Waif of the Opening, and wins a round of applause for her clever assumption. Mr. Fred Groves, jun., reveals hereditary gifts of comedy in his assumption of a Major Domo; Mr. A. B. Henderson is to all appearances a real policeman; and Mr. H. A. Watman as Nimrod should also have a word of praise. Mr. Alfred Terraine has surpassed himself in the elegance of the scenery, and the dances and processions arranged by Miss Ina Alston are among the most effective features, the episode in which the Crown Girls represent a dance of All Nations, each lady being typically attired, being beautifully dressed and smartly performed. The harlequinade, in which the talents of Messrs. Syd Raymonde, Will Phillips, Chris Zietz, and the Misses Marie Mitford and Bessie Royce are divertingly employed, is designed for the benefit of the children at matinées, and concludes the pantomime in the merriest fashion.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Jan. 14, the Play, in Four Acts, by Jacob Gordin, entitled

"THE JEWISH KING LEAR."

A hearty welcome was given to the members of the Jewish Operatic and Dramatic Company on Monday, when they again essayed Jacob Gordin's play, *The Jewish King Lear*. This piece is frequently presented to the Yiddish patrons of the Pavilion in consequence of the conciseness of the story, and the many chances therein for the display of talent. That the members of this capable company avail themselves of the opportunities given is well evidenced by the enthusiastic reception they receive during the course of the evening. As David Mesheles (the Jewish King Lear), Mr. S. Feinman has a part which affords ample scope for strong emotional power, his acting throughout of a difficult character being impressive and most artistic; while his servant, Shamai, as portrayed by Mr. J. Scherman was a study which was admirable in every detail. Mr. J. Fineberg contributed much to the success by his admirable impersonation of Chorife, and Miss Bloom was commendable as Gitele. Mr. M. Gusofsky was highly esteemed for his rendering of Yaffe, and Mr. N. Hamburger gave a capital delineation of Moshe Chosid. As Tiebele, Mme. J. Kayzer was full of womanly grace and sympathy, her delineation being marked with well-deserved applause. Miss R. Bryh was clever and piquant as Ethele; and Mme. Goldstein made a satisfactory Hanna Leah. Excellent performances have been given during the week of *The Jewish Hamlet, Mendel the Martyr, Holy Sabbath, Queen Esther*, and *Anna Karenina*.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Jan. 14, the Drama, in Five Acts, by Nita Rae, entitled

"THE SINS OF A CITY."

Miss Winifred Maude's company is paying a welcome return visit to the Stratford Theatre Royal this week in *The Sins of a City*, and excellent audiences are being attracted nightly. The charming personality of Miss Winifred Maude adds much to the interesting character of Seaweed, afterwards known as Norah, and she acts in graceful and animated style. Mr. Wm. Vane plays Sandy McDonald with buoyancy and spirit; and Mr. Leonard Harrison is responsible for a well-defined and earnest sketch of Donald McIvor. Mr. Wm. Bradford handles the part of the blackguardly Ralph Blackwater with much skill and restraint; and Mr. Royce Carleton contributes a resourceful performance in the dual rôles of Joe Woodleigh and the miser, Jasper Woodleigh. Mr. Victor Du Cane's delineation of Blackwater's Hebraic friend is a sound performance, Levi's sly humour being capitally hit off. Miss Ethel Tinsley plays with feeling and judgment as Lesbia; and a very popular performance as the free-and easy drudge Midge is contributed by Miss Jenny Hackett. Mr. Harry Johnson smartly enacts P.-C. Johnson; Mr. W. E. Simpson is a good P.-C. Blyme; and as the defending Counsel in the Court scene, Mr. Manton speaks his lines convincingly. Miss Marion Holly does well as a Scotch fisherwoman; and Miss Janet Holly plays Mrs. Miggs appropriately.

As an additional attraction at the Stratford Theatre Royal, weekly competitions are taking place under the direction of the acting-manager, Mr. Sam Fredericks. Commencing Jan. 7, a Beauty Competition was held and high money prizes given. This week a photographer perambulates the district, and those lucky enough to find their portraits on the screen shown at the theatre nightly receive money awards. For next week a Baby Show is announced, with appropriate prizes.

ROYAL ARTILLERY, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Jan. 14, the Pantomime, entitled

"JACK AND THE BEANSTALK."

After an exceedingly successful fortnight with the Moody-Manners Opera Company the management of this theatre has, in booking Mr. Jack Haddon's pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk*, secured an attraction that bids fair to score an equal success. An excellent selection has been made in casting Miss Kitty Upton for the part of Jack; and Miss Upton, who is an old favourite in this town, is daily adding to her popularity. She plays with a cheeriness and "bonhomie" all her own, her unaffected good humour making a very favourable impression, while her voice is heard to effect in several welcome numbers. Miss Nellie Burdette is well suited as Dora, her acting being characterised by a mixture of *naïveté* and aplomb well in keeping with the part. Miss Burdette is the fortunate possessor of a full, rich voice, which reaches easily all parts of the house, and her rendering of several favourite songs is very acceptable. In the hands of Messrs. Barrett and Knowles, who play the Squire's flunkeys, Dip and Dap, the comic element of the pantomime is well looked after, this talented pair seeing to it that there is not a dull moment while they are on the stage. Mr. Jack Haddon scores heavily as the Squire, and makes a rather unusual point by playing the villain with an underlying sense of humour which greatly adds to the value of his work. Mr. Hal Forde proves himself well worthy of his place as the Dame, his make-up being particularly artistic, and his delivery of his lines being pointed and racy. A pleasant surprise is sprung upon the audience when Mr. Forde, with the able assistance of Mme. Theresa Stirling, suddenly jumps into a snatch of grand opera and proves himself as good a singer as he is a comedian. Mr. Alfred Maynall works hard as Silly Billy, his extravagant mannerisms and fatuous style going down well, while his song "Poor old man" is a decided success. Mr. H. A. Langlois is responsible for a clever portrayal of the Giant, and Mr. Forde Roberts as the Cow proves himself a clever animal actor. Miss Marie Rayner and Miss Jeannie Langlois make the most of the two Fairies. The chorus is well dressed and tuneful, and an acceptable item is the dancing of the Alhambra trio.

"FORTY THIEVES" AT PRINCE'S, POPLAR.

Mr. Clarence Sounes's delightful pantomime *The Forty Thieves* indicated its success by the inauguration of a "second edition" on Monday. Several new vocal items have been introduced, and alterations made here and there, and Mr. Fred Bowyer's "book" seems to get more attractive with lengthened acquaintance. At any rate, the production has caught on in the most emphatic fashion, and the house has been practically crowded every night of the run, this being, by the way, the fourth week. This afternoon it is to afford delight to several thousand poor children, who are to be entertained at the Prince's by the Playgoers' Club. An attractive and vivacious Ganem is to be found in Miss Lily Iris, and her songs, "Zuyder Zee," "Hello! hello! hello!" and "John Bull, beware!" are sung with much spirit, tunefulness, and expression. With the last-named song she is supported on the stage by a contingent of Naval Reserve men in full uniform, and officered by Mr. Fred Penley—a son of Mr. W. S. Penley, of *Charley's Aunt* fame—who officiates in an able manner as stage-manager. Miss Florence Beech, as Morgiana, proves a great favourite with the audience. She has for the time being discarded her song "Over a cup of tea," and is now delighting her hearers with her exquisite rendering of "Au Revoir" and "My little Hyacinth." Miss Margaret Radcliffe cuts a smart figure as the Captain of the Forty Thieves, and she is to be complimented upon her pleasing interpretation of the song "My charming Western girl." Boris is a dashing, debonair young gentleman in the person of Miss Rosa Sullivan, from whom we get a most enchanting bit of vocalisation in "Moon, dear"; and a most engaging maiden is Lola as represented by Miss Lillie Chappell. Mr. Edwin Adeler as the henpecked Ali Baba and Mr. Frank Gee as Cogia contrive to be exceedingly funny. As Cassim Mr. George Villiers-Arnold gives evidence of sterling qualities as an actor, and he treats us to quite a dramatic touch in a kind of miser scene in the cave, in which his fine voice is heard to good effect in a drinking song. Miss Clara Edwards as Gertie and Miss Lucia Edwardes as Moonshine are very agreeable personages, and their duet "Starlight Queen," from *Florodora*, and their castanet dance and drum scene are greatly appreciated. Miss Rosie Bartlett charms everyone with her acting, vocal and terpsichorean arts as Zoe, and her delivery of "I ain't a-goin' to leave my home in Barbadoes" is one of the features of the pantomime. Little Dando is extremely comical as Cassarac, and he is assisted in his absurdities by Mr. Arthur Ricketts as Hassarac. Mr. Charles H. Ross is entertaining as Mustapha the cobbler, and Mr. Frank Francis is an amusing Donkey. The Three Delaries are to be congratulated for their interesting and skilfully-arranged gymnastic display; and Miss Maud May Murray executes in attractive style a serpentine dance, which, illuminated as it is in the Persian Garden scene, furnishes a pretty picture. The London Comedy Quartette are heard to advantage in a kind of musical potpourri, and the Sheppards are also to be commended for their special performance. As to the scenery, the Interior of the Cave and the Persian Garden provide spectacles of gorgeousness and colour; in fact, all the scenes are admirable. Mr. Stephen E. Blythe, the resident musical-director, has arranged the music with great care and intelligence; and a compliment should be passed to Mr. Lloyd Townrow, the producer. The Harlequinade, arranged and invented by Mr. Frank Francis, is a lively and merry affair, those who take part in it being Messrs. Francus, C. H. Ross, and the Sheppards. Mr. Harry Lyons, Mr. Clarence Sounes's general manager, gives every attention to the comfort and convenience of the audience as well as to the interests of the theatre, in which duties he is assisted by Mr. E. H. Grime, the assistant acting-manager.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 14, the Play, by Hall Caine, entitled

"THE CHRISTIAN."

The members of Mr. Wentworth Croke's company, appearing this week at the above house in Hall Caine's play, *The Christian*, are meeting with a most hearty reception. The piece is well staged, and the acting all round is well up to the requisite standard of such a production. The Hon. John Storm, who joins the Church and experiences such a chequered career as a clergyman, has an effective representative in Mr. Frank Tennant, who possesses just the figure and style for the part. Miss Grace Chalmers gives what may be described as a breezy sketch of the buoyant creature, Glory Quayle, who so completely fascinates the young and earnest parson. Mr. Charles Hill is an effective Quayle; Mr. Edwin Ling does well as Father Lamplugh; and Mr. Charles E. Dering is an irreproachable Archdeacon Wealthy. Mr. Frederick Scarth is quite at his ease as Lord Robert Ure; and Mr. W. B. Owen acquits himself efficiently as Horatio Drake. Others in the cast include Mr. Bert Conway as the Faro King, Mr. Fern Pounds, Mr. Kingston, and Mr. Wilfred Noy (the latter appearing as Brother Paul), and the Misses May Weir, Kate Lee, Nellie Hastings, Violet White, May Dudley, and Vashti Wellborne.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT STRATFORD.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

Mr. Fred Fredericks's latest Christmas production bids fair to rival for popularity any of its predecessors at the Borough Theatre, judging by the splendid houses which *Robinson Crusoe* continues to attract. Such popularity is well deserved, for the pantomime contains more "plot" than is usual with such productions, and the story is embellished with a plethora of beautiful scenery which at once lends local colour and atmosphere to the piece. The humorous side is well catered for too, the interpolated numbers by the comedians arousing hilarious mirth.

The interpretation of the pantomime is in the hands of an exceedingly well-balanced cast, foremost amongst whom is Miss Stella Gastelle, who in the title-rôle is in every way admirable. She plays with buoyancy and animation, and is quite indefatigable. As a merry Dutch boy she charms everyone in "The Zuyder Zee" and as a smart young cadet she renders the patriotic air, "Who's your tailor?" in fine style. Will Atkins—the villain of the piece, as he himself says—is worthily represented by Mr. Ben Albert, who scores heavily in the part. His songs, "Leave her alone with them" and "That's the end of the chapter," remain among the tit-bits of the pantomime, his strong voice and clear enunciation ensuring his being heard in all parts of the large theatre. The exuberances of Mrs. Crusoe are always provocative of mirth, and in the hands of Mr. W. E. Richardson, the grotesquely attired female is probably chief factor in the fun-making. His incisive style enables full justice to be done to his songs and patter, of which "My husband left me again" is very popular. Mr. Dan Paulton makes the utmost of his opportunities as the jolly old innkeeper Peter Perkins, his make-up, voice, and gesture being capital. His songs go wonderfully well, and he lends invaluable aid in the concerted numbers. Miss Rosie Sylvester, dainty and charming as Polly Perkins, has become a prime favourite from stalls to gallery. The invitation so coquettishly expressed in her song, "I want a little man like you,' would fain be taken advantage of by the lucky individuals signalled out among the audience, and there is also plenty of applause for "Sailing in my balloon," and for her graceful dancing. Friday—so dear to the hearts of the children—has an exceedingly good exponent in Mr. Frank Hemming, who does not overlook the dramatic possibilities of the part, and proves himself a very nimble and alert dancer and tumbler. Messrs. Woodhouse and Wells, as Starboard and Larboard, are eminently successful, and their broadly burlesque style always compels laughter. Their speciality numbers are in huge favour, and the catch-phrase of one of the twain, "I don't think he likes me," is brought in most appropriately. Miss Mamie Stuart's excellent appearance well befits the part of Captain Cutter, and the introduction of "It's a different girl again" for her former song is a capital choice, which the audience are not slow to show their appreciation of. The solo dances contributed by Miss Ethel Ashton as principal dancer are warmly received, as is the "hornpipe" danced in conjunction with Messrs. Woodhouse and Wells, and her performance as Mary Mayflower is very appropriate. Mr. J. A. MacLaren is decidedly good as King Hallabaloo, and sings some topical verses with fine effect. Miss Marjory Lytton wins favour as Bob Ratting; Miss Ethel Verdi makes a pleasing Anthony Gill; and Miss Adeline Balfe is a prepossessing Nicee Picee. For the excellence and smoothness of the ensemble Mr. Ben Barrow, the musical director, is responsible; and Mr. Francis Maxwell Stewart's stage management deserves every commendation.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, DEC. 11, 1906.—PRINCESS THEATRE.—Lessees, The Brough Flemming Comedy Company.—The charming comedy *What Would a Gentleman do?* has attracted large audiences during the past week. Notwithstanding its popularity, however, it will only be played for one more night, as the Brough Flemming season terminates next Saturday evening, when a special performance of *The Walls of Jericho* is promised.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson; Business-Manager, Mr. George Tallis.—*The Girl from Kay's* is now in its last four nights. A special programme is being arranged for next Saturday evening.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. William Anderson; Business-Manager, Mr. Julius Grant.—Mr. William Anderson's dramatic attraction, *The Face at the Window*, has been drawing large audiences nightly. The drama will run for nine more nights, and on Saturday, Dec. 22, Mr. Anderson will stage, for the first time in Australia, the picturesque play of domestic life *The Village Blacksmith*.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Rickards; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Aydon.—One of the most remarkable turns that has been seen at the Opera House for many years was staged for the first time on Saturday by George Chanti, a remarkably clever quick-change performer, who kept the large audience on the tip-toe of excited interest for nearly half an hour. Chanti is also an accomplished dancer. Another strong favourite at the Opera House just now is Selbo, the club swinger and plate thrower; Duncan and Godfrey will only appear for three more nights; the banjo turn given by Caselli and James is greatly appreciated; while other artists meeting with approval include Fred Bluett, Olive Lenton, Freda Nieman, Charles Howard, Frank Lawton, Harry Bedford, and Maud Faning

GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Joe Solomons.—A complete change of programme was presented on Saturday evening. Dave Warne made his reappearance, and met with a good reception; Pat Nugent, the midget comedian, gave some new songs; the Raffertys appeared in a new sketch; and Nancy Simmonds, Doris Baker, Arthur Morley, Winnie Bond, Frank Melvin, and many others gave pleasing turns.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—Your York correspondent, in his notice of *The Two Little Vagabonds*, credits Miss Edith Martin with the character of Wally and Miss Josie Beltram with that of Dick. The parts were played in the reverse order.—Yours faithfully, EDIS MARTIN, Theatre Royal, Radcliffe, Jan. 14.

MESSRS. ERNEST MARTIN and Fewlass Llewellyn's drama, *The Coal King*, has found its way to New Zealand, where it was produced with great success by Mr. Charles Holloway, at Southlands, on Nov. 23.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"THE MAGICIAN'S HEART."

Fairy Play, in Three Scenes, by E. Nesbit, Produced at the St. George's Hall, Langham-place, on Monday, Jan. 14.

Princess Carina ..... MISS CASSIE BRUCE
Nurse ..... MRS. HENRY BEDFORD
The King ..... MR. J. B. HANSARD
The Prince of the Diamond Mountain ..... MR. EDWARD MORETEN
The Diminished Magician ..... MR. F. TERRY
Gnome ..... MR. A. BOOTH
Jester ..... MR. E. ARNOLD-MUSSETT
James ..... MR. CHARLES GLENROSE
Professor Taykin ..... MR. DAVID DEVANT

Pantomime and prestidigitation are effectively allied in the latest example of Maskelyne and Devant's mysteries, presented on a more than usually elaborate scale at the famous emporium of magic, now established in Langham-place. The play is written round an ingenious theme, which admits of much scenic splendour, and gives opportunity to Mr. David Devant to exercise his remarkable conjuring skill in many fresh directions. The popular illusionist has the character of a magician named Professor Taykin, who is so prone to evil that he finds his heart an encumbrance, and accordingly removes it whenever necessary. He has been consigned to the Tower by the King for having maliciously turned his beautiful daughter into a repulsive woman, and for twenty years has dwelt in his lonely prison without ever receiving a visitor. His old nurse at length manages to gain admittance, and brings a basketful of provisions. As she has lost some of its contents, the opportunity thus afforded the magician to practise his art is eagerly seized, and Taykin soon produces a basket of fruit from a table, and disgorges a dozen of eggs or so from his throat. The Professor agrees to take an idiotic youth named James as apprentice, but no sooner is his master's back turned than the lad discovers a phial of "essence of dream," and pours its contents into a cauldron, from which a young lady emerges. She is soon, however, dismissed by the Professor, who, with a wave of his arm, causes her to vanish into thin air. Presently there enters a lady wearing a heavy veil, upon lifting which she reveals a hideous countenance; but the magician again exercises his art, and in a flash the "ugliest woman on earth" is changed into the fairest of Princesses. The magician is moved to admiration, and offers his heart and hand, which the young lady scorns. Taykin accordingly bars her way out, but with a kiss the lady changes the apprentice's stupidity into cleverness, and he is able to open the door and enable her to escape. As she has announced her intention of applying for a situation at the Palace, the magician determines to follow her, and, entering a wooden cage, is whisked away before one's very eyes, his place being taken by a gnome. The apprentice and the nurse are transported in a similar fashion, and all appear in the next scene, that of the Palace Kitchen, where the magician has taken up the position of cook. The Princess, who has assumed her rightful station, comes to order dinner, and is recognised by the Professor, who threatens to make her ugly again if she will not marry him. She runs away dismayed, and the magician proceeds to make the necessary potion, which is distilled from a compound of rats, birds, and other ingredients. The animals are nowhere to be seen, but the Professor quickly produces, apparently from nothing, rats, guinea pigs, turtle doves, and chickens, to the number of thirty-one, and consigns them to a cauldron hung over the fire. When the Princess returns to inquire after the dinner, there seems to be nothing ready; but the cook is equal to the occasion, and soon produces a meal of several courses from the saucepans which had previously been shown to be empty. The magician renews his offer of marriage, and, being again refused, seizes the Princess, in order to make her drink the contents of the cauldron, which has been reduced to a liquid. The apprentice, however, has taken possession of the magician's heart, and threatens to stab it with a knife, whereupon the Professor surrenders, and is taken prisoner. He is put upon trial in the Throne Room, a tastefully-mounted scene, wherein the King and his daughter are seated on a gorgeous throne. The magician is found guilty, but tries to obtain leniency by telling the King that his daughter has been making love to his apprentice. The latter promptly declares he has possession of his master's note-book, by which means he can do anything performed by the latter, and guarantees to eradicate all the evil out of the magician, and leave only the good. The Professor is put into a cage, and, after some mystic words, the curtains are drawn, and reveal a little child in short frocks. The happiness of the Princess is not long delayed, for, on the arrival of another suitor for her hand, he also enters the box, while the apprentice lover takes up a position in a similar cage on the other side. In obedience to the parental command, the Princess bids the apprentice farewell, and going to the other cage, accepts its occupant as her husband. The curtains are then drawn aside, and the individuals are seen to have been transposed, the Princess being thus left with her own choice, who turns out to be a Prince in his own right.

The efficient stock company of the hall are entrusted with the rendering of the piece, and no more able exponents could be found. The burden of the work falls upon Mr. Devant, who performs his feats with his usual extraordinary facility, which earned a chorus of adulation. In the character of the skilled magician he is himself in every particular, and the humour of the part is made more effective by the clever comedian's unconscious drollery. Miss Cassie Bruce, who has graced so many of the Maskelyne productions, depicts the Princess with all her customary refinement and with increased artistic finish, and looks a veritable princess of pantomime. Mr. Charles Glenrose makes a gallant and buoyant youth of the apprentice; and a buxom and hearty nurse is presented in the person of Mrs. Henry Bedford. The ripe humour of Mr. J. B. Hansard finds an agreeable outlet in the part of the jovial King; and Mr. E. Arnold-Mussett makes a right merry jester. Mr. A. Booth is again a sprightly and eerie gnome; Mr. Edward Morehen is a spirited Prince of the Diamond Mountain; and Mr. F. Terry appears creditably in the part of the diminished magician. The scenery is the work of Signor Tondi, and the piece went without a hitch under the stage-management of Mr. Nevil Maskelyne. Laughter and cheers were frequent during the performance from a very full house, and at the close there were persistent calls for "Author," when a lady came on the staged and bowed in acknowledgment.

Varied devices for the entertainment of patrons are also included in the programme, the latest of which are Mr. J. N. Maskelyne's illusion, *A Side Issue*, in the performance of which he wins a challenge for £1,000, laid down by an "Archdeacon," and the amusing trick, *The New Page*, also presented by Mr. Maskelyne. Mr. Devant again bewilders the audience with his clever "Mental Magnetism" seance, performed with his sister, Miss Dora Devant, which is admittedly in advance of similar manifestations to which public attention has recently been forced. Mr. Barclay Gammon has infused new items into his musical interlude, "Snippets" at the piano; and Mr. Charles Pond, in "A Glimpse of London Life," and M. Gintaro, the Japanese juggler, complete the diversified programme.

MR. C. HAMILTON BAINES, proprietor of the Grand Theatre and Opera House, Eccles, Lancashire, has appointed Mr. Albert Orton (late of the Grand Theatre and Opera House, Derby) manager of this theatre in succession to Mr. Ernest Hales.

"OTHELLO."

Revival at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester, on Saturday, Jan. 12.

Othello ..... MR. MATHESON LANG
Iago ..... MR. A. CLIFTON ALDERSON
Cassio ..... MR. NORMAN PARTRIEGE
Roderigo ..... MR. EUGENE WELLESLEY
Duke of Venice ..... MR. JOHN WAINWRIGHT
Brabantio ..... MR. W. F. STIRLING
Gratiano ..... MR. RASS CHALLIS
Lodovico ..... MR. HORNBY WARBURTON
Montano ..... MR. A. A. HARRIS
Clown ..... MR. J. H. ATKINSON
1st Senator ..... MR. TOM RONALD
1st Gentleman ..... MR. D. VAUGHAN
2nd Gentleman ..... MR. S. WHITE
3rd Gentleman ..... MR. GORDON KINGSLEY
1st Messenger ..... MR. FRED JOHNSON
2nd Messenger ..... MR. JAMES UTTLEY
Herald ..... MR. ALFRED HILLIARD
Bianca ..... MISS EILEEN KERIN
Emilia ..... MISS VIOLET LEWIS
Desdemona ..... MISS MARGARET HALSTAN

Mr. R. Flanagan's twelfth annual Shakespearean production, *Othello*, was presented on Saturday evening before one of the biggest audiences that have ever attended the first night of these opulent revivals at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester. In keeping with this gratifying augury—a sign of popular interest in the tragedy (which was chosen by public ballot last year)—success marked the production from beginning to end, a success indicated by the audience with such enthusiasm at the close that it seems quite safe to predict that *Othello* will prove one of Mr. Flanagan's most distinguished achievements.

These revivals are invariably on a grand scale. The splendour of the staging has the effect of lightening the gloom which in the bare text surrounds the theme of Othello's jealousy and its pitiable issue. Scene after scene of brilliant art and beautiful dresses produce a compensating pleasure to the eye. The story itself has been made compact and of sharp, cumulative interest, and it was so well rendered on Saturday night that not a single hitch was noticeable, either in the general movement or in the individual intentions of the cast. Excellent judgment has been shown in the placing of the parts, especially the important ones of Othello and Desdemona. The title-rôle is in the hands of Mr. Matheson Lang, an actor of fine presence, intelligent apprehension, and a strong reserve of emotional power. If Mr. Lang's make-up is unlike the conventional picture of the Moor this makes for a new impression, and indicates a degree of originality in the actor. Individuality was, in fact, a distinct feature of Mr. Matheson Lang's rendering; he was a man of strength throughout—not strong enough to expel from his mind the insidious poison administered so cunningly by Iago, but sufficiently master of himself to resist the temptation to over-exuberance of emotion in the last great scene, and to convey incidentally, without any sort of stagey violence, the profound depth of the mistrust and grim resolve that led him to his deed. Against his dark personality the pure and light impression of femininity in Desdemona was beautifully embodied by Miss Margaret Halstan, a charming actress who has before now achieved distinction in these excellent revivals. It would be hard to imagine a more pleasing realisation of the tender and faithful wife. Miss Halstan truly brought home to Saturday's audience "the pity of it!" and one need not try to express any greater testimony to her perfect artistic self-absorption in the part. These two shared a tremendous and distinct ovation after the curtain fell, though applause was also freely extended to other notable members of the cast. Mr. A. Clifton Alderson as Iago must be singled out as markedly successful, though his delivery was not always sufficiently deliberate and distinct, and at times he merely declaimed when he might have dwelt upon his lines with subtlety. Mr. Alderson, however, gave the impression of being thoroughly acquainted with the text, and moved through the scenes with complete ease and a fine sardonic humour. Another clever impersonation was the Cassio of Mr. Norman Partriege, who was particularly good in the drunken scene. Mr. W. F. Stirling gave a vigorous idea of Brabantio; Mr. John Wainwright—an old favourite here—was quite dignified and effective as the Duke of Venice; and as the Clown Mr. J. H. Atkinson had opportunities to demonstrate his gift of humour. Miss Violet Lewis must be commended for a strong and sympathetic rendering of Emilia; and a pleasing impersonation of Bianca was given by Miss Eileen Kerin, whose movement and delivery suggest greater possibilities. All the remaining parts were ably filled, and the Queen's Theatre Choir were, as usual, requisitioned to embellish the action with sundry vocal numbers.

The scenery includes only one set by Mr. Hugh Freemantle; the remainder have been done by Mr. William Palmer and Mr. A. Nind. All are excellently picturesque and suggestive. Mr. Yorke Sheffield has once more composed the incidental music; and great credit for the stage-management of the production must be assigned to Mr. William Calvert.

STAGE CHILDREN'S WAGES.

In dealing with applications for three certificates for stage children, at the Thames Police-court, on Monday, Mr. Mead said he certainly thought the police ought to be able to inform magistrates what provision was made for the children with regard to money. That, he added significantly, ought always to be a consideration in granting these certificates.

On behalf of the manager of the Queen's, Poplar, certificates had been asked for enabling three children to perform in *The Fatal Wedding*.

Mrs. Chrisp, the wife of a book publisher's assistant, said that her child was twelve-and-a-half years of age, and had toured the country, but always attended a school or received instruction from a master. In addition to performing at Poplar, she also appeared in *Humpty Dumpty* at the Kennington Theatre, but that was before nine o'clock in the evening. During the week the girl would earn £2, and last week she received 25s. Part of the money was put aside for the benefit of the child.

"How much?" asked Mr. Mead.

"Five shillings," replied Mrs. Chrisp.

"You are really living on the child," said the magistrate.

"I have to buy all her dresses," remarked the mother.

Mrs. Isabella Lawport said her child, who was eleven years of age, earned 16s. a week, and of that 10s. was saved for her.

The third child was Thomas Grice, aged ten, belonging to Stockport, who performed as a clog-dancer, and earned £1 a week.

All three certificates were granted.

PRESENTATION.—At the conclusion of Saturday's matinée at the Derby Grand Theatre, an interesting presentation was made to Mr. Albert Orton on his relinquishing the assistant-managership to take over the management of the Grand Theatre and Opera House, Eccles. Mr. Chas. Denley, the manager, on behalf of the theatre staff and other friends, asked Mr. Orton's acceptance of a handsome cigarette case and matchbox and a case of briar pipes as a token of the high esteem in which he was held. The cigarette case bore the inscription: "Presented to Albert Orton, by staff and friends, Grand Theatre, Derby, 12th January, 1907." Mr. Orton expressed his deep appreciation of the kindness and the honour paid to him. Another handsome gift was presented to Mr. Orton by Mr. Ernest C. H. Gittins, the manager of the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company.

CHAT WITH MR. RICHARD GREEN.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

In commencing an engagement on Tuesday with the D'Oyly Carte company at the Savoy Mr. Richard Green, the well-known baritone, will scarcely feel on foreign ground. Mr. Green made his first appearance under the management of the late D'Oyly Carte, the part he then took being Prince John in *Ivanhoe*, and he remained with the company for some considerable time.

Seen by the writer the other day, Mr. Green expressed his delight at being under what is practically the old management. "Mrs. Carte," he said, "sent for me and gave me a six months' contract to play the principal baritone parts in the present Gilbert and Sullivan revival, and I am to open on Tuesday with Guiseppe in *The Gondoliers*. It is far and away the best part I have ever had in light opera, and I am highly gratified in being given the opportunity of speaking Mr. Gilbert's dialogue. At the interview with Mrs. Carte I suggested to her that she should hear me sing before giving me a contract, and she very charmingly paid a compliment in her reply by saying, 'There is no need for you to sing beyond the pleasure of hearing you.' You see, when there is the likelihood of an engagement forthcoming I am only too pleased to sing to managers. I would also like to say that Mr. Gilbert has been extremely kind to me at rehearsals, and Mr. Pacie Riffle, the tenor at the Savoy, has likewise given me a helping hand.

Photo. by Crowly and Loud.
MR. RICHARD GREEN.

And I may also tell you that I am looking forward to playing Guiseppe to the Tessa of Miss Jessie Rose, who is a most accomplished artist."

Small wonder that Mr. Green is supremely contented with his present circumstances! Never in his life, he declares, had he managers more considerate or comrades more congenial. A spirit of good-fellowship pervades the place, and to such an influence, Mr. Green confides to us, he is extremely susceptible. The fact is, he dislikes solitude.

"Be cells for saints, my own love!
The wine of life's a social glass,
Nor may be quaffed alone, love!"

is a sentiment to which he would probably be most willing to subscribe.

As to Mr. Green's professional career, it will not be news to many of our readers to be told that for three seasons he was at Covent Garden playing baritone parts, and appeared as Silvio to Mme. Melba's Nedda on the production of that opera. He filled up his time in the intervals with ballad concerts and oratoria, and was subsequently engaged for the London production of *The French Maid*, which ran for 470 performances. He also appeared in *My Lady Molly*, the story of which was suggested by him to Mr. Jessop, the author.

Mr. Green is a Londoner, apropos of which he propounds the theory that it is more helpful to a youngster to own a provincial birthplace. "I have noticed on tour," he states, "that provincial people are amazingly loyal. If a townsman happens to be a member of a company they flock to hear him and to encourage him. It must be very delightful and inspiring—at any rate, it is an experience that a Londoner never has. His audiences are cosmopolitan, and know him not till he makes himself known." Mr. Green became a vocalist almost by accident. As a youngster he succeeded to a position in a commercial business, never at that time imagining that his voice would become the source of his income. But circumstances induced him to retire from the business in question, and while he was wavering in his choice of a profession his friend, Courtice Pounds, said to him, "Why not study music?" Acting on this suggestion Mr. Green became a student at the Royal Academy, where he enjoyed the tuition of Mr. Holland, and later proceeded to Italy, where for eighteen months he studied under Signor Moretti.

Mr. Green can tell some strange stories of operatic amenities. He recalls an occasion when a distinguished foreign artist declared that he was too ill to continue the performance of Valentine in *Faust*. Someone, he said, must go on and announce his indisposition, and the representation must be continued, however it might be. Mr. Green, who was at hand, was suddenly impressed into the service, made up as Valentine, hastily coached and kept in readiness. When the sick Valentine saw that he could be so easily replaced he had a perfectly miraculous recovery and continued his performance.

He tells another story of *Otello*. The gentleman who was playing the small part of the Herald did not attend—it proved upon enquiry that a message stating he was ill had miscarried. Again Mr. Green, may be because his willingness and enthusiasm indicated him in such emergencies, was called up. He did not know if he had ever heard the Herald's recitative. He was accordingly dispatched to a quiet room with an accompanist to learn it. The dress was a simple matter. It could easily be worn over the costume in which he was already attired. As the moment of his appearance grew near Mr. Green grew more and more nervous lest he should forget the words thus hastily acquired. Then the happy thought occurred—a herald! Why not a scroll? The words were accordingly inscribed on a scroll from which Mr. Green declaimed most bravely. Doubtless, if he had remained at Covent Garden the promising young vocalist would have been fully accredited with a répertory, but all has changed since then.

Mr. Green had the honour to be selected by Mme. Patti to play Germont in her performance at Craig-y-Nos Castle, and to sing at her recent concert at the Albert Hall. He sent the diva a few flowers, and received a telegram expressing the gratitude of the recipient.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

ACTORS' DAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

DEAR SIR,—Many of those who regularly attend meetings of our profession are familiar with the extreme mystery with which it is always endeavoured to shroud the inner workings and inner thoughts of the committee who happen to have the particular matters in hand, and the extraordinary reluctance, not only in giving gratuitous information, but also in answering most simple and natural questions, and though more than half the time—as on Thursday last—may be occupied in speeches from the stage, yet the information contained in those speeches might be well given in five minutes instead of the hour and a quarter taken; for though the question, its history, and its grandeur may be elaborated by the one and by the other, the meeting is not allowed one single peep at the inner workings of the mind of the committee. Surely when the great Frenchman said "Speech was given us to conceal our thoughts," he must have been prophetically inspired as to the methods of our meetings.

I do not complain of those of our profession who come to make those speeches at the request of the committees, and without whose presence our meetings would be neither representative, successful, nor complete. They come at the invitation of the committees; and they say very much what the committees ask them to say. They give just as little information as the committees think well, or feel that the meeting may possibly be satisfied with. No; it is the committees themselves whom I call in question; and, reluctant as they always are, surely never before in the history of meetings did they by their secretiveness so handicap, so retard, so nearly ruin a scheme, of which nothing but good, and nothing good enough can be said, as on Wednesday at St. James's Theatre.

Many hard things were said about backsliders and those who had not come into this glorious scheme; but it is so easy to be heroic in this manner, so easy to get a cheer at the expense of the absent. Yet when I, in the name of those backsliders and those absent ones, suggested that they may have reasons for their backsliding, and asked one or two questions which may have suggested themselves to these dreadful defaulters—a satisfactory answer to which might remove their stumbling-block and bring them in—I was begged not to hamper the efforts of a toddling child, and could not by any means get a reply, though I find by the numbers of people who spoke to me at the conclusion, and others who have since written me, many, if not *all*, wished to have answers to these humble enquiries.

One of the backsliders, or abstainers, or partial abstainers, was present—Mr. Tree. He put the case for himself and for many hundreds of others in one sentence:—"Those who subscribe the money have a *right* to know what is *going to be* (not *has been*) done with it; therefore, until I hear more, I give only an instalment."

Surely before launching such a scheme as this, a definite financial and working basis and plan should have been drawn up, to which we either assented or from which we dissented, subscribed, or abstained. If the committee found themselves, as they confessed, incapable of doing this, why do they think they will be any more capable of doing it *now*?

The scheme certainly started out as Mr. Terry said, as a fund to which we subscribed our total night's earnings, and by virtue of that subscription we could claim, "as a right, not as a charity"—(page 4 of the pamphlet)—help in time of need; and it was under that impression the company who were with me at the time it was issued (1905) signed the circular. Yet now we hear nothing of this fund, but only of A.B.F. and A.O.F. Not one word was mentioned of this "right" on Thursday, and the word "charity" was used by every speaker.

Someone, I forget who, said something about forming a sort of catechism. May I suggest a few questions, repeating those I asked at the meeting.

I. Actors and actresses are "asked" to give their services (*i.e.*, their *total* salary) for one night.

Managers are "invited" to give *total* receipts (page 2 pamphlet).

Why, then, should it be left to the discretion of the manager to send what proportion of his receipts he wishes and yet remain on the register, while an artist is not allowed to remain on that register unless his subscription be his *total* salary? I do not think the manager *should* be asked, I mean "invited," to give his *total* receipts. There are many reasons against this; but I do say that the proportion he should give should be *fixed* as it is for the actor, and that any manager failing to give that full proportion should not be continued on the register.

I make the difference between "asked" and "invite"; because, some time ago, I proposed this very question to one of the committee (Mr. Drinkwater), and he said the reason was the actors were "asked" and the managers were "invited." This struck me at the time as being so conclusive a reason that I did not press for another.

II. Should a *non*-subscriber to the Fund apply to the A.B.F. for assistance, will he in the future be refused because he has no "right" (which will stultify the very *raison d'être* of the A.B.F.); or will he, a backslider, be assisted out of the accumulation of wealth of those who have not "backslidden," nor even ever so slightly "skidded"?

No, sir, the damage and the hindrance to this scheme comes not from these defaulters, but from the ill-hatched, half-fledged state in which this scheme was launched.

May I take this opportunity to say what courtesy, nay more, kindness, I have invariably received at these meetings by all who occupy position on the stage, only—I have not been answered.

I do beg, "ask," *and* "invite" the committee not to delay any longer the full consideration this scheme requires, and having done so take those who have the *right* to be fully in their confiednce.

Yours faithfully,
LAWRENCE GRANT.

Green Room Club.
Jan. 11, 1907.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—With regard to Actors' Day, some months ago I was buttonholed by a zealous member of the committee when I was hurrying off to business, and asked if I would support the idea. I agreed to do so, and put my name down. I thought then, as I think now, that the *idea* is excellent. I heard nothing more till I was asked to give my night's salary, and to ask the company to give theirs. I put up a notice, and got a certain amount, which I sent to the Fund. There was much dissatisfaction expressed, as no one seemed to know in what way the money was to be allotted; and I was quite unable to explain, as, when I asked a member of the committee the question, the reply was, "It is really quite impossible to tell till we know how much we have got." Therefore we were to give blindly. As far as I was myself concerned, I gave one night's salary based on my previous year's income, putting it down as a donation. This seems to me the only fair way; it is absolutely impossible for me to spare one night's salary out of a short engagement, but I am most willing to give what is actually one night's salary in proportion to my earnings. In like manner, it seems to me too ridiculous to ask a manager to give up one night's receipts. He has to pay rent, rates, taxes, salaries to staff and artists, just the same; and surely it would be fairer for him to subscribe one night in proportion to his income. I know the difficulties are enormous; but it seems to me quite out of all reason to expect a man to subscribe one night because he happens to be in a short, but good, engagement at that particular date, and nothing if he happens to be out of an engagement at that time. There are many, unfortunately, whose income for the year may be only £100, all earned possibly in one short engagement; say, for instance, in ten weeks, just at the time Actors' Day comes. Are they to give £1 8s. 6d.; or are they to give about 8s. 9d., the latter being "one night" in proportion to their income for the year. As to the idea of a universal matinée, the assumption of averaging it out at £25 is so utterly ridiculous that it does not bear discussion. I don't suppose it would average half that if *all* the theatres in the kingdom were reckoned in. In conclusion, I can only repeat that the idea has my most hearty sympathy; but there seems to be a chance of its falling to pieces by the promoters of the scheme making too heavy a call on the willing horse.

Yours faithfully, A. GIFFORD STACEY,
Theatre Royal, Newcastle, Jan. 15, 1907.

"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."

A Drama, in Four Acts, by Miss Emma Litchfield, produced at Muncaster Theatre, Bootle, on Jan. 14.

Manuel Teixeira ..... MR. STUART CLEVELAND
Captain Desmond ..... MR. HERBERT EVELYN
Jim Brightside ..... MR. EDWARD SWINTON
Harris ..... MR. ERIC DANE
Bob Darnforth ..... MR. ROBT. W. LYNN
Matakin ..... MR. WILLIAM WARING
Sir George Ashwell, Bart. ..... MR. GEO. CHILD
Sergeant Dixon ..... MR. THOMAS FIELDING
Mexican Sergeant ..... MR. A. C. BRITTON
Stephen Grosvenor ..... MR. JOHN WORTH
Margaret Grosvenor ..... MISS MAUD STEEPLE
Maisie Grosvenor ..... MISS ISABEL SINGLETON
Annie Pleasant ..... MISS FLORENCE GOMER
Nora Grosvenor, Sarah Ellen, Old Rebecca, Molly O'Flynn ..... MISS EMMA LITCHFIELD

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The play opens in Mexico, and in the first act we are introduced to George Ashwell, who is drinking heavily. His wife appeals to him to give up drink, but to no effect. In one of his drunken fits he tells Manuel Teixeira that he is heir to a large fortune in England, and is really Sir George Ashwell. Teixeira conceives the idea of obtaining the papers relating to this claim, and in England passing himself off as Ashwell. He supplies Ashwell with drink, and from the conversation which ensues Nora learns that she is really not Ashwell's wife, and decides to go away, although he promises to reform and to marry her. After Nora leaves, Teixeira returns and kills Ashwell, which crime is witnessed by Bob Darnforth, who is afraid to speak, he being in Teixeira's power. The papers are obtained with the exception of one, which is a will leaving everything to Nora and the key to where a large fortune is concealed in the hall in England. This is given in a wallet to a faithful Indian, Matakon, who before his death hands it over to Jim Brightside. Teixeira charges Nora with the crime of murdering her husband, has her arrested, and she is sent to gaol for three years.

Five years are supposed to elapse between Acts 1 and 2. Nora returns home, but finds her father and stepmother are both embittered against her for refusing to give any account of her life since going away. She also finds that Manuel is impersonating Sir George Ashwell, and has married her sister Maisie. In order to have Nora removed he tells of her past life in Mexico, and she is turned away from home. Manuel attempts to shoot Nora, but blinds his wife instead, accusing Nora of the deed. Nora finds herself alone in the world and penniless, on account of the money she possessed being lost through the failure of the bank. Captain Desmond, who is in love with Nora, asks her to marry him, but she will not consent until her name is cleared. She pays a visit to her sister disguised as a Lancashire mill girl, and reads her a letter presumably from Nora with the purpose of hearing for herself that Maisie believes her innocent of blinding her. Captain Desmond searches high and low for her, but without success. At last Nora is found in the street, starving, and taken to Jim Brightside's home. He hands over the papers entrusted to him relating to the fortune. Margaret Grosvenor, Nora's stepmother, enters and overhears Nora reading one of the papers. She then puts the police on the track; but, disguised as a Jewess selling clothes, Nora manages to escape from the house.

In Act 4 a fancy-dress ball is held at the Hall, where Margaret Grosvenor makse an attempt to find the secret panel where the money is hidden. Nora then appears, in the character of Molly O'Flynn; also Jim Brightside as a Colonel of Hussars. After Margaret has gone Nora opens the panel in accordance with the instructions given in the paper which Jim has given her, and secures the gold, sending her companion off with it for safety. Manuel arrives on the scene dressed in the character of Charles I., and, finding the money gone, he rushes at Nora with his sword; but she secures the weapon and wounds him in the wrist, making good her escape. Margaret binds up the wound, but puts poison in the lotion, telling him of it afterwards. Manuel kills her and conceals the body where the gold had been. He confesses his crimes, and, after begging for forgiveness, dies.

The company is a strong one, and Captain Desmond finds a capable exponent in Mr. Herbert Evelyn. Mr. Robert Lynn is well to the fore as Bob Darnforth, and Mr. John Worth is a good Stephen Grosvenor. In the title-rôle Mr. Stuart Cleveland gives a powerful rendering of Manuel Teixeira; and Miss Isabel Singleton makes a pleasing Maisie Grosvenor. Miss Maud Steeple is seen to advantage as Margaret Grosvenor; and Mr. Edward Swinton and Miss Florence Gomer are well placed in the characters of Jim Brightside and Annie Pleasant. The impersonations of Nora Grosvenor, Sarah Ellen, Old Rebecca, and Molly O'Flynn are exceptionally well presented by Miss Emma Litchfield, who portrays each character to the letter. The staging and effects are excellent, and there is no reason to doubt the success of Miss Litchfield's latest production. In Mr. Clifford Clifford she has a capable and energetic acting-manager.

WHILE on a visit to the Grand Theatre, Mansfield, one of Miss Ella's troupe of lions gave birth to four cubs. As a compliment to Mrs. Clayton, the wife of the proprietor of the theatre, Miss Ella has christened one of the cubs "Gertrude," which is Mrs. Clayton's Christian name. The ceremony of christening took place on the 11th inst at the Regent Theatre, Salford, Captain and Mrs. Clayton being among the guests.

MISS BLANCHE VINCENT, the superb singing Jack in the Grand pantomime, has established herself a prime favourite among Islingtonians. Her rendition of the popular songs, "Hello, hello, hello!" and "London Town," and her original rendering of the character have contributed greatly to the success of Mr. Newman Maurice's exhilirating pantomime.

THE second skating gymkhana of the season will take place on the great asphalte skating rink of the Crystal Palace this evening. The events will comprise a one mile handicap, half-mile ladies' race, sack race, obstacle race, and a tug-of-war on skates. The prizes are numerous and very handsome. The first league rink hockey match, Kensington v. Thornsett, will also take place this evening.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

THE list, which we print elsewhere, of the subscriptions to the Irving Memorial Fund, shows the deep reverence and affection which exists for Sir Henry Irving's memory. The total of £1814 8s. is composed of contributions from all the best-known people connected with the theatrical profession, headed by Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft, and ranging from fifty guineas to one shilling.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE has received from the German Emperor a mark of distinction that will reflect honourably on the profession of which he is so eminent a member. At the warmly-expressed desire of the Kaiser, Mr. Tree will pay a flying visit to Berlin, where he will appear at the Royal Opera House from April 12 to 18 in *Antony and Cleopatra*, at which His Majesty will be present. Three other Shakespearean plays will also be performed, and will probably consist of *Hamlet*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *Twelfth Night*, the scenery for the whole of which will be transferred from His Majesty's.

THE initiative for the happily-inspired project was taken by Mr. J. T. Grein, who not long since, on his appointment to an international office, expressed his intention to do all he could to further the cordial relations existing between this country and Germany. He has lost no time in carrying out his determination, and remembering an utterance of the Emperor referring to the drama as a mediator between nations, took advantage of a short stay in Berlin to broach the subject of a possible visit of Mr. Beerbohm Tree, as a leading British actor, and his company, to His Excellency Von Huelsen, the Intendent-General of His Majesty's theatres in Prussia.

THE result was that Mr. Grein, having obtained the acquiescence of Mr. Tree, received the following note from His Excellency:—"I have now submitted in audience the question of a visit of Mr. Beerbohm Tree to Berlin, and I am commanded by His Majesty the Emperor and King to express his great pleasure at this intention of the great artist. His Majesty has already followed the revival of *Antony and Cleopatra* in London with interest, and intends to be present at the highly interesting production of Mr. Beerbohm Tree in His Majesty's New Royal Opera House. This part of the matter may be considered to be settled entirely in accordance with your wishes, and I conclude with a wish that the visit of the great tragedian may prove highly stimulating to dramatic art and our public alike.—(Signed) VON HUELSEN."

REPRESENTATIVE members of the dramatic profession contributed to the multifarious list of presents received by the Hon. John Coke and Miss Lawson on the occasion of their wedding on Tuesday. Mr. and Mrs. George Alexander sent a set of strawberry forks in case; from Mr. and Mrs. John Hare came a pair of silver-gilt Georgian bon-bon boxes; Mrs. Tree gave a red and gold leather blotter, an old Flemish bust being chosen by Miss Viola Tree; and Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Brough selected a suitable household gift in a tea-caddy. Among the presents that were "doubled" was the book "Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens," two copies of that interesting work being forwarded.

LADY BANCROFT will make one of her few appearances in public on Friday afternoon, Feb. 8, on which occasion she has consented to say a few words at an "At Home" to be given at the St. James's Theatre in aid of the Maternity Home at Windsor. Madame Clara Butt has promised to sing on the occasion, and Miss Vivien Chartres will play a violin solo. The price of admission is fixed at a guinea, but seats will be available in the upper circle and gallery at half-a-crown and a shilling respectively.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER, up to recently, has numbered amongst his social activities that of president of the London Coffee and Eating House Keepers' Benevolent Association, and occupied the chair at the annual meeting held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Tuesday. Mr. Alexander now retires from the office, in which he is succeeded by Mr. James Fuller. Retirement, however, does not mean rest, as the popular actor-manager of the St. James's is now confronted by a far more strenuous business—that of a candidate for the County Council election.

THE coffin containing the body of Mr. Charles Coghlan, the English actor, which was washed out of the cemetery in the great storm that devastated Galveston in September, 1900, has been found, half buried in an out of the way marsh on the mainland, ten miles from the cemetery. Mr. Coghlan died in America of acute gastritis in the January of 1899.

MR. E. S. WILLARD will bring his present American tour to an end at Cleveland, Ohio, on April 6, and will return to England for an indefinite period. The eminent actor is in the fortunate position of being able to take the world lightly, for his invariably prosperous American seasons have secured him an independent estate, and he has decided upon a rest from the strenuous demands of the present theatrical touring system in America, in which country he will not play again for some years. Mr. Willard's future plans are not yet matured, but it is very probable that he will early renew his acquaintance with the London public, to whom he has too long made himself a stranger.

MR. CYRIL MAUDE has compiled a unique programme for the opening of the Playhouse on the 28th inst. The evening will be begun by the singing of the National Anthem by Mme. Clara Butt, followed by the one-act play, *The Drums of Oude*, and the rise of the curtain on *Toddles* will be preceded by a prologue written by Mr. Bernard Shaw and spoken by Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Maude. *Sixes and Sevens*, a duologue produced at the Criterion in 1894, will be represented by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bourchier, a duet will be sung by Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Hicks, and the inaugural programme will be completed by Mr. Beerbohm Tree, who will appear in a one-act play.

Two new Napoleons are likely to take the field this year. Mr. John Hare is deeply engrossed in the study of Mrs. M. L. Ryley's adaptation of M. Pierre Berton's *La Belle Marseillaise*, which Mr. Charles Frohman will produce this season at one of his theatres. The other Buonaparte will be Mr. Lewis Waller, who has a play by Miss Constance Fletcher, entitled *1801*. In both instances playgoers will experience a rare dramatic treat, and the comparison afforded by the impersonations of the same character by two such accomplished actors will be profoundly interesting.

MISS ELLEN TERRY had a hearty send-off on Saturday morning, when she left Waterloo for Southampton, en route to America. The special train was timed to start at ten o'clock, but long before that hour hosts of well-wishers crowded the platform, among those who came to bid "God-speed" to the famous actress being Miss Olive Terry, Miss Minnie Terry, Miss Eva Moore, and Mr. Henry Ainley. Miss Terry is accompanied by her daughter, Miss Edith Craig, who, by special permission of Mr. Charles Frohman, will act in the capacity of stage-manageress during the tour, which opens at the Empire Theatre, New York.

MR. FRED GROVE is now the Governor in *The Bondman* at the Adelphi, in place of Mr. Stevens, originally billed for the part.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY'S tour, which opens on Monday at the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, with *The Only Way*, will, by urgent request, include three-night visits to Leamington and Coventry. *The Corsican Brothers* is to be done at Oxford on the 24th inst., the revival of *Hamlet* under special scenic conditions, is to be at Hull on Feb. 4, and *The Breed of the Treshams* and *A Cigarette-Maker's Romance* will again have places in the répertoire. The company includes Mr. Fred Wright, sen., Mr. Charles Glenney, Mr. Vincent Sternroyd, Mr. Charles Cameron, Mr. A. E. Rayner, Mr. L. Craske, Mr. Patrick Alexander, Miss Amy Coleridge, and Miss Bessie Elder, and Miss N. de Silva, it scarcely needs to be said, will again play all the parts with which her name is associated.

THE annual general meeting of the Actors' Benevolent Fund will be held on the stage of His Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday, Feb. 5, at 12 noon. In the absence of the President (Sir Charles Wyndham), Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree will occupy the chair.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY has sent five pounds to the Actors' Benevolent Fund, that amount having been received by him in exchange for his autographs.

"ACTORS' SATURDAY," the day on which collections at the theatres and in companies on the road are made on behalf of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, falls this year on the 26th instant. The lists, with all necessary papers and bills, are now being sent out from the offices, and the secretary will be glad if managers who have not received them will kindly notify Mr. Coltson. It is to be hoped that the profession will not allow the generosity recently displayed in connection with Actors' Day to interfere with contributions to Actors' Saturday. A small subscription to this object carries with it, not only a first claim upon the fund for pecuniary assistance, but also gives the power to recommend deserving applicants.

MRS. D'OYLY CARTE has made the agreeable revelation that the Gilbert and Sullivan opera has grown in popularity with patrons of the cheaper parts of the house, the returns for the pit and gallery showing a marked increase over those of the former period. It will be readily admitted that the Savoy opera must often have led the way to a higher appreciation by the general public of the lyric art, and the number of enthusiasts who got their first taste for music from a visit to the Savoy must be large indeed.

MR. CHARLES LERIGO, who died on Monday, the 7th inst., at the age of seventy-one, had had a long theatrical career, and in his time played countless characters in scores of plays. He was a capable and essentially useful actor, and his many friends in the profession will regret his removal. He leaves a widow and children to mourn his loss. He was engaged in the active pursuit of his profession nearly up to the end, having played up to the Saturday preceding his death. The deceased had been for some considerable time assisted from the Actors' Benevolent Fund, and he was interred at the expense of the fund.

"THE CASSILIS ENGAGEMENT," a new comedy, in four acts, by Mr. St. John Hankin, will form the first of the forthcoming series of performances by the Stage Society, and will be produced on Feb. 10. The beautiful Imperial Theatre is this year to be the scene of the Society's operations.

MR. F. R. BENSON will entertain a goodly company at the Shakespeare Festival at Stratford-on-Avon, in April, which will again be under his direction. Among the distinguished performers who will grace the proceedings will be Mr. Forbes Robertson and Miss Gertrude Elliott in *Hamlet*, Mr. Arthur Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh in *The Merchant of Venice*, Mr. Lewis Waller, Mr. H. B. Irving, and Miss Evelyn Millard in *Othello*, Mr. George Alexander in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Miss Genevieve Ward in *Coriolanus*. Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore have also promised to appear in *David Garrick* should their arrangements permit.

THE Festival will extend over three weeks, beginning on April 22, and included in the répertoire will be Wycherley's *Country Girl*, in which Mrs. F R. Benson will appear, and *Don Quixote*, a new play by G. E. Morrison, assisted by R. P. Stewart. Mr. Benson and his company will render assistance in the various productions, and Mr. Benson will in turn receive support from the "stars" when he appears in leading parts. There will also be an historical pageant, with pilgrims carrying floral offerings to the tomb of Shakespeare, and a Shakespearean anthem, set to music by an eminent composer, is to be sung.

THE George Mence Smith Scholarship (female vocalists) at the Royal Academy of Music has been awarded to Frances E. Yeardley (a native of Leeds), Bertie Addis Stewart Ringer being highly commended, and Gertrude Dorothy Piper commended. The examiners were Messrs. Richard Cummings, Edgardo Levi, and Arthur L. Oswald.

THE Goring Thomas Scholarship will be competed for on or about Tuesday, April 23, and will be awarded to the candidate who shows the greatest promise of ability as composer of operatic or dramatic works for the stage. Candidates will undergo examination in the rudiments of general education (including either French or German) the day previous to the musical competition, but are exempt from the literary examination if he or she can produce a certificate of either of the University Local Examinations, or otherwise give satisfactory proof of having reached the necessary standard of education. The successful candidate will be entitled to three years' musical education at the Royal Academy of Music.

MR. WILLIAM HAVILAND brings his highly-successful South African tour to a close to-day, and expects to arrive in London on Feb. 9. During his twelve weeks' season at His Majesty's Theatre, Johannesburg, Mr. Haviland has produced *Macbeth* and other Shakespearean plays, as well as *Oliver Twist*, *The Man Who Was*, *The Bells*, *David Garrick*, *The Tempest*, *Under the Red Robe*, and *Lucky Durham*. Miss Edyth Latimer has played all the leading parts in this répertoire with the greatest success.

COMMISSARIAT arrangements have an important influence in Mr. Seymour Hicks' new musical play, *My Darling*, which is to be produced at the Hicks Theatre early in March, the two acts being devoted respectively to a lunch at the Café Imperial and a dinner at the Hotel D'Ontelle. The full cast will consist of Messrs. J. F. McArdle, H. J. Lytton, Armand Kalisz, Cecil Kennard, Conway Dixon, Tom Terriss, Kenneth Maclane, and Tom Graves, and Misses Marie Studholme, Barbara Deane, Alice Barth, Alice Holländer, Helen Kinnaird, Eileen Douglas, and Gladys Marsden.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, Aberdeen, is offered for sale, by private treaty. The property is situated in a central part of the town, with frontages of 75ft. and 76ft. 7in. respectively. The site contains 763 square yards or thereabouts, and the assessed rental is at present £880, the feu-duty being £187 10s. Particulars may be obtained of Messrs. Adam, Thomson, and Ross, advocates, 2, Union-terrace, Aberdeen, who will exhibit the title deeds.

MR. TREE'S lecture on the drama, which was announced to be delivered at the City Temple on Thursday afternoon this week, has been postponed until the last week in March.

MR. EDWARD COMPTON'S birthday, on Monday last, was marked by a demonstrative audience at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton. After the second act of *Garrick*, a handsome wreath composed of violets and lilies, was handed up to him; and Mr. Compton, in acknowledging the gift, said: "Once again I offer you my heartfelt and sincere thanks for an enthusiastic and affectionate welcome, and for another brilliant reception of *David Garrick* and his humble representative. Nor do I forget your gracious remembrance, in various ways, of my birthday, and this handsome wreath, which, I see, is from the ladies and gentlemen of my company, is a very sweet reminder of the good feeling and good fellowship existing between us all behind the curtain. Most people, after thirty-five is passed, are inclined to wish that their natal day did not come quite so often; but, as far as I am concerned, it cannot come too often to me as long as it brings with it, as it has done to-day, another of my happy returns to Wolverhampton."

THE THESPIDS C.C. held their annual general meeting at the Actors' Association on Thursday, the 10th inst. The secretary announced that a very satisfactory season had been enjoyed, the Club having won the greater proportion of its matches, and the treasurer's report showing a substantial balance in hand. The beautiful ground at Malden had proved very popular for the Sunday matches, the wickets having been very good throughout the season. Altogether the Club was in a very flourishing condition, and there was every prospect of its continuing so.

MR. C. AUBREY SMITH was unanimously re-elected captain, together with Mr. Ernest Cameron as hon. secretary and Mr. H. Nye Chart as match secretary. The members learnt with great regret that Mr. Charles Fulton was obliged to resign the post of hon. treasurer, which he had held since the Club started, and elected Mr. Sydenham Dixon to fill the vacancy. The match secretary announced that the card was already complete for the ensuing season, fixtures having been arranged for practically every Sunday and Tuesday or Thursday with leading clubs. The Club, it should be added, is available to all members of the theatrical or musical professions, and the hon. secretary, Mr. Ernest Cameron, will be very pleased to hear from anyone anxious to join. His address is 4, Panton-street, Haymarket, S.W.

MR. OTHO STUART'S double bill will be staged at the Apollo on Tuesday next, when the one-act comedy, *The Peacemaker*, will be acted by Misses Lilian Braithwaite, Ina Polly, and Ella Tarrant, and Mr. Alfred Brydone and Mr. Athol Stewart. The cast of *The Stronger Sex* will comprise Messrs. Leonard Boyne, Reginald Eyre, Paul Arthur, Phillip Knox, Gilbert Yorke, Goodyear, and Heath J. Haviland, and Misses Lilian Braithwaite, Nina Boucicault, Marie Illington, Gertrude Scott, Ada Potter, Katherine Maude, and Meta Pelham.

MESSRS. VEDRENNE AND BARKER have fixed upon Tuesday, Feb. 5, for the production at the Court of Mr. Bernard Shaw's *The Philanderer*, described as "a topical comedy of the early eighteen nineties." Mr. Ben Webster, Miss Wynne Matthison, Miss Lillah McCarthy, Mr. Eric Lewis, Mr. Luigi Lablache, Miss Dorothy Minto, Mr. Hubert Harben, and Mr. Cyril Bruce will compose the cast.

MR. WILLIAM MOLLISON has been notified that the Lord Provost of Aberdeen, Sir Alexander Lyon, and the magistrates, will pay an official visit to Mr. Robert Arthur's beautiful new theatre on Monday, Feb. 4, when Mr. Mollison will appear as Macbeth. The occasion is regarded as unique in the dramatic annals of Aberdeen. Its inception is due to Mr. Arthur H. Yolland, the advance manager.

MR. NEWMAN MAURICE, the acting-manager of the Grand, Islington, has written and arranged no less than nine pantomimes this season, among which is the highly successful *Jack and the Beanstalk*, now running at this northern theatre, and *Little Red Riding Hood* at Terry's. Mr. Maurice takes his complimentary benefit on Thursday, and at the close of the run of the pantomime at the Grand opens at the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, on Feb. 4 with *Little Red Riding Hood*, from Terry's, in which he will appear as the Widow Twankey.

ON January 28th, Mr. Robert Arthur transfers his successful pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, in its entirety from the Grand Theatre, Fulham, to the Theatre Royal, Brighton, for two special weeks. Mr. Thomas J. Phillips, who, it will be remembered, was connected for many years with the Theatre Royal, Brighton, as acting-manager and treasurer to the late Mrs. H. Nye Chart, has been appointed by Mr. Robert Arthur as business-manager for this visit

MR. LINGFORD CARSON'S latest novelty, the romantic military drama, *A Fight for a Throne*, by Geo. A. De Gray, was produced at Prince's Theatre, Accrington, on Dec. 31, and met with unqualified success. Already most of the best dramatic houses have secured this fresh attraction, and the autumn is being rapidly booked up.

MR. E. F. MEADS, who recently concluded his third tour with Messrs. Dauncey and Leveaux, has been engaged by Mr. Percy Hutchison to play Peter in *Peter's Mother* on tour.

AT a special meeting of the Licensing Committee on Monday last, Captain Clayton was granted a full and unrestricted licence for his recently-constructed theatre, the Grand, Mansfield, which, we understand, has just been floated as a limited company, embracing the King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield. The directors and principal shareholders are all well-known townsmen.

THE last week of the run of *Dick Whittington* at the Lyceum, Newport, shows no falling off in attendance, and Mr. Cooper is to be congratulated on a great success. To-day Mr. Cooper, with his usual generosity, has set apart the gallery for the newsboys of the town, whom he has invited to a matinée. The Mayor, Mr. Fred Phillips, has signified his intention of being present, and the performance will be under the patronage and presence of Viscount Tredegar.

MR. JOHN HASTINGS BATSON will give a recital of *Everyman* on Saturday afternoon next at the St. Michael's Parish Institute, Croydon. The veteran actor has received a letter from Archdeacon Sinclair wishing him every success, and advising the public to hear this great sermon.

MISS JOSY HAMMERSLEY was highly complimented by the management on her assumption at short notice of the part of Ganem at the Coronet during the indisposition of Miss Cressie Leonard, the principal boy. Miss Hammersley, who perfected herself in all the songs, dances, and concerted music without a rehearsal with the principals, continued in the rôle till the end of the week, and is still playing it at some of the matinées. The young artist, it should be added, is a sister of the well-known actress Mrs. Bennett, which goes far to account for her remarkable talent.

THE name of Mr. Henry Taylor is to be added to the members of the theatrical profession to whom we referred last week as having reflected honour on their calling by ascending the magistrates' bench. Mr. Taylor is well known as the lessee and manager of the Lyceum Theatre, Crewe, a position he has occupied with credit and distinction for upwards of a quarter of a century.

THE memorial to the late Mr. John A. Atkin is being responded to by managers, artists, and private friends of the late esteemed manager in a way that shows how widely respected he was. It has been decided that individual contributions shall be limited to half a guinea, but with the object of making the movement as representative as possible, smaller amounts will be equally appreciated. The list of subscriptions will be published shortly. Contributions should be sent to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, hon. treasurer, at *The Era* offices.

MR. CAREY'S musical comedy *The Pick of the Bunch* will be produced for the first time in the suburbs at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, on April 8. An exceptionally long tour has been booked for this successful piece, and a most interesting engagement is pending for the leading rôle. By arrangement with Mr. Stephen Townesend Mr. Carey will revive *Little Lord Fauntleroy* shortly at Eastbourne, Brighton, and possibly one or two other towns on the South Coast, and will, of course, play the Earl of Dorincourt himself. At the Tunbridge Wells Opera House the pantomime comes to an end to-night, and will immediately be followed by *Bluebell in Fairyland*, *Peter's Mother*, D'Oyly Carte's Opera Company, and other excellent bookings.

THE Christmas pantomimes have this year been added to by a production of *Dick Whittington*, at the Regent Theatre, Hackney-road, formerly known as the Sebright, where the two-houses-a-night system of varieties was for so many years in vogue. The pantomime is produced under the direction of Mr. St. John Beecher, and has been so liberally patronised that the run was extended.

"WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD," the farce by "Charles Marlowe," will be produced at Wyndham's on Tuesday, the 29th inst. The cast will be composed of Messrs. James Welch, George F. Tully, Gordon Tomkins, Henry J. Ford, Charles Weir, Arthur Grenville, and Guy Lane, and Misses Emma Gwynne, Audrey Ford, Estelle Winwood, Enid Sass, Vivienne West, Daisy Cordell, and Annie Chippendale.

IT has been rumoured that the Grand Theatre, Woolwich, and the Prince's, Poplar, both the property of Mr. Clarence Sounes, had been disposed of by that gentleman to a music-hall syndicate, and that the houses in question were to be turned into variety palaces on the two-houses-a-night principle. Mr. Harry Lyons, the general manager for Mr. Sounes' theatres, desires us to say that there is not a particle of truth in the statements which have been circulated to this effect.

"THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL" is blooming at the New Theatre with all the vigour of a hardy annual, and the hearty welcome it received on its reproduction at the New Theatre must have been very gratifying to Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry, who have seldom been fitted with parts more to their liking than those of Lady and Sir Percy Blakeney. The advance booking for this play has been so great that it is hoped that the management may arrange to put off the production of their new play to a much later period than originally intended.

MR. MAUNDY-GREGORY, the gentleman who is running *Lights Out*, is a firm believer in the hustling principle, and thinks nothing of dictating in the train 40 or 50 letters to his American manager, who types them all on the journey. He frequently travels the length of England for half an hour's interview with someone, and then gets straight on the train again for another journey, which may possibly last through the night.

MISS CRESSIE LEONARD, the principal boy in *The Forty Thieves* pantomime at the Coronet, who was recently indisposed, resumed her part on Monday evening. So pronounced has been this lady's success that Mr. Robert Arthur has engaged her for the next three years.

MR. CHARLES A. EAST, we are glad to learn, has now recovered from his severe illness, which has lasted just upon a twelvemonth. His production of the pantomime at the Elephant and Castle has happily proved a great success, many matinées being required in order to accommodate its numerous patrons.

MR. LEONARD THIEL is scoring a gratifying success as Mr. No-Luck Jones at the Grand, Fulham. It is the clever comedian's second year at the popular Fulham house, and with a style entirely his own, Mr. Thiel manages easily to repeat his former triumphs.

MR. ALFRED LESTER, as the Lost "Bobby" in *The New Aladdin*, introduced a new song in Act II. at the Gaiety, on Wednesday, entitled "The Gentle Constable," which was very well received.

MR. FRED WRIGHT, JUN., was received into what he describes as "the Ancient, Royal, and Antediluvian Order of Referee-Masonry," and registered as such at the Association football offices on Wednesday. Now that he has given up playing football for "ref"-ing the popular comedian is anxious to know whether he is not the first actor who has been officially registered a referee—qualified to take English Cup ties as, bearing in mind the many fine athletes in the profession, he would be proud to hold such a record. Mr. Wright officiated in his new capacity at Millwall on Saturday, when the home team defeated Plymouth in the Cup tie by two goals to nil.

WE tender our hearty congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Mark Blow (Miss Ida Molesworth) on the birth of a son, which happy event occurred on Monday last.

LINCOLN is to have an elegant and up-to-date theatre, of which the inception is due to Mr. W. Rasdall, the freeholder of the Saracen's Head Hotel in the town. This gentleman has entrusted the design of the new house to Mr. William Hancock, the architect of the Bow Palace, the Empire, Southend-on-Sea, the Theatre Royal, Leicester, and other well-known houses. This gentleman has submitted his plans to the local council, and they were passed on Wednesday. The façade of the new house, which will be in Saltersgate, will be designed in Italian renaissance, and the auditorium will be constructed on the cantilever system. It will be a two-tier house, and will probably be opened in the autumn.

THE examination of the candidates for the George Edwardes Scholarship, awarded at the commencement of each term, was held at the School of Musical and Dramatic Art, 77, New Oxford-street, W.C., on he 10th inst. Miss Evie Greene and Mr. George Grossmith, jun., the examiners, selected five candidates for ultimate examination. This was held at Daly's Theatre on behalf of Mr. George Edwardes by Mr. J. A. E. Malone, and the scholarship was awarded to Miss Ida Pawley. Miss Phyllis Le Grand, the holder of the scholarship awarded in September last, has just secured a three years' engagement with Mr. George Edwardes at Daly's Theare.

MISS QUEENIE LEIGHTON, the popular Drury Lane principal boy, will have the sympathy of all in the loss of her Yorkshire terrier Boy Boy, an old friend, who had travelled many years with her, won many prizes, and enjoyed the unique distinction of being the author of a Christmas story last year in the "*Pelican* Annual." Miss Leighton reveres him as a true and faithful friend, who will never be forgotten.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN BURTON wish to tender their sincerest thanks to numerous friends for the sympathy shown in the recent loss of their elder daughter, Miss Edith Burton, who died suddenly at Motherwell only three weeks after making her début in Messrs. R. C. Buchanan and Ernest Stevens' pantomime, *Cinderella*. This sad event not only deprives them of a loving and dutiful daughter, but also cuts short a very promising career, as Miss Burton, in addition to being an expert shorthand writer, was a clever artist, having gained numerous prizes for drawing and painting at South Kensington.

MISS CONNIE EDISS sails this afternoon from Southampton for South Africa, where she is due to tour the principal halls. Her place at the Gaiety will be difficult to fill, and will temporarily be taken by the popular actress's understudy. Miss Ediss made her first mark at the Strand house in *The Circus Girl* in 1898, and has since played in *The Runaway Girl*, *The Messenger Boy*, *The Toreador*, *The Orchid*, and *The New Aladdin*. The return of Miss Ediss, who is embarking upon her journey for the purpose of a change of air, will be eagerly awaited.

MISS MURIEL GODFREY-TURNER, who has now completely recovered from her recent indisposition, will by arrangement with Mr. Russell Rosse, play the lead in Mr. Peter Davey's touring company of *Brigadier Gerard*. This engagement will not affect the repertory tour that Mr. Rosse contemplates doing in the spring, excepting that it will commence later on in the season, when Miss Godfrey-Turner has terminated her engagement with Mr. Davey in the early part of April.

"BLUE BEARD," the first pantomime for many years at the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, will be staged on an elaborate scale by Murray King and Clark, by arrangement with Mr. Charles Constant. These managers together will run a nine nights season, starting on Thursday next, directly after the visit of Mr. Martin Harvey.

MR. WENTWORTH CROKE will send out on tour, starting on August Bank Holiday, Mr. Hall Caine's dramas, *The Prodigal Son* and *The Bondman*. The plays will have the advantage of entirely new scenery, and all the original effects, and will be acted by strong companies. Mr. Caine's other popular success, *The Christian*, which is now in its eighth year of tour, is also among Mr. Croke's enterprises.

MESSRS. GARSIDE AND KNOWLES, who are in town at present making final arrangements for their next production—*Her Marriage Vow*—have toured *The London Fireman* for close upon four years, and have found it come up to their expectations in every way. Their spring tour embraces return and third visit to some of the best drama theatres, and they are contemplating an extension of the tour through the summer.

"TOMMY," the new play by Jerome K. Jerome, with which Miss Annie Hughes began her tour on Monday, met with very great success this week at Eastbourne. The names of both actress and author should serve as a powerful attraction, and ensure good houses throughout the tour.

MR. ROBERT ARTHUR has arranged to give, at the Kennington Theatre early in February, a special matinée for the benefit of the Crippled Children's Dinner Fund. The Lord Mayor of London and his Sheriffs will attend the performance in state. *Humpty Dumpty* is attracting so well that Mr. Arthur is continuing the four matinées next week at the Kennington.

MR. STEPHEN R. PHILPOT, the brilliant young rising composer, is having his grand opera *Nigel* produced on Wednesday next at the Grand Theatre, Birmingham, by the Turner Opera Company. Mr. Philpot is the composer of the opera *In Gay Algiers*, which will see the light of the West End in September.

A FANCY dress pantomime ball is to be held at the Limehouse Town Hall on Friday next. It is being arranged and organised by the principals in *The Forty Thieves* pantomime company at the Prince's Theatre, Poplar, and the function is to celebrate the conclusion of a successful pantomime, the run of which, by the way, comes to an end on the following day, the 26th inst.

THE pantomime *Goody Two Shoes* was brought to a conclusion at the Alexandra Palace on Saturday last. The comic monologues of Dame Trot (Mr. Walter Champney) were replenished with apposite gags; and the duological interludes with the Demon of Discontent, Mr. George Lake Grange, were greatly relished. A very pretty rendering of "The Coon Boy" by Blue Bell, Miss Doris Nelson, must not pass unmentioned. The principal girl, Goody Two Shoes, Miss Winnie Rayner, retained her popularity to the last; as Robin Hood Miss Elaine Gryce, the principal boy, was similarly high in favour; the clown and pantaloon, by the Two Ottos, deservedly scored. Most of the principals were the recipients of pretty little presents from the band, tendered by the leader, Mr. E. J. Baker.

MR. NORMAN BOWYER writes from the Kennington Theatre as follows concerning the pantomime, *Humpty Dumpty*:—"While acknowledging my respected father's versatility (with his pen), I feel sure that acting is not one of his accomplishments, and the kind remarks contained in a paragraph in last week's *Era re* the part of Twinklestar were intended for your obedient servant, Norman Bowyer."

THE Prince of Wales's pantomime of *Alice in Wonderland* was presented on Thursday morning by the children of Mr. Seymour Hicks's company, and a very delightful performance it was. Little Miss Eileen Moore, who blushingly told us that her age was fifteen, charmed everybody with her representation of Alice, the part taken in the pantomime by Miss Marie Studholme. Miss Irene Bradbrooke, who is Miss Moore's senior by a year, cleverly enacted the rôle of the Mad Hatter, and both of these young ladies were presented with gold brooches by members of the audience; while Miss Studholme gave to each a particularly handsome box of chocolates. Miss Elsie Sawyer, another member of the chorus, distinguished herself in the rôle of Alice's double, the Sailor and the Cornflower; as the latter she showed herself to be a talented little dancer. Others who assisted were Masters Phillips, Jeffries, Thornton, Hobbs, Hersee, and the Misses Lily Phydora, Annie Moore, Doris Walker, Florrie Bond, Kathleen Crook, Ivy Knight, Phyllis Carlisle, Connie Walters, and Laura Brown.

AT the Lambeth Police-court, on Thursday, Henry Barrett Brandreth, manager of the Kennington Theatre, was summoned by the London County Council for contravening the provisions of the Education Acts by allowing a schoolgirl named Georgina Elizabeth Kingsman to take part in the matinée performances of the pantomime on the afternoons of the 7th and 9th inst., at the time she ought to have been in school. The defendant said he took every precaution to prevent the children taking part in the matinées, and instructed the stage-manager not to allow them to appear. Mr. R. H. Douglass, stage-manager at the theatre, said he told the children not to come to the matinées. Much to his surprise, this girl and another one did come, and when he asked them why they explained that their school teachers had given them permission. Mr. Baggally ordered the defendant to pay fines and costs amounting to 26s.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

MR. JOHN HARE'S forthcoming assumption of the character of Napoleon at the Duke of York's Theatre will be awaited with great interest. Amongst those who have played the Emperor in England are Sir Henry Irving, Mr. Martin Harvey, Mr. Murray Carson, Mr. J. H. Clynds, Mr. Fred Victor, Mr. Frank Lister, and Mr. Harry Jackson. Mr. Harry Pleon is famed as the Napoleon of the music halls. An almost forgotten Napoleon was Gomersal, whose embodiment of the Emperor at Astley's Amphitheatre in *The Battle of Waterloo*, made such an impression on Colonel Newcome.

NAPOLEON himself had a taste for acting, and seems to have been by nature a "quick-change artist." Barras thus described one of Bonaparte's private entertainments:—"Every time after dining with me, when he thought he could let himself go in the presence of my guests, he would ask my leave to close the door in order to be free to play comedy. This comedy was always a genuine improvisation, the idea of which was sometimes supplied to him, and he would instantly dialogise, himself playing several parts simultaneously; he would ask my leave to take off his coat, and, taking table-cloths and table-napkins, would suddenly emerge in the most grotesque disguises; although the delivery of his improvisations was not very fluent, he nevertheless adopted every inflection of voice at his command to give variety to the scenes, and he managed to do so fairly well."

How Irving managed to get over the difference between his stature and that of Napoleon is explained by Mr. Bram Stoker in his "Reminiscences." He had made for him "fleshings" of great proportions. When these were on he looked like a Daniel Lambert, for the white had no relief in variety; but this was but the doll which he had to dress. When the breeches—which were made to proportion by the best tailor in London—were drawn on, the thighs stood out as in De La Roche's picture. When the green coat was on and buttoned high up, the shoulders, especially at the back, were so wide and tight as to make him look podgy. That dress was certainly supremely artful. It was so arranged that all the lines, either actual or suggested, were horizontal. The sloping of the front of the buttoned coat was from very high on the chest and the slope very generous. The waistcoat was short and the lower line of it wide and broadly marked. The concealment of real height was further effected by the red sash and many orders which were so artfully placed as to lead the eye in the wished-for direction. All that Irving required to satisfy the audience was the *coup d'œil*.

IN Mr. Bernard Shaw's four-act comedy, *The Philanderer*, which will be produced at the Court Theatre on Feb. 5, there is an amusing idea in connection with one of the characters, an Army officer, whom his doctor, on the strength of certain experiments, has given only a few months to live Relying on this estimate, the patient assumes an angelic attitude towards the world in general, "makes it up" with people he detests, and does other things which prove to be absolutely unnecessary when the physician discovers that he has been entirely mistaken, and that the doomed man is likely to live to a good old age. The gallant officer's indignation at the amiability which he has "thrown away" is very diverting.

MME. REJANE, who is arranging a series of plays for girls, to be given at matinées in her new theatre, has some respect for Ibsen; more, in fact, than has been shown by folks who should have known better. "If necessary," she has told a *Standard* correspondent, "I shall change certain situations in the plays I intend to put on, though I think it was a mistake to take away the point of *A Doll's House*, as was done in Germany, when Nora was made to stay with her husband, for the sake of the children, after she had realised so painfully that she was quite unfitted to undertake their education. In so doing, Ibsen's idea is completely altered, and the moral lesson is not improved." Ibsen himself, as Mr. William Archer reminds us in one of the prefaces in the admirable edition of his translations of Ibsen just published, wrote an "alternative ending" for *A Doll's House*, preferring "to commit the outrage himself rather than leave the work to the tender mercies of adapters."

WITH the modern taste for well-managed "crowds" on the stage, the position of supermaster has become a very important one. Those of the old school were often very rough diamonds. A strange mixture of shrewdness and good-nature was "Jack" Griffin, super-master, agent-in-advance, &c., to the late Wilson Barrett. Having been engaged by Mr. Henry Herman to go in advance of one of the Princess's dramas and drill the supers for the coming week, Griffin was promised a week's salary to sit in front of the theatre for six nights, in order that he might, by watching the piece, gain a thorough knowledge of the working of it. After two nights of this watching it became monotonous, and John was oftener out of the theatre than in it. This fact came to Herman's ears, and, when Griffin applied for his week's salary on Saturday he was met with "Zalary! Vat for?" "Watching the performance, guv'nor." "Ah!" said Herman, with a cunning look; "but you vere not dere every night, see, see, and I sjarnt bay you, see, see?" "That's hard, guv'nor; I know all the entrances, exits, and business." "Do you, inteed," said Herman, taking the MS. from his office-table drawer, opening it, and speaking quickly—"See see, Act. III., zeen vour?" "Villagers enter and stand R. and L." was the reply. But Herman returned to the charge—"Act vive, zeen two?" "Officers enter centre and arrest hero." This jerky fire of examination went on for five minutes; but "Jack" stood to his guns, and bore the attack unflinchingly, and at last had his salary handed over, and was highly complimented. "He little thought," said Griffin, as he told the story, "as 'ow as I'd got it all written out and planted in my 'at!"

ON another occasion, while on tour, he had been impertinent to the leading man, and an apology was demanded. This Griffin positively refused to make; and, the matter having been reported at headquarters, the fiat went forth from Wilson Barrett that Griffin must go to the leading gentleman and say "I beg your pardon, Mr. B——." To this John reluctantly consented, and during the rush prior to the commencement of the piece, he, with some pairs of tights over his left arm, opening the door of Mr. B——'s room, said—as if he had made the mistake of entering the wrong dressing-room—"Oh, I beg your pardon, Mr. B——." He then shut the door, and went on his way rejoicing.

AT one period he was super-master for Charles Calvert's production of *Henry the Fifth* at Manchester and elsewhere. In addition to this, he played a "thinking" part—the Duke of Gloster, the King's brother—and was at his side throughout the piece, having to make up in by-play that which he lacked in language; but his side-speeches never synchronized with the spirit of the time. "Nice 'ouse to-night, Mr. Calvert, ain't it?" he said. "Don't talk about the events of to-day, Griffin," said Calvert; "speak of something relative to the play." "Orl rite, my Royle brother 'Enry. Dost thou think the treasure chest hath arrived from England?" "Ah, marry, my Royal of Gloster; but why dost ask?" said the King. "Because," replied Griffin, "my Royle brother promised me a rise of salary; and I have not had it yet!" He got it.

"LADY HUNTWORTH'S EXPERIMENT."

The Comedy, in Three Acts, by R. C. Carton. Revived, at the Haymarket Theatre, on Saturday, Jan. 12.

Captain Dorvaston .....MR. CHARLES HAWTREY
Rev. Audley Pillenger .....MR. FRED LEWIS
Rev. Henry Thorsby ..MR. CHARLES CRAWFORD
Gandy .....MR. E. HOLMAN CLARK
Newspaper Boy .....MASTER A. ACKERMAN
Mr. Crayll .....MR. WEEDON GROSSMITH
Miss Hannah Pillenger ..MRS. CHARLES CALVERT
Lucy Pillenger .....MISS DAGMAR WIEHE
Keziah .....MISS POLLIE EMERY
Caroline Rayward .....MISS COMPTON

Mr. R. C Carton's clever comedy, *Lady Huntworth's Experiment*, was first performed at the Criterion Theatre on April 26, 1900, with Mr. Arthur Bourchier as Captain Dorvaston, Mr. Eric Lewis as the Rev. Audley Pillenger, Mr. Dion Boucicault as Crayll, and Mr. Ernest Hendrie as Gandy. The piece combines the *naïveté* of construction of some of the old comedies, with the placid irony of which Mr. Carton is such an accomplished exponent. As many of our readers remember, the "experiment" made by her ladyship—who has allowed her drunken little wretch of a husband to divorce her on a trumped-up charge, for the sake of getting free from him—is that of taking a place as cook in a country clergyman's family. Here she has her own way entirely, partly by her superior culinary knowledge, and partly because the Vicar and his friend, Captain Dorvaston, who is formally engaged to Lucy, the Vicar's niece, are both in love with the new domestic. Lucy is aware that Dorvaston does not care for her, and she arranges to elope with the curate, the Rev. Henry Thorsby. Lord Huntworth turns up in a state of semi-intoxication, and eventually the Captain and the Vicar visit the cook in the kitchen in the evening, and are concealed in separate hiding-places, the tipsy husband being put into the scullery. The last act is made up of attempts at exculpation and explanation, the proper people pair off together, and all ends merrily.

Most London playgoers have long acquired a taste for Miss Compton's serenely drawling style and imperturbable amiability, and as Lady Huntworth, the part which she created, she has full scope for all the qualities which we know and like so well. Mr. Charles Hawtrey is irreproachable as Captain Dorvaston, and though the character does not elicit his very best powers, he plays it with all the ease and drollery for which he is so famous. Mr. Fred Lewis gives an amusingly conventional and irresistibly unctuous impersonation of the Rev. Audrey Pillenger, his mimicry of clerical intonation being quite realistic. Mr. Charles Crawford enacts the Rev. Henry Thorsby smoothly, and with a *soupçon* of quiet quaintness; and Mr. E. Holman Clark makes the bluntest and most offensive of independent menials as the surly butler, Gandy. Mr. Weedon Grossmith emphasises the base vulgarity of Crayll in truly graphic style, the repulsive meanness of the man's nature being conclusively depicted; and Mrs. Charles Calvert is as funny as ever as the weak but pompous Miss Pillenger. Miss Dagmar Wiehe is bright, animated, and simple as Lucy; and Miss Pollie Emery repeats the eccentric performance as Keziah which caused so much laughter at the Criterion. Mr. Bruce Smith has painted a very pretty garden scene and two appropriate interiors.

Mr. R. C. Carton's piece was preceded by a new comedy, in one act, by Mrs. Henry de la Pasture, played for the first time, and called

"HER GRACE, THE REFORMER."

Duchess of Burlescombe ..MISS ETHEL MATTHEWS
Kenyon .....MR. E. W. TARVER
Miss Aggett .....MISS ELSIE ROSS
Bumpus .....MISS MONA HARRISON
Nix .....MR. H. LAURENT
Measy .....MR. WELTON DALE

Reformers of all sorts, especially Socialists, appear to be "getting it hot" from playwrights of late; and Mrs. de la Pasture is certain of having a theatrical audience with her when she exposes the sham philanthropy of which there is so much nowadays in society. *Her Grace, the Reformer*, is a bright, light, and pleasantly brief sketch, the centre figure of which is the Duchess of Burlescombe, who plays at Socialism while she treats her own household abominably. Lounging on a luxurious couch—Mr. Walter Hann has supplied a sumptuously elegant "set"—we find her dictating to her wearied typewriter the peroration of a public address. Miss Aggett, having worked late the evening before, has been promised that today she shall be allowed to leave early; her mother is dangerously ill, and Miss Aggett wants to get back to her parent's bedside. The Duchess, however, is remorseless, and resents Miss Aggett's tears on learning that she will be detained. In order to judge of the effect of her speech, her Grace summons her overworked maid, Bumpus, and her pompous groom of the chambers, Nix, to form, with her secretary, Mr. Kenyon, an audience for her reading. It does not last long. Bumpus, who has been up late the night before, falls asleep and snores; Miss Aggett, driven to desperation, insists on going home; and Mr. Kenyon, who has come into a fortune, and is leaving her Grace's service to go into Parliament, takes the young lady away in a cab. Baffled and disgusted, the Duchess takes a morphine tablet, and composes herself on the couch with a cigarette and a French novel; when, from underneath the toilette table emerges a burglar, one Measy, who, after gagging and binding the Duchess, proceeds to pack her jewellery and silver ornaments into a hand-bag. While he is at work, Kenyon returns and seizes the thief. The Duchess gets rid of her bonds, and Kenyon, taking as his text a statement of Measy's that he was one of her Grace's Socialistic disciples, lectures the Duchess severely, dragging the burglar about the stage in the excitement of oratory. Kenyon gives her Grace "a bit of his mind" in most uncompromising terms, reproaching her with her neglect and ignorance of the people of her household, and her general selfishness and shallowness. So heated is the secretary that he lets the burglar escape, greatly to the Duchess's indignation, and the curtain descends on an animated and angry altercation.

Miss Ethel Matthews, besides looking daintily pretty as the Duchess, acted the part with spirit and appreciation, and gave a very vivid notion of aristocratic luxury and ill-temper. Mr. E. W. Tarver was made up well as Kenyon, and delivered the denunciation at the end of the play with amusing intensity and energy. Miss Elsie Ross was pleasing and expressive as Miss Aggett; and Miss Mona Harrison as the maid was easy, neat, and natural. Mr. H. Laurent contributed a comically pretentious performance as the groom of the chambers; and Mr. Welton Dale was thoroughly effective in the little rôle of the burglar, Measy. *Her Grace, the Reformer*, is a most diverting trifle, and serves remarkably well the purpose of prelude to the piece of the evening. It was heartily received and warmly applauded.

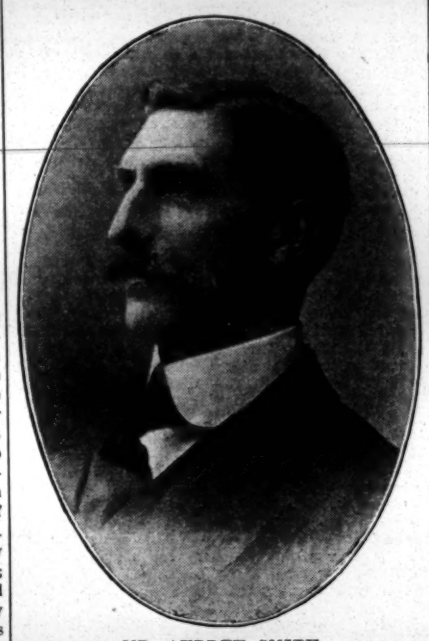
YEAR'S WORK OF THE A. A.

CHAT WITH MR. AUBREY SMITH.

A fortnight ago we dealt in a long article with the progression and new developments of the Actors' Association, and we recommended to the notice of the profession at large the many substantial benefits that members of the Association enjoy. Since that article appeared, the writer, during an interview with Mr. C. Aubrey Smith, the chairman of the council of the Actors' Association, has been put in possession of facts concerning the operations of the governing body throughout 1906, and to these, as well as to other matters, we take great pleasure in referring.

"The work of the Association during the past twelve months," says Mr. Smith, "has far exceeded that of any previous year. Among the subjects dealt with are Actors' Day scheme, the Irving Memorial Fund, Insurance (personal and luggage), payment for rehearsals, schemes in connection with qualification, registration, and photography, and the question of sanitation at the back of the stage. The first four may be said to be accomplished, and the others are satisfactorily progressing towards that condition.

"Actors' Day found a totally unexpected amount of opposition in the profession, and although the sum (£1,469) so far collected was not by any means discouraging for the first year, it would have been much larger but for the doubts raised as to the utility of the scheme by prominent members of the profession who had not thoroughly



MR. AUBREY SMITH.

considered the question in all its bearings. I heard only yesterday of a leading actor-manager who absolutely forbade his company to subscribe, on the ground that he did not wish the details of his salary list disclosed. In reply to such an objection as this, I would say that the only individual donation that has been divulged was that furnished by Mr. Tree himself as to the amount of his own subscription, mentioned in his speech at the Actors' Day meeting last Thursday. I can assure you that the trustees themselves would find it an impossible task to obtain precise information as to the individual subscriptions, with the exception of those that have been sent in separately."

The Personal Accident Insurance policy of the Actors' Association should be pretty well known to the profession by this time. The Council have now secured a further insurance policy, covering the risks of loss of private luggage while on tour, and it also allows for compensation for inconvenience caused by the miscarriage of luggage, no matter whether the loss arises from carelessness on the part of the railway servants, or from fire. This, like the Personal Accident policy, has been affected without any increase of the annual subscription, and it should appeal to every travelling member of the profession.

As to the question of payment for rehearsals, Mr. Aubrey Smith informs us that the Council applied in the name of the profession to the Theatrical Managers' Association and the Touring Managers' Association, in the hope of securing for actors some solatium for that unremunerative period when a play is being prepared in a closed theatre. The agreement arrived at between the different bodies was that, for London productions, three weeks' rehearsals should be given free, and for further rehearsals one-third salary shall be paid; for provincial tours, a fortnight's rehearsal to be given free, and one week's rehearasl only when the rehearsals take place in the country. Beyond these limits of time the same arrangements as to payment of one-third salary are to be carried out, such monies to be returned at the same rate after the play has run four weeks. It must, however, be pointed out as an important factor in the fulfilment of this agreement, that the Touring Managers' Association, for their own protection, have insisted on limiting the payment for rehearsals to members of the Actors' Association, and Mr. Smith believes that by the time this article is in the hands of our readers, the Theatrical Managers' Association will have passed a resolution to the same effect.

The Qualification and Registration scheme is held in abeyance for the time being, pending the result of Mr. Tree's experiment with his dramatic academy. The proposal was to form a register of all the qualified actors and actresses, and to be placed upon this register a newcomer into the profession would be called upon to pass an examination for one or other, or several branches, of stage work. The idea was to exclude wastrels and unsuitable people, and permit of the advancement of talented and bonâ fide artists.

The principal object in the photography scheme was to obtain the copyright in a photograph for the actor, the life of the picture, so far as the management of a company or theatre was concerned, to be limited to the run of the play. This is now under consideration.

With the object of bettering the sanitary—in many cases distinctly unsanitary—conditions of the dressing-rooms and "behind the scenes," the Council of the A.A. last year approached all the licensing authorities throughout the United Kingdom, and in all instances the authorities afforded the Council every facility of coming into contact by letter or otherwise with the officials who have the control of local sanitation. No doubt much good will be done in this direction.

"A very narrow-minded objection has been raised," says Mr. Smith, "to the admission of acting-managers to the Association. Now, at every turn I see the absolute necessity for their admission. For instance, with such an organisation as Actors' Day, if the acting-managers as a body had been eligible to the A.A., the work of organisation in connection with this scheme would have been far simpler. Many cases have come to my notice where an acting-manager, feeling that he had no interest in the Association, declined to seriously concern himself with Actors' Day."

IRVING MEMORIAL FUND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO DATE, JAN. 16, 1907.

TOTAL, £1814 8s. 0d.

	£	s.	d.
Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft	52	10	0
Ellen Terry	52	10	0
Sir Charles Wyndham	50	0	0
George Alexander	50	0	0
Chas. Frohman..	50	0	0
Jonn Hare	50	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Harvey	50	0	0
Stuart Ogilvie..	50	0	0
A. W. Pinero..	50	0	0
Fred Terry and Julia Neilson..	50	0	0
H. Beerbohm Tree	50	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bourchier	26	5	0
Robert Arthur..	25	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson	25	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Dion Boucicault	25	0	0
Mrs. Patrick Campbell	25	0	0
Mrs. D'Oyly Carte	25	0	0
J. M. Chute....	25	0	0
Arthur Collins..	25	0	0
J. M. Chute	25	0	0
J. F. Graham..	25	0	0
John Hart	25	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Hicks	25	0	0
Laurence Irving	25	0	0
James Kiernan..	25	0	0
J. H. Leigh....	25	0	0
Henry Lowenfeld	25	0	0
Chas. Manners	25	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Maude..	25	0	0
William Mollison	25	0	0
Fred Mouillot...	25	0	0
Otho Stuart	25	0	0
Edward Terry ..	25	0	0
Messrs. Vedrenne and Barker ..	25	0	0
Lewis Waller ..	25	0	0
E. S. Willard..	25	0	0
F. Wyndham ..	25	0	0
Gertrude Elliott	20	0	0
Forbes Robertson	20	0	0
Arthur Chudleigh	15	0	0
Mrs. John Wood	15	0	0
Capt. Robert Marshall	12	12	0
Lyric, Apollo, and New Royalty Theatres, per Tom B. Davis	12	10	0
R. C. Carton ..	10	10	0
Norman Forbes (first sub.) ..	10	10	0
Sydney Grundy	10	10	0
Henry Kemble..	10	10	0
Mary Moore ..	10	10	0
Louis N. Parker	10	10	0
Alfred Sutro ..	10	10	0
Brandon Thomas	10	10	0
Mrs. E. S. Willard	10	10	0
Geo. P. Bancroft	10	0	0
Welton Dale ..	10	0	0
Gerald Du Maurier	10	0	0
George Edwardes	10	0	0
Messrs. Engelbach and Greet	10	0	0
Alfred Kendrick	10	0	0
H. J. Loveday	10	0	0
Miss Compton .	5	5	0
Will Dennis	5	5	0
William Devereux	5	5	0
Franklin Dyall	5	5	0
William Farren, jun.	5	5	0
George Grossmith	5	5	0
Anthony Hope...	5	5	0
Fred Kerr	5	5	0
Edith Wynne Matthison	5	5	0
Thyrza Norman	5	5	0
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Passmore	5	5	0
W. B. Redfern..	5	5	0
R. Redford	5	5	0
Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Rock ..	5	5	0
Carlotta Addison	5	0	0
Henry Ainley ..	5	0	0
Jessie Bateman	5	0	0
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Ben Greet	5	0	0
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Arthur Lawrence	5	0	0
Thomas Lucas..	5	0	0
Charles Macdona	5	0	0
Eadie Montefiore	5	0	0
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Suzanne Sheldon	5	0	0
J. Warden	5	0	0
Ben Webster ...	5	0	0
May Whitty	5	0	0
Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright	5	0	0
Acton Bond	3	3	0
W. Lestocq	3	3	0
Jerrold Robertshaw ..	3	3	0
Hilda Thorpe ..	3	3	0
Huntley Wright	3	3	0
James Carew ..	3	0	0
Percy Burton ..	2	10	0
A. A.	2	2	0
A. E. Bishop....	2	2	0
Lilian Braithwaite	2	2	0
Sydney Brough	2	2	0
Holman Clark..	2	2	0
Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Conway	2	2	0
Roland Cunningham	2	2	0
James Fernandez	2	2	0
Helen Ferrers..	2	2	0
H. A. Freeman..	2	2	0
Horace Hodges..	2	2	0
Gertrude Kingston	2	2	0
M. V. Leveaux	2	2	0
C. M. Lowne ..	2	2	0
Ethel Mathews	2	2	0
Eugene Mayeur	2	2	0
Dawson Milward	2	2	0
W. Morton	2	2	0
Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Paget	2	2	0
W. Peacock	2	2	0
Nancy Price	2	2	0
Hugh Robertson	2	2	0
C. Aubrey Smith	2	2	0
Lyall Swete	2	2	0
Sydney Valentine	2	2	0
Fred Volpe	2	2	0
Miss Wallis	2	2	0
Henrietta Watson	2	2	0
Barbara Allison	2	0	0
Muriel Beaumont	2	0	0
— Loder	1	10	0
Mr. and Mrs. Blake Adams	1	1	0
Alban Atwood ..	1	1	0
Alice Beet	1	1	0
J. Cooke Beresford	1	1	0
Milton Bode	1	1	0
Cynthia Brooke	1	1	0
J. Clifford Brooke	1	1	0
Cecil Cameron..	1	1	0
Lewis Casson ..	1	1	0
Frank Cellier, jun.	1	1	0
Elise Clarens ..	1	1	0
Charles Collette	1	1	0
J. R. Collins ..	1	1	0
Edward Combebach	1	1	0
A. F. Cross	1	1	0
Charles Cruikshanks	1	1	0
Clarence Derwent	1	1	0
Fred Emney	1	1	0
Caroline Ewell...	1	1	0
Charles Fry	1	1	0
Florrie Glossop-Harris	1	1	0
Olivia Glynn ..	1	1	0
Major and Mrs. Gossett	1	1	0
Charlotte Granville	1	1	0
Dorothy Grimston	1	1	0
Edmund Gwenn	1	1	0
D. Lyn Harding	1	1	0
Helen Haye	1	1	0
Chas. Helmsley	1	1	0
J. Chas. Imeson	1	1	0
W. W. Kelly ..	1	1	0
C. Rann Kennedy	1	1	0
Olive Kennett	1	1	0
Beatrice Lamb..	1	1	0
Mabel Terry Lewis	1	1	0
F. Teale Lingham	1	1	0
Fewlass Llewellyn	1	1	0
J. W. Macdonald	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Macdonald	1	1	0
Sterling Mackinlay	1	1	0
Chas. Magrath	1	1	0
Austin Melford..	1	1	0
Alma Murray ..	1	1	0
Alfred Northway	1	1	0
Katherine Parry	1	1	0
Nigel Playfair..	1	1	0
E. Vivian Reynolds	1	1	0
E. M. Robson..	1	1	0
N. W. Rowland	1	1	0
Beatrice Selwyn	1	1	0
Vincent Sternroyd	1	1	0
Clarence Sounes	1	1	0
Minnie Terry ..	1	1	0
Allen Thomas ..	1	1	0
Fred Topham ..	1	1	0
Lilias Waldegrave	1	1	0
Annie Webster	1	1	0
Vivienne Whitaker	1	1	0
J. Fisher White	1	1	0
Fred Wright, sen.	1	1	0
Leonard Calvert	1	0	0
Philip Desborough	1	0	0
Sydney Faulks	1	0	0
Maud Hoffman	1	0	0
Miriam Lewes..	1	0	0
Norman MacOwan	1	0	0
Frank Melrose..	1	0	0
Louise Moodie..	1	0	0
Adair Nelson ..	1	0	0
Edyth Olive	1	0	0
Claire Pauncefort	1	0	0
George Shelton..	1	0	0
Harding Thomas	1	0	0
Arthur Garrett	0	12	6
Chas. Allan	0	10	6
F. J. Arlton	0	10	6
J. H. Batson ..	0	10	6
Adie Bourne	0	10	6
Mary Carnegy..	0	10	6
Elfrida Clement	0	10	6
Ernest Cosham..	0	10	6
Georgina Hamilton	0	10	6
Gwynne Herbert	0	10	6
Alfred Lester ..	0	10	6
Arnold Lucy ..	0	10	6
R. C. McClery	0	10	6
Quinton McPherson	0	10	6
Jules Shaw	0	10	6
Lizzie Webster	0	10	6
Arthur Wontner	0	10	6
Mrs. Fred Wright, sen....	0	10	6
Haidee Wright	0	10	6
J. J. Bartlett..	0	10	0
Inez Bensusan..	0	10	0
Mr. and Mrs. Thalberg Corbett	0	10	0
George Cannings	0	10	0
Gethyn Darragh (Miss)	0	10	0
Kathleen Doyle	0	10	0
A. E. Drinkwater	0	10	0
Athol Forde	0	10	0
Una Gilbert	0	10	0
J. H. Irvine....	0	10	0
Sydney Keith (Miss)	0	10	0
Mary MacKenzie	0	10	0
Beatrice Marsdene	0	10	0
Mildred Orme...	0	10	0
Violet Royal ..	0	10	0
Margaret Savill	0	10	0
Geo. H. Snazelle	0	10	0
A. Gifford Stacey	0	10	0
Violet Sterne....	0	10	0
Norman Wrighton	0	10	0

Contributors of 5s.:—Mary Allestree, Alan Borthwick, Cecil Brooking, John Cabourn, Italia Conti, Howard Coveney, Clive Currie, Walter Edwin, Benjamin Field, — Gibbon, Alfred Goddard, Fred Groves, Florence Harcourt, Rose Hersee, Agnes Hill, Mabel Leathem, Mrs. Louise L'Estrange, A. Gambier Melford, Rose Mathews, Robert Minster, Fred Morland, Margaret Parker, A. Pope, Ida Reid, Lilian M. Revell, Kenneth Rivington, Reginald Rivington, Irene M. Ross, Geraldine St. Maur, Ethel Savill, Rosie Stevens, Franc Stoney, C. H. Sworder, Chas. Trevor, J. Henry Twyford, Rose Vernon, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Vigors, Herbert Vyvyan, Chris. Walker, Jessie Winter, and Margaret Davies Webster.

F. Clive, 4s.; Isa Johnson, 3s.; Marion Sterling, 3s.; Beatrice Bevan, 2s. 6d.; George Dudley, 2s. 6d.; Dorothy M. Edwards, 2s. 6d.; Eve Erskine, 2s. 6d.; Rosalie Heath, 2s. 6d.; S. Creagh Henry, 2s. 6d.; Ruth Maitland, 2s. 6d.; Fred Paul, 2s. 6d.; Lucy Sibley, 2s. 6d.; Minnie Thurgate, 2s. 6d.; Richard Vane, 2s. 6d.; Dorothy White, 2s. 6d.; Bromber Wills, 2s. 6d.; Chas. Caffrey, 2s.; Frank G. Dunn, 2s.; Coneybeare Gough, 2s.; Evelyn Howard, 2s.; Mary Jennings, 2s.; Dorothea Mapleson, 2s.; Kathe. M. Romsey, 2s.; Katie Lennox, 1s.; Bishop Lohr (Miss), 1s.; Marie Lohr, 1s.; H. M., 1s.; D. Montague (Miss), 1s.; May Wiltshire, 1s.; — Zaleski (Miss), 1s.

Treasurer:—John Hare, 75, Upper Berkeley-street, Portman-square, W.

Secretary:—Charles Cruikshanks, 10, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

"MACBETH" MATINEES.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier started a series of matinée performances of *Macbeth* at the Garrick Theatre on Wednesday, and Shakespeare's tragedy attracted a large audience. It is only a little over a month ago that Mr. Bourchier staged *Macbeth* at the Garrick, and Wednesday's performance permitted a further opportunity of passing judgment on the latest London revival of the Shakespearean tragedy and also of noting whether any material alteration had been made in the treatment of certain imporant passages in the play. That the performance as a whole has gained in smoothness and artistic finish now that the actors are better acquainted with their parts, may be taken for granted. A well-known Shakespearean critic has pointed out that "the entire atmosphere of *Macbeth*, as of no other tragedy, is oppressive with the sense of something subtly malignant as well as inexorably revengeful in the forces that rule the world; of a tragic irony in the ultimate scheme of things." The present revival of the play is quite in accord with the idea expressed by the critic, special prominence being given to the haunting fears and the abject physical terrors that dog the steps of the man and woman whose hands have been stained with the blood of their Royal guest. An admirable effect is obtained at the end of the third act, where Macbeth and Lady Macbeth after the ghostly visitation take their departure from the banqueting-hall, but are seized with a sudden fit of terror, the lady sinking to the ground overpowered by a sense of horror and dismay. Mr. Bourchier's Macbeth has gained in power and impressiveness since the first performance. The effect of the alternative scornful and pleading utterances of Lady Macbeth is subtly indicated; the terror begotten of the sight of Banquo's ghost is forcibly and naturally expressed; and there is no lack of spirit in the later scenes, in which Macbeth holds himself bravely in spite of the approaching foe and the blow inflicted by the news of the death of his partner in crime.

Miss Violet Vanbrugh's Lady Macbeth is an embodiment on which she can be highly complimented, taking into account the many difficulties which stand in the way of a perfect realisation of this all-important character. It is not Miss Vanbrugh's fault that her natural expression is anything but that which one expects to find in a woman of the stamp of Lady Macbeth. One pictures her as a woman with dark gleaming eyes and a mouth that plainly shows cruelty and firmness of purpose. Except that she is tall, Miss Vanbrugh is not in appearance the Lady Macbeth of one's visions; but, nevertheless, her portrayal of the part presents many points of excellence. Perhaps she is at her best in the murder scene, in which she makes the very most of the opportunities which it presents for effective acting. Again, in the famous sleeping-walking scene Miss Vanbrugh deeply impressed Wednesday afternoon's audience, and evoked much appreciative applause. At the final fall of the curtain there was a special call for Mr. and Mrs. Bourchier, the latter appearing in her ordinary dress.

There are two changes in the original cast. Mr. Cyril Keightley succeeds Mr. Matheson Lang as Macduff, and Miss Dorothy Thomas appears as the gentlewoman in the place of Miss Nora Greenlaw. Mr. Keightley, who has acquired a high reputation in the provinces, gives a sufficiently vigorous rendering of the part, and enters with the requisite energy into the fierce encounter with Macbeth in the last act. Miss Dorothy Thomas makes a decidedly favourably impression as the Gentlewoman; Mr. Sydney Valentine's admirable embodiment of Banquo is one of the most notable features of the present revival; Mr. Leveson Lane's dignified representation of Duncan is also deserving of special mention; and commendable work is done by Mr. Walter Pearce and Mr. Douglas Imbert as Malcolm and Donalbain. Miss Pamela Gaythorne does well as Fleance; and the parts of Lennox, Ross, and Angus are safe in the hands of Messrs. William Burchill, Acton Bond, and Alfred Bristowe. Mr. Reed is suitably placed as Siward, and Mr. Douglas renders able service as Seyton. Mr. Charles V. France is quite successful in his careful treatment of the part of the Doctor, and Mr. Charles Goodhart is quaint and effective as the Porter. The two murderers have capital exponents in Mr. Lawson Butt and Mr. Frank Lacy, and the three Witches are capitally portrayed by Mr. and Mrs H. Nye Chart and Mr. Arthur Whitby. Miss Olive Terry and Miss Evelyn Bateman as the apparitions complete a thoroughly efficient cast.

WE may expect this year several pl

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA. 1850—1900.

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In these columns it is proposed to give a strictly alphabetical arrangement of the titles of plays produced during the last fifty years. It will be the most complete list ever published, and should prove invaluable to authors desiring to discover whether a certain title has ever been used, and when. To members of the dramatic profession it will be useful in determining the dates of plays in which they have achieved successes. Our readers are politely requested to advise us of any omission or inaccuracy which they may notice.

This list as soon as complete will be published in cheap book form.

THREE FAIRY GIFTS, Worthing, April 7, 1896.
THREE GRACES, Kingston, Feb. 11, 1898.
THREE GREAT WORTHIES, Standard, Oct. 1, 1866.
THREE HATS, Theatre Royal, Bath, June 22, 1883.
THREE HUNCHBACKS, Theatre Royal, Liverpool, April 15, 1872.
THREE KEYS, Manchester, June 7, 1888.
THREE LITTLE BRITONS, Theatre Royal, Torquay, July 30, 1900.
THREE MILLIONS OF MONEY, St. James's, Oct. 14, 1876.
THREE MUSKET DEARS, Strand, Oct. 5, 1871.
THREE MUSKETEERS, City of London, June 1, 1857.
THREEPENNY BIT, Theatre Royal, Brighton, Aug. 18, 1870.
THREEPENNY BITS, Opera House, Chatham, April 25, 1895.
THREE PERILS, Britannia, Oct. 5, 1870.
THREE PRINCES, Surrey, April 1, 1850.
THREE WARNINGS, New Pavilion, March 30, 1872.
THREE WARNINGS—RUIN, DEGRADATION, AND DEATH, Theatre Royal, Hanley, Oct. 20, 1873.
THREE WAYFARERS, Terry's, June 3, 1893.
THREE WOMEN, THE, Pavilion, Nov. 19, 1866.
THREE YEARS IN A MAN TRAP, Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, April 29, 1874.
THREE YEARS' SYSTEM, Crystal Palace, Feb. 21, 1887.

RICHMOND THEATRE.

Opening with the overture "American Cavalry," by the excellent orchestra, Mr. Charles Craston followed as an amiable curate, and caused quite a lot of fun. Mr. Craston's second contribution proved equally amusing; his plaint as an elderly spinster, "Annie," was grotesquely funny. A youthful illusionist, Marco, managed to amaze the audience, and displayed considerable dexterity; his tricks were neatly done, and he merited the applause showered on his efforts. Whatever may be the relative merits of the modern coon production, it goes without saying that when well done there is just now no better trump card for the artist to play. This fact is duly recognised by dainty, vivacious Miss Maggie Rimmer, who confides to the audience the love she bears to one "Lulu o' Waterloo"; the vocalist dances neatly, to the utmost satisfaction of the audience. Miss Rimmer's other contribution to the programme took the form of a motor song. There is a haunting refrain to "I drive a motor" that should make it popular. Mr. Max Guy's excellent orchestra is heard to distinct advantage in "Three Old Dances" (A. Wood). Clarence C. Corri's company in *Heart Strings* holds the house in silence. A burglar enters a room intent on his craft, when he recognises the photographs of his mother and sister on the mantelpiece. He is interrupted by the entrance of the latter, who reveals the fact that their mother is now affected with blindness. Perhaps to cheer up things a bit in this doleful household the sister next entertains her brother to a violin solo, which, admirably interpreted as it was, is out of place. The charming violinist, Miss Gladys Hooley, plays "Home, Sweet Home" as the curtain falls on the reconciliation of mother and son. Fred Cullane's quartet in *Pipple from Poppleton* is a wildly diverting sketch dealing with an amorous angler, a jealous sweetheart, and a couple of winsome damsels. The sketch is prettily mounted, and as a laughter-maker it may be highly commended. "Trouble" formed the topic of Mr. Charles Kay's ditty, in which allusion is made to the prominent figures in a recent breach of promise case. As an itinerant vendor of street songs Mr. Kay was equally successful. It was quite a happy idea of Miss Carrie Laurie to revive memories of the Vokes' triumphs in *The Belles of the Kitchen*, and just as the older generation laughed itself to exhaustion over the nimble-legged Fred and his delightful colleagues, so Richmond took kindly to the antics of Miss Laurie's little ones. A splendid Biograph show concludes a capital evening's entertainment.

"THE PEACEMAKER."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I understand that a one-act piece, *The Peacemaker*, is advertised for production on Jan. 22 at the Apollo.

As I am playing my one-act comedy sketch next week at the Putney Hippodrome, and also intend playing same as a curtain-raiser later, I should be obliged if you would make known through your columns that *The Peacemaker* was produced on Oct. 5, 1906, at Brixton, and the title fully protected on Oct. 8, by yours faithfully,

W. T. ELLWANGER.

Hippodrome, Oldham, Jan. 14.

"ALADDIN," at the Crystal Palace, drew enormous houses last Saturday, hundreds waiting for admission long before the finish of the afternoon performance. It was impossible, however, to find accommodation for all those who wanted to see the pantomime. The news of the victory of the Crystal Palace football team at Newcastle was announced, and filled the great audience with enthusiasm, every reference to the team being received with deafening cheers. It has been arranged to have a picture of the Palace team shown at each performance.

THE members of the Canonbury Club held another smoking concert on Saturday evening, under the presidency of Mr. Councillor T. H. Dey. Mr. R. T. Baines occupied the vice-chair, and there was quite a record attendance of members and their friends. An excellent and well-varied programme was submitted, the contributors including Mr. Charles Gillett, who recited "The Revenge," by Tennyson; and a number of first-class comedians. The company included about a dozen members of the Islington Borough Council, and the usual complimentary toasts were given and acknowledged.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

A MEETING of considerable importance to all engaged in any capacity in the metropolitan music halls will take place on Sunday evening in the Surrey Theatre, which has been kindly lent by Mr. Frank Macnaghten, through his manager, Mr. Fred Baugh. The meeting will be held under the auspices of the Alliance, representing the variety artists, musicians, and employees. Mr. Will Crooks, M.P., L.C.C., will preside, and he will be supported by the officers and committees of the three Societies, and other Members of Parliament, Members of the London County Council, the Borough Councils, and representatives of the trade councils of London, and various other labour organisations. Mr. Ald. I. Mitchell, L.C.C., the secretary of the National Federation of Trade Unions, will also be present, and representatives of upwards of one and a half millions of Trade Unionists will attend. The main purpose of the meeting is to receive a statement from the Alliance with reference to certain agreements already entered into with proprietors, and to deal with the rumoured refusal of one proprietor to fulfil his agreement. The meeting may result in consequences of the most vital importance, and stage employees in particular are urged to be present. The meeting is open to all variety artists, musicians, and workers.

THE members of the London Day-men's Branch, N.A.T.E., are informed that their meeting on Sunday will be postponed, in consequence of the mass meeting at the Surrey Theatre. The Islington meeting will also be postponed for the same reason.

THE No. 1 Branch of the N.A.T.E. and V.A.F. have endorsed the candidature of Mr. C. Jesson, secretary of the London Branch of the Musicians' Union, for election to the London County Council. The Labour group of the L.C.C. have also promised support to the candidature of Mr. W. Johnson, secretary of the N.A.T.E.

CHARLES GARTHORNE'S WIDOW.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—May we make an appeal for help through the columns of your paper on behalf of a very sad and urgent case for immediate assistance, feeling sure that many of your readers cannot but sympathise with the actress on whose behalf we make this appeal? We refer to Mrs. Charles Garthorne, widow of the late Charles Garthorne Grimston, who died some seven years ago. On his death Mr. Garthorne left his widow with very limited means, which, with strictest economy exercised on her part, was exhausted in two years. Owing to a long and continued illness Mrs. Garthorne has been prevented from following her profession, but, when sufficiently well and able, she has tried hard to secure engagements, unfortunately without success. A near relative of Mr. Garthorne allowed her £1 per week for some time. This £1 per week, however, ceased some time ago, and an appeal was then made to the Masonic charities, who advanced her £40, £1 of which has been sent to her weekly since the allowance aforementioned stopped. Now this sum is exhausted, and to-day this unfortunate lady finds herself without funds and without a home, absolutely without anything to look forward to—in fact, to use her own words, nothing but the workhouse before her. A few friends of her late husband are anxious to do what they can to relieve her from this sad position, and are therefore raising a subscription with the hope of getting together sufficient funds to redeem her furniture—the whole of which she had to store away some four years ago—and enabling her to take a small house, with the hope that she may be able to let part of it and thereby gain a small livelihood.

In appealing to the theatrical profession we feel sure that all those who remember what a good fellow Charles Garthorne was will sympathise with the movement and come forward at this time to assist with their help, no matter how small it may be, this very sad case of his widow. We therefore venture to hope that our appeal may not be in vain.

Thanking you in anticipation of finding room for this letter,—Yours faithfully,

(Rev.) OWEN R. SLACKE,
(Major) J. BRUNT
(Hon. Sec., 10, The Strand, Chiswick, W.),
JAMES W. MATTHEWS,

Jan. 17, 1907. Green Room, Club.

Subscriptions may be sent to the above or to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, hon. treasurer, c/o *The Era* office.

COVENT GARDEN FANCY DRESS BALL.

The popularity of these dances was again demonstrated on the evening of the 11th inst., when a numerous company availed themselves of the varied and extensive programme of dances. There were many original and handsome dresses. The first prize, an upright grand piano, by Ascherberg, was awarded for the costume by Mme. Jeanne, "A Study in Old Mosaic." This was of white satin made à la Directoire. The design was painted to imitate inlaid mosaic work, the different groups being taken from ancient mosaics. The hand property consisted of a large painted vase from which hung trails of white lilac, and dark blue electric lights completed the effect. The second prize was awarded to "Treasure Island," and the third to "Port of London." Amongst the other nine prize-winners were the following dresses:—"Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," "Rain and Sunshine," "Love Amongst the Roses," "Dawn of Light," and "Ambition." Mr. W. Clarkson was successful in gaining 1st prize (Gents.') for "A Moor," special prize for Lady's Domino, and 6th prize for "Ambition," &c.

MR. RICHARD NORTHCOTT, the well-known dramatic and musical critic of the *Daily Chronicle*, has accepted the post of hon. secretary of the Knights' Club, a Bohemian coterie dating its foundation back to 1866. There is a famous round table belong to the club, at which, in the small hours, members were wont to relate legends that were scarcely Arthurian. We should hear a great deal more of the Knights now that Mr. Northcott is associated with them. By the way, he treasures a presentation gold cigarette case, a souvenir from Emily Soldene of his whole-hearted services as hon. secretary of her farewell matinée at the Palace Theatre prior to her departure for Australia.

MISS DENISE ORME, the charming Illyrine of *The Merveilleuses* at Daly's, is to be congratulated on her engagement to Baron Ernsthausen. Both have tastes in common, the Baron being an enthusiastic musician; but though her fiancé would like her to give up her theatrical career, it is agreeable to learn that the stage is not to be thus deprived of one of its most fascinating adornments.

THE Burg of Saltcoats Town Council are inviting offers for two stands for minstrel entertainments.

MAKES THE SKIN AS SOFT AS VELVET.—Beetham's "LAROLA" preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold, winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, chaps, &c., and KEEPS THE SKIN SOFT, SMOOTH, and WHITE at all Seasons. INVALUABLE for the COMPLEXION, DELIGHTFULLY SOOTHING AND REFRESHING after walking, golfing, cycling, motoring, dancing, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles, 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. BEETHAM and SON, CHELTENHAM.—[ADVT.]

A DECISION REVERSED.

In the Court of Appeal on Tuesday, before the Master of the Rolls, Lords Justices Cozens-Hardy and Moulton, Mr. Frederick, Mouillot appealed from a verdict and judgment of Mr. Justice Phillimore and a special jury, awarding £192 damages against him in an action for alleged breach of contract brought by Mr. Lawrence Grant. The appeal was brought on the ground that there was no contract, and that the damages were excessive. The appellant asked for judgment or a new trial.

The case for the plaintiff was that in January, 1905, Mr. Grant met Mr. Mouillot, who informed him of a play called *What the Butler Saw*, written by himself and Judge Parry, of Manchester, in collaboration, and asked him to read it with a view to seeing whether he would play the part of Jack Barrington at Dublin in the following March. He consented to act the part, and did so so successfully that Mr. Mouillot, it was alleged, promised him that if he produced the play in London he (plaintiff) should have the part. Subsequently the plaintiff agreed to play the part at a performance which was to take place at Southampton with a view to giving a number of people who proposed to form a syndicate an opportunity of seeing it. But before agreeing to this performance the plaintiff wrote, on May 23, to the defendant saying that he did not wish to go to Southampton unless he was told that he was going to play the part of Barrington if the play went to London or Manchester. To that the defendant replied on May 25: "Of course you are going to play the part any time it is played in London, unless some star should offer for the piece. Then, of course, I would let it go; but, of course, if I produce it myself nobody would be better than you are, and you have worked very hard, and there is no reason why you should not play it." At the Southampton performance, which took place on May 12, 1905, Mr. Frank Curzon, Judge Parry, and Mr. Prowse Jones (representing Messrs. Keith, Prowse, and Co.) were present, as well as the defendant. After the performance a syndicate was suggested to run the play, and was eventually formed, Judge Parry taking 894 £1 shares, Mr. Mouillot 500 shares, and Mr. Curzon and others 500 amongst them. The casting of the play was discussed by Judge Parry, Mr. Curzon, and the defendant, and while defendant personally was desirous that plaintiff should play the part in London, the others thought he should not, their view being that, although a good actor, he was not suited to this particular character, which required an Irishman. On May 19 the defendant wrote a letter to the plaintiff, in which he expressed regret at being unable to offer him the part of Barrington in London, adding that his syndicate insisted on having a London name and an Irishman. The plaintiff replied that he played at Southampton on certain conditions contained in his letter, and should expect his contract to be fulfilled. Mr. Mouillot answered that he was not producing the piece himself, but was merely a shareholder, like the rest, and they absolutely refused to go on with the matter unless he had another Jack. Mr. Grant replied to the effect that he was still willing to carry out his part of the contract. On Aug. 2 the piece was produced at Wyndham's Theatre, the defendant acting as managing director, and afterwards at the Savoy, where it ran until Nov. 11, with Mr. Graham Browne in the part of Barrington. On the programme a statement appeared to the effect that the play was "produced" by Mr. F. Mouillot. The plaintiff based his action on the contents of the letters, which he contended embodied a contract, in evidence of which was the fact that after the piece was produced at Dublin he abstained from looking for other engagements, in order to hold himself free to appear in this play in London. Counsel argued, first, that the letters contained no contract; second, that if there was a contract, the play was not produced in London by the defendant within the meaning of the word "produced" as used in the letters; and, third, that the damages were excessive. The letters, he submitted, were merely the expression of an intention by the defendant, and the word "produced" on the programme only meant that the defendant was responsible for the stage effects and matters of that kind, and not for the whole production in the sense of bringing the play before the public.

Mr. Grant's counsel submitted that this was not, as suggested by the other side, an agreement to enter into a contract, but an agreement absolutely.

The Master of the Rolls, giving judgment, said the case turned upon the effect of the letters of May 23 and 25, and the conduct of the parties after these letters were written. It had been argued that the absence of any mention of fixed remuneration in the letters negatived the idea of a contract, but his view was that the absence of any such stipulation was not in itself sufficient to prevent the contract being binding. The absence of such stipulation in this case was significant, however, from the point of view that what passed was not really intended to be a binding contract, and never got beyond an expression of an intention or a hope. Assuming that there was a contract, what was the meaning of the defendant's words, "if I produce it myself"? It surely was that if the play passed from his hands the plaintiff could not have the engagement, but that if he retained control, the plaintiff might take it that he would be engaged. Did the defendant, in point of fact, ever produce the play in that sense? Had he the control or distribution of the parts? The evidence was absolutely all one way upon that point. He had not. The interest in the play passed out of his hands. It seemed to him that the condition upon which alone by the terms of the contract the obligation was to fall upon the defendant to secure an engagement for the plaintiff never was fulfilled. And that was a complete answer to the claim for damages. Holding this view, he thought the judgment of the Court below must be set aside and judgment entered for the defendant.

The Lords Justices agreed, and accordingly the appeal was allowed, judgment was entered for the defendant, and the money paid into court by the defendant was ordered to be refunded to him.

MISS FLORRIE BRAY has been appearing for the last four weeks in pantomime at the Lyceum Theatre, Newport, Mon., with great success, her songs being encored nightly.

THE Whitley and Monkseaton Urban District Council are prepared to receive tenders for the exclusive privilege of using their bandstand on the Whitley Links for musical entertainments on week days during the coming summer season. The entertainments must be guaranteed to be of a refined and first-class order. For full particulars see advertisement in another column.

AN Association football match took place on Tuesday at Torquay between the *Red Riding Hood* pantomime company and the Torquay United. In the first portion of the game the homesters had the best of matters, and penetrated the "Panto." defence three times; in the second moiety, however, the Company more than held their own, but were unfortunate in not being able to score. The game resulted in a win for the United by three goals to nil. For the *Red Riding Hood* team, Mr. Frank Medhurst (general-manager) played a good game at forward, and Mr. Fred Boulton was also prominent; whilst in goal Mr. Fred Anderson was conspicuous. Mr. Arthur Pearse, the theatre secretary, kicked off. Mr. John A. Thomson, proprietor of the company, was amongst the spectators, and whilst the game was in progress the young ladies of the company made a collection on behalf of the local hospital funds, a substantial sum being realised.

ON THE ROAD, JAN. 21.

ARE YOU A MASON?—Birkenhead.
ASSASSIN.—Grand T., Luton.
AT CRIPPLE CREEK.—T. R., Dover.
AT DUTY'S CALL.—Aberystwyth and Crewe.
BANDMANN-PALMER, MRS.—Court T., Galway.
BEAUTIFUL FIEND.—T. R., Edmonton.
BELLE OF MAYFAIR (BODE).—T. R., Bournemouth.
BELLE OF MAYFAIR.—Royalty T., Glasgow.
BENSON, F. R. (N.).—Court T., Wigan.
BENSON, F. R.—Queen's T., Leeds.
BENSON, F. R. (S.).—Pembroke.
BETWEEN THE LIGHTS.—T. R., West Bromwich.
BLUE MOON.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
BREED OF THE TRESHAMS.—P. G. T., Folkestone.
BULMER, MR.—T. R., Croydon.
CARL ROSA OPERA CO.—Grand T., Derby.
CASSIDY, J. RICE.—T. R., Darlington.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (BODE).—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (MACDONA).—Scotland.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE).—O. H., Northampton.
CLAUDIAN.—T. R., South Shields.
COAL KING.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—O. H., Leicester.
CONSCRIPT, THE.—Grand T., Chorley.
COUNTRY GIRL (MACDONA).—South Wales.
DAIRYMAIDS.—Theatre Royal, Huddersfield.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—New T., Consett.
D'OYLY CARTE.—Empire T., Oldham.
DRIVEN FROM HOME.—Queen's T., Farnworth.
EARL AND THE GIRL.—O. H., Southport.
EARL AND THE GIRL (N.).—T. R., Blackburn.
FALSE WIFE.—Grand T., Newcastle.
FEMALE SWINDLER.—Rugby.
FIGHT FOR MILLIONS.—Queen's T., Dublin.
FRENCH SPY.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
GAY PARISIENNE.—Mansfield.
GLOSSIP-HARRIS' REPERTOIRE CO.—Harrogate and Chesterfield.
GOLDEN LADDER.—Palace T., Newcastle.
GO-WON-GO-MOHAWK.—Wednesbury.
GREAT AWAKENING.—Marina T., Lowestoft.
GRIP OF IRON.—T. R., Hebburn.
HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE.—Star T., Swansea.
HER LOST SELF.—Prince's T., Llandudno.
HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD.—New T., W. Stanley.
HONOUR THY FATHER.—King's T., Kirkcaldy.
INDIAN MUTINY.—T. R., Sunderland.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Biggleswade.
LA POUPEE (RALLAND).—Whitehaven and Workington.
LEAH KLESCHNA.—Alexandra T., Greenock.
LIGHTS O' LONDON.—T. R., Belfast.
LITTLE BREADWINNER.—Grand T., Nelson.
LOVE THAT WOMEN DESIRE.—Aquarium, Yarmouth.
LUCK 'LIZA.—Altrincham.
LUCKY DURHAM.—Queen's T., Keighley.
MAN AND WIFE.—Empire T., Oldham.
MANXMAN.—Theatre Royal, Leicester.
MARTIN HARVEY.—D. P., Eastbourne.
MERVEILLEUSES.—King's T., Glasgow.
MIDNIGHT WEDDING.—T. R., St. Helens.
MONTE CRISTO.—Albert T., Brighouse.
MOODY-MANNERS (A.).—O. H., Cork.
MOODY-MANNERS (B.).—King's Lynn.
MOSS, EVA, REPERTOIRE.—T. R., Inverness.
MR. POPPLE.—Oxford and Cambridge.
MY SWEETHEART.—Gaiety T., Clydebank.
NAPOLEON THE GREAT.—St. James's T., Manchester.
NEW BARMAID.—T. R., Colchester.
ORCHID, THE.—Hamilton and Cupar.
PETER'S MOTHER.—Grand T., Southampton.
PRINCE OF PILSEN (HARRISS).—T. R., Bury.
PRODIGAL PARSON.—Alexandra T., Widnes.
PROOF.—Lyceum Theatre, Newport.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—T. R., Cardiff.
SAINTS AND SINNERS.—T. R., Tonypandy.
SAPHO (ANNIE BELL).—O. H., Middlesbrough.
SENTENCED FOR LIFE.—Lyric, Hammersmith.
SERGEANT BRUE.—T. R., Chatham.
SHERLOCK HOLMES.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
SHULAMITE.—Grand T., West Hartlepool.
SILVER KING (POLINI).—T. R., Preston.
SPIDER AND THE FLY.—Gateshead.
STILL ALARM.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
THRONE OF TERROR.—New T., Hawick.
TOREADOR (MACDONA).—North Shields.
TRAITOR PRINCE.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
TRAITOR, THE.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
UNDER THE CZAR.—Prince's T., Llandudno.
UNDER THE RUSSIAN FLAG.—Woolwich.
UNWEDDED WIFE.—T. R., Batley.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne.
WALLS OF JERICHO.—O. H., Torquay.
WARNER, MISS GRACE.—O. H., Perth.
WEARIN' O' THE GREEN.—H. M. T., Blackpool.
WHAT THE BUTLER SAW.—Century T., Motherwell.
WHEN WOMAN HATES.—T. R., Croydon.
WHITE CHRYSANTHEMUM (CURZON).—T. R., Portsmouth.
WHITE CHRYSANTHEMUM (MACDONA).—Ayr.
WILKIE, ALLAN, AND CO.—Carlton T., Birmingham.
WOMAN'S PAST.—T. R., Peterborough.
WORST WOMAN IN LONDON.—T. R., Aston.
10.30 DOWN EXPRESS.—Alexandra T., Hull.
£1,000 REWARD.—Borough Theatre, Heywood.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth or Death or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence, every additional word One Penny.

The charge for a notice of Marriage, not exceeding forty words, is Two Shillings and Sixpence, every additional word One Penny.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

BLOW.—On Jan. 14, at 11, St. Edmund's-terrace, Regent's Park, the wife of Mark Blow (Ida Molesworth), of a son.
ELGAR.—Kitty Bishop, wife of Ed. Elgar (Cedar and Elgar), of a daughter, Jan. 15, at 21, Aynhoe-rd., West Kensington, W. Both doing well.
O'ROURKE.—Jan. 6, at Sheffield, the wife of Johnny O'Rourke, of Poole's Myriorama, of a daughter.
RAMBO.—On Jan. 6, Mrs. Rambo, wife of Mr. Mark Rambo, of a daughter.
SPURGIN.—On Jan. 9, 1907, at 10, Warwick-place, Worthing, Mrs. M. A. Spurgin (Issa Handel), of a daughter. Both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

FOR CONGRATULATIONS.

Mr. and Mrs. HARRY BURNS (Miss Helen Charles) desire to thank and tender their reciprocations and best wishes for kind words and messages received which are keenly appreciated.
Welburn House, Promenade, Hartlepool.

DEATHS.

ANDERSON.—Jan. 7, at Greenock, suddenly, Reddick Anderson, actor.
HAYNES.—Jan. 14, Mrs. Haynes, the wife of Joe Haynes, passed away. Deeply mourned by her husband and daughters.
HAYNES.—Jan. 16, Louisa, the beloved wife of Joe Haynes, of the George, Newington Butts, aged 53.
KING.—On Jan. 13, suddenly, at his residence, "Glendower," Derby, Alfred George King, father of Lily Bertram (Mrs. T. W. Rawson).
LERIGO.—Charles Lerigo, aged 71 years, died in harness, Jan. 7, 1907. Buried family grave, Kensal Green, Jan. 11. Mourned by all.
OLIVER.—William Ball Oliver (retired engineer, of East Indian Government), age 71, father of Dr. J. C. Oliver, illusionist, &c., peacefully passed away Sunday last, at his residence, Homeknowle, near Plymouth.
TRAYNOR.—Jan. 14, of consumption, at Manchester, Tom Traynor, comedian. "God rest his soul. To err is human; to forgive, divine. God, forgive us, we know not what we do."

IN MEMORIAM.

DEACON.—Jan. 13, 1906, Fanny Deacon. Never forgotten by her loving daughter, Hilda.
HARDY.—In ever-loving memory of Charles Edward Hardy, late of Theatre Royal, Richmond, Surrey, and Grand Theatre and Theatre Royal, Margate, who died on Jan. 14, 1906, at his residence, 3, Addington-road, Margate.
STEPHENSON.—In loving memory of Charles Henry Stephenson, Father Tom, of the Adelphi, who passed away in his eighty-second year, Jan. 20, 1905. Not forgotten by old friends of Winchurch, Southport, or by his sorrowing wife, ELIZA STEPHENSON.

BATTLING NELSON is to make his first appearance in England at the London, Shoreditch, on Monday, when a feature of the programme will be a bioscope picture of the Nelson-Gans fight in the goldfields, Nevada, with the temperature 100 deg. in the shade.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

Notice to Subscribers.

"The Era" is sold by all Newsagents in all the leading English, Irish, and Scotch towns, every Saturday Morning. Price Sixpence.

TERMS, POSTAGE FREE.

Home Subscriptions.		Foreign Subscriptions.	
One Year	£1 6 0	One Year	£1 12 0
Six Months	13 0	Six Months	16 0
Three Months	6 6	Three Months	8 0

Cash must accompany order.

Notice to Advertisers.

Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "THE ERA," LTD., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

Address,
The PUBLISHER,
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington Street)
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephone, 4747, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. T. W.—*A drama, entitled* The Wife's Sacrifice, *a version by Messrs. Sydney Grundy of MM. D'Ennery and Tarbe's* Martyre, *was produced at the Haymarket Theatre on May 25, 1886.*

T. J. F.—Rule Britannia *was first sung in Thomson and Mallet's masque,* Alfred, *in August, 1740.*

K. R.—*John Sleeper Clarke, the American comedian and manager, died Sept. 24, 1899, aged sixty-five.*

SERPOLETTE.—*The English version of* Les Cloches de Corneville *was first produced at the Folly (afterwards Toole's Theatre), on Feb. 23, 1878.*

P. A. T.—Chandos; or, The Jester who Turned Traitor, *a drama in five acts, adapted from Ouida's novel by Hartbury Brooklyn, was produced at the Adelphi Theatre on Sept. 30, 1882.*

F. H.—(1) *It is usual to do so, though it would seem in your case hardly necessary.* (2) *A notification that the artist intends to carry out his contract, with the name of the sketch to be performed. A letter giving the information is sufficient.*

HARRY G. POWELL.—*Strictly speaking, such a sketch is a "stage-play" within the meaning of the Theatres Act, 1843. But, as a matter of fact, the law is seldom strictly enforced. There was no decision in the Courts to the effect mentioned by you; rather the decisions were to the effect we have just stated. But an agreement has been arrived at between the two bodies in the direction indicated by you.*

CAPTAIN.—*We regret that we are unable to inform you.*

KARNO.—*We should advise you to apply to Willing, general advertising contractor, Strand.*

A. MITCHELL.—*All we can tell you is that Mrs. Bennett made her professional début in 1883 at the Gaiety Theatre, as Violante in* The Honeymoon *and Juliet in the balcony scene from* Romeo and Juliet.

F. H. P.—*If you mean Tyrone Power, who made his début at the English Opera House, London, in 1822, as Charles Austencourt in* Man and Wife, *he was lost at sea in the wreck of the steamship President, which sailed from New York for Liverpool on March 21, 1841. We cannot say when he and the lady mentioned last played in London. He made his first appearance on the American stage in August, 1833.*

E. M. PATTEN.—*Write to Captain Robert Marshall, 62, Green-street, Park-lane, W., or Garrick Club.*

A. FURST.—*It is against our rule to recommend anyone by name, but you might make an application to one or two of the agents whose advertisements appear in* The Era.

MR. JOE CONWAY, brother to "Walk Round Martin," is making his first appearance in London on Feb. 11. His business is in the hands of that clever agent Leo Fritz.

WHIMSICAL WALKER, the celebrated clown, has now reached the convalescent stage, and will sail for America on Saturday.

MR. WALTER STANTON for six years has been touring America, where his bird impersonations have proved extremely successful. He is free for a few weeks, and pantomime producers will remember his clever gigantic rooster, and take note of the fact that he is disengaged next Christmas.

MR. CHARLES COLLETTE, who has just returned from a most successful tour, reappears on Monday at the London Pavilion for a month in his clever farce, *Tea for Two*, supported by Miss Joan Derry.

MR. TONY IVESON, who is now well booked with his *Ragman* act, is putting on a special show in February entitled the *Pedlar and the Piano*, in which he will have the assistance of several others.

MISS MILLIE PAYNE has this week appeared with wonderful success at the Empress and South London in new songs that are funnier than ever. She is to be seen at London halls for some time yet before commencing a short starring tour.

MR. FRANCIS O'FLYNN, the celebrated banjoist, is creating a sensation on the Macnaghten circuit with his phenomenal performance. Mr. O'Flynn presents some striking features in his répertoire, and his appearance in London will be eagerly looked for.

THE latest quotations for music hall shares are as follows:—Alhambra, 12½; Canterbury, 3; Empire (15s. paid), 18; Empire (10s. paid), 1; London Pavilion Ord., 4½; London Pavilion Pref., 5; London Coliseum, ½; Metropolitan, 3; Moss Empire, 5; Moss Empire 5 per cent. Pref., 3½; Oxford, 6½; Palace, 11s.; Tivoli, 6½; Varieties Consolidated Theatres, 13s.

THE London, Shoreditch, will celebrate its twelfth anniversary on Wednesday, Jan. 30, when there will be one house only, the entertainment lasting from 6.30 to midnight. All the available stars are expected to appear, and a crowded house may be anticipated.

THE Markies will shortly produce in London a new sketch, entitled *In Search of Talent*, from the clever pen of Mr. Percy Ford, who has also written a new song for Miss Mollie Malone, entitled "Erin."

THE Queen's Theatre of Varieties, Castleford, opened on Monday night as a variety house, under the management of Messrs. Beanland and Emerson. The building has been entirely redecorated and renovated, and a special electric light plant has been installed. The decorations are in cream and gold. With the addition of tip-up chairs and other modern improvements the hall is now one of the most comfortable in Yorkshire. The company is a specially strong one, and includes Clyo and Rochelle, Charles Danton, Fontain's Marionettes, Barfoot and Carson, Fred Horsfall, the Lauriers, J. C. Heffron, and the Loyal Dominion Animated Pictures.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.
No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Aerian and Ostara
Ahrensmeyer, Mr. H.
Ainslie, Miss M.
Anthony, Mr. Mark
Ardie, Mr. Arthur
Armitage, Mr.
Armitage, Mr. Harry
Arthur, Miss Lily
Asdown, Mr. James, W.
Ash, Mr. J. F.
Attwood, Happy
Barnett, Mr. C. A.
Barwick, Mr. Edwin
Batson, Mr. J. Hastings
Beaufort, Miss Georgie
Bent, Mrs.
Biddall, Mr. J.
Bowman, Miss Isa
Boyde, Mr. Edwin
Boyne, Mr. Leonard
Bradford, Mr. Chas.
Britton, Mr. Arthur
Brock, Miss Olive
Brooks, Mr. John
Buckley, Mr. V.
Bunce, Mr. H.
Burnell, Mr. Fred
Burrow, Mr. C. Kennett
Carney Bros.
Cass, Mr. Frank
Chambers, Miss Emma
Chesney, Mr. E.
Clive, Mr. Wybert
Cohen, Mr. Sidney L.
Combes, Mr. Arthur
Conrad, Mr. Harry
Conrad, Mr. Wallace
Conway, Mr. Martin
Cornell, Mr. D.
Cottrell, Mrs. Annie
Cronin, Mr. Morris
Cunningham, Miss M.
Currans, Mr. J. W.
Currie, Mr. Carne
Curzon, Miss A.
D'Abbertson, Miss Maud
Dagmar, Mrs. M.
D'Artigan, Mr.
Davies, Mr. Tom
De Campi, Miss Marie
De Groot, Miss Sara
De Marce, Mr. Felix
Deomes, Mr. H.
Diamond, Miss D.
Diamond, Mrs.
Donne, Mrs. L.
Douglass, Miss A.
Eaton, Mr. W. G.
Edgar, Mr. Ralph
Edgar, Mrs. Richard
Edouin and Edwards
Elliott, Miss Charlotte
Elton, Mrs. Fred
Elvo, Mr. J.
Eplett, Miss Jessie
Fansons, The
Foster, Mr. H. Flocton
Fradette, Mrs.
Fuller, Miss Louie
Gardenes, Mr. Chas.
Gilbert, Mr. Louis
Gillies, Mr. Bob
Graham, Miss Marion
Grans, Mr. F.
Gray, Miss Mona
Grey, Miss Minnie
Grey, Mr. Harry
Griffith Bros.
Handel, Miss Z.
Hilderini, Prof.
Howard, Bros.
Hawkes, Mr. A. J.
Hayes, Miss K. Simpson
Hogan, Mrs. E.
Horford, Mr. W.
Hope, Mr. Stanley
Howard, Mr. T. M.
Irving, Miss Ethel
Irving, Mr. L.
Jones, Miss Alma
Judge, Mr. R.
Keddle, Mr. H. A.
Keen and Waller
Keightley, Mr. Cyril
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.
King, Mr. S.
Lane, Mr. M. G.
Laurence, Miss Kate
Lauri, Mr. Edward
Leslie, Miss Marion
Lewis, Mrs. Alwyn
Linde, Herr
Love, Miss Luna
Lovegrove, Miss Phillis "M. A."
Mac and Hill
Mace, Mr. Fred
Macfarlane, Mr. J. H.
Mack, Mr. Julian
Mackay, Mr. Wallis
Mackersey, Mr. W. A.
Magee, Miss K.
Mansell, Mr. Gus
Marba and Verity
Marsh, Mrs. H. V.
Maude, Miss H.
Mayne, Miss Rale
McClemont, Mr.
Melba, Miss Mabel
Miles, Mr. Bert
Millett, Miss Maude
Milian, Mr. Max
Milsted, Miss M.
Milsted, Mr. Robert
Montefiore, Mr. Eade
Morgan, Mr. R. H.
Morritt, Mr. Chas.
Morton, Miss Effie
Mudie, Mr. Geo.
Munro, Miss Emmie M.
Murray, Mr. Geo. Cecil
Murray, Mr. Tom E.
Murray, Mr. S.
Myers, Mr. J. W.
Nairn, Mr. Harry
Nates, Miss Annie O.
Nelson, Mr. Leonard
Noel, Miss Maudie
Norman, Mr. Norman V.
North, Miss R. V.
Obray, Miss Alma
Orr, Mr. Ben
O Toole, Mr. Dave
Overton, Mr. Norman A.
Palmer, Miss Minnie
Paul, Mr. T. M.
Paull, Mrs. Wm.
Payne, Miss Lilian
Polini, Mrs.
Poplar, Mr. Fred
Powell, Mr. A.
Pratt, Miss Edith
Proctor, Mr. John
Quest, Miss M.
Radford, Mr. Harry
Raleigh, Mr. Cecil
Rawson, Mr. T. W.
Reeve, Mrs. Wybert
Relph, Miss Phyllis
Riley, Prof. Tom
Ringham, Mr. Mark
Roadnight, Mr. C.
Roberts, Miss Amy
Romelli, Signor
Rudd, Mr. Austin
Russell, Miss Bijou
Scott, Mrs. V.
Scudamore, Miss Daisy
Scott, Miss E.
Scott, Mr. J. N.
Seale, Mr. George
Small, Mr. Harold
Snow, Miss Ellen
Spargo, Mr. J.
Stansfield, Mrs. Fred
Stavart, Miss Madge
Stayton, Mr. Frank
St. Clair, Mr. F. V.
Stelling, Mr. George
Stelling, Mr. Harry
Stewart, Mr. Chas.
Stewart, Mrs. Hamilton
St. John, Miss Florence
Stone, Mr. W.
Sutherd, Mr. Dick
Taylor, Mr. C.
Taylor, Mr. Gilbert E.
Temple, Mr. Fred
Thomas, Mrs. R.
"Tom and Alec"
Torra, Mr. Koma
Tristram, Mr. W. Outrim
Tweedie, Mr. Henry
Vassar, Dr. Carl
Wallace, Mr. C. C.
Webster, Mr. & Mrs. Ben
Whitehead, Mr. Arthur
Willard, Miss Lena
Wolveston, Miss F.
Wontner, Mrs. Arthur
Woodward, Mr. C.
Yukio Tani
Yorke, Mr. Leonard
Zedora, Mr. Leo
Zena, Madame

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Herbert Barrs—Saturday, Jan. 19.
Sidney Dench—Saturday, Jan. 19.
Kitty Bennett—Sunday, Jan. 20.
Frank Stuart—Sunday, Jan. 20.
Rose Hamilton—Sunday, Jan. 20.
A. E. Behan—Monday, Jan. 21.
J. O. Stevenson—Monday, Jan. 21.
Frank Reed—Monday, Jan. 21.
Cis Gasparro—Monday, Jan. 21.
Evelyn Shannon-Clyndes—Monday, Jan. 21.
Chas. Grantley—Monday, Jan. 21.
D'Arcy Kelway—Monday, Jan. 21.
Howard L. Tracey—Monday, Jan. 21.
Constance Collier—Tuesday, Jan. 22.
Violet Bessle—Tuesday, Jan. 22.
Harry B. Stanford—Tuesday, Jan. 22.
Kitty Wager—Tuesday, Jan. 22.
Ada Murray—Wednesday, Jan. 23.
Clavering Craig—Wednesday, Jan. 23.
Alice Spry—Wednesday, Jan. 23.
Fred Cherry—Wednesday, Jan. 23.
Bessie Munroe—Wednesday, Jan. 23.
George Millard—Wednesday, Jan. 23.
F. H. Anderson—Thursday, Jan. 24.
Mrs. G. H. Smythson—Thursday, Jan. 24.
Suzanne Sheldon—Thursday, Jan. 24.
Rowland Hill—Thursday, Jan. 24.
Katie Marsh—Friday, Jan. 25.
Bertha Kingston—Friday, Jan. 25.

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,,	15,	,,	30.
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THE ERA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1907.

ACTORS' DAY.

The very important meeting which was held at the St. James's Theatre last week to hear the report of the organising committee of the Actors' Day scheme, marked a new epoch of theatrical life—an epoch of self-help. There is, indeed, plausible excuse for the amount of charity which the profession is content to take from the outside public. The artistic callings are always underpaid; and there is an instinct, and a very true and natural instinct, in the non-artistic world to admit this, and to endeavour to make up for it with gifts. And the benefits in the case of the stage are reciprocal. If the theatrical charities are greatly assisted by the after-dinner contributions of friends of the drama, the non-theatrical charities are constantly receiving large sums as the proceeds of matinées given at the theatres. The arrangement, however, is capable of improvement; and there is a general feeling that the time has now come for the theatrical profession to provide for its own poor. The idea of Actors' Day is connected with the project of consolidating the theatrical charities, and it was at first suggested that an annual matinée for charitable purposes should be given on a day to be called Actors' Day. Eventually there was a meeting between Mr. TREE, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CYRIL MAUDE, and Mr. ARTHUR BOURCHIER, and the council of the Actors' Association, with the result of the experiment of Actors' Day being tried last October.

It takes some time for a new proposal to sink into the minds of people; and it is an encouraging fact that the Organising Committee of the Actors' Day Fund had 2,214 promises of support, of which about 40 per cent. were fulfilling engagements out of England on the date fixed for the Day. This reduced the effective number of supporters to about 1,300. Of these, 33 per cent. have yet to make good their undertakings, leaving nearly 70 per cent. of promises carried out, the total amount received being £1,469.

At first sight, the proportion of defaulters may seem discouraging; but we must take into account the natural inertia of humanity, and the doubts and difficulties which trouble even the heads of the profession. Many persons prefer, when a new idea is presented to them, to wait and see how it will turn out before committing themselves to its support. The great thing is that a beginning has been made, and that the principle of Actors' Day has been accepted and established. That principle is that the profession is capable, with small sacrifice, to provide entirely for its own poor.

The difficulties which occur are chiefly in connection with the distribution of the fund, and do not touch its general principle in the least. They were clearly stated by Mr. TREE, who in his speech at the St. James's advocated the abolition of all public appeals, including the dinners, and the fusion of all the funds. Mr. TREE had already sent £25 to the committee, and intended to give a special matinée for the theatrical funds. He wanted to know, however, in what proportion the various theatrical charities were to share the proceeds of the day.

It is, indeed, imperatively necessary that a conclusion should be come to on this point. It takes very little to diminish the enthusiasm with which a new scheme is received; and many may find a plausible excuse for not supporting the movement in dissensions respecting the application of the amount when collected. The Actors' Benevolent Fund is the only association having for its special function the relief of distress in the profession, its object being to "help by allowances, gifts, and loans old or distressed actors and actresses, managers, stage-managers, acting-managers, and choristers, and their children, their wives and orphans, whose efforts are devoted entirely to theatrical work." The Royal General Theatrical Fund was established to "grant permanent annuities to actors, actresses, chorus-singers, dancers, pantomimists, and prompters; also to acting-managers, stage-managers, treasurers, and scenic artists." Members of this association contribute quarterly, after the manner of the payment of life assurance premiums, the rate being according to age on entrance; and are entitled, in the event of becoming incapacitated after payments have been made for seven years, to receive annuities for life. It may not be an easy task to decide on the division of the receipts of Actors' Day; but it will not, surely, exceed the resources of a competent committee well acquainted with the circumstances. The Royal General Theatrical Fund is partly supported by charity, the subscribers receiving more than they would obtain by any ordinary method of insurance, the excess being made up by subscriptions.

The ideal arrangement would doubtless be one fund, located in a suitable building, with different "branches" fulfilling the functions now performed by these societies. This great fund would, of course, be supported entirely by the proceeds of Actors' Day, all after-dinner subscriptions and contributions from the outside public being done away with. We are inclined, however, to deprecate any too sudden or violent action in connection with the existing associations. The receipts from them are tolerably secure and regular; and a large amount of personal interest which is at present taken in them might cease if a more systematic arrangement were attempted. It will be well to wait until Actors' Day has been permanently established as a steady and reliable resource before proceeding to consolidation. The amount of genuine distress in the profession is about the same each year, and can, as has been proved, be dealt with at a certain cost. If the anticipations of the supporters of Actors' Day be realised, the amount raised annually would be sufficient to meet all demands; and the present methods might then be modified or abolished. As Mr. CECIL RALEIGH put it in his hopeful speech at the St. James's Theatre, on the computation that there are 250 places of amusement in England, and supposing that each collected £50 once a year, the result would be £12,500. In 1905 the grants, allowances, loans, and expenses of the Actors' Benevolent Fund came to about £4,200. It will be easily seen that, if the principle of Actors' Day be accepted and supported by *the whole* of the profession, there would be no necessity for outside assistance, and the stage would be in the position of entirely maintaining its own charities.

THE ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

THE seventh bi-monthly meeting of the members of the Actors' Association was held in the Saloon, in King-street, on the afternoon of the 11th inst., when there were present Mesdames Gwendolen Bishop, Helen Mosley, Katharine Parry, Lucy Sibley, and Minnie Thurgate, Messrs. Cecil Barth, John R. Collins, Frank Melrose, Adnam Sprange, and Chas. Cruikshanks (sec.). Mr. Cecil Barth, who was voted to the chair, referred to the meeting of members of the profession at St. James's Theatre at three o'clock on that day, and also referred to the holding of the first and second "social meetings" of the members of the A.A. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

THE usual weekly meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association was held on Tuesday last, when there were present Mr. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), Mr. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman), Mr. Henry W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Mesdames Beatrice Lamb, Saba Raleigh, Messrs. Blake Adams, Cecil Barth, J. Cooke Beresford, Acton Bond, Burton Cooke, C. Hayden Coffin, F. Cremlin, Fewlass Llewellyn, Quinton McPherson, Brandon Thomas, Frank Vernon, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). The hon. solicitors reported they had advised several members. Violet A. Gould, Richard A. Greene, Margaret Nybloc, Agnes Miller, Ninon Dudley, Henry C. Hewitt, and Fred Knight were nominated for election; three former members were proposed for reinstatement, and three were reinstated. Mr. Herbert Shelley was elected to fill the vacancy on the Council under Article 15. Two cases of alleged insanitation in provincial theatres were under consideration, and the secretary received instructions.

THE Council received from Mr. H. T. H. Sadler the gift of two interesting playbills of ancient date, and the secretary was instructed to thank the donor on behalf of the Association. Mary Relph, Ralph Roberts, and Geo. F. Reynolds were appointed commissioners. A letter from the Touring Managers' Association, in connection with payment for rehearsals, was under consideration, and with a suggestion of two slight alterations it was agreed the scheme proposed was in every way acceptable. The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was given, and it was agreed that the Ramsgate centre (Spes Bona, Grange-road) kindly placed at the disposal of the Association by Miss Gracie Murielle, should be experimentally opened on Feb. 1 next, and afterwards on every weekday, for two months between the hours of twelve and four.

THE Finance and General Purposes Committee held a meeting on Tuesday last, when the Chairman, Mr. Acton Bond, was supported by Messrs. J. Cooke Beresford, A. E. Drinkwater, C. Aubrey Smith, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). Various matters in connection with the holding of the sixteenth annual general meeting at The Playhouse on Tuesday, the 19th prox., were discussed, and ultimately the secretary received instructions to summon a meeting of this body to be held next Monday at three o'clock.

ROYAL OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

The four weeks' season of German opera, under the management of Mr. Ernest Van Dyck in conjunction with Mr. Frank Rendle, had a brilliant opening night on Monday, when in the presence of a large audience Wagner's comic masterpiece *Die Meistersinger* was performed; and as the season will, with one or two exceptions, consist mainly of Wagner's works, the choice of this delightful opera was a happy one for the first performance. The syndicate who are responsible for the present season may be congratulated on having so experienced an operatic manager as Mr. Van Dyck, who, it may be remembered, appeared for the first time in England at Covent Garden in 1891, on which occasion he sang the part of Des Grieux in Massenet's *Manon* as well as successfully undertaking the title-rôles in *Tannhäuser* and *Faust*. His Majesty the King and their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Christian, and Princess Louise have also graciously given their patronage to the present season. The syndicate have secured the valuable aid of the London Symphony Orchestra, and by kind permission of Mr. Henry Wood the services of Mr. Alfred Kastner as harpist, while the chorus are from the principal German opera houses and the Berlin High School, increased by thirty members of the London Liederkranz, the conductors being Mr. Arthur Nikisch and Mr. Leopold Reichwein. The performance on Monday evening was an excellent one, proving that in the matter of rehearsals every care had been taken, and the young conductor, Mr. Leopold Reichwein, from the Mannheim Opera, secured admirable results from the London Symphony Orchestra. An excellent Hans Sachs, the cobbler poet, was found in Herr Feinhals, who some eight years ago appeared in London; and Herr Kraus, in the character of Walther von Stolzing, proved himself an experienced artist, and sang with great ability, although with a certain hardness of voice customary in most German tenors. Frau Bosetti made an attractive Eva, and sang the music with considerable charm; while the part of Magdalene was successfully filled by Frau Von Kraus Osborne. The exacting part of Beckmesser was cleverly sustained by Herr Franz Adam, who carefully avoided exaggeration in his acting; and the Druid of Herr Hans Bussard was a happy reading of the part that Covent Garden has seldom seen surpassed. Herr Hinckley's fine voice told well in the character of Kiet Pogner. All the smaller parts were adequately filled, and the choruses were sung with praiseworthy spirit. At the close of each act all the principal artists were called on and loudly applauded.

After the success of the opening night, when so excellent a performance of *Die Meistersinger* was given, there is little cause for surprise that the house should be filled in every part on Tuesday evening, when Wagner's love drama, *Tristan und Isolde*, was performed. Much of the interest aroused by Tuesday night's representation of *Tristan* was due to the really fine playing of the London Symphony orchestra, so ably conducted by Herr Arthur Nikisch, who on more than one occasion was called before the curtain after the acts, in company with the principal artists, to share in the hearty applause. The tone of the orchestra was full and rich, never throughout the evening in the least degree overpowering the vocalists. Herr Van Dyck, whose name is familiar to opera-goers, appeared as Tristan, and sang the music in a fervent and dramatic manner, greatly adding to its effect by his ability as an actor. Frau Felia Litvinne, the Isolde, sang with purity of intonation and at times with considerable power, but her acting, particularly in the second act, fell far short of that displayed by Herr Van Dyck. It was in the earlier portions of the opera that Frau Litvinne was at her best. As the attendant Brangäne Frau Marie Brema gave a fine reading of the part, and much praise must be awarded to Herr Dr. Felix von Krauss for his fine performance of König Marke and the skilful and artistic use he made of his rich bass voice. It was mainly to Dr. Krauss that the third act owed its impressive effect. The characters of Kurwenal, Melot, Ein Hirt, and Ein Stenermann were ably undertaken by Herr August Keiss, Herr Robert Cunningham, Herr Willy Birkenfeld, and Herr Albert Leonhardt.

The most important event of the German opera season this week was the revival on Wednesday night of *Der Freischutz*, after many years' neglect. Weber, the composer, was the son of an actor, which may account to some extent for his love of stage effects in his operas. His first great success, *Der Freischutz*, was produced at Berlin, June 18, 1821, and created a great sensation, as the composers strove energetically to undermine the Italian influences which had previously proved so powerful. *Der Freischutz* speedily became the most popular German opera, and an English version was produced at the Lyceum (then known as the English Opera House) on July 22, 1823, with such success that the work was immediately brought out at Drury Lane, Covent Garden, and eventually at several other theatres. The weird, romantic story, and lovely music, exercised a potent charm. Everywhere was heard snatches of the attractive music, and whenever it has been revived, whether in German, Italian, or English, it has always aroused great interest. The unhappy composer died at the residence of Sir George Smart, after producing *Euryanthe* and *Oberon*, in London. In 1844 his body was removed from Moorfields to Dresden, but while music remains popular Carl Maria von Weber cannot be forgotten. The performance on Wednesday last was worthy of the occasion. Frau Bosetti sang the music of Annchen with no little charm; and Fräulein Marcella Craft invested the part of Agathe with considerable interest; while Herr Kraus made an excellent Max, and Herr Hinckley a dramatic and forcible Caspar. The chief feature, however, of the revival was the admirable playing of the London Symphony Orchestra, and the fine conducting of Herr Arthur Nikisch.

Lohengrin was given on Wednesday afternoon, with a newcomer, Frau Aïno Ackté, a Finnish prima donna, in the part of Elsa. Frau Ackté speedily found favour with the audience, for, besides possessing a voice of great purity and considerable power, she was an actress of grace and ability. In fine contrast to Frau Ackté's Elsa was the forcible and dramatic Ortrud of Frau Marie Brema, and the great duet in the second act gained additional interest by their clever and artistic rendering. Frau Brema was also admirably supported by the Telramund of Herr Fritz Feinhals, who gave a manly and picturesque reading of the part. Herr Herold appeared with success as Lohengrin; and Dr. Felix von Krauss sang the music of the King with dignity and expression. A good Herald was found in Herr August Kiess; and the chorus sang with spirit and intelligence, while the orchestra, under the care of Herr Leopold Reichwein, again proved their excellence.

THE Kennington pantomime company furnished a not inconsiderable quota of artists at the New Year's "smoker" of the London Press Club on Saturday night. Although he had gone through the heavy ordeal of playing and stage-managing two performances of *Humpty Dumpty* that day, Mr. R. H. Douglass took the boards again at the Press Club shortly after midnight, and kept the gathering in roars with an exceedingly clever character-sketch of the difficulties of stage management. Mr. Arthur Rigby followed with a comic song and Mr. F. A. Dix, the author of *Humpty Dumpty*, contributed three very smart vocal improvisations on subjects suggested by the audience. The Kennington pantomime, it might be mentioned, is drawing audiences composed of people from North as well as South London, which in itself is a tribute to its attractiveness.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LE BLUFF."

Play, in Three Acts, by M. Georges Thurner, Produced at Antoine's, on Jan. 10.

Mme. Hardouin ..... MME. EVEN
Françoise ..... MLLE. VENIAT
Marie ..... MLLE. ACREAT
Thérèse ..... MLLE. IDA BRASSY
Hardouin ..... M. JANVIER
Maurice ..... M. VALENTIN
Suard ..... M. BOUTHORS
Rousselet ..... M. GEORGES CAHUZAC

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Jan. 17.—*Le Bluff*, a satirical work, would have scored more success had it been written with a lighter hand. It is a strong play, but painfully heavy. Dr. Hardouin, a medicial practitioner in a small provincial town, does not get on in the world. Too honest to "bluff" his fellow creatures, he is constantly in financial straits. Even his servants' wages have not been paid. Nor has he the consolation of finding moral support at home. His wife reproaches him for his lack of shrewdness; Thérèse, his eldest daughter, is suffering from religious mania; and his son Maurice is a young scamp, a gambler. Fortunately there is Françoise, his younger daughter, a charming girl on whom he has centred all his affections. Georges Laisné, Maurice's friend, wants to marry Françoise. The girl likes George, but the young man's family insist on a dowry of 50,000 francs. "I don't possess a cent!" says the unhappy doctor to his son." "What does that matter?" replies Maurice. "All you have to do is to promise the money. You will become director of the new sanatorium, and will soon be in a splendid position." Hardouin hesitates, and a few days later he is informed that a Dr. Rousselet has been appointed head of the sanatorium. This is a crushing blow for Hardouin. Yet, at his wife's and son's instigation, he promises to give his daughter the before-mentioned sum. He still has has a chance of becoming famous and rich. He has a serum for the cure of tuberculosis, but the experiments he made are not conclusive; and he discovers to his sorrow that his serum only gives temporary relief. He is quite disheartened, but his wife and son implore him to announce that he has discovered a sure remedy for the cure of phthisis. He at first rebels against this bluff. When, however, his servant Marie, who is suffering from consumption, consents to be inoculated by him, he consents to try the effects of his invention on her. All at once he finds himself celebrated and rich. The new remedy is adopted everywhere. Unfortunately, his happiness does not last long. Marie grows daily worse, and Hardouin, unable to carry on this deceit, confesses to the world that his serum is useless. He has a fearful scene with his wife and son, but he prefers to become poor once more than to impose upon the public and scatter death around him. His sole consolation is to see his dear Françoise happily married to Dr. Rousselet, the director of the new sanatorium. M. Janvier supplied a splendid sketch of the luckless Hardouin, but the other rôles were not well interpreted.

THE second piece, *La Petite Dame du Second*, is a humorous sketch by MM. André Mycho and Vincent Hyspa, both well known in the Montmartre artistic cabarets. Lucienne's husband receives an anonymous letter informing him that his wife deceives him with a certain Gaston. The husband resorts to the old trick. He pretends to leave town, and in the morning comes to the house with the police commissary and a locksmith to catch his erring wife and her accomplice *flagrante delicto*. When Gaston hears the knock at the bedroom door he promptly manufactures a rope with three long sheets and makes his escape through the window. As he alights on the pavement he stands face to face with his friend Lagrinche, who has just been discharged from prison. "What are you doing?" asks Lagrinche, "You have been committing a burglary?" "Of course I have," says Gaston; "my pals are still busy upstairs. And, as we want someone to help us, you had better hang on to the rope. My pals will pull you up." The guileless Lagrinche does as he is told. He is hoisted up into the room, and Lucienne swears that this man is not her lover, but a common housebreaker, whereupon poor Lagrinche is of course arrested.

WE have had several new plays at the Théâtre du Grand Guignol, but M. Max Maurey wisely refrained from giving us those blood-curdling scenes for which his house is so famous. The first is called *Diplôme*. Alice has studied medicine and obtained her degree. But, as she has no patients, she lives under the protection of an elderly gentleman, M. Rabouin. The latter happens to call on Alice at a moment she does not expect him, and is on the point of bestowing her favours on a young, fascinating poet, who has only just time to hide himself in the adjoining room. But how will she get rid of M. Rabouin? She tells him he does not look well, sounds him, says he is suffering from the heart, and finally sends him to consult a specialist. But the poet, who has overheard this pseudo-consultation, is very frightened. He says he experiences the same symptoms described by Alice, and, pale and trembling, he takes his hat to see also a specialist. And Alice, left alone, throws her doctor's certificate on the floor and tramples upon it.

THE second piece, *La Revenante*, by M. Jean d'Aguzan, is rather melancholy. In a well-lighted room Bernard, a grey-haired man, awaits the arrival of his wife. Supper is ready on the table, and several of Bernard's cronies are keeping him company. The door opens, and in walks, not the anxiously-expected wife, but a youth, the son of a gentleman in the neighbourhood. He cannot reach home that night, and asks Bernard to let him stay there until the following morning. Bernard is delighted. The youth will be one more guest to drink the health of the lady of the house; and when Bernard has left the room to meet his wife on the road the cronies inform the young man that Bernard has become mad twenty years ago, when his wife, returning from a journey, was assassinated. But, on the anniversary of the crime, he expects her and she comes. He alone sees her. Again the door opens, and Bernard enters, talking to an invisible being in the most loving manner. Suddenly he turns pale, staggers, and, throwing out his arms as if to embrace the invisible figure, he drops down dead.

THE evening's entertainment wound up with *Une Lecture*, by M. Adrien Vély. We see an unfortunate author reading a play to a manager, who does not listen to him because he is thinking of bills he has to meet and of his mistress in whom he has but little faith. And the author is obliged to swallow the most extraordinary remarks and suggestions; and, finally, he reads the end of his work to the office boy because the manager has disappeared.

I AM sorry to have to chronicle the death of M. Pierre Laugier, one of the sociétaires of the Comédie-Française. He was only forty years old, and was struck down whilst nursing his little daughter, who had caught scarlatina. A few days before his death I had seen him in *Le Voyage de M. Perrichon*, one of his best rôles. A year and a half ago he took M. de Féraudy's place when that gentleman resigned his post as professor at the Conservatoire, and he was greatly beloved by all his pupils. His répertoire was most extensive, and he was always ready to undertake any rôle at the eleventh hour. An honour to his profession, a gentleman in the highest sense of the word, Pierre Laugier will be regretted by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

THE seventh anniversary of the London Hippodrome was celebrated on Tuesday at that fine house, where Sir Edward Moss has established a record in having run a variety entertainment twice daily for that period, embracing 4,382 consecutive performances.

A MASS meeting of the artists, the musicians, and stage hands is to be held on Sunday at the Surrey Theatre, by permission of Mr. Frank Macnaghten. The meeting will emphasise the triple alliance between the V.A.F., the Musicians' Union, and the National Association of Theatrical Employees, and will be addressed by the officials and representatives of each society. Mr. Will Crooks, M.P., the Labour Member, will preside.

ALBERT RETSIL, the collier, and his fifteen-year-old daughter, who worked in a brass-finisher's shop in Sheffield, will attempt to duplicate the Zancigs' performance at the Stratford Empire on Monday next and during the week. The girl gave exhibitions of "thought-reading" while at school, and she and her father declare it is very simple to imitate the Zancigs.

THE late Shah, Muzaffir-el-Din, came to this country in 1903, and spent a pleasant evening both at the Empire and the Hippodrome. In recognition of the courtesy and kindness shown to him by Mr. Harry Hitchins, and Mr. (now Sir) Edward Moss, he conferred on those gentlemen the Order of the Lion and Sun.

MR. AUBREY FITZGERALD, the well-known comedian, is the latest acquisition of Mr. Joseph Wilson, and he made his début on Monday at the Tivoli in a couple of capital songs. Mr. Fitzgerald has thought out his own business, which is exceedingly novel, and his "Sixty-five minutes from Bond-street" made an immediate hit. He eschews the bald head, the red nose, and the loose trousers, and is funny without any such aid.

MESSRS. CHAPPELL AND CO., LTD., in answer to inquiries from the musical profession and the music trade as to the actual costs incurred by them in their successful prosecution of Willetts for criminal conspiracy in connection with music piracies, and also about their costs in connection with securing the passing of the recent Musical Copyright Act, state that the cost of the Willetts prosecution amounted to 3000 guineas, and the cost of the Leeds prosecution to 1000 guineas. Parliamentary expenses beyond this amounted to £2500—a total of £6700. Towards this amount they have received some £2000.

MR. AUBREY HYMAN, who departs to-day for the Rand, was the guest of a number of professional and other chums at a pleasant little dinner on Sunday evening at the Boulogne Restaurant. Mr. R. A. Roberts, the well-known protean from the Palace Theatre, occupied the chair, and seated around were Messrs. Sydney and Harry Hyman, E. A. Pickering (acting-manager of the Palace), Tom Claxton, Tom Rice, Bert Howell, Ernest Aplin, J. Laurie Graydon, C. Henderson, Ernest Edelsten, and Ben Nathan, who was in the vice-chair. A telegram of birthday congratulations was sent during the dinner to Mr. Richard Warner, and in the small hours the company, at the invitation of Mr. Ben Nathan, adjourned to the Eccentric Club.

MISS VESTA VICTORIA, who voyaged across the Atlantic per the Carmania, arrived at New York on Sunday. The fine vessel carried 1000 passengers, and was delayed a day in consequence of "head seas," which in the Atlantic at this time of the year are particularly troublesome. Despite the weather, the passengers found opportunity for considerable festivity, and at a concert aboard when Miss Victoria sang three of her favourite songs £100 was raised for the benefit of the Liverpool and New York Seamen's charities. Mr. George Armstrong (son of Madame Melba) and his bride also travelled by the Carmania, and on landing were met by the famous prima donna, who is singing at the Manhattan Opera House.

IN order to afford still greater facilities to the expert operators of the Urban Company, the management of the Alhambra has had constructed a new and spacious cinematograph chamber, with an electrical equipment which is without its equal in the world. It is (as, indeed, is the entire theatre, and every inch of scenery and drapery within it) absolutely fireproof, and is out of the view of the public, being merged in the scheme of rich Moorish decoration. The apartment will be used for the first time on Monday, when some very beautiful and realistic scenes of the Atlantic Ocean will be added to the programme.

D'ARC'S Marionettes, billed at the Hackney Empire next week, are one of the greatest novelties before the public. These comedians and comediennes in miniature are life-like and electrifying. George Robey, Fanny Fields, R. G. Knowles, Harry Lauder, May Henderson, Eugénie Fougere, and other well-known stars find waxwork impersonators. The only thing that is colossal about this turn is the brain of the originator. The act may be compared to seeing a grand benefit performance through the wrong end of the opera-glasses.

MR. HERBERT DARNLEY, whose production, *Freaks*, will be seen at Hackney Empire next week, belongs to an old theatrical family. Talking of his relatives, he says: "Our family, indeed, must have been a perfect godsend to those theatrical proprietors who wished to run a large pantomime on economical lines, for, starting with my father, who would produce the pantomime and play the Baron, or the Wicked Uncle, or some such dramatic character; my eldest brother would fill the principal comedy rôle; the next brother and myself would play, say, the Ugly Sisters; one of my aunts the second boy; another the second girl; and yet another some female comedy part. In addition to this, we usually performed the entire harlequinade. For all this work we would receive a joint salary hardly so large as an ordinary comedian would get nowadays."

MR. AND MRS. FRED H. GRAHAM (Miss Nellie Dent) have concluded a long and highly successful engagement with Mr. Harry Rickards, playing their original musical comedy sketches in Sydney and Melbourne. Mr. Williamson made them a flattering offer to appear in *The Spring Chicken*, with pantomime to follow, but they were unable to accept, having just signed their third contract to tour New Zealand, where they have become firm favourites.

LATE on Saturday night at Hengler's Circus, upwards of 200 Chinese residents of London attended, and when Prince Fee Lung, the Chinese magician, entered the ring he received an extraordinary ovation. His fellow-countrymen stood up and yelled "How-How," the Chinese equivalent of "Hurrah," and danced with enthusiasm when a Celestial waved a Chinese flag.

THE Bioscope at the Palace Theatre showed the football match between Fulham and Stockport to a record audience on Saturday night, and on Monday a picture, the first of a long series of illustrations of Japanese industries, depicting fan-making was shown at length. On the screen is seen the extraordinary rapidity with which paper fans are "turned out" by hand manufacture, and the quaint designs which are now so familiar to Englishmen are shown in their preparation and on their completion.

MR. WALTER DE FRECE has bought out the shares of Messrs. Longden and Dottridge in the Leeds Queen's Theatre (Limited), and will wind up the dramatic season at that house with a week of the Moody-Manners' Opera Company, and between then and the opening of the place as a music hall during the first week in March the theatre will be in the hands of the painters, decorators, and upholsterers.

IT will be run on the popular system of two houses a night as a comfortable, family music hall, with a good, clean, all-round, entertaining programme. Mr. de Frece's father, Mr. Harry de Frece, was the first to introduce the system of two shows a night twenty-six years ago at the Old Gaiety Theatre, Liverpool. The present Queen's Theatre, Leeds, it will be remembered, was opened by the Hon. F. S. Jackson on Dec. 22, 1898, the Rev. A. Robins, then vicar of St. Barnabas, acting as chairman on that occasion.

IN reference to the new Alexandra Theatre, Belfast, the plans have been rejected by the City Council, and our correspondent informs us that Mr. Leicester Jackson has instructed his architect to prepare new plans for a more substantial theatre, which will be a permanent structure, and that the building will be completed as quickly as possible. The new Hippodrome is fast approaching completion, and should be ready for opening on April 1.

DURING the past week Mrs. John Lawson has been appearing at the Bordesley Palace in *The Devil's Sunday*. This strong episode met with an extraordinary success on the Monday night, and "house full" boards have been in requisition all the week. Without a doubt this gifted lady is at her best in the part of Fay. Next week Mrs. Lawson and company go to Belfast.

ARTISTS engaged at the Liverpool Hippodrome and Olympia, rival houses, met on the evening of the 11th inst. in the "Little Wooden Hut" in Farnworth-street, and indulged in a most delightful dance until the early hours of next morning. This pleasing little annual was founded some three years ago by Mr. Harry Wright, of the Cyprus Hotel, Farnworth-street, to whom thanks are due for the excellent arrangements he made, and the providing of pretty decorations. So popular has the annual become that the increased attendances will make the provision of larger premises necessary.

DR. WALFORD BODIE has been giving the patrons of Terriss' Theatre a change from the drama this week with his own company, and has been playing to packed houses nightly. Mr. Melville has booked him for all his theatres, and has also made him a handsome offer to make him the hero of a drama written round him to give his own act. Dr. Bodie returns on Monday to the Empire, Portsmouth, at the biggest salary ever paid to any artist in this country.

THE first sod was cut for the new Palace Theatre of Varieties at Reading on Thursday, the 10th, by Miss Queenie Seymour. The situation is admirable, being in the centre of the town close to the spot where three lines of tramways cross. The plot is 80ft. wide by 159ft. deep, and has frontages to two streets. The building, which is planned by Mr. R. W. G. Sprague, is 70ft. by 120ft., and will hold nearly 2000 people. The contract has been secured by Messrs. T. H. Kingerlee and Sons, of Oxford, who recently erected the new music hall at Putney. It is hoped to open in August.

IN succession to Mr. Davies, Mr. Page has been appointed assistant-manager at the Newport Empire. Mr. Page has been in the service of the Company at Newport in another position for three years and old friends who know him for his genial nature and capacity for work doubt not that he will prove successful in his new position.

MR. EVAN THOMAS, secretary of the Newbridge Public Hall Company, was summoned at the Abercarn Petty Sessions on Thursday, the 10th, for permitting the Newbridge Hall to be used for stage plays without a theatrical licence from the 13th to the 16th Dec. last. Inspector Groves, who gave evidence, stated that a licence was taken out years ago. The Clerk told defendant he was liable to a penalty of £80, and the Bench imposed a fine of £5 and £3 10s. costs.

THE second annual supper and ball in connection with the Belfast pantomime (*Mother Goose*) took place on Wednesday in Ye Olde Castle, Belfast, under the most successful auspices. The attendance numbered nearly one hundred, amongst those present being Miss Carlotta Levey, Miss May Moore Duprez, Miss Molly Macintyre, Miss Elsie Robey, Miss May Rawlinson, Miss Clara Bernard, Miss Etta McCann, &c. Messrs. Fred W. Warden (managing-director, Theatre Royal and Palace, Belfast), Geo. Harris (acting-manager of Palace), Jas. M. McCann (acting-manager, Theatre Royal), Martin Adeson, Wm. Cromwell, J. P. Marsden, Harrigan and Holt, &c. The varied and beautiful costumes of the ladies added much to the attractiveness of the scene—a most brilliant one.

AFTER a recherché supper, dancing was indulged in, Mr. James M. McCann being an efficient M.C. The music was efficiently supplied by Messrs. Wheatley, Quilliam, Doherty, and Duddy, of the Belfast Palace Orchestra. The arrangements reflected the utmost credit on Messrs. James M. McCann and Geo. Harris.

MR. J. C. OLIVER, the well-known illusionist, writes to inform us of the death of his father, Mr. William Ball Oliver, late superintending engineer of the East Indian Government, and proprietor of the Sutton Foundry and Engine Works, Plymouth, many years ago. The deceased gentleman, who passed away suddenly on Sunday at his residence, Howicknowle, Plymouth, at the age of 71, was well known to many members of the profession, with whom he was extremely popular. He was a cultured linguist and a great traveller. The cause of death was apoplexy, and to his deep regret the son, owing to a mistake on the part of the postal authorities, did not reach his father's bedside in time to see him alive. The deceased gentleman, who was a Mason, was buried in St. Budeaux Church, the coffin being covered with lovely wreaths sent by relatives, Masonic brethren, and friends.

A HAPPIER sight than that at the Birkenhead Workhouse on Wednesday afternoon, the 9th inst., could not be witnessed, for the large hall was crowded with smiling and expectant inmates waiting eagerly for the commencement of an entertainment generously given by Mr. D. J. Clarke, the popular proprietor of the Argyle Theatre, with the assistance of the artists from that house. There were about 400 men, 350 women, and 30 children at the entertainment.

THE turns included the Lovelaces, the New York Nippers, Nelly Farrell, Irish songstress; Henry Hallam and Josephine Stanton, in a bright little sketch entitled *A Broken Journey*; the Sisters Marion, two juvenile singers; Hill and Whittaker, in a charming speciality turn; W. J. Ashcroft, the original "solid man," an old friend of the people of Birkenhead; Fred Spry and B. S. Monti, in a laughable novelty act; and the Bioscope. Mr. Rothwell moved a hearty vote of thanks and called for three hearty cheers for Mr. Clarke and the performers. After Mr. Clarke had replied, the National Anthem was sung by all present.

MR. JOHN LAWSON has been appearing with his customary success at the Bedford and Middlesex during the past week. At the latter hall he is playing his latest "sensation," *The Devil's Sunday*. We noticed Mrs. Lawson was absent from the cast, but her very trying part was well sustained by an understudy.

MISS MARIE LOFTUS is a favourite from Thames to Tweed, and in the Lowlands and Highlands beyond. Now the Southrons have had a taste of her quality at Southampton at the De Frece house, where she has been creating a furore nightly. Of course, the popular Glesca lassie has often been to Liverpool under every conceivable management, and her recent triumphs, therefore, at the New Tivoli, of which she is naturally very proud, were a foregone conclusion.

MISS VESTA TILLEY, whose title "London's Idol" the provincial playgoers strongly dispute, will present at the Palace Theatre a scena simple in "done" and "human" in sentiment, entitled *King Baby*, in which a strong difference between husband and wife is settled by the unconscious aid of the little one. In this number Miss Tilley will for the nonce discard the male impersonator, and will wear feminine attire.

PRINCESS TRIXIE, the educated horse, has at last caught the public fancy, and the heavy correspondence that has fallen to Mr. Alfred Butt's lot during the past week or so has led that gentleman to issue a public challenge that the horse really and truly possesses a mind separate and distinct from any suggestions of her teacher, Mr. W. H. Barnes. This challenge comprises a request for a committee of independent experts, and is substantiated by an offer of £100 to hospitals should the claim be disproved. The committee will be allowed to make their own conditions, and, should it be desired, provide colours and figure and alphabetical blocks.

THE date of the M.H.A.R.A. dinner and dance, viz., Feb. 10, is fast approaching. The tickets, price 7s. 6d. each, will be on sale at the London offices on Monday next, and members and their friends intending to be present should make early application, as the accommodation is limited. At the last dinner and dance, held at the Horns, Kennington, over a hundred applicants had to be refused tickets through applying at the last moment. Special reserved tables will be arranged for parties of thirty-two and over if early notice is given, and smaller parties of members will also be particularly attended to in this direction. Other particulars will be duly announced.

MANY of our readers will hear with sincere regret of the death of Mr. W. H. Combes, who passed away on Sunday at his residence, Crediton-road, West Hampstead. For many years the deceased gentleman conducted very ably the *Entr'acte*, only giving up the management and part proprietorship of that paper some two years since through failing sight. He introduced the famous caricaturist, Mr. Alfred Bryan, to the public, and until the day of that gentleman's lamented death drawings from his pencil appeared in Mr. Combes's paper. The deceased gentleman was a genial comrade, and was extremely popular with the older generation of journalists. He was a kindly critic, and wielded a graceful pen. The closing years of his life were clouded by the affliction of his devoted and accomplished wife. Mrs. Combes has received many letters of condolence in her deep sorrow.

MR. ROBERT W. DUCE, who is relinquishing the management of the Granville, Walham Green, was endowed with a number of gifts on Saturday. Mr. Jesse Sparrow, a former general manager, handed to Mr. Duce, on behalf of friends and patrons, a diamond and ruby pin and dress stud. "From the Granville staff to Dear Old Bob" came a solid silver cigar case, thus inscribed, and a silver matchbox bearing the legend "Good luck, Bob." These were presented by Mr. James White, the stage-manager; and a silver-mounted ebony walking stick, engraved with initials, was presented by Mr. W. Machin, of the staff.

IT will be remembered that Miss Annette Kellermann, the Australian lady swimmer, last winter celebrated her hundredth performance at the London Hippodrome long before her season was concluded, the New Zealand ("All Blacks") Rugby football team joining in the festivities of that night. The "Australian mermaid's" turn of last season consisted of a most instructive exposition of the most complicated of dives, gracefully and easily executed; but in the beautiful production of Mr. Frank Parker nearly all the mermaid's best work consists of fleet glidings o'er the surface of the pellucid waters of the "Fairy Seas." These evolutions are interspersed by imitations of the graceful pirouettes of the porpoise and the pretty movements of the nautilus. Undoubtedly, Miss Kellermann and her attendant nymphs create one of the most charming effects in an enchanting water spectacle.

THE London Pavilion, Ltd., report that the gross receipts for the year just ended have amounted to £52,083 10s., and the outgoings for the same period £38,074 18s. 9d., leaving a net profit of £14,008 11s. 3d., making, with the last year's balance, £14,307 14s. 10d. available for distribution. An interim dividend of £2 per cent. for the six months ended June 30, 1906, less income tax, has been paid, and after payment of a dividend of 6 per cent. on the preference shares, the directors now recommend the payment of a further dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, less income tax, for the half-year ended Dec. 31, 1906, writing off £774 9s. 6d. from the furniture and fittings account, £1000 from the premises, &c., account, and carrying forward the balance to the current year's accounts. Mr. Hugh Astley is the retiring director, and, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

MR. PAUL KAYE'S clever comedy sketch, *The Night of the Garter*, has certainly caught on at the Palace, Hammersmith, this week, and will no doubt soon find its way to a West End hall. The little piece has been very favourably received; and the three parts are in excellent hands. Mr. Harry Taylor, from the Gaiety Theatre—who, by the way, seems none the worse for his motor spill—is quite an ideal stage dude. Miss Doris Vivien is very fascinating as Vavor, the "Gibson Girl," and Mr. Charles Byrne, as the man about town, looks and plays the part admirably.

MR. ALBERT WYNDHAM'S sketch, *Clarence's Dream*, recently at the Middlesex, sets forth the historical facts concerning King Edward IV., Gloster; and Clarence, and the treachery of Gloster towards Clarence, accusing him of conspiracy, and conniving at his murder. The dramatic strength of Shakespeare's lines imposed responsibilities upon Mr. Wyndham and his capable company, of which they acquitted themselves most artistically, and their success was undoubted.

IT is with regret that we announce the death of the wife of Mr. Joe Haynes, manager for some time under the Maltby régime of the Bedford and of the Queen's, Poplar, and now proprietor of the George, Newington Butts. Mrs. Haynes was extremely popular with members of the profession, and her death will be sincerely mourned by a wide circle of friends. The deceased lady died on Wednesday, and was buried yesterday (Friday) at Nunhead, the funeral arrangements being entrusted to Mr. Theophilus Dunkley.

THE refusal of the Liverpool theatrical licensing bench to grant Mr. William B. Broadhead, of Manchester, a provisional licence for the proposed new variety place in Lodge-lane, has been severely criticised by the general public, who consider that an injustice has been committed. The application was on all fours with those which have been made in regard to the several music halls erected in the city during recent years, and why Mr. Broadhead, who had acceded to everything suggested by the Corporation building surveyor, should be refused a fair and reasonable request passes the understanding of all right-minded people. Even proprietors of the other places of amusement, to whom, of course, Mr. Broadhead would be in opposition, admit that he was badly treated, and that the Bench should have shown more commonsense than be influenced by the opposition of a handful of religious fanatics.

MR. BROADHEAD, in a letter to the local press, points out that the plans had been approved by the Corporation surveyor, but that it was thought advisable to show them to the Bench. He had followed the wish of the authorities that he should purchase additional property in order to make the theatre front on to four streets, provided waiting-rooms, and put the building back 20ft., so as to allow of the widening of Lodge-lane. That the neighbourhood needed a place of amusement—a "temperance theatre," as he described it—was indisputably proved by the fact that the surrounding population of 100,000 were miles away from the existing theatres. Yet on the statement of a church sidesman that "the theatre would be an inducement to young people to go wrong, and, as a form of evil, would lead youths to smoke, and steal from their employers," this intelligent Bench declined to grant a public need!

A NUMBER of the magistrates are notorious for their tectotal and "moral" views, while a fair indication of the prejudice which existed was shown by the remark of one of them, "Whether there was a guarantee that the work of erecting the building would not come from Manchester." Yet no such question was put in regard to the Tivoli, in Lime-street, which, built by a Manchester firm a few months ago, was readily granted a licence.

MR. BROADHEAD points out that the extension of amusements in Liverpool has not increased in the same ratio as the population, and asserts a well-known fact that since the erection of the Hippodrome and Olympia, two "temperance" places, in West Derby-road, that thoroughfare had become more prosperous, brighter, and more respectable. Then as regards the moral question, there has been a decrease of 1777 convictions in 1906 over the previous year, and drunkenness has also decreased, the result, it is admitted on all hands, of the influence of healthy means of amusements for the people. We hope that Mr. Broadhead will persist in his efforts to provide this much-needed theatre, and will take steps to have public opinion clearly and firmly expressed when next he makes application.

MR. SID COTTERELL, who has been specially engaged to star as Hassarac in *The Forty Thieves* by Mr. Fred Granville, took a benefit at the Grand Theatre, Derby, on Friday evening, the 11th, when there was an immense audience. He was endowed with several handsome presents, including a beautiful umbrella from the boys of Derby. This is Mr. Cotterell's first year away from Old Drury for the last four years.

MR. FRED CLEMENTS, on behalf of Mr. Dan Thomas and himself, presented Mr. Fred Leighton on Saturday evening at the Hippodrome, Sheerness, with a handsome diamond ring, as a slight recognition of his great help in the production of the pantomime of *Dick Whittington*, which was such an enormous success last week. The popular manager suitably returned thanks, and the orchestra then played "For he's a jolly good fellow."

DURING the two performances at the Regent, Salford, of Miss Ella's lions on Friday, the 11th inst., Mr. H. Raymond (manager of the Regent Theatre) and Mr. Wm. Moreton (proprietor of the Ship Hotel) entered the cage and played a billiard match (two games of 15 up), which was won by Mr. Raymond.

MR. BERT SINDEN, we are glad to say, is much better, and is reported to be going on splendidly.

MR. WM. MORGAN, the veteran managing-director of the People's Palace and Aquarium, Scarborough, has been during the past few weeks confined to his house through indisposition. He is now improving, and hopes to be about again in a very short time.

MISS MABEL LAURI, at her vocal and instrumental concert (to be followed by the pantomime of *Cinderella*) on the 30th inst., at the Drill Hall, Chenies-street, Tottenham Court-road, will have the support of Miss Ethel Bringloe, Mr. Charles Knowles, the eminent Yorkshire baritone, and Mr. William Shorter, trumpeter to H.M. the King.

MISS LOIS DU CANE and her clever company in the realistic sketch *A Prodigal Wife*, by Fredk. Maxwell, proved such an immense attraction at Sadler's Wells that Mr. Baugh instantly secured it for all his London halls. Miss Du Cane and company go to the Empire, Leicester, on Monday for two weeks.

BANJOISTS such as Emil and Ediss are rare. It is not so much their dexterity—though that is wonderful enough—that astonishes the listeners, as their fine tone and their power of *sostenuto*—a most difficult accomplishment on the instrument. Tone colour is another virtue in their playing, and in their excerpts from English operas this is pleasingly conspicuous. They have recently created a furore in Dublin, and should be heard shortly in London.

THE amended plans of the alterations proposed to be made at the People's Palace and Aquarium, Scarborough, were approved at a meeting of the Corporate Property Committee on Monday evening. The difficulty which was in the way of the original plans was the proposed raising of the roof. In the amended plans the height of the roof will be unaltered. The alterations to be made consist of the conversion of the present refreshment-room and billiard saloon into a theatre, to afford accommodation for 450 seats more than is available in the present structure, giving a total seating accommodation of one thousand.

THE 497th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association was held on Wednesday afternoon, when the following were present:—Messrs. Charles Coborn (vice-president), Fred Neiman, Douglas White (hon. treasurer), Harry Blake, Ryder Slone, Fred W. Millis (vice-president), W. H. Clemart (president), Jeff. Vendome, Frank Gerald, Walter Munroe, and C. Douglas-Stuart (secretary). The minutes having been confirmed, the following financial statement up to the end of December was submitted, and was passed as read:—Reserve account, £367 13s. 6d.; deposit account, £150; current account, £338 17s. 3d.; current cash £20; total, £876 10s. 9d. Mr. George Hilton, of the Commercial Hotel, Stalybridge, was appointed agent in that town. At a special meeting of the committee next Wednesday the proposed Music Hall Exchange will be considered.

THERE is probably no more dramatic motive for a popular piece than the idea of self-sacrifice. "Greater love hath no man than this, to lay down his life for a friend." This germ has developed in many ways in the history of novels and plays, and probably never to such an effect as in the semi-historic "Tale of Two Cities," by our national novelist, Dickens. Of course, the situation itself makes for success.

THERE have been many versions of the book presented on the stage, notably *The Only Way*, to speak of immediate affairs. But to set forth in a tabloid form—to proffer in a nutshell—the infinite pathos and the entire dramatic significance of the world-renowned book must in the present instance be allowed to Mr. Soane Roby, whose sketch, *Sydney Carton's Sacrifice*, is to be played at the Camberwell Palace on Monday, the 12th.

WE can only wish *Carton's Sacrifice* as good luck as awaited *The Little Marchioness*, *Bill Sikes*, and other reminiscences from the Master, Charles Dickens, whose masterpieces have already been so skilfully adapted to the modern taste by Mr. Roby, the author of this latest sketch. For purposes of copyright *Sydney Carton's Sacrifice* was played and protected accordingly at the New Cross Empire some days ago. The mere construction of the novel renders it impossible as a transcript, and it therefore became necessary to write dialogue and situations, relying only on the book for its integral idea.

MR. GEORGE ROBEY is again utilising his limited leisure during a busy pantomime engagement in making arrangements for a football match at Birmingham in aid of the local charities, and there is every possibility of a big charity match at Villa Park on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 13, between the popular comedian's International eleven and the Aston Villa League team. Mr. Robey is hopeful of securing some famous players to assist him. The match will be under the patronage of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress and Mr. Joseph Chamberlain.

MR. ROBEY, who will defray the whole of the expenses, has hit upon an ingenious plan for increasing the receipts. Autograph postcards, signed by the comedian himself, may be obtained at the Theatre Royal, &c., the whole of the money thus obtained going to the funds. A sum of nearly £30 was collected in this way at Liverpool last year. It is hoped that the Liverpool record (£450) will be beaten.

AT the general meeting of the members of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund held yesterday at the offices, Durham House, Strand, Mr. Geo. Adney Payne in the chair, the following resolution moved by Mr. H. Mountford, seconded by Mr. Chas. Coborn, was carried unanimously:—"That this meeting should hand over to the Variety Artists' Federation the name, goodwill, and administration of the M.H.B.F., and that for the ensuing year it shall be governed and controlled by a joint committee, composed of eight members of the executive of the V.A.F. and eight members of the present committee of the M.H.B.F., with power to add to their number, but not to exceed twenty-four. Mr. Payne promised to act as president for the ensuing year.

QUITE remarkable for his talents is Mr. Harry Russon, a comedian who makes a speciality of character study. Mr. Russon is naturally very proud of the fact that he was a pupil of Mr. Albert Chevalier. He came into prominence in the London Coliseum *revue* as a member of the Dandies. His success as a precocious schoolboy somewhat startled the managerial world with the result that he has been secured by every entertainment-provider in the kingdom, his bookings extending over a period of six years. He appears during the ensuing week at the Empire, Nottingham.

MR. CHARLES OSBORNE, the celebrated song writer, surrounded by City police, appeared at the Guildhall a few days since before the Lord Mayor. He had been charged by that well-known entertainer, Mr. Minor (of Minor's Living Midgets) to accompany on the pianoforte that gentleman's living mannikin show, given on the occasion of the children's treat, at Sir William Treloar's express wish. The "evidence" of general enjoyment of their entertainment was made manifest in the usual way, the applause was unchecked by the Chief Magistrate, and the pair were bound over to come up again on a future occasion.

"BARRINGTON" designates himself an "unscrupulous pianist." Of course, the adjective is not used in any derogatory sense, for we have no reason to doubt that he treats the instrument with tenderness, only he has original ideas of his own as to the position or positions in which the performer should exhibit his prowess in octaves, arpeggios, or chords. He will demonstrate his remarkable powers at the Palace on Monday.

"THE GIRL FROM BIARRITZ," a new farcical sketch by Leonard Robson, will make her first London appearance at the Chelsea Palace on Monday. The sketch has been played for the last two months in the country, where it has met with great success. The company will include Leonard Robson, Ella Kitson, and Ivan Berlyn.

ARRANGEMENTS for the production of the living pictures at the Empire are so far advanced that the directors have fixed Monday, Jan. 28, for their presentation. Mr. Wilhelm, who is responsible for the selection of the various subjects, has endeavoured as far as possible to make the first series thoroughly representative of popular masterpieces by eminent British artists. These will include "The Bath of Psyche" and "Wedded," by Leighton; "A Silent Greeting," by Alma-Tadema; "Romeo and Juliet" and "Harmony," by Frank Dicksee; "The Huguenot," by Millais; "Ellen Terry as Lady Macbeth," by Sargent; "Hope," by Watts; "A Prior Attachment," by Marcus Stone; "V.R.," by H. Wells; "The Death of Amy Robsart," by Yeames; "La Marquise de Pompadour," a gem of Boucher, from the Wallace collection; and "Gentlemen, the King!" a patriotic toast, suggested by a picture of Chevalier Taylor. There will also be several representations of statuary and bronzes, and a revival of "The Lost Chord," a picture that was such a success when last shown at the Empire. In all, the first series will include some twenty subjects, with a reserve to fall back upon when a change is required.

THE subscription list of the Maidstone Empire Theatre Company (Ltd.) was opened on Monday, and will close to-day. The capital of £15,000 will be divided into 10,000 shares of £1 each, and 5,000 Preference shares of £1 each. The Preference shares are to carry a fixed preferential dividend of six per cent. per annum on the amount paid up.

THE directors are Mr. G. Foster, of 4, Garrick-street, London, W.C.; Mr. Alfred Parker, of Primrose Club, Park-place, St. James's, S.W.; Mr. W. G. Clemetson, of Kirkdale, Maidstone; and Mr. T. M. Sylvester, of 217, Piccadilly, general-manager of the Hippodrome, Coventry. The object of the company is to acquire the extensive leasehold property situate at Gabriel's-hill, Maidstone, and having a frontage of 72ft., with an area of some 10,000 superficial square feet, and on which a handsome theatre of varieties is to be erected. The architect is Mr. Bertie Crewe, who remodelled the Lyceum, and planned the Bedford.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

THE Monte Carlo Publishing Co. have accepted for early publication two new songs, by Barnes and Weston, entitled, "Won't you drop me just one line?" and "The coon's conscience"; also two by Pelham, Rule, and McGhee, "Why do I ask you to love me?" and "Georgie," and Herbert Rule's funny "Whistle song," which is so pronouncedly successful in the Elephant and Castle pantomime.

Two new songs, specially written for Mr. Donald Hall, by Messrs. Harrington and Tate, entitled "Tiddy fol lol and tiddy fol lay," and "Ride in my aeroplane," will be tentatively produced by this artist at Halifax next week. Both songs have been accepted for early inclusion in the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s "Sixpenny Successes."

THE Monte Carlo Publishing Co. are issuing next week four important additions to their "Sixpenny Successes," in the shape of Miss Marie Lloyd's popular "Customs of the Country," Happy Fanny Fields' "Den he blow, blow, blow," and Miss Vesta Victoria's two new comedy numbers, "I've told his missis all about him" (a sequel to "Waiting at the church") and "I'm looking for a Don Juan." All four songs are from the prolific pens of Messrs. Harrington and Tate.

THE Monte Carlo Publishing Co. are rejoicing in the success of their two songs, "Rosie is waiting" and "Old Calabar," which are now being sung nightly at the Stoll Empires with the greatest possible success, and Messrs. Harrington and Tate, the author and composer of both numbers, are to be congratulated.

MESSRS. HARRINGTON AND TATE have been exceptionally busy, sketch-writing, during the past week, they having supplied no less than three new sketches to a like number of prominent artistes, viz.: Mr. Alec Hurley (*Cockneys in Japan*), Mr. George Leyton (*The Last Muster*), and Mr. Alfred Lester (*Married and Settled*).

MISS CONNIE EDISS tried two out of the six numbers specially written for her, by Messrs. John P. Harrington and Jas. W. Tate, viz.: "I never felt so awkward in my life," and "When I marry a millionaire," at Brighton last week, and scored tremendously with both. The Gaiety favourite is sanguine of doing big things in South Africa, with her Harrington-Tate répertoire of new songs.

MISS FLORRIE GALLIMORE, who has been instrumental in popularising many chorus songs, has produced with quite exceptional success Castling and Murphy's charming number, "On the Isle of Anglesey." At the Tivoli, Liverpool, she has had to respond to repeated encores for her rendering of this pretty lyric, which is already in great demand. The song is issued by the Star Music Company.

MESSRS. A. J. MILLS AND BENNETT SCOTT have received innumerable requests for permission to parody their phenomenal song-hit "By the side of the Zuyder Zee." Amongst others, the tempting offer of twenty guineas from a popular comedian for the right to exploit a parody and use the music surely establishes a record. They have, however, decided not to accept the offer for the present. Meantime, the "Zuyder Zee" is invading and capturing every town and village in the kingdom.

BY the way, the manager of the above Company writes to correct a wrong impression which seems to have got about to the effect that they publish only the compositions of Messrs. A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott. This is far from being the case; the Star Company have already issued and have in the press many numbers by other well-known authors and composers.

PANTOMIME producers and artists are busy preparing additional attractions for second editions; and those who have not been able to take up Mills and Scott's "Sailing in my balloon" for the opening weeks of their pantomimes, are rapidly finding positions for the same, a fact which is proved by the great number of applications for permissions received during the past few days.

MESSRS. MORLEY, of Great Portland-street, are placing on the market Edward St. Quentin's beautiful ballad, "Spring eternal," which the foremost tenors of the day are taking up with avidity. The words are altogether worthy of the genius of Clifton Bingham, better than whom no man knows how to write a song.

MR. F. V. ST. CLAIR has struck a huge success in his song "When we all begin to fly." No less than three firms have approached him with a view to its publication. After singing it three nights at Chatham one of the military bands had the chorus, playing it as the soldiers were marching out. Mr. St. Clair has also written the songs for Mr. Arthur Roseberry's new play.

THE first large edition of Kenneth Lyle's march song, "The beat of the drum," was out of print on the evening of the day it was issued in "Sixpenny Pop" form by Messrs. Francis and Day. West London was most clamorous for copies, Mr. Dennis Drew having produced the song at the Empire, Shepherd's Bush, on Monday last. A simplified pianoforte accompaniment has been supplied for this "Sixpenny Pop" by Mr. Lyle. By special permission, the song is dedicated to Mr. Oswald Stoll.

AT the New York Casino on the 6th inst. one of the greatest hits in *The Princess Beggar* was Messrs. Francis and Day's number, "Wouldn't you like to learn to love me?" which, in the hands of Miss Paula Edwardes, obtained no fewer than nine encores, and which has since been employed to play the people out with. "Echo," another publication of the Anglo-British house, was also re-demanded over and over again.

CONGRATULATIONS to Miss Vesta Victoria and to F. W. Leigh and H. E. Pether. A cable from New York announces the fact that the popular lady on opening on this her return visit to America (under Mr. Percy Williams's management), produced a song, entitled "Poor John!" by the author and composer of "Waiting at the church," which proved an instantaneous triumph. This later song and the prior stupendous winner are the only ditties supplied to Miss Victoria from the joint pens of Leigh and Pether. Messrs. Francis and Day are the publishers of "Poor John!"

MR. GEORGE COLLINS has made a huge hit with his new song "Something to warm your feet on," or "The fellows call me Jam." The words and music are by Mr. Chas. Collins, and publishing rights have been secured by the Shapiro Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd.

MISS KATE CARNEY has been extensively featuring with enormous success "On the Brighton Promenade." This song is by Mr. Chas. Collins, and the Shapiro Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., who have secured the publishing rights, will shortly issue it in their sixpenny edition.

THE Shapiro Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., have just acquired Mr. George Lashwood's new song, "Here we come gathering flats and jays," which he intends to feature immediately. The words and music are by Mr. E. W. Rogers.

MATINEES AT GLASGOW.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

DEAR SIR,—In view of what has appeared in the last two issues of one of your contemporaries, perhaps a little explanation is necessary.

I received a wire at 6.30 p.m. on January 1st (the busiest day of the year with us) which read as follows: "Hear you are playing twenty shows this week. Federation desires to know what matinées you are paying for. Urgent. Frank Gerald, Palace, Bow, E."

This being the first communication of any kind I had ever received on the subject, I certainly considered it a great liberty for either Frank Gerald or the Federation, which he is said to represent. However, I had no time, on such a busy occasion, to study the nature of my reply, so I wired as follows:—"Matinées paid for according to contracts.—Bostock." This reply was not only polite, but gave all the information which, in my opinion, the nature of the request demanded.

It must be thoroughly understood, however, that the artists appearing here had been informed (before they had even the opportunity of asking) at the rehearsals on Monday forenoon, that they would be paid for all matinées over and above the two usual ones—those whose contract allowed *only for one* being dealt with accordingly.

I was very much surprised and annoyed at the remarks made in the paper in question under the heading, "More Trust Methods." Like most other people, I like a "fair" thing; and the statements to which I refer are neither fair nor *true*.

I have been a proprietor for a good many years now, having had ten New Years in Glasgow alone. On this occasion we had twenty performances, all told, during the week, whereas my record number for New Year's week is no less than thirty-two perfórmances, *for all of which the artists have always been faithfully and promptly paid.*

Moreover, insult was added to injury by a statement in large type, that it was doubtful "WHETHER ANY OF THESE MATINEES WOULD HAVE BEEN PAID FOR HAD NOT THE FEDERATION TAKEN STEPS IN THE MATTER."

This statement does not coincide with the remarks made on me personally in the same paper to the effect that I "paid salaries in full at the Norwich Hippodrome on Christmas week"; to which might have been added that I did the same at the Ipswich Hippodrome, and that, nothwithstanding the fact that the very heavy snow-storm so paralysed our business that I actually lost £19 on the week's working on what has always been our best week in the year. In point of fact, the extra matinées at these houses *had been paid for before* the paper referred to could have left the printers' hands, and what I did at these houses on Christmas week I was fully determined to do at Glasgow and Paisley on New Year's week.

It is always good to inquire a little into a man's past character before rushing into print with rash statements about him. I have all through life tried to do my duty to every person in my employ, whether he be only night watchman or the most expensive artist appearing on our stage. In the case of the latter I do my best to make the engagement at my establishments a pleasant one. My brother-in-law and partner at Norwich looks after the welfare of the artists at that city, and my managers at Ipswich and Paisley have strict instructions to do everything in their power to promote the welfare and comfort of the artists appearing at their respective houses, whilst I myself do what I can to render them as comfortable as possible at Glasgow, and very many are the compliments I have received from time to time from artists for comfortable engagements, their only regret being that the Bostock tour was not longer than it is.

Hence it is that I feel so acutely this unjustifiable attack. Granted that I do not do the bookings for the Zoo Hippodrome, Glasgow, I am at least landlord and managing partner, and so long as I hold that position I will always act with discretion and fairness to the artists, irrespective of the artists' contract.

Let me conclude by remarking that newspaper paragraphs, such as I complain of, untrue and misleading as they are, while pleasing a few, are not conducive to any good, and seem to be intended only to promote ill-feeling between artist and manager, which is not a very desirable end. They are, I am certain, such as no right-minded artist will approve of, for after all, the money we each make is not the only thing in life. There is—or there ought to be—a little good fellowship between us, and I should be sorry if such were not the case; but if we are to be subjected to unfair criticism such as I complain of, then the question of fellow-feeling is at least buried for the time, and managers and proprietors must look to themselves.

Apologising for trespassing at such length on your space,

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
E. H. BOSTOCK.

Managing Partner, Zoo Hippodrome, Glasgow; and Sole Proprietor, Norwich, Ipswich, and Paisley Hippodromes.

Zoo Hippodrome, Glasgow, Jan. 15,

[We have much pleasure in inserting Mr. Bostock's letter on a matter of considerable moment to the members of the variety profession, to whom our columns are always open for the discussion of matters of interest.—ED. THE ERA.]

GOLF LINKS AT DEVIL'S DYKE.

The latest of Mrs. Maud Barrasford's many fine improvements of the Devil's Dyke at Brighton is the formation of the Dyke Golf Club, the preliminary meeting of which took place at the Old Ship Assembly Rooms on Thursday, the 9th. A promising 9-hole course has been laid out on the Downs commencing near the Dyke Hotel at a commodious bungalow, which will constitute the club pavilion. As there is suitable ground for the extension of the course to 18 holes, the site is admirably chosen, and members will enjoy the privilege of the professional assistance of Mr. Harris, who is private professional to their Royal Highnesses the Princess Royal and the Duke of Fife, and an additional ground professional. Colonel Finlayson, C.M.G., of Hove, has consented to act as captain; Mr. A. B. Parker is acting as hon. secretary for the first year; and Mr. W. B. Gentle is hon. treasurer. A provisional committee consists of Mr. Mackintosh, J.P., Alderman Carden, Mr. W. Colbourne, Mr. W. Leeson, Mr. B. J. Saunders, and Mr. J. A. Parks. The Mayor of Hove (Alderman Bruce Morison) and Alderman Stafford, J.P., are among the fifty or sixty members who have already been enrolled. The membership is open to ladies and gentlemen. For the latter the annual subscription has been fixed at £2 2s. No entrance fee is to be required of those who have already joined, but subsequent members will be charged £1 1s on entrance. For the ladies the entrance fee is 10s. 6d., and the annual subscription £1 1s.

Mrs. Barrasford has also arranged that ladies who do not play, and who may like to accompany their husbands, may enjoy the advantages of the club pavilion for 10s. 6d. a year. This arrangement, and the establishment of the ladies' club generally, is made possible by the convenient fact that the accommodation of the pavilion is divided into two separate suites of rooms. At the rear of the pavilion is a professional's shop for the sale and repair of clubs and the sale of balls, &c. Arrangements have been entered into for satisfactory catering, and the members will further have the use of a specially-reserved room in the Dyke Park Hotel. The links will be formally opened on Saturday, the 26th inst. The members will be called together at an early date to consider rules and to generally confirm the steps taken yesterday evening.

DEATH OF REDDICK ANDERSON.

The death has occurred with dramatic suddenness at Greenock of Mr. Reddick Anderson, at the early age of thirty-six years. The deceased, who was popular among theatrical and variety artists alike, commenced his career as an entertainer in America when only sixteen years of age. His first portrayal was that of the character of Harry Winters in *Incog*, and it was then predicted by the local Press that there was a future before him. This prediction was verified, for when he appeared as Peter Amos Dunn in *Niobe*, it was said of him by an influential journal that his acting was "faultless and faithful." His next success was in the representation of Reginald Fairfax in *The Geisha* on tour, and his singing of the song, "Jack's the boy," won for him an enviable reputation. After a long and successful run with this comic opera, he was engaged to take the character of Cabman 9,540 in *The Shadows on the Blind*. This was under the management of Mr. Terry at his theatre in the Strand. Then followed his appearance as Jack Alleyn in *The Transit of Venus*, and later he appeared as Abanazar in *Aladdin*, and in each instance quite sustained his high reputation.

On leaving the theatrical stage, and following the profession of a variety artist, success in no manner deserted him. He possessed what can be described as the happy knack of hitting the public taste, and his ditties were always up to date. As

Photo by W. H. Stephens.

THE LATE MR. REDDICK ANDERSON.

an instance of this it has only to be recorded that, on the occasion of the South African War, he was engaged by the London Hippodrome to sing his well-known patriotic song, "Another little patch of red." At the time of the Coronation of King Edward VII. he arranged for presentation a topical scena, entitled *The Seven Edwards*. The management of the London Pavilion entered into a contract for the performance, and the London Press, without a single exception, published laudatory articles. The regrettable illness of the King necessitated a premature conclusion of this patriotic and most interesting scena, which, under general conditions, would have been, not only popular, but a financial reward to the deceased, who was the originator.

The deceased at the time of his death was playing the part of Sir Charles Foden in *What the Butler Saw*, and his interment in Greenock New Cemetery, although hundreds of miles from his friends, was attended by a large number of his confrères and sympathisers. Handsome wreaths were sent by Mr. Lionel Rignold, Miss Ada Blanche, and the members of the *What the Butler Saw* company.

EALING HIPPODROME ANNIVERSARY.

On Friday evening, Jan. 11, the Hippodrome celebrated its first birthday, and two crowded houses—overflowing almost beyond even seeing point—testified to its popularity. Gradually the hostility with which Mr. Walter Gibbons' venture was viewed in certain quarters—for the loss of the "regular" stage was at first resented—has vanished, and every night an increase in the class of patrons he wishes to attract is noted. In the second year of its existence, and with even further attractions to follow, there is every promise of the favour extended to this beautiful house being increased. The numbers of the week's programme, which included Galatea, La Statue Humaine, Frank Elliston and company in *Aunt Matilda*, Mr. Charles Whittle, and Clemart (one of the best of ventriloquists), was supplemented by Mendel, the blind musician; Cosgrove and Burns, and many others. At the conclusion of the programme an adjournment was made to the Hippodrome Restaurant, where, on the courteous invitation of Mrs. Ada Roe, the manageress, some 200 guests assembled. A well-supplied buffet was at hand, and ample justice was done to all the good cheer. Later in the evening, or rather morning, a move was made for the Montague Room, where a ball and concert kept things merry until 2.30 a.m.

During an interval a gratifying event occurred in the presentation of a gold watch and chain, together with an illuminated address, to Mr. E. W. James, the manager of the Hippodrome. Mr. Geo. Taylor, who voiced the sentiments of the donors, which included the staffs of the theatre and the restaurant and some few friends, was most happy in his references to the manager's good qualities, and seized the opportunity of saying how freely he and others, including Mr. Walter Butson, had used every effort to push the interests of the house. Mr. James, replying in a few smart and pithy sentences, expressed his thanks to "one and all" for their thoughtful kindness. At the ball which followed Mr. W. Neale's band contributed a fine selection of dance music, and the friends of the musical director, who had often seen artists dance to its strains, had the advantage of "footing" it to a measure that only a stage orchestra can supply.

HORACE WHEATLEY

AT ARGYLE THEATRE, BIRKENHEAD.

Horace Wheatley the favourite Irish comedian, who always proves such a big attraction with Birkenhead people, is again paying a return visit, and is as successful as ever. He has brought with him some new items, which are distinctly good, and that the audience fully realised the ability of this star artist was at once evident by the hearty applause that was accorded him.—"Birkenhead Guardian," Jan. 16, 1907.

Horace Wheatley, one of the cleverest, if not the cleverest Irish comedian on the music-hall stage, delights all with reminiscences of MacIntyre, who, to judge by his jokes, is a very acceptable companion indeed. The adventures of "Finnigan" are also related with much humour, whilst dancing is a strong feature, as anyone who has seen Horace Wheatley will be well aware. He steps as lightly as ever, and is an undoubted success.—*Birkenhead News*, Jan. 16, 1907.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE ALHAMBRA.

"The Zancig Mystery" continues to puzzle the patrons of the well-known pleasure resort in Leicester-square. So-called thought-reading at the variety halls is not by any means a novelty, but it is extremely doubtful whether any artists have worked it so cleverly as Mr. and Mrs. Zancig. In most cases a code has been more or less plainly indicated by the varied forms in which the questions were put, but with regard to the Zancigs there is really no tangible evidence of the existence of an ordinary code. This is where the "mystery" comes in. In the meantime, the keen interest that has been taken in the remarkable performance of the Zancigs and the controversy that has taken place concerning the question, "How is it done?" have been a great advertisement for the Alhambra, and many who do not as a rule patronise the variety theatres have visited the Leicester-square establishment to see for themselves the performance of the latest professors of the art and science of thought-reading. Mr. and Mrs. Zancig have successfully passed through the ordeal of many severe tests; and we may add that on the evening of our visit the lady was frequently applauded for her quick and accurate description of the numerous articles handed to her husband. Londoners who wish to see this much-talked-about show, but have not yet done so, will have to hurry up, as the Zancigs shortly start on a tour in the provinces.

The visitor to the Alhambra should not fail to arrive in time to make the acquaintance of McGinty, and, incidentally, of Mr. J. W. Winton, the ventriloquial humorist, who introduces the young gentleman known to fame as McGinty. The latter's stage companions are an elderly gentleman and a small dog. The most pronounced and amusing characteristic of McGinty is his impudence, and he is no doubt encouraged by the laughter caused by his very personal remarks. When Mr. Winton begins to sing, the dog already mentioned sets up a dismal howl, and McGinty appeals to the vocalist to allow the poor animal to "die a natural death." Finally, McGinty is seen making his way up a pole with the ease and activity of a monkey. Mr. Winton's ventriloquial show is cleverly worked, and is meeting nightly with a big reception at the Alhambra.

De Witt, Burns, and Torrance, two male performers and a lady, are fulfilling their first engagement in England in an act entitled "The Awakening of Toys," which has met with a favourable reception. The toys, at first limp and inanimate, become live figures, representing a doll, a soldier, and a sailor with a comic make-up. The men are clever acrobatic performers, and the lady lends valuable assistance. Gobert Belling and his four-legged comedians furnish an excellent entertainment, a burlesque of the performance of the lady in short skirts who rides barebacked steeds at the circus causing much merriment. Miss Annie Mars is appearing in a new Japanese song-scena, entitled *Home Again, My Cherry Blossom*. She sings charmingly, and the chorus is well-rendered by twelve Alhambra girls. The revised edition of the grand ballet, *Parisiana*, invented and produced by Mr. Charles Wilson, with music by Mr. James M. Glover, is still one of the principal items in the programme, and the charming dances arranged by Signor Alfredo Curti afford unqualified delight. There is also the grand ballet *L'Amour*, in which Signorina Enrica Varasi as première danseuse meets with a most flattering reception. She appears as Niletta, and has the able support of Signor Amedeo Santini as Prince Nashar el Din, M. Henri Frielli as Darius (Ruler of Assyria), Signor Giovani Rosi as the high priest Nanour, Mr. T. Coventry as Nanarus, and Miss Ida Bailey as Sélika. The excellent "Urbanora" pictures include "Puck's Pranks on a Suburbanite," combining much rollicking fun with pretty artistic effects; "A Trip Through British North Borneo," a highly-interesting journey; "Her Master's Tea Service," "Across the Atlantic," and the latest topical events. The films add considerably to the attractions of an exceptionally good programme. Mention should also be made of the selections played by the excellent orchestra under the direction of Mr. George W. Byng. Mr. George Scott, the able and energetic manager, is to be heartily congratulated on the present flourishing state of affairs at "the national variety theatre."

THE BEDFORD.

The display of symmetrical womanhood in representations of the art statuary of ancient and modern masters, from Phidias to Hamo Thorneycroft, continues apace, and the latest introduction of the kind to the London public was at the Bedford on Monday evening, when a new *poseuse*, aptly styled Venus, represented some classical and modern productions that have become world-famous. The new candidate is stated to have been the model for the late Lord Leighton, and is considered to possess a figure that almost attains absolute perfection. Before a packed house at a second performance, Venus realised on a pedestal such well-known classical statues as Canova's "Venus" and "Venus de Medici," adopting a partial draping of the figure. Fanciful pictures were "The Message of Love and Its Acceptance," "Diving," "Will o' the Wisp," and perhaps the most daring of the series was the Velasquez "Venus," recently purchased by the nation, about which so much controversy raged. The final posing was for the late Lord Leighton's "Psyche at the Bath," a most successful picture. The attractiveness of the pictures will be much enhanced when the lighting arrangements are more complete than they were on the opening night. Such little details as were wanting are quite easy of adjustment, and Mr. B. Pearce Lucas and Mr. Harry Day may be congratulated on an artistic exhibition.

Another novelty in the bill is the comedy sketch, entitled *The Man Who Never Saw a Woman*, played by the Donohoes. This trio presented the incidents in the broadest spirit of extravagance—the only method—and every speech was punctuated with shouts of laughter. Jeremiah Byles, the son of a gouty and irritable elderly gentleman, has been immured—from his babyhood, apparently—in a retreat from which woman is banished. Soon after the opening of the sketch he arrives on the scene, and astonishes a maid-of-all-work—a Freearesque coquette of the area—by his artless confessions concerning the gentler sex. Finally he makes desperate love, and on a scene of energetic osculation the curtains fall. The little piece was played with much spirit, especially by the lady representing the domestic, who knows how to be funny.

One of the cleverest of the younger divisions of conjurors is Sydney Lee, who is decidedly smart and alert, and possesses a neat and most effective style. His palming of cards is exceedingly puzzling to the uninitiated. He is prodigal, too, of surprises in the way of manufacturing liquors on the instant, and secures a generous measure of applause. Boy Glen, a Lancashire lad apparently, recounts anecdotes concerning "father" that are instances of amusing exaggeration, and his comedy loses nothing of its strength by slovenly enunciation. He is admirably distinct all the time, and funny. Claire Chadwick's mysterious lady quartette may also be termed the bon-bon girls, being dressed, and prettily dressed, too, as Christmas crackers. They sing spiritedly, and score a success.

A big attraction of the bill is Mr. John Lawson and his company in *The King's Minister*, probably one of the most effective of his later pieces. The chief of the Government who saves the British Empire and keeps his honour untarnished by shooting himself is played with rare earnestness and intensity by Mr. Lawson; and Mrs. Lawson represents the young débutante at Court very prettily. The drawing-room set for the final scene is superb. In strong contrast to Mr. Lawson's dramatic thriller is Mr. George Power's laughable absurdity. Other turns in the programme are given by Mr. Will Morso, juggler; Mr. Walter Wallis, comedian; Mr. Charles Lilburn, comedian; and Miss Nellie Cotter.

THE METROPOLITAN.

Boxing Night business was almost attained on the night of our recent visit to the popular hall in the Edgware-road, and Mr. Jack Edgar's happy face beamed with satisfaction as we remarked on the fact. The news of such large crowds attending the hall should do much to aid the progress to convalescence of its popular managing-director, Mr. Henri Gros, who has had anything but a festive season. Early in the programme, Mr. Charles Bignell asks, with emphasis, of the Met. patrons, the palpitating question, "Are we downhearted?" How could they be with such a programme to mark, learn, and inwardly digest? Marie Lloyd, looking her very brightest and best in costumes fashioned with rare taste and delicacy, takes every heart captive with her bewitching style in "The custom of the country," and with the naïve frankness of the confessions of Lady Jane in a piquant monologue concerning the love protestations of a *chevalier galant*—oh, so gallant!—in a railway carriage. The *caballeros* of sunny Spain are just as ardent, according to Miss Lloyd, and the señoritas—well, their methods are not so reticent as those adopted by the maids of London; but, then, climatic influences must be taken into consideration.

Artists who are new to the Metropolitan, we think, are Eadie and Ramsden, who introduce what is called a musical pot-pourri, known as *Charlie's Visit*. Charlie happens to be in love with a girl with a very nice voice, whom he accompanies on the piano when she sings, "Mary of Argyle." But Charlie does other things. He is a wonder as an acrobatic dancer, has the gift of comedy, and, possessing an excellent voice, every word he says reaches the ears of the audience seated in the farthest recesses of the gallery.

Mr. James Fawn is an old favourite in the Edgware-road, and his song, "The Hen-pecked Jossers' Club," is as amusing as anything he has had for years. Mr. Whit Cunliffe, one of the new school of light comedians, is scoring nightly with "A different girl again"; and Mr. Burt Shepard, at the piano, parodies "In the shade of the old apple-tree." Mr. Reginald Leyland—also at the piano—ridicules grand opera in his burlesque of the recitatives and solos of soprano, tenor, and basso, and evokes laughter; and the Jees, in their celebrated sketch, *The Musical Smithy*, also add to the fun and harmony of the evening.

Mr. Joe Elvin and company appear in the sketch, *The Jockey*, which means that the audience enjoy twenty minutes of hearty laughter. How a bicyclist is forced to ride a hurdle race is shown in the hilarious concoction, and the droll Elvin, blackened and breathless, repeating his experiences with the jumping Wanderer on a dining-room table is a sight that the gods and pit do not fail to enjoy to the full. Mr. Herbert La Martine has a tuneful refrain concerning going for a soldier, and is loudly applauded for his wonderful bâton manipulating. Little Madge McCalla, promoted to single-turn business, has a pretty song as a little girl with a doll, and dances with both spirit and grace. Miss Nellie Christie scores as an eccentric character comedienne, displaying unmistakable humour; and Miss Sylvia Du Barry is heard to considerable advantage when she sings the well-known and pretty Irish melody, "Eileen Alannah."

Mlle. Irma Lorraine presents in very artistic fashion a number of creations in statuary, such as "Salambo," "Literature," "Venus," "Bacchante," "Farmer Maid," "Electra," "Mazeppa," and "The Rock of Ages," all of them copied from the works of famous sculptors. The name of Miss Ethel Dunford is also announced on the programme. Mr. Leon Zeitlin is a courteous assistant-manager, and Mr. D. M. Trytel an assiduous musical director.

THE EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

There is certainly not as yet any signs of falling off in the business that has been done at this popular house during the holidays, and on the evening of our visit it was difficult to find even standing room to enjoy the first-class programme that is being presented. Undoubtedly the tit-bit of the evening is provided by that clever duo, Clark and Hamilton, who, in their popular turn, are as entertaining as ever. Bert Clark, by his droll manner, fairly makes the house roar. Two other items which also stand out most prominently on the programme are those of two lady comediennes, both almost new to the variety stage, who can be heartily congratulated on their success. The first is Miss Elsie Enri, a very young and dainty artist of the Victoria Monks type, with whom nerves seem quite an unknown quantity. She gives a couple of most interesting numbers, entitled "Don't tell the world your troubles" and "Mr. Washington, here's your fare," both of which are most heartily received. The second is Miss Florence, who is taking the place of Miss Dolly Harmer, unfortunately indisposed, and a most capable deputy she proves herself to be. Magnificently gowned, and with a fine stage presence, she completely succeeds in holding the house from the moment of her entry until her departure. Her two numbers, "Danger, danger, danger," and "A bit later," are admirable vehicles for the display of her ability. Plenty of applause awaits her on concluding. An acceptable turn is provided by the Crown Trio—a lady and two gentlemen, all possessing well-trained voices. Their part singing is quite a treat. Charles Faning fairly convulses the house with his amusing patter and quaint antics, and his tales are well liked by the Brixtonians. Carl Rex, a comedian, has a couple of capital songs. In the one that may be entitled "Never felt so awkward in my life" he is heard to exceptional advantage. Harry Marte, who proves himself to be a past-master in the art of dancing, is deservedly applauded on concluding.

Mendel, the blind pianist, is enormously popular here, and he evokes admiration by his clever imitation of a barrel organ playing "Down at the old Bull and Bush." Another popular item in his répertoire of surprises is his presentation of three songs simultaneously. He plays "The Blue Bells of Scotland" with one hand and "Stop your tickling, Jock," with the other, at the same time singing "Annie Laurie." Miss Millie Payne, a clever comedienne, has a capital number in "The birds were singing in the morning," and her comical get-up certainly adds to the amusement she creates by her original style of humour. Douglas and Gordon introduce one or two Scotch songs and some neat and clever dancing. Robert Dohn is responsible for some clever juggling feats; and Miss Maude Nelson is heard to advantage in "When the lights are burning low."

Paul Martinetti and his clever company are here with the sensational play, *A Night Attack*, written by himself. Paul is responsible for a remarkable impersonation of Joss, a shrewd Yankee pedlar. In the second scene there is a laughable knife fight between him and a Red Indian. Alfred Martinetti gives excellent support; and Miss Clara Martinetti as Flora plays her part capitally. Mr. John Heard makes a most amusing nigger wench; and the part of Barker, a half-bred trapper, is in the capable hands of Mr. Emile Josset.

Gooseberry Junction is the title chosen for another sketch on the programme here this week. It is a musical mimetic mixture, in which several capital imitations are given, and concludes with some clever dancing. Interesting pictures on the Bioscope complete an enjoyable programme. Mr. Nelson Francis remains the popular manager, and is most capably backed up by his able and courteous lieutenant, Mr. Francis Winchcombe.

THE GRANVILLE.

At the pretty Walham Green Palace of Varieties this week the excellent all-round programme contains many items of special interest. Marie Santoi and her merry party appear in a charming little sketch, *The Japanese Tea Garden by Night*, in which Miss Santoi, supported by a capital company of singers and dancers, warbles sweetly, among other things, "Egypt," "My Japanese Josie," "The angel of my dreams," and "I'll be your girl of Japan," the Lieutenant Fairfax of the company rendering specially efficient aid vocally. The scena is prettily embellished with all the necessary accessories from the flowery land. An item of a more serious and ambitious nature is the new American dramatic sketch, *Number 99*, which, both in the telling and the acting, is well worthy of a place as a theatrical curtain-raiser. A wrongly-convicted man has returned from ten years' penal servitude, and saves a little girl from a carriage accident. She proves to be the only child of one Jack Campbell, a legal luminary, whose chambers No. 99, in his extremity, has forcibly entered for the purposes of burglary. Campbell telephones for the police, and keeps his man at the pistol point till they arrive; but his little daughter, who had been sick of the fever since her narrow escape, recognises her preserver, and all ends happily. Mr. Frank Lister acts with much rugged force and emotional sincerity as No. 99; Mr. Fred Kitchen gives a polished performance of the stern but kind-hearted Jack Campbell, and the part of the little girl is naturally and prettily played.

Mr. Arthur Reece is highly appreciated in his ditty, "When there isn't a girl about," and in his screamingly funny nursery rhymes brought up to date, which would be encored all night if the audience had their way. Bert Williams, the ventriloquist, gives a particularly bright, exhilarating, and original ventriloquial entertainment. Mr. Woolmer Young is a comedian, or, rather, one might say a character-actor, who can be very dramatic and impressive. He starts with a rollicking ditty, "Come, come, come along, boys," and then he gives the highly-effective song, "Life is a game of cards," which stamps him as something out of the common in this line of "business." Les Bollingers, the original Parisian rag painters, contribute an interesting and original turn, depicting on a dark canvas, by means of rags, a vase of flowers, a ship sailing, a snow-clad scene, and General Buller. Florence, the lady mimic, does best in her imitations of Happy Fanny Fields (a very happy effort) and Harry Champion. Percy Hannon, the American vocalist, is much applauded for his rendition of "The Admiral's Broom" and "Songs on the Veldt"; Cherry Lass sings and dances nicely in "Shy Anne" and "All I got was sympathy"; the Rohda Bros. do some new gymnastic acts on the rings and trapeze; and Goggin and Davis are vastly amusing in their comic sword-play and dancing. Joe Archer, with "Hi, Johnny, who's yer tailor?" and Bromley and Fontein, in their vocal entertainment, "The singing lesson," are quaintly amusing; and Derenda and Green, comic jugglers; Amy Sullivan, comedienne; the Scottish Meisters, who are prime favourites, with song and dance and comic quip; and the Vernon Bioscope, with "The bobby and the bob" and "The tomboys," complete the programme.

Two new appointments have been made at the Granville, namely, Mr. William H. Lennon, who has assumed the duties of acting-manager, and Mr. R. E. Wilding, who has taken up the conductor's bâton.

BARNARD'S PALACE, GREENWICH.

The usual large and delighted crowd had assembled to do full justice to the liberal catering of Mr. Dan Barnard and Mr. Frank Dent—quantity and quality are both provided for the delectation of the frequenters of this comfortable and popular hall. After the overture had been rendered with dash and spirit by the capable band, under the able direction of Mr. William Skerry, the first turn on the programme was that of Mr. George Bee, aptly described as a quaint comedian, whose songs and dance were greeted with flattering applause. Miss Amy Marsden also made an excellent impression by her clever comedy impersonation. The Treshams, juvenile comedians, were well received, and their singing, dancing, boxing, and drill were all enjoyed to the full. Their entertainment is entitled *Roads Up*. Mr. George Clifford sang "Beware" in excellent style, and thoroughly deserved the applause bestowed on him. Miss Rose Everett has a fine voice, which she uses most effectively, and her rendering of "The waves love the seashore" and "Think of your mother" were warmly applauded. Mr. Charles Rutland sang in capital style a song entitled "Doing it all the morning." A brilliantly-rendered selection from *The Gondoliers* was given by the orchestra, and this was followed by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, which exhibited some new and interesting pictures. Miss Rose Torrington sang "Oh, Amelia" and "On a penny trip" in a manner that evoked loud applause. Mr. Frank Sylvo's entertainment was very enjoyable, consisting of some clever comic juggling with cigar boxes and other articles, which he handled with great skill. Little Don's efforts to amuse were decidedly successful, and he was rewarded with a full share of laughter and applause. Mr. George Edney sang powerfully and well the excellent songs entitled respectively "Boys of the King's Royal Navy" and "Heroes of everyday life." The Campions were well received in *Polly*, followed by an admirably-executed dance. The last turn on this long and excellent bill was that of H. C. Lovell and company in their latest comedy-sketch entitled *Mlle. Pom-Pom*, in which one lady and two gentlemen appear, and each contributes a full share of amusement. The "Toreador" song was well sung, and duly appreciated by the audience.

GRAND, CLAPHAM.

An exceptionally interesting programme was presented at this hall last week, and as a result houses of liberal proportions are turning up to witness the fare provided. At the top of the bill was Joe Elvin, supported by a strong company, in *Trespassers Beware!* and its only drawback is that there is not enough of it. As the programme does not give the names of the several artists, detailed reference to them is not possible, but the little piece provides Joe, the one and only, with further opportunity of displaying his laughter-making abilities, of which it is needless to say he makes the very most. He has a part well suited to his own particular style, and the amount of humour that he succeeds in extracting from it may well be likened to a small stream, which gathers force as it proceeds, until a climax is reached, when a perfect torrent of applause bursts forth. As the temporary caretaker of the riverside house he is in his element, and at the finish he has many times to bow his acknowledgments. Jack Lane is a comedian with an amusing manner. Dressed as a Yorkshire yokel, he sings a capital song, entitled "By Gum," which is followed by some funny patter. One of the best turns on the programme was that furnished by the Ellimans. This is a musical item, and consists of the playing of several selections on different instruments. Special mention must be made of their concertina duet, which comprises several well-known and popular airs, and is enthusiastically received, an encore being conceded in the form of "Boxing Bells," a novelty which proves quite unique in its way.

Another interesting turn was that of Miss Evelyn Taylor, who is described as London's coming comedienne. She sings a couple of capital numbers, entitled "I thought I backed a winner when I married you" and "Don't know the reason why," and the applause she receives is well earned. Howard and Collinson presented their ever acceptable *Porter and the Parcel*, which is going as well as ever. On the evening of our visit, Nell Collinson appeared to exceptional advantage, her dancing being a treat to watch. Carl Lynn, described as a king of animal mimics, gives a very acceptable show, his best imitations being those of a gramophone and a "Jerusalem cuckoo," better known as a donkey. The turn presented by Dandy George and his clever little dog Rosie is a marvellous one. The pretty little animal soon shows that it is the possessor of wonderful sagacity, and her many clever tricks are the means of earning for her master most hearty applause.

Miss Rosa Loader provides plenty of fun whilst she is on the stage, and her efforts to amuse are most successful. Dressed as a slavey, she gives imitations of the singing of various people who had been at a party recently held at her mistress's house. Mueller and Coyne are a couple of amusing artists, the male member especially doing some clever tumbling and acrobatic business, which certainly deserves the applause it receives. A capital two hours' enjoyment was brought to a conclusion with some very amusing pictures on the bioscope, entitled "Following in Father's Footsteps." This is a most interesting series, and was followed most attentively. The capital orchestra, under Mr. David Dealer, were heard to advantage in their overture, "Zampa," and the artists have much to thank them for for the careful manner in which they acquit themselves in the other part of the programme. Mr. Harry Ketteman still remains in charge of the front of the house, in which he does all that is required, and receives adequate assistance from Mr. Charles Lurring.

THE LATE MR. GEO. LOCKHART.

A little over three years ago the sad news of the death of Mr. George Lockhart while attempting to prevent the escape of one of his favourite elephants came as a shock both to the variety and circus worlds. The name of Lockhart, indeed, was a household word in both hemispheres. The deceased gentleman, who had been engaged by Mr. George Adney Payne to appear at the Walthamstow Palace on Jan. 25, 1904, arrived at the Hoe-street goods yard on Sunday from Norwich with his four performing elephants. The van containing the animals was shunted into a yard for the purpose of being unloaded, and subsequently they were released from their confinement. The keepers were about to guide them towards the gate leading to Hoe-street, when suddenly the biggest of them, named "Saucy," trumpeted twice, and, following their leader, the rest of the pachyderms dashed for the gate. The keepers went in hot pursuit, and as "Saucy" was about to charge through the gate Mr. Lockhart made for the chain attached to the animal. He was driven against a goods van which was standing close to the pavement outside the gate, and was

Photo by Geo. Smith.

THE GRAVE OF THE LATE MR. GEORGE LOCKHART.

crushed to death between the van and the elephant. At the inquest which was held a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

The remains of the deceased gentleman were interred in Brighton Borough Cemetery, the site chosen by the relatives being within a few yards of the well-known tomb of the late Mr. J. F. Ginnett, of circus fame. The above illustration gives a view of the grave and very handsome monument which has been erected to the memory of Mr. Lockhart.

"QUEEN OF OLD SAMARA."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

DEAR SIR,—Our attention having been drawn to an advertisement, emanating from Mr. J. F. Lambe, in your last issue, wherein the announcement, "Queen of Old Samara," published by Francis and Day in America, appears, also to a paragraph in your "Songs, Writers, and Singers" column, in the same issue, to the same effect, may we, as the publishers of the song in question, be permitted to slightly amend what is on the face of it a somewhat misleading advertisement and paragraph?

We are the sole publishers and proprietors of the copyright of the song, "Queen of Old Samara," Messrs. Francis, Day and Hunter representing us as our agents in America, and by an arrangement entered into some months ago, the latter firm have the right to publish a number of our songs in the U.S.A. We were not aware, however, that "Queen of Old Samara" figured among these, so the authors of both advertisement and paragraph are evidently better informed on the subject of our own property than we (the owners) are!

The style in which both advertisement and paragraph are couched would lead the average reader to imagine that Messrs. Francis, Day and Hunter had considerably more to do with the song than we—its publishers—have. In common courtesy, the author of both the advertisement and paragraph (we know not if they be one), should have also mentioned the name of our firm (as the publishers) when referring to the song.

Successful songs are hard enough to get, in all conscience, and when by our unaided efforts we transform crude material into big hits like "Queen of Old Samara," we like, at any rate, a *little* of the "kudos" accruing therefrom.

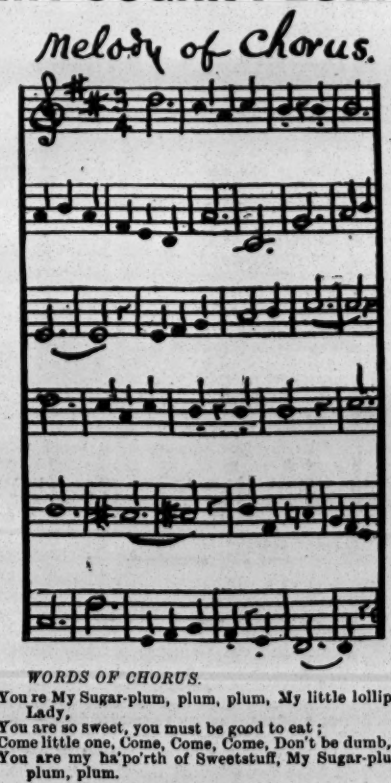
We remain, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
THE MONTE CARLO PUBLISHING CO.
3, Berners-street, Oxford-street, W.
Jan. 15.

LONDON HIPPODROME.

The mystification of audiences has become the fashion of the day at the variety places of amusement, and the latest development is to be seen at the Hippodrome. The performance given by the lady and gentleman who call themselves Trilby and Svengali is well calculated to promote further controversy in regard to the much-discussed question of thought and will transmission. The gentleman does not in the least resemble the well-known character whose name he has borrowed, though he speaks in the broken English of a foreigner who has only an imperfect knowledge of the language. He briefly introduces the lady, who takes her seat at the grand piano on the stage. The gentleman then makes his way to the stalls, and proceeds to collect from members of the audience slips of paper, provided for the purpose, on which has been written the name of a song, waltz, march, or other musical composition, or, if preferred, the selection may be communicated by a whisper to Mr. Svengali, who has no sooner ascertained the particular piece of music desired than Miss Trilby plays and sings it. Svengali does not speak, there is no apparent communication by means of signs, and he does not turn his face towards the pianist; and it is quite immaterial whether it is a song or a selection from grand or comic opera. On Monday night the lady was in quick succession called upon to sing items from *Carmen, Faust, Don Giovanni, Traviata, Cavalleria Rusticana, La Tosca, Mignon, Parsifal, Die Meistersinger, Lohengrin, Tannhäuser, La Fille du Régiment, Maritana, Amasis*, the familiar melody, "The Old Folks at Home," and, finally, "God Save the King." Trilby never made a mistake, and it is claimed that she is able to play and sing any of some 8,000 musical numbers, embracing the compositions of all nations. That the audience on Monday night were completely mystified there could be no doubt, and at the conclusion of this novel turn a gentleman rose in the stalls and said he was prepared to give £100 to any London hospital if the Zancigs succeeded in duplicating it. Svengali thanked the gentleman for his offer, and added, "I am no afraid you lose your money."

The Treasure Ship in Fairy Seas, with its striking spectacular effects and excellent company of artists, remains the leading attraction of the programme, the dance of sea nymphs by Tiller's Eight Snowdrops, and Herr Heidenreich's flying ballet, being amongst the most notable items in the production. Miss Simeta Marsden retains her part of the gallant young diver, and has the able support of Mr. Lavater Lee, Mr. J. Oma, and Fräulein Sophie. Mention should also be made of the exhibition of graceful swimming and diving given by the Misses Annette Kellermann and Gladys and Maud Finney. Other attractions include a clever and amusing performance by Hale and Francis, one of these being a particularly smart youth, who shares the honours with his elder partner. They open with some interesting feats performed with wooden hoops, and evidently only accomplished after long and patient practice. Then the adult artist causes considerable merriment by his eccentric manœuvres on a large globe, the younger performer giving valuable assistance in a novel and diverting act. Another turn that deserves special notice is Tschernoff's performing dogs and horses. One of the last-mentioned is a remarkably intelligent animal, and has been taught to play a melody to an orchestral accompaniment, by means of hanging bells, never once ringing the wrong bell. As the clever trainer is careful to hold his hands behind his back, there can be no manual instruction given to the animal, which also takes part in a little comedy scene. Having been apparently securely fastened to a post, the equine actor contrives to slip his head out of the bridle, trot to a table, devour a dainty meal, and, after placing a dog near the empty dish, resume his former position. In conclusion, Mr. Tschernoff drives a horse and trap around the stage, with dogs perched on the boxes of the wheels, and twisting in and out between the horse's legs. Selma Braatz is a young lady juggler who may fairly be said to rival the performances of many male experts in the same line of business. The Maningoes excel as head and hand balancers; and the acrobatic show given by the Kremos is beyond question one of the best of its kind. Chung Ling Soo, Chinese magician, quite maintains his well-earned reputation, his disappearing lady trick being a complete puzzle. Cruikshank, the musical clown, has won great favour here; and so, too, have Morris and Vincent, with their laughable eccentricities. Other items in the programme are contributed by the Althoffs, in their neat pedestrian act; and two Chinese girls, in a contortionist act. The Chrono-Megaphone, the latest invention in animated photography, combining sound and action, is an interesting show. Valuable services are rendered by Mr. Frank Parker as equestrian and stage-manager, by Mr. Otho Twigg as ring-master, and by Mr. Fred Trussel as acting-manager.

HARRY DACRE'S
GREAT SONG
MY SUGAR PLUM.



WORDS OF CHORUS.

You re My Sugar-plum, plum, plum, My little lollipop Lady,
You are so sweet, you must be good to eat;
Come little one, Come, Come, Come, Don't be dumb,
You are my ha'po'rth of Sweetstuff, My Sugar-plum, plum, plum.

BAND PARTS, 1/- per Set.

For permission to sing anywhere in public apply
SUCCESSFUL SONG SYNDICATE,
20, NASSAU ST., MORTIMER ST., LONDON, W.

THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

NEW YEAR'S APPEAL.

Once more we take pleasure in opening our columns to *The Era* New Year's Shilling Fund on behalf of the Music Hall Home, and in doing so we take still further pleasure in being able to associate with that appeal the names of the president of the fund, Mr. Thomas Barrasford, and Miss Vesta Victoria. Mr. Barrasford's kindly offices in connection with the Music Hall Home are well known, and the fact that he has again given permission for the use of his name in calling attention to the requirements of the home is a guarantee—if, indeed, guarantee were needed—that he is satisfied as to the way in which the institution is being conducted, and that he considers it worthy of support. It is also gratifying to be able to associate with the New Year's appeal such a prominent variety artist as Miss Victoria. When seen at her

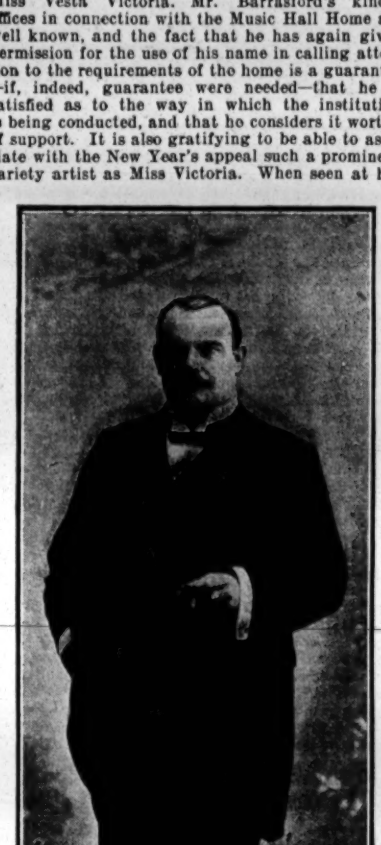


Photo by Brook.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD,
President of the Music Hall Home.

delightful home in Stockwell Park one day this week by our interviewer, Miss Victoria, who, by the way, is now commencing her preparations for her forthcoming visit to America, stated that she would be delighted to give what assistance she could in such a worthy cause. Surely, with such sponsors, the money should come rushing along with the swiftness and volume of an avalanche.

There can be no question as to the usefulness of the Music Hall Home. Its address is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E., and Mr. and Mrs. Fruin, the secretary and matron respectively, put forward every effort for the comfort of the inmates. At present there are eight of these, and the desire is to increase the number, which can only be done when sufficient funds for the purpose are collected. During the past year two or three of the temporary inmates have recovered their health and strength sufficiently to enable them to look for engagements. These secured, they left the Home, and the vacancies thereby created were immediately filled up. Now, this home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work which has been performed by the institution in the past, as this must be within the recollection of our readers. The ages of the inmates range from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the home until the day of their death, and their funeral expenses will be paid for out of the funds of the home. The vice-presidents and the committee are sincerely desirous of increasing its scope of usefulness. They would like to be in a position to afford shelter to many more deserving

Photo by Otto Sarony and Co.

MISS VESTA VICTORIA,
Who will help the Music Hall Home Fund.

members of the variety profession, who have been stricken with poverty and illness in their declining years.

We feel we need say little more. Mr. Barrasford and Miss Victoria join in a strenuous appeal for the generosity of the profession in support of *The Era* Shilling Fund. When, twelve months ago, we brought before our readers the claims of this deserving charity, a very considerable sum of money was collected in separate shillings. That last year's appeal, however, and most of the money obtained by it, are, as Miss Marie Lloyd would say, "a thing of the past, old dear." We are entering upon a new year. What is the prospect? It is that of help badly needed by many of your brother and sister artists who are, in common parlance, "down on their luck," and some of whom, by reason of their age, are likely to remain in that unhappy condition.

Mr. F. H. Pedgrift is the hon. treasurer, and he will be pleased to receive postal orders and cheques addressed to him at *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE.

The handsome hall over which Mr. Arthur J. Barclay has ruled with wisdom and success for the three years of its existence continues to receive liberal patronage. On the occasion of our visit early in the week we were glad to notice the presence of an audience as crowded as it was enthusiastic. This state of affairs speaks volumes for the absolute necessity of the Palace in this town, as the programme, while bright and merry, taken as a whole does not contain any feature of conspicuous novelty.

Lovers of music who are satisfied with the lighter form of the art with little or no secret craving for subtleties are played into good humour at the outset by the overture to Flotow's *Stradella*, admirably rendered by the orchestra under the musicianly direction of Mr. H. Petersen. The Brothers Ralston, character duettists, secure a fair amount of favour for their "coster" singing. One of the most "palpable hits" made here for some time is the appearance of Hayman and Franklin, described as American Hebrew impersonators. They appear in a little scene or sketch, entitled *A Matrimonial Agency*. It is very smart. The gentleman and the lady (tall, handsome, and beautifully costumed) keep the ball of fun rolling, and wind up with an exceptionally clever medley of well-known songs admirably sung. The applause that greeted the fall of the curtain was a fitting supplement to the continual laughter with which their sayings and doings had been greeted. Mr. Tom Parker is an eccentric comedian who sustains his claim to that description most effectively. He is full of "go" and irrepressible spirit. His first song, which might be, if it is not, entitled "Contradictions," is only a trifle outdistanced by his second, "Stop as you are!" while his dancing made the audience crave for more. Rastus and Banks, coloured American entertainers, do well as "The Major and the Maid," the gentleman especially distinguishing himself by his nimble dancing and wonderful somersaults. That well-tried and ever-popular favourite, Mr. Harry Champion, is in great form this week, and "obliges" with no fewer than three songs at each performance. Mr. Champion's extraordinary volubility is still the marked feature of his style, but, no matter with what breathless speed he rushes through his songs, he manages to make every word distinctly audible. Of his contributions to the hilarity of his admirers that unfailingly popular ditty, "You've still got your old brown hat on," may be said to hold its place as first favourite, but a new-comer, his latest success, "What a mouth!" makes the race for favour almost a dead-heat. This amusing song goes with a roar. Miss Amy Russell, possessing a soprano voice of considerable power and range, sings high-class songs artistically. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, discarding for once the exploits of mischievous boys and mad chases, shows an exquisite panoramic series of views in the far-away North of Scotland county of Ross.

The longer items of the varied programme are two in number. Firstly, we have Fred Ginnett and Co. in the time-honoured *Rejected Remounts*. The ludicrous exploits of Mr. Ginnett and his clever associates and the admirable training of the "remounts" themselves (four in number), are as full of mirth-provoking qualities as ever they were, and the audiences simply laugh themselves tired over the poor old gentleman's attempts to ride the knowing animals. Mr. Ginnett is assisted in his work by a small company, all of whom act loyally up to their leader. Much was expected from the announcement of the Boisset Troupe in the pantomime, *The Dock Strike*, and, to judge from the loud and prolonged laughter, together with the unstinted applause, they appear to have conquered Walthamstow without difficulty. Certainly the members of the entire company work with a will and an unflagging amount of energy. Mr. Joseph Grant, since he took over the stage-management here in December, has proved himself to be both capable and painstaking.

"FORESTERS" AT THE CANTERBURY.

The fourth week of Mr. Joe Elvin's stay at the Canterbury is being devoted to the revival of a sketch in which the irrepressible comedian is seen in one of his most whimsical impersonations. *Foresters' Day*, which is written by Wal Pink and Chas. Barnard, with music by the late Geo. Le Brunn, was produced at the Paragon some few years ago. It is brimful of funny episodes, and its reproduction at the Canterbury is fully justified by the laughter and cheers which come from the crowded auditorium. The hero of the story it may be recalled is Bobby Bunnion, a member of the Ancient Order of Foresters, whose attentions to Emma, a blacksmith's daughter, are rigorously opposed by the father. It is the day of the Society's annual excursion to the Crystal Palace, and the procession, headed by a brass band, storm the smithy in search of Bobby, who is habited in the picturesque regalia of the Order. Bobby insists on taking Emma with him to the Palace, but at the sight of the burly blacksmith he takes refuge in the water-tank which is used for cooling iron. In this retreat Bobby undergoes indescribable tortures every time the smith, who is engaged in forging a horseshoe, plunges the metal, hot from the anvil, into the tank. As soon as possible, Bobby makes for the flue over the forge, and the smith, in order to dislodge the obstruction, applies a quantity of gunpowder, with the result that Bobby is blown high into the air, and returns by way of the chimney to the shop below.

The part of the much-harassed Bobby is one in which Mr. Elvin revels exuberantly. It is quite on the lines of those characters with which for more than a quarter of a century he has convulsed variety lovers all over the kingdom, and brought, as it is, up to date, it possesses in an added degree the power to divert. Whether undergoing the agonies of fire in the water-tank or groping about in the grimy chimney the tireless comedian keeps the fun alive, and the audience lapses at every turn into shrieks of laughter. Mr. Elvin is supported by a number of excellent performers, who work assiduously to maintain the merriment of the piece, a brass band adding appreciably to the excitement. The sketch, which has enjoyed the personal supervision of Mr. Fred Miller, is mounted with every attention to detail, the blacksmith's forge, emitting real sparks of fire and the anvil responding in a similar way to the strokes of the hammer. The chimney, too, is adequately staged, the elevation of Bobby into the air and his subsequent return through the flue being conducted with neatness and despatch. The production, stage-managed by Mr. David Cowis, goes with a regular swing, and results in many recalls for Mr. Elvin.

"AN ACTOR'S ART."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I see that Mr. J. L. Shine has produced a protean sketch, entitled *An Actor's Art*. I wish to mention that I produced a protean sketch at the Empire Theatre, Southend, eighteen months ago, entitled *An Actor Chap*, for copyright purposes. As I am producing this sketch in the music halls in a few weeks, I wish to notify the above, so that there can be no suggestion of plagiarism.—Yours truly,

W. F. MARLOW.
(Late Manager Empire, Southend.)
Brookside, Southend-on-Sea.—Jan. 14.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—In his notice of the Hippo., Stockton, last week, your correspondent omitted to mention my name.—Yours faithfully, GEORGE CASEY, King's Theatre, Longsight, Manchester.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

AT Shotton Fair were T. Simons' galloping horses, cinematograph theatre, juvenile horse set, and park swings; T. Hall's Aunt Sally frame, cocoanut sheets, and ring-joints.

AT Barry Dock, South Wales, Mr. John Johnson is performing to packed houses nightly in the Victoria Theatre. Among the attractions is also Dooner's popular bioscope and variety theatre, with a number of up-to-date films.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to Guild funds, 1906:—Mr. G. H. Cornwell, 10s.; Mrs. John Cornwell, 5s.; collected by Messrs. T. Mitchell and Norman Hurst at Bolton football match, £1 13s.

SOME excitement was caused in Islington on Sunday afternoon when some vans arrived with a consignment of new additions to the Mammoth Menagerie now located at the World's Fair, Royal Agricultural Hall. The consignment, which arrived per steamship Narrug, at the Victoria Docks, consisted of a cassowary—an exceptionally fine specimen—another red and blue-faced mandrill—the markings of which are exceptionally brilliant—two fine lions, and a magnificent specimen of a Bengal tiger. The above-named, and the albino wallaby kangaroo (with its young), a large ourang-outang, and the three litters of lion cubs, are great acquisitions to an already grand collection of living natural history subjects, and alone worthy a visit to the World's Fair, with its monster programme, including the great circus, aerial shows, and other attractions.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, Alexandra Meadow, Penzance (proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Burnette), has sprung into favour by leaps and bounds, and on the special night set apart for he benefit of the widows and orphans of Chirgwin (coxswain) and Davies, members of the crew of the local lifeboat who lost their lives in Mount's Bay on Dec. 27, this portable and comfortably fitted-up temple o' the drama was crowded in every part. The performance was under the patronage and presence of his worship the Mayor, Mr. A. K. Barnett, and alderman and councillors of the borough.

THE receipts at the doors were taken by a local committee, Mr. and Mrs. Burnette giving everything free for the night, with the result that with no advance on the ordinary prices (ranging from one shilling to threepence) the substantial sum of £13 was added to the Mayor's fund for the sufferers, the total amount now amounting to over £300. Mr., Mrs., and Miss Burnette received a most enthusiastic call from the audience, and were warmly thanked by the Mayor and other prominent townspeople for their spontaneous action in coming forward to the assistance of so worthy a cause.

SHOWMEN AT PLAY.

GRAND FOOTBALL MATCH.
LANCASHIRE v. YORKSHIRE, AT BOLTON.

As announced in our Showman World columns a fortnight ago, Yorkshire and Lancashire met in friendly rivalry on the football field, the good motive being to give a benefit to the Vandwellers' Society funds. The match was played on the Great Lever Football Ground, Bolton, on Tuesday, Jan. 8, and all through the day the utmost enthusiasm was manifested by the friends of the rival teams.

The Yorkshiremen made their headquarters at the Wheatsheaf Hotel, and the home team were located at the Flag Inn Hotel, both well-known houses of call for showmen. Both teams had a big crowd of admirers, and special excursions were run from Yorkshire, so great was the interest in the contest.

Both teams looked fit and smart in their red and white costumes. Ald. Dickinson, chairman of the Bolton Markets Committee, kicked off, and Mr. J. T. Howcroft refereed. Lancashire at once attacked, and their backs kicking well, Yorkshire were penned in, and five minutes from the start a centre from the left was rushed into the Yorkshire net. This was the signal for a great outburst of cheering, and the renewed discharge of firearms, and the visitors had a hairbreadth escape a few minutes later, two of the Lancashire forwards getting in each others' way, and the chance was lost. As one spectator remarked, "They had got clustered together." A clever left-winger repeatedly placed the Yorkshire goal in peril, but a burly janitor made several good saves, and he watched numerous shots sail over the bar with a coolness that would have done credit to an English international. Both sides were cheered by their supporters, and amusing incidents and exciting situations kept the crowd in continual roars of laughter. But Yorkshire were not content to spend all their energies in defending, and when they made their first respectable attack, the ball was forced against the upright. Back again came the home side, and, despite splendid work by the Yorkshire backs, a slow, well-placed shot from the opposing centre-forward found its way into the net, and a real Lancashire cheer went up. Yorkshire were staggered by this second reverse, and before they had recovered their goal was again captured, and visions of gold medals floated before the eyes of the Lancashire players, who led at half-time by 3—0.

Playing uphill and against the breeze did not bother the Lancastrians in the second half, and weak goal-keeping helped them to double their first-half score before Yorkshire obtained their first goal. Both teams scored again in the closing stages, and Lancashire won hands down, their goals being scored by Bell (3), Holden (3), and Horrocks, whilst Ashcroft registered the Yorkshire goals. "Never heed," remarked a disappointed lady showman as she left the field, "anybody can play on their own ground," and then the cornetist played the "Dead March."

FINAL.

Lancashire	7
Yorkshire	2

The winning team was captained by James Fearns, the vice-captain being John Green, jun. The other members were:—Messrs. T. Holden, J. W. Holden, Dudley Dyer, W. Horrocks, W. Howorth, J. Bell, B. Harrington, R. Harrington, and at the goal, H. Cadd.

The Yorkshire team were captained by Wm. Johnson, the vice-captain being T. Morley, with Messrs. H. Morley, H. Bains, H. Johnson, J. Ashcroft, H. Miller, J. Gallagher, J. W. Burgin, A. Johnson, and Dunwell Johnson at the goal.

Both teams were the guests of the Ball Committee at the evening festival. The match created a considerable amount of interest in local football circles, and it is felt that, after so excellent a start, the Showmen's Football Match ought to be an annual event.

Messrs. Thomas Mitchell and Norman Hurst distinguished themselves by a novel and most laughable adventure and interlude at the match. Driving to the field in a grotesquely decorated donkey chaise, displaying the Lancashire colours, they were met with the initial difficulty of finding an entrance to the field. This the indomitable Lancashire lads did by lifting donkey and cart over hedges and fences. Then, with a shout of triumph, on to the field they drove at half-time. This was their golden opportunity. The adventurous young men took up a collection for the Vandwellers' Society funds. The money thus gathered amounted to £1 13s.

BURSLEM WAKES.

THE STRUGGLE TO CONTINUE.

Showmen and all who care for the fair rights of the people will be sorry to know that a majority of the Burslem Town Council still refuses to accept the plainly-expressed will of the people that the wakes should be held in its old location—the Market-square of the town.

We believe that more than one supporter of a ballot being taken was prevented by illness attending the Council and recording his vote. The enemies of the fair took every advantage of the situation, and the friends of a ballot were in a minority of nine to eleven. In pleading for the popular vote being taken, Councillor Finney said that many of the questions raised during the previous discussions could not be submitted to the ratepayers at a ballot, such as the insanitation, intoxication, and immorality attendant upon the wakes. The wakes had existed many years, and there had always been authorities who had the right to deal with offences under those heads. The law existed just as much during the wakes as at any other time. He said that it was not consistent to argue against the continuation of the wakes on the ground of its insanitary conditions and then to advocate its removal to another spot. Besides, those allegations were not proved facts, they were simply founded upon hearsay. If they removed the fair to some other part of the town, the very same things which worked mischief in the centre of the town would continue elsewhere unless they adopted efficient means of seeing that law and order were properly preserved. He had given a promise at a ward meeting to act in favour of the holding of a ballot on this subject, and he was simply fulfilling his promise. Mr. Finney remarked that a good deal was being said at the present time about the position of the House of Lords, and he thought that the position of the Aldermen of the town was not altogether unlike that House; indeed, the aldermanic vote ought not to count as strongly as that of those members of the Council who were directly elected by the ratepayers. He knew he was in a minority on the question, but he did not think they would hear from him again on the subject unless he was provoked.

Mr. J. H. Edwards seconded the proposition. He said that when he was contesting the election he was asked at a number of meetings what his opinion was regarding the wakes. He had said that he should support any proposal that a ballot should be taken. It was not for twelve men of the Town Council to overrule the voices of the ratepayers on that question.

Mr. Brodie opposed the motion. He said that the expenditure of from £150 to £180 for a ballot upon the question would be illegal. Even if there was an overwhelming vote in favour of the wakes, he should not vote for the continuance of the fair in the centre of the town. The governing body of the town had no right to obstruct the public thoroughfares of the town in the way it had done for some years, and if any tradesman were to take the necessary steps to prevent the Corporation doing such a thing he would undoubtedly win. If the wakes was tolerated any longer certain tradesmen were prepared to take such steps, and he for his part should be prepared to support them. When tradesmen had to pay toll in order to keep their shop-fronts clear, as was the case in the Market-place, it became a disgrace. They paid their rates as anyone else, and they had a right to the free passage to their shops. The question was wholly one of administration. The members of the Council were sent there to exercise their best judgment for the government of the town.

Alderman T. Edwards also opposed the proposal. He stated that he had first been in favour of a ballot, but after the way in which the Mayor had been insulted upon his first appearance at a public meeting he had changed his opinions. The times had altered very greatly. He remembered the day when the only time when people could get out for enjoyment was a fourpenny ride to Trentham and a shilling ride to Leek in a canal boat. There had been a great change, and people had far greater opportunities for pleasure and amusement. The great agitators during the present controversy were Collins and Company, and they naturally regarded the proposal from the selfish standpoint. With regard to Mr. Finney's statement as to the value of the votes of the Alderman, Alderman Edwards said the aldermanic position was none of his seeking. He had fought as many contests as most people there, and if they removed him at the end of his term, he should be quite prepared to fight again for a seat on the Council, if he had health and strength. The attitude he now took was largely created because the Mayor had been so greatly insulted when he had appeared in public for the first time, and because he was anxious to protect the dignity of the town.

Mr. Averill observed that the electoral committee that had nominated him consisted of a hundred working men, and there was only one of them who had objected to his attitude on the subject.

Alderman Cartlidge declared that the men who were so noisy at the town's meeting had been bribed, not by money, but in other ways, and an arrangement had previously been arrived at that they were not to allow anyone to speak against the wakes. Such arrangement was most cowardly, and most insulting towards the Mayor, whom everyone respected. Mr. Finney had spoken about the power of the authorities to deal with cases of drunkenness, insanitation, or immorality, but would it not be better for them to prevent such things altogether than to attempt to remedy them? He was informed that if a ballot was taken the showmen would employ every motor-car and every vehicle available to take those voters who were in favour of the wakes to the poll, and they would not care if they spent two or three hundred pounds. He did not suppose those on the side of reform would spend that amount, but if there was a poll in favour of the wakes of 40 to 1 his own opinion would be the same.

Mr. Willett asked whether, in the event of the resolution being passed and a ballot being held, the expenditure would be legal or illegal?

The Town Clerk: Such expenditure would be illegal.

Aderman Bratt said that if the question had not been hurried it would have been settled without friction. He defended Messrs. Collins, Ltd., from the attacks which had been aimed at them, and reminded the Council that that firm had treated them most generously in giving performances in aid of the Hospital Saturday Fund. The town had open spaces of land for which they had paid £6000, and they were going to do nothing with it. If they removed the wakes from the centre of the town there would be far greater danger to health than there was when the fair was held in the town.

Mr. Johnson supported the proposal. He wished it to be understood that he was not in favour of the wakes, and that he would rather support a motion for abolition than removal. He did not think it right that he, as a member of the Council, should dictate to every ratepayer in the town, and he thought that the opponents of the proposal were cloaking their intention to abolish the wakes altogether.

Alderman Wilcox Edge repudiated the suggestion that those who were not in favour of the resolution were trying to secure the abolition of the wakes. The matter was simply one of administration, and the abolition of the wakes was not involved at all. Strongly as he disapproved of the wakes, it would be a wrong thing to attempt to abolish it without having a ballot upon such a proposal, which would be a fit subject for a ballot, but a matter of detail of administration was not a point upon which to have a ballot. They were only proposing to hold the wakes under conditions which would be more sanitary, and more in accordance with public convenience.

The vote was then taken. Those in favour of the proposal were nine, namely: Alderman Bratt, Councillors Broadhurst, Edwards, Finney, Green, Jackson, Johnson, Mitchell, and Sargeant. Against the proposition there were eleven: Aldermen Cartlidge, Edge, T. Edwards, and S. Malkin, Councillors Averill, Brodie, Ford, A. H. Gibson, Porter, Wade, and Willett.

The Mayor accordingly declared the motion lost.

The point of present interest to showmen is that the members of the narrow majority that rules the Borough Council on the wakes question have refused the opportunity a ballot would have given to get in line with public opinion. That only marks another step in the fight for popular control. If not before, most certainly at the next election the electors will want to know why men who gave their word for a ballot have gone back on that word.

We are amazed at the credulity of public men. For an Alderman to assert that it was an agitation entirely carried on by Mr. P. Collins, and that it was manifestly done for selfish ends and purposes is indeed amazing. That Mr. P. Collins either originated or carried out the public appeal of the showmen in defence of the wakes is utterly outside the governing facts of the case. That Mr. Collins is a vice-president of the Showmen's Guild is true; that it was that society that ventilated question and that society that defended the maligned showpeople and truly voiced popular feeling is indeed the fact. But why? First and only because he Guild is the Society and the representative organ of showmen in all parts of the country. What was done at Burslem has been done at a dozen or more other places. Narrow-minded fanatics throughout the country have got to deal with the Showmen's Guild. It only exists to defeat injustice, and to help the show-loving public to defend their fair rights and privileges.

The question still remains as vital as ever: Will the people be overruled by the representatives who on this question do not represent the people, but only represent their own fads and fancies? Will the people take the punishment of their would-be officers "on the knee," or will they assert their sovereign will and oust the autocrats of the Council Chamber?

Of the final issue of a struggle between the people and their overlords we have no doubt.

There is a ballot that the autocrats must take—the final arbitrament of the ballot-box at election time.

THE SHOWMEN'S ANNUAL FESTIVAL AT BOLTON FAIR.

The end of the New Year Fair, at Bolton, Lancashire, was again marked by a grand ball, preceded by a supper, for show people and their many friends. The interesting celebration took place in the handsome ballroom of the Empress Hall, Mealhouse-lane. There was a big company present—between 300 and 400—representing members of the United Kingdom Van Dwellers' Association, of which Lord George Sanger is president, and to which the profits derivable from the ball are devoted. They came from all parts of the country, including London, Scotland, Brighton, Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield, &c., and among the local visitors were Ald. S. Dickinson (chairman of the Markets Committee), Councillors J. Greenwood (vice-chairman), Webster, and Warburton, with Mr. R. Pike (markets superintendent), upon whom as secretary devolved the arrangement of the gathering, as on previous occasions, this being the fifth annual event of the kind.

The principal show people included Mr. and Mrs. Kemp and party, Mr. and Mrs. Whiting and party, Mr. and Mrs. John Green and party, Mr. and Mrs. Keyes and party, Mrs. Jewell and party, Mr. Hurst and party, Mr. and Mrs. B. Mitchell and party, Mr. and Mrs. Holmes and party, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Mitchell, jun., and party, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Williams and party, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hammersley and party, Mr. George Green, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Cornwell and party, Mrs. Bowser, Mr. E. Geoghegan, Mr. H. J. Wallis, Mr. J. H. Geoghegan, Mr. B. Harrington, Mr. H. Morley, Mr. James Fearns, Mr. D. Johnson, Mr. D. Dyer, and many others. Amongst the invited guests were Mr. Fred Bibby, representing J. Bibby and Co., and Mr. Denby, representing Messrs. Stagg and Robson.

Excellent music was supplied by Mr. S. Dickinson's band, and Mr. W. Pike was an efficient M.C., whilst the catering for dinner was by Mr. Talbot, Deansgate.

During the evening the Chairman of the Committee (Alderman Dickinson) took the opportunity to wish all the company a very happy and prosperous New Year, and trusted that that night's gathering would cement the various members of the Association more closely together in friendship, and be a help to their Association. He also distributed later in the evening the medals in connection with the football match, played that afternoon on the Pawnbrokers' Ground, between the Lancashire and the Yorkshire showmen, and won by the former by seven goals to two.

Mr. F. Bibby suitably responded, and heartily thanked Alderman Dickinson for his kindly remarks. He said that if there were more men of the same kindly heart and calibre as Mr. Dickinson the show people would be better known and better respected throughout the kingdom. (Hear, hear.) Showmen, he said, had the same heart beating beneath their waistcoats as had the highest in the land. (Applause.) If some of their critics could see the extent and the respectability of the gathering that night—at which were present some of England's greatest show people—they would not have spoken in the terms they sometimes did. (Applause.)

Mr. Pike was subsequently called upon to say a few words, and he referred with gratification to the increasing popularity of that annual function. On behalf of the working committee he (as secretary) tendered thanks to the members of the Association for supporting the gathering so loyally.

The festivities were kept up with great gusto until the morning.

GREAT DRAW.

GRAHAM,

The Human Marionette.

"A Sure Top."

Agent,

GEORGE BARCLAY.

WHO IS THE MAN THAT NEVER SAW A WOMAN?

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.

President, Lord George Sanger.

Hon. Chaplain, the Rev. T. Horne.

Hon. Treasurers: W. M. Mitchell, Esq., Manchester Centre; F. H. Pedgrift, Esq., London Centre.

Hon. Secretary, T. Hurst, Esq.

Office of the Guild: *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London, W.C.

OBJECTS OF THE GUILD.

1. To conserve the business interests of all open-air amusement caterers and entertainers, whether menaced by faddist legislation or by public bodies.

2. To vindicate the character and the avocation in life of the showman whenever unjustly maligned or attacked.

3. To defend the fairs and holidays of the people whenever and wherever threatened, and to encourage all legitimate efforts for uplifting and betterment of the entertainments of the people.

Further subscriptions, whether from members, traders, or friends, may be sent to either of the hon. treasurers, the hon. secretary, or to the Guild secretary, *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

	£	s.	d.
Lord George Sanger	100	0	0
Proceeds of Rotherham Fair Benefit	25	17	0
Proceeds of Bolton Ball, per R. Pike	22	14	8
George Green	7	10	0
P. Collins	6	1	0
J. W. Waddington	5	5	0
Messrs. R. and T. Tidman	5	5	0
J. Collins	5	5	0
Messrs. C. Burrell and Sons	5	0	0
John Wilmot	5	0	0
Messrs. H. Thurston and Sons	4	4	0
Jacob Studt and Son	3	3	0
John Studt	3	3	0
J. Dooner and Son	2	12	0
G. H. Kemp	2	12	0
W. Bostock	2	2	
T. Norman	2	2	0
Messrs. Toft and Turnbull	2	2	0
Messrs. Hastings and Whayman	2	2	0
John Polkey	2	2	0
T. Hurst	2	2	0
R. Fossett	2	0	0
Anon	2	0	0
J. Relph	1	11	6
W. Pedley	1	11	6
Monte Bros	1	10	0
W. H. Marshall	1	10	0
Messrs. P. and T. Fitzpatrick	1	10	0
J. Wentworth	1	6	0
T. Payne	1	5	0
J. Gledstone	1	5	0
Per Bedford and Forrest	1	4	6
B. Howden	1	1	0
E. Farrer	1	1	0
E. Danter	1	1	0
A. Reghini	1	1	0
John North	1	1	0
Messrs. Plinston Bros.	1	1	0
H. Scard	1	1	0
Messrs. J. Bibby and Co.	1	1	0
R. H. Mellor and Sons	1	1	0
Marenghi et Cie	1	1	0
C. Purrelle	1	1	0
Goldthorpe Marshall (G.C.R.)	1	1	0
T. Smith	1	1	0
Mrs. Thornley	1	1	0
T. E. Read	1	1	0
Mrs. Pettigrove	1	1	0
Messrs. Gooding and Priestley	1	1	0
Frank Turner	1	1	0
T. Clarke	1	1	0
A. Purchase	1	1	0
Jacob Butlin	1	1	0
W. Mitchell	1	1	0
J. Hardman	1	1	0
R. H. Williams	1	1	0
Peter Knowles	1	1	0
Mrs. S. Holden	1	1	0
W. Taylor	1	1	0
T. Harniess	1	0	0
Marshall Hill	1	0	0
John Green	1	0	0
J. Johnson	1	0	0
Messrs. Sutton and Son	1	0	0
F. Gray	1	0	0
W. Clarke	1	0	0
E. Lawrence	1	0	0
T. Creber	1	0	0
Prince Samouda	1	0	0
James Wilmot	1	0	0
Walter Wilmot	1	0	0
J. Fossett	0	15	6
E. P. Holland	0	15	0
W. Le Neve	0	13	0
T. Butlin	0	13	0
Subs., per Frank Turner	0	11	6
J. Scarratt	0	10	6
T. Butlin	0	10	6
H. Studt and Son	0	10	6
W. Wilson	0	10	6
W. Moore	0	10	6
J. Wingate	0	10	6
Alf. Haydon	0	10	6
H. Tayler	0	10	6
Alf. Whitmee	0	10	6
J. Manders	0	10	6
Swales Forrest	0	10	6
George Beach	0	10	6
Wm. Beach	0	10	6
J. Delaney	0	10	6
H. Cox	0	10	6
Messrs. Simpkins, Wilkinson, and Co.	0	10	6
Wm. Kemp (L. and N.W. Ry.)	0	10	6
W. Sconce	0	10	6
Mrs. E. Baker	0	10	6
T. Baker	0	10	6
J. Davies	0	10	6
J. Proctor	0	10	6
H. Winterbottom	0	10	6
J. W. Taylor	0	10	6
— Ogden	0	10	6
— Whittaker	0	10	6
W. Greenhaugh	0	10	6
Mrs. Harrington	0	10	6
W. Munday, jun.	0	10	6
J. Bleakley	0	10	6
Mrs. Acherley	0	10	6
R. Nowall	0	10	6
J. Richards	0	10	6
H. J. Wallis	0	10	6
J. H. Geoghegan	0	10	6
H. Freeman	0	10	0
Minerva Automatic Co.	0	10	0
J. Westray	0	10	0
T. Hartshorn	0	10	0
Mrs. Tiller	0	10	0
J. W. Chipperfield	0	10	0
R. Decks	0	10	0
Mr. and Mrs. Forshaw	0	10	0
Mr. and Mrs. J. Black	0	10	0
D. Connelley	0	10	0
F. Wilson	0	10	0
W. Shuttleworth	0	10	0
A. Morley	0	10	0
H. Taylor	0	10	0
W. Fisher	0	10	0
S. Braham	0	8	6
J. Hastings	0	7	6
G. Wright	0	7	6
J. Hammond	0	5	0
R. Suett	0	5	0
H. Read	0	5	0
E. Hussey	0	5	0
T. Irish	0	5	0
W. Hussey	0	5	0
G. Saunders	0	5	0
W. Walcot	0	5	0
J. Mayne	0	5	0
G. Pickard	0	5	0
G. Taylor	0	5	0
S. Kinder	0	5	0
W. Jones	0	5	0
G. Winsper	0	5	0
J. Chadwick	0	5	0
J. Warwick	0	5	0
W. Dobson	0	5	0
E. Smith	0	5	0
J. Hughes	0	5	0
H. Murch	0	5	0
Williams	0	5	0
H. Goodall	0	5	0
J. Gray	0	5	0
W. Gibson	0	5	0
— Wilson	0	5	0
— Parker	0	5	0
G. A. Howden	0	5	0
H. Forrest	0	5	0
Mrs. Andrews	0	5	0
D. Searle	0	5	0
T. Howarth	0	5	0
Prof. Ruby	0	5	0
J. Sharpe	0	5	0
D. Williams	0	5	0
T. Stone	0	5	0
Mrs. Traylen	0	5	0
J. Edwards	0	5	0
R. Fossett, jun.	0	5	0
C. Andrews	0	5	0
C. Hyatt	0	5	0
D. Stevens	0	5	0
F. Sully	0	5	0
H. J. Birch	0	5	0
C. Biddall	0	5	0
C. Hill	0	5	0
H. Peters	0	5	0
J. Wilson	0	5	0
Mrs. A. Jewell	0	5	0
M. Thomas	0	5	0
Lorenzo Crick	0	5	0
W. Key	0	5	0
J. Dearden	0	5	0
Mrs. M. A. Henshaw	0	5	0
J. Butterworth	0	5	0
T. Slater	0	5	0
J. J. Butterworth	0	5	0
T. Burke	0	5	0
W. Makin	0	5	0
A. Whatmore	0	5	0
T. Taylor	0	5	0
T. Stanley	0	5	0
J. D. Humphreys	0	5	0
J. Ingham	0	5	0
W. Shorrocks	0	5	0
J. W. Robinson	0	5	0
W. Bradbury	0	5	0
J. Cottam	0	5	0
J. Hoadley	0	5	0
J. T. Court	0	5	0
W. Dearden	0	5	0
Mrs. Ormerod	0	5	0
Mrs. Lorenzo	0	5	0
Paul Blakey	0	5	0
W. Scott	0	5	0
H. Clayton	0	5	0
J. Sanders	0	5	0
T. Bolesworth	0	5	0
Wm. Elliott	0	5	0
Mrs. Eliza Burton	0	5	0
H. J. Rowe	0	5	0
C. Darwent	0	5	0
Mrs. Kate Massey	0	5	0
S. A. Heeson	0	5	0
A. Hutchinson	0	5	0
John Smith	0	5	0
J. Hale	0	5	0
C. Johnson	0	5	0
Wm. Blackburn	0	5	0
S. Doubtfire	0	5	0
W. Bassett	0	5	0
J. Joy	0	5	0
H. Testo	0	5	0
Mrs. M. A. Hughes	0	5	0
T. Laing	0	5	0
S. Holmes	0	5	0
J. Manning	0	5	0
C. Ive	0	5	0
S. Mayne	0	5	0
C. Barker	0	5	0
C. Brookes	0	5	0
W. Canty	0	5	0
W. Marfleet	0	5	0
T. Knighton	0	5	0
H. Ashington	0	5	0
Mrs. Bishop	0	5	0

The above list is correct in accordance with the lists sent in by various committeemen enrolling members. The Guild secretary requests that any members not listed as above will communicate at once with him, and the mistake will be rectified in future publications of the list of members' names.

MR. C. F. BOSTOCK, who was a scholar at King Edward VI. School, Norwich, during recent years, has just returned to Norwich after a lengthened tour in South Africa, New Zealand, and Australia. He left the school to take charge of his father's menagerie. He has been most successful, and brings back a rare collection of birds and animals, which will be added to the show now at Glasgow.

WORLD'S FAIR.

BIG PROGRAMME AT AGRICULTURAL HALL.

"Something for everybody" might not be an inappropriate motto for the monster display at the Agricultural Hall, for it can be said at once that the whole gamut of human tastes in the way of entertainments is catered for. In fact, the task of dealing with the huge aggregation of people, animals, and things seems to be of such magnitude that the writer is faced with the difficulty of scarcely knowing where to begin, much less where to end. However, he judges that the Circus claims, or should claim, most attention, and he will start off by saying a little about it.

THE CIRCUS.

Sixpence is the price of admission to the World's Fair, and it will cost you no more to witness the performances in the circus, although if you wish to sit down and smoke your pipe in comfort a few coppers will secure the accommodation of a chair. This grand circus, it should be mentioned, is presided over by Sir R. Fossett, a knight (not, we believe, a baronet) of the road. There is, it should be also mentioned, a change of programme every week. In a list of thirty-two items, we can scarcely be expected to give to each more than a commendatory reference, much as we should like to be able to afford the space to deal fully with this multitude of admirable entertainers. The Ernest Trio, two ladies and one gentleman, who hail from the Continent, and whose first appearance, we learn, it is in England, offer an attractive turn in the direction of double and triple reprise on one horse. Mr. and Miss Ernest present what is called a carrying act on two horses, and Miss Iona is seen in a daring and graceful equestrian act. Then there are Mlle. Montero, in her clever *haute de cole* performance; and Mlle. Convere, who treats the audience to a similar act, has a horse named Kentucky Beau, who engages in a cake walk. The Wulfrunas Troupe, seven lady and gentlemen acrobats, submit a capital comedy trifle, *Fun in a Café*, in which their marvellous body manipulating, twisting, pirouetting, and somersaulting create a feeling of wonder and surprise. Mr. Robert Fossett, jun., who is styled the champion jockey act rider of the world, gives an interesting performance on a beautiful piebald steed; and Mr. Robert Fossett introduces his magnificent trained horse, Pasha. Excitement is furnished by a coloured trainer putting several lions through some exercises; and others who assist in the entertainment are Mlle. Crockett, with her trained horse, Baby; Miss Dinnette, equestrienne, with her horse, Rajah, just returned from Bombay; Berts Trio, in their comedy horizontal bar acts; Mlle. Chloe, in her realistic revolving living statuary poses; the Leonard Trio, herculean acrobats and equilibrists; Queenie Lo Lo, gymnast and teeth suspension specialist, assisted by Little Ena; the Two Pillings, contortionists; Les Freres Baptiste, the two chefs, in their juggling act; Alfredo, in his original hoop rolling, tumbling, and bending acts; the Lloyds Trio, in their double cable funambulistic acts; Phinas and Ada, hand balancers and revolving pyramid equilibrists; Zampa and Clown, variety somersault specialists; the Itrams, in their acrobatic, gymnastic, juggling, and equilibristic acts; Funny Jacko, with his parody horse, Oxo; Mlle. Alice, in her graceful performance on the rolling globe; Mlle. Fontainbleau, with her handsome troupe of highly-trained dogs; Albeno and Alice, novelty gymnasts, in a sensational display on the revolving breakaway ladder; the Cleos, in their great swinging perch act; the Adias, as unique novelty Spanish ring gymnasts; Miss M. Fossett, the charming equestrienne; and the circus clowns and eccentric funmakers.

MID-AIR MARVELS.

In addition to the above, there are two performances worthy of special mention, namely, those of Caicedo and Siegrist and Silbon. Caicedo is known as the King of the Wire, a title, it appears, conferred on him by the King, who witnessed his remarkable doings at Ronacher's Theatre, Vienna. This is Caicedo's first engagement at the World's Fair, and he is to be seen twice daily, and will remain at the Agricultural Hall until Feb. 9. His evolutions on the high wire are exceedingly daring, and, at the same time, graceful, and one feels compelled to hold one's breath while he walks in the air in his intrepid manner. Siegrist and Silbon, the Imperial troupe of nine Viennese aerialists, also offer something of the sensational order. Their feats on the trapeze are characterised by great skill and wonderful precision, which make them less hazardous than they would otherwise be.

BOSTOCK AND WOMBWELL'S MENAGERIE.

It is quite an education in natural history to study this extremely interesting collection of birds and beasts. Mr. Harold Birkett is the manager of this department, and he was good enough to conduct us round Messrs. Bostock and Wombwell's miniature Zoo. There are no less than twenty-four lions and lionesses. One lioness, Countess, gave birth to five babies on Christmas Eve, and in an adjoining cage are four other cubs five weeks old, while alongside these are three baby lions just being weaned. Mr. Birkett is very proud in the possession of two blue-faced monkeys, who came from Central Africa, and a white wallaby, who, with her young, arrived by the ss. Narrung on Sunday last. These animals, especially the monkeys, of whom there is only one specimen in Regent's Park, are attracting considerable attention. A sacred bull from Burma is another object of great interest. Elephants, camels, a dromedary, Polar bears, llamas (or Peruvian giraffes), spotted hyænas, tigers, leopards, antelopes, orang-outang, jackals, porcupines, ostriches, a wild bear from Windsor Park, presented by the King, a variety of cockatoos, parrots, macaws, and other birds, zebras, jaguars, bears, and other animals are to be found in this instructive exhibition.

THE SIDE SHOWS.

At the side shows and stalls on the ground floor, gallery, and arcade, the visitor will have an opportunity of making himself acquainted with Miss Annetta Kirk and Professor Saraski's novel swimming performances; W. Taylor's and Chittock's cinematograph exhibitions; the Dahomey Troupe of Amazon Women Warriors; Professor Claude Low's unique scenic photography; Hastings' marvellous human wonder and lilliputian midgets; Bayley's circular switchback, Venetian gondoliers, and galloping horses; A. Twigden's American bioscope; Electric Target Co.'s rifle range; the haunted swing; the great revolving wheel, carrying passengers from floor to roof; the Channel Tunnel Miniature Railway from Dover to Calais; M. Bailey's handsome cosmorama; Taylor's electric coliseum; Slatter's circular motor-car track; autocosmoscopes, fishponds, weighing chairs; Le Neves, in feats of strength; distorting mirrors; electric fish pond; Father Christmas by balloon; Frank Turner's up-to-date exhibition of automatic novelties; also varieties of all kinds of games, amusements, &c. Then there are swings, Aunt Sallies, cock shies, and a host of similar attractions. Mr. T. E. Read has certainly organised this season's World's Fair with an eye to comprehensive details, and in the work he has been ably assisted by Mr. Fowler, the secretary.

(*For Full Report of The United Kingdom Showmen and Van Dwellers' Protection Association Meeting, see page* 13.)

OLYMPIA.

MAMMOTH FUN CITY.

It is very difficult to realise the gigantic scale upon which amusements are now provided for the London public, or, perhaps, rather for that large and annually growing body of country visitors who seek the Metropolis to spend a holiday. And nowadays the visitors to London are very largely composed of inhabitants of the great cities of the Midlands or the North, for whom the railway companies are constantly providing facilities in the way of cheap fares and special trains. One would expect that the dweller in one of the smoke-begrimed cities of the North would prefer to spend even a winter holiday in the country. Not a bit of it. Year by year he grows fonder of echoing the Powder Monkey's chorus, "Soon we'll be in London Town!" And, verily, in the huge covered arena at Olympia he will find such a plethora of various kinds of entertainments as will satisfy even his almost insatiable craving for the marvellous.

THE CIRCUS.

The proprietors are the International Fairs Company, the managing-director of which is Mr. Chas. B. Cochrane, while the acting-manager at Olympia is Mr. Wallace Jones. It is difficult to say which of the various shows, which the whole world seems to have been ransacked to furnish forth, proves the most attractive, but, to make a start with that perennial source of delight, alike to children and to their elders, the circus, we have the Cirque Metropole from Paris, under the directorship of M. Irlicht, whose wife, Mme. Irlicht, gives a graceful equestrian display. Of course, even in our childhood we were taught that the horse was an animal of high intelligence, but Mlle. Lafargue fairly astonishes us by the degree of education her two horses seem to have attained. The Chevalier Valli de Lacheski, who is also ring-master, treats us to several splendid exhibitions of horsemanship and also of the training of various animals alike of the equine and the canine species. A perfectly novel turn is the electrically-illuminated sulky, gracefully handled by Mme. Irlicht. Mlle. Gabrielle Ivanovitch causes the audience literally to hold their breath by her daring display, entitled "The Jump of Death," in which she introduces her trained horse, Pegar II. *My Lord, my Lady, and the Groom* is a novelty as far as circus-goers in this country are concerned, and in it the Prosperpi Family exhibit a wonderful amount of intrepidity coupled with that accuracy which can only be acquired by long practice. Signor Manno Aniceto gives us a jockey act which makes us think that he might well have steered some favourite past the winning-post at Epsom or at headquarters. In Mlle. Mimi St. Ange we have an accomplished exponent of the art of graceful horsewomanship; while Mlle. Durand shows us how the capabilities of scientific illumination can be utilised along with a highly-trained white horse in representing various classic statuary. Les Plattiers, musical eccentrics; Bimbo, a comical stilt-walker; and a perfect army of clowns fill up every minute of a long programme.

AERIAL ARTISTS.

We have seen a good many trapezists at various places of entertainment, but certainly Les Alex, a band of performers, five in number, far surpass anything hitherto submitted to the London public. Indeed, it is only in such an immense hall as that at Olympia that their performance could take place. It is perfectly marvellous to watch the precision with which they fly across the arena, and one cannot help being thankful for the presence of the protecting net beneath, when one remembers that the miscalculation of a fraction of an inch or of a second of time would mean inevitable disaster.

Mr. W. H. Hill has well earned his sobriquet of "Fear-Nothing," for surely the feats he performs on the high wire indicate an absolutely iron nerve and a total ignorance of that mental feeling which ordinary humanity knows as fear. One of his most popular acts is the making of his bed on the wire, after which he covers himself with the bed-clothes, and so apparently goes to rest without even the assistance of the usual balancing pole. He concludes an altogether marvellous performance by sliding from the roof to the floor suspended from the wire by his feet.

RICHARDSON'S SHOW.

Mr. Fred Karno has revived the glories of Richardson's Show, that Old Time entertainment which vanished with Bartholomew Fair, and to assist him in doing so has brought from his quiet retreat in the Charterhouse, Mr. J. A. Cave, who is probably the only survivor of the old show when it was under the management of Johnson and Lee, Richardson dying in 1836. Tradition connects the names of various famous actors with this venerable entertainment, the greatest among them being that of Kean, whose parents undoubtedly were in Richardson's employment. Mr. J. M. Jones acts as manager for Mr. Karno, and among the plays submitted are *Faust, Robert Macaire, The Miller and His Men, Alonzo the Brave, Susan Hopley, Maria Martin*, and *The Forest of Bondy*, while the performance concludes with an old-fashioned harlequinade, entitled *Harlequin's Statue; or, The Bogie and The Fairy*. The company Mr. Karno has gathered around him is a very capable one, including, as it does, Mesdames Dot Robins, Marian Holmes, Ange Waller, Maud Tribe, Maud Lloyd, and Messrs. Fred Newham, Watty Lewis, Charles Danville, D. Robins, G. Romalli, Harry Paulo, B. Burnett, F. Le Lanc, and Jonny Jonson. Mr. George Davis's band provides the musical portion of the show.

MENAGERIE.

In Mr. William Sedgwick's menagerie we have one of the most interesting and varied collections of animals to be met with, and it is apparently a source of great interest to the visitors. The show is particularly strong in its lion department. Captain Alphonso goes through an exciting performance with a seemingly particularly evil-tempered Nubian lioness, and Zarmah gives a clever entertainment in which four lions are assisted by two large boarhounds. Perhaps the most interesting exhibit of all is a sacred bull brought from Benares. As most people are aware, the bull is an object of veneration among the Hindus. Specially interesting are the four lion cubs born in the menagerie last August, and two baby elephants only a few months old.

SIDE SHOWS.

Of these the name is legion, and it is only possible to visit a few. The ostrich farm gives us an interesting lesson in the life history of the bird whose feathers are so prominent a feature on Hampstead Heath on Bank Holidays. The helter-skelter lighthouse, P. Collins's twin yachts, the whirling switch cars, miniature motors, and roundabouts provide that form of exciting amusement which depends on rapid motion of an unusual kind lasting for a few thrilling seconds. Cocoanut shies, Aunt Sallies, rifle ranges, cinematographs, mirror marvels, and other optical illusions and like entertainments are also included. A special word should be given to Miss Minni Letta, who, with her company of trained pedestrians, gives a novel performance on the rolling stage. Miss Letta's highly-trained whippet racing with his mistress on this movable platform is a sight well worth seeing. Others among the side shows are the extraordinary Moki Indians, snake eaters and snake dancers; Hale's Tours of the World, which are both attractive and instructive; Leon Gould's Hall of Mystery; the White Negress and family; Louis Lesot's Parisian salon from the Fête de Neuilly; Sidi Ben Mahomed's Turkish seraglio; Herr Bianco's Salon des Illusions; Oliver Holt's freaks and curiosities; T. Knighton's stereorama; S. Mayne's American high-flyers; Le Neve and Sullivan's athletic saloon; White's Indian menagerie, and New York's Windy Corner.

THE BAND.

No notice of this show would be complete without mentioning the excellent military band, organised and conducted by Lieut. Forrest, sometime bandmaster of the 85th King's Light Infantry. Most of the instrumentalists have been trained in the Army, and the performances given at frequent intervals throughout the day afford general pleasure to the large crowds now visiting the exhibition.

THE TERRISS.

By way of a complete change, this week we have a visit from the famous bloodless surgeon, Dr. Walford Bodie, and, needless to say, thousands are flocking to witness the doctor's marvellous treatment of the paralysed. On the occasion of our visit three Rotherhithe cases were successfully dealt with. They were a young girl, aged twenty-one, who had not been able to walk for twenty-one years, a lady whose left side and leg were paralysed, and a child with a crippled leg. Dr. Bodie's success was warmly cheered. The lighter side of the programme proved very diverting, the efforts of various persons to sit in the electric chair causing much laughter. Electric shocks were also administered to various members of the audience with amusing results, while the doctor himself also performed some marvellous feats with the aid of the current. Dr. Bodie is supported on this occasion by his own company, which includes little Dolly Robson, a very clever child singer and dancer (who, by the way, is one of the doctor's cures); the beautiful Magna, in her artistic poses plastiques; Robin, the Irish cyclist; Tom Norman Mills, the Australian actor-vocalist; Bella Skene; and Nellie Langtry, a tuneful ballad vocalist. Mr. Charles Freeman, Miss Florence Tench and company also appeared to advantage in the society sketch *Moths*.

THE MARIE WALFORD MEMORIAL,

Which has just been erected in the Macduff churchyard by Dr. Walford Bodie in memory of Miss Marie Walford (Mystic Marie), who was known as "the real Trilby" and the first in this country to introduce mental telepathy. The

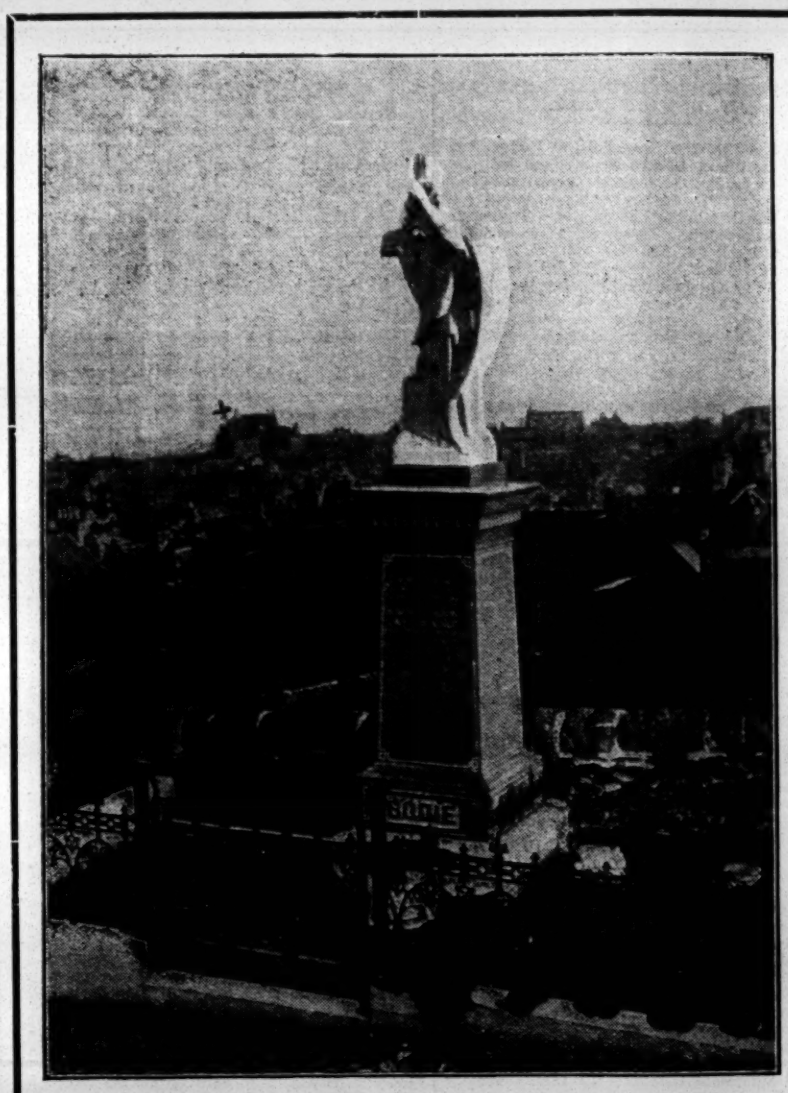


Photo by Ritchie, jun.

monument stands on a hill above the family vault, and faces the Moray Firth, standing out boldly against the town of Macduff. Dr. Bodie's country seat, the Manor House, is seen in the distance.

The inscription, which is deeply cut in gilded letters, reads as follows:—

Erected by
S. M. WALFORD BODIE,
M.D., C.M. (U.S.A.), F.R.M.S., F.R.S.A. (Lond.),
in loving and affectionate memory of
MARY WALFORD HENRY
(Mystic Marie),
for six years his gifted Musical Directress and Assistant,
who died at
The Manor House, Macduff,
19th July, 1906. Aged 21 years.

A ministering angel she has been—
Appeared with me in many a scene.
She was so humble 'midst it all,
And now has answered her last call.
Such talents as to you were sent
Filled all the world with wonderment
As, spellbound, they would speak your praise,
And marvel at your "mystic" ways.
And now your soul is called above
To mansions of eternal love
Why should we sorrow? You were good—
A type of perfect womanhood.

W. B.

A CANONBURY dressmaker, named Mrs. Phillips, on Tuesday, in the Divisional Court, sought leave to appeal from his Honour Judge Smyly (sitting at Bow County Court), who had nonsuited her in an action which she had brought against Mr. John Paterson, known to the public as "Professor Duncan," proprietor of a troupe of performing animals, in respect of a dog bite. Their lordships upheld the ruling of the County Court Judge, and declined to give leave to appeal.

MR. BOB HANLON'S health has been giving both him and his friends some anxiety, and, therefore, it is good news to hear that he is sufficiently convalescent to accompany his sons to Southampton to see them off to the Cape, under engagement to Messrs. Hyman.

THE COMIC SONG FAMINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In your last issue you say "good comic songs are as scarce as black pearls." And it would be interesting to inquire into the reason of this undoubted fact. Is it because comedians have good new numbers up their sleeves and are too indolent to learn them? Again and again is the remark heard in the halls: "What! that old song again?" when a star turn appears and renders the same effusion he has worked on that same stage at his two previous engagements. One wonders what would occur if the fiat went forth from headquarters: "All stale songs to be replaced by new numbers and changed frequently."

Or have the authors found a more lucrative line of writing? A perusal of the song-writer's advertisements in your columns reveals the fact that such is possibly the right explanation—"free" songs and pretty ballads which either sex can buy to play or sing at home appear to be the staple, though the same writers have in former years been identified with the finest comic songs of the time.

Maybe artists or writers would care to give their views in elucidation of this very noticeable scarcity through the medium of your columns.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

A LOVER OF VARIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—The scarcity of comic songs is not to be wondered at when we consider the very scanty encouragement meted out to authors of lyrics, and composers. The labourer is worthy of his hire, and any author for the halls who is worth his salt should have something more to depend upon for his bread and butter than the mere chance value put upon his efforts by a comic singer.

Writers of comic songs should certainly bestir themselves to secure what we may call a performing right. We will say a new number is sent to a well-known star by an equally well-known writer. Would it not be a fair arrangement for everybody if the writer stipulated so much cash down, and a small royalty every time the song is sung. We have known numbers that have doubled the salaries and engagements of the lucky possessors, who have given a paltry two guineas for the singing rights.

The song-writer should be in the same position as the play-writer, and until he is he will not be able to give to his inspirations the polish and thought required. I was talking the other day to a prominent sketch producer, who told me he had paid away in one year six hundred pounds in fees to authors.

Should a song, when produced, not take with the public, then, a merely nominal fee might be accepted by the writer, providing that he is paid for his successes, by the method we have sketched out above. Trusting that you will consider these remarks worthy of insertion in your valuable paper.—Yours faithfully, A BRAINWORKER.

COPYRIGHT CONVICTION.

Clifford Jones, 29, a canvasser, of Ruby-road, Walthamstow, was charged at Stratford on Monday with having in his possession nineteen copies of pirated music for the purpose of selling.

As a consequence of complaints made by the Music Publishers' Association, on Saturday night Police-constable Goodchild kept observation on the prisoner, who had a stall in High-street, Walthamstow. A number of people were standing around the prisoner, who had a book in his hand, and was apparently taking orders. The following morning the constable went to Ruby-road, and saw the prisoner leave his house, carrying a parcel under his arm. The constable followed him to Hoe-street, Walthamstow, where he stopped prisoner and asked him what he had in the package. Jones said, "It's only paper," but when it was opened it was found to contain nineteen copies of pirated music. At the police-station a slip of paper was found in his possession, bearing several names and addresses.

Prisoner pleaded that the copies were not for sale, but for his own purpose.

There was a previous conviction against him for selling pirated music, and he was ordered to pay a fine of £5 and costs, or one month's imprisonment.

The copies were ordered to be destroyed.

THE wife of Mr. Johnny O'Rourke, of Poole's Myriorama, gave birth to a daughter on the 6th inst. at Sheffield. We are pleased to learn that both mother and daugher are doing well.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR

MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS, ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

This Scale does not apply to "Trade" Advertisements in these Columns.

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THE PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

IN case of the non-delivery of "THE ERA" by the First Post, the Publisher will be greatly obliged if Advertisers will forward their Postal Wrappers with the time of delivery marked upon them.

COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.,
Feb. 25, March 4, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 22, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
Feb. 25, March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
May 6, 13, 20, 27, Aug. 5, 12, 19, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
Mar. 18, 25, April 1, 11 (3 nights), 15, 22, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
March 25, April 1, 22, 29, May 20, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
Feb. 18, March 25, April 1, 15, 29, May 6, 13, 20, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
March 25, April 1, 29, May 13, 20, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
GRAND T., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
May 6, onwards.
METROPOLE T., GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE.
Feb. 25, March 11, 18, May 6, onwards.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE.
March 25, April 8, 15, June 17.
Address, SIDNEY BACON, Metropole T., Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for
COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
March 18, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
Feb. 25, March 18, April 15, May 6, 13, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY,
Feb. 4, 18, March 4, 11, 18, 25 (3 nights only), on.
Address, E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County T., Bedford.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-Class Companies, for vacant Spring Dates,
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
March 11, 18, 25, April 8, June and July.

PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22.

Easter vacant through disappointment at Hastings and Folkestone. Big Musical Comedies Wanted; Whit Week also vacant, both Theatres; must be Big Shows, or not entertained.
H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

HOWARD and WYNDHAM, LTD.
WANTED, First-class Attraction,
Feb. 4 and 11, Glasgow.

Address, Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 11 and 18, 1907. L. CARSON, Keighley.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions only,
THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH,
Feb. 11;
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Feb. 18.
Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT,
1 and 2, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, JULIAN MALVERN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions,
Easter, Whit, July 1, 8, and on.
Bookings include "The Earl and the Girl," "The Girl Behind the Counter," "The Blue Moon," "Mr. Popple," &c.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

ALEXANDRA PALACE.
WANTED, for Easter week,
First-Class Musical Comedy
(Sharing terms).
Wanted, for Easter Monday only,
Variety Artists, Acrobats, &c.
Apply, with lowest terms (letter only), to
EDWIN GOODSHIP, Secretary and Manager.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, First-class Attractions
April 15, 29, Sept. 23, and Oct. 7.
WILLIAM MARTIN,
3, Bedford-street, Strand, London, W.C.

WANTED, First-Class Attraction,
Feb. 4,
Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.
Apply, JOHN HART, Theatre Royal, Bradford.

GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
WANTED, High-Class Musical Attractions and other London successes, for following dates: March 4, 25, April 1, May 6, 13, 20; also a few vacant dates in autumn.
FRED GRANVILLE, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, LLANDUDNO.
Under new management.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, March 1 onwards, with exceptions. The new electric trams from Conway to Colwyn Bay stop at the Theatre. Address, A. E. VAUGHAN, 2, Hope-chambers, Leather-lane, Dale-street, Liverpool.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEST BROMWICH, Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Gen.-Man., Mr. Herbert Vere.
WANTED, First-Class Melodramas, Musical Comedies, &c., vacant dates, March 11, on.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for
March 4, 18, and 25,
April 8 and 15.
Address,
THOS. SWINTON.

WANTED Companies,
Tunbridge Wells Opera House,
April 8 and 15, May 6 and 13, and Whit.
Several Autumn Season dates still open.
CHARLES CAREY.

WANTED, First-class Pantomime,
Xmas, 1907.
Address, R. SINGLETON,
Opera House and Winter Gardens, Southport.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-Class Companies, for Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, and April 1. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, Good Musical Comedy or Variety Combination, March 18, vacant through transferring. J. W. CHAPMAN, Grand Theatre, and Empire, Doncaster.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, March 4, Pantomime or other First-Class Attraction; also Companies, April 8, May 6, 13, Aug. 5, and on, with exceptions.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

The Premier Theatre in the Furness District.
Holds £90 at Ordinary Prices.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 15 (first vacant date) and May 6, on. The Spring bookings for the above include Lionel Rignold and Ada Blanche in "What the Butler Saw," "La Poupée," Charles Chard's Pantomime "Goody Two-Shoes," James Kiddie's "Dick Whittington," "Human Hearts," "The Night of the Party," Norman V. Norman, "Two Little Vagabonds," Miss Maud Hildyard, "The Traitor," Allan Wilkie, "Sapho," "Lucky Durham," "A Warning to Women," "In Holy Russia," "The Power of the Cross," "Lights Out," J. B. Mulholland's "The Electric Man," &c.

The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions Touring.

All Applications for Dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.
The leading Theatre of the Town.
The only Theatre in the Town lighted by electricity.
Stage capable of any Production Touring.
Can fly any size Cloth.
WANTED, Known, none but the best Companies booked at this Theatre.

This week, Minnie Palmer, in "My Sweetheart"; next week, "OUR IRISH VISITORS"; to be followed by Miss Decima Moore, in "All-of-a Sudden Peggy"; "The Lion and the Mouse"; "His House in Order"; &c., &c.

Vacant Dates, March 4, 11, 25, April 8, May 6, and certain later; now booking Autumn.

Apply, CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.

WANTED, High-Class Musical Comedy or latest London successes, for the following dates:—
March 4,
March 11,
March 18,
March 25,
April 22, and onwards.
Address, CHAS. E. MACHIN,
Avenue Opera House, Sunderland.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORTHING.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, two nights, one Matinée Feb. 1, 2, also one night Feb. 18, three nights, one Matinée, Feb. 7, 14, March 4, several dates onwards; also big Attraction for Easter and Whitsun; wanted, good Minstrel Troupe for week March 25, must be able to give Sacred Concerts on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

All communications to
C. A. SEEBOLD, as above.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, CARLISLE.
WANTED, Musical Comedy or West-End Attraction, for March 4, 11, and few remaining Autumn Dates; also a few dates in April and May for Drama (high-class). Bookings include Moody-Manners Opera Co., "Breed of the Treshams," "His House in Order," "Walls of Jericho," "The Dairymaids," "Mr. Popple," Norman V. Norman, "Floradora," F. R. Benson's Co., &c. Apply, THOS. COURTICE.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb. 4 and 25. Apply,
Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-street, S.W.

THEATRE ROYAL, ILKESTON.
Manager and Licensee, Mr. L. F. A. ROGERS.
WANTED, Companies, Vacant March 4 (Pantomime required), April 15, onwards.
Silence a courteous negative.

PIER THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for Feb. 18, April 1 (Easter), May 13 and 20, all June, and various dates onwards.
The Pier Theatre is the largest place of entertainment in Eastbourne, and is booked by all the principal Touring Managers. Bookings include: "The Dairymaids," "The Beauty of Bath," "The Girl Behind the Counter," "The Belle of Mayfair," "The New Aladdin," "Les Merveilleuses," "The Spring Chicken," "The Little Michus," Moody-Manners Opera Co., Compton Comedy Co., and other equally well-known attractions.
Apply, G. HAYES, Manager.

GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL.
WANTED, First-class Attractions. Musical preferred, for March 25, May, and onwards. Equitable terms given to companies that can draw money. Refer Walter Melville, Esq., as to what business can be done here with good shows.
Address, A. DE FRECE, 12, Cecil-court, W.C.

WANTED, Musical Attractions, Pantomimes, Feb. 25, March 4, Grand, Radcliffe; also March 11, April 8, Grand, Chorley. SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

WANTED, Companies, Jan. 31 (three nights), Feb. 4 (six nights), and on; change of bill preferred. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Known, Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, vacant Feb. 25, March 11 (three nights), and April onwards. Apply, KING, 2, Hungerford-road, London, N.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Feb. 11, March 4, and on, with exceptions.
W. E. POTTS.

WANTED, Dramas, to play twice nightly, Share or Certainty.
BARNARD'S Theatre Royal, Woolwich.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, ECCLES.
WANTED, First-Class London Attraction, March 4, 25, also April 8, and on, with exceptions. Please note prices now playing to: Dress Circle and Orchestra Stalls, 3s.; Pit Stalls, 1s. 6d.; Upper Circle, 1s.; Pit, 9d.; Gallery, 4d Only first-class Musical Shows and sound Attractions entertained. Theatre holds at these prices £175. Population of district, 180,000. All communications, HAMILTON BAINES, Eccles.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, March 4, April 1 (?), 22 (?), May 6, 13, and 20.
Address, FRANK KING.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.
WANTED, First-Class Dramatic Company, for March 25, vacant through obliging.
Address,
CHARLES REVILL, T. R., Stockport.

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUNDEE.
Open all the Year Round.
WANTED, Strong Attractions, Panto., Musical Dramatic, Feb. 4, 11, and onwards, with exceptions. Best terms given. Address, FRANK PERCIVAL.

GRAND THEATRE, MANSFIELD.
WANTED, No. 1 Companies,
Autumn and on.
Brick and stone Theatre, centre of town.
Electric cars pass the doors.
Stage 60 by 40. 40ft. to flies.

BRIDLINGTON SPA THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.
This theatre is being built on the site of the old one, and will be opened July 23, 1907. Holding value £100. New scenery and electricity throughout. Vacant dates, with exceptions.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only, between July 22 and Oct. 31.
HENRY HAGUE, General-Manager.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 4, 11, 18, April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20.
Apply, JAMES KIERNAN, Owner and Manager.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Best Companies, or Panto., Jan. 23, Feb. 4 (3 nights). For season dates, apply, PHILLIPS.

WANTED, for the Londesboro' Theatre, Scarborough, Comedy Companies, three nights each, Feb. 11, 18, 25, March 4, also Easter week, April 1. Apply, WADDINGTON, Stonegate, York.

COMPANIES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH, April 1, 22, 29, May 13, 20, 27. ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE, March 18, April 1, 8, 15 (?), 29.

MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

NEW ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BELFAST
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BELFAST
(next C.D. Railway Station).
Proprietors, Alexandra Theatre Co.
Above handsome new Theatre will be opened Easter,
replete in every detail, and will be run purely as a Drama House.
Popular prices: Boxes, 10s. 6d.; Orchestra Stalls, 1s. 6d. (tip-ups); Circle and Pit Stalls, 1s. (tip-ups); Pit, 6d.; Gallery, 4d.
Heated by Radiators.
Lighted by "Sunbeam" acetylene.
Stage dimensions, 38ft. deep by 60ft. wide.
Can fly 18ft. Cloths.
WANTED, the biggest Drama Productions, April 15, onwards.
Queen's, Dublin, Booked in conjunction.
J. LEICESTER-JACKSON, Greenisland, Belfast.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

WANTED, First-class Attractions,
Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25.
Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18 25.
Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25.

Wire, Wire, Wire.

R. C. BUCHANAN, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Good Companies, Jan. 28, Feb. 18, on, for Prince's Theatre, Llandudno, Queen's Palace, Rhyl, Public Hall, Colwyn Bay, CHAS. CHAPLIN, Sea View, Colwyn Bay.

CASINO, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.

WANTED, First-Class Fit-up Companies, Musical Comedy preferred; Share or Rent. Apply, THORNELL, Casino, Bexhill-on-Sea.

WANTED, Companies, rent or sharing terms, Town Hall, capacity 1,200, and Assembly Rooms, capacity 350. F. E. YOUNG, West End Parade, Pwllheli, N. Wales.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres, April 15, 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres, March 25.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, March 11, 25.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE,"
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 25, April 1, Aug. 5.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 11, 25.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Theatres, March 4 and 11.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Important Theatres, March 11, 25, April 8.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Standard Theatre, London, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 18, May 20, and Sept. 30. TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Theatres, April 8, 29, and Aug. 5.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Week of April 15, Scala Production.
Wire or write, W. W. KELLY, 8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 25, March 4, 18.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, Pardoe's Theatre, Middleton.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
In the Romantic Irish Musical Play,
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, Easter, Easter, Easter, only vacant date for this Play. Grand Production, "Rollicking Rory," Autumn. Jan. 22, Her Majesty's, Blackpool (six nights).

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Feb. 4, March 4, 18.
Address, J. W. CORDINER, New Theatre, Consett.
See Companies' advertisements, page 2.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY," No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Jan. 28, Feb 4 and 11, April 1, May 13, Autumn from Aug. 5. Address, E. C. STAFFORD, c/o Fulham Theatre, London, S.W.
Wanted, to Lease, a good Provincial Theatre.

FRANK M. THORNE'S CO.,
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this First-Class Attraction, May 6 and 20.
May 6 and 20.
Apply, F. M. THORNE, St. James's T., Manchester.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, for Musical Attractions. Feb. 4, 11, March 4, 11, Easter. Communicate, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Aug. 19, 26, Sept. 16, 23,
FRED BULMER, T. R., Croydon.

"THE LADY DENTIST," Musical Farce by Alban Atwood (part author of "Oh! Susannah!" &c.) and L. Montague.
WANTED, April 1, Good Theatre. Special songs, special dances, special company. Special printing by David Allen and Sons. ALBAN ATWOOD, 3, Parsifal-road, Hampstead.

"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON,"
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON,"
by Geo. R. Sims.
WANTED, Feb. 11 (three nights, Midlands), March 18 (London or South.)
H. HOLLISTER, T. R., Belfast.

FRANK J. PITT and CHARLES HALLING'S CO.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, for this Successful Attraction, April 29 (?), May 13, 27.
June 17, 24, July 1, on, with exceptions.
Jan. 21, Boro' Theatre, Heywood.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Feb. 11, March 7 (three nights), March 11, 25, April 29.
ATHENÆUM THEATRE, LANCASTER,
Vacant Feb. 11, March 11, 25, April 1, 8 (3 nights), May 6, 13.
Add., STANLEY ROGERS, 124, Warwick-rd., Carlisle.

MISS EVA MOSS AND REPERTOIRE CO.,
"CAMILLE." "FROU-FROU." &c., &c.
WANTED, Feb. 11 (to follow Harrogate). Feb. 25 (to precede Tunbridge Wells), also Easter.
RICHARD F. SYMONS, Alexandra Theatre, Greenock.

WANTED, First-class Theatre, for First-class Attraction, Vacant through Obliging.
Apply, ROBERT ARTHUR, 244, Regent-street, W.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.

WANTED, Dates, for
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
The Most Successful Romantic Play on Tour.
The Most Successful Romantic Play on Tour.

Brilliant Costumes,
Beautiful Scenery,
Powerful Company.

A Solid Success.
Extraordinary Business in Every Town Visited.
Owing to the Wonderful Success, the Tour will be Continued, without a break, right through Spring and Summer.
Entire New Plant of Scenery, Entire New and Costly Wardrobe, New Furnishings and Hangings, now being added, and will be ready in a few weeks.

Further Printing now being Ordered, making the Largest Display on the Road.
300 Sheets, without a repeat, 12 kinds of Lithos., 4 kinds of Throwaways, and a splendid Cast.

Vacant
April 1 8, 15, 22, 29.
April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.
April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.
April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.

Managers
with Open Time Spring, Summer, and Autumn are requested to Communicate.

MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES,"
April 1, 8, 15.

MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Dates for this Great Play,
April 1, July 3, 10, 17, Aug. 6.

MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Dates, for above Powerful Play; also
"DAY TO DAY,"
and
"THE LITTLE OUTCAST."
Making the Strongest Dramatic Répertoire on Tour.
Vacant Feb. 4, 18, March 4, 11, 18.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

CHARLES CAREY
presents
"THE PICK OF THE BUNCH."
Full Chorus, Ballet, and a Cast Second to None.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Vacant March 4, 11, 18, and 25,
May 27 (follow Ramsgate),
June 10 (precede P. O. W., Birmingham),
Sept. 23 (follow South Shields).
The tour will continue through the summer.
CHARLES CAREY,
Opera House, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, Large Theatre, for Easter, for "The Price of Her Soul." Address,
JOHN H. SHINTON, 44a, Morat-street, Brixton, S.W.

"THE ASSASSIN,"
by E. Hill-Mitchelson, Esq.
WANTED, April 29, May 6, Aug. 5, on.
April 29, May 6, Aug. 5, on.
AUGUSTINE KNIGHT, Grand Theatre, Luton.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR,"
By Eva Elwes.
An Unqualified Success.
WANTED, Feb. 11, 18, March 4. Sumptuously staged, all special cut printing, and played by one of the best provincial casts touring.
Wire, E. A'DELL, T. R., Yeadon, Leeds.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 18, Easter, onwards, with exceptions, for the above attraction.
Address, F. BROOKE WARREN, 8, Wellington-road, Southport.

WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 4 and 25, for Miss MAUD HILDYARD,
Whit week and Aug. 5, Oct. 7, on, for
"THE MIDNIGHT MAIL,"
April 8, Aug. 5, Oct. 21, 28, Nov. 11, on, for
"THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH."
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

"AN UNWEDDED WIFE."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 4 and 11
See Companies' Page.
J. EDWARD WHITTY,
Wires to-day, P.T., Blackburn; letters, T.R., Batley.

WANTED, Dates, Feb. 4, 18, April 1, 8,
"TOMMY,"
by Jerome K. Jerome
Miss ANNIE HUGHES as TOMMY.
A striking success.—Daily Telegraph.
Address, Miss ANNIE HUGHES, 41, Portman-mansions, Baker-street, W.

WANTED, Theatres, for "At the World's Mercy," vacant Jan. 28, Feb. 25, and "The Sharlotte Entertainments," vacant Feb. 11. MELVILLE, 36, Cobden-st., Barnoldswick.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, March 4, 11, 25, Easter.
FRED BULMER, T. R., Croydon.

"FOR AULD LANG SYNE."
WANTED, Aug. 5, onwards.
FRED BULMER, T. R., Croydon.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
FRED BULMER, T. R., Croydon.

WANTED, Theatres, "Gipsy Jack," to pitch his Tent at, Jan. 28, Feb. 25. HENRY BEDFORD, 99, Halton-road, London, N.

WANTED, for "Her Lost Self," "The Biggest Scamp on Earth," Feb. 4, 11, 18, April 1, May 20. Wire, FRANCES DELAVAL, T. R., Belfast; after Monday, Prince's, Llandudno.

WANTED, for "Robespierre; or, The Throne of Terror," Jan. 28. Feb. 18, 25, April 1, various, on. W. J. MILLER, New Theatre, Hawick.

"THE ANARCHIST TERROR."
WANTED, Jan. 21, 28, March 4; also, "THE SORROWS OF SATAN."
Either or both plays.
Wire, LOIE ESMOND, Gaiety T., Clydebank.

WANTED, Dates, "My Old Kentucky Home," the new version "Uncle Tom's Cabin," special scenery, printing, company, coloured choir, ponies, &c. JOSH HYBERT, c/o Creber, Printer, Plymouth.

RUSSELL ROSSE'S REPERTOIRE CO.
WANTED, Jan. 28, for above, in Modern Comedies. RUSSELL ROSSE, 10, King-street, W.C.

"HOME, SWEET HOME," by Frank Lindo.
WANTED, Feb. 11 (?), North,
Mr. FRANK LINDO.
Miss MARION WAKEFORD.
Only vacant date this spring.
Address, FRANK LINDO, Prince's Theatre, Horwich.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO.,
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Jan. 28, Feb. 18, for this great Attraction, Band of Drums, Fifes, and Bugles, for Parade.
F. G. KIMBERLEY, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

"BOUND TO WIN."
"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, Jan. 28, Feb. 25, for this great piece, Racehorses Toured. Special cast, including Mr. and Mrs. Kimberley. Wire for Jan. 28, to F. G. KIMBERLEY, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

HARDIE and VON LEER'S
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS" CO.
WANTED, to oblige a Manager, Feb. 11 (London or South).
E. P. CLIFF, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. 7504 Gerrard.

"COAL KING" CO.
WANTED, Feb. 4 and 25.
Wire immediately.
G. M. POLINI, 138, Elgin-avenue, London, W.

THEATRES WANTED.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S COMPANIES.

WANTED, First-class Theatres,
"OLIVER TWIST."
(By arrangement with Mr. Tree.)
Easter Week.

"THE FOUR JUST MEN."
(By arrangement with H. A. Saintsbury.)
Vacant Easter, April 15 and 22.

WILLIAM MARTIN,
3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

LINGFORD CARSON'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, Managers, to kindly Note that any of my Plays not produced satisfactorily, please acquaint me immediately.—Faithfully yours, LINGFORD CARSON

WANTED, First-class Autumn Dates, for "The Drama of Life," August, on. L. CARSON, Keighley.

LINGFORD CARSON'S COMPANY.
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, Feb. 18, April 8, 22.
Notice to Managers
of Theatres, Halls, &c. The above is the only Company authorised to perform "The Power of the Cross." The Play, Title, Situations, and Effects are Fully Protected, and anyone performing, or allowing to be performed, the above piece, any colourable imitation of same, or in any way infringing my rights will be dealt with to the fullest extent of the law. Many thanks to J. Lewis, Esq., Public Hall, Woking.—GEO. A. DE GRAY.
Wanted, Feb. 18, April 8, 22. LINGFORD CARSON, or GEO. A. DE GRAY. This, Seacombe; next, Salford.

WANTED, Theatres, for Lingford Carson's Répertoire Co., "Modern Adventuress," "Ticket-of-Leave Man," "Octoroon," "Heart of a Hero." Unexpectedly vacant, Jan. 28, March 4, Aug. 26, Sept. 16, onwards. Refer. Wire at once for Jan. 28. Wire. CHARLES DRAYCOTT, to-day, T. R., South Shields; next, P. O. W., Mexboro'.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
WANTED, Best Theatres, for this Certain Attraction, Vacant Feb. 18 and 25, Easter, and Whit Week. Rapidly Booking Autumn. "Divorced," a new, strong human play, can be played (where necessary) in conjunction. New special printing, scenery, and effects. Now playing third and fourth visits. Jan. 21, T. R., Leicester.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, having Large Stage and large holding capacity, for
JAMES KIDDIE'S
Colossal Gorgeous Pantomime,
"CINDERELLA."
"CINDERELLA."
"CINDERELLA."
Vacant Feb. 11 and 25,
the Mammoth Production,
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
Vacant Feb. 25.
"ALADDIN."
"ALADDIN."
Vacant Feb. 25.
Address,
THOS. SWINTON,
Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

ALLAN WILKIE,
ALLAN WILKIE,
ALLAN WILKIE,
supported by Mr. G. Alexander Marsh, Miss Iné Cameron, and Miss Carrie Baillie.
The strongest Shakespearean Company Touring the British Isles.
Only vacant Spring Dates.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 11 (three nights, between Jersey and Ipswich), April 8 (between Newcastle and Preston), April 22 (between Preston and Blackburn), May 13 (between Harrogate and Weston). Also Wanted, Aug. 5, onwards, with exceptions.
Address,
ALLAN WILKIE, Carlton Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, Theatres, for
FRED GRANVILLE'S PANTOMIME,
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
The most successful Pantomime Touring. Another record broken last week at Accrington. Refer J. Ormerod, Esq. Thanks J. Worswick, Esq., for Contracts, after witnessing five other Pantomimes. Also thanks, Otto C. Culling, Esq., for Contracts.
Only vacant date,
Feb. 11, Feb. 11.
Verdict Everywhere, the smartest and funniest Pantomime we have seen. Not a dull moment.
Specialities include
"The Three Graces"
(The Living Statues),
in Classical Poses.
The Sensation of every town visited.
"A highly artistic and most beautiful act."
Managers looking for a certain winner for next season communicate at once with
FRED GRANVILLE, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

Miss EMMA LITCHFIELD'S COMPANY,
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
WANTED, Feb. 4, 18, March 11, for this Great Success.
Refer H. Pennington, Esq. Refer.
Wire, CLEVELAND, Bootle. Write to Tyldesley.

E. HILL MITCHELSON and HARRIS FINEBERG'S Magnificent Production, "THE TRAITOR."
WANTED, Feb. 4. E. HILL MITCHELSON, to-day, Court, Wigan; next, Queen's T., Longton.

EDWARD McLEAN'S TOUR.
"THE HERO OF THE FLAG."
WANTED, Feb. 25 (through transfer), Mar. 11 and 25. LESLIE VYNER, Surrey Theatre London, S.E.

H. A. SAINTSBURY AND CO., in
"ANNA OF THE PLAINS."
WANTED, Feb. 4, Easter, and May 13.
See Companies Advert.
Address, PERCY PURDEY, Chislehurst, Kent.

WANTED Jan. 28, Feb. 4, "Revenge," and "Death or Glory Boys" Star Co., including E. Hill-Mitchelson. E. HILL-MITCHELSON, Queen's Theatre, Longton.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, Big Drama Theatres,
Feb. 4, April 1, 8, and 15,
to precede Prince's Theatre, Blackburn;
return in eight months.
HARRY FOXWELL, Opera House, Doncaster.

WANTED, First-Class Theatre, Easter, for "Bluebell," to follow Tyne, Newcastle.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, Feb. 4 and 11, for "Aladdin," Company of fifty.
E. GRAHAM FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

LONDON and PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES CO., LTD.
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, for Feb. 4 and 11, for "Cinderella" Pantomime. Wire, R. C. BUCHANAN, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

SIDNEY DENCH'S COMPANY.
"RICH AND POOR OF LONDON."
"GREATEST SCOUNDREL LIVING."
WANTED, April 1, onwards,
Répertoire, Fit-up. Touring Wales.
All coms., 33, Tudor-road, Cardiff.

"A BROKEN HEART."
WANTED, First-Class Theatres only, Easter, Easter, Easter, Easter,
The Dramatic success of 1907.
Bookings include: Grand, Blackpool; Rotunda, Liverpool; Palace, Newcastle; Alex., Birmingham; Leigh, Exeter, Coventry, St. Helens; Royal, Scarboro'; Sundrland, Leicester, Oldham (Whit), Barnsley, Castleford. A clear stage only required.
HARRY FOXWELL, Opera House, Doncaster.

WANTED, for Miss Lydia Donovan's Company, in "Her One Great Sin" (by arrangement with Miss Blanche St. Albans and Mr. J. Leicester Jackson), March 4 (?), 11 (?), 18, 25, April 8. Miss LYDIA DONOVAN, 30, Effingham-st., Ramsgate.

"ALADDIN" PANTOMIME,
under the direction of Mr. Herbert Barrs.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, for next season. Can be seen to-day at 2.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m., Theatre Royal, West Bromwich. Jan. 21, ALHAMBRA THEATRE, STOURBRIDGE. Jan. 28, Carlton Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, Theatres, next Season, for Pantomimes. Managers are invited to see the following: "Aladdin," at the P. of W. Theatre, Grimsby; "Robinson Crusoe," at Victoria, Burnley. Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

THEATRES WANTED.

HENRY E. LEIGH'S COMPANY,
including
Mr. JAMES DANVERS
and
Miss JOSEPHINE ELLIS,
in the
Musical Farcical Comedy,
"THE 'VARSITY BELLE."

Produced and Rehearsed by
Mr. HERBERT DARNLEY.

Played on Saturday last at O. H., Burton-on-Trent, to a house packed in all parts.

"The 'Varsity Belle" is destined to have a long and successful run. It has on every occasion it has been presented during recent years had a cordial reception, and the opening performance at the Opera House last night was received with enthusiasm such as is rarely seen in that place of entertainment. The reason is not far to seek, for there are at the present time few better constructed, and probably no merrier pieces on the stage—not even excepting "Charley's Aunt." The absurdities of the farce were admirably brought out by Mr. Henry E. Leigh's talented company, and for some two and a half hours the theatre resigned itself to boisterous mirth.—Burton Mail, Jan. 8.
Splendid scenery, beautiful dresses, dainty music.

WANTED, Good Theatres, March 4, 11, and Easter Week.
Only Vacant Dates this Tour.

ANDREW W. SPENS,
1, Brookwood-road, Southfields, London, S.W.

WANTED, Theatres, Halls, &c., Jan. 28, onwards, for
G. M. McGOWAN'S
VAUDEVILLE COMPANY.
the Finest Combination of Variety Artists Touring, including
"SCULPTO," in her great Posing Act.
This act is Fully Protected.
B. Lingdon, England's Premier Baritone;
Leo Latimer, Comedian;
The Sisters Daleford, Duettists and Dancers;
F. Dean's Sketch Co.;
Cissie Fairburne, Comedienne;
F. Ellison, Comedian;
and the Electric Bioscope,
in all New and Up-to-date Events.
A Sure Draw. Share or Certainty.
All coms.,

MANAGER, 2, Albert-terrace, Hermon Hill, Wanstead, Essex.

WANTED, No. 1 Theatres, June and July, Seaside Resorts especially, for
my No. 1 Vaudeville Company, including
Taro Myaki, Japan's Greatest Wrestler, who defeated Yukio Tani at the Tivoli, London, the greatest attraction on the Vaudeville stage, supported by Corman's Juveniles, in their grand Scena, now appearing at Empire, Holborn, London; Halma, Society Juggler, the coming Cinquevalli, now at Empire, Liverpool; John Shirley, America's greatest Comedian and sifleur, who arrives in England May 30, after finishing forty-two weeks' engagement in New York; also other star programme.
Full particulars, HARRY BURNS, Proprietor, Head Office, Empress, Hartlepool.
Telephones, 0231 and 0231a.
Telegrams, "Burns, Empress."

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, for Special Week, on the Continent (fares paid), Yum-Yum, Ko-Ko, Nanki-Poo, Katisha; also artists for "Geisha," and "Michus." Lowest terms and full particulars to Box 4,221, "The Era."

WANTED, Special Week, North, probably longer, Salem Scudder, Wahnotee, Paul, Mrs. Peyton, George Peyton. W. J. MILLER, New Theatre, Hawick.

WANTED, Character, Old Woman, Child Actress (14), Pianist, and good Advance, Fit-up. SIDNEY DENCH, 33, Tudor-road, Cardiff.

"ALASKA."
WANTED, Comedian and Chambermaid, also Small Child; all must sing and dance. Also Two Gentlemen, for heavies (young); and Lady, for juveniles. Photos., references, and particulars, to HILLIARD VOX, 12, Coram-st., Russell-sq., W.C.

WANTED, a good Dramatic Actress, with exceptionally good figure, and strong, clear delivery, for a big emotional part in a Music Hall Sketch; must appear in fleshings draped for a few seconds. Apply, with photo. and full particulars by letter, to Mrs. OSCAR LUCK, 14, Derby-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Lady for Henrietta Watson's Part, and Gent. for Assistant S.M., Sutro's "The Perfect Lover," 14 weeks' tour. H. V. NEILSON, 14, Girdler's-road, West Kensington Park.

WANTED, Prima Donna.
Apply by letter,
Mrs. BARRASFORD, 11, Leicester-place, W.C.

HENRY SWINERD'S COMPANY,
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, for above, First-class Principal Comedian, young, for Silas Crump; must sing and dance well, and be used to Musical Comedy. To rehearse Jan. 28. Photos., age, height, two last references, and full particulars in first letter, to J. W. CORDINER, T. R., Consett.

WANTED, First-class Heavy Leading Man, Sketches, London. Only Actors of Established reputation write. FRED BROOKE, 55, Ridley-road, Dalston.

WANTED, Juvenile Gentleman, Aristocratic Old Man, Character Comedian, for part of Tragedian; also Carpenter, to combine baggage. Terms, CHARLES MARCH, 29, Lee-crescent, Birmingham.

WANTED, a Gentlemanly Young Actor, for Juveniles, used to farcical comedy, about 5ft. 8in. in height. Fullest particulars, photo., lowest terms, long tour, FRANK ELLISTON, Duchess, Balham.

WANTED, Clever Comedian, refined, good voice, to support Lady Artist in Duologue, Variety Theatres. State age, height, recent engagements, lowest terms, Box 4,244, "The Era."

WANTED, Good looking Young Amateurs, for Musical Comedy; good salaries; must have strong voices. Apply, between 11 and 4, to Operatic Bureau, 112, Great Portland-street, W.

WANTED, for London and No. 1 Tours, Choristers; must be young, of good appearance, and have excellent voices. Apply to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233a, Regent-street.

WANTED, Lady or Gentleman, for Dr. Ormonde's Welsh Tour, commencing Saturday, Jan. 26, must be good Singer and Pianist. Address, with lowest terms, Dr. ORMONDE, Journal Office, Longford, Ireland.

WANTED, Ballad Vocalists (lady and gent.), must be short, youthful-looking, and possess powerful voices; long engagement. CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand.

WANTED, Quartette of Lady Acrobatic Dancers, with voices; also Chorus Ladies; rehearse Tuesday. Terms, photos., to CLARENCE C. CORRI, 48, Burleigh-mansions, W.C.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Miss Hamilton Smith, in her celebrated Entertainment, with Harp, Mandoline, Banjo, and Guitar, Recitations, and Sketches, including selections from "The Christmas Carols." Address, Mansfield House, Clifton-gardens, Maida Vale, W.

WANTED, by Frank Butt, Dude Comedian. Engagement, in good Sketch; just completed twelve months' engagement on all principal Halls, including Moss Tour. 74, Rosehill-ter., Brighton.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, at Liberty for Pantomime next season, to write at once, stating full particulars and where can be seen working.
SIDNEY DOOLEY,
55a, Booth-street East, Manchester.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts, for Brilliant, Effective Scenery, attractive settings, lowest prices. Carlyle Scenic Studio, W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-rd., S.W.

WANTED, Known, that Sidney Beltram, Scenic Artist, has completed all Arrangements pro tem. Address, Theatre Royal, Seaham Harbour.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Young Gentleman can be entertained as acting-manager of first-class touring company; must invest. Apply, Box 4,240, "The Era."

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, First-class Carpenter, with Own Tools, for "Woman Who Gambles"; must be able to play small parts. Open at once. Add., MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, Baggageman, for Dr. Ormonde's Welsh Tour, commencing Saturday, Jan. 26. ORMONDE, Journal Office, Longford, Ireland.

WANTED, Known, W. C. Burns, Vacant, to Manage any Show requiring Managing, resident or tour. Now concluded two and a half years, Pilot, E. H. Bostock's No. 1 Road Show (total with Mr. Bostock six years), late manager Grand Varieties, Sheffield; late manager Galeti-Neilson Opera Co.; five years manager Transfield's Hippos.; manager, 1894, Prince's, now County, Theatre, Reading; Poole's Myriorama, 1892; manager, 1887, two houses nightly, Victoria Varieties, now Gaiety, Glasgow; &c., &c. Exceptional experience, undeniable refs., well up in bars, bookkeeping, and two houses nightly; hustler, Press speciality, life abstainer. 18, St. Mary's-rd., Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement, Assistant-Manager or Advertising; eight years' experience Music Hall and Theatre; excellent references. A. COCKAYNE, 7, East-street, Plumstead.

WANTED, Situation as Assistant-Manager in a Music Hall; experienced, smart, energetic. First-class references. Particulars, Box 4,219, "The Era."

WANTED, by Advertiser, tall, smart appearance, Engagement in town or country, as Stage and Entertainment Manager. Highest references. Reply, Box 4,233, "The Era."

WANTED, by young and energetic Manager, appointment in London or Provincial Music Hall or Manager's Office; life-long experience in the best of Theatres and Music Hall managements; every branch of the business known. Apply in first instance, Box 4,238, "The Era."

WANTED, Re-engagement as Acting-Manager or Secretary; thoroughly experienced in all branches of Music Hall and Theatrical Profession; age 30; tall, good appearance; highest references; moderate salary. Box 4,237, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Edward Walpole, Advance Representative, at Liberty, Theatres, or Fit-up. References. Wire or write, 33, Southchurch-avenue, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, Known, Companion-Housekeeper. Lady requires Engagement, domesticated, economical, musical, good accompanist. C. K., 59, Chelsham-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, by Wardrobe Mistress, capable, reliable person, good position as above; excellent references. Box 4,232, "The Era."

WANTED, an Engagement, as Lady Theatrical dresser.
Write, VENETIA, 27, Rathbone-place, W.

WANTED, by man 25, employment Check-taker, Window-biller, Attendant in Theatre or Music Hall; two years' experience. Box 4,214, "The Era."

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, to open Jan. 28, Leader, Hippodrome, Paisley, permanency to experienced and reliable man. Apply to TADMA PARKER, Conductor.

WANTED, at Once, Two First Violins, One First Cornet, One good 'Cello, One good Boy Soprano, 6 or 12 months' contract. Fares paid. Concerts only; 3 and 6 months in one place; good players only. Also other Instruments write. MUS. DIR, Scotch Orchestra, Etablissement National, Copenhagen, Danemark.

WANTED, for Yorkshire (D.Y.O. R.G.A.), good First Violin, combine other instrument, must be thoroughly experienced in Ball and Concert business; also Euphonium. Only men serving Army Reserve under 30 years of age need apply to ADJUTANT, above Corps, Scarborough.

WANTED, Lady Violinist, and Soprano Vocalist combined, or Light Comedy; must be experienced. MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, 4, Porteous-road, Paddington.

WANTED, First Violin (capable Lead), Double Bass, Bassoon, only first-class Musicians, with Concert experience, apply. JOSEPH SAINTON, Crystal Palace Theatre.

WANTED, by a Smart Cavalry Regiment, recently home from India, good Solo Cornet, two good Violinists, and a 'Cellist; extra pay and every possible advantage given to good performers; very little duty. Apply, BANDMASTER, Somerset Barracks, Shorncliffe Camp.

WANTED, Real Good Cornet Soloist, for Military; exceptionally good opportunities; must be young. Address, Box 4,220, "The Era."

WANTED, experienced Bass Player, for Empire Varieties, Burnley. Commence Monday next. Wire, HORNER.

WANTED, a good Tenor Saxophone; must be in first-class condition. Address, with price, MUSICUS, Empire, Rochdale.

WANTED, Good Flute, Special Weeks. Apply, with Instrument, Monday, 21st, 11 a.m. Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, S.E.

WANTED, First-class Pianist, one who can sing preferred, for Auction Mart; also address wanted of Picture-frame Makers, suitable for oil-painting while you wait business. Box 4,226, "The Era."

WANTED, for Summer Season, competent Accompanist, one who can sing (Baritone) preferred; also very refined Comedian. Lowest terms to Box 4,227, "The Era."

WANTED, Brilliant Pianist; must read at Sight, open Jan. 28, for Tour. Lowest terms, money sure. HICKS, Victoria Theatre, Stanley, Co. Durham.

THEATRE ROYAL,
EDINBURGH.
WANTED, Smart, Experienced Drummer, with own Tympani, must be used to both theatre and music hall work, open Jan. 28; steady, reliable man only need apply. State terms and references. GEORGE BURNLEY, Musical-Director.

C. W. POOLE'S MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, Double Drummer, with Effects, assist with Fittings when travelling, and be thoroughly reliable, join Feb. 4. Full particulars, HARRY STEWART, Colston Hall, Bristol.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, First-Class Musicians, for White Star Line American Service, May to Oct. or Nov., Four Bandmasters (Solo Violinists), Four Répétiteurs, First Violinists, Three Pianists, Three 'Cellos, and Three Double Basses, Musical duties only; second-class accommodation.

State age, experience, and names and addrsses of two references for character and ability. Rehearsal necessary before engaging.

Silence a polite negative.

CHARLES WM. BLACK, 19, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Mandoline Players and Guitar Players. Apply by letter. SMITH, c/o 11, Leicester-place, Leicester-square, W.C.

WANTED, all Instruments, for crack London Volunteer Band. Army Men preferred, but First-class Amateurs not objected to. Write, stating height, age, and other qualifications, to Box 4,216, "The Era."

WANTED, 50 Instrumentalists, Ladies. Interview essential. Professionals only. Paid long engagements. Write, EDWARDS, 55, Upper Gloucester-place, N.W.

WANTED, Mrs. Hubert O'Grady's Companies, Brass Band, Musicians, Solo Cornets, E flat Bass, and Bass Drum, Street Parade, assist with scenery. ALFRED WEEKLEY, Town Hall, Ballina, co. Mayo, Ireland.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept., "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street,, W.C.
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"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, "A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

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"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster, "Littlehampton."

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MUSICIANS' WANTS.

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WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violinist), Disengaged, composer of Music, "Silver King," &c. Dramatic Music, &c., composed and arranged. 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Chas. Wareham, late Leader Granville, Metropolitan, Ealing, Hippodrome, Disengaged after Jan. 26. 47, Black Lion-lane, Hammersmith. Violin and Piano.

WANTED, by Conductor (Violin), joint Engagement with wife; wife wardrobe (own machine), piano; small parts; young, good appearance; excellent references. Box 4,215, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Mus. Conductor, brilliant Violinist, exp. Varieties, Hotels, &c., desires Re-engagement. M. D., 37, Relf-rd., East Dulwich.

WANTED, Engagement by Conductor, Violin, or as Leader; experienced in Variety Business, or Theatre; reliable. Best refs. STONE, 8, Hardwick-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Variety Conductor, at Liberty, London or Suburbs; play Violin if required. Over 10 years' London experience. Box 4,245, "The Era."

WANTED, by two Violinists, Leader and Répétiteur, Variety or Dramatic, reliable; good refs. Terms mod.; can open at once. Address. VIOLINIST, 78, Birstall-street, Leicester.

WANTED, Engagement, as First or Second Violin; combine Viola; reliable; refs. J. P., c/o Stewart, High Bank, Mellor-road, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Engagement as Second Violin, Viola, or Euphonium, any business, late Army (Staff) Band. SMITH, 130, Peckham Park-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, as First Violin or Second, or Clarionet, any Bus.; good refs.; through reduction of Orchestra. KENNEDY, Hippodrome, Preston.

WANTED, by Violinist, Pupil of Professor Sevcik, First-Class Orchestral Engagement; Solos if required; commencing June. KARNO, c/o White's Music Warerooms, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violinist, Mandolinist, and Vocalist; good reader and soloist, any business; very reliable; only good offer accepted. Good rep. of band parts. HARRY MARLOW, 15, Craven-street, Harrogate.

WANTED, Engagement, First or Second Violin; good references, any business. At Liberty any time. W. WILCOCK, A.M.U., 1, Little William-street, Cork.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Violinist; experienced, any Business; good references. G. W., 33, Brewerton-road, Oldham.

WANTED, by First Violin, Disengaged Jan. 26, Engagement, Theatre or Hall; excellent refs. Abstainer. C. VINT, His Majesty's Theatre, Dundee.

WANTED, by Splendid Young Cornet, Engagement, London or Suburban Hall. Terms, 25/- Noted conductors' Refs. CORNET, 312, High-street, Brentford.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Clarionettist, experienced, all lines. Address, H. C. GARNER, The Porches, Rainhill, near Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement by Clarionettist, any Business, start immediately; total abstainer; reliable refs. MCCORMICK, 26, Cantry-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, by Bassoonist, Engagement, competent, reliable; good refs.; any line; at Lib. Jan. 28. Address, BASSOON, King's Theatre, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, by Double Bass Player, four string, Engagement, experienced and reliable. T. HARDMAN, 122, Heald-place, Rusholme, Manchester.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Engagement in any capacity, or as Deputy. Basso, c/o Hodgson, Orchard Cottage, Dartford Heath, Kent.

WANTED, Summer or Permanent Engagement, by Trombone; experienced in Military Band and Orchestra; abstainer. Apply, TROMBONIST, 189, Clarendon-place, Dover.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Trombone, any business. E. C., 98, Annandale-road, E. Greenwich.

WANTED, Engagement as Bombardon, any business; thoroughly reliable. Address, HARRY WOODAGE, 6, Parnell-road, Clevedon, Somerset.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, for Little Girl, on 'Cello; also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLE, 35, Granville-square, King's Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, by experienced Lady 'Cellist, permanent engagement in London Hotel, or Tea Room, not live in; can combine Piano. Box 4,229, "The Era."

WANTED, by experienced Lady 'Cellist, evening engagement in London, Sundays excepted. Address, 'CELLIST, 118, Elgin-avenue, W.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Viola Player; combine Piano; experienced Orchestral Pianist; can Compose, Arrange. London preferred. Box 4,217, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Oboe, any Bus.; good refs.; through reduction of Orchestra. 2 years present place. MADDISON, Hippodrome, Preston.

WANTED, Known, Æneas Gibson, First-class Harpist and Pianist, immediate engagement, young, gentlemanly travel abroad. MUSIC SELLER, 164, Bayswater-house, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Maud Estlin Grundy, age 19, Harpist; Brilliant Soloist. 58, Antrim-mansions, England's-lane, Hampstead, London.

WANTED, Engagement, Orchestra or otherwise, Flute (Piccolo Soloist); thoroughly reliable; long reference, London. RELIABLE, 74, Kenninghall-road, Lower Clapton, London.

WANTED, Known, Miss Dora Henderson, Flute and Piccolo, at Liberty, any Business. Address, 139, Park-road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, by experienced Pianist (accompanist), Summer Engagement, with high-class Concert Party; well up in Sight Reading and MS.; ten seasons' recommendation. BRITNELL, 83, Corrance-road, Brixton.

WANTED, a good Pianist, to travel with Auction Mart, must read at sight and good accompanist, and be useful during day. Good wages and a permanency to a good man. EDWARDS and PAGE, Llanbradach.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Pianist and Organist; both sing; smart, young; good Picture Show, Variety, Drama, joint or separate. BECKETT, Hippodrome, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Engagement, by Solo Pianist, Conductor, Good Theatre, Pavilion, Hotel, or Café; excellent répertoire, highest references. AVES, Opera House, Londonderry.

WANTED, Engagement, as Accompanist to Professionals and others for private practice; sight-reader. London. ANNA C. SMITH, 46, Powell-road, Clapton, N.E.

WANTED, Known, experienced Pianist at Lib. for Engagement with Orchestra or Band, evenings and all Saturday, reliable sight reader; highest references and excellent testimonials. Apply Box 4,235, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Steady Reliable Double Drummer, thoroughly experienced, Variety preferred; good refs. DRUMS, 132, Graham-road, Dalston, London, N.E.

WANTED, Double Drums, situation in small Theatre or Hippodrome; good references. Write or wire, WILLIAMS, 203, Seaside, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Known, Mme. H. E. Angless's Ladies' Orchestra, open to accept engagements. From three to thirty performers. 78, Norwood-road, Herne Hill, S.E.

WANTED, Known, the Bradfield Ladies' Orchestra, excellent Soloists and Vocalists (three to twenty performers). Miss BRADFIELD, 4, Porteus-road, Paddington.

WANTED, Known, Shikissima Band, Ladies' Japanese Orchestra, at Liberty for Piers &c.; brilliant costume, large répertoire. CONDUCTRESS, Glenthorpe, Chesterfield-road, Newbury.

WANTED, Known, to Corporations, Piers, Hotels, the Vrasatzka Band, disengaged; brilliant uniforms; excellent soloists. H. PHILIPPE THOMAS, 84, New Bond-street, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Powell's Celebrated Orchestra, Theatre, Music Hall, &c., Violin, Piano, Cornet, Bass, experienced, reliable, double-handed. POWELL, M.D., Palace, Bridlington.

WANTED, Known, Herr Blomé's Celebrated Berlin Meister Orchestra. Enormous success at Victoria Pier, Blackpool. Re-engaged for summer season 1907, commencing Whitsuntide till end of Sept. Few vacant dates, at Lib. for Easter. Address, HERR A. BLOME, care of W. De Saulles, 13, Pembridge-crescent, Bayswater, London, W.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands, apply Bureau, 8, Bedford-terrace, Kensington. Quartet Disengaged, scarlet and gold or evening dress.

WANTED, Engagement, either Hotel, Restaurant, or Seaside; have First-class Répertoire of the Latest Music; can provide as many musicians as required. Conductor. N. WELTMANN, Sky Peals House, Hale End-road, Woodford Green.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING. Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND NEW CIRCUS, HYDE.
WANTED, all the Novelties of the Day, Startling Sensations in all Lines, at once, and for future dates, all must be big turns, money no object for new and up-to-date Acts; also useful Circus turns, Riders, Gymnasts, Clowns, &c. Can arrange with something extra for Feb. 4. Note.—A good useful Biller can open at once. Address, KING OHMY, Ohmy's Grand New Circus, Hyde, Cheshire.

CIRCUS, SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, for Jan. 21, and on, Specialities of every description. Address, C. ALGIE.

ADA ALEXANDRA'S CIRCUS.
Tenting Season, 1907.
WANTED, for the above, any Great Novelty that can be worked in Circus Ring; also Speciality Performers of Every Description. A good pair of Knockabout Comedians write. Address all communications to D. TAYLOR, 10, Washington-street, Worcester.

ADA ALEXANDRA'S CIRCUS.
Tenting Season, 1907.
WANTED, for the above, Artists in every Branch of the Equestrian Business, also Specialities, and any Great Novelty that can be done in a travelling circus. All communications to D. TAYLOR, 10, Washington-street, Worcester.

WANTED, Easter, Whitsuntide, onwards, High Rope, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Cyclists. Lithos., memos., lowest terms, permanent address, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Smart Top Mounter, at once, for Acrobats. E. ALLEN, 3, Alton-road, Bournbrook, Birmingham.

WANTED, Young Man, good Hand Balancer and Tumbler; also smart boy, for Acrobatic Troupe. Apply, Box 4,239, "The Era."

WANTED, Two Smart Boys, under 5st as companions to my son, to learn acrobating and Dancing, thorough tuition, and good home to the right boys. Full particulars, W. DOUGLAS, c/o "Era" Office.

WANTED, Youth, little Contortionist, and little Tumbler, to take part in Animal Dress, immediate. State lowest terms. Box 4236, "The Era."

WANTED, smart Groom that thoroughly understands his business for Two Ponies and Dogs. Address, W. REGALDI, 30, Tollemache-street, New Brighton.

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TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING. Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence

WANTED, Known, Sedgwick Menagerie, open for Summer Engagements, for any part of England, Scotland, or Wales. For particulars apply W. SEDGWICK, Olympia, London, W.

WANTED, Miss Pinder, Bareback Equestrian, now appearing twice daily at Hengler's Cirque, London, with her Stage Circus turn, introducing her Highly-trained Horse Riding Collie Dog and Flight of Pigeons.

Miss Pinder is the only Lady Rider standing up on a Barebacked Horse doing this turn on any stage. Managers and agents are invited to see this turn.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Little Bishop, Clown and Comedian, with Trick, Comic, and other Entrées; just finished three months' comfortable engagement with J. H. Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh. At Liberty for Monday, also for Tenting. Address, c/o Mrs. Gates, 40, Lauriston-st., Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Two Dominos, Clown and Donkey. The Beautiful Arabian Donkey, with a Brain, whose pedigree is traced for over two thousand years. A comic act. At Lib. Jan. 28. Com., Hengler's Circus, London.

WANTED, Les Steckels, Gymnastic Speciality, Vacant March 4, 11, 18, 25, Agent, STEBBINGS, Manchester. Private address, 37, Lyson's-road, Aldershot.

WANTED, Jan. 21, 28, Mayeno Troupe, Ladies and Gents., Gymnasts, Acrobats, Wire Walkers. Also First-class Galas. Hit of Panto., Londonderry, where wire for Monday. After, 30, Great George-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lolo, Charming Lady Gymnast, Graceful Trapeze and Teeth Speciality Artist, assisted by Little Ena. This week, Agricultural Hall, London. Also Little May, in her Graceful Contortionist and Dancing Act. A Great Success. Thanks to Sir Robert Fossett for contract, return date. Liberty Feb. 4.

WANTED, Known,
The Clement Trio,
Comedy Stage Flying Trapeze Act,
Executing Five Different Kinds of Double Somersaults and Double Pirouettes.
We have a few immediate free dates before opening Messrs. Moss and Stoll Tour.
The Era says:—Hippodrome, Stockton.—The Clement Trio head the bill this week, and their marvellous tricks will be remembered for a long time. We beg to thank Messrs. Nicholson Bros. for re-engagement for Dec. 16, '07.
For terms, wire or write,
S. CLEMENT,
Hollydene, Hall Green, near Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Four Zolas, Lightning and Herculean Acrobats, Hand Balancers, and Tumblers. This, Empire, Merthyr; next, Empire, Dudley; at Lib. Feb. 4 and 11. Coms., 40, Tiverton-road, Bournbrook, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Three Orros, three weeks Hengler's Circus, London, vacant Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11 and April 8, onwards. Managers and Agents invited.

WANTED, Known, Leonzi, wonderful Contortionist, terrific success Hippodrome, Hastings, Liberty Jan. 21 and 28. Wire, Hippodrome, Hastings. Hastings Advertiser: Leonzi delighted everyone with his wonderful contortions and graceful postures.

WANTED, Known, Tumbler wishes to join Comedy Act, Sketch, or other. Address, HARRY DEANS, 10, Herbertson-street, Glasgow.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING. Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Good Variety Artists, all Lines, for Feb. 18. Also good Top and Bottom, and good Bioscope. The right price paid for the right artist. Please send lowest price and particulars in first letter. Address, VARIETY, New Grand Theatre, Nelson, Lancashire.

WANTED, High-class Variety and Sketch Artists, from Whitsuntide, onwards. State fullest particulars and vacant dates. ROBERTS, Victoria Pier, Blackpool.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, Jan. 28, Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; hall small. P. REYMOND, as above.

Scarborough.
WANTED, Monday, Jan. 28, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines. Nothing too Big. Full particulars to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Lancashire, Feb. 11; West Stanley, 25. Letters, MARCUS BOYLE, c/o Cameron, 315, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Jan. 28 and onwards, small town; state lowest first letter. BEANLAND and EMERSON, Queen's Theatre, Castleford.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists and Specialities, for Feb. 4, Hippodrome, Wigan. State lowest terms, and date of last appearance in Wigan to SIX BROTHERS LUCK, 14, Derby-street, Hulme, Manchester. Silence polite negative protem.

WANTED, High-Class Variety Artists in all Lines, Feb. 11, onwards. All Artists must appear at the Theatre Royal, Ryde, once nightly Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and twice nightly Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Matinée on Saturday, at the Theatre Royal, Worthing. Send full particulars and lowest terms to SEEBOLD, Theatre Royal, Worthing.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Jan. 2 and onwards.
A. E. PICKARD, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Jan. 28.
JOHN CASSIDY,
Victoria Theatre, Stanley. Durham.

GAIETY THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Manager, W. H. HOWARD.
Acting-Manager, H. BOWERMAN.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Present and Future Dates, Good Singing Turns; also any Act with any Drawing Powers. State when and what place last appeared at in Glasgow to the above.

CAVILL'S AGENCY,
127, Clapham-road, London, S.W.
Telegrams, "Dramatical, London."
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for immediate and later dates
Send full list of bookings, with lithos., and lowest London and Provincial terms.
J. K. REYNOLDS please send address.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Specialities, doing doubles, also Sister turn doing single, for Feb. 11. State lowest. RAGLUS, Hippodrome, Bury.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Jan. 28 and on; also Big Tops for Empire, Paisley, dong big business now. Tops wire for 28th. DREW BAYLEY, Agent, 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists wishing to be Booked for First-Class Music Hall Engagements, to communicate with BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

THE NEW PALACE, READING.
WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Autumn, onward. All communications, G. HOWARD-WATSON, Messrs. Stanhope and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand.
Telephone, 6070 Gerrard.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, Feb. 4, 18, onwards.
CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Concerts and Music Halls. Interviews by appointment only. SCOTTISH MUSICAL AGENCY, 107, George-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists, immediate dates, for Alhambra, Edinburgh. Send vacant dates and absolute lowest. I can book you. VENTOM SWIFT, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Feb. 4, and later, for Scotland.
J. G. ANDERSON,
6, Great Clyde-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Empire Palace, Dover, and the Alhambra, Sandgate. FRED DURHAM'S Variety Agency, 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W. Telephone 15, Brixton.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Big Variety Turns,
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Something New and Up to Date,
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Novelties and Sensational Acts,
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Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,

For Immediate and Future Dates, for London, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle, Glasgow, Belfast, Dublin, Manchester, Bolton, Wolverhampton, Oldham, Hartlepool, Shields, Barrow, Carlisle, Darlington, Hull, Middlesbrough, Stockport, Blackpool, Morecambe, Brighton, Boscombe, Margate, Portsmouth, Southampton, Bath, Lincoln, Leicester, Bradford, Halifax, Sheffield, Blackburn, Lancaster, Stockport, Burnley, Derby, Attercliffe, Stoke, Grimsby, St. Helens, Accrington, Warrington, Bury, Hanley, Stockton, &c., &c.
Send, at once, terms, dates, and lithos.
Those having a good act can rely on getting Immediate Work.
WILL SLEY,
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WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street,
41, Oxford-street,
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Manchester.
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Manchester.
Telephone, 09144.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Jan. 21, on. FRED DURHAM'S Agency, 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone, 15 Brixton.

WANTED, Artists of all Descriptions. Write fully,
J. W. JOHNSON,
Variety and Pantomime Agent,
86, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Artists engaged for the Hippodrome, Grimsby, are requested to note that same is closed so far as my management is concerned, and Contracts cancelled. ALFRED SELWYN, Empire, Hull, Jan. 16, 1907.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Big Variety Stars,
Big Specialities,
for every Hall of note in the Provinces,
Jan. 28, onwards.
State lowest terms, bookings, &c.
Big Acts for Fêtes and Galas.
Big Acts for Seaside, Piers, &c.
EDGAR STEBBINGS,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester."
Telephone 09261.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession,
Acts New in Dublin, for the above,
the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland,
Direct or through Agents.
All communications to WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, Big Stars, Big Numbers, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18, onwards,
I can place you.
Wire or write with all particulars,
JESS VERNO'S Agency,
15, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone, 2076 Royal.

WANTED, Jan. 28, Feb. 4 and 11, Stars in all Lines,
Stars in all Lines,
Full up for smaller items
State towns at liberty for.
Can fix big numbers any odd weeks.
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates, to send terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, and on, Big Singing Turns, England.
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. Biggest of Speciality Acts, for
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. Paris, and other French towns
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. to follow, March and on, Ladder-
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. ites, Percy Victor, Jackles, Spry
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. and Monti write. Paris repre-
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. sentatives, GERALD and PASQUIER.
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. Provincial representative, FRANK
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. LYNNE. 'Phone, 1949 Hop. Wire,
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. "Antics, London." GEO. AYTOUN,
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. 120, Kennington Park-road,
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. London, S.E.

WANTED, one or two good Variety Turns, to open Monday. Lowest terms. ANDERTON'S Empire, Manchester-road, Swindon. Would like to hear from Pulo, Juggler, &c.

WANTED, Novel Comedy Turns. Send Vacancies and lowest possible terms to HALMARK'S New Agency, 8, East-parade, Dewsbury.

SIDNEY DOOLEY'S AGENCY,
55A, Booth-street East, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Dooley, Manchester." 'Phone, 374X.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Star Acts of every Description, Star Specialities, Sensational Acts, for immediate and future dates Big numbers with odd weeks vacant write immediately, stating terms, &c., and towns at Liberty for.
Take note of the address,
55A, Booth-street East, Manchester.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
WANTED, Star Acts, all Lines, absolute lowest, once nightly. Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

CIRCUS and HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE. Rehearsal, Monday next, 2 o'clock, for Dickenson and Johnson, Attilla Bros., Hesse Trio, George Brown, Dolly Denner, J. K. Tideman, Mozzetto, Harry Raley, Vernon's Bioscope.
WANTED, big Acts on Sharing Terms; holding capacity 2,500. Letters, SMITH and Co., Red Lion Hotel, Rochdale.

WANTED, Jan. 28, onwards, the best of Variety Acts. Note, I can fix you.
GANNON, West-grove, Bristol. Telephone, 2636X.

WANTED, for the Joseph Poole Myrioramas, Big Spectacular Acts and High-class Specialities, to commence Feb. 11, 18, and on; something new, with drawing powers. Address, with lowest terms, to F. MAYER, Manager, Royalty Theatre, Llanelly.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

ROYAL HIPPODROME, BELFAST,
Now in Course of Erection,
and
when
Finished
will be the largest and Handsomest Building in Ireland.
WANTED, February, onward, all the Finest Acts in the World.
Price no object.
New and Novel Turns of every Variety.
The above is Booked in conjunction with TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.

WANTED, good Speciallty Acts, Musical Clowns, Niggers, and other suitable turns, four days, Whit week, Northampton. MCASKELL, Palace, Aberdeen.

HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.
WANTED, Jan. 28, onwards, good Acts of all description, a Handy Man, to look after horse and trap, must be sober, and a worker. Can open at once. GEO. ZALVA.

LEO FRITZ'S AGENCY,
40, Glenshaw-mansions, Brixton-road, S.W.
Telephone, 457 Brixton. Office hours 10 to 5.
WANTED, the Greatest Acts in the World, all Lines. If you want work, wire me, for Jan. 28, onwards. Send full particulars immediately.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Talent, all Lines,
JAMES FIONI'S AGENCY,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telphone, 1686 Royal.

EMPIRE, HULL; HIPPO., WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Talent in all Lines, Comedy Act Specialities, Sensational Acts; big Top Liners, &c. Vac. Mon., Jan. 28, and on. Full particulars and terms to ALFRED SELWYN, Empire Theatre, Hull.

WANTED, Big Specialities, Stars, and Artists of every Description, for Town and Country. Artists booked North requiring Dates to follow please communicate at once.
Can place Good Acts for immediate Dates.
Those known to me send in full List of Bookings and Lowest Terms.
Others state when and where can be seen.
WALTER BENTLEY'S Agency,
Cromwell House, Surrey-street Strand, W.C.
'Phone. 12706 Central. Tele., "Yeltneb, London."

GRAND PAVILION, CARNARVON, N. WALES.
WANTED, Specialities for Top and Bottom of Bill, Jan. 28, onward. Animal Act preferred. Nothing too Big. To follow Ella's Lions.
Address,
BOSTOCK and WILDMAN, as above.

WANTED, Big Speciality, Jan. 28, and on. Apply, H. A. JORDISON, St. James's Hall, Manchester.

WANTED, Big Star Attractions, immediate onwards,
EMPRESS T. OF VARIETIES, HARTLEPOOL,
Proprietors, Councillor EVERTON and J. W. CRAGG.
General-Manager, HARRY BURNS.
All coms. must be addressed to HARRY BURNS.
Telephones 0231 and 0231A.
Telegrams, "Burns, Empress."
Call Monday, Jan. 21 (rehearsal 1 o'clock prompt, all must attend): Tan Kwai Troupe of Japanese Ada Fawn, the Great Stowe Brothers, Andy Fagan, Bob Hamilton, Bioscope, Toner, and Charles Bignell.
Signed, HARRY BURNS, General-Manager.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only, Full list of bookings and absolute lowest first instance, or useless
HARRY BURNS, Sole Proprietor.
HARRY BURNS' Agency, Established 1895.
Head Office, Empress Theatre, Hartlepool.
Telephones 0231 and 0231A Hartlepool.
Telegrams, "Burns, Empress."
Also Booking Continental and American Tours.

WANTED, Gala Attractions, all Lines, May 20, onward. Send lithos., memos., terms, BARRETT, Fête and Gala Caterer, 566, Queen's-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, for Webster and Girling's Agency, 150, Strand with which is amalgamated Wigglesworth's Provincial Agency. Address, as above, to HUGH WIGGLESWORTH, General-Manager, late of Blackpool, Morecambe, &c.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Top Liners, for London and Provinces, Acts with vacant dates in Jan. and Feb. apply immediately.
THE ALBEMARLE SYNDICATE, 157, Strand, W.C.

MARTINO'S AGENCY,
125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.
WANTED, at Once, Sensations of all Kinds.
In every case must have bookings and actual lowest.

WANTED, Dumb Shows, Double Turns, and Specialities, of all Descriptions, for the Alhambra, Sandgate; Palace and Hippodrome, Dover; Grand, Sheffield; Pavilion, Leicester. Apply, DAVID HYMAN, 167, Stamford-street, S.E.

WANTED, Tops of Bills who have odd weeks vacant to send full bookings, &c., to FRANK LYNNE, 12, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Top of Bill, also small turn, near Manchester, Feb. 4.
Address, WILL ONDA, Crystal Palace, London.

WANTED, for the Royalty Theatre, Morecambe, good Variety Combinations, with Cinématograph, Jan. or Feb. Address, with lowest sharing terms, C. M. JULIAN.

TUDOR'S HIPPODROME, BLYTH.
WANTED, First-Class Combinations, with Pictures preferred, one show nightly, Sunday Concert, Jan. 28, on.

WANTED, Vent., Musical, or any First-class Turn, suitable for Bioscope Show, open Monday. Send full particulars of act, and lowest terms. No fancy prices, but money sure.
Apply, DOONER, Bioscope, Market, Aberavon, Port Talbot.

WANTED, by Comedian, a smart Young Lady, 16 to 20, no previous experience necessary, one willing to learn; permanent. Send photo. or write to G. LEONARD, 101, Trinity-road, Upper Tooting, London, S.W.

WANTED, for King's Hall, Westcliffe-on-Sea (2/2 from London), Jan. 28 and onwards. The cream of the Business.
Vulgarity not entertained here.
Don't write if you rely on it for success.
Can book complete concert companies.
Stage small, and hall very small. Cut your price accordingly. Once nightly. Star for Jan. 28 required, also Stars that can work Flying Matinées.
Call 2 o'clock,
for Marvellous Howards,
and 11 other Big Acts.
PAUL VANDY'S Agency, as above.

WANTED, for Bert Coote's Music Hall Turns, immediately, smart and attractive Girls, with good knowledge of Dancing and Singing, ages between 16 and 20; engagement to begin Feb. 4. Apply in person, between 10 and 12 a.m.,
BERT COOTE, 150, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Brothers and Sisters, and Novelty Turns.
J. FELL, Proprietor, Palace, Lancaster.

SAKER'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Comedians and Speciality Acts, for Immediate Dates; also Big Elephant Acts. Will the following Artists please attend Rehearsal, Monday, Jan. 21?
Hengler's Circus, London, Barney, Burke, and Bray, Wittington Trio, John Irving, The Three Orros, Miss Pinder, Clown Felix, Tom Wanotee, Anderson's Asses, Bioscope, and Handy Andy.
Acts in all lines send vacant dates and terms,
ALFRED SAKER and Co.,
Variety, Circus, and Gala Agents,
17, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, London.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTH SHIELDS.

WANTED, Known, the Corporation of South Shields invite applications for the provision of Pierrot Entertainments during the ensuing Summer on a Stage and Enclosure situate between the Marine Parks in South Shields.
200 Chairs will be provided.
Applicants must state the character of their Entertainments, the period during which they propose to provide the Entertainments, and the amount of rental or other payment they would be prepared to pay to the Corporation for the use of the Stage and Enclosure
Conditions of Letting, with form of Tender attached, will be forwarded on application to the TOWN CLERK, Court Buildings, South Shields, to whom Tenders must be delivered not later than 10 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 31 1907, endorsed "Tender for provision of Entertainments."

WANTED, Refined Comedians, First-class Baritone, and Soprano; must be well up in Sketches and Concerteds, for the Bradford Original Al-Fresco Pavilion (Third Season). Open Easter to October. Twice Daily. The finest place of its kind in England. Good Specialities may also write in for odd weeks. W. SCOTT BENTLEY, 9, White's View, Bradford.

WANTED, clever, refined Comedian, capable pathos, good singing voice, for Sketches; long tour if suitable; open Feb. 18. Box 4,228, "The Era."

WANTED, Comedian for Low Comedy part, in Musical Scena; good baritone voice, and used to quartette work. State age, height, and lowest. Rehearse Manchester. MANAGER, 31, Rumford-street, C.-on-M., Manchester.

WANTED, Knockabout Comedian, Dancer, medium height.
Full particulars,
W. B. CRABTREE, Hippodrome, Salford.

WANTED, Two Clever Pantomimists, for Dude and Comedy Old Man; also good Legmania Dancers. Terms, photos., to CLARENCE C. CORRI, 48, Burleigh-mansions, W.C.

WANTED, Boys and Girls, with really good voices; also Dancers, Comedians, Acrobats; must be over fourteen. CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, or KING, Palace, Sunderland.

WANTED, Man to speak half-a-dozen lines in "The Collar-Stud." Open Monday, G., Clapham, four weeks London. BARTLETT, this, P., Southampton; Sunday, 131, Camberwell New-road, No callers.

WANTED, Steady Man (no boys), as Operator,
for 2½ hours' Pictures;
must be used to work or no use.
Salary £2 10s., work or play; open at once.
State references, &c., to
MANAGER, Animated Pictures,
241, Stanley-road, Bootle, Liverpool.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Maude Murray, in her Artistic Dances, at Prince's Theatre, Poplar, second year with Clarence Sounes, at Lib. Jan. 28. Queen's, Poplar.

WANTED, Known, Cissie Astbury, Dainty Comedienne, Success, "One of the Military Family," by Dave Hall. Good Agent wanted. Vacant June and July. Panto., Court Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Monday next, by Jessie Star, the only female Harry Lauder. Wire or write, Empire, Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Monday next, by Alma Curzon, Comedienne, reliable turn. Wire, Saturday, Haymarket Music Hall, Liverpool; after, 12, Wellington-road, Egremont, Cheshire.

WANTED, Jan. 21, through Barring Clause, Magna, in beautiful and artistic Poses, portraying some of the Great Sculptors' creations. A great surprise at Terriss Theatre, London, S.E.

WANTED, Jan. 21, 28, by Jack Sheppard, World's Greatest Handcuff King and Prison Breaker; also Miss Ruby Vesta, in the Greatest Trunk Mystery on the Stage. Moss's to follow. Challenges; big top.
Wire or write,
249, Bond-street, Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, Will Gay, Comedian and Dancer, Liberty Monday. Just finished two weeks Portsmouth. Wire, 30, Leonard-road, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, Vowles Reeves, Comedian, Mimic, and Instrumentalist, vacant for Summer Season, June forward. Letters only, care of Mr. John Reeves, Bagshot, Surrey.

WANTED, Contracts, Jan. 28, on, to follow Wales, Harry Keeble, Versatile Comedian. Write quick, 15, South-street, Hammersmith, W.

WANTED, Jan. 28 and Feb. 4, by Alf. Thomas, Refined Comedian and Speciality Expert Dancer. Usual success this, wire, wire, Empire, Shildon; next, Tivoli, South Shields.

WANTED, Known, Walter Stanton, the Bird Impersonator, is open for a few weeks immediate, also for next season's Pantomime.
Address, C/o "The Era,"
First visit to London in six years.

WANTED, by Aldro Lukos, Man Monkey Speciality, introducing Swinging Perch Act, Jan. 28, also Feb. 11. Offers. Shakespeare, Liverpool.

WANTED, Feb. 4, Cambo, the Musical Monkey, also Ventriloquist. Big hit, Palace, Dundee. Monday, Palace Theatre, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Monday next and later, by J. H. Kavanagh, Star Comedian.
Wire, Empire, Paisley.

WANTED, Known, Dan Gregory, Musical Acrobatic Eccentric, Monday, Jan. 21 and 28, Circus, Hull; at Liberty Feb. 4 and 18.

WANTED, Monday next, by J. James, Humorist, Tambourine, Banjo Juggling, Bone Marvel. Wire, Hippodrome, Scarboro'.

WANTED, Known, Little Hackenschmidt, World's Champion Boy Wrestler, Pose Artist, vacant dates through misunderstanding, Jan. 21, 28. Always terrific success. Wire or write. 19, Pembrey-rd, Llanelly, S. Wales.

WANTED, Known, The Scottish Miniature Hercules, vacant Mon., Jan. 21, and onwards, with exceptions. Good Top Liner. Complimented last week by Harry Lauder, who says, "I can recommend this as a sound, reliable act." Good Agent wanted. Address, Alhambra T., Edinburgh.

WANTED, Engagements, Monday next, also the 28th, by Hartz, Magician. Terrific Success, Hippodrome, Scarboro', where wire.

WANTED, Jan. 28, onwards, by Li-Chang Hi, the popular Chinese Conjurer, in new and up-to-date Mysteries. Address, Empire, Paisley.

WANTED, Known, Leslie Browne, the great Yorkshire Humorous Entertainer at the Piano, is vacant Monday next, onwards. Wire, Star Hotel, Truro.

WANTED, Feb. 4, 18, 25, March 11, 25. Wire or write, and secure the following acts at once: The Great Kyoto (Original), and his Mysterious Comedy Japanese Box. This is a laughing and applauding hit, Japanese Contortionist, Comedy Conjurer, Juggler; Oto; also May Geraldine, a Sprightly Comedienne, Vocalist, Dancer. Success, Alhambra, Brighton. Jan. 21, King's Hall, Westcliff-on-Sea.

WANTED, Dates by the Lyricos, Tenor and Soprano Vocal Entertainers, exceptionally good voices. This and next two, Mechanics' Hall, Nottingham.

WANTED, by The Smythsons, Jan. 28 and March 4, through obliging. Anybody requiring Comedy Attraction, address (Jan. 21), Hippodrome, Hull.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Proprietors to Know, N. C. Bostock and Nellie Elliene are packing the Hip., St. Helens, nightly. Gaiety, Glasgow.

WANTED, Monday next, Dave Wallace, Eccentric Comedian; Marie Tilley, Comedienne, Speciality Dancer. Wire, Hippodrome, Burton-on-Trent; Sunday, 324, Albany-road, Camberwell.

WANTED, Feb. 11, 25, on, by The Monckton, in Screaming Comedy Episode, "Are Wives Dummies?" City Var., Leeds. Agent required.

WANTED, Monday next, also immediate dates, Sardou's Illusionists, Marvellous Mystifiers; also Marie Riviers, Comedienne. Wire, Empire Theatre, Abergavenny, Mon.

WANTED, Jan. 21, onwards, by the Woolhafs, in their Great Comedy Act. What a terrific success here, Hippo., Sheerness! Just inquire. Complimented by all. Wire, after Sat., 120, Merrow-street, Walworth, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Herbert Linton, assisted by Pierrot, in their refined Speciality Act, "Los Espanolas," Grand Theatre, Nottingham, Nightly. At Liberty Feb. 28.

WANTED, Monday next and Jan. 28, by Forest and King,
Comedy Acrobats and
Acrobatic Toe Dancers.
Two pieces of elastic.—Vide Oswald Stoll, Esq.
Wire or write,
126, Lambeth-road, S.E.

WANTED, by Reszki and Raszki, Gymnastic Grotesques, vacant Jan. 21 and 28. Wire or write, 6, Beech-grove, Dewsbury. Thanks for offers. Must have our terms.

WANTED, Monday next, also Jan. 28, by those popular Comedians, Esdale Bros. Wire quick, 28, Ayres-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Jan. 21 and 28, by Brothers Lawrence, Vocalists and Champion Ragtime Dancers. This week, Hippodrome, Hulme, Manchester; after Sunday, 2, Carlton-court, or DALTON'S Agency.

WANTED, Jan. 28 and Feb. 4, by Titan, Talka, and Wyllie (three Acts), strong show, Musical Act, and Ballad Vocalist. All enquiries to Pavilion, Carnarvon, N. Wales.

WANTED, Known, the Four Scoreys, Comedy Musical Mélangé, free Easter.
Address, 33, Wilton-street, Southampton.

WANTED, Monday next, by Primrose Quartette, male vocalists. Enormous success this week, Regent Theatre, Salford. Wire.

WANTED, Jan. 28, on, Bradley, Cyclist; Mint and Mart, Comedy Artists and Paper Manipulations. Albert Hall, Southport; two big successes.

WANTED, Known, Bros. St. Clair, Comedy Knockabout Cyclists and Football Players.
This, Palace Cork; next, TIVOLI, DUBLIN.
All coms., SLEY'S Agency, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, Five Abadaroffs, Comedy Speciality. Wire,
95, Stretford-road, Manchester, or STEBBINGS.

WANTED, by the Carls, Comedy Trampoline Speciality, that can follow them all, just returned from Continental Tour, Feb. 11 and 18. Big success everywhere. Roars of laughter and applause; splendid lithos. This, Empire, Stockport; Jan. 21, Theatre Metropole, Devonport. Big Speciality for Panto.

WANTED, Jan. 21 and 28, by Gilroy, Vent., and Boston Bioscope. Managers say they never saw steadier pictures. Wire for Monday, Theatre, Treherbert.

WANTED, by R. J. Golding, the Real Ventriloquist and Illusionist; two good acts, Feb. 11, on. Perm., 32, Courtenay-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Jan. 28, on, Hoozee (?), the Perfect Ventriloquist, concluding 26 weeks Florence Tour. Who wants me? P. A., 15, South-street, Hammersmith.

WANTED, Jan. 28, Feb. 18, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist; and De Lil, Illusionist; two smart Acts. Monday, Theatre Royal, Hyde.

WANTED, Monday next, by Rex Carvell, Ventriloquist and Mimic, and Alma Dora, Comedienne and Expert Dancer. Wire, 91, Pier-road, Erith, Kent.

WANTED, Monday next, for pronounced successes, "Pity the Blind" and "A Motor Muddle," by H. Pleon; going great. Hippo., Putney. Wire, HITCHINS.

WANTED, Monday next, by the Tom Davis Comedy Sketch Co. Gigantic success of "Furguson's Dog." Yells, screams. Wire, Empire, Dudley.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Lion Show, acknowledged best and cleanest in the Profession, vacant April 15, 29, and May 6; big attraction, four newly born Lion Cubs.
Comm. week Jan. 21,
Palace Theatre, Cork, Ireland.

WANTED, Monday next, onwards, Le Clair's Famous Performing Dogs. Wire for Monday, Alhambra, Edinburgh. Permanent, 10, Arlington-street, Clerkenwell, E.C.

WANTED, Known, Charlie Hampson, Two Dogs and Pigeons, in their meritorious Grotesque Act, own scene, Liberty Jan. 28, Feb. 4. Alhambra, Brighton.

WANTED, few immediate dates.
Wire,
CHARD'S Dogs, Theatre, Devonport.

WANTED, Engagement by Knockabout Pantomimist and Posturer, or play Animal Parts, Sketch, or Partner. Address, CARR, 10, Imey-road, Hammersmith.

WANTED, to join First-Class Troupe as Pantomimist and Knockabout. Continental Troupe preferred. Address, SKETCH, 28, Berwick-street, C.-on-M., Manchester.

WANTED, to join Troupe or Sketch, by smart Tumbler, Knockabout; speak lines. Address, COOPER, 2, Glenthorne-road, Walthamstow, Essex.

WANTED, by Smart Youth, Engagement, any capacity, age 19, 9st. 6lb., can lift 86lb. one hand, 125lb. two. K., 2, Monier-road, Bow, E.

WANTED, Engagements, Public or Private, Harmon's Bioscope, Marionettes, also Royal Punch and Judy, with Toby. 326, Earlsfield-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements, Bioscope, 20 minutes or two hours. Special terms for summer. BAINTON, c/o MacDonald, 17 Buccleuch-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, Bioscope Engagements, Coloured Song Slides for Sale, 12 Excelsior, 5s.; 8 Anchored, 3s. 6d.; 6 Killarney, 2s. 6d.; 7 Shamrock, 3s. MORRIS, 13, Tweed-street, Liverpool.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman, Silver King (regd.), Auctioneer, Valuer, Expert and Authority to the United Kingdom and Van Dwellers' Association, Auctioneer to Lord George Sanger (England's Greatest Showman), and Leading Showmen of Great Britain. Sales and Commissions conducted in any part of the World. If you want to Buy or Sell anything connected with the Business, consult TOM NORMAN, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand. Change of address.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Tom Norman, Showman's Auctioneer, &c., attends all Principal Fairs, Feasts, &c., and transacts business with, and for, showmen and travellers of all grades, is desirous of representing one or more large firms, on terms. Satisfactory results guaranteed. References, bank and leading showmen. Apply, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, London.

WANTED, Known, Electrical, Simpkin, Wilkinson, and Gibson, Kirkstall-road, Leeds, manufacture four and six pole Showmen's Dynamos (improved pattern), also new Flame Arc Lamps geared motors, for driving organs and roundabouts, large stocks, cable carbons, globes, incandescents, all classes of repairs; new line, direct coupled portable electric plants, driven by paraffin.

WANTED, Known, Cheapest and Best House for Job Lots Linoleum and Oilcloth, for auctioneers, &c. WARD, 95, Stretford-rd., M'chester.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

OLYMPIA. OLYMPIA. OLYMPIA.

WANTED, Known, First Annual Showmen's BANQUET AND BALL, to be Held at the OLYMPIA, MONDAY NIGHT, JAN. 21, at 12 p.m. President, B. W. ROSS Esq. Vice-Presidents, Sir WILLIAM BULL, M.P., A. E. GATCOMBE, Esq., ROBERT CROSSMAN, Esq., E. DAOUST, Esq., CHAS. B. COCHRAN, Esq., WALLACE JONES, Esq., ERNEST H. ALTMAN, Esq., HAROLD BIRKETT, Esq., J. AMERY PARKES, Esq., FRED KARNO, Esq., CECIL BROUNE, Esq., GEORGE TAYLOR, Esq., PAT COLLINS, Esq. Chairmen, F. H. PAYNE, Esq., and LORD GEORGE SANGER. Committee, W. Sedgwick, F. Wilson, W. Lee-Neve, Sid Jefferies, J. Wentworth, J. Lynch, Bros. Biddalls, G. Smith, T. Knighton, J. White, J. Allport, J. Wilson, J. Osborne, Barron Bros., Fred Bibby, Mellor Bros., W. Jones, J. Whyatt, G. B. Sadler. Chairman of Committee, Arthur Dashwood. Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, A. Cardew.
Special Notice to all Showmen. The above gentlemen of the Committee will have great pleasure in hearing from any Showman who would like to be present at the above Banquet and Ball. Tickets can be obtained from any of the Committee, and Secretary. Address, Olympia. Tickets admitting to Banquet and Ball, 3s. 6d. each.

WANTED, Known, the Annual Meeting of the United Kingdom Showmen and Van-dwellers' Protection Association,
The Showmen's Guild
(President, Lord George Sanger),
will take place at the
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL,
Islington.
by kind permission of T. E. Read, Esq.
(Lessee of the World's Fair),
on Wednesday, Jan. 23,
at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.
LORD GEORGE SANGER will preside, and deliver a Presidential Address. Supported by the Rev. T. Horne (Hon. Chaplain), F. H. Pedgrift, Esq. (Hon. Treas.), F. Millar, Esq. (Parliamentary Agent), T. Watson Wright, Esq. (Guild Solicitor), and other gentlemen.
T. HURST, Hon. Sec.

WORLD'S FAIR, ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL, ISLINGTON.

WANTED, Known, the Showmen's Fourteenth Annual Supper and Ball will take place as above, on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 1907. Chairman, T. E. Read, Esq.; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Metcalfe, Star and Garter; Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. Day. Tickets admitting to Supper and Ball, 4s. each, can be obtained of the above, or any member of the Committee. Supper, 11.45.
Success to the World's Fair.

WANTED, Known.—Write or call at Greene's, Falmouth-road, London, S.E., for .22 ammunition, rifles, globes, targets; absolutely cheapest market

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100, 101, 102a, Houndsditch, is going ahead with up-to-date Lines in Field Glasses, Fancy Goods, Clocks, Jewellery, &c. Send for Special Xmas Supplement. There is no cheaper house for you.

WANTED, Known, Auction Marts and others, R. Owens, Manufacturing Chemiste and Dry salters, 15, Rosamond-st., West Manchester, making up good lines. Good profit. Write for samples.

WANTED, Known.—A Word to the Wise is Sufficient. A Client writing June 25, 1906, says:—Bag puncher took £300 in a little over three months. For price, write Sole Agents to the Makers, viz., the Mills Novelty Co. MINERVA AUTOMATIC Co., 120, York-rd., King's Cross, London, N. Largest Variety of Automatic Machines in the trade. No Junk. Don't buy worn-out machines.

WANTED, Showmen to save money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of specially prepared paints, colours, varnishes, brushes, &c., and every requisite for decorating caravans, roundabouts, swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

Latest Invention.
PORTABLE HELTER SKELTER LIGHTHOUSE,
Prices on application.
WANTED, Known, I have the Sole Right of manufacture of the above under the Registered Design No. 463,956, of S. F. Staples, A.M.I.C.E. Caution.—Infringements of above rights will now be dealt with.
WALKER,
Roundabout Maker, Tewkesbury.

WANTED, Known, Showmen's Letter Cloths made and attractively painted in fancy colours. All kinds of Showmen's Painting undertaken. ROCHE, Artist, 22, Lansdowne-road Lee, London, S.E.

QUEEN'S PALACE, RHYL.
ARCADE AND EXHIBITION, ROOF GARDENS, TOWER, VENICE, &c., &c.
WORLD'S FAIR,
Season 1907.
WANTED, for Above, Good Attractions, for Thirty Lock-up Shops, also Kiosks, Stands, and Spaces; Good Side-shows, Scientific and Startling Illusions, Freaks and Monstrosities, Trade and Manufacturing Exhibitions, Slot Machines, Photographers and Sketch Artists, Palmist, Phrenologists, Wire Workers and Platers, Engravers, Glass Embossers, Embroidery, Fairy Floss, Cocoanuts, Punch-ball, Shooting Gallery, Fishpond, Aerial and Aquatic Novelties, Zulu Village or Pygmies, Ladies' Costume Orchestra, Pierrot Troupe, Skittle Alley, Electric Batteries and Novelties, Entertainers, Band for Theatre and Exhibition, &c., &c., &c. Nothing too Big.
Open Whit Week till October.
Only covered place of Amusement in Rhyl.
Admission 2d. Also Special week at Easter.

For plans and spaces, apply CHAS. CHAPLIN, Colwyn Bay; or to Messrs. DOUGHTY and FRASER, Solicitors, 17, Market-street, Manchester; or Palace, Rhyl.

THE TWO-HEADED PATAGONIAN GOLIATH.
Admission One Shilling.

WANTED, Shows, &c., new to U.S.A. As our Attractions periodically play the same American Circuits, would Sell the Two-Headed Giant Exhibition (at close of London engagements), or exchange for Novelty new to the States.
All communications to permanent address,
KAP-DWA Co., 54, Shaftesbury-avenue, London.

MARCH FOURTH TRADES, INDUSTRIAL, ARTS and INVENTIONS EXHIBITIONS, 1907.
Open April 2 to 10.
Manager, Mr. Joseph Collingwood, J.P.
Three years since last Exhibition.
Locally organised, and managed on same lines as its three predecessors, each of which has established fresh records for attendance and business done.

WANTED, Trade Displays, Working Exhibits, Novelties, Side Shows, Stage Artists, &c., &c.
R. F. BERTOLLE, Secretary.

WANTED, immediately, for Shop, Freaks, Novelties, &c., for Side Shows.
MANAGER,
125, Queen-street, Portsea.

WANTED, Freaks and Novelties, April and onwards.
A. E. PICKARD, American Museum, Glasgow.

WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, Open at Once, Sale of Books and Postcards allowed. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Novelties and Freaks of Nature, for Bagan's Waxworks, Belfast, North-street; also Lady Palmist and Tattooist, on shares; good opening.

WANTED, Novelties, Monday, and onwards, shares or salary, nothing too big, month certain. Prof. RUBY, Ruby's Casino, 25, Whitechapel-road, London, E.

WANTED, Living Novelties of Every Description; also Mechanical Show, for Large Shop Business; well fitted up with Electric Light, F. DURLAND, Exhibition, 7, Clerk-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, a good Lady Character Reader, Shares.
Wonderland, 137, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, for Anderton's Modern Show, two Young Lady Paraders; those used to Fair business; long engagement to suitable people (live and sleep out). Address, with photos., ANDERTON'S Modern Show, Manchester-rd., Swindon.

WANTED, Experienced Handseller, for Auction Mart; sober, honest, and willing worker only need apply. Also Pianist, Vocalist preferred, used to Singing Contests. Good wages; permanent situation. Reference required. GREENWOOD, 157, Everton rd., Longsight, Manchester.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

Important Notice to Showmen
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WANTED, Known,
MESSRS. CHIAPPA AND SONS,
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MESSRS. CHIAPPA AND SONS,
MESSRS. CHIAPPA AND SONS,
of 6, Little Bath-street, Holborn, London,
Respectfully Invite all Travellers
to come and view
their Very Latest
and
Most Elaborate
110-Key
Full Orchestral
Organ,
with
Combined Show-front,
which will be
on View
from
the 21st inst.,
and for
Several Weeks,
at the
Above Address.
Don't Fail to Come and See it.
It will repay you all.

WANTED, by Professor, Hypnotism, Mesmerism, Subjects, both male and female. Private Exhibitions in London. State experiences, wages, Box 4,218, "The Era."

WANTED, Subject for Occasional Demonstrations in Hypnotism, female preferred; former experience. Letter only, KEIRO, 124, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, one or two reliable Men, for small Shows; sobriety and respectability essential; long and comfortable engagement, from Feb. Terms, references, PROPRIETOR, 4, Ducie-grove, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Jan. 21, Prof. and Madame Elba, Comedy, Second Sight Artists, Halls, Exhibition, or Picture Shows. Wire for Monday. 26, Union-st, Dundee.

WANTED, by Lady Character Reader, Engagement; experienced, competent; half shares or salary. Write, 8, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Davis's Knife Throwers, Liberty Monday, Sensational Paintings. Bill Priest, Daniel Day wire. Exhibition, 70, Bridge-street, St. Helens.

WANTED, Known, at Lib., Charley Rowse, Comedian and Planksman, 2 years Mr. Marshall, steady and reliable. Ad., 15, Paddington, Liverpool.

BLACKPOOL SANDS.

WANTED, Known, the South Shore Pleasure Beach is the only site in Blackpool for Open-air Attractions.
The grounds are forty acres in extent, right on the sea front, and are situated immediately next the Promenade at the Electric Tramway Terminus. From April 1 to Dec. 31, 1905, 4,000,000 passengers were carried on these tramways. The permanent attractions now include the "River Caves of the World," "Maxim Flying Machine," "Sea Circus," &c. Great Canadian Water Chute now being erected for next season, commencing at Easter. For sites and concessions for really good Novelties address, PROPRIETORS, 14, Balmoral-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Let, Show Ground.
Tranent Show Ground
is to be Let
during the
Annual Fair Holidays in June.
Apply,
TOWN CLERK, Tranent, N.B.

WANTED, Known, Exeter Great Easter Fair, Okehampton-road. Absolutely the best and most prominent position. Ground to Let, for all Kinds of Amusements, at moderate rents. No ground reserved unless deposit paid. Apply, ANDERTON'S Modern Show, Manchester-road, Swindon.

WANTED, to Let, Ground, at Wallsend-on-Tyne, commencing Monday, Jan. 22; also Ground to Let at Byker, from Feb. 23, one of the best show grounds in the North of England. Apply COTTRELL'S Cinématograph, Fair Ground, Wallsend-on-Tyne, until further notice.

WANTED, to Let, Ground for Shows, &c.
Apply,
J. BEAUMONT, Market-yard, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, to Let, for Good Friday and Easter Holidays, fine ground, main road, for Roundabouts, Switchbacks, General Fair, and Side Shows, adjoining Boleyn Castle Football and Sports Ground. Advertised Matches played on Good Friday Morning and Afternoon. Apply, ROBERTS, 431, Green-street, Upton Park.

WANTED, — Notice, all parties requiring ground for all kinds of amusements for Exeter Easter Fair, in the old Fair Field, Okehampton-road, this year Special Attractions, including our new Helter Skelter. Apply, W. C. and S. HANCOCK, Winter Gardens, Plymouth.

WANTED, to Let, Spaces for Amusements, Novelties, Stalls, Refreshments, Promenades, Portobello, New Brighton. MELVILLE, 36, Cobden-street, Barnoldswick.

WANTED, Ground, Summer, good position, Seaside or Inland Resort, Refined, Novel Show, Pierrot and Fancy Bazaar combined, handsomely fitted stage and canopy cover, 60 by 45. Anyone informing me of suitable pitch will (if taken) be rewarded. F. M. BARBER, Swan Hotel, Talk o' th' Hill, Staffs.

WANTED, Known, Circus, stationary for next Summer Season, suitable ground, centre of seaside town. Terms, P. S., Dover-rd., Folkestone.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100, 101, and 102A, Houndsditch, has Special Departments for 9ct. Rings, Secondhand Watches, Unredeemed Pledges, and Cheap Jewellery. Send for Special Xmas Supplement. All up-to-date Lines.

WANTED, to Sell, Road Living Van, Howcroft's latest make, 12ft. by 6ft., in good repair. Price £18. P. MAPPLEBECK, Caravan, Lowden's-alley, Dundee.

WANTED, to Sell, a good Pullman Living Carriage, road or rail, slight repair and painting, cheap, furnished. HADER, Blacksmith, New Ross, Ireland.

WANTED, Known, my handsome carved and gilded Double Waggon Front for Sale, also my large Organ, Marenghi's make, also Back Waggon, 14ft. long. WILLIAM TAYLOR, Electric Coliseum, Agricultural Hall, Islington, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Splendid Living Carriage, or Pullman Car, road or rail, in grand condition, handsomely fitted up inside. Cheap for cash. Mr. HARRY ALLEN, 1,221, Chester-rd., Stretford, near Manchester.

WANTED, to Sell, Road or Rail Living Waggon, by Orton, every accommodation, Mollycroft top, doors at back, suitable for packing accommodation, sliding irons on sides for carrying shutters or poles. Cost £100; will take £50 to immediate purchasers. Apply, WM. WILSON, Drill Hall, Airdrie, N.B.

WANTED, to Sell, cheap to quick buyer, light easy-running 9ft. panelled Road Wagon, inside fittings, complete. KITSON, Pilot-street, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, to Sell,
an 8 h.p. Burrell compound road locomotive,
on springs, price £250.
Apply, T. O. NEWMAN,
Stansted, Essex.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, Husbands, Babies, Love-Letters, Palmistry, Lunatics', Marriage, and Liars' Licences. MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square, W.C.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Sale by Auction, on Ground close to the Angel, Islington, on Wednesday next, immediately after the Showmen's Meeting. Mr. Tom Norman will offer for Sale a number of Living Carriages, Waggons, Horses, Roundabouts, &c., &c. Further Entries Solicited, and Accepted up till 10 o'clock on the morning of the Sale. For further particulars, apply, THE AUCTIONEER, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, Important Sale by Auction, on Wednesday next, immediately after the Showmen's Meeting. Mr. Tom Norman will include in his Sale all those Crystal Palace Riding Machines, viz., Large Roundabout (steam), known as the Boston Riding School; also one set of Steam Roundabout Horses (3-abreast); likewise one set of Steam Bicycles, with all accessories connected thereto. Each of the above machines are complete, and in splendid condition, with organs and engines, all ready for taking money, and will be sold together as a going concern, with lease of ground on which they are erected. For further particulars apply, THE AUCTIONEER, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office.

WANTED, to Sell, Large Rail Waggon, 18ft., nearly new, with Living Compartment.
T. METSON, 2, Westmoreland-place, Harrogate.

WANTED, to Sell, Set of Auction Vans, Telescope, one of the best on the road; new Tent, everything up-to-date. Bargain. Apply, Box 4,224, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, Pullman Living Carriage, 21ft. length, rounded corners, beautifully fitted throughout. Price £160. WILLIAM BARBON, Fun City, Olympia.

WANTED, to Sell, 8 h.p. compound Special Showman's Road Loco., by Burrell, with all Showman's fittings, dynamo platform, and awning full length of engine, and brass pillars; 7 h.p. compound Special Showman's Road Loco., by Burrell, exactly like the above; 5 ton type Showman's Steam Road Motor tractor, by Foster, with all Showman's Fittings. GRAVEN, Ely, Cambs.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines of every description, best and cheapest. WORMALD, 123, Blythe-road, Olympia, Kensington, London. Established 1887.

WANTED, Known, to Juvenile Roundabout Proprietors, and others interested, one of the latest stamp of Juvenile Motor Car Roundabouts is now open at the Olympia, London. This is a machine that can be well adapted for Fair Grounds, Pleasure Gardens, and any places of amusements, either under cover or in the open air.
Riding capacity Forty-five Juveniles.
Inquirers and intending purchasers post early to the Originator and Maker, W. H. HALSTEAD, Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire.

WANTED, to Sell, one four-abreast, two three-abreast sets Gallopers, with double crank Fowler Traction and electric light, one set steam Dobbies. May be seen working. Terms arranged. WALKER, Roundabout Maker, Tewkesbury.

WANTED, Known, my Corrugated Iron Building for sale, made in sections, bolts together, cost over £100, will take £35, cash. Can be seen at the Olympia. Minni Letta's Rolling Stage, with all Machinery connected with same, also for Sale; a big New Novelty for Fairs. This can be seen working daily. For price, address, 11, Addison Park-mansions, Kensington, W.

WANTED, to Buy, Portable Electric Light Engine, with or without dynamo. RELPH and PEDLEY, Padiham, Lancashire.

WANTED, medium size Organ, must be good tone and condition, Scenery (marine subjects) painted in oils for outside, coloured cocoa matting, imitation grass preferred, twisted brass tubing, silvered plate glass. Prices and full particulars to WALTER STENNING, 23, Victoria-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Purchase, Distorting Mirrors, full size,
ten or twelve,
at once,
must be cheap.
Full particulars, Box 4,162, "The Era."

WANTED, to Buy, Set Galloping Horses, second-hand lot, for cash. BERT ELLIS, Stanley-road, Chingford, Essex

WANTED, to Buy, six or more Automatics, known as the "Lyfo" Machines, must be in good condition and in working order. Box 4,183, "The Era."

WANTED, Fit-up, Fountains, &c., for First-Class Shooting Range; also large Distorted Mirrors. Address, 82, Caunce-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, an experienced Centre Driver, sober habits, for Relph and Pedley's RAZZLE DAZZLE. Apply by letter, Olympia, Kensington, London, W.

WANTED, a few suitable Men, for new Riding Machine. Those known to the firm preferred. RELPH and PEDLEY, Padiham, Lancashire.

WANTED, Known, Young Man, age 22, seeks situation as Driver, for Showman's Engine, for the coming season, understands Burrell's compound or other make; total abstainer; good references; Cinématograph Show preferred. E. N. PURKISS, The Hollies, Great Stambridge, Rochford, Essex.

WANTED, Known, will the makers of the double bamboo Slipping the Slips please correspond with Messrs. RELPH and PEDLEY, Padiham, Lancashire?

WANTED, Known, the Seventy Thousand Showmen who use the Columns of "The Era" and are moving about should know that they can make "The Era" Offices their Permanent London Address. Letters received will be held till called for, or immediately re-addressed according to instructions. Address all communications respecting the Letter Department to the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Showmen who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any Railway Bookstall to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED TO SELL.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, to Sell, the entire Production of the Pantomime of "Robinson Crusoe," on easy terms. Managers are invited to see this at Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, on Monday, 21st, or during the week. Box 4,181, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Fred Karno is Disposed to Sell, after Completion of Run, the Pantomime, "The House that Jack Built," Grand Theatre, Glasgow, in its entirety. Can be seen nightly at the above theatre. The success of the Provinces; beating all records.
Apply, FRED KARNO, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell.

WANTED, to Sell. Mr. Williame is prepared to Sell in its entirety (at conclusion of run), the Pantomime of "Blue Beard," a bargain. The most successful Pantomime seen in Plymouth. Now running at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth. Can be seen at any time up to Jan. 26. Also for Sale, the Pantomimes of "The Forty Thieves" and "Dick Whittington."
All communications,
Mr. C. F. WILLIAMS,
Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, to Sell, Scenery and Dresses of "Aladdin" at the conclusion of the present run at the Theatre Royal, Exeter; also "Jack and the Beanstalk"; both specially constructed for touring.
Apply, L. MORETON, Theatre Royal, Exeter.

WANTED, to Sell, Pantomime, Complete, Scenery, Dresses, Script, Music, Properties, Printing, cheap; or would accept partner to run show; must be smart business man. GUSTAVE, T. R., Cradley Heath.

WANTED, to Sell, newest Tricks and Illusions, from 1s.; also Mechanical Head, &c. Stamp for reply. TUNNICLIFFE, Hill Ridware, Rugeley.

WANTED TO SELL.

RUGBY TOWN HALL COMPANY, LIMITED.
In Voluntary Liquidation.

WANTED, Known, For Sale, by Private Treaty, the Town Hall Buildings, comprising Assembly Room, 77ft. by 32ft. 6in., having splendid Acoustic properties, and very convenient retiring rooms, with good sanitary arrangements attached; on the Ground Floor a room about 30ft. square, suitable for small meetings, &c.; and other rooms now occupied as offices and show rooms; also a large Hall, well adapted for and frequently used as an auction mart for furniture sales, &c., and for holding large public meetings; gas and water laid on throughout; there are also eight lock-up shops and cellarage, commanding good rents. The property is situate in the cetnre of the town, has stage licence, and could very easily be converted into a theatre, having considerable frontages to the two principal business streets.
For further particulars and to treat, apply to the Liquidator, Mr. RICHARD OVER, at the office of the company, 5, Railway-terrace, Rugby.
Dec. 27, 1906.

WANTED, Known, to Buyers, Mr. CLARENCE SOUNES is prepared to Sell in its Entirety (at the conclusion of the run) the Enormously Successful Pantomime, "THE FORTY THIEVES," Now Running at the Prince's Theatre, Poplar, to Big Business.
The best pantomime in suburban London.—Vide Press and Public.
The scenery, dresses, and entire production fit for any theatre in the Kingdom.
Managers on the outlook for an excellent Pantomime Investment are invited to see this Magnificent Show. No time should be lost in doing so. First come, first served.
Mr. Sounes is willing to accept a moderate figure. Be advised; see it. A rare chance.
You can either write, telegraph, or 'phone (64 East) for particulars.
All communications, Prince's Theatre, Poplar, London, E.

WANTED, Wanted, to Sell, all the Scenery, Dresses, Properties, &c., of "Bluebeard."
Can be seen next week Blackpool; following week, Birkenhead; following week, Derby.
Address, LESTER COLLINGWOOD, Alexandra T., Birmingham.

WANTED, to Sell, Wrenchès Cinématograph, cost £30, steady, 24ft. picture, £9; also 4,000ft. of films, gas fittings, lot of conjuring apparatus; a lady's black satin serio dress, trimmed with amber, suit a parading show; also gentleman's tights, fleshings, &c. F. M., 4, Wellington-row, Bethnal Green, E.

WANTED, to Sell, Cinematograph, splendid Steady Machine, £8 10s., in neat Travelling Case, cost £22, about a dozen Films go with machine. GUSTAVE, T. R., Cradley Heath.

WANTED, to Sell, Bioscope and Films, cheap. Stamp for list to BENDON, 301, Cathcart-road, Glasgow.

WANTED, to Sell, 20,000ft. of Films, from 1d. per foot. A. CHEETHAM, Silvograph Pictures, Rhyl. Send for list.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Annual, 1906, is welcome as containtag carefully compiled lists of the pieces produced during the past year in London, the suburbs, and the provinces, in Paris, and in Berlin. The rest of it is curious and entertaining reading. There is the almanack with its "memorabilia of theatrical events occurrences, &c." There are besides a score of stories and other articles contributed by theatricals a very good one being Miss Louie Freear's set of verses, "'Boy Bob' at Sea," which has humour, feeling, and swing. The book contains many theatrical portraits. As a book of reference the Annual is of great use and value, and while some of its contents doubtless appeal more keenly to the professional than to the outsider, any thoughtful person may derive from its study much amusement and no little insight into the conditions, the magnitude, and the complexity of the English theatre of to-day.—Morning Post, Jan. 22.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Almanack and Annual ("Era" Office, 1s.), a copy of which lies before me, is an invaluable publication for those who wish to have stage records by them. It contains a dramatic and musical calendar, lists of new plays and important revivals produced at the London and suburban theatres during 1905, and also of plays produced in the provinces. Further, we have lists of the new plays and revivals produced at the principal Paris and Berlin theatres. "The Era" Almanack has been regularly issued since 1868, when is was compiled by Edward Laman Blanchard, a comedian whose fascinating life was recorded by Clement Scott. The Almanack closes with an illustrated list of those members of the profession who died during the course of last year, headed, naturally, by Henry Irving. Amongst the other names are those of William Rignold, Frank Celli, Ada Neilson, and Minnie Mario. There is an added pathos in the deaths of those who were so long bodily before the public, and the ringing down of the last curtain seems to have added significance.—T. P.'s Weekly, Jan. 26.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Annual for 1906, published at a shilling from 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, combines utility and entertainment. Its former aspect is exemplified by the record of the plays produced last year in London, the provinces, Paris, and Berlin; it also includes an obituary for the year, and lists of the United Kingdom's theatres and music halls. The attractive side of the Annual comprises numerous stories by stage celebrities, whose portraits illustrate the text. It is a delightful budget of good things. Mr. T. P. O'Connor's appreciation of the late Sir Henry Irving is brief, but tender and impressive.—Financier, Jan. 23, '06.

MINSTREL TROUPE.

THE
TOWN COUNCIL OF ABERYSTWYTH
INVITE TENDERS
FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF
PROVIDING A
MINSTREL TROUPE
ON THE
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FOR NEXT SEASON
(Whit Monday to 1st October, 1907).

Tenders, sealed and marked "Minstrels," and containing full particulars as to class of entertainment, number of performers, and experience of Applicants, to be sent to the undersigned (from whom further information may be obtained) on or before the 2nd February, 1907.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any offer.

A. J. HUGHES, Town Clerk.
Aberystwyth, Jan. 8, 1907.

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INVITE OFFERS
for TWO STANCES for
MINSTREL
ENTERTAINMENTS.

Particulars and form of offer from
TOWN CHAMBERLAIN,
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with whom Offers are to be lodged by
Jan. 26, 1907.

JAMES CAMPBELL,
Town Clerk.

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THE
RAMSGATE AMUSEMENTS COMMITTEE
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Particulars may be obtained on application to the undersigned.

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The Committee do not bind themselves to accept any offer.

A. BLASDALE CLARKE,
Town Clerk.
Albion House, Ramsgate,
8th January, 1907

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ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE.

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JOHN E. SAXBY,
Secretary.
Town Hall, Margate.
Jan. 17, 1907.

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Tenders must quote a sum per week, or for the Season, and must be sent to me endorsed "Tender for Stand on Links," on or before the 4th day of February, proximo. The Council do not guarantee the acceptance of the highest, or any tender.

Dated this 11th day of January, 1907.

AUGS. WHITEHORN,
Clerk to the Council,
60, Saville-street,
North Shields.

BOROUGH OF SCARBOROUGH.

OPEN-AIR ENTERTAINMENTS
IN THE
KIOSK, CLARENCE GARDENS.
THE
CORPORATION OF SCARBOROUGH
INVITE
TENDERS
For the occupation of the
KIOSK
in the CLARENCE GARDENS, NORTH CLIFF, SCARBOROUGH, for the Purpose of the Band Performances and other Open-air Entertainments from the 15th July, 1907, to the 30th September, 1907.

Full particulars and conditions of letting will be sent on application to me.

The Corporation will not necessarily accept the highest or any tender.

Tenders must be sent to me before noon on the 27th February, 1907.

D. ARTHUR NICHOLL,
Town Clerk.
Town Hall, Scarborough,
15th January, 1907.

BOROUGH OF SCARBOROUGH.

THE
TOWN COUNCIL OF SCARBOROUGH
INVITE
TENDERS
FROM
OPEN-AIR ENTERTAINERS
(Including Pierrots)
For the occupation of two Spaces on the South Sands in the Borough, from 18th May, 1907, to 30th September, 1907. The Council will not necessarily accept the highest or any Tender. Tenders endorsed on the envelope "Tender for Entertainers" should be sent to me before noon on the 27th February, 1907.

D. ARTHUR NICHOLL,
Town Clerk.
Town Hall,
Scarborough,
15th January, 1907.

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W. GORDON, Town Clerk.
Town House,
Aberdeen, 11th January, 1907.

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For further particulars apply to
HARRY LESTER,
Secretary.

M. H. A. R. A.

Notice to Members.

The Secretary desires the addresses of the following: Woodhouse (Woodhouse and Wells), Rinaldos, Clarke's Nippers, and Le Barr.

Tickets for the Dinner and Dance will be on sale on Monday next.

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EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—
Stormont's "Rob Roy," Aurora Troupe, Jimmy Shields, Nina Gordon, Winnie Gordon, Griff and Alpha, Lilieth Leyton and Co., G. W. Hunter, Paulinetti and Piquo, Manning's Entertainers, Phil and Nettie Peters.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
The Leopolds, A. D. Robbins, Cliff Ryland, Master Clifford, the Dandies, Jessie Albini, Ernesto, Bioscope, Kellinos.

ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Bros. Luck, Sid Bandon, C. B. Jerome, Little Tichbourne, Ethel Donna, Royston Dene and Co., Arthur Melrose, J. H. Magers, Bioscope, Marie San Toi and Co.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
"The Dandy Thieves," Stacey and Williams, Three Sisters Chester, George Adams, Sarnthalers, Two Butterflies, Bioscope, Mendel.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Tribune's "Bo Peep" Co., Bellonini, Edie Veno, Dan Conroy, Five Bogannys, Kelly and Ashby, Petram Sisters, Carrie Joy, Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Chung Ling Soo, Marzella's Birds, Renard Trio, Park's Eton Boys, Chas. Mildare, Ruth Doris, Meymotts, Godfrey James, Harry Leybourne.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"The Magic Carpet," Lena Willard, Solari Duo, Lee and Kingston, Linden's Vaudevilles, Stein Eretto Troupe, Harry Clifford, Prof. Vox, Strassberger's Lilliputians, Bioscope.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Paul Conchas, Frank Harwood, Techow's Cats, Genaro and Theol, Arthur Lloyd Trio, Hall and Earle, "Rogues of the Turf," Chas. Pastor, Welsh Wanderers.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Mdme. Esty and Co., Courtiers, Chas. Vincent, Zanfretta and Napio, Les Uniques, Little Ganty, Lily Esplin, Alma Gray, Illustrated Song, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Ten Loonies, Jeannie Mackay, Rosie Archer, Young and Devoie, Syd. May, Pat Rafferty, Bioscope, Schenk Bros., Ed. E. Forde, Seven Perezoffs.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Billy McClain's Sextette, Bijou Russell, Boyd and Gilfain, the St. Elmos, Lyons Trio, James Brady, Bioscope, Hardeen.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"Happy Holland" Co., Horace Jones, Bioscope, Albert Christian, "Crystal Gazing," Derenda and Green, Katie Cohen, Baker and Balfe, Paxton Trio, Olga and Elgar.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"The Earthquake," Bioscope, Maningos, J. H. Scotland, Bros. Hayes, Glenroy Troupe, Three Merrils, Kathleen Radford, Sam Elton, Audrew Roy.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
"The Freaks," Trapnell Family, Fanny Erris, Nellie Coleman, Dome, D'Arc's Marionettes, "Heartstrings," Cambrian Trio, Amy Clevere, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Carl Hertz, Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Lieut. Travis, Wartenburg Bros., Sinclair and Whiteford, My Fancy, Frank Bernard and Co., Schwartz Bros., Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
A. Van Biene and Co., Ike Scott and Son, Orpheus, Gladys Mavius, Newhouse and Ward, Karno Four, Peggy Pryde, Ed. Arthur and Co., Bioscope, Lloyd Langdon.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Boy Army, Laurie's Kindergarten, Selbini Troupe, Sadie Simpson, Sisters Andersen, Alice May and Co., Ray Maskell, Bros. Webb, Allan Hanbury, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Ernest Shand, Lilian Lowe, Vasilescu Troupe, Lennie and Hast, Kate Trail, Three Tauberts, Victor Newman, Vernon's "Xmas Eve," Kathleen Cogan, Bioscope.

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EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Ginnett's "Dick Turpin," Tom Costello, Frobel and Ruge, Three Ramoniers, the Mackweys, Clarice Netta, Holden's Mannikens, Russon, Arthur Spencer, Bioscope.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
"The Yellow Fang," Harry Anderson, Winnie Derson, Three Guitanos, Northern Troupe, Wilson and Waring, Alexander, George Gilbey, Bioscope, Darwin and Bradshaw.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
J. F. Elliston's Pantomime, "Puss in Boots."

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
The Saphos, Matweef Troupe, Carlos Caesaro, Browning and Wally, Madge Lessing, W. J. Ashcroft, Howard and Collinson, Illustrated Song, Bioscope, The Flood.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
"The Skirmishers," Prof. Dunning, Kahn and Kahn, the Findens, Sisters Geretti, Verno and Voyce, Jack Camp, Punch and Judy Girls, Les Voces, Bioscope, Bud Snyder.

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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Karno's "Jail Birds," D. W. Watson, H. F. Wilson, Macarte Sisters, Sam Shipley, Pictures, Ethel Dunford, Conway and Leland.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
"Casey's Circus," Harry Drew, Davis Gledhill Trio, Raie Walters, De Wynne Bros., Ethel Ra Leslie, Prince Kokin, Mdlle. De Dio.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Chas. Coborn, Harold Hughman, Frazer and Mac, Princess Pauline, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lucas, Pictures, Fred Elton, Hetty Chattell, Harry Lawson, Coloured Meisters.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.
Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Mr. Peter Davey's Pantomime, "Sinbad the Sailor."

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Carl and Mary Ohm, Percival, Frank Cass, Gus Garrick, Kitty Marion, Russell Brandon, Carney and Armstrong, Bioscope.

THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
George Leyton and Co., in "Boys of the Chelsea School," Harry Marte, Horace White, Arthur St. George, Louis Kerno, Daisy Mayer, Mignon Tremaine, Nina St. Elmo, Bros. O'Gorman, the Vans, Spencer and Marks, Maxim Trio, Pictures, Bates Maddison and Co., in "Charlie's Uncle," Lloyd Morgan, "Belles of the Kitchen."

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
La Milo, Mark Merry, Bioscope, Esta Stella, Sisters Melba, Avrignys, Hill and Whittaker, Bros. Corcoran.

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ARTISTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT THE ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON, IS WITHIN THE AREA ABSOLUTELY BARRED BY US.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND
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Artists and Agents please note that Bookings for the above Theatre have now commenced.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras (Fifteen for those engaged at the London Coliseum). Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, or at least TWO WEEKS, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagement cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

N.B.—Silence in every case a polite negative. Artists are requested not to enclose stamped envelope. Letters marked "Private" will be delayed.
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"FIGHTING FOR THEIR KING AND SIRELAND,"
"CHEYENNE,"
"I CAN SEE RED ROSES BLOOMING,"
"BOY BLUE,"
"COME BACK TO BORNEO,"
"IN MY PAGODA,"
"WHY DO THE GIRLS LOVE CHARLIE?"
"HENNY KLEIN,"
"IT IS THE SCARECROW,"
"MY IRISH ROSIE."
"I WANT MOLLY AND SHE WANTS ME."

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RE APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENTS

All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office.

Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns.

Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follows:—

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Yukio Tani, Horace Monto, Bert Brantford, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Dan Robans, Two Kays, Fred Herbert, Keen and Waller.

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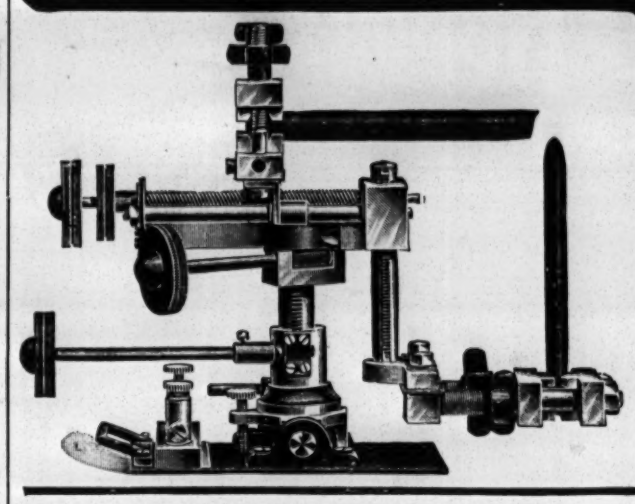

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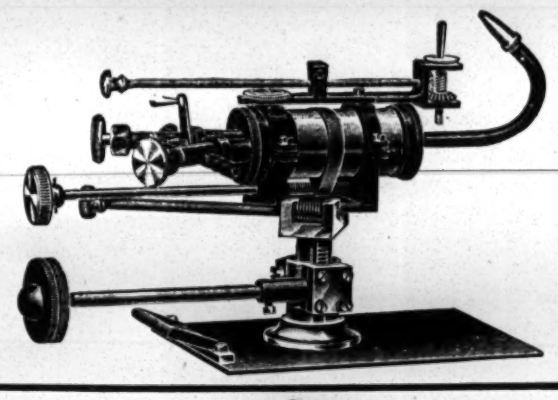

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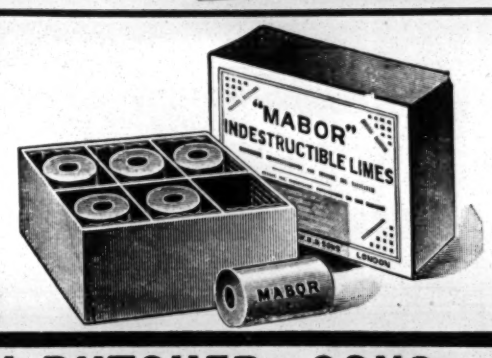

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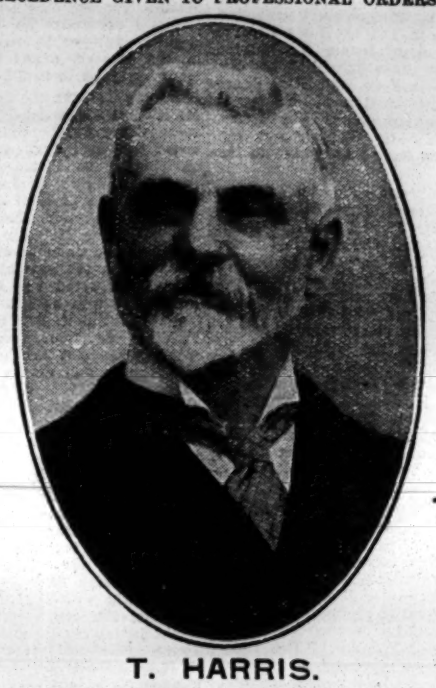

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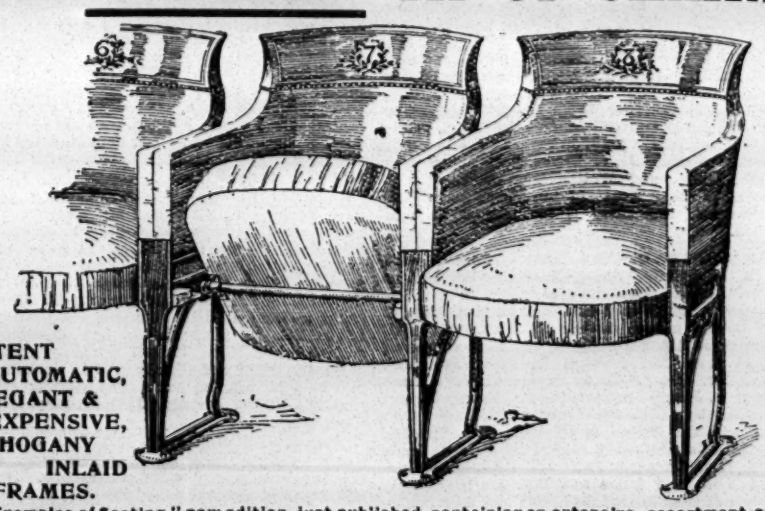

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THE ORIGINAL SIR FRETFUL.

William Parsons, the comedian, was born in 1736, and died at the age of fifty-nine. As a comic actor he became a great favourite with the playgoers of his day, but according to the author of the "Life of Sheridan," he never appeared to greater advantage than he did in *The Critic*. Parsons was the original Sir Fretful Plagiary when Sheridan's piece was produced at Drury Lane Theatre on Oct. 29, 1779, with King as Puff, Dodd as Dangle, Palmer as Sneer, Mrs. Hopkins as Mrs. Dangle, and—in the "tragedy"—Moody as Lord Burleigh, Wrighten as the Governor of Tilbury Fort, Farren as Earl of Leicester, Burton as Sir Walter Raleigh, Waldron as Sir Christopher Hatton, Kenny as Master of the Horse, Wright as the Beefeater, Bannister, jun., as Whiskerandos, Miss Pope as Tilburina, and Mrs. Bradshaw as the Confidant. In the delineation of the character of Sir Fretful, most of his successors in that part are said to have taken more than a hint from its original representative. There are certain features of *The Critic* which everybody remembers—for instance Sir Fretful's famous lines on the plagiarists, who "serve your best thoughts as gypsies do stolen children—disfigure them to make 'em pass for their own"; as well as his special addendum about the "dexterous" writer who "might take out some of the best things in my tragedy and put them into his own comedy."

A compliment paid to the memory of Parsons on the opening of the Haymarket Theatre in the summer following his death was caught at by the audience with loud expressions of their concurrence in the sentiment. A prelude was written by Colman, entitled "New Hay at the Old Market"; the audience was supposed to be made acquainted with the wants of the concern, and a dialogue between Prompter and Carpenter occurs, during which the following expressions were used:—

Carpenter: "We want a new scaffold for the *Surrender of Calais*."

Prompter: "Ah, where shall we get such another hangman? Poor fellow, poor Parsons! the old cause of our mirth is now the cause of our melancholy; he who so often made us forget our cares, may well claim a sigh to his memory."

Carpenter: "He was one of the comicalest fellows I ever see."

Prompter: "Ay, and one of the honestest, Master Carpenter. When an individual has combined private worth with public talent, he quits the bustling scene of life with twofold applause, and we doubly deplore his exit."

The allusion here was to the play of the *Surrender of Calais*, in which Parsons performed the chief workman at the gallows, erected for the patriots who were to be hung by the decree of King Edward. The scene was an imitation of the gravediggers in *Hamlet*. On an occasion when the King (George III.) had commanded the play, Parsons, instead of saying the words set down for him, "So the king is coming; an the king like not my scaffold; I am no true man," gave a new reading, which, as it was expressed with peculiar humour, and a saucy assumption of independence, excited great laughter, more especially from the monarch. Parsons exclaimed, "An the King were here, and did not admire my scaffold, I would say d——n, it, he has no taste!"

"His rivals, Edwin and Quick," wrote F. Reynolds, "undoubtedly possessed one great advantage over him—that of singing. Yet, in spite of this powerful aid to his competitors, Parsons, relying more on mental than on vocal talents, maintained his ground, and for year after year Sir Fretful Plagiary and Crabtree contrived to make successful play against the original Lingo and Peeping Tom, and, what is more to Parsons' credit, against the original Tony Lumpkin and Isaac. Charles Dibden, for some years proprietor and acting-manager of Sadler's Wells Theatre, and author of "A History of the London Theatres," also wrote in praise of the comedian. "The discrimination of Parsons in *Parents and Guardians*, was his own, and he went over this walk in a manner perfectly original, which was the more admirable, coming as he did after Yates; besides, he had treasured up a great fund of knowledge, and was capable of speaking with great taste and judgment to every question concerning the arts, and had a congenial feeling with those enlarged ideas which particularly belong to acting."

James Broaden, the dramatic writer and playwright, bears testimony to Parsons' singular power of telling a story, adding "One of his best has been versified by a very dear old friend and called 'Parsons, the Actor and the Lion,' and it is done as well as a very humorous pen can do it; but the *face* of the actor must be wanting; the *manner* of him whose toe had touched a lion at the bed's foot; the shaggy mane; the verification of the fact; the agony of suspense; the knocks that might wake the savage to their distraction; all this should be seen and heard."

William Parsons was, as already stated, the original Crabtree in *The School for Scandal* on the production of that famous comedy at Drury Lane Theatre in 1777. In connection with this memorable theatrical event, Walpole, who, however, afterwards slackened in his enthusiasm, wrote thus to a friend—"Miss Abington was equal to the first of her profession; Yates, Parsons, Miss Pope, and Palmer all shone. It seemed a marvellous resurrection of the stage. Indeed, the play has as much merit as the actors."

MR. W. S. GILBERT has defined his responsibilities in connection with the present revival of his works in London. "It is the practice of the Savoy management," says the genial satirist, "to announce that the operas with which my name is associated are produced 'under the personal direction of the author.' As this expression is usually held to comprehend a much wider range of duties than those which, under existing circumstances, fall to my share, I shall feel obliged if you will allow me to explain that in the present series of revivals my responsibility is confined exclusively to the ordinary duties of a stage-manager."

A NEW four-act play, by Cicely Wroughton, will be a feature of a matinée to be given at the Comedy Theatre on Feb. 5, in aid of Westminster Hospital. The Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch, the Duchess of Norfolk, and many members of the nobility are among those who have given their patronage, and several aristocratic amateurs will be included in the cast.

A FATALITY occurred on the stage of an Italian theatre on Monday night. During the performance of a play at the Maro Theatre at Brescia, an actor approached a mine in order to fire it, firearms at the same time being discharged behind the scenes in order to represent the noise accompanying the blowing up of the mine. Immediately after the firing of the arms on Monday night the audience were horrified to see the actor fall to the stage, he having been struck by the discharge from one of the weapons in the explosion scene.

AT the Crown Theatre, Peckham, on Thursday, Miss Ouida Macdermott (only daughter of the late G. H. Macdermott) played the part of Prince Lothario, owing to the indisposition of the principal boy. Although only seventeen years old, and this her first pantomime, she acquitted herself to the satisfaction of all concerned.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company in *The Country Girl* opened here on Monday night to a crowded house. Mr. Martin D. Pitts as Geoffrey Challoner is very successful, and sings several fine songs; Mr. Ernard Vaughan is entitled to great praise as the Rajah; Mr. W. O. Billington is most amusing as Sir Joseph Verity; Mr. Geo. Stone as Granfer Mummery is decidedly quaint; Mr. Arthur Staples is the life and soul of the piece as Barry, and keeps the house in roars of laughter. Miss Violet Leslie is a winsome and captivating Marjorie; Miss Irene Wood as the Princess sings exceedingly well; Miss May Florence is an interesting Madame Sophie, and sings and dances in an able manner; Miss Florence Brewster as Mrs. St. Quinton is worthy of special note; Miss Maynard is exceptionally bright and clever as Nan, and is quite a favourite. Other characters are in the capable hands of Messrs. W. Besley Beltran, C. H. Biddulph, and F. Womack, and Misses Nellie Read, Maud Read, and Kitty Sullivan. The powerful chorus deserves a special word of praise.

ABERDEEN.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—Mr. George Dance's principal company appear this week in *The Catch of the Season*. A large share of the work falls on Mr. Frank Lincoln as the Duke of St. Jermyns, and Miss Moya Mannering as Angela. Both parts are admirably played, Miss Mannering being specially captivating in the double character of Angela and the Irish Colleen. Other parts which receive full justice are those of Lord Yalton by Mr. Hugh Henson, the Duchess of St. Jermyns by Miss Maud Davis, and William Gibson by Mr. Franklyn Myles. Mr. E. H. Kelly is most successful as Lord Dundreary, Miss Belle Napier is an excellent Lady Caterham, Master Grata is highly amusing as the page; whilst the bevies of Gibson and Lucille Girls make a graceful and attractive spectacle.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Mr. Joe Peterman's elaborate production, *The Belle of the Orient*, is the principal attraction this week. Mr. Peterson himself cleverly plays the part of a money lender, and he is vivaciously supported as the Belle by Miss Florence Vie. Mr. Harry Taft is enthusiastically received and frequently encored; and among the other successful members of an admirable company are:—Mdlle. Victoria Dagmar, in a graceful gymnastic turn; Professor Milne, a clever ventriloquist; Miss Georgina Nicol, a charming "coon" comedienne; and Messrs. Cambo, McAskell, and Lindsay and Harte. A scena, *Dick Whittington*, introduces a number of remarkably well-trained performing cats; and the new series of Bioscope pictures is also greatly appreciated.

ABERTILLERY. — THEATRE METROPOLE. — Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventom; Stage-Manager, Mr. Fred Thomas.—Packed houses are witnessing this week Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth's pantomime, *Aladdin*. Miss Edith Royal as Aladdin is a decided success, and fully merits the applause she receives; Mr. Mike Madden makes a whimsical and successful Widow Twankey; Mr. Percy Vere as Wishee Washee is very good, and provokes roars of laughter, especially in his conjuring scene; Mr. Walter T. Hybart is an effective Abanazar; Mr. Harry Vernon appears to great advantage as the Emperor; Miss Lily Stewart, a charming and vivacious Princess, dances and sings well; Messrs. Reg. Astley and Harold Cliff (knockabouts), as Sloppa and Koppa, are responsible for a good share of the mirth; Miss Kitty Cameron, a charming Pekoe, is popular in song and dance; Miss Lilly Palmer as the Fairy and Miss Doris Cameron as Nicee make the most of their parts; the Grand Silver Amazon March is gorgeous; and the children's flying ballet is both startling and pleasing.

ABERYSTWYTH. — COLISEUM. — On Monday and the two following nights Mr. John Gerant and company occupied the boards with the military drama, *At Duty's Call*, when there were good houses. Mr. John Gerant as Harold Alison, the Anglo-Egyptian, gave a capital portrayal; Mr. Harry Scott made a dashing Capt. Alison; and was ably supported by Mr. Ernest St. John as General Gordon. Miss Dora Drummond played the part of Mrs. Capt. Alison with feeling. Other characters were in capable hands.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—On Monday night Mr. G. Testo Santé and company opened with *The Life of a Showman*. Mr. George T. Santé depicted Ben Leader to the life; Ned Chuckers was a good performance by Mr. Fred Vaughan; Mr. W. Lindsay was amusing as Ben Tic Tac; Marias was well played by Mr. Aurele Labat; Miss E. Lewis made the most of the part of Angelina Matton; Miss Amy Nevill must be highly complimented on her excellent reading of Agatha Winter; Master Harry Warder was at home in the part of Dickie; Mr. Charles Osborne gave an admirable portrayal of Stickers.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs Willmot, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker.—A first-class bill here includes Miss Florrie Gallimore, T. S. Hulme (a smart turn), the Carpos Bros. (hand-balancers), Collier and Roberts (in a vocal scena), and others.

ARBROATH.—PUBLIC HALL.—Manager, Mr. A. Joiner.—Mr. W. T. Rushbury placed before a large audience on Saturday and Monday evenings *The Octoroon*. Miss Mabel Durham as Zoe acted earnestly, and had the full sympathy of the house. Dora Sunnyside was represented by an actress of experience and genuine ability—Miss Lena Lewis; Mr. T. B. Brabazon played the part of Salem Scudder with marked ability, and as Jacob McClosky Mr. Henry Moxton acted with telling effect. Plantation songs, quartettes, dances, &c., were given by the negro members of the company, and were much appreciated.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Revisiting here this week is Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company, with *The Village Blacksmith*. Mr. Sam Livesey brings to bear on his delineation of the title-rôle an intensity of passion and a power of declamation which deeply impresses the spectators. He is admirably supported by Mr. Joseph Carter as Capt. Leo, Miss Louie Adair as Kate Strong and Miss Bertha Hanbury as the child are both able artists.

THE EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—This week's bill contains the names of Leon and Leoni, expert banjoists, who give selections on many novel instruments; the famous Bounding Pattersons are watched with great interest; Haley's Juveniles give a pleasing carnival scena; Dot and Spot sing duets; Walter Curtis entertains successfully as "the merriment merchant"; Arthur Slater, the whistling man in white, is popular; Chris Masters is successful as a character-vocalist; the Society Four contribute a popular pot-pourri; the Leotards are funny clowns; and "Mrs. Brown's Troubles" are depicted on the bioscope.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaughten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chris Wordsworth.—Mr. Edwin C. Jazon's pantomime *Aladdin* is a successful attraction here this week. Miss Edna Latonne is a sprightly and vivacious Aladdin, and Miss Florrie White is winsome as the Princess Badroulbadour. Good service is rendered by Miss Beatrice Sinclair as Slave of the Lamp, Miss Pattie Holden as Geni of the Ring, Miss Lila Lingard as Pekoe, and Miss Blanche Vernon as Caramel. Other parts are well looked after by Mr. Cyril Carle as the Emperor, Mr. Harry Vernon as Abanazar, Mr. B. Best as the Grand Vizier, Mr. J. C. Morris as Widow Twankey, and Messrs. George and Edwards as Ping and Pong. Interesting specialities are introduced by Kavados, smart juggler and cannon-ball performer; the Sisters Reno, expert dancers; the Sisters Varley, vocalists; and Max Merlin, contortionist.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—A strong programme here this week is headed by the Three Schaffers, who, in their gladiatorial upastimes, display grace and skill of a high order; the Marvellous Days, in their thought-reading and second-sight displays, provide a turn of much merit; the Venola Bros, gymnasts, are both clever and funny; the Sisters Russell, in burlesque and low comedy, are highly appreciated; and other items of interest are provided by Mr. Charles H. Gould and company in a sketch, entitled *A Matchless Match*; the Izones, duettists and dancers; Mr. Clayton, with an admirable selection of pictures; and Mr. Eric Graham, comedian.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—Following on a successful fortnight's run of the pantomime *Cinderella*, comes Chas. Macdona's principal company in *The White Chrysanthemum*. Mr. Shirley Lea as the Admiral acts the character to the life, Messrs. H. Langdon Bruce and H. E. Green, in the characters of Lieuts. Armatage and Belmont, act with a true appreciation of their responsibilities; Mr. Richard Telford makes an admirable Sin Chong, with his choppy English and agile limbs; Private Perkins has a worthy representative in Mr. Jamie Dallas; Miss Wilmot Karkeek makes a typical American girl of Cornelia Vanderdecken; the part of Betty Kenyon is safely entrusted to Miss Dorothy Sephton; and Miss Muriel George, who plays the part of Sybil Cunningham—the White Chrysanthemum—sings divinely.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Hardie and Von Leer's company in *Two Little Vagabonds* is here. Mr. Arthur E. Melborne is an excellent George Thornton; and Miss Grace Heywood a winning heroine, Marion Thornton; while Roslyn Vane is a capable Barbara Scarth. Dick and Wally are cleverly drawn by Miss Edie Martin and Miss Josie Belram respectively; Mr. Lionel Ellis is a characteristic Bill Mullins; Miss Evelyn Shaw an amusing Biddy Mullins; and Dido Prince and the Cough Drop are well done by Messrs. Frank Gordon and Dick Winslow.

HIS MAJESTY'S.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Ernest Adrim's company is here in *Our Irish Visitors*. Mr. Adrim himself takes a large share in the piece, and shows great versatility; and Mr. Braithwaite is a humorous Brady, Mr. A. Adams a capital Gilly Softsolder, and Miss Marie Gerrad a vivacious Mrs. Softsolder. Miss Victoria Douglas is a capital Mrs. McMahon, singing finely; Miss Amy Knott a pleasing Mammy Diable; and Adrim and Oram and Lillie Leoville are also entertaining.

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting.—There is a very good bill here this week, with F. V. St. Clair in the premier position. His topical songs were soon all the go. The Mayvilles (Harry and Elsie), in a remarkably clever Lilliputian entertainment, received a well-deserved recall; Vetter Brothers give a clean, clever, and altogether an exceptionally pleasing gymnastic performance; Gillin, the ventriloquist, made a very favourable impression, his turn being humorous and clever; Tennis and Laune, duettists, have a pretty, taking style; Alexandra Royal has a nice selection of songs, which she sings well; and Will Sullivan causes much laughter with his songs and patter.

BARNSLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—*The Night of the Party*, under the supervision of Mr. Weedon Grossmith, is the attraction here this week. Mr. Sebastian Smith as Crosbie keeps the house in uproarious laughter; Mr. Frank H. Denton submits a fine representation of Mr. Frayne; Miss Beatrice Mervyn is highly interesting as Lady Hampshire, and Mr. Aidan Lovett as Sir Charles Hampshire is satisfactory. Mr. Ernest Rivarz is well suited to the part of Alderman Hargen; Miss Florence French is a successful Gipsy Vandelier; Miss Lillian Williams as Paulina, Mr. Douglas Munro as Mrs. Flamber, Mr. Charles J. Bruce as Mr. Roundle, and Mr. Stanley Arthur as Mr. Bogle all do well in their respective parts.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—*The Beauty of Bath* with its pronounced local colouring has been received here with the greatest cordiality. Mr. George Dance's company is particularly strong. Mr. Leslie Holland not only produces and stage-manages the piece, but sustains in his happiest style the chief character, Lieut. Alington. His reception nightly is most enthusiastic. A charming heroine is found in Miss Gladys Guy, her sweet singing, refined demeanour, and delightful personality exactly suiting the part. Great merriment is aroused by the fussy humour of Mr. Jack Crichton as Sir Timothy Bun, his agile dancing being especially popular; Master Sydney Grata creates immense hilarity as Lemon. Mrs. Alington is portrayed in true motherly fashion by Miss Edith Cruikshanks. A vocalist that wins great appreciation is Miss Maggie White (Dorothy Bun); another singer who deserves more than passing notice is Mr. F. Pedgrift (Mr. Gorst), who displays his rich baritone voice to advantage upon several occasions during the performance. Mr. Frederick C. Leister plays Viscount Bellingham upon the usual high-bred lines; Lord Quorn is hit off amusingly by Mr. Reggie Grey; Mr. Sherriff Clunes as Beverley sings with success; Miss Jessie Fraser is well suited as Miss St. Cyr; Mrs. Goodge is undertaken in a quaint way by Miss Ida Lawrie; Lady Bun finds an attractive representative in Miss Florence Hylton. Cordial praise is due to Mr. Gordon Stamford, the musical director.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Silbon's miniature circus constitutes a big attraction here, a great point in this entertainment being a trio of marvellously trained cats; Francis and Alfred, the clever juggler and cannon-ball manipulator, and his funny companion, are always worth seeing; a prepossessing comedienne and dancer is Ray Ford; Takio, Japanese vocal mimic, is admirable; Dave McNeil, comedian, is well received; two screaming absurdities are *Bridget's Idea*, presented by Dick Cruickshanks, and *The Haunted House*, by Clarke and Glenney. Raymond's Biotableaux, as usual, are interesting.

BATLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Whitty; Manager, Mr. Alfred Taylor.—Mr. Peter Thompson's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, is here. It is a well-dressed and well-staged show, and the company is energetic and untiring in his efforts to please. Miss Maude Beaumont is a conspicuous success as Robin Hood; she sings admirably. Miss Loie Langley is a dainty and charming Maid Marian; Misses Renee Grahame and Babs Lloyd are clever as the babes; and Miss Minnie Moran, in addition to a spirited rendering of Will Scarlett, is conspicuous for some uncommonly clever dancing. Mr. Wilton Marsh does well as the Baron; the Danbys are a droll couple of comedians; and Mr. Willie Barrett assists materially in keeping up the fun. The specialities are a prominent feature of this pantomime, and include Kioto, a clever and daring equilibrist; Miss Babs Lloyd, coon dancer and mimic; Miss Rosa Walmsley, speciality dancer; Miss Renee Grahame, male impersonator; Miss Minnie Moran, a spirited dancer; and the Yankee Quartette, whose dancing fairly rouses the enthusiasm of the house.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. Herbert Hollister's company opened here on Monday in *The Lights of London*. Mr. Horace E. Herbert furnished a capital impersonation of Harold Armytage; and Miss Jennie Burgoyne delighted all by her sympathetic interpretation of Bess. The villainies of Clifford Armytage were realistically portrayed by Mr. Herbert Humber; and a fine character-sketch of Seeth Preene was furnished by Mr. Herbert Hollister. Miss Constance Davey did well as Hetty Preene; and skilful impersonations of Jarvis, Mrs. Jarvis, and Shakespeare Jarvis were furnished by Mr. Chris. Mason, Miss Nellie Fern, and Miss Renee Douglas. Humorous impersonations of Philosopher Jack and Percy de Vere were submitted by Messrs. George Wallace and F. H. Waters; and Mr. Sydney N. Hallowes was Squire Armytage to the life.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Freece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—Miss Cissie Lawson and company head the bill here in the capital sketch, *The Devil's Sunday*. Miss Lawson's acting as Fay Faber is worthy of high praise; Mr. Charles Baldwin's comedians and pantomimists, in their absurdity, *The Bank Clerks*, create roars of laughter; Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, the American comedy trio, furnish a capital performance, entitled *The Dancing Master;* Miss Rosie Lloyd is a delightful comedienne; Messrs. J. H. Darnley and company appear to great advantage in their amusing playlet, *What a Night!* and Mr. Jack Hylton, Miss Maud Esmond (comedienne), the Zelobas (acrobats), and the Palace pictures complete the programme.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John S. Walker.—The leading attraction here is provided by Casey's Circus, which affords the utmost enjoyment to large audiences, the laughter being loud and long. Mlle. De Dio, the famous danseuse, appears in several of her most attractive illuminated dances, executed with such grace and charm, including her weird dance, "The Indescribable." She has been accorded a splendid reception. Miss Ethel Ra-Leslie, daintily and charmingly costumed, renders several songs in fine style; and a sensation has been created by the Davis and Gledhill Trio, in their wonderful cycle and motor-racing exhibition. Miss Raie Walters, "the fishing girl," is a capital comedienne; and Prince Kokin executes some smart juggling feats with much dexterity. Mr. Harry Drew is a capital vocalist; and also appearing are the De Wynne Brothers, head and hand balancers.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Alhambra Dramatic Company, under the personal direction of Mr. M. Montgomery, produce here this week the sterling drama, *Is Law Justice?* which has been accorded a fine reception. Miss Nina Blake-Adams, a clever and accomplished actress, appears to the utmost advantage as Nell Warriner, her acting being worthy of the highest possible commendation. Mr. Horace Denton furnished a skilful interpretation of the villainous Martin Clifford; and Mr. Cyril Grier is an admirable Jack Spratt. Mr. Balfour Denniston may be credited with a clever impersonation of Harry Westleigh; and Miss Nora Tremayne was quite equal to the part of Lilian Westleigh. The humour was in the hands of Mr. Tom H. Solly, a funny Joey Pagett, and Miss Mattie Crawford, a vivacious Nancy Grey. Mr. Elmore Frith made an admirable Dick Warriner; and Mr. Ed. Smythe was the clergyman, Mervyn Denham, to the life.

BILSTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby; Musical-Director, Mr. J. E. Machin.—Mr. Arthur Gibbons's pantomime of *Little Red Riding Hood* is here. Miss Nellie Banks is very smart in the title-part; as Prince Bountiful Miss Janet Lawton has a character that suits her well; Miss Nina Terri makes a fairly good Maid Marion; for Baron Badenough Mr. Geo. Westland comes out well; and so does Miss Helena Parsons as Dolly Mayflower. The comedians, Messrs. Ted Mac, J. T. Banks, Sam Johns, Geo. Marriott, jun., and Walter Edge work well together, and cause plenty of fun. Miss Ena Soutar as Diamond, the Fairy Queen, should be commended.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's company, in *Are You a Mason?* constitutes a strong attraction. Mr. E. H. Paterson is well to the front with a capital rendering of Amos Bloodgood, receiving admirable support from Mr. Howard L. Tracy as Frank Perry. Mr. George R. J. Austin displays much humour as Hamilton Travers; Mr. Ernest Cossart scores heavily as George Fisher, and Mr. Buchanan Wake as John Halton is efficient. Mrs. Caroline Bloodgood is admirably played by Miss Adelaide Grace; Miss Margaret Fareleigh distinguishes herself as Eva; and Annie and Lulu are charmingly impersonated by Miss Babs Stuart and Miss Madge Merrique respectively. Mr. Victor Kerr is well suited as Ernest Morrison. The one-act play, *A Bad Penny*, forms an interesting curtain-raiser.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. E. Hoggan Armadale, the well-known theatrical artist, is appearing with pronounced success as Mathias in selections from *The Bells*. Athas and Collins, speciality comedy artists, are a leading attraction; and an excellent combination also includes Miss Helen Charles, society entertainer, and a great favourite; Mr. Harry Freeman, the popular comedian; Harry Tate's No. 2 Company in *Motoring;* Mr. Ambrose Thorne, comedian; Mr. Henry Taylor, Lancashire comedian; Jack Niel, Scotch comedian, and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*The Queen of Hearts* continues to turn money away nightly, and is sure of a long and comfortable run. The artists have well caught on, including Mr. George Robey, Mr. Edward Lewis, Mr. T. A. Shale, Mr. Tom Hearn, Miss Millie Lindon, Miss Valli-Valli, Miss Ethel Haydon, and Miss Helen Cecile.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Crusoe's Adventures* is attended by a full house at every performance, and Miss Georgina Delmar as the adventurous one is well supported in her clever and graceful efforts by Messrs. J. F. McArdle, Geo. Miller, Fred Wright, jun., Colin Coop, Fredk. Hobbs, the Misses Lulu Valli, Clara Stanton, Nell Emerald, Louie Collier, and the Haytors.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—Mr. J. W. Turner and his famous English opera company are now in the second week of their farewell visit, and on Monday Mr. Turner scored in his familiar and always welcome rôle of Myles-na-Coppaline in *The Lily of Killarney*. The popular tenor's reception was most perfervid, and the company shared in the enthusiasm, including Mr. F. J. Hargrave as Hardress Cregan, Mr. Tom Griffiths as Danny Mann, Mr. Sidney Clifford as Father Tom, Miss Jessie Dennis as Mrs. Cregan, and Miss Kitty Brownlees as Eily. Tuesday's performance of *Il Trovatore* was attended by an appreciative audience, which applauded Mme. Sarah Wilson for her splendid efforts as Leonora, Mr. F. J. Hargrave scoring as Manrico. On Wednesday *Maritana* revealed the veteran favourite, Mr. Turner, in capital voice as Don Cæsar; while on Thursday *The Waterman* was revived with much success. *Nigel*, the new opera by Stephen R. Philpot and Percy Pinkerton, was down for Friday, to be preceded by, and for the first time of performance, *Old Knockles*. *The Bohemian Girl* and *Fra Diavola* are also in this week's bill.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—*Cinderella* is proving one of the biggest successes of the season, and is making big reputations for the Misses Bessie Butt, Minnie D'Aubyn, the Sisters Lunella, the Brothers Obo, Harry Talbot, and many others engaged.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning* concludes an eminently successful fortnight's engagement to-night, having proved one of the greatest draws ever known here, and its return will be looked for with interest.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—Mr. Allan Wilkie's Shakespearean and other impersonations have drawn warm approval from crowded houses. Opening on Monday as Pierre in *The Two Orphans of Paris*, Mr. Wilkie on Tuesday appeared as Colonel Damas in *The Lady of Lyons*, in which he showed sound ability. Mr. G. A. Marsh undertook the rôle of Claude Melnotte in an admirable manner, and Miss Ine Cameron displayed hauteur and sweetness just as the part of Pauline occasioned. Mr. John Paley acted well as Beauseant; Miss Carrie Baillie did well as Mme. Deschappelles; and Mr. Gordon Phillpot, Mr. Herbert Morgan, Mr. Ian Fleming, Mr. George Munro, and Miss D. Horrocks were good in their parts. On Wednesday *The Merchant of Venice* was performed, under the patronage of the Hon. J. Adderley, Vicar of Saltley, when Mr. Wilkie drew from a critical and fashionable audience much praise and applause for his clever study of the Jew. *Othello*, *David Garrick*, and *The Bells* have also been given, with Mr. Wilkie in the big parts.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*The Worst Woman in London* is presented here, with all its usual success, by Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company, amongst which Miss Florence Dalton stands out prominently with her powerful portraiture of the title-rôle, Frances Vere. Miss Elizabeth Watkins shines in excellent contrast as Ruth Milford; Mr. George Garsford gives a manly impersonation of Jack Felton; Mr. Paul Barry Lewers portrays Vincent Lyle in strong, effective colours; Mr. F. Vernon Travers is a source of great strength as James Milford; Mr. Leonard Booker does extremely well with the rôle of Philip Armstrong; Mr. H. W. Monte acts excellently as the disreputable Drayton; and the humorous rôles of Bob Goldfinch and Matilda Parker are played with the utmost success by Mr. Harvey White and Miss Polly Marsh respectively.

EMPIRE PALACE. — Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The Ten Loonies head the bill with an amusing sketch, the title of which is *Dotty*. The artists are excellent musicians, in addition to being capital knockabout comedians. Syd May earns a full round of applause for his clever mimicry; the Seven Perezoffs are clever jugglers of the humorous kind, their sketch, *An Evening in a Paris Café*, being very good; Edward E. Forde, the Australian sundowner, is not only a witty comedian and an accomplished vocalist, but he is very good at facial contortion; Pat Rafferty is well received; the Schenk Brothers have a clever balancing turn; Jeannie Mackay is a pleasing vocalist; Young and De Voie, in *Dancing by Book*, and Rosie Archer, mimic, complete the programme.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Heading the bill is Horace Wheatley, who makes a welcome reappearance, bringing with him several new songs; and the Richards Trio prove themselves clever comedy acrobats in their sketch, *Giddy Golfers*, in which the eccentricities of golfers are laughably exaggerated. Barrington Foote and company present *The End of the Story*, in which an exciting duel with rapiers forms the leading feature; Wyndham and Waters have a laughable act, entitled *The Professor and His Pupil;* Arthur Kenny is a sensational cyclist; Brilliant and Brilliant are expert xylophonists; Anthony is a comic juggler, who introduces many novel items in his turn; Ted Saunders, the popular mimic, and the Four Kurios, in a comic turn, are also well received.

BORDESLEY PALACE. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—Billy McClain and company give an excruciatingly grotesque Southern scena, called *The Hottest Coon from Dixie*. It is an amusing number, introducing much good singing and dancing. Theo Hardeen gives a puzzling exhibition of handcuff manipulation; the St. Elmos are smart instrumentalists, vocalists, and dancers; the Lyons Trio of pantomimists are ludicrous to a degree; while Eijou Russell certainly knows how to dance. Boyd and Gilfain give an amusing turn, in which is included some good singing and also excellent dialect comedy; James Brady is a rare comedian.

CURZON HALL. — The Royal Italian Circus continues to draw large crowds. This week several new items are added to the programme. The calculating and musical pony, Theresa, is intelligent enough to play a game of cards with members of the audience, while the playing of "Home, Sweet Home" on the hand-bells was the signal for a round of applause. Another new item is that given by the Two Walonells, a pair of clever comedy gymnasts.

MASONIC HALL.—Catlin's Royal Pierrots are making their annual visit for a short season. As usual, they have a varied and attractive programme. The troupe consists of Messrs. George Houghton, tenor; Ernie Preston, light comedy; Will Ambro, in coon songs and sand-dance; K. Scott-Barrie, comedian and female impersonator; Tom Catlin, Will Catlin, and Sid Frere, comedians; and Prof. Lewis, who provides an excellent ventriloquial turn.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—Messrs. E. H. Hill-Mitchelson and Harris Fineberg's company is this week presenting *The Traitor*. Mr. Bensley Evans gives a capital rendering of Prince Rudolph; the title-rôle is cleverly handled by Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan; Mr. Arthur McCulloch makes an excellent General Hurtz; Mr. T. W. Hurst a successful Captain Ross; and as Zulu, Miss Effie Bartlett is sympathetic. Miss Gwynne Warren is a powerful Countess Zica; and Miss Katharine Vere a very good Elsie Dupres.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey and company are paying another visit here this week, and meeting with their usual success. Mr. Mackey repeats his admirable impersonation of Barney O'Hea; Mrs. Mackey is still the charming Norah M'Grath; Mr. J. S. Chamberlain contributes a clever study of Michael Kenny; and Mr. Arthur Rose, who plays Shamus M'Dermott, is a very fine vocalist. The singing and dancing of Miss Nina Flensberg, who takes the part of Biddy M'Ginn, is one of the most pleasing features of the play.

GRAND THEATRE. — Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Mr. Lester Collingwood's pantomime company is here this week with *Blue Beard*. The title-rôle is creditably played by Mr. S. Lockridge; Ibrahim has a humorous exponent in Mr. Fred Lyndo; and Sister Anne is accounted for by Mr. Harry Tilbury. The singing of Miss Millie Warde (Fatima) and Miss Marie Liston (Selim) is also much appreciated. The Three Rubys—one of whom is a particularly bright comedienne—give a clever acrobatic performance; the Sisters Wingrove find favour as duettists and dancers; and the Two Jays provide merriment as side-walk conversationalists.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. C. Moody.—Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred D'Arcy's company has presented the brilliant pantomime, entitled *Robinson Crusoe*, to large and delighted audiences during the week, and has scored a decided success. In the title-rôle, Miss Marion May made an ideal principal boy, and was rewarded with unstinted applause; the Polly Hopkins of Miss Nellie Moore was received with much enthusiasm; Mr. Fred Lloyd as Mrs. Crusoe scored well; and a capital Billie Taylor was presented by Miss Cissie Conyers. The Sidney Quartette were much in evidence as dancers; the Three Zaracs, Sandy and Curl, and the Ladderites are responsible for several good turns.

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL (LIMITED).—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—After a phenomenally successful four weeks' run, Mr. Elliston has been reluctantly compelled to withdraw his annual pantomime of *Mother Goose*, which ends its career in Bolton this (Saturday) evening. Wednesday afternoon and evening last were set apart for the twenty-seventh annual complimentary benefit of the managing-director, Mr. J. F. Elliston. In addition to the pantomime, extra turns were given by the Six Æolians, who appeared in a high-class vocal and dancing act; Harry Freeman, comedian; Jennie Johns, comedienne; Sammy Shields, comedian; the Columbia Trio; Harry Rogerson, with his sleepy dance, &c. During the evening the bénéficiaire recited Tom Hood's poem "The Bridge of Sighs," and, after repeated calls, he addressed a few words to his friends and patrons, referring to his long and unbroken connection with the Bolton Theatre (twenty-seven years), and gave a résumé of the various high-class companies and productions engaged for the coming season.

GRAND THEATRE (LIMITED).—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—A good company here is headed by Toch and Tard, who appear in a clever comedy acrobatic performance; Pat Carey, the popular Irish comedian, gains great favour; Elders and Genesta are novel eccentrics; Miss Mabel Mavis gives solos on the glassophone; Burg, Haud, and Wise appear in their humorous comedy act, *Ye Browne Cow Inn;* the Virginians, coloured artists, render negro melodies, plantation songs, and dances; Zarmo is a droll comedy juggler; and Victor Courtney, speciality artist, Richardson Taylor, whistling ventriloquist and mimic, Lily Tiso, comedian and dancer, Mackinnon's Scottish Meisters, in their vocal extravaganza *Ancestral Spirits*, and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope are also in the bill.

BOSCOMBE. — HIPPODROME.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Ball.—This week John Lawson and company are appearing in the stirring Hebrew episode, *Humanity*. Mr. Lawson gives a fine portrayal of the Jew. He is ably assisted by Miss B. Bent and a good company. Gerhardi Mohr is a remarkable jumper, and performs some marvellous somersault feats; much amusement is caused by the eccentricities of the Sivronis, a funny couple; Dan Filmer is a smart comedian and dancer; Almon is more at home on his hands than feet; Fred Harrison is a droll comedian; Jenny Reeves scores with her songs, and the Hippodrome pictures conclude a good bill.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—Mr. Milton Bode's principal company in *The Belle of Mayfair* opened on Monday. The most popular rôle in the play is Sir John Chaldicott, played with considerable humour by Mr. Harry Parker. Mr. Haddon Cave is a breezy Earl of Mount Highgate, and livens the piece up whenever he is on the stage; while as his son, Mr. Edward Hugonett scores well. Mr. Gwyn Alyn's fine voice is heard to advantage in the part of Hugh Meredith, and a success is scored by Mr. Lauri Lisle as Comte de Perrier; Julia Chaldicott could not be in better hands than those of Miss May Yates; Miss Paula Fernan gives a capital rendering of Pincott; while ample justice is done by Miss Daisie Irving, who has a nice voice, to the character of Princess Carl, and by Miss Aurelie de Loriere, who looks charming as the Gibson Girl, and receives an encore for her song, in the chorus of which she is joined by Mr. F. Brandon as Captain Theobald. The piece is beautifully staged and dressed, while the music is under the able direction of Mr. T. M. Tumbridge.

BRADFORD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—*Robinson Crusoe*, Mr. Hart's brilliant pantomime, is enjoying immense popularity. Nothing finer has been seen here in the way of beautiful scenery and spectacular effects, and the company is one of all-round excellence. Mlle. Du Roche is a favourite as the venturesome hero, and her vocal successes are the "Umbrella song," "I love a lassie," and "Robinson Crusoe's Isle." Miss May Henderson, the merry Topsy, too, is a prime favourite, and her rendering of the song "Goodnight, Mr. Brown" is distinctly original. "Zuyder Zee" is amongst the vocal tit-tits with a well-arranged chorus. Mr. T. C. Maxwell as Davy Jones gives with fine effect "Rage thou angry storm," and "A different girl again," which falls to his lot, is in striking contrast. Miss Mabel Sealby, the charming Polly, is the recipient nightly of many favours. Miss Mab Paul is a winsome Fairy Queen; Miss Marjorie Langdon is a charming Princess, and very brightly Miss Ivey Roze disports herself as Harry Helm. Mr. Fred W. Graham is very funny as Captain Hokum, Mr. Frank Calvert is full of resource and immensely diverting as Booby Billy, and Billy Williams is the quaintest of quaint Cannibal Kings with his capital "Bungalow" song. The Burnells are a clever quartette who do a lot to keep the fun going, and they are a host in themselves.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Mr. J. F. Preston and company in an excellent dramatic sketch, *Rogues of the Turf*, are

Four, who are here again, combine humour with harmony; there is novelty in Horace Monto's turn with mandoline and clubs; Effie Stuart is a smart Scotch comedienne and dancer; Bert Brantford is a humorous comedian; the Two Kays are charming in a vocal scena, *The Nightingale;* Wyndham and Waters are fulfilling a second week's engagement with their comic sketch, *Professor and Pupil;* and there are some fine pictures shown by Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

BRIDLINGTON.—PALACE AND WINTER GARDENS.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Delmar.—A first-class company here includes Mme. Natalia, contralto, who is rapturously encored; Alf. Berg is a clever exponent of muscular training; Mr. Preston Holmes gives a good musical turn; Mr. Harry Bentley amuses with his comic ditties; Mr. Frank Glenister, comedian and dancer; Miss Edie Sheldon, comedienne; and Mr. Bernard Brandsby, swell comedian, add successful items to the programme; Frank Banks and company give a capital little sketch, *Honesty;* and Cissie Preston and company are seen in an amusing sketch, *Mrs. Minks' Mistake.* The Bergograph pictures are well chosen.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Miss Annie Hughes and company are here this week with *Tommy.* Miss Hughes gives an excellent portrayal of Jane, better known as "Tommy," displaying fine contrasts of light, winsome comedy and impassioned declamation. Mr. Evelyn Vernon is admirably suited as the simple-minded and conscientious old editor, Percy Hope; Mr. Willie Hartill submits a sterling representation of the shrewd business-manager, William Clodd; Mr. Rupert Lister achieves complete success as the impulsive Dick Danvers; Miss Winifred Pearson handles the part of Mr. Morrison with much skill; Miss Ida Richardson is a praiseworthy Honour; and Mr. R. Breach is entertaining as Flipp. The play is preceded by *Good-for-Nothing Nan,* in which Miss Annie Hughes is especially effective as Nan.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—There is an excellent company here this week. The Jackley Trio win enthusiastic applause for their comedy speciality; Fred Holland, the Surrey County cricketer, achieves great success with his songs; Edie and Ramsden are entertaining in a pot-pourri act; Will Morso is an amusing comedy juggler; the Coney Island Glee Singers are effective in their American glees and comedy entertainment; Alice Blanford is a pleasing vocalist; Hughes and Elliott are capital comedy duettiste and dancers; Velasque's miniature circus of performing dogs, ponies, and monkeys is an excellent turn; Harry Cook is an eccentric comedian; Gracie Bard sings and dances herself into favour; Maude Wilton is a diverting comedienne and mimic; and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting and amusing.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—An attractive programme is sustained here this week. Albert Whelan, the Australian siffleur and mimic, is warmly received; Martin Conway is a quaint comic singer; Fred Cullane and company provide plenty of fun in *Pipple from Poppleton;* Vesta Tilley is as popular as ever, and is enthusiastically applauded for her finely-rendered songs; Keen and Waller are clever and eccentric comedians; Starr and Jerome are capital speciality vocalists and dancers; Cull-Pitt, assisted by Mlle. Adele, submits an entertaining pot-pourri of magic, comedy, and facial expressions; Charles Norton is a pleasing mimic; Sibb and Sibb (Gertrude and Willie) are skilful double trapeze artists; Ida Ross is a charming comedienne and Tyrolean vocalist; and the Barrascope pictures are interesting.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—The popularity of *Humpty Dumpty* is evinced by crowded houses at each performance, full appreciation being given to the efforts of the excellent company engaged by Mr. Chute, the magnificent scenery, the rich and tasteful costumes, and the elaborate staging of the pantomime generally. Messrs. Bert Gilbert, Horace Mills, Carlton, the Brothers Griffiths, and Arthur Conquest are all happy in their repective parts. Miss Sybil Arundale and Miss Maud Darling are clever exponents of their rôles as principal boy and girl; Mr. Cyril Thompson and Miss Hebe Bliss please with their artistic singing; the Tiller Superba quartette obtain much applause for their speciality dances, and the set dances by the corps de ballet are both pleasing and graceful.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—*Cinderella* at this theatre is popularly considered to be one of the best of Mr. Carpenter's productions; it is amusing in the comic sense, and at the same time quite unobjectionable; there are plenty of pretty songs and dances, the scenery is highly commendable, and the dresses are exceptionally good in quality, and tasteful in design. Miss Mimi Fisher and Miss Dolly Denton are decidedly successful as principal boy and girl; Miss Cherry Wardroper and Miss Blanche Bayley are clever exponents of the Ugly Sisters, and the comedians—Messrs. Karr, Kooney, Wye and Spry—all work very hard and successfully.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Fred Storey and company are here with scenes from *The Merchant of Venice.* Mr. Storey presents a good exposition of Shylock, Miss Lilian Holmes is pleasing as Portia, the remaining parts being taken in good style by other members of the company. The selected portions of the play are presented in a very conscientious manner, the dresses are appropriate, and the scenery, designed and painted by Mr. Fred Storey, consists chiefly of heavy sets in every way commendable. Sidney James' Strolling Players amuse with a clever burlesque of *Romeo and Juliet,* introducing successfully singing, dancing, whistling, and ventriloquism. Other artists who are successful are Will Bell, Irish comedian and dancer; the Panamas, acrobats, tumblers, dancers, &c.; the Monte Myro troupe of eccentric pantomimists; Edie Madison, comedienne and dancer; Three Missouris, acrobats and burlesque wrestlers; and George Antill, eccentric comedian. The performance concludes with the interesting "Curfew must not ring to-night," excellently depicted by Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Fred Karno's sketch, *Moses and Sons,* tops the bill, and obtains hearty appreciation. Geoffreys and Benson amuse with a comedy sketch, *Spoofed;* Nellie Cotter, comedienne and dancer, is pleasing; Charles Denton, comedian, is applauded; Clare Chadwick's lady quartette of operatic vocalists have fine voices, singing with taste and expression; the original Toreadors amuse with their burlesque bull-fight; and Boy Glen is decidedly clever in song and story. The performance concludes with interesting animated pictures.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—*Little Red Riding Hood* had a hearty reception on Monday by a good house, when Mr. George Brydon Phillips's pantomime company commenced a twelve nights' stay here. Miss Rose Harvey is a dashing Prince Amorosa, and her work is much appreciated; little Miss Mamie Iris is a pleasing Little Red Riding Hood, singing, dancing, and speaking her lines very efficiently; Mr. Maitland Marler is very much in evidence as Granny, simply revelling in the fun he gets out of the character; Mr. Fred Maple is smart as the Squire; Mr. Billee Taylor as Simple Simon is a comical village idiot; Mr. Henry de Solla is droll as Lawyer Slyfox; Jack and Jill are well presented by Miss L. Palmer and Miss Amy Maple, getting much applause for their "Zuyder Zee" song and dance; little Vera Sanders is a clever Cupid, and Miss Marie Beaufort a charming Fairy Gossamer; Mr. Reuben Kitchen is an excellent dog Rover; and the Wolf is capably enacted by Mr. J. W. Brighten. A smart wire act is a speciality by Mlle. Onra, and the speciality by the Maples brings several encores.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. H. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—A fine array of talent here is headed by Herr Fritz, with marvellous illusions; Mr. Joe Hastings gives a clever jumping exhibition; the Sisters Grovini are clever and finished acrobats; a special favourite is Miss Clare Hastings; Mr. Tom Vine is well received in his topical songs; and Bernardo, juggler, causes much merriment. Some good views are also shown by Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—On Monday Mr. Walter Maxwell's company, in *The Lion and the Mouse,* opened here, and Miss Christine Silver as Shirley Rossmore achieved a notable success. Mr. Lester Carter as John Burket has a part that exactly suits his strong personality; Mr. Lewis Edgard is an admirable Jefferson Ryder; Mr. Herbert Chown a good Hon. Fitzroy Bagley; Mr. Douglas West an acceptable James Rossmore; and Miss Elspeth Dudgeon made the most of Mrs. J. B. Ryder, as did Miss Maude Townsend of Mrs. Rossmore and Miss M. Nybloc of Kate Roberts.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—The pantomime will finish to-night owing to other engagements entered into. The popular Ted and May Hopkins have been responsible for a great deal of the success of the production; while Mr. Ainsley Burton (the Squire), Mr. Jay Laurier (Johnny Stout), Mr. Harry Bickley (Dame Trot), and Messrs. Keith and Merson have all worked extremely well together. Miss Norah Guy and Miss Annie Purcell have proved the most charming principal girl and boy imaginable; Miss Agnes Tandy (Tom), Miss Sybil Viney (Mary), and Miss Nellie Duval (Etherea, Fairy Queen) have acquitted themselves with considerable credit; while Mr. Walter Walton (the Demon) and Mr. Stanley Fields (the Wolf) have also proved an acquisition to the cast.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—*A Royal Divorce* is still as popular as ever, judging by the enthusiastic audiences which have filled the Royal this week. Mr. Frederic Victor is the Napoleon; and that accomplished actress, Miss Edith Cole, is Josephine, and it is difficult to imagine these trying parts being acted more powerfully. As Talleyrand, Mr. Claude Agnew does well; Stephanie is portrayed most bewitchingly by Miss Helen Richmond; Augereau has a capital representation from Mrs. Alfred Grenville; Mr. Graham Woods is at home in the part of the Marquis de Beaumont; and Miss Gertrude Entwistle as Blanche proves more than equal to the calls made upon her.

EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—The piquant comedian, Ernest Shand, is at the head of the bill this week, and is as amusing as ever; Victor Newman gives an excellent display of acting in his representations of Svengali and Matthias; the Vasilescu troupe of eccentric pantomimists, on the triple bars, are the cleverest acrobats seen in Cardiff for some considerable time; and a pleasing entertainment is given by Peggie Lennie and Walter Hast, in a poetic phantasy, *The Sea Nymph.* Sketches at this hall are always looked forward to, and the one entitled *Christmas Eve,* cleverly played by Irve Hayman and little Marie Montague, is by no means disappointing; the xylophone is a tuneful instrument, and the Three Tauberts are pleasing experts. Lilian Lowe, vocalist; Kathleen Cogan, juvenile comedienne; Kate Traill, in songs at the piano; and the ever-welcome Bioscope are also in the programme.

CARLISLE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—*The 'Varsity Belle* is being played here by Mr. Henry E. Leigh's excellent company. In the title-rôle Miss Josephine Ellis is seen to great advantage as the pert and lively Gaye Sparkleton, her graceful dancing and delightful singing gaining her hosts of admirers; that excellent comedian Mr. James Danvers has a part in Professor Stoney that fits him like the proverbial glove; Mr. Edward Chester proves himself a character-actor of ability; and Mr. Frank Lilliput is a comedian who knows his business thoroughly. Miss Emma Rainbow's ripe experience enables her to make Mrs. Barker quite a prominent character; and Mr. R. Harley West, Mr. Roy Barraclough, Miss Tessa Myers, and Miss Kathleen O'Brien make the most of their respective characters, and add much to the success of a bright entertainment.

THE PALACE.—Proprietors, the Palace Theatre, Carlisle, Limited; Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—In the capital programme submitted this week the chief interest centres in the first appearance here of that popular comedian Mr. T. E. Dunville; Mr. Will Walton, a comedian of quite a different type, contributes two excellent turns; Austin and Cowan are favourites here, and repeat their former success; a versatile and clever musical act is given by the McDonalds; Eric is a ventriloquist of ability; Mike Cray's comic juggling is clever and amusing; Theresa Silvia, described as a chorus vocalist, and the always-welcome Pepiscope complete an excellent entertainment.

CARMARTHEN.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company paid a welcome return visit with *The Country Girl.* Geoffrey Challoner is most capably represented by Mr. Martin D. Pitts, who possesses a fine voice, and who sings with great expression; Mr. Bernard Vaughan sustains the part of the Rajah of Bhong admirably, and gains numerous encores for his songs; Mr. Arthur Staples' funny acting in the rôle of Barry excites roars of laughter and applause; Mr. W. O. Billington as Sir Joseph Verity, Mr. W. Besley Beltran as Douglas Verity, and Mr. George Stone as Granfer Mummery are unqualified successes; while Mr. F. Womack as Lord Grasmere, Mr. C. Biddulph as Lord Anchester, and Mr. J. A. Fitzpatrick as Rube Fairway capably impersonate their respective parts. Miss Violet Leslie pleasingly and effectively represents the part of Marjorie Joy, and sings delightfully; Miss J. Wood is successful as Princess Mechelanah, her beautiful renderings of her songs delighting the crowded audience; Miss Florence is a bright and vivacious Mme. Sophie; Miss Edith Maynard is most captivating in her representation of Nan; Miss Maude is a success as Lady Anchester; and the same may be said of Miss Florence Brewster as Mrs. St. Quintin, Miss Kitty Stone as Nurse, Miss Nellie Read as Miss Carruthers, and Miss Sullivan as the Indian attendant. The choruses are excellently given under the direction of Mr. C. W. Nightingale.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman.—A bright and animated pantomime, *Cinderella,* is being played here by Mr. Edwin C. Jazon's company. Miss Louie Hurman sings sweetly and plays cleverly as Prince Brilliant; as Cinderella, Miss Flo Melville sings well, and is in manner charming; Miss Madge Bryde is a successful Dandini, and evokes much applause; Mr. Fred Ward is a capital Buttons, and keeps the audience in roars of laughter; as the Ugly Sisters, Arabella and Isabella, Messrs. Charles Preston and Alf. Brookes also cause much fun. Messrs. Ouda and Leon as the Court Bailiffs are good, besides giving a smart performance on the triple bars; Mr. Stan Aubrey gives a clever representation as the Baron; Miss Marie Harding is an attractive Marquis of Taxes; Miss Ada Pearce gives a pleasing performance as Dorothy; Miss Florrie Burnette creates a favourable impression as Queen Bountiful. Clever specialities by Pearce and Ward, burlesque knockabouts, and McCann's Irish terriers and leaping hounds prove strong attractions. An augmented orchestra is kept well in hand by Mr. Conway.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. C. Beanland and W. Emerson; Manager, Mr. W. Emerson.—Some excellent turns are provided here. Los Granadas head the bill, and give a popular and pleasing comedy act, *Sensational Happenings Outside an Hotel.* Wisper receives much applause for his comedy juggling entertainment; the Prinellas (Joe and Liècee) in their corn-field scena, *A Country Flirtation,* give a most popular turn; the Percys (Harry and Lillie) are clever duettists and dancers; Beattie Bloom sings well; Goe Gill in entertaining as a refined and funny comedian; Harry Plowden has won popularity as a quaint comedian; and the Two Daniels are much-appreciated negro comedians and dancers. The animated pictures by the Loyal Dominion Company conclude an enjoyable evening's entertainment.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. Geo. G. Ridley.—Messrs. E. Lockwood, R. Crossman, and P. M. Foster's company is this week presenting *Sergeant Brue,* and on Monday evening a fine audience assembled to renew their acquaintance with this interesting member of the force, who was represented most successfully by Mr. E. Russell, Michael receiving careful treatment at the hands of Mr. Tom Shelford. Miss Ella Daincourt makes a very attractive Aurora; and Miss Constance Berkeley a lively Daisy; Mr. Henry Chichester stage-manages and amuses as the eccentric Mr. Crank; Miss Edith Housley is adding to the many admirers created during her recent visit in *Florodora;* while Mr. Charles McLagan scores from start to finish as Crookie Scrubbs. All the principal numbers are encored, and the general staging of the piece is admirable.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Joe Reichen tops the bill here, and his performing dogs give a clever show; Atlas and his two daughters perform some feats of strength in a dexterous manner; Vulcana was to have appeared with them, but is unable owing to illness; Cliff and Keane are nimble dancers; Jenny Venton is making a welcome reappearance; J. C. Manley's coster ditty is well received; Lillian Claire and company amuse with *Married all of a Sudden;* Lacey's Erascope has a laughter-provoking film depicting the doings of a village fire brigade; while mention must be made of Spry and Monti's latest scena, *The Dandy Guardsman,* which bids fair to become as popular as the one they have given here on several previous occasions.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. Frank B. Donne.—Arthur Stacey opens the ball here with song and dance, and is followed by Miss Lillian Neville, who sings some well-chosen ballads; Allis and Cassatti's scena causes much amusement; Martine and Son are liberally applauded for songs, which are illustrated by some pretty views; Stidder and Dunbar's music and mimicry give great satisfaction; the same remark applies to Sydney Dolf's contribution to the entertainment. The Edisonograph has an interesting film, entitled "A Trip to Niagara," and special mention should be made of the Boisset Troupe in their well-known act *The Bricklayers.*

CHELTENHAM. — OPERA HOUSE. — General Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—This week the management have provided a variety entertainment. Mr. Arthur Lennard heads the bill, singing several taking songs in his extremely pleasing and polished style; Miss Flo D'Orville gives an excellent character-sketch, "My pal Sally," and an amusing theatrical skit; the Sisters Jonghmanns have an up-to-date répertoire; a clever turn is supplied by the Norman and Leonard Trio; the Sisters Cromwell give a sketch in which daintiness and dexterity are combined; Lieut. Albini introduces the original "Vanishing Lady"; Slack and Milton are remarkable bar performers; and Vernon's Bioscope completes a good programme.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—The attraction here is Mr. Geo. Dance's principal company in the charming comic opera, *Veronique.* Agatha is ably represented by Miss Doris Greville; Miss Edith Devonshire is well placed as Ermerence; the Misses Maud Leonard and Isobel Vivian score as Aunt Benoit and Denise respectively; Miss Ethel Negretti, in the title-rôle, sings and acts artistically. Mr. Rowland Bottomley gives a painstaking performance of Florestan de Vallancourt; Mr. Scott-Cullen does well as Seraphin; a couple of talented comedians are found in Messrs. Percival Knight and Tom Seymour as Loustot and Coquenard respectively. A well-balanced chorus renders effective aid.

MUSIC HALL.—Agents, Messrs. Phillipson and Golder.—The St. Louis Picture Company, under the direction of Mr. Walter Hook, opened to a large audience on Monday night. Mr. Hook is exploiting Gaumonts' chronophone, and is making a huge success on his first visit here.

CHORLEY (Lancs).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Hemingway. — Mr. F. Wybert Clive's company, in *The Conscript,* is here this week. Mr. Walter Steele capably impersonates the villain, Count Paul Hardiski; and Karl Truevitch, the conscript, and Nadia, his wife, are well portrayed by Mr. H. Creagh Hunt and Miss Lilian Ross respectively. The cast also includes Mr. Douglas Watson, Mr. William Head, Mr. Wybert Clive, and Miss Nellie Watson, all capable in their respective parts.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hebert J. Montague.—These boards are occupied this week by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in *My Sweetheart.* Miss Minnie Palmer appears with great success as Tina; and Tony has a good representative in Mr. Robert H. Howard. Mr. Fred W. Leonard gives a clever characteristic sketch of Joe Shotwell; Mr. Alfred Ibberson causes much merriment as the dude, Dudley Harcourt; Miss Millie Silvestre does good work as Mrs. Fleeter; Mr. Alfred May is well placed as Farmer Hatzell; and Harold Bartlett is safe in the hands of Mr. Leslie Tyler, and Miss Elsie Forster scores as Peek-a-boo.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager Mr. F. C. Upton.—Mr. Alexander Loftus is this week presenting *The New Barmaid,* and opened on Monday to a fairly large house. Mr. Loftus is the principal comedian, and is deservedly applauded for his drolleries, whilst he receives material aid from Mr. James Grant as William. Miss Amy Preston does well as Ethel Joy, a like remark applying to Miss Violet Osmund as Dora Heather, and Miss Graft as Brenda; Mr. Stephen Hall makes a highly-excitable Mons. Bonsor; and Mr. James Hawkes and Mr. Harry Collier are nicely placed as Captain Lovebury and Colonel Claymore respectively.

HIPPODROME. — Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—The principal turn this week is Luis Hardt, the original boy Sampson, who is paying a return visit. Lily Flexmore, a marvellous dancing contortionist, is a great success; the Sisters Stratton sing some topical songs; Spencer and Evans introduce smart patter; and Marie Stoll and Laurie Stewart also contribute to the bill, and the pictures are really good films.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. Henry Swinherd's company, in *Dare-Devil Dorothy,* is here this week. Mr. H. C. Barry as Silas Crump is an excellent comedian; Miss Dorothy Desmonde essays the title-rôle with great success; and as Judith Miss Nellie Harcourt is capital. Miss Marie Vere is good as Ruth Montrose; Mr. Walter Ashley and Mr. Henry C. Ward appear with satisfactory results as Captain George Fielding and Captain Edward Dudley respectively. The specialities introduced in Act III. by Miss D. Desmonde, Miss Nellie Harcourt, the Misses Mabel and Lillie Blake are well received, encores being the rule in almost every case.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—The Moody-Manners opera company opened a fortnight's engagement here on Monday night in *Faust* and had a most enthusiastic reception. Madame De Vere as Marguerita was a complete success. As Siebel Miss Mildred Bryan was attractive and sang with taste. Mr. Joseph O'Mara as Faust was at his best. He was in excellent voice, and his performance was fully appreciated. As Mephistopheles Mr. Charles Manners gave a splendid interpretation of the part, and his singing of the various numbers was loudly applauded. Mr. William Dever took the part of Valentine and sang in his usual good style. Mr. Renshaw as Wagner was most satisfactory. The choruses were capitally rendered, and the orchestra was under the baton of Herr Richard Eckhold. *The Merry Wives of Windsor, Romeo and Juliet, The Marriage of Figaro, Il Trovatore,* and *The Bohemian Girl* are also in the repertoire.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—The programme presented here is most attractive. Miss Ella's performing lions is a wonderful performance. J. H. Carney, comedian, pleases in his character song, his quick changes being capital. Jessie Thorne, comedienne, sings charmingly. Les Montaldos supply a novel turn with a number of parrots, pigeons, and cockatoos—well trained as equilibrists. Astarte, the aerial nymph, gives a startling turn. Millie Williams is a capital vocalist and dancer. Marriott Edgar is a comedian with a nicely-trained voice. Mdlle Ameda is a graceful acrobat who wins warm applause.

COVENTRY. — THE EMPIRE. — Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. A. Rand.—A most enjoyable programme is submitted this week. The chief attraction is La Milo, who causes a great sensation in her various perfect poses; Hill and Whittaker give a good musical turn; Miss Esta Stella is a *chic* comedienne and dainty dancer; the Avrigny Troupe of jugglers and equilibrists are exceptionally clever; the Twin Sisters Melba give some acceptable songs and dances; Mark Merry is a successful comedian; the Corcoran Brothers, as the musical shipbuilders, also appear; Vernon's Bioscope in up-to-date pictures is appreciated.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John H. Morton.—Messrs. Nelson Barrett and Gus Levaine's pantomime, *Cinderella,* is delighting large audiences here. Miss Eva Travis makes a dainty and pleasing Cinderella; Miss Dora Denmark is a great favourite as Prince Charming; Miss Fanny Collins scores a "hit" as Dandini; Miss Lizzie Levaine is a winsome little Dorothy; Mr. Tom Ashby and Mr. Dave Anderson, as Ping and Pong, keep the house in roars of laughter; and Lord Tom Doddy as Buttons cannot be too highly spoken of. Miss Florry Anderson is well placed as Fairy Crystal; Mr. Arthur Collins makes a capital Baron Pebblybeach, ably assisted by Mr. James Mackenzie as the Baroness. Cinderella's two sisters, Margarina and Butterina, are in the capable hands of Mr. Arthur Farren and Mr. D'Arcy Mould, who help on the fun. Mr. Fred Terry is quite at home as Boniface; and Master Eugene McCabe sings excellently.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor, J.P.—Mr. Louis Calvert's company appeared here for the first three nights this week in *Sunday,* and was cordially received. Miss Emélie Polini's acting in the title-rôle was a revelation, and she soon became a warm favourite. Mr. Leonard Pagden gave a manly rendering of Col. Brinthorpe; Mr. Ernest A. Douglas's portrayal of Tom Oxley was well done; the "boys," Towzer, Davy, Lively, and Jacky, were a jolly quartette, the characters being ably sustained by Messrs. William Lockhart, Sidney Rennef, Cecil Yapp, and Arthur Vezin; Mrs. Naresby was delightfully played by Miss Rosalind Ross.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—The musical fairy play, *Two Naughty Boys,* is admirably played here this week by Mr. George Edwardes' company. Mr. Nelson Keys is capital as Max; Mr. William Spray is very droll in the rôle of Moritz; Mr. Reginald Crompton gives a quaint rendering of the Schoolmaster; Mr. George Franklin causes laughter in the part of Hans; Mr. Lewis Grande is suitable as a Farmer's Boy; Messrs. Almonte perform some amusing antics as Lulu, the donkey; Master Ernest Hoylom is active as Fritz, the widow's dog; Mr. Richard Kavanagh makes up well as the Widow Bolt; Mr. D. A. Meely is successful as Bogey; Master Roy Lorraine deserves praise as the Brownie King; and Master MacAdam is adequate as Old Brownie. Miss Kate Bishop is satisfactory in the rôle of Granny Bauer; Miss Hazel Saqui is humorous as Agnes; Misses Angela Hope and Marie Lohre are pretty as Fairy Cobweb and Daffydowndilly; Miss Daisy Stratton makes an interesting and charming Grizel; and Miss Lydia Flopp is refreshing and neat in the part of Gretchen.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—Mr. Bulmer's company, in *When Woman Hates,* is the attraction here this week. Mr. T. C. Glenville is very convincing as General Sir Henry Rokeby; Mr. Leslie Lingham gives a good impersonation of Lieut. Fredk. Rokeby; Mr. C. Lodge Percy forcibly plays the part of Godfrey Lawton; the comedy element is in the excellent hands of Mr. Evan Roland and Mr. Walter Clarke, who create much merriment in the rôles of Patrick O'Brien and Alphonse Picolot; Mr. H. B. Davis is well received as Colonel Hiram Vancuston; and Mr. W. H. Wells is very good as Bill Smasher. Miss Mary Dalby is commendable as Mrs. Sally Potts; Miss Sybil Haughton is well placed as Miss Sally Potts; Miss Henrietta Schrier as Marie is a success; and her child, Nelly, is prettily represented by Miss Zara Dare. Miss Gladys Hawthorn as Edith Rokeby is excellent; and Miss Chrissie Dunbar as Cora Daintree proves herself a capable actress.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company, in the thrilling drama, entitled *In Holy Russia,* are having a big reception here this week. The part of Colonel Richard Forrest is taken by Mr. Cassidy, who does it full justice; Mrs. Rice Cassidy as Renee Rubinoff plays the leading part in an accomplished style; Mr. Joe Cuthbertson in the comedy part of Micky Nolan is a droll of the first water; Mr. Frank Copeland does well as Sir Harry Beresford; as Count Gregori Petrolski Mr. Martin Sands gives a clever impersonation; Mr. Carl Rovinelli makes a capital Nihilist leader; Miss Florence Creagh as Catsha Lavotski does a powerful piece of acting; Miss Annie Dudley is clever as Mrs. Richard Forrest; and excellent assistance is forthcoming from Mr. F. Lloyd, Mr. Claude Haviland, and Miss Evie Norman.

DARWEN. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—We are favoured this week with a visit of Messrs. Griffin and Drake's pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast.* Miss Vesta Fay makes a fine, dashing Prince, singing with power and charm; Miss Emmie Hands is very graceful as Beauty, and also sings well; as Starlight, Miss Glady Wells is charming. Good fun and plenty is provided by the comedians, Mr. Mark Lane being clever and original as the Page, Mr. Owen Edwin and Mr. Will Atom two very comical Bailiffs, Mr. Charles Rowen very entertaining as the Baron; and as the two sisters, Mr. Walter Rollat and Mr. Mark Merritt both do well. Excellent specialities are introduced by the Stanley Urchins, singers and dancers; the Griffin troupe of juvenile dancers; Mlle. Collard, with her burlesque lions and tigers; Lambert and Hands, in a pleasing song-scena; the three Sisters Geronde, vocalists and dancers; and Miss Carrie Sylvester, coloured vocalist.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—The Carl Rosa Opera Company opened on Monday night with *Carmen.* Miss Doris Woodall characterised the fickle gipsy girl in a highly finished manner; the Don José of Mr. Julius Walther was sympathetic and impassioned, and his singing was an outstanding feature of the performance; Mr. Charles Victor played Escamillo with boldness and decision, his powerful flexible voice being heard to great advantage in the popular song of the Toreador; Micaela was engagingly acted by Miss Elizabeth Burgess; Mr. F. Glendon and Mr. Arthur Hyde were equally pleasing in the rôles of Dancairo and Remendado respectively, and the part of Zuniga was acted with vigour by Mr. Alec Richards. All the minor parts were capably sustained, and special mention should be made of the performances of Miss Ina Hill (Frasquita), Miss Dorothy Mayfield (Mercedes), Mr. Arthur Thomas (Morales), and Mr. A. Felton (Lillas Pastia). The instrumental music was done full justice to by the orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. Walter Van Noorden, and the leadership of Mr. Theodor Swerdloff, the chorus was spirited in all that it did. On Tuesday night *Faust* was presented, with Mr. Edward Davies in the name part, Mr. Arthur Winckworth as Mephistopheles, Miss Grace Nicoll as Marguerite, Miss Dorothy Mayfield as Siebel, and Mr. Dillon Shallard as Valentine. On Wednesday the attraction was *Il Trovatore,* with Miss Elizabeth Burgess as Leonora.

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—Aza-Zebra and Vora are paying a return visit here this week, their *Indian Pastimes* as the star turn being heartily appreciated. Marie Jones, assisted by Ernest Munro, presents a quick-change sketch, entitled *The Way to Win a Bet,* in which she assumes no fewer that eight distinct characters. Jimson's novelty sketch, *The Burglar's Surprise,* introducing some well-trained dogs, is most amusing; Arthur Goodman, tramp juggler, adds in no small measure to the general enjoyment, and the same may be said of Fred Erick, comedian. W. G. Webber, bass vocalist, renders a couple of songs in most accomplished manner; Minnie Fenton is a vivacious comedienne, and soon makes herself a favourite; and the Palace Bioscope, with some highly diverting films, concludes an acceptable programme.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—A second edition of the pantomime, *Dick Whittington,* commenced on Monday, and plenty of new songs and comic business have

"Why, how thoughtful of you, James."

"Oh, ma'am, I haven't forgotten what master says about Odol."

"What is that, James?"

"Why, ma'am, he said to Mr. Jackson, he says, there's nothing to touch Odol for making a woman smile. He says, ma'am—I heard him my own self—he says Odol not only makes a woman feel nice but it makes her look nice says he—and"——

"That'll do, James, Odol speaks for itself."

been introduced. Special mention must be made of the really clever performance given by Messrs. Carr and Carr (comedians), the patter, songs, and grotesque facial contortions of these accomplished artists accounting in no small measure for the success the pantomime has attained; another hard-working and highly amusing pair are Messrs. Walter Dale and W. P. Sheen (Idle Jack and Caroline respectively). Miss Hettie Gale still retains the part of Alice, her song "Fishing for a Husband" nightly earning a rich reward of chocolates and bon-bons; Miss Cissie Cleveland infuses plenty of "go" into the songs entrusted to her care; Miss Emily Constance is very creditable as the principal boy; Mr. Harry Gilmore provides plenty of fun for the youngsters as the Cat. We noted on Monday last the decorators had commenced painting and embellishing the theatre, and, judging from the work already done, the completion should have the effect of making the "Met" one of the prettiest theatres in the provinces.

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company opened here on Monday with *An Abandoned Woman*. Mr. Wolston Foster ably portrayed Captain Herbert Seaton; and Mr. Charles Grant scored in his embodiment of Sir Marmaduke Seaton. Mr. J. Morton Wright gave an impressive rendering of Robert Saunders; and valuable support was given by Mr. W. J. Leill as Phillipe Malvoisin. Mr. Harry Foxwell in the rôle of Paddy Boyle, and Miss Elsie Dean, who represented Sally Sloper, provided an abundance of humour. Miss Georgette Thierry's enactment of the titular rôle was most successful; Mr. Will Glaze was alert and effective as Sammy Sharp; and a like recognition is due to Little Frances Maddocks as Moira Dean. Miss Lily Addison gave a good account of La Celeste; and Mrs. Harry Foxwell embodied Eleanor Dean with successful results.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—A crowded house was present here on Monday night to witness the second edition of *Sinbad the Sailor*. The principal comedians have introduced new drolleries, which add to the general merriment. The leading ladies also contribute several new local numbers, which are highly appreciated, and the dances executed by the Cavallazzie Quartette are a much-admired feature of the pantomime.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—On Monday evening Mr. Frederick Mouillott produced his annual Christmas pantomime, *Mother Goose*, which was enthusiastically received by a full house. An abundance of boisterous fun is provided, the gags are amusing, several new songs are rendered in admirable style, and the dances are well executed. Miss Carlotta as the principal boy scores a decided success, her songs being frequently redemanded, and she is apply supported by Miss Molly McIntyre in the rôle of Jill. As Gretchen Miss May Moore Duprez has established herself a favourite; her songs and dances are vociferously applauded; and Mr. John Donald is excellent as the Demon Ravages. Mr. Martin Adeson infuses great humour into the part of Mother Goose; and as her son Jack Mr. William Cromwell is responsible for much fun. Messrs. Harrigan and Holt as the O'Rourke and Paddy, his brother, lend able support to the comicalities; and Miss May Rawlinson is pleasing, and sings effectively, as the Fairy Queen. The Saker Harlows give some entertaining knockabout business; Miss Annie Kenwick as Lord Shamus and Miss Elsie Roby as Lady Biddy are both good in their respective parts; and the Mayor of Tapham is well impersonated by Mr. J. R. Marsden.

QUEEN'S THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; Acting-Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson.—This week the boards are occupied by Mr. Robert Perris's No. 1 company in the American drama *A Fight for Millions*. Mr. J. L. Schofield submits a good representation of the railway magnate Hudson Rivers; and Miss Elma C. Turner displays ability and grace as Helen Dudley. Miss Norah Kingsley carefully delineates the rôle of Mrs. Hudson Rivers; and the part of Richard Dudley is well embodied by Mr. Alex. C. Grant. The comedy element is well looked after by Mr. Karl H. Edwards as Willie Neverwork, and he is well supported by Miss Rosie Kearne as Mag Brady and Mr. Nicholas Conway as Harold Hobbs. Mr. John C. Carlyle makes an admirable Tom Manley; and Miss Dorothy Wilkinson as Little Madge scores a distinct success. Mr. H. Ames is well placed as Solomon Moses; and Miss Alwynne Ermon makes a good impersonation as Pearl Rivers.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—Fred Karno's company of comedians are again topping the bill here this week, and causing no end of laughter in the sketch *Mumming Birds*. Conway and Leland, the merry monopedes, create great hilarity, and D. W. Watson, cornet and post-horn soloist, meets with appreciation; Miss Ethel Dunford, in a good selection of songs, obtains much applause, and Sam Shipley scores successfully as a vocal comedian; the Macarte Sisters are seen to advantage in a beautiful serpentine dance act; Mr. H. F. Wilson wins good opinions as a tenor vocalist; and Nono, comedian and dancer, is well received. The Empire Pictures are, as usual, interesting.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—A capital programme here this week is headed by an amusing sketch, *Willie Off the Yacht*, presented in fine style by Miss Cora Williams and company. Cairns and Lynch in a buck dancing act prove a popular turn, and the Lovelaces, song illustrators, are accorded a hearty reception; Hilda and Leigh prove highly entertaining in their sketch, *Another Man's Wife*, and Dundas is quite successful as an actor-vocalist; the Ringing Trio present a laughable trifle, entitled *The Manager's Lunch*, and some excellent juggling is performed by Coma; Les Freres St. Clair create considerable amusement with their comedy cycle act, and Rozel is a clever gymnast. The Bioscope is also an attraction.

DUMFRIES. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. W. E. Potts; Manager, Mr. Payne-Seddon.—This week Mr. Charles Macdona's company appeared the first three nights in the musical play, *Three Little Maids*. The Misses Mabel Kerridge, Daisy Sylverton, and Eva Weigh well impersonated the Branscombe girls, Ada, Hilda, and Edna; Miss Kate Graham Beck was successful as Lady Mallory; Miss Laura Wright as Gretchen was most amusing; the Misses Hilda Sterricker, Bertha French, and Nellie Clapton, as Lady Rosemary Beaulieu, Venitia Grafton, and Lady Marjory Crichton were all charming; Mr. Frank Henderson as Lord Cheyne caused much merriment; Mr. Eric Barrington as M. de L'Orme was well received; Mr. W. Burgess Barret as the Rev. Mr. Branscombe was excellent; Mr. Frank Wilson as Bryan Molyneaux gave a good rendering of his part; and Mr. Bert Barton as Cupid, a caddy, was humorous.

DUNDEE. — PALACE THEATRE. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—A strong all-round company is appearing here this week, the place of honour being accorded to Amy Anderson and company's screamingly funny farce, *The Banana Queen*. The Cattaneos Troupe present an exceptionally clever acrobatic turn, the comedy business introduced being very enjoyable; Ernest Montefiore and company, in their pathetic sketch, *The Little Colonel*, score a well-earned success; Harry Cotton, comedian, is an amusing "cuss"; the Musical Keiths, novelty instrumentalists and operatic xylophonists, provide a capital turn; Fannie Humber, comedienne and skipping-rope dancer; Rosie Reval, characteristic comedienne; Fred Villiers, vocalist; and the Lashmars, in a smart comedy act, prove successful. The entertainment is completed by Vernon's Imperial Bioscope, with a fine selection of new films.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—Mr. Williams' pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, which was produced last month at the Opera House, Dunfermline, made its bow to a Dundee audience on Monday evening, when a packed and delighted house gave it a good send-off. There is an abundance of good comedians, principal amongst whom is undoubtedly Mr. George Melvin, who, as the Babes' Nurse, is the life and soul of the pantomime. Mr. Charles Howorth as the Baron has a lot to do, and does it well; Mr. Alec Allison is a huge success as Jeames, the Baron's man-of-all-work; while Mr. G. Allison proves a comical Friar Tuck. Mr. Jack Chant and Mr. Walter Emery are the Babes, and very droll children they are; as the Villains, the Stebbings are responsible for much mirth, their combat scene being excruciatingly funny; Miss Mai Duncan makes a dashing and handsome Robin Hood; and Miss Alice Chant a captivating sweetheart. Miss A. Gellatly is a delightful Fairy Queen. Specialities are introduced by the Three Henriques, comedy acrobats; Chant and Chant, comedy duo; Brothers Allison, sand dancers; and George Melvin, Scotch comedian.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Messrs. Stillwell and Teulon's company, in the romantic drama, *Queen of the Night*, is paying a welcome return visit here. Miss Annie Brunette appears in the title-rôle, and plays all through with wonderful vivacity; as the hero, Frank Featherstone, Mr. Paul E. Teulon gives an admirable rendering of the part; while Mr. Harry Belford as the bibulous old Briskett, presents a very fine character-study.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—The pantomime, *Mother Goose*, is the attraction here this week. Mr. J. Telly Dillsen gives an exceptionally good impersonation of Mother Goose; and Miss Gertie Douglas as Colin is a dashing principal boy. Mr. Sam Thomson, who undertakes the part of Sandy Cook, is a clever comedian; Mr. Tom Packer does full justice to his part of Squire Stoneybroke; Miss Kitty Hildrew is a sweet Phyllis; Mr. Tom Nearney gives a creditable representation of Lawyer Graball; Mr. Arthur Lee Todd puts in some splendid work as Sergeant Muttonhead; Mr. James Chartres renders good assistance as Toby Truncheon; Miss Nan Dowling is successful as Jack; Dolly Dimple is nicely impersonated by Miss Wynnie Darrell; the Demon King and the Fairy Queen are respectively undertaken by Mr. Michael Kemble and Miss Catherine May, both being possessed of good voices, and who admirably portray their characters. The chorus is excellent. The singing and dancing by the Stuart Quartette add much to the night's enjoyment. De Ora gives a wonderful and clever gymnastic turn.

EASTBOURNE. — PIER PAVILION. — Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. J. D. Hunter's pantomime of *Little Red Riding Hood* is paying its annual visit to this place. Mr. J. D. Hunter is again an excellent Dame Trot, and his suffragette song creates much fun. Mr. Lauri Wylie makes a very happy Baron; his imitations as a Liliputian are very smart and clever. Mr. Fowler Thatcher does capital work as Tommy Green; Mr. George Meyer, an old favourite, gets many laughs as Johnnie Stout; Mr. Howell Seguin is a conspicuous success as Wolferino; and Mr. B. C. Gunnel does well as Willie. Miss M. Sadie, pretty, happy, and buoyant, is a principal boy of the best kind; Miss Cissie Wade, a sweet singer, is a charming Red Riding Hood, Miss Vera Dudley an attractive Boy Blue, Miss Beattie Lyndon a prepossessing and smart Rosa; and Miss Elaine Cliffe sings admirably as the Fairy Queen. Miss Rosa Rosetti in her musical mélange contributes one of the most pleasing and artistic items of the programme.

ECCLES.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Hamilton Baines; Manager, Mr. Albert Orton; Secretary, Mr. P. Ryan Smith.—Mr. Harry Fischer's pantomime company in *Cinderella* occupies the boards here this week. Miss Julia Bassett is a great success as Prince Perfect; Miss Empsie Bowman as Cinderella meets with a reward which is richly deserved; Miss Adele Lincoln makes a capital Dandini; Mr. Ernie Mayne as Jack Pickles upholds his reputation in an able manner; the Ugly Sisters are well impersonated by Mr. Chas. Tempest and Mr. Mark Sandown; the character of Baron Bunkum is well looked after by Mr. Johnny Johnstone; Flipper and Flopper, the bailiffs, are well represented by Messrs. Conan and Doyle; and the Verona troupe of dancers give a clever exhibition.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull.—Mr. George Edwardes's company is here in the new comic opera *See-See*. The company includes several actors and vocalists well known and popular in Edinburgh. Mr. Frank Danby as Hang-Kee sustains with admirable art the principal comedy part. To this clever actor is largely due the laughter and enjoyment of the audience, a work in which he is ably assisted by Mr. W. H. Rawlins as Chevo in the second act. Mr. Leonard Mackey as Yen is particularly successful; he acts with ease and distinction, and sings with culture and dramatic power. A charming representative of the title-rôle has been found in Miss Lily Elsie, a graceful and accomplished actress, and a singer whose lovely voice has been carefully trained. Miss Amy Augarde gives prominence to the part of Mai-Yai, a fortune-teller, and her effective vocal method compels enthusiastic applause. Miss Octavia Barry has little to do as Mino-Yao, but the single number which falls to her part is brilliantly rendered. The perfection of dancing is shown by Miss Topsy Sinden in many beautiful movements, her exhibition of the dances of different nationalities being especially happy. Miss Sybil Grey, Miss Lilian Hewetson, Miss Adeline Lester, and Mr. John Byron do excellent service. The choruses are sung in a manner which gives great satisfaction, and Mr. Frank E. Tours conducts with ability.

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—The beautiful pantomime, *Cinderella*, so elaborately produced by Mr. Robert Courtneidge, continues to fill this theatre nightly. Miss Violet Englefield has been indisposed, and her part of the Prince has been successfully played for several evenings lately by Miss Dorothy Ward, a clever, handsome actress. Mr. Dan Rolyat, Mr. John Humphries, Mr. Stephen Adeson, and Mr. Ray Russell keep the audience in high spirits, and the graceful work of Miss Phyllis Dare in the name part, the sprightly dancing of Miss Gwennie Hasto, and the telling acting of Miss Dorothy Chard as the Fairy Godmother lead to ever-growing interest. The dance by Miss Dare, in which she is assisted by little Miss Adair, is encored every evening.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Mr. Leo Stormont and company are prominent in this week's bill with their condensed version of *Rob Roy*, which is presented in an admirable manner, Mr. Stormont making a vigorous outlaw, with Mr. George Hunter a characteristic Bailee, and Miss Madge Flynn a typical Helen; while good support is given by Mr. Forrest Niven as the trusty Dougal, Mr. Wilton Reed as Rashleigh, and Mr. Frederick Harker as Captain Thornton. The Aurora troupe of bicycle riders display, if possible, more than their wonted daring and dexterity in their interesting performances; Miss Nina Gordon's clever imitations of well-known variety stars are favourably received; the grotesque acrobatic business of Manning's Entertainers in *The Hotel Boots* affords much diversion; and Griff, in a comedy scene, introduces some smart juggling and hoop-rolling. Another amusing comedy turn is that of Phil and Nettie Peters, who prove themselves an exceedingly comical couple. Mr. Jimmy Shields sings very pleasingly, and dances, with the aid of his crutch, in effective style. The efforts of Mr. G. W. Hunter, whether as a singer or a raconteur, are greatly enjoyed by his hearers; Paulinetti and Piquo display considerable skill and agility on the horizontal bar; Miss Winnie Gordon is an artistic sifflleuse, and *The Order of the Bath* sketch by Miss Lilieth Leyton and Mr. John Spurling creates not a little merriment.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—*Ally Sloper's Half-Holiday* continues to be the leading attraction of an otherwise well-varied and attractive bill; and on Monday evening Funny Niddy Vokes, the popular clown who impersonates Mrs. Sloper with marked success, received a benefit. Competitions in melodeon-playing and Highland dancing were held on the occasion, and silver medals, given by Mr. Cooke, were awarded to the victorious competitors. Mlle. Yetta's novel performance on the slack-wire is well received; Verne, a clever skater, gains great applause for his clever turn; the horsemanship and comic interludes are evidently much enjoyed by the audience; and the merits of the whole entertainment are in every way well sustained.

EXETER. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.—All who have seen *Aladdin* have been delighted. All the artists acquit themselves well. Miss Rose Helene is a prime favourite as principal boy; Miss Lulu Louden has charmed everyone by her winning manner as the Princess; Mlle. Ebba Darcier is heard to advantage in her songs; Miss Blanche Browne ably sustains the part of Pekoe; Mr. E. W. Amery as the Dame is an up-to-date comedian, and together with Mr. Fred Fowler, as the Magician, provides gags and topical allusions which cause roars of laughter. They are ably assisted by Mr. Harry Emeric, Mr. J. H. Booth, and Mr. Charles Ross, who all prove themselves talented artists. Messrs. Baroux and Bion evoke much laughter in their knockabout turn, and the Pauline sextette dance very prettily. The Athos troupe enhance their reputation as clever acrobats.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—*A Chinese Honeymoon* is being presented this week at the Grand. It is produced by one of Mr. Charles Macdona's companies, and is dressed and staged in pretty and effective fashion. Mr. Harold Cotter as the Emperor Hang Chow invests the part with comic stateliness, and Mr. Louis Ashmede in the capacity of Lord Chancellor Chippie Chop is amusing. Mr. J. Maxwell Edwards as Tom Hatherton has a good voice, which he uses to considerable advantage. As the effervescent Mr. Pineapple Mr. Ernest Sefton is very refreshing, while as Mrs. Pineapple Miss May Davis is delightful. Miss Alma Bolton admirably represents the character of Mrs. Brown; Miss Kitty Clayton is a tricky Fi-Fi, and Miss May Stevenson as Soo-Soo is charming. The singing and dancing are very enjoyable.

FARNWORTH.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, T. Morton Powell.—This week we are having a visit from Mr. Andrew Melville's company in *Driven from Home*. Mr. Felix Pitt as Anthony Raybrook gives a capital representation; Mr. Herbert Young does well as Walter Hatherleigh; the part of Geoffrey Waring has a capable exponent in Mr. Frederic Sandy; Mr. Leonard Aardale as Willie the Outcast plays creditably; Mr. F. C. Imbert as John Anderson is responsible for the humorous element; and Mr. Harry Cornwall as Jabez Thomas is all that can be desired. Miss Beatrice Western in the dual rôles of Laura Raybrook and Walter Hatherleigh the younger, meets with well merited success; and Miss Enid Wilde as Margaret Bailey plays in a natural and convincing manner.

FLEETWOOD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—This week Mr. Carr Loates' company present the comedy-drama *At the World's Mercy*. Mr. Loates is very successful as Captain Frank Manley; and Jabez Barber is ably represented by Mr. Geo. D. Knight. Mr. Henry Fergusson makes a good Jew as Morris Goldstein; and Mr. W. H. Irving gives a good portrayal of Slouching Sam. Mr. Alf. Dawson as Charlie Smart, and Kathleen Loates as Kitty Knott supply excellent humour, together with songs and dances, and keep the house in a continual roar of laughter; Alice Matthews is well suited in the part of Alice Lloyd; and Cissie Milford shows some good acting as Skittles. Little Daisy, as Captain Manley's daughter, Dot, is also exceedingly clever.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr H. W. Rowland.—The attraction this week is Mr. Frank Bertram's company in *The Breed of the Treshams*. Mr. H. Tripp Edgar puts in some fine work as Lieut. Reresby (The Rat); Mr. Oswald Lingard ably acts the rôle of Viscount Dorsington; Mr. Richard A. Green is uncommonly good as the villain Colonel the Hon. Clement Hungerford; Mr. George Traill deserves mention as Sir Henry Curwen; Miss Nellie Clyde gives an admirable delineation of Margaret; Miss Miriam Holt makes the most of her opportunities as Helena; Miss Violet Agnew is successful as Mrs. Bagshaw; and Miss Celestine Bertram's rendition of the part of Batty is perfect in every detail.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stead.—On Monday and Tuesday Mr. Mouilliot's company appeared to crowded houses in *The Blue Moon*. Mr. F. W. Bowes and Mr. Chas. Stephenson caused roars of laughter as Moolraj and Private Taylor. The latter had a clever companion in Miss May Audrey as Millicent Leroy; Mr. Victor Wallace sang excellently as the Major; Mr. F. W. Wallace and Mr. Basil Mercer capably represented Capt. Ormsby and Bobbie Scott; the Prince had an imposing representative in Mr. F. Inwood; Miss Dorma Morgan was a charming Evelyn; and in the title-rôle Mlle. Marguerite Nauden sang sweetly.

GATESHEAD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. M. S. Hammond; Licensee, Mr. Ed. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Arnold. — Pantomime has abdicated, and variety returns here after a month's absence. The San Carlos Trio of Italian operatic vocalists make their initial appearance in this country. Two ladies and one gentleman form the trio, and brilliantly costumed, give selections from popular operas as well as Italian ballads in fine style, singing exquisitely and acting well. They are a trio of cultivated singers and supply a "turn" which would adorn any bill. The Mezettis present a comedy gymnastic act which is one of the smartest things ever seen here. The Herald Comedy Four, in an Indian scena, comprising harmony, comedy, and dancing, achieve a huge success; and Emmie Ames delights us with a novel song entitled "Emmie's Christmas Tree." Harry Bancroft's rendering of "Sea-gull" wins merited praise, and another actor and character vocalist in the person of Charles Stevens is thoroughly appreciated. A lady contortionist of great ability is La Belle Nello; and Jessie Burnett, comedienne, and pictures by Vernon's Bioscope complete the bill.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thos. France.—Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's company is here this week in *The Still Alarm*. Mr. George Arthur submits a skilful rendering of John Bird; Mr. Matthew H. Glenville scores decisively in the part of Jack Manley; a very humorous Willie Manley comes from Mr. Tom Beasley; Mr. Lewis Gordon presents a polished Franklin Fordham; Miss Maud Warburton makes a charming Elinor Fordham, and Miss Gertie Reid as Carrie Wilber is very successful; Miss Mabel Veriton does well as Mrs. Manley.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—Messrs. Carpenter and Cooper's company appears here in the drama, *The Spider and the Fly*, and have done good business. Mr. Stanley S. Gordon as Cyril Girdlestone is very successful in an exacting part; a powerful villain is found in Mr. Ellis J. Preston; Mr. H. C. Lanceley gives a clever rendering of the Rev. McAllister; Mr. Reginald Payne has a congenial task as David Strong, and takes full advantage of his opportunities to score; very quaint is Mr. Chas. Russell as "Hard" Roe, who, together with Mr. Chas. A. Preece ("Soft" Roe) is responsible for many a laugh; the varying emotions of Edith McAllister (the fly) are reflected with distinct success by Miss Nina Vaughton; Miss Amy Venimore as Stella Grey (the spider) is seen to great advantage; Misses Lucy Murray and Ada Palmer ably depict humorous characters.

GLASGOW.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphreys.—*Dick Whittington* goes on his journey merrily here, and capital business results. The splendour of the scenery, the staging, and the dressing are much admired, while the efforts of the company to carry the production through to a successful issue are as strong as ever. The pantomime has many notable features, as witness the fun by Messrs. Will Evans and Downes and Longford, in the Garden scene; then Mr. W. F. Frame is very happy in his new Scotch song, which takes well, and his patter is also good. Mr. Bransby Williams is a perfect success in his impersonations of great actors, which are a fine feature; as the hero, Dick, Miss Madoline Rees sings in an engaging and delightful manner; as does Miss Lena Vere, the Alice of the cast, both ladies working well together. Misses Edna Morgan, Mena Brae, and Aimee Grey are conscientious and clever artists; they sing and dance in excellent style. Notable is the favour extended to the Tiller Troupe of dancers and Mme. Grigolati's flying ballet, by the audience. They all achieve success, and they thoroughly deserve it.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—After an absence of a few months, Messrs. A. and S. Gatti and Charles Frohman's company has returned here for a short season, in *The Belle of Mayfair*. For the parts of the modern Romeo and Juliet, the company is fortunate in possessing two such attractive and interesting performers as Miss Alice Russon (Julia Chaldicott) and Mr. Vernon Davidson (Raymond Finchley); the heads of the rival houses are also capitally represented, the fire-eating Carl of Mount Highgate by Mr. Arthur Hatton, and the suave and amusing baronet, Sir John Chaldicott, by Mr. Fred Rolph; Mr. Wensley Russell sings, acts, and dances in excellent style as Hugh Meredith; Mr. Robert Whyte, jun., gives proper accent and gesture to the rôle of Comte de Perrier; as Captain Theobald, Mr. Arthur W. Metcalfe displays a gentlemanly bearing; and the parts of the Footmen are adequately filled by Messrs. Harry Huntley, White Wentworth, and Crespan. Miss Joan Keddie makes a pleasing Princess Carl, singing several lyrics with charming effect; Miss Barbara Huntly enters into the part of Lady Chaldicott with spirit; Miss Maud Aston is good as the saucy maid, Pincott; Miss Rosa Snell gives distinction to the part of Lady Rosaline; other ladies of quality being attractively represented by Misses Lily Stuart and Christine Rayinski. The play is produced by Mr. Herbert Cottesmore, and the orchestra is under the command of Mr. Alfred C. Trone.

KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—After a month's run in Edinburgh, Mr. George Edwardes' company, in *The Merveilleuses*, opened here on Monday for a similar stay. A crowded house gave a hearty welcome to the latest musical piece, and, from the enthusiasm, it is easy to predict a success during the four weeks the play is to run. Miss Anna Hickisch acts with much animation as Lodoiska, and her singing is full of dramatic force; Miss Deborah Volar as Illyrine makes her successes more by the tuneful quality of her songs, the "Cuckoo" song, in particular, being rapturously encored; Miss Thelma Raye is a charming Pervenche, and has also some pretty numbers allotted to her. In fact, the company is specially well equipped with singers of merit. Miss Vivian Talleur as a dancer makes a hit in the part of St. Cyr, being wonderfully neat and agile; Miss Dora Langham, as Egle, is only afforded one chance to shine, in her song, "I always come back to you," with its accompanying dance, but she scored well, being ably assisted by Mr. Willie Warde, jun., as Des Goutheres; Mr. W. Talleur Andrews is a vocalist of striking merit, and his Dorlis is a fine performance, from his first dramatic scena right to the final scene; Mr. Eric Thorne as St. Amour has one of those eccentric parts in which he fairly revels, and not a point is missed; he has a new topical song, which went well; Mr. J. Robert Hale as Lagorille is accorded a hearty reception, and his performance as the elegant dandy is specially good; Mr. Lennox Pawle has joined the company here for the part of Tournesol, and his acting as the stolid police agent is richly comic. As the more volatile rival agent, Malicorne, Mr. Jack Cannot ably assists in the fun-making, and has a smart topical ditty and a new "detective" song; Mr. C. Reynold as the waiter at the Café Caveau, Mr. George Curzon and Mr. Harold Thorley as two dandies, Mr. J. Walker as Ragot and Mr. F. Stewart as Giffiart, complete an able cast of principals. The chorus is large and attractive, the rich dresses of the Directoire period were particularly handsome, and the augmented orchestra and chorus are ably controlled by Mr. Harold Vicars.

GRAND, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. D. Macfarlane.—*The House that Jack Built* continues to crowd the Grand to its utmost capacity at every performance, matinée and evening, and the funny business of Messrs. Fred Kitchen, Harry Lappo, and the Harmony Four, with the bright acting and singing of Misses May Mars, Luna Love, Frances Kapstowne, and the clever little girls, Maudie Francis and Wee Mona, combine to make a most attractive entertainment.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch. — *Mother Goose* is proving a veritable goose with golden eggs here, and the audiences are as large as ever. Miss Ethel Campbell and Miss Ella Retford make a charming pair of principals; the Sisters Hall, as second boy and girl, are strong favourites; and the comedians, Messrs. Foreman and Fannan, Austin Lenton, Wal Croft, and Harry McClelland, form a most entertaining combination.

METROPOLE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy. — In *The Babes in the Wood* pantomime, Miss Rose Hamilton is the bright particular star, and on Monday evening she was the recipient of numerous tokens of appreciation from delighted admirers in the stalls, while a beautiful floral basket was presented by the Ten Dixie Girls on the occasion of her birthday, for which Miss Hamilton, in a few well-chosen remarks, returned her sincere thanks. She is ably assisted by a strong company, which includes Bernard and Weston, Ten Dixie Girls, Lucy Lynch, Cecilia Maude, and the ever-popular Albert and Edmunds.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden. — The pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, from Blackburn, is being played here by Mr. John Tiller's company, and that in itself is a guarantee of merriment. To Miss Jessie Templeton is given the part of Dick, and her rendering of "The Bungalow in Borneo" is certainly one of the hits of the piece. As the Cat, Mr. Morel does well, and is highly appreciated by the juveniles; an old Glasgow favourite, in the person of Mr. Sidney Vincent, is as popular as ever with his clever eccentric dancing; Mr. Herbert Garside plays the part of Alderman Fitzwarren with much acceptance; Mr. T. Gibbs as Sammy Saltpetre, and Miss Lizzie Hay as the Princess, are a pair whose double turns are highly pleasing; as the Emperor of Morocco, Miss Hilda Vining appears to advantage; while the evergreen Mr. Barney Dixon makes an Al Mate. Miss Dorothy Gould is a charming Alice; and Mr. Geo. Elliston, as the family cook, Eliza, is responsible for lots of fun. Jack Idle is hardly a suitable name for Mr. Will Lytton, for from start to finish he is ever to the front with his comicalities and smart dancing. The Tiller Quartette of dancers are ever welcome.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Mussett.—The attractive programme this week includes John Leopold's company in a farcical absurdity, *The House Boat*; the Kellinos do good work in a capital musical and Risley entertainment, *A Fête in Venice*; A. D. Robbins is a clever cyclist; Master Clifford and Cliff Ryland do well as comedians; Henry J. Corner and the Dandies give a praiseworthy turn. The others who contribute are Ernesto, juggler; Jessie Albini, comedienne; and the bioscope.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The principal item in the programme is the acrobatic sketch *The Hotel Grand*, by the Six Brothers Luck, Ltd., and it provides lots of lively knockabout fun; Marie Santoi's pretty Japanese scena is another good item, and is well received; a dramatic and pathetic play is contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Royston-Dene, entitled *His Birthday*; J. W. Mayers is a clever basso comedian, with a wonderfully low-set voice; Little Tichbourn sings well and dances neatly, C. B. Jerome, negro comedian; Arthur Melrose, sifflleur; Ethel Donna, comedienne and dancer; and Sid Bandon, with a clever song founded on Burns' famous line, "A man's a man for a' that," complete a very enjoyable programme.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr Samuel Lloyd.—Lydia Yeamans is again starring here, and her diversified musical items are much enjoyed; the Mysterious Lilith's turn is cleverly worked, and most mystifying; the Bensons give a varied musical show; Roberty's Family submit a juggling and balancing turn, which includes some difficult and daring feats; Arthur Aldridge is a tenor with a fine voice and a good selection of songs; the Clayton Twins give their amusing farce, *Which is Which?* Tom Davis's Trio appear in their motor cycle display on an elevated tea-cup track; Wal Robbins, Maude Forde, and Lilian Warren in her illustrated songs, add variety to the entertainment.

COLISEUM.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—Fred Karno's company, in *The Dandy Thieves*, forms the star turn this week, in which the part of Sergeant Lightning is ably played by a gentleman who fills the breach caused by the lamented death of Dick Kitchen, which occurred in Falkirk last week. Mendel, the blind pianist, gives some brilliant improvisations on themes suggested to him by the audience; the Chester Sisters are pleasing singers, dancers, and banjoists; the Two Butterflies is the title assumed by a clever boy and girl who give a neat and graceful acrobatic turn; the Sarnthaler Troupe of Tyrolean vocalists present some well-blended harmonies and elegant dances; George Adams has a powerful baritone voice, and discourses popular songs effectively; Stacey and Williams are comedians who keep up a lively fusillade of jokes, which tickle the audience immensely; the American Bioscope fills up an interval pleasingly.

PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Harry McKelvie.—The excellent programme submitted here includes Victoria Monks, the popular comedienne; another interesting turn is that provided by Jean Seul, the Indian mystery; Doody and Wright, Australian comedians, also made a good impression. Other prominent artists include A. J. Gamble, Scotch comedian; Tom Leo, the lazy comedian; the Eltons, horizontal bar comedians; the Camerons, comedy artists; Anita Wayman, Scottish soprano; Mlle. Sara's Marblesque Trio, in classical poses; and the Biograph with a pleasing series of pictures.

GAIETY.—General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Howard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman. — The Silver-Toned Quartette have made this week their first appearance in a series of plantation and other melodies; N. C. Bostock is as popular as ever in Glasgow; the Four Sisters Sligo, in guitar, banjo, bell, and vocal harmonies, please extremely; Fred Neiman gives a good ventriloquial display; R. C. Note and Cade Burnett, comedians, are both very acceptable; and Nellie Ellaine, comedienne, has had a pleasing reception. Daisy Devonport made a good appearance as a comedy singer; and one of the most enjoyable items on the programme is the bioscope.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. John Walter's pantomime company with *Babes in the Wood* is at the theatre this week, and drew a large house on Monday. Miss Bertha Cousins as Robin Hood is admirable, her song, "Zuyder Zee," meeting with success; Miss Fanny Adamson is pleasing as Maid Marian, her rendition of "Manitoba" being well received; Miss Jessie Yonde is successful as Dolly Dimple, and Mr. Frank Stanart scores as Soft Tommy; Miss Lillian Florence, who possesses a musical voice, is charming as Fairy Good Heart; Mr. Ally Benson is exceedingly droll as Dame Flossie; Mr. Ernest Thirlwag as Baron Wheresmecash is clever and amusing; the Babes—Miss Kitty Chester and Baby Blyth—win general favour for their singing and dancing; Messrs. Traynor and O'Connor as Blustering Bill and Wavering Wally cause roars of laughter; the Landor Brothers, two agile contortionists and acrobats, work capitally together throughout the piece; and Mr. Phil White makes the character of Policeman Run-em-in laughable; Miss Kitty Leske (Little John), Miss Edie Bracewell (Allen-a-Dale), and Miss Mildred Carr (Will Scarlet) submit excellent portrayals. Specialities are also given by the Sweet Sixteen Ballet troupe, the Emerald quartette of acrobatic dancers, and Y.Z., instrumentalists, who receive a full share of appreciation. The staging and scenery are excellent.

GLOUCESTER.—PALACE.—Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—Mr. J. W. Hall appears here with great success as a patter comedian; and Rita and Roma introduce a clever dancing and singing turn; Clarke's Nippers are a smart juvenile combination of athletic singing and dancing experts; another smart

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juvenile who earns a large share of applause is Joe Conway with his parodies; Garvetta and Parr are capital in a pot-pourri act, the impersonations being specially good; Miss Alice Maple entertains with song and dance, and Miss Mona Mona in the same line is quite successful; Billy Richardson, the stump orator, is cordially welcomed; the Jansons are novel gymnasts. The Bioscope is, as usual, to the fore.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — ROYAL AQUARIUM. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's romance *The Love that Women Desire* is being staged here this week. Mr. J. O. Stewart ably represents Squire Abingdon, whose son Richard, the villain of the play, is played with much success by Mr. Alfred Brandon. Philip Carnaby is naturally and effectively acted by Mr. Jerrold Heather; Dr. Brandreth and the Rev. Arnold Cathorne find capable exponents in Mr. Gillson Brooke and Mr. Hugh Wallace; and a clever character-sketch is given by Mr. Leonard Montgomery as the outcast, Frank Hardy. Mr. John Hignett is droll as Dennis O'Rourke; and Mr. J. W. Wilkinson causes many a laugh as P.-C. Sowerberry. Miss Lalla Stanhope is excellent as Sybil Thorburn; Miss Cicely Desmond capably represents Madge Abingdon; Pattie Swift is brightly and vivaciously represented by Miss Nita Imeson; and Miss N. Griffiths is admirable as Mariquinha, an Indian maiden.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company in *Leah Kleschna* is paying a first visit here this week. Mr. Paul Belmore gives a masterful portrayal of Kleschna; Miss Bessie Rignold thoroughly grasps the possibilities of Leah; Mr. William F. Grant is an excellent Paul Sylvaine; Mr. Campbell Goldsmid does capable work as Schram; and Mr. Roland Daniel is well placed as General Berton; the Misses Ethel Russell and Helen Belgrave act admirably as Madame and Claire Berton respectively; Miss Violet Thorold is a pleasing Sophie, and the rest of the cast lend valuable support.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—This week's bill is headed by the "Marlo Dunham Trio," who give a smart gymnastic performance; Natalia and Diana distinguish themselves in the same line; Messrs. S. McNab and company present a mirth-provoking sketch entitled *The Egyptian Mummy*, which is a decided success; a clever and interesting acrobatic performance is presented by the Bros. Pasquali; Gus Merriman contributes an entertaining turn; The Lynches, in American picture songs, are successful, and the Empire pictures are up to date.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry.—The first pantomime of the present season here has been seen this week, Messrs Dottridge and Longden presenting their version of *Aladdin*. In every respect the pantomime has been a great success, the scenic and spectacular effects being excellent features. Aladdin was played by Miss Fanny Wright, who made a bright and vivacious principal boy, whilst Miss Kitty Brewster was an ideal principal girl, and her singing pleased everyone. Miss Mollie Woolstenhulme also scored vocal honours as the Fairy Queen. Mr. Daley Cooper's eccentricities as Abanazar were highly diverting, and Mr. Julian Mack, as Widow Twankey, was one of the quaintest of dames. The Bros. Brooks found opportunity to create a lot of fun as the Chinese policemen, and Mr. Joe Robins was an entertaining figure as the Grand Vizier. Specialities were given by the Brewster Troupe, who accomplished a smart military drill, and Robins and Collier, in a novel acrobatic act.

CURRY'S TIVOLI.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—The Dayton Family are in the front rank of risley performers. Harry Edson presented his dogs, a couple of remarkably intelligent specimens of their race. Mlle. de Vena contributed a smart juggling and club swinging act. J. W. Rickaby occasioned much laughter with his drolleries and quaint style, whilst the merriment was added to by David Poole, a ventriloquist, and the Dunvilles, comedy musicians. Alexandra Edwin sang pleasing ballads, and Squiff presented a novel speciality, introducing a number of mechanical surprises.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton. — A capital drama in miniature was seen in *Retribution*. It portrays an incident of Russian life, and there is a thrilling climax. It was presented by Herbert Terry and company. Larola displayed marked originality as a juggler. Not only were his feats clever, but he combined with them some highly amusing business. Much interest was taken in the performance of W. Permane's Siberian bears, and they gave evidence of careful training. Woolmer Young is a comedian with good songs, Arthur Elvy caused much amusement as a sporting comedian, and others taking part were Edwards and Dacre, in a humorous sketch, the Moxons, acrobats and musicians, and Rose Carbini, comedienne.

HALIFAX. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD. — General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—There is plenty of animation about Mr. Milton Bode's *Dick Whittington* pantomime, which is having a successful run here this week. Miss Gladys Warren is an ideal Whittington, and renders with charming effect "Zuyder Zee." As the happy-go-lucky Matilda, Mr. Fred Danvers has enhanced his reputation as a dame. He receives adequate assistance from Mr. Roland Martin, who is responsible for a mirth-provoking representation of Jack. Mr. Bob Hull also scores in the energetic rôle of Fitzwarren. The ladies in the cast have every opportunity to distinguish themselves. Miss Flo Challis is loudly applauded for her capital renditions of "Hello! Hello! Hello!"; Miss Kathleen Severn never fails to win appreciation as Alice; specialities are introduced by Wallan (juggler) and Collin's Six Lancashire Lasses.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Ed. Harrison.—Mr. James Kiddie's *Cinderella* pantomime is being staged here this week. The title-rôle is artistically acted by Miss Edith Harmer, her singing being particularly good; Mr. Dick Thomas's assumption of the Baron is exceptionally droll; Mr. Sydney Benson and Mr. W. G. Wesley distinguish themselves as the Ugly Sisters; a good study of Pimples is presented by Mr. Tom Payne; an admirable Prince is Mlle. de Rose, who sings the various numbers allotted to her in artistic style; Miss Cissie Hughes as Knight of the Cross and Miss Pollie Kiddie as Viscount Pappe acquit themselves with credit; some dainty dancing is submitted by the Three Parisienne Girls and the Sylphide Troupe of lady dancers.

HANLEY. — ROYAL, LTD — Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company is paying a welcome return visit in the Heath-Wilson Barrett version of *East Lynne*. As Lady Isobel, Miss Julie Kennard scores a distinct success, her impersonation being exceptionally powerful; Leveson finds an admirable exponent in Mr. Eric Mayne; Mr. Alfred Beaumont makes a most effective Archibald Carlyle; Miss Ethel Hardacre acts with much intelligence as Cornelia Carlyle; and Mr. C. C. Grattan, as Justice Hare, contributes a capital portrayal.

GRAND.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—Mr. Alfred Edwardes is progressing favourably towards recovery from his accident, and, in the meanwhile, Mr. James Wynes holds the managerial reins. The Pichel Troupe head the bill this week in their marvellous acrobatic performance; Austin Rudd is as successful as ever; Messrs. James Willard and company, in their dramatic sketch, *Did He Deserve It?* are much appreciated. Another sketch, which proves most interesting, is *Dr. Spot's Patients*, in which all the characters are admirably portrayed by Miss Dorina. Herbert Bates possesses a fine tenor voice, which is heard to advantage; Donald Keir and Mabel Kingston sing well; and Tiny Arnold is a remarkably clever girl, her dancing being excellent. Torbay, in a new shadowgraphy entertainment, provides an amusing turn. The pictures are good.

HARROGATE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Smith.—Mr. Frank Cellier, jun., and Miss Florence Glossop-Harris presented on the first three nights of this week *Carmen*. Miss Harris gives a good reading of the name-part. Mr. Frank Cellier, jun., was excellent throughout. He played well, and his handsome appearance made him an ideal Don José. Mr. Edwin Beverley did well as the toreador Escamillo, and the same may be said of Mr. Cotton Holmes and Mr. Edward Landor as Corporal Morales and Lieut. Mina respectively. Miss Kate Turner was good as Michaela, and sang well. Mr. Herbert Halford gave a capital sketch of Lillas Pastia.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Everton and Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—Houses well filled assembled at both performances on Monday, and appeared to thoroughly enjoy the menu served to them. The list is headed by the Tan Kwai troupe of real Chinese acrobats, whose exhibition of juggling, acrobatic, and conjuring feats are the wonder of all beholders. Ada Fawn, ever welcome here, entertains as well as ever with some capital songs; Bob Hamilton, Scotch comedian, and Andy Fagan, comedian and dancer, are also old favourites at the Empress. Charles Bignall is responsible for much merriment; excellent athletic and strength exhibitions are presented by those boy wonders, the Stowe Bros.; some creditable impersonations of variety stars are given by James Toner, and the Bioscope pictures are exceptionally good.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr Charles E. Scutt.—Mr. Frederick Mouillot's principal company paid its first visit to Hastings on Monday in the musical comedy, *The Girl Behind the Counter*, and attracted a well-filled house. The piece was staged with lavish attention to detail, was well stage-managed by Mr. Godfrey Allsopp (who also appeared as Rudolph, a commissionaire), and the music was finely rendered by a largely augmented orchestra directed by Mr. Hubert Sullivan-Brooke. Miss Nora Brocklebank finely played the rôle of Winnie Willoughby, and her songs were well sung. The manly rôle of Charles Chetwyn was exceptionally well taken by Mr. Arthur Cartwright, and his ballads were warmly applauded; Mr. H. B. Clarke Chadwick also won success in his comic rôle as the General, his business eliciting roars of laughter; Mr. Howard Cridland as Viscount Gushington played the voluptuous fop cleverly; and Mons. Jules Charmettes was an excellent Mons. Duval. Miss Olivia Ettone made a fine appearance as Millie Mostyn, and her singing was much liked; Miss Edith McIntosh attracted favourable notice for her Ninette; and Miss Doris Langdon, as Susie, associated with Mr. Frederick Park as Adolphus Parks, won much applause.

HOYLAND.—METROPOLE.— Lessee and Manager Mr. Geo. S. King; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. R. Baker.—Miss Lena Stanton's and Harry Joseph's company opened to an excellent house on Monday evening with *Sinbad the Sailor*. Miss Stanton, in the title-rôle, is charming, her vocalism and dancing being excellent; a captivating Princess Yazora is found in Miss Marie Santley, who is heartily applauded; Miss Ethel Errol as Captain Selim and Miss Norah Neville as Irza are very good; Mr. Harry Joseph as King Krusty, M.U.G., and Misses Lillie Richardson and Jennie Bradbury as Princess Fatima and the Queen respectively are well received; Little Keeno as Tinbad the Tailor and Mr. Bruce Green as Mrs. Clifford Gibson Sinbad keep the house in roars of laughter; Messrs. Farrell and Gorman as Bizbad and Quizbad are good; and Shipwreckos finds an able exponent in Mr. Will Terry. Miss Dollie Richardson is a beautiful Fairy Good Fortune; and the Old Man of the Sea is well impersonated by Mr. B. N. George. Specialities are supplied by the Alhambra Girls; Wyman, trick skater; I. P. Durney, globe walker; the Deroneys; Farrell and Gorman; and J., the Ventriloquial Josser; who are well received, a special hit being made by Little Keeno in his clever impersonations.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—Here, for its first visit, *The Dairymaids* was heartily welcomed by a large audience, who evidently thoroughly enjoyed the piece. It was smartly played by the clever cast engaged. This includes Miss Violet Lloyd, bright as Peggy; Miss Rhoda Gordon, an attractive Winifred; Miss Cissie Sephton, delightfully quaint as Eliza, whose lover, Joe Mivens, was played in an irresistibly diverting and breezy manner by Mr. Lionel Victor; Mr. E. Statham Staples was just bubbling over with fun and vitality as Sam, singing and dancing with equal vivacity; Mr. George Desmond was quite an adequate Brudenell; Mr. Alec Fraser sang with great taste as Captain Leverton. The less prominent parts were in able hands, notably Mr. Forbes Dawson as Dr. O. Bryne, Miss Madge Avery as Miss Pyechase, and Miss Edith Blanche as Lady Brudenell.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—At the head of the bill are the Phillipi Brothers and troupe, in their pantomimic absurdity, *Shunting*. The other turns are Joe Humphreys, descriptive vocalist; Henry Hilton, a very smart artist in sleight-of-hand; Miss Elsie Earle, comedienne; George Ridgwell, who sings with cultured method, "There's a man in Manitoba"; Ross and Grayson, a pair of thoroughly entertaining artists, who sing and play effectively; Arthur Woodville, light comedian; Mephisto and Marie, in a clever gymnastic turn; the Cee-Mee family of trapeze artists; and humorous pictures on the Biograph.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—The public appreciation of the pantomime has never faltered, and when this evening it makes its exit it will be to general regret. Miss Mora Hersee has made a fair reputation in the city, and Miss Minnie Miriam established herself as a favourite.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Mortons, Ltd. — General-Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*The 10.30 Down Express* is a drama much to the taste of the audience, who find in it many points to please. The Letitia Leigh of Miss E. M. Walton is a clever character-study. As the hero, Mr. George Beverley is distinctly good, and creates a very favourable impression. As the villain, Mr. Chas. Burden is most satisfactory.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Tom Lunn.—*The Club Raid* makes a welcome reappearance; Sylvesto is a smart contortionist; Frank Cumminger is a clever dancer; and other popular turns include the Smythsons, Charles Santon, and the Bros. Bright.

THE PALACE.—Manager, Mr. Jno. S. Barnett.—Chung Ling Soo performs some of his wonderful tricks; Charles Mildare, siffleur, gains a good reception. Other turns include Park's Eton Boys, Godfrey James, Harry Leybourne, Ruth Dorris, the Meymotts, the Three Renards, and Mlle. Marzella.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Tarro Myaki, the Jujitsu wrestler, is loudly applauded here. Other artists include Shawlene, the St. Johns, the Nettas, and others.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Hermann's spectacular effort, *King and Country*, and *Dick Turpin's Ride to York* are the leading items. Other artists include Mr. H. Fossett (in a trick act), Miss Fossett (in a cake-walk), Mr. Holloway (bar act), Little Valdo (clown), Henri (in a wire act), Thos. Fossett, and Dan Gregory.

HYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. K. Feather.—The Musical Savonas and Cycling Elliotts are here this week, and their unique musical entertainment and skilful cycling tricks have gained for them repeated recalls. Among the other artists are Dolly Andrews, a smart little comedienne, who scores in song and dance; Harry Mantle, a finished vocalist; Donald Cameron, whose Irish ballads are loudly applauded; Cavern and Cave, in a laughable sketch, entitled *An Early Morning Dip*; Hulbert, a clever ventriloquist; Mons. De Lil, an expert illusionist; Renson and White, whose quaint patter and humorous ditties are well received, and the Orchids, who provide a humorous turn.

OHMY'S CIRCUS.—The bill here is topped this week by Parsano, whose daring and sensational act, described as "flying the flume," is nightly breathlessly watched by large and enthusiastic audiences. The Lissom Lady is another successful turn, and her marvellous contortionist feats are vociferously applauded. The Two Reays give a novel gymnastic and acrobatic chain performance; the Brothers France are clever on the wire, and Claude Ohmy and J. Welding continue to delight the audience by their equestrian abilities. A clever imitation of the cake-walk and other dances is given by a highly-trained horse; and Miss Ohmy goes through a riding act in a graceful manner. August and September are as popular as ever, and create roars of laughter, and the efforts of Little Bishop and the Bros. France in the clowning line are also productive of much hilarity.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—The attraction here this week is Messrs. Dan Thomas and Fred Clements' pantomime, *Dick Whittington*. Miss Mabel Hind as Alice very quickly sings and dances herself into favour; and Miss Trixie Cotterell gives a good portrayal of the title-rôle; Mr. Pete Almonte as the Cat is quite an acquisition; Mr. Sam Michello as Betsy the cook puts plenty of "go" into his performance, and there is not a dull moment when he is on the stage. Mr. Clements himself catches on as Ald. Fitzwarren; Messrs. Syd Crossley and Chas. Dore as Idle Jack and Silly Jim keep the audience in a good humour; and are well supported by Mr. Harry Pastor as Captain Skipper. Peto, the man monkey, receives quite an ovation for his clever monkey act; Baddow, ventriloquist, is a good turn; and the Excelsior Quartette of acrobatic dancers are clever.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. T. Knightall.—A mannikin show by Mlle. Fontain gives great satisfaction; the Two Harveys play a sketch, entitled *The Servant and the Page*; the De Roys are conjurers of merit; Dora Dyson, vocalist; Jack Harvey, comedian; Polly Bellina, serio; and Martin Haley, comedian, contribute their share to the success.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Leonard Grey.—*When It Was Dark* is being played here by a capable company under the management of Mr. Morton Powell. Miss Elizabeth Watson gave a powerful impersonation of Gertrude Hunt; Mr. Cyril Austin also, in his part of a clergyman, was very impressive; and Mrs. Morton Powell was well suited in the character of Helena Byars. Mr. George H. Pitt as Schuabe, and Mr. Arthur Murray as Sir Robert, gave effective assistance.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—One of the chief attractions of the current week is George Formby, a comedian whose characteristic ditties elicit much laughter and applause; Ergotte and King Luis head a troupe of Risley acrobats, who perform some startling feats; and Edith Courtney is a ballad singer of great merit.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr Jerold E. Read.—An excellent pantomime company is here this week with *Babes in the Wood*. Mr. Leonard Charles gives an excellent rendering of the Demon Infernalito, and Miss Norah Prendergast is charming as Sylvania, the Fairy Godmother. Mr. D. J. Tandy makes the most of the part of Sir Brokah de Pawn, and Mr. Harry Albery is a capital Dame; Mr. Dawson Dewick revels in the part of Soft Sammy; the parts of Soap and Trust are done full justice to by Messrs. Farr and Farland; Messrs. Grapho and Jackson cause much amusement as Burgling Bill and Gentle Georgie, the two ruffians; Miss Amy Allnutt is an ideal Robin Hood, and Miss Belle Travers is excellent as Maid Marian. Miss Kate Emmett is quite at home as Will Scarlet, Miss Nelly Dyson is smart as Merrie Mavis, and Miss Baby Lily Belle and Miss La Bella Sylvia are pleasing as the Babes.

JERSEY. — OPERA HOUSE. — Lessee, Mr. C. Robert Perkins.—*In Sight of St. Paul's* is being played here this week by Mr. Arthur Carlton's company, and is exceedingly well staged. Miss Gussie Everitt takes the important rôle of Cynthia Dell, which she portrays very faithfully; Mr. Herbert Cecil figures with credit as John Gridston, alias Captain Gridston; another part of the villain type, Boldstein, being well acted by Mr. Henry Gilpin. Mr. Ernest R. Allen appears with credit as Tom Chichester; Mr. W. H. Demoney figuring as his younger brother, Harry; while Chichester père is impersonated by Mr. Arthur Armfield. The comedy element is well supplied by Mr. Herbert Colley as Jim Palfrey, the London cabby; and by Miss Sybil Hammersley, who takes the rôle of Becky Vetch. Mention must also be made of Mr. Edward Valentine, who appears as Fretley Burside.

KEIGHLEY. — QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Carson.—The return visit of *Lucky Durham* greatly pleased Monday's large audience. Mr. Edmund Kennedy as John Durham gives a firm conception of the character; Mr. Arthur Leigh is irresistibly droll as the Hon. Steighton. As Lord Mountfallon Mr. Robert Forsyth achieves success; Mr. Vallerton is well impersonated by Mr. A. E. Walker; Mr. W. V. Simmons Lynn is good as Arthur Walcomb; Miss Alice Esther Belmore plays in capital style, and her Helen Vallerton is excellent; Miss Florence Dulhunty is a charming Margaret Steighton; Miss Lilian Mason ably sustains the part of Mrs. Durham.

KILMARNOCK.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Major Ward.—During the week veteran and youthful playgoers are being delighted with Mr. Stanley Rogers' amusing pantomime of *Cinderella*. Miss Madge Daly makes a sprightly Prince, and has a strong and tuneful voice; Miss Lily Eyton is charming as Cinderella; Mr. Harry Ray as Capers wins much approval for his acrobatic feats and eccentric dances; Mr. Frank Barclay has a cultured voice, and is seen to advantage in the character of Dandini; Mr. Freddie French is an irresistably funny Baron; and Mr. Ted Young provides much food for laughter as the Baroness. Arminta and Elvira are well portrayed by Miss Edith Barwell and Miss Grace Desmond; and the Duke of Whistbridge and the Fairy Godmother have attractive representatives in Miss Madge Allen and Miss Elsie Cooper.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Lessees, J. Bannister Howard, Ltd.; Business-Manager, Herr B. Paruzer.—The enterprise of the lessees in securing a week's visit of the Moody-Manners Opera Company has been fully justified by results. One main feature that so makes for success in grand opera—the orchestra—was beyond reproach, under the capable control of Mr. Harrison Frewin. With so extensive a répertoire as the Moody-Manners Company has, it was left to the patrons of the theatre to decide by ballot which operas should be chosen for presentation. On Monday night Bizet's *Carmen* was performed to a packed and enthusiastic house. In the title-rôle, Miss Rosina Beynon quite captivated her hearers; and Mr. Charles Carter as Don José ably seconded her with an impassioned rendering of that part. As Escamillo, Mr. Frederick Erle appeared to great advantage, being vociferously recalled for his "Toreador" song. With a sweet voice, Miss Alice Boaden was most successful in her part of Micaelo. During the week have been presented, in the same good style, *Il Trovatore*, *Faust*, *Lohengrin* and *Maritana*, *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *I' Pagliacci*, *Tannhäuser*, and *The Bohemian Girl*.

KIRKCALDY.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Burton.—This week Mr. Morton Powell's company, under the direction of Mr. Frank Eden, is paying a return visit in *Honour Thy Father*. Mr. Walter M. Cameron undertakes the heavy part of Gabriel Garth, and is responsible for some fine acting; Mr. Bertram H. Ross is excellently suited as Jack Halyard; and Mr. W. R. Winning is fairly effective as Duncan Bly. Messrs. W. H. Melrose and Fred Rolls work hard and successfully as Ned and Mike; Mr. C. Merton, who is also stage-manager, capably depicts the madman Bloggs; Miss Mabel Coleman again appears as Lillian Garth; Miss Muriel Dean is a charming Mercy Merry; and Miss A. Salmon makes the most of her opportunities as Poppy. Miss Kate Newton is deserving of special notice as Mrs. Garth.

LEAMINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—Pantomime once again reigns here, and this week Mr. Milton Bode's company in the fairy pantomime, *Aladdin*, is proving a great attraction. Miss May Marton is a charming Aladdin, and contributes her songs in excellent style. She is ably supported by Miss Janet Reynolds as Princess Yo San; and Nicee, who finds a most graceful representative in Miss Emily Lovell. As Widow Twankey, Mr. Tom Owen is decidedly good; Mr. Clifford Morgan appears with conspicuous success as Abanazar, and sings with much artistic taste; Mr. Leo Sterling and Mr. Happy Attwood, as the Chinese Policemen, are comical, and the former introduces some clever musical specialities. Others who do much for the success of the production are Miss Ethel Wilson as Pekoe, Mr. Frank Couch as the Grand Vizier, Mr. Tommy Nelldon as Lip Tung Tee, Miss Addie Love, Miss Maud Dale, Miss Annie Watkins, and Mr. Walter Cranch. The Royal Welsh Meister Glee Singers contribute several part songs which are highly appreciated.

LEEDS.—EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—A pleasing and interesting sketch serves to introduce the remarkable *Magic Carpet*, a series of clever illusions engineered by the master hand of John Warren; the appearance of Strassburger's Lilliputians is an interesting feature, the little people coming in for a great reception; Lindon's Entertainers give an enjoyable vaudeville turn; the Stein-Eretto troupe do marvellous acrobatic feats; and a delightful vocal turn by the Solari Duo is as popular as anything in the bill. That favourite comedy pair, Lee and Kingston, are meeting with the usual solid success; Prof. Vox is a past master in ventriloquial business; and Harry Clifford, comedian, and Lena Willard, comedienne and dancer, are responsible for the remainder of an excellent programme.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—This is the concluding week of Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson's five weeks' season at this suburban theatre, and a different selection from their Shakespearean répertoire is being presented each evening. A good house was in evidence on Monday for *The Merchant of Venice*, on which occasion Mr. and Mrs. Benson gave their accustomed artistic portrayals of the respective parts of Shylock and Portia; Mr. A. E. Warburton played with distinction the rôle of Prince of Morocco; a convincing personation of Antonio is to be credited to Mr. Clarence Derwent; whilst Bassanio and Gratiano are equally effective efforts by Mr. J. B. Buchanan and Mr. E. B. Nicholson. Mr. G. R. Weir has fine scope for his ability as Launcelot Gobbo, and Old Gobbo finds an able representative in Mr. Chas. Owen. The Jessica of Miss Tita Brand is a performance of merit. *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, and *The Taming of the Shrew* have also been presented during the week.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; General-Managers, Mr. Claude Shayler and Mr. Chas. Weldon.—A demonstration of the Japs' art of self-defence—Ji-jitsu—is the feature of this week's bill, the chief executant being Professor S. K. Uyenishi. Sam Mayo, the inimitable immobile, enhances his reputation with new ditties; King's College Boys are heartily applauded for vocal renderings; the Villions are prominent in an expert trick cycling act; Henri Bekker, the conjuror, does a capital show; the Brothers Lillian achieve success in a novel speciality; the Great Vincent is applauded for his acrobatic proclivities; and Mark Leslie (coon specialist), Charles Cardow (a popular comedian), and Martinetti and Grossi (with novel speciality) are other prominent names in the bill.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General and Business Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—The patrons of this theatre are this week being honoured with a return visit of Mr. Edward Compton, the popular actor, and one of the proprietors of this house. The usual delightful répertoire of old English comedies and plays is being presented, the favourite comedy, *Davy Garrick*, being selected for the opening night, in which Mr. Compton made his 1,339th appearance in the title-rôle. It is needless to say that Mr. Compton charmed everyone with his impersonation, which was throughout played in a manner which won for him the highest eulogium. As Violet, too, Miss Mackenzie is to be highly complimented on an embodiment which was at all times excellent. Mr. Henry Crocker as Alderman Gresham was most effective and clever; and as the Hon. Tom Tallyhaut Mr. Dennis Cleugh was very good. Miss Marie Hassell made a capital Mrs. Rumbelow; the same remark applying to Miss Barbara Pigot as Selina. Others deserving praise are Mr. Philip Gordon as Rumbelow, Mr. G. Wallace Johnston as Sowerberry, and Mr. Vernon O. Crabtree as Simpkins. The new one-act comedy, *The Desperate Lover*, preceded. On Tuesday evening *She Stoops to Conquer* was given, when Mr. Edward Compton as Tony Lumpkin and Miss MacKenzie as Miss Hardcastle delighted everyone. *Edmund Kean*, *The School for Scandal*, and *The Rivals* were also included in the week's répertoire.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—Pantomime having terminated here, the dramatic season opened on Monday evening with a return visit of Mr. Alfred B. Cross and company in *The Manxman*. As Pete, Mr. Cross is to be highly complimented on a very clever impersonation; and Miss Minnie Watersford as Kate Cregeen is also conspicuous throughout with a portrayal of great merit. Mr. Sydney C. Kearns as Philip Christian, and Mr. Dadley Stuart as Ross Christian, are both good; Miss Nellie Freeland as Nancy, Miss Mona Spearing as Miss Christian, and Miss Kitty Livesey as Bella Kelly are well suited to their parts; and Mr. Frank Etheridge as Cæsar Cregeen and Mr. Tom Bowron as Dr. Mylcreest are also commendable.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertram G. Iles.—George Gilbey, who tops the bill this week, is an immense favourite, and he keeps the audience in a continual roar of laughter with his songs and patter. At the other end is Mr. J. G. Grahame and company, who are presenting an exceptionally clever dramatic episode, entitled *The Yellow Fang*; Harry Harrison, with well-sung and popular songs, maintains his great popularity; Wilson and Waring score a success with a most entertaining turn. Other artists who are well received are Gertrude Bradshaw, soprano; the Great Alexander, trick cyclist; the Three Guitanos, eccentric acrobats; the Northern Troupe of international dancers; Winnie Derson, comedienne; and Frank Darwin, actor-vocalist. The bioscope is also a feature.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—A very fine and well-played emotional sketch, entitled *A Prodigal's Wife*, presented by Miss Lois du Cane and company, is the leading attraction here this week. Johnny Holland and company, retained over another week, create much merriment with their sketch, entitled *The Millionaire*; Little Rose-Pink, a dainty child artist, is scoring a well-deserved success, her dancing being worthy of special

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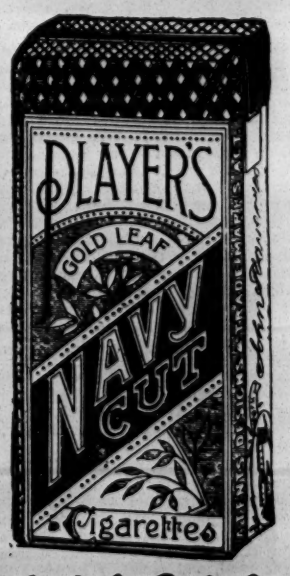

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notice; George Hall is a clever and entertaining siffleur; Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is again making a big hit with the usual up-to-date films; and Ethel Netherton, male impersonator, also appears.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Rousby.—Mr. Chas. Majilton and company of comedians are paying a welcome return visit here this week, and are repeating previous successes, *The Trippers* being selected for Monday. Mr. Charles Majilton plays the part of the Mystery with unqualified success; as the Scotchman, McCluckie, Mr. Jim Bond causes roars of laughter; a charming Alice is found in Miss Nora Christie; Miss Maddie Majilton contributes a clever study of Frank; Mr. Randle Wilson is also very amusing as Algie; and the other members of the company are all efficient. *The Plumber* and *Round the Clock* are also billed.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—Following closely on the heels of *The Fair One with the Golden Locks*, the management now present the attractive pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, which opened auspiciously on Monday evening to a crowded house. Messrs. George Le Clerq and Ben Brown head the cast, provoking hearty laughter with their amusing turns in the rôles of Johnny Stout and Jimmy Green; as the Widow Horner, Mr. Harry Nelson puts in some diverting business; to Mr. Astor Wybert, who plays the Village Squire, falls one of the most taking songs in the piece; Pepper and Peter Piper find good exponents in Mr. Alfred Bennett and Mr. Cutler; and Mr. Fred Zaranella, in the disguise of the Wolf, goes through some wonderful contortions. Among the ladies, Miss Lilian Lee makes a dashing Prince; Miss Rose Florence excels as the Fairy Queen; Miss Katie Butler is a versatile Blondina; Miss Rose Helene is very engaging as the Squire's daughter; Miss Nancy Hearne does well as a young Marquis; Miss Florrie Durant and Miss Beatrice Wilson make the most of smaller parts; and, though perhaps least in stature, not by any means last in popular favour, Miss Decima Brooke proves herself a winsome and promising young actress in the title-rôle.

LEVEN.—TOWN HALL.—Mr. T. J. Scott's cinematograph and variety combination received a warm welcome on Monday. Mr. W. Atkinson sang several illustrated songs in acceptable fashion; the Frohmans provided a pleasing instrumental turn; Mysterious Parker's quick changes proved popular; Mr. Arthur Austin was successful as a comedy juggler; Mr. Scott was an effective elocutionist; and the films shown were quite up to date.

LINCOLN.—PALACE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arthur.—Mr. J. Collinson's company in *The Topsy-Turvy School* presents a hilarious turn; Silly Billy Elliott repeats a success of years ago; the Four Maisanos appear in an eccentric musical act; Gicardo is a smart juggler; and Cavalli, ventriloquist; Frieda Fane, ballad vocalist; Penstone is an illusionist of merit, and is ably assisted by Tsaou-Ngo; the entertainment concluding with films from Raymond's Bioscope.

LIVERPOOL.—ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—The stage of the north-end house has been occupied this week by Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's pretty pantomime, *Little Bo-Peep*, which contains an abundance of fun, with the result that audiences have thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Miss Lizzie Payne is a dainty Bo-Peep; Miss Susie Beaven makes a charming Boy Blue; Mr. Fred McLean proves exceedingly humorous as Baron Hardup; Gilroy and Gross create endless laughter in the characters of Weary William and Tired Thomas; and other principal rôles are efficiently undertaken by Mr. J. W. Groves, Mr. W. Hagues Gatty, Mr. Bert Allen, Mr. Albert Kail, Mr. Harry Wren, Miss Ida Dorrie, and Miss Nora Beverley. The dresses and scenery are particularly nice, and several smart specialities are introduced by the Solon Trio, Lohrenz Quartet, and the Hammersley troupe of lady dancers

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—Mr. Dan Thomas's *Aladdin* company is drawing crowded houses here this week. Dan Thomas is the cause of much laughter as the Widow Twankey, as are the eccentricities of Haverley and Hamer, in the parts of Slip and Slop; Daisy Yates, in the title-rôle, is a prime favourite. Other artists are Marie Empress, who vastly pleased her audience; George Prince, a clever comedian; and the Four Dandies.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Amid all the pantomime attractions in the city, drama continues to flourish at this popular resort, and during the week *Bound to Win*, presented by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company, has done good business. Mr. Kimberley played his original part of Harry Lyndon with every satisfaction; Mr. Charles Harper submitted a capital picture of the rogue, Philip Ayre; Mr. H. Arnold Allen handled the rôle of Horatio Buffit with discretion, and along with Miss Trixie Hope, as Winnie Oakley, caused a deal of fun; Mrs. Kimberley powerfully portrayed Gladys Orme; Miss Violet Langley creditably enacted the part of Marion Forbes; and Mr. Sam Warren did the utmost with that of Lemon Drops. The racecourse scene, with the thoroughbreds, proved very effective.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendall; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—For the third and last week Mr. Lingford Carson's pretty pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, has been delighting audiences here. Several new specialities are introduced, including Hurman, hoop manipulator and juggler, a most enjoyable turn.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—After four weeks of excellent pantomime this eminently popular house have reverted to the usual variety order. Heading the programme this week is Leoni Clarke, with his clever performing animals, whose work has been much admired; Stanley Damerell and Cecil Rutland and company give a most diverting sketch, *House Full*; the Warsaw Bros. show themselves to be clever instrumentalists, as well as good comedians; Harry Thorpe and Zoe Coe present a neat comedy episode, *My Burglar*; the automatic theatre, introduced by the Katos, the Komical Kidgets, is a novelty; as acrobatic comedians Adams and Ward prove very funny; the Waltons distinguished themselves as speciality gymnasts; the Sisters Lytton, vocalists, are deservedly applauded; and Oakdene, comedy ventriloquist, presents a clever nautical scena, *The Stowaways*.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—*Leah, the Jewish Maiden*, is the drama given here this week by the "Royal" stock company, and is well put on. Miss Florence Palmer plays the title-rôle, and other principal characters are in the hands of Mr. Percy Boucher, Mr. Cecil Ravenswood, Mr. Harry Tresham, Mr. Sydney Grant, Mr. Robert Wilton, Miss Beryl Ravenswood, and Miss Sara Blumenthal.

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. M. Montgomery.—The drama being produced here this week by the "Royal" stock company is *London's Curse*, by E. Hoggan-Armadale. The principal characters are in the hands of Mr. Albert Sember (as George Montgomery), Mr. Francis E. Wybert, Mr. Frank S. Strickland, Mr. Walter Foster, Mr. H. G. Brandon, Miss Lina Nazeby, and Miss Lilian Burns. The Royal Bioscope has some capital pictures.

PARK PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Principal here this week are Will Hebden and company with the funny sketch, *Teddy Smiles, the Sportsman*, which has proved a draw; Lady Julia, the ape with the human brain, has aroused a deal of wonderment; Tony Iveson is particularly diverting as the tramp at the piano; some delightful Scottish songs are rendered by Agnes McKellar; and Jules Kiaro performs remarkable feats as a hand-jumper and pyramidist.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—Foremost here is J. A. Wilson, whose diverting act with his dog creates a deal of laughter; Clyo and Rochelle introduce some clever tumbling into their comedy, *An Actor's Antics*; Bert Gordon, piper and vocalist, receives hearty applause; Jennie Hartley is an artistic comedienne and clever dancer; the Faulkner Trio present a funny turn, *The Rival Tourists*; Frew and Frow are an able pair of character comedians; and the Belmont Sisters dance in a most accomplished manner, and render popular duets.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Pantomime has given way to variety here, and at the top of the bill this week is a capital little operetta called *Happy Holland*, presented by Jake Friedman and company, which has been received with much appreciation. Mr. William H. Day and Miss Laura Dyson have a telling sketch, entitled *Crystal-Gazing*; the Paxton Trio of handbalancers display much skill; Derenda and Green are a smart pair of comedy jugglers; Albert Christian proves himself a fine vocalist; Baker and Balfe are expert xylophonists and able dancers; Horace Jones, with his description of an excited Welshman at a football match, causes endless laughter; and in the list are, also, Kate Cohen, vocalist; and Olga and Elgar, duettists.

LLANDUDNO.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. R. Chaplin.—On Monday and Tuesday Mr. Fred Jarman's company presented the powerful Anglo-Russian drama, *Under the Czar*. Mr. Wilson Howard as Nicholas Jeroslaff gave an excellent portrayal of a difficult part; Mr. Gerald Smythe, in the part of Captain Johnson, showed ability; Mr. George H. Doyle as Zaohar Kovesky was capital; Mr. Louis Weston gave a first-class representation of Paul Ignat; Mr. R. Tarrant as Victor Klieff was good; Miss Lillian Herries as Sonla Gregorovitch enacted the part with exceptional pathos and ability; and Miss Beatrice Annersley as Siemka and Miss Madge Clare as Zara Bhur respectively were well placed.

LONG EATON.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Miss Ethel van Praagh and her company are here this week in *An Unwedded Wife*. The play gives scope for the powers of Miss Praagh as Marion, who displays dramatic skill of a high order in the title-rôle. Reggie is cleverly played by Little Doris; Mr. Richard Purdon as Napoleon Bodmer, Miss Violet Wilson as Elsie Langham, and Mr. J. Edward Whitty as a police-constable create much fun. The final scene, the ruins of the Abbey of St. Kilda, with mechanical effects, is greatly admired.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Another capital attraction this week is the drama *The Great Awakening*, ably presented by Miss Maud Hildyard's company. Mr. A. C. Hardie gives a fine reading of James Selby, and the same remark applies to Mr Magill Martyn, who ably doubles the parts of Sir Henry Merton and Jack Merton. Mr. Stephen Langton appears successfully as Guy Rogan; and Mr. Gordon McLeod is well placed as Capt. Harry Lambert. Miss Doris Digby is praiseworthy as Molly Merton; and Miss Maud Hildyard skilfully enacts the important character of Lola Selby.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—The boards are occupied by the famous Harry Starr and company, appearing the first part of the week in *Otto, the Outcast*, and during the latter portion in *Carl, the Clockmaker*. In the former play, which is well staged, and affords plenty of amusement, Mr. Harry Starr, in the title-rôle, has a part well suited to his dramatic abilities; Mr. D. Beattie gives an admirable impersonation of Daddy Bruneau; Mr. E. Firth as Dr. Coquedille is exceedingly good; and Mr. W. Miller as Augustine is responsible for much hearty laughter. Miss Kate Norris as Lara gives a realistic portrayal of the character, and is accorded a hearty reception at the fall of the curtain; Miss Blanche Leroy is pleasing as Susette; Mr. W. Hee as the Marquis De Laporte is excellent; and Miss Cissie Hastings as the Marchioness De Anvilliers is very charming.

MAIDENHEAD.—TOWN HALL.—Secretary, The Town Clerk.—Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, was here on Wednesday and Thursday, with Miss Millicent Davis in the title-rôle. Miss Marie Curtis as Alice Mayflower and Misses Hilda and Molly Hypatia as Billie Taylor and Dolly Dimple are all good; and Miss Carman Cecil is a charming fairy. Mr. Alf. Bert is successful as Will Atkins; Mr. Carl Moneta is nimble and entertaining as Man Friday; the comic monkey and dog are well represented by the Bros. Wallace, and Mr. Tom Gilbert scores as Mrs. Crusoe. Among the varieties are clever acts by a performing donkey and goat (introduced by Mr. George Huntley), juggling by the Allan Bros., graceful dancing by Sisters Hypatia and Sisters Kennedy, and a laughable skit, entitled "The Conjuror Unmasked," by the Codinas.

MAIDSTONE.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. S. Baskerville.—Prominent among the good turns appearing here this week are Hanvarr and Anna Lee, expert club jugglers and acrobats; Fred Millis is a clever ventriloquist, his fit-up with automatic figures being very effective; Tacius is the possessor of a remarkable voice, his singing of "Drinking" in two octaves being an extraordinary feat of vocal skill; Huline and Le May are amusing musical clowns, their turn being full of instrumental surprises; Webb and Branston, operatic duettists, are very popular; and Robbie Roy, Scotch comedian; Miss Jenny Lynn, comedienne; and the bioscope, complete the programme.

MANCHESTER.—ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Theo Kremer's *The Fatal Wedding* is being played here this week by Mr. Bert Coote's company. A crowded house witnessed the performance on Monday. Mr. Ernest Owttrim gives a manly interpretation of Howard Wilson; and as Mabel, his wife, Miss Katherine Clarke acts with sincerity and charm. As the adventuress, Cora Williams, Miss Leah Marlborough presents a vigorous character-study; and the villainy of Robert Curtes is ably demonstrated by Mr. Guy Hastings. The rôles of Toto, the butler, and Bridget, the cook, are rendered humorously by Mr. C. H. Hughes and Miss Julie Temple. Miss Marie Wilson proves herself a clever juvenile as Jessie, "the little mother," and deserves great praise for her singing and dancing. In the third act a pleasant diversion is introduced in the form of specialities by Miss Dolly McCalla (and chorus), a neat little comedienne; Miss Ivy Westaby, vocalist; Master Walter Aubrey, step-dancer; Miss Marie Wilson, vocalist; and Master Frisby, boy vocalist.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. Fred Granville presents here this week a capital version of *The Forty Thieves*. In the matters of scenery, dresses, and general talent, this is among the best of popular pantomimes designed for the road, and certainly provides plenty of amusement. Miss Flo Warner answers all usual requirements as Ganem, the dashing son of Ali Baba; and as Morgiana, Miss Emmie Milstead, an excellent singer and dancer, gives a particularly fine performance. Very good also are Mr. Sid Cotterell as Lieut. Hassarac; Mr. Allan Carruthers as Ali; Messrs Burley and Burley as a couple of Bagdad "Blues"; Mr. Watty Griffin as Moketta, the donkey; and Mr. Joe Bell as Mustapha; while as Cogia, Mr. Dan Ager adds to the fun; and bright and pleasing work is contributed by Mr. C. Caldcleugh and Misses Edna Cragge, Carrie Carsdale, and Ada and Netta Poole.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. R. Flanagan; Manager, Mr. Gus Flanagan.—Mr. Frank M. Thorne's well-known romantic drama *Napoleon the Great* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Hugh Montgomery retains his old part of Napoleon, which he fills with vigour and distinction; and another prominent figure in the cast is Mr. Frank M. Thorne (the author), who makes a marked success in the rôle of Pierre Pomponnet. Mr. Albert Sinclair adds a fine performance as Sergeant Choupin; Miss Leslie Warner is admirable as Marie Walewska; and Miss Florence Thorne as Mère Dumont presents a clever character-sketch. Others who do well are Messrs. Henry Earlesmere, Phil Harper, and Bartlett Garth; while all the minor parts are suitably filled.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Last week's attraction at the Royal Osborne Theatre—*Cinderella*—is proving equally successful at this popular house.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The programme here this week is changed from variety to pantomime—an extremely clever show—under the direction of Mr. J. Elliston. The story is that of *Puss in Boots*, and the entire equipment is on an elaborate scale. An immense audience on Monday accorded hearty appreciation, and laughter constantly attested the humorous quality of the entertainment. Miss Minnie Jeffs is pleasing as Colin; and Miss Jennie Johns as Princess Ivy gives a bright and clever performance. Misses Edith Goodhall, Minnie Crest, and Florence Elliot are also seen and heard to advantage in incidental rôles; while a considerable amount of fun is contributed without cessation by Mr. George Hestor, Mr. Harry Levaine, Mr. George Avon, Mr. Sammy Shields, Mr. Harry Rogerson, and Mr. Barney Gilmore (the Cat). The well-known speciality work of most of these artists is introduced as the piece goes on, and in addition to this and the general business of the production, the vocalism of the Columbia Comedy Trio is particularly notable and interesting. The staging is brilliant throughout.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—This week sees the last of the great water-spectacle, *The Flood*, which nevertheless is attracting large houses. Preceding this wonderful item, we have, at the head of a strong variety list, the popular Madge Lessing, in selected songs of scenic order; while capital turns are given by the Saphos (in a comedy bar act), the Matweef-Hugoston troupe of Russian singers and dancers, W. J. Ashcroft (the original solid man) in a couple of amusing ditties, Carlos Caesaro in a clever naval act, Browning and Wally (graceful gymnasts and dental athletes), Howard and Collinson in their laughable sketch *The Porter and the Parcel*, two pleasing items by the choir, and a comic series on the Bioscope.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Messrs. Cullen and Carthy's delightful pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, after a successful week at the Queen's Park Hippodrome, is the attraction here, and full houses are the rule.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—An excellent programme here this week is headed by Harry Daniels and company in a side-splitting sketch, entitled *Rent*, which is well received. Fred S. Peake and company present, with considerable success a new dramatic costume sketch, entitled *The Gambler*; the Edgertons are seen in a clever gymnastic act; Brull and Helmsley sing and dance well; and Frederica's toy terriers and cake-walking pony, Dot, are exceedingly well trained. Charlton, in an eccentric musical act, is good; Primavesi is an expert juggler; and George Duval is an amusing stump orator. *The Wrong Clue*, shown on the Bioscope, is interesting.

HIPPODROME, HULME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The Six Brothers Luck are to the front here this week in their original pantomime, *The Hotel Grande*, and cause roars of laughter; Fred and Maud Vypond are vastly entertaining, and are deservedly well received; Mr. "E," the "pat patterer who portrays piquant points in peculiar pictures," is exceedingly good; and the Evalos are capital comedy jugglers. Good turns are also those of Wright, Ismay, and Wright in a speciality dancing act; Lestree, a smart juggler; the Five Casino Girls, brass instrumentalists; Standring, the singing mill lad; and the Aeronauts, grotesque acrobats. Nellie Navette did not appear on the occasion of our visit.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield Theatre Company; General-Manager, Capt. Cecil Clayton.—Pantomime again holds the sway here this week, *Little Red Riding Hood* being the attraction. Mr. James Wood as the Baron plays well; as Dame Trott Mr. Arthur Drew causes roars of laughter; Mr. Will Raglan as the Wolf is capable; Messrs. Grant and Kelly in their respective parts cause amusement; Miss Rosie Juden in the title-rôle is charming; and Prince Charming is admirably presented by Miss Winifred Hamilton. Miss Renee Ven Atken makes a fascinating Fairy. The Great Escaladers, clever ladder performers; acrobatic dances by the Four London Belles; and cornet and posthorn solos by Miss Maud Kessler are among the specialities.

MARGATE.—HIPPODROME.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. Frederick Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtrey.—The programme here this week includes the Musical Schaffers, in their refined musical number, entitled *The Garden of Melody*, with elaborate stage setting and electric light effects; Eva Warde, comedienne and dancer, gives an attractive turn; Ryder Davis, comedian, proves amusing; and George and Lelia, in their comedy duo, are also an acquisition to the programme. The Three Brothers Curran, in their amusing boxing sketch, *Taking a Census*, create considerable laughter; and Will English is as popular with Hippodrome audiences as ever. The pictures this week are especially good.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—There was a large audience here on Monday night when Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime, *The Sleeping Beauty*, was produced. In the title-rôle Miss Lily Pane is graceful and attractive, singing sweetly and playing very ably; Miss E. Gordon as the Prince is a brilliant success; Silver Star, the fairy godmother, finds a pretty and pleasing exponent in Miss Agnes Molteno, both her acting and singing being of the highest order. the King is admirably impersonated by Mr. Alf. Bishop; as the Queen, Mr. Dave O'Toole is also very funny; and Mr. W. J. Churchill, a favourite with Middlesbrough playgoers, is amusing as the Count. Miss Ada Tilley is very graceful as the Grand Chief; and Mr. Ralph Howard scores as the Count's page. Mr. Lennen Meadows is good as the Yellow Dwarf; the part of Bonne Bouche is well portrayed by Miss Nellie Howard; the Morton Trio are excellent, their harmonious songs being one of the hits of the "panto"; an appreciated turn is introduced by Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of dancers; and excellent cornet solos are rendered by the Musical Howards.

OPERA HOUSE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. W. K. Chatto.—Miss Annie Bell, with her company, is this week presenting *Sapho*. In the title-rôle Miss Annie Bell leaves nothing to be desired; and Mr. Otto Munster makes an excellent Jean Gaussin. Miss Dorothy Crowther is delightful; while into the part of Father le Grande Mr. Oliver Rogers infuses a large amount of skilful acting. Eugène Flamant finds an excellent exponent in Mr. H. Langford; the part of Caoudal is admirably played by Mr. Pringle Roberts; Miss Florence Graham does ful justice to her rôle; and a clever repeesentative of Clara is found in Miss Lucy Desmond.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant.—Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche's company opened here on Monday in *What the Butler Saw*. Mr. Charles Fawcett acts the part of the mercurial Irishman to the life; Miss Ada Blanche as Mrs. Barrington is exceptionally bright and pleasing; Mr. Lionel Rignold is irresistibly droll as the Butler; special mention should be made of Mr. Roy Byford as the Professor; Mr. William Dunlop aptly sustains the rôle of Sir Charles Foden; Mr. George Ascott gives a good impersonation of Colonel Dunlop; and equally good are Messrs. Harry Rignold and Leo. St. Clair as Abraham Weinstein and Sydney Clifford. Miss Marie Daltra submits a finished piece of character-acting as Miss Foden; and Miss Jennie Wigney is a sweet and girlish Nora.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—Extensive patronage continues to be accorded Mr. Robert Courtneidge's lavish production of *Aladdin*. Mr. Neil Kenyon, with his inimitable impersonation of the Widow Twankey, is a now firmly-established favourite in Newcastle; and Messrs. Charles Harvey and Alfred Clark are both proving very popular; while the admirable vocal efforts of Miss Florence Smithson, Miss Lily Morris, and Mr. Fred Allandale are a distinct feature of a nicely-balanced entertainment, of which the minor parts are all well filled.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—There is no diminution to the enormous houses attracted to *Aladdin* at the Tyne Theatre, the crowds for the early doors assembling hours before admittance can be gained. The pantomime is now really at its merriest. When in possession of the stage, Messrs. Harry Lauder and Dan Crawley cause a continuous ripple of laughter, their famous tea-scene being the *pièce de résistance* of the show. A very attractive exponent of the title-part is Miss Beryl Somerset; and Miss Jose Collins is nightly applauded for her excellent vocal efforts, whilst all the other members of the company give good support.

GRAND.—Lessees, Messrs. Bacon and Bolam; Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—Mr. F. Marriott Watson's company in *A False Wife* is paying a visit here this week, and attracting good houses. The great feature of this weird and mysterious play—the manner in which a living man is changed to a skeleton, and brought back to life again—is greatly applauded. There is a most capable company, headed by Miss Florence E. Florence as Lady Mansfield, and all gain the approval of the audience.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Moss' Empires, Ltd; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—The Scotch comedian, Dean Tribune, and company in a delightful pantometta, entitled *Bo Peep*, is the premier attraction this week. For the space of about thirty minutes it keeps the audience well entertained, the catchy songs, dainty dances, and capital fun completely captivating everyone. Miss Ethel Lonsdale as Bo Peep acts throughout with conspicuous ability, whilst as Boy Blue, Miss Estella Tribune sings and dances in a charming manner. Mr. Dean Tribune as Simple Simon keeps those present in roars of laughter. The principals are ably supported by Mr. Medley Barratt as Baron Bustup, Mr. David Denard as Dame Dishwater, and Mr. Harry Tribune as Shadows. Kelly and Ashby, in their billiard-table scene, are very amusing; they perform many clever feats. Welter Bellonini is a juggler of more than average ability; the Five Bogannys ("The Lunatic Bakers") give a daring risley performance; Dan Conroy proves as popular as ever, and is well applauded. Carrie Joy, Petram's Marionettes, Edie Veno, and the Bioscope pictures complete a good bill.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—The top of the bill here is deservedly occupied by Gustave Fasola, Oriental wonder-worker, who performs the most sensational illusions, greatly mystifying everyone. Bertisch, the strong man and weight-lifter, was seen to great advantage; Leah Ardell is a distinct success as a vocalist; Ted E. Box is a clever comedian, and made a great hit with his policeman song. Tom Collins was heartily received; Sable Fern sang in pleasing style. Walter Stanley, comedian; the Five Vernons, operatic xylophonists; Wright and Elton, in "Mirthisms," and a new series of pictures on the Barrascope also contribute to a first-rate bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—For the third time, Mr. Wentworth Croke presents *The Christian* here, with Miss Grace Chalmers in the part of Glory Quayle, which she endows with all the grace and charm associated with the character; Mr. Frank Tennant is well suited for the rôle of the Hon. John Storm, and plays it well; Mr. Edwin Ling is excellent as Father Lamplugh; Mr. Frederick Scarth ably portrays Lord Robert Ure; Mr. W. Brisco Owen is good as Horatio Drake; Miss Molly Hayden is a pleasing Mrs. Callander; and the remainder of the cast is good.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans.—The Marlelloni Troupe of acrobats, four ladies and one gentleman, give a very clever and interesting display; Carlo Venturne's illusion, "So'da," the creation of a woman, or, rather, two, out of nothing, is wonderfully well done; the Salitos, boy and girl equilibrists, show the advantage of good training, combined with aptitude; Ethel Loftus has been warmly welcomed on her return visit here; Bert Boothroyd scores as a comedian and raconteur; Bonnetti and Corri provide an amusing juggling act; Carson Hicks gives an acceptable song and dance; Sylvia Martin, the lady horse trainer, introduces her mare, Beatrice, showing the perfection of training; and Clement Vincent produces a fresh set of interesting pictures.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Charles Macdona's company, with *The Toreador*, which has been cordially greeted. As Carajola. Mr. Sidney Granville is a distinct success; Mr. Robert Rous makes quite a hit as Sammy Gigg; and Mr. Fred Thompson is clever as Sir Archibald Slackett. Mr. Richard Adams makes the best use of his opportunities as Pettiter; and Mr. J. Herbert Willis wins much favour as Augustus Trail. As Donna Teresa, Miss Nina Carlton is seen to great advantage; Miss Beatrice Rowe is a popular Nancy Staunton; Miss Leah Howard is well placed as Susan; Miss Winsome Hetherington proves an attractive Dora; Miss Gwen Clifford gives a good rendering of Mrs. Malton Hoppings; and the augmented orchestra and chorus acquit themselves satisfactorily.

NORWICH.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—An entertaining programme is presented this week. Ruby Bijou is a very clever and graceful dancer and receives hearty appreciation; Maud and Sydney Wood, in the same line, were also well received; Mabel Bright and company in their vocal melange, "Girls will be girls," obtained much applause; the Brothers Huxter, as acrobats, tumblers, and dancers, receive unstinted praise; Seeley and West as musical comedians are most entertaining; Belle Braham, in her picture songs, is a good turn; whilst Latiné, female impersonator, does well; T. Norman Mills, with his spirited songs, renews his former successes; the Hippo-Bio displays some amusing pictures, and the efforts of the excellent orchestra add to the pleasure of the entertainment.

AGRICULTURAL HALL.—Messrs. Barker and Thurston's carnival and its side shows still continue successful.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*Dick Whittington* has now entered upon the last week but one of its run, much to the regret of the public, who crowd the theatre nightly. All the company work assiduously, and there is not a dull moment from start to finish.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—The pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, still continues to attract. Miss Daisy Sillcott as Jack has made hosts of friends, and the sweet singing and charming manner of Miss Phyllis Yorke claim everybody's admiration. The comedians headed by Mr. Charles Gardiner, are indefatigable in their efforts to amuse.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Bowmaker.—The stirring equestrian sketch, *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, is proving once more its evergreen capacity to attract. Presented by Mr. F. Ginnett, whose company includes also Mr. Geo. Jennings and Mesdames Ginnett and Jennings, its every appearance is received in the most enthusiastic manner. Tom Costello, with new songs and business, finds his reception as hearty as ever. Miss Clarice Netta, a soprano vocalist of unusual ability, makes a very acceptable turn, and the Three Ramoniers, in a clever ladder balancing and acrobatic performance, are very good. Harry Russon, the actor comedian, must feel gratified at his success, whilst Arthur Spencer entertains in a very satisfactory manner. Frobel and Ruge are excellent aerial gymnasts, and the Gentle Mackweys cause a great deal of mirth by their fast and furious comedy acrobat act. The programme is completed by Holden's mannikins, a really clever performance, and "The Village Fire Brigade," series of pictures on the Bioscope.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENTS CO., LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Mr T. Morton Powell's company occupies the boards this week with *The Woman Who Gambles*. Mr. Alec Alexander gives an excellent portrayal of Count Otto Steinbach; the part of the villain, Baron Cratzlaw, finds an able exponent in Mr. H. Sinclair; Miss Lilla Wilde gives a good impersonation of the Countess (the woman who gambles); others deserving of praise are Miss Florence Halton (Cora Gouldhart), Miss Dorothy Haigh (Mlle. Zila Zeyelda), Mr. Reginald Fox (Lieut. Kard), and Mr. Arthur Richards (Hon Bertie Bray). The piece is well staged.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—The D'Oyly Carte principal repertoire opera company commenced a week's engagement here on Monday evening, when a large and appreciative audience assembled to witness *The Gondoliers*. Mr. Strafford Moss and Mr. Albert Kavanagh appeared as Marco and Giuseppe respectively, with great success; Mr. Fred Billington had a capital reception on his entrance as Don Alhambra, and he shows that he has lost none of his powers to please with his singing; Mr. Charles H. Walenn is again the Duke of Plaza-Toro, and he also assisted greatly in promoting the merriment. Mr. Leicester Tunks makes the most of Luiz, and Mr. Fred Drawater scores as Antonio; Miss Hope Hastings as Gianetta and Miss Lulu Evans as Tessa sing their numbers in capital style, whilst Miss Norma Russell makes a stately Duchess, and Miss Mabel Graham is excellent as Casilda; Miss Phyllis Grey as Inez leaves nothing to be desired. A well-balanced chorus does much for the success of these popular operas. *The Mikado, Iolanthe, Yeomen of the Guard*, and *H.M.S. Pinafore* constituted an attractive programme for the rest of the week.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Howgate.—The Three Olympiers head the bill in their artistic show, "Beauty in Bronze"; Mr. C. Parker's Six Æolians have had a capital reception; La Fails, in their capital gymnastic entertainment, gain much applause, and Morny Cash keeps the audience roaring with his funny songs; Ada Parker is a charming songstress and a neat dancer, and Mamie Gannon is a smart coon comedienne; the Two Falcons, comedy acrobatic equilibrists, are quite up to date, and A. E. Clifford is a good vocalist. The Royal Dottoscope concludes the entertainment.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Nuttall.—Mr. Will Vay's juveniles, in a comedy scena, give a show which is heartily enjoyed. Mr. Will Godwin does well in his scena, *Repentance*. The Three Clarions provide refined comedy and smart dancing; Chas. F. Best does some clever work in his original comedy act, and Marion Grahame, operatic vocalist, sings sweetly; Fred Lester, baritone, sings popular songs, and Fred Casburn is a unique comedian. The Dottoscope is again a feature of the programme.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill.—On Monday Mr. Charles Macdona's company began a successful engagement here with *Mr. Popple (of Ippleton)*, which, well played by a good company, was heartily received by a full house. Mr. Allan Pollock was highly successful as Freddy Popple; Mr. L. Bullock Webster acted well and danced cleverly as Norman Popple; Mr. R. MacLachlan sang sweetly and made an acceptable Jacques Kenyon; Mr. S. Courtenay and Mr. J. Stevenson were good as George Hennay and Henry Doring; and Mr. Tom May got a great deal of fun out of the part of Platt. Miss Millie Hylton scored a big success as La Bolero, her singing and acting meeting with keen appreciation; Miss Cora Lingard was a sweet and sympathetic Violet Brinton; Mrs. Doring and Mrs. Hennay found capable exponents in the Misses Alice Rene and Stella St. Audrie; and Miss Nellie Hodson was a bright and chic Louisa. The chorus was well up to the mark.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Bentz.—*Goody Two-Shoes* has entered on its sixth and final week preparatory to going on tour. Mr. Savile has added another success to his long list of triumphs in the pantomime line, and there is no reason to fear but that his *Goody Two-Shoes* will become as popular in the different places it visits as it has been in the home of its production.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-

act; Bob Nicol's mimicry of music-hall stars gets the usual demonstrative reception; E. J. Sheldon, comedian and dancer, is much applauded; Jeannette Hall, the lady baritone vocalist, is also successful; and T. E. Johnstone, topical character vocalist, supplies a good entertainment. The Hippodrome Bioscope, with the *Aladdin* pantomime, completes.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Tom Toy.—Heading the bill this week is George M. Schilling, the famous athlete and traveller, who relates his experiences; Lillian Sivado, in a novel and sensational trapeze act, is applauded; Li-Chang-Hi, the Chinese conjurer, displays skill; a capital turn is submitted by Harry Leaton, refined vocal comedian; Katie Eplett, comedienne and dancer, arouses enthusiasm; Jack Ramsay, versatile mimic, vocalist, and raconteur, is entertaining; Lillie Hales, comedienne and dancer, is smart and taking; and The Dunlops score in an original comedy cycle act.

TOWN HALL. — Proprietors, Magistrates and Council.—The Chas. W. Poole's colossal Myriorama is an entertainment which is largely patronised here this week. Various places of modern and historical interest and of great events are graphically depicted, the pictures being of a brilliant and spectacular nature. All that is witnessed is made the more interesting by the clever explanation of Mr. John R. Poole, who acts as guide. The variety entertainment is of exceptional merit, and includes the Lizzette troupe of lady acrobats; Harry Raymond, coon vocalist and dancer; Woolford's educated ponies, dogs, and donkey; Dane's marionettes; The Fordyces (Jennie and Willie), juvenile vocalists and dancers; Sydney Bach, piano-playing exponent; and Funny Chef, versatile comedian. Poole's animated photos are particularly pleasing.

PERTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Miss Grace Warner, supported by Mr. George Gordon and her London company, is here this week with an excellent programme, including *The Scarlet Clue*, *Lady Audley's Secret*, *My Artful Valet*, *Editha's Burglar*, and *The Little Widow*. In the first-named piece Mr. George Gordon assumes the arduous rôle of Michael Stanton with acceptance; Mr. Arthur St. Clair's is a pleasing impersonation of the twin brothers Jack and Harry Esmond; Mr. J. L. Leigh is highly amusing as Billy the Rotter; Little Phyllis Massey's Reggie is heartily approved; Miss Hilda Herne contributes a pleasing portrayal of Elsie Dane; Miss Esther Dean is a vivacious Musette; Little Violet Palfrey is vociferously applauded for her delightful rendering of Little Polly; and Miss Grace Warner's Sal Scarlett is an exposition of talent which the audience fully appreciates.

PETERBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—Messrs. A. Hamilton Warden and Chas. V. Sandford's company, in *A Woman's Past*, is here this week. Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves gives a fine rendering of David Heath; Mr. Charles V. Sandford does full justice to the rôle of Frank Dellannoy; Mr. A. Hamilton Warden is suitably placed as Clement Harper; and Mr. G. Moreton-Williams enacts the part of Uriah Craven in an able manner. Miss Maisie Hanbury submits a clever portrayal of Bessie; Miss Eva Bertram is successful as Clara; and Miss May Dallas makes a pleasing Dorothy.

PLYMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*Blue Beard* has now entered on his last week's existence at the Royal, and the country people are joining with the townsfolk in crowding to Mr. Williams's popular theatre. The different vocal numbers have "caught on" immensely, the singers being nightly the recipients of handsome bouquets and other tokens of appreciation. Sister Ann (Mr. George Brooks), Shakabak (Mr. Frank Bertram), and Iphraham (Mr. Wilfred Shine) still produce roars of merriment by their quaint "gags" and witticisms, while tuneful vocal items are delegated to Miss Murielle Langley (Selim), Miss Peggy Primrose (Fatima), and Miss Elma Morris (Abdul). The speciality dances by an accomplished trio of ladies—the Gilbert Girls—also form an attractive feature of the performance.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. C. F. Williams; Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant. Mr. E. Hill Mitchelson's drama, entitled *When the Lights are Low*, is staged this week. As Gun Goldsworthy and Roland Goldsworthy Messrs. C. A. Melton and C. Baird were very creditable, and a similar compliment may be paid the Misses Ethel Kay and V. Vanbrugh for their impersonations of the parts of the sisters Violet and Nancy Christie. Other commendable members of the company are Messrs. W. Terriss (Admiral Goldsworthy), Larry Clements (Donald McPherson), and Chas. Locke (Ikey Isaacson).

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—The star turn, Galetti's Monkey Comedians, is of a distinctly novel nature; Walter Munroe, Irish comedian, returns after an absence of nine years, and his hearty reception bore testimony to the fact that his old friends have not forgotten him; the Knick-Knacks, comedy and speciality dancers, provide an interesting turn; Miss Fatmah Diard gives a touching rendering of "Home, Sweet Home"; the Steinway Quartette entertain with some high-class vocalism; and the Beautiful Lilian performs some clever trick cycling. The other contributors to an interesting programme are Mignonette Kokin (comedienne and dancer), Ena Richards (dancer), and Vernon's pictures.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—An undoubted attraction is provided this week in Mr. Ronald Grahame's pantomime, *Aladdin*. Miss Celestine Brandon as Aladdin takes the house by storm; Miss Edna Hans shines as Pekoe; Miss Lucie Fitzroy is a charming Princess Badrilbadour; Miss Edie Cameron is a favourite as My Sweete; Mrs. Camille Twankey is admirably portrayed by Mr. Gilbert Hart; Mr. Wilfred E. Brandon must be congratulated for his Abanazar; Mr. Herbert Davies does well as Emperor Many Wany VI.; and Mr. Tony Freedman is good as the Grand Vizier.

PORTH.—THE PALACE (late OPERA HOUSE).—General-Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Bynorth.—This week an excellent and varied programme has been arranged by Messrs. Poole. The bill is headed by the Royal Quintette, Scotland's representative international dancers, vocalists, and pipers, who are accorded a warm reception; Sisters Clare, charming singers and dainty dancers, are thoroughly up to date; Judge's Performing Cockatoos, introduced by the Sisters Judge, are well worth seeing; The Seddons are responsible for some capital fun; Mlle. Ada Catley gives a most creditable performance on the swinging wire; Charles Banks, comedian, and his wonderful dog, Woof, submit an enjoyable turn; Selby and Myers score a distinct success; Mantell and Oval are exceptionally smart as comedy acrobats; the Seabornes, acrobats, are successful; and some pretty pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

PORTSMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—The Japanese musical play, *The White Chrysanthemum*, is paying a welcome return visit here this week, and is presented by Mr. Frank Curzon's principal company in a highly creditable manner. Miss Dorothy Court charms the audience by her delightful portrayal of the name part; Miss Maisie North as Betty Kenyon and Miss Gracie Sinclaire as Cornelia Vanderdecken are both admirable in their respective embodiments; Mr. Davy Barnaby sustains the part of Lieut. Chippendale Belmont, and merits great praise for his excellent presentation; Mr. E. Pope-Stamper also deserves great commendation for his careful rendering of Lieut. Reginald Armitage; Mr. St. John Hamund is conspicuously successful as Admiral Sir Horatio Armitage; Sin Chong and Private Perks are well placed in the hands of Messrs. O. E. Lennon and Harry Paulton, jun., who provoke peals of merriment by their capital comedy. The mounting and dressing are of a lavish nature, and the chorus and orchestra are under the able direction of Mr. Leonard Hornsey.

PRINCES'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. Fred Benton and his able company are here this week in the highly-successful and exciting drama, *The French Spy*. Mr. Beresford Lovett, as Captain Sommers, makes a manly and convincing hero; Mr. Max Coutts is excellent as Count Romanoff; Mr. George Sherraton, as Petross Romanoff, his brother, displays considerable ability; Fritz, a German strong man, is smartly and amusingly taken by Mr. Fred Benton; Miss A. Harrison-Tate gives a powerful portrayal of Olga; Miss Madge Devereux, as Countess Ande, does very capable work; and Miss Ella Seton as Julie is admirable. The remainder of the characters are all well depicted, and the mounting and scenery, notably the torpedo-boat effects, are very effective.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary Mr W. Pratt.—Good business is assured here this week, Dr. Walford Bodie being the principal attraction. Dr. Bodie had a most cordial greeting, and did some astounding work, to the great satisfaction of the audience. Cissy Lupino, transformation dancer, is a capital exponent of the Terpsichorean art; Cleland, grotesque juggler, with his "muddled-up mixture of mirth," is most diverting; Millie Howell, a smart descriptive vocalist, does well; the Pirmans, in novelty pantomime act, "Dans le Jardin," score; Queenie May, juvenile artist, sings some taking songs in excellent style; George Bendon, the white coon, ably renders plantation melodies; Herbert Shelley, in *Dan the Outlaw*, gives an interesting and well-sustained episode of the time of George III., in which he appears in five different characters; and Payne's Bio-Photoscope, with some new films, completes the bill.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late Mr. Wm. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company is presenting *The Silver King* here this week to large audiences. Mr. Fred B. DAVISS gains hearty applause for his dramatic and convincing interpretation of the title-rôle; Mr. L. St. George Lowther's delineation of the Spider is thoroughly effective; Mr. Edward J. George gives a natural and genuinely humorous embodiment of Jaikes; and Mr. Arthur Wright as Elijah Combe, Mr. George Belmore as Henry Corket, and Mr. Warriss Lindon as Cripps ably sustain their parts. Nellie Denver is successfully portrayed by Miss Daisy Scudamore; and Cissie Denver has a charming representative in Miss Flossie Hall Daviss, a child actress of exceptional ability.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—*Aladdin*, a pantomime, presented by Messrs. Holland and Wood's company, is a popular attraction here this week. Miss Florence Haskoll plays the part of Aladdin in spirited style; and the Princess has an attractive exponent in Miss Florence Wood. Unlimited fun is supplied by Messrs. Nash and Noel, Mr. Percy Curry, and Mr. George Reeves. Special turns contributing materially to the success of the performance, are given by the Three Trees, vocalists and dancers; the Chameleon Cave Guards, in a military march with electrical colour effects; Kendrick and Laura, with songs and dances; and Nash and Noel, eccentric comedians.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Fred J. Little and Mr. Fred Darcy's company is appearing here this week, in *Sinbad the Sailor*. Miss Marie Reeve is a very popular Principal Boy; Mr. Walter Adams as Sinbad makes a hit with his songs; Mr. Albert E. Mann in the rôle of Mrs. Sinbad keeps the house well amused; Miss Nell Brough is seen to advantage as Selim, and scored a success with her whistling; Miss Amy Calcott makes a bright and vivacious Zorilda; Mr. Fred Taylor a merry Captain Cook. Messrs. Newco and Sullo as Baccah and Stoppah evoke continuous laughter; Mr. Fred Dobito in the part of Ali Loofah has ample opportunities of using a fine bass voice; Miss Flora Buxton, in the rôle of Princess Zaidre, sings old-time songs, which are received with great favour; and others who ably sustain their respective parts are Miss Marian Ellis as the Fairy, and Knoto as the Old Man of the Sea. Specialities are introduced by Les Beaux Belles, graceful and original dancers; Messrs. Newco and Sullo, in a clever creation, entitled *John Chinaman and Jonathan;* the Calcotts, banjo experts; Dobito and Buxton, excellent vocalists; and the Marvellous Westwoods, in a clever cycling act.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. George T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—Mr. A. E. Smith's company, with the pantomime, *Aladdin*, is finding favour here. Mr. Fred Ramsdale as the Widow Twankey is a host in himself; Miss May Leycester is dainty as the Princess, and adds to her success by her delightful singing; Miss Bessie Carlton plays Aladdin with dash and sprightliness; the Brothers Padley cause much fun as policemen, and their acrobatic performance is very clever; Miss Kitty Nicklin is good as Peko; and Mr. Percy Beresford is well placed as the Grand Vizier. Miss Connie Irwin is the bewitching Genii of the Lamp; the Silverdale Troupe of lady dancers also deserve a word of praise.

RAMSGATE. — AMPHITHEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—The fairy pantomime, *Bluebell in Fairyland*, is this week produced in first-rate style by Mr. Edward Graham-Falcon's company, and good audiences have been attracted. Miss Florence Somers plays admirably as Bluebell, and Mr. Lawrence Emery's impersonation of Dickie, the crossing-sweeper, is a fine piece of work. As the two footmen, and subsequently the twin schoolboys, Messrs. J. H. Bishop and Charles Resti contribute vastly to the amusement caused; and Mr. Frank Lennard is eminently successful in the rôle of Mr. Joplin, a soft-hearted City merchant. The important rôle of Peter, the cat, is undertaken with considerable success by Master W. Blincoe. The other characters are well sustained, the company being an exceptionally strong one. The songs of all go down well, and the chorus is a finely-trained one. The scenery is of an elegant character, and the general mounting of the pantomime leaves nothing whatever to be desired. The speciality dancing of the three Sisters Holman is worthy of mention.

RAWTENSTALL. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. George Dickinson.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company is here with *Two Little Drummer Boys*. Miss Maggie English and Miss Maud Douglas are exceptionally good in the title-rôles; Miss Edie Macklin is a smart and lively Molly Meadows; as Alma Kingsley Miss Mildred Eversleigh is both charming and clever; Miss Kathleen Magee makes a capital Drunken Meg; Mr. Frank Fuller is a really good General Kingsley, and Mr. Fred Emery an excellent Captain Carsdale. Mr. Archer Helsby makes an admirable George Darrell, and Mr. J. Magrath as Corporal O'Quirk creates considerable amusement.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Cowley.—Mr. George Dance's company is the attraction this week in the popular comic opera, *The Little Michus*. Mr. Foster Courtenay is exceedingly humorous in the part of General des Ifs, and creates the greatest hilarity all the time he is on the stage. He is ably seconded by Mr. Gilbert Childs, who is very amusing as Bagnolet; Mr. William Everard sings well as Gaston Rigaud; Mr. Robert C. Harcourt as Aristide Vert makes the most of a somewhat unsatisfactory part; the Little Michus are charmingly impersonated by the Misses Alice Coverick and Gipsy Dale. Mr. Leon Simkin as Père Michu and Miss Mary Young as Madame Michu both sustain their characters well. Miss Bessie Mackenzie in the dual parts of Mlle. Herpin and Mme. du Tertre is good; and Mlle. Marjorie is highly successful in her dances as Mlle. St. Cyr.

RHYL.—QUEEN'S PALACE.—On Saturday Mr. John A. Thompson's company concluded a successful three nights' engagement in *Aladdin*. Miss Lilian Earle made an excellent Aladdin. Miss May Tompleton, as the Princess, sang several pretty songs; Mr. Fred Lake, an old favourite, made himself very popular. The pantomime had the advantage of having several specialities, including the Geisha troupe of lady dancers; Korrie, musical entertainer; Sisters Isabel, American coon artists; and Bert Goldin. This week Mr. Fred Jarman's company is here in the well-known drama, *Under the Czar*. Miss Lillian Herries has many friends in Rhyl, who welcome her reappearance here in the part of Sonia Gregorovitch. Mr. Wilson Howard and Mr. G. H. Doyle are excellent in their respective parts of Nicholas Geroslaff and Zakhar Kovesky.

ROCHDALE.—EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—The Balsamas, in a comedy gymnastic act, are exceptionally clever on the triple bars and at the same time are highly amusing. The Three Ferganas, head-to-head balancers and tumblers, give a remarkably clever display; Sadie Seymour wins great favour with her descriptive vocalism; Wallace Whitney creates much amusement as a character-comedian. Other turns are submitted with success by Beattie Foster, low-comedy artist; Learto, comedian, and his dog "Bobs," in musical comedy act; the Onatis Troupe, Algerian jugglers; Miss Omega, on the wire; and the Empire Bioscope.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Smith and Co.—An attractive programme is submitted here this week. Dickenson and Johnson give a graceful exhibition of ornamental swimming, also performing some clever feats under water; the Attilla Bros. score largely with a display of weight-lifting and muscular development; J. K. Tideman, comedian; Dolly Denner, buck dancer; Mozzetto, juggler; the Paul Hesse Trio, acrobatic wire performers; Master Harry Raley, vocalist; George Brown, comedian; and Vernon's Bioscope complete the bill.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*The Ugliest Woman on Earth* is the attraction here this week. Some really fine emotional acting is done by Miss Beatrice Homer in the title-rôle; Mr. Philip Dorien cleverly portrays the part of Jack Merriman; Mr. Leyton Consellor submits a fine study of Hubert Gold; and Mr. Charles Barrett is seen to advantage as Antonio Luchesi; Miss Nell Oliver deserves praise for her embodiment of Rose Courtenay.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Again local playgoers are being regaled with pantomime, Messrs. Moore-Kennedy's company appearing with *Dick Whittington*. Of the Immortals, Miss Mollie Revell as Fairy Queen and Mr. Tom Lewis as the Demon Rat are deserving of mention, their musical items being well received. Mlle. Lucretia is very sprightly in the title-rôle, her dances being deservedly applauded; Mr. Percy Victor is very funny as Alderman Fitzwarren; Idle Jack by Mr. Will Sandes is responsible for much of the success of the show, his legmania turn being very clever. Mr. Fred Fulton as Betsy Mary Ann is seen to advantage; and Mons. Paulette is very clever as Tilby the cat. The Canadian Boys, Messrs. Kino and Kirby, score heavily as Shuffle and Shirk; and Miss May Vincent is a smart Viscount Piccadilly. Miss Jessie Barrow is seen to advantage as Maid Marian; and Miss Helena Barton is very pleasing as Alice Fitzwarren. The Lily Godfrey Troupe are responsible for some very clever dances.

RUGBY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geoffrey Fulton.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company is this week presenting *The Female Swindler*. Mr. John Millane gives an able and artistic impersonation of John Coulson, and is well supported by Mr. John Belton as Abraham Mikestein; Mr. Clarence Ibbotson works exceedingly hard, and gives much satisfaction as Lord Hitchell, Billy Binks, Scotchman, and the Washerwoman. Mr. A. Kenyon Gray is clever and dignified as James Oliver, and Mr. Guy B. Ellis gains the sympathy of the audience by his acting as Harold Travers. Miss Florrie Kelsey is charming and effective as May Andrews, and Miss Mary Dawson is good as Mary Ann Mee. As Lu Valroy, Miss Grace E. Leslie is a great success, and Miss Edith Gray causes much amusement as Mrs. Poppem.

RUNCORN.—PUBLIC HALL.—Secretary, Mr. E. S. Lea.—Owing to the demise of the old Theatre Royal in this town, and pending the erection of a new building, attractions are being booked at the above hall. For the current week we have a welcome return visit to the town of Mr. John H. Tomkinson's Royal Gypsy Company. The top of the bill is awarded to the Rizarelis, a couple of juvenile performers, whose evolutions on the trapeze are executed in a style worthy of all praise; Vio Lette, a very clever child artist, proves to be the possessor of a strong and sweet voice; Elsie Rubina, with charming studies of equipoise on the wire, is warmly applauded; Frank Power is a tenor vocalist of undoubted merit; Tweed Andrews has some smart patter and songs; Miss Kitty Linda, contralto vocalist, is much appreciated; Miss Minnie Richardson delights with violin selections, and Miss Daisy Vernon, descriptive vocalist; Miss Annie Knowles, a lady trombonist of high repute; Sisters Dudley, in admirably-rendered duets; Miss Evie Lynn, comedienne and expert dancer; the Five Dees, comedy artists; and the Recars, in a marvellously enacted acrobatic show, are all well received.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company drew a good house on Monday with *The Power of the Cross*, by George A. de Gray, in which that gentleman ably sustains the weird character of Baron Wolfe Curzola. Miss Mildred Cottell as the adventuress, Rita Lascelles, makes a satisfactory impression, and she is ably assisted in villainy by Benjamin Hawke, in the hands of Mr. L. F. Trenaur. Comedy is well represented by Mr. R. E. Nugent as Timothy O'Dowd and Miss Etta Turner as Dolly Gray; Miss Phyllis Vaughan as Blanche Kingsley and Miss Stanley Burt as Margaret Seaton, with Mr. C. Linney as Gerald Fairfax and Mr. A. J. Haviland as Dr. Leslie Fairfax, cleverly sustain their respective characters.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director and Licensee, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—John Tiller's pantomime *Aladdin* is presented twice nightly, and full houses found much amusement on Monday when it commenced a twelve nights' run. Aladdin is spiritedly represented by Miss Jessie Wilton, whose singing is much applauded; Mr. Fred Dark as Widow Twankey, Mr. Harry Elliston as Abanazar, Mr. Harry Morgan as I-Ke-Mo, and Little Britton as Schnapps work hard together in providing food for roars of laughter; Miss Clara Beck makes a charming Princess Balroubadour; Pekoe is most fittingly portrayed by Miss May Sharples; and Miss Maud St. John is a charming Ting-Ling. Mr. Harold Wardroper does well as the Emperor, and a pretty Genie of the Ring is seen in Miss Daisy Woodworth. A very pleasing part of the entertainment is the smart and pretty dancing of the Tiller Quartette and eight well-trained girls.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth. —*The Smoking Concert*, by arrangement with Mr. Fred Karno, is a funny sketch under the direction of W. B. Crabtree, who acts as chairman, and is one of the principal items of this week's programme. *Blackmail* is an amusing water sketch, played by Henry Herne and company; Tom and Marée Motramo (comical musical artists), Carr and Rose (Fred and Ada, clever drawing-room entertainers), Zertho (the clown with his clever dogs), Wragg and Wragg (military athletes), Johnson and D'Evere (cycle riding and balancing), and Beattie and Blanche (comediennes and dancers) also provide good entertainment.

SALISBURY. — COUNTY HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr. T. Brinsmead.—Good houses have assembled to witness Mr. Edward Graham-Falcon's company in *Bluebell in Fairyland*. Miss Mamie Finbow in the title-rôle scored a great success; as Dicky Mr. Sidney Edward cleverly enacted his part; Mr. Herbert Clark and Mr. George Colman as Will and Wont caused great amusement; Mr. Roy Travers, the Sleepy King, received several encores for his songs; and Miss Sylvia Mortlake as the Reigning Queen was both fascinating and dignified.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. Edward Marris's pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, is drawing capital houses here this week, a result which the production well deserves. The title-rôle is excellently acted by Miss Maisie Jarard, whose rendering of some of the newest songs gains unstinted applause. Miss Effie Vincent presents a charming little Polly Maydew; Mr. James Graydon gives a clever personation of Mrs. Crusoe; the comic business of the Waldrons (Joe and Etty) as John Willie Crusoe and Matilda Crusoe, keeps the merriment fairly going. Mr. G. Brentwood (Will Atkins), Mr. Alec Kashma (Captain Mainbrace), and Mr. Ernie Hampson (Friday), deserve commendation for their respective renderings. Mr. Herbert Peace gives an adequate rendering of the King, and Mr. Jack Cashma makes the most of his opportunities as Scraps, the dog. A special feature is the tuneful vocalism of the Thalian Glee Singers.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL. —Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. Sidney Beltram.—A welcome return visit is being paid this week by Mr. Ernest R. Abbott and company. On Monday *A Wife's Triumph* was presented with marked success. Mr. Abbott as Frank Wilton portrayed the character with his well-known ability; as Ellis Jordan Mr. W. H. Garbois played with entire success; Julius Hartman was well presented by Mr. Weedon Ross; Mr. Edwin Keene as Ben Bradford gave a meritorious delineation of the part; Mr. W. H. Davis Brown did well as Stubbs; and Mr. D. Pentland was good as Chas. E. Rylands. Bessie Dewhurst was presented in excellent style by Miss Ada Abbott; Alice Wilton was skilfully enacted by Miss Doris Dew; and Margery smartly played by Miss Marjorie Tennant; and as Frank Miss Hetty Jones did well. *Sapho*, *Lady Audley's Secret*, and *East Lynne* are included in the week's repertory.

SHEERNESS.—THE PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Phil Reymond.—Business at this old-established amusement temple continues good, thanks to Mr. Reymond's practical catering. This week we have Mr. Montague Butler, a clever burlesque conjuror, who is voted very funny; Mr. Nick Ohlson, a first-rate eccentric comedian, makes a hit with his well-written songs; Miss Josie Watson is a popular burlesque actress, her songs being good and capitally sung; Mr. H. S. Leggett (of the four famous Leggetts) fully sustains his reputation as a comedian and champion dancer; Mr. Phil Reymond, the well-known comedian, still continues a big favourite; and the Arundel Company conclude with a comedy sketch, *The Sham Count*, which tickles the audience immensely.

THE HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton.—An interesting programme is provided here for this week, and includes the Two Bees, in an allegorical scene, entitled "The Man in the Moon," for which they gain a hearty reception. Mons. Slippere, the blind pianist, submits a clever entertainment; the Musical Palmers make a welcome reappearance here, and are loudly applauded for their efforts; Denby and Dent, song and dance artists, are cordially received; Miss Daisy Palmer, comedienne and dancer, wins approbation; Mr. Neil Hardy, eccentric comedian; and Miss Nelly Wilson, comedienne, also successfully contribute. The pictures by Vernon's Bioscope still remain an attractive feature of the bill.

SHEFFIELD. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—On Monday a crowded audience received with enthusiasm Mr. Robert Courtneidge's production of the Oriental musical extravaganza *The Blue Moon*. The character of Moolray, the juggler and idol-maker, gave Mr. Alfred Beers every opportunity of showing his abilities as an alert comedian; Mr. Reginald Switz made a humorous Private Taylor; Mr. J. E. Fraser sang and acted most effectively as the gallant Captain; Mr. Leslie Gaye submitted a clever sketch of a type of military man; the part of Chandra, the Blue Moon, was played with bewitching grace and *naïveté* by Miss Clarice Lockstone; and Miss Florence Imeson was a charming and tuneful representative of Millicent.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*Mother Goose* continues its successful run, and large and appreciative audiences enjoy the beauty of the spectacular display and the humour and vivacity of the whole performance.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*Dick Whittington* is filling the theatre nightly, and is another Alexandra triumph.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar. —The *pièce de résistance* this week is an operatic scena, entitled *Betta, the Gipsy*, an effectively-mounted production, in which the celebrated vocalist Mlle. Alice Esty appears in a picturesque rôle, supported by several talented artists and a well-trained chorus. Little Ganty, the popular Baron of last year's Royal pantomime, is always welcome; Zanfretta and Napio are general favourites here; Miss Alma Grey introduces interesting dances; and the programme includes The Courtiers in a refined vocal entertainment; Les Uniques, novelty artists; Miss Lily Esplin, serio; Mr. Chas. Vincent, a smart vocal comedian; Mr. Ernest Torrence, with pleasing illustrated songs; and the Bioscope, with new animated pictures.

GRAND PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—At this popular hall the following artists are now appearing: Smith and Johnson, Miss Eva Hope, Mr. Jack Wayho and company, in a clever sketch; Mr. Francis O'Flynn; Mr. Jim Hegarty; Pallister's Bioscope, with humorous subjects; Miss Cissie Coman, Mr. Arthur Williams, and Miss Marion Scott. Large and delighted audiences continue the rule.

CENTRAL HALL. — Miss Marie Glenn, Scotch vocalist; Mr. George Young, blind singer; Vosper, the well-known society entertainer; and the Biograph make up the programme.

SHREWSBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's juvenile company is here this week with *The Sleeping Beauty*. Miss May Gibson makes a charming Queen, and her tuneful singing gives evidence of careful training; Miss Annie Brumby and Miss Flo Edwards are a pleasing pair of Fairy Attendants; Miss Edie Camm is a dainty Hyacinth; Miss Addie Gibson an attractive Bluebell; Miss Beattie Townshend plays carefully the part of Maligna; Mr. Will Orston acts and sings effectively as Father Time; Miss Kitty Trewhitt looks well and contributes some spirited and taking songs as Prince Florizel; Miss Daisy Fielder makes a good Valet; Miss Isa Gibson as Trixey merits praise; Miss Gladys Skipp is an efficient King's Herald; Master Jack Harrison is lively and amusing as King Fearnought; the Bros. Armstrong, with their drolleries, make diversion as the Queen and Maid respectively; and the Misses Mona Townshend, Dolly Brough, Ethel Townshend, and Gertie Brumby work hard and successfully. Messrs. Doyle and Gibson enliven the pantomime with their witticisms as Colonel Dreadnought and Major Flashlight; Mr. Pat Sloan and Taylor Snowball are a useful pair as Gollywogs; Wee George Wood is a precocious and clever little actor as Bertie Dalrimple; and Miss Nita Paley as Bertie's Nurse makes the best use of her opportunities. Miss Dolly Dodds sings and acts in an accomplished manner as Beauty. The ballets are artistic, the chorus is well trained, and the specialities by La Belle Annette, solo dancer; Miss Edie Camm, bâton swinger; Wee George Wood, and the Marguerite Quartette are worthy of encomiums.

SMETHWICK. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—A gorgeous comic pantomime is *The Forty Thieves*,

ALLY SLOPER'S

£100 RINGS

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POPULAR PANTOMIME ACTRESSES

EACH WEEK a Diamond Ring is PUBLICLY PRESENTED ON THE STAGE, by ALLY SLOPER, F.O.M.

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Ally Sloper's Half Holiday

presented on Monday by Little and Darcy's company. Miss Marie Silcott as Morgiana sings and acts admirably; Miss Minnie Silcott makes a dashing Captain Abdallah; Messrs. Malone and Conley are diverting as Abdallah's Lieutenants; Mr. Willie Black is quite a host in himself as Ali Baba; and Mr. Ted Wootton is excellent. As Ganem, Miss Violet Silcott is particularly sprightly and dashing; Mr. James Ferguson is funny as Mrs. Cogia Baba, his broad Scotch being much enjoyed; and Mr. Willie Hicks makes a clever and amusing donkey. The specialities include a capital trick cycling turn by the Daunton Shaw Troupe; and the principal dancers are the Esmeralda quartet.

SOUTHAMPTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fred Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—The first local representation of *Peter's Mother* is being given by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. Miss Ruth Mackay is excellent in the title-rôle; Mr. Percy Hutchison gives a finished impersonation of Peter; Mr. Bille Norwood's John Crewys stands out prominently in a good all-round cast; Mr. Charles Harley fills the small part of Sir Timothy Crewys with success; and Miss Hilda Honnis gives a fine character-study of Sarah. *Chalk and Cheese* precedes the comedy.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor and Director-General, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—Bella and Bijou are the stars here, and win golden opinions for a versatile show. Their sketch *The Suffragettes* is both up-to-date and entertaining. George Kirk and company present a capital tabloid melodrama, *Grip; or, the Fatal Hand;* the Bouncing Dillons submit a clever show; the Gondolier Glee Singers are excellent vocalists; and other turns in a good all-round programme are given by the Chee-You-Say family of Chinese conjurers; and Vowles and Bryan, who appear in a capital scena, *In a Garden*.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. P. Howell.—Mr. Fred Mouillot's pantomime *Aladdin* is attracting good houses. It is merrily played, and the whole production runs smoothly from start to finish. Miss Minnie Love is a dashing Aladdin; Mat Melrose is very funny as Widow Twankey; and Miss Lala Melrose a charming Princess. Miss Zoe Gilfillan sings well as the Genie of the Lamp; and the Berlin Quartette contribute some smart dancing.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—A very creditable and successful production of the pantomime entitled *Sinbad* is given here this week by Mr. Geo. Bryden-Phillips' company. Special note should be made of the very pretty scenery, whilst the whole mounting is exceptionally good. Both the dancing and singing meet with rapturous applause, Miss Marguerite Erroll being the principal dancer. Miss Belle Harcourt, who is responsible for the title-rôle, sustains her character with evident delight, having capital assistance from Mr. Charles Dillon as Mrs. Sinbad. Mr. Dan Whitley is a comedian of no mean repute, and well interprets Hindbad. Captain Scuttle is ably played by Mr. Willie Page. Esmonde and Verona provide hearty merriment as Ben Bunk and Sanders McBobstay; as also do Snow and Farron as King Tibbles and Princess Naggles.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens' Co., Ltd.; Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—A most attractive entertainment is furnished here by the engagement of Mr. William Greet's principal company in *The Earl and the Girl*. Mr. William Stephens kept the house on Monday in continual merriment by his clever and versatile impersonation of his original part of Jim Cheese; Miss Francis Earle played the rôle of the American heiress Elphin Hay with charming piquancy, her vocal numbers being artistically rendered; Miss Gertrude Melville essayed the character of Daisy Fallowfield with great success and charm; Mrs. Black, the strong lady, had an energetic and forceful representative in Miss Beatrice Anderson; 'Liza Shoddam was effectively portrayed by Miss Jennie Richards; and Miss Joan Clifford also acted meritoriously. Mr. Arthur Harold merits unstinted praise for his fine portraiture of Dick Wargrave; the Hon. Crewe Boodle had a characteristic impersonator in Mr. Percy E. Wright; Mr. Fred W. Patrick was very good as the host Hazel; the parts of Bunker Bliss, Downham, and Mr. Talk were ably depicted by Messrs. Courtin, Norman, and Taylor respectively.

ALBERT HALL, WINTER GARDENS.—Lessee, Mrs. Charles Parker; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Mertz.—The principal turn here is this week supplied by the Hartley Wonders in their marvellous jumping speciality, a clever and dainty performance; other prominent items were contributed by Mount and Corelli, society entertainers, in their musical duologue, *The Master and the Maid;* Onda and Artell, in their unique gymnastic *pot-pourri* act; and Maggie Walsh, the original Lancashire singing mill girl. The programme also embraces Dick Bradley, tramp trick cyclist; Mint and Mart, comedy sketch artists; Little Bobbie, "the gallery boy"; the Ellimans, refined musical entertainers; Mayon and Marie, in their amusing sketch, *Elizabeth and the Baby;* and the Bioscope with the latest films.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred. Coulson.—*Claudian* is paying a return visit here. Mr. William Maclaren is seen to great advantage as Claudian. The Almida of Miss Lily C. Bandmann is played with a grace and charm which win the hearts of the audience. A powerful portrayal of the Tetrarch is given by Mr. F. Owen Chambers; Mr. Douglas Earle depicts Agazil with great vigour. The humour of the piece is ably sustained by Mr. Chal. T. Chaloner as Belos; Miss Maud Garth as Edesna and Mr. Weston Hubbard as Alcares. In the prologue, the characters of the Holy Clement, Theorus and Serena, are ably represented by Mr. S. Brisco Farbridge, Mr. Edmund Grogan, and Miss Rosa Webster respectively.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Charles Coborn, in old songs and new, has had a good reception; Mr. and Mrs. Lucas score heavily in their character selections from Charles Dickens; Fred Elton, musical speciality artist, is heard to advantage. The songs rendered by the coloured Meisters were much appreciated; Princess Pauline is a dainty comedienne The remaining attractive items are Frazer and Mac, comedy artists; Hettie Chattell, comedienne; Harold Hughman, mimic; Harry Lawson, comedian; and the Bioscope, with new and interesting films.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors, Messrs. J. K. Hall and Jos. Sweeney; Business-Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—The head of the bill is Craig, Rose, and Craig, dental artists, who provide a sensational turn; De Voy, Hurst, and Ricks submit an amusing comedy sketch, *Black Justice;* Milner Verren, tenor vocalist, sings some good songs. The dancing Gilberts are much appreciated; and the remaining portion of the programme is contributed by Ray and Miles, comedy artists; Alf Thomas, top-boot dancer; and the Tivoli Bioscope.

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's company is appearing here in a return visit with *A Traitor Prince*, under the direction of Mr. George M. Montanini, who himself fills the rôle of Prince Rao with great acceptance. Miss Alice N. Livesey appears to advantage in the picturesque character of Vashti, a snake-charmer; Miss Rose Routledge succeeds in presenting Lola Vane in a very interesting light; and she is ably supported by Mr. W. H. Porter as Lieut. Frank Derrick. As Cara, Mr. James Sherwin displays marked abilities.

STAFFORD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—Mr. J. Maundy-Gregory's fine company is presenting *Lights Out*. Mr. Charles Esdale as Lieut. Von Lauffen, and Mr. Kenneth Brampton as Lieut. Von Howen, have a fine conception of their respective parts; as Sergeant Volkhardt Mr. Lionel D'Arragon gives a manly and impressive study; as Klara Volkhardt Miss Frances Darle is really excellent, her interpretation being both powerful and womanly.

STALYBRIDGE.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni.—The artists here include Angeline, the lady Cinquevalli; Dan Ashton, the Lancashire collier lad; Kerr and Shaw, comedians; the Arleys, in a clever pot-pourri act; George Collins, an excellent comedian; the Sisters Marion, duettists; Johnny Alexander and Co., in a farcical sketch, *Brown in Paris*.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, the St. Helen's Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—We are favoured here this week with a vist of Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's excellent company in *The Midnight Wedding*, which is proving highly attractive. Miss Annie Saker is seen at her best in the dual rôle of Karl and Princess Astrea; Mr. Alfred Paumier gives a sound and clever enactment of Paul Valmar. They are well supported by Messrs. F. W. Freeman, Ernest E. Imeson, Clinton Baddeley, J. E. Page, Algie Spalding, E. Fletcher, Miss Marion Fawcett, Miss Ada Champion, and Miss Prudence Lawrence.

FIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. T. Barrasford, Will Sley, and F. Wilmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—The premier position is held here this week by Wild, Willie, and West, who are causing uproarious merriment in their comedy acrobatic trap scena, *The Bounding Navvies*. Miss Ely Adair is a pleasing vocalist; Harry Grey scores as an eccentric comedian; the McConnell Trio are very clever in their absurdity *A Musical Mistake*, as are the Three Dreadnoughts as rifle shots; Miss Olive Arundale is a comedienne of much merit; and the musical sketch, *A Night in Japan*, presented by a capable company, is well received.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—A source of abundant merriment has been the appearance here this week of Miss Florence Baines and talented company in *Miss Lancashire, Ltd.* As Mary Ellen Thompson, Miss Florence Baines is genuinely amusing; Mr. Burt Burton ably impersonates the character of Harry, and also entertains with his solos on the one-stringed violin; Mr. R. C. Hicks, as the solicitor Fox, is mirth-provoking; Mr. David Donaldson acts effectively as John Higgins; Mr. Payne Fletcher as Mary Ellen's father, and Miss Pattie Groves as Bridget Thompson, share much of the success of the piece; Mr. S. C. Leslie is comical as Isodore Moses, and Eva Lancashire has a pleasing representative in Miss Kitty Jones.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—Lillie Soutter, character comedienne, heads the bill here this week, and has met with a gratifying reception. Unmistakable success was achieved by Diamond and Beatrice, instrumentalists of a high order; Marlow and Manton were very amusing in their sketch, *Other People's Babies;* Edith St. Claire, burlesque artist, sang pleasingly; the efforts of the Bros. O'Brien on the horizontal bar were applauded; Harry Butt is a promising boy vocalist; Arthur Albert, actor-vocalist, sang in good style, "Nelson from his monument"; Monty Walker, comedian, was well received, and marked appreciation was bestowed upon the Royal Tokio troupe of Japanese performers.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Geo. and Robt. Nicholson; Manage, Mr. W. Ainsworth.—Mr. Bert Bernard's company, in *The Brewery*, is here this week. It is a pantomime act, in three scenes, and causes great amusement. Lillie Le Breton, in her trapeze act, is graceful and artistic; the Four Jumels are an excellent turn, their musical act is greatly appreciated; Bert Woodward, the cycling coon, is applauded for his marvellous feats; Leonard and Larry cause great amusement in their sketch; as also does Bert Delmar, in his character delineations. J. H. McCann is an old favourite here; as a roller skate dancer he is remarkably good. Clito, in her statuary act, is well received; the Pictoscope completes an enjoyable programme.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Councillor J. Batty; Manager, Mr. W. Batty.—Claude Feldman's Juvenile Troupe head the bill this week, their singing and dancing being worthy of mention; Frank Boyce, character comedian, is good; as also are the Elgars, high-class vocalists. Fioretti and Elby present an act in spade-jumping, which is much appreciated; the Four Spanish Goldinis give a good display of dancing, juggling, &c.; the Arthur Saxon Trio fully maintain their reputation as strong men; and the Five Saxonias, in their musical act, display great skill. Payne's Bioscope concludes the programme.

STOKE.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr. H. Miller.—The Craggs head the bill this week in their clever acrobatic sketch, which is much appreciated. Henderson, the blind musician, contributes an excellent turn; Harry Jennings is a clever clog-dancer; the Two Wiltons are extraordinary dancers; Pueblo and Cropp are sand-dancers of ability; Russell Carr is a ventriloquist who contributes a smart turn. W. B. Raby, a comedian of much merit, and Mabel Le Roy, a comedienne with good songs, also contribute. The pictures are excellent.

STOURBRIDGE.—ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—Mr. Herbert Barr's company, who created a most favourable impression on their visit last season, is here in *Aladdin*. Miss Maudie Vincent as Aladdin was well received; and Miss Lora Lyndon as the Princess proved a pleasing artist. The part of Pekoe was ably played by Miss Dorothy Wilson; Mr. Will Sherlock, however, took the honours with a comical performance of Abanazar; and Mr. Carl Fredericks as the Emperor was most amusing. Others who ably assisted included Little Della, Messrs. Wilfred Davie, Duncan, Morton, and David Phillips.

SUNDERLAND.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—Now in its fifth week, Mr. J. F. Elliston's production of *Dick Whittington* continues to provide delightful entertainment for crowded audiences. As Dick Miss Maidie Scott has thoroughly made good her hold, the assured ease of her acting and her fine, cultured voice having made her a firm favourite; Miss Veronica Brady charms all hearts as Alice Fitzwarren; she both sings and dances exceptionally well, her song, "Timinee," making a great hit. The greater part of the merriment is due to the untiring efforts of Mr. Tom Foy, whose conception of Idle Jack could not be improved upon. His plate-breaking act is one of the hits of the show; Fitzwarren is in the capable hands of Mr. Bert Harrow, who scores with his "Cricket" song; Misses Gertrude Lytton, Flo Chevaliar, Clorinda Thurtell, Lil Hartley, Violet Morgan, Messrs. J. C. Scatter, Jack Foy, Tod Lowen, and Ted Foy all capably fill responsible parts, and have become firm favourites. The Aquamarinoff Troupe of Russian dancers prove a pleasing feature

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Ernest Stevens and R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry L. Curlo.—*The Fair One With the Golden Locks* was staged here on Monday night. As the Fair One Miss Gertrude Branscombe is excellent, her vocal efforts being heartily appreciated; Miss Beatrice Bonnie makes a dashing principal boy; and the same may be said of Miss Dollie Hook as Count von Nickel. As Prince Pippin Mr. Will Letters is responsible for much of the fun; Mr. Barry Lupino keeps the house in the best of good humour whilst he occupies the stage, and, along with Miss May Lupino, sings the "Zuyder Zee" in excellent style; he is also a smart acrobatic dancer. Mr. James Chippendale is seen to advantage as the Dame; and the Fairy is in the able hands of Miss Olive Pringle, who scores by her fine rendering of a pleasing ballad. Messrs. Chas. Calvert and Grafton Williams add their quota to the fun.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Hemingway.—Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company is paying a welcome return visit here in the ever-popular drama, *The Indian Mutiny*.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Managers, Messrs. Browne and Stringer.—An exceptionally good bill is provided here this week. The premier position being given to Harry Cadle's company, in a burlesque pantomime, entitled *Mick Whittington*. The Abdullah Arabs, some dozen in number, fairly arouse the enthusiasm of the audience with their smart acrobatic work; Walker and May, coloured vaudeville artists, submit a bright turn with great gusto; Mason and Burt are clever gymnasts of a rather unique order. The bill also includes Les Sados, juggler and equilibrist; Mabelle May, comedienne and dancer; the Haverley's American pictures, with vocal illustrations; Frank Coyle, the amusing comedian; and Vernon's Bioscope.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton, and District Theatres, Limited; Managing-Director, Mr. Cecil Clayton; Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—Mr. T. Arthur Jones's company is playing here in *Life's Sweetest Sins*. In the part of Captain Harold Marston, Mr. T. Arthur Jones exhibits ability; Kimberley Coutts is well played by Mr. Robert Sawin; and as Dr. Colbrooke Mr. Oswald Douglas gives a fine character study. Miss Hazel Dent as Doreen Rivers, Miss Mary Ainslie as Fay Colbrooke, and Miss Elsie Walton as Bess Grayson are each good in their respective parts.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Responsible-Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—After a successful run of four weeks at Newport, Messrs. J. D. Hunter and Sidney Cooper's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, has been moved in its entirety to this theatre, opening on Monday, under the acting-management of Mr. H. Bowman, to a crowded and enthusiastic audience. The piece is under the direction of Mr. C. Wood, and a capital chorus and augmented orchestra do good work under the bâton of Mr. Surtees Cornes. Miss Emily Taylor is particularly successful as Dick, and renders her songs delightfully; Miss Rosalie Jacobi is pleasing as Alice, her efforts being highly appreciated; and Miss Florrie Bray as Captain becomes a general favourite at once. Miss Marjorie Seymour is delightful as the Fairy. The fun of the piece is rich and continuous, and no wonder, with such clever comedians as Mr. W. Ellerslie (Fitzwarren), Mr. H. Rose (Idle Jack), and Mr. Charles Wood, an excellent Cook. Mr. Frank Carson is smart as Emperor; and Master Will Cleveland as the Cat. Prominent among the specialities are De Lillo and Metz, in their clever drawing-room pot-pourri; Frank Carson and Correlli Livesey, in their scena, *My Little Octoroon;* and Chas. Wood, with his "Twenty Faces Under One Hat."

TAMWORTH.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Manager, Mr. F. Hughes.—On Saturday and Monday evenings Miss Maggie Morton's company appeared here in the domestic drama, *Home, Sweet Home*. Mr. Gordon Ingram was a manly Stephen Armitage, and Mr. F. Morton Wright gave a capital character-study as David, his father. Mr. Chas. Clayton made an aristocratic Duke of Ancaster, and Mr. Frank Wheatley was decidedly funny as his son. Mr. William Wake as Lord Silvermore gave a creditable rendering of the part. Miss Enid Edoni made a charming Joan; Miss Nellie Marler as Sybil Fay was clever and amusing; and Miss Louise Carlton appeared to advantage as Lady Somerton. The other characters were ably sustained, and the piece was well-staged.

TODMORDEN.—TOWN HALL.—Proprietors, Todmorden Corporation; Secretary, Howarth Stansfield.—Miss Inez Howard's company was here for three nights in the stirring melodrama *The Worst Woman in London*. As Frances Vere Miss Doris Price scored a great success, her delineation being a most powerful one; Jack Felton was ably impersonated by Mr. Frank V. Fenn; and the part of Vincent Lyle was cleverly undertaken by Mr. Charles Clifford; as James Milford Mr. John Cullen was very effective; and Miss Emma Victor as Matilda Parker and Mr. Sydney Clayden as Bob Goldfinch did exceedingly well; the Ruth Milford of Miss Maud Camfield was a finished performance. A word of praise is also due to Mr. Charles Cross for his efficient musical direction.

TON-Y-PANDY.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—Miss Elaine Verner's company, in *Saints and Sinners*, presents a most enjoyable entertainment, and deservedly commands extensive patronage. The chief honours rest with Mr. Harding Thomas, whose Jacob Fletcher is an excellent piece of work; a capital performance of George Ringsmill is given by Mr. Reyson-Cousins; Mr. Edgar Kent is a keen and strong Captain Fanshaw; the part of Samuel Hoggard is played with marked success by Mr. John Hooker; Prabble is ably presented by Mr. Guy Dene. The part of Letty Fletcher is taken by Miss Elaine Verner, who plays with remarkable skill, and shows an artistic mastery of the character.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—*The Walls of Jericho*, played by Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company, is drawing large audiences here this week. As Lady Alethea Frobisher Miss Gladys Mason is all that could be desired, and acts with great force and power; Miss Marguerite Cellier is sympathetic as Lady Westerby, and the part of Lady Lucy Derenham is cleverly portrayed by Miss Nona Wynne; Miss Edith Cuthbert makes the part of Miss Mornington a real character study, and a capable representation of the Duchess is given by Miss Leonora Thomas. As Jack Frobisher Mr. A. E. Anson is honest, manly, and natural; as Hankey Bannister Mr. George A. Brandham is appropriately bluff, breezy, and uncouth; and Harry Dallas is portrayed with much dash and vigour by Mr. A. W. Tyrer. The unscrupulous Marquis is ably acted by Mr. Cyril Baleine, and Mr. George Percy does equally well as Bertram Hannaford.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. Chas. Chard's pantomime *Cinderella* continues to attract good houses. New songs and business have been added.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Sidney Tolfree.—The Eight Lancashire Mill Lads are clever in their vocal scena *Home for the Holidays;* Russell Hatton capably presents Dickens's "Christmas Carol"; Vernando, ventriloquist, proves popular. George Bernard, actor-vocalist; Marie Yorke, comedienne; Ted Waite, comedian, and Dan Noble, comedian, also contribute.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—A capital programme is being submitted here this week. Topping the bill are Carl and Mary Ohm, presenting a clever animal act; the steeplechase by monkeys and dogs creates much laughter. Kitty Marion is a pleasing comedienne; Russell Brandow, acrobatic dancer, is very successful; Gus Garrick, in music-hall tit-bits, is well received; and Percival, the Piano-Shifter, is very good. Frank Cass, vocal comedian, does exceedingly well; Carney and Armstrong, who sing and dance and whistle, are much appreciated; and the American Bioscope completes the bill.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mrs. Frank Bateman's company is here this week, in the drama, *No Wedding Bells for Her*. Miss Lizzie Montague gives a first-class rendering of the part of Lola Delaspierre; Mr. Percy Shaw is a capital Dick Delver; Mr. Frederick Garton is well placed as Montague Blair; Miss Grace Battersby is successful as Doris Fane; and the part of Harold Trevelyn is well played by Mr. Arthur Linay.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. Fred Willmot.—The Four Juggling Geraldos are the big attraction here this week, and delight all with their wonderful juggling and hoop rolling act. Tennyson and Wallis, old favourites here, are responsible for immediately putting their patrons in good humour; Miss Mabel La Blanche's rendering of "Love's old sweet song" was highly appreciated; the Three Pirmans are original and clever in a decidedly humorous entertainment; and Snowball and Miss Dolia are smart patterers. Souplessi on the silver rings scores well; and Helen Martin has a good voice of capital range. Yorkshire Tom is a good mimic, and the Bioscope depicts some charming pictures.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Kuner.—The American Indian actress, Go-Won-Go-Mohawk is paying us a return visit in the sensational and interesting drama *Wep-Ton-No-Mah*. Mr. C. W. Charles as Colonel Stockton and Mr. Henry P. Kennedy as Captain Franklin do some very clever work in their respective parts; Manuel Lopez (Spanish Joe) is ably managed by Mr. Edward Leroy; Mr. Pasco Bioletti achieves success in the rôle of the Chief Ga-ne-Gua; Wep-Ton-No-Mah, the Indian mail-carrier, is artistically rendered by Go-Won-Go-Mohawk; Miss A. Hart makes an interesting Matilda; and the part of Nellie Stockton is admirably portrayed by Miss Minnie Goepel.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—On Monday Mr. Frank Denman-Wood presented his pantomime *Dick Whittington*, with all new scenery and effects, to a crowded house. The title-rôle is perfectly enacted by Miss Daisy Morell; a sweet Alice is made by Miss Millie Doris, who was encored for her songs; Mr. Jack Simpson shows talent as the Cat; Mr. Fred Acton makes a smart Fitzwarren; Mr. Frank Daleno well maintains his popularity here in the character of the Cook; Mr. Will Dennis creates roars of laughter in his funny impersonation of Idle Jack; Messrs. Juan and McQue work hard and succeed in the respective parts of Larboard and Starboard; Captain Scuttle is in the hands of Mr. A. Schaller; Miss Pam Schaller looks smart as Tommy Bowline, as does also Miss Winnie Acton in the character of Dolly Dimple.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Player.—An entertaining programme, with Edward Boyde holding premier position, is drawing crowded houses nightly, Mr. Boyle being greeted with roars of laughter. Clive and Clive are comedians of decided merit; Tom York contributes some clever coster songs; Miss May Fallowfield has a capable and well-trained voice; a dramatic episode, *The Thin Red Line*, submitted by Rollo Bolmain and Sara Mignon, is well received; a smart turn is that of Lazern the Mystic, who does some new tricks; Lloyd Phillips and company are responsible for clever acting in the military drama *Betrayed Friendship;* Pecitt and Lizette create much amusement with their cleverly-worked and laughable pantomime *The Crazy Cook*, and the Hippodrome pictures are always popular.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. H. E. Feather.—Mr. H. Theodore's company is this week presenting *The Shulamite*. Simeon Krillett as played by Mr. Algernon J. Hicks is a vividly realistic character, presented with splendid dramatic effect. Miss Ruth Shepherd, a studious and accomplished actress, gives an earnest portrayal of Deborah Krillett, which creates a deep impression on the audience. Mr. Charles Fancourt's rendition of the part of Robert Waring is a well-balanced one. Tante Anna is made distinctly characteristic by Miss Emily Levittez. Mr. George Rammell, creditably fills the rôle of Jan Vandeberg; and Memke is played with excellent taste by Miss Chrissie Bickerstaff. The play is preceded by the smart little duologue *Jerry and a Sunbeam*, in which Miss C. Bickerstaff plays Mary Bellosis in a style perfectly in keeping with the character; and Mr. G. Rimmell handles the rôle of Jerry Corbett with perfect naturalness.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Both "houses" were on Monday night packed by audiences who showed every mark of approval of the talent submitted. The solos by Les Frasettis upon violin, 'cello, harp, and xylophone were well received; charming Rose Elliott bewitched all with her singing; Gus Hindell made a conspicuous hit with his song-scena *Boys of To-Day*, in which he is assisted by a number of youngsters; J. P. Ling, another old favourite, in a mimetic monologue, elicited hearty laughter. The Amiable Idiot and the Dainty Soubrette (The Lorrisons) caused a constant ripple of merriment whilst they were on. A sensational balancing trapeze act was performed with remarkable dexterity by the Donnas Trio; Harry Vardon's ventriloquial entertainment was worked in a manner highly creditable to him; and a series of Bioscope films is not the least interesting feature of the programme.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Messrs. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard's company in *Her Love Against the World* is here this week. Mr. Walter Howard gave an imposing portrayal of the Earl of Strathmere; Miss Rosie St. John was clever as Nello; Mr. Mayor Cooke's impersonation of Ulric, Prince of Ravensburgh, was all that could be desired; Mr. W. H. Hallatt gave a fine representation of Prince Othmar; Mr. Sam Arthur made a good Prince Maurice; Miss Ellen Snow as Iris submitted a smart piece of acting.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Raws; Responsible-Manager, Mr. John Cassidy.—The bill here this week includes Fred Dice, comedian and dancer; Will Sydney, song illustrator; Hicks's Clerks, a clever troupe of vocalists and dancers; Mr. Ted Hord; Carl Birval, ventriloquist. The bill concludes with a farce and *Aladdin* pantomime on the Bioscope.

WHITEHAVEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Clark.—Mr. Herbert Ralland's company is here in a three-nights' engagement of the comic opera *La Poupée*. Mr. Fred Seymour scored heavily as Hilarius, his performance being very amusing; Mr. Arthur Cozens was successful as Lancelot, and his singing was much appreciated; Mr. Walter Balfour was excellent as Father Maxime, his rendering of "A jovial monk" securing the inevitable encores. Miss Mysie Devine made a charming Alesia, her singing and acting alike being excellent. The chorus was strong, and the scenery much admired. For the remaining three nights of the week the drama *Human Hearts* is billed.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—In the absence of Mr. Kiddie with his pantomimes Mr. Tom Swinton is "deputising" as manager here in a most popular fashion. This week's booking is Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's company in *The Prodigal Parson*. As the Rev. Tom Godley Mr. W. V. Garrod is very successful; Mr. Alfred Northway does full justice to the part of Enoch Faggins; Mr. Wm. Hayward is a capital Ben Faggins; Mr. W. Vincent's methods are admirably adapted to the part of Ned Nettlepan; Mr. Owen Redmond as Phil Drive is largely responsible for the humorous relief, and he does his work well. The George Markby of Mr. J. Edward Evan is thoroughly sound; Miss Lydia Hart is an amusing and entertaining Gretchen; Miss Mildred Hayward as Fern Godley wins the sympathy of all, playing the part restrainedly and naturally; Miss Violet Jeffries gives a good interpretation of the part of the blind child Myrtle; Miss E. Fredericks is successful in the part of Pomeroy.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Mr. F. R. Benson's (North) company has produced a series of Shakespearean plays, which have attracted large and enthusiastic audiences during the week.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—The Tennessee Guards go through lightning drill exercises; and the Eight Lancashire Lads give a fine exhibition of clog-dancing. Ariel and Astarte perform some admirable feats upon the horizontal bar and trapeze; and Martinett and Wallace, as substitutes for Jean Seul, who was indisposed, give a good comedy musical turn. The Three Whirligigs appear in a smart singing and dancing act; and Maxford and O'Neill are original in their patter. Happy Parker, novel comedian and dancer; Valvo, the military ventriloquist; and Maston, mimic, are also well received.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival—Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart's company is this week appearing here in *Sherlock Holmes*. The title-part is well played by Mr. Hamilton Stewart, and he is ably supported by Mr. James Shea, Mr. Stephen P. Ewart, and Miss Gladys Harvey in their respective parts.

EMPIRE PALACE.—The leading item in this week's bill is Walter George's Smart Set Entertainers, including Miss Hilda Light and Miss Georgie Martin. Other attractions are the Alaskarno Trio; Alf Gibson, comedian; The Stewarts, dancers and pipers; Walter King, comedian; Hettie Lee, dancer; and Harry Nation, character comedian.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—*The Coal King* occupies the boards here, the principal characters being capably portrayed by Mr. Cole Aspinall, Mr. Lauderdale Maitland. Mr. Escott Robson, Mr. Alfred Terris, Mr. Frank Dalton, Miss Gertrude Valentine, Miss Sinna St. Clair, and Miss Enid Ross.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton.—Mr. Carlton's pantomime, *Cinderella*, is in the fourth week of its production. The picturesque dances and ballets are elegantly performed. Miss Evelyn Desa, who has won great favour for her graceful impersonation of Cinderella, sings and dances agreeably; Miss Lallah Davis is an ideal Prince, and her singing is one of the features of the pantomime. Miss Amy Randolf is smart in the rôle of Dandini; Misses Kittie Olive and Fanny Wallis, who takes the parts of Cinderella's Ugly Sisters, are excellent, the singing of the former being exceedingly good. Harley and Melton convulse the audience from beginning to end; Mr. K. Harker is most amusing; Mr. A. E. Behan is good as the Baroness; Mr. Henry Maynard sings and acts well as the Demon King. A word of praise should also be given to the Fairy Queen, Miss Carmen, who has a beautiful voice.

WORKINGTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Manager, Mr. Falconer Jackes.—On Monday night Mr. W. J. Robertson's company presented *Human Hearts* to a large and appreciative audience. Mr. W. D. Fazan was a capital hero; Mr. E. Gray played effectively as the villain; as Jem Mr. E. H. Dobell was interesting; as Jimmy Mr. H. Turner was sympathetic; Miss Dora Watson was graceful as Ruth; Little Grace in the hands of Miss Renee Roberts was well sustained; and equally capable was Mrs. E. Palmer as Samantha and Miss Maud Linton as Jeannette.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Miss Rose Moncrieff's company is here this week in *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Miss Moncrieff does well as Jack, her singing and dancing meeting with unstinted approbation; Mr. Harry Burton is exceedingly quaint as Mrs. Jack; the Sisters Allan are good as Philomel and Phyllis; Messrs. Ted and Harry Dewar greatly add to the fun as Fanfare and Blowhard; Mr. Chris. Baker is well placed as Baron D'Oofless, as is Mr. Harry Willats as the Demon Discord. In the harlequinade which follows the following work indefatigably:—Mr. Ted Dewar (clown), Mr. Harry Dewar (pantaloon), Miss Maud Annesley (harlequina), Miss May Rivers (columbine), and Mr. Charles Rawling (policeman).

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls.—This week a good company has entertained the patrons here. Onzelo and Onro do some smart tricks on the trapeze; The Friscos are clever knockabout artists; Mr. Charles Ridgewell is a successful comedian; Miss Lily Watson is a pleasing character comedienne; and Lecon and Leco are amusing as comedy jugglers. The pictures are, as usual, a great feature of the entertainment.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington.—*Dick Whittington*, as produced this week by Mr. James Kiddie's company, is a merry show, and has delighted large audiences. Miss Adele Rose is an ideal hero, who must be written down a popular success; Miss Leah Lavine, a talented comedienne, makes Alice a very winsome personage. For genuine drollery Mr. Fred Spencer as the Cook would be hard to beat; Alice Kendal as Jack is also out of the common, and scores a great success. J. H. Wakefield is funny as Fitzwarren; and Bass and Guinness indulge in their usual business with good effect. A special word of praise is due to Miss Flo Hilton, who, superbly dressed, sings some excellent songs in first-

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD IN LONDON.

For the nineteenth year in succession the Guild held its meeting at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington. There was a record attendance, showmen and van dwellers from all parts of the kingdom crowding the "Pillar" Room, the venue of these gatherings.

The President, Lord George Sanger, to everyone's delight, occupied the chair, and was supported by the Rev. T. Horne, Mr. T. Watson Wright, solicitor, and the following members of the executive:—Messrs. P. Collins, John Collins, Whiting, Newall, Payne, Wallis, T. Norman, Holland, Gray, Beech, Forrest, Turner, Read, Jacob Studt, John Studt, T. Hurst (hon. sec.), and others.

LORD GEORGE SANGER, in his presidential address, welcomed the members once again to the annual meeting in London, and rejoiced that, despite his own increasing years, he was able to preside over their deliberations. He was proud of the honour of being their chairman, for it identified him still (although he had retired from the business) with the people and profession with whom and wherein he had spent the whole of his working life. Boy and man, he said, he had travelled the fairs and had worked shows for over seventy years. For that period of time he was proud to say that the public had appreciated to the full his efforts to amuse and entertain them. He felt quite certain that so long as showmen honestly endeavoured to supply good shows the British public would not only support, but would defend and vindicate them against all attacks of the small but sometimes very blatant enemies of the popular amusements of the people. He asked his showmen friends to bear with him for a moment if, in the fulness of his age and experience, he ventured in all kindness to rebuke them. He and the officers were quite ready to have begun their meeting with promptitude and at the time fixed. Punctuality, he reminded them, was the soul of business, and they ought to have endeavoured to be there and ready to begin at the time appointed, and not to have kept the executive and the reporters waiting a useless half-hour. We are told, he continued, that a word to the wise is sufficient. Let them bear in mind that the Press have many other engagements in their busy working days than their meeting at that hall, and that to keep them waiting is a mistake to be at all times avoided. As far as he could guide them with his advice, it seemed to him that they had only two important questions outside the regular work of the Society to determine. They had to consider what was to be done with regard to Mitcham Fair and Burslem Wakes. The fight carried on by their Society to safeguard their rights and the people's rights at both these places had fully shown how the British public valued their fairs and holiday times, and how keenly they resented the efforts made in certain quarters to deprive them of these fairs. He well remembered Mitcham. He had attended it in his early years, and although he did not know its importance to travellers at the present moment, it had never appeared to him as being a fair really worth a big and costly struggle to maintain. If, as he believed, from information given him, the local circumstances were difficult, he counselled that some friendly arrangement be arrived at with the powers that be. (Cheers.) With regard to Burslem they stood on entirely different ground. Here their character, both as men and as entertainers, had been traduced, and they were compelled to vindicate their social life and moral character in face of the attacks made upon them. He repudiated with the greatest horror and indignation the cruel slanders levelled against them. Particularly he referred to the reckless assertions of certain public men in Burslem charging the show people with being in some way the cause of increased vice and immorality. These charges, he was proud to say, had been fully met and in every instance disproved. With their enemies, who besmirched their lives in this way, there could be no compromise. These enemies must ever be met and determinedly brought to the proof. He concluded by wishing them all possible success and prosperity, and that he had much pleasure in again tendering his contribution of £100 to the funds of the Association. (Loud and continued applause.)

The Rev. T. HORNE briefly detailed the scope of the Society's work in the past year, with special reference to public meetings. These meetings, he said, had been eminently successful in carrying out one of the most important objects of their Association—the informing and guiding of public opinion with regard to show people and their avocation in life. With the presence of the civic authorities and the local clergy, they had held public meetings at King's Lynn, Gloucester, Hull, and Rotherham Fairs. These matters were dealt with in the annual report, and he strongly commended that document to the careful reading of showmen. Those who did not agree with them would find set out in that report full justification for the work of the Showmen's Guild. He thoroughly agreed with the wise words of counsel given by their President, and he felt sure that he was only expressing their wishes when he tendered to their honoured leader their profound respect and admiration for his continued work and unfailing sympathy and generosity. He alluded to the work of the Society in rousing public interest and vindicating the character of show people at Burslem, and concluded, amid general applause, by the expression of the hope that in the present year their work would be less hampered by the mistaken and misplaced zeal of those who wished not only to prevent show people earning their livelihood, but also to deprive the people of their fairs and popular open-air amusements.

Mr. T. WATSON WRIGHT, Parliamentary Solicitor, gave a detailed statement of the Parliamentary defence work and the equally important work of defending the fair rights of the people. He congratulated them on the striking success of their opposition to the Private Bill of the Middlesex County Council, and pointed out that the amendment that they had obtained secured the first recognition of the true status of show people. (Cheers.) He concluded a very able speech by the expression of his conviction that in the year before them they would have very little expensive work in Parliamentary defence.

Mr. TOM NORMAN proposed, and Mr. BIBBY seconded, the complimentary votes to the chairman, to Mr. Read for the use of the room, to the speakers, and to the Press.

At the close of the meeting and during the day some sixty members were enrolled.

In the evening committee meetings were held, dealing with Parliamentary work, Mitcham Fair, and other business touching the Metropolitan district.

LIST OF FAIRS, FEASTS, AND WAKES IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND WALES FOR FEBRUARY.

ENGLAND.

Feb. 2. Blidworth (1,100)	Feb. 13. Bildesden (1,000)
Feb. 2. Reading (60.000)	Feb. 13. Harrogate (13,917)
Feb. 5. Kineton (1,000)	Feb. 13. Tetbury (2.000)
Feb. 7. Congleton (10,800)	Feb. 14. Biggleswade (5,000)
Feb. 9. Nantwich (7,700)	Feb. 14. Dorchester (9,500)
Feb. 12. Lichfield (9,125)	Feb. 14. King's Lynn (20,300)
Feb. 12. Longton (36,000)	
Feb. 13. Beaconsfield (1,600)	

SCOTLAND.

Feb. 21. Paisley (79,355)

WALES.

Feb. 4. Maesteg (11,000)

SHOWMEN'S SUPPER AND BALL AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

All the notabilities of Showland—east, west, north, and south—were present at the annual social function at Islington. Successful as the previous showmen's reunions have been, the present year has established a record, and the committee, under their indefatigable chairman, Mr. T. E. Read, are to be heartily congratulated on the brilliant success that rewarded their efforts. The committee were Rev. T. Horne (president), Mr. T. E. Read (lessee of the World's Fair) (chairman), Messrs. H. Read, J. Chittock, G. Taylor, A. Ball, W. Wilson, F. Bibby, H. Taylor, J. Hastings, W. Slatter, J. Trouson, Wm. Le Neve, C. Brown, W. Taylor, A. Twigdon, A. Bew, T. Harriess, W. Hussey, E. Hussey, F. Savage, W. Walcot, J. Smith, T. Hurst, Frank Turner, W. Metcalfe (hon. treasurer), and C Day (secretary). The crowded dining hall was a veritable galaxy of "fair women and brave men." Mr. T. E. Read presided, supported by the Rev. T. Horne, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Frank Turner, Mr. Trouson, Mr. Day. Mr. G. H. Kemp, Mr. J. Wentworth, Mr. Hamlin, Mr. Chiappa, Mr. Savage, Mr. T. Hurst, Mr. W. Le Neve, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Russell, Mr. A. Twigdon, Mr. P. Collins, Mr. John Collins, Mr. Wm. Mitchell, Mr. John Whiting, Mr. Jacob Studt, Mr. J. Monte, Mr. Wm. Keyes, Mr. Relph, Mr. Ben Mitchell, Mr. Wm. Taylor, Mr. Chittock, Mr. Hastings, Mr. Wm. Pike, Mr. Robt. Pike, Mr. Wm. Bedford, Mr. H. Read, Mr. W. Slatter, Mr. Walcot, Mr. A. Ball, Mr. T. Harriess, Mr. Wm. Wilson, Mr. C. Brown, Mr. A. Blow, Mr. Geo. Taylor, and Mr. Wm. Metcalfe.

There were nearly four hundred guests, and all were delighted with the admirable arrangements for their reception and entertainment.

MENU.

SOUPS.
Consommé Jullien.
Purée of Tomato.

FISH.
Fried Fillet of Sole.
Hollandaise Sauce.

ENTRÉE.
Chicken Sauté and Mushrooms

JOINTS.
Roast Sirloin of Beef and Horseradish.
Cabbage, Spinach,
Baked and Boiled Potatoes.

SWEETS.
Christmas Pudding.
Apricots and Wine Jelly

Cheese. Butter. Biscuits.

Mr. T. E. Read, on rising to propose the chief toast in all assemblies of Englishmen—"The King"—was vociferously cheered. The King, Queen, and the Royal Family were toasted, and the National Anthem sung with the utmost enthusiasm.

In proposing the next toast, "Success to the Showmen and Van Dwellers' Protection Association," Mr. Read said that he had been present at the annual meeting of the Van Dwellers' Society held at the World's Fair that day. He had heard the able speech of Lord George Sanger, their honoured president; the work of the Association had been put before them with eloquence and force. He felt sure that it was to the interest of every showman to subscribe to the funds of that Association. He, therefore, had great pleasure in asking them to drink success to "The Showmen and Van Dwellers' Society," and with the toast he ventured to couple the name of the Rev. T. Horne. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Horne, on rising to respond, was received with acclamation. They all knew, he said, how the interests of the Showmen's Guild were dear to his heart. He had looked upon its infant days, and now it had attained full maturity of years and power, and the infant he had tended in its early life was now in strong and vigorous youth and energy. There were some present—he could see one at least before him—old showmen who were present at its birth, and stood as its godfathers. He referred to men like Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Chittock, both of them veterans of the road and amongst the founders of the Society. He knew that in answering for the executive he was voicing the thanks of the president and the whole of the officers when he expressed his gratitude—their gratitude—for the cordial way in which the toast had been received. (Cheers.) He could only hope and trust that under the divine blessing the Society would continue to prosper and to extend its necessary and useful work. (Applause.)

Mr. Trouson proposed the health of the chairman, Mr. T. E. Read. In doing so he expressed the admiration they all felt for the energy, ability, and kindness that characterised Mr. Read and his management of the World's Fair. (Cheers.) The toast was received with musical honours.

In his response, Mr. Read remarked that he had endeavoured to draw bigger crowds than ever before to the World's Fair. He had worked hard, and success had been the gratifying result. It had been a great pleasure to him to preside over that important assembly and to welcome his showmen friends from all parts of the kingdom. He sincerely hoped that their annual gatherings under the glass roof of the Royal Agricultural Hall would continue to be as successful and as popular as the present one was proving itself to be. (Cheers.) He thanked the proposer of the toast; he thanked them all for their good wishes, and in conclusion he had much pleasure in proposing the toast of the "Supper and Ball Committee and the Press"—the Press that had dealt so generously with their enterprise, and had so kindly noticed their work and efforts to amuse the public. (Applause.) This toast being duly honoured, brought the supper to a timely conclusion.

After an interval for social intercourse, the guests proceeded to the beautifully decorated ballroom, where, to the sweet strains of Kalischan's Band, dancing was kept up until the wee hours of the morning.

AN inquest was held on Friday, Jan. 18, on Frederick Poole, the entertainer who first introduced to an English audience a system of moving pictures. He died at Newbury of heart disease on Thursday. "Poole's Panorama" was deservedly popular throughout the country, and almost a sensation was caused by his introduction of the myriorama, a system by which the panoramic pictures were set in motion by winding them on huge reels. Naturally Mr. Poole's idea was quickly overshadowed when the biograph system was introduced, but the worthy entertainer had amassed enough money to become part proprietor in various Welsh theatres.

GREAT DRAW.

GRAHAM,

The Human Marionette.

"A Sure Top."

Agent,

GEORGE BARCLAY.

SHOWMEN'S BANQUET AND BALL AT OLYMPIA.

The showmen of the Empire have foregathered in their multitude this past ten days in London, the heart of the Empire, on pleasure bent. The showmen—the experts in movable shows—have been having a delightful change, a high festival of rest and recreation, by visiting the great permanent shows of London town.

The funmakers and the merry-men have been holding high revel at the Mammoth Fun City in the West End, and again later on in the week at "Happy Islington."

All that is best in showland has been in London this week. Showmen, and their wives, sons, and daughters, from far-away regions of Scotland, Ireland and Wales; showmen from the Midland Counties; showmen from Lancashire and Yorkshire, from the Eastern, the Southern, and the Western Shires, have taken possession of the Metropolis, seeing everything and going everywhere.

With the hearty co-operation of the directors of "International Fairs, Ltd.," and the new Olympia company, the showmen of the Fun City invited their friends and relations from the country, and those, too, nigh at hand, to a fraternal banquet and ball.

With the full resources of Olympia placed at their disposal, it is no exaggeration to say that the hospitality and entertainment placed by the polyglot funsmiths at the West Carnival Fair was of such a character as to place it beyond any possible taint of competition or rivalry with other fraternal reunions.

It was a pleasure to see the evident zeal of all concerned to make the Showmen's Festival at Olympia a red-letter day in the calendar of the show world. The president of the Banquet and Ball Committee was B. W. Rose, Esq., and the vice-presidents were Sir Wm. Bull, M.P., E. Daouste, Esq., A. E. Gatcombe, Esq., R. Crossman, Esq., Chas B. Cochran, Esq., Wallace Jones, Esq., P. Collins, Esq., J. Amery Parkes, Esq., Watson Wright, Esq., Cecil Browne, Esq., Fred Karno, Esq., E. H. Altman, Esq., G. Taylor, Esq., and Harold Birkett, Esq. The chairmen were Lord George Sanger and F. H. Payne, Esq.

The committee included such well-known showmen as Messrs. W. Sedgwick, S. Jeffrey, F. Wilson, T. Knighton, W. Le Neve, Barron Bros., Beddall Bros., T. White, J. Lynch, J. Wilson, J. Osborne, G. Smith, and Alf Ball; and with them were associated Fred Bibby, Mellor Bros, J. Wentworth, W. Jones, and G. B. Sadler. The chairman of committee was Mr. Arthur Dashwood, and the secretary and treasurer Mr. A. Carden.

The guests numbered 460, and the large dining-hall, when the whole of the company were seated, presented a sight to be remembered by all who were privileged to be present.

Mr. F. H. Payne presided, and after the loyal toasts had been duly honoured, Mr. B. W. Rose gave the principal toast of the evening, "The Mammoth Fun City." He humorously alluded to the early essays of his boyhood in keeping shows, from the first Punch and Judy show his father had given him down to the presidency of that notable assembly. He had been a lover of showmen and shows, and it was his proud boast to win and hold the title "showman." (Applause.) In proposing the toast, "The Mammoth Fun City," he would remind them that its promoters had striven—and he hoped with success—to prove that, given a real good and attractive show, London would patronise it. This they had done, with the freely-rendered ability, talent, and energy of their showmen friends, the tenants of the Fun City at Olympia. Nearly half a million of people had passed the turnstiles of the show, and he ventured to say that, with the evident public seal upon their work, they could go forward and look to many similar seasons at Olympia and to many such friendly gatherings as the one he was then addressing.

"Success to the Mammoth Fun City" was then honoured with tumultuous applause. Sir Wm. Bull, M.P., in a delightful speech, proposed the next toast on the list, "Olympia, Hammersmith, and the pleasures of his constituents." He reminded the showmen that he, too, like Mr. Rose, might consider himself a showman. They had a great show at the Westminster Houses of Parliament. He was a member of that show. (Laughter.) They had their "razzle-dazzle," their "highfliers," and their "roundabouts," their "star turns," and their "side-shows" in their palace on the Thames at Westminster. He was delighted to be with the funmakers of Olympia, for even the sedate senators of St. Stephen's needed a little mirth and merriment at times. He knew that Hammersmith loved a good show, and he was confident that such shows as the one now housed at Olympia was fulfilling a necessary work in supplying fun and merriment for the people. (Great applause.)

The Chairman, in asking them to honour the next toast, "The health of the showmen," said that unfortunately the king of showmen—Lord George Sanger—owing to indisposition, was not amongst them as their honoured guest that night. He had a letter from him which fully explained the cause of the veteran showman's absence:—

"Park Farm, East Finchley.
"Jan. 21, 1907.

"DEAR SIR,—I am sorry to say I shall not be able to attend your (what I hope will be) charming meeting.

"I went to bed on Saturday with a slight chill, and now at 10.30 this morning I am up again and writing you this letter explaining why I feel unable, under the circumstances to keep my engagement with you. I do however assure you, my professional brethren and your guests, of my warmest admiration and respect.

"Trusting that all will be well with you, and that your gathering will more than fulfil your highest anticipations,—Believe me to remain, most respectfully yours,

"GEORGE SANGER.

"A. CARDEW, Esq., Olympia."

In reading Lord George Sanger's letter to them he felt sure that they would not only regret the cause of his absence, but they would be delighted to know that the cold from which he suffered was only, as the letter indicated, of a temporary nature. The showmen, he was convinced, had shown, by their enterprise at the Fun City their ability to cater for the people's amusement. He assured them that the New Olympia Company, with which he was associated, welcomed them to Olympia. Their relations with the International Fairs' Board of Directors, and through them with the showmen, had been of the most satisfactory character. He was proud of the extremely satisfactory way that the showmen had carried on their business at Olympia. Not one complaint had been heard against them, and when it was remembered that the showmen workers in the Fun City of Olympia were equal in number to the inhabitants of many a provincial town this was high testimony to their character and social life. He coupled with the toast the name of Mr. Patrick Collins, a showman well known and universally esteemed and one of the providers of amusements at Olympia. (Applause.)

Mr. P. Collins, on rising to respond, was received with cheers. He deeply regretted that their honoured leader was not with them to reply on behalf of the showmen world. He was honoured in the absence of Lord George Sanger in being coupled with the toast, and whilst personally thanking them for that distinction, he could assure the gentlemen who had originated and so admirably carried out the Fun City at Olympia that their showmen tenants were fully satisfied with the way they had been treated by the promoters of the Fair, and that they would gladly come again and do their best, as they had endeavoured to do at the opening enterprise. On behalf of the showmen and for himself personally he thanked them. (Cheers.)

The toast received musical honours.

Mr. C. B. Cochran proposed "The health of the Visitors and the Press." By the visitors and the Press, he said, he included their showmen friends who had journeyed from near and far to be with them and those gentlemen of the Press who had, by their kindly interest and appreciative articles, done so much to bring the Fun City before the show-loving public. Without the showmen and without the Press all their efforts would have been futile. With the showmen and the Press they had succeeded beyond the fullest measure of their expectations. He coupled with the toast the name of the well-known Press representative, Mr. Dauncey. (Cheers.)

Mr. Dauncey suitably replied.

The Chairman then intimated that the company could now adjourn to the ballroom. Dancing was maintained, and the festivities continued until 5.30 a.m. During one of the intervals Arthur Prince, the celebrated ventriloquist, delighted the immense audience by his most original entertainment, cram full of "gags" and impromptus of the moment.

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.

President, Lord George Sanger.

Hon. Chaplain, the Rev. T. Horne.

Hon. Treasurers: W. M. Mitchell, Esq., Manchester Centre; F. H. Pedgrift, Esq., London Centre.

Hon. Secretary, T. Hurst, Esq.

Office of the Guild: *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London, W.C.

OBJECTS OF THE GUILD.

1. To conserve the business interests of all open-air amusement caterers and entertainers, whether menaced by faddist legislation or by public bodies.

2. To vindicate the character and the avocation in life of the showman whenever unjustly maligned or attacked.

3. To defend the fairs and holidays of the people whenever and wherever threatened, and to encourage all legitimate efforts for uplifting and betterment of the entertainments of the people.

Further subscriptions, whether from members, traders, or friends, may be sent to either of the hon. treasurers, the hon. secretary, or to the Guild secretary, *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE GUILD FUNDS, 1906.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE GUILD FUNDS, 1907.

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Fred Gray	1 0 0	J. Westray	0 5 0
Jacob Studt	1 0 0	W. Westray	0 5 0
R. Clasper	1 0 0	C. Bailey	0 5 0
T. Creber	1 0 0	C. Andrews	0 5 0
J. Manders	0 10 6	Mrs. Andrews	0 5 0
W. Bibby	0 10 6	A. Gentle	0 5 0
H. Forrest	0 10 6	J. Marshall	0 5 0
George Beach	0 10 6	W. Walcot	0 5 0
Wm. Le Neve	0 10 6	F. Wilson	0 5 0
		H. J. Rowe	0 5 0
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P. and T. Fitzpatrick	0 10 6	Joseph Amos	0 5 0
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Mr. Butterfield	0 10 0	Harold Shaw	0 5 0
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Steve Waddington	0 5 0	Dicky Middlebrook	0 2 6
Walter Steward	0 5 0	Jack Percival	0 2 6
		J. Seed	0 2 6
		Peter	0 2 6
		Fawsett	0 2 6

The above list is correct in accordance with the lists sent in by various committeemen enrolling members. The Guild secretary requests that any members not listed as above will communicate at once with him, and the mistake will be rectified in future publications of the list of members' names.

AN inquest was on Wednesday held at the Railway Hotel, Porchester, by the South Hants Coroner, Mr. Edgar Goble, into the circumstances attending the death of James Manders, a menagerie proprietor, aged seventy-four, who was killed on the railway at Porchester Station on the previous afternoon. Evidence of identification was given by a son, Joseph Manders, a showman, aat present living at Portsea. The story of the fatality was vividly told by Harry Pink, a signalman, at Porchester Station. Witness said that at 4.54 he signalled an express train from Fareham to Portsmouth. Just then he saw the deceased in the 6ft. way. He was apparently crossing over to catch the down train, which was due at 5.5. There was a level crossing at the spot. As the train was approaching witness saw the deceased cast his eyes towards the train, and then make a rush across the line in front. The next witness saw of him was lying in the 4ft. way. It was not a case of suicide. Witness considered that death must have been instantaneous. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," and added as a rider that they considered the present arrangement very dangerous, and that some better provision should be made to safeguard the public.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The London County Council resumed its sittings, after the Christmas recess, at the County Hall, Spring-gardens.

CORONET THEATRE.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee reported that they had considered a drawing submitted by Mr. W. J. Rose, showing the erection of a fireproof chamber to contain a motor generator in the basement and under the stage at the Coronet Theatre, Notting Hill Gate, and the conversion of an adjoining vault into a cell chamber. The Committee recommended that Mr. Rose be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements on the drawing submitted by him, provided that certain stated conditions be complied with.

Agreed to.

THE FORESTERS.

The Committee reported that they had considered a drawing submitted by Mr. B. Crewe with reference to the Foresters, Cambridge-road, Bethnal Green, showing the provision of additional dressing rooms and lavatory accommodation, a new staircase from the balcony, and an additional exit on the o.p. side of the hall. They recommended that Mr. Crewe be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing submitted by him with regard to certain proposed additions and alterations at the Foresters, provided that certain stated conditions be complied with.

Carried.

INSPECTION.

The Committee reported that the expenditure incurred in connection with reports upon the character of the performances, &c., at places of public entertainment during the quarter ended Dec. 31, 1906, was £6 19s. 11d.

LONDON PAVILION.

The Committee had considered a drawing and specification, submitted by Messrs. Wylson and Long, of the heating arrangements proposed to be provided at the London Pavilion, Piccadilly-circus. They recommended that Messrs. Wylson and Lond be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing submitted by them, provided that certain stated conditions be complied with.

THE PALACE, STOKE NEWINGTON.

The Committee had considered a drawing submitted by Messrs. F. Matcham and Co., showing the proposed reseating of the pit stalls at the Palace Theatre of Varieties (formerly Alexandra Theatre), Stoke Newington. They recommended that Messrs. Matcham and Co. be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing submitted by them, provided the centre gangway of the pit stalls be continued through to the pit, and that if a barrier be required a rope with a slip connection be used.

THE PARAGON.

The Committee having considered a drawing submitted by Mr. A. Parnacott, recommended that he be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown with regard to certain works proposed to be executed in connection with the heating installation at the Paragon, Mile End, provided the usual conditions be complied with.

PROPOSED NEW HALLS.

The Committee reported that they had considered drawings submitted by Mr. B. Crewe, of a Hippodrome proposed to be erected on a site between Nos. 327 and 333, Harrow-road. Accommodation is shown for 2223 persons. The drawings are generally in conformity with the regulations of the Council, and the Committee recommended that Mr. Crewe be informed that provided the works shown on the eleven drawings submitted by him be commenced within six months the Council will be prepared to grant a certificate under section 12 of 41 and 42 Vict., cap. 32, to the owner of such building, on being satisfied that the premises have been completed in accordance with the drawings referred to and the regulations of the Council and that certain stated conditions have been complied with.

The Council on Nov. 21, 1905, approved drawings submitted by Mr. F. W. Hingston, of a music hall proposed to be erected at the junction of Kilburn High-road and Kilburn Priory. Amended drawings for the erection of a music hall on this site have now been submitted by Mr. W. G. R. Sprague. Accommodation is shown for 2073 persons, and for this number sufficient exit accommodation is provided. The Committee recommended that Mr. Sprague be informed that, provided the works shown on the nine drawings submitted by him be commenced within six months, the Council will be prepared to grant a certificate under section 12 of 41 and 42 Vict., cap 32, to the owner of such building, on being satisfied that the premises have been completed in accordance with the drawings referred to and the regulations of the Council, and that the usual conditions have been complied with.

THE QUEEN'S POPLAR.

The Committee having considered drawings submitted by Messrs. Alexander Ritchie and Co., recommended that they be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the two drawings submitted by them with regard to certain works proposed to be executed in connection with the heating installation at the Queen's, High-street, Poplar, provided that certain stated conditions be complied with.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE.

The Council on Nov. 30, 1906, granted a licence for stage-plays for the period commencing Nov. 30, 1906, and ending Jan. 31, 1907, to Mr. William Bennett for the Shakespeare Theatre, Lavender-hill, Battersea. Mr. Bennett has now applied for an extension of this licence. Inspections have recently been made of the premises, and it has been found that with a few exceptions the Council's requirements have been complied with. Mr. Bennett attended before the Committee, and stated that the outstanding matters would be attended to at once. The Committee recommended that a licence for stage-plays for the period from Feb. 1, 1907, to the end of the meetings of the Council, sitting as the licensing authority in 1907, be granted subject to an undertaking that the theatre shall not be open on Sundays or other days prohibited by the licence for private gain or by way of trade.

All the above recommendations were agreed to.

SHELTERS.

The Building Act Committee recommended that the Council consent to the erection of three iron and glass shelters at a proposed theatre to abut upon Rupert-street and Shaftesbury-avenue, as shown on the plans, submitted with the application of Mr. W. G. R. Sprague, on behalf of the Jacobus-Marler Estates, Limited, such consent being subject to the usual conditions.

Agreed to.

THE MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' STRIKE.

Mr. Greenwood, chairman of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee, in reply to a Labour member, promised that in regard to the strike of music hall artists and employees he would see that no incompetent persons having to do with the management of bioscopes, &c., were engaged.

PRESENTATION.—On the 18th inst., on the occasion of her benefit at the Belfast pantomime, *Mother Goose*, Miss Carlotta Levey, who was presented with several beautiful bouquets and baskets of flowers, was also the recipient of a handsome gold bracelet from her legion of Belfast admirers.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

"CINDERELLA" AT THE MARLBOROUGH.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

Messrs. Ernest Stevens and R. C. Buchanan, at the Marlborough, undertook to present to the public an operatic, spectacular, and genuinely funny fairy pantomime, and that they have faithfully carried out their portion of the contract the North Londoners have not been slow to recognise, with the result that, both at matinées and evening performances, Mr. J. Murray Heriot, the popular and genial acting-manager of Holloway's own theatre, has on occasions had regretfully to turn money. A second view of the production only confirms the favourable impressions we formed of it on Boxing Day, when its conspicuous success was presaged by the approval of two audiences that taxed the holding capacity of the house.

At the head of the scheme of fun are Messrs. George French and Mr. Tom W. Conway, the former as the impecunious Baron and the latter as his wife. The unfortunate nobleman, as we all know, entered into what may be appropriately defined *secondes noces*, his choice falling upon a lady of limited means and unlimited vocabulary, and a past-mistress of topsy-turverydom in speech that is always amusing. She is a shrew of the most vigorous pantomime breed, and Mr. Conway's self-assertiveness and constant exhibition of tantrums are in the best spirit of farce. A Baroness without a "Suffragette" song is not to be thought of, and the rights of a long-suffering lady, who insists upon them in a tale of well-written verses, are well emphasised by the comedian. Mr. George French has a droll style that is invaluable in such a part as the Baron, a submissive, weak-kneed scion of pantomime nobility that has his counterpart only in those rollicking old-fashioned farces that writers of the fifties were wont to designate as "screaming." Incidentally Mr. French sings Harry Lauder's song, "Ma Daisy," with wonderful smartness, vim, and humour, and when the Baron, like another Orlando, wrestles with a formidable champion, and conquers him, his absurdities increase, and the heartiest laughter is rampant when he turns the tables on his acidulated spouse.

It would indeed be difficult to find a more fascinating Prince than Miss Lelia Roze, who is the personification of courtliness and grace. Her acting, too, is marked by genuine fervour. Especially is this the case in the love-making scenes, and an air of romance too often absent in versions of the immortal story marks Miss Roze's treatment. She looks quite the gallant of the Watteau period, and her superb figure, refined bearing, and elegant manners, enable her to realise the *preux chevalier* whose dalliance with the kitchen-maid supplies so many agreeable moments. Miss Roze is always "in the picture," and her work is full alertness and go. She sings that favourite pantomime number, "Hello, hello, hello!" with additional verses, and makes a hit therein, being evidently an immense favourite. A very spirited and vivacious Cinderella is Miss Daisy Revett, who throws into her acting much energy, speaks her lines with pleasing point and agreeable archness, and dances with considerable grace. She has a number in the Kitchen scene that quite reflects the romantic nature of the story of the cinder-wench heroine. It is entitled "When the fairies go to bed," and the aid of a pretty little girl in her "nighty" is a happy thought that immensely enhances the small scena in the minds of the Holloway juveniles. Contrary to the usual practice, Dandini is played by an actor—and in this instance a very good actor—Mr. Harry Welchman, who scores with the number, "There's a man in Manitoba." Mr. William Pringle, both unobtrusive and artistic as Capers, the page, is the chief factor of the success of the duet, "The Parrot." Miss Louie Tinsley's Elvira has grown in grotesque power, if that were possible, and audiences roar at the impassioned protestations of the elderly maiden who yearns for "The strange thing called love," and dreams of Lewis Waller and other stage favourites. Miss Adelaide Gracey also lends excellent support as the other sister, Araminta. Mr. Charles Kean—an historic name, indeed—makes an excellent flunkey; Miss Ellaline Thorne is a shapely and sprightly Duke of Whistbridge; and the Doreen Girls dance with an immense amount of verve, energy, and grace in various ballets. The final scene, In the Sweet Spring-time," is of a Japanesy nature—a fanciful picture, it may be, of a suburban villa and garden in the neighbourhood of Tokio. The figurantes and ballerine carry branches of almond blossom, and the stage becomes a veritable bower of bloom. Mr. Alfred Terraine is the artist; and Mr. E. Grimani is responsible for the design and painting of the attractive Home of the Fairy Godmother, charmingly represented, by the way, by Miss Kitty Dale, who sings with much taste the popular drawing-room ballad, "Once." Miss Dollie Harcourt, Miss Marian Roberts, Miss Doreen Vaughan, and Miss Rose Vane aid the effectiveness of the representation by their several impersonations.

"JACK AND THE BEANSTALK" AT ISLINGTON.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

One is far better able to judge of the merits of Mr. Samuel James's second annual pantomime at the Grand, Islington—a house which, by the way, has in the past won a big reputation for its Christmas pieces—than at the initial performances on Boxing Day. The rough edges incidental to a first representation have all disappeared, and the pantomime now works as smoothly as well-oiled machinery. The leading parts have been entrusted to competent artists; and the comic element is well supported by the comedians of the company. The most prominent performer in the comic scenes is Mr. Charles Austin, who as Mrs. Jack, the mother of the hero, has again achieved a distinct success, and renewed the great popularity he won in last year's pantomime. Mr. Austin plays the Dame with a keen sense of humour, and is exceedingly happy in working up the business of the part. As evidence of this one can specially mention the very funny Kitchen scene, in which the Dame is found actively engaged at the washing-tub. Next she proceeds to make a pudding for her dear boy Jack, but that youth disparages his mother's efforts in the culinary line. The Dame having paid a visit to "The Angel" over the way, falls fast asleep, is made the victim of a practical joke, and wakes up with "pudding on the brain." Mr. Austin, being a resourceful comedian, has many resources for promoting merriment, and does not fail in any of them. Mr. Nat Wilkins as the Baron is also to be complimented on making the best use of the opportunities afforded him, and his active co-operation in the fun-making is an important factor in securing the success of the pantomime. One of the hits of the performance is a dance which he gives in association with Miss Marie Ault, who as the Baroness plays the part with abundant humour. Messrs. Harley and Harden as Fanfare and Blowhard introduce their knock-about business with the most satisfactory results, and their genuine hard work is rewarded by loud applause. Miss Blanche Vincent makes a capital representative of Jack, and enters with spirit into the business of the part. She sings popular songs with gratifying success, and quickly gains the favour of the audience. Miss Florence Watson is a bright and pleasing Princess, acting with refinement and singing with a charm of manner that is quite effective. Her songs include, of course, the popular "Zuyder Zee" and other favourite melodies of the day. Miss Marie Altino is an attractive Fairy Rosebud, and her agreeable rendering of "In Dreamland" is loudly applauded. Mr. James Wilson is well placed as the Demon Discord, and Mr. Dick Tubb lends valuable assistance as the Giant Gorribuster. The Sisters Bartholomew as Philomel and Phyllis score in a special duet and dance; and favourable mention should also be made of Miss Queenie Gordon as Daisy and Miss May Lurlin as Rowland.

In the harlequinade Mr. Fred Melros is a capital clown, and is well supported by Mr. Harry Adlin as pantaloon and Mr. Ninety as policeman. Mr. Robert Sawyer is an active harlequin; and Miss Connie Ford does good service as Columbine. Mlle. Luma introduces a notable speciality in the form of an illuminated dance, the various shades of colour and the pretty patterns thrown upon her whirling robes being most artistic and effective. It remains to mention the good work done by Mr. William T. Gliddon as conductor of the orchestra, and who is also responsible for the music, and the charming scenery which has been furnished by Mr. George Tweddel.

"HUMPTY DUMPTY" AT KENNINGTON THEATRE.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

The gay and picturesque pantomime of *Humpty Dumpty* is doing such good business at Kennington Theatre that Mr. H. B. Brandrett, the manager, has decided to continue the production for at least a week longer than was originally intended, and if matters can be arranged, the run will be extended by a fortnight. At any rate, bookings will be accepted up to Feb. 9, and those who like a high-tone Christmas entertainment in which genuine mirth blends in ceaseless flow with melodious music, graceful dancing, and an almost bewildering succession of stage pageantry, should not fail to see *Humpty Dumpty*.

As Humpty Dumpty Miss Yvonne Lamor remains a very warm favourite, her singing and dancing appealing in the highest degree to the artistic susceptibilities of the audience. Miss Georgina Middleton, in the character of Princess Curly Locks, wins fresh laurels week by week, and in the first act her song, "I dream of you," never fails to secure a recall. Mr. R. H. Douglass, the King of Humptiland, worthily maintains his high reputation as a comedian, and he is ably seconded by that inimitable artist Mr. Arthur Rigby as the Queen of Humptiland. Mr. Rigby earns terrific applause with his slumber song in the Shoe scene, in which he is assisted by Miss Fidene, who is quite a clever little girl. Messrs. Moon and Morris as Johnny Stout and Jimmy Green, the knockabout comedians, make a big hit in the railway station scene, where the fun is fast and furious. The Crystals, the American vaudeville artists, sing and dance admirably, and their song and dance, "I have a bungalow in Borneo," in the first act remains one of the features of the pantomime. Mr. E. W. Thomas makes an excellent Doge of Venice and Wizard of Memphis. Mr. Edward Thirby does well as the Old Woman, and Miss Norman Bowyer, in the part of Twinkle-Star is seen to great advantage. The Sisters Crisp dance effectively as the Little Gollywogs, and Messrs. Wally Scott and Seth Whyte appeal to the children especially as the Great Gollywogs. Miss Elsie Evelyn Hill is a very good Mrs. Tremaine, and Miss Gladys Rose Jones is clever and bright as Leslie Tremaine, the character around which the pantomime centres. Miss Elinor Vale deserves credit for her portrayal of Polly, and Miss Turner wins nightly hearty applause for her exceedingly good skipping-rope dance.

RICHMOND THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 22, the Pantomime "SINBAD THE SAILOR."

Fresh from its triumphs at Bath, and with its honours thick upon it, Mr. Peter Davey's pantomime met with a particularly happy reception here. The production is a feast of colour, harmony, and good taste. In the opening scene at Balsora there is a quaint aquatic ballet that is one of the prettiest things in the show; another charming scene was the Home of Neptune, followed by a veritable triumph of scenic art, the Coral Reef. The company engaged in the interpretation is all round excellent. Distinctly funny was the Grinbad of Mr. Percy Baverstock; Mother Sinbad, "a poor, lorn, lone soul," found a clever exponent in Mr. Arthur Royce, whose unflagging humour proved infectious. Delightfully quaint and boasting quite a large share of nature's charm, dainty little Miss Neste Laurel was the life and soul of the pantomime. She dances and sings with unflagging vivacity. In the title-rôle Miss May Hart scored one of the successes of the evening, and her interpretation of the part left nothing to be desired. Mr. E. W. Colman as Nathaniel Fitzgubbins, of Hatton Garden, did his best with a part not conspicuous for its opportunities; the Old Man of the Sea was excellently portrayed by Mr. H. Grey-Dolby; Boozah, a long-shoreman of the approved type, was ably represented by Mr. Donald Young, who scored heavily throughout. Miss Clodagh Brown was a breezy Boreas, and played with a good deal of vigour and vivacity; Miss Rita Ricardo as Neptune, jun., proved quite attractive; a fine, dashing Captain of the Amazons, Kalitza, was in safe hands with clever Miss Sybil Brooke; a veritable Blossom in a fairy-like bouquet was Miss Gladys Glynn. Mr. Leslie Digby struggled with the dual nationality of Gaelic-Arabian type, to which he added selections from Cockayne; he did exceedingly well too. Miss Mollie Wynne as a Balsorian urchin made the most of an insignificant rôle; Mr. James Rivers created a lot of fun as the Lobster. The *mise-en-scène* was of a refined character, and Mr. Harry Turner, stage-manager, may be complimented on his skill. Tumultuous applause greeted the Valley of Diamonds and Flower Land—both marvels of scenic craft. The music is tuneful throughout, and the various excerpts admirably rendered; especially was this evident in the duet between Sinbad (Miss M. Hart) and Rosee (Miss Laurel) in Scene III., "When I gaze." Mr. Brian Daly is responsible for the lines, lyrics, and concerted pieces, much of which is above mediocrity and worthy of the unstinted applause so liberally bestowed on these features. Some artistic work in shown in the costumes, cleverly designed by Mrs. Peter Davey and Comelli. The pantomime is a really excellent sample of its kind, and is played twice every evening to full houses.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Jan. 21, Shakespeare's Play, "THE MERCHANT OF VENICE."

On Monday evening a crowded and enthusiastic house witnessed the praiseworthy efforts of the clever Jewish Operatic and Dramatic Company in their performance of *The Merchant of Venice*. That the play has suffered by its translation into Yiddish is very evident, while many of the artists had not sufficiently grasped the intentions of the immortal writer. It was pleasant to observe that the Portia of Mme. Natansohn had been throughout carefully and intelligently studied, and although there was no individuality of style, yet her impersonation was marked by an earnestness and a painstaking appreciation of the requirements of the part. Mr. C. Natansohn presented no great originality of treatment as Shylock, but gave a rendering that was dramatic without being scholarly, although his forcible acting delighted his countless admirers. Mme. J. Kayzer was bright and pleasing as Nerissa; and Mme. Goldstein enacted Jessica in a winning and sympathetic manner. Antonio was in the hands of Mr. Issacowitch, who is to be highly commended for his portrayal; and a creditable representative of Bassanio is found in Mr. M. Gusofsky. Mr. J. Fineberg is an easy and pleasant Gratiano; Lorenzo and Salarino are well played by Messrs. N. Hamburger and Markowitz respectively; many hearty laughs are raised by the excellent reading of Lancelot Gobbo by Mr. J. Scherman; and Mr. J. Goldsmith makes a dignified Duke of Venice. The play was well dressed and mounted, and the scenery was most effective. During the week *The Zionist*, *The Jewish Priest*, *Menasha*, *The Broken Hearts*, and *Holy Sabbath* have been played.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, Jan. 21, the Pantomime, entitled "ROBINSON CRUSOE."

Mr. H. V. D'Esterre's pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe* is at this theatre, and is well patronised by the folks of Rotherhithe. It is written by Brian Daly and J. M. East, with music by J. Nurnberger. Miss Agnes Paulton is a captivating and dashing Robinson Crusoe, and her numerous songs are greeted with applause. Miss Maud Denny dances very gracefully, and makes a winsome Polly Perkins, also singing sweetly. Miss Eileen Guilbert shows great vocal abilities as the Fairy Queen. Miss Ada Davidson makes a decided success as Jack, and her song, "Roses, roses everywhere," is one of the hits of the evening. Mrs. Crusoe is cleverly played by Mr. Will Smith, who is responsible for a great deal of laughter; Mr. Charles H. Phydora and Mr. William Phydora keep the ball of fun rolling as Ben the Bo'sun and Mick the Mate. Mr. Henry W. Hatchan shows great dramatic force as the pirate, Will Atkins; Miss Lily Brame is excellent as Nellie; Mr. H. E. High supplies a good character-sketch as Friday, and gives a skilful speciality turn on the roller-skates. The Four Diamonds dance effectively; and the Phydoras contribute a clever musical selection. There is a large and very tuneful chorus, and the pantomime altogether must be pronounced a decided success.

"ALADDIN" AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

It would be difficult to say whether the all-round excellence of the production or the individual popularity of the artists is the greater feature of Mr. J. Bannister Howard's pantomime, which is now in its fifth week of success at the Crystal Palace Theatre. From the first the elaborate mounting, music, and fun, seemed to assure a good run, but there now exists a *cameraderie* between the audience and its entertainers which is good to see. The entrance of Aladdin (Miss Lillie Lassah) is a signal for rounds of applause, and on Monday she was the recipient of a handsome floral tribute on the conclusion of her song, "Hello! Hello! Hello!" which she has cleverly worked up. Miss Lily Gullick has a suggestion of coyness in her assumption of the part of the Princess which adds charm to her singing and acting, and her song, "A bungalow in Borneo," goes well, assistance in the choruses being derived from Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of dancers, Mesdames Hill, Caley, Resta, and Tidd, whose acrobatic evolutions are redemanded to the point of exhaustion.

As Pekoe, Miss Nellie Barnwell is fresh and lively as ever, and renders her "Hyacinth" song with great effect. The success of Miss Gladys Ray's Pitti-Sing is enhanced by the "toy" duet, which is a most popular item with the young folk who attend the matinées. Miss Daisy Lake as Spoo-Nee has a comely presence, and has added to her agreeable rendering a Highland costume song with a full chorus. Miss Josephine Sullivan is an imposing Fairy Queen, and her "Moon" song, with a chorus "off," is encored nightly. A bevy of pretty girls make an attractive crowd, singing and acting well together.

Mr. Arthur Poole has worked up the part of Abanazar to its highest possibilities as a mirth-making medium, and whether holding the stage alone or working wheezes with other comedians he is inimitable. As Wishee-Washee, Mr. Frank Weir has plenty to do, and his new song, "Let me sing," with novel effects, is a welcome addition. The Brothers Onda as Boo-Bee and Bob-Bi, Celestial members of the "force," back-talk most bewilderingly, and manage to introduce new and sometimes impromptu business, and their smart triple-bar act is still a great feature in the Palace scene. Mr. A. E. Passmore as the Widow Twankey is a great favourite. His performance is full of droll touches, and it is pleasant to see that the traditional "dame" can be really funny without being vulgar. The travesty of the "Sandow Girls" in Act 1 constitutes the hit of the piece, and as a genuine bit of good-natured burlesque would be hard to beat. The four comedians, Messrs. Poole, Passmore, and the Brothers Onda, never seem to satisfy the audience in the matter of encores in this little scene. As the Slave of the Ring, Mr. J. Devereux Cawdery is as agile as ever in the demon trap scene, using the "star," "vampire," and other traps with great daring and finish. Mr. E. Oxlee makes a fine Emperor, and his share in the quartettes with the three other members of the Glee Singers' party, Messrs. Henry, Malaghan, and Del Lungo, are always appreciated and redemanded. Master Freddie Clarke as the Emperor's Cat must be a treat to the younger members of the audience to judge from the shrill shouts of laughter which his gambols always evoke. The old-fashioned harlequinade entertains a nightly pleased assembly, and sends everyone home in a good humour. Mr. Sainton's music arrangements are admirable, and a high pitch of excellence is reached in the choruses.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Jan. 21, the Drama, by Frederick Melville, entitled "THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."

Though loth to lose their pantomime, there was, nevertheless, a sigh of contentment amongst the West Londoners, as they cordially settled down this week to the enjoyment of their favourite fare—drama. As Jack Barrymore, Mr. Herbert Ford is a complete success. Possessed of a good stage presence, and a penetrating voice, he quickly secured the attention of the house, and easily held it to the fall of the curtain. Mr. William E. Passmore gives a good character-study of the Earl of Loman; Mr. Harry Talbot finds ample scope for his low comedy powers in his genial impersonation of Tom Chicken; Mr. Eric Campbell, in more senses than one, powerfully portrays the luckless Ned Samson; Mr. Jas. Neal works with energy as Joe Pugsley; whilst Mr. Henry Mervyn is responsible for a telling representation of cool, calculating villainy. Miss Daisy Gwynne acts Delilah Vane with plenty of resolution, her playing in the third act reaching a high standard of excellence; Miss Mollie Williams is decidedly pleasing as Clarice; Miss Mamie Rendle does good work as Mimi; and Miss Lydia Audre receives much encouragement for her simple, yet withal earnest, rendering of the sympathetic rôle of Violet. The rest of the members of a long cast all do well, and the play is staged and mounted in lavish fashion, the Woodland Glen set in the third act calling for special mention, the natural beauties of the scene being enhanced by the cooing of pigeons and the gambols of rabbits, as they scamper about in full enjoyment of their liberty. Mr. W. Fraser-Brunner is general-manager for Mr. Frederick Melville and Mr. William Bailey's interests are, as usual, well looked after by the always courteous Mr. James Sinclair.

GREAT enthusiasm prevailed on the closing night of the pantomime, *Mother Goose*, at the Palace Theatre, Belfast, on Saturday last. The principals were accorded an ovation, and, at the concluding scene, Mr. Fred W. Warden, managing-director, appeared, and thanked the huge audience for their patronage, stating that the support accorded the pantomime had achieved a record run. Miss Carlotta Levey (who during the evening was the recipient of a lovely basket of flowers) was also compelled to give a speech, and Mr. Martin Adeson addressed a few words to his host of Belfast admirers.

PRINCESS LOUISE AUGUSTA OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN and suite witnessed the performance of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, at the New Theatre on the 18th inst.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DAS FRIEDENSFEST."

Drama, in Three Acts, by Gerhart Hauptmann, produced at the Deutsches Theatre, Jan. 16, 1907.

Dr. Scholz	HERR REINHARDT
Frau Scholz	FRAULEIN WANGEL
Auguste	FRAULEIN DURIEUX
Robert	HERR BIENSFELD
Wilhelm	HERR KAYSSLER
Frau Buchner	FRAULEIN SAUER
Ida	FRAULEIN HEINER
Friebe	HERR ARNOLD

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Jan. 27.—One of the earliest of Hauptmann's plays, *Das Friedensfest* has been so seldom performed that it was a novelty to the majority of theatre-goers. It was given some eight years ago by the Free Stage Association, and since that time has not been done here. It is one of the most realistic and uncomfortable plays that ever delighted a German audience. What possible end can be served by holding up the doings of a quarrelsome, morbid, and half-crazy family in the glare of the footlights when—unhappily—there are plenty of the same type in real life is a question that the author himself must answer. Nobody would wish to deny the genuineness of the characters, or a certain fascination that the play exercises in parts over the audience, but that the nerves of the hearers are strained to painfulness is equally true. The plot is briefly as follows:—Dr. Scholz is returning to his home after many years' absence. The cause of his leaving was a terrible quarrel with his son Wilhelm, who had struck his father in the face in defence of his mother. The young man feels remorse at his conduct, and is returning to the home he, too, had left, trusting to the "feast of peace"—Christmas—to bring about a general reconciliation. Wilhelm's brother Robert is a hard-hearted, cynical brute; their sister Auguste is as unpleasant a person as one could well meet; their mother is a cipher. The only persons with bright and normal natures are Ida—Wilhelm's fiancée—and her mother. As soon as the brothers meet, bitter words are uttered, and on the arrival of the poor old doctor we feel a catastrophe is approaching. The air is sultry to suffocation—to speak figuratively—and the least spark will cause an explosion. And what is dreaded happens. Beneath the lights of the Christmas tree, to the sound of the church bells, old grievances are renewed, the old quarrel breaks out afresh, and the doctor's brain gives way under the strain. He becomes a raving madman, and expires in the next room, where he has been removed by his sons. Ida comforts Wilhelm, but his brother cheerfully tells him he will end like his father. This the other man indignantly repudiates, but he fears in his heart that his brother is a true prophet, and with this gloomy prospect the curtain descends. The interpretation was admirable, especially good renderings being given by Fräuleins Wangel, Durieux, and Sauer, Herren Biensfeld and Reinhardt.

The event of the week has been the visit of Mme. Suzanne Desprès and her Parisian company at the Neues. The critics are for once entirely in unison in praise of the talented actress, whom many declare to be the most perfect realisation of Ibsen's conception of Nora. Mme. Desprès commenced her season of six performances with two pieces unknown to Berlin audiences—Ajalbert's three-act drama, *La Fille Eliza*, and Jules Renard's one-act play, *Poil de Carotte*. She at once took her audience by storm, and the applause which crowned her efforts was deafening. The plot of *La Fille Eliza* is probably known to your readers. It is the story of a girl who stabs her lover and is condemned to life-long imprisonment. In the first act the murder is committed; the second act depicts the trial—this is taken up entirely by the lawyer's defence and the verdict. The prisoner says not a word, but the facial expression of Mme. Desprès, the agony of suspense, the horror and despair as sentence is pronounced, were so realistic that the audience were profoundly moved. In the third act Eliza is in her prison cell; she musters the things left behind by the women who have left the prison, and reckons out on her fingers in dumb agony how long they must have been there; she herself will remain for ever; and with the wild despairing cry "Toujours, toujours!" the piece ends. M. Lugné-Poe supported Mme. Desprès admirably in the rôle of the advocate, and the remaining characters were all satisfactorily sustained. The Crown Prince, who was present, complimented the famous actress after the performance, and promised to come again with the Crown Princess—a promise which was fulfilled three nights later.

Salome is still once or twice in the bill each week at the Royal Opera, and has reached its fifteenth performance. It is not in the nature of this music-drama to become popular, and nobody would be more surprised than Richard Strauss himself to see it become so, but it is unquestionably the greatest work of the kind of the age, and as such must always make its mark. On various operatic stages in Italy *Salome* has recently achieved great success, notably at Turin, where Dr. Strauss, who conducted, was called before the curtain over a dozen times. *Die Zauberflöte* is given this evening at the Opera House, with Fräulein Frieda Hempel, of the Court Theatre at Schwerin, in the rôle of the Queen of the Night. This talented young singer has made much progress since her début in that part three years ago, and her career has been unusually rapid. Her beautiful voice fills the Opera House in every part, her acting is good, and her appearance imposing. I am told there is every probability of Fräulein Hempel receiving a permanent engagement here before long.

A new lyric-dramatic dancer, Fräulein Rita Sacchetto, has made a decided hit here. The young lady—who is particularly pretty and charming—poses chiefly as costume *danseuse*, and her dresses are perfect "dreams" of beauty. Fräulein Sacchetto made her début before an invited audience at an art salon last week, her public performance the following night confirming the excellent impression she made. She danced a minuet in Gainsborough costume, and appeared as Djamileh, the Impersonation of Spring (to Strauss's delightful watzes), and other fanciful characters and symbols. Hearty applause rewarded the young lady's graceful dancing.

Dr. Fulda's verse-comedy *Der Heimliche König* has passed its twenty-fifth performance at the Lessing Theatre, and there is little diminution of its popularity. The weekly bill at the Lessing comprises, in addition, *Wenn Wir Toten Erwachen*, Sudermann's *Blumenboot*, with a single performance of *Die Weber* and Ibsen's *Rosmersholm*. No new play is announced for the present, Hauptmann's new comedy appearing in February.

Blumenthal's comedy *Das Glashaus* is still given once or twice a week at the Royal Schauspielhaus, and was honoured one evening recently by the Kaiser and Kaiserin. The piece was conscientiously overhauled by a doubly-exacting censorship, and one or two dubious sentences were, with the author's permission, altered.

Influenza is busy amongst our first artists. Frau Agnes Sarma and Dr. Pohl are attacked, and several of the Royal Opera singers are down with it. At the last moment one of the performances at the Komische Oper had to be altered owing to indisposition of several of the artists.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Jan. 24.—The excitement this week has been the question of the Opéra management. During the last few weeks the Paris and English Press referred to M. Albert Carré as the successor of M. Gailhard, and M. Carré was even interviewed on the pieces he intended to produce during the coming season. The *Era* alone named the winners from the very start, and our prediction that MM. Messager and Broussan would be elected has come true. But, now that all the excitement has subsided, it will be interesting to throw a side-light on the intrigues that have been going on during the last few months. Many candidates had come forward, the majority of them impresarios, who knew very well that they did not have a shadow of a chance, but who considered it a cheap way to advertise their name. The only serious ones were M. Albert Carré (manager of the Opéra-Comique), M. Porel (manager of the Vaudeville), the brothers Isola, M. Broussan, and M. Messager. In this list I should also include M. Gailhard, who clung desperately to his post, and whose friends worked hard to get him re-elected. The curious part of the business was that men high in office took an indirect part in the strife. M. Fallières, our respected President, and M. Clémenceau had their favourites; and ladies inside and outside the theatrical world threw themselves into the fray. Yet there was only one combination possible, that of MM. Messager and Broussan, the most suitable men for the post of managers of our Opéra; but it was not to come about without trouble. Strongly backed, a favourite with the authorities, M. Carré would have been appointed, had not the financial question cropped up. But that question was almost insurmountable, and it therefore seemed strange that M. Carré's friends did not leave him quietly at his post at the Opéra-Comique instead of forcing him to the front, with the result that many facts leaked out about the monetary position of the Opéra-Comique which took the ordinary public somewhat by surprise. Then things took an unexpected development. The manager of the Opera has to be heavily backed with capital, and we were officiously informed that the brothers Isola were coming to the rescue. In other words, they would supply the necessary money, in return for which they were to have a share in the management of both our lyric stages. Those in the know never believed this an instant. MM. Isola are very influential. Establishments like the Folies-Bergère, Olympia, and others, ostensibly managed by M. Ruez, belong to them; and if MM. Isola had been appointed joint-managers of the Opéra-Comique and of the Opéra as well, they would have formed one of the most gigantic trusts on record. Our Fine Arts Minister understood this very well; and as apparently he had the mission to work M. Carré into the Opéra at all cost he made them another proposition. "You bring your money," said M. Briand, "and you have . . ." "Have what?" cried the brothers Isola. "My promise that you will be placed at the head of the Théâtre Populaire which we intend to build!" The brothers looked at one another, made their bow to the Minister, and the next morning we learnt that the negotiations had been broken off, that M. Carré intended to remain at the Opéra-Comique, and that MM. Messager and Broussan had been asked to submit their plans. They had them ready long ago, and M. Briand awoke to the fact that the combination of which he thought last was after all the best.

Our Seventh Civil Court had to busy itself about Adam and Eve. This is what had occurred. At the beginning of the season MM. Tristan Bernard and Charles Cuvillier had brought out at the Capucines a two-act operetta called *Avant-hier Matin*; and after the thirty-sixth performance the manager, with the authors' consent, had suppressed the second act. But the authors had sold the score to a publisher, who paid them a royalty of £3 for each performance; and when the work was reduced to one act he refused to adhere to his contract, because, as he said, they had now spoiled the piece. The publisher, sued by the authors, told the Court that he had bought a two-act play and that if it had been offered him in its present form he would not have accepted it. But MM. Bernard and Cuvillier speak differently. According to them, the publisher knew very well that, whilst the first act was rather funny, the second one did not offer much interest. In the first act we see Adam counting his ribs, finding one missing, and starting his love idyll with Eve; whilst the second tableau, showing us the pair in lodgings after their fall, is quite useless. Moreover, say MM. Bernard and Cuvillier, it happens continually that authors strike out scenes if they consider it necessary. *Coppelia* was written in three acts, and is now produced only in two. When *Hellé*, M. Alphonse Duverny's four-act opera, was revived, it had been condensed to three. And *Thaïs*? Everybody knows that after it was produced it underwent several alterations. All these arguments were put forward by the plaintiffs, but it is a question whether they will convince the tribunal, which has adjourned the case for a week.

That witty but erratic playwright M. Albin Valabrègue has suddenly turned up again. For a very long time we had lost sight of him. Some said he had become a monk, whilst others asserted that he had joined a band of brigands in Calabria in order to be able to introduce robbers into one of his farces. An American paper even brought the news that he was managing a big hotel in Arizona. As it turns out, M. Valabrègue is neither monk nor brigand nor hotel proprietor. He is what he always was, a smart dramatist; and M. Samuel, the Variétés manager, has asked him to write a three-act play for Mme. Jeanne Granier.

There was rather an unpleasant scene at the Antoine Theatre about a lady's hat. A gentleman in the stalls, unable to catch sight of the stage on account of a huge structure of flowers and feathers in front of him, asked the wearer to be so kind as to remove it. The lady refused to do so. The gentleman repeated his request twice, and then theatened the lady that if she did not obey the third summons he would box the ears of the young man who accompanied her. There was a roar of laughter in the stalls when the youth, not wanting to be the victim of his companion's obstinacy, compelled her to take off her hat. The little system had worked so well that another man, labouring under the same disadvantages, resolved to put it into practice; but in this case it led to a violent row. M. Gémier, not caring to turn his house into a battlefield, has now issued a ukase that in the first five rows of the stalls ladies will not be allowed to wear their hats. If M. Gémier were not a timid man he would have extended that ukase to all the stalls, but for fear of giving offence to his fair clients he has resorted to this half measure. In time he will, no doubt, extend it to the rest of the house.

MM. Clot and Dublay, managers of the Bouffes, have engaged Mlle. Mariette Sully to sing the leading part in *La Petite Bohème*, by MM. Paul Ferrier and Hirschmann, the new operetta that will be brought out at that house in the course of next week. MM. Simon-Max, Langlois, and Mlle. Dumesil will also appear in that work.

To the consternation of the audience at the Châtelet, one of the Brothers Lockford whilst making his triple somersault miscalculated his distance, and dropped on to the dancers below. Fortunately the net broke his fall, and no harm was done. He made the somersault a second time, and in such a brilliant fashion that he was loudly cheered by the house.

M. Tristan Bernard is busy on an adaptation of Planté's *La Marmite*, which, if we are rightly informed, will be produced at the Odéon.

THE THEATRE-FRANCAIS SEASON.

On Monday, Jan. 21, at the New Royalty Theatre, Revival of the Comedy, in Three Acts, by Henri Lavedan, entitled

"LE MARQUIS DE PRIOLA."

Le Marquis de Priola .....M. LE BARGY
Pierre Morain .....M. PRADALY
Docteur Savières .....M. DARCEY
Brabançon .....M. LEBEEY
First Monsieur .....M. HILLAIRET
Second Monsieur .....M. CHARLYS
Un Domestique .....M. STERN
Mme. de Valleroy ....MLLE. GABRIELLE DORZIAT
Mme. Savières .....MLLE. FERIEL
Mme. Le Chesne .....MLLE. NELLY CORMON

M. Henri Lavedan is one of the wittiest of modern French playwrights. His maiden effort consisted of some little society dialogues, which appeared in a French illustrated paper. Then he produced *Le Prince d'Aurec*, a serious satire on the degeneracy of the modern French aristocracy; and another piece, on a social subject, entitled *Les Deux Noblesses*. In his *Viveurs*, which was one of the great successes of the theatrical season of 1895-6, he drew a vivid picture of Parisian Bohemia, in which Mme. Réjane, in the leading rôle, jumped over a table to get back to her lover; and *Le Nouveau Jeu*, which had a long run at the Variétés, showed a master in the art of life-like portraiture. *The Marquis de Priola*, with which the French season at the Royalty opened on Monday night, was produced at the Comédie Française on Feb. 7, 1902.

The Marquis de Priola is a modern Don Juan, without the reckless gaiety of his prototype. A young man named Pierre Morain is the Marquis's *protégé*. Pierre is the son of one of Priola's game-keepers, who was the victim of a gun accident. The mother died of despair at her husband's death, and, as the Marquis was divorced from his wife, and was childless, he adopted Pierre, and had him educated as a doctor. It is suggested, from the first, that Pierre is the son of Priola, and that the gamekeeper killed himself on discovering that he was dishonoured. The mentor is bringing up his pupil in the most heartless cynicism. It appears that the Priolas have, for generations, sacrificed every principle to passion. The Marquis finds his match, however, in a certain Mme. de Valleroy, who defies his temptations. Priola is actually seized with a passion for his ex-wife, now married to a noble-minded gentleman, M. Le Chesne. The lady is removed from the sphere of the seducer's influence, and Priola continues his attack on Mme. de Valleroy, who is conquered, and is ready to yield to his suggestions. But the Marquis simply asks her to be his friend, and she goes away mortified. Amongst the libertine's letters Pierre finds the portrait of his mother, and thus learns that she was his protector's mistress. In the last act, the irresistible Priola almost conquers the virtue of his ex-wife's intimate, Mme. Savières; but, in the midst of his wickedness, he is struck down by paralysis. His doom is announced to him by his son in the following gruesome dialogue :—

MORAIN : You carry death within you.
PRIOLA : I am ill?
MORAIN : Lost.
PRIOLA : What is the matter with me? Tell me, since you are a wizard.
MORAIN : I am not a wizard; I am a doctor.
PRIOLA : Well, come to it. What shall I die of?
MORAIN : Of your vices. You are threatened with paralysis. Since I have known you, I have noticed the symptoms of the complaint, and I know how rapid is its progress. Your dissipations have poisoned you. And, as you have passed your life in doing evil for evil's sake, remorselessly——
PRIOLA : I'm proud of it!
MORAIN : Now you are the prey of an evil which does not forgive.

Priola defies death, and Morain taunts him with never having known love. "Then," says Priola, "since I have never known how to love, at least I will show you all how I can hate. I will blaspheme till my last breath, and will not go without throwing in the face of this abject, hypocritical, and gross world, which has misunderstood me, the scorn which I have for its iniquitous laws, its false morality, its religions, one as empty as the other. And you, you, the only being I have loved, perhaps; you, who are lightly going away without turning your head, after having stabbed me! . . . Look at me. I am your father!" Then Priola falls insensible into Morain's arms, and the latter says that he will nurse the paralytic for the twenty years or so that he may continue to live.

The piece is distinctly distasteful to an English palate. There are only two personages in whom we can take any interest; the leading figure is entirely antipathetic; and the idea of the play is repellent without being enthralling in its gruesomeness. The dialogue is, of course, well written—we can always trust M. Lavedan for that—but the theme is ill-devised, and its melodramatic conclusion is inconsistent with the cynical and somewhat unsavoury tone of the comedy scenes. The redeeming feature of the revival, as of the original production, is M. Le Bargy's creation of the Marquis, an embodiment of great vigour and artistic elaboration. M. Pradaly plays Morain ably and well; and the other characters are capably sustained.

On Thursday *Le Demi-Monde* was performed, with M. de Bargy as the philosophic Olivier de Jalin, and Mlle. Gabrielle Dorziat as Suzanne.

AMUSEMENTS IN INDIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BOMBAY, JAN. 12.—The New Bandmann Opera Company landed in Bombay on Dec. 21, and opened a short season the following evening. The plays staged were *The Beauty of Bath*, *The White Chrysanthemum*, *Belle of Mayfair*, *Mr. Popple, of Ippleton*, *The Dairymaids*, and *The Girl Behind the Counter*. A very excellent account was given of each and every piece, much of the success being due to Mr. Warwick Major and Miss Georgie Corass. Miss Corlass has always managed to fill a large corner in the heart of the Bombay public, and, as the leading lady in the several companies that have visited here, she has each time made herself a warmer favourite. Miss Doreen O'Connor is another of the old faces, and proves increasingly popular. Mr. Johnny Osborne and Mr. Dan Clifford are undoubted acquisitions to the company. The two new leading ladies, Miss Poppy Poole, of the Gaiety, and Miss Constance Lait, of the Savoy, at once secured favour here. Mr. Fred Ellis, an old member of the company, acquits himself really well. Mr. Edgar Favelle, the new tenor, and Mr. Victor Khan, have done excellently in their different rôles. The stage-management has been a feature of the visit, and the settings of the various plays have been unique for India.

THE Paris-India Motor Company are filling large houses nightly in the canvas structure on the Maidan. The bioscope is one of the finest seen in India, and the range of pictures is very extensive. They are performing three times nightly, and the entire show is under the management of the company's resident-superintendent, Mons. Paul Picard.

COL. BOB LOVE AND MRS. HARNISTON-LOVE are due here shortly from Calcutta, where they have had a most successful season. They are old favourites in Bombay, being regular cold season visitors with their circus for many years.

PRESENTATION.—On the conclusion of the run of *Sinbad* at the Royal West London Theatre, Mr. Alfred Reynolds, Mr. Brydon Phillips' business-manager, was presented by the management of the theatre with a very handsome umbrella, mounted with silver.

A NEW edition of the highly-successful pantomime, *Cinderella*, with fresh songs, dances, and jokes, will be produced on Monday next at the Broadway Theatre, New Cross.

THE PLAYHOUSE.

Mr. Cyril Maude's new theatre, the Playhouse, is a model of taste, comfort, and convenience, and the architects, Messrs. Delmar Blow and Fernand Billerey, have studied all these requisites with success. The theatre is thoroughly warmed, and a novel system of ventilation with powerful fans over the proscenium arch ensures a thorough supply of fresh air; the stage is warmed as well as the auditorium to avoid the unpleasant chill which is so often felt on the rising of the curtain. The main entrance, in which the box-office is situated, is elliptical in shape, the floor is of black and white marble, and the stucco walls, closely resembling stone in appearance, have a handsome decorated dental cornice. Three steps lead, by two pairs of fine mahogany vitrage doors, from the vestibule to the first novel feature of the house—the stalls promenoir. This is a lofty space at the back of the stalls, and will be used as a promenade between the acts. The moulded and panelled walls are decorated in a rich cream colour; the handsome bracketed fibrous plaster cornice and enriched floor dressings, the large panel over the main door to the stalls, with its centre medallion encircled by a wreath of palm leaves, and the handsome electrolier, combine in giving the promenoir a charming appearance. The stalls refreshment lounge—fitted in Empire style, with a fine mahogany table, partly covered with a linen table-cloth—and the ladies' and gentlemen's cloak-rooms are approached from this part of the house.

The stalls occupy the entire ground floor. No

[*Photo by Lafayette.*
MR. CYRIL MAUDE.

less than three pairs of vitrage double-doors lead from the promenoir to the stalls, and there is an additional exit leading to the street, so that the stalls are provided with ample means of egress. The 197 stalls consist of spacious arm-chairs, with a considerable division between each chair and a large space between each row—for which much thanks. The chairs have cane backs and seats, with loose cushions embroidered in gold. The walls surrounding the stalls are panelled in old gold brocade with frieze of trylypths and swags in gold with bronze heads at intervals, from the horns of which depend electric lights.

The dress-circle walls are panelled in old gold brocade, with large oil paintings at each side representing English and Italian comedy—the work of MM. Henri Brémond and Maurice Tastemain. These pictures represent the Shakespearean drama with a scene from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Italian comedy with its traditional characters—Pierrot, Harlequin, Columbine. The drop-curtain is painted by the same artists. The centre panel shows the entrance to a theatre of the old days, "Une petite histoire d'amour," which indicates to the audience the light nature of the piece which is about to take place on the stage itself. The broad border of the curtain and its rich ornamentation are painted by M. Jobbé-Duval, Professor of the "Ecole Boule." The caryatides decorating the sides of the two lower private boxes are the work of the well-known sculptors, MM. Louis Noël and Déchin. These artists are also responsible for the two low-relief frames of the cupola representing Thalia crowned by Fame. This cupola is the feature of the decoration. It is encircled, as already mentioned, by a large ring ornamented and lighted by globes of electric light, and by a large electrolier hanging from its centre which gives its full value to a painted vellum carried by cupids, also the work of MM. Brémond and Tastemain, as well as two large lower bull's eyes, with, in one, the figure of Poetry, in the other that of Music. There are open-work gilt balustrades in front of the tiers, and four ornamented lamp-posts light the bottom part of the dress circle. The colour scheme is brown and gold—light brown for the walls, dark brown for the silk hangings of the boxes, the cushions of the seats, the carpets, &c.

The King's box, which is entered direct from Craven-street, and the lower box on the opposite side of the house, have finely-modelled balconies, with large gilt caryatides at each side, supporting the boxes on the dress-circle level, all of which are draped in a handsome old-gold brocade. Adjoining the King's box, and connected by a fine teak staircase, is a handsomely-decorated retiring room, carpeted in rich crimson, with furniture of the Louis XV. period. Two smaller private boxes are situated at the back of the dress circle.

In the dress circle there are one hundred and twenty-four balcony stalls at 7s. 6d., forty-eight balcony seats at 6s., while the tier above consists of fifty-four upper-circle seats at 4s., one hundred and twenty-six at 2s. 6d., and fifty-five 1s. gallery seats. Each seat throughout the house is separate and may be booked in advance. The refreshment room leading from the dress circle is decorated in French grey with modelled swag frieze and masks at intervals. The splendid system of electric lighting has been installed by Messrs. Maple and Co., Ltd. The builders are Messrs. Patman and Fotheringham, Ltd.

The dimensions of the stage are as follows :—Width of proscenium opening, 26ft; depth of stage, 27ft.; width of stage, 46ft.; height of fly-rail, 22ft.; height of grid, 50ft. The lighting of the stage is carried out by means of four battens, six hanging lengths, and float, with all colour effects, the number of lights available on the stage being the equivalent of about 1,050 16-candle power lamps. The whole of this system is controlled from the lighting gallery on the side of stage, where all the regulating switches and gear are fixed. The stage itself is made of oak, and is the first of the kind so constructed under the recent regulations of the London County Council.

PRESENTATION.—At the termination of the pantomime of *Dick Whittington* at the King's Theatre, Hoxton, Mr. Harry Bristow, the stage-manager, who has also played the Dame and Clown, was presented by the staff with a silver cigar case and with a gold-mounted umbrella by Mr. Fred Bousteed. Mr. Bristow resigned the stage-management on Feb. 2 in view of tempting offers to go into the halls.

ACTORS' DAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—When I added my name to the list in support of Actors' Day, I thought it was for a fund apart, and distinct, from any other fund; for the purposes of organisation, for the betterment of actors and actresses, for the foundation of a protective and benefit society of a kind suitable to the profession and its circumstances; not a charity. It certainly was not clearly set forth what the purpose really was; but I think I am right in saying that the majority of those who gave their names thought somewhat as I did. When it was officially declared that the money raised was to be divided between the A.B.F. and the A.O.F. I refrained. To put it mildly, I was disappointed. I feel sure that "Actors' Day" was meant to be something different. It was a good idea that has somehow got addled in the hatching. "Actors' Saturday" is upon us. The meaning and the object here are clear. We are called upon to give what we can afford to the A.B.F. When I can afford to increase my subscription to the A.B.F. I will do so, but it will be on or about "Actors' Saturday," not on "Actors' Day." As, doubtless, there are many regular subscribers to the A.B.F. who promised support to "Actors' Day" and withheld it for the same reasons as I have, is it not a bit inconsistent that they should be irresponsibly called "backsliders" and "renegades" for not supporting a fund to which they regularly subscribe—viz., the A.B.F.—for that is what it amounts to.—Yours faithfully

COLEMAN DAVIES.

50, Slaney-street, Newcastle, Staffs, Jan. 22.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I wonder if you will allow me a little space for something that seems wanting in this discussion—*i.e.*, "common sense." We hear a lot of talk about what actors will and should do, but very little about what they can do; and the reason is not far to seek whilst the talk comes from people who, to put it mildly, know little or nothing about the rank and file of the profession, their needs and their wishes.

Let us be *frank*, and come out of the limelight a bit.

Mr. Cecil Raleigh, in his "hopeful speech" at the St. James's, says that on the computation that there are 250 places of amusement in England, and supposing each contributed £50 once a year, the result would be £12,500. Does Mr. Raleigh think, or does he "know," of *half* that number of theatres, whose staff (including the visiting company) total a number whose one-night contribution of salary would be collectively £50? I am not great at figures, but it seems to me that in round figures this means fifty people with an average salary of £6 per week, or seventy-five people with an average salary of £4 10s. per week; and if the number of theatres who give employment to seventy-five people a week exist, even then we know jolly well their salary is not £4 10s. If it was they want "banks," not "charities." And this is what I complain of: the people who administer or dictate the administration of our funds and charities—and, consequently, if we are to be self-supporting, our contributions as well—do not know our circumstances. They arrange these things from comfortable London offices. Do they come out amongst us, and see and hear and know as we know. The Americans say, "Talk's cheap, but it takes money to buy land."

Let me give one more example of stay-at-home knowledge.

The A.A. announce that they have secured "payment for rehearsals." Right! Let us have a "common-sense" look at it. For provincial productions we are to give *two weeks'* rehearsals free. After that we are to receive payment for all over, which is to be *deducted* from our salaries after the piece has run four weeks. I say, Sir, it is not *payment*; it is a *loan* or *advance* on salaries. How many provincial productions rehearse more than two weeks, and those that *do*, manage to run for more than *four*?

Mr. Editor, they don't *know!* I suppose they mean well, but *they don't know*. What's the remedy? Two words: "common sense." When you want bread, go to the baker. When you want Actors' Day, and actors' requirements, go to actors, not managers, authors, or those of our calling who drive their 1000-guinea motors at such a rate that they do not notice the poverty through which they pass.—Yours faithfully,

EDWARD VAN BIENE.

AMUSEMENTS IN ROTTERDAM.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ROTTERDAM, JAN. 21, 1907.—Manager Van Eysden has "struck oil" with the production of *Huzaren-Koorts* ("Hussar-Fever") this being the title in Dutch of the latest German farcical comedy that is now running at the Lustspielhaus in Berlin, and is being played with enormous success throughout Germany. The success that it is meeting here in its Dutch attire is a no less "booming" one, as night after night the vast auditorium of the Grand Theatre is crowded from pit to dome. The comedy is bright and amusing, the mounting excellent, and the cast a capital one. The members of the company at the Grand come out in flying colours, Mesdames Van Eysden, Kley, Van Kerckhoven, and Mauhs, and Messrs. Poolman, De Jong, Melsert, and Morriën being deserving of special praise.

AT the Tivoli Theatre the Brondgeest Ensemble, of which Henri Brondgeest is manager and leading man, has been seen in an interesting programme, consisting of Oscar Wilde's *Salome* and *Ninon de L'Enclos*. In both plays the title-rôle is taken by Mrs. Brondgeest. Her interpretation of Salome is well known to our public, as she played it a couple of years since and received favourable notices for the impersonation.

ISADORA DUNCAN has been again in our midst, having given one of her "dance-evenings," as she calls them, in each one of the principal cities of the land. One of the "off-nights" at the Grand Theatre was chosen for the event in Rotterdam, and, as usual, despite the high prices, a large and fashionable audience responded to the call, Miss Duncan being greeted with warmth, and many of her numbers being perforce encored. The programme consisted of numbers from *Iphigenie in Aulis* and *Iphigenie in Tauris*, of Gluck, and, as final encore, the ever-popular "Blue Danube" waltz.

A SERIES of special performances are being given by the Opera Association, at the head of which are a number of persons of standing in the Dutch musical world. Artists of established reputation are engaged for each opera that is put on by the association, and performances take place successively in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and The Hague. Last Saturday being an off-night at the Grand, Rotterdam, was the favoured city, and Mozart's comic song, *Così fan tutti* formed the attraction. Although this work of Mozart is seldom sung in its entirety, many of the airs are well known and familiar to the ear. The lovely music was fully enjoyed. Frau Hedwig Schacko, from the Stad Theatre of Frankfort, pleased the audience in the spsightly rôle of the mischievous lady's maid, Vespina, and did justice to the requirements of the music.

LOUIS BOUWMEESTER has started for a second tour through the Dutch East Indies. He is, as before, supported by his own company, and will give a round of his celebrated impersonations.

ALBERT VOGEL, a Dutch reader and elocutionist, who has acquired a well-deserved reputation for his remarkable talents, has also sailed for the Dutch East Indies. One of his best efforts is his delivery of Shakespeare's "Coriolanus" in Dutch, which is indeed a piece of artistic elocution.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS GLADYS GUY.

Like so many other impressionable young ladies, Miss Gladys Guy conceived a passion for the stage when her mind should have been occupied with the intricacies of decimals, vulgar fractions, and algebra. But decimals seemed always a point too far off, vulgar fractions were vulgar as compared with her aspirations, and in algebra, instead of letting "X" or "C" stand for a given quantity, it was a case of "O.P." always in her mind. Miss Guy showed capabilities for the stage at an early age, when she created all the leading parts in the cantatas, &c., produced from time to time by her schoolmistress. In these, Miss Guy shone to such an extent that she attracted much attention.

Miss Guy received little or no encouragement from her family, but an advertisement in an old newspaper which happened to fall into her hands during a stay in the country proved to be the turning-point in her career. It was one of Mr. Stedman's many advertisements, asking for choristers. Miss Guy stole up to London, and, feeling very much like a conspirator, called at the address given, and was the same day engaged for the opera season at Covent Garden. This was practically her first performance on a real stage, a start that many might envy, and which boded well for her future. After being at Covent Garden for some time, Miss Guy craved for something that would enable her to shine individually, and was lucky in securing the part of Marjory in Mr. Max Pemberton's play, *The Finishing School*, at Wyndham's Theatre. Soon after this Miss Guy joined Mr. George Dance, who engaged her to

MISS GLADYS GUY.

understudy Mrs. Pineapple in *The Chinese Honeymoon*. Unlike many in a similar position, Miss Guy had her chance owing to the sudden indisposition of a principal, and went on for the part at very short notice, when it was at once seen that she was quite capable of sustaining a leading rôle. This led to her being engaged by Mr. Dance for *Cinderella* at Richmond, where she won much admiration and golden opinions from Press and public. Miss Guy's appearance did much to help her in the part of Cinderella, as she answers exactly to one's idea of the heroine of the famous fairy tale. Small wonder then that, after such successes, Mr. George Dance re-engaged Miss Guy for musical comedy, this time as Peggy in *The Cingalee*, a part that she played on tour with considerable success, so much so, indeed, that when Mr. Dance acquired the provincial rights of *The Beauty of Bath*, he engaged Miss Guy to play the part created by Miss Ellaline Terriss, viz., the Hon. Betty Silverthorne, which she is now playing. The part suits her admirably. Miss Guy endows the part with a quaint personality quite her own, and her singing and dancing leave nothing to be desired.

Having made such rapid strides in her profession so far, it will not be surprising if, in a very little while, we find Miss Guy in the very front rank of musical comedy artists, and inviting criticism from a West-end audience.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 21, the Musical Comedy, by George Dance, entitled

"A CHINESE HONEYMOON."

The return visit of Mr. Milton Bode's company to the Dalston with *A Chinese Honeymoon* is a welcome event, and the piece is drawing crowded houses. The scenery is pretty, as are also the dresses, and the performance, which runs with smoothness, is punctuated by applause and laughter. Mr. George Rydon as Mr. Pineapple makes the most of his part, and some of his songs are encored. Miss Gwennie Harcourt's Fi-Fi is distinctly diverting, her singing being capital. Miss Gladys Ward as Mr. Pineapple, and Miss Nancy Rossiter as Soo-Soo, act charmingly and sing well. Miss Maud Adams as Mrs. Brown, the official mother-in-law, is the very ideal of shrewish pomposity; Mr. Harry Jennings as Tom Hatherton is decidedly effective; Mr. Rudolf Kloss as Hang Chow, the Emperor, is amusing; Mr. Leonard May as Hi Lung, the Lord High Admiral, is capable; as is also Mr. P. Allerton Turner as the Lord Chancellor. The Misses Dorothy Radcliffe, Iris Royal, Kathleen Kerr, and Elsie Skillings make pretty bridesmaids; and Miss Ada Booth and Miss Daisy Moule, as maids of honour to Soo-Soo, are also admired. Mr. Damant is the musical-director of a full chorus and augmented orchestra.

STAGE CHILDREN.

Lady Mansel appeared at the North London Police-court on Monday with half a dozen of the children performing in her music hall entertainment, *A Concert Rehearsal*, and asked for licences for the boys and girls to give a show at the Stoke Newington Palace during the week. Mr. Robinson, the acting-manager, said the certificates were all correct, and Sub-divisional Inspector Hart said proper notice had been given. Mr. Fordham: I see there is one child ten years of age, another eleven, two at twelve, and one thirteen. I cannot license children ten and eleven years of age to be in the theatre until ten o'clock at night; and I don't know that I ought to license those at twelve to be out at that hour. You may take a licence for the twelves and thirteen until 9.30 if you like, but the other two I will not license at all. Lady Mansel: They are only on the stage a few minutes to speak a few lines. Mr. Fordham: But they are much too young. Lady Mansel: If they were not in the theatre they might be running the streets. Mr. Fordham: They would have very bad parents if they did. Lady Mansel: They will be very well looked after. Mr. Fordham: Very likely; but these little children look delicate, and I cannot offer you anything beyond what I have said. If they are out of bed longer than they should be, it will not be with the magistrate's sanction. Mr. Robinson said he would, with the magistrate's permission, take the licences for the elder children.

NEW PLAYS AT THE APOLLO.

The new programme presented by Mr. Otho Stuart at the Apollo on Tuesday pursued the path of pleasantness, and the audience was stimulated to enthusiasm by the promise and brightness of two plays, written by authors who for the first time were given the opportunity of wooing fortune as playwrights. The opening piece, by E. M. Bryant, entitled *The Peacemaker*, was played by the following cast :—

Elizabeth Lavendar ..MISS LILIAN BRAITHWAITE
Joyce Harford .....MISS INA PELLY
Doctor Burton .....MR. ALFRED BRYDONE
Richard Harford .....MR. ATHOL STEWART
Parsons .....MISS ELLA TARRANT

Elizabeth Lavendar, a romantic and attractive young spinster, cultivates a benevolent attitude towards the world in general and towards her own friends in particular. She is much concerned at the domestic differences that have separated the young couple Joyce and Dick Harford, after a short year of marriage. The bride of a year is now a soured and disappointed woman, and such a miserable ending to a union made with every prospect of happiness touches Elizabeth to the heart. She plans at her flat in Kensington a little dinner, to which she invites husband and wife unbeknown to each other, and arranges with an amiable doctor, a constant admirer, that, though he is to be one of the quartet, he will not really be allowed to dine, but when he has swallowed the soup he will be called out on urgent professional business by a note brought to him by the maid. Elizabeth herself is to be called away by well-assumed hysterics on the part of the cook, and the estranged couple left to themselves. The scheme "gangs" a little bit "agley." Parsons brings the note much too soon, and the cook's hysterics, at first pretended, become quite real. Joyce Harford sees through the trick, and exposes it to her husband. They become reunited, and after concocting an indignant letter to the well-meaning Elizabeth, go off to the Carlton and dine. The doctor returns, and finding that his devotion to her has touched Elizabeth's heart, he persuades her also to go to the Carlton. Miss Lilian Braithwaite has a part entirely to her liking, and as Elizabeth Lavendar she is sweetness and graciousness personified. Mr. Alfred Brydone plays the doctor with easy naturalness and professional bonhomie. Miss Ina Pelly expressively indicates the boredom suffered by Joyce Harford, depicting also with complete success the more amiable mood of that character. Mr. Athol Stewart is effective as Dick Harford; and Miss Ella Tarrant gives a touch of comedy to the rôle of Parsons. *The Peacemaker* is a decided acquisition to the attenuated list of good one-act comedies; and (Miss) Bryant is entitled to every encouragement.

The *pièce de résistance* of the bill was the play, in three acts, by John Valentine, entitled

"THE STRONGER SEX."

Hon. Warren Barrington ..MR. LEONARD BOYNE
Mary .....MISS NINA BOUCICAULT
Oliver Thorpe .....MR. PAUL ARTHUR
Robert Forsythe .....MR. REGINALD EYRE
Joan Forsythe .....MISS LILIAN BRAITHWAITE
Mrs. Van Garkerken ....MISS MARIE ILLINGTON
Mrs. Davenport .....MISS GERTRUDE SCOTT
Lady Frampton .....MISS ADA POTTER
Mrs. Prescott-Lane ....MISS KATHERINE MAUDE
Mrs. Rawley .....MISS META PELHAM
Joseph Jameson .....MR. PHILIP KNOX
James Josephs .....MR. GILBERT YORKE
William .....MR. HEATH J. HAVILAND
Jenkins .....MR. PERCY A. GOODYER

Mr. John Valentine has chosen as the theme of his play the power of a determined woman to subdue the brutal callousness of a man who has married her for her money, and who on the threshold of the honeymoon kisses her best girl friend, for whom he confesses a warm affection, in the hearing of his bride. Theorists would plan out the proper course for Mary, the Texan girl, to follow in the treatment of her English husband, the Hon. Warren Barrington, who bears a curious, but, of course, quite an accidental, resemblance to Geoffrey Delamayn in Wilkie Collins's story of "Man and Wife." But on the sierras of Western America they have a short way with ruffians, and Mary, whose heart is chilled by the knowledge that her love is thrown away on a waster, covers him with a revolver when he is about to strike her. This surprise comes at the end of the second act, in the course of which Warren is continually aggravated and humiliated by the patronising airs assumed by the moneyed Mary—a sound business woman who gets rid of a couple of moneylenders to whom he had given notes of hand that were to mature on his marriage with the rich heiress. Mary, nevertheless, thinks that Warren has grit, and by the aid of her cousin, Oliver Thorpe, she gets him an appointment with a company, herself guaranteeing a salary of £1,000. Employment will give him less time to indulge in the practice of throwing the furniture about, will give him a stimulus in life, and will take him from home. In the third act, which takes place at Mary's cottage at Cowes, the firearms incident has apparently been forgotten and forgiven. Warren has become so successful a business man that the company employing him have taken over his salary, and he is simply hungering for the love of the little woman who is such a strange mixture of meekness and strength. Of course, he gains it, but only after another threatened rupture. A side issue of the plot is the courtship of the candid American, Oliver Thorpe, and Miss Joan Forsythe, the bosom friend of Mary. Joan, after declaring that she would never accept him, makes him an offer through her rich guardian, Mrs. Van Garkerken, whose dearest wish is to see her protégée married to a man who dares to tell her (Mrs. Van) the truth. Her own method is to blurt out facts in the most unpleasant way possible; but, then, she is very rich, and can do that sort of thing with impunity.

The last-mentioned character is played with rare finesse and a genuine sense of character by Miss Marie Illington, who may be said to have succeeded Mrs. John Wood in this sort of part. She makes every speech tell, and her caustic utterances raise continual laughter. Miss Nina Boucicault as Mary realised admirably in the first act the timidity and unworldliness of the girl who does not quite appreciate her surroundings or her position. With a fine sense of restraint, the clever actress reaches the dramatic climax by delicate gradations of feeling. She lets us see that the outward calm, the icy coolness of demeanour covers a surging tempest of passion; and the threat of the revolver is not spoilt with any melodramatic excess. Mr. Leonard Boyne shows in the most artistic way possible the brutish nature of Warren Barrington. Such a type of Englishman is exceptional among the leisured classes, but he exists for all that. Would such a man be brought to reason by a threat with firearms? Why not?

Mr. Paul Arthur, as the cool, clear-headed American, has a perfect appreciation of a part that might have been written for him, and he scores most unmistakably by his quiet, unforced method of saying a really good thing. His scenes with Miss Marie Illington furnish the lighter element of the piece, and these are heartily appreciated. Miss Lilian Braithwaite succeeds in investing the complex character of Joan Forsythe with natural charm, and Joan's distress at the declaration of Warren at the end of the first act rings true. Miss Gertrude Scott, whom we have seen recently playing with rare dramatic force in *The Virgin Goddess*, has the part of a smart young lady of fashion at the wedding reception in the first act. She is beautifully gowned, acts with considerable distinction, and speaks her few lines with admirable clearness. Mr. Philip Knox and Mr. Gilbert Yorke are funny as the moneylenders.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

MR. TREE asks us to contradict the absurd statement which has been made, and has appeared in print, to the effect that he had intended to appear at a music hall and had been dissuaded from doing so by the Variety Artists' Federation. Mr. Tree, it is hardly necessary to say, had made no such arrangement. He also wishes it to be known that any action that has been taken by any member or members of his company in connection with Actors' Day has been quite uninfluenced by him. Mr. Tree is the last manager in London to interfere in any way with the independence of his company or to influence their opinions in a matter of this kind; and he has shown his sympathy with the movement by a liberal subscription.

MRS. R. D'OYLY CARTE, in the midst of the success of her Savoy revivals, has suffered sad bereavement in the death of the late Mr. D'Oyly Carte's elder son, Mr. Lucas D'Oyly Carte. Mrs. Carte was deeply attached to the two sons of Mr. Carte by his first marriage, and must feel the loss of her stepson very acutely.

MR. D'OYLY CARTE was educated at Winchester and Magdalen College, Oxford. He was called to the Bar, and acted as private secretary to the late Lord Russell of Killowen at the Venezuela Arbitration in Paris in 1899. Shortly after his return from Paris, Mr. Lucas D'Oyly Carte discovered that he was suffering from tuberculosis. At the Kelling Sanatorium, Holt, where he lived during the last few years, he occupied the position of a member of the executive committee, and gave his valuable assistance to an institution founded to provide for needy patients. Within a few weeks of his death Mr. Carte wrote a treatise on charitable sanatoria for consumptives.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER was on Tuesday formally adopted as a candidate for the County Council in the interests of municipal reform, and addressed a preliminary meeting of his supporters at South St. Pancras the following day. The popular actor-manager was enthusiastically received, and delivered his maiden speech, which traversed many subjects, with the utmost confidence, Mr. Alexander's references to the extravagant demands made upon theatre owners by the County Council were sympathetically received, and sounds of approbation also attended his announcement that he paid £1500 a year in rates.

MR. ALEXANDER is pursuing his campaign energetically, and has a public meeting on Feb. 11. "I might say that several distinguished authors have approached me with a view to writing me a particular scene for each of the meetings," said Mr. Alexander to an interviewer, "and as I am always accustomed to speaking other people's words, it might not have been a bad idea. But I'm sorry to say that the only person I should have sufficient confidence in to let him write my speeches for me would be Mr. George Bernard Shaw, and he's on the other side."

MISS ELLEN TERRY, despite the rough weather, made a highly pleasurable trip across the Atlantic, and arrived in New York on Sunday morning in the best of health. During the voyage Miss Terry presided at a concert, contributed chiefly by the members of her company, in aid of the Seamen's Orphans' Fund, thus enjoying a distinction that has not hitherto been conferred on a lady. The popular actress has made the interesting announcement that, during her stay in America, she intends to devote some time to lecturing in different parts of the country.

THE features which struck everyone at the private view of the Playhouse on Friday afternoon were: the double-curved, gilt-pilastered balconies; the two lanterns on spear-shafts at each side of the private boxes; the spacious, comfortable stalls, covering the whole of the ground floor; and the pretty act-drop, representing, in a broad frame, a party of ladies being ushered to a sedan-chair, outside an old English mansion, by footmen with torches. The Playhouse is one of the most comfortable theatres in London.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER has determined that whenever a new play is necessary at the Garrick Theatre he will produce a comedy in four acts, written by Miss Gladys Unger, with Richard Brinsley Sheridan as its hero. The play was given successful trial trips by Mr. Charles Frohman in Boston, and by Mr. Bourchier at Brighton three years ago, and since then has been subjected to some needed revision. Meanwhile, *The Morals of Marcus* is being so extensively patronised as to render the date of production of Miss Unger's play very uncertain. Mr. Bourchier is sending out a carefully-selected company into the provinces with *The Morals of Marcus*, under the direction of Mr. M. V. Leveaux, the tour opening on Monday, Feb. 11, at Edinburgh.

"MR. SHERIDAN" was tried at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, on August 29, 1904, with Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw as the brilliant dramatist, who pervades the play with characteristic activity, making love to the heroine, accepting a challenge to a duel to shield his son, evading sheriffs' officers sent to arrest him, and finally winning the lady and a draft for £15,000.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY, Miss N. De Silva, and their company have commenced a spring tour at Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, in the presence of a very large and distinguished audience, which included most of the notabilities at present staying in the South Coast resort. On the final fall of the curtain on *The Only Way*, there was a demonstration of warm enthusiasm. On Thursday, Mr. Harvey and his fellow artists appeared at the New Theatre, Oxford, the house having been sold out several days before.

A PROJECT is on foot for the raising of a memorial to the late distinguished authoress, Mrs. Craigie (John Oliver Hobbes). It is proposed that, in the event of sufficient funds being collected, the memorial should take the form of a portrait plaque, in marble or bronze, to be placed in University College, London (where Mrs. Craigie studied); a replica of the plaque, to be placed in a suitable position in the United States; a scholarship, for the study of modern English literature, to be given annually in England; and a similar scholarship, to be given annually in the United States.

AN influential committee has been formed, including His Excellency, the American Ambassador, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Max Beerbohm, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bourchier, Mrs. W. K. Clifford, Mr. W. L. Courtney, Mr. Anthony Hope Hawkins, Miss Mary Moore, Mr. and Mrs. T. P. O'Connor, Miss Ellen Terry, Miss Jessie Bateman, Mrs. Humphry Ward, and Sir Charles Wyndham, together with many members of the aristocracy and prominent representatives of art and literature.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE has generously complied with a request of the West India Committee, made through Mr. Arthur A'Beckett, to lend His Majesty's for a special matinée in aid of the sufferers by the recent earthquake. The matinée will be arranged to take place some time in February. Among the first to offer support to Mr. Tree in his commendable undertaking were Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Frederick Harrison, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. Seymour Hicks, and Miss Ellaline Terriss.

"HIS HOUSE IN ORDER" celebrates on Feb. 1 at once its anniversary and its fourth century, which means that during its twelve-months' occupancy of the St. James's at least a hundred matinées of Mr. Pinero's great play have been given. In all probability the run of the piece will last till Easter, but when the time for its withdrawal arrives its successor will be found in a new play by Mr. Alfred Sutro, to which the title of *John Gladye's Honour* has been given. Mr. George Alexander will impersonate the title-rôle, and the cast will also include Mr. Matheson Lang, Mr. Norman Forbes, Mr. Michael Sherbrooke, Mr. Vivian Reynolds, Miss Eva Moore, Miss Helen Ferrers, Miss Henrietta Watson, Miss Gwendolyn Floyd, and Miss May Martyn.

THE triumphal progress of *His House in Order* is meanwhile to be extended in the provinces, Mr. Alexander having arranged to send out two companies in the spring, the first starting on Feb. 4, with that very promising young actress Miss Dorothy Grimston as Nina, and Mr. Stephen Ewart as Hilary Jesson. The second tour begins on Feb. 11, Miss Auriol Lee and Mr. Frank Fenton being entrusted with the chief parts.

MR. JOHN HARE enters immediately upon the rehearsals of Madeleine Lucette Ryley's adaptation of *La Belle Marseillaise*, in which he is to create another Napoleon at the Duke of York's. The original was produced at the Paris Ambigu, in the March of 1904, and deals with a plot to compass the death of the First Consul by means of an "infernal machine." The conspirators in this fell design are the keepers of a Parisian café and his wife, whose beauty has won her the title of "La Belle Marseillaise." There are, in addition to this exciting episode, a number of thrilling incidents, which serve to provide a bountiful evening's amusement. The title-part will be played by Miss Irene Vanbrugh, who thus renews an association with Mr. Hare which was last notable in *The Gay Lord Quex*, and Mr. Henry Ainley will also have an important part.

MR. AND MRS. KENDAL'S spring tour will begin at Croydon on Feb. 4, and extend to several provincial centres. A feature of the tour of the popular artists will be the production of a new three-act play, entitled *The Melcombe Marriage*, by Winifred E. Dolan, which will be staged during the second week at Brighton.

MRS. D'OYLY CARTE acknowledges, in feeling terms, the appreciation shown by the public for her efforts to serve them by the production of the present revivals. "With a practical experience of the public sentiment and feeling for the operas extending without a break over nearly thirty years," writes Mrs. Carte, "it has been a great gratification to me to find that at no period since the production has the approval of the public been shown more strongly than during the present revival.

"The numbers present at the performances have greatly exceeded those at the previous revival; and I am especially glad to see that it is in the cheaper parts of the house that the largest increase is shown. On Saturday last the gallery stairs were full of playgoers for the evening performance before those attending the morning performance had left their seats. While my health cannot, I fear, allow me to continue my labours for an indefinite period, it will always be my brightest reward to feel that, in a time of stress and difficulty, the kind public gave me a support which has greatly touched me, and has strengthened me to continue for a little while longer in their service."

MR. WILLIAM JOHN LOCKE, who is adapting his novel, "The Beloved Vagabond" into a play for Mr. Arthur Bourchier, is the Secretary of the Royal Institute of British Architects. His works include "At the Gate of Samaria," "The Demagogue and Lady Phayre," "A Study in Shadows," "Derelicts," "Idols," "The White Dove," "The Usurper," and "Where Love Is." He is the author of *Mr. Cynic*, played at the Royalty in 1899, and *The Lost Legion*, which was produced at the Great Queen-street Theatre in 1900.

MUCH satisfaction is expressed in all circles in Berlin at the forthcoming visit of Mr. Tree and his company, the performance of *Anthony and Cleopatra* is being particularly looked forward to. It is a pity, writes our Berlin correspondent, that the Royal Schauspielhaus is not available for the undertaking, that theatre being so very much more suitable than the New Royal Opera (Knolls). The statutes of the Schauspielhaus, however, prohibit the performances of any foreign company.

MR. MCLEOD LOADER, the manager of the St. Helens Theatre Royal and Opera House, took his sixth annual benefit on the 17th inst., and was enthusiastically supported both morning and evening. Miss Florence Baines, of *Miss Lancashire, Limited*, had travelled specially from Blackburn to take part in the matinée performance, and had a cordial reception. She sang a humorous song, "Dinner down town," which was much enjoyed, and in response to hearty encores gave her laughing song in Lancashire dialect, and a recital of "The Rolling Stone." Miss Ray Wallace was also recalled for her imitations of leading variety artists.

IN the evening the St. Helens Glee Club, under the conductorship of Dr. Siddall, gave a good rendering of the glees, "Breathe soft, ye winds" and "The Hungarian March." Harry Taylor, a quaint comedian, and the Silver-tone Quartette appeared successfully. Mr. Loader, who was also heartily applauded for his recital of "Coming home," expressed his thanks to the directors for giving him the benefit, to his staff, who had evidently worked hard to dispose of the tickets, and to the ladies and gentlemen who had given their services. During the evening the members of the company presented Mr. Loader with an ebony walking-stick with ivory handle, silver-mounted, bearing the inscription: "Presented to Mr. McLeod Loader, as a mark of respect, from a few artists at St. Helens Theatre, 17th January, 1907."

THE Moody-Manners Opera Company will meet a long-felt want by the production shortly of *Madame Butterfly* in English, the company having just completed arrangements with Ricordi, of Milan, to perform that opera, as well as *La Boheme*. It is hoped to produce both works at the Sheffield Festival operatic week, beginning April 22, and to give them in London during the Lyric season, directly the Covent Garden season finishes. All new scenery and costumes are now being prepared for *Madame Butterfly*, which should achieve the same success in Great Britain as it has just had in New York, where it reached a run of fifty consecutive performances.

MR. LEONARD RAYNE, the well-known South African manager, has been invited to join the committee of the South African Products Exhibition, to be opened in London in about a month's time. Agreeable with the interest he takes in all things appertaining to South Africa, Mr. Rayne has consented to accept the position, thus valuably strengthening the operations of the executive.

THE Duke of Orleans and suite were present at the performance of *Tristan und Isolde*, at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, on Saturday night.

IN the absence of Miss Lily Harold, on the afternoon of the 17th inst., the part of Robin Hood in the pantomime at Terry's Theatre was played by Miss Margaret Eastland.

MR. H. B. IRVING has expressed himself more than pleased with his experiment, as he describes it, of his visit to America, and declares in grateful terms that everywhere he has been received with the greatest kindness. The clever young actor confided to a Pittsburg interviewer his views on a National Theatre. "England and America," said Mr. Irving, "have neither of them any permanent abode for the best productions. I think perhaps there is more likelihood of something of that kind coming to pass here than in England. You have so much wealth here that may be attracted to some such beneficent purpose that it seems more likely to be brought about here. In England we should have to approach it through the municipal ownership plan, I suppose."

MR. CHARLES MANNERS gave fresh proof of his enthusiasm for the propagation of the art of music at the general meeting of the Dublin Orchestral Society, held at the Royal Irish Academy of Music on the 18th inst., when the report included an expression of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Manners for their donation of £50. In the course of a speech, Mr. Manners gave a few friendly hints which should prove invaluable, coming as they did from an entrepreneur of such wide experience. He suggested that the Society should afford the public an opportunity of indicating by ballot what they would like to hear played. He thought the item in the balance-sheet of £24 14s. 7d. for the purchase, hire, and carriage of music was too high. He had the overtures of some forty Grand Operas, and if they wrote to Charles Manners he was certain he would lend them to the Society for nothing at all on their paying the carriage to and from the stores.

THE following evening witnessed the conclusion of Mr. Manners' season at the Theatre Royal, Dublin, and in response to the repeated calls of a crowded house, Mr. Manners came forward and said they would be glad to know that this season was the best they had had so far as the attendances were concerned. What they did they did without subsidy of any form or kind whatever, whereas companies in France, Germany, and Italy enjoyed subsidies ranging from £5,000 to £30,000, £40,000 and £50,000 a year. Yet they had, perhaps, the best of all subsidies in their approval, support, and patronage, for without such patronage subsidies could not greatly improve opera, and they hoped for a continuance of that support. Mr. Manners was glad to hear of the success of Dublin Operatic Societies, especially as such work as they did was being taken up so keenly in English towns. They were assisted by similar societies in Glasgow and Newcastle and Sheffield, where they gave an opera festival week, and Liverpool. They hoped the Dublin society would help them. When they came to do the works themselves he would lend one, two, or three principals for their performances, and also the books, piano and vocal score, and stage management.

THE provincial success of *Peter's Mother* continues uninterruptedly. In the third week of its tour all the "Hutchison" records have been broken at Bournemouth by over £100, in spite of the fact that during the last twenty years of their management some remarkably strong plays have been presented by them in the town. The advance booking alone for *Peter's Mother* after the Monday's performance exceeded £190.

MISS MABEL LOVE will start a tour with *Peter's Mother* at the larger suburban theatres and provincial cities on Feb. 4 at the Coronet Theatre under the above management. A flying matinée with the piece to Richmond has also been arranged. For the first week Miss Love will be supported by Mr. Hutchison, and afterwards Mr. Templar Powell will take up the part. Mr. Hutchison will then continue playing Peter in the North company till the end of the present tour in May.

THE foyer of the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, has just received an added adornment in the shape of a handsome copy of the portrait of Mrs. Siddons, which is hanging in the National Gallery. It has been presented to Mr. J. M. Chute, the proprietor and manager of the theatre, in connection with his generostiy to the St. Augustine's Schools last July, when he gave a successful matinée on their behalf. Attached to the frame is a presentation plate, signed by the managers of the school, and bearing the inscription:—"Presented to James Macready Chute, Esq., in warmest recognition of his kind and ready help to the St. Augustine's Schools Committee."

"THE CONDOTTIERI," by Rudolf Herzog, continues to be a leading attraction at the principal theatres on the Continent. The Emperor and the Imperial family were present at the anniversary performance in Berlin, and the Emperor warmly congratulated the management, comparing Herzog's Renaissance play to Shakespeare. We hear that there is every possibility of an English version of this play being shortly put on at a leading West-end theatre.

ONE of the most successful of suburban London's pantomimes this year is Mr. Louis Calvert's production of the ever-popular story of *Cinderella*. Mr. Calvert announces for next week a second edition, into which several new features will be introduced. The Broadway Theatre has deservedly earned the reputation for successful pantomimes, and this year's annual has established a record. Owing to the excellent business, Mr. Calvert has decided to run the pantomime an extra week.

THE Playgoers' Club have up to the present entertained over 8,000 poor children at this season's pantomimes. To-day a further contingent of 2,500 will go to the Grand Theatre, Islington, and by the courtesy of Mr. J. B. Mulholland, 500 children will be taken to *Cinderella* at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith. Mr. J. Bannister Howard has invited 2,000 to the Crystal Palace for the following Saturday.

AT the Hotel Cecil on Sunday evening Mr. Joseph Litt will read a paper, under the auspices of the Playgoers' Club, entitled "A Defence of Musical Comedy." Mr. Louis Bradfield will take the chair, and several well-known artists have promised to give musical illustrations.

MISS ELEANOR GILBART has been engaged by Mr. Bourchier to play Antoinette in *The Morals of Marcus* on tour.

PROVINCIAL playgoers will be delighted to learn that the serious indisposition which compelled Miss Mary Neil to abandon her spring tour of *Her Luck in London* has happily passed away. Miss Neil is now quite restored to health, and is looking forward with pleasure to visiting very shortly all the principal dramatic houses of the United Kingdom, where, no doubt, a big welcome awaits her. An enthusiast in the art she loves, her enforced rest has made her even more eager to resume work and win fresh laurels.

TERRY'S THEATRE, where the pantomime of *Red Riding Hood* came to an end last week, will be re-opened early next month by Mr. W. H. C. Nation with a new version by Mr. H. Chance Newton of MM. Barrière and Capendu's farce, *L'Héritage de M. Plumet*. An adaptation of the same piece by Mr. James Mortimer, it may be mentioned, was produced at the Criterion in April, 1887, with the late Mr. George Barrett and Mr. William Herbert, Mr. Brandon Thomas, Mr. Julian Cross, Mr. Compton Coutts, Mr. Ben Greet, Miss Helen Leyton, Mrs. C. L. Carson, and Miss Lydia Cowell in the cast.

THE Irving Memorial Committee held a meeting on the 18th inst., when the Chairman, Mr. Cecil Raleigh, was supported by Messrs. Geo. P. Bancroft, Acton Bond, Lewis Casson, Norman Forbes, John Hare, Martin Harvey, Alfred Kendrick, Cyril Maude, A. W. Pinero, Edward Terry, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). Several matters of interest were discussed, and the first list of subscriptions, as published in our columns, was referred to. The next meeting of this committee was fixed for Friday, Feb. 8, at 11.30.

THE weekly meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association was held on Tuesday. Mr. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), Mr. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman), Mr. Henry W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Miss Beatrice Lamb; Messrs. Cecil Barth, J. Cooke Beresford, Clarence Blakiston, Acton Bond, Burton Cooke, Thalberg Corbett, F. Cremlin, William Devereux, Walter Russell, Brandon Thomas, Spencer Trevor, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary) were present.

THE Hon. Solicitors reported they had advised members on points submitted. Miss Phyllis Relph was elected a Commissioner in place of Miss Mary Relph. Misses Juana Jerome, Belle Donaldson, Kathleen Doyle; Messrs. Richard C. Hicks, Maurice Mancini, Dennis Eadie, Mark Lester, Wm. J. Butler; Misses Violet R. E. Paget, Hilda Moore; Mr. Hugh C. Buckler; Miss Constance Collier; Messrs. Julian L'Estrange, Frank Collins, Arthur Applin; Misses Sybil Bourchier, and Olivia Glynne were nominated for election, and a former member was reinstated. Dr. Owen W. Morgan, of Newport, Mon., was elected hon. medical officer in succession to Dr. T. G. Macormack, deceased.

THE Secretary reported that a member had received settlement of his claim under a fire policy through the instrumentality of the Association. The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was received. The Deputy-Chairman reported the result of the first "Social" meeting held on the 18th inst., and stated that the next meeting would be held on the 1st prox., when Mr. Granville Barker would deliver an address on "The Evils of the Touring System," with Mr. Cecil Raleigh in the chair.

THE Finance and General Purposes Committee held a meeting on Monday last, when there were present:—Mr. Acton Bond (Chairman), and Messrs. J. Cooke Beresford, A. E. Drinkwater, Alfred Kendrick, C. Aubrey Smith, Miss Kate Phillips, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). The committee were engaged in preparing the report for the year 1906 to be submitted to the Council for their approval. The same committee held another meeting on Tuesday, when Mr. Acton Bond (Chairman) was supported by Messrs. J. Cooke Beresford, A. E. Drinkwater, C. Aubrey Smith, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). Several matters of detail were discussed, and the secretary received instructions.

THE Subscription Committee held a meeting on Tuesday last, when there were present:—Mr. C. Aubrey Smith (Chairman), Messrs. Cecil Barth, J. Cooke Beresford, Burton Cooke, Thalberg Corbett, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). Questions connected with the amount of subscription and methods of payment were considered, and further discussion on the points suggested was deferred. The secretary received instructions to prepare, in the meantime, certain information for the use of the committee.

A MAGNIFICENT oil portrait of the great actor, John Kemble, has been presented by the Earl of Yarborough to the Corporation of the City of London, who have accepted it with thanks. The interesting picture will be placed in the Guildhall.

MISS BESSIE BUTT, who was recently laid up with a sharp attack of the prevailing epidemic, is now back at work and scoring nightly as Cinderella at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham.

AT a Charity Concert last week at Steinway Hall, given under the auspices of Mr. George Peachey, two pupils of Madame Kate Flinn greatly distinguished themselves, and did their teacher much credit. Miss Barbara Battishill, a beautiful mezzo-soprano, sang Chaminade's difficult songs, "Viens mon bien aimé," and "L'Amour Captif," in cultivated style; and Miss Ruby Cobbett, a very fine contralto, of whom we have spoken before, sang "My gentle child" (Teresa del Riego) and songs of Mallison, with great effect. Both ladies have a future before them, and owe much to Madame Flinn's training.

MISS ROSE LEMOINE, while performing at Manchester in *Peter Pan* recently, met with a serious accident, falling upon the stage in the second act and seriously injuring her knee. The unfortunate lady is for the time being forced to use crutches.

"GREETINGS FROM AFAR" are sent to us by Mr. Claude King, who is at this moment achieving renown in India by his finished performance of Hilary Jesson in *His House in Order*, presented by the Bandmann company. Referring to the production of Mr. Pinero's play in Calcutta, Mr. King writes:—"This very wonderful play has 'held 'em' here as no other of our repertoire has done before, and we have played some good ones, too; but the truth and humanity of it all has seemed to appeal enormously to them, with the result that the theatre was packed for our second performance of it, and the audience seemed to awake from its usual semi-comatose condition—climatic, no doubt—and came dangerously near to enthusiasm."

MR. FRANK ROTHSAY, who has been acting-manager of the Stratford Borough Theatre since its opening in 1896, is to be accorded on Thursday a complimentary benefit matinée by the kindness of Mrs. C. Ellis Fredericks, the proprietress of the Stratford Theatres. All connected with the theatre and the pantomime company *Robinson Crusoe* have volunteered their services, and Mr. Rothsay will also have the assistance of several prominent professional friends now in London.

MR. AND MRS. GODFREY TEARLE, having acquired the entire wardrobe, scenery, and effects of Mr. Esmonde Bramley's Shakespearean company, by arrangement with Mr. Whitford Kane, will on Easter Monday next launch into management. Mr. Tearle's father, the late Mr. Osmond Tearle, it will be remembered, toured a Shakespearean répertoire company in the British provinces for upwards of twenty-five years, and it was in his company that Mr. Godfrey Tearle made his *début*, later appearances being made in Mr. Beerbohm Tree's company. Mrs. Tearle is no stranger to the works of Shakespeare, having played Rosalind and other parts of his creation just four years ago. The company will include several members of the late Mr. Osmond Tearle's company, who were with him upwards of fifteen years. Mr. Haldane Crichton will be the general-manager.

T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales have given their patronage to the Summer Fair and Spanish Market, to be held on June 12, 13, and 14 next, under the presidency of H.R.H. the Princess Henry of Battenberg at the Prince's Skating Club, Knightsbridge, in aid of the Belgrave Hospital for Children.

SIR SQUIRE BANCROFT is among the recently-issued list of subscribers to King Edward's Hospital Fund for London. The contribution of the eminent actor-knight is £50, and is an annual subscription.

INFLUENTIAL support has been secured for a fund which is being raised on behalf of the two young daughters, aged seventeen and eighteen, of the late Frank Celli, the once popular actor-vocalist, who died in Charing Cross Hospital two years ago, leaving them totally unprovided for. Having finished their education, the young ladies have now to start earning their own living, and as they possess considerable dramatic talent, they contemplate taking up the stage as a profession.

THE council of the Academy of Dramatic Art, 62, Gower-street, which comprises Sir Squire Bancroft (president), Mr. John Hare, Mr. Tree, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Forbes Robertson, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. A. W. Pinero, and Mr. J. M. Barrie, have taken a keen interest in the matter, and have kindly consented to give them both a year's training at special terms. It is accordingly hoped to raise a sufficient sum to enable the Misses Celli to accept this generous offer and to maintain them during their studies. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, of *The Era*, has kindly accepted the position of hon. treasurer, and contributions may also be sent to Mr. S. Sherrington Chinn, 1, Albemarle-stret, W.; Mr. C. T. H. Helmsley, the St. James's Theatre; Mr. Lawrence Kellie, 191, Portsdown-road, Maida Vale, W.; and Mr. M. V. Leveaux, the Garrick Theatre.

MR. CHAS. CAFFREY, who recently concluded a very successful engagement as the Caddy in Chas. Macdona's principal *Three Little Maids* company, has been secured by Mr. Seymour Hicks for his new production, *My Darling*, at the Hicks Theatre in March.

MR. HARRY KILBURN, whose representation of Hans Wagner in Baron Harriss' No. 1 *Prince of Pilsen* company is one of his finest achievements, first saw the light of day on the Wearside, and as a boy was principal alto in St. Mark's Church, Sunderland, in the famous Grammar School of which town (notable as being the scene of the late Sir Henry Irving's first appearance on the stage), Mr. Kilburn received his early education. After the usual probationary period of concerts and amateur acting, the age of eighteen found him a slim, fair-haired youth, panting to play Romeos and Claude Melnottes. Fate, however, willed it otherwise, his instantaneous success in a comic song at a concert-hall in Hull one evening stamped him as a comedian of the first water, and as such he has elected to remain. Mr. Kilburn, whose wife is one of the charming Sisters Grosvenor, resides in one of those old-world many-gabled mansions in the artistic colony of Bedford Park, and is keenly interested in all matters appertaining to scientific research.

BARON HARRISS is to be congratulated upon the ready response provincial managers have made to the excellence of his *Prince of Pilsen* company. Offers of dates are pouring in upon him so fast that he finds it necessary to duplicate the company for the autumn. The other company in course of organisation will be in every essential on a par with the present one. For the part of the Gibson Girl a young lady of remarkable grace of movement has already been engaged from Buda Pesth, and negotiations are pending with a well-known tenor whose efforts hitherto have been confined to the concert platform to assume the title-rôle.

THE wedding of Mr. Neil Forsyth, M.V.O., the popular manager of the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, and Miss Mary Cathcart, of Edinburgh, is fixed for March 16. The marriage will be celebrated at Inveresk, Scotland.

MR. TREE'S production of *Antony and Cleopatra* was the subject of a debate at the Playgoers' Club on Monday evening, Mr. Douglas Crichton reading the originating paper. Mr. Harry Hart occupied the chair, and among those who took part in the discussion were Messrs. Osman Edwards, Fritz Zorn, Hubert Greenwell, Hole, Barclay, and Raunheim. Unanimity practically prevailed as regards the beauty of, and the lavish care which had been bestowed upon, the production at His Majesty's, but there was considerable divergence of opinion as to the acting.

MR. BANNISTER HOWARD is making arrangements for some leading attractions to follow the pantomime at the Crystal Palace Theatre. On Feb. 4 *Bluebell in Fairyland* will be presented; *Tommy*, the new play by Mr. Jerome K. Jerome, in which Miss Annie Hughes has made such a success, will arrive on Feb. 11; *The Freedom of Suzanne* is underlined for Feb. 18; and on Feb. 25 *A Night Out* will be played.

THE old Avenue, which Mr. Cyril Maude has transformed into a handsome theatre, under the name of The Playhouse, was first opened to the public on March 11, 1882, with a revival of the English version of Offenbach's comic opera, *Madame Favart*, Miss Florence St. John, the late Fred Leslie, and the late C. D. Marius being included in the cast. Many well-known actors have appeared there, the most notable of earlier years being the late John S. Clarke and Mr. Arthur Roberts. It was at the Avenue, it will be recalled, that Mr. George Alexander began his managerial career with *Dr. Bill*, produced on Feb. 1, 1890. The Avenue, too, witnessed the production of Mr. Bernard Shaw's first play, *Arms and the Man*, produced in April, 1894; while at least one distinct success of later times was found in *A Message from Mars*, which had a long run, and still forms a great attraction in the provinces.

MR. OTHO STUART is desirous of correcting the impression that seems to prevail that the author of *The Stronger Sex* is a lady and an American. "Mr. Valentine," he writes, "is an Englishman, and has resided in America a few years only."

A USEFUL method of indicating available seats has been invented by the Savoy management, who now publish a box-plan of the first circle, balcony stalls, and stalls, together with an enumeration of the vacant seats for the two following performances. Places may be booked by letter, telegram, or telephone, and by means of the published chart the possibility of obtaining immediate accommodation is revealed.

MR. J. F. ELLISTON'S great popularity was further exemplified on Wednesday, when he took his 27th annual benefit at the Bolton Theatre Royal. He was inundated with congratulatory telegrams, he received numerous offers of special service by artists of note, and the public crowded the theatre in every part, particularly at the evening performance, when money had to be refused at the doors. The popular pantomime, *Mother Goose*, was received with considerable enthusiasm. Mr. Elliston made an eloquent speech, and telegrams of congratulation were received from Mr. Tree, Mr. Lewis Waller, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Seymour Hicks, Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry, and the Marchioness of Headfort, Mr. Arthur Collins (of Drury Lane), the Zancigs, Mr. Oswald Stoll, Miss Marie Lloyd and Mr. Alec Hurley, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. George Edwardes, Mr. Cyril Maude, and Miss Edna May.

THE season of grand opera at Covent Garden will begin on April 30. During the first fortnight Dr. Richter will direct two cycles of *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, for which several prominent German vocalists have already been engaged. Mme. Melba and Signor Caruso will again be the leading attractions. The German operas will be conducted by Dr. Richter, Signor Cleofonte Campanini will direct the Italian works, and M. André Messager will be responsible for the French compositions.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER has been canvassing South St. Pancras quietly but steadily, and has been winning the hearts of the voters of both sexes in that district by hundreds. Now and then he has met with an objection on the part of some of those old-fashioned people who cannot understand how an actor can be a good citizen; and anecdotes of the *ben trovato* order are in circulation in connection with this prejudice. At one house where he called, he found the "interior" of an almost impossible primness and hard accuracy of arrangement; and the proprietress, an elderly lady with spectacles, told him that she had never been in a theatre since she was a girl, and the only thing she thought she knew about actors was that they were a careless, untidy lot. "I must confess, sir," she continued, "that *you* don't look at all like that; and my nephew, who is always in the pit on first nights, told me something the other day that accounts for it. So I am going to give you my vote." "May I ask," said Mr. Alexander, "what was your nephew's remark?" "He said you had had your house in order for over a year, and full of people, too, all the time. That was enough for *me*."

APROPOS of our paragraph about dumb-show conversations on the stage, we are reminded of a *bon mot* of Mr. Beerbohm Tree's, when on the boards. It was during the performance of a special matinée of *Hamlet*, at the time when the first news had been given to the Press that he was intending to bring out a new play upon the subject of Nero. The speech in the third act of *Hamlet*, commencing "'Tis now the very witching hour of night," contains these lines:—

"O heart, lose not thy nature; let not ever
The soul of Nero enter this firm bosom."

When Mr. Tree came to these words, he promptly introduced a line of his own, as an aside, for the benefit of one of the company who was standing at the wings. The line was—

"Excepting when I play the part myself."

ONE of Mrs. Tree's most humorous remarks concerned a lady "with a past," or, to be more accurate, with several pasts. She had recently married a second time. Her name coming up in the course of conversation, someone asked who her first husband had been, and finished by saying, "I can't remember for the life of me. I know it began with an L." It was taken up by Mrs. Tree in a moment. "I should think it was—Legion!"

APROPOS of the proposals for an Actors' Union, we may refer to something of the sort which is mentioned by Colley Cibber in his "Apology." The Patentees of Drury Lane Theatre reduced the salaries of the company on the principle that "the surer way was to bring down their Pay in proportion to the Fall of their Audiences." Betterton opposed this, and "drew into his Party most of the valuable Actors who, to secure their Unity, enter'd with him into a sort of Association. All this the Patentees for a time slighted; but when matters drew towards a Crisis, they found it adviseable to take the same Measures, and accordingly open'd an Association on their part." This "dissention," says Cibber, was so bad for business that "before Xmas the Patent had lost the getting of a thousand Pounds by it." Betterton and his party eventually opened a new theatre in Lincoln's Inn Fields, and produced *Love for Love* with great success.

THE revival of *The Gondoliers* at the Savoy, with its marvellously well-trained chorus, reminds us that Mr. W. S. Gilbert was the originator of the movable, as opposed to the inanimate, chorister. His first experiment in this direction was made in connection with the production of his and Arthur Sullivan's *Thespis*, at the Gaiety Theatre, in the December of 1871. Previous to this, the idea that the chorus was anything more than a stage audience was a tremendous novelty. Nor was it only the choristers who objected to being placed and directed. On one occasion a principal lady became quite indignant, and said, "Really, Mr. Gilbert, why should I stand here? I am not a chorus-girl!" To which Gilbert replied curtly, "No, madam, your voice is not strong enough, or no doubt you would be." There were in *Thespis* all the germs of an opera like *The Gondoliers*, from Mr. Gilbert's song about "I once knew a chap who sustained a function, On the North South-Eastern Middlesex Junction," to Sullivan's exquisite setting of "Little Maid of Arcadee."

AFTER *H.M.S. Pinafore* had crossed the Atlantic, Sullivan became famous in the most remote parts of the United States. He used to tell of an adventure in the West which proved his popularity. "I was travelling," said he, "on a stage in rather a wild part of California, and arrived at a mining camp, where we had to get down for refreshments. As we drove up, the driver said, 'They are expecting you here, Mr. Sullivan.' I was much pleased, and when I reached the place I came across a knot of prominent citizens at the whisky store. The foremost of them came up to a big, burly man by my side, and said, 'Are you Mr. Sullivan?' The man said, 'No,' and pointed to me. The citizen looked at me rather contemptuously, and, after a while, said, 'Why, how much do you weigh?' I thought this was a curious method of testing the power of a composer, but I at once answered, 'About one hundred and sixty-two pounds.' 'Well,' said the man, 'that's odd to me, anyhow. Do you mean to say that you gave fits (he used a stronger word) to John S. Blackmore down in Kansas City?' I said, 'No, I did not give him fits.' He then said, 'Well, who are you?' I replied, 'My name is Sullivan.' 'Ain't you John L. Sullivan, the slogger?' I disclaimed all title to that, and told him I was Arthur Sullivan. 'Oh, Arthur Sullivan!' he said. 'Are you the man as put *Pinafore* together?'—rather a gratifying way of describing my composition. I said 'Yes.' 'Well,' returned the citizen, 'I am sorry you ain't John Sullivan, but still, I am glad to see you, anyway—let's have a drink.'"

MR. EDWYN BEVAN has been writing to the *Times* contending that the scenery and dresses of *Antony and Cleopatra* at His Majesty's are "radically false" to history, Mr. Tree having thought it advisable to eliminate Greek feeling from the mounting. "It would be presumed," says Mr. Percy Macquoid in the *Daily News*, "that Mr. Bevan knows the state of confusion and demoralisation that existed at the Alexandrian Court between the reign of Ptolemy VI. and Ptolemy XIII." There still live persons ignorant of the state of morals of that period, which doubtless anticipated that of the Regency. As for Mr. Macquoid's following contention that "the incidental accidents of marriage materially affected the personal appearance of the later Ptolemies," we can only imagine that if Cleopatra's handling of the Messenger, as Miss Collier plays the scene, be a correct representation of the manners of the time, there can be no possible doubt whatever on the point. The "personal appearance" of a consort of a lady of the Cleopatra type must have frequently been "modified" in little domestic disputes—to say nothing of occasional "bloody teeth" (*Antony and Cleopatra*, Act. I, Scene 5).

THE man who does not belong to the dramatic profession and is continually pestering the unfortunate manager for free admissions, occasionally perpetrates a "howler" worthy of a Board School boy. When a certain *Madame Favart* company was on tour at a town in the provinces, one of these gentlemen asked for two stalls. As business was big and his claims inadmissible, he met with a polite refusal. "It doesn't matter," he said airily; "I'll go round to the Royal Hotel and get them from 'Madame Favart' herself; I know her intimately!"

CECIL RALEIGH AND A TRADES UNION.

SOCIAL GATHERING.

In arranging a series of "social afternoons," the Council of the Actors' Association have hit upon a happy idea. The innovation was inaugurated on Friday afternoon last week, when Mr. A. E. Drinkwater presided over a crowded meeting of members of the profession, and Mr. Cecil Raleigh delivered an altogether admirable address on the subject of a trade union for actors.

After asking the question as to whether the craft with which actors and actresses were associated with was really a profession or a calling, or whether it could merely be called an industry, Mr. Raleigh proceeded:—"You know that it is a very common thing for a theatre to take as much as £400 or £500 in a week. The two hundred and fifty theatres of England must take on an average £200 a week each, or else they would cease to exist. This means £50,000 per week. If you take a working year of forty weeks, this would mean that exactly two millions per year is spent by the public upon theatrical amusement. Now, two millions per year represents 5 per cent. on a capital of twenty millions. The figures are probably far higher, but it is very easy to see that, on a very modest computation, you are the workers in a business that represents twenty millions of invested capital.

"Now, I put it to you bluntly, do you get a fair wage for your labour? Do you get a fair share of the vast sums that change hands over your head? Are you satisfied? Are things going from bad to worse, and if you are going to let them go from bad to worse, think of what your position will shortly be? Count the cost.

"Wherever cheap labour is abundant the price of labour must sink. Whenever six people want one job the standard of wages must go down. You have in the provinces frequently to compete with the paying amateur or the amateur who will work without being paid. These people are the blacklegs of our calling. Their competition is a genuine grievance against which you have every right to protest. But at present you cannot protect yourselves against this competition. How is it to be done?

"I may horrify a good many people by the proposition I am going to put forward, but with all humility I put it forward just the same. To-day you say nobody shall belong to the Actors' Association until he or she has been a certain length of time upon the stage. I say that no man or woman should be allowed to go upon the stage until he is first a member of the Actors' Association. I would apply to our calling the strict trades union rule. You would exclude the undesirable and bar the paying amateur if they had to come to you first for permission to act. You would stop the cut-throat competition of the noodle and the ne'er-do-well In time you would be able to insist that our calling should be practised only under certain fair and equitable conditions, and for something that was a little above the starvation rate of pay. For a moment put out of your minds the thought of art; consider your business as a commercial undertaking. Study the models presented to you by the great combinations of working-men, who, without attempting to dictate to their employers, insist upon a proper regard to the rights and requirements of labour. Remember the old days of good-fellowship have long gone by when actors were a very small, brotherly, and Bohemian band. To-day entertainment is a vast industry, which counts its workers by thousands. Are we going to be the only body of workers in England that has no real organisation and no real union to protect, not the masters, but the men? When are you going to say, 'I will not put my foot on the stage with any man or woman who does not belong to the Actors' Association'?"

An animated discussion followed, most of the speakers expressing their agreement with the views set forth by Mr. Raleigh.

MR. FRED MORLAND thought that a council should be elected annually, consisting of fifteen or twenty members, and the opinions of the candidates in regard to reforms should be made known before the election. No good purpose would be served by their being enthusiastic over the trade union proposal for a short time and then let the whole subject drop to the ground.

MR. CECIL BROOKING remarked that they were inclined to treat their managers as schoolboys treated their masters—as enemies. Managers were not their enemies, they were employers. If they could go on in a steady manner from that meeting, he was sure some good would result.

MISS GLADYS FFOLLIOTT referred to the Variety Artists' Federation and its recent operations on behalf of the music hall performers. She pointed out that the subscription was only sixpence per week, and suggested that some similar arrangement might be put in force for paying the subscription of the A.A.

Miss F. Morland, Miss Rose Matthews, and Mr. Knox Orde were among the other speakers, and eventually it was decided to hold another meeting for the purpose of discussing the proposal put forward by the opener of the debate.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Raleigh, proposed by the Chairman, brought the proceedings to a close.

"THE SWORD OF HONOUR."

Comedy, in Three Acts, by Leopold Montague, produced for the first time at the Balfour Institute, Liverpool, on Saturday, Jan. 26.

Major-General Uton, V.C. ....MR. J. A. DODD
George Wroxeter .....MR. C. G. JACKSON
Mr. Smart .....MR. A. G. PENLINGTON
Mr. Skinner .....MR. D. HERBERT RICHARDS
Corporal Jago .....MR. J. MCGORRIN
Margery Uton .....MISS M. CARROLL.
Mrs. Baxter .....MISS HUDSON
Mrs. Phillips .....MISS WALKER

Judging by the reception of its initial performance, *The Sword of Honour* is likely to be heard of again. It is quite a simple little comedy, the plot revolving round the character of a retired army officer, Major-General Uton, V.C. He is a most lovable man, the soul of honour, and generous to a fault, and having as guide, philosopher, companion, and treasurer, a charming daughter, approaching womanhood. Thoughtless generosity and indiscriminate subscriptions cause the General to overrun his limited income, and he has to face the necessity of increasing it in some way in order that Uton Manor may not be sacrificed. The first act ends as he innocently agrees to enter the directorate of a bubble company under the wing of a couple of commercial rogues, Messrs. Skinner and Smart. The company, as a matter of course, fails, and in Act II. General Uton is selling all his property in order to compensate the unfortunate shareholders, although this action is entirely voluntary. In the third act the General has fallen into low water indeed, and even sends his cherished sword of honour to be sold; but all eventually comes right through the acceptance of a new motor gun-carriage that the General has invented. Mr. J. A. Dodd gave an admirable interpretation of the estimable veteran Major-General Uton, and his daughter Margery was well played by Miss M. Carroll. Adequate support was rendered by the other members of the cast. The author, it may be added, has produced several three-act farces of his own, and two in collaboration with Mr. Alban Atwood, but *The Sword of Honour* is his first three-act comedy.

"ALLY SLOPER'S HALF HOLIDAY" reminds us that in connection with his £100 diamond ring competition for popular pantomime actresses a diamond ring is publicly presented each week to the lucky winner on the stage by the great Sloper himself, and also a special extra £50 ring at the end of the season.

CHAT WITH MR. CECIL RALEIGH.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

In conversation with our interviewer on Monday, Mr. Cecil Raleigh was good enough to give a few further reasons, from his point of view, in favour of the proposed trade union for actors.

"I think," said Mr. Raleigh, "that the constitution of the Actors' Association should be so reformed and readjusted as to give our great theatrical institution all the powers of a trade union. To begin with, the basis of admission to membership must be widened, though the control should be kept in the hands of the most experienced actors. Of course, what I suggested was that the Association should consist of two classes. There should be the ordinary members, who would only be called upon to pay a small subscription. The second class would be those who have acted for a certain length of time—say, four or five years—and who would be eligible for election as Fellows. The number of members should be unlimited, but a reverse principle should be observed in regard to the Fellows. The latter should elect the Council, and the Council should retire every year."

"Do I understand that you suggest that an actor should be obliged to show some qualification before being allowed to become a member of the Association?"

"No; the first step towards going on the stage should be membership of the A.A., and, to my way of thinking, actors and actresses should be so united and so strong in their unity that they would be in the position of saying to an aspirant, 'You shall not go on the stage until you have joined our Association.'"

"But would you be prepared to accept as members of the Association people whom you did not know were fitted for stage work?"

"I don't say anything at all about that. I am talking trade unionism. What we wish to get rid of is the paying amateur. The evil which is centred round that worthy practically exists only in the provinces, and, therefore, it scarcely concerns London. The class of people to whom I refer can get important parts by paying for them, or without receiving any remuneration for their labours. If every actor were compelled to become a member of the Association we should take care that they would not be allowed to act without payment. At the same time, do not imagine that we should elect as members all the lame and the halt and the blind, the absolutely unfit and the undesirable. People would still go on the stage, as they have been doing in the past. To the man or woman who has a predilection that way we should say, 'Come,' but we must guard ourselves against unfair competition. And kindly bear in mind that my scheme is of an economic and not an academic character."

"I take it, Mr. Raleigh, that there would be a minimum salary?"

"I certainly think there should be one, but that is a subject for discussion between the managers and the Association. I am strongly of the opinion that the managers would be the first to meet us on these grounds. In London not the slightest difficulty would be experienced in this matter. Now, I want you to tell this story for me. When I said just now that the managers would come to our assistance in the matter of salary I had in my mind three instances where my old friend, Mr. Arthur Collins, raised the salaries by one-half and one-third after a good performance on a first night. And probably this is what he has done in hundreds of cases that I know nothing of. Recognising that that is the sympathetic view which most managers hold, I feel sure that there would be no difficulty in arriving at a reasonable and just minimum salary. The question, of course, has mainly to do with the provinces, and there it is that the pinch caused by inadequate salaries is most keenly felt. When artists have to change their lodgings from week to week they cannot possibly live as economically as they would in a permanent home. It is unfair to ask a man, and absolutely dishonourable to ask a woman, to accept less than a legitimate living wage. To give a woman a pound a week and to expect her to pay for the conveyance of her own luggage is to my mind nothing short of criminal. If the Association appeals for help to the great London managers I am convinced that the latter will only be too glad to assist in stamping out this iniquity. Do not forget that the managers are well organised. The actors are not; but it is high time they were."

ROYAL OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

On Thursday, Jan. 17, Wagner's *Der Fliegende Holländer* was performed at Covent Garden, a large audience being attracted. Herr Arthur Nikisch was the conductor, and the orchestra rendered a fine interpretation of the romantic overture, while the performance all round merited approval. Herr Theodor Bertram appeared as the Dutchman and acted with significance, although his voice was hardly powerful enough for the part; while Frau Von Westhoven as Senta succeeded best in the purely vocal instead of the dramatic side of the character. Herr Franz Naval gave a finished rendering of Erik's music; and Herr Allen C. Hinckley as the sturdy Skipper and Herr Robert Cunningham as the Steersman sang admirably in their respective characters; while good results were achieved by Frau Von Krauss Osborne in the part of Mary.

The Duke of Orleans was present at the performance of *Tristan und Isolde* at the Royal Opera last Saturday evening.

Die Walküre was given on Tuesday night at Covent Garden, a large and appreciative audience being present. This noble section of the Ring has always been a great favourite with operagoers, and deservedly so, for the great beauty of its first act and the lovely duet contrasts admirably with the more dramatic situations of the closing scenes. More than twenty years have passed since this fine work was first produced in London, and although often performed, the interest of the musical public seems ever on the increase. The performance on Tuesday night was one of the best the present German Season has given. Herr Kraus, who was in fine voice, sang the music of Siegmund grandly; in fact, never has this artist appeared at Covent Garden to more advantage. Herr Kraus was admirably supported by Frau Von Westhoven, a most effective Sieglinde, the great duet in the first act being remarkably well sung by these two clever artists. As Brünnhilde Frau Litvinne sang and acted with great dramatic feeling and expression, and it was pleasant to have that clever and experienced artist Mlle. Olitzka in the character of Frieka once again at Covent Garden. Herr Feinhals made a dignified Wotan, and Herr Hinckley was entirely successful as the sturdy Hunding. All the minor parts were most adequately filled, and Herr Franz Schalk, the conductor, gained excellent results from the fine orchestra.

THE most unlikely things happen Golf is looked upon as not only one of the most healthy games, but also as one affording the least risk of accident to its votaries, but even golf is not exempt from its special dangers. A well-known J.P. recently lost an eye in consequence of a blow from a golf-ball when playing on the Meyrick Park Links, the eye having to be removed. The sufferer was so far fortunate in possessing an accident policy with the Railway Passengers' Assurance Company, under which the sum of £500 was forthwith paid.

MISS ROSE MONCRIEFF'S pantomime of *Jack and the Beanstalk* having been such a great success, she has decided to prolong its tour.

GEORGE ALEXANDER ON ACTORS' DAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—May I, through the medium of your columns, plead for a little patience on the part of those who are at present levelling adverse criticisms at the Actors' Day Fund? Surely it will be most regrettable if the eventual permanent success of the scheme is jeopardised because they are unwilling to wait till our advisory board is able to lay definite plans before them. It is quite true that the board might have been formed before, and that it may be advisable in the future to modify or extend the formation of it, and among the points which have been raised there are doubtless many worthy of earnest consideration. I do not hold a brief for the advisory board, but probably no one is more fully aware how much will have to be done before the method of working the fund is brought to perfection than the members of the board themselves.

The main object of "Actors' Day Fund" is to place our theatrical charities on an absolutely independent basis—to enable us from our own resources to render help in cases of distress as economically and efficiently as possible: a noble aim worthy of any profession. But before we can realise our aim we must have experience; mistakes will doubtless be made, but we mustn't lose heart at the very outset because we haven't ready to our hands a perfect working machine. And may I call attention to the great difference between carping criticism and friendly suggestion; it is for the latter I most urgently appeal.

I may perhaps be expected to go into the question of managers' subscriptions. I hold strong views on the matter, but for the present think there would be no useful purpose served by opening a discussion on the subject, and whether "asked" or "invited" I think we may feel sure that, as in the past, we shall be generously supported by the leading managers and actor-managers of our profession.

If only we can all unite cheerfully and generously in this great scheme, I am convinced we shall soon have matters arranged on a good business footing, and that more money than ever will go to existing charities, apart from the great good we hope to do in other ways.

If every actor and actress actually working on next Actors' Day will give their salaries, together with the support of the managers and authors, we shall have an almost unprecedented amount to allot to charitable purposes. And in asking the co-operation of the entire profession, I am much encouraged by the fact that within such a small space of time we have among us subscribed well over £3000, viz., £1469 to Actors' Day and over £1800 to the Irving Memorial. I am accused of optimism, but, be that as it may, these figures tell their own tale.

In conclusion, I would call attention to the splendid way in which the rank and file of those engaged in the provinces have answered to the call. I am sure a large majority of the actors and actresses in receipt of large salaries will next year follow the worthy efforts of those much-to-be-praised artists.—Yours faithfully,

GEORGE ALEXANDER.

St. James's Theatre, Jan. 24, 1907.

"A WOMAN'S SHAME."

A Drama, in Four Acts, by Fred Jarman, produced for the first time at the Queen's Royal Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, Jan. 18.

Matthew Brandon .....MR VICTOR GORDON
Mark Brandon .....MR. WILLSON HOWARD
Howard Brandon .....MR. VALLENDER
Harry Vanstone .....MR. DOYLE
General Sir G. Vanstone ..MR. LOUIS WESTON
Detective Brett .....MR. T. JARMAN
Inspector Barton .....MR. BEST
James .....MR G. P. AMALIA
Angeline .....MISS MACDONNELL
Lady Vanstone .....MISS MADGE CLARE
Bella .....MISS BEATRICE ANNERSLEY
Dora Brandon .....MISS LILLIAN HERRIES

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Many of the situations in this new piece are powerfully dramatic, and the dialogue abounds in clever lines. There is a strong vein of comedy to relieve the tension of the story, and Mr. Jarman may be congratulated all round on achieving a real success, an opinion which was most heartily endorsed by a very enthusiastic audience, who laughed and cheered from the start to the fall of the curtain. The story opens in the garden of a quiet English vicarage, where we find the parson, Matthew Brandon, and his wife Dora. The latter has recently returned from a ten years' sojourn in India, and the couple have been married but four days. To the Vicarage come first Howard Brandon, the father, and then Mark Brandon, the brother of the cleric. Mark is wanted by the police for forgery, and it is suggested that he shall remain in hiding at the Vicarage till the affair blows over. The parson refuses to aid his criminal brother, but whilst pleading to him for help Mark gets behind him as he sits on the garden seat, and suddenly jerking his head back pours the contents of a phial of prussic acid down his throat. The assumption of a clerical suit of clothes, the transfer of a pocket-book and papers, together with the marked resemblance in their appearance do the rest, and Matthew being dead, Mark takes his place and his wife.

Act II. introduces us to London, where Mark, still posing as Matthew, is keeping a gaming house, and is using his "adopted" wife, much against her will, as a decoy. One of the "pigeons," Harry Vanstone, falls in love with Dora, and this leads to a quarrel, in which Vanstone is stabbed and Mark has to fly the country. Dora escapes complicity in the affair by hastily putting on a Sister of Mercy's dress, thus avoiding arrest, and is allowed to nurse the injured man back to health.

In Act III. we find Dora married to the now convalescent Harry Vanstone, and learn that the ship in which Mark was a passenger foundered in mid-ocean with all hands. Mark, however, did not sail, having booked a passage to mislead the police, and turns up smiling and callous as ever, intent on blackmailing Lady Vanstone and determined to get her back. For some time his return is kept from Dora's new husband Harry, but he eventually learns the truth and complications follow, until at the finish Mark's real wife. Angeline, who was supposed to have committed suicide to escape from him, turns up in the person of a nursing sister who figures earlier in the piece. The police in the meantime have discovered Mark is still living and come to arrest him, but he follows his clerical brother's mode of exit and swallow's poison, Harry and Dora being thus left in peace.

Mr. Fred Jarman's No. 1 company made a decided hit in the production. Miss Lillian Herries did very well in the trying part of Dora; Mr. Willson Howard showed a fine appreciation of the villain's many opportunities, his grasp of the devil-may-care, selfish Mark Brandon's character being firm and lasting; Mr. Vallender was exceedingly amusing as the sponging old father, Howard Brandon; and Miss Beatrice Annersley scored an emphatic success as Bella, the servant. The other parts were well rendered by a numerous cast.

"THE GONDOLIERS."

Revival of the famous Gilbert and Sullivan Opera at the Savoy Theatre, on Tuesday, Jan. 22.

The Duke of Plaza-Toro ..MR. C. H. WORKMAN
Luiz .....MR. ALEC JOHNSTONE
Don Alhambra del Bolero....MR. JOHN CLULOW
Marco Palmieri.....MR. PACIE RIPPLE
Giuseppe Palmieri .....MR. RICHARD GREEN
Antonio .....MR. OVERTON MOYLE
Francesco .....MR. HENRY BURNAND
Giorgio .....MR. TOM REDMOND
Duchess of Plaza-Toro .....MISS LOUIE RENE
Casilda .....MISS MARIE WILSON
Gianetta .....MISS LILIAN COOMBER
Tessa .....MISS JESSIE ROSE
Fiametta .....MISS BESSEL ADAMS
Vittoria .....MISS NORA MCLEOD
Giulia .....MISS CLARA DOW
Inez .....MISS ETHEL MORRISON

The Gondoliers is one of the most delightful of the Gilbert-Sullivan series, and the warmly enthusiastic reception which it had at the Savoy Theatre on Tuesday evening proved that the spell of Mr. W. S. Gilbert's libretto and the late Sir Arthur Sullivan's music is still as strong upon the public as it was in the December of 1889, when the opera was produced, with Miss Decima Moore, who then made her first appearance on the stage at the age of eighteen, as the heroine. Miss Geraldine Ulmar was the prima-donna; and in this production Mr. Rutland Barrington returned to work at the Savoy, from which Mr. George Grossmith had seceded, the newcomers to the cast being Mr. W. H. Denney and Mr. Frank Wyatt. And who can ever forget Miss Jessie Bond's Tessa, Miss Rosina Brandram's Duchess of Plaza-Toro, Mr. Courtice Pound's Marco Palmieri? *The Gondoliers*, as someone has aptly remarked, is "as spontaneous as the light-hearted laughter of the Sunny South and as luminous as an Italian summer sky." It is not the mere melodist who is heard in this charming score; the hand of the trained and expert musician is felt throughout in the most agreeable and admirable way. The delicate and insinuating humour so characteristic of Sir Arthur Sullivan is irresistible. The pervading brightness and "jollity" of the music are delicious; and Sullivan's winning piquancy in the comedy scenes is exquisite. The imitation of the old Italian opera of the type of the end of the last century and the beginning of the present reminds one strongly of the early operas of Rossini; and there is plenty of the charming facility with which Sir Arthur wrote music of all sorts, touching no style which he did not adorn. The principal numbers are too famous to need enumeration, the fluent melodies being aided and embellished by the skill which only comes from a thorough knowledge and instrumental resource.

Since the opening night of the season there has been a notable improvement in the all-round quality of the acting. Excellent as the performance of *The Yeomen of the Guard* was, there was yet a touch of "provincialism" about it which now has practically disappeared.

For Miss Lilian Coomber's performance of Gianetta we have nothing but praise; she is an actress of ability and a singer of exceptional power. She sang "Kind sir, you cannot have the heart," with charm and feeling. Miss Jessie Rose made a pretty and piquant Tessa, and was best in the quartettes, "Then one of us will be a queen" and "In contemplative fashion." She might, perhaps, have given a more pensive note to the song "When a little maiden marries," but the way in which the number is taken is much a matter of individual taste. Dainty Miss Marie Wilson played Casilda with the prettiest dignity imaginable, and sang very sweetly. Miss Wilson is blessed with a natural repose of manner which is quite refreshing. Miss Louie Réné was a stately and imposing Duchess. Miss Bessel Adams, Miss Nora McLeod, and Miss Clara Dow acted and sang very agreeably as the Contadine Fiametta, Vittoria, and Giulia. Miss Ethel Morrison was effective in the small part of Inez, the King's foster-mother. Mr. C. H. Workman's task is not a light one. His parts are associated with the names of players who have been taken to the heart of the British theatre-going public, and the cordiality with which Mr. Workman was welcomed on Tuesday night spoke volumes for the strides which he has made in the favour of the Savoy audiences. As the Duke of Plaza-Toro he acted with that quiet humour and artistic restraint which distinguish the true comedian. The Grand Inquisitor of Mr. John Clulow was an impersonation of genuine merit. Mr. Pacie Ripple is gay and debonair as Marco; Mr. Richard Green was excellent as Giuseppe. It is an admirable and artistic reading which it would be hard to over-praise. It is equally excellent in acting and vocalisation; and Mr. Green's finely-cultured voice, good appearance, and unmistakable histrionic gift were again demonstrated and acknowledged. Mr. Alec Johnstone created a very favourable impression as Luiz; Mr. Henry Burnand as Francesco, Mr. Overton Moyle as Antonio, and Mr. Tom Redmond as Giorgio all showed carefulness and capability. Special praise should be given to the excellently-trained chorus; it would not be easy to find prettier girls or better voices than at the Savoy. The opening chorus, "List and learn," was beautifully rendered. Mr. François Cellier's conducting of the fine Savoy orchestra was irreproachable. The production was enthusiastically received by a large audience; and at the close of the performance Mr. W. S. Gilbert bowed his thanks, supported by the whole strength of the company.

Mrs. D'Oyly Carte deserves the gratitude of all London playgoers and lovers of music by the dainty and delightful treat which she offers them at the Savoy.

BETWEEN 3000 and 4000 people attended the Bohemian concert at the Queen's Hall on Friday evening last week, held for the purpose of celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the London and North-Western (London) Athletic Club. There was an altogether admirable programme, and the proceedings were presided over by Sir Frederick Harrison. Mr. James Wright, the theatrical traffic manager of the L. and N.W. Railway, officiated in able fashion as the stage-director. The concert commenced at seven o'clock with a magnificent organ recital by Mr. W. Emerson, followed by an overture played in skilful style by Mr. Howard Hadley. Miss Carmen Hill gave a tuneful and expressive rendering of several songs, including Goring Thomas's "A Summer Night" and Leoni's "Coolan Dhu." Mr. Arthur Prince treated the huge audience to his extremely amusing ventriloquial entertainment; and Mr. Will Edwards created a good deal of merriment with his songs "The Employment Bureau" and "My Dreams." Mr. Nelson Jackson was delightfully humorous in a musical sketch and a monologue; and M. Tividar Nachez distinguished himself with his violin performances. The splendid vocal attainments of Mr. Dalton Baker were exercised to fine effect in the songs "The days gone by" and "Lanagan's Log"; and Miss Edith Evans gave an enchanting delivery of some of Liddle's and German's popular compositions; while to Mr. Anderson Nicol great praise is due for an altogether capital vocalisation of Riego's "Brown Eyes" and Stephen Adams's "Thora." The special exhibition of Urbanora pictures proved highly attractive and interesting.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA—1850-1900.

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In these columns it is proposed to give a strictly alphabetical arrangement of the titles of plays produced during the last fifty years. It will be the most complete list ever published, and should prove invaluable to authors desiring to discover whether a certain title has ever been used, and when. To members of the dramatic profession it will be useful in determining the dates of plays in which they have achieved successes. Our readers are politely requested to advise us of any omission or inaccuracy which they may notice.

This list as soon as complete will be published in cheap book form.

THRICE MARRIED, Surrey, July 2, 1855.
THRILBY, Theatre Royal, Richmond May 11, 1896.
THROUGH A GLASS DARKLY, Olympic, May 28, 1896.
THROUGH FIRE AND SNOW, Theatre Royal Scarborough, Feb. 15, 1886.
THROUGH FIRE AND WATER, Adelphi, June 29, 1865.
THROUGH MY HEART FIRST, Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, March 17, 1884.
THROUGH THE BREAKERS, Theatre Royal, Bristol, Nov. 12, 1900.
THROUGH THE FIRE, Theatre Royal, Leeds, Sept. 8, 1879.
THROUGH THE FURNACE, Olympic, July 29, 1885.
THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS, Gaiety, July 17, 1882.
THROUGH THE WORLD, Theatre Royal, Brighton, April 20, 1874.
THROW OF THE DICE, Strand, May 27, 1890.
THUGS OF PARIS, Theatre Royal, Goole, April 11, 1887.
THUMBSCREW, Holborn, April 4, 1874.
THUNDERBOLT, THE, Theatre Royal, West Bromwich, April 4, 1894.
THYRA, Bayswater, Dec. 17, 1896.
THYRZA FLEMING, Terry's, Jan. 4, 1895.
TICKET OF LEAVE, Adelphi, Dec. 1, 1862.
TICKET OF LEAVE MAN, Olympic, May 27, 1863.
TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN'S WIFE, New Greenwich, April 2, 1866.
TICKLE AND SCRUBBS, Trafalgar Square, May 31, 1893.
TICKLISH TIMES, Olympic, March 8, 1858.
TIDAL HOUR, Bayswater, Feb. 1, 1890.
TIDE AND TIME, Surrey, March 9, 1867.
TIDDLEWINK, Theatre Royal, Liverpool, May 4, 1874.
TIGER LILY, St. George's Hall, Jan. 16, 1892.
TIGER OF MEXICO, Britannia, April 18, 1881.
TIGER'S GRIP, Ipswich, March 23, 1898.
TIGER, THE, St. James's, May 3, 1890.
TIGRESS, Comedy, June 29, 1889.
TILL DEATH DO US PART, Surrey, April 20, 1885.
TILLI, Opera Comique, Sept. 18, 1894.
TILL THE HALF-HOUR, Ladbroke Hall, Jan. 31, 1891.
TILL WE MEET AGAIN, Kingston, Nov. 21, 1898.
TIME AND THE HOUR, Queen's, June 29, 1868.
TIME, HUNGER, AND THE LAW, Criterion, May 24, 1894.
TIME IS MONEY, Theatre Royal, Newcastle, Sept. 5, 1890.
TIMELY MOMENT, Harrow, Feb. 9, 1888.
TIMES, Olympic, July 18, 1853.
TIME'S REVENGE, Britannia, Oct. 4, 1875.
TIMES, THE, Terry's, Oct. 24, 1891.
TIME'S TRIUMPH, Gaiety, Dublin, Aug. 19, 1872.
TIME THE AVENGER, Surrey, Oct. 10, 1892.
TIME WILL TELL, Bridgewater House, May 8, 1882.
TIMMINS'S RIDE, Carlisle, Sept. 14, 1900.
TIMOTHY TO THE RESCUE, Strand, May 23, 1864.
TIMOUR THE TARTAR, Alexandra, Dec. 27, 1869.
TIN BOX, Globe, April 16, 1892.
TINSEL QUEEN, Sadler's Wells, Dec. 10, 1883.
TINTED VENUS, Wandsworth Common, Oct. 12, 1889.
TIPSTER, THE, Dunstable, Jan. 22, 1898.
TITA IN THIBET, Royalty, Jan. 1, 1879.
TIT BITS, Blackpool, May 25, 1883.
TIT FOR TAT, Olympic, Jan. 22, 1855.
TITLE, Alexandra, Liverpool, June 8, 1885.
TOBACCO JARS, St. George's Hall, June 12, 1889.
TO BE CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT, Marylebone, June 17, 1867.
TO BE OR NOT TO BE, Hornsey, Nov. 24, 1894.
TO CALL HER MINE, Surrey, Dec. 18, 1893.
TO-DAY, Comedy, Dec. 5, 1892.
TO-DAY AND YESTERDAY, Acton, Dec. 6, 1900.
TOILERS ON THE THAMES, Grecian, March 1, 1869.
TOLLCROSS, Adelphi, Glasgow, March 19, 1877.
TOM, Derby, Dec. 28, 1893.
TOM COBB, St. James's, April 24, 1875.
TOM, DICK, AND HARRY, Theatre Royal, Manchester, Aug. 24, 1893.
TOMKINS THE TROUBADOUR, Queen's, Aug. 31, 1868.
TOMMY, Olympic, Feb. 9, 1891.
TOMMY AND HARRY, Britannia, Dec. 26, 1872.
TOMMY AT COLLEGE, St. George's Hall, April 7, 1890.
TOMMY ATKINS, Pavilion, Sept. 16, 1895.
TOMMY DODD, Theatre Royal, Cardiff, Dec. 13, 1897.
TOMMY'S TUTORS, Bijou, Rhyl, June 24, 1881.
TOM PINCH, Vaudeville, March 10, 1881.
TOM'S MOTHER-IN-LAW, Swindon, May 14, 1894.
TOM'S REVENGE, Theatre Royal, Edinborough, March 25, 1871.
TOM'S WIFE, Worthing, April 7, 1896.
TOM THRASHER, Adelphi, July 6, 1868.
TOM THUMB, Drury Lane, Dec. 26, 1860.
TOM TIDDLER, Victoria, Dec. 24, 1878.
TOM, TOM, THE PIPER'S SON, Elephant and Castle, Dec. 27, 1875.
TOM TRUANT, Marylebone, March 7, 1874.
TONGUE OF SLANDER, Standard, Oct. 17, 1887.
TO-NIGHT AT EIGHT, Camden Town, April 18, 1887.
TON OF GOLD, Pavilion, Oct. 21, 1866.
TOO AGREEABLE TO BE TRUE, Tyne, Newcastle, Dec. 9, 1870.
TOO CLEVER, Alexandra, Liverpool, April 2, 1876.
TOO FATIGUING, Theatre Royal, Scarborough, Aug. 24, 1885.
TOO HAPPY BY HALF, St. James's, Jan. 5, 1895.
TOO KIND, Theatre Royal, Coventry, July 3, 1876.
TOO LATE, Barnsley, April 2, 1876.
TOO LATE; OR, THE HANDS OF DESTINY, Albion, Aug. 14, 1876.
TOOLE AT SEA, Gaiety, Dec. 3, 1875.
TOO LOVELY BLACK-EYED SUSAN, Crystal Palace, April 2, 1888.
TOO MUCH FOR GOOD NATURE, Lyceum, Sept. 11, 1858.
TOO MUCH JOHNSON, Garrick, April 18, 1898.
TOO MUCH MARRIED, Grand, Glasgow, April 19, 1886.
TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING, Lyceum, Feb. 22, 1855.
TOO TRUE, Duke's, Jan. 22, 1876.
TOOTSIE, Camden Town, May 16, 1888.
TOOTSIE'S LOVERS, Brentford, April 19, 1886.
TO PARIS AND BACK, Haymarket, Feb. 5, 1853.
TO PARIS AND BACK FOR £5, Haymarket, Feb. 5, 1853.
TOPSEYTURVEYDOM, Criterion, March 21, 1874.
TOPSY-TURVY HOTEL, Comedy, Sept. 21, 1898.
TORNADO, THE, Opera House, Northampton, Feb. 6, 1899.
TORTURE OF SHAME, Liverpool, May 25, 1896.
TOSS UP, Woolwich, Nov. 11, 1876.
TOT, Grecian, April 14, 1879.
TOTA AND TATA, Leeds, Aug. 23, 1897.
TO THE DEATH, Olympic, March 23, 1888.
TO THE GREEN ISLES DIRECT, Britannia, May 25, 1874.
TO THE RESCUE, Prince of Wales's, June 13, 1889.
TOTTIE'S TELEGRAM, Theatre Royal, Cheltenham, April 29, 1886.
TOTTLES, Gaiety, Dec. 22, 1875.
TOUCH AND GO, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, March 8, 1886.
TOUGH YARN, Shoreham, Sept. 24, 1877.
TOURIST, THE, Portsmouth, Nov. 5, 1895.
TOURIST TICKET, Globe, April 1, 1872.
TOWER OF LONDON, Prince's, Manchester, Oct. 4, 1875.
TOWER, THE, Bayswater, April 22, 1896.
TRAGEDY, A, Royalty, April 28, 1887.
TRAIL OF THE SERPENT, Elephant and Castle, Aug. 4, 1879.
TRAINED TO CRIME, Pavilion, Sept. 28, 1878.
TRAINING A HUSBAND, Somerville Club, Feb. 21, 1893.
TRA-LA-LA TOSCA, Royalty, Jan. 9, 1890.
TRAMPS, THE, West London, Dec. 19, 1896.
TRAMP, THE, Warrington, Oct. 4, 1889.
TRANSFERRED GHOST, Garrick, Nov. 19, 1896.
TRANSGRESSOR, THE, Court, Jan. 27, 1894.
TRANSIT OF VENUS, Theatre Royal, Dublin, April 9, 1898.
TRANSPORTED FOR LIFE, Elephant and Castle, Oct. 30, 1880.
TRAPPED, Stockport, Jan. 27, 1898.
TRAPPED AT LAST, Royalty, March 25, 1882.
TRAPPER, THE, Sadler's Wells, April 2, 1888.
TRAVELS OF PHELIM O'TOOLE,
TRAVERS'S SECRET, Southend, Feb. 21, 1899.
TREASURE, THE, Strand, May 1, 1888.
TREASURE TROVE, St. George's Hall, June 6, 1883.
TREATY BY PEACE, Theatre Royal, Plymouth, April 30, 1883.
TREATY OF PEACE, Park, Aug. 3, 1878.
TREE DUMAS SKITEERS, Comedy, Jan. 25, 1899.
TREE OF KNOWLEDGE, St. James's, Oct. 25, 1897.
TRELAWNY OF THE "WELLS," Court, Jan. 20, 1898.
TRESPASSERS BEWARE, Avenue, April 26, 1888.
TRIAL BY JURY, Royalty, March 27, 1875.
TRIAL OF EFFIE DEANS, Theatre Royal, Westminster, Jan. 26, 1863.
TRICKED, Athlone, Sept., 1884.
TRICK FOR TRICK, Queen's, Barnsley, March 2, 1874.
TRICKING A TEC, St. George's Hall, July 21, 1891.
TRICKS, Theatre Royal, Huddersfield, May 11, 1878.
TRICKS AND HONOURS, Albert Hall, May 7, 1897.
TRICKS OF THE TURF, Victoria, May 13, 1867.
TRICKY ESMERALDA, West London, Feb. 13, 1897.
TRILBY, Theatre Royal, Manchester, Sept. 7, 1895.
TRIPLE ALLIANCE, Princess's, Nov. 24, 1862.
TRIPLE BILL, St. John's Wood, March 2, 1894.
TRIPLE VENGEANCE, Buckie, N.B., Jan. 20, 1900.
TRIP TO BLACKPOOL, Theatre Royal, Hereford, April 9, 1900.
TRIP TO BRIGHTON, Globe, Nov. 9, 1874.
TRIP TO CHICAGO, Vaudeville, Aug. 5, 1893.
TRIP TO CHINATOWN, Toole's, Sept. 29, 1891.
TRIP TO GRETNA, Vaudeville, June 3, 1891.
TRIP TO INDIA, Criterion, Nov. 25, 1875.
TRIP TO SCARBOROUGH, Scarborough, Aug. 24, 1874.
TRIP TO MIDGET TOWN, Olympic, Sept. 1, 1899.
TRIP TO THE ISLE OF MAN, Bootle, Nov. 10, 1898.
TRISTAN, Court, Liverpool, Sept. 7, 1882.
TRISTAN AND ISOLDE, Drury Lane, June 20, 1882.
TRISTERNAGH, Theatre Royal, Walsall, July 23, 1883.
TRIUMPH OF ARMS, Olympic, Dec. 16, 1872.
TRIUMPH OF THE PHILISTINES, St. James's, May 11, 1895.
TRIUMPH, THE, Folkestone, March 26, 1900.
TROMBALCAZAR, Gaiety, Aug. 22, 1870.
TROOPER BLAKE, Dublin, Aug. 12, 1896.
TROOPER CLAIRETTE, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, Oct. 31, 1892.
TROOPER HUGH, Theatre Royal, York, May 8, 1891.
TROT'S TROUBLES, Theatre Royal, South Shields, Oct. 25, 1875.
TROTTY VECK, Gaiety, Dec. 26, 1872.
TROUBADOUR, Drury Lane, June 8, 1886.
TROUBLED WATERS, Bayswater, Dec. 2, 1899.

ON THE ROAD, JAN. 28.

ARE YOU A MASON?—Kidderminster.
ASSASSIN.—Artillery T., Woolwich.
AT CRIPPLE CREEK.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
BANDMANN-PALMER, MRS.—O. H., Londonderry.
BEAUTIFUL FIEND.—T. R., Wexford.
BELLE OF MAYFAIR (BODE).—Cambridge and Ipswich.
BELLE OF MAYFAIR.—Royalty T., Glasgow.
BENSON, F. R. (N.).—O. H., Burnley.
BENSON, F. R.—T. R., Bournemouth.
BENSON, F. R. (S.).—Royalty T., Llanelly.
BETWEEN THE LIGHTS.—Osborne T., Manchester.
BLUE MOON.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
BOUND TO WIN.—O. H., Stockport.
BULMER, MR.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
CARL ROSA OPERA CO.—New T., Oxford.
CASSIDY, J. RICE.—Alexandra T., Hull.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (BODE).—T. R., Portsmouth.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (MACDONA).—Scotland.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE).—West London Theatre.
CLAUDIAN.—Theatre Royal, Blyth.
COAL KING.—O. H., Dudley.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—Royalty T., Chester.
COUNTRY GIRL (MACDONA).—Exeter.
DAIRYMAIDS.—Empire T., Oldham.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—T. R., Sunderland.
D'OYLY CARTE.—T. R., Bath.
DRIVEN FROM HOME.—Brighouse.
EARL AND THE GIRL.—T. R., Bolton.
EARL AND THE GIRL (N.).—Preston.
FALSE WIFE.—New T., Stanley.
FEMALE SWINDLER.—Terriss T., Rotherhithe.
FIGHT FOR MILLIONS.—St. James's T., Manchester.
FRENCH SPY.—T. R., Windsor.
GAY PARISIENNE.—Harrogate and Grantham.
GIPSY JACK.—Lyceum T., Long Eaton.
GLOSSOP-HARRIS REPERTOIRE CO.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
GOLDEN LADDER.—T. R., Barnsley.
GO-WON-GO-MOHAWK.—Nuneaton.
GREAT AWAKENING.—O. H., Wakefield.
GRIP OF IRON.—Palace T., Newcastle.
HER FATAL PAST.—T. R., South Shields.
HER LOST SELF.—Prince's T., Llandudno.
HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD.—Grand T., Newcastle.
HONOUR THY FATHER.—Colosseum, Oldham.
INDIAN MUTINY.—Queen's T., Liverpool.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Witham, Bishop's Stortford.
LA POUPEE (RALLAND).—York.
LEAH KLESCHNA.—Coatbridge and Motherwell.
LIGHTS O' LONDON.—Irving T., Seacombe.
LITTLE BREADWINNER.—T. R., Glossop.
LOVE THAT WOMEN DESIRE.—Marina T., Lowestoft.
LUCKY 'LIZA.—T. R., Wednesbury.
LUCKY DURHAM.—Star T., Liverpool.
MAN AND WIFE.—T. R., South Shields.
MANXMAN.—Corporation T., Chesterfield.
MARTIN HARVEY.—Leamington.
MERVEILLEUSES.—King's Theatre, Glasgow.
MIDNIGHT WEDDING.—T. R., Lincoln.
MONTE CRISTO.—T. R., North Shields.
MOODY-MANNERS (A)—O. H., Cork.
MOODY-MANNERS (B.).—Kendal.
MOSS, EVA, REPERTOIRE.—T. R., Dumfries.
MR. POPPLE.—Huddersfield.
MY SWEETHEART.—Gaiety T., Leith.
NAPOLEON THE GREAT.—T. R., Castleford.
ORCHID, THE.—Crieff and Dunfermline.
OTTO THE OUTCAST.—Alhambra, Stourbridge.
PETER'S MOTHER.—Ipswich and Cambridge.
PRINCE OF PILSEN (HARRISS).—Queen's T., Longton.
PRODIGAL PARSON.—Metropole T., Manchester.
PROOF.—Theatre Royal, Cardiff.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—T. R., Hanley.
SAINTS AND SINNERS.—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
SAPHO (ANNIE BELL).—T. R., Consett.
SENTENCED FOR LIFE.—Queen's T., Swindon.
SHERLOCK HOLMES.—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
SHULAMITE.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—New T., Aberdare.
SILVER KING (POLINI).—T. R., Smethwick.
SPIDER AND THE FLY.—Jarrow.
STILL ALARM.—Theatre Royal, Ashington.
THREE LITTLE MAIDS (MACDONA).—Hebburn.
TORREADOR (MACDONA).—Spennymoor.
TRAITOR PRINCE.—Boro' T., Heywood.
TRAITOR, THE.—Grand T., Walsall.
UNDER THE CZAR.—T. R., Leicester.
UNDER THE RUSSIAN FLAG.—Queen's Park Hippo., Manchester.
UNWEDDED WIFE.—Bedford Leigh.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—T. R., Blackburn.
WALLS OF JERICHO.—O. H., Cheltenham.
WARNER, MISS GRACE.—Kirkealdy.
WEARIN' O' THE GREEN.—P. O. W., Salford.
WHAT THE BUTLER SAW.—T. R., Hull.
WHEN WOMAN HATES.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
WHITE CHRYSANTHEMUM (CURZON).—G. T., Southampton.
WHITE CHRYSANTHEMUM (MACDONA).—Falkirk.
WILKIE, ALLAN, AND CO., O. H., Guernsey.
WORST WOMAN IN LONDON.—T. R., Croydon.
10.30 DOWN EXPRESS.—Prince's T., Poplar.
£1,000 REWARD.—Grand T., Radcliffe.

MR. HENRY HERNE and Miss IDA MILLAIS conclude to-day their second tour of the Broadhead circuit, where they have been rebooked for a third tour for their first available dates.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE SOUTH LONDON.

The week at the South London began very auspiciously on Monday, when the vast auditorium presented the spectacle of a sea of faces, all deep in the enjoyment of the good things provided. Good order was nevertheless secured by Mr. William Payne, who, by the exercise of ability and tact, is gaining rapidly in esteem. The outstanding item of the programme was furnished by Lockhart's Elephants, which are introduced by Captain Taylor. The animals retain unimpaired all their sagacity and skill, and have added to their répertoire fresh feats that reflect creditably on their present trainer. It seems quite easy for one animal to stand on his hind-legs on a pedestal while another ponderous brute balances himself on his head with evident enjoyment. The funny supper party was enacted to the accompaniment of shrieks of laughter, especially when one of the animals, having regaled himself with whisky, fell to the ground with every sign of intoxication, and is ignominiously haled off to gaol by an elephantine policeman. The performance, which is throughout a marvellous exhibition of animal training, includes the riding of a tricycle by one of the animals. Pictures often exhibited of elephants doing all sorts of wonderful things are not always realised, but in this instance the animal does actually mount a handsome nickel-plated machine, and pedals unaided round and round the stage.

Many varieties of entertainment were included in the bill, among the most interesting being Barnard's Mannikins, who go through a sketch, entitled *The Coons' Revelry*. The puppets disport within a set representing a garden, wherein a white damsel sings and dances very naturally. Prominent in the fun-making are two piccaninnies, whose misadventures with a motor car and a mule keep the house in the merriest mood. The marionettes are well voiced and skilfully manipulated, and the hearty reception which awaits the operators is well deserved. Tilbury and Ford submitted a duologue in which a piano lent effective aid. The gentleman, who is an able executant, accompanied himself in a "lazy" song, while his fair partner put on a principal boy's costume, preparatory to taking part in a duet founded on the little word "If," in which topics of the day are treated. Political subjects were also brought in in a second effusion, which excited the patriotic fervour of the audience.

A new view of the coon vocalist is afforded by Miss Amber Austa, whose song of "Oysters" is assisted by an old negro carrying a couple of pails across the stage. The contrast obtained by the young and dainty maiden, with her dulcet voice, and the aged and uncouth negro, with his raucous tones, is very pronounced, and is inconceivably droll. The young lady also dances expertly, displaying grace of movement and indulging in picturesque poses, to a weird accompaniment by the orchestra. The aid of the musicians is also called in by Mr. Charlie Faning, a jovial comedian, whose voice was mimicked in a whimsical way by the trombone, much to the amusement of the house.

The sketch announced on the programme was that of *Ned Kelly, Bushranger*, but on the occasion of our visit a deputy appeared in Keith and Kent, who gave an interesting sketch, in which the mannerisms of the audience in gallery and stalls were laughably burlesqued, the gentleman being exceptionally resourceful in byplay and facial expression. Mr. Fred Elmont in "Loving words and kindness" has a song which is agreeable with the taste of the audience; Miss Ada Vernon sang effectively "You ask me why I love you"; pictures of a diverting kind were shown on Ruffell's Bioscope; and the well-assorted programme also embraced Mr. Charles Whittle, a versatile comedian. Only a partial performance was given on Tuesday as a consequence of the strike, and for the rest of the week a revised programme was presented.

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE ANNIVERSARY.

Enthusiasm of the most marked description was the key-note of the evening on Friday of last week, when Mr. Arthur J. Barclay once more rallied around him a huge gathering of personal friends, with an almost overwhelming attendance of the general public, to do honour to the conclusion of his third year of management at this house. The "two-houses-a-night" system had to be abandoned for the occasion, and the continuous performance lasted from the rise of the curtain at 6.30 till about half an hour after midnight, during which there was no intermission in the excellent entertainment. The fine auditorium was beautifully decorated with festoons of flowers and flags, with a radiant electric star above the proscenium to indicate, as it were, the galaxy of "stars" on the stage beneath. A considerable number of Mr. Barclay's managerial friends from London travelled down to do him honour and wish him many happy anniversaries. Mr. and Mrs. G. Adney Payne graced the performance with their presence, and among those we recognised may be mentioned Mr. Fred McAvoy, Mr. Charles Beecham, Mr. Harry Masters, Mr. "Teddy" Granville, Mr. Jack Lotto, and Mr. Harry Day. Mr. Geo. F. Slatter, the ever-alert and popular acting-manager of the Palace, was here, there, and everywhere looking after everybody's comfort and pleasure.

The evening was charmingly opened by the orchestra with a specially-composed overture, entitled "Frivolity," by Mr. H. Petersen, capitally rendered under the direction of the composer. In addition to the clever performers who had been appearing in the regular bill of the week, Joe Elvin and his company gave an amusing performance of *The Jockey*, which was received with roars of laughter. Miss Marie Lloyd, in her best form, told about the customs of the country, and followed with her fetching song about Spain. Arthur Roberts and Ruby Celeste appeared in the screaming duologue *Packing*. The inimitable comedian threw himself heart and soul into the comicalities of a part that he certainly must have invented to suit his own incomparable personality. He was charmingly seconded by Miss Celeste, and both artists had an enthusiastic reception. John Lawson gave his vivid sketch of modern society life, *Vanity*, with fine effect. Miss C. Stroud Wilson's beautiful and highly-trained voice was heard to the utmost advantage in Guy D'Hardelot's song "Because." What more can be said about Little Tich than has been said a thousand times? The popular comedian made everyone shout with laughter in his song of "The Park-Keeper," but perhaps even exceeded his success in that when, attired in skirts, he appeared as the "Ballet Girl." The audience would hardly let him go. Alec Hurley was another immense favourite with his coster song and the inimitable whistle his admirers know so well. G. H. Chirgwin, as usual, delighted everyone present, and sent them into raptures when he played on his one-stringed violin "She wore a wreath of roses," which was voted exquisite. Fred Eustace and his company appeared with great success in the sketch *The Amber Light*, Mr. Eustace himself fully sustaining his reputation as the Yankee. Among others who appeared may be mentioned Ada Cerito, Lieut. Albini, Sisters May, George Antill, Bertha Goddard, Marie Weston, Master Geo. Phillips, Jessie Huddleston, and Dorothy L. Clark.

During the evening the managing-director, Mr. G. Adney Payne, appeared on the stage, surrounded by a number of friends, and, in the course of an admirable speech, paid a high compliment to the captain of the ship, Mr. A. J. Barclay, and his lieutenant, Mr. G. F. Slatter. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Payne emphasised the fact that, since its opening, the Walthamstow Palace had shown an improvement every year, and he was pleased to think that the shareholders had had a good return for their money. After all present had tried to shout themselves hoarse over "Auld Lang Syne," the big audience dispersed.

STRATFORD EMPIRE.

An attractive programme is submitted here this week. The patriotic note is struck by the exhibition of military accomplishments and horsemanship by the Boy Army. These well-trained lads appear first on horseback and go through many intricate drill evolutions with rare precision, and afterwards their performance consists of smartly taking to pieces and refitting transport wagons, field guns, &c., and showing the manner of carrying this active service impediments across streams and over hedges. The performance is very interesting, instructive, and exhilarating, the boys entering upon their work with a refreshing zest and zeal. Their training reflects the greatest credit upon their mentor, and the turn receives unstinted applause. The Selbinis submit an entertaining act of clever cycling, and their feats are undertaken with that ease and coolness which betoken the skilled performer. Their concluding item is decidedly startling; one of the cyclists falls from a high platform on to a kind of see-saw, and at once another cyclist on the opposite end is shot into space, turning a complete somersault on his machine. Sadie Simpson has a most effective song, which wins plenty of favour, and her clever step-dancing is much admired. The Brothers Webb display marked ability and versatility in the manipulation of several quaint musical instruments, and their fine concertina playing is a prominent feature of their turn, to which much amusement is added by their merry by-play and comedy business.

Telepathy, or thought reading, which has exercised the public mind so much of late, is being exploited this week by "The Collier and his Child." Their performance is on orthodox lines, the father coming among the audience, who hand him various articles, which his daughter, seated on the stage blindfolded, describes with unerring accuracy. Coming direct "from pit to stage," as described on the programme, a fluent and polished performance is not expected; but there is an obvious code employed between the father and daughter, and this is the more apparent in the second part of their performance, when members of the audience are asked to point out sentences in a book which the daughter, with another copy of the book, reads aloud from the stage. While containing nothing likely to solve the "mystery" of telepathy, the turn is decidedly interesting and deservedly applauded. Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten comes in for a huge amount of popularity. The children have youth and undoubted vocal ability in their favour, and the experience of their mentor should enable her to eclipse, with her present troupe of juveniles, any of her past successes. The Australian Twin Andersons are two charming and vivacious damsels, who revel in song and dance, and their expert skipping-rope dancing is novel and popular. Alice May and company, in their sketch *Tranquillity*, provide some entertaining moments; Allan Hanbury receives hearty applause for his contribution to the programme; and Ray Maskell is quickly installed a favourite, her agile dancing being much admired. The Bioscope—always popular at Stratford—is showing the pictures of "Always True to his Trust." Early comers are regaled with the orchestral selection "Sunlight and Shade," under the able guidance of Mr. Augustus Greco. For the comfort of the many patrons of this well-conducted variety theatre Mr. S. T. Mayne, the urbane acting-manager, is responsible, and Mr. W. S. Buccleugh is the courteous assistant acting-manager.

MASONS AT WORK.

The Chelsea Palace Lodge of Freemasons, No. 3098, held an emergency meeting on Tuesday last for the express purpose of initiating Mr. Ian Colquhoun, the well-known baritone, into its mysteries and secrets, that gentleman sailing on the forthcoming day to fulfil a professional engagement in America. In the forced absence of Mr. Albert Le Fre, the W.M., and Mr. James W. Matthews, the I.P.M., the Master chair was occupied by Mr. Wolfe S. Lyon, the treasurer of the lodge, supported by Messrs. Sidney M. Austin, P.G.D.C. of Bucks, J. A. Romain, the W.M. of the Warrant Officers Lodge, M. Serpentello, S.W., H. Baroni, G.W., C. G. Doughty (secretary), W. Hitch, S.D., Douglas White, J.D., F. H. Pedgrift, I.G., Asher (organist), and Messrs. Valazzi, F. McNaughton, Fred Frewen, Frank Hardy, Ernest Jones, R. Duce, Scott Adaker, Atlas, Wilton Heriot, W. Jeapes, Spot, Bert Bigney, F. Hill, F. Winn, and others. After the acting W.M. had initiated Mr. Colquhoun he took advantage of the meeting to bring up some of the arrears of the lodge work, and advanced Messrs. Whiteley and Goodman, and further advanced Messrs. Moran and Ernee Rees. After the lodge was closed the brethren adjourned to the old Chelsea hostel, the Six Bells, and partook of a slight entertainment, at which Mr. Colquhoun expressed the great delight the impressive ceremony had afforded him, and in response to a general request, sang "Off to Philadelphia." The acting W.M. read telegrams from the W.M., Mr. Albert Le Fre, and a great number of the members who were absent fulfilling pantomime engagements in various parts of Great Britain, expressing their regret at being prevented attending the gathering.

THE Southsea and Portsmouth Entertainments' Committee invite tenders for the rights to give entertainments on open spaces at Southsea and Portsmouth during the ensuing season of 1907.

MR. CHARLES HOWITT returns with Mr. Leonard Rayne to South Africa to produce *The Bondman*, *Robin Hood* (Mr. Lewis Waller's version), *The Electric Man*, and other West-End London successes. Mr. Howitt has been Mr. Rayne's producer and stage-manager for seven years, also playing an extensive and varied list of principal parts, his latest successes being achieved in such widely-different characters as Iago, Polonius, and Raffles.

MISS DECIMA MOORE is at the present time paying a flying visit to the West Coast of Africa, prior to resuming the title-rôle in *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy*, which had such a successful autumn tour, under the management of Messrs. Glenister and Wood-Ingram.

MR. GRAHAM MORRISON has been engaged by Mrs. Michael Gunn to manage her most successful *Sinbad the Sailor* pantomime company, which she will transfer in its entirety to O. H., Cork, on Feb. 4, for two special weeks.

MR. HARRISON BROCKBANK has been engaged by Mr. Arthur Collins for next year's pantomime at Drury Lane, and has been highly complimented by managers on his performance in the successful pantomime at the Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool. Mr. Brockbank will produce a new musical sketch after the run of the pantomime, the subject being *Robin Hood*.

THE St. Louis Picture Company, by the aid of that wonderful combination, the Chronophone, supplies the proprietors of theatres, piers, winter gardens, or kursaals with pictures that talk and sing. The selections include *The Little Michus*, *Veronique*, *The Mikado*, and *The Belle of New York*, and reproductions of the voices and movements of R. G. Knowles, Hamilton Hill, Gipsy Woolf, Ernie Mayne, &c. The programme is changed each week, and the company can supply two and a half hours' show of the most up-to-date films.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ROLAND.—*The late Mr. Wilson Barrett produced* Quo Vadis? *at the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, on May 29, 1900.*

VERNON.—*Miss Ella Chapman made her English début in* Blue Beard *at the Folly Theatre, in 1876.*

CLAIMANT.—*It is certainly doubtful whether the Workmen's Compensation Act would apply to such a case. You had better consult a solicitor.*

E. W. G. — On 'Change *was first played at a matinée at the Strand Theatre on July 1, 1885; on the following Aug. 22 it was staged at Toole's, and on Nov. 30 transferred to the Strand Theatre, and on Dec. 28, to the Opera Comique, where it concluded its run on May 28, 1886, having been performed altogether 287 times.*

PLAYGOER.—*Miss Marie Illington made her début at the Haymarket Theatre in a comedy, entitled* Red Tape, *in the autumn of 1875.*

J. SARGENT.—The Duke's Motto, *a romantic play, based by John Brougham on Paul Féval's* Le Bossu, *was produced at the Lyceum on Jan. 10, 1863, with Charles Fechter as the hero.*

F. BARTON.—*Mr. and Mrs. Keeley entered upon the management of the Lyceum Theatre on Easter Monday, 1844. The date of her appearance as Mrs. Peerybingle, in* The Cricket on the Hearth, *was Dec. 20, 1845.*

R. C. COLLINS —*You might try an advertisement in* The Era.

G. CASSELLS.—*We have no record.*

F. E. FOOY.—*Apply to S. French and Co., theatrical publishers, Southampton-street, Strand.*

J. FOX.—Drink *was revived at the Adelphi Theatre in January, 1900, with Mr. Charles Warner as Coupeau.*

QUILL.—*The book you require is Strong's "Musical and Dramatic Law," published at this office, price 3s. 6d. You will certainly need someone to advise you who is well up in the intricacies of copyright law.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth** or **Death** or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence,** every additional word **One Penny.**

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BIRTHS.

MCEWEN.—Jan. 21, at 10, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W., the wife of Walter McEwen (Lilian Pollard), of a daughter.

WOOTON.—Jan. 22, Mabel Conroyd, wife of Frank Wooton (Hinton and Wooton), of a daughter. Both well.

DEATHS.

CLARKE.—Jan. 23, Francis Clarke, aged 31 years, the beloved husband of Elizabeth O. Clarke, and brother of D. J. Clarke, Argyle Theatre, Birkenhead. Was interred at Ford Cemetery on Jan. 25. R.I.P.

D'OYLY CARTE.—On Friday, the 18th, at Holt, Lucas D'Oyly Carte, elder son of the late R. D'Oyly Carte.

ELGIN.—At 6, Ruvigny-mansions, Putney, S.W., on Jan. 21 the beloved mother of Constance Elgin (Mrs. Douglas Cecil).

HAMILTON.—On Jan. 15, '07, the beloved mother of Alice Hamilton (Ley and Hamilton), and of George Willie (of Wild, Willie, and West). Deeply lamented.

HOWARD.—Jan. 21, Florence Emily Howard, actress.

KITCHEN.—On Sunday, Jan. 20, '07, after a very short illness of pneumonia, Dick Kitchen, son of R. H. Kitchen, passed quietly away. Sadly mourned by his sorrowing wife.

KITCHEN.—On Sunday, Jan. 20, 1907, at Falkirk, after a very short illness of pneumonia, Dick Kitchen, son of R. H. Kitchen, passed quietly away. Sadly mourned by his father, mother, brothers, and sisters.

KITCHEN.—On Sunday, Jan. 20, '07, after a very short illness of pneumonia, Dick Kitchen, son of R. H. Kitchen, passed quietly away. Sadly mourned by his brothers, Fred and Harry.

MANDERS.—Jan. 23, accidentally killed, James Manders, menagerie proprietor, aged 74.

WELLS.—Jan. 23, of cancer, Thomas Wells, at 23, Hercules-road, Lambeth; youngest surviving brother of Joseph Wells, firework manufacturer, Ashleworth, Honor Oak Park, S.E.

IN MEMORIAM.

ANATO.—In ever loving memory of Mlle. Nina Anato, wife of Mr. Walter Melbourne, who fell asleep Jan. 23, 1889.

HAMILTON.—In fond loving memory of darling Willie, beloved son of William and Margareta Hamilton (Hamilton's Excursions), who died at Dundee, Jan. 25, 1894.

LEGGETT.—In loving memory of Richard (Dick) Leggett, who died Jan. 25, 1906, after a life's work on the stage. Not forgotten by his loving children.

LEMAN.—In loving memory of Charles Leman, professionally known as Charles Sutton, stump orator, also as Bunth, of Bunth and Rudd, who passed away at Moscow, Jan. 27, 1904. Never forgotten by his wife and boysey.

LOCKHART.—In ever-loving memory of my kind husband, George Lockhart, who passed away Jan. 24, 1904.

Thy way, not mine, O Lord,
However dark it be.
Lead me by Thine own Hand,
Choose out the path for me.

AT the Newport Empire there is a good programme this week. Frank and Jen Latona, who are skilful musicians, provide a very pleasing turn; Jordan and Harvey are extremely amusing with their humorous impersonations; Dusty Rhodes, comedian, is immensely popular; Chas. Robinson contributes two songs, illustrated with coloured views; Sylvesta relieves the somewhat dull performance of a conjuring show with humorous patter; and Welsh comedy is represented by Parker and Parr, who are not only funny, but sing excellently. Hurley and Cole give a scena, including a burlesque on the Zancigs; the Mascotte Trio of lady gymnasts do some smart tricks on the rings; and the bioscope, showing some laughable pictures, completes the bill.

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Nairn, Mr. Harry
Nates, Miss Annie O.
Nelson, Mr. Leonard
Noel, Miss Maudie
North, Miss R. V.
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Osto, Mrs. D.
O'Toole, Mr. Dave
Overton, Mr. Norman A.
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Yukio Tani
Yorke, Mr. Leonard

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen :—

G. Adney Payne—Saturday, Jan. 26.
George Shelton—Saturday, Jan. 26.
J. James Hewson—Saturday, Jan. 26.
M. Henri—Saturday, Jan. 26.
James Shields—Saturday, Jan. 26.
Matthew Boulton—Saturday, Jan. 26.
Cecil Raleigh—Sunday, Jan. 27.
Mrs. Stanislaus Calhaem—Sunday, Jan. 27.
Felix Pitt—Sunday, Jan. 27.
Charles Bush—Sunday, Jan. 27.
Julie Opp—Monday, Jan. 28.
Mabel Mannering—Monday, Jan. 28.
Frank Allen—Monday, Jan. 28.
Emmeline Lewis—Monday, Jan. 28.
(Miss) Barley Clarke—Tuesday, Jan. 29.
Phyllis Cecil—Tuesday, Jan. 29.
George V. Wybrow—Tuesday, Jan. 29.
John E. West—Tuesday, Jan. 29.
Harry Barford—Tuesday, Jan. 29.
John S. Chamberlain—Tuesday, Jan. 29.
F. H. Cowen—Tuesday, Jan. 29.
Seymour Hicks—Wednesday, Jan. 30.
Mdme. Ghita Corri—Wednesday, Jan. 30.
Mrs. G. Adney Payne—Wednesday, Jan. 30.
Barney Noble—Wednesday, Jan. 30.
Nelson Ramsey—Wednesday, Jan. 30.
Kate Flinn—Thursday, Jan. 31.
Wm. F. Grant—Thursday, Jan. 31.
Clara Butt—Friday, Feb. 1.
Vera Beringer—Friday, Feb. 1.
Lily Harold—Friday, Feb. 1.
Elise Barone—Friday, Feb. 1.
Gustave Garcia—Friday, Feb. 1.
Clarice Jenner—Friday, Feb. 1.
Ada Melrose—Friday, Feb. 1.
Grace Wilson—Friday, Feb. 1.

MR. J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S pantomime at the Crystal Palace must terminate on Saturday next, as all booking were made ahead a long time ago. Matinées will be given Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday next week, also an additional matinée at twelve o'clock on Saturday next, making three performances on that day.

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Chapter II.
PERFORMING RIGHT.
Chapter III.
INFRINGEMENT AND REMEDIES.
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MUSICAL COPYRIGHT.
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INTERNATIONAL AND COLONIAL COPYRIGHT.

"The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," by Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor, author of "Dramatic and Musical Law" ("The Era" office), seems to be the one compendious and indispensable authority on the subject, as vexed as the "Bermoothes," and as tortuous as a Chancery suit, that has long been wanted. It is in every essential a text book for the perplexed layman, and no solicitor or barrister worth his salt ought to think of taking or appearing in "proceedings" without consulting its pages. It must suffice, after what has been said, to state little more than that the contents include five chapters, respectively named "Copyright as Opposed to Performing Right," "Performing Right," "Infringement and Remedies," "Musical Copyright," and "International and Colonial Copyright." The work, for all its precise authority, is not dry reading. The statutes, with the elucidatory notes, necessarily impose a task on the reader which takes some tackling, but they had to be there. The cases adduced, however, are full of interest. Certain of them might fitly find a place in the romance of copyright. There was the fight of Charles Reade with George Conquest over "It's Never Too Late to Mend," for instance, and the equally interesting conflict of Mr. J. A. Cave with Chatterton over "The Wandering Jew." The latter was a famous battle. Chatterton took it to the House of Lords, and was finally beaten, to the unspeakable relief of Mr. Cave, who is never weary of relating the story. Had the result been otherwise, it would have meant his ruin. I well remember meeting him on the day of his victory and "crashing a cup with him" in honour of the same. "The Law of Copyright" is dedicated to Mr. A. W. Pinero.—Sportsman.

Mr. A. A. Strong has published a book on "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," which should be in the hands of everyone who is obliged to know about this perplexing subject. Dramatic copyright in England is in a particularly unsatisfactory state, and it is much to be hoped that ere long some more rational method of securing protection for a play may be devised than the slovenly and sometimes costly "production for copyright purposes," which is at present required.—St. James's Gazette.

Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr. Albert A. Strong's new work, entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr. Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his text-book on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases, what probably is—the law as to musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters on the Berne Convention and on the Chase Act, passed by the United States Congress last March, are full of interest.—Referee.

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H. BEERBOHM TREE, Esq., in the Chair.
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Further particulars from SECRETARY, 29, Wellington-street, Strand, London.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHIES.

NAME.	DATE.
Abranams, Messrs. F. & M.	March 31, 1906.
Alexander, Mr. Alex.	June 2, 1906.
Anderson, Late Mr. Reddick	Jan. 19, 1907.
Ashcroft, Late Mr. W. E.	October 27, 1906.
Ashton, Mr. George	May 5, 1906.
Ashton, Miss Margaret	September 1, 1906.
Atkin, Late Mr. John A.	Jan. 5, 1907.
Ball, Mr. Alf	September 1, 1906.
Barbour, Mr. William	March 3, 1906.
Barclay, Mr. Arthur J.	May 26, 1906.
Barlow, Miss Billie	March 10, 1906.
Barnett, Mr. Orlando	October 6, 1906.
Barrasford, Mrs.	February 10, 1906.
Beatty, Miss May	November 10, 1906.
Beecham, Mr. Charles	Dec. 22, 1905.
Bertoldi, Late Miss Ena	April 7, 1906.
Billington, Mrs. John	January 20, 1906.
Bordin, Signorina Maria	September 15, 1906.
Brickwell, Miss Mamie	Nov. 24, 1906.
Brookfield, Mr. Charles	Dec. 22, 1906.
Brooks, Mr. George	Dec. 29, 1906.
Brown-Potter, Mrs.	March 3, 1906.
Burton, Mr. John	March 10, 1906.
Butt, Mr. Alfred	August 25, 1906
Carrington, Miss Eva	February 24, 1906.
Cavalho, Miss Sylvia	March 3, 1906.
Cellier, Miss Marguerite	May 26, 1906.
Cinquevalli, Mr. Paul	May 5, 1906.
Clancarty, Late Lady	Jan. 5, 1907.
Clark, Mr. William	March 3, 1906.
Clark, Mr. T. Sealey	May 19, 1906.
Collier, Mr. Hal	May 19, 1906.
Conquest, Mr. Arthur	May 26, 1906.
Coote, Mr. Bert	June 16, 1906.
Corri, Mlle. Ghita	September 22, 1905.
Costello, Mr. Tom	September 15, 1906.
Cotterell, Mr. Sid	July 14, 1906.
Courtice, Mr. Thomas	Dec. 22, 1906.
Craven, Mr. Tom	Dec. 15, 1906.
Criso, Late Mr. Henry	May 26, 1906.
Cruikshank, Mr. Alfred	March 17, 1906.
Culloch, Mr. Arthur	November 10, 1906.
Dacre, Mr. Harry	Dec. 1, 1906.
Dallas, Mr. J. J.	July 7, 1906.
Dampier, Mr. Alfred	May 12, 1906.
Deering, Late Miss R.	July 14, 1906.
De Gracia, Mr. G.	May 19, 1906.
Dixon, Mr. Robert	Dec. 8, 1906.
Dobson, Mr. E. H.	August 12, 1905.
Donegan, Mr James E.	May 20, 1905.
Dyball, Mr. George H.	January 13, 1906.
Elliott, Late Mr. J. R.	May 26, 1906.
Featherstone, Late Miss B.	Jan. 5, 1907.
Elen, Mr. Gus	September 23, 1905.
Gastelle, Miss Stella	July 15, 1905.
Gatti, Late Mr. Stefano	October 20, 1906.
Genée, Mlle.	September 22, 1906.
Godfrey-Turner, Miss M.	October 28, 1905.
Gibbs, Miss Edith	March 3, 1906.
Giffard, Mr. William	Jan. 12, 1907.
Grace, Miss Amy	January 13, 1906.
Gray, Miss Dora	January 13, 1906.
Green, Mr. Richard	Jan. 19, 1907.
Grey, Miss Isabel	July 7, 1906.
Grove, Mr. Fred	March 10, 1906.
Grein, Mr. J. T.	Nov. 11, 1905.
Hamlyn, Mr. J. D.	January 20, 1906.
Hansen, Miss Laura	January 20, 1906.
Harris, Mr. Thomas	February 24, 1906.
Harrington, Mr. John P.	Dec. 8, 1906.
Harriss, Miss Sophie	April 7, 1906.
Harvey, Late Mr. Eddie	September 1, 1906.
Hastings, Miss Nora	March 10, 1906.
Heron-Brown, Miss Edith	June 16, 1906.
Hey, Miss Muriel	September 15, 1906.
Hitchens, Mr. H. J.	September 8, 1906.
Holloway, Mr. Baliol	April 15, 1905.
Hunter, Late Mr. Harry	October 20, 1906.
Illington, Miss Margaret	June 2, 1906.
Irving, Late Sir Henry	Oct. 21, 1905.
Jerrard, Late Mr. J. F.	April 28, 1906.
Juliette, Mdlle.	January 13, 1906.
Kinghorne, Late Mr. Mark	November 10, 1906.
Kingston, Miss Bertha	February 24, 1906.
Kinnaird, Miss Helen	March 3, 1906.
Knowles, Mr. J. Forbes	July 7, 1906.
Lamonte, Miss Syria	November 10, 1906.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1907.

AN ACTORS' UNION.

Mr. CECIL RALEIGH is one of the most interesting figures which appear from time to time on that secondary stage, the discussion platform. A marvellously apt humorist, with a quaint and calm delivery which would make his fortune if he were to do an eccentric "turn" at one of our upper-class variety establishments, he never rises to address an audience without making innumerable points and creating intermittent laughter. One of the most piquant parts of his character is that he is an ardent Socialist; and his views on any subject are certain to be of the "advanced" order. His speech at the meeting of the Actors' Association last week had all the agreeable qualities which we expect to find in one of his orations. Mr. RALEIGH is—using the word in its best sense—a born agitator; and his speeches are invariably of the cleverly convincing kind.

At the Actors' Association offices last Friday week Mr. RALEIGH warmly advocated the foundation of an Actors' Union, for the redress of wrongs, abuses, and grievances, including the commission system, non-payment for rehearsals, and the frequency of the paying amateur. His remedy for these defects was the alteration of the Actors' Association into a trade union—"lock, stock, and barrel" The power thus obtained, argued Mr. RALEIGH, could be applied to preventing anyone, male or female, from acting unless he or she were a member of the Actors' Association. This would, he said, mean the entire elimination of the "addle-pated" amateur, who brought down salaries and the stage by offering his or her services at reduced rates.

The difficulty which immediately occurs to one is this: If the only persons allowed to belong to the Association are actors who have been on the stage for some time; and if no one is allowed to act unless he is a member of the Actors' Association, how are any aspirants, however naturally gifted, to get on the stage at all? Take a young man who has been, like the late Sir HENRY IRVING and many other leading actors, an ambitious and assiduous performer in an earnest amateur company. He desires to obtain further practice in some good provincial "crowd." He goes to the manager, and is met by the objection, "I cannot engage you, because you have not been on the stage long enough to comply with the rules of the Actors' Association; and I cannot risk offending that powerful body." With his subscription in his hand, he repairs to the genial secretary of the Association. Mr. CRUIKSHANKS smilingly regrets that the aspirant cannot be admitted as a member because he has not been a certain number of years upon the stage. "Oh," says the aspirant; "but I cannot get on the stage because I am not a member of the Association. What am I to do?" The result, carried to its extremity, would be that the supply of promising novices would be entirely cut off. One by one the actors and actresses at present on the boards would retire, the services of those long-livers being raised to fabulous amounts by competition, until at last the English stage would be reduced to a Last Man, "doing" a monologue the joint work of Mr. PINERO, Mr. SUTRO, and Mr. H. A. JONES.

The idea of an Actors' Union is, however, quite worthy of serious consideration. The difficulty of working one on the lines of the ordinary trade unions is the extreme uncertainty how much an artist's services are really worth to a manager. This difficulty is met in the ordinary trade unions by forbidding any workman to do more than his fellow; so that the naturally quick man is obliged to regulate his pace by the average of rapidity. An ordinary trade can be acquired by any intelligent man, and one bricklayer does not differ much in value from another. It is not exactly the same with acting; nor is experience the only factor of artistic achievement. The histrionic faculty is a gift which needs to be developed, it is true, by hard practice; but the naturally clever aspirant will improve much more quickly than the most industrious dullard. As for paying amateurs, we must remember that, in the old times, the profession was chiefly supplied by them. Actors were regularly apprenticed to the managers of stock companies, putting down a premium, and, in return, being trained for the boards. This is practically what is being done, without premium, by many of our proprietors of travelling companies. A promising amateur joins one of these, and practically learns his business at rehearsals. What Mr. RALEIGH says of these is quite true; but it "cuts both ways." It is often the fault of the actors themselves that pieces are so long in preparation. It is not, we are sorry to say, the novices who are the worst sinners in this respect; they are often enthusiastic enough to come to the first rehearsal "letter perfect." There is a bad old tradition of the stage which favours the acquisition of a part, bit by bit, from the prompter, or from the book-in-hand at early rehearsals; and the stock argument against remuneration for these is the length to which they would be dragged out if they were paid for liberally.

The good bulk of actors and actresses are as satisfied with their profession as they can be, considering the precarious nature of employment in it, the small remuneration won, and the heart-burnings and jealousies inseparable from public appearance and personal rivalry. Up to the present, we had thought that the Actors' Association, which Mr. RALEIGH describes as "gut-less," was doing all that was necessary in remedying the wrongs and abuses of the actor—and, of course, like other ranks of life, the stage must have its black sheep and its seamy side. If there is sufficient demand for a Union to generate such a body, no reasonable person would wish to place any obstacle in the way of its formation. It is burning need and righteous indignation which has always created trade unions; and we may be certain that an Actors' Union will never be started without the stimulus of great grievances to be removed and serious wrongs to be redressed.

THE wedding gown worn by Miss Nina Boucicault in the first act of *The Stronger Sex* at the Apollo is of soft white satin, cut on closely-fitting Princess lines, and having a yoke of net glittering with silver paillettes, while the skirt is enriched with a bold design of silver embroideries. The long Court train presents a novel and charming effect, being fashioned entirely of wide bands of insertion alternating with gathered bands of satin, while a coronet of orange blossoms and a cloudy tulle veil gives the conventional finish to the toilette.

MISS LILIAN BRAITHWAITE wears an artistic gown of string-coloured lace, with narrow panels of gold lace, decorated with heavy grelots of gold cord and tassels of the same. Touches of gold appear in the lace insertions round the throat and on the sleeves, while a wide belt of gold tissue provides further adornment. With this costume is worn a filmy scarf of hand-painted black lace, edged all round with Nattier blue ribbon, and a picture hat of gathered lace bordered with ivory satin, a twist of Nattier blue satin securing the three uncurled ostrich tips in the same shade which provide further decoration.

AN effective scheme is carried out in the dress worn by Miss Marie Illington, which is designed in vieux-rose chiffon velours, the plain skirt being trimmed down the front with motifs of lace and loops of cord, while the bodice is distinguished by the new sleeves, which have the effect of being merely a continuation of the fichu.

PREPARATIONS are being made by the English Drama Society for the production early in February of a new comedy by Nugent Monck, entitled *The Hour*, together with *Cleopatra in Judea*, by Arthur Symons. In the meanwhile a representation of Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice* is announced for Thursday next at the People's Palace, Mile End.

THE sad circumstances of the death of Miss Florence Howard, lately of the Comedy Theatre, were investigated at Marylebone Coroner's Court on Wednesday. In the course of the evidence one of Miss Howard's servants said she had been with the lady six years. On Sunday she was apparently quite cheerful, and in the evening dined out, returning to her flat a little after midnight. At 7.30 the next morning, when the witness entered her mistress's sitting-room, she found the apartment full of escaped gas, and discovered Miss Howard, who was partly dressed, sitting back in a chair, dead. The gas-stove near her was turned on. It was turned on by a screw, which was in a hole in the floor, covered with a lid. The screw was very loose. The witness added that, with the loosely-fitting gas tap, it was possible, in turning off the gas, to turn the screw back a little, and thus allow gas to escape.

THE evidence of the Coroner's officer showed that in a waste-paper basket was found a torn envelope bearing the words, "My will, March 9, 1906," and in a drawer was discovered a fastened envelope similarly inscribed. The Coroner explained that this envelope contained the deceased lady's will, dated March 9, 1906, and duly executed. After bequeathing legacies to her servants, she left the residue of her effects to her parents. There was also an undated codicil bequeathing articles of jewellery and her dog to different friends. The jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure.

PRESENTATION.—On Wednesday evening an interesting ceremony took place at the Colosseum, Oldham. Mr. H. B. Levy, on behalf of Mrs. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell, who have been doing so well here with their juvenile pantomime, presented Mr. William Eastwood with a magnificent gold hunter watch, suitably inscribed, and a splendid gold bracelet, was handed to Mrs. Eastwood, as a token of the esteem in which they are held. Mr. Eastwood suitably responded for himself and Mrs. Eastwood.

MR. EDITOR.—SIR,— In the notice in last week's *Era* of the Opera House, Wakefield, you mentioned that Miss Allen Amber was seen to advantage as Maudie, one of the Ugly Sisters, instead of yours truly, MR. ALLEN AMBER.

A SKETCH WITHOUT A TITLE.

A Dramatic Sketch, in Five Scenes, produced at the Camberwell Palace, on Monday, Jan. 21.

Sir John Armitage ..... MR. G. F. LEICESTER
Capt. Selwyn Hilliard ..... MR. ROBERT PURDIE
Max Stein ..... MR. WALTER BEAUMONT
Kate Armitage ..... MISS DORA HAMMERSLEY
Ruth Hilliard ..... MISS LUCY EVELYN
Jack Beresford ..... MR. GEORGE GRAY

The question of title has often proved such a vexed one to dramatic authors that they have sought the aid of the public to settle the difficulty, and this week Mr. George Gray has resorted to the same means, and is offering a reward of £10 for the most suitable name for his newest production. It should not be difficult to secure a fitting title, for the piece deals with "the love that lasts," and is replete with episodes, any of which would suggest a name for itself. The "Fighting Parson" has been fitted with a character the sentiment of which secures the sympathy of the audience from the outset. Returning, after five years' absence in Australia, to England, home, and sweetheart, Jack Beresford finds that a report has been spread that he has married, although he was betrothed to his cousin, Kate Armitage, and left a portion of a pearl necklace as a love token in her keeping. Kate's affection for Jack is as strong as ever, but the statement that he is married is confirmed by a note addressed to Jack Beresford from "his wife," and the young lady receives him with coldness. The false rumour had been circulated by Captain Hilliard, an army officer, who aspires to Kate's hand and to the fortune which is willed to Beresford, but reverts to her should Jack fail to marry her. The returned wanderer confronts Hilliard with his libellous statement, with the result that a duel is arranged. The two rivals meet at the Abbey ruins, and Jack consents to the proposal that they shall each choose from a pair of pistols, one only of which is loaded. The word to fire is given, and at the same moment Kate rushes between the combatants and is shot. Jack is made to imagine that it was he who held the loaded pistol, and in despair determines to return to Australia. Before his departure he casually attends a meeting near the docks, where politicians of all shades of opinion are contesting. Jack joins in the discussion on trades unionism, and his remarks cause a disturbance, during which a woman is injured. She is taken to the Salvation Army shelter, and proves to be none other than the person whom Jack is alleged to have married. She is really the wife of Captain Hilliard, who had married her in Australia under Jack Beresford's name, and subsequently deserted her. With this evidence Beresford makes his way the next morning to the parish church where Hilliard and Kate Armitage, showing no traces of the pistol shot, are to be married, and stops the wedding party at the church door, where he denounces Hilliard and is reconciled to his old love.

The stirring incidents which we have briefly related are presented in admirable style by the company, headed by Mr. Gray, who is provided with a rôle in which he can play at will upon the sympathies of an audience. He is gay and debonair enough at the opening when he returns as the successful miner laden with wealth; but in the later passages he infuses into his rendering an impassioned energy which is very impressive. Miss Dora Hammersley is a graceful Kate Armitage, and makes full use of the opportunities for the display of emotion. An elegant villain is furnished by Mr. Robert Purdie, who is cool and incisive as the recreant Captain Hilliard. Mr. G. F. Leicester gives a sound and consistent rendering of an elderly baronet; Mr. Walter Beaumont is an effective representative of a foreign conspirator; and Miss Lucie Evelyn plays the deserted wife with power and expression. The sketch is mounted with the completeness characteristic of Mr. Gray's productions, the church scene being rendered very picturesque by a file of soldiers and a detachment of bluejackets drawn up outside. The performance was attended with the greatest success, Mr. Gray being loudly recalled at the close.

A COACHMAN'S NEAR CUT.

Lieutenant Albini writes the following account of an amusing adventure:—I was out of engagement the week ending Jan. 19, and promised Mr. Masters, Mr. Geo. Adney Payne's representative, I would perform "The Lady in Black" illusion at the anniversary at the Palace, Walthamstow, on Friday, Jan. 18. Telling the coachman I should like to get there as soon as possible, he said, "I know a near cut, sir. Leave it to me." I said, "All right; go your own way." Little did I think he would risk narrow country lanes in such a fog. After passing Tottenham he got into a lane and had to get from the box and lead the horse. This went on for about a mile, when we made a halt and found ourselves at the entrance to a farmhouse at Chingford. The farmer kindly directed us, and we continued on our way, having had strict instructions to keep to the left of the lamp. I noticed this lamp, and called the attention of the coachman to it; but he only replied, "No road, sir." He led the horse for about three-quarters of a mile, when we heard a dog bark, and found the horse was facing a gate. The coachman went into the yard and discovered a stable boy, who advised us not to go any further, as there was a well; but we had better turn round, and then keep straight on till we saw a lamp on the right, and go ahead till we came to the "Prince Albert"; we should then follow the tram lines until we came to Hoe-street. I asked the distance to the Prince Albert. He said, "Over a mile." By this time I was getting alarmed, and said, "If I give you a shilling," &c., would he show us out of the lane. Reply: "Yes, sir." Had he been a business man he could have made a good bargain, suggesting the risk of getting back without the aid of our lamps. The fog was getting so dense we could hardly see three yards in front of us. Our friend pulled us through, and we got to the Albert, and I invited the coachman and our friend to go in and light their pipes. I told the coachman to let her have her head. Entering Walthamstow—more trouble! We had to go a mile out of our way through tramway repairs. Anyway, we arrived at ten minutes to ten at the Palace. I had left Tufnell Park at 7.30—three-quarters of an hour's run. Miss Gautier and myself received a grand reception, and the souvenir given to me by Mr. Geo. Adney Payne and the directors I shall treasure as long as I live, and never forget the "near cut in the fog."

THEATRICAL INVENTIONS.

The concise descriptions that we give below of recent patent applications are specially contributed by Messrs. Howard and Co., patent agents, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, London, W.C., who will render assistance to readers in all patent matters.

Applications.

623.—Henri Louis Huet, Chancery-lane, London, For improvements in transmission mechanism for apparatus used in taking or reproducing animated pictures.

610.—Arthur Seymour Bull, Surrey-street, London. For improved means for imparting perspective to pictorial representations.

945.—William Thomas Andrews, Lewis Levy, Michael George Cohen, and Lawrence Levy, jun., trading as Geo. Cohen, Sons, and Co., Ludgate-hill, London. For amusement apparatus.

Complete Specification.

20,054.—Masks. Tuck, A., Raphael House, Moorfields, London; and Boehme, A., Reichenberger Strasse, Berlin. Masks are formed so as to cover the upper portion only of the face, and have holes for the eyes, a recess which fits on the nose, and fastening tapes.

"SEXTON BLAKE."

A Dramette in Three Acts, by C. Douglas Carlile, produced for the first time at the Surrey Theatre of Varieties, Jan. 21.

Sexton Blake ..... C. DOUGLAS CARLILE
Tinker ..... LEE GILBERT
Silas Strong ..... W. LOUPER
Teddy Baker ..... PHILIP ASTERN
Makeroff ..... M. LANGDALE
The Master Criminal ..... CHAS. A. CARLILE
Leah Coursell ..... CARLOTTA DE YONSON

Founded on the thrilling tales now running in a weekly periodical, *Sexton Blake* is sure to hit the popular taste wherever presented, and crowded houses all the week here have set up on it the stamp of unqualified success. The piece deals with a secret society called the Nerva Brotherhood. Leah Coursell's father has been "removed" by the brotherhood, but has left with his daughter a precious packet of papers that the villainous gang of blackmailers, one of whom is known as the Master Criminal, are determined to possess, and for that purpose have lured Leah to Homer House. Leah, however, has called to her aid the famous detective Sexton Blake, who has already installed in Homer House his quick-witted aide-de-camp, Tinker, as page boy. The Master Criminal forces Leah to give up the packet; but Blake, who has changed places with the footman, comes to the rescue and snatches the packet from the villain.

In the next scene we are at Blake's study in Baker-street, and Leah comes to thank the detective for his timely assistance. Blake eventually persuades Leah to give up her scheme of vengeance on the brotherhood and let him retain the papers. Leah at last consents, and leaves Blake's house by the rear. The cabman who has brought her comes for his fare, but Blake sees through his disguise, and knows he has the Master Criminal as a visitor. Blake is convinced that this is the man wanted for the murder of his chief inspector, Davis, and tries to induce his visitor to remove the glove of his right hand, so as to identify his man by a scar on the palm thereof. The Master, however, is too wily, and Blake has to let him go.

The last scene is that of the offices of the gang at Westminster, where Blake comes in the disguise of a Jew, and telephones to Scotland Yard for assistance. When the Master Criminal finds the game up he hurls a bomb at Blake and Leah, but he is too hasty, and only compasses his own destruction.

In the title-rôle the author, Mr. C. Douglas Carlile, acts with all the coolness and assurance the part demands, and establishes himself a prime favourite; as his irrepressible coadjutor, Tinker, Mr. Lee Gilbert handles the character with care and discretion; Mr. Charles A. Carlile imbues the Master Criminal with a fierce determination and malevolence that win him the execrations of the gallery, than which no greater commendation could be desired; Miss Carlotta de Yonson as Leah Coursell gives a fine performance, her rendering of the rôle being full of impressiveness, while the actress has the added charm of being both heard and understood; Mr. M. Langdale as the Russian Makeroff gives a character sketch of much merit; and the general mounting of this interesting little dramette deserves a special word of praise.

Another strong dramatic sketch is *The Blind Witness*, played by Mr. Arnold Bell and his specially-selected company, which gets a firm hold on the audience, who follow with intense interest the fortunes of Gilbert Vaughan, who, while blind, is the unconscious prime mover in a tragedy which leads to many complications when his sight is restored. In the title-rôle Mr. Arnold Bell presents the character with a firm hand, and receives loyal assistance from Mr. Cuthbert Irvine as the villain Macari, Mr. Frank Carlile as Dr. Ceveri, Mr. Frank C. Robson as Anthony March, Miss Violet Campbell as Ellen Vaughan, and Miss Francis Campbell as Pauline March.

In direct contract is the bright, little comedietta, entitled *Are You a Gentleman?* which is handsomely staged, and smartly played by Miss Lilly Pearl and Mr. H. Leslie Bell. The theme of the story is novel, and treats of a young and pretty actress, whose many vain attempts to get an interview and engagement with a popular theatrical manager, hits on a daring scheme to attain her object, and her ingenuity deserves the success she obtains in the end.

THE LATE JOHN A. ATKIN MEMORIAL.

The following gentlemen have consented to act as a committee:—Messrs. Lester Collingwood, Arthur Shirley, Harris Fineberg, G. M. Polini, W. Bennett, E. Hill-Mitchelson, Tom H. Taylor, W. R. King, E. Hewitson, W. Fraser Brunner, Harry Chappell; secretary, Mr. Ashley Page; hon. treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Standard Theatre Staff	2	15	0
Fred Powell	2	2	0
Mr. and Mrs. A. Melville	1	1	0
E. H. Knight	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Arnold		10	6
W. Schaffer		10	6
Fred W. Warden		10	6
W. T. Cope		10	6
Mrs. M. L. Cope		10	6
Mr. and Mrs. Bert E. Hammond		10	6
Arthur Shirley		10	6
W. R. King		10	6
E. Hill-Mitchelson		10	6
G. M. Polini		10	6
Harris Fineberg		10	6
Sam Livesey		10	6
Harry Agar-Lyons		10	6
Mr. Tom H. Taylor's *Worst Woman in London* Co., per F. Vernon Travers		10	6
H. W. Kelly		10	6
Members of the *Female Swindler* Co., per O. Silverstone		10	6
Mr. Walter Melville		10	6
Mr. Fred Melville		10	6
Mr. Tom H. Taylor		10	6
Mr. Ashley Page		10	6
Miss Marion Denvil		10	6
Soldier's Wedding Co.		10	6
Terriss's Theatre Staff		10	6
Mr. Harry Chappell		10	6
Mr. James Peerless		10	6
Collected by Mr. Fraser-Brunner, General-Manager *The Beast and the Beauty* Co.:—			
Mr. Fraser-Brunner		10	6
Milton Bode		10	0
Mr. T. Greenwood-Croft		5	6
Eric Campbell		5	0
Herbert Ford		5	0
Walter H. Nightingale		5	0
J. W. Cordiner		5	0
Mr. George E. Mudd		5	0
Agnes Imlay		5	0
John B. Shinton		5	0
West London Theatre Management		5	0
Bernard Mervyn		2	6
William E. Passmore		2	6
Louie Adair		2	6
Harry Wimpenny		1	0
Will Corrie		1	0
Stanley Vivian		1	0
Alfred Wood		1	0
Mr. G. V. Campbell		1	0

Subscriptions will be duly announced if forwarded to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, 5, Tavistock-street, W.

IN our notice of the Avenue Theatre, Sunderland, the part of Idle Jack in *Dick Whittington* was ascribed to Mr. Mark Sheridan. The credit of the performance should have been given to Mr. Tom Foy.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

At the moment of going to press the strife between proprietors and artists shows no signs of abatement, and the elaborate commercial development of the music hall business which has revolutionised the variety theatres is dislocated by a strike so extraordinary and far-reaching in its effect on all concerned that the history of amusement contains no parallel to it. Of course, arbitration at once suggests itself as the one and only method of securing peace. Mr. Arthur Roberts and Miss Marie Lloyd are in favour of a consultation between seven representatives of the Alliance and seven members of the London Entertainments' Protection Association, with a president who is neutral and absolutely impartial. No less a personage than Lord Rothschild has been suggested; and his lordship's exalted position, wide sympathies, and unobtrusive benevolence would make him an excellent choice should he be willing to accept the invitation. Another good selection would be Mr. George R. Sims.

THE syndicate system has its advantages for the prominent artist, who enjoys through its combinative enterprise a security of tenure and years of uninterrupted engagements. This fortunate state of things on the regular stage is only the lot of the popular actor-manager, who must look with some envy on the sure and handsome income of the leading lights of the halls.

THERE is not much doubt that the barring clause and increased number of matinées are at the bottom of the trouble. Managers say with truth that the clause has inflated salaries in consequence of exclusive engagements, which are, however, restricted naturally to a minority of popular favourites. It is the medium turn that feels the pinch of the condition in a contract that prevents the acceptance of an engagement at a hall within a certain distance of another at which he or she may hold a contract to be fulfilled, perhaps, a year ahead.

THE extraordinary feature of the present struggle is that the Federation artists have become trades unionists, and have broken their contracts, and imperilled their engagements ahead without hesitation on questions that are quite apart from their own immediate interests. Their legal position may be determined during the next week by actions resulting on writs issued. We hope before such actions come into Court that a basis of agreement will be arrived at honourable to both sides, and that the present deplorable business will end.

THERE was a large gathering of London and provincial managers at the Tivoli on Thursday evening. Mr. George Harrop, managing-director of the Palace, and Tower, Blackpool, expressed the opinion to our representative that half a dozen level-headed people on each side sitting round a table ought to be able to end the strike in an hour or two. The question generally was discussed by Mr. G. A. Payne and members of the Press. Mr. Tom Barrasford, Mr. Sylvester, Mr. Walter De Freece, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas, Mr. Harry Day, Mr. George Peel, Mr. Ben Nathan, Mr. Sydney Hyman, Mr. Harry Lundy watched an entertainment that was kept going with surprising celerity by Mr. Joseph Wilson. The audience, however, was decidedly thin.

AMONG the entertainers announced by Mr. Wilson was Datas, the memory man, whose reception was hardly encouraging. He addressed the audience as follows:—"Ladies and gentlemen, I have never been received like this before. I am here because I am under contract to appear or be served with a writ. I must either perform or go before a Judge of the High Court." His sang-froid never deserted him during some heckling from interrupters in the pit, and when the question was put: "When did Judas Iscariot die?" he replied: "On the Fifth of November—the same day as you will. Is that right, sir?"

ON Thursday night Clark and Hamilton declared their intention of working; and Mr. R. A. Roberts has also intimated his intention of not abiding by the Variety Artists' Federation mandate.

LATE on Thursday night Mr. Oswald Stoll received the following telegram from Mr. Datas, the accomplished gentleman, who, it will be remembered, has sold his head for £3000 to an hospital. The telegram runs as follows:—"Southampton-street, Strand. Oswald Stoll, Esq., London Hippodrome.—Have resigned Artists' Federation. Am heart and soul with the proprietors and managers. Appearing Tivoli and where wanted to-night."

IN the last edition of the *Evening News* on Thursday night the following paragraph appeared: "Another piece of news which has given great satisfaction to the leaders of the music-hall artists is that the manager of one of the Moss-Stoll Empires has telephoned his desire to sign the Charter in so far as his own hall is concerned. The Charter has been sent on him to sign." Mr. Oswald Stoll desires us to state in the most emphatic terms that there is no truth whatever in this paragraph. He is the only manager empowered by his company to sign a document of such a nature.

AMONG those watching the entertainment at the Oxford on Tuesday evening was Mr. Billie Bint, who listened with interest to Mr. Blyth Pratt's announcements from the stage, which reminded him of his early days as chairman in the days of Uncle John Jennings—a position he resigned in 1877. He used to introduce artists by name from a table placed in the middle of the stalls. In those days a great feature of the Oxford entertainments was sensational acrobatism, the performances being mostly in the auditorium. Tumblers now are mostly restricted to the stage, except in such areas as are found in the Agricultural Hall, Islington, and similar buildings.

AT the meeting of the London Pavilion Company on Thursday Mr. Turner, one of the shareholders, asked what was the attitude of the company in the dispute. Mr. Hugh Astley, the chairman, stated that they stood alone, and they had signed no contract. All the artists and employees had attended regularly and carried out their engagements. Mr. Turner asked if it was intended to sign the Alliance's charter, but the question gave rise to many expressions of protest, and it was allowed to drop.

A DEPUTATION from the Paddington Philanthropic Institution waited on Thursday morning on the National Alliance and asked them to refrain from closing the Metropolitan that evening, on the ground that they had agreed to pay £80 for the performance, with the object of giving the proceeds to the poor. The Alliance agreed not to take any steps with regard to the house, on the understanding that the organisers of the benefit for the poor would make a statement to the effect that "the performance will positively be given by kind permission of the Variety Artists' Federation and the Musicians and Stage Employés' Societies."

"DAN LENO THE SECOND," as he was orally announced from the stage by the manager, appeared at the Ealing Hippodrome on Wednesday night, and received an ovation at the two perforamnces. Looking very much like his lamented father, the youngster, who is only sixteen years of age, appeared in the rôle of a fireman, singing of the members of a brigade who were horrified to find that their own station had been burnt. Mr. Leno opens at Glasgow next Monday.

THE Isle of Man Legislative Council on Tuesday considered a Bill by which musical compositions are protected both as to performances and sale, power being given for the seizure of pirated music with a fine of £5 for the first and £10 for the second attempt to sell pirated music. The latter provision will be of great value to English copyrights, as vast quantities of pirated music have been sold in the island during the visitors' season.

WE regret to hear from Bradford of the death of Albert Hall, one of the best-known of song-writers. It is to be feared that the music pirates' handiwork had much to do with the end of the writer, which took place amid evidences of suffering and penury.

THE popular Miss Florrie Gallimore was on Saturday evening last, at the Park Palace, Liverpool, presented by the genial manager, Mr. Leo Weisker, on behalf of Mr. Fred Willmot with a beautiful bouquet, in recognition of her great success at that hall.

THE public interest aroused by the awful Jamaica disaster was speedily taken advantage of by the management of the Liverpool Olympia, who placarded the city with the announcement "that the earthquake could be fully realised" by a visit to that place of amusement. The result was that the holding capacity proved inadequate to meet the demand to witness the spectacle of *The Earthquake*, that has been a tremendous success during its stay of several weeks.

NOTICE has been given that Mr. Henry Richard Deeks Hooper, acting on behalf of his co-directors of the Palace, Clacton-on-Sea, Ltd., intends applying for an Excise licence to sell intoxicating liquors at that place. Rumour says the licence will be granted, and if so, it should go a long way to make this pleasant resort more popular still.

ALFRED LEONARD, a music-hall artist, did not appear on Thursday at Lambeth County Court, where he was sued by David Kopski, pianist and composer, for three guineas for composing a violin solo. The defendant's counsel, in applying for an adjournment, explained that Mr. Leonard was at Cheltenham or Chatham, and could not come to London on account of the strike. Judge Emden: Why cannot he come to London?—Counsel: The Federation will not permit him to do so. His Honour ordered the case to proceed, but as counsel could not go on judgment was entered for the plaintiff, with costs.

ALL unconsciously, whilst performing at the Hackney Empire, "My Fancy," the celebrated sand and bare-foot dancer, attracted the admiration of Louis Weirter, R.A., whose work is as well known to readers of newspapers as it is to the critics of the artistic world. Mr. Weirter has done a beautiful water-colour painting of "My Fancy," and has begged that clever young lady's acceptance of the same. Needless to say, "My Fancy" is delighted with this unexpected tribute to her dainty talent, and declares she is going to proudly exhibit it at every hall at which she performs.

"THE CASINO" March, now being played by Mr. H. Erhorn's orchestra of forty performers at the London Hippodrome, has become so popular that it is to be retained for some time as the *pièce de résistance*, while the chronomegaphone and other animated pictures continue to attract the public. Mr. Taylor bids fair to rival the redoubtable Sousa as a "March King." His waltzes are really sweet, but so far have not had a hearing. Messrs. Phillips and Page, Market-street, Oxford-street, are publishing Mr. Taylor's compositions.

MR. W. HARRISON, of the Brothers Harrison, met with an unfortunate accident at the Grand Theatre, Woolwich, last week, while playing in the pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*. In one of the knockabout scenes indulged in by the two robbers Mr. W. Harrison had a bad fall and seriously injured himself. At first the doctors feared that grave consequences might result, but, thanks to an iron constitution and indomitable pluck, the popular comedian was only three days out of the bill. In his enforced absence, Mr. Thomas Dearden, who has acted as "dresser" for Mr. Harrison for something like five years, but who had histrionic aspirations, stepped into the breach and had the opportunity of his life. He was complimented by the management (who rewarded him liberally for his services, given at a short notice), and by his fellow-performers, while Mr. Arthur Linforth, the producer of the pantomime, was so pleased that he immediately booked him for next year.

THERE were reports current on Wednesday in variety circles that the Moss and Stoll houses would be tackled by the National Alliance; but the following letter from Mr. George Gray, one of the chief speakers at the mass meeting at the Surrey, to Mr. P. A. Lennon, manager of the Camberwell Palace, shows that rumour to be groundless. Writing from South-place, Kennington, Mr. Gray says:—"Dear Mr. Lennon,—My voice has entirely left me, and enclosed is doctor's certificate. Do please apologise to the audience for me. My disappointment is far keener than theirs can possibly be by my enforced absence. I should not like your patrons to think that the Camberwell Palace was within the strike area. I would like them to thoroughly understand that the Palace is under the direction of Oswald Stoll, who has never made any agreement with an artist but what he has carried out."

CHUNG LING SOO, the Chinese magician, who is appearing this week at Hull, was the victim of a violent assault in that city on Monday. He visited the Alexandra Docks to ascertain whether some scenery had arrived, when he was set upon by two rough-looking men, one of whom struck him on the head with a heavy instrument. His assailants then took to flight, evidently discovering that they had mistaken their man, for Chung Ling Soo is certain that it was a case of mistaken identity. Chung Ling Soo did not discover that the men had gone until some time had elapsed, for at the outset he was dazed, and when he did recover he thought it best to immediately return to his rooms and have his injuries attended to.

BERT OLRAC, late of the Boisset's famous *Up the River* pantomime, is now working a successful trampoline bar act with Sanger's Hippodrome.

MASTER CLIFFORD is scoring a success on the Moss and Stoll tour, where his dancing and comedy business have been highly praised.

THERE was no meeting of the executive committee of the Music Hall Artists Railway Association on Wednesday, as there was not a quorum present.

MISS ETHEL DONNA has been doing exceedingly well, and her coon singing and clever dancing meet with decided approval. Hereditary talent again! She happens to be the daughter of Cliff Ryland, whose drollery is known from Peckham to the Pacific slope.

IT is very probable that in the near future the Sisters Poole, who have scored an enviable success in Mr. Fred Granville's production of *The Forty Thieves* at Derby, Stoke-on-Trent, and this week at the Metropole, Manchester, will appear in an ambitious dramatic sketch, specially written for them. Although, up to the present, these winsome young ladies have confined their attention to singing and speciality dancing, they have given indications of histrionic ability.

THE London Coliseum will shortly be offered for sale by auction by Mr. Benjamin I'Anson Breach, of the firm of Farebrother, Ellis, Egerton, Breach, Galsworthy and Co., of 29, Fleet-street. The property is described as a magnificent palace of varieties, with extensive stage, three revolving tables, and all modern appliances for producing most realistic effects, together with scenery, wardrobe, copyright songs, and other properties, with the advantage of possession on completion of the purchase. There are in addition valuable freehold and leasehold business premises, &c., in St. Martin's-lane, Chandos-street, and Taylor's-buildings, let and producing about £1,510 per annum. Two syndicates are said to be contemplating the purchase.

TO-DAY is the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Coborn. "Twenty-five very happy years with the kindest of husbands!" says Mrs. Coborn. "Two out of the seven children have taken to heart the sentiment of Tom Costello's song, and 'sailed away'—a daughter to Yokohama and a son to Valparaiso. We hope, of course, that the latter part of the chorus will one day be realised. Anyhow, they have made a good start. The boy (Colin, aged 19) started at £200 per annum, with a substantial rise each year." We join in the congratulations that we feel sure will be showered on the happy pair.

MR. HARRY MOUNTFORD, the chairman of the Variety Artists' Federation, appeared at Bow-street on Thursday to apply for protection against the employés of a proprietor by whom, he alleged, he had been threatened. Sir Albert De Rutzen promised to send an officer to caution the persons concerned.

MR. FRANK MACNAGHTEN, in connection with the Britannia Theatre, one of the "chartered" houses, has continued Mrs. Sarah Lane's benevolent practice of giving free dinners to children at the Alexandra Trust, City-road, on Saturdays. Since December 8000 such dinners have been provided by him.

THE ridiculous statement got abroad during the week that Mr. Beerbohm Tree had intended to appear at a music hall, but had been dissuaded from so doing by the Federation. Of course, there was not an iota of probability in such a *canard*. The services of Miss Camille Clifford and the Gibson Girls were offered to the Tivoli; but on learning of the strike the Hon. Mrs. Lyndhurst Bruce decided not to appear.

"PRINCESS TRIXIE," commanded to appear before the King and Queen at Windsor yesterday, has, unfortunately, fallen a victim to pneumonia, and was consequently prevented from fulfilling her engagement. Her present condition is very serious, her temperature being abnormally high, but it is hoped that with care and skilful treatment she will speedily be able to renew her instructive and interesting performances at the Palace.

As was to be expected after the success made by Fragson in last year's and the present pantomime at Drury Lane, his services have been in great request, and offers of engagements have poured in from all parts of the world. America and France have particularly competed, and in the end Paris has succeeded in tempting the wanderer to return, temporarily, to the boulevards at a larger salary than has ever before been paid to a British-born variety artist. On Easter Monday, after the run of *Sindbad*, Fragson opens at the Tivoli here with a new budget of songs, and will also introduce some monologues he made so popular in France. He remains at the Strand house until June, and in July goes on a short concert tour round the English seaside resorts. Then early in September he will begin an engagement at the Scala, in Paris.

THE matinée at the Alhambra yesterday (Friday), in aid of the Jamaica Disaster Fund, was under the patronage and in the presence of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of the City of London, who attended in semi-state. An especially strong programme was presented, including the Zancig mystery.

THE Granville, Walham Green, just now has possibly the youngest *chef d'orchestre* of any hall in the kingdom in the person of Mr. R. E. Wilding, who, though but twenty-three, directs his forces with the skill and judgment of a much older man. Mr. W. H. Lennon, the new acting-manager, has already made a host of friends by his suavity and attention to visitors' comfort.

THERE have been many versions of *Sydney Carton's Sacrifice*, presented on the stage, but it has been left to Mr. B. Soane Roby to write a sketch of this name from the incidents in Dickens' "Tale of Two Cities" for presentation to a variety theatre audience. This will be played at Camberwell Palace during the week commencing Jan. 28.

"MOVING IN," one of Herbert Darnley's latest sketches, will be the principal attraction at the Hackney Empire next week. This is a screaming travesty on the trials and tribulations of a family emigrating to a new house, and winds up with a realistic explosion, the result of one of the new occupants looking for an escape of gas with a naked light. The fun waxes fast and furious throughout, and lacks none of the knockabout element.

OWING to the indisposition of Miss Lelia Roze, Miss Ellaline Thorne undertook, at short notice, the part of Prince Casimir at Marlborough Theatre on Friday night and Saturday matinée and evening of last week. Miss Thorne was complimented by many who witnessed her performance, and was the recipient of a large basket of flowers.

MISS EVELYN TAYLOR, the "girl with a style of her own," to-day possesses a record. On Wednesday night she gave eight performances at London music halls. On Thursday she was singing at nine "shows." Miss Taylor is a Leeds girl, petite, but full of pluck. That was shown on Wednesday night when some of the strikers showed a disposition to hustle her as she stepped out of her motor-car. Indeed, had it not been for the presence of her business manager, Mr. Leo Fritz, she probably would have suffered somewhat. As it was, Mr. Fritz had to stand the hustling, and Miss Taylor escaped. Next week Miss Taylor will try and manage ten turns nightly.

MR. TOM FANCOURT will shortly produce, on an elaborate scale, *Off to Gretna Green*, a new and original comic opera, in thirty minutes, which is something on original lines, so far as the variety stage is concerned. It is in three scenes, the book being by Wellesley Smith and the music by George Ess and Julian Rutt. Mr. Fancourt has had great experience in musical plays, being principal comedian for some time with Mr. George Edwards, Mouillot and Morrell, and Tom B. Davis, and has also been associated with the variety profession for a number of years.

MISS DOLLY ANDREWS has accepted a song from the pen of Mr. Chris Carlton, entitled "The Lady's Maid." It has a pleasing melody, and the chorus instantly caught on. This young and rising artist has been re-engaged to return to Liverpool for three weeks, and is not yet eighteen years of age.

MANY friends will regret to know that Mrs. Julia Woolf, the mother of Jack Woolf, of Wonderland fame, and grandmother of Gipsy and Lily Woolf, died on Monday, Jan. 21, aged seventy-six, and was buried at the Jewish burial ground, Plaistchett, East Ham, on Friday.

BERT COOTE'S Kiddies are performing many successful numbers in costume, and contingents of them are brightening pantomimes in Suburbia and the provinces by a happy combination of high spirits, light-hearted gaiety, and a real fitness for entertaining in well-chosen song and dance. The London Yankee Doodle Girls—to give them their full title—have been scoring most unmistakably at the Camden, from the moment of the first production of Mr. Robert Arthur's funny and refined version of *Cinderella*, but the brilliancy of their stage triumphs has been greatly enhanced this week by their initiation of a unique dance—the most novel thing of its kind that we have seen during a long experience of "entertainments of the stage."

THE house is thrown into darkness, and immediately eerie figures in pierrot costumes, gleaming with a sort of white incandescence, flit about the stage like so many will-o'-the-wisps. Their movements, at first rhythmic and harmonious, become eccentric, and a weird effect is created when their bodies seem to leave their legs, which still go on dancing. One of them does a skipping-rope dance, and their pretty and effective manœuvres on the night of our visit to the house were watched with astonishment, admiration, and absorbed interest. Mr. Bert Coote may be complimented on his acquisition of a most attractive novelty, which, we understand, has been exploited in America.

MISS VESTA TILLEY comes to the Palace Theatre next Monday, and will "present" three new songs, "I'm a bachelor," "Jolly good luck to the girls"—a Militia song—and a third, which she is very delighted with, "King Baby," the notion of the song being, of course, derived from the famous picture, "His Majesty the Baby." Miss Tilley, who "goes" everywhere, is sure of a welcome at the beautiful Palace.

MR. BLYTH PRATT, previous to the strike, issued a very ingenious form of advertisement in the form of "Box Office Telepathygrams," handed in at the Planet Mars, dealing with the mystifying performances of the Nassaus.

"THE QUEEN OF SPADES," the new Alhambra ballet that has been devised by Signor Curti and composed by Signor Mario Costa, will probably be produced at that house on Feb. 11. The first scene is outside a foreign kursaal. In the second, a fanciful one, the dream of the hero is unfolded, and a gorgeous ballet of cards and liqueurs is presented, the figurantes appearing as jacks and aces, kings and queens, benedictines, chartreuses, curaçoas, and so on. This will be a very beautiful spectacle, ending with a wonderful moving game of bridge, a remarkable novelty. But there is a scene even more splendid. "Our hero" dreams that he is parched with thirst, slaked at first, but afterwards aggravated by the orgy of alcoholism through which he has just passed. Then there comes to him his own true love, the simple maiden who brings him water. It is the apotheosis of water—the whole stage is given to it. The coryphées dance in water, while birds, electrically lit, skim over its limpid surface.

MR. HYMACK, the novel entertainer who is working a comparatively speaking unexplored mine of humour with great and deserved success, has just finished a prolonged engagement at the Empire, Leicester-square, where he has become such a favourite that he has been offered by Mr. Hitchens, and has accepted, a return date in June.

"THE PROFLIGATE KING" is the title of a new costume sketch which will be played at the Standard, Pimlico, on Monday and during the week, by Mr. Albert Ward, late leading man with Wilson Barrett, Isaac Cohen, and other big managers of the theatres. The sketch, on its initial production at Poplar last month, achieved a thoroughly genuine success. It is a romantic costume episode of the Lewis Waller order, and managers on the look-out for something new would do well to see this production.

THE Islington Empire anniversary, celebrated on Friday, the 18th, as usual brought together huge audiences at both houses, eager to sample the fine and large programme which Mr. George Wilson and Mr. Harry Blight had arranged. After a spirited overture had been played by the band, under Mr. Alf. Petersen, the following artists appeared in rapid succession:—Arthur Gill, Marie Blythe, Lloyd Morgan, Belle Bolton, Clemart, Bros. Buchanan, Jack Lane, the Three Cape Girls, Chas. Bignell, Billy Hobbs, Juno May, the Black and White Quartette, Stelling and his dog, Howard and Collison, Leonard Mortimer and company, in the sketch, *Captain Kettle*, Amber Austa, Maud and Sidney Wood, Chrissy Cross, Boy Glen, the Donohoes, Tom Carney, Harry Tipton, Bert Elmore, Dan Kirton, Scottie, Webb and Branston, Will Van Allen, Bonnie Goodwin and her coons, Nina Martino, Harry Champion, Mendel, Lilian Elfreda, Wilson Hallett, J. W. Winton, Joe Chinn, F. Martenengo, and Tony Tant. Many of these turns appeared in both houses. The stage was under the direction of Mr. Alf. Bishop and Mr. R. Dallinger, who rattled on the turns at lightning speed; in fact, all the staff worked hard to beat the record of all past anniversaries, and they succeeded.

MISS ROSE HAMILTON has scored a gratifying success at the Metropole, Glasgow, as Prince Radiant, in Albert and Edmund's production of *The Babes*. She is giving a matinée on the 25th to 2000 little children who cannot afford to pay to see the pantomime; each child will be presented with a bun and an orange on entering the theatre.

MR. WOOLMER YOUNG, whose "Deal, shuffle, and deal," by Harry Adams and E. Woodville, took Camberwell Palace and Walham Green audiences by storm recently, was presented on the last night of his engagement, by a few prominent habitués of the former hall, with a gold horseshoe pin with seven diamonds. It is a good augury for this promising artist that this dramatic song is from the same pen that supplied that great artist, the late Chas. Godfrey, with "On guard."

AT Hengler's Circus on Monday will be produced a comical revue, entitled *Clownland*, written by Mr. Arthur Coomber, and there will be other changes in the bill.

THE Oxford announces the important engagement on Monday of Mr. R. A. Roberts, the famous protean actor, in *Dick Turpin*, the whole written, and the five chapters played, by himself, including a Bow-street runner, an inn-keeper, a Yorkshire farmer, a lady of title, and Dick Turpin, the highwayman.

A DRAMATIC sketch, entitled *The Debt*, will be produced at the Bedford on Thursday afternoon next by Miss Hélène Forest and a strong company.

SINGERS of the topical sort have been ridiculing for some years, in more or less well-written lyrics, the opinions and pretensions of Mr. Keir Hardie; but the National Alliance is receiving considerable help from the Labour Party, of which he is the chief.

The latest quotations of music-hall shares are as follows:—Alhambra, 1⅞; Canterbury, ⅞; Empire (15s. paid), 1⅛; Ditto (10s. paid), 1⅛; London Pavilion Ordinary, ⅞; Ditto Preference, 5; London Coliseum, ⅛; Metropolitan, ⅞; Moss Empire, 5⅛; ditto, 5 per cent. Preference, 3⅛; Oxford, 6⅛; Palace, 11s.; Tivoli, 6⅛; Var. Cons. Theatres, 13s.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

MR. JOE ARCHER will produce shortly a new song entitled, "There's a Jill for every Jack and a Jack for every Jill," written and composed by Harry Wincott and Harry Staunton. The Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., have secured the publishing rights, and will issue it immediately in their popular Sixpenny Edition.

THE Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., have just secured the publishing rights of two new songs written and composed by Mr. R. P. Weston, entitled, "Put that in your pipe and smoke it," and "You're looking remarkably well, considering."

A PHENOMENALLY successful song, and one that is very much in evidence just now at many places of amusement, both in London and the provinces, is Pelham, Butts, and Rule's amusing ditty, "She didn't come from Borneo," published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. in their "Sixpenny Successes" series.

A NOTICEABLE feature at the Oxford last Tuesday evening was the ubiquity of the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s successful song, by Ballard Macdonald and Donovan Meher, "My tiny firefly," for not only did Miss Dorothy L. Clark sing the song, but a troupe of juvenile performers and another lady also rendered it during the same evening on the same stage. The same thing occurred with the same song at the Holborn Empire.

A WONDERFULLY "taking" song of the coon "motto" order, written and composed by John P. Harrington and Jas. W. Tate, and entitled "You don't miss de water till dere ain't none in de well," is issued by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co., and several well-known artists are already exploiting this tuneful number, which bids fair to become immensely popular. A few further singing permissions will be granted for a week or two.

MESSRS. PAUL PELHAM and Herbert Rule are responsible for no less than four of the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s latest advertised "springy" songs, viz.: "I'm thinking always of you," "Don't be afraid, little soldier," "Belle of the Dardanelles," and the big music hall and pantomime success, "She didn't come from Borneo."

THE Monte Carlo Publishing Co. have this week acquired from Messrs. Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford a great new song, with a German environment, which is now in the press, and the title of which will be advertised next week. Artists are advised to make immediate application to the publishers for permission to sing this song, as only a very limited number of permissions will be granted, and these will be accorded in the same order that applications are received.

IT is a novel idea for one firm of publishers to simultaneously publish two "German" songs written by the same authors and composers; but this is what the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. are doing, as in addition to the song referred to in the preceding paragraph, they also have in the press "My château on the Rhine," also by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford.

"THE GIRL FROM BIARRITZ."

A Comedy-Sketch, by Leonard Robson, produced for the first time in London at the Chelsea Palace, on Monday, Jan. 21.

Mr. Charles Flutter ....MR. LEONARD ROBSON
Mr. Anthony Crieff .....MR. IVAN BERLYN
Miss Angela Criss .....MISS ELLA KITSON

The ubiquitous "girl" is once again prominent in a comedy-sketch which had its first London production at the Chelsea Palace on Monday. Her introduction comes about through an eccentric will left by the uncle of Mr. Charles Flutter, which provides that unless he marries his cousin before five o'clock on a certain day the sum of £600,000 will go to the founding of a university among the Zambeesi. It is now within a few hours of the prescribed time, and the solicitor who has the matter in hand is in the deepest despair because all his advertisements in "agony columns" have failed to discover the whereabouts of the lady. Charles himself does not seem to care a cent for his uncle's gold, having determined to marry a young lady whom he met in Biarritz, and of whom he has just caught a fleeting view in a cab at Charing-cross. While Charles has gone in pursuit of the fateful vehicle a lady enters with a letter, but the solicitor is too perturbed to attend to her, and sends her away. After she has disappeared he opens the letter, only to find to his dismay that the bearer was the very person for whom he had been searching, but is now on her way to New York. The lawyer is on the verge of madness; but, fortunately, the lady, having forgotten to leave her address, returns, and Charles, coming back from his fruitless errand, recognises in her the captivating damsel from the Continent, with the result that he gets both the money and the maid.

Mr. Ivan Berlyn, whose valuable work on the regular stage will be remembered, adapts himself admirably to the requirements of the part of the elderly solicitor, his droll capers and demonstrations of despair causing constant laughter. Mr. Berlyn has a voice of remarkable timbre, which he turned to the purposes of merriment, the eccentricities of the old lawyer being delineated with rare effect, and the art of facial expression was seldom used to better purpose. As Mr. Chas. Flutter, the author gave a realistic sketch of the infatuated youth, careless of everything except that which affects the object of his infatuation, and acted with buoyancy and ardent expression. The girl from Biarritz was suitably realised by Miss Ella Kitson, who imparted agreeable ingenuousness to the rôle. The sketch was received with the utmost favour.

TWO HOUSES A NIGHT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—*Re* the two-shows-a-night system run by Mr. Harry De Freece at the Alhambra Music Hall, Manchester-street, Liverpool, you say *twenty-six* years ago I worked the two-houses-a-night there for Mr. H. D. *thirty-eight* years ago, and did three turns a night at the Oxford Music Hall, Liverpool (now the American Bar), during the same weeks. But previous to this date I was offered an engagement to play at the Cosmotheca Music Hall, Wells-street, Edgware-road, run by Mr. Sinclair, two houses nightly. This was in November, 1867. It was at this hall that the late dear Dan made his first appearance in a pair of tights adapted from his mother's stockings. The first music hall in Great Britain to adopt the term "variety theatre" was Geo. Harwood's in Pitfield-street, Hoxton (now the King's, Hoxton), in about 1870, with two shows nightly. Then there was the Eastern Alhambra, run by Tanner and Parks, two shows a night and on Saturdays three.—Faithfully yours,

J. W. ROWLEY.

MISS MILLIE HOWELL has left London for a ten weeks' provincial tour, returning to town April 1 to open on the Moss and Stoll tour at the Stratford Empire.

MR. GUS ELEN, who motored down to Olympia recently, was seen shortly afterwards proudly mounted on a massive elephant, looking as comfortable on his perch as the mahout of a maharajah. A remarkable thing about the ride was that the gentle pachyderm was led by Mr. Jimmy Glover, a pioneer of high-class music on the South Coast, the Mayor of Bexhill-on-Sea, and the popular chef d'orchestre of Old Drury.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE ALHAMBRA.

The programme at the Moresque palace in Leicester-square continues to be of the super-excellent character demanded by its very fastidious habitués. The beautifully-staged ballet, *Parisiana*, goes as merrily as ever, the audience fully appreciating the various incidents pantomimically introduced by the leaders. The beautiful costumes and unerring exactitude with which the members of the ballet perform the labyrinthine evolutions, combine, with the catching music, to produce an entertainment well calculated to dispel even the ill-humour of the most grumpy misanthrope. Ventriloquism is an art which has a perennial fascination for the public, and when it is of a humorous character it is specially appreciated by the younger generation, who, at this season, constitute a strong element in the audiences at all our places of lighter entertainment. Mr. J. W. Winton is a thoroughly successful exponent of the art, his humour taking the form of a running fire of very uncomplimentary personalities directed against himself by his doll McGinty.

Mechanical toys have, at the present time, realised a wonderful degree of perfection, but they will never probably attain to the marvellous ingenuity of De Witt, Burns, and Torrance, who give a very attractive gymnastic display, their first appearance being in the guise of dolls, which, however, soon display a very superior degree of agility. The equilibristic act by the two male performers is characterised by a daring which could only be justified by the absolute perfection reached. Mr. Gobert Belling, with the assistance of a highly-trained mule, donkey, circus horse, and boarhound, gives a most mirth-provoking imitation of a circus show. His appearance as an equestrienne of the *haute école* is so utterly absurd as to thoroughly merit the recall which is awarded him. Cherry blossom is the prevailing feature in a really lovely Japanese scene, designed by Mr. E. H. Ryan, and "Home again, my Cherry Blossom," is the pretty title of a very charming song, in which Miss Annie Mars continues to receive an enthusiastic reception. This approval is by no means to be laid to the account of our present very friendly feelings towards our allies in the land of the chrysanthemum, but to the inherent beauty of the whole scena itself.

The feeling of perplexed wonder which the Zancigs at first elicited is in no way allayed as their visit to the metropolis draws to a close. Although the columns of our contemporaries have contained innumerable explanations of "how it is done," there is still apparently a very large section of the public who are not yet quite convinced of the accuracy of these more or less probable solutions, and who are still quite prepared to be entertained by the amazing precision with which Mme. Zancig reads the names on visiting cards, the dates on coins, and the numbers of watches. Whether the explanation lies in the discovery of some new manifestation of those ethereal emanations whose first investigation is associated with the name of Crookes, and whose later developments are due to Röntgen, or whether we have merely a demonstration of superlatively clever trickery, is really a matter of small moment. The conclusion arrived at by an audience whose real object is to be amused is that the "turn" is the finest of its kind yet placed before the public, and that until they are superseded the Zancigs deserve all the popularity they now enjoy.

That *L'Amour* is the finest terpsichorean display which even the Alhambra has ever offered is an opinion long ago expressed, and the warmth of its nightly reception shows no signs of abatement. The scenery is of thoroughly Oriental magnificence, to which the weird music of M. Francis Thomé contributes in no small degree. Signorina Morina, the petite and graceful première danseuse, is an Alhambra favourite whose airy gyrations are a perfect embodiment of the poetry of motion. The Urbanora pictures still command, by their wonderful realism, unstinted admiration. The scene entitled "Puck's Pranks on a Suburbanite" is a proof of the wonderful adaptability of scenic arrangement to which the bioscope can attain; while the trip across the Atlantic in a big liner gives us a good idea of what "a life on the ocean wave" is now really like. When one watches from the stern of the big ship the receding track of snow-white foam churned up by the propellors, one listens instinctively for the warning bell of the patent log to record the quickly-passing knots, or when from the bridge we watch the huge breast of water thrown out by the steamer's bow, or see a big roller break over the forecastle head, we can hardly suppress an involuntary "Oh!" or refrain from making a rush for the shelter of some protecting weather-cloth.

Mr. George W. Byng's splendid orchestra has never been heard to greater advantage than in its rendering of the "Silver Trumpets" march as an introduction, or the always popular *William Tell* overture as a selection during the interval.

THE TIVOLI.

The strike had a strangely contradictory effect at the Tivoli on Wednesday night. In conjunction with the intense cold, it reduced the audience to most discouraging limits, but as regards the programme which Mr. Joseph Wilson succeeded in presenting it is questionable whether it was not almost as good as it would have been had there been no strike. The conductor found himself supported by only three violinists and a clarionet player, and to these a very able pianist proved a strong reinforcement. Apparently a good many of the audience expected that there would be some excitement furnished by interruptions caused by members or friends of the Federation, but in this they were practically disappointed. There was certainly a little good-humoured raillery from the gallery, but in the balcony, where there were to be observed a number of well-known members of the music-hall world, practically perfect order prevailed. One youthful enthusiast attached to the end of a cigarette, on venturing to audibly advise one of the opening performers to "go home," had his attention drawn by one of the attendants to the convenient proximity of an urbane policeman and immediately collapsed into a respectful enjoyment of the rest of the programme. At the other end of the balcony three stylishly-dressed ladies, who were probably a deputation from the Suffragettes' headquarters in the not far distant Clement's Inn, and who had scented an opening for a little further cheap notoriety, proved perfectly amenable to the gentle remonstrances of Mr. James Howell, and apparently determined to reserve their exertions for the more classic arena of Westminster.

The Romsakoff Troupe gave an interesting display of drill in the Russian Army. They excited a considerable amount of amusement by their exaggerated use of the "goose-step," but the precision exhibited in all their movements secured them a cordial reception. A rather long wait ensued, during which a gentleman in the gallery requested his money back, and then a lady and gentleman gave an excellent selection on cornets and trumpets. Miss Ethel Walker, by her capital rendering of two songs to her own pianoforte accompaniment, won the very hearty approval of even those among the audience who were somewhat inimical. "Are we downhearted?" and "It's all right now" constituted a logical sequence which the audience seemed to regard as peculiarly in keeping with the crisis through which the profession was passing. Mr. George Beale, in giving a song and dance, was subjected to a little interruption, but by calmly ignoring this gained a goodly share of applause. Miss Frances Roscona sang an amusing song, "Don't say a word, just wink," which under more favourable circumstances would have obtained a recall. Miss Kitty Loftus had as enthusiastic an ovation as the somewhat attenuated audience was capable of. Her song, "Don't you think the little girl was right?" was thoroughly appreciated, while "A splendid force the police" contained just sufficient well-deserved praise to justify her agreeable banter of the London bobby.

Mr. Stanley Cook presented an amusing sketch, entitled *The Lady Doctor*, his somewhat indistinct voice being accounted for by the fact that he had been "obliging" at a number of other halls. Mr. Tom Clare's laughable musically illustrated story of the troubles of an elocutionist reciting "Eugene Aram" to the accompaniment of a pianist accustomed to play at bioscope exhibitions was original and very funny. Miss Kitty Malone sang "I'm a Yankee girl" in smart and pleasing style, and then Mrs. Brown-Potter was heard in a finished rendering of "The legend of the daisies." As an elocutionist Mrs. Brown-Potter has few rivals at present on the stage, and the audience insisted on having an encore. In "The way to use your fan" she imparted a delightful lesson in the graceful art of ballroom coquetry by which the happy male biped may be lured to beauty's feet. It is unfortunate that those illustrious foreign artists, Prince and Princess de Broglie, should be in London while this dispute is raging. However, they must have been gratified at the warmth of cheering accorded to the Princess's delivery of "The Swanee River" and "Annie Laurie." It is to be hoped that a larger orchestra will soon obey the lead of the Prince's bâton. Mr. W. Frampton showed how a clever actor might in an emergency play all the parts of a burlesque drama—a lesson which no doubt the Tivoli management regarded with approval. Miss Collette furnished proof of considerable talent as a vocal mimic, and Mr. Kenneth Lawson managed to cram the maximum of dry humour into his musical entertainment.

To the music-hall strike the public will always owe one debt—that is the discovery of such a singer as Miss Zetland. To a charming personality she adds a beautiful voice very well trained, and her rendering of "I loved you so" and "Sing me to sleep" earned for her an ovation in inverse proportion to the size of her audience. She will certainly ere long take a high place on our platforms as an exponent of high-class music. Mr. Joseph Wilson had acted throughout the evening as a sort of chairman, announcing the various artists, and the genial smile with which he addressed the house went far to dissipate any incipient signs of disturbance. When he thanked the audience at the close the round of applause which greeted him showed that the trying nature of his position was fully realised by everyone.

THE CANTERBURY.

Thursday night's audience at the Canterbury was not a large one, but it was one, apparently, perfectly willing to extend a great deal of good-humoured sympathy to the management in their difficulties. And, after all, it speaks volumes for the kindliness of a London audience, the major portion of which was composed of the working class, that in no single instance was any artist, however feeble his or her efforts, "guyed." It would have been interesting to know what the real opinion of the public on this vexed question was, and the writer watched closely the faces of those around him and of others still further away, but failed to detect anything but the utmost indifference to the whole matter. Of course, this may be explained by the fact that the public do not understand the issue in dispute.

Mr. Fred Miller succeeded in getting together a fairly efficient orchestra over which Mr. Archie Howells, the conductor, presided at the piano. A printed programme, detailing twenty-three items, was issued. Miss Tots Davis came as an extra turn. First she appeared as a lodging-house slavey, with a song declaring her aspirations to marry into the ranks of the aristocracy. Her other ditty, "When you are promenading on the jetty," enlivened as it was by a smart dance, proved hugely to the delight of the audience. The Howes gave a thought-reading exposition, which was in every respect equal to that provided by the Zancigs at the Alhambra. Their method of interpretation was exactly the same, with the exception that the lady is blindfolded. Of course, the éclat of the Zancigs' was absent, but in every other respect this performance was as bewildering, as mysterious, and as clever as the one in Leicester Square. Lockhart's Elephants presented a remarkable demonstration of animal intelligence. They seemed almost to watch the movements of their trainer, Captain Taylor, and fully to enter into the fun of the show. Mr. Edward Cranston and Mrs. Bennett submitted a clever little melodramatic sketch, entitled *Terry; or, True to His Trust*. Mr. Cranston furnished a well-considered portrayal of the best qualities of the Irish peasant, and Mrs. Bennett was bright and vivacious as the heroine. A couple of talented vocalists, Messrs. Norman and Phillips, occupied the stage for a few minutes, and the audience would have been quite willing to have heard more of them. Their duets, "Here's to our Empire united" and a battle song, were rendered in exquisite style. Roland and Oliver appeared in a little dramatic episode, *Her Last Dance*, which was capably acted; and Norman and Vanderbilt presented an amusing duologue, *My Wife's Peculiarities*. Miss Jessie Huddlestone, the original La Poupée, enchanted her hearers with her delivery of "Good-bye, summer"; and others who lent able assistance in the entertainment were Mr. Percy Cahill, comedian; Deal and Broadway, duettists and dancers; Miss Elsie Deane, comedienne; Miss Elsie Enry, serio and dancer; Mr. Fred Stuart, comedian; Miss Sybil Montague, vocalist; Young Vento, descriptive vocalist; Miss Flossie Behrens, lady whistler; the Yorkshire Mill Lads; Miss Florence Moody, in monologue; Miss May Gurney, in a medley of Old English ballads; Mr. Fred Elmont, comedian; Bothwell and Ward, patter comedians; and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.

HACKNEY EMPIRE.

Another new production occupies a prominent position in the current programme at this popular place of amusement. The novelty is entitled *The Freaks*, and is played by Mr. Herbert Darnley's company of comedians. There are three scenes, and the plot is of very minor importance, being quite subservient to the rollicking fun and frolic on which the new production depends for its success. A comical Colonel, with a stiff leg, is determined to prevent, if possible, the marriage of his son, a Captain in the Army, with a young lady known as the Princess Ruby. The lovers join a circus company, and, after various adventures, succeed in their purpose. The first scene represents a Dutch fair in full swing, and a merry crowd fills the stage. Here we make the acquaintance of the Princess Ruby and her friend, La Belle Pepita, the wonderful lady snake-charmer, who quickly becomes the object of amorous attentions on the part of Colonel Slachter, quite a typical military lady-killer. Then the crowd makes way for the entrance of the freaks, which include a camel, a wild man, a giant, a dwarf, and, of course, a bearded lady. A couple of comic burglars named Vinkel and Vogel are mistaken by the Colonel for detectives, whom he has engaged to discover the whereabouts of his son, and they are not slow to benefit by the error. The living curiosities are again in evidence in the second scene, the Freak Museum, where the gay Captain is discovered disguised as the bearded lady, and amusing complications follow. The third and last scene—inside the Circus—presents quite a realistic picture, the seats around the ring being occupied by spectators, while the Princess Ruby rides around on a fine horse, her lover acting the part of the ring-master; La Belle Pepita also goes through a performance with her snakes, and one of the comic burglars, a couple that are prominent throughout, finding that they have been discovered, and that the place is surrounded by the police intent on their capture, takes a dive into the big gun, and becomes "a human bullet." The members of the cast work hard and with satisfactory results. Miss Madge Merry is a fine representative of La Belle Pepita, and Miss Georgina Leno does well as the Princess Ruby. Messrs. Bertie Wright and Albert Weston, as Vinkel and Vogel, make good use of their opportunities for the introduction of extravagant comic business. Mr. Charles H. Adeson furnishes a laughable sketch of Colonel Slachter, who walks with a stiff leg; and Mr. William A. Armour is active and alert as the Captain. The Misses Vic Charleton, Daisy Nelson, Daisy Byford, and Cora Weldon make handsome military officers in attendance on the Colonel. Several well-known names appear in the cast, Mr. Mark Sheridan, jun., representing Lieut. Peters, Mr. Tom Costello, jun., Lieut. Knapps, and Mr. Johnny Scholfield as Lieut. Schnapps.

D'Arc's Marionettes are exceedingly cleverly worked, and the impersonations include many of the most popular variety artists of the day. The Trapnell Family, in their acrobatic and tumbling entertainment, meet with unqualified success. The girls who take part are remarkably graceful and supple in their movements, and are evidently in the very pink of condition. The only male member of the troupe is also a skilled and well-practised performer, and takes a full share of the honours. Very welcome is the appearance of Miss Amy Clevere, always artistic and refined in manner, and an excellent vocalist as well. She sings with much charm "I can't come out" and a pretty love ballad, both of which are received with much applause. Dome, dressed in the garb of a labourer, contributes to the entertainment as a comedy clay-modeller. With this plastic material he, with a few deft touches, models portraits of famous people. Miss Fanny Erris looks well in the picturesque costume of the time of George the Third, and sings with good effect "In days gone by," illustrating the last verse of her song by a sword exercise. Mr. Clarence C. Corri's company is appearing here in the pathetic musical episode, entitled *Heart Strings*. Miss Gladys Hooley, who plays one of the three parts, gives evidence of her skill as a violinist, and is applauded. Miss Nellie Coleman, described as "the only lady comedian," gives a realistic character-sketch of a tramp, with a song, "Looking for employment." The lady, in an original line of business, is well received. The Cambrian Trio of lady vocalists sing tunefully, and are dressed in becoming costumes. The American Bioscope has a very amusing subject this week—"The Animated Mattress"—which evokes peals of laughter. Mr. John Christie, the acting-manager here, announces that a special matinée, in aid of the Lord Mayor's Cripples' Fund, will be held on Thursday, Feb. 21.

HAMMERSMITH PALACE.

There is a very amusing sketch this week at the Hammersmith Palace bearing the title of *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, presented by Mr. Arthur Watson and company. In the first scene, which represents the grounds of a hotel overlooking a dock side, there enter a number of able seamen from abroad H.M.S. Victory—not, by the way, the Victory of Trafalgar's day, but a modern battleship. The sailors indulge in the usual jolly tar larks with some pretty waitresses. Later there arrives Lady Teasum in search of her long lost niece. She elicits the sympathy of one of the men who undertakes to keep a sharp lookout for a girl with "a black mark under her right ear." In an amusing scene the girl is identified by the merry tar, but before the discovery is made known to the aunt a little comedy is enacted between that worthy lady and her husband, Admiral Teasum, who suspects her of intrigue with a clergyman. The latter is really a sailor disguised in canonical attire. However, all ends well. Mr. Arthur Watson, as Jack Marlinspike, the mischievous sailor, is extremely entertaining; and Miss Flo Stanley is pretty and vivacious as Lady Teasum's niece. Mr. Harry Watson is boisterously jovial as Hatchway; Mr. Bob Leardo amusingly sustains an air of injured dignity as the Admiral; and Miss Maude Roberts contrives to add to the humour of the piece by her assumption of dignity in the rôle of Lady Teasum. Lively choruses are interpolated in the playlet.

As graceful and attractive as ever, Miss Marie Kendall offers some sentiments which are pleasing to a British ear. "England is good enough for me," she sings in her enchanting style; and, then, turning from the serious to the comic, she renders a laughable character song, entitled "Come away." Tray and Rich, the black and white-faced comedians, decide to join issue against each other in a contest of exaggerations. One tells of the wonderful things that are done in America and the extraordinary sights to be seen in that land of modern miracles; while his companion endeavours to go one better with the aid of his imagination. Messrs. Tray and Rich have a keen sense of the ridiculous, and one cannot keep a straight face while listening to their merry repartee. Mdlle. Rosina shows the funny side of a menagerie, consisting of a lion, tiger, elephant, giraffe, &c., represented by dogs, who seem to have been remarkably well trained and whose performance is most interesting. Mr. Steve McCarthy dilates upon the advantages of the possession of a bit of gold. He sings the lines in a clever character style, which he also brings to bear upon another ditty, "Love letters."

Mr. Charles Coverdale is deputising for Mr. Phil Bransby, the latter gentleman, who had been announced to appear, having been unable to turn up. Mr. Coverdale's vocal representation of a dog fight and his other imitations are characterised by a realism and naturalness highly suggestive of the careful development of remarkable gifts. From that charming and versatile "impressionist," Miss Alice Pierce, we get a series of impersonations of well-known actresses. Thus, we are treated to an imitation of Miss Lena Ashwell in *Leah Kleschna*, Mrs. Leslie Carter in *Zaza*, and Miss Victoria Monks in her song, "Ain't you gwine to say good-bye?" Every item in Miss Pierce's repertoire is a commendable portrayal. Mr. Charles Russell wins applause for his song scena, "It's a wonder what music will do," in which, in entertaining fashion, he describes the effect of various forms of melody upon various people in various circumstances. The Bohemians (Will and Madge) submit an attractive instrumental and comedy act; and Miss Lotte de Abbey's character impersonations of a Dutch girl and a baby are altogether praiseworthy. Mr. Harry Champion's popularity as a comedian is unabated. In his quick and quaint manner he delivers a couple of mirth-provoking items, one of which is called "What a mouth!" and the other, "Keep on!" The comedy acrobatics and vocalism of Mueller and Coyne cannot fail to find favour with a variety audience, and their business is never wearying, as it is constantly subjected to new ideas. Messrs. Samuel James and F. S. Jennings are presenting the dramatic episode, *Vengeance*. Mr. Jennings as Harry Gridge and Miss Cora Deane as Millicent Nelthorpe furnish some capital acting, and they are supported in able fashion by Miss Kate Fulton and Messrs. Harry Barford, A. T. Kaye, and H. C. Nerney. What cannot be described as anything but an admirable programme concludes with a delightful series of Edisonograph pictures.

(*For Notices of Other Halls see pages 18 and 21.*)

THROUGH the generosity of the management of the Theatre Royal, Leamington, the inmates of the Warwick Union, numbering upwards of 200, were allowed to visit a matinée performance of Mr. Milton Bode's fairy pantomime on Thursday, and, judging from their hearty applause and laughter, they thoroughly enjoyed the treat.

THE MUSIC HALL DISPUTE.

STRIKE OF STARS.

The prospects of peace between proprietor and performer have been shattered—for a temporary period only, we hope—by the most acute crisis that has ever arisen in the amusement world. It was evident from the tone and temper of the mass meeting at the Surrey Theatre on Sunday that some drastic step would be taken by the tripartite alliance between the Variety Artists' Federation, the National Union of Stage Employees, and the Amalgamated Musicians' Union. Even the inflammatory announcements of that meeting showed that the period of conciliation had passed, and at half-past twelve on Monday an ultimatum was sent to the office of Mr. Walter Gibbons, which was handed to him on his return there at six o'clock. By that time the Alliance had decided to allow no artist, musician, or Union stage employee to work at any hall under his control unless he signed the Charter, which he refused to do. The Alliance thereupon called out artists, bands, and stage-hands, and their action affected the Holborn Empire, the Islington Empire, the Hippodrome, Ealing, the Grand, Clapham Junction, the Croydon Empire, and the Duchess, Balham. The first intimation was conveyed to the artists and employees by the pickets of the Alliance, which met them as they entered the stage door of each house affected. At the Holborn a first performance was given by some artists hastily pressed into the service, and an accompanist was found, the place of the limelight man being filled by the cinematograph operator with his lantern. The audience took the situation good-temperedly in the main; though there was a noisy demonstration at the opening, which was, however, speedily quieted by a speech from Mr. Claude Marner, the manager. In his apology to the audience Mr. Marner stated that the grievance of the Alliance against Mr. Gibbons was that he refused to discharge old employees and replace them by Union men. A second performance was found to be impossible.

At the Grand, Clapham, the performance had commenced before the will of the Alliance had been made known; but pickets speedily arrived, and Mr. Henry Ketteman, the manager, had to give up the idea of continuing the programme, and the audience was dismissed, their money being refunded. The admission money was returned at the Islington Empire shortly after seven o'clock; and no performance could be given at the Empire, Croydon, the Duchess, Balham, or the Ealing Hippodrome. At the last-mentioned place a large first house had assembled, but the absence of the orchestra foreshadowed trouble. After a considerable period of waiting Mr. E. W. James, the manager, announced that, in consequence of the action of the Variety Artists' Alliance, and pending the result of a conference with Mr. Walter Gibbons, there would be no performance. A considerable amount of excitement was caused by this statement, both on the stage and in the house. Nevertheless the audience took its disappointment good-humouredly, and, being supplied with passes for any future performance, quietly dispersed.

Mr. Harry Mountford led the pickets, and the notice he displayed was the official notification of the strike issued by the Alliance, and signed by the secretaries of the three societies involved—Messrs. Frank Gerald, Joseph B. Williams, and William Johnson. The notice read as follows:—"To the members of the Alliance,—You are forbidden to enter any of the Gibbons' halls until you receive instructions for the bearer of this letter." Manager Grimes, of the Empress, Brixton, and the Putney Hippodrome, signed the Charter.

THE SYNDICATE HALLS INVOLVED.

On Tuesday the strike extended to the halls governed by Mr. George Adney Payne, who at 3.30 received a letter, of which the following is an extract:—

"Some information has reached us that, after agreeing to meet a representative of the National Alliance on Feb. 3, you sent a letter to most of your employees telling them that you did not intend to recognise the Alliance or any other societies composing it. Having regard to the fact that you are taking sides against us, and assisting Mr. Gibbons in his fight, we beg to inform you that unless the enclosed Charter is signed and returned to us by four o'clock to-day we shall consider ourselves free to take immediate action to protect our members."

The letter referred to was one written by Mr. Payne to the employees of his halls, telling them that his co-directors did not wish to influence them either to join or not to join any Union, as each man was judged solely by his individual performance of his duties. Mr. Payne replied as follows, addressing the letter to Mr. Frank Gerald:—

"In reply to your favour of to-day's date, I will put your letter before my co-directors at our next meeting to-morrow, and send their reply The appointment for Feb. 3 to which you refer, still holds good on our part. The communication to our employees to which you refer is of a different nature to that you speak of, and your information is, therefore, inaccurate. In the meantime, the whole matter is to be considered this week by the London Entertainment Protection Association in order, if possible, to arrive at a basis for mutual arrangement."

This communication was answered by the annexed ultimatum on Tuesday afternoon:—

"Dear Sir,—Your letter to hand. In reply thereto we beg to say that the Alliance Committee have decided, at the request of the members, to sanction their withdrawal from the following halls under your control to-night:—

Tivoli.	Canterbury.
Oxford.	Walthamstow Palace.
Euston	East Ham Empire.
Paragon.	South London Palace.

If we receive the signed copy of the Charter per bearer we can cancel this arrangement.—Yours sincerely, "FRANK GERALD."

Mr. Adney Payne, without authority from his co-directors, could not agree off-hand to a Charter that covered existing as well as future contracts, and all the terms of which had not been examined. He had no alternative, therefore, but to refuse to sign it, delivered as it was only two hours before the curtain was to rise at his various houses.

The Tivoli opened as usual shortly before eight o'clock; but the pickets had done their work, and soon after the doors opened Mr. James Howell came to the footlights and read the following manifesto:—

"I have to inform you that, so far as this hall is concerned, the Trade Union Committee governing the artists, musicians, and stage hands have suddenly determined to deprive the public of their entertainment to-night. So far as we can judge, this course has been adopted vindictively and without real reason. Nearly the whole of the staff and stage hands, who, as a rule, are paid union wages, have been employed for a great number of years without alleging any dissatisfaction, while the artists' salaries are the largest in all the world, many of them being equal to, and in some cases exceeding, those of Cabinet Ministers.

"The management are taking immediate steps to fill up any gaps in the programme occasioned by the sudden and very ill-advised course taken by the Union. We can but pity the many misguided artists and others who are being thrown out of employment, perhaps permanently, but we hope that wiser counsels will prevail. No grievance has at any time been unheeded on our part, and we have never refused to consider representations on the part of anyone employed by us."

The manager concluded with the statement that money would be returned at the doors, and asked the audience to disperse quietly. There was no disposition to do otherwise. The speech was received in silence, except for a few ironical cheers when the salaries of Cabinet Ministers were mentioned.

THE OXFORD.

Mr. Blyth-Pratt, the manager here, coped with a difficult situation with considerable tact and finesse. Vouchers were issued to those who paid for unreserved seats, in case the occupants wished for their money back, and a force of police was requisitioned to keep the pavement clear outside the stage-door; but there was not the slightest disorder. An attenuated orchestra took their seats, under the direction of Mr. Burgess, and Mr. Blyth-Pratt came to the front of the curtain and said:—"You are aware, ladies and gentlemen, of what is taking place, and I am sorry to tell you that the Variety Artists' Federation is endeavouring to prevent our artists working here to-night. I regret that it will be quite impossible to give our regular programme, but I am going to put forward an entertainment which I hope will really entertain you."

Among the entertainers announced by the manager were Mrs. Brown-Potter, who gave a recitation; Mr. Tom Clare, entertainer at the piano; Mr. Ted Thomas, who sang a jockey song; Mr. Jan Rudenyi; Mlle. D'Aubigny, from the Paris Opera House, who sang Tosti's "Good-bye" with much taste; the Hungarian violinist, who played a rhapsody; a diminutive Continental mandolinist, a decidedly good player, accompanied by a buxom vocalist; and a very welcome turn was supplied by Corman's Juveniles, who kept the show going with choruses, dancing, and ballads, the turn winding up with a gavotte in Watteau costumes, which fetched the house immensely. A very agreeable impression was caused by the appearance of Mrs. George Adney Payne, who returned to the stage temporarily to assist her husband in the crisis. Looking particularly winsome in a simple white evening dress, Mrs. Payne, who bravely overcame her nervousness, sang with much fervour and culture "The Holy City" and "Dear Heart." A couple of comic acrobats were also included in the scratch programme, and a comic singer. The audience behaved admirably, and were manifestly fair in their attitude, and applauded without stint when such recognition was deserved.

There was at least one unpleasant altercation between one of the Chartists and the manager, and we are given to understand that a very conspicuous and important member of the V.A.F. left the saloon at the request of one of the directors; but, taking into consideration the excitement prevailing, both parties displayed admirable control. The directors who arrived about ten o'clock included Messrs. George Adney Payne, Henry Tozer, Henry Sutton, Walter Gibbons, Joseph Davis, and Henri Gros, the last-mentioned gentleman being called up from the country, where he had been recuperating after a severe illness. The saloon, too, was largely filled by artists and agents, among whom we noticed Messrs. G. and F. Peel, Sydney Hyman, Sydney L. Cohen, Edward Granville, Harry Day, Emanuel Warner, Jack Somers, Ernest Edelsten, Didcott, and Howell. Mr. and Mrs. Gus Elen came in to see the show, and among the artists also present were Mr. Edgar and Miss Claire Romaine, Mr. Bert Clark, and Miss Hamilton, Mr Barney Armstrong, Joe O'Gorman, and others.

At the Euston there was a fairly large audience at a quarter-past six, but when the entertainment should have been started, Mr. Fred McAvoy, the local manager, appeared before the curtain, and announced that it would be impossible to carry out the programme, owing to the action of the Variety Artists' Federation. Consequently the theatre would be closed, and everyone would receive back at the doors the money paid for admission. This statement aroused no demonstration, and the audience quietly filed past the pay-box, where they received their money.

"No show this evening" was the cry at the Paragon on Tuesday; but the orchestra remained stedfast to the management. Mr. Fred Miller, at the Canterbury, had also to close down.

At the South London, Lockhart's Elephants, under the direction of Captain Taylor, appeared twice during the first performance, and the Biograph also turned out a blessing to the management. At about a quarter to eight, however, a hitch in the temporary arrangements brought Mr. Payne, the manager, to the footlights. He explained that there was a little grievance between the proprietors and the Variety Artists' Federation, which body prevented the artists from working. "We have Lockhart's Elephants here, and several other turns; and I have had news from other variety theatres that there are excellent artists coming to fill the bill. You have had the elephants on once and the pictures once. Would you care to have the pictures again, or the elephants? What will you have—pictures or elephants? Pictures?" Shouts of "No!" "Elephants?" "Yes! yes! yes!" "Very well, we will put on the elephants again." The gentle pachyderms ambled on to the stage, and did their best; but soon after Mr. Payne, firmly resisting the invitation to sing a song himself, announced his intention of closing the house.

The Ealing Hippodrome was opened on Tuesday by Mr. E. W. James, with a full variety programme. The sole occupant of the orchestra was a pianist, who most effectively answered all calls made upon him. There was no disorder of any kind at the first house, and everything passed off successfully. Outside the theatre, the Broadway was paraded by "sandwich" men, bearing aloft placards announcing the "Music Hall War," and considerable crowds assembled; but otherwise there was nothing to cause remark. Mr. E. W. James, the manager, finds his greatest difficulty is obtaining capable bandsmen.

At the Islington Empire the two performances were given as usual on Tuesday; but the only orchestra obtainable consisted of Mr. Peterson, the conductor, who played the piano, and got through remarkably well. Just previous to the first performance, Mr. Wilson, the manager, in a short speech, expressed his acknowledgments to his patrons for their admirable behaviour on the previous evening.

The East Ham and Walthamstow Palaces were closed on Tuesday, but reopened on Wednesday evening, with a new programme. At the latter place the artists were accompanied by a pianist; but at the former the orchestra almost reached its full muster. At the Paragon, Mr. Charles Beecham reopened on Wednesday with a full orchestra, under Mr. Arthur Grimmett, submitting a fresh bill, announcing each turn from the stage. The company included Mr. Neville Graham and company, in Louis N. Parker's playlet, *The Man in the Street*; Laura Doone, the Leider Quartette, Miss Alcock, Miss Le Roy, Victor Scobel, the Brown, Ernestine Walters, The Ottos (comic acrobats), Lincoln and Warren, Lily Arthur, Harry Harris, the Three Kentucky Girls, Little Uno, Ruby Emberson, Mme. Mysto, and the Paragon pictures.

The Euston reopened on Wednesday with two performances, as usual. A piano and a violin did duty as orchestra, and Mr. Fred McAvoy announced each artist from the stage. The company included Mr. Chilcock, comedian; Miss Montague, ballad vocalist; Mr. Jacobs, sand dancer; Miss Dorothy Clarke, descriptive vocalist; Mr. Reginald Leyland, with a sketch at the piano; Miss Cecil, dancer, Mr. J. Taylor, comedian; Miss Anderson, comedienne and dancer; Mr. Croft, Australian actor-vocalist; and Miss Louisa Peach and company, in a sketch, entitled *Taking It Home*.

Mr. Walter Gibbons has issued the following manifesto :—

AN APPEAL FOR JUSTICE!

I feel it my duty to place before my numerous patrons a few facts in connection with the music hall strike, feeling that, by adopting such a course, my position will be justified in the eyes of the public.

By virtue of agreement between myself and the Variety Artists' Federation, made in December last, I agreed to accept the undermentioned conditions and terms made by them, and these terms I have loyally adhered to.

Summary of Agreement.

1.—I agree to pay all musicians and stage hands in my employ at the halls under my control the full Trade Union rate of wages, and to pay, *pro rata*, for all extra performances, including matinées.

2.—To show no bias or prejudice against any artist or musician who was, or might in future become, a member of the National Alliance of Artists, Musicians, and Stage Employees.

3.—To pay additional wages to all stage hands at a rate which was mutually agreed between the Alliance and myself.

4.—To refer to a Board of Arbitration, consisting of two nominees appointed by myself, two nominees appointed by the Alliance, and an independent chairman, all disputes which might thereby arise. The agreement has been strictly adhered to by me in every way.

On Monday, January 21, at 12.30 p.m., a letter was received at my office from the Alliance, during my absence, containing new and impossible conditions, and ignoring the arbitration clause made between us; furthermore threatening serious consequences in the event of a non-compliance with the terms. I was given thirty minutes to decide. At six o'clock I returned, and the letter was handed to me, but the Alliance had already decided to allow no artist, musician, or member of the Society to work at any hall under my control.

In the interest of my large staff of employees, I could not accept the condition that only Trade Union or Society men and women should be retained. The accepting of such a condition meant throwing out of work a large number of loyal and faithful servants, who would then be penniless. In my reply to the Alliance I stated that I had paid, and would pay, to all my employees the Trade Union wage in accordance with the terms of my agreement, but I would never discharge from my employ those men and women who had stood by me so loyally. That arbitration afforded full opportunity for discussion for any grievance which might have arisen.

I ask the public to continue to give me that support which I have tried to deserve by careful study of their interests. By doing so they will assist to keep in work a large staff of men and women whose living depends on the halls being open.

Trusts do not exist in the music-hall world, and any statements to that effect are quite fictitious. The leading artists receive enormous salaries in consequence of the keen competition that prevails, and the majority of them receive amounts that any ordinary Trade Unionist would envy. Three of the leading spirits in the strike, *i.e.*, Miss Marie Lloyd, Mr. Alec Hurley, and Mr. Arthur Roberts, hold contracts with me at salaries of £80 per week, £85 per week, and £80 respectively; both Miss Lloyd and Mr. Roberts have other contracts for the same period. The lowest salary paid to any artist in the present companies is £4 for the week.

Are these condition (to use Miss Marie Lloyd's expression) slavery?

In consequence of the Press having published certain statements made by members of the Artists' Alliance that I have not paid Trade Union wages, I have submitted my books to two firms of chartered accountants, and herewith append their report :—

Walter Gibbons, Esq.

Dear Sir,—We have, as requested, compared the salaries books of the—

Holborn Empire
Islington Empire
Duchess Palace, Balham
Empire Palace, Croydon
Grand Palace, Clapham Junction
Ealing Hippodrome,

for the week ending Jan. 19, 1907, with Rule 10 of "Working Rules and Minimum Rates of Pay" produced to us, and signed by William Johnson, secretary, and with the minimum rates of pay quoted in the *Daily Chronicle* of this day's date. We find that the salaries paid to members of the orchestra and to the stage hands either agree with such minimum rates or exceed same.

And we also find that, in accordance with the undertaking given, we understand, by you in December last, artists under contract at that date have received additional salary in respect of matinées.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Newson, Smith, Lord & Mundy,
37, Walbrook, E.C.
Baker, Sutton, & Co.,
Eldon-street House, E.C.
Jan. 22, 1907. *Chartered Accountants.*

Under these circumstances, I ask the public to give me careful consideration and their support; to allow no garbled statements to influence them against my action, which has been dictated by a desire to deal fairly with servants in my employ who have not chosen to become members of the Alliance.

Any outstanding question that there may be affecting the interests of any persons employed or engaged by me I have been, and am still willing, to discuss in an impartial manner.—I have the honour to be, yours obediently,

WALTER GIBBONS.

THE ALLIANCE MANIFESTO.

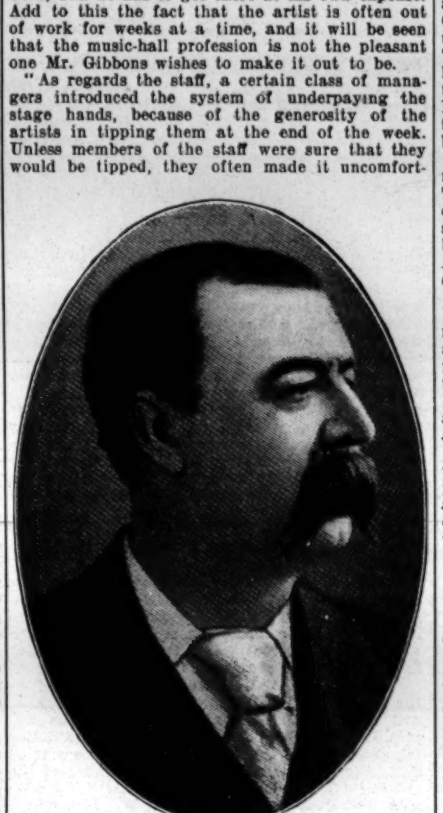
The following is the official statement of the Alliance issued on Wednesday from the offices, 28, Wellington-street :—

"Mr. Gibbons has informed the public that he has carried out his agreement with the Alliance in the letter and in the spirit. Had he done so the present strained position would never have come about. In the case of his musicians, he says he is paying the Union rate, and that we desire to compel him to dismiss old servants because they are not members. That is untrue, because every member of his orchestras is a member of the Union. The trouble in so far as the musicians are concerned is due entirely to Mr. Gibbons instructing his musical directors to weed the Union men out, two at a time, and replace them with non-Unionists. The Alliance has, by Mr. Gibbons' action, been forced into insisting on his carrying out the promises which he gave on two different occasions to engage Union men at Union rates.

"As regards the artists, Mr. Gibbons has tried to prejudice the case of the Alliance by pointing to the salaries he is paying to the best-known artists. Surely he must see that he is giving his own case away, because they must have drawn the money in his halls five or six times over, or he would never have engaged them. On the other hand, it must surely reflect the highest credit upon these artists who are in receipt of such comfortable salaries that they are standing by their poorer brother and sister professionals. Mr. Gibbons says that no artist has been engaged by him at less than £4 per week. That is not the case. Some of our members hold contracts for considerably less than that per week. The public do not understand what even the highest salaries mean. They do not know that the artists have to provide their dresses, 'fit-up,' band parts, and even special scenery and properties. Then they have to pay their travelling expenses from one town to another, and in the majority of cases keep two homes going. The artist may be engaged in London this week and in Glasgow the next, and he has to get there at his own expense. Add to this the fact that the artist is often out of work for weeks at a time, and it will be seen that the music-hall profession is not the pleasant one Mr. Gibbons wishes to make it out to be.

"As regards the staff, a certain class of managers introduced the system of underpaying the stage hands, because of the generosity of the artists in tipping them at the end of the week. Unless members of the staff were sure that they would be tipped, they often made it uncomfortable for the poor artists, who were doing their best to amuse the public. In one instance a lady dresser receives 2s. 6d. for her week's work; in another case a man receives 15s. for working day and night. Other cases could easily be given.

"All branches of the profession are at our back, and it is now a fight to a finish. The public do not go to see Mr. Gibbons or his halls. They go to see the show. The providers of the best shows are in the ranks of the Alliance. We are confident the public will support their old favourites, and then houses of amusement will sign our Charter."



MR. GEORGE ADNEY PAYNE,

Managing-Director of the Syndicate Halls, and a director of the Variety Theatres Consolidated, which are worked in conjunction.

THE L.E.P.A.

Under the auspices of the London Entertainment Protection Association, a meeting of proprietors and directors was held at the offices of the syndicate, 1, Durham House-street, Strand, on Wednesday afternoon. The following official statement reviews the negotiations before the strike broke out :—"At the request of Messrs. Frank Gerald, J. B. Williams, and William Johnson, secretaries of the three societies now merged in the National Alliance, an appointment to discuss their proposals was made for Jan. 8 with Mr. Henry Tozer (chairman), Mr. G. Adney Payne (managing director), and Mr. Henry Sutton, as representing the directorates of the Tivoli and Oxford. The meeting was duly held, and the three secretaries presented the terms that had previously been agreed to by Mr. Walter Gibbons after his dispute at Brixton. It was pointed out that several clauses did not apply to the Tivoli and Oxford, and, after three hours exhaustive discussion, modifications of some of the clauses affecting artists, calculated to pave the way to mutual arrangement, were made by the secretaries, who agreed to return a copy of these amended clauses—after reporting same to their excutive—for consideration by the London Entertainments Protection Association at its next available meeting. The clauses affecting stage hands and musicians were left for discussion until Feb. 5, a date named by the secretaries themselves; but, in relation to these clauses, Messrs Williams and Johnson were informed definitely that the conditions which compelled the proprietors of music halls not to employ any musician or stage hand who was not a member of the particular Unions these gentlemen represented could not be accepted in any case. The conditions as to wages, &c., were to be closely examined and discussed at the adjourned meeting. As showing that this was definitely accepted by the executive of the National Alliance an official announcement of the arrangement arrived at was made in the Alliance's journal, *The Performer*. Instead, however, of abiding by this arrangement the Alliance sent a letter on Jan. 10 to Mr. Tozer asking him to place before the meeting of the London Entertainment Protection Association, not the modified demands, but the original demands, plus an entirely new clause. On the following day the Alliance receded still further by declining to deal at all with the London Entertainments' Protection Association, upon which the following letter was sent by Mr. Tozer to the Alliance on Jan. 12 :

"'I am in receipt of your favours of the 10th and 11th inst. enclosing memorandum of eight points of agreement to become operative on Monday next, Jan. 14, which you ask me to put before a meeting of my co-proprietors. I may remind you that having, on Tuesday last, discussed them at great length with you and your colleagues (except that relating to barring, which was not in the list you handed me for discussion, and which was only shortly referred to at the end of our interview), it was made clear to you that the original terms of some of your proposals, notably Nos. 1 and 4, must be more clearly and equitably defined in order to receive the favourable consideration of my co-proprietors, and they were therefore tentatively revised by you and your colleagues.

"'Without seeming to foreshadow the decision of my co-proprietors, I must point out that the object and result of our meeting on Tuesday last would be nullified and the hours spent together wasted unless the amended suggestions arrived thereat are submitted. It is the intention of my boards to consult, at the earliest convenient date, the general body of entertainment proprietors upon all the points you have raised. This course, which met with your unqualified concurrence at our last meeting, is identical with that which you as representing music-hall employees have adopted, and is the surest and speediest method of arriving at a complete as well as a mutually satisfactory understanding.'

"The executive took no further steps, beyond a bare acknowledgment of Mr. Tozer's letter, and the next communication from them was the ultimatum delivered to Mr. Payne on Jan. 22. So far from there being any unwillingness on the part of the proprietors to consider fully any representations from artists and employees, these proprietors, as it will be seen, accorded every courtesy and a most patient hearing to everything that was put before them, and were still giving detailed consideration to the proposals when the unfortunate action of the Alliance, without any warning, brought negotiations to a standstill."

THE MANAGERS' DECISION.

At their meeting on Wednesday the managers decided to fight the National Alliance, and not to agree to that body's proposals embodied in their Charter. The following resolution was passed unanimously by a representative attendance :—"That every member of this association pledges himself to support the action taken in resisting the attack made upon certain members by the National Alliance, the same support to be given to any other members of this association who may be called upon to resist similar attacks."

It was also announced that the association has now been extended to include provincial members. This extension is regarded in music-hall circles as of considerable importance, as it may possibly result in the friction between proprietors and artists being no longer confined to London, the Variety Artists' Federation having members all over the country.

Mr. Adney Payne, in reply to an interviewer on Wednesday, said there was no alternative for the managers but to fight the Alliance. "What is asked is," he said, "that the Alliance shall manage our business for us. One of the terms of the Charter contract is that the Variety Artists' Federation form of contract be adopted as soon as supplied. That means that we are asked to adopt a contract which we have not even seen." Dealing with the case of the Tivoli, he said, "All the Tivoli men are Trades Union men. They are perfectly satisfied with their work, and their pay, and the way they are treated, and yet they are called out. They are compelled to go out, otherwise the Trades Union would call them blacklegs."

MR. STOLL'S HALLS.

As no ultimatum was on Wednesday presented to Mr. Oswald Stoll the five London halls under his control were unaffected.

During the afternoon an important meeting was held at the Moss-Stoll offices in Cranbourn-street, W., at which Sir Edward Moss, Mr. Stoll, and other directors were present.

At this meeting, which lasted nearly two hours, it was decided that in the event of any demand or notification being received from the Federation, no notice of any sort would be taken of it, nor would the Federation be recognised in any sense.

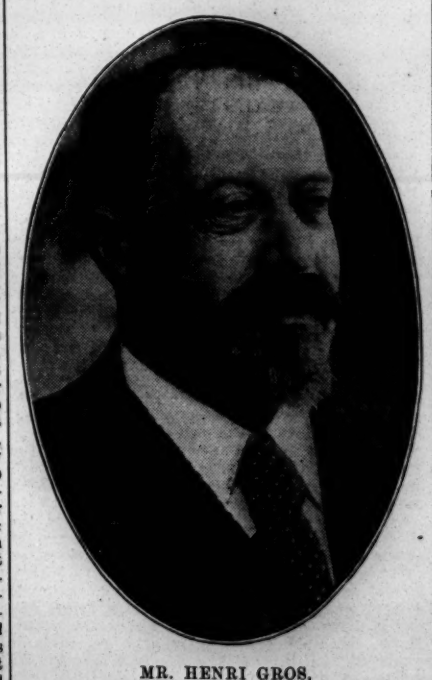
Following this meeting definite instructions were wired to every hall in the country controlled by the syndicate. In effect these messages were :—

Pay no attention to any orders received from Federation. If necessary, employ auxiliary staffs.

In view of the rumoured threats that action would be taken last night, at every theatre controlled by the syndicate entirely auxiliary staffs—stage hands, orchestras, and artists—had been provisionally arranged for.

"Our artists, our stage hands, and our orchestras," said a prominent representative of the syndicate, "are paid as much and even more than this so-called union demands. Our contracts with artists extend to 1916. Any artist attempting to break his or her agreement will immediately be proceeded against."

Additional evidence of the interest that is being taken by at least a section of the public in the Music Hall Strike was obtained by a visit to the Islington Empire on Wednesday evening, when, in spite of the intense cold, a small crowd had, some time before the time fixed for the beginning of the first entertainment, collected around the main entrance in Upper-street; but obedience had to be paid to the stentorian voice of police authority, which gave utterance to the familiar command, "Pass along here, please, pass along." The constables on duty here were evidently quite prepared to suppress anything in the shape of disorder, but as a matter of fact the excitement never reached a high pitch, only a mild kind of curiosity being shown by the loiterers outside the hall. In spite of the bitter east wind, Miss Marie Kendall, the well-known comedienne, was on duty as one of the pickets, and it certainly requires no little enthusiasm in a cause to undertake such a task on one of the coldest nights of the present winter season. The weather was suggestive of the Arctic regions, but Miss Kendall stuck pluckily to her work, and got rid of quite a large bundle of handbills calling attention to the alleged broken agreement to give fair terms and conditions to the members of the artists', musicians', and stage-workers' societies, and appealing to the public to support the strikers. Miss Kendall had the assistance of another lady artist and some male members of the V.A.F. One of these was heard to declare that it was of course impossible to prevent certain artists from appearing on the stage, and a performance by a "scratch" crowd would no doubt be given. On making enquiries of Mr. George L. Wilson, the present manager of the Islington Empire, we ascertained that the first performance was about to begin, and were handed a printed programme containing the list of turns. There was no orchestra, and a fresh set of stage hands had, we were informed, been engaged in place of those who had struck.



MR. HENRI GROS,

President of the London Entertainments Protection Association.

On entering the hall, we found that the audience was reduced to about half its usual dimensions, and the overture was being played on the piano by Mr. A. Petersen, the musical director here, who, when he made his first appearance, was received with a cheer. The first item in the bill was the "new Oriental burlesque," presented by Osborne and Yates's company, entitled *Princess Katchi*, the company including Miss Queenie Lawrence and Miss Jennie Belmore. Both these ladies were conspicuous in the representation of the musical piece, and enlivened it with some excellent singing and dancing. The comedians also gave able assistance, and the company included a number of young ladies attired in Oriental costume. The musical portion of the sketch naturally suffered from the absence of an orchestral accompaniment. Amurat performed various feats of strength, in proof of his prowess as an athlete, concluding by bearing the weight of a piano, and a young man who was seated at the keyboard. Miss May Gurney, a lady with an excellent voice and cultured style, sang a pleasing medley of well-known ballads, which were received with loud applause. Mr. Henry Maynard contributed a couple of songs with much acceptance. Miss Amy Alcot proved to be an attractive song and dance artist; and other names on the list included Florrie St. Roy, comedienne; Kenneday and Ascot, in a sketch, *True Irish Hearts*. Mr. E. Cranston and company also appeared in the well-known dramatic sketch, entitled *Terry; or, True to His Trust;* and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope presented a series of pictures, representing the International Obstacle Race, from start to finish. The programme, it should be added, was well received by the audience.

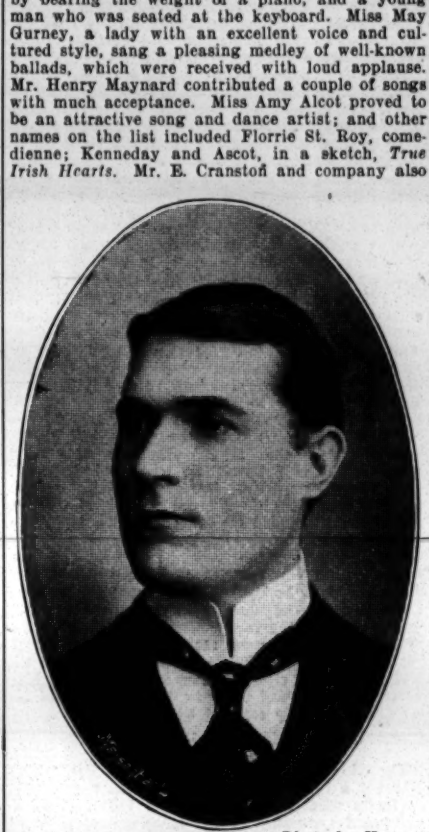


Photo by Hana.

MR. WALTER GIBBONS,

Who controls the interests of the Holborn Empire, the Grand, Clapham, the Duchess, Balham, the Ealing Hippodrome, the Empire Palace, Croydon, and the Islington Empire.

V.A.F. IN THE PROVINCES.

To the Editor of the Era.

Sir,—If the V.A.F. are not too busy, may I be permitted to ask them, through your columns, why, if they are so desirous of fair play, that they do not turn their eyes towards the provinces, where some of their own members are, at their own free will and pleasure, giving *two* shows each performance, at halls with two houses nightly with one or two matinées thrown in, making twenty-four to twenty-eight turns weekly, thus depriving one or two "humble turns" of the chance of obtaining a *date*, however small, that might mean, in these horrible times, life or death to them?

I speak principally of third-rate sketch companies who, being unable to obtain shops by fair means, make engagements to give or play two sketches in each house, which enables the avaricious manager to give an entire performance with about two other turns and a bioscope.

I see that the V.A.F. propose raising the entrance fee. Why? Hundreds of poor variety pros. would willingly join the Federation, many, including myself, being eager, I know; but how is it possible, when, with all the cry for "fair play," their own members are cutting the ground from beneath our feet and keeping us from earning the means to do so?

If there is such a terrible bother respecting half salaries for matinées, surely something should be done with the managers who require, and get, twenty-four to twenty-eight shows at the price of twelve.

With apologies for an appeal that has become a necessity,—I remain, yours truly,

A SUFFERER.

Colchester Jan. 24.

THE ORCHESTRAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of the Era.

Sir,—It is stated in the Press that the Music Hall Alliance "indignantly denied" that they had asked for the dismissal of non-Union men. I beg to point out that the very contract which the managers are asked to sign stipulates for the employment of musicians of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union. This means that the members of the Orchestral Association (who form 75 per cent. of the orchestras of London) must either clear out or join the Union. As this association is a London professional organisation with a membership of nearly 1500 *bond fide* professionals, and the "Amalgamated Musicians' Union" is a provincial organisation, with a London branch of a little over 400 members, your readers will agree that it is a tall order on the part of the Alliance to expect the managers to be so unjust as to dismiss them at the demand of this Union.

Although this association has not been consulted by the Alliance, we are not prepared to assist any of the managers unless the minimum salary is paid for all performances, which the Alliance also claims. Yet, in spite of this, the Alliance will demand the dismissal of our members, or the option of joining them. With every desire to help them, my council feel this to be a serious obstacle in the way, as they consider that if the minimum is obtained that is all that can be reasonably expected.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. ORCHERTON, Secretary.
Orchestral Association, 28, Gerrard-street, W.
Jan. 22.

NEW GRAND (LTD.), CLAPHAM.

To the Editor of the Era.

Sir,—In reply to Mr. Alec Hurley's statement in the *Daily Mail* on Jan. 22 that he is a shareholder in the Grand, Clapham, and is losing by the strike there, I beg to inform the shareholders of the above company that the controversy between Mr. Gibbons and the artists will make no difference to the dividends of this property, as the rent is, and always has been, paid well in advance, and a large sum of money is placed in the joint names of the directors as security. Therefore, Mr. Hurley's assertion that he is a sufferer in this direction is inaccurate and misleading.—Yours faithfully,

T. G. HALES,
Director, New Grand, Clapham.
London, Jan. 23.

"WHAT UNCLE LOST."

A "Musical Squall," written by Syd. O'Malley. Music by H. Pether and C. Thornton. Produced at the Empress, Brixton, on Thursday, Jan. 24.

Joe ..... Mr. Phil Sinclair
Mr. Goldbag ..... Mr. Fred Newham
Liza ..... Miss Boyce
Peggy ..... Miss Janet Reeve

This new musical sketch was produced at the Empress, Brixton, on Thursday night by Mr. Fred Karno, and played by the members of one of his numerous companies. As is commonly the case in pieces of this description, the plot is quite subservient to the medley of song and dance, jest and joke, which are so freely introduced. To judge of the merits of a sketch of this kind by a first performance would not be fair, because so much is done subsequently in the working up of the piece by clever artists who know their business. The beach at "Merry Margate" has been chosen as the scene of the new production, with a view of the pier in the distance, the background being occupied by bathing machines. Prominent in a troupe of trippers of the Cockney brand is Joe, a busker, who, it appears, has won the heart of Peggy, niece of Mr. Goldbag, Mayor of Margate. The name is certainly suggestive of wealth; and Joe, the busker, is evidently in luck's way if he marries his worship's pretty niece. However, the consent of the Mayor has yet to be obtained, and it is scarcely likely that he will readily sanction the union of the lady with a gentleman who gets his living by singing on Margate sands. Peggy is a lively little maiden, and amuses herself by masquerading as a French officer, who has, according to his own account, travelled to England by means of the Channel tunnel. The stranger makes the acquaintance of the Mayor, who fails to recognise his niece Peggy in the dapper little Frenchman. His worship enters one of the bathing machines, and creates a diversion by making his reappearance in bathing costume. More amusement is caused by a lady entering the Mayor's machine instead of her own, and refusing to give up possession. In the meantime Joe has annexed Mr. Goldbag's trousers, and makes it a condition that he will return the indispensable nether garment if the Mayor at once gives his consent to a matrimonial alliance with Peggy. However, the trousers are removed by force, and the couple cut a ludicrous figure. Eventually the Mayor is induced to sanction the wedding between Joe and Peggy, and all ends merrily and happily. When the fun and frolic have been worked up to the required pitch there is every prospect of a successful career for *What Uncle Lost*.

Mr. Phil Sinclair was a capital representative of Joe, and made a hit with a sneezing song, in which the chorus of trippers joined with amusing effect. Mr. Fred Newham was comical and did good work as the corpulent Mayor. Miss Janet Reeve was a very smart and vivacious Peggy, and scored with her vocal contributions. Miss Boyce was also well placed as Liza, a typical tripper from the East End. The new sketch enjoys the advantage of being adequately staged, and it was favourably received by Thursday night's audience.

DEATH OF MR. DICK KITCHEN.

In the death of Mr. Dick Kitchen, the well-known comedian, lovers of pantomime and of the music hall have lost one who contributed much to their enjoyment. The deceased caught a chill while performing at Kilmarnock with Fred Karno's company in the part of Sergeant Lightning in *His Majesty's Guests*, and was suffering badly when he went on to Falkirk. On Thursday evening of last week he became so ill that he was unable to appear on the stage. He improved on the Friday, and hopes were entertained that he would be much better by Saturday; but he took a turn for the worse at midnight on Sunday, and died two hours later. The cause of death was acute pneumonia and pleurisy. Among those with him at his death, besides the grief-stricken wife, were Mr. J. Theurer, of Fred Karno's company, and Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt, resident-manager of the Grand Theatre, Falkirk (where the company had a week's engagement.) A sad circumstance in connection with the regrettable event is the fact that deceased's brother Fred (who is playing Dame Trot at the Grand, Glasgow) paid a surprise visit to Falkirk on Sunday, and left again in the evening with the assurance that his brother's condition was improved. The news of his sudden demise was therefore to him and his friends a considerable shock.

Deceased, who was forty-seven years of age, is survived by his widow (Hermance Mercier) and two children. He was a native of London, and came of a good professional family. In addition to his brother Fred, there is also another brother, Harry, following the same line of business. "Dick" was widely known, and had played in most of the theatres in the kingdom. He was a son of Mr. R. H. Kitchen, an old-time favourite in Glasgow.

The funeral was arranged for Thursday at Falkirk cemetery.

TOM BOWMAN FUND.

	£	s	d
Olympia, Liverpool, per Mr. J Connor	3	11	9
Manchester Hippodrome and Ardwick Empire, Ltd.	2	2	0
Hippodrome Stage Staff and Extra Ladies and Gentlemen, per Mr. H. Denvil	1	10	6
Per Mr. S. E. Conover	1	8	0
Per Mr. Jesse Burton	1	6	6
"Puss in Boots" Co., per Mr. Harry Rogerson	1	3	6
M. Hales	1	1	0
Oswald Stoll	1	1	0
Hippodrome Orchestra and Choir, per Mr. A. Haines	0	19	3
Liverpool Empire, per Mr. D. J. MacFarlane	0	19	0
Collected by E. P. Morgan	0	16	3
Manchester Palace, per Mr. N. Barry	0	15	6
Per Mr. H. Wright, Cyprus Hotel, Liverpool	0	13	6
Per Mr. Garnham	0	12	9
Alan W. Young	0	10	6
W. Mowbray Harle	0	10	6
Tom E. Conover	0	10	6
Tom MacInerney	0	10	6
Miss M. Stafford Smith	0	10	6
Terence Nerrey	0	10	0
John Wainwright	0	10	0
G. M. Gardner	0	10	0
Anonymous	0	10	0
E. P. Morgan	0	5	0
H. Denvil	0	5	0
C. E. Burnell	0	5	0
Per Mr. S. MacInerney	0	5	0
Total (final list)	£23	13	0

The Douglas Town Council invite tenders for the season of 1907 for the rights to perform on one or more suitable positions on the foreshore; for occupancy of band-stand on the Harris Promenade for musical entertainments; the right to perform with a suitable string band on the public music-stands within the borough; and the right to perform on the band-stands during the evenings.

The Borough of Southend Corporation invite tenders for the privilege of placing 100 automatic machines on or near the pier during the ensuing year.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE MASS MEETING.

A Mass meeting of the National Alliance representing the Variety Artists' Federation, the Amalgamated Musicans' Union, and the National Association of Theatrical Employees, was held at the Surrey Theatre, kindly lent by Mr. Frank Macnaghten, through his manager, Mr. Fred. Baugh, on Sunday last, with Mr. Will Crooks, M.P., in the chair.

Among the large number of sympathetic messages was one from Mr. Cecil Raleigh, as follows: "Alliance has my best wishes, and my great hope is to form an Actors' Trade Union which will be federated with you."

MR. CROOKS, who opened the meeting, in the course of a long speech, said:—You are going to stand up and stand firm for something that is really useful to have. Although you might try and persuade managers that you are absolutely indispensable, they say: "You are quite right; you are just the fellow we are looking for, but at *my* price." We men who have been in the Labour line for some time have been looked down upon by you. I have seen you working frightfully hard in describing the man who was born tired. You have not done it very well because it has made you sweat. Now, if you had patent boots and spats, instead of hobnail boots, and imitated the lazy man in Rotten-row—well, you could rely upon the cheers of the pit and gallery, whatever the boxes thought. The public are not sweaters, except when they have an extra good singer, and then they will have him on time after time. The artist does not get anything extra for that, except the cheers; but when he is done up, people say: "Poor old chap, I knew him in his prime." You are asking for the right to live in decency and comfort; and do not think that when that is obtained that life can be all beer and skittles. Unknown to you, unknown to the general public, I have known Mr. Frank Gerald—whose service to you is beyond price—to worry public men in your interests.

MR. FRANK GERALD, the next speaker, said:—This is the first public meeting of the National Alliance, and to me it is, and always will be, a memorable occasion, and I think it will be one to look back upon with felings of deep gratification. It may appear to you that the National Alliance has sprung into existence very suddenly. It may appear to you to have been rather rushed; but I want to undeceive you on that point. Before we had been in our offices at 28, Wellington-street one week this very subject was broached, and the ideas that were put forward that day last April have come to reality to-night. This is now a triple alliance of the component parts of organisations for those who provide entertainments which the public pay their money to see. This meeting to-night is a demonstration very much in the same way as the British Fleet at times is ordered to make a demonstration to show some foreign Power that we are awake, and mean to use our power if necessary. I trust the Alliance will never be called upon to use its power. Much more do I sincerely hope that we shall never abuse our power; but when the time comes we must say "Ready, ay, ready." Now more particularly with regard to our own Society. A week or two ago agreements were entered into with Walter Gibbons and Frank Macnaghten. Up to the present moment, we have no evidence before us that Mr. Macnaghten has done anything but stand by his agreement. With Mr. Gibbons the case is somewhat different. At the interview of the three Secretaries with Mr. Gibbons he gave his word that he would agree to the conditions put forward, but he begged not to be compelled to put it into writing at that moment. Now, the way in which Mr. Gibbons is carrying out his agreement with us is very peculiar. You know there are two ways of carrying out an agreement. Most of us, I presume, are smokers, and you all know the difference between straight-cut and twist. I will endeavour to demonstrate to you what I mean. If Mr. Gibbons agrees that commission shall not be deducted from your salaries, and then offers five per cent. less for your contract than for previous contracts, what is that? If he agrees to pay for a matinée performance in the week, and then you find there are two matinées, what is that? Very well, if we twist Mr. Gibbons in return he has only himself to blame for not serving us fairly. It is gratifying to think that we have the assurance of many individual proprietors, who have already said that they are agreeable to come to terms with us, but there is the probability that sooner or later we shall come to cues with Mr. Stoll after his recent action with regard to the barring clause and with regard to the matinée clause. There are many here to-night who are the victims of Mr. Stoll's action with regard to barring. As I look into a box to my right just now I can see someone who is suffering from it already. Now, such a state of things should not exist. We do not intend that it shall. I will mention a case in point. I will mention the case of Mr. Pat Carey. He was engaged for the Empire, Birmingham, last week. Mr. Carey found himself down for the Bordesley Palace. He wired to 28, Wellington-street, and he awaited the instructions of the Federation. I communicated with Cranbourne-mansions, and I was informed in due course that they had heard nothing from Mr. Carey. And I said, "Neither will you. Mr. Carey has put his case in the hands of the Federation, and if you want Mr. Carey to go to the Palace, Bordesley, you will have to ask him to do so through the Federation." Mr. Stoll communicated with Mr. Carey, and the latter forwarded a reply that he awaited the instructions of the Federation. This has been the result, that the Moss's Empires have had to engage somebody else for the Palace, Bordesley, and pay Mr. Carey his salary in full for walking about Birmingham. This, I think, will be a very pleasant thing for the shareholders to know about, and I hope the executive of this Federation will send a representative to attend the general meeting of the shareholders at Edinburgh next month. In the eyes of some the alliance that has been formed between these societies may have been looked upon with some little disfavour. I cannot see why it should be so. As your General Secretary, whose bounden duty it is to think out and to organise the best ways and means of accomplishing the work which we have set out to attain, I think the best has been done. I say it, and I know that there is a great deal of responsibility resting upon me. I welcome the responsibility owing to the circumstances that have been brought about. In my mind it is only by becoming trades unionists, by adopting trade union principles, and by following them up, that we shall ever work out our own salvation. It has been said, I notice by a report of a provincial meeting, that stage hands, for instance, were not artists, and that they were merely workers. I maintain that we are all workers. The stage employés, the musicians and the artists, work out the programme together. You go to the Oval Cricket Ground, and you will see gentlemen, headed by the captain, Lord Dalmeny, walk out of the pavilion at a certain gate, but when once they and the other players are on the field of play one is just as good as the other. It is the same in the case of the artists, the musicians, and the stage workers. We know that we have right upon our side. In any case that has gone into court I cannot recollect any instance where a judge has expressed any other opinion than that the circumstances under which the music-hall artist works are most hard. As I say, we have always had right on our side, and if we are only true to the alliance and true to our charter we must win. As an organisation we certainly have youth on our side, and in the Lexicon of youth there is no such word as "failure."

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSON (General Secretary N.A.T.E.) said, on behalf of theatre employés, he wished to put their case so far as it concerned their particular departments. He wished to support the explanation of Mr. Frank Gerald to the effect that the development which that meeting indicated was not so sudden as many of those connected with their organisation believed. Some months ago he accompanied his colleagues to the office of the Federation, the object being that they should discuss together how some method might be established for properly protecting general workers in the profession. They found that Mr. Gerald had already thought over this question, and so far from finding it necessary to submit a scheme, they discovered that he was ready to submit a scheme of his own. Mr. Gerald told them that he looked forward to the time when they would see a music-hall programme presented by a company every member of which was a member of the V.A.F.—every man and woman appearing on the stage, every member of the orchestra, and every man working behind the curtain being combined to protect their own interests. That was what the Alliance had been established to accomplish. He had always felt that a federation of that kind was inevitable in the natural course of events. Members of the variety profession had been endeavouring to fight as best they could for years against injustices, and that Alliance had been brought into existence by the tyranny of the music-hall proprietors. So far as the stage employés were concerned, they fought their fight in London fourteen years ago. They established then a minimum rate of pay, but the new conditions that had come along in recent years had forced them to renew the struggle. The new syndicates had imposed conditions very different to those which they imposed, and they had therefore come to the conclusion that unless they made their conditions uniof struggling for justice and fair dealing, for, if, after all that had been done, they failed in this fight they would place themselves in the position of deserving the contempt of the workers in this country. But he did not believe that they would fail, but that they would go forward and not cease their endeavours until every section had had that justice to which they were entitled.

MR. WILLIAMS, General Secretary, A.M.U., supporting the resolution:—Mr. Macnaghten said he had met them in a fair way. He said: "I recognise your strength; I recognise that you can crush me, but I want to give way to the force of your argument rather than the force of your powers." He appealed to them all to be true to themselves; to be true to each other. Their children who come into the profession will then be able to say: "Thank God that the men and women who went before us did their duty."

MR. HARRY MOUNTFORD proposed the first resolution, which was as follows:—"That this meeting emphatically enforces 'the charter of the Alliance,' and pledges itself to support any steps authorised by the Alliance to secure the adoption of the charter; and also calls upon the organised workers of the United Kingdom to support the Alliance by refusing to patronise those places of amusement where the managers refuse just terms and fair conditions to the artists and workers in the entertainment world."

MR. MOUNTFORD said:—We are fellow-workers. It is from us that dividends are produced. We were a white powder which they said they could blow away with a breath; but they have thrown the cold water of reason upon our powder, and they find we are now plaster-of-Paris, and our telegraphic address is "Concrete, London."

We don't want to fight; but, by Jingo, if we do, We have got the Pros., we have got the staff, and got the music, too.

Defence, and not defiance, is the creed of this Alliance. If the managers will not come to terms with us there is nothing to prevent artists opening an opposition hall. But you must remember that they cannot close their halls down exactly as they do mills. And, furthermore, remember that you are not isolated people. You are a part of the Federated Trades Unions of Great Britain, and, when the word comes, are you going to disgrace us?

MR. GEORGE GRAY, vice-chairman, V.A.F., spoke to support the resolution. They had, he said, heard a certain amount of argument that night about the doctrine of pacification. However, for the last few months he had been carrying on a certain amount of warfare, and it was his determination to fight as he had never fought before, and to the end, with the gentlemen he saw around him that evening. One often heard the advice, "Put not your trust in princes," and it certainly was a most marvellous thing to him how they could have gone on for years and years without defending themselves better than they had hitherto even attempted to do against great injustices. If, in the future, the order came to him in the country or anywhere else, "Come out," he would come out; and, what was more, he would do his best to see that no one else went in.

ALDERMAN ISAAC MITCHELL, Secretary National Amalgamation of Trades Unions, supported the resolution:—I want to see Mr. Mountford deliver such an address as he did to-night to the delegates of the Trades Union Congress. If it is desirable to have an actor-manager at Spring Gardens, why not put your secretary there also?

THE CHAIRMAN then put the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

MR. JOE O'GORMAN, chairman, V.A.F., then moved the second resolution, which ran thus:—"That this meeting declares it is imperative, in the interests of all those engaged in the entertainment profession, that every artist, musician, and stage employé who is not a member of one of the allied societies should join at once." Mr. O'Gorman said:—"I promise you that I will endeavour to use, with all the fearlessness belonging to my race, every spark of enthusiasm that is within me in furthering the cause of the Federation. I want to mention here that Mr. Mitchell said the artists were a step above the stage employees, &c. To that I most emphatically demur, because I claim that the great majority of our profession, and especially those who have reached the zenith of popularity, have started from scratch, and I am one of them. I do not think it any credit to any man to be born with a silver spoon in his mouth. When a person starts in our business at 30s. a week, and reaches £30, or even £80, a week, he deserves some credit. Therefore I maintain that in this fight we should all be equal. We talk about tips. I am not going to encourage men who have the audacity to pay a stage-manager 16s. per week, and tell him he has got a good job, because he can help the man with the baggage and share the tips. When a man becomes tainted with management, whether he comes from the artists or the commercial office, he becomes a man to grind an artist down. I know of a case where a young fellow on the stage, who takes in the luggage, gets no salary at all but his tips. Think of a full, able-bodied man, who has to work and depend upon that which he gets by putting his hand to his hat! It is a most contemptible thing. I know people in the booking-office who are getting 1s. per night for two houses a night. I may tell you a gentleman, on whose word I can rely—a man who has been the friend of the profession in many instances—told me that already there is on foot a proceeding if we do not give way, to close some theatres for three months. But what are the shareholders going to say? Let me tell you they won't close them for two nights. If there is any closing coming, it will come from us. I say this, and I say it fearlessly, that if we ever have to go to such extremes it will not be without the whip having been applied to our carcases. We number in round figures 4,000, and we are getting the applications in from two to three figures weekly, notwithstanding our raising the subscription. I appeal to you who are not members to join at once, and not only to join at once, but to insist on all your comrades joining at once, and when the time comes for the fight—and I am positive it will not be long now—you will be able to present an impregnable front to the common enemy for the common good.

MR. C. C. BARTRAM, supporting the resolution, said:—It is getting late, I am closing a strong bill, and know, through eighteen years of experience of doing a dumb show, that I must work quick if I want to hold any of my audience. I say if there are artists who do not wish to join us, let them stop with the managers who refuse to sign our charter, and we will go across the street to another theatre, or hall, take our two million trade unionists with us as our audience, and, by leaving our enemies severely alone, let them starve.

The resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Charles Jesson, L.C.C., A.M.U., and supported by Mr. Charles Coborn, was carried unanimously.

[*Photo. by Half Tones, Ltd.*

THE MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY, JAN. 20, AT THE SURREY THEATRE.
MR. WILL CROOKS, M.P., L.C.C., CHAIRMAN, SUPPORTED BY MR. FRANK GERALD, MR. W. JOHNSON, AND MR. WILLIAMS (AMALGAMATED MUSICIANS' UNION).

THE CHARTER.

The following is the Charter of the National Alliance:—

AGREEMENT .....
.....
.....

(A)—This agreement, made and entered into this ..... day of ..... 1907, by and between ..... of the first part, and Frank Gerald, J. B. Williams, and William Johnson, representing the Alliance, of the second part, whereby ..... consents, and agrees to observe, pay, and adhere to the following rules, terms, and conditions, at all the Music Halls, Theatres, and Vaudeville Houses under ..... control in the United Kingdom, as and from the date mentioned in each section.

(B)—TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE VARIETY ARTISTES' FEDERATION.

(1) That, at all my Halls, or Halls under my control working two shows a night, all matinées shall be paid for at the rate of one-twelfth salary for each matinée. In one show a night Halls all matinées over one per week to be paid for at the rate of one-seventh salary.

(2) That no Artiste or Artistes shall be transferred from one Hall to another without his, her, or their consent.

(3) That "time" shall not be varied after Monday in each week without the Artistes' consent.

(4) That all disputes shall be referred to a Board of Arbitration, such board to consist of two nominees of ..... the undersigned, and two nominees of the Variety Artistes' Federation Executive Committee, and an independent Chairman, to be nominated by the above four nominees.

(5) That a "barring clause" of one mile and three months in London, and five miles and five months in the Provinces, be adopted.

(6) No commission to be stopped where Artistes are booked direct.

(7) No bias or prejudice to be shown to any Artiste who has taken part in this movement.

(8) This agreement to refer to all existing and future contracts, and to become operative on ....., 1907.

(9) That the "V.A.F." form of contract be adopted as soon as supplied.

(C)—TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE AMALGAMATED MUSICIANS' UNION.

It is further agreed that on and from ...., 1907, all the Musicians engaged at all the Halls under the control of ..... shall be members of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union, and shall be paid the Union rate.

RATES OF PAY.

LONDON.

Minimum, 36s. per week each instrumentalist. Matinées in one show per night houses, full salary each matinée. In two shows a night houses half salary for each matinée.

PROVINCES.

Prices as per price list, according to district.

(D)—RATES AND CONDITIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THEATRICAL EMPLOYEES.

It is further agreed that on and from ..... 1907, all those employed, in any capacity, in a stage department—that is to say, the stage, flies, electrics, gas, limes, and property departments—at all Halls under the control of ..... shall be members of the National Association of Theatrical Employees, and such employees shall—excepting the Stage-Manager, Master Carpenter, Electrician, or Property Master, who shall be paid a rate of pay higher than the rates specified below—be paid as follows:

WORKING RULES AND MINIMUM RATES OF PAY.

LONDON.

Carpenters.—10½d. per hour, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Overtime rates: From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., time and a half; from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m., double time. Saturdays, from 1 p.m., and on Sundays, Good Friday, and Christmas Day, double time.

Daymen in the Stage, Flies, Property, and Gas Departments.—24s. per week (exclusive of "show money" and overtime), a week's work to consist of five days: from Monday to Friday from 9 to 5 (allowing an hour for dinner), and Saturday from 9 to 1 o'clock noon. Overtime rates: From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., time and a half; from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m., double time; from Saturday at 1 o'clock, and on Sundays, Good Friday, and Christmas Day, double time. Overtime for any other period less than one and a half hours to be reckoned as a quarter of a day.

Electrical Department.—Wiremen, 9½d. and 10½d. per hour. Daymen, 24s. per week, exclusive of overtime and "show money."

Leading Men in all departments are expected to be paid above this rate.

Extra Men employed for odd days, or by the hour, shall charge at the rate of 7d. per hour; overtime rates to be as stated above.

Nightmen.—For any grade, in any department, 2s. per performance in one show a night houses. Leading men, 2s. 6d. and 3s. In houses giving two shows a night, 2s. 6d. per night, and 2s. for each matinée. A special performance exceeding the usual duration of a performance to be charged for extra.

Rehearsals to be charged for as follows: Between 7 a.m. and 12 midnight, 2s. for three hours, or any portion thereof; from midnight to 7 a.m., on Sundays, Good Friday, and Christmas Day, one hour and a half, or any portion thereof, to constitute a rehearsal. All men engaged to charge from the time of the "call."

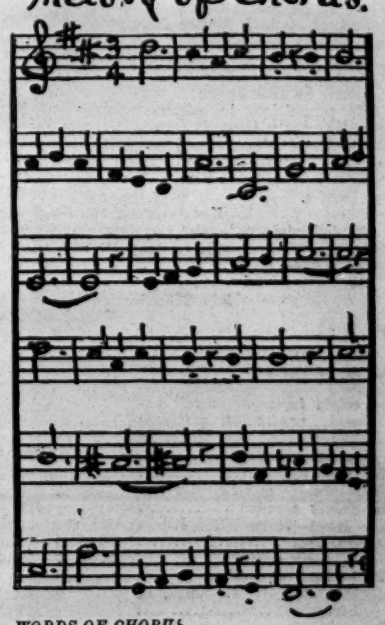
Where in any theatre or music hall or theatrical workshop better conditions have been established, the members of this Society must uphold same.

PROVINCES.

Prices as per price list, according to district. This agreement to continue in force until the expiration of six months' notice given by ..... to the Alliance, or by one of the undersigned, acting for the Alliance.

AN attractive programme is provided at the King's Hall, Westcliff-on-Sea, this week, amongst the principal turns being the Marvellous Howards, who introduce some new features into their second-sight performance. Kyoto astonishes all with his comedy Japanese act; Astroi and Walsh are a couple of clever conjurers and illusionists. The programme also includes the Florias, comedy slack wire artists and equilibrists; Clark and Gold, American banjoists; Harry Zetter, comedian and dancer; Miss May Geraldine, comedienne; Sleath and Aldin, in duologue *Dashing Duval;* The Two Danbrooks, solo harpists and instrumentalists; The Feltons, in an amusing comedy, *Apartments to Let;* and Miss Isoline Cook, vocalist and violinist.

HARRY DACRE'S
GREAT SONG
MY SUGAR PLUM.



WORDS OF CHORUS.

You re My Sugar-plum, plum, plum, My little lollipop Lady,
You are so sweet, you must be good to eat;
Come little one, Come, Come, Come, Don't be dumb,
You are my ha'po'rth of Sweetstuff, My Sugar-plum, plum, plum.

BAND PARTS, 1/- per Set.

For permission to sing anywhere in public apply
SUCCESSFUL SONG SYNDICATE,
20, NASSAU ST., MORTIMER ST., LONDON, W.

MUSIC HALL BENEVOLENT FUND.

The postponed annual general meeting of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund was held at 1, Durham House-street, Strand, on the afternoon of the 18th inst., under the presidency of Mr. George Adney Payne, one of the trustees. There was a large attendance. A letter was received from Mr. J. L. Graydon, the president, expressing regret that he was unable to attend the meeting, as he was at Brighton.

THE CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said he was pleased to see such a large gathering. No doubt many of them were aware that the Fund had of late been getting from bad to worse. He was one of the founders, and had been closely associated with it from the start as one of its trustees. However, it had been a labour of love. That the Fund had done a great deal of good there could be no question. It had granted a number of pensions, and relieved many cases of distress, and a large sum of money had been expended. Lately, however, the receipts had, from various reasons, fallen off. He knew that a great many faults had been found with the Fund. A few years ago he consented to act as its president, and about £1,000 was raised that year. When he took office the deposit at the bank had been overdrawn. He was followed by Mr. Frank Allan and Mr. Henri Gros. He found during his presidency that certain people who did not subscribe to the Fund grumbled at its administration. It was, of course, very easy to grumble. The expenditure might have appeared rather large as compared with the receipts, but it was the same as when the Fund first came into existence. As matters stood at present it seemed that the only thing was to wind it up. Of course, it could be resuscitated; but it was impossible to go on without funds, and he understood there was only enough to last about six weeks. At the same time, he was ready to listen to any suggestions that might be made for continuing the Fund.

MR. HORACE MARRIOTT, the secretary, then read the minutes of the last meeting, and the committee's report for the year ending Aug. 31, 1906, was presented, as follows:—

In submitting the report for the year, the committee regret that there has been a serious decrease in the income, and the increase which it was their pleasure to announce some time back has not been adequately maintained. They are, therefore, most anxious as to the future, as they are faced with a grave increase of poverty during the winter months, and fear, if funds are not forthcoming, the allowances to the pensioners and the general weekly relief will be jeopardised. They hope, however, that when this fact is generally known, aid will be quickly forthcoming from its supporters. The uncertainty of employment among a large number of professionals carries with it great distress and poverty, with which the committe are constantly struggling, and they would be glad of anyone interested in the Fund to come to the office and ascertain for themselves the work the committee are engaged upon.

The annual dinner, they regret to say, was not so successful as previous ones.

Although there has been a falling-off in the pence-box collections, the committee still think that these collections should be the mainstay of the Fund.

By the lamentable death of their chairman, Mr. Frank Weeks, the Fund lost a conscientious and enthusiastic worker, and the poorer members of the profession a real charitable friend. His pence-box collection at the South London Palace during the year was £25. This good work has now been taken up by his successor, Mr. William Payne.

At the suggestion of Mr. G. A. Payne, collecting-books were issued to managers and agents, and the committee beg to tender their thanks to the following gentlemen who have assisted in this direction:—

R. L. Adkin, late Islington Empire; A. V. Alton, Grimsby Palace; Arthur J. Barclay, Walthamstow Palace; Thos. Barrasford, 11, Leicester-place; Chas. Beecham, Paragon; H. Burdette, Glasgow; C. J. Cawood, Edinboro' Empire; J. Christie, Hackney Empire; H. Cole, Liverpool Empire; Bert Dent, Greenwich Palace; Fortune and Granville, Strand; E. Foster, Bordesley Palace; Nelson Francis, Empress, Brixton; A. G. Garrick, Alhambra, London; A. Graham, Hull Palace; Lyndon Greenwood, late Islington Empire; A. Galley, Leeds Empire; A. W. Matcham, Birmingham Empire; Fred Miller, Canterbury, London; G. H. March, Dublin Empire; E. P. Morgan, Manchester Hippodrome; C. Mussett, Glasgow Empire; Frank Weeks (the late), South London Palace; N. M. Robinson, Huddersfield Hippodrome; A. Mitchell, Swansea Empire; Fred McAvoy, Euston Palace; I. Field, Plymouth Palace; T. S. Lonsdale, Portsmouth Empire; Tom Shaw, per Miss Soloman, London; William Payne, South London; Ernest Bridgen, New Cross Empire; H. Russell, Newcastle-on-Tyne Empire; W. P. Wells, Edinboro' Empire; H. and M. Rayne, London; F. H. Pedgrift, *The Era*; and G. A. Payne, London.

Notwithstanding the falling-off of the funds, the committee investigated and relieved, as far as funds permitted, 1,580 cases during the year, and helped to bury four poor professionals, bringing up the total of burials to 114 in eight years, who otherwise would have been buried in paupers' graves.

The committee regret that it appears, from the auditors' investigations, that, in addition to the large sum of over £1,500 unreturned loans, there is a considerable amount owing to the fund in respect to unpaid dinner donations and tickets, and unpaid subscriptions, and steps are being taken to collect these outstanding amounts. It is obvious that the usefulness of the Fund is seriously curtailed by this deficit.

The committee, in administering the Funds placed at their disposal (the wearisome nature of which should appeal to all), hope that the personal sacrifices of time they have made in carrying out their duties will meet with the approval of the subscribers.

HORACE MARRIOTT, Secretary.

The following statement of receipts and expenditure, from Sept. 1, 1905 to Aug. 31, 1906, was also submitted:—

Dr.

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To balance brought forward from last statement		994 4 10
To donations and annual subscriptions, including receipts from president's appeal, provincial matinées and sports, and collecting books		346 8 4
To pence-boxes		69 18 4
To returns from recipients		8 6 0
To dinner account		120 18 7
To loans from Mr. J. L. Graydon	100 0 0	
Less repaid	50 0 0	50 0 0
To legacy bequeathed by the late Mr. G. J. Smith, of Liverpool		25 0 0
To dividends on investment		17 7 5
		£1,632 3 6

Cr.

PAYMENTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By grants for relief, and in respect of four funerals, including expense of distribution		590 3 9½
By rent of offices (three quarters)		37 10 0
By secretary's salary		208 0 0
By sundry expenses, stationery, postages, housekeeper, bank charges, and petty cash		73 17 6½
By advertising, printing, &c.		62 9 10
By sports (1906), being payments on account of liabilities in excess of receipts		13 14 9
By matinée (1905), ditto, ditto		29 19 4
By loss on realisation of India 3½ per cent. stock		37 5 3
By balance, viz:—Trustees' account. Investment in India 3½ per cent. stock (as per last statement) £597 6 2 (Cost)	705 0 0	
Less realised £300 0 0 produced	316 16 6	
Balance of Stock £297 6 2	388 3 6	
Less loss on realisation	37 5 3	
Balance of trustees' account, 31/8/06	350 18 3	
Cash at bank on treasurer's account	190 14 10	
Ditto ditto on secretary's account, and in hand	37 9 11	
	579 3 0	
		£1,632 3 6

We have examined the above, with the books and vouchers, and find the same in accordance therewith. We have verified the investment, bank balances, and cash in hand.

PERCY L. WILLBY AND CO.,
Accountants and Auditors.

Nov. 10, 1906.

THE CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and statement of accounts.

MR. H. G. HIBBERT seconded the motion. He said he had acted as chairman of the committee since that very deplorable incident, the death of Mr. Frank Weeks. He thought that a reference should be made to this sad event, because they had never had a more loyal and devoted worker than Mr. Weeks, who enjoyed the confidence of every subscriber to the Fund. He believed that, but for the deceased gentleman, it would not now be in existence, and he wished that Mr. Weeks could have been presnt at that very critical moment of its history. He regretted that the committee had such a bad report to submit; but he believed that the seriousness of the position might mean the salvation of the Fund. He felt that the outcome of that eminently representative meeting might be to place the Fund upon a better basis. For his own part, he should like to see it handed over to the members of the profession, to be worked by them for themselves. Working members of the profession had been reproached for failing to support the Fund, but he had never endorsed that reproach If the members of the profession had not supported the Fund, he believed it was because they thought they had good reason to withdraw their support. He desired to point out that the secretary had been most indefatigable and assiduous, and his salary was certainly not larger than should be paid to an official upon whose ability and integrity they were able to rely. He denied that managers who attended the weekly meetings of the committee obtained information that could be used in a manner derogatory to the position of the artists; on the contrary, they did all they could to assist artists out of work, two instances of this having come under his own knowledge.

MR. HARRY MOUNTFORD said it gave him great pleasure to support the adoption of the report, but at the same time he desired to move the following amendment:—

"That this meeting should hand over to the Variety Artists' Federation the name, goodwill, and administration of the M.H.B.F., and that for the ensuing year it shall be governed and controlled by a joint-committee, composed of eight members of the executive of the V.A.F. and eight members of the present committee of the M.H.B.F."

He said he thought that the Fund, properly managed, ought to bring in an income sufficient to meet all cases of poverty amongst the members of the profession. He desired to add his small tribute to the memory of one of the best gentlemen and one of the hardest workers they had ever had, and whose untimely decease had been greatly mourned—he referred to the late Mr. Frank Weeks, who was present at every meeting of the Fund, and whose hand was ever open to the call of charity. With respect to his proposal, and to remove any doubts as to the money being misapplied, he wished to point out that the M.H.B.F. would be a separate and independent fund. Whatever differences of opinion and disputes they might have outside, he felt confident that both managers and artists would meet in regard to the Fund on the one broad basis of charity.

THE CHAIRMAN said he wished to point out that he was quite in favour of the Fund being resuscitated if it could be done, and he thought that the suggestion now offered was a very good one. He could see no possible objection to it. It would be a very great pity if the Fund were to die.

The motion for the adoption of the report and financial statement was then agreed to, and the proposal of Mr. Mountford, taken as a separate motion, was seconded by Mr. Charles Coborn, and carried unanimously. The following gentlemen were then appointed members of the committee:—Messrs. J. O'Gorman, W. H. Clemart, G. Gray, C. Coborn, A. Schaffer, C. C. Bartram, C. Butler, and H. Mountford (of the V.A.F.), H. G. Hibbert, T. Pacey, F. Miller, C. Beauchamp, A. Macey, J. Lawson, H. Ashley, and R. Warner, with power to add to their number, but not to exceed twenty-four.

Some discussion took place with respect to the reappointment of officers, and eventually it was agreed that the meeting should be adjourned for a month, to receive the report of the joint-committee.

MR. MOUNTFORD suggested that Mr. G. A. Payne should be asked to act as president for the ensuing year.

THE CHAIRMAN: As it seems to be your wish, gentlemen, I shall be very pleased to comply with it

The meeting then closed, with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

THEATRICAL PATENTS.

The following particulars have been supplied us by Messrs. Hughes and Young, patent agents, of 55-56 Chancery-lane, London, W.C., who will give advice and assistance free to our readers on all matters relating to the protection of inventions, designs, and trade marks.

Mr. G. C. Hale, of 204, Empire-buildings, Kansas City, Missouri, U.S.A., has invented new improvements relating to apparatus presenting to the occupants the illusion of rapid motion over the rails of a track round bends thereof and over crossings, the deception being aided by an air blast and by a moving picture projected on a screen. The apparatus is housed in a building which may resemble a railway station, and is provided with turnstiles. The "passengers" enter cars standing before the entrance of tunnels, and are conveyed to the illusion apparatus. Exit passengers are arranged at the sides of the tunnels. The floor of each car is inclined, and the front of the car is open so that all the passengers are able to view a screen on which moving pictures are projected in such a manner as to take up the whole field of vision. The car is hinged on a longitudinal central axis to a stationary platform, and to give the effect of motion round a railway line curve is swung over to one side or the other by means of a belt crank hand-lever attached to the floor by a link.

THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

NEW YEAR'S APPEAL.

Once more we take pleasure in opening our columns to *The Era* New Year's Shilling Fund on behalf of the Music Hall Home, and in doing so we take still further pleasure in being able to associate with that appeal the names of the president of the fund, Mr. Thomas Barrasford, and Miss Vesta Victoria. Mr. Barrasford's kindly offices in connection with the Music Hall Home are well known, and the fact that he has again given permission for the use of his name in calling attention to the requirements of the home is a guarantee—if, indeed, guarantee were needed—that he is satisfied as to the way in which the institution is being conducted, and that he considers it worthy of support. It is also gratifying to be able to associate with the New Year's appeal such a prominent variety artist as Miss Victoria. When seen at her delightful home in Stockwell Park one day this week by our interviewer, Miss Victoria, who, by

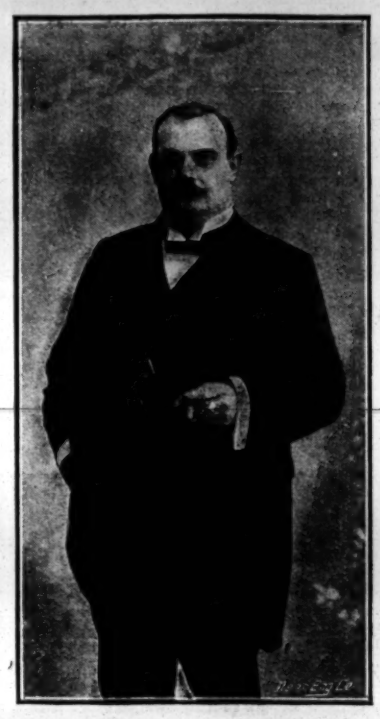


Photo by Brook.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD,
President of the Music Hall Home.

the way, is now commencing her preparations for her forthcoming visit to America, stated that she would be delighted to give what assistance she could in such a worthy cause. Surely, with such sponsors, the money should come rushing along with the swiftness and volume of an avalanche.

There can be no question as to the usefulness of the Music Hall Home. Its address is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E., and Mr. and Mrs. Fruin, the secretary and matron respectively, put forward every effort for the comfort of the inmates. At present there are eight of these, and the desire is to increase the number, which can only be done when sufficient funds for the purpose are collected. During the past year two or three of the temporary inmates have recovered their health and strength sufficiently to enable them to look for engagements. These secured, they left the Home, and the vacancies thereby created were immediately filled up. Now, this home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work which has been performed by the institution in the past, as this must be within the recollection of our readers. The ages of the inmates range from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the home until the day of their death, and their funeral expenses will be paid for out of the funds of the home. The vice-presidents and the committee are sincerely desirous of increasing its scope of usefulness. They would like to be in a position to afford shelter to many more deserving members of the variety profession, who have been stricken with poverty and illness in their declining years.

Photo by Otto Sarony and Co.

MISS VESTA VICTORIA,
Who will help the Music Hall Home Fund.

We feel we need say little more. Mr. Barrasford and Miss Victoria join in a strenuous appeal for the generosity of the profession in support of *The Era* Shilling Fund. When, twelve months ago, we brought before our readers the claims of this deserving charity, a very considerable sum of money was collected in separate shillings. That last year's appeal, however, and most of the money obtained by it, are, as Miss Marie Lloyd would say, "a thing of the past, old dear." We are entering upon a new year. What is the prospect? It is that of help badly needed by many of your brother and sister artists who are, in common parlance, "down on their luck," and some of whom, by reason of their age, are likely to remain in that unhappy condition.

Mr. F. H. Pedgrift is the hon. treasurer, and he will be pleased to receive postal orders and cheques addressed to him at *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Contents of collecting-box at the Hippodrome (late Tivoli), Leeds, one of Mr. Barrasford's halls, per Charles Weldon	5 7 9		
Leoni Clarke	1 1 0		
Bros. Webb	0 10 0		
Geretti	0 5 0		
Belford and Mars	0 5 0		
A. Lazarus	0 2 0		
Collected by Mr. Horace Wheatley, £3 11s.			
Horace Wheatley	40	Anthony	1
Terrance Wheatley, jun.	1	Claire Romaine	1
Catherleen Wheatley	1	Sydney James	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Gilbert Fernie	1
Eileen Wheatley	1	Harry Edson	1
Horace Wheatley, jun.	1	Leslie Romani	1
Grandma	1	Lizzie Kirk	1
Auntie	1	Emmie Romani	1
MacWheatley the Dog	1	Frank Turner	1
Edgar Marriott	1	Mrs. F. Turner	1
Frank Leon	1	J. G. Henderson	1
Ted Waite	1	C. Pastor	1
Edgar Romaine	1	Sister Marion	1
Robert Robertson	1	M. Egerton	1
Florence Lambeth	1	Fred O'Malley	1
		George Harvard	1
		Gus W. Blake	1
Collected by Mr. Geo. Rapley, £1 1s.			
Nellie Moore	1	Sandy and Carl	2
Beatie Moore	1	Fred Lloyd	1
Marion May	1	Tom Shenton	1
Bertha St. Ruth	1	Syd Russell	1
Cissie Conyers	1	Chas. Denman	1
The Sydney Girls	1	Fred Bentley	1
F. J. Little	1	W. Parker	1
Chas. Zarac	1	Geo. Rapley	1
Ernest Zarac	1	Mrs. Geo. Rapley	1
Edwin Zarac	1	Baby Rapley	1
Collected by Regan and Ryan, Court Theatre Liverpool, £1 14s.			
Malcolm Scott	5	Harry Tate	5
Fanny Fields	5	M. R. M.	1
Fanny Dango	2	Doris Dean	1
H. Brockbank	2	Poppy Wilkinson	1
Regan and Ryan	5	Hetty King	1
Patty Yole	2		
Collected by Mr. Gus Elen, £2.			
Gus Elen (V.A.F.)	10	Edith Villa	1
Mrs. G. E.	1	Cruet	1
The Chickens	1	Boots	1
The Pheasants	1	The Dustman	1
Buller (St. Bernard)	1	Mrs. Carter	1
Major (Pomeranian)	1	Found	1
The Cook (16st.)	1	The Postman	1
The Housemaid	1	Admission	1
The Motor	1	Lizzie C.	1
The Gardener (Bob)	1	Meriah	1
The Parrot	1	Our Tyke	1
The Canary	1	New Pyjama 'At	1
Inky (Black Cat)	1	Luggage Man's (tip)	1
Four-Pots-a	1	Book-Boy's (ditto)	1
Twelve Coppers	1	Cab to *Era* Office	1
Two Sixpences	1		

Collecting cards of subscriptions, as soon a filled, should be forwarded to the Hon. Treasurer Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, *The Era* Office.

"QUEEN OF OLD SAMARA."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—In your last issue of *The Era* there appeared a letter under the above heading, and signed by "The Monte Carlo Publishing Company."

It would be wasting time to point out all the errors in that letter; suffice to say that I am the author-composer of "Queen of old Samara," and I hold a financial interest in the song in all countries. My advertisement, also the paragraph referred to in the letter, are true in substance and in fact. With reference to the statement that the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. had no knowledge of the song having been acquired by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, I quote the following paragraph, which appeared in *The Era*, Oct. 6, 1906, in the "Songs, Writers, and Singers" column, and you, Mr. Editor, are aware that the matter was supplied by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co:—

"Jas. W. Tate, the musical editor of the Monte Carlo Publishing Company, has, during the week received a letter from America stating that the firm's big song, "I've built a bamboo bungalow for you,' is a 'terrific success' in Mr. Frohman's latest production, *The Rich Mr. Hoggenheimer*. Mr. Fred Day is to be congratulated on having placed this song to such advantage in the States, *where he is the manager for Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, who handle the Monte Carlo Publishing Company's publications in America.*"—Verb. sap.

I fully appreciate the energetic methods of the members of the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. in pushing their publications, and, in truth, it is not easy to find a success, therefore I, the author-composer, having provided the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. with *two* absolute "hits" first time of asking, am entitled to a little consideration, such as I receive from other publishers.—Yours faithfully,

J. F. LAMBE.

London, Jan. 24, 1907.

"THE ERA."

EARLY DELIVERY.

SPECIAL NEWSPAPER EXPRESS SERVICES now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways, carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible.

	a.m.
RUGBY	4.30
COVENTRY	4.54
BIRMINGHAM	5.20
CREWE	6. 5
MANCHESTER	6.50
LIVERPOOL	7. 0
CHESTER	9. 3
DONCASTER	6.10
YORK	7. 0
HULL	8.20
DARLINGTON	8.58
SCARBOROUGH	10. 5
NEWCASTLE	10.10
LEEDS (Central)	6.58
HUDDERSFIELD	7.37
BRADFORD (Exchange)	7.47
HARROGATE	7.50
HALIFAX	8.17
BURNLEY	9.28
LEICESTER	4.36
NOTTINGHAM	5.10
DERBY	5.35
SHEFFIELD	6. 6

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Contains in a handy compass and in a clear style the law relating to theatres and music halls. The book is well up to date.—*Law Times.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

SHOWMAN WORLD.

(For Showmen Articles see page 13.)

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS, ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

This Scale does not apply to "Trade" Advertisements in these Columns.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION (Post Free).

UNITED KINGDOM.	FOREIGN.
One Quarter .... 6s. 6d.	8s.
Half Year ..... 13s. 0d.	16s.
One Year ..... 26s. 0d.	32s.

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THE PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5 Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
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IN case of the non-delivery of "THE ERA" by the First Post, the Publisher will be greatly obliged if Advertisers will forward their Postal Wrappers with the time of delivery marked upon them.

COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E., Feb. 25, March 18, 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING, Feb. 25, March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER, May 6, 13, 20, 27, Aug. 5, 12, 19, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER, Mar. 18, 25, April 1, 11 (3 nights), 15, 22, 29, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON, Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD, March 25, April 1, 22, 29, May 20, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON, Feb. 18, April 15, 29, May 6, 20, 27, June 10.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER, March 25, April 1, 29, May 13, 20, 27, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON, March 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-class Companies, GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, March 4, 11, May, June, July 1, 8, 22 29.
METROPOLE T., GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE, March 11, May 6, onwards.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE, Mar. 18, 25, April 8, 15, June 17, July 15, 29, Aug. 12.
Address, SIDNEY BACON, Metropole T., Gateshead. Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD, March 18, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON, April 15, 29, May 6, 13, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY, Feb. 18, March 4, 11, 18, 25 (three nights only), on.
Address, E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County T., Bedford.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, Feb. 25, March 4, 18, onwards, with exceptions. L. CARSON, Keighley.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, March 11 and 18, 1907. L. CARSON, Keighley.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April 22, Sept. 23, Oct. 7 and 28.
WILLIAM MARTIN,
3, Bedford-street, Strand, London, W.C.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-Class Companies, for vacant Spring Dates,
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
March 11, 25, April 1, 8, June 3, 17, July 8, 15, 22.

PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
Mar. 30 (7 nights), May 20, 27, June 3, 10, 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22.

Easter vacant through disappointment at Hastings and Folkestone. Big Musical Comedies Wanted; Whit Week also vacant, both Theatres; must be Big Shows, or not entertained.
H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April 8, 9, 10 (three nights), April 15, and May 13.
Address, HARRY YORKE.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for March 4 18, 25,
April 15,
and onwards, with exceptions.
Address,
THOS. SWINTON.

CORK OPERA HOUSE.
Vacant Dates,
March 4, 11, 18.
WANTED, a Strong Musical Attraction for Easter Week, April 1, also Vacant April 15, 22, May 13, 20, June 3. Applications to Mr. JOHN HORGAN, Manager.

OPERA HOUSE, SOUTHPORT.
WANTED, Good Musical Piece, for March 25 (excellent date); also First-class Companies only, April 22, May 6, 27, onwards.
Apply, R. SINGLETON, Secretary.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEST BROMWICH, Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Gen.-Man., Mr. Herbert Vere.
WANTED, First-Class Melodramas, Musical Comedies, &c., vacant dates March 18, 25, on.

THEATRE ROYAL, MARGATE.
WANTED, First-Class Companies only, for Various Season Dates,
July, August, and September.
Address, re Dates,
HENRY BOWMAN,
Amphitheatre, Ramsgate.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for March 11, 25, April 22, 29,
May 13, 20, and 27.
Silence in all cases a polite negative.
Apply, Mr. C. F. WILLIAMS, T. R., Plymouth.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, LLANDUDNO.
Under new management.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, March 1 onwards, with exceptions. The new electric trams from Conway to Colwyn Bay stop at the Theatre. Address, A. E. VAUGHAN, 2, Hope-chambers, Leather-lane, Dale-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class Pantomime, Xmas, 1907.
Address, R. SINGLETON,
Opera House and Winter Gardens, Southport.

WANTED, Good Attractions, for March 4 and 11, owing to transfer.
SIDNEY COOPER, Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' T., Salford, First-Class Companies, for Feb. 25, March 11, April 1, and on. E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, Exceptionally Fine Attractions, Theatre Royal, York, for Feb. 25 and March 11 (no dramas). Apply, WADDINGTON, Stonegate, York.

WANTED, Pantomimes or other First-class Attractions, for Feb. 18 and 25. Consett.
Apply, HUGH ROBERTSON, T. R., Jarrow.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.
WANTED, Sensational Attraction, for March 18.
Apply
A. E. ABRAHAMS, 26, Great Eastern-road, Stratford

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-Class Companies,

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER,
Vacant March 25, April 1, onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH,
Vacant Feb. 18, 25, March 4, onward, with exceptions.
(Last three nights of each week).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY,
Vacant March 18, April 1, onward, with exceptions.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY,
Vacant March 4, April 1, onward, with exceptions.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE,
Vacant Feb. 28, onward ,with exceptions.

"THE LOST CHORD,"
Vacant Aug. 5, 19, onward, with exceptions.

"SPAN OF LIFE,"
Vacant Feb. 18, March 4, 11, onward, with exceptions.

"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S,"
Vacant March 25, April 1, onward, with exceptions.

"CINDERELLA,"
Vacant Feb. 18, onward, with exceptions.

Companies "Farmed" through Fit-ups.

To Let, on Royalty, "THE PRAIRIE FLOWER" and "OUR BRITISH EMPIRE."

Excellent Plants Printing.

All communications to
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

NORTHERN THEATRES CO., LTD.
WANTED, First-class Companies.
NEW OPERA HOUSE, HALIFAX,
April 8, 15, 22, May 13.
THEATRE ROYAL, ROCHDALE,
Feb. 25. May 6.
THEATRE ROYAL, BURY,
April 15. May 13.
THEATRE ROYAL, DEWSBURY,
April 1 and 8.
Several weeks vacant at all Theatres, Autumn.
Address, OTTO C. CULLING, Bury.

WANTED, First-class Attractions,
for Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR,
24A, Regent-street, S.W.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, JULIAN MALVERN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions,
Easter, Whit, July 1, 8, and on.
Bookings include "The Earl and the Girl," "The Girl Behind the Counter," "The Blue Moon," "Mr. Popple," &c.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, ILKESTON.
Manager and Licensee, Mr. L. F. A. ROGERS.

WANTED, Companies, Vacant March 4 (Pantomime required), April 1 (vacant through transfer), April 15, onwards. Silence a courteous negative.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, Feb. 11, March 7 (three nights), 11, 25, April 29, May 13.
ATHENÆUM THEATRE, LANCASTER,
Vacant Feb. 11, March 11, 18, 25, April 8 (three nights), May 6, 13, 20. Address, STANLEY ROGERS, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

THEATRE ROYAL, LEIGH, LANCS.
Proprietor, Mr. J. W. CRAGG.
WANTED, a few good Autumn Dates open for Musical Shows. No dates open for Drama.
All communications, HARRY ROUSBY.

WANTED, Companies, Feb. 11, 25, change of bill preferred. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Companies, Feb. 18, and Easter, onwards.
Apply, SHERWOOD and Co., Theatre, Wakefield.

AMPHITHEATRE, RAMSGATE.
WANTED, Strong Attraction, Feb. 18.
Address, HENRY BOWMAN.

THE SPA, WHITBY.
WANTED, Attractions for three nights, Easter, Whit, July 1, and on, Aug. and Sept., fully booked.
W. PAYNE SEDDON, New Theatre Royal, Loughboro'.

GAIETY THEATRE HASTINGS.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Easter and Whit Weeks, Musical preferred.
H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

New Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.
WANTED, Good Dramas or other First-class Attractions, Mar. 25, April 8, 15.
E. H. PAGE.

Theatre Royal,
Colne, Lancs.
WANTED, Good Company, Feb. 18.
Address, GERALD HARDING.

THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
WANTED, First-class Companies.
Vacant (through obliging), March 4 and 11.
Apply to H. CECIL BERYL.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
WANTED, Company, for March 11, and possibly for Easter week, April 1. A few Summer Dates still Vacant for Attractions new to Grimsby.
JOSEPH H. CURRY, as above.

PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Easter (Mar. 30, four or seven nights), also Whit Week.
H. W. ROWLAND, Manager.

BRIDLINGTON SPA THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.
This theatre is being built on the site of the old one. Holding value £100. New scenery and electricity throughout. Vacant dates.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only, between July 29 and Oct. 31.
HENRY HAGUE, General-Manager.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 4, 11, 18, April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20.
Apply, JAMES KIERNAN, Owner and Manager.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, March 4, 14 (three), 18, and 25, and on, with exceptions. W. E. POTTS.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, Known, Mr. W. E. Potts would be pleased to arrange Stock Season with responsible Management, from April 8, on. Share or Rental.

WANTED, Good Company, Feb. 4, Treherbert and Maesteg, three nights each.
Wire or write, POOLE, Palace Theatre, Gloucester.

GRAND T's., CHORLEY and RADCLIFFE.

WANTED, Big Musical Attractions, March 4, Grand, Radcliffe; also Big Panto. for March, 11, Grand, Chorley. Frank Denman-Wood last week, £280, and second panto. in. Address, SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Shotton, good strong Drama or Variety, vacant Jan. 31 (three nights), Feb. 18, and on. Apply, R. CROW, Colliery, Shotton, Durham.

CASINO, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.
WANTED, First-Class Fit-up Companies, Musical Comedy preferred; Share or Rent.
Apply, THORNELL, Casino, Bexhill-on-Sea.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

The Premier Theatre in the Furness District.
Holds £90 at Ordinary Prices.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 15 (first vacant date) and May 6, on. The Spring bookings for the above include Lionel Rignold and Ada Blanche in "What the Butler Saw," "La Poupée," Charles Chard's Pantomime "Goody Two-Shoes," James Kiddie's "Dick Whittington," "Human Hearts," "The Night of the Party," Norman V. Norman, "Two Little Vagabonds," Miss Maud Hildyard, "The Traitor," Allan Wilkie, "Sapho," "Lucky Durham," "A Warning to Women," "In Holy Russia," "The Power of the Cross," "Lights Out," J. B. Mulholland's "The Electric Man," &c.

The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions Touring.

All Applications for Dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions,
QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH,
March 18, April 1, 22, 29,
May 13, 20, 27.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
March 18, April 1, 8, 29.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre,
Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, High-Class Musical Comedy or latest London successes, for the following dates:—
March 4,
March 11,
March 18,
March 25,
April 22, and onwards.
Address, CHAS. E. MACHIN,
Avenue Opera House, Sunderland.

NEW
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BELFAST
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BELFAST
Proprietors, Alexandra Theatre Co.
Above handsome brick building will be the
Only Theatre on the Co. Down side, and drawing on a population of 80,000.
An Up-to-date Theatre in every Detail.
WANTED, Big Drama Productions, July, on.
J. LEICESTER-JACKSON, Greenisland, Belfast.

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
WANTED, Musical Comedy or Comedy, Easter week (certainty), also April 8.

DUMFRIES and HAWICK.
Wanted, Good Company (not drama), March 18 and April 1.
W. PAYNE SEDDON, Theatre, Loughborough.

WANTED, Good Musical Comedy or Variety Combination, for March 18. Apply, J. W. CHAPMAN, Grand Theatre and Empire, Doncaster.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity.
Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

Grand Autumn Production,
"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres,
April 15, 22.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatre, March 11.
Apply,
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, March 11 and 25.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE,"
WANTED, Theatre, March 25.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 11, 25, March 25, Sept. 23. FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Theatres, March 25, Aug. 12, 19,
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 11.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 11,
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 18, May 20, and Sept. 30. TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 5, 12.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, March 11, 25,
April 8, 15,
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Grand Theatre, Derby.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Week of April 15.
Scala Production.
Wire or write,
W. W. KELLY,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 25 (?), March 18, April 8, May 13.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, 105, College-pl., London, N.W.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.,
In the Romantic Irish Musical Play,
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, Easter, Easter, Easter, only vacant date for this Play. Grand Production, "Rollicking Rory." Autumn. Ashdale, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."

WANTED, March 18, April 1, 15, 29, May 6, 20, 27. Wire, to-day, J. W. CORDINER,
New Theatre, Consett;
next week, T. R., Sunderland.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY," No. 1 CO.

WANTED, Feb. 4, April 1, May 13, Autumn from Aug. 5. Address, E. C. STAFFORD,
c/o Fulham Theatre, London, S.W.
Wanted, to Lease, a good Provincial Theatre.

"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON,"
by Geo. R. Sims.
WANTED, Feb. 11 (three nights), Midlands, March 18, London or South.
H. HOLLISTER,
to-day, T. R., Belfast.
Monday, Irving Theatre, Seacombe.

FRANK J. PITT and CHARLES HALLING'S CO.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, for this Successful Attraction, April 29,
May 13,
June 17, 24, July 1, on, with exceptions.
Jan. 28, Grand, Radcliffe.

"COAL KING" CO.
WANTED, Date, Feb. 4. Wire, Wire. G. M. POLINI, 138, Elgin-av., Maida Vale, London.

WANTED, Theatres, for Special Attractions, Feb. 4, 25, March 4, 11, Easter. Communicate, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES,"
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES,"
April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. Owing to the Enormous Success, this play will Tour through Spring and Autumn without a break.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre,
Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Dates for
"HONOUR THY FATHER,"
"DAY TO DAY,"
"LITTLE OUTCAST."
The Strongest Dramatic Répertoire Touring.
Feb. 4, March 4, 11, 18.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre,
Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Dates for this High-class Attraction, April 1, June 17, 24.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre,
Farnworth, Bolton.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S COMPANIES.
"OLIVER TWIST" and "THE FOUR JUST MEN."
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, for Easter week. WILLIAM MARTIN,
3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

Alfred B. Cross's Tour.
"THE MANXMAN,"
"THE MANXMAN,"
by Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
Only Spring Dates Vacant for this Sterling Attraction:
WANTED, Feb. 25, March 11 and 18, Easter and Whit Weeks.
Rapidly booking Autumn.
Jan. 28, Corporation-street, Chesterfield.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEORGE KIRK'S "HER LUCK IN LONDON" CO.
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
March 4, Sept. 9, 16, 30th,
Oct. 7, Nov. 25,
Dec. 16, 23, 30,
only vacant dates 1907.
CHARLES A. LEICESTER,
210, Burbury-street, Lozells, Birmingham

WANTED, First-class Theatre for Attraction transferred at Kennington to continue run of Pantomime.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR,
24A, Regent-street, S.W.

FRANK M. THORNE'S CO.,
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this First-Class Attraction.
May 6 and 20.
May 6 and 20.
Apply, F. M. THORNE, Theatre Royal, Castleford

"THE SLEDGE-HAMMER."
WANTED, Good Theatres
Feb. 18, 25, March 4, also Easter.
GEORGE HENRY,
4, Duke-street, Adelphi.

BEAUDYN AND LIVESEY'S
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
WANTED, Easter, April 15, Whit, May 27, June 17, July 15, 22, 29 (3 nights).
G. M. MONTANINI,
The Borough Theatre, Heywood.

WANTED, Nov. 18 and 25, "Revenge" and "Death or Glory Boys" Star Co., including E. HILL-MITCHELSON, Grand Theatre, Walsall.

"THE LADY DENTIST."
WANTED, April 1, Good Theatre, the new Musical Farce, Printing by D. Allen's. ALBAN ATWOOD, 3, Parsifal-road, N.W. Tel. 610 P.O., Hampstead.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, First-class Theatre Easter Week.
FRED BULMER, Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.

"FOR AULD LANG SYNE."
WANTED, Aug. 5, onwards.
FRED BULMER, Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
FRED BULMER, Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, March 19, Aug. 19, 26, Sept. 16, 23.
FRED BULMER, Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, March 25 (North), April 22, 29, May 6 (Midlands).
DICKIE CLARE, T. R., Wednesbury.

"THE ASSASSIN."
WANTED, April 29, May 6
April 29, May 6.
There is no finer production touring.
AUGUSTINE KNIGHT, Artillery, Woolwich.

"ROBESPIERRE."
WANTED, for "Robespierre; or, The Throne of Terror," March 18, 25, April 1, 15, various, on MILLER, this, Hawick; next, 115, Effingham-rd., London, N.

WANTED, Feb. 4, 11, April 1, wire, "Her Lost Self," by Nita Rae; "The Biggest Scamp on Earth," by F. A. Scudamore. Vacant Feb. 4, 11, April 1. Wire, FRANCES DELAVAL, Prince's T., Llandudno.

HARDIE and VON LEER'S
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS" CO.
WANTED, to oblige a Manager, Feb. 11 (London or South).
E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. 7504 Gerrard.

WANTED, Dates, Feb. 4, 18, April 1
"TOMMY,"
a Play in three Acts, by Jerome K. Jerome.
MISS ANNIE HUGHES as TOMMY.
A striking success.—Daily Telegraph.
Address, next week, MISS ANNIE HUGHES, Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames.
Wire to-day, Theatre Royal, Brighton.

"SHERLOCK HOLMES."
H. Hamilton Stewart in the Title-rôle.
WANTED, First-class Theatre, North or Midlands, February 18.
Address, WALTER J. BAYLIS, Dalston Theatre, N.E.

"HOME, SWEET HOME," by Frank Lindo.
WANTED, Good Theatre, Feb. 4, between Wales and Ramsgate for the above recognised money-making attraction. Printing awaiting dispatch. Wire, GREEN and HINTON, this Cambrian Hotel, Aberdare; next, Theatre, Abertillery.

WANTED, Feb. 4, Feb. 4, Feb. 11, Feb. 11. Vacant through Breach of Contract, North, to follow Theatre Royal, Belfast, for H. B. Irving's London Success, "Lights Out." Wire, MAUNDY GREGORY, Waldorf Theatre.

WANTED, Known, Enormous Success of the new "Man and Wife," by Walter Howard, Whit week possibly vacant, now booking Spring, 1908. Coms., T. E. WARD, T. R., South Shields.

E. HILL MITCHELSON and HARRIS FINEBERG'S Magnificent Production, "THE TRAITOR."
WANTED, Feb. 4. E. HILL MITCHELSON, to-day, Queen's T., Longton; next, Grand, Walsall.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR,"
by Eva Elwes.
WANTED, Good Theatres,
Feb. 11, March 4, April 15.
Big plant of special printing, everything carried, and played by a cast far above the ordinary drama standard.
Wire, E. A'DELL, Prince's Theatre, Horwich, Lancs.

HERBERT RALLAND'S PRINCIPAL CO.
"LA POUPEE."
"LA POUPEE."
WANTED, Known, unexpectedly vacant Feb. 18.
Wire,
RALLAND, King's Theatre, Edinburgh.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Feb. 18, Easter, April 22, onwards, with exceptions for the above Attraction.
Address, F. BROOKE WARREN,
8, Wellington-road, Southport.

WANTED, Feb. 4, a Big Theatre, for Miss MAUD HILDYARD.
Wire, DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

MR. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOUR.
WANTED, Feb. 4 and 25, for Répertoire.
RUSSELL ROSSE, 10, King-street, W.C.

WANTED, Theatres for A. Campbell Kelly's Tour, "The Trail of the Serpent," Feb. 4, 11. W. CHEETHAM, Sat., Windsor; next, Empire, Riddings.

THEATRES WANTED.

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KURSAALS,
KURSAALS,
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Wanted, Wanted,
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Wanted, Wanted,
July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29,
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Share or Certainty.

Refer George Hayes, Esq., Pier, Eastbourne, who retained us last season for eight weeks.

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This week, CHESTER.
Next week, CREWE.

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WANTED, Managers to kindly note that any of my Plays not produced satisfactorily, please acquaint me immediately, so that I may have an opportunity of rectifying same.—Faithfully yours, LINGFORD CARSON.

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WANTED, First-Class Autumn Dates, for this most Excellent Attraction, Aug., onwards.
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"BABES IN THE WOOD."
The Most Successful Pantomime Touring.
Another Record Broken Last Week at Scarborough.
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Four Records in Four Weeks.
Verdict Everywhere:
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Company of 45 Travelled.
Grand Specialities,
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Absolutely the Greatest Sensation and Draw of the Age.
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Monday, Jan. 28,
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"A BROKEN HEART."
"A BROKEN HEART."
WANTED, Big Drama Theatres only,
March 25, April 1, 8, and 15.
March 25, April 1, 8, and 15.
Specially booked by Matthew Montgomery, Esq., for March 18, Rotunda, Liverpool (race week). Thanks T. Sergenson, Esq., G., Blackpool, for Contract. A clear stage only required. The dramatic success of 1907.
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All scenery carried. Magnificent pictorials.
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Follow Prince's, Blackburn (return in 8 months).
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H. A. SAINTSBURY AND CO., in
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WANTED, Feb. 4, May 13, only vacant Spring Dates.
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By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Feb. 25 (Midlands or near London), March 4, 11, 18, April 8 (South), May 6, 13 (Birmingham district). CHESNEY, 54, Wellington-road, Bilston.

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"IN OLD MADRID."
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Vacant all March and April 1, onwards.
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WANTED, Good Theatres, for March 4, 18, April 1, and on.
First-class Company, Scenery, and Printing.
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EDWARD McLEAN'S CO.,
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WANTED, Feb. 4, for the Greatest Pantomime Touring, Chas. Chard's "Cinderella."
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WANTED, Week of Feb. 25,
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Between London and Wolverhampton.
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Thanks to Milton Bode, Esq., for Contracts all his Theatres.
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Will get the money anywhere.

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WANTED, immediately, for long Stock Season, First-Class Experienced Heavy Man; good Character Actor, smart Chambermaid, with songs and dances. Full particulars, lowest terms, and photo., WILLIAMS, Grand Theatre, Plymouth.

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WANTED, for Tour, experienced Sympathetic Juvenile Leading Lady.
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J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, immediately, Gentleman for Wilfred Denver ("The Silver King"); also various Artists to complete the cast of "The Four Just Men." Terms, references, and full particulars to W. MARTIN, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

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WANTED, immediately, to oblige Mr. Arthur Rose, owing to family illness, Gentleman for Juvenile Singing part, to combine Stage Management; must be young, tall, gentlemanly appearance and address, thoroughly experienced. Rehearse immediately. Open as soon as perfect. Photos., age, height, chest measurement, last two refs., and terms. Also Wanted, a Carpenter (bench hand, own tools) to assist with Baggage, total abstainer preferred. All particulars and last two refs. to CHALMERS MACKEY, this, Opera House, Blackpool; next, P. O. W., Salford.

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WANTED, First-class Heavy Man (tall); rehearse at once. Full particulars of age, height, terms, references, &c.,
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WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

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WANTED, Engagement or Contract, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Liberty now. Address till Monday, c/o Mr. ROBINSON, The Ark, Chester-street, Liverpool. After Monday, 44, Randolph-gardens, Maida Vale, London.

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WANTED, Manager and Manageress, joint salary £150 per annum, plus the emoluments from the Cloak Rooms. Applications by letter only to the Secretary, T. A. BAZLEY, 40, Kennedy-street, Manchester.

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WANTED, Known, Arthur Dashwood, Acting-Manager, concludes seven weeks' engagement at the above to-night, by the kind permission of the management of the Fun City Co. Re-engaged by E. H. Bostock, Esq., Zoo, Glasgow, as Business Agent for his No. 1 Royal Menagerie, on tour.

WANTED, Known, Business Manager, 10 years, with First-class Entertainment Firm, London, seeks change. Salary £250, or equivalent. Expert, office, advt., printing, and general organisation. Travelled the world. Appointment evenings willingly, town Write, Box 4,247, "The Era."

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WANTED, Known, W. H. Grieves, Carpenter, own tools, at Liberty, Tour or Resident; good references. Address, 29, Faunce-street, Kennington Park, S.E.

WANTED, Known, thoroughly experienced Stage Carpenter, Engagement; bench; resident, good tour; good references; moderate terms. K., 29, New-street, Kennington.

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WANTED, Good First Cornet, Young, Smart, and Experienced in Variety. State terms, refs., &c., in first letter. CONDUCTOR, Empire, Coventry.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, to open Feb. 4, must be First-Class executant and musician. Apply, stating terms, and enclosing copies of last reference, CHAS. W. JOHNSON, Musical Director.

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WANTED, Double Bass, for Theatre Royal, Dublin. Apply, with references, and state when could open, to JOHN MOODY, Musical-Director.

WANTED, to commence in May, First-class Euphonium Player, combining Slide or Valve Trombone, used to high-class work; also First Violin, combining Clarionet and first-class Second Horn. Season or Permanent engagement. Apply, with references and terms, to Mr. DAN GODFREY, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth.

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Three Concerts Daily
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Terms, references, &c., to
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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violinist), Disengaged, composer of Music, "Silver King," &c. Dramatic Music, &c., composed and arranged. 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Chas. Wareham, late Leader Granville, Metropolitan, Ealing, Hippodrome, Disengaged after Jan. 26. 47, Black Lion-lane, Hammersmith. Violin and Piano.

WANTED, Known, Variety Conductor, at Liberty, London or Suburbs; play Violin if required. Over 10 years' London experience. Box 4,245, "The Era."

WANTED, by George Hill, Resident Engagement, as Conductor or Pianist, commencing Feb. 4, strictly steady, and thoroughly competent in any business, good arranger. Address, 5, Council-street, West Stanley, Co. Durham.

WANTED, Known, Edmund Petersen, Conductor (Piano), on Tour with "A Country Girl" Co., at Liberty May 1. This, N. T., Aberdare; next, Royal, Exeter.

WANTED, Re-engagement, as Conductor, Violin or Pianoforte, Varieties or Dramatic, through change of management. W. FORSTER, Conductor, King's Theatre, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Re-engagement, by smart young Musical-Director, Pianist, Violinist. Composer, Arranger, any Business. HENRI ROCHELLE, c/o Burbridge, 22, Knowle-road, Brixton.

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WANTED, by First Violin, Engagement, London preferred, late Theatre Leader, young, Dis. after Saturday next. VIOLINIST, 39, Marian-square, N.E.

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WANTED, Engagement by young lady Violinist; Tour or Permanent; good appearance; refs. Box 4,268, "The Era."

WANTED, by First Violin, Feb. 4, permanency, Theatre or Hall. Wire, to-day, C. VINT, H. M. T., Dundee (close panto); next, St. George's Theatre, Kendal (special week).

WANTED, Engagement as Cornet or Double Bass or combine; reliable, experienced, and good performer; any business; good references. Box 4,255, "The Era."

WANTED, by Experienced Double Bass Player, re-engagement. Good refs. TOM HARDMAN, King's Theatre, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Bass, 4 strings, good sober, reliable, excellent references, Liberty Feb. 9, any business, anywhere. JAMES, Hengler's Circus, Glasgow.

WANTED, by Bassoonist, Engagement, Orchestral or Military, London or Provinces; good refs. W. H. SECKER, 4, Ravensbury-villas, Mordenroad, Mitcham.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Engagement, in any capacity, or as Deputy. BASSO, c/o Hodgson, Orchard Cottage, Dartford Heath, Kent.

WANTED, Engagement, through closing, by Trombone, Grand Theatre, Islington, any Business. Apply, C. PUNCHARD, 3, Barford-street, Liverpool-road, Islington.

WANTED, Engagement as Trombone, Theatre or Music Hall.
W. GOFF, 111, Upper Kennington-lane.

WANTED, Known Trombone, experienced Variety Cos.; excellent refs.; at Liberty. Address, Box 4,263, "The Era."

WANTED, Situation as Trombonist, Theatre or Music Hall; good references. FRED PEEL, 20, Warley-street, Parkinson-lane, Halifax.

WANTED, by Second French Horn, Engagement, excellent refs., young and reliable.
Box 4,257, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by good 'Cellist; abstainer and well experienced in Variety business. Address, Box 4,254, "The Era."

WANTED, by French 'Cellist, Engagement in Music Hall, Circus, Liners, anywhere; good soloist with piano. P., 16, Mead-street, Bristol.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, for Little Girl, on 'Cello; also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLS, 35, Granville-square, King's Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, by experienced Lady 'Cellist, permanent engagement in London Hotel, or Tea Room, not live in; can combine Piano. Box 4,229, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, 'Cellist Disengaged, used to Variety, Drama, Opera; can join at once; also deputise. 47, Melrose-gardens, Shepherd's Bush, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by young 'Cellist (20). Restaurant, Hotel, or any good business. Address, Box 4,267, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Viola Player; combine Piano; experienced Orchestral Pianist; can Compose, Arrange. London preferred. Box 4,217, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as Viola, in good Theatre; eleven years in present situation; good refs. GEO. E. WILLIAMSON, 37, College-street, Barnsbury, N.

WANTED, Engagement as Viola or Clarionet, experienced Variety and Dramatic; good references. Box 4,253, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as Viola, Theatre, Concert, or Variety business, at Lib. Feb. 11. GEO. LITTLEWOOD, Hengler's Cirque, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, as Oboe, any business, good refs., through reduction of orchestra, two years present shop. MADDISON, Hippodrome, Preston.

WANTED, Known, Maud Estlin Grundy, age 19, Harpist; Brilliant Soloist. 58, Antrim-mansions, England's-lane, Hampstead, London.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, twenty years' experience in all kinds of business; be pleased to deputise. G. WALLBANK, 15, Benyon-road, N.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute, Piccolo, Music Hall or Theatre Orchestra; long references, London; thoroughly reliable. MUSICUS, 74, Kenninghall-road, Lower Clapton.

WANTED, Flute and Piccolo, open Feb. 4, permanent. Refs. to F. H. JEPSON, Mus.-Dir., The Palace, Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by Solo Pianist, Conductor,
Good Theatre, Pavilion, Hotel, or Café.
Excellent répertoire; highest references.
AVES, Opera House, Londonderry.

WANTED, Engagement, as Accompanist to Professionals and others for private practice; sight-reader. London. ANNA C. SMITH, 46, Powell-road, Clapton, N.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Orchestral Pianist and Vocalist, Café preferred. GRACE GOODWIN, 12, Juer-st., Park-rd., Battersea.

WANTED, Summer's Engagement, by Double Drummer, with Effects, any Orchestra; abstainer; good references. CRYER, 34, Myrtle-place, Bingley, Yorkshire.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Drummer, any business. Apply, C. HARDS, 27, Algar-buildings, Webber-row, Waterloo-road.

WANTED, Engagement by First-Class Double Drummer, thoroughly experienced, Variety preferred; steady, reliable. DRUMS, 132, Graham-road, Dalston, N.E.

WANTED, Known, Mme. H. E. Angless's Ladies' Orchestra, open to accept engagements. From three to thirty performers. 78, Norwood-road, Herne Hill, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Shikissima Band, Ladies' Japanese Orchestra, at Liberty for Piers, &c.; brilliant costume, large répertoire. CONDUCTRESS, Glenthorpe, Chesterfield-road, Newbury.

WANTED, Known, the Grosvenor Ladies' Orchestra open for engagements, variety work a speciality. Mme. WILTON DAVIS, 42, Linton-street, Islington.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Adolf Voorzanger's Celebrated String Orchestra, fifteen in number, is open for an Engagement for Easter and Summer. Apply, 61, Warwick-avenue, Maida Vale, London, W.

WANTED, Known, Rosabel Ladies' Military Band, now playing great success Dudley Exhibition. MANAGER, 112A, St. James'-street, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, to Corporations, Piers, Hotels, the Vrasatzka Band, disengaged; brilliant uniforms; excellent soloists. H. PHILIPPE THOMAS, 84, New Bond-street, W.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands, apply Bureau, 8, Bedford-terrace, Kensington. Quartet Disengaged, scarlet and gold or evening dress.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.
TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND NEW CIRCUS, HYDE.
WANTED, at Once, Great Stars and Startling Sensations, and Circus Artists in all Lines. Nothing too big. Anything that can follow Flying the Flume and Dr. Carl Hermann. Write at once. Money no object for something new with Drawing Powers. Address, KING OHMY, Ohmy's New Circus, Hyde, Cheshire.

WANTED, for Gala, North of England, June 19, 20, 21, 22, High Wire and Rope Acts, Gymnasts, Cycle, Dog, and Circus Acts, Strong Shows, Acrobats Novelties; nothing too big, nothing too small. Lithos., bills, memos. WOOD, Agent, Cheese-lane, Bristol.

WANTED, for Hanneford's Canadian Circus, Tenting Ireland, Startling Sensations and Novelties in all Lines, useful Circus Artists, good Knockabout, Talking, and Singing Clowns, Animal Acts, Acrobats, Gymnasts, good Irish Comedians, Full Band Ringmaster, Stud Groom and Tent Master; also a few good Grooms and Tentmen, all to commence Easter Monday, 1907. Address all letters, with full particulars and lowest terms, to E. HANNEFORD, 6, George-street, off Ravenhill-road, Belfast.

Circus, Spennymoor,
Co. Durham.
WANTED, for Jan. 28 and on, Specialities of every description.
Address, C. ALGIE.

WANTED, for Fêtes and Galas, May 20, June 17, July 1, 8, Aug. 5, 12, all kinds of Sensational Attractions, High Rope, Aerial Flying Acts, &c., &c.; Acrobats, Three Bar, &c.; also Artists doing two Acts.
Apply, stating lowest terms, along with sample Litho. to WILDER BROS., Agents, Great Francis-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Easter, Whitsuntide, onwards, High Rope, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Cyclists. Lithos., memos., lowest terms, permanent address, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Ring, Trapeze, and Bar Performer, also Young Man, for Comic business; good amateur may write. Particulars, Box 4,277, "The Era."

WANTED, Lady and Gentlemen Gymnasts, Single Performers, to communicate re engagements. F. METEOR, Belmont, Stoke, Devonport.

WANTED, Comedy Bar Performers, open at once.
Wire, MORRIS, Hippodrome, Wigan.

WANTED, a Middleman and Good Tumbler, for Acrobats; must be young. GEO. SKERRY, 192, Lambeth-road, London.

WANTED, at once, Young Man, for Trampoline and Bars. State Tricks, age, experience to BERT OLRAC, Sanger's Hippodrome, Crystal Palace.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.
TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Two Dominos, Clown and Donkey. The Beautiful Arabian Donkey, with a Brain, whose pedigree is traced for over two thousand years. A comic act. At Lib. Feb. 4. Com., Hengler's Circus, London.

WANTED, Known, Little Bishop, Clown and Comedian, Trick Comic and other Entrées. Big Success, Ohmy's Circus, Hyde. Offers invited for Summer or Tenting Season. Good Comic Act for Galas.

WANTED, Known, the Original Irish Veteran, Joe Cullen, comedian and circus agent, at liberty coming season. Perm. Add., 10, Frederick-st., Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Les Steckels, Gymnastic Speciality, vacant March, also Summer Season. Address, 37, Lyson's-road, Aldershot.

WANTED, Monday, The Maros, Funnier than all Three-Bar Acts. Big hit Hippo., Lowestoft. Wire after, 126, Porter-street, Hull.

WANTED, Known, De Ora, Speciality Gymnast, Concludes to-night, Starring Engt. as Speciality, in R. A. P. Williams' Panto. Vacant Jan. 28, and on. Distance immaterial. O. H., Dunfermline.

WANTED, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18, Mayeno Troupe (ladies and gentlemen), Gymnasts, Acrobats, Wire Walkers, &c.; also Liberty for first-class Galas, with number suitable Acts. Wire or write, perm., 30, Great George-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lolo, Charming Lady Gymnast, assisted by Little Ena. Also Little May, in her graceful contortions and Dancer. Just finished two weeks' comfortable engagement. Liberty Feb. 4. This week, Agricultural Hall; next week, Queen's, Poplar.

WANTED, Known, Four Zolas, Lightning Herculean Acrobats, Hand Balancers, and Tumblers. Liberty through misunderstanding, Jan. 28, Feb. 4. This, Empire, Dudley. Wire for Monday perm., 40, Tiverton-rd., Bournbrook, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Three Orros, three weeks Hengler's Circus, London, vacant Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11 and April 8, onwards.
Managers and Agents invited.

WANTED, Galas, Whit week, and dates May 13 and 27, also April 22 and 29, by the Boultons and Mlle. Bertenelli, the wonderful Aerial Contortionist. This and next, Grand T., Swansea.

WANTED, Known, Mons. Twisto, Contortionist, the Human Eel. This, P. H., Barnsley; next, Grand T., Manchester; at Lib. Feb. 4, 11, 18.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, Sensational Acrobatic Cyclist, the man with the funny falls. Terrific success, T. R., Rotherham; next, T. R., Attercliffe.

WANTED, Monday next, John Irvin, Foot Equilibrist. Big Act for any Hall. Now appearing twice daily Hengler's Circus, London, second week. Address, Hengler's Circus, till Saturday night. After, 144, High-street, Deptford, London.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Joe Hastings, Jumper and Polished Lecturer, at Liberty for Tenting. Managers remember that a Kimberley gold mine is far more lucrative than the Sahara Desert. Hippo., Burton; next, Queen's, Castleford.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Performer, Acrobatic Equilibrist and Tumbler. THORNE, 32, Stanhill-road, Chiswick, London, W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.
TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

THE PALACE, NORTHAMPTON.
Proprietor, FRED H. ANDERSON.
THE EMPIRE, DUDLEY.
Managing-Director, FRED H. ANDERSON.
WANTED, for immediate and future Dates, Good Variety Artists in all Lines. Both towns on main line (Dudley, near Birmingham), and form a very convenient break for Artists going North or returning South. Lowest terms and particulars to FRED H. ANDERSON, Northampton. 'Phone 0451. Wire, "Wizardlike."

PIER SALOON, SKEGNESS.
WANTED, Refined Variety Artists, Entertainers, Vocalists, and Concert Parties, with Sketch preferred, Easter, Whitsuntide, on. State absolute lowest terms, and where business can be seen. No stamps for replies. Silence a polite negative. A. A. CASH, Pier Pavilion, Skegness.

Scarborough.
WANTED, Monday, Feb. 4, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines. Nothing too Big. Full particulars to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Feb. 4, Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; hall small. P. REYMOND, as above.

WANTED, Variety Artists, Doubles doing Single and Speciality Turn, new to Aldershot and Reading, opening Feb. 4. BAKER, Hippo., Reading.

WANTED, Variety Artists, Feb. 11, 25, and later dates. Letters, MARCUS BOYLE, G.P.O., Edinburgh.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, DURHAM.
WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, immediate and future dates,
New to Stanley preferred.
Address, JOHN CASSIDY.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Feb. 4 and onwards.
A. E. PICKARD, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, Feb. 4, onwards, small town. State lowest first letter, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Queen's Theatre, Castleford.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Concerts and Music Halls. Interviews by appointment only. SCOTTISH MUSICAL AGENCY, 107, George-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, nothing too big. Send vacant dates and absolute lowest terms, DUNDAS'S Agency, 52, Rosthwaite-rd., West Derby, Liverpool.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, Feb. 4, 18, onwards.
CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

THE NEW PALACE, READING.
WANTED, Artists all Lines, for Autumn, onwards. All communications, G. HOWARD WATSON, Messrs. Stanhope and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand. Telephone, 6070 Gerrard.

WANTED, Known, Artists wishing to be booked for First-Class Music Hall Engagements to communicate with BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

ZOO PARK, SOUTHPORT.
WANTED.—Applications invited from refined and talented Music Hall Artists. Vacancies Easter Week and Whit Week to Sept. 30. Weekly engagements. Write dates, time occupied, lowest terms, fullest particulars, SECRETARY.

WANTED, Artists in every Line, Feb. 4 and on.
DREW BAYLEY, Agent,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists in every Line, Feb. 4 and on, for Empire, Paisley.
Address, MANAGER.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, immediate.
SAM HART,
7, Lancaster-house, Rushcroft-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Artists for Leo Dryden's Anti-Trust Combination of V.A.F.'s and Boycotted Artists, March 4 and 25, April 22 and June 10, near Manchester and Leeds. Send list of bookings and lowest terms.
Dryden, Gaiety, Chatham.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, good Strong Combinations entertained, but must have Star Attraction, Feb. 18, on. GEO. SAPHRINI, Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Feb. 4, 18, and 25, Midlands. Address, WILL RAIN, Crystal Palace Theatre, London.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Artists all Lines, March 11,
for
our fourth visit to Macclesfield,
with own Company.
Mark letters "Re Macclesfield."

We wish to thank the following Artists for helping us to break all our previous records on our Sixth Return Engagement, with own Company, at the Hippodrome, Rochdale:
Cecilian Family,
Three Beyers,
Percys, The Wheelers,
Alex Victor Duo,
Miss Mabel Lucerne,
Wright and Elton,
Vernos, Bioscope, &c.
THE DAYTON FAMILY.

Palace, Kilmarnock.

Feb. 4, Palace, Sunderland.
Feb. 11, Palace, Aberdeen.
Feb. 18, Palace, Dundee.
Feb. 25, King's, Gateshead,
&c., &c.

After Macclesfield date we commence
Continental Tour at Paris.
returning to Old England Whit Week.

From August Bank Holiday we intend to run a Vaudeville Company,
besides our own new and original Act.
We would like to hear from Artists all Lines,
Big Novelties, Startling and Refined Acts,
which can be performed on small stages if required.

We would also like to hear from a good Manager,
with first-class references.

Mark letters "Re Vaudeville."

Please accept silence polite negative pro tem.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Jan. 28, on. FRED DURHAM'S Agency, 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone, 15 Brixton.

LEO FRITZ'S Agency,
40, Glenshaw-mansions, Brixton-road, S.W.
Telephone 457 Brixton.

WANTED, Artists who are willing to work next week, Jan. 28, on, Syndicate Halls, to wire me immediately. I will see any Artist, even this Sunday, if they are willing to work. Wire, wire, wire for next week.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Noting too Big, on Saturday, Feb. 2, and every Saturday onwards. Write VICTOR W. ROWE, 28, Herbert-rd., Stockwell, London, S.W.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession,
Acts New in Dublin, for the above,
the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland,
Direct or through Agents.
All communications to WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, Wanted, Feb. 4, 18, Big Stars, London and Provinces,
AYTOUN'S AGENCY Big Specialities for France.
AYTOUN'S AGENCY Can book 12 weeks.
AYTOUN'S AGENCY Panto. Artists for 1907-8.
AYTOUN'S AGENCY Fullest partics. and lowest.
AYTOUN'S AGENCY Continental Representatives,
AYTOUN'S AGENCY GERALD and PASQUIER.
AYTOUN'S AGENCY Provincial Representative,
AYTOUN'S AGENCY FRANK LYNNE.
AYTOUN'S AGENCY "LORD" GEO. AYTOUN,
AYTOUN'S AGENCY 120, Kennington Park-road,
AYTOUN'S AGENCY London, S.E.
AYTOUN'S AGENCY Wires, "Antics, London."
AYTOUN'S AGENCY 'Phone, 1949 Hop.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Big Variety Stars,
Big Specialities,
Feb. 4, onwards.
State lowest terms, bookings, &c.
Big Acts for Fêtes and Galas.
EDGAR STEBBINGS,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester."
Telephone, 09261.

WANTED, Big Stars, Big Numbers, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, onwards.
I can place you.
Wire or write, with full particulars,
JESS VERNO'S Agency,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone, 2076 Royal.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Feb. 4, 11, 18,
Stars in all Lines,
Stars in all Lines,
Full up for smaller items
State towns at liberty for.
Can fix big numbers any odd weeks.
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Novel Comedy Turns, Feb. 1 (one night only), Humorist, Conjuring, &c., Double Turns preferred. Terms, ENTERTAINER, "Chronicle" Office, Dorchester.

COVENTRY HIPPODROME.
Proprietors, COVENTRY HIPPODROME CO., LTD.
WANTED, Agents and Artists to please Note that from Dec. 23, 1904, no Contracts will be recognised unless signed by the Secretary and Manager. T. M. SYLVESTER, Manager; G. E. WRIGHT, Secretary.

WANTED, Known, Variety, Grand Theatre, Nelson, wishes to thank all Artists who have written in for Feb. 18, and must please accept silence as a polite negative.

ALHAMBRA, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, the very best of Talent available, Artists known to me communicate; I can book you. VENTOM SWIFT, Alhambra, Edinburgh. Rehearsal Monday, 11 o'clock sharp, for Marcus Boyle, Alex Milne, The Levines, Whirlo, Ada Whitton, Cambo, Cade Burnett, Alhambroscope, and the Musical Keiths.

WANTED, Variety Talent, all Lines, especially Specialities. Those doing 2 acts preferred. Good Musical Clowns write for four days, May 20, Northampton. Address, MCASKELL'S Agency, Pal., Dundee.

WANTED, Wanted, at once,
Startling Novelties,
Acts and Troupes,
of the highest order,
for immediate and future dates,
for leading Continental Establishments.

Apply, with lithos. and full particulars,
vacant dates,
where now working, &c., to
HAWKE and HAMILTON,
Musical, Variety, and Dramatic Agents,
97B, Regent-street. 'Phone, 8017 Gerrard.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, for Webster and Girling's Agency, 150, Strand, with which is amalgamated Wigglesworth's Provincial Agency. Address, as above, to HUGH WIGGLESWORTH, General-Manager, late of Blackpool, Morecambe, &c.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Meritorious Novelties, Solid Acts, and Children's Attractions.

JAMES FIONI'S Agency, 21, Norton-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Specialities of all kinds. Send bookings and actual lowest,
MARTINO'S Agency, 125, Barcroft-st., Grimsby.

WANTED, Talented Company, for Feb. 4, and onward,
Balladists, Humorists, Animal Acts, Jugglers, Good Star Comedians, King's Hall, Westcliffe-on-Sea (2s. 2d. from London), once nightly. Refined Concert audience. Can entertain any really high-class Attractions; must have drawing power. Stage 16ft. deep, 22ft. opening. Complete concert parties booked. Terms and particulars, first letter.
VANDY'S Agency, King's Hall.
Rehearsal 2, Monday. All must attend.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
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Something New and Up to Date,
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Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
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Novelties and Sensational Acts,

For Immediate and Future Dates, for
London, Liverpool,
Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle,
Glasgow, Belfast,
Dublin, Manchester, Bolton,
Wolverhampton, Oldham,
Hartlepool, Shields, Barrow,
Carlisle, Darlington,
Hull, Middlesbrough, Stockport,
Blackpool, Morecambe,
Brighton, Boscombe, Margate,
Portsmouth, Southampton,
Bath, Lincoln, Leicester, Bradford,
Halifax, Sheffield, Blackburn,
Lancaster, Stockport, Burnley, Derby,
Attercliffe, Stoke, Grimsby,
St. Helens, Accrington, Warrington,
Bury, Hanley, Stockton, &c., &c.
Send, at once, terms, dates, and lithos.
Those having a good act can rely on getting
Immediate Work.
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street,
41, Oxford-street,
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41, Oxford-street,
41, Oxford-street,
Manchester.
Manchester.
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Manchester.
Manchester.
Telephone, 09144.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."

ROYAL
HIPPODROME,
BELFAST,
Now in Course of Erection,
and
when
Finished
will be the largest and Handsomest Building in Ireland.

WANTED, February onward, all the Finest Acts in the World.
Price no object.
New and Novel Turns of every Variety.
The above is Booked
in conjunction with
TIVOLI THEATRE,
DUBLIN.

WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
WANTED, Star Acts, all Lines, absolute lowest, once nightly. Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

WANTED, Feb. 4, onwards, the best of Variety Acts. Note, I can fix you.
GANNON, West-grove, Bristol. Telephone, 2636X.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE. Rehearsal, Monday next, 2 o'clock, for Will Vay's Juveniles, Mlle. Eldee, Mack Olive, Leonard and Larry, Clifton Hall, Jake Euston, Joe Cheevers, Vernon's Bioscope.

WANTED, Big Acts, on share; holding capacity 2,500. Letters, SMITH and Co., Red Lion Hotel, Rochdale.

WANTED, at Once, Big Acts, Specialities, Comedians, Comediennes, Comedy Sketches. Wire at once, if out next Monday, lowest terms; must be big, or no use. Clients seen by appointment only. BROWN, 58, Chicksand-st., N.E.

Fêtes and Galas. Fêtes and Galas.
WANTED, Latest Novelty Acts for Above, commencing Easter Monday, onwards. State rock-bottom terms, enclose Lithos. Permanent address, bills, &c. (letters only). SYLVESTER, the old reliable agent, 271, Clapham-road, London. Established 1878.

WANTED, Star Attractions, for Immediate and Summer Dates.
Send Full Particulars,
with lowest
London and Provisional Terms.
CAVILL'S Agency,
127, Clapham-road, London, S.W.
Telegrams, Dramatical, London.

WANTED, Gala Attractions, all Lines, May 20, onward. Send lithos., memos., terms, BARRETT, Fête and Gala Caterer, 566, Queen's-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Tops of Bills who have odd weeks vacant to send full bookings, &c., to FRANK LYNNE, 12, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W.

To Fête Agents.

GRAND YORKSHIRE GALA, YORK,

June 19, 20, and 21, 1907.

WANTED, Tenders.—Persons willing to Tender for the Amusements at a cost of not more than £100, and which must include one or two specially attractive features (stage or otherwise), must send full particulars to the Secretary, Mr. FRED AREY, Davyhall-chambers, York, on or before Tuesday, Feb. 5, 1907.

TUDOR HIPPODROME, BLYTH.
WANTED, First-Class Combinations, with Pictures preferred, one show nightly and Sunday Concert, Jan. 28, on.

WANTED, good Dramatic Sketches and First-Class Artists in all Lines. Quote lowest salary, and give full bookings to Box 4,265, "The Era."

WANTED, for Concert Party, smart Vent., Conjurer, Humorist, Character Impersonator, Double-handed Pianist. Lowest terms, LLOYD MORGAN, 30, Richmond-gardens, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, Brothers and Sisters, and Novelty Turns.
J. FELL, Proprietor, Palace, Lancaster.

WANTED, for Long Comfortable Tour, week Towns, Lady for Illustrated Songs; absolutely good voice essential. Correct age, height, list of songs, and absolutely lowest terms, references, &c., to BERT SERONY, Manager, Mechanics' Hall, Hyde, Cheshire.

WANTED, Young Ladies, who can sing and dance, or juggle, for long engagement with troupe. Particulars, Box 4,273, "The Era."

WANTED, Comedian, with Business Ability, Talent, and Experience, to join two others (who are remarkably alike) in arranging a mistaken identity sketch. Share expenses. Advertisers would also consider offers from Sketch Cos.
Com., Box 4,249, "The Era."

WANTED, First-Class Comedian, also Baritone-Accompanist, for Summer; refinement most essential. Box 4,261, "The Era."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

Telephone No. 288.
Telegraphic address, "Zalva, Scarboro'."
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Sole appointed Agent
for the
Yarmouth and Lowestoft Hippodromes,
Hengler's Cirque, Glasgow.
Gilbert's Modern Circuses.

WANTED, April 1 and Summer Months,
Big Novelty Acts,
Big Novelty Acts,
for Seaside Establishments.
If unknown to me, say where can be seen next four weeks. Quote absolute lowest first letter, and send full Bookings.

WANTED, Young Man (20), to assist in well-known Musical Variety Act; must play 'Cello, and have a slight knowledge of brass instrument; those used to the stage preferred; good amateur not objected to.
Apply at once,
O., 257, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Smart Young Low Comedian, for Music Hall Act. Letters only, photo., age, height, to G. E., 22A, Barmouth-road, Wandsworth Common, S.W.

WANTED, Boy Comedians, Lady Serios, Amateurs, Write, Bioscope, with Latest Pictures. Send Photos, Lowest Terms, Long Tour, Coloured Ladies, Write, BARRETT, Shakespeare Theatre, Altrincham, Cheshire.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
a Smart Boy,
to join the
Celebrated Dayton Family
of
Risley and Pantomimic Artists, as Apprentice.
Age about fourteen.
must be very small for age.
Good home, &c.

DAYTON, FAMILY, Palace, Kilmarnock.

WANTED, Cinématograph Operator, with own machine and films; also Vocalist-Pianist, man and wife preferred; also Sensational Act, to form a Combination with Fant Abbott, Hypnotist and Zancigist, for tour. State lowest terms and full particulars to A. E. ABRAHAMS, 26, Gt. Eastern-road, Stratford.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Jan. 28, Miss Maude May Murray, in Electrical Dances, finish to-night Panto. run, Prince's, Poplar. Engaged for Queen's, Poplar. 35, Mall-road, Hammersmith.

WANTED, Managers and Agents to see Miss Maude Murray's Electric Dances, Prince's Theatre, Poplar. Matinées, 4 o'clock; evening, 10 o'clock; vacant Jan. 28, on.

WANTED, six or twelve nights, Jan. 28, Lily Charles, Serio and Dancer. Private address, 14, Hartley-avenue, Barking-road, East Ham.

WANTED, by Ruby Bijou, Daintiest of Dancers, and Best Barefoot Dancer, Feb. 11, week, between Derby and Burnley. Offers. 23, Seymour-flats, Euston-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Magna, in beautiful Classical Poses in Sculpture. Great success, Terriss Theatre. Jan. 28, Theatre Royal, Bilston. Liberty Feb. 18.

WANTED, Feb. 4, Cambo, the Musical Monkey, (a Real Novelty), Can Bottom any Bill. Enormous Success, this Week, Palace, Aberdeen; Next Week, Alhambra, Edinburgh. Ventriloquial Show if Required.

WANTED, Feb. 4, 11, Arthur Wade, Premier Baritone, precede Manchester. Brought down house with splendid rendering of "The Vagabond." Write or wire, Monday, 28th, Empire, Dudley.

WANTED, Known, Reeves Vowles, Comedian and Instrumentalist, Vacant June, forward. Letters only, c/o Mr. JOHN REEVES, Bagshot, Surrey.

WANTED, Feb. 4, on, Harry Keeble, Versatile Comedian. Sure Success. Coms., 15, South street, Hammersmith, W.

WANTED, Feb. 18 and 25, by Don Cameron, Basso and Character Vocalist. This Theatre Royal, Hyde; next, Roscommon, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Vacant Monday, onwards, exceptions, Dan Ashton, Empire's Stump Orator; and the Collier. Offers, permanent. 26, Wood-street, Openshaw, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, F. H. Dundas, Actor-Vocalist, wants Monday. Wire for a safe card. Tivoli, Dublin.

WANTED, Monday next and few immediate vacancies, by Phil Rees, Double-Voiced Vocalist and Mimic. Wire, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Monday next, by Harry Leaton, a good, sound Vocal Comedian. Big Success this week, Empire, Paisley.

WANTED, by Vosper, the Master Mimic and Necromancer, Monday next, also Feb. 4. Wire, 159, Eyre-street, Sheffield.

WANTED, Feb. 4, 11, and 18, by Li-Chang-Hi, Chinese Magician, with his up-to-date Mysteries. Enormous success this, Empire, Paisley; next, Hippo., Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, that Mr. Tom Bassett made a gigantic hit at the Palace, Kilmarnock, on Monday night, and was re-engaged for another week. Agent, GEORGE BARCLAY.

WANTED, Known, Harry Jennings, Liberty Monday, a clever Comedian and Dancer, clean songs, patter, and the best Dancing Act on any stage; Liberty Monday next or later. Wire, Hippodrome, Stoke. Good Agent wanted, who can book a good Act. Permanent address, 56, Buccleuch-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Feb. 4, Great Kyoto, Comedy Japanese Mysterious Box; also May Geraldine, Comedienne and Dancer. Enormous success King's Hall, Westcliff. Monday next, Hippo., Lowestoft.

WANTED, Offers, for the Gelders, Marvellous Magicians; Ivy Dene, Dainty Soubrette and Dancer. This, O. H., Kidderminster; next, Royalty T., Morecambe.

WANTED, Jolly Harry Nation and Hettie Lee, two distinct turns, vacant Monday and Feb. 4. Wire, Empire, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, Merit and Moore (Will and Dot), Comedy Duo Artists, open for Picture and Variety Company. Terms low. W. MERIT, 18, Andrew-street, Llanelly.

WANTED, by The Dewars (Jessie and Fred), Duettists and Sketch Artists, Jan. 28, also Feb. 11, North, two acts if required. Address, 1, Bethel-place, Woodhouse, Leeds.

WANTED, by Fortune and Fame (late Padley Bros.), in our great speciality. Vacant Feb. 4 and 18. This week, "Aladdin" Panto., Grand, Radcliffe; Monday, Grand Theatre, Rawtenstall.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Stanton and Le Clare, Comedy Sketch Artists, Jan. 28 and Feb. 4,
57, Myddelton-street, London, E.C.

WANTED, Monday next, by Reszki and Raszki, Gymnastic Grotesques and Tumblers, also Feb. 4. All coms., 6, Beech-grove, Dewsbury.

WANTED, 28th, Feb. 4, by Brothers Lawrence, Vocalists and Champion Ragtime Dancers. This week, Scotch Concerts, 2, Carlton-court, Glasgow.

WANTED, Monday, between Liverpool and Glasgow, by Culian and Coyle, popular Singing and Patter Comedians. Wire, 4, Asnton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Monday, Jan. 28, by the men who make them laugh, Hector and Sultan, great Eccentric Grotesques, Top of Bill here. Wire, Central Palace, North Shields. Laughing hit of any programme.

WANTED, Feb. 4 and 11, by Gravetta and Parr, Clay-Modellers, Impersonators of Celebrities, Pot-Pourri, Two Acts. Palace, Gloucester.

WANTED, Feb. 4 and 11, by The Carls Comedy Trampoline Speciality, that can follow them all. Just returned from Continental Tour. Big success evereywhere. Roars of laughter and applause. Speindid lithos. Now appearing
Metropole Theatre, Devonport, Panto.
Specially engaged.

WANTED, Feb. 4 and on, by Alpha and Omega, silent telepathy act, no confederates. Until Feb. 2, Cosy Picture Hall, South Shields.

WANTED, Feb. 4 and 11, by Dizart and De Starte, Magicians and Second Sight Seers. 164, Crookes, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Karl Birvell, F.O.S., Ventriloquial Marvel, Liberty Monday. Big show, figures and fit-up. Wire, Victoria Theatre, West Stanley, Durham.

WANTED, Jan. 28, by Gilroy, the American Ventriloquist, direct from Wipsy Slack; also Boston Bioscope, everything up-to-date. Wire for Monday, GILROY, 55, Effingham-street, Rotherham.

WANTED, Contracts, by Hoozee? the Perfect Ventriloquist, Feb. 4, on. Good goods. P. A., 15, South-street, Hammersmith, W.

"THE PANSY AND THE OWLS," the smart Military Costume Comedy Artists, Miss Iris Banfield, now playing Principal Boy, "Cinderella" Panto., Mr. Walter Gordon, Eccentric Comedian and Dancer, son of Dick Geldard; Mr. Arthur Hickman, principal Tenor and Musical-Director, late D'Oyly Carte Opera Co.; Songs, Sketches, Concerted items, Duets, Trios, and Opera Burlesques; printing by David Allen, Stafford and Co., &c.; three to six Artists, as required, part or whole performance.

WANTED, Piers, Pavilions, &c., from Whitsuntide, onwards, with exceptions. Address, A. HICKMAN, Manager, Wiffen House, Loughton, Essex. Bankers, London, City, and Midland.

WANTED, by Miss Eva Norman and Co., Feb. 25, onwards, in "Doing His Duty," a Burlesque Farcical Comedy Duologue, including Songs. Add., Grand, Glasgow.

WANTED, Monday next, by Billy Ross and Co., Greatest Comedy Boxing Act on the Stage. Starring Circus, Spennymoor. Wire for Draw.

WANTED, Feb. 25, for Frances Ferina's Original Duos, "Pity the Blind" and "A Motor Muddle," Hippo., Putney. WILLIE EDELSTEN, 29, Lorn-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Feb. 4 and 11, by Martinengo and Co., Scena, "The Grand Finale," a success this, Hippo., Putney; next, Tivoli, Dublin.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Lion Show, Best and Cleanest in the Profession,
Vacant April 15, 29, and May 6.
Com., week,
Jan. 28,
Palace Theatre, Belfast.

WANTED, Alice Fontainbleau's Canine Marvels, Liberty Monday and following two weeks. Sure draw. Wire, 10, Liverpool-street, King's Cross, W.C.

WANTED, Dates or Tour, Zella's Living Mannikins, new act and splendid fit-up. Wire or write, 34, Keswick-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagements, Public or Private, Harmon's Bioscope, Marionettes, also Royal Punch and Judy, with Toby. 326, Earlsfield-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Vacant Feb. 4, Tour or Resident, First-Class Bioscope, with Operator, fifteen to ninety minutes' exhibition of Animated Pictures; changes weekly. B. SCOPE, P.O., Shrewsbury.

WANTED, Engagement as Cinématograph Operator, lime or electric, ten years' experience. C. STEER, 18, Winstonian-road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS. ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman, Silver King (regd.), Auctioneer, Valuer, Expert and Authority to the United Kingdom and Van Dwellers' Association, Auctioneer to Lord George Sanger (England's Greatest Showman), and Leading Showmen of Great Britain. Sales and Commissions conducted in any part of the World. If you want to Buy or Sell anything connected with the Business, consult TOM NORMAN, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand. Change of address.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Tom Norman, Showman's Auctioneer, &c., attends all Principal Fairs, Feasts, &c., and transacts business with, and for, showmen and travellers of all grades, is desirous of representing one or more large firms, on terms. Satisfactory results guaranteed. References, bank and leading showmen. Apply, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, London.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch, is going ahead with up-to-date Lines in Field Glasses, Fancy Goods, Clocks, Jewellery, &c. There is no cheaper house for you.

WANTED, Known, Electrical, Simpkin, Wilkinson, and Gibson, Kirkstall-road, Leeds, manufacture four and six pole Showmen's Dynamos (improved pattern), also new Flame Arc Lamps, geared motors, for driving organs and roundabouts, large stocks, cable, carbons, globes, incandescents, all classes of repairs; new line, direct coupled portable electric plants, driven by paraffin.

WANTED, Known.—Write or call at Greene's, Falmouth-road, London, S.E., for .22 ammunition, rifles, globes, targets; absolutely cheapest market

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WANTED, Known, Auction Marts and others, R. Owens, Manufacturing Chemists and Dry salters, 15, Rosamond-st., West Manchester, making up good lines. Good profit. Write for samples.

WANTED, Known.—A Word to the Wise is Sufficient. A Client writing June 25, 1906, says:—Bag puncher took £300 in a little over three months. For price, write Sole Agents to the Makers, viz., the Mills Novelty Co. MINERVA AUTOMATIC Co., 120, York-rd., King's Cross, London, N. Largest Variety of Automatic Machines in the trade. No Junk. Don't buy worn-out machines.

Latest Invention.
PORTABLE HELTER SKELTER LIGHTHOUSE,
Prices on application.
WANTED, Known, I have the Sole Right of manufacture of the above under the Registered Design No. 463,956, of S. F. Staples, A.M.I.C.E. Caution.—Infringements of above rights will now be dealt with.

WALKER,
Roundabout Maker, Tewkesbury.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that the Gourock Ropework Co., Ltd., Lancaster-place, Lowestoft (sole manufacturers of Birkmyres Waterproof Cloth), have for sale a Secondhand 110ft. Green Waterproof Tent Top and 50ft. Red and White Circus Tent, also new 80ft. and 60ft. White Bull Cloth Tent Tops, one 26ft. by 20ft. White Bull Cloth Horse Tent, and a new Red and White Roundabout Tilt. Write at once.

WANTED, Known, Showmen's Letter Cloths made and attractively painted in fancy colours; all kinds of showmen's painting undertaken. ROCHE, Artist, 22, Lansdown-road, Lee, London, S.E.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

MARCH FOURTH TRADES, INDUSTRIAL, ARTS and INVENTIONS EXHIBITIONS, 1907.
Open April 2 to 10.
Manager, Mr. Joseph Collingwood, J.P.
Three years since last Exhibition.
Locally organised, and managed on same lines as its three predecessors, each of which has established fresh records for attendance and business done.

WANTED, Trade Displays, Working Exhibits, Novelties, Side Shows, Stage Artists, &c., &c.
R. F. BERTOLLE, Secretary.

WANTED, First-Class Attractive Side Show, for Eleventh Annual Trades Exhibition, Bridlington (six days); plenty of space for good novel Attraction; liberal Sharing terms. Address, Mr. HAGUE, Spa Gardens, Bridlington.

WANTED, Novelties and Freaks of Nature, for Bagan's Waxworks, Belfast, North-street; also Lady Palmist and Tattooist, on shares; good opening.

WANTED, Novelties, present and future dates, month certain, shares or salary. Wire for Monday, PROPRIETOR, 100, Lower-marsh, Lambeth, London.

WANTED, Good Novelties, with good Flash, for the best Shops in London; shares or salary. Wire for Monday. PROFESSOR RUBY, Novelty Exhibition, 68, Uxbridge-road, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, Open at Once, Sale of Books and Postcards allowed. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, for the Mammoth Fun City, a Fat Lady or Midgets, on half shares, must have paintings. Apply to J. WILSON, Olympia.

WANTED, Lady Character Reader, for two weeks, commencing 28th inst.
Apply, SECRETARY, Exhibition, Dudley.

WANTED, by Professor, Hypnotism, Mesmerism, Subjects, both male and female. Private Exhibitions in London. State experiences, wages, Box 4,218, "The Era."

WANTED, Hypnotic Subjects, Jack Tighe, Fisher and Raeburn may write in. Address, FANT ABBOTT, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Experienced Handseller, for Auction Mart; sober, honest, and willing worker only need apply. Also Pianist, Vocalist preferred, used to Singing Contests. Good wages; permanent situation. Reference required. GREENWOOD, 157, Everton rd., Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, one or two reliable Men, for small Shows; sobriety and respectability essential; long and comfortable engagement, from Feb. Terms, references, PROPRIETOR, 4, Ducie-grove, Manchester.

WANTED, one or two reliable Men, for small Shows; sobriety and respectability essential; long and comfortable engagement, from Feb. Terms, references, PROPRIETOR, 4, Ducie-grove, Manchester.

This is it!!
WANTED, Known, the only real singing picture machine on the market,
THE BIOPHONE.
This machine, which is patented all over the world, is the last word in synchronising machines. A real talking, singing, laughing, and whistling picture is produced. None of the discordant sounds which characterise other fancy-priced machines are audible. It can be worked by any operator after a few moments' practice. It is compact and solidly-constructed to stand the strain of showmen's business. No mechanical complications to get out of order. We guarantee this machine to be ten times louder and more distinct than any other machine on the market. It is the only existing machine that can be heard clearly while the front organ is playing. Price, with six pictures, £50. Apply to Sole Agent for England, A. C. BESCH, Showmen's Agent, North-st., Newcastle, Staffs.

WANTED, Known, Bailey's Punch and Judy and Toby close to-night six weeks Crystal Palace, London, Liberty Monday next, wire.

WANTED, immediate Engagements, for T. Dilkens, the American Giant, and Tallest Man on Earth. Never yet seen in England. Big Attraction. Address, R. DEVEREUX, Manager, 4, Duke-street, Adelphi, London.

WANTED, by Harold Pyott, the Smallest Man on Earth, 23in. High, and 24lb. Weight, a Few Weeks, Vacant, Previous to Continental Tour Permanent Address, J. S. BEELEY, 83, Market-street, Westhoughton, Lancs.

WANTED, Engagement, to Manage Waxwork or Exhibition, Experienced. Wife as Lady Character Reader. Salary or Percentage. Box 4281, "The Era."

BLACKPOOL SANDS.
WANTED, Known, the South Shore Pleasure Beach is the only site in Blackpool for Open-air Attractions.
The grounds are forty acres in extent, right on the sea front, and are situated immediately next the Promenade at the Electric Tramway Terminus. From April 1 to Dec. 31, 1905, 4,000,000 passengers were carried on these tramways. The permanent attractions now include the "River Caves of the World," "Maxim Flying Machine," "Sea Circus," &c. Great Canadian Water Chute now being erected for next season, commencing at Easter. For sites and concessions for really good Novelties address, PROPRIETORS, 14, Balmoral-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Let, Show Ground.

Tranent Show Ground
is to be Let

during the
Annual Fair Holidays in June.

Apply,
TOWN CLERK, Tranent, N.B.

WANTED, Known, to all Parties requiring Ground, for all kinds of Amusements, for Exeter Easter Fair, in the old Fair Field, Okehampton-road. This year special attractions, including our new helter-skelter. Apply, W. C. and S. HANCOCK, Winter Gardens, Plymouth.

THE ABERGAVENNY MAY PLEASURE FAIR will be held on Tuesday, May 14, and following three days, followed from 19th to 26th May by the Camp, in adjoining fields, of the Cheshire Volunteer Infantry Brigade, about 4,000 in number.
WANTED, Application for Ground for Shows, Roundabouts, &c., for the Fair, or during Camp or both, should be sent in at an early date as accommodation is limited.
Mr. LLEWELLIN,
Town Hall, Abergavenny.

Season 1907.
WINTER GARDENS, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, to Let, three Stalls, lately occupied by E. F. Harris. Wire King; would suit good wire ring and brooch worker. Splendid positions. Offers to SECRETARY, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Exeter Great Easter Fair Ground, to be Let for all Kinds of Amusements, on the Okehampton-road, the Best and Most Prominent Position, High and Dry. The Fair will be Headed by Anderton's Modern Show, also Up-to-Date Switchback, Gondolas, and Helter-Skelter, or, Slipping the Slip, and Still Plenty of Room for others. No One Barred. All Rents Moderate. No Ground Reserved unless Deposit Paid. This Ground was a Great Success last year. For Terms Apply, ANDERTON'S MODERN SHOW, Manchester-road, Swinton.

WANTED, to Let, a few Spaces for Stalls, &c., and Working Exhibits,

for Tour with Agnes Beckwith's (champion Lady Swimmer), Novelty Exhibition.

All communications to
W. TAYLOR and PHELPS,
33, Peckham-rye, London.

See future advertisements.

WANTED, Known, one or two Spaces to Let in Touring Trades Exhibition, long Scottish Tour booked; Stalls and Gas-fittings provided; special advantages to good Midget Photographer, Distorting Mirrors wanted, on sharing terms. Address, MANAGER, Exhibition, Corn Exchange, Bathgate, N.B.

WANTED, Known, few Spaces to Let in Touring Exhibition; also Good Side-show. Phoros write,

MANAGER, Exhibition,
Corn Exchange, Watford.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, to Let, Spaces for Side-shows, rent or sharing terms, season April 1 to Sept. 30. Address, SECRETARY, Zoo Park, Southport.

WANTED, Premises or Small Hall, for Lantern Show and Medicine Sale; Provincial. Terms to E., 104, Devonshire-road, Holloway, London.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100, 101, and 102A, Houndsditch, has Special Departments for 9ct. Rings, Secondhand Watches, Unredeemed Pledges, Cheap Jewellery. All up-to-date Lines.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, Husbands, Babies, Love-Letters, Palmistry, Lunatics', Marriage, and Liars' Licences. MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square, W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines of every description, latest and best. WORMALD, 123, Blythe-road, Olympia, Kensington, London. Established 1887.

WANTED, to Sell, Pullman Living Carriage, 21ft. length, rounded corners, beautifully fitted throughout. Price £160. WILLIAM BARRON, Fun City, Olympia.

WANTED, to Sell, a very comfortable Living Carriage, cheap, go by rail or road; partly furnished. All particulars will be obtained, Mr. HAYDEN, Blacksmith, New Roos.

WANTED, to Sell, two large Waggons, good condition, suit furniture remover, going in for motor. Particulars, FELIX SOMERS, Temperance Hall, Pembroke Dock.

WANTED, to Sell, Traction Engine, by Aveling and Porter, hauls 5 tons, two Special Water-tanks, almost new, scarcely been used, suit Showman. Cost £460; sell for £260. TOM NORMAN, Auction Dept., "Era" Office, London.

WANTED, Known, to Juvenile Roundabout Proprietors, and others interested, one of the latest stamp of Juvenile Motor Car Roundabouts is now open at the Olympia, London. This is a machine that can be well adapted for Fair Grounds, Pleasure Gardens, and any places of amusements, either under cover or in the open air. Riding capacity Forty-five Juveniles. Inquirers and intending purchasers post early to the Originator and Maker, W. H. HALSTEAD, Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire.

WANTED, to Sell, one four-abreast, two three-abreast sets Gallopers, with double crank Fowler Traction and electric light, one set steam Dobbies. May be seen working. Terms arranged. WALKER, Roundabout Maker, Tewkesbury

WANTED, to Sell, a Three-abreast Set of Jumpers, Savage's Patent Motion, 30 Horses, 2 Cars, Horses in good condition, trucks nearly new, twisted brass rods; Engine, by Tidman, Organ, 3 Figures and Drums, and a 4-h.p. Light Engine, Dynamo, 20-lamp, Separate or together. RAVENSCROFT, 72, Victoria-road, New Brighton.

WANTED, to Sell, a Steam Galloping Roundabouts, in perfect order, and Organ by Gavioli, with up-to-date tunes, and trucks to carry everything. Price £150. All ready to take money. Also Two Sets of Swings and other Side-shows. Can be seen by appointment. Reason for selling, giving up the business. Address, ASHTON, 196, Harwoods-road, Watford.

WANTED, Known, for Sale, The Marvo Electric Railway, or what is known as the Figure Eight. The whole as a going concern; something new and up-to-date. A splendid Money-taker, and in First-class Condition. Been all the rage of Scotland. Also One Barrel Organ, five figures, with side drums, well truck to suit; also One Set Steam Double Velocipedes, centre engine by Savage, 3 h.p. For particulars, apply, R. and H. MCINDAL, 1, Buchanan-terrace, Paisley.

WANTED, Known, my Corrugated Iron Building for sale, made in sections, bolts together, cost over £100, will take £35, cash. Can be seen at the Olympia. Minni Letta's Rolling Stage, with all Machinery connected with same, also for Sale; a big New Novelty for Fairs. This can be seen working daily. For price, address, 11, Addison Park-mansions, Kensington, W.

WANTED, to Sell, Two First-class Electric Engravers, with Batteries, complete, for dog-collar engraving, &c., £3 each, cash. R. BOLTON, Jeweller, 49A, Poulton-street, Kirkham, Lancs.

WANTED, to Sell, Quantity of ½d. in Slot Lung Testers, working order, cheap to clear. JACK MCLEAN, 16, Greenmarket, Dundee.

WANTED, to Sell, Waxworks, genuine bargain, sixty figures and complete show. Cost £300; price £50. Seen in London. STACEY, Settles-street, E.

WANTED, to Sell, Grand Waxwork Exhibition, with immediate possession. Reason for selling, ill health. Address, PROPRIETOR, Old Baths, Richmond, Surrey.

WANTED, to Sell, Twelve Distorting Mirrors, with cases, bargain. Space for Novelty Exhibits wanted, season. VIDRON, 120, Drayton-road, Portsmouth.

WANTED, to Sell, Bosco Flashlight Photo. Machine, complete, cost £60, price £5; Avery Weighing Chair, £5; Piano Organ, 80s. STACEY, Settles-street, London, E.

WANTED, to Buy, all Kinds of Automatic Machines, Pictures, &c. Rifle Range, &c. Must be in Good Condition. For Cash; no Fancy Price. TAYLOR, Corn Exchange, Watford.

WANTED, to Buy, Set Galloping Horses, second-hand lot, for cash. BERT ELLIS, Stanley-road, Chingford, Essex

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AT

SOUTHSEA AND PORTSMOUTH.

THE SOUTHSEA AND PORTSMOUTH ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE INVITE

TENDERS

for the right to give Entertainments on Open Spaces at Southsea and Portsmouth during the ensuing season of 1907.

There are four positions—The Dell, Victoria Park, and Southsea Common (2).

Tenders must be sent in by MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1907.

The Committee do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any tender.

Full particulars and conditions may be obtained of

WALTER P. WATKINS,
Secretary.

Western Parade, Southsea.
January 21st, 1907.

BOROUGH OF SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

TO AUTOMATIC MACHINE PROPRIETORS.

THE CORPORATION INVITE

TENDERS

for the privilege of placing

ONE HUNDRED AUTOMATIC MACHINES

on and near the Pier during the ensuing Season.

The use during Sundays of machines for taking photographs will be strictly prohibited.

It is an express stipulation that the Proprietors shall, during the continuance of the Agreement, keep the Machines in good repair and condition.

Sealed tenders, endorsed "Tenders for Automatic Machines," to be delivered at my office on or before FEBRUARY 2, 1907.

The Corporation do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any tender.

By Order,
WILLIAM H. SNOW,
Town Clerk.

Southend-on-Sea.
January, 1907.

THE WHITLEY & MONKSEATON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

are prepared to receive

TENDERS

for the exclusive privilege of using their

BAND STAND

(20ft. in diameter) on the Whitley Links for Musical Entertainments on week days during the coming Summer Season, viz., from May 1 to Sept. 30, 1907. The entertainments must be guaranteed to be of a refined and first-class order, and will be subject to conditions, a print of which can be obtained on application to the undersigned, by post, or to Mr. John Moore, the Surveyor to the Council, personally, during his office hours, at the Council Buildings, Whitley Bay.

Tenders must quote a sum per week, or for the Season, and must be sent to me endorsed "Tender for Stand on Links," on or before the 4th day of February, proximo. The Council do not guarantee the acceptance of the highest, or any tender.

Dated this 11th day of January, 1907.

AUGS. WHITEHORN,
Clerk to the Council,
60, Saville-street,
North Shields.

BOROUGH OF SCARBOROUGH.

OPEN-AIR ENTERTAINMENTS

IN THE

KIOSK, CLARENCE GARDENS.

THE
CORPORATION OF SCARBOROUGH
INVITE

TENDERS

For the occupation of the

KIOSK

in the CLARENCE GARDENS, NORTH CLIFF, SCARBOROUGH, for the Purpose of the Band Performances, and other Open-air Entertainments from the 15th July, 1907, to the 30th September, 1907.

Full particulars and conditions of letting will be sent on application to me.

The Corporation will not necessarily accept the highest or any tender.

Tenders must be sent to me before noon on the 27th February, 1907.

D. ARTHUR NICHOLL,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Scarborough,
15th January, 1907.

BOROUGH OF SCARBOROUGH.

THE
TOWN COUNCIL OF SCARBOROUGH
INVITE

TENDERS

FROM

OPEN-AIR ENTERTAINERS
(Including Pierrots)

For the occupation of two Spaces on the South Sands in the Borough, from 18th May, 1907, to 30th September, 1907. The Council will not necessarily accept the highest or any Tender. Tenders endorsed on the envelope "Tender for Entertainers" should be sent to me before noon on the 27th February, 1907.

D. ARTHUR NICHOLL,
Town Clerk

Town Hall,
Scarborough,
15th January, 1907.

THE DOUGLAS TOWN COUNCIL
INVITE

TENDERS

for the Season of 1907 :—

(1) For the right to perform on one or more suitable positions on the Foreshore; nature of entertainment to be stated; exact position to be fixed by the Borough Surveyor.
(2) For occupancy of Band Stand on the Harris Promenade during the Forenoon and Afternoon, for Musical Entertainments. Applicants to state the nature of the entertainment.
(3) The right to perform with a suitable String Band on the Public Music Stands within the Borough, except that the performances shall not be given on Stands so as to interfere with entertainments arranged for on the Promenades or Foreshore.
(4) The right to perform on the Band Stands during the evenings.

Separate tenders may be submitted for 1 or 2 or 3 or 4, or alternative tenders may be submitted for all or any two or more of the rights advertised above.

Persons tendering to state the nature of the respective entertainments, number and description of performers in each class of entertainment, and all other necessary particulars.

Persons tendering must do so on the condition that any tender is subject to the conditions of letting laid down by the Council, copies of which conditions can be seen at the Town-Hall, Douglas, or obtained on application to the undersigned.

The Council does not bind itself to accept the highest or any tender. Tenders, endorsed "Entertainments," to be forwarded to the undersigned not later than MONDAY, the 18th day of FEBRUARY, 1907.

ALEXANDER ROBERTSON,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Douglas.
January, 1907.

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28	18	18	8/9	4/0	3/3	2/6
30	20	20	10/6	4/6	3/6	2/5
33	21	21	12/6	5/3	4/0	3/0
36	22	22	14/6	6/0	4/6	3/0

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
"The Era" Annual for 1907. 1s. "Era" Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C. Once again this useful publication comes out with its useful tabular information concerning things dramatic, such as the date of the production of new plays and important revivals produced at the London, provincial, and Paris theatres. In addition are many portraits and short stories given over the signatures of many prominent theatrical and music hall people, and a variety of other interesting matter.—Financial Times, Jan. 21, '07.

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NOTICE.—The ANNUAL DINNER AND BALL will take place on Sunday March 17th, at the Horns, Kennington. Tickets, Single, 7/6, Double, 12/6. For further particulars apply to
HARRY LESTER,
Secretary.
4, KENNINGTON ROAD, S.E.

M. H. A. R. A.

Notice to Members.
The Secretary desires the addresses of the following members: Tom Stuart, Alridge, Six Ælians, Brooklands and Motramos.
Dinner and Dance, Sunday, Feb. 10.
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HIPPODROME. "Mumming Birds."

Messrs. James Le Fre, Bob Lewis, Chas. Wragg, Bert Williams, Will Moran, Frank Melroyd, Will Lorenzi, George Craig, B. E. Giles, jun., Geo. Farnley, Ernest Stone, B. Dean, Misses Sara Dudley, Louie Decubas, Marjorie Williams, Rosie Mayville, Rosie Fenton, and Vaudeville Co., Walter Purvis and Co. in sketch, "Cauliflower Joe," the McKays, Two Eltons, Marblesque Trio, Frankie, Fred Horsfall, W. H. Downs, and Hippograph.
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Members of the Profession will perhaps be pleased to know that I have succeeded in my action in the American Courts for Pirating my Sketch, "Mumming Birds." Intending Pirates will please note that I intend to take the most stringent action against offenders in this respect.

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CALLS FOR MONDAY, JAN. 28, 1907.

Wires: "Twigsome, London"

THE LONDON HIPPODROME.

"The Treasure Ship in Fairy Seas," Lavater Lee, Chronomegaphone, Trilby, Svengalis Slivers, Boris Lensky, Kremos, Cruikshank, Selma Braatz, Hale and Francis, Ten Ji Troupe, Morris and Vincent, Tscheruoff's Dogs, Althoffs, Two Chinese Princesses,

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal at 1.30 for :—
Tribune's "Bo-Peep" Co., Harry Lawson, Coloured Meisters, Bellonini, Princess Pauline, Frazer and Mac, Two Butterflies, Mr. and Mrs. Lucas, Ruth Doris, Harold Hughman, Bioscope.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
La Milo, Nina Gordon, J. H. Scotland, Bert Woodward, Burg, Haud, and Wise, Harry Maynard, Matthew Brodie and Co., Jimmy Shields, Bioscope, Herbert Lloyd.

ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
"Mick Whittingtun," Winnie Gordon, Paulinetti and Piquo, Dan Leno, jun., George Leila, Mlle. Ameda, T. E. Conover and Co., George Mortiman, Bioscope, Manning's Entertainers.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
"The Devil's Sunday," Griff and Alpha, Kurios, Four Schiavonis, Spry and Austin, Joe Wesley, Derenda and Green, The Avolos, Bioscope, G. W. Hunter.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"The Dandy Thieves," Marie Duma, Harry Clifford, Prof. Vox, Stein Eretto Troupe, Hetty Chattell, Fred Elton, Allisons, Lily Tiso.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"The Duchess of Tooting," Jeannie Mackay, Chas. Vincent, Five Bogannys, Linden's Vaudevilles, Zanfretta and Napio, Bijou Russell, Raie Walters, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Our Curate," Chas. Coverdale, Renard Trio, Marzella's Birds, Chas. Mildare, Park's Eton Boys, Meymotts, Little Ganty, Lily Esplin, Harry Leybourne.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
George Gray and Co., Baker and Balfe, Fred Zola, Lee and Kingston, Bros. Hayes, Maningos, Albert Christian, Katie Cohen, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Happy Holland," Russell Brandon, Frank Harwood, Albert Whelan, Sam Elton, Petram Sisters, Tupps, Welsh Wanderers, Phil and Nettie Peters, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Madge Lessing and Co., George Young, Chas. Pastor, The Courtiers, Three Tauberts, Hall and Earle, Techow's Cats, Paxton Trio, Bioscope, Aurora Troupe.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Madge Gray, Sid Bandon, Bioscope, Browning and Wally, Lidden and Hayward, Genaro and Theol, Sylvesta, Arthur Lloyd Trio, Chas. Jerome.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
The Black Hussars, Alma Gray, Boyd and Gilfain, Ernesto, Strassberger's Lilliputians, La Danseuse, Bioscope, Lilieth Leyton and Co., Hilda Jacobson, Frank Darwin, Gertrude Bradshaw.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Rob Roy," Macarte Sisters, Esta Stella, Conway and Leland, Cairns and Lynch, Carlos Cæsaro, Schenk Bros., Bioscope, Seven Perezoffs.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
"Moving In," Belloni's Cockatoos, Mendel, Hartley Wonders, Maggie Walsh, Lily Burnand, The Gems, Tennyson and Wallis, Theo Bouwmeester, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
"The Magic Carpet," Trapnell Family, Fanny Erris, Nellie Coleman, Dome, D'Arc's Marionettes, "Heartstrings," Cambrian Trio, Bioscope, Alexandra Dagmar, Collier and Child.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Carl Hertz, Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Lieut. Travis, Wartenburg Bros., Sinclair and Whiteford, My Fancy, Fred Cullane and Co., Schwartz Bros., Tom Terriss and Co., Bioscope.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Van Biene and Co., Ike Scott and Son, Orpheus, Gladys Mavius, Newhouse and Ward, Karno Four, Peggy Pryde, Ed. Arthur and Co., Andrew Roy, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Fred Ginnett's "Dick Turpin," Prof. Dunning, Kahn and Kahn, Verno and Voyce, The Findens, Sisters Geretti, Les Voces, Jack Camp, Punch and Judy Girls, Parker and Parr, Bioscope.

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EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Ernest Shand, Lilian Lowe, Vasilescu Troupe, Lennie and Hast, Kate Trail, Victor Newman, Vernon's "Xmas Eve," Kathleen Cogan, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
F. Bernard and Co., Dot Hardy, Two Bostons, Michael Nolan, Agnes Hazel, The Bandurrias, Four Royal Welshmen, The Robertys, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Military Tournament, Mascotte Trio, Young and De Voi, Frank and Jen Latona, Syd May, Jordan and Harvey, Ed. E. Forde, Billy McClain and Co., Chas. Robinson, Bioscope.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
Mme. Esty and Co., Tom Costello, Frobel and Ruge, Three Ramoniers, The Mackweys, Clarice Netta, Holden's Marionettes, James Brady, Adey North.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
J. F. Elliston's Co., in "Puss in Boots."

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"The Earthquake," Harry Anderson, Winnie Derson, Three Guitanos, Northern Troupe, Wilson and Waring, The Ohms, Alexander, Bioscope, Illustrated Song.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Laurie's Kindergarten, Selbini Troupe, Sadie Simpson, Sisters Anderson, Alice May and Co., Bros. Webb, Allan Hanbury, "The Vendetta," Claire Romaine, "Crystal Gazing," Bioscope.

THE LONDON COLISEUM.

CLOSED.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
"Casey's Circus," Prince Kokin, Davis Gledhill Trio, Harry Drew, Ethel Ra Leslie, J. W. Magers, Mlle. De Dio.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
The Dandies, Three Sisters Chester, Phantom Ship, Ethel Dunford, Great Hughes, "Codology," Lena Willard, Arthur Melrose, H. F. Wilson, Cliff Ryland.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Rogues of the Turf," Carrie Joy, Speedwell, Dan Conroy, Carney and Armstrong, Edie Veno, Sybil St. Elmo, Pictures, Kelly and Ashby.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.
Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Mlle. Classium's Statuary, Little Don, G. C. Doughty and Co., Edith Sylvesto, Minnesota Quartette, Pictures, Bros. Corcoran, "Charley's Uncle."

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Savonas, Catherine Radford, Horace Jones, Huxter Bros., Stacey and Williams, Bioscope, Tom Parker, Stanley and Greenop.

THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Lily Harold in "Snowflakes," Chas. Fanning, Pat Carey, Will Van Allen, Frank Cass, James Shingleton, Gracie Bards, Nina Martino, Hallom and Stanton, Benson and Geoffreys, Ellis and Watts, Percival, Ben Hur, Athos Troupe, Mat Wilkinson and Co., Pictures, The Scarloteers.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Office Hours," Pat Carey, Joe Mace, Frank Cass, Kate Carney, Marie Kendal, Marie Blythe, Francis, Spencer and Marks, Bros. O'Gormon, Prince and Milner, Pictures, Soane Roby's Co.

EMPIRE, COVENTRY.
Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Hunt and Thomas, Four Jumels, George Gilbey, Spry and Monti, Gus Garrick, Kitty Marion, Bioscope, Tony Spring.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.
ARTISTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT THE ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON, IS WITHIN THE AREA ABSOLUTELY BARRED BY US.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND
(Now in course of erection).

Artists and Agents please note that Bookings for the above Theatre have now commenced.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras (Fifteen for those engaged at the London Coliseum). Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, or at least TWO WEEKS, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagement cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

N.B.—Silence in every case a polite negative. Artists are requested not to enclose stamped envelope. Letters marked "Private" will be delayed.
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"SNOWFLAKES,"
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"CHEYENNE,"
"I CAN SEE RED ROSES BLOOMING,"
"BOY BLUE,"
"COME BACK TO BORNEO,"
"IN MY PAGODA,"
"WHY DO THE GIRLS LOVE CHARLIE?"
"HENNY KLEIN,"
"IT IS THE SCARECROW,"
"MY IRISH ROSIE."
"I WANT MOLLY AND SHE WANTS ME."

Full List of Band Parts on application.

See our Special Advertisement on Next Page.

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PANTOMIME POLL RESULT.

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MILLS & SCOTT.

STOP PRESS.

"Zuyder Zee, Hyacinth, Girl About, Bungalow in Borneo, still our big winners. Send p.c. copy and band parts Colombo, I wonder if the Girl, I want no other little Girl, and Waltz me around Willie, for 2nd edition—shall use all these."

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All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office.

Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns.

Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not re-booked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follows :—

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N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

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HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.
Gustave Fasola, Sisters May, Sibb and Sibb, Mark Leslie, Bertisch, King's College Boys, Henri Bekker, Mabel Le Roy, Pictures, Ergotti and King Luis.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.
Bob Hutt and Co., Leah Ardell, Sisters Lytton, Ted E. Box, Silver Tone Quartette, Ray Maskell, Cosgrove and Burns, the Katos, Pictures, Diamond and Beatrice.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.
Leoni Clarke, Dick Kendall, Keir and Kempton, Max Duffek, Harry Russon, Hinton and Wootton, Chas. Cardow, Mons. Slippers, Pictures, Juanitas.

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Dun's Operatic Trio, Cordite and Buffalo, Mackinnon Family, Effie White, Du For, Martelloni Troupe, Will Gardner, Sisters Marion, Hansi Schon, Launceston Elliott, Frank Sylvo, Sisters Novita, Pictures, Joe Reichen, "La Moderne Venus," &c.

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Grand Variety Company.

LYRIC, LIVERPOOL.
Grand Variety Company.

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"DON'T MISS DE WATER." (HARRINGTON and TATE.)

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(MELLOR, LAWRANCE, and GIFFORD.)

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"I'M THINKING ALWAYS OF YOU." (PELHAM and RULE.)

"GOOD-BYE, MY LITTLE FLO."
(ARTHURS and LYLE.

"DON'T BE AFRAID, LITTLE SOLDIER." (PELHAM, BUTTS, and RULE.)
"COME AN' MAKE A FUSS O' ME." (McNAUGHTON and KANDT.)

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.
Hearing that some persons were assuming our Name of Business, and Appearing at the Canterbury during the dispute this week, and many artists not personally knowing us having thought that we are the same people—this being liable to mislead, and do us a deal of injury, we wish to state that we are
the Only MARVELLOUS HOWARDS, of Mind-Reading Fame, and two of the Originators of Mental Telepathy,
and Conclude to-night at the Hippodrome, Westcliffe-on-Sea, a Successful Week's Engagement with Paul Vandy, Esq., and we have given our Mind-Reading Entertainment all over the World for this Last 30 Years. Our Solicitors, Messrs. Morris and Richards, Mitre-court Chambers, Temple, E.C., have instructions to take legal proceedings against any persons who represent us in any way, more especially in our particular entertainment. We can spare a little bread, but we cannot spare all our bread and butter.
Through the above misrepresentation, I only just arrived in time in London on Thursday to prevent myself being classed a blackleg by over 6,000 of my brother and sister artists.
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Special Representative:
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Secretary:
Miss AMY ROBINSON.

Accountants: Messrs. HARDY, LAWTON, and CO., York-street, Sheffield.

CALLS
FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, JAN. 28, 1907.

PROVINCIAL CIRCUIT.
SPECIAL NOTICE.
Rehearsal at all Halls, Monday, at 12-0 sharp.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Wright and Elton, Arthur Williams, Mona McDonald, Gicardo, Lois Du Cane and Co., Millie North, Pallister's Bioscope.

PALACE, LINCOLN.
Silbon's Circus, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Harry Vardon, Fred Land, Horace Monto, Effie Stuart, Andy Burn, Addie Dorina.

GRAND, SHEFFIELD.
Fred Southern and Co., Rosine, Ethel Netherton, Cissie Coman, Clarke and Glenney, Pallister's Bioscope.

PALACE, BATH.
Geo. Formby, Johnny Holland, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Vowles and Bryan, Ida Kathrena, Chee-You-Say Family, Stelling, Four Maisanos.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Lydia Yeamans, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Rose Elliott, Three Gregsons, Dene and Dawson, Barney Stuart, Billy Elliott, Will Musgrave, "House Full."

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
"La Vivandiere," Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Francis O'Flynn, Smith and Johnson, Mabel Mavis, Wedburns, Wyndham and Waters, Dickinson and Johnson, Three Whirligigs.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, HALIFAX.
Bella and Bijou, Bert Brantford, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Counsell and Mills, Harwood's Juveniles, Cavalli, Twin Bros. Dean, Grant and Grant.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Yukio Tani, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Wayho and Hope, Brilliant and Brilliant, Takio, Blanche and Diacoff, Marion Scott, Dora Lyric.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
T. E. Dunville, Willie Howell, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Geo. Hall, Satsuma, Ray Ford, J. P. Ling, Collinson's Sketch.

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"Dick Whittington."

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"Span of Life."

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
"Ali Baba and Forty Thieves."

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Matinée every Monday.
Vaudeville Co., Woodward and Wolton, Dolly Golden, Ethel Loftus, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Fred Wilkinson, Royal Temples, Lade Henderson, Tom Dawson, The Treshams.

THE BRITANNIA.
Matinée Monday.
Dolly Elsworthy and Co., J. C. Jaques, Tom Lass, Terry and Lambert, Three Transfields, Josephine Colona and Co., The Bransbys, The Ettenas, Violet Nunn, Susie Marney, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

FORESTERS.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Henri Cot and Prince Colibri, Arthur Croxon, Swift, Vi Carlyle, Margaret Parker and Co., Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Rhoda Bros., Otta and Olga, Sisters Beatrice, Florence, Carlotta de Yonsen.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
Henri Cot and Prince Colibri, Nellie Chandos, Thornbury, Gladys Witton, Ethel May, Harry Champion, Minnie Wren, The Cardiffs, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Two Graces, Geo. Newburn, Arnold Bell and Co.

SURREY THEATRE.
All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band parts.
Matinée every Monday.
"The Cruise of the Calabar" Co., Maude Vera, Ray Royal, The Brontes, Sisters Selwyn, The Four Herberts, Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholls, Mdlle. Haydees, Chas. Woodward, Jock Walker, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Lasky Rolfe and Co.

Notice.—All artists carrying Scenery must have it Fireproof, according to L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

All Bill Matter or Notification of Appearance must be sent in 14 days prior to opening. All Artists must attend Band Rehearsal, or their Contracts may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

N.B.—All Billing Matter, accompanied by Pictorials, and Business Communications relating to the Provincial Circuit must be addressed to the

EXECUTIVE OFFICES:
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"COME BACK TO BORNEO."
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"IN A HAMMOCK BUILT FOR TWO."
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Bill matter must be sent two weeks in advance.

CALL for Monday, Jan. 28, 1907, at 12 o'clock: Tarro Myaki, Janet Hall, Connie Morie, The Olmars, E. Montefiore and Co., Pick, Tholl, and Taylor, Balsomas, Sadie Seymour, Hill and Whittaker.

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Calls for Monday, Jan. 28, 1907.

PALACE, DOVER.
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Edward Ranier and Co., Will Harmony, Carrie Victoria, "'Twas Ever Thus" Co., Diana Hope and Co., Will Farrell, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Bramusa Band.

GLASGOW PAVILION.
CALL for Monday, Jan. 28, 1907.
7. Twice Nightly. 9.
Rehearsal at 11 o'clock for
Kronau's Boys in Blue, Carlton Comedy Company, Herbert La Martine, Cecilias, Yetta, Charles Johnson, Fox and Melville, Fioretti and Elly, Espinosa and Neilson, Joe Almasio.

GREENOCK PAVILION.
Rehearsal at 3 o'clock for
Clayton Twins and Co., Oakley and James, Webb and Branston, McDonald Troupe, Pictures.

All bill matter must be sent to Glasgow 14 days ahead. Failing this, Artists will run the risk of having their Contracts cancelled. By order,
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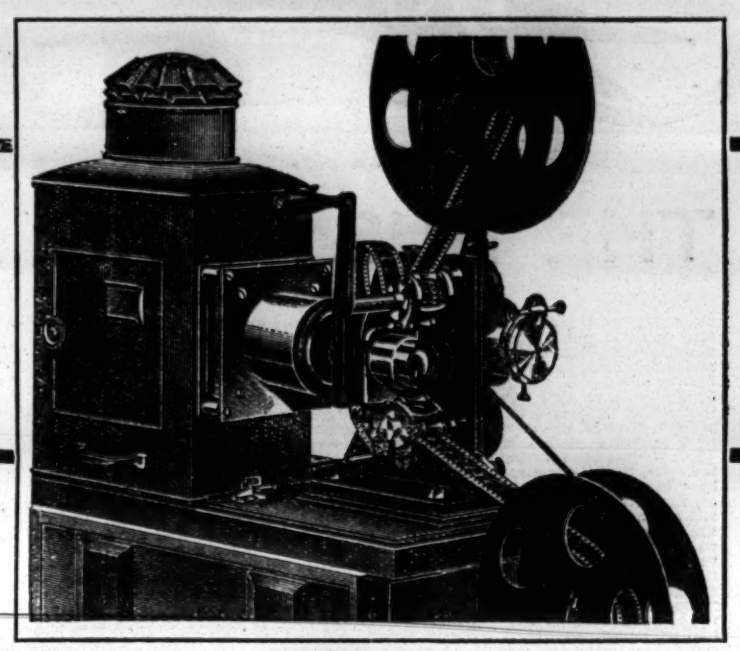

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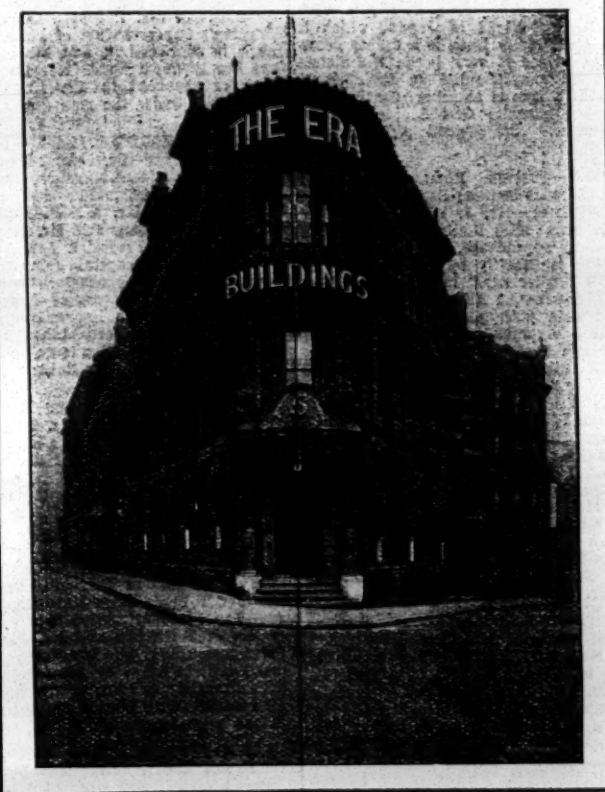

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—The comic opera *Veronique* is presented this week by Mr. George Dance's company. Mr. Roland Bottomley gives a finished interpretation of Florestan; Miss Ethel Negretti sings delightfully in the title-part; Mr. Tom Seymour makes a most enjoyable Coquenard; Miss Doris Greville is a highly satisfactory Agatha; and Miss Maud Leonard is admirable as Aunt Benoit. Miss Isobel Vivian displays excellent ability in the part of Denise, and Mr. Scott-Cullen is exceedingly amusing as the groom.

Palace Theatre. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Resident Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The Chronophone turn this week is followed with the keenest interest; and the San Carlos Italian operatic artists sing delightfully a number of classical selections, particularly from *Cavalleria Rusticana*. The Lyons Trio are pantomimists of infinite resource; Lozelle performs many remarkable feats on the trapeze; and among the other artists who deserve to be mentioned are Miss Lillian Sevado, gymnast; Les Sados, a youthful juggler and equilibrist; Miss Rosie Royal, comedienne; the Cattaneos troupe of acrobats; the Dunlops, expert trick cyclists; Mr. Jack McCormack, comedian; and Miss Fannie Humber, vocalist and instrumentalist.

ABERTILLERY. — Theatre Metropole. — Lessees, Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventom; Stage-Manager, Mr. Fred Thomas.—*Home, Sweet Home*, the attraction this week, is being presented by Messrs. Travis Green and Arthur Hinton's company. Mr. Arthur Hinton as Stephen Armitage and Miss Leila Zillwood as Joan are excellent; Mr. Travis Green as Lucas Lyle gives a finished performance, and Mr. Frank Hudspeth as David Armitage leaves nothing to be desired.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—On Monday Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's pantomime, *Little Bo-Peep*, opened here to a packed house. Miss Lizzie Payne as Bo-Peep gives a bright and clever performance; Miss Susie Beaven acts throughout with the dash that makes her ability conspicuous; Miss Ida Dorrie sings and plays her part in a charming manner; Miss Nora Beverley must be complimented on her performance as Fairy Moonbeam; Mr. J. Gar Kiddie is vastly entertaining as Tommy Long; Mr. J. W. Groves provokes hearty laughter as the dame; Mr. Bert Allen fills the part of Johnny Stout with distinction; Gilron and Gross assist greatly in promoting the merriment; Mr. Albert Kail is good as Jimmy Green. The part of the Wolf is well played by Mr. W. H. Gatty. The specialities are by the Salon Trio, Lohrenz Quartette, and Hammersley troupe of dancers.

Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs Willmot, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Parsons.—The programme here this week includes the Lezors' *Night in Japan*, which is highly appreciated; Molly Doon is a dainty comedienne; George Prince is very good; the Sisters Belmont must be complimented on their smart dancing; Yorkshire Tom is amusing; the Brothers Pim are clever gymnasts; Ossi Souplessi is an anatomical wonder. Some good pictures were shown on the Biograph.

ALDERSHOT.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—Mr. J. D. Hunter's *Dick Whittington* is here. Miss Emily Taylor as Dick has a captivating appearance, combined with a sweet voice. She is heartily received in her rendering of "The Zuyder Zee," in character. Miss Roselie Jacobi, a winsome Alice, sings two songs tunefully, and acts with pleasing effect; Miss Florrie Bray is a vigorous and dashing Captain; and Miss Marjorie Seymour a fascinating Fairy. Mr. W. Ellerslie (Fitzwarren) and Mr. Chas. Wood (Cook) are capable and exceedingly versatile comedians; Mr. Frank Carson as a mirth-provoker is another success as Idle Jack, and a not-to-be-denied encore was accorded to him and Miss Correlli Livesey for their clever plantation duet, "My little octoroon," followed by a burlesque roller-skating act. Another excellent speciality turn is De Lillo and Metz's acrobatic and juggling performance; and Mr. Chas. Wood impersonates twenty faces under one hat. The Sisters Edwardes, who have been specially engaged, give duets and dances in a dashing style. The orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Surtees Corne.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill. — The return to pantomime has been brought about by a visit this week of Messrs. Levy and Cardwell's juvenile pantomime company with *The Sleeping Beauty*. Miss Dolly Dodd as Beauty charms all by her vivacious manner and her vocal gifts; Miss Kitty Trewhitt, a bold and dashing Prince Florizel, dances and sings well; Miss Daisy Fielder as Sir Alfonzo is equally smart and full of vigour; Mr. George Wood as Bertie scores heavily; and as Queen Claribell Miss May Gibson is the pretty fairy who succours the distressed hero and heroine.

The Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—The popular selection by Mr. R. Peel and his admirable orchestra for the week is "Popular Songs." The curtain rises on Nelly Navette, a clever burlesque actress and speciality dancer; in the art of juggling Primavesi is unique; the revisit of those amusing aeronauts, the Airship Kings and Society Acrobats, is welcome, and they are responsible for much hearty merriment; Geo. Duval is a humorous specimen of the stump orator; the Five Saxonias give a musical turn on many instruments; the Paolias, lady and gentleman, give displays of muscular power; Corta and Mirtziana are responsible for a smart exhibition of hand and head balancing; and Harry Cross's collie is quite an intelligent specimen of the species. Two young lady artists were put on as an extra turn on Monday, and sang duets; and Karoly Cynski (late of the Hungarians) gave a wonderful display of skill on drums and xylophone. The Bioscope is good.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaughten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chris. Wordsworth.—A hearty reception was accorded here on Monday evening last to Messrs. Moore-Kennedy's company in *Dick Whittington*, a smartly-written pantomime, abounding with fun, tuneful music, and graceful dances. Mlle. Lucretia, in the title-rôle, is charming, her singing and dancing receiving hearty applause; Miss Helena Barton is bright and vivacious as Alice Fitzwarren; Miss Jessie Barrow is a pleasing Maid Marian; Miss Josephine Townshend is well placed as Princess Charming; and Miss Mollie Revell is cordially received in her vocal items as the Fairy Queen. A large share of the fun is sustained by the Canadian Boys, Rino and Kirby, as Shuffle and Shirk, ably assisted by Mr. Will Sandes as Idle Jack, Mr. Clarence Turner as Captain Bunting, Mr. Fred Fulton as Betsy Mary Ann, and quaintly funny "Little" Hatch. Mons. Pauletti presents a clever impersonation of Tibby, the cat; and good service is done by Mr. Tom Lewis (Demon Rat), Mr. Percy Victor (Alderman Fitzwarren), and the Sisters Dunville (Algy and Polly). There are a number of specialities introduced, including Mlle. Lucretia, top-boot dancer; Sandes and Vincent, eccentric comedians; Victor's musical dogs; Mr. Tom Lewis, patriotic songs; Mr. Clarence Turner, the Lancashire lad; Pauletti, bicycle act; and "Little" Hatch, a most laughable comedian. The Lily Godfrey troupe are responsible for some clever acrobatic dancing.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—The place of honour here this week is accorded to Mr. Herbert Terry and an excellent company, who give a dramatic sketch, with elaborate scenery and effects, entitled *Retribution*. Other interesting turns are given by Larola, a clever juggler, with eccentric methods; Miss Rose Cabani, daintily costumed, in song and dance; Mr. W. B. Raby, comedian; Zerini, a smart hand-balancer; Miss Dolly Denver, speciality dancer; Mr. Arthur Elvy, sporting comedian; and Mr. Clayton's Attergraph pictures, which are always highly appreciated.

AYR.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—The pantomime, *Jack the Giant Killer*, is here for a week. It is an elaborate production, presented by one of the combinations directed by Mr. R. C. Buchanan and Mr. Ernest Stevens. As a spectacle it would be difficult to beat, and nothing has ever been seen in Ayr to approach the Terpsichore's Dream, which is wonderful, strange, and beautiful. The company is an all-round clever one. Jack has a rollicking exponent in Miss Eily Helene, who makes herself a favourite; Miss Emmie Cozens, a neat little Margery Daw, sings and dances nicely; King Pad and his Queen are entrusted to Mr. Harry Farrow and Miss Pattie Fairley, who make the most of their parts; Dame Dabble is made as funny as can be by Mr. Johnny McElroy; Miss Winifred Murray as Daisy dances daintily; the Giant Blunderbore finds a capable exponent in Mr. W. S. Stevenson; and much of the fun and frolic depends on Donal', the page (Mr. George Helm); Messrs. Harris and Worth create no end of fun with their smart patter.

BARNSLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell. — Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmond's company is here this week in *Woman and Wine*. Miss Cissie St. Elmo, in the leading rôle of Muriel Rigadout, imparts much finish to her acting; Mr. E. V. Edmonds gives a capital impersonation of Dick Seymour.

Public Hall.—Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Hoey.—Messrs. Holland and Wood's pantomime, *Aladdin*, under the direction of Mr. Jasper Redfern, is drawing good houses here this week.

BARNSTAPLE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Bridge Trustees; Manager, Mr. Harry Ashton. —*The Christian* was presented here on Monday and Tuesday by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company. As John Storm, Mr. E. Stanton-Sharp displayed undoubted ability in his representation of the self-willed ecclesiastic, and thoroughly merited the success he obtained; Miss Laura Walker won golden opinions for her bright and forceful rendering of Glory Quayle; Miss Constance Stephens made a dignified Mrs. Callander; and Miss Cicely Oates as Polly Love quickly gained the sympathy of the audience. Father Lamplugh was delineated with reverence and dignity by Mr. Harry Colbeck; while the Archdeacon Wealthy received ample justice at the hands of Mr. Phipps Stanley. Mr. P. Gedge Twyman's impersonation of Lord Robert Ure had much to commend it, and his acting throughout was keenly appreciated; Horatio Drake, too, had a clever exponent in Mr. Ernest Stidwell. The company is under the management of Miss Marie Beckenham.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stone.—Mr. Robert MacDonald's company in *Human Hearts* is here. Mr. W. W. Fazan is a capital hero as Tom Logan, and Mr. Ernest Gray a decided villainous Frederick Armsdale. Mr. E. H. Dobell makes a capital Jem Mason, and Mr. George Hewitson a characteristic Mose Jones; Mr. Fred Lester is a success as Jimmy Logan, Mrs. Edwin Palmer is an impressive Samatha Logan, Helen Shaw is cleverly taken by Miss Althea Hyde, Miss Maud Lindon is an accomplished Jeannette Logan, and Reana Roberts a bright and attractive Little Grace.

His Majesty's.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Frank Lindo's company in *Home, Sweet Home* is here. He himself proves an able exponent of the part of Stephen Armitage, and Mr. Hodgson as the scheming Lucas Lyle is very clever; Captain Gamber is a dignified Duke of Ancaster, Miss Wakeford is a sympathetic and winning Joan, and Mr. Doyle, Mr. George Overs, and the Misses Rochefort are all efficient in their respective parts.

Tivoli Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting.—The great attraction this week is provided by Mr. Fred Kitchen and Mr. Frank Lister in a clever sketch, *No. 99*. The Vernon troupe of xylophone experts are very popular. Charles Santon gives a musicianly turn; Gladys Raynor is a pleasing vocalist, Will Walton a smart comedian, and Cleland a good comedy juggler.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—A revival this week of a series of Gilbert and Sullivan operas, by the D'Oyly Carte repertoire company, commenced on Monday with a capital all-round performance of *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Enthusiasm reigned throughout the evening, and Mrs. Carte, who was present, must have felt gratified at the reception accorded the opera and company alike. The audience welcomed such old favourites as Mr. Fred Billington and Mr. Charles R. Walenn with hearty applause, and never have these clever comedians appeared to greater advantage as Wilfred Shadbolt and Jack Point than upon the present occasion. Mr. Strafford Moss's fine tenor voice is heard to advantage, and he also acted in excellent fashion as Colonel Fairfax; as the Lieutenant of the Tower, Mr. Leicester Tunks did particularly well; Mr. Albert Kavanagh made a typical Sergeant Meryll; the rôle of Leonard was undertaken with credit by Mr. H. Blake Johnston; a new-comer was welcomed in Miss Mabel Graham as Elsie Maynard, and her rendering of the character, both from a vocal and histrionic standpoint, was charming; Miss Mabel Burnege was seen for the first time locally as Phœbe Meryll, and from her opening solo became a firm favourite with the audience; Dame Carruthers was undertaken with success by Miss PhyHis Grey; Miss Marie Carveth as Kate proved of great service in the famous madrigal, which had to be repeated three times. On Tuesday *Patience* was staged, with Miss Hope Hastings in the title-rôle and Mr. Walenn as Bunthorne. *The Mikado*, *The Gondoliers*, and *Iolanthe* have formed the bill during the remainder of a delightful engagement.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—That "odd fellow from Lancashire," George Formby, is greatly in evidence this week, and at each performance he is obliged to give a quartette of songs before he is allowed to depart; the Four Maisanos, the well-known eccentric musicians, are once again giving their popular interlude, and are rewarded loud applause for their efforts; the Chee-you-say Family of Chinese conjurers mystify the audience successfully; Stelling and his clever dog Kaiwaski are worth watching; Ida Kathrena, in her *Dolly Girl* scena, is cordially received; Johnny Holland and company, in their hilarious sketch, *The Millionaire*, create plenty of merriment; Vowles and Bryan, in songs and stories, also appear. Raymond's Bio-tableaux are, as usual, included in the programme.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. J. Maundy Gregory and company presented on Monday *Lights Out*, which met with considerable approval from a numerous audience. Mr. Charles Esdale—a fine actor—deserves the utmost commendation for his earnest and skilful impersonation of Lieut. Von Lauffen. The rôle presents many difficulties, but Mr. Esdale was eminently successful throughout. Honours should also be accorded Miss Frances Davie for her powerful impersonation of Klara Volkhardt. Miss Davie's acting, especially in the court-martial scene, is worthy of high praise. An excellent and convincing impersonation of the old soldier, Sergeant Volkhardt, was submitted by Mr. Lionel D'Arragon; and the woman-hating Corporal Queiss was cleverly embodied by Mr. Francis J. Bithell. Mr. Richard Fielding's acting in the part of Corporal Helbig could not easily be surpassed; and Mr. F. Clive Ross was a dignified Major Paschke. Some humour was infused into the piece by Mr. Frederick Clifton, who appeared as Private Michael. Other rôles were capitally sustained by Messrs. Arthur Stone, Kenneth Brampton, Alfred B. Allen, &c. The play in one act, entitled *Nan*, was a smart curtain-raiser, the various characters being ably sustained by Miss Eileen Barry, and Messrs. F. Clive Ross, Alfred B. Allen, Kenneth Brampton, and Fredk. Clifton.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Freece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—The Kellinos head the bill here, and provide a remarkably clever entertainment, entitled *A Fête in Venice*. The performance of Miss Ella's troupe of lions has created quite a sensation. Mr. Marriott Edgar is an excellent comedian with good songs; and the ventriloquial act of Mr. Bert Williams gains the utmost approval; Mr. Montague Biggs, female impersonator, takes well, and deservedly so; Miss Lottie Collard, comedienne; Miss Millie Williams, comedienne and dancer; and the Palace pictures are also on the programme. Although billed, Mountford and Walsh did not appear on Monday, Mr. Mountford, it is understood, being detained in London on business connected with the music hall strike. A good substitute was found in Warden, Reed, and Co., in their humorous duologue, *Married or Photographed*, which was accorded a big reception.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The Dandies top the bill, and provide a capital entertainment, which has been accorded a good reception. Mr. Cliff Ryland's humorous songs and up-to-date patter have caused much amusement; and the three Sisters Chester uphold their reputation with their delightful vocalism and dancing. The Great Hughes introduces with much effect his funny burlesque and exposure of hypnotism; and Mr. Arthur Melrose is an exceedingly clever whistling comedian. Also appearing are Miss Ethel Dunford, vocalist; *The Phantom Ship*, an amusing speciality; Mr. H. F. Wilson, tenor vocalist; and Miss Lena Willard, comedienne.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Alhambra Dramatic Company, under the direction of Mr. M. Montgomery, is appearing here this week in the fine drama, *Shadows of a Great City*, with much approval. Mr. Horace Denton deserves much commendation for his clever impersonation of the hero, Tom Cooper; and Miss Nina Blake-Adams commands much success by her skilful impersonation of the dual rôles of Annie Standish and Nellie Standish. Mr. Balfour Dennistown furnishes an admirable impersonation of George Benson, and Mr. Elmore Frith an acquisition to this company, could not easily be surpassed in his impersonation of Arkwright. Mr. Tom H. Solly is humorous as Jem Farren, and Mr. Cyril Grier—capital in every part he undertakes—scores as Abe Nathan. Miss Mattie Crawford as Mrs. Higgins, and Miss Alice Clarke as Biddy Roman give excellent representations. The Alhambra bioscope exhibits an amusing picture this week, entitled "The Policeman's Little Run."

BILSTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby; Musical-Director, Mr. J. E. Machin.—Claude Ginnett and company are here in *Dick Turpin's Ride to York* and *Rejected Remounts*, which are enthusiastically received. The variety company includes clever Rodin, the trick cyclist; the Musical Dunvilles; J. C. Heffron, comic singer and dancer; Nita Carmen, comedienne; Bros. Tarrant, patterers; Magna, statuist; and Jasper Redfern's Bioscope.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Mr. Lester Collingwood is a manager in whom the Birkenhead public have every confidence, and a visit from his pantomime company, in *Blue Beard*, has naturally given great satisfaction. Produced, at it is, with a wealth of accessories and scenic effect, the performance goes with a swing from start to finish. Mr. S. Lockridge acts the title-rôle with every success; Mr. Fred Lindo is a capital Ibrahim; Miss Millie Warde is a charming Fatima; Selim is delightfully played by Miss Marie Liston; Mr. Harry Tilbury is irresistibly funny as Sister Anne; Miss Gladys Wingrove is a smart Cassim; and Miss Irene Wingrove as Beda, Miss Edie St. Clair as Hassan, and May Ruby as Zoebedie are most efficient. Messrs. Wheeler and Wilson, the Valerie Girls, the Two Jays, and the Three Rubys assist in the specialities, and Miss Issa Steel and Miss Jennie Cuthbert are also conspicuous in the cast. The musical arrangements are controlled by Mr. Arthur J. Braddock.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—An excellent company includes the Craggs, clever acrobats, in an amusing sketch; the Harvey Boys, in their highly popular boxing act; Sinclair and Parr, accomplished vocalists; Dandy George and his dog, a marvel of canine sagacity; Miss Alice Maydue, a talented comedienne; the Four Spanish Goldinis, in their equilibristic feats; Miss Maude Marlow, serio; Mr. J. H. Crew, comedian; Miss Maggie Runnier; Mr. Charles Craston; and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—There is no falling off in the great success attending *The Queen of Hearts*, neither have the artists abated their energy and enthusiasm one whit. Mr. Philip Rodway's courtesy and tact in seating and accommodating such large crowds of the public win him increased respect, and all things point to an exceedingly long and prosperous run.

Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—There is a marked improvement in the tone and variety of *Crusoe's Adventures*, excellent though its production was on Christmas Eve, and the public show their appreciation of the same by filling the house at every performance. On Wednesday, at a matinée, a special concert recital was held by Mark Hambourg, the great Russian pianist, assisted by Jan Hambourg, solo violin, and Boris Hambourg, solo 'cello, a large and appreciative audience being present.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—Crowded houses continue to testify to the unfading popularity of Mr. J. W. Turner and his famous opera company, Monday's reception of *Fra Diavolo* being particularly warm and hearty. Mr. Turner's singing in the titular-rôle was again a gratification to his admirers; and Mr. Sidney Clifford, Mr. John Ridding, Mr. F. J. Hargrave, Mr. Richard Cummings, Mr. George Ridding, Miss Grace Parish, and Miss Kitty Brownless ably supported their chief in the other parts. On Tuesday *Faust* was given, with F. J. Hargrave in the name-part, which proved a highly meritorious performance. Miss Kitty Brownless made a successful appearance as Marguerite, her singing of the famous Jewel Song being much admired. Mr. Sidney Clifford showed sardonic humour and excellent vocalisation as Mephistopheles; Mr. Tom Griffiths was prominent as Valentine; Miss Jessie Dennis made much of the part of Siebel; and Miss Beatrice Hill as Martha and Mr. Geo. Ridding as Wagner were successful. The chorus and orchestra were also exemplary in their duties. Other works presented this week are *The Lily of Killarney*, *Nigel* (described elsewhere), *The Rose of Castille*, *The Bohemian Girl*, and *Maritana*.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—*Cinderella* shares in the public favour enormously, and will surely run till Easter. The Bros. Obo are the funniest and best Ugly Sisters that have appeared here, and Miss Bessie Butt's conception of the heroine is a delight to all. The other characters are also remarkably well placed.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—Mr. Andrew Melville's company appears here in the powerful drama *The King of Crime*, which well sustains the character of this popular house. Mr. Fred A. Marston's forceful acting as Ronjarre is a strong point in the success of the piece; Miss Rose Ralph's popularity grows apace as the blind wife, Henriette; Mr. Percy Dawsone's robust acting as Louis is highly appraised; Mr. Austin Milroy acts with fine effect as Simon; Mr. Andrew Emm elicits laughter and cheers with his clever, droll acting as Mick; Miss Jessie Yatman lends important aid as Matilda; Miss Bella Power is successful as Mère Crouchard; Mr. Harry Cooke as Toto and Miss Amy Corelli as Clarissa do clever work.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*Aladdin* is presented here by Mr. Herbert Barrs, who has equipped his production with a capable cast and gorgeous scenery and dresses. Miss Maude Vincent, who figures as the hero, has a taking manner and several catchy songs, which score; Miss Lora Lyndon gains much admiration as the Princess; Miss Dorothy Wilson does well as Pekoe; Mr. Will Sherlock shines among the comedians with his clever and resourceful acting as Abanazar; Mr. Carl Fredericks contributes to the merriment as the Emperor; Mr. David Phillips is a capable exponent of the Widow's rôle; and Messrs. Alf Selwood, Duncan, and Morton, and Wilfred Dare, Little Della, Miss G. Dale, and the Whitworth Cycling Girls, together with Campkin, the clever tramp cyclist, shine in the production.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*The Forty Thieves* has attracted visitors from all parts of the manor and afar, the fame of Messrs. Little and D'Arcy's version being widespread. The clever and charming Sisters Silcott diffuse a brightness throughout the production, Miss Marie as Morgiana, Miss Minnie as the Captain, and Miss Violet as Ganem being very smart and popular. Mr. James Ferguson gives a droll personation of Cogia that is well received; Mr. Ted Wooton wins favour as Cassim; and Mr. Willie Black as Ali Baba proves an admirable humorist. Mr. Willie Hicks as the sportive and necessary donkey contrives to be genuinely amusing; Messrs Malone and Conley wax furiously funny as the lieutenants; and the cycling speciality of the Daunton-Shaw Troupe and the graceful dances by the Esmeraldo Quartette, among many other good things, add to the interest of the pantomime.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Topping the bill this week is Madge Lessing, always a favourite with Birmingham audiences. The Aurora troupe of cyclists give a remarkable display; the Courtiers are society entertainers of more than average ability; Hall and Earle are quaint acrobats; the Paxton Trio are expert hand-balancers; George Young is a talented blind pianist; and the Three Tauberts, xylophonists, Charles Pastor, comedian, and Techow's cleverly trained cats also contribute.

Gaiety.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—The Matweef-Hugoston troupe of Russian singers, dancers, and acrobats hold first place in the programme this week. Their business is very clever; Arthur Aldridge is a fine tenor. "The Lady in Black," introduced by Lieut. Albini, thoroughly mystifies the audience. H. Leslie Bell, Lily Pearl, and company create much merriment with a sketch, entitled *A Bit of String*; Toch and Tard are very amusing. Other good turns are given by Mount and Corelli; George Castray; Henderson, the blind musician; Marie Wilton; and the Gallery Boy.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Bob Hutt and company are producing here a laughable sketch, entitled *Welcome Home*. Mr. Charles Diamond and Miss Beatrice are responsible for a high-class musical turn; the Silver Tone Quartette of Coons render their native songs in a charming manner; Ted E. Box is a remarkably good whistler; Ray Maskell is a stylish comedienne and an expert dancer; Leah Ardell is a charming vocalist; and the Katos give a novel turn with their automatic theatre.

Bordesley Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—Madge Grey, an excellent dialect comedienne, holds the premier position this week. The Arthur Lloyd Trio give an excruciatingly funny sketch, entitled *Little Charlie; or, The Twin Sisters;* Sylvesta performs several good illusions; Lidden and Hayward provide an interesting musical turn; Genaro and Theol are clever contortionists; and Browning and Wally smart gymnasts. Sid Bandon has a taking song; and C. B. Jerome is well applauded.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — Eden Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—A warm reception is being accorded Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy's company, in the pantomime entitled *Sinbad the Sailor*. Miss Marie Reeve as Sinbad is eminently successful, her singing and dancing soon installing her as a great favourite; Zorilda is prettily undertaken by Miss Amy Calcott; Lustre, the good fairy, is effectively rendered by Miss Marian Ellis. The pantomime literally teams with fun, the chief contributors being Messrs. Newco and Sullo, as Baccah and Stoppa, and Mr. Walter Adams as Tinbad the Tailor. Mr. Albert E. Mann is well placed as Mrs. Sinbad; and mention must also be made of Mr. Fred Dobito as Ali Loofah, and Miss Flora Buxton as Princess Zaidre. The performance also includes the following clever variety turns:—The Marvellous Westwoods, comedy cyclists; Les Beaux Belles, in their drum song and dance; and the Calcotts, dancers and banjoists.

BLACKBURN. — Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Manager, Mr. Reginald C. Yorke.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is appearing here in the drama, *The Village Blacksmith*. Mr. Sam Livesey is excellent in the title-rôle; Mr. Joseph Carter as Captain Leo, the villain, is no less successful; and the wrestling scene between these two actors is excellently done. Miss Louie Adair is good in the part of the blacksmith's wife; and Miss Cassie Le Grand does some effective work as Ruth Perkins; while Miss Bertha Hanbury is capital as little Harry Strong. The humorous element is well looked to by Mr. Geo. V. Campbell, who is exceedingly amusing as Billy Twig, Mr. Thomas E. Marshall (Jeremiah), and Miss T. C. Livesey (Sal Perkins). The staging of the piece is good.

New Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson's company, in the drama, *Held Apart*, are appearing here.

Palace Theatre. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—The principal turn in a good entertainment is the military sketch, *La Vivandiere*, in which Miss Isabel Derrie, Miss Cora Patey, Mr. Race Rockingham, Mr. Charles D. Pitt, Mr. Frank Godfrey, and Mr. Reginald Maurice appear. Other entertainers are the Wedburns, comedians; the Three Whirligigs, musical artists; Wyndham and Waters, in *The Professor and the Pupil;* Mabel Marie, musician; Smith and Johnson, coloured vocalists; Francis O'Flynn, banjoist; and Dickinson and Johnson, ornamental swimmers. The many friends of Mr. Will Murray, the popular manager, will hear with regret that he is about to undergo an operation for appendicitis. We wish him a speedy recovery. Mr. Bradbury is, meanwhile, undertaking the managerial duties.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy's pastoral pantomime company is here this week with *Little Red Riding Hood*, the title-rôle being admirably sustained by Miss Verona Phillis; whilst Boy Blue finds a charming exponent in Miss Ada Twibell, whose singing is a special feature. Miss Molly Hackett is Miss Muffit, and Miss Emma Don as Prince Charming, are also great favourites; the Brothers Lavelle, as Johnny Green and Jimmy Stout, together with Mr. J. Templar Ellis as Baron Badlot, Mr. Harry Howe as Dame Mary Trot, are the principal fun-providers.

Grand Theatre. — Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—The Blackpool Lyric Operatic Society is in possession here this week, and giving an exceedingly praiseworthy representation of *The Country Girl*, reflecting the greatest credit on the coach and producer, Mr. Thornley Dodge, the well-known and popular drawing-room entertainer.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The Robertys Family, Continental pantomimists, top the bill here this week. Other popular turns are Natalia and Diana, aerial gymnasts; Stewart and Morgan, in a vocal act; Harry Taylor, comedian; Chas. Russell, in a novelty scena; Richardson Taylor, ventriloquist and mimic; Pasquali Brothers, acrobats; Lily Sharplin, mimic; J. G. Grahame, jun., and Zerlina Harrington, in a dramatic episode, called *A Daughter of Pleasure;* and the Paragon Trio, speciality vocalists.

BOLTON.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—The pantomime season over, the patrons here are this week enjoying a return visit of Mr. William Greet's principal company in the successful musical comedy, *The Earl and the Girl*, which is attracting large audiences. Mr. William Stephens sustains the part of Jim Cheese with much natural humour; Mr. Arthur Harrold is a capital Dick Wargrave; Mr. Percy E. Wright displays great ability as the Hon. Crewe Boodle; and A. Bunker Bliss is admirably acted by Mr. H. Courtin; the important part of Elphin Haye is pleasingly rendered by Miss Frances Earle; Miss Gertrude Melville is a vivacious Daisy Fallowfield; Miss Beatrice Anderson is well suited as Mrs. Shimmering Black; Miss Joan Clifford is unexceptionable as Miss Virginia Bliss; and 'Liza Shoddam has an excellent exponent in Miss Jennie Richards. Mr. W. Norman as Downham, Mr. Greene Taylor as Mr. Talk, and Mr. Fred W. Patrick as Mr. Hazell contribute important aid. The chorus is strong in numbers and efficiency. A very pretty dance, "L'Entente Cordiale," is given by a clever troupe of dancers.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon. —This week the Six Brothers Luck are appearing in an original pantomime sketch, entitled *Blazes; or the Lightning Fire Brigade;* they also appear in another sketch, *The Demon of the Cellar*. Other good turns are Master May, boy vocalist; Ada Parker, coon songstress and dancer; Bert Bowden, quaint comedian; Alveno and Cleo, the flying wonders; A. E. Clifford, versatile vocalist; the Five Powells, in their screaming funny absurdity, *The Deserters;* C. Torbay, comedy silhouettist; the great Roland, illusionist, assisted by Miss Marjorie Russell; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

BOSCOMBE. — Hippodrome.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. De Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Ball.—A great attraction is here this week in the person of Dr. Walford Bodie, who performs some astounding feats with the aid of electricity; Phillips and Terry cause much amusement in *The Dummy;* Rhoda Burnhill, daintily arrayed, is a versatile dancer; Dolly Robson, with her vocal turn, is a favourite; Bella Skene is a pleasing singer; Mignon is seen to advantage in her musical turn; Belford and Mars are an amusing pair; and the Hippodrome pictures, as usual, are interesting.

BRADFORD. — Theatre Royal. — Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—The efforts of the clever company, and the charm and brilliancy of the scenic effects, continue to delight Mr. Hart's patrons, who nightly greet *Robinson Crusoe* with hearty marks of appreciation and roars of laughter.

Prince's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth. —All pantomime records here have been broken, and the palm is awarded *Cinderella*, Mr. Laidler's most successful effort in the way of pantomime. Packed audiences are the rule; there is not a dull moment from start to finish of the performance, and laughter and unstinted applause greet the efforts of the comedians and the brilliant spectacular effects. Miss Florrie Forde submits a continual change of songs in the character of the Prince. "Zuyder Zee," with capitally arranged chorus, "Colombo," and "Down at the old Bull and Bush" are amongst her best efforts. Mr. Tom Moore, the quaint Peter the Page, is a special favourite, and Miss Alice Williams, the pretty heroine, has sung and danced herself into favour. *Cinderella* is evidently destined to enjoy a long and prosperous run.

The Empire. — Moss' Empires, Ltd. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Mr. George Gray, who is supported by a capable company, is presenting here his latest stirring sketch without a title. Mr. Gray was distinctly effective in his acting as the wrongly-accused Jack Beresford; Mr. Robert Purdie as the accomplished scoundrel Captain Selwyn Hilliard was excellent; and the other noticeable efforts were Ruth, the deserted wife, played with power by Miss Lucie Evelyn; Mr. G. F. Leicester's Sir John Armitage; Kate, his daughter, gracefully represented by Miss Doara Hammersley; and Mark Stein, vigorously played by Mr. Walter Beaumont. Haidee Lee and Wallace Kingston are here again with their funny knockabout sketch, *Practical Joking*. The quaint little packet of comedy, Fred Zola, is eliciting much laughter; clever sand-dancing on a billiard table by Hayes Brothers, the comedians, is a novelty; those clever head and hand balancers, the Manings, are again earning well-merited applause; Kate Cohen is a vocalist of qu

BRIDLINGTON.—Palace and Winter Gardens.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Delmar.—That talented combination, the Revell Troupe, are the great attraction this week, their pantomime absurdity, *Mischief*, causing much fun and laughter. Miss Poppie Howard is a sweet singer and dancer; Miss Gertie Lovell is a clever and charming serio and coon songstress; and the Dianias, smart patterers and acrobats, appear in their laughable sketch, *The Huntsman*. Mr. Jock Hamilton is a comedian who causes great fun by his parodies on popular songs; the Sisters Denham, two really good serios and dancers, give some smart exhibitions of acrobatic dancing; the Four Mertons bring an attractive programme to a close with a laughable Anglo-American burlesque, *Ructions*.

BRIGHTON.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Mr. Robert Arthur's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood*, transferred from the Fulham Theatre, London, opened a fortnight's stay here on Monday. Miss Marguerite Broadfoote gave a charming and vivacious impersonation of Jack Hayseed, whose sweetheart, Maid Marion, had a very winsome exponent in Miss Lily J'eck. The Poluskis, as the comic villains, were a host in themselves, and kept the house rippling with the heartiest of laughter. Mr. John E. Coyle as the Baron and Mr. Leonard Thiel as Mrs. No-Luck Jones were very amusing. The Babes had pleasing representatives in the Sisters Herbert; and admirable support was given by Miss Vera Carey (Colin), Miss Ruby Forbes (Mavis), and Mr. Jock McKay (The McGuffin). The choruses and ballets were admirably rendered, and the duties of conductor were ably carried out by Mr. Alfred M. Moon.

Alhambra.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—There is a capital company here this week. The Tan-Kwai troupe of Chinese conjurers, contortionists, jugglers, and acrobats submit an excellent turn; Holles, Goldman, and company are highly successful in their musical comedy mélange, *The Little Charwoman*; Herbert Clifton is a clever mimic and pleasing vocalist; Bright and Bright are well received in a novel speciality act; J. W. Ellison, comedian, achieves much success; Fyne and Hurley are very entertaining in *The Coster and the Dude*; the Three Californian Girls are charming vocalists and dancers; Lilian Neville is an accomplished ballad vocalist; Fred Walker, comedian, is amusing; Hans and Lux evoke hearty laughter; Jeannette Lee is a dainty comedienne and dancer; and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting.

Hippodrome Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—An attractive programme is sustained here this week. Ted Saunders gives clever imitations of popular comedians; Anthony, comic conjurer, submits a novel and capital turn; Harry Sims sings in good style; Gillin is a very entertaining ventriloquist; the Villions are skilful trick cyclists; the Warsaw Brothers win hearty applause for their comedy musical act; Fred Karno's latest creation, *Moses and Sons*, is a distinct success, and is admirably sustained by a company in which Albert Bruno, a mirth-provoking actor, is especially effective; and the Barrascope pictures are excellent.

West Pier.—Secretary and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Miss Rose Moncrieff's company is here this week with the pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Miss Rose Moncrieff gives an admirable impersonation of Jack; Miss Grace Rosaire is an attractive Princess Lovebird; Mr. Chris Baker as the Baron and Miss Nellie Montague as the Baroness are well suited. The Scotch comedians, The Dewars, are funny in the parts of Fanfare and Blowhard, and are well supported by Mr. Arthur Burton as the Widow. The Sisters Allen give a neat dancing turn.

BRISTOL.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—On Monday last an extra treat was provided in the visit by Mr. Lewis Waller and Miss Evelyn Millard and the company from the Lyric Theatre in *Monsieur Beaucaire*. There was a very large attendance in all parts of the house. Mr. Lewis Waller and Miss Evelyn Millard obtained much applause for their clever impersonations of their respective parts of the Duke of Orleans and Lady Mary Carlyle; and they were admirably supported by the very capable company. The pantomime, *Humpty Dumpty*, continues to be highly attractive, full houses being the rule at each performance. On Monday evening, in consequence of the unavoidable absence of Miss Sybil Arundale, the part of Rudolph was cleverly taken by Miss Olive Crellin, and the rôle of the latter, Prince Spriteley, was successfully performed by Miss Madge Hamilton.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—New features have been introduced into *Cinderella* at this theatre, the pantomime always going merrily. The attendance at each performance is highly satisfactory, and the company is a hard-working and very capable one. The fine scenery, tasteful costumes, pretty songs, and smart dances are much admired.

Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Galetti's Monkey Comedians, who occupy the leading position on the programme, are very amusing, and are certainly trained to perfection. Albert Wyndham and company appear successfully in a sensational dramatic sketch, *The Roman Father*, Mr. Wyndham and Miss Mona Foster distinguishing themselves as Viginius and Virginia, and obtaining good support from the other members of the company. The four scenes included in the sketch are effective. Other artists doing excellent turns are Ena Richards, Canadian comedienne and dancer; Meier and Mora, American speciality artists; Jack Crawley, in his novel act, *The Regimental Smoking Concert*; Steinway Quartette, in their successful song-scena, *Songs of the Sea*; Mignonette Kokin, comedienne and dancer; and Walter Munroe, Irish character comedian and dancer. The performance concludes with Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

Colston Hall.—This is the last week of a very successful visit of Poole's Myriorama, benefits being announced for each evening.

BROUGHTON.—Victoria Theatre, Ltd.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Mr. George Brydon Phillips's pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, entered its second week here on Monday, and continues to draw good houses. Miss Rose Harvey (Prince Amorosa), Little Mamie Iris (Red Riding Hood), and the other members of the comp any spare no pains in making it a most enjoyable entertainment. In our last week's notice the name of Mr. Dennis Curzon was inadvertently omitted. He plays the important part of Johnny Stout, and is also Pantaloon in the harlequinade.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—New Theatre and Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. H. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—Mr. Milton Bode's highly successful pantomime is a great attraction here. Miss Gladys Warren in the title-rôle infuses any amount of dash and go into her part. A bright and winsome Alice is Miss Kathleen Severn, who possesses a sweet voice and pleasing manner. Untiring in his efforts to amuse, Mr. Bob Hutt as Alderman Fitzwarren is an assured success. The original humour of Mr. Rolando Martin (a clever up-to-date comedian) as Idle Jack, and his able coadjutor, Mr. Fred Danvers (Matilda) keep the house in roars of laughter. The Firmans are also responsible for clever comic business. Miss Flo Challis (Tommy) and Miss Beatrice Lane (May) sing and act well; Miss Nellie Lauraine is well placed as the Empress; the antics of Dick's feline friend are amusingly portrayed by Mr. Carne Curre; Collins's Six Lancashire Lassies are exceptionally clever and taking dancers, and the marvellous feats of Wallau, the juggler, are watched with intense interest.

BURY (Lancs.).—Theatre Royal and Opera House, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Messrs Dottridge and Longden's company is here with the very funny pantomime, *Aladdin*. Miss Fanny Wright, in the title-rôle, is delightful, putting plenty of spirit into her work; as the Princess Badroulbadour, Miss Kitty Brewster is a great favourite; the Widow Twankey is sustained by Mr. Julian Mack; and Mr. Joe Robins is Wot-Tzi-It, both artists proving very capable comedians. Mr. Daley Cooper as Abanazar is responsible for a great amount of fun; Miss M. Woolstenhulme as Rhadianta has a capital voice, and her numbers are much enjoyed. Among the specialities, the Brothers Brooks, knockabouts, and the Brewster Troupe of acrobats, are conspicuous.

CAMBRIDGE.—New Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Mr. Milton Bode's principal company gave a first-class representation of *The Belle of Mayfair* here on Monday night. Mr. Harry Parker's Sir John Chaldicott was intensely funny; Miss Emily Stevens as Lady Chaldicott was a valuable partner; Miss May Yates made a dainty little Julia, her dancing being particularly noticeable; while Miss Mabel Dent as Pincott was equally successful. Mr. Haddon Cave (the Earl), Mr. Edward Hugonnet (Raymond), Mr. George McCloskie (Bishop), Mr. Gwyn Alwyn (Hugh Meredith), and Mr. Lauri Lisle (Comte de Perrier) were all satisfactory. Miss Daisie Irving (Princess) played admirably and sang tastefully; and Miss Aurelie de Loriere as the Countess and Gibson Girl did well.

CARDIFF.—New Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—*The Beauty of Bath* opens Mr. Redford's first season at the New Theatre, and Mr. George Dance presents the latest musical comedy with an excellent company. In the leading part of Lieut. Richard Valentine, Mr. Leslie Holland, a special Cardiff favourite, is quite at home. A most charming actress, Miss Gladys Gay, contributes a graceful and bewitching performance of Betty Silverthorne; Miss Edith Cruikshanks is a most pleasing representative of Mrs. Alington; capital fun is provided by Miss Ida Laurie as Mrs. Goodge; Miss Maggie White's beautiful voice is much appreciated; Miss Jessie Fraser as Truly St. Cyr submits a captivating rendition; Mr. Jack Crichton as Sir Timothy Bun is responsible for many a laugh; and Mr. Sydney Grata as the programme boy is deserving of special commendation. Mr. Sheriff Clunes (Mr. Beverley) and Mr. Frederick C. Leister (Viscount Bellingham) are excellently placed.

Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—*Proof*, the piece staged here this week, is being presented by Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren's No. 1 company. Mr. Gerald Kennedy as Pierre h s a part which he fills with considerable credit; Mr. Wilford Bailey as Chamboran depicts that character with conspicuous ability; Mr. W. J. Butler as Lazare is responsible for a powerful impersonation; Miss Beatrice Shirley displays histronic power as Adrienne; Miss May Grimshaw as Valentine creates a favourable impression; and Mr. Carl Beechey should be mentioned for his clever portrayal of the Duke D'Aubeterre.

Empire.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. William Lea; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—*Dick Turpin's Ride to York* occupies chief place in the programme at this hall. This equestrian spectacle, produced by Fred Ginnett and company, and supported by a cast of thirty auxilia es, is both impressive and dramatic. Mr. Fred Ginnett as the famous highwayman is dashing throughout, and renders the part in fine style. The popular comedians, Verno and Voyce, were down for a vocal scena, entitled *The Amateur Newsboy*, but Verno, through illness, was unable to appear, and *Jack Sheppard* was introduced most successfully by Voyce and a capable substitute. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden give a display of light comedy acting, in their success, *Two to One*; Mr. C. St. John Denton and George Rowland's company of juveniles, in songs and dances, is certainly clever; Jack Camp is a smart comedian, whose sayings cause much fun. As graceful gymnasts the Geretti Sisters would be hard to beat; Parker and Parr prove themselves masters of Welsh comedy; Prof. Dunning is a clever ventriloquist; and Kahn and Kahr in modern conjuring; and Les Voces, operatic vocalists, complete an exceptionally attractive programme.

CARLISLE.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Mr. Stanley Rogers, late manager of this theatre, is immensely popular here, and the production of his smartly-written pantomime, *Cinderella*, drew a big house on the opening night. In the title-rôle Miss Lily Eyton scores a big success, her dainty figure and perfectly natural style fit the part exactly; Miss Madge Daly makes a dashing and handsome Prince, and her voice is heard to distinct advantage in several popular numbers; Mr. Frank Barclay displays histrionic ability, not usually associated with pantomime; Mr. Harry Ray's dance as Capers brings down the house by its surprising agility. The comic interest is in particularly good hands. As the Dame, Mr. Ted Young, always a favourite here, is extremely amusing; the Baron has a droll representative in Mr. Freddie French, who shares with Mr. Young the popularity of the audience; the Misses Edith Barwell and Grace Desmond are prominent figures as the Ugly Sisters; clever dances by the Waverley Girls win applause; and a large and well-trained chorus add greatly to the enjoyment.

The Palace.—Proprietors, the Palace Theatre, Carlisle, Limited; Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—This week the premier position is filled by Duncan's Royal Scotch Collies; the early return visit of Miss Minnie Cunningham is a just tribute to her popularity; a somewhat novel turn is contributed by Miss Claire Greta, a comedienne and energetic Spanish dancer; Tom Dunmore sings two quaint songs with due effect; a fine display on the rings is given by the Vetter Brothers, in their spectacular production, entitled *The Page's Recreation*; and as hand-balancers and all-round gymnasts they are very bad to beat; Mr. Harry Morris's imitations are popular; and a smart and original knockabout act by the Ringling Trio is deservedly applauded. Selections by the orchestra, conducted so skilfully by Mr. Henry Hinchliffe, and pictures by the Pepiscope, complete the programme.

CARMARTHEN.—Assembly Rooms.—Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—Crowded audiences witnessed the presentation by Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean compay (South) of *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Macbeth*, and a matinée performance of *The Merchant of Venice*. Mr. Bernard Limpus as Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew* was really clever; Miss Christie Laws gave a fine impersonation of Katherine (the Shrew); and Miss Kathryn Stocks was efficient at Bianca. In *Macbeth* Miss Christie Laws interpreted the rôle of Lady Macbeth with dramatic power and decided ability; Macbeth was admirably portrayed by Mr. Arthur Phillips and Banco by Mr. Frank Darch.

CASTLEFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Mr. Hy. Masterman.—The attraction here is Mr. Frank M. Thorne's historic drama, *Napoleon the Great*. Mr. Hugh Montgomery, a soldierly and dignified Napoleon, scores a big success; as the villainous Colonel Lavarennes Mr. Oliver Birrell is well suited; Miss Leslie Warner fully earns the appreciation she receives as Marie Walewska; an engaging personality is Mère Dumont, as enacted by Miss Florence Thorne; Colonel Jules Meuron is in the capable hands of Mr. Phil Harper; Mr. Bartlette Garth gives a strong and impassioned portrayal of Paul; Mr. G. Acton Dix well sustains the rôle of Fouché; and fun is furnished by Mr. Frank M. Thorne as Pierre Pompennet and Miss Marie Harcourt as Marcelle. Mr. Albert Sinclair gives a humorous impersonation of Sergeant Choupin; and Mr. R. W. Ellis is commendable as Marshal Bessierres.

Queen's Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. J. Beanland and W. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. W. Emerson.—Here the principal turn is Ford and Hanson, the American musical millionaires. They have some beautiful electrical effects, and their efforts win due appreciation. George Gulliver, the novel ventriloquist, wins laughter and applause; Sill and Silleott are good as silent comedians; Miss Claire Hastings scores with her songs; much applause is accorded Miss Nellie Nora, in her dainty instrumental act; Dick Bradley is a clever tramp cyclist; Mr. Joe Hastings gives a smart turn as an all-round jumper; Leslie Digby is a funny comedian; and animated pictures by the Loyal Dominion Co. still prove a strong attraction.

CHATHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. Geo. G. Ridley.—*Little Aladdin*, the second pantomime of the season, opened on Monday evening. In the title-rôle Miss Marie Beresford makes the most of her opportunities; Miss Zena Page is an attractive Prince Pekoe; and Miss Ruby Aiston a pleasing Princess Badroulbadour. Miss Edie Graham, as Saucee, scores with "Zuyder Zee"; Miss Kitty Kildare is a popular Radia; Bliss and Bliss, with song, patter, and dance, work well together as Bossi and Wrong 'Un; Arthur Aiston scores as Abanazar; and an excellent Widow Twankey is found in Jack Cromo.

Gaiety Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. Frank E. Donne.—Daisy Palmer opens the entertainment here with song and dance, and is followed by Charles Sloman, who has some funny patter; the Gladenbecks are applauded for their hand-balancing and ring speciality act; the Musical Palmers are again delighting Chathamites with bugle calls and musical selections; Clarke's Nippers include in their interesting performance ball punching, club manipulating, boxing, singing, and dancing; Teresa Da Silva's choruses are readily taken up by the audience; Leo Dryden gives several songs, including his latest scena, "The Planter's reverie," and in response to a hearty recall, sings in his own pleasing style, "The Miner's Dream of Home." The Edisonograph shows another fresh set of films.

CHELTENHAM.—Opera House.—General Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—On Monday *The Walls of Jericho* opened a return engagement, Mr. Silvanus Dauncey and Mr. M. V. Leveaux presenting Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company. Mr. A. E. Anson's Jack Frobisher is an interesting and virile performance; Miss Gladys Mason is a sweet and sympathetic Lady Alethea; Mr. George Brandam a sterling Hankey Bannister; Mr. George Percy plays with a quiet power as Bertram Hannaford; Mr. Cyril Baleine undertakes, with marked success, the part of the Marquis of Steventon; Mr. A. W. Tyler is the polite villain, Harry Dallas; Miss Nora Wynne achieves a success as Lady Lucy Derenham; and Miss Marguerite Cellier's impersonation of Lady Westerby is notable.

CHESTER.—Royalty Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Mr. Edward Compton and his company are here. On Monday *Davy Garrick* was performed. Mr. Edward Compton submitted his usual finished performance of the name-part; Alderman Gresham was ably represented by Mr. Henry Crocker; Mr. Dennis Cleugh was satisfactory as Tom Tallyhaut; Rumbelow, Sowerberry, and Simpkins found able representatives in Messrs. Philip Gordon, Wallace Johnson, and Vernon O. Crabtree. Miss Marie Hassel was all that could be desired as Mrs. Rumbelow; a like remark applying to Miss Barbara Pigot as Selina Sowerberry. Miss Mackenzie made a successful appearance as Violet Gresham. The comedy was preceded by *The Desperate Lover*. Mr. H. B. Fitzgibbon is the business-manager for Mr. Compton, the stage being under the able direction of Mr. Henry Crocker.

CHORLEY (Lancs).—Grand Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Hemingway.—Mr. A. E. Smith's pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, had a hearty reception on Monday. The pantomime, a capital one, is endowed with good scenery and exceptionally tasteful dresses. Miss Katheline Garnon, a dashing Robin Hood, is greatly appreciated; Maid Marion is charmingly rendered by Miss Elsy Douglas; the babes, Reggie and Cissie, are admirably undertaken by Miss Rosie Morris and Little Ivy Rochefort respectively; Mr. J. H. Maxwell is a host in himself as Baron Balderdash; Messrs. Reed and Lerne create much amusement as Weary Willie and Tired Tim; and Miss Marie Walker is very successful as the Fairy Queen Flora. Among the specialities are Wal Bendene, a wonderfully clever contortionist; Miss Elsy Douglas, a charming dancer; Miss Marie Walker, a clever and artistic trombonist; Mr. I. H. Maxwell, big boot dancer; and Messrs. Reed and Lerne, comedians.

COLCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—Mrs. Morton Powell and company are here in the play adapted from Guy Thorne's novel, "When it Was Dark," with Mrs. Powell herself taking the part of Helena Byars. Miss Elizabeth Watson plays with power and feeling the difficult rôle of Gertrude Hunt; as her evil genius, Constantine Schuabe, Mr. George H. Pitt shows evidence of real cleverness; Mr. Cyril Austin-Lee, alike in speech and gesture, admirably portrays the Rev. Basil Gorte; and Mr. Henry Heller makes a capable Rev. Byars. Mr. Arthur B. Murray ably sustains the part of Sir Robert Llewellyn; and as Nunc Wallace, Mr. Geo. Mortimer does well. Mr. H. B. Summerville and Mr. E. C. Howitt are suitably placed as the journalists.

Hippodrome.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—The management have this week put forward a particularly bright bill, with Will English, who is paying a welcome return visit, at the top. Rappo and Ella, in a refined equilibristic performance, are a good turn; Chas. Banks, on a return visit, accompanied by his dog Woof, provides an entertaining item; Daisy Reed dances in smart style and sings popular songs; Amy Elvira, comedienne, also sings in excellent style; Charles Denton is possessed of a really powerful voice, and is a capital comedian. The bill includes some capital pictures, the much-talked-of "Foxhunting" film being specially good.

CONSETT.—New Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Miss Annie Bell and company are appearing here this week in *Sapho*. Miss V. St. Lawrence plays the title-rôle with commendable ability, and is well supported by Mr. Otto Minster as Jean Gausin; Mr. Oliver Rogers is a capable Father Le Grande; and Mr. George Antley does full justice to the part of Cæsar Le Fenat. Little Miss Doris Graham is a pleasing Joseph.

CORK.—Opera House.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company entered on its second week here on Monday with *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *I Pagliacci*. In Mascagni's opera Mme. de Vere, in the part of Santuzza, sang in a most cultured style, her acting also being extremely powerful. As Lucia Miss Alvard was successful; and Miss Garland as Lola was decidedly good. Mr. Lewys James as Alfia used his fine baritone with good effect; as Turiddu Mr. John Child sang with much sweetness and power. The chorus and orchestra were under Herr Richard Eckhold. *I Pagliacci* followed. Miss Kate Anderson as Nedda scored a distinct success; as Canio; Mr. Joseph O'Mara acted with great passion and fervour; Mr. William Dever as Tonio was admirable, his singing of the prologue being highly dramatic; as Silvio Mr. Lewys James excelled himself; and Mr. V. Brodo as Beppo was satisfactory.

Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—The programme here is excellent, the star turn being the Leopold Troupe of lady and gentleman acrobats, numbering seven; Sam Shipley is a quaint comedian; Bosanquet is a clever violinist; Coma, a smart juggler; Maud Esmond, a capital sentimental vocalist; Long and Hill are expert step-dancers; D. W. Watson, with but one arm, plays the cornet and coaching-horn in good style; and the Compact Comedy Company appear in a piece, entitled *Harmony at Home*, introducing well-sung solos, duets, and quartettes.

COVENTRY.—The Empire.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. A. Rand.—A notable attraction is provided by the appearance of Mr. Geo. Gilbey, who gives "The Goalkeeper" with marked success; Hunt and Thomas are responsible for a really clever piece of acting in their musical duologue, entitled *Her Birthday*; Mezzetti and Mora give a smart turn on the triple bar; Spry and Monti are successful in a turn, entitled *The Dandy Guardsman*; the Four Jumels give a pleasing new musical act; Kitty Marion is a dainty comedienne; Gus Garrick is successful in "Music Hall Tit-bits"; the Bioscope pictures are quite up to the average.

CRADLEY HEATH.—Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Mr. James Hare's company is here in *A Destroyer of Men*. Miss Irene Clifford, in the part of Olga Mischla, gives a finished piece of acting; she is ably assisted by Mr. C. P. Wentworth, who, as Count Starevitch, submits a very careful study; and by Mr. James Hare, who scores as Karl Mischla. Mr. Ross Warren is Coco Tachoski provides the fun of the play; Mr. Chas. Coventry as Feder Strellitzke is very good; Mr. Hill Cremer is quite at home as Paul Starevitch; and we are indebted to Mr. Chas. Bickell for a clever interpretation of Michael Mischla. Mr. Arthur Swain deserves mention for his Colonel Linievitch; and Mr. Arthur Conroy must not be overlooked for his General Drakensburg. Miss Gladys Lloyd is a winsome Vidal Ravel; and Miss Alice Buckland makes a capital Nisa Pattakake. Sergeant Krauz has an able exponent in Mr. Alfred Minns.

CREWE.—Lyceum Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor, J.P.—Messrs. Cullen and Carthy are providing an attractive programme here this week with their pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*. The company is a powerful one, and the principal comedians, Messrs. Cullen and Carthy, as Bill Morgan and Dick Rockyfeller, keep the house in roars of laughter with their quaint antics and ready wit. As the Baron, Mr. Arthur Stratton worthily acquits himself; and Mr. Geo. Casey is excellent as Dame Peggy. Mr. Fred Morrisy is commendable as Herne; and Little Cluley is funny as the Baron's secretary. Dolly Cullen and Elsie Jordison are charming babes, and their song, "Zuyder Zee," is a distinct success; Miss Florence Carlile infuses plenty of "go" into the part of Robin Hood; and Maid Marion is daintily played by Miss Nancy Thornton. As Fairy Venus, Miss Gertrude Martini is successful; and the Sisters Volbecque, as Little John and Phyllis respectively, are an attractive pair. Cock Robin is creditably sustained by Miss E. Wood.

CROOK.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Wallace Davidson.—Mr. Charles March's company is here this week in the sensational French military drama, *The Gamester of Metz*, in which Mr. Charles March appears with great success as Paul Baldot; and Mr. Geo. Byrne is a capable Captain Badaire. The character of Lucia receives full justice at the hands of Miss Una Lane; and Miss Eva Lyndhurst submits a fine portrayal of the Countess Baldot. Mr. Fred Aldworth's General de Monparasse is deserving of praise; and Mr. W. G. Dudeney displays considerable histrionic ability as Louis Badaire.

CROYDON.—Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr Lawson Lambert.—Mr. Mouillot's company, with exquisite dresses and scenery, and a well-balanced chorus, is appearing here with success in *The Girl Behind the Counter*. Mr. Arthur Cartwright is in excellent voice as Charles Chetwynd; Mr. H. B. Clarke Chadwick gives a quaint rendering of General Sir Wilkie Willoughby; Mr. Howard Cridland is quite in his element as Viscount Gushington; Mons. Jules Charmettes is well placed as Monsieur Duval; Mr. Geoffrey Allsopp is a creditable Rudolph; Mr. Frederick Park makes a whimsical Adolphus Dudd; and Messrs. A. M. Moore and William Amery give droll sketches of the exhibition waiters; Miss Nora Brocklebank is an enchanting Winnie Willoughby; Miss Winifred Knightley is charming as Lady Willoughby; Miss Olivia Eltone makes a handsome Millie Mostyn; Miss Edith McIntosh is a pleasing Ninette; and Miss Dorris Langdon is pretty as Susie. Mr. Lawson Lambert's abilities as a manager are of a high order, and he is always in touch with his patrons. Mr. Hubert Sullivan Brooke cleverly conducts the augmented orchestra.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company, in *The Worst Woman in London*, is here this week. Mr. George Gaisford submits a fine impersonation of Jack Felton; Mr. Paul Barry Lewers is distinctly good as Vincent Lyle; Mr. F. Vernon Travers as James Melford is capable; Mr. Harvey White as Bob Goldfinch delights the audience; Mr. H. W. Monte makes the most of his opportunities in the rôle of Hugh Drayton; and Mr. Leonard Booker gives a capital representation of Phillip Armstrong. Miss Elizabeth Watkins as Ruth Milford acts with grace and sincerity; Miss Polly Marsh as Matilda Parker is exceptionally smart; and Miss Olga Audre as Francis Vere proves herself an actress of no mean talent.

Empire Palace of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. Walter Gibbons; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—The programme here includes Juno May, the lady wrestler; Edith Bland and company of juveniles in the scena, *In the Days of King Charles*, are much liked; the Metropolitan Quartette of operatic singers deserve praise; J. P. Kennedy and company are entertaining in the sketch, *A True Irish Heart*; Espinoza and Edwards are applauded for their musical and dancing act; and Amy Spencer is a pleasing ballad vocalist. Others who appear are Charles Wren, comedian, and Hal Kendal, comedian.

DARLINGTON.—Theatre Royal and Hippodrome.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Pantomime is again the attractive fare this week, and Messrs. C. S. Kitts and Somers Bellamy's *Cinderella* company opened to a packed house. The general mounting of the piece is excellent. Mr. Kitts as Billy Boy causes roars of laughter; Messrs. Ford and Ford are mirthful comedians; Bert McNallie and J. Oliver Russell are very amusing as the ugly sisters; Miss Jennie Lynwood makes a capital Prince Brilliant; Miss Madge Haines as Dandini sings charmingly; Miss Linda Riley and Will T. Riley are sprightly in their respective impersonations; Miss Rhoda Windrum as Cinderella sings with marked effect, and is very pleasing.

DARWEN.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—Mr. Charles H. Lester and company are this week presenting the detective drama, *The Bank of England*. Mr. Lester gives a capital impersonation of Sherlock Holmes, his clever disguises being a feature of the performance. He is ably supported by Mr. G. Clifton Boyne, who is well placed as Stephen Hartley. As Mrs. Aminta J Beane, the American widow, Miss Gertrude Godart achieves a triumph; Miss Dorothy Riddell is a charming Sylvia Barraclough; and Miss Marjorie Davenport is capable as Margaret Dane. Mr. Edmond O'Grady gives a clever delineation of the Jew, Gordon Isaacs; Mr. C. Herman Pullen makes an excellent Hon. Bertie Burlington; and the comedy parts are well sustained by Mr. C. Stanley as Tommy Sprouts and Miss Tina Shaw as Lucy Lockett. Mr. Harry T. Wood as Eric Dane, Mr. F. Ernstone as Godfrey Dane, and Mr. J. H. Firman as Sir Sydney Barraclough all do well. Mention must also be made of the excellent whistling solos by Mr. Will Whittaker as Jeemes, the flunkey.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—After opera comes melodrama, the boards being occupied this week by Mr. Douglas Bruce's company in Mr. Walter Melville's play *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*. Miss Emmie Barton plays the part of the heiress, Rose Seymour, with success; and in the name-part Miss Ethel Bracewell also proves herself a capable actress. Marian Franklin is well accounted for by Miss Lydia Mannington; Mr. Vincent W. Carlyle acquits himself ably as the clergyman; Mr. Stanley S. Gordon does good service in the dual rôles of Jack England and Private Johnson; Mr. Frank Adair as Captain Caversham, Mr. George Mitchell as James Sutton, and Mr. H. Macartney as the detective all acquit themselves satisfactorily; and some amusing comedy is contributed by Miss Daisy Meynard and Mr. Geo. H. Asquin.

Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—*Would-be Actors*, a most amusing sketch presented by Carter Livesey and Lilian Rosebery, causes much merriment, and is quite a feature of the bill. The Bros. Lilian are a finely-developed pair of acrobats; Ormonde Penstone submits an accomplished sleight-of-hand entertainment; the Sisters Russell, burlesque artists, appear to distinct advantage; Woolmer Young is a most acceptable comedian; the Two Wiltons are responsible for some clever singing and dancing; and Pat Rafferty is also in the bill. The Palace Bioscope projects some capital films.

DEVONPORT.—Metropole Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—*Dick Whittington and His Cat* nightly pursue their varied fortunes for the edification of large audiences. Some new features have been recently introduced, including Carl and Carl, in a highly diverting sketch, entitled *Fun in a Restaurant*, and Hess and Lisbon, comic skaters.

DUBLIN.—Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Chas. Hyland.—*Sinbad the Sailor* finishes here to-night after a very successful run. On Tuesday Mr. Edward Lauri, who has done splendidly as Sinbad, had a benefit. Thursday, Mr. T. G. Finglas (Pompey) had another big benefit, and a bumper house on Friday was anticipated for Miss May Beatty, who has made a hit as Sinbad.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The pantomime, *Mother Goose*, is continuing its successful career here. Miss Carlotta Levy acts with charm and grace as Colin; Miss May Moore Duprez is very popular as Gretchen; Mr. Martin Adeson causes much laughter as Mother Goose, and is ably supported by Mr. William Cromwell as Jack; the eccentricities of Harrigan and Holt are much enjoyed; Miss May Rawlinson is an excellent Fairy Heartsease; and Miss Molly McIntyre figures to advantage as Jill; and the Saker Harlows are extremely funny as the O'Rourke and Patsy, his brother. Mr. John Donald is good as Ravages; and the Misses Elsie Roby and Anna Kenwick are all that could be desired as Lady Biddy and Lord Shamus. The musical arrangements are in the capable hands of Mr. John Moody, and the dresses and scenery are elaborate.

Queen's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; Acting-Manager, Mr. John M. Davis.—Mr. J. W. Whitbread's company of Irish players is paying a return visit here this week, and on Monday night *Sarsfield* was presented to a full house. The part of Sarsfield has an excellent representative in Mr. Frank Lydon; and Miss Cecilia Dare successfully fills the rôle of Lady Honor de Burghs. General de Genkle is cleverly enacted by Mr Dane Clark; and Miss Madeline Hurst plays

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effectively as Lady Rose. Mr. James O'Brien, as Terry Hogan, provides much amusement; and Miss Jessie Glen as Billy Blake submits a capital study. Mr. Henry Forrest makes the most of the part of the Duke of Wurtemberg; and Molly is well played by Mrs. E. F. Brady. Prince of Nassau, General Talmash, and General Sir John Lanier find smart exponents in Messrs. A. C. Overton, Ion Ireland, and C. Durant; and Mr. James Daly as Parrah Ruadh, Mr. W. H. Fielden as Oinery Rafferty, and Mr. Harry Richardson as Hans Osterdam, are also good in their respective parts. *The Irish Dragoon* and *Lord Edward* are also in the bill.

Empire.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The array of talent here this week is of an excellent character. Harry Cadle's circus entertainment causes no end of amusement and laughter; Harry Drew receives well-deserved appreciation for his basso songs; Mlle. de Dio, in her weird dance, is most sensational; the Davis and Gledhill Trio, in their "Man v. Motor" performance, is heartily received; Gretta May, with her songs and dances, has many admirers; T. W. Magers does a capital comedy turn; Prince Kokin, Japanese juggler, does well; Ethel Ra-Leslie, with her old-time songs, receives great applause; and the Empire pictures are most interesting.

Tivoli.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—A good bill is presented here this week, pride of place being given to Charles Fisher and company, who are very successful in their amusing sketch, *The Music Master*. Raynor and Reece are excellent in their singing and dancing act; and Martinengo a capital 'cellist and baritone vocalist, merits applause. The Montaldos give a clever and interesting display as equilibrists, and are cordially received; and Tom Garland is an entertaining ventriloquist. J. H. Darnley and company, in the sketch, *What a Night*, arouse merriment; and some clever feats are performed by the Egertons, aerial gymnasts. Ted Waite scores as a vocal comedian; and the Zelovas, Continental equilibrists, and the Bioscope complete the show.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The following artists are appearing here:—The Neilsons, sketch artists; Mickey Wilford, comedian and dancer; May Neale, International dancer; Harry Wynne, vocal comedian; and Fred Hill, ventriloquist.

DUMFRIES. — Theatre Royal. — Lessee, Mr. W. E. Potts; Manager, Mr. Payne-Seddon.—For the first three nights of this week we have had a return visit of Miss Eva Moss in the plays of *Frou Frou* and *Camille*. Miss Moss was successful as Gilberte; Miss Phyllis Manners played the part of Baroness de Cambri in a pleasing manner; Miss Wynne-Hanley impersonated Louise very efficiently; Mr. Cecil Du Gue as Henri de Sartorys was all that could be desired; Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce was well placed as Count Paul de Valreas; and Mr. J. Poole Kirkwood ably filled the rôle of M. Brigard.

DUNDEE. — Palace Theatre. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—The top turn this week is that lively and beautifully-staged extravaganza, *The Belle of the Orient*. Joe Peterman, as Ike Novinsky the moneylender, keeps the house in continual merriment; while Florence Vie is a most bewitching "Belle." Lambert and Robertson score a success in their delightfully-acted comedy-sketch, *A Scots Folk's Wooin'*; Barney Kane, a Scotch comedian with an Irish name and an undeniably English accent, is exceptionally clever; Victoria Dagmar, in her charming horizontal bar act, is always a big favourite here, and her comedy assistant is funnier than ever; McAskell, "the man of few words," supplies plenty of excitement during his turn; Lindsay and Harte score a decided success; as do also the Cosmans, in a comedy act, and Georgina Nicol pleases with several coon ditties. Vernon's Imeprial Bioscope completes an attractive bill.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—A welcome return visit is paid by the British Empire Photo. Co., who are exhibiting some of the finest pictures seen here. A capital film is the story-picture, "Curfew shall not ring to-night," shown in nine scenes. Several variety artists contribute enjoyable turns, including Harry Lamb, a comedian of the quaint school; and Miss Doris, a clever little ballad vocalist, who appears with success in several illustrated songs.

EASTBOURNE. — Pier Pavilion. — Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mrs. Russ Whytal, supported by an admirable company, is paying a return visit with *Alice Sit-by-the-Fire*. The sympathetic and appealing work of Mrs. Russ Whytal as Alice is again worthy of high praise, and she carries the audience with her throughout. Miss Beatrice Bramah contributes an earnest, girlish performance as Amy; Miss Lucie Verrier is a distinctive Leonora; Miss Ninon Dudley makes much of her opportunities as Richardson; Miss Ada Marius is an excellently sedate Nurse; and Miss Beresford is a helpful Fanny. Mr. J. J. Bartlett repeats his work as Colonel Grey, which is consistently fine; Mr. T. Pauncefort is a boyish, realistic Cosmo; and Mr. Aubrey Mallalieu a well-defined and attractive Stephen.

EBBW VALE.—Central Hall.—Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth's pantomime, *Aladdin*, is being presented here. Miss Edith Royal as Aladdin is a great success; the Princess is delightfully taken by Miss Lily Stewart; and Miss Kitty Cameron does well as Pekoe.

ECCLES.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. C. Hamilton Baines; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert Orton; Secretary, Mr. P. Ryan-Smith.—This week we are having a visit from Mr. Edwin C. Jazon's company in *Cinderella*. Miss Flo Melville gives a clever and vivacious interpretation of the title-part; Miss Louie Hurman as Prince Brilliant sings acceptably; Dandini has a capable representative in Miss Madge Bryde; Miss Marie Harding as the Marquis of Taxes looks and acts well; Mr. Stan. Aubrey is a very funny Baron Crooked, and gives some very clever and eccentric dances; Messrs. Charles Preston and Alf. Brookes as the Ugly Sisters are responsible for a large share of the fun; Mr. Fred Pearce as Buttons is a host in himself; Messrs. Onda and Leon give a clever performance on the triple bars; and McCann's performing terriers also are responsible for a capital speciality turn.

EDINBURGH. — Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—*The Babes in the Wood* is still drawing large audiences nightly. Mr. Mark Sheridan, as Baron de Boots, is a host in himself, and his quiet, incisive humour never fails to strike a note of merriment; the Brothers Egbert, admirable comedians and acrobats, have established themselves prime favourites; and Mr. Harry Conlin's performance as Charity is extremely funny. The fresh and charming acting of the two children, Baby Betty Green and Wee Wallace, as the Babes, appeals strongly to the young folks; and Master Nipper Lupino Lane scores repeatedly with song and dance, his rendering of "The Zuyder Zee" being much above the average. The grace of Miss Gwladys Elvey as Robin Hood; the dainty acting of Miss Daisy Dormer as Maid Marion; and the delightful singing of Miss Gladys Cooper as Mavis, are powerful attractions in a spectacle which is full of fun and beauty. Miss Edna Loftus as Molly, Miss Mildred Claire as Allan-a-Dale, and the clever impersonation of the Poodle by Mr. Harry Lupino are also notably good.

Royal Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.,; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull.—The Chinese comic opera, *See-See*, is drawing appreciative houses, and among several old favourites in the company, Mr. W. H. Rawlins is responsible for admirable fooling as the merchant, Cheoo; while an irrepressibly funny impersonation of Hang-Kee is given by Mr. Frank Danby. The songs allotted to Yen, as rendered by Mr. Leonard Mackay, are received with great favour; and See-See finds a very charming representative in Miss Lily Elsie. Legions of friends, old and new, accord Miss Amy Augarde a cordial welcome; Miss Topsy Sinden's neat and nimble dancing is among the leading attractions of the piece; and recalls are fairly well divided among these principal players. Miss Alice Hatton, Miss Daisy Wallace, Miss Octavia Barry, and others secure due recognition.

King's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—*Cinderella* shows no signs of waning popularity here. Dan Rolyat's amusing impersonation of Archibald is greeted with loud applause. The actor's business in scene 3 is a revelation of grotesque comedy. Miss Violet Englefield's unfortunate illness unhappily still prevents her from resuming the part of the Prince, admirably played by Miss Dorothy Ward; and Miss Gwennie Hasto creates something like a furore every evening by her exhilarating dancing.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Mr. Dean Tribune's compressed pantomime, *Bo-Peep*, occupies a large share of this week's programme, and the performers make the most of their opportunities. Mr. Tribune provides a deal of entertainment as Simple Simon; Miss Ethel Lonsdale as Bo-Peep, and Miss Estella Tribune as Boy Blue, fill their rôles with all needful charm and spirit; and the remaining members of the cast give adequate support. The bill also includes other attractive turns, notably the clever juggling display of Mr. Walter Bellonini, the delightful part-singing of the Coloured Meisters quartette of vocalists, and Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lucas in their effective rendering of "Scenes from Dickens." Mr. Harold Hughman is an excellent imitator of bird and animal cries; the Two Butterflies prove themselves very expert juvenile gymnasts; Fraser and Mac contribute an amusing comedy act; further capable comedy-work is done by Princess Pauline, Mr. Harry Lawson, and Miss Ruth Doris; and the Bioscope manipulators show a fine series of films.

Cooke's Circus.—Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—Benefits are the order of the day here, but the additional attractions on these occasions have not caused the management to relax their efforts to bring new and varied talent for the weekly change of programme. Herr Footit, a clever and expert foot equilibrist, gives a pleasing turn; the Lynches, in their excellent picture songs, are particularly good; the Brothers Austin, chair pyramidists, exhibit proficiency in a very difficult performance; and the laughable sketch, *The Clown's Club*, displays the strength of the company as comedians and jesters. *The Water Carnival* goes with unabated fun, and evokes the laughter both of young and old. On Thursday, Mr. Leicester Alfred Cooke took his benefit under the patronage of the Edinburgh Kennel Club, when a splendid variety of collies, terriers, and whippets was exhibited, and the beneficiare's popularity was evinced by the large and enthusiastic audience which crowded the circus.

EXETER. — Theatre Royal.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company is appearing here this week with *A Country Girl*. As Nan, Miss Edith Maynard gives a dashing performance, rendering her songs in a very taking style; Miss Violet Leslie makes a sweet Marjorie Joy, her singing and acting being excellent; Miss Irene Wood sustains the part of the Princess of Bhong with distinct ability; Miss May Florence was good as Mme. Sophie; Miss Maud Read is responsible for two charming dances; as Barry, Mr. Arthur Staples is excellent, and provides the lion's share of fun; Mr. Martin D. Pitts is decidedly good as Geoffrey Chaloner; Mr. B. Vaughan makes a fine Rajah of Bhong; and Mr. W. O. Billington ably sustains the part of Sir Joseph Verity. The augmented orchestra is under the able direction of Mr. E. Peterson.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's principal company opened a week's engagement here on Monday in the pretty lyrical comedy, *The White Chrysanthemum*. The charming colour and beauty of the production and the delightful music were much appreciated. Mr. Shirley Lea was a pompous Admiral, and his singing was very acceptable. Mr. H. Langdon Bruce as Lieut. Reginald Armitage was highly successful, his vocal numbers being very well received. As Lieut. Chippy, Mr. H. E. Garden filled the part of the "Johnny" officer very cleverly. Mr. Richard Telford's Sin Chong, the Chinese cook, found favour with the audience. His antics were very amusing. As Private Perks, Mr. Jamie Dallas also supplied much of the humour of the piece. The acting of Miss Muriel George in the title-rôle was pretty, and her singing very fine. Miss Wilmot Karkeek made the best of Cornelia Vanderdecken, the American heiress; and Miss Dorothy Sephton as Betty Kenyon, a young widow, was captivating enough to hook the Admiral.

FOLKESTONE.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Arthur Hardy's company is here this week with *Beauty and the Barge*. Mr. Blake Adams as Captain James Barley gives a most amusing rendering of the rôle; Mr. Edward Coventry as Lieut. Seton Boyne is natural and effective; Mr. Pennington Gush is an excellent Herbert Manners; Mr. Walter Pemberton as the irascible Major Smedley evokes much laughter; Mr. Fred Knight causes much fun as Tom Codd; Mr. Forrester Harvey as Augustus, and Mr. Charles A. White as John Dibbs, are also deserving of favourable mention. Mr. Ewart Drake as George Porter soon has become a general favourite; Miss Mona Robin is responsible for a pleasing portrayal of Mrs. Smedley; Miss Dido Drake's impersonation of Ethel Smedley is very natural; Miss Mary Pemberton is seen to advantage as Lucy Dallas; and Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite and Miss Ruby Wyndham are remarkably good in their respective parts of Mrs. Porter and Mrs. Baldwin.

GAINSBOROUGH.—King's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stear. — Messrs. Payne-Seddon and Geo. Robertson's company, under the management of Mr. A. L. Baron, appeared here for three nights last week in the ever-popular *Charley's Aunt*. Jack Chesney and Charlie Wykeham were well portrayed by Mr. Basil Lynn and Arthur Claremont; Mr. Tom Macfarlane was a most amusing exponent of Lord Fancourt Babberly, the pseudo Charley's Aunt; the real Aunt was cleverly played by Miss Grace Baring; Amy Spettigue, Kitty Verdun, and Ella had charming representatives in Misses Sybil Grey, Ernestine Holker, and Norah Johns; Mr. McCawsland Stewart gave a good character-sketch of Colonel Sir Francis Chesney; and Spettigue and Brassett had capable representatives in Mr. Percy Tyler and Mr. W. A. Stoltuck.

GATESHEAD. — King's Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; General-Manager, Mr. Harold Arnold.—With the change of management comes an excellent company, headed by Hadj Abdullah's Arabs, a dozen of the smartest tumblers ever seen here. Rastus and Banks, coloured Americans, sing and dance with gratifying success; Lee and Bentley, in *The Night Owls*, cause uproarious laughter; Harry Taft, a whistling comedian, has a fund of new gags; the Mysterious Lilith, an illusion not new to Gateshieadians, is an attractive turn; the Haverleys, American song illustrators, are very popular; Lilian Warren also sings illustrated songs, and has numerous admirers; J. H. McCann, although mounted on roller skates, dances cleverly; and Winnie Scott, comedienne, and pictures by Vernon's bioscope complete the entertainment.

Metropole Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Councillor Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas France.—The attraction here is Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy's amusing pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*. Miss Marion May is quite at home in the name part; Miss Nellie Moore in the part of Polly Hopkins achieves a notable success. Assisted by Master Willie Johnson, she renders that favourite of favourites, "Zuyder Zee," in a delightful manner, and the following sabot dance creates great enthusiasm. Miss Cissie Conyers as the Captain plays capitally and sings sweetly; Miss Bertha St. Ruth does well as the Princess. The company is rich in comedians, chief amongst them being Mr. Fred Lloyd (the Dame); Messrs. Geo. Rapley and Tom Shenton, Sandy and Carl, and Sidney T. Russell are also to the fore. The dancing of the Sidney Quartette is a prominent feature, as are the specialities of the Zaracs and the Ladderites.

Queen's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Councillor Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—Mr. F. B. Woulfe and company provide the entertainment here. *Lady Godiva* was presented on Monday and Tuesday, with Mr. Woulfe as Tom and Miss Ethel Griffies as Lady Godiva. On Wednesday and Thursday *Nell Gwynne* was played; and on Friday *Jane Shore*.

GLASGOW.—Grand, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. D. Macfarlane.—The splendid success of the pantomime, *The House that Jack Built*, continues, the legend, "House Full," being shown nightly ere the curtain goes up. The latest attraction is the engagement of Capt. Bevan's team of Gordon Highlanders, who go through a fine series of movements in lightning military drill, rifle swinging, &c., while their nimble and dexterous feats in wall scaling and similar manœuvres are such as bring down the house. Mr. Fred Kitchen and all the lady and gentlemen principals are as clever and successful as ever, while the rank and file are conscious of their duty and do it well.

Royal Princess's.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—*Mother Goose* is running with the greatest success, and bids fair to outshine many of its predecessors. Miss Ella Retford as Marguerite, and Miss Ethel Campbell as Robin, continue to divide the favours of the audience. The Sisters Hall also meet with marked appreciation. Foreman and Fannan are responsibe for most of the mirth. The other members, notably Messrs. Austin Lenton, Wal Croft, Harry McClelland, and Misses Grace Elvio and Sadie Wade all give great assistance in the production.

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—After a successful run, *The Babes in the Wood* is in its last week. The pantomime has proved a highly-amusing production, mainly due to the efforts of the Albert and Edmunds troupe, ably assisted in the comic business by Messrs. Barnard and Weston, Mark Tapley, and Ernie Sparks. Miss Rose Hamilton makes a very pleasing principal boy, and received a complimentary benefit on Wednesday as Princess Dainty. Miss Lucy Lynch has sung herself into popularity. A sprightly second boy and girl were found in Miss Patti Bella (Sir Bertie) and Miss Ada Martine (Dolly Daydream), while the babes were cleverly represented by Misses Blanche Albert and Ada Merry. Friday night was set apart for the benefit of the Albert and Edmunds troupe.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. John Tiller's bright pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, is now in its concluding week here, and the principals have become strong favourites. Miss Jessie Templeton is a smart and lively Dick, and an attractive Alice is found in Miss Dorothy Gould. Miss Hilda Vining makes a hit as the Emperor of Morocco, and the Princess of Miss Lizzie Hay is charming. Mr. Will Lytton is a decidedly clever and resourceful young comedian, and as Idle Jack he is a great favourite. Mr. T. Gibbs and Mr. Barney Dixon ably second his efforts, and the dancing of the Tiller Girls is specially neat.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Mussett.—Great interest has been evinced here in the appearance of La Milo in her classical poses, and a huge audience give critical but appreciative attention to the details of her various expositions of beauty unadorned. The caricatures of Cruikshank, between the poses, were all much enjoyed. Herbert Lloyd's eccentric turn was provocative of hearty laughter. Matthew Brodie and company appeared in the pathetic playlet, *A Drummer of the 76th*, in which this clever actor gives a good impersonation of Napoleon, and a clever young girl acts well as the drummer. Bert Woodward, the coon cyclist, who adds new and daring feats to his turn on every visit, takes extremely well. Nina Gordon's mimicry is smart; J. H. Scotland sings well; Burg, Haud, and Wise give their amusing knockabout turn, *The Brown Cow Inn*; Winnie Gordon scores well as a siffleuse; and Jimmy Shields again proves his ability as a one-legged dancer.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The special item here this week is the production of Harry Cadle's burlesque pantomime, *Mick Whittintun*. From beginning to end the fun is fast and furious, and the general "make-up" and dresses being ludicrous in the extreme. The sketch, *The Hotel Boots*, by Manning's Entertainers, had a good reception; a clever and unique performance is given by Paulinetti and Piquo, expert gymnasts; and a farcical sketch, entitled *The Drink Cure*, is smartly played by Tom E. Conover, assisted by Rose E. Rovana and T. Arthur. Other acceptable turns include Dan Leno, jun. (son of the great comedian); Harry Maynard, vocalist; George and Leila, in comedy act; Mlle. Ameda, novelty entertainer; Gus Merriman, coon artist; and the Hippodrome Bioscope, with new pictures.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr Samuel Lloyd.—The Boys in Blue give a very smart and attractive display of American military drill, and are very well received; Mme. Craigie and Mr. J. W. Bowie are heard to advantage in their popular duet entertainment; Mlle. Yetta, in the cake walk on the wire, gives a novel and unique turn, with some claim to sensation, and goes well; Fioretti and Elly are clever in a spade jumping act, which is out of the usual run; Espinosa and Neilson are speciality dancers of ability, and win applause; the original Cecilias play various instruments very skilfully; Chas. J. Johnson, the Black Diamond, gives a first-rate and enjoyable turn; Fox and Melville, in their "vocal pictures," delight with songs and pictorial effects, and merriment is the order of the moment when Henry Carlton and his comedy team in *One Night Only* occupy the stage.

Coliseum.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—Mrs. John Lawson and her company appear here in that grim playlet, *The Devil's Sunday*, and the acting of this lady in the part of Fay Faber is very striking, the other members of the company giving excellent support. G. W. Hunter, as great a favourite as ever, shines in clever songs and patter; Spry and Austin as a comedy couple have a strong hold on the Glasgow public, and it is well deserved, for their business and songs are always up-to-date; Griff, assisted by Alpha, gives that ingenious turn entitled *The Clown in Apartments*, and in addition to his smart tricks, the originality of his dialogue keeps the audience in a roar; the Schiavonas troupe of acrobats are wonderfully good, the feats of strength displayed by the lady member being marvellous; Derenda and Green contribute a smart Indian club display; the Kurios appear in a lively knockabout acrobatic turn; the Avolos are clever in a unique display on upright poles; and Joe Wesley, the popular local negro comedian, gets a good reception for his amusing items.

Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry M'Kelvie.—The most interesting turn this week is that of Tarro Myaki, the Japanese wrestler, who gives an exciting display of the style of his country. Ernest Montefiore and company present an exquisitely tender sketch called *The Little Colonel*, in which a very young lady charmingly plays the title-rôle. Jeannette Hall is an accomplished vocalist, with a voice of rare depth and power, which she uses effectively. Hill and Whitaker accompany their songs on a variety of instruments, the lady having a fine contralto voice and a considerable touch of humour. Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor are an amusing trio, who introduce some pleasing songs and dances into their sketch. The Romanos combine acrobatic feats with graceful poses plastiques. The audience seems never to tire of charming Sadie Seymour, and Connie Mora's singing and dancing is equally pleasing. The Palacescope is the name given to a lively variety of animated pictures.

Gaiety.—General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Howard; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Bowerman.—Marion Wills, assisted by Mr. H. Walton, in their sketch, *A Musical Comedy Rehearsal*, keep the audience in the best of humour, and Ley Harte does well as a conjuror and pianist; Charles Clifford is much appreciated as a harpist; Chester and Lees' marionettes gives a clever performance; Lillie Hales, comedienne; Sisters Stratton, duettists and dancers; Katie Eplett, comedienne; and the Gaiety Bioscope complete the bill.

GLOUCESTER.—Palace.—Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—Judge's performing cockatoos provide a clever performance; Bromley and Fontein are responsible for a great deal of laughter in *A Musical Birthday*; the Royal Quintette are a smart troupe of dancers; and Great Vincent is applauded for an intrepid act. Les Bollingers introduce a novelty in rag-picture making; Selby and Myers, in their dancing, are novel and effective; Mr. and Mrs. Hal Collier give a humorous interlude, *My Husband, the Lunatic*; and Jack Hylton, comedian, and the Sisters Clare are also in the bill. The Bioscope completes the bill of fare.

GOOLE.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John E. Tomlinson.—Miss Lydia Donovan and company opened here on Monday night in the drama, *Her One Great Sin*. Mr. Alfred Cole played the part of Reuben Warhurst with dramatic force; as Arnold Thornhill, the unscrupulous spendthrift, Mr. C. Quinton Fulford gives a powerful portrayal; Mr. Fred Hodgson keeps the house in roars with his amusing portrayal of Jerry Jumble; he is ably supported by Miss Nellie Lambert as Nancy Winpenny; Mr. Chas. E. Lambert gives a clever character study as Dan Hundle; and Mr. J. C. Crondace is highly successful as Jack Hundle. Grace Warhurst is presented with much sympathetic force by Miss Lydia Donovan; Miss Maudie Lambert is a very clever and charming Little Gracie; Miss Phyllis Damian gives a touching embodiment as the poor waif, Charlie; and Miss Louie Walton gives a striking study of Bet Hundle. The minor parts are in capable hands, and the dresses excellent.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — Royal Aquarium. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. Arthur Gibbons' grand Christmas pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, is here for the week. In the title-rôle, Miss Nellie Banks sings and acts charmingly; and Miss Janet Lawton is excellent as Prince Bountiful; plenty of laughter is evoked by Mr. Geo. Westand as Baron Badenough; Mr. Ted Mac as Dame Margery, Mr. J. T. Banks as Johnny Stout, Mr. Sam Johns as Tommy Thin, and Mr. George Marriott, jun., and Mr. Walter Edge, as Rates and Taxes. Miss Florrie Turner is a smart Jack Horner; and Miss Nina Terri a dainty Maid Marian. Miss Ena Soutar is admirable as the Fairy Queen; and Miss Maud Fergusson is exceedingly good as Cat's Eye. The Terri Trio are responsible for some clever acrobatic dancing; and Le Diabelo gives a sensational act—flying the devil's wheel.

GREENOCK.—Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—This week Mr. Wentworth Croke's *My Sweetheart* company is here. Miss Minnie Palmer still plays and sings with unimpaired vigour, her embodiment of Tina being highly appreciated; Mr. Robert H. Howard as Tony Faust is very capable, his singing and acting being much admired; Mr. Leslie Tyler appears successfully as Harold Bartlett; Mr. Fred W. Leonard amusingly fills the part of Joe Shotwell; the rôle of Dr. Oliver is admirably filled by Mr. Richard Elliott; Mr. Alfred Ibberson scores as Dudley Harcourt; and Farmer Hatzell is capably represented by Mr. Alfred May. Miss Mildred Sylvestre is to be highly commended for her admirable representation of Mrs. Fleeter; Mrs. H. E. Russell is seen to advantage as Mrs. Hatzell; and little Miss Elsie Foster prettily interprets the rôle of Peek-a-Boo.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—A sensational motoring act is engineered here by the Tom Davies Trio, and proves most attractive; Doody and Wright, Australian comiques, make a decided hit; Amy Neild renders vocal items in accomplished style; the Wilfords arouse enthusiasm by their clever equilibrist feats; capital female impersonations are given by Percy Maye; Harry Cove's vocal selections are most acceptable; and the Empire pictures continue to be a prominent feature.

Pavilion Theatre. — General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. A. White.—The Macdonald Troupe of dancers give a clever performance here; the Clayton Twins, assisted by the Misses Wood and Willis, in a funny sketch, *Which is Which?* creates roars of laughter; a pleasing turn is presented by the Players; Webb and Branston, in operatic selections, are received with rapturous applause; Oakley and James amuse with eccentric comedy; Harry Niblock, boy comedian, is good; and the Paviscope shows some good pictures.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry.—Fred Karno's new edition of *Saturday to Monday* presents many fresh and entertaining features. Mr. W. E. Matthews is now seen as the eccentric John Willy Jaggs, and extracts a lot of fun from the character; whilst as John Willy, jun., Mr. V. H. Crawford adds to the merriment. Miss Amy Rogerson is well suited to the part of the bride, Clorinda; and her sister, Violet, is charmingly presented by Miss Daisy Stone. Mr. Dick Harcourt makes the most of the part of Mr. Potts, the best man; whilst others conributing to the success of the show are Mr. J. W. Bradbury as Mr. Blake, Mr. C. Herbert Summers as Tom Freeman, Mr. J. Fletch as Spinks, and Miss Ada Maskell as Aunt Skinner.

Curry's Tivoli.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—Chung Ling Soo, the great Chinese magician, has drawn a crowded house at each performance; a remarkable equilibristic act is contributed by Marstro and Mlle. Oretta, the lady supporting a billiard table upon which Marstro balances himself whilst perched on billiard cues; the Bros. Ashley present their amusing hairdressing burlesque; Bob Hamilton scores as a Scottish humorist; Alec Aubrey contributes an artistic gymnastic turn; Starr and Jerome prove smart dancers; and Ida Ross sings pleasing Swiss ballads.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—Tom Lloyd has increased his reputation as a mirth-creator, his songs being decidedly smart; Mlle. Amalia's minature hippodrome, introducing trained dogs and ponies, is a popular turn; The Days present an interesting *séance* of thought-reading, &c.; and The Davenports' exhibition of modern magic is well received. Toney and Novel perform smart staircase gymnastics; Gus W. Blake and Maude Granby combine in a humorous scena; Bessie Willow contributes excellent vocal selections; and Arthur Goodman secures favour as a juggler.

GUERNSEY.—St. Julian's Hall.—Lessee, Mr. C. Robt. Perkins.—On the 25th Mr. Arthur Carlton's company presented *In Sight of St. Paul's*. The piece was admirably staged and excellently interpreted. Mr. Ernest R. Allen cleverly expounded the part of Tom Chichester; Harry was ably represented by Mr. W. H. Domoney; Mr. Herbert Cecil was sufficiently villainous as John Gridston; Mr. Edward Valentine creditably worked out the unthankful part of Fretley Burside; and Mr. Henry Gilpin proved successful as the rascally Bildstein. The comic element was amusingly supplied by Mr. Herbert Colley as Jim Palfrey, ably assisted by Miss S. Hammersley as Becky Fetch. Miss Gussie Everitt merited warm praise for an admirable conception of Cynthia Dell; and Miss Louie Valentine capably portrayed the part of Beatrice Morland.

HALIFAX. — Theatre Royal, Ltd. — General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—A crowded house gave Mr. Frederick Melville's company in *The Beast and the Beauty* an enthusiastic welcome here on Monday. Jack Barrymore had a powerful representative in Mr. Herbert Ford; his father was well delineated by Mr. Wm. E. Passmore; the rôle of Ned Sampson was dramatically portrayed by that talented actor Mr. Eric Campbell; Mr. Bernard Mervyn in every way distinguished himself as Henry Denver, and was adequately supported by Miss Daisy Gwynne as Delilah Vane. A delightful assumption of Violet was submitted by Miss Lydia Andre; while Mr. Harry Seton's comedy as James was received with acceptance.

Palace and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Ed. Harrison.—Great favourites here are Bella and Bijou, whose smart satire, *The Suffragette*, enhances their reputation. Cavalli is a wonderful ventriloquist with an excellent fit-up; Harwood's juveniles in a novel scena, *A Children's Christmas Eve*, are vociferously greeted; the Twin Bros. Dean, the dancers in white; Bert Brantford, comedian, and Grant and Grant, American octoroons, present attractive items; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux cause amusement.

HANLEY. — Royal, Ltd — Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—*A Royal Divorce* is presented this week, under the management of Mr. W. W. Kelly. Miss Edith Cole is once more seen as Josephine, and her interpretation is, as usual, excellent; Miss Agnes Imlay as Marie Louise is most successful; as Napoleon Mr. Frederick Victor is capital; Mr. Graham Woods as the Marquis de Beaumont contributes a sound performance; Mr. Claude Angew as Talleyrand acts with effect; as General Augereau Mr. Alfred Grenville is most successful, and Mr. Geo. Hudson makes a capital Grimaud.

Grand.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—The bill this week is headed by Levi Lake and company, in their amusing sketch, *Bloomsbury Burglars*, which is thoroughly enjoyed; Athas and Collins return in their skit, *For Four Bob*; Albert Athas also dances admirably; Mlle. Pollo contributes a gymnastic turn, which is a great feature in the week's programme; the Three Clarions are seen in a good sketch; Carl Howard, the comic card, does well, his burlesque conjuring being appreciated; Lily Foy is a comedienne of merit; the Frasettis score in their musical turn. The Grand pictures are capital.

HARROGATE. — Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Smith. — For the first three nights of this week we had a return visit of Mr. Chas. Macdona's company, in the ever-popular *Gay Parisienne*. Mr. Will Harman worked well as Ebenezer Honeycombe; Mr. S. Day gave a good performance of Major Forsdyke; and Mrs. Honeycombe had an able exponent in Miss Holford Beringer, endowed with a clever "Suffragette" song, in which she earned a hearty encore; Miss Lilian Talbot made a vivacious Julie Bon Bon, and had excellent assistance from Mr. Clifford Seyler as M. Pompier. Mr. Philip Moore made a good Tom Everleigh; and Miss Madge Soutter was very successful as Ruth. *Miss Lancashire, Limited*, came on Thursday evening.

HARTLEPOOL.—Empress.—Proprietors, Messrs. Everton and Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—The wonderful whistling by Shawlene is creating quite a sensation this week; his performance is applauded to the very echo. Will Mitcham, comedian and instrumentalist, and Fred Casburn, old favourites, are having a gratifying reception. The Clement Trio, in a trapeze act, attempt some apparently impossible feats; Trixie, a clever little child artist, is well received; a pretty selection on the silver bells is well done by Will Cornish; and Walter Wade, vocal comedian, The Dancing Gilberts, and some interesting and amusing films are shown.

HASTINGS.—Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—*The Shulamite* is being presented here this week by Mr. Theodore's company, whose performance on Monday kept the audience in rapt attention throughout. The impersonation of the stern, fanatically cruel Boer farmer by Mr. Algernon J. Hicks was an admirable character-study; the sensitive and weak nature of Robert Waring was well depicted by Mr. Charles Fancourt; Miss Ruth Shepherd was equal to the difficult task of depicting the wife's growing hatred of her tyrant husband; Miss Emily Levettey as Tanta Anna played with spirited energy; Mr. Geo. Ramsell made an excellent Jan Vanderberg; and the Kaffir Slave Girl of Miss Chrissie Bickerstaff was a well-thought-out sketch of character.

HUDDERSFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's company is here, playing *Mr. Popple of Ippleton*. The piece was well received on Monday night, though it was played under very disconcerting conditions. Mr. Arthur Longley—the Freddy Popple—after doing excellently well through the first act, and opening the second, suddenly fainted, and had to be carried off the stage. Mr. Sydney Courtenay, his understudy, finishing the act. Mr. Longley revived sufficiently to ap-

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pear again in the last act. Mr. L. Bullock Webster was a smart, well-groomed Norman Popple, and Mr. Tom May a bright Platt; Miss Nellie Hodson was attractively pert as Louise; Mr. Sydney Courtenay and Mr. James Stevenson played with discretion as Hennay and Doring, Miss Alice Reve and Miss Stella St. Audrie being quite satisfactory as their jealous wives. The particular star is Miss Millie Hylton as La Bolero, her crisp methods and artistic rendering of songs being decidedly successful. An alert chorus and augmented orchestra give useful assistance under the experienced guidance of Mr. H. R. Matthews.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M Robinson.—The house this week is occupied by the Huddersfield Amateur Operatic Society, who opened their eleventh annual production on Tuesday evening, playing, by kind permission of Mrs. D'Oyly Carte, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, followed by *Trial by Jury*..

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Quite an acceptable change from pantomime is the smart farcical comedy which is sending away audiences amused to no small degree this week. *What the Butler Saw* is about as comical a conception as dramatist ever invented. Apart from the cleverness of the authors, Judge Parry and Mr. Frederick Mouillot, the comedy has the advantage of such smart astists as Lionel Rignold and Ada Blanche. To watch Mr. Rignold as the butler—he has no need to speak, only simply follow his movements, and one need be a stoic not to have every risible faculty in the fullest play. He has all the comedian's best gifts, added to an easy, spontaneous style. As Mrs. Barrington Ada Blanche revived all the memories of histrionic achievements that have been so justly praised in every quarter. She captivated the audience from her first entrance. In the company are several very clever artists, Mr. Fawcett scoring well as Jack Barrington.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wynn Millar.—On Saturday night the management will bring to a close a highly-successful pantomime season, and one which will no doubt be remembered in the city for the beauty of its mounting and the splendour of its ballets. During the all too short run it has proved conclusively one thing—that a principal boy can add to a reputation by gentility and refinement, both of which attributes are the possession of Miss Rita Everard. Mr. Rowland Hill, as the Dame, has never erred either in the way that some male impersonators of female rôles do. The Brothers Neward should have every reason to be pleased with their first pantomime production in Hull.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Mortons, Ltd. — General-Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*In Holy Russia* is just the play to please the popular parts of the house. It is full of striking scenes, and its incidents are not less exciting. On a past visit it received high commendation which can very well be now repeated. Mrs. Rice Cassidy is a Renee who fills with considerable credit a very exacting rôle. As Uncle Dick Mr. Rice Cassidy is very much at home. As the Czar Mr. Cockcroft is all that the author intended he should be; whilst the comic relief finds an excellent exponent in Mr. Joe Cuthbertson, cast as Micky. From the support given it seems as if *In Holy Russia* could still draw in this city on many, many future occasions.

HYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville, Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Heading an attractive programme here this week are the Lukushima Japanese, in a marvellous balancing and acrobatic performance; Miss Mayne Cannon is a charming coon vocalist and an expert pianoforte player; Therese and May appear in a pleasing pot-pourri act; Mozetto is a skilful though quaint juggler; the eccentric Cranks perform some smart cycling tricks; Master Harry Raley sings very nicely; Mr. Bert Lytton scores as a comedian; Burley and Burley are funny in a comedy act, and prove themselves clever contortionists; Polo and Florence give an original balancing entertainment; the Marcos are responsible for a comic triple bar act; Barfoot and Carson figure conspicuously and with success in a musical and dancing turn, and the latest bioscope pictures are much appreciated.

OHMY'S CIRCUS.—The chief attraction here this week is Dr. Carl Hermann, hynotist, who creates roars of laughter by reason of the ludicrous actions of his subjects; Ariel and Astarte are expert gymnasts; Mons. Hanlan is a clever three-bar performer; the Three Bostons are successful as vocalists and dancers; the scene act on horseback, *Joan of Arc*, by Miss Ada Ohmy, is a graceful performance, and is deservedly applauded, and the two-horse act by the Sisters Ohmy is another skilful equestrian act. The cake walk horse goes through its work most intelligently, and Prince Cliner, the riding dog, furnishes another instance of canine sagacity; August and September are as entertaining as ever in their comic sketches, and the Bros. France and Little Bishop also do some clever clowning. Ohmy's Living Pictures maintain their popularity.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Mrs. Frank Bateman and company present *No Wedding Bells for Her* this week. Miss Lizzie Montague is excellent as Lola Delaspierre, and in a kindred part Mr. Abney Stone is good. The comic relief of Mr. Will Skelton and Miss Bessie Franks is enjoyable; Mr. Percy Shaw excels as Dick Delver; and Mr. Stuart Lomath merits mention. Mr. Fredk. Garton makes the most of the small part of Montague Blair; Mr. Arthur Linay as Harold Trevelyn and Mr. Geo. Herbert as Horatio Fane are commendable. The parts of Adonis Tightfist and Marie Flail are in the capable hands of Mr. Robt. Lord and Miss Ellen Owen. Miss Grace Battersby is good as Doris Fane.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Licensee and Manger, Mr. T. Knightall.—The mannikin show by Mlle Fontain is still being given; a pantomime, entitled *Blue Beard*, is worked with much effect by the two McMays; Ivy West is meritorious as a serio; and the like remark applies to Fred Dice (comedian), R. G. Fane (comedian), and Harry Henric (vocalist).

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Leonard Grey.—Mrs. Henry de la Pasture's comedy, *Peter's Mother*, played by Mr. Percy Hutchinson's company, commenced a three-nights' engagement here on Monday. The piece was favourably received, Miss Edith Mackay making a striking impression by her clever impersonation of Peter's mother; Mr. Percy Hutchinson in the character of Peter Crewys was also favourably received, evoking much applause throughout; Mr. Ellie Norwood scored well as John Crewys; and Mr. Townley Whitting was at home in the part of the Doctor. Miss Hilda Honnes was a pleasing and graceful Sarah Hewell. The incidental scenery and appointments were satisfactory.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Another attractive programme drew crowded audiences to this popular place of entertainment this week, some strong turns being included in the bill of fare. Austin Rudd paid a return visit, his new songs and personations being loudly applauded; Tom N. Mills acquitted himself well as a descriptive and motto vocalist; Maude and Sidney Wood were a pair of clever dancers. A pleasing item also was that of Belle Braham in her "Popular Songs and Singers"; Letine, female impersonator, was very successful; and the same may be said of Seely and West, musical comedians and duettists.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr Jerold E. Reed.—This week Messrs. Carpenter and Cooper's company is here with *The Spider and the Fly*. Mr. Benson North gives a manly rendering of Cyril Girdlestone; Mr. Ellis J. Preston plays with force as Welby Girdlestone; Mr. Lanceley is very good indeed as the Rev. Mr. McAllister; and Mr. Reginald Payne makes a capable David Strong; Mr. Charles A. Preece a creditable Remus Roe; and Mr. Charles Russell a successful Romulus. Miss Amy Venimore is an excellent Stella; Miss Nina Vaughton a charming Edith; and Miss Lucy Murray causes much amusement as Molly Blake.

JERSEY. — OPERA HOUSE. — Lessee, Mr. C. Robt. Perkin.—Mr. Allan Wilkie and company are appearing this week in Shakespearean and other plays. The company opened on Tuesday night with *Othello*, in which Mr. Allan Wilkie appeared as the Moor. Mr. G. Alexander Marsh did himself full justice in the rôle of Iago, and Miss Carrie Baillie made a charming Desdemona. Mr. Herbert Morgan well sustained the part of Cassio, and Mr. George Munro figured with credit as Roderigo. Mr. John Paley was an admirable Brabantio; Miss Ine Cameron was good as Emilia. Sheridan's *School for Scandal* was played on Wednesday, and *Romeo and Juliet* on Thursday. There was an excellent house on the opening night.

KEIGHLEY. — QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Carson.—Large audiences have given Mr. James Kiddie's company, in *Little Cinderella*, an enthusiastic reception. Mlle. De Rose is an excellent principal boy; and Miss Edith Harmer a bewitching Cinderella. Miss Zena Pana scores as Dandini; Mr. Tom Payne is a comedian of infinite resource, and works hard as Pimples; Mr. Dick Thomas appears as the Baron, and is very funny; Mr. W. G. Wesley and Mr. Sydney Benson cause unlimited laughter as the Sisters. The pantomime is a pronounced success.

KENDAL.—ST. GEORGE'S THEATRE.—Managers, Messrs. Butler and Chorley.—The Moody-Manners' Opera (B) Company is here this week. On Monday evening *Carmen* was presented to a crowded house, and evoked considerable enthusiasm. Miss Rosina Beynon deserves special mention for her portrayal of the part of Carmen; she is not only the possessor of a fine contralto voice, but her acting is all that can be desired. The like criticism applies to most of the principals, and the chorus is all that can be desired. Various other operas from an extensive répertoire are included in the week's programme.

KIDDERMINSTER. — NEW OPERA HOUSE. — Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. James P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—Playgoers here this week have a rare treat in a visit from Mr. Charles Macdona's chief company in *Are You a Mason?* Mr. Ernest Cossart ably portrays the character of George Fisher; Mr. E. H. Paterson gives a capital rendering of Amos Bloodgood; Mr. Howard L. Tracy scores well as Frank Perry; Mr. G. R. I. Austin causes no end of fun in the rôle of Hamilton Travers; Mr. Buchanan Wake as John Holton is excellent. Mrs. Caroline Bloodgood is strongly played by Miss Adelaide Grace; Miss Margaret Fareleigh as Eva is all that can be desired; Annie and Lulu are prettily played by Miss Babs Stuart and Miss Madge Merrique. Each evening, preceding the farce, the one-act drama entitled *A Bad Penny* is produced with pleasing results.

KIRKCALDY.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Burton.—For the first time Miss Grace Warner and her company are paying a visit here this week. On Monday night *The Little Widow* was presented, Miss Warner being seen to much advantage in the title-rôle. Miss M. Stamer was a decided success as Mrs. Potter, and Miss Hilda Herne made an amiable Emily Randal. Miss K. Cranston was effective as Sophonisba; and Messrs. G. Gordon and J. L. Leigh as Mr. Wilkins Potter and Dr. Potter were responsible for much of the laughter; Mr. Arthur Page was good as the Frenchman, and equally successful was Mr. R. Brown as the butler.

LANCASTER.—ATHENÆUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred H. Hook.—Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, opened on Monday to a crowded and enthusiastic audience. Miss Adele Roze as principal boy acts with cosiderable dash, and her spirited rendering of the vocal items which fall to her lot are specially pleasing. Miss Leah Laurie makes a charming Alice, and finds plenty of scope for her abilities in song and dance. A handsome Captain Navycutte is seen in Miss Annie Broughton; and equally successful is Miss Florence Hilton as Sir Algernon de Mash. Mr. Fred Spencer is mirth-provoking as the Dame Amelia; Mr. J. H. Wakefield works hard as Fitzwarren; as also does Mr. Archie J. Milne as Rodento and Mr. Alec Kendal as Idle Jack. Messrs. Bass and Guiness are smart comedians, and add much to the success of the pantomime as Silly Peter and Lazy Larry. A word of commendation is also due to Mr. Bert Hindson, who does extremely well as the Cat. There are several specialities, including the Three Sisters Kilner, Bass and Guiness, and the Saxon Troupe of Dancers.

LEAMINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—Mr. Martin Harvey visited Leamington for the first three nights of this week. On Monday evening, the opening night, *The Breed of the Treshams* was played, and Mr. Harvey and his company were accorded a great reception by the largest and most enthusiastic audience that has been seen in the local playhouse for some time. Mr. Harvey appeared as Lieut. Reresby, and his very fine delineation of the character was truly an artistic triumph which created the greatest enthusiasm among the audience. Miss N. de Silva gave an excellent rendering of the boy Batty; whilst the part of the Hon. Margaret Hungerford was successfully sustained by Miss Coleridge. Mr. Charles J. Cameron played with mingled force and dignity as Viscount Dorsington; whilst as Colonel Hungerford Mr. Chas. Glenney displayed very careful and conscientious acting. Mr. A. E. Raynor's impersonation of Sir Henry Curwen was worthy of the highest praise; and Mr. Leonard Craske's Cornet Tresham was appropriately bright and ingenuous. *The Breed of the Treshams* was repeated on Tuesday, and on Wednesday *A Cigarette Maker's Romance* was played, Mr. Harvey appearing in his original part of Count Skariatine.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—Success continues to attend the grand pantomime, *The Sleeping Beauty*. Mr. Albert Le Fre and Mr. W. H. Powell continue to be the life and soul of the piece so far as the fun is concerned; whilst Mr. Josh Dixon and Mr. T. W. Volt are also irresistibly funny in numerous interludes. The Queen is in the capable hands of Miss Florence Parfrey, and her vocal powers continue to be much admired. The romantic parts are prettily played by Miss Katie Vesey, Miss Julia James, and Miss Edith Adeson, and each is a sound favourite.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—*The Forty Thieves* continues a run of uninterrupted success, and is being continually improved. The comedians have worked hard to that end. The eccentricities of Messrs. Bob Selvidge, Russell Wallett, Harry Dent, and Gus Le Clerq give very little pause in the merry-making; whilst the donkey of Mr. Sam Poluski's creation is a most diverting animal. Miss Elsie Cooke and Miss Fanny Harris are pleasing and attractive ladies; and Miss Bessie Cohen as Ganem and Miss Maisie Ellinger as Abdullah are successful and popular "boys."

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alec Galley.—An exciting tabloid drama, *Our Curate*, figures at the head of a strong Empire bill, the piece being presented in clever style by Mr. Fred Eustace and company. Park's Eton Boys provide a vocal turn of considerable merit; the eccentricities of Little Ganty, a diminutive comedian, are a source of merriment; and excellent comedy is also supplied by Charles Coverdale and Harry Leybourne. Chas. Mildare, the wonderful whistler, is having a good week; the Three Renads make a big thing of their clever gymnastic act; and Lily Esplin, comedienne, has a good song about the Suffragettes; the Meymotts are diverting in a comedy-sketch; and some trained birds exhibited by Mlle. Marzella prove an interesting feature.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—Mr. Harry Fischer's company arrived here on Monday with the touring pantomime *Cinderella*, and a hearty welcome was extended by a crowded house. Miss Empsie Bowman is an admirable choice for the name-par', pleasing all with dainty action and excellent singing. The Prince is Miss Julia Bassett, and her performance is a dashing and attractive one. Of the funmakers, Mr. Ernie Mayne is an easy first favourite, having great opportunity for merriment in the rôle of Pickles, the Baron's page. Mr. Johnny Johnstone is vastly amusing as Baron Bunkum, and the humorous efforts of Mr. Charles Tempest and Mr. Charles May as the Ugly Sisters are also successful in many entertaining interludes. Miss Adele Lincoln makes an effective Dandini; the capital singing of Miss Grace Olivia as the Good Fairy is a much-enjoyed feature; whilst the the eccentricities of Conan and Doyle also find favour.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; General-Managers, Mr. Claude Shayler and Mr. Chas. Weldon.—The Three Demons, with a sensational cycling act on a revolving table, is a big feature here; Barker's circus is very popular; Barrington Foote and company hold the interest of their audience with a dramatic sketch; Oakdene submits his comedy ventriloquial entertainment with success; Carr and Rose are accomplished and amusing in musical sketch; that prime favourite, Sable Fern, is scoring the usual solid success; and we are pleased to renew acquaintance with Walter Stanley, a clever comedian; Harry Cotton also scores with comedy business; and the Waltons, expert gymnasts, do their work in good style.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sam Jones.—Mabel Bright is the central figure of a bright song-scena, "Girls Will be Girls," which is delighting good houses nightly at this hall. Some artistic vocal tableaux by Mme. Sylvia are very acceptable; the Society Quartette of vocalists and dancers have a pleasing entertainment; that versatile pair, Rita and Roma, make another successful appearance; and Ingram and Irving, in comedy act; Dan Robans, operatic vocalist; Tiny Arnold, with a novel specialty; and Jack Woods, comedian, are doing particularly well.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General and Business Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—The reputation of this house for pantomime has been well maintained this week by the production of Mr. Milton Bode's fairy pantomime, *Red Riding Hood*. Probably no more beautiful scene has been staged here than the Butterflies' Ball at the termination of the first half. The dresses in this scene are most gorgeous, and the gigantic butterfly, when lit up with many hundreds of electric lights, aroused the audience to a storm of applause. Another noteworthy scene is the King's Pageant, at the termination of the pantomime, which represents the four countries of the United Kingdom. This is exceedingly charming with its artistic representation of the Prince of Wales's feathers, its network of thistles and shamrock, and a huge crystal globe on which stands Britannia holding an illuminated shield. The dresses are all in harmony with the entire setting. The company engaged is a first-class one. At the head is Miss Annie Purcell as Boy Blue, who has endeared herself to all by a vivacious and clever performance, her songs, "Zuyder Zee" and "Isle of Anglesey," meeting with well-deserved and hearty appreciation. Miss Norah Guy, a delightful Red Riding Hood, rendered her songs, "Hyacinth" and "The shade of the Pyramids," in excellent style. Miss May Hopkins as Bo-Peep and Mr. Ted Hopkins as Lewis Bach are to be highly complimented on their success, their whole performance being brimful of rich humour. Miss Hopkin's songs, "The cottage on the hill" and "Remember me to mother dear," elicit hearty approval. Mr. Harry Bickley makes a most amusing Dame Trot; Mr. Jay Laurier a mirth-provoking Johnny Stout, with a droll song, "Silly Billy Brown." Messrs. Keith and Merson work hard as Johnny Green and Simple Simon; Mr. Ainsley Burton as the Squire is good, and others who deserve praise are Miss Agnes Tandy as Tom, Miss Sybil Viney as Mary, Miss Nellie Duval as the Fairy Queen, Mr. Stanley Fields as the Wolf, and Mr. Walter Walton as the Demon. There is a large and well-balanced operatic chorus and augmented orchestra under the direction of Mr. Frank Seddon. The Collins-Stella troupe execute some delightful dances, and the Royal Welsh Singers are also heard to considerable advantage. The artists responsible for the beautiful scenery are Messrs. T. E. Ryan, Stanley Schuter, and T. F. Dunn.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors and Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—Mr. Fred Jarman's company, presenting the Anglo-Russian drama, *Under the Czar*, is the attraction here. Miss Lillian Herries enacts the part of Sonia with conspicuous success; and both Miss Beatrice Annersley as Siomka and Miss Madge Calre as Zara Bhura are excellent. Mr. Willson Howard plays well as Nicholas Jeroslaff; and Mr. Gerald Smythe as Captain Johnson, Mr. George H. Doyle as Zakhar Kovesky, Mr. Louis Westo nas Paul Ignat, and Mr. R. Tarrant as Victor Kleff also fulfil their respective tasks in admirable style.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertram G. Iles.—A large house and an enthusiastic welcome awaited Madame Alice Esty here on Monday, when she presented for the first time in Leicester a delightful operatic scena, entitled *Betta, the Gipsy*. The famous prima donna sang with exquisite taste and expression, and was accorded a most gratifying reception. She is supported by a well-trained operatic chorus and company, chief among whom are Mr. Charles Ommanny as Jempestro, Mr. Crauford Kent as Lord Valentine Carlyle, and Miss Lena Pierpoint as Aliska. At the other end is Tom Costello, one of Leicester's greatest favourites, who scores a big success with his latest song, "The Lady Suffragettes." He is also heard and seen to great advantage in his pathetic rendering of the part of the old clown, his acting being especially praiseworthy. Another popular show is Holden's Mannikins, the puppets being worked in a remarkably clever manner. Adey North is a comedian who raises hearty laughter; the Three Ramoniers shine in a smart and clever balancing act on ladders; Clarice Netta is an excellent soprano; and other attractions are the Gentle Mackweys, in a fast and furious comedy acrobatic act; Frobel and Ruge, aerial comedians; James Brady, comedian; and the Bioscope, depicting "The Village Fire Brigade."

PAVILION THEATRE. — Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Miss Lois du Cane and company are again the great attraction here this week, and are presenting the sensational episode *Anarchy*, which has the advantage of being interpreted by a very good company, chief among whom are Miss Lois du Cane as Ellen Grey, Mr. Scrope Quentin as Gilbert Newton, Mr. E. Eardley Howard as Maurice de Varney, and Mr. Gerald Blake as Leonard Grey. The sketch is meeting with a most gratifying reception. Walter H. Pallister's bioscope is again a special feature. A clever boy juggler is seen in Gicardo, and others entertaining are Millie North, comedienne and dancer; Arthur Williams, vocalist; Mona McDonald, comedienne; and Martin Haley, comedian.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—This house is doing remarkably well with the pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood*. Since its production here a week ago the piece has evidently grown in popular favour, thanks, no doubt, largely to the amusing comic element, for which Mr. George Le Clerc and Mr. Ben Brown are mainly responsible. The other comedians, Messrs. Astor Wybert, Alfred Bennett, Cutler, and Harry Nelson are eminently successful in their respective rôles; and the Wolf of Mr. Fred Zarnella is a clever performance; Miss Lilian Lee, Miss Nancy Hearne, Miss Rose Florence, and Miss Katie Butter showed marked ability in their vocal contributions; and good work is also done by Miss Rosa Hilene, Miss Florrie Durrant, and Miss Beatrice Wilson; while the child actress, Miss Decima Brooks, as well as the Leith sixteen little lassies, and the Arcadian Girls in speciality dances are all pleasing in their several turns

LEVEN.—TOWN HALL.—On Monday night Miss Inez Howard's company presented *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning*. Miss Edith Knight gave a capable rendering of Sophie Coventry, Lucy, the much-tried sister, being played in sweetly pathetic fashion by Miss Cora Linda; Miss Laura Hansen did well as the unscrupulous Vesta le Clere. Mr. Martin Pedler looked and acted Willie Mason, the British tar, to the life, and shared popularity with Mr. Arthur Plummer, who made a capital Jack Fenton. Messrs. Tom Warry, C. Coleman, and A. Knight were good as Bill Slater, James Harcourt, and Richard Fenton respectively. Mr. E. Arnold Palmer and Miss Lillie Romaine as Johnny Walker and Poppy Slater were favourites.

LIMERICK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Robert Fogerty.—The Ian Maclaren Shakespearean and Old English Comedy Company opened a week's engagement on Monday, when *David Garrick* was presented, with Mr. Maclaren in the title-rôle. Mr. B. Iden Payne made a clever Alderman Brackson; the Honourable Bob Fairley had a good exponent in Mr. Arthur Fayne; the rôle of Arabella Johnson was capitally played by Miss A. U. Grogan; Miss G. Littlewood was an excellent Mrs. Peters; and as Mabel Brackson, we had the pleasure of witnessing a delightful performance by that talented actress, Miss Edith Coleman. On Tuesday night *Othello* was put on.

LIVERPOOL. — ROTUNDA THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—*A Girl's Cross Roads*, played by Mr Walter Melville's company, has been the attraction here this week. Miss Hilda Beverley repeated her able assumption of Barbara Wade; Miss Florence Zillwood gave a satisfactory rendering of Nellie Meadows; Miss Jessica Black handled the rôle of Constance Cornell with care; a finished picture of the old farmer, John Meadows, came from Mr. Charles Franmore; Mr. Wilson Gunning made an effective Jack Livingstone; and the remainder of the cast afforded excellent support.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—A highly entertaining programme is billed here. Wild, Willie, and West hold premier position in their comedy acrobatic sketch, *The Three Bouncing Nawvies*; The Motramos are very popular; Lillie Soutter is a delightful comedienne; Le Vails are decidedly clever acrobats; Newman and Cross are well received; Harry Grey can certainly make people laugh; Beattie and Blanche are clever dancers and duettists; and Olive Armidale, comedienne, and F. S. Hulme contribute commendable turns.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—A return visit of *Lucky Durham*, a play which on its previous appearance here received much patronage, has been welcomed. Messrs. Armitage and Leigh brought an able company, along with the original scenery. In the title-rôle Mr. Edmund Kennedy played with telling effect, and was accorded loud applause; Mr. Robert Forsyth gave a fine representation of Lord Mountfallon; as the careless Reginald Steighton Mr. Arthur Leigh was particularly good; the rôle of Mr. Vallerton was made the most of by Mr. A. E. Walker; Mr. W. F. Clitherow submitted a life-like picture of the Jewish Verstein; Miss Louisa Gourlay handled the character of Mrs. Durham with tenderness; Miss Alice Hester Belmore was a sweet Helen Vallerton; and Miss Frances Wolviston proved a dignified Lady Mountfallon.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendall; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—Mr. Frank Burdett's company is paying a return visit with *The Indian Mutiny*, which has given the frequenters of this popular house much pleasure. The drama is well put on, and ably presented. Miss Melrose Millett gave an impressive rendering of the part of Ghuz-nah; Mr. E. Hamilton filled the rôle of Lieut. Manley with every satisfaction; and Mr. Villiers Stanley was a sufficiently villainous Nebu Singh.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Heading a long programme here this week is Gustave Fasola, whose remarkable illusions have been watched with wonderment; Ergotti and King Luis troupe of Risley acrobats, display abilities of a high order; Bertisch performs feats of great strength; the coon songs and dances of Mark Leslie are loudly applauded; Sibb and Sibb give a graceful exhibition on the trapeze; some pleasing singing comes from the King's College Boys, assisted by Miss Maie; Henri Bekker performs particularly smart conjuring tricks; and also in the list are the Sisters May, duettists and dancers, and Mabel Le Roy, comedienne.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole. *The Terror of Paris* has been given here this week by the Royal stock dramatic company. Mr. Percy Boucher submitted a humorous Bruno; Mr. Harry Tresham proved effective as Pierre Valjean; a villainous Captain Brigand was provided by Mr. Sydney Grant; Mr. Robert Wilton filled the part of Henri Martin with ability; Miss Florence Palmer was a sweet Marguerite; and Miss Beryl Ravenswood played strongly as Claire.

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. M. Montgomery.—The Royal stock company here are this week giving the drama *A Traitor to His Country*. Mr. Wallace Campbell makes a capital Karl Ivanovitch; Mr. Frank S. Stickland gives a powerful representation of the villainous Alex Bulenski; Mr. H. G. Brandon provides a deal of humour as Petroff; a telling picture of Yevan is given by Mr. Albert Sember; Miss Gladys Hastings-Walton makes an impressive Ilma; and Miss Florence Barnes does the most with Vatinka. The Royal Bioscope has some capital pictures.

PARK PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmot.—Here this week Mr. J. Koffler-Reynolds' company are producing the dramatic sketch *Conscience*, in the course of which a drawing-room is demolished as the result of a fight between two men. The Three Dorians go through a smart gymnastic exhibition; Maston shows much ability as a mimic; some popular songs come from Harry Mallie; T. W. Barrett has several taking songs; and others in the list are the Orchids (Violet and Harry), high-class entertainers; and Jenie Hartley, comedienne and dancer.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery. — Jimson's novelty sketch, *Jimson's Pets at Home*, heads the programme here this week, and has been received with marked favour; a pleasing all-round entertainment, and patter, song, and club swinging is provided by Drum and Major; Tony Iveson is particularly amusing as the tramp at the piano; Le West gives a neat ventriloquial show; Snowball and Dolia are a couple of smart comedy artists; and others who appear are Reno, a clever and humorous conjurer, and J. A. Noble, character-vocalist.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Top of the bill here this week are Lasky, Rolfe, and company with their latest novelty, *The Fourteen Black Hussars*, a combination of coloured musicians, who with a brass band, assisted by their vocal powers, give an excellent and most enjoyable entertainment. This is the troupe's first appearance in this country, and there is every promise that their tour will be a successful one. Hilda Jacobsen has a most favourable reception for her neat operetta, *10 p.m.*; as acrobats, singers, jugglers, and dancers the Strassberger's Lilliputians distinguish themselves, displaying wonderful skill; a smart and funny comedy, *The Order of the Bath*, is given by Lilieth Leyton and John Spurling; Alma Gray proves herself a pretty singer and clever dancer; La Danseuse is an accomplished little artist with a nice dancing scena, *Santa Claus*; Boyd and Gilfain furnish a highly diverting musical scena; and others in the list are Ernesto, musical equilibrist and juggler; Frank Darwin, actor-vocalist; and Gertrude Bradshaw, soprano.

LLANDUDNO.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. R. Chaplin.—The attraction here is the drama *Her Lost Self*. Mr. Cecil Gray as Wilfred Daventry is well placed; Mr. G. Osmond Tearle as Norman Esmond well sustains the villainous part; Paul Kimberley is in the able hands of Mr. Leslie Yorke; Miss Min Johnson as Dorothy Daventry is excellent, her songs being well received; Miss Frances Delaval in the rôle of Philippine Marcel in a difficult part is all that could be desired; and Abraham Cohen (Mr. L. W. Halfpenny) and Rachel Cohen (Mrs. Edmund Lyons) complete a good cast.

LONDONDERRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. W. Payne-Seddon.—Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer is here this week, appearing in *Mary Queen of Scots, From Washerwoman to Duchess, East Lynne, Hamlet*, and *Peg, the Irish Actress*. In the first-named play, as Queen Mary, Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer gave a finished interpretation of the part, and Miss Katherine Herbert was good as Queen Elizabeth. Mr. F. Skein played the Earl of Leicester very well, Mr. Ashmore Vincent scored as Shrewsbury, and Mr. Leonard Cheetham is a capital Lord Burleigh.

LONG EATON.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Flattering patronage has been given to Mr. Henry Bedford and company in *The See-Saw of Life*, a drama which gives scope for Mr. Bedford's talents in the part of Matt Marston. Sir James Dulroy is well played by Mr. Robert Gilbert; and Miss Bessie Bedford scores as the poor seamstress. They are assisted by Miss Phyllis Elton, Mr. Cecil Churton, and others. Mr. Sid Bedford is an admirable flunkey. *Gipsy Jack* with its rollicking fun, was played later in the week.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwardes.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Arthur Linforth's pantomime company in *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Mary Ambrose as Robin Hood has established herself a warm favourite, and is well suited to the rôle; Miss Lily Maxwell as Maid Marian is full of vivacity, and her songs could not have been better received; Miss Nellie D'Alvo, a sprightly Margery Daw, wins much applause for her singing and dancing; Mr. Frank Lawton is a great success as Winston; Mr. Fred Lincoln in the rôle of Mary Ann Sparkhurst is clever; and the Bros. Harnison as Raitiz and Taxis are responsible for much laughter. Mr. Charles W. Anson as Baron Verdigris is also good.

LOWESTOFT. — MARINA.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company is here on a return visit with the drama *The Love that Women Desire*. Squire Abingdon

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finds a capable exponent in Mr. J. O. Stewart; the part of Richard is finely interpreted by Mr. Alfred Brandon, whose accomplice, Madge Abingdon, is successfully portrayed by Miss Cicely Desmond. Philip Carnaby finds a careful and effective exponent in Mr. Jerrold Heather; and amusing sketches are afforded by Mr. John Hignett and Miss Nita Imeson. Miss Lalla Stanhope is well placed as Sybil Thorburn; and Miss N. Griffiths is thoroughly successful as the Indian maiden.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—The successful series of animated pictures are still a strong source of attraction, under the direction of Mr. Frank Freeland. The artists include Kyoto, Miss May Geraldine (comedienne and dancer), and Percy Johnson (comedian).

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Business-Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Mr. Edward Graham Falcon has brought his up-to-date pantomime, *Aladdin*, here this week. The company is one of all-round excellence. Amongst those who specially excel are Miss Blanche Marion as Aladdin, whose singing is very good; Miss Nina Moore as the Princess is excellent, and a firm favourite; the dancing of the San Remo Girls is above the ordinary; and the Three Raynors do a marvellous performance. Messrs. Dampier, Harry Kirk, and Shea as Aladdin's Ma, the Emperor, and Vizier respectively are responsible for most of the comedy, and keep the house in roars. The transformation is effective, and the Raynors, in the Harlequinade, are the delight of the younger portion of the audiences.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gattey.—Messrs. Pardoe's company is here this week in *Cinderella*. Miss Lottie Holland as Prince Charming, a dainty singer of dainty songs, is heartily applauded; Miss Beattie Shamrock charms by her delightful portrayal of the name-part; Miss Nelly Rose as the Princess Rosalia and Miss Stelling as Dandini are both admirable in their respective embodiments; Miss Violet Rivers and Miss Louie Bright as Eva and Maud are very pleasing; Mr. Tom Hulme and Mr. George Hyam as the Baron and Scoot indulge in an amount of amusing business exactly suited to the tastes of the audience; and the Bros. Hannaway as Blotts and Blabbs, and Mr. Tom Griffitt as Father Time are pleasing features of a bright show.

MANCHESTER. — ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Before a crowded house Mr. Frank Denman-Wood's capable company opened here with the pantomime *Dick Whittington*. All the principal parts are in good hands. Miss Daisy Morrell plays Dick with excellent spirit, and is well matched by Miss Millie Doris as Alice Fitzwarren. Fine fun is provided by Mr. Will Dennis as Idle Jack; and others who contribute largely to the amusement are Messrs. Juan and McQue as a pair of comic sailors, Mr. Fred Aston as Alderman Fitzwarren, Mr. Frank Daleno as the cook, and Mr. Jack Simpson as the cat. Smart work is added by Miss Marion Mayne as the Prince of Abyssinia, Miss Fanny Williams as Princess Toffee, and Mr. Edward Stream and Miss Clairette Florence as the Demon and the Fairy. Messrs. Correze and Keith provide a clever speciality act, and the songs and allusions are smart and up to date. The pantomime is well mounted, and includes a large number of auxiliaries.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Messrs. Northway and Garrod's company in *The Prodigal Parson* is the attraction here this week. The piece is well played, being equipped with a cast which includes Mr. W. V. Garrod as the Rev. Tom Godley and Miss M. Howard as Fern Godley—the two heroic rôles; while clever character-studies are presented by Mr. Alfred Northway as Jaggins, the churchwarden, Mr. Wm. Hayward as Ben Jaggins, Mr. W. Vincent as Kettlepin, Mr. Owen Remonde as the amusing Phil Drive, Miss L. Hart in the corresponding light rôle of Gretchen, Miss D. Rusell as Fräulein Korale (a good dancer), and Miss V. Jeffreys as the child Myrtle—a very clever performance. The remaining parts are well handled, and the play lacks nothing in the way of adequate staging.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead. —*The Fatal Wedding* is here this week, after a successful week at the Royal Osborne Theatre.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's delightful pantomime, *Puss in Boots*, remains the attraction here, and full houses are the rule.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—That most sensational spectacle, *The Earthquake*, produced by Mr. Frank Parker, is the great draw here this week, and business is brisk. The company is particularly strong, and includes Miss Edith Fink, and Messrs. Cecil Morton York, Scott Craven, Frank Rickards, T. Wyndham Guise, and Colin Hazlewood in principal parts; whilst some excellent dancing is done by the Hippodrome troupe. Carl and Mary Ohm introduce some exceptionally well-trained animals; Wilson and Waring are highly diverting in *A Bit of Nonsense;* and the Great Alexander does some wonderfully clever cycle tricks on a small elevated track; the Northern Troupe of International Dancers foot it merrily, and are well received; Winnie Derson, comedienne, pleases with her song, "When the Volunteers go by"; the Three Guitanos are acrobats of the eccentric order, and are very amusing; and Harry Anderson, character-vocalist, scores with "My new pal." The programme is completed with two vocal items by the Choir and a series of enjoyable films on the Bioscope.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—At the top of the bill here this week the Six Brothers Luck present their amusing pantomime, *At the Hotel Grande*. The Bounding Pattersons are seen in a wonderful acrobatic display; Gus Harris, the Hebrew delineator, is seen to advantage in his act entitled *The Synagogue;* and some delightful singing is submitted by Standring, the mill lad, whose voice is excellent. Other good turns are given by Chas. Lestree, juggler; the Evalos, comic jugglers and gymnasts; George Rae, Scotch comedian and smart dancer; and Mr. "E." whose illustrated patter act is brisk and novel. The pictures are entertaining.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead. —Pantomime gives way to the usual variety show here this week, Mr. Jack Haddon presenting his comic pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, with undoubted success, judging by the full houses. The book is well written and up to date, and the performance goes from start to finish with enjoyable smoothness. Miss Kitty Upton makes a good impression as Jack, and Miss Nellie Burdette is a winsome Dora, both artists singing well. Mr. Hal Forde is capital as Dame Trotter; Mr. H. A. Langlois is an excellent Giant; as the Squire, Mr. Jack Haddon sings well, and is particularly good; whilst considerable amusement is caused by Mr. Alfred Maynall and Messrs. Barrett and Knowles, three excellent comedians. Miss Marie Rayner is good as Discordia, and Miss Jeannie Langlois does well as Harmonia. The staging and music is good, and the orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Norman Latham.

HIPPODROME, HULME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Alec Huline and Tom Le-May top the bill here this week, and cause genuine fun as musical clowns, their business being excellent. The Glenroy troupe of dancers are first-rate in their smart sword exercises, songs, reels, hornpipes, and jigs, and are particularly appreciative. The Three Moxons show considerable skill in their act, *Fun with a Tourist;* Walter Curtis is full of wholesome humour, and is well received; as is also Bessie Travis in her clever ventriloquial sketch. The eccentric lawn tennis ball manipulator, Raglus, gives a fine show; Chris Masters, character-vocalist, is heard to good effect in a military song; and Pueblo and Cropp, Creole artists, receive quite an ovation for their capital singing and sand-dancing. The animated pictures complete an excellent programme. Tom Read, comedian, did not appear on the night of our visit.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton, and District Theatres, Ltd.; General-Manager, Capt. Cecil Clayton.—Mr. Ernest Abbott's company is occupying the boards here. On Monday the drama, *A Wife's Triumph*, was presented. Mr. Ernest R. Abbott ably delineated the rôle of Frank Wilton; Mr. W. H. Garbois made a typical betting man; Mr. F. Johnson as the village constable, Megson, was all that could be desired; Miss Doris Dew admirably impersonated Alice Wilton; Miss Marjorie Tennant made a capable Margery Crebb; and Miss Ada Abbott played the part of Bessie Dewhurst creditably. On Tuesday evening the ever-popular drama, *East Lynne*, was presented, with Miss Ada Abbott as Lady Isobel; and on Thursday and Friday *Sapho* was presented.

MARGATE. — HIPPODROME. — Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. Frederick Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—Heading the bill this week is E. R. Dainez's famous troupe of performing animals. Handsome, a well-trained pony, goes through a unique performance; Smiler, a precocious donkey, is very intelligent; and the leaping hounds are splendid jumpers, the clown dog also being exceptionally good. Marie Stoll, comedienne and dancer, has proved an attraction; and the Sisters Holly are also well received. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard present a very amusing playlet, entitled *Coming Home*, which creates great laughter; and Fred Herbert, topical vocalist, is smart. The animated pictures this week include "A Morning Dip at Margate," which is provocative of considerable merriment.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Lewis Gilbert.—Harry Tate's company is scoring a great success here in *Motoring;* May Fallowfield, soubrette, has a taking style; Massona does some excellent juggling; clever wire-walking is contributed by Celeste; Walter King's songs are greatly enjoyed; Nellie Cotter is popular with her chorus songs; and Dusty Rhodes is a first-rate comedian. Bioscope pictures complete the programme.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Frece.—The Naval Quintette, singers and dancers, are clever; Wilfred Gregory, the flexible marvel, gives a good show; Mozzetto is a smart juggler; Jerry and Leo are amusing; Ida Evilo scores as a trapeze artist; Charlie Spinch gives a wonderful display of club-swinging; and Bandoni contributes a musical act. The Biograph pictures are greatly admired.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Now in its second week, Mr. J. H. Elliston's production of *The Sleeping Beauty* continues to draw large audiences. Miss Esme Gordon as the Prince has proved a most pleasing artist, and the assured ease of her acting and her fine, cultured voice have made her a great favourite. Miss Lily Vane charms all hearts as the Beauty; Miss Agnes Molteno makes a pleasing Fairy Godmother, her singing being particularly fine; the greater part of the merriment is due to the untiring efforts of Mr. W. J. Churchill, whose songs and patter keep the house in a constant roar of laughter; Mr. Alf. Gibson and Mr. Dave O'Toole are exceedingly funny as the King and Queen respectively; the character of the Yellow Dwarf is in the capable hands of Mr. Lounen Meadows; and Miss Ada Tilley is pleasing as the Grand Chief. Mr. Julian Gallier, Mr. Ralph Howard, and Miss Nellie Howard all capably fill responsible parts; the Morton Trio make a great hit, their singing being well appreciated; Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of dancers prove an acceptable feature; and Ganty's illuminated fairy grotto is exceedingly pretty.

OPERA HOUSE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. W. K. Chutto.—*In Sight of St. Paul's* is the attraction here this week, played by Mr. Arthur Carlton's company. Miss Gussie Everitt takes the principal female rôle, that of Cynthia Dell. She gives a capital rendition of a most exacting part. Mr. Arthur Armfield, in the character of Mr. Chichester, submits a well-balanced and altogether satisfactory performance; Mr. Herbert Cecil sustains the part of John Gridston admirably; and Miss Louie Valentine is good as Beatrice Moreland. Mr. Ernest Allen as Tom Chichester, Mr. Edward Valentine as Fretley Burnside, and Mr. W. H. Domoney as Harry Chichester are all that can be desired.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Alf. Graham.—A most enjoyable programme is presented here this week. The Collinson Combination appear in the dramatic episode, entitled *The Club Raid;* F. V. St. Clair proves a popular favourite with his latest songs; while the Royal Delomes provide a clever dancing turn. The Scottish Meisters are a quartette of accomplished singers; and Frank Boyce is an excellent vocal comedian. The Grosvenors sing popular melodies in excellent style; and Russell Carr is a clever ventriloquist.

MOTHERWELL. — NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's company, in *A Chinese Honeymoon*, is fulfilling a three nights' engagement here. Mr. Ernest Sefton sings and dances in excellent style as the effervescent Mr. Pineapple; and Miss May Davies is exceptionally bright and pleasing as Mrs. Pineapple. Miss May Stevenson, as the Princess, plays with great charm, and sings very prettily; Miss Kitty Clayton is exceptionally funny as the eccentric little servant, Fi-Fi; and Miss Alma Bolton as the official mother-in-law is decidedly good. Mr. J. Maxwell Edwards suitably sustains the rôle of Tom Hatherton; and Mr. James Wilson is amusing as the Emperor. Mr. Louis Ashmede as the Lord Chancellor is capable; as is also Mr. Frank Sutten in the part of the Lord High Admiral. There is an efficient chorus and an augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. A. Galloway.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—Half its course has now been run by *Aladdin* at the Tyne Theatre, and the success attending the production must have exceeded the most sanguine hopes of the management. To give an instance of its unprecedented popularity, it may be stated that for the matinée on Saturday last many who had stood for hours were unable to gain admission, and they straightway took up position in the queue for the evening performance. As the afternoon wore on the queue assumed extraordinary proportions, and the pressure became so awkward that mounted police had to be requisitioned to keep order, the scene being one never before witnessed outside a Newcastle theatre. For the tremendous popularity of the "annual" Messrs. Harry Lauder and Dan Crawley are mainly responsible, and, much as has been written, a great deal could yet be said of the many funny scenes in which they are the heroes. Capital support is given to these two talented artists by Messrs Imro Fox and Harke Nicholls, and Miss Beryl Somerset in the title-rôle and Miss Jose Collins as the Princess.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—At the Royal Theatre Mr. Rbt. Courtneidge's lavish and picturesque production of *Aladdin* has entered upon its sixth week without any signs of diminution in the large share of patronage accorded it. Considerably improved upon its successful initial representations, and now going with merry swing and proving more than ever a musical treat, it is indeed worthy of more than a second visit. Miss Florence Smithson and Miss Lily Morris continue to win golden opinions with their pretty vocal efforts; and Mr. Fred Allandale in this respect also continues to be a firm favourite. Then in the fun-making Mr. Neil Kenyon, Mr. Charles Harvey, and Mr. Alfred Clark combine with wonderful success.

GRAND.—Lessees, Messrs. Bacon and Bolam; Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—Messrs. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard's company in *Her Love Against the World* is drawing good houses here this week. Mr. Walter Howard gives an imposing portrayal of the Earl of Strathmere; Miss Rosie St. John distinguishes herself as Nello; Mr. Mayor Cooke's impersonation of Ulric, Prince of Ravensberg, is all that could be desired; Mr. W. H. Hallett gives an admirable representation of Prince Othmar; Mr. Sam Arthur is good as Prince Maurice; and Miss Ellen Snow as Iris acts throughout in a charming manner.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Moss' Empires, Ltd; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Mr. Fred Karno's company with *The Dandy Thieves* heads the bill here this week, and keeps the audience in roars of laughter. The Sergeant Lightning of Mr. W. E. Matthews is a talented impersonation, and the company altogether is excellent. The Stein Eretto Troupe perform some marvellous feats as hand-jumping acrobats, and earn much well-merited applause; one of the most decided successes is Miss Hettie Chattel, who sings her song in male attire with great vivacity; Mr. Fred Elton scores heavily with songs accompanied on the piano; Lily Tiso is a clever comedienne and dancer; Professor Vox, ventriloquist, is well appreciated; Harry Clifford is a comedian of undoubted ability; and Marie Dunna (operatic vocalist) and the Allisons (duettists and dancers) complete a good programme.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Leoni Clarke, the Cat King, is the popular star turn here this week. His performances with his trained dogs, monkeys, rats, and canaries are remarkable, and he was accorded a good reception. Mons. Slippere, although blind, performs well on the piano, and also sings in good style; Hinton and Wooton introduce a novelty in the way of a football match on cycles, which arouses great enthusiasm; as a musical contortionist, Max Duffek is a marvel, and plays excellent selections in the most grotesque positions; Harry Russon, a comedian fast rising to the front rank, had a warm reception; the acrobatics of the Juanitas are astonishing; and Charles Cardow presents a delightful entertainment. Keir and Kempton, Dick Kendall, and the Barrascope pictures are the remaining features of a well-balanced bill.

NEWPORT.—EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Major Gallaghar; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Page.—Chief among the turns here are the Four Royal Welshmen, who sing with rare taste and precision; Frank Bernard and company are amusing in their farce, *Hello;* the Whirlwind Dancers (the Robertys) present a turn that is unique; and the Bandurria Troupe give much pleasure with their musical selections. Dot Hardy is a character comedienne of promise; and James Herow, who has a rich voice, sings a couple of attractive songs; Agnes Hazel, who was repeatedly called back for a smart Highland song and dance, is quite a favourite; the Two Bostons, the novelty showmen; Michael Nolan, a humorous Irish singer; and the American Bioscope, showing a new series of pictures, complete the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—Mr. Milton Bode's company is here with *Aladdin*. Miss May Marton is a charmingly vivacious Aladdin, and is well supported by Miss Janet Reynolds as Princess Yo-San. Mr. Tom Owen is very good as the Widow Twankey; Mr. Clifford Morgan is highly successful as Abanazar, and his artistic singing is appreciated; Mr. Leo Sterling, who introduces some instrumental specialities, and Mr. Happy Attwood as Chew-Chew and Chop-Chop, afford plenty of fun; Mr. Frank Couch as the Grand Vizier, Mr. Walter Cranch as the Emperor, and Mr. Tommy Nelldon as Lip-Tung-Tee render excellent service. The Royal Welsh Meister Singers deserve mention. The chorus and orchestra are ably controlled by Mr. B. J. Paterson. The pantomime is produced by Mr. E. R. Beaumont, the business-manager and stage-director.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. Junius Booth and company are presenting *Monte Cristo* here this week, and have had a cordial reception. Mr. Booth as the Count of Monte Cristo gives an excellent portrayal, and has scored a great success; and Mr. Beckett Bould is good as M. Mortier. Mr. Augustin Bowerman is smart as Baron Danglers; Mr. C. W. Crowe contributes a capital delineation of General Fernand Mondego; Mr. Walter Huron scores as M. Villefort; Mr. Leonard Marshall is well placed as Lieut. Albert de Morcef; and Mr. Walter Martin is seen to advantage as Abbé Faria. As Lar Carconte, Miss Alice West acts the part in a finished manner; Miss Mona Grey is a capable Mercedes; and Miss Amy Manfree makes quite a hit as Sophie Danglers.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—Mr. Edgar Forrest's comedy company heads the bill here, and causes hearty laughter; Mr. Arthur Albert, light comedian, meets with his usual success; and Miss Rhoda Paul, comedienne, is a great favourite. Miss Jessie Star, the female Harry Lauder, comes in for a hearty reception; Mr. Charles Akbar is a smart gymnast; the Two Allans, speciality artists, do well; and the Bio-photoscope is still successful.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden.—This week a great musical treat is provided by Mr. F. S. Gilbert's United English Opera Company. *Maritana* was given on Monday night. Miss Elsa May, who possesses a rich soprano voice, played the title-rôle in a pleasing manner; Miss Doris Gilbert deserves great praise for her delineation of Lazarillo, her rendering of "Alas! those chimes" being excellent; Mr. J. Kneale Campbell's portrayal of Don José was largely responsible for the success attained; Mr. F. C. Silverstone undertook the King of Spain with telling effect; and Mr. F. S. Gilbert's Don Cæsar de Bazan was played with great force and spirit, his numerous solos being vociferously encored. Miss Kate White, Messrs. James Knox, Fred Featherstone, and H. Blagrave did well in their respective parts. Other operas given during the week were *Daughter of the Regiment, Il Trovatore, Faust,* and *Bohemian Girl.*

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is here this week in *Under Two Flags*. Mr. Wellesley Draper deserves praise for his capable representation of Bertie; Mr. Chas. West does well as Barklie; and the same may be said of Mr. Charles Brooke as Lord Roy Ellien and Mr. Robert Faulkner as Lord Rockingham. Mr. Arthur Elwyn is successful as Black Hawk, and Mr. Harry Benson makes a humorous Rake. Miss Amy Maitland is an extremely vivacious Cigarette; Miss Mabel Ormonde a gracious Princess; and Miss Madge Stevens as Lady Beatrice and Miss Ivan Stern as the Countess Olga are well received. Miss Ella Dixon as Lavina is also successful.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Mr. Alec Hurley heads the bill here, and creates quite a sensation with his humorous songs and with his company in *The Coster's Friendly Lead*, which is immensely appreciated. Mr. W. I. Ashcroft as a character comedian is well received, both for his songs and dancing; Craver and Piccolo are clever jugglers and equilibrists; Kenneth and Kane, comedy duo, evoke much laughter; Fred Dunstone is successful as a comedian; Leah Arden is a charming vocalist; and Walter Wallis is good in his patter and songs. The Hippo-Bio displays some interesting pictures.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—The last week of *Dick Whittington* has been reached, and its merry course will close to-night. The charming and dainty mannerisms of Miss Madeline du Val has won all hearts, and the bright, vivacious style of Miss Gladys Huxley brought many expressions of approval. Miss Maud Lake should carry away pleasant recollections of her visit here; and the delightful singing of Miss Maud Holland has been no small factor in the pantomime. Another fine vocalist is Mr. Fred Maguire, whose rendering of "The Rat" song always roused the greatest enthusiasm. For the comedians we have nothing but praise. Messrs. Bert Danson, Harry Brayne, Bert Lloyd, Fred Solo, and Bishop and Hanlon have been funny without being vulgar; and the laughter of the children as well as the "grown-ups" must have been ample reward for their herculean efforts. Mr. Johnny Fuller was always a source of merriment in his grotesque caricature of the Cat; and the acting-manager of the theatre, Mr. Howard Finney, is to be heartily congratulated on his attainment of a hugely successful pantomime season.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Chas. P. Cooke.—Mr. Samuel James's company in the pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk* bid farewell to their admirers here this week. It is not too much to say that everybody will regret having to part with so successful a pantomime company. Miss Daisy Sillcott and Miss Phyllis Yorke have won their way into the hearts of everyone; and the Sisters Brand have become great favourites. Mr. Chas. Gardiner and the comedians associated with him, including Messrs. Cordon and Elgar, have worked indefatigably, and the successful run depends no little on their efforts. For this week a charming speciality turn in the shape of the Ongars, song and dance artists, has been engaged, and is giving every satisfaction.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles H. Bowmaker.—General curiosity has been excited by the visit of a portion of the Boy Army, who form a brave show in their military manœuvres, and evoke the heartiest applause for their smartness. Frank and Jen Latona are a droll and smart couple, whose patter, cross-talking, and singing make a thoroughly enjoyable entertainment; Edward E. Ford, described as an Australian sundowner, provides a novel turn, in which facial expressions play a prominent part; Syd May's impersonations of music-hall celebrities are accorded a gratifying reception; and the comical patter of Jordan and Harvey creates much laughter. A gymnastic act by the Mascotte Trio arouses considerable interest; and a vast amount of fun is provided by Billy McClain and company in a scena, *The Hottest Coon from Dixie*. Charles Robinson is heard to advantage in an illustrated song; and a local comic juggler, Arthur Bedini, helps along the fun. The American Bioscope also supplies some amusing pictures.

NUNEATON. — PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENTS CO., LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Miss Go-Won-Go Mohawk opened here on Monday in *Wep-Ton-No-Mah*. Miss Mohawk in her clever impersonation of the title-rôle wins hearty applause; Mr. C. W. Charles makes an excellent Colonel Stockton; as Manuel Lopes, Mr. Edward Leroy is well placed; Captain Franklin is ably portrayed by Mr. Henry P. Kennedy; and Mr. Pasco Bioletti makes a good Indian Chief. Miss Minnie Goepel wins much favour as Nellie Stockton. The humour of the piece is provided by Mr. Guy D. Hackney (Sam White), Mr. Dan Ryan (Carry Cullen), and Miss Jessie Hart (Matilda Sniffles). Included on the programme are Mr. W. H. Killey (Billy Bugler), Mr. Antonio Driscoll (Rodrigues), Mr. Albert Simons (Antelope), and Miss A. Dorg (Pinkie).

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company is here in *The Dairymaids*. Miss Violet Lloyd as Peggy and Miss Rhoda Gordon as Winifred earn several recalls for their sweet singing. Miss Beryl Vaudrey interprets her numbers in a highly finished manner, and makes a dainty Hélène. Miss Cissie Sephton is an energetic and quaint Eliza. Miss Edith Blanche acts the part of Lady Brundenell in a dignified manner; and Miss Madge Avery makes a capital Penelope Pychase. Among the comedians are Mr. Lionel Victor as Joe, Mr. E. Statham Staples as Sam, and Mr. George Desmond as Lieut. Brundenell, who entirely banish any suspicion of dulness from the representation. Mr. Forbes Dawson as Dr. O'Byrne also contributes to the fun. Mr. Alex. Fraser sings well as Capt. Leverton.

COLOSSEUM.—Manager, Mr. W. Eastwood.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company is here in *Honour Thy Father*. Mr. Walter M. Cameron in the heavy part of Gabriel Garth is clever; Mr. Bertram H. Ross is a manly Jack Halyard, and Mr. W. R. Winning a creditable Duncan Bly. Miss Mabel Coleman is highly successful as Lillian Garth; Miss Kate Newton makes an excellent Gertrude; Miss Maud Grey and Miss Muriel Dean as Violet and Mercy respectively are capable, and Miss Ada Salmon infuses much humour into the part of Poppy, being well supported by Mr. W. H. Melrose and Mr. Fred Rolls as Ned and Mike.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Howgate.—Lottie Lennox, who is topping the bill here, is being recalled four and five times nightly. Ryan and Hall, funny acrobats, cause hearty laughter; Marie Jones, a versatile artist, presents *How To Win a Bet*, in which she is assisted by Ernest Munroe. The Brothers Bright are smart in their gymnastic feats; Edie Grey and the Boys sing their trios in a harmonious manner; the De Breans in a Japanese turn show some skilful work; Martinet and Wallace appear in a musical turn; and Zaro, comedian, and the Royal Dottoscope complete an excellent programme.

HIPPODROME. — Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Nuttall.—The Macdonald Trio give a capital comedy turn in "The Musical Garden"; Winona and King do some excellent feats in shooting; the Lannons (Will and May) in their dancing on the double pedestal receive much applause; the Three Seabornes are clever acrobats; Carlotta Lunn is a pleasing ballad vocalist; and Harry Bent is a clever mimic. The Paul Hesse Trio are good in an acrobatic pot-pourri act, and an interesting picture is being shown by the Dottoscope.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill.—This week the Carl Rosa Opera Company is here, and crowded houses are testifying in no uncertain fashion the appreciation in which the company is held. On Monday *Lohengrin* was splendidly rendered. A better Lohengrin then Mr. Julius Walther could not be wished for; his superb singing bringing down the house, and he had a triple recall at the fall of the curtain. Mr. Dillon Shellard was highly satisfactory as Telramund; Mr. Arthur Winckworth sang admirably as Henry, the fowler; and Mr. Frederick Clendon was excellent as the Herald. Miss Grace Nicoll scored as Elsa; and Miss Doris Woodall achieved a brilliant success as Ortrud, her singing and acting eliciting well-deserved applause. The excellent band was conducted in masterly fashion by Mr. Eugene Goossens; and the powerful and highly-trained chorus reflect the highest credit on Mr. Goossens and Mr. Walter van Noorden, the conductors. On Tuesday *Don Giovanni* drew a packed and delighted house, and the week's programme includes *Tannhäuser, Il Trovatore, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Faust,* and *Carmen*.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—After a successful six weeks' run, *Goody Two-Shoes* concluded on Saturday. On Thursday evening the Roland of the pantomime could not appear through indisposition, but this chief character part was ably and intelligently sustained by Miss Ella Ross, one of the three sisters in the pantomime, who have all displayed marked ability. Possessed of a fine presence, Miss Ross appeared to advantage as principal boy, her singing and deportment being worthy of all praise. On Friday evening, Mr. Savile, as is usual, had his annual benefit, when a crowded house greeted the worthy and genial proprietor. Extra turns were given by members of the company, assistance in this line being also spontaneously given by other members of the profession appearing at Mr. E. H. Bostock's Hippodrome. Mr. Savile, at the close, appeared on the stage, and said he had much pleasure and pride in thanking all present for the way in which they had rallied round him that night, and for the kindness and sympathy they had shown him. This week the theatre is occupied by the Paisley Masonic Amateur Operatic Society, in a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's popular opera, *Patience*. Mr. Herbert Marchmont, so long identified with the Savoy operas, has been coaching the amateurs for some time, and giving of his well-trained experience this week in its production.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Tom Foy.—A good programme is submitted here, heading the bill being *The Anarchist Terror*, played by Mr. Edward Nevile and company; it is an interesting sketch, and excellently played. Frank Vallance is a particularly smart conjurer and illusionist; a dainty comedienne is Nellie Elliene; Hart and Victor, comedians, score a success with their sketch, *The Golfer and the Caddie;* the Darnton Sisters are charming duettists; unstinted marks of approval are bestowed on James Toner, in his impersonations of well-known artists; and N. C. Bostock is accorded a hearty welcome.

PENTRE. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Sole Owners, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Counsell.—Miss Emma Litchfield's company, under the direction of Mr. Stuart Cleveland, appears here this week in *A Clever Impostor*. Mr. Stuart Cleveland showed much versatility; Mr. Herbert Evelyn was seen to advantage as Captain Desmond; and in her several rôles of Nora, Sarah Ellen, Old Rebecca, and Molly O'Flynn, Miss Emma Litchfield earned much appreciation. The lighter vein is well introduced by Mr. Edward Swinton and Miss Florence Gomer, as Jim Brightside and Annie Pleasant respectively.

PENZANCE. — ST. JOHN'S HALL.—Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood*, under the management of Mr. Ernest James, appeared here for two nights this week. Bright, effective scenery, pretty dresses, and sparkling music were the characteristics of this capital production. Miss Clair Wadham as the good fairy Glowworm possesses a beautiful voice, which she used in cultured style. Miss Beatrice Wadham was a dashing Robin Hood, combining a charming presence, a good voice, and graceful action in a highly satisfactory manner. Miss Bertha Hall was also good as Will Scarlet, her song "The Zuyder Zee," with a smart clog dance, being much to the taste of the audience. Miss Daisy Connell and Miss Neva Hazen were the Babes, playing their parts in naturally simple style. Miss Dena Druid as Maid Marion and Miss Nellie Hill Scorey as Phyllis were also well suited in their respective rôles. Mr. Bob Lord as Baron Graball never missed an opportunity of keeping the fun going; and the same may be said of Mr. Henry Eglington as Dame Durden, who, in conjunction with Messrs. Jack and Harry Randsford as the Ruffians, worked very hard and very cleverly together. The Four Scoreys, in their musical and eccentric speciality, created the greatest enthusiasm; Hill and Lane are patterers and knockabout artists of the genuinely funny school; Druid and Lord, comedy entertainers, gave a bright turn. The various ballets were highly creditable to Mr. Louis Finch, in whose hands rested the music and arrangements. The tour is under the direction of Mr. Samuel J. Liddicoat.

PERTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. Savile's seventh Perth pantomime has been looked forward to with more eagerness than ever, and the success with which *Goody Two-Shoes* is being received here this week is most gratifying all round. Miss Maggie Bowman is entrusted with the title-rôle, and the trust is certainly well placed; Miss Marie Adair is responsible for a clever and talented impersonation of Roland; Miss Florence Lister's Mephisto is a special feature; as also is Miss Lena Wylie's rendering of the Fairy Goodheart. The Misses Carrie Foy and Adela Crispin are well to the fore in their respective parts of Peter Piper and Dolly Dimple. No better entertainer could be desired than Mr. Peter D. Bermingham, and his Sandy Sapps evokes continual mirth; Mr. Jack Foley's Dame Fanny Freckles is also highly amusing, and is rendered with much acceptance; Mr. Harry A. Gribben is seen to advantage as Baron Grabb; Mr. Tom J. Morton plays the important part of Simon with evident success; Messrs. Thomas and James Passmore are highly entertaining as Truthful Tommy and Phil the Philosopher respectively; as also are Messrs. Claremont and Victor, in Smirk and Smile. The Tricky Trio, speciality dancers, Misses Dolly Lancaster, Queenie Hollingsworth, and Maisie Rawlins are accorded a hearty reception.

PETERBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—Mr. Geo. Brydon-Philips' company opened here on Monday night with *Sinbad*. Miss Belle Harcourt is a fine principal boy, and very ably sustains her part, contributing several songs, which she sings exceedingly well; Mrs. Sinbad is impersonated by Mr. Charles Dillon, who makes a capital dame; Mr. Dan Whitley does well as Hindbad; and Mr. Willie Page is an acceptable Captain Scuttle. Miss Lucy Coventry also proves successful as Badoura; and Miss Cissie Verne is a charming Zoe. Specialities are introduced by Esmonde, Verona, and Esmonde, and Snow and Farron.

PLYMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. J Langdon Lee.—Plymouthians are not slow to appreciate the strong attraction offered them this week, and are flocking in large numbers to see *Sunday*. Naturally the principal interest centres round Miss Emily Poloni in the title-rôle, and her acting has the hall-mark of real ability in all of the many trying situations in which she is placed; as the contemptible Brinthorpe, Mr. Max Montesole does well in a very exacting part; Messrs. Sidney Rennef, Wm. Lockhart, Cecil

Miss Muriel Pope gives an accurate study of a nun, and Mr. Ernest Douglas is a popular Tom Oxley.

GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant.—Mr. C. Watson Mills' romantic drama, *A Warning to Women*, is staged for the week. Miss Elaine Vanbrugh as Moira is the leading member, and fully deserves the confidence the management have in her ability; Mr. C. B. Melton as Shaun makes a good Irishman; Mr. Walter Terriss is a capable Squire Kennion, and Mr. Edward Beecher as Dr. Marcus Dread is a typical villain. Other members of the cast are Mr. Harry Stuart (Fergus McNaughton), Miss Irma Farington (Shelia), and Mr. Arthur Beaufort.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—The management are this week giving their patrons a high-class bill of fare. The chief item is that of the Kauffman troupe of lady cyclists, who perform feats of exceptional cleverness and daring in the limited space at their disposal; Sydney James's Strolling Players have an amusing burlesque on *Macbeth*, in which some very humorous business is introduced; the Gondolier Glee Singers are an accomplished quartette of glee singers, and give some tit-bits from grand opera in first-class fashion; Mr. V. L. Granville presents a fine character-study of the Silver King, Nero, and Svengali; Corman's Juveniles were loudly applauded for an attractive song-scena entitled *The Waif*; and Louis Kerno is an acceptable coon impersonator, and Vernon's Bioscope has an amusing film entitled "A Night Off." The Monte-Myro troupe are also engaged.

PORTSMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. Milton Bode's well-selected company is here this week with *A Chinese Honeymoon*. Mr. George Ryden as Mr. Pineapple gives an admirable personation; Mr. Rudolph Kloss makes a commanding Hang Chow; Chippie Chop is taken by Mr. P. Allerton Turner in an able manner; Hi Lung is presented by Mr. Leonard May in breezy style; and Mr. Harry Jennings acts Tom Hatherton consistently and with care. Miss Nancy Rossiter portrays Soo-Soo very charmingly; Miss Gladys Ward as Mrs. Pineapple is sprightly and engaging; Miss Maud Adams as the Official Mother-in-Law, Mrs. Brown, is good; and Miss Gwennie Harcourt's impersonation of Fi-Fi is an exceedingly quaint and amusing one.

PRINCES'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. Hal Reid's stirring drama *At Cripple Creek* is here for this week, and had a hearty reception on Monday, Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's able all-round company presenting the drama with great completeness. Mr. Stanley Bedwell gives a fine manly portrayal as Joe Mayfield; Martin Mason, the Terror, is powerfully sustained by Mr. Eric Hudson; the bully, Manuel Alvarez, is admirably undertaken by Mr. Oscar Power; and the faithful Indian, Wahketah, is enacted by Mr. Arthur D. Layland in a picturesque and able manner. Miss Agnes Verity as Dynamite Ann acts with vigour and success; and Little Tatto is played very prettily and with marked intelligence by Miss Rosie Hopkins. The comedy of the drama is excellently well looked after by Messrs. Harry Leander as the nigger Ben White, Mr. Will Hook as Reggie Harwood, and Miss Daisy Carlton as Maggie Mason.

PRESTON. — ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—At the head of the bill here this week are Amy Anderson and company in a merry musical production, entitled *The Coster's Honeymoon*. Conway and Garland present a mirth-provoking burlesque absurdity, *Left in Charge*; the Cumberlands give a remarkably clever athletic acrobatic cycling performance; Arthur Slater is an accomplished whistler; Little Dence's songs are well appreciated; Billie French is a nimble and energetic buck-dancer; and other successful turns are supplied by the Five Casino Girls, brass instrumentalists; Harry Tomlinson, vocal comedian; and Ce Me Marie, the Eastern wonder.

RAWTENSTALL. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. George Dickinson.—This week Mr. A. F. Smith's pantomime company occupies the boards in *Aladdin*. As principal boy, Miss Bessie Carlton scores a success, her bright style being very effective; Miss Emay Leycester as the Princess is a charming exponent of the part; and Miss Julie Harriss and Miss Lillie Harriss are charming attendants. The Brothers Padley are amusing as Nabem and Catchem, their eccentricities causing much laughter; Mr. F. Wheatcroft is funny as the Emperor; and Mr. Percy Beresford is excellent as the Grand Vizier. Mr. Arthur Warren scores as Abanazar; and Mr. Fred Ramsdale is comical as the Widow Twankey. Miss Lillie L'Orville is an admirable Chee Chow; and Miss Connie Irwin is a charming and accomplished Genie of the Ring. The specialists are the Padley Brothers, acrobats and hand balancers; Mr. Oliver Chew, whistler; and the Silverdale Troupe of lady dancers.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode.—The Gaiety success, *The Spring Chicken*, is being played for the first time in Reading by Mr. George Dance's company. Mr. J. S. Durrant acts cleverly as Gustave Babori; Mr. Harry Averell is also good as the clerk, Boniface; Mr. Fred Payne is highly diverting as Mr. Girdle; Miss Chrissie Ralland is sprightly and fascinating as Rosalie; Miss Nellie Kavanagh is amusing as Mrs. Girdle. Miss Florence Cortner as the Baroness Papouche, Miss Florence Wix as Dulcie Babori and Miss Lilian Errol as Girdle's niece all act excellently. Mr. Edwin Dodds is very funny as the head waiter; Mr. C. Brierley is capital as the precocious Stephen-Henry. All the other characters are well filled, and a numerous chorus do full justice to the concerted music. Mr. Knight Pearce is an efficient musical conductor.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery.—Pantomime is still booming here, and Mr. J. Gar. Kiddie and company are drawing excellent houses with *The Babes in the Wood*. Mr. D. J. Tandy is very funny as Sir Brokale de Pawn; Mr. Harry Albery is successful as Araminta; Farr and Farham are clever as Soap and Trust; and Mr. Dawson Derrick creates a good deal of fun as Soft Sammy. Miss Amy Allnutt is smart as Robin Hood; Miss Amena Walton is a pleasing Maid Marian; Miss Kathleen Emmett a successful Will Scarlet; Miss Nelly Dyson a vivacious Merrie Mavis; Miss Norah Prendergast a charming Sylvania; and Mr. Leonard Oliver a successful Infernalilo. Special turns are introduced by the Lohrens Quartette of Ladies in a comic shadow pantomime.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. Herbert Hollister's company is here this week with *The Lights o' London*. Mr. Horace Herbert gives an excellent personation of Harold Armytage; and Bess is capitally sustained by Miss Jeannie Burgoyne. Mr. Chris Mason, Miss Nellie Fern, and Miss Renee Douglas cause much amusement as Jarvis, Mrs. Jarvis, and Shakespeare Jarvis respectively; Squire Armytage is adequately sustained by Mr. Sydney N. Hallows; Clifford Armytage being strongly portrayed by Mr. Herbert Humber. Seth Preene is well rendered by Mr. Herbert Hollister; and Hetty is ably depicted by Miss Constance Davey.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL. —Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. Sidney Beltram.—The Russian drama, *A Woman Worth Winning*, is being presented here this week by Mr. Percy Norman's company. Fergus Lovinskie is acted in a powerful manner by Mr. A. B. Mackay, the author; as the villainous General Borinski, Mr. Percy Norman stands out prominently; Amos Pauloff is carefully treated by Mr. Gilbert Standing; Bertie Scribbler is humorously drawn by Mr. E. Hall Eldon; and another good comedy part is presented by Mr. E. C. Edwards as Peter Popples. Roma Pauloff is submitted in admirable style by Miss Maud Buchanan; and as Katerina, Miss Ida Mackay is very good.

SHEERNESS.—THE PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Phil Reymond.—A good all round company is engaged here this week, but business in the town is very quiet. Miss Millie Anson is well received in songs and ballads, Mr. Mick Ohlson fully deserves the title of eccentric comedian; Miss Josie Watson is very popular here. Mr. Phil Reymond, the well-known comedian and character-actor, continues a big favourite, and the Holroyds conclude with a capital comedy act, *Now or Never*.

SHEFFIELD. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The splendidly-staged Oriental extravaganza *The Blue Moon* is still being performed to delighted audiences. Mr. Alfred Beers as Moolraj causes merriment; and Mr. Reginald Switz as Private Taylor is a great favourite. Miss Clarice Lockstone charms the Lyceum patrons by her graceful deportment and winning manner as Chandra; and Miss Florence Imeson, the favourite Fi-Fi of *The Belle of New York*, delights her many Sheffield admirers as the tuneful and sprightly maid Millicent.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*Mother Goose* finishes its six weeks' run here to-night. The Valdos have made themselves big favourites; and the clever Dutch business and elegant dancing of that pretty and accomplished artist Miss Daisy Jerome have been one of the main factors in the success of the annual.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*Dick Whittington* is proving a worthy successor to the long list of triumphs at the old local home of pantomime, and the "second edition," presented on Monday, will no doubt prolong the run for some weeks. New songs, gags, and scenas were introduced by Miss Alma Obrey, the dashing principal boy; Miss Ethel Bryant, the Sisters Brookland, Miss Blanch de Verne, Miss Billie Murray, Miss May McKenzie, Mr. Gilbert Rodgers (the genial Fitzwarren), Mr. Jack McKenzie (the funny Cook), Mr. J. W. Gallagher (Idle Bill), Mr. Kennedy Allen (Jack), Mr. Alf. Clegg (the agile Cat), Mr. F. Bentham (the comical Captain), Mr. J. Bangs (the Sultan of Morocco), and Mr. Leo King (the Rat King). Pete and Juno did some good dancing, and terpsichorean displays by the Monaco troupe brought down the house.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar. —Mr. Jake Friedmann's well-staged musical terpsichorean and sartorial absurdity, *Happy Holland*, was received by a crowded house with enthusiastic applause on Monday. Mr. Jake Friedmann was the centre of a merry band of laughter-makers, and some spirited dancing was given by a troupe of comely and graceful "Deutscher girls." The Peters, Trans'lantic duettists, caused hearty laughter; Mr. Sam Elton is as comical as ever; and other admirable "turns" this week are the Tapps, eccentric acrobats; Russell Brandon, athlete; the clever Petram Sisters, in a novel and refined act; the Six Welsh Wanderers, vocalists, &c., Mr. Frank Harwood, vocal comedian; and the American Bioscope, with new pictures.

GRAND PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—The following artists are billed this week:—Rosine, illusionist; Miss Ethel Netherton, comedienne; Mr. Fred Southern's combination; and Pallister's Biograph, with humorous and topical films.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Victor Samson.—The pantomime of *Sinbad* is doing good business here.

SOUTHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fred Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Mr. Frank Curzon's principal company is this week presenting *The White Chrysanthemum*. Mr. Davy Burnaby, a great local favourite, provides the greater part of the evening's amusement as Chippy. Mr. O. E. Lennon is very diverting as Sin Chong; and Mr. Harry Paulton as Private Perks ably assists in the laughter-making. Mr. F. Pope Stamper as Lieut. Armitage sings and acts admirably; and Mr. St. John Hamund scores as the peppery Admiral. Miss Dorothy Court as O San plays in delightful style, and quite captivates her audience; Miss Gracie Sinclaire is vivacious as Cornelia; and Miss Maisie North successful as Betty Kenyon. Mr. George Parker ably controls the company, and Mr. Leonard Hornsey is the experienced musical-director.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor and Director-General, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—T. E. Dunville, the droll comedian, is this week delighting everyone with his extremely comical sayings and doings; Collinson's "Topsy-Turvy School" creates hearty laughter; J. P. Ling's mimicry is loudly acclaimed; and David Poole's ventriloquial show finds great favour. Satsuma, Japanese conjurer, George Hall, siffleur, and Millie Howell, comedienne, complete the bill.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. P. Howell. —John Lawson is scoring his usual big success with the sensational sketch *Humanity*; the Musical Schaffers submit a novel and entertaining act; Ricardo and Salving are smart acrobats; and the Sivronis, comedy duo, cause roars of laughter. Edith St. Claire and Almon complete a capital programme.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS. LTD.—Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—On Monday evening a large audience accorded an encouraging reception to Mr. J. F. Elliston's up-to-date pantomime, *Mother Goose*, which is the first production of its kind presented here this season. The scenery and dressing are on an elaborate scale, the Hall of Gold being especially commendable. The artists engaged make the most of their opportunities, prominent amongst whom are those clever comedians, Harry and Charlie Rich, in the rôles of Mother Goose and her son Jack, whose performances are exceedingly diverting; Miss Lola Patey is an admirable representative of Gretchen, her rendering of "The Zuyder Zee" being exceptionally good; Miss Isabella Dillon is a vivacious and dainty Colin, and sings "Dear old Southport Town" in good style; Miss Pauline Hague depicts the part of Jill in a praiseworthy manner. The comedy parts of Lord Pudsey, Wibsey Slack, and the Mayor of Tapham are very creditably and successfully impersonated by Mr. H. O. Wills, Mr. Leonard Maitland, and Mr. W. Fullbrook respectively; Miss Violet Ashcroft is a charming representative of the Fairy Queen Heartsease, Mr. Charles Homer impersonates the Demon King satisfactorily. Specialities are supplied by the eight Tiny Dots, a troupe of midget dancers, and Miss Lottie Stone's quartette of lady dancers.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred. Coulson.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company is appearing here in a drama entitled *Man and Wife*. Mr. John F. Traynor makes a manly Paul Revere; Mr. Wilson Coleman forcibly portrays Captain D'Esparre; the Sergeant Jacques of Mr. Ambrose Horton is a meritorious performance; Miss Ward, as the heroine, Marcelle, plays in a finished style; the comedy element is strongly represented by Miss Polly Denville (a charming Rosette), and Mr. Sidney Briant and Mr. Val Gulley as the twin brothers, Bimbo and Bambo.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Mr. John F. Preston's company appears in a good racing sketch, *Rogues of the Turf*, in five scenes, the principal parts being capably performed by Mr. Geo. Harvard, Mr. Fred Terris, Mr. Hardy Marco, Mr. Horace Custins, Miss Mabel F. Barlow, and Miss Hilda Shirley. Kelly and Ashby, the bounding billiardists, maintain their popularity; Carney and Armstrong are well received in a sketch introducing singing, whistling, and acting; a good reception is accorded to Speedwell, the lightning painter; Sybil St. Elmo is a sweet vocalist; and the remaining enjoyable turns are Edie Veno, comedienne; Dan Conroy, comedian; Carrie Joy, comedy artist; and the Bioscope.

SPENNYMOOR. — CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—A strong attraction occupies the boards here this week in the shape of Mr. Charles Macdona's company in *The Toreador*. In the title-rôle Mr. Sidney Granville presents a picture of an ideal toreador. As Sammy Gigg, Mr. Robert Rous is the life and soul of the piece; Mr. Fred Thompson is very droll as Sir Archibald; and as Augustus Trail Mr. J. Herbert Willis is very successful. Mr. Richard Adams as Pettiter has a part which suits him to the ground; Miss Leah Howard is responsible for a neat, piquant, and pretty delineation of Susan. As Mrs. Malton Hoppings Miss Gwen Clifford appears to the greatest advantage; Miss Nina Charlton fits the part of Donna Teresa in every way; and Miss Florence Wood as Dora and Miss Beatrice Rowe as Nancy are both well placed.

STAFFORD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—Mr. J. Mouillot's company opened on Monday in *The Blue Moon*. In the character of Moolraj, Mr. F. W. Bowers made the most of his opportunities, and proved his ability as an alert comedian; Mr. Chas. Stephenson gave an amusing and clever study of Private Taylor; Mr. F. I. Rooney was a gallant Captain Ormsby; as Major Vivian, Mr. Victor Wallace presented a capital sketch of the military man; in the title-rôle, Mlle. Marguerite Naudin sang and acted admirably; and Miss May Audrey was a charming and vivacious Millicent.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, The St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—Mr. Edward Marris's pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, under the direction of Mr. E. H. Bertram, opened here on Monday before a packed house. A strong company is engaged. In the title-rôle Miss Masie Garard looks and plays well; Polly Maydew has a charming representative in Miss Effie Vincent; Mr. George Brentwood is sufficiently callous as Will Atkins; Mrs. Crusoe has a clever exponent in Mr. James Craydon; Mr. Joe Waldron and Miss Etty Waldron cause much amusement as John Willie and Matilda respectively. Specialities are introduced by the Thalian Glee Singers, Chandler and Payne, the Waldrons, and Brentwood and Hargraves.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Will Sley, and Fred Wilmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Mr. Dan Thomas is appearing here in *Aladdin* twice nightly. Miss Daisy Yates is an ideal Aladdin, Miss Amy Bellwood does full justice to the part of the Princess, and Miss Edie Harton makes the most of Pekoe. Mr. Dan Thomas is very funny as Widow Twankey, and Messrs. Haverley and Homer as Slip and Slop are highly appreciated.

STOCKPORT. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun. —The sporting drama *Bound to Win* is being presented here this week by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company. Mr. Kimberley impersonates the character of Harry Lyndon with much ability; and as the villain, Philip Ayre, Mr. Geo. Steel acts effectively. Mr. Edward Bikker as Squire Forbes gives an admirable portrayal of the part; Ned Oakley is a pleasing character in the hands of Mr. J. Franklin; Mr. H. Arnold Allen is very amusing as Horatio Buffit; and Mr. Dick Seddon is praiseworthy as Willie Winkins. Miss Lottie Addison (Mrs. F. G. Kimberley) acts with power and effect as Gladys Orme; Miss Violet Langley is sympathetic as Marian Forbes; and Miss Effie Macintosh makes a delightful Winnie Oakley.

STOKE.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr. H. Miller.—The premier position is held by Mr. Henry Herne, Ida Millais, and company, in *Blackmail*. Miss Millais as Ada, and Mr. Henry Herne as the Rev. James Harland, score successfully; Messrs. Harry Cullenford and C. F. Young do well in their respective parts; the Wallys are jugglers extraordinary, and their turn is much appreciated; the Cyros are heard in a pleasing duet; Steeley and Towton are an amusing pair; W. C. Webber has a fine bass voice, which is heard to advantage; Fred Erick is a comedian of merit; and Minnie Fenton is a pleasing vocalist. The pictures are most interesting.

SUNDERLAND.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Director and Manager, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—The lively and entertaining *Dick Whittington* finishes his career, so far as regards the Wearside borough, to-night. The concluding week has been largely devoted to benefits, and on Monday Mr. Tom Foy, who has done much to make the pantomime a success, was the beneficiare. Many extra attractions were provided by Mr. Foy and company, in their absurdity, *The Yorkshire Lad in London*, and the various specialities by the principal members of Mr. Elliston's company and other artists from the neighbouring theatres. On Tuesday night the popular manager and director, Mr. Machin, received a complimentary benefit. Special mention may be made of Mr. H. C. Barry, Miss Dorothy Desmonde, and Mr. Walter Ashley, all of *Dare-Devil Dorothy* company, and several of the principal turns from the People's Palace (by permission of Messrs. Rosen and Bliss and Messrs. Browne and Stringer).

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Stevens and Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry L. Carlo.—*The Fair One with the Golden Locks* is proving quite a success here. Mr. Will Letters (Prince Pippin) is a host in himself, and keeps the ball merrily rolling the whole time he is "on"; Mr. Barry Lupino (Sauceboy) is cleverly amusing, and along with Miss May Lupino is responsible for some really good numbers; Miss Gertrude Branscombe, in the title-rôle, is pleasing; Miss Beatrice Bonnie is a dashing principal boy; a big feature is made of the illuminated spectacle, entitled "Electra's Dream," in which Alma, Abdullah, and La Superbe appear in their aerial flights; Miss Olive Prince, as the Good Fairy, sings sweetly.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Hemingway. —Mr. Henry Swinerd's *Dare-Devil Dorothy* company forms the attraction here. It is by no means new to the town, but there are many changes in the cast. Mr. H. C. Barry now appears in the rôle of Silas Crump, and scores a great success; Mr. Walter Ashley is fair as Captain Geo. Fielding; and the same may be said of Mr. H. C. Ward as Captain Ed. Dudley. Miss Dorothy Desmonde is well placed as Dare-Devil Dorothy; and Miss Marie Vere ably acts the part of Ruth Montrose. Miss Nellie Harcourt plays the part of Judith with plenty of vivacity and energy. In Act III. speciality items are contributed by Dorothy Desmonde; Nellie Harcourt, American soubrette; Mabel and Lillie Blake, dancers; Marie Vere, soprano; and Mr. Barry.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Managers, Messrs. Brown and Stringer.—The bill here includes Sydney Bacon's sketch company, in *The Maniac*; Zaid, in some wonderfully intricate work on the rings; Edie Maddison, comedienne; Allsopp and Bekwith, duettists; the Three Missouris, in an absurdity act; Herbert La Martine, vocalist; Rogers and Weston, in a comedy scena; the Mezzettis, in their gymnastic act, *The New Recruit*; and Harry Freeman, the popular comedian, in his latest successes.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—KING'S THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—Pantomime holds the sway here this week, and the story of *Little Red Riding Hood*, as presented by Mr. H. Graham's excellent company, is both interesting and highly amusing. Mr. Graham has succeeded in securing a good all-round cast, Miss Rosie Juden, in the name-part, being very dainty. Miss Mabel Kessler makes an excellent Boy Blue, and also contributes some very fine cornet solos in the palace scene. The Three Escladers are also seen to good effect; and the fun is kept merrily going by Messrs. Grant, Kelly, and McGane.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Responsible-Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—The popular parts of this house were crowded on Monday, when Mr. Bulmer's company opened another visit to this town with the drama *Sentenced for Life*. The efforts of Mr. E. Vaughan as Captain Paul Derrick and Mr. Edward E. Louis as Lieut. Roy Stillwell were greatly appreciated. Mr. Morris Maud undertook the rôle of the Rev. M. Orris very effectively, and was deservedly applauded for his earnest work; Miss May Neilson was successful as Kate Rennell; Miss Maud Boyne did well as Lady Grey; Miss Madge Douglas and Miss Flora Hastings in their respective parts must be complimented on capital work; and Messrs. Howard Keane, James F. Firth, Arthur Keand, and Reg Oldroyd each scored in their parts.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Miss Maud Hildyard and company occupy the boards this week in the drama *The Great Awakening*.—Mr. A. C. Hardie plays with great dramatic force and finish the part of James Selby; the dual rôles of Sir Henry Merton and Jack Merton are cleverly portrayed by Mr. Magill Martyn; Mr. Stephen Langton does well as Guy Rogan; Mr. Gordon McLeod is admirable as Captain Harry Lambert; Mr. Herbert Lewis is capable as his servant, Billy Brass; Miss Maud Hildyard as Lola Selby displays rare histrionic abilities, and scores heavily; Miss Doris Digby is successful as Molly Merton; and Miss Lilla Nordon is smart as Selina Worts, the maid.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Sidney Tolfree.—The programme this week includes the Newsboy Quintet of vocalists, who sing well; the Two Izons, comedy artists; Onzell and Onro, trapeze artists; Miss Ada Clare, a dainty comedienne; Lecon and Leco, comedy jugglers; I. H. Hegarty, comedian; and Stanley and Vandyke, a smart comedy couple, in an amusing sketch, entitled *Mr. Penwiper*; and the Bioscope.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—The bill here is headed by the Seven Savonas, whose combined playing on various instruments has been received with loud applause. The beautiful and brilliant stage-setting has also called forth general admiration. The storm scene is wonderful. Horace Jones, the Welsh humorist, is well received; Stanley and Greenop are clever banjoists; and Happy Tom Parker, Stacey and Williams (patterers and dancers), Catherine Radford (vocalist and dancer), the Brothers Huxter (with marvellous tumbling and vaulting), and the American Bioscope with capital pictures also add to the attractiveness of the bill.

GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Messrs. E. Hill-Mitchelson and Harris Finberg's company is here in *The Traitor*. Mr. Bensley Evans appears successfully in the dual rôles of Prince Rudolph and Colonel Nervi; Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan is impressive in the title-rôle; Miss Effie Bartlett makes a capital Zulu; Miss Gwynne Warren does well as the Countess Zicka; and Miss Katherine Vere undertakes the part of Elsie Dupres with credit.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—Messrs. Carson and Kendall's company opened here on Monday with *Babes in the Wood*. The piece is well mounted and dressed. The principals include Miss Rose Tilley as Robin Hood, Miss May Grayce as Maid Marion, Mr. Hugh Brady as the Baron, Mr. H. Roberts and Mr. J. McGarth as the Robbers, Miss Dolly Marsden as the Fairy, Miss Doris Middleton as Harry and Miss Dot Moss as Eva, the Babes.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Player. —This week the bill is headed by Mr. Nat Clifford, who has a most hearty reception; the Carls submit a clever entertainment; Miss Dolly Moore, a refined male impersonator, gives an excellent turn; Leslie Brothers, in their musical act, evoke much laughter; Frank Sauteron contributes some remarkable jumping; *What a Life*, a comedy duologue by Edwards and Dacre, is well received; Ross, Rose, and Rosert, in *Always Moving*; Ernie Williams, vocal comedian; and the Hippodrome pictures make up the remainder of the programme.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—PALACE. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—The chief item this week is provided by Yukio Tani in his demonstration of the art of ju-jitsu; the mimicry by Takio, another Jap, is remarkably clever; sensation is provided by Blanche and Diacoff, who cycle the teacup track; a programme more than usually interesting is that by Miss Eva Hope and Jack Wayho in some duologues from the works of Charles Dickens; and others who provide entertaining turns are Marion Scott (comedienne), Dora Lyric (comedienne), Brilliant and Brilliant in charming Xylophone selections; and a series of pictures on the Bioscope.

WEXFORD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor Mr. E. P. Ronan.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company opened here on Monday night with the sensational Russian melodrama, *A Beautiful Fiend*. As Ivan Paulovitch, Mr. Beaudyn was all that could be desired, and gained much applause; Mr. J. P. M'Bride played the part of the brutal Count Karateff in a manner that brought out all the repulsiveness of the character; Mr. Herbert Steardon, in the rôle of Sergius Strogoff, made the most of his opportunities; and Mr. W. Robertson Foulis as Malachi was very good. Mr. Harry Oates as Christopher Crackles and Miss Annie Clunn as Patty Woodlands supplied the comic element, and were greatly amusing; Miss Irene Munroe invested the part of Wadine Karateff with the requisite amount of feeling, and evoked the sympathy of the audience; while the strong part of Wanda Lubinoff was entrusted to Miss Sidney Crowe, who portrayed the baser side of woman's nature in a very realistic manner. The remainder of the cast was efficient, and the piece was very handsomely dressed and mounted.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—Mr. H. A. Jordison's company is here this week with the pantomime *Cinderella*. The play is prettily mounted, and on Monday evening had a good reception. Miss Iris Banfield is an admirable Prince, dancing and singing very acceptably; the Dandini of Miss Mabel Ashton would not be easy to improve upon; Miss Helen Rays is an altogether charming Cinderella, handling the part with unquestionable ability; the Princess Pearl of Miss Louis Davies is a satisfactory performance in every respect; and the same remark applies to the Fairy Crystal of Miss Mary Clarke. The Baron Pebblybeach of Mr. Chas. Martell is a genuinely humorous performance. He gains good support in the way of laughter making from Messrs. Edwin Garth and Howard Ward as Arabella and Dulcibella, the "charming" sisters of Cinderella. Mr. John Bennett is capital as Pimple; and Messrs. Earle and Melville are quaintly comical as Putemin and Kickmecout. Altogether the "production" is rich in comedians. The usual vaudeville entertainment given in the Prince's ballroom scene includes specialities by Bennett and Martell, Earle and Melville, and the Starlight Quartette of Dancers.

WIGAN. — ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Co.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's grand children's Christmas pantomime is splendidly mounted. Mr. Shann Glenville as Baron Harduppe, Mr. Herbert Wade as Ripples, and Miss Jennie Gregson as Dimples are excellent; and Miss Mora Hersee as Cinderella, Miss Barbara Babington as Prince Florizel, and George Goodfellow as Buttons give capital representations of the respective characters. Mr. George Belrose as Father Time and Mlle. de Velin as Fairy Progress act and sing beautifully together.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Fred Karno's *Jail Birds* is the attraction here this week; and in addition the Eltons, in a comedy bar speciality act, and Walter Purvis and company in a comedy sketch, entitled *Cauliflower Joe*, are most entertaining. W. H. Downes, Australian vocalist, the Marblesque Trio, society entertainers, and Frankie, the juvenile juggling wonder, are also very popular. Other excellent turns are Fred Horsfall, vocalist; and the McKays, lightning oil-painters.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE.— Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival —This week Miss Florence Glossop-Harris, supported by Mr. Frank Cellier, jun., and company is appearing here in a round of interesting plays. On Tuesday *Much Ado About Nothing* was presented. Miss Glossop-Harris appeared as Beatrice, and gave an excellent rendering of the part, which was highly appreciated. Mr. Frank Cellier, jun., submitted an admirable impersonation of Benedick; Mr. Duncan Yarrow capitally portrayed the part of Claudio; Mr. Percy H. Vernon did full justice to Don Pedro; Mr. David Santley made a capable Leonato; and Mr. Edward Landor an amusing Dogberry. As Hero Miss Kate Turner acquitted herself well; and the remaining characters were in good hands. During the week *Romeo and Juliet* and *Twelfth Night* were performed.

YEOVIL.—PRINCE'S STREET ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's *Silver King* company was here on Monday. Mr. Paul Beckett as Wilfred Denver gave a capable and life-like portrayal of the character, and the rôle of Nellie Denver was in the able hands of Miss F. Radcliffe. Jaikes, as played by Mr. Percy Foster, was an admirable study; and Mr. Oswald Cray as the Spider made a polished and clever villain.

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1761. Frank Oscar Seye, Strand. "Improvements in apparatus for producing the illusion of travelling in a balloon or ship, and for the more realistic display of living or moving pictures."

1974. George Curtis, 34, Wynyatt-Street, Clerkenwell. "Improved Rouge."

20,600. Scenic Colour Effects. Stevenson, J., 40. Westmoreland-road, Bayswater, W. A scenic colour effect is obtained by means of a coloured picture, figure, or object, or a performer dressed in clothing of different colours, the performer, &c., being illuminated by light of complementary colours or viewed through complementarily-coloured transparent screens. Thus, a part of the body dressed in red is invisible in green light, while green is invisible in red. The stage is draped in a dead black material, and the coloured clothing is preferably of velvet material, as this only reflects light of its own colour. Partial or total disappearance of a dancer is obtained by movement within regions of different coloured lights. The effects of a zoetrope or kinematograph may be produced.

PRESENTATION. — On the occasion of his annual benefit, Mr. J. H. Savile, of the Paisley Theatre, was the recipient of a handsome present from the members of his tenth pantomime company. Miss Maggie Bowman, the Goody Two-Shoes of the pantomime of that name, was the mouthpiece of the company, and in a neat little speech presented Mr. Savile, on the stage, and before the large audience, which filled the house, with a chaste silver épergne and side pieces to match, for Mrs. Savile. The recipient made a fitting and gracious acknowledgment. The épergne was suitably inscribed.

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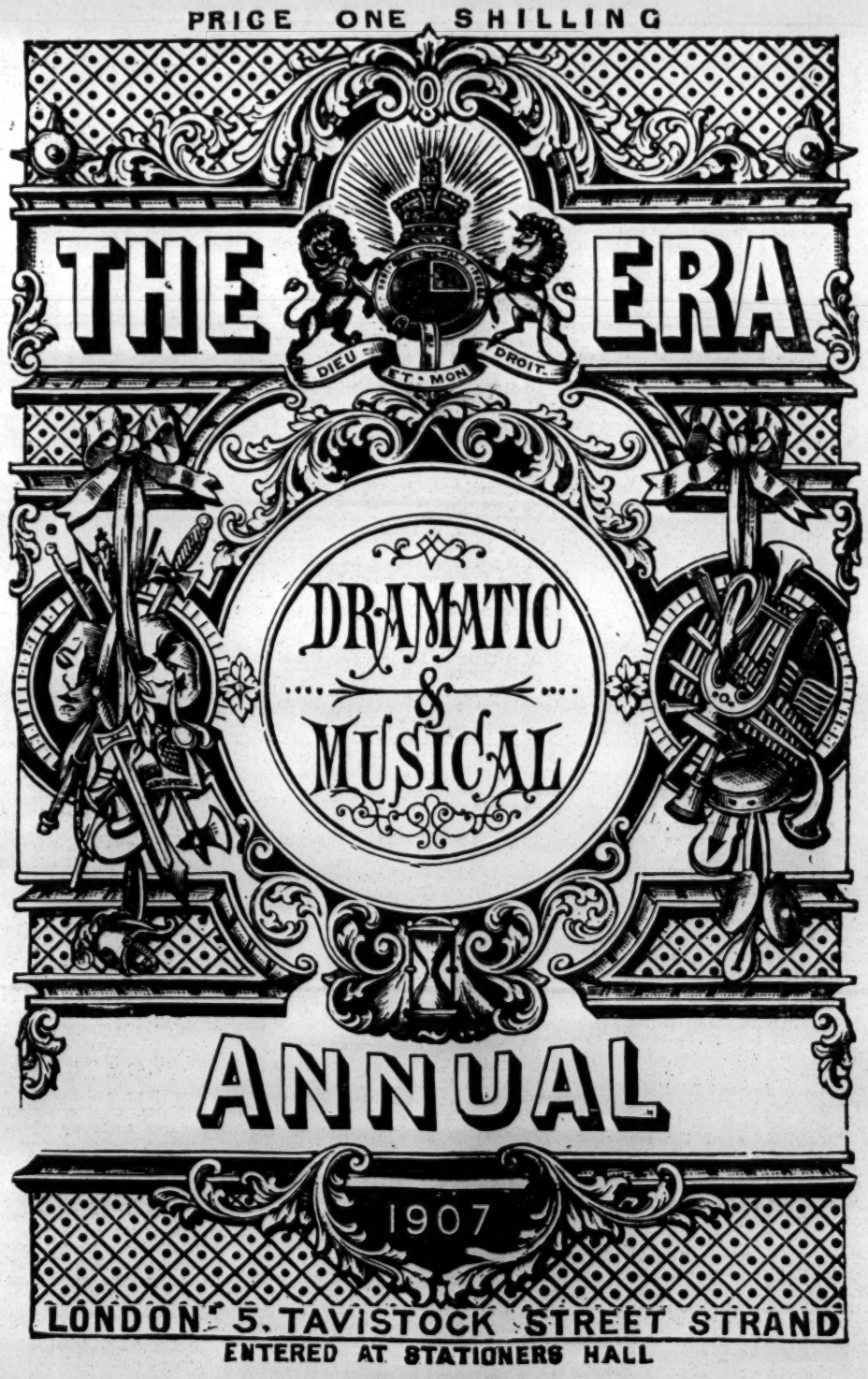

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AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, DEC. 11, 1906.—Mr. J. C. Williamson's American *Squaw Man* company had a hearty send-off on the 7th, when Mr. Charles Waldron and Miss Ola Humphreys were compelled to make short "au revoir" speeches. The next night Miss Tittell Brune returned to appear in *La Tosca*. Mr. Thomas Kingston is essentially English as Scarpia. Mr. John Beauchamp made Angelotti strong but not melodramatic. Mr. Gaston Mervale is always a strong element in a cast, and his Mario Cavardossi was excellent. The old Marquis Alavanti could not possibly have fallen into better hands than those of Mr. J. B. Atholwood. Mr. Harry Sweeney is at home in "fop" parts, and Trivulce lost nothing in his care. Miss Susie Vaughan was judiciously placed as the Queen of Naples; and the scene between Gennarino (Miss Nellie Calvin) and Brother Enserbe (Mr. Maurice Dudley) was capitally done.

"THE COTTON KING," revived by Mr. Bland Holt at the Royal, is one of the best of dramas dealing with the industrial interest, and as this country is perpetually seething with labour discontent, there is always an attraction in this kind of play. The compact company has only one change, Miss Jennie Pollock replacing Mrs. Bland Holt as Kitty Marshall. The evergreen Bland Holt is again Benjamin Tupper, and their old rôles are again sustained by Misses Frances Ross, Lucy Coppin, C. Masters, Violet Canty, and Florrie Kelly, and Messrs. Walter Baker, Albert Norman, Charles Brown, Arthur Styan, M. F. Kemp, A. Harford, and Max Maxwell.

"THE EMPEROR," the new comic opera written by W. J. Curtis, was revived at the Palace on the 8th, as a compliment to Mr. W. Arundel Orchard, the composer.

THE Tivoli habitués gave a cordial welcome to Mr. Charles Leonard Fletcher on the 8th, and his clever impersonations of noted men were rapturously applauded. Mr. Harry Tate's company does a *Golfing* sketch; and Miss Bella Perman sings better than ever on her return. Mr. Harry Rickards has a large company of prominent artists, continually being added to, as the result of his recent trip to Europe.

SYDNEY, DEC. 25, 1906.—In producing *Parsifal* at Her Majesty's Theatre, Mr. J. C. Williamson has surpassed all his previous successes in staging spectacular plays. This latest dramatisation of *Parsifal; or, The Redemption of Kundry*, is written by the Rev. T. Hillhouse Taylor, an Anglican priest, whose previous efforts for the stage were excellent adaptations of pantomime. This new play is, however, distinctly and absolutely religious, without a gleam of humour, romance, or domestic life. The Knights of the Holy Grail and their forces are here in goodly numbers, as are also the chief officers and myrmidons of the army of Sabanus. The costumes of knights, children, choristers of the Holy Grail, and of the women and high priest from "down below," are simply gorgeous. The scenes by John Gordon, W. R. Coleman, and W. Little are wonderfully grand, the Chapel of the Holy Grail and the Earthquake, when Klingsor's castle is levelled to the ground, being particularly fine. Miss Tittell Brune was the Kundry, a most exacting part, in which the actress is kept at full tension for three out of the four acts. The struggle between a desire to reform and lead a Christian life and the demoniacal power is one requiring all the resources of just such an actress as Miss Brune, and the many loud calls after each act gave evidence of the satisfaction of a crowded house. Mr. Thomas Kingston is the Parsifal, and is manly and manifestly in earnest. Mr. Gaston Mervale's Klingsor is the best-acted rôle. The splendid costume lends colour to the general idea that costly attire means sinful courses. Mr. Mervale is ably helped by Miss Susie Vaughan, whose Zana could not be excelled, winsome, handsome, and dominating as she is. Mr. John Beauchamp gives an exceedingly valuable portraiture of the old knight, Gurnemanz. Mr. Vivian Edwards has never done anything half so good as his Amfortas, King of Grail Mount. Mr. Harry Sweeney is a manly, impulsive lover as Neric; and Mr. T. W. Lloyd gives a good account of the esquire, Gildhelm. The aged King Titurel affords Mr. J. B. Atholwood another opportunity for proving his indispensable value in a strong cast. The Dumb Maiden (Miss Nellie Calvin), Lillian (Miss Elwyn Harvey), and Enid (Miss N. Fergusson) are all capital impersonations. Mr. Harold Reeve (baritone) and Mr. Percy Coward (alto) sing solos in the chapel scene, and a large operatic chorus give the Holy Grail hymns and anthems, composed, as is all the vocal and instrumental music (save the overture to *Parsifal* opera), by the conductor, Mr. Christian Helleman. After many recalls of the principals, loud demands rose for Mr. J. C. Williamson, who appeared with the author and thanked everybody concerned for right loyal service.

THE Ward-Willoughby-Palotta Comedy Combination returned to the Criterion on the 22nd, and had a hearty reception in *The New Clown*. The three principals kept the house roaring with laughter throughout a real Christmas bill of fare. Mr. Hugh J. Ward enters into the spirit of the perplexed Lord Cyril with perfect humour, and is ably assisted by Mr. George Willoughby as the ringmaster, Mr. Dixon. The perennial favourite, Miss Grace Palotta, never had a more attractive rôle than Mary Platt. Mr. Harry Overton, Miss Olive Wilton, Miss Lillian Scaife, Mr. Edward Bonfield, Mr. J. W. Hartman, Mr. Reginald Wykeham, and Mr. Arthur Cornell had smaller, but well-acted, parts.

MR. BLAND HOLT'S bill of fare at the Royal is the play *A Path of Thorns*. The scenes are all faithful reproductions of familiar localities, and each of Mr. John Brunton's pictures was welcomed with shouts of delighted recognition. Mr. and Mrs. Bland Holt are the Spurway couple who keep a Sydney hostelry, assisted by Miss Florrie Kelly, who is Little Billy. Other leading characters are Andy Badun (Mr. Charles Brown), Jim Price (Mr. Arthur Styan), Jonas Dean (Mr. Albert Norman), John Merritt (Mr. Walter Baker), Rev. Frank Selby (Mr. Muir Maxwell), and the robbed and murdered man, Edmund Langley (Mr. F. M. Kemp). The heroine, Merritt's wife, is acted by Miss Frances Ross; and other important parts are filled by Miss Harrie Neland and others. An attractive picture is given of a picnic at Cremorne Gardens, where hosts of little children frolic and frivol in Christmas fashion. Every possible effect is introduced, including a big cinématograph. An uproariously enthusiastic house welcomed the play on the 22nd.

THE Palace Theatre attraction is *The New Boy*. Mr. Harry Macdona, a well-known Sydney actor, is the Archibald Rennick, and the company included Messrs. Thomas Cosgrove, Harry Diver, Johnson Weir, and Harry Hodson, Miss Vera Rennel, Miss Ailsa Sherbrooke, and Miss Edith Burke.

THE Tivoli has a big bill, including George Dean, the Alaskas (now finishing), Charles Fletcher, Cora Caselli, Larry Lewis, Irving Sayles, Baby Watson, Post Mason, Stewart and Lorraine, and several others of high merit.

MR. WILLIAMSON'S pantomime, *Alice in Wonderland*, once played here by Fred Graham, Lilian Digges, and Harry Troode, will now be acted solely by Australian children.

WONDERLAND CITY, as Mr. William Anderson anticipated and hoped, is proving a great outdoor attraction. The grounds are now complete, and side shows are being added as quickly as they can be secured.

MR. ROBERT MINSTER has been engaged to play Mr. Lewis Waller's part in the spring tour of *Robin Hood*. The play will be elaborately mounted.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS M. E. ELLIS.

Miss Ellis began her professional career by entering Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company, and was with him some months, during which she visited most of the principal towns in England, and was one of the leaders of the ballet in his revival of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Bournemouth. Her health giving way through overwork (for Miss Ellis is devoted to her work), she was obliged to take a complete rest, which necessitated her leaving Mr. Benson; but she was to join him again for a special week at the Coronet Theatre, Notting Hill, to take up her part in the ballet of the *Dream*. However, in the meantime she was engaged by Mr. Norman V. Norman to play juvenile parts in his répertoire company, so Mr. Benson kindly released her, and she went straight to Mr. Norman, playing with him in *My Lady Virtue*, *The Lady of Quality*, *Under the Red Robe*, *Nell Gwyn*, *Don Cæsar de Bazan* (doing a solo dance in the latter), and she also made a hit as Lucy in *A Scrap of Paper*. Having gained this experience, she next turned her attention to light opera, and was engaged

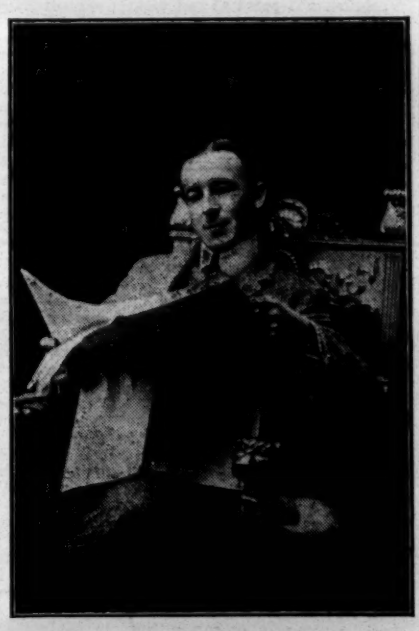
Photo by Pestel.

MISS M. E. ELLIS.

by Mr. C. E. Hamilton as concert mistress in *Peggy Machree* (for Miss Ellis is a musician as well as an actress), which unfortunately she had to relinquish owing to another breakdown in health, which again necessitated a rest for some time. Miss Ellis was specially engaged by Mr. Richard Maynard to sustain the part of Edith in the music-hall sketch *A Love Shop*.

MR. JACK DENTON

Mr. Jack Denton spent some years on sheep stations in New South Wales and Victoria prior to going on the stage in the spring of 1896. His first engagement was under the management of Willie Drew in *Robbery Under Arms*. Then followed a tour as Bullock Major in *The New Boy*, under the same management. After playing a small part at the Adelphi in *Black-Eyed Susan*, he had two years with Mr. Herbert Flemming's répertoire company in South Africa. Returning to England again in January, 1898, he went out with Mr. Lockwood's company in *A Night Out*, playing the French waiter for six months. An autumn tour with Mr. John Peachey's company in *The Mighty Hand* was followed by a pantomime engagement at Bournemouth and Southampton. Then came a long tour as principal comedian and stage-manager for Miss Muriel Wylford. In the autumn of 1900 Mr. Denton went out to the States, playing there in stock for a year. Returning in the summer of 1901, Mr. Denton played Mr. Penley's part in *Charley's Aunt* in the No. 2 Company, and afterwards went out



MR. JACK DENTON.

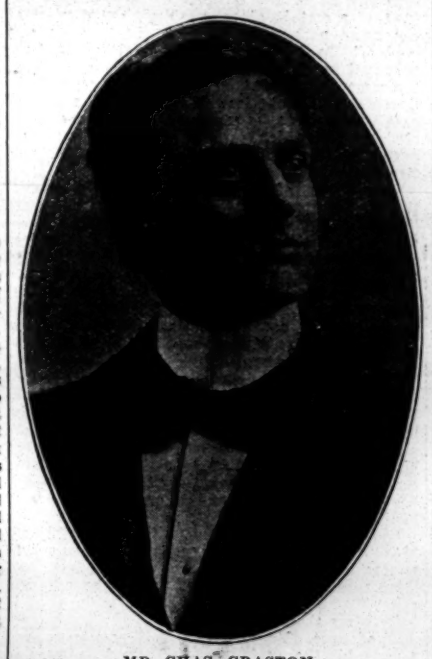
to Australia and New Zealand for an eighteen months' tour with Mr. Frank Thornton's comedy company. On returning in the autumn of 1902 he was engaged by Mrs. Lewis Waller to stage-manage *Zaza* and play the Duc de Brisac. Then Mr. Denton toured a drama of his own—*A Modern Judas*—playing the eccentric comedy part. During an engagement with Moss and Stoll he played the juvenile parts in *Tally-ho* and *Siberia* at Liverpool, and the latter piece at Manchester. Then came another long engagement in the United States, playing under the management of Mr. D. V. Arthur. Returning last March, Mr. Denton supported Miss Rose Stahl in her sketch *The Chorus Lady* at the Palace, followed by a nineteen weeks' stock season under the management of Mr. Walter Melville at the Standard. At present he is playing Lily, one of the Ugly Sisters, in *Cinderella*, at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith. Mr. Jack Denton is the brother of Mr. C. St. John Denton, the agent, and is the husband of Miss Hettie Chattell.

MR. CHARLES CRASTON.

Mr. Charles Frederick Craston is the youngest son of the late Mr. Thomas Sharp Craston, merchant, of Manchester, and made his professional début with Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree and his Haymarket Repertory Company on Sept. 15, 1890, at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, his native town; and, glancing over his record of engagements and the large range of characters he has essayed, one is struck by their diversified nature.

In the year 1891 Mr. Craston entered upon his first really important engagement with Messrs. Louis Calvert and C. T. H. Helmsley. Next he became associated with Mr. H. C. Arnold in the capacity of acting-manager to his *Lights o' London* company. An engagement followed, Mr. Craston playing Tom Bowler, *Victory*, with Mr. J. Hewetson Porter; then rejoining Messrs. Calvert and Helmsley, and remaining with them twelve months, during which he played numerous parts.

Special engagements followed as Marias, *Two Orphans*; Ned Neare, *Ben-my-Chree*, with the late Mr. Charles Dornton; Sir Richard Loader, *Lost in London*, with Messrs. Cancellor and Mouillot; Lieutenant Sir Harry Linden, *Blow for Blow*; Fibbins, *Crutch and Toothpick*; William Johnstone, *The Brothers*, with Mr. Frank Deeley, who is now the well-known actor and popular manager, Mr. Frank Curzon. Then followed Sir Gerald Kingscote, *Lost to the World*, with Mr. Clarence Holt, being re-engaged for the autumn for juvenile lead, Basil Kingscote. After this successful engagement he accepted Mr. W. H. Hallatt's offer to play Dick Royal, *Dangers of London* spring tour of 1893. He next played Cecil Graham, the young cynic, in *Lady Windermere's Fan*; and Mr. Sandford, *The Silent Woman*. Then a re-engagement followed for the same, and another for Lawyer Dill, *East Lynne*. Early in 1894 another re-engagement followed for Cecil Graham. After this he joined Mr. Edmund Tearle, and played during this engagement Laertes, *Hamlet*; Icilius, *Virginius*; Cassio, *Othello*; and the title-rôle in *Julius Cæsar*. A tour followed, during which Mr. Craston played Arthur Tredgold and stage-managed *The Lights o' Home* with Mr. Robert Lynton. He then accepted his fifth re-engagement with Mr. J. Pitt Hardacre, again for Cecil Graham. Next came an autumn tour, again in the legitimate, under Mr. Robert Arthur's management, with the well-known actor the late Mr. Osmond Tearle. Passing from Shakespearean drama to farcical comedy, he played Tom Stanhope—Mr. Charles Hawtrey's part—in *Tom, Dick, and Harry*, and during this engagement with Messrs. E. Covington and E. V. Reynolds he also acted as business-manager. Then came his first engagement with Mr. J. F. Elliston to play Frank Harley, *In Old Kentucky*; and was re-engaged to play George Peyton, *The Octoroon*. He was also re-engaged for the winter and spring tour of 1896 to play Frank Harley. Following an engagement with Mr. Thomas E. Murray as Gilly Softsolder, *Our Irish Visitors*, he was re-engaged by Mr. Hardacre for Harold Vernon, *The World Against Her*; also for Sir Francis Levison, *East Lynne*; Lincoln Green, *Current Cash*; and Levison. Then came another autumn tour as Frank Harley, *In Old Kentucky*, with Mr. J. F. Elliston; and afterwards he was re-engaged by Mr. Elliston for the



MR. CHAS. CRASTON.

same part, this being his fifth engagement with this successful manager. After a re-engagement for Levison, making this his tenth re-engagement with Mr. Hardacre, he was engaged for the dual rôle, Paul Keswick and Old Mike, *A Guilty Mother*, with Mr. Wynn Miller for spring tour, which part he was offered for the autumn, but was unable to accept, being engaged by Mr. Arthur Bearne for Captain Stanmore, *The Star of India*. He was next engaged by Miss Grace Hawthorne for Apollyon, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, and Andreas, *Theodora*; and he then appeared as Frank Forrest, *Dangers of London*, with Miss Madge Ray, joining Mr. Walter Sealby for acting-management of his *Paul Kauvar* company in the spring, 1898. In the autumn he was engaged by Mr. Henry Dundas for the Earl of Desborough, *The Derby Winner*; and afterwards joined forces with his brother, William Craston, playing for a long tour Randolph Kerr, *Is Life Worth Living?* Then Mr. Craston was engaged by Mr. Louis Weighton to play Jean Gaussin, *The Idol of an Hour*, a dramatisation of Daudet's *Sapho*; Doctor Dumyat, *Men and Women*, followed with Messrs. E. J. Malyon and J. Buckland. Then an autumn engagement as Frank Tressett, *Tommy Dodd*, with Messrs. W. R. Pickett and George Thorne. In 1900 Mr. Craston was re-engaged by Mr. Thomas E. Murray to again play Gilly Softsolder, *Our Irish Visitors*; he played Lawrence Durston, *Fair Play*, on an autumn tour with Mr. Arthur Milton. Then came a short tour as Captain Hinton, *Between the Lights*, with Mr. William Craston, followed by his eleventh re-engagement with Mr. J. Pitt-Hardacre on a spring tour, playing Levison again.

As to recent engagements, Mr. Craston was starred by Messrs. Bailey and Goy as Harold Arnold, *A Mad Passion*, which he reproduced and acted as stage and business-manager during the tour. Joining Miss Winifred Maude, he held a starring engagement as George Britton, *The Convict*, also a starring engagement as Dick Wellington, Mr. Yorke Stephen's part in *The County Councillor*, with Mr. F. D'Alton Cleaver; and he appeared as Stephen Lucas, *A Sailor's Sweetheart*, with Messrs. Frederick A. Stanley and A. F. Henderson. Mr. Craston has also given several dramatic recitals, and last autumn was engaged by Mr. George Dance as business-manager of his *Duchess of Dantzic* South company on tour. Recently Mr. Craston was engaged by Mr. Lionel Wallace to assist Miss Lillian Dundas in the dramatic sketch *At Midnight Hour*, playing the part of Geoffrey Wynter.

Mr. Charles Craston, it will be seen, has done considerable work for so young an actor, and has succeeded in making for himself the reputation of being a thoroughly efficient and versatile leading man.

MISS NORA LANCASTER.

Miss Nora Lancaster started her stage career four years ago, when she walked on and spoke one line at the St James's, in *The Wilderness*. From there she went to the Garrick, to play the ingénue in Mr. Pinero's *Iris*. Then followed an engagement at the Comedy Theatre, where she played a leading part in Tom Gallon and Albert Chevalier's *Memory's Garden*. After this Mr. Forbes Robertson and Mrs. M. L. Ryley engaged her for Miss Gertrude Elliot's part of Peggy in the principal tour of *Mice and Men*. Sir Henry Irving then engaged her, and she played juvenile lead with him for nearly two years, her parts including Miss Lena Ashwell's part of Gemma in *Dante*, Jessica in *The Merchant of Venice*, and Marie in *Louis XI*. This engagement included a six months' tour in the United States and Canada. The remaining eighteen months the company toured the provinces, and played at Drury Lane. When *Dante* was staged Miss Lancaster appeared as Beatrice. Then Mr. Curzon engaged her, and she played the leading parts in *Our Flat* and *Off the Rank* at the Comedy and Strand Theatres. During a recent engagement at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester, Miss Lancaster played Galatea in Mr. Flanagan's revival of *Pygmalion and Galatea*. This proved very successful. Mr. Flanagan re-engaged her for his next Shakespearean revival to play Imogen in *Cymbeline*. Other parts Miss Lancaster has played include Julia in

Photo by Guttenburg.

MISS NORA LANCASTER

The Two Gentlemen of Verona, Lady Teazle to Charles Warner's Charles Surface, and Juliet Gainsborough (Miss Fay Davis's part in *The Ambassador*).

MR. H. LAWRENCE LEYTON.

Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton, one of the later but by no means the least successful exponents of the part of Sherlock Holmes in Sir A. Conan Doyle and William Gillette's play of that name, is a young actor who has succeeded in gaining considerable and varied experience during the seven or eight years that he has been on the stage. The beginning of his career was quite typical of his character, for he had the courage to finance a season of répertoire for himself. Needless to say, he paid for his experience, but at the same time that experience has since amply repaid him. Since that time Mr. Leyton has been content to work under the management of others, and has been exceptionally fortunate in his engagements. He has had four seasons under the Frohman management, besides appearing in London at Drury Lane and His Majesty's. His work at the former was evidently satisfactory, for Mr. Arthur Collins engaged him to play juvenile lead on tour. Apart from this, Mr. Leyton has played leading business under the management of Messrs. Robert Arthur, Oswald Brand, Drew Mackintosh, E. G. Saunders, Stanley Hope, and James Willard.

Mr. Leyton was educated partly in Germany and at the City of London College. He is very fond of

Photo by Turner and Drinkwater.

MR. H. LAWRENCE LEYTON.

outdoor sports, his favourite hobbies being riding and driving.

AT the Town Hall, Leven, Mr. Robert MacDonald's company opened on Tuesday for two nights and a matinée with Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*. The hero and Alice Fitzwarren found able representatives in the vivacious sisters Fay and Isla Garnet Vayne, whose songs and dances were much appreciated. Algy and Polly, well played by the Misses Violet and Lily English, also scored in song and dance; Miss Annie Swires as Fairy Goodwill proved herself a cultured vocalist; Messrs. Lang and Beal as Fitzwarren and Pimple, and Messrs C. Young Fixott and Harold Wagner as Betsy Jane and Idle Jack were all excellent, and earned a rich reward of laughter and applause; Mr. William Nixon as the Demon Rat sang a bass song in cultivated style; Mr. G. Garnet Vayne as the Cat was popular with the young folks; and a word of praise must be given to Mr. Plant for his musical performance. The company was supported by a smart and tuneful chorus.

MR. H. E. HIGH has just concluded a successful engagement in the part of Friday in Mr. D'Esterre's pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe*. This is the first time he has played the rôle of Friday, having usually been associated with dame parts.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"LYNGAARD AND CO."

Play, in Four Acts, by Hjalmar Bergstroem,
Produced at the Neues Theatre, Jan. 22.

Lyngaard	HERR MARLOW
Frau Lyngaard	FRAULEIN RIECHERS
Jacob	HERR SCHROTH
Estrid	FRAULEIN CLEMENS
Mikkelsen	HERR SCHMIDT-HASSLER
Heymann	HERR KAISER-TITZ
Mme. Olfen	FRAULEIN GABRI
Eduard	HERR GORDON
Diener	HERR ZIZOLD

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, JAN. 31.—Of late years Scandinavian authors have been coming more and more to the front here—the way having been paved for them by the great Wizard of the North—and, to confess the truth, they are mostly well worth listening to. Herr Bergstroem is no exception to the rule. His play, despite the meagre plot, is interesting from beginning to end; the characters are very skilfully drawn and thoroughly convincing, while the good-humoured satire with which many of the scenes abound is alone sufficient to make the piece acceptable. The acts develop slowly, the last two being by far the best; but each and all were warmly applauded. The turning of the Lyngaards' large spirit factory into a limited company is the chief event, and the central figure is Heymann—once manager of the factory, later director of the company. George Heymann is a level-headed, hard-working, ambitious business man, who rises step by step by cool perseverance to his high position, and marries Estrid Lyngaard, the love of his life. Heymann manages to quell a good many disturbances among the workmen, and has a clever way of allowing Lyngaard, sen., to take all the credit to himself. Jacob Lyngaard is an idealist, and is not taken seriously by the employees, and his mother is one of those good women whose philanthrophy runs away with them. Frau Lyngaard spends money lavishly on the workpeople and their families, but not always wisely, and she is forced to the conclusion that charity and gush combined may do more harm than good. An amusing character is Eduard Olfen, a young man with "principles," in the cause of which he has just finished a term of imprisonment. He was of the opinion that money should become more plentiful and more equally divided, so he set to work to manufacture paper money on a large scale. His principles not being shared by the authorities, Olfen was convicted and sent to jail. He comes out now, and finds a remunerative calling in the participation of benefits from charitable institutions, more especially those got up in favour of the unemployed. Olfen has been a victim from childhood of Frau Lyngaard's "charity," having been supplied with money and elegant cast-off clothing and the "little learning" which may prove a dangerous thing. A very significant trait in Lyngaard's character is humorously portrayed by the author. Lyngaard is an ardent collector of artistic things, and on one occasion gives a fabulous price for a painting because it so graphically depicts human misery. To the complaints of his workpeople, however, who ask for a justifiable increase of wages he turns a deaf ear. The piece was capitally interpreted, Herr Kaiser-Titz, Herr Schmidt-Hässler, and Fräulein Riechers giving particularly good impersonations. The mounting was in excellent taste.

A GALA performance was given at the Royal Opera of Adam's pretty little comic opera, *Der Postillon von Lonjumeau*, with Fräulein Destinn as Magdalene and Herr Joern in the title-rôle. Their Majesties, with a number of Royal guests, were present. A gala performance was also given at the Royal Schauspielhaus in honour of the Kaiser's birthday. The Schauspielhaus and Lustspielhaus companies exchanged stages for the evening, Herr Kadelburg's *Husarenfieber* being played before the Court, while the Royal Theatre company gave a performance of Schoenthan's *Klein-Dorrit* in aid of the Actors' Pension Fund. The laughable farce was as much appreciated by the Royal party as it is by the public, and the Kaiser said a good many complimentary things to the author, who was summoned to the State box in the interval.

THE New Free Stage Association produced a new four-act play of very poor stuff at a matinée on Sunday, notwithstanding that the author's name (Hans von Wentzel) has frequently appeared as collaborator in more or less popular pieces. *Dämonen* is the title of the new work, and the demons are so very demoniacal that descriptive words fail one. The tendency of the piece is to decry in exaggerated form the tenets of a particular religion—always a blameworthy feature in a drama. The acting was good—far too good for the piece.

HERR KADELBURG'S popular farce, *Der Familientag*, has now taken up its quarters at the Schiller N., where it bids fair to enjoy as long a run as it did at the Lustspielhaus. At the latter theatre it has been succeeded by *Husarenfieber*, Kadelburg's latest comedy, which has made such an unprecedented hit both here and in the provinces. The cast at the Schiller is the same excellent one that performed the piece at the Lustspielhaus, "change and change about" being the motto of many of our theatres.

"COUSIN BOBBY," Millöcker's capital operetta, is filling the bill at the Theatre des Westens to the exclusion of all other works, and several novelties which were to be put on must remain in abeyance in consequence of its enormous success. Fräulein Doringer and Herr Fritz Werner prove the principal attractions.

ON March 1 the Hamburg Operetta Company will come to Berlin again to give a lengthy season at the Theatre des Westens. They will open with Lehar's merry and musical *Lustige Wittwe*—the catch of the last season. In the meantime the company of the Theatre des Westens will play at the Deutsch-Amerikanisches, whose company intend paying a visit to the Operetta Theatre at Hamburg.

MME. SUZANNE DESPRES has finished her brief, but highly successful season. Her final performance was Henry Bernstein's play, *Le Détour*, in which the famous actress gave the rôle of Jacqueline. The piece was given here in German some years ago under the name of *Jack*, but it was reserved for Mme. Desprès and her excellent company to bring out all the points in a worthy manner. Enthusiasm rose to a great pitch, and the French guests were cheered to the echo.

ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY.

On Thursday, Jan. 24, at the Royal Albert Hall, two works in direct contrast were given by the Royal Choral Society. Handel's *Alexander's Feast* and Sir Hubert Parry's *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* have neither been given by the Society before. In *Alexander's Feast* the chorus produced a fine, rich tone in "Break his bonds of sleep asunder," while Mr. Harry Dearth gave great effect to the famous solo, "Revenge! Timotheus cries." Sir Hubert Parry's *Pied Piper* is in the form of a narrative, sung by the chorus, Mr. Dan Price as the Mayor speaking the words. With this work, the chief portion of the solos fell to Mr. Ben Davies, who, as the Pied Piper, sang admirably, while the chorus and orchestra gave the requisite light touch which this work requires. Dr. Frederick Bridge conducted, and Mr. Balfour presided at the organ. There was not a very large audience, no doubt owing to the bitterly cold weather.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Jan. 28, the Comic Opera,
"THE LITTLE MICHUS."

In returning to the regular routine after four weeks' pantomime Mr. Clarence Sounes made an excellent start this week by booking Mr. George Dance's company in *The Little Michus*, and a good house was in attendance on Monday to welcome this delightful comic opera. The little Michus themselves are charmingly rendered by Miss Alice Coverick (Marie Blanche) and Miss Gipsy Dale (Blanche Marie), who play up to each other so well and whose parts are so essentially interwoven that to particularise between them would be both invidious and unnecessary. Their acting is characterised by a delightful demureness and naïveté, and their singing—particularly in the duet invocative of St. Valentine—most acceptable. Mme. Michu finds a capable representative in Miss Mary Young, who enacts the careful woman of the bourgeoisie to the life, and whose singing of several pleasing numbers is much appreciated. Miss Bessie Mackenzie as Mlle. Herpin speaks her few lines with distinction; and the dancing of Mlle. Marjorie scores an instantaneous success, both her dances being enthusiastically encored. In the character of General des Ifs Mr. Foster Courtenay has a part admirably suited to his talents as a comedian, and keeps his audience in a continual ripple of laughter at the inimitable way in which he pours out a flood of nonsense with the most engaging seriousness. Mr. Courtenay is also the possessor of a good voice, and sprang an agreeable surprise on his audience in an excellent rendering of a well-known song, "In Alcala," which he sang with a will, and which went down very well. Mr. William Everard is responsible for a dashing impersonation of Gaston Rigaud, and sings in good style, all his songs receiving a hearty encore. Mr. Gilbert Childs is an amusing Bagnolet, his clever fooling and wonderful agility calling forth much laughter. Mr. Leon Simkin, whose make-up as Pierre Michu is most artistic, plays the character with delightful naturalness; and Mr. Robert C. Harcourt makes the utmost of his rather meagre chances as Aristide. The chorus has been carefully selected, and is remarkably tuneful, and the production is well mounted and adequately staged.

THE PRINCE'S, POPLAR.

On Monday, Jan. 28, the Drama, in Five Acts, by Horace Stanley, entitled
"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS."

The course of pantomime at Mr. Clarence Sounes's handsomely-appointed theatre at Poplar having been successfully run, the dramatic season has started this week with a play of such attractiveness that the large audiences which have been the rule for the past few weeks are thoroughly maintained. It is nearly eight years since *The 10.30 Down Express* first started, but it has since run uninterruptedly along the lines of public favour, and might go on indefinitely. The scene which gives the play its title is made very thrilling, intense excitement being aroused when the hero is seized by his enemies and tied to the metals in front of an oncoming express train. One of his captors relents, and, entering the signal-box, pulls the lever in order to show the danger-light; but his unscrupulous partner smashes the glass and renders it inoperative. He is still foiled, however, for the heroine rushes up, and, grasping the situation, mounts the signal-post and places her red kerchief over the light, the engine coming to a dead stop in a cloud of steam a few inches from the prostrate body of the intended victim. The popularity of the piece is not, however, entirely due to the sensation scene, but is owing in a large degree to the impersonation by Mr. Stanley of the part of Sam Wagstaffe, a rollicking A.B., who subsequently gives up seafaring for the joys of domesticity. Mr. Stanley's efforts to amuse the audience are endless, and whether presenting the escapades of the jovial sailor, presiding over the wash-tub, or giving the broker's man a lively ten minutes, the comedian keeps the audience literally in shrieks of laughter. It is a unique assumption, replete with many original touches of comedy and unbounded in variety. Lieut. Jack O'Malley, ever at the call of duty, has a vigorous exponent in Mr. George Beverley, who has the house completely on his side by the heartiness of his acting and the sound and distinct delivery of his lines. Mr. Charles Burdon gives the most malignant touch to the villain, James Inderwick, and pursues his sinister way with all the relentlessness of his calling; Seth Coombes, his associate in some of his crimes, is presented by Mr. Tom Roydon with dramatic power of a high order, and his make-up and facial expression also merit praise. The persecuted Bessie Leigh is played with sincerity and conviction by Miss Elsie Capell, who is not only able to secure the sympathy of all for her graceful and well-marked portrayal, but displays not a little athletic skill and agility in reaching the railway signal at the supreme moment. Miss Kate Kilpack as Peggy Potts is a contributor of considerable importance to the fun, which Miss Evelyn M. Walton as a grotesque maiden lady and Mr. Arthur E. Francis as a broker's man also help to maintain. Mr. Edwin Clarke is an acute and active detective; and Mr. Alaric Burton draws a well-defined picture of an elderly country gentleman. A characteristic rendering of the ill-fated Olive Coombes is given by Miss Josephine Lee; and Miss Hilda Miller acts naturally as a country yokel's grandchild. The other parts in the well-selected company are creditably sustained, and the reception accorded to the production has been in all respects gratifying.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Jan. 28, the Drama, by S. Feinman, entitled
"FIRST LOVE; OR, No. 87."

The Jewish Operatic and Dramatic Company is evidently intent upon providing a bill of fare suitable to all tastes, while the care bestowed upon the ever-changing, but well-selected, productions is always met with great enthusiasm and approval by the large audiences that crowd the Pavilion Theatre nightly. On Monday Mr. S. Feinman's domestic drama, *First Love; or No. 87*, was presented for the first time in London, and although in places the action was somewhat slow, yet the piece was singularly free from improbability and incohesion, while it possessed the merit of an interesting story well told and excellently played, being closely followed with keen appreciation by a packed house until the fall of the curtain. The staging and mounting have been done in elaborate style, and warm commendation must be given to the stage-manager, Mr. J. Fineberg, who has brought his experience to bear with some purpose. As Moritz Waldman, Mr. S. Feinman created a profound impression from first to last, his performance being full of dramatic fire and artistic perception, while his expression of varied emotion throughout the progress of the piece was very fine. Mme. F. Epstein, who played Schifrele, gave a splendid example of high histrionic ability, and presented a powerful exposition of a difficult part; while Mme. J. Kayzer must be congratulated upon her impassioned and impressive rendering of Schifre. Waldman; every point was carefully made, and the conflicting passions were portrayed with great skill. The impersonation of Chaim Schmuel by Mr. S. Schilling overflows with rich, unconscious humour, his "make-up" and "business" provoking continuous hilarity. All praise must be awarded to Mr. M. Gusofsky for his distinguished representation of Isaac Friedman; and an acceptable delineation of Reb Getzel Lerner was given by Mr. J. Goldsmith. The commanding figure of Mr. Isaacowitch lent dignity to his rendition of Count von Grube; and Miss R. Bryh was irresistibly funny as Chane Chaye; while Andrei was ably sustained by Mr. N. Hamburger. Mme. Goldstein made a capable Beile Basche; and Messrs Soroka and Markowitz were competent as Solomon Fagel and Frederick Grober respectively. During the week successful performances have been given of *Mrs. Tartakof's Revenge*, *The Witch*, *Man and Devil*, and *Satan in Paradise*.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

Mr. Chas. M. East's delightful production, *Cinderella*, has reached its sixth week, and is deservedly as popular as ever. Crowded houses have been the rule, and on Monday a large and enthusiastic audience spent a lively and merry evening, the carefully-managed ballet, beautifully dressed, pretty scenery, a plethora of capital songs, and much wholesome rollicking comedy being greatly appreciated. Miss Alice Digby in the title-rôle is very dainty and charming, thoroughly realising the character. Miss Digby sings and dances exquisitely. Miss Gracie Taylor is a handsome and dignified Prince Charming, and as principal boy is extremely popular, the choruses of her songs being taken up lustily by the house. Miss Nora Morra is a sprightly Dandini, and by her vivacious singing and dancing contributes much to the success of the piece; Mr. Herbert Rule is quite happy as Baron Seedy, and contributes some of the funniest songs of the evening, his "Diary" song being a great favourite. As the page, Toddles, Mr. Arthur R. Carlton, in the most eccentric of costumes, works untiringly and with much success. During the first part, Mr. Carlton and Miss Digby, instead of their burlesque drama, now introduce a sabot dance, which has to be repeated nightly. Mr. Willie Scott and Mr. Arthur Watts, as the two ugly daughters, are responsible for much merriment. Mr. Scott's song, "Men," is an immense success, and evokes rounds of applause. Nothing but praise can be accorded the two Broker's Men, Messrs. Mount Stephen and Harry Rennior. This indefatigable pair have quite a genius for the invention and carrying through of laughable business, and whether as broker's men, thought readers, or golf players, the audience is kept convulsed with laughter. Mr. Mount Stephen gains much approbation for a really clever sand-dance. The Aroza Belles do excellent work in many scenes in several clever dances. Mr. C. A. East must be congratulated on the complete success of his production. Mr. Edward Godfrey is his assistant-manager. Mr. R. A. Neville gives every attention to the comfort and convenience of the audience, as well as to the interests of the theatre.

GRAND, FULHAM.

Monday, Jan. 28,
"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."

The attraction offered to theatre-goers at the Fulham Grand this week is the appearance of Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's company, in that favourite farcical comedy, *The Private Secretary*, and from the reception it got from the assembled audience certainly showed that the play and acting were appreciated. The title-rôle was taken by Mr. Donald Price-Evans, who, as the Rev. Robert Spalding, with his quaint manner, kept the audience amused from his first appearance. He was ably seconded in the humorous element by Mr. W. Hargreaves as Mr. Cattermole. The part of Douglas Cattermole was played with considerable effect by Mr. R. Reade; while that of Harry Marsland was handled by Mr. James E. Hussey with successful results. Mr. Vivian Gilbert as Sidney Gibson, the Bond-street tailor, caused some amusement. Mr. W. T. Elsworthy was seen to advantage in the character of Mr. Marsland. Mrs. A. Davis as Miss Ashford, and Miss Cecily Wade as Douglas Cattermole's landlady, did well; whilst the Edith Marsland of Miss Dora Gray, and the Eva Webster of Miss B. Elliott, were both praiseworthy impersonations. The main play was preceded by a highly-amusing farce, entitled *My American Admirer*, in which the parts are taken by Mr. W. T. Elworthy, Mr. J. Hussey, Miss C. Wade, and Miss B. Elliott. The whole was under the joint-managership of Messrs. Price-Evans and F. Trevor.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 28, the Play, by William Gillette and A. Conan Doyle, entitled,
"SHERLOCK HOLMES."

Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart's company this week is meeting with an enthusiastic reception at the Dalston Theatre with that most interesting and thrilling play entitled *Sherlock Holmes*. The title-rôle is played with great success by Mr. Hamilton Stewart, whose conception of the detective is all that can be desired. He is ably assisted by an excellent company. Miss Gladys Harvey as Alice Faulkner plays her part to perfection; Mr. Stephen T. Ewart and Miss Georgina Wynter, as James and Madge Larrabee, make an interesting pair of swindlers; and Mr. Edward Mervyn as Sydney Prince is also well placed. Mr. James Skea as Professor Moriarty is responsible for what is a perfect study of character in its way; and humour is imparted to the representation by Master Leslie Hall as Billy, who becomes a favourite as Sherlock's page-boy. Mr. Allen Jaeyes makes an affable Dr. Watson, and Mr. Fred Bell is good as John Forman. Others in the cast include Mr. Wilson Roberts as Alfred Bassick, Mr. Gordon K. Bull as Jim Cragin, Mr. E. H. Fairbairn, Mr. H. Broughton, Mr. W. Wilson, Mr. F. Spray, Mr. H. Littlejohn, Mr. F. H. Moar, Miss Rosalie Notrelle, Miss Dot Seelby, and Miss Grace Howard.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Jan. 28, the Play, in three acts, by Jerome K. Jerome, entitled
"TOMMY."

After a successful run of pantomime, the Royal County Theatre returned on Monday to the "legitimate," with the above-named clever adaptation by Mr. Jerome, of his book "Tommy and Co." Miss Annie Hughes presented a fine portrayal of the title-rôle; Mr. Rupert Lister as Dick Danvers acquitted himself commendably in the part; Peter Hope was ably played by Mr. Evelyn Vernon; and excellent assistance was rendered by Miss Winifred Pearson as "Mr. Morrison," by Miss Ida Richardson as Honour, by Mr. R. F. Beach as Flipp, and by Mr. Willie Hartill as William Clodd. Miss Hughes also played the title-rôle in the comedietta, *Good-for-Nothing Nan*, that preceded the play.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Jan. 28, the drama, in a prologue and four acts, by Hall Caine, entitled
"THE CHRISTIAN."

Mr. Wentworth Croke's company has been a very powerful draw in Marylebone this week, crowded houses being the rule nightly at Mr. Wm. Bailey's comfortable theatre. The important rôle of the Hon. John Storm is handled by Mr. Frank Tennant in a convincing and impressive way, his grip on the audience never flagging throughout the four trying acts; Mr. W. Brisco Owen gives a quiet yet telling impersonation of Horatio Drake; Mr. Charles Hill is easy and natural as Parson Quayle; Mr. Charles E. Dering does well as Archdeacon Wealthy; Mr. Edwin Ling is a diginfied Father Lamplugh; and Mr. Fredk. Scarth's embodiment of Lord Robert Ure leaves little room for improvement. The rôle of Glory Quayle is sustained with force and passion by Miss Grace Chalmers, who carries the house with her, her success being well deserved; Miss Vashti Wellborne is an inspirting Polly Love; Miss Molly Hayden scores as Mrs. Callender; and mention must be made of Miss May Dudley's Betty; Miss Violet White's Netty; Miss Nelly Hastings' Letty; Miss Kate Lee's Liza; and Miss May Weir's Aggie Jones. The play is well mounted and staged.

LEGAL NOTES OF THE MONTH.

By ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B.

A case of great importance is that of Glinseretti *v.* Rickards, which was heard before the Court of Appeal during the last month. The action was brought to recover damages for breach of a contract for the employment of the plaintiffs as acrobats. The plaintiff, Ferdinand Glinseretti, alleged that he was the proprietor of a troupe of acrobats, and carried on business in the name of "The Glinserettis," and that the defendant was the proprietor of various theatres and music halls in Australia. The plaintiff alleged that, by an agreement in writing made on Oct. 4, 1899, between the plaintiff of the one part and the defendant, through his agents, of the other part, the defendant engaged the plaintiff's troupe to travel from London to Australia, and to open their performances in Australia on or about May 15, 1902. The engagement was for a period of twenty-four weeks certain from May 15, 1902, with an option to the defendant to re-engage the said troupe for four, eight, sixteen, or twenty-four weeks. The defendant was to pay travelling expenses, including second-class passages to Australia and back, and to pay the plaintiff while the troupe was performing £75 per week. At the beginning of 1902 the defendant's agents, by authority of the defendant, repudiated the said agreement, and informed the plaintiff that the defendant had cancelled the said contract. The plaintiff claimed £1,500 damages. The defendant, by his defence, denied that the plaintiff carried on business in the name of The Glinserettis, but admitted that the plaintiff was, in October, 1899, the manager of a troupe of six acrobats who performed and were known as The Glinserettis. The defendant said that if he contracted with the plaintiff as alleged (which he denied), or at all, he did so in order to secure the personal services and performance of and by the same troupe as constituted in September and October, 1899, and that the said troupe was broken up in or about May, 1901, and thereafter was not composed of, and did not include, the individual acrobats forming the said troupe at the date of the alleged agreement. At the trial the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for £500 damages.

Now, the point raised here is exceedingly interesting and important to the theatrical and music hall professions. If a manager sees a troupe performing at a certain hall, and is struck by the cleverness of the performers, and engages them to perform at his own hall later on, must the troupe be composed of all of the original performers? The defendant's counsel argued in this case that it was a contract that the plaintiff should bring down to Sydney all the acrobats whom the defendant saw performing when he engaged them. It is important to see how the Judges at the Court of Appeal regarded the matter, and one can do so by seeing what questions they asked. Lord Justice Fletcher Moulton said, "If there was a contract that the Moore and Burgess Minstrels should perform at a certain place, would you have expected the same performers as when the contract was made?" To this defendant's counsel said that the principal performers ought to be the same. Then the same Judge went on:—"Take the case of the Queen's Hall orchestra. Would you in a similar case expect it to be composed of the same musicians?" To which counsel said that would depend upon the contract and the status of the particular musician.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, though the ground of their decision was not quite the one indicated by Lord Justice Fletcher Moulton in the questions asked by him. The ground of the decision was that the defendant had cancelled the contract some months before May, 1902, when the performers had to perform; the effect of that was that, although possibly the plaintiff might have carried out his contract by bringing the original members of his troupe to Australia, or, at any rate, equally good acrobats, the defendant had cut the ground from under his feet. The effect of that was that the plaintiff had the option to treat the repudiation as complete, and that left him his legal remedy of suing for damages for an anticipatory breach of contract, and it also relieved him from any obligation to perform any further conditions precedent to his right of action, which he would have been bound to perform if the contract had been proceeded with.

The basis of this judgment is very well-recognised law. If a manager engages a performer to appear in six months time at a music hall, and three months before the time arrives he tells the artist that he will not allow him to perform, it is quite clear that the artist can begin his proceedings at once. He need not wait until the time arrives for the performance. There is a popular idea that an artist cannot sue until the time for performing his contract arrives and he presents himself at the music hall for the purpose of carrying out his contract. This is not so; for if the repudiation of the contract by the manager is quite clear, there is no doubt that the artist can sue at the date of the repudiation, and there is no necessity for him to present himself at the theatre.

There was no need in the case above mentioned for the Court to base its decision on the question as to whether the troupe was or was not the same, and it is a great pity that a definite ruling of this subject was not given. In any case, it seems quite clear how Lord Justice Fletcher Moulton, at any rate, regarded the point, and his questions ought to form a valuable indication as to how judges in general would in all probability regard this point.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, Jan. 28, the Drama, by Walter Melville, entitled
"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."

This week we have a sure draw in the shape of Mr. Walter Melville's exciting play, *The Female Swindler*. Unlike most of Mr. Melville's productions, the adventuress in this particular play becomes a reformed character, and marries the man of her choice. An excellent interpretation of the drama is given by Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company. The title-rôle is admirably acted by Miss Grace E. Leslie, who gives a powerful rendering of the principal female part, and looks very handsome in a series of beautiful dresses. Mr. Guy P. Ellis is a manly young lover as Harold Travers, whose sweetheart, May Andrews, is sympathetically acted by Miss Florrie Kesley; Mr. Joseph Millane plays powerfully as the detective, Jack Coulson, and supplies a very fine rendering of an all-important part; Mr. Clarence Ibbitson causes abundant laughter as the ambitious Billy Binks, and his various disguises are cleverly managed; Miss Mary Dawson ably assists in the fun-making as Mary Ann Mee; and Mr. A. Kenyon Gray is an excellent James Oliver. Mr. Stanley Radcliffe earns the execrations of the "gods" by the realistic manner in which he depicts the rascality of Geoffrey Warden; and Mr. John Belton gives a good character-sketch as the Jew fence, Abraham Mikestein. Mr. George Elsworthy is good as Fred Fellows; and Mr. D. Winstow does all that is possible with the rôle of Detective Dixon. The whole play is thoroughly enjoyable, and is mounted with all the completeness and elaborate scenery which characterise all Mr. Melville's productions.

Presentation.—A presentation took place on Saturday, Jan. 26, to Mr. J. Ashmore on his retirement from the lesseeship by the staff of the Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury, the gifts taking the form of a silver cigarette case, a silver match-box, and a silver-mounted ebony stick. The presentation was made by the business-manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton. Mr. Ashmore acknowledged the kindness of the donors in a speech marked by deep feeling.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—*The Road to Yesterday*, described as a "comedy of fantasy," by Beulah Dix and Evelyn Greenleaf Sutherland, has been well received at the Herald-square Theatre. Mr. E. H. Sothern and Miss Julia Marlowe have secured the English rights of this play, and will probably appear in it during their forthcoming London engagement. It is in four acts, and the theme is somewhat theosophical. The first act takes place in London in 1903. Elspeth Tyrrell, a young American girl who is doing London for the first time, has partaken of a heavy luncheon at the "Cheshire Cheese." She returns to her cousin's studio, tired out, but wildly enthusiastic about the olden days of chivalry and romance. At the studio she encounters young Jack Greatorex, about to pose for his portrait, in the costume of Robin Hood, and into the mind of each of them comes a conviction that they have met somewhere before. This turns the conversation in the studio to the subject of reincarnation, until Elspeth retires to a cosy corner and falls asleep. There is a dark change, and time turns backward to a July morning in 1603. Elspeth comes down a country lane to meet her young lover, who, in those days was known as Reformado Jack. Elspeth learns that she is really Lady Elizabeth Tyrrell, heiress to a great fortune, and that she has just escaped from a cruel guardian, and is now disguised as a scullery-maid at the "Red Swan" inn. As this coincides with the plight of the heroines of the novels she has read and the plays she has seen, Elspeth is delighted. All through the seventeenth-century portion of the play Elspeth is vaguely conscious of her twentieth century identity, and is delighted to find that the hostler is none other than her artist cousin, who has boasted so much of his distinguished ancestry. Throughout her dream she seeks the hero, who is to be her husband; but she discovers impostors, and is always being disillusioned. The "hero" she seeks turns out to be a cruel Baron, Lord Strangevon, with a castle. Then she finds herself a prisoner, and is commanded to become his wife, while her sweetheart, Reformado Jack, is to receive two hundred lashes. Jack is brought in, bound and dying, to witness the wedding. He receives a dagger from Black Malena, a gipsy, and assassinates the Baron. Elspeth and her rescuer vanish through the secret door of the grim castle, and then, presto! the awakening comes, and all are back again in the London studio, with Reformado Jack, now Jack Greatorex, still in his Robin Hood costume, which forms the only link between the present and the past.

The scenery and costumes are in keeping with the two periods contrasted, and the atmosphere of each is delightfully maintained. Miss Minnie Dupree makes a charming Elspeth; and Kenelm Paulton, the Lord Strangevon of the dream, is ably represented by Mr. White Whittlesey. Mr. Robert Dempster as Jack Greatorex, Mr. Wright Kramer as Will wi' the Feather, and Miss Helen Ware as Black Malena play their parts admirably.

In a comedy called *The Truth*, in which Miss Clara Bloodgood is appearing at the Criterion Theatre, the author, Mr. Clyde Fitch, harks back to his old society field for his characters. The play deals with lies—social lies—which ultimately become so serious that they disrupt three families. As Becky Warder Miss Bloodgood impersonates a foolish woman who, while loyal to her husband, continually deceives him by petty falsehoods, which could easily be avoided. When her good friend, Mrs. Linden, urges her to patch up a quarrel between herself and Lindon, Becky complies, but becomes involved with her friend's husband. She believes that she will be able to overcome this difficulty, and still remain true to her own husband; but Mrs. Lindon, becoming suspicious, arouses the jealousy of Warder, and Becky lies to him. Private detectives are employed, telephone messages are overheard, and all confidence in Becky vanishes. Warder becomes so enraged that he casts his wife from him, and she returns to her father, a dissolute gambler and parasite, living on the charitable inclinations of his landlady, to whom he holds out in return a vague promise of marriage. It then develops that the woman inherits her penchant for lying from her parent, and that a similar misunderstanding brought about her family's downfall. The ultimate reconciliation is brought about in a manner that is almost farcical, a telegram from the father, telling the outraged husband that his wife is dying. He arrives, to find her rebelling at the deception, and cured at last of the habit of lying, so he takes her to his arms again. The dialogue is witty and diverting, and the principal characters are cleverly drawn, although, to anyone acquainted with Mr. Fitch's plays, they are mostly old familiar types. Miss Bloodgood's embodiment of Becky Warder is an excellent bit of acting; and Mrs. Sam Sothern wins approval as Mrs. Lindon.

At the Casino, the Messrs. Shubert have brought forward a new attraction, which has scored an unqualified success, and is likely to have a long run. It is *Princess Beggar*, the new comedy opera, written and composed especially for Miss Paula Edwardes by Edward Poulton, author of *Erminie*, and Alfred Robyn, composer of *The Yankee Consul*, &c., which takes its title from the fact that Elaine, the character created by Miss Edwardes, is of Royal birth, although at the opening of the opera she is a beggar. The scenes are laid in the mythical kingdom of Vagaria, where, some years before the opening of the play, a revolution, financed by Baron Lombardo, a type of the modern "money king," has all but exterminated the reigning house of Gregoronoff, and placed a rival ruler upon the throne in the person of Otto XXX. This jovial but impecunious monarch is so completely in the financial toils of the ambitious Baron that he is in fact a mere puppet-King, and his only hope of extricating the Royal house of Vagaria from a practical condition of bankruptcy, to to wed his son, Prince Karl, to some wealthy spinster of Royal lineage. To that end he takes advantage of Lombardo's absence to invite marriageable and richly-gowned Princesses from all the kingdoms of Europe to enter a sort of Royal match-making competition to capture the fancy and hand of the Prince. But the prospective bridegroom reveals an obstacle in the rather vague person of a young woman who once saved him from drowning, and, although he does not know who or what she is, he considers it his duty, according to all the rules of romance and chivalry, to first find her and offer his hand in marriage. Moreover, Baron Lombardo interrupts the ceremony of the presentation of the Princesses, and offers his daughter, the Lady Rowena, as a candidate for the position of Crown Princess, in spite of the fact that she has fallen in love with Count Rollo, the Prince's particular chum. When Rowena is, both for reasons of friendship and romance, declined by the Prince, Lombardo insists that the widower Otto shall make her his Queen, producing a contract compelling the Royal Family to enter into an alliance within a specified time, on forfeiture of their private estates to the rapacious Baron. But a certain Dr. Hans Von Sprudel, appointed private physician to the King by a company in which the Royal life is heavily insured in favour of the same Lombardo, shows the King a way out of the difficulty, through wedding the first woman he meets. She happens to be Elaine, a "girl from the woods," who not only saved the Prince from drowning, but fell head-over-heels in love herself. Therefore she traces him to the Palace, where she accepts the position of housemaid, in order to be near him, and incidentally courts him in most ingenuous fashion. Failing to capture the Prince, she accepts the King as second choice, and then arises the difficulty of getting married, because Lombardo has cornered the ministers. But Elaine leads the way to the Island of Ferns, where Father Boniface, formerly chaplain of the Royal House of Gregoronoff, lives as a hermit. He and Casper, her foster father, alone know that Elaine is in reality a Princess, rescued as a babe from the revolution, and, for safety's sake, brought up as a simple child of the forest. Likewise the faithful Father has preserved the chimes from the Royal chapel, swearing that they shall be rung again only to announce Elaine's wedding or coronation, which events, after many complications both comical and dramatic, are both celebrated at the climax of the opera, Prince Karl, instead of his impecunious papa, being the bridegroom. Miss Edwardes is a winsome Elaine, and easily maintains her popularity as a singing comedienne. Mr. Bertram Wallis as Prince Karl has a fine presence and a good voice, and is an ideal stage lover. Mr. Stanley L. Ford is conspicuously successful as Baron Lombardo, his rendering of the tuneful and well-written song, "I want it all," being greatly enjoyed and appreciated by the audience. Mr. Eddie Garvie and Mr. Harry MacDonough are amusing in the leading comedy rôles. Mr. Robyn's music deserves a word of praise. It is neither reminiscent nor hackneyed, but has a certain charm and freshness that leaves a most agreeable impression. This is particularly true of the "Echo" song, sung by Mr. Wallis and several members of the chorus in a most effective and ear-entrancing manner.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—*Salomy Jane*, a drama of Western life, founded on Bret Harte's story, "Salomy Jane's Kiss," was received with enthusiastic approval at the Liberty Theatre on the 19th inst., Miss Eleanor Robson scoring a most emphatic success in the title-rôle. The play is in four acts and five scenes, and was written by Paul Armstrong, author of *The Heir to the Hoorah* and other American plays. The only important departure from the original story occurs in the first act. Instead of making Salomy Jane's love for the suspected cattle thief proceed from the stoicism displayed by him when he is about to be lynched, her interest is first aroused when he confides to her that he has killed the outlaw, Baldwin, to avenge an injury committed against another woman. The scenes of the play are laid among the big trees of California during the gold days. Salomy Jane is the daughter of Madison Clay, a Kentuckian, who is at enmity with a former neighbour in the "Blue Grass" State named Larrabee, who now lives in the same section of California as Clay does. Yuba Bill, the stage driver, has been "held up" and shot in the arm. After two weeks' work, the Vigilantes learn that a ruffian named Red Pete was one of the robbers. They capture him, and, at the same time, take "the Man." He has no other name. When the crowd proposes to lynch him with Red Pete, Salomy Jane tries to save him. Failing in that, she throws her arms around him and kisses him. He and Pete are taken away, but only Pete is hanged, and the Man escapes. He goes at once to Clay's home, at night, and Salomy Jane gives him an old overcoat and a hat belonging to her father. While making his way through the woods, he meets Larrabee, who mistakes him for Clay, and attacks him. The Man shoots Larrabee dead. Then he returns to the Clay home and settles his score with Salomy Jane's cowardly lover, Rube Waters, in the cold, grey dawn, beside the corral. The play ends cleverly. After Salomy Jane and her lover have passed through all their trials, and are presumably to be made happy ever after, she asks him "What's your name, Man?" and a humorous note is struck at just the right moment. The rôle of the Man was splendidly acted by Mr. H. B. Warner, to whom the critics gave full credit for making his most decided hit during his first American engagement in a purely American character. Mr. Ralph Delmore gave a graphic portrayal of Yuba Bill; and Miss Ada Dwyer made a distinct success as Lize Heath, the wife of Red Pete. Mr. Holbrook Blinn gave an excellent representation of Jack Marbury, a polished gambler. Colonel Starbottle, the ceremonious old Kentuckian, was played to the life by Mr. Reuben Fax; and Messrs. Earl Browne, Horace Vinton, Henry Harmon, and Stephen Wright contributed clever characterisations. Three children, on whose prattle several of the momentous incidents of the play depended, were effectively impersonated by Master Donald Gallaher, Miss Frances Golden Fuller, and Miss Ruth Abbott Wells.

"The Student King," which won instant favour when it was produced recently at the Garden Theatre, has been hailed as a genuine example of "old-fashioned comic opera." The music was composed by Reginald De Koven, while the book was written by Stanislaus Stange and the late Frederic Ranken. In Bohemia, according to the story, it was the custom to elect one of the Prague University students to reign as King for one day, in place of Rudolph, the ruling monarch. Princess Ilsa of Tyrol, betrothed to Rudolph, arrives with her train of Court women to take part in the festivities, and falls in love with the student, Francis, who has been elected King. During the carnival the Princess and Francis plan an elopement, but are frustrated by the real King, who claps the young man in irons, and is about to order his execution, when it is discovered that Francis is the long lost heir to the throne. Rudolph thereupon abdicates in favour of his son, and orders the betrothal of the lovers to be celebrated by the populace. The second act presents a lively and beautiful picture of the carnival, and a much-applauded feature of the third act is a students' drinking song, in the Fest Hall of the University. Miss Lina Abarbanell, erstwhile a favourite soprano of the Metropolitan Opera House and the Irving Place Theatre, has made a decided hit as the Princess Ilsa, charming the audience not only by her singing, but by her sprightliness as a comedienne. Mr. Alexander Clark, in the character of Rudolph, is an amusing droll; and Mr. Henry Coote distinguishes himself in the rôle of the student Francis. The music is delightful, the ensembles being particularly pleasing to the ear. Mr. Henry W. Savage has mounted the opera in his usual lavish manner, and nothing is wanting to make it a lasting success.

Mme. Alla Nazimova, the Russian actress, whose signal success in an English-speaking rôle was recently recorded, has again hit the mark, and has been showered with compliments for her fine interpretation of the part of Nora in Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. By more than one newspaper she has been acclaimed the leading actress of the American stage, and no one has dissented from the general verdict that she is one to whom the word "great," so often misused, may be justly applied. Her performance is marked by an extraordinary precision of technique, a rare intuition, and absolute naturalness, while her play of feature and the tones of her voice denote innumerable delicate shades of feeling. Mme. Nazimova's success during a series of special matinées at the Princess Theatre has prompted her manager, Mr. Henry Miller, to present her as a regular evening attraction at the Bijou Theatre. The Russian actress will undoubtedly win greater honours than she has won already when she becomes thoroughly familiar with the English language.

Vesta Victoria's song, "Poor John," causes a furore nightly at the Colonial Theatre, and the newspapers predict for it an even greater popularity than that of "Waiting at the church." Vesta Victoria has enrolled herself among the very small number of English artists who have ever succeeded in making an American audience join in the chorus. But the tune and the words of "Poor John" are simply irresistible.

"NIGEL."

The New Romantic Opera, in Two Acts, Composed by Stephen R. Philpott, Written by Percy Pinkerton, Produced, for the First Time, at the Grand Theatre, Birmingham, Jan. 25.

Nigel .....MR. F. J. HARGRAVE
Geoffrey .....MR. TOM GRIFFITHS
Colin .....MR. G. RIDDING
Margery .....MISS JESSIE DENNIS
Winnifred .....MISS CHRISTINE GOMEZ

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The story of Nigel, which opens in a Devonshire village, is pretty, though plaintive, with a tragic dénouement, and concerns the conflict of the Roundhead, Geoffrey, with the handsome and gallant cavalier whose name furnishes the title of the opera. Nigel is beloved by the two maidens, Margery and Winnifred, the former of whom he delivers from the distasteful advances of Geoffrey, hence the conflict, in which the Roundhead is discomfited, and, declaring vengeance, makes his exit. Nigel comforts the maid, albeit he loves her not, being enamoured of Winnifred, who, happening on the scene at the time, develops incipient jealousy. Her affection for Margery, however, remains unabated, and soon she is assured of her lover's fidelity, and all is well. A chorus of harvesters enter on the scene, and the Cavaliers, with the gaiety of their kind, join the dance. "Sing hey, sing ho! for the gay Cavalier," "Let every gallant choose a maid," and "Wine like this sparkles with bliss," are lines wedded to a joyous lilt, which infected the audience with the spirit of the scene. The diversion is now rudely interrupted by an incursion of Roundheads, headed by Geoffrey, who, on vengeance bent, grievously wounds the Cavalier, and bears him away, bound with cords. Thus the act closes, amid the protestations of the maids, Winnifred and Margery, and the confusion of the Cavaliers and harvesters.

Act 2 opens with a procession of priests and choir, and, entering the church, the choir and organ are heard in some impressive strains, which proved the composer's capacity for scoring good, sound harmony. During this Nigel enters, helpless and distressed, and supported by Margery, who, disguised as a Roundhead, has drugged the sentries and effected his escape. Hiding him in a barn, she essays to make her own escape, but being surprised and recognised by the Roundheads, she, on refusing to betray Nigel's hiding-place, is led away for death. Winnifred, having been apprised of Nigel's place of safety, joins him, and is discovered there by Geoffrey, who brutally runs his sword through his hapless and helpless rival, putting him to death. The villain flees the spot, and Winnifred, seizing Nigel's dagger, dies, Juliet-like, at her lover's side, amid the lamentations of the villagers, who invoke Heaven's mercy on the twain. This made a very effective curtain, and the appreciative audience showered much applause, which was all deserved, for the work, though, of course, not a great one, was thoroughly enjoyable from beginning to end. The overture, embodying the leading themes, disclosed much that was admirable in the orchestration of the work, and the opening chorus for harvesters merry-making gave forth a joyous ring. The early song for Margery is distinguished by exquisite melodic charm, and it was exquisitely sung by Miss Jessie Dennis, to whom the character was allotted. The duet with Geoffrey, "What news, my pretty Margery?" and Geoffrey's fracas with Nigel, is expressed with much point, while Geoffrey's song, "For honour and country," is tuneful and stirring. "The Ballad of Lucasta," for Nigel, and the duet, "Love like the sunset," for Nigel and Winnifred, together with Nigel's "Drinking song," and the country dance and choruses for villagers, were highly suggestive of the period.

An intermezzo, "In the meadows," precedes the second act, and here again the various numbers displayed much lyrical charm. This was conspicuous in the beautiful lullaby for Margery, which was encored; also "An old, sweet tale" (Margery), "Kind, generous Margery" (Nigel), "Oh! sacred love" (Winnifred), and "I dreamt we were in Paradise" (Nigel and Winnifred). The choruses and ensembles, as well as the orchestration, show a distinct advance on the composer's former work, *Gitana*, and, taking it all in all, the opera is one to which the term pleasing may well be applied.

The J. W. Turner Opera Company is engaged in the presentation of the work, and Mr. F. J. Hargrave, in the title-rôle, well deserved his honours. Possessing a clear tenor voice, which has never been better used, he showed a sympathy with the part and an appreciation of the music which left its impression distinctly. Miss Christine Gomez was entrusted with the soprano part, Winnifred, which she made most interesting and successful, her solo and part singing being rendered in a most charming and artistic manner. Miss Jessie Dennis, as the self-sacrificing Margery, made a marked impression, as she always does, her sweet voice and sympathetic acting accounting for much of the success. Mr. Tom Griffiths as the obnoxious bully and Roundhead, Geoffrey, acted and sang finely, the manner of the boor and the perfection of the singer being firmly expressed. Mr. G. Ridding, in the small and weak part of the Captain, Colin, who deserts his chief, Nigel, was an able supporter, and the chorus and orchestra, under the conspicuously firm and alert conductorship of Mr. T. Lawton, did splendidly. Mention must also be made of the libretto by Percy Pinkerton, for, without being ambitious, the lines take a happy turn and convey a pleasant sentiment.

Nigel was preceded by a one-act farce, set to music, by Caldicott, entitled *Old Knockles*, in which Mr. P. Newton did well as Sir Miles Allbright, a young man disguised as a fisherman, to evade the conditions of a will, under which it is stipulated that he must wed a lady he has never seen. Miss Kitty Brownlees was tuneful and bright as the young lady in question, Maud Coventry, and to whom Sir Miles eventually succumbs; Miss Jessie Dennis was also successful as Kate Hazlewood, a lady novelist in search of "copy"; Mr. Richard Cummings provided diversion as Mr. Bellworthy, an amiable imbecile, with "a title in Spain and a fortune in China"; and Mr. John Ridding scored as old Knockles, who, for the nonce, is by the lady novelist taken for Sir Miles. This amusing trifle contains some entertaining items, to mention only "The fishing net" (duet), "The North Sea whale" (song), "Making the pie" (quartette), "You do it to perfection" (song), &c.

MR. GERALD FITZGIBBON, the press manager of the Crystal Palace, writes:—"I have noticed in my few months' connection with the Palace that the enormous population does not support the management of the Palace as it should. With the limited means at the disposal of the Company, they have done, and are doing wonders; but the people of Sydenham, Norwood, Penge, Croydon, and other parts can, by becoming season ticket holders, give the Crystal Palace Company the chance of bringing to Sydenham exhibitions, entertainments, and novelties which should draw the whole of the Metropolis. As it is the management present the best theatrical companies that can be obtained, and the most distinguished artists, vocal and instrumental, are engaged for the concerts, while the other entertainments both indoors and out in the beautiful grounds are unequalled. The late Prince Consort was the founder of the Crystal Palace, and it is probable that were the attention of the King drawn to the crisis through which the Crystal Palace has been passing, His Majesty would devise some means of placing so old an institution again upon a sound basis."

CHATS WITH DRAMATIC AUTHORS

MR. JOSEPH DILLEY.

Mr. Dilley was born in Westminster in 1838. His first essays in dramatic writing took the shape of recitations and sketches for the elocutionary entertainments of the Walworth Literary Institution. He next wrote some short pieces for the Ingoldsby Amateur Dramatic Club. These earlier efforts included *Love or Duty—Which Wins? In the Toils, Caronne, A Sleeping Hare* (acted later at St. George's Hall), and a farce called *Alexander the Great; or, A Pretty Piece of Chiselling*. In this Mr. Dilley collaborated with Mr. James Albery, a fellow member of the club, whose local pen-name was James Allen.

In 1868 the Royal Dramatic College announced a competition for the second T. P. Cooke prize of £100 for the best drama on a nautical or national subject. The first prize had been carried off by Mr. Slous, whose play, *True to the Core*, had had a successful run at the Surrey Theatre. Messrs. Albery and Dilley again collaborated. The four-act play written and sent in by them was called *The Mate of the Mountjoy*, and their subject was the blockade and relief of the starving city of Londonderry in 1689. The sensational effect was the breaking of the boom built across the river Foyle. The piece, which a waggish competitor suggested should have been called *Love and Starvation*, was declared to be the best of those sent in, and the prize of £100 was handed to the gratified authors. *The Mate of the Mountjoy* was not, however, fortunate enough to find a stage. In 1870 Mr. Dilley produced a two-act comedy called *Illusions* at the Charing Cross Theatre, then under the management of Miss Emily Fowler. Miss Harriet Coveney, Mr. C. P. Flockton, and Mr. E. Danvers, of Dame Hatley fame—what a long journey backwards these names seem to take us!—were in the cast. The newspaper notices of this, Mr. Dilley's first piece on the "regular" stage, were critically cordial. There was said to be "a large balance of good" in the little comedy, and the author was told to go on writing.

An advertisement in the *Echo* announcing the first night of the production furnished a remarkable specimen of "printer's pie," which is worth quoting if only as a warning to compositors:—

CHARING CROSS THEATRE. Lessee. BAD AFTER ALL Saturday, May 21, ILLUSIONS, a and Manageress Miss Emily Fowler. Last night of IXION. Last night of MR. WYBERT REEVE, and NOT SO Comedy by Joseph J. Dilley.

Under the title of *Chiselling*, the farce, the tentative production of which has already been mentioned, was put in the Vaudeville bills in August, 1870, with the late Mr. David James in the part of Trotter. As is well known Mr. James scored a brilliant success in this part, which he played again and again after its first run was over. Mr. Dilley's next farce was *A Highland Fling*. It was accepted in 1875 by Messrs. James and Thorne, who did not, however, produce it until 1879, on the occasion of the 1277th performance of *Our Boys*—the first break in a bill that had been running for nearly four years.

A notable production at the Vaudeville in 1881 was that of *Tom Pinch*, a dramatisation by Messrs. Clifton and Dilley of what may be called the domestic interest in Dickens's "Martin Chuzzlewit." It was said of Mr. Thorne that he might have stood for the famous illustration of Tom Pinch in the book. He won almost equally high praise for his acting. The cast, an exceptionally strong one, included Mr. Farren, Mr. John Maclean, Mr. Lestocq, Miss Kate Bishop, and Miss Sophie Larkin. At a Crystal Palace matinée afterwards, Miss Mary Dickens, a granddaughter of the novelist, played the part of Ruth. The adaptation has been and is still being played in the United States and Canada, with Mr. E. S. Willard in the title-rôle.

A Military Manœuvre (Vaudeville, 1880), *Summoned to Court* (Sadler's Wells, 1880), and *Cousin Grace* (Gaiety, 1884), were the joint work of Messrs. Clifton and Dilley. *A Glimpse of Paradise* was the title of Mr. Dilley's three-act farce, of which a mock duel was the central motive. It was exploited with success at Ealing in 1887, and was afterwards sent on tour. In *Whips of Steel* (four acts, St. George's Hall, 1889) and *Richard's Play* (one-act costume piece, Ladbroke Hall, 1891) Mr. Dilley collaborated with Miss Mary C. Rowsell. The authors of the book of the comic opera, *Marjorie*, as produced at a Prince of Wales's matinée in July, 1889, were Messrs. Clifton and Dilley. They were congratulated on having chosen a picturesque period for their story, and on having provided an attractive plot, good comedy business, and some exceptionally smooth lyrics. A distinctive feature of the opera was the bright and telling music composed by Mr. Walter Slaughter, whose first important work it was. The opera, in revised form, was put into the evening bills of the theatre in January, 1890.

A powerful little one-act play, or, as Mr. Dilley prefers to call it, a dramatic vignette, entitled, *At the Cross Roads*, is his latest contribution to the stage. The piece has been round the provinces more than once, and has even been seen so far afield as New Zealand

Mr. Dilley was for nearly forty years at the Board of Trade, the colleague for most of the time of Mr. Austin Dobson, Mr. Samuel Waddington, and the late Mr. Cosmo Monkhouse.

ACTORS AT GOLF.

The theatrical match between the actors engaged at the Prince's Royal and Gaiety Theatres, Manchester, and a team chosen by Mr. T. Foster from among the members of the Manchester Club was played at Trafford Park on the 21st ult. All the talent at the pantomimes was included in the visiting team, the "star" turns being Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., and F. J. Hope, both of whom started from scratch. The former was completely off his game, and after getting into all sorts of bunkers, missing short putts, and indulging in other commonplace errors, he succumbed to P. R. Harrap, who played a strong game. W. Heyes was behind all the time in his game with F. J. Hope, and two excellent long putts on the last two greens enabled him to snatch a half. George Gregory played a fine long game, but he was somewhat disconcerted by his opponent, A. T. Spalding, who, continuing his form of Saturday last, only made his first mistake on the thirteenth green, and holed out in 77. One of the toughest fights took place between George Lee and A. Catterall, and the latter was 2 up and 3 to play. Lee, who is a stubborn opponent, played with great determination, and snatched the victory on the last green with a two-yard putt. Wilkie Bard was anything but a "star" in the outward journey, and was probably disconcerted by a small and admiring throng of photographers and spectators. As a golfer he is a very human player. In the latter stages of the game he improved, and to his great delight he halved the match with T. Foster, who was dormy two.

Wilkie Bard's start imperilled the club dining room window, and the fact that Miss Carrie Moore was critically observing his initial efforts, having driven (in a cab) down to Trafford Hall purposely, did not tend to increase his confidence. After the match the visitors were entertained to lunch, when Wilkie Bard, on behalf of his brethren, acknowledged the club's hospitality

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ADVICES from New York state that the Grand Jury has indicted the so-called Theatrical Trust as a conspiracy in restraint of trade. The indictment cites the experience of Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, who, when touring in America, was forced to play under tents in some cities because the Trust excluded her from its theatres

THE ACTOR'S UNION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Will you allow me to say that Mr. Edward Van Biene has somehow made a mistake over my figures? He either has read an incorrect report of my speech, or misunderstood what I said. I never suggested that theatres should subscribe £50 or £25 each. I was speaking of my favourite matinée scheme. I pointed out that there were 250 theatres open in England. I said if a matinée were given in each of them the *average* result should be a good deal over £50. I added, if we got £50 from each the result would be £12,500, and if we only got £25 from each the result would be over £6000, which is more than our charities spend to-day.

Mr. Van Biene quotes only the higher figure that I mentioned, and he speaks of it as a subscription, not the result of a matinée. Now that I have drawn his attention to the fact, perhaps it may alter his view of the matter.

Mr. Van Biene's opinion with regard to who should, and who should not, assist the poor of our calling is no doubt worthy of the best consideration, but those who are trying to stimulate and systematise charity at present have at least the consolation that they are trying to do something, while their obviously more brilliant brethren can do nothing but rail at motor-cars and talk of the "common sense," which does not appear to

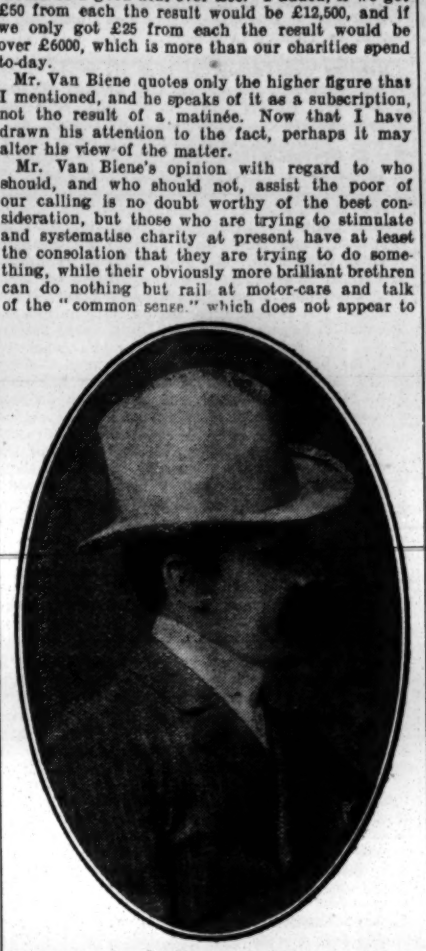

Photo. by Weston.

MR. CECIL RALEIGH.

lead them to any organised effort. When it does, those who are leading to-day will be very content to follow.—Yours faithfully,

CECIL RALEIGH.

2, Brunswick-place, Regent's Park, N.W.
Jan. 31, 1907.

MR. FRANK ROTHSAY'S BENEFIT.

A complimentary benefit performance was accorded to Mr. Frank Rothsay, at the Stratford Borough Theatre, on Thursday afternoon, and a large and enthusiastic audience testified to the excellence of the programme submitted. This year's very successful pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, was the staple attraction, and the beneficiare had the assistance of many professional friends now in London. Miss Stella Gastelle, who has become deservedly popular in the name-part of the pantomime, appeared, together with Mr. Roland Cunningham, in a scena from *La Poupée*, and they had a most flattering reception; Miss Rosie Sylvester won all hearts with "I want a little man like you," and was a general favourite; Mr. Ben Albert was, as usual, well to the fore with his capital songs; Mr. Dan Paulton rendered a new ditty for the occasion with the utmost success; and Mr. W. E. Richardson, most diverting of "dames," lent valuable aid. Miss Ethel Ashton quickly danced her way into favour, and was cordially received; Mr. Frank Hemming, strikingly successful as Friday, contributed a successful item in conjunction with Miss Marie Free; and Messrs. Woodhouse and Wells, the popular Larboard and Starboard of the pantomime, provoked endless mirth with their speciality act. Mr. F. Maxwell Stewart, in addition to his onerous duties as stage-manager, showed the possession of much vocal ability in a pleasing contribution to the programme. In addition to the pantomime artists, Mr. Phil Ray scored quite a triumph in "Abbreviations," and was rapturously encored; Mr. Andrew Roy's fine vocalism was greatly admired in a most artistically-rendered item; and Mr. Ernest Genders was in excellent voice with "Come into the garden, Maud." Mr. Story Gofton recited, with much dramatic effect; and Miss Ethel Holden won golden opinions with her "Cigarette" song, very charmingly rendered. The duologue contributed by Dick and Minnie Lewis was most welcome; and the instrumental selection by Orpheus afforded keen pleasure.

During an interval Mr. Rothsay appeared on the stage, and, in the course of a most felicitous speech, thanked Mrs. Ellis Fredericks, the proprietress of the Stratford Theatres, the pantomime artists, the orchestra, and the staff at the back and front of the theatre, and those professional friends who had assisted towards the success of the matinée. A pleasing incident was the presentation to Mr. Rothsay of a substantial cheque by Mr. Percy Briggs, a well-known resident of Stratford, on behalf of numerous local friends of the beneficiare, as a token of their esteem and appreciation of his popularity during the eleven years he has been in Stratford as acting-manager of the Borough Theatre. Mr. Briggs's well-chosen words were enthusiastically applauded, and Mr. Rothsay, in reply, said that he had made numerous friends in Stratford, and he hoped long to continue in their midst. A telegram from Mr. Fred Fredericks, the general-manager of the Stratford Theatres, expressed his regret that a severe illness prevented him from being present at the matinée, which he wished every success.

"BLUE BEARD," at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on Thames, which was withdrawn last Saturday evening owing to other bookings, has been the most successful of the eleven shows that Mr. Peter Davey, the energetic managing-director, has produced since the opening of the theatre, and might well have been run for several weeks longer. The close of the pantomime was marked by a ball on the stage, after the performance, on the 24th ult., to which a number of non-professional friends were invited by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Davey. Several members of the companies appearing in the pantomimes *Goody Two-Shoes, Sinbad the Sailor*, and *The Babes in the Wood*, which Mr. Davey has also been touring, joined the gathering, which was also graced by the presence of the Mayor of Kingston, Mr. J. M. R. Francis. Dancing commenced immediately the stage was cleared, and was kept up with vigour until about 3 a.m.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LES BOUFFONS."

Play, in Four Acts, in verse, by M. Miguel Zamacois, produced at the Sarah-Bernhardt on Jan. 25.

Le Bouffon Jocasse ....MME. SARAH BERNHARDT
Nicole .....MME. PATRY
Solange de Mautpré .....MLLE. GREUZE
Vulcano .....M. HENRY KRAUSS
Le Baron de Mautpré .....M. MAURY
Narcisse .....M. DECŒUR
Olivier .....M. LAROCHE
Baroco .....M. GERVAL
Hilare .....M. GUIDE
Jeannot .....M. ANGELO
Jacques .....M. RICHARD

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, JAN. 31.—It speaks well for Mme. Sarah Bernhardt's artistic temperament that a rôle of a man with a hump should not have frightened her. There are many actresses, here and on your side of the water, who would not like to make themselves look unattractive; but be it said to the honour of this clever woman, she does not allow vanity, as regards her personal appearance, to interfere with her art It is true the man she impersonates is only a pseudo-hunchback, who in the last act throws off his hump. Yet during four acts Mme. Bernhardt has to show herself with a protuberance on her back; and the public showed itself grateful for this sacrifice. The author calls his piece a "story," and has laid the scene towards the middle of the sixteenth century, in the days when kings and great noblemen had paid jesters to entertain them. It is possible that in the course of time the paid jester slowly blossomed into a Poet Laureate, who has the advantage over his mediæval colleague of not being compelled to be funny by order. The plot is very simple. Solange is the seventeen-year-old daughter of the Baron de Mautpré, an impoverished nobleman. Owing to her father's poverty, the girl leads a secluded life in the gloomy old castle. Visitors are rarely admitted, and two young noblemen who have fallen in love with her seek some means of entering the castle. At last they hit upon a ruse. Solange feeling desponding, the Baron, in order to cheer her, decides to engage a buffoon, and organises a competition, the choice to be made from among those who present themselves. Solange herself is to make the selection, and the two lovers make their appearance, disguised as buffoons; one of them, Narcisse, in a magnificent costume, and the other, Jocasse, in a quieter dress, wearing a hump. Both excel in wit, but it is Jocasse who not only is the winner but secures the fair girl's love. The competition has been started at the suggestion of the apothecary, the Baron's medical adviser, and that kind-hearted man knows that Jocasse's deformity is only a sham. And when the anxious Solange asks him whether a man can be cured of his hump, he promptly replies that a hump frequently disappears on the humpback's wedding-day. And, almost needless to say, this miracle really takes place when the eventful moment arrives. Brightly written in excellent verse, the work scored a great and well-deserved success. Mme. Sarah Bernhardt was a pathetic and delightful Jocasse; Mlle. Greuze supplied a charming Solange; and the strong cast, comprising MM. Krauss, Maury, Laroche, Gerval, and Decœur, rendered capital service.

"LA MAISON DES JUGES."

Play, in Three Acts, by M. Gaston Leroux, produced at the Odéon on Jan. 27.

Béatrice .....MLLE. VAN DOREN
Mme. Lambert .....MME. DELPHINE RENOT
Nanette .....MLLE. MARCELLE JULLIEN
Petit Pierre .....PETITE CRETOT
L'ancêtre Pétrus Lamarque .....M. DUQUESNE
Président Louis Lamarque .....M. CHELLES
Jean Lamarque .....M. DESJARDINS
Marie-Louis Lamarque .....M. ROLLAN
Le Réquisiteur Général .....MARQUET
Le Grand Réquisiteur .....M. DUARD
Le Conseiller Lambert .....M. LEON BERNARD
Le Juge Faber ..... M. VARGAS

M. Gaston Leroux, a well-known journalist, evidently not favourably impressed with the manner in which sentences are rendered by those who hold the scales of justice, asks the question: "Has a judge really the right to punish?" Judges, he says, are only men, liable to be guided more by passion than by reason. Moreover, they make mistakes that cannot always be set right; and he wants our legislators to study this problem, which, if I am not mistaken, has already been put forward by others. M. Leroux introduces us into the "maison des juges," a house inhabited by three generations of judges. Jean Lamarque, Public Prosecutor, whose boy will enter the Bar, has his apartment on the first floor, which he shares with his father, Louis Lamarque, President of the Court of Appeal. On the floor above lives his grandfather, Pétrus Lamarque, ninety-five years old, a former President of the Assize Court. Jean Lamarque is a hard man, harsh even with the members of his household. Having received an anonymous denunciation that Béatrice, his wife, is unfaithful to him, he disregards her protestations, and, but for the fear of a scandal, would have asked for a separation. Wrongly suspected, Béatrice's life at home is well-nigh unbearable. Jean Lamarque is prosecuting a certain Tiffaire, an anarchist, who has thrown a bomb in one of the law courts. This Tiffaire is the descendant of one of the three brothers Tiffaire sentenced to death many years ago by the old grandfather, although, till the very last, they protested their innocence. Leperrier, the examining magistrate, looking through the Tiffaire papers, discovers that the before-mentioned three men had not committed the deed for which they were executed, and he lays the proofs before Jean. The latter is thunderstruck. He does not want the truth to be known, lest the prestige of the Bench might suffer. But when the old grandfather admits having wilfully committed this wrong in order to save society from anarchists' plots, Jean is horrified. The old gentleman, having made this terrible confession, drops down dead. Jean, however, will do his duty. He will divulge the truth, and he clasps in his arms his wife of whose innocence he is now convinced. It is a fine work, but beyond the mentality of the average playgoer, who does not care for lofty thoughts, but who wants a "story" to amuse him. And for this reason it is to be feared that the piece will not have the success it deserves. It was excellently acted.

WE have had a revival at the Théâtre de la Porte-Saint Martin of *Notre-Dame de Paris*, the popular old drama, as well known in London as it is here. Brought out in 1879, it was revived in 1885, when again it met with a hearty reception. Another generation has since sprung up, whose tastes are somewhat different; and it cannot be said that they grew wildly enthusiastic over the performance. The work, however, is well staged, well acted; and it is probable that MM. Hertz and Jean Coquelin, who are again at the head of this house, will be satisfied with the result.

"ANNA KARENINE,"

Play in Five Acts and Seven Tableaux, by M. Edmond Guiraud, adapted from Tolstoi's novel, produced at Antoine's on Jan. 31.

Anna Karénine .....MME. ANDREE MEGARD
Comtesse Miagkaia .....MLLE. GILBERTE SERGY
Dolly .....MLLE. ACKEAT
Kitty .....MLLE. VENIAT
Lydie Ivanovna .....MLLE. JANE EVEN
Princess Barbe .....MLLE. LISE FLEURY
Alexis Karénine .....M. GEMIER
Wronsky .....M. GASTON SEVERON
Stiva .....M. COLAS
Makotine .....M. GODEAU
Levine .....M. MONTLOUIS

It is not generally known that Tolstoi never claims a cent royalty from those who adapt his novels for the stage. He never derived any financial benefit from the French and English adaptation of "Resurrection"; and M. Guiraud, who has taken a few liberties with "Anna Karénine" when dramatising it, will not be called upon to share his profits with the great Russian writer. From a business point of view, this is no doubt most satisfactory; but there is another side to the question—the public does not like to see its idols smashed. "Anna Karénine" is one of Tolstoi's finest works, and we do not feel particularly happy when we see it transferred to the stage, condensed into half a dozen commonplace tableaux, shorn of the deep psychology that makes the work so human. The adapter has slightly altered the story. Anna Karénine, the wife of a high official, has fallen in love with Captain Wronsky, the fiancé of Kitty, her dearest friend. She leaves her husband and her child to go away with her lover; and as Alexis Karénine will not consent to a divorce, she and Wronsky know the melancholy side of an irregular situation. They have settled in Venice. Anna is sighing after her child, whilst Wronsky regrets that he foolishly resigned his post in the army. Anna returns to Russia to see her little boy on the stealth, and Wronsky succeeds in being reinstated into his former post. A few years later Alexis Karénine is willing to divorce; but Wronsky, who has become colonel, does no longer care to marry his mistress. In fact, he has ceased to love her. Overcome with grief, tired of life, Anna throws herself under the train that carries off Wronsky and the girl who is to become his wife. The work was effectively staged, especially the tableau wherein Anna commits suicide. Mme. Mégard may be complimented on the way in which she interpreted the difficult rôle of Anna; and M. Gémier impersonated the cold, implacable Alexis to perfection.

"MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND."

"A Dutch Musical Incident," in Two Acts, libretto by Paul A. Rubens and Austen Hurgon, music by Paul A. Rubens; produced at the Prince of Wales's Theatre on Thursday, Jan. 31.

Mr. Hook .....MR. G. P. HUNTLEY
Captain Adrian Paap ....MR. HERBERT CLAYTON
Lieutenant De Coop .....MR. B. S. FOSTER
Bandmaster Van Vuyt .....MR. WALTER HYDE
Ludwig Schnapps .....MR. HARRY GRATTAN
An Old Policeman .....MR. MORRIS HARVEY
Simon Slinks .....MR. GEORGE BARRETT
Miss Voos .....MISS PHŒBE MERCER
Freda Voos .....MISS GWENDOLINE BROGDEN
Clara Voos .....MISS GLADYS IVERY
Gretchen .....MISS EVA KELLY
An Old Market Woman ....MISS ALICE COLEMAN
Mina .....MISS GRACIE LEIGH
Sally .....MISS ISABEL JAY

The new piece produced at the Prince of Wales's Theatre on Thursday night by Mr. Frank Curzon proved to be a delightful example of the lighter form of theatrical entertainment which comes under the comprehensive description of musical play. While all the primal and essential features of this class of piece are conspicuous in the new production, the authors have steered clear of giving offence to the most fastidious playgoer, while at the same time they have been equally successful in presenting a bright and merry entertainment that has not a dull moment in it from beginning to end. As to plot, well that is generally regarded as of the least importance in musical comedy, dependent as it is for its attractive powers upon smart dialogue, good songs, and pretty music, to say nothing of charming scenery and dresses. Briefly told the story has to do with Mr. Hook, a Dutch distiller, who through carelessness loses the receipt of a famous liqueur, the manufacture of which has brought him wealth. A loafer named Simon Slinks finds the receipt, and from him it passes into the possession of Captain Adrian Paap. It appears that Mr. Hook has no love for the military, and this is unfortunate for the gallant captain, who has fallen in love with Sally, the distiller's attractive daughter. He thinks that by restoring the valuable recipe to its original owner he may overcome that gentleman's objection to a marriage with his daughter. As a matter of fact, however, the young lady has already made up her mind that Bandmaster Van Vuyt is the man she really cares for, and in the end the captain, instead of taking his disappointment to heart, seeks consolation elsewhere.

Mr. G. P. Huntley as Mr. Hook, the distiller, must be congratulated on an altogether fresh and delightful study of character. That it will become one of the most popular impersonations of this clever comedian is quite certain. Miss Isabel Jay was a very dainty representative of Sally, the distiller's daughter, and scored both as actress and vocalist. Her songs, "Little Miss Wooden Shoes" and "Flying kites," were both received with rapturous applause. Miss Gracie Leigh as Mina gave a charming performance of a Dutch maiden, scoring with her song-version of the legend of the Flying Dutchman, and a ditty called "My petticoats." Mr. George Barrett gave a humorous portrayal of Simon Slinks, and his song, "The lot of the lazy loafer," was one of the numerous hits of the evening. Mr. Herbert Clayton rendered good service as Captain Paap; posesssing a baritone voice of excellent quality, he shared in the vocal successes of the performance. Mr. Harry Grattan was comical as Ludwig Schnapps, and Mr. B. S. Foster as Lieutenant De Coop and Mr. Walter Hyde as Van Vuyt, the latter taking part with Miss Jay in the duet, "The sleepy canal," both did admirable work. Mr. Morris Harvey was effective as an old policeman. Miss Gladys Ivery as Clara Voos deserves a word of praise, and favourable mention should also be made of Miss Phœbe Mercer as Miss Voss, Miss Gwendoline Brogden as Freda Voos, Miss Eva Kelly as Gretchen, and Miss Alice Coleman as an old market woman.

AT a meeting of the Theatre Royal, Dublin, held on the 23rd ult., Mr. D. Telford (chairman of the company) in proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, said the meeting would be gratified to learn that, with one single exception, the year 1906 was the best they had ever had. The directors proposed to pay the usual dividend of 6 per cent. on the company's share capital, to place a further sum of £1,000 to reserve fund, and to carry forward a balance of over £2,000 to next account. The earnings would have justified a larger dividend but for the fact that they had decided to spend a large sum of money in the erection of winter gardens on the site of the annexe. Mr. Mouillot (managing-director) seconded the resolution, and announced for the forthcoming season a phenomenal list of attractions, which included visits from many of the leading London artists. The retiring directors and auditors were re-elected.

LIVERPOOL is reverting to the stock system, which in the old days prevailed there for many years. The Royal and Paddington have already abandoned variety, and gone in successfully for the two-houses-a-night drama; and now the Park Palace is about to follow suit, under its present management.

THE King and Queen honoured *Le Voyage de M. Perrichon* at the Royalty Theatre with their presence on Wednesday. The same evening saw the Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by Prince Edward of Wales and Princess Victoria, and attended by their suite, at Drury Lane, where they witnessed the performance of *Sindbad*. On Thursday evening the Queen, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Victoria, was present at the Adelphi Theatre for the representation of *The Bondman*.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM is making only a brief sojourn in Egypt, the climate of which is proving less genial than was anticipated, and will return to London in about two weeks' time. The middle of April will find the eminent actor installed in his old home at the Criterion, when he and Miss Mary Moore will begin what it is hoped will be a long stay in London with a new play specially written for these admirable artists by Mr. Hubert Henry Davis.

MR. CHARLES WARNER must have had a very pleasant evening on the 19th ult., when, from a seat in the private box in the Liberty Theatre, New York, he viewed his son, Mr. H. B. Warner's performance of the part of the Man in *Salomy Jane*, a drama of Western life founded on Bret Harte's story, "Salomy Jane's Kiss." Mr. H. B. Warner made a distinct success.

MR. CYRIL MAUDE entertained his schoolfellows at the Playhouse on Wednesday, when the audience consisted of Old Carthusians, who gave their old comrade a rousing welcome. Many Carthusian touches were introduced into *Toddles*, notably when Lord Meadows appeared in pyjamas of the school colours. In the course of a neat speech at the end Mr. Maude said the three houses he had been thinking most about lately were the workhouse (after the accident to the theatre), the Playhouse, and Charterhouse. The audience joined as in school days in the "Floreat," and Mr. Maude added that he felt as proud as if he had made a century against Westminster. He was indeed entitled to "wear his cap swagger," the height of ambition to every Charterhouse boy.

THE wisdom of Mr. Maude's plan of numbering all the seats in his new theatre was fully justified on Monday, when not a single note of opposition against the new system was sounded. The public is proverbially erratic, and what they would not permit the late Sir Henry Irving to attempt they have allowed Mr. Maude to accomplish without demur. Numerous letters, moreover, have been received thanking the popular comedian for having effected the innovation at the Playhouse.

MISS ELLEN TERRY was most affectionately greeted by a crowded audience when she made her entrée in New York on Monday. The eminent actress appeared as Lady Cecily Waynflete in *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*, and asserted all her customary charm, the opinion being everywhere expressed that she is as brilliant as ever. In answer to continued recalls, Miss Terry came forward, and, with a wining smile, said: "I don't want to make a speech. I'd rather just say thank you."

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER will on Feb. 11 give a "flying" matinée of *The Morals of Marcus*, now approaching its 200th London performance, at the Prince's Theatre at Bristol. The complete London cast will appear, returning to town in time for the evening representation at the Garrick. By a happy coincidence, Mr. Bourchier's specially selected provincial company, headed by Mr. and Mrs. Nye Chart, and Miss Hilda Antony, will open at the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, on the same date.

THE annual general meeting of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, it is well to remind our readers, will be held on the stage of His Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday next at 12 noon, to receive the report of the Committee and accounts for the year 1906. Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree will occupy the chair. The attendance of subscribers is requested, and all those interested in the work of the fund are invited to be present.

MR. BEN ALBERT, who has been meeting with great success as Bill Atkins in the Stratford pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, was too unwell to appear on Monday and Tuesday nights, and a younger brother, who has been assisting him during the pantomime, stepped into the breach at quite a moment's notice, and played the part with the most satisfactory results, not omitting Mr. Albert's speciality numbers.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY has had every encouragement to again embark on three-night visits to different towns, for since the 21st ult. he has drawn crowded audiences at Eastbourne, Oxford, Leamington, and Coventry. Indeed, at the last-mentioned place, despite weather conditions by no means pleasant, if seasonable, the popular actor played to some of the largest audiences the Opera House has known. To-night sees the conclusion of an experiment which has met with the utmost success, and on Monday, at the Theatre Royal, Hull, the customary week's sojourn will be reverted to.

ON Thursday night the new setting and production of *Hamlet* will be used for the first time. Provided with this special scenery—modelled precisely on Mr. Harvey's original scheme, but so planned as to suit some of the less commodious stages—the Shakespearean tragedy will hold a very prominent place throughout the present spring tour. Not only in Hull, but in the towns next to be visited, namely, Southport and Middlesbrough, there is much scholarly anticipation concerning the revival.

A SURPRISE awaited the audience at the Berliner Theatre the other day. The house was well filled for a performance of *Sherlock Holmes;* and, a few moments before it was time to commence, Herr Bonn, the manager-actor-author, stepped in front of the curtain and addressed himself to the astonished audience. He said they had come to see *Sherlock Holmes*, and so they should, but in another character. He would present to them *Der Hund von Baskerville* (*The Hound of the Baskervilles*). Herr Bon declared he wanted the public's opinion of his new play on its first production, and he begged them to remain as his guests—the tickets taken for *Sherlock Holmes* holding good for a future performance. The audience took Herr Bonn's proposition with good humour, and received the new piece with much cordiality. The full title is *Der Hund von Baskerville, a three-act Drama from the Scotch Highlands*, freely adapted by Ferdinand Bonn from Sir C. Doyle's novel.

MR. LEWIS WALLER accomplished a noteworthy achievement on Monday, when he paid a flying visit to Bristol, 120 miles from London, and gave a matinée of *Monsieur Beaucaire* at the Prince's Theatre there, returning to town in the evening in time for the performance of *Robin Hood* at the Lyric. The party left Paddington by the Great Western Railway's 9 a.m. express, and returned from Bristol at 4.45 p.m., reaching Paddington at 6.50 p.m. Luncheon and dinner were served en route in the train.

MR. AND MRS. KENDAL'S spring tour begins on Monday at Croydon, the distinguished artists' répertoire including *The Ironmaster*, *The Housekeeper*, *The Elder Miss Blossom*, and *A Tight Corner*. In addition to the new play *The Melcombe Marriage*, which will be produced at Brighton in the second week of the tour, a new piece by Miss Clotilde Graves will also be put into rehearsal during the itinerary. This play, which has not yet been named, is said to provide Mrs. Kendal with a strong emotional part. In *The Melcombe Marriage* Mr. and Mrs. Kendal will be supported by Messrs W. M. Rutherford, Bassett Roe, E. Hendrie, Metcalfe Wood, F. Chas. Pool, C. E. Talbot, R. Burnett, and F. J. Cole, Mrs. A. B. Tapping, Miss Marie Lohr, and Miss D. Fellowes.

SIR SQUIRE BANCROFT will take the chair at the sixteenth annual general meeting of the Actors' Association, which will be held at the Playhouse, Northumberland-avenue, on Tuesday, Feb. 19, at 2.30, to receive a report and accounts of expenditure and receipts and liabilities and assets, to elect one president, twelve vice-presidents, and fourteen members of the council, and an auditor or auditors, and to transact any other business of the Association brought before the meeting by the council, or by any member who shall have given to the secretary seven days' written notice thereof. Any two members of the Association whose subscriptions for the current year are paid may, within seven days prior to the said meeting, give to the secretary a notice or notices signed by them, nominating any qualified member or members of the Association as a candidate or candidates for the council. Such notice or notices must contain the name and address of the proposed candidate or candidates, and be signed by him or them.

MR. W. H. KENDAL has generously forwarded five guineas for the benefit of poor Frank Celli's children. Mr. C. T. H. Helmsley, the popular business manager at St. James's Theatre, has also very kindly sent a guinea.

MISS DOROTHY GRIMSTON, the talented daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kendal, has been selected by Mr. George Alexander to play Miss Irene Vanbrugh's part, Nina, on the Northern tour of *His House in Order*, which he is sending out on Monday. It will be remembered that Miss Grimston only quite recently achieved a marked success as Lady Isabel in the evergreen play, *East Lynne*.

MR. J. BANNISTER HOWARD brings *Aladdin* at the Crystal Palace to a brilliant conclusion to-day (Saturday), when a record for pantomime in a first-class theatre will be obtained by the presentation of three performances. The first will take place at twelve o'clock, and is intended primarily for the benefit of the 2,000 children who are to be the guests of the Playgoers' Club, though the general public will also be admitted. The dramatic season begins on Monday with *Bluebell in Fairyland*, matinées of which will be given on Wednesday and Saturday.

MR. GEORGE GOODES has been appointed Professor of Elocution at the Academy of Dramatic Art presided over by Sir Squire Bancroft. Mr. Goodes, who is a member of the Board of Management of the Shakespeare Schools, has attained great popularity as a reciter.

A MEETING of the Actors' Day Advisory Board was held at 10, King-street, Covent Garden, on Monday, Jan. 28, at which the following were present:—Messrs. Blake Adams, Henry Ainley, George Alexander, Oscar Asche, Cecil Barth, A. E. Bishop, Arthur Bourchier, C. Hayden Coffin, Kenneth Douglas, C. T. H. Helmsley, Laurence Irving, Walter Maxwell, H. Beerbohm Tree, and Sydney Valentine. Mr. Laurence Irving was elected chairman of the Board and Mr. Sydney Valentine deputy-chairman. Vacancies were filled and the constitution of the Board completed. The Organising Committee submitted a report, and after discussion the meeting was adjourned until to-day (Saturday), at 11 a.m.

IT was inadvertently mentioned in these columns last week that Miss Mabel Love would appear in *Peter's Mother* at the larger suburban theatres and provincial cities, starting on Feb. 4 at the Coronet Theatre, under the management of Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison. The piece mentioned should have been *The Freedom of Suzanne*, in which Miss Mabel Love has made such a remarkable and striking success.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS is to have its Shakespearean Commemoration Festival this year, when Mr. Norman V. Norman, by arrangement with Mr. Chas. Carey, the lessee of the Opera House, will produce a series of Shakespearean plays. Mr. Norman will have the support of Miss Beatrice Wilson and a specially-selected company. Mr. Norman, it will be remembered, had the direction of the Shakespeare Commemoration week at the Crystal Palace last year, when he produced *As You Like It* with the most conspicuous success, Miss Wilson making a great hit as Rosalind.

MR. JOHN HASTINGS BATSON, who is at present touring with Mr. Percy Hutchison's *Freedom of Suzanne company*, gave his promised recital of *Everyman* on Saturday afternoon at St. Michael's Parish Room, West Croydon. It was a rare elocutionary feat, and when it is said that Mr. Batson succeeded in holding the attention of his audience for over an hour and a half without a break his claims as a reciter are obvious. His rich, powerful voice was impressively employed in the delivery of the speeches allotted to Death and the Deity, while the lighter passages were given with a quick change of tone that betokened the art of the experienced actor. At the close Mr. Batson was warmly applauded, and obtained a very hearty recall.

MR. OSCAR BERINGER, one of the most distinguished professors at the Royal Academy of Music, will next month deliver at the institution a lecture entitled "Fifty years' experience in pianoforte playing and teaching." Mr. Beringer has been associated with the R.A.M. since 1885.

THE British Empire Shakespeare Society have enlisted the services of a number of eminent artists for their readings of *As You Like It* at the Passmore Edwards' Settlement to-morrow (Sunday) evening, when Mr. George Alexander and Mr. Arthur Bourchier (both of whom are vice-presidents of the society) will appear as Orlando and Jaques respectively. Miss Lilian Braithwaite will sustain the rôle of Rosalind, Miss Dorothy Grimston will be Celia; Mr. Charles Fry, Adam; and Mr. Acton Bond, Touchstone; and Messrs. Athol Stewart, Cecil Cameron, Stanley Drewitt, Ben Field, Eric Maxon, J. Fritz Russell, Alfred Bristowe, and Douglas Vigors, and Miss Claire Greet and Mrs. Lenthal Cheatle will also be in the cast. The reading will be under the direction of Mr. Acton Bond. It should be added that seats have already been allotted by the Warden of the Settlement for the available space.

MR. FRANK BERESFORD has received from Mr. Leonard Rayne a tempting offer to revisit South Africa to play Robin Hood, Brigadier Gerard, and other leading parts. During the eight years Mr. Beresford has been associated with Mr. Rayne he has played, amongst other rôles, those of D'Artagnan (*Three Musketeers*), the Rev. Frank Thornhill, Harold Armytage, and leading parts in most of the Drury Lane dramas. Mr. Beresford's versatility has been displayed in such rôles as Jack Barrington in *What the Butler Saw*, Wibsey in *Public Opinion*, and Dr. Sheppard in *Oh, Susannah!* while Mark Antony, Laertes, Bassanio, &c., have revealed his talents in Shakespearean characters.

MR. RICHARD TEMPLE has been appointed Director of the Dramatic Class and Professor of Elocution and Diction at the Royal Academy of Music. Mr. Temple, a finished artist both as vocalist and actor, used to be one of the pillars of the Savoy opera, but was not available for the present revival, being engaged to support another Savoyard, Miss Isabel Jay, as Burchill in *The Vicar of Wakefield* at the Prince of Wales's. His selection as professor at the R.A.M. will be a popular one, and will add valuably to the excellence of the staff of that great institution.

MISS JESSIE MILLWARD, who is now the leading lady of Mr. H. A. Jones's play, *The Hypocrites*, in New York, was married on the 25th ult. to Mr. John Glendinning, who also takes one of the plincipal parts in the play. Mr. Glendinning is well known on the English stage, and is popular in America as the creator there of the Laird in *Trilby*. Miss Millward, whose long association with the late William Terriss, at the Adelphi Theatre, in many melodramas will be recalled, went to America soon after the assassination of Mr. Terriss, and remained there a number of years. Her return to England at the beginning of last year was marked by her appearance in the comedy, *The School for Husbands*, which had a brief run at the Scala Theatre in March.

MEMBERS and friends of the Managers' Club, Savoy Mansions, should note that another of those delightful "socials" for which the club has become renowned takes place to-morrow at 8 o'clock. This time the programme is organised by Mr. E. Graham-Falcon, who is also the chairman of the occasion. A large company is expected.

THE Commissioners' Committee of the Actors' Association held their thirteenth meeting on Monday last, when there were present Mr. Brandon Thomas (chairman), Mr. Burton Cooke (Council), Mr. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman of Council), Mesdames Rose Mathews and Lucy Sibley, Messrs. Cecil Barth, Clive Currie, Ralph Roberts, Edmond T. Sayers, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). The rules and regulations in connection with the Ramsgate centre were considered and approved and referred to the Council for confirmation. Miss Phyllis Relph and Mr. Ralph Roberts were elected members of this committee.

THE usual weekly meeting of the Council of the Association was held on Tuesday last, when there were present: Mr. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), Mr. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman), Mr. Henry W. Mote (hon. sol.), Mesdames Kate Bishop and Beatrice Lamb, and Messrs. Cecil Barth, J. Cooke Beresford, Clarence Blakiston, Acton Bond, W. Graham Browne, Burton Cooke, F. Cremlin, William Devereux, Quinton McPherson, Spencer Trevor, Frank Vernon, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary).

THE hon. solicitors reported they had advised a member. Vera George, Mary Thorne, Alma Murray, Aubrey Mather, Wm. Hy. Berry, Fred. Farren, Stanley Brett, Madge Devereux, Frank C. Pool, Clara Denman (for reinstatement), and Valerie Salberg were nominated for election. A former member was reinstated.

A CASE of alleged insanitation of a provincial theatre was considered, and the explanations to hand not being accepted, the secretary was instructed to place the matter in the hands of the hon. Medical Officer of Health. The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was received, as also was the report of the Commissioners' Committee, and the rules and regulations in connection with the Ramsgate centre, which had been drawn up by that body, were submitted to the Council and approved. Miss Gracie Murielle was elected as hon. secretary to the centre. Dr. Joseph Dixon, of Whitehaven, was elected an hon. medical officer to the A.A. The accounts for the year 1906, which will be placed before the members at the sixteenth annual general meeting to b held at the Playhouse on Tuesday, the 19th inst., were laid on the table, and referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for their consideration.

THE Finance and General Purposes Committee held a meeting on Tuesday last, when there were present Mr. Acton Bond (chairman), and Messrs. J. Cooke Beresford, A. E. Drinkwater, C. Aubrey Smith, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). The accounts for the year 1906, as audited, were considered, and instructions given to the secretary in connection therewith.

MESSRS. MILTON BODE and Edward Compton are this (Saturday) afternoon entertaining at the Royal Opera House, Leicester, 500 old folk and children from the scattered homes, the former being regaled with snuff, tobacco, and packets of tea, and the latter with oranges, cakes, sweets, &c. This is the first time for a considerable period that a Leicester manager has shown such generosity, and Mr. Henry Dundas, the business-manager for Messrs. Bode and Compton, has received a letter expressing the warm thanks of the Guardians and their appreciation of Messrs. Bode and Compton's thoughtful kindness.

MISS HELENA MILLAIS, the clever and promising young actress, has been engaged by Mr. C. F. Cooke to play lead in the tour of *The Trumpet Call*, which opens on Feb. 11 at the Theatre Royal, Cardiff. During last year Miss Millais appeared in a dozen or more important characters, including Isabel in *Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace*, Polly Eccles in *Caste*, Lucy Lorimer in *A Pair of Spectacles*, Maud Chesterton in *The New Clown*, in *Hamlet*, and as Sam Willoughby in *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*.

MISS FLORENCE BAINES furnishes the following agreeable example of the good feeling existing between resident and travelling managers. At the conclusion of the week's business at the Theatre Royal, Stockport, Mr. Charles Revill, who had contracted with the company to pay them on a sliding scale according to the business done, was so satisfied with the result that, notwithstanding the receipts were a few pounds short of the amount required, he very generously gave the company the benefit of this deficiency, and paid the rate higher than he really contracted for. During the week, by the way, Miss Baines distributed 5000 copies of the words and music of both her "Country" and "Baby" songs.

FAREWELL to the Grand at Islington was paid on Saturday, when, with the conclusion of the pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, the house closed its career as a temple of the drama. In reopening as a variety theatre some time hence it will be returning to a former state. The Grand was of old known as the Philharmonic Music Hall, and was converted to the purposes of the drama in 1870, Miss Emily Soldene opening the house in *Chilperic*. Twice has the building been destroyed by fire—once in September, 1882, and again in the December of 1887. The Grand is an admirably-appointed theatre, and during its career has been visited by many distinguished players—among them the late Sir Henry Irving. Latterly the experiment of drama at two houses a night was made by the lessee, Mr. Samuel James, but was discontinued after a brief trial.

AT the pretty little church of St. Cuthbert's, Cotherstone, last week Mr. A. R. Feather, acting-manager of the Hyde Theatre Royal, was married to Miss Laura Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Porter, of Cotherstone. The bride was tastefully attired in a gown of copper-coloured colienne chiffon over copper-coloured silk, trimmed with lace to match, the yoke being of spotted Brettonne net, with lace appliqué of gold and Valenciennes lace, with hat to match, and was accompanied by five bridesmaids. After the breakfast Mr. John Robson proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom. On his return to Hyde after a short honeymoon at Southport, Mr. Feather entertained the whole of the theatre staff to dinner. During the post-prandial proceedings Mr. Feather was presented, on behalf of the staff, with a silver toast rack, egg-stand, salts, and massive silver flower-stand and biscuit barrel.

A CHOICE souvenir of the Playhouse was presented by Mr. Cyril Maude to each member of the audience on Monday in the shape of a portfolio, elegantly bound in rose-coloured cloth, and containing an interesting series of portraits of Miss Winifred Emery and Mr. Cyril Maude in their best-known parts. It is a gift fit to grace any collection, and furnishes a worthy memento of an auspicious occasion.

IN aid of the Jamaica disaster relief fund Mr. Harris Fineberg, the esteemed proprietor of the Star Theatre, Liverpool, organised a matinée benefit on Wednesday, and the event, which was under the patronage of the Lord Mayor and Town Hall Committee, proved a great success. In addition to an act from *Lucky Durham*, which drama is being played there to packed houses, many artists from all the local theatres put in an appearance.

A PROMISING young singer made her début at a concert at the Town Hall, Southsea, on Saturday, in the person of Miss Elena Garsin, an accomplished soprano, who has recently returned from the Milan Conservatoire, where she was a pupil of Alberto Leoni. Miss Garsin has decided gifts as a vocalist, and her singing of the "The lass with the delicate air," and of the difficult ballad, "Nobil Signor," was in each case warmly encored. Miss Garsin, it may be added, is a grand-daughter of Mrs. H. T. Craven, widow of the late author, and a grand-niece of Miss Carry Nelson.

MR. DACRE BALDIE, who died on Wednesday, aged 70, will be interred in the Actors' Acre at Woking to-day, at the expense of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, which has assisted him to a considerable extent for some years past.

THE Dot Stephens Fund will be closed on Feb. 16. Managers of pantomime companies are urged to get their cards filled up, and return by that date to the hon. treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, *The Era* office.

MR. RICHARD A. GREENE, who is just concluding a very successful six months' engagement with *The Breed of the Treshams*, has written a four act romantic drama, the rights of which have been acquired by Messrs. Alec Flood and Aubrey Fitzmaurice for immediate production. The plot is concerned with Napoleon's Russian campaign of 1812, and was in a measure suggested by the late H. Seton Merriman's novel, "Borlasch of the Guard."

UNDER the management of Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison, Miss Mabel Love will appear at the Coronet Theatre next week in *The Freedom of Suzanne*, the successful comedy from the Criterion Theatre. The cast will include Mr. Percy Hutchison. Miss Mabel Love will also appear during the next few weeks at Fulham, Crystal Palace, Camden, and Kennington Theatres. Mr. Percy Hutchison will produce at the Coronet Theatre on Monday a new one-act play by Miss Rosemary Rees, entitled *Her Dearest Friend*.

MISS LENA ASHWELL, who has enjoyed only indifferent health during her visit to America, is now thoroughly ill and confined to her apartments in Chicago. It is said that it will be impossible for her to return to the stage for a long time, and her tour, which was to be continued for five weeks longer, has been given up. Miss Ashwell will return to London as soon as she is able. It is confidently hoped that the popular actress's return home will ensure a speedy restoration to health.

MR. ARCHIE SELWYN has been engaged by Mr. J. B. Mulholland to play Jack Strange during the tour of *The Electric Man*, commencing on Monday at Wolverhampton.

MR. DACRE BALDIE died on Wednesday at his residence, 25, Regent-square, W.C., at the age of seventy. Mr. Baldie was in the sixties a well-known and recognised leading tragedian, having played all the Shakespearean and legitimate parts in the principal provincial cities of Great Britain. He also played seconds, and shared alternately the lead with most of the great actors of his time. He was for many years the stock leading man at the old Grecian Theatre, London, under the original Conquest management. Mr. Baldie was for several years leading man at the Royalty Theatre—then the Soho—under the management of the late Mr. Thomas Mowbray. He was also a clever light comedian, and amongst his most popular parts were Charles Surface, Bob Acres, Don Ceazar, &c. Of late years he played small parts under Mr. Tree and Sir Charles Wyndham. His funeral will start from the London Necropolis Company, Westminster Bridge-road, this morning, at 11.45, for Woking.

CHURCH and stage are certainly becoming more closely linked every day. One of the latest examples of this aggreeable *rapprochement* was provided on Sunday last week, when the Rev. H. A. C. Townsend, preaching to a large congregation, reproved his flock sternly for not helping forward the movement for refinement in the theatre by supporting the introduction of really good plays when they are brought to their towns. The company so approvingly alluded to in the sermon was that of Mr. J. Maundy-Gregory, presenting Mr. H. B. Irving's latest success, *Lights Out*.

MISS GEORGIE DE LARA, after concluding two years' stock seasons at the Elephant and Castle, Terris, and Standard Theatres respectively, has been engaged by Mr. Walter Melville for her original character of Peggy Munroe in his latest success, *The Soldier's Wedding*, the tour of which begins on Monday at the West London Theatre.

MR. ALLAN WILKIE has secured the services of Mr. G. Alexander Marsh and Miss Carrie Baillie until 1912, and in his autumn tour the company will be increased to over 25 artists. New scenery is being executed by Mr. G. Bernascerie, and the printing is being specially designed and cut by Messrs. David Allen and Sons. Last week Mr. Wilkie played to record business at the Carlton Theatre, Birmingham, and he is now playing to packed houses at Jersey, this being his second visit and fifth week in nine months.

"MISS LANCASHIRE, LIMITED," the farce with music, which Miss Florence Baines is touring with such conspicuous success, is in the happy position of having only one vacant date in the whole year, and that at the Whitsuntide holiday. One of the features of advertising this popular play is that the company travels its own 40 h.p. motor-car. As an example of the generosity of the management it may be recorded that all the artists were not only paid in full for the Christmas holiday, but received, as a present, a whole week's salary each.

THE directors of Howard and Wyndham, Ltd., Glasgow, have recommended their shareholders to accept an offer to purchase their theatres for the sum of £146,000. The theatres embrace the Royal and Royalty at Glasgow, the Lyceum and Royal, Edinburgh, and the Tyne, Newcastle. The Syndicate from which the offer emanated owns the Marlborough, London; the Grand, Glasgow; the King's, Edinburgh; and theatres in Greenock, Dundee, Coatbridge, and other Scotch towns. An extraordinary general meeting to approve the directors' recommendation has been called for Friday, Feb. 15, at Edinburgh.

MR. GEORGE DANCE has brought the Queen's Theatre, Swindon, which he intends to run as a combined theatrical and variety house. The place will be opened on Easter Monday.

In the King's Bench Division on Monday, before Mr. Justice Darling and a common jury, Miss Gertie Millar brought an action against Messrs. Ralph Dunn and Co., printers and publishers, for defamation in publishing certain picture postcards representing her. The defendants admitted the publication of the postcards, but denied that they defamatory. They had procured some old photographs of Miss Millar, and had "faked" the pictures by putting Miss Millar's head on to another lady's body. The following were the photographs complained of: a picture of a lady in her night-dress with a candle in her hand: upon the body Miss Millar's head and face were placed; a picture of a young lady draped in a peculiar way, with Miss Millar's head attached; and a figure of a lady, with the plaintiff's face, crawling out of an eggshell. The case was continued on Tuesday, when the verdict was given for the defendants.

MR. H. F. MALTBY tells an amusing story with regard to his one-act musical comedy, *Fannikin*. Mr. Maltby was playing this piece in a town in the North of England, and, the local amateurs becoming enamoured of the play, it was arranged that an amateur production should take place. The secrtary was very loud in his praises of the piece. "But," he remarked, "I have found one mistake in it." "And what is that?" asked Mr. Maltby. The secretary turned over the leaves of the scrip until he came to the finale, the first four lines of which run:

"Now, when you're run down from a year in town,
And by dissipations tried,
And dinners so chic, seven times a week,
Play the deuce with your inside."

"There," said the secretary, with a triumphant smile, "you can't make 'chick' rhyme with 'week,' you know!"

MR. STANLEY BRETT, who so admirably supports his brother, Mr. Seymour Hicks, in *The Beauty of Bath*, organised a "Bal du Papillon" at Prince's Galleries on Thursday night, which was graced by the talent and beauty of the light opera world. Supper was served in the restaurant, and dancing was enjoyed till the approach of dawn.

MISS SOPHIE HARRISS, whose performance of Mrs. Crocker in the Baron Harriss No. 1 *Prince of Pilsen* Company on tour, is one of the finest things she has done in the course of her stage career, is a lady of considerable versatility. The excellence of the present production is entirely due to her gift of stage management—the interpolated numbers with their ingenious business are the outcome of her acute perception for stage effect, whilst every dress in the play has not only been designed, but actually made under her personal supervision.

THE incorrect statement published on Tuesday that the matinée of *The Red Lamp*, to be given at His Majesty's Theatre (by kind permission of Mr. Beerbohm Tree), on behalf of St. Mary's Hospital for Women and Children, Plaistow, was to take place on the following Thursday has caused a great deal of trouble and inconvenience. We are asked to state that the matinée will take place, as originally intended, on Thursday, February 28. The committee announce that all the boxes have been disposed of, one having been taken by Her Majesty the Queen, who has given her immediate patronage to the performance. The stalls and balcony stalls have also been entirely sold out, and a number of pit stalls at 10s. 6d. each have been arranged for.

MR. GEORGE F. REYNOLDS, who recently returned from managing Miss Madge McIntosh and Mr. Lumsden Hare's company, *Mollentrave on Women*, on tour, has been engaged as acting-manager for Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton's forthcoming tour.

SHAKESPEARE was established in the People's Palace, Mile-end, on Thursday, when *The Merchant of Venice* inaugurated a series of performances at prices ranging from 3d., under the auspices of the English Drama Society. The piece was given without scenery, but the costumes were rich and appropriate. Mr. Nugent Monck, the secretary of the Society, directed the performance and played the part of Launcelot Gobbo. Shylock was enacted by Mr. Arthur Goodsall, and Portia by Miss Isabel Roland; a lady impersonator of Lorenzo was found in Miss Margot de Helinska, and the rest of the characters were in the hands of Messrs. Edgar Playford, Eric Mascon, Kenneth Bruce, Robert Bottomley, Richard Meville, Edward Bloodworth, George Hayes, Leslie Boothby, Leo. Goodwin, and Ernest Chandler, and Misses Hilda Bruce Potter, and Katherine Stuart.

QUAINTNESS is preserved throughout in the costumes of *Miss Hook of Holland*, the Dutch musical incident, produced at the Prince of Wales's Theatre on Thursday. The frock worn by Miss Isabel Jay as the heroine, Sally, in the first act is a dainty creation of butter-coloured voile, the tight bodice opening over a white vest, edged with a terra-cotta pink and gold galon. A pretty corresponding note of colour in an otherwise unrelieved dress is the pink châtelaine bag and pincushion, which Miss Jay wears at her side, while her Dutch cap, with its gold ornaments, gives a fitting finish to the gown. For the fête at the distillery the heroine wears a charming gown of pale blue, with a white sailor collar and blue cap, coquettishly turned up with white, and finished with blue choux.

MISS PHŒBE MERCER clothes Miss Voos in a Dutch frau's gown of stiff black silk, with discreet touches of purple, and a white cap under the espiègle high-crowned hat makes a delicious confection. Another frock worn by Miss Mercer takes the form of a quaint gown of puce brocade, with its velvet bodice and daring tablier of apple green satin trimmed with very wide insertions of écru lace, the brilliant touch of cherry-pink in her cap completing the effect.

THE Dulwich Philharmonic Society will give their third concert of the season in the Crystal Palace Concert Room on Saturday next. The programme includes a concert performance of Mascagni's one-act opera, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, and Parry's "Blest Pair of Sirens," for double chorus and orchestra. Elgar's cycle of songs, "The Sea-Pictures," will be sung by Miss Gwladys Roberts, and the orchestra will play the two famous Hungarian dances by Brahms, as orchestrated by Barlow, with other items. Other soloists will be Miss Marie Titiens, Miss Aimee Ferdinand, Mr. John Bardsley, and Mr. Andre Kaya. Mr. Arthur Fagge will conduct.

THE Santley Jubilee Testimonial is meeting with hearty support in the most influential quarters. The Prince and Princess of Wales, and almost every member of the Royal Family, have promised their patronage to the concert, which will be held in the Albert Hall in May. The Duke of Norfolk, in accepting the chairmanship of the General Committee, wrote that, as "twenty Albert Halls would not hold all the friends of Charles Santley, he begged to enclose a substantial subscription as the nucleus of a testimonial fund." The Earl of Kilmorey is hon. secretary of the movement, Sir Douglas Straight, hon. treasurer, and Mr. Landon Ronald, hon. musical director for the concert. The following gentlemen will constitute the executive committee:—Sir Francis Burnand, Sir Frederick Bridge, Mr. John Hare, the Hon. Spencer Lyttelton, Sir Alexander C. Mackenzie, Sir Hubert Parry, Mr. Landon Ronald, Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, General Stracey, Sir Douglas Straight, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, and Sir Charles Wyndham.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Mr. Tree and Mr. Maude.

One of the most pleasant evidences of the amity which reigns between our leading London managers was the cordiality with which the friendly rivalry of the new Playhouse was regarded by Mr. Beerbohm Tree, and the kindly speech delivered by that gentleman after Mr. Maude, in his most amusing speech, had been poking harmless fun at the archæology at His Majesty's. The presence of Mrs. George Alexander, looking remarkably well, in a private box, gave the occasion a *cachet* which it would otherwise have lacked.

Coughs and Colds.

The Théâtre-Français company felt the effects of the English climate during their visit, and have probably gone home complaining of catarrh. When *Le Demi-Monde* was played last week, says the *Daily Mirror*, M. le Bargy had a cough, Mlle. Dorziat a bad cold; and less serious coughs and colds were the lot of almost all the other members of the company. The blowing of noses and clearing of throats audible on the stage was only equalled by the same incessant sounds in the audience. Much of the play was drowned by the coughing, but what was heard gave the keenest pleasure to those who heard it.

The Scala.

Chevalier Distin Maddick's Scala Theatre, of which we are just now hearing so much, was opened on Dec. 19, 1904, by Lady Bancroft. Of the old Prince of Wales's, which stood on the site of La Scala, nothing remains but the porch, which the London County Council allowed to be incorporated in the new building as the stage entrance. Erected in 1760 by Signor Pasquali, the old Prince of Wales's house was first known as "The West London," then "The Regency," and reverted to its first title until the accession of William IV. It then became "The Queen's," and later still "The Fitzroy," until the advent of Lady Bancroft, who named it the Prince of Wales's Royal Theatre. Amongst the actors and actresses who trod its boards were Charles Mathews and Madame Vestris, John Hare and Ellen Terry, the Kendals, Wilson Barrett, and Madame Celeste. During the Bancroft management the house was visited by Napoleon, D'Orsay, Dickens, Thackeray, Gladstone, Lord Beaconsfield, Ruskin and Leighton, Tennyson, Lytton, and Wilkie Collins.

Rural Plays.

Engaged in the production in the little drill-hall of Hildenborough, Kent, on Tuesday night of a new drama in three acts, called *Back to the Land*, by Mr. John Johnson and Mr. Dagney Major, were a blacksmith, a cycle repairer, a poor cripple, a grocer's assistant, a dairyman, a coachman, two gardeners, a carpenter, and two cricket-ball makers. Cricket-ball making is one of the few village industries left—there is a small factory at Wateringbury; and in the play a German finds it out, and absorbs it actively.

French and English.

"Parisians," says M. André Messager, the new director of the Paris Opera House, in a talk with a *Daily Express* correspondent, "do not go to the opera or to concerts nearly as much as Londoners. It is not merely a question of fashion—I fancy that fashion follows the crowd in the five-shilling seats as often as it leads them. It is a question of taste. . . . The one thing that is wanted in Paris is the chorus material. Unfortunately, the ladies of the chorus in France are not of the same quality as those we get in London. There they are intelligent, fairly educated ladies. Here— And there is no discipline in France, either in the theatre or anywhere else. English management is far, far superior to anything that we do here in Paris. French people are too sophisticated in things theatrical to love the theatre really and to spend money on it. Parisians do not go to the theatre nowadays unless they can go for nothing. The upper classes are too critical, and feel that they know all about any play they see before the first act is over, and the middle class folk are kept out of the theatres by the cheaper amusements." So we have something to be thankful for after all.

Miss Millward and Henry Irving.

Miss Jessie Millward, who has just been married to Mr. Glendinning in America, got, says the *Daily Mirror*, practically her first great chance from the late Sir Henry Irving. He wanted her to understudy Miss Ellen Terry and to play ingénue parts as well. Miss Millward was somehow very much afraid of Irving, and when he made her this magnificent offer, as it seemed to her then, she sat trembling with fear, expecting him to say that, considering what fine parts he was about to offer her, she would have to be content with a small salary—perhaps only the ten shillings a week which she had received when her stage career began. "What salary have you been receiving?" said the great man. And she replied, trembling more than ever: "Five pounds a week." Irving nodded. "Ah," he said, I should not dream of giving you that." Now, thought Miss Millward, he is going to offer me ten shillings. "For the first year," Irving went on, "I will give you twelve, and for the second year fifteen." Miss Millward began fearfully to explain that twelve shillings was not perhaps very, very much, when Irving smiled benevolently at her and said: "You don't quite understand." "You—you don't mean pounds?" He meant, indeed, twelve pounds a week!

A Mauve Voice.

Miss Constance Collier has been telling an interviewer how when rehearsing Calypso once with Mr. Tree, he said to her, "Now, I want you to play this part with a mauve voice." "When I was playing Roma in *The Eternal City*," says Miss Collier, "Mr. Hall Caine was anxious to get a particularly powerful effect in a certain strong scene with poor Robert Taber, and was in a vein of reminiscence. 'I once saw,' said Mr. Caine, 'a very striking piece of business in a scene. The man picked up the woman and threw her over his shoulder.' We looked at each other in consternation, as I am rather a heavy person to throw about. However, we did our best, but our unsuccessful efforts were interrupted by Mr. Tree. 'That reminds me,' said the actor-manager, 'I saw a play in Italy once in which the hero caught hold of the heroine by the legs and banged her head on the floor.' 'Splendid—a magnificent idea!' interpolated the enthusiastic author. 'What was the play?' '*Punch and Judy*,' replied Mr. Tree."

The Glovers.

A correspondent writes:—"I am most anxious to find out the connection between the following families. In Dibden's 'Annals of the Edinburgh Stage' it is stated that John Bland, of the Theatre Royal, was an ancestor of William Glover, the painter (whose father was Edmund, son of the famous Mrs. Glover, and proprietor of the Prince's Theatre, Glasgow, who died in 1860). John Bland was of an old Irish family, half-brother of Mrs. Jordan's father, Captain Francis Bland, and before he took to the stage had been a cornet of dragoons, carried the colours of his regiment at Dettingen, was taken prisoner at Fontenoy, and served also under Colonel (afterwards General) Honeywood in suppressing the Jacobite rising in 1745. He was for many years treasurer of the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, and died in 1808. I want particulars of his wife's family and of their children, and their connection with the Glovers—in fact, all the information I can get." Perhaps one of our readers can oblige.

THE PLAYHOUSE OPENING.

Mr. Cyril Maude's opening of the Playhouse on Monday was indeed a delightful ceremony. The beauty of the theatre itself was assisted in effect by a very brilliant and distinguished audience, which included the Duke and Duchess of Fife, the Earl and Countess of Plymouth, the Earl and Countess of Dunraven, the Earl and Countess of Buchan, Viscount and Viscountess Hood, Hon. Percy and Mrs. Wyndham, Lady Emily Wyndham-Quin, Lady Agnew, Mrs. Arthur and Lady Muriel Paget, Sir Edward and Lady Pamela Pennant, Hon. Miss Violet Pennant, Right Hon. George Wyndham, the Countess of Grosvenor, Lord and Lady Elcho, Right Hon. Arthur Balfour, Right Hon. Ailwyn and Mrs. Fellowes, Hon. Charles Bateman Hanbury, Lady Maclean, Mr. Mortimer Menpes, Sir Edward Moss, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Gilbert, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Shaw, Right Hon. Lord Lurgan, Captain Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. John Hare, Sir Bruce Seton, Lord Northcliffe, General Sir George and Lady Barker, and Colonel Sir Edmund and Lady Antrobus.

After Mme. Clara Butt had sung the National Anthem, there was performed Mr. Austin Strong's thrilling one-act drama,

"THE DRUMS OF OUDE."

Capt. Hector McGregor ..Mr. Kenneth Douglas
Lieut. Alan Hartley .....Mr. Charles Maude
Sergeant McDougal .....Mr. Allen Thomas
Stewart .....Mr. A. G. Onslow
Abdul .....Mr. John Harwood
Karim .....Mr. King Fordham
Mrs. Jack Clayton .....Miss Nancy Price

This palpitating little piece kept the nerves of the audience strung to the fullest tension up to the exciting climax, when the hero, having lighted a fuse communicating with a powder-magazine, in preparation for a "blow-up," stamps on it at the approach of rescue in the shape of a party of British soldiers. Mr. Kenneth Douglas, who is steadily growing into an actor of real power and resource, showed unmistakable ability as Captain Hector McGregor; and Mr. Charles Maude played Lieut. Alan Hartley in really artistic style. Mr. Allen Thomas hit off happily the character of Sergeant McDougal; and Mr. A. J. Onslow gave a quite satisfactory embodiment of Stewart, Mr. John Harwood and Mr. King Fordham doing excellent work as the two natives. Miss Nancy Price played Mrs. Jack Clayton with her usual ease, ability, and expressiveness.

The incident of the evening, however, was the prologue, specially written for the occasion by Mr. Bernard Shaw. It was really a very clever and amusing duologue. The scene was set with a small reading-table and a couple of chairs. Miss Winifred Emery, looking radiantly pretty in a light blue silk gown and crescent diamond ornaments, came on, and, assuming an air of embarrassment, pleaded with the audience on behalf of Mr. Maude, who, she said, was so nervous about his speech, alluding to him as "Cyril," because she was "really married to him, you know," and it was merely "force of habit." She owned that she herself was nervous, too, but thought a little applause would encourage her. Of course, she got it. "You don't know what a week I've been having at home," continued Miss Emery, "with Cyril learning his speech. I've heard him repeat it four times in his sleep. He's in a fearful state of nervousness. The least sound will upset him, so please don't applaud."

All this was spoken in the most arch and winning way imaginable, the delivery being adorned with all Miss Emery's most exquisite airs and graces. The audience fully entered into the fun of the thing. Then Mr. Maude appeared, manuscript in hand, and looking very uncomfortable. "Courage, dear!—Courage!" whispered Miss Emery, to the intense amusement of the house. As he placed the MS. on the raised reading-desk, it collapsed with a bang, which gave him excuse for saying "Good heavens! I thought it was the station!" And so the vein of humour was worked out, Mr. Maude announcing his intention of dealing with the history of the Avenue Theatre, from the time of the Doomsday Book, and being warned by Miss Emery of the danger that the audience might "lose its last tram, and come back and sleep in the theatre." Then there was business with the orchestra, the conductor of which, having been previously requested by Miss Emery to play some incidental music at any pathetic point of the speech, moved his bâton when Mr. Maude, rambling on, said, "It is now twenty years since I and my dear wife——" On being told that the orchestra was "supporting" him, Mr. Maude went off in a dudgeon, leaving Miss Emery to deliver the following agreeable address:—"Ladies and Gentlemen,—You see, what my husband and I have been trying to do is a very difficult thing. We have some friends here—some old and valued friends—some young ones, too, we hope—but we also have for the first time in this house of ours the great public. We dare not call ourselves the friends of the public: we are only its servants; and, like all servants, we are very much afraid of seeming disrespectful if we allow ourselves to be too familiar, and we are most at our ease when we are doing our work. We rather dread occasions like these, when we are allowed, and even expected, to step out of our place, and speak in our own persons of our own affairs—even for a moment, perhaps, *very* discreetly, of our own feelings. Well, what can we do? We recite a little verse; we make a little speech; we are shy; in the end, we put ourselves out of countenance, put you out of countenance, and strain your attitude of kindness and welcome until it becomes an attitude of wishing that it was all over. Well, we resolved not to do that to-night, if we could help it. After all, you know how glad we are to see you, for you have the advantage of us—you can do without us; we cannot do without you. I will not say that

'The drama's laws the drama's patrons give,
And we, who live to please, must please to live,'

because that is not true, and it never has been true. The drama's laws have a higher source than your caprice or ours, and in this Playhouse of ours we will not please you except on terms honourable to ourselves and to you. But on those terms we hope that you may spend many pleasant hours here, and we as many hard-working ones, as at our old home in the Haymarket. And now, may I run away and tell Cyril that his speech has been a great success after all, and that you are quite ready for *Toddles*? Thank you." Miss Emery went off smiling.

Then followed the 174th performance of that tremendous success,

"TODDLES."

Lord Meadows .....Mr. Cyril Maude
Boolby .....Mr. Kenneth Douglas
Freddy Gunner .....Mr. Charles Maude
Haslitt .....Mr. Allen Thomas
Doctor Baird .....Mr. Ivo Dawson
Joblyn .....Mr. Alfred Bishop
Valet .....Mr. King Fordham
Chauffeur .....Mr. Onslow
The Mayor .....Mr. Ernest Cosham
First Usher .....Mr. Daniel McCarthy
Second Usher .....Mr. C. B. Keston
Lady Dover ... .Miss Gertrude Kingston
Mrs. Joblyn .....Miss Lottie Venne
Constance Joblyn .....Miss Rosalie Toller
Countess de Chambry .....Miss Helen Ferrers
Cicely .....Miss Madge Titheradge
Mrs. Bowler .....Miss Nancy Price
Pussy .....Miss Hester Reeve
Maid at the Spring .....Miss Beatrice Terry

The cast of *Toddles* remains practically the same as when the piece was produced at the Duke of York's Theatre on Sept. 3 last year. Mr. Maude's irresistibly easy and amusing embodiment of the hero has lost nothing by frequent repetition, and is as smooth, suave, and quaintly comic as ever. Miss Lottie Venne repeats her smart and characteristic impersonation of Mrs. Joblyn; and Miss Rosalie Toller is very sweet and natural as Constance Joblyn, the part originally sustained by Miss Alice Crawford. Miss Gertrude Kingston is still irreproachably acute and alert as Lady Dover; and Miss Nancy Price's altogether delightful reading of the rôle of Mrs. Bowler retains all its original merits.

After *Toddles* on Monday came the diverting duologue, *Sixes and Sevens*, in which Mr. Arthur Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh created, as usual, great amusement; and then, about midnight, the curtain was again raised to display Mr. Beerbohm Tree in evening dress, and lovely masses of beautiful flowers arranged along the footlights.

Mr. Tree, in a neat and appropriate speech, said:—"Ladies and Gentlemen,—The hour is so late that I am sure you will agree with me that it will be well to dispense with the three-act tragedy we had prepared for your delectation to-night. I appear before you only as the chorus—a chorus of praise and congratulation. I speak for myself, and I hope I may speak on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Maude's well-wishers—and their name is legion—in saying what a delight to us all it is to know that Cyril Maude should have come into his own. There are many reasons why a man should be kept out of his own, but the most provident could not foresee that he would be barred by a railway arch. It must have been a painful surprise to our friend to see his stalls filled by Charing Cross Station. Had his ambition been in the direction of spectacular drama, he might have seized the opportunity of putting on a historical play, with a realistic scene of the ruins of Rome. Instead, he had to persuade the South-Eastern to move; and everybody knows that that is not an easy task. The philosophy of life is to make capital out of one's misfortune, and Mr. Maude has indeed succeeded in turning his misfortune into capital. I do not know whether this happy issue is more largely due to the popularity of our hosts or to the large-minded and large-hearted view taken by the railway board. It is true that we find a spirit of altruism in individuals more to-day than at any other time, but this feeling has not hitherto reached communities and nations. Committees, too, have hitherto been exempt from harbouring sympathetic and human leanings. It is the more creditable, therefore, that the Board of the South-Eastern Railway should have tempered their justice with a fine sense of honour, and recognised an obligation not strictly legal. But good-fortune, like ill-fortune, comes not in single spies, but in battalions, and I may to-night betray what is perhaps after all an open secret—and in making my statement I do so without prejudice to a case which is still sub judice—and I defy the respected head of the Local Government Board to have the boldness to deny my statement. We citizens have often wondered why untenanted steamers meander up and down the Thames. We have been surprised at the tramcars that have been laid down along the Embankment. It has puzzled many why those empty tramcars should be there. To-night the secret is out. Mr. Cyril Maude has been in secret communication with the County Council. These tramcars and these steamers have been sent to carry to these very doors the countless numbers that will flock to visit Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Maude in their new playhouse. Misfortune is at once the touchstone of character as it is the test of friendship. We all know with what pluck our friend met the misfortune which befell him, and his troops of friends rejoice to-night to know that the misfortune has only turned to favour and to prettiness. True artists both, tried and trusted by the public as they have long been, trusted (and sometimes tried) by their friends—this audience of friends will, I am sure, join me in wishing them God speed upon their prosperous way. May Cyril Maude long remain his own landlord and his own tenant. In the words which are spoken nightly in another place, 'Upon thy sword sit laurel victory, And smooth success be strewn before thy feet.'"

But this was not the end of the most eventful and agreeable evening. Surrounded by their company, Mr. and Mrs. Maude appeared, and Mr. Maude made a few concluding remarks, thanking Mr. Tree, his dear friend Mr. Charles Frohman, and the public. The old Avenue Theatre, he said, used to be known as "the Seagulls' Rest," it was so chilly and draughty. But now he had for days been wandering up and down trying to find a draught, without any success. He ended by declaring his wife and himself "the obliged, faithful, and affectionate friends and servants" of the public.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The first concert of the spring term was given on Wednesday evening, the programme commencing with Mendelssohn's "Capriccio Brillant," neatly executed by Miss Clotilde S. Hart, her professor, Mr. Norman P. Cummings, playing the second piano. Miss Kathleen Morson, in her violin solo of Tours' "Second Romance," played somewhat timidly, but with good expression and intonation. In Cowen's song, "The Swallows," Miss Ethel Huntley showed evidence of careful training, but a slightly harsh quality of voice; and Miss Beatrice Dunn played Barnett's piano solo, "Valse Caprice," with a light and delicate touch; while Miss Millie Flower proved successful in her solo pianoforte, "In der Nacht," by Schumann, which she performed with evident appreciation of the charming music. A song by Signor Zardo, "Flower and Star," had a careful exponent in Mr. Frank Brook, and Miss Elsie Coe received much applause for her singing of "At the mid hour of night" and "The Birthday," by Cowen; but Miss Nellie Nutt was hardly well suited in Parry's "The Ballad of Meshullemeth." Miss Bessie Timms executed Mylnarski's "Mazurka" for the violin with considerable freedom and ability, and Mr. C. Charles Wells had some success in the once popular melody, "The Yeoman's Wedding Song." A pleasing recitation by Miss Nellie Lake (a pupil of Miss Kate Rorke) of "How Jimmy tended the Baby" caused much amusement, Miss Lake being particularly happy in her imitation of a boy's voice. The accompanist was Miss Jenny Hyman.

GRAND OPERA IN ENGLISH.

An incident occurred at the Opera House, Cork, with one of the Moody-Manners' Opera Companies, reminding us of the experiences artists meet with in South America and elsewhere, of jewels, &c., being showered on the stage. A gentleman was so delighted with the performance of *The Bohemian Girl* last Saturday night, and the magnificent singing, he said, of the chorus, that he hoped that they would accept a £5 note to do with it what the majority of the chorus liked, as a little memento of his delightful evening. The chorus unanimously agreed to send the money to the Actors' Benevolent Fund. The following are the names of the ladies and gentlemen composing the chorus:—Mesdames Weste, Garland, Wingfield, Terrence, Rigby, Burns, Irving, Carter, Watt, Kelly, Vernon, Keating, Alvord, Wilkinson, Harrow, Baker, Weir, Worsey, Arnold, Penville, Alexander, Stewart, Thane, Jeffries, Manners, McInnes, Macdonald, Freeman, Goodwin, Orgelist, Bailey, Towers, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Carter; Messrs. Anderson, Allison, Bailey, Brindle, Brodo, Lumb, Tattersall, Carver, Knight, Heaps, Davies, Beeson King, Murray, Cornwall, Johnstone, Hume, Perry, McDonagh, Thompson, Walton, Mawdesley, Halpin, Alexander, G. King, Morris, Renshaw, Bennett, G. Gordon, B. Gordon, C. Gordon, Rowe, Gulland, Moppett, Carter, and Cliffe.

"WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD."

Farce, in Three Acts, by Charles Marlowe, performed for the first time in London, at Wyndham's Theatre, on Tuesday, Jan. 29.

Isaac Isaacson .....Mr. Arthur Grenville
Hon. Charles Widdicombe ..Mr. Henry J. Ford
Rev. Peter Pottleberry, D.D. ....Mr. Guy Lane
Sir Brian Ballymote .....Mr. Charles Weir
Miss Sarah Isaacson .....Miss Daisy Cordell
Wittle .....Mr. George F. Tully
Sir Guy de Vere, Bart. .....Mr. James Welch
Barker .....Mr. Gordon Tomkins
Lady Millicent Eggington
Miss Estelle Winwood
Lady Marjorie Egginton .....Miss Enid Sass
Kate Pottleberry .....Miss Vivienne West
Lady Rowena Eggington ....Miss Audrey Ford
Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave ....Miss Emma Gwynne
Alice Barker .....Miss Annie Chippendale
A Herald .....Mr. Leopold Profeit

Mr. James Welch is one of the most original of our comedians, and possesses a quaint personality and eccentric method which are difficult to describe and define, but are obvious to all who see him on the stage. First came his appearance with Mr. Wilson Barrett in *The Golden Ladder* at the Globe in 1887; and who can forget his performance in *My Friend the Prince* at the Garrick in 1697, and his remarkable rendering of the amiable young aristocrat in *The New Clown* at Terry's Theatre, in 1901? Such experiences as being chosen as successor to Dan Leno in the Drury Lane pantomime of 1904, and that of being cast for the funny part of Mr. Hopkinson in the piece of that name at the New Theatre in 1905, have helped to modify Mr. Welch's style, though they have not greatly affected it. His latest London exploit, the representation of the chivalrous shoemaker in Mr. H. A. Jones's *Heroic Stubbs* at Terry's, showed him at his best in the mixture of humour and pathos, which is really his strong point; though he can, when he chooses, "drop into" the most extravagant comedy. There is, indeed no actor on the stage who can "play the fool" with more delicious abandon, with gayer irresponsibility, and with a more evasive touch of underlying pathos, than Mr. Welch can. The gifts of this "great little" comedian would have redeemed a far worse farce than *When Knights were Bold*, by "Charles Marlowe," produced at Wyndham's Theatre last Tuesday evening, after a successful tour in the provinces.

When Knights Were Bold, which was first seen at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, on Sept. 17, 1906, and approached as near London as Croydon in the following October, belongs to the order of "dream plays." The scene of the first act is the Knight's Room, Beechwood, in 1906. Sir Guy de Vere is the very modern and rather degenerate scion of a long line of notable ancestors, with whom he is very constantly compared, to his own disadvantage and irritation, by his cousin, Lady Rowena Eggington, to whose charms he has long been a captive. She does not look upon his suit unfavourably; but she is in love with everything appertaining to "the days of old," and urges Sir Guy to live up to the ideals of the past. Sir Guy is too nonest and straightforward to pander to Rowena's folly; but a certain impecunious Irishman, Sir Brian Ballymote, who has an eye on the young lady's fortune, does not hesitate to take advantage of her passion; and, fired by the stories he tells her of his ancient lineage and personal deeds of valour, she is more than half inclined to listen to him. Sir Brian is aided and abetted in his plans by a Jewish financier, Sir Isaac Isaacson, who wishes to secure Sir Guy for his daughter Sarah. In a dream, Sir Guy finds himself back in the "days of old," with all his old friends and companions; but the incongruity—and, consequently, the laughter of the audience—arises from the fact that, whereas the others have entirely adopted the dress, manners, and ideas of the twelfth century, Sir Guy remains the "slangy" little lordling of the present day. The original plot of the play is very cleverly interwoven and repeated in the dream, Sir Guy and Sir Brian being still rivals for the hand of the fair Rowena. Sir Guy is challenged to mortal combat, and vanquishes his enemy with his fists, having discarded his armour. On his awakening, his mind is still so impregnated with the spirit of the "days of old" that he attacks all and sundry, and he proves to Rowena that Sir Brian is a coward, and that the olden times were in no way preferable to modern days.

Mr. Welch did not spare his efforts on Tuesday; and, working his hardest in the part of Sir Guy de Vere, created a vast amount of fun. Mr. Welch, who seems to be droller and quainter than ever, is irresistibly funny as Sir Guy, and keeps the audience chuckling with delight whenever he is on the stage. He is very seldom off, and if laughter be the criterion of success, Mr. Marlowe's play will be certain to please and amuse the patrons of Wyndham's. Mr. Arthur Grenville contributes a clever character-study of a modern Jew. Mr. Grenville's performance is a very excellent piece of work; the gestures, the tricks of posture, and slight thickness of utterance show careful study and minute observation, and there is a very pleasant absence of exaggeration. Mr. Gordon Tomkins enacts the Butler and the Seneschal with genuine ability; Mr. Charles Weir makes the most of the rather poor part of Sir Brian Ballymote, his "brogue" being capital; and Mr. Guy Lane plays Sir Peter Pottlebury with due clerical smugness and unction. Mr. Henry J. Ford is good as the Hon. Charles Widdicombe, his song and dance in the second act being loudly applauded; Mr. George F. Tully plays Wittle with a good deal of humour; and Mr. Leopold Profeit is a haughty and impressive herald. We are glad to welcome Miss Audrey Ford back to London in the part of Lady Rowena; artistically she makes a capital foil to the Sir Guy of Mr. James Welch. Miss Ford is an actress who deserves a permanent place on the London stage, and we cannot spare her to the provinces any longer. Miss Emma Gwynne plays the Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave very naturally; and the three hoydens—Lady Millicent, Lady Marjorie Egginton, and Kate Pottlebury—have pleasant representatives in Miss Estelle Winwood, Miss Enid Sass, and Miss Vivienne West. Miss Annie Chippendale is very good as the maid, Alice Barker, her elocution being noticeably excellent.

The piece is embellished with some pretty tableaux of mediæval knights and damsels. Mr. Percy Greenbank deserves credit for the song above alluded to, which is in his best style; and Mr. Brigata Bucalossi's incidental music is worthy of the pen of that gifted and experienced conductor and composer. The scenery, by Mr. Bruce Smith, is very pretty and suitable, and the piece is exceedingly well dressed. Every endeavour has evidently been made to make *When Knights Were Bold* acceptable to the public; and Mr. Frederic Norton's capital monologue, which serves as a prelude to the farce, is a most agreeable item of the evening, and is well worth the attention of all early visitors to Wyndham's.

"THE LADY DANDIES" AT DALY'S.

Mr. George Edwardes has been careful to explain to an interviewer that he never quite agreed with the title adopted for the Sardou-Felix opera on its production at Daly's, and with additions to the score written in the vein of musical comedy and some additional fun he has renamed it *The Lady Dandies*. In *Les Merveilleuses* Sardou conjured up a departed and almost forgotten world—strange, eccentric, feverishly excitable, melancholy and gay by turns, turbulent but dazzling. Many of these qualities remain; but from the point of view of the box-office the piece has been strengthened, and the introduction of Mr. Huntley Wright into the cast brings back to the theatre a comedian of whom Londoners never tire.

Mr. Wright's reception on Wednesday night was one of which any stage favourite might be proud, and his estimable qualities as a dispenser of humour have been exactly gauged in some cleverly written new numbers by Basil Hood, of which the music is by Mr. Lionel Monckton. He opened with "A Lady with a Dowry," but a greater success followed in "Publicity," by the same author and composer. The annexed verse taken from it will show that "period" imposes no responsibilities on the muse of musical comedy:—

"There's a curious word, 'Corelli,' means to blush behind a fan,
On which is plainly printed, 'Recognise me if you can!'
While another word to 'Winston' means to push yourself until
You're as plain before the public as a church upon a hill!"

This was vigorously encored, and new verses will most likely crop up. Mr. Wright—of course we ought to mention it—plays St. Amour, the prefect without pluck—a part which Mr. W. H. Berry took up on the first night in place of Mr. Graves. This clever comedian is now seen in the character of Tournesol, and gives a very clever and diverting sketch of the police agent of Carnot. Mr. Fred Kaye is screamingly funny, too, as Malicorne, and the scene between Malicorne, St. Amour, and Tournesol is now worked up to a very droll pitch, the duet between the two members of the "force" being also a very funny affair. Miss Evie Greene is interesting to watch and a delight to hear. Her broad sense of fun, her striking individuality, and her superb appearance dominate each situation in which she appears. Lodoïska has a very pretty opening number, in which she sings "Grace and beauty can be seen by you!" Exactly so; and the gauzy robes that the charming actress wears only accentuate the beauty of her contour. She revels in the character, and her success therein is of the most pronounced character. Miss Denise Orme's success as one of the Little Michus naturally suggested to Mr. Edwardes her choice for the part of Illyrine, played in the Parisian production by no less an artist than Céline Chaumont. Miss Orme has a poetic charm of manner, and nothing could be sweeter or more tender than her rendering of "Cuckoo," one of the musical gems of the piece. Another peculiarly happy inspiration of the composer is the duet "It might have been." The success of this is shared by Mr. Robert Evett as Dorlis, the young Republican officer who returns from the Napoleonic campaign in Italy to find his bride appropriated by another. Mr. Evett obtains another triumph in his solo "Illyrine."

Miss Elizabeth Firth as Liane has been endowed with a new number in "Lovers, make your pretty play-time happy as the day is long," the words being by Basil Hood and the melody by Eustache de Lorey. She does the melody complete justice. Mr. Louis Bradfield puts a deal of gaiety and lightness into the rôle of Lagorille, and acts and sings with complete success, being especially happy in his rendering of "The Merveilleuses Brigade." Miss Gabrielle Ray dances prettily as Eglé, and her pas de deux with Mr. Willie Warde, who plays Des Gouttières with a quiet sense of fun, is one of the best things in the piece. Mr. V. O'Connor and Mr. Gordon Cleather fulfil their responsibilities cleverly as the dandies Valcourt and Melval; the Merveilleuses have the most fascinating representatives possible in the Misses Nina Sevening, D. Dunbar, M. Erskine, P. Barker, and Mabel Munroe; and adequate aid to the general efficiency of a brilliant cast is furnished by Messrs. A. J. Evelyn, J. Murphy, N. Greene, and J. Boddy. The costumes and appointments are superb, and the scenery, by Hawes Craven and Joseph Harker, most artistic. Mr Willie Clarkson's wigging is, of course, of the best. Mr. Barter Johns conducts the performance most ably and directs a fine band and chorus.

ROYAL OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

An important event of last week was the production of Smetana's *Die Verkaufte Braut*, on Thursday, Jan. 24. This opera, which is the only really popular one written by the composer, was originally produced at Prague in 1866, and first heard in London in 1895, when the Saxe-Coburg Company performed the opera at Drury Lane. Smetana, the Bohemian composer, was born in Leitomischl, on March 2, 1824, and became in time a pupil of the famous Liszt. He had written several humorous operas before his chief success, *The Bartered Bride*, and it is worthy of remark that this work was written while the composer was quite deaf. The story of this lively and amusing work is quite simple. Marie, the daughter of a peasant, is in love with Hans, but a marriage broker offers her father, Kruschina, the choice of a richer son-in-law in the person of a son of Micha, named Wenzel, and the broker exerts all his persuasive powers to get young Hans to give up the lady. Hans at last consents, but on condition he receives the sum of 300 crowns, and that Marie shall only wed the son of Micha. The reason of this condition appears when it is found that Hans is a long-lost son of the rich Micha, and of course then all ends happily. One of the principal features of this opera is the delightful and animated overture (admirably played by the London Symphony Orchestra), the characteristic choral dance in the first act, and the original "Furiant" dance in the second. The plaintive music allotted to the part of Marie is not without charm, and very amusing was the stuttering song of Wenzel, Micha's somewhat silly son. The opera was well mounted and capitally interpreted. Frau Bosetti made a most charming Marie, using her bright soprano voice most effectively; while the Hans of Herr Franz Naval was good, both vocally and dramatically. The comic character of Kezal, the marriage-broker, and the stuttering Wenzel were also excellently performed by Herr Karl Marx and Herr Hans Bussard; and Frau Minnie Nast gave a sparkling rendering of the part of Esmeralda, prima donna of the strolling players. In the minor part of Agnes, Fräulein Rosa Olitzka was very successful, and, indeed, all concerned worked hard to secure the spirit of fun and merriment so characteristic of the opera. Herr Franz Schalk made a skilful conductor, and mention must also be made of Mr. Harry Brook's pretty scenery. There was a moderate audience, and it is extremely doubtful if *Die Verkaufte Braut* ever becomes really popular in this country. The cold reception accorded to the clever *Barber of Bagdad*, given in last summer's season at Covent Garden, and Donizetti's graceful *Don Pasquale* evidently shows that light opera is not very welcome there.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfrid Compton (Miss Miriam Holt) terminate a long engagement with *The Breed of the Treshams* at Swindon on Saturday next. Past engagements have included parts in *Monsieur Beaucaire*, *Our Flat*, *The Private Secretary*, &c.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA. 1850—1900.

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In these columns it is proposed to give a strictly alphabetical arrangement of the titles of plays produced during the last fifty years. It will be the most complete list ever published, and should prove invaluable to authors desiring to discover whether a certain title has ever been used, and when. To members of the dramatic profession it will be useful in determining the dates of plays in which they have achieved successes. Our readers are politely requested to advise us of any omission or inaccuracy which they may notice.

This list as soon as complete will be published in cheap book form.

Troubles, St. George's Hall, Nov. 22, 1888.
Troubles of a Tourist, St. George's Hall, Oct. 6, 1884.
Trovatore, Olympic, April 26, 1880.
Troy Again, St. George's Hall, March 13, 1888.
True as Steel, Britannia, Dec. 6, 1870.
True as Truth, Glasgow, Dec. 4, 1891.
True at Last, Marylebone, April 2, 1866.
True Blue, Olympic, March 19, 1896.
True Colours, Globe, June 11, 1888.
True Grit, Theatre Royal, Woolwich, June 27, 1887.
True Heart, Theatre Royal, Leamington, Nov. 23, 1888.
True Hearts, St. George's Hall, May 28, 1874.
True Love, Theatre Royal, Brighton, Oct. 9, 1885.
True Lovers' Knots, Theatre Royal, Gloucester, Jan. 8, 1874.
True Nobility, Tottenham, April 16, 1892.
True Story, Drury Lane, June 15, 1885.
True Story Told in Two Cities, Opera House, Leicester, Feb. 7, 1884.
True till Death, Standard, Oct. 23, 1876.
True to His Colours, Sadler's Wells, Aug. 15, 1892.
True to the Core, Surrey, Sept. 8, 1866.
True to the Last, Queen's, Feb. 27, 1864.
True to the Queen, Peckham, Nov. 26, 1900.
True Woman, Theatre Royal, Brighton, April 13, 1878.
Trump Card, Theatre Royal, Leicester, Feb. 25, 1878.
Trumpet Call, Adelphi, Aug. 1, 1891.
Trumpeter of Sakkington, Drury Lane, July 8, 1892.
Trust, Ladbroke Hall, April 30, 1891.

THE LATE JOHN A. ATKIN MEMORIAL.

The following gentlemen have consented to act as a committee:—Messrs. Lester Collingwood, Arthur Shirley, Harris Fineberg, G. M. Polini, W. Bennett, E. Hill-Mitchelson, Tom H. Taylor, W. R. King, E. Hewitson, W. Fraser Brunner, Harry Chappell; secretary, Mr. Ashley Page; hon. treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift.

First List of Subscriptions, £25 11s. 6d.

	£	s.	d.
Standard Theatre Staff	2	15	0
Fred Powell	2	2	0
Mr. and Mrs. A. Melville	1	1	0
E. H. Knight	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Arnold		10	6
W. Schaffer		10	6
Fred W. Warden		10	6
W. T. Cope		10	6
Mrs. M. L. Cope		10	6
Mr. and Mrs. Bert E. Hammond		10	6
Arthur Shirley		10	6
W. R. King		10	6
E. Hill-Mitchelson		10	6
G. M. Polini		10	6
Harris Fineberg		10	6
Sam Livesey		10	6
Harry Agar-Lyons		10	6
Mr. Tom H. Taylor's *Worst Woman in London* Co., per F. Vernon Travers		10	6
H. W. Kelly		10	6
Members of the *Female Swindler* Co., per O. Silverstone		10	6
Mr. Walter Melville		10	6
Mr. Fred Melville		10	6
Mr. Tom H. Taylor		10	6
Mr. Ashley Page		10	6
Miss Marion Denvil		10	6
Soldier's Wedding Co.		10	6
Terriss's Theatre Staff		10	6
Mr. Harry Chappell		10	6
Mr. James Peerless		10	6
Collected by Mr. Fraser-Brunner, General-Manager *The Beast and the Beauty* Co.:—			
Mr. Fraser-Brunner		10	6
The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning Co., per Frances Ruttledge		10	6
Mrs. Fielder		10	6
Mr. John Fielder		10	6
Driven from Home Co., per Frederick Sandy		10	6
Jack Haddon		10	6
J. B. Howard		10	6
Mrs. Walter Melville		10	6
Hugh Robertson		10	6
Milton Bode		10	0
A. G. Hawkins		10	0
Mr. T. Greenwood-Croft		5	6
Eric Campbell		5	0
Herbert Ford		5	0
Walter H. Nightingale		5	0
J. W. Cordiner		5	0
Mr. George E. Mudd		5	0
Agnes Imlay		5	0
John B. Shinton		5	0
West London Theatre Management		5	0
Sid		5	0
T. E. Ward		5	0
James Skea		5	0
B. F. S.		5	0
Wm. Eastwood		5	0
Bernard Mervyn		2	6
William E. Passmore		2	6
Louie Adair		2	6
Harry Wimpenny		1	0
Will Corrie		1	0
Stanley Vivian		1	0
Alfred Wood		1	0
Mr. G. V. Campbell		1	0
Harry Chappell, jun.		1	0

Subscriptions will be duly announced if forwarded to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, 5, Tavistock-street, W.

Miss Doris Gilham, who concludes to-night a ten weeks' engagement with the London Vaudeville Sketch Company, has been re-engaged by Mr. C. F. Cooke to play Astrea in *The Trumpet Call*, opening at Cardiff on Feb. 11.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

For Notices of other Halls see Page 23.

DUCHESS, BALHAM.

Mr. Ross has been successful in securing a most capable company here for this week, who, throwing their whole heart and soul into their work, have the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts to amuse are appreciated to the utmost. The programme contains many items of interest, and it is plainly evident that the unearthing process has commenced. The ball is set rolling in no uncertain manner by Miss Kitty Malone, who unfortunately is the possessor of a very nasty cold. Dressed as a Gibson Girl, she has a capital song about this much-talked-of person, which is set to most tuneful music, and it was a pity that she did not feel well enough to give another. A most interesting sketch is that which is being presented by Sylvia Cavalho and Co., entitled *Lulu*. The scene is an actress's dressing-room behind the stage of a London theatre that a successful provincial author has taken to present his piece, which has been all the rage in the provinces. Instead of giving the part of the leading lady to the person who had created it, and whom, posing as a single man, he has betrayed, he engages some well-known star. Unknown to him, she, however, gets wind of this, and comes to London, accompanied by her aunt, to see the great star act. She goes round to the back to interview her paramour, and whilst in the midst of a stormy scene with him word is brought that a motor accident will prevent the star from appearing. Placed between the devil and the deep sea, he induces the girl, by professing his great love for her, to take the part. At the end of the first act, on returning to her room she finds a lady there who is unknown to her. She turns out to be the actor-manager's wife, and, more extraordinary still, not a bit interested in theatrical matters, and who, unknown to anyone, has come round to the actress's room simply to congratulate her. The actress, who had never suspected this, succeeds, however, in keeping her relations with the other woman's husband a secret from her, and at last persuades her to depart. Then enters the husband himself, and she confronts him with what she has just discovered. The infuriated, yet heartbroken woman is at last reminded that she is due in the second act, but she absolutely refuses to go on. However, after much persuasion, she is induced to do so, as by so doing she is told that she will greatly assist the poor, with whom she is a great sympathiser. The part of Lulu, the betrayed woman, is in the hands of a most capable actress, who fairly carries the audience with her, and she is ably backed up by the rest of the cast. The Three Consol Girls present some neat and clever dancing; and Jack Charman has a very entertaining act, entitled "Folks That Live the Longest," in which he appears to great advantage. Richard Finburg, a character actor of considerable ability, is giving some capital impersonations. Amongst others may be mentioned Svengali from *Trilby*, Charles Warner's Coupeau, in the death scene from *Drink*, and Shakespeare's Henry the Fifth before the warriors of Harfleur. Miss Sybil Montague is singing a couple of numbers which are much appreciated. One in an Irish song, and the other "Cuckoo," and in the latter especially her voice is well suited. Another turn well out of the ordinary is that presented by the Czar's Russian Dancers. Four in number, they prove themselves past masters in the art of terpsichore, and their quaint and original manner commends itself to all. E. Cranston and company are presenting the racing sketch entitled *Terry*, in which the hero, a stable boy, in charge of a horse backed to win a fortune in a race on the following day, is tried to be got at, and thus clear the way for the confederates to drug the horse. As is only to be expected, the scheme fails, and the hero comes out on top. Miss Nora Royston, with a couple of capital numbers, is a welcome addition to the bill. She scores best with her "Good-night, Mr. Brown, I'm out," the chorus of which is readily taken up by the house. Another sketch which is on the bill is *Princess Katchi*, in which is appearing Miss Queenie Lawrence. This is a very entertaining sketch, which also includes some very tuneful songs. The part of Gwendolen is undoubtedly the most important, and is in the hands of an able comedienne, whose clever dancing earns for her a most hearty encore. All through she acts her part with a quaint yet droll manner, and succeeds in getting the maximum of humour from her part. The performance would nowadays not be complete without some pictures on the Bioscope, and those that are being shown this week are certainly of a very novel and up-to-date kind.

THE FORESTERS'.

Frequenters of the Foresters' were this week regaled with a programme of exceeding strength and variety, which gave lively satisfaction to Mr. Frank Macnaghten's loyal patrons. An elaborate production of a melodramatic sketch, entitled *Sexton Blake*, formed the basis of the bill. The sketch, details of which were given in our last issue, deals with the adventures of a detective, whose exploits prove quite as exciting as those of the famous Sherlock Holmes. Mr. C. Douglas Carlile, who goes about his work in immaculate evening dress, exhibited all the necessary aplomb and coolness as the "private inquiry agent," and acted with acuteness and skill. Mr. Chas. A. Carlile represented the head of a secret brotherhood in a way that accurately answers to the description of "Master Criminal," which is allotted to the character; and an impressive piece of acting was done by Miss Carlotta Do Yonson, as a lady, who is aided in her fight against the brotherhood by the dauntless detective. Mr. Lee Gilbert was a comic exponent of the resourceful Tinker; Mr. M. Langdale deserved commendation as a Russian conspirator; and the other parts were suitably sustained.

Two additional sketches, one grave and the other gay, were also to be found in the bill. The first was the episode, *Under the Seal*, which deals dramatically with a priest's successful endeavour to preserve the secrecy of the confessional. In the part of the Rev. Father David, Mr. Herbert Harden was kindly and dignified, as becomes the rôle, and acted with force and conviction; and Mr. Morrice Seaton was duly rough and uncouth as a brutal criminal; while Miss Margaret Parker created a diversion by her skilful rendering of the hoyden Bet. The second playlet consisted of the comedy duologue, *Saucy Maud*, which is exploited by the Brontes. The piece is chiefly notable for the impersonation by the lady of the duo of a plump and pert "slavey," whose eccentricities extend so far as to lead her to impersonate an actress and make love to her admirer. The sketch appealed powerfully to the ludicrous perception of the audience, who followed its progress hilariously.

Extremes meet in the case of Henry Cot, the French Giant, and Prince Colibri, the Russian Midget. The former, aged 21, is 8ft. 7in. in height, weighs 390lb., and is still growing, and the latter is 1ft. 11¾in. high, scales only 8¼lb., and has passed his twenty-fifth birthday. Quite a mild excitement is caused by the appearance of the oddly-assorted pair in the auditorium, where a general handshaking is indulged in all round, the mighty grip of the giant contrasting vividly with the timid grasp of his puny companion. Miss Florence displays her talents for mimicry in imitations of Miss Victoria Monks and Happy Fanny Fields, the dance of the latter artist being faithfully represented. The clever young lady is on less sure ground in her representation of Mr. Harry Champion, but with the aid of a brown hat and a close copy of the quick comedian's methods, she provides a marvellous likeness, the double-shuffle at the end being also reproduced. The comedienne is recalled again and again.

Imitations are also given by Mr. Arthur Croxon, who burlesques a village quartet singing, "O, Zephyrs Blow," in which he sustains all the parts. Travesties of a little girl, and of a husband and wife indulging in a "quarrelling duet," wedded to the airs of popular songs, both gain unlimited approval and an enthusiastic demand for an encore. The Rhoda Brothers do marvellous tricks on flying rings and slack wire, which one of the partners supports with his teeth, and they also excel as balancers. Swift bears out his name by executing a rapid oil-painting of a basket of flowers, besides sketching with lightning speed portraits of eminent men; and the Sisters Beatrice please all in duet and dance; the programme being concluded by the ever-acceptable Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

ROYAL STANDARD.

Up to the time of writing the Royal Standard has not been disturbed by the commotion in the music-hall world, and probably this fact, coupled with the excellent programme provided, accounts for the overflowing audiences which have this week gladdened the managerial heart. The name which Mme. Sims Reeves bears is one which will always ensure the possessor a respectful hearing from a London audience, and that is quickly changed into enthusiasm by the lady's splendid rendering of various popular ballads, her interpretation of "Come back to Erin" being an especially delightful performance. Rel and Butt are two comedians whose eccentric dancing and tumbling are provocative of much merriment, while their patter is characterised by pleasing freshness. The Mayvilles, in their Lilliputian music hall, introduce a sort of glorified marionette entertainment, the heads of the lady and gentleman being superimposed upon pigmy bodies. Their character singing is extremely amusing. Hughes and Elliott prove themselves to be excellent exponents of the art of sand-dancing; and Mr. Laurie Stuart's comicalities create much laughter. Miss Dorothy Vell is received with acclamation for her rendering of "I want no other girl but you, Loo"; and Miss Irene Molden is an engaging and attractive comedienne.

In the persons of Tom Bryce and company an extra turn is added to an already lavish bill. Their farcical sketch, *Why the Piano Was Not Tuned*, is greeted with roars of laughter, the characters of the Yorkshire-Glaswegian, the amorous Hebrew, and the embarrassed lady whose piano required tuning being all represented in an intensely funny fashion. Mr. Carter Livesey and Miss Lilian Rosebery are presenting their successful skit, *The Would-be Actors Rehearsing a Drama*. Few sketches on the variety boards to-day contain such an abundance of humour. Mr. Carter Livesey is indeed a droll fellow, with his slow Yorkshire enunciation; and the assumption of seriousness on the part of the two stage aspirants is well sustained by Miss Rosebery and Mr. Albert Mason. Miss Ethel Arundel is endowed with considerable personal and vocal attractions, but these are not seen and heard to their best advantage in the ditty detailing the loves of a Chinaman and an English maiden. The fault, however, is in the lines, and not in the singing of them. The versatile Mr. Phil Ray gives us his amusing parody on "The Village Blacksmith" and "Who's that a-calling?" and ample evidence of the position he holds in the estimation of his hearers is furnished by his being recalled again and again.

It is an interesting romance that Mr. Albert Ward and company treat us to in *The Profligate King*, which can be said to reach a dramatic altitude rarely attained on the music hall stage. Mr. Ward is supported by a capable company, in which Mr. F. R. Besley figures as the libertine monarch, Mr. Frank Leslie as the bold, bad traitor minister, Miss Dora Mansell as the graceful heroine, and Miss Frances Alleyne as the stately Duchess of Pellitsa. Mr. Ward himself is a manly representative of Leandre Caselli, whose daring resolution eventuates in the confusion of his enemies and his own happy union with his lady love. The scenery is of an unusually elaborate character, and the costumes are of a picturesque sumptuousness. Miss Helena Sleath and Mr. Charles Aldin give an entertaining operatic scena, entitled *Under the Shamrock*, their vocalisation being of a high order. A coloured comedian of much originality and quaintness is found in Mr. Kit Keene; and the pictures shown by the Edisonograph are unmistakably clear and of first-rate quality.

RICHMOND THEATRE.

On the occasion of our visit to this establishment on Wednesday there was a crowded house enjoying the good things provided. Miss Edith Sylvesto again exhibited her extraordinary skill as a contortionist; and Mr. Geo. Westland's Scotch ditties were as effective as clever. Mr. Bates Maddison's company, in *Charley's Uncle*, caused much fun. A comely, but untidy lady, Dolly, appears on the stage minus her dress, having lost the key of the wardrobe. To make matters worse, the husband's uncle, Charley, with a *penchant* for order and tidiness, appears on the scene. The uncle, a retired Custom House officer, is an eccentric "who shivers in the presence of a lady." The husband departs to attend to a patient, and the Uncle Charley fills in the moments by cross-examining a somewhat erratic and garrulous domestic. Anon Dolly appears, still minus her dress, a friendly shawl doing duty for the missing frock. A lively *tête-à-tête* ensues, in which the usual misunderstandings occur; but, anon, all ends happily. The sketch is capitally played, but a doubtful allusion or two might be deleted with advantage. The Minnesota Quintette evidence their ability to play a variety of instruments, their manipulation of the same being highly interesting. The orchestra give a really admirable rendition of *The Prince of Pilsen*, the various airs recalling the memories of the opera. Another sketch follows, entitled *Captain Cupid, V.C.* The old story of a marriage prearranged is again the *motif*, and very cleverly is it handled. Captain Cupid really doesn't worry very much, and when the first lady appears he instantly makes love to her as Mr. Sam Weller would call at "40-horse power." Having "proposed," he allows the lady five minutes to make up her mind. Miss Lovell, No. 1, having retired to debate matters, her sister next appears, whereon the gallant Lothario promptly proposes to her, and is accepted. Anon, Miss Lovell, No. 1 appears, both claiming the naughty captain, and finding he has been playing a double game, they proceed to chastise him. Then a brilliant, if not altogether original idea, occurs to the wary captain. He will feign madness, get a refusal from both, and thus satisfy the parental edict. His scheme succeeds, and the curtain rings down to a dual refusal. Mr. G. C. Doughty worked tremendously hard in the title-rôle, and was efficiently supported by the fair members of the company, whose names should, in justice to everyone, appear on the programme. Little Don, as a miniature, but bibulous son of Mars, caused a lot of fun; his business is clever, his dancing grotesque, and his patter droll. It is the age of living statuary, and Mlle. Clasen's Living Art Bronzes may be classified among the most successful now before the public. Two ladies and four gentlemen are engaged in the representation. The grouping of the various tableaux is excellent, and the poses admirably sustained. The Bioscope concludes a fine show.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

ON THE ROAD, FEB. 4.

Are You a Mason?—Norwich.
Assassin.—Theatre Royal, Croydon.
At Cripple Creek.—Lyceum T., Newport.
Beautiful Fiend.—Queen's T., Dublin.
Belle of Mayfair (Bode).—T. R., Plymouth.
Belle of Mayfair.—Royalty T., Glasgow.
Benson, F. R. (N.).—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Benson, F R.—Grand T., Southampton.
Benson, F. R. (S.).—Neath and Aberavon.
Between the Lights.—Grand Junc., Manchester.
Blue Moon.—Theatre Royal, Halifax.
Bulmer, Mr.—King's T., Cardiff.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—Grand T., Hull.
Cassidy, J. Rice.—P. O. W., Moxborough.
Chinese Honeymoon (Bode).—Grand T., Fulham.
Chinese Honeymoon (Macdona).—Kirkcaldy.
Christian, The (Croke).—Pleasure Gardens, Folkestone.
Claudian.—Grand T., West Hartlepool.
Compton Comedy Co.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Country Girl (Macdona).—South Wales.
Dairymaids.—O. H., Southport.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Durham, Grantham.
D'Oyly Carte.—King's T., Hammersmith.
Driven from Home.—Palace T., Newcastle.
Earl and the Girl.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Earl and the Girl (N.).—Court T., Wigan.
False Wife.—Albert T., Brighouse.
Female Swindler.—Nuneaton.
Fight for Millions. Carlton T., Saltley.
Freedom of Suzanne.—Coronet Theatre, W.
French Spy.—T. R., North Shields.
Gay Parisienne.—Burton and Scarborough.
Glossop-Harris Repertoire Co.—T. R., Leamington.
Golden Ladder.—Aquarium T., Gt. Yarmouth.
Go-Won-Go Mohawk.—Pontypridd.
Great Awakening.—O. H., Middlesbrough.
Her Forbidden Marriage.—T. R., Aldershot.
Her Love Against the World.—T. R., St. Helens.
Her Marriage Vow.—Grand T., Mansfield.
His House in Order.—County T., Reading.
Indian Mutiny.—Queen's T., Keighley.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Royston and Watford.
La Poupee (Ralland).—Victoria T., Broughton.
Leah Kleschna.—Gaiety T., Leith.
Lights o' London.—T. R., Rochdale.
Lights Out.—Alexandra T., Greenock.
Little Breadwinner.—Lyceum T., Crewe.
Love that Women Desire.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
Lucky 'Liza.—Lyceum T., Stafford.
Lucky Durham.—T. R., Bolton.
Man and Wife.—Grand T., Rawtenstall.
Manxman.—O. H., Blackpool.
Martin Harvey.—T. R., Hull.
Merveilleuses.—Grand T., Blackpool.
Midnight Mail.—Wolverhampton.
Midnight Wedding.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Monte Christo.—T. R., Coatbridge.
Moody-Manners (A.).—Colosseum T., Oldham.
Moody-Manners (B.).—Preston.
Moss, Eva, Repertoire.—O. H., Harrogate.
Mr. Popple.—York.
My Sweetheart.—Alexandra T., Greenock.
Napoleon the Great.—Theatre Royal, Batley.
Night Out.—Cambridge.
Otto the Outcast.—T. R., Wednesbury.
Peter's Mother.—O. H., Tunbridge Wells.
Prince of Pilsen (Harriss).—O. H., Wakefield.
Prodigal Parson.—Goole and Yeadon.
Proof.—Theatre Royal, Leicester.
Royal Divorce.—County T., Kingston.
Saints and Sinners.—T. R., Cardiff.
Sapho (Annie Bell).—T. R., Jarrow.
Sentenced for Life.—New Theatre, Aberdare.
Sherlock Holmes.—Prince's T., Poplar.
Shulamite.—P. P., Eastbourne.
Sign of the Cross.—Royalty T., Llanelly.
Silver King (Polini).—T. R., Aston.
Somebody's Sweetheart.—T. R., Grantham.
Spring Chicken.—Cheltenham.
Still Alarm.—T. R., Sunderland.
Three Little Maids (Macdona).—Eccles.
Toreador (Macdona).—Hebburn.
Traitor Prince.—St. James's T., Manchester.
Traitor, The.—Grand T., Walsall.
Tyrant, The.—Star T., Liverpool.
Under the Russian Flag.—P. O. W., Salford.
Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Batley.
Village Blacksmith.—T. R., Leigh.
Walls of Jericho.—T. R., Worcester.
Warner, Miss Grace.—Gaiety T., Clydebank.
Wearin' o' the Green.—Queen's T., Liverpool.
What the Butler Saw.—T. R., Darlington.
When Woman Hates.—King's T., Cardiff.
White Chrysanthemum (Curzon).—G. T., Belfast.
White Chrysanthemum (Macdona).—Belfast.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—O. H., Jersey.
Woman and Wine.—Empire T., Southend.
Worst Woman in London.—Grand T., Luton.
10.30 Down Express.—T. R., Stratford.
£1,000 Reward.—Motherwell.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Norman Overton—Saturday, Feb. 2.
Blanche St. Albans—Saturday, Feb. 2.
Dolores Drummond—Sunday, Feb. 3.
Grace Murielle—Sunday, Feb. 3.
Martin Adeson—Sunday, Feb. 3.
May Geraldine—Sunday, Feb. 3.
Hilda Trevelyan—Monday, Feb. 4.
Zena Dare—Monday, Feb. 4.
W. Casey—Monday, Feb. 4.
Madge Ellis—Monday, Feb. 4.
Alfred C. Toone—Monday, Feb. 4.
Maggie Stewart—Monday, Feb. 4.
Daisy Cotton—Tuesday, Feb. 5.
Minnie Turner—Wednesday, Feb. 6.
Alice Capel—Wednesday, Feb. 6.
Dora Dench—Wednesday, Feb. 6.
Fanny Wentworth—Wednesday, Feb. 6.
Ethel Frances Greene—Wednesday, Feb. 6.
(Miss) Essex Dane—Wednesday, Feb. 6.
Eade Montefiore—Wednesday, Feb. 6.
Fred Guinness—Wednesday, Feb. 6.
Mrs. Chas. Johnson—Wednesday, Feb. 6.
Harry Bristow—Wednesday, Feb. 6.
Brandon Blake—Wednesday, Feb. 6.
Louise A. Sydney—Wednesday, Feb. 6.
Margaret Broadfoote—Wednesday, Feb. 6.
Millie Hylton—Thursday, Feb. 7.
Kate Newton—Thursday, Feb. 7.
Florence Dalton—Thursday, Feb. 7.
J. W. Rowley—Thursday, Feb. 7.
Greta Garnier—Thursday, Feb. 7.
Charles Clifford—Friday, Feb. 8.
Marion Forrester—Friday, Feb. 8.

DEATHS OF THE MONTH.

Jan. 1. Edward Crosse, aged 56.
,, 1. Bessie Featherstone.
,, 1. Thomas Chas. Greenshields, aged 61.
,, 1. Mrs. John Samwells, aged 95
,, 2. John A. Aitkin, aged 49
,, 2. Minnie Leslie (Mrs. J. Cecil), aged 38.
,, 2. Mrs. Edmund Phelps, aged 67.
,, 3. Arthur Wheeler.
,, 5. Mrs. Andrews.
,, 7. Reddick Anderson.
,, 7. Charles Lerigo, aged 71.
,, 8. Thomas Bowman Closs (T. C. Bowman), aged 65.
,, 8. Mrs. Mary Ann Fane.
,, 8. Mrs. Pauline Waller.
,, 13. William Ball Oliver, aged 71.
,, 13. Alfred George King.
,, 14. Tom Traynor.
,, 15. Mrs. Hamilton.
,, 16. Mrs. Joe Haynes.
,, 18. Fredk. Poole.
,, 18. Lucas D'Oyly Carte.
,, 20. Dick Kitchen, aged 47.
,, 20. Albert Hall, aged 43.
,, 21. Florence Emily Howard.
,, 23. Thomas Wells.
,, 23. James Manders, aged 74.
,, 23. Francis Clarke, aged 31.
,, 29. Mrs. Bostock.
,, 30. James Chappell, aged 78.
,, 30. Dacre Baldie, aged 70.
,, 30. Mrs. Maria Marsh, aged 76.
,, 30. Wm. Davies, aged 47.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "The Editor," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "The Era," Ltd., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

Address,
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(two doors off Wellington Street)
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephone, 4747, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. F.—Little Mary, *by J. M. Barrie, was produced at Wyndham's, Sept. 24, 1903.*

Euston.—*You had better inquire of the firm concerned; we have no knowledge of their arrangements with their employees.*

R. C. J.—His Excellency the Governor *was produced at the Court, June 11, 1898, and was revived at the Criterion, Feb. 14, 1900, where it ran about three months. On March 12, 1904, the piece was revived at the Duke of York's, with Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Mr. H. B. Irving, and Mr. Dion Boucicault in the principal parts.*

J. D.—Carmen, *with an English libretto by Henry Hersee, was produced at Her Majesty's Theatre on Feb. 5, 1879, with Mme. Selina Dolaro as the heroine. Other versions have since been produced.*

H. N. C. — (1) *Mr. Frederick B. Chatterton, the theatrical manager, died in 1886.* (2) *He was lessee of Drury Lane Theatre from 1866 until 1879.*

Mac.—*Miss Nelly Bromley was the original representative of Dolly Mayflower in Burnand's* Black-Eyed Susan, *produced at the Royalty Theatre on Nov. 29, 1866. It ran until Sept. 23, 1868.*

Percy Smith.—*We have not been able to ascertain whether "Gentleman" Smith ever played the part of Ironspark in* The Silver Palace, *but no doubt the picture has reference to that actor.*

Lita Smith.—(1) *We believe not; consult Southey's "Life of Lord Nelson."* (2) *The most probable explanation is that the programmes printed on good paper were sold in the higher-priced parts of the house.* (3) *We can find no record of her death.*

C. B. Kendall.—*We do not know of any; you might obtain some information by making inquiries at any one of the local public halls where entertainments are given.*

F. H. P.—*We have no knowledge of the lady and gentleman mentioned.*

Charles Sheard and Co.—*Arthur Lloyd died on July 20, 1904, the day after his friend, Herbert Campbell. Both dates are given in the Dramatic and Musical Calendar of* The Era Annual *for 1907, which may be obtained at our offices, 3, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.*

J. W. Thompson.—*We think you are mistaken. Anyhow, we have failed to find any record of their appearing together in the play mentioned.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth** or **Death** or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny.**

The charge for a notice of **Marriage**, not exceeding forty words, is **Two Shillings and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

MARRIAGES.

Newlands—Goddard.—On Monday, the 28th Jan., at St. Paul's, Covent Garden, by the Rev. E. H. Mosse, George, second son of the late Joseph Newlands, of Carluke, Lanarkshire, to Elizabeth, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Goddard, of Maiden Lane, Strand, and Shillingford, Oxon.

DEATHS.

Chappell.—Jan. 30, at his residence, Dorsett House, Marine-parade, Great Yarmouth, James Chappell, in his 79th year.

Davies.—Jan. 30, at 9, Manor-road, Stoke Newington, William Davies, aged 47, the well-known composer of Welsh songs, and for twelve years a member of St. Paul's Cathedral, also professor at the Guildhall School of Music.

Baldie.—Jan. 30, at his residence, 25, Regent square, W.C., Dacre Baldie, actor, aged 70.

Hall.—Jan. 20, at Bradford, Albert Hall, songwriter, aged 43.

Marsh.—Died on Wednesday, 30th, at her residence, 164, Mitcham-lane, Streatham, Maria Marsh, aged 76, mother of Mrs. Percy Delevine. Deeply regretted.

Klobt.—Jan. 29, the beloved faithful wife of Wm. B. Bostock, after six hours' illness, passed away at our home, 18, Brighton-street, Oxford-road, Manchester. Sadly mourned by her broken-hearted husband.

Poole.—Jan. 18, at Newbury, of heart disease, Frederick Poole, of Poole's Myriorama, and theatrical proprietor.

For Sympathy.

Mrs. James Manders and family wish to thank all kind friends for their deep sympathy in their great loss and sad bereavement; also those that sent beautiful wreaths and letters and telegrams of condolence. Letters too numerous to answer. In the midst of life we are in death.

In Memoriam.

Rezene.—In loving and affectionate remembrance of my dear wife (Miss Polly Cusick), Mrs. Chas. Rezene (Rezene and Robini), who departed this life Jan. 31, 1903. May her soul rest in peace.

Reardon.—In affectionate remembrance of Eleanor Reardon, the beloved wife of Edward L. Garside, who passed away Jan. 31, 1907.

Taylor.—In ever-loving memory of Will Taylor, who died Jan. 29, 1901. Never forgotten by his wife and family.

At the City Hall, Cork, on Sunday afternoon, the four city brass bands gave a concert to raise a band fund. Mr. Charles Manners and Mr. John Child contributed. Mr. Manners sang "Nazareth" in magnificent style, and as an encore gave "Father O'Flynn" in spirited fashion. Mr. Child rendered "The Star of Bethlehem" with great beauty of expression and responded to an encore with "Songs of Araby." The hall was filled to overflowing. Herr Richard Eckhold played the accompaniments.

In connection with the Belfast branch of the British Empire Shakespeare Society, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was read on Monday evening last in the Ulster Medical Institute, Belfast. The play was cut according to the late Sir Henry Irving's edition, and was interspersed by Mendelssohn's beautiful vocal and instrumental music. The different parts were admirably sustained, and the reading was thoroughly successful.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.
No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Adler and Sutton, Messrs.
Ainslie, Miss M.
Anderson, Capt. D. N.
Anthony, Mr. Mark
Armitage, Mr. Harry
Asche, Mr. Oscar
Ashington, Mr. H.
Attwood, Happy
Baker, Mrs. E.
Barnett, Mr. C. A.
Baroni and Kemp
Beaufort, Miss Georgie
Beere, Mrs. Bernard
Best, Mr. Chas. F.
Biddall, Bros.
Bowman, Miss Isa
Boyde, Mr. Edwin
Brock, Miss Olive
Brooks, Mr. John
Brownson, Mr. Jack H.
Buckley, Mr. V.
Bunce, Mr. H.
Burnell, Mr. Fred
Callan, Mr. John
Caris, Mr. J.
Cass, Mr. Frank
Cecil, Mr. Herbert
Chambers, Miss Emma
Chaplin, Mr. Sydney
Chesney, Mr. E.
Clive, Mr. Wybert
Combes, Mr. Arthur
Conrad, Mr. Harry
Conrad, Mr. Wallace
Cornell, Mr. D.
Cunningham, Miss M.
Currans, Mr. J. W.
D'Abbertson, Miss Maud
De Campi, Miss Marie
De Groot, Miss Sara
De Marce, Mr. Felix
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Mack, Mr. Julian
Mackay, Mr. Wallis
Maclaren, Mr. Ian
Major, Mr. Frank
Mansel, Lady
Marba and Verity
Marsh, Mrs. H. V.
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Martino, Signor
Mayne, Miss Clarice
Mayne, Miss Rale
Mayo, Mr. Sam
McClemont, Mr.
Meier, Mr. Dave
Meredith, Miss M.
Merrin, Mr. R.
Millett, Miss Maude
Murray, Mr. S.
Myers, Mr. J. W.
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Nelson, Mr. Leonard
Nicoll, Miss Yetla
Noel, Miss Maudie
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Osto, Mrs. D.
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Panamas, The
Payne, Miss Lilian
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Thomas, Mrs. Ronald
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Taylor, Mr. Gilbert E.
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Taylor, Captain
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Vernon, Miss Ethel
Victor, Miss Ada
Waterfield, Mr. C.
Whitehead, Mr. Arthur
Wilson, Mrs. Randle
Wolveston, Miss F.
Woodward, Mr. C.
Yukio Tani
Yorke, Mr. Leonard

COVENT GARDEN BALL.

Covent Garden presented its usual animated appearance on the evening of the 25th ult., on the occasion of the fortnightly dance. The attendance was quite equal to the average. A beautiful white satin dress with panels depicting Poppy Land, and named "The Garden of Sleep," took the first prize—a handsome sable muff. The second prize, an inlaid mahogany writing-table, was won by the costume "Dixie the Land of Cotton." Mr. W. Clarkson gained fourth prize for "All the latest," which depicted many topics that have come prominently before the public recently. A large swan skin represented the Arctic weather, and there were pictures of Kingston and the late and present Shah, as well as allusions in millinery and trimmings to the Berlin crisis and the music-hall strike. An earthquake head-dress completed this up-to-date costume. Another of Mr. Clarkson's designs which caught the eye was a Magpie Toreador in black and white; and "True Friends" consisted of a skirt of the national colours, an admiral's coat and cocked hat, and panels illustrative of England's friendship to various nations. The entire costume was draped with English and American flags. Special prizes were won by the following dresses:—"A Modern Cleopatra," "Far from the Madding Crowd," "The Polar Regions," "Two Roses," "Rule Britannia," and "Winter." Mr. Dan. Godfrey's band delighted the company with selections of popular music. The next ball is to be held on Shrove Tuesday, the 12th inst., when a handsome souvenir is to be presented to each lady.

"VENGEANCE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I notice a sketch was produced last week at the Palace, Hammersmith, under the above title. Allow me to state that I produced a Mexican-Indian episode, entitled *Vengeance*, at the People's Palace, Portsmouth, on Feb. 6, 1905, and played it for one week. As I have sold the sketch, I wish you would kindly publish this in fairness to the gentleman who has bought it, and intends playing it in London shortly.—Yours faithfully, WILFRED H. BENSON.
Dundee, Jan. 29.

MR. EDITOR.—Sir,—In your Devonport notice last week you spelt our names Carr and Carr. They should have been, yours faithfully, CARL and CARR, comedians.

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ACTORS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Subscribers will be held on the STAGE of HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, on TUESDAY, Feb. 5, at 12 o'clock noon, to receive the Report of the Committee and the Accounts for the year 1906.
H. BEERBOHM TREE, Esq., in the Chair.
The attendance of subscribers is requested, and all those interested in the work of the Fund are invited to be present.
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THE ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SIXTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the ACTORS' ASSOCIATION will be held at THE PLAYHOUSE, NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, CHARING CROSS, LONDON, on TUESDAY, the 19th FEBRUARY, 1907, at 2.30 p.m., for the following purposes, namely:—
To receive a Report and Accounts of Expenditure and Receipts and Liabilities and Assets.
To elect one President, twelve Vice-Presidents, and fourteen Members of the Council, and an Auditor or Auditors, and to transact any other Business of the Association brought before the Meeting by the Council, or by any Member who shall have given to the Secretary Seven days' written notice thereof.
Notice is also given that any two Members of the Association whose Subscriptions for the current year are paid may, within Seven days prior to the said Meeting, give to the Secretary a notice or notices signed by them, nominating any qualified Member or Members of the Association as a Candidate or Candidates for the Council. Such notice or notices must contain the Name and Address of the proposed Candidate or Candidates, and be signed by him or them.
Dated this 22nd January, 1907.
By Order of the Council,
CHARLES CRUIKSHANKS, Secretary.
10, King-street, Covent Garden.
The Chair will be taken by SIR SQUIRE BANCROFT.
All Members are entitled to attend, and every Member whose Subscription for the current year is paid is entitled to vote.
If unable to attend, qualified Members may vote by proxy in the form prescribed by Article 31 (see page 26 in the A.A. Year Book, 1907).
NOTE.—Members of the Profession who are not Members of the Association will be admitted on presentation of their professional cards.

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THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT FOR ACTOR AND COMPOSER,

BY ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B. (Lond.).

Chapter I
COPYRIGHT AS OPPOSED TO PERFORMING RIGHT.
Chapter II.
PERFORMING RIGHT.
Chapter III.
INFRINGEMENT AND REMEDIES.
Chapter IV.
MUSICAL COPYRIGHT.
Chapter V.
INTERNATIONAL AND COLONIAL COPYRIGHT.

Mr. A. A. Strong has published a book on "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," which should be in the hands of everyone who is obliged to know about this perplexing subject. Dramatic copyright in England is in a particularly unsatisfactory state, and it is much to be hoped that ere long some more rational method of securing protection for a play may be devised than the slovenly and sometimes costly "production for copyright purposes," which is at present required.—St. James's Gazette.

Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr. Albert A. Strong's new work, entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr. Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his text-book on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases, what probably is—the law as to musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters on the Berne Convention and on the Chase Act, passed by the United States Congress last March, are full of interest.—Referee.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1907.

ACTORS ABROAD.

An important and eagerly expected event of the coming season will be the appearance of Mr. BEERBOHM TREE at the New Royal Opera House, Berlin, in *Antony and Cleopatra*. The wide-embracing mind of the German Emperor has followed the revival of the play in London with great interest; and the KAISER will honour the first performance with his presence. At frequent intervals performances take place at the German theatres of pieces translated from the English. Mr. BERNARD SHAW'S *You Never Can Tell* was done in German at the Kleines last year; and so were a play based on *Sherlock Holmes* and a version of *A Wife Without a Smile*. But a visit from a leading London actor is an unusual occurrence; and Mr. TREE'S opening on April 12th will be a brilliant and momentous one.

Mr. TREE has been preceded in his exploration of the Fatherland by Sir CHARLES WYNDHAM, whose success in Berlin was complete, as Mr. EDGAR PEMBERTON tells us in his excellent biography of the admired actor. It was in 1887 that Sir CHARLES translated *David Garrick* into German, and in that language, and—with the exception of Miss MARY MOORE—supported by a German company, he successfully carried out the bold experiment of playing it, first at Liegnitz and then at Berlin. The trial performances at Liegnitz were given with anxious hearts, and for the following reasons. The German engagement was made in the summer, on the reputation of the great London success; but when the Liegnitz manager read the translation in the autumn he took the strongest objection to its being played. It was his first season in management, and he was so alarmed at the possibilities of failure that he tried all sorts of inducements to persuade CHARLES WYNDHAM to abandon the engagement. The English manager would have been very pleased to do so, relying on the German manager's experience of German audiences, had the engagement not been widely announced in the English newspapers. It was impossible for him, therefore, to withdraw. The Teuton then made the curious decision to tell everybody, critics included, that he feared he had made a mistake, and that the piece, which he had taken simply on its reputation, was not up to the level of German requirements. When CHARLES WYNDHAM suggested to him that it was very bad policy, seeing that he was bound to go on with it, he confessed that he had done so because that was his first season, and he wanted to preserve his reputation as a wise one in his selections. Manager and actor, however, were very friendly together, and at last the great night came. All the *élite* of Berlin were there, including the British Ambassador and his staff. The English actor's wife and daughter had accompanied the traveller and Miss MOORE to Germany. They were among the first to be seated in the house, and as his daughter understood German, she was very much mortified to hear, in her neighbourhood, somebody telling a friend that they had "come to see the English clowns." Such was the impression made by the manager's forewarnings. As *David Garrick* is rather a short play, the manager was producing a new one-act German piece, to which he had taken a great fancy, and to which he had given extraordinary preliminary praise in all the newspapers. He cast it with his leading lady and some of the best members of his company. To the surprise of everybody, and to the trepidation of the anxious CHARLES WYNDHAM, the curtain fell on it with a pronounced condemnation of hisses and abuse. *David Garrick* had not been playing more than eight minutes when its further progress was stopped by the audience recalling Miss MOORE on to the stage after her first exit; and from that moment the piece went on triumphantly, CHARLES WYNDHAM and Miss MOORE being the recipients of an extraordinary compliment at the end of the second act, when the Press sent round an unanimous expression of congratulation. At the end of the piece, Miss MOORE, CHARLES WYNDHAM, and his family were being entertained at a supper at an hotel, about thirty people being present, when the manager, who was being feasted in the same building, begged permission to join the Wyndham circle for a little while, and before he sat down made an eloquent speech, apologising for his adverse criticisms, and acknowledging the great success in art which had been achieved.

Mr. TREE'S visit to Germany will be paid under the most favourable and splendid auspices. He goes to Berlin with a unique reputation as an actor-manager. His enterprise has been as extraordinary as it has been artistic. He has never been content to keep in a single groove, or to rest on his reputation. He is always trying new experiments; and most of them are successful, and all are inspired by the advancing, exploring spirit of the true artist. Carping critics may object to some of his exploits, but no one can be blind to the mass of his achievements. Serious Scandinavian dramas like *An Enemy of the People*, poetical-historical plays like *Nero*, and, above all, his superb, thoughtful, and attractive revivals of SHAKESPEARE, have given Mr. TREE a rank and a status which well fit him to bear the laurels of the English drama to Berlin. German audiences are certain to appreciate and admire his work as warmly as it has been appreciated and admired by his fellow-countrymen. Mr. TREE'S appearance in the German capital, in the presence of the Kaiser, will help to increase the friendly feeling which exists between the bulk of the English people and the Teutons, and to remove many of the prejudices which, unfortunately for both nations, are cherished by a minority.

THE cast of *The Cassilis Engagement*, the comedy in four acts by St. John Hankin, which will be produced under the auspices of the Stage Society at the Imperial on Sunday, Feb. 10, and the following afternoon, will consist of Misses Maudi Darrell, Florence Haydon, Isabel Roland, Evelyn Weeden, Gertrude Burnett, Clare Greet, Margaret Mackenzie, and K. M. Romsey, and Messrs. Langhorne Burton, Sam Sothern, F. Morland, and Ralph Hutton. The Society will pursue the plan of closing the doors at the rise of the curtain, after which no admission can be obtained until the end of the first act.

Now that the children have enjoyed to the full the feast of amusement provided by Mr. Arthur Collins at Old Drury, and have returned to their studies, their elders are afforded an opportunity of seeing *Sindbad*, the run of which must now be comparatively short owing to the unusually early arrival of Easter. All the artists are now back in their parts, having successfully grappled with the indisposition which a severe winter inflicted on each in turn, and probably never before have such a number of stars in a Christmas annual at Old Drury worked so harmoniously for the delectation of the patrons of the National Theatre.

THE half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Hyde Theatre Company, Ltd., was held on Saturday afternoon, when Ald. W. J. Sherry, J.P., presided over a large gathering. A lengthy discussion arose over the payment of a dividend, and it was ultimately decided to declare one at the rate of 2½ per cent. Ald. W. J. Sherry, Messrs. W. Robinson, S. Richardson, and W. Whitehead were appointed directors, the latter in the place of Mr. G. W. Wild, who did not seek re-election.

HER many friends and admirers will be glad to hear that Miss Olive Marston, the popular principal boy, is fast recovering from her serious operation, and which prevented her appearing this Christmas in pantomime.

"BLUE BEARD," at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston, was withdrawn, after a most prosperous run of five weeks, in consequence of previous contracts entered into. The house was packed on Saturday, most of the lady performers receiving gifts of flowers and boxes of chocolates. The comedians were not forgotten, their presents being of a less aesthetic character. During an interval Mr. Peter Davey, the managing-director, and Mrs. Davey were brought on to the stage and presented by Mr. Edwin Brett (Bluebeard), on behalf of the company, with a handsome pair of entree dishes, suitably inscribed. Mr. Davey suitably acknowledged the gift.

SEVERAL English artists will appear at the matinée which M. Mayer will give at the Royalty on Friday, Feb. 15, in aid of the French Hospital in London, and of the Lord Mayor's fund for the sufferers by the Jamaica earthquake. The programme will be contributed to by Miss Marie Tempest, Miss Edna May, and Mr. Lewis Waller, in addition to the French players, who will include Mme. Jane Hading and Mlle. Granier.

A TENTATIVE performance of a new musical play called *The Gipsy Girl*, written and composed by Claude Arundale, was given at the Waldorf on Monday afternoon, and the piece, the plot of which bears a resemblance to that of the opera *The Bohemian Girl*, gave such promise of success that it has been decided to make it the evening attraction at the Waldorf about the beginning of March. The two principal parts were successfully sustained by Mr. Fred Eastman and Miss Sybil Arundale.

AT the Theatre Royal, Blyth, the visit this week of Mr. William Maclaren, Miss Lily C. Bandmann, and company, in a revival of *Claudian*, has proved a brilliant success. Mr. Maclaren is no stranger to Blythites, and his impersonation of the title-rôle was admirable. To Miss Bandmann every praise is due for a charming and graceful rendition of Almida; Thariogalus, the Tetrarch, in the hands of Mr. F. Owen Chambers, was a powerful piece of acting; Mr. Chas. T. Chaloner as Belos, and Miss Maud Garth as Edessa, fully sustained the humour of the play. To Mr. Douglas Earle a word of praise is due for a vigorous portrayal of Agazil; and Mr. Weston Hubbard was seen to advantage as Alcares.

HENGLER'S CIRCUS.

At a matinée performance on Monday a new, up-to-date comical revue, entitled *Clownland*, written by Mr. Arthur Coomber, was successfully produced. As a prologue to the entertainment proper, a young lady—the fairy of the piece—appeared, and sang a song with a pretty melody, entitled "Clownland." Then came on Mr. Clown, Mr. Pantaloon, Harlequin, and Columbine. A butcher's shop, well stocked with joints, of course offered an irresistible temptation to our old friend, the clown; and he had felonious intentions with regard to a succulent mutton chop, but the butcher was a little too quick for him, and a damaged hand was the result of his attempted petty larceny. A burlesque of the thought-transfer performance given by the Zancigs proved highly entertaining, the representative of Mr. Zancig introducing references to the President of the Local Government Board, Mr. Winston Churchill, and other celebrities of the day. Next a suffragette made her appearance in the circle and insisted on orating, in spite of the expostulations of the manager and the rest of the company. Even the presence of a burly constable had no effect upon the talkative intruder, who appealed to the ladies present to assist her in championing the wrongs suffered by their sex; and eventually she had to be forcibly removed. A good deal of fun was also got out of "Princess Trixie, the thinking donkey," who is to be regarded as a dangerous rival to the famous horse at the Palace. Finally the company and staff, following the fashion set in other quarters, resolve to strike, even the programme girls being involved in the mutiny. This brings the new topical revue to a merry conclusion. The programme does not give the names of the principals, but the members of the harlequinade all worked extremely well together, and their efforts proved extremely successful.

In addition to the new production the programme includes a number of attractive items. Miss Becky Daniels, a graceful equestrienne, accomplishes a series of quick changes of dress while on horseback representative of various nationalities, finally appearing as a Scotch lassie, giving in this character a smart dance that is received with applause. Tamamoto, a Japanese, appears in a wire-walking act in the first part of the programme. He assumes various difficult positions on the wire, and finally spins round like a human top. Later, he climbs a rope and goes through another clever performance, which receives flattering recognition from the audience. He concludes by sliding down the vertical rope enveloped in the English and Japanese national flags. Anderson's asses are two well-trained animals, and the performance they are put through is rendered attractive and interesting by some novel features. The Three Orros are fine specimens of muscular manhood, and their specialities include the supporting of one of their number on a tight-rope held by their teeth. Felix and Waynottee also gain a good reception, one of the twain cleverly catching balls and rings on a spike attached to a helmet. Mr. Eugene Gaertner varies the programme with his juggling; Handy Andy sends the younger portion of the audience into fits of merriment; and other names on the bill are the Brothers Zeno and the Bonanzas on the triple bars. The Filmograph displays an interesting series of animated pictures. Mr. Austin Fryers is the lessee and manager, and Mr. Donelly gives courteous and zealous attention to the Press department.

THE LONDON ANNIVERSARY.

The thirteenth anniversary of the London Shoreditch, was celebrated on Wednesday evening, and a specially-attractive programme was provided. Late in the evening a presentation was made to Mr. Thos. G. Richards, the general-manager. The committee, consisting of residents of the neighbourhood and others, having assembled on the stage, Mr. J. McCarthy came forward and addressed the audience. He explained that the committee represented patrons of the London, and they were present to show their appreciation of its youthful manager, Mr. Tom Richards, son of Mr. Richards, one of the directors. This presentation had been on the tapis for some six months, and had been postponed until the anniversary of the opening of the hall. All who had had any dealings with Mr. Tom Richards must acknowledge that he was a gentleman well worthy of their respect and regard, while his management of the London had given satisfaction to everyone.

Another member of the committee having rather tired the patience of the audience by a long speech in praise of Mr. Richards, Mr. McCarthy read a copy of the illuminated and handsomely-framed address, presented to the manager, and which was accompanied by a case containing, amongst other articles, a solid gold cigar and cigarette-case. The address stated that these were presented as a slight token of the esteem the subscribers entertained for Mr. Richards. They wished him good health and prosperity in any other undertaking with which he might be associated. Mr. Richards, in reply, said that words could not express his sense of their kindness to him. He was pleased to say he had a staff he could rely upon, and a band and conductor he was proud of. In conclusion, he thanked them for the handsome presents they had made him.

The long programme was contributed to by the following, amongst many other artists, the number of "extra turns" being unusually large:—Lottie Collins, Lily Harold, Nellie Wallace, Queenie May, Baby Mills, Ada Cerito, Alexandra Dagmar, Flo D'Orville, Ruby Emmerson, Marie Kendall, Ella Lane, Helen D'Aubigny, Elsie Bernard, G. H. Chirgwin, Ernie Plummer, Ted Cowan, Fred Millis, the Bros. Horne, Harry Harris, the Kentucky Four, Johnny Dwyer, Steve McCarthy, and Arthur Boyne. Both Miss Marie Kendall and Mr. Steve McCarthy were specially greeted with enthusiastic applause. Whilst Mr. Chirgwin was in occupation of the stage someone in the gallery shouted, "When are you going out, George?" to which the comedian replied, "When they call me. But we're all very comfortable and happy here to-night," a remark that evoked much applause. Every lady artist who appeared was presented with a handsome bouquet. Mention should be made of the valuable services rendered by the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Geo. Richardson. The stage-directors were Messrs. J. Dockery, S. Hart, and H. Munro.

PERCY EDGAR, Fred Godfrey, and Kenneth Lyle have placed with the Star Co. an excellent light comedy number, entitled "You can't do without a girl." The melody is one of the most catchy Mr. Lyle has ever written.

A NEW number which Messrs. Francis and Day have in the press is likely to yet further enhance the already high repute in which F. W. Leigh and H. E. Pether are held as author and composer by the profession and the song-buying public. It is called "For auld lang syne; or, My home is far away." Mr. Pether is recovering from an attack of pleurisy which has kept him to his bed for over a week.

THE host of seaside entertainers and pierrots who are comedians are ever on the *qui vive* for a humorous song which will amuse elders and children alike, and such a one has been disposed of by Mr. Edgar Curtis to Messrs. Francis and Day, and is now in the hands of the printer. It is called "I'm a little bit deaf to-day," and is by Edgar Bateman and Fred W. Leigh.

"SIDNEY CARTON'S SACRIFICE."

Sketch, in Two Scenes, by B. Soane Roby, based upon Dickens' Novel, "A Tale of Two Cities," and Played, for the first time, at the Camberwell Palace, on Monday, Jan. 28.

Sidney Carton .....MR. EDWIN BENNETT
Solomon Barsad .....MR. C. MAYNARD BROWN
Charles Darnay .....MR. E. ST. JOHN
Jacques Frossard .....MR. GEO. SOANE ROBY
Pierre L'Estrange .....MR. FRANK BROWN
Lucie .....MISS KITTY LOFTING

The difficulties of Dickens for the purposes of the stage are in few cases more pronounced than in that of the "Tale of Two Cities," but Mr. Soane Roby has nevertheless succeeded in placing its most effective episode within the limits of a twenty-minute playlet, and has contrived a sketch which is full of interest and exciting to a degree. Mr. Roby has done a very free adaptation of the story of Sidney Carton's self-immolation, and, while preserving all the thrilling characteristics of the romance, has introduced a variation of the episode, by means of which a very dramatic scene is reached. The rising of the curtain reveals Charles Darnay awaiting execution, an affecting scene arising out of the visit of his wife, Lucie. While they are taking a lasting farewell, Sidney Carton arrives in order to put into operation his scheme for the escape of Darnay. Lucie having departed, Carton demands the assistance of the burly gaoler, Solomon Barsad, who, under threats of being denounced as a spy in the pay of the English Government, consents to aid in the plan. After inducing Darnay to write a letter giving a hint of the motive which induced Carton to make the sacrifice, the latter drugs his friend, and, with Barsad's assistance, sends him out to the carriage, to be borne away to safety. The gaoler is suspicious of Carton, and threatens to strangle him if there is any sign of treachery; but Carton is fully determined to meet the consequences of his noble act, and prepares to face the mob who are clamouring for their victim. In the next scene a glimpse is afforded of the tumbril whereon the ill-fated Carton stands by the guillotine and delivers the memorable words familiar to readers of the story before going to his doom.

The sketch was received with the utmost favour, the warmth of which was due, in great part, to its effective presentation at the hands of Mr. Soane Roby's company. The exacting rôle of Sidney Carton was admirably played by Mr. Edwin Bennett, who delivered the lines of the part with well-varied inflexion and admirable phrasing. He gave a vivid realisation of the young man animated by a chivalrous love, and burning to redeem the faults of his youth by an act of surpassing heroism. Mr. Bennett was very impressive, too, in the last sad scene, and was honoured with several recalls. Mr. E. St. John provided a personable Charles Darnay, his elocution being specially commendable; and Miss Kitty Lofting was a strongly-emotional Lucie, speaking her lines with sympathetic feeling. A welcome touch of colour was given to the performance by the Solomon Barsad of Mr. C. Maynard Brown, who made a murderous-looking gaoler and submitted a sound piece of acting. The two scenes were mounted with praiseworthy completeness, the condemned room, with the noisy crowd seated in an adjoining chamber, and the view of the tumbrils, with the execrations of the bloodthirsty mob sounding in the distance, being represented with terror-inspiring realism. The close attention of the audience was held throughout the production, upon which vigorous applause was continuously bestowed

THE EMPIRE PICTURES.

The stage of the Empire, not for the first time, is given up to pictures taken from well-known works, the subjects being represented by living models, backed by cleverly-painted backgrounds. We remember in a former series that Miss Constance Collier—then a beautiful girl in her early teens—posed as Cleopatra, a part to which the ripened experience and cultured gifts of the woman enable her to do full justice. The choice of subjects has been made with rare discernment by M. Wilhelm, and the scenes painted by Mr. T. Friedensen cannot be too warmly praised. Of the earlier pictures the most successful on Monday was "The Lost Chord," in which Miss Dorothy Craske, the handsome "jeune première" of the Empire ballets, was seen "seated at the organ," the band under Mr. Cuthbert Clark—who, by the way, has evinced much taste and skill in the composition and selection of the music—giving a fine performance of Sullivan's immortal strains, the dramatic effect being enhanced by the rich tones of an American organ. The refrain of Mendelssohn's Wedding March from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* music heralded Lord Leighton's well-known picture, "Wedded," in which Miss L. Desmond and Mr. L. Mancini most artistically realised the figures and pose of the devoted pair. Anticipation had run high regarding the beauty and stature of the lady who had been secured to pose for the figure in Lord Leighton's picture, "The Bath of Psyche," now in the Tate Gallery. Miss Madeline Tate posed almost to perfection, though the position of the arms made the question of complete immobility a difficult one. "The Huguenot," Sir John Everett Millais' popular picture, was accompanied by the famous strains of "Blessing of the Daggers," from Meyerbeer's celebrated opera bearing on the same subject as the painting. A picture of considerable beauty was Frank Dicksee's "Romeo and Juliet," the Veronese lovers being impersonated by the Misses F. Jenkins and M. Collier. Another picture by the same artist—"Harmony"—was scarcely so successful. "Hope," after G. F. Watts, R.A., may be considered a clever presentment of the familiar blindfolded figure, crouching on a blue Cosmos and listening to a broken lyre. "Victoria Regina," after H. Wells, R.A., is the young Queen in 1837 receiving, in her *habit de nuit*, the homage of Lord Melbourne and the Archbishop at Kensington Palace at the announcement to her of her accession to the throne. Of the statuary, the best was "Love, the Conqueror," by Miss Townsend, whose perfect figure, cleverly whitened to represent marble, quite realised the artistic beauty of the sculptor's work. Mr. Marcantonio may also be complimented on his "Teucer," after the bronze statue by Hamo Thorneycroft in the Tate Gallery, and his "Athlete Struggling with a Python." The new attraction is heartily enjoyed, and the success of the departure is beyond dispute.

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Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

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Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Contains in a handy compass and in a clear style the law relating to theatres and music halls. The book is well up to date.—*Law Times.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

Mr. A. A. Strong has compiled an exceedingly useful volume dealing carefully, intelligently, and fully with the law bearing upon things theatrical. As a book of reference this excellent digest will be found invaluable.—*The Era.*

VARIETY GOSSIP.

At the moment of going to press the calamitous contest between proprietors and artists continues, and fresh developments are anticipated. The halls now closed to the Chartists include:—Tivoli, Oxford, Holborn Empire, Canterbury, South London, Paragon, Euston, East Ham Empire, Walthamstow Palace, Islington Empire, Ealing Empire, Grand (Clapham), Palace (Croydon), Duchess (Balham), Bedford, London, Cambridge, Collins's, Hippodrome (Crouch End), Palace (Stoke Newington).

At the Alliance offices the authoritative announcement was made on Thursday night that "there is no intention of calling out any of Mr. Stoll's halls at present." This announcement is confirmed by the following telegram which Mr. J. O'Gorman has addressed to sixteen centres in the provinces: "Tell the boys and girls from me that they need have no fear of result. No intention to strike at Stoll's halls at present. Send all support possible, including levy, with the accent on the *levy*."

The Charter of the Alliance and the Variety Artists' Federation contract have been sent to Mr. Oswald Stoll for his signature, with a covering letter suggesting that he should receive a deputation from the National Alliance to discuss the various points in the same. Mr. Stoll has stated that he did not intend to reply to the letter of the Alliance save through the medium of the Press.

We are given to understand that it was with the greatest reluctance that the Alliance determined to fight Mr. Albert Gilmer, because, although he had not signed the Charter, he had adopted their form of contract. More than that, he was directing one of the independent halls with which the Alliance had no real quarrel.

The action of Mr. Frank Macnaghten in joining and acting with the London Entertainments Protection Association has caused considerable surprise among the Federationists, and a deputation from the Alliance waited upon that gentleman on Thursday afternoon. Mr. Macnaghten's reply was that, so far as the Charter was concerned, there was nothing in that which would interfere with his actions in becoming a member of the London Entertainments Protection Association and in assenting to the resolutions. He intended to adhere to the Charter.

Mr. Leslie Stuart has written in the *Daily Mail* an appeal to "Managers and Artists." In a striking passage he says:—"Four thousand performers are at war with their bread and butter. The more favoured by fortune and in status are assuming the rôle of martyrdom—sincerely, let it be said—in the fight for their weaker brethren. Four thousand men and women claiming the designation of 'artists' are seeking redress in methods adopted by the dock labourer. Men and women—some with princely salaries—are stricken with the fever of temporary Socialism—temporary, without doubt, for their very existence depends on individualism and personality. Immense praise is due to them for their surprising cohesion, and they have protested well, and yet protested quite enough. The time has now arrived for compromise. It is necessary, and it should be made without delay.

An appeal to the leading brother and sister artists to take the matter into their own hands and thus end the "most disastrous calamity known in the history of our profession, causing widespread distress and misery, especially to the poorer members," has been signed by Kitty Loftus, Arthur Playfair, Alice Hollander, Cora Brown Potter, Datas, Aubrey Fitzgerald, the Prince and Princesse de Broglie, Nelson Jackson, Cissie Curlette, Lanos and Montes, Alice Caselli, Cerise Caselli, Jolly and Neilson, Harry Currie (Mr. "C."), Maude Courtney, the Australian Quartette, Evelyn Taylor, Harry Rogers, and Dan Thomas.

To the above appeal a counterblast, calling upon "our loyal brother and sister artists" to take no notice of it, and expressing every confidence in the Executive Committee and its methods, has been issued, and is signed by Marie Lloyd, Joe Elvin, Chirgwin, Whit Cunliffe, George Gray, Neil Kenyon, Marie Loftus, Harry Lauder, Gus Elen, Arthur Reece, the McNaughtons, Carter Livesey, Marie Kendall, Little Tich, Brothers Poluski, Wal Pink, and Harry Ford.

Mr. Alfred Butt, at the annual staff supper, which took place at the Palace Theatre on Sunday evening, when over 250 of the employees and their friends were present, said that he was particularly pleased to see that almost every employee was present, also many artists, as it emphasised the good feeling which existed between the artists, musicians, stage hands, and other employees and the management. The directors of the Palace were ever anxious to study in every respect the interests of the artists and the staff, and would always be willing to listen to, and seriously consider, any suggestions, as they were of opinion that only by harmony being maintained by all could any business be successfully conducted. Mr. Butt said that they all hoped that the present strike, which was apparently brought about through causes that could well have been remedied, would soon end, as it would immediately cause much hardship and suffering to those who could least afford to be out of employment.

The Oxford announces for Monday the Iokoda Japanese troupe in sensational feats of equilibrium; and Messrs. Lasky Rolfe's company, in *The Stunning Grenadiers*, including Mlle. Meredith Meredro, the celebrated American prima donna. This entertainment may be described as a spectacular olla-podrida in four scenes. Mr. Arthur Playfair will remain in the bill with *327, Finsbury*, and Datas, Alice Hollander, Amy Clevere, and the Yankee Doodle Girls will combine to form an excellent variety entertainment.

Mr. James Chappell, who commenced his career at the age of fourteen, was for some years a familiar figure at the Queen's, Poplar, from which he retired in the nineties. He always took a great interest in the Music Hall Benevolent Fund, and invariably attended the sports when his health permitted. His death will be widely regretted by many friends in the East End, where, during his career, he was connected with the Pavilion Theatre, the Cambridge Music Hall, and the Queen's Palace, Poplar.

Mrs. Jack Sterling, better known on the music hall and theatrical boards as Miss Jessie Preston, is at present enjoying a well-earned holiday on the Continent. In company with her husband, she left London eight weeks ago, and since then has visited Gibraltar, Malta, Naples, Venice, Genoa, Rome, St. Remo, Monte Carlo, Mentone, and at present is sojourning in Paris. During their visit to Monte Carlo, "Jack" captured quite a "packet" at the gaming tables, but his better half was not so fortunate, and, if the truth must be told, lost almost as much as the "guid man" had won. Still, as Jessie says in her last letter home, "It's all in the family, isn't it? so what's the good of grumbling? Never meet trouble halfway." Miss Preston opens at the Oxford on her return a fortnight hence, and will be welcomed back to her favourite house by her friends and admirers, whose name is legion.

Mr. George Dance has bought the Queen's Theatre, Swindon, which he intends to run as a combined theatrical and variety house. The place will be opened on Easter Monday.

Mr. Harry T. Downs, late general-manager at the New Belfast Alhambra, has been chosen to fill a similar position at the new Belfast Royal Hippodrome, now rapidly approaching completion. Mr. Downs is well known and popular in the linen metropolis, and once upon a time was a proprietor in Hull.

The King's, Gateshead, was, on Monday, taken over by Messrs. Rosen and Bliss, the variety agents, who are adding greatly to their responsibilities and enterprise in the provinces. Mr. Harold Arnold, the popular manager, has been re-engaged. This is as it should be.

The directors of the Leicester Palace, Limited, after providing for depreciation on furnishings for the past three years and applying the sum of £158 in reduction of preliminary expenses, recommend that a dividend be paid on the Ordinary shares for the year to Dec. 31, 1906, of 2½ per cent., which will absorb £850, leaving a balance of £124 to be carried forward.

The plans for the erection of a handsome and up-to-date theatre or variety hall at Bolton have been approved of by the Watch Committee. The originator of the scheme is Mr. T. Hargreaves, of Rochdale. The new hall is to be named the Empire, and the site is at the west end of Deansgate, between Queen-street and Back Queen-street. Seating accommodation will be provided in the new place for about 1500 amusement-seekers. The construction will be commenced shortly.

The façade in Deansgate will be in stone. The house is different from the ordinary theatre in that the cheap gallery, usually so conspicuous, will be done away with in favour of the lower-priced seats at the rear. The ground floor accommodation is about 620 in the pit and over 100 in the stalls—720 in all. The balcony is divided into two, the front being arranged as a dress circle, with seating for 140 persons. Further back is the upper circle, with seats for 360. Though the new building is intended for a variety hall, the proprietor will also hold a theatrical licence—a privilege denied to his brother-proprietors in London.

Mr. Charles Revill, of the Theatre Royal, Stockport, has presented Miss Florence Baines with some very interesting old play-bills from their houses in Stockport and Ashton. One of the programmes relates to the engagement of the late Dan Leno and his father and mother; another recalls the farewell engagement of Mr. Harry Rickards with the late George Leybourne in the same bill; and one, dated Sept. 8, 1882, announces Miss Vesta Tilley as the leading attraction. At the foot of the bill is the notice, "All old women over 100 years' old will be admitted free, and receive a pound of tea each."

The New Tivoli, Liverpool, is proving an unqualified success. For several weeks money has been turned away nightly, and the boards "Standing Room Only" are being shown at each house before the rise of the curtain.

A very pleasant function took place at the Tivoli, South Shields, on Saturday evening, when Mr. Kay, the conductor, who was leaving owing to his wife's illness, was presented by the manager on behalf of the staff and artists with a stick, silver cigarette, case, and a box of cigars and cigarettes. Mr. Burns in his speech to the audience said: "Instead of being at loggerheads, we are here like a happy family." Mr. Kay suitably responded.

Percy Sharman, 31, a music dealer, of 12, Maryland-street, West Ham, was charged on Saturday at West Ham with offering eighty-one copies of pirated music for sale. On Friday night the prisoner, who has a stall at Leytonstone-road, Stratford, sold some pirated copies of music, and a few minutes later he was arrested. He asked, "Can't you let me off this time? I know I am doing wrong," but on examining his stock Constable Goodchild (76 E) found eighty-one copies of pirated music. Prisoner, who made no defence, was fined £2, or 21 days' imprisonment.

"Her Convict Lover," a new sketch, by Arthur Jefferson, was produced for copyright purposes at the Metropole Theatre, Glasgow, on Tuesday. Intended primarily for the variety theatres, the leading parts were sustained by the members of the Albert and Edmunds company, headed by Miss Rose Hamilton. A novel and ingenious idea is introduced. After the third scene, which shows the robbery of the vaults of a bank, the entire action is transferred to the cinematograph screen, and from that point the public see the escape of the hero, the meeting with his lady-love, the discomfiture of the villains, the wedding of the hero and heroine, &c.—all depicted with lifelike fidelity, and naturally in less time than would be possible with numerous changes of scenery. The sketch is certain to be as popular as the many other plays, short and long, which Mr. Jefferson has been associated with in the past.

The Markies, with their novel instrumental sketch, have made quite a hit at the Chelsea Palace this week. They open at the South London on Monday

The Haverleys, the successful American song-illustrators, finish to-night at the King's Theatre, Gateshead, a most successful provincial tour, and, after a well-earned rest, open in London for some time.

Miss Maude Edwards has also been very successful in her ventriloquial act, and is booked in America until May next at most of the leading houses.

Miss Alexandra Dagmar is appearing with great success this week at the Empire, Holloway, and goes to the Empire, York, next week, with Empire, Stratford, to follow.

Camilla D'Alberg, after touring in *La Main*, the wordless Parisian episode, with a theatrical company, is again at the halls, and is this week "starring" at the Crouch End Hippodrome, where she is meeting with her usual success.

Miss Alice May has introduced a new character—a Nurse, instead of the Salvation Army Lass—into her sketch, which has caught on at the Empire, Shepherd's Bush, this week. Miss May leaves town on Sunday for a six months' tour of the Stoll and Moss' halls.

We desire to make it known, on behalf of the real Mr. Chas. Craston, that he has not appeared at any music hall since his engagement by Mr. Lionel Wallace, with Miss Lillian Dundas, in the sketch *At Midnight Hour* at the Empire, Holloway.

The latest quotations for music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1 11-16; Canterbury, ⅜; Drury Lane, ⅜; Empire (15s. paid) 1½, (10s. paid) 1⅛; Gaiety, 1; London Pavilion, ordinary 4½, preferred 5; London Coliseum, ⅛; Metropolitan, ⅜; Moss' Empire, 4⅜, preferred 3⅝; Oxford, 6; Palace, ⅛; Tivoli, 6; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 13s.

On the evening of Wednesday next, the 6th inst., the Chronophone will make its 100th consecutive appearance at the London Hippodrome. It is of interest to note that this novel form of entertainment continues to command as great an amount of public interest as on its first performance. At each representation the remarkable clearness and sweetness of the voice reproductions—which can be heard all over the great building—have been a surprise and a matter for comment to all who were not prepared for it. Messrs. Gaumonts' stock of Chronophone subjects appears inexhaustible, and the répertoire lacks nothing in variety.

The directors of Moss Empires, Limited, recommend a dividend of 10 per cent., free of Income-tax, for the half-year ending Dec. 31, put £25,000 to reserve, and carry forward £12,197. The directors of the Hackney and Shepherd's Bush Empire Palaces, Limited, recommend a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, free of Income-tax, on the Ordinary shares for the half-year, carrying £2,500 to reserve and £2,869 forward.

In consequence of some difference between the Grand Theatre, Islington, Company, Ltd. (1905), and Messrs. Jesse Sparrow and Harry Bawn, they have had to cancel the contracts of artists who had been engaged for the house in Upper-street. We understand that future dates will be offered to artists as soon as differences are adjusted.

Mr. Fred Reeves, the well-known variety agent, has been confined to his charming residence (The Cedars, Grove-road, Brixton) since Saturday last, suffering from influenza, rheumatism, and a slight attack of heart trouble. He is progressing favourably under the care of Dr. Arnott, of Brixton, and hopes to be about again some time during the coming week.

Mr. Louis N. Parker's playlet, *Man in the Street*, played originally at the Strand Theatre, with Mr. James Welch in the title-rôle, has been transferred to the halls, and as interpreted by Nevill Graham and Co. at the Royal Standard and other places has proved a great attraction. Mr. Graham plays the itinerant clarionet man, Jabez Gover, and does ample justice to the pathetic interview with the young wife, who proves to be his own daughter. The piece has been booked by Mr. George Adney Payne.

The chairman of the London Pavilion, Mr. Hugh Astley, desires to make it clear that the expression of which he made use in his speech at the recent shareholders' meeting—"The Pavilion would stand or fall alone"—referred to the London Pavilion as a company, working entirely by itself, and had no reference to the unity of the London Entertainments Protection Association, of which the Pavilion is a member.

Something of an advancement in the way of a "turn" at a music hall will be presented at the Empire on Monday. This is entitled *An Evening in a Studio*, and consists of a performance on the violin by Frederick Voelker—a pupil of Sarasate—accompanied on the piano by his wife. Mr. Voelker, who comes to London with a great American reputation, has an extensive répertoire, including Vieuxtemps' "Fantaisie Caprice," Komzak's "Legende," Bazzini's "Witches' Dance," Raff's well-known Cavatina, "Gipsy Melodies," by Sarasate, and "Il Moto Perpetuo," by Paganini. Should these be thought too "classical" for a variety theatre audience, he will give them an "American Fantasia" of his own composition and the familiar "Carnival of Venice."

Habitués of the Foresters' during the past eight or nine years will be glad to learn that Mr. James Faithfull, an old servant of the hall under the present and previous managements, has recovered his sight. Mr. Faithfull, who has for some years suffered acutely with his eyes, was quite blind for about three months, but an operation recently performed at the Ophthalmic Hospital, of which he was for three weeks an inmate, quite restored the use of the left eye. Mr. Faithfull is loud in the expression of gratitude to Mr. Frederic Baugh, the general manager of the Foresters', who has given him material assistance in his affliction.

Mr. Albert Hall's death, to which we referred briefly in these columns last week, passed away on Sunday, the 20th ult, at the Bradford Union Hospital, after a short illness, and under distressing circumstances. He was taken from his lodgings in William-street, Bradford, to the hospital in a semi-conscious condition. The deceased was a very reserved man at all times, and was unable to give any address to enable the authorities to communicate with his relatives.

The deceased was well-known in music hall circles as a song writer, and had written numbers for many of the leading artists, including Dan Leno, Charles Godfrey, Vesta Tilley, Marie Lloyd, Florrie Ford, Harry Randall, Wilkie Bard, Bella and Bijou, and others. The songs he wrote included "Dreams," "The blind collier," "Good old Uncle Charlie," "The miser," "What do you think of the Irish now?" "Bravo, Dublin Fusiliers," "The sprig of shamrock," and "One and a penny a day." The funeral of the deceased, who was forty-three years of age, took place on the 25th ult., the remains being interred in the Scholemoor Cemetery, Bradford.

On Thursday afternoon some 300 inmates of the Wandsworth Union Workhouse were entertained by the directors at the Hippodrome, Putney, and gifts of tobacco to the men and cakes and sweetmeats to the women were kindly provided.

We regret to learn the news of the death of Mlle. Klotz, who passed away very suddenly at her residence in Manchester on Tuesday. She returned home on Monday night apparently quite well and in good health; but on entering her door was taken ill, and never rallied, succumbing a few hours later. The cause of death was certified as apoplexy. The deceased lady was well known on the variety stage for her picture-posing, with novel scenic and electric effects, painted, invented, and produced by her husband, Mr. W. Brickles Bostock, the well-known scenic artist from the Palace, Manchester. Her "Electrical Art Panels" were popular, and she was specially happy in her representation of Mercia in a series of tableaux entitled "Christianity." The deceased is deeply mourned by her husband.

The secretary to the Music Hall Ladies' Guild reports that Miss M. Bowman has sent 10s.; a parcel of clothing has been received from "Anon"; and 100yds. longcloth has been sent by Marie Lloyd. The following amounts have been collected by Mrs. Smythson: W. Newhouse, 1s.; H. Clifford, 1s. 6d.; James Stuart, 2s.; P. H. Ward, 1s. 6d.; Frank Bernard, 2s.; and T. E. Dunville, 10s. 6d.

Mr. Fred Storey, the well-known comedian, was charged at Clerkenwell Police Court on Tuesday as an outcome of the strike. A police-constable stated that Mr. Storey created a disturbance near the Islington Empire on Monday evening and refused to go away. The popular artist contended that he made no speech, and did nothing to justify the charge. He was discharged.

A comedian named Edmund Carroll, thirty-three, of Goldington-buildings, Great College-street, St. Pancras, was arrested on Wednesday night for causing an obstruction outside the Bedford Music Hall. At Marylebone Police Court on Thursday he was discharged by Mr. Plowden.

Miss Nellie Wallace sails for New York per s.s. Majestic on Feb. 6 to fulfil a long-standing engagement with Mr. Percy Williams.

The Terriers will give their fourth social concert of the season on Sunday next at their headquarters, the Dover Castle Hotel. Mr. G. P. R. Burgess, the hon. solicitor, will be in the chair. Ladies are specially invited.

Miss Ethel Ra Leslie, during her engagement last week at Belfast, caught a severe chill, which has since developed into an attack of acute bronchitis. Her condition this last two days has given her friends cause for anxiety. We hope soon to hear of this popular lady's complete recovery.

Mr. William Collins, London district manager of Moss Empires, desires to warn artists both in London and the provinces against a swindler who is going round in the name of William Collins, showing a letter purporting to be from "William Collins, London district manager of Moss Empires," and asking for subscriptions to the All Hallows Orphanage. He gives the name of Wilson, and his latest victim is Miss Dolly Elsworthy, upon whom he called personally. If any application of the kind is received the remedy is obvious. Send for the police!

Miss Evelyn Taylor, who made herself famous last week by breaking all records, has done the last week by breaking all records, has done the same this week. She has received flattering offers from the provinces, but will not sign any contract until the trouble is over. Next week she is bottom of the bill at the Hippodrome, Ealing; also bottom at the Bedford. She also plays her third week at the Oxford.

A mob of considerable numbers stopped Miss Evelyn Taylor's brougham when she was passing the Holborn Restaurant on Tuesday, and threatened to make her life unendurable. She was naturally much upset, but the coachman, by using his whip, got the carriage through the crowd, and Miss Taylor, nerve-shaken and pale, duly arrived at the Holborn Empire.

Miss Marie Kendall and her husband, Mr. Steve McCarthy, who were engaged in propaganda work outside the Oxford on Monday, were arrested and taken to the Tottenham Court-road Police Station. They were immediately bailed out by Mr. Joe O'Gorman, and discharged at the police court.

Poor Frank Ottaway, the well-known bone-player, succumbed to syncope on Thursday, Jan. 24. On that evening he left his home in St. George's-road, South Belgravia, to perform at Barking, being accompanied by Miss Avieson, a music hall artist, who was to have assisted him in his entertainment. On arriving at the hall deceased was worried because there was no proper place provided for dressing, and, just when everything was ready for the performance he fainted, and when he rallied, he said, "I can't do my turn." Miss Avieson told him to rest a little while, but soon afterwards he became sick, and fell back into her arms, declaring, "I am dying." Shortly afterwards he expired. At the inquest held by Dr. Alexander Ambrose, the widow stated that her husband had complained of pains in the chest of late, and that he felt unwell when he left home to fulfil the engagement. The medical evidence showed that death was due to syncope, and a verdict to that effect was returned.

For some years Frank Ottaway was connected with the Mohawks, and for twenty-three years he held the championship belt of the world for bone-playing. He was connected with the Brewster Banjo Team when that combination made its first appearance at the Trocadero in the 'nineties, and had for some time as partner Mr. Pepper, another noted corner-man in the stage realms of Ethiopia. Of late years he appeared with a lady partner in his "bone" act; but the decline of minstrelsy with the dawn of the twentieth century had much to do with the practical disappearance of Ottaway from the London variety stage.

Miss Daisy James is making a special feature on her provincial tour of two new songs—"Melinda" and "My fellow's a hero." Both of them have been going remarkably well this week at the Eastbourne Hippodrome.

Mr. Harry Mountford, chairman of the Alliance, is on the stump in the provinces, and addressed a meeting of artists at Manchester yesterday, and will be at Liverpool to-day.

Miss Elsie Earle, encouraged by the success of her pretty song-scena, *Holly and Mistletoe*, will shortly produce a more elaborate one.

Mr. T. G. Hales, of Wellington-street, has sent one guinea to the Tom Bowman Fund.

Miss Beatrice Bonnie is making a very big success as principal boy at the King's Theatre, Sunderland, where the pantomime is now in its eighth week.

Stylo, who is doing so well at the London Pavilion with his wonderful hoop-juggling effects, opens at the Empire, Leeds, next week.

The funeral of the late Mr. Thomas Wells, a member of the firm of Messrs. Joseph Wells and Sons, the well-known pyrotechnists, of Honor Oak Park, who passed away on the 23rd inst., at the age of forty-seven years, took place on Wednesday, amid many outward manifestations of sympathy and respect. The cortège left the deceased's residence, 23, Hercules-road, Lambeth, at half-past two, for Forest Hill Cemetery, where the interment took place, the body, which was enclosed in a coffin of polished oak, being borne in an open car.

The principal mourners were Mrs. Wells (the widow), Mr. Joseph Wells (brother), and Mrs. Wells, Mr. James Wells (brother), Mrs. Richardson (sister-in-law), and Mr. Albert Wells (nephew), first carriage; Mr. J. C. Wells (nephew), Mrs. Hobdale (niece), Mrs. Stroud, Mrs. Phibbs, and Messrs. Charles and Exmas Richardson (nephews), second carriage. There was a large gathering at the graveside to pay a last tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased, including the employees of Messrs. Wells and Sons, Mr. Frank Sweeting of the Rye Hotel, Mr. Walter Mills, and many members of the music-hall profession. The coffin was covered with choice floral tributes. The funeral arrangements, which were entrusted to Mr. Thomas Hurry, undertaker, of Waterloo-road, were most satisfactorily carried out.

Mr. Albert Whelan, the whistler and mimic, who did not appear at the Tivoli last week, has forwarded a donation of £10 to the Alliance emergency fund, which has also received a cheque for £50 from the International Artists' Lodge, Berlin.

For insulting behaviour in Upper-street, Islington, a youth of nineteen, George Holmes, was on Thursday fined 21s. or fourteen days at Clerkenwell. Artists entering the Islington Empire had been pelted with rotten eggs and smothered in flour. Holmes was seen to throw mud at them, shouting, "Down, you blacklegs!"

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

The brief cable announcing the instantaneous and stupendous hit again made by Miss Vesta Victoria in New York with a song by Leigh and Pether (who supplied the popular lady with "Waiting at the church") has now been supplemented by fuller information. On the Monday afternoon she opened at the Colonial. The largest audience of the season crammed the house. When she sang "Poor John!" everyone joined in the chorus, and sang it most lustily, notwithstanding it was the very first time they had ever heard it. The prediction is not out of place that "Poor John!" will be as popular as "Waiting at the church."

Miss Victoria's new number, which is being published by Messrs. Francis and Day simultaneously on both sides the Atlantic relates how the singer, a gushing young thing, was taken by her sweetheart to see his mother, and how that worthy dame looks her up and down from top to toe, puts her through a thorough examination, then looks up at the sky and pitingly ejaculates, "Poor John!"

Mr. Whit Cunliffe has just published with the same firm a smart and up-to-date ditty, entitled "Whit Cunliffe's Book of Popular Songs," by Murray, Leighton, and Hilbury.

Miss Vesta Tilley, at the Palace Theatre, sings no fewer than three numbers issued by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter. The first—"I'm a bachelor"—is by George Arthurs, the brilliant young author who has just recently completed ten fresh lyrics for *The Belle of Mayfair*. The music of "I'm a bachelor" is by Kenneth Lyle; who has also composed for Miss Tilley's second song one of those fine march melodies for which he is growing famed. This ditty is by Fred W. Leigh, and is called "Jolly good luck to the girls who love the soldiers." The celebrated artist's third contribution is E. W. Rogers's ever-welcome "Following in father's footsteps."

Mr. David Day's firm will shortly issue a charming song, by Lytton Williams, entitled "Swallow from over the sea."

Charles Wilmott has again collaborated with Hermann E. Darewski, jun., in a song which may be described as a cameo of quaint and quiet humour. It has been christened "Humpty and Dumpty," and will be published immediately by Messrs. Francis and Day. The writer's "Home again, my cherry blossom," is enjoying a very large sale, and has also been included in the "Sixpenny Pops."

Miss Millie Payne, who has been the cause of much hearty laughter of late with a song by T. F. Robson and Will Hyde, and which rejoices in the strange title of "Oozizziepackiewackiewigwagwo," has just published it with Messrs. Francis and Day. This well-known pair of song-writers have written for Mr. Jock Walker, the Scottish comedian, a song entitled "All bonnie Scotch," which has been greatly to the liking of habitués of the Surrey, the Middlesex, and the Crouch End houses.

Miss Hilda Jacobsen has made a most successful appearance this week at the Liverpool Empire with a new song, "Come back, my troubadour," in which her cultured voice is heard to great advantage. Her versatility was proved by her rendering of Castling and Murphy's dainty Welsh love-song, "On the Isle of Anglesey," which is now being whistled all over Liverpool. Both numbers are published by the Star Music Co.

Mr. Horace Lane, a recruit from the musical comedy stage, has been going great guns at the Tivoli, Manchester, where he is exploiting Barnes and Weston's clever humorous song, "He started in a very small way." Mr. Lane will shortly produce another new song by Messrs. Mills and Scott, entitled "Any little girl will do." Both numbers are being issued by the Star Co.

A humorously philosophic song, entitled "We all came into the world with nothing," by W. H. Wallis and Chas. Collins, is a number that is destined to become very popular indeed, if one may judge by the unanimous opinions of all who have heard it. It is at present being featured by Messrs. Tennyson and Wallis, and is issued by the Star Music Co.

Mr. Harry Champion, who is featuring with great success "Dan, Dan, Dan; or, That funny little bob-tail coat," will produce shortly a new song, written and composed by Messrs. Gorman and Lowen, entitled "Out went the gas." Both of these numbers will be issued by the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music, Co., Ltd., in their popular "Sixpenny Edition."

"Sleigh Bells" is the title of a taking number written and composed by Messrs. Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford. Miss Madge Lessing is featuring it very successfully, and the publishers are the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd. A few permissions will be granted.

Miss Kittie Rayburn is featuring, with great success, a new song, entitled "Don't miss your chances, ladies; or, You don't miss the water till the well runs dry." The Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., have secured the publishing rights of this song.

Messrs. Charles Sheard and Co. have acquired Joe Archer's latest hit, "If there were no men," a sequel to his successful song "If we hadn't any women in the world."

The gratifying news has just been received by the Monte Carlo Publishing Company that one of Miss Vesta Victoria's greatest successes in America is their publication, "I've told his missus all about him," by Harrington and Tate, which is a sequel to "Waiting at the church." This pleasing intelligence having been conveyed to the fortunate young firm by no less a person than Mr. Fred Day, who is "on the spot," its authenticity is unimpeachable.

Messrs. Harrington and Tate have just supplied Miss Constance Moxon with a new character-song, "Who's the lady?" and will shortly execute a commission for a new sketch for the same artist.

Messrs. Francis and Day have just issued two charming numbers, entitled "Won't you float with me in my gondola?" and "My sweet Iranian flower," both from the pens of J. F. Lambe (the author-composer of "Queen of Old Samara") and T. W. Thurban, the composer, of "The Brooklyn cake-walk" and "The frogs' wedding."

Dan Leno, jun. (son of the late-lamented great comedian), bids fair to follow in his father's footsteps. He is scoring heavily on the Stoll tour. His two new songs with patter have been furnished by an old friend of the family, Mr. J. F. Lambe.

Messrs. Francis and Day have in the press two special songs—"Timid little mermaid," by J. F. Lambe and Henry E. Pether, and "Won't you return to Ehren on the Rhine?" written and composed by J. F. Lambe.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE PALACE.

Mr. Alfred Butt, in the present music hall crisis, has much to be thankful for in the fact that the Palace Theatre has its special programme, and is "run on its own" with an entertainment, some of the chief constituents of which are drawn from the legitimate stage and the concert world. To theatrical stars, indeed, it forms a welcome resting-place between engagements. Variety artists of the first rank are, of course, always welcome, and the current bill contains three names that have become world-famous in the annals of amusement. *Place aux dames.* The latest comer is Miss Vesta Tilley, who makes her début at the Shaftesbury-avenue house, and her first appearance in London, after a series of triumphs during her recent tour in America. To this incomparable artist the term male impersonator is applied; but, of course, Miss Tilley is much more than this. A comedienne of rare gifts, she gets into the very skin of each character that she assumes. How vastly different, for instance, is her gay, devil-may-care, debonair young bachelor from the callow youth who insists upon "following in father's footsteps." Every bit of stage business attaching to these two impersonations is the result of keen observation. Again, how many clever suggestions of the manner and "haviour" of the raw, undisciplined youths who join our infantry regiments are to be discovered in the song, "Here's jolly good luck to the girls who love the soldiers." The unmistakable desire on the part of the large Palace audience on Monday to hear Miss Tilley a fourth time drew from the actress-vocalist a song of domestic sentiment, entitled "King Baby," an autocratic monarch who rules the home. The earlier verses sound a jubilant note, but there is pathos in the last verse, and it gets home. To hear Miss Tilley plumb the depths of emotion is a new experience for the lover of variety—an experience as surprising as it is delightful.

Among the new turns to London, a hearty greeting was accorded Barrington, who entertains as a musical expert. The term has a wide significance, and may mean that the performer is a man of many instruments. As far as he allowed us to discover, he is a pianist of considerable attainments, and with a decided penchant for humour. He eschews the methods of the tramp pianist as far as costume goes, and his burlesque of Paderewski is something more than the mere assumption of a funny wig. As his first selection he plays the air, "Alice, where art thou?" with clever variations; but the tune might be altered. It has become much too stale. For his final performance Barrington chose the celebrated "Legend of the bells" from *Les Cloches de Corneville*, in which he introduced very effectively a campanological accompaniment, played with the foot on a fine-toned peal. He was loudly applauded.

Talbot and Pierce present a pretty musical scena which we may call *My Rickshaw Queen*. Yo San, a little Japanese girl, has captured the heart of an English naval officer, who teaches her to appreciate the eloquence of the language of love and to desire an experience of its signs and portents. She sings prettily does this little girl from Tokio, and gaily anticipates the union of hearts that is specially suggested in the song, "I will love you in December as I loved you in May." Miss Talbot is winsome and sweet-voiced as Yo-San, and Mr. Pierce sings and acts well as the young naval officer. The Palace Girls, in dainty confections of light blue and white pot hats, make the prettiest of cochères in petticoats, and give us *la dernière mode* from the Rue de la Paix, appealing to the audience to patronise the ladies—the dear little ladies; Mr. Arthur Prince deputised on Monday for Princess Trixie, the mare "possessed of responsive intelligence," who had not quite recovered from an attack of pneumonia; and Mr. G. H. Chirgwin, in his last week, made up some excellent topical verses on various subjects as a prelude to his attractive singing and playing. A sensation is caused by the Juggling M'Bans, who are making their first appearance in England. The rapid catching of each of a number of Indian clubs dexterously thrown rapidly over the shoulder by the other is one of the most astonishing of a series of remarkable feats, which include juggling with five clubs. Miss Margaret Cooper returns to renew her artistic triumphs; and Little Tich has become a permanent favourite with Palace patrons. Mr. Herman Finck's "Melodious Memories" overture is an excellent piece of work, admirably played by his fine orchestra. The Bioscope shows some pictures illustrating in the most interesting fashion the Japanese fan industry. Walter Emerson is also announced on the bill.

CAMBERWELL EMPIRE.

Mr. Jesse Sparrow and Mr. Harry Bawn are in the enviable position of being out of the zone of either syndicates or strikes, and their cosy little variety theatre at the junction of Denmark-hill and Coldharbour-lane is twice nightly thoroughly filled. One of the brightest stars of comedy is here this week in the charming person of Miss Lottie Collins, whose songs, "The Breach of Promise" and "The Gay Widow," are sung with a dashing style that evokes a hurricane of well-earned applause, while her sprightly dancing is the admiration of all. Mr. Neville Graham, Mr. Wallace Aston, and Miss Margaret Watson absorb the interest of the audience in Mr. Louis N. Parker's admirably written little dramette, *The Man in the Street*. Mr. Neville Graham plays the title-rôle with a rough and rugged humour that is highly effective, and his artistic resource is evidenced by the ease with which he moves his audience from laughter to tears. Mr. Wallace Aston, as the young artist, Philip Adare, acts with manly earnestness, and as his charming wife, Minnie, Miss Margaret Watson imbues her part with a womanly grace and charm beyond praise.

Another fine musical sketch is added to those that rank at our variety theatres by the Macdonalds, Melody Makers, in their musical melange, *The Burglar's Dream*. A man, having burglariously entered a music shop, is frightened out of his wits by the sudden appearance of five demons of music emerging from one of the many pianos, each one further astonishing the burglar by brilliant playing of selections from operas, popular melodies, and cake walks. The latter has a marvellous influence on the burglar, who is impelled by some hidden influence to indulge in some sand dances, and after a mad revel of admirably rendered songs, musical quartettes, and acrobatism, the demons take the burglar back with them to Hades, amidst a burst of red fire. This is really an excellent turn, which deserves to be seen by many audiences, who are sure to award it the enthusiastic reception it scores here. Johnny Dwyer is one of the good old school of comedians, and his first song, "I kept trotting up and down," keeps his hearers in a merry mood, while a song of domestic sentiment, "The Labourer's Home," gains him a well-merited ovation. On a pretty and effective electric illuminated platform the Saletos, two youthful acrobats, go through a marvellous display of head and hand balancing. In their final act the girl, with the lad's head balanced on her own, mounts an upright ladder and stands on the topmost rung without any support whatever, this daring act bringing down the house.

Will Lynn, a sweet-voiced choir boy, renders with much feeling two pretty ballads, "For the sake of society" and "Just plain folks." Friscari, to the accompaniment of a stirring march, juggles with coins, hats, gloves, and in fact everything movable on the stage, and gains much applause thereby. George Leonard is a genuine comedian, his tipsy song, "Keeping the game alive," in which he tells of the enjoyment derived from acting as best man at a wedding, being never overdone. His second effort, "That's the way we danced at Covent Garden," with its dancing chorus, full of energy and tireless animation, is also excellent. The Empire animated pictures are always good, and those showing "The Bathers" and "Divorce and Forgiveness" are of absorbing interest. Frank Maura, the Mexican wonder, adds his moiety to the evening's amusement, while the smart and efficient orchestra, under the skilful bâton of Mr. Frank Hurst, gives satisfaction both sides of the footlights. The excellent order that prevails in every part of the house is greatly due to the efficiency of Mr. Percy Ford, the ever-courteous acting-manager.

EALING HIPPODROME.

Very few indications of the great Music-Hall War were given at the Hippodrome on Monday evening, when the "sandwich" men had disappeared and an absolute calm pervaded the Broadway. The most difficult task Mr. E. W. James has had to surmount has been that of the band, but on Monday evening it was announced for the first time that the orchestra, of which Mr. Russell is the new director, was complete. Miss Jessie Huddlestone, the original La Poupée, with Miss Dinah Morris and company, are first favourites among the artists engaged. In Tosti's "Goodbye" Miss Huddlestone's cultured soprano is heard with splendid effect, and an ovation is offered her by her delighted hearers. Few finer shows than that presented by the talented and handsome Morris family of brothers and sisters has ever been staged here. Musical, bright, merry, and crisp, the "up-to-date" musical comedy, *The Lost Coon*, goes with a "snap" that is irresistible. The one scene, A Village in Lucanna, forms an exquisite setting for this famous troupe of "Southern Belles." As the pride of Lucanna Miss Dinah Morris both acts, sings, and dances with grace and rhythm. Miss Bessie Morris, as Captain of the Dixie Brigade, wears a handsome uniform; and the post of sergeant is filled with advantage by Miss Cissy Roosevelt. The privates of the brigade are expert in their evolutions and captivating in their dancing. The lost coon himself is found in the person of young Sidney Morris. Into the mysteries of *Black Michael's Revenge* there is no need to enter, but it is a clever and successful attempt to combine in a compressed tabloid some of the best features of musical comedy. For the turn yet another Miss Morris assumed the leadership of the orchestra, and under the fair leader's bâton the incidental music of the comedy was excellently rendered. In little Miss Angelina Hope Mr. James seems to have made a "discovery," and in her dainty personality is revealed one of the most piquant and youthful of soubrettes.

As a conjurer Professor Earle would be welcome at any buffet. Gin, port, sherry, Chartreuse flow, under his magic, from a single decanter, and, seemingly, into the same tumbler; the card shuffling and palming manipulation is exceedingly skilful, and, as he remarks, comes with ease to all—after ten or twenty years of practice. Roland Oliver and company present the dramatic sketch *Her Last Dance*. The sketch, which is notable for a fierce fight between a man and woman, is well produced, every point being cleverly accentuated. Penley and English have a side-splitting comedietta in *She Would be an Actress*, in which Mr. George English, in the part of a costermonger, burlesques an old actor with rare excellence; and Miss Flo Penley is vivacious as a stage-struck "slavey," who manages to be amusing without smearing her face with soot.

Other turns which contribute to the programme are Mr. Joe Chin, with his racy song "Well, I am not," and Mr. One George Bee with "Girls, girls, too many girls," the latter artist supplementing his second song with a dance that exhibits something new in legmania. Mr. Chas. Lorrence's baritone song "Marching with the brave old army" is given with a rousing breeziness that wins applause; an extra turn by a "darkie" sand dancer provides a good imitation of the starting, stopping, and running of an express train; Mr. A. R. St. George's song, "My pal is my umbrella," contains much that is amusing, while his second number, "I shall say something to you," is equally so. Mr. E. W. James is receiving welcome assistance from his new lieutenant in command, Mr. L. Westcott Hicks, who comes here from the Duchess at Balham. During the evening an admirable display of moving-pictures is given by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.

(For Notices of other Halls see page 18.)

"NO SURRENDER."

A Dramatic Sketch, by John Henderson, Produced at the Queen's, Poplar, on Monday, Jan. 28.

Hester Blake .....Miss Millie Henderson
Lieut. Edward Blake .....Mr. Tom McGuire
John Swaine .....Mr. Edward Hurstville
Paul Jones .....Mr. Cyril Fairlie
Ben Buncle .....Mr. John Henderson

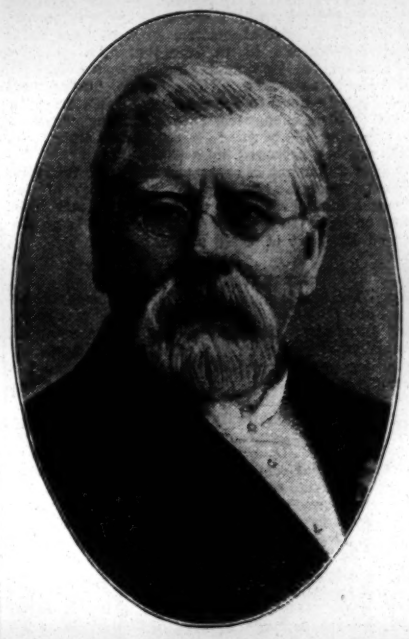
Under the above title Mr. John Henderson introduces a well-written little sea story. Mr. Henderson has already established a considerable reputation as the author of *Under the Maple Leaf* and *In Slavery Days*. The opening bars of "Rocked in the cradle of the deep" at once puts an audience at the Queen's in good humour, for there is always a strong leavening of those who go down to the sea in ships among the patrons of the dockside house. One of His Majesty's ships, The Happy Return, has set sail from Port Royal (not Kingston, as Ben Buncle tells the audience), Jamaica, bound for England, with immense treasure aboard, and convoyed by H.M.S. Revenge. On board The Happy Return is the Captain's daughter, Hester Blake, while the Revenge carries her brother, Lieut. Blake. The Happy Return loses sight of her convoy, and is for days becalmed. Yellow Jack breaks out, and everyone is stricken down, with the exception of the Captain's daughter, Ben Buncle, and another seaman. Suddenly the sound of oars is heard, and The Happy Return is boarded by Paul Jones and the piratical crew of The Rattlesnake. Hester Blake dons male attire, with the view of deceiving the sea rover. Ben Buncle, well aware of the feeble resources at his command, resorts to stratagem, and, to gain time, enters into an agreement to deliver up the treasure in return for a promise that his crew and ship shall be allowed to escape. But when the pirate retires to his crew to remove the booty, Ben hurriedly arranges, with the assistance of Hester Blake, to blow up the ship with all on board. On the arrival of the pirate crew they are confronted by the old sailor pointing his pistol into a barrel of gunpowder, and just as he is about to send them all into eternity the Revenge appears on the scene, and Lieut. Blake, with the boarding-party, saves The Happy Return and his sister at the same time.

Miss Millie Henderson plays the part of Hester with considerable merit, and receives the thorough approval of the audience. Mr. John Henderson is an excellent exponent of the British tar of a type now passed away, yet ever dear to the lovers of England's sea story in its finest days. Mr. Cyril Fairlie makes a handsome, devil-may-care pirate captain. The piece is well staged; in fact, the after-cabin of The Happy Return is almost too spacious for a ship of the period. The apparent change in the atmosphere seen through the cabin windows is admirably represented by the clever lighting effects.

While on the subject of the Queen's, we may mention that Mr. Jack Woolf, the popular manager, now has the able assistance of Mr. Morris Abrahams, who looks after the house in the former's absence.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES CHAPPELL.

We regret to record the death of Mr. James Chappell, which occurred at his residence, Dossett House, Marine Parade, Great Yarmouth, on Wednesday morning. The deceased gentleman was in his seventy-ninth year, and had been in failing health for some time. He had had a varied career as artist, manager, managing-director, and proprietor. He was about fourteen years of age when he left home to join a troupe of acrobats. After staying with them for some time he accepted an engagement with Mr. Benjamin Conquest at the old Garrick Theatre, Whitechapel. He next joined a good dramatic stock company at the old Effingham Saloon, where he gained an immense amount of knowledge and experience. A change of management, however, brought about the disbandment of the company, and Mr. Chappell, who was considered at the time a most accomplished pantomimist, accepted an engagement with Mr. Charles Frecr at the Albert Music Hall, Shepherdess Walk, City-road, an establishment that has long since disappeared. At this time Mr. Chappell's services were very much sought after, and numerous engagements were offered him at the Surrey, the Marylebone, Victoria, Pavilion, Britannia, Standard, the old Queen's, Tottenham Court-road, and many others. In 1851 he left London to fulfil an engagement with Mr. T. Burton, of the Casino, Manchester. About this time there were no fewer than five or six theatres and music halls playing *The Dumb Man of Manchester*. Mr. Burton finding out that Mr. Chappell had acted the part



MR. JAMES CHAPPELL.

in several London theatres, engaged him to produce the piece, and it ran fourteen or fifteen weeks. During his tours Mr. Chappell appeared in almost every town in England, in theatres, circuses, and music halls. It was in Liverpool, while playing clown at the Royal, that the late Mr. John Douglass engaged him for the new Pavilion Theatre, London, to produce a pantomime and play clown during the season 1859-60.

Later Mr. Chappell became lessee of the Pavilion, where he produced many of the most popular dramas of the day, as well as pantomimes and English opera. He also engaged the original Moore, Ritter, and Crocker Minstrels, afterwards the Moore and Burgess. His last appearance on the stage was with Pym and Harrison at Her Majesty's Theatre. They engaged him as the wooden-legged clown in a burlesque of the great Donato, then at Covent Garden. About this time he became manager of the Cambridge Music Hall, which had been built by Mr. Nugent, an appointment that he held for eleven years. It is interesting to note that the Cambridge was opened to the public on December 12, 1864, and that at the dress rehearsal on the previous Saturday Sam Collins sang the first song in the new hall. It is also curious to find that the old glee "The Chough and Crow" formed the opening chorus of the first entertainment given at the Cambridge. Mr. Charles Greville was musical director under Mr. Chappell's management, and Mr. W. Knowles was the chairman, a post that he occupied for nearly a quarter of a century.

When the Brothers Abrahams sold the Queen's, Poplar, to a company in the spring of the year 1888, Mr. Chappell became a large shareholder, and eventually was appointed managing-director, a position he of course relinquished on the purchase of the hall by Messrs. Tom Maltby, Wickes, and Williams. On his retirement he was accorded, on March 17, 1897, a complimentary benefit, which was very happily timed by being held on the same day as the fiftieth anniversary of his marriage. On this occasion a number of handsome and costly gifts from Mr. Chappell's many friends were presented to him on the stage at the Queen's by Mr. Henri Gros. The presents included a handsome marble and ormolu clock, suitably inscribed.

Mr. James Chappell's name is associated in Yarmouth with the famous "Beach Ring," where for the last thirty years variety entertainments have been held every summer, the popular outdoor concerts being very largely patronised. Mr. Chappell had resided for some years in Yarmouth, where he had many opportunities of meeting old friends, and could thus keep in touch with theatrical and music-hall matters. He took an active interest in local undertakings, and was one of the directors of the Great Yarmouth New Britannia Pier Co. His death will be regretted by a large circle of private and professional friends, who justly esteemed his many excellent qualities.

The funeral is fixed to take place on Monday next at Bow Cemetery. The coffin and chief mourners will be conveyed from Yarmouth by the train which leaves the Southtown Station at 7.35 a.m., arriving at Liverpool-street at 10.45 a.m., and proceed thence to Bow Cemetery.

THE YOUNGEST CONDUCTOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—In *The Era* of last Saturday (Variety Gossip) you refer to Mr. R. E. Wilding, of the Granville, Walham Green, as the youngest conductor in the kingdom. I have been recognised as the youngest conductor in the halls for the last ten years. At the age of fourteen I was conductor at the Roscommon Music Hall, Liverpool, at eighteen I held a similar position at the Haymarket, in the same town; at twenty I became musical-director for Mr. Barrasford, at the Hippodrome, St. Helens; at twenty-two I was chosen by Mr. De Frece to direct the musical forces at the Metropole, Camberwell; and at the age of twenty-three I am now conductor for Mr. De Frece at the Hippodrome, Colchester.—Yours faithfully,

JAS. HARGREAVES,

Hippodrome, Colchester, Jan. 29.

THE MUSIC HALL STRIKE.

The expected attack on the Metropolitan and the Chelsea Palace, the halls controlled by Mr. Henri Gros, has not yet come about; but on Monday the Alliance called out the musicians and artists at the Bedford, Camden Town, a hall run by a small private company, of which Mr. B. Pearce Lucas is the managing-director. At one o'clock in the day, it is stated, Mr. Harry Mountford waited upon Mr. A. F. Lovesy, the manager, with a copy of the Charter, and informed him that unless it were signed by four o'clock he must take the consequences. It was not until after that hour that the Charter reached Mr. Lucas, who expressed himself in favour of some of the demands, but said that as a member of the London Entertainments Protection Association he must loyally support that body and refuse to sign the Charter. The result was that when the house opened at six o'clock several hundred people watched the orchestra walk in and out again without playing a note.

Mr. Lovesy went on to the stage and explained the position to the audience in a brief speech, which was loudly cheered. He regretted that such short notice of the strike had been given him that he could not present an entertainment worthy of the house, and the money paid for admission would be returned. He recalled the fact that Mr. Lucas had behaved most generously through the winter to the unemployed of the district by giving them tickets for meat and coals, that each year he gave a matinée at his own charge in aid of the North-West London Hospital, which never realised less than £250, and that he was even then organising matinées, the first of which had already been given, for the pleasure of poor children in St. Pancras. The audience filed out in perfect quietude. Mr. Lovesy informs us that the stage hands and other employees had stood by him loyally, and he had enough artists available to have given an excellent performance, but he could not replace the orchestra at such short notice. By Tuesday, however, he had engaged an efficient orchestra, and with a strengthened programme gave the usual two performances. The Bedford had given no assistance to the proscribed halls, as had been alleged.

Mr. B. P. Lucas has received the following letter:—

201, Stanhope-street,
Regent's Park, N.W.
29th January, '07.

B Pearce Lucas, Esq.

Dear Sir,—On reading this morning's news of the Music Hall Strike, I am greatly surprised and very sorry to see that your hall had to close last night on account of the orchestra, stage hands, and artists joining the Federation. I write these few lines asking you to accept my greatest sympathy, and earnestly hope you will open your hall to-night (Tuesday), with a great reception, and that you will be able to defy the V.A.F., because I consider you have been badly treated. I do not forget the work you have done (and do now) for the poor people of the parish, hospitals, &c., and it is only fair that you should receive the people's support. I attend your hall every week and will continue to do so. Hoping you will not think me intruding, and that you and Mr. Lovesy will get over the difficulty,

Yours respectfully,
Alex. Baker.

N.B.—I am very pleased to hear that our favourite comedian, "Dan Thomas," is against the V.A.F., and hope to see him at the Bedford again before long. You can make what use you like of this letter. A. B.

With the exception of the Bedford, performances were given at all the London music halls on Monday night, though the South London abandoned a projected matinée. Picketing went on with the usual vigour, and the distribution of leaflets by the strikers was especially zealous outside the Tivoli.

THE COMMON INFORMER.

Another feature of the campaign is the revival of sketch prosecutions by the Alliance. On Monday Mr. Arthur B. Rickards, solicitor, applied to Mr. Marsham, at Bow-street Police Court, for a summons against Mr. Walter Gibbons, of the Empire, Holborn, for producing stage plays in a building not licensed for that purpose by the Lord Chamberlain. The application, he said, was made under the Act of 1843 known as the "Stage Plays Act."

In reply to the magistrate, Mr. Rickards said the information had been laid by a common informer, and not by the society that usually took action in these matters, and the application was granted.

The sketches (or plays) complained of are *Terry; or, True to Trust*, and *Mary, Queen of Scots*. The latter is being produced by Mrs. Brown Potter, who was also seen in it on Monday at the Oxford.

Disappointment awaited the audience that gathered at the Oxford on Monday night. Mr. R. A. Roberts was billed to appear in his well-known sketch, *Dick Turpin*, but the "Protean Actor" yielded to the persuasion of the Alliance, and declined to give his turn. He has since sailed for America.

The funds of the Alliance were increased considerably on Monday. The levy of 5 per cent. on the gross salaries of the artist members "working" last week realised a sum of over £5000. The greater portion of this arrived by post. Mr. Fred Karno has sent a cheque for 50 guineas to the fund; Mr. Harry Randall has sent £20; Mr. G. H. Chirgwin 10 guineas; and Mr. Servais Le Roy, from Lisbon, £5 weekly, to the emergency fund, till the strike is settled.

A circular letter is to be sent out to the 1,500,000 members represented by the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress and the 600,000 members represented by the Federation of Trade Unions, as well as to the members of the Independent Labour Party, recommending the cause of the Alliance to the moral and financial support of the members.

THE SCALA.

In reference to the announcement on Sunday by Mr. Frank Gerald that the National Alliance has secured the Scala Theatre, a cheque of £1200 was paid on Monday in advance to Dr. Distin Maddick. The prices for admission to the new Tottenham-street theatre will be 1s., 2s. 6d., 3s., 5s., and 7s. 6d., and there will be but one performance a night.

"We are going to show the managers," says Mr. Frank Gerald, of the Variety Artists' Federation, "how we can manage a variety theatre. We will not, however, attempt to corner the artists, and our barring clause will be limited to one mile and three months. Our artists will be free to accept other engagements." The salaries to be paid to them will in each instance be a matter for private contract.

THE PROPRIETORS AND MANAGERS.

The meeting of proprietors and managers who are members of the London Entertainments Protection Association, held on Wednesday at the offices, Durham-street, Strand, was by far the largest and most representative gathering yet held, and a very significant circumstance was the presence at the meeting of Mr. Frank Macnaghten, who has been acclaimd as one of the few managers who had signed their charter. Mr. Macnaghten controls the Surrey, Britannia, Hoxton, Sadler's Wells, Bow Palace, and the Foresters'. It was officially stated that Mr. Macnaghten, who was accompanied by Mr. Fred Baugh, his London manager, made a statement explaining his position, and that he subsequently joined the Association.

Mr. Henri Gros, chairman of the Association, presided, and the vice-chair was occupied by Mr. G. Adney Payne. Those present included:—Mr. Walter Gibbons, Mr. Alfred Moul (the Alhambra), Mr. Hugh Astley (London Pavilion), Mr. J. L. Graydon (the Middlesex and Brighton Alhambra), Mr. T. S. Dickie (Royal Standard, Pimlico), Mr. Albert Gilmer (Palace, Stoke Newington), Mr. Jesse Sparrow (Empire, Camberwell, and Grand Theatre, Islington), Mr. H. H. Wells (the Oxford), Mr. T. Gardiner Hales (Empire Palace, Croydon), Mr. A. W. Bray (Granville, Walham-green), Mr. Sam Barnard (Woolwich, Greenwich, and Chatham), Mr. B. Pearce Lucas (Bedford, Camden Town), Mr. R. Underwood (Collins's), Mr. I. Ibbetson (Syndicate Halls), Messrs. D. G. Richards and R. F. Burney (London, Cambridge, and Collins's Halls), Mr. W. B. Broadhead (Manchester Variety Theatres), Mr. J. F. Elliston (Bolton), Mr. H. Joyner, Mr. Walter Payne, Mr. J. C. Coe (Hammersmith Palace), and Mr. Henry Sutton, a director of the Tivoli.

For upwards of two hours members deliberated in private. The present situation and future prospects were fully discussed, and it is understood that the general view of the meeting was that the demands of the National Alliance must be resisted at all costs.

The following resolution was unanimously passed:—

"We reaffirm the resolution unanimously arrived at at the last meeting of this Association, and pledge ourselves to support the action taken in resisting the attack made upon certain members by the National Alliance; the same support to be given to any other members of this Association who may be called upon to resist similar attacks.

"We hereby pledge ourselves during this period of strike mutually to assist one another in the event of any hall being closed by lending one another, where possible, artists, stage-hands, and musicians.

"We agree not to come to any arrangement with the National Alliance, or any of the leaders who have initiated the strike, without reference to the general body or to the executive of this Association."

To the resolution the following names were attached: Messrs. Henri Gros, Oswald Stoll, G. Adney Payne, Henry Tozer, Henry Sutton, J. L. Graydon, Walter Gibbons, T. G. Richards, W. H. Burney, Alfred Moul, Hugh Astley, H. H. Wells, T. S. Dickie, J. C. Coe, A. A. Gilmer, Jesse Sparrow, T. G. Hales, H. Joyner, A. W. Bray, B. P. Lucas, S. Barnard, John Hart, A. G. H. Hunt, Walter de Frece, J. de Frece, T. Barrasford, F. Macnaghten, Fred Baugh, W. B. Broadhead, Fred Mouillot, J. F. Elliston, R. B. Underwood, C. A. Wilkes, E. Rawlings, E. Dottridge, Will Sley, F. Willmot, T. Allan-Edwards, F. H. Anderson, T. M. Sylvester, and V. H. Harrop.

It was intimated that eighty-eight London and provincial halls had on Wednesday been added to those represented on the Association. The following list was supplied at the conclusion of the meeting:—

East Ham Palace.
Walthamstow Palace.
Hippodrome, Crouch End.
Star, Bermondsey.
Royal Albert, Canning Town.
Empire Palace, Croydon.
Tivoli, Dublin.
Empire, Dublin.
Liverpool Hippodrome.
Alhambra, Paris.
Birmingham Hippodrome.
Leeds Hippodrome.
Brighton Hippodrome.
Portsmouth Hippodrome.
Belfast Hippodrome.
St. Helens Hippodrome.
New Palace, Northampton.
Empire, Belfast.
Manchester Variety Theatres.

DEPUTATION TO THE L.C.C.

A deputation from the Alliance, consisting of Mr. Frank Gerald, Mr. W. Johnson, Mr. C. Jesson, Mr. Joe O'Gorman, Mr. Gus Elen, Mr. Wm. Holles, and Mr. Harry Mountford, on Wednesday waited upon the Theatres Committee of the London County Council, and pointed out certain obnoxious features in the clauses conditional on engagement with certain music hall proprietors. In some cases, it was declared, a music hall artist was practically compelled to contract himself out of the Employers' Liability Act, *i.e.*, he had to sign clauses which admitted no liability for compensation for accidents sustained while on the stage, such as those caused by falling scenery. The deputation was of opinion that the committee had the power to refuse licences in cases where these obnoxious clauses operated to the detriment of the artist, just as they had the right to insist upon the trade union rate of wages being paid for work done under their contracts.

The chairman of the committee, Mr. Greenwood, said the committee had been greatly surprised by the information brought before them. Hitherto the committee had in all these matters been guided by the legal opinion of Mr. Horace Avory, who had advised them that they did not possess powers to the extent the deputation suggested. After hearing their contentions, however, they had decided to take extra legal opinion. Sir Algernon West asked why artists agreed to sign contracts which they believed to be unjust, and Mr. Mountford replied that music halls were now in the hands of comparatively few owners, and unless the artists accepted these contracts they would not be able to get on anywhere.

The Alliance have decided, pending the decision of the Theatres Committee, to sound every candidate in the forthcoming elections as to whether he is in favour of licences being granted to music hall proprietors enforcing these obnoxious conditions, and to exercise their votes accordingly. They have received definite promises of assistance from all branches of labour organisations in London, and express their determination to take the matter to Parliament should the necessity arise.

OPINIONS AND COMMENTS.

Mr. Henri Gros has sent the following letter to Mr. Harry Randall:—"Dear Mr. Randall,—In the *Daily Mail* of the 24th you are reported to have said, 'the deputation to the managers failed to effect any reform, and that in the past you have experienced little but injustice.' May I ask you if you refer to the injustice that was perpetrated upon you when the late Dan Leno was hopelessly ill and I used my influence with Mr. Payne and his colleagues to permit you, at your own request, and that of Mr. A. Collins, to accept an engagement at the Drury Lane pantomime, notwithstanding that the clause in your contract forbade it, and that you recognised this by refusing to accept contracts for the Metropolitan and Chelsea Palace; or do you allude in your statement: 'Managers failed to effect any reform' to the period when you, with several other colleagues, were managers and proprietors of the Grand, Clapham Junction, and the Granville, Walham Green, and you were continuously performing there and declined to appear at any place in close contact with your own? Your answer will oblige, as I intend to send this letter to the Press."

Mr. Harry Ford considers the demands of the artists just and in no way excessive. Under existing contracts an artist is compelled to sign to give so many performances nightly (one or two houses) and matinées, for which matinées he receives no payment; but should he be unable to

appear at any matinée, the management immediately stop a proportionate amount from his salary.

Mr. Bert Clark (Clark and Hamilton) writes:—"I should be glad to make one of an independent committee to wait upon the Managers' Association and put the case from the artists' point of view only clearly before them, and I know many of my brother and sister artists are of the same mind. There are grievances which I think could be readily adjusted at such a meeting. The present action of the Alliance can neither settle the dispute nor benefit anyone concerned. I have no desire, and shall not be disloyal to my brother and sister artists, but I feel they are being led away by the executive committee of the Alliance, which is mainly composed of men who have nothing to lose and have nothing at stake. The methods they are pursuing cannot possibly commend themselves to any fair-minded individual. Let us have a committee of an independent character before it is too late."

Miss Fanny Wentworth is in complete sympathy with the National Alliance and its action to try to put a stop to unfair contracts. She has declined engagements to appear at the barred halls as a proof of her loyalty. At the same time she has no personal feeling against the managers.

Miss Alexandra Dagmar thinks the music-hall strike has come none too soon. The position of the artist, more especially in London, has become insufferable, and the demands of the Alliance are just, fair, and equitable. The Federation is bound to win.

Mr. W. J. Grimes, director, Putney Hippodrome, and director, Brixton Empress, discusses the various points raised. He is in sympathy with the artist regarding the barring clause and matinées, and he adds: "There are few strikes in this country which are not settled by arbitration. I would submit that some broad-minded, fair-principled, and prominent man of business should be appointed as arbitrator."

Miss Marie Dainton, who was on the programme of the Palace, Stoke Newington, but as a member of the Alliance had declined to appear, has decided to leave that body. She had no idea when she consented to become a member that it included musicians and stage hands. Had that been explained to her she would certainly have declined to lend her name to it in any way.

Mr. Walter Hast, of Lennie and Hast, a member of the executive of the Variety Artists' Federation, writes:—"There is justice in Mr. Stoll's barring clause, because it costs Mr. Stoll £400 to produce an exclusive programme which managers working a turn programme can get for £150. Mr. Stoll has never deducted commission from artists' salaries, and is one of the few managers in England who has always paid for matinées. He is a fair-minded man and has done much for the profession at large.

Mr. Billie M'Clain, the darkey comedian, has intimated to Mr. Stoll that he has resigned the Federation, and has enclosed his Federation card torn in halves.

Miss Laura Dyson, niece of George Conquest, writes:—"I thought I would tell you that I have resigned the V.A.F., as I consider they are going too far, and I don't agree with them."

Mr. Harry Freeman, writing from Sunderland on Thursday to the Alliance, said:—"We in the country have watched and admired and cheered when we could hear the full state of affairs. The result of Liverpool will show about £90."

Mr. Leslie Stuart, in the *Daily Mail* of Friday, says:—"The 'barring clause' is as necessary and as perfectly equitable in certain instances as it is wickedly unfair in others. Yet more indulgence has been extended to the capricious 'star' than to the struggling rank and file. I know of many cruel and vexatious restrictive contracts imposed on poorly-paid performers, who must accept them or go without engagement. A compromise is necessary here, and allows of no dispute. A 'turn' commanding £150 a week should be barred according to the laws of commercial protection and investment. Miss Marie Lloyd in a new programme of songs is an asset to a hall, the management of which contracts to pay her a colossal salary for the privilege of an exclusive rendering. Were she and others of equal attracting powers free to appear at a rival hall across the street, then enterprise would cease or become a reckless pursuit. The limitation in the scope of this restriction should be made according to the salary and status of the performers."

Mr. Dan Thomas, who has tendered his resignation to the Federation, wrote: "I consider the action taken in this strike as one of the worst things that could have happened, both morally and financially for the profession. Generally, it is placing the members of the Variety Artists' Federation on a par with Socialists, and I hope that I may never see the day when I am included in that rank."

HARRY LAUDER AND MR. G. A. PAYNE.

The following leaflet from Mr. Harry Lauder has been circulated:—

"I have read a list of salaries in which my name is mentioned as one of the 'stars' getting £120 per week. I have never yet received half of that sum. My salary for working three halls, sometimes four performances a night, with the Tivoli Syndicate, is £55. During the last five years at the Tivoli Syndicate halls my weekly salary has often been half what I mention, for four halls a night.

"I do not say I am not booked to play for the syndicate halls at £120, but that does not happen until 1909. Then I may be dead, but I am sure it will not be for the want of medical attention on the part of the Tivoli Syndicate, as they send a doctor free of charge. When I was indisposed last autumn I sent my doctor's certificate, but that did not satisfy the managements. They sent their doctor to examine me. If I had been a delicate man, they would, by their action, have bullied me to go and perform when I was ill. I might then have ruined my voice for the remainder of my life.

"Mr. Stoll, I know, will not pay artists a penny more than he really thinks they are worth. In fact, I do not know any managers who throw their money away. I have packed Mr. Stoll's houses for him for years at £9, £12, £15, £25, and £30 per week, and I know he has paid fabulous salaries to big shows and other people who never drew the public.

"Proprietors and managers should not talk about 'star' salaries at all. We do not get more than our value. The Federation are not differing about salaries."

Mr. G. Adney Payne writes:—"Replying to Mr. Harry Lauder, I should like to say that the discrepancy between his statement as to the salary he has received and the unofficial statement inserted in some papers last week is easily explained. He is correct in stating that he has only as yet received £55 per week, but this bare statement does not convey all the facts. His engagement continues for some years, his salary is increased at various periods, and, as a matter of fact, £120 per week is his contract price two years hence.

"Much to our regret, the last period of his engagement at the Tivoli was several times unfortunately broken up by illness, and it was in consequence of the continual disappointment to the public that it was felt advisable to ascertain how prolonged his illness might continue, so that I might arrange to adequately fill, for that length of time, so important a gap in the programme.

"The usual practice, under these circumstances, of sending our own medical officer to confer with his own doctor was followed, and by mutual consent and arrangement Harry Lauder was visited.

"I should not like your readers to feel otherwise than that the greatest consideration was shown to Mr. Lauder. Might I add that his genius has no warmer admirer than—Yours faithfully, G. Adney Payne."

IN THE PROVINCES.

There were nearly 150 present at the private meeting of artists held in the Bridge Hotel, Newcastle, on Tuesday afternoon. It was called by Mr. Harry Lauder for the purpose of getting the variety artists together to explain the situation. Many who started on Tyneside on Monday had come direct from London, and it was felt the earliest opportunity should be taken of securing information as to what was going on.

Mr. Harry Lauder was called to the chair, and he at once asked Mr. William Lee, of Lee and Bentley (the King's, Gateshead), to give a report of the proceedings in the Metropolis. Mr. Lee, who is a member of the Federation Executive, spoke for about an hour, and explained all the details of the struggle in London. As regards what they were going to do in the future, he gave some hints, but matters were in such a state that he did not wish to make any definite pronouncement. He impressed upon the company that it was not a question of salary so much as of fair-play between the parties to a contract. Many things would have to be remedied, and the Federation were determined to make a fight with that object. Without any boasting, he might say they were determined to win.

Fifteen new names were added to the roll of members of the Variety Artists' Federation at the close of the proceedings.

Mr. Harry Lauder, who also spoke, said his position, he thought, was pretty clearly defined in the letter which he had sent to the Press, and which he read. He then gave a few words of advice as to how to proceed in the future, and appealed to his audience to stand shoulder to shoulder. Never had he met with failure in his life on such matters, and he was convinced they would, by their unity, succeed on this occasion.

A vote of thanks to the Executive Committee in London for their firmness in the past, and confidence in them to undertake the future affairs of the Federation, was carried amid enthusiasm. Mr. Imro Fox also spoke, and further impressed upon the artists the necessity of a firm attitude.

Among those present were:—Mr. Neil Kenyon, Mr. Dan Crawley, Mr. Tom Foy (Avenue, Sunderland), Mr. Vox (Empire), the Abdullah Troupe of Arabs (King's, Gateshead), Mr. Henry Clifford (Empire), the Herald Comedy Four, Mons. Slippere (blind pianist, Pavilion), Mr. Leoni Clarke (Pavilion), Mr. Fred Elton (Empire), Mr. Charles Cardow (Pavilion), and Mr. Bert Harrow (Sunderland).

A meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation, Amalgamated Musicians' Union, and the National Association of Theatrical Employés and Stage Hands was held in the Artisans' Hall, Belfast, on Sunday evening, the 27th ult. The proceedings were presided over by Mr. H. Doherty, president (A.M.U.), who, in a few words, explained the object of the meeting, which was to federate the stage hands, and also to express sympathy with the present strike. He said that they were much disappointed at the enforced absence of Mr. Harry Mountford (chairman of the Alliance), and Mr. Joseph B. Williams (general secretary Musicians' Union), who were detained in London in connection with the strike. In the meantime it was in their own interests that they met that evening, and he hoped that those present would study the present state of affairs. Later on they would have Messrs. Mountford and Williams present, to lay the particulars before them. They were in sympathy with the artists in their demands, and he would strongly advise the stage staff to join their ranks, so that with the artists and musicians they would be united together for their interest. Mr. F. H. Morland (secretary Amalgamated Musicians' Union), who was instrumental in calling the meeting, read a telegram from Messrs. Mountford and Williams, stating that they were detained in connection with the present strike in London.

Professor Hughes, on behalf of the artists, said that the strike had their sympathy, and at a meeting held in Liverpool on Friday the sum of £82 was subscribed and forwarded to London. He urged upon the local stage staff to join the union, so that they would be able to present a united front and receive their rights.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS.

On Thursday night the executive of the National Alliance called out its members who were performing at the Palace, Stoke Newington, at Collins's, at the Cambridge, the London, and the Hippodrome, Crouch End. But little inconvenience was experienced, however, in giving entertainments at all these houses, where the managers in every instance made statements to the audience, and announced the new turns from the stage.

PROPRIETORS' PROCLAMATION.

In reply to the National Alliance executive, the following proclamation was issued by the London and Provincial Entertainments Protection Association (representing a membership of over 130) on Thursday night:—

"Certain statements emanating from the National Alliance are so absolutely inaccurate, and their own deductions therefrom so erroneous, that it is only right and proper that the public should be informed of the real facts of the case.

"Mr. W. Johnson, general secretary of the National Association of Theatrical Employees, is reported to have said: 'We could close 75 per cent. of the halls in the country to-morrow if we desired to do so.' Then, in the same interview, he observes: 'If the music-hall proprietors persist in risking their future prospects, it will be increasingly difficult for them to regain the support of the public.'

"As a matter of fact, the music-hall proprietors have acted solely on the defensive from the start of the strike. What loss of public support there has been can be attributed directly to the action of the National Alliance in calling out the 'stars' from the various halls, and whatever damage the variety business is suffering is clearly due to the extreme measures taken by the National Alliance in declaring a strike at a moment's notice, and without giving proprietors an opportunity of properly considering their drastic demands. Do performers realise that the ruin of the proprietor's business, which their leaders promise to bring about by their present methods, will also ruin the artists? If the businesses of the proprietors are ruined, where are the artists' contracts to come from in the future? In any case, it must necessitate a large reduction in salaries. In an official statement, the National Alliance says: 'If a man is paid £100 per week to appear at three halls, and is barred from any other hall, it means that, from the date he signs the contract, he is barred from all other halls till he fulfils his engagement, which may be six weeks, six months, or six years ahead. Now, if he has to remain idle for several weeks to obtain big salaries for certain weeks, where does the advantage come in for the artist?'

"An artist to allow himself to be placed in such a position would be an extremely bad business man. An artist of sufficient value to book up for any long period ahead at a big salary employs an agent, whose business it is to fill the artist's date-book so that he has no weeks vacant during the course of the year. The agent's business also is to see that none of the 'barring clauses' in any of the performer's contracts overlap each other. This is perfectly easy to arrange. The performer would, for instance, go over the whole of the Moss-Stoll circuit, which would occupy him several months. In the meantime his agent would procure for him engagements upon the London syndicate halls, which he would fulfil upon his return to town. Following these might come the Barrasford or De Frece tours, both comprising a number of provincial houses, with an occasional visit to Continental establishments for a month or so. By careful arrangement of contracts, which is the agent's business, most of our 'star' performers are booked up for three or even four years ahead, without any fear of being 'barred' so long as they do not, in their desire to work even more halls than have been contracted for beforehand, force the managements who employ them to put the 'barring clause' in operation. It has frequently happened that a performer who has been booked some time ahead to work the syndicate halls finds himself, for example, at the Oxford and Paragon. Not content with these two engagements from the syndicate, he will contract also to appear at some opposition establishment, making three 'turns' each night. In some cases the performer doing this has asked permission from the syndicate to work the third hall, and, wherever possible, such permissions are given. Sometimes they are not. More than often, it must be confessed, artists actually appear at the third hall on the Monday night, trusting that the syndicate will not enforce the 'barring clause' or that their appearance at the opposition establishment will not be officially observed. Such actions as these have caused injunctions to be applied for, and brought about legal strife, for which the performer concerned has been alone responsible.

"The National Alliance cite the instance of a lady artist who has signed a contract to appear in Manchester next summer. From the date of signing she may not appear within twenty miles of Manchester till the date of actually appearing.

"Even if this be so, there are contracts and to spare outside Manchester and its environs; enough, indeed, to last the lady for six months, or six years for that matter, without there being any need for her to go near that city.

"Another statement made officially by the National Alliance is as follows: 'The artists, finding that going cap in hand to the managers was useless, decided to form themselves into a fighting organisation, having the power to wrest justice from those who are not prepared to concede it.'

"This statement is controverted by the fact that friendly parleys between the secretaries of the Alliance and the directors of the syndicate halls were actually in progress when the Alliance delivered the first of their ultimatums."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I claim the hospitality of your columns to announce that the London Entertainments Protection Association has decided, at the request of several provincial members, to enlarge its scope by including provincial members, and thus make for strength and unity in the face of the present intolerable and uncalled-for crisis.

That artists should ally themselves together for their own protection, for charity, and other benevolent purposes is a matter that no one can object to, but that servants of the public, petted and coaxed by them, whose salaries have advanced by leaps and bounds until shareholders become practically frozen out as regards dividends, and shares of large investors dwindle considerably in value, should ally themselves with Trade Union methods and disorganise labour is surely a most unnecessary and unusual proceeding.

For some time, ever since its start, I have watched with a large amount of interest the growth of the Artists' Federation. I have continuously read its official organ, and have had an opportunity of contributing thereto on frequent occasions of late to contradict statements emanating from their allies. We all know that falsehoods are difficult to contradict when they are spread broadcast, but half a lie is a great deal worse to contend with. The grievances of artists, in my opinion, are few and far between. The talk of slavery, unfair methods, &c., exists only in the heated brain of those who have been wound up to the concert-pitch of excitement by astute agitators who, finding contracts scarce and the salaries they desire unobtainable on their merits, are fighting for their own hand and their own aggrandisement. If tyranny exists in the music hall profession it is essentially exercised by the artist who desires to appear at his own time, who continually desires his dates altered, who occupies the time of managing-directors, both great and small, by asking for this favour daily, who only sings two songs or one when his contract states he should do three, who insists upon the way he should be billed, who wants to control the establishment where he is playing and command the scenery that he requires, who desires to alter the time at which he goes on at his or her sweet bidding. The star artist, whether he or she, is the pet tyrant of music hall managers. So much for slavery; and this sort of thing is continuously copied by those artists who do not yet shine quite so brightly.

To expose the methods of the Trade Union leaders in this strike I would point out that comparisons have been made as to the salaries of our musicians with the salaries given by the L.C.C. to its bandsmen of 47s. per week. A musician engaged at our theatres has to be in his orchestra for four hours a night six nights a week, whether at a one-house-a-night place or two-houses-a-night. At the latter he has a respite of twenty minutes. He has a band rehearsal once a week, mostly of one hour, but never extending to two; at some houses he has a matinée; while the County Council musician, at 47s. per week, has to perform twice a day, and also on Sundays, is dressed up in livery, and has the privilege of being idle eight months in the year. Hence, what does this comparison mean but to mislead musicians and public? Further, most of the musicians engaged in our theatres are occupied in the daytime in military bands, some give tuition, play at matinées and other morning concerts, and frequently send deputies for a night's pay for days and weeks at a time while their salaries elsewhere run into pounds. The Musicians' Union is a provincial association, numbering about 400 musicians, whose aim in this present movement is to increase its numbers, and to mislead its members for the benefit of its leaders, regardless of the havoc already wrought to some of its members, and no doubt, if continued, to be productive of further mischief to them. The stage hands are incited to discord and dissention (whether they have been in the employ of the establishment for four or fifteen years well content, no real grievance being without redress) by the audacity of artists who, while they perform on the stage at remunerative salaries, abuse the hospitality of the halls where they are under contract for the purpose of creating disorganisation. To prove that the men who arrogate to themselves the privilege or right to lead the workmen do not understand the necessities or methods of stage hands at our theatres or music halls, I would simply refer to the hours of labour they seek to impose upon us in what they grandiloquently call "their Charter" with all the arrogance of the born demagogue, which is so little removed from the tyrant, and which is thrust under our faces for signature at a few hours' notice in the Dick Turpin manner of "Stand and surrender"—"the hours of work to be from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; other men from 9 till 5, allowing one hour for dinner; Saturdays from 9 till 1; evening overtime, &c., &c."

The hours of labour of our men are generally from 10.30 until 3, and evening work.

Here we have the old policy of Trade Unionism that the duffer is to receive the same remuneration as the skilled workman, and we are to be threatened and faced with a strike whenever a dissolute or incapable workman should have to be discharged because he belongs to the Union. Further, all men in employment to belong to their Association, whether they like it or not, and all non-Union men, whether loyal and faithful and satisfied to be discharged or coerced into joining.

This is what artists with large or small salaries are working for, making themselves prominent in front of houses by picketing, mixing themselves up with the lowest and dirtiest jobs, whether man or woman, as instanced by the following extract taken from a recent *Daily Mail*, and reprinted from a leaflet distributed by prominent artists, as untruthful as it is filthy, and the legality of which will be adjudicated upon by counsel, not only as to the author and printer thereof, but as to the distributor, who is known:—

"There is a gang of the most unscrupulous blackguards connected with the profession, acting both as managers and agents, who not only fleece the poor artists right and left by secret and other commissions, but to whom no woman's honour is sacred."

It is here a fair question to ask, are the artists aware that the great policy of Union leaders is "one man, one job," and will the stars so charitably inclined, who proclaim from the housetops that their dividends at the Grand Palace, Clapham, will be reduced, but do not mind the sacrifice (knowing all the time that if the house were closed the present lessee of this place would still have to pay them 8 per cent. per annum, and that the money lays in their directors' names guaranteed at the bank, so that their statement here again is misleading, to use a mild term) adhere to that policy? If so, they would have to be content with the poor salary of, say, £2,000, or £3,000, or £4,000 a year, and do only one turn instead of desiring to do two or three, and thus double or triple that amount per annum.

One of the great troubles that has arisen in the minds of the leaders of this movement is the barring clause. A barring clause is made for the purpose of securing the services of artists for a certain length of time, giving them certain engagements in London, and leaving them open for the provinces at an enhanced salary. It has the double advantage to the artist that, instead of running about to four or five halls per night, as some of them have been doing, it secures their value as artists for a greater length of time by preventing them being so quickly played out before the public. It is a contract essentially commercial and legally made, signed with their eyes open, and, if it requires modification, it must be modified by consent of both contracting parties, as is frequently done. Trouble arises from the artist who frequently, when signing, is unscrupulous enough not to put on the face of it the halls at which they already hold engagements and which are barred, and who does not in many cases disdain to immediately enter into other engagements, relying on the good nature of the manager or director to give permission for that appearance, as is also frequently done. If the barring clause presses hardly on anyone it may do so on individual proprietors, and any relaxation thereof must be a mutual concession between them.

Does Miss Lloyd, whom I am sorry to mention personally, reflect when she complains about the slavery of the profession in daily papers, day after day, and who, in the *Daily Mail*, instances a case of injunction against her as a hardship because she was not allowed to infringe her signed contract some months ago by playing elsewhere within the radius, reflect that only a few weeks ago Mr. Payne gave her permission to go outside her contract to the London Music Hall, and that he released her (owing to a plea of not having sufficiently recovered) three weeks ago from an engagement at the Euston, that I followed suit two weeks ago at Chelsea, and that to-day her strength is sufficiently recuperated to distribute leaflets at night during the most inclement weather, vilifying the men who have been her friends through life, and have with pleasure seen her rise in her profession from the salary of £6 per week to £60 a turn within a space of fifteen years? This is only the period that I have been connected with the business, and I can instance artists who, in less space than that, have advanced from the small salary named to twenty times and twenty-five times that amount per week. When dividends dwindle, as per figures shown at foot, when the amount of salaries paid exceed in many cases half the takings, when directors do not earn in one year out of a hall what artists get in many cases in one week, I would ask the public on which side lies the justice and on which side lie the vilifying, the slander, and the disgusting falsehoods that are spread broadcast by hunters of notoriety for their own benefit, and in which they are assisted daily by misguided artists? That they, as an association of artists, might have a few grievances to redress, such as payment for matinées and other little matters, I would not here deny, but the members of my Association are at present determined to resent the un-English methods that have been adopted. They require as caterers the sympathy of the public; they are not placed in a position of trust by their shareholders, or have invested capital on their own account, to be foolish enough to lose sight of the fact that they are servants of the public, whom they frequently have to disappoint through the wilfulness of artists who disregard their contracts. The members of my Association are just business men, and not hard-dealing men; they do not descend to falsehoods or half-untruths in order to mislead the public, and they confidently rely upon the confidence of their shareholders, and of their patrons at large, to well weigh the ridiculous and exaggerated statements that are being daily disseminated through the Press, and to judge them in a fair and just manner.

I could go on at much greater length if I did not fear to outrun your hospitality, and remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

HENRI GROS.

The few figures attached speak very plainly as to excessive fees, poor salaries, and enormous dividends.

	Admissions and Profit Bars.	Salaries and Wages.	Nett Profit.	Fees.	Fixed Charges, about.
	£	£	£	£	£
A. '06	65,468	26,980	18,500	600	20,000
B. '06	22,716	13,975	2,345	450	6,000
C. '05	43,021	23,170	8,069	550	12,000
D. '04	66,341	*33,884	15,137	—	17,000
E. '04	96,794	55,300	1,371	1,500	39,000
F. '04	45,773	22,883	7,061	600	15,300
G. '04	21,791	9,900	4,340	423	7,500

* Directors' fees included.

Fixed charges include rent, rates, taxes, repairs, insurance, advertising depreciation, interest on mortgage, and debentures.

These figures show the directors at each hall get from £100 to £150 a year, except D and E.

That the shareholders get a moderate return for their investment, see scale below.

That the fixed charges are heavy. That salaries are nearly in each instance (with the exception of A and G) 50 per cent. of takings.

A. 13%
B. 6% To pay this balance an amount from previous year's profit had to be taken.
C. 5%
D. 12%
E. 10% To pay this balance an amount from previous year's profit had to be taken.
F. 10%
G. 10%

MR. FRED EUSTACE'S EXPLANATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—As so much bitterness has been displayed and so many cruel and insulting epithets cast upon me for not supporting the Variety Artists' Federation against the music-hall proprietors, will you permit me to place before your readers a few facts which will, I think, justify the course adopted by me?

When I consented to join the Federation it was to support the objects for which the Society was formed, and which are most laudable and honourable as well. They are printed in the book of rules, and read as follows:—

"I. To secure unity of action in order to improve the position and status of every class of artist.

"II. To abolish all abuses detrimental to their welfare.

"III. To promote industrial peace and progress by all amicable means, and when differences do arise to assist in obtaining an equitable settlement by reasonable means.

"IV. To accumulate from the contributions of the members a fund to protect the interests of the members and benefits specified.

"V. To provide benefits upon the death of a member for his widow and children.

"VI. To provide legal assistance.

"VII. To provide funds for an old-age pension.

"VIII. To establish a newspaper devoted to the objects of the Federation."

And while the Federation had kept within their articles of association they would have had my assistance and support. But to adopt such a course as the arbitrary method pursued on the night of the 21st was, I venture to think, not only cruel, but unjust.

A strike at any time should be avoided, if possible, and never adopted until all other means have failed. It brings untold misery in its train; it leaves only harsh and bitter feelings behind. It is never adopted in trade union societies until the voice of the members has been taken upon it, and if that course had been pursued in our case much pain and trouble would have been avoided. But to force a strike at an hour's notice, to deprive innocent people of the means of earning their living, to throw those unfortunate members of the stage who were not members of the Federation upon their own resources, is a course, I am proud to say, I refuse to adopt.

I was told that I personally was entitled to relief if I needed it from the funds of the Federation. Unfortunately, the members of my company were not, and I preferred to cast in my lot with them.

I admit I owed an allegiance to the V.A.F. while they kept within the rules, but I deny that I owe any to the fighting and jealous spirit which, I regret to say, is exhibited by certain members. It is an unfortunate fact that the success of sketches in the music-halls has aroused not only opposition among the theatre managers, but a bitter spirit in a certain section of the Federation members as well, which the following facts prove:—

About a year ago the idea of the V.A.F. was suggested and successfully launched. At one meeting the question was put—"Are sketch artists eligible for membership?" and from all parts of the room came the reply, "No! No! No! We don't want actors." This was the *esprit de corps* displayed by one professional brother to another—a brother who saw in the promotion of a society of his own the means of successfully driving sketches from the music-hall stage.

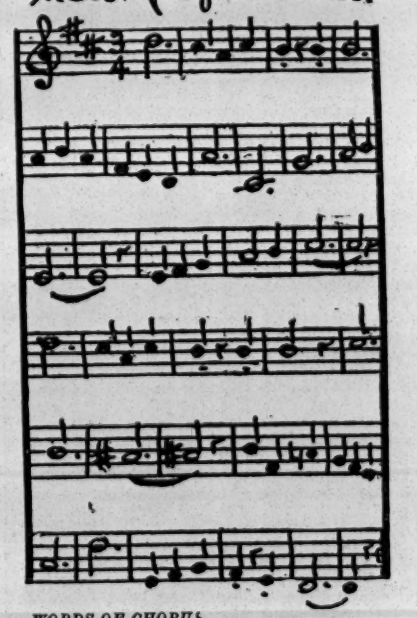
There were, I am pleased to say, many gentlemen in the room who strongly disapproved of the attempt to exclude us. They urged their views on our behalf, and I thank them most sincerely for their championship. But it is upon the whole of the members' generosity that the members of my company would have had to rely. They had no claim upon the funds of the Federation, and I considered it my duty to consider their interest as well.—I am, yours truly,

FRED EUSTACE.

On Wednesday evening the spacious drill hall of the Bloomsbury Rifles in Chenies-street, Tottenham Court-road, was filled to overflowing on the occasion of the vocal and instrumental concert given by the pupils of Miss Mabel Lauri, a niece of the late celebrated mime. In the first part Miss Ethel Bringloe, in addition to Woodford-Finden's "Kashmiri love song," sang a tasteful ballad by Miss Lauri, entitled "Alone"; and Mr. Charles Knowles, the celebrated baritone, was heard in Airlie Dix's "Trumpeter" and "My only love," accompanied in each by the composer. Several of Miss Lauri's pupils gave convincing proof on the pianoforte of that lady's skill as a teacher. The pantomime of *Cinderella* followed, and was provocative of much merriment and enjoyment, the whole being capitally enacted by juveniles, with the exception of Miss Lauri (who played the Wicked Stepmother), and who, in addition to making the whole of the dresses, was responsible for the "book" and much of the music, including a striking minuet. A select orchestra, under the leadership of J. Airlie Dix, was a great factor in an altogether successful evening.

Tom Edwards, the well-known and popular ventriloquist, who went abroad for his health some months ago, has made quite a big success in America, and has some handsome offers to remain, which he intends doing for some time to come.

HARRY DACRE'S
GREAT SONG
MY SUGAR PLUM.



WORDS OF CHORUS.

You re My Sugar-plum, plum, plum, My little lollipop Lady,
You are so sweet, you must be good to eat;
Come little one, Come, Come, Come, Don't be dumb,
You are my ha'po'rth of Sweetstuff, My Sugar-plum, plum, plum.

BAND PARTS, 1/- per Set.

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SUCCESSFUL SONG SYNDICATE
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NATIONAL ALLIANCE MASS MEETING.

At the second mass meeting of the National Alliance at the Surrey Theatre on Sunday evening the chair was occupied by Mr. Joe O'Gorman, chairman of the V.A.F., supported by Mr. Frank Gerald (general sec. V.A.F.), Mr. Wm. Johnson (secretary N.A.T.E.), Mr. J. B. Williams (secretary A.M.U.), and Mr. Harry Mountford (chairman of the Alliance). The house was again placed at the disposal of the Alliance by Mr. Macnaghten.

MR. O'GORMAN said:—"Sister and Brother Artists and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Alliance,—I thank you all most heartily for the self-sacrificing manner in which you have responded to the calls of your Executive Committee. I will ask you to excuse me if I refer more particularly to my own branch of the Alliance, because, of course, I know more about our own branch than I do about the other two, who are so ably and so nobly assisting us in this great fight. I beg to thank, also, our absent members—those who are away in the country, and who cannot be with us just now. But, ladies and gentlemen, if you could only know the way that they have responded with their tens, twenties, and hundreds of pounds, and the way in which the gentlemen who are getting £100 and £50 per week, which we have heard so much about from our friend, Mr. Stoll, you would be very much cheered. Mr. Stoll does not tell us anything about those who work for £2 a week, or less. I worked for Mr. Stoll's revered and respected mother—a lady, I may tell you, who was respected by every member of the profession—I worked for that lady years ago for as little as 35s. a week; but at that time Mr. Stoll was not able to deal with such sums as £35,000 out of one little bill. Neither were a lot of other gentlemen whom one could mention at the present day. However, let me say this—I believe Mr. Stoll is an honourable man, and I believe that Mr. Stoll, when we meet him, will listen to the voice of reason. Mr. Stoll, ladies and gentlemen, has never been approached by us yet, but we hope that when Mr. Stoll considers that he is dealing with those who have helped to place him where he is we shall be treated fairly. I can assure Mr. Stoll, with all due respect to him, that we shall not raise one finger against him until our demands are put before him and Mr. Stoll refuses to meet us. And when he refuses we will not fight with the kid gloves that we had on when we approached Mr. Gibbons at the start. We will take off our kid gloves, we will strip down to the waist, in the good old English fashion, and have a good set-to. (Applause.) When Mr. Stoll came to London he was respected by everybody in the profession. He paid, and wisely paid, provincial salaries, and it was not until the Euston came along and asked you to play to two houses a night in London for turn money that Mr. Stoll realised what he was doing. Now, I have no hesitation in saying that if at the time I am referring to we had only been federated we would never have worked two houses a night for turn money. Now I come to my friend Mr. Gibbons. That gentleman played with me for awhile, and I believed him. It was on the Tuesday, and I came down and asked Mr. Gerald and others to stop the picketing in consideration of the proposal that the gentleman in question was going to meet a deputation of us on the following day. I got off to Camberwell to do my business, and Mr. Gibbons, after I had got away, said he had never promised Mr. O'Gorman anything. ("Shame!") When we met him and obtained a written statement from him telling us that he was prepared to give us everything, we thought he was giving us everything. At that time we were prepared to accept from Mr. Gibbons an agreement whereby we would play two houses a night at the Royal, Holborn, and two matinées, without any extra remuneration, on condition that no matinées were added. Was that an excessive condition? ("No!") But he has not put his name to this paper, and he repudiates what he said, and now he must pay for all matinées.

At one time he agreed to the clause of there being no commission on engagements made direct, but ran away from it, and, of all people in the world, the first person he tried it on was our friend, Mr. Mountford. He says to him, practically, "Now, then, Harry, my boy, we will not stop any commission, but instead of making it £12, we will make it £11 8s." (Laughter.) Now, the contracts were written out, and Mr. Mountford brought them before us, and I believe Mr. Gibbons has amended his ways since. He is making them now for the full amount. Mr. Gibbons is the cause of our present troubles. This was a fairly happy profession until Mr. Gibbons pushed his nose in amongst us at Islington. (Laughter.) Mr. Gibbons now appeals to the outside public, and says, "They want me to discharge my old servants of twenty-five years' standing." (Laughter.) And, remember, Mr. Gibbons has not been a proprietor five years. (Laughter.) I tell you, without fear of contradiction, that we have won. (Long and continued cheering.) If we had not been an honourable body of gentlemen, we would have closed the Chelsea and the Metropolitan the same night. But I knew that Mr. Gros was ill, and we were not going to fight with poisoned weapons. (Applause.) We have the reins and we have the whip—we are, in fact, masters of the situation. (Applause.) The proprietors know that they are beaten, and I appeal to them to come down off their pedestals and agree to a charter which is fair and honest. I hope that they will agree with us and work in with us; and if they do, while it will be good for them, it will be a great and lasting success for the Variety Artists' Federation. (Loud cheering.)

MR. FRANK GERALD, the general secretary, said:—We have started on a work that we should have started upon years and years ago. You all know what you have passed through; you all know that the time is now with you to make as certain as possible of your position. You have a weapon in your hands. Use it now! The past week shows what can be done by means of organisation. It has proved that the music hall profession—artists, musicians, and stage employees—can stick together. I ask you to stick together in the future, and I know you will excuse me for urging you to do so because you should study yourselves. It is just the doubt as to combination that has made the proprietor and the manager laugh at us. But by so doing they have given us the power to organise. The proprietor and the manager never thought that we could build a foundation upon a rock, as we have done, so that the institution which we have formed cannot be pushed over by all the capital in the world. The capital is on our side, for the real capital in the music hall world is the talent. Our friend, Mr. Mountford, last Sunday night, said, "We don't want to fight, but by Jingo if we do," and he then added some words of his own in reference to our case. I will now add my version in these words: "We've got the brains, we've got the boys, we've got the talent, too." We have issued a handbill showing which are the fair halls at the present time, and I think we should all do our best to let it be known that the halls under Mr. Macnaghten's management and under Mr. Grimes's management have been good enough to concede our terms, and thereby help them, because so great is the interest now taken by the public in this affair that every music hall in London is doing bad business—fair house or bad house. Therefore, do your best to dispel the impression that may exist in regard to the houses under the control of the gentlemen I have named. You know that your Executive have been looking out for a place of amusement with a view to opening it, and for it to be run by this Alliance. I can tell you now that I have in my pocket the signed agreement on behalf of this Alliance for the finest theatre in London, and not in London only, but in the world. And the agreement is on these terms: We take it for whatever period we may choose upon the conditions that have been arranged. We also have the option of the lease of this magnificent property for twenty-one years. More than that, we have the option of the absolute freehold of it for ever—the Scala Theatre, which will open next Thursday night, under our management. Attached to the theatre is an enormous block of buildings, suitable for club rooms and offices, and several shops, making one enormous property, and I believe myself that here is a splendid opportunity to establish our Music Hall Exchange. There we shall have a residence which will be the hub, so to speak, of the music hall world; and if a great artist wants to come to this country from abroad, he or she will come to the Scala, to the centre of the Alliance of these three Associations; he or she will come among their own fellow-workers in this gigantic scheme, instead of going to play for trusts or syndicates. Tell everybody you know that we are going to open at the Scala next Thursday, at the most beautiful theatre in the world, and with a world-wide programme, and one house a night only. (Loud cheering.)

THE CHAIRMAN announced that he had just received the following telegram from the Manchester meeting:—"One hundred artists and employees urge continuance of policy. 'In all things fair; to all men just.'"

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSON, secretary of the National Association of Theatrical Employees, stated that Mr. Gibbons had declared that the dressers were not employed by him, but were virtually the servants of the lady artists; the half-a-crown a week he paid them was only an honorarium. (Laughter.) Who engaged and dismissed these dressers? Mr. Gibbons. (Cheers.) They were his servants, and he was responsible for the conditions under which they were employed. (Cheers.) A member of the National Association of Theatrical Employees who had been employed at one of Mr. Gibbons's halls during the day received 25s. a week for twelve shows per week. He had to work two matinées, for which he has not received a penny. That man was receiving 11s. less than the sum agreed upon in the charter. ("Shame!") In another instance a man received a minimum of 7d. an hour, or 17s. 6d. per week, which was 6s. less than the man was entitled to. A third man was employed from 9.30 until 2.30 to work in front, and to do such additional work as might be required, for which he was entitled to 7d. an hour He was employed thirty hours, which was 17s. 6d., but never received more than 6s. A fourth man employed under Mr. Gibbons at night, whose minimum wage was 24s., received for seventy-six hours, with no meal times, and ten hours Sunday work, 22s. 6d. for six days. On Jan. 20, after the agreement, he received 2½d. an hour for Sunday work. (Laughter.) An assistant electrician was entitled to 36s. per week. He worked eighty-one hours a week, inclusive of meal times, and received 20s. ("Shame!") The stage hands had risked all they had to risk, and no man could do more. It was for them to stand shoulder to shoulder until that charter had been signed. (Loud cheering.)

THE CHAIRMAN announced the receipt of a further telegram:—"Bravo. Fight to the end.—APOLLO and JIMMY FINNEY, New York." (Loud cheers.)

MR. J. B. WILLIAMS, chairman of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union, said he had been fighting for the musicians for something like fifteen years, and that was his thirtieth dispute. Up till the 14th of this month the variety artists had been despised by the managers, because they never gave them credit for the intelligence to hang together. The same grit, determination, and the same ability which enabled the stars of the profession to rise from the ranks to their present altitude had enabled, and would enable, them to carry on that fight. He had never met Mr. Walter Gibbons, Mr. Payne only in an interview, and not Mr. Henri Gros. Mr. Gros had said that the Musicians' Union was a provincial association, numbering about 400 members, whose aim in this present movement was to increase its numbers and to mislead its members for the benefit of the leaders. He always gave the managers credit for knowing something of what was going on, but they had put in black and white by managers that theirs was a provincial union, representing 400 members, when there were over 600 in London alone. A well-known comedian with them that night had 100 supers engaged to help him with his sketch. They were not engaged by the comedian, and he had no liability. The managers who had the liability refused to discharge it, and the man who had had no liability, out of his large heart, came forward and said, "You shall not suffer; I will pay you myself." It was Joe Elvin.

THE CHAIRMAN said he might add that Mr. Elvin had called him on the 'phone to go to his place. When he went round, Mr. Elvin had said, "There is my salary from the Metropolitan unopened." (Renewed enthusiasm.)

On Saturday they appointed Mr. George H. Dyball stage-manager of the Scala. Their desire was to do something to help those less fortunate than themselves.

MR. HARRY MOUNTFORD moved the following resolution:—

"That this meeting of members, non-members, and friends of the allied societies reaffirm their confidence in the Alliance and the pledges to insist upon the adoption of the charter, and further calls upon the public to continue its support of the cause by refraining from patronising any place of amusement affected by the dispute until the terms of the charter have been conceded."

He said, in the course of his speech: "Mr. Henri Gros gives some figures. There is one item, giving a total in 1906, which shows admissions and bar profits to stand at £65,468, salaries and wages are put down at £26,980, net profit £18,500. This large amount paid in salaries drew into the house £65,000, thus showing the attractiveness of the artists to be nearly 150 per cent. above the money paid to them. Is there any shopkeeper in the world buying goods and making 150 per cent. profit on them?" Mr. Mountford then went on to deal with the question of commission on artists' salaries. "Mr. Gibbons," continued Mr. Mountford, "is advertising the enormous success of the new and untried talent. It has proved such an enormous success that they have lowered the prices to half at the Canterbury and the Paragon, and I understand it is three-halfpence in the gallery. And what does he think of his bills? At any rate, he thinks so much of his bills and companies that he left the name Walter Gibbons from the top. I can see on the hill-tops that the clouds are breaking, the sun is shining through them, and the members of this Alliance can discern in the distance peace, contentment, and reform."

MR. HOLLES seconded the resolution, and asked for three rousing cheers for the ladies of the profession. This was responded to vigorously.

MR. WAL PINK regretted somewhat that he was called upon to support the resolution, as he was suffering from a severe cold. That was the warmest audience and the coldest stage he had ever tasted.

MR. JOE ELVIN said:—I am put down as a star artist, according to the bills of Mr. Payne and Mr. Gibbons, at £175 a week. It is a pleasure to me, with such women as the Queen of Artists—Marie Lloyd—to throw my lot in with you. It is my duty to do so. I have been thirty years in this profession, and whatever greatness I have got, I have served an apprenticeship for, and have earned it. If these men—Mr. Payne, Mr. Gros, and the other proprietors—will only come forward as men of the world and sign the charter, which is fair and just to everybody, we will go to work as soon as you like, and be as happy as possible. (Laughter.) We just want them to sign this charter. (Loud cheers.) We want peace with honour. (Cheers.)

MR. ARTHUR ROBERTS, being called upon by the chairman, said:—Ladies and Gentlemen,—At the commencement of this, when I found I was in arrears with the Federation by accident, I apologised to the secretary and sent along my subscription. I naturally felt it my duty, having had to struggle for my existence, when I found this struggle. I said it was not only a duty to come out, but a pleasure to come out. It is desirable if the dispute can be settled with dignity and honour, but it is impossible for us to yield, because if we yield now we are done for for ever. We are going to fight, and we must win. My heart and soul is with you, and I wish every success to this just cause.

MR. GERALD then read a note which had just been put into his hands from Dr. Distin Maddick:—"Dear Mr. Gerald,—Appreciating the manner with which the V.A.F. received the announcement of the Scala, I have great pleasure in subscribing 100 guineas to the Alliance."

MR. R. A. ROBERTS said:—On Thursday night I had an interview with Mr. Adney Payne, and as a result of the interview I wrote my resignation to the V.A.F. Mr. Payne showed me a circular, and I was told that they could compel me to appear under an enormous penalty. They threatened to sue me for £1,500 if I did not appear next week. I have a four weeks' engagement with Mr. Payne, and if it costs £1,500, thank God! I have got it, and will pay it. I am with you, and will stick to you to the end. (Tremendous cheers.)

MR. BERT CLARK said he was heart and soul with the Federation, but he thought that they ought to have some kind of olive branch. That was a question for the Executive Committee. He would fall or rise with them.

THE CHAIRMAN said:—Five per cent. levies on the salaries are being made at the present moment. The levy comes to £5,000. All claims were paid out yesterday, and all they asked for they got, and we can give them some more now we know the strength of our funds. We paid out £335, and we have not the slightest doubt in the next week to meet everything that is coming along. (Cheers.) That is only the levy. All our Harry Lauders and Marie Loftuses, and other women with hearts and souls, keep coming along, prepared to put down money weekly.

MR. W. H. CLEMART said he was one of the earliest founders. He was due at Croydon, and he was going to strike to-morrow.

MR. C. C. BARTRAM said they should forget all about the agents until the battle was over, and when the battle was over and the smoke had cleared, and the managers had signed the Charter, then they would have plenty of time to deal with those agents who had seen fit to desert them and fight on the side of the managers.

The resolution was then put and carried, amid scenes of the greatest enthusiasm.

MR. GUS ELEN proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was seconded by Mr. Jesson, and carried.

SAN CARLOS TRIO IN ABERDEEN.

DELIGHT ALL VISITORS.

The management of the Palace Theatre, Aberdeen, has secured for the present week the San Carlos, Italian operatic artists of distinction, who give a performance affording a rare treat to music lovers. In excerpts from Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* these three vocalists appear to splendid advantage, their cultured style and the exquisite blending of their voices being such as to elicit the highest admiration. So refined and artistic a performance is unusual on the music hall stage, and it is gratifying to note that last night the large audience was thoroughly appreciative, being evidently disposed to welcome a most pleasing innovation. The San Carlos are to be heartily congratulated on the cordiality of their reception on the occasion of their first appearance in Scotland, and we are confident that the exceptional excellence of this musical contribution to a varied programme will delight all visitors.—*Aberdeen Daily Journal*, Tuesday, Jan. 29, 1907.

TOP THE BILL.

There was a very large audience at the Palace Theatre last night. The programme submitted was excellent in every way. The San Carlos, Italian operatic vocalists, headed the bill. They gave a very find rendering of the trio from *Cavalleria Rusticana*, also two lighter numbers of Italian songs, in which their cultivated voices blended most harmoniously, the soprano being particularly brilliant. These are, as a trio, the highest cultured voices heard at the Palace for some time.—The *Aberdeen Free Press*, Jan. 29, 1907.

HORACE WHEATLEY AT THE ARGYLE, BIRKENHEAD.

Horace Wheatley, one of the cleverest, if not the cleverest Irish comedian on the music hall stage, delights all with reminiscences of MacIntyre who, to judge by his jokes, is a very acceptable companion indeed. The adventures of "Finnigan" are also related with much humour, whilst dancing is a strong feature, as anyone who has seen Horace Wheatley will be well aware. He steps as lightly as ever, and is an undoubted success.—The *Birkenhead News*, Jan. 16.

There is much to interest and amuse at the Hippodrome. Horace Wheatley, the well-known comedian, provides the star turn. He has a number of new songs and a stock of quaint sayings, which, delivered in his inimitable style, are as entertaining as the old favourites.—*Birmingham Evening Despatch*, Jan. 22.

The programme this week at the Tivoli is certain to prove very attractive. Horace Wheatley, "the genial one," is always a great favourite in Liverpool, and there is ample evidence of this in the furore with which he is received. He is in fine voice, and has lost not one iota of his great popularity. He is a comedian of a refined order, and his contributions are received with the greatest applause.—The *Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury*, Jan. 29.

"KING BABY."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I note in your current issue that Miss Vesta Tilley is well pleased with a new song, "King Baby," suggested by the famous picture, "His Majesty the Baby." In fairness to all concerned, may I respectfully notify that a song of this title and written round the picture has been successfully exploited at most London music-halls, and is being sung at Brighton this week by Miss Maud Wilton, and is from the pen of—Yours faithfully,

Forest Gate, Jan. 30. PHIL HARRIS.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

THE BARRING CLAUSE.

BY OSWALD STOLL.

"The beginning and the end of the whole affair is the barring clause," says Mr. Alec Hurley. Subversive of business stability by lawless repudiation of contracts, confiscation of capital value and goodwill, and destruction of the goose, or geese, that lay the golden salaries are details evidently to Mr. Hurley.

Now, fine variety theatres have been erected, costing many thousands of pounds, upon sites of great value in main thoroughfares. Competition between them has raised the salaries of artists to a standard that taxes severely their earning capacity. Hardly any other calling has a general average of pay so high. Ten pounds per week is considered a handsome salary in most walks of life. Thousands of these artists would consider an offer of such a salary an insult. Such as are poorly paid in any house of standing are only those employed by artists themselves in a troupe. The leader draws a large salary, often under the pretence of his troupe being a partnership, pays them a beggarly wage, and pockets the bulk of the salary himself.

Engagements at large salaries have been made for future dates. The artists, to get these future contracts, gladly bar themselves from appearing at other theatres in the area which the theatres of the contract depend upon for patronage. Later on, finding that one of these "barred" houses offers even higher terms, they think it an injustice that they must go elsewhere for less money when they could take this high price here if they were not barred by their contract with the opposition. Some other artist gets that vacant place. Hence the barring clause has actually made work for artists. Many are deluded into supporting a movement against the barring clause by forgetting that if Mr. Joe Elvin or Miss Marie Lloyd get two engagements were they could otherwise have only one they are necessarily doing somebody else out of work. Mr. Joe Elvin, who figures so largely as the artists' friend, is not content with aiming at even the two engagements for himself, but wants to organise a company without himself, comprised of less intelligent artists, whose services he will sell at a profit.

If the barring clause is really the pretended evil, why should the future contract be entered into? If an artist signs no future contracts he binds himself to no barring clause.

If a contract for next year be placed before him and he is not short of immediate work, how can it be said that he is under any compulsion whatever to sign it? Or if he is in want of immediate work is he not foolish to sign it and so bar himself from the chance of earlier work in the neighbourhood to which the contract refers? The truth is, artists wish to engage themselves ahead, though they would like the contract to be of a nature that they could be compelled to observe if nothing better should turn up or if it should not prove inconvenient.

Without a barring clause that suited his own circumstances every manager would cease to make engagements in advance, for the advantage of the exclusive attractiveness of an artist would have vanished, while the price of talent that anyone could have would come down with a run.

Another era of the cheap and nasty houses that could afford this low level of salaries would come into fashion. The irresponsibles revel in the idea, for they say that these palaces are not essential. "The play's the thing." The result would be diminished individual receipts and the low general level of business that would compel the palaces and the expensive sites on which they stand to be used for other purposes. Music-hall business, in short, would be back to the old days of one-tenth of present salaries. Shows would again be given on first floors of public-houses and bar parlours, until a new cycle of evolution began with a rebirth of the barring clause for the creation of value by exclusiveness.

Suppose the existing houses, having given up the practice of making future contracts, leave artists competing with one another for immediate engagements: is that a situation which the artists understand they are really fighting for? There is not one performer in a hundred who desires to bring such a situation about.

Let the leaders of this movement test it, and, giving their order in another way, forbid the members of the Federation to sign any contract containing a more stringent barring clause than their own proposal.

Surely if the barring clause is so vital a grievance as to warrant a strike there could not possibly be any difficulty in getting members to obey that order. The barring clause may be settled by the artists themselves without any strike if the views of their leaders are sound!

The following statement concerning the barring clause and contracts emanates from the National Alliance:—

If the removal of the barring clause would be inimical to the artists' interests, how is it that the trust managers are the only ones to make all the fuss about it being removed? The barring clause is only useful to the big syndicates and trusts, who can corner the star turns by paying them these alleged large salaries. We say alleged large salaries because it is a moot point whether they are as large as they are represented to be. For instance, if a man is paid £100 per week to appear at three halls, and is barred from any other hall, it means that from the date he signs the contract he is barred from all other halls till he fulfils his engagement, which may be six weeks, six months, or six years ahead. Now, if he has to remain idle for several weeks to obtain big salaries for certain weeks, where does the advantage come in for the artist? He has to make that money extend over the weeks when he is not allowed to work, and those large sums often mean an inclusive salary out of which the artist has to engage other people whom he has to pay. Now for other instances.

We have before us many cases of turns engaged for six or eight weeks in one year at small salaries, who are barred from appearing at any other halls in London for the other weeks in that year. Here is another case reported to-day. A lady artist has signed a contract to appear in Manchester next summer. From the date of signing she may not appear within twenty miles of Manchester till the date of actually appearing. Now for some more. On Monday night last at a London hall an artist was barred from appearing because he held a contract with a trust, the date of his actual appearance with that trust being two and a half years ahead. This artist was the middle of the bill, and on Tuesday the top of the bill was barred by an injunction at the same hall by the same trust. So that not only is the artist made to suffer, but it is used primarily against the individual proprietors of the small halls, who are thus faced with the alternative of being crushed out of existence or swallowed by the trusts.

There is no barring clause in the theatrical profession, where there is as much capital at stake, and the interests are just as great, as in the music halls. It has come along with the advent of the trust. It is a trust weapon, and detrimental to the interests of the people who provide the entertainment.

With regard to the form of contract. In every case where a manager has been approached and has asked to see the contract before he signed the charter, he has, without exception, been supplied with same. The extraordinary thing is that the form of contract submitted by the V.A.F. is so full of conditions and clauses which protect the interests of the managers that it has been said frequently that the contract was more in favour of the management than the artist.

The statement that the ultimatum was placed before the managers in a manner which is absolutely unprecendented is not in accordance with facts.

With regard to the assertion that artists have made a mistake by allying themselves with trade unions, let us look at the facts. Three years ago a deputation from the artists waited on the managers, and were treated with contempt. The deputation consisted of the leading artists in the profession. Ten months ago a memorial was presented on behalf of the artists, and only received a formal acknowledgment. The artists, finding that going cap in hand to the managers was useless, decided to form themselves into a fighting organisation, having the power to wrest justice from those who are not prepared to concede it.

MEETING AT THE SCALA.

The Variety Artists Federation have taken a very daring step in leasing Dr. Distin Maddick's classic house, their object being twofold. They propose to run the theatre as a music hall and the adjacent premises, which were originally designed as a high-class restaurant, they will use as the headquarters of their various societies. It is very doubtful whether the severe style of architecture of the building is suited to a variety house, and it certainly had a chilling effect on what was called "the house-warming and reception" on Thursday night. The dress circle and stalls were fairly well filled by a good-humoured audience, among whom there were to be recognised some well-known faces, and later on it was explained from the platform that a great number of the supporters of the movement were scattered over the Metropolis on picket duty. As was to be expected, a first-class orchestra had been assembled, and under the conductorship of Mr. William Neale it played in really excellent style a few selections, which served to pass the very long time which elapsed before the proceedings really commenced. It was rather a touching commentary on the ill-fortune which has attended this artistic venture—the Scala Theatre—to observe the look of surprise and admiration on the faces of the majority as they entered the beautiful auditorium. Later in the evening the whole of the stage, dressing-rooms, and the adjoining restaurant were thrown open, and a thorough inspection was made by the artists and their friends of what they were told was in future to be their own home. After the delightful musical programme had been played, the curtain was raised, and Mr. Joe O'Gorman took the chair. He was supported on the stage by Mr. Frank Gerald, Mr. C. C. Bartram, Mr. Gus Elen, Mr. George D'Albert, Mr. W. Smythson, and Ald. Mitchell.

The chairman briefly opened the meeting by thanking the audience for their presence on behalf of his brother and sister artists.

Mr. Frank Gerald said that one word which rose to his lips that night was "Welcome!" There they were at home—at home for ever, he hoped. If the scheme that they had in view came to a successful issue the artists in future, in addition to being artists, would be proprietors, and so long as they were proprietors they would not introduce any unfair clauses into the contracts under which they would work their own theatres. The barring clause would be one mile and three months. They would show that they meant to practise what they preached, and he contended that, with the support of their friends among the public, the theatre would be packed to the doors every night. It was their intention that evening to show the audience over the building, and to let them see the accommodation they had secured for a music-hall exchange; and, on behalf of the three federated societies, he wished them all welcome to the Scala Theatre.

Mr. C. C. Bartram remarked that there would have been more artists present had it not been for the fact that so many of them were engaged in picket duty. Coming to the question which was exciting so much public attention, and which accounted for the assemblage at the Scala that evening, he said that they were tired of being exploited by financial adventurers. They, the artists, had been exploited until almost every drop of blood in their bodies had been taken. It was not their own money that the directors had been fighting with but the money of the shareholders. The artists wanted to see the shareholders rise up against these financial adventurers. On another point he felt sure that the sympathy of the working classes was with the artists. This war was only a movement of the century. The emancipation of the producer and the securing of the full profits of his produce would be accomplished before the end of this century.

Mr. Harry Mountford pointed out that their three associations stood alone, and they were going to stand out for each other's welfare. At a meeting on the previous day of certain managers the threat was held out that unless other managers joined them the barring clause would be regulated in such a manner as to seriously interfere with business. He wanted to point out that a bar of three months and one mile was arranged between Collins's Music Hall and the Islington Empire. Artists were booked up right and left for the Islington Empire on this understanding, but they were badly deceived when they were told to look at their contracts. Was it not a serious matter when Mr. Stoll barred an artist from appearing at Crouch End for two and a half years? Mr. Mountford here read a shareholder's letter, asking for particulars as to the sum of £24,000 which on a previous occasion had been referred to as an annual loss to music-hall shareholders; and concluded by remarking that even if they failed they would have done some good.

The chairman stated that "one of Mr. Stoll's satellites" had been going among the artists with the question, "Are you in favour of a strike?" If the answer were given in the affirmative he (the speaker) presumed that the artist would not be employed by that syndicate. He considered it a mean and despicable thing to do.

Mr. Gerald here read out a list of telegrams from all parts of the country wishing good luck to the movement.

During the proceedings Alderman Mitchell and a Mr. B. Tillett, who described themselves as Trades Union officials, interpolated a few remarks, and after it had been announced that a mass meeting would be held on Sunday at the Scala, the business concluded with the singing of "For we are V.A.F.'s."

TWO HOUSES A NIGHT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—May I add to Mr. J. W. Rowley's interesting letter in last week's *Era*? In addition to the old "Cos." (which I well remember), there was the St. Leonard's Music Hall, Shoreditch, in 1866, giving two shows a night, with three on Saturdays, under the management, I believe, of the same Mr. Harwood who subsequently opened the Pitfield-street Varieties.

OLD SCHOOL.

MR. GEORGE LEYTON has just accepted a new song from Messrs. Harrington and Tate, entitled "A bottle of wine," from which he expects big results in the near future. Mr. Leyton is now busily engaged in rehearsing his new dramatic sketch, *The Last Muster*, from the same prolific pens.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

THE Guild services conducted by the Rev. T. Horne at Olympia have unfortunately been held at a time unsuitable to many shewpeople. This, however, was unavoidable, owing to the arrangements made many months ago; the hon. chaplain could not fix any other time but half-past five. He has been liberated from his engagement to preach at the evening service at St. Mary's Church, Hoxton, and is now able to fix the service at Olympia at a time which he trusts will enable the showpeople to attend in larger numbers. The Guild service, by the kind permission of the directors of the International Fairs, will be held for the remainder of the run of Olympia at seven o'clock in the evening. Showpeople and their many friends are heartily invited to attend. The chaplain's address will be a "Gospel of Recreation."

THE principal concerns at Buckley Fair, Cheshire, were Greatorex's galloping horses, park swings, coker sheet, Winchester range, shooting gallery, juvenile horses, and boats, and variety stalls, and with these were F. Connor's Winchester range and fair-ground novelties, the whole making an old English fair, and affording great delight to the people of Buckley.

IN Wales, we have news of Crecraft's exhibition at Ferndale, J. Dooner and Son at Aberavon, Haggar at Aberdare, Wadbrook at Pontypridd, Testo's marionettes at Tylorstown, Professor at Briton Ferry, C. and J. North at Porth, Winsper at Ferndale, and Johnson's theatre at Barry Dock.

ACTING under the powers of the Abolition of Fairs Act, 1871, and a Local Government Act of 1894, the Secretary of State for the Home Department announces in the *London Gazette* that he has received a representation from the Ashwell Rural District Council to the effect that a fair has been annually held at Barley, in the County of Hertford, and that it would be for the convenience of the public that the said fair should be abolished. Objections to the abolition of the fair must be sent to the Home Secretary before Feb. 5, upon which date the Home Secretary will take into consideration the request of the petitioners to abolish the fair.

WE are not aware whether this fair at Barley is of business value to travelling showmen, and without the immediate assistance of local showpeople we do not see what useful action can be taken. The population is given as 615, and it is three miles south-east of Royston. We ask any showman taking this fair to act at once by sending in a letter addressed to the Home Secretary, Whitehall, and setting forth the loss and injury the abolition of the fair would inflict upon travelling showpeople.

THERE is another notice from the Home Office concerning the fairs at Monmouth. It is a representation from the Town Council to change the dates of the fairs held in February, May, September, and December, to the same date as the first of the cattle markets in each of these months. This is a matter for the consideration of Welsh showmen, and action in this case must be taken at once, for the Secretary of State will consider the matter fully on Feb. 9, and objections should be sent up before that date.

MR. HENRY STUDT, the well-known Welsh amusement caterer, was present at the meeting of the shareholders of the new St. Clear Market Company, Ltd., last week. St. Clear's pleasure fairs are amongst the most successful in South Wales.

AT Turner's Fair Ground, Astwood Bank, Mr. W. Holloway's New Empire Theatre is on a three months' visit and is playing to good houses.

THE proprietor of Ohmy's Circus, Mr. J. Ohmy Smith, met with a nasty accident on Friday evening, the 25th ult. He was entering the ring, when a massive brass bar, used by the Reays in their acrobatic performance, fell upon him, knocking him down, and inflicting a serious wound on the base of the skull. Several doctors were quickly in attendance, and attended to Mr. Smith's injuries.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, Alexandra Meadow, Penzance, continues to draw good houses every night, and after a stay of four or five weeks seems to be going stronger than ever. A nightly change of bill is evidence of the versatility of the hard-working company which is playing so successfully under the management of Mrs. Percy Burnette. Among the many old favourites which have been produced have been *Maria Martin, Catherine Howard, Black Eyed Susan, Sweeny Todd,* &c.

AMONGST many other items of news crowded out last week was the account of Tom Norman's sale of show goods and important fairground properties. This event took place, as announced, on the afternoon of the annual meeting of the Showmen's Guild at the Royal Agricultural Hall. Although the sale was removed from its well-advertised centre, the auction drew large crowds of show people, and the bidding was brisk and the various lots were knocked down at fairly reasonable prices. Amongst the chief lots brought under the hammer by the expert auctioneer, Tom Norman, were the riding machines so long known at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham. Together with the machines the ground rights were sold. The purchaser of these machines was Mr. John Fulcher, roundabout proprietor, of Alexandra Palace and Wembley Park.

ONLY one more week remains in which to visit the World's Fair at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, which, despite its great success, cannot be extended beyond the allotted date, Saturday, Feb. 9. Those who have not yet visited this marvellous show will do well to do so, while its earlier patrons will find plenty of change to warrant another visit. The great amalgamation of side shows are full of variety, various riding machines, and mirth-provoking pastimes. There are three circus performances with a change of programme at each; the thrilling exploits of Caicedo, king of the high wire, and the mid-air evolutions of the Continental Troupe, Siegrist and Silbon, nine aerial artists. There is also Bostock and Wombwell's mammoth indoor zoo, with herd of elephants, lions, tigers, and other wild animals. It is certainly a marvellous programme, especially when it is considered that the whole show can be seen for the modest sum of sixpence admission.

GREAT DRAW.

GRAHAM,

The Human Marionette.

"A Sure Top."

Agent,

GEORGE BARCLAY.

THE LATE MR. FRED POOLE.

As briefly announced last week, the death of Mr. Frederick Poole of Myriorama fame took place at Newbury, on Thursday, Jan. 17th. The sad news of his sudden death created considerable sensation in town, and, although he had been under medical treatment during the three weeks' stay of the show in Reading, there was no reason to expect so sad and sudden an end. It appears from the evidence given at the inquest that, accompanied by his sons, his nephew, and a number of the company, the deceased went fishing to Bull's Lock, and, in the excitement of landing a fish, the weakness of the heart became manifest. Although aid was immediately summoned, life had fled, and all that could be done was to convey the body to the "Swan" Hotel to await the inquest.

The deceased was a member of the Poole family who have achieved fame and fortune as public entertainers. For many years Poole's Myrioramas have enjoyed a wide popularity as a means of instruction and amusement. The famous pictorial and mechanical representations of the various wars of modern times, and places of interest throughout the world, have been familiar to several generations. The Pooles also improved and "ran" with great success "Professor Pepper's Ghost," which mystified thousands, and in addition they were proprietors of theatres in various parts of the country. There were four brothers who succeeded to the extensive business established by their uncles, Messrs. G. W. and Charles Poole, and developed it still further into a number of thriving concerns which are now touring the kingdom, attracting large audiences everywhere. It is a long step from the old-time peep-show to the elaborate myriorama, but the process of evolution has been brought about by the enterprise and knowledge of the public taste by the Poole's, whose efforts have been rewarded by great success. The elder brother was Mr. Joseph Poole, who settled down at Malmesbury, in Wiltshire, and took a leading part in its public life, being an Alderman and Mayor of the borough, and one of its most useful citizens. Mr. Fred Poole was his younger brother, and he also had his home at Malmesbury, where he was a member of the Town Council, and interested himself in the institutions of the town. The deceased was only forty-one years of age, and leaves a widow and two sons of eleven and seven.

After the formality of the inquest, the body was removed from Newbury to Malmesbury, and was reverently deposited in the Cemetery Chapel until the day of the funeral, Monday, Jan. 21st. The town wore an aspect of mourning, all the business houses and many private residences displaying drawn blinds or closed shutters. At 3 o'clock the coffin, of polished oak, with brass furniture, and a plate bearing the following inscription:

FREDERICK POOLE.
Died January 17th, 1907,
Aged 41 years.

was borne to the entrance of the cemetery, where

THE LATE MR. FRED POOLE

it was met by the Rev. G. Windsor Tucker (vicar of Malmesbury), who conducted the ceremony. The family mourners consisted of Mr. George Poole, Mr. Harry Poole, and Mr. Charles Poole (brothers), Mr. Wolseley Poole, Mr. Clement Milsom, and Mr. W. Rich (nephews), and Mr. F. Meyer. The Mayor and Corporation attended in their official capacity, headed by a posse of police under P.S. Batchelor. The members present were the Mayor (Mr. A. Adye), Mr. T. Reed (ex-Mayor), Aldermen H. Garlick, T. L. Hinwood, and J. Moore, Councillors J. G. Bartlett, H. Clark, O. Pike, W. Woodman, C. Miller, W. Ponting, H. Farrant, and A. L. Forrester, with the Town Clerk (Mr. M. H. Chubb), the Borough Surveyor (Mr. C. Bowman), the Collector (Mr. W. G. Perry), the Borough Treasurer (Mr. C. T. Wiles), and Supt. Collins. Among those also present were Major S. E. Doswell, Messrs. J. Alexander, Harry Jones, T. W. W. Hindle, F. Newman, W. Hayes, T. Bower, M. Sealey, J. Walker, H. Randell, etc.

Appended is a list of the floral emblems: "To my dear husband, from his sorrowing wife"; "To dear father, from Gordon and Leonard"; "With deepest sympathy, from Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Poole and family, Wootton, Gloucester"; "With deepest grief, from Harry and Annie"; "With deepest sorrow and ever loving memory of dear Uncle Fred, from Minnie and Bill"; "In ever loving memory of dear Uncle Fred, from Clara"; "Deepest sympathy, from Wolseley"; "Deep and sincere sympathy, from Ada and Percy"; "Our sincerest and most heartfelt regret—Florrie and Clem"; "With deepest sympathy to Uncle Fred, from Emma and Charlie"; "With heartfelt sympathy and deep regret, from Susie, Verona, Malmesbury"; "With deepest sympathy and regret—Mr. Harry Stewart and family"; "Deepest sympathy, from Fred and Nell Meyer"; "With sincere sympathy, from Mr. and Mrs. Henry Houston"; "With Mr. and Mrs. Somers' deepest sympathy"; "With deepest sympathy from Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Gannon"; "With deepest regrets, from 'The Acmes'"; "With deepest sympathy, from A. E. Rogers"; "With deepest sympathy, from brother and sister at Bognor"; "Deepest sympathy, from Harry Dowsett"; "A token of respect, from Florence Hamilton"; "With deepest sympathy, from G. French and family" "A last tribute of respect for a good master, from the staff"; "With sincere regret, from the orchestra"; "With sincere regret, from the staff of the Palace, Porth, South Wales."

The undertaking arrangements were carried out satisfactorily by Mr. F. Compton.

B. T. BURNETT, who is now finishing a capital engagement with Fred Karno, Esq., as Mr. Richardson, on the front of "Ye Olde Richardson's Theatre," is now seeking suitable work as manager of any show, portable or permanent, where his well-known ability and long experience will be useful.

PORTABLE THEATRES.
AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

In the Chancery Court of Lancashire, sitting on Friday, Jan. 25, at St. George's Hall, Liverpool, Vice-Chancellor Leigh Clare heard a case of considerable interest to theatrical people.

It was an application on behalf of Mrs. Newell, proprietress of a wooden theatre, known as the "Ormskirk Wooden Hut," for an interim injunction to restrain the Ormskirk Urban District Council from pulling down or interfering with the structure.

Mr. R. Cunningham Glen and Mr. Courthope Wilson (instructed by Messrs. Brighouse, Ryland, and Co) were counsel for the applicant, and Mr. John Rutherford and Mr. Gardner (instructed by Mr. F. C. Hill) appeared for the Ormskirk Urban Council.

Mr. Glen remarked that this was an action in which an injunction was claimed by Mrs. Newell, the owner of a portable theatre, to restrain the Ormskirk District Council from executing a threat to pull down and remove the building which she had erected in a field off Hants-lane, Burscough, Ormskirk. The council contended that the theatre was a building which came within the amended Public Health Act of 1890 and their own bye-laws. The structure was so contrived that it could be easily erected and taken down for the purpose of travelling from one place to another. The plaintiff had owned the theatre for eight years, and her father for seventeen years before her. On Sept. 7 last the plaintiff applied to the Ormskirk justices for a licence to erect the theatre off Hants-lane for a period of three months. This application was granted, and the plaintiff carried on entertainments in the building. No suggestion was made that plans were necessary or that the permission of the district council should be obtained. At the expiration of the three months Mrs. Newell applied for a renewal of her licence for another period of three months, and then for the first time opposition was made. Mr. Glover opposed on behalf of the Ormskirk Working Men's Institute, which was in a sense a rival establishment. The argument put forward was that the building was a theatre, to the erection of which the sanction of the Council should be obtained. The justices overruled this objection, and granted the licence for another three months. The council then passed a resolution calling upon Mrs. Newell to show cause why the building should not be pulled down, although an assurance was given by the plaintiff that it was not her intention to stay in Ormskirk longer than the three months for which the licence had been granted. In spite of this assurance and the explanation that the theatre was only a temporary structure, the council ordered its removal within seven days, unless Mrs. Newell entered into a bond binding her to remove the building whenever called upon by the council. The plaintiff was advised that such a bond would prejudice her greatly, and she declined to give it. Her case was that the theatre being a temporary structure did not come within the Public Health Act or the council's bye-laws, which were only intended to apply to permanent buildings.

Mrs. Newell, the plaintiff, gave evidence in support of counsel's opening statement. She said she had travelled with the theatre all over Lancashire and Yorkshire. She had never stayed in one place less than three weeks or longer than five months. There were over 200 such portable theatres travelling throughout the country. They were all constructed in the same way. She refused to sign the bond because she thought it would preclude her ever returning to Ormskirk, and would prejudice her with other district councils.

Further evidence was called in support of the plaintiff's contention.

Mr. Rutherford, on behalf of the council, said if that building was not a building within the meaning of the Act they might have a number of these portable theatres and the space always occupied by them. The plaintiff could have had plans of the building passed by the council. She knew that the local bye-laws applied to her theatre, and she had brought the case forward simply as a test case.

The Vice-Chancellor pointed out that it was a question of whether the plaintiff made an honest statement when she said she intended to remove at the expiration of the three months, or whether she merely intended to put the council off.

Mr. Rutherford contended that Mrs. Newell's statement ought not to be accepted, inasmuch as she declined to enter into the bond. He maintained that the theatre was obviously a building under the Act, and was capable of remaining for years in one place.

The Vice-Chancellor, in giving judgment, said that in this case Mrs. Newell was the owner and user of a travelling theatre, which she and her father had had for twenty-five years. It was stated, and there was no reason to doubt it, that the theatre had never been located in one place more than five months or less than three weeks. The question he had to determine was whether this theatre, when put up in the ordinary way, was a building within the Public Health Act or the Ormskirk Council bye-laws. His Honour said the building was constructed of wood and canvas, and there were certain props in the ground; but, after all, it was nothing less than a great big tent. There was no reason to doubt that Mrs. Newell intended leaving Ormskirk at the expiration of the three months, because she had applied for a licence at Skelmersdale. The case, said his Honour, was exactly the same as that of Nantyglo v. Ebley, and the decision of the Divisional Court was one which he should follow. The theatre, he held, was not a building within the Public Health Act or the council's bye-laws. He was satisfied that the building was there for a temporary purpose, and was not intended to remain permanently. The question as to whether it was safe for the public to go into, in case of panic or fire, was not a question for the district council, but for the licensing justices. Therefore, he decided in favour of Mrs. Newell, and against the district council. He made a declaration that this was not a building within the meaning of the local bye laws, and granted an injunction against the defendant council, with costs.

Following the trial of the action in the Chancery Court, the following discussion took place at the Ormskirk Urban Council when the clerk had to report that the Council was unsuccessful in the action regarding interference with the "wooden hut" in the town used as a theatre, and had to pay costs.

Mr. F. A. Jones objected to the accuracy of the minute read as having been passed at the last (special) meeting, and said the words "if necessary" to defend any action were not part of the original resolution.

This was admitted, and it was decided that the words be struck out.

Mr. Jones emphasised his point that the resolution the Council passed did not authorise proceedings to be taken, that the resolution which was passed was only carried by four votes to three, that those who voted in its favour comprised only one-third of the Council, and that a special meeting ought to have been called, in which case he was confident that the expensive litigation that had arisen would not have resulted. The costs of an action would be anything between £200 and £500, and it would mean a 3d. to 5d. aditional rate. Instead of, as a councillor put it, making some one else bow down to the Council, that authority had been humiliated, and, like poor Cicero, they had been sold into the hands of a woman. He was strongly of opinion that a special meeting should have been called before launching into such an expensive action. Had such a meeting been called he felt sure the Council would have accepted Mrs. Newell's (the proprietress of the theatre) assurance that she would leave the town when stated.

Several members having supported Mr. Jones's view,

Mr. James Draper said that, as the one in the town who had had to bear the brunt of the proceedings more than anyone else—in fact, he had been serenaded by young people to the tune of "The little wooden hut," whilst he had been booed and hissed at, and his children had not been allowed to go down the street without being insulted—he would like to make a little explanation. He said the proceedings were taken on the advice of counsel, and that the Council felt that it was not right that outsiders should be allowed to do what was not allowed in the case of their own ratepayers. But had he thought that the plaintiff in the action was going to be urged on by excited people and supported by funds provided by the theatrical profession, he should have hesitated and said, "Keep your wooden hut fifty times before running the town into this mess." He did not deviate from the position he had taken up in the least, and as far as his seat on the Council was concerned, he would forfeit it fifty times rather than depart from the strict line of duty.

It was ultimately resolved that the action of the clerk in taking steps to defend the proceedings against Mrs. Newell be approved and confirmed. It was further resolved that the Council regretted that a special meeting of the Council was not called to further consider the matter before proceedings were commenced.

SHOWMEN OF TO-DAY.

MR. W. C. BURNS.

In the very front rank of the small band of men who have the distinction of being trained by Barnum, of American show renown, stands W. C. Burns. Born at Chicago of Scotch parents in 1864, he was at an early age apprenticed to Barnum, and accompanied that famous showman in his various circus and other enterprises when he came to Great Britain in 1877. Leaving Barnum, he became secretary to the Cavalry Theatre at Aldershot under the late Sergeant Swinyard, and, with that distinguished riding-master, helped to make the cavalry school a great success.

Whilst at Aldershot Mr. Burns came under the notice of the celebrated war correspondent, the late Archibald Forbes, who engaged him to be special dispatch courier with him in Zululand in 1879. To quote Mr. Forbes' own words, "You look just like the chap I require to rough it in the field." To finish this extremely interesting part of Mr. Burns' career as dispatch messenger with the famous war correspondent, Mr. Burns is the proud possessor of the Zulu medals 1879, medal with three clasps, Isandulu, Rorke's Drift, and Ulundi. He was through the South African War of 1881, and holds the medal of that campaign, being present at the fateful Majuba Hill. His other distinctions include the Egyptian medal, 1882, with three clasps—Tel-el-Kebir, Kassassin, and Abou-

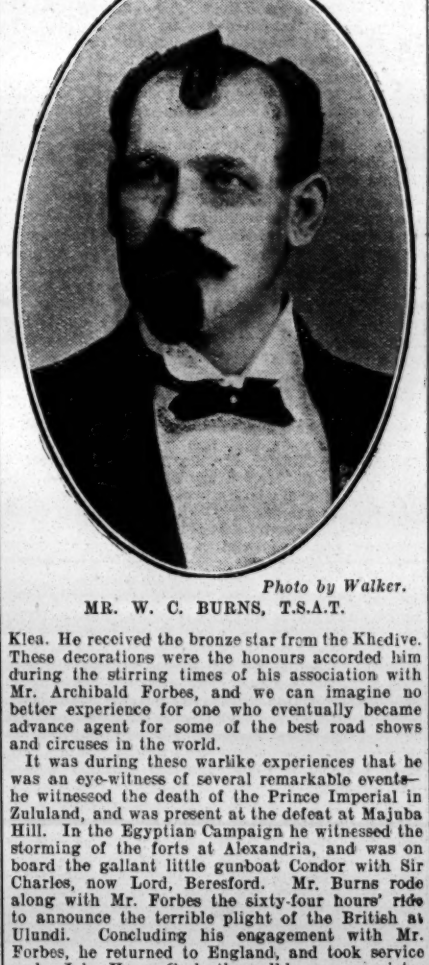

Photo by Walker.

MR. W. C. BURNS, T.S.A.T.

Klea. He received the bronze star from the Khedive. These decorations were the honours accorded him during the stirring times of his association with Mr. Archibald Forbes, and we can imagine no better experience for one who eventually became advance agent for some of the best road shows and circuses in the world.

It was during these warlike experiences that he was an eye-witness of several remarkable events—he witnessed the death of the Prince Imperial in Zululand, and was present at the defeat at Majuba Hill. In the Egyptian Campaign he witnessed the storming of the forts at Alexandria, and was on board the gallant little gunboat Condor with Sir Charles, now Lord, Beresford. Mr. Burns rode along with Mr. Forbes the sixty-four hours' ride to announce the terrible plight of the British at Ulundi. Concluding his engagement with Mr. Forbes, he returned to England, and took service under John Henry Cook, the well-known proprietor of so many equestrian establishments in Scotland. After a most successful period of work in the circus world he took over the management of the late Victoria, now Gaiety (varieties), Glasgow, under the proprietorship of George Testo Santé, and was one of the pioneers of two-houses-a-night shows.

Mr. Burns has been successively and successfully manager for Mr. Macnaghten's variety house The Grand, Sheffield; general-manager of the Galeffi-Neilson Grand Opera Company; manager of the County Theatre, Reading, and has just concluded two and a half years' engagement as agent-in-advance of E. H. Bostock's Wombwell's No. 1 menagerie, making in all six years' service with the Bostocks.

We have but briefly outlined the stirring events of Mr. Burns' career, but we have set forth enough to show that he possesses the unique distinction of management of theatre, music hall, circus and menagerie. We have detailed enough of his varied experiences to indicate that about such a man there must be that "magic atmosphere of personality" that constitutes "leadership of men" and great capacity of adaptation to circumstances. With an experience of twenty-three years in every branch of the world of shows, we confidently anticipate that Mr. Burns will yet reach the highest distinction in the business to which he has devoted his life and talents.

He is a very able and expert advertiser, and combines with management the press agency of the concerns with which he is identified. He is blessed with a fine manly presence, being 5ft. 10in. in height, and weighs close upon 18st. Mr. Burns is a fluent and eloquent speaker, and is gifted with a powerful, resonant voice, and it is worthy of note that he is a life-long abstainer and non-smoker.

Mr. Burns is now resting at 18, St. Mary's-road, Sheffield, and, as a reference to our advertisement columns will indicate, he is not only resting but waiting for whatever good thing good luck may send his way.

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.

President, Lord George Sanger.

Hon. Chaplain, the Rev. T. Horne.

Hon. Treasurers: W. M. Mitchell, Esq., Manchester Centre; F. H. Pedgrift, Esq., London Centre.

Hon. Secretary, T. Hurst, Esq.

Office of the Guild: *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London, W.C.

OBJECTS OF THE GUILD.

1. To conserve the business interests of all open-air amusement caterers and entertainers, whether menaced by faddist legislation or by public bodies.

2. To vindicate the character and the avocation in life of the showman whenever unjustly maligned or attacked.

3. To defend the fairs and holidays of the people whenever and wherever threatened, and to encourage all legitimate efforts for uplifting and betterment of the entertainments of the people.

Further subscriptions, whether from members, traders, or friends, may be sent to either of the hon. treasurers, the hon. secretary, or to the Guild secretary, *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE GUILD FUNDS, 1906.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
J. Hibbert and Sons	4	0	0	G. H. Cornwall	0	10	6
James Pettigrove and Sons	2	2	0	Mrs. John Cornwall	0	5	0
Alf. Ball	0	10	6	W. Bishop	0	5	0
				G. T. Williamson	0	5	0

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE GUILD FUNDS, 1907.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Lord George Sanger	100	0	0	George Beach	0	10	6
Proceeds of the Bolton Ball, per Robt. Pike, Esq.	21	19	4	Wm. Le Neve	0	10	6
E. H. Bostock	5	5	0	J. H. Chipperfield	0	10	6
C. Burrell and Sons	5	0	0	T. Burgin	0	10	6
W. Payne	3	3	0	W. Moore	0	10	6
Sir Robert Fossett	2	2	0	J. Butlin	0	10	6
T. Clarke	2	2	0	Wm. Beach	0	10	6
Hastings and Whayman	2	2	0	H. Taylor	0	10	0
T. E. Read	1	1	0	C. Hyatt	0	10	0
C. Smith	1	1	0	J. Searle	0	10	0
Frank Turner	1	1	0	Minerva Automatic Co.	0	10	0
H. Scard	1	1	0	F. A. Glover and Co.	0	10	0
Mrs. Pettigrove	1	1	0	H. Hughes	0	10	0
Marshall Hill	1	1	0	W. Fisher	0	7	6
R. H. Mellor and Sons	1	1	0	J. Edwards	0	5	0
J. Wentworth	1	1	0	R. Holdsworth	0	5	0
Marenghie et Cie	1	1	0	T. White	0	5	0
T. Smith (G.C.R.)	1	1	0	T. Bolesworth	0	5	0
Ben Mitchell	1	1	0	J. Saunders	0	5	0
S. Forrest	1	1	0	Mrs. Traylen	0	5	0
Fred Gray	1	0	0	E. Bentley	0	5	0
Jacob Studt	1	0	0	J. Westray	0	5	0
R. Clasper	1	0	0	W. Westray	0	5	0
T. Creber	1	0	0	C. Bailey	0	5	0
J. Manders	0	10	6	C. Andrews	0	5	0
W. Bibby	0	10	6	Mrs. Andrews	0	5	0
H. Forrest	0	10	6	A. Gentle	0	5	0
				J. Marshall	0	5	0
				W. Walcat	0	5	0
				F. Wilson	0	5	0
				H. J. Rowe	0	5	0
				J. Wilson	0	5	0
				T. Stone	0	5	0

SUBSCRIPTIONS OF YORKSHIRE SHOWMEN'S FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
P. and T. Fitzpatrick	0	10	6	Joseph Amos	0	5	0
G. Marshall	0	10	0	Mrs. Shaw, Victoria Hotel, Sheffield	0	5	0
Dunwell Johnson	0	10	0	Enoch Parker	0	5	0
Caleb Johnson	0	10	0	Manny Bently	0	5	0
Mr. Shaw, Victoria Hotel, Sheffield	0	10	0	Walter Shaw	0	5	0
Mr. Lund, Smithfield Hotel, Sheffield	0	10	0	Elija Ball	0	5	0
J. Corrigan	0	10	0	G. Ling	0	5	0
E. Tompson	0	10	0	William Pedley	0	5	0
Brayshaw	0	10	0	W. H. Marshall	0	5	0
Mr. Butterfield	0	10	0	Harold Shaw	0	5	0
A. Gledstone	0	10	0	Miss Wood	0	5	0
John Thomas Cooper	0	5	0	Mr. Frank Richards, Sheffield	0	5	0
Wilfred Turner	0	5	0	Butcher	0	2	6
Wright and Co.	0	5	0	Tom Tarrar	0	2	6
William Ratcliffe	0	5	0	Joe Burgess	0	2	6
Herbert Baines	0	5	0	Albert Ockroyd	0	2	6
W. H. Doubtfire	0	5	0	Tom Lever	0	2	6
Steve Waddington	0	5	0	Dicky Middlebrook	0	2	6
Walter Steward	0	5	0	Jack Percival	0	2	6
				J. Seed	0	2	6
				Peter	0	2	6
				Fawsett	0	2	6

The above list is correct in accordance with the lists sent in by various committeemen enrolling members. The Guild secretary requests that any members not listed as above will communicate at once with him, and the mistake will be rectified in future publications of the list of members' names.

THE LATE JAMES MANDERS.

The funeral of this veteran showman took place at Kingston Cemetery, Plymouth, on Monday, Jan. 28. The chief mourners were:—Mrs. Manders (widow), James Manders (son), Joseph Manders (son), Albert Manders (son), George Manders (son), Miss Ellen Manders (daughter), Mrs. Albert Manders (daughter-in-law), Mr. William Manders (representing Mrs. John Manders and family), and Mr. Peter Brown, jun. (nephew). Mr. William Hancock (representing the firm of W. C. and S. Hancock, Winter Gardens, Plymouth), Mrs. Symonds, Mrs. Baines, Mrs. Jacob Studt, jun., Mr. Wm. Symonds, jun., and many other show people attended to express their sympathy with the sorrowing family.

Mr. Wm. Hancock with his well-known kindness has done things possible to lighten the burden of grief and trouble cast so suddenly upon the widow and family.

The wreaths were from Mrs. James Manders and family, Mr. and Mrs. John Collins, Mr. and Mrs. and C. S. Hancock, Mrs. John Manders and family, Mr. Horatio Manders, Chipperfields family, Mr. and Mrs. James Holloway, Mr. and Mrs. George Austin, Mr. and Mrs Symonds, sen., Mr. and Mrs. Symonds, jun., Mrs. Jacob Studt, Mr. J. Pitt, and several others.

The funeral was beautifully conducted and carried out by Stapleford and Son.

MR. TOM NORMAN'S latest "discovery," the thought-reading Collier and his child, fra' Sheffield, in a "Zancig" turn, are doing phenomenal business at the Holloway Empire.

MESSRS. JOE AND BERT BURNELL, who are playing the parts of Man Friday and Saturday in the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Bradford, have been re-engaged by Mr. J. Hart for the same parts next year.

MISS MARIE LLOYD was unable to appear at the Empress, Brixton, on Saturday evening through a severe cold. Miss Tots Davis very ably deputised for her, and received quite an ovation.

THE Factory Nightingales (Dolly, Agnes, and Maud), after a successful five weeks at the London halls, go into the provinces for a short tour and return to town in May.

A REGATTA will take place at Evesham on May 20, and a fête at Inkberrow, Worcester, is fixed for July 1.

THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

MR. BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

Once more we take pleasure in opening our columns to *The Era* New Year's Shilling Fund on behalf of the Music Hall Home, and in doing so we take still further pleasure in being able to associate with that appeal the names of the president of the fund, Mr. Thomas Barrasford, and Miss Vesta Victoria. Mr. Barrasford's kindly offices in connection with the Music Hall Home are well known, and the fact that he has again given permission for the use of his name in calling attention to the requirements of the home is a guarantee—if, indeed, guarantee were needed—that he is satisfied as to the way in which the institution is being conducted, and that he considers it worthy of support. It is also gratifying to be able to associate with the New Year's appeal such a prominent variety artist as Miss Victoria. When seen at her delightful home in Stockwell Park one day this week by our interviewer, Miss Victoria, who, by the way, is now commencing her preparations for her forthcoming visit to America, stated that she would be delighted to give what assistance she could in such a worthy cause. Surely, with such sponsors, the money should come rushing along with the swiftness and volume of an avalanche.

There can be no question as to the usefulness of the Music Hall Home. Its address is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E., and Mr. and Mrs. Fruin, the secretary and matron respectively, put forward every effort for the comfort of the inmates. At present there are eight of these, and the desire is to increase the number, which can only be done when sufficient funds for the purpose are collected. During the past year two or three of the temporary inmates have recovered their health and strength sufficiently to enable them to look for engagements. These secured, they left the Home, and the vacancies thereby created were immediately filled up. Now, this home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work which has been performed by the institution in the past, as this must be within the recollection of our readers. The ages of the inmates range from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the home until the day of their death, and their funeral expenses will be paid for out of the funds of the home. The vice-presidents and the committee are sincerely desirous of increasing its scope of usefulness. They would like to be in a position to afford shelter to many more deserving members of the variety profession, who have been stricken with poverty and illness in their declining years.

We feel we need say little more. Mr. Barrasford and Miss Victoria join in a strenuous appeal for the generosity of the profession in support of *The Era* Shilling Fund. When, twelve months ago, we brought before our readers the claims of this deserving charity, a very considerable sum of money was collected in separate shillings. That last year's appeal, however, and most of the money obtained by it, are, as Miss Marie Lloyd would say, "a thing of the past, old dear." We are entering upon a new year. What is the prospect? It is that of help badly needed by many of your brother and sister artists who are, in common parlance, "down on their luck," and some of whom, by reason of their age, are likely to remain in that unhappy condition.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Contents of collecting-box at the Hippodrome (late Tivoli), Leeds, one of Mr. Barrasford's halls, per Charles Weldon	5	7	9
Leoni Clarke	1	1	0
Collecting-box, Palace of Varieties, Ltd., Manchester, per Nelson Barry	1	0	0
Bros. Webb	0	10	0
Geretti	0	5	0
Belford and Mars	0	5	0
A. Lazarus	0	2	0

Collected by Mr. Horace Wheatley, £3 11s.

Horace Wheatley	40	Anthony	1
Terrance Wheatley, jun.	1	Claire Romaine	1
Catherleen Wheatley	1	Sydney James	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Gilbert Fernie	1
Eileen Wheatley	1	Harry Edson	1
Horace Wheatley, jun.	1	Leslie Romani	1
Grandma	1	Lizzie Kirk	1
Auntie	1	Emmie Romani	1
MacWheatley the Dog	1	Frank Turner	1
Edgar Marriott	1	Mrs. F. Turner	1
Frank Leon	1	J. G. Henderson	1
Ted Waite	1	C. Pastor	1
Edgar Romaine	1	Sister Marion	1
Robert Robertson	1	M. Egerton	1
Florence Lambeth	1	Fred O'Malley	1
		George Harvard	1
		Gus W. Blake	1

Collected by Mr. Geo. Rapley, £1 1s.

Sandy and Carl	2	Edwin Zarac	1
Nellie Moore	1	Fred Lloyd	1
Beatie Moore	1	Tom Shenton	1
Marion May	1	Syd Russell	1
Bertha St. Ruth	1	Chas. Denman	1
Cissie Conyers	1	Fred Bentley	1
The Sydney Girls	1	W. Parker	1
F. J. Little	1	Geo. Rapley	1
Chas. Zarac	1	Mrs. Geo. Rapley	1
Finest Zarac	1	Baby Rapley	1

Collected by Regan and Ryan, Court Theatre, Liverpool, £1 14s.

Malcolm Scott	5	H. Brockbank	2
Fanny Fields	5	Patty Yole	2
Regan and Ryan	5	M. R. M.	1
Harry Tate	5	Doris Dean	1
Hetty King	5	Poppy Wilkinson	1
Fanny Dango	2		

Collected by Mr. Gus Elen, £2.

Gus Elen (V.A.F.)	10	Edith Villa	1
Mrs. G. E.	1	Cruet	1
The Chickens	1	Boots	1
The Pheasants	1	The Dustman	1
Buller (St. Bernard)	1	Mrs. Carter	1
Major (Pomeranian)	1	Found	1
The Cook (16st.)	1	The Postman	1
The Housemaid	1	Admission	1
The Motor	1	Lizzie C.	1
The Gardener (Bob)	1	Meriah	1
The Parrot	1	Our Tyke	1
The Canary	1	New Pyjama 'At	1
Inky (Black Cat)	1	Luggage Man's (tip)	1
Four-Pots-a	1	Book-Boy's (ditto)	1
Twelve Coppers	1	Cab to *Era* Office	1
Two Sixpences	1		

Collected by Mr. Tom Fancourt, 15s.

Tom Fancourt	1	Margaret Ruby	1
Alf Selby	1	Queenie Clements	1
Harry Ray	1	Lottie Cora	1
Lillie Caldon	1	Florrie Cora	1
Arnold Richardson	1	Mrs. Howarth	1
Jennie Rubie	1	Anon.	1
B. Elton	1	Ernest Laws	1
T. Elma	1		

Collected by Mr. Billy Williams, £2 19s. 9d.

Billy Williams	5	E. I. S.	1
Miss Du-Roche	5	A. Hanson	1
Miss M. Sealby	5	W. Marshall	1
Andre Avocat	5	J. B.	1
Miss M. Langdon	2½	B. B.	1
Oliver Round	2½	J. Kelly	1
Roze and Calvert	2½	W. E. D. V.	1
W. W. Walton	2½	W. Clarke	1
Churnell	2½	O. L. Rendell	1
F. E.	2	Wirson Kurat	1
J. K.	2	T. Dare	1
Miss Mab Paul	2	Geo. W. Thorpe	1
Adelaide	2	H. B.	1
King	1½	I. B.	1
W. E. R.	1	Maxwell	1
F. D. B.	1	Graham	1

Collecting cards of subscriptions, as soon as filled, should be forwarded to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, *The Era* Office, 5 Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MR. DONALD HALL is about to exploit the Monte Carlo Publishing Company's latest publication, "My château on the Rhine," by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford; and expresses himself charmed with that delightful number, with which he hopes to achieve a signal success.

A TRIBUTE.

To those two inimitable healthy-toned comedians, Mr. Dan Leno and Mr. Herbert Campbell, who died both in the same year—1904:

Pluto, Lord of Hades,
Was struck with an idea.
To give a Christmas pantomime—
It sounds a little queer;
So he told his actor-manager
To look about a bit
For healthy-toned comedians
To entertain the pit.

So Pluto's actor-manager
Searched Hades far and wide
For healthy-toned comedians,
For many a day he tried;
Of course, they must be healthy ones
With jests and gestures fit,
For many virtuous families
Are crowded in the pit.

For in Pluto's wide dominions
The social problem's solved,
The virtuous rub their pinions
With the more or less involved;
For though noble county families
In Pluto's theatre sit,
They're all in the same boxes as
The people of the pit.

So 'twould prove a fearful scandal
If virtue there should fail;
Besides 'twould lend a handle
To *The Hades Daily Wail*.
And scores of virtuous people
Who've gone it just a bit
Would pen indignant letters
To the papers of the pit.

In vain the actor-manager
Scoured Hades low and lower
For healthy-toned comedians.
So summoned Death, "The Mower,"
And then and there commissioned him
To search the earth and git
Some healthy-toned comedians
To entertain the pit.

So Death, "The Mower," searched around
The confines of the earth,
But of healthy-toned comedians
There's somewhat of a dearth;
At length he came to Drury lane,
And then and there he lit
On two healthy-toned comedians
To entertain the pit.

He touched them with his awful scythe
And turned them into clay,
And in a flash of lightning
He bore them both away;
He took them down below the earth,
Stored snugly in his kit,
To entertain at pantomime
The dwellers in the pit.

And as he set them gently down
In that abode of pain,
The whole Hadean Universe
With joy was rent again;
Ixion rejoiced with Tantalus,
And swore they'd never quit,
While such healthy-toned comedians
Would entertain the pit.

Though we on earth still mourn their loss
And muse on merry times,
The hours we spent at Drury lane,
The happy pantomimes;
Just think of them across the Styx
Regaling fun and wit,
And soothing as they did on earth
The sorrows of the pit.

TAYLOR-JONES.

"VENDETTA."

A Dramatic Musical Scena, composed by James Howard, with Lyrics by Harry Lambert, and produced by Horace Sedger at the Shepherd's Bush Empire on Monday, Jan. 28.

Brother Angelo ..... MR. JAMES COWARD
Lay Brother Ambrose ..... MR. C. DURRAND
Leo Cavestri ..... MR. HOLLICK
Pietro Sartori ..... MR. HARRY LAMBART
Gilda ..... } MISS MILLICENT MARSDEN
Spirit of Harmony }

As an allegorical picture the scena *Vendetta* answers its purpose effectively enough. Apart from its immediate stage aspect, it is apparently intended to symbolise the moral contained in the lines:

"Oh, stay thy hand and go,
Angered tho' ye be.
Live thy life below
In peace and harmony."

According to the programme, the action takes place in the Church of Santa Cecilia, in the village of Girgenti, Sicily. Saving what is indicated by song and chant, the story is told by pantomimic action. The interior of the church which we are shown is very impressive, and its impressiveness is deepened by the sombre notes of the organ played throughout the piece as an accompaniment to the singing of an invisible choir. We learn the nature of the romance from the "argument" set forth upon the cinematograph screen before the rising of the curtain on the scena itself. One Pietro Sartori has sworn the oath of the vendetta against Leo Cavestri, a feud having existed between the two families for generations. Sartori, hearing of the return of Cavestri to their native village, determines to carry out his oath. We see the one follow the other into the church after the organ has burst forth into its opening strains. There is a struggle between the two men; but Cavestri's sweetheart, Gilda, enters the sacred edifice in time to frustrate the murderous intentions of Sartori. The girl disappears, and almost immediately, Sartori's evil nature once more overcomes him and he makes a second attempt to encompass the end of Cavestri. As they again come to death-grips the topmost pipes of the organ are thrown aside and Gilda appears before them in solemn angel-like majesty, dressed in shimmering silvery white, holding forth a cross, and—this time as the Spirit of Harmony—makes an impassioned appeal for peace and goodwill in a few beautiful verses of song. A few seconds later the lower portions of the organ open and reveal the choir arrayed in purest samite and chanting the Ave Maria. The would-be homicide is overcome by the vision, drops his stiletto, and in all penitence falls prostrate before the singers.

Miss Millicent Marsden enacts with quiet dignity and a proper appreciation of what might be called the religious grace inherent in such characters as that of Gilda and the Spirit of Harmony. Her vocalisation is likewise commendable, the delivery being appropriate to the subject of her lines. Mr. Harry Lambart as Sartori and Mr. Hollick as Cavestri suitably fulfil the requirements of their parts.

JOCK WHITEFORD'S latest London "hit" is "By the banks of Allen Water," published by the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Company, and written and composed by J. F. Lambe, who has written nearly all the popular comedian's successes.

MR. JOCK PRESTON (of the Three Prestons), had arranged to produce a new song, entitled "Will somebody take me home?" at the Oxford on Monday, but owing to unforeseen circumstances the production was postponed; the author-composer is J. F. Lambe.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS, ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

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THE PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E., Feb. 25, March 18, 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING, Feb. 25, March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER, May 6, 13, 20, 27, Aug. 5, 12, 19, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER, Mar. 25, April 1, 11 (3 nights), 15, 22, May 13, 20, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON, March 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD, March 25, April 1, 22, 29, May 20, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON, April 15, 29, May 6, 20, 27, June 10.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER, March 25, April 29, May 13, 20, 27, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON, March 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-class Company, for READING, Feb. 25, and DALSTON, Feb. 25.
Wire, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, GRAND T., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, March 11, May 6, onwards.
METROPOLE T., GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE, May 6, onwards.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE, March 18, 25, April 8, 15, July 15, onwards.
Address, SIDNEY BACON, Metropole T., Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE, March 4, 11;
METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD, March 11.
Wire, BACON, Gateshead.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD, March 18, April 1, 22, 29, May 13, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON, April 15, 29, May 6, 13, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY, Feb. 18, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1 (3 nights only).
Address, E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County T., Bedford.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-Class Companies, for vacant Spring Dates,
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS, March 11, 25, April 1, 8, June 3, 17, July 8, 15, 22.

PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
Mar. 30 (7 nights), May 20, 27, June 3, 10, 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22.

Easter vacant through disappointment at Hastings and Folkestone. Big Musical Comedies Wanted; Whit Week also vacant, both Theatres; must be Big Shows, or not entertained.
H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

GAIETY THEATRE HASTINGS.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Easter and Whit Weeks, Musical preferred.
H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Easter (Mar. 30, four or seven nights), also Whit Week.
H. W. ROWLAND, Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April 8, 9, 10 (three), and May 13 (six).
Address, HARRY YORKE.

WANTED, Companies for Opera House, Workington, March 7 (three nights), 11, 25, April 29, May 13; Athenæum Theatre, Lancaster, vacant Feb. 11 (?), March 11, 18, 25, April 8 (three nights), May 6, 13, 20. Address, STANLEY ROGERS, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

CORK OPERA HOUSE.
Vacant Dates,
March 4, 11, 18.
WANTED, a Strong Musical Attraction, for Easter Week, April 1, also Vacant April 15, 22, May 13, 20, June 3. Applications to Mr. JOHN HORGAN, Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEST BROMWICH, Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Gen.-Man., Mr. Herbert Vere.
WANTED, First-Class Melodramas, Musical Comedies, &c., vacant dates March 18, 25, on.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, Really First-Class Attractions, March 4, 25, March 4, 25, May 20, Aug. 12, 19, Sept. 2, and onwards.
JAMES BELL.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORTHING.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb. 7, 11, 28, March 4, 7, 14, 18, several, onwards; three nights, one matinée each instance. Only Good Companies need apply.
Wire for Feb. 7 and 11,
SEEBOLD, Worthing.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, May 13, June 3 and 17, July 15.
Apply, T. W. ROWE.

THEATRE ROYAL, HULL, probably vacant March 11, 25, May 13.
WANTED, Musical or other High-class Attraction. Address, WM. MORTON.

WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attraction for April 29 and May 20 (Whit). Silence a negative.
FRANCIS LAIDLER, Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Feb. 25, 26, 27, March 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, April 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

BRIDLINGTON SPA THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.
This theatre is being built on the site of the old one. Holding value £100. New scenery and electricity throughout. Vacant dates.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only, between July 29 and Oct. 31.
HENRY HAGUE, General-Manager.

WANTED, High-Class Musical Comedy or latest London successes, for the following dates:—
March 4,
March 11,
March 18,
March 25,
April 22, and onwards.
Address, CHAS. E. MACHIN, Avenue Opera House, Sunderland.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-Class Companies,

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER, Vacant March 25, onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH, Vacant Feb. 25, March 4, onward, with exceptions. (Last three nights of each week).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY, Vacant April 1 (Share or Certainty), onward, with exceptions.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY, Vacant April 1, onward, with exceptions.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE, Vacant April 1, onward, with exceptions.

"THE LOST CHORD," Vacant August 12, onward, with exceptions.

"SPAN OF LIFE," Vacant March 4, 11, April 1, onward, with exceptions.

"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S," Vacant April 1, 8, 22, onward, with exceptions.

"CINDERELLA," Vacant Feb. 18, onward, with exceptions.

Companies "Farmed" through Fit-ups.

To Let, on Royalty, "THE PRAIRIE FLOWER" and "OUR BRITISH EMPIRE."

Excellent Plants Printing.

All communications to ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

NEW ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BELFAST.
Proprietors, Alexandra Theatre Co.
A Pure Drama Theatre.
Only Theatre on the Co. Down side.
Population of that side, 80,000.
WANTED Big Drama Production, to open Building, July 22 or 29, also Autumn.
J. LEICESTER-JACKSON, Greenisland, Belfast.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRE.
Vacant Feb. 18, March 4, 18, 25, April 1, and on, with exceptions.
WANTED, First-class Attractions.
R. C. BUCHANAN, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 22 and Sept. 23.
WILLIAM MARTIN, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

THEATRE ROYAL, ILKESTON.
Manager and Licensee, Mr. L. F. A. ROGERS.
WANTED, Companies, April 15, 22, and 29, May 6, onwards. Silence a courteous negative.

THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
WANTED, First-class Companies. Vacant (through obliging), Feb. 25, March 4. Apply to H. CECIL BERYL.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 4, 11, 18, April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20.
Apply, JAMES KIERNAN, Owner and Manager.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, March 4, 14 (three), 18, and 25, and on, with exceptions. W. E. POTTS.

THEATRE ROYAL, EXETER.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 18, April 15, May 6 (5 nights), May 13 and 20. Apply, with terms, MANAGING-DIRECTOR, Theatre Royal, Exeter.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-Class Companies, for Feb. 25, March 11, April 1, 8, and on. Address E. B. GOULDEN.

AVENUE THEATRE, KETTERING.
WANTED, Good Companies, March 11, 18, April 1, April 11 (3 nights), April 15, May 20. Good Pantomime write. FRANK PAYNE.

WANTED, Big Musical Attractions, April 1, 8, 15, on, Grand, Radcliffe; also April 29, May 6, on, Grand, Chorley.
SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

LYCEUM THEATRE, GOVAN, GLASGOW.
WANTED, good Attraction (Drama or Pantomime, Feb. 25, also can arrange March 25 and April 1 (holiday week). Address, RICH. WALDON, as above.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Peterborough, good Companies, Feb. 25, on.
A. D. VERNON.

WANTED, for Autumn, Light Attractions. Address, HARRY ROUSBY, Theatre Royal, Leigh, Lancs. Proprietor, Mr. J. W. CRAGG.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Theatre Royal, York, for Feb. 25 and March 11 (not Drama). Apply, Waddington, Stonegate.

WANTED, Companies, March 4 (3 nights), 11, 18 (3 nights), 25, and on.
JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Company, Feb. 18.
Address, GERALD HARDING.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, HORWICH.
WANTED, Feb. 11 (?), 25, and onward, with exceptions, Good Co's.
Daybill and particulars, F. LEWIS.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Leading Theatre of the Town.
WANTED, Strong Attractions, March 4 (3 nights), April 8 (week). Apply, CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for Feb. 18, March 11, 18, 25, and April 1.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24a, Regent-street, S.W.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, POPLAR.
WANTED, Big Attractions, March 4 and 11.
Full particulars to CLARENCE SOUNES.

PIER THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, good High-Class Drama, for Feb. 18; also First-Class Companies, for May 13, 20 (Whit), all June, and various dates onward.
Apply, G. HAYES, Manager.

March 4.
WANTED, First-Class Attraction, for the New Theatre at Aberdeen.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24a, Regent-street, S.W.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, Vacant April 8, 15, May 6, 13, and 20, Aug. 5 and 12, and several Autumn Season dates.
CHARLES CAREY.

GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL.
WANTED, for May 6, and onwards, First-Class Attractions only; equitable terms given to companies that can draw money; excellent business is being done, and can be done, with good Attractions. Address, A. DE FRECE, 12, Cecil-court, London, W.C.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April 8, May 6, 13, Aug. 5, and on, with exceptions.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUNDEE.
Open all the Year Round.
WANTED, Strong Attractions, Panto., Musical, Dramatic, Feb. 4, 11, and onwards, with exceptions. Best terms given. Address, FRANK PERCIVAL.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District. Holds £90 at Ordinary Prices.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 15 (first vacant date) and May 6, on. The Spring bookings for the above include Lionel Rignold and Ada Blanche in "What the Butler Saw," "La Poupée," Charles Chard's Pantomime "Goody Two-Shoes," James Kiddie's "Dick Whittington," "Human Hearts," "The Night of the Party," Norman V. Norman, "Two Little Vagabonds," Miss Maud Hildyard, "The Traitor," Allan Wilkie, "Sapho," "Lucky Durham," "A Warning to Women," "In Holy Russia," "The Power of the Cross," "Lights Out," J. B. Mulholland's "The Electric Man," &c.
The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions Touring.
All Applications for Dates to HUGH ROBERTSON, Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Leading Attractions, May 6 and 13, and August Bank Holiday.
In years past it was a reproach that decent business could not be looked for in Derby, however great the attraction. All this has been altered under the personal supervision of the present management. Derby has a population of 110,000, and is the centre of the Midland Railway system. There is a big county family connection within an easy radius, who receive our weekly circulars. There is a prosperous trading community of theatre goers. There are 10,000 men employed in the Midland Locomotive and Carriage Works, besides other large industries. These are the mainstay of the pit and gallery. The pit seats 700, and the gallery 1,000, at 1s. and 6d. respectively. Five years ago the Carl Rosa Opera Company played to a gross of £510 on the week. Their returns have increased annually. The following is a summary of last week for the information of unbelievers:—

Mon., "Carmen"	£169	2	0
Tues., "Faust"	114	2	3
Wed., "Trovatore"	170	10	0
Thurs., "Lohengrin"	91	6	6
Fri., "Merry Wives of Windsor"	188	14	6
Sat. (Mat.) "Tannhauser"	124	18	6
Sat. (Night), "Bohemian Girl"	161	1	9
	1,019	15	6

Advance bookings were £190; and "East Lynne" played previous week to £220. A few choice dates are open next season for Star Attractions only. All communications to T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

WANTED, First-class Drama, Feb. 18, King's Theatre, Cardiff.
Apply, SAMUEL JAMES, Warwick House, 8, Warwick-court, W.C.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, LLANDUDNO.
Under new management.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, March 1 onwards, with exceptions. The new electric trams from Conway to Colwyn Bay stop at the Theatre. Address, A. E. VAUGHAN, 2, Hope-chambers, Leather-lane, Dale-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class Pantomime, Xmas, 1907.
Address, R. SINGLETON, Opera House and Winter Gardens, Southport.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, Good Attractions, Queen's Palace, Rhyl; Prince's Theatre, Llandudno; and Public Hall, Colwyn Bay; two or three nights each, Feb. 18, on. Apply, CHAS. CHAPLIN, Colwyn Bay.

WANTED, Known, Mr. W. E. Potts, Opera House, Dunfermline, would be pleased to arrange Stock Season with responsible Management, from April 8, on. Share or rental.

WANTED, Good Strong Dramas. Theatre open all the year round. Vacant dates, March 4, on, with one or two exceptions. Apply, R. CROW, T. R., Shotton, Durham.

WANTED, Special Attraction, for March 4, Grand Theatre, West Hartlepool.
FRED GRANVILLE, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. CORTON.

CASINO, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.
WANTED, First-Class Fit-up Companies, Musical Comedy preferred; Share or Rent. Apply, THORNELL, Casino, Bexhill-on-Sea.

COUNTY HALL, ST. ALBANS.
WANTED, good Companies, with own scenery, two nights, Feb. 25 onwards, Easter vacant. Sharing terms only. Apply, A. ROWDEN.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres, April 15, 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatre, March 25. Apply,
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, March 11, 25.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, March 25, Aug. 5, 12, Dec. 23.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 11, Sept. 9, Dec. 23.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 19, Sept. 15, 30.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 5, 12, Dec. 23, 30.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, May 20, Sept. 30, Oct. 21, 28.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Important Theatres, March 11, 25, April 8.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Theatre Royal, Sheffield.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 18.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 11.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Weeks of April 29 and May 13.
Scala Production.
Wire or write,
W. W. KELLY, 8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"HIS HOUSE IN ORDER,"
by A. W. Pinero.
as played at the St. James's Theatre for the past twelve months.
Mr. H. RALPH KIMPTON has arranged with Mr. George Alexander to Tour a Company with this London Success.
WANTED, Dates, for the Autumn.
Address, St. James's Theatre, S.W.

THEATRES WANTED.

ALLAN WILKIE.
ALLAN WILKIE.
ALLAN WILKIE.
ALLAN WILKIE.
ALLAN WILKIE.

Managers are requested to note that Mr. Wilkie has secured the services of Mr. G. Alexander Marsh and Miss Carrie Baillie until July 31, 1912, and his company will further include Miss Ina Cameron and twenty-five carefully-selected Artists.
This company is admitted to be the strongest cast of any Shakespearean company in the British Isles, and by further augmentation of the cast, new scenery by G. Bernasconi, Esq., and by purchase of additional wardrobe every means will be taken to make it the most powerful in every respect. This is also the only Shakespearean company with a complete plant of pictorial printing, specially cut by Messrs. D. Allen and Sons, consisting of 424 sheets without a repeat.
In future only absolutely first-class Theatres can be booked.
Bookings include:
Gaiety, Dublin.
T. R., Bradford,
T. R., Plymouth,
O. H., Jersey
(five weeks in nine months),
Lyceum, Ipswich
(three-and-a-half weeks in nine months),
O. H., Blackpool
(three weeks in fourteen months),
T. R., Blackburn,
Milton Bode's Theatres.
Managers in doubt regarding this Company kindly refer to the manager of any theatre I visit.
Only vacant Spring date, April 8.
Vacant Aug. 5, onwards, with exceptions.
WANTED, First-Class Theatres only. Apply.
ALLAN WILKIE, Opera House, Jersey (two weeks).

WANTED, Dates, Feb. 18, April 1. "TOMMY."
by Jerome K. Jerome.
Miss ANNIE HUGHES as TOMMY.
A striking success.—Daily Telegraph.
Miss Annie Hughes as Tommy has achieved a triumph.—The Eastbourne Daily Times.
Remarkable play by Jerome K. Jerome.
"Tommy" is a creation that is destined for no ephemeral career; it lingers in the memory like a fragrance. Plays like "Tommy" make us think.—Eastbourne Daily Times.
Address, Miss ANNIE HUGHES,
41, Portman-mansions, Baker-street, W.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, March 18, April 8, 15, May 13. CHARLES HARRINGTON, Prince's Theatre, Horwich; Belfast next.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.,
In the Romantic Irish Musical Play,
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, Easter, only vacant date for this Play. Grand production. "Rollicking Rory." Autumn. Feb. 4, Queen's T., Liverpool (six nights).

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, March 18.
Address, J. W. CORDINER,
Feb. 4, Durham (3), Grantham (3).

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY," No. 1 CO.
WANTED, April 1, May 13, Autumn from Aug. 5. Address, E. C. STAFFORD, c/o Samuel French, Ltd., 26, Southampton-street, Strand, London, W.C.
Wanted, to Lease, a good Provincial Theatre.

"SAPHO."
"SAPHO"
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
March 4, 11,
March 4, 11,
April 1.
No greater success Touring. Admitted by Press and Public to be the most popular version on the Stage. Enormous business everywhere.
Wire, JAMES BELL, Theatre Royal, Darlington.

WANTED, Dates for "THE END CROWNS ALL,"
Comedy Drama by Auguste Tullock.
A play for all classes.
Company second to none.
No expense spared to make this a Tremendous Success.
Vacant dates from May, onwards, with exceptions.
Wanted, June 10 and June 24,
to precede and follow Scarboro', North preferred.
Address all communications,
A. TULLOCH, 54, Gurney-street, S.E.

FRANK J. PITT and CHARLES HALLING'S CO.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, for this Successful Attraction, April 29,
May 13,
June 17, 24, July 1, on, with exceptions.
Feb. 4, New Century Theatre, Motherwell.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Feb. 18, Easter, April 22, onwards, with exceptions for the above Attraction.
Address, F. BROOKE WARREN,
C/o National Bank, Baggot-st.-bridge, Dublin.

LINGFORD CARSON'S REPERTOIRE CO.,
"MODERN ADVENTURESS," "OCTOROON,"
"HEART OF A HERO," and "TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN." A Huge Success. Enormous Bus. everywhere. Refer.
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant March 4, Aug. 26, Sept. 23, on. Wire for March 4. CHARLES DRAYCOTT, Grand, Walsall.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, Feb. 18, April 8, 22. CARSON, King's, Cardiff; next, Star, Swansea.

MRS. FRED J. KIRKE'S CO.,
"THE NAVAL DETECTIVE."
"IN OLD MADRID."
WANTED, for either or both above Musical Plays, good Theatres, Feb. 11, 25, March 4, First-class Company of Actors, Singers, and Dancers, including Mr. Gerald Anderson (late principal Baritone, "Les Cloches de Corneville").
All communications, MRS. FRED J. KIRKE, Theatre Royal, Crook.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, March 19, Aug. 19, 26, Sept. 16, 23. FRED BULMER, Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, First-class Theatre Easter Week. FRED BULMER, King's Theatre, Cardiff.

"FOR AULD LANG SYNE."
WANTED, Aug. 5, onwards. FRED BULMER, King's Theatre, Cardiff.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, FRED BULMER, King's Theatre, Cardiff.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, March 19, Aug. 19, 26, Sept. 16, 23. FRED BULMER, King's Theatre, Cardiff.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, Feb. 18. FRED BULMER, King's Theatre, Cardiff.

WANTED, Theatres for Musical Shows, Feb. 25, March 4, 11, and 18, Easter. Communicate, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-av., London, W.

MISS EMMA LITCHFIELD'S SUCCESS,
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 18, also Easter and Whit Week.
STUART CLEVELAND, Opera House, Treherbert.

"THE SLEDGE-HAMMER."
WANTED, Good Theatres, March 18, April 1, 15, May 20, only vacant dates till Autumn. GEORGE HENRY, Queen's Theatre Gateshead; or, 4, Duke-street, Adelphi, W.C.

WANTED, Nov. 18 and 25, "Revenge" and "Death or Glory Boys" Star Co., including E. HILL-MITCHELSON, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, May 6, May 6, through transfer, for "The Assassin," by E. Hill-Mitchelson. AUGUSTINE KNIGHT, Theatre Royal, Croydon.

"SINBAD,"
by J. Hickory Wood.
WANTED, for Christmas Season, 1907-8, popular theatre for this version; one of the biggest successes ever produced at West London Theatre. Refer W. Bailey, Esq. Thanks Harris Fineberg, Esq., for offer this season, Star, Liverpool.
Address, G. BEYDON PHILLIPS, Dalston T., London.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO'S.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Feb. 18, April 1, for this Great Play. New Uniforms and Effects.
Band of Drums, Fifes, and Bugles, for Parade.
A sure draw.

"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, Feb. 25, March 4, April 1, for this Great Sporting Drama.
Racehorses Toured.
Magnificently Mounted and Dressed.

"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, March 11, 18, and April 1, for this Absorbing Play.
Everything Entirely New.
Production, Feb. 25, Junction Theatre, Manchester.
Absolutely the only Vacant Dates this Year.
F. G. KIMBERLEY,
Theatre Royal, Glossop.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
WANTED, Known, Vacant for Best Theatres, Feb. 25, March 11, 18,
April 1, 8, and June 10.
Rapidly Booking Autumn.
Feb. 4, O. H., Blackpool.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEORGE KIRK'S
"HER LUCK IN LONDON" CO.
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
March 4, Sept. 9, 16, 30th,
Oct. 7, Nov. 25,
Dec. 16, 23, 30,
only vacant dates 1907.
CHARLES A. LEICESTER,
210, Burbury-street, Lozells, Birmingham

"HOME, SWEET HOME."
Mr. FRANK LINDO
and
Miss MARION WAKEFORD.
WANTED, Good Theatres, for Few Remaining Dates this year.
First Vacancy, April 22.
Address, FRANK LINDO,
H. M., Barrow; next, T. R., Whitehaven (return).

MR. ALEC HOOD and MR. AUBREY FITZ-MAURICE'S CO., in the Strong Romantic Play of the Napoleonic period,
"THE ANGEL OF UNREST,"
by Richard A. Green.
WANTED, Wanted, immediate vacant dates, First-Class Theatres only. For details see Companies' Column. Address, F. MARTIN MORRIS, 12, Wyke-gardens, Clapham-road, S.W.

"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON,"
by Geo. R. Sims.
WANTED, Feb. 11 (three nights), Midlands; March 18, London or South.
H. HOLLISTER, T. R., Rochdale.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, March 25 (North), April 22 and 29, and Whit Week.
DICKIE CLARE, Lyceum, Stafford.

"THE LADY DENTIST."
WANTED, April 1, Good Theatre, the new Musical Farce, Printing by D. Allen's. ALBAN ATWOOD, 3, Parsifal-road, N.W. Tel. 610 P.O., Hampstead.

WANTED, Dates, April, onwards, for the enthralling Play, "A Heart's Desire." ELLIMAN, 5, Vernon-st., Dublin; or, 1, Regent-terrace, Gateshead.

FRANK M. THORNE'S CO.,
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this First-Class Attraction, May 6 and 20.
May 6 and 20.
Apply, F. M. THORNE, Theatre Royal, Batley.

EDWARD McLEAN'S CO.,
"THE HERO OF THE FLAG."
WANTED, March 25, Easter, and Whit, April 8, 15. LESLIE VYNER, 7, Stanhope-terrace, Regent's Park, N.W.

WANTED, Dates, "My Old Kentucky Home," the new version "Uncle Tom's Cabin," special scenery, printing, company, coloured choir, ponies, &c. JOSH HYBERT, c/o Creber, Printer, Plymouth.

MR. JOE WALDRON'S GORGEOUS PANTO.,
"ROBINSON CRUSOE."
"ROBINSON CRUSOE."
WANTED, for this Grand Production, Feb. 11,
Feb. 11,
Wire or write,
E. H. BERTRAM, Manager,
This week, St. Helens;
Next, Grand, Nottingham.

WANTED, Managers with large Theatres having Feb. 18 open to communicate at once with J. F. ELLISTON, Bolton, who has the greatest combination travelling unexpectedly open for that week.

"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD,"
by Victor Stevens.
WANTED, for Christmas Season, 1907-8, Theatre for this version; a big success at Chester. Refer Milton Bode, Esq. Now paying return visit Dalston.
Address, G. BEYDON PHILLIPS, Dalston T., London.

Grand Production, "NO WEDDING RING." Strong Cast. Everything carried. Also Splendid Musical Comedy, "TWO MERRY MAIDS."
WANTED, March, May, and onwards. HARRY WARD, 3, Adelaide-st., Strand. 2,890 Ger.

"SHERLOCK HOLMES."
H. Hamilton Stewart in the Title-rôle.
WANTED, First-class Theatre, North or Midlands, February 18.
Add., WALTER J. BAYLIS, Prince's T., Poplar, E.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S COMPANIES.
"OLIVER TWIST" and "THE FOUR JUST MEN."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, for Easter Week. WILLIAM MARTIN,
3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

EDWARD MARRIS'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Musical Comedy Artists, for Stock Season of Musical Plays in Channel Islands.
Terms, &c.,
Theatre Royal, Grantham.

"SOMEBODY'S SWEETHEART."
WANTED, Full Company, Rehearse at once, baritone, eccentric comedian, character old man, and bright soubrette; also musical-director, pianist, tour through summer.
Terms, &c., T. R., Grantham.

"WHEN LONDON SLEEPS,"
Special week, Feb. 18.
WANTED, Entire Company, rehearse Feb. 14. LESTER COLLINGWOOD,
Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham.

"CLAUDIAN" CO.
WANTED, through releasing, tall, powerful, experienced Actor, with good delivery, one used to legitimate work preferred; rehearse Feb. 6. Age, height, recent photos, latest references and lowest terms, to WILLIAM MACLAREN, Deanholme, Victoria-road, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, Gentleman, to play Star Lead in New Play, one week (Easter), also Ladies and Gentlemen for other parts. Premiums references given. Box 4,293, "Era" Office.

WANTED, a Gentleman for Old Men and Responsibles, also a Lady for Old Women and Heavies, joint couple preferred; fares arranged, where known. CHARLES WRIGHT, Station-road, Fakenham (portable).

WANTED, Gentleman to play Small Parts. NORMAN V. NORMAN,
40, Churton-street, Victoria, S.W.

WANTED, Good Leading Gent., capable quiet intensity and pathos; also Lady, for aristocratic comedy, clear and distinct delivery. Particulars and terms, MANAGER, 36, The Park, Lincoln.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, rehearse Feb. 11, First-Class Leading Gentleman and Heavy Lady. Photos., full particulars, CARLTON WALLACE, Lyceum Theatre, Ipswich.

WANTED, Powerful Character and Juvenile Gentleman, rehearse Thursday, Glasgow, "The Anarchist Terror," and Répertoire. Lowest terms, refs., age, height, EDWARD NEVILLE, Gaiety Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Irish Character Comedian, used to Biddy Parts, Sing, Dance. Box 4,322, "The Era."

WANTED, a Lady and Gentleman, Amateurs, for tour of big musical comedy; must sing really well; a comfortable tour, seaside towns. Box 4,314, "The Era."

WANTED, for Tour, Talented Amateur Actors; no premium required; no salary paid. Particulars first instance, Box 4,297, "The Era."

WANTED, Amateurs, Ladies, Gents., for Sketches. Dancing taught. Partner required, join advertiser, lady, gent. Stamp. COMEDIAN, 34, Hall-st., City-rd., E.C.

WANTED, First-Class Vocal and Instrumental Artists, for Sundays. Address, SIDNEY BACON, Sunday Concerts, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.

WANTED, for London and No. 1 Tours, Choristers; must be young, of good appearance, and have excellent voices. Apply to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233a, Regent-street.

WANTED, Attractive Ladies desiring Chorus, own Musical Plays; experience unnecessary; no fees. Stamp for reply. MANAGER, 34, Stockwell Park-road.

WANTED, Fifty Young Girls, not over 5ft. 6in.; must be pretty and Graceful, with Knowledge of Dancing. Particulars and photos. (essential), "SKETCH," 43, Kellett-road, Brixton. No callers.

WANTED, Smart All-round Dancers, Troupe Work; able to sing an advantage. Letters only. GEO. NORMAN, Broadway Theatre, New Cross.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Lady, trained Contralto, with Travelling Choir or Quartette Party. Miss M. ROLFE, George Hotel, Alfreton, Derbyshire.

WANTED, Known, Young Lady desires Engagement as First-Class Vocalist and Pianist, in London Hotel or Tea-rooms. M., 79, Linnell-road, Peckham.

WANTED, Known, Young Man (22), experienced small parts, drama and comedy, sketches, anything respectable. MARTIN MOAR, Langside-place, Langside, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, by Smart Troupe of Dancers and Vocalists, up-to-date, Dis. Feb. 18, on, Musical Comedy preferred. MADAM, 14, Wellmeadow gardens, Catford, S.E.

WANTED, Len Loan, Comedian and Pantomimist, Disengaged for Sketch or Comedy, concluded Pantomime Saturday. 24, Townshend-terrace, Richmond, S.W.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

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WANTED, Pantomime Artists every description, for next season. Full particulars and references to ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

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WANTED, Assistant-Manager, Scenic Artist used to Mechanical Effects, and Sketch-writer.
Apply at once,
GENERAL-MANAGER, Hipprodrome, Sheerness.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

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WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO. LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrama "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Painting, Joinery, materials of uniform excellence, reasonable prices; large Studio and Workshop. CHARLES SAYER, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-rd., Croydon.

WANTED, Contracts, for Brilliant, Effective Scenery, attractive settings, lowest prices. Carlyle Scenic Studio, W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, that Sidney Beltram, Scenic Artist, has completed all Arrangements pro tem. Address, Theatre Royal, Seaham Harbour.

WANTED, Known, for Bright, Effective, and Cheap Scenery of all Kinds, Roberts and Co., Scenic Artists, Blucher-street, Liverpool-street, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, William Hemsley Junior, Theatrical Scenery and Priperties to the Music Hall Profession. Communications, 82, Harleyford-road, Kennington Oval, S.E.

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract, Town or Provinces. Address, 44, Randolph-gardens, Maida Vale, London, N.W.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, for the ROYAL HIPPODROME, BELFAST,
to Open March,
Experienced Stage-Manager, Electrician, Bill Inspector, Stage Hands, Door Men, Lady Attendants, &c.
Applications, with full particulars as to experience and references,
to be made to the General-Manager,
H. T. DOWNS, 2, Fulton-street, Belfast.

WANTED, First-Class Author, Producer, and Stage-Director. Only those with exceptional experience and ability apply.
Address, with full particulars as to references, &c., to FRED KARNO,
28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Acting-Manager; must be able to supply £50 cash guarantee or through a Society. References must bear strictest investigation. Tour starts Feb. 11. Apply, A. E. ABRAHAMS, 26, Gt. Eastern-road, Stratford.

WANTED, Gentleman, for Assistant-Management of Musical Comedy, about to be toured; must invest money in Syndicate.
Also opening for Lady with good voice.
Apply,
Box 4,320, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Young Gentleman can be Entertained as Assistant-Manager of First-class Touring Co.; moderate investment; salary. Box 4,318, "The Era."

WANTED, in a large and old-established Variety Agency, an intelligent Young Man, to train as representative; to the right man, with brains, and who is trustworthy, a brilliant future is assured. All applications received in strict confidence. Write, stating capacities, terms, and full particulars, to Box 4,299, "The Era" Office.

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WANTED, for Large Open-air Pleasure Grounds in the North of England, including Variety Theatre, Fairgrounds, &c.,
One accustomed to the Booking of Variety Artists and in touch with Proprietors of Side-shows, &c.
Apply,
stating age, experience, and salary expected,
and enclosing copies of testimonials, to
Box 4,308, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Young Advance Agent, abstainer, fit-up tour. Name towns worked, all particulars, wages, &c. MANAGER, 69, Gidlow-road, Liverpool.

Dancing.
WANTED, at Once, experienced Lady Manager, to take the charge of and bring out Young Lady who has studied Classical Dancing in Paris and London for four years. Has appeared with success at both places. Applicants should speak French, and be prepared to travel, and be able to take all responsibility for stage arrangements.
Reply, stating all particulars, references, and remuneration required, to
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WANTED, Property Man, capable of Plastic Modelling; Electrician with own perch cut fit. Terms, references, STANTON, 171, Stanhope-street, London, N.W.

WANTED, First-class Theatrical Electrician, to commence immediately.
Address, with terms and references,
MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, Wardrobe Mistress, shortly; if good, permanent engagement. Send age, last two references, lowest wages, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

MAMMOTH FUN CITY,
OLYMPIA.
WANTED, Known, Edward Court, Assistant-Manager of above, Disengaged Feb. 18, '07; open to receive offers for the Management of outside Amusements, Side Shows, &c.; first-class references, including ten years Earl's Court Exhibition and fifteen years with Mr. Imre Kiralfy.

MAMMOTH FUN CITY, OLYMPIA, Closes Feb. 16.
WANTED, Known, Prof. Burnett, after eight weeks specially engaged by Fred Karno, Esq., open to accept entire management of any Entertainment, settled or travelling; good accountant, King's English, living wage.

WANTED, Engagement, Assistant-Manager or Advertising, eight years' experience, Theatre and Music Hall; excellent references. ARTHUR COCKAYNE, 7, East-street, Plumstead.

WANTED, Known, Edward Walpole, Advance Representative, at Liberty to boom any class of entertainment, experienced, refs. Wire, 33, Southchurch-avenue, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, Known, any Music Hall Manager who requires a man of ability, original ideas, and administrative powers, is requested to communicate with L. L., 63, Mare-street, Hackney, N.E.

WANTED, Known, W. H. Grieves, Disengaged as Stage-Carpenter, own tools, resident or tour, or sketches or stage-manager, for Music Halls; good references. 29, Faunce-street, Kennington Park.

WANTED, Engagement by Carpenter, practical bench hand, also Properties, permanency preferred. Address, CARPENTER, 64, Dongola-road, Philip-lane, London, N.

WANTED, Engagements, Mr. and Mrs. Syd Russell, Carpenter, Wardrobe, Parts, three years Lingford Carson, Esq.; own tools and machine; tour or resident. 12, Bridport-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Young Lady, good dressmaker, Milliner, seeks Employment at Private Houses. Taken prizes for Ladies', Children's Fancy Dresses; good at alterations. Box 4,305, "The Era."

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For Tynemouth Palace by the Sea.
WANTED, Conductor (Violin), and Band of 12, to open Whitsuntide, for Season ending Sept. 28; Varieties and Selections. J. H. GRAHAM, 1, St. Andrew-street, Newcastle.

WANTED, First-Class Conductor (Violin), well up in Variety business. State lowest terms, references. HARRY BURNS, Tivoli, South Shields.

EASTBOURNE MUNICIPAL ORCHESTRA.
WANTED, Solo Violin (Leader), to combine B flat Clarionet. State salary required.
Apply, THEO. WARD, Devonshire Park, Eastbourne.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
WANTED, a Second Violin.
Apply, stating names and addresses for reference, to CONDUCTOR, Empire, Cardiff.

WANTED, Good First Violinist, to open Monday; permanency to good man. Apply, LEON THOMAS, 399, Romford-road, Forest Gate.

WANTED, immediately, Second Violin, for good London Music Hall. State age, experience, and if member of any Union. Write Box 4,324, The Era."

WANTED, Solo Cornet Player; must be a good one for a First-class Rifle Band in good station.
Special inducements and good prospects for a young man.
Apply to P. S., c/o Hawkes and Son Denman-street, Piccadilly-circus.

WANTED, at once, two Lady Cornettists (Fanfares), with knowledge of Mandoline preferred, First-Class Musical Act, on Halls. BILLING, 21, Newport-court, Charing Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, First Cornet.
Apply, with references, to
W. COLLINS,
Empire Theatre, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, to open Mon. Feb. 11, assist with fittings. Poole's Myriorama, Leeds. FRED MANN, Musical-Director.

SOUTHPORT CORPORATION MILITARY BAND.
WANTED, Solo and First Clarionets, Four Horns, Bass Clarionet, Bass and B flat Saxophones, Bassoon, Cornets, Baritone, and Bass Drum. Apply, with references, Messrs. BARTLE and RIMMER, Belmont Co., Southport.

WANTED, Good Second and Third Clarionets, Horns, Euphonium, Trombone, small Military Band, Yorkshire, play 2¾ hours per day Lowest terms, references, 23, Strawberry Dale-av. Harrogate.

THEATRE ROYAL, HULL.
WANTED, First and Second Horns, three performances next week, "Hamlet," Thursday and Friday evenings, and Saturday afternoon. Please write lowest inclusive terms, references, also permanency Viola; write, stating age and references. B. T. LITTLE, Musical-Director.

WANTED, to commence in May, First-class Second Horn, for the Bournemouth Municipal Orchestra; must be thoroughly experienced in High-class Music; permanent engagement, 4½ hours daily. No Sunday work. Apply with references and terms to Mr. DAN GODFREY, Musical Director, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth.

WANTED, a Good 'Cello, used to restaurant work, for London restaurant, to commence at once. Apply Box 4,313, "The Era."

WANTED, First-Class Pianist, one that can sing or do another turn preferred; good wage; good shop for good man. Box 4,294, "The Era."

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WANTED, Four Young Ladies, under 18, viz., Pianist, Soprano, Contralto, and Moneytaker, for a Short Ciné Tour. Pett's Perfect Pictures, Catford.

WANTED, immediately, Musicians all Sorts.
Apply by letter,
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WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violinist), Disengaged, composer of Music, "Silver King," &c. Dramatic Music, &c., composed and arranged. 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Chas. Wareham, Disengaged, late Leader Granville, Metropolitan, Ealing Hippodrome, also Conductor Collins's, Richmond T. 47, Black Lion-lane, Hammersmith, W.

WANTED, Known, Edmund Petersen, Conductor (Piano), on Tour with "A Country Girl" Co., at Liberty May 1. This, N. T., Aberdare; next, Royal, Exeter.

WANTED, by Smart Pianist-Conductor, immediate Re-engagement, any Business, Arranger; young. Wire or write, CAMPBELL, Star T., Swansea.

WANTED, by First-class Conductor, age 27, Engagement, permanency or otherwise. Terms moderate. Splendid refs. Total abstainer; Theatre or Music Hall. Apply, Box 4,303, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as Conductor or Pianist, strictly steady, thoroughly competent, any business; good arranger. GEORGE HILL, 34, Portland-place, Carlisle.

WANTED, Known, Geo. Clough, Musical-Director (Violin), at Liberty, concludes to-night nearly four years' Conductor, Palace, Blackburn; age 30; steady and reliable. Address, GEO. CLOUGH, 2, Tattersall-street, Blackburn.

WANTED, Known, T. J. Klee, Liberty 11th; 7 years conductor, Queen's Varieties Glasgow. At present, Conductor, Panto., King's, Sunderland.

WANTED, by Violinist, Pupil of Professor Sevcik, First-Class Orchestral Engagement; Solos if required; commencing June. KARNO, c/o White's Music Warerooms, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Violinist, First or Second, any Business, reliable, abstainer. Disengaged Feb. 9. FRED STODDON, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Engagement, Violin (combine Trombone), at Liberty Feb. 11; good references; sober and reliable. ROTHERY, 10, Graham-terrace, Burley, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement by good Violinist, well experienced, any business; good refs. G. W., 33, Brewerton-road, Oldham.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violinist, or Violin-Conductor, experienced varieties; library, excellent refs. A. SIMPSON, 16, King-st., Rockferry.

WANTED, Engagement, by steady, reliable Viola-Violin Player, theatre or music hall; good refs. Dis. Feb. 7. T. STOHR, 20, Sedlescombe-road, Fulham, London S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornet, experienced all Lines, steady and capable, at Liberty Feb. 11. JONES, 57, North Jackson-street, Coatbridge, N.B.

WANTED, by Good Solo Cornet, Engagement, any business, open immediately; excellent refs.; steady and reliable. W. KAYE, Cornettist, Hippodrome, Coventry.

WANTED, Engagement, as Second Cornet, Tour or otherwise. Apply, with particulars, H. RUSSELL, 4, Court-street, Leamington.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-Class Solo Cornet or Second Violin; high references; Theatre, Concert; good transposer. 25, Fitzroy-st., W.

WANTED, by First-class Clarionet, Engagement. Refs. C/o 59, Aldenham-street, St. Pancras, London.

WANTED, Engagement by Contra Bass, First-Class, experienced any business, London preferred; reliable; good refs. B. VINCENT, 36, Hardres-street, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, excellent Contra Bass, young, steady, fine instrument, contribute large library if desired; good offers only. Box 4,310, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Bass, 4 strings, good sober, reliable, excellent references, Liberty Feb. 9, any business, anywhere. JAMES, Hengler's Circus, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, by 5-string Double Bass, steady (same as 4-string with extra bottom B string), any Business; good references, Liberty Feb. 9. DICKEN, Marston-road, Stafford.

WANTED, by Bassoonist, Engagement, Orchestral or Military, London or Provinces; good refs. W. H. SECKER, 4, Ravensbury-villas, Mordenroad, Mitcham.

WANTED, Permanent or Summer Engagement, by Trombone (good); young, sober, and reliable, any Business; good refs. MATTHEWS, Trombone, Oadby, near Leicester.

WANTED, by First-class Trombonist, Engagement; reliable man; 12½ years' Army experience; Theatre or Music Hall. Box 4,288, "The Era."

WANTED, by Trombonist, Engagement, through closing, competent, reliable, any business, join immediately, excellent refs. Wire, G. DALGLIESH, 7, Glen-st., Edinburgh.

WANTED, Situation as Trombonist, Theatre or Music Hall; good references. FRED PEEL, 20, Warley-street, Parkinson-lane, Halifax.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, for Little Girl, on 'Cello; also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLS, 35, Granville-square, King's Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, by experienced Lady 'Cellist, permanent engagement in London Hotel, or Tea Room, not live in; can combine Piano. Box 4,229, "The Era."

WANTED, an Engagement in or near Bournemouth, either as 'Cello, Base, or Flute and Piccolo; experienced; first-class references. Address, MEISENHEIMER, Suffolk House, Bennett-road, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Viola Player; combine Piano; experienced Orchestral Pianist; can Compose, Arrange. London preferred. Box 4,217, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Viola or Drums, Theatre or Variety.
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WANTED, Engagement, by Harpist, in Small Band or with Violinist, &c. HARPIST, 54, Battersea-rise, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo, thoroughly reliable, experienced all kinds of Bus. Permanency or Deputy. FLAUTIST, 137, Northwold-rd., Clapton, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flautist, smart, any Business.
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WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Orchestral Pianist and Vocalist, Café preferred. GRACE GOODWIN, 12, Juer-st., Park-rd., Battersea.

WANTED, Known, Pianist, Lady, good reader, Variety, Dramatic, Pictures. Permanent. Disengaged now. Wire or write, PIANIST, 1, Doverplace, Aberdare.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Pianist, Leader. First Violin, or Second Violin, any business. London or suburbs. BURBRIDGE, 22, Knowle-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Engagement as Pianist, by N. Robinson, Orcn. or self; exper. Var., Dram. business; good reader, steady, reliable; excel. refs. 46, Carney-street, Boosbeck.

WANTED, Engagement, as Accompanist to Professionals and others for private practice; sight-reader. London. ANNA C. SMITH, 46, Powell-road, Clapton, N.E.

WANTED, by Brilliant Pianist, immediate re-engagement, any business, young. Wire, PIANIST, 3, Nelson-ter., Swansea; Mon., 45, Edward-st., Bury.

WANTED, by Young Professional Lady Pianist and Vocalist, Engagement, permanent; quick sight-reader. Miss J. M., 1, Wells-buildings, Long-lane, Bermondsey.

WANTED, Engagement, by Showman's Pianist. ROBT. WALLACE,
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WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist, Orchestral, excellent sight-reader, capable of training Chorus; good references. R., 59 Amesbury-avenue, Streatham Hill.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Pianist; sober and reliable; good references. Address, PIANIST, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Staffs.

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WANTED, Engagement, as Drums, Effects; experienced Dramatic or Variety. Liberty Feb. 4, Manchester preferred. POOLE, Post Restante, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Known, Mme. H. E. Angless's Ladies' Orchestra, open to accept engagements. From three to thirty performers. 78, Norwood-road, Herne Hill, S.E.

WANTED, Known, the Bradfield Ladies' Orchestra, 3 to 30 performers, excellent Soloists and Vocalists. Miss BRADFIELD, 4, Porteus-road, Paddington.

WANTED, Known, Shikissima Band, Ladies' Japanese Orchestra, at Liberty for Piers, &c.; brilliant costume, large répertoire. CONDUCTRESS, Glenthorpe, Chesterfield-road, Newbury.

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WANTED, The Shakespearean Ladies' Orchestra, 12-30 performers, beautiful costumes, fine criticisms; also the Gascoyne Quintette. Quartette, or Trio Terms and vacant dates, Miss GASCOYNE OLD, 238, Edgware-road, London.

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WANTED, Known. Herr Blomé's celebrated Berlin Meister Orchestra. Enormous success at Victoria Pier, Blackpool. Re-engaged for summer season 1907, commencing Whitsuntide till end of Sept. Few vacant dates, at Lib. for Easter. Address, HERR A. BLOME, care of W. De Saulles, 13, Pembridge-crescent, Bayswater, London, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Band, seven brass, Tenting or otherwise; good répertoire of music. JAMES, 15, Lower Drayton-place, Croydon, Surrey.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands, apply Bureau, 8, Bedford-terrace, Kensington. Quartet Disengaged, scarlet and gold or evening dress.

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KING OHMY'S GRAND NEW CIRCUS, HYDE.
WANTED, the Talent of the World, at once and for Future Dates,
All the Best Turns out write or wire to
KING OHMY,
Ohmy's Circus, Hyde, Cheshire.

BURTON'S FETES AND GALAS, SHEFFIELD.
WANTED, for Whit Week, June, July, August, onwards, Startling Novelties, Specialities, Spectacles, Aerial and Ground Acts of every description, Bars, Cycle, Acrobatic, Polo Teams, Knockabouts, Plenty of Work for Right People. Price no object. Send lithos., memos, terms, vacancies. GEORGE BURTON, Lyric Theatre, Liverpool.

FETES and GALAS,
Bank Holidays, 1907.
WANTED, Big Acts of a Sensational Character, Aerial Flying Acts, Acrobats, Trick Cyclists, and other Showy Dumb Novelties suitable for Open-air performances, at the Carmarthen Fêtes on Easter Monday, Whit Monday, and August Bank Holiday. Send terms and full particulars to PORTNELL, Carmarthen.

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125, Barcroft-street,
Grimsby.
WANTED, Acrobats, Gymnasts, and Specialities of all kinds; also Gala Sensations, must have actual lowest and bookings.

WANTED, Easter, Whitsuntide, onwards, High Rope, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Cyclists. Lithos., memos., lowest terms, permanent address, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Young Lady and Gentleman Acrobats, to join Troupe. State age, height, weight, list of tricks, ACROBAT, 18, Alexandra-road, Portsmouth.

WANTED, a Middle Man and good Tumbler, for Acrobats, must be young. GEO. SHERRY, 152, Lambeth-road, London.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence

WANTED, Known, Mlle. Rosini's Minfature Menagerie, just finished successful London season Next, Hippodrome, Lowestoft; Feb. 11, Queen's Theatre, Castleford; vacant Feb. 18 and 25.

WANTED, Known, the Three Ohmys will be at Liberty shortly, with their great Treble Acrobatic Equestrian Novelty Act; also a number of other first-class Acts.
Address,
CLAUDE OHMY, Ohmy's Circus, Hyde.

WANTED, Known, Little Bishop, Clown and Comedian, trick, comic, and other entrées. Ohmy's Circus, Hyde. Offers invited for summer or tenting. Good comic acts for galas. Address as above.

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WANTED, Neddy Vokes, Europe's Funniest Musical Comedian, Talking Knockabout Clown, Liberty Feb. 11, 18, home or abroad. Address, Royal Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Comical Walker, Talking Clown, with Good Comic Entrees, also Globe Speciality. Vacant Feb. 25; also Tenting. Empire, Cradley Heath.

WANTED, Known, Two Dominos, Clown and Donkey. The Beautiful Arabian Donkey, with a Brain, whose pedigree is traced for over two thousand years. A comic act. At Lib. Feb. 4. Com., Hengler's Circus, London.

WANTED, Known, Dan Gregory, Musical Acrobatic Eccentric, has made a big hit at Circus, Hull; highly complimented by management, at Liberty Feb. 4 and 11, with above Act. All correspondence, Circus, Hull.

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WANTED, Known, Hugh McCusker, Ireland's Favourite Comedian, singing, dancing, and talking clown, vacant for tenting. 9, Brunswick-place, Barnsley.

WANTED, Known, Les Steckels, Continental Stars, expert Gymnasts, Perpendicular Rope Artists, Chair Vaulters. Success Aldershot; Monday, Empire, Loughborough. Agent, STEBB.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty Feb. 18 and 25, Walonells, Eccentric Gymnasts.
Address, Italian Circus, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lolo, Charming Gymnast, and Little May, Contortionist. Managers invited to see Startling New Acts. This week, Queen's, Poplar, London. Liberty Feb. 4 and 18.

WANTED, Known, Leo Tardy Trio, just returned after Most Successful Tour in South America, 6 months, and Finish to-night, Colston Hall, Bristol; Greatest Success, 6 weeks, and third time there with Mr. Poole. We are at Liberty for Galas and Halls, England.
The Greatest Aerial Show on the Road.
Permanent Address,
Rue du Jour 11, Paris.

WANTED, Known, Swink and Swank, Comedy Knockabout Show on Flying Rings, also Double Agoustes, with good Entrées, at Liberty for Tenting. All letters, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, Excentric sur Bicycle Akt; les Le-Volls, Akrobatik Gymnastique Akt, free Tenting. T. R., Attercliffe; next, T. R., Chesterfield.

WANTED, Known, Joe Hastings thanks James Lloyd and Mrs. Walter Scott for tenting offers; also Mr. Emmerson, Hull, for offer as ringmaster; still at liberty for tenting. Queen's Castleford; next, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, to join Troupe, or offers, by smart Back and Arab Tumbler; speak lines. COOPER, 2, Glenthorne-road, Walthamstow, Essex.

WANTED, Known, the Two Brothers Kettering are at Liberty to accept Engagement (through closing with Mr. E. H. Bostock's Continental Menagerie, where we have been close to 12 years), one as Agent in Advance or Interpreter, 22 years' experience on road and rail; the other brother with his splendid Band, Brass, Reed, or String, any number, good répertoire, and first-class references; sober and honest employees; six languages spoken—French, English, German, Dutch, Flemish, and Italian. We go to any part of the world. Should like to bring out a good Tenting Circus and Menagerie combined. For terms, &c., address, Brothers KETTERING, 27, Rue de la Poterie, Mons, Belgium.

WANTED, Engagement as Tentmaster, thoroughly experienced, at home or abroad. JOHN WARD, 1, Jubilee-place, Regent-road, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known, W. Duffy, Leader or Solo Cornet, open for Tenting; good répertoire. Address 9, Brunswick-place, Barnsley, Yorks.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known,
All
Variety Artists
who do not belong to any
United Alliance
can find
plenty of work
in London
by communicating
Box 4,323,
"Era" Office,
5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

HIPPODROME, KING'S LYNN, AND CRYSTAL PALACE.
Lessee and Manager, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, Variety Artists, March 4, and onwards, to write in. Please Note.—First three nights King's Lynn (two houses nightly), last three nights Crystal Palace (one afternoon and one evening performance).
WILLIAM MARTIN, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.
N.B.—Interviews by appointment only.

PIER SALOON, SKEGNESS.
WANTED, Refined Variety Artists, Entertainers, Vocalists, and Concert Parties, with Sketch preferred, Easter, Whitsuntide, on. State absolute lowest terms, and where business can be seen. No stamps for replies. Silence a polite negative. A. A. CASH, Pier Pavilion, Skegness.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines (V.A.F.'s only), Feb. 18, onwards. Quote lowest first letter; small town. Thanks to those who have written; impossible to answer all. Address, BEANLAND and EMERSON.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Feb. 11, Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; hall small. P. REYMOND, as above.

Scarborough.
WANTED, Monday, Feb. 11, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines. Nothing too Big. Full particulars to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, Good Comedians, &c.
Apply,
GEO. ZALVA,
Hippodrome, Scarboro'.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Feb. 11 and onwards.
PICKARD, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Gaiety Theatre of Varieties, Glasgow, First-Class Artists,
for Feb. 11, onwards,
Good Comedians, Comediennes, and Comedy Acts; also Good Speciality Acts.
All must be free for Glasgow.
Quote lowest actual terms.
and all vacant dates.
W. H. HOWARD, Manager.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Artists all Lines,
Monday, March 11,
for our fourth visit to Macclesfield,
with own Company.
Lowest combination terms to
THE DAYTON FAMILY,
Palace, Sunderland.
Please accept silence polite negative.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Concerts and Music Halls. Interviews by appointment only. SCOTTISH MUSICAL AGENCY, 107, George-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
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Big Variety Turns,
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Something New and Up to Date,
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Something New and Up to Date.

Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,

For Immediate and Future Dates, for
London, Liverpool,
Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle,
Glasgow, Belfast,
Dublin, Manchester, Bolton,
Wolverhampton, Oldham,
Hartlepool, Shields, Barrow,
Carlisle, Darlington,
Hull, Middlesbrough, Stockport,
Blackpool, Morecambe,
Brighton, Boscombe, Margate,
Portsmouth, Southampton,
Bath, Lincoln, Leicester, Bradford,
Halifax, Sheffield, Blackburn,
Lancaster, Stockport, Burnley, Derby,
Attercliffe, Stoke, Grimsby,
St. Helens, Accrington, Warrington,
Bury, Hanley, Stockton, &c., &c.
Send, at once, terms, dates, and lithos.
Those having a good act can rely on getting Immediate Work.
WILL SLEY,
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WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street,
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41, Oxford-street,
41, Oxford-street,
Manchester.
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Manchester.
Telephone, 09144.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for the North, also Artists for Feb. 11, for Empire, Paisley. DREW BAYLEY, Agent, 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists wishing to be booked for First-class Music Hall Engagements, to communicate with BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, Feb. 18, March 4, 18. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

THE NEW PALACE, READING.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Autumn, onwards. All communications, G. HOWARD WATSON, Messrs. Stanhope and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand. Telephone 6070 Gerrard.

HIPPODROME and CIRCUS OF VARIETIES, DOUGLAS, I. O. MAN.
Proprietor and Manager, F. J. CONNOR.
WANTED, for the Forthcoming Season, commencing in July and onwards,
Artists of Every Description, Variety and Equestrian. Apply, F. J. CONNOR,
Vaudeville Club, Charing Cross-road, London.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, nothing too big, to book immediate dates. Apply.
HARRY S. HART, Variety Agent, Star Palace, Bermondsey, S.E. 'Phone, 1048 Hop.
"Telegrams, "Hart, Star, Bermondsey."

WANTED, Artists all Lines, good Variety, Combinations, Feb. 11 and later.
SAPHRINI, Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, absolute lowest terms. DUNDAS'S Agency,
52, Rosthwaite-road, West Derby, Liverpool.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, on. FRED DURHAM'S Agency, 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone, 15 Brixton.

WANTED, Refined Al Fresco Artists, all Lines, for coming season, long engagement, first-class pianist, brilliant soloist and accompanist, all to play in sketches and concerted work. Age, experience, photo., and fullest particulars, HARRY BATTERSBY, T. R., Bilston.

SAM L. BURY'S AGENCY,
English Representative for the Casino de Paris, Paris.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Non V.A.F. Artists,
Non V.A.F. Artists,
Non V.A.F. Artists,
for immediate and future dates, for London and Provinces. I can place non V.A.F. Artists known to me. Write, wire, 'phone, or call on
SAM L. BURY, 14, Panton-st., Haymarket, London. 'Phone 8273 Gerrard, or 65, Brixton.
Non V.A.F. Artists only communicate.

200 PARK, SOUTHPORT.
WANTED.—Applications invited from refined and talented Music Hall Artists. Vacancies Easter Week and Whit Week to Sept. 30. Weekly engagements. Write dates, time occupied, lowest terms, fullest particulars, SECRETARY.

WANTED, two Artists for Music Hall Sketch, American business man (American preferred), leading part; and Young Lady, attractive appearance, speaking broken English with good Parisian accent; small, but important part. Salary and fullest particulars. Box 4,309, "The Era."

DEETRICH'S VAUDEVILLE BUREAU,
31, Islington, Liverpool.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Immediate Dates. Those written before, please write again. Send lowest terms, photos., posters, and full list of bookings. All keep me posted.

WANTED, Known, Empire, Shildon, closed after Feb. 9. Notice to artists engaged that week. R. LOMAS.

WANTED, Big Stars, Big Numbers, Feb. 11, 18, 25, onwards.
Wire or write, with full particulars,
JESS VERNO'S Agency,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone, 2076 Royal.
Kloof and Ramsey please wire address.

WANTED, Feb. 11, 18, 25,
Stars in all Lines,
Stars in all Lines,
Full up for smaller items
State towns at liberty for.
Can fix big numbers any odd weeks.
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

BARNARD'S AGENCY.
ISLINGTON, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Stars, also Big Attractions, to share in Combination.
Dates, Feb. 18 and 25.

WANTED, Feb. 25, really Good Turns, known to us preferred, new to Bury; also April 29. CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, London, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession, Acts New in Dublin, for the above, the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland.
Direct or through Agents.
All communications to WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Talent all Lines,
JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1686 Royal.

WANTED, Best of Talent available. Artists known to me communicate. I can book you. VENTOM SWIFT, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

LEO FRITZ'S AGENCY,
40, Glenshaw-mansions, Brixton-road, S.W.
Telephone, 467 Brixton.
WANTED, the Greatest Acts in the Business, Feb. 4 and onwards. Wire now. Also Acts to Play Syndicate Hall, Feb. 11; must be big. Wire, wire, immediately.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
Rehearsal, Monday next, 2 o'clock, for Collinson's Club Raid, J. B. Lennard, Nelson and Thomas, Bioscope, Three Sisters Lee, Henry Hilton, Mabel Moss, Mlle. Lumierre.
WANTED, Big Acts, on share. Holding capacity 2,500. Letters, SMITH and Co., Red Lion Hotel, Rochdale

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
WANTED, Star Acts, all Lines, absolute lowest, once nightly. Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

WANTED, a few big Speciality Acts, must be big and first-class. H. ELLIMAN, 5, Vernon-street, Dublin.

WANTED, Feb. 11, onwards, the best of Variety Acts. Note.—I can fix you.
GANNON, West-grove, Bristol. Telephone, 2636X.

WANTED, Speciality Acts, May 20, four days, Pleasure Gardens, Blisworth; also for four days, Franklin's Gardens, Northampton, twice daily, open air. Also required, two Big Star Turns, for March 25, Scotland, and good Comedy Acts, for Monday, Feb. 11, onwards, North. Bookings this week include Ralph Pringle's Chronophone, Ara, Zebra, Vora, Lindsay and Hart, Fontains, De Roys, Tom Hall, Full Circus Company, Maros, Sabino, Venolos, Four Hearns, Three Cheers, Sam Paul, Staffo, Alex. Fox, Gretta May, Ramsdale Sketch Company, J. Lennard, Grapho and Jackson, Two D's, Magna, Carr and Rose, and Mlle. Haydee. Address, MCASKELL'S Agency, 126, Roker-avenue, Sunderland.

PALACE THEATRE,
CORK.
Manager, HENRY KEMBLE.
WANTED, Feb. 11, 18, and onward,
Big
Specialities,
Star
Comedians,
Jugglers,
Cycle
Acts, &c.
Full particulars
and lowest terms.

WANTED, Specialists and Variety Talent, for six nights, Feb. 11 and 18, Miners' Theatre, Ashington, Northumberland. Address, R. SILVESTER, Market Hall, Whitehaven.

CIRCUS, SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, for Feb. 11 and on, Specialities of every description. A cheap turn may wire for Monday, Feb. 4. Address, C. ALGIE, Will Clarke, of "Russia and Japan" Spectacle, communicate?

WANTED, Specialities, in all Lines, Sisters, Comedians, Comediennes, bigger the act the better. Write immediately, WARD'S, 3, Adelaide-street, Strand.

WANTED, Star Attractions and Novelties, for the Best London and Provincial Eestablishments. Nothing but the Best.
Big Headlines only Wanted.
Artists wanted for the Continent.
Star Features for the U.S.A. write.
Full bookings, terms for town and country,
HENRI CAZMAN, c/o Hippodrome, West Bromwich.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Sensational Novelties and Attractions,
for Galas,
commencing Easter Monday.
Nothing too big.
Letters only,
quoting lowest terms (no commission),
return fares paid
from London terminus.
Specimen bill matter
and posters to
GALAS,
49, Peckham Park-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, for Webster and Girling's Agency, 150, Strand, with which is amalgamated Wigglesworth's Provincial Agency. Address, as above, to HUGH WIGGLESWORTH, General-Manager, late of Blackpool, Morecambe, &c.
Telegrams, "Entertainers, London."
Telephone, 2,990 Central.
Irma Lorraine, Florence and Lilian, and Vasco please communicate.

BURTON'S FETES AND GALAS, SHEFFIELD.
WANTED, for Whit Week, June, July, and August, Startling Novelties, Big Specialities, Spectacles, Aerial and Ground Acts of every Description, Bars, Cycle, Acrobatic, Polo Teams, Knockabouts. Plenty of Work for Right People. Price no object. Send lithos., memos., terms, vacancies. GEORGE BURTON, Lyric Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Tops of Bills who have odd weeks vacant to send full bookings, &c., to
FRANK LYNNE, 12, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, for King's Hall, Westcliffe-on-Sea (2s. 2d. from London), the Cream of the Variety Business, for Feb. 11, and on.
Complete Concert Companies Booked.
Will book any refined act. Vulgarity not tolerated here. VANDY'S Agency, as above.

WANTED, good Doubles doing Singles, Serios, &c., five weeks certain to the right people. SAUNDERS, Tintern Villa, Aldershot.

TUDOR'S HIPPODROME, BLYTH.
WANTED, First-Class Combinations, with Pictures preferred, one show nightly and Sunday Concert, Feb. 18, on.

WANTED, for Tynemouth, Clever, Refined Variety Entertainers, April 1, May 20, onwards. J. H. GRAHAM, 1, St. Andrew-street, Newcastle.

WANTED, Feb. 11 18, on,
Comedians, Comediennes,
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. and Funny Acts, for Lon-
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. don and the North. Book-
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. ings and lowest to GEO.
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. AYTOUN, 120, Kennington
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. Park-road, London, S.E.
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. Wires, "Antics, London."
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. 'Phone 1949 Hop. A good
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. Dog Act wire for Feb. 4,
AYTOUN'S AGENCY. on, for France, with lowest.

ALFRED SAKER AND CO.,
Musical, Dramatic, and Variety Agents,
17, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W.
All artists engaged in our various enterprises kindly attend rehearsal without fail on Monday.
WANTED, Star Comedians, Comediennes, and Big Tops. Send lowest Mon. next, onwards.

THE SUMMER PAVILION, STRETFORD, near MANCHESTER.
WANTED, First-class Comedians, Soubrettes, Vocalists, &c., for above, April 1 to Oct., 1907. Full particulars to FRED ERICK, Palace, Attercliffe, Sheffield.

WANTED, Dwarf Comedian, for Music Hall Sketch. Photo., lowest terms, references, to ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

ROYAL
HIPPODROME,
BELFAST,
Now in Course of Erection,
and
when
Finished
will be the Largest and Handsomest Building in Ireland.
WANTED, February, onward, all the Finest Acts in the World.
Price no object.
New and Novel Turns of every Variety.
The above is Booked
in conjunction with
TIVOLI THEATRE,
DUBLIN.
WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Brothers and Sisters, and Novelty Turns.
J. FELL, Proprietor, Palace, Lancaster.

WANTED, smart Boy, over 14, able to sing and dance, for new Act, rehearsing Feb. 25. TONY IVERSON, Palace, Blackpool.

WANTED, Coloured Boy; must be expert Dancer, well experienced. Apply, stating age and reference, to ADAMS, 12, Dunning-street, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, a Nigger Boy, about twelve, as Apprentice for Continental Renowned Cycle Troupe; excellent home. Appointment only. GUISS, 27, Bonham-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Cinematograph Operator, with own Machine and Films; also Vocalist, Pianist, man and wife preferred; also Sensational Act to form a combination with Fant Abbott, Hypnotist and Zancigist, for a short tour. State lowest terms and full particulars to A. E. ABRAHAMS, 26, Gt. Eastern road, Stratford.

WANTED, First-Class Operators, for Walter Payne's Biophotoscope; must understand their work, used to alternating and direct currents. Apply, 346, Brixton-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, Lanternist, used to arc lamps. State lowest terms, when at liberty for London. WOOD, 44, Bath-row, Birmingham.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Lucy Coventry, Comedienne and Expert Dancer. This, Theatre Royal, Peterboro'; concluding engagement Principal Girl Brydon Phillips' Panto. Vacant Feb. 4 and 11.

WANTED, Engagements, by Little Lottie Lonsdale, the Charming Juvenile Comedienne and Dancer. Received everywhere with hearty approbation and applause. Write or wire, 13, Summerhill-terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, Rosa Robey, Contralto, offers invited for Summer with Concert Party, Piers, &c. Pantomime concludes Feb. 16, Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield.

WANTED, by Ruby Bijou, Daintiest of Dancers and the Best Barefoot Dancer, Feb. 11. Wire best offers, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Feb. 18 (North), Wanted, Magna,
in Beautiful Classical and Artistic Poses in Sculpture, one of the best.
Monday, Tivoli, Grimsby.

WANTED, Feb. 4 and on, by Maude May Murray, in her Aerial and Electric Dances, second season with Clarence Sounes, Esq. 35, Mall-road, Hammersmith.

WANTED, Monday next, by Grosvenors (Three Sisters), singers of popular melodies in harmony, between Middlesbrough and Blackpool. Wire, Oxford, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Known, Two Sparks, duettists and expert banjoists, Vacant March, and on, with exceptions. Panto., Gaiety, Ayr.

WANTED, Neddy Vokes, the Funniest Musical Comedian before the Public, Liberty Feb. 11, 18. Address, Cooke's Royal Circus Edinburgh; or wire.

WANTED, Engagements, Lestrange, Comedy Variety Artist, Burlesque Jugglery, Comedy, Magic, Sleigh Bells, Concertina Solos, Animal Act with Dog King, Shadowgraphy; smart refined show. Recent Tour, Africa and West Indies. Box 4,292, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Monday next, North preferred, by Vulcaris, Humorist and Speciality Entertainer, also Bioscope (gas), good pictures. Wire, Theatre Royal, Shotton, Durham.

WANTED, Feb. 4 and 11, through transferring, by Harry Morris, Character Comedian and Mimic. Wire, Palace, Carlisle; Monday, Hightown, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Little Hackenschmidt, the Boy Wrestler, the Pose Artist, and above all others, defeated Boy Samson 5½ minutes. Vac. Dates write 34, Margaret-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Disengaged, George Davis, Versatile Comedian and Actor, Sketches, &c. Offers invited. Hippodrome, Oldham.

WANTED, Monday next, by Harry Leaton, a good, sound vocal comedian. Big success, this week, Hippodrome, Scarboro', where wire.

WANTED, Feb. 4, 11, by Arthur Wade, Premier Baritone, enormous success, complimented by management after first show, Monday brought down the house with "Bandolero" and "I want no other little Girl." For coms. and Contracts wire, Empire, Dudley.

WANTED, Monday next, Cambo, the Musical Monkey, big novelty; also ventriloquist.
Wire, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Leonzi, Wonderful Contortionist and Barrel Expert. Lib. Feb. 11 and 18. Coms., 80, Northfield-rd., Crookes, Sheffield.

WANTED, Feb. 18 and 25, by Li-Chang-Hi, Chinese magician, with his up-to-date mysteries. Enormous success, this, Hippo., Scarboro'; next, Poole's Myriorama, Grand T., Mansfield.

WANTED, Known, B. Caderos, Pantomimist, Comedy Tumbler, &c., Liberty to join Sketch or Troupe, Comedy or Straight. 1, Reed-street, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, Feb. 4. Wire, Hippodrome, Lowestoft. Kyoto, the mysterious comedy Japanese box, clever contortionist, comedy Japanese conjurer, juggler, and the only performing Pug on the road. This act an instantaneous laughing and applauding hit. Also Miss May Geraldine, a sprightly comedienne, vocalist, and dancer. Two distinct acts. By engaging the above, means money to Proprietors and Managers. Also Vacant Feb. 18, 25, March 11, 25, onward. After Saturday, 25, Devonshire-house, Bath-ter., London, S.E.

WANTED, by Edward Clark and Sadie Gold, American Expert Banjoists, Dancers, and Entertainers, Feb. 4, 11, 18. Address, 31, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Feb. 11, 25, onwards, The Monckton, in their latest successful Musical Farcical Duologue, "Are Wives Dummies?" Next, Palace, Gloucester.

WANTED, by Chant and Chant, Refined Vocal Comedy Duo, Feb. 11, 18, 25, March 11, 18, 25, precede or follow Palace, Kilmarnock. Gaiety, Dundee.

WANTED, Monday next, Esdale Bros., Eccentric Comedians, great hit Hippodrome, Scarboro'. Wire quick, 5, Vernon-place, Scarboro'.

WANTED, Known, Hal De Starte and Dizart, Handcuff, Box, and Second Sight Experts, have a few vacant dates. Write, 164, Crookes, Sheffield.

WANTED, Monday next, France and Francis, Acrobatic Comedians.
Wire, Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, by Reezki and Raszki, Gymnastic Grotesques and Tumblers, Feb. 4, 11. Wire or write, 6, Beech-grove, Dewsbury.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday next, The Gelders, Clever Magicians, &c.; Ivy Dene, Soubrette and Dancer. Great success Royalty Theatre, Morecambe, where wire.

WANTED, Known, the Three Rochesters vacant through death in family, require immediate offers for their charming scena, introducing the youngest Barefooted Sand Dancer, good Bottom of Bill for Halls or Top for Touring Vaudeville Co., sure draw; also Victoria, strong descriptive Vocalist and Serio; two distinct Acts; special terms for joint. Wire or write, 13, Kelvedon-road, Fulham, S.W.

WANTED, Feb. 4 and 11, by The Carls, Comedy Trampoline Act, that can follow them all. Sure success. Roars of laughter and applause. Just returned from Continental Tour. Splendid Lithos. Wire, Theatre Metropole, Devonport, till Sun. After, 85, Rectory-road, Stoke Newington, London.

WANTED, Known, the Original Herbert Lenton and Troupe, in their refined Speciality Act, Olympia, Liverpool, Feb. 4. At Liberty Feb. 18. Address as above.

WANTED, Known, Walker's Comedy Nippers, Reklaw, Globe Speciality, still on tour, Vacant Feb. 25, Halls, Galas, &c. Empire, Cradley Heath.

WANTED, Known, "The London Entertainers," High-Class Vocal Quartette and Two Comedians; programme includes good Musical Turn and Bioscope, Disengaged Aug. 5 and 19, for Piers, &c, South or South-West Coast. Terms apply, Manager, PERCY NEWPORT, 185, Upland-road, East Dulwich.

WANTED, Piers, Pavilions, &c., for Snow and Farron's Mascot Minstrels, Easter week, and onward with exceptions. Com., 26, Grosvenor-street, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Feb. 11, and onward, by Gilroy, Vent., and Boston Bioscope; bang up-to-date. This, Shotton Colliery; next, Pal., Leigh. Write GILROY, as above.

WANTED, Feb. 11, by Lytton, Lancashire Dialect Ventriloquist, speaking the language of the workpeople of Lancashire. LYTTON, Hippo., Wigan.

WANTED, Feb. 18, 25, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist; and De Lil, Illusionist; two smart Acts. Monday, Tivoli, South Shields.

WANTED, for Frances Ferina's great successes "Pity the Blind" and "Motor Muddle," by H. Pleon, Feb. 18 and 25, Pal., Lincoln; Leicester to follow. Agents, EDELSTEN and PARKER.

WANTED, Managers and Agents to note, The Noodles, Sketch and Song Artists, vacant, deputised for "Lady of the Roses," Tivoli, Manchester; produce new Sketch shortly (five parts). Wire, 55, Market-street, Buxton.

WANTED, March 4, onwards, by Eva Norman and Co., in Burlesque Duologue, entitled, "Doing His Duty." Single turn if required. Grand, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Lion Show, acknowledged by Press and Public to be the Best in Existence. Vacant April 15, 29, and May 6, onwards. Com., week Feb. 4, Empire, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Dates or Tour, Zella's Living Mannikins, new act and splendid fit-up. Wire or write, 34, Keswick-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Pygmies from Central Africa are open for few weeks' Engagement. JAMES HARRISON, Oxford and Cambridge Club, Pall Mall.

WANTED, Situation, any capacity, 861b. one hand, 1251b. two, bearing feet five men; 19, steady, reliable, strong. 2, Monier-road, Bow, E.

WANTED, Known, Young Man, First-class Tumbler, at Liberty to join sketch or partner. TOM RUSSELL, 38A, King-street, Glasgow. S.S.

WANTED, Engagement, by young man, experienced, smart, willing, steady, well educated, and of Comical Nature, as Assistant in some Music Hall Act, to combine with Baggage, &c. Permanency preferred. COMIC, c/o 103A, Garrison-lane, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagements, Public or Private, Harmon's Bioscope, Marionettes, also Royal Punch and Judy, with Toby. 326, Earlsfield-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements for Lingwood's Bioscopes, Electric or Lime; change of up-to-date Films weekly. LINGWOOD, 31, Watcombe-road, South Norwood.

WANTED, by Operator, with Machine and Films (changed weekly), good shares, Exhibition, London; can entertain. BIOSCOPE, 48, Emmott-street, Stepney.

WANTED, Engagement, Bioscope Operator, competent in lime and electric. Address, WHITEHOUSE, 1, Market-place, Staplehurst-road, Hither Green, S.E.

WANTED, Engagements, by Bioscope Operator, with or without Machine. WALKER, 1, Lorne-street, Fairfield, Liverpool.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman, Silver King (regd.), Auctioneer, Valuer, Expert and Authority to the United Kingdom and Van Dwellers' Association, Auctioneer to Lord George Sanger (England's Greatest Showman), and Leading Showmen of Great Britain. Sales and Commissions conducted in any part of the World. If you want to Buy or Sell anything connected with the Business, consult TOM NORMAN, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand. Change of address.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch, is going ahead with up-to-date Lines in Field Glasses, Fancy Goods, Clocks. Jewellery, &c.

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Roundabout Maker, Tewkesbury.

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SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

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This machine, which is patented all over the world, is the last word in synchronising machines. A real talking, singing, laughing, and whistling picture is produced. None of the discordant sounds which characterise other fancy-priced machines are audible. It can be worked by any operator after a few moments' practice. It is compact and solidly constructed to stand the strain of showmen's business. No mechanical complications to get out of order. We guarantee this machine to be ten times louder and more distinct than any other machine on the market. It is the only existing machine that can be heard clearly while the front organ is playing. Price, with six pictures, £50. Apply to Sole Agent for England, A. C. BEECH, Showmen's Agent, North-st., Newcastle, Staffs. Owing to the deluge of enquiries re biophone replies will of necessity be somewhat delayed, but all will receive attention in due time.

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WANTED, Freaks and Novelties, for April, May, and onwards. PICKARD, American Museum, Glasgow.

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WANTED, Subject, experienced, for Occasional Hypnotic Demonstrations. Letter only. KEIRO, 124, Regent-street, W.

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WANTED, by Harold Pyott, the Smallest Man on Earth, 23in. high, and 24lb. in weight, and twenty years of age, a few weeks vacant previous to Continental tour. J. BEELEY, 83, Market-street, West Houghton, Lancs.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Frank Fern, Planksman and Descriptive Vocalist, will be Disengaged Feb. 12; good refs. 129, Green Lane-road, Leicester.

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WANTED, Application for Ground for Shows, Roundabouts, &c., for the Fair, or during Camp or both, should be sent in at an early date as accommodation is limited.
MR. ILLEWELLIN,
Town Hall, Abergavenny.

WANTED, Known, Exeter Great Easter Fair Ground, to be Let for all Kinds of Amusements, on the Okehampton-road, the Best and Most Prominent Position, High and Dry. The Fair will be Headed by Anderton's Modern Show, also Up-to-Date Switchback, Gondolas, and Helter-Skelter, or Slipping the Slip, and Still Plenty of Room for others. No One Barred. All Rents Moderate. No Ground Reserved unless Deposit Paid. This Ground was a Great Success last year. We have also for Sale our Double Waggon-front, in good condition, opens out to 44ft.; no reasonable offer refused. Photo. and price on application. For terms, apply, ANDERTON'S MODERN SHOW, Manchester-road, Swindon.

Season 1907.
WINTER GARDENS, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, to Let, three Stalls, lately occupied by E. F. Harris, Wire King; would suit good wire ring and brooch worker. Splendid positions. Offers to SECRETARY, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

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Apply, Mr. T. SERGENSON, Grand T., Blackpool.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

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ENGLAND.

Feb. 2. Blidworth (1,100)
Feb. 2. Reading (60,000)
Feb. 5. Kineton (1,000)
Feb. 7. Congleton (10,800)
Feb. 9. Nantwich (7,700)
Feb. 12. Lichfield (9,125)
Feb. 12. Longton (36,000)
Feb. 13. Beaconsfield (1,600)
Feb. 13. Bildesden (1,000)
Feb. 13. Harrogate (13,917)
Feb. 13. Tetbury (2,000)
Feb. 14. Biggleswade (5,000)
Feb. 14. Dorchester (9,500)
Feb. 14. King's Lynn (20,300)

SCOTLAND.
Feb. 21. Paisley (79,355)
WALES.
Feb. 4. Maesteg (11,000)

BLACKPOOL SANDS.
WANTED, Known, the South Shore Pleasure Beach is the only site in Blackpool for Open-air Attractions.
The grounds are forty acres in extent, right on the sea front, and are situated immediately next the Promenade at the Electric Tramway Terminus. From April 1 to Dec. 31, 1905, 4,000,000 passengers were carried on these tramways. The permanent attractions now include the "River Caves of the World," "Maxim Flying Machine," "Sea Circus," &c. Great Canadian Water Chute now being erected for next season, commencing at Easter. For sites and concessions for really good Novelties apply personally, Office on Grounds. Letters only, 14, Balmoral-road, Blackpool.

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WANTED, to Sell, 14 Large Roundabout Horses, elaborately carved saddles, cloths, decorated, complete, length of body 3ft. 4in., stretch of legs 5ft. 9in., also a quantity of smaller size horses, new and secondhand. Full particulars of the Manufacturer, J. R. ANDERSON, Wood Carver and Designer of Show Fronts, and everything appertaining to the Decorative Art of Shows and Roundabouts, Dock Gate-lane, Hotwells, Bristol.

WANTED, to Sell, one four-abreast, two three-abreast sets Gallopers, with double crank Fowler Traction and electric light, one set steam Dobbies, May be seen working. Terms arranged. WALKER, Roundabout Maker, Tewkesbury

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Yours faithfully,
J. H. MEURICE.
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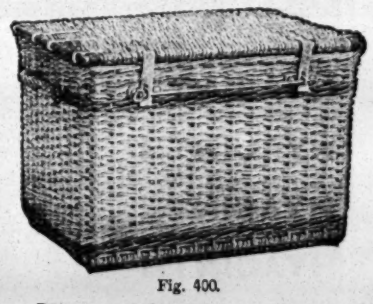

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EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
La Milo, Bioscope, Bros. Bright, Harold Hughman, Winnie Derson, Harry Anderson, Coloured Meisters, Hetty Chattell, Frazer and Mac, Matthew Brodie and Co.

ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
"Bo Peep," Bioscope, Fergana Trio, Harry Lawson, Alice Maple, Adey North, Ruth Doris, Mr. and Mrs. Lucas, Princess Pauline, Walter Bellonini.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
J. F. Elliston's Pantomime, "Puss in Boots."

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Marzella's Birds, Sybil St. Elmo, Park's Eton Boys, Lindon's Vaudevilles, Carney and Armstrong, Ed. E. Forde, Burns and Burns, Three Tauberts, Bioscope, Kate Carney.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
George Lashwood, Albert Christian, Katie Cohen, Frank Harwood, Albert Whelan, Sam Elton, The Tupps, Browning and Wally, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Marie Duma, Seven Perezoffs, Chas. Vincent, Five Bogannys, Maningos, Lidden and Hayward, Esta Stella, Bioscope, Phil and Nettie Peters, Stylo.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
George Gray and Co., Syd Myra, Conway and Leland, Russell Brandon, Lily Esplin, Bioscope, Harry Leybourne, Bros. O'Gorman, Jeannie Mackay.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Tschernoff's Dogs, Three Missouris, George Ridgwell, Charles Mildare, Lee and Kingston, Fitzroys, "Rogues of the Turf," Bioscope, Kathleen Cogan, C. B. Jerome.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Karno's "Football Match," Hurley and Cole, Petram Sisters, Bros. Hayes, Carlos Cæsaro, Renard Trio, Hilda Jacobson, Bioscope, Bros. Webb, Dyved Lewys.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
"The Galley Slave," Bioscope, Chinese Girls, Bandurrias, Griff and Alpha, Horace Jones, Robertys, Ernesto.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Mdme. Esty and Co., Bioscope, Stacey and Williams, Sylva's Vocal Tableaux, Watson's Dogs, Harry Drew, De Witt, Burns, and Torrence, Prince Kokin, Simms and Simms.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Madge Gray, Bioscope, Godfrey James, Ten Ji Troupe, Little Zola, Herbert Lenton, Ethel Ra Leslie, Mdme. De Dio, George Young, Howard and Harris, Casey's Circus.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Fred Storey and Co., Chas. Norton, Abdullah Arabs, Collins and Hawley, Percy Honri, The Jees, The Courtiers, Kitty Marion, The Uniques, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
"The Skirmishers," Belloni's Cockatoos, Mendel, Hartley Wonders, Maggie Walsh, The Gems, Lily Burnand, Tennyson and Wallis, Nancy Langtyre, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
"The Devil's Sunday," Trapnell Family, Fanny Erris, Nellie Coleman, Dome, D'Arc's Marionettes, Cairns and Lynch, "Heartstrings," Cambrian Trio, Bioscope, Collier and Child.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Geo. D'Albert and Co., Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Lieut. Travis, Wartenburg Bros., Carl Hertz, My Fancy, Fred Cullane and Co., Schwartz Bros., Rosie Sylvesta.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Laurie's Kindergarten, Selbini Troupe, Sadie Simpson, Sisters Anderson, Ten Loonies, Alice May and Co., Mark Merry, J. W. Magers, Bioscope, Ernest Torrence.

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EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Ginnett's "Dick Turpin," Prof. Dunning, Kahn and Kahn, The Findens, Verno and Voyce, Sisters Geretti, Les Voces, Jack Camp, Parker and Parr, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
"Three of a Kind," Lilian Lowe, Vasilescu Troupe, Lennie and Hast, Kate Trail, Victor Newman, Allan Hanbury, Bioscope, Hopkins Bros.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Ernest Shand, Dot Hardy, Two Bostons, Michael Nolan, Agnes Hazel, Sylvesta, James Brady, Black Hussars, Tony Spring, Bioscope.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
Kitchen's "No. 99," Mascotte Trio, Frank and Jen Latona, Syd May, Jordan and Harvey, Welsh Wanderers, Chas. Coverdale, Chas. Robinson, Bioscope.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Rob Roy," Madge May, Little Ganty, Three Ramoniers, Kitty Clover and Co., Bioscope, The Mackweys, Hardeen, Arthur Lennard, Ray Walters.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"The Earthquake," Frobel and Ruge, Holden's Marionettes, Illustrated Song, Olgar and Elgar, Three Careys, "Xmas Eve," Bioscope, Tom Costello.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Auguste Van Biene and Co., Ike Scott and Son, Gladys Mavius, Newhouse and Ward, Karno Four, Peggy Pryde, Ed. Arthur and Co., Andrew Roy, Bioscope, Barney, Burke, and Bray.

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EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Manning's Entertainers, Winnie Gordon, Lazern, Gertrude Bradshaw, Paulinetti and Piquo, Jimmy Shields, Nina Gordon, Frank Darwin, G. W. Hunter.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Oswald Williams, Lily Tiso, Prof. Bartle, Harry Clifford, Prof. Vox, Pictures, Allisons, Bert Marsden, Stein Eretto Troupe.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.
Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Moses and Son," D. W. Watson, Marlo, Pictures, Patty Burton, Sinclair and Whiteford.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Dusty Rhodes, Hunt and Thomas, Northern Troupe, Baker and Balfe, Morimura, Bioscope, Beatrice Renee, Otto Menotti.

THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Gus Elen, Harry Nation, Joe Mace, W. W. Selman, Alice Maydue, Cissie Dryden, Lilian Dundas and Co., Barton and Ashley, "Crystal Gazing," Rinaldo Trio, Walker and May, Francis, Collins and Rice, King and Delaine, Price and Milner, Pictures.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"The Magic Carpet," Barton and Ashley, Harry Taft, Fred Keeton, Theresa De Silva, Alice Maydue, Graham's Lilliputians, The Leonards, Collins and Rice, King and Delaine, Matt Wilkinson and Co., Pictures, Selma Braatz.

EMPIRE, COVENTRY.
Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Happy Holland," Alexandra Edwin, The Bohemians, Azella Wilson, Three Merrils, Harry Maynard, Woodhouse and Wells, Bioscope.

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INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras (Fifteen for those engaged at the London Coliseum). Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, or at least TWO WEEKS, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagement cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

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"CHEYENNE,"
"I CAN SEE RED ROSES BLOOMING,"
"BOY BLUE,"
"COME BACK TO BORNEO,"
"IN MY PAGODA,"
"WHY DO THE GIRLS LOVE CHARLIE?"
"HENNY KLEIN,"
"IT IS THE SCARECROW,"
"MY IRISH ROSIE."
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Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns.

Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not re-booked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follows :—

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N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

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FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, FEB. 4, 1907.

PROVINCIAL CIRCUIT.

SPECIAL NOTICE.
Rehearsal at all Halls, Monday, at 12·0 sharp.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Percy Hannon, Wright and Elton, Clarke and Glenny, Pictures, Bros. Tarrant, Fred Maxwell and Co.

PALACE, LINCOLN.
Harwood's Juveniles, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Dora Lyric, Francis O'Flynn, Twin Bros. Dean, Dene and Dawson, Frances Ferina, Satsuma, Dickinson and Johnson.

GRAND, SHEFFIELD.
Bandoni, Fred Southern Co., Pictures, Florrie Beck, the Weelhoffs, Carter and Gale, Will Bluey.

PALACE, BATH.
Collinson's Sketch Co., Johnny Holland and Co., Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Geo. Hall, Two Kays, Effie Stuart, Ruby Dahl, Addie Dorina.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal on Monday, Feb. 4, will be at 11.30.
Dinah Morris and Co., Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Wayho and Hope, Smith and Johnson, Dave McNeil, Mona McDonald, Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, Silbon's Circus.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Bella and Bijou, Bert Brantford, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, J. P. Ling, Blanche and Diacoff, Letine, Cavalli, Marion Scott, Henri Cot and Prince Colibri.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, HALIFAX.
"La Vivandiere," Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Gus Harris, Gicardo, Three Gregsons, Rose Elliott, Ida Kathrena, Lillie Soutter.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Grant and Grant, Carl Rosine, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Dan Robans, Wyndham and Waters, Barney Stuart, Cull-Pitt, Speedwell.

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Matinée Monday.
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Matinée every Monday.
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Matinée every Monday.
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All Bill Matter or Notification of Appearance must be sent in 14 days prior to opening. All Artists must attend Band Rehearsal, or their Contracts may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

N.B.—All Billing Matter, accompanied by Pictorials, and Business Communications relating to the Provincial Circuit must be addressed to the

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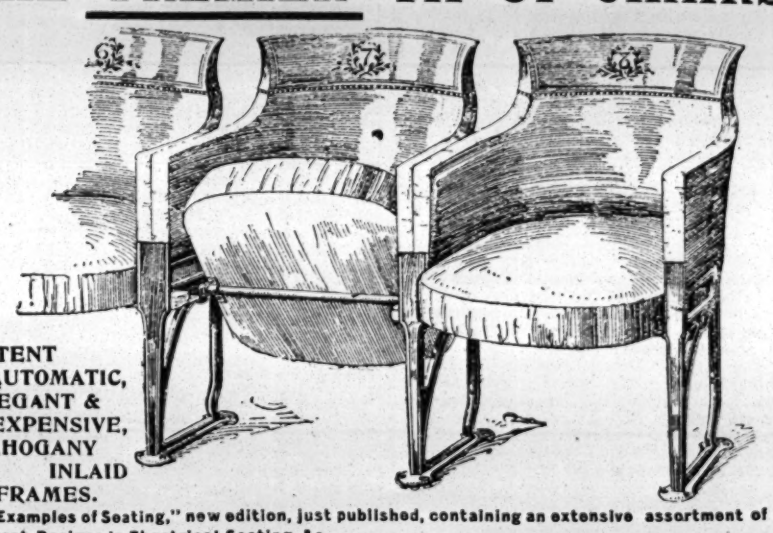

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
"The Era" Annual for the current year, besides having all the usual valuable features which make the work so necessary for reference, has, for a special feature, a series of short articles, stories, or sketches by prominent members of the dramatic and musical profession, a well-executed portrait of each writer accompanying the text. The obituary for last year—unfortunately a heavy one—is given in a series of photograph likenesses of those departed. The full-page portrait of Mr. J. L. Toole is, indeed, worth more than the humble shilling at which the Annual is sold. The monthly calendar is, as usual, a storehouse of interesting facts connected with the stage.—Weekly Times and Echo.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
That welcome little book, "The Era" Annual, has just appeared for 1907, issued from the offices of "The Era," and costing, as usual, 1s. It is always worth a welcome, and is as good this year as ever. In addition to the usual pages of theatrical statistics, there are a number of stories and sketches by well-known actors and actresses, signed with their autographs and illustrated with their photographs. The first, and one of the best, is a description by Miss Ellen Terry of an average day in her busy life. Most of us have, at one time or another, in our artless way, sighed for the glory and triumph the popular actor and actress enjoy. Alas! Miss Terry gives us a peep behind the scenes which takes the gilt off the gingerbread with a vengeance. If this describes the average day of a great actor or actress, better, a thousand times better, to be a man of no importance!—Pall Mall Gazette, Jan. 21, '07.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
"The Era" Annual for 1907. 1s. "Era" Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C. Once again this useful publication comes out with its useful tabular information concerning things dramatic, such as the date of the production of new plays and important revivals produced at the London, provincial, and Paris theatres. In addition are many portraits and short stories given over the signatures of many prominent theatrical and music hall people, and a variety of other interesting matter.—Financial Times, Jan. 21, '07.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
"The Era" Annual, a most useful record of theatrical events, has just been issued. It contains, as usual, many short stories by well-known players.—Globe, Jan. 21, '07.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
"The Era" Annual deservedly ranks high as a record of the passing theatrical show. The new issue, in a comprehensive survey of the drama, mentions in proper order all the productions and revivals of the year, both at home and abroad and gives a list of the theatres and music halls of the United Kingdom, with the names of their respective managers. The lighter side of the publication, to which many well-known managers and performers contribute, is of exceptionally high literary merit.—Morning Leader, Jan. 21, '07.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
Once more, stuffed with good things, "The Era" Annual appears from its office at 5, Tavistock-street. The edition for 1907 is as nicely got up as its predecessors, and, in addition to a calendar and other theatrical memoranda, contains two lists of the year's productions, one arranged under the names of the theatres and the other alphabetically. In addition there are a number of striking or humorous contributions by leading actors and actresses—Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. Frank Cooper, Mr. Frank Curzon, Mr. Arthur Collins, Mr. Charles Collette, Miss Alma Murray, and Mr. John Lawson are among those who have contributed bright experiences to this up-to-date shilling theatrical handbook.—Star, Jan. 22.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
That invaluable annual, "The Era" Almanac, has just made its appearance for 1907. In addition to its usual record of the important productions and revivals of the past twelve months in London and Paris, there is a series of bright contributions by Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. Edward German, Mr. Frank Cooper, Mr. Frank Curzon, Mr. Charles Collette, Miss Alma Murray, and other well-known members of the profession.—Sunday Times, Jan. 27.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
"The Era" Dramatic and Musical Annual for 1907 is up to its usual standard—in fact, it is, if possible, smarter than ever. There is an excellent budget of articles from the pens of Miss Ellen Terry, Miss Cicely Richards, Miss Pollie Emery, Messrs. Frank Cooper, Arthur Collins, Charles Collette, Frank Curzon, Edward German, Cliff Ryland, and many others. The illustrated obituary, the alphabetical list of plays produced in London and the provinces, and all the other valuable features of the Annual are as complete as ever, and make this handbook extremely useful not only to members of the profession, but to the infinitely wider circle interested directly or indirectly in the drama.—Whitehall Review.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—Mr. William Mollison and company opened on Monday with *Macbeth*. The occasion was signalised by the presence of Sir Alexander Lyon, the Lord Provost, and the magistrates of the city in their official robes, along with officers in uniform, representing all branches of the service, and many of the leading professional and commercial men of Aberdeen. Mr. Mollison gave a most powerful portrayal of Macbeth, and he is very ably supported by Miss Evelyn McNay as Lady Macbeth; Mr. B. A. Pittar and Mr. W. A. Mackenzie are excellent as Macduff and King Duncan; and the other members of the company all play very capably. The other pieces to be presented during the week are *The Merchant of Venice* and *As You Like It*.

Palace Theatre.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Resident Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Among the principal turns this week are those of the Clement Trio in a daring trapeze act; and the San Carlos operatic singers, who repeat their success of last week. A highly-humorous sketch, *A Little Bit of String*, is cleverly played by the H. Leslie Bell and Lily Pearl company; and among the other artists, in a good all-round company, are Mr. Barney Kane, a promising Scots comedian; the Ford and Barris Trio, who excel alike as singers and dancers; Zaid, a remarkably clever performer on the rings; Mr. Russell Carr, a capital ventriloquist; Mr. Walter Wade, a clever raconteur and mimic; and Miss Amy Wade, a vivacious comedienne.

ABERTILLERY. — Theatre Metropole. — Lessees, Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventom; Stage-Manager, Mr. Fred Thomas.—For the beginning of this week he had Mr. Fred J. Webb's company in *The Hour of Her Triumph*. Mr. Louis Nanton as Ben Brodie was excellent; and the heavier leads were well sustained by Mr. Fred J. Webb as Eugene Harberry and Miss Maude Yorke as Rose Denton. Mr. Chas. Macdona's No. 1 company in *The Country Girl* was billed for Thursday.

ACCRINGTON. — Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Potter, Vandy, and Weisker.—An excellent bill is provided here this week. Maxford and O'Neil submit a smart item; the Rambos are highly appreciated; Sadie Seymour is a pleasing comedienne; the Olmars are good in their acrobatic statuary; Tiny Arnold is a clever comedienne; Miss Dolia and Snowball are bright and brisk; Captain Devereux submits a smart dog show; and Bertha Winder must be highly complimented on her smart dancing.

ALDERSHOT.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's company is giving an excellent interpretation of the sensational and interesting drama, *Her Forbidden Marriage*, a play which, besides being presented with great realism, is excellently dressed and staged. Mr. Henry Lonsdale's is a talented portrayal of George Maddison, and he has a charming partner in the leading rôle of Lucy in Miss Gertrude Bonser; Mr. Louis Hector, in the thankless rôle of Devereux, is clever, and he receives assistance in the line of villainy from Miss Gertrude Hunt; Miss Nellie Fletcher enacts the rôle of the Mother Superior with ease and grace; whilst clever comedy business is introduced by Mr. Fred de Vere.

ARBROATH.—Public Hall.—Manager, Mr. A. Joiner.—Hamilton's Excursions, Far and Near, opened here on Monday evening for the week, with magnificent pictures of principal scenes in Great Britain, Europe, and events in the Zulu rising in Natal. The pictures were realistic of the various scenes they represented. At intervals during the evening very fine variety turns were given, and were evidently enjoyed by the large audience.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Revill.—This week the stage of the Royal is occupied by the Ashton Operatic Society with the English comedy-opera *Dorothy*, in aid of the local charities. Mr. Revill's scenic artist has been employed on new scenes for the production. The opera runs six nights during the current week. The stage-manager is Mr. Tom Ogden, and the musical-director Mr. Enos Goode.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—This week the Empire has staged a pantomime, *Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp*, written and invented by Messrs. Wilmot and Holland. Miss Frances Haskoll makes a charming Aladdin; the Princess is played in the most winning and effective manner by Miss Phyllis Wardroper (who took up the part on short notice owing to the illness of Miss Wood). She acts with confidence, and sings and dances gracefully. Miss Laura makes an effective Royal Maid; and Miss Poppie Holland is good as the Genii of the Cave. Misses Ada Jenner and May Harvey as Captains of Guards are fine-looking officers. The well-known sisters, Dolly, Bibby, and Portia Tree, while nominally in the cast, give several distinct turns in song and dance of conspicuous merit. Messrs. Louis Bishop (Emperor) and Kendrick (Grand Vizier) give good representations of those parts. The Seventeen White Hussars, in satin, make a striking picture. The comic element predominates, and great scope is afforded Percy Curry (Magician) and Walter Watson (Wishee-Washee), who convulse the house repeatedly; Nash and Noel (Imperial Police), who patter and dance; and George Reeve, Widow Twankey.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaughten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chris Wordsworth.—Picture entertainments once more hold sway here this week, and an interesting and diversified selection is judiciously blended with illustrated songs.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—Large audiences are drawn here nightly by the strength of the programme presented. Miss Marie Jones, ably assisted by Mr. Ernest Munro, submits a laughable episode, *The Way to Win a Bet*, in which Miss Jones proves herself a clever quick-change artist by appearing in six distinct characters; the Reays (lady and gentlemen) give a smart show as silver chain acrobats on the trapeze; Miss Zeta Grey and company are heartily received on their reappearance in a side-splitting comedy scena, *The Lancashire Lass;* a novel and pleasing music turn is provided by the MacDonald Trio under the title of a *Musical Garden;* Takio, the Japanese mimic, is excellent in his imitations; the Attergraph pictures under the direction of Mr. E. C. Clayton are highly appreciated; and Mabel Le-Roy, comedienne, and Mr. Fred Erick complete the programme.

AYR.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—Playgoers here are having the privilege of once again witnessing Miss Minnie Palmer in the part of Tina in *My Sweetheart*. She sings in a rich, mellow voice, and her acting is irresistible. Miss Palmer is well supported by her company. Mr. Robert H. Howard in the part of Tony Faust gives us a fascinating study, and sings delightfully; Mr. Richard Elliott makes a lovable, quiet, and manly Dr. Oliver; as Harold Bartlett Mr. Leslie Tyler looks almost too fine a villain; Mr. Alfred Ibberson as the dude was most successful; Mr. Fred W. Leonard made an admirable broken-down sport as Joe Shotwell. The Mrs. Fleeter of Miss Mildred Silvester was a capital piece of acting; while in the part of Mrs. Hatzell Mrs. H. E. Russell gave a very pleasing interpretation. The piece was beautifully staged.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stone.—Mr. Weedon Goldsmith's company, *The Night of the Party*, is here. Mr. Sebastian Smith makes an immensely resourceful Mr. Crosbie; and Mr. Charles J. Bruce a sufficiently pompous Mr. Roundle. Mr. Aidan Lovett and Mr. Frank H. Denton are capable as Sir Charles Hampshire; and Mr. Frank Frayne and Mr. Douglas Munro a capital Mr. Flambert. Miss Beatrice Mervyn is a graceful Lady Hampshire, Miss Florence French a taking Gipsy Vandelier, and Miss Lilnan Williams a *chic* Paulina.

His Majesty's.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Henry E. Leigh's company, in *The 'Varsity Belle*, is here. Mr. James Danvers as Professor Septimus Stoney is exceedingly able; and Messrs. R. Harley West and Roy Barraclough are capital as the undergraduates, George Barker and Albert Perrin. Miss Josephine Ellis, who takes the dual rôles of Gaye Sparkleton and Mr. Paton, of Emmanuel, sings and dances with grace and charm; and Mr. Frank Lilliput is amusing as the College Scout. Miss Josephine Sullivan is a capital Mrs. Stoney; and Miss Emma Rainbow an "agreeable" mother-in-law; while Miss Kathleen O'Brien and Miss Tessa Myers do their parts excellently.

Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting.—Nat Clifford soon becomes a favourite comedian; the Kyasyas are up-to-date athletes; Raymond and Walker are good comedy acrobats; and Miss Maud Marlow an agreeable comedienne. Mr. Tom Dunmore, peculiar comedian, is well received; and so are Fielding and Hull, vocal entertainers; and J. H. Crew, comedian.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—*Sergeant Brue*, for the second time, is "on duty," and this merry musical comedy is again affording much amusement as presented by Messrs. Lockwood, Crossman, and Foster's company. Mr. E. Russell plays the title-rôle upon broadly comic lines, and scores a big success in the part; Crookey Scrubbs is impersonated by an old Bath favourite, Mr. Charles McLagan, who gives a capital sketch of this quaintly-drawn character; Mr. Tom Shelford makes an excellent Michael Brue, as does Mr. Arthur Stroud as Gerald Treherne; Mr. Henry Chichester, in addition to being the stage-manager, enacts Mr. Crank with humour; Miss Edith Housley easily carries off the honours as Lady Bickenhall; Miss Ella Daincourt interprets Aurora Brue pleasantly; and the servant, Daisy, is undertaken upon original lines by Miss Constance Berkeley. Mr. J. H. Yorke is the musical director.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Addie Dorina is appearing in her new protean act, *Dr. Spot's Patient*, which is cleverly carried out, with the aid of Mr. Pat Ruddock as the Doctor; Ruby Dahl presents a novelty with her Merry Mannikins; the Two Kays vocalise successfully in the scena *The Nightingale;* Effie Stuart secures much applause for her nimble dancing; and George Hall (siffleur), Johnny Holland and company in the sketch *Our Betsy*, Collinson's *Topsy-Turvy School*, and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are all interesting features in the week's bill.

BATLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Whitty; Manager, Mr. Alfred Taylor.—Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company is here in *Napoleon the Great*. Mr. Hugh Montgomery, a sound actor, is to be complimented on his clever assumption of the title-part; Mr. Oliver Birrell does well as Col. Lavarennes; Mr. Phil Harker gives a good reading of Col. Meuron; Mr. Bartlett Garth is a robust Paul Laczinska, and Messrs. Frank M. Thorne and Albert Sinclair extract much humour from their parts. Miss Leslie Warner is eminently successful as Marie Walewska; Misses Florence Thorne and Maude Russell give adequate renderings of their rôles; and Miss Marie Harcourt is piquant as the vivandière.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—*Beauty and the Barge* is admirably presented here this week by Mr. Arthur Hardy's company, and all who love a breezy and irresponsible comedy are making the most of an excellent opportunity, for the piece is playing to good houses each night. The play is capitally mounted and acted. Mr. Blake Adams's impersonation of the old tar, Captain James Barley, is inimitable, his facial expression, aided by his clever make-up, causing roars of laughter. Mr. Edward Coventry puts plenty of life into the character of Lieut. Seton Boyne, R.N., and comes in for unlimited applause; Herbert Manners has a capable exponent in Mr. Pennington Gush; Mr. Walter Pemberton is an irascible army officer; and the part of Augustus is in the very capable hands of Mr. Forrester Harvey. Miss Mona Robin, as the wife of the aforesaid officer, has a small part, but is very much at home therein. Miss Dido Drake quickly captivates the house with her grace and charm of manner as Ethel Smedley. Miss Mary Pemberton deserves a similar compliment for her presentment of Lucy Dallas, and Miss Ruby Wyndham is a distinct success as a portly housekeeper.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company opened here on Monday with *The White Chrysanthemum*. In the title-rôle Miss Sybil Cunningham was entirely successful, her fine voice being heard to the utmost advantage; and Miss Dorothy Sephton furnished an exceedingly charming impersonation of Betty Kenyon. Mr. H. Langdon Bruce was a capital Lieut. Armitage; and Mr. Shirley Lea as the fiery Admiral deserves much praise for his finished impersonation. Mr. Richard Telford succeeded in creating roars of laughter with his inimitable impersonation of Sin Chong; and Mr. H. E. Garden as Lieut. Belmont had a part that fitted him like the proverbial glove. Mr. Jamie Dallas infused humour into the rôle of Private Perks; and congratulations are due to Miss Wilmot Karkeek, who as the smart Yankee girl Cornelia Vanderdecken made a big hit, her dancing being remarkably good. Other rôles were admirably sustained, and a particularly tuneful chorus under the direction of Mr. J. M. Hutcheson added materially to the success of the production. It should be added that the augmented orchestra was also under the direction of Mr. J. M. Hutcheson.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Freece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—Mr. Fred Karno's sketch company have been most successful with their screaming sketch *The Smoking Concert*. Quite a sensation has been created by the Tom Davis Trio, whose act, *Motoring in Mid-Air*, has been a great draw. Mr. J. G. Graham and Miss Zerlina Harrington appear to advantage in *A Daughter of Pleasure*, a dramatic episode of Parisian life. Miss Maude Courtney, the American Girl, has been accorded a fine reception; and The Four Herberts have a clever eccentric acrobatic act. Mr. "C," who sings and talks, is deserving of praise for his unique and attractive performance; and also appearing are Mr. Robb Gilmore, comedian; Miss Amy Neild, comedienne, and the Palace Pictures.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John S. Walter.—Manning's Entertainers head the bill, and have provided much amusement with their new edition of *The Hotel Boots*, an exceedingly smart sketch. As a raconteur Mr. G. W. Hunter has few equals, his patter being clever and quite up to date. Mr. Jimmy Shields, the one-legged comedian and dancer, renews his popularity here; and a good reception has been extended to Paulinette and Piquo, their gymnastic feats being exceptionally skilful. Miss Nina Gordon's imitations of "stars" are startlingly realistic; and Lazern, described as "New Zealand's premier deceptionist," is an exceedingly smart illusionist. Miss Winnie Gordon is a talented lady whistler; and also here are Miss Gertrude Bradshaw, vocalist, and Mr. Frank Darwin, actor-vocalist.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Alhambra Dramatic Company are presenting this week *Lured to London*. Miss Nina Blake Adams, a clever actress, acquitted herself with distinction as Lily Sterling; and Mr. Cyril Grier must be commended for his skilful impersonation of Jake Gamble; Mr. Horace Denton deserves much praise for his clever impersonation of Rev. Leslie Carrington; and Mr. Elmore Frith submitted a finished impersonation of Abe Sterling; Mr. Balfour Dennistoun succeeds admirably as Geoffrey Carrington; Mr. Tom H. Solby, who is also responsible for the admirable stage management, amuses all with his inimitable impersonation of Constable Coppard; Miss Roma Tremayne, an accomplished actress, furnished a charming and skilful impersonation of Constance Stuart; and Miss Mattie Crawford as Natty was particularly successful; Miss Alice Clarke deserves much praise for her capital interpretation of Rosannah Lovejoy; and Mr. Ed. Smythe as A. C. Stuart, Esq.; and Mr. G. Davies as Squire Carrington complete the fine cast. The Alhambra Bioscope exhibits some fine pictures.

BILSTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby; Musical-Director, Mr. J. E. Machin.—Mr. James Hare's company are here in *A Destroyer of Men*. There is some good acting from Miss Irene Clifford as Olga Mischla and Mr. Hare in the part of the Exile; Mr. Chas. Bickell as the studious Michael Mischla; and Mr. Ross Warren and Miss Alice Buckland as Coco and Nina.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—A succession of pantomimic visitations terminates with one from Little and Darcy's *Forty Thieves*, a production which will compare favourably with any of its predecessors. Prominent in an excellent cast are the Sisters Silcott, Miss Minnie Silcott sustaining the leading rôle of Abdallah with exceptional ability and effect, Miss Violet Silcott making a spirited Ganem, and Miss Marie Silcott appearing to decided advantage as Morgiana; Mr. James Ferguson scores heavily as Cogia Baba; Messrs. Malone and Conley are amusing as Hassarac and Hassario respectively; Ali Baba is well impersonated by Mr. Willie Black; and the Donkey is admirably represented by Mr. Willie Hicks. Mr. Ted Wotton is a good Cassim; and Mr. Donald Gilbert an efficient Mustapha. Specialities include the Daunton-Shaw Bicycle Troupe, and the Esmeralda Quartette introduce some pretty dances.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties. — Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Miss Dolly Ellsworthy and an able company, in the dramatic episode, *Nell Gwynne*, form an attractive turn here. Duncan's Scotch Collies, an excellent exposition of animal training, are again appearing here with great success, and a good all-round company also includes Wild, Willie, and West, amusing and versatile comedians, who have made an undeniable hit; Mr. Bert Williams an expert ventriloquist; Mr. Frank Cass, descriptive vocalist; Miss Millie Howell, with some well-rendered vocal items; Mr. George Collins, patterer; Mr. J. H. Milburn, comedian; Councell and Mills, burlesque artists; and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*The Queen of Hearts* continues its reign with success unabated, country visitors as well as townsfolk flocking to the theatre and filling it at every performance. The vitality of the production is unimpaired, and the verve of the artists is splendid. Mr. George Robey as the Queen was never better received in his life, and it is safe to say that his humour has now assumed its best complexion. Mr. Edward Lewis as the Knave is another comedian who is now at his best, his clever facial display and burlesque sallies being exquisitely droll. A well-acted part is the Sorceress of Miss Helen Cecile, who amid all these drolleries preserves her intensity and gravity admirably, while her finish, Ophelia-like, is fine, and, it may be added, pathetic. Miss Millie Lindon charms the eye and the ear as Florizel; Miss Valli-Valli shines as Estelle; Miss Ethel Haydon scores with her rich, pure voice as Fortuna; Mr. T. A. Shale does creditably as the King; Mr. Tom Hearn affords hearty amusement with his speciality in the rôle of the Grand Slam; and the Mascots, and chorus and orchestra, under Mr. Guy Jones, are irreproachable.

Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Crusoe's Adventures* has taken a merry and exceedingly prosperous turn, and the capacity of the house is put to the test nightly. The artists pursue their pleasant tasks in the best manner. Miss Georgina Delmar, in the titular part, has stamped her name on the roll of pantomime favourites; Miss Lulu Valli as Polly has proved herself one of the best and most graceful principal girls that have appeared here; Miss Nell Emerald as the Princess has added to her already wide popularity; Miss Louie Collier has delighted all parts of the house with her vocalisation in works of intrinsic merit as Roma, in which she is joined by Mr. Frederick Hobbs as Davy Jones; the Haytors please their admirers better than ever; that admirably unctuous and subtle comedian, Mr. J. F. McArdle, is another huge favourite as Atkins; Mr. Fred Wright, jun., is highly appraised as Billy Crusoe; and Mr. Geo. Miller as Mrs. Crusoe and Mr. Colin Coop as King Koko both take high places in public favour. Miss Clara Stanton completes the cast with her spirited exposition of the Captain's rôle.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*Aladdin*, transplanted from its London environment in all its entirety, is now delighting the habitués of the Grand. The company presented by Mr. Robert Crossman includes that delightfully sweet and fetching artist, Miss Winifred Hare, who as Aladdin captures all hearts. Miss Mary Hay exercises much charm as the Princess, and shines in several songs, including "The Zuyder Zee"; Miss Marion Hargrave comes out well in the rôle of Pekoe; Miss Ethel Irimey presents a fascinating appearance and acts well as Pitty-Sing; and the Misses Vera Thompson and Ethel Ford do credit to the parts of Hi-Tid-Li and Hi-Ti respectively. Mr. Arthur Reynolds leads the fun as Abanazar, his many witticisms evoking roars of laughter; Mr. Dan Lyndon is also responsible for much fun as the Widow Twankey; Mr. J. H. Goldsworthy is successful as the Emperor, and also vouchsafes some excellent singing and acting as the Demon of the Cave; while the Etharien Brothers, Mr. Gus Granville, and Susie and Protti elicit great applause with their contributions. The scenery and dresses are rich and rare, and the music is well chosen.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—*Cinderella* is winning for Mr. Collingwood and his clever company the highest encomiums that could be wished for. The house is always full, and the production goes with a merry swing that holds the audience to the end. Miss Bessie Butt as Cinderella is using her talents so wisely and well that her fame is spreading far and wide, while her loyalty and energy are invaluable. The Brothers Obo show what admirable parts can be made out of the Ugly Sisters, the quarrelling scene being excruciatingly comic; Miss Minnie D'Aubyn bears herself well, and sings well, as the Prince; the Sisters Lunelle appear as Dandini (pert, sprightly, and pleasing) and Rosini, his affianced (charming and volatile); Mr. Harry Talbot is well liked as the Baron; and others who do well are Mr. J. G. Aitkin as Buttons, Messrs. D'Arcy Kelway and Syd Sylvester as the broker's men, Mr. Fred Barnes (an immaculately garbed and smart figure) who scores with his singing as the Duke, Miss Marie Le Frane as the Duchess, and Florence and Lilian, who never appeared to better advantage.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor. *A Warning to Women* appears here, with Mr. C. Watson Mills No. 1 Company, which includes Miss Rosalind Tate. Miss Tate is received with much cordiality, and her graceful and finished acting in the rôle of Moira casts a spell all round. Mr. C. Watson Mills endows the character of the minstrel, Shaun, with an interesting personality which is most attractive; and Mr. Charles Vivian as the fearsome stranger, Dr. Marcus Dread, is very engrossing. Mr. Wilson Benge gives a fine performance of the young squire, Fergus McNaughton; Mr. Henry Rutland wins esteem as Squire Kennion; Mr. N. Carter Slaughter acts the rôle of Lord Eversleigh with excellent ability; Mr. Henry P. Kennedy comes well to the fore as Mike McQuade; Miss Sadie Smith attracts much favourable comment as Shelia; and Miss Marie Moore as Hildred, Miss Ellen Beverley as Molly O'Moore, Miss Edith Rutland as Miles O'Moore, and, indeed, the entire company, are most adequate to the needs of the various situations.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*A Fight for Millions* is fulfilling a very successful week's engagement here with Mr. Robert Perris's company, under the direction of Mr. Karl H. Edwards. Mr. John C. Carlyle wins much respect for the hero's rôle, Tom Manley; Mr. J. Schofield acts the part of Hudson Rivers with marked ability; Mr. Alex. C. Grant as the unscrupulous Dudley rivets the audience with the clever realism of his acting; Miss Alwynne Ermon acts with charming sympathy in the rôle of Pearl Rivers; Miss Nora Kingsley plays the part of Mrs. Rivers to much effect; Miss Elma C. Turner gives a clever portrayal of the deserted wife, afterwards Mrs. Mackensie; Miss Dorothy Wilkinson diffuses a wealth of charm as Little Madge; and the humorous rôles, with Mr. Karl H. Edwards as the Tramp, Mr. Harold Turner as Moses, and Miss Rosie Kearns as Betty and Meg Brady, cause uproarious mirth. Messrs. George Hodges, Jas. Risk, Nicholas Conway, William Turner, and others also do good service.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*The Silver King*, besides keeping Wilson Barrett's memory green, is bringing honours and full houses to Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company, by whom it is excellently played. Mr. Fred D. Daviss commands sympathy at once with his strenuous and poignant acting in the title-rôle; Miss Daisy Scudamore evokes many tears with her pathos as Nellie Denver; Mr. Edward J. George as the faithful Jaikes is highly popular; Mr. T. St. George Lowther exploits the part of the Spider to great advantage; Mr. Arthur Wright acts as Elijah Coombe with desirable unction; Mr. Byron Pedley scores as the detective, Baxter; and others who act conspicuously well are Mr. Geo. Belmore as Henry Corket, Mr. Warriss Lindon as Cripps, Miss Viola Holland as Olive Skinner, and Miss Mary Simpson as Mrs. Gamage. Miss Flossie Hale Daviss and Master Douglas Thomas shine in the juvenile rôles.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—A fine exposition of how the game of football should not be played is given by Fred Karno's pantomime company this week. The sketch is entitled *The Football Match*, and the company includes the famous footballers, Athersmith, Crabtree, and Fred Spikesley. This is the latest effort of this well-known company, and seems likely to become one of their best. The comedians make the best of the many humorous situations. Hilda Jacobsen presents an original operetta, entitled *10 p.m.*, which is favourably received; Hurley and Coles give a song-scena, "Let Bygones be Bygones"; the pictorial songs of Dyved Lewys are of more than average merit; the Hayes Brothers, in *The Porter and the Professional*, are very comical. Other turns are provided by the Three Renads, in a clever gymnastic act; Petram's Marionettes; and Carlos Calsaro, in a naval act, all of which are very good.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Topping the bill this week is Gustave Fasola. Described as the "Indian fakir," his turn is one of the most mysterious seen here for some time. The Juanitas are Spanish acrobats, who give a performance unrivalled for its smartness, and conspicuous for the many clever feats introduced; Gillin is a comedian as well as a ventriloquist; the Sisters May are good duettists and dancers; Mark Leslie is a capable coon impersonator; the Jansons are responsible for well-rendered excerpts from opera; Phil Bransby, Sibb and Sibb, Walter Stanley, King's College Boys, and Mark Leslie are also included in the programme.

Bordesley Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—A dramatic sketch, *The Galley Slave*, is powerfully told by Mr. Ernest Leicester's capable company. The story grips the attention from beginning to end. The whirlwind dancers, in the Robertys, give a clever turn; the incomparable Griff, with his foolery, is funnier than ever; Alpha and Le cause laughter in *The Clown in Apartments;* the Two Chinese Princesses give a smart ladder-balancing act; and Horace Jones is a capital Welsh comedian. Ernesto's musical juggling is very entertaining to watch; and the Banduna Troupe are accomplished mandolinists.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — Eden Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secreary, Mr. J. Huntley.—Patrons of this place of amusement are this week enjoying the third pantomime of the season, entitled *Cinderella*, played by Messrs. Charles, S. Kitts and Somers Bellamy's company. Miss Jennie Lynwoop is a dashing Prince Brilliant, her songs being well rendened; as Dandini Miss Madge Haines is very popular; the character of Cinderella has an admirable exponent in Miss Rhoda Windrum; and great praise is due to Miss Linda Riley for her portrayal of Fairy Goodheart. Unending amusement is created by Mr. Bert McNallie and Mr. J. Oliver Russell as Patricia and Rosalind, the ugly sisters; whilst much laughter is occasioned by the witticisms of Mr. Charles S. Kitts as Billy the page; other attractions are the Sisters Gage, whose dancing is a prominent feature of the panto; and Sergt.-Major Williams' team of performing dogs, who give a really clever performance.

BLACKBURN. — Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Manager, Mr. Reginald C. Yorke.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's pantomime, *Aladdin*, which is fulfilling a week's engagement at this house, is one of the best pantomimes that has been seen in Blackburn in recent years. The company, the staging, and the dressing are all excellent, and crowded houses have been the rule at the Royal this week. Mr. Daley Cooper is the chief of a band of merry-makers, and in the part of Abanazar, revels in his work. Mr. Julian Mack (Widow Twankey) was indisposed on Monday night, when the part was filled by Mr. Herbert King, but since then he has appeared with success. Miss Fanny Wright makes a graceful Aladdin; and Miss Kitty Brewster is a good principal girl. Mr. Picton Roxburgh is a humorously dignified Emperor; and the Brothers Brooks and Miss Flo Collier and Mr. Joe Robins supply some good comic interludes. A special word of praise should be given to Miss Molly Wolstenhulme (the Geni of the Cave) for her fine rendering of Arditi's song, "Brightly dawns upon me."

New Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is here in *The Beast and the Beauty*.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—The following artists contribute to an excellent entertainment:—Bella and Bijou, in some clever musical sketches and their latest laughable act, *The Suffragettes;* V. P. Ling, mimic; Cavalli, ventriloquist; Marian Scott, comedienne; Bert Brantford, comedian; Blanche and Diacoff, cyclists on the teacup track; Henry Cot, the French giant; and Prince Colibri, the Russian midget.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—*The Manxman*, as interpreted by Mr. A. B. Cross and company, is again the attraction here. Mr. Cross repeats his clever impersonation of Pete, a part he has now played over 1500 times; Mr. Frank Etheridge makes a good Cæsar Cregeen; Mr. Sydney D. Kearns does well as Philip Christian; whilst Ross Christian finds a capable exponent in Mr. Dudley Stuart. Miss M. Watersford acts the part of Kate Cregeen with grace and power; Miss Nellie Freeland is a capable Nancy; and Miss Mona Spearing gives satisfaction as Miss Christian.

Grand Theatre.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Messrs. Carpenter and Cooper's company is in possession here with *The Spider and the Fly*, a melodrama of the most thrilling order. The principal parts are played by Mr. Bluson North (Cyril Girdlestone), Mr. Ellis J. Preston (Welby Girdlestone), Miss Amy Venimore (Stella Grey "The Spider"), and Messrs. Charles Russell and Charles A. Preece, who supply the necessary humour.

BOSCOMBE. — Hippodrome.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. De Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—An attractive turn is provided this week in Fred Ginnett's Boy Army. These exceptionally well-trained lads perform military evolutions that would do credit to veteran cavalrymen. At the bottom of the bill is Fred Ginnett's *Rejected Remounts*, a most laughable equestrian sketch. Max Duffex wins favour as a musical contortionist; Will English, coon comedian, is a great favourite; Athas and Collins are clever in their latest creation *The Organist and Monkey;* Riccardo and Salving perform some marvellous equilibristic feats; Lloyd Morgan is a smart comedian. The Hipprodrome pictures maintain their usual standard.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietors, David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—The theatre is occupied this week by the Bournemouth Amateur Dramatic Club, in *Lady Huntworth's Experiment*.

BRADFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—Although *Robinson Crusoe's* career is rapidly drawing to a close there is no diminishing of the audiences, and no lack of energy on the part of the company in maintaining the interest in Mr. Hart's delightful pantomime, which has been freshened considerably by the introduction of much new funny business and taking songs.

Prince's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—The phenomenal success which has attended Mr. Laidler's enterprise this season in the direction of pantomime has resulted in the production of a second edition of *Cinderella*, which contains many new and attractive features. For these the management is in the main responsible, but much of the remarkable success attending the revised representation is, beyond doubt, due to the individual efforts of the comedians and the principal boy and girl. New songs, new dances, and new "business" have added fresh interest to the pantomime, which is brighter and merrier if possible than on the first night of its production.

The Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Mr. George Gray and his company produced on Monday night a new dramatic sketch, *Parson Gray, V.C.*, and the result of the initial performance must have been very gratifying to Mr. Gray, who is the author, and he may be complimented on a striking performance of the title-rôle, in which he was capably supported. There is some familiar dramatic material used in the construction of the story, and there are some fine situations. There are seven scenes in all, and the production is admirably staged. The variety element is represented by Lily Esplin, comedienne; Russell Brandow, acrobatic dancer; the O'Gorman Brothers, with comedy and patter; Harry Leybourne, comedian; Syd Myra and his dog Nell; Jeannie Mackay, vocalist; Conway and Leland; and the American Bioscope.

Palace Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. R. H. Foster. The fifth anniversary gala matinée was held here on Monday last, at which the principals from the Bradford Theatre Royal, the Prince's Theatre, the Theatre Royal, Leeds, and the Halifax Palace assisted in aid of the local charities. The company engaged here for the week also lent valuable aid, viz., Smith and Johnson, coloured duettists; Silbon's miniature circus; Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, in comedy and dancing act; Dave McNeil, comedian; Mona McDonald, comedienne; Eva Hope and Jack Wayho in *Scenes from Dickens;* and Dinah Morris, assisted by her numerous company, in the sketch *The Lost Coon*.

On Thursday night in last week Mr. Frances Laidler, the lessee of the Prince's Theatre, Bradford, entertained the whole of the company and staff engaged in the pantomime *Cinderella* at supper, which was served on the stage after the performance. Mr. H. T. Butler, the stage-manager, presented Mr. Laidler, on behalf of the gentlemen of the company, with a beautifully illuminated address.

On Friday night last Mlle. du Roche, the Robinson Crusoe of the Bradford Theatre Royal pantomime, was indisposed and unable to appear, and Miss Ivey Roze (Harry Helm), at a moment's notice, undertook the part with conspicuous success.

BRIDLINGTON.—Royal Victoria Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Charles Palmer.—Mr. Harold Montague's excellent company, The Vagabonds, are appearing here this week in their attractive entertainment. Miss Olive Sparke is a charming vocalist and comedienne; Mr. Leslie Lu-Lu renders some capital humorous songs with excellent taste; and Mr. Leslie Burgess delights the audience with his fine voice. Mr. Harold Montague gives a clever sketch at the piano, and his humorous songs, written by himself, are remarkably smart. His burlesque with Mr. Burgiss, *On the Stage*, is most amusing, and so is the comedietta, *First Aid to the Wounded*, in which he takes part with Miss Ethel

Mayaffre, an actress of great ability. The company also plays a burlesque opera, *Il Vagabondi*, and there are a series of living pictures shown by the Vagagraph. A word of praise is due to Mr. Claude Russell for his excellent piano solos and accompaniments.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt Beryl.—The Fulham Theatre pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, entered upon its concluding week here on Monday. The Poluskies as the comic villains are great favourites, and are enthusiastically applauded; and great successes are achieved by Miss Marguerite Broadfoote (Jack Hayseed), Miss Lily Black (Maid Marian), Mr. John E. Coyle (Baron), and Mr. Leonard (Mrs. No-Luck Jones).

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—Frank Barnard and company are very amusing in *Hello!* Frank Barnard as Blatz, being especially entertaining; Lytton and Bland submit a capital comedy act, *A Lesson in Love;* Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Leonard are highly successful in their duologue, *Coming Home;* Phillips and Terry are also very effective in a duologue in which there is some clever "business" with a dummy figure; the Pasquali Brothers, in a clever turn, prove themselves masters of head-balancing and tumbling; Ava, Zebra, and Vera are well received in an Indian scena; Horace Sade is a characteristic dancer; Alice Leon is a dainty comedienne; Natalie and Diana display great skill in a trapeze act; Kerr and Koe, eccentric comedians, win hearty applause; Charles Banks and his cleverly-trained dog Woof provide a good turn; and the Alhambrascope pictures are excellent.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—An attractive programme is sustained here this week. Miss Victoria Monks wins enthusiastic applause for her charmingly-rendered songs; the Aurora Troupe of cyclists achieve great success with their novel and daring feats; Bertisch displays some wonderful weight-lifting; the Smart Set submit pleasing singing and plenty of fun; Lottie de Abbey is a clever character impersonator; Diamond and Beatrice, harpist and soprano saxophonist, are well received; Leah Adell sings with great taste; Henri Bekker, assisted by Mlle. Maie, gives a capital conjuring entertainment; Charlie Williams, negroistic comedian and big-boot dancer, wins cordial applause; the Two Dixons are admirable bâton swingers, banjo, song, and dance artists; and the Barrascope pictures are interesting.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—There was a very large attendance here on Monday evening in all parts of the house, the pantomime *Humpty Dumpty* going splendidly. Miss Sybil Arundale, the popular impersonator of Rudolph, has a new Irish song and dance, which obtains much appreciation; Miss Maud Darling was indisposed on Monday evening, so her part of Princess Aurora, the principal girl, was cleverly taken by Miss Winnie Volt, Miss Volt's part of Cherry being nicely performed by Miss Cecile Bennette, and Soaro by Miss Madge Hamilton. The comedians, Messrs. Bert Gilbert, Horace Mills, Carlton, and the Brothers Griffiths, are all very popular in their respective parts. The scenery, dresses, and staging generally of the pantomime is quite up to the high standard expected here, and the admirable stage-management reflects much credit on the skill and experience of Mr. Henry Turner.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—*Cinderella* continues to be highly successful, it being generally admitted to be one of the best pantomimes ever produced here. Miss Dolly Denton is charming in the title-rôle; and Miss Minnie Fisher displays marked ability as Prince Charming. The comedians are very popular, all of them working with a gusto which is quite refreshing to see. On Monday afternoon the chief members of the pantomime company gave an enjoyable entertainment to the convalescent patients in the spacious "Fry" ward of the Bristol General Hospital.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—The Kaufmann troupe of lady cyclists head the programme with an exceptionally clever exposition of trick and fancy cycling. Corman's Juveniles present a pretty scena, entitled *The Waif;* the children all sing and dance well, and at the conclusion of the sketch score heavily in a speciality Court set dance, in which graceful poses are introduced. Albert Wyndham and company successfully present a Shakespearean sketch, *Clarence's Dream*, it being well staged and cleverly performed. V. L. Granville obtains considerable applause for his character impersonations from well-known plays; Vowles and Bryan amuse with song and story in a garden; Mollie Doon is a pleasing comedienne; Yeager and Yeager, coloured song and dance artists, are appreciated in their comedy singing and dancing act; and the Gondolier Glee Singers (including Helen Bourne, lady tenor) display much ability in popular compositions. The performance concludes with "A Loafer's Lucky Day," depicted by Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—*La Poupee* drew a large house on Monday, when Mr. Herbert Ralland paid a return visit with his principal company. Mr. Fred Seymour was a clever Hilarius; Alesia was charmingly sustained by Miss Mysie Devine; Mr. Arthur Cozens was an excellent novice as Lancelot; Mr. Walter Balfour was in good voice, and his songs as Father Maxime were well rendered. Under the direction of Mr. H. H. Shaw, the choruses elicited several encores. Good acting was supplied by Mr. Arthur Dennis as Loremois, Mr. Fuller Allen as Baron Chanterelle, and Mr. E. Mooney as Balthazar; Miss Edith Hunter (Mme. Hilarius), Miss Doris Dickens (Henri), and the other members gave good support. The scenery and new dresses were very fine.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. H. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's chief company is here this week with the ever popular *Gay Parisienne*. Mr. Will Harman causes much genuine fun as the unfortunate Ebenezer Honeycombe; and Major Fossdyke is forcibly represented by Mr. Squire Day, who does some clever dancing; Mrs. Honeycombe is well placed in the hands of Miss Holford Beringer, an actress of undoubted ability; and Miss Nance O'Neill is a winsome and pleasing Norah, singing in good style; most amusing is Miss Madge Souttar as Ruth, who fetches the house with "Sister Mary Jane's top note." Mr. Philip Moore is a decided success as Tom Everleigh; and Mr. Douglas Howard does well as Amos Dingle; the Major's daughters are impersonated by Miss Kathleen O'Malley, Miss E. McHardy, Miss Gertrude Davies, and Miss Lucie Donati, who all look well. In the title-rôle Miss Lilian Talbot is an immediate success. She is ably assisted by Mr. Clifford Seylor, whose M. Pompier is a clever character sketch. The Imperial Glee Singers are heard to special advantage.

BURY (Lancs.). — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. Fred Melville's company is playing *The Ugliest Woman on Earth* here this week. The title-rôle is well acted by Miss Beatrice Homer. Other characters in good hands are Jack Merriman (Mr. Philip Darien), Hubert Gold (Mr. Leyton Cancellor), Morità (Miss Violet Macreed), and Rose Courtenay (Miss Nell Oliver).

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Sons.—General-Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—The Six Brothers Lucks' company of humorists is playing *At the Hotel Grande*. Miss Florence Smithers is very funny in "Hard Lines"; Hallam and Stanton give a musical sketch; Pueblo and Cropp, sand-dancers, and Little Lenee, vocalist, make up a good show.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—*The Electric Man* is given here this week by Mr. F. B. Mulholland's company, and in the dual parts of Walter Everest and Prometheus Frankenstein, Mr. Bernard Copping is particularly smart. Jack Strange is well played by Mr. Sydney Lynn, Jobbins is capitally rendered by Mr. L. Robinson. Miss Amy Fanchette is successful as Mrs. Anderson; Miss Gertrude Tate (Stella) and Miss Ida Bellington (Mary) played naturally. Mr. Chris. Grose (General) and Miss Dorothy Hullah are admirable. The farce is preceded by the comedietta *Obliging a Friend*.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—*Brigadier Gerard* is being presented here by Mr. Lewis Waller's company. Mr. Loring Fernie gives a fine, dashing, vigorous delineation of the title-rôle; Miss Muriel Godfrey Turner submits a charming and clever impersonation of the Comtesse; Mr. George Mallett as Talleyrand proves an excellent exponent of the character; and Napoleon is ably rendered by Mr. Arthur Somers.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—*The Middleman* makes a welcome return after a long interval. It is presented by Miss Elaine Verner's company. Mr. Harding Thomas plays most powerfully as Cyrus Blenkarn, his life-like assumption of the humble genius being a realistic piece of acting; Joseph Chandler is well impersonated by Mr. John J. Hooker; Mr. E. Rayson-Cousins is excellently placed as Julian Chandler; Batty Todd is cleverly portrayed by Mr. Edward De Vere; Mary Blenkarn is pathetically presented by Miss Elaine Verner, an actress of undoubted ability; Miss Ada Clarke's Nancy is a refreshing performance; and Mr. Edgar Kent's Jesse Pegg a very amusing one.

EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. William Lea; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—The premier position at the Empire this week is taken by the Ten Loonies, in an exceedingly funny musical sketch entitled *Dotty*. Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten; the Selbinis, sensational cyclists; Sadie Simpson, a clever comedienne; the twin Sisters Anderson, skipping-rope dancers; Alice May and Co., in a really smart protean sketch, *Tranquillity;* Ernest Torrence, in illustrated songs; J. W. Magers, basso; Mark Merry, the merriment merchant; and the American Bioscope are also among the attractions.

CARLISLE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—T. R. Benson's company, in a répertoire of Shakespearean plays, is here. On the opening night, *The Taming of the Shrew* drew a big house, and was excellently played. On Tuesday *Twelfth Night* proved no less popular, and the splendid performance of the comedy was thoroughly enjoyed by a most appreciative audience. Chief honours were gained by Miss Dorothy Green, who, as Viola, was simply charming; Mr. Ross Shore as Sir Toby, and Mr. Esme Filmer as Sir Andrew, sustained their parts with true humour and ability; Miss Rosa Burgess made a delightful Maria; and Miss Mary Webb sang with fine effect. Mr. Gerald Ames as the Duke, Mr. E. Spencer Geach as Sebastian, Mr. Gerald Davis as Antonio, and Miss Louise Graems as Olivia contributed excellent performances. *The Merry Wives of Windsor, Macbeth, School for Scandal*, and *Hamlet* are billed for performance during the week.

THE PALACE.—Proprietors, the Palace Theatre, Carlisle, Limited; Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—Messrs. Hinton and Wooton work the audience up to a high pitch of excitement by their daring and skilful exhibition of bicycle football; a very smart juggling turn is contributed by the Sisters Cromwell; the deft and melodious manipulation of the xylophone by the Vernon Troupe is a most popular item; Mr. T. E. Johnstone sings good songs in capital style; and the Stack-Milton Trio are clever bar and trampolin performers. A knockabout act is contributed by Burg, Hand, and Wise; Mlle. Ameda, and the Pepiscope, complete.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson and company are here in *Death or Glory Boys*. Mr. Jerrold Ord is well suited to the character of Colonel Fergeson; Mr. Hill-Mitchelson gives a good account of the rôle of Capt. Ferrers; Mr. Lancelot Usher proves a very amusing Lieut. Duff; Miss Violet Carlyle is a graceful and womanly Nena Fergeson; and Miss Amy Ellam is to be commended for her naturalness and self-control as Edith. The comedy element is supplied by Mr. J. Russell Bogue as Nat Wilks, and Miss Maud Stuart as Jane.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. J. Beanland and W. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Emerson.—Another good variety programme is presented here this week. The chief item is provided by Squiff, who as a swell burglar is heartily applauded; Beanland and Bath contribute a smart cartoon and comedy act; Mr. Harry Wright as an extempore vocalist stands high in favour; Adelina gives some clever impersonations of well-known characters; Miss Peggy Fame sings several songs that are highly appreciated; Miss Nellie Gannon is very good as a descriptive vocalist; the amusing antics of the Vaudevilles in their humorous sketch *My Husband the Lunatic* cause laughter; and the Loyal Dominion Company's animated pictures conclude an enjoyable entertainment.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. Geo. G. Ridley.—One of Mr. Mouillot's capital companies is appearing here this week in *The Girl Behind the Counter*. Mr. Arthur Cartwright, a capital Charles Chetwyn, is encored for "The land where the best man wins"; Miss Nora Brocklebank appears successfully as Winnie Willoughby; and one of the hits of the production is Mr. H. B. Clarke Chadwick's quiet but amusing impersonation of General Sir Wilkie Willoughby, his Walter Raleigh monologue and ditty fairly bringing down the house. Mr. Howard Cridland is just sufficiently foppish as Viscount Gushington; Mons. Jules Charmettes hits off to a nicety the eccentricities of Mons. Duval; Millie Mostyn has a smart representative in Miss Olivia Elton; Miss Doris Langdon makes a most vivacious Ninette; and Susie and Adolphus are excellently represented by Miss Ros Helene and Mr. Frederick Park respectively, their Greenaway duet being much appreciated. Mr. Geoffrey Allsopp is an imposing Rudolph; and Mr. A. M. Moore's waiter is an amusing bit of work.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. Frank E. Donne.—*The Belles of the Kitchen*, originally produced by the celebrated Vokes Family, is being presented here by Carrie Laurie's Miniature Comedy Company, who do justice to the piece and give every satisfaction. Lecarcha is an interesting card manipulator and conjurer; Los Granadas display considerable dexterity on the horizontal bars; Howard and St. Clair are deservedly popular. The Twin Sisters Melba, the Edisonograph, Mollie Malverne, and Lew Loman complete the company.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—After an absence of seven years Mr. Edmund Tearle's company in a répertoire of classic and romantic plays is paying a return visit. On Monday was presented *The Three Musketeers*, as dramatised by Messrs. Clark Claypole and J. H. Wrougham. In the rôle of D'Artagnan, Mr. Edmund Tearle was powerful and picturesque; Louis XIII. had a suitable representative in Mr. G. T. Grieg; Mr. J. Cooke Hinton made a satisfactory Cardinal Richelieu; Mr. Bernhardt's Buckingham was effective; Mr. Clifford Murle was well placed as Athos; Mr. J. A. Keogh caused considerable amusement as Boniface; Miss Mary Campbell as Ann of Austria was consistent; and a charming page was found in Miss Helen Macrae.

CHESTERFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Armstrong.—Messrs. Moore-Kennedy's *Dick Whittington* pantomime holds sway here this week. As Dick Mlle. Lucretia is charming, both her singing and dancing gaining loud applause; Miss Helena Barton is a sprightly Alice; Miss Jessie Barrow a pleasing Maid Marian; Miss Josephine Townshend a fascinating Princess; and Miss Mollie Revell a good singing Fairy Queen. The Canadian Boys, Rino and Kirby, Mr. Will Sandes as Idle Jack, Mr. Clarence Turner, Mr. Fred Fulton, and Little Hatch provide plenty of fun. Pauletti gives a good impersonation of the Cat. Specialities are introduced by Mlle. Lucretia, top-boot dancer; Sandes and Vincent, eccentric comedians; Victor's musical dogs; Mr. Tom Lewis in patriotic songs; Mr. Clarence Turner, the Lancashire Lad; Pauletti in a bicycle act; Little Hatch, comedian; and the Lily Godfrey Troupe in some clever acrobatic dancing.

CORPORATION THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. J. Cranston.—Messrs. Carson and Kendall's company commenced on Monday a week's engagement here with *Babes in the Wood*. Miss Rose Tilley as Robin Hood is well suited to the rôle; Miss May Grayce as Maid Marian is full of vivacity; Mr. Hugh Brady is good as the Baron; Messrs. H. Roberts and J. McGarth create much amusement as the Robbers; Miss Dolly Marsden is successful as the Fairy; and the Babes, Harry and Eva, are cleverly represented by Miss Doris Middleton and Miss Dot Moss respectively.

CHORLEY (Lancs). — GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Hemingway.—This week we have a welcome return visit of that capital musical drama, *The Fatal Wedding*, played by Mr. Bert Coote's company. Mr. Guy Hastings gave a powerful and artistic representation of Robert Curtis, Mr. E. Outtrim proving very successful as Howard Wilson; Toto is humorously rendered by Mr. C. H. Hughes, and Mr. Cyril Melton excellently portrays Peter Schwartz; Mr. A. Law Raynor, in addition to the business management, is capital as the Rev. Dr. Lanceford; Miss Katherine Clarke gives a sympathetic conception of Mable Wilson; Cora Williams is strongly represented by Miss Leah Marlborough; Jessie, the "Little Mother," is cleverly undertaken by Miss Julie Temple; and Master Freddie Hockling is distinctly good as Frank. There is a chorus of specially-trained children under the accomplished bâton of Mr. W. Devin, musical director, and various specialities are delightfully given by Miss Dolly McCalla, Master Walter Aubrey, Miss Ivy Westaby, Miss Marie Wilson, and Miss Hetty Kelley.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Herbert J. Montague.—Miss Grace Warner, supported by Mr. George Gordon and her London company, is here this week, opening on Monday with *The Scarlet Clue*. In this piece Miss Warner undertakes the part of Sal Scarlett in a manner worthy of high praise; Mr. George Gordon is seen to advantage in the heavy part of Michael Stanton; Mr. Arthur St. Clair does good work as the twin brothers Jack and Harry Esmond; Mr. J. L. Leigh is entertaining as Billy the Rotter; Miss Hilda Herne is well placed as Elsie Dane; little Phyllis Nassay's Reggie is good; Miss Esther Dean is a sprightly Musette; and Miss Violet Palfrey a delightful Little Polly.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime, *Little Aladdin*, is being presented this week, and the reception extended to it on Monday night was most cordial. A really humorous quintet of comedians is provided in Mr. Arthur Aiston, who imparted the utmost drollery to his Abanazar, Mr. Jack Chromo, whose make-up as the Widow Twankey elicited general commendation; Mr. Harold Batt, whose eccentric dancing was loudly re-demanded, and Messrs. Bliss and Bliss, who made a very capable pair of Celestial policemen. Mr. Tom Kelso, as the laundryman, was also greatly in evidence; whilst in the title-rôle Miss Marie Beresford made the very utmost of her numerous opportunities. Miss Kitty Kildare sang sweetly as the Fairy, and Miss Lena Page also proved herself (as Prince Pekoe) a powerful singer. Miss Minnie Grey was a dainty Lumino, and Miss Ruby Aiston a very charming Princess. The pantomime concluded with an old-fashioned harlequinade, in which Miss Maud Clarke, the principal dancer, was most conspicuous.

HIPPODROME.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—The star turn this week is that notable combination, the Delevines, in their musical comedy scena, entitled *Flipp and Flopp*, and the applause meted out to them must be very gratifying. Almon, the handy man, provides an original and clever show; Fred Harrison brings down the house with a couple of well-rendered humorous songs, and Dan Pedley scores in song and sabot dance. The Sisters Holly appeal strongly to the audience with their melodramatic duet, and Daisy Cordelia is a popular comedienne. The pictures conclude the bill.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Chas. W. Poole's Myriorama is here this week and is being well patronised. An excellent variety company is included in the entertainment, the principal artists being the Three Almos, Triple horizontal bar performers; Little Edie, marvellous child vocalist; Le Brun and Irene; Molly Augarde, and the Swift Trio, wonderful cyclists; Mr. Geo. Melville is an excellent guide and humorist.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—*Sinbad the Sailor* was produced here on Monday night, and was a great success. The scenery is splendid and the dresses gorgeous. The fun is fast and furious, and the music very pleasing. Miss May Beatty is a picturesque Sinbad, and her singing delighted everybody; as Zorilda, Miss Blanche Astley sings and acts well; Miss Agnes Gunn makes the most of the part of Spirit of Adventure; Mr. Edward Lauri is Sinbad creates much amusement by his fooling; Mr. Gus Walker as Mrs. Eliza Sinbad keeps the house in roars of laughter; Mr. T. E. Finglass is extremely amusing as Pompey; Mr. Fred Arthur as the Sultan is imposing; Mr. Cecil Kingsley is an excellent Grand Vizier; and Mr. G. H. Snazelle as Captain Smackanhit is highly entertaining.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—Galetti's monkeys give a very clever performance; Little Lawrence is a capital comedienne; and Sam Shipley sings some catchy airs. Miles Quirke, boy violinist, is a skilful violinist; Ena Richards, comedienne; Joe Humphreys, comedian; the Solari Duo; Mignotte Kokin, comedienne; and J. H. Darnley and company in *What a Night Created*, all assist in the merrymaking.

COVENTRY. — THE EMPIRE. — Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. A. Rand.—A pleasing programme is submitted to the large audiences at the above. A smart Dutch operetta, presented by Jake Friedman, entitled *Happy Holland*, is well rendered by a company of twenty-five artists; the Three Merrils, trick cyclists, are well received; they show some fine and skilful tricks; Alexandra Edwin is appreciated as a ballad vocalist, her rendering of "Asthore" being particularly fine; Woodhouse and Wells, comedians and dancers, give some amusing patter; Azella Wilson is a clever gymnast; Will and Madge give a capital musical contribution, entitled *The Bohemians;* Harry Maynard is a pleasing vocalist.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Mr. George Testo Santé is here with *The Life of a Showman*. He takes the character of Brien Leader in a masterly manner, and is ably assisted by Miss May Warden, who wins the sympathies of the audience by her rendering of Lynette Leader. Mr. Aurele Labat gains well-earned appreciation for his Hendrick Marais, and Miss Amy McNeil as Agatha Winter deserves special mention. Mr. Edward Warden supplies a capital rendition of the Rev. Cyril Arliss, and the Dickie of Master Harry Warder is excellent; Mr. Frank Santé and Mr. Will Lindsay, as Tommy Allthere and Ben Tic Tac supply the humour. Miss E. Lewis has a suitable part as Angela Walton; Mr. J. G. Santé displays a wonderful power over the violin; Mr. Fred Vaughan is in his element as Ned Clincker.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor, J.P.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's principal company is playing *The Little Bread-Winner* here this week. Miss Mary Fulton displays a high degree of talent as Margaret Daventry. In the title-rôle Miss Emmie Thomas is delightfully pleasing, and Miss Jenny Bostock as Bridget O'Flanaghan is all that could be desired. Miss Nellie Thorne-Hallam as Kate Cherry is clever, and Miss Kitty Melville is good as Ruth Cherry; Miss Lissa Young as Bobby Trott is a favourite. Mr. Eugene Santley gives a striking and effective rendering of Lord William Dorrington, and Mr. Matthew Boulton well sustains the part of Richard Lawrence; Mr. Alfred Maurice gives a powerful and successful portrayal of Joseph Prior, and as Charles Prior, Mr. Stanley Leedham is in every way efficient. Mr. Wallace Carey appears as Doctor Chadwick.

CROOK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Wallace Davidson.—Mr. Fred J. Kirke's company is paying a return visit here this week. On Monday and Tuesday nights *The Naval Detective* was given, in which Mr. P. Piercy Watson appears to advantage in the title-rôle, Mr. Alf Stretten is a capable Dr. Schriener, and Miss F. Strickland does well as Lulu; Miss Louie Fountaine and the Sisters Shaw introduce some very good variety business. During the week *In Old Madrid* and *Our Sailor Lad* have been staged.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—A return visit of Mr. and Mrs. Kendal and their excellent company is highly appreciated. The répertoire includes *The Ironmaster, The Elder Miss Blossom, The Housekeeper*, and *A Tight Corner*. In the first-mentioned, on Monday, Mr. Kendal gave a scholarly and artistic rendering of Phillippe Derblay; and Mrs. Kendal won keen appreciation by her skilful and experienced impersonation of Claire de Beaupré. Mr. Bassett Roe was quite at his ease as the Duc de Bligny; Mr. C. W. Standing was all that could be wished in the rôle of Octave; Mr. Metcalfe Wood made a good impression as the Baron de Prefont; Mr. Ernest Hendrie was first-rate in the part of Moulinet; Mr. W. M. Rutherford was praiseworthy as Beohlin; and commendable work was put in by Messrs. Armitage (General de Pontac), W. Stevens (Dr. Servan), A. N. Phipps (Mouchot), F. Chas. Pool, R. Burnett, and Percy Towers. Mrs. A. B. Tapping made a success in the rôle of Marquise de Beaupré; and Miss Dora Fellows won approbation as Baronne de Prefont.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Herrick.—Mr. Augustine Knight's company, in *The Assassin*, is appearing with success here this week. Mr. Augustine Knight gives a capital rendering of Prince Demetri; Mr. Edward E. Ashby as Ipanoff is well received; Mr. Theo Balfour ably acts the rôle of Duke Karl; Mr. Cecil H. Raymond is uncommonly good as Baron Alfonso; Mr. Chaucy Morris does good work as General Nicol; and Mr. Tom J. Taylor delights the audience as Peter. Miss Hellis Senior submits a good portrayal of Connie Johnson; Miss Francis Waring is sympathetic as Nita; Miss Marie E. Robertson is very pleasing as Katrina; and Miss Ella Vane gives an excellent representation of the Countess Wanda.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche are appearing here in *What the Butler Saw*. Mr. Rignold takes the part of Pink, the butler; Miss Blanche plays Mrs. Barrington; and they are supported by a well-chosen company, including Mr. Charles Fawcett, Mr. W. Dunlop, Mr. George Ascott, Mr. Harry Rignold, Mr. Leo St. Clair, Miss Dorothy Garth, Miss Mona Garland, Miss May Hart, Miss Julie St. George, Miss Elsie Gaunt, and Miss Vera O'Connell.

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—We have here this week a star variety company, the bill being headed by Herr Fritz, who mystifies and amuses the audience with his illusions. Miss Frederica's performing dogs receive well-merited applause, and George Bernard, actor-vocalist, renders several good songs in fine style. Other artists giving excellent turns are Nellie Nora, in a refined musical act; Bob Hartley, comedian; Alf Thomas, comedian and dancer; Doris Dene, descriptive vocalist; Minnie Rose, comedienne; and Alvantee, who gives an exhibition on the trapeze and slanting wire.

PUBLIC HALL.—The Royal Animated Picture Company is occupying this hall with a fine series of pictures, including "A Trip Round the World."

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Mr. Lester Collingwood's *Bluebeard* pantomime company opened a fortnight's engagement on Monday. Mr. Fred Lynde as Ibrahim is perhaps the pick of the comedians, and scores all through. Sister Anne is ably accounted for by Mr. Harry Tilbury, who brings to bear a droll humour which is very refreshing. Bluebeard is carefully portrayed by Mr. S. Lockridge, who has a good song in the third scene; while in the parts of Shackabac and Shakeleg it would be difficult to find the equals of he Two Jays. Messrs. Wheeler and Wilson, who perform as a donkey and his keeper respectively, submit a clever acrobatic act; Miss Millie Ward makes a vivacious Fatima, though obviously suffering from a cold; Miss Marie Liston plays Selim with uncommon verve, and has a number of songs; a captivating Beda is supplied by Miss Irene Wingrove, who has a bright and pleasing Cassim in her sister, Miss Gladys Wingrove. Miss May Ruby makes a pretty Zoebedie, and she, in conjunction with her two winning sisters, provide an equipose acrobatic and trapeze speciality which is marked by an easy grace of movement and dexterity. The Three Rubys, too, can boast of no mean dancing ability, as their butterfly dances prove, and Miss May Ruby has, perhaps, the prettiest song of the pantomime in "The little guiding star." Miss Issa Steele, the Fairy King, renders a sentimental song in excellent style, and more clever speciality dancing is given by the Valerie Girls.

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—A taking turn is provided here this week by those premier instrumentalists the Seven Savonas, who met with a hearty reception on Monday night. Special mention should be made of their electric scena, which would be hard to beat in point of spectacular magnificence. The Three Moxons, acrobats and jugglers, submit some clever tricks in an exceptionally neat style; Salida and Vone, Creole artists, are entertaining in song and dance; Mlle. Elvina is a graceful aerial gymnast; Ruby Bijou, comedienne, is deserving of great praise for her distinctly pretty dance; and W. H. Raby, comedian, creates much diversion with his droll songs. The Bioscope is also a prominent feature in a most acceptable programme.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—*Dick Whittington* is now approaching the end of his career here. A highly attractive feature has been added in the form of a cycling turn presented by Lotto, Lillo, and Otto, which for fun and humour, combined with downright cleverness, it would be difficult to equal.

DEWSBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.—Crowded houses have watched with amazement the astounding exhibitions of the Chinese conjurer, Chung Ling Soo; the Royal Zerbinis are to be praised for their conspicuous excellence as musical entertainers; Cissie Curlette sings with signal success; Austin and Cowan are a couple of sweet-toned and gifted singers; Martini and Son, illustrated song artists, the Alberto troupe, gymnasts, Starr and Jerome are other turns.

DONCASTER. — NEW THEATRE AND EMPIRE. —Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—A great treat was provided here on Monday evening by Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*. Rodento, King of Rats, was an impersonation that reflected great credit upon Mr. Archie J. Milne, and Miss Gladys Kildare was a chic Concordi, her cultured songs being very acceptable. Miss Adele Roze was well chosen for the title-rôle. Miss Leah Laurie's attractive appearance admirably qualified her for the part of Alice. Mr. J. H. Wakefield was an inimitable Alderman Fitzwarren, and full advantage was taken to present a number of variety turns, which were well received.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Chas. Hyland. — The Trinity College Amateur Dramatic Club occupy the boards here this week, and are presenting *Lady Huntworth's Experiment, Second Thoughts*, and *His Excellency the Governor*, to large and appreciative audiences nightly.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—Mr. Frederick Mouillot's pantomime, *Mother Goose*, is in the third week of a highly-successful visit, and drawing crowded houses.

QUEEN'S THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; Acting-Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company is this week presenting *The Beautiful Fiend*. Miss Sidney Crowe achieves distinction in the character of Wanda Lubinoff; Mr. Montague Beaudyn as Ivan Paulovitch acts with ability; Mr. G. P. McBride gives a good rendering of Count Fedor Karateff; and Miss Irene Munro fills the part of Nadine Karateff with credit. Mr. Herbert Skardon is well placed as Sergius Strogoff; while Miss Annie Clunn is capital in the rôle of Patty Woodlands; and Mr. Harry Oates is highly amusing as Christopher Crackles, and is ably supported by Mr. Matt Russell as Henri. Mr. W. Robertson Foulis makes the most of the part of Malachi. The minor parts are well filled.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—Mr. Henry J. Corner, in *The Dandies*, is being accorded a good reception. The Three Sisters Chester, vocalists and dancers, evoke hearty applause; Arthur Melrose, whistling comedian, scores a distinct success; and the amusing burlesque, *Codology*, by the Brothers Hughes, creates roars of laughter. Cliff Ryland is mirth-provoking in quaint songs and stories; and the Brothers Schenk are remarkably clever as head and hand balancers. There is a capital sketch, entitled *The Phantom Ship;* and Miss Lena Willard's contributions are most pleasing.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—A strong attraction is here this week in the person of the Countess Romanow; Miss Marion Willis and Mr. Wilfred Wilton appear in a humorous duologue, *A Musical Comedy Rehearsal;* and other turns are

A MOUTHFUL OF BEAUTIFUL TEETH.

ANOTHER ODOL SMILE.

How agreeable it is to laugh if one possesses nice-looking teeth, and how awkward to be compelled to laugh with bad teeth.

This truism has often been remarked upon, but we are of opinion that it cannot be too often impressed upon the memory. It should warn everybody who has not yet taken the matter to heart to determine to accustom himself to a regular care of the teeth, but *not* in the old-fashioned style with tooth pastes, soaps, &c., so injurious to the enamel, but with Odol, the liquid antiseptic dentifrice.

Few women are as competent to express an opinion on a matter of personal beauty as

Miss Ellaline Terriss, and in this connection it is of special moment to know what she thinks regarding mouth beauty and how it can be preserved. She says:—

As a sunny smile beautifies a countenance, so do shining teeth beautify a mouth. We cannot all have perfect teeth, but we can all have a perfect mouth wash, and that everyone has who uses Odol. It is delightfully fragrant, reliably antiseptic, and imparts a sensation of cleanness which is to be obtained in no other way. Once used it must always be used.

Ellaline Terriss

provided by Miss Daisy O'Malley, comedienne and dancer; Adams and Ward, acrobatic comedians; Louis Kerno, coon vocalist and dancer; Crosby and Walker, cross-talk comedians; Albert and King, comedy equilibrists; Eric Graham, comedian; Nora Bremner, international dancer; and the Bioscope.

Pavilion (Kingstown). — The Irish Animated Photo. Company opened for a short season here on Monday, when an excellent programme was provided, and heartily enjoyed by full houses, both at afternoon and evening performances.

DUMFRIES. — Theatre Royal. — Lessee, Mr. W. E. Potts; Manager, Mr. Payne-Seddon.—Mr. John G. Thomson's company has appeared here for three nights in *Dick Whittington and His Cat*. Miss Fay Garnet Vayne made a capital Dick; Miss Isla Garnet Vayne as Alice Fitzwarren was very charming; Mr. C. Young Fixott was the centre of merriment as Betsy Jane, the cook; Mr. Harold Wagner was funny as Idle Jack; Mr. William Nixon did well as the Emperor of Morocco; Mr. George Garnet Vayne made an excellent cat; Miss Marjorie Leslie as Princess Charming, Miss Violet English and Miss Lily English as Algy and Polly, were very good.

DUNDEE. — Palace Theatre. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—Doody and Wright, who occupy premier place on this week's bill, are a very vivacious and comical pair; the Lyons Trio are clever in their pantomime sketch; and as trick cyclists the Dunlops would be hard to beat. The Chronophone makes its first appearance here, the songs being reproduced with marvellous lucidity. Les Sados, jugglers; Lozelle, gymnast; Barney Noble, raconteur; Olive Veno, clog dancer; and Lilian Sivado, trapeze performer, are also in the bill.

Gaiety Theatre. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—The Chronophone is billed in big letters, and is proving a draw. The Cheers present a pretty and refined scena, *Dick Whittington*, in which some wonderful performing cats take part. Harte and Victor score a big success in their turn, *The Golfer and the Caddy*, their cross-talking being decidedly smart and free from vulgarity. The Two D's (D'Argan and Dene) are funny in their comedy act, and the Three De Veres show skill as comedy acrobats. Elsie Russell, a dainty American comedienne, makes a good impression, and the Bioscope, as usual, brings the entertainment to a close

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—A rousing reception was accorded on Monday evening to Mr. Harry Foxwell's company in the play entitled *An Abandoned Woman*. A powerful rendering of Ninon is given by Miss Georgette Thierry, an actress of exceptional ability. As the hero, Herbert Seaton, Mr. Wolston Henry plays with vigour, while Mr. B. J. Leille as Philip Malvoisin makes an interesting accomplice to the villainess Ninon.

Kinnaird Hall.—The U.S.A. Animated Picture Co., under the capable management of Mr. Victor Hamilton, opened a short stay on Monday. There is a fine selection of scenic, tragic, and comic films, and the entertainment is interspersed with songs rendered by a talented concert party.

EASTBOURNE. — Pier Pavilion. — Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Charles Fancourt's company is appearing here in *The Shulamite*. The company is a well-balanced one, and the scenery is of particular excellence. Mr. Algernon J. Hicks in the part of Simeon Krillett has a task bristling with difficulties, but his work is intensely impressive; Mr. Charles Fancourt is a refined and natural Robert Waring; Mr. George Rammell is a thoroughly earnest Jan; and Mr. J. R. Rilings gives excellent help as Klaus. Miss Ruth Shepherd plays the part of Deborah with fine feeling and sympathy; Miss Emily Levetty is a powerfully effective Tante Anna; and Miss Chrissie Bickerstaff a realistic Memke.

Devonshire Park Theatre.—Proprietors, The Devonshire Park and Baths Co., Ltd.—Under the management of Messrs. Murray, King, and Clarke, Mr. Leigh Lovell and Miss Octavia Kenmore appeared here in the early part of the week in *The Master Builder*. Mr. Charles Carey's company is to appear later in the week in *Little Lord Fauntleroy*.

ECCLES.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Hamilton Baines; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert Orton.—We have here this week Mr. Charles Macdona's company in the musical play, *Three Little Maids*. The Branscombe girls are ably depicted by the Misses Mabel Kerridge, Daisy Sylverton, and Eva Weigh; Miss Laura Wright as Gretchen is clever; Miss Kate Graham Beck makes a dignified Lady St. Mallory; the protégées of Lady St. Mallory are creditably impersonated by the Misses Hilda Stericker, Bertha Trench, and Nellie Clapton; Mr. Frank Henderson as Lord Cheyne is exceedingly funny; as M. de L'Orme and Bryan Molyneaux Mr. Eric Barrington and Mr. Frank Wilson play with remarkable tact.

EDINBURGH. — Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—*The Babes in the Wood* pantomime continues to enjoy a full share of patronage, and to repay its patrons with a double measure of enjoyment. The comparatively few male performers in a long and imposing cast are happily a band of first-rate artists, of whom the audience apparently cannot see or hear too much. Mr. Mark Sheridan and Mr. Harry Conlin are irresistibly droll in their respective impersonations of the Baron and the Nurse; and, with the Brothers Egbert, they keep the fun in perpetual motion; Master Nipper Lupino Lane also has a very good innings, with songs and dances; and Wee Wallace fairly divides the honours of the title-rôle with Baby Betty Green. Of the leading ladies Miss Gwladys Elvey and Miss Daisy Dormer, principal boy and girl, are exceedingly bright and attractive in the characters of Robin Hood and Maid Marian; Miss Gladys Cooper is an ideal fairy; and Miss Mildred Claire and Miss Edna Loftus make a pleasing boy and girl couple as Allan-a-dale and Molly. Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of dancers assist in the success of the production with several very agile and lively turns.

Royal Lyceum Theatre. — Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.,; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull.—*See-See* has proved a distinct success here, and full houses have been attracted during the visit of Mr. Geo. Edwardes's company. Vocally and dramatically the members of the cast are admirably suited to their parts. No audience can be dull while those excellent comedians, Mr. Frank Danby and Mr. W. H. Rawlins, are upon the stage, and Mr. Leonard McKay's mellow, cultured voice is heard at its best in the music of the character of Yen. Miss Lily Elsie makes a noteworthy appearance as See-See; Miss Amy Augarde is a marvellously bright Mai-Yai; Miss Octavia Barry is thoroughly enjoyable in her one charming solo, while the clever dancing of Miss Topsy Sinden remains a feature of special interest in an interesting performance.

King's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard. —*Cinderella*, which combines everything that is delightful in a pantomime, still keeps on its prosperous career at the King's. Miss Phyllis Dare was indisposed on Monday evening last, and her temporary illness brought forward Miss Lilian Clarke, a pretty and clever actress, who imparted a good deal of life to the title-rôle. Mr. Dan Rolyat, Mr. John Humphries, and Mr. Stephen Adeson are extremely amusing, and the fun never flags in their scenes. The Prince Rudolph of Miss Violet Englefield and the Princess Roxana of Miss Gwennie Hasto are sprightly, finished performances, and the Mopsa of Miss Vera Vere, and the Arethusa of Miss Maria Rignold are cleverly developed parts. Mr. Courtneidge's success in the production of the pantomime has been emphatic.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—A street urchin's idea of a pantomime, entitled *Mick Wittintun*, is the head line this week, and the performance is in every way most entertaining, carried through as it is with great spirit by Mr. Henry Cadle's artists of "Casey Court" notoriety. Spry and Austin are old favourites here, and their smart vaudeville work is greatly enjoyed; the Kurios provide much amusement with a clever acrobatic display of the knockabout kind; Mr. Fred Elton's songs, to his own accompaniment at the piano, are quite a treat; and Kelly and Ashby, the bounding billiardists, perform some astonishing somersault feats. The comedian element is well represented by Mr. Dan Conroy; while Miss Edie Veno and Miss Carrie Joy contribute pleasing comedienne turns. The programme derives further strength from the delightful rendering of patriotic ditties by the popular actor-vocalist, Mr. George Leyton, whose juvenile choristers also assist with great effect in the telling military scena, *The Boys of the Chelsea School*. Miss Bijou Russel's neat and expert dancing gains a well-merited encore; and the bioscope pictures of the *Curfew Must Not Ring* drama are of special interest.

Cooke's Royal Circus.—Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—The final week of the present season has been marked by Mr. Cooke with the introduction of various new and attractive acts into an excellent circus programme, terminating each evening with the now familiar amazing and amusing *Ally Sloper* water scene. An interesting item on Monday evening was the welcome appearance of Miss Ernestine Rosa Cooke and her celebrated cake-walk horse Kentucky Beau, affording a wonderful illustration of equine training. Other pleasing turns are found in the songs and dances of Elliott and Elliott, the comicalities of the Brothers Austin in their chair-pyramids, and the exhibition given by Herr Footit as an equilibrist. Tugs-of-war, comic singing contests, cake-walk competitions, prize distributions, and kindred attractions have given increased interest to the performances; and Friday evening was made the occasion of a benefit for the genial proprietor. A crowded house bore ample testimony to the esteem in which Mr. Cook is held, and to the public appreciation of his successful efforts in providing wholesome amusement.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. W. Ebbutt.—*Leah Kleschna*, which is running here this week, is cleverly acted by Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company. Mr. Paul Belmore in the character of Kleschna, the noted burglar, gives a strong delineation of the part; and as Paul Sylvanie Mr. Wm. F. Grant proves himself an elocutionist of marked ability. Miss Bessie Rignold in the title-rôle fills a strong part with great artistic skill; Mr. Hamilton Deane as the profligate Raoul Berton makes the most of an interesting character; and Schram finds a capital exponent in Mr. Campbell Goldsmid.

FOLKESTONE.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's No. 1 company is here this week with *The Christian*. Mr. Frank Tennant contributes a careful study of John Storm; Mr. Charles Hill does justice to the part of Parson Quayle; Mr. Edwin Ling is an excellent Father Lamplugh; Mr. Charles E. Dering does well as Archdeacon Wealthy; Mr. Frederick Scarth as Lord Robert Ure is worthy of praise; Mr. W. Briscoe Owen's rendering of Horatio Drake is very creditable; Mr. Wilfred Noy plays with pathos the part of Brother Paul; Miss Vashti Wellborne as Polly Love is very good; Miss Molly Hayden acts with skill as Mrs. Callander; and Miss Grace Chalmers submits a powerful portrayal of Glory Quayle.

GAINSBOROUGH.—King's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stear.—Messrs. Kloof and Field's pantomime company appeared here for three nights last week in *Aladdin*. Miss Cissie Ramsey was a dashing exponent of the title-rôle; Mr. Kloof was amusing as the widow; Mr. Fields gave a clever representation of Abanazar; some excellent specialities were introduced by Mr. Harry Gold, descriptive singer; Hoson, juggler; Bros. Shepherd, comedians and knockabouts; and Messrs. Kloof and Ramsey. Miss Florence Lewis was the Princess, and sang the popular "Zuyder Zee" with great effect.

GATESHEAD. — King's Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; General-Manager, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Mason and Bart, the headliners here this week, present a comedy gymnastic act which is at once clever and amusing; the Attilla Brothers, in an exhibition of strength, get loud applause; Tom Stuart, a very clever actor, gives impersonations of Wilfrid Denver and the miser Gaspard, which are thoroughly appreciated; Allsopp and Bekwith, in a comedy act bearing the title *I'm Coming Upstairs*, are seen to advantage; the dancing Gilberts prove an entertaining turn; Rozel, a daring gymnast, submits a startling performance; Mersano, an accomplished coin and card manipulator; Lizzie Lever, comedienne; and pictures shown by the Bioscope complete the bill.

Metropole Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Councillor Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas France.—One of the best pantomimes seen here in recent years is *Dick Whittington*, as presented by Mr. J. F. Elliston. A charming impersonation of Dick is rendered by Miss Maidie Scott, who sings and dances with a winsomeness which is irresistible. No less popular is Miss Veronica Brady, who fills the rôle of Alice, her coon songs and novel dances winning deserved applause. The second "boy" is represented by Miss Lil Hartley in a praiseworthy manner; and Miss Flo Chevalier as Polly Peach has many friends; Miss Gertrude Lytton as the Empress of Morocco and Miss Clorinda Thurtell as the fairy sing with conspicuous success. In Mr. Tom Foy, who plays Idle Jack, we see one of the quaintest comedians who ever trod this stage; there could be few things funnier than his plate breaking business; Mr. Bert Harrow as Fitzwarren is another great mirth-creator; Messrs. Jack Foy and Tod Lowen pose to advantage as the knockabouts; and Mr. J. C. Scatter (a local) as Gertrude makes a hit. Special mention should be made of Miss Violet Morgan, a low comedy artist of much ability, Mr. Ted Foy (the cat), and the speciality dancing of the Aquamarinoff Troupe of Russian dancers.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith. — Mr. George Henry is presenting *The Sledge Hammer* at this house. Mr. Frank Litchfield makes a humorous Tom Walker; Jacob and Simon Derrick are a pair of wicked brothers, cleverly impersonated by Messrs. Wm. Carriden and Arthur Skelton; Mr. Howard Brenan does well as Everard Derrick; Miss Jessie Hope is successful in the rôle of Rose Maywell; and other ladies in the cast are Miss Lottie Davis (Martha Derrick) and Miss Marion Ashley (Catherine Henri).

GLASGOW.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—*Dick Whittington* is now in its last week here, and next Monday the regular dramatic season opens. As Fitzwarren, Mr. Bransby Williams has proved a great favourite, and his impersonations of such diverse personages as Geo. Alexander, Dr. Bodie, R. G. Knowles, and Martin Harvey are absolutely life-like. In the fun-making Mr. Will Evans has been a tower of strength to the company, and in this department he has been ably assisted by Messrs. Wm. Downes and E. Jerome Langford, not forgetting the "man you know," Mr. W. F. Frame. Miss Madoline Rees as Dick, Miss Edna Morgan as the Prince, Miss Mona Brae as Zoe, and Miss Lena Vere as Alice are all favourites; and Mr. Albert Felino as the cat and the clever Tiller Girls have also made many friends.

Grand, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. D. Macfarlane.—*The House that Jack Built* continues to crowd this theatre eight times each week, and the hold that Mr. Fred Kitchen, Miss May Mars, Miss Luna Love, and the Harmony Four have on the public is a feather in the cap of these popular artists.

Royal Princess's.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—The patrons of this popular house have in *Mother Goose* a pantomime after their own heart, and continue to show their appreciation in no uncertain manner. The work of the principals is received with the heartiest approval, whether it is the cheery good humour of Miss Ethel Campbell (Robin), the exceptional singing and dancing ability of Miss Ella Retford (Marguerite), the harmonious duets of the Sisters Hall, or the amusing cross-talk of Messrs. Foreman and Fannan (Policemen), all their efforts are equally popular. Mr. Austin Lenton, too, in the title-part makes a very good Dame, and as Baron Bombasto, Mr. Harry McClelland does some clever burlesque acting; and of course the Scotch part (The Macgander) as played by Mr. Wal Croft is an outstanding feature.

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—After a most sucessful run, *The Babes in the Wood* had a boisterous close on Saturday. There was a good deal of genuine warmth and cordiality shown in the audience to the artists. On Monday Mrs. Bandmann Palmer opened here in *Mary, Queen of Scots*. The company is well selected, and works well together. As Mary, Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer performs her part in a pleasing and most praiseworthy manner; Mr. Sydney Bland as Sir Edward Mortimer displays sound ability, and Mr. F. Skein submits a good study of the Earl of Leicester; Miss Katherine Herbert successfully sustains the part of Elizabeth; a capital representation is that of Miss More Dunphie as Hannah Kennedy, and Mr. Leonard Cheetham does good work as Lord Burleigh. The week's programme includes *Sapho, East Lynne, From Washerwoman to Duchess*, and *Leah*.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. Arthur Carlton is here this week with *In Sight of St. Paul's*, in which Miss Gussie Everett sustains with great effect the part of Cynthia Dell, a lady with a past. Mr. Ernest R. Allen as Tom and Mr. W. H. Domoney as Harry Chichester act with spirit the parts of two brothers; and Mr. Arthur Armfield embodies their old father with quiet dignity; Mr. Herbert Cecil as John Gridston powerfully renders the rascality of the part, and Mr. Henry Gilpin as Bildstein depicts an unscrupulous lawyer with a spice of humour; Mr. Herbert Colley as a London cabman and Miss Sybil Hammersley as Becky Vetch contribute some comedy; Miss Sissie Bellamy as Aileen Miller, Miss Louie Valentine, and Miss J. Hackness as Rose all act their parts pleasingly. Mr. Edward Valentine is excellent as Fretley Burnside, a ticket-of-leave-man. Scenes with St. Paul's in the distance give local colour to the play.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Sam Gething; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Mussett.—La Milo, in her beautiful classical poses, is drawing big houses for a second week, and Cruickshank's clever caricatures are again enjoyed between these. We have also Matthew Brodie and company in *A Drummer of the 76th*, a most interesting Napoleonic incident; the Bright Bros., in a series of gymnastic feats of a high order, are recalled; Fraser and Mac, in a comedy musical act, do well; and Harry Anderson sings two descriptive songs with unusual vigour; clever mimicry by Harold and Hughman is very enjoyable, and is notably fresh; the singing of the coloured Meisters is one of the finest musical treats given here for a long time; Hettie Chattel, as a male impersonator, has undoubted gifts, and makes a capital appearance; while Winnie Derton, comedienne, is also well received. The Bioscope pictures are always enjoyable, patrons finding the films quite up to date.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The principal part of the programme here is taken up by Dean Tribune's *Bo-Peep* "pantometta," in which this clever comedian has introduced lots of lively business, and is ably supported by the other members of the company. The Fergana Trio give a wonderfully good display of head and hand balancing; Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lucas are seen to much advantage in two scenas from Dickens; Walter Bellonini again shows his cleverness as a juggler; three smart comediennes are included on the bill—Princess Pauline, Alice Maple, and Ruth Doris; while humorous ditties are contributed by Adey North and Harry Lawson.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr Samuel Lloyd.—At the head of the bill this week are the *Dandy Thieves*. Miss Castelle and Mr. Frank Morton as Lady Maud and Lord Easen respectively are well received; Mr. Chas. Usher plays his accustomed part as Mr. Miffin with much acceptance, while Mr. Chas. Matthews appears as Sergt. Lightning, and his patter and comicalities are a continuous source of amusement. A splendid exhibition of animal training is given by Leoni Clarke; Hall and Wilson's "cycle racing treadle" is certainly a novelty; the Four Jumels are also favourites of Glasgow audiences, and their talented musical turn is always well received; Chas. Russell is in demand with his London scena, *The Gutter Hotel;* the Zampas as bâton swingers and speciality dancers provide a clever turn; Miss Billie Burford does well in her "Bonnie balloon" song, and Chas. Gardner, eccentric comedian, is above the average.

Coliseum.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—The bringing of Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime company in *Puss-in-Boots* to this handsome theatre has proved a happy hit, and the management are reaping their reward in great crowds twice nightly. The pantomime is mounted in splendid style, and the chorus and dancers are specially good. The principals are a particularly strong combination, headed by Miss Minnie Jeffs, who returns to Glasgow after a long absence, and makes a dashing Colin; Miss Jennie Johns is a fascinating Princess Ivy, and sings her songs with lots of arch humour; the pantomime is rich in comedians, and of these Mr. Sammy Shields, as a Glasgow man, naturally secured a big share of popular favour. He is well suited as Muggles, gets in plenty of local gags, and his own football speciality goes as well as ever, or better. Mr. George Hestor is another comedian whose merits are well-known here, and as King Grabbum he gets lots of opportunity for his quaint comicalities; Mr. Harry Levaine as the Dame is new to us, but the warmth of the applause bestowed on him in every scene shows that he has caught on at once. Mr. George Avon is also well to the fore in the funny business, and in one scene with Miss Minnie Crest they give their clever speciality; Mr. Harry Rogerson as the sleepy page is another smart comedian, who scores well throughout; Mr. Barry Gilmore makes a lively cat, and the Columbia Trio also provide some good scenes. The lady partner of Curtis and Vanity is heartily received for her eccentric dancing turn; Miss Edith Goodall, Miss Annie Wright, Halma the juggler, and Mr. Ben Calder also contribute to the success of the pantomime, which should do well during its sojourn here.

Palace.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—Good entertainment is provided here this week. Miss Marie Loftus, comedienne, is the outstanding attraction, and was received with great enthusiasm, her latest success, "Singers, past and present," being thoroughly enjoyed by the large audience. Another turn of merit is Roland, the great illusionist, who, in conjunction with Miss Marjorie Russell, performs many mysterious tricks. Other artists include Carr and Roe, high-class duettists; Ted Waite, eccentric comedian; Dandy George and his highly-trained dog, Rosie; Gus Hindell, comedian; Oakdene, comedy ventriloquist; and the Biograph with a select series of pictures.

Gaiety. — Proprietors, The Glasgow Gaiety Theatre Varieties Company, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. H. Howard; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Bowerman.—A splendid company is billed here this week, the chief attraction being the engagement of Miss May Lilian Levey in her latest successful song, "The Suffragette"; a good sketch, entitled *The Anarchist Terror*, by Edward Neville and company, was much appreciated; and the songs sung by Miss Kittie Erl secured an encore; a capital turn is submitted by J. Ramsey, mimic, vocalist, and raconteur; and Sill and Silcott had a hearty reception in a railway skit, entitled *Lively Luggage;* while the Gaiety Bioscope gave a clever representation of "Aladdin and his lamp."

GLOUCESTER.—Palace.—Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—After an absence of more years than we care to count, Mr. Walter Munroe appears once again. He has lost none of his old-time cleverness either in singing or dancing, and is flatteringly received. Messrs. Spry and Monti, also old favourites, are as successful as of yore; Bernardo, juggler, causes great merriment, and is as agile as ever; the Monckton's give a capital sketch, *Are Wives Dummies?* Dolly, Agnes, and Maud are billed as "The Factory Nightingales," and while entertaining with song are busy box-making; the Four Aces are a clever troupe of comedy acrobats; Rene and Smith are smart dancers and patterers; Nellie Dunbar is a dainty comedienne; the Alskarno Trio are excellent risley performers; and last, but not least, the Bioscope winds up a good programme.

GRAVESEND.—Grand Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. David Hart.—A strong bill is in evidence here this week. The Five Musical Palmers meet with a good reception; Ethel Dove is a highly-diverting comedienne; Will E. Haines as a vocal character-comedian is extremely quaint; Amber Austa renders a coon song in capital style; Clarke's Nippers, who introduce club-juggling, ball-punching, sparring, singing, and dancing, are a smart and interesting turn; Charles Sloman pays a return visit, and is as popular as ever; Daisy Almer is a pleasing vocalist and dancer; and the Mayvilles with their delightful act go capitally.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — Royal Aquarium. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—The popular play *The Golden Ladder* is being played here this week by Miss Mary Austen and Mr. E. Vivian Edmond's company. Mr. William Clayton depicts the militant, chivalrous parson (the Rev. Frank Thornhill) earnestly and powerfully, and Miss Elsie Marriott-Watson's Lilian Grant is a very gentle and pathetic assumption; the villainy of the Greek merchant, M. Peranza, is well portrayed by Mr. Douglas Howard, and Mr. Milne Taylor is effective as Michael Severn; Mr. Frank Truro is excellent as Jim Dixon, and Mr. Fred May causes much laughter as Samuel Peckaby; Miss Nellie Graham is quaint and humorous as Mrs. Peckaby, whose daughter, Victoria, is capitally represented by Miss Lucy Patterson; Miss Florrie George is admirable as Russomasy, and Miss May Ediss acts prettily as Lily.

GREENOCK.—Alexendra Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—*Lights Out* made a first appearance here on Monday night, and was finely played by Mr. J. Maundy-Gregory's company. Mr. Charles Esdale as Lieut. Von Lauffen submitted a praiseworthy impersonation; Mr. Kenneth Brampton ably portrayed the part of Lieut. Von Howen; Mr. Lionel D'Arargon made a capital Sergeant Volkhardt; the character of Corporal Helbig was in the capable hands of Mr. Richard Fielding, and Miss Frances Davie filled her part as Klara Volkhardt in an admirable manner. The drama is preceded by a one-act play, entitled *Nan*.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—The principal feature of the programme here this week is the musical mélange entitled *The Prince of Monte Carlo*, which is played by Harry Roxburgh's No. 1 company. The piece is full of humorous situations, and the members of the company thoroughly deserve the warm reception accorded them. Jeanette Hall, vocalist, is accorded a warm welcome; the Brothers Zano, triple-bar artists, are good; the Bonanzas give a smart acrobatic turn, and the Empire pictures are amusing.

Pavilion Theatre. — General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. A. White.—The great draw this week is Tarro Myaki, who gives several fine exhibitions of the art of wrestling in the Japanese style; and the various bouts are watched with great interest. Other acceptable turns include the Bensons, who appear with success in an original comedy song-scena; Miss Zetta, a clever wire dancer; Minnie Atkins, coon comedienne; Ned Graydon, instrumentalist; and Tom York, coster comedian. The Parriscope pictures are amusing.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry.—*The Babes in the Wood*, presented by Mr. James Kiddie's company, has formed the second pantomime of the season here. Miss Amy Allnutt, the principal boy, gives a dash of impersonation of Robin Hood; Maid Marian is charmingly played by Miss Anena Walton; the Babes are prettily presented by Miss Baby Lilybelle and Miss La Belle Sylvia; Miss Norah Prendergast as the Fairy and Mr. Leonard Charles as the Demon sing well; Mr. Dawson Dewick presents a droll figure as Soft Sammy; and Mr. Harry Albery is a quaint Dame. Mr. D. J. Tandy adds to the fun as Sir Brokah de Pawn; Messrs. Farr and Farland and Messrs. Grapho and Jackson are laughable. The Lohrenz Quartette of Ladies introduce a capital shadow harlequinade.

Curry's Tivoli.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—A composite turn of a smart character is given by Albertus and Jessie Millar, the chief feature being clever club-juggling. The lady is also an expert cornet soloist. The Saxon Trio present their wonderful exhibition of strength, and competitions have been held nightly. The Arthur Lloyd Trio perform an entertaining sketch; C. Emlyn Jones and his quartette of lady singers accomplish excellent vocal work; Magna is a graceful artist in pose; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fanning deliver an amusing dialogue; and Joe Conway is a successful juvenile comedian.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—*Adventures in a Zoological Garden*, as burlesqued by the Donaldson Bros. and Ardel, is extremely laughable. The Society Quartette give a refined performance, combining singing and dancing, and capital dancing is also displayed by Katie Marsh, in her music hall impersonations; by Raynor and Reece, in a sketch; by Norah Emerald, who is a vocalist in addition; and by the Two Wiltons. Zernini, a smart hand-equilibrist; and Bert Lytton, comedian, complete the programme.

GUERNSEY.—St. Julian's Hall.—Lessee, Mr. C. Robert Perkins.—An exceptional treat is being provided this week in Mr. Allan Wilkie's Shakespearean company. On Monday *Othello* was given. Miss Carrie Baillie as Desdemona fully displayed her artistic skill, and as Emilia Miss Ine Cameron advanced her reputation as a clever artist; Mr. Allan Wilkie's Othello, full of vigour and passion, was much admired; Iago was cleverly enacted by that rising young actor Mr. G. Alexander Marsh; Mr. John Paley was excellent as Brabantio; Mr. George Munroe scored as Roderigo; and Mr. Herbert Morgan was a capital Cassio. *Hamlet, David Garrick*, and *The Bells* are also billed.

HALIFAX. — Theatre Royal, Ltd. — General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Crowded houses testify their appreciation for Mr. Robert Courtneidge's principal company in the successful musical comedy, *The Blue Moon*. Mr. Reginald Switz bears the responsibility of providing the fun. His assumption of Private Charles Taylor is the funniest creation imaginable; Major Callabone is well sustained by Mr. Parti, who proves a capable understudy to Mr. Leslie Gaze; exhilarating work is accomplished by Mr. J. Edward Fraser as Capt. Jack Ormsby and Mr. George Mudie, jun., as the journalist; Mr. Alfred Beers is well placed as Moolraj; Miss Florence Imeson makes a bewitching Millicent Leroy, and gives with charming effect "She did not know." Mention must be made of Miss Clarice Lockstone, who supports the title-rôle, and contributes with unaffected ease "The Singing Girl" and "Little Blue Moon."

Palace and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Harrison.—Colonel Denis Lorraine introduces a military episode, in four scenes, from Ouida's novel "Under Two Flags," entitled *La Vivandière*, which evokes spontaneous applause. Cicardo, the marvellous boy juggler, proves entertaining; as do the Three Gregsons in a rollicking speciality, *The Dummy*. Gus Harris (the Hebrew delineator) in his latest répertoire of character creations, Rose Elliott, Ida Kathrena (the "dolly-girl"), and Lillie Sontter (comedienne) are also appearing here successfully.

HANLEY. — Royal, Ltd — Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Mr. Louis Calvert's company opened on Monday in that charming play, *Sunday*. In the title-rôle, Miss Emelie Polini scores a triumphant success; Mr. Leonard Pagden contributes a masterly reading as Colonel Brinthorpe; Miss Rosalind Ross is a capable Mrs. Naresby; Mr. Ernest A. Douglas acts naturally as Tom Oxley, and is a distinct success in the part; Mr. Max Montesole is a good exponent of Arthur Brinthorpe; Mr. Cecil Yapp as Lively plays the character-part admirably; Mr. Arthur Vezin does well as Jacky; as Towzer, Mr. William Lockhart is capital; Mr. Sidney Rennef scores as Tavy; as the Nun, Miss Muriel Pope is charming; and Mr. Ernest Harrison is good as Abbot.

Grand.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—Irma Lorraine heads the bill in her classical poses, which are much admired; Herbert Lloyd is a distinct success, his burlesque being capital and his caricatures very amusing; Barnard's Mannikins are always a most acceptable turn; the Brothers D'Wynne are seen in a clever head and hand-balancing turn; Sable Fern sings her items excellently, and is much appreciated; Hall and Earle are amusing comedians; Fred and Maud Vypond, society entertainers are pleasing; Harry Walker is successful, his funny stories being well received; the pictures are, as usual, up to date.

HARROGATE. — Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Smith.—Miss Eva Moss and company opened here on Monday in *Frou-Frou*. In the title-rôle Miss Moss played exceedingly well. She had excellent support from Mr. Cecil du Gue as Henri de Sartorys, who was seen to great advantage, especially in the later acts. Miss Hanley was a good Louise; and Miss Phyllis Manners an acceptable Baroness de Cambri. Mr. Kingsford Pearce did well as Paul de Valreas; Mr. Vane made the most of the unimportant rôle of M. le Baron de Cambri; and Mr. Kirkwood appeared as M. Brigard. The last three nights of the week, *Camille*, played by the same company, was in the bill.

HARTLEPOOL.—Empress.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrien.—J. W. Hall is one of the most popular comedians who visit here; C. Wordley Hulse and company render *The Fight in the Forge* in a creditable manner; Winnie Scott, comedienne and dancer, is on a return visit; Jack Neill, versatile comedian, is favourably received; the Four Poole Pelhams gain considerable applause; an exceptionally clever triple comedy bar act is contributed by the Maros; Allan and Hart are good dancers and quick-change artists, and the pictures are particularly amusing.

HASTINGS.—Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Mrs. Russ Whytal and company present here an able performance of Mr. J. M. Barrie's cleverly written comedy, *Alice-Sit-by-the-Fire*. Mrs. Russ Whytal cleverly exhibits the varying emotions of Mrs. Grey; Mr. Aubrey Mallalieu does well; the Colonel is well played by Mr. J. J. Bartlett; Miss Beatrice Bramah as Amy Grey is thoroughly convincing; Mr. T. Pauncefort makes an effective Cosmo Grey; Miss Lucie Verrier is a satisfactory Leonora Dunbar; and Miss Ada Marius as the Nurse, Miss Beresford as Fanny, and Miss Ninon Dudley as Richardson complete the cast.

HEREFORD.—Garrick Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. Barnsley.—*Red Riding Hood* is presented here this week by Mr. Harry Graham's company. Miss Mabel Kessler is admirable as Boy Blue; Miss Grace Stafford makes a charming Miss Muffit; and Messrs. Grant, Kelly, Will Gane, and Arthur Drew keep their auditors in one perpetual roar of laughter. Miss Rosie Juden is very acceptable as Red Riding Hood. The dances of the Four London Belles are excellent; and the other artists are all really capable exponents of their several rôles. The pantomime consists of eight scenes, and is well dressed and mounted.

HUDDERSFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews. — Mr. Bode's travelling pantomime of *Dick Whittington* is here for a week. A set of clever comedians, with a budget of new jokes, includes Mr. Bob Hutt as Fitzwarren, Mr. Rolando Martin as Idle Jack, Mr. Fred Danvers as Matilda, and the witty Fimans as Captain Scrupper and Bill Oakum. The fun is free from taint of coarseness, and is full of laughter-raising situations. Miss Gladys Warren looks smart and plays with vivacity as Dick; Miss Kathleen Severn is a refined Alice, her

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Finest quality and flavour.
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singing being sweet and artistic; Miss Flo Challis as Tommy Trot is bright, winsome, and lively; and Miss Beatrice Lane good as May. Miss Nellie Lauraine plays Fatima with delightful serio-comic effect; Miss Wanda Zaleska looks well as the Fairy Queen; and Mr. Carne Curre shows wonderful agility as the Cat. As specialities there are two popular engagements in Wallan, a clever young juggler, and Collin's Six Lancashire Lassies, in their attractive dances.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The chief portion of the entertainment here is furnished by Mr. Fred Karno's troupe of comedians, in their well-known bustling burlesques, *Mumming Birds* and *Early Birds*. In addition, there are Miss Grace Langley, comedienne and dancer; Ariel and Astarte, clever and daring gymnasts; Little Cliff, a smart young comedian and dancer; the McKays, in their diverting comedy and lightning sketch act; the Sisters Tinsley, duettists and dancers; and the pictures on the Bioscope.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—That talented artist, Mr. Martin Harvey, opened his engagement on Monday evening with *The Breed of the Treshams*. The reception accorded him was commensurate with the admirable reading of the rôle of Reresby the Rat. Miss de Silva again added to her fame as the boy Batty; that sterling actor, Mr. Chas. Glenney, was seen under excellent auspices as Col. Hungerford. On Wednesday the revival of *The Corsican Brothers* was well received by a full house. On Thursday *Hamlet* was down for production.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—The Carl Rosa Opera Company has been reviving, with much success, an excellent operatic répertoire. Since the last visit the company has been very much strengthened, both in soloists and chorus. Mr. Ernest Chas. Gittens is to the fore in the acting-management, whilst Mr. Van Norden takes full control. On Monday *Tannhäuser* was produced in a manner that won the enthusiasm of a very large audience. In the title-rôle Mr. J. Walther sustained the high reputation he holds; Mme. Marie Alexander, an old city favourite, added to her laurels as Venus; Miss Lilia de Berna was well adapted to the rôle of the Shepherd Boy; Miss Grace Nicoll was a highly commendable Elizabeth; and the chorus was augmented by the students of the Hull School of Music. In Tuesday *Il Trovatore*, with Miss Doris Woodhall, a rising young star, as Azucenas—a part she filled with much distinction—was given. Miss Grace Nicoll was a fine Leonora and Mr. Edward Davies a Manrico of much merit. The audience were lavish in applause. *Carmen*, billed for Wednesday, afforded Miss Doris Woodhall her opportunity, of which she took full advantage.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Morton's Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—Packed houses have been the rule since Dottridge and Longden's pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, made its bow to a Hull audience on Monday. Miss Margaret Ruby was all we look for in a principal boy; she has plenty of dash and go. As the Dame, Mr. Tom Fancourt keeps the fun running right merrily; as Billy Crusoe, Mr. Arnold Richardson soon established himself in public favour; and Mr. Harry Ray carried all before him as Will Atkins.

HYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—A remarkable exhibition of canine intelligence is furnished here this week by Harry Edson's well-trained pets; the Great Quarpoz are an exceptionally clever pair of equilibrists; Hercules does some clever feats of weight-lifting and jumping; the Three Keiths create roars of laughter in their comic boxing act; Prof. Sydney Smith provides plenty of amusement in his ventriloquial sketches; the St. Johns are successful in their musical potpourri act; Little Rose Pink is a graceful dancer; the Davenports are expert magicians; Phil Walton scores as a humorist; a smart couple of comedians and dancers are Denby and Dent; Kerr and Shaw figure prominently in a comedy act; and new pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

OHMY'S CIRCUS. — Carl Lynn, a clever animal mimic, is attracting large audiences here this week; the Two Milles give a skilful juggling entertainment; Miss Cara Magda is smart on the high trapeze; the Napier Troupe are dexterous gymnasts; the Roselines, in an acrobatic and contortionist performance, are well received; the Brothers Bosseco provide amusement as comic boxers; Miss Ohmy continues to delight with her dashing equestrian feats; Miss Ada Ohmy is nightly applauded for a graceful scenic act on horseback; a buck-jumping race creates endless merriment; and Ohmy's living pictures continue as popular as ever. August and September provide genuine fun in the laughable sketch, *The Mad Tinker*; and other comic acts, and the mirth-making, is also contributed to by Little Bishop.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Mr. Herbert Barrs' company is here this week in the pantomime, *Aladdin*. Miss Maudie Vincent makes a sprightly principal boy, and is very successful in her vocal numbers; whilst Miss Laura Lindon is a charming Princess. Miss Dorothy Wilson is suitably placed as Pekoe; and the Genii of the Ring is capitally represented by Little Della. Mr. David Phillips is exceedingly funny as Widow Twankey, and with Mr. Will Sherlock as Abanazar, keep the audience in a very hilarous mood. Mr. Ash (Bo Bee) and Mr. Wells (Po Lar) are a couple of good comedians; and Mr. Alf. Selwood as Washee also assists in the comedy. The Emperor of China is a rôle which suits Mr. Carl Fredericks admirably; and the Vizier is in the capable hands of Mr. Wilfred Dane.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. T. Knightall.—The Two McMays please the audience with their pantomime extravaganza, *Blue Beard*, as well as in duets and dances. The Mannikin show of Mlle. Fontain is still popular; and Lily Gaston impersonates the male sex in realistic fashion; Harry Henric, vocalist; Ivy West, serio; Fred Dice, comedian; and the conjuring Lauriers complete the show.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Leonard Grey.—On Monday, Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company commenced a week's engagement with *The Love that Women Desire*. Miss Lalla Stanhope, in the character of Sybil Thorborn, gave a tender and graceful impersonation; as Madge Miss Cicely Desmond was duly passionate; Miss Violet Lawson made a vivacious Pattie; the Squire was carefully played by Mr. J. O. Stewart; and Mr. Jerrold Heather was a manly and effective Phillip.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The star turn in the current week's programme was that of Alec Hurley, the popular coster comedian, whose appearance was warmly greeted on Monday. After giving a couple of his clever and characteristic songs, which were enthusiastically applauded, Mr. Hurley appeared as the chairman of a coster gathering, the guests being reinforced by local amateurs. Other items of the programme were contributed by Leah Arden, a charming ballad singer; Kenneth and Kane, patter singers and dancers; Fred Dunstone, with amusing parodies; Claves and Piccott, jugglers; Walter Wallis, comedian; and W. J. Ashcroft, a veteran character vocalist.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr Jerold E. Reed.—Mr. James Bell's company is paying a visit here this week with *Sapho*. The title-part is played with conspicuous ability by Miss V. St. Lawrence, while Mr. Otto Minster as Jean Gausin is highly appreciated; Mr. George Antley as Jean's uncle is natural and amusing; Mr. H. Langford is good in the part of Eugene Flamant; Miss Clara Greenhalgh is well placed as La Sombreuse; the child's part of Joseph is in the capable hands of little Miss Doris E. Graham.

KIDDERMINSTER. — NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. James P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—The first three nights this week the boards are occupied by Mr. Mouillot's company in the musical comedy entitled *The Blue Moon*. Mr. Victor Wallace as the Major sings well; Mr. F. W. Rooney well portrays the character of Captain Ormsby; Bobbie Scott is in the capable hands of Mr. Basil Mercer; Messrs. F. W. Bowes and Chas. Stephenson cause no end of fun as Moolraj and Private Taylor; Miss May Audrey as Millicent Seraz is good; Miss Dorma Morgan is a pretty Evelyn; and in the title-rôle Miss Marguerite Naudin sings sweetly.

KILMARNOCK.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Major Ward.—This week full and appreciative houses welcome the comic pantomime *Jack the Giant Killer*, which includes some capital turns, especially "Terpsichore's Dream," a marvel of electricity and stagecraft. The heroic Jack is well portrayed by Miss Eily Helene; the Giant Blunderbone is cleverly represented by Mr. W. S. Stevenson; Miss Emmie Cozens as Margary Daw is a favourite; King Fad and his Queen find able exponents in Mr. Harry Farrow and Miss Pattie Fairley; Dame Dabble, by Mr. Johnny McElroy, is responsible for much laughter; Miss Winifred Murry as Daisy dances gracefully; Messrs. Harris and Worth create considerable fun with their patter and songs, as does Mr. George Helm as Donal, the page, and Mr. Gilbert Payne as Simple Simon.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Lessees, J. Bannister Howard, Ltd.; Business-Manager, Herr B. Pareezer.—This week's attraction here has been a presentation of *When it was Dark* by Mrs. Morton Powell's company. The play is dramatically enacted, and affords Mr. George H. Pitt as Constantine Schuabe an opportunity of displaying some powerful acting. Mr. Cyril Austin-Lee capably portrays the part of the Rev. Basil Gortre. Miss Elizabeth Watson is responsible for a forceful characterisation of Gertrude Hunt.

KIRKCALDY.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Burton.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company is paying a welcome visit in *A Chinese Honeymoon*. Mr. James Wilson gives a fine portrayal of the Emperor; Mr. Louis Ashmede makes up well, and is a most satisfactory Lord Chancellor; Mr. Frank Sutton, who is also stage-manager, is good as the Lord High Admiral, and Mr. J. Maxwell Edwardes is well placed as Tom Hatherton; Mr. Ernest Sephton as Pineapple proves himself to be a comedian of considerable ability, and is most successful in his efforts to amuse. Mrs. Pineapple finds a capital representative in Miss May Davis, her coon song and dance being well received; the rôle of Fi-Fi is successfully undertaken by Miss Kitty Clayton; Miss May Stevenson is delightful as Princess Soo-Soo, and sings charmingly; Miss Alma Bolton is an interesting Mrs. Brown, and Misses Madge Davis and Sybil Ross are neat and attractive bridesmaids; equally good are Misses May C. Higgins and Louie Love as the Maids of Honour, and Miss Louie Leighton as Mi-Mi.

LANCASTER.—ATHENÆUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hook.—The pantomime of *Cinderella* is being played here this week. Miss Lottie Holland makes a dashing Prince, and sings well; Miss Ada Stelling is successful as Dandini; and as Cinderella Miss Beattie Shamrock is all that could be desired. Miss Violet Rivers and Miss Louie Bright, as Eva and Maud respectively, work hard, and meet with success; as Father Time Tom Griffith sings well; and George Hyam is funny as Scoot. There are numerous specialities.

LEAMINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—Miss Florence Glossop-Harris and Mr. Frank Cellier, supported by a capable company, are this week appearing here in Shakespearean répertoire. On Monday evening *Much Ado About Nothing* was attractively presented. Miss Glossop-Harris made a handsome and distinguished Beatrice, and proved herself equal to all the requirements of the part; whilst Mr. Frank Cellier's Benedict was an excellent performance. Miss Kate Turner played with considerable grace and feeling as Hero, and Mr. Edward Landor's Dogberry was exceedingly good. Mr. Duncan Yarrow deserved commendation for his rendering of Claudio, Mr. Percy Vernon proved a very courtly and dignified Don Pedro; and other parts were ably sustained by Mr. A. Cotton Holmes, Mr. David Santley, Mr. A. Wilson Wynne, Mr. Stanley Roberts, Mr. Herbert Halford, Mr. Basil Dean, Miss Nita Ashby, and Miss May Saker. Other plays also included in the week's programme were *Twelfth Night*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Carmen*.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—Extensive patronage continues to be accorded Mr. Hart's production of *The Sleeping Beauty*. Miss Katie Vesey, the principal boy, has been out of her place for a night or two through illness, but a prompt recovery and return is confidently anticipated. The show is now at its merriest, for the comedians, Mr. W. H. Powell, Mr. Albert Le Fre, Mr. Josh Dixon, and Mr. J. W. Volt have elaborated their encounters to some purpose, and the audience is kept in a state of continual merriment. That clever pair of dance specialists, Sanford and Lyons, have achieved great success.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston. —Mr. John Tiller's production of *The Forty Thieves* at the Royal runs on with undiminished success. Plenty of new business and taking new songs are being introduced, and all concerned work smartly together.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—A novel and remarkably clever juggling act by the Seven Perezoffs is a most enjoyable feature of this week's bill. The Bogannys are smart in their acrobatic speciality; and some wonderful balancing feats are also subscribed by the Maningos. Phil and Nellie Peters are a versatile and vivacious comedy pair; and the hoop juggler, Stylo; Marie Duma, the talented vocalist; Esta Stella, in song and dance; Lidden and Hayward, in a pleasing musical entertainment; and Chas. Vincent, humorist, also entertain.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—The excellent touring pantomime, *Cinderella*, cleverly played by Mr. Harry Fisher's company, is having a second week of big success, crowded houses being the rule nightly. Mr. Ernie Mayne is the life and soul of the piece in a generous humorous part, and his untiring efforts have been much appreciated. In humorous vein Mr. Johnny Johnston, Mr. Charles Tempest, and Mr. Charles Weston have rendered capital assistance; whilst Miss Julia Bassett as the dashing Prince, and Miss Empsie Bowman, a most dainty and attractive Cinderella, have materially assisted the success.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; General-Managers, Mr. Claude Shayler and Mr. Chas. Weldon.—Beautiful and artistic posings by Henriette de Serris form a most attractive feature of this week's bill. An entertaining musical turn by the Albanos is very successful; as also are the comedy contributions of Cosgrove and Burns. The Katos indulge in eccentric comicalities to the general satisfaction; Ernie Myers, Harry Russon, and Tom Collins, popular comedians, are brilliantly successful; Lily Lonsdale, soprano vocalist, is a favourite; Mons. Slippere, the blind pianist and vocalist, earns hearty recognition; and Los Rupertos are doing an expert acrobatic act.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sam. Jones.—The Tennessee Guards head the bill here with a striking military exhibition and pyramid act. At the bottom of the bill appear the Seabournes, with an equilibristic and acrobatic turn; Mount and Correlli are popular in comedy items; a brilliant instrumental turn is submitted by the Casino Girls; the Three Clarions have a novel speciality; Bert Weston and Mark Anthony are successful comedians; and Herbert Bates, vocalist; and Spencer and Marks, burlesque artists, are also popular.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General and Business Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—Mr. Milton Bode's fairy pantomime of *Red Riding Hood* is securing a grand reception here, which it fully deserves. Miss Annie Purcell, as Boy Blue, secures and deserves the hearty reception accorded her, being encored for her songs "Zuyder Zee" and "On the Isle of Anglesey." Miss Norah Guy wins golden opinions as Red Riding Hood, and is loudly applauded for her songs, "Hyacinth" and "In the shade of the Pyramids." That delightfully humorous Welsh couple, Ted and May Hopkins, are big favourites as Lewis Bach and Bo-Peep. Miss Agnes Tandy as Tom, the Piper's Son, is successful in the rendering of "Arrah Wanna." Mr. Jay Laurier is funny as Johnny Stout, and Mr. Harry Bickley as Dame Trot creates the heartiest laughter, his animal lecture being especially good. Keith and Merson, as Johnny Green and Simple Simon, are mirth-provoking; Mr. Ainsley Burton is capital as the Squire; the Collins-Stella troupe of lady dancers are smart, and the Royal Welsh Singers secure hearty recognition.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren's No. 1 company in *Proof* is the attraction here. Miss Beatrice Shirley is a conspicuous success as Madeline and Adrienne; Mr. Gerald Kennedy as Pierre Lorance makes an excellent impression; Mr. W. J. Butler is good as Lazare, and both Mr. Wilford Bailey as Chamboran and Mr. Carl Beechey as the Duke D'Aubeterre are successful. Miss May Grimshaw does credit to the part of Valentine; and Miss Ellina Turner makes a capital Little Adrienne.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertram G. Iles.—Frank and Jen Latona, who top the bill here, are rewarded with a hearty reception; a big success is scored by Mr. Fred Kitchen and Mr. Frank Lister in the American dramatic sketch, *Number 99*; Syd May, a past-master in the art of mimicry, keeps the house in roars of laughter with his wrestling skit; Jordan and Harvey are laughable Hebrew comedians; the Mascotte Trio of lady gymnasts submit a clever display on the rings; Charles Coverdale scores with his patter and songs; and the Welsh Wanderers are making a successful first apearance here. Charles Robinson and the American Bioscope are also among the attractions.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Premier position is held here by Mr. Frederick Maxwell and company in the romantic episode, *The Girl I Love*, which is played in excellent style. Miss Lois du Cane as Rose Adair and Mr. Frederick Maxwell as Max Donovan are conspicuously successful. Clarke and Glenney create laughter with *The Haunted House*; Percy Hannon sings to the accompaniment of much applause; Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is still a popular feature; the Bros. Tarrant are amusing comedians; and Wright and Elton are also entertaining.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Rousby.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesay's company is again paying a welcome visit this week with *The Village Blacksmith*. In Mr. Sam Livesay is found an actor of rare ability, and his rendering of John Strong is a performance of great distinction; Captain Leo is embodied in capital style by Mr. Joseph Carter; Lucas Marlow has a capable representative in Mr. Edwin Maydew; Miss Louie Adair as the blacksmith's wife, Kate Strong, enlists sympathy by her clever acting; Miss Cassie Le Grande is very creditable as Ruth Parkins; Mr. Geo. V. Campbell is a first-rate comedian, and the fun he extracts out of the part of Billy Twigg is plentiful and good, his efforts being well seconded by Miss Edith Giddens as Martha Mopps; Miss Bertha Hanbury scores as the blacksmith's child, Harry Strong; Mr. Thos. E. Marshall presents a neat sketch of the travelling tinker.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—This week closes the season of Messrs. R. C. Buchanan and Ernest Steven's fine spectacular pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, after a comparatively short but decidedly merry run. The piece has been received with increasingly marked evidences of popular favour; and the audiences have not been slow to appreciate the efforts of all the performers included in the cast.

LICHFIELD.—ST. JAMES'S HALL.—On Monday evening Mr. Edward Graham-Falcon's company appeared here in *Bluebell in Fairyland*. In the play Mr. Percy Roy Travers proved an excellent Mr. Joplin; and Mr. Herbert Clark and Mr. George A. Coleman, his footmen, both played with a keen sense of humour and vivacity. The cats were well represented by Miss Nellie Morris and Ada Verona. In the Dream Mr. Leonard Lane acted and sang well as the Reigning King. Miss Sylvia Mortlake was a regal Queen; and the minor characters were adequately represented by Beattie Olna, Beattie Verona, Charles Searle, J. Walters, Mabel Beresford, Maude Evans, Kate Willis, May Carton, and Lucy Lever. Mr. Travers was a picturesque Sleepy King; Mr. Sidney Edwards was an excellent Dicky; and Miss Mabel Clark an idealistic Bluebell.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—Money is pouring into the leading theatre, where *Aladdin* is being witnessed by packed audiences. This pantomime, which has among its principals Malcolm Scott, Harry Tate, Hetty King, Fanny Dango, Fanny Fields, &c., has proved Mr. Arthur's greatest success. After a run of six weeks there is no abatement in the demand for seats, and the only chance of witnessing the production seems to be at a matinée, of which there are three every week.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—*Mother Goose*, a very beautiful pantomime, is still running merrily at the Fraser-street house. Many additions have been made to the text since the opening night, and the principal comedian, Mr. Tom E. Murray, has a huge budget of good things.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery. —Paumier and Howard's capital company is here this week with *The Midnight Wedding*, which has done good business. Miss Annie Saker again appears in her charming dual rôle of Karl Helsburg and Princess Astrea, for which she earns much applause; Mr. Alfred Paumier presents his fine picture of Paul Valmar; and a deal of comedy is provided by Mr. James E. Page (Sergeant Max) and his two boon companions. The drama is staged in splendid style.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—A delightfully pleasing and amusing pantomime has this week drawn very good business. *Little Cinderella*, as played by Mr. James Kiddie's company, fully deserves the success it attained. The piece is well staged, and the dresses all that could be desired. The electrically lighted carriage is a feature of the show. Miss Edith Harmer's Cinderella received hearty applause, and she was soon installed a favourite; Mlle. De Roze won the hearts of all as the Prince; Dandini was in the capable hands of Miss Zena Pana, in which part she easily scored; Messrs. Sydney Benson and W. G. Wesley caused roars of laughter as the Ugly Sisters; Mr. Tom Payne as Pimples was the cause of much amusement, and the same may be said of Mr. Dick Thomas's Baron. The acrobatic performance of Houpla and Hecla was loudly applauded.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—*The Tyrant*, produced here for the first time in Liverpool, has proved a big draw. An able company, under the direction of Miss Marie Dagmar and Mr. Fred C. Somerfield, have interpreted it with every satisfaction, while the mounting left nothing to be desired. Miss Dagmar played with much power as Tisbe; Mr. Somerfield in the rôle of Homodel stood out prominently, his work being particularly effective; Mr. Roy Fortescue made a fine Angelo; every credit is due to Mr. Lionel Atwill for his dignified Rudolph; and other well-sustained parts were those of Pan (Mr. Alec Mayhew), Victor (Mr. Sydney Lynn), Lady Katherine (Miss Millie Ford), Eulie (Miss Lallah Shelton), and Reginella (Miss Cissy Podmore).

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendall; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—The patrons of this popular house have this week been revelling in the humour of *The Wearing of the Green*, Mr. Chalmers Mackey's splendid production, which is paying a welcome return visit. Mr. Mackey, who is the life and soul of the piece, was received with unmistakable approbation; Mrs. Mackey came in for a large measure of the applause for her delightful Norah; Mr. Arthur Rose, as Shamus, acted and sang in capital style; Miss Nina Flensberg helped with the fun as Biddy McGinn, and sang and danced tastefully; and able support was rendered by Mr. H. Saintsbury (Sir George Courtenay); Mr. David McFarlane (Connor Martin), Miss Adele Liddon (Mrs. McDermott), and Mr. J. S. Chamberlain (Michael Kenny)

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—The principal item here this week is John Tiller's pantomime of *Dick Whittington*, the principals of which are Herbert Garside (Fitzwarren), Dorothy Gould (Alice), Hilda Vining (Emperor), Jessie Templeton (Dick), Will Lytton (Jack Idle), George Elliston (Eliza the cook), and Barny Dixon and Teddy Gibbs. In the variety part of the programme appear Reynold's Minstrels, five very able artists; the Brothers Lilian, smart acrobats on the silver chains; Webb and Branston, whose operatic duets are received with much approval; and Ted E. Box, a very quaint comedian.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole. —*The Octoroon* is being presented here this week by the Royal stock company. Mr. Percy Boucher makes a humorous Pete; Mr. Harry Tresham fills the part of Salem Scudder with every satisfaction; Mr. Sidney Grant is particularly prominent as Jacob McClosky; Miss Florence Palmer is a sympathetic Zoe; and other well-held rôles are George Peyton (Mr. Robert Wilton), Mr. Sunnyside (Mr. Cecil Ravenswood), Mrs. Peyton (Miss Ravenswood), and Dora (Miss Florence Cameron). Some excellent pictures are shown by the Royal Bioscope.

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. M. Montgomery. —*The Fatal Hour* is being given here this week by the Royal Stock Company. Miss Gladys Hastings-Walton plays with much effect as Amy Henderson; Miss Lina Nazeby makes a powerful Olga Meredith; Mr. H. G. Brandon is exceedingly humorous as Walter Wallop; and other well-presented characters are Arthur Henderson (Mr. Frank S. Strickland), Squire Henderson (Mr. Charles Herberte), Bertie Lamb (Mr. Francis E. Wybert), and Richard Blair (Mr. Wallace Campbell). The Royal Bioscope has several fine pictures.

PARK PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmott.—Here this week Charles Majilton and company are producing the exceedingly funny sketch *The Trippers*. Miss Ella Dean is well received for her smart songs; Dolly Andrews, a new comedienne, is rapidly rising in public favour; and the bill also contains the names of Valmo, Zasma, and Don Cameron.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—Heading the bill here this week is Mr. J. K. Reynold's sketch company in *Conscience*; the Lancashire Mill Lads submit a neat vocal scena, entitled *Home for the Holidays*; Ted Saunders displays high powers as a mimic; little Agnes Tina shows herself an accomplished child; Harry Taylor, "the Wigan Warbler," has a funny turn; and others who appear are Hardie Palm, comedian; and Alfonzo, feet equilibrist.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Topping the bill here this week are Mme. Alice Esty and her company with the operetta scena, *Betta, the Gipsy*, which has been received with much favour. Supporting the famous prima donna are Messrs. Craufurd Kent and Charles C. Ommanney and the Misses Lena Pierpoint, Ethel Clifford, and Charlie Burrett. A most diverting show entitled *The Awakening of Toys* is presented by De Witt, Burns, and Torrence; some particularly smart conjuring comes from Prince Kokin; Simms and Simms, as comedy musicians, provoke much laughter; Watson's dogs display a deal of intelligence; Stacey and Williams have a lively turn as comedians, patterers, and dancers; some charming vocal tableaux are provided by Mlle. Sylvia; and Harry Drew renders in capital style several bass songs.

LONG EATON.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Mr. Gus. Levaine's pantomime *Cinderella* has proved a great attraction this week. With Miss Lizzie Levaine as the kitchen drudge, Miss Dora Denmark as Prince Charming, Mr. Arthur Collins as the stony-broke Baron, Mr. Cecil Webb and Mr. D'Arcy Monkl as the proud sisters the story is well staged. In the Palace of Delight is plenty of variety business, including a clever performance by the Zola Troupe of acrobats, Mlle. Alberta on the telephone wire, the Alpine Brothers in their high-perch act, Anderson and Ashly, and the Ruby Quartette of dancers.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—This theatre has been transformed into a variety house, and opened on Monday night with an excellent company. Caban's French Circus tops the bill, and gives an excellent performance; the Dunvilles submit a clever musical turn; and the dancing of the Royal Quintette evokes much applause. Other good turns are provided by Les Steckels, in a gymnastic display; Miss Lola Leonard, in illustrated songs; and Mr. Mark Anthony, comedian. The Bioscope is also a great attraction.

LOWESTOFT. — MARINA.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. A. Smith.—The pantomime of *Little Red Riding Hood*, for which Mr. Arthur Gibbons's company of upwards of fifty artists are responsible. The catchy songs, choruses, and clever dances are well received, and the principal parts are ably sustained by Miss Janet Lawton (Prince Bountiful), Miss Nini Terri (Maid Marian), Miss Maud Ferguson (Fairy Wolf), Miss Nellie Banks (Red Riding Hood), Mr. Ted Mac (the Dame), Mr. Tom Banks (Johnny Stone), and Mr. Geo. Marriott, jun. (the Baron). A feature of the specialities is Le Diabelo in his daring cycle act, which is loudly applauded.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—The animated pictures this week include the pantomime *Blue Beard*. The bill also includes Mdlle Rosini's miniature menagerie, A. P. Boswell, and Bert Bowden (comedian).

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Mr. T. H. Taylor's company in *The Worst Woman in London* is at this theatre this week. Miss Olga Andre is seen to advantage in her original character as Frances Vere; Miss Polly Marsh portrays the part of Matilda Parker successfully, while Mr. Geo. Gaisford as Jack Felton is praiseworthy; as are Mr. F. Vernon Travers as James Milford, Mr. Paul Barry Leuers, Mr. Hervey White, and Mr. H. W. Monte as Vincent Lyle, Bob Goldfinch, and Hugh Drayton respectively.

MAIDENHEAD.—TOWN HALL.—Secretary, The Town Clerk.—*Charley's Aunt* is being played to crowded audiences. Mr. Tom Macfarlane scores an immense success as Lord Fancourt Babberley; the two college chums are well represented by Messrs. Basil Lynn and J. E. Stephenson; Sir Francis Chesney is played with discretion by Mr. T. S. McCausland Stewart, Brasset by Mr. W. A. Stolbuck, and Spettigue by Mr. Percy Tyler; Amy and Kitty are brightly depicted by Miss Sybil

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Grieg and Miss Dorothy Barrington; Miss Norah Johns is winsome as Ela Delahay; and Miss Grace Baring is good as the real Donna Lucia.

MAIDSTONE.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—The current week's programme is well up to the average, among the leading turns being Miss Billie Barlow, who enters on her second week's engagement, and is one of the most popular artists who have ever appeared in the town. Frank Cumminger, a clever sand-dancer, soon dances himself into favour; the New York Nippers appear in the scena *Bed-Time*, and introduce some clever singing and dancing; Silvo is an instrumentalist with some novel methods; the Lloyd-Phillips' company, in the dramatic sketch *Betrayed Friendship*, is popular. Others appearing are Nellie Martell (comedienne and dancer), Charley Dixon (comedian), Katie Lynd (comedienne), and the Bioscope.

MANCHESTER. — ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Before a packed house Mr. Walter Melville's company presented here on Monday the interesting drama, *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning*. The story of the "girl's" temptations and ultimate rescue is excellently told, chiefly by Mrs. Frances Ruttledge in the title-part, Mr. Roy Redgrave as Sailor Will, Miss Nannie Meade as the unscrupulous Vesta le Clere, and Mr. Walter Thornton as the villainous Harcourt; while admirable service is rendered by Miss Hilda Daynton as Lucy, Mr. John Nolan as Bill Slater, Mr. Frank Robertson as Jack Fenton, Mr. Kenneth Black as Richard Fenton, and—in humorous rôles—Mr. Willie Reade and Miss Marie Hildare. The play is thoroughly entertaining and elaborately staged.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Messrs Cullen and Carthy's pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, is repeating its success before large audiences on the circuit of the local Broadhead theatres.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. Frank Denman-Wood's excellent pantomime of *Dick Whittington*, played last week at the Royal Osborne Theatre to good houses, is proving equally successful here this week.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Licensee, Mr. John Hart; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—After a highly-successful run at the Theatre Royal, Sheffield, Mr. John Hart has transferred his production of *Mother Goose* in its entirety to the above theatre, when it opened on Monday night to a good house. The company is a strong one, and includes Miss Daisy Jerome as Gretchen, a part which is played by that talented lady in a most vivacious manner; Mr. J. E. Nightingale is particularly good as Mother Goose; Mr. Jack Pleasants makes a decided hit with his quaint style as Alexander; and Mr. Harry Roxbury shows himself a very capable comedian. Miss Maisie Gay sings well, and makes a good impression as Colin; and very pleasing is Miss Sylvia May as Jill. Miss Winifred Norman as Lady Ida dances in fine style; and Miss Gertrude Parker (the good Fairy) sings and dances nicely. Others who do good work are Miss Rita Narcelli, Messrs. Ernest Spalding, Charles Hanbury, G. P. Polson, the Valdo Brothers, and Master Frank Taylor. The scenery and dresses are pretty, and some excellent dancing is done by the ballet, under the direction of Mme. Louie.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The principal attraction here this week is provided by Leo Stormont and company in a well-staged and realistic version of *Rob Roy*, adapted by Leo Stormont, whose impersonation of the chief character, that of the outlaw, is a fine piece of work. Arthur Lennard, the popular actor-vocalist, sings several songs in his usual artistic style; and other capital turns are given by Little Ganty, a smart comedian; the gentle Mackweys, in a fast and furious comedy act; Madge May, comedienne; the Three Ramoniers, wonderful balancing acrobats; Theo Hardeen, the well-known handcuff manipulator; Kitty Glover and company, in *Mr. Their's Heir*, an amusing sketch; and Raie Walters, in a smart song, called "The Fisher Girl." The Bioscope adds some amusing pictures.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—*The Earthquake* is still the chief attraction here, and good houses are the rule. Tom Costello causes some amusement with his latest, "The Lady Suffragettes"; and Olgar and Elgar are exceptionally good in a vocal and musical act. Jove Hayman and Little Marie Montague are seen to advantage in a capital sketch, *Christmas Eve*; Holden's Mannikins are very cleverly manipulated; Frobel and Ruge are smart aerial comedians; and the Three Careys, Australian comedy artists, are amusing. Two vocal items by the choir, "The Three Beggars" (soloist, Mr. J. F. Hedlam), and "Come, live with me," are well rendered; and the Bioscope subject is interesting.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A very good turn here this week is *The Coster's Honeymoon*, a characteristic sketch, in the hands of Amy Anderson and company. Huline and Le May, musical clowns and novelty artists, are highly entertaining; the Cumberlands give a remarkable exhibition of acrobatic cycling; Bessie Travis is a smart ventriloquist; Billie French, swell comedian, dances exceptionally well; and other good turns are Harry Briggs, triple-voice vocalist; Geo. Duval, entertainer; the Almos, equilibrists and tumblers; and Ellis and Watts, comedians and dancers.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Haley's Juveniles, an exceedingly clever troupe of well-trained children, are paying a welcome return visit here this week, and for upwards of twenty minutes provide a delightful entertainment in song and dance, the early Georgian Court dance, and the singing of Dot and Spot, being particularly enjoyable. Walter Curtis, a first-class comedian, has a good reception; the Aeronauts give a novel and clever acrobatic performance; Zanfretta and Napio are good musical eccentrics; and Valvo is a smart ventriloquist. Others who contribute are Arthur Slater, a wonderful whistler; Chris. Masters, character vocalist; and Nellie Navette, comedian and good dancer. "Wanted, a Watch Dog," is shown on the Bioscope.

HIPPODROME, HULME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Charles Baldwin's Comedians head the bill here this week in their laughable absurdity, *Bank Clerks*, and are highly diverting. Macdonald and Huntington give an exceptionally clever turn; J. W. Rickaby, comedian, is a capital laughter-maker; and George Russell, comedian, is well received. George and May Danvil, in artistically-rendered vocal scenas, are entertaining; the Maisanos, four funny Frenchmen, are very good in a musical act; and the Five Powells appear to advantage in a marvellous legmania and panto-mimic show. "The Conjurer's Pupil" is an amusing film shown on the Bioscope. Emmie Milstead and Joe Bell figure on the programme, but did not appear on the occasion of our visit.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton, and District Theatres, Ltd.; General-Manager, Capt. Cecil Clayton.—During this week Poole's Myriorama is the attraction here. In addition to a series of remarkable pictures, there is a strong variety company. The Four Rosaires give a clever acrobatic display; the Tiscots evoke appreciation as living marionettes; the Boleros on the triple bars are well received; Li Chang Hi is an interesting turn; Eileen and Mayne are clever as dancers; Johnny O'Rourke causes laughter; and the Seddons are good comedy jugglers.

MARGATE. — HIPPODROME. — Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. Frederick Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—The principal attraction here this week is a return visit of Lockhart's elephants, introduced by Captain Taylor, a native of Margate. The unique performance of these animals proves again very mirth-provoking. The other contributors to the programme include Madge Field, comedienne and dancer; Charles Denton, comedian; Cole and Rags, eccentric jugglers; the Sisters Lavender, dainty duettists and dancers; and Allis and Cossatti, the comedy duo. The Hippodrome pictures are good, as usual.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Lewis Gilbert.—The Bros. O'Brien head the bill, and give a pleasing performance on the horizontal-bar; Emmie Ames is well received; Germaine, the wizard, gives a good show; Mlle. Eldie, in her Pose Plastique act, wins favour; Harry Bancroft scores with his songs; Clown Charlton contributes an eccentric musical variety act; and Bert Woodward, the coon cyclist, is also a good turn. A series of animated pictures complete the programme.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Frece.—Engaged here are the Four Royal Welshmen, Lilian Neville, operatic and ballad vocalist; Harry Haytor, comedian; the Smalleys, on the triple bars; Nellie Duval, comedienne and dancer; and Cligo and Rochelle, in their comedy act, *An Actor's Antics*.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Now in the third and last week, Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime, *The Sleeping Beauty*, still continues to draw large audiences.

OPERA HOUSE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—An immense audience accorded a hearty reception to the pantomime, *Puss in Boots*, which was produced on Monday night. The production is in the hands of Messrs. C. and F. Renad, who have left nothing undone to make it complete. Miss Rita Everard is a dashing principal boy, two of her songs receiving hearty encores; Miss Winnie La Barte is charming as Princess Florence, her singing being particularly worthy of special notice. The greater part of the merriment is due to the untiring efforts of Mr. Rowland Hill as the giddy widow. The rôle of Lachrymose, the King, could scarcely be better placed than in the hands of Mr. Fred Lyne, who is both clever and funny. Messrs. Cribb and Cribb work hard as the miller's sons, and are successful in causing much laughter with their patter and songs; and Mr. Cecil Barrett is amusing as Freddie. Miss Ruth Zilwood is conspicuous as a pleasing Captain Slasher, and Miss Marie Neilson is exceedingly good as Eric. Mr. Harwood Cooper causes merriment as Fleecem, the lawyer, and Mr. Gilbert Oakes gives a fine representation of Thomas Mouser, Puss in Boots. Miss Margaret Billington, Miss Ivy Moore, Mr. Reginald Capel, Mr. Reginald D'Arcy, and Mr. Hamilton Jones capably fill responsible rôles.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant.—Messrs. Frank J. Pitt and Chas. Halling's company is this week appearing in the sensational melodrama *£1,000 Reward*. Mr. Chas. Halling is particularly keen and alert as the detective of the new school; and Mr. Frank Dallas genuinely funny as the example of the old. Mr. Fred Wilberforce makes a sufficiently villainous Gilbert Lyle; and Mr. George Scully contributes several song and dance turns. Miss Daisy Halling appears successfully as Mme. Sanson; Miss Crissie Francess is a sprightly Kitty; and Miss Lynn Dorlington is to be congratulated on being the possessor of a naturally fine voice.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—There is really nothing new to record in regard to Messrs. Howard and Wyndham's lavish production of *Aladdin* at the Tyne Theatre. Nightly the vast auditorium is crowded to excess, the pantomime proving as popular with visitors from the country on excursion days as with the townspeople.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's *Aladdin* has entered upon its seventh week at the Royal Theatre with every prospect of the extensive patronage it is receiving being accorded it to the close of its run.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bacon and Bolam; Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—Crowded houses have justified the enterprise of the management here in putting a pantomime on the boards. A strong company is responsible for *The Babes in the Wood*, and the entire production is a huge success. Miss Rose Hamilton makes a dashing Prince; Miss Lucy Lynch is a pretty Princess; and the Babes are pleasingly impersonated by Misses Blanch Albert and Ada Merry. The fun and frolic is well looked after by Messrs. Bernard and Weston and the Albert and Edmund's Troupe.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Moss' Empires, Ltd; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—At the head of the bill this week we have Miss Kate Carney, who receives a flattering reception, and is not allowed to quit the stage until she sings her popular song and scena "Liza Johnson," which is received with prolonged plaudits. Ed. E. Forde, the Australian sundowner, is extremely funny, and keeps the house in a continual state of laughter; Carney and Armstrong prove a most entertaining couple; and the Three Tauberts are expert xylophonists. The musical comedy produced by Surrie Lindon's Vaudevilles is very pretty and effective, the singing being of first-class order; Marzella's trained birds keep the house entertained; Park's Eton Boys delight everyone with their vocal contributions; Sybil St. Elmo is another success as a vocalist; Burns and Burns create much mirth in their sketch *Fun in a Museum*; and the Bioscope has an amusing series of pictures.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Mr. John Tiller's company occupies the boards here this week with the diverting pantomime *Aladdin*. Miss Jessie Wilton as Aladdin is excellent, and sings her songs acceptably; Miss Clara Beck as the Princess is admirable; Mr. Harry Elliston plays the part of Abanazar in a manner which is greatly appreciated; Mr. Fred Dark gives a droll impersonation of Widow Twankey; Mr. Dark and Mr. Harry Morgan create much laughter in their comic duet, and are a great success; Little Britton is a comedian of diminutive stature who keeps the house in ripples of laughter. The scenery and dresses are exceedingly pretty and effective. In the Palace Scene varieties are introduced by Herbert La Mortine, singer and bâton manipulator, and The Waltons, acrobats in Chinese attire.

NEWPORT.—EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Major Gallaghar; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Page.—The chief item in the bill this week is the sketch *Three of a Kind*, produced under the direction of Miss Ethel Arden and Mr. George Abel, which causes roars of laughter. *The Sea Nymph*, a poetic phantasy, is successfully produced by Miss Peggie Lennie and Walter Hart; the Vasilesem Troupe are smart on the triple bars; and Victor Newman, a clever impersonator, is warmly recognised. The Hopkins Bros. provide a neat bit of fun; Lillian Lowe sings charmingly at the piano; and Kate Traill renders several songs in acceptable style. Allen Hanbury, a comedian, contributes a funny song; and the Bioscope shows a picture, "The Drunken Mattress," that is extremely amusing.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. Fred Benton and company, with *The French Spy*, is paying a welcome return visit here this week. As Fritz Mr. Fred Benton gives a clever impersonation; and Mr. Beresford Lovett ably sustains the part of Captain Sommers. Mr. L. Chaseby is a capable Lieut. Maxwell; Mr. Max Coutts gives a satisfactory portrayal of Count Romanoff; Mr. George Sherraton is well placed as Petross Romanoff; Mr. Rex Ward is good as Max Revelski; Mr. Hugh Travers makes the most of the part of General Trepoff; and Mr. Charles Digby is favourably received as Viscount Alexis. Miss Madge Devereux is an excellent Countess Ande; Miss Ella Seton proves an acceptable Julie; and Miss A. Harrison-Tate as Olga is worthy of much praise.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden.—Miss Lydia Donovan's company is the attraction here this week in the successful play entitled *Her One Great Sin*. Mr. C. Quinton Fulford makes a clever villain as Arnold Thornhill; Mr. Chas. Marshall undertakes the part of Rueben Warhurst in a very able manner; Miss Phyllis Damian as Charlie and Miss Maudie Lambert as Gracie are excellent in their respective parts; Mr. Fred Hodson is highly amusing as Jerry Jumble, and is ably seconded by Miss Nellie Lambert as Nancy Wimpenny; and Grace Warhurst is sympathetically played by Miss Lydia Donovan.

NORWICH.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Mr. Austin Wright, who heads the bill here, meets with an enthusiastic reception; Roma and Romani—the latter a Norwich man—give a very pleasing musical entertainment; Leo Dryden makes himself famous with his popular and patriotic songs; the Veller Bros. prove themselves accomplished gymnasts; Julia Kent and Alex Keith, duologists, are much appreciated; Henry Carlton and company in *The Window-Cleaner* are very amusing; Will Bacchus, actor-vocalist and coster comedian, is a good turn; and Slane is an eccentric comedy artist. The Hippo Bio seems more amusing than ever.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—Mr. Geo. Dance's company, in the first visit to Nottingham of *The Little Michus*, is the attraction this week. Mr. Foster Courtenay as General Des Ifs is entirely in his element, and every time he appears a ripple of laughter commences, and continues all the time he is on the stage. Misses Alice Coverick and Gipsy Dale, in the title-parts, act up to each other excellently, and their duets and trios with Bagnolet are very pleasing numbers; Bagnolet is impersonated in a most satisfactory manner by Mr. Gilbert Childs; and Mr. William Everard is effective as Gaston Rigaud. Miss Mary Young successfully essays the rôle of Mme. Michu; and the Mlle. Herpin of Miss Maisie Leonard is deserving of commendation. Mr. Leon Simpkin as Michu, and Mr. Robert C. Harcourt as Aristide, both do well, as also do Mr. Edwin Stanley as Miss May Marshall in the rôles of Market Man and Woman respectively. The dancing of Mlle. Marjorie is a very attractive feature of an excellent production.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Chas. P. Cooke.—Mr. Edward Marriss' company presents an excellent pantomime, based on the story of *Robinson Crusoe*. The special scenery and the spectacular effects are excellent, and the staging and mounting all that can be desired. The music and dancing, under the direction of Mr. Hubert Boggetti, are attractively presented, and the manager, Mr. E. H. Bertram, can congratulate himself on a good production. Miss Maisie Jarard is very effective as Crusoe, her singing and dancing being in the best of taste; while Miss Effie Vincent as Polly Maydew has a very winning manner. Mr. James Graydon is thoroughly capable of carrying through the fun, and is ably supported by Messrs. Herbert Peace, Wm. James, Frank Yorke, and John Travers. The Waldrons, the Thalian Glee Singers, and Chandler and Payne provide in an efficient manner the speciality turns. Mr. Ernie Hampson makes a very good Friday; and the pet dog of Mr. Jack Kashma is a successful animal study. The remainder of the characters are well handled, and the chorus numbers are capitally rendered.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles H. Bowmaker.—Once more we have a welcome visit from Ernest Shand, whose refined comedy and quaint humour is proving as attractive as ever. The Fourteen Black Hussars, the latest novelty presented by Lasky, Rolfe, and company, represent the last word in noisy harmony. Their speciality, *The Bass Drum Trust*, is probably the best exhibiton of artistic noise extant. Dot Hardy has a style all her own, and its very uniqueness is an attraction; Michael Nolan, always slyly funny, improves on acquaintance; and Joe Brady is an admirable entertainer. Sylvesta, assisted by Mlle. Courtney, successfully mystifies everybody; and the barrel jumping of Tony Spring is a revelation in athletics. As a comedienne, Agnes Hazel has not much to learn; and the extravagant humour and boisterous fun of the Two Bostons is provocative of rounds of spontaneous laughter and applause. An interesting and amusing series of pictures, "Puck's Pranks on a Suburbanite," bring a copital programme to a conclusion.

NUNEATON. — PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENTS CO., LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company is playing in capital style *The Female Swindler*, which is drawing good houses. Miss Grace E. Leslie gives a clever portrayal of Lu Valroy; Mr. Joseph Millane makes a first-rate John Coulson; Mr. Stanley Radcliffe as Geoffrey Warden is well placed; Miss Florrie Kelsey is a charming May Andrews; Mr. A. Kenyon-Gray and Mr. Guy P. Ellis, as James Denver and Harold Travers, are deserving of praise. Some good comedy is introduced by Mr. Clarence Ibbotson in his various characters, and Miss Mary Dawson as Mary Ann.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—A full house witnessed the opening performance of Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime, *Mother Goose*, on Monday evening. Mr. Harry Rich in the title-rôle is very much to the fore, and with Mr. Charlie Rich as Jack there is not a dull moment; Mr. H. O. Wills and Mr. Leonard Maitland as Lord Pudsey and Wibsey Slack cause much laughter; and Mr. W. Fulbrook makes a capital Mayor; Miss Lola Patey in the part of Gretchen is very good, and her yodel song elicits much applause; Miss Isabella Dillon is a sprightly Colin, and sings her songs well; she joins Miss Pauline Hague (Jill) in some pleasing duets; Miss Violet Ashcroft as Heartsease sings very sweetly, and Mr. Charles Homer makes good use of his voice as Malignum; the Bros. Smarte do well as the horse and donkey; and Mr. Chas. Goff is good as the goose. Some excellent dancing is contributed by Miss Lottie Stone's quartette of lady dancers and the Four Rosebuds, and Wee Jessie sings in a capital manner.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Howgate.—A first-class programme is presented here this week. Cinquevalli performs with his usual skill to appreciative audiences; another excellent show is given by the famous Kellinos in their speciality act, *A Fête in Venice*, being rewarded with much applause; Ambrose Thorne is a refined comedian, and he sings some funny songs; Marie Collins, comedienne is well received; the marvellous Avolos perform daring feats on the perpendicular poles in a clever manner; Adah Grey is a capital vocalist; and Billy Hobbs is a good coon comedian; whilst the original Hartfords do well in a acrobatic cycle act. The Royal Dottoscope shows a very amusing picture.

HIPPODROME. — Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Nuttall.—Tom Lloyd, eccentric comedian, is the star, and he is very popular; Geo. Davis and company cause roars of laughter with a funny sketch, *Jack's Uncle*; Andy Fagan also sings and dances well; the Spanish Goldinis are clever with their juggling and carpet spinning; Shelia McNeil is a capital Scotch comedienne; Xley and Hamilton give a couple of vocal and musical duets in good style; and the Two Madges are smart juvenile artists, and the Dottoscope concludes with good pictures.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Bentz.—Mr. Robert Macdonald's company in *Human Hearts* is here this week. Mr. W. D. Fazan submits a powerful and capable embodiment of Tom Logan; as Frederick Armsdale Mr. Ernest Gray plays with marked effect; Mr. E. H. Dobell as Jem Mason has a character to which he does every justice; a capital Jimmy Logan comes from Mr. Fred Lester; Mr. Harry Turner scores in his delineation of Limpy Morgan; Mose Jones is faithfully depicted by Mr. George Hewitson; Miss Maud Lindon makes an excellent Jeanette Logan, acting with histrionic ability; Miss Dora Watson deserves praise for her Ruth Larkins; Miss Reana Roberts, a child-actress, as little Grace Logan, is admirable; and Helen Shaw is excellently enacted by Miss Althea Hyde.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Tom Toy.—Jack Sheppard, the handcuff expert and gaol-breaker, is a great draw here this week. Good turns are also given by James Valdon (speciality dancer), the Sisters Stratton (duettists, burlesque artists, and dancers), J. H. Harris (Scotch comedian), Cullen and Coyle (eccentric comedians), Tom Bassett (Shakespearean comedian), and the Musical Kemps (instrumentalists).

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. C. F. Williams; Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—True to their traditional love of musical comedy, a bumper house on Monday witnessed the curtain rung up on the first presentation in the West of *The Belle of Mayfair*. Mr. Harry Parker is great as the parvenu Sir John Chaldicott, his topical song being tumultuously redemanded; Mr. Gwyn Alwyn as Hugh Meredith makes the most of the vocal opportunities falling to his lot; Mr. Haddon Cave give a capable rendering of Lord Mount-Highgate; Mr. Edward Hugonet impersonates the Hon. Raymond Finchley with success; and Mr. Lauri Lisle is highly amusing as the Comte de Pierre. Miss May Yates as the Belle is a vivacious actress and an accomplished dancer; Miss Daisie Irving as Princess Ehrenbreitstein receives a triple encore for an attractive rendering of her pretty song "The weeping willow wept"; Miss Aurélie de Loriere is attractive in "Why do they call me a Gibson Girl?"; the part of Lady Chaldicott finds an able exponent in Miss E. Stevens; and Miss Mabel Dent is a spirited lady's maid.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant.—William Bourne's exciting drama *Man to Man* furnishes the week's attraction. The leading parts of this now well-known drama are played by Mr. C. A. Melton as George Gordon; Mr. A. Beaufort as Samuel Plumtree; Mr. Harry Stuart as the Rev. P. Ormond; Mr. E. Beecher as Richard Ellerton; Miss Maud Craven as Lavinia; and Miss Nina Farington as Ethel Maythorn. The management have engaged Charles Livingstone, an ex-convict, to appear in the Prison scene.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Mr. George Formby presents a humorous turn here; the Three Demons have a highly sensational cycling act; Meier and Mora, a couple of American artists, provide an interesting exhibition of ball-punching; Ben Harris and company, in a sketch entitled *A Promising Pupil*, receives plenty of applause; the Musical Keiths are an accomplished little company; Will Dalton keeps the audience in good humour; the Cambrian Singers give an attractive selection of popular songs; and Jane Temple, comedienne, and Vernon's Pictures complete a good programme.

PORTH.—PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—This week we have Billy McLaine's sextette of singers, dancers, and comedians, who are cordially received; Great Vincent is applauded for his daring acrobatic performance; Fossett's circus is a turn which is highly appreciated by all who witness it; Harry Wenburn delights the audience with his songs and comicalities; Leo Bollingers, the Parisian Rag Painters, are really smart. Others are The Lashmars; Evan Evans, the Welsh comedian; Jack Hilton, eccentric; Flo Banks, comedienne, and the Palace pictures.

PORTSMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—The rollicking musical comedy, *The Earl and the Girl*, is being presented here this week by Mr. William Greet's principal London company. Jim Cheese is divertingly played by Mr. William Stephens, whose comedy is of a high order; he is ably supported by Miss Jeannie Richards as Liza Shoddam. Mr. Arthur Harrold is admirable as Dick Wargrave, acting his part with distinction; Mr. Percy Wright as the Hon. Crew Boodle is excellent; Mr. Fred W. Patrick as the host of the Fallowfield Arms, Mr. Hazell, plays well; A. Bunker Bliss, Downham, and Mr. Talk are all capably taken by Messrs. H. Courtin, W. Norman, and Greene Taylor; Miss Frances Earle is a charming Elphin Haye; Miss Gertrude Melville as Daisy Fallowfield is graceful and sings well; Miss Joan Clifford scores as Miss Virginia Bliss; and Miss Beatrice Anderson as Mrs. Shimmering Black also deserves mention. The Entente Cordiale dance is gracefully performed by the Misses Beatrice Ford, Enid Beverly, Lilly Doran, Blanchette Grand, Nellie Lawrence, and Geraldine Scott. The orchestra, largely augmented, is under the able direction of Mr. Evelyn Baker.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's capable company is here with the fascinating play, *Two Little Vagabonds*. Mr. Arthur E. Melbourne sustains the part of George Thornton in a vigorous and telling manner; Captain Darville is well placed in the hands of Mr. Sidney Vautier; Mr. Dunstan Hayne gives an admirable personation as John Scarth; Mr. Lionel Ellis as Bill Mullins makes good use of his opportunities, and scores accordingly; and Messrs. Frank Gordon and Dick Winslow are able as Dido Bunce and the Coughdrop. Miss Grace Haywood portrays Marion Thornton with sympathetic womanly tenderness; Miss Rosslyn Vayne takes with marked success the part of Barbara Scarth; Miss Lena Vernon does well as Sister Randall; Biddy Mullins is smartly acted by Miss Evelyn Shaw, and the two Little Vagabonds are depicted in a life-like and capable way by Miss Edie Martin as Dick and Miss Josie Beltram as Wally.

PRESTON. — ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—At the top of the bill here this week are Henry Herne and company, who present a dramatic sketch, entitled *Blackmail*, introducing a startling real water incident. The Tan Kwai troupe of real Chinese from Manchuria give a wonderful performance, including acrobatic and spinning feats, conjuring, and juggling. Tate and Tate are clever and amusing comedy acrobats; Primanesi's expert display of juggling, balancing, &c., gains loud applause; Arthur Stacey is a popular comedian and dancer; Douglas and Gordon evoke much laughter in a novel comedy act; the Leotards are expert hat-throwers and catchers, staircase performers, and balancers; Right, Iamay, and Right supply a good vocal and speciality dancing act; and "The Prospectors," an episode of the Western Goldfields, is depicted on the Bioscope.

RAWTENSTALL. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. George Dickinson.—Mr. T. Edward Ward and company are here this week with *Man and Wife*. Miss Ward as Marcella is responsible for an intensely real portrayal, and Mr. John F. Traynor as Paul Revere is also a clever impersonator of a difficult part. Mr. Wilson Coleman makes an excellent villain; Mr. T. Edward Ward and Mr. Ambrose Horton are good as Colonel Latour and Sergeant Jacques; Mr. Sidney Bryant and Mr. Val Gully are delightfully funny as Bimbo and Bambo; and as Jean Miss Ethel F. Greene is exceedingly pathetic.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode.—This week a special attraction is provided by Mr. George Alexander's company in Pinero's successful comedy *His House in Order*, which is being played in admirable style. Miss Dorothy Grimston gives a very powerful and artistic rendering of the exacting part of Nina, and Mr. Stephen T. Ewart makes a careful study of the part of Hilary Jesson; Mr. J. Edward Pearce gives an excellent portrayal of the character of Filmer Jesson; the dismal and narrow-minded Ridgeley family are impersonated in characteristic style by Mr. Herbert Lomas as Sir Daniel, Miss Augusta Haviland as Lady Ridgeley, Miss Elaine Sleddall as Geraldine, and Mr. Ernest R. Holloway as the contemptible Pryce Ridgley; Mr. Charles Tyrel makes the most of the part of Major Maurewarde; Miss Carmen Woods plays very cleverly as the boy Derek.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—After a plethora of pantomime we have had a complete change here this week, Mr. Arthur Carlton's company occupying the boards with *The Span of Life*. Mr. R. S. Trelawney is a manly Richard Blunt, and Mr. Sanderson Moffat is highly successful as Dunstan Leech. Mr. Sam Roberts is smart as Nutty Brown, and Mr. James Jarrett scores as Joshua Gurnet. Messrs. Edwin, Percy, and Fred Stebbing as Dismal Brown, Tipton Brown, and Dapper Brown respectively are responsible for the exciting tableau which gives the title to the play; they present a clever acrobatic turn. Miss Guinevere Shilton gives a pleasing portrayal of the part of Kate Heathcote, and Miss Phyllis Hamilton is seen to advantage as Mrs. Jelf; Miss Kitty Russell is amusing as Shrove Tuesday, and Miss Mary Moffat does excellently as Cecil Blunt.

RUGBY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geoffrey Fulton.—This week the Sharlotte Entertainments are providing a most enjoyable programme. Mr. Barrington Nurse, tenor vocalist, rendered several songs in finished and artistic style; Miss Lily Bailey's pianoforte solos were much appreciated; Miss Freda Charlotte and Mr. Stenart Willson rendered a scene from *Hamlet* in first-class style; Mr. Reginald North also gave satisfaction; Miss Isabelle Brunel sang several songs, and had a good reception.

RYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Alleyn M. Hylton.—On Monday evening the Theatre Royal company gave an excellent account of themselves before a good audience in the absorbing play *My Sweetheart*. Miss Cissie Rayner was admirable in the title-rôle; Mr. E. H. Wynne was seen to decided advantage as Tony Faust; Mr. R. Byron Webber gave more than a touch of nature to the part of Joe Shotwell; and Miss Ruth Suffield did well as Mrs. Fleeter. The other characters were equally well played. On Thursday two performances of *Our Boys*, by the same company, were announced.

SCARBOROUGH. — PEOPLE'S PALACE AND AQUARIUM.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Morgan; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—A good all-round entertainment is provided here this week. De Henau paints lightning pictures with his toes; Hyam Long, a great favourite, executes clever instrumental solos; Mr. Joe Hastings is a smart jumper; Miss Clara Hastings a popular vocalist; Miss Enray Leicester, a smart comedienne and dancer; Mlle. Aldena introduces a clever troupe of trained cockatoos; and Mr. Harry Plowden is a comedian with a good supply of up-to-date patter and stories.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. George Lalva.—The Four Louberts, who head the bill here, have a rousing reception for their acrobatic business; Mill May and Theresa give a quick-change act with several excellent songs; Miss Violet Gerald is a pleasing comedienne; Leslie Digby and Frank Doyle delight with their comicalities and songs; and fine sets of pictures are submitted, including "A Trip to Niagara."

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levey and J. E. Cardwell's Juvenile Pantomime Company is drawing well here this week with *Sleeping Beauty*. The fine voice of Miss May Gibson is heard to advantage as the Fairy Queen Claribel; Witch Malignan and Father Time are both well played by Miss Beattie Townsend and Mr. Will Orston respectively; Miss Kitty Trewhitt plays the part of Prince Florizel in excellent style; and the same may be said of Miss Dolly Dodds as Beauty. The comic scenes are well sustained by the Bros. Armstrong as the Queen and Asbestos. Plenty of fun is caused by Messrs. Doyle and Gibson as Colonel Dreadnought and Major Flashlight.

SHEERNESS.—THE PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Phil Reymond.—Another good all-round company occupies the boards of this cosy little hall. Mr. Gus Daniels as a comic and descriptive vocalist would be hard to beat; *The Lady on Strike* is voted very funny; Miss Topsy Levane, the well-known burlesque and dancer, makes a big hit with her comedy songs; Mr. Phil Reymond, the popular comedian, still continues a big favourite, his clever character studies being highly relished; and the Arundel company concludes with a screaming comedy sketch, *A Broken Contract*.

SHEFFIELD. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Mr. Edward Compton's Old English Comedy Company opened to a good house on Monday in the ever-delightful *Davy Garrick*. Mr. Compton repeated his famous impersonation of Garrick, and he received frequent and hearty applause; Miss Mackensie was a tender and graceful representative of Violet. The comedy was well mounted, and the stage-management perfect. Other plays billed for the week were *

Mannington, Mr. Vincent Carlyle, Mr. Frank Adair, Mr. Stanley Gordon, Mr. George Mitchell, Mr. George Asquin, and Mr. H. Macartney.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*Dick Whittington* is still running merrily.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar. —The following bill of fare was submitted to large audiences on Monday night: *The Rogues of the Turf*, an exciting sketch, in which Mr. John F. Preston appears as an old trainer; the Three Missouris, in their funny acrobatic act; Miss Kathleen Cogan; Tshernoff's trained dogs; C. B. Jerome; Lee and Kingston, in a novel entertainment; Mr. George Ridgewell, vocalist; the American Bioscope; Mr. Charles Mildare; and the Two Fitzroys, in a smart trapeze act.

GRAND PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—Mr. Fred Southern's company appeared in a new dramatic sketch on Monday; and others engaged this week are M. Bandoni, the one-man orchestra; the Weelhaffs, novelty performers; Mr. Will Bleuy, comedian; Carter and Gale, duettists; Pallister's Bioscope, with humorous films; and Miss Florrie Beck, comedienne.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Victor Samson.—*Sinbad*, written and produced by Mr. Herbert Lemley, has pleased large audiences here.

SHREWSBURY.—MUSIC HALL.—Manager, Mr. V. C. L. Crump.—Senton's National Animated Photographs and Concert Company are here this week with a popular and varied entertainment. The special turns are attractive; Miss Margaret Lisle sings very sweetly; Mr. Wm. Kingsley, handbell soloist, is accomplished; Miss Enid Fane is a pretty dancer; and Dr. Seaton, handcuff king and plate manipulator, contributes an acceptable performance.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—*Woman and Wine* is the attraction here this week, produced by Miss Mary Austin and Mr. G. Vivian Edmonds, who are supported by a talented company. Miss Cissie St. Elmo scores in the difficult rôle of Marcel Rigadout; than Miss Mary Austin a more able exponent of Mary Andrews could not be desired; Janet Marlow is clearly impersonated by Miss Ethel Vinroy, and "La Colombe" is made a prominent character by Miss Joan Pereira. Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds works exceedingly hard as Dick Seymour, whose blind father is entrusted to Mr. John S. Haydon; he, too, gives a memorable portrayal. Mr. Harry Harrop deserves mention for his able delineation of Charles Sauter; while Mr. Frank Thomas does credit to the part of Duc D'Arnac. The Lottie Stone troupe of whirlwind dancers give an enjoyable speciality turn.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. E. Angless; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless. —The monthly fancy dress skating carnival was held on Wednesday evening, which proved a huge success. Each event, it is pleasing to note, draws larger entries, and the costumes prove most difficult to adjudge owing to their excellence and variety. More valuable gold and silver prizes were again rewarded for the best ladies', gentlemen's, and the most original dresses, as well as that for various racing. The hockey club cup match was exciting, and an interesting event was the challenge match between Percy B. Hurst and the courteous acting-manager.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS. —Proprietors, the Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—A diverting entertainment is provided here by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company, who are this week presenting the farcical musical play *The Dairymaids*. Miss Violet Lloyd is charming and piquant in the rôle of Peggy, and was deservedly applauded for her artistic vocalism; Miss Rhoda Gordon as Winifred lends able support alike in a vocal and histrionic sense; Mr. Lionel Victor is a capital representative of the rollicking sailor, Joe Mivens, a character in which he is adequately assisted by Miss Cissie Sephton in the part of Eliza; Miss Madge Avery depicts Penelope Pychase with dainty piquancy; Lady Brundenell has a dignified and successful exponent in Miss Edith Blanche; Miss Beryl Vaudrey sings artistically in the part of Hélène; Mr. E. Statham Staples causes much amusement as Sam Brundenell; Mr. George Desmond admirably impersonates Lieut. Brundenell; Mr. Forbes Dawson submits a commendable portraiture of Dr. O'Byrne; and Mr. Alexander Fraser does well as Capt. Leverton.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred. Coulson.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company is appearing here this week in *The Woman Who Gambles*. Count Otto Steinbach is in the able hands of Mr. Alex Alexander; the Countess Natalio Steinbach is cleverly portrayed by Miss Mabel Mannering; Stella Melakoff is ably portrayed by Miss Lily Malvern; Cora Gouldhart is well accounted for by Miss Florrie Halton; the comedy element is ably sustained by Miss Brenda May as Zanette, Mr. Alf. Richards as the Hon. Bertie Bray, and Mr. Gilbert Dance as Manfrid Speinletch.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Oswald Williams, assisted by Mlle. Winifred de Berle, succeeds in mystifying the audience by his wonderful illusions. The Stein-Eretto Troupe, hand-jumping acrobats, in a novel turn win deserved applause; Prof. Bartle, musician and vocalist, is well received; and the ventriloquism of Prof. Vox is, as usual, effective. Other excellent attractions are provided by Lily Tiso, comedienne and dancer; Bert Marsden, comedian; the Allisons, comedy artists; Harry Clifford, vocal comedian; and the Bioscope.

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—Mrs. F. Wybert Clive's company is appearing this week in *The Conscript*, which has been seen here on several occasions, but which is, nevertheless, being heartily welcomed. In the title-rôle Mr. H. Creagh Hunt submits an excellent impersonation; and as the much-tried Nadia, Miss Lilian Ross shows herself to be quite at home in the part. Mr. Walter Steele depicts the villainous Paul Hardiski in lurid colours; and Mr. Douglas B. Watson renders a good account of himself as Ivan Manloff. Miss Florence M. Daly (Dame Katinka), Mr. Wybert Clive (the Ferret), Mr. William Head (Doggorvitch), and Miss Cissie Reenan (Little Karl) are all competent artists. To Mr. P. Strongbow (Tretch) and Miss Nellie Douglas (Wanda) is allotted the task of providing the comedy, and they prove themselves generally successful.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun. —The Stockport Garrick Society has again availed itself of Mr. Revill's kindness, and this week occupies the boards with *As You Like It*, presented under the direction and stage-management of Mr. Ryder Boys.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black. —Exceedingly clever are Claude Feldman's beau-ideal troupe of prize juveniles, who form the chief attraction here this week. A smart trio of acrobats are the Panamas; Arthur Goodman is a comical juggler; the Vekeys are expert banjoists; thoroughly amusing are the Wheelers in their cycling speciality, "A Tramp's Holiday"; J. S. James is a clever and versatile artist; Perrette and Mona are pleasingly greeted in their comedy duologue, *Teasing the General*; the Miltons, scientific and comic skaters, are satisfactorily applauded; and the Brothers Pim are amusing and clever in their performance on the horizontal bar.

STOKE.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwards; Manager, Mr. H. Miller.—Charles Morritt heads the bill this week in his clever illusions, which are highly appreciated. *Would-be Actors*, a sketch, provided by Mr. Carter Livesey and Miss Lilian Roseberry is funny; the Sisters Russell are a diverting pair; Edwards and Dacre in a sketch, viz., *What a Life*, contribute a good turn; Mlle. Amalia introduces her ponies, dogs, and donkey, and the outcome is a capital turn; Woolmer Young is heard in two good songs, which are well rendered; Toney and Novel in their acrobatic act are clever; Les De Breans are capital jugglers. The pictures are good.

SUNDERLAND.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—This week Mr. George Dance's company is appearing in *The Catch of the Season*. The part of the Duke of St. Jermyne is in the capable hands of Mr. Frank Lincoln, who does it full justice; and Mr. E. H. Kelly is highly amusing as Lord Dundreary; Mr. Hampton Gordon makes the most of his opportunities as Sir John Crystal; whilst as Bucket Master Grata is capital; Miss Moya Mannering is an excellent Angela; and Miss Belle Napier is a pleasing Lady Cacerham.

KING'S THEATRE.—Directors, Messrs. E. Stevens and R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. L. Carlo.—*The Fair One With the Golden Locks* has now reached its last week, and is as popular as ever.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Manager, Mr. Jas. Hemingway.—Messrs. M. H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company is appearing here this week in *The Still Alarm*. Mr. M. H. Glenville gives a masterly impersonation of Jack Manley, and Mr. George Arthur plays with power the part of John Bira; Mr. Lewis Gordon is seen to advantage as Franklyn Fordham; Miss Maud Warburton gives a refined rendering of Elinor Fordham; and Miss Gertie Reid is a bright and charming Carrie Wilber. Miss Mabel Veriton makes a clever Mrs. Manley.

PALACE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Managers, Messrs. Alfred Browne and Stringer.—The Dayton Family head the bills here this week, and prove themselves to be Risley performers of no mean order. Another excellent act is Joe Peterman's *The Belle of the Orient*. The programme also includes Ernest Montefiore and company, in a musical sketch, entitled *The Little Colonel*; Rosie Reval, comedienne; Leslie Brothers, musical comedians; Ryan and Hull, eccentric comedians and acrobats; Jimson's novelty sketch, *Burglars' Surprise*; McAskell, conjurer; and the Palace pictures.

TON-Y-PANDY.—THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barry.—The popular musical comedy, *A Country Girl*, played by Mr. Chas. Macdona's company, is the attraction here this week. Mr. Martin Pittes gives a painstaking performance of Geoffrey Chaloner; Barry, in the hands of Mr. Arthur Staples, is invested with the true comedy spirit. The Rajah of Bhong is excellently rendered by Mr. Bernard Vaughan; Sir Joseph Verity is amusingly hit off by Mr. W. O. Billington; a charming heroine is found in Miss Violet Leslie, her sweet singing and delightful personality exactly suiting the part; Miss Edith Maynard makes a typical Nan; Miss Irene Wood plays the part of Princess Mechelarah of Bhong with charming piquancy; Miss May Florence essays the character of Mme. Sophie with great success; and Mrs. St. Quintin is effectively portrayed by Miss Florence Brewster.

TREHERBERT.—POOLE'S OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Poole's; Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—Miss Emma Litchfield's company, in *A London Actress*, is this week paying a return visit here. Mr. Herbert Evelyn gave a capital rendering of the part of Sergeant Crafford; Mr. John Worth made a dashing Lieut. Kingstone; Mr. George Child ably sustained the part of Capt. Mannering; Mr. Edward Swinton kept the audience in a merry mood as Pat Maloney; whilst Mr. Stuart Cleveland made an excellent Moses Mondoza. Miss Emma Litchfield as Hilda Mannering played her part in a manner that stamped her as a talented actress; Miss M. Steeple was good as Phyllis Crawford; Miss Isabel Singleton gave a capital reading of Biddy Maloney; Miss Violet Clarke also scored as Rosie Blythe; and Miss Maud Saxby sustained the part of Nellie in an able manner.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Carey; Manager, Mr. L. J. Gunnell.—Miss Emma Hutchison's company in *Peter's Mother* has been very cordially received this week. Miss Ruth Mackay gives a splendid interpretation of the title-rôle, and is ably supported by Mr. Eille Norwood as the Q.C. and Mr. E. F. Meads as Peter; while Mr. Chas. Harley is excellent as the Baronet; and clever studies of the two sisters are given by Miss Mary Griffiths and Mrs. Mallalieu. Others to whom a special word of praise is due include Mr. Mallalieu as Canon Birch, Mr. Mackintosh as Dr. Blundell, together with Miss Mary Bush and Miss Hilda Honiss as the Hewets, mother and daughter.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Baron Harriss's company in the musical play, *The Prince of Pilsen*, appeared here on Monday night, and drew a large and warmly-appreciative audience. Mr. Harry Kilburn excels himself in his humorous delineation as Hans Wagner; Mr. Frank Crimp as the real Prince of Pilsen gives a capital study of the part, and his vocalism is pleasing; Mr. Roy Sidney is excellent as Lieutenant Wagner; Mr. Bernard Russell is seen to advantage as the Earl of Shrimpton; Mr. Ernest Clifford impersonates the rôle of François, the waiter, in good style. Miss Ada Watson makes a charming Edith Adams; Miss Alice Nixon sings sweetly and acts vivaciously as Nellie Wagner; Miss Molly Wynne-Scott is highly successful as Jimmie, the bell boy; Miss Connie Leon gives a clever rendering as the French Maid, and sings and dances effectively; Miss Sophie Harris sings and acts with charm and ability as Mrs. Crochen.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. S. Tolfree.—Miss Fanny Robina, comedienne, heads the bill this week, and displays good vocal powers; Miss Florry Cooper, comedienne, merits applause; Titan, a strong man, performs wonderful feats of strength; Mr. Charles Milner, comedian, is amusing; Mlle. Telka is a pleasing ballad vocalist; the Camerons, comedy couple, win appreciation; Miss Marie Du Voy, vocalist; Mr. Billie Bint, vocalist; and Wyllie, in a musical act, ably contribute.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Otto Menotti produces an original cycling sensation novelty. Others are Beatrice Renee, comedienne; the Northern Troupe, dancers; Minnie Hunt and Rhys Thomas, musical duologue; *Her Birthday*; Morimura, Japanese illusionist; Lady Miako, Baker and Balfe, Dusty Rhodes, and the American Bioscope.

GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. Lingford Carson's attractive drama *The Heart of a Hero* is being played here Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The hero, Jem Resdale, is portrayed with great power by Mr. Charles Draycott; an equally effective effort is that of Mr. J. Dobson Clyde as the villainous Wilfred Marl; Miss Muriel Thompson displays great ability in the part of Nell Resdale; and Miss Louise Millward is well placed in the dual rôle of Mrs. Barker and Mrs. Ryder.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—Mr. Andrew Melville's company opened here on Monday with the drama, *In a Woman's Grip*. As Frank Haydon Mr. Percy Dawsone was all that one could desire; Mr. Austin Milroy did remarkably well in the character of Maurice Stanton; Mr. F. A. Marston acted very effectively in the portrayal of Dick Langeley; Miss Jessie Yatman made a graceful Lilian Fairley; Mary Langley, Convict 43, and Princess Zaroff, these three characters were cleverly impersonated by Miss Rose Ralph, who deserves the reception given her. The humour of the piece was in the capable hands of Mr. Andrew Emm, who kept the audience in roars of laughter.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Player. —The star novelty this week consists of the original vocal mélange, entitled *Girls Will be Girls*, by Mabel Bright and company, who get a good reception; some smart juggling is contributed by Massona; Howard and Collinson create much laughter with their funny turn; Miss Florence Yeyman is cheered to the echo for her clever performance as a coon caricaturist; a smart turn is given by Joe Archer; Oakley and James do well in their songs; and some fine pictures are shown.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. H. E. Feather. —Mr. William Maclaren and Miss Lily C. Bandmann on Monday presented *Claudian*. Mr. Maclaren is seen at his best in the title-rôle. Miss Bandmann as Almida gives a well-studied rendition; Mr. S. Brisco Farbridge plays powerfully as the Holy Clement. Considerable histrionic ability is displayed by Mr. F. Owen Chambers as the Tetrarch; praise is due to Miss Rosa Webster for her Serena; Agazil and Alcares have capital exponents in Mr. Douglas Earle and Mr. Weston Hubbard; and judicious comedy is introduced by Mr. Chal. T. Chaloner as Belos and Miss Maud Garth as Edessa.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Carl Rosine, magician, once more presents here his hoop trick, which is as mystifying as ever. The sketch, *The Professor and His Pupil*, by Wyndham and Waters, causes considerable merriment; Harry Pleon and company are as amusing as ever in *P.C. Pudden*; the pot-pourri of magic and comedy by Cull-Pitt is worked with remarkable deftness and skill; baritone ballads are well rendered by Dan Robans; Grant and Grant are loudly applauded for their lively dancing; a pleasing reception is awarded Symes and Davies, duettists; and a great attraction is the wonderful quick painting by Speedwell.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company attracted a large audience here on Monday to witness *The Christian*. Mr. E. Stanton-Sharp gave a thoroughly artistic interpretation of the heroic John Storm; Mr. P. Gedge Twyman showed rare histrionic ability as Lord Robert Ure; as Horatio Drake Mr. Ernest Stidwell was distinctly good, and so, too, was the Father Lamplugh of Mr. Harry Colebeck. Another character exceedingly well acted was the Faro King of Mr. Anthony Rawles. Mr. Phipps Stanley made an excellent Archdeacon Wealthy; and Mr. Courtney was praiseworthy as Brother Paul; Mr. Percy Johnson did well as Parson Quale, and so, too, did Mr. A. Beverley as Mr. Lorimer. Miss Laura Walker possesses a handsome presence and exhibited exceptional talent in the part of Glory Quayle; Miss Constance Stephens presented a fine study of Mrs. Callander; and much eulogy must be accorded Miss Edith Savory's Polly Love. Miss A. Herne (Betty), Miss B. Herne (Netty), Miss K. Graeme (Letty), Miss V. Herne (Liza), and Miss Aggie Royal (Aggie Jones) were all good in their respective characters.

WEST STANLEY.—VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Raws; Responsible Manager, Mr. John Cassidy.—The programme here this week includes Mr. R. C. Note, who sings in good style; Mr. George Willard's Merry Mannikins create a deal of amusement; Billy Ross and company, including his midget boxers, give a smart turn; dainty Daisy Devenport is a clever comedienne; the Cee Mee Troupe are responsible for a sensational areial act; and the Bioscope concludes the programme.

WEXFORD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor Mr. E. P. Ronan.—Mr. Ian Maclaren paid his initial visit here this week with his own company in a round of Shakespearean and Old English comedies, and was warmly welcomed. *David Garrick* was produced on Monday, with Mr. Maclaren in the title-rôle, to which he did full justice. Mr. B. Iden Payne was well suited to the part of Alderman Brackson, and Mr. Arthur Fayne's impersonation of the Hon. Bob Fairley was meritorious. Mr. Peters, Mr. Murmurs, and Mr. Johnston were capitally represented by Messrs. George Westland, J. V. Bryant, and Huston Meharry; and the same praise can be accorded to Miss G. Littlewood as Mrs. Peters and MISS A. Groghegan as Arabella Johnston; while Miss Edith Coleman gave a charming portrayal of Mabel Brackson. The comedy was preceded by *Delicate Ground*.

WHITEHAVEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Clark.—Mr. Frank Lindo's company is here in *Home, Sweet Home*. Mr. Lindo appears as Stephen Armitage, a part which he plays most successfully; Mr. M. Hodgson is good as Lucas Lyle; and Mr. George Overs works hard as Dick; Mr. E. Owens acts in a capable manner as Lord Silvermore; and Mr. Helsby Wright is well cast as Gaffer. Miss Ray Rochefort is lively as Sybil, and Miss Marion Wakeford is excellent as Joan.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—Mr. Fred Karno's company is here this week with the amusing farce, *Saturday to Monday*. Mr. W. E. Matthews proves himself a capable comedian as John Willie Jaggs; Miss Amy Rogerson works hard as Clorinda; and Miss Daisy Stone is a successful Violet Blake. Mr. J. W. Bradbury is a capital Mr. Blake.

WIGAN. — ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—The second visit to Wigan of the musical comedy, *The Earl and the Girl*, has again been attended with great success. The highly-humorous and grotesque character of Jim Cheese is admirably sustained by Mr. Alf. Donohoe; and Miss Lina Hicks in the part of 'Liza Shoddam acts with conspicuous ability. Miss Gertrude Simpson is charming as Elphin Haye; and Miss Ida Stratham as Daisy Fallowfield plays the part gracefully, and is recalled for her fine rendering of the song, "When love comes knocking at the door." Miss Kathleen Gerard as Mrs. Shimmering Black is popular; and the other ladies of the cast all do well in their respective rôles. Mr. Thos. Kennard, Mr. Leslie Owen, Mr. Greville Hayes, Mr. Ernest A. Plumpton, and Mr. Sam Lysone represent their respective characters in a capable manner.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—The Six Brothers Luck give a number of humorous descriptive sketches, which evoke much merriment; La Roland is a great attraction in her mysterious grotto dances; and the Sisters Reno, whirlwind dancers, are also exceedingly good. Geo. Gilbey meets with a splendid reception, and is several times recalled nightly. Other capital comedy turns, &c., are furnished by Smiler Lee, Phil Rees, and Battie Roy, coon singer and dancer.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival. —*The Electric Man* is being presented here by Mr. J. B. Mulholland's company. Much diversion is created by the smart and admirable acting of Mr. Stanley Cooke in the dual characters of Walter Everest and Prometheus Frankenstein. Mr. Archie Selwyn supports him most effectively as Jack Strange; Mr. Lloyd Townrow does well as Mr. Jobbins; and Mr. E. Vivian Willis ably fills the part of General Pomery. Miss Lucy Edwin cleverly portrays Mrs. Anderson; Miss Gladys Jesson is a charming Stella Pomroy, Miss Amy Francis an attractive Mary, and Miss Sybil Brooke a capable Mrs. Everest. The play is preceded by a smartly-performed comedietta, entitled *A Matrimonial Advertisement*.

EMPIRE PALACE.—The Athos troupe of acrobats display some wonderful feats here; Horace Wheatley is a diverting comedian; and the McConnell Trio are seen to advantage in *A Musical Mistake*. Other artists in the programme are Herbert Clifton, mimic; Les Frasettis, instrumentalists; Lottie Collard, comedienne; and Elly Adair, dancer.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Mr. Newman Maurice's pantomime of *Babes in the Wood* is running here for a second week, and providing much mirth and entertainment.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—After a long spell of pantomime, Worcester theatre-goers are this week welcoming a first visit of *The Walls of Jericho*. Mr. A. E. Anson and Miss Gladys Mason are two bright particular stars in a brilliant company. As Jack Frobisher and his aristocratic wife, they are responsible for two most powerful impersonations; Mr. George A. Brandram is a particularly breezy Colonial as Hankey Bannister; and Miss Nora Wynne proves a bewitching Lady Lucy; Mr. Cyril Baleine is responsible for a clever character-study as the impecunious Peer; and Mr. A. W. Tyrer is artistic in his rascality as Dallas; Miss Marguerite Cellier is a sympathetic Lady Westerby.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Mr. Charles Constant's company is here this week presenting *Blue Beard*. Mr. C. Constant is to be congratulated on his excellent combination of first-rate artists. As Blue Beard Mr. Chas. Lake puts in some fine work; Miss Isa Bowman excellently enacts the part of Selim; Messrs. Gus Danby, Alec Godfrey, MacStuart, and Johnny Clegg as Bamboozlum, Pimple, Shakabac, and Sister Ann work with untiring efforts and unfailing success. Miss Florence Hersee as Fatima deserves special commendation, her vocalisation, far above the average, being greatly admired; Little Felecia is good as Ashpodel. The scenery is excellent.

READING OF "AS YOU LIKE IT."

The British Empire Shakespeare Society gave a dramatic reading on Sunday evening at the Passmore Edwards Settlement, Tavistock-place, W.C.; the play chosen for the occasion being *As You Like It*. The cast was an exceptionally strong one, including, as it did, Mr. George Alexander and Mr. Arthur Bourchier (both of whom are vice-presidents of the society) and several other distinguished members of the dramatic profession. It seems hardly necessary to say that the seating accommodation of the hall was taxed to its fullest limits, and the reading was received with the greatest enthusiasm. The full cast was as follows:—Mr. George Alexander, Orlando; Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Jaques; Mr. Charles Fry, Adam; Mr. Vivian Reynolds (who kindly gave his services at the last moment, owing to the sudden indisposition of Mr. Acton Bond), Touchstone; Mr. Kenyon Musgrave, Banished Duke; Mr. Athol Stewart, Duke Frederick; Mr. Cecil Cameron, Amiens (with songs); Mr. J. Fritz Russell, Corin; Mr. Douglas Vigors, Silvius; Mr. Ben Field, William; Mr. Stanley Drewitt, Oliver; Mr. Alfred Bristowe, Le Beau; Mr. Harvey Braban, Charles; Mr. Hugh Tosh, Dennis; also Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Rosalind; Miss Dorothy Grimston, Celia; Miss Claire Greet, Audrey; and Mrs. Lenthal Cheatle, Phœbe. Miss Hilda Fletcher read the stage directions and the reading was arranged under the direction of Mr. Acton Bond. At the close of the evening's proceedings, Mr. Sidney Lee (the president of the society) proposed a vote of thanks in which he congratulated Mr. Arthur Bourchier on having hit on the "happy mean" in the scenic effects of his production of *Macbeth*, and Mr. George Alexander on the success of the run of *His House in Order*. Mr. Hermann Vezin seconded, alluding humorously to some of his past experiences of the play, and paying a gracious tribute to the excellence of the evening's entertainment. Mr. George Alexander replied to the vote of thanks.

THE LATE JOHN A. ATKIN MEMORIAL.

The following gentlemen have consented to act as a committee:—Messrs. Lester Collingwood, Arthur Shirley, Harris Fineberg, G. M. Polini, W. Bennett, E. Hill-Mitchelson, Tom H. Taylor W. R. King, E. Hewitson, W. Fraser Brunner, Harry Chappell; secretary, Mr. Ashley Page; hon. treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS, £25 11s. 6d.

	£	s.	d.
Standard Theatre Staff	2	15	0
Fred Powell	2	2	0
Mr. and Mrs. A. Melville	1	1	0
E. H. Knight	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Arnold		10	6
W. Schaffer		10	6
Fred W. Warden		10	6
W. T. Cope		10	6
Mrs. M. L. Cope		10	6
Mr. and Mrs. Bert E. Hammond		10	6
Arthur Shirley		10	6
W. R. King		10	6
E. Hill-Mitchelson		10	6
G. M. Polini		10	6
Harris Fineberg		10	6
Sam Livesey		10	6
Harry Agar-Lyons		10	6
Mr. Tom H. Taylor's *Worst Woman in London* Co., per F. Vernon Travers		10	6
H. W. Kelly		10	6
Members of the *Female Swindler* Co., per O. Silverstone		10	6
Mr. Walter Melville		10	6
Mr. Fred Melville		10	6
Mr. Tom H. Taylor		10	6
Mr. Ashley Page		10	6
Miss Marion Denvil		10	6
Soldier's Wedding Co.		10	6
Terriss's Theatre Staff		10	6
Mr. Harry Chappell		10	6
Mr. James Peerless		10	6
Mr. Fraser-Brunner		10	6
Frances Ruttledge		10	6
Mrs. Fielder		10	6
Mr. John Fielder		10	6
Driven from Home Co., per Frederick Sandy		10	6
Jack Haddon		10	6
J. B. Howard		10	6
Mrs. Walter Melville		10	6
Hugh Robertson		10	6
Ugliest Woman on Earth Co., per Tubby Edlin		10	6
Mr. Smith		10	6
J. W. Peards		10	6
F. Dangerfield		10	6
David Allen and Sons		10	6
Milton Bode		10	0
A. G. Hawkins		10	0
Mr. T. Greenwood-Croft		5	6
Eric Campbell		5	0
Herbert Ford		5	0
Walter H. Nightingale		5	0
J. W. Cordiner		5	0
Mr. George E. Mudd		5	0
Agnes Imlay		5	0
John B. Shinton		5	0
West London Theatre Management		5	0
Sid		5	0
T. E. Ward		5	0
James Skea		5	0
B. F. S.		5	0
Wm. Eastwood		5	0
Standard Theatre Staff		5	0
Frank Gallagher		5	0
A. Roseberry		5	0
Mrs. MacGregor		5	0
Marie Kildare		2	6
Bernard Mervyn		2	6
William E. Passmore		2	6
Louie Adair		2	6
Harry Wimpenny		1	0
Will Corrie		1	0
Stanley Vivian		1	0
Alfred Wood		1	0
Mr. G. V. Campbell		1	0
Harry Chappell, jun.		1	0
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Mr. and Mrs. Roland Yorke		5	0
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Miss Madge Yates		2	6
Mr. Louis Hector		2	6
Mr. Fred De Vere		2	6
Mr. Leonard Maxwell		2	6
Mr. Rawden Vivian		2	6
Mr. Leslie Nolan		2	6
Mr. Leslie Nutter		2	6
Mr. William Griffin		2	6
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LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Feb. 4,
the D'Oyley Carte Opera Co.

Pantomime having run its allotted course after a very satisfactory career, made room on Monday for the opening night of the series of Gilbert and Sullivan operas. As the revivals at the Savoy are attracting considerable attention, it was only in the nature of things that the engagement at the King's would be productive of a like interest. Judging by the reception accorded to the *Gondoliers* on Tuesday night, Mrs. D'Oyley Carte and Mr. J. B. Mulholland would have little, if anything, to complain of. Every popular strain of Sullivan's delightful music was vigorously applauded, and Mr. Gilbert's lines had lost none of their pungent humour. In the present company, with the exception of Mr. Fred Billington (who was unfortunately unable to repeat his quaint performance of the Grand Inquisitor) there are no names familiar to old playgoers, but the representation was in all respects excellent. Mr. Charles R. Walenn had caught the true Gilbert spirit, and as the Duke of Plazo Toro earned a marked and well-deserved success. As Luiz, Mr. Leicester Tunk sang and acted very pleasantly. In the absence of Mr. Billington, Mr. John Wills made an efficient substitute, and his songs, distinctly and cleverly delivered, were re-demanded. The gondoliers, Marco and Giuseppe, were in the exceedingly able hands of Mr. Strafford Moss and Mr. Albert Kavanagh, who were all that could be desired, both as actors and singers. Mr. Moss's singing of that delicious morsel, "Take a pair of sparkling eyes," brought down the house. Miss Theresa Rassam made a majestic and dignified Duchess of Plazo Toro, and sang excellently. The daughter, Casilda, was charmingly undertaken by Miss Mabel Graham. The gondoliers' wives, Gianetta and Tessa, were delightfully represented by Miss Hope Hastings and Miss Mabel Burnege, who were equally successful, and gave very spirited performances. Inez, the foster-mother, was capably played by Miss Norma Russell. The chorus and scenery were quite up to the standard, and Mr. T. Silver judiciously directed the orchestra. The operas given during the week's programme included *The Pirates of Penzance, Trial by Jury, Patience, Iolanthe, The Yeomen of the Guard*, and *The Mikado*. The younger generation will therefore have had ample opportunities for making acquaintance with the cleverest and cleanest of the comic operas of the 'eighties, or indeed, of any other time.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Feb. 4, the Opera, in three acts, entitled
"THE ROSE OF CASTILLE."

After enjoying an unprecedented run of success for six weeks, the pantomime here came to a conclusion on Saturday last, to give place to another great attraction in Mr. J. W. Turner's English Opera Company, and Clapham playgoers, with pleasant recollections of the last visit, have attended in goodly numbers at each performance to accord it an enthusiastic reception. Upon the popularity of no particular opera in the company's ample repertory do these accomplished artists rely, preferring to vary the week's programme with the new opera *Nigel*, and such old favourites as *The Rose of Castille, Faust, The Bohemian Girl, The Waterman*, and *Maritana*. For the opening night Balfe's charming opera, *The Rose of Castille* was chosen, and performed to the complete satisfaction of the large audience assembled. In Miss Kitty Brownless was seen an admirable exponent of Elvira (Queen of Leon). She rendered the music in a manner that stamped her as an artist possessed of exceptional gifts, and, moreover, acted the part in a manner that calls for special mention. Miss Jessie Dennis, who appeared in the rôle of Donna Carmen, sang with great charm of expression, and was accorded much applause; and Miss Maud Esdale did all that was necessary in the part of the Duchess of Calatravers. Mr. J. W. Turner was very successful in his embodiment of Manuel, and his fine voice was heard to advantage throughout, the applause with which he was greeted being an excellent tribute to his sterling work. Mr. John Ridding made the most of his oportunities as Don Pedro, and his singing was greatly admired. Mr. R. Cummings as Don Florio, Mr. P. Newton as Don Sallust, and Mr. G. Ridding as Pablo, were satisfactory in their respective parts. Special mention must be made of the well-drilled and large chorus, which rendered with admirable effect the music entrusted to its care, and also to the augmented orchestra under the direction of Mr. T. Lawton. Mr. E. De Hague Body is the courteous acting-manager for Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Feb. 4,
the Drama, in Four Acts, entitled
"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."

The drama-loving portion of Mr. Sonnes's patrons have been without their favourite form of entertainment for some time, and this fact was doubtless jointly responsible with the reputation of the above play for the large audience that gathered here on Monday evening. The part of Barbara Wade could scarcely be in better hands than those of Miss Hill Beverley, who gives a really tragic rendering of the poor woman whose life is ruined by drink. Miss Beverley's acting is convincing throughout, and her skill was particularly evidenced in the scene in Hyde Park, where she holds her audience spell-bound without opening her lips. Nellie Meadows finds a clever exponent in Miss Florence Zillwood, who plays this heartless wretch with the requisite fire and spirit. Miss Jessica Blake is a sympathetic and charming Constance Cornell, her clear-cut enunciation adding to the value of her impersonation. Tilly Vane, the maid, is played skilfully on broadly humorous lines by Miss Mabel Scudamore. As John Meadows, Mr. Charles Franmore proves himself a character-actor of great ability; his speech, his general manner, and his clever make-up combine to form a pathetically realistic portrayal of the poor old countryman. Mr. Wilson Gunning makes a manly Jack Livingstone, playing in sound, straightforward style, and speaking his lines with good effect. Mr. Gerald Jordan is well suited as Cuthbert Lumley, his quiet, reserved manner and incisive speech giving double point to Lumley's villainous suggestions and actions. As Toby Turvey, Mr. Fred Ingram is responsible for much amusement, his great crockery-smashing scene in the second act being received with roars of laughter. The small parts are in safe hands, and the play is well dressed and strikingly staged.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, Feb. 4, the Pantomime, entitled
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."

It is popularly supposed that the good folk of Rotherhithe are especially partial to melodrama fare, and perhaps this is true. Nevertheless, a change is sometimes welcome, and accordingly we are this week presented with a pantomime, written by the local favourite, Mr. Newman Maurice. The pantomime is eminently successful, laughter and applause being continuous, and much of the music is tuneful. Mr. Newman Maurice is the life and soul of the piece as Granny, acting throughout with much humour. He sings two clever parodies of popular songs, and in the Bedroom scene roars of laughter are evoked. Messrs. McKie and McKay prove themselves comical patterers and neat dancers as Pen and Ink, the lawyer's clerks; Mr. Jackson Hayes, who is usually seen in more serious work, is a capital Lawyer Fox; Miss Ida Taylor is a dainty Red Riding Hood, and proves herself to be a pleasing vocalist, her song, "Two little birds," meeting with much applause; Miss Kitty Cerrie is a dashing Robin Hood, and sings "It's a different girl again" in good style; Mr. Fred Walker is an amusing Baron; Mr. Bernard L. Davis makes a great success as the Wolf, acting with dramatic force, and being loudly encored for his song, "A son of the desert am I"; Miss Maudie Tomlinson proves herself the possessor of a sweet voice as the Fairy Bluebell; Miss Ruby Parsonage is a sprightly Jack and Miss Tessie Venn an attractive Jill, both these young ladies joining in some well-rendered duets and dances. The chorus lend very efficient aid, and the whole production is favourably received.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, Feb. 4, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Walter Melville, entitled
"A DISGRACE TO HER SEX."

After the long and profitable run of *A Soldier's Wedding*, the pathway to success has been opened for any other play by the same pen, and in Mr. Melville's drama, *A Disgrace to Her Sex*, an excellent substitute is found. Mr. Ashley Page enacts the part of Jack Dawes with commendable energy. His delineation shows the result of careful study. Considerable mirth is created by Mr. Johnny Chippendale in the character of Barnaby Mugg. He is ably assisted by Miss Mattie Everett, who presents a lively and effective portrayal of Bella Mugg. Mr. John Sargent does some good work as Dexter; Mr. Tom Taylor supplies a painstaking performance as David Carrington; the rôle of Jules Dèlarnet is played by Mr. J. C. Aubrey with his customary skill. He gives due prominence to the callous nature of the part. Mr. William Felton does all that is possible as Arnold Travers, and acquits himself well. As Mabel Valley, Miss Maude Stewart Drewry plays with power and feeling; and Miss Marion Denvile acts with decided skill, and meets with due appreciation as Mildred Carrington. Miss Maggie Lindsay is a highly satisfactory Mrs. McGinty; and Miss Marie McAulay depicts with every success the scheming and unscrupulous nature of Hilda Valley, the woman who is correctly termed a disgrace to her sex. The scenery employed in the production is worthy of special mention, and the staging of the piece is satisfactory in every detail.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Feb. 4,
the Drama, by Gutzkow, entitled
"URIEL ACOSTA."

The patrons of the Pavilion have certainly every reason to be satisfied with the energy and liberality with which their requirements are catered for by the Jewish Operatic and Dramatic Company, who on Monday evening produced Gutzkow's drama, *Uriel Acosta*, in which every part had been carefully and diligently studied. In the title-rôle, Mr. S. Feinman makes excellent use of his opportunities, and gives a most picturesque and vivid presentation of the apostate Jew; he develops the character in a natural and artistic manner, giving every expression of emotion, together with the necessary force, fire, and vigour that the exacting part of Uriel Acosta demands. Madame J. Kayzer is particularly successful as Judith, which she plays with fine feeling and rare sympathetic charm, while her acting at the close of the second scene is really a splendid exhibition of dramatic effect, which on Monday roused the house to great enthusiasm. Mr. J. Fineberg is seen to advantage as the Rabi Akivo, and must be congratulated on the way in which he delivers the excommunication and curse on Uriel Acosta. Every commendation is due to Mr. Kempfner for the earnest and faithful portrayal he gives of De Silvio, which is admirable in tone and not wanting in true feeling. Ben Yechoi is represented with clever incisiveness by Mr. M. Gusofsky, and Mr. Isaacowitch is a painstaking exponent of Menascha. Excellent performances during the week have been given of *The Brothers; or, Everlasting Hate, The Wise Man, The Savages, First Love or No. 87*, and *The Viceroy*.

THE PRINCE'S, POPLAR.

On Monday, Feb. 4, the Drama, in Four Acts, by William Gillette and A. Conan Doyle, entitled
"SHERLOCK HOLMES."

The ways of the criminal have always exercised a powerful fascination over the mind of even the most blameless citizen, and the methods employed by those whose duty it is to track down the evil-doers are equally, if not more, attractive. Dickens gave us Mr. Bucket, Gaboreau gave us Le Cocq, and Wilkie Collins produced the rose-loving human sleuth-hound, and these were regarded as the embodiments of detective astuteness until Sir Arthur Conan Doyle introduced Mr. Sherlock Holmes to his world-wide admirers. Just at present public interest has again been aroused by the investigation of famous crime by the brilliant author of "The Sign of the Four" and "Micah Clarke." He has brought the deductive methods which Sherlock Holmes expounded in imaginary cases to bear on an actual crime committed a few years ago. The prominence of the author's name probably acts in some measure for the success which is attending the production at the Prince's this week. It is Mr. Hamilton Stewart's company, and that gentleman plays the title-rôle. Whatever may be said of Mr. William Gillette's transcendent abilities applied to such a part, there can be no doubt that Mr. Stewart gives us a carefully thought-out representation of Sherlock Holmes. He presents that apparently adamantine cynic in a thoroughly realistic manner, and the gradual change by which is revealed the presence of a human heart is led up to by almost imperceptible gradations as are only possible to a very finished character-actor. Nothing could exceed the grace and charm and personal attractiveness of Miss Gladys Harvey as Alice Faulkner, and her love scene with Holmes at the end of the play is particularly affecting. A worthy old actor is seen in the rôle of Professor Moriarty. Mr. James Skea enacts every phase of the character of the wily criminal in a singularly effective style. Mr. Stanley Logan is the medical friend of the great detective, and from what we have read he certainly succeeds in giving us a lifelike impression of the Dr. Watson of Doyle's creation. Mr. Fred Bell is distinctly good as John Forman, and Master Leslie Hall relieves the seriousness of the piece by his amusing study of a page boy. The other parts are in capable hands, and the play is admirably staged and mounted.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Feb. 4, the Drama, in four acts, by Walter Melville, entitled
"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."

Whenever a play of Mr. Walter Melville's is billed in Marylebone, the West Londoners always look forward to witnessing a production of the highest class. Chief interest in the play centres in the doings of one Jack Brown, a part full of many opportunities, of which the greatest advantage is taken by Mr. Wingold Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence is an actor of experience and ready resource, speaking his lines in a convincing and telling fashion, so that not a point in them is lost. Mr. A. G. Melford's comedy powers are well exploited as Tommy Spratt; Little Albert, with a somewhat harsh voice, is very precocious as Teddy Munro; Mr. Frederick Byron is energetic and determined as David Munro; Mr. Fred Yarnold, an old West London pantomime favourite, gives a clever character impersonation of Farmer Lee; and Mr. Edward Heanley enacts the rascally Charles Courtney, with such realistic vigour that the virtuous Maryleboners' indignation knows no bounds; Miss Jessie Winter sustains Nancy Lee with womanly grace and charming effectiveness; Miss Georgie de Lara is sympathetically natural as the erring Peggy Munro; Miss Ettie Carlisle is bright and cheery as Lizzie Walker; whilst Miss East Robertson brings her ripe experience to bear on the part of Julie de Beauvrais, which she handles with skill and effect. The play is mounted and staged in irreproachable fashion, much credit being due to Mr. Tom Taylor who produces it. Mr. Beresford Whitcomb is Mr. Melville's capable general-manager, and Mr. William Bailey's interests are, as usual, well looked after by his always genial lieutenant, Mr. James Sinclair.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 4, the Comedy, in three acts, by Cosmo Gordon Lennox, entitled
"THE FREEDOM OF SUZANNE."

The first week of the dramatic season at the Coronet has been assured of success by the engagement of Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company, in *The Freedom of Suzanne*, which, like all the enterprises of the Hutchison firm, bears the stamp of West-End approval. On its production at the Criterion in the autumn of 1904, Mr. Cosmo Gordon Lennox's piece entered at once into strong rivalry with the author's former comedy, *The Marriage of Kitty*, and won added fame for its chief interpreter, Miss Marie Tempest. The play is full of piquant fun, but there are moments of sentiment of the most wholesome kind, and though the Coronet audience were kept in uncontrollable laughter during the greater part of the evening, tears of sympathy were not lacking. For the interpretation of the title-rôle no less a favourite has been secured than Miss Mabel Love, who has already achieved such renown in the provinces with a former tour that a second one has been rendered imperative. Miss Love has long been a pet of the public, and anything she chose to do would be acceptable, but in her latest assumption she wins a success on her merits as a gifted actress. She gives to the part of the irresponsible Suzanne a chic and animation that are quite Parisian, and adopts such a pretty and merry style that the audience surrender themselves entirely to her fascinations. The account of Suzanne's midnight adventure is given with delicate variations of expression, and her acting is at all times agreeably spontaneous and diversified. The pathos of the part is also artistically treated, and it is at these moments that Miss Love's dramatic talent peeps forth most conspicuously and gives promise of a still more brilliant future. The inauguration of the new tour is helped by the inclusion in the cast of Mr. Percy Hutchison, who formerly shared the honours with Miss Love in the part of Charles Trevor. Mr. Hutchison presents the rôle in as favourable a light as possible, the despair and helplessness of the hapless husband at first being assumed realistically. The scene with Suzanne in the second act remains the most memorable, Mr. Hutchison investing his delivery with modulations of tenderness that lend added impressiveness to the lines. His acting throughout is distinguished by deep thought and artistic finish, and its effect is wholly meritorious. As Suzanne's devoted friend, Lady Isabel Bury, Miss Violet Ley acts with stately grace and sweet sympathy, and by her appearance in some handsome dresses, adds valuably to the prettiness of the various stage pictures. Miss Dorothy Lait also makes a prepossessing appearance as Mrs. Tustail, and delivers her lines with a mordant expression that makes them very incisive. Among the oddities of the cast is Fitzroy Harding, Suzanne's uncle, and in that part Mr. F. G. Thurstans makes a hit of a remarkable character. The effect of the rôle lies more in the exercise of facial play than in the utterance of the words, and so adept does Mr. Thurstans prove himself that he is responsible for some of the heartiest outbursts of mirth. Another creation of real worth is that of Lord Datchet by Mr. J. Hastings Batson. The veteran actor has recently proved himself equal to the perfect recital of the morality play of *Everyman* whole and entire, and it is a tribute to his versatility to say that the drolleries of the elderly nobleman are rendered inimitably, Mr. Batson realising a curious type of character in every detail. Mr. Townsend Whitling rightly adopts the air of a melodramatic villain as Captain Harry Cecil, though the coolness and resource of the ignoble officer are well preserved; and Mr. Patrick Quill as Sir Horace Hatton gives a typical rendering of the legal luminary. The severity and bitterness of Lady Charlotte Trevor are effectively emphasised by Miss Annie Stalman, who assumes the virtuous arrogance of the society lady with skilful expression and marked emphasis. A grotesque figure is made of Miss Minching by Miss Florence Harwood, who causes constant laughter by the quaintness with which she surrounds the part of Suzanne's companion. Mr. Richard Neville as Tommy Keston cleverly represents the ardour of a love-stricken youth; a neat rendering of Mason, the butler, is given by Mr. Bruce Smith; and other parts are adequately played by Mr. Montgomery, Mrs. F. Turner, and Mr. Bruce Franks. The staging and dressing of the piece reflect every credit on the management, the hall of the hotel at Maverly-on-Sea being a charming set, and the costumes worn by Miss Love are exquisite creations.

A good beginning to the evening is made by a new comedietta, by Rosemary Rees, entitled
"HER DEAREST FRIEND."

Molly Anstruther .....Miss Violet Ley
Ursula Hammond .....Miss Annie Stalman
Robert Menteith .....Mr. P. J. Quill

The most gratifying reception awaited the new comedietta, which is worthy of being retained indefinitely in the programme. It is a variant of the familiar love theme, brightly written, and possessing a plot in which the interest is agreeably stimulated. The lonely life of Molly Anstruther is cheered by Ursula Hammond, her "dearest friend," an ardent exponent of "woman's rights," and by Robert Menteith, who, if he does not enjoy the same superlative degree, at any rate occupies a high place in her estimation. "Bobby," indeed, is constantly proposing to Molly, but she will ne'er consent. She invites Ursula to meet him at her flat, and though Ursula's principles are dead against those of "Bobby," who loves to associate himself with the slum children, when she learns that he has inherited a large sum of money she determines to set her cap at him. Taking advantage of the few moments that remain before Robert's arrival she arranges her hair in the most becoming style, puts on her friend's new silk blouse, and greets "Bobby" with her sweetest smile. She sympathises with all his projects, and the pair are soon deep in conversation, while poor Molly is ignored. She loses patience entirely when she hears Bobby arranging with Ursula to take her to the East End in his motor-car, and after "Bobby's" departure gives Ursula a piece of her mind. Molly is left forlorn, but happily "Bobby" has forgotten his cigarette-case, and returns to find his sweetheart in tears, with the result that the motor-car excursion is abandoned, and a wedding arranged in its place. The little piece was very capably acted, Miss Annie Stalman as the treacherous friend giving a talented exposition of the part. Miss Violet Ley distinguished herself greatly in the rôle of Molly, and, despite the distraction of assuming a show of indignation, sang a ballad at the piano in charmingly cultivated style. Mr. P. J. Quill was a diverting Robert Menteith, and displayed a commendable appreciation of the humorous points of the part.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, the Drama, in Four Acts, entitled
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

Kingstonians have had the pleasure this week of renewing acquaintance with this profoundly interesting play, which has been brought to Kingston several times since its production at the New Olympic in 1891. The company, which is captained by Mr. W. W. Kelly, is a thoroughly good one all round. Chief amongst them is Miss Edith Cole, who again appears as the Empress Josephine, a part that is eminently suited to her personality and her dramatic genius. She gives a fine portrayal of the part. Mr. Frederic Victor also makes an admirable Napoleon, looking and acting the part with great success. A most favourable impression is also created by Mr. Claude Agnew as Tallyrand, the subtle genius of this statesman being excellently portrayed; and Miss Maggie Cardiff is successful as the juvenile King of Rome. The following also render admirable service:—Dr. Corvisart, Mr. Wm. Robins; Grimaud, Mr. Geo. Hudson; Antoine, Mr. Edward Langford; Pierre, Mr. Larton Orme; General Augereau, Mr. Alfred Grenville; Lord Keith, Mr. C. Jackson; Marshal Murat, Mr. St. George Frere; Marie Louise, Miss Agnes Imlay; Stephanie, Miss Helen Richmond; Blanch, Miss Gertrude Entwistle; Angelique, Miss Violet Hudson; and Mother Lomas, Miss Helen Meadows.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 4, the Musical Play, by Seymour Hicks, entitled
"BLUEBELL IN FAIRYLAND."

Mr. J. Bannister Howard, his pantomime having finished last week, has begun well his dramatic season by the engagement of Mr. E. Graham-Falcon's company in the above play, with all its special scenery and full effects. Miss Mamie Finbow made Bluebell a pathetic and pleasing impersonation; and Mr. Lawrence Emery as Dickie, her companion in poverty, was smart in his songs, dances, and general business. Mr. Frank Lennard, who acted Mr. Joplin in the play and the Sleepy King in the dream, cleverly made his parts as different in rendering as it is possible to imagine. Messrs. J. H. Bishop and Charles Resti were respectively Will and Won't, the footmen, and Blib and Blob, the schoolboys, and had the lion's share of the merrymaking. Mr. Harry Douglas was as stern as Policeman C as he was whimsical as the Reigning King in the second act; and Master W. Blincoe, who was Peter the Cat, and the Dove, sang sweetly in the woodland scene, and showed great promise. Miss Vera Vizard as Bluebell's Good Fairy and Autumn Leaf, sang with specially good effect; and Miss Constance St. Bride also rendered a ballad with taste and finish. Miss Haldée Fitch put in some good dancing as Will-o'-the-Wisp; and little Bertha Johnson and Emily Wall, as Bluebell's sisters, were child-like and interesting. Mr. Edgar Plinge's Yellow Dwarf was a grotesque assumption; and Miss Lily Nesbit was good in the small part of Bluebell's kindly landlady. There were some excellent contortionists, three in number, in the Cavern scene, with weird gambols, and the choruses of Bootblacks, Flower Sellers, Fairies, and Courtiers sang and danced with go and unanimity.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 4, the pantomime, by Victor Stevens, entitled
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."

At the Dalston Theatre this week Mr. George Brydon Phillips presents *Little Red Riding Hood*, a pantomime that is brimful of fun and amusement. The scenery is pretty and the dresses really artistic. Miss Rose Harvey makes a dashing Prince Amorosa, and is quite a favourite, especially with her song, "Snowflakes," which she sings in most appropriate style. Miss Mamie Iris as Little Red Riding Hood gives an artistic rendering to a pretty part. As to the fun of the production Mr. Henry de Solla, as Lawyer Slyfox, is responsible for much mirth, and his "Lazy" song is quite an achievement in its way. He is ably assisted in his rôle as laughter-maker by Mr. Fred Maple, who appears as the Wicked Squire, a bold, bad man. Mr. Maitland Marler as Granny, brings down the house with his quaint humour and topical songs. A very natural and realistic representation of the Wolf is given by Mr. J. W. Brighten. Mr. Billie Taylor is funny as Simple Simon, the village idiot; and Miss Marie Beaufort as the Good Fairy sings well, as does also Little Vera Sanders as Cupid, the lover's friend. Others in an excellent cast include Mr. Reuben Kitchen, Mr. Dennis Curzon, Miss L. Palmer, Miss Amy Maple, Miss Kitty Wells, Miss Esther Ohlson, and Miss Browning.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Feb. 4, the Musical Comedy, by George Dance and Howard Talbot, entitled
"A CHINESE HONEYMOON."

That *A Chinese Honeymoon*, which enjoyed so long a run in town, has by no means lost its attractiveness is shown by the success with which it has been received at Fulham and elsewhere. Mr. Milton Bode has gathered together a most capable company and chorus for the present tour, and has spared no expense in the way of scenery and dresses. Mr. Rudolph Kloss makes a stately representative of the Emperor Hang Chow; and Mr. P. A. Turner (who is also responsible for the very efficient stage-management) is admirably made-up as the most Chinese of Mandarins, and acts with quiet humour; while Mr. Leonard May as Admiral Hi Lung plays his part on broadly humorous lines with great success. Mr. Harry Jennings as Tom Hatherton sings well, and acts the lover capably. Mr. George Rydon is excellent as the amorous Mr. Pineapple, and is responsible for no small share of the merriment. Of the ladies, Miss Gwennie Harcourt, in the Louie Freear part of Fi-Fi, carries off the palm for cleverness, and must be establishing quite a reputation for herself in such parts. Her quaint manner and make-up, and her dry humour, are irresistibly provocative of laughter, and her rendering of the favourite comic and topical songs delights the house. Miss Gladys Ward makes a charming Mrs. Pineapple, and proves herself an excellent danseuse. Miss Maud Adams, with her imposing personality, is very good as Mrs. Brown, "the official mother-in-law," the part suiting her to perfection. Miss Nancy Rossiter plays the part of the Princess Soo-Soo with charm and skill, and her song, "Egypt," with its effective chorus and subtle light effects, is certainly one of the best things in the piece. It remains only to add that a full orchestra, under Mr. D. J. Damant, does justice to the tuneful music.

FURNITURE TRADES' MUSICAL SOCIETY.

Under the presidency of Mr. Thomas Harris, C.C.C., the twenty-sixth concert of the Furniture Trades' Musical Society took place at Holborn Restaurant on Wednesday evening. The Council Chamber of this famous restaurant was filled with visitors, who had come to enjoy the musical treat provided. Songs, humorous duets, instrumental solos, and conjuring turns were liberally sprinkled over the programme. Miss Marie St. John Firth sang sweetly of "Roses by summer forsaken"; Mr. Thomas Hinde, a tenor, delivered "Maire, my girl," with telling effect. "Chorus, gentlemen," was rendered by Mr. Fred Hardy, an excellent baritone, who enthused his audience to accompany him in the lusty chorus. Then came a turn by Mr. Wilson Martell, who gave "Happy England," an exceedingly funny song, the singer keeping the audience in roars of laughter. The comic element was also contributed to by Mr. Arthur Randal, who told what strange things would happen if the "World were ruled by girls." A truly clever and clean performance of legerdemain, which quite merited its description on the programme—"a humorous and artistic wizard entertainment"—was given by Mr. Owen Clark, who was rewarded by great applause. The hand-bell solos of Mr. Brook Flowers proved quite a treat, the delicate and correct intonation of the bells used giving Mr. Flowers the opportunity of creating very sweet effects. The musical arrangements and stage-management were under the experienced direction of Mr. Alfred H. Botwright, who controlled the programme from start to finish without the slightest hitch or delay.

MUSICAL COMEDY—AND DANCE.

Though the era inaugurated by King Pantomime is over at the bright and beautiful theatre opposite the Cobden statue, Mr. Robert Arthur has seen to it that the reign of mirth continues, and large audiences have this week capitulated unconditionally to the espiéglerie, the winsomeness, and the romance of *The Beauty of Bath*, brought hither by the chief company pioneered by Mr. George Dance, in whom suburban and provincial audiences recognise an expert in the production of musical comedy. In the weaving of their story, Mr. Cosmo Hamilton and Mr. Seymour Hicks have not been altogether uninspired by *The Rivals*, and they might have even gone further, and used one or two of Sheridan's situations in the old comedy. But even as it is, *The Beauty of Bath* is an excellent piece of its kind—light as gossamer, and full of the irresponsible frivolity demanded. The music, by Herbert E. Haines, in its cadences largely enters into the spirit of the fun to be discovered in Mr. Charles H. Taylor's lyrics, and the introduced numbers have all the popularity and tunefulness required.

Mr. Dance's company is headed by Mr. Leslie Holland, who, in the part of Lieutenant Richard Alington, reproduces the Hicks method to a nicety, and plays the part with such irresistible go, and with such complete enjoyment of its humorous phases, that he is already an established favourite in the northern heights. His great successes are "Mr. Chamberlain" and "Humpty Dumpty," the latter with additional topical verses. He is particularly funny in his business with Mrs. Goodge, the cook, who has a predilection for "play-hactors," and in this connection high praise must be given to Miss Ida Laurie for the drollery of her high falutin' antics as the ex-lodging-house keeper. Miss Gladys Guy is as pretty as a picture as the Hon. Betty Silverthorne, and possesses considerable charm of style. She scores mostly in her realisation of Betty's love of fun, but wins honours also in her rendering of "Au revoir, my little Hyacinth," which has been interpolated since the first night at the Aldwych. In this number she is assisted by Mr. F. W. Pedgrift, a young baritone, who sings from the dress circle level, and displays qualities of tone and expressiveness that rightly win for him very hearty recognition. He plays the part of Viscount Gorst, and his excellent phrasing, sweetness, and power are again conspicuous in the number, "She's the prettiest girl in Bath." Mr. Reggie Grey brings into prominence the amusing business of Lord Quorn, being especially funny in the travestie of "Sally in the ballet." Mr. Sheriff Clunes sings exceedingly well, imparting tenderness to the ballad "The sloe-eyed maid," and plays the part of Beverley with a lightness that is particularly agreeable. He sounds the depths of romance, too, in Beverley's duet with Miss Maggie White, who plays Lady Dorothy Bun. This young lady sings uncommonly well, scoring in the imitation of a phonograph gone wrong. Mr. Jack Crichton as Sir Timothy has plenty of funny business at his command. His dances are smart and eccentric, and his number, "Bang the drum," which "daddy" sings with his eight fair daughters, is a very popular item. Miss Edith Cruikshanks looks quite a young British matron, and in the meeting of mother and son in the first act, plays with a delightful touch of sincerity that lifts the scene into the higher regions of comedy. Miss Jessie Fraser dances with grace and refinement as Miss Truly St. Cyr, the actress, and scores in the song, "Lord Gollywog of Grosvenor-square"; Mr. Frederick Leister puts dignity into the important part of Lord Bellingham; and Master Sydney Grata as the programme boy is effective. The piece is beautifully dressed, and the sweetness of English girlhood is well exemplified in the chorus. Mr. Gordon Seamford is the musical director, Mr. Leslie Holland the stage-manager, and Mr. J. Alban Newton the manager, for Mr. George Dance.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

On Wednesday afternoon, at the Royal Academy of Music, Mr. Oscar Beringer, in the presence of a large and interested audience, gave a lecture, or rather, as he modestly called it, a discourse on pianoforte playing and teaching. The esteemed Professor of the Royal Academy remarked that during his fifty years' experience, both as performer and teacher of the piano, he had come in contact with the chief players and teachers of his time. Mr. Beringer said he was an infant prodigy, and his first appearance was at the Crystal Palace in 1857. The lecturer then gave an amusing account of his early experiences as a teacher. "I then charged eighteenpence a lesson, but the mother of my first pupil would only pay fifteenpence, and when the poor teacher's little bill became due it was only paid in instalments." Another anecdote which delighted the audience was a story about his meeting Mme. Tietjens on the concert platform.

"The great singer wanted a glass of water, and when he brought it she, seeing a young lad in a short jacket, offered him half a crown." I drew myself up, saying, "No thank you, I am solo pianist at the Crystal Palace." The Professor, in speaking of the kind of music in vogue half a century ago, somewhat cruelly referred to "The Maiden's Prayer," and he not only referred to it, but to the intense amusement of his audience, sat down and played the thing with all its fearful runs and "twiddly bits." We can nowadays afford to laugh at such music, but no doubt some present could remember the time when a young lady playing "The Maiden's Prayer" correctly was looked upon as quite a musical prodigy, and only a few days ago a teacher told the writer she was asked if she could teach it. In defence of English Art, we may here say "The Maiden's Prayer" was composed by Badarzewska. Musical matters, however, said Mr. Beringer, began to show signs of improvement, for after a certain amount of popularity was gained by Sydney Smith's compositions, which were showy and not difficult to play. The lecturer here giving a characteristic example, the works of Stephen Heller came to the front. As a good example Mr. Beringer played Heller's once-popular "Travantelle." After this came the advent of the famous Thalberg, and his no less famous exponent, Mme. Arabella Goddard. The Professor remarked on the hostile attitude of the Press in those days to Mme. Schumann (whom he considered one of the finest lady pianists ever heard), and to the great Rubinstein, one paper even going so far as to tell its readers, "If they wanted to know how *not* to play the piano go and hear Rubinstein."

The Professor, after giving one difficult and striking example of Thalberg, said the composer had no sympathy with Schumann, and made Beethoven dry. Mr. Beringer briefly referred to the famous Pachmann, and amidst applause from the audience, to Sir August Mann's saying "That no man has done more for English music." Mr. Beringer then spoke of his early training at Leipsic, where, he said, one could get a good seat at the opera for ninepence, a fact that considerably surprised his hearers. He then referred to Moscheles, under whom he was a pupil; he also told a good story about his master. Moscheles was teaching at a grand house, and one day when he came the footman was angry because he rang the visitors' bell, saying a music-teacher should not think of doing so. Mr. Beringer has been Professor at the Royal Academy since 1865, and in concluding his lecture said he never regretted he returned in 1866 to England.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"A NORTHERN ROMANCE."

Play, in Four Acts, by Cicely Wroughton, produced at the Comedy Theatre on Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 5.

Ivan Linnovitch .....Sir Simeon Stuart, Bart.
Prince Loris Strelezkoff ....Mr. Gerald Carter
Count Poloffsky .....Mr. Reginald P. Lamb
Prince Alexis Veroff / Kaleb Vassilitch ... } Mr. Noel Curtis Bennett
Count Gulkievitch .....Captain Carden
Sacha .....Mr. F. Montgomery
Madame Bariatinski ....Miss Dorothy Jackson
Madame Lobanoff .....Mrs. Carden
Mlle. Golovnine .....Miss Lydia Bilbrooke
Tatiana .....Miss Winifred Burnaby
Princess Veroff .....Miss Agnes Miller
Anita Rodesky .....Miss Constance Paul
Princess Christina Strelezkoff.Miss Gwen Fegan

Love and anarchy are associated in the new play which was performed by amateurs at the Comedy Theatre, kindly lent by Mr. Arthur Chudleigh, on Tuesday afternoon in aid of the Westminster Hospital. The two elements are rather awkwardly blended, there is a poverty of action, and the situations do not present any aspect of novelty. The talents of the authoress seem to point more towards the lighter side of the drama, a few fleeting moments of comedy being brightly written. The piece might be described as a play with a past, as the event upon which it turns takes place many years before the rise of the curtain. At that remote period Ivan Linnovitch, the leader of a revolutionary movement, imprisoned at Strelna preparatory to execution, had been rescued by the youthful Princess Strelezkoff, who had stolen the papers incriminating him and had driven to the Palace alone and taken the prisoner away with her in her carriage. Ivan is subsequently exiled to Siberia, where he has command of the convicts, but returns after thirteen years to St. Petersburg, and receives hospitality in Prince Strelezkoff's house, where the play opens. The affection which had long since existed between the Princess and Ivan grows apace, till at length the jealousy of the Prince is aroused by a note sent to Christina by Vassilitch, another anarchist leader, warning her not to allow Ivan to leave the house on peril of his life. The Prince demands to know why the note was sent to the Princess, and as no satisfactory explanation is given he orders Ivan to be placed under arrest. The flame of the Prince's jealousy is fanned by the Police-Master Count Poloffsky, who was a witness of the Princess's escapade at Strelna, and relates the story to the Prince, who learns of it for the first time. Ivan is banished from the house, and returns to his revolutionary brethren in order to resume command of the band. Learning that the Winter Palace of the Czar has been mined in view of the wholesale destruction of the notabilities who are to assemble there in the evening, he determines that for Christina's sake the Prince Loris must be preserved, and, to the disgust of Vassilitch, gives orders that the diabolical project shall be abandoned. By some inscrutable means Christina has learned of the contemplated explosion, and seeks out Ivan in order to beseech him to save her husband. Ivan hastens to carry out her wishes, but as Christina is about to leave the hut she is confronted by Poloffsky, who threatens to have her sent to Siberia for complicity in the plot. News is subsequently brought that a man, supposed to be the revolutionary leader, has been shot dead in the street, but the victim is found to be Prince Loris, who had been mistaken for Ivan. The latter thereupon declares his love for Christina, who admits her affection for him. The soldiery are in sight, and Ivan, convinced that death awaits them if they stay in the hut, urges the Princess to brave the open street with him, and as the curtain falls the pair go out, leaving their ultimate fate very much in doubt.

An earnest body of amateurs joined in a performance in many respects meritorious. Miss Gwen Fegan's acting and delivery in the trying part of the Princess were especially commendable, and Miss Constance Paul was delightfully fresh and natural as a débutante. Sir Simeon Stuart, Bart., though he looked every inch a soldier as well as a rebel leader in his picturesque costumes, was not impressive in speech or action as Ivan Linnovitch. His voice is lacking in sympathetic quality, and his acting proved to be utterly devoid of any emotional capacity. Prince Loris was strikingly impersonated by Mr. Gerald Carter. Mr. Reginald P. Lamb was admirably distinct and incisive as the callous-hearted Police-Master, and Mr. Noel Curtis Bennett did excellent work by doubling the part of a young aide-de-camp with that of Vassilitch, the latter being taken up very creditably at short notice. The other parts gave little opportunity to their exponents except to display a variety of rich dresses. A crowded house expressed itself very favourably towards the piece and called the authoress enthusiastically to the footlights at the close. It may be added that Miss Jessie Bateman, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, and Miss Sybil Carlisle, assisted by Nurses from Westminster Hospital, had kindly consented to sell programmes.

THE CELLI FUND.

This fund is being raised on behalf of the two young daughters, aged 17 and 18, of the late Frank Celli, well known in the theatrical profession, who died in Charing Cross Hospital two years ago, leaving them totally unprovided for.

First list of subscriptions:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. W. H. Kendal	£5	5	0
Mr. A. W. Pinero	5	5	0
Sir Squire Bancroft	5	0	0
Dr. C. Bell Keetley	5	0	0
Actors' Benevolent Association	5	0	0
Mr. W. S. Gilbert	3	3	0
Mr. Henry Arthur Jones	3	3	0
Mr. George P. Bancroft	1	1	0
Mr. Dion Boucicault	1	1	0
Mr. Arthur Bourchier	1	1	0
Mr. Albert Chevalier	1	1	0
Mr. G. Thorn Drury	1	1	0
Mr. George Grossmith	1	1	0
Dr. John Harold	1	1	0
Mr. C. T. H. Helmsley	1	1	0
Mr. Frank Misselbrook	1	1	0
Miss Irene Vanbrugh	1	0	0
Mr. Luther Munday	0	10	6
Mr. Egerton Beck	0	5	0
Mr. P. M. Turner	0	2	6
	£43	3	0

Contributions towards this most deserving case may be sent to:—Mr. S. Sherrington Chinn, 1, Albemarle-street, W.; Mr. C. T. H. Helmsley, St. James's Theatre, S.W.; Mr. Lawrence Kellie, 191, Portsdown-road, Maida Vale, W.; Mr. M. V. Leveaux, Garrick Theatre, W.C.; or the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, *The Era* Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Covent Garden, W.C. Cheques should be made payable to the "Celli Fund," and crossed.

Messrs. F. V. White and Co. have published a new cheap edition of "Anna of the Plains," the Boer novel by Alice and Claude Askew, the authors of "The Shulamite," the original of the powerful play produced at the Savoy Theatre last year by Miss Lena Ashwell. "Anna of the Plains" has all the characteristics of "The Shulamite." The simple, elemental passions of rural people are treated in a deep, solemn, passionate way that is irresistibly impressive; the story, though sad and serious, is enthralling, dramatic, and is told with an expressive energy that is sure of its effect on the reader. It breathes in every page the hot glare of the blue African sky, the brown, shrivelled-up grass, and the unending monotony of the plains. It is a tragedy of the veldt, all the more poignant because the materials of which it is composed are so primitive and simple.

ACTORS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree presided at the annual general meeting of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, held on the stage of His Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Tree was supported by Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. Cyril Maude, and Mr. C. I. Coltson (secretary), and among the others present were:—Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr. Laurence Irving, Mr. E. H. Bull, Mr. Akerman May, Mr. C. Cruikshanks, Mr. Sydney Paxton, Mr. Harry Nicholls, Mrs. C. Gay, Mr. Henry Evill, Mr. P. de Pinto, Miss C. Rivington, Mrs. Ernest Collins, Mr. T. P. Haynes, Mr. J. H. Mote, Mr. G. Gisburne, Mr. C. Cooper, the Rev. C. E. L. Wright, Miss Clara Jecks, Mr. Frank Safford, Miss Edith Blanche, Mr. J. W. Langdon, and Miss Agnes Imlay.

The secretary read the committee's report and the auditors' report, which were as follow:—

REPORT FOR 1906.

The committee have again to deplore the loss of a good friend in the death of Mr. John Lawrence Toole, who was one of the originators of the Fund, and one of its trustees from its inception. He generously bequeathed the Fund the sum of £500, free of legacy duty.

The committee, while able to report a year's work of a most satisfactory nature, inasmuch as the total income has been in excess of any previous year (as will be seen on reference to the annexed accounts), cannot but regret a falling-off in the amount of the subscriptions; the subscribers numbering 805, while the total sum subscribed has been £865 12s., as against £1,136 18s. 2d., contributed in 1905. This falling-off in the subscription it is hoped is but temporary.

The committee desire to remind all those interested in the Actors' Benevolent Fund that the day for collections to be made throughout the whole of the United Kingdom in each theatre and every company on the road is "Actors' Saturday," the last Saturday in January. This date has now passed, but as the collecting lists are not expected to be returned to the offices before Feb. 16, there is still time for those ladies and gentlemen who are kindly collecting for the Fund to urge each member of his or her company to contribute something to the only Fund which can afford assistance in the hour of need.

The committee desire to record their most cordial and grateful thanks to the Fund's president, Sir Charles Wyndham, for kindly presiding at its annual dinner, the result of which has been a record in theatrical festivals. To all those who so generously supported Sir Charles on that occasion the committee tender their most grateful thanks.

The committee are very grateful to those actors and actresses who have generously devoted to the Fund the monies received by them in exchange for their autograph, the amount received during the past year being £90 16s. 9d.

The governing bodies of the Marylebone and the Surrey Cricket Clubs have again generously given the free use of their grounds for the matches played for the benefit of the Theatrical Funds, and the committee tender to them their very grateful thanks. The cordial thanks of the committee are also tendered to the gentlemen who kindly organised the matches.

The following is a list of the local centres:—
Aberdeen (Her Majesty's Theatre), R. Arthur, Esq.
Blackburn (Prince's Theatre), E. H. Page, Esq.
Bradford (Theatre Royal and Opera House), J. Hart, Esq.
Bristol (Prince's Theatre), J. M. Chute, Esq.
Brighton (Theatre Royal), H. Cecil Beryl, Esq.
Bury St. Edmunds (Theatre Royal), C. H. Nunn, Esq.
Cardiff (Theatre Royal), R. Redford, Esq.
Crewe (Lyceum Theatre), H. Taylor, Esq.
Dublin (Gaiety Theatre), Charles Hyland, Esq.
Dundee (Her Majesty's Theatre), R. Arthur, Esq.
Edinburgh (Lyceum Theatre), G. T. Minshull, Esq.
Glasgow (Royalty Theatre), H. Macfarlane, Esq.
Hastings (Pier), J. D. Hunter, Esq.
Newcastle-on-Tyne (Tyne Theatre), F. C. Sutcliffe, Esq.
Paisley (Paisley Theatre), J. H. Savile, Esq.
Richmond (New Theatre), Charles E. Hardy, Esq.
Shrewsbury (Theatre Royal), W. H. Maddox, Esq.
Scarborough (Londesborough Theatre), W. H. Waddington, Esq.
Sunderland (Avenue Theatre), Percival Craig, Esq.
Southampton (Grand Theatre), Arthur Weston, Esq.
York (Theatre Royal), W. H. Waddington, Esq.

ACTORS' SATURDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 1907.

The committee most urgently appeal to the whole of the members of the theatrical calling to contribute something to the collection which is now being made throughout the United Kingdom. The smallest sums will be thankfully received and acknowledged in the theatrical papers.

A small subscription carries with it not only a first claim upon the Fund for pecuniary assistance, but it also gives the power to recommend deserving applicants.

It is requested that contributions be handed to the gentlemen who are kindly collecting at the theatres. By order.

C. I. Coltson, Secretary.

Offices: 8, Adam-street, Adelphi, W.C.

ABSTRACT OF REPORT.

The following is a comparative analysis of the work of 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, and 1906:—

	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906
Ordinary Cases..	779 ..	800 ..	815 ..	1052 ..	1154 ..	1055
Emergency Cases	336 ..	311 ..	295 ..	359 ..	320 ..	437
	1115	1111	1110	1411	1474	1492

	1901 £ s. d.	1902 £ s. d.	1903 £ s. d.
Ordinary Gifts..	2258 11 3 ..	2195 6 0 ..	2320 18 9
Emergency Gifts	159 13 2 ..	141 1 6 ..	114 14 6
Ordinary Loans	458 2 0 ..	619 11 6 ..	522 5 0
Emergency Loans	77 9 0 ..	101 12 0 ..	100 2 0
	2953 15 5	3057 11 0	3058 0 3

	1904 £ s. d.	1905 £ s. d.	1906 £ s. d.
Ordinary Gifts..	2443 19 6 ..	2516 16 0 ..	2448 5 9
Emergency Gifts	126 8 8 ..	129 4 9 ..	151 15 0
Ordinary Loans..	651 18 0 ..	675 7 0 ..	651 12 6
Emergency Loans	128 11 6 ..	165 14 6 ..	148 5 0
	3350 17 8	3487 2 3	3399 18 3

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.
From Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1906.

Dr.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance on hand, Jan. 1, 1906				1230	8	7
,, Subscriptions and Donations, including Collections at Theatres				865	12	1
,, Bequest, George James Smith	25	0	0			
,, Bequest John Laurence Toole	500	0	0			
				525	0	0
,, Proceeds of Benefits, &c.:						
Tax on Amateur Performance, per Edward Compton and Milton Bode	8	0	0			
Sale of Catalogues at Sir Henry Irving's Sale	78	16	0			
Belfast Theatrical Gala	20	0	0			
Hull Floral Matinée	10	10	0			
Charity Performance, Theatre Royal, Exeter	5	11	8			
Charity Matinée, Bristol	0	5	0			
Tyne Theatre Fine, per F. C. Sutcliffe	1	1	0			
Sunderland Charity Carnival	5	0	0			
West Bromwich Charity Sports	1	1	0			
Liverpool Theatrical Gala	40	0	0			
On Account of Cricket Matches, per Aubrey Smith	37	10	0			
Miss E. Cooper, per George Edwardes	15	0	0			
Moody-Manners Company	5	10	0			
Photographs of Actors, per *Daily Mirror*	5	5	0			
Fees for Amateur Performance at County Theatre, Reading	3	3	0			
Messrs. H. M. Rayne, from Sale of Call and Date Books	5	9	11			
Ditto, ditto, per F. H. Pedgrift	4	0	1			
Sale of Unclaimed Articles at Court Theatre, Liverpool	4	4	0			
Miss Davies Webster and Miss Rose Cazalet, Dramatic Entertainment	2	10	0			
Birmingham Theatrical Sports	5	0	0			
Sundries	13	13	3			
				271	9	11
,, Covent Garden Theatre Fund				976	14	4
,, Arrears on last year's Dinner				140	9	6
,, Proceeds to date of 16th Annual Dinner (Sir Charles Wyndham, President, in the Chair)				1805	18	6
,, The "Betty" Fund				49	19	9
,, Autographs of Actors and Actresses				90	16	9
,, Interest on Investments:						
Helen Faucit Endowment	60	8	0			
Sir Charles Wyndham's Gift	70	14	8			
Other Investments	696	7	0			
				827	9	8
	£24424	14	7	£6783	19	1

NOTE.

Investments held:

	£	s.	d.
2½ per cent. Consols	1490	0	0
3 per cent. India Stock	3291	2	11
3½ per cent. India Stock	15007	12	6
3½ per cent. do. B. Account	1725	19	2

Cr.

PAYMENTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Grants and Allowances				2555	5	9
Ditto, ditto, "Betty" Fund				44	15	0
,, Loans	799	17	6			
Less repaid	124	8	6			
				675	9	0
,, Medicine				5	10	
,, Nye Chart Bed at Seaford				94	5	0
,, Investment to Capital (Bequest)				500	0	0
,, National Telephone and Messenger Call				9	1	0
,, Legal Expenses (Stamps)				2	6	0
,, Office Furniture				7	13	6
,, Salaries				455	17	6
,, Advertising				50	5	6
,, Printing and Stationery				38	15	0
,, Rent of Offices				90	0	0
,, Miscellaneous Expenses				59	3	4
,, Housekeeper's Expenses (including Coals, &c.)				36	4	11
,, At Bankers on Deposit	1500	0	0			
,, At Bankers on Current Account	628	3	7			
,, At Bankers on "Betty" Fund	5	4	9			
,, In hands of Secretary	42	3	5			
				2175	11	9
				£6783	19	1

C. I. COLTSON,
Secretary.

8, Adam-street, Adelphi, W.C.

Audited and found correct,
WESTCOTT, MASKALL, AND CO.,
Chartered Accountants,
29 and 30, Broad-street-avenue, E.C.

London, Jan. 11, 1907.

The Chairman, in proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—Ladies and Gentlemen,—I rise to move the adoption of the report and accounts. As this is a business meeting, I will make my remarks as brief and as business-like as possible. You will see from the report and the accompanying balance-sheet that the affairs of the Actors' Benevolent Fund are in a most flourishing condition. The income this year is the largest on record. There is invested a sum of £24,000, and it is hoped that this sum will increase year by year. In addition, we have the interest of the Covent Garden and the "Betty" Funds. This brings our annual income up to over £5,000 per annum. Fourteen hundred and ninety-two cases have been assisted in the course of the past year, while the sum of £3,399 has been distributed in relief. There are seventy aged actors and actresses who are in receipt of weekly allowances, and these allowances absorb the sum of nearly £2,000 per annum. So, you see, we have reason to be proud of our Fund. You will notice that up to the present the year's subscriptions from actors and actresses are £300 short of the previous year; but this is easily accounted for, for, as you know, the Actors' Day Fund, which was started in October last, has received subscriptions to the extent of £1,400. I hope and believe that a large proportion of this sum will shortly come into our coffers. Nothing could be more noble in purpose than that each actor should give up one night's salary in every year, in order to relieve the distress of his brethren, and it will indeed be a proud day if this custom becomes universal. When that day does come, we shall then be able to do without appeals to the public of any kind. I confess I myself would prefer to do without the annual dinner; I would prefer to do without garden fêtes, but we must remember that there is yet something more important than our *amour propre*, and that is that distress should be relieved. It should also be remembered that, in the course of the year, we actors are the means of assisting other charities, and the public in return are only too glad to come forward and to help our charities. I will read a few letters which have been received by us. Mr. Lionel Rignold writes:—"We have put up your list, but I think there will not be a response, as the company have already given a subscription to the Actors' Day Fund." Mr. John Hart writes from Bradford to say that he is unable to send any further contribution to the Actors' Saturday Fund, as he has already given his donations from his various theatres to the Actors' Day Fund. Mr. Laurence Irving also writes:—"I dare say you are prepared to find that very many will consider the subscriptions to Actors' Day as covering all further claims." I am also able to tell you that in this theatre my company and I intend shortly to give a performance in aid of our funds. We hope the amount will be considerable, so that is to be taken into account as well. I have a letter from a firm of solicitors in Lincoln's Inn Fields as follows:—

"Dear Sir,—*Re* Charles James Oldham, deceased: We are directed by the executors of the late Mr. C. J. Oldham, of 30, Brunswick-square, Brighton, who died on Jan. 24, to inform you that the testator, by his will, left the Society the sum of £1,000, from which, of course, will have to be deducted the legacy duty of ten per cent. We shall be glad if you will let us know who are the proper persons to give discharge to the executors for the amount payable."

This will be very good news for the Fund. I will conclude by expressing the hope that all the funds in connection with our profession may flourish, but, above all, I hope that this, the greatest of all our funds, may ever continue to be foremost in our affection and our regard.

Mr. Edward Terry briefly seconded the adoption of the report and accounts, and the proposal was carried by the meeting.

Mr. George Alexander said that he wanted to point out that there was a movement to amalgamate all the funds. The endeavour was to formulate some scheme by which a reduction of expenses could be effected. He thought it as well to say that the new advisory board had been chosen from all ranks of the profession. It would not be a bad idea if they could take upon their shoulders the consolidation of all the funds, and the distribution thereof, in a manner similar to that in which King Edward's Hospital Fund was conducted. A great advantage would be gained if the expenses connected with the distribution of the money could be reduced.

The Chairman, in proposing a vote of thanks to the committee, said that it gave him an opportunity of referring to what Mr. Alexander had just said. He quite agreed with the opinion advanced by Mr. Alexander, and he himself had always advocated the fusion of all the funds into one great controlling body. No doubt the committe, in returning thanks, would probably say a word or two as to the expenditure in connection with the Actors' Benevolent Fund. He had great pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to the committee, who had on every occasion done their utmost to serve the interests of the Fund.

The Rev. C. E. L. Wright, in seconding, said that he thought it would be a great privilege to the public to be able to assist the Fund, and he thought, too, that the public might have been given the opportunity of taking part in the Irving Memorial. He thought that the committee had done their work very well indeed, and he testified to their excellent business capabilities.

Mr. Edward Terry, replying on behalf of the committee, remarked that he felt not a little proud in being asked to do so. He would like to say a word or two in regard to what had fallen from Mr. George Alexander as to the expenses of administration. These were comparatively small, compared with the fact that they had had to deal with 1,492 cases during the year. Their office and incidental expenses were cut down to the lowest limit. But he wished to urge upon them that, if the committee had to administer to the requirements of 5,000 cases, the expenses would be almost the same. Every care was taken that not a single penny was wasted. Money would, however, be saved if all the funds could be consolidated. He assured them, in conclusion, that the committee would exert their best efforts on behalf of the Fund.

Mr. Charles Cruikshanks proposed a vote of thanks to, and the re-election of, the hon. standing counsel, Mr. J. Safford; the hon. solicitors, Messrs. J. Mote and Son; the hon. auditors, Messrs. W. Westcott, Maskall, and Co.; the hon. physicians, Drs. G. Stoker, F. Horton Villanueva, C. Atkin Swan, and R. P. Middlemist; and the hon. dentists, Messrs. P. de Pinto and Hubert J. Wooldridge.

Mr. E. H. Bull seconded, and acknowledgments were made by Mr. J. Safford, Mr. H. J. Mote, Mr. P. de Pinto, and Mr. Gisburne.

The Secretary asked for three scrutineers of votes, and Mr. Aubrey Smith, Mr. Henry Evill, and Mr. P. de Pinto were appointed.

Mr. Alexander proposed the appointment of Sir Charles Wyndham as a trustee, and Mr. Terry, in seconding, testified to his pleasure at having Sir Charles as a fellow-trustee. The proposal was carried.

The Chairman then announced Sir Charles Wyndham's re-election as president of the Fund.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Tree for giving the use of his theatre and presiding at the meeting concluded the proceedings.

ACTORS' UNION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Mr. Cecil Raleigh says that I have either read an incorrect report of his speech, or that I have misunderstood him. I don't think I have done either, though I admit that my understanding has been somewhat taxed by the various changes of policy adopted by Mr. Raleigh during the last few years, and even if he has now arrived at a finality of policy, it does not alter my original contention as to who are the best judges of the needs, &c., of the rank and file of the profession.

And this brings me to the real object of this, my last letter on this subject, as, whatever the rejoinder, I shall not further trespass on the hospitality of your columns. It is to refute the statement in the "humorously sarcastic" paragraph with which Mr. Raleigh concludes his letter, and in which he says that he has the satisfaction of knowing that he is doing "something" whilst we do "nothing." This statement is so unfair, and unfounded, that, in order to avoid flatly contradicting Mr. Raleigh, one is tempted to drop into his own humorous style, and say that either he does not know of the efforts which are being, and have been made by his less fortunate brethren, or that his deservedly high reputation as an author has prompted him to write—"a story."—Yours faithfully, EDWARD VAN BIENE.

In the Court of Bankruptcy, on the 1st inst., an application for an order of discharge was made by F. C. Moufiet, formerly trading as a licensed victualler and hotel-keeper at the Al Tower, Central Meat Market, E.C., and the Greyhound Hotel, Richmond. Debtor filed his petition in July, 1905, attributing his failure to loss in connection with a theatre at Richmond, and to pressure by mortgagees. The trustee now reported that the sum of £4748 had been realised in respect of the estate, and that a dividend of 2s. 10½d. in the £ had been paid on proofs admitted for £22,035. The offences reported were that the assets were not equal to 10s. in the £, and that the debtor had continued to trade after knowing himself to be insolvent. The discharge was suspended for two years.

The death is announced of Mr. Thomas Threlfall, the well-known musical patron, who passed away last Sunday morning. He was the eldest son of the late Mr. John Mayor Threlfall, of Liverpool, and was born in that city in 1843. He was educated at Cambridge, and called to the Bar in 1868, subsequently joining the Northern Circuit. In 1886 Mr. Threlfall joined the committee of management of the Royal Academy of Music, was appointed chairman in 1888, and also chairman of the Associated Board of that institution and the Royal College of Music for Local Examinations in Music.

Amounts received this week for the Dot Stephens Fund:—Collected by Percy W. Dunsford, Theatre Royal, Exeter, 18s. 3d.; Kittie Cameron, 10s.

"SOME DAY."

Drama, in a prologue and three acts, by V. Temple, produced at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, on Friday, Feb. 1.

Characters in the Prologue.

Lord Marsden .....Mr. Arthur Ross
Paddy Dolan .....Mr. Chalmers Mackey
Captain Valrose .....Mr. David McFarlane
Colonel Holmes .....Mr. H. Sainsbury
Dan Watkins .....Mr. St. John Stuart
Ruth Vernon .....Mrs. Chalmers Mackey
Jenme .....Miss Nana Flensburg
Lady Marsden .....Miss A. Liddon

Characters in the Play.

Count De Morney .....Mr. H. Sainsbury
Captain Valrose .....Mr. David McFarlane
Philip Marsden .....Mr. Arthur Ross
Paddy Dolan .....Mr. Chalmers Mackey
Dan Watkins .....Mr. St. John Stuart
Policeman .....Mr. Quinlan
Lady Marsden .....Miss A. Liddon
Jennie .....Miss Nana Flensburg
Evelyn Marsden .....Mrs. Chalmers Mackey

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

It may be taken as evidence of his popularity in Lancashire that Mr. Chalmers Mackey, the inimitable Irish comedian, had a very full house when he presented *Some Day* at the Salford Theatre, and he had the satisfaction of seeing the play thoroughly enjoyed. A thick vein of comedy runs through the piece, which also possesses incidents of the most exciting kind. The prologue is laid in India, where Lord Marsden and Captain Valrose are stationed with their regiment, and the scene opens in the grounds occupied by Lord Marsden. Lady Marsden, who had been away in England some years, presently arrives with her companion, Ruth Vernon. Lady Marsden is apprehensive of her husband finding out that the baby she has brought is not her husband's, and Ruth promises to keep her secret. Captain Valrose, an impecunious gambler, partially overhears their conversation, and resolves upon blackmail. On Lady Marsden going indoors, Valrose comes out of his hiding, and recognises Ruth as the woman he had disgraced and left about five years previously. He tries to get Lady Marsden's secret out of her, but Ruth threatens that if he attempts anything of the sort she will show him up, and tell of his cheating at cards at Monte Carlo, when he shot his opponent. As she is about to go indoors the scoundrel shoots her, and she dies, saying "Oh! my child," thus revealing that it was his child that had been foisted on Lord Marsden. The first scene of the first act is in a club house in Piccadilly; which appears to be frequented by Valrose and a confederate, Count de Morney, to whom Valrose is deeply indebted for money lent. During the time that has elapsed Lord Marsden has died, and the child Evelyn has grown up into a young lady, and Lady Marsden wishes to see her married to the son of her brother-in-law Philip. Valrose and the Count come to the club, and discuss a scheme to raise money by getting the Count married to Evelyn, the supposed heiress. Philip—who had promised his dead uncle (Lord Marsden) to follow up and avenge the murder of Ruth—overhears their plot, and the two villains, in order to find out whether he has overheard anything that will incriminate them, invite Philip to a game of cards. Philip, seeing marked cards being used, and his wine being drugged, denounces them, and refuses to play. Lady Marsden subsequently tells Philip of her desire regarding Evelyn, and afterwards reveals her secret to Evelyn. The late Lord Marsden and his brother, she tells her, were rivals for her hand, and she took the richer. On her return from India to England she saw a woman taken out of the Thames, and recognised her as Ruth Vernon (a former companion), who had attempted suicide. Ruth told her of her unhappy position, and shortly afterwards gave birth to a girl. Lady Marsden, fearing that her husband's estate would go to his brother's son, Philip, suggests the adoption of Ruth's child, Evelyn, and the employment of Ruth as governess. This recital only binds Lady Marsden and Evelyn closer in affection, and Philip, having overheard, realises that he is the heir to the estates. Valrose afterwards comes with the Count, whom he introduces for the purpose of marriage with Evelyn, and reveals himself to Lady Marsden as the father of Evelyn. High words ensue, in the course of which Lady Marsden denounces him as the murderer of Ruth.

The last act takes place in the drawing-room of Lady Marsden's house. She does not like giving up the idea of being mother to Evelyn, but cannot refuse to allow Valrose to see his child. Paddy Dolan, Lady Marsden's Irish servant, finds in a newspaper a likeness of the Count, who is wanted by the police as a notorious thief, and intending to get the reward offered, shows it to Philip. Paddy and Philip try to engage the attention of Valrose and the Count until the police arrive, but Valrose is suspicous, and arranges for the Count to seize Evelyn and carry her off to their coiners' den, Valrose declaring he can do what he likes with Evelyn as he is her father. Paddy produces the pistol with which Valrose had shot Ruth, and which bears the murderer's name, and by this means convicts him of the crime. Paddy and Philip find their way to the coiners' den. The villains are attacked, and the Count jumps into the river when the other characters enter with the police. Valrose is arrested for the murder of Ruth, and Evelyn is taken to the arms of Philip, and the "some day" of happiness appears to be near.

Mr. Chalmers Mackey as Paddy, a soldier servant, and then a butler, simply revelled in the fun of the part, and he had excellent accomplices in Mr. St. John Stuart as Dan Watkins, a soldier and waiter, and in Miss Nana Flensburg as Jennie, a housemaid, for whose hand the pair were rivals. Mr. David McFarlane was very successful as Captain Valrose; and Mr. Arthur Rose cleverly played Lord Marsden and Philip. Mr. H. Sainsbury did good work as Colonel Holmes, and afterwards as Count de Morney. Mrs. Chalmers Mackey ably presented Ruth and Evelyn; and Miss A. Liddon made a good impression by her successful rendering of the very trying part of Lady Marsden.

BUCHANAN'S
"BLACK
&
WHITE"
THE WHISKY OF WORLD WIDE REPUTE.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR, M.P., will preside at a dinner to be given to Mr. J. M. Glover at the Hotel Cecil, on Sunday, Feb. 24, in celebration of his election to the Mayoralty of Bexhill on-Sea. Mr. Glover, besides filling the conductor's seat at Drury Lane, has interests at Bexhill-on-Sea, and to his energetic efforts towards the promotion of amusements is due in a great measure the popularity which that pleasant resort has acquired.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER has entered upon the arduous duties of an electioneering campaign, and called his constituents together yesterday at the Scala Theatre. Subsequent meetings in support of his candidature for the County Council will be held on Feb. 22, at the Prospect-terrace Council School, and on Feb. 28, at the Whitefield Tabernacle, Tottenham Court-road.

IN his electioneering address the popular actor-manager expresses himself strongly opposed to the extension of municipal trading. If necessary, he will advocate the abandonment of the London County Council steamboat service, but he is in favour of continuing the tramway service, but on sounder financial principles than heretofore. The need for a cheap supply of electricity is also urged by Mr. Alexander, who is convinced that London could be much better governed at considerably less expense. The candidate's committee-rooms are at 133, Judd-street.

MR. CYRIL MAUDE is among the latest additions to the brilliant programme which will be presented at the Royalty Theatre on Friday afternoon in aid of the French Hospital in London and the Lord Mayor's Jamaica Fund. The occasion will be marked by Mr. Maude's first appearance as the Englishman in the French play, *L'Anglais tel qu'on le parle*, by Tristan Bernard, the author of *Toddles*. The remainder of the cast will be sustained by members of the Paris Vaudeville Theatre, and of Mr. Gaston Mayer's company at the Royalty Theatre. Mlle. Jeanne Granier, Mme. Jane Hading, Mr. Lewis Waller, Miss Marie Tempest, Miss Edna May, Miss Ruth Vincent, Mr. Basil Gill, and Mr. Lyn Harding have also consented to make contributions to the entertainment.

MR. H. B. IRVING, Miss Dorothea Baird, and company arrived on the 1st inst. from America, where their reception was of the most enthusiastic character throughout the tour. During the voyage to Liverpool on the Saxonia a concert was given by the members of Mr. Irving's company in aid of the seamen's charities. On March 25, at Aberdeen, Mr. Irving will begin a tour with *The Bells*, *The Lyons Mail*, *Charles I.*, and *King Rene's Daughter*, in the first three of which the young actor plays the characters with which the fame of his illustrious father is so closely associated.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER is shortly again to adorn the evening bill at the Garrick, where Miss Gladys Unger's comedy, which is to be called *Mr. Sheridan*, is now in active rehearsal. The play treats of events surrounding the brilliant dramatist's marriage with Miss Ogle, daughter of the Dean of Winchester, and Mr. Bourchier, in the title-rôle, will be principally supported by Miss Alexandra Carlisle, Miss Nancy Price, and Mr. Sydney Valentine. As Mr. Bourchier finds it impossible to make the necessary preparations for the new piece while the stage of the Garrick is occupied with nine performances a week, he has decided that, after next Thursday's matinée, he will suspend the present series of matinées of *Macbeth*, which will be made the evening attraction at the conclusion of the run of *Mr. Sheridan*.

MR. LEWIS WALLER will, for the time being, cast aside the more robustious element in his new production, due at the Lyric next month, which is to be a comedy drama of a lighter texture. The new piece, which as yet lacks a title, is by Messrs. Horace Hodges and T. Wigney Percyval, and is in four acts, Mr. Waller's rôle being that of a young Naval officer of the period of George IV. The only lady characters in the piece will be played by Miss Evelyn Millard and Miss Carlotta Addison, two of the finest representatives of their line of business. Mr. Charles Groves, Mr. Charles Fulton, Mr. Ben Webster, Mr. A. E. George, Mr. Herbert Jarman, and Mr. Herman de Lange will also be included in the fine cast.

ADMISSION to the Academy of Dramatic Art is manifestly to be gained only by applicants of distinct promise, as is evidenced by the fact that Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr. John Hare, and Mr. Cyril Maude, who have just held the entrance examination for the winter term rejected 30 per cent. of the candidates who, in their judgment, failed to show sufficient qualification for the professional stage. The academy now numbers 100 pupils, and the council announces that no more can be admitted before the end of next April. Among the senior students who have received professional engagements are Mr. A. E. Benedict, Mr. Herbert Lomas, and Miss Kehr, whose services have been secured by Mr. George Alexander for the tour of *His House in Order*; Mr. Charles Maude, engaged at the Playhouse; Mr. Frederick Lloyd and Mr. David Powell, now appearing under Miss Ellen Terry's management in America; and Miss Mary Barton (gold medallist of 1906), engaged by Messrs. Vedrenne and Barker at the Court Theatre.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY concludes a most successful week at the Theatre Royal, Hull, to-night. The bill has included *The Corsican Brothers*, *The Breed of the Treshams*, and *Hamlet*, the Shakespearean tragedy being played on three occasions, in each instance drawing a very large and enthusiastic audience, obviously delighted with the charm, romance, and poetry of Mr. Harvey's reading of the title-rôle, and the grace and delicacy of Miss de Silva's Ophelia. On Monday Mr. Harvey commences a week's engagement at the Opera House, Southport, which, as a theatrical town, is becoming an important item on the tour-card.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER was the object of a popular demonstration at the St. James's on the 1st inst., when an interesting event was celebrated. The occasion, besides being the first anniversary of the production of *His House in Order*, marked the seventeenth year of Mr. Alexander's entry into the managerial arena, which, it will be remembered, began at the Avenue Theatre on Feb. 1, 1890, with *Dr. Bill*. A handsome souvenir was provided in a copy in white and gold of Mr. Pinero's play, together with coloured pictures and photographs and a facsimile of the author's manuscript. Mr. Alexander, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, and all the principal artists were applauded to the echo.

AT the end of the performance Mr. Alexander took the opportunity of thanking a "generous public and sympathetic Press." In spite of the incidents of the play, he said, they at the St. James's were a very happy family. Unfortunately, their beloved author, Mr. Pinero, was not with them that evening, having been seriously ill. They would be pleased, however, to know that he was in a fair way to recovery, and at work upon a new play, which he was proud to announce would be produced at that theatre. *His House in Order*, it should be added, will be played for the last time on the 27th inst., and on Thursday, March 7, Mr. Alfred Sutro's play, *John Glayde's Honour*, will be produced.

WEDNESDAY was the birthday of the late Sir Henry Irving, and a chaplet of laurel leaves placed on the slab of his grave in Westminster Abbey by "Old Lyceum Pittites" was among the tributes to the great actor's memory.

DESPITE the distractions of municipal canvassing, Mr. George Alexander has found time to score over a contemporary who stated that his pronunciation of Jacques as a French monosyllable at the recital of *As You Like It* last Sunday was justified neither by metre nor by fact. "Permit me to point out," replied Mr. Alexander, "that Orlando never speaks of the melancholy Jacques at all. In Act I., Scene 2, he does speak of Jaques de Bois, his brother (another man altogether), and I did pronounce this Christian name as a monosyllable. I consider I was right in this, and, in any case, I could not have been guilty of destroying the metre, as this particular speech is in prose."

GRAND opera is to achieve a record in London this year, arrangements having been concluded for a season of English opera at Covent Garden next Christmas by the Carl Rosa Company, a twelve months' run thus being completed. Added interest will be given to the visit of this famous organisation by the performance in English of the four operas constituting Wagner's *Ring of the Nibelungs*. Up to the present only one of the four works has been performed in the English language, and that is *The Valkyrie*, which the Carl Rosa Company produced at the Prince's, Manchester, in 1896.

LEADING actors took a prominent part in the reading of *As You Like It* given by the British Empire Shakespeare Society at the Passmore Edwards Settlement on Sunday. The parts of Orlando and Rosalind, read by Mr. George Alexander and Miss Lilian Braithwaite, afforded a rare treat, and Mr. Arthur Bourchier's delivery of the melancholy Jacques' lines were also keenly enjoyed. Miss Dorothy Grimston was the Celia, Mr. Charles Fry the Adam, and other parts in Shakespeare's popular comedy were taken by Mr. Athol Stewart, Mr. Kenyon Musgrave, Miss Claire Greet, Mr. Vivian Reynolds, and Mr. Cecil Cameron, who sang the incidental numbers, while the two first prize winners in the recent Shakespearean contests at the St. James's also took part.

MR. HALL CAINE has retained Mr. Austin Melford for his original part of the Factor, when *The Prodigal Son* follows *The Bondman* at the Adelphi. Mr. Melford, it will be remembered, was one of the conspicuous hits of the production at Drury Lane, and his retention in the cast will be invaluable to the success of the revival. Miss Lily Hall Caine will be the Thora of the reproduction, which is announced for Tuesday, the 19th inst.

MR. GERALD DU MAURIER, who so conspicuously added to his laurels by his impersonation of the redoubtable hero of *Raffles*, will resume the part at the Comedy this evening. Mr. Henry Ainley, who succeeded Mr. du Maurier when he took up his part of the Pirate King in *Peter Pan*, now relinquishes the character in order to devote himself to rehearsals of his rôle in *La Belle Marseillaise*.

MRS. SAM LIVESEY (Miss Maggie Edwards), we are glad to announce, has quite recovered from her serious illness, having spent two months at her home in Torquay. Mrs. Livesey is desirous of thanking all her friends for the beautiful flowers and fruit sent during her stay at the Middlesex Hospital.

THE Runnacleave Hall and Theatre at Ilfracombe has once more come under the hotel management. At a meeting of the Council on Tuesday Mrs. Chown, the manageress of the Runnacleave Hotel, was unanimously granted the stage play licence.

"TOMMY," the new play by Mr. Jerome K. Jerome, which Mr. Bannister Howard will present at the Crystal Palace Theatre on Monday, is sure to draw enormous audiences. Miss Hughes is deservedly a great favourite, and coming, as she does, with an excellent play by so clever an author, the attraction will prove a very strong one to playgoers round about Sydenham. There will be matinées on Wednesday and Saturday. When Mr. Jerome wrote *Tommy* for Miss Annie Hughes he emphasised the fact by writing her thus: "You are the embodiment of all that is sweet and pure in woman, Miss Hughes. My 'Tommy' is the study of a woman with a big heart, a fine nature, so, Miss Hughes, take 'Tommy,' mould her after your own image."

MR. AND MRS. GODFREY TEARLE, having secured the rights of Mr. Gordon Holmes's new romantic play, *A Soldier of Fortune*, will, for the present, abandon their Shakespearean tour in favour of Mr. Holmes's piece. This play deals with a stirring incident in the Civil Wars of Charles I., and presents great scope for spectacular effect. The scenery has been specially designed and executed by M. Fissi, and the wigs and costumes will be by Gustave and Hyman respectively.

THE vacancy at Covent Garden caused by the acceptance by M. André Messager of the directorship of the Grand Opéra in Paris has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Neil Forsyth as general manager and Mr. Percy Pitt as musical director. Mr. Forsyth has long been identified with the active management of the Royal Opera House, and Mr. Pitt's promotion to the position of musical director is rendered more noteworthy by the fact that he is the first Englishman chosen to act in that capacity.

"MY DARLING," the new musical play by Mr. Seymour Hicks, will make her first curtsey at the theatre bearing the favourite comedian's name on Saturday, March 2, with Miss Marie Studholme, Mr. H. A. Lytton, and Mr. J. T. McArdle in the chief parts. Meanwhile, *The Beauty of Bath* will hold court for the last time on the 23rd inst, after which Mr. and Mrs. Hicks will go on a twelve weeks' tour with the piece, starting at the Shakespeare, Liverpool, on March 4. September next will see the popular pair back in London with a new musical comedy.

THE recital of *Everyman*, given by Mr. John Hastings Batson at Croydon on the 26th inst., was under the patronage of H.R.H. the Princess Louise. Mr. Batson also had the honour of receiving a note from Mr. Beerbohm Tree, wishing him success. Mr. Tree, writes Mr. Batson, is one of the hardest-worked men in London, but he found time to remember me—a fact that I am proud of.

MR. LEONARD AARDALE, who concluded with *Her Second Time on Earth* at Christmas with Walter Melville, was transferred to his brother, Andrew Melville, with whom he is now in his seventh week of tour as Willie in *Driven from Home*.

THE Comedy Theatre was well filled on Thursday afternoon for the first of a series of matinées of Mrs. de la Pasture's charming comedy, *Peter's Mother*, which is to be repeated at matinées every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. The cast is practically the same as before, and includes Miss Marion Terry, Mr. Norman McKinnel, Mr. Fredk. Kerr, and Mr. A. E. Matthews in their old parts, of which they give their customary fine renderings.

MME. CLARA BUTT is fast recovering from the illness with which she was seized at Macclesfield last week. The famous diva was taking part in a concert at the Drill Hall, when she acceded several times to the demand for encores. At the end of the performance Mme. Butt complained of sore throat, and it was subsequently found that she was suffering from rheumatic tonsilitis, which developed afterwards into double quinsy. On Saturday, happily, the doctors declared their patient to be out of danger, and her complete restoration to health may now be confidently anticipated.

MR. LUSCOMBE SEARELLE, we are sorry to learn, has had a serious relapse, and is now in a somewhat critical condition at the Savoy Mansions. If he does not show improvement by Monday he will be removed to a private hospital, where he will have to undergo another operation. His illness will not interfere with the contemplated production of his poetical and musical drama, *Mizpah*, as arrangements are nearly completed whereby its first performance in England will take part on Easter Monday at a West End theatre. Mr. Cecil Barth has control of all Mr. Searelle's business arrangements.

THE usual weekly meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association was held on Tuesday, when there were present Mr. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), Mr. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy chairman), Mr. Henry W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Mesdames Carlotta Addison, Kate Bishop, Beatrice Lamb, Kate Phillips, and Messrs Cecil Barth, J. Cooke Beresford, Clarence Blakiston, Burton Cooke, Thalberg Corbett, F. Cremlin, William Devereux, Fewlass Llewellyn, Herbert Shelley, A. B. Tapping, Spencer Trevor, Frank Vernon, Fredk. Volpe, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary).

THE hon. solicitors reported they had advised two members on points submitted. Mr. Robert M. Taylor was elected a commissioner. Several matters in connection with the holding of the social meetings were discussed. The chairman referred to the opening of the Ramsgate Centre, at Spes Bona, Grange-road, and the suggestions of Miss Gracie Murielle, the hon. secretary, which were agreed to. A case of alleged insanitation at a provincial theatre was considered.

THE agenda for the sixteenth annual general meeting, to be held at the Playhouse on the 19th inst., was referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for settlement. A member requested advice, and the question was referred to the hon. solicitors. Propositions as to the appointment of two additional hon. medical officers were considered, and the secretary received instructions. Ernest A. G. Gosset, Millie Hamer, Hastings Lynn, Geo. Stanley-Kenwin, Alfred Grenville, and Helen Richmond were nominated for election to the Actors' Association, and Fredk. Norton, Mary Stuart, Herbert Grimwood, Herbert Clayton, Everard Digby, and Graham Falcon were nominated for reinstatement.

THE Finance and General Purposes Committee held a meeting on Tuesday to prepare the agenda for the sixteenth annual general meeting. There were present Messrs. J. Cooke Beresford (in the chair), A. E. Drinkwater, C. Aubrey Smith, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary).

THE Adelphi will give hospitality at Easter to the German Comic Opera Company of Berlin, who will have a season of eight weeks there. They begin with a piece by Offenbach, and will be followed by the most popular productions of the company, which it should be added brings over all the necessary equipment.

STEADY progress is being made with the constitution of the Actors' Day Fund. At their adjourned meeting on Saturday last the Advisory Board decided on the allocation of the money collected in 1906, and had further in consideration a definite scheme for dealing with the funds collected for future years. They will meet again at an early date, when full particulars will be issued.

MR. WILLIAM MOLLISON is attracting brilliant audiences to Mr. Arthur's beautiful new theatre at Aberdeen this week, where his rendering of Macbeth, Shylock, and Jaques have been greatly admired. The Lord Provost and magistrates attended in their official robes of office, while officers representing all the branches of the Services in Aberdeen were present in uniform, giving the theatre quite a gala appearance.

MR. AND MRS. FRANK BERESFORD have been engaged by Mr. Harold V. Neilson for the spring tour of *The Perfect Lover*, opening on Monday at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin. Mr. Beresford will play Lord Cardew, and Mrs. Beresford (Miss Dorothy Milne) will resume her old part of Martha Tremblatt.

MR. GEORGE HARTLEY MANNERS, who has made New York his field of operations for some time, has written yet another play, called *A Marriage of Reason*, which was produced at Washington on Jan. 23 by Klaw and Erlanger, with Miss Fannie Ward in the leading part. Cable advices say that Mr. Manners' play has made a great hit, and that Miss Ward has received unqualified recognition for her work.

WE are pleased to announce that Mr. Henry George has sufficiently recovered from his severe illness to take a trip to the South of France for a few months. He hopes to be able to resume work in the autumn.

ANOTHER of the popular "Socials" at the Actors' Association will be held on Friday next, when Mr. J. T. Grein will read a paper on the subject of an entente cordiale theatre. Mr. Lawrence Grant will take the chair.

MR. CLARENCE SOUNES, who for the past twenty years has so successfully catered for the Aldershot public at the Theatre Royal, was this week unanimously granted an unrestricted licence by a full Bench of magistrates for a new Hippodrome which he proposes to at once commence erecting. The new house will be built on his own site at the corner of Station-road—one of the most prominent positions in the town—from plans prepared by Mr. Bertie Crewe, and recently passed by the local Council.

MISS MAY HART, who has just concluded a successful pantomime engagement as Sinbad at the Theatre Royal, Bath, has been re-engaged by Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche for little Sophy in *What the Butler Saw*. Miss Hart was the original Sophy on tour, her youthful appearance and the amount of vivacity she infused into the part making her entirely successful.

MR. WALTER MELVILLE will produce *The Convict's Daughter* at the Standard Theatre on Monday by arrangement with Mr. Frank Bertram. On August Bank Holiday Mr. Bertram will make his annual visit to the principal drama theatres with *The Convict's Daughter*, and will, in addition, send *The Breed of the Treshams* and *Hearts Adrift* on tour. Mr. Bertram, it may be added, is fully booked with his sketch *The Chaperone* up to the end of July on the Stoll tour.

AT the Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne, extensive additions have been made at the back of the stage. Four new star rooms have been added, and they are of the most comfortable and cosy kind. The walls are lined with a fireproof composition, and this has been decorated with a rich red wall-paper. These rooms, with three others, are on the stage level, and conveniently situated.

MR. H. F. MALTBY opens his spring tour at the County Theatre, Bedford, with *The Youngest of Three*. The second week of the tour will witness the production at the Theatre Royal, Dover, of his new comedy *Sir George of Almack's*, which will be played in conjunction with the first-named piece at return dates. The company engaged is a very strong one, and will include, besides Mr. Maltby himself, Miss Mara Maltby, Miss Grace Richardson, Miss Janet Hodson, Mr. Wyn Weaver, Mr. Reginald Favell, Mr. Franc Stoney, Mr. R. S. Innes, and Mr. H. L. Dobree.

AT a meeting in regard to the late John A. Atkin Memorial, held at the Standard Theatre on Tuesday, it was resolved that the members of the committee should be requested to communicate at their earliest convenience, stating their views as to when the above fund should be closed. It has been proposed to close the subscription list on Saturday, Feb. 23. All members should endeavour to communicate with their friends, requesting that any amounts should be forwarded to the hon. treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, c/o *The Era*, by the above date.

MR. WILFRED STANFORD has forwarded to the Actors' Benevolent Fund a further sum of £4 3s., which has been collected in the Fund's box at the Camden Theatre.

THE detective drama, *The Medium*, which is advertised abroad as another Sherlock Holmes drama, is causing quite a controversy between spiritualists and anti-spiritualists on account of its novel third act, which plays at a spiritualistic séance. It is a novel idea to use spiritualism for the unravelling of a plot, and the audience thoroughly enjoy the thrilling scene.

WE regret to announce the death on Thursday last of Mr. Arthur Augustus Wood, who had a long theatrical career, and was known to London and provincial playgoers as a sound and useful actor. He was specially engaged to play the part of Crabtree when the Bancrofts revived *The School for Scandal* at the old Prince of Wales's on April 4, 1874, and he also appeared as Colley Cibber in the revival of *Masks and Faces* the following year. In the spring of 1887 he went on tour as a leading member of Miss Fortescue's company, and in the autumn of the same year toured as Sergeant Buster in *Forbidden Fruit*. On the production of *Ned's Chum* by Christie Murray, at the Globe Theatre on Aug. 27, 1891, Mr. Wood played the part of Mr. Brocklehurst. His services were frequently secured for matinée performances, and he appeared as Jack Barnard, an old sailor, in *The Penalty*, by Julian Cross, produced at Terry's Theatre on Dec. 2, 1890; as Gilbert, a faithful old servant, in *Hilda*, a three-act play, by Mrs. Bernard Wishaw, produced at the Princess's on March 28, 1892; and as Josiah Duckweed in the farcical comedy, *A Lost Sheep*, by A. Shirley and W. Parke, produced at an Opera Comique matinée on July 30, 1892. Of late Mr. Wood has only occasionally appeared on the boards; and he died suddenly of heart failure at his residence, St. Mary's-road, Peckham, on Thursday last.

ALL will sympathise with Mr. Leslie Gaze, who had the misfortune to break his leg whilst skating at Sunny Vale Gardens, near Hailfax, on Monday. Mr. Gaze, who should have opened in the evening at the Theatre Royal, Halifax, as Major Callabone in Mr. Robert Courtneidge's production of *The Blue Moon*, was, with a few fellow members of the company, paying a visit to the popular rinks. His part was admirably taken up by Mr. Parti at a few hours' notice.

"AMASIS," the successful Egyptian comic opera, has terminated its career at the Criterion after a run of two hundred performances, and will now go on tour, starting at the Borough Theatre, Stratford, on Monday. Mr. Calvert has been fortunate enough to secure for the title-rôle the services of Miss Constance Drever, who made such a marked impression in *The Princess of Kensington* at the Savoy Theatre. The rest of the company is the same as that which has appeared during the London run, and includes Messrs. Rutland Barrington, Lauri de Frece, Whitworth Mitton, Roland Cunningham, and Norman Salmond.

A FATAL accident occurred at the Grand Theatre, Leeds, last week, when Thomas Harvey, the property man, attempted to enter a lift, the hoist of which had been left on the ground floor, and fell a distance of 16ft., fracturing his skull. He died from the effects of his injuries on Monday, and at the inquest on Tuesday a verdict of accidental death was returned.

MR. MILTON BODE'S pantomime of *Aladdin* finishes its successful career at the Opera House, Northampton, to-night. On Tuesday and Wednesday the proprietors devoted the receipts, less actual expenses, to the Northampton Good Samaritan Society.

A PLAYLET, entitled *Nelson*, was produced, for copyright purposes only, at the Coronet Theatre on Saturday morning last. The author is Mr. Louis Cohen, who, it may be remembered, was responsible for that interesting work *The Drummer of the 76th*.

MISS MAY PALFREY will make her long-promised and very welcome reappearance in London on Thursday next, when, by arrangement with Mr. Jerrard Grant Allen, she will reopen the Criterion with *Three Blind Mice*, a comedy by Arthur Law, the author of *The New Boy*, in which Miss Palfrey made so many appearances with Mr. Weedon Grossmith some years ago. The new piece, which was fully described in our columns on its production at Margate last July, offers many opportunities to Miss Palfrey, who will be aided by an admirable cast, including Mr. Frederick Kerr, Mr. O. B. Clarence, Miss Kate Serjeantson, Miss Annie Hill, and Miss Granville.

MR. WILLIAM J. LOCKE, the author of *The Morals of Marcus*, has gone in again for alliteration in the title of his new piece, which is to be called *The Palace of Puck*, and is destined to follow *Lady Huntsworth's Experiment* in due course at the Haymarket. The play is of a modern tendency, and three of its characters will provide congenial rôles for Miss Marion Terry, Mr. H. V. Esmond, and Mr. Charles Hawtrey. This alteration in Mr. Harrison's plans is due to the fact that Mr. R. C. Carton has been prevented by illness from finishing his new play, and that a suitable young actress to play in Mr. Michael Morton's version of *Mademoiselle Josette, Ma Femme*, is not at present available.

MISS GERTIE MILLAR wishes to offer her thanks as widely as possible to the very many persons who, from all parts of the kingdom, have written to her to express their surprise and their sympathy at the result of her recent "faked photographs" action in the Law Courts. "Against the verdict in Monckton v. Dunn and Co.," says the lady, "my husband and I have decided not to appeal. I am advised by counsel that the summing-up of Mr. Justice Darling gives me ample grounds for asking for a new trial; but I am content to leave the matter as it is. A jury has told me that I was wrong in bringing my action; the Press and the public tell me that I was right, and uphold me in my view that an actress has as good a claim to consider herself defamed by the publication of an unseemly and fictitious 'photograph' of herself as any other woman in the kingdom. In this public verdict I find all the consolation I need."

MISS SOPHIE HARRISS, whose prowess in the hunting-field and skill in driving a four-in-hand, have won for her a reputation in the world of sport almost akin to that which she holds in front of the footlights, has hitherto eschewed motors of every shape and make, but an accident to her carriage on the way to the theatre recently, compelled her to have recourse to the formerly despised automobile. Since then, Miss Harriss has been seized with the motor fever in its most virulent form, and a week ago became the proud possessor of a lovely 12-16 double phaeton Clement-Talbot, with side entrance, Cape-cart hood, and glass screen, which carried its fair owner on Sunday last from Longton to Wakefield in record time.

MR. J. W. TURNER, the well-known operatic artist and manager, bade farewell on Saturday to the Birmingham Grand Theatre, which has now passed into the hands of the Moss Empires Company. Mr. Turner had been lessee of the Grand Theatre for many years, and the occasion coincided with the twenty-first year of the organisation of his well-known opera company. A crowded and brilliant audience graced the occasion on Saturday, when *Maritana* was staged, with Mr. Turner as Don Cæsar. At the conclusion of the performance Mr. Turner was presented with a beautifully illuminated address standing on an easel. The presentation was made on behalf of the subscribers by Councillor R. C. Marsh, who gave a short resumé of Mr. Turner's career. The address made special reference to the services rendered to English operatic art in this country, and to the esteem in which Mr. Turner has been held by the public for so many years.

IN acknowledging the presentation, Mr. Turner stated that when he retired into private life the address would remind him of the many pleasant hours he had spent among them. He appreciated their generous support. It had been his endeavour to give the best music of which he was capable—principally in the form of opera—and the response to his efforts all over the country had been most gratifying. It was twenty-one years since he became manager of that opera company on his own account, and it had been twenty-one years of uninterrupted success. He was afraid to say how many years he had been identified with opera before that time. He reciprocated the good wishes expressed in the address.

AT the invitation of Mr. Henry Taylor, the esteemed manager of the Lyceum Theatre, Crewe, the Union Workhouse children paid their annual visit to the theatre last Saturday, and were delighted with *The Babes in the Wood* pantomime of Messrs. Cullen and Carthy. Mrs. Taylor further ministered to the joy of the youngsters by presenting each of them with oranges and chocolates on entering and leaving the theatre.

MR. CHARLES HANNAN'S fantastic comedy, *The Electric Man*, which has been touring since the commencing of the year, started this week with a second company at Wolverhampton, with Mr. Stanley Cooke in the leading rôle. Mr. Hannan's play will also be produced in South Africa in the course of the next month or two by Mr. Leonard Rayne, who has secured the rights for that country.

MME. SARAH BERNHARDT is enthusiastic over the visit paid by the King and Queen of England to *Les Bouffons* in Paris on Tuesday. "They were adorable," said Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, referring to their Majesties. "They told me my acting was superb, and that the piece was delightful, and my theatre the finest in Paris. Then they asked that M. Zanmacois, the author, should be presented to them, so I sent for him, and their Majesties paid him many compliments."

AN amusing incident happened at Terry's Theatre on Wednesday evening, when Mr. W. H. C. Nation produced two new plays, the first being a one-act piece, adapted from a story, entitled *Weighed in the Balance*. Mr. Charles Groves, who appeared in the part of a farmer, had to speak the "tag," but had barely got half-way through when the curtain descended. It rose again, and Mr. Groves made a second attempt, but had scarcely opened his mouth, when down came the curtain a second time, the audience laughing heartily at the contretemps.

AT the Prince's Theatre, Poplar, on Monday, Mr. Clarence Sounes will stage the Scala Theatre production of *A Royal Divorce*, with Miss Edith Cole as the Empress Josephine. This will be the first "return visit" of any company since Mr. Sounes's opening of his beautiful and successful theatre, which is not only admirably appointed within, but serves by its brilliant exterior to relieve the dullness of the main road in which it is situated.

THE annual general meeting of the Theatrical Managers' Association will be held at the Tavistock Hotel, Covent Garden, on Tuesday next, at three o'clock. Mr. Herbert Blackmore is the secretary.

MR. J. T. GREIN gave a lecture on "The Ethics of the Drama" before the members of the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society on Monday, the chair being taken by Mr. H. Ellis. At the outset Mr. Grein devoted his attention to a consideration of the emotions aroused by the drama. He expressed the opinion that its aim, motive, and medium was love—love in all its aspects, mental, physical, and moral. One should go to the theatre with an open mind and open heart, and be ready for every impression, every emotion. He declined to admit that the stage blunted feeling, but what he was firmly convinced of was that the nature of the drama and the peculiar atmosphere of the stage had on the adepts an influence which in the eye of the moralist was not free from danger. The lecturer divided playgoers into four categories—first, the people who went to be amused; second, the critical playgoer; third, the playgoer who went after dinner (the digestive playgoer); and, fourth, the habitual and incorrigible dandy (the deadhead). That class of playgoers who loved the theatre, not simply as a recreation, but because it stimulated the imagination, taught them to think and to cultivate a sense of the beautiful, was not so large in London as one could wish. The theatre in England was not what it was in France or Germany—a necessity of life, an ethical force.

A NEW musical setting to *Cavalleria Rusticana*, by Maestro Domenico Mouleone, was produced at Het Volkspaleis, Amsterdam, on Tuesday. The young Italian composer won with this setting the prize of £800, given at the Sozogno competition in Milan last year, but owing to Signor Mascagni holding the copyright for the original libretto, the opera could not be produced in Italy, and Maestro Mouleone was obliged to take it to Holland for a single performance, where he conducted it himself. Mascagni's setting was also given, and voting-papers were distributed to the audience, by which they were invited to signify which version they preferred.

IN the Court of Appeal on Thursday, before the Master of the Rolls and Lords Justices Cozens-Hardy and Moulton, was heard an appeal with reference to an accident which happened to Mrs. Burr, a chorus lady in the Drury Lane Theatre pantomime, *The White Cat*. Mrs. Burr had brought an action against the management of the theatre for damages, and was non-suited by Mr. Justice Grantham, sitting with a special jury. She now appealed, and asked for judgment or a new trial. Mrs. Burr was attired as a chamberlain, part of her costume being a helmet, inside of which was a spike with the point downwards. At the conclusion of a matinée on Jan. 24, after the curtain had fallen, she was leaving the stage, when a piece of scenery fell upon her head, driving the spike into her skull.

AT the trial it was stated, and agreed to by Mr. Justice Grantham, that the injury had been caused by a sceneshifter, and that the sceneshifter and this lady, being engaged in a common employment, no case would lie for compensation against the theatre company. The Court dismissed the appeal, holding that the appellant and the sceneshifter were in common employment, and there was no evidence of the management being guilty of negligence such as to cause the accident, and that the appellant had therefore no claim against the management.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Hawtrey and Maori.

MR. WILLIAM HAWTREY, who recently returned from America, had an interesting meeting the other day at a suburban music hall. Seated in the balcony, he recognised in Miss Henriquette Maude—the young lady from New Zealand who tells the story of her wanderings round the world, illustrated by biograph pictures—a little ten-year-old girl with whom Mr. Hawtrey played years ago in *Little Lord Fauntleroy* in the Colonies. Mr. Hawtrey, at a fitting point in Miss Maude's lecture, called out in Maori, "Kapai kai, ora!" which, being translated, is "Very fine! good luck!" Miss Maude answered from the stage, "Heri mae kaurne!" (Come down here)—which Mr. Hawtrey very willingly did.

Showing Her Off.

MR. FRED TERRY is very short-sighted, and, off the stage, wears glasses. In his earlier days, whilst playing the part of Maynard in *The Corsican Brothers*, he had to say to Mme. de Franchi, "My dear madame, make yourself comfortable, and rest," after which he had to show her off through one door. In those days rehearsals were few and far between, and it so happened that one night the stage men put the door on the opposite side. When the time came for madame to make her exit, Mr. Terry spoke his line, and was showing her off in the usual way, through the door as he thought. In spite of her protestations, however, he was forcing her, and actually made her go through what turned out to be a crack in the scenery, left by its being badly joined together, the audience meanwhile being convulsed with laughter.

Children and Circuses.

MISS ELLEN TERRY tells the following anecdote in her contribution to "Stories of Children" in the February number of "Pearson's Magazine":—"The first time I took my child to a circus she was five years old. With great gravity she gazed on the horses and dogs, the cats, birds, and even monkeys; but when the clown, walking timidly over a rope stretched from the stage to the circles, pretended to slip to the accompaniment of a thud on the big drum, she rose slowly, and said, 'Take me away; you should not have brought me here.'"

As Others See Us.

MR. CYRIL MAUDE, says the *Daily Mirror*, is telling a funny story about himself. The night after the opening of the Playhouse the audience consisted of Old Carthusians, who had been brought together by means of a printed postcard sent to all members of the club, asking them to give their fellow-collegian, Mr. Maude, a welcome to his new theatre. By a strange mistake Mr. Maude received one of these postcards inviting him to see himself act. "That is the last thing in the world I have any ambition to do," was his comment.

Johnny and the Duck.

A LADY who brought her little son from Leicester to London to witness a matinée performance of *Sindbad* at Drury Lane Theatre, and by mistake took him to Covent Garden Opera House, where *Lohengrin* was being given, upset some devout Wagnerites who sat near her, but, according to the *Daily Mail*, she upset herself still more. If she had looked at the programme the trouble would never have occurred, but before the curtain rose she sat explaining to "Johnny" the glories of pantomime. The opening of the first act was voted dull by both mother and son, but hope shone brightly when Lohengrin, drawn by the swan, appeared, and little Johnny in excitement called out, "Oh, mother! Look at Sindbad chasing the duck." Cries of "Hush! this isn't pantomime," awakened the mother to her mistake; and at the end of the act she went down to the vestibule and explained that it was the pantomime she wanted to see. Mr. Frank Rendle wes very courteous, and to compensate her offered two tickets for the Shrove Tuesday fancy dress ball.

Holding it up.

MR. PINERO, says the *Daily Mirror*, had a comical experience when he was acting with Irving in *Louis XI.* Mr. Pinero became aware, in the middle of one scene, that a stage tree of considerable size was swaying and rocking about in a threatening manner just behind Irving. Evidently it was about to fall. "This tree is coming down," whispered Mr. Pinero to Irving. "Hold it up, hold it up," muttered Irving in his sepulchral tones. And he continued to throw asides of "Hold it up, hold it up," at the other unfortunate actor during the whole of the speech he was at that moment making. Mr. Pinero did his best to hold it up—he thrust his whole weight against it, and engaged in a kind of death-struggle with it which ended in its crashing with an overwhelming noise almost on top of him. Irving calmly finished his speech, paying no attention to the tree, and then, as though suddenly aware of something unusual happening, he turned and said, "Ha! Where is the Dauphin? Let us go seek him," which gave him a chance to get off the stage, and no doubt suggested to the audience that Louis XI. had heard the noise and had grown anxious about the Dauphin—perhaps imagining that he had fallen downstairs.

Not Long to Live.

AN odd incident occurred at a recent performance of *Maritana* by J. W. Turner's company at the Birmingham Grand. Mr. Turner himself was the hero, and when he sung "Let me like a soldier fall" an encore was demanded. Mr. Turner gave it. Then the audience wanted more, and Mr. Turned bowed his acknowledgments, but was not disposed to sing again. He was about to retire when a voice shouted from the gallery, "Go on, give it us again; you've only got two hours to live!" Mr. Turner was so much amused that he complied.

Her Ears in the Way.

A GENTLEMAN in the front row of the pit in a certain theatre recently avenged himself upon a lady in the last row of the stalls, whose hat effectually prevented him from seeing the stage. "If you won't take off your hat," he said, in tones of studied politeness, "will you be so kind, my dear madame, as to hold back your ears?"

The Toy Theatre.

THE most beautiful part of every picture is the frame, says Mr. G. K. Chesterton in the *Daily News*. This especially is true of the toy theatre; by reducing the scale of events it can introduce much larger events. Because it is small it could easily represent the earthquake in Jamaica. Because it is small it could easily represent the Day of Judgment. Exactly in so far as it is limited, so far it could play easily with falling cities or with falling stars. Meanwhile the big theatres are obliged to be economical because they are big. When we have understood this fact we shall have understood something of the reason why the world has always been first inspired by small nationalities. The vast Greek philosophy could fit easier into the small city of Athens than into the immense Empire of Persia. In the narrow streets of Florence Dante felt that there was room for Purgatory and Heaven and Hell. Great empires are necessarily prosaic; for it is beyond human power to act a great poem upon so great a scale. You can only represent very big ideas in very small spaces. My toy theatre is as philosophical as the drama of Athens."

We shall be obliged if our readers will send us any amusing anecdotes they may hear, or accounts of any quaint incidents they may witness while acting or rehearsing.

"THE PHILANDERER."

The Topical Comedy, in Four Acts, by Bernard Shaw, performed at the Court Theatre on Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 5.

Leonard Charteris ..... MR. BEN WEBSTER
Mrs. Grace Tranfield .... MISS WYNNE-MATTHISON
Julia Craven ..... MISS MARY BARTON
Colonel Daniel Craven, V.C. .. MR. ERIC LEWIS
Mr. Joseph Cuthbertson .. MR. LUIGI LABLACHE
Sylvia Craven ..... MISS DOROTHY MINTO
Dr. Paramore ..... MR. HUBERT HARBEN
The Club Page ..... MR. CYRIL BRUCE

Mr. Bernard Shaw is obviously of opinion that the only bad genre of playwriting is the wearisome one; and his two volumes of "Plays Pleasant and Unpleasant" contain various samples of his capricious skill. He was led to publish them, as he tells us in his preface, in pity of the "unhappy prisoners" of the English home, which he describes as peopled by families each member of which, in the evenings, is unsociably engaged in reading a book, the habit of theatre-going not having been acquired by most of the British middle-class. Mr. Shaw wrote *The Philanderer*, we gather, with the object of denouncing the objectionable practice of philandering; but its effect on the "unhappy prisoners" may possibly be discounted by the fact that the philanderers in Mr. Shaw's play are quite free from "home ties"; in fact, one of the personages, a father with two "emancipated" girls, approves of the "cock-and-hen" club system on the grounds that the absence of your family abroad leaves you the house conveniently to yourself; while, if you want at any time to have them around you, you can easily ask them to dine with you at the club.

Though *The Philanderer* had a previous production at the Cripplegate Institute in the February of 1905, its presentation at the Court Theatre on Tuesday afternoon was practically its production. It is the old story of a "man and two maids," the characters being taken from the period when the play was written—at the time when the battle between the Ibsenites and the anti-Ibsenites was being doughtily waged, and clubs for men and women were almost a novelty. The philanderer of the play is Mr. Leonard Charteris, who is what the old-fashioned authors used to call a "general lover." The two women who are enamoured of him are Julia Craven, a young lady with a violent passion and a bad temper, and Grace Tranfield, a "new woman," calm, logical, and self-controlled. Charteris is tired of Julia, and is in love—as far as he is capable of being—with Grace; and the action of the piece consists of the embarrassments caused by his false position. In the first act, Julia tries to bully Charteris into a return to love for her. Their interview in a flat in Astley-gardens is interrupted by the arrival of Julia's father, Colonel Daniel Craven, who is supposed to be suffering from a disease which must be fatal in a few years. This disease is the discovery of a doctor named Paramore, who bases his theory on experiments on animals. Craven's friend, Mr. Joseph Cuthbertson, is a representative of the sentimental and "manly" school, the leader of which, a famous dramatic critic now deceased, was evidently aimed at when *The Philanderer* was written.

The second act takes place in the library of the Ibsen Club in Cork-street, the members of which must all be guaranteed as "unmanly" men and "unwomanly" women. A bust of Ibsen stands in a niche over the fire-place, and Miss Sylvia Craven, a younger sister of Julia's, lounges on a couch in "rational" costume, including knickerbockers. The skirmishing between Julia and Charteris goes on; and she, in despair at his indifference, gives considerable encouragement to Paramore, who is in love with her. Charteris encourages the courtship in the hope of getting rid of Julia; but, in the end, he is deserted by both women, Grace declining to marry him because, as she says, she is so much in love with him that he would have complete power over her, and she, as a "new woman," ought to preserve her moral independence.

The Philanderer does not, however, depend for favour upon its plot as much as upon the amusing ideas and minor incidents with which it is embellished. Great fun is created when Paramore discovers that "his" disease is a myth, and that Colonel Craven is perfectly sound and healthy. Paramore's grief is as comic as the indignation of the Colonel when he finds that all the good deeds done by him under the impression that his days were numbered have been, as he says, "wasted." He has made up quarrels which he would otherwise have maintained; he has been an over-indulgent father, and has endured persons whom he naturally detests, and all under an erroneous impression of his approaching demise. Then there is the curious character of Julia, so well-studied and so subtly-drawn—a really remarkable bit of insight and observation; and there are an abundance of good lines, as when Charteris says "the fickleness of the women I love is only equalled by the infernal constancy of the women who love me." Perhaps the allusions to Ibsen and obtrusive manliness are a little stale at the present period; but the irresistible absurdity of many of the witticisms kept the audience at the Court Theatre on Tuesday afternoon in intermittent laughter.

The piece was well acted all round. Mr. Bernard Shaw had strictly defined in his book the way in which Mr. Leonard Charteris should be attired, and Mr. Ben Webster faithfully carried out the author's directions, which involved a collar-less and "game-keepery" exterior, with "velveteens" and a kind of blue "stock." The character of Charteris is too shallow for an artist of Mr. Ben Webster's ability to find great scope in it; but Mr. Webster did all that was possible with the part, and suggested the humorously callous "philanderer" quite cleverly. Miss Wynne-Matthison, who looked remarkably well in becoming costume, gave full value to Grace Tranfield's dignified self-possession, and delivered her lines with admirable ease, aplomb, and emphasis. Miss Mary Barton, who, owing to the indisposition of Miss LiHah McCarthy, took up the part of Julia Craven at short notice, gave a sharply characteristic and very spirited reading, full of vividness and energy, her acting in the scene with Grace at the club being especially excellent. Mr. Eric Lewis, in the rôle of Colonel Daniel Craven, added just the right amount of briskness and "attack" to his accustomed suavity and finish, the result being a performance of the most satisfying sort; and Mr. Luigi Lablache, most happily cast as Cuthbertson, hit off the tearful solemnity of the character quite cleverly. Miss Dorothy Minto looked very pretty in what was practically a "boy's dress," and gave a very pleasing performance as the boldly frank and cynically ingenuous younger sister. Mr. Herbert Harben looked Dr. Paramore exactly, and enacted the vivisectionist with a quiet consistency and an amusing unconsciousness which made his contribution to the cast really valuable. Mr. Cyril Bruce was efficient as the Club Page. *The Philanderer* had a cordial reception from a typical Court Theatre audience.

"MR. GULL'S FORTUNE."

An adaptation by H. Chance Newton of *L'Héritage de Monsieur Plumet*, a Comedy, in Three Acts, by Théodore Barrière. Produced at Terry's Theatre on Wednesday, Feb. 6.

Mr. Gull ..... MR. CHARLES GROVES
Mr. Clawback ..... MR. JOHN RYDER
Croucher ..... MR. FRANK COLLINS
Ernest Heartworthy ..... MR. HAROLD WESTON
Quirkan Quibble ..... MR. HENRY ARMSTRONG
Redtape Fleecer ..... MR. WILLIAM DEXTER
Pickthank ..... MR. FRANK STANMORE
Hodge Furrow ..... MR. GEORGE BELLAMY
Giles Dale ..... MR. A. P. PHILLIPS
Rose ..... MISS GERTRUDE ROBINS
Tabitha ..... MISS MAUD STAMER
Barbara ..... MISS DORA GRAY
Lily Mildway ..... MISS GLADYS ARCHBUTT

Under the title of *The Alderman*, an adaptation by Mr. James Mortimer of M. Théodore Barrière's comedy was produced at a matinée given at the Criterion Theatre on April 29, 1887, with Mr. George Barrett in the title-rôle, and the piece was revived at the Novelty Theatre—then called the Jodrell—on Nov. 24, 1888, when Mr. Henry Ashley played the leading male character. As the piece did not meet with a very promising reception on either occasion, the reasons for a third experiment with this old-fashioned French comedy are not quite apparent. Twenty years ago plays of this type stood a better chance of winning popular favour than they have to-day. They belong to a past generation, and the attempt to galvanise even the best of them into new life must of necessity fail. As it happens, *L'Héritage de Monsieur Plumet* was not a brilliant specimen of its class, and it would be surprising were a modern version to win success, seeing that the original proved a failure. The wealthy bachelor surrounded by a crowd of greedy, designing relatives is not an unfamiliar figure on the stage. Mr. Gull had made his money in the fur business, and being of an extremely vacillating disposition, he comes in turn under the influence of various needy relations, who endeavour to conceal their selfish motives behind the cloak of disinterested concern for his well-being. Behind his back they wrangle and quarrel amongst themselves, but a married nephew and niece, supported by their respective matrimonial partners, make common cause against a certain Mr. Croucher, who is related to Gull on the mother's side, and is an inmate of his house. But Croucher cleverly turns the tables on his enemies, by inducing Gull to become suspicious of his other relatives. Having sold his business, Gull is persuaded to take up his residence in East Devon, where he makes the acquaintance of, and proposes to, a charming young lady, Rose by name, who is under the charge of her uncles, two typical Devonshire farmers. However, his interested relatives are quickly in pursuit, and take week-end tickets for East Devon. Great is their consternation when they learn that Gull has matrimonial intentions, and they induce him to break off his engagement with the rustic beauty, thereby arousing the wrath of her uncles. In the last act, the scene of which is a solicitor's office in the city, Croucher brings the news that Gull has suddenly died, and his fortune will be divided between his next of kin. This, however, proves to be only a ruse; and the assembled relations are terrified by the sudden appearance of Gull himself, accompanied by his young bride, the blushing Rose, and her bucolic uncles. It may be added that the adapter has accomplished his task in a workmanlike fashion.

In casting that safe, sound comedian Mr. Chas. Groves for the part of Mr. Gull an excellent selection was made, and it was largely owing to his performance that the piece went as well as it did. He worked exceedingly hard to render amusing and lifelike the character of the wealthy merchant, and his efforts proved quite successful. He played throughout on quite the right lines, and deserved a better reward than the mixed reception which befell the new production. Mr. Frank Stanmore deserves credit for a clever character-sketch of Gull's nephew Pickthank, whose wife had a good representative in Miss Dora Gray. Mr. John Ryder also made effective use of his opportunities as Mr. Clawback, a self-seeking stockbroker. Mr. Frank Collins was alert and well placed as Croucher. Mr. Harold Weston was a manly Ernest Heartworthy, whose sweetheart, Lily Mildway, had a very bright and charming representative in Miss Gladys Archbutt. Mr. George Bellamy and Mr. A. P. Phillips as the Devonshire farmers gave capital sketches of rural life. Mr. Henry Armstrong and Mr. William Dexter did well as the London and country solicitors. Miss Gertrude Robins was pleasing as Rose, and Miss Maud Stamer put much energetic work into her embodiment of the vixenish Barbara.

The principal piece was preceded by a dramatic adaptation of a story, entitled

"WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE."

Farmer Maywood ..... MR. CHARLES GROVES
Dr. Stacey Williams ..... MR. WILLIAM DEXTER
Laurence Barthe ..... MR. HENRY ARMSTRONG
Steve Renshaw ..... MR. GUY WILLIAMS
Dick Worzel ..... MR. GEORGE BELLAMY
Jack Hedge ..... MR. TERRY HURST
Inspector Trapwell ..... MR. A. P. PHILLIPS
A Tramp ..... MR. FRANK STANMORE
Dorothy ..... MISS MABEL MAARTENS
Patty Maywood ..... MISS GLADYS ARCHBUTT

The story, which originally appeared in the *Covent Garden Magazine* has for its rustic heroine Patty, Farmer Maywood's daughter. She has two suitors for her hand, Laurence Barthe and Steve Renshaw, both young farmers, and she is undecided which one to accept. On her marriage she is to receive from her father a dowry of £2,500, a sum of money that he boasts of keeping in a safe in the sitting-room at the farm, as he does not believe in banks. When everyone has retired for the night a tramp enters the sitting-room through the window, and, opening the safe, takes possession of the cash-box and departs. When the news of the farmer's loss becomes known Steve Renshaw offers to advance him a sum of money, which, however, is declined; whereas Laurence Barthe, when asked by Patty's father for a loan, makes paltry excuses for declining to grant it. Thereupon the farmer bestows his daughter's hand upon Renshaw, and produces a letter-case containing Patty's dowry, explaining that the cash-box was filled with bricks, and he kept the money in another place altogether. Mr. Charles Groves was a jovial, hearty Farmer Maywood, and Mr. William Dexter was good as his friend, Dr. Williams. The young farmers had able exponents in Mr. Henry Armstrong and Mr. Guy Williams; and Mr. George Bellamy was well suited as Dick Worzel, a farm hand. Miss Gladys Archbutt was a winsome Patty Maywood, and concontributed a song entitled "Is it pity or love?" Miss Mabel Maartens was an attractive representative of Dorothy, a dairymaid, and sang in good style "Tell me why." Other parts were well played by Mr. Terry Hurst, Mr. A. P. Phillips, and Mr. Frank Stanmore. The several songs were imitated from the French by Mr. W. H. C. Nation, and included "Harvest Home" and "The greasy pole."

PAX BEERBOHMICA.

[The KAISER, who is preparing a welcome for Mr. BEERBOHM TREE in Berlin, has authorised the statement that "the Drama is a Mediator between Nations."]

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CHARLES GARTHORNE'S WIDOW FUND.

Up to the time of going to press the following amounts have been received for this fund:—

	£	s.	d.
Dr. C. M. Campbell	5	5	0
Col. W. R. Slacke, R.E.	3	0	0
A. W. M. Bosride	3	0	0
Alex Mackay	3	0	0
Miss Steel	2	2	0
Mrs. Hunt	2	2	0
F. G. Leamington	1	1	0
Rev. Owen Slacke	1	1	0
W. Richards	1	1	0
Major Trehewy	1	1	0
Per Rev. O. Slacke	1	1	0
Mrs. Impey	0	10	6
W. B. Redfern	0	10	6
George Canninge	0	10	0
A Sympathiser	0	10	0
	25	15	0

Subscriptions may be sent to Major Brunt, Hon. Secretary, 10, The Strand, Chiswick; to Mr. James W. Matthews, Green Room Club; or to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, *The Era* Office.

A.A. SOCIAL GATHERING.

Mr. Granville Barker addressed the members of the Actors' Association on "The Evils of the Touring System" on Friday afternoon last week. Mr. Cecil Raleigh, who presided over an excellent attendance, remarked that these social meetings could be called the Parliament of the Profession, inasmuch as matters of immediate interest to the profession were discussed. He announced that Mr. Archer would deliver a lecture to them in March, and that Mr. George Bernard Shaw would shortly talk to them on "The Ethics of Acting."

Mr. Barker said that he wanted to find out exactly what the feelings of the Association were on the subject of touring. He would remind them that the modern touring system commenced when Robertson's stock company started out into the provinces, and they carried a message of stage-management to the then existing state of things. It seemed to him that that message had come to an end. For the past ten years the conditions of touring had been steadily declining, and the principle of sending out a self-contained company was "out-worn," and therefore they would have to turn to something else. The question was, what were they going to put in its place? If they did not make some effort to destroy the present touring system, that system would destroy many of them. The provinces was no longer a useful recruiting ground for London. If he were to choose a beginner to whom he would pay, say, £2 a week, he would far sooner have a person who had done a year's work at Mr. Tree's Academy than one who had had two years' ordinary experience in the provinces. The young provincial actors would gradually be ousted out by the students of that school. The person who went into a London theatre at £2 a week, and who was at all competent, would never leave London, and there might gradually be a wall built up in London against the provincial actor. But why should not such cities as Manchester, Liverpool, Edinburgh, and Glasgow have as good actors as London, as comfortably found and almost as well paid? Speaking on another point, one of the things that was needed to bring the theatre up to date in England was that the actors and actresses should have some interest outside the work by which they gained their livelihood. So many actors knew acting and nothing else. How different was the position in Germany! The actors in the smaller towns were equal to those in Berlin. The companies stayed from one year's end to another, and they had time to live a life of their own, and were not called upon to get up early on Sunday and spend their time in the train. There was no reason why that sort of thing should not obtain in this country. Then, the economic conditions in our provinces were on the decline. Actors' Day would not help them. What they wanted was not to build hospitals, but to prevent people falling sick. This was an age of organisation. They should insist that no absolutely incompetent people should be allowed on the stage, and they should further insist that no man should be permitted to be a manager who was not able to pay sufficiently good salaries. He could foresee that within the next ten years the theatre would be organised in all the big centres.

In the discussion which followed, the chairman described Mr. Barker's lecture as a most momentous one. He, himself, had not much faith in a school for actors. He complained that the people who had made some little success on the stage did not work as they should do for the Association. If actors and actresses were a little prouder of their profession and less proud of themselves it would be better for all of them.

Mr. Cecil Barth thought that whatever might be said against the artistic state of the present touring system, it was, at any rate, a decided improvement upon the old system. He could not agree that a school was the best method of producing actors. An actor had to be born, not made. He agreed with Mr. Barker that there were great evils associated with the present touring system. Grave troubles and differences existed between resident and touring managers, and what was going to make matters still worse was that the individual managers were selling their properties to syndicates, which meant that the provincial theatre-owners would squeeze another 5 per cent., if not more, and cause a reduction of salaries.

Mr. J. T. Grein contrasted the condition of actors in Germany with actors in England. In the former country there was a great central body which governed the totality not in a spirit of grasp, but in a spirit of equity. The touring system in the United Kingdom corroded the mind of the actor.

Mr. Brandon Thomas and Miss Lamb also contributed a few remarks. A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Barker for his able address.

AMATEURS AT OXFORD.

Just ten years have elapsed since the Oxford University Dramatic Society revived *The Taming of the Shrew*, alternating it then with the Greek play, *The Knights of Aristophanes*. The Petruchio then was Mr. Philip Comyns Carr, and the Master of the present Oxford Historical Pageant, Mr. Frank Lascelles, played Lucentio. This year, fortified by the presence of Miss Lily Brayton as Katharina, the society rightly deemed that *The Shrew* was a sufficient attraction. In their programme the committee express their indebtedness and gratitude to Mr. Oscar Asche for his kind permission to use some of the business and arrangements of the Adelphi Theatre production; and these, combined with some new scenery, specially painted by Mr. W. T. Hemsley, and handsome dresses and appointments, combine to make one of the best productions ever achieved by the Oxford amateurs. The play was produced by Mr. G. R. Foss, who has for so many years rendered yeoman service to the society, and to whom was doubtless due the smoothness of Wednesday night's performance. Some new music was composed for the occasion by Mr. T. P. Fielden, who conducted a mixed professional and amateur band, and the Shakespearean songs, "Who is Sylvia?" and "O, Mistress Mine," were introduced and sung by Mr. F. C. Rowe, who made a fair Lucentio. As is usually the case, the minor parts were uncommonly well played. Miss Lily Brayton portrays the varying moods of the shrew and the tamed, obedient wife, admirably. It is a part she has made her own, and the house on Wednesday was fairly electrified by her magnificent acting. The O.U.D.S. are lucky, indeed, in possessing Mr. G. Rentoul, who plays throughout with a grip that never fails. In the Induction Mr. Snell made a capital Christopher Sly, and Mr. Williams a good Lud; and Miss Ledward did well in the small part of the hostess. In the comedy, Mr. Corbett was a dignified Baptista, Mr. Greenly a satisfactory Vincentio, Mr. G. J. Colmer was excellent as Gremio, and Mr. Meyer a good Hortensio. Mr. L. Gartside, who did so well last year in *Measure for Measure*, well maintained his reputation by a bright and clever rendering of Tranio; and Mr. Ledward also evolved fun out of the part of Grumio. Mr. Mercer gave a clever and amusing performance of a pedant; and Mr. Rodley was amusing as the tailor. Miss Agnes Brayton made a very sweet and sympathetic Bianca; and the part of the widow was well played by Miss Edith Hiles. When the curtain fell the applause was loud and prolonged, and tremendous cheers greeted Miss Brayton when she was led in front by Mr. Mercer, president of the society, and Mr. Rentoul, who had so well supported her.

MR. H. ATHOL FORDE has been re-engaged at the Court Theatre by Messrs. Vedrenne and Barker to play Finch McComas in Bernard Shaw's *You Never Can Tell*.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens.

CORONET THEATRE.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee, having considered a drawing and particulars submitted by Messrs. D. Watson and Co. regarding the proposed installation of a motor-generator and a battery of accumulators at the Coronet Theatre, Notting Hill-gate, they recommended that Messrs. Watson and Co. be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing submitted by them, provided the undermentioned conditions be complied with—That the electric lighting regulations of the Council be complied with as regards matters of detail, and that the apparatus be not worked until it shall have been inspected on behalf of the Council.

Agreed to.

GRAND THEATRE, FULHAM.

The Committee made a similar recommendation with regard to drawings submitted by Messrs. D. Watson and Co., of a new stage switchboard and regulator, and of two new distribution boards to be fixed in the pay-box of the Grand Theatre, Fulham, provided the undermentioned conditions be complied with:—That the stage board be so fixed and guarded that it will be impossible for the operator to receive accidentally a shock at an electrical pressure higher than 240 volts, and that the regulations of the Council respecting electric lighting be complied with.

Approved.

LYRIC THEATRE.

The Committee recommended that in regard to a drawing submitted by Messrs. Smee and Cobay, showing the proposed alteration of certain doors at the Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, that these gentlemen be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing, provided that the undermentioned conditions be complied with:—That the new doors be made to open to as great a width as possible; that the iron door to the office be fitted with a chain to prevent its obstructing the new exit doors; that the exit notices affected by the alterations be rearranged to the satisfaction of the Council; and that the glazed portions of the doors be suitably defended.

Approved.

THE PALACE.

The Committee had considered drawings submitted to Mr. J. Emblin-Walker with reference to Nos. 39 and 70 of the suggestions made by the Council in March, 1906, for the structural improvement of the Palace Theatre of Varieties, Shaftesbury-avenue. These drawings show an improvement of the exit from the back of the Royal circle, and the provision of a second means of escape from the dressing-rooms. The Committee recommended that Mr. Emblin-Walker be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the two drawings submitted by him, subject to the doors connecting the dressing-rooms with the public staircase being made satisfactorily self-closing.

Agreed to.

THE PLAYHOUSE.

The Committee had considered drawings submitted by Messrs. Blow and Billerey, of the Playhouse, Northumberland-avenue, showing the deviations which have been made from time to time from the drawings approved on Aug. 1, 1905, and also a proposed modification of the arrangement of the front balustrade of the pit circle at the premises. They recommended that Messrs. Blow and Billerey be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the eight drawings submitted by them, subject to the property-room on the stage being provided with suitable means of ventilation to carry off smoke in case of fire.

Approved.

NEW CONCERT HALL.

The Building Act Committee recommended that consent be given to the erection of a block of shops with a concert hall over upon the site of St. Paul's Church, Great Portland-street, S. Marylebone, to the lines shown on the plan, dated Jan. 5, 1907, submitted with the application of Messrs. Joseph and Smithem, on behalf of Messrs. Perry Brothers, such consent being subject to the usual conditions, and that the applicants be informed that the above resolution does not include any consent to the proposed iron and glass shelter referred to in the letter of application. The shelter must form the subject of a separate application.

The recommendation was adopted.

"LA BELLE MARSEILLAISE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Observing that Mr. Chas. Frohman is to produce shortly *La Belle Marseillaise*, allow me to point out that a play of mine, entitled *La Marseillaise*, was produced at the Royal, Worcester, on Sept. 6 last.

I hope I may not be charged with imitation of title.—Yours faithfully,

FRANK E. POTTER.

27, Bemish-road, Putney, S.W., Feb. 2.

One of the London branches of Messrs. Francis and Day is about to lose the services of a valued member of the staff in the person of Mr. John Abbott, who is about to proceed to New York to take up a position of trust under Mr. Fred Day in that city. Mr. Abbott, who has on many occasions proved a veritable sleuth-hound when on the track of "pirates," and by his astuteness been instrumental in the bringing about of more than one enormous seizure of illicit music, will bear with him the good wishes of not only his principals and fellow-workers, but also of those of many of the great houses of the music trade, to whom he was known as for some time assistant-secretary of the Musical Copyright Association. He sails on the 27th inst.

Under influential patronage a matinée performance was given in the Brighton Hippodrome last Tuesday in aid of the Police-Aided Scheme for Clothing Destitute Children, and attracted an overflowing audience. Mr. Thomas Barrasford, with characteristic generosity, kindly gave the free use of his theatre of varieties for that purpose, and the artists who appeared comprised members of the Brighton Grand Theatre and Brighton Alhambra companies, by permission of Councillor Carpenter and Mr. J. L. Graydon and the directors.

Among those who volunteered their services were Gracie Moore, Kitty Clinton, the Florodora Girls, Edgar Budden, H. Sharp, Jack and Evelyn O'Connor, Walker and Lake, the Imperial Quartet, Two Dixons, Lottie de Abbey, Henri Bekker, Diamond and Beatrice, Berlisch, the Smart Set, Leah Adell, Charlie Williams, the Aurora troupe of cyclists, the Pasquali Brothers, Horace Sade, Charles Banks, Phillips and Terry, Kerr and Koe, Ara, Zebra, and Vora, Mr. and Mrs. George Leonard, Lytton and Bland, Alice Leon, Miss Marguerite Broadfoote, Lester Reekie, Miss Taylor, Professor Heno, George Hyde, Miss Jennie Franklin, Miss Lilian Blair, the Highwaymen, and Miss Lily Black. The duties of musical director were shared by Mr. C. W. Johnson and Signor de la Camera. During the interval the Mayor of Brighton thanked the audience for their support, Mr. and Mrs. Barrasford for the free use of the Hippodrome, the artists for their services, and Mr. Arthur R. Hollands, resident-manager of the Hippodrome, and his staff for kindly managing the entertainment. A telegram was received from Mr. Barrasford wishing the matinée every success

A LYCEUM CONTRACT.

Before Sir Gorell Barnes and Lords Justices Farwell and Buckley, in the Court of Appeal, on the 1st inst., came the case of "Gillett v. Barrasford," which was an appeal by the defendant from an order of the Divisional Court, in which special leave to appeal had been granted, affirming a judgment of the Judge at the Westminster County Court in favour of the plaintiff.

The question arose on the construction of a music-hall contract which the plaintiff had entered into with the defendant in June, 1904, under which the plaintiff was to perform for fifteen weeks during 1905, at £30 a week, at a number of London music-halls referred to in the contract. The plaintiff was Mr. Fred Gillett, and the defendant was Mr. Thomas Barrasford, who, so far as is here material, was at that time the lessee of the Lyceum, which was then being run by him as a music hall, and was one of the halls covered by the contract. The plaintiff had appeared for a week at the Lyceum, when he received a letter from Mr. Barrasford to the effect that, owing to extensive structural alterations required to be made in the stage for the production of the ballet *Excelsior*, the Lyceum would have to be closed during the following July and August, and the contract so far as performing there was concerned would have to end three weeks before the date fixed.

The plaintiff, when the date of closure came, asked to be paid the £90 which, by the closure of the theatre, he was deprived from earning. This request was not met, and the plaintiff thereupon brought this action in the County Court. The defendant relied on a clause in the agreement, which was in these terms:—"In the event of the proprietors closing any theatre through damage by fire . . . or from any other reason whatever in their own absolute discretion, then this contract shall be null and void so far as it may relate to any such theatre."

Mr. Lush, K.C., and Mr. R. W. Turner appeared for the defendant; Mr. Scott Fox, K.C., Mr. Profumo, and Mr. J. Macpherson for the plaintiff.

Without hearing counsel for the plaintiff Sir Gorell Barnes gave judgment. He said that it was for the defendant to show that the closure of the music hall was done by the proprietors. The defendant, so far as he could judge from the Judge's notes, which were somewhat brief, and from what had been said in the Divisional Court, had failed to discharge the onus of proving this, which was a condition precedent to his being able to rely at all upon the clause set out above of the contract on which his defence to the claim was based. The defendant, it seemed, had closed the hall himself, having taken it over from the proprietors. However, he did not think it would be fair to the parties to base his decision on this ground alone. He came to the conclusion that even if the defendant had discharged, or could by calling further evidence do so if the case were retried, he could not succeed, as the words in the contract, "or from any reason whatever," were clearly equivalent to the words "from any other cause whatever" in a similar contract, the construction of which was considered in this Court in 1902 in the case of "Hardie v. Balmain." The Court of Appeal in that case held that the words "cause whatever" meant cause external to that outside the control of the parties to the contract. Here Mr. Barrasford decided for reasons which seemed to him to be to his advantage to close the theatre, and therefore he was liable to the plaintiff to make good the loss which that act had caused him. The appeal, therefore, in his opinion, should be dismissed.

Lord Justice Farwell gave judgment to the same effect.

Lord Justice Buckley differed. In his opinion the proper interpretation of the words was "for any *bond-fide* reason whatever," and he did not think it was quite clear that the case was covered by "Hardie v. Balmain." In his opinion there should be a new trial, but as his brethren thought the case was concluded by authority it would be useless to send it down again.

The appeal was accordingly, by a majority, dismissed with costs.

THE PALACE, LANCASTER, FIRE.

A fire, which at one time threatened to assume alarming dimensions, broke out on Saturday evening at the Palace of Varieties, Brock-street, Lancaster, owned by Messrs. Fell. The hall was originally used by the Oddfellows for their meetings, and occupies the upper part of a block running almost from Penny-street to Mary-street. The basement is occupied by seven shops, with the large premises of Messrs. Boots, cash chemists, at the Penny-street corner, and Webber's photographic establishment.

P.C. Riding, on point duty, discovered the outbreak about 5.20, and the fire brigade, under Superintendent Wearing, was speedily on the scene. The brigade worked with a view to driving the fire from the valuable business premises on the Penny-street side, and also attacked it in the rear. After saturating the hall from the Mary-street end, the fire brigade attacked the outbreak from the stage windows. The scenery and other inflammable properties created such a furnace that bronze ornaments in front of the stage were melted. The dressing-rooms scarcely suffered damage, and the artists' possessions were saved. Only one artist suffered loss, he being the owner of the "Farmyard." His performing duck was rescued alive, but died soon afterwards, and the cockerels and rabbit were found roasted. A couple of pianos were burnt. Mr. Basto, the band conductor, has made it his practice to leave his valuable violin in the manager's office. On Saturday afternoon he failed to do so for the first time, and the instrument, which he valued at £20, was destroyed. After about an hour and a half's hard work the fire was mastered. The loss, which is mostly covered by insurance, has been estimated at about £2000. Messrs. Fell took over the hall from the Oddfellows several years ago, and it was sub-let to the Salvation Army. The damage will be made good in the course of a week or so.

MUSIC-HALL CONTRACTS.

At Southwark, on Monday, before Judge Willis, K.C., Mr. John Hart, proprietor of the Star Music Hall, Bermondsey, sought to recover from Fred Cullane, of the Cullane Trio, £10 damages, for breach of contract.

Defendant said that a member of the trio left him at a moment's notice, and not being able to fill his place, he could not give the sketch.

Plaintiff: He would not come to Bermondsey for £9 when he could get £25 from Barrasford.

Defendant admitted playing another sketch at Newcastle for £20 per week.

His honour observed that if the member of the trio had been taken ill, that would have been an excuse, but his going off and ending his connection with the trio was no excuse, and did not relieve the defendant.

Plaintiff said he had to engage two "turns" to take the place of the defendants, at a cost of £19, but as he offered the defendant £5 more to keep his engagement, so that he (plaintiff) should not break faith with the public, he had claimed only £5 in that respect.

His honour said he could not allow two turns for the one, nor could he give anything for general damages, because he was sure the defendant's breach did not affect the patronage of the hall. He gave judgment for the plaintiff for £4 6s. and costs.

Asked how he could pay, defendant said he was working at New Cross this week, and would clear only £5 for himself and his wife. He had nothing booked after that. £1 per month was ordered.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

For Notices of other Halls, see Page 21.

THE PARAGON.

On the night of our visit a goodly house and a goodly programme presented themselves at the Paragon. There was the usual full orchestra, under the able directorship of Mr. W. Grimmett.

The twenty-one turns this week comprise an interesting and attractive entertainment. A distinctly novel act is furnished by a young lady who calls herself Venus. She appears in various representations of statuary in such a fashion as to realise to the ordinary British public the meaning and significance of some of the world's greatest artistic achievements. Yet there can never be said that in her portrayals there is the slightest element of impropriety. The beautiful realisation of some of the paintings that are familiar to us, assisted by the marvellous lighting arrangements, shows us what the artistic idea of womanhood, separated from mere sensual notions, must be to the mind of the sculptor and the painter. Venus, we are told, posed for the late Lord Leighton's most famous pictures, and her exhibition at the Paragon this week makes it quite apparent that she is an experienced artist's model. Her studies include representations of Canova's "Venus" and Leighton's work of the same name, as well as Velasquez's "Venus at the Mirror" and Lord Leighton's "Bath of Psyche," all of which are thoroughly and artistically carried out.

The Lodging House Slavey is the title of an extremely amusing sketch presented by Miss Alice Cheshire's company. The story of the young spendthrift who endeavours to secure some sympathy and at the same time some cash from his uncle by a fabrication as to an extravagant wife and a child who did not exist, and how the lodging-house servant acts as a "wife" when the uncle comes on the scene, is told in a fashion that is irresistibly comical. Miss Alice Cheshire distinguishes herself in the character part of the servant, and Mr. Leslie Clare as the spendthrift and Mr. James Delmage as the uncle give us capital representations. The Howes continue to mystify their audiences, by their really wonderful exposition of thought-reading, and their display takes rank as one of the best turns at present to be seen on the halls. A very pretty act is that provided by the artists who call themselves the Four Scarleteers. Their harmonic singing is of a character which is more often heard on the concert platform, and their rendering of such old favourites as "Annie Laurie" at once strikes a responsive chord in the lovers of good ballad minstrelsy. The Lyric Mummers are seen and heard to advantage in a refined entertainment, and Miss Kitty Clay proves a most attractive comedienne. Miss Nora Noble has a pleasing ditty in a song, the chorus of which is "I'm looking for a fellow who'll make a fuss of me," and Miss Edie Anderson, a favourite at the Paragon, acts and sings with much expression and character the chansonette, "Good night, Mr. Brown." Miss Dorothy L. Clarke is a young ballad vocalist of considerable promise, her interpretation of "The Firefly" and "Hark! I hear the bugles calling" being most tuneful and enchanting.

Xavier creates a feeling both of wonderment and amusement by his smart cycling tricks, in which he introduces a humorous element. Mr. Dan Kirtain and Mr. George Bee also contrive to amuse the house with their own special business. Miss Bertha Stuart renders that dear old song "Caller Herrin'" with such intelligence and feeling as to elicit a demand for an encore. Professor Garford, the eccentric clown, with his dogs and pigeons; Miss Vera Granville, an engaging serio; and Miss Mignon Tremaine, a bright and accomplished comedienne, also submit capital items; while Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope shows us some of the latest and best pictures.

The wrestling contests, which are open to anybody who cares to compete, furnish an exciting half-hour or so every evening.

HAMMERSMITH PALACE.

At the popular Hammersmith hall a fine programme is placed before its patrons. The bill is headed by Mr. Fred Karno's company in *Moses and Sons*, which was accompanied by roars of hearty laughter. Mr. Albert Bruno is exceedingly funny throughout in the part of Perkins, caretaker at Moses and Sons'; and the company is, with that exception, composed entirely of Hebrew artists, including Miss Leah Morris, Miss Janet Reeve, Miss Madge Rockingham, Mr. Herbert Landeck, and Mr. Anthony Gordon. Miss Alice Hollander, the Australian prima donna, sings "Jack and Jill," and "O, dry those tears" delightfully. Mr. H. C. Lovell and company are seen in a musical comedy burlesque, entitled *Mam'selle Pom-Pom*. The scene is an actress's boudoir, the occupant of which is just completing her toilet. While she is awaiting the arrival of the actor-author of the new duologue she is to play with him that night a titled admirer calls with a basket of flowers, and will not depart when requested. The actor arrives, and the titled dude is hidden behind a screen. As the lady does not feel quite certain about one of her scenes they rehearse it, being interrupted every few seconds by the admirer. The sketch is well played and full of fun, and the audience thoroughly enjoy it.

Miss Amy Clevere wins much applause with her song "I'm sorry, but I can't come out," and by her clever dancing. Mr. Morny Cash is a great favourite; he renders three songs and finishes with a dance, his ditty "Bed" being very amusing. In little Agnes Tina the management have a great draw. She is a very clever child, and is able to sing in English, German, and French. In response to an encore she supplies imitations of well-known artists, her best of the series being one of Miss Vesta Victoria. Messrs. Welda and Wynne do some clever juggling and dancing; and Mr. Chas. Ulrick is here again with his smart barrel-balancing tricks. Barlee and Smith, in the episode entitled *The Rehearsal*, win much applause, the lady singing and whistling very well. Stephens and Rennior, Harry Cotton, Lauri Stewart, all excellent comedians; One Billy Farrell, cake walk artist; Harry Taft, whistling comedian; The Herald Comedy Four, who sing part songs very harmoniously, and the Edisonograph complete the programme, which is nightly being enjoyed by a large audience. The orchestra, under Mr. J. R. Cleve's control, renders "The Pirates of Penzance" in the interval exceedingly well.

NEW CROSS EMPIRE.

The troubles which have seriously altered the programmes of so many halls during the past month have in no way affected the establishments of Messrs. Moss and Stoll, who have kept absolute faith with their patrons, all the artists engaged having appeared. Business at this hall has been better (if possible) than ever, and the current programme has given complete satisfaction. After the overture to *Zampa* had been brilliantly rendered by the Empire orchestra, conducted by Mr. Louis la Rondelle, Mrs. John Lawson and company appeared to great advantage in the clever little sketch, entitled *The Devil's Sunday*. Mrs. Lawson was most successful as Fay Faber. The trifle is brightly written, and was excellently interpreted by all concerned. The American Bioscope exhibited some new and interesting pictures, comic and serious, including naval engagements, which caused much amusement. Another series, most interesting to footballers, entitled "Arsenal v. Bristol City," was specially obtained by energetic Mr. Ernest Bridgen, for the delectation of the patrons of this hall. Miss Fanny Erris, who is next on the list, contributed a bright and taking little turn, and proved herself a capital character comedienne; Messrs. Cairns and Lynch are remarkably smart clog-dancers, and were loudly applauded for their efforts; the Collier and his Child gave a novel and pleasing entertainment, entitled "Thought-reading by Nature"; Miss Nellie Coleman was warmly greeted and loudly applauded for her rendering of the low comedy songs, entitled "Hold on!" and "I'm looking for employment"; Clarence C. Corri's company was very successful in the musical episode called *Heart Strings*, a pathetic trifle, in which Miss Gladys Hooley appeared; the clever Trapnell Family of acrobats and tumblers delighted all with the skill and agility they displayed; the Cambrian Trio of lady vocalists gave "Alice, where art thou?" in a manner to deserve the enthusiastic applause bestowed on them; Dome, the artist in clay, once more displayed his marvellous skill as a modeller of funniosities; D'Arc's Marionettes gave life-like impersonations of R. G. Knowles, Vesta Tilley, George Lashwood, Victoria Monks, May Henderson, and other popular favourites in the variety world.

ROYAL OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

So successful has the present season of German opera been that it is to be extended another fortnight. *Tannhäuser* is in preparation, and we are promised Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and Nicolai's *Merry Wives of Windsor*. On Thursday, Jan. 31, Beethoven's opera *Fidelio* was revived, and as this fine work is now seldom heard, it attracted a large audience. *Fidelio*, when first produced at Vienna in 1805, was not appreciated as the great beauty of the opera deserved, and Beethoven even rearranged the entire score for the new performance, which took place in 1806. In this form the three acts of the opera were reduced to two. The experience Beethoven had while setting his *Fidelio* for the Vienna stage must have been very disappointing, as we cannot otherwise explain his neglect of the operatic form. Though pressed by singers and impresarios, he often promised to write, but never attempted, another opera, although this fine work represents all that is best in German musical art, so ideal, noble, and pure in style, and elevated and touching in dramatic expression. The part of Leonore has had many famous exponents in the past, and no doubt there were some among the audience on Thursday who remembered Mme. Tietjens's splendid treatment of the character. That Frau Leffler Burckhardt completely realised all the part requires it is not possible to say, but she sang with considerable power and expression, and her acting was always intelligent. Herr Hinckley was excellent as the good-hearted gaoler, Rocco; but Herr Bertran attained only a moderate success in the part of Pizzaro. Herr Hans Bussard as Florestan, and Herr Dr. Felix von Kraus as Don Fernando, were both thoroughly satisfactory; while Fräulein Nast made a most attractive Marzelline. The orchestra, under M. Eugène Ysaye, gave a fine performance of the "Leonore" overture.

In the performance of *Lohengrin*, given on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 2, Mme. Agnes Nicholls, an English artist, appeared in the part of Elsa with, it is pleasant to record, complete success. Her voice is pure in quality and admirably produced, while the romantic side of Elsa's character was most cleverly portrayed. As Ortrud Mme. Brema repeated her powerful impersonation, and Herr Kraus made a striking Lohengrin. Dr. von Kraus was the King, and Mr. Frederic Austin the Herald.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The Royal College concert on Thursday evening, Jan. 31, opened with Brahms' "Quartet for Strings, in B flat major, Op. 67," the executants, Miss May Harrison, Mr. Enoch Parsons, Mr. Frank Bridge, and Miss Marion Harrison displaying no little ability in the bright opening movement and the fine andante. Beethoven's "Sonata for Violin and Piano, in F major," played by Miss Gladys Raymond and Miss Sylvia Capel-Cure, proved another very attractive feature of the concert. Miss Gladys van Niekirk sang "Tears, idle tears," by Arthur Sullivan, and "Ewig mein bleibt," by Edward Schütt. The young lady, who appeared extremely nervous, caused some excitement among the audience by suddenly fainting during her first song. She was assisted off the platform, but after a few minutes reappeared, receiving a most hearty and sympathetic reception, and bravely sang "Tears, idle tears" again, as well as her second song. Miss Niekirk has a pure and flexible voice, to which she will do full justice in time. Miss Winifred Gardiner was much applauded in her piano solos of C. V. Alkan's "Prelude in C minor," "Fa," and Rubinstein's "Etude" (sur de fausses notes), the latter proving Miss Gardiner a skilful executant. Miss Lillian Davis sang "Ruhe, meine Seele," by R. Strauss, and Tschaikowsky's "Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt," with considerable success; and Miss A. Christa Wood gave a brilliant rendering of Chaminade's showy song, "L'Eté." The concert ended with Beethoven's "Trio for Piano and Strings, in D major, Op. 70, No. 1," performed by Miss Humphery, Mr. Arthur Beckwith, and Mr. Gershom Parkington. Miss Alice Cotton and Miss Ellen Tuckfield acted as accompanists.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The concert of Wednesday evening at the Guildhall School of Music began with a pianoforte solo of Chopin's, "Fantaisie" in F minor, neatly executed by Miss Jessie Attwell. Miss Dorothy Melton may be heartily commended for her violin solos, Air on G string (Bach) and a "Berceuse," of a pleasing character, by Beatrice Parkyns; but Miss Dorothy Holden was not well advised in attempting Liszt's "Grand Polonaise" in E for her piano solo, although the young lady has a light and delicate touch, only marred by a bad habit of raising the hands after each passage. Mr. Norman Attwell, a most promising violoncello student, played De Munck's "Matinée de Printemps" and Popper's "Papillon" with considerable fluency and a really good tone; while Miss Jessie Willis was heartily applauded for her piano solo of Brahms' "Rhapsody" in G minor. The vocal items included a "Coon Lullaby" (Riego) and "Castilian Maid," by Lehmann, sung by Miss Rita Milner. Miss Dorothy Crompton gave a fairly effective rendering of Clay's song, "The Sands of Dee," and Mr. Andrew Pace skilfully used a most pleasing voice in Godard's beautiful song, "Angels guard thee." Miss Nellie Watson had a certain amount of success in Gounod's "O Divine Redeemer," though the music was of too ambitious a character. The concert concluded with an attractive duologue, *The First Anniversary*, written by Estelle Burney. The character of Kate Bell was sustained by Miss Ethel McDowall, a pupil of Miss Rorke's, and that of Frank Bell by Mr. Maurice A. Rossiter, one of Mr. L. F. Chapuy's pupils. The little piece was produced by Miss Kate Rorke. The accompanist on Wednesday evening was Miss Kate Richards.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA.

Owing to pressure on our space, we have been compelled to hold over the weekly instalment of the above. The series will be continued next week.

Mr. Editor,—Sir, in last week's notice of *Red Riding Hood* you mention Miss Annie Purcell in the part of Boy Blue. As Miss Purcell did not appear through indisposition for several days, it should have been, yours faithfully, Agnes Tandy.

Opera House, Leicester, Feb. 4.

Georg Hackenschmidt, the Russian lion and champion wrestler, has given out that he intends forsaking the halls, and in the near future devoting himself to physical culture. He will publish his views on this subject in a book. He has received a tempting offer from America.

ON THE ROAD, FEB. 11.

Are You a Mason?—Bedford.
Assassin.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
Beast and the Beauty.—O. H., Barnsley.
Beautiful Fiend.—O. H., Londonderry.
Belle of Mayfair (Bode).—New T., Cardiff.
Belle of Mayfair.—Royalty T., Glasgow.
Benson, F. R. (N.).—Dumfries and Hawick.
Benson, F. R.—Grand T., Southampton.
Benson, F. R. (S.).—Maestag and Treherbert.
Blue Moon.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Bulmer, Mr.—Royalty T., Llanelly.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—Palace T., Newcastle.
Cassidy, J. Rice.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
Chinese Honeymoon (Bode).—Ipswich & Cambridge.
Christian, The (Croke).—Gaiety T., Hastings.
Christian, The (Howard).—Basingstoke & Redhill.
Claudian.—T. R., Hull.
Clever Impostor.—Abertillery.
Compton Comedy Co.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
Dairymaids.—Theatre Royal, Hanley.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Hippodrome, Sheerness.
D'Oyly Carte.—Marlborough Theatre.
Driven from Home.—Junction T., Manchester.
Earl and the Girl.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Earl and the Girl (N.).—Stockport.
Electric Man (N.).—O. H., Leicester.
False Wife.—Middleton.
Female Swindler.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Fight for Millions.—Garrick T., Hereford.
Floradora (Howard).—Wolverhampton.
Four Just Men.—Halifax.
Freedom of Suzanne.—Grand T., Fulham.
French Spy.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Gay Parisienne.—T. R., Bolton.
Glossop-Harris Repertoire Co.—T. R., Shrewsbury.
Golden Ladder.—Theatre Royal, Dover.
Go-Won-Go Mohawk.—Swansea.
Great Awakening.—O. H., Middlesbrough.
Grip of Iron.—Grand T., Rawtenstall.
Held Apart.—Queen's T., Manchester.
Her Forbidden Marriage.—T. R., Croydon.
Her Lost Self.—T. R., Batley.
Her Love Against the World.—T. R., Aston.
His House in Order (N.).—O. H., Northampton.
His House in Order (S.).—King's T., Hammersmith.
Indian Mutiny.—T. R., Stratford.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Daventry and M. Mowbray.
La Poupee (Ralland).—T. R., Glossop.
Leah Kleschna.—Kirkcaldy.
Little Breadwinner.—Prince's T., Accrington.
London Fireman.—Grand T., Mansfield.
Love that Women Desire.—Empire T., Southend.
Lucky 'Liza.—Court T., Bacup.
Lucky Durham.—Court T., Wigan.
Man and Wife.—Palace T., Blackburn.
Man's Enemy.—Yarmouth.
Manxman.—O. H., Harrogate.
Martin Harvey.—O. H., Southport.
Merveilleuses.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
Midnight Mail.—Wolverhampton.
Midnight Wedding.—Broughton.
Monte Cristo.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
Moody-Manners (A.).—Leeds.
Moody-Manners (B.).—O. H., Blackpool.
Morals of Marcus.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Mr. Popple.—Blackburn.
My Sweetheart.—Grand T., Falkirk.
Napoleon the Great.—T. R., Scarborough.
Night Out.—Colchester.
Oliver Twist (Howard).—Torquay.
Otto the Outcast.—T. R., Bilston.
Peter Pan.—Prince's T., Manchester.
Peter's Mother.—Grand T., Croydon.
Prince of Pilsen (Harris).—Grand T., West Hartlepool.
Private Secretary.—T. R., Bath.
Prodigal Parson.—T. R., Darwen.
Proof.—Avenue T., Kettering.
Royal Divorce.—Prince's T., Poplar.
Saints and Sinners.—Star T., Liverpool.
Sapho (Annie Bell).—T. R., Sunderland.
Sentenced for Life.—King's T., Cardiff.
Sherlock Holmes.—T. R., Sheffield.
Shulamite.—Pleasure Gardens, Folkestone.
Sign of the Cross.—Lyceum T., Pentre.
Silver King (Howard).—Kidderminster and Stourbridge.
Silver King (Polini).—O. H., Doncaster.
Still Alarm.—New Theatre, W. Stanley.
Three Little Maids (Macdona).—Longton.
Toreador (Macdona).—Consett.
Traitor Prince.—T. R., Rugby.
Traitor The.—Spennymoor.
Two Little Sailor Boys.—Smethwick.
Tyrant, The.—Darlington.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—T. R., Belfast.
Under the Russian Flag.—O. H., York.
Village Blacksmith.—T. R., St. Helens.
Walls of Jericho.—O. H., Burton.
Warner, Miss Grace.—T. R., Coatbridge.
Warning to Women.—O. H., Bury St. Edmunds.
Wearin' o' the Green.—Macclesfield.
What the Butler Saw.—T. R., Preston.
When Woman Hates.—Royalty T., Llanelly.
White Chrysanthemum (Curzon).—Crown T., Peckham.
White Chrysanthemum (Macdona).—Paisley.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
Woman and Wine.—W. London Theatre.
Worst Woman in London.—O. H., Tunbridge Wells.
10.30 Down Express.—T. R., Edmonton.
£1,000 Reward.—Gaiety T., Clydebank.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

"THE NEW ALADDIN."

Mr. Fred Fredericks has secured a strong attraction in *The New Aladdin*. The piece is mounted and dressed on a very lavish and highly artistic scale, and Mr. George Edwardes has engaged a company of much all-round ability. Mr. George Gregory is a host in himself as the irrepressible Tippin, and this exceedingly clever comedian has rarely been seen to greater advantage. Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., is eminently successful as the Genie of the Lamp, being always brisk and alert, and singing and dancing with animation and verve. Miss Ida Rene is an exceedingly charming and graceful Princess, and quickly wins her way into favour. Miss Eva Sandford plays in genial, buoyant style as Lally, and looks the part admirably. Miss Irene Verona's performance as the goodly-proportioned Spirit of the Ring is a gem of broad comedy acting, and her characteristic songs go wonderfully well. A breath of the Highlands is wafted into the part of the maid Jennie, who is quite Scotch and a great favourite in the hands of Miss May Fraser; Miss Nellie Lonnen's terpsichorean efforts as Loalah win warm approval; and Miss Beatrice Dunbar is dainty and coquettish as the Charm of Paris. Mr. Frank Hector submits a sound performance as Cadi; and Mr. J. W. Manning plays Ebenezer on most appropriate lines. Mr. Ernest Mahar acts in the right vein as General Ratz; Mr. J. Sims Woolley does well as the imitation Genie; and Mr. John Brabourne submits a clever unexaggerated piece of comic character-acting as the lost constable. Other parts all have very capable exponents. The orchestra is this week augmented, and under the direction of Mr. Ernest Vousden, who secures an excellent ensemble.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Feb. 4, the Drama, in Five Acts, by Horace Stanley, entitled

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS."

A return visit from that popular drama, *The 10.30 Down Express*, forms the attraction at the Stratford Theatre Royal this week, and was exceedingly well received on the opening night. Mr. Horace Stanley's company interprets the piece with entire credit, and the staging and scenic effects are most appropriate. Mr. George Beverley is a manly exponent of Jack O'Malley; and Mr. Charles Burdon handles the rôle of James Inderwick with skill and power. Mr. Edwin Clarke acts convincingly as Huntley Mason; Mr. Alaric Burton plays Cuthbert Leigh very appropriately; Mr. Tom Roydon submits a well-defined sketch of Seth Coombes; and Mr. Arthur E. Francis is exceedingly droll as Bletherby Baggs. Mr. Horace Stanley as Sam Wagstaffe is always amusing and highly popular; and is ably supported in the fun-making by Miss Kate Kilpack as Peggy Potts. Miss Elsie Capell very charmingly impersonates Bessie Leigh; Miss Evelyn M. Walton cleverly realises the elderly spinster, Letitia Leigh; and Miss Josephine Lee plays with sympathy as Olive Coombes. Remaining parts are handled with intelligence and care.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

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The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Notice to Advertisers.

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Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephone, 4747, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. J. W.—The Serious Family, *adapted from the French play,* Le Mari à la Campagne, *by M. Barnett, was produced at the Haymarket Theatre on Oct. 30, 1849, with Benjamin Webster in the part of Charles Torrens.*

J. P.—*Mrs. Rousby, who became the wife of Mr. Wybert Rousby in 1868, made her first appearance on the London stage at the Queen's Theatre, Long Acre, on Dec. 20, 1869, as Fiordelisa, in Tom Taylor's drama,* The Fool's Revenge.

JACK.—*Write care of New York Dramatic Mirror, 121, West Forty-second-street, New York City, U.S.A.*

F. W. P.—*Mr. Tree's first English production of* Trilby *was at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, Sept. 7, 1895. His first London production was at the Haymarket, Oct. 30, 1895.*

C. NUTTER.—*When* A Pair of Spectacles *was first produced at the Garrick, Feb. 22, 1890, Benjamin Goldfinch was played by John Hare; Uncle Gregory, Charles Groves; Percy, Rudge Harding; Dick, Sydney Brough; Lucy Lorimer, Miss Blanche Horlock; Mrs. Goldfinch, Miss Kate Rorke. Other members of the cast were Messrs. C. Dodsworth, F. H. Knight, R. Cathcart, and John Byron, and Miss F. Hunter.*

T. WILSON.—*It is against our rule to give the ages of members of the profession.*

H. L. (Liverpool).—*We do not know. If he is "a particular friend" of yours why not put the question to him yourself?*

ADA BRAMPTON.—*Mr. David James played the part of Blueskin in* Little Jack Sheppard *when it was produced at the Gaiety Theatre on Dec. 26, 1885.*

T. S.—*Betsy, a comedy in three acts, adapted from the French by F. C. Burnand,* was produced at *the Criterion Theatre on Aug. 6, 1879, with Miss Lottie Venne in the title-rôle. When the piece was revived at the same theatre in Oct., 1882, Miss Nelly Bromley appeared as Betsy.*

CANADIAN.—*Miss Loie Fuller made her début in England at the Globe Theatre, London, on Oct. 22, 1889, as the heroine of H. P. Taylor's play,* Caprice.

SONG-WRITER (Greenock).—(1) *Francis, Day, and Hunter, 142, Charing Cross-road, W.C., might give you the information you wish for in regard to the song-writer you mention; but why not write to Harry Lauder direct, at Newcastle-on-Tyne (Tyne Theatre)? (2) You send songs at your own risk, and there is no such thing as being entitled to a deposit. Why should an artist risk it on a song that may be entirely worthless to him? (3) You should go to the halls and note the different styles of the leading comics. Perhaps you may possess a number that may suit one comedian's particular method.*

G. V.—Mademoiselle Mars *was produced at the Imperial Theatre on Jan. 25, 1902. The principal characters were cast as follows:—Napoleon, Mr. Lewis Waller; Duc D'Aumont, Mr. Frank Dyall; Fouché, Mr. Edward O'Neil; Tallyrand, Mr. R. Farquharson; Everard, Mr. Chas. Goodhart; Talma, Mr. Gordon Doone; Baron Gerard, Mr. Guyer MacKay; Sergeant Bibot, Mr. Henry Lesmore; Mlle. Mars, Mrs. Langtry; Empress Marie Louise, Miss May Taverner; Mme. Bonaparte, Miss Ina Goldsmith; Eliza, Miss D. Hammond; Pauline, Miss B. F. Robertson; Duchesse D'Aumont, Miss Lena Halliday; Mlle. Leverd, Miss Madge M'Intosh; Toinette, Miss M. Ashwynne.*

W. DALTON.—*The late Mr. Dan Leno was born in Eve-court, Somers Town, London; but the house, with others, was pulled down in the early seventies, the site being required for the Midland terminus at St. Pancras.*

H. LESLIE BELL.—Double Sixes, *play, in one act, was produced at the Grand Theatre, Southampton, on July 16, 1900. We do not know the name of the author, or any other particulars.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth** or **Death** or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny**.

The charge for a notice of **Marriage**, not exceeding forty words, is **Two Shillings and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny**.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

MARRIAGES.

WALKER—WALFORD.—On Jan. 30, at Parish Church, Ashton-under-Lyne, by Rev. Thomas Dillon, Abigail Cotton Lilly Walker to Archie Walford, both of Denman Wood's company.

DEATHS.

OTTAWAY.—Jan. 24, from syncope, Frank Ottaway, bone soloist, late of the Mohawk Minstrels.

RUSHFORTH.—At Manchester, Feb. 1, Elizabeth (Jess), the wife of Willie Rushforth (The Rushforths and King Leo). Interred at Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Feb. 5. Deeply mourned.

WOOD.—Feb. 7, suddenly, of heart failure, Arthur Augustus Wood, actor, at his residence, St. Mary's-road, Peckham.

IN MEMORIAM.

COLVERD.—In loving memory of my dear husband, Mr. J. J. Colverd, who departed this life Feb. 7, 1903. Never to be forgotten by his loving wife and family.

FISSOTT.—In loving memory of my dear father, Jules Fissott, who died Feb. 6, 1901. Never forgotten by his ever-loving daughter, Marie (Mrs. Will Rosaire).

GITTINS.—In loving memory of Mary Gittins, beloved mother of Nita and Francis Adrian, and Ernest St. John, who passed away Feb. 4, 1906.

LESTER.—In ever loving memory of Annie (Mrs. Leo Lester), who died Feb. 6, 1906. Never forgotten by her loving husband.

NELSON.—Feb. 15, 1901, Harold Broughton Nelson, the dearly loved brother of Harry Adair Nelson and the late William E. Ashcroft.

REARDON.—In affectionate remembrance of Eleanor Reardon, the beloved wife of Edward L. Garside, who passed away Jan. 31, 1903.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

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Artois, Mr. John
Asche, Mr. Oscar
Ashington, Mr. H.
Attwood, Happy
Baker, Mrs. E.
Barnett, Mr. Walter
Bartell, Mr. Teddy
Barry, Mr. Nelson
Beardmore, Mr. J. P.
Beaufort, Miss Georgie
Beere, Mrs. Bernard
Best, Mr. Chas. F.
Biddall, Bros.
Biglow, Mr. Dan
Bolton, Mr. Harry
Boyde, Mr. Edwin
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Cunningham, Miss M.
Currans, Mr. J. W.
Curre, Mr. Carne
Davenports, The
Deane, Miss Lilian
De Campi, Miss Marie
De Groot, Miss Sara
Delaires, The Three
De Marce, Mr. Felix
Dent, Mr. Digby
Diamond, Miss D.
Duggan, Miss M.
Elliott, Miss Charlotte
Ellis, Mr. George
Elton, Mr. S.
Eplett, Miss Jessie
Florence and Lillian
Fossett, Mr. Harry
Foy, Mr. Tom
Gardner, Mr. F. R.
George, Mr. Henry
Grans, Mr. F.
Gray, Miss Mona
Greenaway, Mr. A. E.
Gregory, Mr. E. G.
Gooes, Messrs. Gunnar
Gwynne, Mr. P. H.
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Hardy, Mr. Fred
Harper, Miss Joseph
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Hart, Mr. Arthur G.
Harvey, Mr. Frank
Heath, Mr. Guyton
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Hesse, Paul, Trio
Hilderini, Prof.
Hill, Miss Adnia
Hobson Miss Maud
Hope, Miss Jessie
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Inescort, Miss Elaine
Irving, Miss Ethel
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Julian, Mr. Johnnie
Keddie, Mr. H. A.
Kenaly, Mr.
King, Mr. N.
Kirkdall, Mr. R. D.
Lane, Mr. M. G.
Lareur, Miss Francis
Laurence, Miss Kate
Lawrence, Mr. Alfred
Le Clare
Lee, Mr. Geo.
Lehmann, Mr. P. J.
Levante, Miss Marie
Leyton, Mr. Sidney
Linden, Mr. Ernest
Lingard, Mr. E.
Lytton, Mr. Bert
"M. A."
Mack, Mr.
Mack, Mr. Julian
Maclaren, Mr. Ian
Maitland, Mr. Fred
Major, Mr. Frank
Mansel, Lady
Marba and Verity
Marsh, Mrs. H. V.
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Mayo, Mr. Sam
McClemont, Mr.
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Ripon, Mr. George
Rivers, Miss Pauline
Roberts, Miss Amy
Rodney, Miss Nelly
Romelli, Signor
Rosse Russell Répertoire
Rudd, Mr. Austin
Russell, Mr. T.
Sansbury, Mr. Vernon
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Scott, Mr. J. N.
Scott's Circus
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Singleton, Miss Amy
Smith, Miss Lillian
Smith, Mr. Phil
St. Alban, Mr. Edward
Stanley and Greenop
Stavart, Miss Madge
Stayton, Mr. Frank
Steele, Mr. Albert
Stelling, Mr. Harry
St. Elmo, Miss Nina
Stuart, Mr. Lorrimer
Studi, Mr. Jacob
St. Valerie, Miss G.
Thomas, Mr. A. D.
Thomas, Mrs. Ronald
Taylor, Mr. C.
Taylor, Mr. Gilbert E.
Taylor, Mr. Richardson
Taylor, Captain
Torra, Mr. Koma
Valmore, Miss Jenny
Vasco
Vassar, Dr. Carl
Ventris, Mr. Arthur
Vernon, Miss Ethel
Victor, Miss Ada
Watson, Prof. A.
Willard, Mr. Geo.
Williams, Mr. Fred
Wilson, Mrs. Randle
Winter, Miss Lily
Wolveston, Miss F.
Woodward, Mr. C.
Wylie, Mr. Laurie
Yorke, Mr. Leonard
Zedora, Mr. Leo.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Mrs. Patrick Campbell—Saturday, Feb. 9.
Miss Fortescue—Saturday, Feb. 9.
Eva Moore—Saturday, Feb. 9.
Lottie Addison—Saturday, Feb. 9.
Ettie Williams—Saturday, Feb. 9.
Anthony Hope—Saturday, Feb. 9.
William Felton—Saturday, Feb. 9.
Amy Farrell—Sunday, Feb. 10.
Nellie V. Warden—Sunday, Feb. 10.
Sybil Carlisle—Sunday, Feb. 10.
Amy Raynor—Sunday, Feb. 10.
Ivan Berlyn—Sunday, Feb. 10.
Edith E. Carr—Sunday, Feb. 10.
Lydia Flopp—Monday, Feb. 11.
Miss Sidney Crowe—Monday, Feb. 11.
Frank Lyndon—Monday, Feb. 11.
Frank Hudspeth—Monday, Feb. 11.
Arthur Webb—Monday, Feb. 11.
Chas. F. Meadows—Monday, Feb. 11.
Jessie Browning—Monday, Feb. 11.
Marie Lloyd—Tuesday, Feb. 12.
Katie Barry—Tuesday, Feb. 12.
Joe Maynall—Tuesday, Feb. 12.
Ella Tarrant—Wednesday, Feb. 13.
Carrie Ellis—Wednesday, Feb. 13.
Beatrice Townsend—Wednesday, Feb. 13.
Alice Fontain—Wednesday, Feb. 13.
Lillie Woods—Wednesday, Feb. 13.
Kathleen Russell—Wednesday, Feb. 13.
Wm. P. Vane—Wednesday, Feb. 13.
Edgar Bateman—Thursday, Feb. 14.
Hettie Hamer—Thursday, Feb. 14.
Minnie Durham—Friday, Feb. 15.
H. J. Hitchens—Friday, Feb. 15.
Bessie Frank—Friday, Feb. 15.

"HUMPTY DUMPTY" comes to the end of its career at the Kennington Theatre to-night, and next week will be succeeded there by *The Beauty of Bath*, a favourite musical play, which should prove equally popular.

PRESENTATIONS.—Saturday being the last night of the pantomime *Cinderella* at the Elephant and Castle Theatre, Mr. Chas. East was in the last scene presented with a suitable testimonial given by the company, which he accepted with thanks. Miss Gracie Taylor then called for Mr. E. Godfrey, the assistant stage manager, and presented him also with a suitable testimonial, in appreciation of his kind assistance. Mr. Godfrey expressed his thanks, and then called for three cheers for Mr. John East, the manager, which were given with musical honours.

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MUSICAL COPYRIGHT.
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INTERNATIONAL AND COLONIAL COPYRIGHT.

Mr. A. A. Strong has published a book on "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," which should be in the hands of everyone who is obliged to know about this perplexing subject. Dramatic copyright in England is in a particularly unsatisfactory state, and it is much to be hoped that ere long some more rational method of securing protection for a play may be devised than the slovenly and sometimes costly "production for copyright purposes," which is at present required.—St. James's Gazette.

Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr. Albert A. Strong's new work, entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr. Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his text-book on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases, what probably is—the law as to musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters on the Berne Convention and on the Chase Act, passed by the United States Congress last March, are full of interest.—Referee.

"The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," by Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor, author of "Dramatic and Musical Law" ("The Era" office), seems to be the one compendious and indispensable authority on the subject, as vexed as the "Rermoothes" and as tortuous as a Chancery suit, that has long been wanted. It is in every essential a text book for the perplexed layman, and no solicitor or barrister worth his salt ought to think of taking or appearing in "proceedings" without consulting its pages. It must suffice, after what has been said, to state little more than that the contents include five chapters, respectively named "Copyright as Opposed to Performing Right," "Performing Right," "Infringement and Remedies," "Musical Copyright," and "International and Colonial Copyright." The work, for all its precise authority is not dry reading. The statutes, with the elucidatory notes, necessarily impose a task on the reader which takes some tackling, but they had to be there. The cases adduced, however, are full of interest. Certain of them might fitly find a place in the romance of copyright. There was the fight of Charles Reade with George Conquest over "It's Never Too Late to Mend," for instance, and the equally interesting conflict of Mr. J. A. Cave with Chatterton over "The Wandering Jew." The latter was a famous battle. Chatterton took it to the House of Lords, and was finally beaten, to the unspeakable relief of Mr. Cave, who is never weary of relating the story. Had the result been otherwise, it would have meant his ruin. I well remember meeting him on the day of his victory and "crashing a cup with him" in honour of the same. "The Law of Copyright" is dedicated to Mr. A. W. Pinero.—Sportsman.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1907.

THE TOURING SYSTEM.

Mr. GRANVILLE BARKER, in his interesting lecture at the Actors' Association "Social" on the 1st inst., reiterated arguments which we have heard again and again during the last twenty years. According to Mr. BARKER, "the service" in the country is "going to the dogs." The provinces, he says, "are no longer a useful recruiting-ground for London." A year's work at Mr. BEERBOHM TREE'S academy is better than three years' experience on tour. It does not pay to send out a thoroughly good company. The "economic condition of affairs" is also, says Mr. BARKER, on the decline.

The remedies which he proposes for these defects are, apparently a limitation of the incompetence of artists and a parallel limitation of the lowness of salaries. He proposes, in short, to interfere with the law of supply and demand, in the same way as is done, in the cases of certain mechanical trades, by their "unions."

The touring system is the offspring of the old "circuit" system, by which travelling companies of actors used to cater for a whole county or group of counties, giving a series of performances in the theatre of every town at certain fixed dates. Successes produced at the "privileged" theatres in London were thus brought before the audiences of the country towns. The life of the travelling company was hard, sordid, and humiliating. On its arrival in a town, the manager's wife had to go about "soliciting the patronage" of the ladies of the place. The manager had to "turn his hand to anything"; his wife or his mother often kept the box-office; and the calling was one of dire drudgery, often leading to intemperance and want. If the "strolling player" of the early eighties found life tolerable it was because he was so imbued with squalid Bohemianism that he knew not the want of anything higher or better.

The larger towns were catered for by stock companies, which were excellent academies of dramatic art of a sort rather strong than subtle, and more vigorous than refined. The tremendous amount of study required from the artist, necessitating his almost living in the theatre, kept his mind in a narrow groove. He was like a horse in a mill; he had to go round week after week, and, if he stopped, his salary stopped too. It was much the same even with the London actor and actress. TOM HOOD, in his "Model Men and Women," describes an actress as going late to bed, rising early, learning her parts while washing her children's linen, rehearsing in the afternoon, performing in the evening, and having no time to eat or to attend to her toilette.

The touring system was a development of the circuit system, just as the multiplication of London theatres was the development of the patent theatre system. The extension of railways, the increasing number of "London successes," gradually ousted the old stock companies, who could not compete with the attractions of a bran-new metropolitan triumph brought down from London week after week. The discredit attaching to the calling had the advantage of keeping off the stage all who were not prepared to endure contempt, hardship, and squalid surroundings.

With the organisation of the touring system and the rise in the public estimation of the art of acting, came a great change. Acting was soon a calling which young ladies and gentlemen could follow contentedly and even pleasantly. In the old times, a man had either to be born of a dramatic family or to be genuinely "stage-struck" to face the life, with its vicissitudes and its slavery. The stage is now "taken to" by hundreds who would never have dreamt of doing so in the early eighties.

STUART MILL, in one of his essays, remarks that certain callings are so attractive that those who follow them are content to receive less remuneration in consideration of the pleasure derived from their work. All the arts suffer more or less from this influence. But how is it to be helped? How are you to prevent a manager engaging a novice who will suit his—the manager's—purpose as well as an "experienced" mediocrity, and who is willing to "come" at a smaller salary than the "experienced" actor? The idea of a trade union is to keep wages up to a level and down to a level, to prevent the exceptional mechanic earning more so that the average mechanic may not earn less. But how would trade union methods be possible in the case of engagements each of which must be a matter of negotiation between manager and artist? How could a bricklayers' union be maintained if the attractions of bricklaying were so great that people were found willing to pay to be allowed to lay bricks? The only check on the downward progress of dramatic salaries is the necessity of keeping the quality of the work done up to a certain standard. It will not pay a manager to cheapen his company so much as to give the public a "rotten show."

Companies might be cheapened and receipts reduced to a vanishing point; but, if that were the course being pursued at present, we should hear of theatrical bankruptcies all over the country, and of theatres being applied to other purposes than those of entertainment. But, as a matter of fact, what do we find? New theatres being built, old theatres being reconstructed, and a public "playhouse" of some sort in every third-rate place in the provinces. And as to artistic merit—well, it is impossible, of course, to speak from sufficient experience; but we have an impression that the average of acting all over the country is as high now as it was in the early eighties. The actors of that period were, perhaps, better technicians; but they were less intelligent, worse educated, and too often mechanically "wooden." The "stock company system," which has been vainly advocated for many years past could only be returned to if the touring system had been brought to an end by managers ceasing to send out companies. If the London *entrepreneurs* found that touring was not, financially, "worth doing," the supply of companies would fall off, dates would be left vacant, and the local managers would be driven to resort to a stock company, for at least part of the year, in sheer desperation at being unable to fill their dates. At present there is no sign of any such movement being at hand.

GLASGOW VICTORIA THEATRICAL LADIES' CLUB.

A fashionable matinée in aid of the funds of this new club, which, as we have recently noted, has met a very much-felt want in the great Scotch city, took place on Tuesday afternoon in the theatre of the Glasgow Athenæum, and was very largely attended by a fashionable audience, Mrs. Wm. Bilsland, wife of the Lord Provost, being also present, as representing her husband. The entertainment was of a varied and enjoyable nature, and was greatly appreciated by all present. The overture was admirably rendered by a selected orchestra, comprising the principal players in the local theatres. The conductors were Mr. Alfred Carpenter (Theatre Royal), Mr. Harry Henderson (Grand Theatre), and Mr. Henry Vollmer (Princess's Theatre); while the management was undertaken by the ladies of the Victoria Club Committee. The stage-managers were Messrs. W. H. Morgan (Theatre Royal), T. Buxton (Grand Theatre), and S. K. Alexander (Princess's Theatre).
The following artists appeared:—Madoline Rees, Lena Vere, Mena Brae, Aimee Grey, Bransby Williams, W. F. Frame, Downes and Langford, Devorah Volar, May Mars, Wee Mona, Fred Kitchen, Ethel Campbell, Austin Lenton, Joseph B. Montague, Mamie Gould, and Christine Rasinsky. Encores and recalls were very frequent. Mr. H. J. O'Neil was accompanist, on a fine piano lent by Messrs. Paterson, Sons, and Company.
During the afternoon Mr. Percy Humphrys, manager of the Theatre Royal, on behalf of the Ladies' Committee, moved a vote of thanks to the various artists who had given their services. It was, he said, gratifying to the club to find that so many people had an interest in what the speaker held to be a unique venture for Glasgow. The Victoria Club was still in its infancy, but already it had been a great advantage to ladies of the theatrical profession. The matinée had been organised to raise funds to try to place the club on a permanent basis. The vote of thanks was very heartily responded to. A handsome sum will result from the matinée.

RICHMOND THEATRE.

On Thursday, Feb. 7, the Comedy, in Three Acts, by Cosmo Gordon Lennox, entitled "THE FREEDOM OF SUSANNE."
The production of this successful comedy at Richmond left little to be desired, and the general interpretation of the play was excellent in the extreme. Miss Mabel Love had an excellent predecessor in the part she assumes, and it is amazing how very like is she to the original Susanne in her treatment of the rôle. The brunt of the work fell to her, and very charmingly and admirably did she sustain the burden. Never for once did the play suffer at her hands; she was delightful throughout. In Act 1, where she related with refreshing *naïvéte* her escapades in Piccadilly, in Act 2, her jealousy of her husband in the photographic episode, and in Act 3, her business at the telephone, were all instances of her ability and skill as an *ingenué* of a refined type. We doubt if Miss Mabel Love will ever be better suited with a part than as Susanne. Mr. Percy Hutchison was excellent as Charles Trevor. He handled the part with marked ability, and lent valuable assistance throughout; indeed, his performance considerably added to the success of the afternoon. Mrs. F. Turner caused considerable hilarity as the charwoman, Mrs. Putman; and Miss Annie Stalman played Lady Charlotte Trevor with becoming dignity. Miss Florence Harwood was droll in the extreme as Fanny; Mr. J. Hastings Balson made the most of his opportunities as the hypochondriac, Lord Datchet; and a capable impersonation was that of Mr. P. Quill as Sir Horace Hatton. The remaining parts were in safe hands. The orchestra added to the success of the entertainment with some dainty selections; and a good word is due to the stage-manager, Mr. Townsend Whitling.

AT the Pavilion Theatre on the 31st ult. Mr. Kempfner, of the Jewish Operatic and Dramatic Company, at very short notice undertook the difficult part of Uriel Mazik (Mephistopheles) in *Man and Devil*, which he played with great success.

PRESENTATION.—At the Theatre Royal, Rugby, on the 1st inst., in the absence of Mr. Geoffrey Fulton, the manager, Mr. Frank Ridge, on behalf of the staff, presented Mr. Arthur Young, the stage carpenter, who is leaving Rugby to join Mr. Percy Hutchison's *Freedom of Suzanne* company, with a handsome case of briar pipes and tobacco pouch. Mr. Ridge, in a little speech, referred to the excellent way Mr. Young had performed his duties, and, on behalf of the staff and himself, wished him the best of luck and every success. Mr. Young suitably responded.

MR. EDWARD COMPTON AT SHEFFIELD.

The twenty-sixth anniversary of the Compton Comedy Company was celebrated at the Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield, on Thursday evening, when a large audience assembled to witness the performance of *Davy Garrick*.
Mr. Edward Compton, on being called before the curtain, spoke as follows:—"Ladies and gentlemen, many and sincere thans for your presence here to-night. It is good to be back in Sheffield once more, and it is good to be playing *Davy Garrick* once more to such a friendly and enthusiastic audience. And now about to-night's celebration—the completion of twenty-six years' hard labour with the Compton Comedy Company. How do I feel about it? Well, I must own to a great pleasure and a little natural pride, for I believe such an event is absolutely unique in theatrical annals. When I started out on Feb. 7, 1881, I was told that I was a rash young man; that old comedy, like Shakespeare, 'spell ruin'; and that I should live to repent my foolhardiness in sackcloth and ashes. And yet here I am, after twenty-six years, still holding aloft the standard of legitimate comedy, not by any means sitting on any stool of repentance, but standing up before you elated with triumph, flushed with success, and more than ever determined to emulate Tennyson's brook and 'go on for ever.' During the period I have named I have always taken care to have a first-class, all-round company. I have always rehearsed every play thoroughly and often, and I have always costumed them correctly and well. I have revived numbers of old comedies and produced several new ones, and I have always clung to the ideal I started with—namely, to play only such pieces as made for good; and I think my audiences will bear me witness that 'the evening's amusement' has always borne 'the morning's reflection.' But there is one thing I am very sensible of—the constancy and support of the Press and the public all over the country, without which I could have done nothing. 'Beggar that I am, I am even poor in thanks, but I thank you,' and I can never thank you enough. By the way, I must not forget to tell you that to-night marks a double celebration, for my Mr. David Garrick, who first came into being on Feb. 7, 1884, attains his twenty-third year to-night. I hope you have found this rising young actor going strong and well, and not looking a day more than his twenty-three years. Again, let me thank you for your attendance and enthusiasm to-night, and permit me to wish you 'a grateful, warm adieu.'"

"HAMLET" IN HULL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
An air of eager expectancy filled the Theatre Royal on Thursday evening, when Mr. Harvey presented *Hamlet* to an audience which was as representative as it was vast in numbers.
From the outset it was obvious that the actor meant Hamlet to be a melancholy man. The question, Was he mad? was one that Mr. Harvey did not leave unanswered. There is too much method in it all; he has no tricks; he takes the audience into his complete confidence. They realise what his intention is from the first. The key-note to his conception is sounded in Act 1, "As I perchance shall think meet to put an antic disposition on," soon again emphasised in his answer to Polonius, "You are a fishmonger."
The reading is for the most part traditional, the only omission of importance possibly being "I might do it pat," in the King's Prayer scene. An interesting innovation is his mode of delivering the soliloquy, which some of our great actors have before to-day delivered sitting. Mr. Harvey spoke these familiar lines standing until just on the close, whilst another feature is the presence of Ophelia in the corner. A novelty is furnished also in the scene between Hamlet and the King respecting the body of Polonius: "At supper! Where?" Not where he eats, but where he is eaten of, in which the worst and barbaric side of Hamlet's nature is revealed, thus giving a fine finish to a magnificent act. In addition, we learn that Hamlet is really sent to England, a fact not usually cited.
Omitting the presence of the Ghost from the Closet scene, the audience appreciate more the force of the Queen's words, "This is the coinage of your brain." It is possibly in the Players' scene that Mr. Harvey scored most, the audience rising in their enthusiasm. The reading, whilst in the main is traditional, still allows Mr. Harvey many opportunities for revealing his own striking individuality and temperament, as well as the sincere reverence he bears the Divine Bard.
Admirable was the Polonius of Mr. Fred Wright, sen., who sees Polonius with true Shakespearean eyes, senile, yet sage at times, the comic relief amidst all the tragedy. Miss H. de Silva's Ophelia was winning for its sweet womanliness—weak and pitifully pathetic in the Mad scene.
The *mise en scène* was admirable, the colour scheme gorgeous. History was respected in every detail of the costumes, and the stage pictures were such as were well worthy so notable a production. The full resources of the Royal and the Morton management were freely given, and Mr. Tom Boyne and his assistants deserve praise for the work done, in conjunction with Mr. Harvey, in setting the heavy scenes.

PRESENTATION TO MR. STANDEN TRIGGS.

Mr. Standen Triggs, who recently resigned the position of managing-director of the Devonshire Park Company, Ltd., Eastbourne, has just been presented with a magnificent illuminated address from the staff of the establishment. The inscription is as follows:—
"Eastbourne, Dec., 1906. To A. Standen Triggs, Esq. Dear Sir,—We, the undermentioned 'old members' of the Devonshire Park and Baths Co., Ltd., beg your acceptance of this address and record of our service, as a token of the regard and esteem in which we have held you during the twenty-three years you have been our respected chief:—F. Baker, 28 years' service; J. Clement, 28 years; J. Kay, 28 years; J. Venus, 25½ years; H. Diplock, 23 years; S. Daw, 22 years; G. Gold, 19 years; Sergt. Goff, 18½ years; W. Lelliott, 15 years; A. Hedges, 14 years; E. Mockett, 13½ years; H. Mewett, 13 years; H. Bays, 11½ years; H. Streeter, 11½ years, W. Maddocks, 9½ years; E. Rich, 9 years; E. Allen, 7½ years; F. Webb, 6½ years."
In acknowledging receipt of the gift, Mr. Triggs sent the following letter:—"Moss Side, Purley, Surrey, Feb. 1, 1907. Dear Mockett,—I was in due receipt of your letter of the 30th ult., and yesterday afternoon the case advised came safely to hand. The receipt of this beautifully illuminated and happily worded address has afforded me most sincere gratification; and I desire through you to return my cordial thanks to all the old members whose names appear at the foot thereof. I hold them one and all in very kind remembrance for their many years of good and faithful service, and shall always be pleased to hear of their advancement and success. I should also like a word of thanks and appreciation to reach the artist for the excellent taste and execution displayed in his work. I am proud to give it a prominent position in my new home. Kindest regards to the whole staff.—Yours very truly, A. STANDEN TRIGGS."

MESSRS. H. LAZARUS and SON, the well-known theatre furnishers of 21, Great Eastern-street, E.C., have been favoured with the order to re-seat Olympia with their latest model tip-up chairs. The order, it may be said, was gained in face of strong competition.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"MADAME TANTALE."

Vaudeville in three acts, by MM. Henri Kéroul and A. Barré, produced at the Palais-Royal on Feb. 2.

Suzanne	MLLE. CHEIREL
Germaine	MLLE. SUZANNE DEMAY
Carmen	MLLE. MARTHE DERMINY
Odette	MLLE. LUCIENNE DELMAY
Justine	MLLE. CHARLOTTE DESROCHES
Cabassol	M. NUMÈS
Dubrisard	M. HURTEAUX
L'Inconnu	M. TREVILLE
Isidore	M. HAMILTON
Chapotel	M. BELLUCCI
Amilcar	M. JULLIEN

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
PARIS, THURSDAY, Feb. 7—The Palais-Royal, as we all know, gives us as a rule highly spiced farces. This time, however, they have beaten their own record, for anything more peppery than *Madame Tantale* cannot well be imagined. Moreover, the authors have helped themselves rather freely to incidents and situations already seen in other plays, like in *Mlle. Josette ma Femme* and *Vous n'avez rien à déclarer?* But this proceeding is now becoming so general that it is useless protesting against it. The plot is as follows: Suzanne has lost her husband. He went on a long sea trip, the steamer was shipwrecked, and his body never found. All that remains of the poor man is his plaster bust, at which his widow, who loved him dearly, gazes every day for hours. Although she is only thirty, and has had already many offers, she remains faithful to his memory, and does not think of remarrying. But two years have elapsed since her husband's death, and Suzanne finds herself placed in an awkward position. The departed owned an important factory whence she derives her principal income, and which she cannot manage by herself. She could easily find a capable man to conduct the business, but she deems it more prudent to entrust her interests to a second husband, provided that gentleman consents to treat her like a sister; and she commissions her friend Dubrisard to hunt up this *rara avis*. Dubrisard does not hunt very long, for, by a fortunate chance he receives the visit of his friend Cabassol, whom he has not seen for years. Cabassol has squandered his money; he has also squandered his health, and might be safely engaged as keeper of the harem. Suzanne ignores this latter peculiarity, and allows him to conduct her to the altar. They marry in a small seaside place, and take up their abode in a villa owned by a Mlle. Carmen. But Mlle. Carmen has a bracelet to which is affixed a miniature, in which Suzanne, to her horror, recognises the features of her late husband. And then she learns that the woman has been that gentleman's mistress for many years. She at once banishes from her sight the bust of the late lamented, and informs Cabassol that henceforth she will no longer be a sister but a wife to him. Cabassol receives this good news without enthusiasm. A curious-looking man then makes his appearance, a sunburnt creature, tattooed all over, his head shaven, wearing an Indian war bonnet. He is, he says, Suzanne's husband, and has just returned from Papouasia, where he reigned over a savage tribe. But he is so drunk that he is promptly put to bed; and when he wakes up sober he explains that he is only Suzanne's first spouse's servant. He confirms that his master was really drowned; and as Cabassol recovers his health, everything ends to everybody's satisfaction. I have drawn a veil over the objectionable scenes, and have purposely omitted to refer to a bronze statuette that plays an important but unpleasant part in the piece. I think we want a Censor very badly, and the sooner this functionary is reinstated the better. The new farce was very well interpreted. Mlle. Cheirel, whom we were glad to welcome once more on the boards of the Palais-Royal, was as amusing as ever; Mlle. Lucienne Delmay supplied a charming sketch of a little lady who leaves her corset in a cab; and the remainder of the cast worked with a will.
MM. Henri Kéroul and Albert Barré have also brought out a three-act vaudeville at the Folies-Dramatiques. It is called *Le No. 13*, and can be disposed of in a few words. M. and Mme. Chobert expect their friend, a Dr. Brodard, who wants to introduce his wife. This Mme. Brodard, whom nobody knows, is the heroine of "number 13," the number of a room in a hotel. She has an intrigue with Chobert, which the doctor discovers by sending Chobert into a hypnotic sleep. The doctor tries to avenge himself by laying a trap for Mme. Chobert, but fails. The piece is not particularly funny, but it caused the easily amused audience to laugh heartily, which is all the authors wanted.
The Comédie-Française gave us an excellent performance of *Electre*, the three-act tragedy by M. Alfred Poizat, after Sophocles, a full report of which has appeared already in these columns. Every justice was done to the work.
At the Odéon we had a capital revival of Alfred de Vigny's *Chatterton*. English readers are familiar with this powerful work; and we cannot but feel grateful to M. Antoine for having placed it once more on the répertoire.
THIS week has been a record one for theatrical lawsuits. First we had the action brought by the management of the Gaîté-Rochechouart against Mlle Parisette, from whom they claimed £400 forfeit. Who is Mlle. Parisette? The lady called herself a music-hall star, and was engaged as such for three seasons by the before-mentioned management. On the night, however, when she was to have made her first appearance she had mysteriously vanished, and her mother, who belongs to the honourable corporation of concierges, stated that her daughter had gone on a pleasure trip to South America, without even saying good-bye to her respected parent. Under these conditions the Court awarded the damages claimed; but as the fair defendant took all her property away with her the claimants will have to wait for their money.
ACTION number two is one by Mme. Jeanne Granier against M. Samuel, manager of the Variétés, from whom she claims £3,200 forfeit. M. Samuel had engaged the popular artist to take a leading part in M. Lavedan's new piece, to have been brought out in the course of this month. In the contract it was stipulated that Mme. Granier was to give one hundred performances at a salary of £28 per night. Instead, however, of producing M. Lavedan's play, M. Samuel gave a revue; and the lady applied to the Court for redress. The case is still under discussion.
THE heroine in case number three is the beautiful Liane de Pougy. It will be remembered that a few months ago Mlle. Liane met with a severe accident when her chauffeur ran into a cab. The public prosecutor took the matter up and hauled Roussin, the chauffeur in question, before our seventh police court. But as no witnesses answered to the call, the case was dismissed, but poor Mlle. Liane was mulcted in a fine for not having put in an appearance.
THAT charming actress Mlle. Berthe Bady is being subjected to a kind of "Bady-nage" that is anything but pleasant. A few months ago a young débutante took the pseudonym of Berthe Body. This gave rise to a few misunderstandings, but Mlle. Bady put up with the evil. Now, however, that a lady is making her bow to the audience under the name of Berthe Brady, the original Berthe Bady has become frantic, and asks herself what will occur if some more members of the theatrical world take liberties with her name and call themselves Baddy, Biddy, Bahdy, Bohdy, Buhdy, &c. Possibly, too, this delicate matter will be fought out in a court of law.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

The Grand Order of Water Rats have contributed one hundred guineas to the Strike fund, and a like sum has been allocated for the same purpose by the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association.

Mr. Henri Gros denies the statement made in a contemporary by "One Who is Not a Star" that he had been transferred without his consent from one music hall with six performances to one with twelve performances weekly. "If the writer," says Mr. Henri Gros, "can prove that he was changed without his consent being asked in the presence of his agent, I will redress any grievance, and over and above give £5 5s. to the Music Hall Benevolent Fund."

The order of The Scribe is to represent the song-writers and composers, who on Thursday at a meeting at the Savoy Palace Hotel founded the society, which will care for and foster the best interests of the melody-makers for the masses. The chair at the gathering was taken by Mr. Charles Wilmott, the pantomime author and lyricist, who will be the first president of the new organisation and its treasurer. Mr. Orlando Powell is the first vice-president; the secretary is Mr. Gilbert Wells. Among those present were Messrs. Harry Castling, H. E. Pether, Orlando Powell, Alfred Ellerton, Charles Wilmott, Dan Lipton, and Harry Adams, the veteran author of "On guard." It will be remembered that The Nibs was the first fraternity that represented song-writers and composers, and though even now this society is not actually defunct, the necessity for a league with larger aims has long been recognised.

Mr. Hayden Coffin will shortly appear at the Palace, and will present what is for him a novelty in some song scenas. Owing to the large number of requests Miss Vesta Tilley has received during the past week, she will revive some of the old favourites from her répertoire. "Following in Father's Footsteps" has already regained its popularity, and Miss Tilley has accomplished another hit in her rendering of "The Seaside Sultan."

The present strike in no way affects the Palace, and crowded houses are the rule at the fine variety theatre in Shaftesbury-avenue, so capably directed by Mr. Alfred Butt, who is popular with his staff, with his company, and with the public, whose servant he is proud to be.

The entertainment to be given on Monday at the Scala, under the auspices of the National Alliance, has been widely proclaimed by poster. It will be stage-managed by Mr. G. H. Dyball, late of the Tivoli. As Dr. Distin-Maddick holds a licence from the Lord Chamberlain the variety turns will become incidentals in a burlesque, in two acts, *A Night With the Stars*, with two scenes of an Oriental character, painted by Mr. Fred Storey. The burlesque, which will occupy about two hours, will have something of the character of a *revue!*

Mr. Max Goldberg (Mr. John F. Preston), its author, wrote the play, *The Secrets of the Harem*, which, it will be remembered, was interdicted by the Lord Chamberlain on June 26, 1901, while it was being presented by the author's company at the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham. The Turkish Embassy objected to some dialogue, which it was alleged directly attacked the Sultan, and the Lord Chamberlain felt bound, for diplomatic reasons, to take action. The play was produced in 1896.

Miss Marie Lloyd, it is stated, will be in charge of a programme brigade of ladies, but the popular little comedienne, at the time of going to press, is in bed with a severe cold.

A special feature of the programme will be pictures of the "Music Hall War," shown by means of Raymond's Bioscope. Mr. Neale, late the director of the orchestra at the Ealing Hippodrome, will lead a band of thirty.

We are pleased to state that Miss Rosa M. Lyons has recovered from a serious throat trouble, and will shortly resume work with the interesting sketch entitled *Nelly of the Veldt*.

Owing to the great increase of business in Neimann and Co.'s agency a partnership has been arranged with Mr. Ernest Leathley, well-known amongst concert and variety artists.

The usual monthly meeting of the Music Hall Sick Fund Committee will be held on Wednesday next at the York Hotel at 2 p.m.

The Terriers gave their fourth social concert of the season on Sunday last at the Dover Castle Hotel. The brethren and friends present numbered about sixty. Amongst those who contributed to the entertainment were Charlie Cornish, Steve Cooke, Miss Salter, W. L. Murray, Miss Rose Bancroft, Ernest D'Almaine, Miss Catherine Leslie, Herbert Knight, and Charlie Stelling. Mr. J. C. Moore presided at the piano; Mr. G. P. R. Burgess (hon. solicitor) was in the chair; and Mr. B. Woodger acted as M.C. The arrangement of the social and the comfort of all were well looked after by the secretary, Harry Lester.

There will be no meeting on Sunday of the Terriers, in consequence of the M.R.A.R.A. dinner and ball.

Mr. Frank Lynne, who has been laid up for the last two weeks with an attack of influenza, is now on his feet again, and hopes to resume work on Monday at the Hippodrome, Putney.

The weekly competitions introduced as additional attractions at the Stratford Theatre Royal are meeting with much favour. For this week, weight-lifting competitions are being held, with valuable prizes, and Volcano, billed as "the strongest man on earth," has been engaged to give exhibitions.

Miss Lily Lonsdale was presented by the ladies and gentlemen of Fred Karno's Football Match company with a magnificent bouquet also a valuable bag and purse at the Palace, Manchester, on Saturday night last, on concluding her pantomime engagement there.

Mr. Frank Poynton desires through our columns to give emphatic denial to the announcements of his death which have been inserted in some of the theatrical papers. He is very much alive to the essentials of his art, and though always anxious to add touches of realism to his portraits of living celebrities, he has no desire just at present to verify his impressions of dead heroes by meeting them in the "beyond."

Once again, for the fourth year in succession, will the Oxford and Cambridge crews visit the Alhambra on Boat Race night, a striking example of the popularity of the house.

Mlle. Von Etta, who claims to be "the world's greatest illusionist," made her first appearance at the London Hippodrome on Monday, when she gave a most mystifying performance. Von Etta enters a curious box, which rests on two stools, and is promptly locked inside. The box and its contents immediately float about in mid-air, and one is surprised to find mademoiselle tripping gaily along from the back of the theatre and right through the auditorium again. The box is unlocked, and, behold! there emerges from the box a lovely young lady. Von Etta performs all her illusions and makes twelve distinct changes of dress in a period of ten minutes.

The Palace of Varieties, Lancaster, was partially burned on Saturday afternoon, the damage being estimated at £2,000. Much valuable property belonging to the artists engaged at the house was destroyed, including a troupe of performing ducks belonging to the Prinellas.

Considerable interest is being evinced in the Palace of Varieties which is now being erected in Cheapside, Reading (opposite McIlroy's, Ltd.), and which is to be ready for opening by the end of September. The new theatre will have a handsome and imposing frontage to Cheapside, and will accommodate some 2,000 persons.

The plans, prepared by Mr. W. G. R. Sprague, the well-known theatrical architect, have been approved by the Reading Corporation, and the building is being erected by Messrs. T. H. Kingerlee and Sons, of Oxford. It will be run by a local company, whose intention it is to provide really high-class entertainments on the "Two-houses-a-night" system.

At the annual meeting of shareholders of the Hackney and Shepherd's Bush Empires on Wednesday morning, at which a 15 per cent. dividend for the year was declared, Dr. B. W. Broad, of Cardiff, proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Price, of Cardiff:—"That this meeting of Hackney and Shepherd's Bush Empire Palaces, Ltd., heartily approves of the action of their chairman, Mr. Oswald Stoll, in connection with the pending strike of artists, and tenders to him the thanks of the shareholders for his exertions on behalf of themselves and the patrons of their theatres."

To this Mr. Oswald Stoll replied as follows:—"At the present moment I should not like to dwell upon the matter of the strike. It does not trouble me very much, and I don't think there are any real grievances. When a strike is serious, there must be something of that kind underlying it, but there is nothing underlying it now, and in the nature of things the strike cannot last. I am at all times pleased to do the best I can in the interests of the shareholders and those employed by the companies, because I believe that unless there is harmony among them the business cannot be sound."

At the Sheffield County Court, before the Deputy Judge, on Friday, Feb. 1, Mr. S. H. Laycock, recently assistant manager at the Palace of Varieties, Attercliffe, brought an action nominally against Mr. T. Allan Edwardes, the proprietor, for three weeks' salary in lieu of notice. The Deputy Judge, in summing up, said the defendant had acted in a very upright and honourable manner towards the young man, and gave a verdict for the defendant with costs, to be paid at the rate of 2s. per month.

Mr. Walter Norman, the popular manager of the Hippodrome, Hastings, organised on the 1st inst. an entertainment for the benefit of the old and young inmates of the Rye Workhouse Infirmary. The programme was contributed by artists entertaining at the Hastings establishment named. Mr. Tom Maltby, late of the Bedford and Queen's Poplar, who now resides in the old Cinque Port, with his usual generosity provided tea, tobacco, fruit, and sweets for the old folks, and was ably assisted by Mr. Kings North Reeve, "The Mayor," Mr. Bert Maltby, and Mr. Charles Shotter.

Mr. Geo. Formby presented Mr. Will Dalton (Dalton's Agency) at the Palace, Plymouth, on Thursday, the 1st inst., with a handsome case of briar and meerschaum pipes. It was Mr. Will Dalton who first picked up Geo. Formby and placed him on the music hall stage, and his recent successes have been stupendous. Mr. Oswald Stoll is booming Formby, and he is topping bills. "I have seen him every house this week," says Mr. Dalton, "and he is no better than he was when I saw him eight years ago, which shows there must be talent lying idle waiting on golden opportunity. Mr. Dalton's recent letters re "Latent Talent" to this paper caused interest, and it is he who has pushed of recent years many unknown acts that are now receiving large salaries. Mr. Formby's gift is inscribed: "To W. Dalton, the person who started me."

During the winter nearly 4,000 hungry children have been entertained to substantial hot dinners at the Palace, West Hartlepool. Mr. Macnaghten, the proprietor, and Mr. Julius Simpson, his indefatigable manager, set the ball rolling by entertaining at their own cost 300 of the poor children of the town. This excellent example was followed by local tradespeople, including the "Buffaloes," who defrayed the cost of material for providing for further meals until the number of starving children fed has reached the above total.

The comic sports on Wednesday afternoon at the Powderhall Grounds, Edinburgh, in the cause of sweet charity, were a great success. Brilliant sunshine broke forth shortly before eleven, when the procession'sts began to assemble in the Waverley Market. First to arrive at the Market was a miniature battery on wheels conveying "The Boys of Chelsea School" from the Empire. Mr. Mark Sheridan headed a long string of motors. The Brothers Egbert came as the acrobatic dustmen in a cart drawn by an immense horse. Mr. Dan Rolyat, as well as the other leading pantomime personages, was present in mufti. An immense variety of costumes included a magnificent Fitz-James from the Lyceum, accompanied by an equally splendid Charles II. The pick of many beautiful set pieces was Cinderella's coach, a gorgeous equipage drawn by eight little Shetland ponies, awarded the first prize. Second came "St. Helena," and third an illustration of "Hello! hello! hello!" from the Empire, a young lady looking out from a bower observing that with her former adorer it was a case of "a different girl again."

A most amusing event was set forth as follows:—Each competitor to find his own coal. Each competitor to carry shoulder-high one ton of coal twice round the field. Anyone dropping same will be disqualified. Artists entered—Mr. Mark Sheridan, Mr. Dan Rolyat, Mr. Harry Conlin, Mr. Humphries (to carry overweight), Mr. Harry Lupino, Mr. Stephen Adeson, Big Ben Brown (also to carry overweight), Little George Le Clerq, Master Nipper Lupino, the Brothers Egbert, and Wee Wallace. No one allowed to carry the coal loose; must be in sacks or bags. Principal ladies were not allowed in this event owing to so many applying. First prize—nothing, presented by Haven Gottit. Second prize—ditto, but nicely decorated, presented by Hive Nixey. Third prize—twice the amount of ditto, presented by Dr. Stoney, I.O.U. These prizes to be received blindfolded in case of accidents.

The 120 yards' race caused great excitement. In the first heat the Egbert Brothers led the field. Amid loud shouts of "Hurry up, Walter," the couple struggled up the track, and Walter (Mr. Albert Egbert) broke the tape. Mr. Harry Conlin was hampered by his costume, and the young Lupinos, the Nipper, and Wee Wallace were nowhere. Another "lady," Mr. King, from the Empire, figured in the next lot who faced the starter, but he was nearest that official when Mr. Bay Russell (King's) finished. The order in the final was:—1, B. Russell; 2, Jock Thomson (Cooke's); 3, B. Elliot (Cooke's); 4, Phil Terry (Royal). The Egberts saw a chance of making up for lack of success when a big hamper of prizes was left "doing nothing." They were observed, however, and the prizes were lodged, much to the amusement of the crowd, in a place of security.

Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, with Prince Edward, visited the London Hippodrome on Saturday afternoon.

Princess Christian has given her patronage to a matinée performance at the Bedford on March 14 in aid of the North-West London Hospital, Kentish Town-road.

The annual dinner and dance of the M.H.A.R.A., to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the formation of the Association, will be held on Sunday at the "Horns" Assembly Rooms, Kennington. Mr. W. H. Clemart, the president, will occupy the chair, the vice-chair being taken by Mr. Douglas White (hon. treasurer). Seven o'clock is fixed for the reception; dinner, 7.30; conversazione, 10.30; dancing at 12.

Mr. Bert Clark (Clark and Hamilton) was on Tuesday formally expelled from the Federation by the Executive Committee, who passed a resolution condemning his attitude as calculated to retard the progress of the Alliance in general, and the Federation in particular. Mr. Clark is alleged to be the promoter of the conference among leading artists held at Frascati's on Friday of last week.

Father Bernard Vaughan, referring to the music-hall dispute in a speech at Lambeth Baths on Thursday night, said he regretted the strike because it has thrown thousands of the most charitable and best-disposed people in the kingdom out of work, and because it deprived the public of a much-needed recreation, which was supplied by the versatile talents of that most charming section of the community, the humorist, the comedian, the singer, &c.

No doubt many cranks would find fault with him for saying a good word for the music-halls, but why should he refrain from doing so? They supplied a demand that was needed in their befogged lands, where its citizens were driven under cover for their entertainments. He thanked God with all his heart that his toiling brethren and sisters had access to music-halls, which, with very rare exceptions, gave the people a very wholesome recreation for a very few coppers.

It will be remembered that the directors of the Palace Theatre some time ago sent out four bioscope operators to South Africa with instructions to take animated pictures of all phases of life in that country. The hippo hunt on the Zambesi is being shown nightly, but on Tuesday afternoon next will be seen a complete section of pictures from Rhodesia. This comprises some very striking films showing the now famous Victoria Falls, and depicting labourers accomplishing the feat of laying a mile of railway line in sixty minutes. This is understood to be a great engineering record, and is included in that section of the Cape to Cairo Railway which reaches Broken Hill. On Tuesday afternoon the audience will be composed of guests of the British South Africa Company, and will include many distinguished visitors.

The Music Hall Ladies' Guild desires to acknowledge with grateful thanks a cheque for £24 7s. 6d., received from Miss Maud Mortimer, collected by that lady on board the Kenilworth Castle after a concert given by herself and fellow artists. The following sums have also been received:—Miss Robinson (Oliver Holmes), 5s.; Miss Lottie Albert, 5s. 6d.; Miss Rose Harvey, 2s. 6d.; a gift of clothing from Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bawn (My Fancy). Contributions, in money or kind, should be sent to Anna de Grey, 69 Primrose-mansions, Prince of Wales's-road, Battersea Park, S.W.

The Three Golden Graces, in all the brightness of their youthful beauty, will, so Mr. Blyth-Pratt informs us, pose in graceful position as gold bronze works of art at the Oxford on Monday. Their representations of "The Bacchante" and "The Water Carrier" have been acknowledged both by the Continental Press and leading Academicians as perfect. The artistic exhibition once more emphasises the immortal words of Robbie Burns that "Auld Nature" "her 'prentice hand she tried on man, and then she made the lassies, O!"

Mr. Fred Reeves, the variety agent, whose illness we announced in these columns last week, is not progressing as favourably as was anticipated, and has had a slight relapse, owing to an attack of bronchitis. He hopes, however, to be about again shortly. Mr. Reeves is very sensible of the kindness of his friends who have sent letters (117) and telegrams (48), wishing him a speedy recovery. His medical adviser has ordered him away (as soon as he is able to leave his house) to Bournemouth or Hastings to recuperate.

Mr. Carter Livesey and Miss Lilian Rosebery were suddenly called upon by Mr. Alfred Butt to fill an important vacancy in the Palace programme on Tuesday evening with their successful skit, *The Would-be Actors Rehearsing a Drama*, and are being retained for the remainder of the week, by kind permission of Mr. Frank Glenister, of the London Pavilion, with whom they are now starring.

These talented artists will establish something like a record on Saturday, commencing with the Palace matinée, thence to Pavilion matinée, appearing again at the Palace 8.30 p.m., Pavilion 9.5, Queen's Hall 9.40, and Putney Hippodrome 10.50. Another company is now touring the provinces, and meeting with unbounded success.

Mr. Chas. M. Daly, the popular comedian and sketch producer, has, we are notified, joined forces with that successful song-writer and lyric composer Mr. Harry Taylor, the author of "Cecilia," "Never show the palm of your hand," "When the right little girl comes along," and many other successes that are published by Francis, Day, and Hunter, and William Hargreaves, &c. The first two productions under their joint-management are "I must have it" and "Oh, what a night!" The firm will trade and be known as Chas. M. Daly and Co. They commence on Monday at the Empire, Camberwell.

Camilla D'Alberg, who, by her impersonation of Vivette in the wordless play *La Main*, has proved, not only in the halls, but also in theatres, that she is a queen of pantomime, will shortly present a novelty to the public—a contrast to *La Main*, in that it is conceived in a spirit of comedy and is most humorous in its development.

The 499th meeting of the executive committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held on Wednesday afternoon, when the following were present:—Messrs. W. H. Clemart (president), Joe O'Gorman (chairman), Douglas White (hon. treasurer), Pat Carey, Geo. Booker, Fred Neimann, Joe Elvin (hon. trustee), Wal Pink, Bernard Stavordale, Frank Gerald, Charles Pastor, Fred W. Millis (V.P.), and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). Mr. O'Gorman presided for a portion of the proceedings, and Mr. Pat Carey for the remainder. The weekly financial statement was submitted, and was passed as read. Mr. Clemart proposed, and Mr. Frank Gerald seconded: "That this Association donate the sum of one hundred guineas to the Emergency Relief Fund of the Variety Artists' Federation." Mr. Dougles White proposed, and Mr. Fred Millis seconded, an amendment: "That one hundred guineas be donated to the Emergency Relief Fund of the V.A.F. and one hundred guineas be also donated to the railway charities." Three voted in favour of the amendment and five against it. The amendment was lost and the original proposition was carried.

The proceedings started by the common informer against Mr. Walter Gibbons, of the Empire Music Hall, Holborn, for producing stage plays in a building not licensed for that purpose, and made returnable for Monday, have been abandoned.

The annual ordinary general meeting of the Alhambra Company, Ltd., will be held on Monday at the Alhambra, at noon. The balance-sheet for 1906 shows gross receipts £85,908. After providing for debenture interest, &c., the net profit for the year is £11,075, which, with £10,558 carried forward from the previous year, makes a net balance of £21,633 to the credit of revenue. The dividend on the ordinary shares for 1906 is ten per cent., together with a bonus of two and a half per cent., or twelve and a half per cent. altogether. £9,633 is to be carried forward to this year's account. Mr. Alfred Moul and Mr. George Scott are to be congratulated.

Mr. Arthur Jefferson is responsible for another sketch, which was produced for copyright purposes at the Metropole Theatre, Glasgow, on Saturday last, the chief parts being played by members of the Albert and Edmunds troupe. The title chosen is *The Amateur Fire Brigade; or, the Fire Fighters of Frizzlington*

Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, and his old friend Felix McGlennon, were among those who shared the expenses of the funeral of the late Albert Hall, who died at Bradford on the 20th ult. in practically a state of destitution. The deceased wrote many successes, and his brains and pen did much for the advancement of more than one variety vocalist. It is sad to think, therefore, of the suffering and privation he must have endured during the hopeless struggle with the penury of his last days.

Mr. Jay Laurier, a comedian new to London (another of Mr. Joseph Wilson's finds), makes his first appearance on Monday at the Tivoli. This most promising turn is of a novel character, and report speaks highly of Mr. Laurier's refined and unforced humour. Miss Madge Lessing, supported by a full chorus, is appearing nightly in her pretty snow scene (specially painted for her by Mr. Bruce Smith), and achieves enormous success with her song, "Snowland," and the Prince and Princess de Broglie enter on the last week of their engagement, owing to contracts previously made for the Continent and elsewhere.

Messrs. Stanley Damerell and Cecil Rutland have written a new and original sketch entitled *In Bed*, which they will produce in a week or two. The two principal characters are a broker's man and an artist. The latter character will give the actor a chance of a rest during the performance, as it is enacted entirely in bed. Is *In Bed* a farce in pyjamas, we wonder? Mr. Cyril Maude plays a whole act of *Toddles* in these garments, and Mrs. Grundy was much exercised in her mind at the time of its production. The dear old girl has, however, quite calmed down since. Mr. Willie Edelsten has secured the novelty, and is booking it in conjunction with Messrs. Damerell and Rutland's successful sketch, *House Full*.

Two men were remanded at Clerkenwell on Saturday on a charge of being concerned in the theft of a silver skin rug, belonging to Miss Peggy Pryde, the rug being taken from her motor car while it was kept waiting for her during her performance.

Mr. John Lawson, who is announced to present *Vanity* at the Metropolitan next week, has been under the doctor with the prevailing "flue."

Miss Verona Philis, now playing with conspicuous success on tour the title-rôle in Messrs. Little and Darcy's *Red Riding Hood* company, is a daughter of the late Sara Beryl, whom we remember in the days of our youth as a delightful Tina, in *My Sweetheart*. Miss Philis is also a niece of the popular Miss Lelia Roze.

Mr. Richard Garnsey, who as "Field-Marshal Tom Thumb," created somewhat of a sensation at the Egyptian Hall fifty years ago, has just died at Wellington, Somerset, at the age of seventy-four. He was born on April 23, 1832. The original "General Tom Thumb," who was 31in. high, died in June, 1883.

The Scottish Meisters, who are this week at the Hippodrome, Coventry, will sail on Wednesday for the States, opening at the Colonial Theatre, New York.

Mr. Will Murray, the manager of the Palace, Blackburn, has been suffering for some time past with appendicitis, and on Monday was operated upon successfully at Guy's Hospital, where he is progressing favourably.

Mr. J. C. Whiteman, the indefatigable manager of the City Varieties, Leeds, took his eighth annual benefit at that house on the 1st and 2nd inst., and a bumper house assembled each evening for one long whole-night performance, at which every artist in the city appeared.

Mr. Collins's See-Saw Girls are making a great success in the *Aladdin* pantomime, now playing at the Grand Theatre, Birmingham. Under the direction of Miss Sybil Matthews, this dainty troupe go through their songs and dances in a graceful and captivating manner.

The annual theatrical football gala, in aid of the Liverpool charities, and several societies belonging to the profession, will be held on Tuesday, 19th inst. This event, which has been going on regularly for about twenty years, has been the means of raising many thousands of pounds.

Mr. Frank Leo writes from Hanley, under date Feb. 6:—"In your list of successes by the late lamented Albert Hall you include Wilkie Bard's 'One-and-a-penny a day.' This song was written and composed by yours very truly."

The success of the San Carlos Trio in Bonnie Scotland at the granite town has completely justified Don Juan A. Caicedo in launching this artistic enterprise in which Señora Caicedo, his accomplished wife, takes a leading part. The Aberdonians are delighted with the artistic combination, and the Northern capital, "Caledonia stern and wild," have a fine appreciation of what is really good in operatic art. We hope to see and hear the San Carlos Trio in London shortly.

Mr. Scott, father of Great Scott, the ladder king, whilst playing at the Scala Theatre, Antwerp, was accidentally shot in the leg by a cannon whilst passing under the stage. A very ugly and painful wound was inflicted, but, happily, he is now on a fair way towards recovery.

A matinée performance at the Birmingham Theatre Royal was given on Tuesday by a number of music-hall artists, in aid of St. Jude's Church Fund. At the close the Rev. Arnold Pinchard, vicar of the church, said, "Here you have an object lesson showing what ought to be the right relationship between the Church and the Stage. This prejudice is one of the most difficult to kill. From the bad old times it has come down to us, this bad old prejudice, which I and others are doing our best to kill. I believe it is the first time that this kind of thing has ever been done in England in order to help a poor church in a poor parish."

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

A number which is confidently expected to be in very great demand, and which is from the joint pens of Murray, Hilbury, and Leighton, has the striking title of "All alone in Old Cologne," and its publishers, Messrs Francis and Day, have received the gratifying intelligence that the song went so well in public on the night of its "trial trip" that it was deemed expedient to play the audience out with it at a well-known place of entertainment. The ditty is of the "free" order.

A song which will be much in evidence during the coming season in the hands of humorists is "Round the Clock; or, The Strenuous Life," sung by Mr. Fred Curtis. The words are by Frank Redmond, a member of Mr. David Day's staff, who has written more than one smart ditty for the firm, and the music is by T. W. Thurban.

Lovers of broadly comic songs are enquiring with avidity for "When they grow old," which, in the hands of Messrs. Tennyson and Wallis, has greatly pleased during the current week visitors to the Holloway Empire. It is by W. H. Wallis and Charles Collins, and is published by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter.

Three songs by those justly-celebrated writers, Clifton Bingham and Edward St. Quentin, have, by arrangement with Messrs. Morley and Co., of Great Portland-street, been published in America by the Wood Co., of Boston, Mass. They are "Hope," "Wanderers," and "Beyond." The well-known song by the same pens, "Queen of Love," is enjoying a great popularity in the States, it having been published in America by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter.

Miss Dora Lyric this week has made a hit with a song by Harry Castling and Maurice Scott, entitled "What's the use of knocking at an empty house?" This number is issued by the Star Music Co.

Miss Gladys Mavius, who is working the Stoll circuit, has arranged to feature an entirely new song by Mills and Scott, entitled "Jeannie McGregor," which will be issued shortly in the Star sixpenny editions.

Advices from America inform the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. that their delightful "song of sentiment," by Paul Pelham and Herbert Rule, "I'm thinking always of you" (which is couched somewhat in the same strain as the popular "Remember me to mother dear"), has "caught on" in the realm of Uncle Sam, and Mr. Fred Day, with an American edition of this popular song, is now wooing the suffrages of the New York song-buying public.

Mr. Jock Whiteford, who goes to America in a week or so, will make a special feature during his engagement in New York of Harrington and Le Brunn's "Waitin' for ma bonnie Jean," published in this country by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co., who are represented for all their publications by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter in America.

Messrs. Fred Godfrey and John Neat have just supplied the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. with a most original and tuneful comedy waltz-song, entitled "Come for a sail in my yacht," and so highly do the "placers" of this enterprising young firm think of this number that they are according permissions to a select number of prominent artists to sing the song, and already have the number in the press for early inclusion in their "Sixpenny Successes" series.

Mr. George Lashwood's two latest successful songs, which he is now exploiting on the Stoll tour and purposes producing in the West End on his return to London, entitled respectively "Georgie from Georgia," by Pelham, McGhee, and Rule, and "Don't forget to-night," by Harrington and Tate, form two important additions to the "Sixpenny Successes" series issued by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.

No. 59 of the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s "Sixpenny Successes" is Messrs. Percy Edgar and Kenneth Lyle's charming song, entitled "No, thanks, Mr. Octopus," which tells an idyllic story of an amorous many-armed denizen of the deep and a mermaid unwilling to respond to his "fishy" advances. This most original number will have a special production in New York at the hands of dainty Miss Alice Lloyd, when she opens there in a week or two's time.

One of the most charming songs that has yet emanated from the ever-busy pens of Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford is their tuneful new Teutonic number, "I'm going back to the Fatherland," which will be specially "featured" shortly by a prominent artist at a leading West End music hall. It is published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. in their "Sixpenny Successes" series.

The Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., have in the press two new coon songs, entitled "When you've time to spare," written by Percy Edgar and composed by Fred Douglas, and "I'm going to leave you now," written by Percy Edgar and composed by Walter Wilson (author of "Ain't dat a shame!"). A few permissions will be granted for these two numbers.

Miss Daisy Dormer will shortly feature a new coon song, entitled "The wedding bells won't ring for you and me," written and composed by Mr. Chas. Collins, which the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., have secured.

Miss Madge Lessing is at the Tivoli this week with a new song, entitled "Sleigh Bells; or, Come and sleigh, little girl, with me." This attractive number is written and composed by Messrs. Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford, from whom the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., have secured the publishing rights.

Miss Annie Purcell, fresh from her pantomime triumphs, makes a welcome reappearance at the Tivoli next week, where she will feature Castling and Murphy's dainty Welsh love song, "On the Isle of Anglesey." Miss Purcell will sing this song (which is issued by the Star Music Co.) in character, and hopes to make it a worthy successor to "Zuyder Zee."

Miss Nancy Langtyre is another charming principal boy who has been persuaded to take to the "halls." This week Miss Langtyre (who made a conspicuous success at the Camden Theatre as the Prince in *Cinderella*) has been appearing at the Holloway Empire, where her rendering of the ubiquitous "Sailing in my balloon" has secured for her hearty applause.

Mr. A. E. Darewski will, on the evening of Thursday next, the 14th inst., manage at Bechstein Hall a grand concert, under distinguished patronage, in aid of the Home for Incurable Children, N.W., and the programme will be contributed to by many celebrated artists by kind permission of their respective managers. Among the names in the preliminary list are those of Misses Marie Dainton, Winifred Hare, Annie Mars, Mabel Green, Mabel Love, Pearl Lyndon, and Gladys Marsden, and Messrs. Boris Hambourg, Barclay Gammon, Richard Green, Walter Hancock, Humphrey Bishop, H. Lane Wilson, Stanley Adams, Ward Cowdery, Albert Archdeacon, Percy Frostick, and Master Max Darewski. At the piano will be Signor Valenza, Mr. Otley Marshall, and Miss Irene Asdaile.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE OXFORD.

Mr. Blyth-Pratt has secured a very remarkable attraction for the Oxford in *The Stunning Grenadiers*, whose "call to arms" at this fine house every evening reveals a brigade of lady guards of rare charm, beauty, and shapeliness. They bivouac, they drill, and they sing their choruses with as much *entrain* as if they were barrack-room ballads. They are officered by Meredith Meredro, who is termed *the* American prima donna. Though we think it is quite likely that the United States possesses more than one prima donna, Miss Meredro is quite good enough to go on with, and sings really well, displaying a wonderful range of voice in her burlesque of the methods of a lady star in New York. The novelty is in three scenes, and with the second—The Purple Palace—the pretty and chic military costumes, specially designed by Comelli, tone exquisitely. In one of the scenes a French soubrette sings a vocal waltz, and is presently joined by the conductor, Jesse L. Losky, who has charge of Mr. W. Burgess's orchestra during the exploitation of the novelty, which is staged by Bothwell Browns. A "striking" item of *The Stunning Grenadiers* is the cymbal clashing accompaniment to one of the selections, and the note of humour is sounded in the final item, in which the ladies burlesque Sousa, the march composer, and his method of conducting. *The Stunning Grenadiers* is a brilliant production, and its attractiveness is beyond dispute.

It is pleasant to encounter in one's travels round the halls such a well-written and amusing sketch as *327 Finsbury*, which is being presented here nightly by Mr. Arthur Playfair and Miss Maud Wynter. The actress represents Mrs. Leslie, a fascinating and rich widow, who wishes to gain a name on the turf. Under the name of Jones, she has backed winners to the discomfiture of the Paddocks Bureau, represented by Rolf Tremayne, who has come by mistake to her flat. Taking him into her confidence, she tells him she has backed a "treble" with his firm. It comes off, and to save himself from bankruptcy Tremayne offers his hand, heart, and a share in the Derby favourite which he owns, to Mrs. Leslie, who, delighted at the prospect of becoming a turf celebrity, consents. A very amusing bit of business in the sketch is the ecstatic description of an imaginary race for the Derby by Tremayne, whose alternating anxiety and joy are shared by his *fiancée*. Mr. Arthur Playfair, who is no stranger to the variety boards, makes a light-hearted and amusing Tremayne, and Miss Maud Wynter plays very naturally and breezily as the widow.

Among the single turns is the popular and dainty comedienne Miss Amy Clevere, who long since joined the cohort of Oxford favourites. Miss Clevere 'witches and captivates us in a sentimental ballad which throws a halo of romance round an old oak tree—a pretty melody indeed, and one that is sung with heart and voice by the artist, who looks exceedingly pretty in her costume of blue. Miss Alice Hollander scores a great success with Teresa del Riego's "O, dry those tears"; and Mr. Bert Coote's Yankee-Doodle Girls interest us all the time they are on the stage in their spirited evolutions and well-executed coon dances.

Mr. F. A. Martell presents a remarkable act, and performs the very singular feat of dancing on his finger-tips—a piece of topsy-turveydom which creates a decided sensation. The Sisters Caselli are extraordinary dancers, being much applauded in their lissome legmania; Mr. Robert Dohn imperils his cervical vertebræ at every performance with his formidable weights, but always comes up smiling; Percival, the pianist and humorist, deputises with success in both capacities; and on the night of our visit Mr. Rex King presented an impersonation of the hardy tar who nearly discovered the North Pole with Dr. Nansen. The best thing in Mr. King's entertainment was his imitation of the facial expression of two speakers at a political meeting. The audience laughed heartily at the whole business, for which we predict a very great success. Other turns announced in a most attractive bill are Mr. James Fawn, Mr. Morny Cash, Mr. Frank Lynne, Mlle. Olga Doré, Miss Bertha Stuart, the Great Ikondo Japanese Troupe, the Five Whiteleys, Lanos and Montes, Xaver, and Ruffell's Bioscope.

THE BEDFORD.

Despite the exigencies of the music hall war, by which the Camden Town Hall, in common with many others, is affected, Mr. B. P. Lucas and his able lieutenant, Mr. A. F. Lovesey, have got together an excellent programme. Perhaps the names are not those of artists as well known as those which it is customary to find in the bill, but on acquaintance one finds them of a high order of merit, and on the evening of our visit the hall was filled with a large audience, who seemed thoroughly satisfied with the fare provided. The top of the bill consists of a sketch, entitled *The Power of Music*, which is presented by Messrs. F. S. Jennings and Jan Rudenyi. The plot is quite slight, but it serves to introduce that fine violinist, Jan Rudenyi, who is a perfect artist and master of his instrument. His selections are greatly admired, and fairly brought down the house. Miss Dora De Winter and Mr. J. D. Saunders also lend valuable support in this little dramatic episode. Another popular turn is that of Miss Evelyn Taylor, who thoroughly merits all the applause she secures for her smart singing of her excellent numbers.

Wrestling has always been a great attraction at the Bedford, and the habitués of this hall are very keen critics of the sport. Mr. Lauritz Neilson, the world's ex-middle-weight champion wrestler, is also in the bill, and is offering £25 to the person who succeeds in throwing him in fifteen minutes. He has met with several very strong opponents during his visit, and the matches are watched with intense interest. A very smart illusionist is Selvini, who seems to be able to produce anything out of nothing, as it were, and at the art of card-manipulation he is a master. Mr. Bert Kemble is to the fore with his songs, and goes well; and another entertaining comedian is Mr. Charles Harvey, who patters along and keeps the audience in rare humour, winding up his turn with a decidedly quaint song, "I ain't a-going to wait any longer," which was so diverting that the audience wanted more. The Sisters Julian are a very charming couple of ladies, who have a very pretty duet, "Will you love me in December as you used to do in May?" the refrain of which catches on decidedly. They also sing another, "Honey, will you miss me when I've gone?" and wind up their pleasing turn with a neatly-executed dance.

Miss Lena Penrose and company appear in a short dramatic sketch, *The One Too Many*, the scene of which is laid in Peru, and is elaborately mounted. The sketch is well acted, Miss Penrose being admirably suited to her part, and acting with skill. The names of the characters and the actors are omitted from the programme, but we should specially like to pay a tribute to the gentleman who played the title-rôle. It is a capital piece of work, and deserving of high praise. The Four Sisters Victoria are most entertaining in their musical selections, and Miss Vera Mayne sings well "All that glitters is not gold," the chorus of which is enthusiastically taken up by the gallery boys. Miss Ethel Collins, the South African prima donna, meets with success; and Kid Johnson and Maisie Pelham are most welcome with their act, "The Golf Match." Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, with several fine films, brings the programme to a close. The orchestra is under the able direction of Mr. G. R. Hatley, and acquit themselves well. Mr. A. F. Lovesey, the courteous manager, as usual, does all in his power for his patrons' enjoyment and comfort at this comfortable hall.

THE METROPOLITAN.

The outside of the "Met.," on the Edgware-road, was being patrolled by pickets and police when our representative arrived, and "literature" was distributed among the crowd, who were exhorted by good-humoured policemen to "pass on, please." Mr. Edgar had grappled manfully with the "boycott," and had provided deputies for the Federationists who had been called out. Among those "missing" were the Sisters Pine, Mr. Harry Grey, the Leonards, Miss Elsa Joel, Miss Millie Payne, and Mr. Will Cornish. Mr. D. M. Trytels' orchestra and the stage hands mostly remained loyal. Early in the evening Mr. George English and Miss Flo Penley appeared in a musical comedy duologue, and laughter and applause were evoked by the winsome ways and vivacious acting of the lady, who proved herself to be irresistible in an impersonation in which she displayed her ability to great advantage. Mr. George English, a sound actor, who learnt his business in the "legit.," gives excellent support, and the trifle is entirely agreeable.

At the end of the bill tragedy is in the air while Mr. John Lawson and an excellent company are presenting *The King's Minister*, written by that apostle of the commercial drama, Mr. Cecil Raleigh. The chief of the Cabinet of the English Empire dines at a Soho restaurant with a lady, who knew him and loved him in his salad days. She can help him in a matter that can only be satisfactorily dealt with by a woman of resource and tact. It concerns the future of his daughter, who has written indiscreet letters to a lover who no longer commands anybody's respect. The packet of *billets-doux* are handed over at the little dinner. The tragedy turns on a trifling incident. The Minister leaves his pocket-book behind. It contains a number of notes, and is marked with his initials in gold. The lady takes care of it, but the greedy eyes of the restaurateur are watching her, and he coolly murders her for its possession. He endeavours to blackmail the Minister, who outwits him and commits suicide to save his honour. Mr. John Lawson in the title-rôle plays in a powerful and interesting manner.

We have heard many ballad-singers at the Edgware-road house, but few of the calibre of Miss Louise Zetland, who is well suited with Tosti's "Good-bye," a favourite selection of the great prima donna, Melba. "Sing me to sleep" is also a popular melody that Miss Zetland interprets with much taste, and her reception is a pleasing proof that a music-hall audience invariably appreciate the cultured vocalist *with a voice*. Miss Clara Mathers, who is taking the place of one of the absent turns, displays considerable ability as a trick pianist, playing blindfolded, and imitating both the church and the piano-organ. As she is not supposed to be a character actress she should avoid appearing in the short dress ornamented with a sash that would be worn by a child of ten. Mr. George Croft, another entertainer at the piano, was much too hurried in his delivery. He introduced a scene from *The Mariners of England*, with the characters of Nelson and Captain Lebaudy—a tactical mistake when one takes into consideration that but one or two of the audience had ever seen the piece. Miss Violet Carlyle, divinely tall and endowed with a telling voice, has a couple of songs of domestic sentiment, to which she does full justice. "My snowdrop pearl" possesses a haunting refrain, and there are qualities of melody in "Two loving eyes" that appeal to any popular audience. Mr. Jack Charman has a favourite ditty in "May I come home again?"; and Miss Bessie Benson puts plenty of go into the coon number, "Good-night, Mr. Brown, I'm out." Miss Mabel Bardini and company interest everyone in the story of *Nell of the Music Halls;* the Romsakoff Troupe of Japanese Guards present a turn numbering many bright and interesting features; and an excellent series of films is projected by Jeapes. Tom and Edith Felix as clown and clowness are popular; and Mr. Jock Whiteford is also announced.

For Notices of other Halls, see Page 16.

GEORGE GRAY

AT THE EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
UNIVERSALLY POPULAR.

The Fighting Parson has at last met more than his match. *Parson Gray, V.C.*, is unquestionably his superior in every way. When one remembers the universal popularity of Mr. George Gray's well-known sketch, the probability of the new-comer soaring to what must be the first position in anything the author-actor has yet attempted may, to some people, appear difficult to realise. In *Parson Gray, V.C.*, however, there is a concentration of dramatic effect which is rarely seen. It would seem next to an impossibility almost to compress into a short music-hall sketch incidents so grim, so sternly realistic, and at times so intensely pathetic. Though but a thirty minute piece, one seems to go away with the impression of having witnessed a melodrama of three or four full acts. It may fairly be claimed for the general idea underlying the sketch that it does not overstep the bounds of reason in giving opportunities to a particular class of character which the chief actor's name has always been familiarly associated with. The domestic complications that are responsible for "Parson Gray" quitting the scene of a work to which he is so devoted and transplanting him amid the din of the battlefield need not be told. But all is cleverly worked out. From succouring the wounded to achieving acts of gallantry, culminating in his winning of the "V.C.," this fearless spirit seems endowed with qualities that stand out for admiration. Altogether, it is a stirring sketch, and one that is certain to make a name for itself in the present hands. It was produced last night for the first time, and when the curtain went down the applause was indeed great. Mr. Craig, the general-manager, congratulated Mr. Gray before the footlights on the success of the piece, and the many admirable things that gentleman said of it were cordially approved by the audience, as was evidenced by the applause which punctuated his remarks.—*Bradford Telegraph.*

SAN CARLOS TRIO

AT ABERDEEN.

A CORDIAL RECEPTION.

The San Carlos Trio of operatic vocalists, at the Aberdeen Palace, entered on their second week's engagement with marked success. These cultured singers appear in entirely different rôles this week, and, if anything, appear to better advantage. The Aberdeen public appear to appreciate them more the more they see of them, and last night they had a most cordial reception. — *Aberdeen Free Press*, Feb. 5, '07.

FINE SINGING AND GRACEFUL ACTING.

Those accomplished operatic artists, the San Carlos, who created so favourable an impression last week by their fine singing and graceful acting, made an equally attractive and successful appearance last night in a complete change of programme.—*Aberdeen Daily Journal*, Feb. 5, '07.

MOSS EMPIRES' PURCHASE.

The report of the directors of Moss Empires, Ltd., states that the profits from theatres, rents, &c., during the year amount to £144,621, against £108,766 in 1905.

The directors have entered into a contract to purchase the Grand Theatre, Birmingham, under which the company got possession on March 1. The directors were of opinion that they would have been neglecting the interests of the shareholders had they failed to avail themselves of the opportunity which presented itself of acquiring this large centrally-situated theatre.

THE LATE MR. JAS. CHAPPELL.

Amid many tokens of sorrow and regret the funeral of the late Mr. James Chappell took place on Monday, when the remains were conveyed to London for interment in the family grave at Bow Cemetery. A special mortuary car was attached to the 7.35 London express from Southtown Station, Yarmouth, in which the coffin, which was accompanied by a large number of wreaths, was placed. The coffin, which was of polished oak with massive brass plate and fittings, bore the inscription:—

JAMES CHAPPELL DOSSETT,
Born Dec. 15, 1829;
Died Jan. 30, 1907.

Among those present at the station to take a last glimpse of the coffin of their old friend were Mr. J. Ellis, Mr. C. Ellis, Mr. C. Panchen, Mr. G. Baxter, Mr. E. B. Orpen, Mr. Walter H. Nightingale, and Mr. Leslie Reed, an old member of the Beach company. Under a provision in his will the deceased gentleman expressly exempted any ladies from the mournful duty of attending his funeral.

The following is a list of floral tokens sent to the Southtown Station with the coffin:—Harp, with broken string, a token of fondest love, from his loving and sorrowing wife. The harp was composed of lilies of the valley, roses, arum lilies and palm leaves and tied with white ribbon. Wreath, a love token to dear father, from James and Clara. Wreath, a love token to dear father, from his loving and devoted daughter, Sara. Wreath, in fond and loving memory of dear father, from Emma and John. Chaplet, in loving memory of our dearest grandpa, Bert, Di, Jim, and Nan. Cross, to grandpa, Bert, Di, Jim, and Nan. Cross, to dear grandpa, from his loving granddaughters, Kate, Annie, and Daisy. Cross, to dear grandpa, from his loving grandchildren, Burdett-road, Bow. Wreath, in loving memory, George and Arthur Baxter. Harp, in affectionate remembrance of an old friend, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Nightingale. Wreath, sincere sympathy and deep regret, Mr. Walter Nightingale. Wreath, with deepest sympathy, from Mr. T. Green and Miss Green. Wreath, sincere sympathy and remembrance of a dear friend, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ellis. Cross, in loving remembrance, from Chas. and Freda Ellis. Anchor, with deepest sympathy, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Gilbert. Wreath, with deepest sympathy, Jenny Wilshak and family. Wreath, with deepest sympathy, John Symonds, Great Yarmouth. Wreath, with deepest sympathy, John Buck, Great Yarmouth. Harp, with deepest sympathy, Mr. and Mrs. Archie Trew, Forest Gate. Heart, in affectionate remembrance, from Dr. James Riley and directors of Britannia Pier Co. Wreath, in remembrance, from his Friday evening friends. Wreath, with sincere regards from an old pal of thirty years, Tom Maltby, London and Sandgate. Wreath, in sincere sympathy, Messrs. J. and W. Goode. Wreath, with sincere sympathy, Mr. and Mrs. Holmes and family, Cromwell Hotel. Wreath, sincere sympathy, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Wharton. Cross, from Joyce and Ruth. Harp, deepest sympathy, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gilbert, Lowestoft. Cross, in loving memory, from Mrs. Fred Riley and daughters. Wreath, deepest sympathy, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Reed. Floral tokens of regard were also received from Messrs. Morris, Michael and Fred Abrahams, Ernest D'Almaine, Ellis W. Laing, Fred Brown, P. Hynes, Langdon, Bartlett, Gibbon, the Terriers' Association, staff of Chappell and Co., &c.

At Liverpool-street Station the coffin was placed in a funeral car with glass case. Four pair-horse broughams conveyed the mourners, who were Mr. James Chappell (son), Mr. J. Lawton (grandson), Mr. J. Bartlett (son-in-law), Mr. J. Bartlett, jun. (grandson), Mr. F. Bartlett (grandson), Mr. Charles Cavalier, Mr. W. Johnson, Mr. J. C. Baker, Mr. E. Thomas, and Mr. H. Bartlett. Proceeding by way of Houndsditch and Whitechapel-road, and slightly halting outside the Pavilion Theatre, Bow Cemetery was reached about 12.15. A large assembly had congregated here to meet the cortège, including Messrs. Morris Abrahams, Isaac Cohen, D. Munroe, Michael Abrahams, Fred Brown, Philip Rutland (family solicitor), Dr. Ambrose, the Rev. Father Murphy, Tom Carney, Ralph Hart, Barney Hart, J. Wright, J. and L. Abrahams, J. Howell (G.E.R.), G. Barnard, W. Jacobs, F. Moscatti, T. Deeks, Col. Diver, J. Richards (Willing's), A. Abrahams ("Coach and Horses"), W. G. Ulph, James Smith, Ernest D'Almaine, Fred Riley, C. Cox, H. Moore, J. Wright, H. W. Hillier, Samuel Gunton, W. Laing, G. Herring, R. J. and B. T. Tucker, C. Oxford, J. R. Roberts, M. Gostling, Alderman Pascoe (Hammersmith), E. Davy (Davy and Son), President of London Billposters' Association, W. Barry (Bruton and Co.), Jones, Wigg, Gill, Baker, J. Davy, staff of the firm, staff of the Queen's, Poplar, &c. Needless to say the cemetery's pretty little church was packed to its utmost capacity, and the scene was very affecting. In impressive tones the minister, the Rev. J. T. Wyatt, read the funeral service, and then all proceeded to the family grave in the rear of the sacred edifice, where the remains were laid to rest.

THE SEVEN SAVONAS

AT THE PALACE, DERBY.

A DELIGHTFUL MUSICAL TURN.

Popular as the entertainment provided at the Palace Theatre of Varieties invariably proves, there are weeks when it may be said to be of a very specially attractive character, and the present is one of those occasions, the bill including the Seven Savonas, whose most elaborate and delightful musical turn, though not new locally, is sure to be received with rapture by those who see and hear it. The Savonas who, by the way, constitute the only Saxophone band in existence, enjoy a deservedly high reputation for the entertainment they provide, and there is no mistaking the popularity which they have established by their performances locally. Perviously they have only presented their musical festival at one of the two performances given each evening, but for the present visit special arrangements have been made for it to be given at each performance, and such being the case none need fear disappointment. From a spectacular as well as from a musical point of view the turn ranks in a class by itself, and those who have not seen the Seven Savonas as they appear and perform in a scene entitled "The Palace of Orpheus," the cost of which is said to be £2,000, have a treat in store. Most notable of all is "The Storm Scene" from the famous overture of *William Tell*, a masterly and most realistic performance, in which the elements of a storm are reproduced with wonderful effect. In the course of their performance they introduce many new and quite novel instruments, and we would repeat that a visit to the Palace merely to make the acquaintance of the Seven Savonas will well repay one.—*Derby Express*, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 1907.

"KING BABY."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—"*Her* Majesty the Baby," as a song (also suggested by the famous picture) is now nearly seven years old, having been born in May, 1900. As Miss Vesta Tilley declined to adopt her, she became the protégée of Frank Dean and Co., and was very successfully sponsored by Miss Edith Rose, Mr. Bert Dansie, and other well-known artists. And her only parent is, Yours faithfully,

Kentish Town, Feb. 5. CHARLIE OSBORNE.

THE weekly matinées at the Hippodrome, Putney, have been discontinued.

THE MUSIC HALL DISPUTE.

PEACE IN SIGHT.

We had scarcely gone to press last week when we heard that level-headed advice had been allowed a hearing, and that conciliation was in the air. This good news seemed to receive confirmation from the speech of Mr. Joe O'Gorman on Sunday at the Scala, where he announced that he had been on a most important mission in connection with the dispute—"a mission which I hope sincerely, and I have every reason to be convinced, will now lead to an honourable and amicable settlement to all parties concerned." Mr. O'Gorman had evidently founded his hopes on a conference that had been arranged for Monday at the Trocadero. This took place under the presidency of Mr. Joe Lyons, a friend both of artists and managers. The managers were represented by Mr. Henri Gros, Mr. Henry Tozer, Mr. G. A. Payne, Mr. J. L. Graydon, Mr. Tom Barrasford, Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Henry Sutton, and Mr. H. H. Wells; and the artists by Miss Marie Lloyd, Mr. Arthur Roberts, Mr. John Kurkamp, Mr. Carl Hertz, Mr. Arthur Rigby, Mr. Bert Clark, Messrs. Fairbanks and Parker (Gotham Quartet), Mr. Joe Elvin, Mr. Wal Pink, Mr. Alec Hurley, Mr. Joe O'Gorman, and Mr. Paul Martinetti.

At the outset there was trouble. The managers declared that in no circumstances would they treat with the Alliance as a body, and would recognise its members and officers merely as artists and employees. Mr. O'Gorman, the chairman of the V.A.F., immediately withdrew, and his example was followed by Messrs. Elvin, Martinetti, and Pink. The other artists remained, and took part in the conference.

Mr. Henry Tozer, who acted as secretary, at the conclusion of a protracted session, made the following official statement:—

"A definite and satisfactory agreement between the chief 'stars' and the managers has been arrived at.

"Certain clauses in contracts were open to misinterpretation, and gave the idea that the managers held a giant's power over the artists. By agreement these clauses have been modified and defined.

"The question of the stage hands and musicians was mentioned at the meeting, but nothing was done with regard to their position. Their case will be considered separately and individually later on.

"So far as the 'stars' are concerned, the matter is now at an end. The agreement which I have in my pocket will be signed to-morrow by all of them, and they will recommend their brother artists to accept it. Until it is signed, we cannot publish the terms.

"Legal proceedings will be dropped, and the 'stars' will reappear at the different halls in the course of a few days."

ALLEGED AGREEMENT.

Late on Monday night a manifesto was issued, signed by Mr. Harry Mountford, the chairman of the Alliance, and by the three secretaries of the joint organisations, Messrs. Frank Gerald, J. B. Williams, and William Johnson. It ran as follows:—

There is no truth in the rumours of an approaching settlement of the music hall war. There is no "third party" in the National Alliance. The result of the conference between certain members of the V.A.F. and the managers has in no way affected the strike.

The happenings of the next few days will doubtless convince everybody of the fact that the strike is still in progress, and the National Alliance still firmly entrenched in its position. It is regrettable that a few artists, led away by the misrepresentation of a member, since expelled from the V.A.F., consented to hold a parley with the managers. However injudicious it may have been on their part, we are convinced they had no idea of abandoning the cause, and that they will never do so.

The last word of the National Alliance, composed of the V.A.F., the A.M.U., and the N.A.T.E., is that the National Alliance must be recognised, and that no settlement will be possible other than between the directors as accredited representatives of their companies and the official representatives of the allied societies.

The alleged agreement was also repudiated by Mr. Arthur Roberts in the following telephone message to the V.A.F.:—"Please tell the committee, on behalf of Miss Marie Lloyd, myself, and others, that the report that is all over London that we have settled affairs with the managers is a lie. We only went to listen to this proposal, and signed and settled nothing."

The London Entertainments Protection Association had previously issued the following official statement:—"While ready, as it always has been, to listen to and discuss with artists any real grievances in order to remove such, if any, as may be found to exist, the Entertainments Protection Association refuses absolutely to recognise the Alliance, or to treat directly or indirectly with its officials. The Association will consider all important questions that have been raised with a view to harmony and confidence being fully restored."

TRADE UNION INTERVENTION.

On Tuesday the situation was further complicated by the intervention of three representatives of the General Federation of Trade Unions. At the offices of the Entertainments Protection Association, Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. H. Tozer, and Mr. G. Adney Payne, acting on behalf of the managers, met Alderman Mitchell, secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions; Mr. W. C. Steadman, M.P., secretary of the Trade Union Congress Parliamentary Committee; and Mr. Edmund Browne Browne, standing counsel of the General Federation. It is understood that these three officials, who represent the two million trade unionists in the United Kingdom, intervened with the object of securing a settlement not affecting the artists alone, but embracing the whole body of the strikers. As a result of their deliberations with the three managers, it was agreed to recommend that all questions in dispute, including the modified form of contract provisionally agreed upon at the Trocadero conference, should be referred to a committee of eight—the managers to be represented by Mr. H. Tozer, Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Henri Gros, and Mr. Walter Payne, and the artists, musicians, and stage employees by Alderman Mitchell, Mr. Steadman, Mr. Browne, and Mr. Arthur Roberts.

ANOTHER ALLIANCE MANIFESTO.

Under the heading "The truth about the present situation," the National Alliance has circulated the following, signed by Messrs. Johnson, Gerald, and Williams, secretaries of the three bodies composing the Alliance: "The time has come for introducing the public to the true inwardness of the recent developments in the music hall war. It is a matter of regret to the executive committee of the National Alliance that misconception of the actual state of affairs has grown in some quarters. The actual facts are these: Messrs. Steadman, Mitchell, and Browne came into the case as a result of the Alliance's appeal to the great Labour organisations which these gentlemen represent. This was a movement which we always contemplated, and one which we consider of far weightier import than the closing of a few music halls, and it formed part of our programme from the very beginning of the strike. Messrs. Steadman, Mitchell, and Browne have been, during the last few days, inquiring into the situation to obtain the statements of both sides as to what they considered their rights and grievances. When this inquiry is concluded they will report to their respective organisations and to the National Alliance. This, then, is the explanation of the goings and comings of this commission and the conferences to which they have been party. The settlement of the strike can only come by all the music hall managers recognising the authorised representatives of the Variety Artists' Federation, the Amalgamated Musicians' Union, and the National Association of Theatrical Employees."

It is also understood that the National Alliance is fully prepared to take over and operate as an Alliance house a London music hall now running. This matter has been in negotiation for some days, and all preliminaries have been arranged. Unless the strike is settled meanwhile to the satisfaction of the Alliance it is stated that this music hall will be opened to the public under the new régime within a fortnight.

MORE HALLS BOYCOTTED.

On Tuesday the executive of the National Alliance decided to attack two more halls, and an attempt was accordingly made to close the Metropolitan and Chelsea Palace, of which halls Mr. Henri Gros is the managing-director. It is understood that this step was taken as a sufficient answer to the managers' contention that the strike was over. At the conclusion of the first house Mr. J. Norman Berlin stated that in consequence of the fiat of the National Alliance three of the artists under contract to appear had refused to do so. He trusted the two extra turns he had provided were to the satisfaction of the audience, but if any were not satisfied he would be pleased to see them at the box-office. In the second house Mr. Henri Gros, after making a similar statement, declared his gratification that the orchestra and stage hands had remained loyal to him. As far as he could see, the grievances of the artists were few and far between, and he thought that it was highly probable that an arrangement of the whole matter would be arrived at shortly; but, at any rate, he could assure his patrons, no matter what the result was, no efforts would be spared by him to provide them with a programme of the usual standard of excellence.

At the Metropolitan Mr. Jack Edgar explained the situation to the audience, and Mr. Henri Gros also spoke, the gist of his remarks being contained in the following manifesto:—"The sudden attempt by professional agitators to prevent your evening's enjoyment is based upon misrepresentation. No grievance by any artist, musician, or stage-hand employed at this theatre has ever been alleged. The amounts of salaries and wages paid will be published, so that the public can judge for themselves. The performance will positively take place to-night and every evening."

LATEST FROM THE FRONT.

The feature of the negotiations on Thursday for a settlement of the dispute was the fact that Mr. Wal Pink was summoned to attend at the conference between the Trade Unions Inquiry Committee and the music hall managers—jointly known as the Conciliation Board. This consists of eight members—Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Henri Gros, Mr. Henry Tozer, and Mr. Walter Payne, representing the managers, and Alderman Mitchell, L.C.C., Mr. W. C. Steadman, M.P., Mr. Edmund Browne, and Mr. Arthur Roberts, representing the artists, musicians, and stage employees. The conference lasted all day, but nothing definite has as yet come of its deliberations. The only official statement which was communicated to the Press was the following:

A meeting of the Board of Conciliation was held to-day and discussion took place, at considerable length, upon the matters in dispute. The deliberations have not yet been concluded, and the Board have adjourned until to-morrow.

It is now believed that the negotiations will extend over several days, and it is understood that the conclusions will be submitted to the two parties concerned before they are made public. Anything which may be arranged will amount to nothing until it has received the consent of the managers and of the Alliance.

It was stated by a representative of the managers that Mr. Wal Pink only attended to lay certain facts before the members of the conference, but the Alliance claims that he has been called in for consultation, which is considered a point of considerable significance.

The latest pronunciamento of the Alliance says: "If terms are arranged at the conference between the managers and the 'inquiry committee,' which are regarded by the Alliance as equitable, the Alliance committee will then have to consider those proposals. However good the conditions are, if the managers refuse to recognise the Alliance, as the Alliance, there will be no settlement, and certainly no truce is possible until the deed of settlement is signed and sealed."

The Union of Music Hall Artists of France have written to the Variety Artists' Federation, tendering their English comrades on strike their fraternal regards, and assuring them of their devotion and best wishes for the full and complete success of their legitimate claims.

An impression has got abroad that the production of the revue will be indefinitely postponed if a settlement should be reached; but Mr. Frank Gerald—who is conducting the rehearsals at the Scala—said on Thursday: "The Scala will open, and the production of the revue will continue as long as the business done is sufficient to warrant it, just as is the case with every stage production. Settlement or non-settlement of the strike does not affect the situation in any way."

Mr. Frank Macnaghten, who controls five London and ten provincial halls, sent a message yesterday to the V.A.F., announcing that he has sent in his resignation to the London Entertainments Protection Association. That Association has not yet received Mr. Macnaghten's resignation.

Members of the Variety Artists' Federation at present in Leeds, met on Thursday at the Mitre Hotel. Mr. George Gray (the Fighting Parson) presided, and a resolution was unanimously passed expressing the hope that no settlement would be accepted which did not fulfil the conditions laid down by the National Alliance.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.—I desire to return my heartfelt thanks to all those friends (comprising London and provincial proprietors and managers, artists, and brother agents) who have written to me during my present illness; also to those friends who have called at my house, but, owing to the doctor's orders, have been unable to see me. I have received no less than 117 letters and forty-eight telegrams, and the expressions of sympathy contained therein have deeply affected me. I should like to reply to each one separately, but that is impossible. However, I hope to be about again shortly, then I can thank each one personally. In the meantime, they may rest assured that the interest they have taken in me is greatly appreciated, and that their kindness will never be forgotten by me. — Signed, FRED REEVES, The Cedars, Grove-road, Brixton, S.W.

THE V.A.F. VICTORIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—It is customary to review the field of battle and its forces. In doing so, I claim your indulgence to state that I at once admit that the leaders of the strike have gained several victories and, with your permission, I herewith detail their trophies.

First success.—They closed up the Hippodrome at Brixton, and they have deprived the workers of a salary list of from £200 to £250 per week, £60 of which would have gone to the wage earners behind the stage, in front of the house, and the musicians, &c., and close upon Christmas these people were thrown out of employment; and, had it not been for Mr. Gibbons subscribing 50 guineas, Mr. Payne 10 guineas, and another odd £40, the produce of the matinée, these people might have been in very sad straits Christmas week. Trophy No. 1.

Trophy No. 2.—They succeeded in throwing out of employment a set of contented workmen from the various halls that were attacked.

Trophy No. 3.—Property has been damaged at several places. Charter signed by Mr. Grimes without the consent of his board for the Empress, Brixton, and Putney Hippodrome, and by making a statement to Mr. Macnaghten they induced him to sign, which to-day he regrets.

Trophy No. 4.—They succeeded in doing that which neither iron will, indomitable pressure and continuous hard work could have accomplished: They have overcome petty jealousies of proprietors, have vanquished the various differences that existed between competitors who looked at each other askance; and in a small association, which up to now has consisted of from 35 to 40 London halls, banded together for parliamentary and licensing protection, they have managed to erect a solid phalanx of comrades and friends, hand in hand, consisting of 180 establishments, and daily growing in number, to resist the slanders, the attacks, the vilification, and the egregious attempts of a combination which has gone far beyond every conception of the usual methods of labour strife. I believe it is usual when a strike is ordered for the executive to consult its members. I may be wrong, but I have read in the press frequently that on such occasions a ballot is taken. Here 4000 members of a society, originally intended for redress and benevolent purposes in one combination, have been suddenly allied with socialistic strike leaders, and in questions of which they knew nothing and in which they have no interest, artists, without being allowed to express a voice or vote, have been led astray and misguided to a sufficient extent to be thrown out of work and to interfere with those with whom they have lived for years on amicable terms, and with whom they held contracts on which they never expressed a grievance.

The demand of pay for the wage-earners on the stage and musicians exceeds by from 50 to 100 per cent. and more what was conceded to the hazardous employment of railway workers, who work ten hours a day, and which was accepted by the secretary of their Amalgamated Union, Mr. Bell, M.P.

At a time like this it is well that facts should be placed bluntly before the public who patronise the artists and the various establishments at which they perform. Neither the manager who controls them nor the artists who are paid large or small salaries are demi-gods; both of them alike are servants of the public, with this difference, that the managers have all the responsibility, and when the artists betray their contracts and their trust the manager is held to be responsible for the disappointment.

As to contracts, I am not a lawyer, but my opinion is that the result to the artists of not having fulfilled their engagements is that they will have to pay to the respective proprietors whose contracts they have broken such an amount by way of damages as will place the proprietors in the same position as if the contracts had been performed. The loss to date runs into several thousand pounds, and whatever sum that may ultimately be, added to the law costs, will represent the sum for which they will be answerable.

So far as concerns any breach of contract by performing at any place within the limits of the barring clause, such breaches proprietors will apply for injunctions to restrain, and the cost to the artist of contesting an action for an injunction will, I believe, be not less than £100 in each case. Inasmuch as injunctions have been granted on innumerable occasions on the present form of barring clause in our contracts, proprietors have no fear of their success in these cases.

These few lines are not penned in any vindictive spirit; they are written in the hope that they will open the eyes of those who have been led astray, and show them to what extent they are jeopardising their reputation and the trust that the public have a right to place in them and to expect a response thereto.

In this connection, many grievances have been aired, real or fancied; salaries have been spoken about and compared to theatrical salaries. I will not talk of the stars who receive huge amounts for doing two or three turns a night; I will not here remind them that if they are to become trade unionists they must adhere to that principle of "one man, or woman, one job," and that one turn at a hall, according to the tenets of their leaders, is all-sufficient for their needs. I would compare the salaries of the smaller artists to the salaries received by educated ladies and gentlemen in theatres. I have read in the paper of music hall artists who have been paid £1 a week, and had to walk home long distances. I can only say that these either exist in the imagination of the writers, or they are part and parcel of a sketch company, or troupe, or combination, where a huge salary is received by the principal, and doles dealt out by him to the smaller fry. In the theatrical world I know of several cases where educated men and women receive in touring companies £2 per week to play first-class parts, out of which they have to buy gloves and other little accessories. I know of leading ladies and leading gentlemen who play in the provinces for four or five months of the year in companies owned by managers with high-sounding names at £4 or £5 per week. They are not at the same time at liberty to perform at any other house, even if circumstances permitted it. Indeed, sir, the smallest turn, which is supposed to be beggarly paid at £3 or £4 per week on the music hall stage, if it has the least merit is at once engaged by other managers, either direct or through a respectable agent, at the same salary for two or three halls, and that salary of £3 or £4 per week becomes £9 or £12, and if it goes to the provinces it probably gets £8 or £10. These are not salaries to be despised even in these days of socialist tendencies.

That artists should associate themselves with a strike that is iniquitous in its conception without being called upon to have a voice therein; that they should support a campaign that is supported by every slander and every falsehood that it is possible for evil genius to invent; that they should endeavour to assist in misleading the public, by whom they have been petted and spoilt; that they should talk of slavery, when they are the tyrants, continuously evading their contracts, desiring at all times to alter their time, seeking to impose what position they should occupy on the bills, continuously asking for permission to postpone their dates, and, alas, too frequently receiving it, and thus imposing upon the good-natured management and seeking to undermine those who are in a position of trust by their shareholders, or those who as single proprietors try to earn an honest five to ten per cent. on their capital invested in a speculative business which is presided over by a licensing authority, passes the wit of any sane man. In my mind's prophetic eye I can see the leaders of this movement raising themselves to the L.C.C. off the backs of the artists, dreaming at night that they will shortly sit at St. Stephen's, Westminster, and hereafter dreaming that they will be Cabinet Ministers, and invited to dine with the King at Windsor; but I would remind them that men like John Burns, whatever may have been his defects in the past, do not grow on trees.

If you can find space in your columns for these few lines you will not only render a service to the writer, but to those who have been led into this trouble without knowing what they are about. I am prepared to think that when artists, as artists, in a combined body, putting aside their self-appointed leaders, who have only their own part to play, will approach those with whom they are at strife and put before them any reasonable and sensible demand for redress, they will be dealt with in the kindest spirit, providing it is just and fair. In justice to the public, for whom my colleagues and the members of my Association cater, I am bound to say that these grievances have never been put forward, and it is not many weeks ago since the prime leader of this strike wrote to me for engagements with all the obnoxious barring clauses; and I venture to say that the members of my Association, who have done me the honour to place me in the position in which I now am, expect of me a firm attitude on their behalf against the audacious demands, outrageous in every respect, that have been recently made.—Yours faithfully,

HENRI GROS.

1, Durham House-street, Strand, W.C.
Feb. 1, 1907.

OUTSIDE THE V.A.F.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Mr. Harry Mountford declared in his speech at Manchester on Feb. 1 that every person who was a *bond-fide* performer was a member of the Federation. In this I must beg to differ. I have had twelve years' experience on the variety stage, have taken salaries ranging from £4 10s. to £60, have topped the bill at £4 10s. and £60, have been seen on the variety stage and booked from it for Drury Lane, and yet, according to Mr. Mountford, I am not a *bond-fide* performer because I am not a member of the V.A.F.

There are, according to Mr. Mountford, 2,000 artists who are non-members, though I contend, judging from the last census, that there must be many more than that number; but, accepting his figures as correct, one-third of the variety profession is outside the V.A.F., and this third Mr. Mountford is trying to silence by veiled threats and open abuse. Surely these non-members may be excused if they hesitate to join a society whose committee, though composed of 126 members, oppose so strenuously that it has to be withdrawn such a just and equitable proposition as the following:—"That 15 shall form a quorum, and of that quorum 10 shall form a majority," thus placing the most vital issues in the hands of some half dozen committee-men, who, if they are going to work in the same bellicose and offensive spirit as Mr. Mountford, can hardly be expected to bring a matter involving so many varied interests and requiring so much tact to a satisfactory conclusion.

Undoubtedly grievances existed, but those grievances were very much nearer being removed a month ago than they are to-day, when the committee, having lost its head, demands a total surrender on possible and impossible points from the managers, at the same time rendering it almost against human nature for the managers to concede anything by applying to them opprobrious terms. Both the committee and members of the V.A.F. are down on managers and proprietors, but they forget that these are the men who had the brains to conceive and the ability to carry through those ideas which have placed a variety theatre at the corner of almost every main thoroughfare; and surely these men, who by their energy and pluck have induced the British public to invest its money in variety theatres, have as much right as the artist to make money out of the work of their brains.

Mr. Mountford said he would be glad to know the names of the men who would support Mr. Stoll and the managers. Well, should he read this he will know mine, and I am willing to publish it, because I believe it is only necessary for someone to come forward who has the courage of his opinions to put backbone into those who fear that if they don't join the Federation they must sink in the struggle. In my opinion they are more likely to sink if the V.A.F. gets its own way, for in that case enterprise will stop, as investors will pause before placing money in ventures which will not be controlled by the directors appointed by them, but by a society which is so headstrong that it must have all or nothing, whether just or unjust.—Yours, &c.,

H. A. LANGLOIS (Lonsdell).

Manchester, Feb. 2.

THE CHRONO-MEGAPHONE.

100TH PERFORMANCE.

The famous firm of cinematograph specialists, Messrs. L. Gaumont and Co., have added a novel and attractive show to the entertainment world in the wonderful Chrono-Megaphone. On Wednesday the 100th performance took place at the Empire Theatre. The Chrono-Megaphone is the latest variation of animated photography. The invention may be said at once to be a distinct and, at the same time, a pleasing novelty. The Chrono-Megaphone combines the representation of sound and action, and, as heard and seen at the London Hippodrome this week, the innovation repeated its remarkable success as a factor of entertainment. It seems but a short time ago that the introduction of realistic animated pictures called forth from us expressions of wonder and admiration. And now not only is the photographic reproduction of scenes in actual life possible, but there can be reproduced as well the sounds, vocal and otherwise, which in reality were associated with those scenes.

This, then, is the work of the Chrono-Megaphone, and it need hardly be said that a new source of delight has been tapped by this dual contrivance. One of the Hippodrome series of pictures is illustrative of the song "In Montezuma." Various characters come before us, attired in picturesque, if not fantastic, dress and headgear, and they sing and dance. Their movements synchronise with the time and tune of the song, a very clear gramophone-like rendering of which is heard, as if proceeding from the voices of the people in the picture. The whole thing is most cleverly arranged, and it seems to us that the Chrono-Megaphone opens out great possibilities for future operations. For instance, it would be perfectly within the range of easy possibility to secure an exact pictorial fascimile of every scene in a play or musical comedy, from the rising of the curtain to its fall, along with an audible representation of every word spoken or sung on the stage. In this way there would be a unity of sound and action, or, rather, the sound would be appropriate to the action, and we should witness on the screen the actor performing certain bodily and facial movements and at the same time hear what he was saying. One would not be wrong in predicting a great sphere of attraction for the Chrono-Megaphone, and, in any case, as we have already said, the little stories it tells at the Hippodrome prove an intensely interesting and attractive feature of the programme, and the warmth of the appreciation shown by the audience seems a very happy augury.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE MEETING.

Mr. Joe O'Gorman presided on Sunday evening at a mass meeting of music-hall artists, musicians, and stage hands, convened by the National Alliance, at the Scala Theatre. The stage was occupied by a large assemblage of members of the executive of the allied associations, amongst whom were Mr. Frank Gerald, Mr. Harry Mountford, Mr. C. C. Bartram, Mr. Gus Elen, Mr. Joe Elvin, Mr. Alec Hurley, Mr. J. B. Williams, Mr. C. Jesson, Mr. George D'Albert, Mr W. Johnson, and Mr. A. Schafer.

The Chairman, in opening the meeting, said: I have been on an important mission in connection with this dispute—a mission, I hope, which will lead to a settlement honourable and amicable to all parties concerned. I therefore wish to ask that, under the circumstances, we shall show a conciliatory spirit in all our proceedings here to-night, and do nothing that might accentuate the difficulties of the present situation. When in a few days this thing is in all probability settled, as I sincerely hope it will be, I think that you will re-echo my words and say, "Well, Paddy O'Gorman was justified in asking us to show the spirit in which he approached us that night." We have all been called agitators, but I am not going to agitate to-night. We want to deal fairly and fearlessly with our opponents, and if nothing comes of it—which is, I think, very doubtful—then I say that we must resume the attitude we had adopted heretofore.

At this juncture the cards of two of Mr. Stoll's representatives were handed to the chairman, who agreed to admit them to the meeting.

Mr. Frank Gerald stated that the remarks which had fallen from the chairman placed him in an awkward predicament, but he would follow his lead, and he trusted that nothing he would say would tend to throw back any chance there was of arriving at a settlement. He would not be a party to any peace-making which was not absolutely honourable and above board, nor would he be a party to any settlement that did not combine the interests of their friends the musicians and stage-hands. He spoke thus strongly because during the past few days he had heard suggestions that had made his blood boil. Insinuations had been made which had caused him to bow his head with shame. Some of them were anti-Alliance. The only way of gaining the point they had started out to gain was by adopting Trades Union methods. It was only by joining all the forces of the three societies and showing a united front that they could hope to win. They must not let the enemy split them up. The artists might take example from the musicians and stage hands. Whether they were five-pound or one hundred pound turns, let them take their stand with the thirty-six shillings a week musician and the stage employee who earned half-a-crown a night. The chairman had spoken of a settlement. As one of the three secretaries he (the speaker) would say that he would leave no stone unturned to bring about such a settlement. To-morrow week they would open that theatre as their own theatre, and he wished from his heart that on that night it would be possible to announce from the stage the conclusion of hostilities, and they would welcome there the men against whom they had been fighting. In conclusion, he would beg Mr. Adney Payne and his co-directors to unbend from the attitude they had assumed in refusing to acknowledge the Alliance.

Mr. W. Johnson said they had made too many sacrifices, and had suffered too long under bad conditions to permit of a settlement which was not entirely satisfactory to the Alliance. For his part he would do his utmost to meet those who represented the other side in a friendly spirit, but he would not be performing his duty to his society if he did not avail himself of every means that lay in his power to secure the satisfaction of their demands, and also to secure the recognition of the Alliance. But it must be understood that the claims which they had put forward should be met as far as it was possible to meet them. They had never refused to consider the proposals the managers might make, but they did say, on behalf of the organisations, that they had the right to submit the views of the members of the societies, and that these should have a voice in deciding the future conditions of employment. He would like it to be understood that, to the best of his knowledge and belief, there was the same determination to proceed with the struggle that had been evinced in the early days of the campaign. It was to be hoped that there would be no dissension among them and no betrayers. He hoped the artists would not permit the humbler ranks of the profession to outdo them in loyalty to the Alliance. The struggle had been a wonderful one, and it would be deplorable now, on the eve of victory, that there should be any attempt to delay a settlement or to leave it incomplete.

Mr. J. B. Williams stated that he was a firm believer in the policy that if they wanted peace they must be prepared for war He had seen the conciliatory game worked before, and he would warn them not to be gulled on this occasion. Mr. Stoll had been writing to the Press saying that he would not meet the Alliance, and that he intended to ignore it. He said that the musicians and stage hands were well paid for the amount and the quality of the work they did. He (the speaker) was perfectly willing to supply Mr. Stoll with any information in regard to the societies and the work they did. At Leicester the musicians were told that an extra matinée was going to be put on, and, as the management could not afford to pay for it, those who did not agree to those terms could go. What could be more coercive than to place the pistol of non-employment at a man's head? They said they were going to give two special matinées, and any further matinées were to be paid for. He had been working for the payment of the extra matinée, and he told Mr. Stoll that they expected payment for these matinées, and that they intended to have it.

Mr. B. Tillett harangued the meeting, and gave it as his opinion that the Brixton contract would not be offered to any Chinaman in South Africa.

Mr. J. B. Williams, in making an addition to his previous speech, stated that Mr. Stoll had in the past called musicians for Sunday rehearsals. Their standpoint was that if Mr. Stoll wanted them on Sunday he must pay an extra night's salary; in fact, they would have "double time" for Sunday work. They did not want Sunday work, and they believed that the higher they made the rate of pay the less chance there was of rehearsals taking place on the Sabbath. In regard to the conduct of the present campaign, the Alliance committee had fought the fight well. Not one action of theirs was of such a nature as to forfeit the respect and confidence of those who had elected them. Had it not been for the unwarrantable interference of one individual, the strike would have ended this week-end. The individual referred to told Mr. Payne that he was prepared to work, and Mr. Payne's reply was to the effect that he was not prepared to accept his services unless the others came back too. Everybody would agree that Mr. Payne had shown that he was a gentleman and a man of honour. The present dispute had been accompanied by no suffering at all. The only thing to complain of was the slight inconvenience caused by it.

Mr. Harry Mountford moved, and spoke in favour of the following resolution:—

"That this meeting reaffirms its confidence in the Alliance, its officers and committee, and, convinced of the justice and the moderation of the claims set forth in the charter of this Alliance, this meeting authorises, subject to the discretion of the Alliance committee, a conference between such representatives as the Alliance committee may appoint, and representatives appointed by the Managers' Association, or by the managers whose halls are affected by the dispute, with a view to a settlement acceptable to the allied societies; and, pending such settlement, the terms to be in writing and duly signed by the contracting parties, all members are hereby urged to give their loyal support to the Alliance and to continue the struggle with unabated vigour."

Mr. Mountford referred to various letters which had appeared in *The Referee*, and dealt with the arguments contained therein. Speaking of Mr. Stoll, they had heard that that gentleman was perfectly confident as to his position in the dispute. Mr. Stoll had been writing to the papers saying he could defy the Alliance, and apparently he had been making preparations for the possible withdrawal of his artists. On Tuesday a grand piano was brought on to the stage of the Ardwick Empire, and the conductor told to be in readiness. At Manchester, too, a pianist was secured, and at Liverpool a pianola was borrowed. Then, Mr. Stoll endeavoured to get expressions from the artists to the effect that they did not believe in the strike. The question was asked: "Are you a member of the Variety Artists' Federation? Say yes or no." The answer was "Yes." "If a strike is called next week, will you go out?" The artists refused to answer. A manager and one of Mr. Stoll's representatives requested the artists to answer this question, and they were told that if they did not answer it they would not be allowed to go on the stage that night. In the provinces the artists had been faithful to the Alliance. There were seventy-five clauses in the Stoll contract, and they meant to strike those clauses out.

Mr. Wal Pink, in seconding the resolution, remarked that they did not want compromise but a peaceful settlement that would conserve their interests. They knew they could go in and settle their own grievances, but they must be fair to the musicians and stage-hands. The strike was not doing the music-hall business any good.

Mr. Joe Elvin, who received a hearty ovation on rising to speak, said that he was proud of the Variety Artists' Federation, and "the grand amalgamation." He was proud, too, to see the grand fight they had put up during the past two weeks. They were certainly fighting very strong. His heart was with the Federation, the National Alliance, and "the grand amalgamation." He felt certain that the star artists, including Miss Marie Lloyd, would stick by them, "but if they are nobbled—well, there you are!"

Mr. Gus Elen expressed his determination of standing out and fighting to a finish. It would not worry him one iota if he never sang another song again. He thanked God that he had made preparation for himself, and placed himself in an independent position.

The Chairman had an explanation to make as to why the Alliance did not attack the Chelsea Empire and the Metropolitan Music Hall. Mr. Henri Gros was away in the country ill at the time, and they did not wish to take an unfair advantage of him. It was not true that they wanted the salaries of the artists who were performing there for the purposes of continuing the fight. But, as their Chairman, he did not wish to say anything which would tend to embitter the situation. So surely as the sun rose to-morrow, so surely would they all go back. The managers would never be able to run a bill with all the newly-found talent at the Tivoli and the Oxford.

Mr. Mountford's resolution was then put to the meeting, and carried unanimously; and a vote of thanks to Mr. O'Gorman for presiding, proposed by Mr. Hollis, and seconded by Mr. Clemart, brought the speeches to a close.

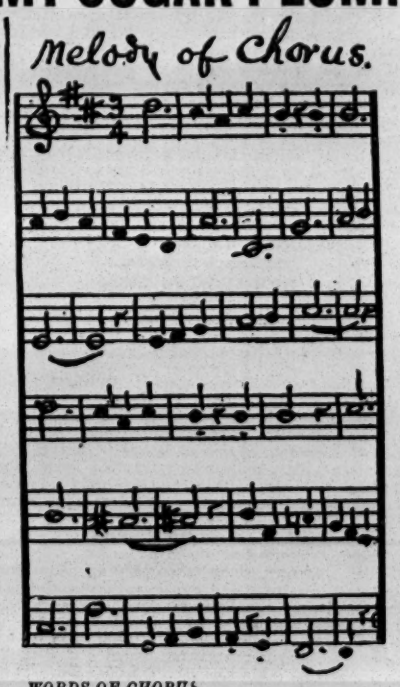
Mr. Editor.—Sir,—In your report for the Empire, Newport, it said Agnes Hazel was repeatedly recalled for a smart Scot song and dance, and was quite a favourite. It should have been—Yours truly, Dot Hardy.

Miss Lois Du Cane and her clever company will play *A Prodigal Wife* at the Middlesex next week. The beautiful costumes worn by Mrs. Du Cane in this sketch have been specially designed and executed by Mrs. Louise Biddulph, 96, Alderney-street, S.W.

Miss Bertha Stuart, the popular Scotch character vocalist, is again gaining golden opinions for her charming singing of Scotch songs, and receives a warm welcome both at the Tivoli and Oxford.

An amusing feature of Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, is the hilarity provoked by the continual incursions of Grapho and Jackson, who have a very novel and original act entitled, *In a Restaurant*.

HARRY DACRE'S
GREAT SONG
MY SUGAR PLUM.



WORDS OF CHORUS.

You re My Sugar-plum, plum, plum, My little lollipop Lady,
You are so sweet, you must be good to eat;
Come little one, Come, Come, Come, Don't be dumb,
You are my ha'po'rth of Sweetstuff, My Sugar-plum, plum, plum.

BAND PARTS, 1/- per Set.

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SUCCESSFUL SONG SYNDICATE
20, NASSAU ST., MORTIMER ST., LONDON, W.

THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

MR. BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Contents of collecting-box at the Hippodrome (late Tivoli), Leeds, one of Mr. Barrasford's halls, per Charles Weldon	5	7	9
Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Mannering	1	5	0
Leoni Clarke	1	1	0
Collecting-box, Palace of Varieties, Ltd., Manchester, per Nelson Barry	1	0	0
Bros. Webb	0	10	0
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Belford and Mars	0	5	0
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Horace Wheatley	40	Anthony	1
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Frank Leon	1	J. G. Henderson	1
Ted Waite	1	C. Pastor	1
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Florence Lambeth	1	Fred O'Malley	1
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Beatie Moore	1	Tom Shenton	1
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Bertha St. Ruth	1	Chas. Denman	1
Cissie Conyers	1	Fred Bentley	1
The Sydney Girls	1	W. Parker	1
F. J. Little	1	Geo. Rapley	1
Chas. Zarac	1	Mrs. Geo. Rapley	1
Ernest Zarac	1	Baby Rapley	1

Collected by Regan and Ryan, Court Theatre, Liverpool, £1 14s.

Malcolm Scott	5	H. Brockbank	2
Fanny Fields	5	Patty Yole	2
Regan and Ryan	5	M. R. M.	1
Harry Tate	5	Doris Dean	1
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Buller (St. Bernard)	1	Mrs. Carter	1
Major (Pomeranian)	1	Found	1
The Cook (16st.)	1	The Postman	1
The Housemaid	1	Admission	1
The Motor	1	Lizzie C.	1
The Gardener (Bob)	1	Meriah	1
The Parrot	1	Our Tyke	1
The Canary	1	New Pyjama 'At	1
Inky (Black Cat)	1	Luggage Man's (tip)	1
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Miss Du-Roche	5	A. Hanson	1
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Miss M. Langdon	2½	B. B.	1
Oliver Round	2½	J. Kelly	1
Roze and Calvert	2½	W. E. D. V.	1
W. W. Walton	2½	W. Clarke	1
Churnell	2½	O. L. Rendell	1
F. E.	2	Wirson Kurat	1
J. K.	2	T. Dare	1
Miss Mab Paul	2	Geo. W. Thorpe	1
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Bros. Egbert	10	Us again, again	1
Us again, again, again, again	7	Us again, again, again	1
Albert Egbert	5	Gladys Cooper	1
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Rosie Coleman	5	Vera Elvey	1
Mark Sheridan	5	M. Claire	1
Gwladys Elvey	5	Mr. Whitehead	1
Edna Loftus	5	Ian Lloyd-Mackenzie	1
Daisy Dormer	5	Herbert Darnley	1
S. Egbert and Mac.	5	Harry Nelson	1
Mark's Room	4	Erchie Mitchell	1
Mac's Bar, 3 Rose-street, Edinburgh	3	Harry Bendon	1
Harry Lupino	2	A. R. Pole	1
Us again	2	Us	1
Betty Green	1½	Cade Burnett	1
		Deane Tribune	1
		Estella Tribune	1

Collecting cards of subscriptions, as soon as filled, should be forwarded to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, *The Era* Office, 5 Tavistock street, Strand, W.C.

MISS MARIE LLOYD EXPLAINS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA

Sir,—There has been so much controversy *re* the music hall strike, and I have been credited with making so many mis-statements during the conflict, that I think it my duty now to try and make clear the points that we are aiming at. In the first place, the public are led to believe that the artists are fighting for larger salaries. That is entirely wrong. What we are fighting for are better terms and conditions for the smaller turns *re* the barring clause. It is very rarely there is any friction between the star artist and manager over this clause. In the majority of cases they have written on the margin of their contracts, "with or without permission to appear at certain halls," which has been initialled by both parties. Personally, I do not think the barring clause makes one iota of difference to the star turns, as their engagements extend for a long period at each West-end hall. Not so with the smaller turns. They only get six nights, and very likely barred from other halls for twelve months or more. Now, is this fair? My suggestion to proprietors would be, by all means bar your drawing power, but let the smaller turns get a living when and where they can within a reasonable radius.

Re the leaflets distributed called "Marie Lloyd's Appeal to the Public." I did not mention anything about "they are using the shareholders' money," &c. What I did say, I said on the stage of the Empress Music Hall, also the London, Shoreditch, and the following was (in effect) what I said:—"Ladies and Gentlemen,—I want it to be thoroughly understood that I and other star artists are not fighting for ourselves, but for our less fortunate brother and sister artists. We are the first to come forward and help every charitable cause, and our services are willingly given to amuse at a millionaire's banquet or to help at a blind man's friendly lead. We do not ask for money; we have helped you, now we want you to help us in this fair and just cause."

In conclusion, I should like to see a speedy settlement, "Peace with honour" to both sides.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

MARIE LLOYD.

Feb. 2.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

THE early spring round of fairs begins next week with Shrovetide. The East Anglian round commences at King's Lynn, including such towns as Downham, Peterborough, Wisbech, March, Lowestoft, and Norwich—a round right away up to, and including, Easter. Another excellent round of fairs begins on Shrove Tuesday at Longton, and includes towns like Oswestry, Wrexham, Hereford, Abergavenny, Monmouth, and other Welsh border towns. The Lancashire and Cheshire round begins at Bury March fair, and includes Colne, Haslingden, and Todmorden, Blackburn, Chorley, Rochdale, Oldham, St. Helens, and Manchester for the Easter Holidays.

AT Maesteg (Wales) Fair were Wadbrooke's electrograph and theatre of varieties, Danter's steam horses, North's big boats, Winchester ranges, bottle-smashers, and varieties by North, jun., and other caterers. Dooner and Son's cinématograph theatre is at Neath; Chipperfield's show at Pontycwmmer.

WE have dealt at considerable length with the legal aspects of the Mitcham Fair dispute, but there is one point of great importance that we have not treated in the special article, and that is the fair rights and franchise of the people of Mitcham. It is to us an extraordinary thing that public bodies promote Private Bill legislation to deprive the people of their old-time liberties and privileges embodied in the fairs and other holidays of the nation. Amongst the many societies engaged in preserving the liberties of the people there does not seem to be any organisation in existence (except and only the Showmen's Guild) to conserve the popular rights in fairs, feasts, and wakes. It never seems to occur to public bodies that it is their duty to consult the people, and to carry with them public opinion in their manifold schemes and enterprises. It seems to be considered a clever thing when Private Bills can be carried through without any consultation with the people, whose rights and liberties are being either destroyed or restricted. The extraordinary example of this kind of legislation afforded by the Private Act of Parliament obtained sixteen years ago by the Mitcham Board of Conservators fully illustrates this danger to the rights and liberties of the common people. We wonder what the people of Mitcham will think now that their old-time fair and its ancient and privileged fair-ground are taken away from them without their consent, and, what is of much more importance, without their knowledge.

THERE is, to our mind, an urgent demand for some sort of organised machinery for preventing the liberties of the people being destroyed or encroached upon by public bodies in Private Bill legislation. Showmen have been driven by sheer necessity to organise themselves, and to take action against all legislation touching their business; but the general public appear to be without any means of defence, and wide ranges of individual liberty are being taken away from the public by the unopposed mass of Private Bill legislation. Mitcham is a case in point, and fully emphasises the serious nature of the danger to the common rights and liberties of the people of the Empire. Again, the serious nature of this danger may be gauged by the fact that over one hundred Private Bills are entered for consideration at the beginning of every Session of Parliament, and that unless they are vigorously opposed by traders or others having vested interests, these Bills become Acts of Parliament, and are as effective for all purposes as though they had been openly challenged and discussed in the House of Commons.

ANOTHER example of this encroachment upon the rights of the general public by local authorities is afforded by a Private Bill promoted by the Corporation of Rawtenstall, and will be considered in the forthcoming Session of Parliament. Amongst other things, the Bill proposes to give to the Corporation of Rawtenstall a monopoly of markets, and this is important for showmen—markets includes fairs. The Bill does not specifically mention fairs, but from negotiations now proceeding between the officials of the Showmen's Guild, it has been made clear that the Corporation intended their Bill to cover fairs as well as markets. That being so, a petition against the Rawtenstall Bill will be deposited. The issue is too serious, for the proposed powers would completely throttle the fair, such as it is, on its present restricted ground, and would also prevent showmen occupying private land, and so carrying on the fair in accordance with the wishes of the people of Rawtenstall.

THIS example of Rawtenstall is a significant one. Here was an apparently innocent proposal to prevent enterprising outsiders competing with the Corporations by opening a market ground. The word "fair" is not mentioned in the Bill, yet when the Guild asks them to clearly define what they mean by "market," the Corporation refuses to restrict it to weekly markets, and, when pressed, admit that they meant to include the annual fairs. This Bill, but for the vigilance of the Showmen's Guild, would in all probability have passed without challenge into law.

MRS. KATE BURNETTE, with His Majesty's (portable) Theatre, is doing excellent business at Penzance.

JOHNSON'S theatre continues its triumphant run at Barry Dock.

VICKERS' theatre is still playing to crowded houses nightly at Normanton.

LEYBOURNE'S theatre is at Goldthorpe Lane End, and Totten's theatre at Featherstone.

THREE of this week's Urban film productions call for special notice, on account of beauty of subject, excellence of photographic results, and novelty of theme. These are "The Atlantic Voyage," "Caller Herrin'," and "Miss Annette Kellermann's Diving and Swimming Display." In the first are witnessed beautiful sea effects in storm and calm, dawn, sunset, and moonlight; but the chief attraction of an attractive series lies in the exquisitely coloured cloud and seascapes. In "Caller Herrin'," the Scottish herring fishery is demonstrated. every stage of this little-known industry being depicted in engrossing sequence. The last of this trio of marine subjects represents Miss Annette Kellermann in a series of swimming feats, in which the champion lady swimmer is seen to better advantage on the screen than would be possible to casual spectators on the beach or quay. In all the series under notice the photographic clearness, sharpness, and absence of flicker are very pronounced.

TO-DAY witnesses the last performance for the season of the World's Fair at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, for which Mr. T. E. Read has provided another change in the circus performances, the Great Caicedo, king of the high wire (so described by His Majesty the King), is still a big draw; the Siegrist and Silbon Troupe of nine mid-air marvels are as popular as ever. The Mammoth Menagerie, with its varied collection of animals of every description, is another source of attraction; while its latest addition of a litter of lion cubs, born on Friday last week, and now on view with their mother, are receiving special attention from an admiring public. There are numberless other attractions in addition to the above, and the admission is still the popular sixpence.

FIELD-MARSHAL TOM THUMB, otherwise known as Mr. Richard Garnsey, died, on Tuesday last, at Wellington, Somerset, at the age of seventy-four. He was supposed to be the most perfectly-formed dwarf in the world, and his height was just over 3ft. Fifty years ago he attracted large crowds to the Egyptian Hall. He appeared before the late Queen Victoria on more than one occasion, Her Majesty taking the greatest interest in him. He subsequently toured through Britain, attracting large audiences, medical men especially being particularly interested in his perfect formation.

AFTER leaving the stage he settled down as a farmer near Wellington, and proved himself a keen business man. At the various markets he delighted the farmers with his anecdotes, and would often cause the greatest fun by losing himself amongst the crowd of buyers. He was of a most genial disposition, and was a familiar figure in the town in which he lived. He enjoyed splendid health almost up to the time of his death, but for the last few years he walked with a crutch, one of his bullocks having knocked him down and broken his leg. He never married, and was a somewhat heavy smoker nearly all his life. He voted at the last General Election.

MR. REYNOLD'S is quite right in his doubts about the dwarf of Wellington, Somerset, being the original Tom Thumb. Charles S. Stratton, General Tom Thumb, died in the year 1883. His wife married Count Magri, and toured through Europe about six years ago.

THE original Tom Thumb, of course, was quite a celebrated character in his day, and it is suggested in the above message that Mr. Garnsey and he were the same. Of this there would appear to be some doubt. In the first place, the original Tom Thumb's name was supposed to be Stratton. "I know of no Field-Marshal Tom Thumb," said Mr. Maskelyne, of St. George's Hall, and formerly of the Egyptian Hall, where General Tom Thumb made hundreds of conquests in the long ago. "Barnum brought General Tom Thumb to the Egyptian Hall first in 1842, and he paid his last visit there in 1862. As a matter of fact, he wasn't by any means so small as some of the midgets who have succeeded him, but Barnum worked the business very well, and he had a tremendous series of receptions.

"GENERAL TOM THUMB was born in 1832. The chief reason why he made so great a success was that the late Queen Victoria was pleased with him, and had him to see her at Windsor Castle several times. He used to drive through the streets in a little carriage drawn by a pair of tiny ponies. His wife died some time ago in America.

"THE most interesting dwarf I knew was a little fellow whom we called the 'Pocket Sims Reeves,' and who appeared at the Egyptian Hall about thirty years ago. He had a really nice voice, and used to sing Sim Reeves's songs. He was a healthy little chap, and after his marriage to a tall girl he went sheep-farming in Kent. I don't know what has become of him, but some time after he married he brought his wife to see me, and it was extremely amusing to see the way he took care of her."

RESPECTING the report published during the week of the death of "Field-Marshal Tom Thumb," Mr. Charles Reynolds, the proprietor of the well-known exhibition in Lime-street, Liverpool, expresses much doubt as to its accuracy. He declares his belief that the famous midget expired some time ago. At all events, Thumb's widow, Countess Magri, presented him, about twelve years ago, with the Napoleonic costume and boots in which the little man was exhibited half a century back all over Europe.

HARRY ASHINGTON, with singing pictures, marionettes, and varieties, is making a big hit at Methley, near Leeds. With Ashington are Messrs. Blackburn and Bassett, with varieties, &c.

THE early bird catches the worm, and the early applicants will get the best pitches at the forthcoming Whitsuntide Fair at Wolverhampton. The Markets Inspector has the letting of the land.

THE British South Africa Company has arranged for a private exhibition at the Palace Theatre on Tuesday, at 3.45 p.m., of a most interesting series of cinematograph views of the Cape to Cairo Railway, which will vividly illustrate the actual building of the railway through Rhodesia, the Victoria Falls, big game hunting, &c. A large and distinguished audience is expected. The views were taken by the Bioscope expedition to South Africa, which has just returned after a very successful tour.

SHOWMEN'S PROFITS.

JUDGE WOULD LIKE TO BE A PARTNER.

Interesting disclosures regarding the profits of showmen were made in the course of a case heard at Devon Assizes on Monday, when Hermon Ward Larcher, amusement caterer, of Hammersmith, claimed £460 damages from Mrs. Chichester for breach of contract in respect of a lease of land for show purposes.

Mr. Larcher said he had proposed setting up a toboggan slide, a hall of mirrors which showed the visitors in ten thousand shapes, kiosks, and an electric shooting gallery. He estimated that his profits would have been 140 per cent.

"You do not want a partner?" asked Mr. Justice Grantham, possibly with a view to business. There was, however, no response.

An illustrated circular of the proposed shooting gallery was produced, and the judge said he observed a picture of Lord Roberts on the cover. He was not surprised, for Lord Roberts appeared to be exploited for every purpose now.

Counsel remarked that Lord Roberts was quoted as saying that "good shooting was England's last hope," and beneath the quotation was a picture of a boy in the act of shooting his father.

The jury awarded £250 damages.

MR. CHARLES M. DALY has purchased the rights of an original comedy-sketch, entitled *An Unwilling Burglar*, from the pen of Mr. Ernest Bliss.

MR. HARRY CLYO AND MISS ROSE ROCHELLE have produced their new act, entitled *An Actor's Antics*, which is from the pen of Mr. Harry Boden. Its success in the provinces has induced them to bring it to London, where it will be seen shortly.

GREAT DRAW.

GRAHAM,

The Human Marionette.

"A Sure Top."

Agent,

GEORGE BARCLAY.

MITCHAM FAIR DISPUTE.

We have refrained for some months past from making any reference to the High Court of Chancery action concerning Mitcham Fair. As our readers are aware, Messrs. Alf. Ball, C. Hill, and Wilson, were the defendants in an action brought against them by the Conservators of the Mitcham common lands, to restrain them from trespassing upon the fair-green to carry on their business at the time of the fair. Our readers also remember that up to the time of the last fair there seemed to be no reason why the fair should not be held as usual, and also that, having regard to the fact that the Home Secretary had refused to abolish the fair, not only was custom and long-established usage on the side of the showmen, but that the law was also with them.

There is no doubt whatever that if the case for the showmen had remained where, as to all appearance it was when the three defendants were summoned, that their case would have been a very strong one. As far as the showmen knew the fair had not been abolished. The strong presumption for this opinion was found in the Home Secretary's refusal of the petition of the Conservators and others to abolish the charter privileges of the fair. The issue between the contending parties was a straight and clear one. If the fair was not abolished, the showmen had a right to draw on to the green, and carry on their business. Without the order of the Home Secretary abolishing the fair, it still remained a legal and proper fair. The defendant showmen, having no other view of the matter set before them, felt justified in ignoring the notice of the Conservators and the owners of the fair franchise, and, by drawing on the ground, bringing the matter to a final decision.

It was not until two months after the action had been entered in the High Court that the Conservators disclosed the strength of their position, and it seems to us to be quite inexplicable that a public body, having the extraordinary powers set out in their statement of claim, should for sixteen years past have neglected to proclaim or exercise the powers they possessed. It was an absolute bombshell in the camp of the showmen when the plaintiffs set out in their statement of claim that as far back as sixteen years ago they had obtained "extraordinary powers" in a Private Act of Parliament, which entitled them to abrogate the charter rights of both the showmen and the inhabitants of Mitcham.

This was their claim, and the defendants, through their legal advisers, had to consider it, and also to determine how far this extraordinary claim affected their defence. Every care was taken, numerous conferences were held with their legal advisers, counsel's opinion was taken, and everything was done to enable the showmen to arrive at a wise decision. Before going into details, we think it wise to state at this point that this new discovery of extraordinary powers possessed by the Conservators raised issues of such legal complexity, and involved many points of special interest to Mitcham, and to Mitcham only, that to have fought it and brought it to a decision of what would have been a long and expensive High Court action, would have taxed the resources of the showmen tenants, and, in the end, would have only settled the special case of Mitcham.

This is of importance, because it brings out into prominent notice the careful action usually observed by the organised showmen through their their Society, the Guild. It is the invariable practice of the Showmen's Guild to only fight cases that affect the whole body of showmen throughout the kingdom. Where the case in dispute only affects one particular locality, and does not establish a dangerous precedent governing fairs in general, the committe of the Showmen's Guild consider very carefully before action is taken that would involve serious expenditure. There is very little consolation, however, for the defendants, in stating that if the executive of the Showmen's Guild had undertaken the defence of the Mitcham Fair, that probably greater caution would have been advised, and some effort made to force the Conservators to disclose their extraordinary powers, before advising the showmen to draw on the ground.

We can all be wise after the event, and one of the lessons of experience that Mitcham Fair dispute teaches us is, always endeavour to get to the bottom of the case before taking action that may lead to serious consequences. At the same time, we are obliged to confess that, with the evidence before them, the three defendants appeared to have every justification for their action. The time between the Home Secretary's decision not to abolish the fair and the fair time itself was so short that, only by taking decisive action upon the evidence they had, could the tenants of the fair hope to carry on their business. Messrs. Ball, Hill, and Wilson were merely singled out of the whole body of tenants, and it was quite understood that the settlement of the powers claimed by the Conservators would be determined by the result of the action against these three representative showmen.

We want it to be clearly understood that if the action had been carried forward on the straight and clear lines of the right of the Conservators under ordinary Statute Law to abolish a fair, without the consent of the Home Secretary, that such a claim would have been fought to the end; but that, unfortunately, turned out to be not the issue and not the case at all. The Conservators, in their statement of claim against the defendant showmen, set out that under a private Act of Parliament obtained by them in 1891, they possessed powers to originate and carry through schemes for the improvement or better use of the lands under their control. This was the fatal flaw in the showmen's case for the defence, and it was on account of this, and this alone, that the defendants were advised to accept an arrangement by which the matter could be settled and withdrawn from the High Court.

Technically, this means that Messrs. Ball, Hill, and Wilson accepted an injunction against them restraining them from trespassing on the Fair Green, or disputing the power of the Conservators to exclude them from the use of the Fair Green in future. There are elements of considerable hope involved in the settlement. Negotiations are pending whereby it is hoped that the fair will still be continued, though not on the Fair Green. It would be a great loss to the people of Mitcham and a serious business loss to Metropolitan showmen if the old fair at Mitcham came to an end, and we have no doubt that what has happened in scores of other towns will also take place at Mitcham—the fair will be held, if not on public ground owned and controlled by the public authorities, on private land organised by the showmen themselves.

In fact, already at a representative meeting of London showmen, held at the World's Fair, a most useful suggestion was made—that the fair at Mitcham be organised and controlled by the Showmen's Guild, in order that both the public and the showmen may be satisfied as to the thorough and effective carrying out of the old fair upon its new ground. We are not without hope that the Conservators, having some regard to two important facts—(1) that public opinion is overwhelming in favour of the continuance of the fair, and (2) that the showmen have acknowledged the right of the Conservators to control the Fair Green—they will afford the showmen every facility for the provision of popular amusements at the fair time. We see no reason why the Conservators should not settle the matter upon broad and public lines by permitting the use of the admirable site for the annual fair pointed out to them last year, and known locally as the "Three Kings' Common."

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR

MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS, ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

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COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E., March 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, May 6, 13, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING, March 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, May 13, 20.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER, May 6, 13, 20, 27, Aug. 5, 12, 19, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER, Mar. 25, April 1, 11 (3 nights), 15, 22, May 13, 20, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON, March 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD, April 1, 22, 29, May 20, 27, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON, April 15, 29, May 6, 20, 27, June 10.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER, March 25, April 29, May 20, 27, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON, March 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD, March 18, April 1, 22, 29, May 13, 20, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON, April 15, May 6, 13, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY, Feb. 18, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1 (3 nights only). Onwards, E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County T. Bedford.

NEW
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BELFAST.
Proprietors, Alexandra Theatre Co.
A Handsome Brick Melodrama Theatre.
Heated by radiators.
Lighted by electric and gas.
WANTED, Big Productions, Certainties or sharing terms. July 29, on, with exceptions.
J. LEICESTER-JACKSON, Greenisland, Belfast.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY.
WANTED, First-class Musical or Dramatic Companies, Feb. 25, March 4, 18.
L. CARSON, Keighley.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for April 18, 19, and 20, April 22.
Required, Big Attraction for Aug. 5, and onwards with exceptions.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Feb. 25, 26, 27, March 18, 19, 20. March 21, 22, 23, April 8, 9, 10.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 6, 13, Aug. 5, and onwards.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, Really First-class Attractions, March 4, 25, April 15, May 20.
JAMES BELL.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEST BROMWICH, Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Gen.-Man., Mr. Herbert Vere.
WANTED, First-Class Melodramas, Musical Comedies, &c., vacant dates March 18, 25, on.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, March 11, at one of the Leading Provincial Theatres.
Apply, JOHN HART, Theatre Royal, Bradford.

WANTED, First-class Attractions (Nothing too Big), April 22 to May 20, all August, Sept. 16, 23. Address, HORNER, Victoria Opera House, Burnley.

GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, March 4, 25, April 1, May 6, 13, 20, and a few Autumn dates. FRED GRANVILLE, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, May 13, June 3 and 17, July 15.
Apply, T. W. ROWE.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, LLANDUDNO.
Under new management.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, March 1 onwards, with exceptions. The new electric trams from Conway to Colwyn Bay stop at the Theatre. Address, A. E. VAUGHAN, 2, Hope-chambers, Leather-lane, Dale-street, Liverpool.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, March 4, 14 (three), 18, and 25, and on, with exceptions. W. E. POTTS.

WANTED, Known, Mr. W. E. Potts, Opera House, Dunfermline, would be pleased to arrange Stock Season with responsible Management, from April 8, on. Share or rental.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple

MINERS' THEATRE, ASHINGTON, NORTH'D.
WANTED, Panto. or powerful Attraction, for March 4, pay week, vacant through illness; also vacant, April 8, 15, 29, May 4. FRED GOULD.

WANTED, March 25, to oblige Charles Macdona, Esq., High-class Attraction, Musical preferred. THOS COURTICE, Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
WANTED, Company, for March 11 and May 27, A few summer dates still vacant.
Apply, J. H. CURRY, as above.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-st., S.W.

LYCEUM THEATRE, GOVAN, GLASGOW.
WANTED, First-class Pantomime, for Xmas and New Year Season, 1907-8. Reply, stating where can be seen playing now, to RICH WALDEN, as above.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, through obliging, First-class Attractions, Feb. 25 and March 4.
Address, FRANK KING.

WANTED, for Barnard's Theatres, Aston, Smethwick, Chatham, and Wolverhampton, First-Class Companies, March 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15.
BARNARD, Chislett-road, West Hampstead.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-Class Companies,

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER, Vacant March 25, onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH, Vacant Feb. 25, March 4, onward, with exceptions. (Last three nights of each week).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY, Vacant April 1 (Share or Certainty), onward, with exceptions.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY, Vacant April 1, onward, with exceptions.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE, Vacant April 1, onward, with exceptions.

"THE LOST CHORD," Vacant August 12, onward, with exceptions.

"SPAN OF LIFE," Vacant March 4, 11, April 1, onward, with exceptions.

"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S," Vacant April 1, 8, 22, onward, with exceptions.

"CINDERELLA," Vacant Feb. 18, onward, with exceptions.

Companies "Farmed" through Fit-ups.

To Let, on Royalty, "THE PRAIRIE FLOWER" and "OUR BRITISH EMPIRE."

Excellent Plants Printing.

All communications to ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH, April 1, 22, May 13, 20, 27.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE, March 18, April 8, 29, May 6, 13.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, High-Class Musical Comedy or latest London successes, for the following dates:—
March 4,
March 11,
March 18,
March 25,
April 22, and onwards.
Address, CHAS. E. MACHIN, Avenue Opera House, Sunderland.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
First-Class Musical Comedy,
First-Class Musical Comedy,
First-Class Musical Comedy,
or High-Class Play,
or High-Class Play,
or High-Class Play,
April 1, April 15.
April 1, April 15.
April 1, April 15.
R. C. BUCHANAN, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, JULIAN MALVERN.
WANTED, Musical Comedy, April 29, Musical Festival Week, also Whit Week, July 1 and 8.
Address
CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

MR. CLARENCE SOUNES' THEATRES.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April 8, 15, May 27, for Theatre Royal, Aldershot; April 8, 29, May 13, 27, for Prince's Theatre, Poplar; April 22, May 6, 20, and 27, for Grand Theatre, Woolwich. Full particulars to CLARENCE SOUNES, Prince's Theatre, Poplar.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
Feb. 18, Feb. 18, Feb. 18.
WANTED, Strong Attraction. Wire, wire, wire.
R. C. BUCHANAN, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

BRIDLINGTON SPA THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.
This theatre is being built on the site of the old one. Holding value £100. New scenery and electricity throughout. Vacant dates.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only, between July 29 and Oct. 31.
HENRY HAGUE, General-Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, ILKESTON.
Manager and Licensee, Mr. L. F. A. ROGERS.
WANTED, Companies, March 4, April 15, 22, 29 May 6, August 5, onwards. Silence a courteous negative.

GRAND THEATRE, CROYDON.
WANTED, First-Class Attraction, March 11.
Address, LAWSON LAMBERT, as above.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for March 11, 18, 25, April 22, 29, May 13, 20, 27.
Silence in all cases a polite negative.
Apply, Mr. C. F. WILLIAMS, T. R., Plymouth.

WANTED, Strong Dramatic or Musical Attraction, March 11.
H. MASTERMAN, Theatre Royal, Castleford.

WANTED, First-Class Attraction (not Drama), for Feb. 25, Theatre Royal, York. Apply, WADDINGTON, Stonegate, York.

WANTED, Big Musical Attractions, Easter, on, Grand, Radcliffe; also April 8, 29, on, Grand, Chorley. Address, SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-Class Companies, for April 1, 8, 15, and onwards. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, Companies, March 4 and 17 (3 nights each), March 25 (6 nights), and on.
JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Good Dramatic Companies, twice nightly, Feb. 25, and later dates.
WM. B. BROADHEAD, Hippodrome, Manchester.

WEST PIER THEATRE, BRIGHTON.
WANTED, High-class Companies, March 11 and 18 (not Drama). Apply, ENTERTAINMENT-MANAGER.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, SEAHAM HARBOUR.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for Feb. 25, March 4, Easter (Musical), May 6, and on.
Address, SIDNEY BELTRAM.

LYCEUM THEATRE, GOVAN, GLASGOW.
WANTED, good Attraction for Feb. 25, Drama or Pantomime.
Address, RICH. WALDON, as above.

GRAND THEATRE, NELSON.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions. Musical Shows or good Drama, March 4, 18, and 25, also April 1 and 8.
GEORGE E. MUDD, Business-Manager.

GRAND PAVILION, VENTNOR.
WANTED, Good Attraction for Easter Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Musical Play preferred. W. E. BRIDDON, Manager.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Musical preferred, Feb. 28, March 14, and April 1 (3 nights). BUTLER, St. George's Theatre, Kendal.

WANTED, Musical Attractions, March onwards.
J. CUMMINGS, Palace, Kilmarnock.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal Shotton, Good Strong Drama, Good Company do good bus. Vacant March 4 and on. Apply, R. CROW.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, onwards. Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

CASINO, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.
WANTED, First-Class Fit-up Companies, Musical Comedy preferred; Share or Rent. Apply, THORNETT, Casino, Bexhill-on-Sea.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

The Premier Theatre in the Furness District. Holds £90 at Ordinary Prices.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 15 (first vacant date) and May 6, on. The Spring bookings for the above include Lionel Rignold and Ada Blanche in "What the Butler Saw," "La Poupée," Charles Chard's Pantomime "Goody Two-Shoes," James Kiddie's "Dick Whittington," "Human Hearts," "The Night of the Party," Norman V. Norman, "Two Little Vagabonds," Miss Maud Hildyard, "The Traitor," Allan Wilkie, "Sapho," "Lucky Durham," "A Warning to Women," "In Holy Russia," "The Power of the Cross," "Lights Out," J. B. Mulholland's "The Electric Man," &c.

The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions Touring.

All Applications for Dates to HUGH ROBERTSON, Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON, April 1, May 6 and 13. THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH, April 15, May 6, and 20. Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT, 1 and 2, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE. Lessee and Manager, J. BANNISTER HOWARD. WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April 22 and Sept. 23. WILLIAM MARTIN, Opera House, Torquay.

IMPERIAL HALL, EAST DULWICH, LONDON, S.E., Seats 700 to 800.

New Electric Cars now pass doors. WANTED, First-Class Attraction, Easter (three nights and matinées), Bioscope, Pierrots, or Minstrels preferred. Share or Rent.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING. Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING." By Walter Melville. WANTED, Important Theatres, April 15, 22. WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING." By Walter Melville. WANTED, Theatre, March 25. Apply, WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS." By Walter Melville. WANTED, Theatres, March 11, 25. WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE." WANTED, Theatres, March 25, Aug. 5, 12, Dec. 23. FREDERICK MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH." WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 11, Sept. 9, Dec. 23. FREDERICK MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY." WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, 30. FREDERICK MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON." WANTED, Theatres, April 8, Aug. 12, Sept. 16, Oct. 28, Xmas. TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER." WANTED, Theatres, May 20, Sept. 30, Nov. 25. TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER." WANTED, Important Theatres, March 11, 25, April 8, 15. DOUGLAS BRUCE, Theatre Royal, Chesterfield.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE." "A ROYAL DIVORCE." WANTED, weeks of April 29 and May 13. Scala Production. Wire or write, W. W. KELLY, 8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"THE GAYEST OF THE GAY." The most Successful Play produced during the year 1906. WANTED, Dates, in First-class Theatres only. Wire or write, W. W. KELLY, 8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN." WANTED, Theatres, March 18, April 8, 15, May 13. CHARLES HARRINGTON, Theatre Royal, Belfast.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO., In the Romantic Irish Musical Play, "THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN." WANTED, Easter, only vacant date for this Play. Grand production, "Rollicking Rory." Autumn. Feb. 11, T. R., Macclesfield (six nights).

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY." WANTED, March 18, April 1, Address, J. W. CORDINER, Feb. 11, Hippodrome, Sheerness.

WANTED, Dates, Feb. 18, April 15, May 6, now booking Summer and Autumn, "TOMMY," by Jerome K. Jerome. Miss ANNIE HUGHES as TOMMY. "Tommy" is a great play. Annie Hughes is a great actress. No finer acting has ever been seen on the boards of the Theatre Royal, Brighton, and as the Theatre Royal, Brighton, is traditional, the greatest actors and actresses in England having walked its boards, this is a great compliment to pay Miss Annie Hughes.—Vide Sussex Daily Press. Write, Feb. 18, Miss Annie Hughes, 4a, Portman-mansions, Baker-street, London, W.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY," No. 1 CO. WANTED, April 1, Autumn, from Aug. 5. Address, E. C. STAFFORD, c/o Samuel French, Ltd., 26, Southampton-street, Strand, London, W.C. Wanted, to Lease, a good Provincial Theatre.

MRS. FRED J. KIRKE'S CO., "THE NAVAL DETECTIVE," "IN OLD MADRID." WANTED, for either or both above Musical Plays, good Theatres, March 11, 18, April 15, 22, First-class Company of Actors, Singers, and Dancers, including Mr. Gerald Anderson (late principal Baritone, "Les Cloches de Corneville"). All communications, MRS. FRED J. KIRKE, 6, Lonsdale-road, Roker, Sunderland.

WANTED, for W. Graham Arthur's Tour, "WHEN A MAN HATES," By arrangement with Messrs. Green and Hinton. April 8, 15, also Whit, between South Wales and Newcastle. For this Strong, Sensational Attraction, wire, GRAHAM ARTHURS, 14, Guildford-lawn, Ramsgate.

FRANK J. PITT and CHARLES HALLING'S CO. "£1,000 REWARD." "£1,000 REWARD." "£1,000 REWARD." WANTED, for this Successful Attraction, April 29, May 13, June 17, 24, July 1, on, with exceptions. Feb. 11, Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank.

"SAPHO." WANTED, First-class Theatres, March 4, 11, 18. No greater success touring. Wire, JAMES BELL, Theatre, Darlington.

"A HEART'S DESIRE." WANTED, Theatres, April, onwards, Magnificent Production, Messrs. ELLIMAN, 5, Vernon-street, Dublin; and 1, Regent-ter., Gateshead.

"HER ONE GREAT SIN." WANTED, March 18, 25, May 13, on, with exceptions. LYDIA DONOVAN, Victoria Theatre, Sacriston.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES. WANTED, Dates for "THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES," "THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES," April 1 (?), 8, 15, 22, 29. MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER." WANTED, Dates for this fine Play, March 4, 18, 25, April 1. MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK." WANTED, Dates for this powerful Attraction, Feb. 18, 19, 20, Feb. 25, 26, 27, April 1, June 24, July 1. MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

ALFRED B. CROSS' TOUR. "THE MANXMAN." "THE MANXMAN," by Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett. WANTED, Best Theatres. Vacant March 11 and 18 (North), April 1 and 8. Rapidly booking Autumn. New Plant of printing by Allen, and special effects. O. H., Harrogate, Feb. 11; King's, Gainsboro', 14th.

"HIS HOUSE IN ORDER," by A. W. Pinero. as played at the St. James's Theatre for the past twelve months.

Mr. H. RALPH KIMPTON has arranged with Mr. George Alexander to Tour a Company with this London Success. WANTED, Dates, for the Autumn. Address, St. James's Theatre, S.W.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS. "BOUND TO WIN." WANTED, March 4, between Dalston and Junction, Manchester; also April 1 (?). Racehorses toured. Splendid cast. Wire for March 4. "A SOLDIER'S HONOUR," by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley. Wanted, March 11, April 1. Only Vacant Dates this year. Production, Feb. 25, at the Junction Theatre, Manchester. Managers invited to witness same. Magnificent scenery and uniforms. Wire for both plays to F. G. KIMBERLEY, T. R., Glossop; next, Rotherham.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE." WANTED, March 19, Aug. 19, 26, Sept. 16, 23. FRED BULMER, King's Theatre, Cardiff.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES." WANTED, First-class Theatre Easter Week FRED BULMER, Royalty Theatre, Llanelly.

"FOR AULD LANG SYNE." WANTED, Aug. 5, onwards. FRED BULMER, Royalty Theatre, Llanelly.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY." WANTED, First-class Theatres, FRED BULMER, Royalty Theatre, Llanelly.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES." WANTED, First-Class Theatres, Feb. 18. FRED BULMER, Royalty Theatre, Llanelly.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO. "TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS." WANTED, Feb. 18, April 1, for this Great Attraction. A sure draw. Band of drums, fifes, and bugles for parade. F. G. KIMBERLEY, T. R., Glossop; next, T. R., Rotherham.

"AN UNWEDDED WIFE." WANTED, good Theatre, March 18, to precede Met., Gateshead. E. H. Page writes to brother Manager, Prince's Theatre, Blackburn: Dear ——,—I have here this week a new play ("An Unwedded Wife"), which is a great success, dressing, scenery, acting far above the average; business excellent; Saturday a record. Can highly recommend it. I have re-booked it. Yours, E. H. PAGE. Address, J. EDWARD WHITTY, Theatre Royal, Batley.

E. H. KNIGHT and GEORGE DENHAM'S CO. "THE GRIP OF IRON." WANTED, April 15, on, to Whit Week, Aug. 5, on, with exceptions. GEORGE DENHAM, Grand, Rawtenstall.

FRANK BERTRAM'S TOURS. "THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS" (By arrangement with Mr. Martin Harvey). WANTED, a Good Theatre for Easter Week. EUGENE BERTRAM, Gilmore-road, Lewisham, London, S.E.

"THE SLEDGE-HAMMER." WANTED, Good Theatres, March 18, April 1, 15, May 20, only vacant dates till Autumn. GEORGE HENRY, T. R., Yeadon; or, 4, Duke-street, Adelphi, W.C.

WYBERT CLIVE'S CO., "THE CONSCRIPT." WANTED, Feb. 18 (three nights) and Easter, for this powerful Attraction. Wire to-day, Theatre, Spennymoor; next, Standard T., Hetton.

WANTED, Dates, "My Old Kentucky Home," the new version "Uncle Tom's Cabin," special scenery, printing, company, coloured choir, ponies, &c. JOSH HYBERT, c/o Creber, Printer, Plymouth.

Mr. ALEC FLOOD and Mr. AUBREY FITZMAURICE'S CO., in the Strong, Romantic Play of the Napoleonic Period, "THE ANGEL OF UNREST." by Richard A. Greene. WANTED, immediate Vacant Dates, First-class Theatres only. For details see Companies' Column. Address, F. MARTIN MORRIS, 12, Wyke-gardens, Clapham-road, S.W.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES." "AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES," by Edward Marris. WANTED, Feb. 25, Feb. 25, Feb. 25. Wire, LEONARD DALRYMPLE, 38, Sutton Court-road, Chiswick; next week, T. R., Aston, Birmingham.

Grand Production, "NO WEDDING RING." Strong Cast. Everything carried. Also Splendid Musical Comedy, "TWO MERRY MAIDS." WANTED, May, and onwards. HARRY WARD, 3, Adelaide-st., Strand. 2,890 Ger.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEORGE KIRK'S "HER LUCK IN LONDON" CO. By Charles Darrell. WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, March 4, Sept. 9 (?), 16 (?), 30 (?), Oct. 7, Nov. 25, Dec. 16, 23, 30, CHARLES A. LEICESTER, 210, Burbury-street, Lozells, Birmingham

EDWARD McLEAN'S TOUR, "THE HERO OF THE FLAG." WANTED, March 25, Easter, Whit, April 8, 15. LESLIE VYNER, 7, Stanhope-terrace, Regent's Park, N.W.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S "OLIVER TWIST" COMPANY. WANTED, First-Class Theatre, for Easter Week. WILLIAM MARTIN, Opera House, Torquay.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S CRYSTAL PALACE PANTOMIME, "ALADDIN." WANTED; Known, Mr. Howard is open either to produce the above successful pantomime at any first-class Theatre next Christmas, or to Let on Hire the scenery and dresses. WILLIAM MARTIN, Opera House, Torquay.

HARDIE and VON LEER'S "TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS" (No. 1) CO. WANTED, First-class Theatres, March 4 (London), March 11 (Mid.), E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C. Tel. No., 7504 Gerrard. Wires, "Vagancy, London."

WANTED, for "New Red Riding Hood" (J. D. Hunter's Hastings Production), Feb. 25, March 4 and 11, Good Theatres (Midlands). See Companies' Page. Wire or write, WILSON, 2, Gordon-street, Gordon-square, W.C.

"THE POWER AND THE GLORY," by Charles Darrell. WANTED, April 8 (to follow Prince's, Portsmouth), April 15, Big Theatre for August Bank Holiday. ERNEST CHESNEY, 137, Westbourne-terrace, London, W.

"LUCKY 'LIZA." WANTED, March 25 (North), April 22, 29, and Whit Week. DICKIE CLARE, Court Theatre, Bacup

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE PET OF THE EMBASSY." A New and Original Musical Play, in Two Acts, by Sidney F. Bailey, Music by Albert E. Wilson.

FULL WEST END CAST, Including WITTY WATTIE WALTON the well-known Comedian, as John William Bung (a Middy). Full London Operatic Chorus of 40 Trained Voices. Splendid Costumes and Scenery. Special New Printing. As produced before the Lord Mayor of Liverpool (Councillor Japp), Leonard Dunning, Esq., Chief Constable, and the various Consuls.

Act I.—Eric Brown's Bungalow, Calcutta. Act II.—Hall at the British Legation, Japan. Time.—The Present.

Guaranteed one of the greatest Musical Shows produced. DON'T FAIL TO BOOK IT. The Era, Dec. 13, 1906, says:— "The Pet of the Embassy," a new musical play in two acts, has been given here this week, and been received with the warmest approval, &c. "The Pet of the Embassy" contains the necessary material to make it go. A bright, smart dialogue, accompanied by music of a most charming description, along with several solos and choruses that can hardly fail to become popular; picturesque scenery and pretty costumes—all these elements are present, &c. WANTED, for this great Attraction, April 15, to follow Theatre Royal, Preston. Also April 22 and 29. Now Booking Autumn and 1908.

Thanks to many Managers for numerous offers. Offer me Good Dates and Terms, and I guarantee to fill any Theatre for you.

All communications re dates, &c., C. HAMILTON BAINES, GRAND THEATRE, ECCLES.

"WOMAN AND WINE." "WOMAN AND WINE." "WOMAN AND WINE." WANTED, through cancelling Queen's Theatre, Swindon, First-Class Theatre, with large stage and holding capacity, April 1 (between Manchester and Borough, Stratford); absolutely everything carried; only clear stage and flies required. Company of twenty-seven Artists.

The Lottie Stone Troupe of Dancers, Specialities, crowds of Auxiliaries.

Playing to enormous business. Wire, EDMONDS, to-day, Southend; next, W. London T.

WANTED, through transfer, March 4 and 11, Mr. Alfred Sutro's "The Perfect Lover," Entire Production from the Imperial Theatre. Bookings include Manchester, Glasgow, Birmingham, &c. Wire, HAROLD V. NEILSON, Gaiety Theatre, Dublin.

FRANK M. THORNE'S CO., "NAPOLEON THE GREAT." WANTED, for this First-Class Attraction, May 6 and 20. May 6 and 20. Apply, F. M. THORNE, Theatre Royal, Scarborough.

WANTED, Theatres, for Attractions, Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, and Easter. Communicate, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

TOMMY ATKINS," by Arthur Shirley and H. Landeck. WANTED, Dates for the above powerful Attraction; full brass band and Company of recognised Artists. J. M. EAST, Elephant and Castle Theatre, S.E.

"HER LOST SELF," by Nita Rae. "THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH," by F. A. Scudamore. WANTED, March 4, 25, April 1. FRANCES DELAVAL, T. R., Batley.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR," by Eva Elwes. WANTED, good Theatres, March 4, 18, April 15, on. Every sheet of printing specially cut; everything carried, and played by a cast far above the ordinary Drama standard. Wire, E. A'DELL, Theatre Royal, Tyldesley.

WANTED, for "A WOMAN WORTH WINNING," March 11 and 18, April 8, May 27, June 3, 10, and 17, August Bank Holiday, and various on. No finer attraction touring. Communications, PERCY NORMAN, Met., Hoyland; next, Queen's, Liverpool.

WANTED, Next Season, One Good Theatre of Large Holding Capacity, where a First-class Pantomime will run for at least eight weeks, for Francis Laidler's Magnificent Pantomime, "CINDERELLA," which has already run seven weeks at the Prince's Theatre, Bradford, and is still playing to record business there. Everything perfectly new.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES." "AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES," by Edward Marris. WANTED, Feb. 25, Feb. 25, Feb. 25. Wire, LEONARD DALRYMPLE, 38, Sutton Court-road, Chiswick; next week, T. R., Aston, Birmingham.

"THE POWER AND THE GLORY," by Charles Darrell. WANTED, April 8 (to follow Prince's, Portsmouth), April 15, Big Theatre for August Bank Holiday. ERNEST CHESNEY, 137, Westbourne-terrace, London, W.

WILL ONDA'S TOUR. WANTED, First-Class Theatres, Feb. 18, March 4 and 11, for the most successful Variety Combination on the Road. Wire, ONDA, Hippodrome, Rochdale; next week, Grand, Hanley.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING. Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, for production of a High-Class Sketch (Charles I. period), a young, handsome, Juvenile Actress, capable of pathos, for small but good part; also good, responsible Gentleman, for robust comedy old Innkeeper. Photos., references, lowest terms, &c., to NORBURN and CAMPLING, care of The Lion Hotel, Stratford, E.

WANTED, for La Comédie Anglaise, Fit-up Répertoire Tour, Gentleman for Heavies and Lady or Gentleman Pianist, to act preferred; also good opening for Lady and Gentleman Amateur or Novice. Address, with photographs and particulars, Mr. WM. L. DOBELL, Clarendon Hall, Watford, Herts.

WANTED, Theatrical, Concert, and Variety Artists, in all Lines, for immediate Dates. Send lowest terms, photos., posters, and full list of bookings, RIPLEY-WOODSTOCK Agency, 36, Gerrard-street, W.

WANTED, First-class Leading Man and Lady, jointly, to form Stock Company for the Theatre Royal, Stratford. Apply by letter, stating lowest salary and full particulars, to A. E. ABRAHAMS, 26, Great Eastern-road, Stratford.

WANTED, Stock (Portable), Low Comedian, Gentlemanly Heavy, and Gentleman for Old Men, Juvenile Lady. Violinist. Write, K. HUGHES, Theatre, Braintree, Essex.

"AN UNWEDDED WIFE." WANTED, Juvenile Lady, to rehearse Wednesday. If playing to-night, wire where can be seen. Photos., latest references, and terms to J. EDWARD WHITTY, Theatre Royal, Batley.

WANTED, experienced Character Actress, for Singing part; also Robust Actor-Vocalist (Baritone). Terms and references, Box 4,369, "The Era."

WANTED, Juvenile, Character Old Man, Chambermaid, sing and dance, for "The Sledge-hammer." All particulars, GEORGE HENRY, Theatre Royal, Yeadon.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Character Scotch Comedian, for MacMutchkin, First-class Artist, for Winnie, Open March 11, Rehearse one week earlier, Manchester. Address, with lowest terms, photos., age, height, and refs., to NORTON FOLGATE, "A Trip to the Highlands" Co., Grand Theatre, Nottingham, until Feb. 23.

Messrs. SEDDON and ROBERTSON'S CO., in "CHARLEY'S AUNT." FIT-UP TOUR. WANTED, Gentleman, for Charley, young and slight. Send photo., age, height, and terms to GEO. ROBERTSON, "St. Heliers," Sheepcote-road, Harrow.

WANTED, tall, responsible man, for small Juvenile part; good voice and appearance essential, open Feb. 11. Apply, C. WORDLEY HULSE, Palace, Grimsby.

WANTED, Ladies, Gentlemen, Chorus, Musical Comedy, Amateurs trained; young, good voices. Call Monday, 3 to 6. 28, Stockwell Park-crescent.

WANTED, Young Lady, Small Part Understudy, West-End Company. Salary. Thorough training. Letters only, LYLE, 76, Richmond-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Well-known Concert Artist, arranging Series of Concerts, can bring out Good Vocalist and Instrumentalist; excellent opportunity. Box 4,346, "Era."

WANTED, Chorus Ladies, to Rehearse Manchester, Feb. 25, 5 weeks' Tour, probably longer, Sketch; must be smart, quick, and bright State exact height, age, terms, &c., photos, also compass of voice. MANAGER, 227, St. Mary's-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING. Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, by Actress, Engagement at Once, Drama or Comedy. Wire or write to M. L., 82, Barrett-street, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Known, Miss Maie Duncan, Principal Boy ("Robin Hood"), Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock, at Liberty. Offers for Spring, Soubrette, or Easter Panto., Principal Boy or Girl. Per. add., 5, Castle-garuens, Gourock, N.B.

WANTED, Known, Blanche de Veron, Big Success, Fairy Queen, Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield. Offers invited for High-class Concert Parties, Piers, &c.

WANTED, Known, Harry Barlow, Principal Baritone, Highwayman Quartette, Madeira Hall, Madeira-rd., Brighton, at Liberty Feb. 18, on.

WANTED, by Smart Man, 21, 5ft. 8in., as A.S.M., Small Parts, Service part preferred; small remuneration; 18 months' ex. J. S., King's, Hammersmith.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING. Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING. Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Painting, Joinery, materials of uniform excellence, reasonable prices; large Studio and Workshop. CHARLES SAYER, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-rd., Croydon.

WANTED, Contracts, for Brilliant, Effective Scenery, attractive settings, lowest prices. Carlyle Scenic Studio, W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

STALYBRIDGE SCENIC STUDIO. WANTED, Contracts for Painting and Making Scenery; best material used. For terms apply, MANAGER, Grand Theatre and Hippodrome, Stalybridge.

WANTED, Known, that Sidney Beltram, Scenic Artist, has completed all Arrangements pro tem. Address, Theatre Royal, Seaham Harbour.

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract, Town or Provinces. Address, 44, Randolph-gardens, Maida Vale, London, N.W.

WANTED, Known, William Hemsley Junior, Theatrical Scenery and Properties to the Music Hall Profession. Communications, 82, Harleyford-road, Kennington Oval, S.E.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING. Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

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WANTED, for Large Open-air Pleasure Grounds in the North of England, in cluding Variety Theatre, Fairgrounds, &c., One accustomed to the Booking of Variety Artists and in touch with Proprietors of Side-shows, &c. Apply, stating age, experience, and salary expected, and enclosing copies of testimonials, to Box 4,308, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Young Lady or Gentleman, to learn Management, &c., with good Bioscope Vaudeville Co., now booking Southern Piers and Halls, must invest, returnable as salary. Full instruction, including Bioscope. Share of profits. Refs. exchanged. Fullest particulars to USHER, Coulsdon, Surrey.

WANTED, Gentleman to learn Acting-Management. First-class Opportunity. Duties commence immediately. Premium £20, to be returned in salary. Box 4,358, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, young Gentleman can be entertained into First-Class Company as Assistant-Manager. State particulars. Box 4,362, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Man, for Advance; sober and industrious. Send terms, references, &c., to W. H. PIERPOINT, 2, Bolton-street, Preston.

WANTED, Competent Bill Inspector. State age, experience, &c. D. J. CLARKE, Argyle Theatre, Birkenhead.

WANTED, a Black Man as Baggage Man. Apply, A. E. ABRAHAMS, 26, Great Eastern-road, Stratford.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, by Mr. G. Egerton Burnett, having relinquished his engagement as General-Manager (Touring Dept.), Jury's Imperial Pictures, 142, Long Acre, W.C., offers for Management, resident or touring (town preferred), Theatres, Music Halls, Piers, &c., or open to book and boom Picture Concern, or would represent good agency in town. All coms., 28, Silchester-road, Notting Hill, W.

WANTED, Engagement, as Stage-Manager, combine Assistant Acting-Manager, in First-class Music Hall only; abstainer; first-class references, &c.; 12 years' experience. Address, Box 4,343, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Assistant-Manager, Advertising, or any Capacity, Theatres or Music Halls; 8 years' experience; excellent refs. Box 4,331, "The Era."

WANTED, by well-known Variety Artist, Engagement as Stage-Manager, Assistant, &c.; wife as Wardrobe or Dresser, &c.; long experience. Address, D. A., Theatre Royal, Ton-y-pandy.

WANTED, Engagement, Secretarial, Playwright, Shorthand-Typist, Correspondent, Book-keeper; business experience, plenty ambition, savoir faire. No premiums; not tour. Strictest confidence. Box 4,349, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Manager Picture Show (wife Brilliant Pianist); experienced, steady, reliable; good reference. MANAGER, 5, Upper Orwell-st, Ipswich.

WANTED, Known, Harold B. Court, Advance Manager, concluding fourth tour, Robert Arthur Parisian Picture Co., can open Monday. This, Victoria Hall, Hanley; next, 12 Waterloo-street, Oldham.

WANTED, Situation to manage Stage, Theatre, or Music Hall, a thorough practical Stage Carpenter; good workman, steady, and attentive. J. BOOTH, 80, Corporation-street, Walsall.

WANTED, Engagements, Mr. and Mrs. Syd Russell, Carpenter, Wardrobe, Parts; good refs.; own tools and machine. 12, Bridport-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by Carpenter, practical bench hand, also Properties, permanency preferred. Address, CARPENTER, 64, Dongola-road, Philip-lane, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, Bill Inspector, Billposter, or Agent; abstainer; 18 years' experience, 6 years last berth. EMBERSON, 68, Hornsey-road, Holloway, N.

WANTED, by young Gentleman of good appearance and education, situation any capacity, after 6 o'clock, theatre or music hall; security if required; good refs. Box 4,352, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Miss R. B. Smith, Wardrobe Mistress and Costumier, Dis. Mar. 2. Entire charge, Production or Tour. Refer R. Flanagan, Esq. Also Practical Carpenter or Stage-Manager. 119, Embden-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Wardrobe Mistress, experienced, Disengaged for Spring. Offers invited. Address, Mrs. LUCY, Theatre Royal, Dublin.

WANTED, by Good Cutter and Fitter of Theatrical Dresses, temporary Engagements in London Theatres. Box 4,354, "The Era."

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING. Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, for the Newly-formed Devonshire Park Co. Orchestra, Eastbourne, Leader (Soloist), Pianist (Soloist, if playing Viola or Second Violin preferred), Solo 'Cellist, Solo Cornet, and Double Bass. Permanent engagement. Applicants have to play on trial by appointment in London. Two performances each day. No Sunday work. Commencing Monday, Feb. 18. Apply with stamped letter, "FIDELIO," Camden-rd., Eastbourne.

WANTED, for New Hippodrome, Belfast, to open about March 25, Full Orchestra, Leader, First Violins, Second Violins, Viola 'Cello, Bass, Flute, Clarionet, Oboe, Bassoon, Cornets, Trombone, Drums. Apply to EDGAR HAINES, Conductor, 32, Mornington-road, New Cross, S.E.

WANTED, Conductor and Full Orchestra, for London Music Hall; Union wages paid. State experience and if member of any union. Write, Box 4,368, "The Era."

WANTED, immediately, Lady Violinists, 'Cellists, Viola, Basso, six in all, to complete Orchestra. Interview imperative. Write, N. 781, Shelley's, Gracechurch-street, E.C.

WANTED, Two First Violins, First Cornet, not over 20 years. State age, height, and salary; 3 and 6 months at one place; can have 12 months' contract. MUSICAL DIRECTOR, Scotch Orchestra, Etablissement National, Copenhagen, Denmark.

WANTED, Violinist, 'Cellists, who want Good Reliable Strings, write for list of Specialities. SOUTHERN MUSIC CO., Silchester-road, St. Leonards.

WANTED, Violinist, experienced in Variety Business. State lowest terms and references to T. W. MOYES, Manager, Palace, Grimsby.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, permanent, commence Feb. 18. Terms, 30s. Age and reference to A. CLEGG, Musical Director, Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

WANTED, Good Solo Cornet, to join Good Military Band of the Line, age about 22; or ex-twelve Military. Special Offers. References. Apply, Box 4,349, "The Era."

WANTED, a Really First-class Solo Cornet and Solo 'Cellist, for 5 months' Summer Season. Terms, reference, age, Box 4,369, "The Era."

WANTED, First Cornet and Double Bass, for Gaiety Theatre, Dublin. Permanency to suitable persons. Apply, W. S. NABARRO, Musical Director, Gaiety Theatre, Dublin.

WANTED, First and Second Cornet, and E flat Horn Players, Pitching Band. Terms, shares. Apply, SECRETARY, 23, Garth-terrace, Burton-lane, York

WANTED, First and Second Cornets, Flute, and Piccolo, nine months' season; First Cornet, 35s.; others, 32s. 6d.; bonus end of season. Refs. BANDMASTER, Lord John Sanger's Circus, Burstow Lodge, Horley, Surrey.

H. and F. POOLE'S MYRIORAMA. WANTED, to commence Monday, Feb. 18, at Tunbridge Wells, Solo Cornet, must be thoroughly competent, assist fittings, and wear evening dress. Terms, 30s. Apply, CHARLES WELDON, Town Hall, Folkestone.

WEST RIDING ASYLUM, WAKEFIELD. WANTED, Male Attendants who are able to play the Bassoon or Euphonium. Wages, £30 per annum and £3 band allowance, rising £2 10s. annually to a maximum of £58, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform suit every eight months. Applications, stating age, height reference to character and ability, to be sent at once to the MEDICAL DIRECTOR.

WANTED, Mrs. Hubert O'Grady's Companies, Bombardon Player, also Cornet or Tenor Horn, to play Bass Drum, on parade, instrument on stage. Lowest terms, chest measurement, to ALFRED WEEKLY, Post Office, Llangefni, Anglesey, N. Wales.

WANTED, Two First-class 'Cellists, for White Star Mediterranean Service, Feb. 20 and March 13 respectively, to end of July or early August. State age, experience, references, Mr. CHAS. WM. BLACK, 19, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, experienced Lady 'Cellist, for high-class Café; must be excellent player; young, good appearance. Permanency for suitable player. Write, Box 4,363, "The Era."

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, DUNDEE. Managing-Director, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR. WANTED, to commence Feb. 18, Competent Flautist. Apply, with latest references and terms, to H. EVERITT LOSEBY.

WANTED, Flute and Piccolo, open Monday, 18th, experienced in Variety. Terms, refs., for perm. T. HULLEY, Conductor, Tivoli, Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, Pianist (Conductor), First Violin, Cornet, and Bass. Terms, references, &c. JOHN CASSIDY, Victoria Theatre, Stanley, Durham.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, at once, Pianist, must be used to Variety. State terms, references, and age, to MUSICAL DIRECTOR, Palace Theatre, Bradford.

ADA ALEXANDRA'S CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, TENTING SEASON, 1907.
WANTED, for above, competent Double-handed Musicians, Second Violin, Viola, Double Bass (combine brass for Parades), Flute, Clarionet, Cornets, Euphonium, Trombone, Drums. Apply, AUGUSTE DENTON, Mus.-Dir., 46, Wellington-street, Oxford.

WANTED, Trained Musician, at Once, for the 6th Middlesex Regiment (Militia). Bonus will be offered on enlistment, and on termination of training. Special advantageous terms will be supplied on application to the BANDMASTER, Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street,, W.C.
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, "A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING. Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violinist), Disengaged, composer of Music, "Silver King," &c. Dramatic Music, &c., composed and arranged. 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Chas. Wareham, Disengaged, late Leader Granville, Metropolitan, Ealing Hippodrome, also Conductor Collins's, Richmond T. 47, Black Lion-lane, Hammersmith, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Musical Director, Violinist and Present Orchestra; any Business; good library and refs. Box 4,326, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, First-class Variety Conductor (violin), Disengaged (non-unionist), many years' experience, thoroughly reliable. Add., Box 4,325, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Bandmaster, Kneller Hall, Certificate, many years' experience with Military Band and Orchestra, desires Re-engagement; unexceptional testimonials and references. Address, Box 4327, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Engagement as Conductor or Pianist, strictly steady, thoroughly competent, any business; good arranger. GEORGE HILL, 34, Portland-place, Carlisle.

WANTED, Engagement, Pianist Conductor, or Deputy; first-class library; excellent references; good theatre or variety. AVES, Opera House, Londonderry.

WANTED, Engagement as Conductor or Pianist, brilliant executant, sight reader; gentlemanly, sober, and competent. GRAHAME, 4, Derby-street, Moss Side, Manchester.

WANTED, by Violinist, Pupil of Professor Sevcik, First-Class Orchestral Engagement; Solos if required; commencing June. KARNO, c/o White's Music Warerooms, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, Engagement, Violin (combine Trombone), at Liberty Feb. 11; good references; sober and reliable. ROTHERY, 10, Graham-terrace, Burley, Leeds.

WANTED, through closing, Engagement as First or Second Violin, Theatre or Music Hall; good references. W. WILCOCK, 1, Little William-street, Cork.

WANTED, Engagement, as Violinist, First or Second; can combine with Viola; young and reliable; good references. Wire or write, VIOLINIST, 18, Spring Hall-place, Newstead, Halifax.

WANTED, Engagement, by good experienced Violinist, any business; good references. G. W., 33, Brewerton-road, Oldham.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornet; steady and experienced in all lines; can join immediately. A. C. JONES, 8, Armour-street, Kilmarnock, N.B.

WANTED, Engagement by Solo Cornet, Theatre or Variety Business.
Address, Box 4,353, "The Era."

WANTED, by Second Cornet, Engagement, for Summer Season; competent, and total abstainer; references if required. GRANGER, 202, Liverpool-rd., London, N.

WANTED, by Solo Cornet, re-engagement, Variety a Specialité, steady, reliable; excellent references. T. E. COLLIER, 10, Villa-street, Walworth, London.

WANTED, Engagement, First-class Solo Cornet or Second Violin. London only.
Box 4,332, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as Cornet Player, Theatre, Varieties, Circus, &c.; steady, experienced, competent. JAMES WHITFIELD, 33, St. Catherine-street, Gloucester.

WANTED, by Second Cornet, an engagement in Theatre, Orchestra, or Military Band. Apply MAC, 2, Moreland-street, Finsbury Park, N.

WANTED, Known, First-class Bassoon at Liberty, any Business, through reducing Orchestra. First-class ref. Apply, ROBERT WILDING, Metropole Theatre, Manchester.

WANTED, by Double Bass Player, Engagement in Theatre or Music Hall; or would deputise. HARDMAN, 122, Heald-place, Rusholme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Four-stringed Double Bass, any business; just finished seven months' engagement. LUCAS, 2, Hanover-terrace, Leeds.

WANTED, by Young Man, Engagement, with Double Bass, combine Cornet; abstainer; any business. J. A. BURTON, 8, Radnor-street, Swindon, Wilts.

WANTED, Engagement by Bassoonist, any business; varied experience; excellent references. W. H. SECKER, 4, Ravensbury-villas, Mordenroad, Mitcham, Surrey.

WANTED, by Double Bass, reliable, sober, excellent references; just finished Panto. season, engagement, any business. JAMES, 536, Dumbarton-road, Glasgow.

WANTED, Permanent or Summer Engagement, by Trombone (good); young, sober, and reliable, any Business; good refs. MATTHEWS, Trombone, Oadby, near Leicester.

WANTED, by First-class Trombonist, Engagement; reliable man; 12½ years' Army experience; Theatre or Music Hall. Box 4,288, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Trombone, experienced, Good Theatre or Music Hall, at Liberty. Box 4,347, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement by experienced French Horn, military or string. Address, J. FENNELL, 25, Stibbington-street, Clarendon-square, London, N.W.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, for Little Girl, on 'Cello; also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLE, 35, Granville-square, King's Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, by Lady 'Cellist, Daily or other Engagements; Sight-reader and Soloist, Orchestra, Quartette, &c. Write, Box 4,355, "The Era."

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by 'Cellist, Young Man, used to Orchestral Playing, temporary or permanent Engagement at Seaside Resort or Theatre; excellent references. Box 4,329, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Viola Player, well known, combine Piano; experienced Orchestral Pianist; London preferred. Box 4,338, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by steady, reliable Viola-Violin Player, theatre or music hall; good refs. T. STONE, 20, Sedlescombe-road, Fulham, London, S.W.

WANTED, Re-engagement in London or Suburbs, as Viola, Second Violin, or Pianist, any Business. B., 22, Knowle-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Oboist, London preferred. A. E. DAVIES, 13, Warwick-crescent, Bayswater.

WANTED, by First-Class Solo Harpist, Engagement, Concert Party, Grand Opera, any class of work. HARPIST, 36, Union-street, Jersey.

WANTED, Summer Engagement as Harpist, Solo or Orchestra (Piano if required). For references apply to Mr. Dan Godfrey, Bournemouth. Address, Miss WOLTERS, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo, thoroughly reliable, experienced all kinds of Bus. Permanency or Deputy. FLAUTIST, 137, Northwold-rd., Clapton, N.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, Dances, or any Business. F. WANSBOROUGH, 47, Fleming-road, Walworth, S.E.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by J. Sinclair, L.R.A.M., Pianist, Harpist, Orchestral experience, Accompanist. References. 30, Empire-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement, as Accompanist to Professionals and others for private practice; sight-reader. London. ANNA C. SMITH, 46, Powell-road, Clapton, N.E.

WANTED, by Experienced Pianist (combine Violin), Engagement, Theatre or Variety Hall; good arranger; 15 years' experience. KEY, 6, Rayleigh-road, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, by Pianist, thoroughly reliable and capable, immediate Engagement, Orchestra or Self, any Business; good refs. GREENWOOD, Tunnel Hotel, Edgehill, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Lady, Brilliant Pianist, 3 years at R.A.M., Engagement; certificated, medallist. State salary. Box 4,348, "The Era."

WANTED, by experienced Pianist (Accompanist), Summer Engagement, with Concert Party; well up in Sight-reading and M.S.; 10 seasons' recommendation. BRITNELL, 83, Corrance-rd., Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement as Pianist, any business, steady, reliable; excel. refs.; good reader; exper. Var., Drama business. PIANIST, 45, Carney-street, Boosbeck. After Monday morning, 227, Bowling Back-lane, Bradford, Yorks.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Pianist, Organist, Conductor, as Musical Director, Accompanist, or at Piano with Orchestra. Address, Box 4,342, "The Era."

WANTED, by Young Lady, Orchestral Pianist, thoroughly experienced, Dram. or Variety; Dis., town or suburbs; moderate. SINCLAIR, 75, Hollydale-road, Peckham.

WANTED, by Young Lady, A.T.C.L. Medallist, Solo Pianist, good Accompanist, for Concerts, Dinners, &c. Address, F., 11, Willoughby Park-road, Tottenham, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Pianist, concluding tour with Robert Arthur's Picture Co. Good references. PIANIST, this week, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Staffs; next, 10, Bath-row, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist, Orchestral, excellent sight-reader, capable of training chorus; good references. R., 59, Amesbury-avenue, Streatham Hill.

WANTED, Known, Mme. H. E. Angless's Ladies' Orchestra, open to accept engagements. From three to thirty performers. 78, Norwood-road, Herne Hill, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Shikissima Band, Ladies' Japanese Orchestra, at Liberty for Piers, &c.; brilliant costume, large répertoire. CONDUCTRESS, Glenthorpe, Chesterfield-road, Newbury.

WANTED, The Shakespearean Ladies' Orchestra, 12-30 performers, beautiful costumes, fine criticisms; also the Gascoyne Quintette, Quartette, or Trio Terms and vacant dates, Miss GASCOYNE OLD, 238, Edgware-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Rosabel Ladies' Military Band, scarlet and gold uniforms.
MANAGER, 1124, St. James'-street, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Small Orchestra, from end of May to Aug, Seaside, Pier, Yacht, &c.; good répertoire of music. Box 4,350, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands, apply Bureau, 8, Bedford-terrace, Kensington. Quartet Disengaged, scarlet and gold or evening dress.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING. Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND NEW CIRCUS, HYDE.
WANTED, all Star Turns, at once and for Future Dates; also Useful Circus Artists in all Lines. Can arrange with something big for Feb. 18 and 25.
Address, KING OHMY,
Ohmy's Grand Circus, Hyde.

ALEXANDRA'S CIRCUS. Tenting Season, 1907.
WANTED, through obliging, Equestrians, Lady or Gent., with or without own horses; also Good Wardrobe Woman and good Working Head Groom. Apply, D. TAYLOR, 10, Washington-street, Worcester.

WANTED, good Equestrian Circus, Gondolas, Swings, all kinds of Shows, for Easter Carnival, at New Brompton, two weeks, perhaps longer. Address, PROFESSOR CHARLES, Managing-Director, High-street, New Brompton, Gillingham, Kent.

WANTED, Easter, Whitsuntide, onwards, High Rope, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Cyclists, Lithos., memos., lowest terms, permanent address, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, for Stevo's New Zealand Circus, Tenting Ireland, commencing Easter Monday, Useful People, also Family doing number Acts, Singing Pictures. Agent, and Band. Address, F. STEVO, Post Office, Dublin.

WANTED, Wanted, Contortionist,
Single Young Man, for a new Act, immediately.
Particulars as to age, salary, photo., &c., to HARRY STREAM,
41, Lisle-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, Smart Knockabout Pantomimist, also Young Lady, for Dumb Sketch; must do leaps, &c. Terms, photos., &c., DARGO, 578 Lockroad, Hanley.

WANTED, a Middle Man and good Tumbler, for Acrobats, must be young. GEO. SHERRY, 152, Lambeth-road, London.

WANTED, thoroughly sober Groom for Dog Show, early riser, to load and unload, no baggage-men used; single working man, not brutal, required. Can join next week. Box 4,365, "The Era."

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING. Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence

WANTED, Known, Two Dominos, Clown and Donkey. The Beautiful Arabian Donkey, with a Brain, whose pedigree is traced for over two thousand years. A comic act. At Lib. Feb. 4. Com., Hengler's Circus, London.

WANTED, Known, Little Bishop, Clown and Comedian, Trick and Comic Entrées, at Liberty for Monday. Wire, Ohmy's Circus, Hyde.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Proprietors and Agents to Note.—Here is Something New for you. A Real Animal Act and Original Show, suitable for Stage Ring and Circus. Don Miguel's Bulls, Bulls Bulls. The Only Troupe of Performing Bulls of their Kind in the World. Challenge £500 for their equal. A Great Surprise to all Halifax to hear of Performing Bulls. This week, Grand, Halifax. Only few Dates Vacant, Feb. 11 and 18, March 4, 11, 18, 25. Then off to the Continent for a long season. All coms., DON MIGUEL; or Perm. Address, Sig. Alexander, 4, High-street, Bloomsbury, London, W.

WANTED, Known, Bimbo, English and Continental Clown, with Trick and Comic Entrées, also High Stilt Performer, a big success Olympia, London, at Liberty Feb. 18.

WANTED, Les Steckels, Gymnastic Speciality, vacant March 4, 11, 18, 25. Offers invited. Success New Theatre, Loughborough. Monday, Empire, Hull. Agent, STEES.

WANTED, Feb. 18, 25, Mayeno Troupe, Ladies and Gentlemen, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Wire Walkers. Also Liberty for Summer Galas. Perm., 30, Gt. George-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lolo, Charming Lady Gymnast, Graceful Trapeze and Teeth Speciality Artist, Algie's Circus, Spennymoor; also Little May, in her Graceful Contortionist, and Dancer; Liberty Feb. 25, also vacant for Tenting.

WANTED, Known, De Ora, Speciality Gymnast, third week, continuous success, R. A. P. Williams' Panto. Vacant Feb. 11 and 18. Wire, Public Hall, Airdrie.

WANTED, Known, Chevalier Ponchery, the Monarch of the High Rope, at Liberty Whit Monday and August Bank Holiday. Address, High-street, Cradley Heath, Staffs.

WANTED, Tenting, Three Altons, Contortionists, and Gardon and Gardon, Gymnasts; two distinct acts by three Artists. 6, Victoria Park-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Young Man, First-class Tumbler, at Liberty to join Sketch or Partner. TOM RUSSELL, 38A, King-street, Glasgow, S.S.

WANTED, Known, to Circus Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Jack Philips concludes a four years' engagement on Feb. 16 with Unite's, the largest Tent, Marquee, Temporary Pavilion Hire Contractor in England. Open for an Engagement as Tentmaster or Boss Canvasman with any First-class Show, home or abroad; experienced, energetic, and reliable; late of Geo. Sanger, Fillis' Africa, Alexander's Australian Circus, &c. JACK PHILIPS, 12, Ladbroke-crescent, Notting Hill, London.

WANTED, Engagement as Tentmaster; experienced; at home or abroad. JOHN WARD, 1, Jubilee-place, Regent-road, Gt. Yarmouth.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING. Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

HIPPODROME, KING'S LYNN, AND CRYSTAL PALACE.
Lessee and Manager, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, Variety Artists, March 11, and onwards, to write in. Please Note.—First three nights King's Lynn (two houses nightly), last three nights Crystal Palace (one afternoon and one evening performance).
WILLIAM MARTIN, Opera House, Torquay.

WANTED, Refined Variety Artists, suitable for Pier Pavilions, Concerts, &c., complete Troupes write in, with full particulars and permanent addresses, to ERNEST LEATHLEY, Neiman's Variety Agency, 108, Strand, London, W.C. Tel. 8488 Gerrard.

WANTED, Variety Artists, for Combination; long tour; terms, shares. Full particulars to Box 4,367, "The Era."

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, Feb. 18 and 25.
WM. B. BROADHEAD, Hippodrome, Manchester.

Scarborough.
WANTED, Monday, Feb. 18, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines. Nothing too Big. Full particulars to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Feb. 18, Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; hall small. P. REYMOND, as above.

WANTED, good, cheap, Variety Artists all Lines. Doubles doing Singles and Specialities for Cavalry Music Hall, A.M.C. Music Hall, Aldershot, and Hippodrome, Reading. Absolute lowest terms; no best offers. GEORGE BAKER, Hippodrome, Reading.

WANTED, Variety Artists, immediate and future dates. Address,
JOHN CASSIDY, Victoria Theatre, Stanley, Durham.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Concerts and Music Halls. Interviews by appointment only. SCOTTISH MUSICAL AGENCY, 107, George-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, nothing too big, to book immediate dates. Apply
HARRY S. HART, Variety Agent, Star Palace, Bermondsey, S.E. 'Phone, 1048 Hop.
"Telegrams, "Hart, Star, Bermondsey."

THE NEW PALACE, READING.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Autumn onwards. All communications, G. HOWARD WATSON, Stanhope and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C. Telephone, 6070 Gerrard.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Empire, Paisley; also People in all Lines, for the North, for Feb. 18, on. Address, D. BAILEY, Agent, 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists wishing to be booked for First-Class Music Hall Engagements, to communicate with BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now on. Apply,
Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, all Kinds of Artists, for Smoking Concerts. Apply, with terms, to W. GOODGE, Bandmaster, Volunteer Service Club, Luton.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, Feb. 18, March 4, 18. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, also Bioscope, with First-Class Pictures, for Easter week, Town Hall, Rotherham. Address, WILSON, 48, Wellclose View, Leeds.

WANTED, First-Class Artists. Send vacant dates, and absolute lowest. I can book you. VENTOM SWIFT, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Feb. 11, on. FRED DURHAM'S Agency, 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone, 15 Brixton.

RHYL MINSTRELS.
WANTED, Refined, Smart, Gentlemanly Artists, Comedians, and Dancers, must have good voices, big répertoire of up-to-date Songs, for high-class Minstrel Troupe (must black up), anything vulgar or suggestive will not be tolerated; sobriety strictly enforced. State lowest terms, age, full particulars (if performed in Rhyl, say when and where). Send photos., which will be returned. Silence a polite negative.
Address, GILBERT ROGERS,
Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield, till Feb. 16.

WANTED, for the Elysian Grove, Aberystwyth, Minstrel Artists, Vocalists, Dancers, and Musicians. Open Whitsuntide. Particulars and terms, HARRY COLLINS, Rhyl.

COVENTRY HIPPODROME.
Proprietors, COVENTRY HIPPODROME CO., LTD.
WANTED, Agents and Artists to please Note that from Dec. 23, 1904, no Contracts will be recognised unless signed by the Secretary and Manager. T. M. SYLVESTER, Manager; G. E. WRIGHT, Secretary.

HIPPODROME AND CIRCUS OF VARIETIES, DOUGLAS, I. OF MAN.
WANTED, to thank the numerous Artists who responded to Advertisement. Mr. Connor is at present on the Continent, and will deal with the correspondence on his return next week.

WANTED, Ball-punching Act, Comedy Juggler, or Acrobatic Act, Feb. 11. Wire, lowest, Empire, Cradley Heath. Mon., Prince's, Portsmouth.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Big Variety Turns,
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Novelties and Sensational Acts,

For Immediate and Future Dates, for
London, Liverpool,
Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle,
Glasgow, Belfast,
Dublin, Manchester, Bolton,
Wolverhampton, Oldham,
Hartlepool, Shields, Barrow,
Carlisle, Darlington,
Hull, Middlesbrough, Stockport,
Blackpool, Morecambe,
Brighton, Boscombe, Margate,
Portsmouth, Southampton,
Bath, Lincoln, Leicester, Bradford,
Halifax, Sheffield, Blackburn,
Lancaster, Stockport, Burnley, Derby,
Attercliffe, Stoke, Grimsby,
St. Helens, Accrington, Warrington,
Bury, Hanley, Stockton, &c., &c.
Send, at once, terms, dates, and lithos.
Those having a good act can rely on getting Immediate Work.
WILL SLEY,
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Telephone, 09144.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."

WANTED, Novel Stage Turns, for March Trades Exhibition, April 2 to 10. Silence a polite negative. R. F. BERTOLLE, Secretary, March.

WANTED, Single and Double Turn for next week, Dancers preferred; must be refined. Wire lowest terms, ROBERTSON, Pavilion, Ilkley.

WANTED, for Feb. 18, week, Novel Musical Turn, New to Portsmouth, suitable to be introduced in Drama. Terms, Box 4,345, "The Era."

WANTED, three good Turns, to support Pictures, Monday next, must be cheap star, on shares. Wire, SAFRINI, Palace, Boston.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession,
Acts New in Dublin, for the above,
the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland,
Direct or through Agents.
All communications to WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, Feb. 18, 25, and March 4,
Stars in all Lines,
Stars in all Lines,
Full up for smaller items
State towns at liberty for.
Can fix big numbers any odd weeks.
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Big Star Turns,
Feb. 11, 18, 25,
onwards. Wire or write,
JESS VERNO'S Agency,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone, 3076 Royal.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Talent, all Lines,
JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1686 Royal.

WANTED, Talent of Every Description.
DUNDAS' Agency,
52, Rosthwaite-road, West Derby, Liverpool.

WANTED, Gaiety Varieties, Glasgow,
Good Comedy
and Good Singing Turns.
Free for Glasgow,
March 4 and onwards.
W. H. HOWARD, Manager.

WANTED, Star Attractions and Novelties for the Best London and Provincial Establishments. Nothing but the Best.
Big Headlines only Wanted.
Artists wanted for the Continent.
Star Features for the U.S.A. write.
Full bookings, terms for town and country,
HENRI CAZMAN, Palace Varieties, Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, for Webster and Girling's Agency, 150, Strand with which is amalgamated Hugh Wigglesworth's Provincial Agency. Address, as above, to HUGH WIGGLESWORTH, General-Manager, late of Blackpool, Morecambe, &c. Telegrams, "Entertainers, London." Telephone, 2990 Central.
Irma Lorraine, Florence and Lilian, and Vasco please communicate.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
WANTED, good Variety Combination, three nights, commencing March 28.
Address, C. M. JULIAN.

HIPPODROME, BLYTH, NORTHUMBERLAND.
WANTED, First-class Combinations, with Pictures preferred, Feb. 11 and 18. TUDOR, Blyth.

WANTED, First-Class Combinations, with Pictures preferred, for eight nights, commencing Feb. 22, March 4, 11, and on vacant. Particulars to BRADFORDE, Grand Theatre, Orpington.

WANTED, immediately, Specialities all Lines, Top Liners, new to London, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, &c. Send list bookings, vacant dates, also permanent address, HARRY WARD, 3, Adelaide-street, Strand. 2890 Gerrard. Seen by appointment only.

WANTED, four Specialities, May 20, Northampton, two Novel Acts for Blisworth, same date, open air, twice daily. Lowest terms, lithos., to MCASKELL'S Agency, Town Hall, Bishop Auckland.

WANTED, Specialities of all kinds, for North and South Wales, present and future dates. MARTINO'S Agency, 125, Barcroft-st, Grimsby.

WANTED, Top Liners that have odd weeks out to send lowest and bookings. I can fix anything good. FRED DURHAM, 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton. Tel. 15 Brixton.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

ROYAL HIPPODROME, BELFAST,
Now in Course of Erection,
and
when
Finished
will be the largest and Handsomest Building in Ireland.

WANTED, February, onward, all the Finest Acts in the World.
Price no object.
New and Novel Turns of every Variety.
The above is Booked
in conjunction with
TIVOLI THEATRE,
DUBLIN.

WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.

ALFRED SAKER and CO.,
Musical, Dramatic, and Variety Agents,
17, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W.
WANTED, Big Star Acts and Novelties, for immediate dates. Will the following Ladies and Gentlemen please attend rehearsal Monday, Feb. 11?
Hengler's Circus, London: "Little Red Riding Hood," Permane's Bears, Mlle. Roza's Dogs, Clown Felix, Tom Wanotee, Handy Andy, Anderson's Asses, Miss Beckey Daniels, A. E. Gaertner, Filmagraph, Clownland.
Hippodrome, Loughborough: Seven Wulfrunas, Blanch and Diacoff, Alf Berg, Yorkshire Mill Lassies, Beattie Bloom, Mollie Maverne, J. T. Daniels, Lester May, Wisper, Trippello.
ALFRED SAKER and Co.,
Musical, Dramatic, and Variety Agents,
17, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, for Feb. 18 (Lancashire),
Feb. 18 (Lancashire),
Feb. 18 (Lancashire),
Feb. 18 (Lancashire),
Feb. 18 (Lancashire),
Feb. 18 (Lancashire),
Cheap Comedy Acts.
Write at once, and by Tuesday first post latest.
Feb. 18, Feb. 18, Feb. 18, Feb. 18.
DALTON'S Agency, 29, Mauldeth-rd., West, Withington, Manchester, for Feb. 18, Cheap Comedy Acts.

CIRCUS and HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
Rehearsal Monday next, 2 o'clock, for Paul Pelham's "King's Navee," Sam Mitchello, Rose Le Clere, Cope and Hagen, Maud Gwynne, Charles Bayman, Taylor and Bridge, Olympian Trio, The Carls.

WANTED, Big Acts, on Share; holding capacity, 2,500. Letters, SMITH and Co., Red Lion Hotel, Rochdale.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
WANTED, Star Acts, all Lines, absolute lowest, once nightly. Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

WANTED, Feb. 11, on, Best of Variety Acts. GANNON, West-grove, Bristol. Faulkner Trio, Mezzettis, Moet and Chandon Trio, send addresses.

WANTED, Big Acts, for Fêtes and Galas, Seaside and Summer Pavilions, Easter onwards. Lithos., terms, bookings,
EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. 'Phone 09261. Wires, "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, for Variety Combinations, First-Class Attractive Acts all Lines,
Feb. 25, Bury;
April 15, Rochdale;
April 29, Dewsbury;
June 10, Dewsbury.
State if new to the town, or when last there.
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, London, W.C.

WANTED, Top Liners, Star Comedians, and any Big Act, to send full bookings and terms to FRANK LYNNE, 12, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Big Tops and Bottoms for all Principal Halls and Tours. Send list of bookings and permanent address. Those on our books keep us posted. Vacancies from Feb. 18, onwards. NEIMAN'S Variety Agency, 108, Strand, London, W.C. Telephone 8488 Gerrard.

WANTED, Known, to Artists and Others.—As Mr. Fred Spencer claims an interest in the Littlehampton Promenade Concerts, Summer Season, 1907, he begs to notify the above that all contracts must bear his signature as well as that of Mr. Dan Randall. Permanent address,
"Maxwelton," Littlehampton.

PENZANCE AL-FRESCO ENTERTAINMENTS.
WANTED, Known, the Penzance Chamber of Commerce are desirous of receiving Applications for the Sole Right of Providing Al-Fresco Entertainments in Penzance during the ensuing Season. A Site in the Alexandra Grounds, opposite the Promenade on the Sea Front, together with Stage and 150 Chairs, will be provided.
Applications (with specimen programme), giving full particulars, and stating rent offered for sixteen weeks, should be sent to
SECRETARIES, Entertainments Committee, Penzance.

WANTED, Known, Tenders invited for Stage Performances, Firework Display, &c., at Annual Volunteer Fête and Sports, to be held in G.W.R. Park, Swindon, on Whit Monday, May 20, 1907, to be sent in not later than Feb. 16. C. E. NEVILLE, E. COLE, Joint Secs., 81, Ponting-street, Swindon.

WANTED, for Bert Coote's Music Hall Troupes, Eight Special Girls, for Acrobatic, High-Kicking, and Combination Dancing; must be pretty, attractive, and not less than 5ft. 7in. Engagement to begin immediately. Apply in person, Monday, Feb. 11, at 11 o'clock, BERT COOTE, Percy Hall, 3, Percy-street, Tottenham Court-road W.

WANTED, Good Serio Comedienne or Sisters, Good Dancers, for Scotch Tour, commencing August, for twelve weeks, all railway fares paid after joining. Lowest terms, J. M. HAMILTON, 24, Pollok-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Young Lady, with good idea of Skirt Dancing, for big Electrical Production; must be good figure and dark. State when at Liberty, full particulars, in confidence. Advertiser can be seen personally in London next week. Box 4,365, "The Era."

THE LEON VINT'S ORGANISATIONS.
WANTED, Soprano, Mezzo Soprano, Contralto, also Young Lady Dancer.
State age, photo., references, lowest terms, list of Songs, &c., if can open at once or date at Liberty. No Artists need apply than cannot sign up to June 6.
I offer twelve months' contract to First-Class Artists.
All Stage Dresses found.
LEON VINT,
1, Maerdy-place, Aberdare, South Wales,
until Feb. 17.

WANTED, for Wordless Play, Toe Dancer, good figure; also young Pantomimist (serious and comic). Apply by letter, enclosing photo., full details, and lowest terms, to MANAGER, 118, Elgin-crescent, W.

WANTED, at Once,
First-class Pantomimist,
to rehearse a wordless play.
Apply, 4,356, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Comedians, Comediennes, &c., Feb. 18, 25, town and country, Novel Specialities for France. Artists all Lines for Panto., 1907-8. GEO. AYTOUN, Variety Agent,
120, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E.
Wires, "Antics, London." 'Phone 1949 Hop.

WANTED, Funny Comedian, with Refined Songs, &c., for Fred Pullan's Yorkshire Pierrots, Winter Gardens, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex (seventh season), commencing July 1, 9, or 10 weeks. Address, FRED PULLAN, Comedian, Bradford. Send permanent address.

WANTED, Comedy Bar Performer. Age, height, tricks, lowest salary, permanent engagement; must be funny, or useless. Open now or later. Box 4,334, "The Era."

WANTED, a Coloured Boy, about 12 years, for a renowned Continental Bicycle Troupe, as apprentice; excellent home. GUISS, 27, Bonham-road.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Bioscope, Latest Pictures, Agent in Advance, Open at Once. Send absolute lowest terms, Mills, 79a, Station-road, Hadfield, Derbyshire.

WANTED, Operator, Cinématograph, own machine and films, hour-and-quarter show; sharing terms. Sinclair, 46, Brailsford-road, Tulse Hill, London.

WANTED, Cinematograph Operator, for Temporary Employment in Provincial Town; must have had previous experience, and good references. Box 4,341, "The Era."

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Miss Amy Vetta, this week, Canterbury, London. Spanish Dancer and England's Premier Lady Drum Soloist. Sure success. Immediate and future dates, address, Charing Cross Post Office.

WANTED, Feb. 18, 25, on, Phedona, in her Electrical Musical Act; prettiest show of its kind. Pavilion, Sans-street, Sunderland.

WANTED, Known, Lady Banjoist, Humorist, and Sketch Artist (24) desires to join select Concert Party, London and district. M., 66, Palatine-road, N.

WANTED, by Sisters Beatrice, Duettists and Dancers, Monday next and on. This, Britannia, Hoxton. Per. add., 35, Florence-street, Islington. Offers invited.

WANTED, Known, the Genuine Harry Kardoc, the Handcuff King and Jail Breaker, will be free to accept Dates, Feb. 18, onward, with his New and Original Handcuff Act. Local challenges, with packing-cases and strait-jackets. Kardoc releases himself from the above in full view of the audience. Sure draw. Splendid pictorials. Wire or write (perm.), T. R., Dover.

WANTED, 11th, 18th, Jack Sheppard, World's Greatest Handcuff King and Prison Breaker; also Miss Ruby Vesta, in the Greatest Trunk Mystery on the Stage. Terrific success Empire, Paisley, turning away hundreds every night.

Wire or write, this, Empire, Paisley; next, 249, Bond-street, Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Feb. 18, 25, by Arthur Wade, the Versatile Baritone. Enormous success, Empire, Dudley. Specially engaged, Golf Club Concert, Birkenhead, Feb. 8. Wire or write, 31, Daulby-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Summer Season, by Walter Howard, Refined Humorist and Instrumentalist; good all-round man, smart appearance, well up in the Business. 18, Boyson-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Monday, by Alf Thomas, Comedian and Original Wooden Shoes, Pedestal, and Top Boot Dancer. Theatre Royal, Darwen.

WANTED, Monday next, Happy Dutchman, Concertinacalities, anywhere.
Bu-Val, 40, Cable-street, Lancaster.

WANTED, Known, The Original Magical Jester, J. C. Oliver, at Liberty Monday on, in "Mirthful Mysteries," introducing Marvellous Production of Animals, Birds, Flags, and Flowers; also Clever Japanese Balancing and Top-spinning J. C. Oliver, The Magical Jester, Wire, Palace, Bristol.

WANTED, Feb. 11, 18, and on, with exceptions, by Sid Stanto, in his novel Musical Act; elaborate electric fit-up, also as Dutch Dialect Comedian and Sabot Dancer (if required). Wire or write, 156, Trevelyan-road, Tooting, London.

WANTED, Known, Harry Plant, Novel Comic Musical Act and Comedian, at Lib. Feb. 18, on Halls or Tour. See Cards.

WANTED, Known, the Lord makes the bees, the bees make the honey, Dan Ashton draws the people, Proprietors draw their money.

WANTED, Monday next, onwards, with exceptions, Dan Ashton, the Original Collier Lad. Instructing, entertaining, and successful. Queen's Theatre, Castleford. See Cards.

WANTED, Feb. 18, March 4, on, by Li-Chang-Hi, Chinese Magician, with up-to-date Mysteries. Usual great success this, Poole's, Grand Theatre, Mansfield; next, Palace, Attercliffe.

WANTED, Dates, Shamrock Green, Easter, Pictures, Concerts, Halls, the most entertaining conjuring turn of its kind. 13, Horseman's-row, Dublin.

WANTED, Feb. 18, 25, March 4, by Mlle. Lillian and Agouste, Contortionists; also Savaro, Mimic, Silleur; Tenting preferred. Wire, offers, Jubilee Hall, Malpas, Cheshire. Feb. 15, Town Hall, Cobham, Surrey.

WANTED, by Ariel and Astarte, Smartest and Prettiest of all Lady and Gent. Gymnastic Pot Pourri Acts, free through transferring, Feb. 18. This, Hippo., Huddersfield; next, Grand, Halifax.

WANTED, by Edward Clark and Sadie Gold, American Expert Banjoist, Dancers, and Entertainers, Feb. 11, 18. Address, 31, Kennington Park-road, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Harry Bent, the Mimic; also Carlotta Lunn, Vocalist. Vacant Monday, North preferred. Wire, Circus, Bury.

WANTED, Monday next, by Elliott and Warne (Carrie and Tom), great Comedy Act, sure success. Wire, Theatre, Tredegar.

WANTED, Monday next, onwards, Rhodes and Rhodes (Joe and Nellie), Duettists and Dancers, Lady Single and Gent. Pianist. Wire, Town Hall, Rickmansworth.

WANTED, Feb. 18, 25, Kyoto, the Original one; May Geraldine, Comedienne.
Monday, Grand, Gravesend.

WANTED, Known, Bob Hartley, Comedian, Dancer, Patterer; Doris Dene, Serio, Descriptive; Liberty Monday, also 18th. Big hit T. R., Darwen.

WANTED, Known, The Howes (Rowland and Kitty), marvellous Mental Telegraphists; smartest, wittiest, prettiest Second Sight Show on earth. Enormous success Canterbury and Paragon, re-engaged. All communications, R. P. Julyan, 59, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, Feb. 18 and 25, by The Carls' Comedy Trampoline Act that can follow them all. Sure success. Roars of laughter and applause. Just returned from Continental Tour. Splendid lithos. Address.
Circus, Rochdale.

WANTED, Feb. 18, 25, March 4, by Los Granadas, Trampolin Comedy Gymnasts, a Novelty Own scenery. Monday, Albert Hall, Southport.

WANTED, by Reszki and Raszki, Gymnastic Grotesques and Tumblers, Feb. 11 and 18. Wire or write, 6, Beech-grove, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Vokes and Vokes, Funny, Refined Musical Artists, Liberty Feb. 11 and 18, home or abroad. Wire, Circus, Edinburgh. After, 16, Moreton-street, Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Wright and Elton, Comedy Act, vacant Feb. 11, 18, and 25. Wire, Pav., Leicester; after Saturday, 83, Lenthall-road, Queen's-road, Dalston, London.

WANTED, Known, Bert and Bert, Nivelty Turn, also Singles, Comedians. Agents write; now open. J. Light, 77, Queen's-walk Nottingham.

WANTED, Monday next, also 18th, through transferring, The Dunvilles, Comedy Musical Act, "Les Domestiques de la Maison." Wire to-day, Hippodrome, Loughborough.

WANTED, Monday, by Harry Paulton, Class Comedian, and The Daltons, American Song Illustrators, two Big Turns. Wire, 25, High-street, Silverdale, Staffs.

WANTED, Engagement, Feb. 18, onward, Magnet Trio, Comedy Sketch Artists, Double and Single Turns. Address, Magnets, Post Office, Neath, South Wales.

WANTED, by Faulkner Trio, in screaming absurdity, also Frew and Frew, Comedians, Monday next. Wire, 138, Walworth-road, London.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, the Dunlops, Comedy Cyclists; Lillian Sivado, Lady Gymnast; two distinct acts, liberty for galas, &c. Gaiety, Glasgow.

WANTED, Feb. 25, March 4, 11, by The Gelders, Clever Magicians, &c.; Ivy Dene, Soubrette and Dancer. Address, Hippodrome, Reading.

WANTED, Bookings by The Noodles, Sketch and Song Artists (deputised Tivoli, Manchester, 3 recalls), 55, Market-street, Buxton.

WANTED, Known, Herbert Lenton and Troupe, Speciality Act, at Liberty Feb. 18, North preferred. Wire, Olympia, Liverpool. Next week, Empire, Glasgow.

WANTED, by Cambrian Glee Singers, Messrs. Stevens, Moor, and Farrelly, Dates. Great success. This, Palace, Plymouth; next, Palace, Bristol.

WANTED, by R. J. Golding, the Real Ventriloquist and Illusionist, March 4, on.
This week, Alhambra, Sandgate.

WANTED, Feb. 18, and onward, by Gilroy, Vent., and Boston Bioscope; also Offers for Al-fresco. Still bang up-to-date. For terms and dates, write, this, Pal., Leigh; next, T., Preston.

WANTED, by Tom Garland, Ventriloquist, Feb. 18, on. Dublin Mail: Tivoli, Tom Garland is one of the most successful ventriloquists seen in Dublin. 12, Poplar-road, Wrexham.

WANTED, Feb. 18, 25, March 4, by Gulliver, First-class Vent. Act; well dressed, refined novelty. Address, 46, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, Feb. 18, March 4, 11, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist, two smart acts. Monday, Hippo., Stalybridge.

WANTED, by Trillo, the marvellous Ventriloquist, Monday, onwards; just finished three months' Continent. Success guaranteed. Wire, Public Hall, Grays, Essex.

WANTED, for Frances Ferina's most successful Duos, "Pity the Blind" and "Motor Muddle," by H. Picon, Feb. 18. Next, Pavilion, Leicester.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Lion Show, Vacant April 15, 29, May 6, 13, and 27.
Offers invited.

Address, week Feb. 11,
Algie's Hippodrome, Spennymoor, co. Durham.

WANTED, Dates, for Sergt.-Major Williams' Excelsior Troupe of Performing Dogs; just finished very successful 7 weeks' tour with Kitts' and Bellamy's Pantomime Co., "Cinderella." Sure draw. Perm. add., 2a, Belgrave-street, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Gilbert's Dogs and Cats, conclude return, Empire, Portsmouth, Feb. 11, King's Hall, Westcliffe-on-Sea. At Liberty Feb. 25. Address, direct; or Stebbings, Manchester.

WANTED, Alice Fontainbleau, Canine Marvels, Vacant Feb. 11, 25, March 4. Sure draw. Wire, 10 Liverpool-street, King's Cross, W.C.

WANTED, Feb. 11, 18, 25, March 4, precede Dover, &c., Palette and his Wonderful Dog Max. Wire, write, 28, Amberley-street, Bradford.

WANTED, Known, Pygmies from Central Africa are open for few weeks' Engagement. James Harrison, Oxford and Cambridge Club, Pall Mall.

WANTED, Known, a Young Trick and Knockabout Comedy Cyclist is Open to join anything, with or without own Machines. Box 4,337, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, to join Sketch or Comedy Act, a good Pantomimist, Equilibrist, and Comedy Tumbler. Caderos, 1, Reed-st., West Hartlepool.

WANTED, Dates or Tour, Zella's Living Mannikins, new act and splendid fit-up. Wire or write, 34, Keswick-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Signor Trevori, Punch Conjurer, and Ventriloquist, Second Sight Expounder (50 years' old code). Now booking Fêtes, Flower Shows, &c. Terms moderate. Ivanhoe House, Green-lane, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagements, Public or Private, Harmon's Bioscope, Marionettes, also Royal Punch and Judy, with Toby. 326, Earlsfield-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements for Lingwood's Bioscopes, Electric or Lime; change of up-to-date Films weekly. Lingwood, 31, Watcombe-road, South Norwood.

WANTED, Known, Chrono. Bioscope, and first-class Operator, with latest films, change weekly, perm. engt. only, cheap. Turner, Gaiety, Glasgow.

WANTED, Dates for First-Class Bioscope and Variety Entertainment; Certainty or Shares. G. Luker, Thames-street, Walton-on-Thames.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman, Silver King (regd.), Auctioneer, Valuer, Expert and Authority to the United Kingdom and Van Dwellers' Association, Auctioneer to Lord George Sanger (England's Greatest Showman), and Leading Showmen of Great Britain. Sales and Commissions conducted in any part of the World. If you want to Buy or Sell anything connected with the Business, consult Tom Norman, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand. Change of address. Wanted to purchase or engage all kinds of Novelties and Curiosities (alive or dead), if suitable for exhibition.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman (Silver King) and Retsill and Myra (Thought Readers) beg to thank all friends for congratulations on their success in London on the Moss and Stoll Tour. Next week, Empire, Shepherd's Bush. Provinces shortly.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100, 101, 102a, Houndsditch, is going ahead with up-to-date Lines in Field Glasses, Fancy Goods, Clocks, Jewellery, &c.

There is no cheaper house for you.

WANTED, Known, Electrical, Simpkin, Wilkinson, and Gibson, Kirkstall-road, Leeds, manufacture four and six pole Showmen's Dynamos (improved pattern), also new Flame Arc Lamps, geared motors, for driving organs and roundabouts, large stocks, cable, carbons, globes, incandescents, all classes of repairs; new line, direct coupled portable electric plants, driven by paraffin.

WANTED, Known.—A Word to the Wise is Sufficient. A Client writing June 25, 1906, says:—Bag puncher took £300 in a little over three months. For price, write Sole Agents to the Makers, viz., the Mills Novelty Co. Minerva Automatic Co., 120, York-rd., King's Cross, London, N. Largest Variety of Automatic Machines in the trade. No Junk. Don't buy worn-out machines.

Latest Invention.
PORTABLE HELTER SKELTER LIGHTHOUSE, Prices on application.

WANTED, Known, I have the Sole Right of manufacture of the above under the Registered Design No. 463,956, of S. F. Staples, A.M.I.C.E. Caution.—Infringements of above rights will now be dealt with.

Walker,
Roundabout Maker, Tewkesbury.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that the Gourock Ropework Co., Ltd., Lancaster-place, Lowestoft (sole manufacturers of Birkmyres Waterproof Cloth), have for sale a Secondhand 110ft. Green Waterproof Tent Top and 50ft. Red and White Circus Tent, also new 80ft. and 60ft. White Bull Cloth Tent Tops, one 26ft. by 20ft. White Bull Cloth Horse Tent, and a new Red and White Roundabout Tilt. Write at once.

MARCH FOURTH TRADES, INDUSTRIAL, ARTS and INVENTIONS EXHIBITIONS, 1907.
Open April 2 to 10.
Manager, Mr. Joseph Collingwood, J.P.
Three years since last Exhibition.
Locally organised, managed on same lines as its three predecessors, each of which has established fresh records for attendance and business.
WANTED, Trade Displays, Working Exhibits, Novelties, Side Shows, Stage Artists, &c., &c. Two first-class positions for Trade Displays still open. R. F. Bertolle, Sec.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

Auctioneers.
WANTED, Known, Great Value Offered in Secondhand Silver Watches.
Auctioneers only supplied.
Write to-day for full particulars,
C. G. Clacher, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.
Try one of my famed parcels, containing Ten English Lever and Twelve Silver Geneva Watches. Best Value ever Offered.
In great demand. Price, £5 5s.

WANTED, Known, Showmen's Letter Cloths Made and Attractively Painted in Fancy Colours, all Kinds of Showmen's Painting Undertaken. Roche, Artist, 22, Lansdown-road, Lee, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known.—Write or call at Greene's, Falmouth-road, London, S.E., for .22 ammunition, rifles, globes, targets; absolutely cheapest market

WANTED, Side Shows,
for Exeter Trades Exhibition,
April 16 to 26, 1907.
Terms to
General-Manager,
199, High-street, Exeter.

WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, Open at Once, Sale of Books and Postcards allowed. Chas. A. James, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Novelties to send Vacant Dates one month, for the four best Shops in London. Professor Ruby, 68, Uxbridge-rd., Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, Novelties and Freaks of Nature, for Bagan's Waxworks, Belfast, North-street; also Lady Palmist and Tattooist, on shares; good opening.

WANTED, Refined Novelties and Freaks of Nature, for Shop. Address, Professor Charles, High-street, New Brompton, Gillingham, Kent.

WANTED, a Quick-Showing Novelty, on Salary, Swimmers or Midgets preferred; good front flash wanted. Send lowest terms to C. Jackson, 108, Upper-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, Novelties, for present and future dates; also good people for Ghost Show. Address, Proprietor, 100, Lower Marsh, Lambeth, London.

WANTED, to open Monday, Novelties, any description, best position in Crewe; Shares. Will Elbas wire? Fire King, Exhibition, Market-street, Crewe.

WANTED, for Col. Clark's Living Picture Exhibition, Market-place, Farnworth, Two Young Girls, from 18 to 20, for Parading; Dresses found; must live out.

WANTED, Palmist, Amusements, Stalls, Games, Fairy Floss, finest positions, seaside; also Aerial Flight for sale, cheap. Melville, 36, Cobden-street, Barnoldswick.

WANTED, Lecturer, and to Sing to Pictures, for Short Season,
Open Monday, Feb. 11.
Terms and references,

Manager, Circus, Hull.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Hand Sellers, must be experienced in all-round Stock. Best terms always. Running Shops all the year.
Apply,
C. Chaplain, 95, High-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, First-Class Young Man, for parading, one that can sing and dance, also man as engine cleaner and make himself generally useful; good wages to the right men. Address, Cottrell's Cinématograph Show, Grand, Wallsend-on-Tyne, Northumberland.

WANTED, a thorough Comedian and Plankswoman, to travel with Auction Mart; also a Descriptive Vocalist; men that understand the business only. R. Williams, Auction Mart, Cross Keys, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, Watchmaker, with Travelling Auctioneer, Shop Business; one who would hand round and make himself useful. Dobson, Hanbury-road, Bargoed.

WANTED, Known, Bailey's Punch and Judy and Toby, at Liberty Monday next, also Easter. Address, Bennett-street, Buxton, Derbyshire.

WANTED, Known, Alastor (Mystic), Scientific Palmist, Olympia, open for engagements after Feb. 17, rental or shares. 19, Danvers-st., Chelsea, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Mme. De Bord, Character-Reader, Olympia. Private address, 33, Grove-lane, Camberwell. Disengaged Feb. 16. For Ref., Mme. Daly, Olympia.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Carl Whyte, Hypnotist, Conjuring, Knife-throwing, Liberty Monday. Paintings, Posters, &c. Wire or write, Queen's Hotel, Pentre, Glamorganshire.

WANTED, Known, Tom Riley, the Royal Tattooist, requires Engagement or small Studio, suitable for better class clients; Liberty Feb. 18. Address, Riley, Tattooist, Olympia, London.

WANTED, Engagements, from Monday next, Signor Lopez, Champion Fire King. Shares or Salary; Painting, Photos, &c. Exhibition, Market-street, Crewe.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Little Jimmy Greenwood, Comedian, Planksman, &c.; steady, reliable. Write or wire, Dyfnant Cottage, Abercrave, Swansea Valley, South Wales.

WANTED, Known, Auctioneer at Liberty for Seaside, Summer Season; tall, King's English; salary or com. Offers. Box 4,335, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Full Size Distorting Mirrors, at Liberty, Exhibitions, Gardens, &c. Address, Mirrors, 19, Marchmont-street, Russell-square, London.

WANTED, Situation, by smart young Auctioneer, experienced; knows good firms; undeniable references. Box 4,336, "The Era."

BLACKPOOL SANDS.
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BY ORDER OF EXECUTORS.

SKEGNESS, LINCOLNSHIRE.

Important Sale of Theatrical Property in this rapidly increasing and popular Seaside Resort.

GEO. DUNKLEY and SON
have received instructions from the Executors of the will of the late Mr. E. A. Jackson, to SELL by AUCTION, at the LION HOTEL, SKEGNESS, on Monday, the 18th day of February, 1907, at 2 for 2.30 p.m. (subject to the Common Form Conditions of Sale of the Lincolnshire Incorporated Law Society), and to such Special Conditions as shall be then read, the following VALUABLE PROPERTY, viz., ALL that well-built PROPERTY known as

THE KING'S HALL THEATRE AND SWIMMING BATHS,

situate in SCARBOROUGH AVENUE, SKEGNESS, with a frontage thereto of 128 feet or thereabouts, and an average depth of 125ft., and described as follows:—

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The above will be sold in one Lot, with all Engines, Pumps, and necessary fixtures for working same. Vacant possession on completion.

The movable Furniture, Fittings, Stock, and Effects in and about the Premises, and hitherto used for carrying on the business, are to be taken by the purchaser at valuation, and to be paid for in addition to his purchase money.

The whole property is Leasehold for the residue of a term of 99 years from the 6th April, 1882, at a Ground Rent of £10 per annum.

The whole or any part of the purchase money can be had on approved security.

The Auctioneers wish to call special attention to this Sale. The property is situated in the finest position in the town for a place of entertainment, and has been decorated throughout, a new stage built, and a first-class connection established.

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1st February, 1907.

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Mr. A. G. BONSOR,

is instructed to SELL by AUCTION, on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 1907, at the Mart, Tokenhouse Yard, E.C., at 2.30 p.m. precisely, the Spacious and Handsomely Constructed Building, well-known as

ST. JAMES' HALL,
KINGSTON-ON-THAMES,

Fully licensed for music and dancing, having an imposing elevation of red brick with heavy ornamental stone dressings, and comprising

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having a floor area of 3,248 square feet, containing seating accommodation for 700, capitally ventilated, heated by hot water apparatus, lighted by electricity and gas, and fitted with a spacious stage, gallery with lantern platform, box offices, retiring rooms, ladies' and gentlemen's lavatories, and a very dry and extensive basement running right under the whole building.

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There are cloak-rooms, two Foyers, four well-appointed fully licensed Saloons and Bars, twelve Dressing-rooms, &c.

The Stage and Auditorium are equipped on the most modern principles—electric light, gas, and heating apparatus throughout.

There are seven Lock-up Shops, all occupied.

WILLMAN AND DOUGLAS
have received instructions to Sell by Public Auction (if not previously disposed of), at the Theatre (entrance from Southfield-road), on Tuesday, the 26th day of February, 1907, at 2.30 for 3 o'clock in the afternoon, all that FREEHOLD FULLY-LICENSED THEATRE, known as the GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH, together with the furnishings, fittings, stage effects, &c., as a going concern.

For particulars and conditions of sale and cards to view, apply to A. I'ANSON, Esq., C.A., Erimus-chambers, Queen's-square, Middlesbrough; the Auctioneers, at their offices, 26, Albert-rd., Middlesbrough; or Messrs. Lucas, Hutchinson, and Meek, Solicitors, Middlesbrough and Darlington.

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The premises are situate in the heart of Blackpool, about five minutes' walk from the two Railway Stations and the Promenade, and will accommodate from 4,000 to 5,000 persons.

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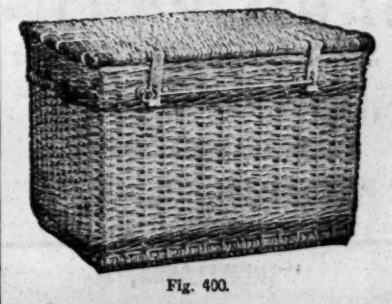

Fig. 400.

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28	18	18	8/9	4/0	3/3	2/6
30	20	20	10/6	4/6	3/6	2/6
33	21	21	12/6	5/3	4/0	3/0
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"The Treasure Ship in Fairy Seas," The Slivers, Genaro and Theol, Boris Lensky, Paxton Trio, The Kremos, Hale and Francis, Vittorio and Giorgetto, Cruikshank, The Althoffs, Trilby Svengalis, Mlle. Von Etta, Lavater Lee, Selma Braatz, Chronomegaphone.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal at 1.30 for :—
Kate Carney, Renard Trio, Harry Clifford, Sybil St. Elmo, Prof. Vox, Stein Eretto Family, Simms and Simms, Lindon Vaudevilles, Carney and Armstrong, Alice Maple, Bioscope.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Black Hussars, Bioscope, Bros. Redmond, Marion Scott, Fred Elton, Carrie Joy, Watson's Dogs, Bijou Russell, Herbert Lenton, Howard and Harris.

ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Cinquevalli, Bioscope, Bros. O'Gormon, Lily Tiso, J. A. Wilson, Kitty Clover and Co., Edie Veno, Dan Conroy, Kelly and Ashby, Coloured Meisters.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
J. F. Elliston's Pantomime, "Puss in Boots."

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Geo. Gray and Co., in "Parson Gray, V.C.," Carlos Cæsaro, Chas. Vincent, Maningos, Ruth Doris, Sylvesta, Young and De Voi, Billy McClain's Sextette, Leo Strads, Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Tschernoff's Dogs and Ponies, Russell Brandow, Three Missouris, Fitzroys, Casey's "Mick Wittingtun," Welsh Wanderers, Geo. Ridgwell, Knick Knacks, Lily Esplin, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Fred Karno and Co.'s "Football Match," Albert Whelan, Tupps, Sam Elton, Albert Christian, Katie Cohen, Horace Jones, Marie Empress, Kathleen Cogan.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Friedman's "Happy Holland," Harry Drew, Ethel Ra Leslie, Macarte Sisters, Lilieth Leyton and Co., Five Bogannys, Prince Kokin, Mr. and Mrs. Lucas, Lidden and Hayward, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Marie San Toi and Co., Arthur Lennard, Lizzie Fletcher, Jeannie Mackay, Godfrey James, Florence, Rhoda Bros., Harry Leybourne, Seeley and West, "Yellow Fang."

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Gus Elen, Lee and Kingston, Victor Newman, Brull and Hemsley, Ed. Arthur and Co., Frank Harwood, Azella Wilson, Conway and Leland, Bioscope, Frank and Jen Latona.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
"No. 99," Chas. Robinson, Bioscope, Avolos, Spanish Goldinis, Jordan and Harvey, Lilian Dundas and Co.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Bo Peep," Bioscope, Cliff Ryland, Ethel Donna, Sofari Duo, "Xmas Eve," Fergana Trio, Dandies, Harry Anderson, Winnie Derson.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Bioscope, Three Careys, Master Clifford, Three Sisters Chester, Chas. Mildare, Allisons, Kellinos, La Pia, John Warren and Co., T. E. Conover and Co.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Harry Bedford, Horace Goldin, Hall and Earle, McConnell Trio, Lily Adair, American Comedy Four, Bioscope, Rex King, Ernest Torrence, "Belles of the Kitchen."

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Chas. Norton, Abdullah Arabs, Percy Honri, The Jees, The Courtiers, Kitty Marion, The Uniques, Fred Storey and Co., Bioscope, Moon and Morris.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Belloni's Cockatoos, Mendel, Hartley Wonders, Maggie Walsh, The Gems, Lily Burnand, Tennyson and Wallis, "Moving In," Lena Verdi, Harry Herbert, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Trapnell Family, Fanny Erris, Nellie Coleman, Dome, D'Arc's Marionettes, Cairns and Lynch, "Heartstrings," Cambrian Trio, "Devil's Sunday," Alexandra Dagmar, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Ike Scott and Son, Orpheus, Gladys Mavius, Newhouse and Ward, Lilian Warren, Karno's Four, Peggy Pryde, "Military Tournament," Bioscope.

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EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Laurie's Kindergarten, Selbini Troupe, Sadie Simpson, Sisters Anderson, the Ten Loonies, Alice May and Co., Mark Merry, Allan Hanbury, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Prof. Dunning, Kahn and Kahn, Verno and Voyce, The Findens, Sisters Geretti, Les Voces, Jack Camp, Ginnett's "Dick Turpin," Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Lilian Lowe, Hurley and Cole, The Robertys, Alice Esty and Co., Parker and Parr, Dusty Rhodes, Gladys Huxley, Bioscope, Chas. Coborn, Auto Atlas.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
Dot Hardy, Two Bostons, Michael Nolan, Agnes Hazel, The Bandurrias, Ernest Shand, Kate Traill, Punch and Judy Girls, Vetter Bros., Bioscope.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Dandy Thieves," Stewart and Morgan Mascotte Trio, Bioscope, Geo. Young, Esta Stella, "Crystal Gazing," Cullane's Comedy Four, Sylvia's Vocal Tableaux, The Kurios.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Bioscope, Illustrated Song, Frank Darwin, Gertrude Bradshaw, Hilda Jacobsen, Three Merrils, Dewitt, Burns and Torrence, Ten Ji Troupe, "Earthquake."

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Lieut. Travis, Wartenberg Bros., Carl Hertz, Sinclair and Whiteford, My Fancy, Frank Bernard and Co., Schwartz Bros., Bioscope, Collier and Child.

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CLOSED.

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Rehearsal at 1 for :—
G. W. Hunter, Manning's Entertainers, Winnie Gordon, Lazern, Jimmy Shields, Paulinetti and Piquo, Pictures, Nina Gordon, Musical Silvo, "Bolt from the Blue."

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
La Milo and Cruikshank, Harry Lawson, Frazer and Mac, Princess Pauline, Bros. Schenk, Hettie Chattell, Harold Hughman, Bellonini.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Park's Eton Boys, James Brady, Thorpe and Co., Camerons, Ed. E. Ford, Pictures, Paul Dow, Marzella's Birds.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.
Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Mlle. Dionde, Wal Robbins, Leonards, Jessie Burnett, Geo. Newburn, Three Cape Girls, Ottawas, Pictures, J. H. Darnley's Co.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Madge Grey, Bohemians, Syd May, Bioscope, Arthur Melrose, E. W. Selman, Vasilescu Troupe, Glenroy Troupe.

THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Glasen's Art Bronzes, Harry Taft, Harry Freeman, Fred Keeton, Phil Ray, Arthur Aldridge, Mike Cray, Raie Walters, Sisters Brenton, Alma Bignell, Cora Williams and Co., Marco, Joe and Louie Love, Bros. Corcoran, "A Woman's Honour," Maud Holland and Co., Pictures, Moon and Morris.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Geo. D'Albert and Co., Arthur Croxon, Joe Archer, Mike Cray, Cissie Dryden, Sisters Brenton, Lionel Vaughan and Co., Walker and May, Three Prestons, Andrew Roy, Pictures, Ongars.

EMPIRE, COVENTRY.
Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Ryan and Hall, Morimura, Little Ganty, Madge May, Barton and Ashley, Phil and Nettie Peters, Bioscope, Auguste Van Biene.

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ARTISTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT THE ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON, IS WITHIN THE AREA ABSOLUTELY BARRED BY US.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND
(Now in course of erection).
Artists and Agents please note that Bookings for the above Theatre have now commenced.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras (Fifteen for those engaged at the London Coliseum). Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, or at least TWO WEEKS, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagement cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

N.B.—Silence in every case a polite negative. Artists are requested not to enclose stamped envelope. Letters marked "Private" will be delayed.

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"CHEYENNE,"
"I CAN SEE RED ROSES BLOOMING,"
"BOY BLUE,"
"COME BACK TO BORNEO,"
"IN MY PAGODA,"
"WHY DO THE GIRLS LOVE CHARLIE?"
"HENNY KLEIN,"
"IT IS THE SCARECROW,"
"MY IRISH ROSIE."
"I WANT MOLLY AND SHE WANTS ME."

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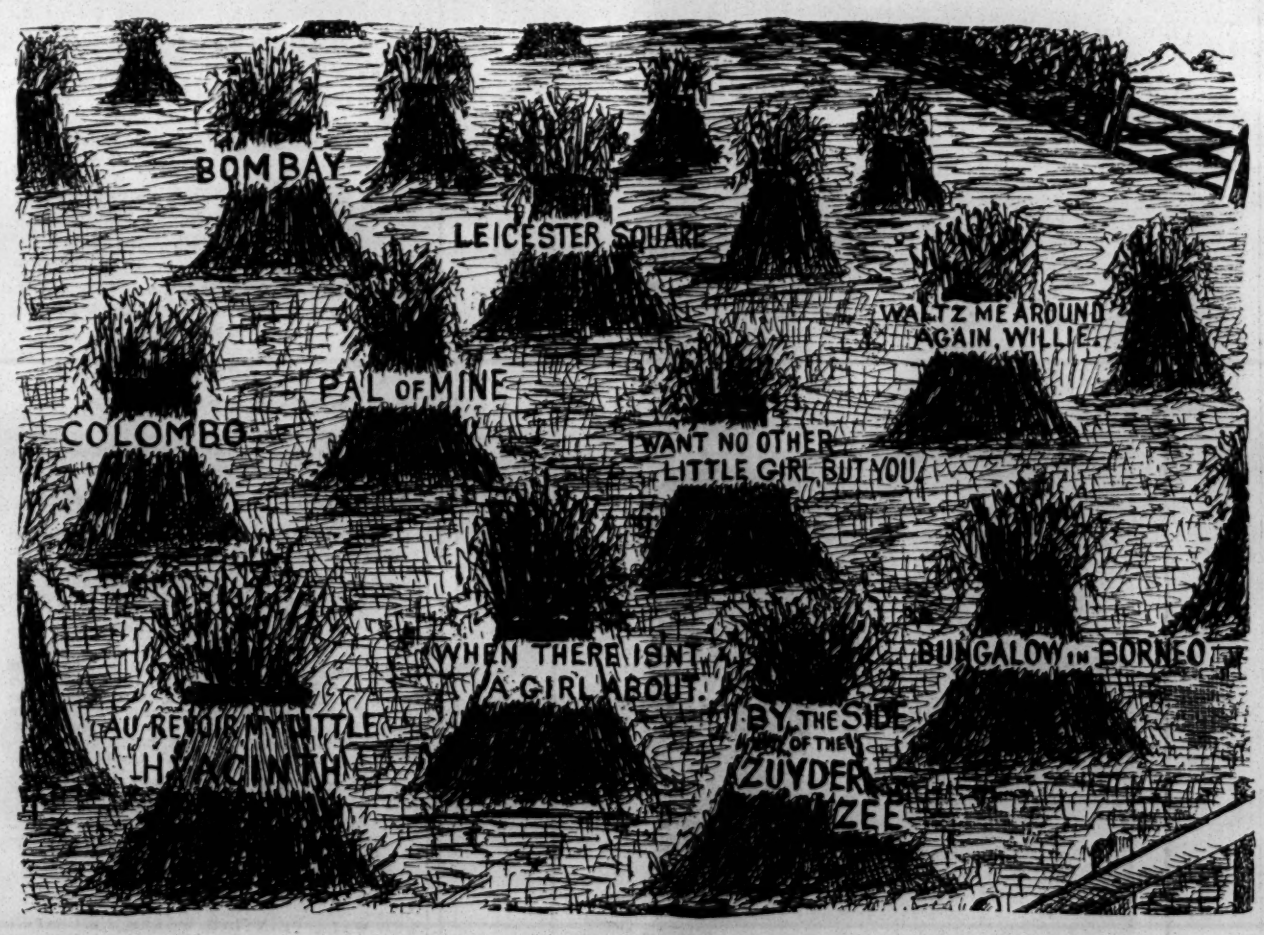

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Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follows :—

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HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.
"Dick Whittington," Phil Bransby, Les Rupertos, Hinton and Wooton, Pictures, Sam Mayo, Ulrick.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.
Victoria Monks, Two Dixons, Henriette De Serris, Bishop and Hanlon, Clarice Greta, Ernie Myers, Lily Lonsdale, Waltons, Mons. Slippere, Marjutti, Pictures.

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Grand Variety Company.

LYRIC, LIVERPOOL.
Grand Variety Company.

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NEW PIECES PRODUCED AT THE PARIS THEATRES. See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.

NEW PIECES PRODUCED AT THE BERLIN THEATRES. See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
"The Era" Annual for 1907, published at a shilling from 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, is, as usual, a happy combination of record, almanac, and literary symposium. The last-mentioned aspect is one that most commends the work to the lay reader. The literary contributions are signed by well-known artists who have contributed personal experiences of remembered incidents, and whose portraits adorn the pages. A touch of pathos is lent to an otherwise cheery publication by the inclusion of stage and music-hall favourites who died last year, one of whom was Mr. J. L. Toole.—Financier and Bullionist., Feb. 6.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
"The Era" Dramatic and Musical Annual for 1907 is up to its usual standard—in fact, it is, if possible, smarter than ever. There is an excellent budget of articles from the pens of Miss Ellen Terry, Miss Cicely Richards, Miss Pollie Emery, Messrs. Frank Cooper, Arthur Collins, Charles Collette, Frank Curzon, Edward German, Cliff Ryland, and many others. The illustrated obituary, the alphabetical list of plays produced in London and the provinces, and all the other valuable features of the Annual are as complete as ever, and make this handbook extremely useful not only to members of the profession, but to the infinitely wider circle interested directly or indirectly in the drama.—Whitehall Review.

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FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, FEB. 11, 1907.

PROVINCIAL CIRCUIT.

SPECIAL NOTICE.
Rehearsal at all Halls, Monday, at 12-0 sharp.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Fred. Maxwell and Co., Bandoni, Harry Wright, Nellie Gannon, Peggy Fame, Pallister's Bioscope, Frances Ferina.

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John E. Coyle, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Rose Elliott, Twin Bros. Dean, Alskarno Trio, Lorrisons, D. W. Watson, Dora Lyric.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Juanitas, Alfred Allum, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Three Clarions, Meier and Mora, Story and Trigg, Chas. Torbay, Myra Love, Jimson's Comedy Act.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Dinah Morris and Co., Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Wayho and Hope, Albano Family, Gicardo, Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, Silbon's Circus, Three Gregsons, Tom Davies Trio.

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Matinée every Monday.
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All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band parts.
Matinée every Monday.
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Notice.—All artists carrying Scenery must have it Fireproof, according to L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

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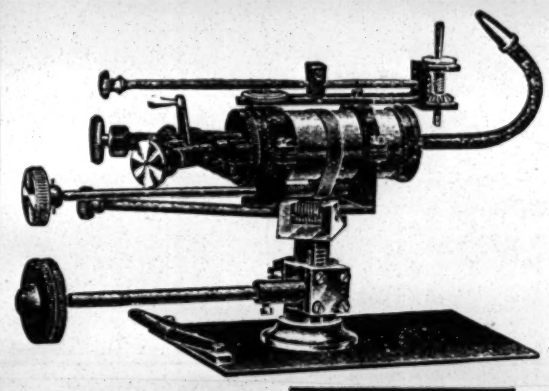

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NEW PIECES PRODUCED AT THE BERLIN THEATRES.
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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
"The Era" Annual for the current year, besides having all the usual valuable features which make the work so necessary for reference, has, for a special feature, a series of short articles, stories, or sketches by prominent members of the dramatic and musical profession, a well-executed portrait of each writer accompanying the text. The obituary for last year—unfortunately a heavy one—is given in a series of photograph likenesses of those departed. The full-page portrait of Mr. J. L. Toole is, indeed, worth more than the humble shilling at which the Annual is sold. The monthly calendar is, as usual, a storehouse of interesting facts connected with the stage.—Weekly Times and Echo.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
That welcome little book, "The Era" Annual, has just appeared for 1907, issued from the offices of "The Era," and costing, as usual, 1s. It is always worth a welcome, and is as good this year as ever. In addition to the usual pages of theatrical statistics, there are a number of stories and sketches by well-known actors and actresses, signed with their autographs and illustrated with their photographs. The first, and one of the best, is a description by Miss Ellen Terry of an average day in her busy life. Most of us have, at one time or another, in our artless way, sighed for the glory and triumph the popular actor and actress enjoy. Alas! Miss Terry gives us a peep behind the scenes which takes the gilt off the gingerbread with a vengeance. If this describes the average day of a great actor or actress, better, a thousand times better, to be a man of no importance!—Pall Mall Gazette, Jan. 21, '07.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
"The Era" Annual for 1907. 1s. "Era" Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C. Once again this useful publication comes out with its useful tabular information concerning things dramatic, such as the date of the production of new plays and important revivals produced at the London, provincial, and Paris theatres. In addition are many portraits and short stories given over the signatures of many prominent theatrical and music hall people, and a variety of other interesting matter.—Financial Times, Jan. 21, '07.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
"The Era" Annual, a most useful record of theatrical events, has just been issued. It contains, as usual, many short stories by well-known players.—Globe, Jan. 21, '07.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
"The Era" Annual deservedly ranks high as a record of the passing theatrical show. The new issue, in a comprehensive survey of the drama, mentions in proper order all the productions and revivals of the year, both at home and abroad and gives a list of the theatres and music halls of the United Kingdom, with the names of their respective managers. The lighter side of the publication, to which many well-known managers and performers contribute, is of exceptionally high literary merit.—Morning Leader, Jan. 21, '07.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
Once more, stuffed with good things, "The Era" Annual appears from its office at 5, Tavistock-street. The edition for 1907 is as nicely got up as its predecessors, and, in addition to a calendar and other theatrical memoranda, contains two lists of the year's productions, one arranged under the names of the theatres and the other alphabetically. In addition there are a number of striking or humorous contributions by leading actors and actresses—Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. Frank Cooper, Mr. Frank Curzon, Mr. Arthur Collins, Mr. Charles Collette, Miss Alma Murray, and Mr. John Lawson are among those who have contributed bright experiences to this up-to-date shilling theatrical handbook.—Star, Jan. 22.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
That invaluable annual, "The Era" Almanac, has just made its appearance for 1907. In addition to its usual record of the important productions and revivals of the past twelve months in London and Paris, there is a series of bright contributions by Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. Edward German, Mr. Frank Cooper, Mr. Frank Curzon, Mr. Charles Collette, Miss Alma Murray, and other well-known members of the profession.—Sunday Times, Jan. 27.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
"The Era" Dramatic and Musical Annual for 1907 is up to its usual standard—in fact, it is if possible, smarter than ever. There is an excellent budget of articles from the pens of Miss Ellen Terry, Miss Cicely Richards, Miss Pollie Emery, Messrs. Frank Cooper, Arthur Collins, Charles Collette, Frank Curzon, Edward German, Cliff Ryland, and many others. The illustrated obituary, the alphabetical list of plays produced in London and the provinces, and all the other valuable features of the Annual are as complete as ever, and make this handbook extremely useful not only to members of the profession, but to the infinitely wider circle interested directly or indirectly in the drama.—Whitehall Review.

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THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT
FOR
ACTOR AND COMPOSER,
BY
ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B. (Lond.).

Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr. Albert A. Strong's new work, entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr. Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his text-book on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases, what probably is—the law as to musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters on the Berne Convention and on the Chace Act, passed by the United States Congress last March, are full of interest.—Referee.

Published at "The Era" Buildings,
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THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DIE JUNGFERN VON BISCHOFSBERG," Comedy, in Five Acts, by Gerhart Hauptmann, Produced at the Lessing Theatre, Feb. 2, 1907.

Sabine ..... Fraulein Lehmann
Adelheid ..... Fraulein Schaffer
Agathe ..... Fraulein Hofmann
Ludowike ..... Fraulein Orloff
Onkel Gustav ..... Herr Rickelt
Tante Emilie ..... Fraulein Albrecht
Dr. Nast ..... Herr Bassermann
Frau von Heyder ..... Fraulein Sussin
R. Kranz ..... Herr Stieler
O. Kranz ..... Herr Waldschutz
Dr. Grünwald ..... Herr Rittner
Dr. Kozakiewicz ..... Herr Reicher
Joel ..... Herr Fuchs
Ein Vagabund ..... Herr Marr
Ein Herr ..... Herr Forest

BERLIN, Thursday, Feb. 7.—The opening night of the famous playwright's new piece was unfortunately the occasion for one of those scandalous scenes that have taken place repeatedly at a "Hauptmann première." After the first three acts had been attentively listened to, and the author warmly applauded, a certain portion of the audience began to exhibit impatience, and the falling of the curtain upon the fourth act was the signal for a perfect storm of hisses and loud whistles—the latter being made with house-keys. Herr Hauptmann's admirers and friends—who were present in great numbers—attempted to drown the opposition by applause, which naturally did not succeed, and thus the conflict was continued *ad. fin.* well into the last act. The same thing occurred at the end of the play, and any pleasure derived from the acting was spoilt in consequence. It may at once be stated that Herr Hauptmann's latest production is a great falling off from his former plays; it is, in fact, surprisingly poor; but respect for one of Germany's greatest authors should have restrained such an exhibition of rowdyism as was witnessed on Saturday. There is, moreover, a plenitude of humour in the piece, and the dialogue is rich in poetic fancies such as might be expected from Hauptmann. It is a modern comedy, the action passing in the neighbourhood of Naumburg. The four sisters Sabine, Adelheid, Agathe, and Ludowike (in the family her pet name is Lux) live together—their parents being dead—and are known round about as the "Jungfern of Bischofsberg." The joys and griefs of the sisters—and especially Agathe's love story—form the theme, for plot is too important a word to use. Agathe is still in love with the man who wanted some years ago to marry her, a certain Dr. Grünwald. Her father would not agree to the betrothal, the suitor's position not being good enough, so the lovers parted, the doctor going off to America. News of him came at long intervals and finally ceased, and Agathe's father has died. She is ultimately—against her convictions—persuaded into accepting the attentions of a cousin, Dr. Nast—a pedantic schoolmaster, full of his own importance. Nast dabbles in archæology, and believes there is a treasure of antiquities hidden away in the well of Bischofsberg—a delusion which mischievous Lux later on makes use of to turn him into ridicule. An amusing scene is where one sister after another comes cheerfully to poor Agathe, who so infects each in turn with her sorrowful mood that all four weep in concert at the end. Just as the engagement has come about Dr. Grünwald turns up, and the lovers find that their hearts still belong to each other despite all obstacles. An original way is found by Herr Hauptmann out of the difficulty, for, it must be remembered, a German betrothal is a very serious matter. Egged on by Lux, Nast is determined to get the treasure out of the well, and a passing tramp is pressed into the service. When the box comes to light it is found to contain—in place of the relics of the past that Nast had fondly believed—a quantity of fresh sausages and other material delicacies. The ridiculous situation in which the pedant finds himself so irritates him that he goes off, leaving the field to Dr. Grünwald, and naturally nobody regrets his absence. All the sisters having gradually become engaged, the end is all that is desirable, and the lovers go two-and-two into the fascinations of the moonlit garden, singing and dancing. The acting was faultless all round, and Dr. Brahm lavished his perfect taste upon the stage arrangements. Herr Hauptmann appeared before the curtain, and smiled his enigmatical little smile while the storm raged around him. No matter how much below the author's usual standard the present work was, there was no justification for the behaviour of his opponents, which must ever remain a crying shame and disgrace.

A new play by Hans von Kahlenberg, entitled *Meissner Porcelan*, is to be produced at the Neues to-morrow. At first there were difficulties in the way, but the Kaiser has now given his permission—which must always be obtained when a member of the Hohenzollern family is impersonated. In this case it is Frederick the Great who appears on the stage.

The New Schauspielhaus has recently included Grillparzer's classical comedy *Weh dem, der lügt* (woe to him who lies) in its repertory, and the first performance took place on Friday before a most appreciative audience. The part of Leon, the cook's boy—one of the most grateful in any play, either ancient or modern—was a favourite of Herr Kainz, and usually associated with that famous actor. To Herr Walden's capable hands the important rôle was entrusted, and though comparisons are naturally out of place, it was a fairly satisfactory impersonation. Fräulein Böttticher as Edrika was adequate, and the remaining rôles were all well sustained, while the work was staged in a tasteful and highly effective manner.

"Romeo and Juliet" (by the way, why does the otherwise excellent German translation always call Shakespeare's sweetest heroine "Julia"?) has just been produced at the Deutsches. The reception was enthusiastic, due—as usual at this theatre—to the magnificence of the mounting. The title-rôles were given by Herr Moissi and Fräulein Eibenschütz, and neither was to my mind entirely satisfactory. Herr Moissi is an actor who has come to the front very rapidly—chiefly in Oscar Wilde's plays—but although his talent is undeniable, he has much to learn before he is ripe for Shakespeare; and the same may be said in a more marked degree for Fräulein Eibenschütz. Herr Schildkraut, too, as Capulet did not come up to his usual standard. The best renderings were those of the Nurse (Frau Wangel) and Mercutio (Herr Wegener).

At the Lortzing *The Mikado* has been revived after a long interval. The interpretation is, for the most part, good; the scenery is effective, and the delightful music exercises its old fascination.

"Der Kaiserjaeger," three-act comedy by Herren Brennert and Oswald, has been revived with considerable success at the Schiller O. The piece made its first appearance some ten years or more ago; it has not been given since, and having undergone a little modernisation has come out very fit and fresh. The humour is wholesome and the "situations" effective. As the cast is a thoroughly good and even one there will probably be a long run for the piece.

At the Royal Schauspielhaus Schiller's triology *Wallenstein* is being given, by the Kaiser's express wish. These fine historical plays of the great German dramatist are justly considered by His Majesty as important factors in the education of young Germany, and upon the interpretation unusual pains have been spent.

Herr Karl Costa, the famous veteran farce-writer of Austria, was the recipient of many honours on his seventy-fifth birthday last week. The Emperor sent him a signed photograph, while the Government presented him with a purse containing notes to the amount of 3,000-kronen.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—The annual visit of the Compton Comedy Company is always eagerly looked forward to here. Mr. Compton opened on Monday with *Davy Garrick*. The distinguished actor never did more justice to the title-part, his interpretation showing all the old sympathy, pathos, and delicate shading of character. Miss Mackenzie made a delightful Violet; Mr. Crocker was excellent as Alderman Gresham, and Mr. Dennis Cleugh a capital Tom Tallyhant; while Messrs. Philip Gordon, G. Wallace Johnston, and Vernon O. Crabtree gave first-rate impersonations of Rumbelow, Sowerberry, and Simpkins. Miss Marie Hassell and Miss Pigot made a successful appearance as Mrs. Rumbelow and Selina. The repertory for the week includes *The School for Scandal, Edmund Kean, She Stoops to Conquer*, and *The Rivals*.

Palace Theatre. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Resident Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Mr. Leoni Clarke gives a wonderful performance with his vast collection of highly-trained monkeys, cats, rabbits, and other animals; the Dayton Family are both graceful and dexterous; Doody and Wright are, as usual, very popular; the Forestiers Comedy Trio appear with success in the farcical sketch, *Brought to Her Senses;* and among the other artists in an excellent company are Mr. Frank Vallance, a resourceful conjuror and illusionist; Miss Olive Zeno, a capital dancer; the Musical Kemps, who make a great hit; and Mr. Barney Noble, a first-rate singer and raconteur.

ABERTILLERY. — Theatre Metropole. — Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventom; Stage-Manager, Mr. Fred Thomas.—The attraction here this week is Miss Emma Litchfield's principal company, under the direction of Mr. Stuart Cleveland, in *A Clever Impostor*. Mr. Stuart Cleveland as Manuel Teixeira is excellent; as also is Mr. Herbert Evelyn as Captain Osmond. Miss E. Litchfield displays histrionic abilities in the multiple rôles of Nora Grosvenor, Sarah Ellen, Old Rebecca, and Molly O'Flynn; the comedy element is well sustained by Mr. Ed. Swinton and Miss F. Gomer as Jim Brightside and Annie Pleasant; the mare, Twilight, is well trained, and goes through its part of the performance admirably.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company opened here on Monday with *The Little Bread-Winner*, which is admirably staged. Mr. Eugene Santley gives a clever representation of Lord Dorrington; Richard Lawrance is well depicted by Mr. Mathew Boulton; the part of Joseph Prior is capitally played by Mr. Alfred Maurice; Mr. Stanley Leedham gives a good reading of Charles Prior; Mr. Lea Hair makes the most of the rôle of Monty, and Messrs. Wallace Cary, Thomas Minns, and Henry Gooch are good in their respective impersonations. Miss Mary Fulton must be complimented for finished acting as Margaret Daventry; Miss Jenny Bostock is seen to advantage as Bridget O'Flanaghan; Kate Cherry is a good performance by Miss Nelly Thorn Hallam; Misses Kitty Melville and Lissa Young are meritorious as Ruth Cherry and Bobby Trott, and little Emmie Thomas acts the title-rôle with charming sympathy.

Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Potter Vandy, and Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Parsons.—A smart bill is provided here this week. Miss Cunningham fairly brings down the house by her clever rendered songs; the Mezzettis are both funny and clever on the bars; Mr. E—— is an amusing patterer; J. H. McCann is well received; Harry Edson does well; Loudoun Cameron must be complimented on his sleight-of-hand; the Evalos are good; and J. H. Carney is quite successful.

ALDERSHOT.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—The Knellwood company gave amateur performances of *The Idler* on Monday in aid of military charities. Starting on Tuesday night, *Bluebeard* is being presented by Mr. Chas. Constant's company, and a hearty reception is accorded. Excellent and well-arranged specialities are contributed by Stuart and Stuart, the Sisters Warner, Arabian Troupe of Dancers, and Little Felicia. Miss Isa Bowman gives a dashing and highly-successful conception of Selim; a winning manner and charming appearance are combined in Miss Flo Hersee's Fatima; Miss Cissie Thompson invests the rôle of Cashim with the necessary "go"; Miss Maud Brock (Noolah) and Little Felicia (Asphodel) also do well; a highly-amusing Sister Ann is given by Mr. Johnny Clegg; and three other able comedians are Messrs. Gus Danby, Alec Godfrey, and MacStuart, and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden have brought their premier pantomime company here for the week with *Aladdin*. In the character of Abanazar, Mr. Daly Cooper is inimitable. Fun flows fast and furious whenever he is present, and he is seldom absent. Miss Fanny Wright is chic, a good singer, and smart dancer, and full of life as Aladdin; Miss Molly Woolstenhulme as Rhodinuti, the genii of the cave, makes the echoes with the power of her musical voice, and her cultured singing is full of charm; Miss Jennie Hallworth as the Prince and Miss Kitty Brewster as the Princess are sprightly, fine of figure, and clever singers and dancers. Mr. Picton Roxborough is very diverting as the Emperor, and Mr. Julian Mack as Widow Twankey is the masculine female with a decided talent for mimicry and grotesque acting and singing; Mr. Joe Robins, as the Emperor's G.O.M., is also responsible for a full measure of laughter. He is most eccentric in speech and action. The Bros. Brooks as a couple of comic knockabouts are also immensely funny. The Brewster Troupe of dancers and Robins and Collier present specialities.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—The chief item of the bill here is a comic absurdity by Mr. Chas. Baldwin's comedians and pantomimists. Marjorie Cannon is a clever trick pianist, soubrette, and dancer, and Phil Conway and Reg. Garland are responsible for laughter in a burlesque. Miss Florence Smithers, supported by Owen Dacroy and company, gives a good comedy sketch, *Hard Lines;* Eastwood and Watson are acceptable in a song-scena and Jap cake-walk; Herbert Bates sings sweetly as a tenor vocalist; Macdonald and Huntingdon are famed comedians, and Barfoot and Carson are smart.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—The management again present a varied and attractive programme this week. A laughable and amusing scena, under the title of *What a Life*, is given by Edwards and Dacre; the Cymros, Welsh duettists, are heartily appreciated in their vocal items; Li-Chang-Hi is an exceptionally clever illusionist, most of his tricks are new, and cleverly performed, and he proves himself a past-master in the art of deception; the Wallys are a decided acquisition to the bill as comedy and expert jugglers; Mr. Bert Lytton, the "swell" comedian, is excellent, and his songs are well received; the Zelovas (lady and gentleman) are both graceful and clever in a trapeze and equilibristic act; Miss Katie Marsh, refined and versatile comedienne, is heartily welcomed on her reappearance; and Mr. Clayton's "Attergraph" pictures, which include "Curfew Must Not Ring To-night," is a strong feature.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Dudley Harcourt.—Mr. Dickie Clare's company in the musical absurdity, *Lucky 'Liza*, is here this week. Mr. Dickie Clare in his triple characters of Silas Slim, the Judge, and a French waiter proves himself to be a capable artist, and a nimble and expert dancer; Mr. T. W. Benson, a laughable Peter Pettitoe, is fully appreciated; and Paul Pettitoe is in the safe hands of Mr. Syd Flind. Mr. A. W. Thompson fills the part of Barnaby Blatherwick in a capital style; Mr. J. W. Forrest shows ability as William Biffins; Miss Madge Brownie is to be commended on her lively impersonation of Lucky 'Liza. Miss Bella Russell gives an admirable character-sketch of Marie Pettitoe; and Miss Nestor Brownie may be praised for her clever efforts as Virginia. The Sisters Mascott are seen in some skilful dances, and Miss Queenie Bell supplied some clever Scotch dances.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stone.—Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, is here. The hero is brightly played by Miss Adele Rose; the Alice of Miss Leah Lawrie is very pleasing; Mr. J. H. Wakefield is a humorous Fitzwarren; Mr. Alec Kendall an entertaining Idle Jack; and Mr. Fred Spencer a funny cook.

His Majesty's.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Walter Maxwell's company is paying a return visit here with *The Lion and the Mouse*. Miss Christine Silver as Shirley Rossmore is forceful and sympathetic; Mr. Leslie Carter as John Burkett Ryder is impressive; Mr. Lewis Edgard is a capable Jefferson Ryder; Mr. John Wheatman a characteristic Mr. Roberts; Mr. George Roland a typical lawyer; and Mr. Herbert Chown an amusing secretary. Miss Margaret Nybloc as Kate Roberts, Miss Elspeth Dudgeon as Mrs. Ryder, and Miss Maude Townsend as Mrs. Rossmore are all commendable.

Tivoli Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting.—The Brothers O'Brien are remarkable triple bar performers; and Florence Yaymen is a quaint coon caricaturist. The Four Avocas do an operatic scene, "The Reckless Miners," well; W. B. Raby is an agreeable comedian; Edie Gray and the Boys, in harmony, are pleasing; and Miss Rosie Archer is a clever mimic on the piano.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—After several years absence *The Private Secretary* comes quite fresh again, the evergreen farce on Monday last, capitally presented by Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's company, going as well as ever it did. The only representative who remains in the cast of former visits is Mr. W. Hargreaves as Mr. Cattermole, and constant repetition of the part has not in the least diminished the humour of his impersonation. Mr. Donald Price-Evans proves himself to be one of the best Robert Spaldings we have witnessed; Mr. Marsland is portrayed by Mr. W. T. Elworthy, who is the country squire to the life; Mr. Vivian Gilbert makes the vulgar tailor, Sidney Gibson, stand out prominently; Mrs. Alfred Davis fills the rôle of Miss Ashford with excellent results; the quartette of young lovers have spirited exponents in Mr. Randolfe Reade (Douglas), Mr. James P. E. Hussey (Harry), Miss Dorothy Shawe (Edith), and Miss Beth Elliott (Eva). Mrs. Stead is played by Miss Cecily Wade and John by Mr. D. Benford. The curtain-raiser, *My American Admirer*, is also highly amusing, and is well performed.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—The management have had to slightly change their programme this week on account of the indisposition of Mr. John E. Coyle, his place at the last moment being taken by Dare's Anglo-American Minstrels. The Alskarno Trio, in their comedy tumbling act, meet with a good reception; two ladies who have the house with them in their songs are Rose Elliott and Dora Lyric, both being old local favourites. The simultaneous dancing of the Twin Brothers Dean brings them great applause; the Lorrisons give a smart comedy dance act; D. W. Watson plays the cornet and posthorn as effectively as ever. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, as usual, are a standard attraction.

BATLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Whitty; Manager, Mr. Alfred Taylor.—*Her Lost Self* is the attraction at this theatre. Miss Frances Delaval gives a strikingly successful portrait of a revengeful woman; Miss Clara Sullivan acts with intense feeling as the injured wife; Miss Nell Ingram as the Irish maid is lively and effective; and Miss Johnson is an intelligent child. Mr. Cecil Grey is sound in his work; Mr. G. Osmond Tearle is natural; and Mr. Leslie Yorke has an arduous part, which he undertakes with much success. Mr. L. W. Halfpenny gives a good account of himself as a typical stage Jew. The scenery is good.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—*Are You a Mason?* is being played here this week by Mr. Charles Macdona's company. Mr. Ernest Corsant is very funny as a French modiste; Mr. E. H. Patterson and Mr. Buchanan Wake as Amos Bloodgood and John Halton put plenty of go into their parts, and Mr. Howard L. Tracey cleverly impersonates Frank Perry. As Hamilton Travers, Mr. G. R. J. Austin is soon on good terms with the audience. Miss Adelaide Grace is a dignified Mrs. Bloodgood; and Miss Babs Stuart and Miss Madge Merrique are charming and vivacious as her two daughters. Miss Dora Gregory is a capital Irish maid. The farce, *A Bad Penny*, by W. Lestocq, is an interesting "curtain-raiser."

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. Charles Harrington's company, after an absence of six years, is paying a return visit this week with the well-known piece, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which met with a capital reception on Monday. In the title-rôle, Mr. J. Carr is most successful; and the villainous Legree is realistically portrayed by Mr. J. Henry Rogers. Miss Helen Hathaway furnishes a sympathetic interpretation of Eliza Harris; and Miss Holly Haslewood presents a pathetic picture as Little Eva. Much amusement is created by Miss Sylvia Stella as Topsy; and Mr. J. H. Renney acquits himself with distinction as Phineas Fletcher. Mr. Charles Harrington's appearance as Mr. St. Clair is in every way a success; and Mr. Leslie Beaufort is all that could be desired as George Harris. Mr. Walter Langford is amusing as Marks; and satisfactory impersonations of Aunt Ophelia and Aunt Chloe are submitted by Miss Jennie Malcolm and Mrs. Carr. Specialities are provided in the fourth act by Miss Sylvia Stella, plantation songstress and whirlwind dancer; Mr. Ben Rowe, champion bone soloist; Rowe and Holden, cake-walkers; Mr. Walter Langford, banjoist; Mr. H. Nott, tenor; and Rich and Moore, coloured duettists.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Freece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—Raku, the well-known exponent of ju-jitsu, has been accorded a great reception; Galletti's Monkeys exhibit the very acme of training, their feats being simply wonderful; and the Robertys Family appear to advantage in their original equilibristic and juggling pantomime. Mr. Herbert Clifton appears in his astonishing performance, his mimicry of famous actresses being startling in its realism; Mr. Gerharde Moir appears in a series of leaping and jumping feats, which are certainly very clever; and Miss Mignonette Kokin is a charming comedienne and fine dancer. Also here are Mr. Harry Russon, comedian; Mr. Andy Fagan, comedian; and the Palace pictures.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John S. Walker.—La Milo is the star here this week, and appears with much success in a series of striking and beautiful classical poses; Cruickshank, aptly described as the lightning caricaturist, appears in conjunction with La Milo, and his clever performance has been loudly and deservedly applauded; Bellonini's feats of juggling cause much amazement; Princess Pauline is an accomplished comedienne; and Frazer and Mac appear to much advantage in their clever comedy act. Mr. Harry Lawson is a droll comedian; and the Brothers Schenk's feats of head and hand balancing are undoubtedly marvellous. Mr. Harold Hughman is a mimic of exceeding merit; and the programme is completed by Miss Hettie Chattell, comedienne.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Alhambra Dramatic Company, under the personal direction of Mr. M. Montgomery, produce here this week the sensational drama, *Her Fatal Past*. Mr. Horace Denton appears to the utmost advantage as Mark Desmond, his acting being superb; and Miss Nina Blake Adams furnishes an exceedingly skilful impersonation of the somewhat difficult rôle of Honor Symes. Mr. Cyril Grier, a most capable actor, plays the rôle of Leonard Fernside with much credit to himself; and Mr. Balfour Dennistoun's assumption of the rôle of Gilbert Fernside leaves nothing to be desired. Mr. Elmore Frith would indeed be hard to surpass as Reuben Treadaway; Mr. T. H. Solly's humour as Johnathan Buckstone Nobbs is quite irresistible; and Miss Mattie Crawford appears to advantage as Kitty Springwell, furnishing a vivacious rendering of the part. Miss Kathleen Osborne made her first appearance on the stage on Monday, and exhibited much promise in her assumption of Little Leonard; and much praise is due to Miss Roma Tremayne, who was most successful in the dual rôle of Ruth Fernside and Belle De Lara. Mr. Ed. Smythe acquits himself with honour as Dicky Bird; and Miss Alice Clarke furnished an unequalled impersonation of Martha Springwell. Mr. J. E. Davies as Constable Smithers completes the cast. The Alhambra Bioscope, under the direction of Mr. W. E. Newlove, exhibits a fine picture this week, entitled "An Author's Dream."

BILSTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager Mr. Harry Battersby.—No artist is much more popular in this town than Mr. Harry Starr, and his programme for the week includes his three musical dramas, *Otto, the Outcast, The Unseen Power*, and *Carl, the Clockmaker*. On Monday the first-named of these was presented, with the indispensable author and actor (Mr. Starr) in the title-part. He is ably assisted by Miss Kate Norris, who, as Lara, the flower girl, was much appreciated. Miss Madge Blundell (Corinne), and Miss Blanche Leroy (Susette) rendered valuable aid. As Daddy Bruneau, Mr. David Beattie was well cast; and Mr. Edwin Firth made the most of the part of Roderique.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Mr. Louis Calvert's company is on a welcome return visit with *Sunday*, a play with an excellent reputation in this town. On the present occasion the title-rôle is represented by Miss Eurelie Polini, who in a charming and telling performance fully maintains the traditions of the part. The "Boys" are irreproachably acted by Mr. William Lockhart, Mr. Sidney Rennef, Mr. Cecil Yapp, and Mr. Arthur Vézirs. Mr. Leonard Pagden is an ideal Colonel Brinthorpe; Tom Oxley is capitally undertaken by Mr. Ernest A. Douglas; and Mr. Max Montesole does all that is possible with Arthur Brinthorpe. The small part of the Nun is carefully handled by Miss Muriel Pope; Miss Rosalind Ross is well suited as Mrs. Naresby, and Mr. Ernest Harrison shines as the manservant, Abbot. The piece is liberally staged, and the visit has proved highly successful.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties. — Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—The Stavordale Quintette, a clever combination of instrumentalists, supply the premier turn; and Selkirk's juvenile spectacle, *Bonnie Scotland*, is also an attractive item. Hayman and Franklin, Hebrew comedians, have made a hit in the sketch *The Matrimonial Agency;* and Rezene and Robini, comic acrobats, are fulfilling one of many successful engagements here. Miss Madeline Rossiter (coon vocalist and dancer), Will Vayes' Juveniles, and Brown's Royal Bioscope complete the company.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*The Queen of Hearts* is now in its eighth week, and shows no falling off whatever, which is as it should be with such a splendid production and popular company.

Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Crusoe's Adventures* is also in its eighth week, and is still playing to crowded houses. The pantomime closes on Saturday next.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*Aladdin* has found great favour since its introduction last week, and Miss Winifred Hare and company are eminently successful in the production.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—*Cinderella*, with Miss Bessie Butt's exquisite portrayal thereof, has reached its eighth week, and is still going strong and well. Miss Marie Le Franc (Cinderella's clever understudy) is one of the salient successes here with her arch ways and smart singing and dancing as the Duchess.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*Dangerous Women* is staged here by the Metropole company in an able manner. Mr. Percy Dawsone, always a popular figure with Metropole audiences, is excellently suited as Ronald Courtney; Mr. Austen Milroy shows his sterling value as Dr. Dysart; Mr. Fred A. Marston is again a pillar to the structure with his virile acting as Colonel Rothwell; Mr. Edward Finlay enacts the rôle of the burglar, Dick Pudsey, with his habitual skill; Mr. Francis Everard plays the rôle of Sir Reggie Hopgood to much advantage; Mr. Andrew Emm (Melville) keeps his admirers and followers delighted with his never-ending humours as Elijah Smudge; Miss Rose Ralph sustains her reputation for charm and ability admirably as Sylvia Rothwell; Miss Florence Nelson is a luminous figurante as Cora Fay; Miss Kate Walfred is successful as Lola Lascelles; and amongst others who shine are Miss Bella Power as Mrs. Raby, Mr. A. Winters as Mark Raby, Miss Amy Corelli as Bessie Basket, and little Miss Elsie as Polly Perkins.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—The Moore-Kennedy Combination are here in *Dick Whittington*, in which Mlle. Lucretia towers above all with her dashing assumption of the hero; Miss Helena Barton proves herself a graceful heroine; and Miss Josephine Townshend as Princess Charming, Miss May Vincent as Viscount Piccadilly, Mr. Percy Victor as Fitzwarren, Mr. Will Sandes as Idle Jack, and Mons. Pauletti as the cat are prominent. The Sisters Dunville are successful in "The Zuyder Zee," and the Lily Godfrey troupe score.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*Little Red Riding Hood* forms the fare here, and is put on in Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred D'Arcy's best style. The title-rôle is sustained by Miss Verona Philis, who is possessed of coniderable charm and ability, and wins the hearts of all; Miss Ada Twibell scores with her vivacious style and clever singing as Boy Blue; and Miss Emma Don as Prince Charming, Miss Molly Hackett as Miss Muffit, and Miss Cissie Robey as Margery Daw act, sing, and dance in a most becoming style. The comedians include Mr. J. Templar Ellis as the Baron, Mr. Harry Howe as the Dame, Mr. G. H. Penn as the Page, and the Bros. Lavelle as Johnny Green and Jimmy Stout, each being genuinely funny and highly popular. The specialities come in for much praise, and include the Don Black and White Comedy Team, the Bros. Lavelle, the Acme Quartette, and the Four Hearns in their comedy acrobatic entertainment.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Gus Elen pays another visit to the Empire, and, if anything, is more cordially received than ever. The new songs he has seem likely to prove as popular as the old favourites; Edward Arthur and his company give a couple of scenes from *The Lily of Killarney* in grand style; Frank and Jean Latona are a pleasing musical comedy couple, their item being much above the average turn of this class; Lee and Kingston have an artistic comedy scene, entitled *Practical Joking;* Conway and Leland give an interesting turn, and Victor Newman's selections from famous plays are quite Irving-like; Frank Harwood has some good songs, while Azela Wilson is a clever gymnast and trapeze artist, and Bralt and Hemsley are splendid dancers.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Miss Victoria Monks' reception here this week shows that she has not been forgotten. She has several capital songs, the refrains of which are quickly picked up by the audiences, a sure indication of popularity. The tableaux of classical statuary and other works of art, presented by Henriette de Serris, are remarkable for their fidelity to detail and regard to artistic effect. Lily Lonsdale quite captivates the audience with her flexible and well-trained voice; Mlle. Marjutti has a striking show, entitled *From Demon to Fairyland;* Mons. Slippere is a blind pianist and vocalist of much ability; while the Two Dixons are clever bâton swingers, musicians, and dancers. Bishop and Hanlon, Ernie Myers, the Wattons, and Clarice Greta are all responsible for good turns.

Bordesley Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The chief item on the programme of the above hall this week is the powerful American dramatic sketch, entitled *Number 99;* this is presented by Mr. Frank Lister in the title-rôle, and supported by a capable company. The well-known Hebrew comedians, Jordan and Harvey, create lots of amusement, and earn for themselves well-deserved applause; the Avolos, Charles Robinson, Lilian Dundas and company, the Goldinis, and the Bioscope all help to make a successful show. The management have also secured a number of local artists.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — Eden Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley; Mr. F. B. Woulfe is paying a welcome visit with *Robin Hood*, being seen to conspicuous advantage in the title-rôle. King Richard is admirably interpreted by Mr. James Stillwell; Mr. Harry Ernestine is well placed as Prince John. Villainy is ably supplied by Mr. Clifford Rean as Wm. Fitzalwyn; and comedy is furnished by Mr. Bob Anderson as Friar Tuck and Mr. Edward Dunstan as Eustace le Beau. Miss Ethel Griffies is a popular heroine.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—The Moody-Manners' Opera Company is in possession this week, and drawing tremendous houses. *Lohengrin* was presented on Monday in the most adequate manner. Miss Enriqueta Crichton as Elsa, Miss Marion Broom as Ortrud, Mr. Charles Carter as Lohengrin, and Mr. Marshall Vincent as Frederick interpreted their respective parts with intense power. On Tuesday *Carmen* was submitted, with Mlle. Zelie de Lussan in the title-rôle. Needless to say, she scored a great artistic triumph. The other parts were also in capable hands. *Maritana, Il Trovatore, Faust, Tannhäuser*, and *The Bohemian Girl* have also been equally well interpreted during the week.

Grand Theatre.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Mr. Frank Denman-Wood's pantomime company is here this week with *Dick Whittington*, the title-rôle being assumed by Miss Daisy Morrell, a very capable vocalist. The fun providers are Messrs. Fred Acton (Alderman Fitzwarren), Frank Daleno (Martha Muggins), and Will Dennis (Idle Jack), whilst Messrs. Juan and Billy McQue are also favourites.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred. Waller.—The star of this week's bill is Theo. Bouwmeester, the Dutch protean actor, whose one-act tragedy, entitled *Who is Guilty?* is warmly appreciated. Sarah Berry, the eminent Lancashire contralto, also finds favour. Other creditable turns are contributed by Spry and Austin, vaudeville artists; Eno, a clever mimic; the Grosvenors, glee singers; Vasey and Ramsey, in a sketch; Montague Biggs, comedian; Charles Banks, with his performing dog; and Harry Player, comedian.

BLYTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—The comic pantomime, *Sinbad the Sailor* presented by Messrs. Little and D'Arcy's company has met with an enthusiastic reception here, large audiences being the rule. The specialities introduced by the Les Beaux Belles, Newco and Sullo (comedians), the Callcotts (banjoists), Dobito and Buxton (operatic vocalists), the Westwood Comedy Cyclists, and others have proved an attractive feature of the production.

BOLTON.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—After many years absence a return visit of *The Gay Parisienne* is this week being made by Mr. Charles Macdona's principal company. Mr. Will Harman evokes much merriment by his rendering of Ebenezer Honeycombe; Miss Lillian Talbot (a Bolton actress) is dainty and lively in the part of Mlle. Julie Bon-Bon; Mr. Squire Day scores as Major Fossdyke; Mr. Clifford Seyler acts cleverly as M. Pompier; Mr. Philip Moore is admirable in vocal efforts as Tom Eversleigh; Miss Madge Soutter is quaint and amusing as Ruth; Miss Holford Beringer is seen to advantage as Mrs. Honeycombe; and Miss Nance O'Neill is pleasing as Norah Honeycombe. Mention should be made of the Imperial Glee Singers, Messrs. Jones, Rose, Moore, and Fitzjames.

BOSCOMBE. — Hippodrome.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. De Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—A novel turn is put forward here in Holden's Comic Mannikins, most cleverly manipulated; Bosanquet introduces his novelty instrument, the "Bosanquephone"; the Maxmilian Trio

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are clever in their unique equilibristic act; Mr. and Mrs. Leonard are well appreciated in *Coming Home;* Bob Hamilton is a mirth-provoking Scotch comedian; Edith St. Clare is a pleasing comedienne; and Fred Herbert scores with his songs. The Hippodrome pictures are up to their usual standard.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—*A Pair of Spectacles*, under the management of Mr. Russell Rosse, is again attracting good houses here. Mr. David James as Benjamin Goldfinch is particularly excellent; a remark which also applies to Mr. Norman Clark as Uncle Gregory. Miss Ida Phillips as Mrs. Goldfinch, and Miss L. Kingston as Lucy, are very good. Other characters are well represented by Mr. Charles Wray, Mr. Eric Maxon, Mr. F. J. Hampson, Mr. Maurice Denham, and Miss Lorna Doone. A comedietta, entitled *A Silent Woman*, in which Mr. Norman Clark, Miss L. Kingston, and Mr. Eric Maxon do good work, precedes the comedy.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—Previous arrangements will compel the management to withdraw *Robinson Crusoe*, although the pantomime is in the height of its prosperity.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—The second edition of *Cinderella* has proved very attractive, and the pantomime maintains its popularity, the theatre being crowded nightly with delighted and appreciative audiences.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Jake Friedman presented for the first time here on Monday night his bright Dutch operetta, *Happy Holland*, a quaint combination of musical comedy and comic opera, in which, as Jakey Oodevassal, he has excellent support from Miss Florence Hunton as Gretchen and a numerous company of capable artists. The Five Bogannys contribute a remarkably clever Risley act, which secures great applause; Lidden and Hayward's musical speciality is an acceptable item of the programme; the clever actress, Mrs. Lucas, is on a return visit, well supported by Mr. E. H. Lucas, in *Scenes from Dickens;* a clever turn is furnished by Prince Kokin, the Japanese juggler and equilibrist; in their bright, well-acted sketch, *The Order of the Bath*, Lilieth Leyton and John Spurling are again entertaining; Harry Drew, Welsh basso, contributes songs in good style; a clever pot-pourri by the graceful Macarte Sisters, on the wire and trapeze, earns applause; in dainty and graceful style Ethel Ra Leslie sings of courtly knights of old; and there are some fine pictures shown by the American Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. R. H. Foster.—The Three Clarions contribute to the programme here this week an amusing absurdity, *The Would-be Tenor;* and in their American speciality Meier and Mora dance well and do some clever ball-punching. Francis O'Flynn, in clever style, executes a banjo solo; there is a fund of humour in the rough-and-tumble turn, *Historical Maniacs*, by Story and Trigg; Charles Torbay, the comedy silhouettist, does some clever and amusing work; with their sketch, *Pets at Home, and the Burglar's Surprise*, the Jimsons provide an entertaining novelty; great applause greets the novel acrobatic act by the clever Juanitas Troupe; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux show some fine pictures.

BRIDLINGTON.—PALACE AND WINTER GARDENS.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Delmar.—A capital variety company is appearing here this week, under the title of *The Merrymakers*. The three ladies and three gentlemen give an excellent pierrot programme and also as individual entertainers. Miss Nellie Pender proves a capable comedienne and mimic; Mr. Bob Pearson is a character impersonator with some clever imitations of various personages; Miss Maud St. Malo is a charming soprano vocalist; Mr. Harry Combs shines in his baritone songs, and the duets of these two talented vocalists are rapturously received. The "Record" pictures are amusing, and the company appears in a capital burlesque, *Peter's Blunder*, with great success.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Mr. and Mrs. Kendal and their company opened here on Monday with *The Ironmaster*. Mrs. Kendal achieved a distinct triumph by her artistic impersonation of Claire de Beaupré; Mr. Kendal was earnest and convincing as Phillippe Derblay; Miss Sara De Groot acquitted herself admirably as Athenais; Miss Marie Lohr made a charming Susanne Derblay; Mr. C. W. Standing's Octave, Mr. Bassett Roe's Duc de Bligny, and Mr. Ernest Hendry's Moulinet are well played; Mr. A. B. Tapping as the Marquise de Beaupré, Miss Dora Fellows as the Baronne de Préfont, Mr. W. M. Rutherfurd as Biehlin, and Mr. Metcalfe Wood as the Baron de Préfont also merit praise. The répertoire for the week included *The Housekeeper*, *The Elder Miss Blossom*, *A Tight Corner*, and *The Melcombe Marriage*, the last-named being announced for production for the first time yesterday (Friday) evening.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—There is a capital company here this week. De Biere, "the mysterious," performs some marvellous sleight-of-hand and vanishing tricks; Cora Corina is a charming Anglo-Spanish dancer; Stylo displays clever juggling with hoops; the Three Gilbert Girls sing and dance admirably; the Norman and Leonard Trio are well received in the musical incident, *The Itinerant;* Reta Ransdem gives capital male impersonations; Laune Stuart is a pleasing comedian; George and Leila are good comedy duettists; Beatrice Bonnie is an artistic comedienne; Dale and Vale find favour with their duets and dances; Susie Marney is an excellent descriptive vocalist; and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—An excellent programme is sustained here this week. The Violas give a clever "second sight" turn; the Three Demons, daring cyclists, perform some sensational feats; Ted E. Box, quaint comedian, is very amusing; Gustave Fasola, Indian fakir and Oriental wonder-worker, submits a capital turn; Woolmer Young is a pleasing actor-vocalist; King's College Boys achieve great success in their treatment of excerpts from operas; Mark Leslie wins applause for his coon impersonations; the Three Transfields are very effective in their refined musical mélange; Prof. Norton is a skilful conjurer; the Sisters May are dainty duettists and dancers; and the Barrascope pictures are entertaining.

WEST PIER.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Mr. Charles Carey and company opened here on Monday with *Little Lord Fauntleroy*. Owing to an unfortunate accident Miss Dorothy Cacey was unable to appear as Mrs. Errol ("Dearest"), and the part was read by Miss Gertrude Netterville. Mr. Charles Carey gave a finished impersonation of the Earl of Dorincourt; the title-rôle was ably undertaken by Master Harold Duval; Mr. Walter Russell was well suited as Mr. Haversham; and Mr. Buckstone Clair presented a capital enactment of Mr. Hobbs.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—There was a large attendance here on Monday afternoon attracted by Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company in *The Morals of Marcus*. Mr. C. Aubrey Smith and Miss Alexandra Carlisle presented exceptionally clever expositions of the leading parts of Sir Marcus Ordeyne and Carlotta; Miss Mabel Hackney acted cleverly as Judith Mainwaring; and all the remaining parts had full justice done to them by other members of the company. The pantomime, *Humpty Dumpty*, is still attracting crowded houses at each performance.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—*Cinderella* at this old and historic theatre continues to be highly attractive. No company of artists could work more conscientiously than the one Mr. Carpenter has been fortunate to obtain for this pantomime.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—George Formby, comedian, is greatly appreciated here; Alburtus the First and Jessie Millar are successful in a comedy scena, *A Scene at the Fairgrounds;* the lady plays the cornet in good style, Alburtus scores with eccentricities, and they both are experts in club manipulation. The Musical Keiths (Carlina and Charlie) present a pleasing instrumental act; Jane Temple, American comedienne, does a good turn; Ben Harris and his Nippers amuse with a comedy speciality, *A Promising Pupil*, in which song, dance, boxing, and comicalities are introduced; Will Dalton, patter comedian, has a good reception; Ethel Yorke is a pleasing comedienne; the Cambrian Singers are harmonious exponents of trios, &c.; and there is also Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—The Marvellous Howards head the programme here with their thought-reading entertainment, and obtain considerable appreciation; *A Trip to Coontown* is a musical sketch presented by a company of coloured persons, who sing and dance in excellent style; Marguerite Broadfoote, comedienne, has some pleasing songs, and is highly successful; J. H. Newell Quartette scores with a mediæval musical comedy, *The Jester Knight*, the singing, acting, and scenery being above the average; Connie Milton, comedienne, does an acceptable turn; Mephisto, assisted by Marie, obtains applause for his contortionist act; William Griffin, descriptive vocalist, has a good song; and Walter Stanley, eccentric comedian, obtains applause. The performance concludes with up-to-date animated pictures.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—We are visited by Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company in the romantic play, *The Midnight Wedding*, written by Walter Howard. The rôle of Paul Valmar is ably sustained by Mr. Alfred Paumier; Princess Astrea is played with exquisite power by Miss Annie Saker; Mr. Fredk. W. Freeman makes an excellent Prince Leopold; Mr. Ernest E. Imeson carefully attends to the part of Lieut. von Strelsburg; and Captain Rudolph is a thorough villain in the hands of Mr. Clinton Baddeley. The audience are kept in roars at the comedy of Mr. James E. Park, Mr. Edward Fletcher, and Mr. Algie Spalding as Max, Otto, and Bobs, in conjunction with Miss Ada Champion as Kathie. The staging is excellent, and the dresses and uniforms of good quality.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner. — A bright, breezy, and rollicking pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, is to be seen here this week. Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's company is a very good one, and is well equipped in the matter of humour and vocal talent. The principal boy and girl, Miss Amy Allnutt and Miss Avena Walton, are a most vivacious pair; they infuse plenty of vigour into their singing and their acting and dancing are most enjoyable. The humour is well served up by Mr. Harry Albery as Araminta, Dawson Dewick as Soft Sammy, Messrs. Grapho and Jackson and Messrs. Farr and Farland as the Baron's pages; add to these Mr. D. J. Dandy as the Baron, and the fun is kept merrily going throughout the performance. Excellent work is done by the chorus, smart dancing by the clever ballet, and the scenery is most effective throughout.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. H. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—Mr. Silvanus Dauncey and Mr. M. V. Leveaux are presenting *The Walls of Jericho*. Mr. A. E. Anson capitally portrays the rôle of Jack Frobisher, his diatribe on the "smart set" being a splendid piece of acting; Mr. G A. Brandram is natural and easy as the bluff, good-hearted colonial, Hankey Bannister; effete aristocracy is ably represented by Mr. Cyril Baleine (the Marquis); and Mr. A. W. Tyrer is well placed as Harry Dallas. Miss Gladys Mason cleverly portrays the irresponsible wife and mother of high society; the Lady Lucy of Miss Nora Wynne is a bright and pleasing conception; while Miss Marguerite Cellier is eminently successful as the sympathetic Lady Westerby. The play is admirably staged.

BURY (Lancs.). — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's company is here with the funny pantomime, *Little Bo-Peep*. Miss Susie Beaven is a dashing Boy Blue; and Miss Lizzie Payne a charming Bo-Peep. Miss Katie La Blanche as Marjory Daw is a capital dancer; an excellent band of humorists include Mr. J. W. Groves as Granny Brown, Mr. Fred McLean as Baron Hardup, Mr. Harry Wren as Tommy Long, Mr. Bert Allen as Johnny Stout, and Mr. Albert Kail as Jimmy Green. Specialities are given by the Solon Trio, the Lohrentz Quartette, and the Hammersley Troupe of lady dancers.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Sons.—General-Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—Corman's Youngsters are paying a return visit. Alec Hulme and Tom Le May, clowns; Walter Curtis, comedian; Primavesi, juggler; Arthur Stacey, eccentric comedian; Janette Hall, lady baritone; and Sid Myra and his performing dog contribute to a good show.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore.—The boards are occupied this week by the drama, *A Warning to Women*, which is elaborately staged, and abounds in thrilling situations. Mr. C. Watson Mill wins much favour by his performance of Shaun; a like remark applying to Mr. Henry Rutland as Squire Kennion; the villainy of Dr. Marcus Dread is vividly portrayed by Mr. Chas. Vivian; Mr. Carter Slaughter creates amusement as Lord Eversleigh; and Mr. Wilson Benge and Mr. George Harvey creditably fill the respective rôles of Fergus McNaughton and Rev. Emmanuel Wallace. Miss Rosalind Tate wins applause as Moira; the Molly O'Moore of Miss Ellen Beverley is a good study of the Irish peasant; Miss Grace Barton is a sympathetic Sheila, and the crippled boy, Miles, is nicely played by Miss Edith Rutland.

BUXTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Arthur Willoughby.—*East Lynne* is played by Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company. Miss Julie Kennard acted with much appreciation and sympathetic touch as Lady Isabel and Madame Vine, and Mr. Eric Mayne was a polished scoundrel as Captain Levison; Mr. Alfred Beaumont's Archibald Carlyle was distinguished by many touches of clever acting; and Mr. C. C. Grattan provided some mirth as the irascible Justice Hare. Mr. H. C. Rutland was capable as Richard Hare, and Mr. Cyril Hayward was a humorous Lawyer Dill; Mr. Alfred Tate's P.c. Bullock greatly amused the audience; and Mr. Spencer Goodwin was efficient in the small character of Lord Mount Severn. Miss Ethel Hardacre played consistently as Cornelia Carlyle, and Miss Ethel Savill was an agreeable Barbara Hare.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robt. Redford.—Mr. Milton Bode's principal company, with *The Belle of Mayfair*, is on a very successful visit here this week. The piece is staged in the magnificent style always associated with Mr. Bode's productions, and the costly dresses have caused quite a sensation. Miss May Yates is a captivating Julia, singing and dancing tastefully; Miss Mabel Dent as Pincott submits an admirable impersonation; Miss Emily Stevens as Lady Chaldicott is responsible for a successful impersonation; while Miss Daisie Irving's dignified portrayal of the Princess and Miss Aurelle de Loriere's picturesque rendition of the Gibson Girl are both excellent. As Sir John Chaldicott, Mr. Harry Parker works with much effect from start to finish; Mr. Haddon Cave as Lord Mount Highgate being an able partner in his amusing antics. Mr. Gwyn Alwyn, Mr. Edward Hugonnet, Mr. Laurie Lisle, and Mr. George McCloskie are all suitably cast. The chorus is well balanced, and reflects credit upon Mr. Thomas M. Tunbridge.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—*The Trumpet Call* occupies the boards at the Royal this week, and proves very attractive. Mr. Leonard Yorke does well as the hero, Cuthbert Cuthbertson; and Mr. John Dennys as Richard Featherstone undertakes creditably the responsibilities of the villain. Mr. Charles F. Cooke as Sergt.-Major Milligan acts with much ability; while Mr. Freddie Bentley as Tommy Dutton and Miss May Foster as Lavinia succeed in livening the piece with clever comedy. Miss Helena Millais presents a pathetic delineation of Constance; Miss Doris Gilham is suitably placed as Astrea; and Miss Helena Rigby as Mrs. Wicklow deserves special mention.

EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. W. Lea; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—The Boy Army is presenting a remarkable and interesting turn at the Cardiff Empire, the military manœuvres and fine horsemanship causing well-deserved applause; Peggy Pryde, with her up-to-date songs and patter is as lively and sprightly as ever; as clever and entertaining cyclists and jugglers, Newhouse and Ward would be hard to beat; while Orpheus renders pleasing melodies in his musical scena, *The Solitary Rehearsal*. The pictorial songs rendered by Lilian Warren are admirable; Ike Scott and Son prove themselves good comedians; and Gladys Mavius, the Canadian girl, is well received in her song-scena, assisted by Dot. The Karno Four cause roars of laughter in their comic pantomime; the Bioscope picture this week is exceptionally good.

CARLISLE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Mr. Fred Benton and company are appearing here in *The French Spy*. Mr. Benton again gives an artistic portrayal of Fritz, and is ably supported by Mr. Beresford Lovett, an excellent Captain Somers. Miss Madge Devereux shows power and resource as the Countess Andé (the French spy); Miss A. Harrison-Tate is effective as Olga; Mr. Max Coutts plays Count Romanoff is a masterly manner; and Mr. Hugh Travers could scarcely be improved upon as General Trepoff. Mr. Seymour Perry is funny as Nicholas Knipps; and is ably assisted by Miss Ella Seton as Julie and Mr. Chales Digby as Viscount Alexis.

THE PALACE.—Proprietors, the Palace Theatre, Carlisle, Limited; Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—Nat Clifford tops the bill here this week, and is scoring a big success. The Three Orros meet with an ovation for their clever gymnastic display; the Farcical Comedy Trio are amusing in a sketch entitled *The Maiden and the Tutor;* J. H. Crew sings comic songs acceptably; Fielding and Hull are much appreciated; Miss Maud Marlow is a pleasing comedienne; and the Luberts submit a comedy acrobatic act. The Pepiscope is still a popular item.

CARMARTHEN.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—On Monday evening Mr. Joseph Poole's Myriorama and Myriograph commenced a week's visit. The animated photographs are up to date, amusing, and original. The variety company includes the Paulastos, sensational eccentrics; the Silly Selbys, musical clowns; the Veronas, lady dancers; the Two Daniels, negro comedians and dancers; Miss May Finch, in characteristic songs; Felix Somers, with impersonations; and Mlle. Juanita M. di Olivera, in a wonderful performance with cockatoos. Mr. Natt Abbat was a capable and amusing guide.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Cr. Hy. Masterman.—Mr. Edwin C. Jazon brings a popular pantomime, *Aladdin*, capitally dressed and up to date. Miss Edna Latonne sings remarkably well as Aladdin; a fascinating Princess is Miss Florrie White; Miss Lila Lingard displays a good voice as Pekoe; and Miss Blanche Vernon makes a capital Caramel. Mr. Cyril Carle has a fine presence and good singing voice as the Emperor; Mr. Harry Vernon extracts fun from the part of Abanazar; Mr. B. Best makes a first-rate Grand Vizier; Mr. J. C. Morris is a capital Widow Twankey; and Messrs. George and Edwards as Ping and Pong are clever knockabouts. Misses Pattie Holden and Beatrice Sinclair, as Geni of the Ring and Slave of the Lamp, are a marked success; as an equilibrist and cannon-ball juggler Kavados works with conspicuous success; the Sisters Varley are pleasing; and Max Merlin wins loud applause as a contortionist.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. J. Beanland and W. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—An attractive programme is provided here this week. Among the popular favourites may be mentioned Dickenson and Johnson, ornamental swimmers and divers; Mr. Frank Coyle stands high in popular favour; Sabino manipulates ten different instruments very cleverly; Mlle. Rosini provides an excellent turn with her miniature menagerie; Mr. Claude Tomlin is vigorously applauded for his songs; Mr. J. H. Kavanagh makes a boisterous and energetic comic and descriptive vocalist; Gipsy Ann and her fortune-telling dog, Rosie, win success; as a comedienne and dancer Miss Violet Gerald has a taking style; and animated pictures by the Loyal Dominion Co. are still as popular as ever.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. Geo. G. Ridley.—Mr. Walter Melville's combination is presenting *A Girl's Cross Roads* here this week. In a lengthy cast, the artists who are chiefly deserving of mention are Miss Hilda Beverley, who gives a powerful and convincing representation of Barbara Wade; Mr. Charles Tranmore, whose John Meadows is an excellent study; Mr. Fred Ingram, a merry Toby Turvey; Mr. Fred Withers, a capital Luke Ramsden; and Miss Florence Zillwood, a successful Nellie Meadows.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Here we have Cee Mee Marie, whose smart feats of contortion are quite new to local audiences; E. J. Sheldon, speciality comedian; the Dancing Gilberts, the lady partner being very nimble; Ethel Arundel, comedienne; Les Montaldos, in a novel slack-wire act, introducing highly-trained parrots and cockatoos; Miss Esther Phillips and company, who receive every attention during the performance of a sketch in two scenes, entitled *The Sorceress;* Zarmo and Arno, who get a capital reception for their performance on the parallel bars; the Erascope, with amusing films; and Martin Conway, the well-known North Country comedian, who "catches on" decidedly.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. Frank J. Donne.—Katie Lawrence is being well received on a return visit, her songs finding much favour; the vocal contributions of the Crown Trio prove enjoyable; Les Frassettis score with selections on the harp, xylophone, and violin; the Mayvilles are a neat and dexterous couple; the Edisonograph continues to interest; Will E. Haines, comedian, and Ethel Dove, comedienne, also appear; and one of the most enjoyable items consists of quaint songs and eccentric dances, by Amber Austa.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—The pantomime of *Dick Whittington* is attracting large audiences here. Mr. Rolando Martin as Idle Jack, Mr. Bob Hutt as FitzWarren, and The Fimans as the Captain and the Mate find ample scope for their talents. Miss Gladys Warren is full of dash and go as Dick; Miss Kathleen Severn is a dainty and winsome Alice; Miss Flo Challis does good work as Tommy Trot; Miss Nellie Lauraine makes an imposing Fatima; Miss Wanda Kaleski is well placed as the Fairy Queen; Mr. Carne Curry is a clever and agile Cat; Miss Marie Wilson makes a satisfactory appearance as Rose; and specialities are contributed by Wallan and Collins' Six Lancashire Lasses.

CHORLEY (Lancs). — GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Hemingway.—Messrs. A. Hamilton Warden, and Chas. V. Sandford's company is paying a return visit here with the drama, *A Woman's Past*. Miss Maisie Hanbury gives a delightful and intense rendering of Bessie, Dorothy Heath being vivaciously undertaken by Miss May Dallas; and Miss Eva Bertram cleverly appears Clara Darrel; Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves is conspicuously successful as David Heath; Mr. A. Hamilton Warden capitally presents Clement Harper, while Mr. Chas. V. Sandford creates an excellent impression as Frank Dellannoy; and Mr. G. Moreton-Williams is prominent as Uriah Craven.

TOWN HALL.—This hall is occupied for six nights by Dr. Carl Herman, the electric king, who is supported by a capital vaudeville company, including very fine living pictures.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's company, in a revival of *A Night Out*, opened on Monday for six performances with Mr. Chas. Sugden in his original part of Paillard. Mr. Edward Thirlby played Pinglet with rare humour, his facial expression at times convulsing the audience; whilst as the ever-obtrusive Mathieu, Mr. Mark Lester made a great hit, his stage stammering and convenient deafness being quite a feature. Mr. Geoffrey Saville was nicely placed as Maxime; a like remark applying to Mr. Fred Penley and Mr. Thos. Barry as the two waiters. Mrs. Chas. Sugden presented a charming picture of the neglected Mme. Paillard; and the shrewish qualities of Mme. Pinglet were ably portrayed by Miss Constance Groves. Miss Lillian Stafford played Victorine with great vivacity; and quite a pretty picture was the quartette of daughters, as represented by the Misses Emmie Kemp, Elvira Stuart, Dorothy Dance, and Doris Scott.

HIPPODROME. — Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Lockhart's Elephants are on a return visit this week, and Captain Taylor is being heartily congratulated on all sides; Derenda and Green, comedy jugglers, in addition to being a really entertaining pair, are clever; Mersano, the mysterious sailor, is a card and coin manipulator of great ability; Albert Wallace, vocalist, has a pleasing reception, a similar remark applying with equal force to Lily Black, a very charming comedienne. Bert Kemble is a capable raconteur; and, as usual, the pictures conclude.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's company is appearing here in *The Toreador*, with excellent results. Mr. Richard Adams as Pettiter, Mr. Frank Thompson as Sir Archibald Slackett, and Mr. J. Herbert Willis as Augustus Traill are very good in their respective parts; Mr. Sidney Granville does full justice to the rôle of Carajolo; Miss Leah Howard scores as Susan; and as Dora Selby Miss Florence Wood is exceptionally clever. Mrs. Malton Hoppings is well played by Miss Gwen Clifford; and as Nancy Stanton Miss Mabel Gregory is very pleasing. The solo dance in the second act by Miss Mabel Lawrence is most favourably received. The augmented orchestra and full chorus are under the direction of Mr. Lui Levalion.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—The pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor* entered on its second and concluding week here with new songs, dances, and business. Miss May Beatty as Sinbad continues to delight the audiences with her splendid singing; Miss Blanche Astley sings and acts well; and Miss Gunn is as pleasing as ever as the Spirit of Adventure; Mr. Edward Lauri as Tinbad and Mr. Gus Walker as Mrs. Eliza Sinbad are humorous and mirth-provoking; Mr. T. E. Figlass is amusing as Pompey; Mr. Fred Arthur as the Sultan and Mr. Cecil Kingsley as the Grand Vizier are capital; and Mr. G. H. Snazelle as Captain Smackanhit is excellent.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—A big attraction here is the sketch, *La Vivandière*, founded on Ouida's novel, "Under Two Flags." The title-part is ably taken by Miss Isabel Derrie; Miss Cora Patey as Princess Corona filled the rôle with much success; Mr. Charles D. Pitt as Colonel Chateauroy does extremely well; Mr. Race Lorraine as Louis Victor acts cleverly; as Marshal Neil Mr. Reg. Maurice is entirely successful; and Mr. Frank Godfrey makes an excellent Arab Chief; Mr. J. C. Mannix, comedian and dancer, meets with great success; the Four Herberts prove themselves a clever troupe of acrobats; Salida and Vone are capital vocalists and dancers; the Three Phantos, in *The Phantom Ship*, cause great laughter; and Clito, who poses in famous female studies, is most entertaining.

COVENTRY. — THE EMPIRE. — Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. A. Rand.—An interesting programme is this week headed by a welcome visit of Auguste Van Biene in a one-act playlet, entitled *The Master Musician;* Barton and Ashley are successful with some smart patter, the gentleman being an expert step-dancer and humorist; Ryan and Hall are clever comedy acrobats and burlesque wrestlers; Morimura introduces some wonderfully clever Japanese illusions; Phil and Nettie Peters give an amusing comedy duologue; Little Santry is a merry comedian; Miss Madge May is well received; the usual Vernon's Bioscope pictures conclude.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Miss Lena Stanton and Mr. Harry Joseph's company is here in *Sinbad the Sailor*. Miss Lena Stanton undertakes the part of Sinbad in dashing and finished style; Little Keeno plays Tinbad in a manner all his own; Miss Norah Neville makes a winsome Irza; Miss Marie Santley is well received as Princess Yazora; and Miss Ethyl Errol is excellent as Captain Selim. Miss Lillie Richardson deserves praise for her Princess Fatima; and Miss Jennie Bradbury as the Queen has a suitable part. Mr. Harry Joseph himself gives a good show as King Krusty; and Mr. Will Terry is well to the fore as Shipwreckos. Messrs. Farrell and Gorman introduce their musical eccentricities as Bizbad and Quizbad; Mr. Fred Derby is an up-to-date Captain Cuttle; and we must not omit to praise Mr. Geo. Millard for his Caliph, nor Mr. Chas. Leamington for his Grand Vizier. Special mention must be made of Mr. Bruce Greene for his very funny Mrs. Sinbad.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor, J.P.—Messrs. Little and D'Arcy's pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, is drawing good houses here this week. In the title-rôle Miss Marion May is a big favourite, her various musical numbers being well rendered. Miss Nellie Moore possesses the charm necessary for the success of the rôle of Polly Hopkins, and Miss Cissie Conyers is a dashing Captain Billie Taylor. Miss Beatie Moore is a graceful Fairy Queen, and as Princess Flumeza Miss Bertha St. Ruth is well placed. Mr. Fred Lloyd is an excellent Mrs. Crusoe, his droll humour causing much merriment; Messrs. Sandy and Carl as Billy and Jimmy Crusoe are also clever fun providers. Richard Hopkins is well sustained by Mr. Will Hicks; Mr. Tom Shenton is an admirable King Hyapakoola; Mr. Sydney T. Russell is good as Friday, and Mr. Geo. Rapley is commendable at Will Atkins. The Sidney Quartette are experts in the terpsichorean art. Specialities by the Three Zaracs, Sandy and Carl, and the marvellous Ladderites are enjoyable.

CROOK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Wallace Davidson.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company opened here on Monday night with *An Abandoned Woman*. Mr. Henry Walston gives a vigorous delineation of Herbert Seaton, and Mrs. Harry Foxwell submits a sympathetic conception of Eleanor; Mr. Harry Foxwell as Paddy Boyle is well to the fore; Mr. Bernard J. Leill portrays in fine style the rascality of Phillipe Malvoisin, and Miss Georgette Thierry as Ninon Malvoisin is deserving of much praise. Other artists are Mr. J. G. Gormley, Mr. P. M. Wright, Misses Elsie Dean, Lily Addison, and Francis Maddocks.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—*Peter's Mother* is being admirably played here by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company, the visit giving great pleasure. Miss Ruth Mackay is quite equal to the responsibilities of the title-rôle; Miss Mary Griffiths gives a clever impersonation of Lady Belstone; Mrs. Mallalieu is in every way a suitable Miss G. Crewys; Miss Hilda Honiss makes a charming Sarah; and Miss Ethel Rayale does well as Mrs. Hewell. Mr. Percy Hutchison is commendable as Peter Crewys; Mr. Charles Harley gives a scholarly portrayal of Sir Timothy Crewys, Bart.; Mr. Eille Norwood speaks his lines with good effect as John Crewys; Mr. W. Mallalieu hits off to a nicety the rôle of Canon Birch; Mr. Drew Mackintosh is satisfactory as Dr. Blundell; and Messrs. J. Mitchell and T. Salver complete the cast as Ash and a footman. The curtain-raiser is *Chalk and Cheese*, capitally played by Miss Ethel Rayale as Sybil Raymond, Miss Hilda Honiss as Perkins, and Mr. Drew Mackintosh as Walter Raymond.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Herrick.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company in the well-known drama, *Her Forbidden Marriage*, is paying a welcome return visit here this week, and attracting large audiences. Mr. Henry Lonsdale distinguishes himself as George Madison; Mr. Louis Hector plays the part of Chas. Devereux with considerable skill; Mr. Leonard Maxwell as Geoffrey Broughton deserves mention; Mr. Rawden Vivian ably fills the rôle of the Rev. Mr. Dean; Mr. Philips submits an excellent representation of Joe Lambkin; Mr. Fred De Vere as Timothy Tuttut creates much laughter and deserves the well-earned applause; and Mr. Herbert Goddard gives a clever interpretation of Sir George Lanacster. Miss Gertrude Bonser is particularly good as Lucy; Miss Madge Yates as Patty Lovejoy is a success; Miss Gertrude Hunt is smart as Lady Lucretia Lanacster; and Miss Nelly Fletcher depicts the Mother Superior in a pathetic manner.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Crowded houses are witnessing Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's drama, *The Tyrant*, Miss Marie Dagmar as Tisbe delights the audience by her powerful acting; Mr. F. C. Somerfield as Homodei fairly holds the house by his powerful impersonation of the avenger; Mr. Roy Fortescue scores in the heavy part of Angelo; the Prince de Roma is successfully played by Mr. Lionel Atwell; Miss Millie Ford as Lady Katherine is most effective; as Eulie, Miss Lallah Shelton is admirable; and the comedy characters are well played by Miss Cissy Podmore as Reginella, Mr. Percy Brown as Victor, and Mr. Albert Rogers as Nobbo.

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's company is here this week in *The Prodigal Parson* and *Still Waters Run Deep*. The former was played on Monday night to a good house. Mr. Garrod gives a well-balanced rendering of the Rev. Tom Godley, Mr. Northway appearing to advantage in the heavy part of Enoch Jaggins; Mr. Owen Redmone as Phil Drive, and Miss Lydia Hart as Gretchen work together exceedingly well in providing the comedy element; Fern Godley is in the capable hands of Miss Gwen Stewart, and as Myrtle Godley, the blind child, Miss Violet Jeffries does well; Mr. Wm. Hayward is well suited to the part of Ben Jaggins,

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Co-operative Hall.—Mme. Lambert's Animated Pictures and Vaudeville Company are occupying this hall this week with a really excellent set of films. Le Wist, ventriloquist; Reno, conjurer; Arthur and Isa, in a refined comedy duo, and Mme. Lambert's sketch combination are included in the programme.

Public Hall.—The Royal Animated Picture Company are present here for a second week, with a complete change of pictures.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Mr. Lester Collingwood's pantomime, *Blue Beard*, continues to run smoothly. Two of the principals, Miss Millie Warde and Mr. Fred Lyndo, give new songs. As Ibrahim, Mr. Fred Lyndo is immensely funny, and also has two new songs, which serve to increase his success. Miss Millie Warde is a fascinating Fatima; and the principal boy, Miss Marie Liston, has become a favourite. The Three Rubys are eminently successful; and the Sisters Wingrove have caught on. Mr. S. Lockbridge and Mr. Harry Tilbury, clever comedy merchants, continue to create plenty of fun, as also do the Two Jays. To the specialities have been added Fontainbleau's leaping dogs, who supply a fine example of canine sagacity.

Palace.—Lessee and Manager(Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—The Jackley Trio, including George, whistling comedian, whose drolleries keep the house in roars of laughter, provide a smart acrobatic turn, which well merits the first position this week. Another excellent turn is that of Mlle. Amalia, who presents her miniature hippodrame, which includes a number of cleverly-trained ponies and dogs; also Tony Watson, a donkey bareback rider of great ability. Little Cliff is a promising young comedian; Toney and Novel, equilibrists, submit some difficult feats in a praiseworthy manner; Maxford and O'Neill, a couple of smart comedians, cause much amusement; Takio is an accomplished mimic; Amy Marsden proves herself a charmingly quaint comedienne; and the Palace Bioscope is again to the fore.

DONCASTER.—New Grand Theatre and Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*The Silver King* met with a cordial reception here on Monday. Mr. Fred D. Davis's conception of the title-rôle was extremely artistic; Miss Daisy Scudamore as Nellie Denver gave a realistic impersonation; Mr. Edward J. George upheld the character of Daniel Jaikes faultlessly; and winsomeness marked Miss Flossie Hale Daviss as Cissy, with an able coadjutor in Master Douglas Thomas as Ned. Mr. L. St. George Lowther gave a neat presentation of the Spider; and Mr. Arthur Wright was exceedingly smart and humorous as Combe. Miss Bessie Wright was a captivating Susie.

DUBLIN.—Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—The boards are occupied this week by Mr. Harold V. Neilson and company in the play entitled *The Perfect Lover*, which has attracted large audiences. Mr. Neilson appears in the principal character, Joseph Tremblett, and displays considerable dramtic ability; as Wm. Tremblett, Mr. W. Lemmon Ward acts with great judgment; Miss Amy Sangster as the ill-used wife submits a careful reading of Lilian Tremblett; Mr. Frank Beresford plays admirably as Lord Cardew; and Miss Dorothy Milne is effective and pleasing as Martha Tremblett. Miss Gertrude Sterroll's portrayal of the Hon. Susan Lesson is very good; Miss Lilian Kevill-Davies is clever in the rôle of Mrs. Morphitt; Miss Renée de L'Estrade is excellent as May; and Miss Edith Dent as Mrs. Barter and Miss Elsie Saville as Mrs. Bonham are both well suited in their respective parts. A capital representation of John Collis is given by Mr. John Detliv; Mr. A. C. Bute does well as Harris; Mr. Reginald Hargreaves creditably sustains the part of Morgan; and Mr. Donald Gow ably portrays the character of the Porter.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The pantomime of *Mother Goose* has had a very successful run, and this being the last week, all the principal artists are taking benefits. Miss May Moore Duprez, who has made such a big hit as Gretchen, took her benefit on Monday, when there was crowded audience present. On Thursday Mr. Martin Adeson (Mother Goose) had his benefit, and Miss Carlotta Levey's is announced for Friday night.

Queen's Theatre. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; Acting-Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson.—On Monday night Mr. John M. Dawson, the acting-manager, held his first annual benefit. His genial manner has gained him hosts of friends and his popularity can be well judged by the house being crammed from floor to ceiling. The programme was of an excellent and varied character. With the permission of the directors of the Theatre Royal the following artists, appearing in *Mother Goose*, gave their assistance with great success:—Mr. Martin Adeson, Mr. W. G. Cromwell, Miss Anna Kenwick, and Miss May Rawlinson; and from the Tivoli, Mr. "C." and Maud Courtney, the American Girl, were warmly appreciated. A host of local amateurs gave their services, and added greatly to an enjoyable programme. Mr. J. W. Whitbread's Irish players appeared in a new farce, *A Matrimonial Bureau*, which was well appreciated. Mrs. Mary Glenville was most amusing in an absurdity entitled *Kitty's Troubles;* she was ably assisted by Mr. Teddy O'Malley (who sang and danced in capital style) and Mr. Alex Allan. Mr. Dan Clarke fulfilled the duties of stage-manager. During the performance Mr. Dawson came before the audience and thanked them for their attendance.

Empire.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—A capital bill of fare is provided here this week. G. W. Hunter, the versatile comedian, with clever songs and smart patter, is most heartily welcomed; Manning's Entertainers in their sketch, *The Hotel Boots*, cause a deal of hilarious fun; Harry Trevanion and company are paying a return visit with *A Bolt from the Blue*, an exciting Russian sketch, which is cleverly acted and well received; Nina Gordon, a clever Scottish mimic, gives an entertaining performance; Jemmy Shields, one-legged comedian and dancer, is always a big favourite here; Winnie Gordon excels as a lady whistler; Paulinette and Piquo, in their clever gymnastic display, are duly appreciated; and Musical Silvo and Lazern also appear with success. A new series of animated pictures of up-to-date events are attractive and interesting.

Tivoli.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Another capital list of turns are billed here this week. The Leopolds in their acrobatic and tumbling act, are rapturously applauded; the Primrose Quartette score in their vocal scena; and Mr. "C." is a comedian with a style peculiarly his own. Rogers and Weston give an amusing and clever absurdity entitled *In Answer to an Advert.;* Maud Courtney makes a favourable impression as a comedienne; the McKays, duologue artists, are accorded a good reception; and other acceptable turns are provided by Arthur Goodman (tramp juggler), the Brothers Barker (patter comedians), Recco, the impossible tumbler), and the Bioscope is, as usual, interesting.

DUMFRIES. — Theatre Royal. — Lessee, Mr. W. E. Potts; Manager, Mr. Payne Seddon.—The first three nights of this week we have Mr. Benson's North Shakespearean company. Mr. Gerald Ames is a marked success as Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice;* Mr. Dagnall as the Duke of Venice, Mr. Charles Francis as Bassanio, and Mr. Reignald Owen as Lorenzo left nothing to be desired in their delineations. Mr. Henry Herbert made a capital Shylock; Miss Dorothy Green was very good as Portia; Miss Louisa Graeme as Jessica was very charming, and Miss Mary Webb as Nerissa was well placed. *School for Scandal* and *Romeo and Juliet* followed during the rest of the week.

DUNDEE. — Palace Theatre. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—The Gentle McKweys present a very laughable turn, their comedy acrobatic work being exceptionally clever; Zaid, the Spanish Moor, gives a marvellous performance on the rings; and Cookson, in his well-worked ventriloquial act, introduces several decided novelties. That prettily-staged comedy vaudeville, *A Bit of String*, is capitally played by Mr. H. Leslie Bell and L. Pearl company; Walter Wade, raconteur and mimic, and Jack McCormack, comedian, are a mirth-provoking pair, and both score heavily; Ford and Barris Trio appear as legmania dancers, vocalists, and bone soloists, and their entertainment is a decided success. Amy Bathurst, a stylish serio and dancer, has a good budget of tuneful ditties; Allsopp and Bekwith are a bustling couple, their comedy act, *I'm Coming Upstairs*, being very refreshing. The Bioscope has a capital assortment of new films.

Gaiety Theatre. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—Place of honour is accorded to Stanley and Vandyke, who appear in a well-acted sketch, entitled *A Broken Promise*. Percy Maye, impersonator, an artist of undoubted ability, scores a well-earned success; Harrie Brooks and Gerald Wood are very entertaining in their duologue, *The Banana King;* Miss Yetta, wire-walker, is decidedly clever; Adey North, comedian, and the Letard Clowns are responsible for much hearty laughter; while Philip Sefton's fine baritone voice is heard to advantage in his songs. The Bioscope completes a varied and very enjoyable programme.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Drama gives place this week to the animated pictures, an entirely new series being presented twice nightly by the British Empire Picture Company. Several very pretty coloured films are shown, including a dramatic love story, entitled "The Bridge of Sighs." The varieties, consisting of male and female vocalists of a high order, complete the programme.

DUNFERMLINE. — Theatre Royal and Opera House. — Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—The Aplex Animated Picture Company is fulfilling a week's engagement here this week. The cinématograph exhibition is excellent, and the pictures include "The Tramp's Temptation," "Opium Smoker's Dream," "The Prospector's Romance," "His First Silk Hat," "The Fireman's Wedding," and "The Watch Dog." The chief interest, however, is centred on the Chronophone turn, which made its first appearance here. Miss Marie Rosebery's turn was much appreciated.

EASTBOURNE. — Pier Pavilion. — Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Edward Graham-Falcon's company is appearing here in *Bluebell in Fairyland*. As Bluebell Miss Mamie Finbow displays a natural charm of manner and a sweet and pleasing voice, which is admirably used. Mr. Lawrence Emery is a particularly smart and effective Dickie; Messrs. J. H. Bishop and Charles Resti as Will and Wont, and later as Blib and Blob, supply a liberal amount of fun; Mr. Harry Douglas as the policeman and the King has a delightful fund of original humour; and Mr. Frank Lennard is an excellent Mr. Joplin, and an equally efficient stage-manager, while he does fine work as the Sleepy King. W. Blincoe's work as Peter and the Owl deserves special eulogy. Miss Constance St. Bride displays dignity and attractiveness, both as the Queen and the Water-Lily; Miss Haidee Fitch is an extremely graceful embodiment of the Will-of-the-Wisp, and her finished dancing is redemanded; Miss Vera Vizard is a bright and prepossessing Good Fairy; and other parts are well played. An ideal item for children is the beautifully-dressed scena, The Death of Cock Robin. The Three Sisters Holman are agile dancers.

Devonshire Park Theatre.—Proprietors, The Devonshire Park and Baths Co., Ltd.; Managers, Messrs. Murray, King, and Clarke.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is appearing here during the week in *Under Two Flags*.

ECCLES.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Hamilton Baines; Manager, Mr. Albert Orton.—Mr. Arthur Linforth's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, is occupying the boards this week. Miss Mary Ambrose makes an ideal Robin Hood, and is repeatedly encored for her violin solos and catchy songs; Miss Lily Maxwell makes a pleasing Maid Marian; the Babes are creditably undertaken by Miss Maisie Richardson and Miss Zeta Russell; Miss Violet Worth and Miss Vera Glynn are very taking as Robin's lieutenants; the Brothers Harrison are exceedingly clever as Raitz and Taxes; Mr. Fred Lincoln is amusing as Mary Ann Spankhurst; as Buttons, Mr. Frank Lawton, the unrivalled whistler, is a pronounced success.

EDINBURGH. — Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. William Whitehead.—The closing weeks of the pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, are announced. The company has worked well together; the performances of Mr. Mark Sheridan, the Brothers Egbert, Mr. Harry Conlin, Mr. Harry Lupino, and Master Nipper Lupino Lane have been full of brightness and fun; while Miss Gwladys Elvey as Robin Hood, Miss Daisy Dormer as Maid Marion, Miss Mildred Claire as Allan-a-Dale, and Miss Edna Loftus as Molly have gained hosts of admirers by their clever, charming acting. There is much that is worth noticing in the delightful impersonations of the Babes by the two pretty children, Wee Wallace and Baby Bettie Green, and Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of dancers have given colour and exhilaration to the scenes in which they appear.

Royal Lyceum Theatre. — Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.,; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minskull.—Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company with *The Morals of Marcus* opened here on Monday evening. The play has been very heartily received. Mr. H. Nye Chart gave a fine performance of the title-rôle; Mr. David Domville was good as Pasquale; and Mr. A. H. Leveaux was impressive and forceful in his one scene as Hamdhi Effendi; Mr. Cecil Brooking was excellent as the butler. Mrs. H. Nye Chart as Judith Mainwaring was tastefully gowned, and acted with great pathos and dramatic power. Her scene with Ordeyne in the fourth act was wonderfully moving; Carlotta was played by Miss Hilda Antony, a young actress who possesses not only much personal charm but notable dramatic ability; Miss Mary Weigall was an admirable Mrs. Ordeyne; Miss Gladys Purnell a vivacious Dora; Miss Conyers Radcliffe an elegant representative of Mrs. McMurray; and Miss Eleanor Gilbart a lively Antoinette. The company is under the direction of Mr. M. V. Leveaux.

King's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—The pantomime, *Cinderella*, closes to-night. Mr. Courtneidge put every effort into the production of this spectacle, and the result must have justified his most sanguine expectations. Miss Phyllis Dare has played the title-rôle with singular charm and unfailing vivacity, and her benefit, which took place on Friday evening amidst a scene of much enthusiasm, demonstrated her great popularity. Mr. Dan Rolyat, Mr. John Humphries, Mr. Stephen Adeson, Mr. Bay Russell, Miss Violet Englefield, Miss Gwennie Hasto, Miss Vera Vere, and Miss Marie Rignold have all contributed to what has been a marked success.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—The leading item in a good all-round bill is provided by Miss Kate Carney and her company in the effective scena, *'Liza Johnson*. The Stein-Eretto Troupe introduce some clever feats of hand-jumping; and a pleasing turn is that of Gurrie Lindon's vaudevilles, entitled *Monks at Play;* while the Renard Trio display both novelty and neatness in their gymnastic acts; and great skill in playing stringed instruments is manifested by Messrs. Simms and Simms. Miss Sybil St. Elmo is exceedingly happy in her vocal contributions, which are delightfully rendered; Professor Vox is as successful and amusing as ever in his ventriloquial sketches; Mr. Harry Clifford and Miss Alice Maple give realistic and smart comedy turns; Messrs. Carney and Armstrong are responsible for a good speciality entertainment; and "The Policeman's Little Run" on the Bioscope is extremely diverting.

Albert Hall.—"The Follies," whose charming entertainment made them so deservedly popular in Edinburgh on a former appearance, are paying a return visit to this city, and opened at the Albert Hall last Wednesday evening. Mr. H. G. Pelissier, the versatile manager of the company, is responsible for the excellent programme, which takes the form of a skit on the turns at an average music hall. Mr. Pelissier as the ventriloquist is extraordinarily funny. One of the company, Mr. Norman Blume, a young Edinburgh actor, has made a great advance in his profession within the last year or two.

EXETER. — Theatre Royal.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford. — Mr. H. A. Saintsbury and company are appearing here this week in *Anna of the Plains*. Mr. Saintsbury depicts the character of the old burgher farmer to the life; Miss Dorothea Desmond is capital in the title-rôle; Mr. Hilliard Vox is a manly Michael; Mr. C. H. Croker-King does well as Piet van Heller; and Miss V. Vivian is amusing as Sarah. The play is followed by *The First Night*.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—Mr. J. Maundy-Gregory's company opened a week's engagement in the striking military drama, *Lights Out*. The company is a very strong one. The most difficult work fell to Mr. Lionel D'Arragon as Sergeant Volkhardt, and it was accomplished in a manner which stamped him as a first-class actor; Mr. Kenneth Brampton (Lieut. Von Howen) spoke with clear and intelligent enunciation; the part of Lieut. Von Lauffen was well undertaken by Mr. Charles Esdale; Mr. Richard Fielding's Corporal Helbig was an excellent piece of acting; Corporal Queiss (Mr. Francis J. Bithell) provided what little humour there is in the piece, and he filled his part with marked success; Miss Frances Davie, the only lady in the cast, appeared as Klara Volkhardt, and sustained the curious interest in the character till the tragic ending of her ill-timed love. Among others worthy of mention were Mr. George Hanbury, Mr. Lambert Plummer, and Mr. Arthur Stone. The drama was preceded by the one-act play, *Nan*.

FLEETWOOD.—Mr. Henry E. Leigh presents his company here this week in the musical farcical comedy, *The 'Varsity Belle*. Mr. James Danvers gives an excellent portrayal of Professor Septimus Stoney; Mr. Edward Chester acquits himself well in the difficult part of Theocritus Ward Sparleton, and Mr. Frank Lilliput as Runyard, the College scout, is very amusing. Miss Josephine Ellis as Gaye Sparkleton, the 'Varsity Belle, looks well, acts well, and sings well. Miss J. Sullivan displays a good voice in the part of Eve Stoney, the Professor's wife. The whole of the company are good, and the result is completely successful.

FOLKESTONE.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—*The Shulamite* made a first appearance here on Monday, and was finely played by Mr. Charles Fancourt's company. Mr. Algernon J. Hicks scored a success in the difficult rôle of Simeon Krillett; Mr. Charles Fancourt ably sustained the part of Robert Waring; Mr. George Rammell played powerfully as Jan Vanderberg; Tante Anna was ably portrayed by Miss Emily Levettey; Miss Chrissie Bickerstaff played very cleverly the Kaffir girl, Memke; and Miss Ruth Shepherd acted with decided skill as Deborah Krillett.

GATESHEAD. — King's Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; General-Manager, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Occupying top place on the bill here this week is Mr. Joe Peterman's company in the musical comedy extravaganza, *The Belle of the Orient*. Will Gordon is a favourite character-vocalist; Gus Harris makes an eloquent appeal for fair play for the Jews in a song-scena, named *The Synagogue;* Oakley and James present an act which includes singing, dancing, and juggling; the Clavers are two smart and amusing jugglers; T. E. Johnstone is an actor-vocalist of merit; and Little Lizzie Leaver, comedienne, and pictures by Vernon's Imperial Bioscope complete the bill.

Metropole Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Councillor Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas France.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's excellent pantomime *Dick Whittington* is in its last week here. Tom Foy has achieved a noteworthy success; Miss Maidie Scott (Dick) and Miss Veronica Brady (Alice) do excellent work in their respective parts.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Councillor Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—Mr. Arthur Carlton is presenting the drama, *In Sight of St. Paul's*, here this week. Mr. Ernest R. Allen plays Tom Chichester with success; Mr. Herbert Cecil presents a polished Captain Gridston; Miss Gussie Everitt is seen to advantage as Cynthia Dell; Miss Cissie Bellamy makes a charming Aileen Miller; and the other parts are capably filled.

GLASGOW.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—Mr. Arthur Hardy's company in *Beauty and the Barge* follows the pantomime here, and the lively incidents of this amusing play are heartily enjoyed. Mr. Blake Adams revels in the part of Captain Barley, and his various escapades and the artful way he wriggles out of difficulty prove most exhilarating. Miss Dido Drake makes a pretty Ethel Smedley. Mr. Edward Coventry acts well as the lover, Lieut. Boyne. The other pair of sweethearts are well played by Miss Mary Pemberton as Lucy and Mr. Pennington-Gush as Herbert Manners. Mr. Walter Pemberton is very funny as the irascible Major, and his subdued spouse is ably played by Miss Mona Robin. Miss Ruby Wyndham as Mrs. Baldwin, Mr. Charles A. White as John Dibbs, and Messrs. Fred Knight and Forrester Harvey as two sailor men lend able assistance in their respective parts. Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite as the attractive landlady of the "Old Ship" and Mr. Ewart Drake as her diminutive husband are also well suited. The comedietta entitled *Cinders* was given in front, with Miss Lillian Locke in the name part.

Royalty, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Messrs. Gatti and Frohman's company in *The Belle of Mayfair* is now running the concluding week of a month's engagement, which has proved very successful.

Grand, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. D. Macfarlane.—Crowded houses continue to patronise *The House that Jack Built*, and the fun all through is kept going merrily. Miss May Mars, the dashing Prince of the cast, is suffering from a severe cold, which forces her to omit several of her best songs, but she is pluckily keeping to her post, and singing those songs which do not tax her so heavily. Mr. Fred Kitchen, Mr. Harry Lappo, Mr. Fred Whittaker, Miss Luna Love, and the Harmony Four, continue to be leading factors in the success of this year's annual.

Royal Princess's.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—The pantomime, *Mother Goose*, continues to meet with undiminished popularity. On Monday the ninth week was entered upon, and the house was crowded with an audience that thoroughly enjoyed the performance from start to finish.

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—Considerable interest is being shown this week in the engagement of Mr. Junius Booth, who is appearing here in an adaptation of his own of Dumas' novel *Monte Cristo*. This talented actor is a nephew of the famous Edwin Booth, and in such a part as Edmond Dantes proves himself a capital exponent of the romantic drama. He has two able lieutenants in Mr. Augustin Bowerman, who essays the rôle of Danglers with much success, and Mr. Beckitt Bould, in whose hands the part of M. Nortier becomes very effective; Mercedes is represented with great refinement and taste by Miss Mona Grey; the other female rôles being well filled by Miss Alice West (La Carconte) and Miss Amy Manfree (Sophie Danglers); Mr. Walter Huron gives a good idea of M. Villefort; Mr. C. W. Crowe bears himself well as Fernand Mondego; character is given the part of Caderousse by Mr. Walter Manfree and Mr. Leonard Marshall cleverly doubles the parts of M. Morel and Lieut. Albert de Morcef.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—The catering for the Govanites continues to be excellent. This week the Paisley pantomime, *Goody Two-Shoes*, which was in Perth last week, is produced, and must be considered one of Mr. Savile's successes. From start to finish the production runs merrily, and leaves little to be desired. Miss Maggie Bowman, who takes the part of Goody, is a talented little actress, who early makes herself a favourite; as Roland Miss Marie Adair does admirably, and gets through her work in a business-like fashion. To Mr. Harry Gribben is allotted the part of Baron Grabb, and his appearance is highly gratifying; Mr. Tom Morton makes an ideal Simon, while Mr. Jack Foley deserves eevry credit for his performance as the Dame. The life of the panto, however, is Mr. Peter Birmingham, as Sandy Sapps. This clever comedian gets through an immense amount of work, and evokes shrieks of laughter. A clever pair of knockabouts are the Messrs. Passmore, and Messrs. Claremont and Victor make a capital Smirk and Smile; as Peter Piper and Dolly Dimple Miss Carrie Foy and Miss Adela Crispin respectively appear with much acceptance; Miss Florence Lister as Mephisto is excellent, and her singing is highly appreciated. Miss Lena Wylie makes a splendid Fairy. The dancing of the Tricky Trio is talented and graceful.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Chas. Mussett.—The 14 Black Hussars top the bill here, and have had a good reception, their musical pieces being rendered with spirit and precision; Howard and Harris cause much laughter in their amusing sketch entitled *The Happy Hooligan*; and the efforts of Bijou Russell are duly appreciated; Fred Elton is a clever entertainer, his songs and piano playing being a feature of the evening's entertainment; the Bros. Redmond are first-class acrobatic comedians; owing to illness, Miss Marion Scott was unable to appear, but the management found an able substitute. Other acceptable turns include Carrie Joy, comedy artist; Watson's dogs; Herbert Lenton, speciality act; and the American Bioscope, with new pictures.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Paul Cinquevalli is the chief attraction here this week, and his feats of jugglery are as astonishing as ever; Edie Veno has a pleasant voice, and a lively style of singing, which is very attractive; Kitty Clover and her clever company appear in a comical sketch called *Mr. There's Heir*, which evokes much laughter; the Coloured Meisters have finely blended voices, and their melodies are good to hear; Kelly and Ashby do so wonderful feats on their elastic billiard-table; the O'Gorman Brothers rattle off their jokes with amusing effect; Lily Tiso has a fine voice, with a goodly presence, and dances with grace; J. A. Wilson and his funny military recruits, especially the canine "Private Towser," cause unlimited mirth. The Bioscope winds up an excellent entertainment, punctuated with occasional growls from the lions in the adjoining Zoo.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr Samuel Lloyd.—That quaint comedian, T. E. Dunville, with his merry patter and characteristic songs proves a big draw, in a long and strong programme this week; the Paragon Trio are well received for their singing, and as fine a troupe of acrobats as the Pichel troupe has not been seen for some time; Aimee Grey is well received for her tasteful singing of pleasing songs, and a delightful song and dance scena, entitled, *Little Looking-Glass*, by Josie Delaine, is warmly appreciated; Tom Yorke, Coster comedian, and Ned Graydon, instrumentalist, contribute acceptably to the programme; Williams and Warden, in their comedy act, *Mr. Dooley*, evoke much laughter with their Irish cross-talk; they also sing and dance well; Florrie Gallimore is a great favourite with her catchy songs and graceful style; the Three De Veres are clever society and comedy acrobats; Dolly Elsworthy and her *Orange Girl* company are seen to advantage in the sketch, in which the lady named gives a fine portrayal of the part of Nell Gwynn.

Coliseum.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—Crowded houses continue to patronise Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime, *Puss in Boots* here. The humour of Messrs. Sammy Shields, Harry Levaine, George Hestor, and Harry Rogerson; the animated singing and dancing contributed by Miss Minnie Jeffs and Miss Jennie Johns; and the speciality items of Avon and Crest, Curtis and Vanity, &c., constitute a most enjoyable and lively entertainment.

Palace.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—J. W. Hall, the popular comedian, proves his title to the term by a hearty reception; Helen Charles, pianist, mimic, &c., is always welcome; the humour of Downes and Langford is as enjoyable as it was in the recent Royal Pantomime here; they get a big reception; the Brothers Ralston, "the boys with voices," provide a pleasing entertainment; Bonnetti and Corrie are responsible for considerable merriment in a clever juggling act; the Schiavony troupe are seen in a fine acrobatic display; a most enjoyable time is spent while Jack Collinson and Co. occupy the stage; in the *Topsy-Turvy School* there is plenty of variety in songs, dances, and rollicking fun.

Gaiety, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Howard; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Bowerman.—An attractive programme has been arranged here for the week. Miss Ada Fawn, comedienne, is the principal turn, and had a cordial reception on the opening night; other turns of interest include the Dunlops, comedy cyclists; J. Cosgrove, Irish character comedian; Jessie Thorne, chic comedienne; Gus Merriman, comedian; Poole and Poole, high-class comedy couple; Sandy M'Nab and company in an amusing sketch, *The Egyptian Mummy;* and the Bioscope, with a select display of pictures.

GLOUCESTER.—Palace.—Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—Dainez animals give a really clever and original performance, which is highly appreciated. Hearty laughter is predominant when the stage is occupied by Mr. Harry Wenburn; and Messrs. Clyo and Rochelle are a talented pair whose abilities are duly recognised. The Vyponds give an excellent turn, in which the lady of the duo represents a doll, whilst her partner is a capital pianist. Rappo and Ella perform some difficult and interesting balancing feats; T. C. Callaghan, comedian, goes well; and Lilian Neville, ballad vocalist, is favourably received. The Lashmars perform acrobatic feats with ease; and Miss Flo Banks, comedienne, is an immediate favourite. George Raper is a good comedienne, and some excellent Bioscope films make a fitting conclusion to a good entertainment.

GREENOCK.—Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Messrs. Buchanan and Stevens' pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, is the attraction here this week. Miss Lilian Lea as the Prince delights the audience with her charming manner and expressive singing; Miss Nancy Herne as the Marquis has a prepossesing appearance and a sweet voice; in the title-rôle, Miss Decima Brooke is a decided success, and fully merits the applause she receives; Miss Helene Rose sings and dances as Ruby in an exceedingly bright and clever manner; Miss Katie Butler is decidedly pleasing as Blondina; Miss Rose Florence is a delightful Fairy Queen; and Miss Florrie Durant and Miss Beatrice Wilson are both good in their respective parts. Mr. George Le Clerq infuses great humour into the part of Johnny Stout; and as Jimmy Green, Mr. Ben Brown is responsible for much fun. As the Widow Horner Mr. Harry Nelson is well suited; Mr. L. W. Harris scores as the Village Squire; Pepper and Peter Piper are ably represented by Mr. Alfred Bennett and Mr. Wil. Cutler; and the Wolf has an exceptionally able exponent in Mr. Fred Zaranella.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—Mr. R. A. P. Williams's pantomime, *Mother Goose*, is being presented here twice nightly. Fun in abundance is provided by Mr. Sam Thompson as Sandy Cook; he is ably assisted by Mr. J. T. Dillsen as Mother Goose, Mr. Arthur Lee Todd as Sergeant Muttonhead, and Mr. Jas. Chartres as Toby Truncheon. As Colin, Miss Gertie Douglas infuses plenty of dash into the part, and her singing is distinctly pleasing; Miss Wynnie Darrell as Dollie Dimple is well suited to the part; and Miss Catherine May makes a graceful and effective Fairy Kindheart. Mr. Michael Kemble (Monopoly) is the possessor of a fine voice; and the Goose is well embodied by Master Jones. Excellent specialities are introduced by the Stuart quartette of vocalists and dancers and the Brothers Bright, hand-balancers.

Pavilion Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. A. White.—The Five Abadaroffs, in a quaint comedy act, entitled *Prehistoric Times*, prove themselves very diverting; another popular turn is that presented by Huxter Brothers, acrobats; Mr. Charles Russell, descriptive vocalist, is good; Billie Burford, comedienne, wins favour; Pat Carey, Irish comedian and dancer, obtains considerable applause. Other artists are the Zampas, duettists, dancers, and bâton swingers; and Charles Gardener and Bert Marsden, comedians. The Paviscope pictures complete the bill.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry.—*In Holy(?) Russia* is a drama illustrating the unhappy social condition of the Czar's empire, and is capitally performed by Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company. Mrs. Rice Cassidy wins complete approval for her work as Rénee Rubinoff; whilst Mr. Cassidy presents entertaining light comedy as Colonel Dick Forrest, and in this is admirably supported by Mr. Joe Cuthbertson in the part of Micky Nolan. Mr. Frank Copeland plays Sir Harry Beresford with becoming dignity; Mr. Claude Havilland is sufficiently grim as the Chief of Police; the Nihilists, Count Gregori Petrolski and Laurice Steragoff, are suitably impersonated by Mr. Martin Sands and Mr. Carl Rovinelli; Mr. Frederick Lloyd well realises the character of Michael Natolski; and Miss Florence Creagh makes the most of the part of Catska Lavotski.

Curry's Tivoli.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—Mr. Charles Parker's concert combination, the Six Æolians, give a comprehensive entertainment of singing and dancing, which is at once smart and refined; the Edgertons perform a daring trapeze act upon apparatus which is fixed high above the heads of the audience; the Two Anartos combine amusing cross-talk with capital musical selections; the Meymotts display originality in their sketch *Semi-detached;* Chas. Richards' eccentric dancing is a popular feature; whilst the programme is further contributed to by Marie Blythe, a singer of favourite songs, and the Maros, comedy bar performers;.

The Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—The Countess Romanow is delighting all visitors with her artistic statuary poses; much merriment is caused by T. W. Rawson and Lily Bertram in their sketch, *Would-be Actors;* and the MacDonald Trio also score a success with their horticultural and musical scena. Welda and Wynne prove smart jugglers; Maston faithfully mimics farmyard sounds; Fred Eric is a successful comedian; Mabel Le Roy sings good songs; and Jack Rae is a clever gymnast.

GUERNSEY.—St. Julian's Hall.—Lessee, Mr. C. Robert Perkins.—Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood* opened here on the 8th inst. Everything is bright and sparkling, well mounted and dressed, and brimming over with merriment. Miss Beatrice Farley is a charming Prince, Miss Ella Willmer a captivating Red Riding Hood, Miss Fay Desmond is highly successful as Queen Flora; and Miss Kate Pennington (Rosa) and Miss Ivy Boulton (Boy Blue) are meritorious. Mr. Fred Latimer is responsible for the very necessary Dame Trot, and Mr. Geo. Newham is Baron Holmer. Some capital turns are introduced by Miss Fay Desmond, Mlle. Bastinelli, lady gymnast, and Pulo, the boy juggler. Crowded houses are the rule.

HALIFAX. — Theatre Royal, Ltd. — General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's talented company is giving very realistic representations of the *Four Just Men* here this week. Mr. Bonhote Wilson makes a statesman-like Foreign Secretary; as the leader of the four Mr. Oswald Gray cannot be too highly commended for his consummate enactment of the rôle; his confreres are most strikingly depicted by Mr. Wernham, Ryatt as Knight and Mr. Cecil Warde as Selkirk; while Mr. Chas. McCann has the appearance of a boulevard prowler as Miguel Thery; Mr. John Hames, is distinctly humorous as Mr. Greenham, M.P.; the Spanish fugitive, Manuel Garcia, is enthusiastically portrayed by Mr. Charles Percival; while his lover, Juanita Ramon, is entrusted to Miss Florence Radcliffe, and Miss Kate Samson is most interesting to follow as the American widow.

Palace and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Ed. Harrison.—George Brookes, with his two contributions, "Would you mind passing the salt" and "Happy land," extorts enthusiasm here this week; Speedwell, lightning drawer; Dene and Dawson, in *Stage Aspirants* Lizzie Daniels, soubrette; Percy Hannan, baritone; the Great Northern Troupe of International Dancers; Curt Pitt and the Bensons, in a new act, are also here.

HANLEY.—Royal, Ltd.—Managing-

Mivens Mr. Lionel Victor is a distinct success; Mr. E. Statham Staples makes an excellent Sam Brudenell; as Dr. O'Byrne Mr. Forbes Dawson is well placed; Miss Violet Lloyd makes a charming Peggy; Miss Cissie Sepleton proves a successful Eliza; and Miss Rhoda Gordon is most pleasing as Winifred; Miss Beryl Vaudrey sings nicely as Helene; Miss Edith Blanche as Lady Brudenell does good work; as Lieutenant Brudenell Mr. George Desmond is excellent; Mr. Alec Fraser as Captain Fred Leverton is seen to advantage; and Miss Madge Avery as Miss Pychase is good.

GRAND.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—The Three Olympiers head the bill this week with their classical poses, which are beautiful and interesting; Miss Billie Barlow is a huge success, her items being capitally rendered; the Beau Ideals are a wonderfully trained troupe of children; Howard and Collinson have a funny sketch, *The Porter and the Parcel;* the Bros. Onda contribute a capital triple bar act; Hesketh Meade has a good voice; his illustrated song is much appreciated; Maudie Ford is a good dancer; Will Rain and company in *The Motor Maniac* cause much laughter. The Biograph shows interesting pictures.

HARROGATE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Smith.—At the beginning of this week we had a return visit from Alfred B. Cross and company in *The Manxman.* He still gives a spiritual reading of the title-rôle, and has good support from Miss Minnie Watersford as Kate Cregeen and Mr. Frank Etheridge as Cæsar Cregeen.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—*The Bounding Navvies,* by Wild, Willie, and West, is a huge success here; David Pool is clever in his ventriloquial turn; charming music is provided by the Cecilians; the Three Dusky Princes, in comedy and dance, are successful; Mary Newall possesses a good voice; daughter is caused by the patter of Crosby and Walker; Sid Bandon is popular; and the pictures are interesting.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's No. 1 company is here this week in *The Christian.* Miss Grace Chalmers plays Glory Quayle with convincing earnestness, and in the earlier scenes with a charming buoyancy; Mr. Frank Tennant is effective as the Hon. John Storm; there is a fine adaptability shown by Mr. Charles Hill in the character of Parson Quayle; Mr. Edward Ling plays well as the ascetic Father Lamplugh; and the sleek Archdeacon Wealthy has a good exponent in Mr. Charles E. Dering. The dissolute Lord Robert Ure is well presented by Mr. Frederick Scarth; and Mr. Wilfred Noy acquits himself well as Brother Paul.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—A visit is being paid here this week by Mr. Leigh Lovel and company in Ibsen's *The Master Builder.* Mr. Lovel plays with much skill as Solness; and as his jealous wife Aline Miss Ethel Carlyon is equal to the difficulties of the rôle. Miss Octavia Kenmore plays very effectively the half-mystical and romantic rôle of Helda Wangel; Mr. A. Collins Rolfe is capable as Knut Brovik; Mr. Wilton Ross is a forcible Ragnar Brovik; and Kaia Fosli is gracefully impersonated by Miss Dora Levis. Mr. Bruce Lindley as Dr. Herdal completes the cast.

HEREFORD.—GARRICK THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Barnsley.—Mr. and Mrs. J. Tomlinson's company visited the Garrick Theatre this week with the successful Oriental play, *Secrets.* Miss Lizzie Palmer took the part of Ismalia, her acting being most realistic; Mr. Wilson Summers gave a successful and well-studied rendering of Captain Herbert Markham; the part of Kara Mesroua was well played by Mr. Lal Abdul Cottman; Mr. John Tomlinson's delineation of the fiendish Ibrahim was a clever piece of acting; Miss Katie Lever and Mr. Victor Raymond supplied the comic element as Winnie and Peter Wilkins; the character of Nouredin was in the capable hands of Mr. Wilton Richards.

HOYLAND.—METROPOLE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. R. Baker.—On Monday Messrs. Griffin and Drake's pantomime company opened here in *Beauty and the Beast.* Miss Vesta Fay is an excellent Prince Charming, her singing being heartily applauded; Miss Emmie Hands as Beauty is very good; and Misses Gertie and Nellie Newman are attractive as Bon-Bon and Daisy Madcap. The humorous element is well supplied by Mr. Mark Lane as Twiddleums, ably assisted by Mr. Charles Rowen as the Baron. Mr. Walter Rollitt and Mr. Mark Merritt as the sisters are quite successful; and Will Atom and Owen Edwin as Flip and Flop are very amusing. Miss Florence Gibbs as Starlight and Mr. Sam Griesley as Spitfire are effective. The specialities include Mlle. Collard and her dogs, the Stanley Urchins, the Griffin troupe of dancers, the Sisters Geronde, and Miss Carrie Sylvester.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime is here for the week. The particular version presented is entitled *The Sleeping Beauty and the Mystic Yellow Dwarf.* A strong cast is engaged, which includes that fine singer, Miss Agnes Molteno, as Silver Star; Miss Esme Gordon as the Prince; Miss Lily Vane as the Beauty; Mr. Lonnen Meadows as the Yellow Dwarf; a clever set of comedians are Messrs. Alf Bishop, Dave O'Toole, W. J. Churchill, and Ralph Howard; Ganty's illuminated fairy grotto and Miss Lottie Stone's dancers are worthy of note.

HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M Robinson.—Pantomime also reigns here. Messrs. Cullen and Carthy are heading their company in *The Babes in the Wood,* in which the chief parts are played by Miss Florence Carlile, Robin Hood; Miss Nancy Thornton, Marian; Miss Daisy Volbecque, Little John; Miss Rose Volbecque, Phyllis; Little Cluley, Bantam; Mr. Geo. Casey, Dame Peggy; and Mr. Arthur Stratton, Baron Toodle.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Mr. Wm. Maclaren and company are here in *Claudian.* In the title-rôle Mr. Maclaren is eminently successful; Miss Lily Bandmann-Palmer makes a capable Almida; the Agazil of Mr. Douglas Earle is a capital conception; Edessa is prettily presented by Miss Maud Garth.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—Mr. George Edwardes's *See See* company is paying a first visit to Hull. In the cast are such well-known names as Miss Amy Augarde, Mr. W. H. Rawlins, Mr. Frank Danby, Miss Topsy Sinden, Miss Lily Elsie, and Mr. Leonard Mackay, the last-named, owing to a bad attack of laryngitis, being obliged temporarily to give up his part of Yen, which was played by Mr. Francis Rayne.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Morton's Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. George Morton.—The pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* is staying on for a second week.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Tom Lunn.—*Motoring* pays a return visit; U. L. Granville, Marie Bruce, Alex Arthur, Herbert La Martine, Maudie MacDonald, and Kier and Kempton are also here.

HYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Large houses are being entertained here this week by Messrs. H. B. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's juvenile company in the pantomime, *Sleeping Beauty.* Miss Kitty Trewhitt makes an excellent Prince Florizel; Miss Dolly Dodds is a sweet and lovable Beauty, singing with artistic effect; Miss May Gibson, a charming Queen Claribel, renders several numbers in delightful style; Miss Daisy Fielder is a dashing Sir Alfonso; and Miss Isa Gibson a bewitching Trixey. Plenty of boisterous fun is supplied by the Brothers Armstrong; Doyle and Gibson assist materially as Colonel Dreadnought and Major Flashlight; Master Jack Harrison is full of energy as King Fearnought; and Pat Sloan and Tayloe Snowball humorously impersonate the Gollywogs; Wee George Wood also displays exceptional ability as a comedian and mimic; the Margueritta Quartette go through some graceful dances, and the ballets are a special feature.

OHMY'S CIRCUS.—The chief attraction this week at this popular place of amusement is Charles Matthews, who is nightly applauded for his clever jumping feats; M. Loucotti is an expert performer on the wire; Zanglo is vociferously applauded for his agility on a swinging pole; M. Du Calion performs some astounding feats on ladders; Professor McCann's troupe of performing and jumping dogs exhibit marvellous intelligence; Miss Lily Ohmy is a graceful equestrienne; and Claude Ohmy is as popular as ever in his horsemanship; August and September are excruciatingly funny in several sketches; Ohmy's Living Pictures are as popular as ever.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*The Coal King* is being presented here this week by the company of Messrs. G. M. Polini and L. Maitland. As this is a mining district, the play is proving quite an attraction. Mr. Cole Aspinall in the title-rôle meets with a warm reception; Miss Gertrude Valentine's rendering of Grace Shirley is a good one; Mr. Lauderdale Maitland as Tom Roberts gives a manly impersonation; Mr. John Coghlan is well suited to the part of Seth Baker; the humorous side of the piece is well worked out by Mr. Alfred Terriss as Jim Williams and Miss Enid Ross as Araminta Green; Miss Sinna St. Clair is successful as Mad Ann; Walter Harford is well represented by Mr. Escott Robson; and Mr. Frank Dalton as Dick Shirley deserves mention.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Grey.—Mr. Milton Bode's *Chinese Honeymoon* company has occupied the boards during the week. Chief honours are accorded to Miss Gwennie Harcourt, whose impersonation of Fifi is humorous and vivacious; Prince Soo-Soo also finds a capable representative in Miss Nancy Rossiter, whose singing and acting are equally good; Miss Maud Adams, as the Mother-in-law was well suited; and the same may be said of Miss Crawford as Mrs. Pineapple; the part of Mr. Pineapple was capitally played by Mr. George Rydon, and Mr. Rudolph Kloss was an imposing Hang-Chow; Mr. Leonard May as Hi-Lung and Mr. F. A. Turner both contributed to the success of the piece.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—At this popular place of entertainment Leo Dryden's songs are greeted with unstinted applause. Another attractive turn is that of Roma and Romani, whose flute and piccolo solos are well executed; other items of a varied bill of fare include Craig, Rose, and Craig, whose daring gymnastic feats are both neat and clever; Miles, comedy juggler; Will Bacchus, coster comedian; Miss Addie Dorina; Harry Carlton, in sketch, *Dr. Spot's Patients.*

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr Jerold E. Reed.—Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime company is here this week with *Cinderella.* Miss Edith Harmer is excellent in the title-rôle, while Mlle. De Rose is charming as Prince Perfect; Mr. Tom Payne causes much amusement in the part of Pimples; while Mr. Dick Thomas is quite at home in the rôle of Baron Shiptatte; Mr. Sidney Benson and Mr. W. G. Wesley cause much amusement as Ethel and Maud, the Baron's two daughters; while Miss Zena Pana does full justice to the part of Dandini; and the part of Viscount Nappe is entrusted to Miss Pollie Kiddie; Mr. J. H. Hawtry is good as the Spirit of Mischief, and Miss Rose Pareezer simply revels in the part of Sunbeam. Agreeable specialities are introduced by Messrs. Houpla and Hecla, and a powerful chorus of singers and dancers add largely to the success of the pantomime.

JERSEY. — OPERA HOUSE. — Lessee, Mr. C. Robert Perkins.—Mr. John A. Thomson's excellent *Little Red Riding Hood* company is amusing audiences here this week. Mr. Fred Latimar is a particularly funny dame, and Mr. George Newham's Baron Sherlock Holmes is the cause of much mirth; Mr. Fred Anderson as Tommy Green, Mr. Fred Boulton as Paddy, and Mr. Lovell Rowland as Simple Simon add their quota to the humour of the entertainment; Miss Fay Desmond sings sweetly as good Queen Flora; Miss Ella Willmer is a fascinating Red Riding Hood; and Miss Beatrice Varley is a charming principal boy; a clever skipping-rope dance is introduced by Miss Ivy Boulton; Mlle. Bartenelli is an agile contortionist; and Pulo is a nimble boy juggler; whilst the novel acrobatic dancing of the Boultons brings down the house. The chorus is bright and attractive.

KEIGHLEY. — QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Carson.—Messrs. Carson and Kendall's répertoire company holds the boards here this week. On Monday *A Modern Adventuress* was staged. Mr. Charles Draycott gave an artistic assumption of Pietro Donelli; and Miss Muriel Thompson scored as Violet Meredith. By special desire Mr. Carson presented *The Shaughraun* on Tuesday night, and a large audience assembled. Mr. Morley Carroll's Conn was a capital performance; and Mr. Ernest Fare cleverly sustained Corry Kinchela. Captain Molineux was ably played by Mr. Sydney Cranston; and Mr. J. D. Clyde was well suited to the part of Robert Folliot. Mr. Charles Draycott was a humorous Harvey Duff; Mr. Harry Leatchard's Father Doolan calls for high praise; he played the part with much finish and power. Miss Muriel Thompson as Clare was admirable, and was well seconded by Miss Marie Robson (Arte O'Neale), Miss Louise Millward, and Miss N. V. Warden are excellent in their respective parts. *East Lynne* is billed for Friday evening.

KILMARNOCK.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. S. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Major Ward.—Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer and company are appearing during the week in a répertoire of popular plays. *Mary Queen of Scots* was presented on Monday, with Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer as the unfortunate Queen—a brilliant success. Mr. Sydney Bland as Sir Edward Mortimor displayed artistic skill; and Mr. F. Skein depicted the unstable Earl of Leicester with marked ability. Miss Katherine Herbert looked and acted Elizabeth to perfection; and Miss More Dumphie as Hannah Kennedy and Mr. Leonard Cheetham as Lord Burleigh added much to the success. *Sapho, East Lynne, From Washerwoman to Duchess, Jane Shore,* and *Hamlet* were also billed.

KIRKCALDY.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Burton.—*Leah Kleschna,* presented by Messrs. Armitage and Leigh, has proved a strong attraction here this week. In the heavy rôle of Kleschna, Mr. Paul Belmore is powerful and life-like in every respect; for the part of Schram, no one could be better suited than Mr. Campbell Goldsmid; Mr. Wm. F. Grant is conspicuous with fine acting and elocution in the rôle of Paul Sylvanie; the Raoul Berton of Mr. Hamilton Deane reaches a high order of merit; worthy of special notice is the Leah of Miss Bessie Rignold, who is gifted with considerable histrionic power, and much of the success is due to her untiring efforts; Mr. Roland Daniel is good as the General, and in the first scene makes a capital Valentine; Mr. Frederick Bannerman, and Misses Ethel Russell, Helene Belgrave, and Violet Thorold are all responsible for excellent work.

LANCASTER.—ATHENÆUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hook.—This week Mr. Clifton Alderson's company is occupying the boards with the drama, *Held Apart.* Mr. Leonard Lawrence is good as John Douglas; Mr. H. K. Ayliff is seen to special advantage as James Douglas; and Mr. E. G. Batley gives an amusing portrayal of Hugh Trevor. As Captain Ford, Mr. A. W. Norman is successful; and Mr. Robert B. Drysdale is to be warmly congratulated for his clever rendering of the part of the Scottie. Miss Ruby Loncraine plays with much grace and feeling as the heroine, Sybil Grey; and as Quila Garcia, Miss Ethyle Murray makes a handsome adventuress.

LEAMINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—Pantomime is once more in possession of the local playhouse, and this week Mr. and Mrs. John Walters's company is appearing in an excellent production of *Babes in the Wood.* The piece is well staged, and the dresses are most elaborate. Miss Kitty Chester and Baby Blyth make very attractive Babes; and Miss Bertha Cousins, a sprightly Robin Hood, sings in taking style. Maid Marion is ably sustained by Miss Fanny Adamson; Miss Jessie Yonde is a charming Dolly Dimple; and the comic element is safely entrusted to Mr. Ally Benson as Dame Flossie, Mr. Ernest Thirlway as the Baron, and Messrs. Traynor and O'Connor.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—*The Sleeping Beauty* goes on its journey merrily here, and capital business is still to record. The splendour of the scenery, the dressing and staging, are the theme of much admiration nightly, and the efforts of the company to make the production an unprecedented success, are as strenuous as ever.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—A second edition of *The Forty Thieves* attracted a big crowd here on Monday. New songs and drolleries have been introduced by the principal comedians, which prove very mirth-provoking, and make for increased popularity.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—*The Football Match,* by Fred Karno's company, is uproariously funny. Additional interest is aroused by the appearance of some real stars from the football firmament. That versatile and popular artist, Albert Whelan, is having the usual heavy success; Sam Elton is doing his very amusing acrobatic speciality; and Horace Jones, the new Welsh comedian, makes a favourable impression. A humorous acrobatic act by the Tupps is enjoyable; Albert Christian is an excellent vocalist with a good selection of songs; Kate Cohen also shines as a vocalist; whilst Marie Empress and Kathleen Cogan are each successful as song and dance artists.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—The Moody-Manners company opened their week of grand opera on Monday with the novelty of the répertoire, Nicolai's *Merry Wives of Windsor,* and a bright and sparkling presentation was witnessed by a large and enthusiastic house. Mr. Charles Manners depicted the portly and humorous Falstaff with rare fidelity, a vocal and histrionic triumph being achieved; Mr. Lewys James used his fine voice to advantage in the rôle of Ford; and a really clever portrayal of Mr. Page was done by Mr. Charles Magrath. Mlle. Zelie de Lussan and Miss Kate Anderson were very successful as the merry wives, both singing and acting being of a high order; Mr. John Child, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Moppett, and Miss Garland also did exceedingly well in big parts. Under the bâton of Mr. Richard Eckhold, a well-balanced chorus and orchestra acquitted themselves admirably. The week's répertoire includes *Faust, Carmen, Romeo and Juliet, Maritana,* a matinée of *Lily of Killarney,* and, for the first time in this city, the Parisian version of *Tannhäuser,* with Mesdames Fanny Moody and Toni Selter and Messrs. Joseph O'Mara and William Dever in the cast.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; General-Managers, Mr. Chas. Weldon and Mr. Claude Shayler.—A most excellent programme is in evidence here. Frederic Voelker, the renowned violin virtuoso, leading with a refined entertainment; Ernest Montefiore and company are presenting their well-known speciality, *The Little Colonel,* with good success; a farcical sketch, by J. H. Darnley and company, arouses considerable merriment; Reynolds' Minstrels are a quintette of really clever artists in song and dance; Bertisch does some remarkable feats of strength and endurance; and the Jansons are seen in a novel gymnastic act. Sibb and Sibb are trapeze artists of rare ability; Harry Tomps scores as concertinist and comedian; Frank Boyce and Dick Kendall are popular comedians; and the Two Rubies, vocalists and dancers, are to the fore with good work.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General and Business Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—The boards are held this week by Mr. J. B. Mulholland's company, in the farcical play, *The Electric Man,* which proves thoroughly amusing. Mr. Stanley Cooke fills the principal part of Walter Everest in a manner calling for the greatest praise; and as Jack Strange, Mr. Archie Selwyn is very good. Mr. Lloyd Townrow as Mr. Jobbins is capital; and Mr. E. Vivian Willis does well as General Pomeroy. Miss Gladys Jesson is a success as Stella Pomeroy; and Miss Sybil Brooke as Mrs. Everest, Miss Lucy Edwin as Mrs. Anderson, and Miss Amy Francis as Mary, are also deserving of special praise for delineations of much merit. The comedietta, *A Matrimonial Advertisement,* precedes.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—A return visit is being paid here this week by Mr. Charles March's company, in the sensational play, *The Gamester of Metz.* Mr. Charles March is a conspicuous success as Paul Baldot, and in the third act is seen in a number of remarkably clever quick changes. Excellent support is forthcoming from Miss Eva Lyndhurst as the Countess Baldot, Miss Una Lane as Lucia Baldot, Mr. Wilfred Prothero as Captain Badaire, Mr. W. G. Dudeney as Louis Badaire, and Mr. Fred Aldworth as General de Monparesse.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertram G. Iles.—Ernest Shand, who stars here this week, gives a most enjoyable turn, which keeps his audience in the merriest of moods; the Vetter Brothers, in an equilibrist speciality, entitled *The Page's Recreation,* achieve some remarkably clever feats in a manner that arouses much enthusiasm; C. St. John Denton and George Rowland's company of juveniles, including Little Marjorie Lawrence, in *The Punch and Judy Girl,* are seen and heard to considerable advantage; the Two Bostons, as the novelty showmen, create the heartiest laughter, and score their usual success; the Bandurria Troupe of mandolinists are always appreciated here, their delightful playing and well-selected music affording the utmost pleasure; Michael Nolan, one of the most popular of Irish vocalists, returns with new songs; and Agnes Hazel, comedienne, is as smart as ever. Dot Hardy is a clever character comedienne; the Bioscope is a feature, with "The Little Blind Girl," &c. Kate Traill, being indisposed and unable to appear, Miss Helen Neville, with illustrated songs, proves an excellent substitute.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Fredk. Maxwell and company are again retained, and are scoring a well-deserved success with the episode, *The Heathen and the Christian.* Harry Wright, vocal and extempore comedian; Nellie Gannon, descriptive vocalist; and Peggy Fame, quaint comedy artist and dancer, are again meeting with a gratifying reception. Bandoni, the one-man orchestra, scores with an entertaining turn; Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is maintaining its popularity; Frances Ferina and John Hitchins are presenting with success the pathetic duologue, *Pity the Blind.*

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Rousby.—Mr. Fred Karno's *Saturday to Monday* company opened here on Monday night to a full house. Mr. Roland Martin submits a mirth-provoking portrayal of John Willie Jaggs; Mr. J. W. Bradbury creates much amusement as Mr. Blake; Miss Amy Rogerson is captivating as Clorinda, the bride; Mr. J. Melville is very successful as Mr. Potts; as is also Mr. C. Herbert Summers as Tom Freeman; Miss Daisy Stone presents a good character-sketch as Aunt Skinner. The remaining parts are all in capable hands.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison. — The pantomime season is now closing with a revival for one week only of *Jack the Giant Killer,* which had a most successful run last year. The company is a good one, and the piece has lost none of its mirth and attractiveness. Mr. Gilbert Payne, in his old part of Simple Simon, increases the popularity he previously attained; Miss Pattie Fairley is as happy as ever in her impersonation of Queen Caressa; and King Fad finds a humorous representative in Mr. Harry Farrow. Mr. W. S. Stevenson appears once more with great effect as the Giant Blunderbore; and the comic element is further well developed by Mr. Johnny McElroy as Dame Gabble, Mr. George Helm as Donal', Messrs. Harris and Worth as Spareribs and Brisket, and Mr. George Dix, a truly wonderful cow. The leading ladies include Miss Eily Helene and Miss Emmie Cozens, both excellent in their respective rôles of Jack and Margery Daw; with Miss Evelyn Robson a lively Mephisto, and Miss Winifred Murray a dainty Daisy. Clever speciality turns are given by the Girton Girls, the Two Sparks, and little Jenny Taylor; and Terpsichore's Dream is a very weird and extraordinary spectacle.

LIVERPOOL. — ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—During the week Mr. Tom Taylor's company has been here with *The Female Swindler.* In the titular rôle Miss Grace E. Leslie acted with discretion; Mr. Joseph Millane afforded every satisfaction as John Coulson; Mr. Stanley Radcliffe brought out all the bad points of Geoffrey Warden with effect; Mr. Henry Wright and Miss Mary Dawson acquitted themselves admirably in the comedy parts; Mr. John Belton handled the rôle of Abraham Mikestein with every satisfaction; and other artists who lent strong support were Mr. D. Winstow and Miss Edith Gray.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—A programme of excellent merit is this week billed with Clarence Corri's company in a musical comedietta entitled *Office Hours.* The piece is well played, and receives deserved applause. Belle Davis and her Pick Chicks create a favourable impression with their well-rendered songs; Tiny Arnold is a pleasing little comedienne; Mlle. Pollo's gymnastic performance is loudly applauded; Matweef-Hogeston troupe of Russian dancers and singers are favourably received; and other artists worthy of mention are Joe Dale, De Vere and Kenwick, and The Carlyles.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—*Life's Sweetest Sins,* presented by Mr. T. Arthur Jones's company, has been the attraction here this week. Mr. Jones made an admirable Captain Marston; Miss Marie Daventry displayed ability as Doreen Rivers; Mr. Oswald Douglas stood out prominently in the rôle of Dr. Colbrooke; and the comedy work was in the good hands of Mr. Edgar Morgan as Bob Tanner and Miss Elsie Walton as Bess Grayson.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendall; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—*A Woman Worth Winning,* which is new to Liverpool, has proved eminently acceptable. Mr. Percy Norman brings a very competent all-round company, while the staging is of a high order. The play, which deals with life in Russia, comes from the pen of Mr. A. B. Mackay, who in the rôle of Fergus Lovinskie, acquits himself with credit; Mr. Percy Norman is an imposing General Borinski, and acts with much dramatic strength; Mr. E. Hall Eldon proves exceedingly humorous as the foppish newspaper correspondent; Mr. E. C. Edwards makes a lively Peter Popples, and is ably assisted with the comedy by Miss Ida Mackay as Kâterina; Mr. Gilbert Standing submits a manly Amos Pauloff; Miss Maud Buchanan is sympathetic as Roma, and a capital picture of Lela is given by Miss Iris Daventry.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Tiller's pantomime, *Dick Whittington,* remains here another week, and is much enjoyed. That quaint comedian, Sam Mayo, is making everybody laugh; the Los Rupertos are particularly clever equilibrists; as a coster comedian Phil Bransby is a treat; Hinton and Wooton present a most interesting football match on bicycles, and Charles Ulrick, the barrel king and trancka wonder, also appears.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—*The Price of Sin* is being played by the Royal Stock Dramatic company. Mr. Percy Boucher proves exceedingly humorous as the Rev. James Small; Mr. Sydney Grant makes a villainous Frank Foster; as Lieut. Cecil Roy, Mr. Harry Tresham acts most creditably; Miss Florence Palmer infuses much feeling into the rôle of Nancy Crawford; and other well-held parts are Major Crawford (Mr. Cecil Ravenswood); Kate Crelyn (Miss Ravenswood), and Jake Foster (Mr. Robert Wilton). The Royal Bioscope supplies the latest pictures.

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. M. Montgomery.—*The Soldiers of the Queen* from the pen of Max Goldberg, is being played here by the Royal Stock company. Included in the cast are Mr. Wallace Campbell (Jack Willoughby), Mr. Frank S. Strickland, Mr. H. Hesslegrave (Hans Müller), Mr. H. G. Brandon (Tom Pinch), Mr. Francis E. Wybert, Mr. Charles Herberte, and the Misses Lina Nazeby, Gladys Hastings-Walton, Florence Barnes, and Evelyn Kington.

PARK PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmot.—The popular south-end place has this week abandoned variety and gone in for two shows a night of drama. The theatre has been thoroughly renovated, some excellent scenery erected on the stage, and everything done to invite public patronage. On Monday evening the holding capacity was strained to its utmost, a contrast to former times; while the class of audience showed a decided improvement. The stock company has been chosen with care, and contains artists or sound ability. Mr. Albert Sember, a young actor possessing high qualifications, is the stage-manager and producer, and credit is due to him for having within a very short period put on *The Master Criminal* in perfect fashion. As Ben Beaudy, he carried the house with him; Mr. Henry L. Osmond, an accomplished artist, made a capital Telforde; Mr. Walter Foster did the most with the part of Mr. Manners; Miss Winifred Chalmers as Cecile played with power; Miss Violet Barley Clarke proved a humorous Peggy Perks; and the rest of the cast included Messrs. Albert Guyon (Philip Manners), Duncan Bell, Will Percy, George Liddle, and the Misses Lillian Burns, Violet Macfarlane, and Jessie Paterson.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—The greater part of the entertainment here this week consists of the Bioscope picture of the Nelson v. Gans fight. In the variety section are Jack Hylton, character comedian; Kid Gwynn, ball-puncher; and Little Pete, eccentric vocal comedian.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Biggest item this week is Dean Tribune's pantometta, *Bo-Peep,* in which appear that artist and Ethel Lonsdale, Estella Tribune, Medley Barrett, David Denard, and Harry Tribune. The Dandies, presented by Henry J. Corner, go through a popular show of song and dance; the Solari Duo sing some choice operatic selections; Irve Hayman and little Marie Montague have a neat sketch, entitled *Christmas Eve;* Cliff Ryland proves as funny as ever; some remarkable head and hand balancing is performed by the Fergana Trio; and other excellent turns are those by Winnie Derson, comedienne; Harry Anderson, comedian; and Ethel Donna, comedienne and dancer.

LONDONDERRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. W. Payne-Seddon. — Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company is here this week with *A Beautiful Fiend* and *All that Glitters is Not Gold.* In the first-mentioned play, Miss Sidney Crowe fills the title-rôle with great power; and as Nadine Karateff, Miss Irene Munro is very good. Mr. Harry Oates as Crackles supplies the lighter element in the play in lively fashion; Mr. Beaudyn and Mr. J. P. McBride as Russian officers are excellent.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—An excellent all-round bill is provided here this week, the place of honour being held by the Wulfrunas, in their side-splitting acrobatic scena, *Fun in a Café;* Blanch and Diacoff, in their sensational cycling feats, are worthy of special praise; Alf. Berg performs some wonderful feats of strength; and others entertaining are Tripello, in a musical turn; Wisper, in a juggling act; Mr. J. T. Daniels, clog dancer; Miss Molly Maverne, vocalist and dancer; and Miss Beattie Bloom, comedienne.

LOWESTOFT. — MARINA.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Mrs. Morton Powell's company is here in *When It Was Dark.* The acting all round reaches a high standard of excellence. Mr. Geo. H. Pitt is powerfully cast as Constantine Schuabe; another praiseworthy effort is that of Mr. Cyril Austin Lee, who scores a decided success as the Rev. Basil Gortre; Mr. Francis Cairns is well placed as Lucifer; Miss Elizabeth Watson as Gertrude Hunt submits a highly-finished performance; and Mrs. Morton Powell leaves nothing to be desired in her presentment of Helena Byars.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. R. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Mr. John Gerant is paying a return visit with his company in *At Duty's Call.* Mr. Gerant as Harold Alison, an Anglo-Egyptian, is well suited, and he is ably supported by a good all-round company.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gattey.—An immense audience accorded a hearty reception on Monday to Mr. Chalmers Mackey and company in *The Wearin' of the Green.* Mr. Mackey as Barney was responsible for much merriment; Mr. A. Mervyn as Shamus interpreted the part capably; Mrs. Mackey was a delightful Norah; and Miss Nina Flensberg a capital Biddy.

MAESTEG. — TOWN HALL. — Lessees, Messrs. Poole Bros.; Manager, Mr. J. H. Stephens.—Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company (South) opened a three nights' engagement here on Monday in *The Taming of the Shrew.* Mr. Bernard Limpus gave a powerful and convincing portrayal of the part of Petruchio, and was well supported by Miss Christie Laws as the Shrew. Miss Kathryn Stocks was a charming Bianca; Mr. Charles Maunsell was a much-admired Lucentio; and Mr. Frank Darch an amusing Gremio. Mr. John Cairns ably filled the rôle of Baptista. *Romeo and Juliet* was performed on Tuesday; *The Merchant of Venice* (matinée) and *Macbeth* on Wednesday.

MAIDSTONE.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. S. Baskerville. — A good programme is being submitted here this week. The Marvellous Craggs having pride of place, their clever acrobatic work, combined with a lot of funny business, in the sketch, *Billy,* is received with much applause nightly; the Five Musical Palmers are clever instrumentalists; the Celtic Trio sing harmoniously, and introduce some good comedy into their act; Allis and Cassiti, duettists and dancers, are popular; Prof. Fuller's illusion, *Astarte,* is one of the best seen here for some time; Jack Lane is an excellent entertainer; and Miss Effie Stuart dances herself into favour.

MANCHESTER. — GAIETY THEATRE. — Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—Mr. John Hart's pantomime of *Mother Goose,* played excellently and to good houses last week, still occupies the boards at this theatre, and is meeting with hearty appreciation nightly.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company is the attraction here this week in the successful drama, *Honour Thy Father.* The play is well presented, and includes some striking and realistic scenes, notably the houseboat scene, the asylum, with the mechanical chair in which the villain eventually loses his sight, and the tableau preceding the final curtain. Mr. Walter M. Cameron as Gabriel Garth is a great success, and Miss Kate Newton as Gertrude, his wife, is also strong and sympathetic; while satisfactory support is rendered by Miss Muriel Dean, Mr. Bertram H. Ross, Mr. W. H. Melrose, Miss Ada Salmon, and Miss Mabel Coleman in interesting parts.

Metropole Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The top turn here this week is the sensational racing act, *Animal v. Cyclist*, by Kramer and Braun, a very exciting show; the second place of honour is occupied by a clever company who present a Japanese love story called *A Night in Japan*, the principal parts in which are filled by Tina Franks and Messrs. Stephen Harland, W. S. Power, and Fred Cooper. Excellent business is provided also by Johnson and D'Evere, American trick cyclists; George Rae, Scotch comedian and dancer; George Foyle, comedian; the Casino Girls, brass instrumentalists; Yorkshire Tom, a clever mimic; and Nellie Navette, comedienne and dancer. Levarni did not appear. The animated pictures are good.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The remarkably sensational drama, *Driven From Home*, is the attraction here this week. It is compounded of many parts, four acts, and twenty tableaux; the story is interesting and pathetic, the rendering is excellent, and the scenery pretty and realistic. The scene in the sawmills is especially exciting. The company includes Mr. Felix Pitt as Anthony Raybrook—a fine study; Miss Beatrice Western as Laura Raybrook and Walter Hatherley—an excellent dual performance; Mr. Leonard Aardale as the outcast, Willie—a highly appreciated impersonation; a powerful rendering of Geoffrey Waring by Mr. Frederick Sandy; and, among other commendable contributory efforts of the cast, Mr. Harry Cornwall in an excellent depiction of Jabez Thomas and Mr. F. C. Imbert as the lively John Anderson, Raybrook's stable-boy.

Queen's Theatre.—Manager, Mr. R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Berry.—This week Mr. Harcourt Williams has entered upon the impersonation of the title-part in Mr. Flanagan's opulent revival of *Othello*, in place of Mr. Matheson Lang. His reception on Monday was enthusiastic. The production shows every sign of an exceptionally long and prosperous run.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—Much laughter accompanies the performance here this week of *The Dandy Thieves*, by Fred Karno's company of comedians. Esta Stella, who figures next in prominence on the bill, is highly successful in her chic style and extraordinarily smart dancing; and a very natural and appealing little playlet, *Crystal Gazing*, is presented by William H. Day and Laura Dyson. George Young, a blind musician, is well received; Stewart and Morgan are capital in their vocal speciality; much good fun is provided in a sketch by Fred Cullane's Four; the Kurios are excellent in their concoction of comical surprises; the Mascotte Trio of lady gymnasts are graceful and expert; and Mlle. Sylvia's vocal tableaux present the novelty of living figures in a series of illustrated song-pictures. The Bioscope shows an amusing series, as usual, and the whole forms an excellent programme.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. Peter Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—The famous Battling Nelson tops the bill here this week, and spars three rounds at each performance. In addition the Bioscope shows the great Nelson-Gans fight, which recently took place in America. A prominent item in this week's programme is Spessardy's Bears, exceptionally well-trained animals; and Bert Coote's Irish-Indian Maids are excellent dancers and singers. Ormonde Penstone and Tsaon-ngo are neat illusionists; Horace Wheatley is capital in song, dance, and story; the Athos troupe of ball manipulators and acrobats are wonderfully clever; the Musical Schafers present their instrumental novelty; and Fred Villars, vocal comedian, contributes a song. Up-to-date pictures are also shown.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—That sensational spectacle, *The Earthquake*, remains the big attraction here. Prominent also is Hilda Jacobsen, a favourite musical comedy artist, in an original operetta, entitled *10 p.m.*; the Ten-Ji troupe of Japanese magicians make their first appearance in Europe, and go through an astounding performance; the Three Merrils are marvellous trick cyclists; and De Witt, Burns, and Torrance are decidedly entertaining in a mirthful creation, *The Awakening of Joys*. Madge Robertson, of the Choir, sings "When the heart is young" (illustrated song) with great success; Frank Darwin is a good actor-vocalist; Gertrude Bradshaw sings in a pleasing manner; the Choir render "The Chase" effectively; and the opening of the new Irish route, Fishguard to Rosslare, is depicted on the American Bioscope.

Tivoli.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Robert Perris and company are here this week in a screamingly funny sketch, entitled *A Trip to Chinatown*, and are deservedly well received. La Rochelle, the artist's model, poses prettily; R. P. Roberts, vocalist, sings two catchy songs to pictures, and is well received; and the Onetti Sisters are neat, daring, and graceful gymnasts. Other good turns are contributed by the Maitland Trio, in an absurdity entitled *The Picture*; Beatrice Lindley, in songs at the piano; Massona, juggler; and Frank Weir, comedian. Raymond's Vivagraph pictures, as usual, are excellent. The Donna Trio, who figure on the programme, did not appear on the occasion of our visit.

King's, Longsight.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Messrs. Holland and Wood's pantomime, *Aladdin*, is here this week, and doing good business. Miss Frances Haskoll, refined in style, makes an excellent Aladdin, and sings nicely; and Miss Florence Wood as the Princess, also a good singer, is pleasing. Considerable amusement is caused by the efforts of Nash and Noel as the Imperial Police; Percy Curry as Abanazar; George Reeves, a capital Widow Twankey; and Walter Watson as Wishee-Washee; whilst the Misses Dolly, Bibby, and Portia Tree, and Kendrick and Laura are prominent from time to time in spirited dances and agreeable singing. Others who appear with success are the Misses Phyllis Wardroper, Poppie Holland, Louis Bishop, and May Harvey. The chorus is satisfactory, and the scenery and general effects all that can be desired.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Bert Bernard's company in a pantomime sketch, entitled *The Brewery*, is the chief attraction here this week, and good houses accord it a hearty reception. J. W. Rickaby is a capital comedian, and his efforts are greeted with rounds of applause; the Saxonias are very successful in their grand musical mélange; and the Danvils (George and May) render songs, effectively illustrated with living tableaux, in excellent style; the Two Almos are smart equilibrists and tumblers; Pueblo and Cropp are capital Creole singers and sand-dancers; Standring, the singing mill lad, has a sweet voice; and good turns are also those of Charles Lestree, a clever juggler, and George Russell, comedian. The Bioscope pictures are most enjoyable.

Hippodrome, Hulme.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The Tan-Kwais, Asiatic marvels, are prominent here this week, and give an exceptionally clever performance in juggling, spinning, and acrobatics. Fred S. Peake and company are seen to great advantage in a dramatic sketch, entitled *Adrian, the Gambler*; and Diana Hope and Monte Bayly are particularly amusing in their comedy duologue, *The Wish-Bone*. The Bon-Bons are good singers; the Simpsons contribute a delightful musical act; Harry Briggs, the triple-voiced vocalist, is well received; Douglas and Gordon are smart in a novel comedy act; and Lottie de Abbey is a good character impersonator. "The Dog Smugglers," depicted on the Bioscope, is very interesting.

Mansfield.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton, and District Theatres, Ltd.; General-Manager, Captain Cecil Clayton.—Messrs. Garside and Knowles's company occupy the boards here this week with *The London Fireman*. Admirable work is done by Mr. J. Forbes Knowles and Mr. Edward L. Garside. Miss Nellie Shirley gives a capable rendering of Ida Curtis; Miss Beatrice Sinclair is excellent as Grace; and Mr. Philip Renouf as Bill Stinger is appreciated. Miss Nellie Garside plays effectively as Polly Bramble.

Margate.—Theatre Royal.—Exclusive Manager, Mr. Edward Michael; Business-Manager, Mr. A. Austin-Leigh.—Hardie and Von Leer's company has been the attraction here this week in *The Two Little Vagabonds*, which has drawn very good audiences. Mr. Arthur E. Melbourne does well as George Thornton; Mr. Sidney Vautier is a success as Capt. Darville; Mr. Lionel Ellis is exceptionally good as Bill Mullins, and is ably seconded by Miss Evelyn Shaw as Biddy. The boys, Dick and Wally, are cleverly portrayed by Miss Edie Martin, who is especially talented, and Miss Josie Beltham, who is also remarkably good. Mr. Frank Gordon capably sustains the part of Dido Bruce; and Mr. Dick Winslow is amusing as the Cough Drop. Miss Grace Heywood enlists sympathy in her impersonation of Marion Thornton; and Miss Rosslyn Vayne plays forcibly as Barbara Scarth. The remaining parts are all in capable hands.

Hippodrome.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. Frederick Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—The programme this week is an all-round good one. The Sisters Denton are sprightly and vivacious singers and dancers, and make themselves general favourites; Harry Cotton is a particularly lively comedian and most amusing; whilst the Idento Brothers, eccentric jugglers, are excellent in their especial line. Daisy Cordelia, comedienne and dancer, makes a decided hit; Sivronis, the burlesque duo, in their comedy creation, create roars of laugher; Prince and Milner, in the comedy wire-walking and hoop manipulating pot-pourri, give a clever and at the same time amusing show. The pictures again depict droll events.

Middlesbrough.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's production of *The Blue Moon* is the attraction here this week, and the piece owes its acceptance in no small degree to the excellent work of Miss Clarice Lockstone, who is charming as the singing girl, and admirably fulfils all the requirements of the part. Mr. Reginald Switz is the Private Taylor, and his natural and unforced fun is responsible for much laughter. Millicent Leroy finds a pretty and graceful expenent in Miss Florence Imeson, who dances and sings very charmingly. Mr. Alfred Beers acts with marked distinction as Moolraj; and Miss Hilda Lockner as Miss Lovehill and Miss Florence Foster as Miss Sparrow are all that can be desired. Mr. Leslie Gaze gives an admirable representation of Major Callabone; and Mr. Thomas Halding is exceedingly good as the Prince. Mr. George Mudie, jun., is seen to advantage as Bobbie Scott; and Mr. Edward Fraser does full justice to the part of Capt. Ormsby. Mr. Frank Haylett and Mr. Edward Noble are also entrusted with interesting rôles; and Miss Mabel Lowell figures with great effect as Lady Brabasham. Miss Maud Schwitz and Miss Christie Ferris are delightful as Omah and Ramah respectively.

Opera House.—Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—Miss Maud Hillyard and company are this week appearing in the domestic play *A Great Awakening*. This talented lady sustains her old part of Lola Selby with all her wonted dignity and power; Mr. Gordon McLeod makes a handsome Capt. Lambert; and Miss Doris Digby scores as Molly Merton. Mr. A. C. Hardie acts with marked distinction as James Selby; and Miss Lilla Mordon is charming as Selina Worts. Mr. Willie Scott is amusing as Billy Brass; and Mr. Frank Liston in the rôles of Sir Hy. Merton and Jack Merton is exceedingly good. Mr. Stephen Langton is excellent as Guy Rogan; and Mr. Eric Dane does well as Sergeant Brue. Other members of the company who add to the attractiveness of the piece are Mr. J. Booth as Richard Wilson, Mr. Tracy Brarow as Antoine, Mr. James Lewis as Gibbs, Mr. Godfrey Sheldon as Doctor Lang, and Mr. Edward Gordon as the newsboy.

Oxford Palace.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Alf Graham.—Arthur Reece tops the bill here this week, and scores a great success in his song "When there isn't a girl about." Hall and Wilson provide some neat, daring, and clever bicycle feats, their novel bicycle race causing much excitement. Griff is an excellent comedy juggler; and J. W. Reed and Miss J. Stevens score in their dramatic episode *The Right Road*. Ted Cowan, comedian, does well; and Blanche Marion, comedienne and dancer, pleases. Other turns are provided by Amy Sullivan and the Palascope

Neath.—Castle Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Haggar, jun.—The attraction here this week is *The Avenging Hand*, ably presented by the Castle company. Mr. Will Haggar gives a fine rendering of Frank Lomond; Mr. Jack Desmond is at home as Rupert Dashwood; as Jim the Waif Miss Frances Giddings is good; General Lomond is in the capable hands of Mr. Geo. Stanley; Mr. Harry Templeton is well placed as Peitro Mascar, as is also Mr. Arthur Stanley as Benjamin McManus, and Mr. James Haggar is good as Theophilus Jones. Mrs. Will Haggar is charming as Alice Lomond; Miss Kate Sylvester is seen to advantage as Kitty O'Kay; and the remaining parts are in very capable hands. The scenery and effects are excellent.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Tyne Theatre and Opera House.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—All too quickly is Messrs. Howard and Wyndham's lavish production of *Aladdin* drawing to the close of its unprecedentedly successful run, and Monday evening next will see the last fortnight entered upon. Mr. Harry Lauder, still the hero of the show, has introduced a new song, "I'm aye wakin', Oh," in place of "Gilt-edged Bertie." It is interpreted in a manner only Lauder can accomplish in the Scottish dialect, but still is hardly likely to catch on as well as the song it displaces. Mr. Dan Crawley's songs and dances still create great merriment; and Mr. Imro Fox, Mr. Harker Nicholls, and Mr. George Ide continue to win favour. Miss Jose Collins has a new song in place of the "Hyacinth" ballad, which at once proved a success. Miss Beryl Somerset, in the title-rôle, is proving a great favourite.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—Notwithstanding that *Aladdin* at the Royal has entered upon its eighth week, the well-balanced company play with a vigour and freshness suggesting a first performance. In many respects will Mr. Robert Courtneidge's splendid production be remembered. In magnificence of scenery it has never perhaps been excelled in Newcastle, its comedy is sound and merry, and the musical element in it is of a standard not often met with in pantomime. Miss Florence Smithson, the dainty Princess, delights the large audiences with her excellent vocal contributions; and Miss Lily Morris makes an admirable and popular principal boy. Then a very strong quartette of comedians are Messrs. Neil Kenyon, Chas. Harvey, Fred Allendale and Alfred Clark. All the minor parts continue to be well-filled, and a word of praise must be accorded the excellent chorus.

Grand Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Bacon and Bolam; Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—Messrs. Edmunds and Dipple's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, finishes a successful run on Saturday evening. It is unanimously pronounced to be one of the funniest shows presented in the city, and Miss Rose Hamilton, the principal boy, has become a very great favourite.

Empire Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Redell.—Mr. George Gray and company with *Parson Gray, V.C.*, is winning high honours here this week. A distinctly diverting turn is that supplied by Billy McClain and his company of coloured people, who dance and sing with spirit and humour; Professor Bartle renders several selections on his English concertina with fine expression, and earns much applause; the Maningos are two young and clever head and hand balancers, and are well applauded; Sylvesta, the mysterious, scores heavily; whilst a fine musical comedy turn is that of the Strads, who earn frequent recalls. Others are Carlos Cæsaro, Ruth Davis, Charles Vincent, and the Bioscope pictures.

Pavilion Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The Tiller pantomime, *Aladdin*, stays here for one week more owing to its popularity. Miss Jessie Wilton is brisk and spirited as Aladdin, and Miss Clara Beck as the Princess captivates her audience. An original widow is Mr. Fred Dark's portrayal; Harry Ellis-ton is impressive as the wicked uncle; and Little Britton as his familiar spirit is one of the most grotesquely humorous characters in the cast; the novelty dances of the Tiller Quartette are exceptionally smart and up-to-date; Oakdene supplies a capital comedy ventriloquist sketch, entitled *The Stowaways*; and other turns are introduced by Carr and Rose (the humorous singing duo), Gus Hindell (comedian), and Katos (in their automatic theatre).

Newport.—Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Major Gallaghar; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Page.—Chief turn here is Fred Ginnett's equestrian spectacle, *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, which has proved intensely interesting to good houses; Jack Camp, a quaint comedian, sings some funny songs; Professor Dunning presents a smart ventriloquial turn, and Verno and Voyce give a vocal scene that commands repeated recalls; Kahn and Kahn in modern necromancy are amusing; Les Voces are warmly applauded for their singing, and the Gevetti Sisters give a daring performance on the trapeze which is well applauded; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden's sketch, *Two to One*, is entertaining, and the Bioscope, showing some humorous pictures, completes a taking bill.

Northampton.—Opera House.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Seddon.—The management have provided a rich dramatic treat for their patrons this week by securing Mr. George Alexander's principal company in Pinero's great comedy, *His House in Order*. Large and enthusiastic houses have welcomed it every night, and have fully recognised the talents of the artists engaged in it, foremost being Miss Dorothy Grimston, who achieves an artistic success in the varying rôle of Nina. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart plays the important part of Hilary Jesson with a firm grip of its possibilities, and his clever acting quickly gains him the sympathies of the audience; Mr. J. Edward Pearce endues the part of Filmer Jesson with the necessary coolness and loftiness; Miss Doris Champion is clever and natural as the boy Derek; Mr. Herbert Lomas as Sir Daniel Ridgeley is the canting hypocrite to the life; and the rest of his family are played on well-defined lines by Mr. Ernest R. Holloway as Pryce Ridgway, Miss Auguata Haviland as Lady Ridgeley and Miss Elaine Sleddall as Geraldine Ridgway. Mr. Charles Tyrel is effective as Major Maurewarde; Mr. Luke Foster is most excellent as Dr. Dilnott; Mr. Langford Browne as Harding, Mr. J. Douglas Campbell as Forshaw, and Miss Jean Cadell as Mlle. Thome make the most of their parts.

Palace of Varieties.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans.—Barnard's Mannikins give a show far in advance of the usual type, and are a big success here. Rita and Roma are versatile entertainers, the lady's speciality being a very clever acrobatic dance, which is nightly encored; Grace Bard is a vivacious comedienne, who is highly welcomed; Acland (novelty painter), Nellie Nora (in a musical act), the Elgars (in an Irish song-scena), the Two Wedburns (singers and burlesque instrumentalists), and C. Vincent with a fresh supply of Palace pictures, complete a good all-round programme.

North Shields.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—A large audience assembled here on Monday to welcome Mr. Charles Chard's company with *Cinderella*, which had a cordial reception. Miss Nancy Newell gave a capital interpretation of the title-rôle; Miss Kitty Phelps proved herself to be a bright and spirited Prince Charming; Miss Cecilia Kent made an admirable Ethel; and the Sisters Terry made the most of Dandini and Eglantine. As Pimples, Mr. Harry Pleon caused much genuine fun; Yorick and Yorick as the Broker's Men created plenty of mirth; Mr. Allen Amber was good as Maudie; and specialities were introduced successfully by the New York Quartette, who made a great hit; the Sisters Terry, vocalists; Mr. Harry Pleon, the popular comedian and mimic; and Messrs. Yorick and Yorick, tale-tellers and tumblers.

Central Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The Brothers Attilla, Grecian gladiators, in their feats of strength, are proving a great attraction here; Hess and Lisbon, comedy skaters, are clever; and the Bendons, in their comedy song-scena, have made a hit. The Sisters Poole, duettists and dancers, meet with favour; Mr. Harry Barker, comedian, goes well; the Treedons, song illustrators, are popular; and the Bio-photoscope completes the programme.

Norwich.—Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Heading the bill this week is G. H. Chirgwin, who is delighting the audiences with his quaint and unique performance, and receives much appreciation. Bob Hutt's No. 1 company in their comedy absurdity, *Welcome Home*, create roars of laughter; the De Breans do some clever juggling tricks and shadowgraphy; Cambo, the "musical man-monkey," is a capital turn; Raymond and Colbey are well received as comedy artists; whilst George Steeley and Jenny Dowton are successful as vocalists and eccentric dancers; Blanche and Powell are pleasing in their musical and comedy act. The Hippodrome Bioscope is showing delightful scenes of Niagara, &c.

Nottingham.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*The Catch of the Season* pays its first visit here, and a capital house on Monday gave Mr. George Dance's company a warm welcome. Miss Moya Mannering played Angela with a charm and brightness that evoked spontaneous applause, also singing tastefully the song, "I was only teasing." Miss Florence Lee acted commendably as Honoria Bedford, and scored with a smart coon song; Miss Belle Napier played admirably as Lady Caterham; Miss Isobel Dickens was altogether satisfactory as Sophia Bedford, and Miss Maud Davies made a dignified and stately Duchess of St. Jermyns; Miss M. Carew as the Princess, Miss Lillian Wesson as Miss Caw, and Miss Emily Mellon as Lady Crystal added much to the general success. Mr. Frank Lincoln has an excellent part in the Duke of St. Jermyn, and throughout the evening he rattled off his patter, sang his songs, and kept the fun going in a manner that called many manifestations of approval; Mr. E. H. Kelly stuttered cleverly through the part of Lord Dundreary; Mr. G. Dickens did well as the conventional Higham Montague; Mr. Alfred Miles was quite at home with his flock of Gibson girls, the latter getting a tremendous ovation for their dance; Master Grata, well described the precocious page, and the scenic arrangements left nothing to be desired.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Chas. P. Cooke.—*Cinderella*, a pantomime written by Fred Locke, with music by E. T. de Banzie, is the attraction here this week. It is produced by Mr. Harry Fischer's company, and the organisation is in every respect quite up-to-date, the whole production reflecting great credit upon the genial acting-manager, Mr. Collingwood Hope. Miss Empsie Bowman is responsible for the rôle of the heroine, and acquits herself admirably; whilst the dashing style of Miss Julia Bassett makes her a splendid Prince Perfect, she being ably assisted by Miss Adele Lincoln as Dandini; the Baron is portrayed by Mr. Johnny Johnstone, and his daughters find able exponents in Messrs. Chas. Tempest and Chas. May as Flipper and Flopper respectively; Messrs. Conan and Doyle have ample opportunities for their boisterous humour, and Mr. Ernie Mayne causes a great deal of fun and laughter as Jack Pickles; Miss Nancie Campbell, Miss Louie Danby, Miss Grace Olivia, and Mr. Guy Fenton help largely towards success; and a large chorus, which has been well trained, do their work well.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles H. Bowmaker.—The appearance of Mme. Alice Esty and her company has drawn large audiences here, who have listened and applauded to the echo the famous artist in her scena production, *Betta the Gipsy*. Her delightful voice rang out with all its old sweetness and power on Monday night, and she was accorded a great demonstration at the close. Auto Atlas supplied a unique turn as a specimen of a well-made man, his feats of strength drawing hearty applause; Gladys Huxley, who has just finished at the Theatre Royal pantomime here, rendered a couple of songs to the delight of her admirers; Lilian Lowe's charming voice was heard to perfection in a song; whilst Parker and Parr were well received for capital duets. Charles Coborn came in for a gratifying reception, his rendering of the song, "Four fingers and a thumb," caling forth many interesting reminiscences; Hurley and Cole proved acceptable in a song-scena; and the Robertys, whirlwind dancers, offered an excellent item; Dusty Rhodes, comedian, and the American Bioscope closed a really interesting programme.

Nuneaton.—Prince of Wales's Theatre and Entertainments Co., Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Pantomime is the attraction here this week, Mr. Edwin C. Jazan's company appearing in *Cinderella*. Miss Louie Hurman infuses plenty of dash and spirit into the part of Prince Brilliant, and receives well-merited applause for her song, "My soldier boy"; Miss Flo Melville makes an excellent Cinderella; Mr. Chas. Preston as Arabella and Messrs. Alf Brooks and Fred Pearce (Isabella and Buttons) cause considerable mirth; Miss Madge Bridge (Dandini) Miss Marie Harding (Marquis of Taxes), and Miss Florrie Burnette (Queen Bountiful) all do well. Mr. Ian Aubrey appears as Baron Crooked and Miss Ada Ward as Dorothy; the introduction of the electric coach, drawn by a pair of ponies, meets with applause. The specialities comprise Pearce and Ward (boxers), Onda and Leon (triple bar performers), Mr. Stan Aubrey (legmania artist), and Harding and Preston (dancers). On Thursday evening Mr. A. F. Cross took his sixth annual benefit, when there was the usual well-filled and enthusiastic house, testifying to the esteem and popularity of the managing-director in Nuneaton and surrounding district.

Oldham.—Empire Theatre.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime, *Mother Goose*, entered on its last week on Monday. The Bros. Rich as Mother Goose and Jack keep the ball rolling merrily, being ably seconded by H. O. Wills and Leonard Maitland as the Dandies and by W. Fullbrook as the Mayor. Miss Lola Patey (Gretchen), who sings as well as ever, is ably assisted by the Eight Tiny Tots; Miss Isabella Dillon is well placed as Colin; Miss Pauline Hague is good as Jill; and Miss Violet Ashcroft (the Fairy) and Chas. Homer (the Demon) are excellent.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Howgate.—Herbert Lloyd, the King of Diamonds, causes much laughter with his comedy act; the Three Amaranths are marvellous acrobatic dancers; F. V. St. Clair has to respond to several recalls for his songs and recitations; Richardson Taylor is a capital whistling venriloquist and mimic; Keen and Waller are a clever pair of eccentric acrobats; Master May, boy vocalist, sings sweetly; the Avigny Trio show some capital juggling; Charles Ashdowne is a good comedian; and an interesting picture, "Whaling," is shown on the screen.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Nuttall.—The Tennesse Guards give a good lightning drill act; Les Rallis, in *The Artist and the Monkey*, give a clever acrobatic display; Maxwell and Frances are well received in a clever comedy act; the Bros. Lawrence are smart vocalists and dancers; the Lillian Bros., silver chain experts, are very good; Fox and Melville provide an interesting turn with their vocal pictures; and Billy Burns sings well. The Dottoscope is showing new films.

Paisley.—Paisley Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Bentz.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company, under the managership of Mr. Frank Withers, is paying a welcome visit in *The White Chrysanthemum*. Mr. Shirley Lea as Admiral Sir Horatio Armitage is highly appreciated; Lieut. Reginald Armitage is played with conspicuous ability by Mr. H. Langdon Bruce; Mr. H. E. Garden portrays the part of Lieut. Chippendale Belmont very funnily and successfully; Sin Chong is embodied in capital style by Mr. Richard Telford; and Private Perks is well represented by Mr. Jamie Dallas. Miss Muriel George as Sybil Cunningham deserves the highest commendation for her graceful acting and exquisite singing; Miss Wilmot Karkeek makes a most vivacious and engaging Cornelia Vanderdecken; and Miss Dorothy Sephton essays with considerable success the part of Betty Kenyon. Mr. J. Hutcheson controls with ability a full chorus and an augmented orchestra

Empire.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Tom Foy.—Miss Lilian Levey, who tops the bill here, is rewarded with a hearty reception, all her songs being delightfully rendered. In addition, there are Harry Jeff, speciality dancer; The Percys (Harry and Lillie), duettists and dancers; Harry Plowden, eccentric facial and patter comedian; George Bernard, actor-vocalist; and the Brothers Allison, comedy artists and speciality dancers.

Pentre.—Lyceum Theatre.—Sole Owners, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Counsell.—A large and appreciative audience attended here on Monday evening to give a warm welcome to Mr. Wm. Greet's company, in *The Sign of the Cross*. Marcus Superbus is cleverly portrayed by Mr. Frank E. Petley; Mr. C. Yorke is imposing in the rôle of Nero; Tigellinus is in the capable hands of Mr. Chas. Aldred; Miss Mary Newcombe looks charming in the rôle of the Empress Poppœa; Miss Marie Leonhard earns the approbation of the audience by her clever portrayal of Mercia; and Stephanus is ably impersonated by Miss Dulcie Greatwich. Songs and dances by Miss Beatrice Felstead and Miss Pauline Emeric relieve the heavy parts of the piece.

Perth.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. Wentworth Croke this week presents *My Sweetheart*, in which Miss Minnie Palmer and Mr. Robert H. Howard adopt the leading rôles of Tina and Tony Faust with much acceptance, and are accorded the unstinted approbation of the crowded audience. Mr. Fred W. Leonard vividly depicts the unfortunate Joe Shotwell; Mr. Richard Elliott gives us a pleasing portrayal of Dr. Oliver; Mr. Leslie Tyler's forceful impersonation of Harold Bartlett is seen to advantage; Mr. Alfred Ibberson's Dudley Harcourt is highly amusing; and Mr. Alfred May is suitably adapted to the part of Farmer Hatzell; Miss Mildred Sylvestre displays exceptional talent in the forceful daring adopted by the unscrupulous Mrs. Fleeter; Mrs. H. E. Russell's Mrs. Hatzell is an amusing study; and Miss Elsie Forster is specially attractive as Peek-a-Boo.

Plymouth.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*The Spring Chicken*, as presented by Mr. George Dance's company this week, accentuates the favourable impression it created on the occasion of its first visit to Plymouth about a year ago. As Mr. Girdle, Mr. Fred Payne is excellent, his wheezes and interpolations being immensely relished; Mr. J. S. Durant as Babori assumes the foreign accent effectively; Mr. Edwin Dodds as Felix is amusing; and Mr. Harry Averell as Boniface is a smart dancer. Miss Florence Wix as Mme. Babori has an attractive stage presence, and her song, "Come down gently," receives a triple encore; Miss Chrissie Ralland is a gay and vivacious Rosalie; Miss Nellie Kavanagh is a droll Mrs. Girdle; and Miss Clarice Cartner a graceful Baroness Papouche.

Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—The leading turn at the Palace this week is the Poluski Brothers, and their contribution, *Laughs*, is most appropriately named; the Great Stowes go through some clever feats of hand-balancing; Albert Wyndham and company submit a Shakespearean sketch, entitled *Clarence's Dream*, rendered in commendable fashion; Mollie Doone is an attractive and versatile little comedienne; George Collins, in a humorous skit on a Gibson Girl, is warmly received; Yeager and Yeager are accomplished dancers; and the Three Persians are skilful horizontal bar performers. Vowles and Bryan, and Vernon's Bioscope, complete the bill.

Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. C. F. Williams; Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant.—Preceded by *A Kiss in the Dark*, the stock company present a creditable version of *Trilby*. Mr. Edward Beecher gives an interesting portrayal of Svengali; Miss Elaine Vanbrugh in the title-rôle is most convincing; Messrs. Harry Stuart, C. A. Melton, and Walter Ferriss are capable as the three Students; and Mr. Arthur Beaufort is amusing as the Rev. Mr. Bagot.

Portsmouth.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. William Greet's admirably selected company is still here with the musical comedy of *The Earl and the Girl*, and is winning golden opinions by a clever representation.

Princes's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. George Testo Sante and company are here this week with the drama, *The Life of a Showman*. Mr. Sante as the circus acrobat, Brian Leader, displays great physical strength combined with admirable acting; Mr. Aurele Labat is very forcible as the villainous Hendrick Marias; Mr. Charles Osborne, in the dual rôles of Sir Noel Hartland and Stickers, the bill-poster, is clever; Mr. Edward Warden makes an incisive, manly Rev. Cyril Arliss; Agatha Winter is played by Miss Amy McNeill with considerable power and great sympathetic feeling. The lighter side of the drama is most amusingly taken by Miss E. Lewis as Angelina Mutton, and Messrs. Frank Tante and Will Lindsey as Tommy Allthere and Ben Tin-Tac. Some good variety turns are introduced in the second act.

Radcliffe.—Grand Opera House.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—Mr. Bert Coote's *The Fatal Wedding* company is here. Mr. E. Owttrim gives a striking and effective rendering of the rôle of Howard Wilson; and Mr. Guy Hastings contributes an excellent performance as Robert Curtis. Mr. C. H. Hughes is funny as Toto; and Mr. Cyril Melton adds to the success of the evening as Peter Schwartz. Mabel Wilson is pathetically presented by Miss Katherine Clarke; and the part of Cora receives full justice from Miss Leah Marlborough. Miss Julie Temple is thoroughly at home as Bridget, and plays the part in a manner that shows marked ability; and Miss Marie Wilson makes a charming Jessie. The singing of Miss Dolly McCalla and Miss Marie Wilson is much appreciated.

Rawtenstall.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. George Dickinson.—Messrs. E. H. Knight and G. Denham's company is here again this week in *The Grip of Iron*, and opened on Monday evening to a capital house. Mr. Fred Powell was as powerful as ever in his portrayal of the Strangler, and contrived to infuse some grim humour into the part; as Loustalot, Mr. George Denham was very amusing; Mr. Wallace Curnock made a capital Paul Blanchard, and Mr. A. G. Polson-Turner a clever Lorentz de Ribas. Miss Rosabel Dodd was an excellent Cora Simmonet, and as Marie Guerin Miss Maggie Stewart gave an admirable impersonation; Mr. Norman Tracy was a capable Robert de Bolford and Miss Muriel Inglis an acceptable Sophie Blanchard.

Reading.—Royal County Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Milton Bode.—The pantomime of *Aladdin* is being played here this week in first-class style by Mr. Milton Bode's company. Miss May Marton impersonates the title-rôle in a piquant manner; Miss Janet Reynolds is a fascinating Princess Yo-San; Mr. Clifford Morgan works hard in the character of Abanazar, and is exceedingly well received. The Widow Twankey who, this time, poses as a suffragette, is amusingly impersonated by Mr. Tom Owen; the Slave of the Lamp and Genie of the Ring are well portrayed by Miss Addie Love and Miss Amy Winn; Mr. Walter Crouch as the Emperor and Mr. Frank Couch as the Grand Vizier are both good; Mr. Tommy Nelldon is funny as a Chinese laundry man. The specialities include Leo Sterling, the musical marvel, who gives a finished performance on the cornet, and the Royal Welsh Meister Singers, who are greatly appreciated. The Stella troupe of dancers also appear with success.

Rochdale.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—The appearance of Mr. Edmund Tearle and company is always eagerly awaited here, and on Monday they had a hearty reception in *The Three Musketeers*. Mr. Tearle distinguished himself in the part of D'Artagnan. On Tuesday *Jeanie Deans* was submitted, Miss Kate Clinton taking the title-rôle with conspicuous ability. Mr. J. A. Keogh finely portrayed the part of David Deans; Mr. J. Cooke Hinton, with typical Scotch humour, was heard to advantage as the Laird o' Dumbledykes; and Mr. Edmund Tearle effectively sustained the duties of

Hagen, comedians; Miss Maud Gwynne, ballad vocalist; Charlie Bayman, the darkie sage; and the Olympian Trio, in plantation melodies, complete a highly-attractive programme.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Terry and Lambert, in character studies from life, submit some clever acting; the Three Royal Dreadnoughts contribute a clever exhibition of rifle shooting; and other enjoyable items on the programme include Jack Martin, actor-vocalist; Ada Parker, coon songstress and dancer; Tony Iveson, the ragman at the piano; Billy Hobbs, coon comedian and dancer; Lecardo Brothers, comedy acrobats and balancers; A. E. Clifford, vocalist; and the Empire Bioscope.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company is here this week with the sporting drama *Bound to Win*. Mr. F. G. Kimberley is seen to advantage as Harry Lyndon, and Mr. Edward Bekker scores as Squire Forbes. Mr. George Steel gives a capable rendition of the part of Philip Ayre; and Mr. J. Franklin succeeds as Ned Oakley. Mr. Dick Seddon is deserving of mention as Willie Winkins; and Mr. Sidney Rudge does well as Joe Blake. Miss Effie Macintosh is a sprightly Winnie Oakley; and Mrs. J. Franklin wins applause as Harriet Forbes; Miss Violet Langley is very pleasing as Marion Forbes; Miss Lottie Addison gives a clever portrayal of the part of Gladys Orme; and Mr. Arnold H. Allen is very amusing as Horatio Buffit.

RUGBY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geoffrey Fulton.—Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's company are presenting *The Traitor Prince* here this week. Mr. George M. Montanini as Prince Rao Dalmirez gives an excellent rendering; Mr. Dudley Wynton is manly and artistic as Lieut. Frank Derrick; and as Billy Bright, Mr. Harry C. Momber causes much amusement; Mr. Jack Musgrove is good as Hon. Bobby Dalyrmple; Mr. James Sherwin as Cara, Mr. Austin Langford as Richard Vane and Colonel Vane, Mr. Henry Francis as Sergeant Bucket, and Mr. Richard Roberts as the High Priest all do well. Miss Rosa Routledge is charming and sympathetic as Lola Vane; Miss Metta Mitchell is clever and amusing as Pansy Blossom; Miss Alice N. Livesey is capital as Vasliti, and Miss Clara O'Grady is well placed.

SALISBURY.—COUNTY HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr. T. Brinsmead.—After a long absence Mr. Bannister-Howard's company paid us a visit in *The Christian*, and received a warm welecome from large audiences. As John Storm Mr. E. Stanton-Sharp gave a most powerful rendering; Miss Laura Walker in the rôle of Glory Quayle won golden opinions for her faultless portrayal of the part; Mr. P. Gedge Twyman was distinctly good as Lord Ure; and the same may be said of Mr. H. Colbeck as Father Lamplugh. Miss Constance Stephens made an admirable Mrs. Callander; and Miss Ethel Savory gave a pathetic rendering of Polly Love. The remaining parts were all creditably enacted.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—The pantomime *Cinderella* is the attraction here this week, the comic element being strongly in evidence. Prince Peerless is played in dashing style by Miss Iris Banfield, who receives excellent support from Miss Mabel Ashton as Dandini. Miss Helen Raye gives a pleasing rendering of Cinderella; Miss Louie Davies plays and dances well as Princess Pearl; Mr. Charles Martell gives an extremely comic impersonation of Baron Pebblybeach, and Mr. John Bennett is funny as Pimple. These two gentlemen are especially good in their comic specialities. Mr. Edwin Garth and Mr. Howard Ward give general satisfaction as Arabella and Dulcibella respectively. Plenty of knockabout fun is caused by Putemin and Kickemout (Messrs. Earlo and Melville); Miss Maud Ray, Count Caramel; Miss Nance Bowden, Earl Comfit; and Miss Ivy Burton, Chloris, all do well. Margery is suitably depicted by Miss Phillis Hay, and Miss Marie Montague is an acceptable Rosalind. The Starlight Quartette introduce a number of pretty and clever dances.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. Sidney Beltram.—The Chas. W. Poole's new Imperial Myriorama forms an agreeable change here this week. A fine series of views is interspersed with capital animated pictures. Varieties are introduced by the Avondale Four, very pleasing vocalists; the Three Almos are daring and graceful horizontal bar performers; cycling by the Swift Trio; Le Brun and Irene, in a successful turn; and Little Edie, a charming child-vocalist. Mr. C. T. Couper makes an efficient guide.

SHEERNESS.—THE PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Phil Raymond.—At this popular little hall the present company is fully up to the usual standard of excellence. Mr. G. Daniels is a versatile comedian and descriptive vocalist; the Queen of Costers causes lots of fun, and is loudly applauded; Miss Topsy Levane scores nightly as a clever comedienne; Mr. Phil Reymond is a popular and hard-working comedian; and the Arundel company cause roars of laughter with the comedy sketch *Taming a Tartar*.

SHEFFIELD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The delightful musical play *Veronique*, under the management of Mr. George Dance, was again performed to a large audience on Monday. All the artists acted and sang with great humour and vivacity; and the piece was sumptuously mounted.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The interesting plot and thrilling episodes of the Lyceum drama, *Sherlock Holmes*, kept the close attention of a good house on Monday, and the members of Mr. Stewart's company all acted with fine *esprit de corps*. Mr. Hamilton Stewart acted with consummate ease and finish as the redoubtable Holmes; Mr. James Skea submitted a good study of character as the arch-criminal, Prof. Moriarty; Mr. Stanley Logan made a good foil to the character of Holmes as the brisk, healthy young medico, Dr. Watson; Mr. Leslie Hall was amusing as Billy, the page; and Mr. Fred Bell acted in a characteristic manner as John Forman. The rôle of Alice Faulkner was made interesting by the charm and intelligence of Miss Gladys Harvey; and the other artists were all good.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsey.—For many years a very pleasing annual function here has been the visit of the aged inmates and children of the local Unions to see the pantomime, and on Shrove Tuesday afternoon the auditorium was bright with happy faces, and re-echoed with the laughter and applause. After the first act the visitors were regaled with refreshments, and at the finish each person received a useful present. All the artists did their best, from Miss Alma Obrey, the popular leading boy, to the drummer in the band, and *Dick Whittington* never had a more enthusiastic audience.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The following talented artists contribute to the programme this week:—Mr. J. G. Graham's company, in the Chinese episode, *The Yellow Fang*; Miss Marie San Toi and her charming girls in *A Japanese Tea-House*; Mr. Harry Leybourne, vocal comedian; Miss Lizzie Fletcher, comedienne; Mr. Johnny Mackay; the clever Rohda Brothers, in a novel act; Mr. Godfrey Jones; Florence, a talented lady mimic; and the celebrated vocal comedian, Mr. Arthur Lennard, in new songs and old favourites.

GRAND PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—Miss Lillie Soutter, Mr. Andie Burn, and Mr. Johnny Holland's dramatic combination, Mr. Bert Brantford, Burns and Bentley, and the favourite comedian, Mr. Tom Bass, are here. In addition, there is Pallister's Bioscope, with up-to-date pictures.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Victor Samson.—The pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe* is doing good business here.

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Miss Florence Glossop-Harris, supported by Mr. Frank Cellier, jun., and a talented répertoire company, is here this week with *Much Ada About Nothing, Twelfth Night, Romeo and Juliet, Camille*, and *Carmen*, all admirably mounted, and enacted in a creditable fashion. In the first-mentioned play Mr. Frank Cellier, jun., is seen to advantage as Benedick, his easy and scholarly diction being very marked; Miss Florence Glossop-Harris is refined as Beatrice; Mr. Percy H. Vernon makes a fine Don Pedro; Mr. A. Cotton-Holmes a successful Don John; Mr. Duncan Yarrow as Claudio acts carefully and well; Mr. David Santley merits praise as Leonata; and others are Mr. A. Wilson-Wynne as Antonio, Mr. Stanley Roberts as Friar Francis, Mr. Basil Dean as Borachio, and Mr. Edward Landor as Dogberry. Miss Kate Turner is effective as Hero; and the Misses Nita Ashby and Ethel St. Barbe play their respective parts of Margaret and Ursula extremely well.

SOUTHAMPTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fred Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Crowded houses have assembled to witness Mr. F. R. Benson's company, in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which was superbly produced on Monday under the direction of Mr. Hugh Moss. The scenery was attractive, and the augmented orchestra, under Mr. P. Herbert Smith, A.R.C.M., did full justice to Mendelssohn's beautiful music. Mr. George R. Weir as Nick Bottom was splendidly cast, the broad humour of the part being never over-emphasised; Mr. F. R. Benson gave a sound impersonation of Lysander; and Mr. Clarence Derwent was equally successful as Demetrius. Mrs. F. R. Benson was a spirited Titania and Mr. George Buchanan an imposing Oberon. The Misses Tita Brand and Helen Haye are both excellent as Hermia and Helena respectively; Miss Leah Hanman invests the part of Puck with much cleverness; and Miss Estelle Stead is a queenly Hippolyta.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor and Director-General, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—Miss Josephine Colona and company are appearing in a dramatisation of *Faust*, in which Miss Colona (Marguerite) and Mr. Arthur St. John (Mephisto) score huge successes. The Harwood Juveniles are remarkably clever singers and dancers; Max Duffex, musical contortionist; Keith and Merson, acrobats; Two Kays, vocalists; Chas. Williams, big boot dancer; and Mona McDonald, comedienne, also contribute to the evening's entertainment.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. P. Howell.—Tom Costello, Harriett Vernon, Dutch Daly, Will English, and Lloyd Morgan are drawing big houses. Ross, Rose, and Rosert appear in a scena, *Always Moving*; Bromley and Fontein excel as vocalists in *A Musical Birthday*; and Leslie Race, vocal comedian, is also programmed.

PHILHARMONIC.—Manager, Mr. W. C. Burns.—The Mahatmas possess wonderful powers of telepathy, and their amazing performance mystifies large audiences. Peter's pictures are also very interesting.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, the Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—A visit from Mr. Martin Harvey is viewed with more than usual interest in local theatrical circles, and the reception accorded him by a large audience on Monday was in keeping with the distinguished actor's popularity. *The Corsican Brothers*, which was splendidly mounted and played, was selected for the opening performance, Mr. Harvey appearing in the dual rôles of Fabien and Louis Franchi, which he depicted in a brilliantly realistic and polished manner. Mr. Vincent Sternroyd submitted an admirable delineation of Château Renaud; Miss Mary Rorke sustained the part of Mme. dei Franchi with eminent success; Miss Coleridge merited unstinted praise for her commendable portraiture of Emilie de Lesparre; Montgiron was well played by Mr. Albert E. Raynor; Mr. George Cooke presented a good study of Martelli; Mr. Alfred Mansfield characteristically impersonated M. Alfred Meynard; Mr. Charles Cameron assumed the part of M. Favrolles in good style; M. Beauchamp had a creditable representative in Mr. Paul Barry, and Mr. Fred Wright, sen., Mr. Philip Hewland, and Mr. P. Alexander as Colonna, Orlando, and Roissec respectively were well cast. During the week *Hamlet* and *A Cigarette Maker's Romance* are billed.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred. Coulson.—Mr. Fred. Granville's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* is here this week. The leading parts are well accounted for, the Babes being smartly represented by Master H. Boden and Miss Edie Bell, their singing and dancing being one of the features of the show; the Robin Hood of Miss Cissie Bodina and the Maid Marian of Miss H. Lind are both highly creditable performances. The fun and frolic is chiefly contributed by Mr. Norman Hall as the Wicked Baron, Mr. Joe English as Ariminta Koffcake, the dame, and the Kimberley Boys, clever comedians and knockabouts, as Burgling Bill and Gentle Georgie. Excellent specialities are introduced by the Three Graces, living statues in classical poses; the Three Bodinas, in a vocal and instrumental mélange; the Four Clancy Girls, expert dancers; and the Brothers Leith, speciality comedians. The augmented orchestra is under the able direction of Mr. Wilfred Knowles.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—The top of the bill is Park's Eton Boys, who, in both songs and choruses, delight the audience. Examples of smart training are shown by Marzella's birds; Thorp and Coe contribute a good comedy episode, *My Burglar*; Rhoda Paul, male impersonator, is very successful; *The Ploughboy and Lady Guide* is a smart sketch ably represented by the Camerons. Other attractions are Paul Dow, clever athlete; Ed. E. Ford, Australian sundowner; Jas. Brady, comedian; and the Bioscope.

STAFFORD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—A triple bill is presented here this week in *Saints and Sinners*, *Judah*, and *The Middleman*. In the first-named piece, which was the attraction on Monday, Mr. Harding Thomas gives a clever and natural study of Jacob Fletcher; as Captain Fanshaw, Mr. Edgar Kent plays with marked effect; Mr. E. Ravson-Cousens is capable as George Kingsmill; and as Samuel Hoggard, Mr. John J. Hooder has a character to which he does every justice. Miss Ruby Roma is clever as Fanny Partridge, and Miss Elaine Verner as Letty Fletcher plays her part in a manner that proves her to be a talented actress.

STALYBRIDGE.—GRAND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Managers, Messrs. W. A. Jackson and Eugene E. Hardie.—Ackashima, a champion Ju-Jitsu wrestler, heads the bill; and other clever turns are contributed by Hulbert, ventriloquist; the Lynches, illustrated songsters; May Zant and her juveniles; Georgina Leonard, an excellent singer of some rollicking songs; Mons. De Lil, conjurer; the Ringling Trio, American eccentrics; and the Donatos, the one-legged wonders.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is paying a return visit here with *The Village Blacksmith*, and is meeting with great success. The company is a good all-round one, and includes Messrs. Sam. Livesey, Joseph Carter, G. V. Campbell, E. Maydew, George Wilton, T. E. Marshall, G. Ratcliffe, M. Halstead; Misses Maggie Edwards, Bertha Hanbury, Edith Giddens, Cassie Le Grande, and Mrs. T. C. Livesey.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. M. Carnell.—An excellent bill here includes Mr. Henry Herne, Miss Ida Millais, and company, in the sketch, *Blackmail*; the Orleans, acrobats; Miss Rose Cabina, vocalist; Terry and Bentley, comedy duo; the Ramlos, gymnasts; Miss Sadie Seymour, comedienne; Mr. Charles Rutland, comedian; and Larola, "the clever man with the funny ways."

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—Mr. Wm. Greet's company in *The Earl and the Girl* has been heartily welcomed here this week by large and delighted audiences. The comical antics of Jim Cheese in the hands of Mr. Alfred Donohoe are a source of much laughter; as Dick Wargrave Mr. Thomas Kennard acts and sings in good style; A. Bunker Bliss is capitally played by Mr. Greville Hayes; and the Hon. Crewe Boodle has a capital representative in Mr. Leslie Owen. Miss Gertrude Simpson is charming as Elphin Haye, and sings delightfully; Miss Lina Hicks is amusing as Liza Shoddam; Miss Winnie Plumpton makes a stately Virginia Bliss; and Miss Kathleen Gerrard as Mrs. Shimmering Black acts the part with satisfactory ability.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Geo. and Robt. Nicholson; Manager, Mr. W. Ainsworth.—The Brothers Luck are here this week in their highly amusing comedy act, *The Grand Hotel*. Erneste is very clever in his imitations of various orchestral instruments; Hallam and Stanton present a sketch called *The Broken Journey*, in which high-class comedy is combined with good singing; Billy Farrell is very amusing with his patter, and his excellent dancing is appreciated; Tom Stuart is a high-class actor, and gives illustrations from popular plays; La Lola is worthy of praise in her speciality act; Joah Heteb's illusion acts are well received; Burg, Haud, and Wise are very amusing in their sketch, *Ye Browne Cow Inn*; and the Five Vernons receive a magnificent reception for their musical act.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Councillor J. Batty; Manager, Mr. W. Batty.—Harry Pleon, with *The Club Raid*, heads the bill, and is very amusing. Emlyn Jones and his troupe of International singers are highly appreciated; Marie Collins, high-class comedienne, is very well received; Ryde and Beeman are exceptionally clever acrobats; Sisters Desmond deserve favourable mention for their duet singing; Lade Henderson is a character vocalist of a high order; Fanny Humber scores greatly in her humorous songs, and the pictures, as usual, are interesting.

STOKE.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr. H. Miller.—The Elliotts and Savonas head the bill here in their cycle and musical act, and are heartily appreciated; Elonina in her trapeze act is expert and daring; Nelson and Thomas are seen in a capital farce; Walter King keeps the house in roars of laughter; Eric Graham is a coster comedian with good songs; the Three Moxons are jugglers and equilibrists of real merit; and the Society Quartette supply high-class music.

SUNDERLAND.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Director and Manager, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—After a week's interval pantomime again reigns supreme here, an extra strong attraction being provided by Messrs. C. and F. Renad's production, *Puss in Boots*. Miss Rita Everard makes a dashing principal boy, her delineation of Corin standing out conspicuously; Miss Marie Neilson, who is responsible for Princess Florine, proves a smart and pleasing heroine; Miss Mabel Spencer as Eric renders the all-popular "Zuyder Zee" in an excellent manner; and Miss Ivy Moore at once finds favour as Felina. Mr. Fred Lyne succeeds in keeping the fun rolling with his humorous enaction of the part of Lachrymose; Mr. Rowland Hill is no less successful as Dame Deborah; Messrs. Cribb and Cribb have some really amusing patter as Rufus and Urian respectively; Mr. Gilbert N. Oakes as the cat Mouser must not be forgotten; neither must Mr. Harwood Cooper as Fleecem. The Edene troupe of dancers are also in evidence. Special mention is deserved by the Flying Ballet, with its fine electrical effects.

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Stevens and Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry L. Carlo.—Mr. Stanley Rogers's *Cinderella*, which is here this week, is among the best of the many excellent productions of the kind, and a packed house greeted its opening night. Miss Daisy Revett, who sustains the title-rôle, has a pleasing personality, and sings with considerable ability; Miss Ellaline Thorne as Prince Casimar plays with grace and dash throughout; Miss Dollie Harcourt as the Snow Queen proves popular by means of her vocal efforts; the fun is largely contributed to by Mr. George French, whose impersonation of the Baron is excruciatingly funny; and Mr. Tom W. Conway, as Tiny, the baron's wife, is no whit less successful as a mirth-provoker. Dandini is in the hands of Mr. Harry Welchman, and the male innovation proves most successful. "Cinders'" sisters are represented in up-to-date style by Miss Adelaide Gracey and Miss Florence Desmond as Araminta and Elvira respectively; Mr. Wm. Pringle works hard as Capers, and, along with Miss Revett, has a smart duet and dance. Miss Madge Allan is pert as the Duke of Whistbridge; and the Doreen Girls are a quartette of fair terpsichorean artists. The dressing is on a lavish scale, and the scenery leaves nothing to be desired.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Hemingway.—Miss Annie Bell's *Sapho* company provides acceptable fare here. Miss V. St. Lawrence is responsible for the important rôle of Fanny Le Grande, to which she does every justice. Mr. Otto Minster lends a strong colouring to the rôle of Jean Gaussin; and the rest of the cast is efficient.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Managers, Messrs. Browne and Stringer.—The programme here includes Leonard Barry, in the song-scena, "The Mouchers' Walk"; the San Carlos, Italian operatic artists; Fred Collins, Scotch comedian; Lozelle, gymnast; Ramoniers, in their double-balancing act; the Chronophone pictures; the Nettas, in vocal scena, "Home Again"; Maud Esmond, burlesque artist; and the usual animated pictures.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Responsible-Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Pantomime is again the attraction here, Mr. Harry Graham's successful show, *Little Red Riding Hood*, under the personal supervision of Mr. J. S. Graham, opening on Monday to a full house. Miss Mabel Kessler is a genuine success as Boy Blue; Miss Grace Stafford is a charming Miss Mumt; Miss Rosie Juden a winsome Red Riding Hood. Mr. James Wood as Baron, Mr. Will Gane as Sammy, and Messrs. Grant and Kelly as Johnny-Stout and Johnny Green respectively contribute the fun, which is plentiful. Mr. Arthur Drew stands out prominently as Dame Trott; and Mr. Will Raglan proves most effective as the Wolf. The specialities include Miss Mabel Kessler, a cornet, horn, and bugle soloist; The Four London Belles, clever dancers; and The Great Escaladors.

TON-Y-PANDY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—A large audience accorded a hearty reception to the pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, as presented by Mr. John A. Thomson's company. Miss Beatrice Wadham's Robin Hood received hearty applause, and she was soon installed a favourite; Miss Claire Wadham was excellent as the Fairy Gloworm, and sang charmingly; Miss Dena Druid was an ideal Maid Marian; a capital representation was that of Miss Bertha Hall as Will Scarlett; the Misses Connell and Hazen, as William and Daisy (the Babes), had many admirers; Mr. Bob Lord was exceedingly funny as Baron Graball; Mr. Henry Eglinton was a very good Dame Dandini; and in the parts of Dusty Rhodes and Casual Ward it would be difficult to find the equals of the Two Randsfords.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Pantomime again holds the sway here, the attraction this week being Messrs. Carson and Kendall's company in *Babes in the Wood*. Miss Rose Tilley makes a dashing Robin Hood; Miss May Grayce a dainty Maid Marion; Mr. Hugh Brady proves very humorous as the Baron; Messrs. H. Roberts and J. McGrath create endless laughter as Grabem and Nabem; Little Tim is effective as Billy, the page; Mr. I. Gagan does full justice as Friar Tuck; Mr. Oliver Conroy is a capital Dame; Miss Nell Renie is quite at home as Will Scarlet; Miss Beattie is smart as Little John; Miss Dolly Marsden as Fairy Crystal and Miss Mabel Fare as Diavolo fill their respective rôles creditably; and Miss Doris Myddleton and Miss Dot Moss are clever as the Babes. Other principal parts are efficiently undertaken by Mr. F. Remmington as Pete, Miss Clara Moore as Molly, and Miss Lowe as Phyllis.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Miss Florence Baines and company are paying a first visit this week in *Miss Lancashire, Limited*. Miss Baines gives a fine portrayal of the part of Mary Ellen Thompson, the Lancashire operative, which causes much merriment; Mr. S. C. Leslie proves highly diverting as Isodore Moses; Mr. Burt Burton ably sustains the part of Harry; Mr. R. C. Hicks is good as the solicitor, Fox; Mr. David Donaldson achieves success as John Higgins; Mr. Payne Fletcher gives a finished rendering of Mr. Thompson; and Miss Pattie Groves is admirable as Bridget Thompson. Miss Kitty James is pleasing as Eva Lancashire.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Mr. Charles Morritt, hypnotist and illusionist, with *A Man in a Trance* provides a novel and interesting exhibition; Mr. Charles Vandyke and company create much hilarity in a comical absurdity, entitled *Nicodemus*; Mr. Fred Casburn, in a dramatic song-scena, *An Actor's Revenge*, acts well; the boy Sampson displays much strength; Arnott and Beevers, comedians, are well received; the Blind Man, with his marvellous feats of memory, and Miss Florence Hill, comedienne, also contribute.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Madge Grey, dialect comedienne, is here this week, and prove most popular, others being Arthur Melrose, whistling comedian; Glenroy Troupe of international dancers; the Vasilesen Troupe of eccentric pantomimists; E. W. Selman, character comedian; the Bohemians, comedy artists; and Syd May; the American Bioscope concluding.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—We have Mr. Chas. H. Lester's company in *The Bank of England*. Mr. Lester ably portrays the character of Sherlock Holmes; Stephen Hartley and Sir Sidney Barraclough are in the capable hands of Messrs. G. Clifton Boyne and J. H. Firman respectively; Mr. C. Herman Pullen as the Hon. Bertie Burlington is also well placed; and Margaret Dane is cleverly acted by Miss Marjorie Davenport; while Miss Gertrude Godart admirably plays the part of Aminta J. Beane.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—Mr. Stanley Carlton and company opened here on Monday with the society drama *A Marriage of Vengeance*. Mr. Stanley Carlton makes an able and striking Paul Earnscliff; Mr. Tom Henshaw in the rôle of Bob Shorner has a popular part that suits him admirably; Mr. Sidney Finnes plays Geoffrey Vannock in capital style; Glynne Earnscliff, the banker, is personated in a telling manner by Mr. Edwin Beverley; Mr. Edward Fryer is a fine Max Rheinhardt; Mr. William Annesley does well in the character of Guy Vendom; Stella is admirably sustained by Miss Rubie Maude; Miss Daisy Humphreys is all that could be desired as Elsie Dean; Miss Maggie Forster is well placed in the part of Amelia.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Player.—A strong programme is topped by Wilbur Hill and Willette Whitaker, who gain repeated applause for their exceedingly pretty turn; Mr. Charles Clark gives some smart songs; Mr. Reginald Leyland, the three-voiced comedian, is applauded; Mr. Geo. Davis and company submit a very funny sketch; the well-known comedian, Mr. Charles Bignall, contributes some very humorous songs; Miss Nellie Cotter is well received, and sings her coon songs with credit; some smart illusions are shown by Cussac-Talma, assisted by Mlle. Yvonne De Forge. The Hippodrome pictures close a most enjoyable evening.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. H. E. Feather.—Baron H. Harriss on Monday, to a house exceptionally well filled, presented his company (including Miss Sophie Harriss and Mr. Harry Kilburn) in *The Prince of Pilsen*. The magnificent dresses and scenery were the admired of all beholders, and the sparkling songs and choruses and pretty dances were repeatedly and persistently encored. To Mr. Kilburn is entrusted the rôle of Hans Wagner, and his delineation of it is irresistibly droll. A decided success is achieved by Miss Harriss as Mrs. Maddison Crocker, her fine voice and figure and charming dresses being especially effective. Mr. Frank Crimp is an ideal Carl Otto, his excellent rendering of the several numbers allotted to the part calling forth the warmest appreciation. Comedy has an able exponent in Mr. Sidney Russell; as Sidonie, Miss Connie Leon is bright and vivacious; Nellie Wagner has an attractive exponent in Miss Alice Nixon; Mr. Roy Sidney sings and acts well as Lieut. Tom Wagner; François is well played by Mr. Ernest Giffard; and Miss Ada Watson as Edith Adams and Miss Mollie Wynne as Jimmie are deserving of praise.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Audiences here are perfectly bewildered at the mystifying feats by Chung-Ling-Soo; an amusing farce is played by the Forrest Combination; a brilliant effect is created by the Royal Zerbinis in a spectacular musical fantasia; the Sisters Redfern are accomplished instrumentalists; laughter is raised by Keegan and company in their mirthful cycling absurdity; Spencer and Marks meet with a gratifying reception; a favourable impression is made by Austin and Cowan; and an acceptable number is contributed by G. W. Foster, comedian.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. Charles Macdona's *A Country Girl* company attracted a large audience here on Monday. Mr. Martin D. Pitts, a talented actor, used his fine voice to advantage as Geoffrey Chaloner; Mr. Bernard Vaughan made an extremely good Rajah; Mr. W. O. Billington gave a quaintly humorous interpretation of Sir Joseph Verity; as Douglas Verity Mr. W. Besley Bertram was lifelike; Mr. Arthur Staples worked indefatigably as Barry; Mr. C. H. Biddulph was excellent as Lord Anchester; and the Granfer Mummery of Mr. George Stone deserves nothing but eulogy. Mr. F. Wormac was good as Lord Grasmere; Miss Edith Maynard sang and acted with distinction as Nan; a handsome Marjorie was found in Miss Violet Leslie; Miss May Florence made a delightful Mme. Sophie; and Mrs. St. Quintin was most charmingly portrayed by Miss Florence Brewster. Miss Harding's Princess of Bhong was all that could be desired; and Miss Kitty Stone was praiseworthy as the Nurse. The Chorus is a powerful one, and well trained.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Messrs. Matthew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company in *The Still Alarm* is here this week. Mr. M. H. Glenville gives a manly portrayal of Jack Manley; Mr. Geo. Arthur is good as John Bird; the rôle of Willie Manley is cleverly handled by Mr. T. Beasley; Doc Wilber is finely presented by Mr. F. Osmond; Miss Mabel Veriton is responsible for a well-played Mrs. Manley; Miss Maud Warburton sweetly enacts the part of Elinor Fordham; Mr. Lewis Gordon's Franklyn Fordham is an interesting piece of acting; Mr. J. Sutton Pateman treats the house to an able representation of Joe Jones, fireman; and Miss Gertie Reid is commendable as Carrie Wilber.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Wilson Barrett's last play, *Lucky Durham*, is produced here this week by Messrs H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company. Mr. Edmund Kennedy as John Durham, the strong-willed millionaire, plays the part with great power and firmness; Mr. Robert Forsyth well assumes the rôle of Lord Mountfallon; and the part of the good-natured ne'er-do-well, the Hon. R. Steighton, is very cleverly enacted by Mr. Arthur Leigh, Miss Alice Esther Belmore as Helen Vallerton gives a natural representation of the character; and Miss Frances Wolviston as Lady Mountfallon is stately and autocratic, as befits the part.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—*Aunt Matilda* is a most amusing sketch, by Frank Elliston and company; and Haley's Juveniles are well-trained singers and descriptive dancers. The Gladenbacks give a very fine gymnastic display, the lady performing marvellous feats of strength gracefully; Jean Seul is styled an Indian conjuror; J. H. Greener, singing pit lad, is recalled nightly; and Gillin is a skilful ventriloquial humorist. Good comedy is also furnished by France and Francis (acrobats), Bert Bowden, Little Zola, and Walter Stanton.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival.—A return visit after a few years' interval of the successful musical play *Florodora* is being much appreciated. The production is by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's No. 1 Company. The part of Anthony Tweedlepunch is taken by Mr. Alf. E. Passmore, who keeps the audience in continual laughter by his admirable interpretation; Mr. Stanley White is a satisfactory Cyrus Gilfain; Mr. H. V. Cropton is a very effective Frank Abercoed; and Mr. Harold Perry does well as Captain Arthur Donegal. Miss Daisy Lake essays the part of Dolores, and sings and acts with great success; Miss Lilly Gullick is a charming little Angela Gilfain, her vocal efforts being capitally rendered; Miss Kate Leicester does admirably as Lady Holyrood; and the other characters are all in good hands.

YORK.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, H. J. Dacre.—*The Soldier's Wedding*, admirably played by Mr. Walter Melville's company, has drawn large audiences during the week. Mr. Wingold Laurence's impersonation of Jack Brown is at once a strong and manly effort; Mr. Beresford Whitcomb makes Colonel Graham a popular and interesting personage; as Tommy Sprat Mr. A. Gambier Melford has unlimited scope, and proves an able comedian; Miss Marie McAulay's fine stage presence is exactly suited to the part of Julie de Beauvrals; and Miss Ettie Carlisle is dainty and amusing as Lizzie. A more natural and sympthetic rendering of Nancy Lee than that given by Miss Jessie Winter could not be wished for. Special praise is also due to Little Albert, Miss Georgie De Lara, and Mr. Frederick Biron for their able renditions.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—Mr. Jack Haddon's merry pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk* has done good business during the present week. As Jack, Miss Kitty Upton is lively to a degree; her songs are rendered in sprightly fashion, and her success is as great as it is deserved. Miss Nellie Burdette looks charming as Dora, and gives a delightful impersonation; Mr. Hal Forde as the Dame is once more quaintly amusing; and Mr. Alfred Maynall extracts a lot of fun out of Silly Billy. Mr. Haddon uses his fine voice to advantage as the Baron; Messrs. Barrett and Knowles as Dip and Dap are genuinely funny in all their business, and must be complimented upon a very neat and enjoyable performance.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

An organ recital was given at the Royal Academy on Monday afternoon. In memory of Mr. Thomas Threlfall, director and chairman of the Committee of Management, who died Feb. 3, 1907, the Introduction and Funeral March (*Coriolanus*), organ, by A. C. Mackenzie, was played by Mr. Ralph Letts, during the performance of which the audience remained standing. Bach's Adagio and Vivace, from Sonata in D minor for organ, was performed by Miss Kathleen Robinson; and Mackenzie's Andante from Concerto (violin) was neatly executed by Mr. Henry O. Parsons, the organ being ably played by Mr. Montague F. Phillips. A not particularly interesting Allegretto and Presto comodo for ogan from E. Elgar's Sonata in G was cleverly rendered by Mr. George Swidenbank

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Feb. 11,
"THE GONDOLIERS."

The renaissance of Gilbert and Sullivan's operas should command the generous support of all who appreciate pungent humour wedded to tuneful music. *The Gondoliers*, as presented on Monday evening, has, it was evident, lost none of its original attractiveness. Mr. Charles R. Walenn as the Duke of Plaza Toro reminded one very forcibly of the original representative of the rôle, and the audience were quick to catch the subtle humour of his interpretation of the character. Mr. Fred Billington as the Grand Inquisitor gave just the right amount of pedantic pomposity to the part to render it amusing. Through the regrettable indisposition of Mr. Pacie Rippte, the rôle of Marco was played by Mr. Stafford Moss, whose rendering of that favourite song, "Take a pair of sparkling eyes," was heartily appreciated. As Luiz, Mr. Leicester Tunks played and sang with marked ability. Mr. Albert Kavanagh as the gondolier, Giuseppe, furnished a skilled representation of the character, and sang with effect both in duet and solo. The parts of Duchess of Plaza Toro and her daughter, Casilda, were skilfully filled by Miss Theresa Rassam and Miss Mabel Graham. The acting and singing of Miss Hope Hastings as Gianetta reached a high standard of excellence. Miss Lulu Evans as Tessa played with care, and achieved success. Mr. T. Silver, the musical director, richly earned the rich encomiums which were expressed on all sides at the able manner in which the various numbers were presented. The chorus were always well in hand. The week's bill includes *Iolanthe*, *Patience*, *The Mikado*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and other old favourites.

KING'S, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Feb. 11,
"HIS HOUSE IN ORDER."

The first suburban production of such a typical Pinero comedy as *His House in Order*, with a reputation of over a year's run, was bound to prove a decided attraction at the King's, and on Monday night a crowded and delighted audience received with acclamation Mr. George Alexander's specially-selected and evenly-balanced company in this latest St. James's success. From principal character to the smallest speaking part every detail had been well studied, and the representation should make Mr. Alexander feel proud of his provincial company. Mr. Frank Fenton as Hilary Jesson had a part which fitted this talented actor to a nicety. His diplomacy and good humour in the delicate domestic situations wherein he takes a hand were portrayed with all the finesse of an Ambassador. In the unsympathetic character of Filmer Jesson, M.P., Mr. Cyril Harcourt succeeded admirably where many an actor would have failed. A clever little girl, Miss Moyna Hill, gave a decidedly good rendering of Derek Jesson. Mr. George Fitzgerald's delineation of Sir Daniel Ridgeley caught the fancy of the audience immediately. Pryce Ridgeley was in the very able hands of Mr. George Silver. Mr. Lloyd Lowndes undertook the part of Major Maurewarde with satisfactory results; and Mr. A. E. Benedict scored largely as the pushing Dr. Dilnott. Mr. Langford Browne was praiseworthy as Harding. Miss Auriol Lee appeared as Nina, not for the first time, as she played the part at the St. James's during the temporary absences of Miss Irene Vanbrugh. Nothing but praise could be bestowed upon Miss Lee for her performance, and the audience fully recognised her exceptional ability. Mrs. Kemmis, an experienced actress, capitally emphasised the acidity of Lady Ridgeley. As Geraldine Ridgeley Miss Audrey Campbell acted with telling effect. Miss Lilli Kehr sustained fascinatingly and with spirit the character of the French governess, Mlle. Thome. The scenery and appointments were in every respect admirable.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Feb. 11, the Comic Opera, entitled
"THE LITTLE MICHUS."

The visit of Mr. George Dance's company in the delightful comic opera, *The Little Michus*, had been eagerly anticipated by patrons of the Shakespeare Theatre, and, therefore, at the opening performance on Monday it was not surprising to find the house packed from floor to ceiling with an appreciative audience. That their expectations were fully realised was very evident by the enthusiasm which prevailed throughout the play; and, indeed, they could hardly have been otherwise, for the sparkling music and witty lines, together with a capital company, fine scenery, and magnificent costumes, made the performance as bright and attractive as could be desired. The acting and singing all round was excellent. The Little Michus were represented by Miss Alice Coverick as Marie Blanche and Miss Gipsy Dale as Blanche Marie, their artistic presentation of the rôles quickly winning the favour of the audience. They were heard to advantage in several songs, and gained an encore for their pretty rendering of the duet, "St. Valentine." An interesting and clever impersonation of Mme. Michu was given by Miss Mary Young, who acted her part with marked ability, and rendered her songs with taking effect. Miss May Marshall as Mlle. Herpin also contributed a good performance. Mlle. Marjorie as Mlle. St. Cyr gained much applause for her speciality dancing, which was executed with grace. Much of the success of the play was due to Mr. Foster Courtenay, whose clever delineation of the eccentric General des Ifs was irresistibly funny, and kept the audience in uproarious laughter whenever he was on the stage. He was well supported by Mr. Gilbert Childs, whose droll antics in the rôle of Bagnolet greatly added to the fun. Some excellent work was put in by Mr. William Everard, who gained several well-deserved encores for his excellent singing. Mr. Robert C. Harcourt was satisfactory in the part of the lovesick Aristide Vert; and Mr. Leon Simkin gave a very natural impersonation of Pierre Michu. The minor parts were capably sustained, and the augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Otto Manns, rendered good service. Mr. Herbert Dunbar is manager, and Mr. Leon Simkin stage-manager, for Mr. George Dance.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Feb. 11, the Musical Play,
"THE GIRL BEHIND THE COUNTER."

Following his commendable custom of supplying his patrons with everything in turn, Mr. Clarence Sounes, after drawing crowded houses last week with a stirring melodrama, this week presents his friends with a bright musical entertainment in the shape of Mr. Mouillot's well-selected company in *The Girl Behind the Counter*. For the title-rôle a charming representative has been found in Miss Norah Brocklebank, who acts easily and naturally, and at the same time with a grace and distinction all her own. Miss Brocklebank is the happy possessor of a beautifully modulated speaking voice, a particularly happy effort being her flower-song duet with Mr. Arthur Cartwright. The last-named actor is excellently suited as Charles Chetwyn, his straightforward, manly style and fine presence being thoroughly in keeping with the part, and his resonant voice enabling him to give his songs with great effect. Miss Olivia Eltone plays Millie Mostyn with charming propriety, and is soon on excellent terms with her audience, notably clever being her portrayal of the Manageress's careful self-restraint, combined with a determination to make the most of her chances. As Ninette, Miss Rose Helene sings and dances her way through her part with delightful gaiety and insouciance. Miss Doris Langdon is a thoroughly efficient representative of Susie, and her evident good-humour doubles one's pleasure in watching her performance. As the General, Mr. H. B. Clarke Chadwick is a great success, and keeps his audience continually amused by his comic actions and witty delivery of his lines, while his "Sir Walter Raleigh" song is one of the hits of the evening. Mons. Jules Charmettes, as Duval, plays with a strength of characterisation unusual in musical comedy, and is warmly applauded. Viscount Gushington is admirably portrayed by Mr. Howard Cridland, who enacts the dandified young nobleman to the life, and is the cause of much amusement. Mr. Frederick Parks puts in a lot of good work as the office-boy, and is responsible for a good deal of laughter. Miss Winnifred Knightley does exceedingly well with the rather meagre part of Lady Willoughby; a delightful bit of character-acting is submitted by Mr. A. M. Moore as the Waiter; and Mr. Geoffrey Allsop is amusing as the Commissionaire. The chorus is well drilled and unusually tuneful, the concerted numbers being rendered with particularly good effect.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 11,
"THE NEW ALADDIN."

Close on the heels of the pantomime season Mr. George Edwardes's Gaiety company is appearing this week at the cosy Notting Hill Gate Theatre in the musical extravaganza, or panto up-to-date, *The New Aladdin*. Another link in the chain is the highly successful impersonation of Lally by Miss Cressie Leonard, who created such a favourable impression in the recent pantomime of *The Forty Thieves* here. The piece is beautifully staged and mounted, and the new lamp burns with dazzling brightness and displays a bewilderingly beautiful and ingenious design, which quite takes away the breath of the conventional pantomime patron. The scene of the Palace in Far Cathay, by J. and P. Harker, and the Ideal London by Hawes Craven are scenes of beauty and a joy to all lovers of artistic and picturesque setting. A capital cast interprets the merry theme of this modernised version of the fairy story. As aforesaid, Miss Cressie Leonard plays the part of Lally, and she is very smart, active, and alert, as well as handsome and graceful in the rôle, and materially enhances her already high reputation as a first-rate male impersonator. Her song "Good-bye, Mr. Elephant," with its pretty dance to follow, is rapturously encored. Miss Ida Rene as the Princess is full of sparkle and animation, and her rendering of descriptive songs is distinguished by a *je ne sais quoi* which is most effective and engrossing. Her songs, "Buy a big balloon," "Married three days," and the charming "Grandmamma" song and dance," are delightfully rendered. Mr. George Gregory is the essence of comicality as Tippin, the page boy, and a tireless comedian ever ready to meet any emergency in the matter of fun-making. His duet and dance with Lally, "Down in Covent Garden," is splendidly rendered, and his singing, acting, and dancing throughout is everything that could be desired. Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., is well to the fore as the Genie of the Lamp, and proves himself a worthy follower in his father's footsteps by his versatility and ability in the rôle. His songs, "Rub the lamp," "The gay no-hat brigade," and "Waltz me around, Willie," and the dances which follow them are most divertingly delivered. Miss Jessie Lonnen is most fetching as the Charm of Paris, and her rendition of the naughty little French song and her dainty dancing are vociferously encored. Miss Nellie Lonnen also scores in the calisthenic line as Loaloh, a dancing girl; and Mr. Ernest Mahar's capital rendering with her of the famous Fragson ditty is much appreciated. Mr. John Brabourne is delightfully droll as the slow-thinking, slow-moving, lost policeman, and the scenes in which he appears supply some of the most novel and excruciatingly funny incidents in the piece. Miss Irene Verona has caught the Connie Ediss manner to a nicety, and as the amiable and adipose spirit of the ring she is immensely absurd. Her song "Back to the Strand" is capitally sung. Mr. Frank Hector acts with animation, and makes his mark in the small part of Cadi, a disgraced ambassador; and last, but not least, Miss Mary Fraser creates a most pleasing impression as the comely Scotch lassie with her song about "Dougal," and some smart costumes and dainty dancers. Miss Edith Denton also deserves commendation for her graceful and dexterous dancing. Great praise is due to a bevy of pretty maidens, too numerous to mention, who, together with their male supporters and the children who take part in the piece, materially assist in its success. Mr. Trueman Towers acts as stage-manager, with Mr. Herbert Cathcart in the front of the house and Mr. Ernest Vousden wielding the conductor's bâton.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Feb. 11, the Japanese Musical Play, entitled
"THE WHITE CHRYSANTHEMUM."

Mother Goose having concluded her very successful career, we are now having a great musical treat in the Criterion success, *The White Chrysanthemum*. Needless to say Mr. Frank Curzon's principal No. 1 Company represents the production to the best advantage. Miss Dorothy Court makes a dainty Japanese maiden of the White Chrysanthemum, and her voice is of very fine quality and well trained. Her song in the second act is admirably rendered, and accompanied by some pleasing lighting effects. Mr. O. E. Lennon causes great amusement by his quaint impersonation of the almond-eyed Celestial Sin Chong, and his two songs, in which he is ably assisted by the chorus, are very successful. Mr. F. Pope Stamper looks and acts well as Lieutenant Armitage, and has a good singing voice. Miss Maisie North makes a fascinating young widow of Betty Kenyon, and her song, "Hints," is archly delivered. Miss Gracie Sinclaire looks very prepossessing as the American heiress Cornelia Vanderdecken, and her song and dance in the third act are most effectively rendered. Mr. Davy Burnaby plays well as the dude, Lieutenant "Chippy" Belmont; and Mr. Harry Paulton, jun., proves that he inherits his father's talents by his mirth-provoking assumption of Private Perks. Mr. St. John Hamund is good as the amorous Sir Horatio Armitage, and his topical song, "The latest news," is one of the hits of the piece. The scenery is extremely pretty, and the orchestra is under the able direction of Mr. Leonard Hornsey. There is also a very tuneful and well-drilled chorus, consisting of pretty Geisha girls and Jolly Jack tars, the whole production being very favourably received.

TERRISS, ROTHERHITHE.

On Monday, Feb. 11, Wallace's Opera, entitled
"MARITANA."

This week we have a rare musical treat in the presence of Mr. J. W. Turner and his well-known company in a repertory of English opera. The piece selected for Monday night was the old favourite, *Maritana*, which was beautifully staged and excellently performed. The title-rôle was admirably represented by Miss Kitty Brownlees, who gave her various pleasing musical numbers with much ability, and her song, "Scenes that are brightest," was splendidly rendered. Her acting also merits considerable praise. Mr. J. W. Turner one again repeated his well-known impersonation of Don Cæsar, giving his famous songs, "Memories of the past" and "Let me like a soldier fall," with such excellent effect that encores were loudly demanded. Miss Jessie Dennis sings very sweetly, and made a very favourable impression as the page, Lazarillo. Mr. John Ridding was a picturesque Don José, and was loudly encored for his principal song, "Happy moments day by day." Mr. Tom Griffiths was good as Charles II. Miss Maud Esdale ably assisted in the humorous portions of the opera as the Marchioness; Mr. R. Cummings gave an able character-sketch as the senile Marquis de Montefiore; the Alcade was well played by Mr. R. Thornley; and Mr. George Ridding made a capital Captain of the Guard. There is a large and admirably trained chorus. The whole performance was received with much enthusiasm. During the week, in addition to *Maritana*, *The Bohemian Girl*, *The Lily of Killarney*, *Daughter of the Regiment*, and *Faust* are included in the bill.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 11, the Play, in Three Acts, by Jerome K. Jerome, entitled
"TOMMY."

Throughout the whole of this charming play, which is this week interesting and amusing Mr. Bannister Howard's patrons in Sydenham and neighbourhood, runs a pleasant literary flavour, contrasting effectively with the love-interest and the strong dramatic developments of the second and third acts. The dialogue, too, is full of sparkle and repartee, none of which is lost in the clear rendering given by the small, but efficient, company assembled by Miss Annie Hughes. Mr. Evelyn Vernon as the too conscientious and consequently struggling editor of the alleged comic weekly journal, *Good Humour*, is so quietly effective that at times one is led to forget that he is acting, and to sympathise with him when worried by business failure and when deprived of the great solace of his snuffbox. The practical views and common-sense of William Clodd as the manager of the paper are in striking contrast to his chief's unworldliness. He is the embodiment of a smart business man, with an eye to the main chance, and yet not without an underlying vein of sentiment where the heroine is concerned. The attributes of the character are realistically suggested by Mr. Willie Hartill, whose performance is very meritorious. Flipp, the office boy, in the hands of Mr. Robert F. Beach, is a typical impersonation of the cheeky junior, with plenty to say and a good sense of humour. As Dick Danvers Mr. Rupert Lister is quite equal to the heavy calls on his powers made by the character of a reformed rake, his discreet suggestion of a cultured Irish brogue having much charm, while his lighter scenes and love-making are equally as effective as the more sombre parts of the character developed towards the end of the play. We do not remember ever having seen Miss Annie Hughes to greater advantage than in the title-rôle of this play. In her characterisation there is girlish fun and animation, changing to real pathos and intensity under the trials and disappointments she has to meet, and her natural embodiment reached a high order of dramatic art, and fully deserved the plentiful rounds of applause accorded her. Miss Winifred Pearson as the "villainess" of the piece is unmistakably in earnest, and looks the part eminently well. Her scenes with Tommy, her rival for the hand of Dick Danvers, are full of force and conviction. Miss Ida Richardson is entrusted with the sad part of Honour, the little daughter of the adventuress, and her experienced acting was most useful to the play. The dresses worn by the ladies are rich and varied, and altogether the engagement gave every evidence of a real success.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 11, the Musical Play, by Seymour Hicks and Cosmo Hamilton, entitled
"THE BEAUTY OF BATH."

A large and appreciative audience assembled at the Kennington Theatre on Monday to welcome the first visit of Mr. George Dance's principal company in *The Beauty of Bath*, one of the brightest and most mirthful musical plays of the day. Mr. Dance's production has been brought completely down to date, so that those who witnessed *The Beauty of Bath's* début at the Aldwych Theatre some twelve months since were delighted with new songs and fresh business. The changes are all for the best, and as a result the piece is thoroughly topical, and assured of a great reception on its provincial tour. The music is lively and tuneful, and the lilting melody, "Betty, the Beauty of Bath," lingers long in the memory. The dances are tricky and clever, the libretto full of genuine humour, and the staging and accessories are of the highest order. Gay and picturesque is the scene in the first act, when the foyer of the Mascot Theatre is filled with beautifully-gowned ladies and well-groomed men, whilst the Ball Room in the second act forms an effective set. The company is composed of artists of the front rank, and is particularly strong on the comedy side. Mr. Leslie Holland is a manly and sailorly Lieut. Richard Alington, acting with consummate skill, and infusing a rollicking dash into his love-making, which makes him a warm favourite. Miss Gladys Guy is winsome and fascinating as the Hon. Betty Silverthorne, the Beauty of Bath, putting a lot of vivacity into her interpretation of the part, and singing well. In the song, "Au revoir, my little hyacinth," she is joined by Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, a young baritone with a splendid voice. The hyacinth song, with its haunting refrain, proves the hit of the evening. As Lord Quorn, Mr. Reggie Grey makes a big hit; whilst Mr. Sheriff Clunes is very good in the character of Mr. Beverley. Sir Timothy Bun, in the skilful hands of Mr. Jack Crichton, is the mainspring of the comedy, and is a genuine humorist; and Miss Ida Laurie is quaint as Mrs. Goodge. Miss Jessie Fraser proved herself a sweet singer and nice dancer as Miss Truly St. Cyr; whilst the charming Miss Maggie White, in the part of Dorothy Bun, obtained a double encore for her clever vocalisation of a comic song to ballad music. Mr. F. Leister was a stately Viscount Bellingham; Miss Edith Cruikshanks made an ideal motherly Mrs. Alington; and Miss Florence Hilton deserves mention as Lady Bun. The following ladies made an attractive octette of Bath Buns:—Misses F. Fowler, N. Wood, M. Hay, E. Vivian, E. Edwards, E. Lee, P. Clifford, and A. Burton, and they were all good dancers. Mr. T. E. Clarke took the part of the groom; and Mr. F. H. Pedgrift scored by his excellent singing as the Hon. Mr. Gorst. Mr. Gordon Seamford is in charge of the orchestra, and the entire production is in the hands of Mr. Leslie Holland, who is as proficient in stage-management as in acting.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Feb. 11, the Farcical Play,
"THE ELECTRIC MAN."

Mr. J. B. Mulholland's company is appearing this week at the Royal County Theatre in this ingenious and amusing production, and a most favourable reception has been accorded it. Mr. Bernard Copping plays the dual rôle of Walter Everest and "the electric man," and in the latter capacity especially contributes largely to the success of the play. A capital impersonation of the part of Dr. Strange is given by Mr. Sydney Lynn; and Mr. Legai Robinson acquits himself admirably as the amateur detective, Mr. Jobbins. Miss Dorothy Hullah makes a stately and dignified Mrs. Everest; whilst Mr. Chris Grace is an admirable General Pomeroy. A word of commendation is deserved by Miss Amy Fanchette, who scores successfully as the landlady, Mrs. Anderson; and Miss Isa Bellington is an engaging Mary and Miss Gertrude Tate is an acceptable Stella. The farce is preceded by the comedietta *An Obliging Friend*, in which the parts were taken as follows: Frank Dutton, Mr. Sydney Lynn; Julius Wopper, Mr. Legai Robinson; Mrs. Wopper, Miss Amy Fanchette; Ellen Audrey, Miss Gertrude Tate; and Susan, Miss Dorothy Hullah.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Feb. 11, the Drama, entitled
"SATAN IN PARADISE."

The Jewish Operatic and Dramatic Company, with their combination, gave a performance on Monday evening of Lateiner's drama, *Satan in Paradise*, which was evidently well appreciated by the audience assembled at the Pavilion in large numbers. They followed the play with keen attention, and evinced great interest at the pathetic incidents throughout the piece. Although the title may appear to be somewhat startling, yet there is no glamour of legendary romance in the story, which is of a very simple character, dealing entirely with the domestic side of life. Mr. C. Natanson's fine voice and dignified manner were well fitted for the representation of Yosele, which he played with firmness and determination. Mme. Natanson realised the dramatic possibilities of the part, and gave an impersonation of Henele which was natural, sympathetic, and at times powerful. Mr. J. Fineberg emphasised the malevolence of the malformed Leizerke with conspicuous success; and Mr. J. Goldsmith enacted with skill and care the part of the Minister. Mr. Isaacowitch must be awarded all praise for his clever handling of Alikum. Mr. S. Schilling as Binom and Miss R. Bryh as Zisele, with their duets and dances, created unbounded delight, the audience being vociferous in their demands for encores. The Malke Khane of Mme. Goldstein was meritorious; and able assistance was rendered by Mr. N. Hamburger as Banka and Miss Lubritzky as a child. During the week, *Thirty Years Under the Earth*, *Menasha*, *Esther and Haman*, *Anna Karenina*, *The Jewish Hamlet*, and *Holy Sabbath* have been billed.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Feb. 11, the Drama entitled
"WOMAN AND WINE."

Nearly ten years have elapsed since this drama, written by Messrs. Arthur Shirley and Ben Landeck, was produced at the Pavilion Theatre, Mile End; and the Zola-like realism of some of the scenes caused considerable sensation. It will be remembered that the hero, a weak-willed law student, is drawn into the meshes of a Parisian Phryne, named Marcel Rigadout. She, however, has not been quite able to swamp his better nature or his nobler resolves by her pretended love, and fearing the influence of the young man's good genius, Mary Andrews, she compromises her in the eyes of her lover. At a later stage of the story we see the sensational results of the rivalry between Marcel and the demi-mondaine known as "La Colombe." The last-mentioned is bent upon revenge; and the women after a ball meet in the market-place at the break of dawn. At first La Colombe's bold challenge to fight with knives is laughed at by Marcel, but stung beyond endurance by the taunt hissed in her ear, she strips off her ballroom dress, and in bodice and petticoat, with bare arms and neck, clasps the knife that the ghoul-like Crucru has just sharpened; La Colombe follows her example, and the women face each other for a fight to the death, Crucru and the bully Beaudet being the only witnesses of the scene. Marcel is stabbed to the heart by her furious antagonist, and falls dead. The body is placed by the two men in a large coffin-like box, and covered with roses. Presently the heroine comes to buy her daily stock of blooms, and while making up her poses uncovers to her horror the face of the murdered woman.

The drama is admirably performed by the members of Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds' company. The hero, Dick Seymour, is played with much earnestness and power by Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds, who in the scenes of stress and passion makes a very vivid impression, his excellent acting evoking the hearty applause of the audience. Miss Violet Sims as Mary Andrews presents a striking contrast to the two women just mentioned, and quite realises the gentle, lovable character of the heroine. Her terror and horror when she catches a glimpse of Marcel in the rose-littered box are expressed with harrowing fidelity, and she again scores where Mary in a dream assists at the trial of her lover. There is much to commend in Miss Cissie St. Elmo's portrayal of the dangerously fascinating Marcel Rigadout, and she avails herself of all the opportunities the part presents. Miss Joan Pereira puts passion and purpose into her decidedly telling impersonation of La Colombe. Both ladies engage in the sensational fight with spirit and determination. Mr. Fred W. Goddard deserves every credit for his very effective handling of the part of the bully, Alphonso Beaudet. Mr. John S. Haydon plays well as Hugh Seymour, Dick's father; and the part of Professor Santer is sustained with considerable humour by Mr. George H. Child. Mr. Harry Harrop does good work as Charles Santer, and Miss Ethel Vinroy acts the rôle of the young widow, Janet Marlow, with vivacious energy. Miss Gladys Osborne is suitably placed as Mme. Perinet. Mr. E. Edmonds supplies a neat character-sketch of Pierre Crucru; and Mr. Frank Thomas as the Duc d'Arnac, and Mr. Charles Hilton as the jockey, Bob Tipton, also deserve favourable mention. The various minor characters are all carefully played. Special mention should be made of the Lottie Stone troupe of whirlwind dancers, who are responsible for some clever work in the ballroom scene. The play is mounted in elaborate style, and special mention may be made of the ballroom and flower market scenes. The drama has been received with rapturous applause by crowded houses at the West London Theatre.

LYRIC OPERA HOUSE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Feb. 11, E. Hill Mitchelson's romantic Drama, entitled
"THE ASSASSIN."

The Lyric's patrons this week have before them the above-named highly successful drama on Russian life. The play is presented by Mr. Augustine Knight, who also takes the leading part, Prince Demetri, exceedingly well. He is greeted with prolonged hissing whenever he appears on the stage. As Ivan Ipanoff Mr. Edward E. Ashby looks every inch a soldier, and is particularly good; the aristocratic Anarchist, Duke Karl, is successfully portrayed by Mr. Theo Balfour; Mr. Edwin Jenner, who also acts as general-manager, is good as the lazy Irish officer, Captain O'Neil; and Mr. Chauncy Morris makes a capital General Nicol, the Chief of Police. Miss Ella Vane cleverly performs her part of Countess Wanda, her duet with Prince Demetri being very effective; Miss Frances Waring is pathetic as Nita; as Connie Jonathan, the bluntly straightforward American visitor, Miss Hettie Senior is very popular; and the comedy is well supplied by Mr. Cecil H. Raymond as Baron Alfonso, Mr. Tom J. Taylor as Peter, and Miss Marie E. Robertson, a pretty and smart Katrina. A word of praise must be added for the way the play is costumed and staged. The military uniforms look very smart, and the scenery (by Mr. E. Egerton) is particularly effective.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Feb. 11, the Comedy, entitled
"THE FREEDOM OF SUZANNE."

A good Hutchison company, with Miss Mabel Love in the title-rôle, has been attracting good houses to the Fulham this week. Miss Mabel Love is proving herself a very capable performer in light comedy, and the part of the wayward Suzanne suits her to a nicety. She acts with charming brightness and spirit, and shows a capital sense of humour, as well as plenty of feeling in the tender passages. The difficult part of the husband, Charles Trevor, is well undertaken by Mr. Templer Powell, and he quite succeeded in the second and third acts in enlisting the sympathies of the audience, in his efforts to regain the affections of his lady. The attractive rôle of Sir Horace Hatton is cleverly played by Mr. Patrick Quill; and Mr. F. G. Thurstans raises many a laugh by his humorous study of Suzanne's giddy old uncle, Harding. Mr. J. H. Batson gives a skilful sketch of the antique ladykiller, Lord Batchet; and Mr. Richard Neville puts a lot of good work into the rôle of Tommy Keston. Mr. Townsend Whitling plays the evil genius, Captain Cecil, in a sombre style, but with some power; and Mr. Bruce Smith is an efficient Butler. Miss Annie Stalman does well as Lady Charlotte, the mother-in-law, making the very most of the part; and Miss Florence Harwood is humorous as the companion, Minching. Miss Dorothy Lait does what is necessary as Mrs. Tustall; and Mrs. F. Turner is effective in the character of the Charwoman. Miss Violet Ley acts quietly and effectively as Lady Isabel, and adds to the effect of the impersonation by great personal charm. The dresses are exceedingly handsome, notably those worn by Miss Mabel Love and Miss Violet Ley, and the scenery contains some excellent sets. *The Freedom of Suzanne* is preceded by a little piece called *Her Dearest Friend*, capably acted by Miss Annie Stalman, Mr. P. Quill, and Miss Violet Ley.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, Feb. 11,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Arthur Shirley, and Benjamin Landeck, entitled
"SAVED FROM THE SEA."

The popular stock company is, after a long run of pantomime, again holding the boards here, and with Mr. J. M. East's judicious selection of really popular dramas, excellent business is being done. *Saved from the Sea*, which is being presented this week, is full of intensely pathetic dramatic situations and thrilling incidents, which are extremely well balanced by a deal of excellent comedy; and the stock company, headed by that experienced and popular actor, Mr. Albert Ward, is entirely successful in both departments. Mr. Ward gives a fine, sterling embodiment of the young fisherman, Dan Ellington; Mr. W. H. Hatchman plays Peter Scalcher, the rascally inquiry agent, in a cool, calculating manner, whilst later, when as a convict he is answering for his misdeeds, he almost evokes the sympathies of the audience; Mr. Frank Stone submits a fine performance as the villain, Richard Fenton; Mr. Horace Hunter gives one of his carefully thought-out character studies as the surly Jim Weaver, attention to every little detail in dress and make-up being evident throughout; Mr. Teddy Coleman plays Billy Snooks in a rollicking vein; Mr. Frank Harrison is extremely funny as a lovesick young farmer, Jennings; Miss Marie Wright is full of life and fun as Polly Blake; and that experienced actress, Mrs. Calhaem, as Mrs. Blake gives a performance of remarkable merit. It was replete with all the best qualities of the old school of sterling acting. Miss Beaumont-Collins as Nancy Ellington acts with great emotional ability, her deep, thrilling voice being exactly suited to the portrayal of extreme mental anguish. In the scene where Nancy is parted from her husband the actress rises to a great height of dramatic expression. Miss Millie Reeves makes a refreshingly natural boy as Jack Ellington, Dan's child; Mr. C. Groves, jun., fills the part of Inspector Murphy with much credit, and as the venerable chaplain of Barchester gaol Mr. Bran Daly is successful, the Governor of the gaol being effectively impersonated by Mr. Francis Lyle. Other minor characters are safe in the hands of Miss Ettie Godfrey, and Messrs. Walter Pounds, Arthur James, Tom Parkes, and E. Godfrey. The scenery and effects are quite adequate.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, Feb. 11, the Drama, entitled
"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."

The intensely interesting drama, *The Convict's Daughter*, has been proving a powerful draw at the Standard this week. Nightly the theatre has been packed with an appreciative audience. This is largely due to the substantial and praiseworthy efforts of Mr. Ashley Page as Michael Grahame and Convict 89. He performs his arduous duties with ease, playing with force and skill throughout, and frequently with a touch of humour which is quite irresistible. Mr. W. Felton submits a telling impersonation of Frederick Neville; and Mr. Ernest E. Norris creates a favourable impression, and is convincing as Harold Trevalyen. As the rascally nephew, Jasper Thorn, Mr. J. C. Aubrey depicts the character with striking force, his assumption of the rôle being worthy of high praise. Mr. John Sargent plays to perfection as Frederick Harper, the superintendent of Blackmoor Gaol; and Mr. Johnny Chippendale as Patrick O'Laragan does much to enliven the proceedings of the evening. Miss East Robertson plays with sincerity and feeling as Marian Thorn, and Miss Mattie Everett is a lively and able Betty Hyne. Much praise is due to Miss Marion Denvil for her fine portrayal of Edith; she presents a capital example of high histrionic ability, and the part is very creditably sustained throughout. The mounting of the piece has received every attention, and the production is in every way a conspicuous success.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 11, the Drama, entitled
"AT CRIPPLE CREEK."

Lovers of realistic drama are this week being greatly delighted by the representations which the members of Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company are giving at the Dalston Theatre of the exciting play *At Cripple Creek*. One of the chief characters in the play, the interest of which centres in a gold-mining camp in America, is represented by Mr. Stanley Bedwell, who appears as Joe Mayfield, and admirably plays the part of the rough-and-ready miner. Miss Agnes Verity as Dynamite Ann, who is very popular among the mining community, becomes a favourite with the audience. Mr. Eric Hudson as Martin Mason, the terror of Cripple Creek, and Mr. Oscar Power as Manuel Alvarez, a bully, represent a species of villain apparently indispensable in such plays; while a faithful Indian named Wahketah is effectivelp portrayed by Mr. Arthur D. Layland. Miss Lily Beagle as Belle Gordon, "the luckiest girl in the Creek," Miss Norah Dillon as Sarah Lively, and Miss Daisy Carlton as Maggie Mason each do well. It should be added that Miss Dillon takes part with Mr. Will Hook (Reggie Harwood) in a most amusing duet, entitled "Mr. Crocodile." The excellent company also includes Mr. Harry Leander, Mr. Charles Watson, Mr. Tom Sharp, Mr. Alfred Cooper, and Mr. Edward Rochester. The scenery and general effects are well managed.

COVENT GARDEN BALL.

The Shrove Tuesday ball held at Covent Garden was by far the most successful of the season. The proceedings were enlivened by the presence of the members of the Automobile Association in full force, and a souvenir, in the form of a fitted morocco satchel, was presented to each lady visitor. A handsome diamond star, the first prize, was taken by an artistic costume, "Real Wedgwood," a remarkably pretty dress, being an exact replica of the china figure. A costly fur coat was taken by "An English Rose." The following were some of the winners of the many other special prizes:—"Olden Days," "A Darkie Cake-walk," "A Garland of Gibson Girls," "The Jamaica Disaster" (with electrical effects), "Star of Ireland," "A Dutch Girl," and "Valentine's Day." "Pancakes" was the title of a "creation" in rich yellow satin trimmed with spangles, and with chiffon painted in imitation of pancakes, and surmounted by a head-dress constructed chiefly of electric lamps, but in the form of a frying-pan with a pancake inside. "London Day by Day" was quite up to date with a white satin dress on which were panels representing the opening of Parliament. A lady in red and black, with a large Mephisto hat and plenty of spangles, called herself "Red-and-Black Devil"; "Monte Carlo" was pretty in white, blue, and pink, with painted representations of gambling materials; and a variety of more familiar dresses, such as "Toreador," "Charles II.," "Swiss Peasant," and "Mephistopheles," as well as several handsome dominoes, added to the diversity and gaiety of the scene.

Dan Godfrey's band delighted the company with its usual well selected programme of popular dance music.

The next ball will be held on Friday, March 1.

MR. MULHOLLAND ON THE SUBURBAN THEATRE.

Mr. J. B. Mulholland delivered an address, entitled "A Straight Talk and Several Hobby Horses," to the members of the O.P. Club at the Criterion Restaurant on Sunday evening. Mr. Alfred R. Robbins presided, and there was a large attendance.

The chairman introduced Mr. Mulholland as an old friend of the Club, and a good friend to every playgoer in London. A straight talk generally meant something unpleasant, but he hoped that Mr. Mulholland would agreeably disappoint them on that occasion.

Mr. Mulholland said he had promised to deliver a straight talk, and he thought he might begin with a straight question, which would indicate the nature of at least one of his hobby-horses. This question was—what magic was there in the charmed circle of the half-mile radius that prevented the recognition of achievement in any direction outside that charmed circle? He hoped that this straight question would be answered by some of the fervid playgoers present, as he considered it was a very regrettable thing in the interests of play making and play producing. This had not always been so. He had been credited with being the founder of the suburban theatre. In the suburban theatre he built some thirteen years ago one of the foundation-stones was the discovery of the new author, the production of new plays, and the manufacture of new audiences from the great army of the indifferent or the hostile. Notwithstanding what one had heard in some directions, there was no doubt that the first-night Press criticisms had a very great effect with regard to the success or otherwise of a new play, especially if it was put on for a short run. In those early days the first nights at the suburban theatre were on a level with those in the West-end, the only difference being that in the suburbs they had a genuine paying audience. But he believed that in the success achieved lay the germ of failure, because, as these theatres increased and multiplied, inferior melodramas were produced, the result being that the leading critics ceased to attend, and their journals were represented by sub-deputy-assistant critics, who had neither the courage nor the experience to praise strongly or to blame strongly. They asked for fair criticism, not for praise, for when blame was well administered it was often more stimulating and helpful than praise. He was not sure whether as these suburban theatres increased some influence was not brought to bear, because certain managers in the West-end felt that these outlying theatres, instead of being helpful in creating new audiences—as he had already suggested—were in the nature of opposition, and, instead of being outposts of the dramatic army on the frontier, were placed there to cut off the supplies. As time went on indifference set in, which, in certain directions, gradually drifted into hostility. Mr. Mulholland then proceeded to read extracts from an article from the pen of Mr. William Archer, which appeared some weeks ago in the *Tribune*, and in which the present theatrical system was criticised, reference being made to the suburban theatres. It was stated that these theatres should be training schools for actors, but that not one of them had any independent life of its own, except the Standard at Shoreditch. It was also alleged by Mr. Archer that the suburban stage feebly mirrored the West-end productions, and a mimicry was practised which scarcely deserved to be called acting. Mr. Mulholland went on to say that he was asked by Mr. Archer to give his views on the article. Well, he did give his views to Mr. Archer's representative, but they were unfit for publication. He, however, pointed out the discrepancies contained in the article, and next week Mr. Archer said it was with amazement he learned that his remarks had given acute displeasure to one of the suburban managers. At the very time the article in question appeared such well-known actors as Mr. John Hare, Miss Lillian Braithwaite, Mr. Seymour Hicks, and others were appearing at the suburban theatres. The speaker then read a list of well-known plays that had within the last few years been produced at suburban houses, and pointed out that Miss Wynne-Matthison was scarcely noticed when she appeared in one of the first problem plays in the suburbs, but later, when she appeared in a poor part in the West-end, her great talents were recognised in all directions. Then, again, Mr. Workman, the Jack Point in the recent Savoy revival, had been seen in the suburbs for the last ten years. Why was he not discovered? The speaker also referred to Mr. George Thorn, and to Miss Ellen Terry, who appeared for the first time in *The Good Hope*, in the suburbs. On that occasion one of the most important of the daily papers declined to send a representative, because it was only a suburban production. All present were professing playgoers, but how many were going on the following evening to see the new play at the Camden Theatre? He asked those who were going to put up their hands. Only one hand—that showed he was justified in his remarks. Mr. Mulholland next referred to the conversion of the Grand Theatre, Islington, the Brixton, the Stoke Newington, the Richmond, and the Ealing theatres into music halls. While appreciating the admirable artistic work one witnessed at the halls, he thought that most of them had a higher opinion of the destinies of the theatre than that it should become a two-houses-a-night music hall. The question to be considered was, how could they put this thing right. Forty years ago they had the resident-manager at the provincial theatres, and he was surrounded by a stock company, and these stock companies were composed of excellent, hard-working, experienced actors and actresses. And then, too, the managers were actors first and business men afterwards. He was afraid that the opposite was now the rule; the theatres were largely controlled by trusts, the managers being mere figure-heads. Now, there was only one producing centre—London, whereas there used to be from twenty to a hundred producing centres in the provinces. The author had in those days a better chance of getting his play produced. He believed that, with one exception, all the new plays he had himself produced had been hawked round to every West-end manager, who, however, could not afford to risk trying an unknown author. Of course, there were a few exceptions to this rule. The West-end theatre was frequented by the late-diner and the passive digester. The piece played only two hours, but when it went into the provinces that did not satisfy the provincial playgoer, the first piece being only a time-killer. He therefore preferred the music hall entertainment, which he got at a lower price. The West-end successes were often played by inferior travelling companies, the actors' salaries having been cut down as low as possible. He estimated that a generation of playgoers was not more than seven or eight years, and unless help was forthcoming the music hall would in that period become universal.

After a few remarks from the chairman, Mr. Johnson, a member of the committee of the Club, said he thought that the majority of those present would agree in the main with Mr. Mulholland, but he himself did not altogether agree with the reasons he set forth for the present state of things.

Mr. James Glover followed with a racy speech, pointing out that Mr. Mulholland had told the audience nothing new. He did not know what that gentleman wanted the dramatic critic or the O.P. Club to do.

Other speakers followed, and Mr. Mulholland having replied, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to him and to the chairman.

"MAJOR JENNINGS."

Original Farce, in Three Acts, by F. A. Besant Rice, Produced on Monday, Feb. 11, at the Camden Theatre.

John Steadman ..... MR. PERCY MARSHALL
Mr. Philip Stephens .... MR. ARTHUR G. BROWN
Mr. Prince ..... MR. JAMES R. LA FANE
Hewett ..... MR. ROBERT BOTTOMLEY
Miss Rosalie Adelaide Phelps ..... MISS EUGENIE VERNIE
Mrs. Iddles ..... MISS KATHARINE STEWART
Miss Charlotte Grover ..... MISS NELLY GRIFFEN
Mrs. O'Shea ..... MISS AUDREY STAFFORD
Miss Williams ..... MISS BEATRICE MARSDEN
Samuel Iddles ..... MR. E. M. ROBSON

Mr. F. A. Besant Rice bears two names whose literary partnership as novel-writers during the Victorian era was almost as famous as that of Erckmann-Chatrian, and it was therefore with peculiar pleasure that we heard on Monday evening, at the Camden Theatre, the hearty welcome accorded by a popular audience to an original farce from his pen. Many productions of the kind that have been given on the London stage have been taken from the French, and, as we have often complained in these columns, the abstraction of the Gallic naughtiness has resulted in the whittling away of the fun. Mr. Rice owes nothing to a Parisian original, but has utilised simple material with no little dramatic skill, and mostly with a sense of humour. His comic situations show, too, that he has the instinct of the theatre; and it is only necessary for him to cut the lengthy dialogue in places and to pull the piece together to make it entirely acceptable to a popular audience. *Major Jennings* is decidedly promising.

The action of the piece takes place on three consecutive days in June, and the scene of the three acts is the offices of the Infallible Matrimonial Agency, Duke-street, St. James's. Mr. John Steadman, the proprietor, deplores the dulness of business to his friend Samuel Iddles. People now go in for motoring instead of marriage, complains Steadman, and little Iddles regrets that he did not adopt a chauffeur instead of taking a wife. Iddles happens to be the very man that Steadman wants to see. Would he just take charge of the office during his absence? Iddles reluctantly consents, and from that moment is plunged into a maelstrom of trouble. He sends his first applicant, a long-haired versifier who desires a rich alliance, to an irate widow, who hates the very name of poet; he is made violent love to by Mrs. O'Shea, an Irish widow; and is taken aback when his wife's sister calls and wishes to be placed among Steadman's clients. The situation is compromising for both, and a compact between the two to say nothing about it is sealed with a kiss.

This osculation contributes further to the undoing of Iddles. His forward conduct with a lady client is reported by the typewriter to Steadman, and that unscrupulous bounder makes use of his knowledge to coerce Iddles into a temporary impersonation of Major Jennings from India, in order that Mrs. Rosalie Adelaide Phelps, the violent-tempered widow, may not be disappointed. The return of the poet, bruised and battered, from an interview with Mrs. Phelps, adds to the fun, the climax being reached in the last act with the arrival of the very large wife of the diminutive Iddles, who is threatened with divorce but eventually taken back and forgiven. As the curtain is falling for the last time the arrival of the real Major Jennings is announced.

Mr. E. M. Robson, whose name is in large type on the programme, is an admirable farce actor, and the comic terror, exaggerated strut, and amusing swagger of little Iddles as represented by him always make for laughter. He introduces genuine comic business, which he will no doubt much increase during his association with the character. Mr. Percy Marshall, an actor of whom we see too little in London, lies with admirable sangfroid as John Steadman, the ready resource of the impecunious proprietor of the matrimonial agency being admirably suggested by the actor, who plays throughout with a light-hearted gaiety that is infectious, and does not miss a point in the dialogue. Mr. Arthur G. Brown as Philip Stephens, in make-up and manner, reminds one of Archibald Grosvenor, the idyllic poet in *Patience*, and makes the part stand out by his excellent treatment. Miss Eugenie Vernie as Mrs. Phelps gives droll effect to that lady's paroxysms of despair and outbursts of middle-aged tenderness; Miss Katharine Stewart, by her stature and "firmness" of manner, realises the wife who makes little Iddles "sit up"; Miss Audrey Stafford is a fascinating Mrs. O'Shea, anxious for a second essay in matrimony; Miss Beatrice Marsden makes an attractive Miss Williams, the typewriter; Mr Robert Bottomley is a smart page boy; Mr. James R. La Fane contributes a neat bit of character as Prince, a bailiff; and Miss Nelly Griffen adds to the success as Miss Charlotte Grover.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

At the students' recital on Wednesday evening the first item on the programme was a piano solo by Miss Edith Ballard, of Paderewski's "Allegro Agitato." Miss Jennie Watson played Wieniawski's "Legende" for her violin solo, and produced a good tone, but the work is beyond her executive power at present; and Miss Elizabeth Weiss, a very youthful performer, was fairly successful in Raff's piano solo "Tambourine." A mandoline solo on "Russian Airs" (De Beriot) was one of the most attractive instrumental performances of the concert; it was played by Miss L. Ida Cooper, a clever pupil of Mme. Waldahoff. Next in order of merit was Miss Gladys Beable's rendering of Chopin's "Polonaise in A," and a neatly-executed violin solo, "Petit air varié," Op. 89, by Dancla, by Miss Gwenllian Richards. The vocal pieces were two songs by Mallinson, "Let them not vanish" and "The Servian Maid," sung by Miss Jessie Larkin; while Miss Evelyn Roberts was only moderately successful in "Connais-tu le pays?" from Thomas's *Mignon*. Mr. Herbert Stuttle was heard in Adams's song "By the Fountain," and Miss Helena Spicer in "Purple Heather," by Kate Stainer. Miss Spicer has a sympathetic voice, but must cultivate style. Mr. E. Dacre has a most pleasing voice, and displayed good sense in choosing "Eleanor," by Mallinson, a song well within his power. The last song was "Golden Days," by Sullivan, in which Mrs. G. Mitchenall was much applauded. Mr. Herbert H. Holliday, a pupil of Mr. Cairns James, gave a recitation from Dickens's immortal "Pickwick," the selection being "Mr. Winkle's Misadventure at Bath." It was a happy idea of Mr. Holliday's to give this extract in place of the usual hackneyed recitation. The accompanist was Miss Jenny Hyman.

ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY.

At the Royal Albert Hall on Wednesday the Royal Choral Society performed Sir E. Elgar's striking and artistic setting of Newman's "Dream of Gerontius." In the past Gounod's "Redemption" was usually given by theRoyal Society in their Ash Wednesday concert. Last Wednesday's concert proved interesting, as Miss Edith Miller and Mr. Gervase Elwes were new-comers who greatly distinguished themselves, Miss Miller singing the part of th eangel remarkably well. This singer will also appear at the next concert, when Elgar's last work, "The iKngdom," will be given. Although Mr. Elwes is new to these concerts, he has sung the music of Gerontius before, and with excellent results; while Mr. Ffrangcon-Davis gave a familiar rendering of the Priest and the Angel of Agony, and they both, therefore, sang the music woth experience and conviction. The chorus was on Wednesday more than usually good, the chorus of Angelicals being sung with fine effect. Sir Frederick Bridge conducted the orchestra with much success and to the manifest enjoyment of a numerous audience.

DEATH OF MR. W. CHEESMAN.

We regret to record the death early on Sunday last of Mr William Cheesman, an actor of great experience and considerable ability. The deceased was seriously ill only a few days, a cold developing into pneumonia, which quickly had a fatal termination.

Mr. Cheesman was born in Islington in 1850, and made his first appearance in London as old Stanley in *Paul Pry* at the opening of Toole's Theatre in February, 1882. He remained under the management of Mr. Toole during the next four years, playing many parts, and twice appearing at Sandringham on the occasion of Prince Albert Victor's birthday. After a tour with Mr. Chas. Grove in *Confusion*, Mr. Cheesman was engaged by Mr. Edgar Bruce for the production of Messager's *La Béarnaise* at the Opéra Comique. When *Alice in Wonderland* was produced at the Prince of Wales's on Dec. 23, 1886, Mr. Cheesman appeared as the Mock Turtle. Subsequently he went on tour with *La Béarnaise*. He played Mr. Jenkins in *The Barrister*, produced at the Comedy Theatre on Sept. 6, 1887. In the spring of 1887 Mr. Cheesman joined Mr. Edouin at the Strand, playing, among other parts, Lord Drummin in *Airey Anne*, produced on April 4; Goodman Gay in *His Wives*, produced on May 23; and Burrows in *Run Wild*, produced on June 30. Mr. Cheesman was the Job in the tentaive performance of *Tares* at the Prince of Wales's on Jan. 31, and the Rev. Jacob Mordaunt in the Seebohm version of *Little Lord Fauntleroy* at the same theatre on Feb. 23. When Mrs. Kendal and Mrs. Oscar Beringer organised the first tour of *The Real Little Lord Fauntleroy*, Mr. Cheesman was selected for the part of Havisham. In December, 1888, he was engaged by the Carl Rosa Light Opera Company for the part of Don Trccadero in *Paul Jones*, and for eighteen months continued to play this character. On Nov. 8, 1890, Miss Violet Melnotte, being the temporary tenant of Toole's, produced *The Two Recruits*, with Mr. Cheesman as Colonel Gunning. At Christmastide Mr. Cheesman played Glumboso and Paledda in *The Rose and the Ring*, dramatised by Mr. Saville Clarke from Thackeray's story, and produced at the Prince of Wales's on Dec. 20. In the spring of 1891 he appeared under Sir Augustus Harris's management in the burlesque of *Venus*. In July, 1891, Mr. Cheesman appeared at the Princess's as Tom Woollett in *Fate and Fortune*. Then he was engaged by Sir Chas. Wyndham to understudy the late Mr. David James in *Miss Decima* at the Criterion. In June, 1892, he succeeded to Mr. Arthur William's part in *The Noble Art* at Terry's. He joined Mrs. Langtry for her season at the Haymarket, appearing in *The Queen of Manoa*, produced on Sept. 15, as Mr. Wildrake, and in *Agatha Tylden*, produced on Oct. 17, he played Jabez Thompson. In February, 1893, Mr. Cheesman again joined Mr. Horace Sedger, this time to play Mr. Harry Monkhouse's part in *The Magic Opal*. He came to the Adelphi in May, 1894, to play the Doctor in *The Two Orphans*, then revived. In the revival of *Jack Sheppard* at the Gaiety, shortly ensuing, he appeared as Sir Roland Trenchard. In the autumn of 1895 he succeeded Mr. Anson as Bill Feltoe in *Vanity Fair* at the Court. More recently Mr. Cheesman appeared in many popular musical comedies, including *The Girl from Kay's* and *Mr. Popple*. He was with Mr. Cyril Maude for some time, playing in *That Brute Simmonds*, which preceded *Beauty and the Barge*, and later at the Waldorf in *Shore Acres*.

Mr. Cheesman's genial disposition made him popular and highly esteemed amongst a large circle of friends, and the news of his unexpected decease has been received with feelings of deep regret. The funeral took place yesterday at Mortlake, the carriages leaving 28, Aldenburg-gardens, Lavender Hill, at eleven o'clock.

THE DRAMA IN VICTORIA STREET.

The bijou theatre of the Amateur Players' Association was filled to overflowing by members and friends on Wednesday evening, when three little pieces from the pen of Miss Bertha N. Graham, who may be described as the playwright laureate of the Association, were given—two of them for the first time. Proceedings were rather slow at first, only a short one-act play and a terpsichorean item being got through during the first two hours. As "Big Ben" chimed ten, however, the curtain was induced to go up on a monologue by Miss Graham, entitled *In Furnished Rooms*. It is a gruesome tale of a struggling lady journalist, who comes home to her poor apartment, which she shares with her invalid mother. She sits down to write a fashion article for a periodical, taking care not to disturb her mother, who lies asleep. An ominous silence seems to pervade the room, and at length the young girl goes to the bedside and finds her mother dead. A note left on the coverlet shows that the invalid, unable to bear her affliction, has taken an overdose of laudanum to put an end to her sufferings. The little piece was effectively acted by Miss Edyth Olive, who led up to the final poignant scene with rare dramatic skill. Elocutionary grace was apparent throughout, and the display of grief at the close was heart-rending. Miss Olive's acting exercised a remarkable influence throughout, and the applause bestowed upon her finished rendering was deservedly loud and prolonged. The other novelty by Miss Graham was a play in one act, entitled

"PITCH AND TOSS."

Andy Withacomb ..... MR. ERNEST HOWE
Mrs. Ellison ..... MRS. TEIGNMOUTH SHORE
Tessie Wilson ..... MISS AIMEE FOWLER

An author is also the chief figure of the above piece, but in this case proves to be a writer for the stage. For years Andy Withacomb has been striving with little success to earn a livelihood by writing plays. At length he gets a commission from a lady whose arrival he awaits with impatience. He first receives a visit from his cousin, Mrs. Ellison, who tearfully laments that her husband is neglecting her for a typewriter engaged in his office. Andy soothes her with promises of help, and her departure is followed by the arrival of Tessie Wilson, an actress with whom Andy had been acquainted in former years. The girl has found a "protector" in a well-to-do City man, whom she has induced to take a theatre for the purpose of exploiting her in a play which she wishes Andy to write. Andy, remembering an occasion when Tessie helped herself to some money belonging to him, receives her without enthusiasm, but when he learns that she is the patroness he is expecting he snatches at the chance. In the course of negotiations, however, Andy learns that Tessie is no other than the objectionable typewriter by whom his cousin's happiness is impaired, and not only refuses to take up the commission, but threatens to hand Tessie over to the police on account of her former theft unless she promises to sail by the first boat to America. The girl eventually gives the required undertaking, and Andy, having preserved his cousin's happiness, is left to ruminate over his shattered hopes. Despite the improbabilities of the piece, it is well written, and the dialogue contains no little humour, especially in the enumeration by the aspiring actress of her desires regarding her part. The rôle was acted with much skill by Miss Aimée Fowler, who cleverly assumed the affectations of the character. Mr. Ernest Howe well maintained the arduous part of the author, taking it perhaps a little too seriously; and Mrs Teignmouth Shore was a sympathetic and well-spoken Mrs. Ellison. Other items of the programme were *The Rose with a Thorn*, also by Miss Graham, a series of speciality dances by Miss Nancy Borrett, whose clever and varied performance revealed the existence of a peculiar "coster dance," and guitar songs by Miss Aimée Fowler.

"NIGEL."

Romantic Opera, in Two Acts, Composed by Stephen R. Philpott, Written by Percy Pinkerton, Produced, for the First Time in London, at the Shakespeare, Clapham, on Friday, Feb. 8.

Nigel ..... MR. F. J. HARGRAVE
Geoffrey ..... MR. TOM GRIFFITHS
Colin ..... MR. G. RIDDING
Margery ..... MISS JESSIE DENNIS
Winnifred ..... MISS CHRISTINE GOMEZ

The stock of English opera was added to agreeably on the 8th inst. at the Shakespeare Theatre, where the Turner Opera Company had been fulfilling a most successful week with *Faust*, *Maritana*, *The Bohemian Girl*, and other famous works. The new opera may not challenge comparison with those mentioned, but it is melodious and dramatic and contains one or two numbers which deserve to gain extended popularity by reason of their effective setting. The scene of the opera, of which we gave an extended notice on its production at Birmingham on Jan. 25, is laid in Devonshire at the period when Cavaliers and Roundheads were in conflict, and the story set to music is that of a love tragedy. The plot was fully detailed in our issue of Feb. 2, so that its recapitulation is unnecessary. It is enough to say that the merits of the opera gladden the popular ear by its telling melody, and stimulates by thrilling details of its tale. The orchestral effects are finely balanced, and a certain quaintness in the music well befits the theme.

The work had the benefit of an artistic interpretation at the hands of Mr. J. W. Turner's company. Mr. F. J. Hargrave led the way in brilliant fashion with his rendering of the title-rôle. He has a tenor voice of rich quality, and takes the upper notes especially with power and sweetness. His most effective solo was Nigel's "Ballad of Lucasta," which he sang with fine power and expression, "Love, like the sunset," a duet which he shared with Winnifred, also revealed his cultivated voice to great advantage, and a drinking song with chorus was given with admirable vigour and spirit. Nigel's sweetheart Winnifred was pleasingly presented by Miss Christine Gomez, whose treatment of the ballad "O, sacred love" was emotional and inspiring. Her share in the duets with Nigel was also invaluable, more especially in the scene where Nigel lies wounded in the barn. An effective trio results in this scene, in which Geoffrey, the vengeful Roundhead captain, joins. The latter part had a typical exponent in Mr. Tom Griffiths, who sang "For honour and country" with the expression well adapted to its invigorating lilt. His resonant baritone voice was effectively utilised in the concerted pieces. The difficult part of Margery, the self-sacrificing maiden, whose love for Nigel is unrequited, was sympathetically sung by Miss Jessie Dennis, whose finely-modulated contralto was of excellent service. Her first number was a love ballad of an old English character, which she sang with admirable phrasing. The air "Heigho for the heart that is broken," too, was sung by Miss Dennis with such charm and effect that it was rapturously encored. Mr. G. Ridding's part of Colin is not an enviable one, but he made it conspicuous by his intelligent rendering of the rôle, and by his striking rendering of "Sing ho for the bold Cavalier," in which he was accompanied by the chorus. The work of the chorus, it should be added, is arduous throughout, and well did they sustain their responsibilities. The harvesters' chorus at the opening is exhilarating, and was done full justice to. Similar excellences were to be found in the chorus outside the church, the mournful cadences of which were rendered with pleasing variety, while the "Alleluia" of the choir within sounded rich and harmonious. *Nigel* is altogether a most welcome addition to the works of native composers, and, staged as it was at the Shakespeare, should add to the fame of the Turner Opera Company, which has just reached its majority. The opera was preceded by the one-act farce *Old Knockles*, set to music by Caldicott.

"A MATRIMONIAL BUREAU."

A New Farce, in One Act, by "Sparrowdrop," Produced, for the first time, at the Queen's Royal Theatre, Dublin, on Monday, Feb. 11.

Charles Raymond ..... MR. FRED LYNDON
Archibald Montressor ..... MR. H. FORREST
Mike Byrne ..... MR. JAMES O'BRIEN
Mlle. Babette ..... MISS CECILIA DARE
Minnie Raymond ..... MISS MADELINE HURST

A Matrimonial Bureau; or, A Wife Wanted, is an extremely funny farce, by an author whose identity is disguised under the *nom de plume* of "Sparrowdrop," and, judging by the manner this little piece was received, more will be heard of its author. The scene is laid in an office, where we find a matrimonial agent, who, by the way, unknown to his wife, is carrying on the bureau, though she believes he is an insurance agent. He advertises for a servant, and chooses an Irish one, who is looking for a wife. Many complications ensue before the curtain rings down. The new production can be recommended as a bright, cheery, and funny farce. The author was lucky in getting some of Mr. J. W. Whitbread's company of Irish players to appear in it. Mr. Fred Lyndon acted the part of the manager, Charles Raymond, admirably; and as his wife, Minnie Raymond, Miss Madeline Hurst filled the rôle with satisfactory results. Mr. James O'Brien, in the humorous character of Mike Byrne, caused much laughter with his happy-go-lucky style; and Miss Cecilia Dare was all that could be desired as Mlle. Babette.

PROFESSIONALS AND CHARITY AT GLASGOW.

The readiness of theatrical and music hall artists to assist in the good cause of charity was never more notable or prominent in Glasgow than has been the case this winter. On Tuesday afternoon the Pavilion Theatre was crammed in every corner, at increased prices, to aid the cause of the Glasgow Jewish Board of Guardians. The audience was a fashionable one, and a brilliant programme was presented. A strong party of principals and a large chorus came from the Royalty Theatre, by permission of Messrs. Gatti and Frohman, and gave a number of excerpts from *The Belle of Mayfair*, and had a splendid reception. The leading artists were Miss Alice Russon, Miss Joan Keddie, Miss Christine Rayinski, and Messrs. Wensley Russell and Percy Yorke. A long programme of variety turns followed. Those contributing from the various pantomimes and the Pavilion Theatre were Misses Florrie Gallimore, May Mars, Luna Love, and Aimee Grey, and Messrs. Foreman and Fannan, Williams and Warden, T. E. Dunville, Fred Kitchen, and the Harmony Four. Mr. W. F. Frame also appeared, and made a short complimentary reference to the occasion. Mr. Howard W. Galpin conducted a large orchestra in selections from *Tannhäuser* and *Lohengrin*, and was well received for a violin solo from *Faust*, with Mr. Fred F. Meaten at the piano. These artists appeared by the generous permission of Messrs. Rich. Waldon, R. C. Buchanan, and Fred Karno, and the directors of the Pavilion Theatre.

PRESENTATION.—Miss Gwladys Elvey was presented with a choice basket of flowers on the stage of the Edinburgh Theatre Royal on the evening of the 8th inst. in recognition of having collected the largest sum—£9—at the sports on the previous day. Mr. Mark Sheridan made the presentation on behalf of Messrs. Howard and Wyndham.

MISS RUBY RAY, at present playing in *The Belle of Mayfair* at the Vaudeville Theatre, has scored a great success in the revised version, a charming duet and dance between Miss Ray and Mr. Angelo eliciting an enthusiastic encore. Miss Ray's graceful dancing is a decided acquisition to the piece.

A JUVENILE "BEAUTY OF BATH."

An early bloom of talent manifested itself at the handsome Hicks Theatre on Monday afternoon, when the youthful members associated with *The Beauty of Bath*, which is nearing the end of its brilliant run, took up the parts which properly belong to their elders. The programme gave the information that "Charles Swanson, the call-boy, presents Miss Marjorie West and Master Albert Valchera and the juvenile members of the company (Stedman's Choir) in *The Beauty of Bath* by kind permission of Seymour Hicks." A houseful of invited guests, including Mr. Hicks, hailed the production with delight, and were kept in constant merriment, frequently tempered by admiration, throughout the afternoon. Levity began immediately the bevy of comely young girls who adorn the picture in the foyer of the Mascot Theatre trouped down the staircase dressed in the long frocks of the Bun Girls, and accompanied by boys in immaculate evening dress. Each oddly-attired character was greeted with a roar, and when Master Swanson, bearing on his brow the luxuriant silver locks of Mr. William Lugg as Viscount Bellingham appeared, he received an ovation. His performance, indeed, was admirable, his assumption of the strident tones of the Viscount and his attempts to appear dignified being irresistibly comic. Master Roy Jeffries, too, made a capital imitation of Mr. Laurence Caird as Lord Quorn, and was throughout a favourite.

A near approach to the original was made by Miss Marjorie West, who reproduced with charming fidelity many of the captivating graces of Miss Ellaline Terriss. She sang the various numbers allotted to Betty with rare vivacity and point, beginning with "When a girl's in love," which she gave with proper demureness, and ending with "My Little Hyacinth," the refrain of which was exquisitely echoed at the wings. Master Valchera, who has attained such an enviable reputation as the Lemon Goodge of the regular production, essayed a difficult task in trying to assume the alertness and buoyancy of Mr. Seymour Hicks, but he copied the popular comedian as closely as might be, and succeeded in giving many original touches in the rôle of Dick Alington. His singing of the "Bridge" duet had decidedly fresh treatment, and his rendition of the Chamberlain song was also distinguished by novelty, two additional verses referring felicitously to Mr. Seymour Hicks, who "slept three hours and worked the rest," and to Miss Ellaline Terriss, who it was hoped "wouldn't go away any more."

No attempt was made to obtain a double of Master Valchera for the part of Mr. Beverly, the actor, but a vivid contrast was secured by substituting a pretty little girl, Miss Ethel Evans by name, who played the part very daintily. Miss Ivy Sawyer was one of the chief successes of the afternoon as Mrs. Goodge. So faithfully did the child—perhaps the youngest of the company—reproduce the whimsical ways of Miss Sydney Fairbrother as the Bloomsbury lodging-house keeper, that every movement and every utterance of the clever performer was greeted with a roar of laughter. The Lemon Goodge of Miss Connie Bethel also reflected many of the comic characteristics of Master Valchera, and the duet "Hearts of Bloomsbury" was sung with its customary comical effect. Yeoman service was done by Miss Doris Macintyre, who made a fascinating Lady Bun, and also danced cleverly as Jane Topit, the *pas de deux* with Miss Elsie Sawyer as Tattersall Spink being redemanded. The volatile Truly St Cyr was played with pleasant vivacity by Miss Hetty Bullen; and Miss Eupham MacLaren preserved all the lovable qualities of Mrs. Alington. Master Reginald George, made up after the manner of Mr. Murray King as Sir Timothy Bun, reproduced many of his eccentricities; and Master Archibald McCaig made the rôle of the Earl of Orpington agreeably conspicuous. The Countess of Orpington was played by Miss Mildred Rouvier; and as the Hon. Dorothy Quorn Miss Florence Arnold provoked what proved to be an epidemic of bouquets and bonbons by the singing of a song with the refrain "Does she love me?" An agreeable interpolation into the piece was made by the introduction of little Carmen Sylva, who enthralled the audience by her singing of "Spring is coming." The voice of the pretty little maiden has all the freshness of youth allied to careful cultivation, and her singing was rapturously encored.

Flowers and sweetmeats were liberally bestowed on the young performers, Miss Marie Studholme, who occupied a private box, joining enthusiastically in the bombardment. The stage staff and electricians gave their services gratuitously for the production, the orchestra was under the direction of Mr. Haarnack, and Mr. Joseph Cornish, representative of Stedman's Musical Agency, supervised the front of the house with tact and courtesy. No omission seemed to be made in the performance, at the conclusion of which speeches were demanded, and both Master Swanson and Master Valchera expressed their thanks for their reception, and hoped to see them all at Mr. Hicks's forthcoming production of *My Darling*. Mrs. Goodge was also called upon for a speech, and Miss Sawyer, who had won the hearts of all, completed her conquest by lisping, "Thank you very much for listening so intently."

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

On Wednesday afternoon, at the Royal College, the programme began with Schumann's fine Quintet for Piano and Strings, in E flat, the executants, Mr. Edgar Macgregor, Miss Lorna Downing, Miss Marjorie Beer, Mr. Frank Bridge, and Mr. F. Gershom Parkington, being particularly happy in the second movement, "In Modo d'una Marcia," and the lively "Scherzo." After Schumann's quintet, Mozart's Quartet for Strings in B flat sounded slightly thin, although Miss Florence Jennings, Miss Marjorie Beer, Mr. F. Bridge, and Mr. F. G. Parkington are to be awarded praise for a bright and finished performance. "Like unto the damask rose," by Sir Edward Elgar, was carefully sung by Miss Florence Atkin, whose good quality soprano voice admirably suited the subject. In A. Scarlatti's seldom-heard "Toglietemi la vita ancor" Miss Dorothy Purser was much applauded; and also in her second song, "Chanson de Mai," by G. Huberti. The concert ended with Brahms's Trio for Piano, Violin, and Horn, in E flat, Op. 40, well executed by Mr. James Friskin, Miss May Harrison, and Mr. Ernest Button, the more sustained passages of Brahms's clever work being given with the best effect. The accompanist was Miss Alice Cotton, A.R.C.M.

MISS WINNIE VOLT.

AT THE PRINCE'S THEATRE, BRISTOL. CONSIDERABLE SKILL, NATURAL BUOYANCY AND CHARM OF MANNER.

Last evening there was a temporary change in the cast, still the play went with its wonted smoothness and spirit, and the large audience applauded their heartiest. Miss Winnie Volt, the dainty Cherry, appeared as principal girl, filling the rôle with considerable skill, apparent ease, natural buoyancy and charm of manner. Particularly successful was she in the captivating and difficult dance in the pier scene.—Bristol Mercury, Feb. 5.

A DAINTY LITTLE ARTIST. GREETED WITH LAVISH APPLAUSE.

General appreciation was expressed at the manner in which Miss Winnie Volt deputised for Miss ——. This dainty little artist has all along pleased with her "Grow little mushroom," but last night she had something bigger than little mushrooms to look after, and she did so with tact, grace, and cleverness, and as a reward she was greeted with lavish applause. *Humpty Dumpty* once more went well from start to finish.—Bristol Times, Feb. 5.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE has selected *Richard II.* with which to begin his conquest of Berlin at the Royal Opera Theatre on April 12. Arrangements for the momentous event have been perfected by Mr. Henry Dana, Mr. Tree's business manager, whose visit to the German capital for the purpose of making the necessary preparations was a highly agreeable one. *Antony and Cleopatra* will constitute the bill for the Royal night, when the Kaiser will be present, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, together with *The Man Who Was, Hamlet, Twelfth Night*, and *Trilby* will also figure in the list of performances.

LADY BANCROFT will grace the occasion and speak a few words at the morning performance to be given at Drury Lane on Tuesday, March 5, on behalf of the Lord Mayor's Cripples' Fund. Miss Winifred Emery will recite a specially-written address, and, among the other items already determined upon, will be the last act from *Macbeth* by Mr. Arthur Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh; the Trial Scene of Pardell *v.* Pickwick, in which Mr. Edward Terry will appear; the second act from *The Beauty and the Barge*, in which Mr. Cyril Maude and company will play; a potpourri from the pantomime *Sindbad;* and a combination of the leaders of the musical comedy world, who will present a new spectacle, specially arranged by Mr. E. T. Reed, of *Punch*, entitled *A Prehistoric Lord Mayor's Show.*

OTHER distinguished artists who have kindly promised to contribute to the phenomenal programme are Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. Lewis Waller, Mr. H. B. Irving, Mr. Henry Ainley, Mr. Huntley Wright, Mr. Walter Passmore, Mr. Harry Randall, Mr. Fred Emney, Mr. Harry Fragson, Messrs. Drew and Alders, Mr. Otho Stuart, Mr. Wilhelm Ganz, Mr. George Grossmith, jun., Mr. Edmund Payne, Miss Gertie Millar, Miss Denise Orme, Miss Queenie Leighton, Miss Marie George, Miss Florence Warde, Miss Margaret Cooper, and Mlle. Genée. Applications for seats should be made to the Secretary, Cripples' Fund, Mansion House, or to the box-office at Drury Lane.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER'S campaign as candidate for South St. Pancras in the interests of municipal reform is shaping well. He addressed a large and enthusiastic meeting at the St. John's School, Tottenham Court-road, on the 8th inst., and urged his hearers to dismiss from their minds the work he was generally engaged in. He offered himself as a plain business man, and he had justification for doing so. He had received a good commercial education, and when he came to London he had no friends and no money. Any little position he might have achieved and any friendships he had made with the great public had been made off his own bat. When he decided to stand for the London County Council he searched history to find a precedent. He found one in Richard Brinsley Sheridan, who, when appealing for the support of the electors, issued a card bearing his name and the words, "Promises to pay 5s. 6d. in ale."

MR. E. S WILLARD recently celebrated the fourteenth anniversary and the eleven hundredth performance of *The Professor's Love Story*. It is a remarkable fact that since the first production of Mr. Barrie's charming play at the Star Theatre, New York, on Dec. 18, 1892, it has always formed part of Mr. Willard's répertoire, and has been played every year he has been acting. Mr. Willard returns to England in April to rest for a while before once more commencing active work. He will abandon his American tours altogether, although he expects to pay farewell visits to New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, and Canada before many years are over. He is saying "farewell" to Pittsburg and all cities west of the Allegheny Mountains during his present tour

MISS MARION TERRY is to be the heroine of *The Hypocrites*, the new play by Henry Arthur Jones, which has exerted such wide influence in America. Mr. Charles Frohman will produce the piece in London at the beginning of next autumn, when Miss Terry will be supported almost wholly by English artists, including Mr. Leslie Faber, who is now taking part in the successful performances in the States.

A SLIGHT improvement is reported in the condition of Mr. Lionel Brough, as he is now able to sleep, but we regret that a more definitely hopeful report of his illness cannot be given. The popular veteran, it will be remembered, was obliged to retire from the cast of *The Bondman* shortly after its revival at the Adelphi owing to a breakdown in health, brought about by a cold. Mr. Brough is seventy-one years of age, more than fifty of which have been spent in the service of dramatic art.

WE record with sincere regret the death of Mr. Guy Waller, which took place at Frognal Mansions, Hampstead, on Feb. 5. Mr. Waller, who was only thirty-four years of age, and was very popular in theatrical circles, was associated with the management of *The Money-makers*, produced at the Royalty in the May of 1894.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY has just concluded arrangements to appear in London in May, and during his season will produce a new play, from the German of Carl Rössler, at present entitled *The Rich Youth*. His répertoire will also include *The Only Way, The Breed of the Treshams, Hamlet, A Cigarette-maker's Romance*, and his revival of *The Corsican Brothers*, which he has not as yet presented in London. In conjunction with this play Mr. Harvey will appear in *The Spell*, which made such a marked impression in Manchester last November. The revival of *Richard III.*, as has already been announced, will take place in Dublin in October.

THE Advisory Board of Actors' Day Fund, at their meeting this week passed the following resolution, proposed by Mr. H. B. Tree and seconded by Mr. A. Bourchier:—"That of the amount contributed on Actors' Day, 1906, there shall be given to the three theatrical charities, namely, the Actors' Benevolent Fund, the Actors' Orphanage, and the Theatrical Ladies' Guild, such sums as will make up to them any deficit in subscriptions by which they may have suffered in the one year through the institution of Actors' Day, such deficit in subscriptions to be estimated on the average of three preceding years; and that the balance available be placed in the hands of the trustees to be dealt with by a scheme which shall be discussed by the Advisory Board, assisted by expert advice, and which shall be based on the principle that contributors only shall be entitled to benefit."

IN tendering advice as to the apportionment of the money collected at the initial Actors' Day, the Advisory Board have been confronted with a very signal difficulty, arising out of a radical difference of opinion amongst the subscribers regarding the destination of the money relinquished by them on October 18, 1906. That there has been a variance of opinion no attempt is made to deny; but it is recalled that benevolent and provident schemes of such wide reach as this one have nearly always been confronted by initial difficulties.

THE Board, strengthened by expert advice, is at present preparing a scheme, which it is hoped will satisfy the views of both sides, as to the allocation of the funds in future years. The result will shortly be submitted to the profession.

MR. CHARLES CARTWRIGHT has conceived a new and interesting idea with regard to the touring system. His scheme provides for the engagement of six "stars" who should be equally divided between three companies, each with a répertoire of the same three plays. Each company would remain a week in the same town, giving a triple change of bill, but the "stars" would exchange into the companies playing the pieces with which their names were identified. The advantage thus gained seems to be that the principal actors would have only to keep one part in study; but against that lies the alarming increase of travelling that would be involved. Moving from town to town is not the least among the discomforts of touring, and the prospect of making three railway journeys every week with the necessity of playing in the evening can only be faced with a shudder.

MR. OSCAR ASCHE and Miss Lily Brayton are starting in management for themselves, having secured the entire production and company that supported them at the Adelphi. Mr. Robert Arthur has arranged for them to open at the Camden for the week commencing Feb. 18 in *The Taming of the Shrew*. On Feb. 25 they go to Kennington, again playing *The Taming of the Shrew*, and producing *Othello* at the matinée on Thursday, the 28th.

MISS ROSINA BRANDRAM'S illness is giving cause for grave anxiety. Latest information from Southend states that she is "a shade better," but is still in a very critical condition.

REASSURING news may be given of Miss Bella Pateman, who on Sunday underwent a severe operation, from which serious results were feared. A telegram received yesterday from her husband, Mr. Robert Pateman, gave the welcome report that the invalid was progressing favourably. Miss Pateman has been identified with the best dramatic work in London during the past thirty-seven years, and sincere sympathy will go out to the popular actress, whose recovery, we trust, may be speedy and complete.

THE funeral of the late Mr. Arthur Wood, whose death we announced last week, took place at Forest Hill Cemetery on Monday. The family desire to express their thanks for the many expressions of sympathy that have reached them from private and professional friends.

MISS ROSINA FILIPPI will on Monday next begin a series of matinées at Terry's Theatre, the performances being given by students of her well-known dramatic school. Scenes from *Romeo and Juliet* will be given on Monday, with a new "masque in one act," entitled *The Idyll of New Year's Eve*. Other attractions will comprise *The School for Scandal*, and a scene from *Don Juan; The Shadow* and *Miss Hobbs; Belinda* and *The Dancing Lesson; Eliza, A Country Mouse*, and *The American Widow.*

MR. ALBERT CHEVALIER, supported by a specially-selected company, will start at Easter a tour with a triple bill. Among the new pieces presented will be *Atonement*, a drama in one act, written by him, and in which he plays a strong emotional part, and *The Dream of His Life*, a fantastic musical play, in one act, also from his pen, the music composed by Mr. A. H. West. In this Mr. Chevalier will appear as a professor who is mysteriously doomed to become his own Cockney servant. The triad of plays will be completed by J. M. Barrie's *Pantaloon*, presented by arrangement with the author and Mr. Charles Frohman. In this Mr. Chevalier will repeat his fine performance of the title-rôle.

MR. FRED BOWYER'S new version of *Aladdin* has caught on at the Grand, Birmingham. Mr. Robert Crossman's production from the Shakespeare, Clapham, is doing excellent business with Miss Winifred Hare as the hero. The pantomime is booked for a fortnight's run.

MR. ROBERT ARTHUR has arranged with Mr. Lawrence Brough to produce at the Fulham Theatre, next week, that bright and sparkling comedy *The Lady of Ostend*. Mr. Brough will play his original character of the Baron, supported by his admirable company of comedians, who have so long been identified with the piece.

MISS MABEL PALMER, one of the most promising pupils of Miss Edith Gibbs, the accomplished teacher of singing and elocution, was given a chance of again displaying her abilities at the King's Theatre, Covent Garden, on Saturday evening, when she played the part of Mrs. Ralston in *Jim the Penman*. The young actress acquitted herself creditably, and acted very finely in a difficult rôle.

THE proprietor of the Grand Theatre and Opera House, Eccles, has organised a company to commence a tour in that town on March 30 in the new musical play *The Pet of the Embassy*. The cast will include the well-known comedian, Witty Watty Walton.

THE Empire Theatre, Oxford, recently closed by the drastic action of the local authorities, who refused without explanation to renew the licence, is to be reopened on the 25th inst. under the title of the East Oxford Theatre by Mr. Charles Macdona's company in *Three Little Maids*. The stage will be greatly improved, and many other alterations are being effected by the new lessee in compliance with the demands of the city magistrates.

MR. MILTON BODE'S pantomime of *Red Riding Hood* terminated a brilliant career at the Royal Opera House, Leicester, on Saturday last. Seldom before have such crowded matinées been held in Leicester, the building being packed to suffocation, and many hundreds having also to be turned away. This is no doubt owing to the excellence of the performance and the business-like manner in which Mr. Henry Dundas, the general-manager, is working in the country districts, many places having been placarded and billed which had never been touched before. Next year Mr. Bode will produce a pantomime at the Royal Opera House on a similar lavish scale.

MME. LUCILE HILL, the famous dramatic soprano, who has just recovered from illness, will rejoin the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company for their visit to Scotland, commencing at the Grand Theatre, Glasgow, on Monday, Feb. 25. The gifted artist sends from Switzerland the welcome news that she is in better health and voice than ever. Mme. Hill will appear in *Tannhäuser, Lohengrin*, and *The Marriage of Figaro*, and will sustain for the first time the part of Fidelio in Beethoven's opera of that name.

THE report of the Sunderland Charity Carnival Committee, submitted at the winding-up meeting for the year, showed that the total receipts for the event brought to a close with a matinée performance in the Avenue Theatre on Wednesday last week, had amounted to £138 15s. 7d., or £1 more than last year. The expenditure was less than ever, viz., £17 9s. 10d. This left a net balance of £121 5s. 9d., or £17 12s. 3d. more than last year. It was agreed to distribute £120, and carry £1 5s. 9d. forward to next year. Out of the proceeds £5 was allotted to the Actors' Benevolent Fund, £5 to the Amalgamated Musicians' Union Benevolent Fund, and £5 to the Music Hall Artists' Benevolent Fund.

MR. STEWART D. WRIGHT, late manager with Mr. George Dance's principal companies, has been engaged by Mr. J. Bannister Howard to advertise his principal *Oliver Twist* company, now on tour.

FOLLOWING the usual practice adopted during Lent, the forthcoming matinées of *Sindbad* at Drury Lane will be on Wednesday and Saturday only during the remainder of the run of the pantomime. New songs and dances have been added, chief among the former being "Canoodling," by Arthur Wimperis, with music by Fragson, by whom it is sung. The music-hall war has also been taken advantage of by Fragson with a new version of "Tom, the Piper's Son," while the popular Anglo-French comedian still sings "La Petite Tonkinoise," the ballad of the boulevards, with which England's King and Queen were last week greeted by Parisians.

Two new plays will be produced next week by the Répertoire Theatre Syndicate, operating at the Theatre Royal, Margate, under the direction of Mr. Edward Michael. One is a four-act comedy called *Terence*, by Mrs. B. M. Croker, and is an adaptation of her own successful novel of the same name; and the other is a one-act comedietta entitled *The Radical Candidate*, by Hugo Ames.

THE King and Queen honoured the Apollo on Tuesday, when they witnessed the performance of *The Stronger Sex*, and the following evening saw the Prince and Princess of Wales at the same theatre. On the previous Saturday the Duke of Orleans was present at the performance of the *Verkaufte Braut* at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden.

MR. EDWARD CADMAN, general-manager of the Grand Theatre, Leeds, was entertained to dinner by a number of friends at the local Imperial Hotel on Sunday. The gathering was presided over by Dr. B. G. Heald, who spoke of the guest's popularity, and of the position which the Grand Theatre held as the county playhouse. He thought the Leeds public, and especially the shopkeepers, did not always realise how much they were indebted to that theatre management for the thousands of visitors who were brought into the city every year. Dr. Heald estimated the number at nothing short of a quarter of a million.

MR. HARRY HAMPSON, after having enjoyed a brief but well-earned rest, rejoins *The Lady of Ostend* at the Grand, Fulham, on Monday next, playing Dick Whortles.—Miss Jeannie Holmes has been engaged by Mr. Alec Flood and Mr. Aubrey Fitzmaurice for the tour of *The Angel of Unrest.*

THE pantomime of *Dick Whittington* at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, finished its run amidst great enthusiasm on Saturday last. All the principal ladies were the recipients of floral tributes, and the gentlemen had overwhelming receptions. Mr. Percy Humphrys, acting-manager, and Mr. Alfred Carpenter, conductor, were presented with handsome gifts by the members of the pantomime company. At the conclusion "Auld Lang Syne" was sung in recognised fashion, with hands crossed, those in the stalls joining the artists at the corners of the stage.

THE many friends of Miss Kitty Cavendish, who has been appearing so successfully in Mr. Courtneidge's *Aladdin* pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, will regret to hear that during the performance last week she unfortunately met with a bad accident, resulting in a severe dislocated shoulder. Under careful medical attention, we understand she is progressing as favourably as possible.

OWING to the indisposition of Miss Florence Imeson, the part of Millicent Leroy was most successfully sustained by Miss Florence Foster in Mr. Robert Courtneidge's *Blue Moon* company at the Theatre Royal, Halifax, last week, and was highly complimented by the management.

THE regular visitors to the Lyric, Hammersmith, will much regret the departure of Mr. Fred S. Jennings, who for nearly two years has been the acting-manager there for Mr. Samuel James. His kind and obliging manner made him immensely popular, and the sincere wishes of his Hammersmith friends follow him on his return to the ranks of actors. Mr. Samuel James has filled the vacancy by transferring Mr. Newman Maurice, his manager at the Grand, Islington, up to the time of the disposal of that house, and Islington's loss is Hammersmith's gain.

MR. SAMUEL JAMES, having disposed of the Grand Theatre, Islington, has now transferred his headquarters to their original home, Warwick House, 8, Warwick-court, Gray's Inn, W.C.

"HUMPTY DUMPTY," after a nine weeks' successful run at Kennington, was taken off on Saturday, and a bumper house assembled for the closing night. The utmost enthusiasm prevailed throughout, and at the end the curtain was lowered no less than eight times. The audience joined in the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," and then called for speeches from Mr. R. H. Douglass, the stage-manager, and Mr. H. B. Brandreth, the manager, Mr. Robert Arthur, the proprietor, being unfortunately unable to attend owing to illness. Mr. Brandreth explained that the management were obliged to terminate the run of the pantomime owing to the number of attractions previously booked, although the last week's business had been more overflowing than any. The principal ladies were all presented with bouquets during the evening.

THE "Follies," whose comedy and vocal talents in concert hall and variety theatre have been so highly relished, have taken a more ambitious step by engaging the New Royalty, where they begin operations on March 19 with a triple bill. In addition to their vaudeville répertoire, these favourite artists will present two new burlesques, and also have in view the revival of their diverting pantomime travesty.

A STRIKING tribute was paid last week to Mr. Bernard Copping's machine-like movements as the automaton in Charles Hannan's clever farce, *The Electric Man*. At the conclusion of the first act on Saturday night a member of the audience approached Mr. Howard, Mr. Mulholland's manager, and said: "Excuse me, sir; I am very interested in this play. Would you mind telling me, is that figure worked by clockwork?"

MR. EDWARD COMPTON will have one of the most notable "first nights" of his career on Friday next, when he will produce at the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, a new play by his elder son, Mr. Montague Compton. The piece is an eighteenth century comedy in three acts, and bears the distinctive title of *The Gentleman in Grey*. It is the first play yet produced by the new author, and the première should prove a most interesting one.

MR. T. EDWARD WARD was on Tuesday last the recipient of a little presentation from the "boys" of his *Man and Wife* company in the form of a very handsome pipe, the occasion being that of his birthday. Needless to say, that both the present and the *bon camaraderie* it denotes are alike much prized by Mr. Ward.

MR. FRED REEVES is much improved in health, and will leave London next week for a short sojourn on the South Coast.

MESSRS. VEDRENNE AND BARKER intend reviving *Prunella; or, Love in a Dutch Garden*, by Lawrence Housman and Granville Barker, for a series of eight matinées on the afternoons of April 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30, and May 3, with practically the same cast as last year, including Mr. Graham Browne as Pierrot and Miss Dorothy Minto as Prunella.

MR. BANNISTER HOWARD announces the visit of another charming actress to the Crystal Palace Theatre next week, during which Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company will appear in *The Freedom of Suzanne*. Miss Mabel Love, who will be supported by Mr. Templar Powell and a well-selected company, will be the central figure, and probably in no other play has she been seen to such advantage.

MR. LENNARD MACKAY, the Yen of Mr. George Edwardes's *See-See* company, is unable to act this week owing to a bad attack of laryngitis, and is at present under doctor's orders. The part has been taken up by Mr. Francis Rayne.

THE next of the social evenings which are becoming such agreeable features of the Managers' Club will take place on Sunday, Feb. 24, which has the added distinction of being a "ladies' night." Mr. C. St. John Denton will take the chair, and is organising an interesting programme. Members are cordially invited to bring one or two lady or gentlemen guests, but should notify the number to Mr. G. B. Lamber,t the hon. sec., in order that arrangements for their reception may be made.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER'S company travelled to Bristol on Monday, when they gave a matinée performance of *The Morals of Marcus*, at the Prince's Theatre. The company left Paddington at 9 a.m., and returned by the 4.45 p.m. train from Bristol, which runs to London, 120 miles, without a stop, in 125 minutes. The same evening saw the excursionists in their places at the Garrick Theatre, using the same stage properties as at Bristol.

MISS ISABEL JAY, the charming impersonator of the title-rôle in *Miss Hook of Holland*, at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, is the victim of a malicious persecution of some person at present unknown who persists in sending the popular actress letters and postcards of a defamatory character. The libellous epistles have been placed in the hands of Miss Jay's solicitor, who is empowered to pay a reward of £50 to anyone sending him the information which will lead to the conviction of the offender.

THE perennial *Peter Pan* is once more to be revived at the Duke of York's next Christmas, when Miss Pauline Chase will again play the title-part. Proof of the wide popularity which Mr. Barrie's fantasy has acquired is to be found in the announcement that a leading Parisian manager is contemplating its early production in the French capital.

MR. H. W. ROWLAND enters this week on the nineteenth year of his engagement as general manager of the Folkestone Pleasure Gardens and Theatre, the progress of which has been one of continually increasing prosperity. In 1905 Mr. Rowland was also appointed manager of the Gaiety Theatre, Hastings, which he speedily rehabilitated, both with the local audiences and the profession. The Hastings and Folkestone theatres now rank amongst the leading South Coast "dates."

MR. CHARLES BUSH, the popular and courteous acting-manager at the Queen's Theatre, Leeds, enjoyed a thoroughly successful benefit on Wednesday, the 6th inst., when, in addition to the pantomime *Cinderella*, many artists from the other theatres and halls in the city appeared. It is a matter for congratulation that Mr. Bush's services have been retained as acting-manager for this house when it reopens under the new *régime* as music hall a month hence.

MISS RUTH VINCENT has been secured for the heroine of *Tom Jones*, which is to be produced at the Apollo in April, and no happier choice could have been made. From the Egyptian Queen of *Amasis* to the heroine of Fielding's novel is a wide step, but Miss Vincent is eminently fitted by her refined methods and delicacy of style to put the vivacious Sophia in the most attractive light, and there is every reason to anticipate that her brilliant achievements in *Amasis* and *Veronique* will be equalled in her newest essay. *Tom Jones*, which is by A. M. Thompson, with lyrics by Charles Taylor, and music by Edward German, will have a preliminary canter at the Prince's, Manchester, on March 30.

MR. PHILIP BROZEL has been engaged for the Hof Theatre, at Vienna, for the next five years, being selected out of thirty tenors picked from the best opera houses in Germany without even a "gastspiel!"—a most unheard-of occurrence. Mr. Brozel is a naturalised Englishman, and was engaged by Sir Augustus Harris direct from the Royal Academy for Covent Garden, where he scored notable successes in *Siegfried, Pagliacci*, &c. For the last two years he has been engaged in Germany, and last season sang Tristan and also Radamis in *Aida* at the Royal Opera in Berlin; also appearing with remarkable success at Cologne, Frankfurt, and Maine—amongst other operas, as Herod in Straus's *Salome*, and *Die Liebesgeige*, by Alick Maclean, an English composer, and musical director for Sir Charles Wyndham, in whose work a second *Pagliacci* is said to have been discovered.

MR. GRAHAM MORRISON, who concludes to-night a short engagement as general-manager for Mrs. Michael Gunn's pantomime company at Cork, has been retained by Mr. Charles Frohman as business-manager-in-advance for his forthcoming tour with Miss Ellaline Terriss and Mr. Seymour Hicks in *The Beauty of Bath.*

MR. CHAS. DODSWORTH, who has just returned from a successful tour in America with Mr. H. B. Irving, has been re-engaged by that gentleman for his spring tour.

MR. CHARLES CAREY will open his tour of *The Pick of the Bunch* on March 11, in conjunction with Mr. Harold Wantage. Mr. Fred Eastman will be in the cast, and once again Miss Sadie will be Nancy. The company, indeed, is an excellent one all round.

"CHARLEY'S AUNT," the comedy of undying fame, opens at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, on Monday. Mr. Brandon Thomas will play his old part of Sir Francis Chesney, and will also sustain his original rôle of Tammy, in the charming little play, *A Highland Legacy*, which precedes *Charley's Aunt*. The company also includes Misses Lena Macnaughton, Bertha Northam, Katherine Vereker, Elsie Robertson, Ruth Nightingale, and Ida Vynall, and Messrs. Spencer Trevor, Walter Beaumont, Sydney Compton, Hastings Lynn, Richard Mason, and M. A. Wetherall. Mr. Cecil Barth has been retained by Mr. Thomas as his general-manager.

BARON HARRISS'S No. 1 *Prince of Pilsen* company celebrated its 200th performance at the Opera House, Wakefield, on Saturday last, amid a scene of excitement rarely witnessed in that historic city. Long after the theatre had been filled at early doors, and "House Full" placards exhibited in front, a crowd clustered around the building, in the vain hope of securing admission; so much so, that an enterprising local photographer, quick to seize the opportunity, shortly appeared upon the scene with a flash-light apparatus, and took a number of photographs of the novel spectacle. Miss Sophie Harriss, as the heroine of the evening, was the recipient of many handsome bouquets, and received a very flattering ovation at the fall of the curtain.

MISS DOROTHY CACEY, the leading lady of Mr. Charles Carey's *Little Lord Fauntleroy* company, engaged at the Brighton West Pier Theatre this week, met with an unfortunate accident on Sunday evening. She was dressing in a boarding-house in Regency-square when she fainted and fell against a water-jug, knocking it to the floor. The jug was smashed, and Miss Cacey fell upon the fragments, sustaining some severe cuts on the face. Medical aid was summoned, and it was found necessary to perform an operation, for which the sufferer was placed under chloroform. The accident will necessitate Miss Cacey's absence from the stage for some time.

No understudy was available for Miss Cacey's part of Mrs. Errol ("Dearest"), which was read at the Monday's performance by Miss Gertrude Netterville, who sustains the part of Mary. On Tuesday Miss Netterville appeared as "Dearest" playing the part in an admirable manner, her perfect command of her lines giving strong evidence of an exceptionally clever and quick study. Miss Katherine Brook also came to the assistance of the management by studying up that of Mary, and doubling that character with her own rôle of Minna in a skilful manner.

A NEW one-act comedy, called *The Boatswain's Mate*, adapted from a short story by Mr. W. W. Jacobs by the novelist himself and Mr. Herbert Sargent, will be put on before *When Knights were Bold* at Wyndham's on Monday, the 25th inst. Mr. Charles Frohman, it may be added, has just secured Miss Harriet Jay's whimsical farce for America.

THE New Theatre at Ilford will be opened in the autumn. A site in Ilford-lane has been acquired by a strong syndicate, and plans have been prepared by Mr. Bertie Crewe and passed by the local authorities for a place of entertainment to accommodate some 2500 people. The house has been designed so as to be used either as a theatre or as a variety palace. Building operations will be started in the course of next month.

THE Irving Memorial Committee held a meeting on the 8th inst., when there were present Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree (in the chair), and Messrs. George P. Bancroft, Acton Bond, Lewis Casson, Norman Forbes, Edward Terry, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). After some discussion as to an arrangement of details, the meeting was adjourned until the 15th inst.

THE rumour that Mr. Bernard Shaw is writing a play on the subject of George Washington has no foundaiton in fact. The "Irish-English playwright," as he is described in the report, thus contradicts the statement:—"I have heard nothing of it. George Washington's qualities appear to be extinct in New York nowadays."

OUR readers will remember the sad plight of Mr. Fred Locke, the well-known pantomime librettist, who was stricken down by paralysis a year ago, and on behalf of whose family subscriptions have been acknowledged in our columns at various times. By courtesy of Mr. Rich. Waldon, a benefit is being arranged for the "Fred Locke Fund," and will be given on Friday, the 22nd inst., in the Royal Princess's, Glasgow, for which theatre Mr. Locke wrote twenty-seven consecutive pantomimes. The artists of Mr. Waldon's *Mother Goose* pantomime, and also of Mr. Fred Karno's *House that Jack Built* at the Grand, have kindly volunteered their services, and most of the leading variety performers in Glasgow that week will also assist.

THE choristers engaged at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, held their annual "smoker" on Wednesday, when the Lyric Quartette, who have proved one of the successes of the pantomime (*Crusoe's Adventures*), again distinguished themselves not only by their musicianly part-singing, but also by the able manner in which they had arranged the programme. Mr. Bert Browne, of the Rockets, was in the chair, and made "calls" on the Misses Georgina Delmar, Louie Collier, Lulu Valli, Nell Emerald, and Messrs. J. F. McArdle, Fred Wright, jun., Geo. Robey, Edward Lewis, T. A. Shale, Geo. Miller, The Haytors, Bros. Obo, Fred Barnes, &c., who gave of their best. Mr. J. F. Graham was present, with many others, and the proceedings, which were kept up till a late hour, were voted most enjoyable.

THE annual benefit of Mr. C. W. Ramsay, the acting-manager of the Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield, was celebrated by a packed house on the 7th inst., when the performance was under the patronage of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire and other notabilities. Selections from *Dick Whittington* were given, and vocal contributions by professional and local artists varied the well-arranged programme. Mr. Ramsay was enthusiastically applauded when he made his appearance to express his thanks, and was the recipient of over forty souvenirs of the occasion—some very costly, and all useful—from Mr. W. D. Forsdike and other admirers.

THE supper and concert in connection with the Edinburgh Theatrical Fête took place at the Carlton Hotel on the 8th inst. Mr. Geo. T. Minshull, of the Lyceum Theatre, presided over a gathering of more than a hundred artists and guests, and in a felicitous speech intimated that the fête of the previous day had been highly successful, a sum of nearly £350 having been received. Mr. Dan Rolyat responded to the toast of "The Artists," and Mrs. Dare to that of "The Ladies." The contributors to the concert programme included Miss Edna Loftus, Miss Lilian Lea, Miss Lilian, Miss Katie Butler, Mr. Mark Sheridan, the Brothers Egbert, Mr. Dan Rolyat, Mr. Harry Conlin, Mr. Leonard Mackay, Mr. A. W. Ashdowne, Mr. George Leyton, and Mr. Gus Merriman.

"THE BELLE OF MAYFAIR" went into another new edition at the Vaudeville on the 8th inst., when fresh features of interest were imported into the successful piece. Miss Billie Burke, showing no sign of her slight motor-car accident in the afternoon, made a most effective addition to her répertoire with "Come back to Pierrette, Pierrot," which received an encore. She also secured honours with "The Pine Girl," a lyric described as by Mr. Leslie Stuart, assisted by Mr. Sydney Mannering, but the music of all the numbers is by Mr. Leslie Stuart. One of the most charming is "Do you waltz?" rendered in his best style by Mr. Courtice Pounds, and Mr. Farren Soutar caused a great deal of fun by his rendering of "The girlie in the goggles and the veil." The words of both numbers are by Mr. George Arthurs. A dance in the first act was cleverly executed by Miss Ruby Ray and Mr. Charles Angelo.

MISS EDNA MAY'S engagement to Mr. Oscar Lewisohn, which has been confirmed this week, is declared to be a "love match" pure and simple, and the fact that her fiancé is the son of the "Copper King" of America who left a fortune of about £5,000,000 to be divided among his nine children has had no influence in her choice. Mr. Oscar Lewisohn is a brother of Mrs. C. S. Henry, the wife of the Liberal Member for the Wellington Division of Shropshire.

MME. SARAH BERNHARDT has been appointed Professor of Dramatic Elocution at the Paris Conservatoire in succession to the late Professor Laugiero. A distinct step towards the obtaining of the Legion of Honour is thus made by the great tragedienne, from whom the decoration has hitherto been withheld on the ground that she was simply an actress; but now that she will be able to write Professor of the Conservatoire after her name the honour is practically assured.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Miss Neilson as a Mechanic.

MISS JULIA NEILSON played a very important part in a busy thoroughfare in Knightsbridge the other day, and its result was as gratifying as if the part had been thoroughly rehearsed, which it certainly had not. A motor-omnibus had struggled gamely from its starting point in Hammersmith, in spite of a very faulty mechanical interior, and, after an alarming series of unwarranted explosions and snortings, it eventually crawled itself to a standstill, and refused to budge an inch further. The passengers left the 'bus, and stood disconsolately by, whilst the driver and conductor searched and probed the interior of the motor for the cause of the stoppage. They had covered themselves with dirt, but not with glory, when a smart motor occupied by a lady and her chauffeur came up; and the lady, seeing the difficulty of the two motor-'bus men, stopped her car, and jumped down to their assistance. She took a survey of the machinery, and almost immediately, with a smile, pointed out something to the mystified 'bus driver that seemed to give him new heart. He followed out her directions and rectified the fault she had drawn his attention to. In a trice the man was on his box again, the passengers had entered the 'bus, and it went careering on its way once more. The crowd that assembles on all such occasions gave the lady a grateful cheer as she re-entered her car, but no one recognised who the clever mechanician was, except a small urchin, who remarked to his companion, "I sye, Bill, ain't that Julia Neilson, wots on them pictur' post-cards?"

Compensation for Disturbance.

MR. CYRIL MAUDE writes:—"I have just had a remarkable letter from a dramatic author (a budding one), which I feel it my duty to tell you about. He sends me a one-act play for consideration, and at the end of his letter says—'And if, having read it, you should decide that I have wasted ten minutes of your time unnecessarily, I shall be pleased to forward you a guinea for the Actors' Association.' Is it possible that the kindly example of this generous author might be followed."

Only a Dream.

MR. ALFRED LESTER, who plays the Lost Constable in *The New Aladdin*, has been telling *Woman's Life* of a curious experience he had when enacting a wicked father in melodrama. The scene was supposed to be aboard ship, 'tween decks, not a set scene, but merely a cloth lowered, with the cabin painted on it. The thunder was rolling, the rain could be heard swishing down in torrents, the man with the wind-box at the back was creating a lovely hurricane, and every now and then timbers were heard to crack. It was Mr. Lester's great scene of the evening, and, in frenzied tones he was recounting and repenting his past life. But he noticed that the more he raved the louder the audience laughed. He could see nothing to laugh at, and felt discomfited; but he kept right on. Then he turned his head, and out of the corner of his eye noticed the cause of the laughter. The scene-shifter had, instead of "'tween decks," lowered a peaceful country scene, with a rose-covered cottage! Mr. Lester preserved his presence of mind, and, to save the situation, cried, "Thank Heaven, it was only a dream!"

A Cue and a Curse.

MR. EDMONDS sends us the following:—Poor Cawdery, who was with Phelps at Sadler's Wells, was an excellent master carpenter, but he did not get on at all well with Barry Sullivan. It was during a rehearsal of *Macbeth*, and one of Sullivan's black days. Cawdery's life had been made a burden to him, and he only wanted an excuse to say something nasty to the great actor. "Do you," enquired Barry, when they were rehearsing the first scene of Act IV., "know the cue to sink the cauldron?" "Well," said Cawdery, "considering I've been master carpenter for——" "I'm not asking you *that*, sir!" thundered the "star." "Do—you—know—the cue?" "Yes!!!" said the maddened carpenter, "an *eternal* CURSE fall on *you*, 'Mr. Sullivan!'"

Not Proteus But Portius.

THE *Daily Telegraph* has exhumed from the memoirs of the old-time actor, John Bernard, the following anecdote of a certain Jack Barnshaw. Playing Leander one evening in *The Padlock*, Barnshaw addressed the heroine, Leonora, with the words "Beauteous Leonora! have you not often observed a pilgrim at your gate who has often watched you. I am that pilgrim—one that would change shapes as often as Portius to gain a sight of you." When he came off Bernard stopped him with a demand for an explanation. "What did you mean," he asked, "by that curious reference to Portius, and who was he, by the way?" "Don't you remember," replied the actor, "*The Merchant of Venice*, in which there is a Portius who is first a woman, then transformed into a man, and, changing shapes once more, appears as a woman? That is the meaning of the phrase."

Non-Playgoing Parties.

MR. E. A. BAUGHAN, writing on the Drama in the *Daily News*, says:—"The stage is suffering at present from the indifference of two important classes. Go where you will in London, you meet clever men who are disposed to be interested in drama, but never attend theatres, partly because the plays do not appeal to them as a representation of life, and partly because the importance the player has arrogated to himself, the gossip of actors and actresses, and the ceaseless exhibition of their portraits have disgusted them with the theatre and its ways. That is one class. The other is composed of the section of society who still discuss such questions as those my correspondents have put to me, and abstain from attending theatres on ethical and sectarian grounds. And so the poor drama is fashioned to give amusement to a middle intellectual class. Happily there are signs of a renaissance of interest in the theatre."

Singing His Hair Off.

APROPOS of the music hall war and the difference between ancient and modern variety artists, is an anecdote introduced by Toole into his speech on the last night of his engagement at the Theatre Royal, Edinborough, in 1883. "Some years ago," said the comedian, "I dropped into a music hall in Portsmouth, just to study a little character. There was a gentleman there who always wound up the entertainment by singing that exciting song, 'The Wolf.' When he was called upon to favour the company with it he began it something in this fashion. (Mr. Toole here, amid much laughter, sang in a husky voice the first line.) The audience had been a kindly and indulgent one, but his style was more than they could stand, and some hissing was heard. The performer tried it again, with the same result. Then the performer, pulling himself together, said: 'Ladies and gentlemen, I am not surprised at your indignation. The fact is I have sung this wolf hundreds of times; and I have sung all the air off him.'"

The Glovers.

IN reply to our recent querist *re* the Glovers, Mrs. Michael Connelly, formerly Miss Georgina Glover, can give him all the particulars required. Mrs. Connelly is a niece of the late Mrs. John Bland, who was, before her marriage to Mr. Bland, Miss Georgina Glover, one of the daughters of the celebrated actress, Mrs. Glover. Mrs. Connelly's address is 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

"THE CASSILIS ENGAGEMENT."

A Comedy, in Four Acts, by St. John Hankin.
Produced at the Imperial Theatre, on Monday, Feb. 11.

Mrs. Herries ..... MISS K. M. ROMSEY
The Rector ..... MR. F. MORLAND
Watson ..... MR. RALPH HUTTON
Lady Remenham ..... MISS FLORENCE HAYDON
Lady Mabel Venning ..... MISS ISABEL ROLAND
Mrs. Cassilis ..... MISS EVELYN WEEDEN
Lady Marchmont ..... MISS GERTRUDE BURNETT
Geofrey Cassilis ..... MR. LANGHORNE BURTON
Mrs. Borridge ..... MISS CLARE GREET
Ethel Borridge ..... MISS MAUDI DARRELL
Dorset ..... MISS MARGARET MACKENZIE
Major Warrington ..... MR. SAM SOTHERN

Mr. St. John Hankin, the author of *The Charity that Begins at Home* and other Stage Society plays, has added another to the list of his successes by the production of *The Cassilis Engagement*. The piece has nothing eccentric or ultra-intellectual about it, being a clever comedy of upper-class country life. The "atmosphere" is that of hundreds of comfortable mansions in the agricultural districts. The action takes place at Deynham Abbey—there is much significance in the "Abbey"—in Leicestershire. The society is that of well-left widows, clean-bred, well-groomed, conventional clergy, authoritative old maids, and old family servants. Geofrey Cassilis, an ingenuous youth, is dependent upon his mother, Mrs. Cassilis, for present and future income. He will have to live on her during her lifetime, inheriting from her after her death. In such circumstances it would only be prudent to marry by her advice; but, relying on her affection for him, Geoffrey falls in love with an utterly unsuitable person, the daughter of a bookmaker. The late Mr. Borridge died of drink, leaving a small annuity to his wife, Mrs. Borridge, who lived with him for some years previous to the marriage which made Ethel legitimate. Her sister, Nan, has "gone to the bad"; and Ethel's most disinterested tastes are restaurant suppers and other Cockney delights. Mrs. Borridge is constantly in difficulties with her "h's" and her grammar—the great "gulf" which, as Mr. Middlewick said, lay between him and the educated. Mrs. Cassilis is determined that her son shall not marry the girl; but, having the wisdom of the serpent as well as the affection of the pelican, she determines to employ diplomacy. She dissembles her dislike for the Borridges, invites them to Deynham Abbey, throws Geofrey into the society of his young and charming friend, Lady Mabel Venning, and leaves matters to work themselves out.

This they do gradually and steadily. Ethel is sufficiently acute to appreciate the view taken of her and her mother by Mrs. Cassilis and her circle, and not being a horsewoman or a lover of nature, the life at Deynham "bores her to death." She soon begins to grow jealous, too, of the growing friendship between Geofrey and Lady Mabel; and a man-of-the-world visitor to the Abbey, Major Warrington, explains to her what her life as Geofrey's wife would be. She would perforce be buried down in the country all the year in a house purchased for Geofrey by his mother. The prospect horrifies the girl; and, in a moment of excitement, she asks Warrington to run away with her to Paris. He is scandalised at such a suggestion, and refuses. Ethel, after Mabel has sung a little German song very sweetly, goes to the piano and rattles off a "coster" ditty of music-hall origin, which terribly shocks the assembled guests, and deeply grieves Geofrey. He remonstrates with her, and she resents his lecture. Ethel redeems herself in the eyes of the audience by her behaviour in the last act. Her mercenary old mother has always urged her to "get something in writing" from Geofrey, so as to be able, if necessary, to make him the defendant in a breach of promise case; but Ethel breaks off the engagement of her own accord. She tells the young man straightforwardly that the idea of their marriage was a mistake; that they are quite unsuited to each other, and that he himself must now be aware of it. Geofrey protests, rather feebly, against this statement; but Ethel persists, and goes off to pack her and her mother's boxes. Mrs. Borridge makes a "scene," weeping and scolding bitterly in the intensity of her disappointment; but the pair depart eventually, and Mrs. Cassilis's diplomacy triumphs.

With all the absurdity of the Borridge pretensions there is a certain tragic and pathetic element in the adventures of this mother and daughter at the Abbey—especially about those of the daughter. The good qualities of the girl, her intelligence, her energy, and the honesty which triumphs over her natural impulse to jealous revenge, make her struggles in her hopelessly unfit environment almost painful to witness. We can hardly laugh with comfort, either, at the egregious unconsciousness of Mrs. Borridge's vulgarity—we feel that it is cruel to derive amusement from such dire density. So, though on the surface an ordinary social comedy, *The Cassilis Engagement* really touches a deeper chord, and justifies its selection for performance by the Stage Society.

The piece was played with the artistic and "level" excellence which was required by its nature. The characters, with one exception, are painted in "half-tones," and require to be treated accordingly. Miss Evelyn Weeden looked exactly the refined and rather subtle personage that the text represented her to be, and acted with just the delicate aristocracy of style demanded by the character. Miss Maudi Darrell showed keen perception and acute discrimination as Ethel Borridge. She handled the rôle very cleverly, looked it remarkably well, and "came out strong" in the scene of rupture in the last act. Altogether Miss Darrell may be congratulated upon her success in the performance of a very difficult task. Miss K. M. Romsey gave a neat and finished embodiment of Mrs. Herries; and Mr. F. Morland did all that was necessary as the Rector, Mr. Ralph Hutton being quite successful as the butler, Watson. Miss Florence Haydon was bright, crisp, and quietly comic as Lady Remenham; and Miss Isabel Roland was a pretty and pleasing Lady Mabel Venning, Miss Gertrude Burnett doing good work as Lady Marchmont. Mr. Langhorne Burton was a presentable, well-bred Geofrey Cassilis, and acted with much quiet expression; and Miss Margaret Mackenzie was efficient as Dorset, Mr. Sam Sothern contributing a smooth, natural, and polished performance of the part of Major Warrington. Miss Clare Greet as Mrs. Borridge evoked roars of laughter by her broadly comic exposition of the good lady's absurdities and eccentricities. The play, produced as it was by Miss Madge Macintosh, went without a hitch, Mr. James Anning's stage-management being of valuable assistance.

ACTORS' UNION.

A number of earnest and enthusiastic members of the Actors' Association, who have been nominated for the Council, offer themselves together as a body for the purpose of securing certain administrative reforms. In an address just issued they advocate a smaller council, which should be made more directly responsible to the members by reviving the original custom of annual election. It is held that a council of forty-two is too large for administrative work, and that the present inability to influence the policy of the executive by a popular vote in less than two years discourages many members of the Association from taking any interest in its affairs. It is also desired to take a step in the direction of abolishing low salaries by insisting that the Association Agency shall not deal with any offers of engagements for speaking parts carrying less than £2 per week. As the adoption of the first proposal would necessitate another Council election in the near future, the question of further reforms is held over till then. The manifesto is signed by Messrs. Henry Ainley, H. Granville Barker, Cecil Brooking, Lewis Casson, C. F. Collings, H. Athol Forde, C. V. France, Fred Morland, and Kenyon Musgrave, and Misses Clare Greet, Georgina Hamilton, and Wynne Matthison.

The above ladies and gentlemen will be candidates at the annual general election of the A.A., at the Playhouse on Tuesday next, and call themselves the "Reform Party." They are all pledged to such general reforms in the organisation and management of the Actors' Association as may tend to make it a more effective means of protecting the interests of the actor; to advocating that all ordinary members of the Council shall retire annually, and their number be reduced to twenty-five; and that the Agency Department shall be forbidden to deal with any engagements offering a salary of less than £2 a week for a speaking part.

At a meeting at 3, Bedford-street, Strand, on the 8th inst., for the purpose of forming an Actors' Union, Mr. Lawrence Grant moved that no new society should be formed, but that all support should be given to the Reform party. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that a conference should be held with the Reform party.

Mr. Arthur Bawtree, who took the chair at a meeting at 3, Bedford-street on Tuesday afternoon, read, from a letter from Mr. Fred Bentley, the following suggested rules:—That an entrance fee of 2s. 6d. and a weekly subscription of 6d. should be paid by each member, and each member should have a card and receive a stamp for each week; that a levy of 6d. per member should be made for each death; that no actor should be installed as paid secretary, but a proper independent secretary be engaged; and that no manager (acting or business) or stage-manager, carpenter, baggage-man, should be a member of the Union. The chairman then asked those who wished to join the Union to sign their names, and those who did not wish to join to leave the room. These requests having been complied with, a provisional secretary and committee were elected, to canvass the members of the profession as to the formation of a Union. The committee included Miss Nellie Howitt, Miss Rouir, Mr. Robson Paige, Mr. Francis Chamier, Mr. J. Bentham, Mr. Arthur Bawtree, Mr. A. Y. Rae, Mr. Rawson Buckley, Mr. W. Ruddle Brown, and Mr. Oswald Marshall, Mr. Peet Leslie being elected secretary.

At the Salisbury Hotel, Manchester, on the 8th inst., a meeting of actors was held to discuss the project of an Actors' Union, upon lines designed to improve the financial conditions of the profession in general, and of provincial actors in particular. There was not a very large attendance, but the deficiency in point of mere numbers was amply balanced by the vigorous expression of views and experiences. These latter were quoted to prove that the adoption of a scheme upon strict "trade union" lines was absolutely necessary for the welfare of actors who have to get their living in the provinces. It was stated that the Actors' Association did not help the case of provincial actors, whose requirements might have been met rather by the scheme put forward some time ago by Messrs. H. B. Irving and Seymour Hicks, and subsequently withdrawn.

It was proposed that the new amalgamation—christened for the present the "Provincial Actors' Union"—should include none but *bond fide* artists; that in no circumstances should a manager be admitted, though due provision should be made for the case of the actor who becomes also an acting-manager; that stage hands should be excluded from taking any part in the representation of a play, the resource of "doubling" being held to meet all possible exigencies; that instead of submitting to the managers' demand for free rehearsals, the actor should be paid at the rate of half his salary; and that the minimum salary of any responsible actor should be not less than £2 per week, for a limit of six performances. On these lines it was proposed that the Provincial Actors' Union should be established and put into operation; that a vigorous appeal should be made to the profession by those members who have the opportunity of being first upon the list with their names. Stimulus was supplied by several members of the V.A.F., who, fresh from a hopeful meeting under the same roof, were present to make encouraging comment and to offer practical advice.

Mr. Phil Herman, one of the first to start the A.A. in Manchester, strongly urged a solid adhesion of actors to the proposed Union as being the only means of self-defence against the encroaching evils. He averred with emphasis that the local manager and the printer were getting the cream of the actors' brains, and that pictorial printing especially was a curse to the profession.

Mr. Tom Costello, expressing his sympathy with the scheme, advised, above all, amicable relationship with each other to the exclusion of personal jealousies. He thought that the Union should get well prepared upon a system of levies, that should be small, but certain and cumulative, and that actors who were in work should resist, on principle, the temptations to step into the breach of the music hall war.

Mr. Charles Coborn added some genial advice to the effect that the members of the Union should have faith in their cause—do the right, and after it is done, do right again—feeling sure that the constant effort to achieve good for the deserving must inevitably reap its reward.

Among the revelations made was one that there are leading juveniles at present who do not receive more—some probably less—than the proposed minimum salary of the Union; while others, suffering under a process of gradual reduction, are being thrown out in favour of cheaper men. The stress of evil conditions and the need to live are, it was stated, responsible for this state of affairs, to which also the amateur, in some degree, contributes.

It was eventually agreed that a Provincial Actors' Union should be formed, with an entrance fee of 2s. 6d., and a weekly subscription of 6d.

At a meeting on Thursday at the Salisbury Hotel, Manchester, it was resolved that the entrance fee should be 2s. 6d., with a levy of 6d. per week, and a death levy of 6d., as in (or similar to) the case of the V.A.F.; that five years' experience should be required to constitute eligibility for membership, and that every new member should be introduced and vouched for by at least two responsible associates; that subscriptions should be paid by the method of a book and stamps, on the lines of the V.A.F., and ten weeks' grace be allowed in the matter of arrears; that the Union should be its own agency, capable of supplying every requirement of managers, and guaranteeing the efficiency of every actor or actress sent out; that the operations of the Union should include portables and fit-ups, but on a basis modified to suit the conditions and scope of same; and that proved incompetents, after reasonable tests, should be excluded from membership.

It was finally agreed that the organisation should fall in as much as possible with the scheme of the reform party of the A.A., though the latter's title—the Dramatic and Musical League—did not commend itself to the meeting. It was also considered that an immediate amalgamation presents a great difficulty in the way of the majority of provincial actors, in respect of the necessity of paying 25s. 6d. before a voice in the scheme of reform now going on can be had.

THE A.A. ELECTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—As certain statements concerning the forthcoming A.A. election may be misleading, would you allow me to put plainly before all those who intend to vote the exact facts of the case?

A certain number of members are retiring from the council this year, but a certain number of those offer themselves for re-election. If you vote for these you vote for the present policy of the council, with which many of us disagree, because we consider it lacking in enterprise, energy, and appreciation of the needs of the times.

If you vote for the Reform Party, you had better discover, first, what this party desires. It has issued a circular which contains only two propositions. The first is that the council shall be reduced in number, and shall retire annually. With this proposition many people agree. Its second proposal is that the agency of the Association shall not negotiate engagements for less than £2 a week. If the Reform Party really mean that they want to establish a minimum wage, why don't they boldly say so? And why don't they honestly announce that upon this point at least they are going the genuine "Trades Union ticket"?

I say this because it is stated that the Reform Party will only vote for those candidates who have acquiesced in its test questions, and the suggestion seems to be that those who do not agree exactly with this Reform Party are not reformers, and do not desire any sort of reform.

I assert most emphatically that this is not so.

I did not acquiesce in all the demands of the Reform Party, not because I am opposed to reform, but because I am most distinctly opposed to following blindly an indefinite policy.

It is the dilatory, dilettante spirit, which is the curse of the Actors' Association. Half and half measures, half and half proposals, hair-splitting formality, red tape, and delay—these are the things that have turned many members from us in disgust. To-day there is a new spirit in the air. New hopes have arisen, new determinations have been made, and it is because I am loyal, and most truly loyal, to the Association that I say it will be left to die of inanition in a ditch of dilatoriness if it does not soon display a keen and proper sympathy with the bitter wants of our calling.

Apart from its "lemon-squash" programme, the Reform Party alludes in discreet and demure terms to general reforms such as, I am sure, would not offend a maiden aunt in a Berlin wool shop. If it has anything real and practical in view, let the Reform Party, through its leaders, state on Tuesday exactly what it wants and what are its ultimate ambitions. Then we shall know what we are voting for.

What I personally want I do not hesitate to say. I want to see the council made more of a business board and less of a debating society—ends which would be achieved by decreasing its numbers, and by having an annual re-election. I want to see the blackleg labour of the premium-paying and no-salary-receiving amateur absolutely prohibited. I want to see a minimum wage of £2 per week made compulsory for all speaking parts. This last clause is the most important of all. When employers are compelled to pay £2 a week at the bottom of the ladder, they will certainly prefer to take experienced people for their money, instead of paying inexperienced amateurs. The minimum salary should be established in the interests of art as well as in the interests of necessity.

I put it, Sir, frankly, to all those who are going to vote on Tuesday: Is our calling in a deplorable condition or is it not? Are many people nearly starving or are they not? Let them ask themselves the question, and then make up their minds whether they will vote for those who have the courage of their opinions, and who advocate real remedies, or for the lavender-kid-glove leaders of a rose-water revolution. — Yours faithfully,

LUCY SIBLEY.

7, Gainsborough-house, Finchley-road, N.W.
Feb. 14, 1907.

"AT HOME" AT THE ST. JAMES'S.

Her Royal Highness, Princess Christian, with her daughter, Princess Victoria, Lady Bancroft, and Mr. and Mrs. George Alexander, assisted at a very charming at-home, held at the St. James's Theatre on Friday afternoon last week, in aid of the funds of the Maternity Hospital at Windsor. All the stalls and other seats were removed from the ground-floor of the theatre for the occasion, and special carpets were laid down, while ornamental chairs and flower-stands and ferns were arranged in an artistic manner in the space thus made available. The stage itself was very prettily decorated. The scene in the background was a river or lake, flanked by a sylvan glen—a picturesque setting for the lovely dresses and hats, not to mention the personal attractions, of the ladies who assembled before the footlights for tea. Mr. George Alexander was complimented on all hands upon the beautiful appearance of his theatre.

Well-known ladies took charge of the tea-tables, the principal one being presided over by H.R.H. Princess Christian and her daughter, assisted by Mrs. Alexander. Others who performed a similar goodly service were Princess Alexandar of Teck, Countess Fitzwilliam, Lady Edward Churchill, Dorothea Countess of Chesterfield, Lady Mary Pepys, Lady Borthwick, Lady Ingestre, Lady Herbert, Lady Parratt, the Hon. Mrs. Hanbury-Lennox, and Mrs. Seymour Cochran.

The most interesting portion of the proceedings was the delivery by Lady Bancroft of a little speech on behalf of the Hospital. After referring to Mr. George Alexander's candidature for the London County Council, she went on to say that the Maternity Home originated in the desire of Princess Christian to found an institution which should be open to the wives of soldiers who were fighting for their country in South Africa. It was undoubtedly conferring a great boon on poor humanity, and an effort should be made to help it. Thanks were due to Her Royal Highness for the deep interest she had taken in the scheme.

An interesting little programme of song and music followed, during which Miss Louisa Dale, deputising for Mme. Clara Butt, who had been announced to appear, but was unable to turn up, gave a delightful rendering of the song, "To-morrow," from *The Vicar of Wakefield*. The talented juvenile violinist, Miss Vivien Chartres, submitted an altogether pleasing performance. The band of H.M. 2nd Life Guards played numerous selections in a way that gave proof of the wonderful efficiency of all the instrumentalists.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. J. O. Shepherd, the conductor of the orchestra of the Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool, was the other afternoon entertained to luncheon at the Adelphi Hotel by a few friends, who presented him with a valuable armchair, as a mark of their esteem.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

SOUVENIRS AT HIS MAJESTY'S.

Admirers of Mr. Tree—and their name is legion—are agreeably exercised in their minds at the special honour that will be paid to the actor-manager in Berlin shortly, and there could be no doubt that a feeling of congratulation dominated the large audience that celebrated on Friday, the 8th, the fiftieth performance of the sumptuous revival of *Antony and Cleopatra*. On that evening Mr. Tree, with that graciousness and perfect taste that characterise him, presented each member of the audience with a very neat souvenir in the form of a prettily-bound and beautifully-printed copy of his acting version, illustrated by portraits of the chief characters and photographs of scenes from the tragedy. Of course, Mr. Tree had to yield to the strenuous demands for a speech. He expressed his gratification at being able to run such a production so successfully for fifty nights. It was indeed something to be proud of, and he hoped that the little book he had placed in the hands of his patrons would keep them in pleasant remembrance of the event. He and the ladies and gentlemen of his company were very thankful for the generous encouragement given to their efforts, and on his return from Berlin, where, as they all knew, Shakespeare was held in high favour, he hoped to provide a fortnight's Shakespearean festival, which he trusted would meet with the public approval.

The sensuous beauty of the production, with its wonderful realisation of Oriental pomp, power, and luxury, will live in the memory of the playgoer, and Mr. Tree, who in his "foreword" gratefully recognises the "expert and graceful hand" of Mr. Percy Macquoid in the colouring and archæology, as well as the inspiring co-operation of Mr. J. Comyns Carr, need not trouble himself further about the controversy that has raged round his production, but thank the "gods" and the pit and the stalls for their whole-hearted appreciation and patronage.

In his impersonation of Antony in the story of the tragic collapse of Roman nerve and stamina in the arms of the Greek enchantress, Mr. Tree has had this advantage—he has had no great predecessor in the part within living memory. His conception of the character has broadened and deepened since the first night. He realises by many fine touches the whole-hearted devotion of Antony to Cleopatra, and there is a sense of impending doom in the utterances of the outmanœuvred and despised triumvir in the later phases of the play. The growing sorrow and unavailing regret previous to suicide are most pathetically expressed, and the final scene is mournful and deeply impressive.

Miss Constance Collier is endowed with personal attributes that make her a beautiful queen indeed. The coquetry of the character is cleverly suggested, and its caprice and cruelty firmly "lined in." The cruelty of the Egyptian sorceress is effectively insisted on in the famous scene with the messenger, and the actress gives a reading that is full of seductive charm in the earlier, and instinct with dignity in the final catastrophe. In Cleopatra's most wilful and wanton moods Miss Collier is always the Queen.

Mr. Basil Gill is the level-headed, calm, determined Octavius to the life, and reaches a high level of excellence in the scene wherein the young triumvir describes Antony's honouring of Cleopatra, and expresses his indignation at the desertion by the adulterous Roman of the chaste Octavia.

Mr. Lyn Harding's Enobarbus has evoked universal praise. It is one of the most telling parts in the play. Enobarbus chronicles each stage of Antony's weakness with caustic precision, and his glowing description of Cleopatra's majestic voyage up the Cydnus—one of the really poetic passages of the play—is very finely delivered by Mr. Harding, who evokes several tributes of applause for his fine elocution.

The character of Lepidus receives excellent treatment from Mr. Norman Forbes, who is at his best in the Aristophanic humour of the banquet on Pompey's galley, where, as a writer has very truly remarked, the masters of the world, hand in hand, go round in a tipsy Bacchanal.

Mr. Julian L'Estrange as Sextus Pompeius gives effect to the warlike but chivalrous nature of this ambitious opponent of the triumvirs.

The yielding, unsophisticated nature of Octavia is skilfully indicated by Miss Maud Cressall, who plays the rôle with gentle dignity and an impressive air of resignation.

Miss Alice Crawford's Charmian is full of Oriental colour, and spontaneous gaiety marks her acting in the scene with the Soothsayer—the pathos of her death scene being in strong contrast.

Mr. J. Fisher White's work is always distinguished by earnestness, care, and artistic aim; and his rendering of the Soothsayer is both mystic and impressive.

The terror of Mr. Charles Quartermaine's Messenger is unmistakable; and Mr. Egerton Hine as the messenger from Sicyon makes the part stand out. Effective work is contributed in the parts of Eros and Menas by Mr. Hugh C. Buckler and Mr. Herbert Grimwood; Mr. Bruno Holmes as the clown gives the necessary touch of grim humour to the part; Mr. J. Cooke Beresford and Mr. Robert Atkins as Alexas and Ventidius respectively do particularly well in those parts; and praise may be given to Mr. A. B. Imeson and Mr. Harry C. Hewitt as Scarus and Demetrius. Others who aid in the poetic beauty of this fine production are Mr. Edward Ouston as Mecænas, Mr. Alfred Goddard as Agrippa, Mr. A. Corney Grain and Mr. S. Yates Southgate as Proculeius and Thyreus, Mr. Clive Currie and Mr. C. H. Sworder as Menecrates and Varrius, Mr. James Smythe as Euphronius, and Mr. Henry Williams as Mardian.

ALEXANDRA PALACE.

On Saturday evening a largely-attended and highly successful promenade concert took place in the Central Hall. The instrumental portion of the programme was undertaken by the Band of H.M. Coldstream Guards, numbering their full strength, under the conductorship of Lieut. J. Mackenzie Rogan. An important feature was the primal introduction of the new set of six silver trumpets just presented to the Coldstream Guards by Mr. E. Christie Miller. Amongst the numbers were Wagner's overture "Die Meistersinger" and Raff's Cavatina, which had been specially arranged for the band by its able and accomplished conductor. The descriptive piece, "The Turkish Patrol," was more than usually attractive by the introduction of a Turkish order on the march delivered with fine elocutionary effort by the member entrusted with the task. Other meritorious items were the Grand Military Tattoo, as written and first performed by the massed bands of the Brigade of Guards at the Royal Naval and Military Tournament in 1905, and the selected xylophone solos by the musician Borland, whose reception was most flattering. The vocal numbers assigned to Miss Gertrude Lonsdale were rendered with excellent taste and care, the song "I think" deservedly obtaining an encore. Miss Violet Ludlow instantly scored in Guy d'Hardelot's "Thoughts of you" and Stephen Adams' "Father of Light," with organ obbligato by Mr. G. D. Cunningham. The commencement of the second part was Tschaikowsky's grand overture, "Solennelle," better known as "1812." The pyrotechnical display given by Messrs. James Pain and Son in the Italian gardens adjoining the hall greatly added to the realistic effect of the musical performance.

"THE TATTOOED MAN," a comic opera, in two acts, book and lyrics by Harry B. Smith, and music by Victor Herbert, was produced for copyright purposes at the Victoria Hall, Bayswater, on Monday.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE MIDDLESEX.

New items of interest are ever to be discovered in Mr. J. L. Graydon's bill, which this week contains an appreciable addition to the rapidly-increasing list of dramatic pieces. It takes the form of a sketch, in one scene, by Bert Danson, given for the first time on Monday, and entitled

"A WOMAN'S HONOUR."

Jack Anstead .....Mr. Arthur Bawtree
Harvey Stone .....Mr. Lionel Gadsden
Mabel Anstead .....Miss Maud Holland

The new playlet, the author of which is responsible for *Hobbs' Vendetta* and other pieces which have attained popularity, has the first essential for success in the power to arrest attention. The dialogue is forcible and direct, and no time is lost in arriving at a dénouement which is thrilling and unexpected. Two men, who have been rivals for the hand of the same lady, remain apparent friends after her marriage to Jack Anstead, at whose house Harvey Stone, the unsuccessful suitor, is a welcome visitor. Jack, however, has ruined himself by gambling, one of his liabilities being due to Stone, who has won a sum of £1,000 at poker. The debt represents only a small part of Jack's pecuniary difficulties, but his wife, unaware of the extent of his losses, determines to ask Stone to allow the money to remain until Jack's fortunes have improved. Her request is met by a passionate avowal of love by Stone, who promises to accede to it only at the sacrifice of her honour. Mrs. Anstead rejects the suggestion with contempt, and Stone is becoming violent when Jack enters, and learns of his faithless friend's infamy. The husband insists on a duel with pistols, and as he is a crack shot he makes the chances equal by arranging that the wife shall count three and switch off the light, so that both shall fire in the dark. The men face each other; but only two has been told off when Stone treacherously fires and wounds his opponent in the hand. Instead of shooting him down Jack produces another revolver, and handing it to his wife, bids her kill his adversary if he should fire before the given time. The opponents again get into position, Stone being covered by the lady's revolver. The fateful three is reached, the room is momentarily plunged in darkness, two shots ring out, and when light is restored the villain is lying dead. Such novel conditions for a duel can assuredly never before have been invented, and the scene had an intense and thrilling effect which enthralled the house. The sketch is played by Miss Maud Holland's company, who work together with a just appreciation of their responsibilities. Miss Holland is a fascinating exponent of Mabel Anstead, and plays with agreeable lightness, which gives place when required to dramatic intensity. An effective rendering of Jack Anstead is given by Mr. Arthur Bawtree, an actor of fine appearance and finished methods, who adds to the realism of the character by neat touches of pathos as well as by vigorous declamation. Harvey Stone is made sufficiently contemptible by Mr. Lionel Gadsden, whose villainy is none the less pronounced because it is refined. Deep silence on Monday accompanied the piece, the dramatic climax of which provoked loud applause.

At a later period of the evening a sketch which bubbles over with mirth is provided by Mr. C. H. Doughty and company. It is called *Captain Cupid*, and deals with the misadventures of an army officer who makes love first to one fair lady and afterwards to another equally charming. A warm time is in store for the Captain when his duplicity is discovered, and both ladies prepare to horsewhip him. The gay deceiver gets out of the difficulty by pretending to be mad, and thus escapes marrying either. Mr. Doughty is unfailingly comic as the amorous Captain, evoking constant bursts of laughter, while his assumption of madness is also very clever. Serious work comes at the end of the programme when *The Prodigal Wife*, an emotional episode produced a few weeks back, is played. Pretty and talented Miss Lois Du Cane appears in the title part, and plays it with her customary grace and dramatic skill. She is thoroughly supported by a well-selected company.

Among the varied items of the bill Messrs. Cedar and Elgar figure prominently with a whimsical interlude, done in the character of a knight of old and a baron bold, the patter of the pair being well-written and delivered. Hughes and Elliott supplement a coon duet with some novel rag-time stepping, and in their sand dance exhibit a precision and skill that is much admired. "Annie Laurie" is sung with much feeling by Miss Florence Deighton, who is also able to render the chorus of "Geneviève" in two voices, giving one in a deep contralto and the other in a high and powerful soprano. The Pasquali Brothers accomplish with ease the task of ascending and descending a high staircase head to head, while noteworthy among other feats is that of balancing in the same precarious fashion, their heads, however, being separated by a lighted lamp. Feats of rare skill are also performed by Francis, who has long enjoyed the distinction of being a "cannon-ball" king. His fondling of that unwieldy missile is startling in the extreme, and his expert juggling, to which a comic turn is given by the funny Alfred, creates a furore. Mr. Robbie Roy causes a great diversion as a comedian in kilts; Elsie Hill and company exert a comic influence in a humorous sketch; Natalia and Diana are comely and clever gymnasts; and in the programme are also the Brothers Lowenwirth, Miss Lily Albert, Mr. Ernie Williams, Miss Jenny Venton, O'Doyle and Dempsey, and the New Bioscope.

ROYAL ALBERT.

Within a comparatively short time from now Mr. Arthur G. H. Hunt, the proprietor of the Royal Albert, will be able to claim for his establishment that it is one of the architectural features of the locality. The West Ham Borough Council have, after several months spent in the consideration and reconsideration of plans, at last passed the designs submitted by Mr. Hunt's architect, and the work of reconstructing the entrance and frontage of the house will now be proceeded with.

The young gentlemen of the neighbourhood who fancy they have predilections in the way of the "noble art" should find plenty to engage their attention in the boxing exhibition at the Albert this week. Ben Jordan and Johnny Summers, described as the retired feather-weight champion of the world and as the 9st. champion of England respectively, offer to meet all comers, and certainly when the comers come the two champions give them a pretty exciting time of it. A silver cup is offered for the best show made during the week. An attractive electrical act is that presented by the two Marconis, who pass many thousand volts of electricity through their bodies without injury to themselves. There is much that is pretty and, at the same time, amazingly daring in the demonstration, notably where the flames are brought into existence by electrical contact. Raymond's Bio-Tableau is worthy of special mention. The pictures descriptive of a wedding by cycle are particularly vivid and particularly amusing, and the same remarks may be made in regard to the series entitled "My wife won't let me." Mr. Harry Desmond is hugely entertaining in his comedy business, and his song "Now I'm getting one-and-six a week"; and Miss Carrie Victoria has a taking ditty, which she sings with much spirit, the lines of which practically amount to an invitation to the audience to make love to her. Clown Charlton submits a pleasing eccentric musical act, during which he plays on the banjo and the concertina, giving us on the latter instrument a capital performance of "Put a little bit away for a rainy day." Miss Violet Francis is a most engaging comedienne, and her rendering of "You're a nice young man" quite takes the fancy of her hearers. She possesses an excellent style and delivery. The Bouncing Dillons (Hilda and Willie) are seen in a laughable gymnastic show, in which they give evidence of wonderful agility. The bouncing competition on the spring sheet evokes uproarious merriment. The Three Sisters Thurban present an altogether praiseworthy vocal and instrumental act, in which they perform on cornets, bugles, drums, mandolines, and banjoes.

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE.

Another fine programme is to be found at this popular variety house this week. The bill is headed by Carl Hertz, who is assisted by Miss Emeline D'Alton and company. In addition to his many other wonderful tricks this fine performer is also presenting his latest sensation, "The Bridal Chamber." A raised platform is placed in the middle of the stage, hung on each of its four sides with curtains. The audience has a full view of three sides, top and bottom, and there is apparently nothing unusual about the back. The platform is empty, the curtains are rapidly drawn round it, a brief pause, the curtains are drawn away again, and the platform is found to contain a large bed with a charming young lady asleep in it. A wonderful trick indeed.

Lieut. Travis provides his well-known ventriloquial entertainment, which is very much to the taste of the audience. The sensation and discussion caused by the performance of the Zancigs at the Alhambra has more or less naturally produced quite a crop of similar turns. One of these is to be found at Shepherd's Bush this week, billed as the Collier and his Child. The feats performed by this couple are of the usual nature, names of articles, dates of coins, &c., being given with such perfect ease that the interest of the audience is thoroughly aroused. Kitty Wage sings very brightly a new song, entitled "The Penny Bazaar Girl," and the Wartenberg Brothers supply a neat and clever foot balancing act. Frank Bernard and company appear in a farcical sketch called *Hello!* which provokes roars of laughter. The piece deals with the efforts of a couple of needy rascals to utilise a disconnected public telephone for the purpose of raising money, and is full of funny situations. A little lady always sure of a welcome is My Fancy. This clever artist's dancing seems smarter and brighter than ever, and she thoroughly deserves her popularity. The Four Schwarz Bros. are apparently recent arrivals from the Continent. Their turn, only lasting about four minutes, is not one that is likely to compete very successfully with our home products. Sinclair and Whiteford appear in a comedy sketch, entitled *Getting Even*. A young fellow and his wife quarrel, and each of them attempts to play a trick on the other by impersonating a member of the opposite sex. The situations arising out of this medley are obviously ludicrous, and the sketch is played to a running accompaniment of laughter. That very popular and now apparently permanent item, the American Bioscope, this week illustrates a village fire, and the humorous attempts of the local brigade to put it out. The programme is completed by Fred Poplar, an excellent comedian, who sings a couple of songs, one a parody on current popular tunes, and the other entitled "How I wish that I could lose her."

THE BRITANNIA.

The feud now existing between the managers and artists in no way affects the performance at this popular house of amusement. On the night of our visit the vast auditorium was crowded in every part to witness the excellent programme submitted by the management. Undoubtedly the greatest attraction is the champion wrestler of the world, George Hackenschmidt, who issues nightly a challenge to any strong man or wrestler to throw him in ten minutes or give a prize of £10. On Monday evening two competitors submitted themselves; the first the challenger soon overcame, but the second, George Strong, was a more stubborn foe, and it took all Hackenschmidt's skill to throw him, which he eventually succeeded in doing in about seven minutes, after a splendid exhibition of scientific wrestling.

Sketches occupy a prominent position on the bill, the first being a highly dramatic one, entitled *The King of Crime*. The man who is known by this title is being tracked by a police spy, and is eventually discovered at his own house, but owing to the warning of a confederate is enabled to make his escape by donning several disguises, and he thus manages to throw his pursuers off the scent. The spy, who is in love with the criminal's wife, tries to persuade her to run away with him, but she refuses, and eventually her husband kills the would-be betrayer at a *bal masque*. The sketch is performed by a powerful company headed by Mr. J. H. Brownson, who gives a vigorous interpretation of the title-rôle, and must be congratulated on his cleverness in the disguises he assumes, and in which he thoroughly loses his personality. The confederate is humorously played by Mr. J. McMahon, who causes amusement by his impersonation of Mr. Busoni. The police spy, M. Le Loup, is successfully represented by Mr. Leonard Clarke. Miss Amy B. Ellis sympathetically plays the persecuted wife, whose son, Henri, is admirably embodied by Mr. J. Ellis; and Miss Marie Tree assists in the character of Fanchette.

The well-known sketch by the late G. H. Macdermott, entitled *My Landlord*, receives adequate treatment at the hands of Mr. Fred Lawrence and company, the amusing incidents exciting much merriment. A good turn is that submitted by Messrs. Davis and Gledhill, in their motor-paced cycle racing. Harry Sims, who has evidently taken another well-known comedian as his model, introduces some good songs, and receives abundant applause for his rendering of "In the sunshine it is delightful." Pery Johnson, billed as a new comedian, has a style of his own, and introduces a capital parody on "In the shade of the old apple tree." Windermere and Mansfield are well received in their comedy duologue, "A Narrow Shave." The remainder of a successful programme is contributed to by Ethel May, a charming comedienne; Thornbury, who wins applause by some excellent crayon and smoke drawings; and the Treshams in a new comedy sketch, entitled *Roads Up*. The orchestra, under the bâton of Mr. Carl Hamin, renders some excellent selections during the evening

HOLLOWAY EMPIRE.

Rip Van Winkle is paying a visit to Holloway this week, and the famous character created by Washington Irving has extended the circle of his friends. In spite of his very human weakness, the good-hearted rascal is a universal favourite, and never fails to win the sympathy of an audience. The dramatic version of the story in its condensed form makes a capital music hall sketch. Mr. Fred Storey continues to give a very telling representation of Rip, quickly making a favourable impression in the scene with the children, Heidrich and Meeni, where the boy's announcement of his intended marriage with his little sweetheart sends her father into fits of laughter. In the encounter with the spectres who haunt the Katskill Mountains and the awaking from the sleep of twenty years Mr. Storey's performance is characterised by a welcome humour that is greatly appreciated by the audience, who are also unmistakably touched by the real pathos of the situation in the last scene, where the white-haired old man with the long, flowing beard returns to the village and discovers that his daughter Meeni has grown into a woman and Gretchen has become the ill-used wife of old Derrick. Miss Lilian Holmes is an excellent representative of Gretchen; and Miss Gwendolen Burney does well as the grown-up Meeni, the little girl being prettily embodied by Miss May Rousby. Master Reginald Connor is also good as the boy Heidrich; Mr. Keith Fraser being the manly exponent of the same character in the last scene. Mr. A. Maitland Stapley ably impersonates Derrick, the villain of the piece. A notable feature of the production is the scenery, painted by Mr. Fred Storey, the pictures of the Katskill Mountains and the Village of Sleepy Hollow being much admired.

The vaudeville entertainers known as the Courtiers, under the direction of Mr. Paul Mill, give a musical performance, the leading characteristics of which are its refinement and the excellence of the singing. One of the lady members has a capital song in "The little boy next door," and a topical ditty by the leader of the company is also well received. All the choruses are admirably rendered, and the troupe meet with a hearty reception. The Musical Jees are here in their latest comedy sketch, *The Scarecrow*, in which the comic business introduced evokes abundance of merriment. One of the characters takes the place of a scarecrow, and plays pranks with a picnic party. A timid curate is the favourite victim of his practical jokes, and his comic terror caused by the eccentric behaviour of the supposed scarecrow makes everybody laugh. The sketch is briskly played throughout, and concludes with a clever musical performance. Moon and Morris, comedians, who recently appeared in the Camden Theatre pantomime, are amusing in their cross-talk, and also win applause with a novel dance. The combination known as Les Uniques, consisting of two ladies and one male performer, win favour in a gymnastic act upon a double ladder, their graceful exercises being watched with interest. Mr. Chas. Norton succeeds in cleverly mimicking many of the leading music hall stars, who are supposed to meet on the occasion of a big race. Mr. Percy Honri has reached the highest rank as a concertina player, and his contributions are among the most acceptable and successful in the programme. He is rewarded by enthusiastic applause. Miss Kitty Marion sings a ballad, "Mignon," in pleasing style; and the American Bioscope presents a very amusing picture in "The Policeman's Little Run." The Hadj Abdulla Troupe of Arabians do wonders as sensational pyramid builders, and their remarkable performance receives its due meed of recognition. Mr. Chas. W. Adams, the acting-manager here, gives careful supervision over affairs in front of the house, and Mr. Forbes Russell is the able musical director.

(*For Notices of other Halls, see page* 21.)

"THE LIGHT IN THE WINDOW."

A Dramatic Episode, in One Act, written by Frank Dix, Produced at the Empire, Camberwell, on Monday, Feb. 11.

Jim Wishart .....Mr. George Cockburn.
Bob Wilson .....Mr. T. Blackdock
Mercy .....Miss Agnes Paulton
Mrs. Wishart .....Miss Daisy England

Mr. Frank Dix, whose name has been so long associated with pantomime books and fairy stories, has made a most successful essay as dramatic author. *The Light in the Window* is one of the best written, and as played by Mr. Fred Winn's company here, one of the best acted dramatic sketches seen for some time on the variety stage. The story is so full of deep, tender feeling and domestic pathos that it got a firm hold on the audience, and achieved a well-merited and instantaneous success.

It is Midsummer Day when we find Mrs. Wishart and her granddaughter Mercy in their pretty little cottage on the edge of the moors, within sight of the county jail. Mrs. Wishart is telling Mercy that it is over twenty years ago since her son Jim went away, leaving his child to her care, and every 21st of June—Jim's birthday—she puts a light in her window and prepares a supper for the wanderer's return. Bob Wilson, a warder in the jail, comes to see Mercy, and while prevailing on her to become his wife within the month, the boom of a gun is heard, which Bob knows is a signal that a prisoner has escaped. Bob tears himself away to join in the chase, while Mercy retires for the night. Mrs. Wishart, before following Mercy, puts the light in the window and lays the supper, still strong in the faith that her son will come back to his home. Once again the signal gun is heard, and the escaped convict peers in through the window. He sees the supper laid, the temptation to appease his hunger is too strong for him, and he enters the cottage and partakes of the good things left for the wanderer. Before leaving he looks around, and many articles of furniture and the ornaments seem familiar to him, and he is quickly convinced that this is his old home, when he sees his portrait on the wall decorated with yellow roses. Mrs. Wishart has been disturbed, and on coming into the room recognises the man as her long-lost son, but his convict garb being hidden by an overcoat she does not know he is the escaped convict. After a most affectionate meeting between mother and son she tells him that his daughter has grown to womanhood and is living with her, and is engaged to be married to Warder Wilson. She questions her son, and he tells her that twenty years ago he went on a voyage on board the ship Gambler and was wrecked on an island called Temptation. He was caught by the tide and cast on a desert isle, where he had been ever since. Again the signal gun booms forth, and Jim Wishart knows that every moment he loses is narrowing his chances of escape, and he tells his mother he must be going. She clings closely to him, beseeching him to stay with her, and in his efforts to loosen his mother's frantic embrace his coat is torn open and his convict garb revealed. His mother realises it all, and with a heart-rending cry drops dead at her son's feet. Bob Wilson rushes in and covers the convict with his carbine, but the sight of his dead mother has robbed the convict of all desire to escape. His daughter Mercy enters and finds her grandmother dead, and realises that the convict is her father. Bob says he will aid his prisoner to escape, but Jim asks Bob to look after his daughter, and, blowing Bob's whistle, gives himself up to the warders, who crowd around the door ready to take their prisoner back to jail.

As the mother Miss Daisy England imbues her part with all the loving faith and motherly devotion that the character demands, and in the scene with the convict she wins the hearts of her audience by her deep pathos and tenderness. Miss Agnes Paulton as Mercy has little to do, but does that little thoroughly and well. The same may be said of Mr. T. Blackdock as the warder, Bob Wilson. As the convict, Jim Wishart, Mr. George Cockburn delineates the character in a manner worthy of all praise. The incidental music by Mr. Julien H. Wilson was most effective throughout, and added not a little to the general success.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA.

Owing to pressure on our space, we have been compelled to hold over the weekly instalment of the above. The series will be continued next week.

Makes the Skin as Soft as Velvet.—Beetham's "LAROLA" preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold, winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, chaps, &c., and Keeps the Skin Soft, Smooth, and White at all Seasons. Invaluable for the Complexion, Delightfully Soothing and Refreshing after walking, golfing, cycling, motoring, dancing, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles, 1s., 1s. 9d, and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. Beetham and Son, Cheltenham.—[Advt.]

ON THE ROAD, FEB. 18.

Anna of the Plains.—Torquay.
Are You a Mason?—Chester.
Assassin.—Theatre Royal, Aldershot.
At Cripple Creek.—T. R., Stratford.
At Duty's Call.—T. R., Macclesfield.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs.—Gaiety T., Clydebank.
Bank of England.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
Beast and the Beauty.—T. R., Bolton.
Belle of Mayfair (Bode).—T. R., Bath.
Belle of Mayfair.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
Benson, F. R. (N.).—T. R., Dunfermline.
Benson, F. R.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Benson, F. R. (S.).—Pentre, Tonypandy.
Blue Moon.—New T., Edinburgh.
Bulmer, Mr.—Star T., Swansea.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—Palace T., Newcastle.
Cassidy, J. Rice.—T. R., Bedford Leigh.
Chinese Honeymoon (Bode).—Coronet Theatre, W.
Christian, The (Croke).—T. R., Chatham.
Claudian.—P.O.W., Grimsby.
Coal King.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Compton Comedy Co.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Country Girl (Macdona).—Newport.
Dairymaids.—O. H., Leicester.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—O. H., Tunbridge Wells.
D'Oyly Carte.—Broadway T., Deptford.
Driven from Home.—Prince's T., Manchester.
Earl and the Girl.—New T., Cardiff.
Earl and the Girl (N.).—T. R., Dewsbury.
Electric Man (N.).—Leamington
False Wife.—Prince's T., Accrington.
Female Swindler.—Wolverhampton.
Freedom of Suzanne.—Crystal Palace.
French Spy.—Motherwell and Coatbridge.
Gay Parisienne.—Birkenhead.
Glossop-Harris Repertoire Co.—O. H., Kidder'ster.
Golden Ladder.—T. R., Colchester.
Go-Won-Go Mohawk.—Tonypandy and Pentre.
Great Awakening.—T. R., Jarrow.
Grip of Iron.—T. R., Barnsley.
Her Forbidden Marriage.—Crown T., Peckham.
Her Lost Self.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
Her Love Against the World.—T. R., Aston.
Hero of the Flag.—T. R., Glossop.
His House in Order (N.).—T. R., Hanley.
His House in Order (S.).—Marlborough T., N.
Indian Mutiny.—West London Theatre.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Bakewell and Hednesford.
La Poupee (Ralland).—T. R., Hebburn.
Leah Kleschna.—Ayr and Kilmarnock.
Lights o' London.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
Lion and the Mouse.—T. R., Belfast.
Little Breadwinner.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
London Fireman.—T. R., Sheffield.
Love that Women Desire.—T. R., South Shields.
Lucky 'Liza.—West Stanley.
Lucky Durham.—Victoria T., Broughton.
Man and Wife.—P. O. W., Salford.
Man's Enemy.—Lowestoft.
Manxman.—Grand T., Brighton.
Martin Harvey.—Grand T., Middlesbrough.
Merveilleuses.—Grand T., Blackpool.
Midnight Mail.—Wolverhampton.
Midnight Wedding.—Castleford.
Mollison, William.—H.M.T., Dundee.
Monte Cristo.—Lyceum T., Govan.
Moody-Manners (A.).—King's T., Glasgow.
Moody-Manners (B.).—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Morals of Marcus.—T. R., Glasgow.
Moss, Eva, Repertoire.—O. H., Kidderminster.
Mr. Popple.—T. R., Hull.
My Sweetheart.—Kilmarnock and Ayr.
Napoleon the Great.—Athenæum T., Lancaster.
Night Out.—Norwich.
Otto the Outcast.—T. R., Glossop.
Peter Pan (No. 1).—Prince's T., Manchester.
Peter's Mother.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
Prince of Pilsen (Harris).—T. R., Darlington.
Private Secretary.—T. R., Exeter.
Prodigal Parson.—Muncaster T., Bootle.
Proof.—Grand T., Luton.
Royal Divorce.—T. R., Preston.
Saints and Sinners.—O. H., Dudley.
Sapho (Annie Bell).—Theatre Royal, York.
Sentenced for Life.—Star T., Swansea.
Shulamite.—T. R., Worthing.
Sign of the Cross.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
Silver King (Polini).—O. H., Huddersfield.
Still Alarm.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Three Little Maids (Macdona).—Wolverhampton.
Throne of Terror.—Wedgwood T., Burslem.
Toreador (Macdona).—Ashton-under-Lyne.
Traitor Prince.—Grand T., Walsall.
Traitor, The.—T. R., Middlesborough.
Tyrant, The.—Prince's T., Preston.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—Paisley T., Paisley.
Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Croydon.
Village Blacksmith.—Victoria T., Burnley.
Walls of Jericho.—Grand T., Eccles.
Warner, Miss Grace.—Gaiety T., Leith.
Warning to Women.—Aquarium, Great Yarmouth.
Wearin o' the Green.—Queen's T., Longton.
What the Butler Saw.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
When Woman Hates.—Lyceum T., Long Eaton.
White Chrysanthemum (Curzon).—Boro' T., Stratford.
White Chrysanthemum (Macdona).—Perth.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
Woman of Pleasure.—Amphitheatre, Ramsgate.
Woman and Wine.—Prince's T., Poplar.
Woman's Past.—Queen's T., Keighley.
Youngest of Three.—County T., Bedford.
10.30 Down Express.—Shakespeare T., Clapham.
£1,000 Reward.—Kirkcaldy and Falkirk.

"UNCLE OBADIAH."

Clarice Racket .....Miss Edith Madelle
Mrs. Tolman .....Miss Emily Kelsey
Katey .....Miss Winifred Stone
Bob Racket .....Mr. Langford Reed
Timothy Tolman .....Mr. Tom Squire
Obadiah Dawson .....Mr. Chas. Dixton

This is the title of what is described as a "comic concoction of cleverly contrived complications." To put the matter briefly, it is a sketch, and a most laughable one at that, which is being presented by Mr. Charles Dixton and company at Sadler's Wells this week. Uncle Obadiah stands in much the same position in some respects to his nephew, Bob Racket, as Charley's aunt was to Charley in Mr. Brandon Thomas's play. Obadiah has come from afar to pay Bob and his wife a visit, but it appears that he is not really aware as to the identity of the lady that Bob had taken unto himself in holy matrimony. Two or three years previously Uncle Obadiah had himself fallen, or imagined himself fallen, in love with a pretty woman, and he sends Bob, a young doctor, to the fair creature, with the object of getting the said Bob's opinion. Bob's opinion is highly complimentary to the lady, for he marries her, at the same time writing to his uncle to say that Clarice, as the lady is called, was a woman whose personal behaviour was most outrageous. She swore like a trooper, drank like a fish, smoked like a chimney, and did the high kick like a ballet girl. These qualifications are, of course, sufficient to condemn the girl in the old man's eyes, and he makes no attempt to continue her acquaintance. Such an attitude on his part is precisely what Bob desired his uncle to maintain, while he himself takes the girl to be his wedded wife. Now, after a lapse of time, Obadiah visits his nephew, Bob is anxious not to disabuse his mind as to Clarice's conduct, and, on the other hand, he wishes to prevent a meeting between the two, as he has given his wife a most exaggerated account of Obadiah's alleged peculiarities. The complications which happen when Uncle Obadiah does arrive on the scene are extremely amusing, and can be better imagined than described. Mr. Charles Dixton is excruciatingly funny as Uncle Obadiah, and the state of perturbation which overcomes him after he has been led by Clarice to believe he has taken poison helps to make the character still more absurd. Mr. Langford Reed acts in good style as Bob Racket, and there is a charming representative of Clarice in Miss Edith Madelle. From Miss Emily Kelsey we get an amusing sketch of an eccentric, middle-aged woman, who has married a young man; Miss Winifred Stone is brisk and vivacious as the maidservant. The cast is completed by Mr. Tom Squire's appearance as the empty-headed noodle who married for money. *Uncle Obadiah* is certainly one of the merriest music-hall farces we have seen for some time.

The latest quotations of music-hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1½; Canterbury, ⅜; Empire (15s. pd.), 1½; ditto (10s. pd.), 1⅛; London Pavilion Ord., 4⅜; ditto, Pref., 5; London Coliseum, ⅛; Metropolitan, ⅜; Moss Empires, 5¼; ditto, 5 per cent. Pref., 3⅞; Oxford, 6⅜; Palace, 10s. 6d.; Tivoli, 6; Var. Cons. Theatres, 13s

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "The Editor," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

Notice to Subscribers.

"The Era" is sold by all Newsagents in all the leading English, Irish, and Scotch towns, every Saturday Morning. Price Sixpence.

TERMS, POSTAGE FREE.

Home Subscriptions.				Foreign Subscriptions.			
One Year	£1	6	0	One Year	£1	12	0
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Three Months		6	6	Three Months		8	0

Cash must accompany order.

Notice to Advertisers.

Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "The Era," Ltd., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

Address,
The PUBLISHER,
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington Street)
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephone, 4747, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. Robinson.—*We should advise you to write to Mr. Chirgwin for permission.*

A. E. P.—*It is against our rule to give the age of members of the profession.*

H. T.—*The New Theatre was opened March 12, 1903, with* Rosemary, *by Louis N. Parker and Murray Carson.*

Playgoer.—*(1) The Lyric Theatre; (2) Miss Dorothy Frostick made her début at the Vaudeville as the First Oyster in* Alice in Wonderland *in Dec., 1900. She subsequently played Will o' the Wisp in* Bluebell in Fairyland *at the same theatre.*

F. D.—*The run of* The Admirable Crichton *finished at the Duke of York's on August 28, 1903—its 350th performance at that theatre.*

Cambridge.—*Miss Jennie Lee's first appearance as Jo was at the California Theatre, San Francisco, about thirty years ago. The first West End performance of Jo was at the Globe, Feb. 21, 1876.*

Elmo.—*Miss Florence St. John played Dolores in* Florodora *at the Lyric during the latter part of the run.*

Amateur.—*You had better consult a solicitor.*

Lucy.—*The recitation, "Shillin' a Day" is in Kipling's "Barrack Room Ballads."*

Bayswater.—Stage Dora *was produced at Toole's Theatre in 1883.*

G. W. S.—*The New Gaiety was opened with* The Orchid *on Oct. 26, 1903*

Harrington (Brixton).—*The date and year of the opening of the Paragon, Mile End, were May 13, 1885.*

Nemo.—*You can sue for the balance of the two weeks' salary.*

Sentenced.—*Next week.*

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Nita Clavering—Sat., Feb. 16.
Ada Frank—Sat., Feb. 16.
Winnie Stanhope—Sat., Feb. 16.
Lalla Stanhope—Sat., Feb. 16.
Will Smithson—Sat., Feb. 16.
Mr. and Mrs. Archie Howells—Sun., Feb. 17.
Arthur Shirley—Sun., Feb. 17.
J. Farren Soutar—Sun., Feb. 17.
David G. Noble—Sun., Feb. 17.
S. Isaacs—Sun., Feb. 17.
Edward German—Sun., Feb. 17.
Henry Marston Clifford—Sun., Feb. 17.
Eddie Harvey—Sun., Feb. 17.
Mrs. G. W. Moore—Sun., Feb. 17.
Charles Rezene—Mon., Feb. 17.
Walter Gay—Mon., Feb. 18.
Emmie Ames—Mon., Feb. 18.
Lydia Thompson—Tues., Feb. 19.
Adelina Patti—Tues., Feb. 19.
Ernest Dare—Mon., Feb. 19.
Ethel Gordon—Wed., Feb. 20.
Dot Sealby—Wed., Feb. 20.
Errol Stanhope—Wed., Feb. 20.
Pascoe Bioletti—Wed., Feb. 20.
Josie Bickford—Wed., Feb. 20.
May Fortescue—Thurs., Feb. 21.
Max Copland—Thurs., Feb. 21.
William Lowe—Fri., Feb. 22.
G. W. Moore—Fri., Feb. 22.
Phyllis Desmond—Fri., Feb. 22.
Fred A. Douglas—Fri., Feb. 22.
Mrs. Fred Benton—Fri., Feb. 22.
E. J. Hilliary—Fri., Feb. 22.
Miss A. Harrison-Tate—Fri., Feb. 22
Jenny Fenton—Fri., Feb. 22.
Frank Haytor—Fri., Feb. 22.
W. H. Chattell—Fri., Feb. 22.

Mr. Fred Storey, who is appearing in *Rip Van Winkle* this week at the Holloway Empire, showed a predilection for the stage almost from infancy, and at the age of thirteen was manager of his own theatre—a room at his home, in which he fixed up a stage, and used the dining-room chairs as the stalls. He had three fires, and was nearly burned out each time, greatly to his delight, but hardly to the satisfaction of his parents. Mr. Storey was destined for either the Army or the Church, but he did not like either, and entered the profession in which he has gained an enviable reputation.

He first became celebrated as a dancer, and his first appearance was at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Tottenham-street, under the Bancrofts. In the same company was Albert Chevalier, who was also making his début. Mr. Storey since then has been associated with the late Sir Augustus Harris and Wilson Barrett, George Wyndham, Harry Dundas, Mrs. Langtry, Arthur Roberts, Fred Leslie, George Edwardes, Kate Vaughan, and other notable people. He has visited America and Australia, and his record also includes the production of seven or eight pantomimes, for which he painted the scenery. Mr. Storey is a fine scenic artist.

The Empire directors have submitted the report and balance-sheet for the year ending Dec. 31, 1906. After allowing for depreciation, amounting in the aggregate to £8,170, with an additional sum of 3,330 0s. 1d. charged to renewals and repairs, and also the interest on debenture, the net profit (including balance of last account) is shown at £10,210 2s. 3d. It is proposed to pay a dividend in respect of the year 1906 of 2s. on each "15s. paid" share, and of 1s. 4d. on each "10s. paid" share respectively, being at the rate of 13⅓ per cent. per annum, absorbing £4,166 13s. 4d., and carrying forward to next account a balance of £6,043 8s. 11d. This dividend will, if approved by the shareholders, be paid on or before March 9 next, free of income-tax. A leasehold redemption policy has been effected for the return of the capital at the expiration of the lease in the year 1958. Mr. Frederick Hurdle is the director retiring in accordance with the Articles of Association, and, being eligible, offers himself for re-election. The auditors, Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co., retire, and also offer themselves for re-election.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Abud, Mr. Chas.
Adams, Miss Nellie
Adler and Sutton, Messrs.
Anderson, Capt. D. N.
Andreassen, Mr. Albert
Ardie, Mr. Arthur
Arnold, Mr. Fred
Artois, Mr. John
Asche, Mr. Oscar
Ashington, Mr. H.
Attwood, Happy
Baker, Mrs. E.
Barnett, Mr. Walter
Bartell, Mr. Teddy
Barry, Mr. Nelson
Bastow, Mr. George
Beardmore, Mr. J. P.
Beaufort, Miss Georgie
Beere, Mrs. Bernard
Belmore, Mrs.
Bertram, Miss Eva
Biglow, Mr. Dan
Boyd and Gilfain
Boyde, Mr. Edwin
Bowman, Miss Isa
Burnell, Mr. Fred
Burnett, Prof.
Callan, Mr. John
Cardona, Mr. William
Carlysle, Mr. S. W.
Casson, Mr. Frank
Cattaneo, Mr. Max
Cecil, Mr. Herbert
Chaplin, Mr. Sydney
Chapman, Mr. B. B.
Charters, Mr. Hugh
Chester, Mrs. A.
Chilcott, Mr. J.
Chilton, Mr. Wilfred
Clark, Mr. John
Clarke, Mr. C. Bellanden
Clarke, Mr. Joe
Clements, Miss Elsie
Cleveland, Miss Cissie
Coma, Mr. Arthur
Conder, Mr. A.
Corsbie, Miss Dorcas
Cruickshanks, Mr. Dick
Dante, Mr. G. W.
Davenports, The
Deane, Miss Lilian
Dekaro, Mr. Alf.
Delaires, The Three
De Marce, Mr. Felix
Dent, Mr. Digby
De Veres, The Three
Diamond, Miss D.
Donaldson Bros.
Dover, Mr. Cliffe
Duggan, Miss M.
Eckert, Miss Kathlyn
Ellis, Mr. George
Elton, Mr. S.
Eltons, The Two
"Elverton"
Evans, Mr. Nash
Florence and Lillian
Fossett, Mr. Harry
Garth, Miss Maud
Gaze, Mr. Leslie
George, Mr. Henry
Gerald, Mr. Frank
Gray, Miss Mona
Greenaway, Mr. A. E.
Gregory, Mr. E. G.
Gooes, Messrs. Gunnar
Gwynne, Mr. P. H.
Hall, Mr. Clifton
Handel, Miss Zette
Hardy, Mr. Fred
Harper, Miss Jessie
Harper, Mr. Joseph
Harrison, Mr. Frank
Harrison, Mr. Joe
Hart, Mr. Arthur G.
Harvey, Mr. Frank
Heath, Mr. Guyton
Herne, Miss Crystal
Hesse, Paul, Trio
Hilderini, Prof.
Hobson, Miss Maud
Hodges, Mr. Edward
Hooker, Mrs. Charles
Hope, Miss Jessie
Hunter, Mr. Will
Irving, Miss Ethel
James, Mr. David
Julian, Mr. Johnnie
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Kenaly, Mr.
King, Mr. N.
Kioto, Mr. N. T.
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Lee, Mr. Geo.
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Linden, Mr. Ernest
Lingard, Mr. E.
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Maclaren, Mr. Ian
Magrath, Mr. Chas.
Maitland, Mr. Fred
Major, Mr. Frank
Mansel, Lady
Mason, Mr. Fred
Mayne, Miss Clarice
Meier, Mr. Dave
Meredith, Miss M.
Merrin, Mr. R.
Metcalfe, Mr. H.
Milian, Mr. Max
Millett, Miss Maude
Mills, Mr. Oscar
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Morrell and Mouillot
Morton, Miss Effie
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Oakley, Miss Alice
Osta, Mrs. D.
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Pook, Mrs.
Potter, Mrs. Brown
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Rawson, Mrs. T. W.
Redferns, The
Revell, Mr. H.
Rio, Mr. Otto
Ripon, Mr. George
Rivers, Miss Pauline
Roadnight, Mr. C.
Roberts, Mr. Charlie
Rogerson, Mr. Harry
Rosse Russell Répertoire
Rudd, Mr. Austin
Russell, Mr. Sidney
Sansbury, Mr. Vernon
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Scott, Mr. J. N.
Selwyn, Miss Ethel
Sheldon, Mr. E. J.
Singleton, Miss Amy
Smith, Miss Lillian
Solo, Mr. Fred
St. Alban, Mr. Edward
Stanley and Greenop
Stavart, Miss Madge
Steele, Mr. Albert
Stelling, Mr. Harry
Stuart, Mr. Lorrimer
St. Valerie, Miss G.
Taylor and Phillips
Taylor, Miss Evelyn
Taylor, Captain
Texas, Capt.
Thomas, Mr. A. D.
Thomas, Mrs. Ronald
Travers, Mr. Nat
Turner, Mr. Montague
Valmore, Miss Jenny
Vasco
Vassar, Dr. Carl
Ventris, Mr. Arthur
Vernon, Miss Ethel
Victor, Miss Ada
Wakeley, Miss Minnie
Waldron, Mr. Joe
Weybourn, Miss E.
Willard, Mr. George
Williams, Mr. Fred
Wilson, Mrs. Randle
Winter, Miss Lily
Wylie, Mr. Laurie
Yorick, Mr. Tom
Yorke, Mr. Leonard
Zedora, Mr. Leo.
Zerbinis, Mr. Victor

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth** or **Death** or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny**.

The charge for a notice of **Marriage**, not exceeding forty words, is **Two Shillings and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny**.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

MARRIAGES.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE.

A MARRIAGE is arranged, and will take place on April 13 next, between Trevor Langton Lane (late of Messrs. A. and S. Gatti and Charles Frohman's Cos.) and Amy Gertrude, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. E. Nathan-Burgess, 6, St. Margaret's-place, Brighton.

DEATHS.

CHEESMAN.—Feb. 10, of pneumonia, William Cheesman, actor, aged 46.

DE VOY.—Feb. 11, at 7, Wood-street, Lambeth, Sam De Voy (William Foy), negro comedian, formerly of De Voy, Le Clercq, and Lovell, and De Voy, Hurst, and Fredericks, aged sixty-four.

LOVETT.—At Showground, Methil, Fife, on Jan. 27, Mary, daughter of John Lovett, amusement caterer, aged 13 years 9 months.

MACCABE.—Feb. 9, at Clonmel, Ireland, Kathleen Maccabe, aged 35. Sadly missed by her sorrowing brother, Julian Mack. R.I.P.

RUSHFORTH.—At Manchester, on Feb. 1, Elizabeth (Jess), of the Rushforths and King Leo, beloved sister of Mrs. Geo. Johnson, Victoria Theatre, Barry. Deeply mourned by her sorrowing mother, brothers, and sisters.

WALLER.—Feb. 5, at Frognal Mansions, Hampstead, Guy Waller, aged 34.

IN MEMORIAM.

JONES.—In loving memory of Edward H. Jones, who died Feb. 13, 1905 (for many years manager, Grand Theatre, Manchester). Sadly missed by his wife and family.

LORENZI.—In loving memory of my dear husband Frank Lorenzi, of the Sisters Phillips and Bros. Lorenzi, who departed this life Feb. 19, 1906. Never to be forgotten by his loving wife and family.

SIMPSON.—In loving memory of my dear husband Clifford Simpson (The Brontes), who passed away Feb. 14, 1906. Rest on, dear one; we shall meet again.

TISSOT.—In loving memory of my dear father, Jules Tissott, who died Feb. 6, 1901. Never forgotten by his ever-loving daughter, Marie (Mrs. Will Rosaire).

PRESENTATION.—Mr. William George Cuming, who has been *chef d'orchestre* at the Theatre Royal, Chatham, since the day of opening on Christmas Eve, 1900, terminated his engagement there on Saturday last. Between the acts he was the recipient of a handsome travelling case as a token of respect and esteem from the members of the band. The presentation was made on behalf of himself and colleagues by Sergeant Brown.

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OF
ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHIES.

NAME.	DATE.
Abranams, Messrs. F. & M.	March 31, 1906.
Alexander, Mr. Alex.	June 2, 1906.
Anderson, Late Mr. Reddick	Jan. 19, 1907.
Ashcroft, Late Mr. W. E.	October 27, 1906.
Ashton, Mr. George	May 5, 1906.
Ashton, Miss Margaret	September 1, 1906.
Atkin, Late Mr. John A.	Jan. 5, 1907.
Ball, Mr. Alf	September 1, 1906.
Barbour, Mr. William	March 3, 1906.
Barclay, Mr. Arthur J.	May 26, 1906.
Barlow, Miss Billie	March 10, 1906.
Barnett, Mr. Orlando	October 6, 1906.
Barrasford, Mrs.	February 10, 1906.
Beatty, Miss May	November 10, 1906.
Beecham, Mr. Charles	Dec. 22, 1906.
Bertoldi, Late Miss Ena	April 7, 1906.
Billington, Mrs. John	January 20, 1906.
Bordin, Signorina Maria	September 15, 1906.
Brickwell, Miss Mamie	Nov. 24, 1906.
Brookfield, Mr. Charles	Dec. 22, 1906.
Brooks, Mr. George	Dec. 29, 1906.
Burns, Mr. W. C.	Feb. 2, 1907.
Burton, Mr. John	March 10, 1906.
Butt, Mr. Alfred	August 25, 1906
Carrington, Miss Eva	February 24, 1906.
Cavalho, Miss Sylvia	March 3, 1906.
Cellier, Miss Marguerite	May 26, 1906.
Chappell, Late Mr. James	Feb. 2, 1907.
Cinquevalli, Mr. Paul	May 5, 1906.
Clancarty, Late Lady	Jan. 5, 1907.
Clark, Mr. William	March 3, 1906.
Clark, Mr. T. Sealey	May 19, 1906.
Collier, Mr. Hal	May 19, 1906.
Conquest, Mr. Arthur	May 26, 1906.
Coote, Mr. Bert	June 16, 1906.
Corri, Mlle. Ghita	September 22, 1905.
Costello, Mr. Tom	September 15, 1906.
Cotterell, Mr, Sid	July 14, 1906.
Courtice, Mr. Thomas	Dec. 22, 1906.
Craston, Mr. Charles	Feb. 2, 1907.
Craven, Mr. Tom	Dec. 15, 1906.
Crisp, Late Mr. Henry	May 26, 1906.
Cruikshank, Mr. Alfred	March 17, 1906.
Culloch, Mr. Arthur	November 10, 1906.
Dacre, Mr. Harry	Dec. 1, 1906.
Dallas, Mr. J. J.	July 7, 1906.
Dampier, Mr. Alfred	May 12, 1906.
Deering, Late Miss R.	July 14, 1906.
De Gracia, Mr. G.	May 19, 1906.
Denton, Mr. Jack	Feb. 2, 1907.
Dixon, Mr. Robert	Dec. 8, 1906.
Dyball, Mr. George H.	January 13, 1906.
Elliott, Late Mr. J. B.	May 26, 1906.
Ellis, Miss M. E.	Feb. 2, 1907.
Featherstone, Late Miss B.	Jan. 5, 1907.
Elen, Mr. Gus	September 23, 1905.
Gastelle, Miss Stella	July 15, 1905.
Gatti, Late Mr. Stefano	October 20, 1906.
Genée, Mlle.	September 22, 1906.
Gibbs, Miss Edith	March 3, 1906.
Giffard, Mr. William	Jan. 12, 1907.
Grace, Miss Amy	January 13, 1906.
Gray, Miss Dora	January 13, 1906.
Green, Mr. Richard	Jan. 19, 1907.
Grey, Miss Isabel	July 7, 1906.
Grove, Mr. Fred	March 10, 1906.
Guy, Miss Gladys	Jan. 26, 1907.
Hamlyn, Mr. J. D.	January 20, 1906.
Hansen, Miss Laura	January 20, 1906.
Harris, Mr. Thomas	February 24, 1906.
Harrington, Mr. John P.	Dec. 8, 1906.
Harriss, Miss Sophie	April 7, 1906
Harvey, Late Mr. Eddie	September 1, 1906.
Hastings, Miss Nora	March 10, 1906.
Heron-Brown, Miss Edith	June 16, 1906.
Hey, Miss Muriel	September 15, 1906.
Hitchens, Mr. H. J.	September 8, 1906.
Holloway, Mr. Baliol	April 15, 1905.
Hunter, Late Mr. Harry	October 20, 1906,
Illington, Miss Margaret	June 2, 1906.
Irving, Late Sir Henry	Oct. 21, 1905.
Jerrard, Late Mr. J. F.	April 28, 1906.
Juliette, Mdlle.	January 13, 1906.
Kinghorne, Late Mr. Mark	November 10, 1906.
Kingston, Miss Bertha	February 24, 1906.
Kinnaird, Miss Helen	March 3, 1906.
Knowles, Mr. J. Forbes	July 7, 1906.
Lamonte, Miss Syria	November 10, 1906.
Lancaster, Miss Nora	Feb. 2, 1907.
Lauri, Mr. Edward	July 28, 1905.
Lazarus, Mr. A.	May 5, 1906.
Le Roy, Servais	June 23, 1906.
Lewes, Miss Miriam	June 16, 1906.
Leyton, Mr. H. Lawrence	Feb. 2, 1907.
Livermore, Late Mr. L. C. J.	October 13, 1905.
Livesey, Mr. Carter	March 24, 1906.
Loftus, Miss Kitty	January 20, 1906.
Love, Miss Mabel	December 16, 1905.
Lugg, Mr. William	October 6, 1906.
Mackinlay, Mr. Sterling	September 9, 1905.
Macmillan, Mr. J. T.	May 26, 1906.
Maude, Mr. Cyril	June 2, 1906.

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THE ERA
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1907.

THE OLD "STOCK."

We were watching the other day the departure from a London railway station of a provincial company on tour. Nothing could be better arranged for the comfort and convenience of travellers. Each grade of the company had a separate carriage allotted to it, neatly labelled; and the porters, as we arrived, were putting congenial foot-warmers into each compartment. In imagination we saw the party arrived at the town in which they were to appear, and separating, the principals to the local hotel, the others to various boarding-houses whose addresses appear weekly in the advertisement columns of *The Era*. We saw them acting at one of the up-to-date provincial theatres, with hot and cold water laid on in all the dressing-rooms, the "accommodation" in which was up to the high standard of the modern architect. We fancied them performing on a smooth and well-swept stage, lighted by electricity, and free from the noxious fumes of gas; and we visioned them also with the manners and customs of educated folk—sober, clean, and perfect in their parts and business.

What a contrast is this, we thought, with the old stock company system of sixty years or so since! The late JOHN COLEMAN left behind him in his memoirs a complete picture of the life of an actor under the old *régime*—a life full of adventures and "ups and downs"; of fighting and drinking, of squalor and semi-starvation; a life which could only have been endured by demi-savages or fanatical devotees of the drama.

First there was the stock company manager, a strongly marked type of which was ALEXANDER, of the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, who had erected, in the portico of his playhouse, a life-sized statue of himself, standing, like GARRICK, between Tragedy and Comedy. He was a regular slave-driver, at work morning, noon, and night, absolutely living in the theatre, and seeing no reason why the members of the company should not do likewise. His mania was that it was his special mission to teach everybody everything; and it was rumoured that he essayed to teach EDMUND KEAN Othello, CHARLES KEAN Hamlet, and MACREADY Virginius. He could not certainly sing or play upon any instrument; and his dancing was limited to a Highland reel, popularly known as "ALICK'S lilt." Whenever a breakdown occurred, or there was a hitch in the scenery or the lights, the "gods" would yell, "ALICK, ye auld de'il, gie us the lilt!" Holding what was virtually a monopoly, he ruled his actors with a rod of iron. For six days in the week he was rigidly abstemious; but he devoted the seventh to imbibing as much "wine of the country" as he could carry, turning up perfectly ready for work, however, on Monday morning.

The relations between audiences and actors were, to say the least, familiar. The galleryites knew the words of most of the stock plays by heart; and if a favourite actor "stuck," they good-naturedly supplied his absence of memory. Thus it was that T. P. COOKE, after playing in *Black-eyed Susan* for two or three thousand nights, broke down at last, and accepted assistance from the "gods," remarking, "You see, messmates, a man's memory can't last for ever!" When CHARLES KEAN "dried up" in the last act of *Macbeth* at Newcastle-on-Tyne, the King of the Gallery "gave him the word" in the dialect of the district. CHARLES readily accepted the help of his rough-and-ready prompter, bowing his grateful acknowledgments.

Nor were the relations between stars and utility actors more distant. On one occasion, when KEAN was playing Macbeth at Belfast, a minor actor named RICKARDS was entrusted with the part of Seyton. When his cue came in the fourth act he was absent, telling funny stories in the green-room. KEAN was furious, and prowled up and down the stage like a tiger, growling "Where is the brute? Send him on that I may kill him!" After a prolonged delay the representative of Seyton appeared. "What's your grace's will?" he enquired in trepidation." "Saw you the weird sisters?" enquired KEAN, fiercely. Trying to make matters agreeable, Seyton answered, nervously, "Yes, my lord!" instead of the negative in the text. "The devil you did!" gasped KEAN. "Where *are* they then?" Utterly unmanned, the wretched Seyton replied, "I'll show your majesty if you'll deign to step round the corner!" An actor in those days had to be a "man of his hands." A player named PAUMIER, while enacting Brutus in *Julius Cæsar* at Glasgow, was, in the midst of the quarrel scene, insulted by a drunken fellow in the boxes. With a brief "Excuse me, brother Cassius," he leaped into the boxes, took the man by the scruff of the neck, dragged him into the lobby, and downstairs into the vestibule, whence he kicked him into the gutter; then, returning to the stage, PAUMIER coolly resumed his part. On another occasion, while acting in Durham, some youths from the college took it into their heads to "guy" his fencing in *Hamlet*. The after-piece was *Katherine and Petruchio*, and PAUMIER played the latter part. The "guying" being repeated, he pulled the principal offender out of the stage-box, dragged him on the stage, horsewhipped him soundly, and threw him into the orchestra, afterwards making a little speech to the audience.

The private life of the provincial actor was rude. On the smallest excuse the men came to blows, and rolled over each other, cursing and pomelling. When MACREADY was acting at Edinburgh, his American rival FORREST went into the boxes and hissed him in *Hamlet*. The audience addressed the artists frequently and freely. An actor named BENNETT had a very pronounced nasal organ. At the end of HOWARD PAYNE'S drama of *Brutus; or the Fall of Tarquin*, in which the stern parent condemns his son to death for treason to the Republic, at the supreme moment a person in a box cried, with simulated emotion, "Oh cruel Roman father! How could you have the heart to doom to death a son with such a—Roman nose?" In a performance of *Hamlet* in Liverpool, an incompetent amateur, as the Player King, substituted for the lines—

Anon he finds him
Striking too short at Greeks!

the slightly altered version—

Anon he finds him
Striking at two short Greeks!

VANDENHOFF, who was playing Hamlet, came to the rescue with "'Tis well. I'll have thee speak out the rest of this soon"; whereupon an auditor in the pit exclaimed, "God forbid. We've had enough already!" When a player lost his head he often punched the prompter's; indeed, the last appeal was always to fisticuffs.

What a contrast between this sort of life and the pleasant, gentlemanly progress of a modern travelling company through the provinces! When once the initial difficulty of acquiring the part is got over, the actor or actress is able to devote all his or her spare time to self-improvement, mental and physical; to the study of literature or the pursuit of golf or cricket; to the investigation of local antiquities or the *dolce far niente*. Is it surprising that the stage is overcrowded when it offers so many attractions, and involves so few "disagreeables"?

ROYAL OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

The production of *Tannhäuser* at Covent Garden on Wednesday night was of special interest, as it was the twenty-fourth anniversary of the death of Richard Wagner. *Tannhäuser* has long been a popular opera, and not without reason, as the fine scene of the Hall of Song, with its wealth of melody and stirring dramatic episodes, the womanly and pathetic character of Elisabeth, so finely drawn by the great master, and the manly, romantic figure of Wolfram—which so completely atone for the somewhat weak hero—and the fine overture, stamp the opera as a work of genius, although ardent Wagnerites do not consider this opera comparable to the master's later productions. It was unfortunate that through indisposition M. Van Dyck was unable to appear. The character of the hero, swayed by every passing emotion, has always been considered one of his finest creations. *Tannhäuser* is not an easy opera to mount, and it was evident that more than usual pains had been taken. Herr Zeller made a fairly satisfactory hero, and although somewhat weak in the opening portions of the opera, improved greatly in the later scenes, while the Elisabeth of Frau Aino Ackté was a poetical and beautiful creation difficult to surpass. It was quite a triumph for Frau Ackté, and a great pleasure to the audience to hear the music sung so artistically. Frau Minnie Nast also sang the shepherd's song with much charm. Herr Feinhals displayed much talent in the grateful part of Wolfram, and Dr. Von Krauss made a dignified Landgrave. Miss Agnes Nicholls, in the part of Venus, was entirely successful, and all the minor characters were most adequately filled. The grand finale to the second act was finely sung, and produced a great impression, in no small degree due to the fine orchestra and the able conducting of Herr Franz Schalk, who, with the principal artists, was called on after each act and loudly applauded.

AN important disclaimer to which all publicity should be given was made in the Divorce Court on Tuesday in reference to the recent matrimonial case of Gagen v. Gagen, in which the respondent was a curate at Shepherd's Bush. The respondent was charged with misconduct with Miss Skinner, whose stage name was "Alice Gordon." Unfortunately there was another lady acting at His Majesty's Theatre whose name was Alice Gordon Skinner, but who had nothing to do with the person mentioned in the matrimonial suit. Counsel was requested to state that Miss Alice Gordon Skinner was the daughter of the Rev. J. S. Skinner, late chaplain of St. Pancras Infirmary.

"THREE BLIND MICE."

A New Light Comedy, in Three Acts, by Arthur Law, Produced, for the first time in London, at the Criterion Theatre, on Thursday, Feb. 14.

Julian Shuckburgh	MR. FREDERICK KERR
Rawson Guest	MR. HUBERT DRUCE
Andrew Lavender	MR. O. B. CLARENCE
Peter Ricketts	MR. MAX LEEDS
Jim Sporrit	MR. LITTLEDALE POWER
Footman	MR. HUGH ARDALE
Lady Richard Marrable	MISS C. GRANVILLE
Lady Clarisforde	MISS KATE SERJEANTSON
Miss Tippings	MISS ANNIE HILL
Jessop	MISS DOROTHY EDWARDS
Mrs. Joliffe	MISS ST. CLAIR SWANZY
Polly	MISS SHEBA BROZEL
Arabella	MISS VICTORIA MAY HARRIS
Harriet	MISS DOROTHY MASLIN
Marjorie Lovel	MISS MAY PALFREY

Mr. Arthur Law's new light comedy has had a trial trip in the provinces. It was produced at the Theatre Royal, Margate, on July 30 last, and certain alterations have been made by the author since the first performance. The most important of these occurs at the end of the second act, which has a different ending to the original version.

Three Blind Mice belongs to that class of play which is dependent for its attractive qualities upon clever, amusing character-sketches and witty dialogue. A "light comedy" is quite the correct description. It possesses all the simplicity of a drawing-room play written for a cheery Christmas entertainment. One need not be an experienced theatre-goer to foresee from the beginning how the simple tale will end. We have met before that middle-aged but well-preserved gentleman who, when it comes to the capture of a young girl's heart, carries all before him, and even triumphs over a rival who has all the formidable attractions of youth and good looks on his side. The heroine of the story, Marjorie Lovel, is a girl of twenty. It is only her godfather, Julian Shuckburgh, who calls her by the nickname of her childhood—"Little Miss Muffet." Her aunt, Lady Clarisforde, informs Julian that Marjorie has three suitors—Peter Ricketts, a conceited youth who is working up for an Army examination; Rawson Guest, a stout individual who generally confines himself to monosyllables; and Andrew Lavender, a sickly-looking, middle-aged widower, with two little girls. These love-lorn gentlemen are the "three blind mice" who run after Marjorie, and she, being a born flirt, gives encouragement to all of them. At the request of Lady Clarisforde, Julian has a straight talk with his god-daughter, but little comes of it, and they are interrupted by the arrival of Lady Marrable, who, it appears, some time ago, broke off her engagement with Julian Shuckburgh to marry Sir Richard Marrable, a wealthy man, whose hobby is books. The scene of the second act is the coffee-room of the "Red Lion." A thunder-storm is raging, and Marjorie and her lovers, who have been to a circus performance in the neighbourhood, seek the temporary shelter of the inn. Everybody is wet through, and Lavender's two little girls are put to bed. Lady Marrable, evidently intent upon rekindling the embers of Julian's dead love, and jealous of Marjorie, tells the girl that her godfather is anxious to see her engaged to one of her three suitors. Marjorie, in a moment of pique and disappointment, consents to become the wife of Lavender, to the great delight of Lady Marrable. Of course, matters are put right in the third act. Lavender has in his employ a governess, Miss Tippings by name, who, with the determined demeanour and insistence of a Suffragette, claims the timid widower for her own, and, having dismissed her two other suitors, Marjorie is left free to accept the man she really loves, Julian Shuckburgh.

The fate of a play of this description depends almost entirely upon the acting; and Mr. Arthur Law is indeed fortunate in this respect. In the part of Julian Shuckburgh, Mr. Julian Kerr gives us another of those delightful studies of the "man of forty" for which he has gained a reputation in previous plays. Easy and natural in every movement, Mr. Kerr gets the utmost value out of his lines. He is the man of the world who has seen life and has a good-natured contempt for such feeble creatures as Andrew Lavender; but beneath the surface there is a vein of genuine feeling, which finds expression in his love for "Little Miss Muffet." That young lady has a very bright and attractive representative in Miss May Palfrey, whose return to the London stage is a very gratifying event. Miss Palfrey is able to infuse a girlish charm into the character, and to assume a quite bewitching air of coquetry in her dealings with her several suitors, all the time revealing by certain little tokens her love for Julian. Exceedingly clever is Mr. O. B. Clarence's embodiment of Andrew Lavender, the nervous, hesitating manner, the gushing style of his love-making, which is comically mixed with a fatherly concern for his two girls, and, in the last act, Andrew's hopeless struggle against the combined attacks of the terrible Miss Tippins and a cold in the head—all these eccentricities proved delightfully amusing. Mr. Hubert Druce did all that was possible with the part of Rawson Guest, a laughable but somewhat impossible character. Mr. Max Leeds—a newcomer to London, we believe—was most successful in his portrayal of Peter Ricketts, the student, who thinks more of cricket than "exams.," and boasts that all he "doesn't know could be put under a thimble." It was a capital performance. Miss C. Granville also scored in the rôle of Lady Marrable, doing all that was possible with a rather unsatisfactory part. Miss Kate Serjeantson cleverly hit off the peculiarities of the chronic invalid, Lady Clarisforde; and Miss Annie Hill was duly austere and determined as Miss Tippings. Miss St. Clair Swanzy did well as the landlady of the "Red Lion"; and Miss Dorothy Edwards deserves a word of praise for her neat rendering of the Jessop, Lady Clarisforde's maid. The Misses Dorothy Maslin and Victoria Harris, as the two children, had only thinking parts; Mr. Littledale Power was good as an ostler; and Mr. Hugh Ardale as footman, and Miss Sheba Brozel as Polly, a waitress, completed the excellent cast. At the final fall of the curtain there was a call for the author, and Mr. Frederick Kerr, who produced the play, came forward and announced that Mr. Arthur Law, who was unwell, was not in the house, but he would convey to him the favourable verdict of the audience.

The new piece was preceded by Mr. Hartley Manners' one-act drama, *A Queen's Messenger*, which was originally produced at the Haymarket Theatre. It is the story of how a Russian diplomatic lady cleverly duped an English officer, and afterwards repented and saved him. Miss Granville appeared in her original character of the Russian lady, and again created a most favourable impression; and Mr. Wilfred Forster played well as the English officer.

THE ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ART.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to remove an erroneous impression conveyed in your leading article of last week? The Academy of Dramatic Art is not now under Mr. Tree's control, and, therefore, can no longer be correctly described as "Mr. Beerbohm Tree's Academy." The institution was taken over from him in March, 1906, and then reconstituted by a corporate body, now forming the Council, as follows: Mr. John Hare, Mr. Tree, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Forbes Robertson, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. Pinero, Mr. J. M. Barrie, and myself as president.—Yours faithfully,

SQUIRE BANCROFT.

THE ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

The usual weekly meeting of the council of the Actors' Association was held on Tuesday, when there were present Mr. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), Mr. H. W. Mote (hon. solicitor), and Messrs. Cecil Barth, J. Cooke Beresford, Clarence Blakiston, Acton Bond, Burton Cooke, F. Cremlin, William Devereux, Herbert Shelley, A. B. Tapping, Brandon Thomas, Spencer Trevor, Frank Vernon, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary).

The hon. solicitors reported they had advised several members. Richard Hatteras, Edwin C. Buffum, Emma Stockley, Ada Roscoe, Maud Hoffman, Elsie Roberts, Cecil du Gué, Henry J. Ford, Chas. P. Ingham, and Leslie Rea were nominated for election, and Mabel St. James, George Barrett, and Philip Cunningham for reinstatement. A question of alleged insanitation at a provincial theatre was dealt with. A case of alleged bogus management was reported to the council, and some of the company having attended before the council, the hon. solicitors were requested to obtain from them the fullest particulars of their respective claims and report thereon.

The chairman read a letter from the Touring Managers' Association, in which it was stated that the arrangements suggested were approved of, subject to a modification, which was accepted, and that the whole matter would be placed before the touring managers for their final approval at their next meeting.

The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was received. Mr. John Fletcher, dental surgeon, 3, Pevensey-road, Eastbourne; Mr. Cecil R. Chaworth Lister, 70, Wimpole-street, W.; and Mr. W. Wyper, of Motherwell, were elected as hon. medical officers to the Association.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, when there were present Messrs. Acton Bond (chairman), J. Cooke Beresford, C. Aubrey Smith, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). Several matters of importance were discussed, and the secretary received instructions.

CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL.

The following ladies and gentlemen have been nominated to fill the fourteen vacancies which will be created on the council by the retirement of those who go out of office on Tuesday next:—

Ainley, Henry, proposed by H. Granville Barker, seconded by Clarence Blakiston.
Applin, Arthur, proposed by J. Cooke Beresford, seconded by Spencer Trevor.
Barker, H. Granville, proposed by Norman McKinnel, seconded by Frank Vernon.
*Bond, Acton, proposed by Laurence Irving, seconded by J. Cooke Beresford.
Brooking, Cecil, proposed by Rosamond Mayne-Young, seconded by Lewis Casson.
Brough, Fanny, proposed by Thalberg Corbett, seconded by J. Cooke Beresford.
Casson, Lewis, proposed by Michael Sherbrooke, seconded by Norman Page.
Collings, C. F., proposed by Rose Mathews, seconded by Lawrence Grant.
Collins, Frank, proposed by J. Cooke Beresford, seconded by Spencer Trevor.
*Cremlin, F., proposed by J. Fisher White, seconded by C. Aubrey Smith.
Dale, Welton, proposed by J. Cooke Beresford, seconded by Thalberg Corbett.
*Devereux, William, proposed by Beatrice Lamb, seconded by J. Cooke Beresford.
Forde, H. Athol, proposed by Fredk. Morland, seconded by H. Granville Barker.
France, C. V., proposed by Lewis Casson, seconded by Wilfrid Franks.
*Gordon, Douglas, proposed by A. E. Drinkwater, seconded by C. Aubrey Smith.
Greet, Clare, proposed by Eric Lewis, seconded by W. Graham Browne.
Hamilton, Georgina, proposed by Rose Mathews, seconded by Frank G. Dunn.
Horniman, Roy, proposed by Walter Russell, seconded by Carlotta Addison.
Irving, Laurence, proposed by C. Aubrey Smith, seconded by C. Hayden Coffin.
*Lamb, Beatrice, proposed by J. Cooke Beresford, seconded by Carlotta Addison.
Matthison, E. Wynne, proposed by Clive Currie, seconded by Michael Sherbrooke.
Morland, Fredk., proposed by Lawrence Grant, seconded by S. D. Allan Wade.
Musgrave, Kenyon, proposed by E. Vivian Reynolds, seconded by Austin Melford.
Sibley, Lucy, proposed by Cecil Barth, seconded by Eric Scott.
*Tapping, A. B., proposed by Algernon Syms, seconded by Edward Terry.
Whitby, Arthur, proposed by C. Aubrey Smith, seconded by J. Cooke Beresford.

Those marked * retire in rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

A NUMBER of earnest and indefatigable members of the Actors' Association, who have been nominated for the Council, offer themselves together as a body for the purpose of securing certain administrative reforms. In an address just issued they advocate a smaller council, which should be made more directly responsible to the members by reviving the original custom of annual election. It is held that a council of forty-two is too large for administrative work, and that the present inability to influence the policy of the executive by a popular vote in less than two years discourages many members of the Association from taking any interest in its affairs. It is also desired to take a step in the direction of abolishing low salaries by insisting that the Association Agency shall not deal with any offers of engagements for speaking parts carrying less than £2 per week. As the adoption of the first proposal would necessitate another Council election in the near future, the question of further reforms is held over till then. The manifesto is signed by Messrs. Henry Ainley, H. Granville Barker, Cecil Brooking, Lewis Casson, C. F. Collings, H. Athol Forde, C. V. France, Fred Morland, and Kenyon Musgrave, and Misses Clare Greet, Georgina Hamilton, and Wynne Matthison.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. C. A. East, the producer of the Elephant and Castle pantomime *Cinderella*, was, on the last night of the production, presented by the principals of the company with a handsome kit bag. Mr. Edward Godfrey, his stage-manager, was presented with a case containing two pipes. Miss Gracie Taylor, principal boy, made the presentation, and on behalf of her colleagues wished Mr. East the best of luck.

ON Thursday, Feb. 7, a matinée performance was given at the Crown Theatre by the Hanover Park Dramatic Club of *Hop-o'-my-Thumb* and *Confusion* in aid of the Lord Mayor's Crippled Children's Fund and other charities. Both pieces were very creditably represented, and the popular manager, Mr. Cecil Paget, Mr. H. J. Brett, and the hon. sec. of the dramatic club, Mr. Charles Lane, deserve great credit for their successful efforts in an excellent cause.

THE souvenir of *Antony and Cleopatra*, so graciously presented to each member of a large audience at the fiftieth performance on Friday evening, the 8th, will be a welcome addition to the playgoer's Shakespearean library, and will form a companion volume to *The Tempest*. Bound in white, with gilt edges, the book is beautifully printed, and is illustrated by photographic portraits of Mr. Tree and Miss Constance Collier, in the title-rôles, and reproductions of famous scenes from the play.

MR. MICHAEL NOLAN writes that he contributed to the funeral expenses of the late Albert Hall, the song writer, and there were others.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

The strike has ended; the pickets are withdrawn; Mr. George R. Askwith, it is understood, has accepted the position of arbitrator; and all artists have been notified that they may resume work on Monday, Feb. 25. It is not stated whether the arbitration proceedings will be of a public nature or not, but the general feeling is in favour of publicity.

Miss Marie Lloyd is sailing from Liverpool today on the Saxon for Madeira, to which delightful health-giving resort she has been ordered for a few weeks' rest. She telgraphs to us: "Could not go before on account of strike, but now happily peace is tending. Au revoir. Your always, Marie." We join with thousands of others in the wish that the popular comedienne will soon be her own bright, vivacious little self again, and that her return to London will synchronise with a complete *entente cordiale* between managers and artists.

The Two McNaughtons (Fred and Tom) left Euston Station on Wednesday morning by the boat train for Liverpool, en route for New York. Members of the variety profession are not noted for their early rising propensities, but, despite the comparatively early time of departure—9.50—"everyone who was anyone" in the profession was present to bid *bon voyage* to the travellers, who open at Williams's Colonial, New York City, in a fortnight's time. Miss Alice Lloyd (Tom's wife), also under engagement at the same hall, was of the party.

A few compartments further down the train was seated Mr. Bryce, the newly-appointed Ambassador for the Court of St. James to the land of the Stars and Stripes. Much amusement was occasioned by late-comers to wish good-bye to Mr. Bryce stopping at the McNaughtons' door, and finding that the befurred artists (despite the strike!) were not diplomatists, scurried off to the other part of the heavy train. Marie Lloyd was early on the scene to bid good-bye to her sister, and travelled as far as Liverpool. Before the train steamed ont, a case of champagne was opened, and health drunk to the boys and "Alice."

Amongst those who were present were Miss Georgina Preston (Mrs. Fred McNaughton), Miss Jessie Preston and her husband (Mr. Jack Sterling), Miss Joanna Preston, George and Jock Preston (the McNaughtons' brothers-in-law), Wilson Hallett, and countless others. A costly and magnificent bouquet was received just before the train steamed away. The party arrived well in time at Liverpool landing-stage, and sailed later in the day on the Oceanic.

Mr. Bransby Williams, during the last week of his engagement at Glasgow, had the honour, with the Lord Provost, of assisting at the inauguration of a new Dickens Society in the metropolis of the Clyde, and was a fellow guest with Mr. Bram Stoker at the supper given by the Arts Club. Mr. Williams has just been offered the part of Romeo in the provinces, and several tours by Oswald Stoll. He will open shortly at the Empire with a new show.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Williams had something of a shock when they read in the papers of a bomb falling in Selsey, as a result of naval practice. Fortunately, the formidable missile fell in a field at the back of the chalet, which the popular actor built near Selsey Bill a year or two since, and Elsinore, as it is called, is quite safe.

Mr. E. W. Mackney, who recently took unto himself a wife, celebrated his eighty-second birthday on Monday. Another burnt-cork octogenarian is Mr. Pony Moore, who confesses to eighty-six, and still another is Mr. Joe Cave, who shares with Mackney the honour of being one of the first two Englishmen to play the banjo. After the usual vicissitudes incidental to the career of a varietor in the "fifties," Mackney was engaged by the late Charles Morton for the Canterbury, and the "father of the halls" was the first manager to dub him great. "The whole hog or none," his song, was written by George Ware, Marie Lloyd's first agent, who in the days of the early music halls used to appear in duologues with Mrs. Ware. The famous lyric stands as a record topical song, its verses—all told—reaching three figures. Mackney was a star at a single-figure salary, but he was as thrifty as he was accomplished, and is enjoying a green old age amid surroundings that suggest easy circumstances.

Mr. Albert Chevalier, supported by a specially-selected company, will start at Easter a tour with a triple bill. Among the new pieces presented will be *Atonement*, a drama in one act, written by him, and in which he plays a strong emotional part, and *The Dream of His Life*, a fantastic musical play, in one act, also from his pen, the music composed by Mr. A. West. In this Mr. Chevalier will appear as a professor who is mysteriously doomed to become his own Cockney servant. The triad of plays will be completed by J. M. Barrie's *Pantaloon*, presented by arrangement with the author and Mr. Charles Frohman. In this Mr. Chevalier will repeat his fine performance of the title-rôle.

After the many exhibitions of nude statuary the beautiful act of Ser Pharah, who will give an exhibition of sacred Hindu posing and dancing at the Tivoli on Monday, will come as a complete revelation. In the Buddhist religion, dancing is not a mere accomplishment, but an act of prayer, and Ser Pharah represents not the ordinary Nautch girl, whom any Cook's tourist can see, but the dancing girl specially reserved for religious worship, who is born, lives, and dies in the temples. To understand this performance it is important to remember that nudity is expressly imposed on its adepts by the Buddhist creed. Ser Pharah gives five tableaux representing the offerings of a maiden to the god, and subsequently some poses. She has a beautiful figure, and her movements are of the most graceful and artistic kind. The scene is laid in an Indian forest outside the Temple of Buddha.

The usual monthly meeting of the Committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund was held at the York Hotel on Wednesday afternoon, the chair being occupied by Mr. W. J. Wainratta (vice-president). There were also present Messrs. Tom Carney, H. E. High, W. Brisco, S. White, F. W. West. The treasurer, Mr. Frank Heath, was unable to attend through illness. The secretary (Mr. R. T. Baines) reported that the annual financial statement was being prepared, and it showed a considerable increase in the receipts as compared with last year. In fact, the position of the Society was steadily improving. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Mme. Wilton Davis's ladies' orchestra continues to give great pleasure and satisfaction at Collins's, Islington. It is a great success.

Sacco was unable to complete his fifty days' fast at Olympia, and on Saturday he was led from the hut where he had sat without food for forty-six days. He looked haggard and worn, and his clothes hung loosely upon him. Mlle. Janotha, the pianist, handed him a cup of coffee, but before that he seized a jug of water and would have drained it but for the restraining hand of the doctor. The remainder of his feast consisted of biscuits, Hermatogen, a veal cutlet, and some fancy pastry.

Mr. Cyril Chantler, our highly-esteemed Blackpool correspondent, has recently been chosen as captain of the North Shore Golf Club, in the famous Lancashire seaside resort. Mr. Chantler is always in the van of any charitable movement in the town, and is a welcome reciter. His friend, Mr. George Harrop, managing-director of the Palace and Tower, Blackpool, is also a member of the golf club named.

A large extension which has been recently added to the Birmingham Gaiety Theatre was formally opened on Tuesday night by a dinner given by the management. The new extension will greatly increase the comfort of patrons of the hall, and consists of a three-storied addition to the original premises, the ground floor of which is to form a large waiting hall, in which about 600 people can shelter from the weather. Long street queues will thus be avoided, and the necessity for a tiresome wait in wind and rain obviated.

A large company assembled at the dinner, Mr. J. M. Bruce presiding. Councillor Marsh proposed the toast of "The Gaiety," which was enthusiastically honoured. Among others present were Councillor Middleton, Mr. J. H. Rowell (trustee for the debenture holders), Mr. F. H. Badman (managing-director), Mr. Philip Rodway (manager of the Theatre Royal), Mr. H. E. Lewis (chairman of the Theatre Royal), Messrs. A. W. Matcham, Lester Collingwood, Albert Bushell (manager of the Gaiety), and J. M. McIntosh (secretary of the company).

The much-anticipated charity match organised by Mr. George Robey was played at Villa Park, Birmingham, on Wednesday afternoon. The popular artist was fortunate in selecting an afternoon which proved delightfully fine, and having in view the splendid team of international players which the great comedian had got together, it was not surprising that the crowd was a big one. There were about 7,000 spectators when the Villa opened the game.

At half-time, George's eleven had scored three goals to the Villa's two; but the superior combination of the famous Midland club told against the scratch team—excellent as it was—and after a game in which the players strained every nerve, the Robeyans were defeated by four goals to three, and the Aston Villa hold the Robey silver challenge cup for the next twelve months.

The players who accepted Mr. Philip Rodway's invitation to be present at the Theatre Royal in the evening were each presented with a gold medal. Local charities will benefit to the extent of £350 by Mr. Robey's enthusiastic exertions. He was well seconded by many prominent townsmen and sportsmen.

The promoters of the scheme for a hippodrome or theatre of varieties at Devonport have settled upon a site, which is in Princess-street, facing Fore-street and St. Aubyn-street, and will involve the demolition of a number of houses, for which favourable terms have been offered. At present the matter rests with the Lord of the Manor (Lord St. Levan), who, we understand, has, upon certain terms, been asked to grant a freehold of the site. Many local people are sanguine of the success of the venture, should the decision of his lordship be favourable.

In answer to some strictures from the Bench at the recent Licensing Sessions at Newport (Mon.), Major Gallagher, resident-manager at the Empire, said that, speaking for Mr. Stoll, and in a lesser degree for himself, they had no desire whatever to place anything improper before the public. On the contrary, they desired to give a pure and clean performance. As far as he knew, he could not honestly admit that anything approaching impropriety had been produced at the Empire during the last six years.

Frank Rushbrook, stage-manager of the Palace Theatre, Great Grimsby, was fatally injured on Sunday evening at the conclusion of the concert given at that house by the Grimsby Artillery Band. He set the fire-proof curtain in motion, and after descending steadily it fell with a crash. At the same time the ponderous counterweights also fell, and one of them, a large solid mass of iron, struck the unfortunate stage-manager. It first caught him on the back of the head, fracturing his skull, and then, as he fell, dropped across his legs and lower part of the body, thus pinning him to the stage. He never regained consciousness, and died about twenty minutes after the accident. He was twenty-eight years of age, and was the sole support of his widowed mother.

A most enjoyable theatrical dance was given in St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow, on Thursday, the 7th inst. The fact that all the arrangements were made within a day or two before imparted quite an impromptu character to the affair, and the line on the ticket—"Penalty for wearing evening dress, 5s.," showed that no "side" was to be allowed.

About sixty couples were present, including Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kitchen, Mr. Albert Hengler, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Montague, Miss Madoline Rees, Miss Edna Morgan, Miss Mena Brae, Miss Ella Retford, Miss Ethel Campbell, Miss Sadie Wade, Mr. Harry Lappo, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Whittaker, the Harmony Four, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mussett, Mr. Percy Humphrys, Mr. and Mrs. Christie Grant, Mr. D. Macfarlane, Mr. Harry Henderson, Mr. W. T. Frame, Mr. L. F. Durell, Mrs. Helier Le Maistre, Mr. T. Ellis-Buxton, and *The Era's* Glasgow correspondent. Dancing was kept up till after 4 a.m., and the affair was voted a huge success.

The numerous friends of Mr. Dan Noble will be sorry to hear that he is lying dangerously ill with acute pneumonia in Southport.

On Friday last week the annual meeting of the shareholders in the Eastbourne Pier Company was held. The directors recommended that a sum of £1,000 be placed to reserve; that a sum of £550 be transferred to a renewals suspense account; and that a dividend at the rate of £7 per cent. per annum be paid, free of income-tax, which will absorb £2,800; leaving a balance of £720 15s. 10d. to be carried forward to next account.

The chairman (Councillor C. F. Simmons), in the course of his speech, said:—"I would like to refer to the improvement at the stage-end of the Pavilion. It gives us twelve dressing-rooms. The addition was necessary, owing to the fact that we have had better companies, and consequently more star artists, during the past season." The chairman also spoke of the excellent work done by Mr. Hayes, the manager, during the year.

The annual general meeting of the Aberdeen Music Hall Company, Ltd., was held on the 6th. Mr. Alexander Webster, advocate (the chairman), in moving the adoption of the report, said the revenue last year had gone up to the highest point yet reached in the history of the company. It was almost £300 in excess of the highest previous record, which was in 1903. The result of this was that the balance at the credit of the revenue account at the close of the year was such that the directors, after making full and adequate provision for depreciation of buildings and furniture, and addition to the revenue account, felt warranted in recommending the payment of a dividend of 7½ per cent. The gross revenue of the year amounted to £1,948, of which £1,410 18s. 2d. arose from the letting of the large hall.

Mr. and Mrs. John E. Nash (Miss Lil Hawthorne) sailed on Wednesday from New York for England on the White Star liner Baltic.

Mr. Harry Mountford, the chairman of the National Alliance of the Variety Artists' Federation, who was to have appeared in the sketch *A Night with the Stars* at the Scala Theatre on Monday night, is seriously ill at his residence.

Miss Rose Hamilton, the Prince Radiant of E. Edmunds' *Babes in the Wood* company, is repeating her Glasgow success at the Grand Theatre, Newcastle, her dialect song, "Going shopping," by Geo. Arthurs, being encored five and six times nightly.

After a most successful engagement at the London Pavilion, Charles Collette and Miss Joan Derry will appear next Monday at the Chelsea Palace, in their clever farce, *Tea for Two*. This amusing little piece, interpreted by the above artists, will be one of the interesting items at the matinée to be given next Thursday at the Hackney Empire, in aid of the Lord Mayor's Fund for Crippled Children.

The secretary of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund has received the sum of £5 from Mr. Geo. Bell, hon. secretary of the Sunderland Charity Carnival, the sum being part proceeds of the entertainment. The following amounts have also been received:—C D., 2s. 6d.; Sydney Hyman, 1s. 6d.; W. Payne, South London (pence box), £4 0s. 4d.; H. L. D., 2s. 6d.; Martin Adeson, 10s.; May Marton, £1 2s. 6d.; J. O. Brien (collected at "Rule's"), £2 2s. 4d.; W. J. Churchill, 5s.; Saker Harlow, 12s. 6d.; and Harry Talbot, 7s. 6d.

Mr. Charles Henderson, we are given to understand, is no longer connected with Tom Shaw's Agency. The vacancy has been filled by Mr. William (Billy) Armstrong, a gentleman who is well known to everyone connected with the variety profession.

Messrs. R Warner and Co., the well-known variety agents, who have been established for so many years in Wellington-street, open their new offices, Lyric Chambers, next to the Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, on Monday next.

Mr. James Pople, the stage-manager of the Empire, Stratford, had an unfortunate fall of twenty feet on to the stage on the night of Jan. 26, and sustained a fracture of the thigh and other injuries. He is now lying in the West Ham Hospital, and his friends will be pleased to hear that he is progressing favourably.

A new and brilliant series of "Urbanora" pictures, called "Euston to Erin," will be added to the Alhambra programme on Monday. The imaginary traveller will journey by L. and N. W. R. mail train and steamer, viâ Crewe and Holyhead, to Dublin, where, after a tour of the city, a glimpse of the Viceregal opening of the Horse Show, and a stirring march past of the R.I.C., he will take the coastal train that runs to Wicklow and Wexford, keeping to the picturesque coast line and, passing through Queenstown and Cork, visit every spot of interest right up to Achill Island (in Fair time), eventually reaching the Giant's Causeway. The trip will also embrace the Lakes of Killarney.

Presiding at the meeting of Moss' Empires, Ltd., at Edinburgh on Thursday, Sir Edward Moss referred to the music-hall strike. He was happy to say the matter was in a fair way of settlement, and it was not, therefore, desirable to dwell on details. The fact that none of the company's halls was involved went to show that the artists and employés had no fault to find.

At the same meeting, the chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, which recommended a final dividend at the rate of 10 per cent., stated that the directors had purchased the Grand Theatre, Birmingham, for £42,000.

Venus, with her flesh-coloured enamel portrayals of popular paintings, is producing her act at the Euston, and has also been secured for the Canterbury.

The feature of the Palace programme next week is the first appearance in variety of Mr. Hayden Coffin. Contrary to general expectations, Mr. Coffin will not produce a song-scena, but will sing perhaps some new concert numbers in addition to old public favourites. "Queen of my heart" and "Tommy Atkins" are almost certain to be included.

There is no variety palace at Ilford; but capitalists may be informed that a valuable freehold site, eminently suitable for the erection of a first-class hall, is to be sold at the Mart by Messrs. A. C. Williams and Co., of 16, Finchley-road, N.W., on Thursday, March 7. The plot possesses a frontage to Ilford-hill of 98ft.; the average depth is 270ft. The property also has the advantage of being in the centre of the town, within three minutes' walk of Ilford Station, with electric trams passing every few minutes.

The New Theatre at Ilford will be opened in the autumn. A site in Ilford-lane has been acquired by a strong syndicate, and plans have been prepared by Mr. Bertie Crewe, and passed by the local authorities, for a place of entertainment to accommodate 2500 people. The house has been designed so as to be used either as a theatre or as a variety palace. Building operations will be started in the course of next month.

Captain Taylor, who puts Lockhart's wonderfully trained elephants through their manœuvres, had a little joke to himself the other week. The elephants were appearing at a South London hall during the time of the strike. Everyone appearing on the stage was greeted with cries of "blackleg." The versatile Captain Taylor, however, turned this cry into a prolonged laugh. As soon as the elephants' heads appeared on the stage loud cries of "blacklegs" were raised, but the "strikers" themselves had to roar with laughter, for the elephants' legs were painted a vivid white.

The adjourned annual general meeting of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund at 1, Durham House-street, Strand, will stand over till Friday, March 29, at 1.30 o'clock.

Mr. Archie Howells, musical director of the Canterbury, we regret to say, has been seriously ill with rheumatic fever and bronchitis. However, he is pulling round nicely and hopes to be in the chair in a week or so.

William Crocker, 40, carman, giving a common lodging-house address in Tooley-street, was charged at Tower Bridge on remand, before Mr. Cecil Chapman, with stealing a portmanteau and its contents, value £4, belonging to Joseph Archer, music hall artist, of South Lambeth-road. Police-constable Heard, 222 M, said he stopped the prisoner, who was carrying the portmanteau, in Tooley-street, and questioned him. The prisoner said the article belonged to him, and that he was a traveller, but upon being asked what he travelled in he replied, "Find out." The witness then opened the portmanteau, and, seeing that it contained a comedian's outfit, he arrested the prisoner. Detective-sergeant Darby, M division, said the prisoner bore an excellent character, and his employer was willing to take him back. The accused was released under the First Offenders Act.

It is understood that a great combine of the American music halls has been effected by Messrs. Oscar Hammerstein, Percy Williams, and B. F. Keith. All the principal halls in the States will now be controlled by the amalgamation.

To a crowded audience at the Palace Theatre on Tuesday night were shown many scenes and incidents of Tuesday's Royal procession at the opening of Parliament. A notable feature also was that depicting the Yeomen of the Guard returning from the search of the vaults—an incident which is rarely seen by the general public.

The annual ordinary general meeting of the Alhambra Company, Ltd., was held in the Alhambra Theatre on Monday, Mr. Alfred Moul, chairman of the company, presiding. The directors' report and balance-sheet, and a dividend of 10 per cent., together with a bonus of 2½ per cent., were unanimously approved and adopted, the meeting closing with a vote of thanks to the board.

Mr. Chas. M. Daly, the popular comedian, and his comedy company, in conjunction with Mr. Harry Taylor, produced *I Must Have It* on Monday at the Empire, Camberwell. It proved a laughter-raising hit, and kept the audience in a state of hilarity. The idea is good and novel, the acting smart, and it is a really welcome addition to the many comedy sketches now running.

Mr. Ernest Ch. Gittins's condensed versions of *Il Trovatore*, *Bohemian Girl*, and *Maritana*, having been booked solid for 1907, with the exception of three weeks, he has now in active preparation a condensation of Donizetti's popular opera, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, with Mlle. Adèle Prescott as Marie, supported by nine other well-known artists.

Jeapes's Animated Graphic, one of the many good things provided by Mr. Henri Gros in his bill of fare at the Metropolitan, has proved a very popular item, and the "Graphic's" superb coloured pictures, which for remarkable steadiness and brilliancy of illumination could hardly be surpassed, may be counted a feast for the eye. On Tuesday last, despite the hazy weather conditions attending the opening of Parliament by the King, Mr. Jeapes secured animated photographs of His Majesty's procession, and reproduced them at the "Met." in the evening, likewise at the Chelsea Palace.

"The Man in the Street," by Louis N. Parker, always an effective curtain-raiser at the theatres, is continuing its triumphant career in the halls, and is being rapidly booked for future dates by Messrs. G. Adney Payne, Frank Allen, Jesse Sparrow, T. S. Dickie, J. C. Coe, and others. In the part of Jabez Gover, originally played by Mr. James Welch at the Strand Theatre, Mr. Nevill Graham is scoring a most gratifying success.

Miss Daisy Dormer, the daintiest of coon singers, who is making such a success as principal girl in pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, will shortly produce a new song by Chas. Collins, the popular London author and composer. It is entitled "I've been dreaming," and is published by Messrs. Francis and Day.

At the theatrical fête in Edinburgh, which took place on Feb. 7, Miss Dormer was prominent, being the winner of two first prizes (a gold bangle and a silver-plated jam-dish), in the egg-and-spoon race and the fifty-yards sprint. A doll, dressed to represent Miss Dormer, was sold for £1 12s.; and that lady also kicked off for the football match. The fête, which was for local charity, was a big success.

Miss Daisy Dormer has had several offers to star in musical comedy, amongst them being one from Mr. George Edwardes; also several pantomime offers. After the run of *Babes in the Wood* she will open at the Empire, Edinburgh, with new songs and old favourites.

A benefit concert was held at the Co-operative Hall, Lancaster, on Saturday evening last, in aid of the artists who suffered loss in the recent fire at the Palace. It proved a decided success. The programme was made up by the Forsyths, the Prinellas, Mr. Picot, in his clever act, *The Crazy Cook*, and local artists. The chief sufferers through the fire were the Forsyths and the Prinellas.

Mr. W. F. Frame, who met with such marked success at the Royal pantomime in Glasgow with his new song, "Ma lassie is a wee Scotch fairy," appears at the Pavilion there next week.

Some little time ago Mr. Billy Williams, the Carnival King of Mr. John Hart's pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Bradford, and Mr. John Nunn, one of the Bradford City Association Football Club's directors, met and discussed the possibilities of a match between the artists of the Bradford theatres and the City Club's players in aid of the local charities. The response was hearty and instantaneous, and the match was played on the club's ground on last Wednesday, the 6th. Miss Florrie Ford, the principal boy of the Prince's Theatre, "kicked off" in the presence of 7000 people and the fun became fast and furious. The City eleven had hard work to prevent prolific scoring on the part of the numerous pantomimists who opposed them, the ladies of both theatres did a roaring trade in button-holes, programmes, sweets, and cigarettes, and the net result in aid of the charities was £102.

Miss Marie Elsie has taken the Finney Gardens and Pavilion, Hanley. Plans have been passed for extensive alterations, and an excise licence has also been granted.

Mr. George Gulliver, ventriloquist, was reluctantly compelled to retire for a time from any active work on account of throat trouble. About Christmas he was continually spitting blood, and on terminating his engagement at the Empire, Dublin, he returned home and had medical advice, resulting in his enforced absence from the halls. However, he is now glad to state that he has perfectly recovered.

A very dramatic sketch, *Grip; or, the Fatal Hand*, will be presented at Hackney Empire next week by Mr. George Kirk and company. This playlet was performed over 1,000 nights in New York, and but for contracts on this side of the Atlantic would still be playing in the Eastern capital of the United States. The sketch is full of thrilling incidents, and those who would see how Grip, the man with three fingers, comports himself in gambling dens and in the streets ought to visit the Hackney Empire next week.

The Howards, three in number, have this week been mystifying audiences at the Empire, Bristol, in their performances of second sight and mind-reading. Mr. Howard gives a brief introductory address, and then retires into the auditorium, leaving one of his daughters, blindfolded, on the stage at the side of a large blackboard. The most remarkable portion of their show on Monday was the concentration of two thoughts to one mind. For this the lady at the blackboard remained at her post whilst Mr. Howard's other daughter went into the body of the hall. A tram ticket and other papers bearing numbers were then handed to her, and upon two out of three occasions the blindfolded lady was successful in chalking up the correct number.

Little Tich entered upon his last week at the Palace Theatre on Monday, and has been secured for South Africa by Messrs. Hyman. He will depart from England in December.

Miss Constance Moxon, we regret to hear, will be unable to commence her engagement at the Putney Hippodrome on Monday in consequence of her doctor's imperative command to rest.

At the Oxford, during the present week the Three Golden Graces have been appearing with great success in a series of novel living pictures, which nightly secure for them an enthusiastic reception. The most effective is "A Patriotic Allegory," which is marked by skilful arrangement and genuine artistic beauty.

More than a passing word deserves to be said regarding the closing of Mr. John Henry Cooke's season at Edinburgh last Saturday evening. The veteran equestrian manager's benefit took place on the previous evening, and the circus was filled to overflowing by an enthusiastic audience. The feature of the evening was a cob and pony show, for which there were numerous entries of many beautiful animals. It is worthy of notice that several of the principal prizes went to Mrs. James Moss, a daughter-in-law of Sir Edward Moss.

Mr. John Henry Cooke had a rousing reception on entering the arena, and his speech, spoken at first under the influence of strong emotion, was worthy of the popular manager at his best. The Saturday evening was marked by equal enthusiasm, Mr. Cooke and his company being repeatedly recalled to receive the vociferous, affectionate applause of the audience. Mr. Cooke has done so much during his tenure of the circus in the Fountainbridge district to minister to the enjoyment of the inhabitants of Edinburgh, that the public feel like parting from an old friend when he bids them good-bye after his winter season.

Mlle. Celia Galley, a star recently risen from the French stage, is fulfilling a short engagement at the Empire, where she delights with her pleasant voice and humorous manner in imitations of Sarah Bernhardt, Yvette Guilbert, and other distinguished artists with whom she has been on tour. She is an immense favourite at the Casino de Paris.

Miss Emmie Morrison, serio-comic, who is playing with Harry Rickards at the Tivoli, Sydney, has made an instantaneous success, receiving good notices from several papers. She opened on Boxing Day.

Frankie Hartley, the marvellous boy juggler, sailed for Australia last week to fulfil an engagement made by Pacey and Reeves with Mr. Harry Rickards.

Mr. Will Merit and Miss Dot Moore, comedy duologue artists, who have recently arrived from Western Australia, are doing well with their double and two single turns, and intend to stay in this country for at least two years.

Horace Goldin and company are appearing at the Hackney Empire this week. Mr. Horace Goldin is of Russian birth, Jewish race, and American manners. He is short and broad-shouldered, with a shrewd, capable, somewhat heavy face, and large practised hands. Some years ago, in Tennessee, he was, to quote his own words, "clerking in a store; then he took to the road as a drummer for jewellery," and ultimately joined a magician as stage assistant. But before a month was over young Goldin had mastered all the magician's tricks, and obtained an engagement for himself at Gloster, New Jersey. He was engaged by the manager of a pleasure resort to give an hour's entertainment for a dollar a day; but at the end of a week the manager wished to break the contract. Goldin demanded to know the reason. "Your show is too good," he was told; "the people get so interested that they forget to buy drinks!"

The success of the Zancigs is responsible for the discovery of endless talent in the same line of business. A new turn to be seen at Hackney Empire next week has quite a romance attached to it. A Barnsley collier named Ritsell, who has recently been living in Sheffield, made such a hobby of thought-transmitting tricks that he sought to train each of his numerous children to join him in giving entertainments on a small scale. However, none of the little Ritsells took to the notion save Myra, now a bonnie Yorkshire lass of fifteen. She proved to be so apt a pupil that at the age of nine she mystified her school mates by doing business much on the lines of the Zancig's turn. Her fame spread, and at length it reached the ears of the showmen's auctioneer, Tom Norman. He was so impressed with the work of Myra and her father that he invited them to come to London, and, somewhat in fear of so bold a step, the Ritsells came, were seen, and have conquered

Mr. Alfred Butt gave the visitors to the Palace theatre a pleasant surprise last Monday. Engaged at the last moment, Mr. Jack Joyce, a cowboy lassoist, who had only arrived in this country the previous Saturday, made his début and scored a distinct hit. His entrance is similar to that of his predecessor in this country, Will Rogers, yet it was thought by some that he seemed more dexterous. Not the least singular part of his performance is the weird howl he sends up when a more than usual clever throw is made with the lasso, and perhaps it was the howl and the throw that so thoroughly caught the audience. Joyce lassoed his pony, bound the rider's head and feet, and finally made his exit leading the horse off in an improvised halter accomplished at the full length of the stage, thus showing how a galloping horse can be stopped and its rider "held up."

Mr. H. B. Marinelli has left for Berlin in order to open a branch in that city. Mr. E. Wollheim, of his London office, started for America on Wednesday, and will be replaced during his absence by Mr. Leo Maase, the head of the New York office.

The Brothers Howard, whose exhibition of silent mental telepathy at the Palace Theatre has excited so much comment, were unfortunately prevented from appearing before the Prince and Princess of Wales on Monday. It seems that James Howard had caught a severe cold in the treacherous London air, and, acting under his medical adviser's orders, kept his room on Monday.

Describing himself as a fireman, a young man named Harry Wilson, of no fixed abode, was charged at Lambeth on the 6th inst. with attempting to obtain charitable contributions by fraud. Whilst entering the Empire at Camberwell, Miss Lizette Kitchen, a music hall artist, was, she stated, accosted by the prisoner, who said he had come from Mr. W. Collins, general manager of Moss' Empires. The list purported to be on behalf of an orphanage, and on submitting it to her agent he found it to be a fraud. Mr. W. Collins stated that he did not authorise the man to make any such collection, and had previously received complaints about him. The witness has consequently adopted the course of advertising in the different theatrical papers, cautioning artists against him. The prisoner was remanded for further inquiries to be made, and Mr. Collins was complimented by the Bench on the action he had taken.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE TIVOLI.

Mr. Joseph Wilson on Monday brought forward Miss Annie Purcell, the original singer of the "Zuyder Zee," a song that is being chortled from the Solway Firth to the Solent, and was to be found in every pantomime. Miss Purcell's success is as great as ever in the popular number; and she adds to her artistic triumphs by her introduction of a fresh selection by Castling and Murphy, which is entitled "On the Isle of Anglesey," a delightful corner of the United Kingdom. Miss Purcell's expressive features looked well under a Welsh hat trimmed with pale blue ribbons. Her dairymaid's dress of the same colour with dainty white muslin apron and short puffed sleeves, set off the *svelte* figure to great advantage, and one could easily conceive the devotion engendered in the hearts of any gallant Welshman by such a bucolic belle.

Miss Madge Lessing, who was the heroine of so many scenas at the Coliseum, has now been secured for the Tivoli, where her dainty style and versatile accomplishments find a very suitable environment. Miss Lessing, who is a "belle of New York," is seen in a dainty production called "Snowland," backed by a pretty woodland winter scene, painted by Mr. Bruce Smith. She is supported by a chorus in the prettiest of fur-trimmed costumes. Her concluding item is a quaint Dutch scena.

Another new comer to the Tivoli is Mr. Jay Laurier, another find of Mr. Joseph Wilson. He comes to town with a good provincial reputation. Mr. Laurier elects to appear as a zany of the turnip-field—a rustic of the stage type, to which such eminent comedians as John Baldwin Buckstone, Wright, and J. L. Toole accustomed our grandfathers. Bucolic stupidity, however, is always amusing, as Mr. Chevalier proves when he sings "'E can't take the roise out o' I," and Mr. Laurier's "Silly Billy Brown," if we mistake not, will become a favourite character with London audiences. The new comedian has an excellent voice, and his articulation is perfect.

Mr. Tom Clare as a piano entertainer has been pushed much to the forefront of late in consequence of the untoward events that have been agitating the music hall world; but his refined and clever entertainment needs no special circumstances of "placing," as it should be acceptable. He has an excellent burlesque song, "Love, had you only told me," the melody of which is founded on Capel's song, "Love, could I only tell thee."

The Prince and Princess de Broglie are in their last week. The romantic circumstances attending the marriage of these young people have been sufficiently dwelt upon. She was the beautiful Estelle Alexander, a Californian girl singing with the Opéra Comique Company in Paris when the Prince met her. A few days after they eloped and went to Milan, where they were married. The father of the Prince was furious, and immediately stopped the young man's income and disinherited him. Forgiveness, however, was promised if he would renounce his bride and have the marriage annulled according to French law. This offer was indignantly refused. The Prince conducts while his handsome wife sings such well-known numbers as "The Old Folks at Home" and "Annie Laurie," to which she gives much expression.

Early in the evening Miss Amy Clevere charms everyone by her rendering of "Borneo"; the Metropolitan Quartet give well-rendered selections from *Il Trovatore;* and Mr. Stuart James recites and ventriloquises with success. A great hit is made in the later portion of the programme by Miss Bertha Stuart in "Caller Herrin'," of which she gives an interpretation that is strikingly dramatic. She is called and recalled, and eventually appears before the tableau curtains. Other turns in the bill are contributed by Mr. Arthur Playfair and Miss Maud Wynter, in the sketch *327, Finsbury;* Mr. Aubrey Fitzgerald, Mr. Nelson Jackson, a very amusing and clever raconteur at the piano; and the Romsakoff Troupe. Mr. James Howell, the acting-manager and treasurer, always adds to the pleasure of a visit to the cosy little Strand house.

THE LONDON PAVILION.

Mr. Frank Glenister is experiencing none of the excitement or inconvenience of the strike, and is welcoming large audiences nightly with a programme in which a number of stars shine. An old favourite here is Mr. Charles Collette, one of the few patterists we possess. Mr. Collette is particularly smart, and his acting has all the alertness and the diverting qualities of the light comedian of the very best type. He is, indeed, an ingenious and versatile farceur, and his comedy has an agreeable rattle that is pleasantly displayed in the duologue *Tea for Two*, in which he is well supported by Miss Joan Derry, a young actress with a fascinating style, who wears a very pretty gown. Mr. Walter Tilbury and Miss Daisy Forde scored such a success on their last engagement here that one is not in the least surprised at their re-engagement. Their sketch *When's the Cat's Away* has been much improved, and Mr. Tilbury scores palpably in his adaptation of "The Death of Nelson" to the views of the Tariff Reform League—views, by the way, that seem to be pretty generally shared by the audience. Mr. Ambrose Thorne, another Pavilion comedian who has been endowed with return dates, is seen and heard to much advantage in his impersonation of "Captain Reginald D'Arcy of the Guards." Reggy is quite a military exquisite, and is well supported by a galaxy of gallant lasses—the Pavilion Girls. Mr. Fred Hastings makes a hit with his cryptic song "Ha, Ha, Ha!" Miss Lily Lena is very appropriately described as a dainty singer of dainty songs; and Miss Emilie Hayes, who bears a name much honoured in the annals of English opera, sings acceptably as a soprano. Mr. Arthur Aldridge, who is called "the Pavilion tenor," adopts the excellent plan of varying his songs nightly. On the evening of our call he was heard to great advantage in "Roses," by Stephen Adams, whose versatile and accomplished pen supplies at least three of his numbers.

Miss Lily Harold, a former Gaiety girl, is presenting with great success the song-scena "Snowflakes," in which she is supported by a charming chorus of girls, who have been well drilled by Mr. Newman Maurice, the producer. In her second item Miss Harold, dressed in a principal boy's costume, which sets off to great advantage her perfect figure, touches on the topics of the day, which are amusingly illustrated by "extras."

Mr. Harry Ford has a new policeman song, which bids fair to become a success, and his "wonder" item is quaint enough to do him considerable service. Mr. Whit Cunliffe enlarges drolly on the theme of the inequality of the sexes, arguing that the ladies have the best of it, and finishes with the inevitable "Hello, Hello, Hello," which is chorussed vigorously. Nothing much funnier than the musical duologue of the Motramos could be possible. Tom Motramo as a comedian would be an acquisition to any bill; and Marie Motramo is a splendid "feeder" and a most attractive woman. Mr. Charles Rogers plays the banjo excellently; the Pavilion Girls manœuvre and dance prettily; and Graham, the human marionette, is worth waiting for, even if it be only to see him in his excellent impersonation of Harry Lauder. Miss Olga Seldom, the beautiful German girl who is sweet seventeen, poses as Phryne and Psyche, and assists in the presentation of two very fine specimens of statuary, "The Prize" and "The Sabines." Mr. Phil Ray is as popular as ever; and the Brothers Horne are also found in a programme of most engrossing variety.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

CHELSEA PALACE.

The contingent of artists paraded at the cosy Chelsea Palace this week not unnaturally numbers names unknown at present to fame, but giving every promise of future advancement. One of the most happily inspired features of the programme is the sketch *From London to Madrid*, in which a diversity of comic effects are gained. Both the cities mentioned are represented in the sketch, the former by a corner of Trafalgar-square, where the lions become animate, and hurl defiance from eyes and mouth, and the latter by a bull-baiting arena. The sketch is played by Barney, Burke, and Bray, and the services of a bucking mule are utilised with humorous effect. The travesty is accompanied by roars of laughter and cheers that are well deserved.

A new miniature drama is found in an adaptation by Cecil Newton from a story of Sir A. Conan Doyle, entitled *A Japanese Revenge*. The scene is a trader's hut in Manchuria during the recent devastating war. A colonel of Cossacks is arranging with a spy for the capture of Major Jamasaki, a Japanese officer, whom he thinks he has got into his clutches. The spy, however, turns out to be the Major himself, who has taken possession of the hut, and makes a prisoner of the Russian officer. Jamasaki tells his captive a story told him by his son, who had been caught by the Russians, with whom he experienced at different periods both kindness and cruelty. The lad had escaped, but was retaken within a mile of the Japanese lines, and was sentenced to be shot. The rifles of the shooting-party were levelled, but a general came upon the scene, and seeing the prisoner's lips moving in prayer, released him, and bade him go. During the recital of the story the Japanese officer suits the action to the word by alternately loading the Russian with indignities and treating him with kindness, finally ordering his men to lower their guns, and bidding his prisoner depart. The little piece has some thrilling situations, and is admirably acted by Ferdinand Conti's company. Mr. Wilfrid Shine puts plenty of vigour into his rendering of the Japanese officer, and speaks his lines with excellent emphasis and elocutionary skill. The author is well made up as the Muscovite officer, and plays expressively, but though he has a powerful voice his delivery lacks distinctness, a fault which he should lose no time in correcting.

A novel and entertaining performance is submitted by Edith and Tommy Felix, who, as a clown and "clowness" execute some clever and amusing tricks. Hat-spinning, dancing on spades, and paper manipulation are among the feats performed, and, later on, the pretty pierrette embarks upon the tight wire, on which she does some neat tricks. Mr. Reg Low has a happy way of singing his songs at the piano, which brings out their humorous points. His rendering of "My idea of a girl" is consequently enjoyed, and "Father" also meets with approbation. Ballads are tastefully sung by Miss Louise Zetland, who wins great praise for her delivery of "Do you remember?" and "Sing me to sleep." Mr. Chas. Kay is a coloured comedian, whose humour is mostly to be found in his feet, his descriptive dances being novel and well executed. An encore on the night of our visit was insisted upon, and evoked a pedal imitation of a train leaving the station "early in the morning," though what difference there is between that and the same operation at night it is not easy to perceive. A dainty comedienne is forthcoming in Miss Dorothy Drew, whose singing is sweet and her dancing neat; and Terpsichore is also represented by the Czar's Royal Russian Troupe, who give a picturesque display of national dances, accompanied by weird music. The entertainment is likewise contributed to by Mr. Dan Filmer and Jeapes' Animated Graphic. Mr. Angelo Asher leads his orchestra with his accustomed ability at the Chelsea Palace, which has, apparently, no reason to complain of lack of attendance.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

One can, with every confidence, sound a note of praise in favour of the new sketch produced on Monday night at the Islington Empire, and entitled *The Girl and the Tough*. For in it we get an episode of absorbing human interest. The scene is the roof of a house in the Bowery district of New York. In an invalid's chair is reposing a girl, Norah Dalton, who, we learn, is a cripple. Suddenly an intruder, who gives signs of great mental perturbation, springs on to the roof and faces the frightened girl. He tells her that Dan Hartigan, the detective, is on his trail, and, true enough, they hear the approaching steps of the human sleuth-hound. At the suggestion of the cripple the "tough" lies flat on the roof by her side and is hidden by her chair. Hartigan enters, but on being assured that no one has passed that way, renews the search in another direction. In his absence Norah's womanly sympathy goes out to Tad Delaney, the hooligan, and she endeavours to create a better feeling between him and the detective. She tells Tad how Dan had befriended the child of a criminal, and she recites the history of the latter with a pathos that brings her strange visitor to her feet with tears and remorse, for the "tough" who had abandoned his child is no other than Tad Delaney. Tad is overcome with penitence as he realises the tragedy of his mis-spent life. He promises to abandon his previous intention of shooting the detective and try to go straight in future. As he is kneeling before her Dan returns, seizes him violently by the shoulders, and, anticipating vengeance from the criminal, shoots him. Norah's efforts to assure her brother-in-law of Tad's good intentions are lost in the excitement of the moment, and the curtain falls upon the pathetic spectacle of the tough saying good-bye to the girl, she believing that the shot has not proved fatal and that the farewell is not his last. Mr. John G. Brandon plays the part of the tough with conspicuous skill, and one can well imagine that one sees a characteristic type of the Bowery ruffian. Nothing could exceed in its delicacy of treatment the acting of Miss Ruth Nightingale as the cripple. We can sum up her work by saying that she is daintily sympathetic in the rôle. In the smaller part of the detective Mr. H. Agar Lyons plays in vigorous style; and the scenery, which has been specially constructed by Mr. Chas. Sharp, of the Adelphi Theatre, furnishes a capital picture of the house-tops of New York at eventide.

Miss Lottie Lennox is "starring" this week at the Islington Empire. The sprightly comedienne is heard to good effect in a couple of songs. Her expressive rendering of "Is the old home in the same place?" is greatly appreciated. Mr. Leon Russell's impersonations seem to find favour. His interpretation of the Mirror song from *The Girl from Kay's* and his imitation of an asthmatical lady singing "Come back to me" are distinctly commendable. From the Bowery Boys we get plenty of knock-about fun, and Mr. J. C. Lauri furnishes an entertaining comedy turn. A high degree of animal intelligence is displayed by Otto's dogs, and Prof. Graudmann, the "Russian man of mystery," performs several novel sleight-of-hand tricks. A bright and attractive young lady comes on the stage in the person of Miss Vicky Delmar, who sings and plays the bugle and drum in capital fashion. Her drum imitation of the noise created by the starting of a railway train is particularly commendable. "La Belle Parisienne" and "That's what the daisies say" are two songs with which Miss Evie Hamilton makes a decided hit, and she is, too, a most energetic and lively dancer. Lincoln and Warren are experts in the art of eyeling, and they introduce no little humour into a daring and astonishing performance. The Imperial Bioscope furnishes an interesting series of pictures.

(*For Notices of other Halls, see page* 16.)

DEATH OF SAM DE VOY.

We regret to announce the death, at the age of sixty-four, of Sam De Voy, for many years a prominent negro comedian, who flourished in the palmy days of Ethiopian sketches. These almost invariably formed a very popular item of the programmes given at the variety houses a quarter of a century since. The deceased comedian, whose real name was William Foy, was born near Manchester, and at the age of eighteen started as a sentimental vocalist. For several years he was associated with little George Le Clercq and Britannia's famous clown, Tom Lovell, in nigger farces, many of which had their origin in America. Among them may be cited *A Dark Night Before*

THE LATE MR. SAM DE VOY.

Us, The Burglar Alarm, and *Black Justice*. The constitution of the combination was altered when Tom Lovett joined Tom Rice (of Rice and D'Albert), and became known as De Voy, Le Clercq, Lovett, and Wardhaugh. Later George Le Clercq linked up with Ben Brown and "Jim" Newland, taking the place of Wallace; and De Voy formed another combination known as De Voy, Hurst, and Fredericks. Some fifteen or sixteen years since he went into business as a publican at the Lion, Lambeth-walk; but failed, and rejoined a sketch company. About five years ago he underwent an operation for an internal malady at Charing Cross Hospital, and has been in failing health for some time. In these circumstances he was unable to make any provision for his widow who, we regret to say, has been left in very needy circumstances. Poor De Voy's former partner, W. Hurst, trusts that assistance will be immediately forthcoming for the widow, as her case is a most deserving one. Mr. Joe Elvin, with his customary generosity, has made himself responsible for the funeral expenses. The deceased comedian was buried yesterday.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' RAILWAY ASSOCIATION.

Members of the M.H.A.R.A. celebrated the tenth anniversary of the formation of the Association at the Horns, Kennington, on Sunday evening, Mr. W. H. Clemart presiding, the vice-chair being occupied by Mr. Douglas White. There was not as good an attendance as there had been in previous years, but this the chairman attributed to the fact that they had had to maintain two imporant functions at the same time. As night wore on, however, several of the artists who had been present at the mass meeting of the Alliance at the Scala Theatre turned up at the Horns. The list of diners is as follows:—

Mr. W. H. Clemart (president), Mr. Joe O'Gorman (chairman of the committee), Mr. Harry Mountford, Mr. Charles Coborn, and Mr. Fred W. Millis (vice-presidents), Mr. Douglas White (hon. treasurer), Mr. Joe Elvin and Mr. J. W. Cragg (hon. trustees), Mr. John Alexander, Mr. Harry Blake, Mr. Harry Freeman, Mr. Fred Griffiths, Mr. Fred Neiman, and Mr. Harry Wright (members of the committee), Mr. A. H. Hoyle (London and South-Western Railway), Mr. W. Simpson (Great Western Railway), Mr. Frank Lunnon (Great Northern Railway), Mr. David Crombie (Bristol agent), Mr. Charles Evans (Margate agent), Mr. W. Colbrook (Grimsby agent), Mr. J. Halliday (Preston agent), and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ginnett, Mr. and Mrs. Foxe, Mr. and Mrs. Alf Abrahams, Mr. and Mrs. Eaglesfield, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bawn ("My Fancy"), Mrs. Douglas White, Mrs. John Alexander, Mrs. A. H. Hoyle, Mlle. Haydee, Mr. J. H. Winn, Miss Rose Harvey, Miss Lily Burnand, Mrs. Fred Karno, Miss Karno, Miss Anna de Grey, Mr. and Mrs. Venner, Mr. A. Venner, Mr. E. Brown, Miss Marie Thorne, Misses Burnand, Mrs. Wal Pink, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lester, Mrs. Charles Coborn, Miss Rita Resdan, Mr. Sid Cotterell, Mr. Joe Mac (New Macs), Mr. Barney Hyams, Miss Minnie Mace, Miss Kersey, Mr. Metzler, Mr. Rowley, Miss Marie Kendall, Miss Flo Kendall, Mr. Steve McCarthey, Mrs. Dan Leno, Miss Rose Chandon, Miss Ada Norman, Mr. Will Oliver, Mr. Albert Boisset, Mr. Brisley, Mr. Will Johnson, Mr. V. L. Granville, Mr. Tom Costello, Mr. W. Ferris, Mr. Claude Stuart, and Mr. C. Douglas Stuart (secretary).

Telegrams and letters were received from Mr. Barton, of the Great Central Railway, Mrs. Egerton of Liverpool, Mr. Bert Wilson of Birmingham, Mr. Walter Norman, Mr. Charles McConnell, Mr. W. Barton (Great Central Railway), Mr. Harry Speakman of Wigan Artists, Mr. Pat Carey, Mr. Carlton, and Mr. Tom McHugh.

An excellent dinner was served, under the superintendence of Mr. J. Kohl, proprietor of the Horns. After the loyal toasts had been duly honoured,

The CHAIRMAN, rising to propose "Our Association: Many Happy Returns of the Day," said: This is the first time I have had the honour of being at an M.H.A.R.A. dinner, and I hope it will not be the last. I hope the next time this dinner occurs that we shall be in happier circumstances than we are at the present time. The Association was never in a better position than it is in now. In the first place, our financial position is what it has never been before. We were able to give away at our last general meeting over six hundred guineas to charities, and during the last week your committee voted an additional one hundred guineas to the emergency relief fund. This will be the third year that the dinner has been held here, and you will recollect that there has been no dinner for two years. The Association, as we all know, for two years went through a fight. It seems somehow that everything has got to go through a struggle, and when that is over we settle down and become pals again. This is what has happened when you see Joe O'Gorman with his hand on Harry Mountford's shoulder. You could not possibly see a better sign when we have all buried our grievances. At the present time we are standing shoulder to shoulder in another fight, and I hope by this time next year that the artists will then be to the managers what we are to each other to-day. I therefore call upon you to drink "Many Happy Returns to the M.H.A.R.A."

MR. C. DOUGLAS STUART, in responding, said: On behalf of the M.H.A.R.A., I beg to thank you most sincerely for the hearty manner in which you have drunk this toast. The Association, whose birthday we are celebrating to-night, is ten years old, and ever since its birth its career has been one long spell of continued success. Year by year the membership has increased, the benefits for the members have been extended, and the funds have become richer and richer, so that we have been able to give away between the railway and music-hall charities nearly £2000. All this is, of course, due to the value of the concessions so generously granted by the railway companies, which, I know, have greatly benefited and assisted the poorer members of the variety profession. Our offspring, the V.A.F., now nearly a year old, is also strong and lusty. I am sorry that there are not more present to-night, but we have had several adverse circumstances to contend against—the strike, the illness of Miss Marie Lloyd, and the absence from London of Mr. Jack Collinson, one of our principal supporters. I wish to thank the committee of that excellent charity, the M.H.L. Guild, for their kind patronage. In conclusion, I ask you to

"Dance and be merry. Let time fly.
Live while you may. Die when you die."

MR. DOUGLAS WHITE, in submitting "The Theatrical Representatives of the Railway Companies," said that they all ought to be very thankful to those gentlemen, who had secured many concessions for them. The theatrical railway representatives had been very kind to the Association. He coupled with the toast the names of Mr. Hoyle (South-Western), Mr. Lunnon (Great Northern), and Mr. Simpson (Great Western).

MR. HOYLE expressed thanks on behalf of his colleagues and himself for the manner in which the toast had been received. He would also congratulate them on the attainment of the Association's tenth birthday. The celebration of these anniversaries served a useful purpose in that they made new acquaintanceships and cemented old friendships. On behalf of the railway people he would thank them for their charity. This year the Association had carried out a very fine idea in connection with their charity, and that was the appropriation of small amounts to domestic institutions connected with the railways in addition to the amounts usually paid. The railway companies, bearing this in mind, would always do their best to meet the Association whenever the latter had a request to make.

MR. SIMPSON (Great Western) proposed "The Honorary Officers and Committee of the Association." On that occasion he supposed he was to consider himself in the position of an artist. They had that night heard something about fighting, but so far as the committee of the Association was concerned fighting, fortunately, did not enter into the question at all. The present committee of the Association and the committee which had preceded them had done much for the music-hall artist, and they could look forward with pleasure to their future work. But he wanted to give them a word of advice. The subject of refunds from the railway companies caused a great deal of trouble both to the committee and the companies. All that he would ask them to do was when they had a claim to make to put their names down on the list provided for the purpose. He was pleased to see that of the original committee there were present Mr. Harry Blake, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Millis, Mr. Wright, and Mr. Douglas White, the hon. treasurer. They had also the presence of Mr. Craig and Mr. Joe Elvin, original vice-presidents. He coupled the toast with the names of Mr. Joe O'Gorman, chairman of the present committee, and of Mr. Harry Mountford, vice-chairman.

MR. JOE O'GORMAN stated that when he was first elected chairman he was most assidious in his attention to the duties. During the past year he had been away from them a good deal, and if on his return he had neglected his duty to the Association it was because he felt that there was a higher duty before him. He kept popping in at times to see that everything was going on all right, and he popped in elsewhere, where his presence was even more necessary. He was glad to say that the business of the Association was now being carried through with better tact and better judgment, and with every evidence of a friendly spirit, which were not existent when he first became chairman of it. When they saw Mr. Mountford and himself arm in arm that was a good omen. They were firmly convinced that they were now fighting a battle which eventually would lead the profession to a goal which would result in the amelioration of their poorer brothers and sisters.

MR. HARRY MOUNTFORD jokingly remarked that he had heard Mr. Hoyle say something about a mysterious fight that was taking place outside. Mr. Hoyle had also said that the M.H.A.R.A. had started out with the object of getting something and they had done it. He presumed that Mr. Hoyle referred to recent developments on the variety stage. Finally, he would like to strike a keynote by making applicable to the struggle Tennyson's lines:

"I hold it truth, with him who sings
To one clear harp, in divers tones,
That men may rise on stepping-stones
Of their dead selves to higher things."

MR. HARRY BLAKE, in toasting "The Provincial Agents," said that those gentlemen were indispensable to the carrying out of the wishes of the executive committee from the London office. Since the Federation had come into existence the provincial agents had performed a double duty in finding them suitable quarters for deliberations in secrecy.

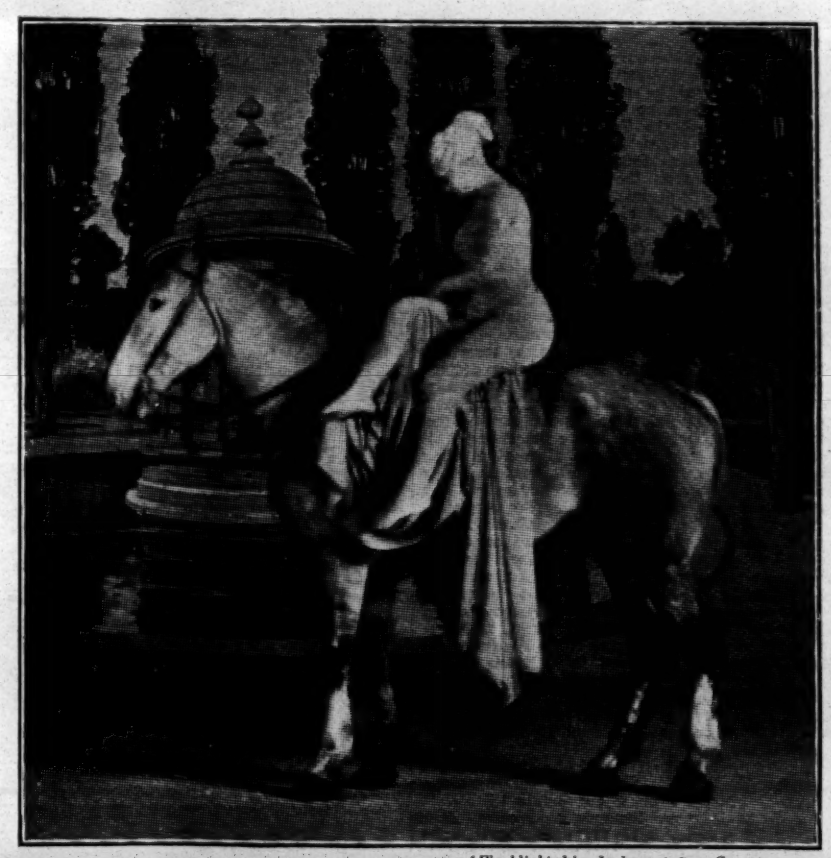
MR. FREDK. HALLIDAY, of Preston, and MR. MCCROMBIE, of Bristol, briefly replied to the toast.

MR. HARRY WRIGHT proposed "The Ladies" in an amusing speech, and replies thereto were made by Mrs. Ginnette, Miss Lily Burnand, and Miss Anna de Grey, the last-mentioned referring to the good work performed by the Music Hall Ladies' Guild during the four months of its existence.

MR. FRANK GERALD proposed "The Chairman," and paid a high compliment to that gentleman. Mr. Clemart and himself had worked hard in the music-hall profession for years, and so long as they had a man like him to steer their ship the Association would continue on its course of prosperity. Referring to the Scala Theatre, he wished to point out that the booking had been so heavy that there were only a very few seats left. He was sure that the public would heartily enjoy and appreciate the show, which would do credit to the V.A.F. and the Alliance. He would like to see the artists running their own shows, not in one place, but in a dozen or twenty. There was no reason why the system of co-operation should not extend to the music-hall profession as it did to other businesses.

The CHAIRMAN, in acknowledging the toast, referred to the useful work performed by their secretary, Mr. Stewart.

MR. FRED NEIMAN proposed "The Press," and Mr. Charles Berte responded.



[*Flashlighted by Jackson & Son, Coventry.*

LA MILO AS LADY GODIVA.

THE LIVING STATUE'S DARING RIDE THROUGH COVENTRY BY NIGHT.

LAST week, says the London *Morning Advertiser* (6/2/07), a curious incident occurred at Coventry, which has only just come to light. La Milo was seized with a desire to emulate Lady Godiva, and at two o'clock in the morning, in the attire in which she gives her performance, she rode through the city. No one saw the ride, and the only persons in which she confided were her manager, Mr. Cruickshank, and her chief dresser.

SAN CARLOS TRIO IN SUNDERLAND.

The San Carlos Italian Operatic Vocalists delighted those who can appreciate good music. Each possesses a beautiful voice, and their items were rendered most expressively.—*Daily Echo*, Feb. 12.

The San Carlos Trio of operatic vocalists, at the Aberdeen Palace, entered on their second week's engagement with marked success. These cultured singers appear in entirely different rôles this week, and, if anything, appear to better advantage. The Aberdeen public seem to appreciate them more the more they see of them, and last night they had a most cordial reception. — *Aberdeen Free Press*, Feb. 5, '07.

WHILST Miss Josie Mooney was preparing for her turn on Monday at the Palace Theatre, Porth, and was descending the stairs to the stage, she suddenly slipped and fell headlong down the whole flight. Though suffering great pain, she pluckily insisted on taking her place in the programme, and was an immense success with her new songs.

LAYCOCK v. ALLAN EDWARDES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—As the paragraph in *The Era* of Feb. 9 in the Variety Gossip referring to my action against Mr. T. Allan Edwardes for wrongful dismissal is calculated to create wrong impressions and cast reflections on my character, I ask you in fairness to allow me to state that the reason the Deputy-Judge made the remark that the defendant had acted in a very upright and honourable manner was solely because he unreservedly withdrew all imputations against my character—a condition, too, on which the action was dismissed, and my chief object in taking action being thereby accomplished.

I should also like to express my regret that I was unable to avail myself of Mr. Edwardes' offer to go over to Derby and discuss the matter before any proceedings were commenced, as I feel confident if that gentleman had had an opportunity of thoroughly investigating it, it would have been settled amicably, at least so far as he and I were concerned. Thanking you in anticipation.—Yours truly, S. H. LAYCOCK.

THE MUSIC HALL DISPUTE.

The militant tone adopted by every one of the speakers at the Scala meeting on Sunday night made one quite prepared to read in Monday's newspapers that a settlement of the strike was as far away as ever. The following official report of the Conciliation Board was issued on Monday night:—

"The Board of Conciliation, consisting of Messrs. Henri Gros, Walter Payne, Oswald Stoll, and Henry Tozer for the managers, and Messrs. W. C. Steadman, M.P., Alderman I. Mitchell, L.C.C., Mr. Edmund Browne, L.C.C., and Mr. Arthur Roberts for the employees, met on Feb. 7, 8, and 11 at 7, Durham House-street. Mr. Wal Pink (artist) and Mr. Webster (stage-hand) attended as witnesses. It was declared on the part of the managers that they welcomed the intervention of Messrs. Steadman, Mitchell, and Browne, having been always ready to consider any grievances, to examine them in detail, to listen to any suggestions, and to endeavour in every way to restore harmony and goodwill.

"A general examination of all points advanced on the part of artists, musicians, and stage-hands was entered upon. The whole matter having been fully discussed, specific definitions and declarations on the part of the managers were approved for submission. It was unanimously resolved that the declarations and definitions arrived at be submitted to the respective parties. In the event of either of the parties not agreeing thereto, it was unanimously resolved that all matters in dispute be referred to Mr. George R. Askwith, Board of Trade arbitrator."

It was decided by the Board, both parties acquiescing, that the terms of settlement should not be divulged for the present; but it was generally understood that the Board agreed to a modification of the "barring" clause to secure that it should not apply to an individual artist receiving £5 or less per turn per week; that it should not apply in London to a troupe of two up to four engaged at £10 a week, or in the provinces at £15 a week. For turns engaged at higher rates than these the clause should be modified to a mile radius in Central London, two miles in Greater London, and five miles in the provinces. In regard to musicians, the Board agreed to recommend terms securing to each musician a minimum of 30s. a week, and an increase of 2s. a week on all wages at present below 36s. For stage hands a minimum of 25s. a week was agreed to, with an increase of 2s. a week on wages at present below 30s.

Mr. Joe O'Gorman, at the Scala, on Monday evening, said that he personally would welcome arbitration, and if the proposal to appoint Mr. Askwith, the official arbitrator to the Board of Trade, was agreed to, he anticipated that the war would come to a speedy end.

On Wednesday morning it was announced that both parties to the dispute had agreed to refer all matters to Mr. George R. Askwith, and arbitration by this gentleman has been accepted by both parties.

"Peace with honour" was announced at more than one music hall on Thursday night, when all pickets were withdrawn from the twenty-two proscribed halls. In the words of Charles Lever (slightly altered), we may now say—

The last tattoo is beating, boys,
The pickets are fast retreating, boys;
So let every man
Fill his cup or his can
And drink to our next merry meeting, boys!

HENRI GROS AND "THE PERFORMER."

The following letter has been sent to us for insertion:—

The Editor, *The Performer*, Feb. 11, 1907.
28, Wellington-street, W.C.

"BEGGING THE QUESTION."

Sir,—In your leader of the 7th inst. you state: "To quote Mr. Henri Gros, Mr. Stoll is here begging the question." I wish emphatically to state that neither in writing nor in speech have I criticised or spoken of Mr. Stoll and his business: it would be entirely outside my sphere to do so. I suggest you allude to my stating of you and Mr. Jesson *re* my controversy with the latter in your paper, "this is begging the question." You previously made the same remark on my observations *re* Mr. Lyons' music-hall scheme in the *Referee*, but neither you nor I have coined or originated the phrase, or patented it. Thus your coupling my name in connection with Mr. Stoll in this matter is purely meant to convey a false impression.—Yours obediently,

(Signed) HENRI GROS.

THE V.A.F. VICTORIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—It is with surprise, disappointment, and regret that I read in your issue of to-day Mr. Henri Gros' letter (which he calls "a few lines," though extending to nearly a column and a half of your space!)

Mr. Henri Gros states that the Charter was signed by me without the consent of my board for the Empress, Brixton. Apart, however, from personally recognising the justice and fairness of the Charter, and apart also from practising sheer business economics, as well as from the precipitation of time, I beg to state that I had the full assent and even thanks of the shareholders to the course I adopted.

Mr. Henri Gros' further gratuitous remark with reference to the Putney Hippodrome, in connection with my position as managing-director, is—speaking charitably—a verbal meander.

Finally, I am at even a further (if, possibly, a greater) loss to understand how Mr. Henri Gros (Herculean in spirit though he be) could actually transfer his club and lion's skin, not to an Omphale in the cause of love, but discard it altogether by not "playing the game," instead of introducing a gratuitous reference to personal acts in connection with private business transactions and relations which govern the ordinary constitution of a directorate body.

Let me suggest that it would be more heroic and noble in Mr. Henri Gros to strive to extricate himself from the present Nessian mantle thrown around him by the V.A.F. (which is much less mythic than was Dejanira in this connection, as he will find), a feat which is as impossible and fatal to achieve as was the effort of his imagined prototype, the offspring of Zeus and the Nemean conqueror. Commending Mr. Henri Gros to Hamlet's philosophy,

"Let Hercules himself do what he may,
The cat will mew, the dog will have his day."

—Yours faithfully, W. J. GRIMES,
Director Brixton Empress, &c.
Empress Lodge, Brixton Hill, S.W.,
Feb. 9, 1907.

"BY THEIR DEEDS YE SHALL KNOW THEM."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Under the above heading my name appears in the *Performer* of Feb. 7 amongst others, who, in "direct opposition to the wishes and requests" of the executive committee, worked proscribed music halls. Now, as I have never been associated with the Federation, I fail to see what the "wishes and requests" of the said committee have to do with me. This is a free country—too free in some things, certainly—and I am a free agent. Why should I refuse good work when it is offered? Besides, I have been a manager too many years myself not to sympathise with those who by the drastic action of the Alliance were placed in a temporary difficulty.

After twenty-five years' experience in the profession, my deeds are best known by the managers under whom I have served and by the artists who have been engaged by me.—Yours faithfully,

MATT. WILKINSON.

T. R, Woolwich, Feb. 11.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE MASS MEETING.

The meeting at the Scala on Sunday night (the fifth of the series) was called for six, instead of seven o'clock as usual, in order to allow the members of the M.H.A.R.A. to leave for their Annual Dinner at the "Horns."

The chair was again taken by Mr. Joe O'Gorman, who explained that, owing to the circumstances mentioned above, he would set an example by making his address as short as possible: First, let me convey to you that we are to-night in a very, very happy position. You have heard all about the Conciliation Board that has been sitting. They have made their report to us, and I say for one that that report which contains those so-called concessions will never be accepted by me. I don't believe in patching-up. I believe that what is worth doing is worth doing well, and that we should seize upon this opportunity as the opportunity of a lifetime, and insist upon our just demands being granted to the letter.

Mr. Frank Gerald: Our Chairman has said that the terms offered to us are unsatisfactory. We should remember that there are three of us, and that the demands of each one must be fully granted before we agree to any terms of settlement. It must not be a settlement that is satisfactory to one, or even two, and not to number three; it must be satisfactory to all three, and protect the interests of the three parties equally, and I think I may say that we are all thoroughly in accord when we say that the first principle of a settlement must be the reinstating of all who have come out on strike, and the abandoning of legal proceedings, and the withdrawal of all ill-feeling and bias against all concerned.

Mr. William Johnson: Mr. Chairman and Friends,—I wish to allude to a letter which has appeared in *The Era*, over the signature of Henri Gros. In this letter he implies that the struggle has been instituted without the sanction of the members of the Allied Societies, and it has not yet been endorsed by the members of the Allied Societies. Speaking as one who has had over twenty years' experience of movements of this kind, I venture to say there has been no struggle in the industrial world that has been so fully endorsed by the members whose interests are at stake as this movement has been. Let me just remind Henri Gros, through the Press (if the Press will kindly take note of the remark), that we have had four mass meetings, held week after week, at which the whole of the facts in connection with the dispute have been placed before the members, and their opinions have been invited; they have had every opportunity of submitting an amendment to every proposal made; they have had an opportunity of saying whether they approved of the actions we have taken or not, and there have been held throughout the country every week some eighty or one hundred meetings, at which the whole issue has been placed before the people directly interested, and they have always endorsed the action of the Alliance. I would ask Mr. Henri Gros and his friends to give their shareholders an opportunity of meeting their directors and saying what they think of the dispute. I venture to say that they will not enjoy that unanimous approval which we have had up to the present moment; but they have not ventured to consult their shareholders. I would like to make it quite clear that the representatives of the Trades Unions have approached the managers not as our official representatives, but as unofficial arbitrators, who have sought to elicit from the managers what they have to say in this dispute, and they have brought back to us the result of a number of meetings which have been held. The managers suggest that we should agree to all the men who are out being left to their tender mercies. That is the worst of all their proposals. I would rather resign my position, I would rather see the Association go to smash, than that we should contemplate for one moment the acceptance of those terms.

Mr. J. B. Williams: I must express some surprise and some regret at the somewhat despondent tones of the previous speakers. Personally, I am just beginning to like it, and, as far as I am concerned—I think I can speak for the majority of the people we are representing—this fight has only just commenced. I want to show you what the spirit in the provinces is. At a meeting I addressed at Manchester attended by a large number of people, the following resolution was passed: "That this meeting pledges itself to support any action the Committee take, as it fully recognises the unselfish and noble work they are doing for the good cause." They go a step further. The meeting was unanimous in the opinion that not an inch of the position assumed must be abandoned. We must extend the fight, and take it into the provinces on the lines of asking the Trades Unionists to boycott those halls. This is an opportunity that will never present itself in our lifetime again. The principles are principles that no one need be ashamed of. We have suffered long enough, and the conditions are unbearable.

Mr. Joe O'Gorman: I would like to inform you that, owing to the way in which our cause was prejudiced in the eyes of the public by certain newspapers, and the demands we received from some of our members in the provinces to know what was going on, we thought it was best to send some of our speakers into the provinces. Mr. Williams went to Manchester and Liverpool, and Mr. Mountford went to Leeds, Glasgow, and Newcastle. You will be able to hear first hand what our friends in the big provincial centres think of the stand we are making here in London.

Mr. Harry Mountford: My voice is somewhat weak to-night; but my spirit is as strong as ever. It gives me very great pleasure to move the following resolution: "That this meeting of members of the Allied Societies reaffirms its absolute confidence in the Alliance Committee, and strongly urges them to continue the fight until the demands set forth in the Charter have been conceded." You see, this is a reversion to first principles. At the last two meetings we have been talking about arbitration; but now, after three weeks, we have come back to exactly the same position as at the first meeting.

A suggestion was made by a member of the audience that the following addition be made to the resolution: "That no negotiations for a settlement of the dispute shall be authorised or recognised that do not provide for a reinstatement of all those out on strike, and the abandonment of legal proceedings against those affected by the dispute."

Mr. Tom Costello: Ladies and Gentlemen, and Brother and Sister Artists,—Since this grand fight began, myself and Mr. Coborn have tried to stimulate the provincial meetings, and have done our best to stiffen the backs of our weaker brethren. This, ladies and gentlemen, is battle, and I don't believe in scent and rosewater on the battlefield. We have stood iniquity to the breaking-point. Generals, when they go into battle, always allow a certain amount for wastage—we have calculated for that. Let me tell you that this fight is not possible without the aid of the musicians. I am a householder. If the strike is going to continue, there will be a certain percentage of artists in London who will have to pay for apartments. If the fight continues, I am going to fill my house with V.A.F.'s, and let them stop there till the fight is over. One point I will just mention: Twenty years ago, at a hall in Liverpool, Oswald Stoll wrote me a song for thirty shillings, which I paid in three instalments. I could not afford it all at the time. The title of that song was "The Dawn of Freedom." Is it going to be realised?

Mr. Harry Freeman supported the resolution. He said: We must win this fight because we dare not lose it. Mr. Stoll was kind enough to say he had paid him £2 a week; but that was Mr. Stoll's father and mother, and the period was just a little over thirty years ago.

Mr. Mountford: It gives me very great pleasure to see the interest that has been taken in the discussion to-night from the body of the hall. To-night one or two gentlemen have taken their courage by the forelock, and moved an addendum to the resolution, which I am very pleased to support. The resolution now is: "That this meeting of members of the Allied Societies reaffirms its absolute confidence in the Alliance Committee, and strongly urges them to continue the fight until the demands set forth in the Charter have been conceded, and that no negotiations for a settlement of the dispute shall be authorised or recognised that do not provide for a reinstatement of all those out on strike, and the abandonment of legal proceedings against those affected by the dispute." As far as I am personally concerned, I shall never be satisfied until they have all gone back, from the drummer to the first violin, and from the call-boy to the stage-manager. I don't want you to think that this fight can be won by passing resolutions. If we stick together we are bound to win.

Mr. Joe O'Gorman then asked the audience to vote on the resolution, all hands being put up in favour of it.

Mr. O'Gorman said: I take that as an answer to our opponents who say that we have forced this strike upon you. First at the "Horns," twice at the Surrey, last Sunday night here at the Scala, and again to-night, the votes have been absolutely unanimous. What more can we ask from our supporters? With the cause we have—and every man Jack in our business must admit we have a fair cause—there is no excuse for anybody to become a blackleg; and if we use a little salve with them at the present moment, I consider it is only encouraging others to do the same. I now wish from the bottom of my heart to thank you, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Executive Committee, for the excellent organisation of the picket system.

Mr. Williams moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was seconded by Mr. Joe Elvin.

Mr. Elvin said: It gives me very great pleasure, ladies and gentlemen, to second the vote of thanks, and I may say it gave me very great pleasure when I had to come out of the Chelsea Palace this week on strike. Henri Gros has been asking for it, and he got it. I was there making a speech on Chelsea Common. A little kid came running up to me, and said, "You have got nothing to worry about, Joe; there is only one-and-threepence in the gallery." We have got nothing to be downhearted about. Everything is going on all right.

FRAGSON ON THE STRIKE.

Mr. Harry Fragson, in his most popular item, "Received me most politely," at Drury Lane pantomime on Saturday night, introduced a number of topical verses on the music-hall strike, specially written by Mr. J. M. Glover and Mr. Arthur Sturgess.

He first calls upon Mr. Arthur Roberts, the champion "gagger," for advice as to how to succeed on the music-hall stage:

He received me most politely when I told my simple tale,
And said, "My boy, I'm out of work." His manly cheek turned pale.
"The halls don't speak the author: As from gags I hold aloof
I struck, although I'm playing still my good old part in spoof.
I'm ruined—but I fight because the band is underpaid!
Get a tip or two from Marie Lloyd, and then your fortune's made."

He proceeds to the house of Miss Marie Lloyd, where a voice sang loud and clear:—

If you're striking call me Hurley, call me Hurley, Alec dear.

He learns their reason for striking in the ensuing couplet:—

We're very strict; we've struck because bill-posters want more pay.
You call on Harry Lauder, boy, he knows the time of day.

Having "laudably" tried and succeeded in the quest:—

He received me most politely—then he softly murmured "Hoots!
"To strike mebbe's a canny trick, but, losh, mon, ah've ma doots;
It's for the men who shift the scenes that I'm prepared to fight,
But eh! ma pocket's sore; for bang goes saxpence ilka night."

He goes to Little Tich and Mr. Oswald Stoll, with no better result, and finally sees Mr. G. Adney Payne, but his halls are all "barred," and he can give him no encouragement.

THE STRIKING STAR.

What are we striking about, Sir?
To tell you the truth I don't know;
But they tell me the Strikers' Committee
Have lately discovered the "Pro"
Has been working for years on a pittance,
And you, as you sit in your stall,
Would never have paid for admittance
Had you known of the hardships that fall
On us, the poor stars of variety,
Who nightly appear on the stage,
Always in a state of sobriety
Or else they won't pay us our wage.

It's hard when you've done in at Epsom
A couple of hundred or so
To have to jump into your motor
And rush back to town for the show.
For what is a hundred a week, with
The wife and the kids, and the car,
A chauffeur, a maid, and a valet?
I tell you it doesn't go far.

And look at the strain on the system;
One artist for years, bear in mind,
Has been singing an ophthalmic ballad
About a poor boy that was blind.
They say there's a better time coming
For us downtrodden stars of the stage,
One hundred per night at each Empire
Is to be the new Union wage.
And we'll all be contented and happy
When justice is done to the poor
Downtrodden and overworked artists,
And that's what we're all striking for.

Clara Chirgwin.

OUTSIDE THE V.A.F.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—In reading over Mr. H. A. Langlois' letter in your last Saturday's issue, it appears to me that he has rushed into print for the purpose of showing the salaries he has received. How can his salary interest anyone but himself? How many engagements does he hope to gain by his bold defiance of the V.A.F.? Does he imagine that managers will rush at him with open arms and say, "God bless you, Langlois, old boy, for fighting on our side?" He states he has topped bills at salaries ranging from £4 10s. to £60 weekly. I am fully assured that no recognised music hall in this country tops its bill with a £4 10s. a week turn. Mr. Langlois may have received that amount when playing his sketch *The Bomb*, but as to his getting £60 a week, it must be, as Shakespeare says, "in my mind's eye, Horatio."

Trusting you will give the above a space in your next issue, and oblige—Yours sincerely,

Manchester, Feb. 11. C. VERENER.

"A NIGHT WITH THE STARS."

An "up-to-date musical comedy hotch-potch" in two acts, by Max Goldberg, produced at the Scala Theatre on Monday, Feb. 11.

Ali Ben Hassan	Bert Byrne
O'Sullivan Pasha	John F. Preston
Dick Darrell, R.N.	Hal Forde
Bill Breezy	Nannie Goldman
Mustapha	Harry J. Worth
Sherlock Holmes	Carl Lynn
Tommy Twinkle	Harry Liddle
Polly Twinkle	Claire Romaine
Mabel Musgrove	Maud Walsh
Indian Slave	"Spot"
George Robey	Dion Wade
Joe Elvin	Chas. Austin
Victoria Monks	Clarice Mayne
Balkis	Evelyn Vaudray
Gulnare	Florence Darrell
Amina	Florence Harcourt
Enid	Lilian Leonard
Kassi Kassi	Marie Preston

The Scala Theatre was reopened by the National Alliance on Monday evening, and there was certainly no lack either of patronage or enthusiasm for the new venture of the variety artists who are at war with the music-hall managers. The theatre being licensed by the Lord Chamberlain, it was decided to run it on ordinary lines and produce a piece which, however, would readily permit of the introduction of any number of variety turns. The first scene, representing the Caliph of Alibardora's Palace, was picturesque and pleasing to the eye, the stage being filled with the charming ladies of the Seraglio, slaves, and guests of the Caliph. The slight plot turns upon the abduction of an English girl, who, if those responsible for her capture have their way, will become the latest addition to the Caliph's many wives. But eventually Dick Darrell, a young naval officer, and Bill Breezy, a middy, come to her rescue, and the Eastern potentate's designs are defeated. In the meantime, however, the Caliph being informed that a company of English music-hall artists are in the neighbourhood, he invites them to give an entertainment at his palace. If the "stars" themselves did not appear, they had some remarkably clever imitators. Mr. Dion Wade could scarcely be distinguished from the real George Robey, and Mr. Charles Austin was equally good in his funny impersonation of Joe Elvin. Miss Clarice Mayne also gave clever imitations of Victoria Monks, Camille Clifford, and Marie Lloyd. Mr. Hal Forde, as Dick Darrell, lent most valuable assistance, working hard all through, and singing in capital style "My Japanesey Girl," "That's the girl for you," and "In London Town." Mr. Bert Byrne proved an active and energetic representative of the caliph, Ali Ben Hassan, whose ditty "Cheero" was well received; and Mr. John F. Preston did good work as O'Sullivan Pasha. Mr. Carl Lynn quaintly played the part of Sherlock Holmes, a policeman whose mission it is to "move on" all the other characters, informing them that if they want to give away bills they must go into the roadway. Mr. Lynn also introduced imitations of various animals. Mr. Harry Liddle as Tommy Twinkle and Miss Claire Romaine as Polly Twinkle, a couple of music-hall artists, made good use of their opportunities, and contributed a duet and dance, which were greeted with much applause. Miss Maude Walsh was a vivacious representative of the English girl Mabel Musgrove, and scored with a topical song, "A matter of opinion." Miss Marie Preston was a fascinating Kassi-Kassi, a Jap slave; and the Caliph's principal wives were represented by markedly attractive ladies, the Misses Evelyn Vaudray, Florence Darrell, Florence Harcourt, and Lilian Leonard. "Spot" as an Indian slave, Miss Nannie Goldman as a middy, and Mr. Harry J. Worth as Mustapha, a slave, completed the cast. In the text there were several allusions to the strike, one of the neatest being the Caliph's quotation from "Gibbons's Decline and Fall of the Holborn Empire." The orchestra, composed of strike musicians, was under the direction of Mr. William Neale, Mr. George Dyball was the stage-manager, and Mr. W. H. Barlow assistant stage-manager.

At the conclusion of the performance of the new production Mr. Frank Gerald, the general manager, appeared in front of the curtain, and thanked the audience for the hearty appreciation they had shown of the first piece produced by the National Alliance. He held in his hand telegrams and cables from all part of the world wishing them success in their venture. There were too many to read, but he should like to mention that one was from Mr. Harry Mountford, who was unable to be present through illness, but he hoped to be able to appear on Wednesday evening. It was only right to add that much of the success of the production was due to Mr. John F. Preston, (Max Goldberg) who had produced the piece.

Later Mr. Joe O'Gorman, having done a turn, was called upon for a speech. He said that Mr. Harry Mountford, by his desire, went into the provinces for the purpose of contradicting the reports that mutiny had broken out in their ranks, and was now laid up with influenza. It was a great consolation to see such a large audience. They had now been three weeks on strike, but financially they were in a much stronger position than when the fight started. It was not his intention to say any unkind words about their opponents, who were fighting for what they considered were their rights; but surely they should not object to the artists doing the same thing. He believed, however, that their opponents were yielding a bit, and would agree to arbitration. He personally would welcome arbitration, because if they had a good cause, as he believed they had, there was no need to be afraid of resorting to this means of settling the dispute. It was proposed that Mr. Askwith, the official arbitrator to the Board of Trade, should be appointed to act, and if this proposal was agreed to he anticipated that the war would come to a speedy end. In thanking the audience for their attendance he said that, after all, it was not the proprietors who were their masters, but the public. It was the patrons of the halls who were responsible for the big salaries that were paid to star artists. However, he hoped to see an early, an honourable, and amicable settlement of this unfortunate dispute.

In the variety concert which was also given Miss Ada Colley sang with charming effect "Sweet Nightingale" and "Star of Bethlehem." Mr. Whit Cunliffe gave with much spirit "It's a different girl again"; Miss Marie Kendal also sang, and Mr. Edgar Romaine gave his latest success, "Come along, little girl." It should be mentioned that in the Palace scene Mr. Michael Braham introduced his wonderfully intelligent dog "Micky." The entertainment was also contributed to by Les Belles Americaines and the Aroza Belles, whose dancing was loudly applauded.

The "Mysterious Cross" was exhibited, and pictures of the strike leaders were projected by Belle Braham.

The audience included Mr. Arthur Roberts, Mr. Joe Elvin, Mr. Tom McNaughton, Mr. Alec Hurley, and Miss Marie Lloyd; but none of these took part in the evening's entertainment. No charge was made for programmes, which were given away by Miss Nina Martino, Miss Alice Lloyd, Miss Daisy Wood, "Atalanta," Miss Gertrude Glenn, and other well-known ladies. Mr. William Holles was the business manager.

The second Fancy Dress Skating Carnival will take place on the asphalte skating rink at the Crystal Palace, on Wednesday evening next. Prizes will be given for the best couples in a waltzing competition, for ladies' and gentlemen's most handsome original costumes, advertisement class, comical class, and children's class. The last Fancy Dress Carnival of the season is fixed for Wednesday, March 20.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

The highest encomiums have been lavished by the Press on Leslie Stuart's sparkling new numbers in *The Belle of Mayfair*, all of which are being issued by Messrs. Francis and Day. George Arthurs is responsible for the lyrics of five of them, the titles being "Come back to Pierrette, Pierrot," sung by Miss Billie Burke; "The English-girl and the French maid," sung by Miss Ruby Ray and Mr. Charles Angelo; "Do you waltz?" sung by Mr. Courtice Pounds; "Military Mad," sung by Mr. Sam Walsh; and "The Girlie in the goggles and the veil," sung by Mr. Farren Soutar.

Miss Alice Lloyd, who this week sailed for America to fulfil an important engagement in New York, will open with three of the Monte Carlo Publishing Company's publications, viz., "Bamboo Bungalow," "Queen of Old Samara," and "No thanks, Mr. Octopus!" The American rights of these three successful songs are vested in Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter.

On the occasion of the last performance of Mr. Brydon Phillips's brilliantly successful pantomime, *Red Riding Hood*, on Saturday night last at the Dalston Theatre, Mr. Henry De Solla (Lawyer Slyfox) sang the chorus of Maurice Scott's "Too Lazy to Live" no fewer than eight times. Mr. Tom Leo, who is the possessor of the music-hall rights, has met with great success with the item at Glasgow, Coventry, and Wolverhampton. It enjoys a steady sale as a "Sixpenny Pop."

Mr. Tom McNaughton, who in addition to his usual business as the "funny man" of the McNaughton duo, is a partner in the Monte Carlo Publishing Company, will, during his forthcoming engagement in America (whither he is this week journeying), "place" many of the newest publications of this wide-awake publishing house with American performers, and has gone away well-equipped with the very latest additions to the firm's "Sixpenny Successes" series.

Mr. John Smith has just added to Messrs. Francis and Day's catalogue of "Sixpenny Pops"—which now comprises 351 numbers, the following songs:—"All I want is a girl," "If those lips could only speak," "Be as you used to be," "It is the scarecrow!" "Alice, where art thou going?" and "Cheero!"

A third edition of the popular comic song "Birdseed" is in the press. For a song that has not yet been sung on the music-hall stage this is noteworthy.

Over seven thousand copies of Frank Leo's "I want you to notice my leggings" have been sold in a comparatively short time by the music trade. The song was written round a spontaneous remark from the well-known writer. One night he was sitting in a billiard-room hard by the Empire, Shepherd's Bush, with his somewhat lengthy legs encased in leather, stretched out. A player nearly fell over them, and asked whether he required *all* the room. Leo's reply was, "No; I want you to notice my leggings." This retort went so well that the song was decided on, and three verses were completed before the writer reached home.

Miss Vesta Victoria's comical lament, entitled "Never trust a policeman," is being issued in London and New York by Messrs. Francis and Day. It is the work of the brother of the fair artist, Lawrence Barclay, in collaboration with Mark Lorne.

Mr. Harry Bedford, fresh from his Australian triumphs, is singing with considerable success at the Hackney Empire a comic song, by R. P. Weston, entitled "A little bit of sugar on the top." It will be remembered that "A little bit of sugar for the bird" was the title of the famous topical song, by Fred Bowyer, which was written for *The New Barmaid*.

Indian subjects have inspired Amy Woodforde-Finden to write a pretty melody, and for a charming Indian romance Fred Godfrey and Harry Castling are responsible. They have placed it with the Star Music Company, and it is said to have a delightfully quaint and catchy melody. The title is "You shall have a Shalimar" (Indian Garden). A limited number of permissions only will be granted at present.

Mr. Harry Bancroft, who is this week appearing at the Putney Hippodrome, is featuring with great success Mills and Scott's popular song, "Sailing in my balloon." By the way, it will be good news to his numerous friends to hear that Mr. A. J. Mills is fast recovering from his recent indisposition and is already busy writing new lyrics. His latest novelty is a little gem entitled "Primrose." Bennett Scott, who has surpassed himself in "melodising" this number, is confident the same will become exceedingly popular. The Star Company are putting it out at once.

"By the Sunny Bay of Naples," written and composed by Bennett Scott, will shortly be produced at a prominent West End hall as a scena, with elaborate setting and effects.

"Your Number's Up" is the title of a new coon song, written and composed by the well-known writers, Messrs. Kenneth Lyle and Fred Godfrey, of which the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., have just secured publishing rights. They will shortly issue the song in their popular sixpenny edition.

Mr. Ambrose Thorne has been featuring with great success this week at the Pavilion, assisted by the Pavilion Girls, a very attractive march song, entitled "Captain Reginald D'Arcy of the Guards." This will undoubtedly be a very popular seaside number during the coming season. The publishers are the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd.

Miss Vesta Victoria continues to win golden opinions from all sorts of people in America with her screamingly funny rendering of her latest triumph, "I've told his missus all about him," by Harrington and Tate (a sequel to "Waiting at the church"), and the song, which is published in this country by the Monte Carlo Publishing Company, is selling hugely in the States, in the edition published there by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter.

Fresh from her pantomime triumphs at the Crown Theatre, Peckham, that dainty young artist, Miss Lena Verdi, opened at the Empire, New Cross, on Monday last, and scored an instantaneous success with Messrs. Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford's irresistibly ear-arresting new German song, "I'm going back to the Fatherland," which was chorussed by the audiences in both houses to the full extent of their lung power, the singer being rewarded at the finish by persistent and deafening recalls. The Monte Carlo Publishing Company are to be congratulated on having launched yet another "winner" on the tide of public favour.

A charmingly-quaint new song, by Messrs. R. P. Weston and F. J. Barnes, entitled "Won't you drop me just one line?" which tells of the appeal of a forsaken lady-love to her recalcitrant miner sweetheart for a little epistolary consolation in his absence, is now in the press, and a few singing permissions will be accorded to prominent artists by the publishers of this "taking" chorus song, the Monte Carlo Publishing Company.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

OUR showman readers will be sorry to hear that the amicable negotiations with the Corporation of Rawtenstall concerning their Private Bill have fallen through. Every effort was made to arrive at a reasonable compromise and a solution of the difficulty. The Parliamentary agent has, therefore, been instructed to lodge a petition signed by local showmen against the Rawtenstall Corporation Bill.

WE made a reference to this matter in our Showman notes last week, but as it must now come before the Committee of the House of Commons it is necessary for us to put our readers in full possession of the facts of the case. Rawtenstall originally had a very commodious market and fair-ground, but some years ago the Corporation built a new town hall and absorbed a great portion of the market ground as its site. With the growth of the town in recent years the cramped condition of the available market and fair-ground space caused considerable inconvenience to both market and fair-ground traders; this was conspicuously so at the time of the annual fairs. Although every bit of the Corporation ground was fully occupied, showmen were compelled to supply the growing demands of their business by occupying private ground at the time of the fair, and we suppose that the same difficulty has been experienced by the traders attending the weekly markets, otherwise we cannot account for the proposals of the Corporation Bill.

THE Corporation proposes in their Bill to acquire power to let or lease for any term of years they may choose any part or the whole of their available market ground. This, it will be seen, would effectively block the holding of the annual fair, and would destroy the prescriptive right of the showmen at the time of the fair to draw on to the ground subject only to the prescribed tolls. If the Corporation had power to lease the whole of their fair-ground to one tenant or to a group of tenants for a term of years it would effectively destroy the rights of the market and fair-ground traders, and at the best would subject them to the unrestricted greed of the private lessee, who undoubtedly would exact rents that would give him the biggest possible return for his investment.

BUT that is not all that the Corporation are seeking powers to obtain; they also want a monopoly of markets and fairs, and if they got their Bill through as it now stands no showman would be permitted to open a private ground at the time of the fair, or, indeed, any other time, without the consent of the Corporation. The Showmen's Guild has successfully defeated monopoly proposals of important corporations like Halifax and Rotherham. We feel sure that the Private Bills Committee will throw out the proposals of Rawtenstall.

THERE are one or two considerations arising out of the Mitcham Fair dispute that we venture to put before our readers. The first and most important of these is the continued necessity of watching all private Bill legislation. In the year 1891, when the Mitcham Conservators passed their private Bill, giving them the extraordinary powers referred to above, there was no one, no society, no organisation whatever watching private Bill legislation. The Showmen's Guild, only just then organised, was engaged in a life-and-death struggle for the liberties of showpeople with the late George Smith and his friends in the House of Commons. It was not until seven years later, in the year 1898, that showmen were aroused to take acion against private Bills, and from that day to this all private Bills promoted by public bodies have been carefully scrutinised, and wherever extraordinary powers against showmen have been claimed, successfully opposed.

HAD the showmen of the United Kingdom been organised twenty years earlier there is no doubt that a great mass of restrictive powers obtained in private Acts would never have been allowed to pass into law. There is no doubt that such extraordinary powers as those possessed by the Mitcham Conservators would never have been granted had the showmen been as well organised as they are to-day. The second consideration of value is that individual showmen should take more pains and give more time to protect their business and to promote the common interests of all who travel the fairs. A considerable element in the determination to settle the Mitcham dispute as amicably as possible was that it was felt that men like Mr. Ball and the other defendants should not be called upon to run the risk of ruin because of their championship of the common interests of fairground traders. Again we emphasise the fact that, good as it is to support an organisation for trade defence, that is not enough; showmen must give more time and thought and be prepared to run more risks than hitherto has been their practice to preserve and defend their avocation in life.

ANOTHER important point is the strengthening of the Defence Fund, so that it may be able not only to carry on its necessary work of Parliamentary defence but also to extend the show business by making it better understood by the people who find their opportunities of amusement at our fairs.

To Mr. Ball in particular a great debt of gratitude is due; his decisive action secured the fair last year, and showmen would never have known what were the difficulties at Mitcham but for Mr. Ball's persistent hard work and enterprise.

THE Shrovetide Fair at Lichfield has been more successful than usual. The Town Council accepted the tender of Mr. P. Collins, who filled the Market-square with a really fine array of amusements. These included his excellent cinematograph exhibition, his magnificent motor-car roundabout, and his lighthouse helter-skelter. We hear that Mr. Collins has been accepted as the lessee for the famous old Whitsuntide Festival, Lichfield Greenhill Bower.

PLINSTON BROTHERS, with their whirling the whirl machine, and Dante, with high-fliers, shooting gallery, &c., are at Ebbw Vale.

THE committee of the Olympia showmen's banquet and ball held their last meeting on Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Beaconsfield Hotel, to hear how the financial funds stood. The hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. A. Cardew, announced that everything was most satisfactory, and he trusted the event would be as favourably carried out in the future. The meeting closed with an oyster supper, at which all present thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The oysters were gratuitously supplied by the Barron Brothers; the brown bread and butter and bottles of stout (which always go well with the famous shell-fish) were given by Mr. A. Cardew, of the Beaconsfield Hotel; Mr. Joe Wentworth supplied champagne with his usual generosity. During the proceedings, Mr. Arthur Dashwood, chairman of the committee, made graceful allusions to the kindness tendered to the committee by Mr. B. W. Rose, chairman of the Fun City Company, Olympia, who has left no stone unturned to give every showman who was at Olympia this Christmas fair all the assistance he possibly could to insure success. The gentlemen present included the following well-known showmen:—Barron Brothers, Biddall Brothers, W. Sedgwick, Wallace Jones, W. Jones, T. Knighton, F. Willson, J. White, W. Le Neve, Joe Wilson, Joe Lynch, J. Allport, J. Osborne, Joe Wentworth, W. Cooper, W. Crawford, A. Cardew (hon. secretary and treasurer), and Arthur Dashwood (chairman).

PROFESSOR LLOYD, whose shooting-range is a permanent and interesting feature of Barry Dock, made an application to the Barry Justices for a music and dancing licence. Mr. Lloyd has secured a commodious room, immediately over the shooting-range, capable of accommodating 200 persons, and in every way suitable for a small variety entertainment. The application was supported by testimonials as to character by the Head Constable of Cardiff, and by the Superintendent of Police at Barry Dock. The latter officer said in support of the application that he had known Professor Lloyd for over twenty years, and had always found him a very respectable man. He had inspected the premises, and considered them suitable. He thought the exit was adequate. The Justices refused the application.

ON Saturday last Mr. F. H. Fowler, the popular and esteemed secretary to Mr. T. E. Reed, of the World's Fair, Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, was the recipient of an unexpected surprise—the presentation of a testimonial, subscribed for by the staff and a few friends. The testimonial consisted of a handsome gilt marble and bronze centre clock and side figures, with an heraldic inscription as follows:—"Presented to Mr. F. H. Fowler, as a mark of respect, by a few friends and staff of the World's Fair, 1906-7." In thanking the subscribers, Mr. Fowler said the presentation had been sprung upon him quite unexpectedly, and he could not adequately express his thanks for so marked a feeling of respect and good wishes. He had, during his twenty years' association with the World's Fair, simply done his duty towards his firm and those under him, and endeavoured to lead his staff in the same direction. He much appreciated the form the testimonial had taken, because those at home could join in the appreciation. Again thanking them, he said it would be a lasting memento, prized far beyond its intrinsic value.

MESSRS. J. DOONER AND SON, with their Empire cinematograph and varieties, have just concluded a ten days' visit to Neath, and drew excellent houses. Many new pictures were shown on the bioscope, and humorous dramatic sketches formed a special feature of the show. Messrs. Dooner, with their usual kind consideration for the children, gave a long and humorous programme on the Saturday at reduced prices.

THE Swansea Watch Committee passed a vote of thanks to Messrs. Henry Studt and James Day for saving the life of a resident named Williams, who had fallen into the docks.

NEWPORT FANCY FAIR was attended by J. Shepherd's gondola motor cars, Mrs. S. Shepherd's steam yachts, Mrs. C. Shepherd's aerial flights, Cartwright's shooting saloon, cocoa-nut stall, Colenol's aunt sallies and juvenile horses, and Montgomery's patent whirling the whirl.

THE attention of all members of the British Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union is directed to the important meeting of that Society, at Lynn Mart, next Wednesday afternoon. See advertisement.

THE many friends of Mr. Charles Bertram, the popular entertainer, illusionist, and card manipulator, will be sorry to learn that he has been stricken down with serious illness. Mr. Bertram has been before the public for twenty-two years, his first professional appearance having taken place at the now demolished St. James's Hall in 1885. He went to school at Woolwich with the late Fred Leslie, and was a Boniface before he took to the boards.

MR. HERBERT SHELLEY, who opens on the Stoll tour on Monday at Walsall, presenting his successful protean Gaelic play, *Dan the Outlaw*, has received a very tempting offer to visit America with it; but his booking in this country will not admit of his acceptance of the offer for at least two years.

HARRY DACRE

SONG WRITER and AUTOGRAPH COLLECTOR,

Wants the SIGNATURES and PERMANENT ADDRESSES of all those Artists, Pierrots, Smoking Concert Warblers, and others who helped to made the following Dacre Songs popular:—

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"GOOD-BYE, MIGNONETTE,"
"AS YOUR HAIR GROWS WHITER,"
"I CAN'T THINK OB NUTHIN' ELSE BUT YOU, LULU,"
"THE LADS IN NAVY BLUE,"
"COULD WE RECALL,"
"WHILE LONDON'S FAST ASLEEP,"
"I'LL BE YOUR SWEETHEART,"
"SHE'S A SENSIBLE GIRL,"
"TING-A-LING,"
"PLAYMATES."
"THE GHOST OF BENJAMIN BINNS,"
"DAISY BELL,"
&c., &c., &c.

ANY PUBLIC VOCALIST,
great or small, sending his or her autograph and permanent address will receive (post paid)
SOMETHING BRIGHT and BEAUTIFUL.

Please mention which of Harry Dacre's Old Songs you like best.

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GRAHAM,

The Human Marionette.

"A Sure Top."

Agent,

GEORGE BARCLAY.

THE HORNS CARNIVAL.

IF evidence were wanting of the popularity of Mr. R. J. Brinkley's annual fancy dress ball and carnival, the crowds of merry masqueraders that filled every part of the Horns Hotel on Thursday evening, the 7th inst., would have convinced the most sceptical. After much dancing and gaiety and a most *recherché* supper—served in a style that reflects the highest credit on the efficiency of Mr. Jean Kohl, the manager, and his staff—the procession of the aspirants for the £200 worth of prizes took place to an inspiriting march by the Horns Quadrille Orchestra. It was at once seen that the allotment would be a difficult task for the ladies and gentlemen of the judging committee, for in elegance of design and original conception the competitors had surpassed all previous records. That they discharged their duties to the entire satisfaction of the company was evidenced by the hearty applause bestowed as the fair aspirants came forward to receive their costly prizes from the hands of Mrs. R. J. Brinkley, who in a most charming manner added to the pleasure of the receiver with a few cheery words and a bewitching smile.

The first ladies' prize (a silver tea and coffee service on tray) was gained by Mrs. Heller, who as "A Sweet Songster" wore an elegant costume of white satin. Around the bottom of the skirt were hand-painted a full octave of notes, while perched on her shoulders were many specimens of the feathered tribe, and on her head a miniature cage full of birds. The second ladies' prize (a drawing-room suite in green silk) was awarded Miss Ash as "An Aquarium." She wore a pretty costume of green paper, and had suspended from her shoulders, back and front, two large tanks of water in which were live gold and silver fishes, and around her neck and waist coiled snakes of brilliant hues. The third ladies' (a splendid silver and cut-glass fruit centre) was given to Miss Hall, whose costume, "A Study in Old Mosaic," beggars all description, for it might have been a piece taken from the old mosaic courts of Egypt. Fourth prize (a massive oxydised silver art table centre with cut-glass dishes) was presented to Miss Sagson, who as "My Rockery" looked quite realistic in a skirt and bodice composed of ferns. On her head was a tiny fountain. Fifth prize (a beautiful silver fruit centre with swinging baskets) was awarded to Miss Fergusson for a most ingenious "Collection of Goss China." On a black foundation was cleverly worked every conceivable article of china with the Corporation "coat of arms" of every borough in England. On her head was perched a pretty teapot, and around her neck a necklet of miniature china. Sixth ladies' prize (a silver triple melon biscuit box) was carried off by Miss Miller, who as "The Star of Arran" had a handsome hand-painted costume of Irish views. Seventh prize (a silver café au lait set on tray) was given Miss Horsam, who looked bewitching in a costume "Lovely June," covered with golden hues. Eighth prize (a silver cheese dish) was awarded Miss Wynn, who disguised her charming personality in a burlesque costume of "A Suffragette." With white stockings, a pair of old side-spring boots, and a black gown literally smothered in mottoes, such as "Shall Asquith Die?" "Not a fair Billington, but a fooligan Suffragette," and carried in her hand a red flag with "Votes for Women" on it. Needless to say, she got the judges' votes. The rest of the ladies' prizes were awarded as follows: Ninth (silver egg stand, with spoons), Miss Griffiths, as "By Silver Sea"; tenth (an oak and silver table gong), Miss Lederman, as "Catherine, in *The Taming of the Shrew*"; eleventh (an art silver claret jug), Miss Douglas, as "Grandmamma when Young"; twelfth (silver egg steamer), Miss Martin, "Gay Ostend"; thirteenth (silver revolving butter cooler), Mrs. Blake, as "A Golden Pheasant," a most elaborate confection; fourteenth (a case of silver buckles and buttons), Miss Helen Murray, as "Original," leaving others to judge the most appropriate title; fifteenth (silver and opal fruit basket), Mrs. Mackinlay, as the picture-"Desiccated Soup"; sixteenth, Miss Hilda Dixon won a ladies' dressing case in a most effective costume, "In the Snow"; seventeenth (a fitted writing case), Miss Palmer, as the picture-poster for "Holbrook's Sauce"; eighteenth (a handsome music case), Miss Godfrey, as "Juliette." The gentlemen in costume were not so numerous as the ladies, and the votes of the judges were unanimous for the first prize to be awarded Mr. M. Ferguson for an admirably conceived and constructed costume representing in the cleverest fashion "Britannia's Bulwarks." This gentleman's trousers were literally covered with the names of all the battleships in our Navy, while on his shoulders and headgear were facsimiles of our men-of-war, which in the march past showed their searchlights and fired off miniature cannon. A completely fitted suit case was his reward for what must have been a labour of patience and ingenuity. Second gentlemen's prize (a fitted kit bag) was awarded Mr. Harris, who same in a dual character of "Bookmaker and Backer." One half of his costume represented a typical racecourse bookmaker, all flash clothes and jewellery, while the other half was a replica of a poverty-stricken backer, in rags, with a saveloy for his dinner. Mr. Harris evoked throughout the evening much boisterous merriment. Third gentlemen's prize (a handsome fitted kit bag) came to M. E. Hunter, as "Popular Songs," his coat representing in some fancy article attached to it the title of the most popular songs of the day. Fourth prize (a gentleman's fitted dressing case) was won by Mr. Dancier as "Napoleon." Both in feature, mannerism, and costume this gentleman maintained the character with an artistic resource and conception beyond all praise. Fifth prize (a dress suit case) fell to Mr. Harry Davis, who both in deportment and costume was a beautiful copy of a Gainsborough picture; in fact, it was difficult to believe that he was of the sterner sex so complete was the deception. This happy combination of the man-woman had for its cavalier the whole time Mr. H. A. Thorpe, who as a gentleman of Louis the XIVth period carried off the seventh prize, a splendid silver-mounted Queen Anne claret jug. Sixth prize (an Empire centre fruit stand) was well won by Mr. Ash, who as "A Thing of the Past" was a screamingly funny study in flaming pink of the old-time ballet girl, and being both tall and slim of limb his awkward, gawkish appearance created roars of laughter. Eighth prize (a cucumber salad bowl and servers) was won by Mr. Edwards as "King Menelik," a most gorgeous and brilliant costume; while his attendant page, Mr. Peter, was awarded a trout salad bowl and servers.

Perfect decorum and sociability is a marked feature of the Horns carnival, and the hundreds of ladies in their elegant evening toilets added not a little to the general brilliancy of the scene. Mr. Selwood Geake (in Court dress) made a most efficient and courteous M.C., and kept everyone on their feet to the lively music of the Horns Quadrille Band, many of the dances being redemanded.

All that can be said has been said in praise of the admirable arrangements for the comfort of the guests, and the genial tact and bonhomie of Mr. Jean Kohl, the Horns indefatigable manager, who has won the respect, esteem, and confidence of the Horns patrons by his generosity and good qualities.

ON Monday last, at the Licensing Session at Thorpe-le-Soken, Mr. R. D. Hooper, one of the directors, was granted a full licence for the sale of intoxicating liquors for the Grand Hall of the Palace, Clacton-on-Sea. Although there was a good deal of local opposition, a full bench granted the application by a large majority. The monopoly value was fixed at £1500.

BOW PALACE.

Sexton Blake, the detective playlet presented by Miss Carlotta de Yonson and company, is the big item in the bill at the Bow Palace this week. The story reminds us somewhat of the adventures of another famous detective in fiction, and, to the credit of its author, Mr. C. Douglas Carlile, it can be said that it is well written and is of considerable dramatic interest. It is played, too, in a way that brings out in strong relief its best points. The plot concerns an attempt at blackmail by a brotherhood of three, the leading spirit of which bears the proud reputation of being the master criminal. These gentlemen, who occupy premises under the firm-name of Hanton, Carter, Brown, and Co., in Westminster—a rather clever subterfuge, it must be admitted—endeavour to get possession of certain incriminating Nihilist documents left to the heroine, Leah Coursell, by her late father. How the detective, Sexton Blake, circumvents their evil schemes, is explained in an engrossingly interesting manner. As the detective, Mr. C. Douglas Carlile presents us with an alert, self-possessed individual, and, it might be said, a clever quick-change artist. We can always look forward to a good characterisation from Miss Carlotta de Yonson in almost anything she undertakes, and it is a really pleasing impersonation she gives us of Leah Coursell. There is another experienced player of parts in Mr. Chas. A. Carlile, who, as the Master Criminal, convinces us that his prototype was rightly named. Mr. Lee Gilbert is comical as Tinker, and the three scenes are elaborately mounted.

Messrs. Stanley Damerell, Cecil Rutland, and company have an exceedingly laughable trifle in *House Full*. One cannot fail to be amused at the comedy of errors and misapprehensions as to the ownership of certain babies with which this sketch deals. Mr. Damerell, as a magistrate, and Mr. Rutland, as a butler, both in a state of perpetual bewilderment in an awkward and, at the same time, delicate predicament, are a source of the utmost merriment to the spectators. Mr. Harry Champion is a *persona grata* in the East-end, and his songs, "The funny father," "Oh, what a mouth!" and "The bobtail coat," are entertaining to a degree, while a word of praise can also be bestowed upon his dancing. There is a commendable quick-change artist in Miss Laurie Wallis, whose Irish, Scottish, and skipping-rope dances are executed with infinite skill and a proper appreciation of natural characteristics. The Bransbys have a delightfully absurd act, entitled *Half-a-Quid*, which is acted throughout with humour and spirit. Patter of the most entertaining sort is furnished by Messrs. Woodhouse and Wells, and the merry couple are to be congratulated upon their smart dancing. A feature of the programme which should not be missed is the *haute école* act of Miss Sylvia Martin, for in it we see to what a remarkable extent a horse can be trained to develop its intelligence. In Mlle. Haydee's miniature vaudeville theatre we are treated to a novel and ingeniously arranged marionette performance; and Mr. Arthur Royce is heard to advantage in a capital piano and comedy entertainment. Mr. Will Driscoll, the swell comedian and dancer, wins hearty and well-merited applause for his agreeable rendering of "The dicky bird" and "You've got to run after me"; and Raymond and Son's Bio-tableaux concludes with a number of realistic scenes of Niagara.

"IT IS THE CAUSE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—*Re* the music-hall war. Perhaps many of the artists alleged to be struggling against capital, might have never for one moment stopped to study, or even consider, why that serious struggle ever originated. It is very simple. As a man of experience in many parts of the world for thirty years in all branches of the variety and circus professions, my candid opinion is that the agents have been the sole cause of this bad outlook. In this way. They have booked up artists of nearly every description for many years ahead, and the artists have been over eager to fill up their date books, and never once have given a passing thought to glance over the conditions stated in their contract forms. With the various music-hall magnates they could have remedied this barring clause by having Rule No. — scratched out of their agreements and a *bond-fide* agreement made on both sides. Since the days of Ambrose Maynard and Charles Roberts, both of York-road, S.E., things have been steadily getting worse, and yet artists have not had the conceptive brain power to foresee the storm that has been raging. The U.S.A. managers do not book up years and years ahead, and have always a vacancy for any good material that may come in their way, and so have Continental managers. Agents at 10 per cent. do not mind. Why should they? Like the company promoter, they are on the safe side of the question legally, but not always morally.—Yours faithfully,

FRED W. LAURAINE.

124, Camberwell-road, S.E., Feb. 12.

THE public examination was held on Thursday of Maurice Herbert Hoffman, who lately carried on business as a theatrical manager at the Palace Pier Theatre, Brighton. The statement of affairs showed liabilities £1,578, of which £1,188 were expected to rank, and assets nil. It appeared that the debtor had been engaged in the theatrical profession for the last twenty years, acting and managing and running touring companies. He took a lease of the Palace Pier Theatre in September, 1902. Other persons were interested with him in the venture, but it proved unsuccessful, and in March, 1903, the lessors took possession. He had since been occupied as an actor at the halls. The debtor attributed his failure to loss in connection with the theatre, and to his income since September, 1902, having been insufficient to cover his expenditure. The examination was concluded.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER, in addressing a women's meeting at the Battersea Public Baths on Monday afternoon, told them that the question of rates concerned them seriously; as, if municipal demands were reduced, they would have more money to spend on matinées. He also remarked that the late J. L. Toole once persuaded twenty ladies to follow John Sleeper Clarke about in a certain town and pester him with circulars bearing the name "John L. Toole." This did not worry Clarke much, but he was really annoyed when, waking up next morning, he found a piece of paper with Toole's name pinned to his pillow. Mr. Alexander urged the ladies, if necessary, to pin the names of Benn and Evans, the local municipal reform candidates, on the pillows of their brothers and husbands.

MISS LAURA JOHNSON, whose series of brilliant successes as a leading Shakespearean actress will be remembered by many, has been the victim of misfortune. For many months past she has been completely prostrated by illness, but lately she has improved in health sufficiently to allow her to strike out a line for herself, and during the week she is successfully appearing at the Eastbourne Hippodrome, in a number of Shakespeare's and Dickens's characters. Although Miss Johnson is not yet by any means fully recovered, she is possessed of any amount of courage, and she deserves every success in her new venture.

THE National Alliance, having received information that certain artists, including at least one notable "star," had been asked by one of the managers whose halls have been attacked to take up their engagement next Monday, has issued the following order: "That no member of the V.A.F. shall return to his, her, or their engagement at any of the affected halls until the Executive Committee issues an order to do so."

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR

MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS, ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

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COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E., March 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, May 6, 13, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING, March 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, May 13, 20.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER, May 6, 13, 20, 27, Aug. 5, 12, 19, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER, March 25, April 1, 11 (3 nights), 22, May 13, 20, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON, March 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, May 6, 20, Aug. 5, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD, April 1, 22, 29, May 20, 27, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON, April 15, May 20, 27, June 10, Aug. 5, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER, March 25, April 29, May 20, 27, June 3, 10, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON, March 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-class Companies, GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE, March 11 (wire), May 13, 20, 27.
METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD, March 11 (wire), May 6, onwards.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD, March 18, 25, April 8 and 15.
Address, SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead-on-Tyne. Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD, March 18, April 1, 29, May 13, 20, 27 (six nights), April 22, and May 6 (three nights).
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON, April 15, May 6, 13.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1 (three nights only). Onwards, E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County T. Bedford.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-Class Companies.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS, May 20, June 3 (?), July 8, 15, 22.

PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE, May 20, 27 (?), June 3, 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22.
Big Musical Comedies Wanted for Whit Week, both Theatres; must be Big Shows, or not entertained. H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for April 18, 19, and 20, April 22.
Required, Big Attraction for Aug. 5, and onwards with exceptions.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEST BROMWICH, Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Gen.-Man., Mr. Herbert Vere.
WANTED, First-Class Melodramas, Musical Comedies, &c., vacant dates Mar. 25, April, on

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 13. A few Autumn Dates Open for First-class Attractions only, Musical Comedies preferred.
Address, HARRY YORKE.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
WANTED, Strong Attractions.
March 4, 18, 25.
March 4, 18, 25.
March 4, 18, 25.
Wire,
R. C. BUCHANAN, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, First-class Companies, April 22 and Sept. 23; also few vacant dates, Spring, 1908.
All communications,
WILLIAM MARTIN, Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 21, April 1, May 6, 13, 20, and a few Autumn Dates. FRED GRANVILLE, Park View, Crosby Liverpool.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, JULIAN MALVERN.
WANTED, Musical Comedies, April 29 (Musical Festival week), Whit, July 1, 8, and on.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

WANTED, Irving Theatre, Seacombe, First-Class Attractions, March 4, 18, April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20.
Now booking for the Fall.
Apply,
Owner and Manager, JAMES KIERNAN.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

GRAND THEATRE, SWANSEA.
BROOKS and WOODBRIDGE, Lessees and Managers.
WANTED, No. 1 Musical or High-Class Comedy Attractions, March 18, April 8, 15, 22, May 27, June, July, Aug. 12, 26, Sept. 2, 9, 16, Nov. 18, Dec. 9, 16, no Dramas entertained except of very highest repute. All communciations, E. OSWALD BROOKS, Grand Theatre, Swansea.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-Class Companies, for April 1, 29, May 6, 13, and 20. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

THEATRE ROYAL, CROYDON.
WANTED, First-class Drama, March 4. Apply, SAMUEL JAMES, Warwick House, 8, Warwick-ct., Gray's Inn, W.C.

NEW THEATRE, CONSETT.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Feb. 25. Apply, HUGH ROBERTSON, T. R., Jarrow.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Peterborough, Good Companies, April 1. 15, 22.
Address, A. D. VERNON.

THEATRE ROYAL, WATERFORD.
WANTED, Companies for April 8, onwards, good Easter Panto. Write (Musical Companies preferred), JOHN COLLINS, Manager.

VICTORIA THEATRE, BROUGHTON.
Manager and Licensee, J. FRED WATSON.
WANTED, Strong Attractions, for May 6, 13, 20, and 27, and all June; might arrange stock with a responsible manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, HEBBURN.
WANTED, First-class Companies only, March 25, April 8, 22, May 6, 13, Nov. 4, 18, 25, Dec. 2, 9, 16. Next week, Herbert Ralland's "La Poupée." CHARLES ELDERTON.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-Class Companies.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER,
Vacant March 25, April 1, onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH,
Vac. Feb. 18, 25, March 4, onward, with exceptions.
(Last three nights of each week).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY,
Vacant April 1 (Share or Certainty), onward, with exceptions.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY,
Vacant April 1, onward, with exceptions.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE,
Vacant March 4, April 1, onward, with exceptions.

"THE LOST CHORD,"
Vacant Aug. 5, onward, with exceptions.

"SPAN OF LIFE,"
Vacant March 4, 11, onward, with exceptions.

"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S,"
Vacant April 1, 8, 29, onward, with exceptions.

"CINDERELLA,"
Vacant Feb. 3, 1908, onward, with exceptions.

To Let, on Royalty, "THE PRAIRIE FLOWER" and "OUR BRITISH EMPIRE."

Excellent Plants Printing.

All communications to
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.
The Leading Theatre of the Town.
The only theatre in the town lighted by electricity.
The Season's Bookings include:—
"His House in Order," "All-of-a-Sudden Peggy" (Miss Decima Moore), "The Freedom of Suzanne" (Miss Mabel Love), "The Prince of Pilsen," "Miss Lancashire," Limited," Wentworth Croke's "My Sweetheart," "The Christian," "The 'Varsity Belle," "Home, Sweet Home," "The Worst Woman in London," "The Spider and the Fly," Charles Harrington's "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "Sherlock Holmes," "The Shulamite," "The Woman Who Gambles."
This week, "The Lion and the Mouse" (Return).
WANTED, March 4 (3 nights), April 29, May 6 and 20. Now Booking Autumn.
Apply, CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.

WANTED, High-Class Musical Comedy or latest London successes, for the following dates:—
March 4,
March 11,
March 18,
March 25,
April 22, and onwards.
Address, CHAS. E. MACHIN,
Avenue Opera House, Sunderland.

BRIDLINGTON SPA THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.
This theatre is being built on the site of the old one. Holding value £100. New scenery and electricity throughout. Vacant dates.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only, between July 29 and Oct. 31.
HENRY HAGUE, General-Manager.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY.
WANTED, First-class Musical or Dramatic Companies,
Feb. 25, March 4, 18.

L. CARSON, Keighley.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 11 and 18, Theatre Royal, Belfast.
Address, FRED W. WARDEN.

WANTED, Big Attractions, April 1, onwards, Grand, Radcliffe; also April 8, 29, on, Grand, Chorley. Address, SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

THEATRES R., BILSTON and WEDNESBURY.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for March 18, 25, Easter Week, April 8, 15, 29, May 6, 13, and Whit. Address, HARRY BATTERSBY, T. R., Bilston.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, really First-Class Attractions,
March 4,
March 4,
April 15,
May 20.
Wire, JAMES BELL, Theatre, Darlington.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, Easter, April 8 (?), 15, onwards, with exception of Whit.
Apply,
SHERWOOD and Co., Opera House, Wakefield.

PIER THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, through disappointment, First-Class Company for March 11 (six nights), also vacant, May 13, 20, all June, and various dates onwards. Apply, G. HAYES, Manager.

NEW
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BELFAST.
Proprietors, Alexandra Theatre Co.

A Handsome Brick Melodrama Theatre.
Heated by radiators.
Lighted by electric and gas.
WANTED, Big Drama Productions, Certainties only, Aug., on, with exceptions. Dramas new to this City. Apply
J. LEICESTER-JACKSON, Greenisland, Belfast.

PAVILION THEATRE, ST. LEONARDS.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, March 4, 11, 18, onward, with exceptions. Apply, ELVEY THOMAS.

GRAND THEATRE, CROYDON.
WANTED, First-Class Attraction, March 11.

Address,
LAWSON LAMBERT, as above.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, May 13, June 3, 10, and 17, July 1.
Apply, T. W. ROWE.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, through alteration of arrangements, Good Companies, April 8 and 22.
Address, GERALD HARDING.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE
WANTED, High-class Companies, March 7 (three), 14 (three), 18, and 25, and on, with exceptions. Can arrange Stock Season, commencing April 8. W. E. POTTS

THEATRE ROYAL, ILKESTON.
Manager and Licensee, Mr. L. F. A. ROGERS.

WANTED, Companies, April 15, 22, 29, May 6, Aug. 5, onwards.
Silence a courteous negative.

WANTED, Special Attraction, for THEATRE ROYAL, NEWCASTLE, March 4.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-st., S.W.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for March 11, 18, 25, April 1.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-st., S.W.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, February 25, 26, 27, March 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, April 8, 9, 10.
Apply WILLIAM PEACOCK.

WANTED, Companies, Opera House, Workington, vacant March 25, April 15 (?), May 13, 20. Athenæum Theatre, Lancaster, vacant March 11, 25, April 1, 8 (3 nights), 22 (?), May 13 20.
Address, STANLEY ROGERS,
124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

The Premier Theatre in the Furness District.
Holds £90 at Ordinary Prices.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 15 (first vacant date) and May 6, on. The Spring bookings for the above include Lionel Rignold and Ada Blanche in "What the Butler Saw," "La Poupée," Charles Chard's Pantomime "Goody Two-Shoes," James Kiddie's "Dick Whittington," "Human Hearts," "The Night of the Party," Norman V. Norman, "Two Little Vagabonds," Miss Maud Hildyard, "The Traitor," Allan Wilkie, "Sapho," "Lucky Durham," "A Warning to Women," "In Holy Russia," "The Power of the Cross," "Lights Out," J. B. Mulholland's "The Electric Man," &c.

The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions Touring.

All Applications for Dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
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GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.

WANTED, for March 18, 25, April 1, 8, and 15, and onwards,
First-Class Attractions only,
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Share or Certainty.

Nothing too big.
Nothing too big.
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Nothing too big.

All communications
to
ARTHUR I'ANSON,
at above address.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, for March 4, 11, onwards, with exceptions (3 nights). Apply for season dates, PHILLIPS.

SELWYN THEATRE, WISBECH.
WANTED, Good Companies, for March 14 (three nights), 21 (three nights), and Easter vacant. C. GATES.

COUNTY HALL, ST. ALBANS.
WANTED, Good Companies, having own Scenery. Easter vacant. Sharing terms.
Apply, A. ROWDEN.

CASINO, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.
WANTED, First-Class Fit-up Companies, Musical Comedy preferred; Share or Rent.
Apply, THORNELL, Casino, Bexhill-on-Sea.

WANTED, Known, Public Hall, Coalville, vac. Feb. 18, onwards. Reasonable terms. Very populous district. Apply, C. TYLER.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres, April 15, 22.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatre, March 25.
Apply,
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, March 11, 25.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE,"
WANTED, Theatres, March 25, Aug. 5, 12, Dec. 23.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 9, Dec. 23.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, 30.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Theatres, March 25, April 8.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, May 13, 20.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, March 11, 25, April 8, 15, 22.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Theatre Royal, Rotherham.

"THE GAYEST OF THE GAY."
"THE GAYEST OF THE GAY."
The most Successful Play Produced during the Year 1906.
WANTED, April 22 and 29, in First-class Theatres only. Wire or write,
W. W. KELLY, 8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

WANTED, Weeks of April 29 and May 27, Scala Production.
Wire or write,
W. W. KELLY, 8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 29, May 13, on, with exceptions.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, Paisley Theatre, Paisley.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.,
In the Romantic Irish Musical Play,
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, Easter, only vacant date for this Play. Grand production, "Rollicking Rory," Autumn. Feb. 18, Q. T., Longton (six nights).

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, April 1, May 6, 13
Address, J. W. CORDINER,
Feb. 18, Opera House, Tunbridge Wells.

"TOMMY," by Jerome K. Jerome.
MISS ANNIE HUGHES as TOMMY.
WANTED, April 1, May 6,
Now booking Summer and Autumn.
"Tommy" is a great play; Annie Hughes is a great actress.
Address, Miss ANNIE HUGHES, 4L, Portman-mans., Baker-street, W.

MR. ALEC. FLOOD and MR. AUBREY FITZ-MAURICE'S CO., "THE ANGEL OF UNREST," a Play of the Napoleonic Period.
WANTED, March 11 (to follow Theatre Royal, Brighton), and several onward dates; now booking Summer and Autumn.
Address
F. MARTIN MORRIS,
12, Wyke-gardens, Clapham-road, S.W.

"SAPHO."
"SAPHO."

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, March 11 18, April 1, March 11, 18, April 1. No greater success touring. Business enormous everywhere. Wire, JAMES BELL, Theatre, Darlington.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE PET OF THE EMBASSY."
A New and Original Musical Play,
in Two Acts,
by Sidney F. Bailey,
Music by Albert E. Wilson.

FULL WEST END CAST,
Including
WITTY WATTIE WALTON
the well-known Comedian,
as
John William Bung (a Middy).
Full London Operatic Chorus of 40 Trained Voices
Splendid Costumes and Scenery.
Special New Printing.
As produced before the Lord Mayor of Liverpool (Councillor Japp), Leonard Dunning, Esq., Chief Constable, and the various Consuls.

Act I.—Eric Brown's Bungalow, Calcutta.
Act II.—Hall at the British Legation, Japan.
Time.—The Present.

Guaranteed one of the greatest Musical Shows produced.
DON'T FAIL TO BOOK IT.
The Era, Dec. 13, 1906, says:—
"The Pet of the Embassy," a new musical play in two acts, has been given here this week, and been received with the warmest approval, &c. "The Pet of the Embassy" contains the necessary material to make it go. A bright, smart dialogue, accompanied by music of a most charming description, along with several solos and choruses that can hardly fail to become popular; picturesque scenery and pretty costumes—all these elements are present, &c.
WANTED, for this great Attraction, April 15, between Theatre Royal, Preston, and Avenue, Sunderland; also April 29.
Now Booking Autumn and 1908.

Thanks to many Managers for numerous offers.

Offer me Good Dates and Terms, and I guarantee to fill any Theatre for you.

All communications re dates, &c.,
C. HAMILTON BAINES,
GRAND THEATRE, ECCLES.

"HIS HOUSE IN ORDER,"
by A. W. Pinero,
as played at the St. James's Theatre for the past twelve months.

Mr. H. RALPH KIMPTON
has arranged with
Mr. George Alexander
to Tour a Company
with this London Success.
WANTED, Dates, for the Autumn.
Address,
St. James's Theatre, S.W.

FRANK J. PITT and CHARLES HALLING'S CO.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, for this Successful Attraction, April 22 (through transferring),
April 29,
May 13,
June 17, 24, July 1, on, with exceptions.
Feb. 18, Kirkcaldy (3), Falkirk (3).

"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON,"
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON,"
by Geo. R. Sims.
WANTED, March 18,
London, Midlands, or South.
H. HOLLISTER,
Lyric T., Hammersmith.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY," No. 1 CO.
WANTED, April 1, Autumn, from Aug. 5.
Address, E. C. STAFFORD,
c/o Samuel French, Ltd., 26, Southampton-street, Strand, London, W.C.
Wanted, to Lease, a good Provincial Theatre.

WANTED, Dates for Miss Augusta Tulloch and Company, in Comedy-Drama,
"THE END CROWNS ALL,"
"THE END CROWNS ALL,"
A Play for all classes. Great Human interest. Big Sensation Scene. Well played by experienced Artists. No expense spared to ensure Success.
Wanted, May 20, June 24, to follow Scarboro'.

Address,
MISS TULLOCK, 54, Gurney-street, London, S.E.

MRS. FRED J. KIRKE'S CO.,
"THE NAVAL DETECTIVE,"
"IN OLD MADRID."
WANTED, for either or both above Musical Plays, good Theatres, March 11, 18, April 15, 22, First-class Company.
All communications, Mrs. FRED J. KIRKE,
Grand Theatre, Mansfield.

E. H. KNIGHT and GEORGE DENHAM'S CO.
"THE GRIP OF IRON."
WANTED, April 22, on, to Whit Week.
Aug. 5, on, with exceptions.
GEORGE DENHAM,
this, Rawtenstall; next, Royal, Barnsley.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, March 25, North, April 22, 29, and Whit Week. 40th week of Continuous Tour. Playing to excellent business everywhere. All specially cut printing. No stock stuff. DICKIE CLARE, T. R., West Stanley.

WANTED, March 18, for Big Production, large Company; everything carried; to follow Poplar. Wire, HALDANE CRICHTON, East Molesey.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS.
WANTED, April 1, for this Great Attraction. New uniforms and effects, band of drums, fifes, and bugles for parade. F. G. KIMBERLEY, Royal, Rotherham; next, Junction, Manchester.

WANTED, for "Robespierre; or, The Throne of Terror," Feb. 25, Midlands, April 1 (?) (between Sheffield and Carlisle), various, on. W. J. MILLER, Wedgwood Theatre, Burslem.

"THE INDIAN MUTINY."
WANTED, good Theatres, March 4 (precede Dalston), 25 (follow Croydon).
FRANK E. BURDETT, West London Theatre.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Easter, April 22, 29, May 6, Whit week, onwards, with exceptions, for the above Attraction. Address, F. BROOKE WARREN, 8, Wellington-road, Southport.

WANTED, April 1, for "A Soldier of Fortune," with Molly Malone, Godfrey Tearle, Baliol Holloway, Cyril Este, William Lowe, and large company; entire production carried. Wire, HALDANE CRICHTON, East Molesey.

WANTED, Feb. 25, for "A Woman of Pleasure."
ARTHUR GILROY, 12, Marina, Ramsgate.

"A BROKEN HEART."
WANTED, for this brilliant Attraction, Easter, April 8, 15, May 6.
HARRY FOXWELL, Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, for above Record-breaker, March 18, Easter, and April 8.
HARRY FOXWELL, Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.

Mr. BRANDON THOMAS'S PRINCIPAL CO.,
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."
WANTED, March 18, between Newcastle and Birmingham.
Address, CECIL BARTH,
The Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, Strand.

WANTED, for "Her Lost Self," by Nita Rae, "The Biggest Scamp on Earth," by F. A. Scudamore, March 4, vacant through transfer. Wire, FRANCES DELAVAL, Theatre, Batley. Feb. 18, Alex., Sheffield (return visit).

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, March 11.
Wire, Theatre Royal, Rochdale.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, for Musical Attractions, Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, Easter. Communicate, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-av., W.

CHARLES CONSTANT'S "BLUEBEARD" CO.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, April 22, 29, May 6, and Whit Week.
N.B.—Owing to continued success, Mr. Constant has decided to Tour the above as a Burlesque until Whit. Refer any theatre visited.
WILLIAM MARTIN, Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

WANTED, for "Man and Wife," by Walter Howard. Good Theatres, Ap. 15 and May 20 weeks. T. E. WARD, P. O. W., Salford.

THEATRES WANTED.

ALFRED B. CROSS' TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
WANTED, Best Theatres, for this Solid Attraction, vacant March 11 and 18 (North, through transfer), April 1, 8, May 13, and June 17.
Rapidly booking Autumn.

Feb. 18, Grand T., Brighton.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR,"
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
WANTED, April 1. Produced Feb. 25 at Junction, Manchester. Cast second to none. Scenery and Uniforms on a lavish scale. Booked at most of the leading Dramatic Theatres.
"BOUND TO WIN."
Wanted, March 4 (between Dalston and Junction, Manchester). Racehorses Toured. Splendid Cast. Wire for March 4 to F. G. KIMBERLEY, this, T. R., Rotherham; next, Junction, Manchester.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEORGE KIRK'S "HER LUCK IN LONDON" CO.
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, March 4, Sept. 9 (?), 16 (?), 30 (?), Nov. 25, Dec. 23, 30.
CHARLES A. LEICESTER,
152, Lambeth-road, S.E.

FRANK M. THORNE'S CO.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this money-maker, May 6, only vacant date this year.
Apply,
F. M. THORNE, Athenæum T., Lancaster.

An Acknowledged Success.
"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, March 18 (?), April 15, on, for this Unequalled Success. Everything carried. Every sheet of printing specially cut and played by a cast far above the ordinary Drama Standard. Bookings include Q., Liverpool, R., Leeds M., Bootle, T. R., Chesterfield, T. R., Rotherham, T. R., Bilston, Mansfield, Rawtenstall, Col., Oldham, &c., &c., &c. E. A'DELL, T. R., Middleton.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, First-class Theatre Easter Week
FRED BULMER, Star Theatre, Swansea.

"FOR AULD LANG SYNE."
WANTED, Aug. 5, onwards.
FRED BULMER, Star Theatre, Swansea.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
FRED BULMER, Star Theatre, Swansea.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, Easter Week.
FRED BULMER, Star Theatre, Swansea.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Aug. 26, Sept. 16, 23.
FRED BULMER, Star Theatre, Swansea.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE."

WANTED, Easter, May 27, June 17, July 22, 29 (3 nights).

G. M. MONTANINI,
The Borough Theatre, Heywood.

EDWARD McLEAN'S TOUR.
"THE HERO OF THE FLAG."
WANTED, March 25, Easter, April 8, 15, and 22.
LESLIE VYNER, Theatre Royal, Glossop.

"THE POWER AND THE GLORY."
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, April 8 (South), 15, Aug. 5, Sept. 2, and on. ERNEST CHESNEY, 137, Westbourne terrace, London, W.

Mr. ALBERT CHEVALIER
and a Specially Selected Company,
in a Triple Bill, including
"PANTALOON," by J. M. Barrie.
WANTED, Dates, from April 1, onward.
Wire, INGLE, 7, Dorset-road, Ealing.

"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
Sixteenth Season.
WANTED, Good Theatre, next Christmas; return visit last week at Dalston (second Panto.); record business. Refer Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton. Could also arrange Theatre for Easter. Address, G. BRYDON PHILLIPS, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Easter Week, for "HEARTS ADRIFT."
Everything carried. Magnificent pictorials.
BERTRAM, 5, Gilmore-road, Lewisham, S.E.

WILL ONDA'S TOUR.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Feb. 25, March 4 and 11, and 25, for the Most Successful Variety Combination on the Road.
Last week, Rochdale,
5,000 paid for admission on Saturday night.
Refer Manager Diggle.
Wire, ONDA, Grand Theatre, Hanley.
Next week, Theatre Royal, Peterborough.

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WANTED, in First-class Theatres or Halls, for immediate Letting or up to June.

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ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, for Sketch, Juvenile Gent, Robust Lady, Comedy Widow, Eccentric Comedy Old Man, Second Old Man. Long tour for competent people Mark letters "Sketch." J. F. ELLISTON, T. R., Bolton. Silence negative.

WANTED, good Juvenile Lady and Gentleman, to rehearse Monday, Feb. 18; also Heavy Gentleman and Carpenter, to combine Baggage and play small Part, to rehearse Feb. 25. Photo., terms, HARRY FOXWELL, Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.

WANTED, Chambermaid and Good Comedian. Rehearse Monday.

Wire,
DUCKWORTH, Ton-y-Pandy.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Robust Character Actor, North Country Dialect, Pretty Ingénue, Young Actor for Juveniles, Youthful Light Comedian, and Old Man, in famous Comedy, two nights, St. Albans, rehearse London.
Photos.,
HARE, Bourne End.

WANTED, for Month, in London, probably longer, rehearse March 11, Ladies, for Strongwoman and Soubrette, Short Comedian, Eccentric Comedian, Chorus, all Sing and Dance. Measurements, height, age, lowest terms, photos., all most essential, to FRED MOULE, 153, Capworth-st., Leyton.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Repertory of Society and High-class Plays; Long Stock Season in Good Theatre. Versatility, experience, refinement, and earnestness indispensable. State age, height, principal parts played, length of experience, and approximate terms, BOX 4,389, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Several Gentlemen, for Good Portable, Lead, Heavy, Low Comedian, Responsible, to open immediately or later, Responsible Lady with turn; must be of good appearance; good wardrobe and props. Refs. and terms, Mrs. POULTON, Theatre, Thirsk, Yorks.

PAUMIER AND HOWARD'S COMPANIES.
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
WANTED, Gentleman for Heavies, and understudy. Rehearse London. Uniform found. Terms, height, measurements, references, photo., ALFRED PAUMIER, Theatre Royal, Castleford.

WANTED, Gentleman, for Heavy Lead. Please state height, terms, and particulars. Rehearse London. Open Feb. 25. FRED EUSTACE, 3, Evandale-rd., Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, through illness, Character, to open at once, "Woman and Wine" Co. Apply,
E. VIVIAN EDMONDS,
this, West London Theatre;
next, Prince's Theatre, Poplar.

WANTED, Robust Character Actor. Please state height, terms, and particulars. Rehearse London. Open Feb. 25. FRED EUSTACE, 3, Evandale-rd., Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Character Old Man and Juvenile (Special week, Liverpool), March 4; rehearse Feb. 28. Terms, photos., &c. HOGGAN-ARMADALE, Ruthin, N. Wales.

WANTED, commence immediately, good Character Actors, with strong voices, for Strabo and Servillius, "Sign of the Cross." Full particulars, HENRY CHATTELL, Watford.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
WANTED, a Comedian, able to sing. Apply, with full particulars, photo., and last three references; also possible vacancy for a tall Heavy Lady. G. M. MONTANINI, Grand Theatre, Walsall.

WANTED, tall, light, short, Character Comedians (Sketch, London); must give trial shows. Terms, references, photos., letters only, MONTROSE, 61, Gurney-street, S.E.

WANTED, Good Light Comedians, for Dude's Part; also Good Pantomimist, Tumbler preferred. Lowest terms, references, photo., &c., HARLEY and MELTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

WANTED, Refined Amateur Actors, for important Tour; chance to understudy leading parts and gain sound experience. Address, Box 4,380, care of "The Era."

WANTED, several smart, refined Young Ladies, of prepossessing appearance, good voices, instrumentalists (talented amateurs not objected to). Address, M., Homedean, Methuen-road, Bexley Heath.

WANTED, Amateur Lady and Gentleman, of Education and Refinement, can be received in First-class Concert Party on Popular Pier; six months' engagement; salary given. Premium £30.
Apply, Box 4,376,
"The Era" Office.

WANTED, Two Gentlemen, for Small Parts in Costume Play, to understudy.
Apply, Box 4,404, c/o "Era."

WANTED, Amateur Ladies and Gentlemen, to walk on in Musical Sketch; small premium. MANAGER, Box 4,396, "The Era."

WANTED, Sopranos and Contraltos; good opportunity for refined young ladies. Letters only, BARRETT, 4, Lower Kennington-lane, S.E.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, by experienced Soprano, Engagement with Quartette Party, or other high-class Combination; artistic singer, thoroughly good musician. Apply, Box 4,388, "The Era."

WANTED, by powerful Soprano, thoroughly trained, re-engagement; large répertoire; Ballads, Opera; good appearance. Letters, W., 56, Wellesley-road, Leytonstone.

WANTED, Engagements, by Harry Barlow, Principal Baritone, Madeira Hall, Madeira-road, Brighton. Highwaymen Quartette. Tenth week here. Vacant Feb. 18, on.

WANTED, by young Amateur Comedian, Humorous small parts in Drama or Opera; height 5ft. 5in.; smart in uniform; good singing voice. Box 4,375, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by James Melville, smart Pianist. Vocalist. Light Comedian, and Sketches. 33, Lorn-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Frenchman, Songs (Farkoa style), and 'Cello Solos, Disengaged for summer. Box 4,398, "The Era."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, all Lines, for next season. Photo., age, height, last two references, to ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

STALYBRIDGE SCENIC STUDIO.
WANTED, Contracts for Painting and Making Scenery; best material used. For terms apply, MANAGER, Grand Theatre and Hippodrome, Stalybridge.

WANTED, Known, that Sidney Beltram, Scenic Artist, has completed all Arrangements pro tem. Address, Theatre Royal, Seaham Harbour.

WANTED, Alfred Ford, Scenic Artist, late Palace, Stoke Newington, Engagement or Contract. Address, 110, Wenlock-st., New North-rd., Islington, N.

WANTED, Contracts, for High-Class Effective Scenery, at lowest prices. Carlyle Scenic Studio, W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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WANTED, First-class Author, Producer, and Stage-Director. Only those with exceptional experience and ability apply.
Address, with full particulars as to references, &c., to FRED KARNO,
28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, thoroughly reliable and sober Bill-poster, for Grand Theatre, Woolwich. Lowest terms and references, W. GLADWIN, Acting-Manager for Mr. Sounes.

MISCELLANEOUS.

HASTINGS ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE.

WANTED, Secretary-Manager, with previous experience, to devote his whole time; salary, £3 per week. Applications, enclosing two testimonials, marked "Secretary-Manager," addressed to Town Hall, not later than Feb. 19.

WANTED, Poster Writer. Apply, MANCHESTER BILLPOSTING CO., LTD., Manchester.

LORD JOHN SANGER and SONS, LTD. Tenting Season, 1907.

WANTED, Wardrobe Mistress, used to Circus Business; long and comfortable engagement to suitable person. Apply, with full particulars, to Burstow Lodge, Horley, Surrey.

WANTED, Wardrobe Mistress, Resident; must have good experience, and first-class references. Apply, Mr. FRED KARNO, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell.

WANTED, Full Staff, Effect Workers, and High Window-billers, open Feb. 25. PRINGLE, Circus, Rochdale.

WANTED, Known, W. Baker, at Liberty through hall closing, open for Engagement as Acting, Stage, or Advertising Manager. Proprietors, note.—The man who can work, and also use his brains. Theatre or Variety; used to Lightning Programmes. Good refs. Wire or write, MANAGER, Empire, Shildon, Durham.

WANTED, Engagement by Acting-Manager, thoroughly experienced in every branch of two houses nightly; undeniable references. Box 4,384, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, First-Class Music Hall Manager is at Liberty to commence duties March 4, 1907, as Music Hall, Theatre, or Touring Manager, home or abroad; ten years' experience; age 31; present engagement two years. ADVERTISER, c/o 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, by G. Egerton Burnett, late Gen.-Manager Jury's Pictures; Resident or Tour. 28, Silchester-road, Notting Hill, W.

WANTED, Secretarial Engagement, Playwright, Shorthand-Typist, Correspondent, Book-keeper; business experience, plenty ambition, savoir faire. No Premiums; not tour. Strictest confidence. Box 4,340, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Edward Walpole, Advance Agent, at Liberty to Boom any Class of Entertainment; experienced; references. Wire, Saturday, Post Office, Chorley, Lancashire; after, Post Office, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Re-engagement required at once by up-to-date working Agent; first-class with brush and sticks, and above all, not afraid to work; join any good people immediately; best references; thirteen years' hard working experience. HAMMOND, Eythorne, Dover.

WANTED, Known, W. H. Grieves, Disengaged as Stage-Carpenter, own tools, resident or tour, or sketches or stage-manager, for Music Halls; good references. 29, Faunce-street, Kennington Park.

WANTED, Known, to Billposting and Advertising Firms. Advertiser (33), at present for twelfth year managing successful Billposting Business in large town, and wishing to better himself, invites offers. Lifelong experience in all branches. First-class references; abstainer, and married. Apply, Box 4,372, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Bar Manager or Head Cellarman in Theatre or Music Hall; experienced. E. DOUGLAS, 17, Gloucester-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, by Miss L. Dale, late Theatre Royal, Stockton-on-Tees, Engagement Box Office or Assistant-Management. 29 Dinsdale-rd, Roker, Sunderland.

WANTED, an Engagement as Theatrical Dresser (town preferred). VENETIA, 27A, Rathbone-place, W.

WANTED, Engagement as Wardrobe Mistress, able to take entire charge; own machine; just left Panto. Address, Box 4,371, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as Housekeeper or similar post; good dressmaker; eight years' experience; good references. N. M., 6, Claughton-rd., Birkenhead.

WANTED, by Young Man, 22, Evening Employment in Music Hall or Theatre, as money-taker, or other capacity. BURTON, 52 Wincott-street, S.E.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted.

BRITISH MUSICIANS
are Warned against Accepting Engagements in SOUTH AFRICA,
particularly Johannesburg.
There are already a number of Musicians walking the streets of Johannesburg wanting employment, and there is an attempt being made to induce others to go out.

The individual who is trying to get Musicians to go out wants them for Hotel Playing. The last lot he engaged have left him, as they found the terms he engaged them at, although appearing to be good, were quite insufficient on account of the high cost of living there.
£5 a week is not sufficient for a Musician to live properly on there.

The South African Union of Musicians has sent this warning through the A.M.U. of Great Britain.
The latter Society is conveying the warning to the International Confederation, which includes the Musicians' Unions of the Continent.

EASTBOURNE MUNICIPAL MILITARY BAND AND ORCHESTRA.

WANTED, Leader (Violin), combine B Flat Clarionet. Permanent Engagement; good Salary. Apply, THEO. WARD, Devonshire Park, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Two First Violins, First Cornet, not over 30 years. State age, height, and salary; 3 and 6 months at one place; can have 12 months' contract. MUSICAL DIRECTOR, Scotch Orchestra, Etablissement National, Copenhagen, Denmark.

WANTED, Violinist, 'Cellists, who want Good Reliable Strings, write for list of Specialities. SOUTHERN MUSIC CO., Silchester-road, St. Leonards.

WANTED, for Pitching Band, reliable Second Violinist, must be steady and good reader. Apply, A. BISHOP, Ventnor.

WANTED, Violinist, combine Piano when required; must be good on both instruments, and experienced in Variety. Commence Feb. 25. Lowest terms, MANAGER, Pavilion, Sunderland.

WANTED, for Paisley Hippodrome, to open at once, First Violin; also to open March 4, good Violinist as Conductor, also Pianist; must be strictly sober, competent, and used to Variety. Address, E. H. BOSTOCK, Zoo Hippodrome, Glasgow.

WANTED, Lady Cornettist, who has played before in Bands, to join at Hamburg, Feb. 28, an English Ladies' Orchestra, touring Continent, three months' Contract given, with return fares; engagement prolonged if suitable; state if soloist. References given and required where not known. Address, HUNT, Ladies' English Orchestra, Hadersleben, Schleswig Holstein, North Germany.

WANTED, Solo Cornet Player, Young Man, to join a First-class Rifle Regiment Band now at home.
Good opportunities and prospects for young man.
Apply to P. S., c/o Hawkes and Son, Denman-street, Piccadilly-circus, London, W.

WANTED, for Orchestra, Cornet Player; permanent to good man.
Open Monday.
Wire particulars, LEWIS GILBERT, T. R., Merthyr.

WANTED, First Cornet, for Town and Promenade, Military Band. Terms, shares. Address, J. BOYCE, 6, Queen's-retreat, St. George's-rd., Cheltenham.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Clarionet, also Flute and Piccolo; other instruments write. POWELL, M.D., East Oxford Theatre, Oxford. Open Feb. 25.

WANTED, Good Trombone. Apply, with instrument, 11 o'clock Monday morning next, 18th inst., Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, S.E.

WANTED, Viola Player, must be well up in Variety business; steady. Age and refs. to FREDERICK BRAHAM, Regent Theatre, Salford.

WANTED, First Flute and Clarionet, six months, summer season. State terms, age, and reference. Apply, Box 4,402, "The Era."

WANTED, Pianist, Lady, under 20, petite; must have large répertoire, also be able to play many melodies from memory; good appearance absolutely necessary. Apply, with photo., references, &c., to Dr. WALFORD BODIE, 163, Blackfriars-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, thoroughly experienced Orchestral Lady Pianist, must sing (soprano preferred), Easter week. ANTONY, care of Mr. Bowden, 45, Streatham-place, Brixton.

WANTED, immediately, for First-class Company, a lady able to play Piano and other Musical Instrument or to Sing; must be young, of good appearance, and a gentlewoman. MANAGER, 119, Fielding-road, Bedford Park, W. Silence polite negative

WANTED, immediately, Pianist, for Variety Hall. ARTHUR ROSE, 5, Norland-road, Shepherd's Bush. State if member of any union.

GAIETY THEATRE, BLYTH.

WANTED, Pianist, used to Variety; one who can introduce Illustrated Songs preferred; eight shows weekly. Terms, references, G. E. GOOD, Beaconsfield-street, Blyth.

WANTED, Tympanist, used to Military Band, for Travelling Show, entitled
"Ashanti Harmony in the Attic, while Children Play Truant from School."
must supply own Electric Tympani, size 29½in. and 39½in. Will Old Jim Crow write in?
Box 4,383, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Trained Musician, at Once, for the 6th Middlesex Regiment (Militia). Bonus will be offered on enlistment, and on termination of training. Special advantageous terms will be supplied on application to the BANDMASTER, Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.

VICTORIA THEATRE, HOLYHEAD.

WANTED, Small Ladies' Band, for above, open Feb. 25; refinement and good references essential. Apply, CODMAN.

WANTED, First-class Musicians, String Players and Pianists, for White Star and Cunard Steamships; Musical duties only. Good accommodation. State age and experience, with references. Conditions on application to Mr. C. W. BLACK, 19, Castle-street, Liverpool.

ADA ALEXANDRA'S CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME. Tenting Season, 1907.

WANTED, for Above competent Double-handed Musicians, Second Violin, Viola, Double Bass (combine brass for parades), Flute, Clarionet, Cornets, Euphonium, Trombone, Drums. Apply, AUGUSTE DENTON, Mus. Dir., 46, Wellington-street, Oxford.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street,, W.C.
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, "A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster, "Littlehampton."

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MUSICIANS' WANTS.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violinist), Disengaged, composer of music "Silver King," &c. Dramatic Music, &c., composed and arranged. 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, immediate Engagement, as Musical-Director, Violin and Piano, Composer and Arranger; 11 years' experience; Music Hall preferred. Address, MUSICUS, 90, Wellington-road, Stockport.

WANTED, Engagement, as Musical-Director, thoroughly experienced in Variety and Theatrical Business; excellent references; at Liberty after June 1. SAMUEL DAWSON, Musical-Director, Hippodrome, Wigan.

WANTED, Engagement, by Musical Director, Violinist and Present Orchestra; any Business; good library and refs. Box 4,378, "The Era."

WANTED, Re-engagement, by Leader or First Violin, theatre or hall; open at once. Refs.; abstainer. C. VINT, G.P.O., Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Chas. Wareham, Disengaged, late Leader Granville, Metropolitan, Ealing Hippodrome, also Conductor Collins's, Richmond T. 47, Black Lion-lane, Hammersmith, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Leader, good Violinist; Variety Theatre preferred. VIOLINIST, 266, Liverpool-street, Salford.

WANTED, Engagement, for a Conductor-Violin; vacant through hall closing. Good refs., &c. Wire or write, BAKER, Manager, Empire, Shildon, Durham.

WANTED, Engagement, by Mr. Sydney Grahame, Musical-Conductor and Solo Pianist; excellent library. Offers invited. 4, Derby-street, Moss Side, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Edmund Petersen, Conductor (Piano), on Tour with "A Country Girl" Co., at Liberty May 1. Feb. 18, Lyceum, Newport; 25th, Royal, Worcester.

WANTED, Engagement, as Musical Director or Leader, in Theatre, good Répertoire, First-class References; Conductor six years in present show, Theatre Royal, Chatham; Disengaged Feb. 11. W. GEO. CUMING, 72, Pagitt-street, Chatham.

WANTED, Known, Theo Klee, Liberty, Mus.-Dir. or Leader, seven years Mus.-Dir. Queen's Varieties, Glasgow. 54, Nile-street, Sunderland.

WANTED, Known, Good Leader, Disengaged; well experienced, any business; London preferred. VIOLIN, 32, Dean-street, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by well-known Variety Conductor (Violin), reliable and fully competent. Box 4,394, "The Era."

WANTED, by First Violin, Engagement or Deputising. VIOLINIST, 6, Sharples Hall-street, Primrose Hill, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violinist. Music Hall, Theatre or other Orchestra; distance no object; refs. if required. Box 4,379, "The Era."

WANTED, in Theatre or Music Hall, Engagement as Violinist; can combine Viola; young and reliable; good references. Wire or write, VIOLINIST, 18, Spring Hall-place, Newstead, Halifax.

WANTED, by Violinist, Pupil of Professor Sevcik, First-Class Orchestral Engagement; Solos if required. KARNO, c/o White's Music Warerooms, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, Engagements, by First-class Violinist, and Pianist (ladies), dances, socials, and at-homes, thoroughly experienced, latest music. C., 3, Lebanon-gardens, Wandsworth, London, S.W.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Re-engagement by First-Class Violinist; excellent references. Write, FIDDLER, 16, Devonshire-road, South Lambeth, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, as Cornet, any Bus.; excellent refs.; can open at once. DAVID WILLIAMS, 30, Osborne-road, Belmont-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornet, steady and experienced; can join immediately; combine string if required. JONES, 8, Armour-street, Kilmarnock.

WANTED, Engagement by Lady Cornettist; thoroughly experienced in Orchestra or Solo, at Liberty for season. Address, Box 4,395, "The Era."

WANTED, by Clarionet Player, 12 years' army experience, steady and reliable, theatre or otherwise. Box 4,373, "The Era."

WANTED, Summer Engagement as E flat or B flat Clarionet, late Municipal Band, Weymouth; previous Rothesay, N.B.; thoroughly experienced. G. CLARKE, Queen's, Longton.

WANTED, by Double Bass, good Permanent or Summer Engagement; sober and reliable; splendid refs.; 11 years present Opera House. BASSO, 2, Paradise-place, Stoke, Plymouth.

WANTED, immediately, Engagement, as Double Bass. Apply, ALF. THOMAS, 6, Moss-st., Paisley, Scotland.

WANTED, Engagement, Season, &c., Bassoonist, Theatre and Concert experience; good refs., &c. BASSOON, 50, Merrion-street, Briggate, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass (four string); excellent references, any distance, open immediately. ROBERT CLEVELAND, 58, Larcom-street, Walworth, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement as Bombardon, any business; thoroughly reliable; good refs. HARRY WOODAGE, 6, Parnell-road, Clevedon, Somerset.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, for Little Girl, on 'Cello; also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLE, 35, Granville-square, King's Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, Engagement, by 'Cellist; good reader; moderate terms. 'CELLO, 2, Primrose-cottages, Leigh Ville-grove, Leigh-on-Sea.

WANTED, by 'Cellist, Young Man, used to Orchestral Playing, temporary or permanent Engagement at Seaside Resort or Theatre; excellent references. Box 4,377, "The Era."

WANTED, by Young Lady 'Cellist, Daily Engagement; experienced in ensemble work; sight-reader and soloist. Address, Box 4,390, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Viola Player, well known, combine Piano; experienced Orchestral Pianist; London preferred. Box 4,338, "The Era."

WANTED, by experienced Viola, permanent situation; excellent references. W. H. WHITE, 10, Paget-road, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Summer Engagement as Harpist, Solo or Orchestra (Piano if required). For references apply to Mr. Dan Godfrey, Bournemouth. Address, Miss WOLTERS, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Known, Harpist, Disengaged, can accept Engagements in London only. Box 4,393, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo, thoroughly reliable, experienced all kinds of Bus. Permanency or Deputy. FLAUTIST, 137, Northwold-rd., Clapton, N.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, Variety, any business; abstainer. A. E. H., 37, South-place, Kennington Park, S.E.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by J. Sinclair, L.R.A.M., Pianist, Harpist, Orchestral experience, Accompanist. References. 30, Empire-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement by Mr. Leonard Robson, Pianist, Quadrille Band, Septet, Combination, &c. 29, Holmwood-rd., Brixton-hill, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Pianist, five months' Tour with Parisian Picture Co.; any business. PIANIST, 10, Bath-row, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Pianist, at Liberty, used to Show business and Varieties; sight reader, young. WILL LEVERTON, Show Ground, Arnold, Notts.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist, young, experienced, and attentive to business; well up in Variety and Concert work. VERNON, 12, Hunter-road, Thornton Heath, S.E.

WANTED, by Pianist, experienced, Varieties, open for Engagements in London. CHAS. WATERMAN, 23, Hubert-grove, Stockwell.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist, Orchestral, excellent sight reader, or jointly, wife high-class Soprano. References. R., 59, Amesbury-avenue, Streatham Hill.

WANTED, Engagement, as Pianist, Orch. or Self; steady, reliable; exper. Var., Dram. business; good reader; excel. refs. Add., PIANIST, 227, Bowling Back-lane, Bradford, Yorks.

WANTED, Engagement, for First-class Drummer; thoroughly experienced all class Variety; vacant through closing. Wire or write, BAKER, Empire, Shildon, Durham.

WANTED, Summer's Engagement, by Double Drummer, with Effects, any Orchestra; abstainer; good references. CRYER, 34, Myrtle-place, Bingley, Yorkshire.

WANTED, Engagement, Double Drummer. Theatre or Music Hall; thoroughly experienced, all effects. DRUMS, 25, Cadogan-st., Sloane-square, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Mme. H. E. Angless's Ladies' Orchestra, open to accept engagements. From three to thirty performers. 78, Norwood-road, Herne Hill, S.E.

WANTED, The Shakespearean Ladies' Orchestra, 12-30 performers, beautiful costumes, fine criticisms; also the Gascoyne Quintette. Quartette, or Trio Terms and vacant dates, Miss GASCOYNE OLD, 238, Edgware-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Madam Wilton Davis' Ladies' Orchestra (The Grosvenor), Open for Hotels, Pavilions, &c. Trio disengaged. Manager, Mr. WILTON DAVIS, 42, Linton-st. Islington. Clever and attractive combination.—Vide Press.

WANTED, Engagements, by The Orpheus Ladies, in Solo, Trio, Quartette, small Orchestra for Banquets, At Homes; experienced; excellent testimonials. Misses CARTER, Dudley Glen, Leyspring-road, Leytonstone.

WANTED, Known, Rosabel, Ladies' Military Band for Piers, &c.; scarlet and gold uniforms. MANAGER, 112A, St. James-street, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Bateson's Orchestra, just concluded five months' tour (third season) with Robert Arthur's Parisian Animated Picture Co.
THOMAS BATESON, Bowness-on-Windermere.

WANTED, Known.—Having returned after four years' absence, the celebrated Pomeranian Orchestra is Open for Engagement. For terms, CONDUCTOR, Box 4,403, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands, apply Bureau, 8, Bedford-terrace, Kensington. Quartet Disengaged, scarlet and gold or evening dress.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND NEW CIRCUS, HYDE.

WANTED, at Once, the Best Turns in England, Big Star and Great Sensations; also Useful Circus Performers in all Lines. A good Show for Feb. 25. Write at once.
Address, KING OHMY, Ohmy's Grand Circus, Hyde.

WANTED, Easter, Whitsuntide, onwards, High Rope, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Cyclists. Lithos., memos., lowest terms, permanent address, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Troupe of Swimmers, for eighteen weeks, commencing Whitsuntide, one member must be capable of teaching. Apply, with full particulars, experience, salary required, with photos. if possible, to MORGAN, Aquarium, Scarboro'.

WANTED, Comedy Three-Bar Performer. Full particulars, lowest salary in first letter. Perm. engagement. C. Williams write. Box 4,382, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Man who can Hand-balance and Posture or Tumble, about 9st 6lb, preferred. Letters only. A. W., 46, Lothian-road, North Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Small Youth, good knowledge Acrobatics; long engagement.
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand.

WANTED, smart Boy, about 14, small for his age, for Acrobatic business, for well-known Troupe. Address, LEVETT, Palace, Attercliffe.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence

WANTED, Known, that Sir Robert Fossett and Family terminated their thirteenth successful season at the World's Fair Circus, Royal Agricultural Hall, London, on Saturday, Feb. 9. The Bros. Fossett were a great attraction in their daring Double Jockey Act; both received suitable testimonials from friends and admirers as a souvenir of their enormous success. Cezar, the Wonderful Fire Horse, is worthy of praise, being one of the World's Fair's greatest attractions. Miss Marie, Charming Trick and Skipping Equestrienne, on her beautiful bareback horse; Mons. Roberto, in his Express Bar and Hurdle Act; Miss Emmie Fossett and her beautiful Arab Steed, in a new novel Haute Ecole or Reinless Manége, which terminates with a Serpentine on Horseback, the only act of its kind ever produced; Funny Jacko, in his splitside Entrées, a sure laugh for those who have never laughed before; Thomas Fossett, known as Texas Tom, the fastest jockey act rider known in England or abroad; Robert Fossett, jun., a challenge to the world in his Backward Pirouette, Crosstrick Jockey Act. The Fossett Family are known to be the most daring and marvellous Equestrians and Horse-breakers in existence. Can supply First-Class Circus Entertainments of any number of performers, including the best performing Horses, Ponies, Mules, Donkeys, Elephants, Acrobats, Wire Performers, Gymnasts, &c. Anything known in the Circus business. Sir Robert Fossett and Family sincerely thank their admirers for the numerous letters of compliment received during their season Agricultural Hall, 1906 and 1907. All coms., Sir ROBERT FOSSETT, The Farm, Ravensthorpe, Northampton.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Caban's French Circus, Ponies, Donkeys, and Dogs. Add., 69A, Woodgate, Loughboro'.

WANTED, Known, Dominos, Two, Clown and Donkey, with Educated Dog Sampson. The Beautiful Arabian Donkey, with Brain and Comedy. Just finished Hengler's Circus. Acknowledged by Public and Press, a Masterpiece. Vacant 18th. 71, Kennington-road, London.

WANTED, Known, the World-famed Musical Clowns, Bros. Webb, at Liberty March 4, 11, 18. Address, Empire, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, now at Liberty, the Great Little Valdo, England's acknowledged Premier Eccentric Clown and Humorist, with his original Interludes. 6, Devonshire House, Bath-terrace, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Comical Walker, Talking Clown, with Comic Entrées, also Globe Speciality, vacant Feb. 25, also Tenting. Address, People's Palace, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, Les Steckels, Gymnastic Speciality. This week, Empire, Hull; next, Pavilion, Leicester. Liberty March. Agent, STEBB.

WANTED, Known, Onda and Leon, Comedy Triple Bar Act, vacant Feb. 25.
Address, Palace, Attercliffe.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lo-Lo, Lady Gymnast and Teeth Speciality Artist; also Little May, Graceful Contortionist. This week, Circus, Spennymoor; next week, Palace, North Shields. Mr. Chas. R. write.

WANTED, Known, Chevalier Ponchery, Monarch of the High Rope, at Liberty Whit Monday, and August Bank Holiday, for Big Fêtes only. High-street, Cradley Heath, Staffs.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro, the Modern Blondin, at Liberty for Fêtes and Galas. Enormous success, Crystal Palace, London. Terms, 121, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea.

WANTED, Known, Leonzi, wonderful Contortionist and Barrel Expert. Lib. for Tenting; two First-Class Acts. Add., 80, Nrothfield-road, Crookes, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, the Funny Man on the Bicycle, Vacant April. Address, Theatre Royal, Smethwick.

WANTED, Known, Kavados, Juggler, First-Class Act, Liberty Feb. 18, 25. Wire, Theatre Royal, Castleford.

WANTED, by Shavo, Juggler, Monday next, also Feb. 25. Wire, Hippo., Lowestoft. After Saturday night, 44, Scott-street, Cardiff.

WANTED, by Har. Swartz, the World-renowned Athletic Equilibrist, Feb. 25, onwards, also Tenting. Address, 65, Ellen-street, London. E.

WANTED, good, reliable Acrobatic Gymnast (Rings, Bars), a Grotesque Knockabout, would join Speciality, double or otherwise; everything ready. GYMNAST, 23, Myrtle-st., Kingsland.

WANTED, by Smart Tumbler, good Hand and Head Balancer, to join Troupe or Sketch. ENOCH, 32, Stonehill-road, Gunnersbury, W.

WANTED, Engagements, by good Juggler; would join Circus or Touring Variety Co. E. BOUCHER, 2, Nottingham-rd., Bishopston, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, to Circus Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Jack Philips concludes a four years' engagement on Feb. 16 with Unite's, the largest Tent, Marquee, Temporary Pavilion Hire Contractor in England. Open for an Engagement as Tentmaster or Boss Canvasman with any First-class Show, home or abroad; experienced, energetic, and reliable; late of Geo. Sanger, Fillis' Africa, Alexander's Australian Circus, &c. JACK PHILIPS, 12, Ladbroke-crescent, Notting Hill, London.

WANTED, Known, Pat Traynor, Circus Agent or Singing Clown, at Liberty, Tenting, Ireland. Perm., 25, Heneratte-street, off Joy-street, Belfast.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

GAIETY THEATRE, BLYTH.

WANTED, Variety Artists, every description, for March 4 and on. Lowest terms, one house nightly. GEO. E. GOOD, Beaconsfield-street, Blyth.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Feb. 25, Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; hall small. P. REYMOND, as above.

Scarborough.

WANTED, Monday, Feb. 25, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines. Nothing too Big. Full particulars to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, Variety Artists, immediate and future dates. Address, JOHN CASSIDY, Victoria Theatre, Stanley, Durham.

HIPPODROME, KING'S LYNN, and THEATRE ROYAL, BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, March 18, April 1 and 8, three nights each town. Particulars, WILLIAM MARTIN, T. R., Plymouth.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, Feb. 25, and onward.
A. E. PICKARD, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Special Acts and Combinations. Letter first, full particulars, AUCKLAND, 6, Cricklade-avenue, Streatham Hill.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Star Variety Artists, for present and future dates, for Manchester, Sheffield, Dewsbury, Lancaster, Liverpool, Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Rochdale, Wigan, Bolton, Blackpool, Douglas, Morecambe, Yarmouth, &c., &c.;
also Gigantic Sensations, Novelties, for Fêtes, Galas, May 20, onwards.
Terms, lithos., bookings.
EDGAR STEBBINGS.
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
'Phone 09261. Telegrams, "Stebbings, Manchester."

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Concerts and Music Halls. Interviews by appointment only. SCOTTISH MUSICAL AGENCY, 107, George-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, nothing too big, to book immediate dates. Apply.
HARRY S. HART, Variety Agent, Star Palace, Bermondsey, S.E. 'Phone, 1048 Hop.
"Telegrams, "Hart, Star, Bermondsey."

THE NEW PALACE, READING.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Autumn onwards. All communications, G. HOWARD WATSON, Stanhope and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C. Telephone, 6070 Gerrard.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, for one week, probably longer, for Co-operative Hall, Crewe, March 4, First-class Comedians and Comic Interludes, Nigger Sketches (all Sketch Artists must send in lithos.). Billy Richardson write in. also George Malcom, also Juan and McQue, comic knockabouts. Apply, W. PERRY, 60, Dorothy-street, Wavertree, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Artists wishing to be booked for First-Class Music Hall Engagements to communicate with BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Galas. Terms, lithos., and permanent address to MONS. DUCAREL, 40, Roseville-terrace, Leeds.

WANTED, High-Class Concert Artists, Entertainers, and Refined Humorists, for superior and smart up-to-date Concert Parties, for Summer work; whole season; Touring. LESLIE KEITH, 36, Princess-street, Manchester. Fanny Adamson, Clarence C. Cowell, Phil Whyte please communicate.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, Feb. 25, March 4, 18. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards. Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

THE PAVILION, SUNDERLAND.
Proprietor, Mr. RALPH PRINGLE.
Resident-Manager, Mr. FELIX HAMILTON.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Feb. 25 and onwards. PRINGLE, Circus, Rochdale.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Feb. 18, on, FRED DURHAM'S Agency, 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W. 'Phone, 15 Brixton. W. Permane, Permane's Bears, send address.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, new to Castleford. State lowest first letter; small town. V.A.F.'s only. BEANLAND and EMERSON, Queen's Theatre.

PAPA BROWN'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
V.A.F. Artists.
V.A.F. Artists.
V.A.F. Artists.
V.A.F. Artists.

All letters, PAPA BROWN, Tivoli, Grimsby.

LITTLEHAMPTON ORIGINAL PROMENADE (PAGODA) CONCERTS, 16th Season, 1907.

WANTED, Artists to Know, I am Sole Proprietor of the Above, and in no way connected with the Concerts given by Messrs. Spencer and Randall. Wanted, Good, Refined Artists, for Al-fresco and Pantomime Tours. All coms., HARRY JOSEPH, T. R., Darwen.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, DURHAM.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, good Tops, March 4, and on. Address, JOHN CASSIDY.

WANTED, for Aberystwyth, open Whitsuntide, Minstrel Artists every description, Musicians, Vocalists, Dancers, &c. Lowest terms first letter, HARRY COLLINS, Rhyl

WANTED, First-class Al-fresco Artists, young, versatile, refined, with good répertoire, Vocalists, Comedians, and Dancers; no Specialities. Long season; open Whitsun. State experience and lowest terms, HARRY REYNOLDS, Hippodrome, Birmingham. First-class Variety Pianist also write in, Vocalist or Humorist preferred.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Feb. 25, March 4, 11, April 8, 15, 22, May 6 and 13.
WILL ONDA, Theatre, Peterborough.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, coming North, Feb. 25 and later.
J. G. ANDERSON, 5, Great Clyde-street, Glasgow.

Notice. Notice. NOTICE.

BERT H. DELMAR,
late 152A, Oxford-road, Manchester.
To correct misrepresentations.
WANTED, Known, will Artists Booked through above please note that all business negotiated by Mr. Delmar is now passed through the firm of Sydney M. Hyman, Ltd., the only Agency Mr. Delmar at present represents.

WANTED, Known, to Proprietors, Managers, Agents, and Artists. Having severed my connection with Tom Shaw, Esq., I intend opening on my own. Further particulars in next week's "Era." All communications to c/o "The Era" pro tem. will be promptly attended to.
CHAS. HENDERSON.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.

WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession, Acts New in Dublin, for the above, the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland.
Direct or through Agents.
All communications to WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, Feb. 25, March 4 and 11, Stars in all Lines, Stars in all Lines.
Full up for smaller items
State towns at liberty for.
Can fix big numbers any odd weeks.
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Stars, Big Turns, Feb. 18, 25, March 4, onwards.
Wire or write to
JESS VERNO'S Agency,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone, 2076 Royal.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

MARTINO'S AGENCY,
125, Barcroft-street,
Grimsby.
WANTED, Acrobats, Gymnasts, and Specialities of all Kinds; also Gala Sensations; must have actual lowest and bookings.

WANTED, young Lady and Gentleman Acrobats, to join Troupe. Age, height, weight, list of tricks, ACROBAT, 18, Alexandra-road, Portsmouth.

WANTED, the Cream of the Profession. Those new to London can have a trial Show. Banks and Dog; Alfonzo, Feet Equilibrist; Eugene, Musical Act; Los Granadas, Comedy Novelty Act; Madame Collard's Trained Boarhounds; Blanche and Diacoff; the Great Cycle Whizz; Kyoto and his Japanese Box; J. C. Morris, Comedian &c.; Huline and Le May, Musical Clowns; Three Missouris, Comedy Acrobats. Send vacant dates and lowest terms for Fêtes, Galas, Flower Shows, &c. BILLY HENDERSON and Co., 30, Handforth-road, Brixton-road, London. 'Phone, 2,882 Hop.

WANTED, for March Trades Exhibition, April 2 to 10, Good Novel Stage Turns. Silence polite negative. R. F. BERTOLLE, Secretary, March.

WANTED, good, cheap Turns all Lines, March 4, Star on Shares.
GEO. SAPHRINI, Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Big and Small Turns, for the North, Feb. 25, on; same for Empire, Paisley. Terms must be low, and you will get Contracts. DREW BAYLEY, Agent, 170, Saltmarket Glasgow.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
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Big Variety Turns,
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Something New and Up to Date,
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Novelties and Sensational Acts,
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Novelties and Sensational Acts,
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Novelties and Sensational Acts,

For Immediate and Future Dates, for
London, Liverpool,
Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle,
Glasgow, Belfast,
Dublin, Manchester, Bolton,
Wolverhampton, Oldham,
Hartlepool, Shields, Barrow,
Carlisle, Darlington,
Hull, Middlesbrough, Stockport,
Blackpool, Morecambe,
Brighton, Boscombe, Margate,
Portsmouth, Southampton,
Bath, Lincoln, Leicester, Bradford,
Halifax, Sheffield, Blackburn,
Lancaster, Stockport, Burnley, Derby,
Attercliffe, Stoke, Grimsby,
St. Helens, Accrington, Warrington,
Bury, Hanley, Stockton, &c., &c.
Send, at once, terms, dates, and lithos.
Those having a good act can rely on getting
Immediate Work.
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
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41, Oxford-street,
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Manchester.
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Manchester.
Manchester.
Telephone, 09144.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.

WANTED, Talent, all Lines.

JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Talent of every Description, nothing too big. Full particulars, absolute lowest terms, and where can be seen working. DUNDAS'S Agency, 52, Rosthwaite-road, West Derby, Liverpool.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, for Webster and Girling's Agency, 150, Strand with which is amalgamated Hugh Wigglesworth's Provincial Agency. Address, as above, to HUGH WIGGLESWORTH, General-Manager, late of Blackpool, Morecambe, &c. Telegrams, "Entertainers, London." Telephone, 2990 Central.

PALACE THEATRE,
CORK.

Manager, HENRY KEMBLE.

WANTED, March 4, 11, and onwards,
Big Specialities,
Animal Shows, Cycle Acts,
Jugglers, &c.

Lowest Terms, Lithos., &c.

SPENNYMOOR CIRCUS AND NOVELTY HIPPO.
WANTED, for Feb. 25, and on, Specialities of Every Description.
Address, C. ALGIE.

WANTED, good Speciality and Double Turn, for Feb. 25.
Write, RANIER, Palace, Dover.

WANTED, for Immediate Dates,
Good Combinations
for
HIPPODROME, MARGATE.
HIPPODROME, COLCHESTER.
Wire or write, with full particulars, to
SYDNEY B. SMITH,
178, Charing Cross-road, London, W.C.

THE PAVILION, SUNDERLAND.
Proprietor, Mr. RALPH PRINGLE.
Resident-Manager, Mr. FELIX HAMILTON.
WANTED, First-class Combinations, on share or certainty, for present and future dates. Twice nightly. Seating capacity 1,000. PRINGLE, Circus, Rochdale.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
WANTED, good Variety Combination, for three nights, March 28.
Address, with lowest sharing terms, C. M. JULIAN.

HIPPODROME, BLYTH, NORTHUMBERLAND.
WANTED, First-Class Combinations, Pictures and Variety, Feb. 25, on. TUDOR, BLYTH.

WANTED, for Hippodrome, Sheffield, Small Variety Combination, Feb. 25, onward, two Houses nightly. Prices small, but houses full. Address, SAMSON.

BARNARD'S AGENCY, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Strong Attractions, Stars, &c.
Forward Vacancies.
Note new Address,
33, Shaw-street.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for
Blackpool and
Morecambe,
Big Top,
for March 25 and April 1,
Novelties, &c.

WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Top Liners, Star Comedians, and any Big Act, to send full bookings and terms to FRANK LYNNE, 12, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Big Speciality Acts, for all Principal Halls in Great Britain, also for the Continent, France, Belgium, Switzerland &c. Send list of bookings and lithos. and permanent address, to NEIMANN'S Variety Agency, 108 Strand, London, W.C. Tel., 8488 Gerrard.

WANTED, couple of good Acts, for Monday next, Comedians, &c. Wire lowest,
ZALVA, Scarboro'.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
WANTED, Star Acts, all Lines, absolute lowest, once nightly. Lessee, Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

WANTED, Cheap Comedy Acts for Feb. 25, Feb. 25, Lancashire.
Terms in accordance with town—small. Fact!

DALTON'S Agency,
29, Mauldeth-road West, Withington, Manchester.

LEO FRITZ'S AGENCY.
40, Glenshaw-mansions, Brixton-road, S.W.
Telephone, 457 Brixton.
WANTED, the Greatest Acts in the Profession, in all lines, for Feb. 25, and onwards. Contracts waiting for the right stuff. Wire, 'phone, or write immediately to above.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

ROYAL
HIPPODROME,
BELFAST,
Now in Course of Erection,
and
when
Finished
will be the Largest and Handsomest Building in Ireland.

WANTED, February onward, all the Finest Acts in the World.
Price no object.
New and Novel Turns of every Variety.
The above is Booked
in conjunction with
TIVOLI THEATRE,
DUBLIN.

WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Big Acts, of Every Description,
Wanted, Big Acts, of Every Description,
Wanted, Big Acts, of Every Description,
Wanted, Big Acts, of Every Description,
Wanted, Big Acts, of Every Description,
Wanted, Big Acts, of Every Description,
Easter, onwards.
Easter, onwards.
Easter, onwards.
Easter, onwards.
Easter, onwards.
Easter, onwards.

Quote very lowest terms first letter, and full bookings.
GEO. ZALVA'S Agency,
Hippodrome,
Scarborough.
Telephone, 288.
Telegraphic Address, "Zalva, Scarborough."

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
Rehearsal Monday next, 2 o'clock, for Pringle's North American Animated Photo. Co.
WANTED, Big Acts, on share. Holding capacity, 2,500. Letters, SMITH and Co., Red Lion Hotel, Rochdale.

WANTED, for 3 days, Aug. 6, Speciality Acts, for Northampton, also for Blisworth; twice daily, open air; Twenty Acts required. Terms, lithos., to MCASKELL'S Agency, Palace, Plymouth.

WANTED, Speciality Acts, Novelties, Easter and Whit. Send permanent address, VALENTINE'S Agency, 8, Dean-street, Oxford-st., London.

A.O.F.
Fête, Whit Monday.
WANTED, Known, Tenders are required for Stage Performance, Roundabouts, Amusements, and Cinématograph Show. Tenders to be sent not later than March 14. Further information apply to WM. HARRIS, Secretary, 40, West-st., Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, Monday next, Portsmouth, Cycle Act or any Novelty, with little fixing. Wire lowest terms, SANTE, Empire, Cradley; next, Prince's, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Feb. 25, March 4,
Star Comedians, Comediennes, England,
Speciality Acts for France.
Pantomime Artists, 1907-8, all Lines.
GEO. AYTOUN, 120, Kennington Park-rd., London, S.E. Wires, "Antics, London." 'Phone, 1,949 Hop.

WANTED, for the Coming Season,
Happy Valley, Llandudno,
First-class Comedians and Singer Musicians, those used to Minstrel Business preferred. All letters to W. J. CHURCHILL, 19, Canterbury-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, a First-class Star Comedian, suitable for good-class Exhibition Audience, six days, March 11. Address,
H. HAGUE, Spa Gardens, Bridlington.

WANTED, Feb. 25, Star Comic, Serio, or Speciality Act, near Bristol. Wire lowest terms, T. GANNON, Agent, West Grove, Bristol.

WANTED, two young Girls, 16 to 18, for Troupe, with knowledge of Singing, Dancing, or Juggling. MLLE. DE VENA, Circus, Hyde, Manchester.

WANTED, immediately, Boys, age 14, good voices. Address, STANLEY, Stanley's Urchins, 18, Ackers-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Boys, age 14, good Singers or Dancers. Apply STANLEY, Stanley's Urchins, 18, Ackers-street, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, immediately, Boys, age 14, good Dancers. Apply, STANLEY, Stanley's Urchins, 18, Ackers-street, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Young Lady, for Living Pictures, good figure, appearance, permanent engagement. Photos., terms. MANAGER, 28, Upper Brook-street, C.-on-M., Manchester.

WANTED, Young Lady, for "Living Pictures"; good figure, appearance. Permanent engagement. Photos., terms. MANAGER, 28, Upper Brook-street, C.-on-M., Manchester.

WANTED, Bioscope Operators, must be first-class; permanency to suitable men.
EDGAR BROOK and Co., Sheffield.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, by Nellie Elder, Comedienne, Tyrolean Vocalist, March 4, 11, 18, 25, or any date in April. Now on tour. Communications, Glenfield Place, Sowerby Bridge.

WANTED, Known, Babs Lloyd, Star Artist, hit of the pantomime, Vacant March 4, 18, 25; also Nellie Vence, Comedy Artist and Dancer. Monday, Theatre Royal, Bacup. Thanks to AYTOUN and ZALVA for Contracts. V.A.F.

WANTED, by Gertie Grahame, Novel Quick-change Artists and Speciality Bell Dancer, March 25, on. This, King's, Longsight; next, Junction, Hulme.

WANTED, Known, Sheila McNeil, Scotch Comedy Artist, vacant Feb. 18, 25. Wire, Hippo., Bury.

WANTED, Feb. 18 and 25, by Zelda, Novel Musical Act, big Stage Set. Wire for a success. Queen's Palace, Poplar, E.

WANTED, Monday, Feb. 18, Phedona, in her Novel Musical Speciality, brilliant floral electric fit-up. Wire, MASSEY, Circus, Rochdale.

WANTED, Known, Four Sisters Sligo, Irish Harmonising Instrumental and Vocal Speciality, at Lib. Feb. 25. Big success Kinnaird Hall, Dundee, encored nightly. Next, Circus, Spennymoor.

WANTED, Engagements, for Rob Leonard's Powerful Episode, "Coolgardie." Supers, &c., Fight for Life. Wire, 95, Sperling-rd., Tottenham, N.

WANTED, Feb. 25 and March 4, Cambo, the Musical Monkey, a First-Class Novelty, acknowledged by Press and Public the Greatest Novelty Musical Act extant; encored nightly Hippodrome, Norwich.
Monday, Hippodrome, Ipswich.
Also Ventriloquial Show if required.

WANTED, Monday next, on, by Leslie Clements, Humorist and Banjo Soloist, Halls, Tour, or Variety Co. Wire or write, Aberglais, Risca-road, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, Monday next, Harry Plant, Novel Comic Musical Act, and Comedian, Tour or Halls. Wire, "Dick Whittington" Co., Alnwick. Wire.

WANTED, Monday next, also 25th, Harry Leaton, good, sound Vocal Comedian. This week, Terrific Success, Hippodrome, Spennymoor, where wire.

WANTED, Feb. 18, 25, by Hewitt, One-man Music Hall Programme; a Novel, Artistic, Original, Versatile Act. Sure Success. Wire write, 7, Cumberland-road, Southsea.

WANTED, Known, Herbert St. John, Dudes, Light Comedy, Sing and Dance, at Liberty. 26, Geraldine-road, Wandsworth.

WANTED, Frank Coyle, the very successful Comedian, at Liberty Monday next. A sure success. Wire, 160, Woodhouse-street, Leeds.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday next, also 25th, by Arthur Wade, Premier Baritone. Enormous success, B'head. Returns everywhere. Wire. Wire, 31, Daulby-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Frank Vallance, Entertaining Magician, Feb. 25, March 4, onwards; enormous success. This week, Palace, Aberdeen; next, Palace, Dundee.

WANTED, Monday next, by J. H. Kavanagh, Star Comedian, &c.; New Songs, &c. Wire, Queen's Theatre, Castleford, Yorkshire.

WANTED, Monday next, by Bert Lytton, the Swell Comique, through re-arrangement of date (G., Dundee). Wire, Palace, Attercliffe, only vacancy this year.

WANTED, Engagement by Norman Gray, Double-Voiced Vocalist and Pianist, two distinct Voices (Baritone and Soprano), High-class Concert Party or Quartet. Offers invited. 27, St. Mary's-square, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, next week, Feb. 18, also March 4, on, to follow E. Dudley, by Li-Chang-Hi, Chinese Conjurer. Wire, P., Attercliffe. See Cards.

WANTED, Monday next, Feb. 18. Wire, Grand, Gravesend. After Saturday, 25, Devonshire-house, Bath-terrace, London, S.E. The Great Kyoto and his Mysterious Japanese Box, Contortionist, Comedy Japanese Juggling Conjuring, and Dog. The above Act is a Laughing and Applauding Hit. Also Miss May Geraldine, a Sprightly Comedienne, Vocalist, and Dancer. Also Feb. 25, March 11, 25, vacant.

WANTED, Feb. 25, March 4, onwards, The Moncktons (Fred and Lillie), in their Refined Excruciatingly Funny Comedy Episodes, "Are Wives Dummies?" also "A Woman's Curiosity." Another big success upon our fourth visit Aquarium, Scarborough. Monday, 18th, Theatre and Hippodrome, Loughborough.

WANTED, Monday next, also 25th, Dave Wallace, Great Eccentric Comedian; Marie Tilley, Comedienne, Speciality Dancer. Wire, People's Theatre, Taunton.

WANTED, Known, The Vulos (Alfred and Flossie) have produced their New Act "The New Coons from the Moon." This, Theatre, Goole; next, Fleetwood, "Aladdin" Co.

WANTED, Feb. 18 and 25, by Zelda, Novel Musical Act; also Wal Owen, Silent Comedian. Always successful. Queen's Palace, Poplar, E.

WANTED, Monday next, The Gelders, Clever Magicians, &c.; Ivy Dene, Soubrette and Dancer. Great success Hippodrome, Reading, where wire.

WANTED, Feb. 25, March 4, by Marquis and Mignonette, in their Excruciatingly Funny, Refined, Farcical Comedy Act; Little Willie, the most Versatile Team before the Public; conclude Hippodrome, Eastbourne. Monday, Hippodrome, Hastings.

WANTED, Monday next, also 25th, The Percys (Harry, Lillie), Duettists, Dancers, Speciality Performers; distance no object. Wire, Empire, Paisley.

WANTED, Known, vacant Monday, Arthur St. Clair, Light Comedian, and Dan Alexander, Tyrolean Vocalist and Comedian; three distinct Acts. Wire, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Bert and Bert, Nivelty Turn, also Singles, Comedians. Agents write; now open. J. LIGHT, 77, Queen's-walk Nottingham.

WANTED, Monday next, by Dale and Dale, Acrobatic Comedians and Chair Leapers. Wire, 5, Glencoe-villas, Newbridge-road, Hull.

WANTED, Known, Bunsen and Burner, Comedians, also Trick and Comedy Skaters, at Lib. March 4, on. C/o Mrs. Rider, 126, Union-st., Stonehouse, near Plymouth.

WANTED, Monday next onwards, by Reszki and Raszki, Gymnastic Grotesques and Tumblers. Wire or write, 6, Beech-grove, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Known, the Brothers Hilton, American Premier Rag-time Dandies. Managers and Agents, look out for this Great Dancing Act. All coms. c/o REX HILTON, "The Era."

WANTED, Feb. 18 and 25, by the Carls, Comedy Trampolin Speciality, that can follow them all. Sure Success. Roars of Laughter and Applause. Just returned from Continental Tour. Splendid lithos. Wire, Circus, Rochdale, until Sunday; after, 85, Rectory-road, London, N.

WANTED, Known, Ryde and Beeman, Eccentric Acrobats, vacant Feb. 18. Wire, Grand Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees. After Saturday, 140, Ellor-street, Pendleton, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, The Clement Trio, Comedy Stage Flying Trapeze Act, have a few immediate free dates previous to opening on the Moss and Stoll Tours. For terms apply, Hollydene, Hall Green, near Birmingham.

WANTED, Monday next, also 25th, The Woellhafs, Great Comedy Act.
Wire, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Feb. 25 and March 4, by Titan, Telka, and Wyllie (three Acts), Strong Man Show, Musical Act, and Ballad Vocalist; three reliable turns; each one is good. Feb. 18, Oxford Palace, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, immediate Dates for
Vernon St. Clair Trio,
Three People Novelty Act, Two Ladies, One Gent,
"PETER'S DILEMMA."
All communications, 5, Goldsmith-av., Acton, W.

WANTED, Known, Craig, Roze, and Craig, Vacant Monday next.
Wires, Hippodrome, Ipswich.

WANTED, by the Henderson and Stanley Quartette, Acrobatic Musical Comedy Show. Monday next. Address, 50, Shepherd-st., Bury.

WANTED, Feb. 18, 25, March 4, by Los Granadas, Trampolin Comedy Gymnasts, a Novelty. 64, Upper Sutton-st., Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, the Royal Estos, after March 2, will in future be known as the Three Estos, in a New, Original Speciality, "A Pierrot's Dream," introducing Knockabout Tumbling and Posturing, &c. Liberty March 4, on. Next week, T. R., Batley; Feb. 25, G. T., Radcliffe. Perm. address, 42, Milbourn-st., Blackpool.

WANTED, March 25, on, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist par excellence, one or three figures, up-to-date Act, perfectly dressed; now thoroughly recovered from recent throat trouble. Thanks Messrs. Edwards, Dayton, and others for Contracts and offers. Address, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, March 4, 11, 18, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist; and De Lil, Illusionist; two smart Acts. Monday, Theatre Royal, Peterboro'.

WANTED, Monday, 18th, and on, by Gilroy, Vent., and Boston, Bioscope; two Acts, suit anywhere. Wire for Monday, Prince's, Preston.

WANTED, Feb. 25, March 4 and 11, by King Leo, Ventriloquist.
29, Mytton-street, Hulme, Manchester.

PAUL PELHAM'S "THE KING'S NAVEE" CO., and powerful Combination. Scenery, Costumes, &c., complete. A magnificent Production. Enormous Success this week at Rochdale, packed houses, record business. First-class Theatres and Halls only entertained.
WANTED, Feb. 25, on. Wire above till Saturday. Monday next, Royal Albert, Canning Town.

WANTED, Feb. 25, on, Fred Monckton's Comedy Sketch Team of Laughter-makers, in Screaming Farcical Successes, "What Railing Did," also "Hoo from Wych." Feb. 18, Hippo., Loughborough.

SNOW AND FARRON'S MASCOT MINSTRELS AND CONCERT PARTY (seven in number).
WANTED, Piers and Pavilions, for May 13, June 3 and 10, to follow Pavilion, Dover.
Address, 26, Grosvenor-st., Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Known, the Scotch Jacobite Boys' Highland Band (the most Juvenile Band in Great Britain), twenty-four performers, Instrumentalists, Vocalists, Comedians, Scotch Dancers (winners Reel Society's Gold Medal, 1906), vacant dates April 1, May 20, Aug. 5, Sept., various. KENNEDY, Potter's-buildings, Warser Gate, Nottingham.

WANTED, March 11, on, for "Doing His Duty," Burlesque Comedy Duologue, with Songs; single if required. EVA NORMAN, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Lion Show, Best Bar None,
Vacant April 15, 29, May 6, 13, and 27.

Commencing week Feb. 18,
Palace Theatre, Sunderland.

WANTED, Known, Princess Fayette, Sporting Act, Five Ponies and Dogs, including the Smallest Pony in the World, at Liberty. C/o "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Sergt.-Major Williams' Dogs, in their New and Novel Tricks. Undoubtedly one of the finest exhibitions of dog-training ever seen.—Vide Press. Just concluded seven weeks' tour. 2A, Belgrave-street, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Devereux's Troupe of Clever Dogs, the Four-footed Animals with Human Brains. For terms and dates, Grand Theatre, Sheffield.

WANTED, Good Pitch for Al-fresco, Summer Season South preferred. All communications, S. RITCHIE, O. H., Burnley.

WANTED, Known, a Young Trick and Knockabout Comedy Cyclist is Open to join anything, with or without own Machines. Box 4,337, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Tumbler wishes to join Comedy Act, Sketch, or other. Address, HARRY DEANS, 10, Herbertson-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagements, Public or Private, Harmon's Bioscope, Marionettes, also Royal Punch and Judy, with Toby. 326, Earlsfield-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, Cinématograph Operator, lime, electricity, developer, printer, operate camera; late of Gaumont's. COLE, 155, Prince of Wales'-road, Kentish Town.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman, Silver King (regd.), Auctioneer, Valuer, Expert and Authority to the United Kingdom and Van Dwellers' Association, Auctioneer to Lord George Sanger (England's Greatest Showman), and Leading Showmen of Great Britain. Sales and Commissions conducted in any part of the World. If you want to Buy or Sell anything connected with the Business, consult TOM NORMAN, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand. Change of address. Wanted to purchase or engage all kinds of Novelties and Curiosities (alive or dead), if suitable for exhibition.

WANTED, Known, in answer to numerous inquiries, that all those Roundabout Riding Machines, goodwill, together with Lease of Grounds, &c., &c., at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, were successfully disposed of on Jan. 23 (Showman's Meeting Day) by Tom Norman (Silver King), the purchaser of same being John Fulcher, Esq., Amusement Caterer, of Alexandra Palace and Wembley Park fame. (Signed) TOM NORMAN.

THE UNITED KINGDOM SHOWMEN'S AND VAN-DWELLERS' PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.
THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.
President, LORD GEORGE SANGER.
WANTED, Known, the Annual Meeting at Lynn (by kind permission of the Mayor), will be held in the Town Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 11 in the forenoon. His Worship the Mayor will preside, and Alderman Dunn and other local gentlemen are expected to attend and address the meeting. The Rev. T. Horne (Chaplain) and T. Watson Wright, Esq. (Guild Solicitor), will advocate the claims of the Society. All Showmen are asked to make a strong point of attending the meeting this year. T. HURST, Hon. Secretary.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, Important, that the next meeting of the British Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union will be held at the Green Dragon Hotel, Langley's, King's Lynn, on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 2.30 p.m.
for the transaction of important business.

All members are requested to attend.
Signed,
THOS. HURST, Secretary.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know. Simons, of 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch, is going ahead with up-to-date Lines in Field Glasses, Fancy Goods, Clocks, Jewellery, &c.

There is no cheaper house for you.

WANTED, Known, Electrical, Simpkin, Wilkinson, and Gibson, Kirkstall-road, Leeds, manufacture four and six pole Showmen's Dynamos (improved pattern), also new Flame Arc Lamps, geared motors, for driving organs and roundabouts, large stocks, cable, carbons, globes, incandescents, all classes of repairs; new line, direct coupled portable electric plants, driven by paraffin.

WANTED, Known.—A Word to the Wise is Sufficient. A Client writing June 25, 1906, says:—Bag puncher took £300 in a little over three months. For price, write Sole Agents to the Makers, viz., the Mills Novelty Co. MINERVA AUTOMATIC Co., 120, York-rd., King's Cross, London, N. Largest Variety of Automatic Machines in the trade. No Junk. Don't buy worn-out machines.

Latest Invention.
PORTABLE HELTER SKELTER LIGHTHOUSE,
Prices on application.
WANTED, Known, I have the Sole Right of manufacture of the above under the Registered Design No. 463,956, of S. F. Staples, A.M.I.C.E. Caution.—Infringements of above rights will now be dealt with.

WALKER,
Roundabout Maker, Tewkesbury.

Auctioneers.
WANTED, Known, Great Value Offered in Secondhand Silver Watches.
Auctioneers only supplied.
Write to-day for full particulars,
C. G. CLACHER, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.
Try one of my famed parcels, containing
Ten English Lever and Twelve Silver Geneva Watches. Best Value ever Offered.
In great demand. Price, £5 5s.

WANTED, Known.—Write or call at Greene's, Falmouth-road, London, S.E., for .22 ammunition, rifles, globes, targets; absolutely cheapest market

WANTED, Showmen to save money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of specially prepared paints, colours, varnishes, brushes, &c., and every requisite for decorating caravans, roundabouts, swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Known, all Kinds of Showmen's Painting undertaken, Oil-paintings, Scenery, Letter Cloths. ROCHE, Artist, 22, Lansdown road, Lee, London, S.E.

WANTED, for Easter, Attractive Novelties, as Side Shows, for London, large centre of amusements, big business; several weeks' engagement. Write, DEVEREUX, 4, Duke-st., Adelphi, London.

WANTED, First-Class Novelties, must have big Flash, good Show, and Parade, or useless writing, for Wonderland, Sheffield; Sharing Terms; finest position, and everything required. Address, SAMSON.

WANTED, good living Novelties, immediate and future dates. Wire for Monday.
HUMBER'S Waxwork, George-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Novelties, for the best Shop in London, shares or salary; nothing too big. PROPRIETOR, 100, Lower-marsh, Lambeth, London.

WANTED, Novelties and Freaks of Nature, for Bagan's Waxworks, Belfast, North-street; also Lady Palmist and Tattooist, on shares; good opening.

WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, Open at Once, Sale of Books and Postcards allowed. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

THE TWO-HEADED PATAGONIAN GOLIATH.
Admission One Shilling.

WANTED, Shows, &c., new to U.S.A. As our Attractions periodically play the same American Circuits, would Sell the Two-headed Giant Exhibition (at close of London engagements), or exchange for Novelty new to the States.

All communications to permanent address,
KAP-DWA Co., 54, Shaftesbury-avenue, London.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, First-class Side-show (liberal sharing terms), for Bridlington Tenth Annual Trades Exhibition. Only one good side-show allowed. Worn-out subjects need not apply.
Address, Mr. HAGUE, Spa, Bridlington.

WANTED, for March Trades Exhibition, April 2 to 10, good Side Shows; Space to Let for Trade Exhibits. R. BERTOLLE, Secretary.

WANTED, Novelties to send vacant dates for the Best Shop in London, open Sundays. PROFESSOR RUBY, 68, Uxbridge-road, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, a Good Comedian and Planksman, for Auction Mart; men afraid of work save stamps. Wire or write, EDWARDS and PAGE, Merthyr.

WANTED, for Auction Mart, Good Pianist and Vocalist; steady and good reference. Wage, age, height, BLOOM, Haughton, Darlington.

WANTED, Known, Vacancies for Lady Palmist, Jewellery and Novelties of all Descriptions, for Bridlington Trades Exhibition, six days, March 11. Address,
H. HAGUE, Spa, Bridlington.

WANTED, Character Reader, Amusements, Stalls, Games, Fairy Floss, Finest Seaside Positions; also Aerial Flight for Sale, cheap. MANAGING-DIRECTOR, 80, Highgate, Kendal.

WANTED, for Messrs. Davis' Bioscope, smart, willing Young Man, assist operator and help with baggage and fit-up. Apply, with references, P. O., Frome, till Wednesday.

WANTED, by Harry Clarke, Engagement; experienced Planksman, Comedian; assist piano if required. Auction Mart, 50, Lodge-st, Queen's-road, Harpurhey, Manchester.

WANTED, Situation, by smart young Auctioneer; experience, understands the business thoroughly, also the getting of shops; good money-taker. Exceptional references. Now disengaged. Box 4,387, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Full-size Distorting Mirrors, at Liberty, Exhibitions, Gardens, &c. Address, MIRRORS, 19, Marchmont-street, Russell-square, London.

BLACKPOOL SANDS.
WANTED, Known, the South Shore Pleasure Beach is the only site in Blackpool for Open-air Attractions.
The grounds are forty acres in extent, right on the sea front, and are situated immediately next the Promenade at the Electric Tramway Terminus. From April 1 to Dec. 31, 1905, 4,000,000 passengers were carried on these tramways. The permanent attractions now include the "River Caves of the World," "Maxim Flying Machine," "Sea Circus," &c. Great Canadian Water Chute now being erected for next season, commencing at Easter. For sites and concessions for really good Novelties apply personally, Office on Grounds. Letters only, 14, Balmoral-road, Blackpool.

SEAFORTH EASTER FAIR.
WANTED, Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, Stallowners, and all other Travellers in General, to Know I have taken a large Plot of Land close to the Overhead Railway Station, Seaforth, and intend holding a monstrous Easter Fair on it. Persons requiring ground for same apply to JOHN COLLINS, 304, Scotland-road, Liverpool. Rents reasonable, and no one barred. I have also got the following places for Spring Fairs, Hyde Road, Manchester, Spring Fair, second week in March; Gorton Spring Fair, the week following; and Queen's Road, Manchester, Monster Easter Fair, and other places to follow. All applications for Space to be made to JOHN COLLINS, 304, Scotland-road, Liverpool.

To Roundabout Proprietors, &c.
NUNEATON MAY FAIR, May 14, and also Sports, Whit Monday, May 20.
WANTED, Applications for Ground for above; average gate at Sports 8,000 to 10,000.
Apply, HARRY ARGYLE, Glebe-road, Nuneaton.

WANTED, Spaces to Let, for Jewellery, Photos, Character Readers, Side Shows, Fairy Floss, splendid site, electric light; thousands of visitors; practically no opposition. For terms and particulars address, H. J. SNELSON, 48, Sagar-terrace, Fleetwood.

WANTED, to Let, Ground at Downham Fair, March 1, 2, 4; also Peterboro' Mart commencing March 11. No ground reserved without Deposit.

Apply, JESSE BARKER,
Royal Show, Burdett-road, Mile End, London.

WANTED, for Touring Novelties Exhibition, a few Spaces to Let. Agnes Beckwith's Exhibition, Drill Hall, Cleckheaton, Feb. 18; Temperance Hall, Barnsley; Pontypridd, Wakefield, Normanton, &c., to follow. MALAGERS, W. TAYLOR and H. PHELPS, Drill Hall, Cleckheaton, Yorkshire.

WANTED, to Let, a large piece of ground, on the slopes of the Great Orme, in splendid position, suitable for Open Air Entertainments.
Apply,
E. F. GRIFFITHS, 15, Mostyn-street, Llandudno.

WANTED, Known, the Fair Field, Kidwelly, to Let, in centre of town; Tin Works and Collieries going well. Terms moderate. Apply, MORRIS, Cowparks, Kidwelly, S. Wales.

WOLVERHAMPTON
ANNUAL WHITSUNTIDE FAIR.
WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Applications for Land
to be made to
MARKETS INSPECTOR,
Wolverhampton.

WANTED, to Let, Large Feast Ground, for Feast, Whit Week, 1907.
HARRAP, Earlsheaton, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Known, Exeter Easter Fair, the best position on the Okehampton-road. Ground to Let, for all kinds of amusements, at reasonable rents. Apply, ANDERTON'S MODERN SHOW, Faringdon, Berks. Also for sale, carved and gilded double waggon-front, opens out to 44ft. No reasonable offer refused. Photo. on application.

WANTED, Known, a few Stalls to Let, either for Sketch Artist, Photographer, Monograms, Pens, Sweet Making, or Glass Blowing, for Touring Exhibition, opening Merthyr, Feb. 19 to March 2; then, Tredegar, Risca, Abersychan, and other South Wales towns; also good Side Show (Pharos write).
Apply, MANAGER,
Exhibition, Drill Hall, Merthyr.

WANTED, to Let, one of the largest Shops in Blackpool, 47ft. long, 36ft. wide, situate in Church-street (the main street), next door to the Winter Gardens, suitable for any high-class exhibition, well-known picture, works of art, talking pictures, or any high-class entertainment. Will rent, share, or give certainty.
Apply, Mr. T. SERGENSON, Grand T., Blackpool.

WANTED, to Let, Open Front Shop (large), most prominent business position for Auctions or Bazaars. Vacant next week. Apply, J. RICKERBY, Botchergate, Carlisle.

OLYMPIA, OLYMPIA, OLYMPIA.
OLYMPIA, OLYMPIA, OLYMPIA.
OLYMPIA, OLYMPIA, OLYMPIA.
WANTED, Known, the undermentioned Showmen wish to tender through "The Era" their sincere and grateful thanks
to the Chairman,
B. W. Rose, Esq.,
and the Directors of the
Mammoth Fun City Company,
for their kindness and esteemed favour
shown to all Showmen
engaged at Olympia
this Xmas season,
and to wish them all the happiness and success they would wish themselves.
Signed,
BARROW BROTHERS, W. SEDGWICK, BIDDALL BROTHERS, FRANK WILSON, T. KNIGHTON, W. LE NEVE, G. SMITH, J. ALLPORT, W. CRAWFORD, SID JEFFERIES, J. OSBORNE, J. LYNCH, W. JONES, T. WHITE, JOE WENTWORTH, ARTHUR DASHWOOD, A. CARDEW.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100, 101, and 102A, Houndsditch, has Special Departments for 9ct. Rings, Secondhand Watches, Unredeemed Pledges, Cheap Jewellery.
All up-to-date Lines.

WANTED, to Sell, Two Pullmans, cheap, road or rail; must sell; best offer. View, GREENWOOD'S Auction Mart, Royton, near Oldham, Lancashire.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

Notice.

WANTED, to Sell, the Lease of 108, Upper-street, Islington, N., late Stewart's Wex-works, has been open Free Admission Automatic Bazaar for the last two years; the position is a really good one; it was good enough to support a Waxwork for nine consecutive years, and taking a ton of £ s. d. all the time. Ground floor space, 4,600 square feet, suitable for scores of trades, Show business, or Motor Garage; nothing to equal it.

Don't hesitate if you intend to speculate; opportunity of a lifetime. First come, first served.

Apply or call.
Full particulars,
INGLEWOOD, 108, Upper-street, Islington, N.

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WANTED, to Sell, Special 8 h.p. Compound Showman's Road Loco., by Burrell, on Springs, and fitted with 2 Tanks, and all latest improvements. GRAVEN, Ely, Cambs.

WANTED, to Sell, a smart little Tenting Plant, consisting of 90ft. round Circus Tent, Bull Cloth, only used eight weeks; Wallings, Brackets, V's, Poles, and four good Luggage Vans. Price £60 the lot. ADA ALEXANDER, 10, Washington-street, Worcester.

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WANTED, to Sell, one four-abreast, two three-abreast sets Gallopers, with double crank Fowler Traction and electric light; one set steam Dobbies. May be seen working. Terms arranged. WALKER, Roundabout Maker, Tewkesbury

WANTED, to Sell immediately, Patent Round-about, only one of its kind, carries 36 people, nearly new. Circumstances compel same to be sold at once for £40; honestly worth £150. A chance of a lifetime. Can be seen by appointment. Only write or wire, RETSIL, 51, Northdown street, Islington, N.

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WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, new, shop soiled, from 5s.; Card Delivery, Games, Fortunes, Electrics. MANAGER, 5, Denning-road, Hampstead.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines of every description, best and cheapest. WORMALD, 123, Blythe-road, Olympia, Kensington, London. Established 1887.

WANTED, to Sell, several good secondhand Automatic Fortune-telling Machines, cheap; splendid money-takers. VANCE and Co., Greenwich, London, S.E.

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WANTED, to Sell, Mirrors. Previous correspondents please send offers. Space wanted, Novelty, sharing, for season. VIDEON, 120, Drayton-road, Portsmouth.

WANTED, to Sell, Showmen's Wax Figures 20 Splendid Models, dressed Military, Ladie s full necks. Cheap. 3, Sea View-terrace, Sandgate.

WANTED, to Sell, Doll Frame, thirty dolls, £7; Avery Weighing Chair, 100s.; Bosco Photo Machine (Flashlight), cost £60, price £7. MASON, Settles-street, London, E.

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WANTED, Penny in Slot Pull Down Punching Ball, for cash.
WILLIAMS, Royal Arms, Aldershot.

WANTED, to Buy, a good Secondhand Tilt, 72 by 50. MARTIN, 21, Catherine-terrace, New Herrington, near Fence Houses, Durham.

WANTED, Secondhand Helter Skelter Lighthouse, in good condition. Cheap.
Box 4,374, "The Era."

WANTED, Secondhand Helter Skelter Lighthouse, or other Novelty, in good order, suitable for Seaside Resort. Box 4,399, "The Era."

WANTED, a Working Manager, for Helter Skelter, and two or three men for same; also a good Traction Driver; no others than those used to the business need apply. Yearly situation to suitable people. Apply, W. C. and S. HANCOCK, Winter Gardens, Plymouth. Will Jarvis, doorsman, please write in.

WANTED, Engine Driver, for Motor Tractor, and to work Electric Light at Night; long engagement to suitable man. First-class men with undeniable references as to experience, reliability, and sobriety, from former employers, need only apply.
Address, stating age, wages, married or single, with fullest particulars, to
LORD JOHN SANGER and SONS, LTD.,
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WANTED, a Traction Engine Driver.
Good money to good man.
For P. Collins' Motors.
JOHN WHYATT,
Gondola Works, Walsall.

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Box 4,391, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, to Sell, Spennymoor Circus, Co. Durham, complete, seating tip-ups (plush and wood), electric and gas fittings, curtains, carpets, &c. Address,
Mrs. E. P. E. VEITCH.

WANTED, to Sell, Variety Theatre, Northern Seaside Resort, possession any time; moderate price; principals only. Box 4,392, "The Era."

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, to Dispose of, Rights, Scenery, Music, Printing, &c., of Powerful Drama, by leading authors. Now being toured by well-known manager, who, owing to new big undertaking, has no time for personal control. Low price for cash. Box 4,339, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, the Great Pantomime, "Crusoe's Adventures," now playing at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham. Undoubtedly the Finest Production in the Provinces The beautiful Scenery by Conrad Tritschler, R. C. Oldham, D. G. Hall, F. Lemaistre, W. R. Young, and Henry Emden, Six Full Sets, Three Half Sets, and Four Front Scenes. Over 450 Magnificent Costumes, made by Miss Nash, from designs by Comelli. Elaborate Properties, Electrical Effects, &c., &c. Apply to J. F. GRAHAM, Manager, as above.

WANTED, to Sell, "Cinderella" Pantomime, entire production, scenery, dresses, and grand electric coach. Can be seen at the Grand Theatre, Nottingham, next week, last week of tour. Address, HARRY FISCHER, as above.

WANTED, to Sell, Pathé's New "Aladdin" Films, only used two weeks, 800ft., price £9; also just received from the Myrioramas, three more of Pathé's latest, "Between two Fires," "The Cab," and "Dog Spot at the Telephone"; also the great Urban Film, "Night before Xmas," and two other new Films, "Fakir and Footpad" and "The (?) Motorist," only used few weeks, price 2½d. per foot. POOLE, Palace, Gloucester.

WANTED, to Sell, large stock of Films, majority good as new, from 1d. per foot.
POOLE, Palace, Gloucester.

WANTED, to Sell,
Bioscope and Films.
BENDON, 301, Cathcart-road, Glasgow.

WANTED, to Sell, 77 Tip-up Chairs, upholstered in crimson plush, good condition. Apply, W. C. HORNER, Empire, Burnley.

WANTED, to Sell, 99 Tip-up Al-fresco Chairs, almost new. Best offer at once. LAWRANCE, 107, George-street, Glasgow.

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PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
Lilian Lowe, Vasilescu Troupe, Hurley and Cole, Victor Newman, Van Biene and Co., Dusty Rhodes, Rob Gilmore, Sisters Grovini, Auto Atlas, Bioscope.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Bo-Peep," Dot Hardy, Michael Nolan, Two Bostons, Cole and Rags, the Wyffs, Bioscope, Agnes Hazel, Bandurrias, the Dandies, W. J. Churchill.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Ernest Shand, Bioscope, "Earthquake," Ferganas, Watson's Dogs, Cliff Ryland, Three Consol Girls, Hymack, Illustrated Song, Master Cliff.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Trapnell Family, Fanny Erris, Nellie Coleman, Dome, D'arc Marionettes, Cairns and Lynch, "Heartstrings," Cambrian Trio, "Devils' Sunday," Marguerite Broadfoote, Bioscope.

THE LONDON COLISEUM.

CLOSED.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
La Milo, Harry Lawson, Frazer and Mac, Pictures, Bellonini, Princess Pauline, Harold Hughman, Hettie Chattell, Coloured Meisters.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
May Moore Duprez, Musical Silvo, Fred Elton, Edie Veno, Kelly and Ashby, Dan Conroy, Allisons, Carrie Joy, Martin Adeson and Co.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Harry Roxbury's "Prince of Monte Carlo," Ruth Doris, Sylvester, Bert Dansie, Les Strads, Pictures, Chas. Vincent, Eva Hope, and Jack Wayho.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.
(Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance.)
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Daisy Mayer, Stacey and Williams, Elsie Enry, Hillman and Russell, Dolly Moore, Pictures, Tom Bryce and Co., Roze and Calvery, Monty Walker.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
E. Arthur and Co., Will Johnson, Daisy Martell, Ross and Grayson, Azella Wilson, Bioscope, Six Imrie Girls, Herbert Shelley.

THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Tom Costello, Dare's Minstrels, Arthur Croxton, Harry Maynard, Ted E. Box, Gillin Ongars, Cissie Hare, Lottie Lennox, Rossie Ashton, Lee and Kingston, Raymond and Kurkamp, Mayvilles, Hugh and Elliot, R. A. Beaton and Co., "Poor Phil. Garlick," Pictures, Little Tina.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Both Performances.
Boisetts' "Bricklayers," Henry Coutts and Co., Esther Phillips and Co., Harry Freeman, E. W. Selmann, Gillin, Lottie Lennox, Raie Walters, Rossi Ashton, Joe and Louie Love, Pictures.

EMPIRE, COVENTRY.
(Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance.)
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
New York Nippers, Nellie Martell, Dutch Daly, Harry Leybourne, Johnson and Bert, Godfrey James, Selma Braatz, Bioscope.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

ARTISTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT THE ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON, IS WITHIN THE AREA ABSOLUTELY BARRED BY US.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND
(Now in course of erection).

Artists and Agents please note that Bookings for the above Theatre have now commenced.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras (Fifteen for those engaged at the London Coliseum). Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, or at least TWO WEEKS, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagement cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

N.B.—Silence in every case a polite negative. Artists are requested not to enclose stamped envelope. Letters marked "Private" will be delayed.
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"CHEYENNE,"
"I CAN SEE RED ROSES BLOOMING,"
"BOY BLUE,"
"COME BACK TO BORNEO,"
"IN MY PAGODA,"
"WHY DO THE GIRLS LOVE CHARLIE?"
"HENNY KLEIN,"
"IT IS THE SCARECROW,"
"MY IRISH ROSIE."
"I WANT MOLLY AND SHE WANTS ME."

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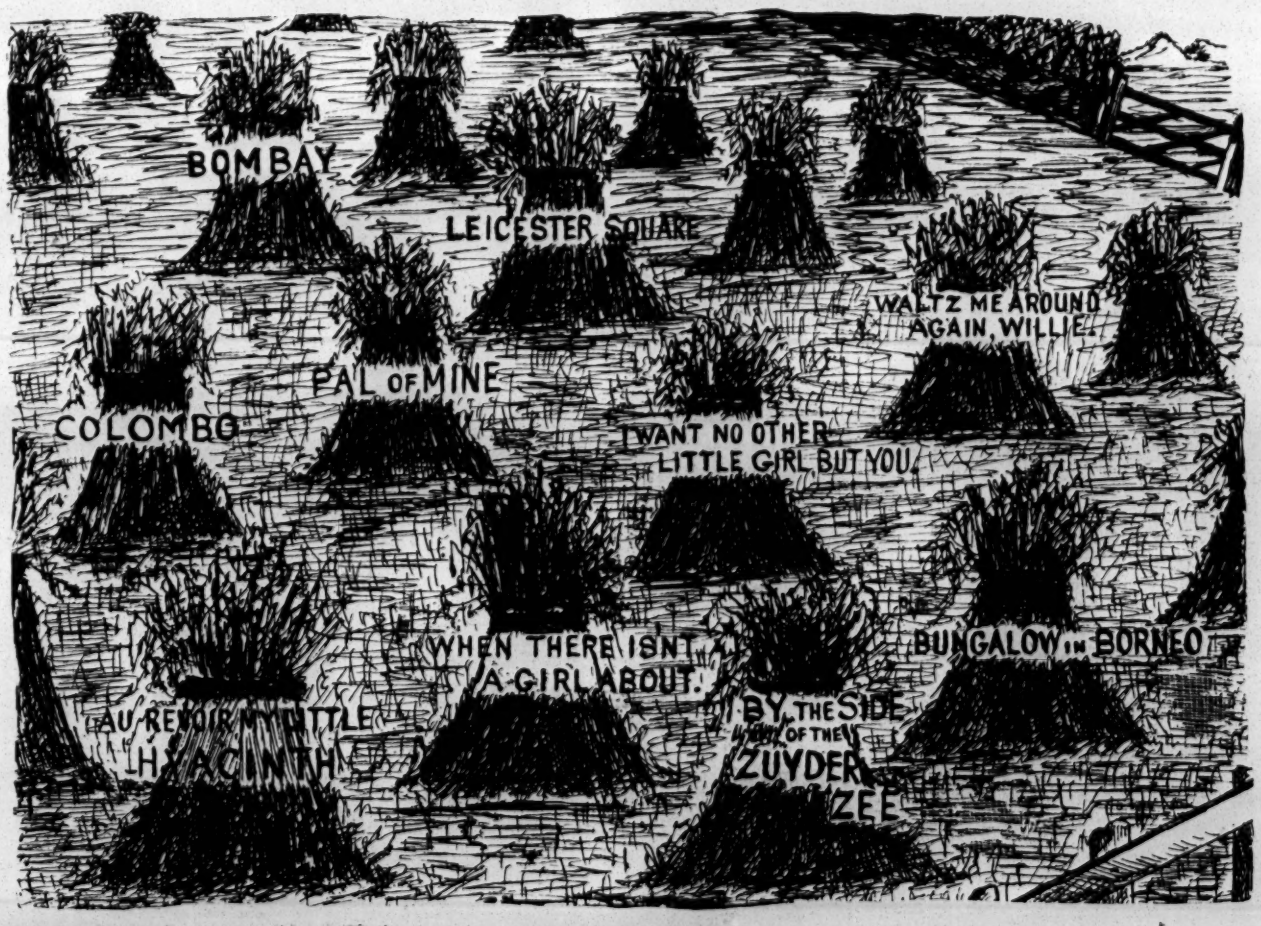

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All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office.

Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns.

Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not re-booked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follows :—

MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL, AND DISTRICT.
MR. ALAN W. YOUNG,
Empire Theatre, Liverpool.

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N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

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HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.
Sam Mayo, Lillian Bros., Keir and Kempton, Oakdene, E. Montefiore and Co., Hinton and Wooton, Reynolds' Minstrels, Gondolier Glee Singers, Three Transfields, Pictures, Bertisch.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.
Little Tich, Ida Ross, Jansons, Prof. Cavalli, Picitt and Lizette, J. H. Darnley and Co., Starr and Jerome, Sibb and Sibb, Pictures, Vera Vere, Wild, Willie, and West.

ALHAMBRA, PARIS.
Modern Venus, Cordite and Buffalo, Mackinnon Family, Effie White, Mons. Dufor, Martelloni Troupe, Will Gardner, Don's Operatic Trio, Launceston Elliott, Sisters Marion, Hansi Schon Trio, Frank Sylvo, Pictures, Joe Reichen.

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Grand Variety Company.

LYRIC, LIVERPOOL.
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"I'M THINKING ALWAYS OF YOU." (PELHAM and RULE.)

"GOOD-BYE, MY LITTLE FLO."
(ARTHURS and LYLE.

"DON'T BE AFRAID, LITTLE SOLDIER." (PELHAM, BUTTS, and RULE.)
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CALLS
FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, FEB. 18, 1907.

PROVINCIAL CIRCUIT.

SPECIAL NOTICE.
Rehearsal at all Halls, Monday, at 12·0 sharp.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Dan Robins, Les Steckles, Pictures, Tom Bass, Burns and Bentley, Fred Southern and Co., Clarice Juno.

PALACE, LINCOLN.
Three Olympiers, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Gus Harris, Lorrisons, Max Duffek, Cull-Pitt, Percy Hannon, Marion Scott, Three Gregsons.

GRAND, SHEFFIELD.
Johnny Holland and Co., Mona McDonald, Capt. Devereux, Johnny Worman, Madge Daley, Pictures, Johnny Dwyer.

PALACE, BATH.
Chung Ling Soo, Forrest Combination, Zerbinis, Three Schaffers, Keegan and Co., Spencer and Marks, Sisters Lavender, Austin and Cowan.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Carlton's Mysterious Cross, Edith Sylvesto, Raymond's Bio-Tableux, Albano Troupe, Vowles and Bryan, Marion Fletcher, D. W. Watson, Harris and Worth, John E. Coyle.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Lydia Yeamans, Speedwell, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Gladys Witton, Waltons, Dene and Dawson, Geo. Brookes, Lizzie Daniels, J. W. Rickaby.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, HALIFAX.
Tallo Ho Trio, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Letine, Chas. Torbay, Satsuma, Jane Temple, Czar Troupe, Keith and Merson, Silbon's Circus.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
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Matinée Monday.
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Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Woodhouse and Wells, Ethel Loftus, Mac and Hill, Chas. Santon, Laurie Wallis, Raymond, "House Full" Co., Harry Bancroft, Emmie Ames, Bros. Horne, Otta and Olga, Lilly Lassah.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
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All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band parts.
Matinée every Monday.
Harry Champion, Rell and Butt, Zetta Grey and Co., Hackenschmidt, Wallace Whitney, Beatie Foster, Percy Johnson, Raymond, Lester May, Harvey and Holt, The Treshams, Eldra and Dog.

Notice.—All artists carrying Scenery must have it Fireproof, according to L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

All Bill Matter or Notification of Appearance must be sent in 14 days prior to opening. All Artists must attend Band Rehearsal, or their Contracts may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

N.B.—All Billing Matter, accompanied by Pictorials, and Business Communications relating to the Provincial Circuit, must be addressed to the

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Bill matter must be sent two weeks in advance.
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GLASGOW PAVILION.
CAL[illegible] for Monday, Feb. 18, 1907.
Twice Nightly. 9.
[illegible]ehearsal at 11 o'clock for
Alice [illegible]ce, Mount and Corelli, Three Bros. Huxter, [illegible]ammy Shields, Bert Marsden, D'Osta Trio, Alberto, Tom Stuart, W. F. Frame.

GREENOCK PAVILION.
Rehearsal at 2 o'clock for
Millie Howell, Stanley and Vandyke, Paragon Trio, Lily Sharplin, The Waldrons Sketch Company, Pavoscope.
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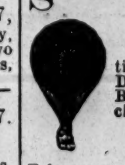
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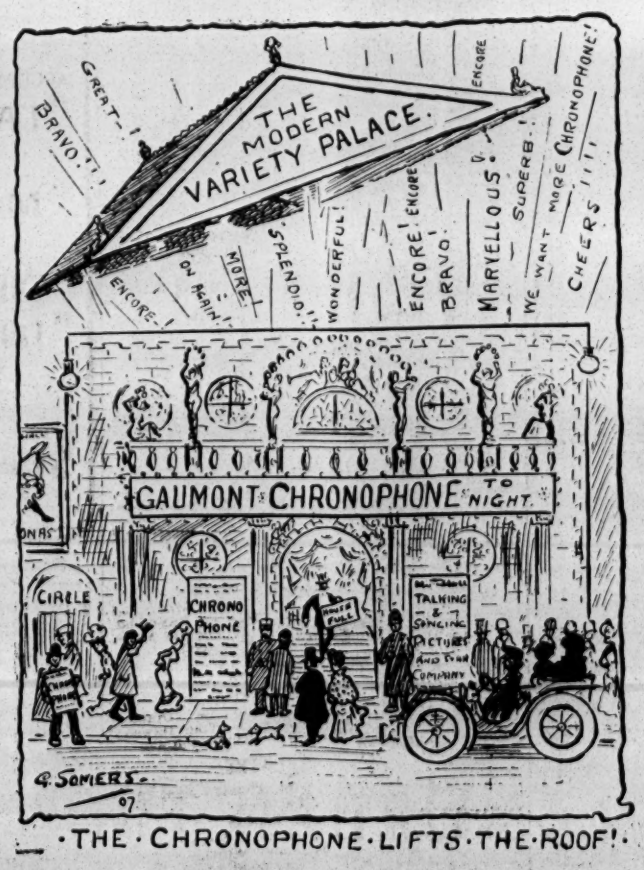

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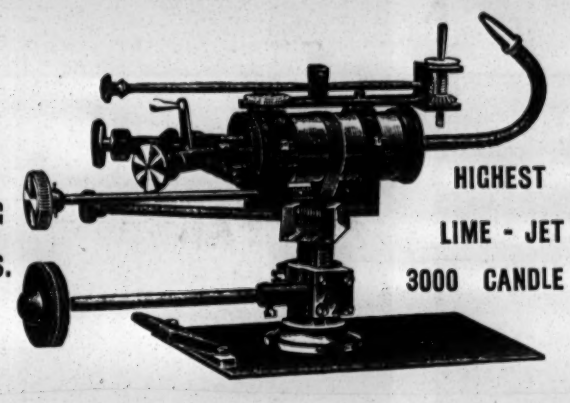

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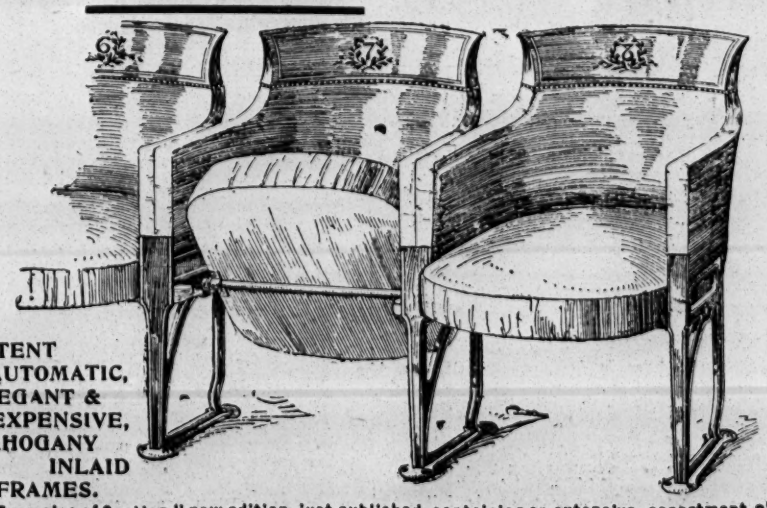

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERAVON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. D. Jones.—*The Babes in the Wood*, under the management of Mr. John A. Thomson, is here. Mr. H. Eglinton represents the Old Dame in a droll manner; Miss Beatrice Wadham as Robin Hood is possessed of a good voice and a charming personality, being ably seconded by Miss Bertha Hall as Will Scarlet and Miss Nellie Scorey as Phyllis. Willie is well played by Miss Daisy Connell. The singing of Miss Clair Wadham and the dancing of Miss Rita Fredereka are two special features of the production.

ABERDEEN. — HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—*The New Aladdin*, by Mr. George Edwardes's company, is the play of the week, and the house is crowded every night. Mr. George Gregory is intensely amusing as Tippin; and Miss Ida Rene makes a delightful Princess. Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., sings and acts with fine spirit as the Genie; Miss Cressie Leonard is a charming Lally; Miss Irene Verona throws much humour into the Spirit of the Ring; and Mr. John Brabourne is completely successful as the lost Constable. The Scotch element is highly appreciated, Miss Mary Fraser as Jeanie making a decided hit with her song, "Dougal." Messrs. Spray, Mahar, and Hector played most capably as the Cadi, General Ratz, and Ebenezer; and Misses Nellie and Jessie Lonnen sing well and dance gracefully. The orchestra is admirably conducted by Mr. Vousden.

PALACE THEATRE. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The Mackweys are acrobats of unrivalled skill; Miss Helen Charles gives a delightful drawing-room entertainment; Mr. Barney Armstrong is equally popular as a comedian and dancer; Mr. Lade Henderson scores as a vocalist; Cookson is a skilful ventriloquist; the Brothers Brunton are very good as duettists; and Miss Lena Brunton is a vivacious comedienne. Messrs. Alsopp and Bekwith appear with success in a sprightly comedy act, *I'm Coming Upstairs;* and Miss May Lilian Levey shows herself to be a comedienne of much piquancy and ability.

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventom.—The patrons of this theatre are favoured with the return visit of Mr. William Greet's company in *The Sign of the Cross*. Mr. Frank E. Petley makes a success as Marcus; Nero is ably portrayed by Mr. C. Yorke; a fine exposition of Tigellinus is given by Mr. Charles Aldred; Mr. I. Wetheral is exceptionally good as Licinius; Mr. Frank Wood makes a humorous Glabrio; Miss Mary Newcombe does well as Poppœa; the Misses Gertrude Price and Cissie Carlton are realistic in their parts of Berenice and Dacia; Ancaria is also finely played by Miss Lily Ward; and Stephanus is well presented by Miss Dulcie Greatwich. Great credit is due to Miss Marie Leonhard for her fine performance of Mercia.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr. F. Marriott-Watson's company opened here on Monday with *A False Wife*. Mr. George Langham does well as Sir Colin Mansfield; Mr. Fred H. Constable gives a capital rendering of Lieut. Mansfield; Mr. Elton Morgan is a success as Ben Rattler; Mr. F. Marriott-Watson does full justice to the part of Jean Beraud; Messrs. C. Osborne, H. Wallace, and T. Levine are good in their respective rôles; Miss Florence E. Florence gains much favour by her impersonation of Lady Mansfield, otherwise Estelle de Lussaun; Miss A. Hylton capably sustains the part of Agnes Weyland; Sarah Bernstein is well played by Miss Flo Morgan; the part of Bessie Blazer is in the safe hands of Miss Ivy Chandos.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Potter, Vandy, and Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr Frank Parsons.—A pleasing bill is provided this week. Terry and Bently give a clever and amusing performance; Bright and Bright are good in their novel musical mélange; Tom W. Barrett is always a favourite here; Bock Pylades presents some realistic sketches of celebrities; Miss Nellie Farrell is a good singer and dancer; Hands and Lux are smart patterers and dancers; the Woodwards give a clever balancing entertainment; and Lachie Thompson's Boys (Ton and Neil) also contribute. Some good pictures are shown by the Bioscope.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. George E. Williams.—*The Assassin*, a play of a very sensational order, is being presented by Mr. Augustine Knight's company here this week. Mr. Augustine Knight (Prince Demetri) and Miss Ella Vane (Countess Wanda) are successful in giving their rôles the utmost prominence, and they are supported by Misses Hettie Senior, Frances Waring, Marie Robertson, Edith Woodward, Messrs. E. E. Ashby, Theo. Balfour, Cecil Raymond, Chauncy Morris, Edwin Jenner, and Tom J. Taylor. The play is excellently staged.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—*The Toreador* is here again. Mr. Robert Rous has been responsible for much laughter as the Tiger, Sammy Gigg. Amongst those who have ably seconded Mr. Rous in his fun-making, mention should be made of Mr. Fred Thompson as Sir Archibald Slackett, Mr. Richard Adams as Pettifer, Mr. Herbert Willis as the British Consulate at Villaya, Mr. Sidney Graville as Carajola the toreador, whose vocal ability and fine presence are prime features of the first act. Lesser male parts are in good hands, viz.: Messrs. H. Arthur, G. Martin, D. Maston, A. Penborn, H. Playfair, Fred Graham, and Owen Ford. Miss Muriel Gregory is a sprightly Nancy Staunton; Miss Leah Howard is pert and vivacious as Susan; Miss Gwen Clifford as Mrs. Hoppings, a dashing widow; and Misses Florence Wood, Nina Carlton, A. Chambers, Winifred Downing, Edwards, Doris Ainsley, M. Carlton, and Edith Mason all do well.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—Miss Florence Carlyle as Robin Hood presents a charming appearance in the successful pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, at the Empire this week; Miss Nancy Thornton as Maid Marion is attractive, and gives a couple of solos with success; Miss Gertrude Martini as Fairy Queen is good, and sings well; Miss Daisy Volbecque as Little John, Miss Nicholson as Allan-a-Dale, Miss Rose Volbecque as Phyllis, Miss Martini as Will Scarlett, Miss Ena Chatburn as Marjorie, Miss Vernon as Dorcas, and numerous others, play their parts well, the Sisters Volbecque giving a couple of duets. Reggie and Cissie (the Babes) are charmingly represented by Dolly Cullen and Elsie Jordison; Messrs. Cullen and Carthy, the popular comedians, as Bill Morgan and Dick Rockyfeller, are irresistibly funny; Dame Peggy, in the hands of Mr. George Casey, is most amusing; and Mr. Arthur Stratton as Baron Toodle, the wicked uncle, is a very successful burlesque villain. Little Cluley, a diminutive comedian, is responsible for much merriment.

ATTERCLIFFE. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. A. Wordsworth.—A large and appreciative audience gave a hearty welcome on Monday evening last to Pardoe's pantomime of *Cinderella*, a bright and merry show, with plenty of fun, sparkling music, and pretty scenery and dresses. First honours must be awarded to Miss Lottie Holland, who makes a splendid Prince Charming, her vocal items being well rendered; Cinderella finds an excellent exponent in Miss Beattie Shamrock, who gives an attractive performance; Miss Nelly Rose is very good as Princess Rosalia; and so also is Miss Ada Stelling as Dandini. Miss Elsie Kedward is a graceful Fairy Rose Leaf; the sisters, Eva and Maud, are well undertaken by Miss Violet Rivers and Miss Louie Bright; and others who to be complimented on their share of the work are Mr. Tom Hulme, Mr. George Hyam, the Bros. Hannaway, Mr. Tom Griffith, and Messrs. Wright and Spencer. Specialities of an interesting character are supplied by the Marvellous Pardoes, the Bros. Hannaway, Miss Nellie Rose, the Desmond Girls, and Zenieth, animal impersonator. The general management is in the hands of Mr. W. Pardoe.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARITIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—The strong programme here is headed by Mr. T. W. Rawson and Miss Lily Bertram in a side-splitting sketch, entitled *The Would-be Actors;* hearty applause is accorded to the Seven Wulfrunas on their return visit in their acrobatic absurdity, *Fun in a Café;* a refined and most amusing turn is provided by Maxford and O'Neill, the talkative gentlemen; and other pleasing items are furnished by Mr. Clayton's Attergraph pictures; Onda and Leon, bar performers; the Orchids, vocal and comedy entertainers; Bros. Levett, vaulters; and Mr. Phil. Bransby, comedian.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—On the first three nights of this week the powerful play, *Leah Kleschna*, was staged by H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company. Mr. Paul Belmore as Kleschna was suffering from a severe cold on the opening night, but, notwithstanding, gave a masterly delineation; Mr. William F. Grant made an impressive Paul Sylvaine; as Berton, Mr. Hamilton Deane was amusing and whimsical; as Schran, Mr. Campbell Goldsmid was interesting; and, in the hands of Miss Bessie Rignold, Leah possessed both grace and charm.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Norman V. Norman is here with his company in *Robin Hood* and répertoire. He himself is a gallant and popular Robin Hood; and Miss Beatrice Wilson a winning and clever Maid Marian. Mr. Aubrey Mather's King Richard is well drawn; Mr. Brember Wells doubles the parts of Sir William Trusty and Simon Hardwryst with great credit; and Friar Tuck is humorously done by Mr. Francis Hope. Miss Sybil Ruskin as Clorinda and Miss Dorothy West-Symes as Isabella are each good. *David Garrick* and *Lady Ursula* are also billed.

HIS MAJESTY'S.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Miss Lottie Collins delighted with her extensive répertoire of songs; and Messrs. Howard and St. Clair proved extremely humorous in the sketch, *Do You Want to Buy any Coke?* Vardon gave a good ventriloquial entertainment; George Fairburn was a clever comedian and mimic; Mephisto, a novel contortionist; and the Farcical Trio gave with *éclat* their skit, *The Maiden and the Tutor*.

TIVOLI THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting.—Messrs. Carpenter and Cooper's company are here in *The Spider and the Fly*. Mr. Benson North is a skilful and heroic Cyril Girdlestone; and Miss Amy Venimore as Stella Gray, the Spider, is extremely clever; and is well supported by Mr. Ellis J. Preston as the villainous Welby Girdlestone. Miss Nina Vaughton is a winning and sympathetic Edith McAllister; Mr. H. C. Lanceley is the Pastor; and Mr. Reginald Payne is a good David Strong. Mr. Charles Russell and Mr. Charles A. Preece are humorous in their several parts.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—*The Belle of Mayfair*, performed by Mr. Milton Bode's excellent company, is paying a first visit this week. At the head of a fine cast is that popular comedian, Mr. Harry Parker, who seems to revel in his present character of Sir John Chaldicott. He has a capital lady supporter in Miss Emily Stevens as Lady Chaldicott. The Earl of Mount Highgate is played in a spirited manner by Mr. Haddon Cave; Mr. Gwyn Alwyn, the happy possessor of a well-trained baritone, scores an undeniable success as Hugh Meredith. The best vocalism is shown by Miss Agnes Tandy as the Princess, her solos being given with true artistic feeling and effect; the young lovers, Raymond Finchley and Julia Chaldicott, are impersonated pleasantly by Mr. Edward Hugonnet and Miss May Yates; Miss Aurelie de Loriere makes a striking figure as the Gibson Girl, and wins several recalls for her song in the second act; Comte de Perrier is enacted with gusto by Mr. Lauri Lisle; Miss Mabel Dent is a chic Pincott, who can also dance with lightness and grace. The remainder of the long cast assist to maintain the high standard required, and the general mounting, dressing, and staging is on a lavish scale.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Huge crowds have been attracted this week to witness the marvellous conjuring of Chung Ling Soo. He practically supplies the whole of the second part of the programme, and at the close is accorded an ovation. The rest of the company appearing includes the Zerbinis, in their musical interlude; Edie Anderson, who sings the popular "Mr. Brown, I'm out," with accompanying dance; Austin and Cowan, a pleasing pair of duettists; Spencer and Marks, comedians and dancers; Keegan and Co., a comedy cycling trio with plenty of laughable business; the Sisters Lavender, song and dance artists; and the Forrest combination in a hilarious farce.

BATLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Whitby; Manager, Mr. Alfred Taylor.—Mr. Frank Denman Wood's pantomime *Dick Whittington* is meeting with great success here. It is a capitally-staged production, and the principals work with unflagging energy to ensure the success of the show. Miss Daisy Morrell is an ideal Dick Whittington, and soon established herself as a prime favourite; Miss Millie Doris is a dainty and suitable Alice; Miss Marion Mayne is chic and lively as the Prince of Abyssinia; and Misses Winnie Acton, Annie Charnley, and Clairette Florence do useful work. Mr. Fred Acton as Fitzwarren is admirable; Mr. Frank Daleno is very funny as the cook; Mr. Will Dennis works hard as the Idle Apprentice; and Billy McQue and Arthur Scaller are useful. The specialities include Correge and Keith, the Estos, the Charnleys, Juan and McQue, and the Schallers.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—*The Youngest of Three*, played by Mr. H. F. Maltby and company, is here this week. Great interest is centred on this production, for Mr. Maltby, one of the youngest theatrical managers in the country, was at Bedford Grammar School from 1888 to 1897. Miss Mara Maltby plays the title-rôle most successfully, the audience being quick to appreciate her capabilities; Miss Janet Hodson acts with marked distinction as Anne Dulley, "the eldest of three"; and Miss Grace Richardson as another sister is also seen to advantage. The difficult part of Squire Wendover is played in a very natural manner by Mr. H. F. Maltby; as Gerald Wendover, Mr. Wyn Weaver makes the most of the character; Mr. Reginald Favell is cleverly made up as Philip Radford, and his portrayal is all that can be desired. Mr. H. Louis Wilson infuses no small amount of humour into the part of Joshua Pynne. The tour is under the direction of Mr. Wyn Weaver.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. Walter Maxwell's company opened here on Monday with the four-act play, *The Lion and the Mouse*. Miss Christine Silver as Shirley Rossmore was the cute American girl to her life, and her acting throughout was excellent; a powerful impersonation of John Burkett Ryder was furnished by Mr. Leslie Carter; and no little praise is due to Mr. Douglas West for his capable embodiment of the rôle of James Rossmore; Mr. Lewis Edgard was admirable as Jefferson Ryder; and Miss Margaret Nybloc was a charming Kate Roberts; some humour was infused into the piece by Mr. Herbert Chown as Hon. Fitzroy Bagley; and Mr. John Wheatman was Mr. J. Whitmore Roberts, M.P., to the life; Miss Elspeth Dudgeon acted skilfully as Mrs. John Burkett Ryder; and other rôles were well interpreted by Miss Maude Townsend and Messrs. Geoffrey Hill and Dan Dyer. A capital curtain-raiser, *Nearly Severed*, was accorded a good reception, the various rôles being cleverly sustained by Miss E. Dudgeon, Miss M. Nybloc, and Messrs. John Wheatman and Lewis Edgard.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—Mr. Edwin Bodye, a big favourite in Belfast, heads the bill, and has been accorded a great reception for his well-rendered humorous songs; Spessardy's Bears exhibit the very acme of training in their remarkable animal act; a sensation has been created by the act under the title of Kreamer and Braun, in which a contest between horse and cyclist arouses enthusiasm; the Cecilias appear to much advantage in their refined musical act; and the equilibristic feats of Ricardo and Salving are certainly astounding; Rogers and Weston have been accorded a good reception for their Hebrew comedy scena, *In Answer to an Advert;* and also appearing are Mr. J. H. Creve, character comedian; Oakley and James, comedy duo; Almon, and the Palace Pictures.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Miss May Moore Duprez, fresh from pantomime triumphs here and in Dublin, heads the bill, and has been most successful with her songs, dancing, and witty patter; Martin Adeson and company, also from local pantomime, appears with his capital company in a musical farcetta, entitled *The Masked Lady*, which has the merit of being both funny and original; Miss Carrie Joy

is a charming comedienne, with good songs; and the musical performance of Silvo is quite a treat; Kelly and Ashby delight all with their billiard table act; and Mr. Dan Conray's comic songs have been well received; the Allisons, comedy artists and dancers, Mr. Fred Elton, in his speciality, and Miss Edie Veno, comedienne and dancer, complete a good programme.

New Alhambra Theatre of Varieties. — General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Alhambra Dramatic Company is appearing here this week with every element of success in *The Terror of Paris*; Mr. Horace Denton must be commended for his clever impersonation of Pierre Valjean; and that accomplished actress, Miss Nina Blake Adams, acquitted herself with great distinction as Marguerite; a skilful impersonation of Henri Martin was furnished by Mr. Cyril Grier; and Mr. Elmore Frith appeared to much advantage as Laroche; Mr. Balfour Denniston succeeded as Capt. Brigand; and Miss Roma Tremayne, a charming actress, rendered able assistance by her skilful rendering of Claire; Mr. Tom H. Solly gained much favour by his humorous impersonation of Bruno; and Miss Mattie Crawford deserves commendation for her delightful embodiment of Estelle; other rôles were capitally sustained by Messrs. J. E. Davies and Ed. Smythe; the Alhambra Bioscope, under the direction of Mr. W. E. Newlove, exhibits some interesting pictures.

BILSTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Battersby; Musical-Director, Mr. J. E. Machin.—The company brought here by Mr. Lingford Carson to present *The Power of the Cross* is a capable one. Mr. George A. De Gray as Baron Curzola is much admired; the brothers Fairfax are played intelligently by Messrs. C. Linney and A. J. Haviland; Miss Mildred Cottell is quite at home as the adventurous Rita; Miss Phyllis Vaughan and Miss Stanley Burt are seen to advantage in the quiet rôles of Blanche Kingsley and Margaret Seaton; and the play is relieved by the humour of Timothy O'Dowd and Dolly Gray, played by Mr. R. E. Nugent and Miss Etta Turner.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company is deservedly doing excellent business with a spirited rendering of *The Gay Parisienne*. As Ebenezer Honeycombe Mr. Will Harman is irresistibly funny; Miss Lilian Talbot makes a vivacious Julie Bon Bon; Mr. Squire Day is an energetic and able Major Fossdyke, and Mr. Clifford Seyler is in every respect an admirable Pompier; Mr. Philip Moore is well suited both histrionically and vocally as Tom Everleigh; Miss Holford Beringer appears to advantage as Mrs. Honeycombe; and Miss Nance O'Neill is an excellent Norah.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. Charles R. Whittle, a versatile comedian, is again scoring heavily here, and a return visit from Miss Nellie Christie, the popular negro character comedienne, is an attractive feature; Collinson's *Topsy-Turvy School* is a leading turn, and a strong combination also includes Mr. Walter Munroe, Irish comedian; the Lyons trio, sketch artists and dancers; Maxwell and Frances, in their comedy act; Mr. C., a good raconteur; the three Sisters Grosvenor, duettists; Miss Maud Courtney, soubrette; Miss Josie Mooney, balladist; and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—Crowded houses continue to mark the run of Mr. Robert Arthur's magnificently-produced and well-acted pantomime *The Queen of Hearts*. On Friday last week the performance was attended by the "Nuts," headed by Mr. Lester Collingwood, who, with that hearty and liberal spirit which is his shining characteristic, had left his own show to patronise a neighbour. Mr. Bodega Farris and Mr. Bert Browne were also among the confraternity, which numbered about fifty members, and with whom the artists, led by Mr. Geo. Robey, exchanged compliments and badinage galore, delighting the audience hugely. During the week Miss Millie Lindon's sister and understudy, Miss Howard, has with much success undertaken the rôle of the Prince, vice Miss Lindon indisposed.

Prince of Wales's Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston. — That very pleasantly and successfully conducted pantomime *Crusoe's Adventures* is to be withdrawn to-night (Saturday), after an all too brief run of nine weeks. This has been made imperative by the important London engagements of several of the artists appearing therein, and thus the public take leave of a charming pantomime with unfeigned regret.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—Mr. Robert Crossman's pantomime *Aladdin* concluded a very successful fortnight's engagement here last Saturday, and now the theatre is closed pending the re-opening of the establishment under the new proprietorship, Moss and Stoll.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—There is nothing new to record of *Cinderella*, albeit its jokes, &c., seem ever fresh, and the success of this merry and bright show continues uninterrupted.

Metropole Theatre. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*The Scales of Justice*, produced by the Metropole company, keeps Mr. Melville's large and growing clientèle well satisfied. Mr Percy Dawsone is entrusted with the rôle of Harry Maxwell, which he renders with his usual success, the audience cheering his efforts right lustily; Mr Austin Milroy affords a striking contrast with his clever acting as Antonio Cordova; Miss Rose Ralph's charm and talents find happy expression in the dual rôle, Mary and Jenny Maxwell; and hearty and prolonged laughter attends Mr. Andrew Emm's assumption of Tony Wilkins. Mr. Fred A. Marston finds excellent scope for his vigorous method as Jack Breeze; Mr. Edward Finlay gives an effective performance as Mandoza; Mr. Francis Everard does well as Tom Duncan; and Miss Amy Corelli's acting as Polly is much appreciated. There are others who shine, including Miss Florence Nelson as Inez Cordova, Little Elsie as Jenny, and Mr. Fredk. Rivers as Captain Duncan.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The Trail of the Serpent* appears here attracting to Mr. A. Campbell-Kelly and his company much appreciation from large audiences. Mr. Campbell-Kelly essays the rôle of Gerald Kingston with much force and skill; Mr. F Booth Conway as the "serpent." Ralph Hammond, is to be commended for his masterly assumption of villainy; Miss Nana Cameron holds the audience enthralled as Rachael, the gipsy; Miss Poppie Carew acts with much charm as Ethel Maynard; Mr. Geo. D. Hunter portrays Gipsy Jake with many clever touches of character; Mr. Geo. Porteous is successful as Sir Gerald Kingston; and Mr. Leo Whamboult as Cleo and Mr. Geo. F. Pateman as Detective Handson act ably. Humour is well represented by Mr. Robert Cromwell as William Higgins and Miss Dorothy Neville as Rose Wilson.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*Her Love Against the World* prevails here, with Messrs. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard's company. Mr. Howard's playing of the heroic part, Eric, Earl of Strathmere, is marked with power, taste, and skill; Mr. Hallatt is, as usual, most convincing as Prince Othmar; Mr. Mayor Cook scores with fine effect as the malignant Prince Ulric; Miss Ellen Snow's efforts in the heroine's rôle, Iris, meet with the highest praise; Miss Rossie St. John is much appreciated as Nello; Mr. Sam Arthur acts with conspicuous ability as Prince Maurice; and Messrs. Langley, Chesson, Cushman, Hillyer, Moss, and Groves sustain minor parts in a capital manner. The humorous element is considerable, and is chiefly contributed to by Mr. Henry B. Lewis as Heinrich and Mr. Richard Webb as Fritz Pimpernickle. Miss Blanche Steele gives an admirable portrayal of the Countess, Shulah; and Miss Julie de Esco figures with much success as Corona.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham. — A musical novelty is presented by Lasky and Rolfe's Fourteen Black Hussars, under the name of "The Bass Drum Trust." This is a musical turn played entirely on big drums; in addition the performers give selections on brass instrumens. The Ten Ji troupe of Japanese magicians are on their first visit to this city and the manner in which they are received proves that their return will be looked for with interest; Little Ganty is a most amusing comedian of the diminutive variety; and Kate Traill charms with her songs at the piano. Lillieth Levton and John Snurling present the amusing sketch entitled *The Order of the Bath*; Charles Mildare, whistler and sifflеur; the O'Gorman Bros., comedians and dancers; Madge May, comedienne, and the Macarte Sisters on the wire all provide excellent turns.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford.—Sam Mayo is a quaint comedian, and he brings several new songs, which are favourably received. Ernest Montefiore and company are responsible for a capital little sketch, in which humour and pathos are happily blended; Hinton and Wooton are clever trick cyclists, showing their skill by playing football whilst mounted on their machines; Bertisch is a fine specimen of muscular humanity; the Gondolier Glee Singers give solos and glees in a refined style; while Reynolds' Minstrels are five American artists who contribute an enjoyable item. The Three Transfields are lady instrumentalists of much ability; and Keir and Kempton are good duettists. Oakdene is a capital comedy ventriloquist; and the Lillian Bros. are splendid examples of muscular development.

Bordesley Palace. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The leading attraction here this week is a dramatic sketch entitled *Told in a Flat*. Miss Jessie Neilson as Esther l'Estrange acquits herself well; Mr. Harry Rogers is equally successful; Prince Kokin, Japanese juggler and equilibrist, is favourably received for a brisk turn; Andrew Roy, tenor, sings well-known songs with much taste and finish; the Garganis present a clever acrobatic turn; Parker and Parr are excellent Welsh comedy vocalists; Ethel Ra-Leslie, character vocalist, and the Bohemians complete the programme.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — Eden Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. T. Arthur Jones and company are having a good reception on their return visit here with *Life's Sweetest Sins*. Mr. T. Arthur Jones undertakes the heroic part of Captain Harold Marston in manly style, and is warmly applauded for his efforts; Dr. Colbrooke is in the hands of Mr. Oswald Douglas, and the villainy of this character is cleverly depicted by him; whilst Kimberley Coutts and Rev. Ed. Grey have able exponents in Mr. Robert Sawin and Mr. Clem. Horlock. Ernie Wodstone is well played by Mr. Alexander Wills; as Doreen Rivers, Miss Marie Daventry displays to great advantage her acknowledged talents; and a painstaking actress is seen in Miss Mary Ainslie as Fay Colbrooke. The lighter side of the play is provided by Mr. Edgar Morgan as Bob Tanner and Miss Elsie Walton as Bess Grayson.

BLACKBURN. — Theatre Royal.— Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Manager, Mr. Reginald C. Yorke.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson is paying a visit here in his popular drama, *The Death or Glory Boys*. Mr. Mitchelson himself appears in the part of Captain Glyn Ferrars, and ably portrays the villainies of that character; Mr. Geo. Daiper plays Jack Malden with dignity; and Mr. Jerrold Ord as Colonel Fergeson and Mr. Lancelot Usher as Lieut. Duff make themselves popular. Miss Violet Carlyle is a charming Nina Fergeson; and Miss Amy Ellam acts well as Bessie Malden. The humorous element is in the capable hands of Mr. J. Russell Boyne as Nat Weeks and Miss Maud Stuart as Jane.

New Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company, in *An Abandoned Wife*, is drawing excellent houses.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Bradbury.—The following artists contribute to a good entertainment:—Mme. Lydia Yeomans-Titus; George Brookes, comedian; Speedwell, lightning artist; the Waltons, acrobats; Lizzie Daniels, comedienne; Gladys Witton, vocalist; J. W. Rickaby, comedian; and Dene and Dawson, in their comedy sketch, *Stage Aspirants*.

BLACKPOOL.—Grand Theatre.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Local theatre-goers are rejoicing this week by reason of the fact that Mr. George Edwardes' company is in their midst, playing *Les Merveilleuses*; or, *The Lady Dandies* as this very pleasing comedy-opera is now named. The personnel of the company includes many old favourites, chief of whom is Mr. Eric Thorne, in the part of St. Amour, Prefect of Police, which might have been specially written for him. His humorous vocal contributions are a special feature. Mr. Lennox Pawle as Tournesol and Mr. Jack Cannot as Malicorne are also great fun-providers, and their songs and duets bring down the house nightly. Mr. W. Tailleur Andrews sings and acts well as Dorlis; and Mr. Robert J. Hale cuts a fine figure as Lagorille. Miss Anna Hickisch gives a charming representation of La Merveilleuse, and her singing evokes the greatest enthusiasm; Miss Deborah Volar's Illyrine is also a very pleasing performance; Miss Thelma Ray wins favour as Parvenche; and Miss Dora Langham proves a fascinating Egle. Mention should also be made of Messrs. Harold Thorley and George Curzon, who impersonate the Dandies, and Miss Vivien Tailleur, who contributes some very graceful dances.

Her Majesty's Opera House. — General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone. — Messrs. Dottridge and Langden's company is playing *The Midnight Mail* here this week under the direction of Mr. James Willard. A clever study of Harry Steyne, the heroic engine-driver, is contributed by Mr. George Harvard; and Mr. Harry Emmerson carefully plays Donald Craig. Mr. Austin Mortimer as Leonard Royle and Mr. H. B. Lewis as Hassan Padisha are also most satisfactory. Mr. Fred G. Evison scores a success as Billy Brewer, the drunken stoker; Miss Ada Oakley very ably impersonates Mary Steyne; and Miss Mildred Carr is all that could be desired as Nancy Brewer.

BLYTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—The return visit of the musical comedy, *Floradora*, has proved one of the most successful engagements of the current season, and Mr. J. Bannister Howard's No. 1 company has met with a most enthusiastic reception. Mr. Alf. E. Passmore's interpretation of Anthony Tweedlepunch is undoubtedly the hit of the evening; the Cyrus Gilfain of Mr. Stanley White is quite satisfactory; and Mr. H. V. Crofton leaves nothing to be desired as Frank Abercoed. Mr. Harold Perry as Captain Donegal has met with much approval; the acting and singing of Miss Daisy Lake as Dolores are much admired; Miss Lily Gullick wins unstinted applause by a capital rendering of Angelo Gilfain.

BOLTON.—Theatre Royal, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—Mr. Fred Melville's company is the attraction this week in *The Beast and the Beauty*. The company is a talented one, and the drama is well staged. Miss Lydia Audre gives a capital rendering of the exacting part of Violet; and Mr. Herbert Ford achieves great success as Jack Barrymore, the Beast. As the Earl of Loman, Mr. William E. Passmore plays with artistic restraint; Mr. Bernard Mervin is good as Henry Denver; and Mr. Will Corrie does well as the light-weight champion. Miss Daisy Gwynne as Delilah Vane figures with great effect; and Miss Mamie Rendle causes much amusement as the maid-of-all-work.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—A capital programme is submitted by the Four Rio Brothers, smart American novelty artists; the Five Casino Girls, brass instrumentalists; Welda and Wynne, who appear in their comedy specialty act, introducing some clever juggling; Ellis Barrieton, double-voiced vocalist; Charlie Kitts and Rhoda Windrum and company, in their merry military contretemps, *The Cuckoo*; the Bros. Durant, in a clever acrobatic performance; Homer and Maitland, in their absurdity, *The Mesmerist and the Masher*; J. P. Ling, in a mimetic monologue; Madge Elliott, comedienne and dancer; J. A. Skerrett's vocal and electric speciality, *Illumino*; Alf. Gibson, Lancashire comedian; and Vernon's Bioscope.

BOSCOMBE. — Hippodrome.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—A fine array of talent is put before the patrons of this hall. Irma Lorraine is giving some beautiful tableaux; Miss Harriett Vernon, who gets an enthusiastic welcome, appears to advantage in a pretty song-scena, entitled *Sunshine and Shadow*; Ross, Rose, and Rosert are laughable in a comedy sketch, *Always Moving*; the Two Kays are gifted with good voices; a humorous turn is provided by Bromley and Fontein, in a comic operetta; Bert Kemble and Leslie Race are two good comedians; and the Hippodrome pictures are as interesting as ever.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—A warm reception awaited Mr. and Mrs. Kendal on Monday, when *The Elder Miss Blossom* was played. The large audience showed their appreciation in no uncertain manner. As Dorothy Blossom Mrs. Kendal is charming, and is strongly supported by Mr. Kendal in the part of Andrew Quick; Mr. Bassett Roe as Major Twentyman does all that is possible with the character; Mr. Ernest Hendrie as Christopher Blossom is distinctly good; and Mr. Metcalf Wood's sketch of Withers is clever, while Mr. C. W. Standing as the Vicar and Mr. R. Burnet as the Editor are well placed; Miss Jessica Thorne is delightful as Sophia, and good work is done by Mrs. A. B. Tapping and Miss Kate Bishop. *The Ironmaster* and *The Housekeeper* are also in the week's programme.

BRADFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—The curtain fell for the last time on the successful pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* on Saturday evening, and amidst great enthusiasm Mr. Hart and his lieutenant, Mr. Doyle, bowed their acknowledgments to the crowded audience. The utmost good humour prevailed, and the principal ladies of the company were the recipients of large and beautiful floral tributes. On Monday evening *Mother Goose* (last year's pantomime here), which has been running successfully at Sheffield and Manchester, was the attraction, and, judging from its reception, its reproddction for the week promises to turn out a big success. The clever comedian Mr. J. E. Nightingale, in his old character of Mother Goose, had a warm welcome, and so had Miss Daisy Jerome, in her bright impersonation of the Dutch Girl. Mr. Harry Roxbury scored well as Jack; the Valdo Brothers are as funny as ever as the Donkeys. The new Principal Boy is Miss Maisie Gay, a bright and attractive exponent of the part, and Miss Silvia May is a very charming Principal Girl. As the Scottish Laird Mr. G. P. Polson is very humorous, and as the younger brother Alexander Mr. Jack Pleasants is immensely funny. The other members of the company who stand out prominently in the delightful revival are Mr. Ernest Spalding as the Mayor, Miss Winnifred Norman, and Miss Gertrude Parker. Mr. R. Sedgwick ably conducts the orchestra, and there is not a dull moment throughout the performance.

Prince's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—*Cinderella* continues its merry run here, and the second edition of the pantomime is proving a huge success. Monday night last was a record, the occasion being the second annual benefit of the much-esteemed and courteous acting-manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—A number of special turns were contributed by Miss Beatrice Bonnie, comedienne, Mr. Syd May, "the imitator of imitators," Miss Marion Fletcher, vocalist, Mr. J. E. Coyle, comedian, Messrs. Harris and Worth, comedians, Miss May Palmer, Mr. J. W. Gallacher, and Miss Cissie Williams, ballad artist. During the performance Mr. Laidler presented Mr. Hepworth with a substantial purse of gold, which had been subscribed as a mark of respect by the staff of the theatre and a few personal friends; and Miss Florrie Forde, the Principal Boy of the pantomime, on behalf of the company, also presented to Mr. Hepworth a gold match-box and cigar-cutter.

The Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Mr. Fred Karno's company of entertaining comedians are on a return visit here with their enjoyable sketch *Early Birds*, which is as diverting as ever; and De Dio, in her entrancing, weird, and brilliantly-lighted dance, is again commanding enthusiastic applause. Beatrice Bonnie, comedienne, contributes acceptably to the fine programme; Stylo manipulates his hoops cleverly; some remarkably fine head and hand balancing is accomplished by the Schenk Brothers; Syd May's imitations of imitators are immensely diverting, and his burlesque wrestling is funny. "A Japanese Tea Garden" is a dainty turn, full of merit, by Marie Santoi and her Merry Little Japs; Clito Clifford, coloured comedian, contributes an excellent sand dance; J. H. Scotland's bass vocalism earns unstinted applause; and there are some excellent pictures shown by the American Bioscope.

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BRIDLINGTON.—The Palace and Winter Gardens.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Delmar.—Mr. Fred Austin, a capital minstrel comedian and dancer, tops the programme this week; Al Tasker gives a very eccentric juggling act, being well supported by his cleverly-trained dog; the Woelfhafs are a couple of smart vaudeville artists; Frank Newbury is a clever siffleur and mimic; and Hughes and Hughes appear in a laughable sketch, *Domestic Quibbles*. The Sisters Darnton, operatic duettists, and the Misses Maccallaugh, speciality vocalists and dancers, give capital turns.

BRIGHTON.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl. — Mr. George Dance's company opened here on Monday with *The Spring Chicken*. Mr. Fred Payne proved highly amusing as Mr. Girdle; Mr. J. S. Durant was very alert and entertaining as Gustave Babori; Miss Nellie Kavanagh was admirably suited as Mrs. Girdle; Miss Florence Wix made a charming Dulcie Babori; Miss Clarice Cartney's Baroness Papouche was a graceful impersonation; and unstinted praise must be accorded to Miss Chrissie Ralland for her vivacious and winsome enactment of Rosalie; Mr. Harry Averell (Boniface) and Mr. Edwin Dodds (Felix) delighted the audience with their nimble dancing. The remaining characters wer satisfactorily sustained, and the chorus and orchestra displayed effective work under the direction of Mr. Knight Pearce. The musical play was superbly dressed and staged.

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BROUGHTON.—Victoria Theatre, Ltd.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—*Lucky Durham* was presented on Monday by H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company. Mr. Edmund Kennedy made a great impression as John Durham, ever determined to avenge his and his mother's misfortune; Lord Mountfallon was a fine study by Mr. Robert Forsyth; Mr. Arthur Leigh made an excellent Hon. Reginald Steighton; a clever piece of work was the Ben Verstein by Mr. W. F. Clithedenne, Mr. Syd May, "the imitator of imitators," Miss Marion Fletcher, vocalist, Mr. J. E. Coyle, comedian, Messrs. Harris and Worth, comedians, Miss May Palmer, Mr. J. W. Gallacher, and Miss Cissie Williams, ballad artist. During the performance Mr. Laidler presented Mr. Hepworth with a substantial purse of gold, which had been subscribed as a mark of respect by the staff of the theatre and a few personal friends; and Miss Florrie Forde, the Principal Boy of the pantomime, on behalf of the company, also presented to Mr. Hepworth a gold match-box and cigar-cutter.

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Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe. —*Cinderella* is drawing to a close now, but it has proved to be a very popular and highly-appreciated pantomime. The staging in all respects is exceptionally liberal and effective, the company, including Miss Mimi Fisher, Miss Dolly Denton, Miss Cissy Hilton, Miss Cherrie Wardroper, Miss Blanche Bayley, Miss May Lawrence, Miss Alys Eden, Mr. Walter Kooney, Mr. Harry Karr, Mr. Allan Wye, and Mr. A. G. Spry, is an exceptionally hard-working and competent one. New songs and dances have been introduced from time to time, as also patter and comic business for the comedians, thus keeping the pantomime always fresh and up-to-date.

Palace Theatre.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—The Poluski Brothers head the programme with their new entertainment "Laughs," which is a comical act, but at the same time gives scope for some expert gymnastic work. Edith Muir, Hubert Bartlett, and company amuse immensely with their smartly-played comedy sketch *The Collar Stud*; Mason and Bart do a good act as comedy gymnasts; Mill May and Theresa are successful in an up-to-date protean act; the Great Stowes score in their novelty equilibristic feats; Ryan and Hall are decidedly smart as eccentric acrobatic comedians and wrestlers; George Collins, comedian, is decidedly popular; and the San Carlos Operatic Vocalists have good voices and sing harmoniously. The performance concludes with a fine display of animated pictures projected by Vernoy's Imperial Bioscope. The 14th anniversary of the opening of this hall was celebrated on Wednesday evening, when the house was packed at the two performances, and there were many attractions in addition to the company engaged for the week.

BROUGHTON.—Victoria Theatre, Ltd.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—*Lucky Durham* was presented on Monday by H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company. Mr. Edmund Kennedy made a great impression as John Durham, ever determined to avenge his and his mother's misfortune; Lord Mountfallon was a fine study by Mr. Robert Forsyth; Mr. Arthur Leigh made an excellent Hon. Reginald Steighton; a clever piece of work was the Ben Verstein by Mr. W. F. Clithedenne, Mr. Syd May, "the imitator of imitators," Miss Marion Fletcher, vocalist, Mr. J. E. Coyle, comedian, Messrs. Harris and Worth, comedians, Miss May Palmer, Mr. J. W. Gallacher, and Miss Cissie Williams, ballad artist. During the performance Mr. Laidler presented Mr. Hepworth with a substantial purse of gold, which had been subscribed as a mark of respect by the staff of the theatre and a few personal friends; and Miss Florr

Edmond's company, in *The Golden Ladder*, is here for six nights, and on Monday night met with great success, the all-round excellence of the mounting being greatly admired. Mr. William Clayton plays Frank Thornhill with much power, his enunciation being particularly fine; and he receives valuable assistance from Miss E. Marriott-Watson as Lillian Grant. Mr. J. Milne-Taylor is convincing as the scheming Michael Severn; and as an assistant in his villainies, Mr. Douglas Howard does well. Mr. Fred Archer makes a good Jim Dixon; and the lighter side of the piece is humorously depicted by Mr. Fred May and Miss Nellie Graham, as Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Peckaby, and Miss Nina Vesta as the embryo French scholar, Victoria Alexandra. Miss Beattie Wilson is very amusing as the Tearer; and the rest of the performers work harmoniously together.

HIPPODROME.—Joint-Proprietors, Mr. F. Mouillot and Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Henry Herne, Ida Millais, and company, in the sensational playlet, *Blackmail*, top this week's bill, and, mounted as it is by elaborate effects, including a realistic weir, goes excellently; the Alaskarno Trio afford much diversion in their comedy acrobatic pot-pourri, and the junior is a real humorist; Leah Arden, operatic vocalist, possesses a rich, yet powerful voice, and is applauded heartily by all sections of the audience; George Prince, the crazy comedian, is a great favourite, and is called again and again; and the big-boot dancing of Chas. Williams, coupled with his witty anecdotes, causes much enjoyment. Violet Harvey is a very charming comedienne, and sings a couple of catchy songs in smart style.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—Mr. Harold V. Neilson's company opened a week's engagement here in the play entitled *The Perfect Lover*. Miss Amy Sangster as Lilian Tremblett acted in a charming style; Mr. Harold V. Neilson as Joseph Tremblett won repeated applause; Mr. Lemmon Warde as William Tremblett gained hearty appreciation for his fine elocution and forcible style; as Lord Cardew Mr. Frank Beresford was excellent. *A Bunch of Violets* and *The Money Spinner*, preceded by *The Light That Failed*, are also in the company's répertoire.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—A first-class entertainment is provided here. The Two Westwoods give a clever cycling turn; Miss Bertha Stuart delights with her singing; France and Francis, comedians, are good; Tom Garland is an exceptionally clever ventriloquist; Rhoda Burnhill dances well; J. H. Bowman is a smart comedian and dancer; the Great Vincent, acrobat, introduces daring table feats and tumbling; and Clarence C. Corris' company appears in a musical farcical comedietta, entitled *Office Hours*; Mr. Frank Wood and Miss Florence Leigarde contribute pretty duets.

COVENTRY. — THE EMPIRE. — Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. A. Rand.—An excellent programme is provided at this popular house, one of the chief turns being that of Dutch Daly, whose concertina playing calls forth deserved applause; Selma Braatz is a clever lady juggler and balancer; the New York Nippers give a highly interesting entertainment, their clog-dancing being very clever; an amusing act is given by Johnson and Bert, in *A Queer Customer*; Nellie Martell is successful as a comedienne; Harry Leybourne as an impersonator is smart; the bioscope pictures, as usual, conclude the entertainment.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Chas. March's company with *The Gamester of Metz* is playing to full houses. Mr. Chas. March takes the leading part of Paul Baldot with various aliases, and it serves well to show his cleverness as a quick-change artist. Mr. Paul Teulon is a good General de Monparasse and Mr. Wilfred Protnero a capital Captain Badaire. Mr. George Paget as Lieutenant Herve deserves special mention; as also does Mr. W. G. Dudney for his Louis Badaire. Mr. J. W. Miller shows great ability as Ferd. du Basson and Mr. F. Thorpe Tracey is quite at home as Goliath Gron. Mr. P. Wentworth makes a first-rate Curé d'Artois, and Mr. W. A. Brayne a good Verger Martin. Mr. P. Henson is well chosen for Peter Rhinhild, and Mr. W. Brinklar has a part to his liking as Courcelli. Miss Una Lane is a winsome Lucia Baldot, and Miss Cissy Haighton is well suited as Gwendolin Pearson. Miss Eva Lyndhurst makes a life-like Countess Baldot, and Miss Elsa Cole supplies the humour as Babette.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE. Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor, J.P.—The Frank Bateman company in *No Wedding Bells for Her* is this week's attraction here. Miss Lizzie Montague has rare ability, and makes a hit in the difficult rôle of Lola Delaspierre; Miss Dora Pass gives a natural and pleasing rendition of Doris Fane; and Miss Bessie Franks as Peggy makes the most of the part; Mr. Stuart Lomath submits an excellent interpretation of Frank Hatherleigh; and as Dick Delver, the detective, Mr. Percy Shaw is admirable; Mr. Charles Liddon is well placed as Abney Stone; Mr. George Herbert gives a careful reading of Horatio Fane; and Mr. Arthur Lissy is good as Harold Trevelyn; Mr. Frederick Garton creditably sustains the part of Montague Blair; Mr. Will Skelton is found amusing as Simkins; and Mr. Robert Lord is acceptable as Adonis Tightfist.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—Mr. George Dance's company is appearing here in the musical comedy, *The Catch of the Season*. Mr. Frank Lincoln just touches the right note as the Duke of St. Jermyns; Mr. E. H. Kelly makes a humorous Lord Dundreary; Mr. William Dickens is a suitable Higham Montague; Mr. Hugh Henson does well as Lord Yatton; Mr. Hampton Gordon is in the right place as Sir John Crystal; Mr. Franklin Miles cuts a curious figure as William Gibson; Mr. Herbert Franklyn is a gentlemanly Captain Rushpool; Mr. F. Sealey is up to the mark as Almeric Montpellier; Master Grata does wonders with the rôle of Bucket; and Mr. J. Stevenson ably conducts himself as a footman. Miss Moya Mannering wins all hearts by her enchanting acting and singing in the character of Angela; Miss Maud Davies is a handsome Duchess of St. Jermyns; Miss Emily Mellon makes a pleasing impression as Lady Crystal; Miss Isobel Dickens is a charming Hon. Sophia Bedford; Miss Florence Lee is graceful as the Hon. Honoria Bedford; Miss Belle Napier is delightfully fresh as Lady Caterham; and Misses Lillian Wesson and M. Carew are seen to advantage as Miss Caw and Princess Schowenhohe-Hohenschowen. The ladies of the chorus are stately, and have good voices.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James: Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—Miss Ethel Van Praagh and Mr. J. Edward Whitty's company, in *An Unwedded Wife* is proving attractive here this week. Mr. Harry Townley as Perkinson Pimple works well; Mr. E. St. Clair Forbes depicts the villain in a telling manner; Mr. Logan Darra is very good as John Hawthorne; Mr. J. A. Grove as David Drummond is capable; Mr. Will Casey as Napoleon Boomer is responsible for much laughter; Mr. Valentine Henry gives a manly representation of Frank Armstrong; and Mr. J. Edward Whitty distinguishes himself as P.C. O. Runvin. Miss Ethel Van Praagh in the title-rôle acts with her usual cleverness and dramatic skill; Miss Jessie Gillette as Carraway Crumpet is received with favour. Miss Violet Wilson gives a fine representation of Elsie Langham; and Reggie is well presented by Little Doris.

DARLINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—On Monday Mr. Baron H. Harris's company opened here in *The Prince of Pilsen*. Miss Sophie Harris is excellent in the rôle of Mrs. Maddison Crocker; Mr. Harry Kilburn as Hans Wagner is highly amusing; and Mr. Frank Crimp as the Prince also scores both as actor and vocalist. Miss Connie Leon as Sidonie has a real grip of the part; Mr. Ernest Giffard gives a lively impersonation of François. Other leading characters are capably played by Miss Alice Nixon as Nellie Wagner, Miss Mollie Wynne as Jimmie, Mr. Sidney Russell as Earl of Shrimpton, Miss Ada Watson as Edith Adams, Mr. Roy Sidney, Mr. Maddison Rich, and Mr. F. W. Hulme.

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader: Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—Lena Stanton and Harry Joseph's company, in *Sinbad the Sailor*, is here this week. As Sinbad Miss Stanton is exceedingly good; Miss Marie Santley makes a charming Princess; Miss Ethyl Errol is an admirable Captain Selim; and Miss Dolly Richardson a capital Fairy. As Irza Miss Norah Neville sings and dances well; Mr. Bruce Green is funny as Mrs. Sinbad; Little Keeno as Tinbad, Mr. Geo. Millard as the Caliph of Bagdad, and Mr. Chas. Leamington as the Grand Vizier are all clever comedians. The specialities are excellent, including the Alhambra Girls, vocalists and dancers; Wyman, champion roller skater; "J." in *The Don and the Dance*; the Deroneys, acrobats, wire walkers, &c; Durney, globe walker; Farrell and Gorman, musical eccentrics; and Little Keeno, the juvenile comedian. On Tuesday night Mr. Robinson, the popular manager, was given his second complimentary benefit, when a large and fashionable gathering was present, several local ladies and gentlemen being included in the programme.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley. Mr. Geo. Dance's company is here this week with *Veronique*. Miss Ethel Negretti distinguishes herself in the title-rôle with a charming presence, bright vivacity, and admirable voice, and, with Mr. Roland Bottomly, whose assumption of the love-smitten youth, Florestan, is excellent, makes the hit of the piece. Miss Edith Devonshire is successful as the Countess; Miss Dora Grenville as Agatha, and Miss Neste Paurel as Denise are in every way satisfactory; and Mr. Tom Seymour as Monsieur Coquenard, Mr. Percival Knight as the bailiff, and Mr. Scott Cullen as the groom contribute largely to the success of the production, Mr. Knight being especially clever. The rest of the characters are well represented. The staging is all that could be desired, and the orchestra renders the music most creditably.

PALACE.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—Occupying the premier position here this week is the Countess Romanow, who appears in a series of poses, entitled "Iris." That she is a great artistic success is testified by packed and appreciative audiences. The Davenports, humorously described as "no-time-to-talk magicians," present an exhibition of digital dexterity; the Marvellous Days, thought-readers, submit a clever and interesting turn; Eric, with his comedy ventriloquial sketch, causes hearty laughter; Manton, who formerly lived in Derby, is a most entertaining mimic; and F. S. Hulme, comedian, adds greatly to the merriment. Katie Marsk, a charming and versatile comedienne, quickly made herself a warm favourite; and the Palace Bioscope concludes with some highly diverting films.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime of *Red Riding Hood* is drawing good audiences here. Prince Allfair is represented by Miss Beatrice Varley and the heroine by Miss Ella Wilmer, who both had excellent receptions for their songs. The humorous parts are well sustained by Messrs. George Newnham, Lovell Rowland, Fred Latimer, and Fred Anderson. Mlle. Bartenelli, the American gymnast, and Palo, the boy juggler, gain great applause.

DEWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Asquith.—There seems no abatement in the popular interest in *The Earl and the Girl*, presented here by Mr. Wm. Greet's excellent company, under the business control of Mr. Francis Hawley. The artists, one and all, work with a right hearty goodwill, and a performance is given which yields the audience the fullest satisfaction; Mr. Alf. Donohoe is very successful as the bogus Earl of Stole, alias Jim Cheese; Mr. Thos. Kennard scores in his portrayal of Dick Wargrave, his excellent stage presence being aided by an agreeable voice admirably used. During part of the week a severe throat trouble has militated considerably against a proper appreciation of his vocal qualities. Miss Gertrude Simpson is a new-comer, not a whit the less welcome, in the rôle of Elphin Haye. She acts with appropriate sauciness and charm, and her vocal rendition of "Cosy Corner Girl" and other numbers is warmly esteemed by the audience. The pert assurance and jollity of the coster girl, Liza Shoddam, are characteristics happily realised by a clever and energetic actress, Miss Lina Hicks; the youthful freshness and naiveness of Miss Ida Stratham, whose personal charms are also no insignificant factor, make her portrayal of Daisy Fallowfield a genuine success; the irate and militant strong woman, Mrs. Shimmering Black, has in Miss Kathleen Gerrard an exponent who displays personality and skill in her work; Mr. Ernest Plumpton (a zealous stage-manager) plays the American solicitor with delightful dash; the orchestra is ably conducted by Mr. W. Stephenson.

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND EMPIRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—The reception accorded the pantomime, *Cinderella*, here was gratifying to all concerned. Malicio, the spirit of mischief, was a creditable effort on the part of Mr. John Syme, whose powerful baritone voice was well displayed; Miss Ethel Davies gave a piquant effort, and added interest to Sunbeam, fairy godmother, her vocalisation being also excellent; Miss Kitty Phelps as Prince Perfect, essayed the part with agreeable *aplomb*; the title-rôle brought out Miss Nancy Newell, who evoked the warmest admiration; Miss Bella Terry quite fulfilled the demand of Eglantine; Mr. Robert Williams as the Baron was full of comic resource; and Mr. Allen Amber and Miss Cecilia Kent, as the sisters, scored a huge success, both being extremely neat in footwork. Pimples was very well cared for in the hands of Mr. Harry Pleon, who was exceptionally smart in repartee, and gave a number of specialities, as did also Messrs. Yorick and Yorick, the latter contributing acrobatic performances and tale-telling.

DUBLIN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The third hippodrome season was opened here on Monday night. Raku gives a clever exhibition of the Japanese art of self-defence, and is ably assisted by Miss Moto; Mr. Herbert Clifton, in his imitations of London actresses, scores a distinct success; and Annie Nelson is an accomplished operatic vocalist. A turn which causes no end of laughter is provided by Galletti's monkey comedians; and Harry Russon is a vocal comedian of considerable merit. Sanos and Montes create considerable amusement in their eccentric acrobatic act; and Les Molassos, Terpsichorean marvels, acquit themselves with every credit. Others are Bert Coote's Irish-Indian Maids, in dainty song and dance; Mignonette Kokin, eccentric dancer; Germaine, in a capital conjuring act; Bert Woodward, cycling coon; and the Royal pictures.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Chas. Hyland.—Mr. Weedon Grossmith's company occupy the boards here this week with *The Night of the Party*. Mr. Sebastian Smith displays considerable ability and creates plenty of laughter in the rôle of Mr. Crosbie; and a convincing rendering of the wily Gipsy Vandelier is given by Miss Florence French. The part of Mr. Flamber has an able exponent in Mr. Douglas Munro; and Miss Beatrice Mervyn is creditable in the rôle of Lady Hampshire. Mr. Ernest Rivarz makes an exceedingly good Alderman Hargen; and the part of Pauline is successfully played by Miss Lillian Williams. The character of Sir Charles Hampshire is well sustained by Mr. Eric Farth; and Miss Lena Grantham is excellent as Mrs. Young. Mr. Frank H. Denton as Frayne, Miss Marion Lewis as Nannie Portland, Mr. Charles F. Bruce as Mr. Roundle, Mr. Stanley Arthur as Mr. Bogle, and Mr. Samuel Plinge as Captain Bleary distinguish themselves in their respective parts; and Miss Elizabeth Maud is capital as Baby Hastings.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The principal attraction is La Milo, in a series of classical poses, which are most artistic and interesting; prominent also are the Coloured Meisters, whose vocal items are highly appreciated. Princess Pauline is a vivacious comedienne, equipped with good songs; Frazer and Mac show themselves to be clever comedians; and some excellent juggling is performed by Walter Ballonini. Harry Lawson is quite successful in his character songs; and Hettie Chatwell, burlesque actress, meets with a cordial reception. Harold Hughman displays undoubted talent as a mimic; and Harry Trevanion's company gives an exciting episode in *A Bolt from the Blue*. The Empire pictures are up to date.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Clito's graceful reproduction of female statues are well received; the ventriloquial act of Fred W. Millis proves most enjoyable; the illustrated songs of Ivy Kildare receive due recognition; Marlow and Manton, in a novel sketch, *Other People's Babies*, evoke hearty laughter; and there are also Datas, the man of memory; Frobel and Ruge, in a comic bar act; Miss Marie Leonard, comedienne; Tom Moran, comedian; Ruby Ashton, comedienne and dancer; and the Bioscope.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—A first-rate entertainment is furnished by Walter Boyd, versatile comedian; Little Eva, coon vocalist; the Moodys, comedians and patterers; Alex Kennedy, comedian and dancer; Little Leno, boy comedian; Nellie Lloyd, comedienne; and the cinématograph.

DUNDEE.—PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—The principal turn is that of the Dayton Family, who are old-established favourites here. Their pedestal Risley performance is exceptionally smart. Another fine show is given by the Five Abadaroffs, in their quaint comedy act, entitled *Prehistoric Times*; the Prinellas are successful in their attractive scena; *Brought to Her Senses*, a dramatic episode, is done full justice to by the Forestiers Comedy Trio; a lively and enjoyable turn is provided by Stidder and Dunbar, in *The Sport and the French Girl*; Frank Vallance, conjurer, fairly mystifies with his sleight-of-hand performance; and Maud Esmond is a big success as a burlesque artist. A clever exhibition of ventriloquism is given by Russell Carr; and the Bioscope is again much in evidence with a fine set of new films.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—Mr. Williams's brilliantly-successful pantomime, *Mother Goose*, is paying a welcome return visit this week, and many are renewing their acquaintance with this delightful production. Sam Thompson, the principal comedian, and Gertie Douglas and Wynnie Darell, the principal boy and girl respectively, repeat their former successes; while the fine singing of Michael Kemble as the Demon remains a feature of the pantomime. Several new variety turns have been introduced, including the Sisters Desmond, duettists and dancers.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—The Imperial Bioscope Company is exhibiting a large number of films here. A particularly amusing picture is that of "The Suffragettes," the antics of these "heroic" ladies causing roars of laughter. "Hiawatha," a very picturesque film, shown in twenty scenes, depicts the life of the North American Indians. Joe Thomson, a clever juggler, and Annie Ormonde, a *chic* comedienne and dancer, lend enjoyable variety to the entertainment.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mr. F. R. Benson's North Shakespearean company opened a week's engagement here on Monday with *The Merchant of Venice*. Mr. Harry Herbert gave an exceptionally fine rendering of Shylock, and fully merited the unstinting applause he received; Mr. Gerald Ames left nothing to be desired in the part of Antonio; the Bassanio of Mr. Charles Francis was artistically represented; Mr. Reginald Owen gave a capable rendering of Lorenzo; Mr. Ross Shore deserves a word of praise for his very capable representation of Launcelot Gobbo; a finer rendering of Portia than that given by Miss Dorothy Green could not be desired; Miss Mary Webb did full justice to the part of Nerissa; Miss Louise Graems was a success as Jessica; all the other parts are in able hands. *Twelfth Night*, *Hamlet*, *School for Scandal*, *Macbeth*, and *Richard III.* are included in the week's répertoire.

EASTBOURNE.—DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Devonshire Park and Baths Co.; Managers, Messrs. Murray, King, and Clark.—Much amusement is being caused here this week by Mr. J. B. Mulholland's company, which is appearing in *The Electric Man*. A very large share of the work falls to Mr. Bernard Copping, who, as the electric man, and his originator, Mr. Everest, is both clever and amusing. Mr. Sydney Lynn is happily placed as Jack Strange; Mr. Legai Robinson is distinctly successful and highly amusing as the detective, Mr. Jobbins; and Mr. Chris Grose is a satisfactory General Pomeroy. Miss Dorothy Hullah is a pleasing and sedate Mrs. Everest; Miss Gertrude Tate and Miss Isa Bellington share the honours as Stella and Mary; and Miss Amy Fanchette gets many laughs as the landlay, Mrs. Anderson. *Obliging a Friend* precedes the farce.

PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Peter Davey's company is appearing here during the week in *A Bunch of Violets*. A fine performance, marked by refinement and excellent judgment, is contributed by Mr. Lawrence Grant, who is in a large degree responsible for the general success; strong and individual work is done by Mr. George Blunt as Harker; Mr. W. E. Richardson is a perfectly satisfactory Mark Murgatroyd; Mr. E. Ruston gives a realistic sketch of Jacob Schwartz; and Mr. Walter MacLean and Mr. J. E. Stevenson do capital work as Lord Mount Sorrell and Harold Inglis. Mrs. Peter Davey, beautifully gowned, deserves praise as Lady Marchant; Miss Eleanor Delaporte, of very handsome presence, is a fascinating Mrs. Murgatroyd; and Miss Winifred Ingram is a pretty and girlish Violet.

ECCLES.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Hamilton Baines; Manager, Mr. Albert Orton. — A strong assembly greeted Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company in *The Walls of Jericho*, which is being presented by Messrs. Silvanus Dauncey and M. V. Leveaux. Mr. A. E. Anson in the rôle of Jack Frobisher is received with the greatest enthusiasm; the Hankey Bannister of Mr. George A. Brandram is deserving of great credit; as the Marquis of Steventon, Mr. Cyril Baleine is clever; Miss Gladys Mason supplies a tactful impersonation of Lady Alethea Frobisher; Miss Nona Wynne is successful as Lady Lucy Derenham; Miss Marguerite Cellier is seen to advantage as Lady Westerby; and other artists deserving of mention are Mr. A. W. Tyrer, Miss Edith Cuthbert, and Miss Leonora Thomas.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull. — The Compton Comedy company's week has long been one of the choice dramatic treats of the Edinburgh spring season, but the engagement this year has unfortunately been marked by Mr. Compton's inability, through hoarseness, to appear in several of his favourite characters. *The School for Scandal* and *The Rivals* were presented respectively on Monday and Tuesday evenings, Mr. Montague Compton taking his father's place in the rôles of Charles Surface and Bob Acres to the satisfaction of indulgent audiences; as Lady Teazle and Lydia Languish Miss Mackenzie increased the favourable opinions already accorded to her as an accomplished actress; Miss Phyllis Relph did well both as Lady Sneerwell and Julia; Miss Marie Hassell was a good Mrs. Candour, and perhaps a better Mrs. Malaprop; Mr. Henry Crocker rendered yeoman service in his old parts of Sir Peter Teazle and Sir Anthony Absolute; Mr. Philip Gordon made an excellent Sir Oliver Surface, and gave a clever character sketch of David in *The Rivals*; while Mr. Dennis Cleugh as Joseph Surface and Captain Absolute, Mr. G. Wallace Johnston as Crabtree and Sir Lucius O'Trigger, and other members of the cast lent efficient aid. The répertoire for the week included *Davy Garrick*, *Edmund Kean*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, and Mr. Montague Compton's new comedy, *The Gentleman in Grey*.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead. —The closing nights of the *Babes in the Wood* pantomime have been marked by the customary farewell demonstrations of large and enthusiastic audiences, and all concerned may be congratulated on the success of their efforts in maintaining the popularity of the production undiminished through what has been a brilliant season. Miss Gwladys Elvey and Miss Daisy Dormer as Robin Hood and Maid Marion, with Miss Galdys Cooper, Miss Mildred Claire, and Miss Edna Loftus, in less exacting rôles, have taken their full share of honours; the dancing of Miss Lottie Stone's troupe has been an attractive feature; the juvenile performers, Baby Betty Green, Wee Wallace, and Nipper Lupino Lane, have shown great aptitude for their respective parts; while the comedians, Mr. Harry Lupino, Mr. Harry Conlin, the Brothers Egbert, and the Baron Mark Sheridan, have worked with a will in their happiest vein. The last-named took his well-earned benefit on Friday evening before a crowded house.

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard. —Pantomime has given place to musical comedy, and *The Blue Moon*, another production of Mr. Robert Courtneidge, holds the stage of the King's Theatre this week. Miss Florence Imeson as Millicent Leroy is the life and soul of the piece, and acts and sings with immense vivacity and humour; Mr. Reginald Smith is very droll as Private Charles Taylor; and Mr. Alfred Beers ably supports the fun as Moolraj, the idol maker and juggler; Mr. J. E. Fraser is a manly Captain Jack Ormsby, and his songs are admirably rendered; Miss Clarice Lockstone plays with considerable charm as Chandra Nil, and sings with taste and expression; amongst other members of a large cast, excellent work is done by Mr. Alfred Clark as Major Callabone, Mr. George Mudie, jun., as Bobby Scott, Mr. Thomas Halding as the Prince, Miss Maud Schwitz as Oma, and Miss Christine Ferris as Ramah.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Mr. George Gray and company head a strong bill this week with the powerful dramatic sketch, *Parson Gray, V.C.*, which is carried through with realistic effect in a vigorous and exciting fashion. Another good turn is provided by Carlos Cæsaro, juggler, gymnast, and professional strong man, whose feats are truly astounding; Marzella's Birds, too, give a marvellous performance, more remarkable in some respects than any previous exhibition of the kind; the excellent singing of Park's Seven Eton Boys is most enjoyable, affording a delightful entertainment, and securing repeated encores; an extraordinary series of balancing feats is given by the Maningoes; the Three Tauberts show great skill as xylophonists, their clever playing being loudly applauded; Burns and Burns present a breezy turn, entitled *Fun in a Museum*; while Miss Lily Tiso, comedienne and dancer, and Mr. Ed. E. Forde, the Australian sundowner, are experts in their special lines. The American Bioscope completes a good programme.

EXETER. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford. — Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's company is here this week with the well-known comedy *The Private Secretary*, and, as usual, it is drawing crowded houses. All the characters are well sustained. In the part of the Rev. Robert Spalding Mr. Donald Price-Evans is extremely funny; while Mr. W. Hargreaves as Mr. Cattermole is splendid. Mr. Randolfe Reade is decidedly good as Douglas Cattermole; and Mr. James P. E. Hussey does well as Harry Marsland. Mr. Vivian Gilbert is amusing as Mr. Gibson; and Mrs. Alfred Davis ably sustains the part of Miss Ashford. Miss Dorothy Shawe and Miss Beth Elliott are both good in their respective parts of Edith Marsland and Eva Webster. The farce *My American Admirer* makes a capital curtain-raiser, in which Mr. W. T. Elworthy scores a distinct success as Petroleum G. Hooker.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE. —Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company was here on Monday in *My Sweetheart*, with Miss Minnie Palmer as Tina; Miss Palmer made a decided hit; Tony found a capable exponent in Mr. Robert H. Howard; Miss Mildred Sylvestre as Mrs. Fleeter took the part of the adventuress with much ability, and Mr. Fred W. Leonard brought out well the characteristic touches of her abandoned husband, Joe Shotwell; Mr. Richard Elliott took the part of Dr. Oliver with dignity and graciousness. On Thursday evening the detective drama, *£1000 Reward*, was presented by Mr. Frank J. Pitt and Mr. Charles Halling's company.

FLEETWOOD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Snelson. — This week Messrs. Kloof and Fields present their grand pantomime, *Aladdin*, to crowded houses. The title-rôle is taken by Miss Cissy Ramsey, a clever actress and singer, and she is ably supported by Miss Florence Lewis as the Princess, who charms everyone with her dancing and singing. Little Billy Kloof, as the Widow Twankey, causes much laughter; so also does Mr. F. C. Fields as Abanazar; and Bert Lizorie is good as the Grand Vizier. There is some capital juggling by Hason.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Hardie and Von Leer's company, in *Two Little Vagabonds*, is the attraction here this week. Mr. Arthur E. Melborne submits a powerful embodiment of George Thornton; Mr. Dunstan Haye does full justice to the part of John Scarth; Mr. Sidney Vautier is well suited as Captain Darville; Mr. Lionel Ellis gives a clever portrayal of the rogue, Bill Mullins; and Mr. Frank Gordon and Mr. Dick Winslow render capable assistance as Dido Bunce and the Cough Drop. Miss Grace Heywood is a clever impersonator of the difficult part of Marion Thornton; Miss Rosslyn Vayne is an excellent Barbara Scarth; Biddy Mullins is faithfully depicted by Miss Evelyn Shaw; and the Two Little Vagabonds have capable representatives in Miss Edie Martin as Dick and Miss Josie Beltram as Wally. The Hambourg Trio gave a matinée performance on Tuesday to an appreciative audience.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stear.—Last week we had a visit from *The Manxman*. Mr. Alfred B. Cross gave his well-known and clever rendering of Pete, and he was well supported by Miss Minnie Watersford as Kate. Cesar Creegan had an excellent representative in Mr. Frank Etheridge. This week we have Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company in *The Face at the Window*. The sensational elements of this drama are well brought out by the company, foremost amongst whom are Mr. Scott Leighton as the Wolf, Mr. T. W. Dunscombe (Paul Gouffet), Mr. Gilbert Hall, Miss Marie Barrett, and Miss Marie Tennant.

GATESHEAD. — KING'S THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; General-Manager, Mr. Harold Arnold.—The "heavy-typers" here this week are the Two Bees (Harry and Flora Beake), in what is described as an "allegorical" scena named *The Man in the Moon*. Jimson's novelty sketch, entitled *The Burglar's Surprise*, in which three very cleverly trained dogs are introduced, is loudly applauded. Salida and Vone, two "panto" favourites, get an enthusiastic welcome; Webb and Edna Branstone, operatic duettists, submit a high-class turn; the Chronophone (Gaumont's patent) introduces delightful singing pictures; the Bonanzas are hand-balancing experts; the Zano Bros., comedy triple-bar performers, win deserved praise; a clever comedian, E. J. Wilkes, is assisted by a well-trained dog; and Kitty Beresford, comedienne, and pictures by Vernon's Imperial Bioscope complete a very entertaining programme.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Coun. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas France. — Messrs. Edmunds and Dipple's comic pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* is here on a week's stay. Prince Radiant receives excellent treatment at the hands of Miss Rose Hamilton, whose singing and dancing win for her high praise; Miss Lucy Lynch makes a very demure Princess; Miss Patti Bella is a vivacious Second Boy; and a charming Dolly Daydream is discovered in the person of Miss Ada Martine. Mr. Edmund Edmunds, who produces the pantomime, gets through a deal of hard work as Sammy Softun, being ably assisted by Messrs. Jas. Albert (Hardface), Bernard and Weston, Mark Tapley, and Willie Albert. The Babes are capitally impersonated by Misses Blanche Albert and Ada Merry. The Ten Dixie Girls are a troupe of excellent singers and dancers.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Coun. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson's company is presenting here *Held Apart*, by Frank Adair. Mr. Leonard Lawrence gives a polished rendering of John Douglass; Mr. A. W Norman makes the most of Captain Ford; and Mr. H. K. Ayliff submits a sound impersonation of James Douglass. The play is especially rich in comedy, the chief part in this line being Andrew McPherson, a typical Scot faithfully portrayed by Mr. Robert B. Drysdale; Mr. Hugh Trevor, another comedy part, is filled with credit by Mr. E. G Batley; Miss Ruby Loncraine as Sybil Grey is responsible for a delightful piece of work; Miss Ethyle Murray is an excellent Countess de Castro; Lady Grant is well played by Miss Winifred Love; and Miss Gertrude Homewood is successful as Lily Granville-Stark.

GLASGOW.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—*The Morals of Marcus* is the attraction here for the present week, and an effective performance of the play is given by the company provided by Mr. Bourchier. Mr. H. Nye Chart takes the part of Sir Marcus Ordeyne, and presents a very convincing picture of the self-centred philosopher's struggles against love and passion. The rôle of Carlotta is also very well filled, Miss Hilda Antony having the necessary talent and appearance for depicting the trials of the beautiful Eastern waif; Mr. David Domville's impersonation of the polished worldling, Pasquale, is an admirable bit of work; Mr. A. H. Leveaux, who is the director of the company, gives a very telling sketch of Hamdi Effendi; the parts of Stenson (Mr. Cecil Brooking) and Tremlett (Mr. W. Swinburne) are also well filled. Judith Mainwaring is portrayed with strong dramatic effect by Mrs. H. Nye Chart; Miss Mary Weigall gives character to the rôle of Mrs. Ordeyne; a handsome Dora Ordeyne is found in Miss Gladys Purnell; the French cook, Antoinette, is amusingly played by Miss Eleanor Gilbart; Miss Hilda Saxe makes a pleasing Maid; and three attractive society ladies are represented by Miss Conyers Radcliffe, Miss Mary O'Neill, and Miss Evelyn Summers.

KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane. —The Moody-Manners opera company are paying their first visit to this theatre for their annual two weeks' spring season. Wagner's *Tannhäuser* was the opening work, and was interesting because of the first performance of the Parisian version, which, to many musical experts, on Monday evening gave much gratification and delight, the entire performance being as fine a one as the company have ever given in Glasgow. Mr. Joseph O'Mara, as Tannhäuser, gave quite a brilliant rendering of the part, musically and dramatically; Mme. Fanny Moody as Elizabeth was equally successful, her pure and brilliant voice and charming acting proving irresistible to the audience, who applauded heartily; Mr. Lewys James as Wolfram and Mr. Charles Magrath as the Landgrave were conspicuously successful; while Miss Toni Seiter as Venus and Miss Burns as the Shepherd lent admirable aid in a fine performance. Messrs. Halpin, Tattersall, Brindle, and Johnston completed a fine cast, and the orchestra and full chorus, conducted by Herr Richard Eckhold, roused the enthusiasm of the audience in the overture and "Hail, bright abode" respectively. *The Merry Wives of Windsor* was finely staged and performed on Tuesday, with Mr. Charles Manners, Miss Kate Anderson, and Mlle. Zelie de Lussan in the chief parts. This opera, owing to the large booking, was again down for performance on Friday. Other well-known operas were given during the week, and the performance of *Aida* was postponed till Wednesday next.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie. —Mr. J. Maundy-Gregory this week introduces the admirable play, *Lights Out*. Mr. Lionel D'Arragon gives a striking portrayal of the old sergeant, Volkhardt; Mr. Richard Fielding acts well as Corporal Helbig; and Mr. Charles Esdale ably suggests the mental agon

T. Morton Powell's company is here this week playing *Honour Thy Father*, in which Mr. Walter M. Cameron ably depicts Gabriel Garth, the kindly old farmer; while the part of his misguided daughter, Lillian, is pathetically rendered by Miss Mabel Coleman; and that of Miss Garth is portrayed with much feeling by Miss Kate Newton. Mr. Bertram H. Ross gives a dashing impersonation of Captain Jack Halyard. Villainy is so vividly expressed by Mr. W. R. Winning as Duncan Bly that the wrath of the gallery is evoked; Miss Ada Salmon as a country girl gives a fine touch of humour to the character, ably assisted by Mr. W. H. Melrose as a country lad. Miss Muriel Dean is a charming exponent of Mercy Merry; and Miss Maud Grey is also good as Violet Wilfred. A strong impersonation of a mad genius is given by Mr. Claude Merton, who also doubles the part of Job Merry. The phonograph, with Edison-Bell records, fills up some intervals between the acts.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—The new American actor, Mr. Junius Booth, who was at the Metropole last week, is this week stirring the pulses of the Govan playgoers in his own version of *Monte Cristo*.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Mussett.—A first-rate programme here includes Bransby Williams, fresh from his successes at the Royal pantomime. His imitation of Sir Charles Wyndham is lifelike, and he embodies several Dickens characters in excellent style. Frank and Jen Latona are great favourites here, and their comedy and musical items are heartily enjoyed; Surrie Lyndon's *Monks at Play* sketch is well done, and the quartette who take part are first-rate vocalists. Joseph B. Montague and Miss Alys Hardy appear in a racing sketch, *The Welsher Welshed*, which should work up well; Frank and Marie Free give an amusing comedy turn; Redmond Brothers are smart acrobatic comedians; Carney and Armstrong cause hearty laughter with their rehearsal sketch; and Harry Clifford, Renard Trio, and Gaumont's Chronophone complete a varied list of attractions.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. N. Bostock.—Mr. John F. Preston and company give a condensed version of that well-known drama, *Rogues of the Turf*. Mr. Preston as Joe Flaxman, the trainer, gives a realistic portrayal; and Hilda Shirley presents a sympathetic rendering of Nellie Somerton, the trainer's ward. De Witt, Burns, and Torrance are humorous in their original sketch, *The Awakening of Toys*. George Young, the blind musician, gives a very pleasing performance on different instruments, and was well received by the audience. The Eight Mascottes win hearty appreciation for their singing and dancing; Sybil St. Elmo, soprano vocalist, renders her numbers with charm and finish; Harry Cove and company, in a military sketch, *The Young Recruit*; Le Cren Trio, eccentric burlesque artists; Silly Billy Elliot, comedian; and the Three Careys, Australian entertainers, are very successful in their respective performances.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—The bill here is topped by W. F. Frame, "the man you know," who gives several eccentric Scotch songs in his own peculiar style, and is accorded a hearty reception. Alice Pierce is a dainty American comedienne, who impersonates stars of the variety and the serious stage; Sammy Shields comes provided with several new items, and, in response to an imperative demand, gives his football speciality. The D'Ostas are a very clever trio at acrobatic tumbling and on the flying rings; Doody and Wright are popular favourites, and their eccentric comedy turn is very good; and Tom Stuart contributes several striking impersonations, including that of Gaspard in *Le Cloches de Corneville*. Three Brothers Huxter, smart acrobats; Lena Wylie, soprano vocalist; and Bert Marsden, comedian, complete an attractive bill.

COLISEUM. — Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—Kate Carney, the coster queen, tops the bill here, and her "'Liza Johnson" scena goes as well as ever; the Stein-Eretto troupe give a smart display of jumping; Mina Brae, from the Royal pantomime, again proves herself a nimble dancer; Simms and Simms, the musical comedians, always take well, their turn being very clever; R. T. Meikle's illustrated songs; Professor Vox, ventriloquist; the sketch, *Christmas Eve*, by Irve Hayman and Little Marie Montague; Fred Stuart, comedian; and the two Chinese Princesses, in their ladder-balancing act, are also attractive turns on a lengthy programme.

PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry M'Kelvie.—An unusually interesting programme this week includes some notable performers. Marie Kendal, comedienne, is the outstanding attraction, and had a rousing reception from a full house on the opening night, her several songs being rendered with artistic finish; Martin Conway, comedian, also made a good impression, his humorous songs being thoroughly enjoyed. Other interesting turns include the Two Rubies, vocalists and dancers; Katos's automatic theatre; Vasey and Ramsey, comedians and dancers; Steve M'Carthy, comedian; Leotard Brothers, comical clowns; Frank Boyce, vocal comedian; the Two Jays, comedians; and the Bioscope with a select series of pictures.

GAIETY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Howard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—The Stavordale Quintette make a fine appearance in their banjo and harp selections, which are heartily applauded. Lindsay and Hart are seen in a capital sketch, depicting Scottish character; and "The Early Birds" revive memories by the medium of Bendon's Bioscope. Bertha Norwood is a clever comedienne and dancer; and Nell Brough excels as a sifflеur. The Three Cheers give merry entertainment in a pleasing sketch; Fred Lyndo scores as an eccentric comedian; and Mitchel, described as a soprano vocalist, wins appreciation; the Izons, in *The Captain and the Mate*, give a breezy nautical turn, and share much applause with the others of the company. Good houses are the rule.

GLOUCESTER.— PALACE. — Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—Duncan's Royal Scotch Collies prove themselves marvels of canine sagacity, and are deservedly applauded; the two ladies who style themselves Tennis and Laune present a capital vocal scena, entitled *Chapters from Life*; and the Macgregors are expert xylophonists and instrumentalists. Miss Marie Blythe has a nice contralto voice, and scores with her songs; Andy Fagan is an Irish comedian of ability; and Miss Lily Lena is a lively singer and dancer. Messrs. Cline and Clarke are a very agile pair, who make a hit with their dancing; Mr. Charley Dixon, eccentric, meets with a favourable reception; as does also Miss Kate Lynd, comedienne. The Bioscope shows new films.

GRAVESEND.—NEW PUBLIC HALL AND THEATRE.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. R. Feaver Clarke.—Mr. J. A. Thomson's pretty pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, was here for the first three nights of the week. The dresses and scenery were in every way commendable, and the piece went with considerable "go." Miss Edith Wallis in the title-rôle sang and acted in a most taking style; Miss Maggie Allwood as Jill was both winsome and clever; Britannia found a capital exponent in Miss Ella Rose, her singing being greatly applauded; as Johnny Horner Miss G. Mansell did well; and as Little Bo-Peep Miss N. Stewart deserves praise. The Sir Peter Piffin of Mr. W. Bosco was decidedly funny, as was the Mother Hubbard of Mr. H. Harcourt; Mr. T. Worth as Tommy Tucker and Mr. P. Galino as Billy Piper also created great merriment, the latter rendering a good bone solo, with an anvil chorus, with marked success.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. David Hart.—Katie Lawrence, the well-known comedienne, is the star turn here this week; Walker and May, real coons, render some good native songs; Les Frasettis, in their musical speciality performance, are highly pleasing; George Leonard, as a comedian, is very successful; Maude Macdonald, "the girl in tartan," sings tastefully; Dudley Hayes does well; and Clive and Clare, in their amusing sketch, *The Other Mrs. Brown*, prove a thoroughly good turn.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's company is here this week with the new romantic drama, *A Warning to Women*. Mr. Mill effectively takes the rôle of the wandering minstrel, Shaun; Mr. Henry Rutland is successful as Squire Kennion; Dr. Marcus Dread finds an earnest and virile exponent in Mr. Charles Vivian; Fergus McNaughton is well represented by Mr. Wilson Benge; Mr. George Harvey is good as the Rev. Emmanuel Wallace; and Mr. N. Carter Slaughter exceedingly droll as Lord Eversleigh. Miss Rosalind Tate gives a sympathetic rendition of the rôle of Moira Kennion; Sheila is capitally enacted by Miss Grace Barton; Miss Ellen Beverley contributes a clever character-study as Molly O'Moore; and Miss Edith Rutland ably depicts Miles O'Moore.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—*Human Hearts* is being presented here by Mr. Robert Macdonald's company, under the direction of Mr. W. J. Robertson. Mr. W. D. Fazan is seen to great advantage as Tom Logan; Mr. Ernest Gray is sufficiently villainous as Frederick Armsdale; Mr. E. H. Dobell is admirable as Jem Mason; Jimmy Logan has a good exponent in Mr. Fred Lester; and Deputy-Warder Weston is humorously presented by Mr. Hendry Walton. Jeannette Logan is strongly and skilfully portrayed by Miss Maud Lindon; Miss Dora Watson is a capable Ruth Larkins; and Little Grace Logan is cleverly undertaken by Miss Reana Roberts.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—Plantation songs, choruses, and dances, as performed by Billy McClain and company, American coons, are much appreciated; as comedy acrobats the Three De Veres arouse much laughter; some taking comedy comes from Chant and Chant; Ted Saunders gives clever imitations. Other notable items include Phinas and Aida, novelty equilibrists; Zaid, a wonderful contortionist; "Following in Father's Footsteps," by the cinematograph; and a laughable blindfold boxing competition, conclude a good show.

PAVILION THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. A. White.—The enterprise of the management here in securing Miss Victoria Monks has been amply rewarded, and the popular comedienne has been a decided success; Lily Sharplin shows herself to be a clever mimic of musical celebrities; the Paragon Trio are highly successful as speciality vocalists; Stanley and Vandyke amuse with their novel sketch, *On the Shelf*; *A Silly Burglar* is the title of another laughable sketch presented by the Waldrons; Millie Howell sings sweetly; and Williams and Warden, a clever pair of cross-talk comedians, also keep the audience well entertained.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry.—The revival of the late Wilson Barrett's play, *Claudian*, is very welcome. Mr. Wm. Maclaren admirably realises the personality of the Byzantian patrician, and his dignified bearing adds to the success of his work. Miss Lily C. Bandmann also wins complete approval for her representation of Almida. The cast is a large one, and among those assisting materially in the success of the revival are Mr. Douglas Earle as the sturdy blacksmith Agazil, Mr. F. Owen Chambers as the tyrannic Tetrarch, and Mr. Ulick Burke as the Hermit; whilst the entertaining comedy parts of Edessa and Belos are played by Miss Maud Garth and Mr. C. T. Challoner.

CURRY'S TIVOLI.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—Barton and Ashley are the cause of much hilarity. Their turn comprises an abundance of eccentric comedy, coupled with smart dancing. Florence Yuman scores with her burlesque coon impersonations, whilst the droll manner of Mike Gray, who is also a clever juggler, is another amusing feature. Further fun is provided by the Brown and Kelly combination in a sketch, *The Butler's Baby*, and by Victor Travers, comedian. The Grays give excellent vocal duets, which are well received; Charlie Jerome sings coon songs; Henri Cazman presents realistic impersonations; and Blanche Holt is a pleasing comedienne.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—The daring cycling speciality of the Three Demons is causing more than ordinary interest. They perform difficult feats whilst mounted upon bicycles ridden on a rapidly-revolving track suspended in mid-air. A novel sketch, *The Way to Win a Bet*, is presented by Marie Jones, who impersonates the whole of the characters herself. A dramatic incident illustrating a fight in a forge with heavy sledge-hammers, is contributed by E. Wordley Hulse and company. Walter King scores a success as a comedian; Hesketh Meade sings good songs illustrated by animated pictures; Maude Laverne, a burlesque actress, introduces excellent business; and the Esdale Brothers are responsible for a budget of amusing patter.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. Edmund Tearle's repertory company once more occupies the stage here with Shakespearian and other well-known tragedies. *Othello* was presented on Tuesday to an enthusiastic audience. Mr. Tearle gave a meritorious representation of the title-rôle, and was loudly applauded at the final fall of the curtain; as Iago, Mr. Bernardt Turner got the most out of the character, being especially praiseworthy in his scenes with the Moor; Cassio has an excellent interpreter in Mr. Clifford Marle; while Mr. J. Cooke Hinton made the most of his opportunities as the impetuous Brabantio; Miss Esther Tearle (who is rapidly coming to the front) was an admirable Desdemona, her enunciation being exceptionally good. *Virginius*, *Ingomar*, *Jeanie Deans*, *Hamlet*, and *The Three Musketeers* are in the week's bill.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—A good vaudeville bill is again presented here successfully. The Tally Ho Trio hold the premier position, and their sweet singing is received with acceptance; Selbon's miniature circus, however, is the feature of the performance, the feats performed bringing down the house; Chas. Torbay is very entertaining with his humorous contributions; Keith and Merson, comedians, Jane Temple, a Yankee comedienne, and Letine, a speciality artist, give a good acount of themselves, as do the Czar Troupe, acrobatic dancers.

HANLEY. — ROYAL, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Mr. George Alexander's company is paying a return visit in that successful play, *His House in Order*. Miss Auriol Lee contributes a most artistic and finished reading as Nina; as Hilary Jesson Mr. Stephen T. Ewart is admirable; Mr. J. Edward Pearce is well placed as Filmer Jesson; Miss Elaine Steddall submits a clever impersonation of Geraldine Ridgley; as Mlle. Thome Miss Jean Cadell gives a most intelligent reading; Miss Carmen Woods as Derek is all that could be desired; Mr. Luke Forster makes a capital Dr. Dilnott; as Sir Daniel Ridgeley Mr. Herbert Lomas plays naturally, and with success; Mr. Ernest R. Holloway makes a good Pryce Ridgeley; Mr. Charles Tyrel's portrayal of Major Maurewarde is first-class; Messrs. Langford Browne and J. Douglas Campbell do well in the respective parts of Harding and Forshaw; Miss Augusta Haviland contributes a clever reading of Lady Ridgeley.

GRAND.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—A capital all-round programme is submitted this week. The premier position is held by Wilbur Hill and Willette Whitaker, who contribute an excellent turn, consisting of vocal items and some fine instrumental work; Oswald Williams shows some exceptionally clever illusions, which are much appreciated; the Vernon Troupe are seen in a smart musical act; Rizeni and Robini in their comedy gymnastic act are both clever and funny; the Wheelers cause roars of laughter in their amusing cycle act; Ted Cowan sings a couple of capital songs; Queenie May does well; and Herbert Madden is successful. The pictures are, as usual, interesting.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Fielding Smith. — This week Mr. John Tiller's company is here in *Aladdin*. Miss Jessie Wilton is a dashing Aladdin, although handicapped by a bad cold; Mr. Fred Dark is good as the dame. The chief honours go to Mr. Harry Elliston as Abanazar; throughout he is most amusing, and has good support in his burlesque drama from Miss Maud St. John, who is a dainty Ting Ling. As Schnapps, Little Britton evokes great laughter; Miss Clara Beck as Princess Balroubadour, is well placed; Mr. Harry Morgan scores especially in his dances; the Schiavonys Troupe are clever acrobats, and well deserve the applause which fall to their share.

HARTLEPOOL. — EMPRESS. — Proprietors, Messrs. Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—The Silvertone Quartette give fine renderings of several concerted pieces; vocal imitations of musical instruments by Erneste are successful; Frank Coyle sings his latest songs in capital style; the comedy acrobatic act by Lavelle Brothers evokes much laughter; Bert Bowden is a quaint comedian; a success is achieved by Elsie Earle in her song scena, *Holly and Mistletoe*; Master May, a clever boy vocalist, makes a decided hit; the wire and cycling feats of Sam Johnson and Miss De Vere in their pot-pourri act are performed with astounding dexterity; and the pictures are a marked attraction.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—A crowded house was attracted to the first performance here on Monday of Mrs. Henry de la Pasture's comedy, *Peter's Mother*, presented by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. Miss Ruth Mackay as Lady Mary Crewys won well-deserved applause; Mr. Charles Harley was a convincing Sir Timothy; Mr. Percy Hutchison was admirable as the unconsciously selfish Peter; excellent comedy was supplied by Miss Mary Griffiths and Mrs. Mallalieu as Lady Belstone and Miss Crewys respectively; Miss Hilda Honiss played delightfully as Sarah Hewell; and John Crewys had a capable exponent in Mr. Eille Norwood. Effective assistance was rendered respectively by Mr. Drew Mackintosh as Dr. Blundell and Mr. William Mallalieu as Canon Birch; and Miss Ethel Royale as Mrs. Hewell. The comedy was preceded by *Chalk and Cheese*.

ST. LEONARDS PAVILION THEATRE.—Pier Master and Entertainment Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—Lovers of Shakespeare are enjoying a treat this week in the appearance of Mr. Nugent Monck and his talented dramatic company. The early part of the week was devoted to *The Merchant of Venice*, in which Miss Bruce Potter took the part of Portia in a charming manner; Miss Kathleen Stuart quite realised the character of Jessica; Mr. Gordon Bailey gave a capital portrait of Shylock; Mr. E. Ham did some finished work in the dual parts of Tubal and Old Gobbo, Lancelot Gobbo, being well taken by Mr. Nugent Monck; Mr. F. Morland successfully impersonated Antonio; Bassanio was well played by Mr. Leslie Hamer; and Mr. Edward Coutts was an intelligent Lorenzo. *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Romeo and Juliet* are also in the répertoire.

HEREFORD.—DRILL HALL.—Manager, Mr. A. Lovesey.—A crowded house greeted the first performance of Mr. Mouillot's company in *The Blue Moon*. Mlle. Marguerite Naudin, with her fine voice and graceful acting, is a delightful Chandra; a capital Private Taylor is seen in Mr. Charles Stephenson, who works exceedingly hard; Miss May Audrey is a fascinating Millie, her acting, singing, and dancing achieving a remarkable success; Mr. Victor Wallace's excellent tenor voice contributes greatly to his success as Major Callabon; the dignified Lady Brabasham is well embodied by Miss Mary Glanbrane; Miss Dorma Morgan is a charming Evelyn, and is a pleasing singer; Mr. F. W. Bowes gives a very amusing rendering of Moolraj; the chorus and orchestra are kept well in hand by Mr. Robinson.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton, Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—*The Silver King*, here for the week, met with a thoroughly well-deserved appreciation on Monday. The fine old drama was presented most capably by a company which includes Mr. Fred D. Daviss as Denver, Miss Daisy Scudamore as Nellie Mr. Edward J. George as Jaikes; Mr. L. St. John Lowther as the Spider; Mr. Geo. Belmore as Corkett; Mr. Arthur Wright as Coombe; Mr Warriss Lindon as Cripps, Mr. Byron Pedley as Baxter and Miss Viola Holland as Olive, the Spider's wife. The play is very well staged and the accessories are admirable.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—At the top of the bill are the Two Butterflies, a pair of daring youngsters on the trapeze. Also appearing are Carl Rosine, a clever conjurer; the Three Sisters Chester, in song and dance, accompanying themselves on mandoline and banjo; J. W. Mace, comedian; the Three Panamas, an original and clever little troupe of acrobats; the Tennessee Guards, in a series of smartly-executed drill evolutions; Heteb, illusionist; Lennie and Hast, in their original sketch, *The Sea Nymph*; and pictures on the Biograph.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Mr. Morton has struck oil with *Mr. Popple, of Ippleton*, and it is a long time since laughter so bright and unrestrained has been heard in the theatre. In the title-rôle Mr. Arthur Longley is decidedly droll; and in strange contrast to La Bolero, so daintily and vivaciously suggested by Miss Millie Hylton; ever a favourite here, she has even increased her popularity. Miss Cora Lingard is full of go as Violet Brinton. As the wives Miss Alice Reme and Miss Stella St. Audrie are highly amusing. The chorus is strong and well trained, the dresses exceedingly pretty, the scenic effects good, the music "fetchy," and the vocal items well chosen.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr Wynn Miller.—Once more pantomime reigns supreme, Mr. Jas. Kiddie's *Dick Whittington* holding the boards. The production is bright, the songs well chosen, and the dresses of distinctive charm. A pleasing Dick is Miss Adele Roze, and Miss Leah Laurie meets with an instantaneous success with her song, "Is it you, Mr. Brown?" Miss Florence Hilton is an acceptable Sir Algernon de Mash, as Idle Jack Mr. A. Kendal contrives to keep the house very well amused, and the whole production has met a very hearty reception.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—It is some time now since *The Still Alarm*, fresh from Yankeeland, made its first bow to a Hull audience, but despite that fact each visit sees its patrons increasing. The dumb actors, the horses and dog, come in for no little share of applause. Mr. M. H. Glenville is all that one asks from brave Jack Manley, the fireman. Miss Maud Warburton is a most charming heroine. For the benefit of the patrons of the early doors Mr. Morton has introduced a cinematograph show, which is to be henceforth a permanent feature.

HYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—This week the two performances a night system is being adopted with fair success. The bill is headed by the one-legged Donatos, whose unique and skilful performance is vociferously applauded; Meir and Mora give an athletic and vocal entertainment in pleasing style; the funny Millons are clever rink skaters; Miss Nellie Duval is a dashing vocalist; the comical Smaleys introduce plenty of fun into their feats on the horizontal bars; Little Zola is an exceedingly funny comedian, and scores heavily; Erne and Ernest are clever and funny acrobats; the Royal Juveniles give a smart performance, in which songs and dances are introduced; the Bros. Denton, duettists, are well received, and plenty of fun is created by the antics of the competitors in a comic obstacle race. The Bioscope pictures are as popular as ever.

OHMY'S CIRCUS.—James Jee is attracting large crowds here by his marvellous feats on the wire; Du Caleon is as popular as ever in his ladder sensation; Madame De Vena is an expert juggler; Mons. Wilfred Gregory is rightly described "the boneless wonder"; Alec Aubrey gives a skilful gymnastic display; and the acrobatic feats on horseback by the Three Ohmys, and the leaping act by Claude Ohmy never fail to rouse applause. August and September appear in some new sketches, and create roars of laughter, and Little Bishop is also very comical in the clowning line. Obstacle races and riding contests have provided plenty of fun, and Ohmy's living pictures continue to afford enjoyment.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—The pantomime, *Goody Two Shoes* is being played here by Mr. Charles Chard's company. The Goody Two Shoes of Miss Annie Casey is an excellent performance, and Miss Adeline Yohlie is pleasing as Roland. Miss Lily Bronson as Dolly Dimple is much applauded for her graceful and clever dancing; as the fairy, Miss Hawthorne Thwaites is successful, and Miss Julie Fuller appears to advantage as Mephisto. Mr. James Kurry as Sammy Sopps is the life and soul of the pantomime, his quaint manner being thoroughly enjoyed; whilst Mr. James Topping comes in for a fair share of honours as Simple Simon. Mr. Tom Sinclair adds greatly to the fun as Dame Freckles, and Messrs. Sword and Robb as Phil and Tom, work well. Mr. Frank Knowles is a suitable Baron Grabb.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. T. Knightall.—The programme here includes, this week, a series of Rayograph pictures, Vosper, the facial artist; Sabino, instrumentalist; Gladys Welford, vocalist; Chas. Bradford, comedian; Brenda Leslie, contralto; and Leonard Gale, comedian.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Grey.—Mr. Allan Wilkie's company has been playing a round of Shakespearean pieces and others, fulfilling a nine days' engagement. *Othello* was produced on Monday night, Mr. Wilkie making a very favourable impression in the character of the Moor; the character of Desdemona was rendered in a tender and pathetic manner by Miss Carrie Baillee; Miss Ine Cameron gave a spirited impersonation of Emilia; and Miss F. Hunter Watts was an efficient Bianca. The rôle of Iago was undertaken by Mr. G. A. Marsh, who gave a forcible picture of a calculating villain; and Mr. Herbert Morgan gave an effective representation of Cassio. The other parts were capably filled. During the engagement *As You Like It*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *Merchant of Venice*, and *School for Scandal* have been produced.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Bob Hutt's No. 1 company is here with an amusing sketch, called *Welcome Home*. Edgar Budden gives a clever solo on the bones, and shows himself to be an expert on the roller skates. Blanche and Powell are musical comedians of merit; and the De Breans execute some clever juggling. Other turns are those of Cambo, a musical mannikey; Raymond and Colby, patter singers and dancers; George Seeley and Jenny Dowton, vocalists; and the Herald Comedy Four.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jerold E. Reed.—This week Miss Maud Hildyard is paying a farewell visit with *The Great Awakening*. Mr. A. C. Hardie is good as James Selby; Mr. F. Liston does justice to the part of Jack Merton; Miss Maud Hildyard proves herself a capable actress as Lola Selby, being ably assisted by Mr. Stephen Langton as Guy Rogan, an adventurer; Mr. Gordon McLeod makes a manly Captain Harry Lambert; Miss Doris Digby a charming Molly Merton; and Mr. J. H. Booth is quite at home as Richard Wilson. Mr. Willie Scott and Miss Lilla Nordon cause much amusement as Billy Brass and Selina Worts; and Mr. Tracy Barrow is droll as Antoine. The scenery and dresses are excellent.

KEIGHLEY.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Carson.—The boards are occupied this week by Messrs. Hamilton Warden and Chas. Sanford's company in *A Woman's Past*. Miss Maisie Hanbury, in the rôle of Bessie, plays the part most satisfactorily; Mr. Henry Hargreaves acts impressively as David Heath; Mr. Charles Sandford is a delightful Frank Dellanay; Clement Harper is played with telling effect by Mr. Hamilton Warden; Mr. G. Moreton Williams acts ably as Uriah Craven; Miss Phyllis Moncton is a charming Kate; and Miss Eva Bertram displays ability as Clara Darrell.

KIDDERMINSTER.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—On Monday Miss Florence Glossop-Harris, supported by Mr. Frank Cellier, jun., and company commenced a week's engagement with *Twelfth Night*. Mr. Cellier, jun., gives a striking display of acting as Orsini; Mr. Geo. Jones ably portrays the character of Sebastian; Mr. Percy H. Vernon of Miss F. Glossop-Harris, whose acting is pleasing to all. On Tuesday and Friday *Camille* was played, on Wednesday *Carmen*, and on Thursday *Much Ado About Nothing*.

KILMARNOCK.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Major Ward.—Mr. Stanley Carlton's company opened a three nights' engagement here on Monday with *A Life Story*. The part of Councillor Berger was excellently portrayed by Mr. Stanley Carlton; as Captain Jack Temple, R.N., Mr. Edward Fryer was a decided success; the character of Max Clifford was ably sustained by Mr. E. Beverley; as Detective Tom Berry, Mr. Sydney Finnes showed to great advantage; Toni Crimonini, in the hands of Mr. Tom Henshaw, provided much of humour; and the part of Lieut. Hugo was well undertaken by Mr. William Annesley. The character of Zieka was capably interpreted by Miss Rubie Maude; Beatrice, by Miss Daisy Humphreys, proved an ideal heroine; and Rosa found an able exponent in Miss Florrie Vennimore. On the last three nights of the week Mr. Charles Frohman's company was to present *Leah Kleschna*.

KIRKCALDY. — KING'S THEATRE. — Managing Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager Mr. John Burton.—Messrs. Pitt and Halling's company appeared on Monday in *£1000 Reward*. The villainous rôle of Gilbert Lisle was well filled by Mr. Fred Wilberforce; Mr. J. Newton Cowling was a satisfactory Fred Ingleford; and as his son, Mr. Frank J. Pitt was capital; Mr. Frank Dallas and Mr. Charles Halling were exceedingly good as the detectives, the former being very funny, and the makes-up of the latter clever; Mr. Geo. Scully was well placed as Dick, and along with Miss Crissie Francess as Kitty, was responsible for much comic business; Miss Lynn Darlington was loudly applauded for her rendering of "Eileen Alannah"; and Miss Daisy Halling played effectively as Madam Sanson. Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in *My Sweetheart* are billed for the latter half of the week.

LANCASTER.—ATHENÆUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hook.—The attraction this week is *Napoleon the Great*, capitally presented by Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company. The title-rôle is in the hands of Mr. Hugh Montgomery, who does justice to the part. Mr. Oliver Birrell cleverly undertakes the part of Colonel Lavarennes; much humour is introduced by Mr. Frank M. Thorne as Pierre Pomponent; and he is ably assisted by Mr. Albert Sinclair as Sergt. Choupin; whilst Messrs. Bartlett Garth and Phil Harper are equally successful as Paul Laczinska and Colonel Meuron respectively. Miss Leslie Warner gives a fine portrayal of Marie Walewska; and the same remark applies to Miss Maud Russell as Leonie Marbeouf.

LEAMINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—The attraction here this week is Mr. J. B. Mulholland's company, in *The Electric Man*. Mr. Stanley Cooke appears with conspicuous success as Walter Everest and the Electric Man, and his very clever delineation of the parts are enthusiastically received; Mr. Archie Selwyn makes an excellent Jack Strange; whilst the part of Jobbins, a diligent private detective, is capably played by Mr. Lloyd Townrow. Miss Lucy Edwin acts with much naturalness as Mrs. Anderson, and her quaint drolleries are quite a feature of the piece. Others who contribute to the success of the play are Mr. E. Vivian Willis, Miss Sybil Brookes, Miss Gladys Jesson, and Miss Amy Francis. An amusing comedietta, entitled *A Matrimonial Advertisement*, precedes.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—The pantomime, *Sleeping Beauty*, this week concludes a highly-successful nine weeks' run, liberal patronage having been bestowed throughout.

EMPIRE PALACE. — Moss' Empires, Limited; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Acting Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—A remarkable exhibition of animal intelligence is that provided by Tschernoff's horses and dogs, and the turn is warmly applauded by good houses; Arthur Lennard is singing a new selection of songs in his best style, and gets a big reception nightly; the Dickens selections presented by Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lucas are amongst the best things in the programme; the Fitzroys are to the fore with an excellent gymnastic turn; the Knick-Knacks score in song and dance; the clever pair of Jewish comedians, Jordan and Harvey, are again contributing with good success; the Three Missouris are doing their mirth-provoking acrobatic show; George Ridgwell is a smart comedian, provoking much merriment; and there are also good items by Lizzie Fletcher, comedienne.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; General-Managers, Mr. Chas. Weldon and Mr. Claude Shayler.—*Dick Whittington*, a bright, brisk, and well-dressed production, sent out by Mr. John Tiller, occupies the major portion of the evening here, and proves most acceptable to crowded houses. In addition, there is an excellent gymnastic show by the Three Richards; clever bâton swinging and speciality dancing by the Two Dixons; and Mabel le Roy is a *chic* and charming comedienne.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General and Business-Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—A delightful engagement is being filled here this week by the first appearance of Mr. Robert Courtneidge's principal company in the farcical musical play, *The Dairymaids*, which is meeting with a flattering reception. A meed of praise should be accorded to the full chorus and augmented orchestra, under Mr. Albert Bartlett. Miss Violet Lloyd, as Peggy, is winsome and vivacious; Miss Edith Blanche well maintains her reputation as a clever actress as Lady Brudenell; Miss Cissie Sephton is conspicuously successful as Eliza; Miss Beryl Vaudrey is capital as Helene; Miss Madge Avery as Miss Penelope Pychase, and Miss Rhoda Gordon as Winfred, are both excellent; Mr. Lionel Victor as the rollicking A.B., Joe Mivens, raises hearty laughter with a very good performance; Mr. E. Statham Staples, who is popular here, is seen to considerable advantage as Sam Brudenell; and Mr. George Desmond as Lieutenant Brudenell admirably depicts the part; Mr. Forbes Dawson is good as Dr. O'Byrne, R.N.; and as Captain Fred Leverton, Mr. Alec Fraser should also be praised.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—This week we have the drama, *Her One Great Sin*, by Miss Lydia Donovan's company. In the rôle of Grace Warhurst, Miss Lydia Donovan is seen to considerable advantage; and Mr. Claude H. Seaton is good as Reuben Warhurst; Mr. C. Quinton Fulford does well as Arnold Thornhill; both Mr. Fred Hodson as Jerry Jumble, and Miss Nellie Lambert as Nancy Winpenny are humorous and popular; Miss Phyllis Damain as Charlie, and Miss Maudie Lambert as Gracie are both deserving of much praise.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertram G. Iles.—After a prolonged absence from Leicester, Auguste Van Biene, the actor-musician, is making a welcome apearance here this week in the playlet, *The Master Musician*, which proves most interesting. The 'cello solos of Mr. Biene are, of course, a special feature. He is supported in good style by Miss Rose Summers and Miss Lena Burnleigh, his musical-director being Mr. Percival Goffin. Victor Newman is cordially received for his wonderful impersonations of the late Sir Henry Irving and Mr. Beerbohm Tree; Auto-Atlas astounds the audience with the remarkable feat of raising a motor-car, containing two people, and weighing 1450lb., with his teeth, whilst balancing on two upright posts, and he also balances and juggles with heavy weights in a manner which wins for him well-deserved and hearty applause; the Grovini Sisters, graceful acrobats and tumblers, are exceptionally smart; Dus

showing much cleverness; Nat Clifford, an up-to-date comedian, caused great laughter; an amusing sketch, *A Singing Duo*, came from Carr and Rose; Sable Fern rendered several English songs in good style; Juanitas' Spanish acrobats performed some sensational feats; and others in the bill were Amurat, musical comedian; Richardson Taylor, whistling ventriloquist; Herbert La Martine, vocalist and dancer; and Mlle. Marjutti, contortionist.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES. — Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole. —A capital presentation of *Rob Roy* has proved a big draw here. In the stock company were Mr. Harry Tresham, a capital Macgregor; Mr. Robert Wilton, a manly Rashleigh; Mr. Sydney Grant, who held the part of Francis with effect; Mr. Percy Boucher, a funny Baillie; Miss Florence Palmer, a sweet Diana; and Miss Beryl Ravenswood, whose Helen was marked by dignity.

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. M. Montgomery. —The Royal stock company here is this week giving Emma Litchfield's *Guiding Star*. The principal parts are in the good hands of Mr. Wallace Campbell, Mr. Frank S. Strickland, Mr. Charles Herberte, Mr. H. G. Brandon, Miss Gladys Hastings-Walton, Miss Lina Nazeby, and Miss Sara Blumenthal.

PARK PALACE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Success continues to follow the change here from variety to drama. This week the stock company have produced *Dearer than Life*, Mr. Albert Sember being seen to advantage in the rôle of Harry Royce.

HAYMARKET.—Licensee, Mr. J. S. Childs.—Topping the bill here are Harry Calden and company, with the sketch, *A Wilful Lie*; the Ashley team of skaters are exceedingly humorous with their Jumbo policeman speciality; Zasma, assisted by Mlle. Delouie, has a pretty gymnastic scena, *An Evening's Pleasure*; and Flo Carlow is a dainty comedienne and dancer.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—Foremost here this week is the H. Leslie Bell and Lily Pearl company, with the novelty vaudeville, *A Bit of String*, which is much enjoyed; Pete and Juno are a pair of smart comedians; the Evalos go through some humorous juggling; Mr. E has a budget of capital sayings; Prince Ishmael, assisted by Mlle. Valeria, produces some smart illusions; and others who appear are Ella Glautz, vocalist and dancer; Chas. Rutland, comedian; and Will Lynn, boy vocalist.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.— The renowned Paul Cinquevalli is foremost here this week, proving as great a draw as ever; Claire Romaine has a cordial reception for her songs; Nina Gordon gives some capital imitations of leading stars; the Mannings, with the comedy, *The Hotel Boots*, create endless laughter; Miss Lilian Dundas and company present a striking dramatic sketch, *The Doom of Delilah*; and others who contribute are Winnie Gordon, siffleuse; Billy Farrell, comedian; Brull and Hemsley, musical artists and dancers; and the Kurios, comedians.

TIVOLI. — Proprietors, Liverpool Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. James Marks. — Heading the bill at this popular resort this week are the Six Brothers Luck, with the funny pantomime *The Hôtel Grande*; the Tokio troupe of Japanese acrobats have an excellent show; in the absence of Mr. W. J. Churchill a special turn was given by Mr. Hal Forde, whose songs and patter were much enjoyed; the Musical Schaffers provided a pleasing turn; Massona's juggling was of a high order; Edith St. Clare sang several popular songs; the jumping of Gerhardi Mohr was remarkable; and Fred Harrison, comedian, also appeared.

LOUGHBOROUGH. — NEW HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards. —The Bouncing Dillons, who top the bill this week, give a capital comedy gymnastic act; and Mme. Alice Fontainbleau, with her clever dogs, is also assisting to attract large houses. The Monckton, in their laughable comedy episode, are exceedingly droll; the Casmans are deservedly applauded for a refined comedy act; and Alvantee, on the slanting wire, is clever. Other good turns are provided by Miss Lola Leonard, in illustrated songs; Miss Marie Weston, a clever dancer, and Jack Mansfield, character comedian. The Bioscope concludes the entertainment.

LOWESTOFT. — MARINA — Managing-Director, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Messrs Power and Kirby's company are here with *Man's Enemy*. Mr. Norman A. Overton submits a finished performance as Harry Stanton, and is seen to great advantage in the doss-house scene, where he finishes up by throwing the villain through a window. Mr. Chas. E. Johnson works satisfactorily as General Stanton, and Mr. T. Arthur Ellis acts naturally as the Rev. Lisle; Mr. John Power renders a clever and forcible reading as Tom Drake, and receives admirable support from Miss Constance Medwyn as Sarah Drake. The last-named has a fine stage presence, and gave a fine piece of acting. Miss Ethel Stuart is sweetly sympathetic as Grace Leslie; and amusing character sketches were given by Miss Fanny James (Polly Harris), and Mr. Fred Owen (Iky Barnett).

MAIDSTONE.—HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—This week we have William Holles and Nannie Goldman and Co., in the clever protean sketch, *The Little Charwoman*; the Villons, acrobatic cyclists; Horace White, ventriloquist and society entertainer, with some cleverly worked automatic figures; the Crown Trio, speciality vocalists; Madame Sim Reeves, who appears in a selection of songs from her late husband's répertoire; Adelina, facial impersonator; Tom Lesley, comedian; the Vaudevilles, and the Bioscope.

MANCHESTER.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—A second visit of *The Belle of Mayfair* to Manchester proved welcome to the audience here on Monday. A somewhat more tangible story distinguishes the piece than is usual in musical comedy, and to the attractive music of Mr. Leslie Stuart is added a cast of more than average efficiency, the whole being under the control of Messrs. A. and S. Gatti and Charles Frohman. The principal success is gained by Mr. Fred Rolph, who gives a highly entertaining delineation of Sir John Chaldicott, Bart., M.P. Fine performances are added by Mr. Wensley Russell as Hugh Meredith; Mr. Percy Yorke as the Earl of Mount Highgate—whose military song is especially effective; Mr. Vernon Davidson as the Hon. Raymond Finchley; and Mr. Robert White, jun., as the Comte de Perrier; while among the ladies, Miss Alice Russon is foremost in a very charming impersonation of the title-rôle; Miss Joan Keddie makes a highly effective Princess Carl; Miss Maud Aston is smart and attractive as Pincott; Miss Barbara Huntley's Lady Chaldicott is a distinguished piece of work; and Miss Dorothy Hanbury looks and acts well as Lady Violet Gussop. Miss Christine Rayinski as the Gibson Girl impersonates this notable feature of the piece with distinct success; and among the remainder of the cast Mr. Arthur W. Metcalfe is deserving of a word of praise for his rendering of Captain Theobald. Dresses, orchestra, and general staging leave nothing to be desired.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Last week's attraction at the Grand Junction Theatre, Mr. Andrew Melville's company in *Driven from Home*, is meeting with a gratifying reception at this popular house. The piece is above the average.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The programme here is up to its best standard this week. Fred Karno's *The Smoking Concert* is worthily at the top of the bill, and keeps the house in roars. Fred S. Pealle and company in *Adrian the Gambler*, a dramatic costume sketch, is also a prominently good turn, the piece being finely acted. Olga Fane, descriptive vocalist, has an excellent voice; Tate and Tate, trampolin acrobats, are smart and amusing; the Saxonias provide a very pleasing musical mélange Douglas and Gordon present a clever and novel comedy act; and other enjoyable items are Valvo, ventriloquist; Conway and Garland, burlesque sketch comedians; and Stephen Blythe, actor-vocalist. The pictures are sensational.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Messrs. Holland and Wood's successful pantomime of *Aladdin* is the attraction here this week—a return visit to Manchester. The piece is bright and funny.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—At the top of the bill here this week is Dean Tribune's pantomime of *Bo-Peep*, a typical and amusing entertainment in three scenes. An important turn also is that of W. J. Churchill, who pleases the house immensely by his comic patter and clever songs. Excellent business is added by The Dandies, who, presented by Henry J. Corner, give a very fine vocal variety display; the Wyffs, in a comic episode of a parson in a London flat; Cole and Rags, American comedy jugglers; Michael Nolan, a really entertaining Irish comedian; the Two Bostons, in their novelty burlesque act; Dot Hardy, a smart character comedienne and eccentric dancer; the Bandurria troupe of accomplished mandolinists; and Agnes Hazel, comedienne. The Bioscope shows "The Wreck of the Midnight Mail."

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—Ernest Shand, the well-known comedian, is here this week, and makes a big hit, his patter being productive of much merriment. Another very successful turn is that of Mr. Hymark, the chameleon comedian, whose performance is full of surprises and unique; the Fergana Trio are wonderfully clever head and hand balancers; Watson's dogs are smartly trained; Cliff Ryland has a lot of very funny talk; Master Cliff dances very cleverly; the Three Consol Girls are graceful acrobatic dancers; and an excellent bit of fooling—deservedly well received—is contributed by Howard and Harris. An illustrated song, "The Green Isle of Erin," is sung by Mr. J. F. Hedlam, of the choir; and "The Busy Man" is the Bioscope subject. The last week of *The Earthquake* is announced.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead. —Bert Bernard's company in *The Brewery*, a highly amusing pantomimic burlesque sketch, is the principal item on this week's programme here. It is supplemented by some expert and pleasing musical specialities by the Five M.P.'s; and a characteristic exhibition of talent by Ada Fawn, the popular comedienne, in her latest successes. Good turns are given also by Wright, Ismay, and Wright, in a speciality dancing act; Arthur Slater, the whistling man in white; George Foyle, comedian; Daisy Almer, serio and dancer; and Hilda Leigh and company, in a funny sketch entitled *Another Man's Wife*. The pictures are good, as usual.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Harry Tate's company in *Motoring* provide the star turn here this week, and cause much laughter. Anthony, the famous comic conjurer, gives a clever performance; and Tony Iveson, as the ragman at the piano, scores a great success; The Maisanos are excellent musicians, and gain much applause; Barfoot and Carson provide plenty of amusement in their comedy act; Harry Briggs, the triple voice vocalist, has a pleasing style, and sings sweetly; whilst smart turns are also contributed by Arthur Stacey. Ellis and Watts, and Billie French, comedians and dancers. An excellent programme is completed by animated pictures.

HIPPODROME (HULME).—Manager. Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—*A Coster's Honeymoon*, presented in fine style by Amy Anderson and company, is the top turn here this week. H. O. Wills, comedian, is very funny; Les Almos, lightning equilibrists and tumblers, are exceedingly smart; and the St. Clairs are good in a comedy cycling act; L. B. Athol does well in his artistic vocal scena, *Dreamland*; Sam Redfern amuses with good patter; and enjoyable items are also provided by Little Dence, a clever young singer; T. C. Edwards, Australian baritone; and Syd, Myra and dog. "The Prospectors" is a dramatic film shown on the Bioscope, and is followed with interest.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—General-Manager, Capt. Cecil Clayton.—Mr. Fred J. Kirke's company presented, the first three nights of the week, the dramatic musical comedy *A Naval Detective*. Mr. Gerald Alexander proved a capable performer in each of the three characters he assumed; Mr. George Whillis admirably enacted the part of Capt. Hustle; Mr. Louis Fountaine was acceptable in the three rôles she interpreted. The Sisters Shaw gave a graceful rendition of the dancing girls; Miss Edith Claus was an amusing Susan Scrubbs. The singing was excellent and the dancing novel and graceful. On Thursday and Friday evenings the same company presented the musical play *In Old Madrid*.

MARGATE. — HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot and Mr. W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—The programme this week is made up of some attractive turns. Guy Ryder, vocalist and whistler, is good; Mignon Tremaine, comedienne and dancer, has been well received; Jack Lane, the Yorkshire Rustic, is a most versatile performer; Vera Mayne, comedienne, sings well. and Arthur Boyne, the "funny little fat man," is amusing. The sketch, *My Landlord*, by Fred Lawrence and company, is full of humour and provocative of a good deal of laughter.

MERTHYR TYDFIL. — THEATRE ROYAL.— Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Lewis Gilbert.—A varied and interesting programme is again in evidence here. Cussac Talma, assisted by Mlle. Yvonne de Forge, is a clever illusionist; Mme. Roza and her wonderfully trained dogs are greatly admired; the Warsaw Brothers are funny musical artists. Others are Dolly Cana, comedienne; Ernie Williams, vocal comedian; the Cromwells, in a novel juggling act; Arthur Elvey, comedian; and new films on the Bioscope.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Rice.— Lord, Murray, and Lord top the bill here this week, and introduce their comedy gymnastic mélange, entitled *The Intruder*; Dolly Agnes, and Maud, the factory nightingales, are well received; Almero gives a good show; also Leoni, wire artist; Nellie Dunbar, comedienne; Kene and Smith, in pot-pourri; and the Biograph completes.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson. — *The Traitor* is this week being presented here by Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson and Mr. Harris Fineberg's company. Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan, in the title-character, gives a strong, well balanced, and altogether satisfactory performance; Miss Gwynne Warren acts with considerable force the part of Countess Zicka; and Elsie Dupres has an able representative in Miss Lilian Matthews; Miss Isabel Hunt is sympathetic as the little Martyr; Mr. Bensley Evans plays Prince Rudolph with distinction; the comedy, in the hands of Mr. Fred Haming, is exceptionally well presented; Miss Olive Santy's performance has undeniable charm; Miss Effie Bartlett is a pleasing Zulie; General Hertz finds a clever representative in Mr. Arthur McCulloch; Mr. Edward Duff is good as General Franz; Mr. S. Hurst makes an excellent Captain Ross; Mr. Edward Lowrie as Zoff leaves nothing to be dseired; and Mr. E. Vincent and Mr. Cyril Maitland are also entrusted with interesting rôles.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, The Middlesbrough Grand Opera House Co., Ltd; Licensee and Manager, Mr. W. K. Chatto.—The visit of Mr. Martin Harvey and company to the Grand has been eagerly looked forward to by the play lovers in Middlesbrough, and this house was crowded on Monday to assist at the performance of *The Only Way*. Mr. Harvey's interpretation of Sydney Carton cannot be excelled, and he brought out to the fullest extent the human traits of a most interesting character. A great deal of work falls on the shoulders of Mr. Leonard Clarke, who, as Charles Darnay, acquitted himself admirably; Miss Coleridge, who had previously given a sympathetic and refined rendition of the rôle of Lucie Manette, and Miss N. de Silva, in the difficult rôle of Mimi, acted with much tenderness and devotion; a fine study of Dr. Manette was contributed by Mr. Fred Wright; and the other artists to figure prominently were Mr. H. Blackmore, Mr. P. Alexander, Mr. A. E. Raynor, and Mr. Charles Glenny. During the week Mr. Harvey and his company have presented *The Cigarette Maker's Romance* and *Hamlet*.

EMPIRE PALACE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. G. Rambyes.—Chris. Richards says a return visit here this week, and creates roars of laughter; the Maitland Comedy Trio score in their absurdity, *The Picture*; J. W. Hall is successful with his humorous songs and patter; the Eight Sunrays provide a clever vocal and dancing turn; and the Jackley Trio do well in their comedy act; Bert Raynor and Cissie Reece please in their comedy scena, *Early Closing Day*; and Billie Burford, comedienne, and Grace Langley, comedienne and dancer, also contribute.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Alf Graham.—Wal Pink's workmen in the comedy *Repairs* are deservedly most successful. During the time they occupy the boards the fun is fast and furious; Frank Cumminger, who broke the world's record for sand dancing, scores a great success; some astounding feats of strength are given by Titan, who juggles with half a hundredweight; W. B. Raby, comedian, causes much laughter with his songs and patter; and Bosco the musical tramp, provides a clever turn. Other acceptable items are given by Harry Devine, elocutionist, and Telka, vocalist.

MOTHERWELL. — NEW CENTURY THEATRE.— Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant.—Mr. Fred Benton's company has fulfilled a three nights' engagement here in *The French Spy*. Mr. Beresford Lovett is particularly well suited in the rôle of Captain Somers; and Mr. Claude Aymond is dignified and impressive as Lord Aynsley. Mr. Max Coutts capably sustains the rôle of Count Romanoff; and Mr. Chas. Digby is good as the dandified Count Alexis. Mr. Hugh Travers is a striking and picturesque figure as General Trepoff; and Mr. Fred Benton submits a capital study of the strong man Fritz. Miss Madge Devereux gives a strong and sympathetic rendering of the title-rôle; Miss A. Harrison Tate makes the most of her opportunities as Olga; and mention should be made of Miss Ella Seton as Julie.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—TYNE THEATRE. —Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe. —The close of its successful career is quickly drawing near of Mr. Fred Wyndham's pantomime, *Aladdin*, its penultimate week being entered upon on Monday night. To its very last night one may safely predict the patronage accorded it being of record dimensions. Messrs. Harry Lauder, Dan Crawley, Imro Fox, and Harker Nicholls form a lot of comedians that would spell success to any entertainment; and with Miss Josie Collins and Miss Beryl Somerset leading the ladies, the production, even had it not been on so lavish and picturesque a scale, could not well have been other than a success.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham. —The final week but one of *Aladdin*, a successful production from its very inauguration, was entered upon on Monday evening. Long will this, Mr. Robert Courtneidge's second pantomime in Newcastle, be remembered, alike for its sound and refined humour, its pretty music, and magnificent stage pictures and ballets. Mr. Neil Kenyon with his quaint Scotch witticisms is ably seconded in his efforts to amuse by Messrs. Fred Allandale, Chas. Harvey, and Bellamy, the last of whom succeeds Mr. Alfred Clarke as the Emperor. Miss Lily Morris, really the most popular of principal boys seen in Newcastle pantomimes for many years, and Miss Florence Smithson, who fills the rôle of the Princess with such daintiness and vocal distinction, are also in no small way responsible for the great success the production has proved.

GRAND THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. Bacon and Bolam; Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney Bacon.— Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime *Dick Whittington* is here for two weeks, and has already caught on, crowded houses being the order each evening. Miss Maidie Scott is a prime favourite as Dick, her songs going with great swing; Miss Veronica Brady makes a pretty and winsome Alice; Miss Lil Hartley and Miss Flo Chevalier as second boy and girl have many admirers; Miss Gertrude Lytton as the Empress and Miss Clorinda Thurtell as the Fairy Queen both sing and act in a most charming style; Mr. Tom Foy is an inimitable Idle Jack; Mr. Bert Harrow as Fitzwarren—another source of fun—is well supported by Messrs. Jack Foy and Tom Lowen; Mr. J. C. Scatter, a local comedian, comes in for a good reception; and a word of praise is due to the specialities introduced by Miss Violet Morgan, the Aquamarinoff Troupe of Russian dancers, and Mr. Ted Foy.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—The visit of George Lashwood to this popular hall this week is drawing crowded houses. He has many new songs, which he sings with rare spirit and expression. The entertainment of Albert Whelan is delightful, his imitations being admirable; Charles Robinson uses a fine baritone to distinct advantage; the Tupps give a great acrobatic turn; the Cullane Comedy Four are thoroughly appreciated; a clever company of juveniles, trained by St. John Denton and George Rowland, give a capital interlude; and James Brady, Bijou Russell, the Robertys, and the Bioscope complete a good bill.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Little Tich tops the bill here this week, and his initial appearance on Monday was the signal for a big outburst of applause. His songs and dances are rendered in his own inimitable style. Wild, Willie, and West, as the Bounding Navvies, give a most laughable acrobatic and trampolin scene; J. H. Darnley and company submit another amusing sketch entitled *What a Night*; Picitte and Lizette are clever illusionists; and a good ventriloquist is found in Professor Cavalli. Ida Ross, the Jansons, Vera Vere, Sibb and Sibb, Starr and Jerome, and the Barrascope are also included in the bill.

NEWPORT.—EMPIRE.—Moss Empires, Ltd.— Manager, Major Gallagher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Page.—A strong programme here includes the Selbinis, in clever bicycle trick acts; Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten; the Levines, in the musical sketch *Dotty*, who cause a lot of laughter; the Twin Andersons, vocalists and clever dancers, who scored a success on their first appearance on the boards; and a clever sketch presented by Alice May and company, *Tranquillity*, which is one of the successes of the show. Sadie Simpson's graceful dancing and excellent singing are justly recognised, a song by Mark Merry was applauded, and the Bioscope showing some comical pictures appeared to give pleasure.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE. — Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Seddon.—*The Four Just Men*, the attraction here this week, is well played by Mr. H. Bonhote Wilson as Sir Philip Ramon, Bart., Mr. Oswald Cray, Mr. Wernham Ryott, Mr. Cecil Warde, and Mr. Charles McCann as the Four Just Men, Mr. William Alison with a humorous rendering of Billy Marks, Miss Kate Sydney as a typical American widow, Miss Florence Radcliffe as Juanita Ramon, and Mr. Edgar L. Hocking as Manuel Garcia.

NORTH SHIELDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—A hearty welcome has been accorded Mr. F. B. Woulfe and his company, in *Robin Hood*. The title-rôle is represented by Mr. Woulfe, whose excellent acting leaves nothing to be desired; Mr. Henry Ernestine is a capable Prince John; and the part of William Fitzalwyn is ably depicted by Mr. Clifford Kean; Mr. Llellwyn Evans is good as King Richard I.; Mr. Cecil Renton scores as Will Scarlett; Mr. A. Edmund Dunstan is clever as Eustace le Beau; and Mr. Bob Anderson creates much laughter as Friar Tuck; Miss Ethel Griffies displays great ability in the rôle of Mistress Marion Zilfain; Miss Winifred Symonds is pleasing as Elwynne; and Miss Edith Lorraine makes the most of Maude.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company is here this week in *A Night Out*. Mr. Edward Thirlby as Joseph Pinglet was successfully humorous; Mr. Charles Sugden as Paillard acted well; Mr. Mark Lester was good as Mathieu; while Mr. Geoffrey Saville was equally so as Maxime. Mr. Fred Penley as Boulot and Mr. Thomas Barry as Bastien deserve every praise; Mr. Newstead Adams as Botticelli, Mr. Dare Austin as Brochard, and Mr. Geo. Hassleton as Ernest ably filled their respective rôles. Mrs. Charles Sugden admirably portrayed Marcelle; Miss Constance Groves was praiseworthy as Angélique; Miss Lillian Stafford was successful as Victorine; while Miss Emmie Kemp, Miss Elvira Stuart, Miss Dorothy Dance, and Miss Muriel Dance were good as Mathieu's daughters.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fell; Manager, Mr. F. W. Fell.—A capital programme is presented this week. The Leslie Brothers as musical experts are entertaining; Addie Dorina, assisted by Pat Waddock, in their production, *Dr. Spot's Patients*, is very good; the Three Ettenas, outside their humorous business, are clever globe speciality artists; the Delevines, in their comedy act *Flipp and Flopp*, are immensely popular; Fred Herbert scores as a topical vocalist; Fred Land, eccentric comedian, is well received; Esme Gordon, comedienne and dancer, is appreciated; while Harry and Lucy Wilton are good duettists and dancers. The Hippo Bio is also attractive.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robt. Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—The new Chinese comic opera *See-See*, produced by Mr. Geo. Edwardes's company, occupies this theatre this week. Miss Lily Elsie is seen and heard to advantage in the name-part; Mr. Leonard Mackay plays up to her so well that the scenes in which they appear together go admirably. Mr. Frank Danby as Hangkee has ample opportunity for his gift of broad humour, being ably assisted by Mr. W. H. Rawlins as Cheoo; Miss Amy Augarde, as Mai-Yai, acts the part to perfection; Miss Topsy Sinden's dancing adds no little to the attractiveness of the performance; Miss Alice Hatton as Lee and Miss Daisy Wallace as Humming Bird look charming and act daintily; and Miss Sybil Grey, Miss Octavia Barry, and Miss Lily Hewitson are efficient as the wives of Cheoo. Mr. Myles Clifton as Wang and Miss Adeline Lester as Mrs. Wang do well all that is required of them.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Bowmaker.—Jake Friedman and company appear in a bright little operetta entitled *Happy Holland*; Verno and Voyce submit a smart musical and patter turn; Professor Dunning, ventriloquist, elicits a continual flow of laughter; and much amusement is evoked by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden with *Two in One*. The Geretti Sisters combine grace and skill in their gymnastic entertainment; Kahn and Kahn supply an interesting item in magic; and the Schwarz Brothers prove themselves capable parodists. As operatic vocalists Les Voces are pleasing; and Jack Camp scores in humorous songs. The American Bioscope adds largely to the merriment by excellent films.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.— Proprietors, Theatre and Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Mr. Chas. H. Lester's company is here on a return visit with *The Bank of England*. Mr. Lester again submits an interesting impersonation of Sherlock Holmes; Mr. G. Clifton Boyne plays with ability as Stephen Hartley; Mr. J. H. Firman is well placed as Sir Sidney Barraclough. Mr. C. Herman Pullen as the Hon. Bertie Burlington and Mr. F. Ernstone as Godfrey Dane are effective. Mr. Harry T. Wood as Eric Dane is good, and Mr. Edmond O'Grady is a capital Gordon Isaacs. Miss Marjorie Davenport makes a sympathetic Margaret Dane, and a better exponent of the American widow than Miss Gertrude Godart would be difficult to find. Mr. Edwin Heim as Tommy Sprouts and Miss Tina Shaw as Lucy Locket are highly entertaining. On Thursday and Friday the same company presented *The Sorrows of Satan*.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.— We have Mr. Arthur Carlton's company in *The Span of Life*. Mr. R. S. Trelawney is the hero, Richard Blunt, and he portrays the part in a capital manner; Miss Guinevere Shilton is sympathetic as Kate Heathcot; the villain is ably played by Mr. Sanderson Moffatt; Cecil Jelf is in the capable hands of Miss Phyllis Graham; and Miss Mary Moffatt makes a very good Cecil Blunt. Others in the cast are Miss Phyllis Hamilton as Mrs. Jelf, Mr. James Jarrett as Joshua Gurnet, Miss Kitty Russell, and Mr. Walter Dale as Nutty Brown. The famous Stebbing Brothers give a capital acrobatic turn.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Howgate.— The Matweef-Hugoston Troupe, in Russian singing and dancing, are excellent, and they perform some smart acrobatic feats; Arthur Kenny does some sensational tricks on a cycle; Sinclair and Parr are capital in a vocal entr'acte, *Keeping an Appointment*; the Brothers Pim, in a comic gymnastic act; Rosie Sylvester, comedienne and dancer; Mlle. Sylvia's electric tableaux vivants; Herbert Bates, tenor vocalist; Dan Paulton, comedian; and the Royal Dottoscope make up the bill.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—W. J. Ashcroft, the solid man, is starring here, his business proving extremely popular; the Markies earn much applause in their comedy sketch; Polo and Florence, society acrobats, perform in a neat manner; Cedar and Elgar appear in an original comedy turn; others being Ted Waite, comedian; Sill and Sillcott, in a railway skit; and Happy Attwood, comedian; concluding with the Dottoscope.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Bentz.—Mr. Charles Harrington and company are making their appearance here this week in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Mr. J. Carr as Uncle Tom does effective and clever work; as Phineas Fletcher Mr. J. H. Renny is good; Mr. Charles Harrington undertakes the character of Mr. St. Clair, which he renders with ability; Mr. Leslie Beaufort makes a manly George Harris; a good portrait of the slave owner, Legree, is supplied by Mr. J. Henry Rogers; and Mr. Walter Langford proves an amusing Marks. Miss Hero Hathaway is excellent as Eliza Harris; Miss May Turner makes a dignified Mrs. St. Clair; Aunt Ophelia is given a good rendering by Miss Jenny Malcolm; Miss Holly Haselwood is an excellent representative of Little Eva; Aunt Chloe is capably interpreted by Mrs. Carr; and as Topsy Miss Sylvia Stella is very amusing.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Tom Toy.—A capital programme is submitted here this week, headed by the Four Louberts, who are responsible in their comedy act, *Uninvited*, for a vast amount of fun; Elsie Russell is an American comedienne with many good points; J. W. Cosgrove, a favourite quaint comedian and dancer, is heartily received; Jessie Thorne is a dainty and popular comedienne; the Two D's (D'Argan and Dene) score in a refined comedy act; and the Empire Bioscope is to the front with up-to-date pictures.

PENTRE. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Sole Owners, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Counsell.—Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company has had an enthusiastic reception here this week. Their repertoire includes *Hamlet*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *Macbeth*. The former was presented on Monday evening, and the pupils at the various schools took this opportunity of witnessing the performance. Mr. Frank Darch as Claudius gave a capital impersonation; Miss Kathryn Stocks was equally as effective in the rôle of the Queen of Denmark. Mr. Arthur Phillips gave an admirable interpretation of Hamlet; as Horatio Mr. Chas. Maunsell was equal to the occasion, and ably seconded Mr. Phillips's efforts. Mr. Leo Briggs gave a vivid portrayal of Polonius; Mr. Bernard Limpus in the rôle of Laertes was seen to advantage; Mr. John Cairns earned praise by his excellent portrayal of the Ghost; Ophelia was vividly impersonated by Miss Christie Laws; and all the other parts were well sustained.

PERTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. Charles Macdona's principal company is drawing bumper houses here this week in *The White Chrysanthemum*. Miss Muriel George is outstanding in an excellent all-round company, her flexibility of voice being greatly admired, and her every contribution as Sybil Cunningham being vociferously applauded; Mr. Shirley Lea scores a great success as the pompous Admiral, Sir Horatio Armitage; Messrs. H. Langdon Bruce and H. E Garden fully merit the hearty reception accorded them for their pleasing delineation of Lieut. Reggie Armitage and Lieut. Chippendale Belmont respectively; Mr. Richard Telford's Sin Chong and Mr. Jamie Dallas's Private Perks are clever and amusing; Miss Wilmot Karkeek is responsible for a striking portrayal of Cornelia Vanderdecken; and Miss Dorothy Sephton's charming impersonation of the young widow, Betty Kenyon, wins special favour.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. C. F. Williams; Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.— *Oliver Twist*, as presented by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company this week, is an unqualified success. Fagin is depicted by Mr. Stanley Drewitt in a realistic manner, his powerful portrayal of the Jew's terror in the last act winning unbounded applause; Mr. Cecil A. Collins scores a great success as Bill Sikes; as does Mr. Comberach in the double rôle of Grimwig and Monks. Mr. Charles Ainworth and Mr. Charlie Clark fill the rôles of the Artful Dodger and Charley Bates admirably; Miss Edith Anton Laing invests the impersonation of Nancy with power and intensity; Miss Eva Stuart in the part of Rose Maylie, and Miss Mirrie as Oliver Twist give sympathetic renderings.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.— The leading turn this week is Mr. Fred Ginnett and company, in the equestrian spectacle, *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*; Mr. Whit Cunliffe sings three songs in fine style, and scores a great success; Lozell, the gymnast, performs many sensational feats; Alburtus and Jessie Millar, in their sketch, *A Scene at the Fair Grounds*, introduce clever and amusing business; Vere and Royal, comedy duo; McAskell, the comic talking conjurer; and Ethel York, comedienne, complete an admirable programme.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. C. F. Williams; Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant.—The military drama *A Soldier and a Man* is presented this week by the stock company. The part of the hero is played with dash by Mr. Cecil A. Melton, who is admirably supported by Miss Irma Farington as the heroine. Rose Melbury, and Mr. Charles Locke as Jim Farrow; Mr. Edward Beecher gives a good representation of Hubert Walgrave; and Miss Elaine Vanbrugh as Sergeant Jane causes much amusement.

PORTH. — THE PALACE (LATE OPERA HOUSE).— General-Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Walter Bynorth.—This week a good programme includes George Raper, comedian; Morimura, Oriental magician; Lilian Neville, soprano vocalist; T. C. Callaghan, refined character comedian; Fred and Maud Vipond, society entertainers; Cissie Curlette, mimetic vocalist; E. R. Darnez, with his cleverly trained animals; W. G. Webber, basso; Rappo and Ella, graceful gymnasts; and the Palace Pictures.

PORTSMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson, with their Shakespearean company, are paying a welcome visit. On Monday, in *Hamlet*, Mr. Benson impersonated the name-part in an impressive and finished manner; Mrs. Benson as Ophelia was exceedingly pathetic, and appeared to the utmost advantage; Horatio was played by Mr. G. F. Hannam Clark with great conscientiousness; Mr. George Buchanan as Laertes did good work; Polonius was well portrayed by Mr. H. O. Nicholson; Mr. George R. Weir was eminently successful as the First Grave Digger; and Mr. Clarence Derwent was well placed as Claudius. Miss Helen Haye acted with nervous force the part of the Queen. *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Macbeth*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *As You Like It* are also in the répertoire

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Miss Annie Clann gives satisfaction as Patty Woodlands. Miss Sidney Crowe submits a powerful portrayal of the title-rôle.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. Sidney Beltram.—*Her Nameless Child*, a highly interesting drama, admirably staged, is this week being presented by Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company, under the management of Mr. J. W. Evelyn. In his impersonation of Anthony Ford Mr. Evelyn stands out prominently; and Arthur Ford finds a vigorous exponent in Mr. G. Duncan. Lord Henry Woodville is carefully portrayed by Mr. Ellerslie Pyne; as Tom Rivers Mr. J. E. Corlass capably sustains the comedy element; Mongrola is well played by Mr. Fred Griffiths; Miss Pattie Hastings gives an artistic portrayal of Phyllis Ford; Lady Sybil is skilfully enacted by Miss Grace Jones; Miss Georgina Edwards is a vivacious Bessie Brooks; Crayon is well played by Miss Madge Trevelyan; and Miss Beatrice Dover is a satisfactory Sarah.

SHEERNESS.—The Palace.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Phil Reymond.—Mr. Harry Royde's songs are much applauded; Miss Berris Forde, the popular serio, renders her ditties in first-rate style; Mr. Phil Reymond fully maintains his reputation as a character actor; Miss Topsy Levane is another big favourite, her capital comedy songs being highly relished; The Nicholsons conclude with a laughable act, *Just One More*.

SHEFFIELD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Many Sheffield playgoers have reason to remember Mr. Lionel Rignold with grateful feelings for "evenings at the play" made pleasant by this popular comedian's genial humour, and his reappearance in a new part resulted in the Lyceum being well filled on Monday, when the laughable farce, *What the Butler Saw*, was played for the first time in Steelopolis. The character of the butler, Pink, quite suits Mr. Rignold, and his mirth-provoking mannerisms, combined with funny dialogue and comic situations, kept the house in a continual roar of laughter. Miss Ada Blanche is another comic artist of good repute with Sheffielders, and as Mrs. Barrington she acted with her accustomed talent and vivacity. A trio of notable local favourites is completed by Mr. Charles Fawcitt, who acted with characteristic ease and finish. All the other characters were cleverly represented, and the piece was elaborately mounted. Such a performance could only be possible with a specially selected company and careful rehearsals.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The stirring domestic and sensational drama, *A London Fireman*, began a return visit on Monday. Messrs. J. Forbes Knowles and Edward L. Garside's company acted conscientiously, and the alternate scenes of pathos and fun proved quite to the taste of the Royal habitués. The piece was excellently staged.

Alexandra Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*Dick Whittington* finished its eight weeks' run on Saturday, when a crowded house cheered to the echo Miss Alma Obrey, the Sisters Brookland, the clever Monaco Troupe, Mr. Gilbert Rodgers, Pete and Juno, Mr. Alf Clegg, Mr. Jack McKenzie, and the other performers. On Monday, the favourite actress Miss Frances Delaval opened in the thrilling play, *Her Lost Self*. Miss Delaval submitted an interesting study of a beautiful but unprincipled adventuress; Mr. G. Osmond Tearle did good service, and Mr. L. W. Halfpenny was excellent as the Jew. Other characters were ably sustained, and the drama was mounted with care and attention to detail.

Empire Palace.—Proprietors, The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The classically beautiful La Pia appeared to a crowded audience on Monday in a refined and artistic statuary entertainment, the attractive qualities of which were increased by the beauty of the scenic surroundings and the electrical effects. Mr. J. W. Rowley was received with enthusiasm. The Five Bogannys, in their comic acrobatic act, were loudly applauded. A pretty little domestic sketch, well acted by Mr. W. H. Day and Miss Laura Dyson, was very well received; and other talented artists who appeared were Forest and King, the elastic duo; Stevens and Rennion, Mr. Albert Christian, Miss Gertrude Bradshaw, Mr. Frank Darwin, and Miss Katie Cohen, balladist.

Grand Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—The following are billed this week:—Mr. Johnny Dwyer, comic vocalist; Mr. Johnny Warman, comedian; Captain Devereaux's canine actors; Miss Madge Daley, comedienne; Mr. John Holland's combination; and Miss Mona Macdonald, vocalist. In addition, Pallister's Bioscope, with up-to-date pictures, is a popular item in a well-arranged programme.

SOUTHPORT.—Opera House, Winter Gardens.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens, Co., Ltd.; Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—Pantomime again forms the attraction here, a charming representation of the delightful old fairy tale, *Cinderella*, being unfolded to large audiences by Mr. J. F. Elliston's clever company. The title-rôle has a dainty and vivacious impersonator in Miss Mora Hersee, whose vocal numbers are artistically rendered; Miss Barbara Babington infuses sufficient dash into the part of Prince Florizel, which she depicts successfully, both histrionically and vocally; Miss Mimie Miriam lends ample assistance as the confidential valet, Dandini; the fairy Godmother is capitally enacted by Mlle. de Velin, who introduces some brilliant singing; the comedy parts have clever and diverting representatives in Mr. Herbert Wade; and Miss Jennie Gregson, as the two unpleasant sisters; Mr. George Goodfellow is irresistibly humorous in the part of Buttons; Mr. Shaun Greville is responsible for much of the merriment as Baron Harduppe; and other good character studies are supplied by Mr. W. H. Farley, Mr. Tom Rennie, Mr. Alix Lukos, and Miss Maggie Grimshaw.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson.—Mr. C Carlton Wallace's company, in *The Love that Women Desire*, is paying a return visit. Miss Lalla Stanhope wins favour as Sybil Thorborn; the Squire Abingdon of Mr. J. O. Stewart is a praiseworthy performance; and Mr. Jerrold Heather presents a manly Philip Carnaby. A careful study is given to the part of Richard Abingdon by Mr. Alfred Brandon; and Miss Gladys Murray is effective as Madge Abingdon. The comedy element is amply supplied by Mr. John Hignett, Mr. J. W. Wilkinson, and Miss Violet E. Lawson as Dennis O'Rourke, P.C. Sowerberry, and Pattie Swift respectively.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Proprietors, the South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Harry Roxbury's company, in *The Prince of Monte Carlo*, provide the star turn, and are undoubtedly a strong attraction. Realistic impersonations from the works of the late Charles Dickens are submitted by Eva Hope and Jack Wayho; a smart musical turn by Les Strads wins favour; Bert Dansie, with good songs, is popular. Other interesting turns figuring in the bill are Sylvesta the Mysterious, assisted by Miss Vera Courtenay; Chas. Vincent, clever comedian; Ruth Doris, comedienne and dancer; and the Bioscope.

SPENNYMOOR.—Cambridge Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—*Home, Sweet Home* is being presented by Mr. Frank Lindo's company. Miss Marion Wakeford's delightful impersonation of Joan is the outstanding feature of the performance. In the rôle of Stephen Armitage Mr. Lindo has a part which suits his robust style of acting, and he is seen to great advantage therein. The Lucas Lyle of Mr. F. Miles Hodgson is an accomplished piece of work; Messrs. D. Lawrence Doyle as David Armitage, and Mr. George Overs as Dick Redmayne, both submit sterling performances; Captain Gerald Gambier makes an ideal Duke of Ancaster; Mr. Jack Patrick and Miss Ray Rochefort, as the Hon. Percy and Sybil Fay, supply some good comedy; while Miss Daisy Rochefort, as little Dora, is very charming.

STALYBRIDGE.—Grand Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Managers, Messrs. W. A. Jackson and Eugene E. Hardie.—The programme is of the usual excellent character, and includes the Brooklands, dainty duettists and dancers; the Ladderites, in their marvellous feats; Clarke's Nippers, comedians, boxers, &c.; Will Goodwin, a vocal actor of high merit; George and Edwards, comedians and dancers; Ernie Myers, vocal comedian, who is warmly applauded; Lily Lonsdale, a sweet singer of sensible songs; the Three Zaracs, in a sketch, entitled *Mashing the Barmaid*.

ST. HELENS.—Theatre Royal and Opera House, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—Mr. Arthur Linforth's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* is here this week. The scenery and dresses are excellent. Miss Mary Ambrose makes a dashing and charming Robin Hood; and Maid Marion is in the able hands of Miss Lily Maxwell. The Schoolmistress of Mr. Fred Lincoln is very droll; the Brothers Harrison, as Raitz and Taxis, are excellent comedians, and give a good display of their talents; the Baron of Mr. C. W. Anson is good; and Mr. Frank Lawton as Winston is heartily applauded for his whistling. Miss Daisy Webb as the Fairy is pleasing; and Mr. John Sandbrook does well as Stormy Petrol. Les Deux Onyz troupe of dancers, and the Mahtal Vocal Quartette are deservedly appreciated.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. Vic. Carnell.—The capital entertainment provided here is attracting big houses. The company includes Mr. Tom Davies' Trio, whirling the whirl, and motoring in mid-air; Tiny Arnold, comedienne; Mlle. Pollo, gymnast; Devere and Kenwick, in illustrated songs; Loudon Cameron, conjurer; Edie and Ramsden, in a musical pot-pourri; the Three Behans, comedy artists; and Miss Minnie Cunningham, character comedienne.

STOCKPORT.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's pantomime, *Aladdin*, is being presented here by a combination of exceptional talent. As Abanazar, Mr. Daley Cooper works exceedingly hard, and keeps everybody in roars of laughter; a capital Widow Twankey is Mr. Julian Mack; and Mr. Picton Roxborough fills the character of the Emperor with undoubted success. Funny and amusing are the Brothers Brooks as Hugo and Hi Li; and Mr. Joe Robins as Wot-Zi-It adds his full share to the fun. Miss Fanny Wright is a delightful principal boy; and Miss Kitty Brewster makes a charming Princess, and also displays ability in some clever sword, lance, and club exercises with the Brewster Troupe.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—Hippodrome Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Geo. and Robt. Nicholson; Manager, Mr. W. Ainsworth.—Otto Schumann and his trained horses and dogs are here this week, and present a capital equestrian act. Martinengo, "the unemployed musician," delights the audience with his 'cello solos; Paul Hesse Trio are remarkably clever in their acrobatic feats; Primavesi, an old favourite here, is a unique juggler; the Sisters Russell, character duettists, cause great amusement in their act; and Jack Martin is loudly applauded for his interpretation of the song "Gold." Marie Neilson is a comedienne and dancer of a high order; Leonard Barry is very humorous in his sketch *The Moucher's Walk*, introducing the up-to-date suffragette. The pictures are interesting.

Grand Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Councillor J. Batty; Manager, Mr. W. Batty.—Conway and Cleland, comedians, head the bill, and are very funny with their patter. Thorpe and Coe present a sketch, *My Burglar*, and cause great amusement; Four Athos are clever in their acrobatic feats; Marie Elsie delights the audience with her singing and dancing; the New York Comedy Four are a good turn; Harry Morris is well received for his singing and dancing; and Walter Levetto scores in his pedestal dancing act. The pictures, as usual, are worth attention.

STOKE.—Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr. H. Miller.—The Savonas are retained for another week, their rendering of the selections from *Tannhäuser* being excellent. As the Elliotts, their cycling is much appreciated. The Voldam Brothers, clever acrobats, are well received; Stelling has a well-trained dog; Bessie Travis is one of few lady ventriloquists who are really good; Dolly Denver dances admirably; Charles Sloman is a comedian of much merit; Jack Rae contributes a capital turn on the rings.

STOURBRIDGE.—Alhambra Theatre.—Manager, Miss Maude Lynton.—Mr. Ernest Abbott, a local favourite, is paying a return visit with *A Wife's Triumph*. In the rôle of the Yorkshire squire, Robert Dewhurst, Mr.. Douglas Phelps gained hearty applause; Mr. Ernest Abbott did well as Frank Wilton; as the villain, Mr. W. H. Garbois was capable; Miss Ada Abbott was an interesting Bessie Dewhurst; Miss Doris Dew an acceptable Alice Wilton.

SUNDERLAND.—Avenue Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—Mr. Arthur Hardy's company in *Beauty and the Barge* is paying a welcome return visit here this week. Mr. Blake Adams is entrusted with the important rôle of Captain James Barley, and does it every justice; Mr. Edward Coventry has ample scope for his abilities as Lieutenant Seton Boyne; Mr. Pennington Gush makes the most of his opportunities as Herbert Manners; Mr. Chas. A. White is a droll John Dibbs; and Mr. Walter Pemberton scores as Major Smedley. Miss Dido Drake fills the rôle of Ethel Smedley with a chic that makes her impersonation very charming; Lucy Dallas finds an apt exponent in Miss Mary Pemberton; Miss Ruby Wyndham gives a capital rendering of Mrs. Baldwin; and Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite scores as Mrs. Porter.

King's Theatre.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Ernest Stevens and R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. L. Carlo.—This is the second and concluding week of the successful pantomime, *Cinderella*, and on Monday night the commodious auditorium was filled to its utmost capacity. Miss Ellaline Thorne has become a firm favourite by her fine rendering of Prince Casimir; and the Cinderella of Miss Daisy Revett could not be improved upon, her vocal efforts being worthy of special praise; the Fairy Godmother is entrusted to Miss Nellie Wigley, who ranks high among the vocalists; the Sisters are in the hands of Misses Adelaide Gracey and Louie Tinsley, who are much in evidence. Mr. Tom W. Conway's portrayal of Tiny (the Baron's wife) is most amusing; and Mr. George French is another arduous worker as the Baron. Some excellent dances are introduced by the Doreen Girls. Much of the success of the pantomime may be credited to the orchestra, ably conducted by Mr. Thomas Boatwright.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jos. Hemingway.—Mr. Arthur Carlton's company is appearing here this week in *In Sight of St. Paul's*. Mr. Ernest R Allen gives a capital impersonation of Tom Chichester; and the same may be said of Mr. W. H. Domoney as Harry Chichester. Mr. Herbert Cecil plays with considerable power the rôle of John Gridstone; whilst as Bildstein Mr. Henry Gilpin is well placed. Miss Cissie Bellamy gives a refined and pathetic rendering of Aileen Vetch; and the Cynthia Dell of Miss Gussie Everitt is excellent.

Palace of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Managers, Messrs. Alfred Brown and Stringer.—Miss Ella and her wonderfully-trained lions head the bills here this week, and prove as popular as ever. The programme also includes Fred Villars, vocal comedian; Lily Flexmore, contortionist dancer; Ford and Barris Trio, dancers, vocalists, &c.; Lorna Donne, comedienne; Monte Myro Troupe, in sketch; Bert Danson, eccentric comedian; Boyd and Gilfain, in musical turn; and the Palace pictures.

TON-Y-PANDY.—Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. S. Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—The attraction here is of a varied character this week. The initial moiety is taken up by the talented American-Indian actress, Go-won-Go-Mohawk and her company, in *Wep-ton-no-Mah*, the thrilling incidents of which are attentively followed by a crowded house. In the title-rôle, Go-won-Go-Mohawk does not belie her reputation. Manuel Lopez is admirably undertaken by Mr. E. Leroy; and Mr. C. W. Charles does well as Colonel Stockton. Mr. Dan Ryan and Miss Jessie Hart create great amusement as Cassy Cullen and Matilda Sniffles respectively; Mr. G. D. Hackney is suitably cast as Sam White—a happy nigger. For the latter half of the week, Mr. F. R. Benson's company (South) is billed to present *The Merchant of Venice*, *Macbeth*, and *Hamlet*.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—The Opera House.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Carey; Manager, Mr. L. J. Gunnell.—Mr. H. Swinerd's company, in *Dare-Devil Dorothy*, is fulfilling a week's engagement here. Miss Dorothy Desmonde gives a spirited interpretation of the title-rôle, and the principal characters contribute some first-rate specialities, among which may be mentioned the musical numbers of Miss Nellie Harcourt, Miss Marie Vere, and Mr. Bert Edwards, as well as the acrobatic dancing of the Misses Mabel and Lillie Blake; while Mr. Walter Ashley and Mr. H. C. Ward also contribute their share to the success of the piece. One turn which has been specially well received is the plantation scena by Mr. Bert Edwards and Miss Nellie Harcourt, assisted by ten juveniles.

WALSALL.—Her Majesty's Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. Edward Arthur and company head the bill here this week, and prove a great attraction in two scenes from *The Lily of Killarney*. Mr. Edward Arthur as Myles and Hardress is excellent; Mr. Arthur Gribbon as Mr. Corrigan; the Danny Mann of Mr. David Fuller proves successful, and Miss Fanny Edwards is well placed as Mrs. Cregan. Other items include Azella Wilson, gymnast and trapeze artist; Herbert Shelley in the one-act play, entitled *Dan, the Outlaw*; Moss and Grayson in *The Professor and His Pupil*; Will Johnson, comedian; Daisy Martell, comedienne; and the Six Imrie Girls in a clever display of racquet and club juggling. The American Bioscope completes the bill.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—The drama, *A Traitor Prince* is here this week. In the title-rôle Mr. G. M. Montanini gives a striking impersonation; Miss Mona Hoffe as Vashti ably assists the Prince in his villainy; Mr. Lincoln Calthorpe does well as Lieut. Frank Derrick; Miss Rose Routledge charmingly portrays Lola Vane; Mr. Dudley Wynton undertakes the parts of Richard Vane and Colonel Vane in a most satisfactory manner; and Mr. Harry C. Momber creates amusement as Billy Bright.

Temperance Hall.—The Ediscope and Barnum's animated pictures under the management of Mr. J. B. Kennedy are attracting full houses nightly. A number of star artists give a variety entertainment during the evening.

WEST BROMWICH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—*As Midnight Chimes* is being played to well-filled houses here this week by Mr. Leonard Dalrymple's company. Mr. G. B. Williams acts in a manly style the part of Dave Stannard; Mr. Herbert Pearce makes a fine character of Ezra Gamble; the comic parts of Tat Spavvin and Suzette are capitally taken by Mr. James Slater and Miss Madge Beresford; Miss Marion Ryder is decidedly good as the boy Davy; and Mr. Percy Maitland makes the most of the portrayal of Luke Deszard.

The New Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Player.—Miss Dinah Morris and her troupe are being accorded a fine reception. Some good songs are submitted by Mr. Frank Gee and Mr. Harry Cooke; a wonderful pefromance is given by Rozel; Pete and Minnie Lee are smart in their sketch, *The Scotchman's Visit to London*; James Willard and company, in his screamingly funny sketch, *Did He Deserve It?* well merits the great applause accorded his company; Mr. Ben Albert keeps the audience in continual roars of merriment with his exceedingly funny songs and patter. Some fine films are shown by the Hippodrome lantern.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—Grand.—Lessee, Mr Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. Herbert E. Feather—Yet another pantomime is visiting here. This time it is Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's juvenile company, in *The Sleeping Beauty*. Wee George Wood captivates all who see and hear him as Bertie Dalrymple; Prince Florizel is played in dashing style by Miss Kitty Trewhitt; Beauty has a charming exponent in Miss Dolly Dodds; and as Queen and Asbestos the Brothers Armstrong show to advantage.

Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—The principal attraction here is Henri Cot, the French giant, and Prince Colibri, the smallest living man, the contrast between whom is causing quite a sensation. The feats of Gicardo, a boy juggler, are performed with remarkable precision; some graceful dancing is contributed by Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, American comedy artists; the Lancashire comedy of Harry Taylor is amusing; Francis O'Flynn is an adept performer on the banjo; Ray Ford is a chic comedienne, renders her songs in capital style; and Russell Brandow in his latest successes is an attraction.

WHITEHAVEN.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Clark.—Mr. Chas. H. Phelps and Mr. Harry Tilbury's company is appearing here in the domestic drama *His Dishonoured Wife*. Mr. Phelps as Frank Lindon gives a strong portrayal; Mr. Lawrence Brien is capital as the detective; and Mr. Alf Fry is good in the rôle of Lord Devant. Mr. Bernard Webb works hard and successfully as Tom Redman; Mr. Harry Tilbury is amusing as Micky Doolan; Miss Belle Tilbury makes a charming Florence; and Miss B. Newtown is good as Mabel.

WIDNES.—Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. James Kiddie.—Mr. Tom. H. Taylor's company is this week presenting *The Worst Woman in London*. The play is beautifully mounted and the acting is of high quality all round. Miss Olga Andre created quite a sensation on Monday evening by her powerful and artistically restrained acting in the title-rôle. Mr. George Gaisford is an excellent Jack Felton. The scheming Vincent Lyle is well played by Mr. Paul Barry Lewers; Mr. F. Vernon Travers plays the weak James Milford very ably; Mr. Willie Garvey as the irrepressible Bob Goldfinch proves himself a comedian of great resource with splendid powers of mimicry; Mr. W. H. Monte as Hugh Drayton draws a remarkably good picture of a dissolute old scoundrel; Mr. Leonard Booker is responsible for good work as Philip Armstrong. Miss Elizabeth Watkins is a pleasing and winsome heroine as Ruth Milford; Miss Polly Marsh is amusing in the comedy part of Matilda Parker.

WIGAN.—Royal Court Theatre.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Mr. Fred Granville's Christmas pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, has drawn large audiences during the week. The production is beautifully staged, and in addition to the ordinary features of the piece the Three Graces, or living statues; Boden and Bell, in a clever juvenile act; the Three Bodinas, in a sparkling musical mélange; the Clancy Girls, acrobats and dancers; and the Kimberley Boys, eccentric comedians and knockabouts, lend further attractions to an excellent presentation.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—The Kellinos give a marvellously clever exhibition of tumbling, dancing, &c. Story and Trigg, acrobats, &c., Baffin and Lucas, jugglers, and Dave O'Toole and Gus Garrick, comedians, also provide capital entertainment. The Polio Trio, xylophone marvels, the Primrose Quartet, Will McIvor, in the scena *Dreaming*, and Dale and Vale, pedestal dancers, are likewise popular. Maymie Cannon sings in excellent voice, and as a trick pianist and comedienne wins general admiration.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—Grand Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival.—Wolverhampton people are favoured in having the opportunity of witnessing for the first time out of London Mr. Lewis Waller's company in *Robin Hood*. In the title-rôle Mr. Robert Minster displays great abilities to much advantage. Mr. Augustus Wheatman enacts the part of Friar Tuck in a manner which leaves nothing to be desired; Mr. E. C. Villiers is a capable Little John; Mr. Laurence Tessier makes a smart and effective Will Scarlet; and Mr. Ethelbert Edwards acts and sings in excellent style as Allan A'Dale. The part of King Richard is admirably portrayed by Mr. Stockall Ward; Mr. Bellenden Clarke is successful as Prince John; Mr. Arthur Willerby is an efficient FitzAlwyne; and Mr. H. Elliott Ball a capital Hugo de Longespée. As Maid Marion Miss Marie Polini wins all hearts by her charming impersonation; Miss D. Moore-Lane cleverly fills the part of Adela; Miss Mable Young is a praiseworthy Eleanor of Acquitaine; Miss Lilian Lait does well as Alison Much; and the remaining characters are all in good hands. The play is most effectively staged, and evoked much praise.

WORCESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—Mr. Bert Coote's company is this week paying a return visit in *The Fatal Wedding*. The production is cleverly staged, and the interest admirably sustained. Mr. Ernest Owtrim makes a capital hero. Howard Wilson, and Miss Catherine Clarke is sympathetic and dignified as his wife; Mr. Guy Hastings finds plenty of scope as the villain; and the part of the adventuress is admirably taken by Miss Leah Marlborough. The comic element is safely entrusted to Miss Julie Temple and Mr. C. H. Hughes; and Miss Marie Wilson was seen and heard to advantage in a child part, singing and dancing excellently. Miss Dolly McCalla, Master Aubrey, Miss Hettie Kelly, and Miss Dorothy Payn contribute acceptable musical items.

WORTHING.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—*The Shulamite* was presented here on Monday. Mr. Algernon J. Hicks as Simeon Krillett gives a forcible impersonation of the character; Mr. Charles Fancourt as Robert Waring submits a capital portrayal; Mr. Geo. Rammell is a typical Boer as Jan Vanderberg; Miss Emily Levettez puts in some fine work as Tante Anna Vanderberg; Miss Chrissie Bickerstaff scores as the Kaffir girl, Memke; Mr. James L. Rilings does well as Klauss; Miss Ruth Shepherd as Deborah Krillett presents an excellent embodiment.

YORK.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—*Sapho* (Mr. James Bell's company) has drawn large audiences during the week. Miss V. S. Lawrence in the title-rôle contributed in no small degree to the success of the play. Mr. Otto Minster as Jean Gaussin looked picturesque and acted naturally; and Uncle Césaire was ably portrayed by Mr. Gautley.

Opera House and Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—Witty Watty Walton is scoring a tremendous success; Corman's Juveniles have proved a tower of strength: and Raglus, aptly termed eccentric, is one of the neatest jugglers we have seen. The Alberto troupe are equilibrists of the first rank; and the popular baritone, Mr. Albert Chapman, sings in his usual excellent style. The Smithsons, in their sketch *Love Germs*, are clever; and the Dancing Gilberts secure applause. Jack Crawley, Auto, and the Bioscope complete the list.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, Dec. 31, 1906.—Her Majesty's Theatre (Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson; Business-Manager, Mr. George Tallis).—The gorgeous spectacular production of the Christmas pantomime, *Mother Goose*, is proving highly successful, the theatre being packed nightly. On Christmas Eve and Boxing Night hundreds were unable to gain admission. The production has been revised and improved greatly since it was first staged, a number of new and catchy songs having been added. Judging from present appearances, *Mother Goose* should hold the boards till well on towards Easter.

Theatre Royal (Lessee, Mr. William Anderson; Business-Manager, Mr. Julius Grant).—*The Village Blacksmith* is earning a great reputation for popularity at this theatre. Miss Eugenie Duggan, Mr. George Cross, and the rest of Mr. Anderson's company all do excellent work, while the mounting is on a most elaborate scale.

Opera House (Proprietor, Mr. Harry Rickards; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Aydon).—An unusually strong programme is being put forward for the holiday season. George Charti, the lightning change artist, is the chief attraction, his performance nightly being received with great enthusiasm. Fred Russell, the ventriloquist, is back with Coster Joe after an absence of three years. The Alaskas give a finished performance; King and Benson have become popular favourites with their clever singing and neat patter. Other artists who lend valuable assistance include Casselli and James (banjoists), Post Mason, Harry Bedford, Cassie Walmer, the Rose Sisters, Kelly and Agnes, Carleton and Sutton, Lal Logie, and the Harmonious Huxams.

Gaiety Theatre (Manager, Mr. Joe Solomons).—Record business has been done during the holidays, and certainly the patrons of the Gaiety have nothing to complain of as regards the bill of fare provided just now. New arrivals on Saturday included Blutch Jones, Dan Cusack, and Tod Callaway; while pleasing turns were given by Nancy Symmonds, Dave Warne, Laura Diamond, Maud Perman, Frank Melvin, Fred Ireland, and many others.

At the Athenæum Hall the cinématographic story of the adventures of the Kelly Gang is attracting large audiences.

Dreamland, with its numerous attractions, has become a popular resort for the thousands who nightly visit St. Kilda.

SYDNEY, Jan. 8.—Mr. Williamson's double Christmas bill is still going strong. *Parsifal*, with Miss Tittell Brune and Mr. Gaston Mervale, assisted by Mr. Thomas Kingston, Miss Susie Vaughan, Mr. John Beauchamp, Mr. Harry Sweeney, Mr. J. B. Atholwood, and a large company, has "caught on" marvellously. The matinée performance of *Alice in Wonderland*, given by a cast of "all Australian" children, was also a complete success. A vast crowd of children throng the stage, all trained by Miss Minnie Everett, and there are a number of specialities introduced.

Mr. Bland Holt is still booming *A Path of Thorns* at the Royal. Messrs. Ward, Willoughby, and Miss Grace Palotta crowd the Criterion with *The New Clown*. The vaudeville at the Tivoli keeps up Mr. Harry Rickards' reputation, and delights his patrons. The National Amphitheatre has the Bovis Brothers and a large company. The Athenæum, the Haymarket Hippodrome, Lyceum Prayer and Picture Hall, and Wonderland City has added Signor and Signora Cheffalo, in "Looping the Loop." All these are doing holiday business, as the weather is the coolest that has been experienced at Christmas for many years.

MELBOURNE, Jan. 16.—Her Majesty's Theatre (Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson; Manager, Mr. George Tallis).—The gorgeous spectacular pantomime, *Mother Goose*, continues to attract large audiences. The cast includes Harry Phydora, Harry Shine, Sam Gale, H. H. Wallace, Eddie McLean, Queen and Le Brun, Florence Young, Olive Morrell, Pressy Preston, and a host of others, who keep the fun merrily going from the start to the finish. The pantomime is most elaborately mounted, and contains a number of "catchy" songs and novel dances. Judging from present appearances *Mother Goose* will run for some considerable time.

Theatre Royal (Lessee, Mr. William Anderson; Manager, Mr. Julius Grant).—Mr. Anderson has evidently hit the public taste with his latest production, *The Village Blacksmith*, the theatre being packed nightly. Mr. George Cross, in the name part, is well placed; Miss Duggan as the heroine lends him able support; while the rest of the company appear to advantage in their various characters. The piece is well mounted, and contains some striking tableaux.

Opera House (Proprietor, Mr. Harry Rickards; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Aydon).—Chanti, the lightning change artist, is the leading attraction just now; his performance is a remarkably clever one, and is nightly received with loud applause. The bill includes Kelly and Agnes, Cassie Walmer, Lal Logie, Rowell Sisters, King and Benson, Fred Russell, the Alaskas, Annie Laurie, Olive Robinson, Brightie Smith, and a host of others. Mr. Rickards is at present staying in Melbourne for a short holiday.

Gaiety Theatre (Manager, Mr. Joe Solomons).—The Silvenis (lady and gentleman) made their first apearance on Saturday evening, and met with an enthusiastic reception. A complete change of programme was presented by Addie Fromp, Blutch Jones, Maud Perman, Harry Elliott, Charles Moody, Laura Diamond, Dan Cusack, Myrtle Sylvan, Fred Ireland, and Frank York.

Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, has been drawing crowded houses at the Worple Hall, Wimbledon. Miss Edith Wallis made a very fine principal boy, and played with great verve. She was well supported by Miss Maggie Allwood, who sang well as Jill, and by Miss Georgie Mansell and Miss Nellie Stewart as Johnny Horner and Little Bo-Peep respectively. Mr. Percy Galino (Billy Piper) and Mr. Teddy Worth (Tommy Tucker) made an admirable comic pair, and were well aided by Mr. Wallace Bosco (Sir Peter Piffin) and Mr. Harry Harcourt (Mother Harcourt). Mr. Reginald Maddox was an adequate Giant Grim, and Mr. R. Lomas caused much laughter by his presentment of Molly (the cow), and also in his really wonderful acrobatic performance as a monkey. Miss Ella Rose as Britannia presided gracefully over her troupe of dainty attendants. A special word of praise must be accorded to the Violetta Troupe of Lady Dancers.

NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

London.

Jan. 8. *The Reformer*, very light comedy, in three acts, by Cyril Harcourt—Court.
„ 8. *The Campden Wonder*, play, in three scenes, by John Masefield—Court.
„ 10. *Nelly Neil*, musical play, in three acts, book and lyrics by C. M. S. M'Lellan, music by Ivan Caryll—Aldwych.
„ 10. *The Shadow of a Lie*, domestic drama, in four acts, by Lascelles Hasbrouck (played by amateurs)—Ladbroke Hall.
„ 12. *Her Grace, the Reformer*, comedy, in one act, by Mrs. Henry de la Pasture—Haymarket.
„ 14. *The Magician's Heart*, fairy play, in three scenes, by E. Nesbit—St. George's Hall.
„ 21. *Le Marquis de Priola*, comedy, in three acts, by Henri Lavedan (originally produced at the Comédie-Française on Feb. 7, 1902) (M. Le Bargy, Gabrielle Dorziat)—New Royalty.
„ 22. *The Peacemaker*, play, in one act, by E. M. Bryant—Apollo.
„ 22. *The Stronger Sex*, play, in three acts, by John Valentine—Apollo.
„ 28. *The Gipsy Girl*, musical play, by Claude Arundale (trial performance)—Waldorf.
„ 29. *When Knights Were Bold*, farce, in three acts, by Charles Marlowe (originally produced on Sept. 17, 1906, at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham)—Wyndham's.
„ 31. *Miss Hook of Holland*, a "Dutch musical incident," in two acts, libretto by Paul A. Rubens and Austen A. Hurgon, music by Paul A. Rubens—Prince of Wales's.

Revivals.

Jan. 12. *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, romantic comedy, in four acts, by the Baroness Orczy-Barstow (T. R., Nottingham, Oct. 15, 1903; New Theatre, Jan. 5, 1905)—New.
„ 12. *Lady Huntworth's Experiment*, comedy, in three acts, by R. C. Carton (originally produced at the Criterion Theatre on April 26, 1900)—Haymarket.
„ 16. *Macbeth*, Shakespeare's tragedy (Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bourchier)—Garrick.
„ 22. *The Gondoliers; or, The King of Barataria*, opera, in two acts, by W. S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan (originally produced at the Savoy on Dec. 7, 1889)—Savoy.
„ 24. *Le Demi-Monde*, play, by Alexandre Dumas *fils* (M. Le Bargy, Gabrielle Dorziat)—New Royalty.
„ 24. *Die Verkaufte Braut* (The Bartered Bride), comic opera, in three acts, by Frederic Smetana, originally produced at Prague in 1866, and first presented in London at Drury Lane by the Ducal Court Company of Saxe-Coburg on June 27, 1895.
„ 28. *The Drums of Oude*, drama, in one act, by Austin Strong (originally produced at the Comedy Theatre on April 6, 1906)—Opening of the Playhouse.
„ 28. *Toddles*, farce, in three acts, adapted from *Triplepatte*, by MM. Tristan Bernard and André Godfernaux (produced Nov. 30, 1905, at the Paris Athenée), Mr. Cyril Maude—Opening of the Playhouse.
„ 31. *The Merveilleuses*, played under the title of *The Lady Dandies*—Daly's.

Provinces.

Jan. 12. *Othello* (revival), Shakespeare's tragedy (Mr. R. Flanagan)—Queen's Theatre, Manchester.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA—1850-1900.

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In these columns it is proposed to give a strictly alphabetical arrangement of the titles of plays produced during the last fifty years. It will be the most complete list ever published, and should prove invaluable to authors desiring to discover whether a certain title has ever been used, and when. To members of the dramatic profession it will be useful in determining the dates of plays in which they have achieved successes. Our readers are politely requested to advise us of any omission or inaccuracy which they may notice.

This list as soon as complete will be published in cheap book form.

TRUST AND TRIAL, Theatre Royal, Hull, Sept. 6, 1880.
TRUST TO LUCK, Newport, April 27, 1891.
TRUTH, Criterion, Feb. 8, 1879.
TRUTH AGAINST THE WORLD, East London, April 27, 1870.
TRUTH AND FICTION, Princess's, May 21, 1861.
TRUTHFUL JAMES, Theatre Royal, Great Yarmouth, Sept. 24, 1894.
TRUTH; OR, THE SPELLS OF LOVE, Britannia, April 10, 1871.
TRYING A MAGISTRATE, Globe, Dec. 17, 1877.
TRYING IT ON, Lyceum, May 3, 1853.
TRYING SCENES OF LIFE, Lyceum, Sunderland, July 19, 1876.
TURF, THE, Theatre Royal, Wigan, Feb. 29, 1884.
TURKINGTON'S TALISMAN, Dublin, Dec. 11, 1893.
TURLUTUTU, Britannia, Dec. 26, 1877.
TURNED OUT TO STARVE, Britannia, Feb. 21, 1870.
TURNED UP, Vaudeville, May 27, 1886.
TURN HIM OUT, Strand, Aug. 17, 1863.
TURN OF THE TIDE, Queen's, May 29, 1869.
TURN ROUND, Newport, Oct. 29, 1870.
TURPIN A LA MODE, Chester, March 29, 1897.
TUPPINS AND CO., St. George's Hall, June 24, 1889.
TURTLE DOVES, Ashton-under-Lyne, Nov. 22, 1880.
'TWAS ALL FOR LOVE, King's Cross, Nov. 12, 1877.
'TWAS IN TRAFALGAR'S BAY, Theatre Royal, Cardiff, Feb. 2, 1889.
TWEEDIE'S RIGHTS, Vaudeville, May 27, 1871.
TWEEDLETON'S TAIL COAT, Lyceum, Oct. 8, 1866.
TWELFTH NIGHT, Daly's, Jan. 8, 1894.
TWELVE ANGELS, East London, Nov. 6, 1869.
TWENTIETH CENTURY GIRL, Theatre Royal, Norwich, Dec. 26, 1895.
TWENTY-FOURTH OF GEORGE II., New Royalty, May 2, 1866.
TWENTY MINUTES' CONVERSATION UNDER AN UMBRELLA, Haymarket, July 4, 1873.
TWENTY MINUTES WITH A TIGER, Drury Lane, Oct. 22, 1855.
£20 A YEAR ALL FOUND, Folly, April 17, 1876.
TWENTY STRAWS, Britannia, Feb. 20, 1865.
TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS A YEAR, New Pavilion, Sept. 18, 1871.
22A, CURZON STREET, Garrick, March 2, 1898.
TWENTY YEARS IN A DEBTORS' PRISON, City, Sept. 20, 1858.
TWICE FOOLED, Gaiety, July 23, 1895.
TWICE MARRIED, Princess's, May 17, 1860.
TWICE TOLD TALE, Olympic, Sept. 27, 1858.
TWICE WEDDED, Exchange Hall, Banbury, Aug. 9, 1882.
TWIDDLETON TWINS, Cripplegate Institute, March 3, 1900.
TWIG FOLLY, Pavilion, April 22, 1878.
TWILIGHT, Lyceum, Sunderland, Sept. 20, 1871.
TWILIGHT TO DAWN, Lyceum, Stafford, Oct. 8, 1885.
TWIN BROTHERS, Marylebone, Feb. 16, 1874.
TWINE THE PLAIDEN, Theatre Royal, Plymouth, Aug. 10, 1877.
TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR, Aquarium, Dec. 26, 1876.
TWINS, Olympic, Aug. 2, 1884.
TWIN SISTERS, Charing Cross, April 18, 1870.
'TWIXT AXE AND CROWN, Queen's, Jan. 22, 1870.
'TWIXT CRIME AND PRISON, Woolwich, Nov. 11, 1897.
'TWIXT CUP AND LIP, Olympic, June 14, 1873.
'TWIXT GOLD AND LOVE, Theatre Royal, Scarborough, Nov. 5, 1883.
'TWIXT GOOD AND EVIL, Farnworth, Dec. 17, 1900.
'TWIXT KITH AND KIN, Prince of Wales's, Birmingham, Aug. 25, 1887.
'TWIXT LOVE AND ART, Theatre Royal, Wolverhampton, Dec. 18, 1882.
'TWIXT LOVE AND DUTY, Southampton, July 11, 1889.
'TWIXT LOVE AND WAR, Wells, Jan. 18, 1892.
'TWIXT NIGHT AND MORN, Avenue, May 28, 1896.
TWO BONNY CASTLES, Nov. 11, 1851.
TWO BOYS, Princess's, May 21, 1896.
TWO COMMON SAILORS, Theatre Royal, Colchester, April 9, 1883.
TWO CONFESSIONS, St. George's Hall, April 11, 1899.
TWO COQUETTES, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, Oct. 29, 1870.
TWO CHRISTMAS EVES, Liverpool, Dec. 1, 1888.
TWO FLATS AND A SHARP, Globe, Dec. 17, 1873.
TWO FRIENDS, Prince's, Bristol, Nov. 23, 1888.
TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA, Daly's, July 2, 1895.
TWO HARLEQUINS, Gaiety, Dec. 21, 1868.
TWO HEARTS, Royalty, Feb. 6, 1894.
TWO HUNDRED A YEAR, Globe, Oct. 6, 1877.
TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, Victoria, April 13, 1872.
TWO HUSSARS, Theatre Royal, Darwen, Aug. 4, 1894.
TWO IN THE BUSH, Olympic, Aug. 15, 1891.
TWO IN THE DARK, Crouch End, May 1, 1899.
TWO JOHNNIES, Opera House, Northampton, April 27, 1888.
TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS, Glasgow, June 1, 1899.
TWO LITTLE MAIDS FROM SCHOOL, Camberwell, Nov. 21, 1898.
TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS, Princess's, Sept. 23, 1896.
TWO LOVES AND A LIFE, Adelphi, March 20, 1854.
TWO MEN, Cardiff, Dec. 7, 1896.
TWO MEN AND A MAID, Comedy, June 20, 1893.
TWO MOTHERS, Duke's, March 31, 1877.
"TWO" MUCH ALIKE, Gallery of Illustration, Feb. 12, 1870.
TWO O.C.'s, Alexandra Palace, July 25, 1881.
TWO OLD BLOKES, Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, March 17, 1871.
TWO OR ONE, Avenue, March 3, 1891.
TWO ORPHANS, Olympic, Sept. 14, 1874.
TWO PATHS IN LIFE, Victoria, April 22, 1876.
TWO PATHS OF LIFE, Theatre Royal, Plymouth, April 9, 1875.
TWO PHOTOGRAPHS, Strand, March 6, 1884.
TWO POETS, St. George's Hall, Dec. 21, 1886.
TWO PROS, Prince of Wales's, December 4, 1886.
TWO PUDDIFOOTS, Olympic, Oct. 14, 1867.
TWO RECRUITS, Toole's, Nov. 8, 1890.
TWO RINGS, Public Hall, Hastings, April 6, 1885.
TWO ROADS OF LIFE, Theatre Royal, Swansea, Aug. 14, 1871.
TWO ROSES, Vaudeville, June 4, 1870.
TWO RUBIES, Liverpool, Jan. 12, 1894.
TWO'S COMPANY, Theatre Royal, Bradford, May 20, 1895.
TWO SISTERS, Prince of Wales's, Warrington, March 10, 1875.
TWO SONS, Britannia, Nov. 12, 1877.
TWO STUDENTS, Surrey, Feb. 16, 1861.
TWO SUICIDES, Jan. 24, 1891.
TWO THORNS, St. James's, March 4, 1871.
TWO WEDDING RINGS, Britannia, Feb. 27, 1882.
TWO WINTERS, Marylebone, March 7, 1859.
TWO WOMEN, Standard, April 6, 1885.
TYPEWRITER, THE, Battersea, Feb. 13, 1892.
TYRANNY: A TALE OF THE PRESS GANG OF 1810, Theatre Royal, Scarborough, Jan., 1884.
TYRANNY OF TEARS, Criterion, April 6, 1899.
TZIGANE, Balham, May 16, 1895.
UGLY CUSTOMER, Adelphi, Dec. 6, 1860.
UGLY DUCKLING, St. George's Hall, Nov. 20, 1893.
UGLY LOVER, Ladbroke Hall, March 11, 1898.
UHLANS, Gaiety, Dublin, March 10, 1884.
ULF THE MINSTREL, New Royalty, March 30, 1866.
ULVENE, THE SYREN QUEEN, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, March 31, 1874.
ULYSSES; OR, THE IRON-CLAD WARRIOR, St. James's, April 17, 1865.
UMPIRE, THE, Theatre Royal, Burnley, Jan. 31, 1887.
UNA, Queen's, Dublin, April 5, 1875.
UN BALLO IN MASCHERA, Lyceum, June 15, 1861.
UNBIDDEN GUEST, Theatre Royal, Dublin, July 13, 1900.
UNBLUSHING IMPUDENCE, Gaiety, Dublin, May 10, 1875.
UNCAS, THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS, Pavilion, March 3, 1866.
UNCLE, Gaiety, Dublin, Nov. 4, 1878.
UNCLE CROCHET, Olympic, April 18, 1853.
UNCLE DICK, St. George's Hall, Dec. 20, 1894.
UNCLE DICK'S DARLING, Gaiety, Dec. 13, 1870.
UNCLE JACK, Sutton Coldfield, April 4, 1893.
UNCLE JOE, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, Feb. 18, 1876.
UNCLE JOE AT OXBRIDGE, Theatre Royal, Cambridge, June 12, 1885.
UNCLE JOHN, Vaudeville, April 3, 1893.
UNCLE JOHNSON, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, June 11, 1877.
UNCLE JONATHAN, St. Leonards, July 3, 1899.
UNCLE JOSH, Theatre Royal, Blackburn, July 30, 1888.
UNCLE MIKE, Terry's, Dec. 8, 1892.
UNCLES AND AUNTS, Comedy, Aug. 22, 1888.
UNCLE'S BLUNDER, St. Alban's, Dec. 18, 1893.
UNCLE'S GHOST, Prince of Wales's, June 15, 1887.
UNCLE SILAS, Shaftesbury, Feb. 13, 1893.
UNCLE STARLIGHT'S WILL, Theatre Royal, Liverpool, July 8, 1872.
UNCLE'S WILL, Haymarket, Oct. 24, 1870.
UNCLE THATCHER, Court, June 1, 1896.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN, Theatre Royal, Manchester, Aug. 19, 1878.
UNCLE TOM, Standard, Sept. 30, 1878.
UNCLE TRUE, Royal Albert, Portsmouth, March 27, 1871.
UNCLE YANK'S MISHAPS, Liverpool, June 27, 1892.
UNCLE ZAC, Standard, June 4, 1883.
UNCLE ZACHARY, Vaudeville, March 8, 1860.
UNDER A BAN, Liverpool, March 7, 1870.
UNDER A CLOUD, Effingham, May 9, 1859.
UNDER A VEIL, Theatre Royal, Richmond, Jan. 7, 1876.
UNDER COMPULSION, Accrington, Jan. 17, 1895.
UNDER COVER, Gaiety, Jan. 9, 1886.
UNDER FALSE COLOURS, St. George's Hall, Feb. 9, 1869.
UNDER FIRE, Vaudeville, April 1, 1885.
UNDERGRADUATE, Queen's, June 22, 1872.
UNDERGRADUATES, THE, Opera Comique, Oct. 6, 1886.
UNDERGROUND JOURNEY, Comedy, Feb. 9, 1893.
UNDER PROOF, Princess's, Edinburgh, May 1, 1879.
UNDER REMAND, Theatre Royal, Bolton, July 23, 1894.
UNDERSTUDY, THE, Shanklin, Dec. 15, 1888.
UNDER THE BRITISH FLAG, Lowestoft, Dec. 26, 1896.
UNDER THE CLOCK, Court, Nov. 25, 1893.
UNDER THE CZAR, Oldham, July 9, 1894.
UNDER THE EARTH; OR, SONS OF TOIL, Astley's, April 22, 1867.
UNDER THE GASLIGHT, Pavilion, July 20, 1868.
UNDER THE LINE, M. H., Sunderland, Dec. 17, 1881.
UNDER THE MASK OF TRUTH, Brighton, Oct. 29, 1894.
UNDER THE MISTLETOE, Imperial, Dec. 5, 1881.
UNDER THE OLD FLAG, Globe, April 19, 1900.
UNDER THE OLD NAME, Theatre Royal, Preston, July 27, 1896.
UNDER THE RED CROSS, Taunton, April 16, 1900.
UNDER THE RED ROBE, Haymarket, Oct. 17, 1896.
UNDER THE SCREW, Elephant and Castle, Oct. 6, 1873.
UNDER THE SHADOW OF OLD ST. PAUL'S, East London, Oct. 12, 1872.
UNDER THE SNOW, Britannia, Aug. 27, 1877.
UNDER THE STARS, Theatre Royal, Oldham, Sept. 1, 1879.
UNDER TWO FLAGS, Theatre Royal, Norwich, Nov. 14, 1870.
UNDER TWO REIGNS, Park, May 3, 1879.
UNDINE, Haymarket, Dec. 27, 1858.
UNDINE UNDONE, Theatre Royal, Halifax, April 21, 1873.
UNEQUAL MATCH, Haymarket, Nov. 7, 1857.
UNEQUALLY SENTENCED, Theatre Royal, Ipswich, March 27, 1876.
UNEXPECTED, THE, Theatre Royal, Dublin, Nov. 28, 1870.
UNEXPECTED VISIT, Matinée, June 21, 1898.
UNFINISHED STORY, St. James's Hall, June 22, 1891.
UN HEROS DE LA VENDEE, Kensington, Feb. 27, 1889.
UNIONIST, THE, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, Sept. 8, 1890.
UNION JACK, Adelphi, July 19, 1888.
UNION WHEEL, Theatre Royal, Sheffield, April 16, 1870.
UNITED, Theatre Royal, Consett, Oct. 1, 1886.
UNITED PAIR, St. George's Hall, April 5, 1886.
UNITED WE STAND, South Hampstead, March 28, 1892.
UNKNOWN: A RIVER MYSTERY, Surrey, July 31, 1882.
UNKNOWN QUANTITY, Bayswater, March 29, 1897.
UNLAWFUL PRESENT, Britannia, June 3, 1872.
UNLIMITED CASH, Gaiety, Oct. 27, 1879.
UNLIMITED CONFIDENCE, Strand, Feb. 1, 1864.
UNLUCKY COINCIDENCE, Ladbroke Hall, Feb. 26, 1897.
UNLUCKY MORTAL, Haymarket, June 4, 1863.
UN MARI DANS DU COTON, Royalty, May 18, 1897.
UN MARI QUI PLEURE, Gaiety, June 15, 1883.
UNMASKED, Glasgow, Oct. 23, 1899.
UNMASKED, THE, Pavilion, Nov. 13, 1875.
UNPAID DEBT, St. George's Hall, Dec. 19, 1893.
UN PARISIEN, Royalty, Oct. 24, 1887.
UN PERE PRODIGUE, Drury Lane, June 13, 1893.
UNREAL RICHES, Reading, Sept. 22, 1890.
UN ROMAN PARISIEN, Gaiety, June 13, 1883.
UNSANCTIFIED GARMENT, St. George's Hall, Dec. 20, 1895.
UNTIL THE DAY BREAK, Bayswater, May 17, 1898.
UNTREA, Daly's, June 21, 1897.
UP AT THE HILLS, St. James's, Oct. 27, 1860.
UP FOR THE CATTLE SHOW, Adelphi, Dec. 7, 1867.
UP FOR THE JUBILEE, Grand, May 30, 1887.
UP IN THE WORLD, Strand, Feb. 9, 1871.
UPON THE WATERS, Manchester, June 13, 1898.
UPPER CLASSES, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, Oct. 2, 1876.
UPPER CRUST, Folly, March 31, 1880.
UPPER HAND, Terry's, May 29, 1899.
UPS AND DOWNS, Theatre Royal, Jersey, Oct. 18, 1886.
UPS AND DOWNS OF DEAL AND BLACK-EYED SUSAN, Marylebone, June 10, 1867.
UPS AND DOWNS OF LIFE, Opera House, Northampton, Aug. 1, 1892.
UPSIDE DOWN, Thirsk, Nov. 1, 1886.
UPSTAIRS AND DOWNSTAIRS, Strand, May 15, 1865.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, FEB. 6.—Mr. E. H. Sothern and Miss Julia Marlowe, during their present engagement at the Lyric Theatre, will appear in a répertoire of fifteen plays. Herman Sudermann's tragedy *Johannes*, translated into English and entitled *John the Baptist*, was the initial offering, and it fell far short of being a popular success. The much-talked-of "Dance of the Seven Veils" was gracefully executed by Miss Marlowe, but there was nothing in it to call for the intervention of the police, and in view of the fact that a large section of the New York public has a chronic craving for "sensations" of that sort, there is no doubt that a great many people were disappointed. Fortunately that disgusting bit of realism, the exhibition of the head on a charger, which caused the withdrawal of the Oscar Wilde version of the story from the Metropolitan Opera House, was omitted from the performance at the Lyric Theatre. The main purpose of Sudermann's psychological drama is to analyse the character of the Baptist, Salome being represented as an incipient wanton. Mr. Sothern's John the Baptist and Miss Marlowe's Salome were praiseworthy portrayals, but the play was monotonous and unimpressive. It was succeeded on the 29th ult. by *Jeanne d'Arc*, a drama in five acts, by Percy Mackaye, which has been favourably received by the Press and the public. The rôle of Jeanne d'Arc is well suited to Miss Marlowe's personality and dramatic methods, and Mr. Sothern is seen to advantage as Jean, Duke d'Alençon, and cousin to King Charles, a nobleman of studious mind, sincere purpose, and a firm belief in the heavenly mission of the Maid of Orleans. The play covers the history of Jeanne d'Arc from the time when she left her humble home in the village of Domremy until she rode triumphantly at the side of King Charles into the City of Rheims, the scenes being presented in the following order: Act I., The Ladies' Tree, near Domremy, Springtime, 1428; Act II., The Castle of King Charles VII., at Chinon, March 8, 1428; Act III., Outside the Walls of Orleans, the Attack on the Tourelles, May 7, 1429; Act IV., Before the Walls of Troyes en route for Rheims, Night of July 5, 1429; and in the second scene of this act the Coronation Pageant of King Charles in a street in Rheims, seen from an old wall of the castle, Sunday, July 17, 1429; Act V., Jeanne's Prison at Rouen, May 30, 1431.

"THE LITTLE MICHUS" made a decided hit at the Garden Theatre on the 31st ult., and Mr. George Graves in the rôle of General des Ifs scored a personal success of the first magnitude. Misses Alice Judson and Ruth Julian as the Little Michus, Mr. Ernest Lambart as Bagnolet, Miss Elita Proctor Otis and Mr. George Fortescue as the Michus, and Mr. William C. Weedon as Gaston Rigaud were very successful in their respective parts.

MISS ELLEN TERRY received an enthusiastic welcome at the Empire Theatre, when she made her reappearance after a lengthy absence from the American stage, and the distinguished actress was plainly delighted. The satirical humour of *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*, in which Miss Terry appeared as Lady Cecily Waynflete, was readily understood and enjoyed by the audience, which summoned Miss Terry before the curtain at least a dozen times during the evening and would not leave the theatre until she had expressed her thanks. Mr. James Carew's Captain Brassbound was an excellent characterisation; and Messrs. Rudge Harding, W. T. Lovell, George Elton, Tom Paulton, and George Ingleton rendered good service in prominent rôles. Miss Terry has denied that this is to be her farewell tour of America. She says that she will keep coming here as long as the Americans will receive her.

NEW YORK, FEB. 13.—Miss Camille D'Arville, after a long absence from the local stage, has renewed her popularity in a dainty and delightful musical comedy, entitled *The Belle of London Town*, by Stanislaus Stange and Julian Edwards, which has scored a decided success at the Lincoln-square Theatre. The piece is a musical version of Mr. Stange's comedy, *The School for Husbands*, originally produced about three years ago. Sir John Manners and his beautiful wife, Lady Belinda, are not on good terms with each other. Their marriage was a loveless one, Lady Belinda having sacrificed herself for money in order to save her father from ruin. Sir John turns the house into a tavern for his military friends, and openly slights his wife, who resolves to pay him back in kind, and is well able to do so, since, unknown to Sir John, who has gambled away his money, she has inherited a large fortune. As the belle of London Town she excites his jealousy, makes him fight a duel, and finally wins his admiration and affection.

"THE ROSE OF THE ALHAMBRA; OR, THE ENCHANTED LUTE," a romantic comic opera, in three acts, by Charles Emerson Cook and Lucius Hosmer, has been favourably received at the Majestic Theatre. The story is drawn from one of Washington Irving's legends, and from the history of Spain during the early part of the eighteenth century, when Philip V., the Bourbon, was the eccentric ruler of the realm. In his fanciful weave of romance and comedy the author introduces Jacinta, an Andalusian maid, who, with a sour spinster aunt, dwells in a lone tower on the outer wall of the Alhambra. Jacinta builds an air castle of love, which becomes a reality when Ruyz, a Royal page, climbs the wall in search of a stray falcon, whilst the whimsical Philip is on his way to Grenada to rehearse the monks of San Marco in a new requiem for his forthcoming demise. Philip has a playful habit of periodically declaring himself dead. The retinue falls into the hands of Boraldo, a notorious bandit, and Ruyz is taken prisoner to the retreat of the brigands, while Philip is forced to sign the Royal pardon of Boraldo and his band. Jacinta, fearing for her lover, implores the spirit of Zorahayda, a Moorish Princess imprisoned in an enchanted fountain, to save Ruyz. Zorahayda, awakened from the spell which bound her, gives the maid a magic lute, assuring Jacinta that its charm will carry her fame as a singer throughout Spain, even to the Court of the King, over whom music alone is potent to move him from his erratic moods. With this talisman Jacinta starts in quest of her sweetheart. Philip, in one of his eccentric moods, disguises himself as Boraldo, and, with a select party of courtiers, gains the bandit's stronghold. The various characters are involved in a series of ludicrous situations, and the fickle Ruyz, who has been captivated by the amorous glances of Estrella, the brigands' "mascot," is won back by Jacinta with the aid of the magic lute. The music is melodious, and the *mise-en-scène* is picturesque and beautiful. Miss Agnes Cain Brown, Mr. Henry Norman, and Miss Lillian Hudson win approval in prominent rôles.

MISS LULU GLASER is appearing at the Criterion Theatre in a new comedy, by Sydney Rosenfeld, called *The Aero Club*, in which the chief incident is a race between a balloon and an automobile. Myrtle Webb, who is engaged to be married to a prominent society man, learns that on the day of the race a young millionaire aeronaut, Jack Chandler, is going to take one of her friends, a married woman, in his balloon. To save her friend from being compromised, Myrtle persuades Chandler that she herself is in love with him, and takes the trip in the balloon. The next morning they land in a dilapidated condition, and the resulting complications are very amusing. Miss Glaser has made a genuine hit as Myrtle Webb, and others who contribute to the success of the comedy are Messrs. FitzWilliam and James H. Bradbury.

MR. JEFFERSON DE ANGELIS, as Don Pascal de Mesquita, the Governor of a South American colony under Spanish rule, is the central figure of a new comic opera, *The Girl and the Governor*, by S. M. Brenner and Julian Edwards, which forms the current attraction at the Manhattan Theatre. The girl of the title is a spirited English lass whom the Governor has taken prisoner, and whom he wishes to marry. But Ruth Granville (Miss Estelle Wentworth) has surrendered her heart to Dick Kingsley, an English sailor. Ruth keeps Don Pascal at a respectful distance by feigning a shrewish disposition, and giving frequent exhibitions of a violent temper. The sailor lover finds his way to La Guayra in the nick of time, on the day before the wedding, when his disconsolate is contemplating suicide. At a moment when she is venting her rage upon the Governor, Kingsley makes gestures to restrain her. The ruler observes with admiration the success of the sailor man, and forthwith appoints him his official "tamer." The maiden continues to play the shrew, and the lovers carry on their courtship under the Governor's nose, until he discovers that he has been fooled. His plan for a terrible revenge is frustrated, however, when an English ship sails into the harbour, and the Governor is forced to console himself with a lady of his own nationality. The success of the piece is chiefly due to the acrobatic capers of Mr. De Angelis, the singing of several pleasing numbers by Miss Wentworth and Mr. Richie Ling, and the effective rendering of a novel and amusing song, called "The Musical Bullfrog," by Mr. Joseph C. Miron.

MISS MARGARET ILLINGTON (Mrs. Daniel Frohman), who has distinguished herself by her fine performance of Nina in Pinero's *His House in Order*, will star next season in *Dr. Wake's Patient*, in which play she will assume the comedy rôle of Lady Gerania.

THEATRICAL PATENTS.

The concise descriptions that we give below of recent patent applications are specially contributed by Messrs. Howard and Co., Patent Agents, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, London, W.C., who will assist readers in all patent matters:—

APPLICATIONS.

2335. Edward Albert Pickering, Ludgate-hill, London, for "Apparatus for producing the illusion of a voyage on board a vessel, ship, or boat."

2336. Edward Albert Pickering, Ludgate-hill, London, for "Improvements in the manipulation and exhibition of cinematograph pictures and the like."

2350. Julius Kopetzky, Chancery-lane, London, for "Improved apparatus for abolishing the glimmer of cinematographic pictures."

2700. Thomas Barrasford and George Victor Twiss, Southampton-buildings, London, for "Improvements in apparatus for producing the illusion of going on a voyage."

2778. Henry William Palmer, St. Martin's-lane, London. Improvements in mechanism employed in the production of cinematograph and mutascopic pictures and dark slide for carrying sensitive photographic plate for taking impressions.

2948. Arthur Joseph Darlaston, New-street, Birmingham. Illuminated means for indicating programme and similar references in public places, particularly theatres and music halls.

3526. Oscar Covey (professionally known as Bud Snyder), of Chancery-lane, London. Improvements in apparatus for affording spectacular entertainment.

3618. Carl Hochenegg, of Southampton-buildings, London. Improvements relating to emergency illumination for theatres and the like.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS.

21,329. Acrobatic apparatus. Obiols, G., Faubourg, St. Honoré, Paris. In an apparatus for projecting performers through the air, the performer occupies a seat in a car, mounted upon slides engaging rods, which are fixed to a girder hinged to a bed-plate and supported at any angle by an adjustable rod. The car is attached to two cables, which pass partly round and are fixed to grooved pulleys mounted upon a shaft having a drum, upon which is wound a cable connected with a grooved quadrant and held in tension by the pressure of springs. The car is drawn back by a rope passing over a windlass until a stop on the car frame engages a detent, upon release of which the car is projected forward till it strikes spring buffers, when the upper part containing the performer is projected through the air, the base of the car remaining on the slide. The car is prevented from starting too suddenly by the pressure of a brake upon a tapered piece fixed to the back of the car-frame.

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BOVRIL
REPELS
INFLUENZA
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THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"SA SŒUR,"

Comedy in three acts, by M. Tristan Bernard. Produced at the Athénée, on Feb. 7.

Lucie ..... Mme. Duluc
Jeannine ..... Mlle. Goldstein
Rita ..... Mlle. Louise Bignon
Clémentine ..... Mlle. Caumont
Thaïs Couturier ..... Mlle. Templey
Maud de Meulan ..... Mlle. Prince
Julia ..... Mlle. Raynal
Fister ..... M. Bullier
Docteur Bariller ..... M. Leubas
Rimbert ..... M. André Lefaur
Lehugont ..... M. Clement
Séraphin ..... M. Marius Barlay

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, Thursday, Feb. 14.—M. Tristan Bernard has given us an insignificant comedy, but which contains a few episodical personages who impart life to the otherwise rather dull piece. Lucie is engaged to Rimbert, but she tells the young man that she wants to break off the engagement, whereupon he disappears. The truth is that Lucie loves Bariller, a timid medical practitioner, whom she wants to marry. Everybody ignores this; and Lucie's friends not only pity her, but say unkind things about Rimbert, who deserted his fiancée. Jeannine, Lucie's seventeen-year-old sister, is especially indignant; and as she feels certain that Lucie is pining for the wicked Rimbert, she resolves to bring him back. Jeannine has an old friend, called Fister, and she coaxes the man into motoring her to Dieppe. It is not a very long trip, for all the personages in the play are spending the summer on the Normandy coast. In Dieppe, Jeannine puts up at the hotel where Rita, Rimbert's mistress, is staying. When Fister makes his appearance there with Jeannine, Rita and her friends—all of them belonging to the "fast" set—compliment him on his fair companion. Nobody heeds his indignant denials; and he is accepted as Jeannine's lover. All this seems very improbable, especially when Rimbert himself does not recognise the young girl. As it turns out, Rimbert has never seen her, for when he became engaged to Lucie, Jeannine was on a visit with some friends, and before her return the match had been broken off. Rimbert, however, is smart enough to see that Jeannine is a respectable girl. He cannot understand why she has come to this place with Fister, who is neither young nor handsome, nor rich. And he is angry with Fister, with Jeannine, and also with himself, for he discovers that he loves the girl. And she? She has returned the compliment, and leaves the hotel in a hurry when her eyes are opened to this fact. It is, of course, a case of love at first sight. There are many things that shock us. It is not pleasant to see an innocent girl in conversation with women like Rita, like Maud de Meulan, like Thaïs Couturier; but the author has given us such a delightful dialogue and has dealt so adroitly with the situations that we are apt to forget how improbable the whole story is. In the last act we witness the engagement of Jeannine and Rimbert, and of Lucie and Bariller. The plot would have supplied a pretty one act. There is not enough material for three. But, as I said before, we have the episodical personages, and they are really amusing. The good-natured Fister, who dabbles in doubtful securities, which he places among his friends, is a curious character. So is the young doctor Bariller, a great scientist, but so utterly tactless. Nor must I forget the women: Rita, who dances a fandango, whilst her cousin accompanies her on the piano; Maud de Meulan, with her impossible twaddle; and the silly Thaïs. They all are wonderful types. The piece was fairly well acted.

"LES ETOILES,"

Play, in Four Acts, by M. Jean Jullien, produced at the Théâtre Molière on Feb. 9.

Le Colonel Morlet ..... M. Pouctal
Le Capitaine Cheniot ..... M. Valney
Le Capitaine de Salvagny ..... M. Mauge
Le Lieutenant Labasquime ..... M. Combes
Le Commandant Marsillac ..... M. Duval
Le Général Dubourg ..... M. Thorsigny
Huguette ..... Mlle. G. Maxance
Charlotte Jordaim ..... Mlle. Leo Renn
Aurora de Marsillac .. Mlle. Luneville Boscher
Lucie ..... Mlle. Ritter

Les étoiles (the stars) are not the shining bodies seen in the heavens at night, but the badges of rank on the coats of the generals of the French army. The play is a clever psycological study, such as we would expect from M. Jullien; but, like the work just described, it lacks brightness, and proved somewhat boring to the audience. Colonel Morlet is in command of a cuirassier regiment, quartered in a small provincal town. He is a widower, and his ambition is to become General. He has an only daughter, Huguette. Spoilt by her father, the girl does as she pleases, interfering in everything, even in matters concerning the regiment. She, too, has ambitious dreams, and is anxious that her father should secure the coveted "stars"; but, unfortunately, her thoughts have wandered in other directions, and she gives herself to a handsome cavalry captain. The next day she bitterly regrets what she has done, and refuses to meet again the man who has seduced her. The catastrophe has, however, made a deep impression on her, and there is no saying what might have become of her if she had not met Captain Chevriot, an upright man and a splendid soldier, whom the colonel holds in great esteem. Huguette and he fall in love with one another, and Chevriot, an excellent strategist, supplies capital advice to the colonel, whose tactics at the great manœuvres received special praise. The colonel's joy on hearing that the "stars" are now within his grasp is marred by the news that Chevriot has sent a challenge to the officer who took advantage of Huguette's inexperience; in fact, it is through this challenge that he learns for the first time what befell his daughter. Chevriot, too, was thunderstruck when Huguette loyally confessed to him the fault she committed. But Chevriot is a reader of character. He understands that the girl was the victim of a scoundrel, and he does not hesitate to make her his wife. The interpretation was good. M. Pouctal was rather heavy as the colonel, but as one of our confrères wittily remarked, we must not forget that we are in a heavy cavalry regiment. Mlle. Gladys Maxance gave us a graceful and sweet Huguette, and we cannot but regret that Mlle. Ritter, that clever actress, had such an insignificant rôle assigned to her. MM. Valney, Combes, Duval, and Thorsigny also deserves a word of praise.

"Madame Gosse" is the title of a four-act comedy brought out at the Théâtre des Arts. It is by Mme. Marguerite Rolland. Madame Gosse is Pierrette, a young married woman, so called because she looks so childlike. Having caught her husband in an amorous tête-à-tête, she applies for a divorce, whilst the erring, but repentant, husband goes out to China, where he hopes to meet with his death. Left to herself, Madame Gosse is besieged by admirers, foremost among them a certain Stanislas, who succeeds in inducing her to come to his chambers. He proves, however, such a cad that he disgusts her. Then she learns that her husband is dead; a false alarm, for he turns up suddenly and meets Madame Gosse. They fall into one another's arms.

M. Albert Carré has received a new one-act musical play, called *Denisette*. It is by M. Fernand Beissier, music by M. André Eijan. The principal rôle will be sung by Mme. Dangès.

In the *Revue des Folies Bergère*, M. Galipaux, the comic actor, directs the orchestra during one of the tableaux, and, to the surprise of the audience, he plays a violin solo in a masterly manner. Few people know that M. Galipaux began his career as a musician, and was awarded the first prize for violin at the Conservatoire.

"LES HIRONDELLES."

Operette in Three Acts, by M. Maurice Ordonneau, music by M. Henri Hirschman; produced at the Gaieté on Feb. 20.

Pomponnette ..... Mme. Tariol-Baugé
Modeste ..... Mlle. Malza
La Directrice ..... Mme. Angèle Lambert
Cécile ..... Mlle. Delimoges
La Sous-Maîtresse ..... Mlle. Dorys
Brignol ..... M. Lucien Noel
Jean ..... M. Sulbac
André Balivet ..... M. Soums
Plantavoine ..... M. Bourgeois
Pancrace ..... M. Bartel

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, Thursday, Feb. 21.—This operette has, it appears, been represented more than a thousand times in the Fatherland. We are also officially informed that the story is not of German manufacture, but was written originally in French, translated into German, and that the work after its successful career in Berlin has now come to Paris to gather fresh laurels. To judge from the reception it met here, it is not likely to prove a success. In questions of art French taste is totally dissimilar to German, and M. Ordonneau might have known his countrymen better than to suppose for an instant that a heavy, old-fashioned libretto, without the least attempt at wit, could please the Parisians. During one of the entr'actes I heard someone remark: "It's provincial"; and that exactly describes it. Here in Paris you cannot damn a thing worse. The scene of the plot, of course, is laid in the eighteenth century. At curtain-rise we are in the courtyard of a hostelry in Versailles. They are expecting the stage coach, which is to bring Mlle. Modeste Blanchard, escorted by her uncle Chantavoine, a priest. Mlle. Modeste is sent to the "Hirondelles," a boarding school, that she might forget the student Brignol, who wanted to marry her, but who has been rejected by the girl's hard-hearted parents. In the courtyard we also see Balivet, another student, in love with Cécile, likewise a pupil in the "Hirondelles." He wants to enter the school, and, donning Modeste's dress, he impersonates her, whilst his servant represents the old priest. Thanks to Pomponnette, an actress, Brignol, too, slips into the house, and then we have a series of silly scenes, like the one wherein Balivet, whom everybody takes for Modeste, is asked to rub down the girls who return from their dip in the river. The libretto is so absurd that M. Hirschman had almost a hopeless task before him to set this piffle to music. He certainly did wonders with it, and although his score is not very original, he has given us some delightful melodies, duets, marches, &c. His music is worthy of a better frame. The work was well interpreted. Mme. Tariol-Baugé is prettily dressed, and sings prettily. Her rôle, unfortunately, is rather short. Mme. Angèle Lambert was an amusing schoolmistress. M. Sulbac, an ex-music hall star, proved himself a capital comic actor, and even a good acrobat, a talent that stood him in good stead. M. Soums was a little too melancholy for his rôle; and M. Lucien Noël, the hero of so many "adventures," received quite an ovation from his fair admirers.

M. Briand, our Fine Arts Minister, has appointed Mme. Sarah Bernhardt professor at the Conservatoire in the place of the late M. Laugier. When the distinguished actress arrived at the old house in the Rue Faubourg-Poissonnière, the courtyard was filled with a number of Society snoblings, the same crowd who always want to be first row in the front at every function. The snoblings were anxions to be present at Mme. Bernhardt's first lesson, and tried to force their way into the classrooms. But M. Fauré had given stringent orders not to admit strangers, and the well-dressed crowd drove away grumbling in a long procession of motors. Mme Bernhardt's appointment has given much amusement to those "in the know." It was a cleverly-hatched little plot between the talented artist and M. Briand. That lady has the utmost desire to pin the little scarlet ribbon of the Legion of Honour on her dress. Thrice she was proposed, and each time the Grande Chancellerie refused to bestow it upon her. "We made an exception in favour of Mme. Bartet," they said; "but in future we will not decorate any more actresses." Few people agreed with the Chancellerie. Mme. Sarah Bernhardt has rendered valuable services to dramatic act, and she fully deserves the distinction. Mr. Briand, however, is a native of Brittany, and, therefore, obstinate and persevering. He has shown these characteristics in his struggle with the Church. He does not know what it is to be beaten, and hit upon a shrewd plan. "If the Chancellerie," he said to Mme. Bernhardt, "will not decorate you because you are an actress, they cannot refuse to do so if you are a professor." And forthwith he gave her the position left vacant by M. Laugier's death. As a political move M. Briand's action was very smart. But is it equally good from an artistic point of view? That is the question. Mme. Bernhardt is very conscientious; and if—as is likely—she takes her new functions as professor seriously, she no longer will be able to go "on tour." Chicago, San Francisco, and other remote cities will no longer be visited by her, for the new regulations of our Conservatoire are drastic, and do not allow professors to absent themselves for any length of time. MM. Le Bargy and de Féraudy found this out at their cost; and when they saw that under M. Fauré's management they could not indulge in unlimited tours they resigned their posts. Mme. Bernhardt will, therefore, devote herself to her pupils. She will teach them how to walk on the stage, and will impress upon them that a perfect enunciation is an indispensable quality in an actress. She will do great things. For all that, the great artist will, it is to be feared, have a dangerous influence on her flock. She has so many qualities that we overlook her peculiarities, which are numerous. The sing-song manner in which she delivers tirades and her curious knack of "forcing" many syllables are distinctly personal, and even impart a distinct charm to her utterance. With a woman possessed of less talent these little mannerisms would be unbearable. And it is here that the danger comes in. Her pupils will not fail to imitate her, and we are threatened with a new generation of little Sarah Bernhardts who will have nothing in common with the original. Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, as is well known, is a great admirer of Sardou, a clever playwright, but whose pieces are unsuited for students practising for the stage. Let us hope that the new professor will not introduce those into the Conservatoire, and confine herself to the old répertoire wherein the budding young actresses have a better opportunity of studying great rôles.

The *Revue du Centenaire*, to be produced at the Variétés next week, will be gorgeously mounted. In the finale of the second tableau—representing the "Palais de la Danse"—one hundred ladies will take part. There will be two sensational numbers—"The Mattchiche," danced by Mlle. Polaire and a "star" from Madrid; the other, an American fancy step, performed by the inimitable Max Dearly and Miss Béatrix Lawler, who, not long ago, had a curious lawsuit, a full report of which appeared in these colums.

Presentation.—Mr. Leonard Gautier, the late musical director at the Grand Theatre, Croydon, was on his retirement presented with a handsome ebony and gold-mounted bâton from the members of his orchestra. This elegant gift was accompanied by an illuminated address, executed by one of the musicians.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"MEISSNER PORZELLAN,"

Historical Comedy, in Four Acts, by Hans von Kahlenberg, produced at the Neues Theatre, Feb. 8, 1907.

Friedrich der Zweite .. Herr Schmidt-Haessler
Graf Bünau ..... Herr Waldow
Eugenie ..... Fraulein Winkler
Amelie ..... Fraulein Jaeger
Graf Brühl ..... Herr Marlow
Von Düringshofen ..... Herr Schroth
Abbé Lambert ..... Herr Parrow
Gräfin Kathinka ..... Fraulein Hartwig
De Prade ..... Herr Stange
Graf Hoyos ..... Herr Stadthagen
Prince Starhenberg ..... Herr Schwaiger
Baron Eslay ..... Herr Donath
General von Kottwitz ..... Herr Christians
Guichard ..... Herr Diehl
Kurt ..... Herr Kaiser-Titz
Von Arnim ..... Herr Zizold
Barbara ..... Fraulein Gluemer
Jeanette ..... Fraulein Prill
Grenadier ..... Herr Helmerding

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, Thursday, Feb. 14.—Hans von Kahlenberg is the pseudonym of Fräulein Helene von Montbart, a cleverwriter of novels and satirical sketches. She is best known by her book "Nixchen," which aroused a storm of indignation when it appeared, and was ultimately prohibited. With all her talent, the author is not a playwright, if we may judge by her first production, and all the nimbus shed upon the opening night cannot make the play anything but a loose series of very confusing episodes which may or may not have taken place during the reign of Frederick the Great. Fräulein von Montbart has many friends at Court, and their Majesties, with Prince and Princess Eitel and numerous other persons of distinction, were present. Added to all this, the mounting was superb, and a report was spread that the picture on the easel in the boudoir scene of the second act was a genuine Titian, valued at 500,000 marks—which report one is at liberty to believe or not. The title (Dresden china) is deducted from a very pretty dance in the third act—which depicts a costume fête. The action, or what passes for such, transpires during the Seven Years' War. We see the King in many scenes familiar to us from Mentzel's paintings—taking snuff, speaking his favourite French, playing the flute. Of course there is an intrigue, but this is so obscure, both in motive and development, that the patience of the audience was greatly tried. Countess Olga Kathinka—a Pole of doubtful origin and shady mode of life—who is the mistress of August der Stärke (King of Saxony), endeavours to avenge herself upon "old Fritz," because he treated her advances—when a young man—with contempt. Madame Kathinka possesses herself of Frederick's private keys and steals a document in which all sorts of secrets are set forth. No damage is done, however, in spite of the general consternation, and the clever Prussian King evidently understands the why and the wherefore better than the audience. The interpretation was extremely good all round, Herr Schmidt-Haessler looking the part of the King admirably. The Kaiser—who complimented the manager warmly—expressed his keen appreciation of this actor's very clever make-up.

At the Kleines Theatre a new Russian play by Leonid Andrejeff was produced last week, meeting with a cordial reception. The title is *Zu den Sternen* (to the stars), and there are four long and not very interesting acts. Of dramatic nerve and sinew there is not the faintest trace; the whole is a never-ending philosophical tirade against the sad state of things in "holy Russia." The monotonous effect is enhanced by the hero, the manager of an observatory, apostrophising the stars from his lofty eminence, and telling his woes to the unresponsive heavens. Herr Reicher's impersonation of the old star-gazer was a first-rate piece of acting, but even that famous artist could not make the part natural or convincing.

"Haben Sie Nichts zu Verzollen?" is the title of a new three-act farce by MM. Hennequin and Veber (German by Max Schoenau), which has just made its triumphal entry at the Residenz—that home of French farce. To detail the plot with all its whimsicalities and risky "situations" would be an impossibility. The piece serves its purpose, and many an evening will be spent in hearty laughter at the grotesque fun. Herr Alexander—Residenz manager and our most popular comedian—has a rôle which once more fits him like a glove, displaying his broad yet refined humour to the utmost, and he is admirably seconded by Fräulein Vera Witt, as Zézé, and others of the capital cast.

The piquant little Figaro Theatre is doing excellent business. It has become the fashion here—"quite in Parisian style"—to sit at small tables and drink champagne (or something less expensive), while allowing oneself to be amused by the first-rate Figaro company, whose programme always consists of several one-act plays. One or two novelties were produced on Monday evening, the reception being, on the whole, a cordial one. Arthur Stiehler's satirical comedy *Eine Hochzeitsnacht* made a particularly favourable impression. A young married couple have just started on their honeymoon when they find themselves—by no fault of their own, but through the carelessness of the station-master—compelled to pass the night in the miserable accommodation afforded by the little wayside station. They settle down to the inevitable with as good a grace as possible, but it is cold weather, and the temper suffers. Finally, the bridegroom breaks up for firewood a bench which is the property of the Royal Prussian Railway, and this crime costs them dear. The author describes with capital humour and not a small dose of satire the flutter of excitement and the self-importance of the local jacks-in-office. The honeymooners ultimately narrowly escape the danger of being convicted for a pair of international swindlers, but a mutual friend of well-known high standing turns up in the nick of time, and all comes to a satisfactory conclusion. Herr Stiehler was "called" and warmly applauded, as were also the artists—one of whom, Fräulein Claire Waldhoff, was especially bright and sympathetic. The other successful novelty was a comedy by Felix Berger, entitled *Sein Ideal*. There is hardly any action, but the dialogue is bright, and one of the scenes is very amusing. A sentimental clerk is in love with his "ideal," to whose eyebrow he composes sonnets. To his horror he discovers the lady is the wife of an aristocrat. The sentimentalist, however, is made perfectly happy by the gift of the lady's photograph, presented to him by her jovial, commonsense husband, to whom such flights of fancy are incomprehensible and amusing. After this piece, too, the author was compelled to bow his acknowledgments, while a third novelty, *Katastrophe*, met with scant appreciation.

Yet another *Sherlock Holmes* is to make its début. This time the play is to appear at the Bernhard Rose Theatre (formerly the Carl Weiss), with the actor-manager, Herr Bernhard Rose, in the title-rôle.

A drama by C. Beyer, written in Low German, and bearing the title of *Ut de Preussentid*, will be produced at the New Royal Opera next week. The proceeds are to go towards a monument to Fritz Reuter—the German Charles Dickens.

As was to be feared, Herr Hauptmann's new comedy *Die Jungfern von Bischofsberg* has all but disappeared from the Lessing Theatre bill. It will probably see a few more performances at long intervals, and then vanish into oblivion. Herr Hauptmann has left Berlin for his country house in Silesia.

Fraulein Destinn, our Royal Opera prima donna, is a poetess of no mean talent. A charming book of poems has recently appeared, and six songs of hers have just been set to music by Kapellmeister Leo Blech. When one remembers the fact that Fräulein Destinn is a Hungarian one will accord her all the more credit.

"DER MILLIARDAR,"

Operetta, in Three Acts, by Ferdinand Gradl, Produced at the Central Theatre, Feb. 16, 1907.

Cornelia ..... Fraulein Pitsch
Olivia ..... Frau Gunther-Schmit
Klinton ..... Herr Deutsch
Stubbs ..... Herr Peer
Gripps ..... Herr Aibes
Jack ..... Herr Braun
Andalusia ..... Fraulein Voss
Ariella ..... Fraulein Grabitz
Johnny ..... Fraulein Porth
Jimmy ..... Herr Stellen
Billy ..... Herr Posner
Fred ..... Herr Voigt
Maud ..... Fraulein Kiederley
Mamie ..... Fraulein Jaeckel
May ..... Fraulein Wagner

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, Thursday, Feb. 21.—Herr Gradl is a new star on the operatic horizon, and his first attempt has met with distinct success. The music of the *Milliardär* is very bright and fresh; it contains several pleasing melodies—notably a waltz air, a delightful little trio, and a march duet—and although much of it is crude, other parts bear traces of great musical ability and even originality. The book is by the well-known farce-collaborators Herren Okonowski and Lippschitz. It is amusing, as might be anticipated, though there is a falling off both in the interest and the humour towards the end. The scene is laid in the United States in the first two acts, that of the last act in Cuba. A multi-millionaire has left the whole of his fortune to his son by a former marriage, on the condition he marries his cousin Olivia. Of the son, Jack by name, nothing has been heard for years, excepting the fact that he exists somewhere or other as a cowboy. He had been brought up by strangers since his childhood, and it is with a sense of tardy retribution that his father has made him sole heir. Robert, the millionaire's nephew, has been depending upon the hope of inheriting, and doing nothing else for a livelihood, consequently he and all the other relatives are dead against the cowboy. Stubbs and Gripps are a couple of mercenary lawyers, who both hope to come in for some of the dead man's dollars. Tempted by the high reward, Gripps succeeds in finding Jack Dillmore at last, but the young fellow is by no means overjoyed at the prospect before him, preferring his free life in the desert. Stubbs makes his daughter Ariella—an adventurous, merry-minded maiden—dress up as a boy, and appear as the rightful heir, a proceeding which leads to some laughable complications. Of course, everything comes right in the end. Jack falls in love with Olivia and becomes reconciled to spending his millions in her sweet company, while Robert consoles himself with the fair Ariella. The last act is somewhat far-fetched, everyone turning up in Cuba, where the war is breaking out, and for no particular reason. The interpretation was so good, however, that even the weakest act met with sufficient applause to carry it over water, and authors, composer, and manager, as well as artists and conductor, were all enabled to appear before the drop. Especial commendation is due to Herr Oscar Braun for his admirable account of Jack Dillmore.

A couple of new farces were produced last week at the Schiller Theatre, N., by the Lustspielhaus company, both of which were most cordially received. The first—a one-act piece entitled *Adieu, Therese*—is by Ludwig Reuner, who has written it with a good deal of humour, but based it, with too little attempt at originality, upon Schnitzler's *Abschieds Souper*. The second piece is in three acts, and bears the title of *Sein Alibi*. It is by Wilhelm Wolters, and the author details very wittily the difficulties of proving—at times—an alibi. There is no small amount of satire mixed up with the fun, especially relating to the ambitions of barristers who make a case out of nothing for their own ends. Both the pieces were very brightly acted, the longer work creating storms of laughter, culminating in loud calls for the author.

"Husarenfieber," Herren Kadelburg and Skowronnek's popular farce, has reached its 100th performance at the Lustspielhaus, and there is every reason to believe it will see another hundred or two. The house was filled in every part, and enthusiasm was as great as it was at the première.

Verdi's *Falstaff* has been revived at the Royal Opera after a very long interval, and though a good deal of pains had been expended upon the cast and mounting, I fear it is trouble thrown away. The reception was a cool one, the applause evidently being intended for the artists alone—especially such old favourites as Frau Herzog. It is a work that could scarcely become popular anywhere, and although universally praised at the time of its first production, it has never held anything approaching a sure footing in the bill. The title-rôle was given in thoroughly capable manner by Herr Bachmann, with just the right amount of humour; Herr Hoffmann was capital in the part of Ford; and Mesdames Goetze, Herzog, Rothauser, and Dietrich did well in their respective rôles; while in minor parts Herren Lieban, Mödlinger, and others aided the all-round excellence of the performance. The scenery was new in parts and very effective. Dr. Richard Strauss conducted in customary able manner.

"Gansе-Liesl," Fräulein Rosa Dodillet's graceful little fairy play, which was produced at the Lustspielhaus some months ago with a good deal of success, was given at a matinée at the Lortzing Theatre last week. It met with such a cordial reception—particularly from the juvenile portion of the audience—that it will be repeated at regular intervals for some time.

At the Luisen *Der Erbe von Baskerville*, a four-act sensational play drawn from Conan Doyle's story by F. Gibson, has been produced with unusually satisfactory results. It is perhaps the best put together of all the Sherlock Holmes adaptations with which we have been inundated lately, and is uncanny and sensational enough to please anyone. The piece was exceedingly well acted, author and artists being called repeatedly by an enthusiastic audience.

Tschaikowsky's opera *Pique Dame* (queen of spades) will be definitely produced, we are told, in the middle of March at the Royal Opera. We have been, however, so often disappointed—it has been announced at least three times already—that we are getting sceptical. Fräulein Destinn is to sing the title-rôle. The action passes in St. Petersburg at the end of the eighteenth century.

A French season is planned here for April and May, M. Lugné-Poé being at the head of the undertaking. Mme. Suzanne Desprès is to be the principal star.

HOCKEY.

"The Ugliest Woman on Earth" v. Royal Field Artillery, Preston.

Played on Jan. 30, with the following result:—Uglies, 5 goals (Edlin 3, Darien 1, and Thackeray 1); R.F.A., 1 goal. The Army reversed the conditions on the 1st inst. at football, winning by 7 goals to 3. The Uglies team consisted of Plumpton, Darien, De Lee, Cancellor, Davenport, Beesley, Edwards, Stratton, Edlin, Valentine, and Thackeray.

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THE LATE JOHN A. ATKIN MEMORIAL.

The following gentlemen have consented to act as a committee:—Messrs. Lester Collingwood, Arthur Shirley, Harris Fineberg, G. M. Polini, W. Bennett, E. Hill-Mitchelson, Tom H. Taylor, W. R. King, E. Howitson, W. Fraser Brunner, Harry Chappell; secretary, Mr. Ashley Page; hon. treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift.

List of Subscriptions, £39 7s. 0d.

	£	s.	d.
Standard Theatre Staff	2	15	0
Fred Powell	2	2	0
Mr. and Mrs. A. Melville	1	1	0
E. H. Knight	1	1	0
Lester Collingwood	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Arnold		10	6
W. Schaffer		10	6
Fred W. Warden		10	6
W. T. Cope		10	6
Mrs. M. L. Cope		10	6
Mr. and Mrs. Bert E. Hammond		10	6
Arthur Shirley		10	6
W. R. King		10	6
E. Hill-Mitchelson		10	6
G. M. Polini		10	6
Harris Fineberg		10	6
Sam Livesey		10	6
Harry Agar-Lyons		10	6
Mr. Tom H. Taylor's *Worst Woman in London* Co., per F. Vernon Travers		10	6
H. W. Kelly		10	6
Members of the *Female Swindler* Co., per O. Silverstone		10	6
Mr. Walter Melville		10	6
Mr. Fred Melville		10	6
Mr. Tom H. Taylor		10	6
Mr. Ashley Page		10	6
Miss Marion Denvil		10	6
Soldier's Wedding Co.		10	6
Terriss's Theatre Staff		10	6
Mr. Harry Chappell		10	6
Mr. James Peerless		10	6
Mr. Fraser-Brunner		10	6
Frances Ruttledge		10	6
Mrs. Fielder		10	6
Mr. John Fielder		10	6
Driven from Home Co., per Frederick Sandy		10	6
Jack Haddon		10	6
J. B. Howard		10	6
Mrs. Walter Melville		10	6
Hugh Robertson		10	6
Ugliest Woman on Earth Co., per Tubby Edlin		10	6
Mr. Smith		10	6
J. W. Peards		10	6
F. Dangerfield		10	6
David Allen and Sons		10	6
Tom H. Taylor		10	6
Page and Son		10	6
Mr. and Mrs. John Gott		10	6
Bessie Elma		10	6
Milton Bode		10	0
A. G. Hawkins		10	0
Mr. T. Greenwood-Croft		5	6
Eric Campbell		5	0
Herbert Ford		5	0
Walter H. Nightingale		5	0
J. W. Cordiner		5	0
Mr. George E. Mudd		5	0
Agnes Imlay		5	0
John B. Shinton		5	0
West London Theatre Management		5	0
Sid		5	0
T. E. Ward		5	0
James Skea		5	0
B. F. S.		5	0
Wm. Eastwood		5	0
Standard Theatre Staff		5	0
Frank Gallagher		5	0
A. Roseberry		5	0
Mrs. MacGregor		5	0
Marie Kildare		2	6
Bernard Mervyn		2	6
William E. Passmore		2	6
Louie Adair		2	6
Alice Bowes		2	6
Nellie Bouser		2	6
Harry Wimpenny		1	0
Will Corrie		1	0
Stanley Vivian		1	0
Alfred Wood		1	0
Mr. G. V. Campbell		1	0
Harry Chappell, jun.		1	0
Agnes Pitman		1	0
From the members of *Her Forbidden Marriage* Co., per Roland Yorke:—			
Mr. Henry Lonsdale		10	6
Mr. and Mrs. Roland Yorke		5	0
Miss Nellie Fletcher		2	6
Miss Gertrude Hunt		2	6
Miss Madge Yates		2	6
Mr. Louis Hector		2	6
Mr. Fred De Vere		2	6
Mr. Leonard Maxwell		2	6
Mr. Rawden Vivian		2	6
Mr. Leslie Nolan		2	6
Mr. Leslie Nutter		2	6
Mr. William Griffin		2	6
Mr. C. J. McCarthy		2	6

Subscriptions will be duly announced if forwarded to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, 5, Tavistock-street, W.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

An excellent students' concert was given on Wednesday evening at the Guildhall School of Music. Miss Elva Barnes played Chopin's "Polonaise in A flat" with marked ability, and Miss Gertrude Goulden was no less successful in her painstaking and neatly-executed solo of the same composer's "Grand Polonaise in E flat"; praise must also be awarded to Miss V. E. Doughty's violoncello solo of Marcello's quaint "Sonata in F major." In the difficult unaccompanied "Chaconne" of Bach for violin, Mr. A. Tschaikov played with a precision and confidence really surprising in so young a performer, and was recalled several times. This clever student not only does great credit to his professor, but ought in time to become a fine violinist. Mr. Walter Lawrence, although somewhat heavy in his touch, gave an able rendering of Liszt's "Rhapsody Hongroise No. 12" for piano, and Miss Winifred Miller was heartily applauded in her violin solo of "Romance from 2nd Concerto," by Wieniawski. The vocal portions of the programme were no less successful than the instrumental. Miss Helen Elsie Wright sang "On the banks of Allan Water" with grace and expression; while Miss Beatrice Jeffreys, who has a voice of excellent quality, was heard in Meyerbeer's aria, "Ah! mon fils," from *Le Prophète*, an ambitious and fairly successful effort. Mr. J. H. Cullen used a pleasing voice with good effect in Blumenthal's "My Queen," and Miss Marion Watkins sang the difficult aria "Roberto, tu che adoro," from *Roberto il Diavolo*, with taste and discretion. "Don Juan's Serenade" (Tschaikowsky) was carefully sung by Mr. Ernest Muriel. A recitation by Miss Gladys Moore of "The Vengeful Pickled Pear" and "Rain Charm" concluded the concert. Miss Jenny Hyman, the accompanist, contributed in no small degree to the success of the various vocal and instrumental items.

Presentation.—At the termination of Messrs. Little and D'Arcy's *Forty Thieves* pantomime at the Opera House, Coventry, on Saturday last, Mr. Will White, F.O.S., was presented with a handsome dressing-case by the Three Sisters Silcott and a solid silver cigarette case by Mr. Archie Daunton Shaw, of the Daunton Shaw troupe.

CHATS WITH DRAMATIC AUTHORS.

MR. LOUIS N. PARKER.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

Lord George Sanger was called the Showman King. Mr. Louis N. Parker might not inappropriately be called the Pageant King, and certainly his name is perhaps more familiar with the public to-day as a writer and director of the magnificent historical displays at Sherborne and Warwick than he is as a dramatist. Of course, recently the name of Louis Napoleon Parker has been heard of more in connection with these wonderful pageants than with play-writing.

Entering into conversation on this subject, Mr. Parker delivers himself of the belief that pageants are of great use to the stage, and their production should be of immense value to the theatre, "because," he says, "these pageants show a great number of people engaged in an entertainment which arouses keen dramatic interest. You will probably recollect that at Sherborne I had a thousand actual performers; at Warwick I had two thousand; and at the forthcoming festival at Bury St. Edmunds I shall have between one thousand five hundred and two thousand, making a total, roughly speaking, of five thousand people engaged in acting. These people include all classes, from peers to peasants. At the places I have mentioned, at least one hundred clergymen and fifty or sixty Nonconformist ministers took part as actors of principal characters. I believe that the pageants are helping to sweep away the barriers between Church and the Stage."

In reply to a question, Mr. Parker tells us that he gives a year of his time to the writing and preparation of a pageant. And everybody will agree with him when he says that to compass into three hours the historical events that have happened from 50 A.D. to 1580 A.D. is no light task. "I shall repeat the Sherborne pageant in 1908, and next year I am due at Bury St. Edmunds. I have an offer for other towns for 1908 to 1910, and I shall do my last pageant in the latter year."

Mr. Parker is a constant and hard worker. He tells us that he enjoys writing plays. His first experience in this direction was not a very pleasant one, for the gentleman who produced his initial effort stole £10 and a coat from the young dramatist. His most successful play only realised for each of its authors the sum of £500. That play was *Rosemary*, written in collaboration with Murray Carson. Among the pieces which have emanated either from his pen alone, or as translations, or in collaboration, may be mentioned *The Love-knot, Rosmersholm, The Bohemians, The Sequel, David, Gudgeons, Once Upon a Time, The Blue Boar, The Mayflower, Love in Idleness, Rosemary, The Man in the Street, Magda, Change Alley, The Vagabond King, The Happy Life, The Cardinal, Beauty and the Barge, The Termagant,* and *The Jest.* He was educated at Freiburg-in-the-Breisgau and at the Royal Academy of Music. He left the latter institution to take up an appointment as director of music at Sherborne School, and remained there nineteen years, when his increasing interest in the drama compelled him to go to London. He was created a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in 1898, and his musical publications include the cantatas (for solo, chorus, and orchestra) "Silvia," "The 23rd Psalm," "Young Tamlane," and "Belle Margaret," in addition to songs, part-songs, &c.

Speaking about the development of the drama in this country, Mr. Parker thinks that Ibsen—whose plays he was one of the first to translate into English—has taught the British authors a great deal. "He has taught us to get rid of asides and soliloquies, and he has directed our attention to subjects which had not hitherto struck us as being suitable for dramatic treatment. While I am of opinion that the drama in England has developed in a remarkable manner from what I can remember in the old days, I am faced by the fact that the highest form of drama, such as the poetical drama, is steadily and persistently discouraged here. When a man puts forth his best endeavours to produce a poetical drama, he is met with very disparaging criticism, and the very people who preach the decadence of the drama are the first to shower all the witty sarcasm at their command upon a really fine play—good from a dramatic, artistic, and literary point of view—whether in blank verse or not, and no matter whether by a young beginner or an old hand. It is not given to everybody to write blank verse; but certain critics will not even give the author the credit for having invented a poetical scheme.

"So far as the managers are concerned, I must admit that I have met with the utmost courtesy and consideration from them. The majority of my plays have been, to all intents and purposes, played as they were written. Some of my earlier ventures were unfortunate; but their misfortune was due, not to want of goodwill and assistance on the part of managers, but to want of judgment in many cases; and I can only remember a single instance in which I had unpleasantness with a management—or, rather, a manageress.

"I deplore the apparent somnolence of the romantic drama. I deplore, too, the apparent death of melodrama, especially of the type of *A Scrap of Paper* and *Diplomacy*. As to your remark about publishing one's plays, I think it would be very nice if authors could do so; but I would point out that plays are generally printed and produced in such unappetising shape that the average reader feels that he cannot be interested in them. At the same time, I have no doubt that plays which are printed and produced in attractive form, like those of Mr. Pinero and Mr. Jones, would command a sale. Then, again, I do not believe that there is a very large number who read plays, because the public that goes to the theatre is not a large one. I think the British public lacks imagination, and in order to read a play with any enjoyment one must bring imagination to one's assistance. One must be able to see with the mind's eye the action of the play as it would appear on the stage, and you know as well as I do that stage-directions are utterly unmeaning to the average reader. And this brings me to another point. It seems to me that the results of the newer science of the stage have, to a great extent, been ignored in England. I find, for instance, that such matters as lighting and atmospheric effects are years and years behind the best German productions. I marvel that no London manager has thought it worth while to go and study, or, at any rate, to use, the perfectly astounding atmospheric effects of lightning at Bayreuth. I admit, of course, that our managers produce their plays on a lavish scale, but the effect in a certain class of play is garishness."

IT was at about the time of Garrick's withdrawal from the stage that Mrs. Abington set up a handsome carriage. "She was now," writes Mr. Edward Robins, "in the very zenith of her fame. What Abington said, and how she looked, were things that one must know, if one had any pretensions to moving in the gay *Ton*. Her dresses were more than ever the theme of conversation and journalistic description. 'What did Abington wear to-night?' would ask one sister of another, just returned from the play. 'A beautiful white lutestring, made close to her shape, sleeves to the wrist, and a long train, with her hair dressed far back on the sides, with curls below.' When the actress imported a 'Persian petticoat,' all the women vowed that they, too, must have 'Persian petticoats'; when she wore her hair with red powder instead of white, there was enough excitement to do duty for a change of Ministry."

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MR. CHARLES K. COOPER.

Few present-day actors have had such a varied and extensive experience as Mr. Chas. Kemble Cooper, who commenced his theatrical career in the days of stock seasons and companies at Oxford, Bristol, and Dublin under the respective managements of his late father, Mr. Clifford Cooper, the late Mr. Chute, and Messrs. John and Michael Gunn. He there met and supported a succession of stars, such as Barry Sullivan, Charles Dillon, Charles Mathews, J. L. Toole, Adelaide Nielson, Genevieve Ward, &c., acquiring an intimate knowledge of Shakespeare, the old comedies, melodrama, and farce, for it was no uncommon thing in those days for a young actor to play six or seven parts each week. On the abolition of stock companies and the advent of the present system of travelling, Mr. Cooper joined Craven Robertson's *Caste* company, playing George D'Alroy, Lord Beaufoy, Sidney Daryl, and similar rôles, remaining with that gentleman till the rights of performing the *Caste* comedies reverted to his nephew, Mr. Tom Robertson. A short season at the Haymarket followed, Mr. Cooper supporting Barry Sullivan, whose last appearance in London it was, as Francis in *The Stranger* and Claudio in *Much Ado*. On the last night of the latter play the veteran actor Henry Howe made his last appearance on the Haymarket stage, after forty years' engagement there.

A tour with Miss Emily Fowler, playing Wildrake, Orlando, Charles Surface, and Claude Melnotte, led to his engagement by Mr. Frank Emery, of the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Liverpool, to support Miss Rose Leclercq as Pygmalion, Prince Philamir, and Sir Charles Pomander, thus commencing a series of tours with that lady which lasted over three years, as on the conclusion of the above he was engaged by Miss Leclercq to play a round of sixteen leading parts in her own répertoire company, afterwards supporting her for nine months in Mr. Kendal's part in *The Squire*, under the management of Mr. Edgar Bruce, and subsequently in a play entitled *Ensnared*, under the management of Walter and Elmore Frith. Mr. Cooper's next appearance was under the Vaudeville managers, Messrs. James and Thorne, playing Philip in Geo. R. Sims' comedy *The Half-Way House*, which was the first play toured by

Photo by Martin and Sallnow.

MR. CHARLES K. COOPER.

them, afterwards being re-engaged by Mr. Thorne for Mortimer Mumpleford in *Confusion*.

Tours with Miss Kate Vaughan, Mrs. Langtry (appearing as Rolando in *The Honeymoon*), and Miss Bella Pateman, supporting her in Mr. Bancroft's part in the Haymarket success, *Odette*, succeeded, after which Mr. Cooper drifted once more into the "legitimate," playing Romeo, Orlando, Benedick, Claude, &c., with Miss Alleyn, Miss Louise Denman, Miss Agnes Consuelo, and Miss Wallis. On the opening of the Shaftesbury Theatre by the latter lady he appeared as Oliver in *As You Like It*, and was understudy to Mr. Forbes Robertson, the Orlando of the cast.

Soon after this he visited South Africa with Mr. Lionel Brough, and during a nine months' stay there played no fewer than forty leading parts in old and modern comedies. On his return a stock season at the Pavilion, Mile End, with Mr. Isaac Cohen was foliowed by an appearance as Lantier in *Drink*, at the Adelphi, with Mr. Charles Warner. Then came a short season with his own company at Brighton, a thirty weeks' tour as Ferebvre in *Madame Sans-Gêne*, the suburban tour of *English Nell* with Miss Marie Tempest, and a stock season at the Crystal Palace under his old manager, Mr. F. Emery.

Recently Mr. Cooper has been devoting his attention to his successful sketch, *Making it Up*, in the halls. Needless to say, Mr. Cooper has had many strange and amusing stage experiences during his career, and, like so many of his brother actors, has a fund of humorous anecdote at his command. Mr. Cooper's one regret, after so much travelling, is that he has never yet had the chance of visiting America.

THE free lease for a term of 60 years of the Free-Masons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, W.C., will be submitted to public tender on Monday, March 4, by Messrs. Orgill, Marks, and Barley. The Tavern communicates with the adjoining Freemasons' Hall, which is the central home of the numerous members of the craft at home and abroad. There are in London 1000 Lodges, Chapters, &c. (many of which have been accustomed to dine at the Tavern), while festivals and other Masonic meetings are frequently held there. Immediate possession may be had.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. Reginald A. Hunt, the producer and stage-manager of Mr. Elliston's *Mother Goose* company, was on Saturday the recipient of a handsome dressing-case from the principals, and a seal wallet from the dancers and chorus. The presentations were made on the stage of the Empire Theatre, Oldham, at the conclusion of the pantomime, by Miss Isabelle Dillon, the principal boy.

THE roller skating headquarters of the National Skating Association of Great Britain are at the Crystal Palace, and the contests for the speed championships will take place on Saturday evening next. In the amateur championship the distance is 1½ miles, for the Benetfink Challenge Cup. First and second prizes and N.S.A. certificates to be run in heats, the first in each heat to run in the final. For the professional championship the distance is 1½ miles, and the prizes £3 and £2 and N.S.A. certificates. All entries close on Feb. 28.

AT the Fulham Theatre next week Mr. Robert Arthur will present Mr. George Dance's principal company in the musical play, *The Beauty of Bath*, the great Aldwych Theatre success.

MISS MAUDE LACY.

Miss Maude Lacy, who is a pupil of Miss Stella Brereton's, and has studied for seven years with her, reciting and playing such parts as Ophelia, Juliet, Hamlet, and Ariel at students' performances, made her first professional appearance at the Grand Theatre, Islington, in November, 1904, in Mr. H. Wiber Woods' play, *Lady Hamilton*, being entrusted with the title-rôle. Mr. Oswald Brand then engaged her to play Oliver Twist,

Photo by Dixon.

MISS MAUDE LACY.

Little Nell, and Ada in *Bleak House* in his Dickens répertoire company. Later she was engaged by Mr. Louis Calvert for his *Garden of Lies* tour. The portrait is from a painting by the well-known artist Mr. Joseph Mordecai.

MR. ERNEST H. G. COX.

Unlike many who enter the dramatic profession, Mr. Cox started his career as soon as he left school, having gained his first love for the footlights by taking part in the amateur theatricals which were given twice a year, and from the fact that his special friends were the sons of actors, who are now also doing very well in a profession which he is glad to say he has never regretted entering.

Mr. Cox made his début at the old Aquarium Theatre nearly five years ago, in a sketch entitled *The Pierrot's Courtship*, under the management of Miss Clarice Trevor, in which he played the character of an old man more or less successfully. After an experience of eighteen months in the music halls, where he tried various lines, appearing as a single turn, double turn, and in sketches, he entered into an engagement with Mr. Cecil Phillips, with whom he played heavies and juveniles in various dramas, such as *A Convict's Sacrifice, A Woman's Devotion*, and *A Noble Brother*. Then he was engaged by Mr. Douglas Ware to play Alfred Chesney in *The Swiss Girl*, and later to play Tony Faust in *My Sweetheart*. He next secured an engagement with Mr. Ben Greet to play various small parts in *The Second in Command*, also understudying, and on several occasions playing Medenham in the same piece. Mr. Cox was then engaged by Mr. A. E. Wyn Weaver to play Percy in *A Pair of Spectacles*, and later by Messrs. T. W. Rawson and A. E. Wyn Weaver to embody Lieut. Alfred Ashurst in *Too Many Cooks*. He was next engaged by Mr. W. T. Elsworthy to represent Lord Tinsel in *The Hunchback*, and, later, Dr. Shaw, *The Pickpocket*, and Frederick Plum, *All That Glitters is not Gold*. Another tour in *A Pair of Spectacles* and *Too Many Cooks* followed, and he was next engaged by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison to undertake the rôles of Green Jones in *The Ticket-of-Leave Man* and the Marquis de Presles,

Photo by Pestel.

MR. ERNEST H. G. COX.

The Two Orphans, with Mr. Henry Neville, and, later, to play Lord Robert Wyckham, *A Country Mouse*, Freddie Tatton, *The Liars*, and the Rev. James Bartlett, *Cousin Kate*.

SIR SQUIRE BANCROFT'S opinion concerning "the palmy days" is well worth quoting: "Deep as is my respect, profound as is my admiration, for the leaders in 'the palmy days,' 'the good old times,' I know well that such sayings are the tiresome chorus attached to other callings than the stage—the lawyer, the soldier, the painter, even the bishop, is as much haunted by them as the actor, who from time immemorial had listened to the cuckoo-cry—'the drama is dead.' I have had to stop my ears to its sad refrain ever since my earliest recollections of the theatre; when I was taken as a child to see the attractive Madame Vestris, to listen to the laughing Mrs. Nisbett, and to be conscious of the waning powers of the elder Farren. Nearly three hundred years have rolled away since Philip Massinger, the dramatist, wrote: 'Mark how the old actors decay, the young sprout up.' So will it ever be. The vineyard may keep its most luscious grapes for favoured years, the orchard may not always yield the pick of the basket, but the beautiful art of acting will live on. If the sacred fire burns dimly for a while it will never expire, being 'not for an age, but for all time.'"

A COPYRIGHT performance of *The Redemption of Agnes*, a religious play of the Middle Ages, was given on Thursday afternoon at the Victoria Hall, Bayswater, under the direction of Mr. William Poel.

MR. HAROLD MONTAGUE.

Mr. Harold Montague was born at Exeter in 1874, and educated privately. For four years he was engaged in a city office; but it was evident that his tastes did not lie in the direction of a commercial career, and about ten years ago Mr. Montague launched out as an entertainer, giving a two hours' show without any assistance, and writing his own songs, words, and music. He met with encouraging success. In Oct., 1905, he was engaged by Mr. Frank Curzon to appear at Wyndham's Theatre to take the place of a curtain-raiser to Mr. R. C. Carton's play, *Public Opinion*, and also in April at the Criterion Theatre. In March, 1905, Mr. Montague was specially engaged as an entertainer to go on tour with Mr. George Alexander, when that popular actor-manager visited the provinces on a recital tour.

Mr. Montague has written over one hundred comic songs, many of which have been published, and have had large sales. About two years ago he started a vaudeville entertainment, called *The Vagabonds*, with which he has been touring ever since. He is now engaged at the music-halls with his own company, playing a vaudeville show, which includes a burlesque melodrama and opera, and is booked up for a long time ahead. Mr. Montague has also written two comediettas, entitled *Only Amateurs* and *First Aid to the Wounded*, both of which have been played in the provinces with great success, and a musical farce, *The Nihilist*, which he toured last summer. This year he will become lessee of the Clacton Pier Pavilion, and is also touring another vaudeville entertainment, called *Montague's Montebanks*. Mr. Montague says: "I think there is a great future for a refined vaudeville show like my *Vagabonds* on the halls, and the way in which my company is being booked up ahead proves it. The tone of the music halls has been raised very much lately, but it can still be further raised. That the public appreciate a really clean, refined turn is shown by the hearty applause with which my entertainment is received. I have been touring off and on for nearly seven years now, and I find the public taste is improving daily."

Mr. Montague is engaged in writing a new entertainment, which he hopes to produce at the halls very shortly. He has played in nearly every town in England, Ireland, and Wales, and in a few Scotch towns. Two of his songs, "The Artful

Photo by Hana.

MR. HAROLD MONTAGUE.

Coon" and "A handy little thing to have about you," have been great successes in pantomime, and his song, "Do you follow me?" was sung in *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. Montague is a hard worker, as is evidenced by the fact that he has had only about four weeks' holiday in five years. He has had a tempting offer for America, which he refused. His principal hobbies are sailing and billiards.

PRESENTATION.—At the Empire Theatre, Greenock, on Saturday last after the curtain had fallen on Mr. R. A. P. Williams' pantomime, *Mother Goose*, Mr. Harry Marvello, the manager, presented Mr. Tilly Dillson, the Dame, who is leaving the company, with a handsome gold-mounted umbrella as a token of good will on behalf of his fellow artists. Mr. Dillson, who was completely taken by surprise, thanked Mr. Marvello and the company for their elegant gift.

MISS ROSINA FILIPPI'S PUPILS.

A representation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* was given at Terry's Theatre on Monday afternoon, by the pupils of Miss Rosina Filippi, this being the first of a series of matinée performances of well-known plays, both ancient and modern.

It is related of that famous actress of the past, Miss Fanny Kemble, the daughter of a celebrated actor, that when she made her début as Juliet she was overwhelmed by nervousness, and just before she made her first entrance she sat in a chair in her dressing-room, "as if ready for execution, with the palms of her hands pressed convulsively together and tears falling down her rouged cheeks." In her reminiscences the actress, recording the feelings she experienced, says that, on making her entrance, "she stood like a terrified creature at bay, confronting the huge theatre, full of gazing human beings. I do not think a word I uttered during this scene could have been audible." Nerves do not seem to trouble the present-day girl to such a painful extent. At all events, Miss Vera Cockburn, the Juliet of Monday's matinée, displayed no discernible symptoms of nervousness when she made her entrance as the heroine of the love story, and she certainly was not inaudible. Having the advantages of extreme youth on her side, with the all-important accompaniment of good looks and a graceful manner, Miss Cockburn was well equipped for her task. Moreover, she had been under the tuition of an experienced actress, upon whom her performance reflected great credit. The balcony scene—a sure test of the capabilities of an actress for the part of Juliet—was charmingly played. Miss Cockburn has to be credited with a perfectly natural embodiment of a young girl who is experiencing the rapture of her first love, and finds an innocent joy in the stolen meeting by moonlight with her ardent lover. In the later scenes the new Juliet also did well, though lack of experience made some of the declamatory passages seem a little forced and wanting the true ring of tragic despair. Mr. Lewis Casson, a young actor who has done some good work as a member of Messrs. Vedrenne and Barker's Court Theatre company, was the Romeo, and the earnestness and sincerity of his acting were well matched by expressive features and a good presence. The intensity and passion of Juliet's lover were admirably portrayed. Friar Laurence was excellently played by Mr. Percy Gawthorn, who also appeared as Tybalt. Mr. Maurice D'Oisly was a gallant Mercutio. Mr. Patric Curwen was successful in his embodiment of Benvolio. Mr. Cecil Pearson deserves a word of praise for his treatment of the character of Capulet. Miss Rosina Filippi herself played the part of the Nurse, and made her points with the ease and certainty of an accomplished actress. Lady Capulet had a satisfactory representative in Miss Rose Eltham; and Miss Ruth Gordon scored in the rôle of Peter. Mr. Jack Glass doubled the parts of Cousin Capulet and Balthasar, Mr. Campbell Cargill appeared as the Apothecary, and Mr. Bethuine as Montague. Miss Ruth Parrott as the Chorus spoke the opening lines of the play in good style.

The performance concluded with a fantastic play, in one act, by Miss Filippi, with music by Gigia Filippi, entitled *The Yellow Stocking*. In this, Miss Rita Legero distinguished herself as Lulu, the little girl who finds a yellow stocking, which has the magical effect upon people of causing them to dance. Other parts were assigned to Messrs. Campbell Cargill, Percy Gawthorn, and the Misses Esmé Hubbard, Irene Clarke, Norah Hawnt, and Sophie Carl Rosa.

FOOTBALL.

BRISTOL X.L.C.R. AND HARRY HARE'S ORCHESTRAL BAND ATHLETIC CLUBS v. MUSIC HALLS A.F.C.

Played on Clifton Downs, Saturday, Feb. 9. Messrs. Harry Belding and Archie Hamlin were able to turn out for their club after several weeks' illness. The following were the teams:—

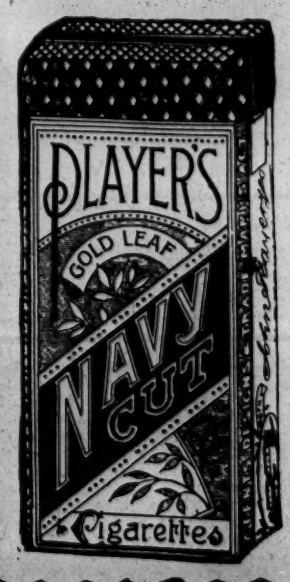
Bristol X.L.C.R.—H. Belding (captain), goal; A. Hamlin and H. Walenn, backs; A. E. Bailey, H. Slade, and A. Mattocks, half-backs; E. Belding, H. Edwards, E. Palmer, P. Hewlett, and H. Clements, forwards.

Music Halls A.F.C.—F. B. Nicholls, goal; A. Cox, and F. Arni, backs; J. Lacey, T. Neagle (captain), and D. O'Connor, half-backs; P. Reardon, R. Cullen, A. Norman, H. C. Douglas, and F. Hansford, forwards.

Referee, J. Aubrey; linesmen, H. Hare and W. J. Horton. Result: Bristol X.L.C.R., nil; Music Halls A.F.C., 3 goals. Messrs. J. Lacey, D. O'Connor, and P. Reardon scored for Music Halls A.F.C.

AFTER a prolonged absence in the Colonies, Mme. Lilian Tree has returned to London, and will most probably be re-engaged for the summer season at Covent Garden. This English prima-donna made her début at the Bow-street house in *Die Walküre* during the régime of Sir Augustus Harris (Druriolanus), and subsequently went to Australia.

PLAYER'S
GOLD LEAF



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LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Feb. 18, the Play entitled
"HIS HOUSE IN ORDER."

North London playgoers have this week an excellent opportunity of witnessing Mr. Pinero's play which has enjoyed such a long spell of prosperity at the St. James's Theatre, and have duly appreciated the clever work of one of the most distinguished dramatists of the day. The representation of *His House in Order* has been entrusted to a thoroughly competent company, the result being an even and perfectly satisfactory performance. Special interest attaches to Miss Dorothy Grimston's portrayal of Nina Jesson, and her treatment of the character has fully justified her selection for this important part. She meets with ease and certainty all the demands made upon her in the most telling scenes of the play, and her complete success is never for a moment in doubt. Of such an experienced and well-tried actor as Mr. Frank Fenton it was only to be expected that he would give a satisfactory reading of the character of Hilary Jesson, and anticipation on this point has been more than realised. Mr. Fenton takes advantage of every opportunity of scoring, and his acting elicits throughout the performance warm admiration. Mr. Cyril Harcourt also does good work as Filmer Jesson; and Mr. George Fitzgerald gives a neat sketch of Sir Daniel. Mr. George Silver is well placed as Pryce Ridgeley; and Dr. Dilnott has a capital exponent in Mr. A. E. Benedict. Miss Henrietta Leverett deserves praise for her careful and effective embodiment of Lady Ridgeley; Miss Audrey Campbell plays the part of Geraldine with sound judgment; and Miss Lilli Kehr is seen to advantage in the rôle of Mlle. Thomé, the governess. Miss Maisie Richardson plays naturally as the boy Derek. Mention should also be made of Mr. R. Basant and Mr. F. Felton, who appear as Harding and Forshaw; the two servants' parts being safely entrusted to Mr. W. B. Parker and Mr. R. Thomas. The staging of the play leaves nothing to be desired.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Feb. 18, the Farcical Comedy, entitled
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."

That Brandon Thomas's world-famous farce has by no means exhausted its drawing powers has been conclusively proved during the present week by the excellent audiences drawn to Hammersmith's premier theatre. The piece goes as well as ever, and the ridiculous situations excite as much laughter as when the piece was fresh. In the present revival the play has the inestimable advantage of Mr. Brandon Thomas appearing as Colonel Sir Francis Chesney, who naturally carries out the author's intentions in making him a type of well-preserved military man. As Stephen Spettigue Mr. Walter Beaumont presents an exceedingly effective and humorous picture of the solicitor making love to the supposed Donna Lucia. Mr. Hastings Lynn is a dashing and manly Jack Chesney; and his chum, Charley Wykeham, is ably rendered by Mr. Richard B. Mason. Lord Fancourt Babberley could not be bettered than as played by Mr. Spencer Trevor, the quaint antics displayed by him causing irrepressible laughter. Mr. Sidney Compton makes an imperturbable college scout, Brassett. Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez (the real Charley's Aunt from Brazil) is charmingly performed by Miss Lena MacNaughten, a lady of handsome presence. Miss Bertha Northam undertakes Kitty Verdun in lively fashion; and Miss Ida Vynall is a winsome Amy Spettigue. Miss Ruth Nightingale acts interestingly as Ela Delahay. As a curtain-raiser Mr. Brandon Thomas's interesting one-act play, *A Highland Legacy*, is represented. In this the author as Tammy Tamson MacDonnel gives evidence of his clever versatility, and scores a decided hit. Mr. Hastings Lynn successfully portrays Gordon MacDonnel, and Mr. Sidney Compton makes an irascible Mr. Dobson. The Cavendish Howley of Mr. Walter Beaumont is really funny; and Mr. M. A. Weatherall renders Job Fixem discreetly. Miss Katherine Vereker is a capable Mrs. Butler; and Miss Elsie Robertson is satisfactory as Clara Dobson.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 18,
"THE BEAUTY OF BATH."

Mr. George Dance's company is here with *The Beauty of Bath*. Mr. Leslie Holland, who not only plays the principal part of the lively young Lieutenant Alington, R.N., but also stage-manages the show, acts with plenty of vivacity. His acting is full of vim and vitality, and he sings the topical ditty, "Humpty Tumty," with point and meaning. Miss Gladys Guy is very bright and animated as the charming Betty Silverthorne. Her singing and dancing are very acceptable, and her manner easy and exhilarating. Her songs, "Like this" and "Hyacinth" (in which Mr. F. Pedgrift participates tunefully from a box) are capitally and daintily delivered. Mr. Jack Crighton is an indefatigable and irrepressible comedian, and his quaint calisthenics as Sir Timothy Bun and his droll get-up as Louie Freear cause considerable amusement. Miss Edith Cruikshanks acts extremely well, with grace and refinement, as the motherly Mrs. Alington, and her brief flashes of high spirits and her simulation of sweet womanly tenderness are very cleverly depicted. Miss Maggie White, a most demure damsel, scores with her prettily-rendered comic songs set to serious music; Miss Jessie Fraser is bright and animated as the actress, Miss Truly St. Cyr, and dances well. Mr. Reggie Grey as Lord Quorn is "well, he knows he is!" Master Sydney Grata is the precocious programme boy, Lemon Goodge, and with his mother, impersonated by Miss Ida Laurie, secures a good proportion of the laughter. Mr. Sheriff Clunes does all that is required of him as Beverley, the actor, and sings the pretty song, "Sloe eyes" from *The Cingalee*. Mr. Frederick C. Leister as Viscount Bellingham, Mr. John Valentine as the Earl of Orpington, and Misses Florence Hylton, Frankie Fowler, Nellie Wood, Mabel Hay, and other attractive "Buns" are entirely commendable. Mr. J. Alban Newton is the manager of the company, and Mr. Gordon Seamford the musical director.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, Feb. 18, Shakespeare's Comedy
"THE TAMING OF THE SHREW."

Those popular players, Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton, are here this week on a very welcome return visit, and on Monday evening a large and appreciative audience extended a most cordial welcome to them. As on their last visit, they are playing Shakespeare's comedy, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and the choice is indeed a good one, for in it Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Brayton find characters which suit them admirably and display their talents to the utmost advantage. In this version the Induction is played, and it adds greatly to the interest of the production, and it also serves to give Mr. Asche an opportunity of showing his great versatility in the part of Chistopher Sly. As Petruchio, in the play itself, Mr. Oscar Asche was in fine form, his high spirits and boisterous humour were in perfect keeping with the character, and he carries the story along at an almost breathless speed, never allowing the interest to slacken for one moment. Miss Lily Brayton lends the greatest assistance by her wonderful rendering of Katharine; it is an altogether splendid piece of work, the various moods of the shrew are cleverly depicted and the gradual taming of the spirit of revolt is excellently shown, but whether she be shrew or dutiful wife, the Katharine of Miss Lily Brayton is a person who is most captivating. Baptista is portrayed in a dignified manner by Mr. Alfred Brydone. Mr. H. R. Hignett makes a notably good Lucentio, while Mr. R. J. Penny and Mr. Caleb Porter are both excellent as Hortensio and Gremio respectively. Bianca is depicted in a charming manner by Miss Agnes Brayton, who has some of her sister's talents. Mr. G. Kay Louper is good as Tranio, while the Biondello of Mr. R. F. Anson is a clever piece of work. Mr. Henry Kitts is once more seen as Grumio, and he plays it with his accustomed humour, which met with much appreciation. Mr. Fitz Russell has but a small part as Vincentio, but he makes his mark in the character. Miss Leilia Norris deserves mention as a widow; also Miss Constance Robertson as Curtis. The various other characters are admirably filled. The incidental music by Noel Johnson is delightfully rendered by the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Christopher Wilson. The scenery is very artistic, and the stage is under the management of Mr. W. R. Stavely, the whole being produced by Mr. Oscar Asche. Mr. Alfred Waring is the popular general-manager for the production, and Mr. Wilfred Stanford looks to Mr. Robert Arthur's interests as resident acting-manager.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 18, the Comic Opera, entitled
"AMASIS."

Mr. Louis Calvert's production of *Amasis* by the original company has drawn thronged and appreciative houses at Kennington Theatre this week, and Mr. Robert Arthur, the proprietor, and Mr. H. B. Brandreth, the manager, are to be congratulated on their enterprise in providing this front-rank attraction for their patrons. Unfortunately, the opening night was somewhat marred by the absence of Mr. Rutland Barrington from his part of Pharaoh, through sudden indisposition, but his place was creditably filled at short notice by Mr. George Goodwin, and the performance went with almost as much vim as if Mr. Barrington had himself been present. Undoubtedly *Amasis* is one of the brightest and most whimsical of recent comic operas, and fun reigns supreme through both acts. The music is of a lively and sparkling description, and the chorus, "Has anybody seen our cat?" is one of the best things of the day. The libretto is neatly written, and contains many topical allusions, whilst the staging, dresses, and accessories leave nothing to be desired. The first scene, the Courtyard of the Palace at Memphis, with a view of the Nile, is a fine set, and lends itself well to the picturesque grouping of gaily-dressed principals and chorus, under the direction of Mr. Maxwell Stewart, the stage-manager. There are many pretty dances by the ladies of Memphis, as well as an exceedingly fine solo dance in the second act by Miss Winifred Hart-Dyke, who is a magnificent dancer, and altogether Mr. Frederick Stanhope, who is directing the tour of *Amasis*, has omitted nothing likely to contribute to its success. The company is of the first order, and among the principals are several artists of repute. Miss Constance Drever gives a splendid impersonation of Princess Amasis, for she has not only a charming presence and glorious voice, but she is also a gifted actress. Miss Drever is ably supported by Mr. Roland Cunningham as Prince Anhote, whose fine physique, robust voice, and dashing bearing enable him to give an ideal interpretation of the part. The songs and duets of both were rapturously received on Monday. Another good singer is Mr. Whitworth Mitton (Cheiro, a scribe in love with Amasis), whose sweet tenor voice might with advantage be more often heard. Mr. Reginald White, as Ptolemy, the Court embalmer, and Mr. Lauri De Frece, as Sebak, keeper of the crocodiles, are responsible for most of the comedy, and their efforts are simply immense. They are both genuine comedians, full of mirth, and constitute an entertainment in themselves. Laughter is general whenever they are on the scene, and their business in the second act is in itself side-splitting. Miss Madge Vincent is a warm favourite as Natis, singing and acting with great vivacity. Her love song with Psamtik, a stalwart Captain of the Guard, who is ably represented by Mr. Frank Perfit, nightly brings down the house. Miss Vincent should have a great future as a comedienne. Mr. Norman Salmond makes a stately High Priest, and the smaller parts are well taken by Mr. R. A. Swinhoe, Second High Priest; Mr. Walter Brodie, Town Crier; Mr. George F. MacKarness, wine merchant; Miss Emmie Souter as Anna; Miss Dorothy Aylmer and Miss Frida Gerrard as fan-bearers; Miss Muriel Hodges as Teresa; and Miss Winnie O'Connor as Rassa. The Misses A. Scholtz, Daisy Nunn, Ethel Graham, Nellie Moore, Winifred Macey, and Paula St. Clair are the ladies of Memphis, whose singing and dancing before Pharaoh form one of the most interesting features of the opera. The chorus is exceptionally powerful and well-trained, and the admirable vocalisation reflects great credit on Mr. J. Van Heuvel, the musical director.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Feb. 18, the Drama, entitled
"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH.

A good, strong drama is always a sure "draw" at this theatre, and good houses have been the rule here this week, and have received Mr. Fredrick Melville's company in the above-named play with great cordiality. In casting Miss Beatrice Homer for the name-part, an excellent selection has been made, for it is a trying rôle to play and one in which a less practised actress might well come to grief. Miss Homer, however, comes triumphantly through the ordeal, and holds the attention and sympathy of the audience from first to last. Miss Nell Oliver is responsible for a strong, carefully studied representation of Rose Courtenay, whose vanity, worthlessness, and utter selfishness she portrays to the life. Miss Violet Macaree puts in some very good work along untraditional lines as Morita, and gives an excellent idea of the passionate Italian girl who has sworn to kill her lover's murderer. As Aggie Brown, Miss Nellie Jackson is responsible for a good deal of laughter, and gives a good rendering of an English girl thoroughly able to take care of herself. Mr. Philip Darien makes a resolute-looking Jack Merrimen, his fine stage presence and telling delivery of some very declamatory lines adding to the value of his impersonation. In the character of Hubert Gold, Mr. Leyton Cancellor gives a thoroughly interesting and consistent study of a scheming adventurer, and is to be commended on his successful endeavour to get his points home without undue rant. As Tubby Herrick, Mr. T. Edlin has been provided with a part after his own heart, and keeps the house in roars of laughter at his happy rendering of Tubby's trials and tribulations. Mr. Charles Barrett is responsible for a clever impersonation of Antonio Luchesi, Mr. L. Thackeray does well as Dr. Carr, and Mr. Cecil de Lee gives a characteristic sketch of a London hooligan.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 8, the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE GIRL BEHIND THE COUNTER."

Crowded houses are the rule at the Dalston Theatre this week for the attraction is the deservedly-popular musical comedy, *The Girl Behind the Counter*. There is plenty of life and "go" in the representation, and the general musical accompaniment is all that can be desired. The cast includes Miss Olivia Eltone, who appears as Millie Mostyn, manageress of the Maison Duval; Miss Doris Langdon, head of the millinery department; Miss Rose Hélene, cashier; and Miss Nora Brocklebank, who undertakes the hard-working part of Winnie Willoughby. Miss Brocklebank does not lose an opportunity of taking advantage of the opportunities at her disposal, and the result is a spirited representation of an interesting character. Miss Winifred Knightly as Lady Willoughby has a good presence; and Mr. H. B. Clarke Chadwick fully imparts the element of importance into the character of General Sir Wilkie Willoughby. Mr. Arthur Cartwright has a free-and-easy style as Charles Chetwyn, and he becomes a general favourite; as Viscount Gushington, Mr. Howard Cridland fully realises the class of character which the name implies, and is at times the cause of no small amount of merriment; Mons. Jules Charmettes represents Mons. Duval, proprietor of the Maison Duval; and others in the male cast include Mr. Geoffrey Allsopp, Mr. Frederick Park, Mr. A. M. Moore, and Mr. W. Amery.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Feb. 18, the Drama, entitled
"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."

Mr. Fred Melville's company is appearing this week in the very up-to-date and realistic "motor" drama, *Her Forbidden Marriage*, and are meeting with the cordial reception from good audiences which their excellent interpretation of the piece fully merits. Mr. Henry Lonsdale gives a fine impersonation of the rôle of the young inventor, George Madison, and his final triumph over all his enemies is greeted with much interest and applause. Mr. Louis Hector affords a capital study of polished rascality as Charles Devereux. Mr. Fred De Vere has a very humorous rôle to enact as the eccentric Timothy Tuttutt, and certainly makes the most of his numerous opportunities, his drunken scene in the first act being very cleverly rendered. The heroine, Lucy, is ably enacted by Miss Gertrude Bonser, who shows much dramatic force and at times pathos in the part. Miss Madge Yates is very amusing as Patty Lovejoy. Miss Nellie Fletcher invests the difficult character of the Mother Superior with dignity, and acts with much emotional feeling. Mr. Herbert Goddard is an aristocratic and impressive Sir George Lancaster. Miss Gertrude Hunt performs admirably the somewhat unthankful rôle of Lady Lucretia Lancaster. Mr. James Raymond as Dr. Fenwick gives a good character sketch; and the remaining rôles are all adequately represented. The exciting motor race to the church provokes much enthusiasm, being realistically represented, and the whole production is mounted with the extreme care and completeness of detail which invariably characterise all the plays of the Messrs. Melville. The general-manager is Mr. Roland Yorke.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Feb. 18, the Comedy, entitled
"THE LADY OF OSTEND."

Mr. Lawrence Brough and a good company from Terry's Theatre have been playing with much success in *The Lady of Ostend*. The play has its good points, and when interpreted by a capable company, serves its purpose well enough. Dick Whortles, the unfortunate hero, whose misfortune it is to be always found out, is capitally played by Mr. Henry Hampson, and he is well supported by Mr. Percy Marshall as Joseph Carbury. Mr. Lawrence Brough makes a great success of Whortles's French friend, the Baron de Longueville. In diction, attitudes, manners, and general make-up, Mr. Brough is a delightful representative of the gay young Frenchman. Mr. Dalziel Heron is most successful as the prize-fighter Krockitt, and his "deportment" when he first calls at Whortles's house is a delightfully humorous piece of acting. This is worthily matched by Miss Marian Ripley as the Lady of Ostend, whose highly "genteel" manner caused roars of laughter. Mr. Evelyn Vernon, Mr. Douglas Cottell, and Mr. Hewson Elliott satisfactorily fill the parts of Humbert, the cinematograph manager, Thompson, the clerk, and James, the butler, respectively; and Miss Eily Boyne puts plenty of spirit into the part of the maid Jane. Miss Bessie Harrison acts as Mrs. Casbury, the mother-in-law, in a vigorous and effective way; and Miss Muriel Marsden plays the ingénue niece with brightness and charm. To conclude, Miss Kate Milford contributes some excellent work as Dorothy Whortles, showing considerable dramatic power. *The Lady of Ostend* is preceded by a one-act Irish romance, *At the Risin' of the Moon*, by A. Demain Grange, in which Miss Eily Boyne, and Messrs. Marshall, Heron, and Vernon take part.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, Feb. 18, Wallace's Opera,
"MARITANA."

Mr. J. W. Turner's English Opera Company commenced their annual season here on Monday with a performance of *Maritana*. Mr. Turner's return visit has been eagerly looked forward to, and at the initial performance the house was packed with a wildly enthusiastic audience, which showed in an unmistakable manner its appreciation of the excellent work done. Considerable praise is due to Mr. Turner for the very creditable interpretations he places before his patrons. The singing in every case is all that could be desired, and the staging and mounting are perfect in every detail. Mr. Turner still retains his excellent vocal abilities, and sings his various numbers in a manner which is little short of marvellous. In *Maritana* he undertook the rôle of Don Cæsar de Bazan, and sang himself quickly into public favour. His rendering of "Let me like a soldier fall" was certainly an artistic achievement, and was duly applauded. A meritorious performance was also supplied by Mr. John Ridding as Don Jose. In this character he uses his resonant bass to advantage in the song, "In happy moments," and an encore was demanded in consequence. As Charles II., King of Spain, Mr. Tom Griffiths was a decided attraction in himself. His full and rich voice stood him in good stead in his various numbers, and he is to be congratulated on the excellent service he rendered. The portrayal of the Marquis de Montefoire by Mr. R. Cummings was the essence of drollery, and Mr. George Ridding did all that was possible as the Captain of the Guard. As Lazarillo, Miss Jessie Dennis was pleasing and effective, her fine voice being put to good use in the many morceaux falling to her share. Miss Maud Esdale was all that could be desired as the Marchioness, and Miss Kitty Brownless sang her various numbers with intelligence and skill, besides playing throughout in a manner deserving of warm praise. The augmented orchestra is capably handled by Mr. T. Lawton. Other operas on this week's programme are *Satanella*, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, *The Bohemian Girl*, and *Faust*.

THE PRINCE'S, POPLAR.

On Monday, Feb. 18, the Drama entitled
"WOMAN AND WINE."

Messrs. Ben Landeck and Arthur Shirley's popular and stirring drama, *Woman and Wine*, ever a favourite play in the East End of London, is proving a strong attraction at Poplar this week, and is admirably presented by a talented company under the direction of Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds. The piece received an enthusiastic reception on Monday night from a crowded house, who followed with eager interest the many exciting incidents. The staging of the heavy sets, particularly the Café d'Afrique, Le Bal Masque, and the Flower Market, was in every way excellent. Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds is responsible for the weak-minded spendthrift, Dick Seymour, and gives a straighforward and convincing performance throughout; and a capital portrayal of the odious bully, Alphonse Beaudet, is given by Mr. Fred W. Goddard. Much praise must be extended to Miss Cissie St. Elmo for her strong and dramatic rendering of the unscrupulous demi-mondaine, Marcel Rigadout, which part she enacts with great power, being seen at her best in the third act. Mr. George H. Child contributes a thoroughly amusing impersonation of Professor Sawter, and Mr. Harry Harrop deserves special mention for his work as Charles Sawter, his interpolated song meeting with approbation. Miss Ethel Vinroy cleverly represents Janet Marlow, and a capable exponent of the jealous La Colombe is found in Miss Joan Pereira. The repulsive malformed Pierre Crucru is effectively played by Mr. Arthur Mitchell, Mr. John S. Haydon is successful as Hugh Seymour; and Mr. William Millward as Phineas Collins, Mr. Charles Wilton as Mark Parkins, and Mr. Frank Thomas as Duc D'Arnac are well suited to their respective characters. A charming and sympathetic portrayal of Mary Andrews was given by Miss Violet Sims, who looked the part to perfection. The remaining rôles were carefully handled by Miss Gladys Osborne, Mr. Chris Dashwood, Mr. Samuel Hilton, and Mr. Frank Truro; and valuable aid was rendered by the Lottie Stone troupe of whirlwind dancers. Under Mr. Stephen E. Blythe's efficient direction, the orchestra contributed praiseworthy work; while the comfort of the audience is well looked after by the attentive and courteous general-manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Feb. 18, the Drama, entitled
"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS."

After a lapse of two months, drama again reigns at the Shakespeare Theatre, and Mr. Horace Stanley's excellent company is holding the boards with the thrilling drama, *The 10.30 Down Express*. The plot is interesting, the piece teems with exciting incidents, interwoven with amusing episodes, and the whole performance is thoroughly enjoyable. The acting all round is excellent. Mr. Horace Stanley takes full advantage of his many opportunities in the rôle of the true-hearted bluejacket, Sam Wagstaffe, and keeps the house in uproarious laughter whenever he is on the stage. In this direction he is well supported by Miss Kate Kilpack as Peggy Potts. Mr. George Beverly gives a manly and vigorous portrayal of Lieut. Jack O'Malley; Miss Elsie Capell acts with feeling and delicate pathos in the part of Bessie Leigh, and holds the sympathy of the audience throughout; a sound performance of the villainous James Inderwick is given by Mr. Chas. Burdon, who acts with convincing force; and some excellent work is put in by Mr. Tom Royden as the broken-down gamekeeper, Seth Coombes. Mr. Edwin Clarke is eminently satisfactory as the detective, Huntley Mason; and Mr. Alaric Burton is a dignified Cuthbert Leigh. Miss Evelyn M. Walton creates a favourable impression by her clever impersonation of Letita Leigh, and Miss Josephine Lee acts with sufficient abandon as Olive Coombes. The minor parts are in safe hands, and are all capably sustained, whilst the scenic effects are admirable.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Feb. 18, the Military Play, entitled
"THE INDIAN MUTINY."

This stirring drama has been doing very well in Marylebone this week, and Mr. Frank E. Burdett is to be congratulated on the all-round excellence of the company he has gathered together to interpret it. Mr. Edward M. Hamilton is full of life and go as Lieut. Manley; Mr. Cyril Harrison is resourceful as Captain Manley; Mr. John Davidson is dignified and determined as Major Ingleby; Mr. G. Birch plays carefully as Ensign Blake; and Mr. Cecil Morand acts Terry O'Brien, with true Hibernian humour and jollity. The imposing rôle of Abul Khan, the Lion of Lahore, is handled by Mr. George Belmont in a convincing way, his handsome stage presence adding much to the dignity of the impersonation. Mr. Villiers Stanley is decidedly impressive as Nebu Singh, the leader of the rebels; whilst Mr. Ernest Keand works in genuine painstaking fashion as the fanatical Ra Goonga. Miss Lillie Grey is full of vivacity as Mrs. Major Ingleby; Miss Agnes Kingston is pleasing as Kate Ingleby; and Miss F. Melrose Millett sustains Ghuz-nah intelligently and well, all her methods being suitable to the part.

RICHMOND THEATRE.

On Feb. 20, the Musical Play,
"THE BEAUTY OF BATH."

It was but natural a warm welcome should have been accorded *The Beauty of Bath* and her bevy of fair companions; in truth, it would have been impossible for Mr. George Dance's company to have met with a more enthusiastic reception. Premier honours go to Mr. Leslie Holland, who played with unflagging spirit and distinct ingenuity. Mr. Holland models the part of Lieut. Allington on the lines laid down at another house. Never for a moment did the comedy halt when this excellent comedian was on the stage; he was irresistibly funny in the scene with Mrs. Goodge. In Act 2 he scored vocally with "Humpty Dumpty" and in the duet with St. Cyr, "Jenkins of Kensington." Mr. Reggie Grey hit off the idiosyncrasies of Lord Quorn, and Mr. Frederick C. Leister played Viscount Bellingham with due dignity. To Mr. Sheriff Clunes fell the rôle of the actor, Beverley, and he did his best with slender opportunities. He got his chance, however, in Act 2 in the song "Sloe-ey'd maiden"; the concerted finale of this song was one of the musical triumphs of the performance. As the Baronet, Sir Timothy Bun, Mr. Jack Crichton won a good deal of applause. He has a keen sense of humour, and dances perhaps better than he sings; not that he lacks aught in this particular line, for his song, "The social drum," was loudly applauded. Another capable performance was the Earl of Orpington, so admirably portrayed by Mr. John Valentine; Mr. Sidney Grata was sufficiently absurd as Lemon. As the Beauty, Miss Gladys Guy was particularly bright and winsome. She has a well-trained voice, heard to perfection in "My little hyacinth" and "When a little girl's in love." Both were delightfully given with all the charm peculiar to this artist's method. She scored, too, in her dances, and her comedy scenes were provocative of hilarious merriment. Miss Lessie Fraser also won applause for her terpsichorean efforts; her dances were as dainty as they were pretty. Lady Bun was capitally played by Miss Frankie Fowler; while the arduous and somewhat difficult character of Mrs. Allington was sustained with marked ability by Miss Edith Cruikshank. But no one in the cast contributed more genuinely to the success of the piece than Miss Ida Laurie. It is not a part that can be treated unskilfully if the actress would score, and in this respect Miss Laurie as Mrs. Goodge sent the house into convulsive merriment. Nothing could be better than her assumed actor-worship of Beverly, and in her duet with Lemon, "Bloomsbury," she further evidenced her talent as a humorist. The Eight Bath Buns looked sweet—as they should—and won the good graces of the audience. The concerted music and the choruses were alike excellent, and Mr. Gordon Stamford may be proud of his share in the success. Although burdened with the "lead," he found time to efficiently stage-manage the play, and the performance went with a swing from the rise to the fall of the curtain

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, the Dream Play, entitled
"BLUEBELL IN FAIRYLAND."

Kingstonians have been delighted this week in witnessing the production of this charming play, which has been staged in the most complete manner in the matter of scenery and dresses, whilst the members of the company in whose hands Mr. Edward Graham-Falcon has placed the representation of the play have evidently been selected with great care and discrimination. The title-rôle is filled by Miss Mamie Finbow, who has scored a great success in the part; and a pretty and effective bit of acting is given by the Misses Bertha Johnson and Emily Wall, who play Bluebell's little sisters Mab and Winnie respectively. A clever appearance is also made by Master W. Blincoe as the Black Cat; Mr. Lawrence Emery makes a breezy and likelike crossing-sweeper as Dickie; Mr. Frank Lennard gives a good account of himself as the city merchant, Mr. Joplin, and as the Sleepy King in the second act; whilst a good deal of humour is imported into the play by Mr. J. H. Bishop and Mr. Charles Resti as Mr. Joplin's footmen, and as the two schoolboys later on. An amusing picture of a City policeman is furnished by Mr. Harry Douglas in the first act, and as the reigning King in the second; whilst Miss Constance St. Bride makes an imposing and impressive consort; and Miss Vera Vizard acquits herself well as Bluebell's good fairy. The clever dancing of the San Remo Girls and of the three Sisters Holman are not the least pleasant features of a remarkably pleasing performance. The chorus and an augmented orchestra were under the direction of Mr. John Holman, jun.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 18, the light comedy, entitled
"THE FREEDOM OF SUZANNE."

Mr. J. Bannister Howard continues to provide high-class entertainment for his patrons here, who are not slow to appreciate it, and are well supporting the excellent company appearing this week. To Miss Mabel Love fall the chief honours of the evening, and she is quite equal to all the demands made upon her art.

To those who have watched the progress of this versatile artist, it must have been a pleasure to see the ease and charm of her rendering of the wayward wife, who is sweetness itself when she has "her own way." Her description of her evening's amusement to her assembled relations was full of clever archness, and every point was made in telling fashion.

Mr. F. G. Thurstans as Fitzroy Harding was most amusing. His dry humour and laughable mistakes kept everyone in continuous laughter. Mr. Patrick Quill as Suzanne's legal adviser, Sir Horace Hatton, was quietly effective and appropriately restrained. Charles Trevor was rendered by Mr. Templer Powell, and his opportunities came in the second and third acts, of which he took full advantage.

Suzanne's three admirers were all most happily contrasted. The doting old nobleman, Lord Datchet, was funny in the extreme in the hands of Mr. J. Hastings Batson, the feeble old would-be Don Juan's mannerisms being quite a study; the raffish Captain Harry Cecil was made a far more dangerous person to marital happiness, as acted by Mr. Townsend Whitling; and the boyish lover, Tommy Keston was as impulsive and eager youth as depicted by Mr. Richard Neville.

Miss Annie Stalman had to make Lady Charlotte Trevor, the mother-in-law, a suspicious and disagreeable person, and did it well; the part of Fanny Minching, Suzanne's companion, was accurately hit off by Miss Florence Harwood; Miss Violet Ley made a distinguished-looking Lady Isabel Bury; and Miss Dorothy Lart, as Mrs. Tustail, whose mission it is to make Suzanne uncomfortable, was a study in feminine "catlishness." Mr. Budd, the King's Proctor's man, was safe in Mr. Montgomery's hands; and Mrs. F. Turner as Mrs. Putman, the charwoman at Trevor's flat, was good in her low-comedy scenes.

THE DELIGHTS OF TOURING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I cannot help thinking that the uninitiated reading your article on "The Old 'Stock'" might indeed think the present touring system and stage life in general delightful, but I would ask any such to "Look on this picture—and on this." Between seven and eight years I have toured, and, because it is my living, I am compelled to take the first offer that comes, which is generally from a third or fourth-rate touring company. My salary has ranged from £1 to £3. I venture to say that for every first-class company on the road, such as you mention in your article, there will be twenty, probably far more, of lesser degree; and, in the majority of these companies, footwarmers are unknown luxuries on the Sunday journeys. Most of the actors are unable to secure rooms before arriving in the town, chiefly owing to the unreasonable terms often asked, and in many cases the theatre accommodation is bad.

I have turned out on a bleak winter's morning, and been at the station for a four o'clock train call. Much of the day has been spent in a horrible process known as "shunting." We have been sent off to a siding to wait the chance of being picked up by a "special," and it is quite usual to have long waits at dreary shut-up stations, and not a place open where a cup of tea can be had.

Only those who have gone through it know the misery of trudging through the rain to take the train on Sunday, a bag in one hand and rugs in the other; of arriving, still in the rain, and beginning a search for cheap and decent lodgings. In many small *fit-up* places it is with the utmost difficulty that rooms can be secured at all. Theatrical "diggings" are practically unknown; and those who *do* take in the poor wayfarer often do so in more ways than one. In Scotland the "guid folk" look upon us as utterly abandoned creatures, and often slam the door in our faces; and I have been thankful on two occasions to sleep in an outhouse rather than trudge through snow for hours. And this "turning out" and "turning in" will often take place every day in small "fit-up" companies.

I think Mr. Cecil Raleigh said there were about five hundred theatres or halls in England. I know there must be a large number, for I seem to have been to hundreds, and though, in the large towns, the artists' comfort has been considered, there are very few No. 1 towns, and there are hundreds of small ones where dressing accommodation, comfort, and sanitation, have been the last thing thought of.

I could write reams on the discomfort of touring, and probably many would give up the stage if they had to do a fit-up tour, or join a fourth-rate company. Yet endless workers endure this hardship week by week, and would rather do so than be in my present condition—unemployed. I am praying the old "stock" may soon return, and give us all plenty of hard work.—Yours faithfully,

A WANDERING ACTRESS.

AMUSEMENTS IN INDIA.

BOMBAY, JAN. 8, 1907.—Mr. Maurice Bandmann's Comedy Company, in a répertoire of London's latest plays, has just finished the most successful season the Gaiety has ever known. The list of plays included *Leah Kleschna*, *Raffles*, *His House in Order*, *Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace*, &c. Bombay audiences have indeed obtained what they have wanted for some time, class plays with class actors. Mr. Claude King, who takes the lead, has made a reputation here which will last for many years, especially as Raffles, the cool cricketer-burglar. The continued demands at the close of each act for both Mr. King and Miss Hamer showed what a hold the play had obtained. It was repeated by special request later in the short season. As an emotional actress Miss Hamer is admirable, and the meeting with Paul Sylvane at his rooms in *Leah Kleschna*, together with her scene with Hilary Jesson in *His House in Order*, proved what a brilliant artist Mr. Bandmann has secured for his Eastern tour. Mr. Pease, who enacts Filmer Jesson, Kleschna, Curtis Bedford, &c., is an actor who has made a distinct hit. Mention should also be made of Messrs. Philip Sanders, Frank Peachey, and Sinclair Cotter. No one here is likely to forget the last-mentioned actor's rendering of Charley's Aunt; his quaint mannerisms kept the house in roars. Miss Dorcas Crosbie gives an excellent rendering of every part she plays. Each piece has been well staged, reflecting great credit on Mr. Butt. The house in front is supervised by Mr. Roy Smith and Mr. Mitchell, the Bombay representative.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

GENERAL MEETING.

Sir Squire Bancroft, the President of the Actors' Association, occupied the chair at the sixteenth annual general meeting of that body held on Tuesday afternoon in The Playhouse. Sir Squire Bancroft was supported on the stage by Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. Laurence Irving, Mr. Aubrey Smith, Mr. Brandon Thomas, Mr. Acton Bond, Mr. A. E. Drinkwater, Mr. William Devereux, Mr. Harry Nicholls, Miss Winifred Emery, Miss Beatrice Lamb, Mr. Hayden Coffin, Miss Carlotta Addison, Mr. Clarence Blakiston, Mr. Burton Cooke, Mr. F. Cremlin, Mr. Frank Desprez, Mr. J. Cooke Beresford, Mr. Richard Green, and Miss Minnie Turner.

The report of the Council for the year ending Dec. 31, 1906, and the statement of accounts were as follows:—

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1906.

The Council beg to present the annual report and statement of accounts for 1906.

During the year the Council have promoted the Irving Memorial, inaugurated "Actors' Day," and have obtained for the members of the Association a scale of remuneration for rehearsals, dependent on duration of rehearsals and engagements.

The Council call particular attention to the system of insurance in operation during last year, and to the still further substantial advantages secured for 1907, as set forth in the coupon covering loss of luggage and of salary resulting therefrom.

To the above work the Council attribute the already considerable increase of subscriptions paid to date.

Various committees are dealing with other matters not yet completed.

Valuable work has been done by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, which has held 45 meetings during the year.

The Council were instrumental in handing over to the Actors' Orphanage Fund upwards of £100 as the result of the amateur billiard handicap held last winter.

The Council are glad to report that members have again availed themselves of the facilities afforded by the Association for arbitration, thereby saving considerable expense and avoiding the publication of the details of professional disputes.

Two hundred and twenty-one engagements have been secured for members during the year.

The Year Book, which is again given to members on payment of subscription, has proved of great utility.

During the year the list of honorary medical officers has again been increased, and the thanks of all the members are due to those gentlemen who so kindly and generously placed their services at the disposal of the Association, the value of those services being incalculable.

There are now on the roll:—

Hon. Consulting Staff of Physicians and Surgeons	6
Hon. Medical Officer of Health	1
Hon. Medical Officers, including Dental Surgeons, in London	69
Hon. Medical Officers, including Dental Surgeons, in the Provinces	171
Hon. Medical Officer in America	1
Opticians	2

134 towns being represented in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man, Isle of Wight, and the Island of Jersey, and America.

During the year 1906 the honorary solicitors have rendered valuable services to the members of the Association by advising them on points submitted and in prosecuting claims on their behalf, and the best thanks are due to them and the honorary standing counsel for their unremitting attention.

The Council acknowledge much useful work done in London and the provinces by the commissioners (formerly known as missioners), now numbering nearly 100.

The Council approached the licensing authorities throughout the kingdom, and in all instances were afforded every facility for coming into contact, by letter or otherwise, with the officials having control of local sanitation.

C. AUBREY SMITH,
Jan. 22, 1907. Chairman.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS, JAN. 1 TO DEC. 31, 1906.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance, 1st January, 1906, viz.:—			
At Bankers on Current Account (£. s. d.)	27	9	11
In Secretary's hands	15	5	6
Petty Cash	0	5	4
	43	0	9
,, Members' Subscriptions	963	0	0
,, Do. do., half-year	30	7	6
,, Arrears of Subscriptions	24	10	0
,, Entrance Fees	42	0	0
,, Fees on Reinstatement	0	7	6
,, Donations	1	7	0
,, Agency Fees	82	13	7
,, Solicitors' Fees returned	7	18	7
,, Sustentation Fund	24	14	0
,, Landladies' Advertisements in "Lodgings," 1906	28	12	
,, Tradesmen's do. do.	5	2	6
,, Sale of Contract Forms and Books	1	19	1
,, Sale of Security, £250	237	14	3
,, Interest on Investments	9	8	4
,, Insurance, returned Premium	2	11	6
,, Corps of Commissionaires' Guarantee	4	16	9
	£1510	3	8

PAYMENTS.

	£	s.	d.
By Rent of Office	239	16	0
,, Rates and Taxes	108	6	1
,, Water Rate	8	18	0
,, Salaries	509	9	6
,, Lighting and Firing	50	12	0
,, Telephone Rent	24	4	8
,, Registration of Telegraphic Address	1	1	0
,, Printing	104	5	9
,, Notepaper and Envelopes	34	1	4
,, Newspapers	23	3	6
,, Bank Charges	0	8	10
,, Messenger Call Subscription	1	1	0
,, Insurances	156	15	9
,, Advertisements	36	8	6
,, Solicitors' Fees	41	19	10
,, Miscellaneous Payments	7	13	0
,, Petty Cash	95	0	7
,, Housekeeper's Sundries	14	0	9
,, Repairs at 10, King-street	14	10	7
,, Interest on Debentures	24	15	0
,, Cancelled Debenture	10	0	0
,, Balance, viz.:—			
At Bankers (£. s. d.)	101	0	7
* Less Amount paid Insurance for 1907	97	10	0
	3	10	7
Petty Cash	0	1	5
	3	12	0
	£1510	3	8

BALANCE SHEET, DEC. 31, 1906.

LIABILITIES.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Electric Light				16	12	6
,, Gas				0	17	6
,, Rector's Rate				1	3	11
,, Commission due to Secretary on Agency Fees for 1906				8	5	4
,, Landladies' Advertisements in Year Book, 1907, and Copies of Book				6	18	6
,, Interest accrued on Debentures				6	2	6
,, Debentures issued—172 at £5 each, bearing Interest at 5 per cent.	860	0	0			
Less 74 Debentures redeemed and cancelled	370	0	0			
				490	0	0
* Excess of Assets over Liabilities				30	8	4
				£560	8	7

ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Cash, viz.:—						
At Bankers on Current Account	3	10	7			
Petty Cash	0	1	5			
				3	12	0
,, Sundry Debtors:—						
Trade Advertisements in Year Book, 1907	9	0	0			
Agency Fees £19 2s. 6d., estimated to realise	4	15	8			
Subscriptions due from Members abroad £199 5s. estimated to realise	49	16	3			
Rates and Taxes paid in advance	27	8	8			
Telephone Rent do.	4	3	4			
Insurance do.	98	0	0			
				193	3	11
,, Furniture—						
As per Account 1905	305	8	0			
Less Depreciation at 5 per cent.	15	5	4			
				290	2	8
,, Investment—						
£83 2s. 2d. 2½ per cent. Consols at cost				73	10	0
				£560	8	7

We have examined the foregoing statements and compared them with the books and vouchers of the Association. We certify that all our requirements as auditors have been complied with, and we report to the members that the cash account correctly shows the receipts and payments for the year, and the balance sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Association's affairs on Dec. 31, 1906, as shown by the books of the Association.

WESTCOTT, MASKALL & Co.,
Chartered Accountants,
Honorary Auditors,
29-30, Broad Street-avenue, E.C.
London, Jan. 26, 1907.

* The Council call attention to the fact that the sum of £97 10s. 0d. paid in advance for insurance of members covering the year 1907 should be added to the balance as it appears above—making the "Excess of assets over liabilities" at the end of 1906, £127 8s. 4d.

The CHAIRMAN, rising to propose "That the annual report and accounts be read, adopted, and entered on the minutes," said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—The Association has been engaged during the past year in good and hopeful projects. In regard to Actors' Day—a scheme which is dear to my heart—I will only say that the Advisory Board as recommended by the trustees has been formed, and is at work. No doubt their labours will be difficult, but the boat is launched and is powerfully manned. The crew now and again may find it hard to pull together, but they are able-bodied seamen, and, I feel sure, will never let the future of a promising little craft go to pieces on the rocks. She will have a rough time of it no doubt, but I wish her God-speed, and I hope I may be standing at the bar next autumn to see her reach the harbour with a good report and heavily laden. One word upon the Irving Memorial. It has proved a triumphant success—a success reflecting the highest credit upon the Actors' Association, and which, in my judgment, is due to the skill and courage, when presiding at the chief meeting, of Mr. John Hare. Although the bulk of the money required has been so promptly and so generously subscribed, I cannot help thinking there are many actors who would like to give small sums towards the memorial, and who may want encouragement to do so, because they think that the amount they could spare too trifling. Not at all. Those are the gifts that are wanted, so that the roll of players that subscribe shall stretch far and wide. How much anybody gave would be nothing to Irving, but that everybody gave would be something, would be everything, to him. Were he still here it would gladden his large heart and make it beat with pleasure and with pride to know and feel that the tribute was truly the gift of his comrades. Before I move that the report and accounts be taken as read, I will call upon Mr. Acton Bond to give you some figures in regard to the accounts of the Association.

Mr. ACTON BOND said that the Council regretted that through their want of knowledge of the professional rights of the chartered accountants they put a statement under the actual signature of the accountants which, coming from the Council to the members, should have appeared on the other side merely as a comment. In 1905 their excess of assets over liabilities was £198 6s. 1d., and in 1906 their excess of assets over liabilities was only £30 8s. 4d. Subscriptions, including the yearly and half-yearly arrears of subscriptions and entrance fees, amounted in 1905 to £1063 5s.; in 1906 they amounted to £1059 17s. 6d., the difference between those four items added together on the two years being £3 7s. 6d. The actual difference between 1905 and 1906 was practically nothing, as they had a guarantee from the Commissionaires in case anything occurred, and they had £4 16s. 9d. more, so that brought the actual amount from those four items practically a little over in 1906 what they took in 1905. The loss in the year 1905 was £154 1s. 10d.; the loss in 1906 was £167 17s. 9d. In 1906 the working loss was not so great as it appeared, because £59 5s. 9d. was paid for insurances, which was an item never before incurred. They felt that an accident insurance should be included in the benefits for members, and therefore the Council agreed to spend £59 5s. 9d., so that that sum had to be deducted, and made the loss in 1906 £108 12s. Economies were effected in several directions. The stationery account was £9 2s. 6d. less; on advertisements £11 was saved, and in petty cash £4 17s. The membership in 1904 was 1527, and in 1905 it was 1390. In the latter year 137 members did not pay their subscriptions, and thus for the first time they lost on the actual working. At the end of 1906 there were 1372 members, a further loss of 18. The difference between 1905 and 1906 was practically nil, as 110 were abroad in the latter year. When he came to the present year he found that up to that morning 738 subscriptions had arrived. In 1906 on the same day there were 558, and in 1905 only 490, so that there had been a large increase, probably due to the fact that there had been recently suggestions as to a scheme for reform. The advertisements from the Year Book realised £42 14s. 10d., and as the publication only cost £43 5s. 6d., the difference was only 10s. 8d. That was a very good bargain, considering that in any case the list of members would have had to be printed and that they were able to give the Year Book free to members. This year the Council felt that arrangements should be made to include insurance of luggage in the accident insurance, and this extra insurance was operative from Jan. 1 last.

Mr. EDWARD TERRY, in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts, said that it had been already shadowed that they were going to have a very pleasant afternoon. He did not intend to retard progress, and he certainly was not going to put a stop to any reforms. He did not think they should be at all discouraged by the figures given them by Mr. Acton Bond. Figures, of course, could be made to prove anything. He thought that there was an amount of enthusiasm shown in regard to the affairs of the Association which was not evident at the initiation.

The proposition was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. ACTON BOND, speaking as to the constitution of the Council and its working, said that when suggestions for reforms were made inside and outside the Association, he thought it only fair that somebody who had done some work on the Council should be allowed to say something. It seemed to him that there was a desire to manage the affairs of the Association from the Court Theatre. He could not understand why there should be parties in the Association. It was a monstrous proposition for twelve men to band themselves together and say that they would be elected all or none, and that when they got on the Council they would all vote solidly one way. He could suggest what would happen. A case might come up before the Council which might be described as a fairly equal case. What would happen? These gentlemen who had banded together would vote solid one way. It would be manifestly unfair that the case should be thrown out without due consideration of its merits——

Mr. FREDK. TOPHAM (interrupting from the auditorium): Is it proper for a member of the Council to make an election address?

Mr. BOND: I am merely speaking in accordance with the right that every member has. I gave due notice of my intention to speak.

Mr. CECIL RALEIGH: What is on the agenda?

Mr. BOND (reading): "Mr. Bond will speak, before the election of the Council members takes place, as to the constitution of the Council and its working." I am no longer a member of the Council.

Mr. GRANVILLE BARKER: What is the motion before the meeting?

Mr. EDWARD TERRY: I rise on a point of order. With all due respect to our friend, Mr. Bond, he has gone right off the report. We have heard that there is a reform party in existence, but that party has not "come off" at the present moment. I take it that Mr. Bond is rising to tell us what the situation of the Association now is.

Mr. CECIL RALEIGH: I want to know what Mr. Bond's motion is?

The CHAIRMAN: I am advised that Mr. Bond is entirely within his right in speaking to you on the constitution of the Council, but it is not advisable for him to be contentious on the subject.

Mr. BOND stated that the other side had a perfect right to answer anything he put forward, but this was the only opportunity the retiring Council had of explaining what had happened. He had given seven days' clear notice of his intention to speak on the subject.

Mr. CECIL RALEIGH: Are we to be allowed to speak or not?

Mr. BARKER: The rules read "That the election takes place first and the discussion after."

Mr. BOND: It would not be fair that after the election comes only one side had been heard. Surely you will let us give you our experiences of a working Council of 42 members?

Mr. ROY HORNIMAN: We do not want Mr. Bond's version of the report. We have the report before us. If the same latitude is to be allowed to other speakers that has been allowed to Mr. Bond this discussion will be interminable.

The CHAIRMAN: I will ask Mr. Bond not to make an electioneering speech.

Mr. BARKER: We have here no agenda of the meeting, and we have not yet been told what Mr. Bond is putting to the meeting.

By the direction of the Chairman, agenda papers were distributed in the body of the theatre.

Mr. AUBREY SMITH: Certain twelve candidates have put themselves up for election on certain grounds. There has been no opportunity of replying to them, and surely we should have the votes. These people have given no reason for it, and we should simply have to vote on that statement.

Mr. TOPHAM (to Mr. Bond): If you are no longer a member of the Council, what on earth are you doing up there?

Mr. BOND: I did not go out of office until this morning, and it was an understood thing that I should be here on the stage to make my statement.

Mr. RALEIGH: There is no motion on the agenda. I ask that Mr. Bond be ruled out of order.

Mr. BARKER: I have no reason for speaking on behalf of the twelve people who signed the manifesto, but let me say that nothing is more agreeable to us than to be discussed, but we must have something to vote upon.

Mr. TREE: The last twenty minutes have been occupied in discussing points of order. Why not let Mr. Bond talk on a point of disorder for five minutes and so get the matter finished?

Mr. HORNIMAN: I protest against Mr. Tree making such a proposal.

Mr. BARKER: The reform party is perfectly willing to discuss matters.

Mr. RALEIGH hereupon proposed "That we proceed with the next motion on the agenda."

Mr. EDWARD TERRY seconded the resolution, which proved to be the desire of the meeting, and Mr. Bond's proposed address was not proceeded with.

The SECRETARY then read the names of those nominated for the fourteen vacant seats on the Council as follow: Henry Ainley, Arthur Applin, H. Granville Barker, Acton Bond, Cecil Brooking, Fanny Brough, Lewis Casson, C. F. Collings, Frank Collins, F. Cremlin, Welton Dale, Wm. Devereux, H. Athol Forde, C. V. France, Douglas Gordon, Laurence Irving, Clare Greet, Georgina Hamilton, Roy Horniman, Beatrice Lamb, Wynne Matthison, Kenyon Musgrave, Fredk. Morland, Lucy Sibley, A. B. Tapping, and Arthur Whitby.

The following five gentlemen were appointed as scrutineers to receive and examine the voting papers and announce the result: Messrs. Henry Attwater, Arthur Fitzgerald, Richard Green, A. B. Imeson, and Allen Thomas.

Mr. CYRIL MAUDE, in proposing a vote of thanks to the members of the Council for services rendered during the past year, said he considered it a good sign of life in the Association that they were dissenting. There had been too much acquiescence with each other's ideas in the past. He thought it was a good sign that Mr. Granville Barker was working so keenly and anxiously for the good of the Association. He (the speaker) would in a year or two be able to celebrate his silver jubilee of stage work, and he had seen many changes for the betterment of the profession in his time. How truly they realised the splendid example that had been set them by their late honoured chief, Sir Henry Irving, and, without making invidious comparisons, he could say that they had the greatest possible admiration and affection for their president, Sir Squire Bancroft, and for the way in which he had set them an example as to the conduct of affairs in the theatre world. They would be equally proud of the little bodies of men and women who had been working steadily for the stage. He could allude to such gatherings of their brother and sister artists as the Theatrical Ladies' Guild, the Actors' Orphanage, and Actors' Benevolent Fund. Each of these got through their work with a certain amount of pleasure which the members of the Council of the Actors' Association could not get. It was no small thing for their brother and sister artists to devote practically a whole afternoon to what was very dreary work. They had no happiness in seeing children rescued from the workhouse and put in schools; they had no pleasure in signing cheques for large amounts, and seeing them given to poor people who would otherwise starve. A vote of thanks should be given to the members of the Council who had during the past year worked to the best of their ability and power on behalf of the A.A. He was sure the reform party would heartily agree with him in that. Mr. Aubrey Smith and his colleagues on the Council had earned from them a deep debt of gratitude.

Mr. HARRY NICHOLLS briefly seconded the proposition, which was carried.

Mr. AUBREY SMITH, in acknowledging the vote, said he felt as if he were sitting on the edge of a volcano with the rising steam of reform around him. At the same time he thought they should welcome the energetic efforts which were being displayed by the reform party. But he was of opinion that that energy should be held in check to a certain extent. It might be pointed out that eleven out of the twelve reform candidates had never served on the Council, and he did not think that they had as good a chance of judging whether forty-two members were too many or not as those who had worked on the Council. Two members out of the dozen were not even in favour of what they had been asking everybody of vote for. One of the reasons given by the reform party in favour of a Council of twenty-five was that there would be a keener and more regular attendance. Well, one of the reformers, Mr. Granville Barker, had served the Association for a year, and had only attended once. The retiring Council had worked very hard indeed, and the number of attendances had been greater than ever before. There had been an average of sixteen attendances, and if they were going to reduce the number of those serving on the board to twenty-five there would be a correspondingly lesser attendance. They had to remember that there were such things as provincial tours and rehearsals in London. The crying need of the Association was not reform, but more members. Every person in that meeting should go out and get two or three more members to join. That would be doing far more good than carping and yelling for reform. Since Jan. 1 they had elected 79 new members. It was to be hoped that that state of affairs would continue.

Mr. TERRY proposed the re-election of Sir Squire Bancroft as president, and this was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN, after making suitable acknowledgment, proposed the re-election *en bloc* of the vice-presidents, Mr. TOPHAM seconding. Carried.

Mr. A. E. DRINKWATER proposed, and Mr. BRANDON THOMAS seconded, the re-election of and a vote of thanks to Mr. Henry Warburton as standing counsel, and Messrs. John H. Mote and Son as hon. solicitors to the Association. Carried.

Messrs. WARBURTON and MOTE expressed their thanks.

Mr. ACTON BOND proposed and Miss BEATRICE LAMB seconded, the re-election of and a vote of thanks to the hon. staff of physicians, surgeons, and doctors; Dr. A. E. Harris, the hon. medical officer of health, Messrs. Westcott, Maskell and Co., the hon. auditors of the Association, and Mr. Ernest A. E. Woodrow, the hon. consulting architect to the Association.

Mr. AUBREY SMITH proposed the following resolution: "That acting-managers, transacting business for a company in which they have no proprietary interest, shall be eligible for election as members of the Actors' Association, subject to a record as to past work, corresponding to that supplied by actor applicants, being satisfactory to the Council." The speaker urged that the inclusion of acting-managers would be of immense advantage to the Association. In the first place, he would remind them that there were only 221 agency engagements made last year. That was a paltry number. It should be 2221, and one way of assisting towards that end was to invite the acting-managers, who would come again and again to the Association if they were permitted to belong to it. They could not expect these gentlemen to give their co-operation if they were excluded from their ranks.

Mr. A. E. DRINKWATER seconded. He concurred with all that Mr. Smith had said. Some people had said that the acting-manager was on the side of the manager. Was not the stage-manager in a similar position? In questions of organisation the benefits to be derived from the services of the acting-manager were incalculable.

Mr. TOPHAM proposed the following amendment: "That this matter be referred to the new Council for consideration."

Mr. GRANVILLE BARKER, in seconding the amendment, said that he thought Mr. Smith was suffering from a very amiable disease—a too great kindness of heart. For every acting-manager that was elected as a member of the Association, two actors would go out. The Actors' Association should be conducted in the interest of actors.

On a show of hands Mr. Smith's proposition was lost and the amendment carried.

Mr. TREE proposed, and Mr. HAYDEN COFFIN seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Cyril Maude for the use of his theatre; and a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. BRANDON THOMAS and seconded by Miss CARLOTTA ADDISON, brought the meeting to a close.

The following list gives the names of those elected to the fourteen vacant seats on the Council, and shows the distribution of the votes:—

1. H. Granville Barker	267
2. Henry Ainley	265
3. Edith Wynne Matthison	261
4. H. Athol Forde	244
5. Lewis Casson	243
6. C. V. France	238
7. Clare Greet	238
8. Cecil Brooking	228
9. Georgina Hamilton	228
10. Frederick Morland	223
11. Kenyon Musgrave	223
12. C. F. Collings	221
13. Laurence Irving	102
14. Acton Bond	80
The following candidates were unsuccessful:—	
15. Fanny Brough	79
16. Lucy Sibley	74
17. William Devereux	69
18. Roy Horniman	61
19. Arthur Whitby	57
20. Beatrice Lamb	55
21. Frank Collins	49
22. A. B. Tapping	44
23. F. Cremlin	41
24. Douglas Gordon	40
25. Welton Dale	35
26. Arthur Applin	29

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Please allow me a little space to advance what I consider a simple method to arrive at an understanding beneficial to all concerned. Experience in our profession is everything at such a crisis, for you require to have toured the "smalls," say, twenty years ago, to be thoroughly in sympathy with the temperament of keen workers, aspiring to the highest rank of dramatic art. Matters in general have changed very little in reality, and my opinion is, that if half a dozen veterans could arrange a meeting the best interests of the rank and file would be voiced, and sensible practical suggestions made that would clear the air considerably. Individually, I have been the means of reforming many abuses in the profession; and naturally have received more "kicks than ha'pence" for my efforts; nevertheless, matters stedfastly improve, and that is my reward. Let such a meeting be arranged at the offices of the Actors' Association as soon as possible, and it will prove the beginning of the end of all the trouble.—Yours faithfully,

HENRY TWEEDIE,
Touring Manager since 1886.
45, Creswell-road, Richmond Bridge,
Feb. 20, 1907.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Should the proposal of the Union go through, may I enquire in what way they would relieve the many so-called actors and actresses whose work is not even worth 30s. a week? For it stands to reason, I think, that they would be thrown out of work. This would, of course, be to the ultimate advantage of all concerned. But, in the meanwhile, how would they fare?—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES CAREY.
Opera House, Tunbridge Wells, Feb. 22.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LEAGUE.

In connection with the meeting held at 3, Bedford-street, on the 8th inst., with Mr. Arthur Bawtree in the chair, the provisional committee chosen to organise an Actors' Union have issued a circular containing the following suggested rules for the proposed Union:—

The provisional title of the body is the Dramatic and Musical League.

This body to be registered under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900.

That this League is being formed for the object of working for the sole welfare and interest of actors and actresses in the dramatic and musical profession.

That the League shall consist of two degrees of membership—Fellows and Associates—the qualification for membership being for Fellows five years and for Associates two years' actual experience, and, this being proved, that each candidate be proposed by a member and seconded by two others who, from personal knowledge, can vouch for the candidate as professionally and socially fit for membership.

That all have full voting powers. But only Fellows be eligible to sit on the Council.

That the entrance fee to be 2s. 6d. and subscription 6d. per week. Limit of credit ten weeks, except with reasonable excuse to the Council.

A levy of 6d. per head to be made on all members on the occasion of the death of a member of the League.

That a Provident Fund (from the then existing fund) will be considered as soon as the League is on a sound financial footing.

That any member of the League becoming a manager or acting-manager shall during the period of his management forfeit his right of vote, and cease to hold executive powers in the League.

That the Society be governed by a Council of twenty-four Fellows, annually elected by members, the Council to have powers to add to their number.

That branches of the League, at the earliest date possible, shall be formed in other centres, such as are already forming in London and Manchester.

The committee hope that those who are in favour of the scheme will give it immediate practical support by endeavouring to organise, in the towns they are in, meetings of actors and actresses and by putting the purposes outlined in the circular before these meetings.

Members will be known by their numbers, and each will have a card for the purpose of affixing stamps, thus denoting the payment of subscriptions.

A.A. SOCIAL.

Mr. J. T. Grein addressed the members of the Actors' Association on Friday afternoon last week on the subject of an "Entente Cordiale Theatre." Mr. Lawrence Grant presided.

The lecturer pointed out that the drama was a powerful factor in creating a friendly relationship between two countries. Because there was nothing which could so deeply arouse human emotions, it was a greater influence than the diplomacy of the politician, the writings of the novelist, or the sermons of the preacher. The drama had been responsible for one of the most collossal agitations in the world, for it was the production of a play which brought about the dissolution of the union which formerly existed between Holland and Belgium. In regard to Mr. Tree's forthcoming visit to Germany, the lecturer thought that it would be a great success if only a right répertoire had been chosen. With France, at the present moment, we were on a much more intimate footing than with the land of the Teuton. German soil at the present moment wanted fertilising, as French soil was open to reception for dramatic purposes. The French theatre in London, which had been patronised by the King, had shown us some of the best French acting and some of the best French plays. He did not think that the English theatre, which he suggested should be established in Paris, should at the first give Shakespeare, because the French had not yet realised that Shakespeare was not merely a classic for his own time and his own people, but for all times and for all peoples. In Germany, where, perhaps, Shakespeare was even more popular than in England, there had lately arisen a new form of Shakespearean acting, which was as akin to modernity as it could be. Turning again to the question of what plays should be at the offset produced in the English theatre in France, the lecturer suggested *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*, *The Liars*, *The Walls of Jericho*, *Lord and Lady Algy*, and others of that class, which would acquaint French people with the different phases of English life, and would come as a novelty to them. A critic in Holland had once said, after witnessing the performance of *The Walls of Jericho*, that that play gave him the exact meaning of the words "lady" and "gentleman." What surprise it would cause the French people to see a company of English actors and actresses who knew how to move about a drawing-room! A beginning of the "Entente Cordiale Theatre" might be made by giving six performances of English plays in Paris next winter. The lecturer was sure that Frenchmen of culture, as well as American and Englishmen, would be only too ready to subscribe in order to help this young enterprise. The German theatre in London could boast of an annual subscription of £2,000, in addition to a guarantee fund.

A brief discussion followed, and the lecturer was accorded a vote of thanks.

BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE.—In a German provincial theatre the other day they were going to give a performance of *Piccolomini*, and the "star" was coming from the metropolis to take the leading part. At rehearsal, in the banqueting scene, he said to the footman, as he was about to present to him the inkstand in order to sign the declaration, "Ah! while I think of it, I wish to explain to you, my friend, that I have a little trick here for which you had better be prepared. When you hand me the inkstand this evening I shall, in my excitement, wipe my pen on your shirt collar. Of course, it will make a stain, but you will see—it will fetch the house!" "Capital," replied the other; "just at this place, I, too, have to introduce a little trick of my own. As soon as you have wiped your pen on my collar, I shall deal you a tremendous box on the ear. Of course, it will hurt, but you will see—it will bring down the house!"

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree, who stumbled over the head of a tiger skin on the stage of His Majesty's Theatre last week and slightly injured his side against a table, was obliged to resign his part on Saturday to Mr. Charles Quartermaine. Monday evening, however, saw the eminent actor-manager back in the character of Antony, when he had a reception affectionate and hearty. Added attractiveness, it may be remarked, is given to the matinée of *The Red Lamp* at His Majesty's on Thursday in aid of St. Mary's Hospital for Women and Children, Plaistow, by the promise of Mr. Tree to announce the proceeds of the performance from the stage at the close of the play.

The loss of nineteen members of the German Opera Company in the wreck of the Berlin on Thursday gives a melancholy interest to the ill-fated enterprise. The Winter German Opera Syndicate, Limited, was filed with a registered capital of £10,000, in 100 ordinary shares of £100 each. At a meeting held at Covent Garden last Saturday it was decided to close the season, and the "notice" went up on Monday morning. A statement of the affairs of the company is now being prepared by the auditors and accountants. The Grand Opera Syndicate, Limited, have nothing to do with the matter, except as superior landlords. Mr. Frank Rendle made a contract with the German Opera Syndicate to find the house, lighting, scenery, and costumes, and certain employees. The German Opera Syndicate, Limited, provided "everything seen and heard" on the stage, including the orchestra.

Mr. George Alexander has selected the evening of March 8 for the production at the St. James's of Mr. Alfred Sutro's new play, *John Glayde's Honour*. A répétition générale will be given on the previous Thursday evening.

Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton, with their full Adelphi company, open a week's engagement at the Kennington Theatre on Monday, when *The Taming of the Shrew* will be presented. On Thursday they will give a matinée of *Othello*—a production which is being looked forward to with great interest in South London.

Mr. E. S. Willard sails for England on April 9, per the Kaiser Wilhelm, and is due at Plymouth on Monday, April 15. The eminent actor, it is recalled, had a remarkable run with *The Middleman*, by Henry Arthur Jones, which he has played for eighteen years, but one season having passed in which it did not form part of his répertoire. In America the popularity of the play is as strong as ever, as is instanced by it having drawn over £440 at a recent performance at the Nixon Theatre, Pittsburg, and this in spite of a snowstorm that raged for forty-eight hours before the performance. It is true that Pittsburg knew it was Mr. Willard's farewell to the city in the part of Cyrus Blencarn, but it was to the popularity of the play that the large house was primarily due.

Mr. Edward Compton had a sharp attack of influenza, aggravated by total loss of voice, and could not appear at the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, on Monday and Tuesday. Fortunately his son, Mr. Montagu Compton, who was with the company for the final rehearsals of his new comedy *The Gentleman in Grey*, was able to take up most successfully the parts of Charles Surface and Bob Acres.

Mr. Hayden Coffin and Miss Ruth Vincent will be the principals of *Tom Jones*, the new comic opera, founded by A. M. Thompson and Robert Courtneidge upon Henry Fielding's novel, with lyrics by Charles Taylor and music by Edward German, to be produced at the Apollo on Thursday, April 18. Mr. Dan Rolyat, who leapt into fame at the same theatre as the merry bluejacket of *The Dairymaids*, will have the part of a barber, and the cast will also comprise Messrs. John Morley, Arthur Soames, Ambrose Manning, Jay Laurier, Walter Rignold, Reginald Crompton, Harry Cottell, and Harry Welchman, and Misses Carrie Moore, Marie Daltra, Dora Rignold, Dorothy Ward, Florence Parfrey, Maud Thornton, and Cicely Courtneidge.

Shareholders of Howard and Wyndham, Ltd., at a meeting at Edinburgh on the 15th inst., unanimously agreed to sell their undertaking, comprising six theatres—three in Glasgow, two in Edinburgh, and one in Newcastle—to Robert Colburn Buchanan, of the King's Theatre, Edinburgh, and Ernest Stevens, of the Marlborough Theatre, London. The original price fixed was £146,000, a sum equal with the ordinary market price, equivalent to £6 5s. per share, but at the meeting it was intimated that Buchanan and Stevens had agreed to increase the offer to £160,000, bringing up the price per share of the Howard and Wyndham shareholders to something like £7 5s.

Mr. Martin Harvey's promised production of a play adapted from the German during his forthcoming London season, which commences in May, is causing considerable interest. Up to the present Mr. Harvey has been laudably faithful to the native dramatist, and it is felt that his new production, at present named *The Rich Youth*, must possess some signal features of merit to have led the favourite actor to depart from custom. The author, Karl Rössler, has won a distinguished position in Berlin as a dramatist, and his works possess a quality which should not be lost in adaptation to the English stage. Meantime, Mr. Harvey continues to enjoy success on his provincial tour, and this week at the Grand Theatre, Middlesbrough, enormous audiences have been the rule. On Monday Mr. Harvey, Miss N. de Silva, and company appear at Her Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, where the liveliest interest is being shown in the revival of *Hamlet*.

Mr. Cyril Maude added appreciably to his laurels at the Royalty Theatre on Friday afternoon, the 15th inst., when he appeared in the little French play *L'Anglais tel qu'on le Parle*. Mr. Maude essayed the part of the Englishman, Hogson, who journeys to Paris in pursuit of his daughter, eloped with a bank clerk. Hogson is utterly ignorant of the language, and a native who poses as an interpreter is almost equally limited in his knowledge of English. Through the latter's muddling it is made to appear that Hogson accused his would-be son-in-law of having stolen his pocket-book, and an amusing imbroglio follows. Mr. Maude was very diverting as the irascible Briton, and Miss Alexandra Carlisle was very charming as the errant daughter. The other parts in the comedietta were sustained by members of the French company in London.

The interest of the afternoon was further maintained by other English artists of eminence, Mr. Lewis Waller winning an encore for his recitation of "The Portrait," and responding with a stirring delivery of Henry V.'s speech before Agincourt. Miss Edna May and Miss Ruth Vincent contributed delightful selections; Mr. Harry Fragson entertained at the piano; and the quarrel scene between Brutus and Cassius from *Julius Cæsar* was given by Mr. Basil Gill and Mr. Lyn Harding. Miss Viola Tree assisted in the sale of programmes, and the matinée, which was organised by Mr. Gaston Mayer in aid of the French Hospital, the French Benevolent Society of London, and the Lord Mayor's Jamaica Fund, realised the handsome sum of £452. The Prince and Princess of Wales were present, as well as Princess Christian, and the audience also included the French Ambassador.

Mr. J. Bannister Howard is in the enviable position of holding two licences—dramatic and music hall—for the Royal Theatre, King's Lynn, and will re-open it as a hippodrome on Monday, March 4. Mr. Howard is trying the experiment of running three nights only each week, two houses a night, and booking the other three nights in conjunction with Mr. Montefiore, of Bury St. Edmunds. The house will be run as a music hall until the autumn season commences, when it will again open with dramatic fare.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier will reappear in the evening bill at the Garrick on Wednesday, March 6, when he will create the character of the brilliant dramatist in Gladys Unger's four-act comedy *Mr. Sheridan*. Miss Alexandra Carlisle will be the Esther Ogle, and the cast will be completed by Messrs. Sydney Valentine, Walter Pearce, Cyril Keightley, Charles V. France, Leonard Calvert, Arthur Whitby, Lawson Butt, Alfred Bristowe, Edward Rigby, William Burchill, Charles Goodhart, Frank Lacy, Harrison Carter, and Douglas Imbert, and Misses Helen Rous, Pamela Gaythorne, and Nancy Price. The first three acts are laid in Mr. Sheridan's house at Wanstead, and Act. IV. in "The Happy Hymen" Inn at Dorington.

Mr. Walter Passmore and Mr. Harry Randall, the comedians of the Drury-lane pantomime, gave a tea-party to the boys and girls engaged in *Sindbad* on the 15th inst. About 100 youthful performers sat down to a sumptuous repast in the salon of the National Theatre, and enjoyed themselves to their hearts' content. Two "lucky tubs," containing presents for every boy and every girl, were provided by Miss Queenie Leighton, Miss Marie George, Miss Warde, Miss Rosamund Bury, Mr. Harry Fragson, Mr. Fred Emney, and others, most of whom joined in the children's games, of which Mr. Arthur Collins was an amused spectator.

Mr. W. T. Lovell, who is on tour with Miss Ellen Terry in America, shared fully in the success obtained by *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*. Mr. Lovell appears as the American Captain, the difficulties of which in the circumstances will be apparent, and has met with unbounded praise from Press and public alike.

The estate of the late Mr. C. Hamilton Aïdé, the dramatist, novelist, and composer, has been valued at £43,208 gross, with net personalty £42,782. Among the beneficiaries is Miss Viola Tree, daughter of the famous actor-manager, to whom £200 is bequeathed. The testator leaves all his musical library and musical copyrights to Mrs. Winifred Coombe Tennant, of Cadoxton Lodge, Vale of Neath; all his remaining literary copyrights and certain articles to Lady Stanley (widow of Sir H. M. Stanley); and all his journals, manuscripts, and literary documents to Mr. Morton Fullerton, of Paris, leaving it to his discretion to publish or destroy such of his journals, manuscripts, and other literary matter as he may think best.

Miss Decima Moore, who has been spending her vacation on the West Coast of Africa, is now on her way back to resume her part in *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy*, with Messrs. Lionel Glenister and Wood-Ingram, whose tour in the autumn proved such a great success. We understand that a long tour in all the No. 1 towns has been arranged for the spring.

Mr. Charles Hawtrey will have the best wishes of all for a speedy return to health after the operation which he underwent on Thursday by Dr. William Hill, the well-known aural surgeon, at St. Mary's Hospital. The operation, which involved the removal of an abscess at the back of the ear, was quite successful, and the popular comedian is progressing as satisfactorily as possible.

Mr. James Welch will send out in the autumn two companies with *When Knights Were Bold*, the fantastic comedy now running successfully at Wyndham's. Dates for the tour are being arranged by Mr. Arthur Whittaker, at Wyndham's Theatre.

Mr. Spencer Trevor, who opened in the part of Babs last Monday evening in Mr. Brandon Thomas's *Charley's Aunt* company at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, was taken suddenly ill on Tuesday, and has been unable to appear since. His doctor ordered an immediate operation. Fortunately, it was not of a dangerous character, and he is progressing favourably, and hopes to be able to resume the part again in a couple of weeks.

During the afternoon Mr. Thomas, who was at the meeting of the Actors' Association at the Playhouse, received a telegram from Mr. Trevor. As the tour had only just started, it was not thought advisable to call upon the understudy except as a last resource, and telegrams and messengers were sent to everybody who had previously played the part on the chance of one of them being disengaged. All replies were in the negative. As a last resource Mr. James Welch was asked to lend Mr. Arthur Chesney, who is engaged to understudy Mr. Welch at Wyndham's. This he kindly consented to do. Mr. Chesney arrived at the King's at 8.40, went on the stage in his old part at 8.50, and gave an excellent performance. Mr. Chesney will continue playing the part until Mr. Trevor's return.

A concert and dramatic performance was given at the Great Queen-street Theatre on the 8th inst. by Mrs. Edward Sondheim, in aid of the Jamaica Earthquake Fund. Among those who contributed to the excellent concert must be especially mentioned M. Jean Cakkinis, who rendered the Ariso (*Pagliacci*) "La donna e Mobile" in such fine style that after three recalls an encore was demanded. Signor Zardo sang in his usual artistic manner; Mme. Kebbell and Miss Helen Sola also sang, and Signor Pente delighted his audience with a violin solo. *The Arabian Nights* which followed was very well played by Mr. Willie Sinclair, Mr. Geo. W. Hodgson (under whose direction the performance took place), and Mr. Bayley. Mrs. Edward Sondheim and Miss Gigia Filippi both won honours in their respective parts, and the other characters were well sustained by Miss Ida Sondheim, Mrs. Shoppee, Miss Essie Hucks, and Mr. W. J. Standish. The proceeds handed over by Mrs. Sondheim to the *Daily Mirror* was £115—a very handsome sum.

Mr. Charles Hannan's four-act romantic play, *The Coachman with Yellow Lace*, dramatised by him from his novel of the same name, will be produced for a week before Easter at the Hammersmith Lyric Theatre by Mr. Samuel James, who is forming a special company for the production. The play is a costume one, the period being that of the seventeenth century.

That popular young provincial leading man, Mr. Jerrold Heather, is well booked up, and is at present starring as Phillip Carnaby in *The Love that Women Desire*. At Easter he is engaged by Mr. T. Edward Ward to star in the leading juvenile part in Walter Howard's new Manchester production, and is secured by Mr. W. H. Hallatt for the autumn, to star as Commander Noel Tregarthen, R.N., in Walter Howard's *Two Little Sailor Boys*.

"Sir George of Almack's," a new costume comedy by H. F. Maltby, is to be produced for the first time on any stage on Thursday, March 28, at the Theatre Royal, Dover.

"The Little Admiral" is the title chosen for the new play by Horace Hodges and T. Wigney Percival in which Mr. Lewis Waller is to appear at the Lyric on March 9. The personage to which the title refers appears only in the first act, but the story is dominated by his influence throughout. Mr. Waller and Miss Evelyn Millard will again act the parts of lovers, and the cast will also contain Miss Carlotta Addison, Mr. Charles Groves, Mr. Charles Fulton, Mr. C. M. Lowne, Mr. A. E. George, Mr. Herbert Jarman, and Mr. Herman de Lange.

The O.P. Club will entertain two eminent representatives of the different forms of drama at their ladies' annual dinner at the Criterion on Sunday, March 17, when Miss Winifred Emery and Miss Edna May will both respond to the toast of "The Ladies," to be submitted by the president, Mr. Sidney Dark. Miss Marie Illington will add to the attractiveness of the occasion by proposing the health of the chairman.

The King's Theatre, Walthamstow, is to be offered at auction by Mr. Wm. Houghton at the Mart, Tokenhouse Yard, on Monday, March 18. The property consists of freehold theatre, residence, and extensive site, covering a total area of about 33,000 super feet, in the heart of a thickly-populated and rapidly-increasing parish, accessible by the electric tram system and rail from the surrounding districts. The theatre, of which immediate possession may be had, has seating accommodation for about 1500 persons, and is fully licensed for music and dramatic performances.

The Mart, E.C., has also been selected for the disposal of the St. James's Hall, Kingston-on-Thames, the sale of which by Mr. A. G. Bonsor is to take place on Wednesday, Feb. 27. The hall is fully licensed for music and dancing, and has a floor area of 3,248 square feet, containing seating accommodation for 700. It is capitally ventilated, heated by hot-water apparatus, lighted by electricity and gas, and fitted with a spacious stage, and has a dry basement running under the whole building.

Among forthcoming sales is that of the Middlesbrough Grand Opera House, which will be offered at auction by Messrs. Willman and Douglas on the premises on Tuesday, Feb. 26. This admirably appointed theatre was built in 1903, and occupies a central position on a corner site of the principal thoroughfare of the town. It has seating accommodation for 3,500 persons, with ample means of access and exit to and from all parts of the house. The stage and auditorium are equipped on the most modern principles, electric light, gas, and heating apparatus being provided throughout. The theatre is fully licensed, and will be offered together with the furnishings, fittings, stage effects, &c., as a going concern.

Mr. Neil Forsyth's first announcement since his appointment as general manager to the Covent Garden Opera Syndicate is very welcome to musical enthusiasts. As no festival is to be celebrated at Bayreuth this year, it has been arranged to give at Covent Garden two complete cycles of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* and two performances of *Die Meistersinger* under the musical direction of Dr. Hans. Richter. *Das Rheingold* will be given on Tuesday, April 30, and on Wednesday, May 8; *Die Walküre* on Wednesday, May 1, and Thursday, May 9; *Siegfried* on Friday, May 3, and Saturday, May 11; *Götterdämmerung* on Monday, May 6, and Tuesday, May 14; and *Die Meistersinger* on Thursday, May 16, and Wednesday, May 22.

The operas will be presented in their entirety, without cuts, in the same manner as at Bayreuth and at Covent Garden in previous seasons. *Die Meistersinger* will commence at five in the afternoon and terminate at eleven o'clock, with an interval, after the first act, of an hour and a half for dinner; and similar arrangements will exist in the case of all the other works with the exception of *Das Rheingold*, which will last from 8.30 till 11. Prices for the complete cycle, including the entire "Ring" and *Die Meistersinger* (five performances in all), will be—private boxes, from 10 to 20 guineas; orchestra stalls, £6 17s. 6d.; balcony stalls, £4 12s.; and amphitheatre stalls, from £1 15s. to £3 6s.

At the seventh annual meeting of the Grand Opera House, Harrogate, Company, Ltd., held on the 14th inst. with Mr. J. H. Wilson, J.P., C.C., chairman of the company, presiding, a dividend of 7½ per cent. was declared. The retiring directors, Messrs. Mudd and Raworth, were re-elected.

Royalty has been busy among the theatres during the last few days. The Queen and the Princess of Wales witnessed the performance of *The Yeomen of the Guard* at the Savoy on Saturday evening. The Prince and Princess of Wales went to the Royalty on Monday to see Mme. Jane Hading in *Adrienne Lecouvreur*. Wednesday saw Prince Edward of Wales at the matinée at the Duke of York's in the full enjoyment of Mr. J. M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*, and on Thursday the King and Queen, Prince Arthur of Connaught, and suite were again present at the New Royalty, where *Le Maitre de Forges* was being played.

Matinees of *Her Son*, the new play by Horace Annesley Vachell, which has been rewritten and reconstructed since its production at Glasgow in November, are to be given by Mr. Cyril Maude at the Playhouse. The series will begin on March 12, and will be continued every Tuesday and Friday until April 5, with the exception of Holy Week, during which the performances will be suspended. Mr. Maude will be in the cast, principal parts in which will also be held by Miss Winifred Emery, Miss Nina Boucicault, Miss Dolores Drummond, Miss Florence Haydon, Mr. Alfred Bishop, and Master Reggie Andrews.

Mr. Charles Frohman announces, with more than a tinge of regret, that Miss Edna May, whose popularity has so long reflected the wise judgment of the enterprising manager, will leave the stage upon her forthcoming marriage to Mr. Oscar Lewisohn. Miss May's withdrawal into private life will date from the end of the run of *Nelly Neil* at the Aldwych.

Mr. Lewis Waller's *Robin Hood* company, from the Lyric Theatre, under the direction of Mr. Arthur Whittaker, has met with remarkable success on the first week of its tour at the Grand, Wolverhampton. The company, the production, and the play have all won the greatest approval, with the result that business has been phenomenal. Two tours will be sent out in the autumn, dates for which may be obtained of Mr. A. Gifford Stacey, the general manager.

"The Great Conspiracy" is to be the title of the English version of *La Belle Marseillaise*, in which Mr. John Hare and Miss Irene Vanbrugh are to appear at the Duke of York's on Monday, March 4. The author of the French original is M. Pierre Berton, and in the new adaptation Mr. Hare has the part of Napoleon.

The report that Mr. Fred Eastman is going to the Waldorf Theatre is incorrect. Mr. Eastman has for some time been under contract to Mr. Charles Carey, and opens within a fortnight as the Colonel in *The Pick of the Bunch*, a new musical comedy which Mr. Carey is shortly producing in conjunction with Mr. Harold Wantage at suburban and other big theatres

Miss N. de Silva (Mrs. Martin Harvey) enjoyed an amusing experience during her recent sojourn at Hull with her husband's company. The accomplished actress was leaving her hotel one morning, accompanied by Mr. Harvey's well-known prize-winning Skye terriers, the animals looking comfortable and cosy in their warm coats. The attention of a couple of street loungers was attracted by the dogs, and Miss de Silva overheard the following colloquy:—First Street Lounger: "Wot is them dogs, Andy?" Andy: "Why, any un knows wot *their* breed is." First Street Lounger: "Well, Oi dussn't, any'ow. Wot is they?" Andy (triumphantly): "Them's the breed of the Treshams, in course, yer hignorant hignoramus!" Each of the loungers scuttled off a shilling the richer.

The usual weekly meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association was held on Tuesday, when there were present:—Messrs. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman), Mr. Henry W. Mote (hon. solicitor), and Messrs. Cecil Barth, J. Cooke Beresford, Clarence Blakiston, Acton Bond, Burton Cooke, C. Hayden Coffin, F. Cremlin, William Devereux, A. E. George, Walter Russell, Algernon Syms, Brandon Thomas, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). Ernest Rivarz, May Warley, Stanley J. Warmington, and Beatrice Wilson (for reinstatement), Kenneth Douglas (for reinstatement), and Fred Kerr (for reinstatement) were nominated for election.

The hon. solicitors reported they had advised several members, and they were requested to press for payment of a member's claim, and also to advise another member upon a point submitted. Dr. Daniel, 13, Nevern-square, South Kensington, Dr. Cooke, of Greenock, Dr. Donald, of Paisley, and Dr. Stevenson, of Edinburgh, were elected as hon. medical officers to the A.A. The following former members were reinstated, namely: Mabel St. James and Philip Cunningham.

The Irving Memorial Committee held a meeting last Friday week, with Mr. John Hare in the chair, supported by Messrs. G. P. Bancroft, Norman Forbes, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). Several matters in connection with the fund were considered, and the secretary received instructions.

The cast of *The Prodigal Son*, due next week at the Adelphi, includes the name of Mr. Fred Grove, who appears as the Pastor. This makes the seventh part Mr. Grove has played in Mr. Hall Caine's dramas.

Mr. William Mollison, whose success as Macbeth, Shylock, and Jaques has been so pronounced, is adding *Richard the Third* and *Julius Cæsar* to his répertoire. The autumn tour, as already arranged, will embrace the principal theatres in Liverpool, Belfast, Dublin, Nottingham, and Birmingham, and negotiations are also in progress for other important theatrical centres.

Mr. Bannister Howard is shortly moving his offices from 3, Bedford-street, Strand, to the Crystal Palace, which will in future be his headquarters. Mr. Howard's wardrobe and scenery is now made at the Palace, and the results in the matter of convenience thus gained are plainly apparent.

Mark Hambourg will give a pianoforte recital this afternoon at the Crystal Palace, and will be assisted by his brothers, Boris and Jan Hambourg, Miss Bessie Bucktrout acting as accompanist. It is interesting to learn that the great Russian pianist will probably appear for the last time as a single man, as on the 5th of next month he is to be married to Miss McKenzie.

Mr. Walter W. Hedgcock has arranged for the following artists to appear at the Crystal Palace at next week's promenade concerts, which commence at six o'clock and on Saturday at 6.30:—Monday, Miss Maggie Kirkbride and Mr. A. H. Gee; Tuesday, Miss Ursula Rae and Mr. Peter Dawson; Wednesday, Miss Maud Hardy and Mr. Ottaway Dunford; Thursday, Miss Blanche Gaston-Murray and Mr. Reginald Brophy; Friday, Miss Violet Love and Mr. Frank Hicks; and Saturday, Miss Gertrude Maxted and Mr. Frank McCormack.

Visitors to the Crystal Palace Theatre are assured of a hearty laugh next week, for which Mr. Bannister Howard has secured Mr. Charles Macdona's principal company, including Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sugden, in *A Night Out*. For 700 nights, it will be remembered, the piece drew crowded houses to the Vaudeville, and its success at Sydenham is pretty well secure. Mr. and Mrs. Sugden will be supported by an excellent company, including Misses Constance Groves, Lillian Stafford, Lillian Elen, Elvira Stuart, Kathleen Keele, Elmie Kemp, Dorothy Dance, Messrs. Edward Thirlby, Mark Lester, Geoffrey Savile, Thomas Barry, Fred Penley, James Willoughby, and Graham Postance.

Morning dress will be the wear at the ladies' concert at the Managers' Club on Sunday. Mr. C. St. John Denton will take the chair, and a social evening in its most agreeable form may be anticipated.

"The Angel of Unrest," a new romantic drama of the Napoleonic period, by Richard A. Greene, will be produced by Messrs. Alec Flood and Aubrey Fitzmaurice on March 4 at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, and will immediately go on tour for about eight weeks. The story of the play relates to Napoleon's Russian campaign of 1812. Napoleon himself—the Angel of Unrest—is the commanding figure of the plot, and the author has portrayed a side of his character not usually seen on the stage. Scenery of picturesque design is being built for the production, and the electrical effects will be novel and beautiful, especially so in the last act—the retreat from Moscow. An elaborate plant of printing is being prepared, and costumes and wigs specially made. The play will be produced under the stage direction of Mr. Alec Flood, who will also enact Napoleon. Amongst a very powerful cast of seventeen artists appear the names of Messrs. Creagh Henry, James Chippendale, Henry Belding, and Miss Florence Tressilian. The tour is under the direction of Mr. F. Martin Morris.

Miss Katie Johnson has been engaged by Messrs. Lionel Glenister and J. Wood-Ingram to understudy Miss Decima Moore on their tour of *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy*.

Miss Annie Hughes is enjoying a highly prosperous tour with Mr. Jerome K. Jerome's play *Tommy*, which has recently had a most favourable reception in several suburban theatres. So pronounced, indeed, has been the success of the charming actress that she has refused an offer to return to New York this season.

Mr. Langhorne Burton has been engaged to play the part of Brigadier Gerard on tour, in place of Mr. Loring Fernie, who has now rejoined *Peter Pan*. Mr. Burton recently played in the Stage Society production of *The Cassillis Engagement* at the Imperial, and has for some time been connected with the Frohman tours of their London successes.

Messrs. Adeler and Sutton are sending out a Pierrot company to India and the Far East under the auspices of Mr. Maurice E. Bandmann. The troupe includes Misses Emilie Tait, Evelyn Hughes, and Florence Beech, and Messrs. George Villiers-Arnold, Maynard Dakin, Harry Herbert, Norman Osborne, and Gordon Stamford. The tour opens at the Theatre Royal, Calcutta, on March 20.

The final competition for free open scholarships in the Royal College of Music took place on Thursday, when the following candidates were successful:—Pianoforte: Arthur E. O. Norman, Gertrude M. Mustard; Singing: Evelyn B. Jennings, Queenie I. A. Robinson, Elsie E. Webb, Henry Thompson, Gladys M. E. Honey; Organ: Robert A. Greir; Violin: Dora F. Coombs, Elsie I. Main; Violoncello: Marion A. B. Harrison, Cedric Sharpe; Bassoon: Reginald de H. Tupper; Harp: John T. Cockerill; Composition: Edward D. Taylor, John D. H. Greenwood. The Pauer Memorial Exhibition (£7 10s.) for the student of at least one year's standing in the College who attains the highest position among the proxime for the pianoforte was awarded to Lucia T. Simpson.

The foundation-stone of a new concert-hall now being built in Great Portland-street will be laid by the Lord Mayor at noon on Saturday, April 20. The hall is to be called St. James's Hall, and the builders have contracted to have it ready by September next.

The King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy, was the scene late on Saturday night or early on Sunday morning of a daring attempt at burglary. Some of the officials entering the building on Sunday morning were surprised to find the door unlocked, and the manager's room in a state of disorder. An effort had been made to open the safe, which contained a large sum of money. The safe has three locks, and the thieves placed some gelatine in the central lock and, wrapping one of the stage carpets round the safe, exploded the gelatine. The safe was completely destroyed, while the ceiling of the room underneath was badly broken and cracked, and the carpet blown to powder. The thieves were evidently alarmed at the noise of the explosion and made off, fortunately without securing any plunder.

Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime of *The Sleeping Beauty and the Mystic Yellow Dwarf* finished a highly-successful tour at the Theatre Royal, Huddersfield, on Saturday evening. There was also a matinée that day, and at each performance hundreds of applicants for admission were met by the "House full" boards. Mr. Albert C. Duncan, Mr. Elliston's manager, notes that identically the same number of people paid for admission in the afternoon as for the evening performance—a remarkable coincidence indeed.

Mr. Wyn Weaver, who has just concluded another engagement in pantomime with Mr. Peter Davey, has been re-engaged by Mr. H. F. Maltby for his second year of tour. Since Mr. Weaver commenced his career twelve years ago with Mr. Louis Calvert, he has sustained in the provinces many leading parts originally played in town by Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. James Welch, and Mr. John Hare; and he will appear in the title-part of Mr. Maltby's new costume comedy, *Sir George of Almack's*, which is to be produced at the Theatre Royal, Dover, next Thursday.

During the Shakespearean Festival Week at Tunbridge Wells Mr. Norman V. Norman will produce *As You Like It*, and scenes from *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Richard III.*, and *Macbeth*. In the last-named Miss Beatrice Wilson will appear for the first time as Lady Macbeth. Miss Wilson, by the way, has been appointed on the Advisory Committee of the Actors' Day Fund.

Miss Mary Allestree, who is playing Maureen in the new play *Terence*, produced at the Theatre Royal, Margate, this week, has been re-engaged to play Mrs. Dick in *The Little Stranger* at the Theatre Royal, Brighton on Monday.

Mr. C. Robert Perkins, who is retiring from the management of the Opera House, Jersey, took his farewell of the theatre on the 15th inst., when a large audience was present. At the close of the pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, the orchestra struck up "Auld Lang Syne," and on the curtain being raised again, Mr. Perkins came forward and said that that evening he would ring down the curtain for the last time, after holding the reins of management for seven years. He wished to express thanks for the loyal support accorded him by the people of Jersey during that period, and also for the ever-ready assistance given him by the members of his staff. Mr. Perkins presented Mr. John Le Cras, who had been connected with the theatre in Jersey for over 40 years, with a handsome gold watch in case, and also asked him to take charge of a similar gift for Mr. Pinwell (master carpenter of St. Julian's Hall, Guernsey). Mr. Perkins also presented to Mr. A. W. McKee, the conductor of the orchestra, a silver-mounted bâton in case, and to Mr. Arthur Williams, his assistant, a case of chiropodist's instruments. In conclusion, Mr. Perkins said a few words in behalf of his successor, Mr. Edward Marris.

At the Opera House, Cork, on the 15th inst., Mr. Gus Walker, the Dame of the pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor*, became suddenly indisposed, and at short notice his understudy, Mr. Ted Warner, stepped into the breach, and went through the entire songs, business, &c., with complete success. Mr. Warner, who was highly complimented by the management, also played the part at the Saturday matinée and evening performances.

A crowded audience assembled in the Grand Theatre, Brighton, on Saturday evening, when the pantomime *Cinderella* completed its long and prosperous run. All the principal ladies received presents and bouquets. The enthusiasm reached its height in the Palace scene, when Mr. Ernest Carpenter took the opportunity of thanking his patrons for their generous support. The pantomime, he said, had been the most successful financially that he had produced in Brighton. *Aladdin* will be his next Christmas production. Gifts from the company to the theatre staff were presented by Mr. Carpenter. Mr. J. D. Newton, stage-manager, received a case of cutlery; Mr. Ben Court, acting-manager, a smoking cabinet; Signor G. D. La Camera, the musical director, a fountain-pen; and Mr. Hammond, who supplied the advertising motor-car, a pair of motor gloves.

Ibsen's play of *Hedda Gabler* will be given at the Court Theatre for a series of afternoon performances beginning on March 5, and continuing on the following Tuesdays and Fridays until the 26th inclusive. Mrs. Patrick Campbell will be the Hedda, and Miss Adela Measor, Miss Evelyn Weeden, Mr. Trevor Lowe, Mr. James Hearn, Mr. Laurence Irving, and Miss Mary Raby will constitute the rest of the cast.

It was during the run of *Patience* at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, New York, says the *Reader*, that Sir Arthur Sullivan, who was conducting the opera, complained that late-comers annoyed the audience during the matinées. The manager, Mr. John Stetson, sent for the scenic artist, whose name happened to be Sharp, and told him to paint a door-sign to the effect that the matinées invariably began at two o'clock, and that late-comers disturbed the performance. Obeying the orders, the scenic artist painted a sign in large letters, as follows:—"Please Take Notice! The Matinée Performances Begin at Two o'clock Sharp!" The manager passed the theatre later, and, seeing the sign, became livid with rage. He sent for the scenic artist, and blurted out, "Do you run this theatre or do I?" "Of course you are the manager," answered the painter. "Then take your name off the sign, and put in its place 'John Stetson'!"

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Mr. H. B. Irving on Acting.

MR. H. B. IRVING, at the Harvard Union, on the eve of his return to England, spoke to the students of the present position of the actor in England and in America. The serious difficulty with regard to the actor of the future, said Mr. Irving, is the question of training and experience. With the disappearance of the old stock companies, the comparatively few companies of the present day which are devoted to the performance of anything like an extensive repertory and with the modern system of long runs, the young actor is to-day deprived of any satisfactory means of learning his business. And if, from a commercial view, it be his good fortune to play in very successful pieces, which run for a considerable time, he is condemned to long periods of comparative idleness, during which he is unable to increase his experience or to develop the talent he may have. To the earnest young actor really desirous of educating himself in his profession the present condition of things is galling and unsatisfactory to the last degree. To the young actor less earnest, less ambitious, it is merely demoralising. We can only look to the establishment in some form or other of an academy or conservatory of acting similar to that which exists in the present day in France; that is to say, a school of acting in which the teachers are successful and accomplished actors, whose personal success has given them the right to teach others.

Miss Terry in New York.

MISS ELLEN TERRY, telling an American interviewer how she came to play in *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*, said that Mr. Shaw always insisted that he had her in mind when he wrote the piece, as far back as 1889. "It is singular, indeed," Miss Terry observed, "that the play should have waited so long for a production, and it is also singular that, after fifty years on the stage, I should now, for the first time, be making an appeal to the American public through a strictly modern rôle. People think I must be terribly old because I have been on the stage for fifty years. They forget that I made my first appearance in Mamillius when I was only eight. And, so you see, I am not so old as it sounds, and I feel as young as ever I did." Miss Terry has so many friends in New York that her days, to use her own words, were "fearfully busy." One thing that she enjoyed very much was her daily ride in a motor hansom from her hotel, near Central Park, down to the Empire Theatre, on Broadway.

The Point of View.

THAT the personal element often influences our literary judgment the following will perhaps help to show. Scene: The river at Stratford-on-Avon. Time: Between the plays during Shakespeare week. One of the auditors, a strenuous young High School mistress, is being rowed on the river by an old boatman with conversational proclivities. After some talk, he asks her which she considers the best of Shakespeare's plays. Carefully considering, and anxious to guide aright one who seems to be a would-be student, she gives it as her opinion that perhaps *Julius Cæsar* contains the finest passages. "Well," replies the boatman, who is also scene-shifter at the Memorial Theatre, "give me *Coriolanus*. You sets up the 'Market Place' in the second act, and then you hasn't got to do nothing more for near on an hour!"

Unpleasant Plays.

I OBJECT strongly, writes Mr. E. A. Baughan in the *Daily News*, to the modern plays which pretend to deal with life, and do not. Among these I class the realism of M. Brieux, whose plays are one-sided tracts, and the flat "realism" of M. Bernstein. Life is not mirrored in these plays. Nor is it in such a piece as Bernard Shaw's *The Philanderer*. The people who walk through this play are unpleasant caricatures. They libel humanity. A play, too, must be judged as a whole, and in art there is no excuse for a representation of life which is not beautiful in effect. It does not matter how that beauty is expressed. It may well be through means which are ugly in themselves. It may well be through a representation of life which might shock the minds of the genteel. But whatever means he employs, the artist must show us how beautiful and how mysterious life is in its essence. If he cannot do that he is a mere artisan.

Mr. Hicks's Habits.

BECAUSE (writes Mr. Seymour Hicks in the *Daily Express*) I do not habitually go out to supper or make a nightly practice of staying at a club until I am asked to conform to the rules by leaving, I am, I know, regarded in some quarters as priggishly exclusive. Well, it is the penalty of doing what seems to one to be the sensible thing. As a matter of fact, I neither sup abroad nor make a fetish of the midnight club, because I have come to regard it as being more in accord with my plan of an early independence to go home immediately after the theatre, sup in the quiet of my own dining-room, and go to bed as near to the hour of half-past twelve as may be.

The Drama in the Provinces.

A CORRESPONDENT signing himself "One of Them" writes:—"It would now appear to be universally acknowledged that Monday night throughout touring theatre-land pronounces for good or bad on the visit of a particular company, inasmuch as the public have been so misled by big names associated with poor plays, and poor names associated with so-called big shows, that they now positively decline to nibble such bait and be drawn to a theatre until they are assured of value for money. Education advances, and it will be well for the theatrical profession when resident managers bear in mind Shakespeare's phrase, "The play's the thing," for it is contended that the theatres never had a better opportunity of doing business than now. The fair and healthy competition of the halls should really be a stimulus, as there will ever be a public who prefer a connected entertainment to that of rapid turns who are hardly able to do themselves justice in the limited time given for their performances. Theatrical fare at the present moment is practically the same as it was when the halls first began their opposition fight. A place of entertainment speedily becomes known and popular by its enterprise. If it goes to sleep the public has no keen ambition to awaken it."

A Baboo "Deadhead."

MR. EDWIN CROUESTE sends us the following quaint application of a Madras conjurer for free seats:—"In accordance with the esteemed commandments of the gentry of this Metropolis, I am here with my assistant giving various performances, and the highest enconiums has been bestowed upon me by the leading high-class journals. Just now it gives me greatest pleasure to learn that by your ansurpassed ability and indefatigable assuidity you are able to rebuild your company at the shortest possible time; and that in the very city where your company providentially sustained some misfortunes. As a matter of professional delicacy, you will be pleased to favour me with a ticket for me and my assistant, that we may jocundly feast our eyes with the performances of rejuvenated, prosperous circus company, as I understand that the acquisition of one of my trade—a magician—is the novelty of your immortal circus company.—Yours faithfully, V. Swaininathaizer."

We shall be obliged if our readers will send us any amusing anecdotes they may hear, or accounts of any quaint incidents they may witness while acting or rehearsing.

EDWARD COMPTON IN ABERDEEN.

Mr. Edward Compton was the guest of the Aberdeen Pen and Pencil Club at the Imperial Hotel in that town on the 14th inst. Mr. Archibald D. Reid, A.R.S.A., presided, and the large gathering included members of the Compton Comedy Company, which had paid its annual visit to the town. The standing orders of the club prohibit speeches at its meetings, but in view of the interesting nature of the occasion the rule was suspended.

The Chairman, in proposing the health of the guest of the evening, said that during the existence of the Pen and Pencil Club they had had the honour and privilege of entertaining many distinguished men, eminent in the drama, literature, science, and art; but to none of them did their hearts warm more than to Mr. Edward Compton. They could not see Mr. Compton and his company too often. He (the Chairman) asked them to join in extending a cordial welcome to their distinguished guest, to drink his health, and to express the hope that he might live for many years to charm and delight them, and to provide for their benefit the clean, wholesome fare of good Old English comedy.

Mr. Compton was accorded musical honours, and on rising was warmly cheered. If his voice did not travel so far as he would like it to do, he said, it was on account of a very bad cold. The cold must be the result of the sudden thaw that had brought about this unexpected lapse in his voice. Of course, they had everything sent them from America, and they had now the trial of a "thaw." It had been very trying to him. He did not think that the Chairman—who was as modest as he was gifted—had recognised one thing, and that was that that day was St. Valentine's Day, and he (Mr. Compton) could assure them that no "maiden of bashful fifteen" ever received with more delight her Valentine than he received their card of invitation. It struck him as a curious coincidence to receive it for that day, and he could not avoid quoting the words of an old Valentine which occur in "The Road to Ruin":—

"The woodbine sweet and turtle dove
Are types of chaste and faithful love;
Ah! were such truth and faith but mine
I'd gladly be your Valentine."

Faith and Truth were precisely the two things that Aberdeen playgoers had loaded him with for the past twenty-five years, and he could never thank them enough for their constancy. When they looked back on the past twenty-five years, he could not help feeling that a great change had come over Aberdeen in theatrical affairs. He was not old enough to have been connected with the old Marischal-street theatre, but he usually went to Marischal-street whenever he was in Aberdeen, and watched the spot on which the old associations and the old times and the old manners and customs in the old world had been perpetuated. He loved old friends, old times, old manners, old books, and he thought the Chairman would allow him to say he had been pretty fond of old comedies. Of course, in the theatrical world, one had to appeal to many decisions. There were those who loved society plays—he meant that class of characters in a play that one could not possibly meet in any society. Then there were those who were fond of red-hot drama, of which he had very small experience, and which, he had no doubt, were perfectly true to life, only he did not live in those days or surroundings, and so could not give an opinion; and then there were the irresponsible, go-as-you-please musical comedies and farces, the plays which they heard so much about lately—the wonderful "woman with a past" and the musical girl with a future. He (Mr. Compton) had very few opportunities of going to the theatre except when he was off duty, but when he did go, he liked to go home from the theatre and feel that he had not only been amused and delighted, but interested and instructed also, and to feel that the evening's amusement would bear the morning's reflection. That was what he had striven for during the past quarter of a century, and although many men might claim to be cleverer and to be more hard-working than he, still he yielded to no one in sincerity, earnestness, and perseverance in his art. If he had not been as gifted as other men, he would yield to no man in that honest desire to give the public the very best, and not send them away with the sense that they had wasted their evening. He was now going to be rather personal. If, as he understood and believed, he was familiarly—and he hoped affectionately—known as the "king" of old comedy, he always said he was "Edward VIII." At anyrate, he always got a royal welcome in Aberdeen. He would like to mention that he had read hundreds of new plays, and produced several. Mr. Compton then referred to plays in which he had appeared, and said he was producing a new one at present which he was rehearsing. It was called *The Gentleman in Grey*, and he mentioned the fact because it was a play written by a young gentleman who was their guest that night. Hitherto the young gentleman had been known by a very good Scotch name—indeed he might very well paraphrase Rob Roy, and say his foot was on his native heath and his name was—Mackenzie. But in future he would be known—and he (Mr. Compton) hoped very favourably known, because he happened to be the young gentleman's father—he would be known by the name of Montague Compton. Mr. Compton, in conclusion, said that during the last quarter of a century he had played the part of Davy Garrick 340 times, which was unique. He had played Charles Surface close on 1,000 times, and that was unique, and that night was further unique, because he was standing there as the guest of the Pen and Pencil Club for the second time running. If they would not think that his gratitude took the form of "a lively sense of favours to come," he hoped that the next time he was in Aberdeen they would invite him again, because then he would be able to say to all the world—"I am the Dick Whittington of Scotland, and everybody must bow to me, and the Lord Provost must bid him kneel, and say, 'Rise, Sir Edward Compton, thrice the honoured guest of the Pen and Pencil Club.'"

The Chairman proposed the health of Mr. Montague Compton, which was cordially pledged, and Mr. Montague Compton replied in appropriate terms.

By kind permission of Mr. Ernest Carpenter, a special matinée performance was given at the Grand Theatre, Brighton, on Tuesday last in aid of the widow and children of the late Mr. Arthur Wheeler, who was for over forty years connected with the Theatre Royal, Brighton. There was a crowded audience. The long and varied programme was admirably sustained by Mlle. Adeline Genée, Miss Adele Haas, Miss Marie Stiven, Miss Ada Taylor (accompanied by Blind Harry), Mme. Helen Birch, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Carpenter, Mr. Sam Walsh, Mr. John Le Hay, Mr. Harry Paulton, Mr. George Hyde, Mr. Arthur W. Hamilton, Mr. Ottley Cranston, Master Percy Hutchings, the Highwaymen, Mr. A. Coote-Suggitt, Miss Nellie Chandos, Will Driscoll, Minnie Hunt and Rhys Thomas, Roma and Romani, and the Brighton and Hove Symphony Orchestra. The duties of conductor were shared by Mr. Chas. W. Johnson, Signor De La Camera, and Mr. Leggett; Mr. H. Clark acted as stage-manager, and the responsibilities of hon. treasurer and hon. secretary were borne by Mr. S. W. Johnson and Mr. Edwin Gain respectively. On behalf of Mrs. Wheeler and family Mr. Carpenter thanked the audience for their support, and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Carpenter for providing the theatre free of charge.

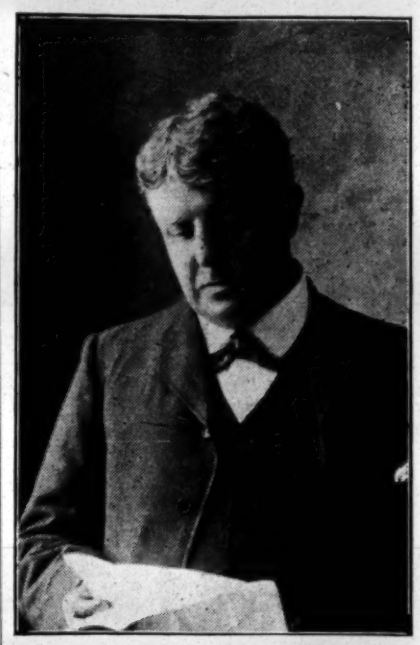
"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

CHAT WITH MR. HARRY NICHOLLS.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

When you meet Harry Nicholls—off the stage, of course—you meet a man whose conversation will keep you interested until he himself is actually tired of speaking—and that, in the case of an actor, should mean a lot. The stories of his early days of struggle upon the stage would fill a volume of extremely readable matter, and his later reminiscences would make an equally excellent and lengthy "sequel." And, before going any further, let it be here recorded what an enthusiastic reception he got upon his recent return to the footlights as Walter Everest in *The Electric Man*. We can appreciate the truth of his statement to the effect that it is one of the most difficult parts he has ever studied.

As to the past. When the time came for Mr. Nicholls to take life more seriously than he had been accustomed to do as a mere boy, he determined to go on the stage. When this youthful decision was made known to his friends, there was a general shout of derision. His mother and sister, however, gave him some little encouragement, while his father exclaimed, with brutal sarcasm, "Go on the stage! It's all you are fit for." His old friend, Frank Braine, then organist to Mme. de Falba and now organist at St. Matthias, Earl's Court, openly sympathised with the young man. "Go on the stage by all means," said he. "I believe you'll succeed." And no one will deny that the prediction has been justified by subsequent events. "I shall never forget my early stage struggles," says Mr. Nicholls. "They com-



[Photo by The Bower Studio.
MR. HARRY NICHOLLS.

menced when I was eighteen, at the Theatre Royal, Windsor. The show was a dismal failure. We then tramped to Uxbridge, but another failure awaited us, and then I walked into London penniless. But I won't go into details, except that I will refer to my first engagement in a first-class theatre, which was under J. C. Cowper's management at the Theatre Royal, Liverpool. The "season" lasted a week. With a pal whom I had known previously, I walked about Liverpool almost starving, and I was too proud to write home for money."

In course of time Mr. Nicholls moved to the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, where there was a stock company, and where he had an opportunity of meeting a number of stars. One of his troubles was that he could not get the management to let him play low comedy. He was always cast for walking gentlemen or young lovers, and it resulted in his having a very bad spell at Birmingham; so much so, that, in desperation, he sat down and wrote a farce. It was entitled *Timson's Little Holiday*, but he could not get it put on for a very long while, till at last it was produced at Drury Lane. How later on this effort was turned by him and his friend Lestocq into a three-act farcical comedy called *Jane*—which made a big hit, thanks to Charles Hawtrey—is too old a story to make a further allusion to here. To let the interviewee resume in his own words: "Presently I left Birmingham, and came to London, where I got an engagement at the Surrey Theatre under William Holland as second low comedian. I remember that I did not get on too well at first. I was cast to play the part of Mrs. Ali Baba in the pantomime. Now my notion of an old-woman part was made up of my two aunts and a bit of my mother thrown in. But no one seemed to appreciate my ideas. I was expected to make my first entrance falling over some thing, and showing a lot of white stocking; but no relation of *mine* ever entered a room like that. And I simply *couldn't*. Holland took me on one side during the last rehearsal and rated me soundly, declaring I should ruin his pantomime. However, in the end I wheeled my perambulator containing the two children on to the stage, came down to the footlights, and gave 'em one of my old woman's sniffs. There was a laugh, then a round of applause, and I didn't let go of the audience after that. Holland, apparently, was quite satisfied, for I heard no more of his remarks. It was after this, when a young man, that I made a success as Michael Feeney in *Arrah-na-Pogue*. I have very happy recollections of my engagement with George Conquest at the Grecian Theatre, and it was during that engagement that I met the sister of Henry Pettitt. Three years ago last April she celebrated with me our silver wedding."

There is no need to detail a full list of the parts played by Mr. Nicholls. He has been seen and, we venture to say, admired—in the dramatic sense—as the Artful Dodger and Bumble in *Oliver Twist*, Micawber in *Em'ly*, Uriah Heep in Mr. Andrew Halliday's *Little Em'ly* (the most favoured version of "David Copperfield"/, and Jeremy Cruncher in *A Tale of Two Cities*. He is a great lover of the works of Dickens, of whose books he possesses a particularly fine edition. His library, in fact, extends to all the famous writers of this and other countries; and he has an enviable collection of old pictures, prints, and engravings, and theatrical "relics." One of his greatest treasures is an autograph photograph of Mme. Ristori. In Masonic circles Mr. Nicholls is scarcely less eminent than in theatrical. He is a P.G.S.B. of England and a Past Master of four lodges—Drury Lane, Savage Club, Jubilee Masters, and the Greenroom.

A syndicate has been formed to "run" Mr. Nicholls with a play of his own. And, before we forget, it is worthy of mention that he is part author of *The Runaway Girl* and *The Toreador*.

AT the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, considerable changes have been made in the orchestra. There are now eleven skilled performers, and Herr P. Tas is the new musical director. On Monday evening a capital programme of concert music was rendered, and the audience liberally applauded the various items, "William Tell" receiving marked approval.

"TERENCE."

A New Comedy-Drama of Irish Life, in Four Acts, by Mrs. B. M. Croker,
Produced for the First Time at the Theatre Royal, Margate, on Monday, Feb. 18.

Sir Greville Fanshawe ..... MR. A. S. BARBER
Bertrand Lovell ..... MR. GEORGE HARCOURT
Simon Foulcher ..... MR. HENRY AUSTIN
Terence ..... MR. A. AUSTIN-LEIGH
Patrick Ryan ..... MR. JAMES R. LEFANE
"The Judge" ..... MR. J. A. WHITEHOUSE
Captain Norris ..... MR. A. PENBURY
Mr. Willis ..... MR. RICHARD TRIEVE
Mr. Perry ..... MR. E. LETCHWORTH
Waiter ..... MR. G. D. VANE
Lady Nita Fanshawe ..... MRS. CULLING
Maureen D'Arcy ..... MISS MARY ALLESTREE
Mrs. Duckett ..... MISS MABEL ARCHDALL
Julia ..... MISS LILIAN ROGERS
Bridget ..... MISS MAUD ABBOTT
Sally O'Hara ..... MISS EUGENIE VERNIE
Mrs. Willis ..... MISS K. VARRELL
Mrs. Perry ..... MISS A. MAUDE
Miss Neville ..... MISS ELLEN MEADOWES

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

This simple and delightful play, which gives a slight glimpse of Irish life, is full of animation, and the production by the Theatre Répertoire Association, under the direction of Mr. A. Austin-Leigh, gave every satisfaction to a delighted and at the same time keenly critical audience. The play is an adaptation by Mrs. B. M. Croker of her successful novel of the same name, and the dramatist has succeeded in retaining all the chief elements of the story with a definite plot and a happy ending. Almost every character is powerfully drawn, there are clever lines in abundance, and all the necessary ingredients for an appetising theatrical dish.

The chief action of the play takes place in the entrance hall of the Fly and Fish, a hostelry at Ballybay, co. Kerry. The place is invaded by British tourists, among them Sir Greville Fanshawe and his wife, Nita. There is Bertie Lovell, a handsome, seductive society man, who has an illicit love for Nita. There is also a mahogany-faced sporting widow, who is credited with a penchant for Nita's husband, some other couples, and a Paul-Prying, middle-aged lawyer, Foulcher by name, a mischief-making old rascal, who is responsible for all the trouble that occurs. The heroine is Maureen, an Australian, Nita's half-sister, who is heiress to a huge fortune left by her father; and lastly there is Terence, the coachman to the Tourist Company, in whom and Maureen the interest of the play largely centres. Terence is, in reality, the last of the Desmonds, playing at coachman because of his poverty, while his haughty grandma enjoys £1000 a year in Dublin City. In the first act most of the characters are introduced. The Baronet, Mrs. Duckett, and four others plan an excursion to the Skelligs, a group of islands of the main, and Nita and her admirer arrange a prolonged tête-à-tête. In the next act Nita and Maureen are anxiously awaiting the return of the fishing party. It is blowing a gale, and people have been known to be stranded for days on the Skelligs. To Nita's annoyance and disgust the party return safely except her husband and Mrs. Duckett. It is not a planned, intentional stay-behind, but a pure accident, the boat being swept out to sea before they can be taken off. Nita, in foolish pique, listens to the voice of the tempter, and takes coach with Lovell to the nearest railway station. When Maureen makes the discovery, she determines that Nita must be saved against herself. With Terence she dashes away over the mountains on horses he has been able to impress, and their departure, witnessed by old Foulcher, is, of course, wrongly construed. In the third act the runaways are overtaken; Nita, who already is regretting her hasty step, seeks peace in brave Maureen's arms, whilst Terence interviews Lovell and succeeds in getting back from him Nita's foolish letters. Then comes a race for home against time, so that Fanshawe may never know of his wife's escapade, but unfortunately he gets back to the hotel some twenty minutes before Nita and Maureen, time enough to learn from Foulcher of Maureen's flight with Terence and Nita's journey to fetch the "erring girl back." Maureen secures the tell-tale note Nita had left in the hall; Sir Greville overwhelms his wife with praises and caresses, and spares no pains in telling Maureen what he thinks of her, and reviles Terence for his dastardly conduct. Both remain quiet under the stinging words of reproach to save Nita's honour, but the innocent are not long allowed to suffer for the guilty. The old pensioner tells the truth, shows that Terence is not the fortune hunter Sir Greville accuses him of being, and the husband, being a sensible man, takes his wife to his heart, and there is the proverbial happy ending in perspective.

The acting was all round excellent. Mr. A. Austin-Leigh was in his element as the unassuming Terence, a type of honest manliness that was portrayed with a quaint mixture of the merry, happy-go-lucky Irish coachman and the dignified representative of the last of the Desmonds. In Maureen was seen a refreshing type of true womanliness, as wild as the kangaroos of her own country, but with a heart full of love and kindly feeling for everybody, and especially her half-sister, whom she idolises. In this rôle Miss Mary Allestree won the entire sympathies of the audience. Lady Fanshawe, one of fashion's favourites, somewhat selfish, but a woman only requiring a word of warning to save her from herself, was charmingly played by Mrs. Culling. Her acting was delightfully crisp, and the part was clearly defined and individualised. Mr. A. S. Barber was a success as Sir Greville Fanshawe, a character he impersonated with all the requisite touches which went far to make it interesting; whilst as Bertrand Lovell Mr. Geo. Harcourt was also particularly good. Miss Mabel Archdall rendered good service as the sporting widow, Mrs. Duckett, a rôle she infused with quiet humour; and the part of Simon Foulcher found a capable representative in Mr. Henry Austin. Mr. James R. Lefane was effective as the garrulous old pensioner Patrick Ryan, and Mr. J. A. Whitehouse put in good work as the angular, oracular old sport, "The Judge," a boatman. Miss Eugénie Vernie looked and acted the buxom landlady, Sally O'Hara, to the life; what little Mr. A. Penbury had to do as Capt. Norris was well done; the Misses Lilian Rogers and Maud Abbott were good examples of the gossip-loving servants, Julia and Bridget, and the other characters in the cast were all satisfactorily presented.

The principal piece was preceded by a comedietta in one act, by Hugo Ames, produced for the first time. entitled

"THE RADICAL CANDIDATE."

Sir Joseph Wagthorpe ..... MR. J. R. LEFANE
Mr. Claude Markenden ..... MR. A. S. BARBER
John Burrowes ..... MR. RICHARD TRIEVE
Lady Wagthorpe ..... MISS EUGENIE VERNIE
Aline Atterley ..... MISS LILIAN ROGERS
Maidservant ..... MISS MABEL ARCHDALL

Lady Wagthorpe, a keen politician, is anxious to see her husband, Sir Joseph Wagthorpe, a Member of Parliament, and he has been pushed forward by his pushful wife as the Radical candidate for the division of East Wessex. An ardent naturalist and entomologist, Sir Joseph is more intent on specimen hunting than seeking for votes. It requires all the energies of his wife to keep him screwed up to anything like the requisite pitch of political ardour, but matters are beginning to shape satisfactorily when Aline, who has a total disregard for politics, brings home a friend, Mr. Claude Markenden, with whom she is desperately in love. At the dinner table it transpires that the gentleman in question is the Conservative candidate, and complications ensue until the announcement is received that the Member who was about to resign and thus cause the vacancy has altered his mind, and a humorously strained situation is relieved, much to the satisfaction of the young people and the Radical candidate himself, with happy visions of a wedding in the near future.

Miss Eugénie Vernie sustained the rôle of Lady Wagthorpe with plenty of animation and vivacity, and Miss Lilian Rogers was a piquant and resourceful Aline, sometimes known as "Fluffy," always bright and entertaining. Mr. J. R. Lefane played the doddering old imbecile Sir Joseph Wagthorpe exceedingly well; and Mr. A. S. Barber was capital as Mr. Claude Markenden. Mr. Richard Trieve as John Burrowes, a political agent, and Miss Mabel Archdall were each good in their respective parts.

"THE MELCOMBE MARRIAGE."

Play in Three Acts, by Miss Winifred Dolan, produced at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, on Feb. 15.

The Earl of Melcombe ..... MR. KENDAL
Philip Carlusen ..... MR. W. M. RUTHERFURD
Vladimir Dembowski ..... MR. BASSETT ROE
Eustace Pemberton, M.D. ... MR. ERNEST HENDRIE
Evelyn Byng ..... MR. METCALFE WOOD
Doulton ..... MR. F. CHAS. POOL
James ..... MR. C. E. TALBOT
Sinnett ..... MR. R. BURNETT
Simmonds ..... MR. F. J. COLE
Lady Savourin ..... MRS. A. B. TAPPING
Muriel Lestrange ..... MISS MARIE LOHR
Mrs. Pemberton ..... MISS DORA FELLOWES
Judith Carlusen ..... MRS. KENDAL

A very cordial reception was given to this new play by a large audience at the Theatre Royal, Brighton. It is ably written, and the characters are effectively drawn; but there is a superabundance of dialogue, which (particularly in the second act) requires considerable compression. The first act opens in the drawing-room in Philip Carlusen's house in Melbury-road, Kensington. He and his sister, Judith, are deeply attached to each other, and Philip, the sole representative of the firm of Whittaker and Carlusen, solicitors, is enamoured of Muriel Lestrange, niece and ward of Lady Savourin. The young lady reciprocates his love, but Philip's happiness is marred by very serious financial troubles. The young solicitor, acting under the influence of his villainous friend, Vladimir Dembowski, has forged cheques, and thus robbed the estates of the Earl of Melcombe of the sum of £10,000. The old Earl has died, and his affairs must be settled up by Philip, who forsees nothing but ruin. The Earl has left his estates to his grandson, Oscar Brabazon, an explorer, on condition that the latter marries within two years. Brabazon comes to Philip, and requests him to secure him £4000 in order that he may obtain the release of a friend who has been captured by brigands. The terms of the old Earl's will are pointed out to him, and Brabazon declares he will marry any worthy lady the lawyer may select as his wife, and promises he will settle £10,000 upon her, never ask her name, and leave her at the church door for ever. Dembowski suggests that Philip should induce his sister Judith to marry the young Earl, and thus save his honour by securing the £10,000—the amount he had embezzled. A stirring scene between the brother and sister ensues, and finally Judith consents to sacrifice herself to save Philip from the impending disaster.

In the second act, at The Hall at Melcombe Royal, two years later, we find that Philip has married Muriel, and that Judith, after her mysterious marriage with the new Earl, has become companion to Lady Savourin. Among those at the Hall are the Earl, who is in love with Judith, though he has no idea she is his wife, and Dembowski. The last-named has paid Muriel's gambling debts, and imagines he has her in his power. Philip arrives upon the scene, upbraids Dembowski for his marked attentions to Muriel, and vainly tries to induce her to return with him to London. In an evil moment Muriel consents to elope with Dembowski, and the pair go away in the Earl's motor-car. Judith, still unaware of the fact that the Earl is her husband, sets off to rescue Muriel, and the Earl also pursues the villainous Dembowski. As the curtain falls, Muriel, who repented her false step and escaped from her lover, makes an unexpected appearance upon the scene.

In the last act, in Dembowski's chambers at the Albany, London, the villain is confronted by the Earl. The latter soon makes it evident he is aware that Dembowski had shot an Englishman in a gambling den on the Continent, and threatening him with exposure the Earl secures the cheques that Philip had forged. Judith arrives upon the scene—the Earl on her approach having rushed into Dembowski's bedroom—and searches for Muriel. To her surprise she encounters the Earl. In a painful scene the whole story of the forgeries and also the reason for the mysterious marriage arranged by Philip are revealed. Explanations ensue; the forged cheques are burnt, husband and wife are re-united, and, as the curtain falls, the Earl again places Judith's wedding ring upon her finger.

Mr. Kendal acted with dignity and earnestness as the Earl of Melcombe, and was especially convincing in the telling scene with Dembowski in the last act. Mrs. Kendal gave a charming and finished impersonation of Judith Carlusen. At the opening of the first act her devotion to her brother was marked by graceful touches of histrionic art, while in the scene in which Philip induced her to sacrifice herself to save his honour she moved the audience by her exquisite tenderness and great depth of feeling. At the closing scene of the play, too, Mrs. Kendal was powerfully effective. Mr. W. M. Rutherfurd submitted an admirable portrayal of Philip Carlusen; Mr. Bassett Roe merits unstinted praise for his forcible and convincing acting as the villainous Dembowski—the various phases of the character being presented with masterly skill and artistic restraint. Mr. Ernest Hendrie was highly entertaining as Doctor Eustace Pemberton; Miss Marie Lohr played with sincerity and personal charm as the young and frivolous Muriel Lestrange, her best efforts being in the second act when refusing to listen to the appeals of her distressed husband. Mr. Metcalfe Wood as Evelyn Byng was very amusing; Mrs. A. B. Tapping was well suited as the chronic invalid, Lady Savourin; and Miss Dora Fellowes made the most of her few opportunities as Mrs. Pemberton. The four servants had satisfactory representatives in Mr. F. Chas. Pool, Mr. C. E. Talbot, Mr. R. Burnett, and Mr. F. J. Cole.

PRESENTATION.—On Friday evening last week Mr. Ben Court, acting-manager of the Grand Theatre, Brighton, was accorded a benefit, the performance being that of the pantomime *Cinderella*. During the evening the stage-manager, Mr. J. D. Newton (in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Ernest Carpenter), presented the beneficiary on behalf of a number of his friends, with a purse of gold, an illuminated address, and a pair of gold links. Mr. Court expressed his thanks to the audience for their attendance, and to the donors of the presents made to him.

JACOB GORDON'S play, *The Jewish King Lear*, as presented by the capable members of the Jewish Operatic and Dramatic Company, was again played at the Pavilion Theatre on Monday evening to a large house, when excellent performances were given by Mr. C. Natansohn as David Mesheles, Mme. Natansohn as Hanna Leah, and Mr. J. Scherman as Shamai. During the week *The Wise Man, Jews in Morocco*, and *The Beggar* have been played.

MUSIC HALL CONTRACTS.

The case of Harvey *v.* the Tivoli (Manchester) came before his Honour Judge Woodfall in the Westminster County Court on Wednesday, and was a claim by the Harvey Boys, variety artists, for £32 10s., one week's salary, or, alternatively, for a like sum as damages for breach of contract.

Mr. Ernest Williams, counsel for the plaintiffs, said there was a contract between the Harvey Boys and Messrs. Wilkes and Company (on behalf of the Tivoli) for the troupe to appear at the Tivoli, Manchester, for one week—twice nightly and at matinées if required—for the sum of £32 10s. They were to appear in October, and in August one of the brothers Harvey died. While the Harvey Boys were performing at Liverpool, Messrs. Wilkes wired, cancelling the engagement, owing to the death of one of their number. He contended the death of one of a number of performers was not sufficient ground for termination of a contract. He was prepared to prove the death did not make the performance worse; in fact, he could prove it was better. The point was a new and technical one and of importance.

Dennis Harvey, of Russell-road, Brixton, deposed the contract produced was signed by him—"Harvey Boys"—after returning from a tour in the States. No question was asked as to the personnel of the troupe. His brothers, Edward and Frank, were members of the troupe, and when Edward died in August, 1906, he engaged someone to take his place. The new member did very well, and the value of the turn had gone up in price.

Cross-examined by Mr. Stephen Lynch, counsel for the defence, Mr. Harvey said he performed some time ago before the show sailed for Australia, at the Tivoli, Manchester. He had had several engagements from Messrs. Wilkes, perhaps nine.

Mr. Lynch: You and your brother fight?

Witness preferred "box" to "fight."

Mr. Lynch: And your little brother runs on?

Witness: Yes.

I suggest you and your brother Edward were the show? You did not inform defendants of the death?—It was in all the papers.

Mr. Lynch: You and your deceased brother shared the salary?—Yes.

Now you take the salary and share it?—Yes.

For the defence, Mr. Charles Ambrose Wilkes, managing director of the Tivoli, Manchester, Ltd., said the registered offices of the company were at 150, Strand, London. He had employed the Harvey Boys from 1897, and engaged the two brothers, the one giving evidence to-day and Edward. The third brother was a child when he first engaged the brothers. He would not have minded if the third one had dropped out of the show.

Cross-examined: When he heard Edward was dead he looked upon the show as done, as he regarded Edward as the better comedian of the two. He expected to get what he bargained for—the brothers Dennis and Edward—and when he found he was not to have them he cancelled the contract. He had not seen the present show. Prices had gone up since the date of this contract.

His Honour, without hearing the defence further, found for the defendants with costs. It was clear defendants bargained for the performance of the brothers Dennis and Edward, and the former should not have assumed they heard of Edward's death. The performance might be much better, but it was not what the defendants bargained for.

Notice of appeal was given.

OUTSIDE THE V.A.F.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—The one thing which has struck me most during the controversy which has been raging over the music hall strike is that there has been hardly a letter or speech written or delivered which has not teemed with personalities. Mr. Verener in his remarks on my letter has proved no exception to this rule.

Mr. Verener seems to think I "rushed into print" for the purpose of showing the salaries I had received. He altogether fails to perceive that if a man claims to be a performer it is necessary that he should state on what ground he founds that claim, and the salaries were given in my letter not with the object Mr. Verener attributes to me, but to show the readers of my letter that it was a man of a varied experience who has been through the mill and is not ashamed to own it who was putting his pen to paper.

Had it been as Mr. Verener suggests—merely a matter of advertisement—I should have mentioned the first decent salary I received as my low-water mark, and not gone back to the days when, following the course marked out for me by Mr. Victor Vernon (by whose kind advice and assistance I was able to leave the precarious profession of the actor for the very much more lucrative one of the performer), I accepted anything and everything that offered, even though it only paid my railway fares.

When Mr. Verener in his next paragraph asks how many engagements I hope to get by "my bold defiance of the V.A.F.," does he imply that some serious damage threatens me, and that unless I am willing to be "led by the nose as asses are" I shall, as Mr. Costello said in his speech, "Get a taste of what is in store when the V.A.F. let loose the real dogs of war."?

The V.A.F. is ostensibly fighting against what they call the tyranny of the managers, and one of the chief points insisted on, and rightly so, is that no animus shall be shown to any who have taken part in the agitation, but while making this demand for themselves, they have persistently, both at their meetings, in their official organ, and sometimes in private conversations, made it palpable that they do not intend to extend even a twig of the olive branch to those who may have differed from them as to their methods though possibly agreeing with them in part as to their objects. I could say more upon this subject, but I do not wish to add to the bitterness of the present situation. I will, therefore, content myself by observing that your columns can prove that I have never hesitated to express opinions which did *not* tend to get me engagements when I considered such opinions might be of service to my fellow artists. I have rushed into print on this occasion, not as spokesman for the managers, but for the bonâ fide performers who are not V.A.F.'s; and as the managers appear very well able to fight their own battles without my assistance, and are most of them astute business men, I think it highly improbable that they will offer me a single extra engagement or put a shilling more on their valuation of me as a performer as a result of my present action.

As to the good taste, or decorum, of Mr. Verener's suggestion that I must have dreamed I ever received the salary I distinctly stated I had received, I will say nothing, but should Mr. Verener care to write to Mr. John Brill, I have no doubt that that gentleman, with his usual courtesy, will not only inform him that I did receive the sum stated, but will also tell him the number of weeks that I had the pleasure of seeing his treasurer on Friday night. And now, having to the best of my ability, dealt with all the points raised by Mr. Verener in his letter, I would ask, What have they to do with the subject matter of the letter to which his, I presume, was intended to be a reply?

Faithfully yours, H. A. LANGLOIS.

Empire, York, Feb. 16.

A DRAMATIC version of "The Campden Wonder" in five acts, entitled the *Campden Marvel*, written by the author of the *Shadow of the Cross*, was produced for copyright purposes at the Varieties, Waltham Cross, on Tuesday.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. FRANK PARKER,

STAGE AND EQUESTRIAN DIRECTOR OF THE LONDON HIPPODROME.

Whether it was the brilliant success of *The Treasure Ship in Fairy Seas* at the London Hippodrome, Mr. Frank Parker's birthday, and the anniversary of his wedding day, singly or collectively inspired the splendid presentation to him on Saturday last, Feb. 16, in the arena, remains to be seen. But suffice to say, Mr. Frank Parker was the recipient of some wonderful presents from his immediate confrères. These consisted of—

1. Silver soup tureen, in form of nautilus shell, supported by mermaids, emblematical of his own production. From artists, stage-staff, orchestra, *Treasure Ship in Fairy Seas* company, and friends.

2. Pair of menu-card holders, in the form of treasure-ships, to match. From T. Percival, assistant stage-manager, and Mrs. Percival.

3. Compendium of games. From Mr. Ringmaster and Mrs. Otho Twigg.

4. Serviette rings. From Mme. Allata and wardrobe staff.

5. Gold fountain pen. From the Eight Snowdrops.

6. Puma-skin tobacco-pouch.

It is remarkable that Mr. Parker cannot, even when he does get a moment to himself, be allowed to take a rest. His friends are so many and so loyal, and also so appreciative, that, like "the manna from heaven," he is spurred on to new life through their almost killing him by kindness.

The presentation took place on the stage, and was attended by nearly 400 members of the staff, who literally forced upon him these tokens of love. Mr. Carl Kiefert officiated as spokesman, and said:—

"Mr. Parker, you see friends gathered round you to wish you many happy returns of the day of your birth. I have been asked to address these

few words to you, and I cannot express sufficiently in words the pleasure and delight it gives me to do so. Some of us assembled here have known you many years, some have only recently become acquainted with you, but I am sure there is not one of us who does not feel a certain pride and delight in wishing you all Heaven can grant you on this day. Now, Mr. Parker, you are a great believer in the number seven being a lucky one for you; now to-day is your forty-third birthday, add the two figures and you find it is a seven. Last Christmas you produced your seventh annual piece, *The Treasure Ship*. Let us hope that these two coincidental sevens may be a good omen for you, and we all hope that you will be spared for many years to come to be the ruling spirit in this beautiful establishment. Not only in this country but in every continent of the world you are known by artists who have appeared here, and I am sure all of them will say Frank Parker is a jolly good fellow. Now once more accept our heartiest good wishes for your birthday, which is also your wedding day, and we hope that it will return for many years and always find you and your dear wife in the best of health. We now ask you to accept a slight token of our regard and esteem to remind you of everyone connected with *The Treasure Ship*, from artists down to your splendid little army of employees."

This was supplemented by a capital retrospective eulogium from Mr. Twigg, and another from a person representing the staff. Mr. Parker, in his reply, broke down—his sympathetic nature showed itself too strongly—but he managed to bring out the words "God bless you all!" and so finished the function.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

In the concert given by the students of the Royal Academy of Music on Wednesday afternoon at Queen's Hall the first item in the programme was a piano solo by Miss Adelaide M. N. Dodgson, who played D'Albert's "Scherzo in F sharp" with delightful delicacy and finish, though with hardly sufficient power for so large a hall. Brahms' "Sonata in F minor" for violoncello and pianoforte was cleverly performed by Mr. B. Walter O'Donnell and Miss Myra Hess. The tone produced by the pianist was, however, far fuller and richer than that of the 'celloist. Mr. Sydney Rosenbloom's skilful "Theme and Variations" (MS.) for piano was admirably played by the young composer, and very well received by the audience, the variations being cleverly worked out and melodious in character. Miss Gladys Clark, Miss Elsie Owen, Mr. Thomas Morgan, Miss Gwendolen Griffiths, and Mr. John Munday gave a spirited performance of Schubert's "Allegro ma non Troppo" and "Scherzo" from Quintet in C, for two violins, viola, and two violoncellos, and Mr. Urik Tschaikowsky was entirely successful in his violin solo of Sarasate's "Zigeunerweisen," the young violinist being loudly applauded at the close. Mr. Percy Hughes gave ample evidence of technical ability in Chopin's "Ballade in A flat," and Miss Esther Colenso produced a good tone in her violoncello solo, "Sonata in C," by Marcello. The vocal items included "Die Ablösung" (Alexis Hollaender), and "Waldeensamkeit" (Max Reges'), sung by Miss Edith L. John; "O Paradis," from Meyerbeer's *L'Africaine*, rendered with considerable dramatic power by Mr. Thomas Gibbs; while Mr. J. McNaughton Duncan gave a fairly impressive interpretation of Schubert's "Der Erlkönig." In Handel's air "Care Selve" Miss Natalie A. Campbell sang intelligently, but with hardly the requisite power, and Brahms' "Von ewiger Liche" was expressively sung by Miss Evelyn Brown.

FOOTBALL.

BRISTOL X.L.C.R. AND MUSIC HALLS' ATHLETIC CLUBS *v.* HARRY HARE'S ORCHESTRAL BAND, A.F.C.

Played on Clifton Downs, Feb. 16. The following were the teams:—

Bristol X.L.C.R.: H. Belding, goal; J. Lewis and A. Cox, backs; T. Neagle (captain), J. Lacey, and A. E. Bailey, half-backs; P. Reardon, J. Aubrey, E. Belding, H. Clements, and R. Cullen, forwards.

H. Hare's Band: H. Walenn, goal; A. Hamlin (captain) and F. Harrison, backs; A. Mattock, F. Stevens, and P. Hewlett, half-backs; F. Edney, H. Edwards, S. Richards, W. J. Horton, L. Edwards, forwards.

Referee, E. Bowman. Linesmen, H. Hare and S. Carter.

Result: Bristol X.L.C.R., 4 goals; H. Hare's Band, A.F.C., 1 goal. J. Lacey (2), P. Reardon, J. Aubrey, and F. Harrison scored for their respective sides.

"THE GENTLEMAN CRACKSMAN."

A Dramatic Sketch, in Three Scenes, produced at the Hammersmith Palace on Monday, Feb. 18.

The Gentleman Cracksman.....MR. E. FERRIS
His Sweetheart (and other characters)
MISS ADIE BOYNE
The Burglar .....MR. ARTHUR KIRBY

There is a strong flavour of *Raffles* about *The Gentleman Cracksman*—a capital sketch—which was produced by Mr. Edward Ferris on Monday evening. The first scene shows us Lady Unstart's boudoir. Her ladyship is just going out, and at the last moment she tells her maid to leave her jewels on the dressing-table. Both depart, and William Grimes, a burglar, enters. To the light-fingered Bill the task of transferring the jewels from the table to his capacious pockets is but the work of a few seconds. He is about to make his exit when he is faced by a revolver, tightly clutched by a professional-looking gentleman in evening dress. Most of the jewels change hands, and the newcomer orders the disappointed Bill to make himself scarce, and as the Gentleman Cracksman holds his shooting-iron in a manner which suggests the possibility of Bill's becoming associated with a world he has his doubts about, he obeys the order and goes. Lady Unstart's companion returns, and is somewhat startled to find her sweetheart—the Gentleman Cracksman—in the rôle of a thief. However, even when the hue and cry is raised and a policeman enters the room that peculiar feminine sense of honesty—or dishonesty—which a girl is always prepared to display where her lover is concerned, no matter how bad his crime, asserts itself in her, and permits of his escape. The next scene is a characteristic representation of a barrister's chambers in the Temple. The smartly-dressed Gentleman Cracksman is here, giving instructions to his clerk, for he is the owner of the chambers. In a significant way he bids goodbye to the clerk, and remarks that he may not occupy his rooms again. Then enter the rough, uncultured Mr. Grimes and a lady of his own social position. Their relation to each other is quite apparent. The woman remains in an antechamber while the two men carry on their discussion. Bill has come in no pleasant mood, and he now demands the jewels that were taken from him at the point of a revolver on the previous night. The Cracksman declines to deliver them up to him, and there is an angry scene in which Grimes threaten to inform the police as to the real identity of the Gentleman Cracksman. Another man has been wrongfully charged with the crime. It is Bill's desire that that man shall suffer the penalty for it. The cracksman-barrister has made up his mind that this shall not be. In the quarrel which ensues Grimes raises a knife with which to stab the Cracksman, but the latter hastily draws his revolver, which is as quickly snatched by the burglar, who now imagines that the game is in his hands. But with wonderful sangfroid the Cracksman flings a few cartridges on the desk, and advises Bill to see that the weapon is loaded before firing. Bill puts down the revolver in disgust, but is still more disgusted when the other picks it up and shows that it is loaded by firing a charge. We are next taken to an Assize Court. The case proceeding is the trial of the falsely-accused man. The Gentleman Cracksman, in wig and gown, is counsel for the prisoner. Grimes is here, too, and he is responsible for amusing incidents which, although entertaining enough in themselves, are out of place in an atmosphere of strict legal formalities. Several witnesses are called, the last being Grimes, who is actually incriminated by the Cracksman himself. Then Grimes "peaches" on him, and the closing scenes show counsel for the defence admitting his guilt, but stating that his crime was not actuated by ordinary motives of burglary but revenge for wrongs done. He then commits suicide.

Mr. Edward Ferris acts in an admirably skilful manner as the Cracksman, and he cuts a fine figure as counsel. His delivery is beyond reproach. Miss Adie Boyne proves herself an accomplished quick-change artist, for she plays all the feminine rôles, and very cleverly too. Mr. Arthur Kirby treats us to some delightful low comedy as the burglar, and altogether his performance is a highly creditable one.

THE PUTNEY HIPPODROME.

Programmes were presented here last week which were full of interest and variety, and there is no mistaking the manifest enjoyment of the many who have wended their way to the comfortable hall in the Felsham-road. The overture of *Martha* having been extremely well played by Mr. Allington's orchestra, a pleasing diversion is provided by the acceptable dancing of Miss Mabelle May. She is followed by Mr. Harry Bancroft, an actor-vocalist with a good voice, who sings of the pleasures attending "Ballooning," and later has his audience with him in a lilt about "Seagulls," which has an easy and "catchy" refrain. The next turn is a clever exposition of juggling by Miss Ada Gatley, who seems to be quite as much at home on a swinging slack wire as others are on terra-firma. Pent-up expectancy breaks out into loud applause as the number goes up for the next artist—Miss Vesta Tilley—and is again and again renewed when the charming comedienne makes her appearance. Her first contribution is an old favourite, "Following in father's footsteps," and every point is made to tell. Enthusiasm is increased by her second song, "Jolly good luck to the girls who love the soldiers." Her impersonation of the young recruit out for an airing is irresistibly comical, and is done with the inimitable style and finish which has made the "London Idol's" reputation world-wide. After an enthusiastic recall, a great contrast is presented in a new number, "The king of the house is baby," in which pathos and maternal pride are beautifully blended. "Indian Pastimes" afford Ara, Zebra, and Vora an opportunity for a display of clever ground tumbling; and "The Smart Set Entertainers" are very successful in a part-song scena. Millis, the well-known ventriloquist, gets some amusing gag for his numerous figures from the strike. Lady Mansell and her juveniles provide an amusing interlude entitled "A Concert Rehearsal," in which two very young performers play prominent parts. Mr. James Stewart, the tramp at the piano, creates great laughter, and finishes a clever turn by dancing a hornpipe to his own accompaniment. Mr. Jack Charman has a good voice, and sings "What's the use of worrying father?" well; Miss Emmie Ames finds favour with her singing, and with her introduction of a Christmas tree, from which she distributes favours more or less appropriate to members of the audience. Mr. Frank Lynne, now happily recovered from his recent indisposition, warbles gaily of his "New hat," which is certainly built upon unconventional lines. Admirers of the "noble art" have a very "rousing" turn in the sketch presented by Billy Ross and his company, two feather-weights who spar cleverly, being followed by Billy Ross and another in an exhibition of clever boxing, remarkable for lightning-like movements and terrific hitting; the turn also includes club swinging, and one member of the "crowd" interpolates some funny business, which seems to be enjoyed. Miss Ruby Emerson, comedienne and dancer, is also included in the bill, but did not put in an appearance on the evening of our visit. Ruffell's Pictures brought to an end a long, attractive, and enjoyable evening's entertainment. By means of the Bioscope an announcement was made that the management had discontinued the weekly matinée performances.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

A CHAT WITH MR. ALBERT BRUNO.

A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL COMEDIAN.

Although aspirants to fame on the variety stage are innumerable, there are comparatively few who have achieved such distinction as Mr. Albert Bruno, who so splendidly sustains the leading rôle of Perkins in the farcical sketch, entitled *Moses and Sons*, by Fred Karno. The success which has attended this production has been phenomenal, and the appreciation which it has evoked is certainly quite exceptional. Therefore, a few particulars relating to Mr. Bruno, who, besides playing the principal part, is stage manager of the company during its provincial tour, may well be given upon this page.

Mr. Bruno is a Londoner by birth, and his facial expression is almost sufficient warranty for saying that he is a born comedian. As an amateur he played in all Gilbert and Sullivan's operas. "I obtained an engagement with Henry Dundas in *A Run of Luck*, and was understudy to Charles Dodsworth. After that I went to John Douglas's company and played the juvenile lead. I used to do the great dive in a tank of water. Following that I went on the music halls with a sketch company, *The Blind Boy*, playing the principal comedy part of Tommy Atkins; after which I was for a number of years with Frederick Maxwell's company. Then I went with Tom B. Davis's *Florodora* company, of which I was stage manager and principal comedian for a number of years, playing the part of Tweedlepunch all over the provinces. I afterwards had a special engage-

MR. ALBERT BRUNO.

ment to appear as Welland Strong in *A Trip to China Town*. Then I again returned to Tom B. Davis's company, playing in *The Medal and the Maid*. I also produced *Madame Shelley* for George Dance. Afterwards I became re-engaged by Wentworth Croke, appearing in my old rôle of Tweedlepunch in *Florodora*. While I was appearing in this part at the Grand, Fulham, Mr. Karno called and specially engaged me for *Moses and Sons*. At the time Mr. Kitchen, who was originally playing Perkins, had obtained a pantomime engagement at Glasgow."

Mr. Bruno, as we have said, is a born comedy-actor, and his conception of the impersonation of Perkins, and the versatility and humour with which he presents the rôle and the grasp of the possibilities of the situation, tend considerably towards the success of the piece, supported, as he is, by a talented company of ladies and gentlemen.—From *News and Views*, Southampton, Jan. 5, 1907.

"THE ERA."

EARLY DELIVERY.

SPECIAL NEWSPAPER EXPRESS SERVICES now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways, carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible.

	a.m.
RUGBY	4.30
COVENTRY	4.54
BIRMINGHAM	5.20
CREWE	6. 5
MANCHESTER	6.50
LIVERPOOL	7. 0
CHESTER	9. 3
DONCASTER	5.10
YORK	7. 0
HULL	8.20
DARLINGTON	8.58
SCARBOROUGH	10. 5
NEWCASTLE	10.10
LEEDS (Central)	6.58
HUDDERSFIELD	7.37
BRADFORD (Exchange)	7.47
HARROGATE	7.50
HALIFAX	8.17
BURNLEY	9.28
LEICESTER	4.36
NOTTINGHAM	5.10
DERBY	5.35
SHEFFIELD	6. 6

The following is an extract from the diary of Sir Walter Scott, under date Oct. 21, 1826, when the author of "Waverley" was on a visit to London:—"Returned to a hasty dinner in Pall Mall, and then hurried away to see honest Dan Terry's Theatre, called the Adelphi, where we saw *The Pilot*, from an American novel of that name. It is extremely popular, the dramatist having seized on the whole story, and turned the odious and ridiculous parts, assigned by the original author to the British, against the Yankees themselves. There is a quiet effrontery in this that is of a rare and peculiar character. The Americans were so much displeased that they attempted a row—which rendered the piece doubly attractive to the seamen at Wapping, who came up and crowded the house night after night to support the honour of the British flag. After all, one must deprecate whatever keeps up ill-will betwixt America and the Mother Country; and *we* in particular should avoid awaking painful recollections. Our high situation enables us to condemn petty insults, and to make advances towards cordiality. I was, however, glad to see Dan's theatre as full seemingly as it could hold. The heat was dreadful, and Anne (his daughter) so unwell that she was obliged to be carried into Terry's house—a curious dwelling no larger than a squirrel's cage, which he has contrived to squeeze out of the vacant space of the theatre, and which is accessible by a most complicated combination of staircases and small passages. There we had rare good porter and oysters after the play, and found Anne much better."

ON THE ROAD, FEB. 25.

ANNA OF THE PLAINS.—Theatre Royal, Bath.
ARE YOU A MASON?—Blackburn.
AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES.—Hippo., Mansfield.
ASSASSIN.—Theatre Royal, Stratford.
AT CRIPPLE CREEK.—T. R., Cardiff.
AT DUTY'S CALL.—O. H., Harrogate.
BANDMANN-PALMER, MRS.—Motherwell & Coatbridge.
BEAST AND THE BEAUTY.—Theatre Royal, Bacup
BELLE OF MAYFAIR (BODE).—Grand T., Croydon.
BELLE OF MAYFAIR.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
BENSON, F. R. (N.).—O. H., Perth.
BENSON, F. R.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
BENSON, F. R. (S.).—Palace T., Porth.
BULMER, MR.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
CARL ROSA OPERA CO.—Grand T., Glasgow.
CASSIDY, J. RICE.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (BODE).—Coronet Theatre, W.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE).—Grand T., Brighton.
CLAUDIAN.—O. H., Southport.
COAL KING.—Prince's T., Poplar.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—Alexandra T., Greenock.
CONSCRIPT, THE.—Grand T., Rawtenstall.
COUNTRY GIRL (MACDONA).—Worcester.
DAIRYMAIDS.—Crown Theatre, Peckham, S.E.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—T. R., Aldershot.
D'OYLY CARTE.—Shakespeare T., Clapham.
DRIVEN FROM HOME.—P. O. W., Mexboro'.
DR. WAKE'S PATIENT.—Norwich.
EARL AND THE GIRL.—T. R., Plymouth.
EARL AND THE GIRL (N.).—T. R., Barnsley.
ELECTRIC MAN (N.).—O. H., Northampton.
FALSE WIFE.—Theatre, Pontypridd.
FEMALE SWINDLER.—Smethwick.
FIGHT FOR MILLIONS.—T. R., Leicester.
FRENCH SPY.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
GAY PARISIENNE.—Burnley.
GLOSSOP-HARRIS REPERTOIRE CO.—O. H., Cheltenham.
GOLDEN LADDER.—Empire Theatre, Southend.
GO-WON-GO MOHAWK.—Abertillery.
GREAT AWAKENING.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
GRIP OF IRON.—Theatre Royal, Colchester.
HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
HER LOST SELF.—Dumfries and Hawick.
HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD.—G. T., Nottingham.
HERO OF THE FLAG.—Borough T., Heywood.
HIS HOUSE IN ORDER (N.).—O. H., Leicester.
HIS HOUSE IN ORDER (S.).—T. R., Portsmouth.
HONOUR THY FATHER.—Gaiety T., Leith.
HOUR OF HER TRIUMPH.—Lyceum T., Pentre.
HUMAN HEARTS.—Kirkcaldy.
INDIAN MUTINY.—T. R., Sheffield.
KENDAL, MR. AND MRS.—Grand T., Southampton.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Ashbourne.
LA POUPEE (RALLAND).—T. R., Middlesbrough.
LEAH KLESCHNA.—Grand T., W. Hartlepool.
LIGHTS O' LONDON.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
LION AND THE MOUSE.—T. R., Aston.
LITTLE BREADWINNER.—T. R., Wednesbury.
LONDON FIREMAN.—Carlton T., Saltley.
LOVE THAT WOMEN DESIRE.—T. R., Sunderland.
LUCKY DURHAM.—Royalty T., Barrow.
MAN AND WIFE.—Star Theatre, Swansea.
MAN'S ENEMY.—Theatre, Bury St. Edmunds.
MANXMAN.—T. R., Preston.
MARTIN HARVEY.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
MERVEILLEUSES.—H. M. T., Dundee.
MIDNIGHT MAIL.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
MIDNIGHT WEDDING.—West London Theatre.
MOLLISON, WILLIAM.—Lyceum T., Newport.
MONTE CRISTO.—Theatre Royal, Hull.
MOODY-MANNERS (A.).—King's T., Glasgow.
MOODY-MANNERS (B.).—T. R., Lincoln.
MORALS OF MARCUS.—Prince's T., Manchester.
MR. POPPLE.—King's T., Sunderland.
MY SWEETHEART.—Coatbridge and Motherwell.
NAPOLEON THE GREAT.—T. R., Whitehaven.
NIGHT OUT.—Crystal Palace Theatre.
PETER PAN (No. 1).—Theatre Royal, Bradford.
PETER PAN (No. 2).—Royalty T., Glasgow.
PRINCE OF PILSEN (HARRIS).—T. R., Huddersfield.
PRIVATE SECRETARY.—Grand Theatre, Swansea.
PRODIGAL PARSON.—Osborne Theatre, Manchester.
PROOF.—Grand Theatre, Walsall.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—T. R., Bury.
SAINTS AND SINNERS.—County T., Bedford.
SAPHO (ANNIE BELL).—Grand Theatre, Nelson.
SENTENCED FOR LIFE.—Aquarium, Great Yarmouth.
SHERLOCK HOLMES.—O. H., St. Helens.
SHULAMITE.—Queen's Theatre, Swindon.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—T. R., Ton-y-Pandy.
SILVER KING (POLINI).—O. H., Wakefield.
SLEDGE-HAMMER.—Kirkcaldy.
SOMEBODY'S SWEETHEART.—T. R., Grantham.
STILL ALARM.—O. H., Doncaster.
THREE LITTLE MAIDS (MACDONA).—Oxford.
TOMMY.—Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.
TOREADOR (MACDONA).—T. R., Stockport.
TRAITOR PRINCE.—Garrick T., Hereford.
TRAITOR, THE.—Prince's T., Preston.
TRUMPET CALL.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
TWO LITTLE SAILOR BOYS.—Grand T., Nottingham.
TYRANT, THE.—Theatre Royal, Rochdale.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.—Theatre Royal, Hanley.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—Victoria T., Broughton.
WALLS OF JERICHO.—Cambridge and Oxford.
WARNING TO WOMEN.—Marina T., Lowestoft.
WEARIN' O' THE GREEN.—Castleford.
WHAT THE BUTLER SAW.—Borough T., Stratford.
WHEN WOMAN HATES.—P.O.W., Nuneaton.
WILKIE, ALLAN, AND CO.—T. R., Leamington.
WOMAN'S PAST.—Goole and Harrogate.
WORST WOMAN IN LONDON.—Prince's T., Blackburn
YOUNGEST OF THREE.—T. R., Dover.
10.30 DOWN EXPRESS.—T. R., Croydon.
£1,000 REWARD.—T. R., North Shields.

Jules Rivière, in "My Musical Life and Recollections," tells the story of an infatuated drummer who was a member of the Adelphi Theatre orchestra at the time that Rivière was its leader. He writes:—"Whilst Mrs. Boucicault was playing the parts of heroine in Adelphi melodrama, an amusing incident occurred in the orchestra. I had noticed for some time the extraordinary get-up, in point of dress, of the drummer, whose place was in the right hand corner of the band. His hair was curled, his moustache always waxed, and his handkerchiefs scented in true Don Juan-like fashion, whilst his button-holes must have made large inroads in, if they did not swallow up, the whole of his salary. Like his companions, I wondered what all this lavish outlay meant, without, however, guessing the cause. The poor fellow, it turned out, was passionately in love with Mrs. Boucicault, and these extravagances had been resorted to with a view to fascinating the lady. The story would, perhaps, never have come out, but for his own indiscretion. Not content, however, with admiring the actress by night, he took to dogging her footsteps by day, and, on one occasion, when she was walking in Kensington Gardens with a lady friend, the impassioned drummer approached her and thrust a letter into her hand, frantically kissing his hand to her on retiring. Boucicault brought this letter to me with a view to having the handwriting identified, and together we read through its burning contents. The poor, bewitched drummer lost his situation in consequence, for he had committed the stupid, though I am afraid common mistake, of assuming that his passion was returned. Ashamed of his conduct, he left London, never to return, and the last time I saw him, which was in the orchestra of the Opéra House at Marseilles, there was such a paterfamilias air about him, that I refrained, of course, from reminding him of his early passion for a stage heroine."

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News*.

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican*.

Contains in a handy compass and in a clear style the law relating to theatres and music halls. The book is well up to date.—*Law Times*.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

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The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "THE ERA," LTD., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

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Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephone, 4747, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SENTENCED.—*Apart from anything to the contrary in the agreement, the artists are entitled, by the custom of the profession, to a fortnight's notice.*

A. S. R. B.—The Little Michus *was produced at Daly's Theatre April 29, 1905. The principals included Messrs. W. Edouin, R. Evett, A. Manning, L. Bradfield, Huntley Wright, the Misses Vera Beringer, Amy Fanchette, Adrienne Augarde, Mabel Green, Alice D'Orme, Nina Sevening, &c.*

H. J. F.—*La Scala Theatre was opened on Sept. 23, 1905.*

JOSEPH CLOTHER.—*The piece mentioned is not being toured at the present time.*

W. C. WATSON.—*We should say that the popularity of the two artists you name is about equal, and naturally the same remark applies to their salaries.*

A. G. S. B.—*(1) We believe she has never appeared as a mimic; (2) Marriage dissolved, 1904; (3) Frederick Titus.*

LIEUT.-COL. BRYAN-PALMER.—*Try Heinemann, publisher, 21, Bedford-street, Strand.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth** or **Death** or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny.**

The charge for a notice of **Marriage**, not exceeding forty words, is **Two Shillings and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

MARRIAGES.

LOWTHER—SERONY.—By special licence, at Chester, Feb. 15, 1907, May Lowther to Bert Serony, comedian, of Brooklyn, U.S.A. American papers please copy.

DEATHS.

BYRNE.—Feb. 13, at Bournemouth, Florence Kate, the beloved wife of William Byrne (Drummer, Bournemouth Municipal Orchestra). Peace, perfect peace.

DUBOIS.—Feb. 20, at 25, Horsedge-street, Oldham, James Dubois, animal impersonator, in his thirty-seventh year, of tubercular laryngitis.

CLEMMENTS.—Feb. 10, 1907, in Dublin, George Clemments, for many years musical director, Hengler's Circus; aged 67 years. Interred Mount Jerome Cemetery.

LEE.—Died Monday, Feb. 18, of cancer, at his residence, 20, Aulton-place Kennington, William Lee, aged 52, father of Hettie Lee (Mrs. Harry Nation). Deeply regretted. R.I.P.

LOFT.—George R. (known as Harry), many years day-man at Theatre Royal, Hull. Deeply regretted by all.

NATION.—Feb. 21, at Wolverhampton, Wulfruna Phœbe Nation, daughter of Harry Nation and Hettie Lee (Mrs. H. Nation). May her soul rest in peace.

IN MEMORIAM.

AUBREY.—In loving memory of Miss Lizzie Aubrey (Mrs. Chas Dodsworth), who died Feb. 22, 1900. Never forgotten by her friend, Maude Stoneham.

COOK.—In loving memory of my beloved wife, Emma, who departed this life Feb. 22, 1904. R.I.P.

JUDGE.—In loving memory of Mr. William Judge (Judge's Cockatoos), who died Feb. 24, 1903. Never forgotten by his sorrowing wife and daughters Still sadly missed.

JUDGE.—In loving memory of our dear father, Mr William Judge, from his devoted sons, Willie and Charlie (Alaska's Sea Lions). Rest in peace.

LORENZI.—In memory of my late partner, Frank Lorenzi, of Sisters Phillips and Brothers Lorenzi, who died Feb. 19, 1906. Gone but not forgotten by his partner, WILLIAM LORENZI.

STOCKTON.—In affectionate remembrance of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Stockton (Ella Stirling), who both died Feb. 27, 1898. Never forgotten.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen :—

W. H. Chattell—Saturday, Feb. 23.
Frank Graham—Sunday, Feb. 24.
T. Ronald Hurst—Sunday, Feb. 24.
G. M. Hurst—Sunday, Feb. 24.
Geo. Bernard—Sunday, Feb. 24.
Sylvia Spiers—Sunday, Feb. 24.
James Stillwell—Monday, Feb. 25.
W. V. Garrod—Monday, Feb. 25.
Dorothy Marsdin—Monday, Feb. 25.
Edith Leighton—Monday, Feb. 25.
Grace Warner—Tuesday, Feb. 26.
Arthur B. Murray—Tuesday, Feb. 26.
J. H. Barnes—Tuesday, Feb. 26.
Victor Selbini—Tuesday, Feb. 26.
Walter Roberts—Tuesday, Feb. 26.
Tom Shaw—Tuesday, Feb. 26.
Jenny Dawson—Wednesday, Feb. 27.
Sidney Cooper—Wednesday, Feb. 27.
Nell M. Sargent—Wednesday, Feb. 27.
J. B. Howard—Wednesday, Feb. 27.
Winifred Fraser—Thursday, Feb. 28.
Ernest Korrie—Thursday, Feb. 28.
Chas. Santley—Thursday, Feb. 28.
E. V. Page—Thursday, Feb. 28.
Marie Blythe—Thursday, Feb. 28.
Stylo—Thursday, Feb. 28.
Beatrice Bourne—Thursday, Feb. 28.
Rachel Lowe—Friday, March 1.
Sid Brandon—Friday, March 1.
Harry Nicholls—Friday, March 1.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

Now that the music hall war is over, it is pleasant to learn that the employees of the various theatres and music halls in Manchester and Salford have formed a benefit society, which will provide all members with aid during sickness, and will ensure a sum of money to be paid on the death of a member. Persons of either sex may join. About 125 have already enrolled their names. The registered office is at the Angel Hotel, 357, Chapel-street, Salford.

ON Saturday, while working at the Hackney Empire, George Kitchen, age 22, had some scenery fall on him, so injuring his leg that he was admitted to the Metropolitan Hospital.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Abud, Mr. Chas.
Adams, Miss Nellie
Adelena, Miss N.
Adler and Sutton, Messrs.
Andreassen, Mr. Albert
Ardie, Mr. Arthur
Artois, Mr. John
Asche, Mr. Oscar
Ashington, Mr. H.
Barnett, Mr. Walter
Bastow, Mr. George
Bavistock, Mr. Percy
Beardmore, Mr. J. P.
Beere, Mrs. Bernard
Belleur, Mr. Kyrl
Biglow, Mr. Dan
Bosanquet, Mr.
Bowman, Miss Isa
Boyd and Gilfain
Bradford, Mr. Chas.
Byron, Miss Maggie
Callan, Mr. John
Calling, Mr. R.
Cartwright, Mr. Chas.
Cattaneo, Mr. Max
Chapman, Mr. B. B.
Chester, Mrs. A.
Chevers, Mr. Joe
Chilcott, Mr. J.
Chilton, Mr. Wilfred
Clark, Mr. John
Clarke, Mr. C. Bellanden
Clements, Miss Elsie
Clements, Mr. Fred
Cleveland, Miss Cissie
Coleby, Mr. Ernest
Colossus, Young
Coma, Mr. Arthur
Conder, Mr. A.
Cooke, Miss Elsie
Cooper, Mr. Milroy
Corsbie, Miss Dorcas
Cranston, Mr. W. J.
Cruickshanks, Mr. Dick
Currie, Mr. Carne
Davenports, The
Davis, Mr. E. B.
De Marce, Mr. Felix
Dent, Mr. Digby
Donaldson Bros.
Doughty, Mr. H.
Drew, Mr. Chas.
Duggan, Miss M.
Eckert, Miss Kathlyn
"Elverton"
Evans, Mr. Nash
Florence and Lillian
Fossett, Mr. Harry
Fox, Mr. Housley
Fraser, Mr. Frank
Freeman, Mr. Harry
Garth, Miss Maud
Gaze, Mr. Leslie
Gerald, Mr. Frank
Grant and Allen, Messrs
Gray, Miss Mona
Gregory, Mr. E. G.
Gooes, Messrs. Gunnar
Gwynne, Mr. P. H.
Halt, Miss Marie
Handel, Miss Zette
Hardy, Mr. Fred
Harper, Miss Jessie
Harper, Mr. Joseph
Hardie, Heirs of late Mr.
Harvey, Mr. Frank
Harvie, Mr. George
Hastings, Mr. Joe
Hastings, Mr. Wm.
Haviland, Mr. William
Hayter, Mr. Frank L.
Heath, Mr. Guyton
Herbert and Fredericks
Herne, Miss Crystal
Hesse, Paul, Trio
Hilderini, Prof.
Hooker, Mrs. Charles
Jacobs, Miss Jennie
James, Mr. David
Julian, Mr. Johnnie
Kavanah, Miss Ella
Kellino, Miss Ada
Kenealy, Mr.
Kioto, Mr. N. T.
Laidlaw, Miss
Lawrence, Mr. Woods
Lehmann, Mr. P. J.
Linden, Mr. Ernest
Lingard, Mr. E.
Lynn, Mr. A. H.
Magrath, Mr. Chas.
Maitland, Mr. Fred
Major, Mr. Frank
Mason, Mr. Fred
Mayne, Miss Clarice
McKenzie, Mr. T.
McNeill, Miss S.
Meier, Mr. Dave
Melba, Miss Mabel
Mellor, Madame
Meredith, Miss M.
Mills, Mr. Oscar
Mintos, Musical
Moon & Harris, Messrs.
Moore, Miss Winnie
Morrell and Mouillot
Murray, Mr. G. E.
Oakley, Miss Alice
O'Gorman, Mr. J.
Packenham, Mr. R. J.
Paterson, Mr.
Paull, Mrs. William
Pearce, Mr. H.
Pinder's Circus
Potter, Mrs. Brown
Purchase, Mr. A.
Reano, Mr. Thomas H.
Rennie, Miss Maggie
Revell, Mr. H.
Ringham, Mr. Mark
Ripon, Mr. George
Rivers, Miss Pauline
Roadnight, Mr. C.
Roberts, Mr. Charlie
Robertson, Mr. Forbes
Rogerson, Mr. Harry
Samson, Mr. Harry
Sansbury, Mr. Vernon
Scott, Mr. H. W.
Scott, Mrs. Walter
Selwyn, Miss Ethel
Singleton, Miss Amy
Smith, Miss Lillian
St. Alban, Mr. Edward
Stanislaus, Mr. Louis
Stuart, Mr. Lorrimer
Swift, Mr. Ventom
Taylor and Phillips
Taylor, Captain
Terrier, Madame F.
Thomas, Mr. A. D.
Thomas, Mrs. Ronald
Thomas's Picture Co.
Travers, Mr. Nat
Valmore, Miss Jenny
Vane, Miss Lilly
Vasco
Vassar, Dr. Carl
Ventris, Mr. Arthur
Vernon, Miss Ethel
Wakeley, Miss Minnie
Walbran, Miss Kate
Waldron, Mr. Joe
Weybourn, Miss E.
Whitfield, Mr. James
Willard, Mr. George
Williams, Mr. Harcourt
Winter, Miss Lily
Wylie, Mr. Laurie
Yates, Mr. Fred
Yorick, Mr. Tom
Yorke, Mr. Leonard
Zerbinis, Mr. Victor

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on the 12th inst. at the County Hall, Spring Gardens.

THE CANTERBURY.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee recommended that the seal of the Council be affixed to a document appointing an arbitrator under the Arbitration Act, 1889, for the determination of the matters in dispute between the Council and the owners of the Canterbury Music Hall, Westminster Bridge-road, with regard to the structural works required by the Council in respect of these premises. Agreed to.

THE OXFORD.

The Committee reported that they had considered a drawing, submitted by Messrs. Wylson and Long, showing a cinematograph chamber proposed to be constructed at the Oxford Music Hall, Oxford-street. They recommended that Messrs. Wylson and Long be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing submitted by them, provided the undermentioned conditions be complied with—that the opening in the front face of the chamber be fitted with a hardwood shutter capable of being operated from a position outside the door to the chamber; that the fire hydrant be properly refixed, and that the regulations of the Council with regard to electrical work be complied with.

Approved.

PALACE, STOKE NEWINGTON.

The Committee recommended that the application of Mr. A. A. Gilmer, for the transfer to himself from Mr. H. G. D. Bennett of the music and dancing licence for the Palace Theatre of Varieties (formerly Alexandra Theatre), Stoke Newington, be granted; that notice of the transfer be endorsed on the licence, and that the seal of the Council be affixed to such endorsement.

Approved.

PROPOSED NEW HIPPODROME.

The Council on Jan. 22 approved, subject to certain conditions, drawings submitted by Mr. B. Crewe, of a Hippodrome proposed to be erected in Harrow-road. Amended drawings had now been submitted by Mr. Crewe showing how it is proposed to give effect to certain of the conditions in question. The Committee recommended that Mr. Crewe be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the seven drawings submitted by him showing how it is proposed to give effect to certain of the conditions attached to the approval of the drawings of the Hippodrome proposed to be erected in Harrow-road, provided the undermentioned conditions be complied with—that the electrical arrangements in connection with the fans be carried out in accordance with the regulations of the Council; that permanent means of access be provided to the fans and the gear in connection therewith, and that such means of access be properly and permanently lighted; and that upon the completion of the building, tests of the ventilating apparatus be carried out to the satisfaction of the Council, and that should the Council consider it necessary additional controlling gear be installed. Agreed to.

BATTERSEA EMPIRE.

The Committee having considered a drawing submitted by Mr. A. E. Brooker, recommended that he be informed that they have no objection to the provision of an iron ladder and trap-door proposed to be provided at the Battersea Empire, York-road, as an additional means of escape from the dressing-rooms on the prompt side, subject to the trap-door being covered on the outside with copper or zinc. Agreed to.

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HAMMERSMITH PALACE.
Proprietor, Mr. J. C. COE.
Monday, Feb. 25, 1907, special engagement of the distinguished actress, Miss Sylvia Cavalho, in the dramatic episode, "Lulu." Charles Austin, Three Cape Girls, Millie Payne, Barton and Franklyn, Les Valdos, Clarice Mayne, Stewart and Evans, George Rapley, W. H. Perrette and Mona, in comedy duo, "Teasing the General," Amber Austa, Will Haines, The Delgarnos, The Edisonograph, Gotham Comedy Quartette.
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Twice Nightly, at 6.30 and 9.0.
Band Rehearsal, Monday, at 4 o'clock.
The Poluskis, Sisters Jonghmann, Maximilian Troupe, Harry Walker, Madame Claesen's Living Art Bronzes, Flo Cecil, Ten Dixie Girls, Frank Leon, Henry Herne and Co., in "Blackmail," Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.
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"The Era" Annual, a most useful record of theatrical events, has just been issued. It contains, as usual, many short stories by well-known players.—Globe, Jan. 21, 1907.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
"The Era" Annual for the current year, besides having all the usual valuable features which make the work so necessary for reference, has, for a special feature, a series of short articles, stories, or sketches by prominent members of the dramatic and musical profession, a well-executed portrait of each writer accompanying the text. The obituary for last year—unfortunately a heavy one—is given in a series of photograph likenesses of those departed. The full-page portrait of Mr. J. L. Toole is, indeed, worth more than the humble shilling at which the Annual is sold. The monthly calendar is, as usual, a storehouse of interesting facts connected with the stage.—Weekly Times and Echo.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1907.

ASSOCIATION AND REFORM.

The proceedings at the meeting of the Actors' Association at the Playhouse on Tuesday did not certainly "come up to expectations." Everybody anticipated what was ironically described by Mr. EDWARD TERRY as a "pleasant afternoon." There was a "spirited discussion" ahead—at starting; but it was, somewhat strangely, "shelved." This was the situation: The Reform party mustered strong in the auditorium of the theatre. On the stage was Mr. ACTON BOND, a "Conservative," who held a brief for the actual condition of the Association. These Actors' Association meetings have been, in the past, so friendly and informal that he was, unwarily, set down to speak not in support of a motion, but—as the Scotch gentleman swore—"at lairge." Now there can be little doubt that the Reform party was eagerly desirous of drawing on a debate; their whole attitude during the afternoon showed it. But they were afraid that Mr. BOND was going to be allowed to state his side of the case, while they would have no opportunity of stating theirs. The difficulty might have been got over by Mr. BOND proposing a motion to which he could have spoken without being out of order; or by a promise demanded by, and granted to, the Reformers that they should be allowed to reply. We do not regard as serious the objection which was made in a female voice that this would lead to a long sitting. These annual general meetings are surely intended for the expression of any pent-up feeling that may have gathered in the past year; and it is better that it should have vent, even at the cost of some patience, than that it should be smothered and suppressed. That, however, is what happened on Tuesday. The Reformers were determined that all the rules and formulas of a public meeting should be observed; the "Conservatives" were perhaps glad to "get the job over" without a "contentious" debate; and so, with the exception of a significant opposition to the admission of acting-managers to the Association, the proceedings were more or less formal and conventional.

As we understand—and we shall be glad if any of our readers in the profession will correct our general impression by their definite information and experience—the trouble is caused by the tendency of the drama in England to become a trade, in which master and man are opponents, instead of an art in which there is between them artistic sympathy, personal acquaintance, and kindly assistance. It is the question of what CARLYLE calls the "cash *nexus*" taking the place of semi-paternal or feudal government. The acme and model of the latter we had in the late HENRY IRVING, whose scale of payment and treatment of his old servants were famous. We cannot point to any manager at present as the acme of the "cash *nexus*" system, because the latter is only in its infancy in England as regards the drama.

At present, a large proportion of actors and actresses are under the semi-paternal or feudal system of management. They are thoroughly loyal to their manager, who is alluded to by them as the "chief" or the "governor." On the other hand, the manager is an ardent promoter of all the charitable associations for the benefit of the actor and actress. He presides at the dinners which are given for the purpose of promoting public generosity; and his name is on the lists of subscriptions for a handsome amount. The fact that he is usually an actor—"a man of like passions with themselves"—greatly assists his comprehension of the wants and feelings of his company.

But there is a large number of artists in the provinces who work under entirely different conditions. Their company is owned by a proprietor or a syndicate, and is "run" purely as a financial speculation. The only bond between master and man is the cash *nexus*. The connection is a purely "business" one; and the interests of the manager, who wants to buy service as cheap as possible, and the artist, who wants to sell service as dearly as possible, are, without rancour, opposed to each other. When this system of government has become the rule and not the exception, the next step is the formation of "unions" on the one side and of "associations" on the other. This involves, of course, the withdrawal of the employer from any charitable or generous attitude towards the employed, and the assumption by the latter of entire independence, and of the responsibility of assisting their "poorer brethren."

There is an easy and obvious way in which the Actors' Association might possibly be turned into an Actors' Union, and that is for every actor and actress to join the Association. If all those outside it were in favour of Reform, and would enter its ranks, they would obviously, with the reformers who are already members of the A.A., form a "compact majority" who could simply dictate terms to the body. No actor or actress who was really in earnest in the matter would grudge putting by 3½d. a week for the purpose; and besides, if the Association numbered 3,000 instead of fourteen hundred or so, the subscription might easily be brought down to 2d. a week.

At present, the real condition of affairs in the provinces is more or less unknown. Data are wanting; generalities are always to be distrusted in matters of this sort. We are surprised that more artists have not taken advantage of the veil of anonymity which is always respected by the Press to ventilate their grievances, as our correspondent "A Wandering Actress" does this week. We are always ready to lend our columns to informative communications which throw light on the burning questions of the stage. We shall be glad to hear from any of our readers in the provinces who have anything to say on the proposals made by the Reform party in the Actors' Association. We consider the result of the election on Tuesday as most encouraging as regards the future of the Association. It shows that there is life in it, that it includes a young, vigorous, and sanguine party of progress, who, if they are not able to realise all their anticipations and revolutionise the body, will at least keep it from stagnation and stimulate experiment.

ROYAL OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

At Covent Garden on Saturday, Feb. 16, Nicolai's opera, *Die Lustigen Weiber von Windsor*, was revived with great success. It was originally produced at Berlin, March, 1849, and first heard in London at Her Majesty's Theatre in 1864, with Mme. Tietjens and Mr. Santley in the cast. It was also given in English by the Carl Rosa Company with successful results. Although slight in its treatment for so large a stage as Covent Garden, the music is bright, effective, and very appropriate to the subject, and in Germany it is constantly performed; but in this country, apart from the charming overture, the opera is seldom heard, and although the music is melodious and sparkling, it is doubtful if *Die Lustigen Weiber von Windsor* will become popular in London. The revival on Saturday last was interesting, and though there were no such great artists in the cast as Mme. Tietjens and Mr. Santley, the performance on the whole was a good one. Herr Max Lohfing, who played Falstaff, has a fine bass voice, and invested the part with considerable humour; his make-up was also admirable, and he fully realised the character of the fat and jovial knight; while as Frau Fluth, Fräulein Jenny Fischer sang fluently, although at times her intonation was somewhat faulty. Frau Minnie Nast made a charming Annie Page; and Frau Von Kraus Osborne was entirely satisfactory as Frau Reich. The part of Fenton was most fervently sung by Herr Franz Naval; and Herr Theodor Bertram gave a capital rendering of the part of Herr Fluth; the characters also of Page and Slender were well sustained by Herr D. Wilhelm Jung and Herr Willy Birkenfeld. Under Herr Hugo Bryk, who conducted for the first time this season, the orchestra gave a spirited performance of the music. This was the last performance of the present season, as, owing to the continued indisposition of M. Van Dyck, which prevents him undertaking the duties of general-manager, the directors have been obliged to close the season a week earlier than they intended.

LADIES AT HOCKEY.

MISS LILLIE BELDING'S XI.
v. MISS WINIFRED BRADLEY'S XI.

Played near Clifton Downs, on Feb. 9. The following were the teams:—

Miss Belding's XI.—Miss Minnie Leonard, goal; Miss Ivy Bowman and Miss Lilla Carter, backs; Miss Lillie Belding (captain), Miss Gertrude Thomas, and Miss May Dadley, half-backs; Miss Gracie Leonard, Miss Bertha Godfrey, Miss Lillie Clayton, Miss Trixie Maynard, and Miss Minnie Stephens, forwards.

Miss Bradley's XI.—Miss May Fisher, goal; Miss Alice Gibbs and Miss Rosie Davies, backs; Miss Edie Lawrence, Miss Jessie Stephens, and Miss Nellie Lawrence, half-backs; Miss Alice Mitchell, Miss Maudie Burgess, Miss Winifred Bradley (captain), Miss Irene Bradley, and Miss Minnie Hamilton, forwards.

Referee, Miss Ethel Bowman (Miss Cecilia Fowler's team). Result: Miss Belding's XI., 1 goal; Miss Bradley's XI., 4 goals. Misses May Dadley, Rosie Davies, Irene Bradley, and Edie Lawrence scored goals for their respective sides.

MISS CECILIA FOWLER'S XI. v. MISS WINIFRED BRADLEY'S XI.

Played near Clifton Downs on Saturday, Feb. 16. Miss Fowler, after her severe attack of rheumatic fever, was, happily, able to turn out once again for her club. The following were the teams:—

Miss Fowler's XI.: Miss Cecilia Fowler, goal; Miss Lilla Carter and Miss Ivy Bowman, backs; Miss Lillie Belding, Miss Gertrude Thomas, and Miss Nellie Hinder, half-backs; Miss Bertha Godfrey, Miss Amy Bernard, Miss Trixie Maynard, Miss Lillie Clayton, and Miss Gracie Leonard, forwards.

Miss Bradley's XI.: Miss May Fisher, goal; Miss Alice Gibbs and Miss Rosie Davis, backs; Miss Edie Laurence, Miss Nellie Laurence, and Miss Lucy Edney, half-backs; Miss Winifred Bradley, Miss Irene Bradley, Miss Alice Mitchell, Miss Minnie Hamilton, and Miss Maudie Burgess, forwards.

Referee, Miss Ethel Bowman.

Result: Miss Fowler's XI., 1 goal; Miss Bradley's XI., 3 goals. Misses Lilla Carter, Winifred Bradley (2), and Rosie Davies scored for their respective sides.

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MR. TREE AND BERLIN.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

It was only a few days ago that Mr. J. T. Grein was advocating the visit of an English company of actors and actresses to Paris, there to make the beginning of what he hoped would be an English Theatre in France. At the same time, he pointed out that the German soil required fertilising for dramatic purposes, and Mr. Tree's forthcoming visit would be a great success if only a right répertoire had been chosen. Mr. Grein on that occasion refrained from making such a proposition as that in reference to France; he did not suggest that there should be an immediate attempt to extend the idea of what he called the "Entente Cordiale Theatre" to Germany, but he asserted that Shakespeare's works were quite as popular, if not more popular, in Germany than in England; and lately in the former country there had arisen a new form of Shakespearean acting which was as alien to modernity as it could be.

There can be no doubt that the drama may be made, and has been made, a powerful factor in creating friendly—or, for the matter of that, adverse—relationships between two countries. It was stated some time ago to be the desire of the promoters of the German Theatre in London to promote a better feeling between the Briton and the Teuton, to help them to understand each other's national ideas and characteristics. And to aid this and other laudable motives the German Government subsidised the undertaking by granting it a considerable sum of money. The establishment of an English Theatre in Germany is not at the present moment contemplated, nor, we are informed, is another visit similar to that which Mr. Tree will pay to Berlin in April. But, apart from the expense involved in taking an English company to Germany—and we can conceive it possible that that expense would be more than met—we see no reason why there should not be a short season every year of English plays and players in Berlin.

It would be a forcible illustration of the influence of the stage if the exchange of dramatic—in the theatrical sense—courtesies between Germany and this country should eventually result in a friendlier attitude of each towards the other being adopted. At the present moment, admittedly, the two nations scarcely regard each other with feelings of affection. What if Mr. Tree should—perhaps unconsciously—prove to be an ambassador of peace through the medium of a common art?

In conversation with Mr. Henry Dana, Mr. Tree's general manager, the writer was informed that the visit to Berlin was not to be regarded as a commercial undertaking. Sixty tons of scenery would be carried, and over sixty people would be sent to Germany. The "season" was to last from April 12 to April 18, and on the six nights would be devoted to the production of *Richard II.*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Twelfth Night*, *Hamlet*, *Trilby*, *Antony and Cleopatra*. It was possible that a matinée of *Trilby* might be given, but this is not as yet a definite arrangement. All the plays mentioned will be produced, as regards scenery and as nearly as possible as regards the personnel of the casts, in precisely the same manner that they have been presented at His Majesty's. The principal ladies of the company will be Miss Collier, Miss Crawford, Miss Viola Tree, and Miss Cicely Richards. The leading gentlemen will be Mr. Lyn Harding, Mr. Basil Gill, Mr. Fisher White, Mr. Edmund Reece, Mr. Julian L'Estrange, Mr. Charles Quatremain, and Mr. Courtice Pounds. Several special engagements in addition to these are pending.

Mr. Dana and all the heads of departments will go to Berlin ten days in advance, so as to get everything prepared and in working order.

"The only difficulty we shall have is in the question of lighting," says Mr. Dana. "The Berlin stage is not illuminated so brightly as the London stage, and the German people do not use limelight to the same extent that we do here; in fact, they scarcely use it at all. They depend entirely on the electric batten and links to light their stage. We shall have to fit our electric appliances to their stage."

"No; we are not going to take our orchestra, but the conductor will accompany the party. Entr'acte music is not performed in the Berlin theatres."

Mr. Dana tells us that the highest Government officials as well as the theatre people did everything they could for him, and were most courteous and obliging. Naturally enough, the members of Mr. Tree's company are looking forward with the most enthusiastic anticipation to the visit.

THE URBAN CLUB.

The Lord Mayor of London (Sir William Treloar) presided at the annual Urban Club Ladies' Night held at the Gaiety Restaurant on Thursday. He was accompanied by his daughter, Miss Treloar; and amongst those present were Messrs. Sheriff Dunn, Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary of the Actors' Association), C. I. Coltson (secretary of the Actors' Benevolent Fund), Thos. Catling, L. D. Powles, John Dawson, Walter Grace, Jas. Perfect, Walter Browne, A. Hance, R. Northcott, J. Hancox, W. E. Church (hon. secretary), and a large number of ladies.

The Chairman, in proposing the toast of "The Club," stated that it was started fifty years ago, and then consisted largely of well-known actors, authors, and dramatic critics. The first meetings were held at St. John's-gate, Clerkenwell, and he had had the pleasure of meeting some of the original members of the Club. Before resuming his seat the Chairman proposed the toast of "The Ladies," coupled with the name of Miss Prescott, B.A., who made an apt speech in response.

Mr. Thomas Catling, who replied to the toast of "The Club," related how on one occasion he walked home from the Savage Club accompanied by the actor William McIntyre. On arriving at his house at Islington he invited the actor in to partake of refreshment, and the tones of his powerful voice penetrating to the rooms above resulted in the appearance of the speaker's wife, who wanted to know what was the matter. The actor's only comment was, "I didn't know you were married, Catling." Before sitting down Mr. Catling proposed the health of the Lord Mayor and his daughter.

The Chairman having responded, Mr. L. D. Powles proposed "Our Gentlemen Visitors," and Mr. Sheriff Dunn briefly responded. Between the toasts and the replies Mr. G. Pritchard, of the Orchestral Association, played pianoforte selections.

A musical entertainment by the Wandering Players followed the speeches. Mr. Philip Williams sang "Poor Pierrot" in good style, and Miss Dot Reeve was applauded for her rendering of "Her little dog" from *The Madcap*. Mr. Herbert Burney scored with "A little bird," and Miss Marian Stenner gave Sullivan's song, "Poor wandering one" with excellent effect. A duet, "The love-lorn lily," was well rendered by Miss Dot Reeve and Mr. Philip Williams; and Miss Florence Gardner, a little girl, was applauded for a song and dance, "My little chimney sweep." The same artists contributed to the second part of the programme. Mr. Reginald Bellew was the accompanist.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News*.

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican*.

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun*.

"URBANORA" AT THE ALHAMBRA.

New Urban productions have taken the place of the *Parisiana* ballet in the Alhambra programme, and a more interesting or artistic series of films has never been seen at the "national variety theatre." The display opens with pictures of Miss Annette Kellerman, the famous lady swimmer, giving an exhibition of her skill in the English Channel. Taking her stand on a board projecting over the water from one of the piers Miss Kellerman repeatedly dives from this lofty elevation into the sea below, the splash being imitated with realistic effect. Next we see the champion lady swimmer making her way through the water with powerful strokes; and finally, after landing on the beach, she bids us a smiling adieu.

"Euston to Erin" is the very appropriate title of a series of films illustrative of a journey from London to Ireland; and giving many of the most famous scenes in the Emerald Isle and vivid views of Irish life. Busy Euston station is the starting point, and by a London and North Western train we proceed to Holyhead calling en route at Rugby, Crewe, and Conway. Then follow pictures of the steamer crossing the Irish Channel on a calm summer's day and the arrival at its destination. Some of the main streets in the fine city of Dublin are depicted, and an Irish car at once affords conclusive evidence that we are in the land of the shamrock. The barracks are shown, with soldiers marching, and a cavalry corps also comes into view. Then from Waterford we proceed by rail to Wexford, and there are pictures of the transportation of the American mail at Kingston on board a White Star liner, and the passengers embarking on the huge vessel. Interesting, too, are the fine films of Blarney Castle and the River Shannon; with the Giants' Causeway and troops of tourists making their way over the rough stones. The curious and undeniably ugly monoline at Ballybunnion and the manner in which it is worked are then shown, followed by pictures of the Isle of Achille. The rural scenes depicted—many of them being of a semi-humorous character—give the untravelled spectator a good idea of life in the more remote portions of Ireland. The vivacity and natural gaiety of the Irish race are evidenced by the dancing not only of a youth and a maid, but also of an old man and woman. A cabin with a young girl peeping out of the doorway, and a sow with her numerous litter are, of course, quite typical of the country, and so, too, are the old ladies who are quietly enjoying their pipes, their weather-beaten faces wearing an air of content. A number of bare-legged boys and girls entering a school playground is another film that arrests atention; and considerable interest attaches to the peat bog industry, which is fully illustrated. It is seen that donkeys are largely employed in the conveyance of the material from the spot where the excavations are made. Finally, we have charming views of the Gap of Dunloe and the world-famous lakes of Killarney, with pretty colour effects. Altogether the journey to Ireland has proved most interesting and instructive, and its delights are increased by the appropriate music which has been specially arranged, composed, and selected by Mr. Geo. W. Byng, the Alhambra musical director.

Recent additions to the attractive programme include the Alexandroff troupe of Russian singers and dancers, whose performance evokes the hearty applause of the audience; and Francis Marty, who wins favour both as a vocalist and violinist. His selections are well chosen and admirably rendered. Mr. J. W. Winton, the ventriloquial humorist, with his comical figure "McGinty," is still here; Miss Annie Mars, in the song-scena *Home again, my Cherry Blossom* has the assistance of a dozen Alhambra girls, who present an attractive appearance in Japanese costume, and the song has become very popular. Gobert Belling continues to afford much amusement, his embodiment of a circus equestrienne causing great merriment. The ballet entitled *L'Amour* has proved quite to the liking of the patrons of the Alhambra, and all the leading performers make excellent use of their opportunities, Signor Amedeo Santini and Signorina Morino being especially conspicuous. The scenery and dresses are quite up to the Alhambra standard, and are the object of general admiration. Mr. and Mrs. Zancig conclude their remarkably successful engagement to-day. With Mr. George Scott as manager and Mr. H. Woodford as business-manager and secretary the arrangements in front of the house continue to be of the most satisfactory character.

At the commencement of the present century some dilapidated dwellings, dating back to the time of Charles the Second, and traditionally said to have been a portion of the farm and dairy supplying cream and butter for the Royal household, stood on the ground now occupied by the Adelphi Theatre. Adjoining these premises was the shop of an oil and colour man, and the proprietor, Mr. John Scott, having made a fortune by the sale of a liquid dye, called "True Blue," of which he was reputed to be the inventor, thought he could profitably employ his capital by purchasing the adjacent property. Accordingly, in 1802, he obtained a lease, pulled the old premises down, and built a small theatre in their place. At first the difficulty of getting a theatrical licence limited the performance to a monologue, written, sung, and spoken by Miss Scott, the clever daughter of the old oil and colour man, and the piano sank down a trap at the end of each part of the entertainment to admit of mechanical and optical exhibitions. The speculation proving successful, Mr. John Scott expended another £10,000 in enlarging the building, and on Nov. 27, 1806, it was opened as "The Sans Pariel," an original but rather awkward title for a playhouse. The requisite licence having been obtained, dramatic performances were given, depending largely on the talent of Miss Scott, who as actress and authoress was the principal support of the theatre for fourteen years. In 1819 the house was disposed of to Messrs. Rodwell and Jones, when it changed its name with the change of ownership. After the death of Mr. Rodwell in March, 1825, the property was sold by the executors for £25,000 to Messrs. Terry and Yates, who became the managers, and the theatre was re-opened on Oct. 10 with a drama called *Killigrew*. In the drama called *The Pilot* referred to by Sir W. Scott, T. P. Cooke made a hit in the part of Long Tom Coffin, and the piece ran for two hundred nights.

"The Solid Man" was originally the title of a topical song written by John Poole, of New York, in 1870; and sung by Mr. Tony Pastor, the world-renowned American comique, and proprietor. Four years later, Mr. Edward Harrigan, comedian and author, wrote the words to the old Irish air. Mr. W. J. Ashcroft arranged the introduction and dance music with his conception in character, in 1875. When Ashcroft was at Liverpool, in 1876, Mr. D. Saunders, manager of the Star Music Hall, made a great feature in advertising "The Solid Man"—so much so, that Ashcroft became widely known by that title, and he was always obliged to sing the song nightly wherever he went. His introductory music, walk-rounds, and dances he composed himself, or selected, as his grandfather and father were both excellent musicians, being able to retain many of the Irish melodies for hundreds of years back.

RUDOLF HERZOG'S *Condottiere* is still the great attraction at the Neues Theater, Berlin—the most artistic stage in Germany. This epoch-making drama has been adapted for the English stage by L. H. David.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

The Executive Committee of the Entertainments Protection Association has been strongly reinforced, and now includes Messrs. Oswald Stoll, Geo. Adney Payne, Henri Gros, J. L. Graydon, Alfred Moul, Henry Tozer, Henry Sutton, H. H. Wells, Joseph Davis, and Thomas Barrasford.

The state of siege experienced during the last few weeks having been relieved by Mr. Askwith, the Arbitrator, the errant sheep fulfil their contracts, and return to the fold on Monday next. The bell-wether is Mr. Arthur Roberts, who opens at the Tivoli with an entirely new version of his funny sketch, *Where's the Count?* with fresh, up-to-date, and wonderful gags. Cinquevalli, Clarice Mayne, Dion Wade, Burt Shepard, Marriott Edgar, and others follow Mr. Arthur Roberts.

Lady Bancroft occupied a box at the Scala at the Saturday matinée. She expressed the great pleasure the performance had given her, and told Dr. Distin-Maddick that it reminded her of the old style of burlesque, of which she was one of the best exponents when in her teens.

Miss Marie Lloyd, it is announced, has been engaged by Mr. George Edwardes, who, like his great predecessor, Honest John Hollingshead, has secured many stars from the firmament of variety. To the old Gaiety in the early seventies went those brilliant performers, Ryley and Barnum, who did turns in the Strand and at the Oxford on the same evening. Later came the Two Macs, and Jenny Hill shone for a short period in the realms irradiated by the beams of the Sacred Lamp. At a later period came Charlie Ross, Lottie Collins, Millie Hylton, and Cissie Loftus, the artistic coterie being completed by Connie Ediss, whose first song in London was given in the costume of a jockey. Miss Lloyd has yet a number of contracts to fill at the variety theatres. Miss Lloyd sailed from Southampton for Madeira on Saturday.

Mr. Harry Randall, who has been a resident of Canonbury for some years, has purchased a house at Hampstead, in which delightful district he will shortly take up his residence. The popular comedian was formerly a near neighbour of Mr. Fred Williams, who is now a resident of Clacton, where, having given up stage work, he welcomes old friends as the cheery proprietor of a prosperous boarding-house.

Julius and Agnes Zancig, after a phenomenally successful season of eighteen weeks at the Alhambra, start on a British tour next Monday, under the direction of Mr. Alfred Moul. The Zancigs will be supported by a high-class concert party, including Miss Ethel Grimes, Miss Katie Moss, Miss Clara Alexander, Mr. Sydney Jarvis, Mr. David Brazell, Mr. Harold Scott, and Mr. Thornley Dodge. All the principal towns and cities of the United Kingdom will be visited. Mr. Moul has engaged Mr. Sydney Paxton as his business-manager, who will have charge of the company.

As a motor-car was proceeding through Piccadilly Circus last Saturday evening one of the tyres burst, and the car immediately came to a standstill. An observant policeman, accompanied by the usual London crowd, gathered, and pushed the car to the kerb. Then a young gentleman in evening clothes, wearing also a tight-fitting frock overcoat, immediately alighted. On being informed of the damage "he" gave certain directions to the driver, and walked briskly through the brilliantly-lighted Shaftesbury-avenue, and turned in at the stage-door of the Palace Theatre. The "young gentleman" was Miss Vesta Tilley, the famous male impersonator, whose last song at the Putney Hippodrome was "I'm a bachelor," which number is the first on the programme at the Palace. No one had the slightest idea of Miss Tilley's identity, and she appeared at the Palace in her usual order.

"The Little Stowaway," written nineteen years ago by Mr. Fred Bowyer, is probably the most successful sketch ever produced. Since Jenny Hill first played the name part it has been staged in every theatre of note in the United Kingdom, but, curiously enough, has never been presented outside these islands. Moss Empire have now acquired exclusive rights in *The Little Stowaway*. It has been re-written by the original author, brought up-to-date, and will be produced by Mr. Bertie Shelton (Mr. Beerbohm Tree's late stage manager) at New Cross Empire on Monday. Mr. Louis La Rondelle is responsible for the incidental music; Miss Eva Lumley will play the part of the waif; Mr. J. K. Walton will be the big-hearted skipper; and Mr. H. G. Shaw the autocratic first lieutenant.

"The Queen of Spades," the new grand ballet in three tableaux, will be produced on Monday. The scenario is by Alfredo Curti, the music by Mario Costa. Its theme illustrates the ever-raging battle between self and the purer influences of self-denying affection. The manifold nature of temptation is treated with all the dramatic strength of another *Carmen*. Recalling the brilliant success achieved by Signorina Guerrero in the bygone Alhambra ballet based on Bizet's opera, Mlle. Alexia, whose remarkable talents as *a danseuse de genre* are peculiarly suited to the present work, applied to the directorate to afford her a similar opportunity, which they have done. To the position in the cast of principal mime Miss Julia Seale will return with her popularity greatly enhanced by her successes of the past eight years made in the highest company in France and Italy.

The Oxford announces for Monday Henriette de Serris' artistic bas-reliefs and living pictures, which have recently captivated Paris. The pictures are copied from such masterpieces as "The Shepherdess" by Levolla and "The Gleaners" by Millet. Extraordinary and beautiful effects are obtained in the lighting. Twenty Parisian models have been specially engaged.

Mr. Tom Carney (who, jointly with Mr. Charles West, directed a capable company of entertainers at the Pavilion, Gorleston, during the summer months of last year) has been selected by the Corporation to provide the artists during the ensuing season. The genial Irish comedian holds his annual "Bohemian" at Myddleton Hall, Islington, on March 11, when many prominent artists will support him.

Mr. Clifford C. Fischer, who controls the American and European Vaudeville Agency, at Holland Buildings, 1440, Broadway, New York, has opened branch offices in London at 17, Green-street, Leicester-square, W.

Mr. Clarence Sounes is by way of building a Hippodrome at Aldershot, and has secured the services of Mr. Bertie Crewe, the well-known theatrical architect. This gentleman's plans have met with the approval of the authorities, and an unrestricted licence has been granted. The Temperance Association of the town offered some opposition, and the Superintendent of the Police advanced some objection on account of the proximity of other licensed houses. Mr. Sounes, however, cleared the way to a sensible decision by his announcement that he intended to confine the sale of intoxicants to the bars during the time that the house was open to the public. The Hippodrome will be ready for opening in the late autumn.

The amended plans for a new Empire, Barnsley, were passed by the Town Council last week.

Plans have been passed for a new Hippodrome to be built in Middlesbrough. Mr. Ward, of Birmingham, is the architect, and Signor Pepi, of Barrow, Carlisle, and Darlington, has been appointed managing-director. Building operations will commence immediately.

The Moss-Stoll tour from Easter Monday next will be extended yet another two weeks. Mr. George Dance's Swindon Empire and Reading Theatre have thrown in their lot with Moss Empires, and all bookings will in future be done from that firm's head offices in Cranbourn-street. The entry of these two houses into the fold of "the greatest aggregation of variety theatres in the world" now enables Mr. Stoll to offer artists a tour of 40 weeks.

The result of the recent Edinburgh Theatrical and Variety Sports was the realisation of £280 for charity. This sum was equally divided between local hospitals and dispensaries, the Actors' Orphanage, and the Music Hall Home.

Mr. Edwin W. Smith, late proprietor of the Parthenon, Liverpool, which place of amusement is now closed, will take a matinée benefit on Tuesday next at the Star Theatre, which has been kindly lent by Mr. Harris Fineberg. Mr. Smith has been in the theatrical business for many years, and has hosts of genuine friends, who, it is hoped, will rally round him, and accord him well-deserved support. Thousands of members of the music hall profession will recall with pleasure his unfailing courtesy and good nature. Included in the enormous programme that is to be given will be a novel Revue, for the first time on any stage, the artists engaged being the principals of the Royal Court Theatre pantomime.

The annual Liverpol Theatrical Gala was held on Tuesday, and proved highly successful. This event, which has been held for a long period, has for its object the raising of funds for the local hospital and the music hall charities. During the last ten years alone the sum of £6037 has been gathered in. The weather on Tuesday was fairly fine, with the result that there was a big attendance at the football ground, where scores of pantomime artists worked hard to extract money from sightseers.

The procession through the streets was a big attraction, some particularly fine tableaux on waggons being provided by the proprietors of the Tivoli, Shakespeare, Star, Queen's, Lyric, Park, Westminster, and Hippodrome theatres. On the ground football matches were indulged in by teams from several of the halls, and entertainments provided by members of the profession, prominent among the latter being Malcolm Scott, Harry Tate, and Johnny Danvers. The Lord Mayor of Liverpool and the Mayor of Bootle were present, and greatly enjoyed the sport.

Mr. Andie Caine, who holds a lease from the Filey Council for five years to give exclusive entertainments on the sands, has purchased a plot of land near the Crescent, known as the Sylvan Glade, with the object of building a hall to seat 600 persons. It will be constructed on American lines, so as to permit of the performances being given on the roof in fine weather.

Carl and Carr, comedians, on their benefit night, Friday, Feb. 15, at the Theatre Metropole, Devonport, were presented with a purse of gold, a travelling rug, silver mounted walking sticks, silver fruit knives, shaving sets, a box of cigars, a bottle of brandy, silk ties, gold tie-pins, &c. Such a multiplicity of gifts reminds one of the palmy days of the Britannia Theatre festivals at Hoxton in the days of Mamma Lane, when the stock company used to be bombarded with presents.

The Edinburgh public will part with much regret from Mr. Fred Lewis, late acting-manager during Mr. John Henry Cooke's winter season there. Mr. Lewis is a man of wide experience in his profession, having toured Canada, the United States, and Australasia, as well as having travelled many years in responsible positions in all parts of the United Kingdom. Mr. Lewis's friends wish him well in any new post which he may occupy, and they will gladly welcome his bright and courteous presence whenever he comes back to the Northern capital.

It is quite on the cards that Mr. Edgar Curtis will again have the management of a select band of entertainers during the forthcoming season at a favourite Kentish seaside resort. His yeoman service at Clacton for Mr. Robert Forsyth for some years, and later for the proprietor of the Palace-by-the-Sea there, doubtless had something to do with his being summoned to Ramsgate by the Entertainments Committee a few days since. Mr. Curtis is a good comedian, and no stranger to the variety stage, having been for years a member of the Harry White and Elsie Phyllis combination.

A very happy party sat down to dinner on Wednesday at the Bodega Café Royal, New-street, Birmingham. The gathering consisted of fourteen gentlemen, including Mr. Lester Collingwood (chairman), Mr. Geo. Robey (vice), Mr. A. W. Matcham, Mr. A. Bushell, Mr. T. A. Shale, Mr. R. Lee Butt, Mr. Tom Hearn, Mr. Arthur Haytor, Mr. Geo. Miller, Mr. Harry Lewis, Mr. Gus Hearn, Mr. Philip Rodway, Mr. E. C. Farris (host), and Mr. Joseph Berry (*The Era*). The dinner was put on in Mr. Farris's best style, which is good indeed, the tables being tastefully decorated with flowers by Mrs. Wallace, and the speeches, jokes, and quips flowed with delightful vim. Mr. Collingwood proposed Mr. Robey's health, and Mr. Robey paid a just tribute to Teddy Farris's excellent catering and good-fellowship.

Miss Constance Juno, who has just finished nineteen months' engagement with Fox and Melville's singing pictures, is now working at the Pavilion, Leicester, and meeting with great success.

Mr. Albert Bushell, manager of the Birmingham Gaiety, took his annual benefit on Tuesday in the presence of an overflowing audience. The programme was contributed by the artists from the local pantomimes and music halls, plus the Gaiety Company, and numbered thirty-eight turns, including Mr. George Robey, Mr. Edward Lewis, Miss Ethel Haydon, &c. During the performance Mr. Councillor Marsh took the stage, and surrounded by the beneficiare and his friends, testified to the esteem felt for Mr. Bushell, not only by the public and profession, but also by the Gaiety directorate.

Mr. Badman, managing-director, gave similar testimony. Mr. Councillor Marsh also, on behalf of numerous friends, presented Mr. Bushell with a substantial cheque, a silver cheese-dish from Mr. A. W. Matcham (who also, in recognition of Mr. Bushell's sporting taste, added a formidable gun to his offering), a diamond bracelet for Mrs. Bushell, a bangle for Miss Elsie Bushell, and a handsome hall-stand from the staff for Mr. and Mrs. Bushel. Mr. Bushell himself made presents to Messrs. Camp and Smith of a set of fishing-rods and an umbrella respectively. Among those present were Messrs. Harry Westwood, Young, Solmersitz, Lewis, Parkes, Macintosh, Wallace, and Lester Collingwood.

Mr. Joe Elvin returns to the Oxford on Monday in *Trespassers Beware*, a farce that offers the cockney comedian plenty of opportunities for the exposition of a happy form of humour that may be best described as Elvinesque.

Mr. Walter Gibbons' new Palace of Varieties at Willesden will not be completed in time for Whitsuntide, and the opening, therefore, will be deferred until August Bank Holiday.

The Balham Empire, which has been run with variety entertainments and theatrical pieces, is to be offered at the Mart on Tuesday, March 5, by George Head and Co., in conjunction with Stimson and Sons. The property is held on a long lease at a small ground rent, and is for sale at a low reserve.

Mr. Pople, the stage manager of the Stratford Empire, has left the West Ham Hospital, and is being well attended at home. He is progressing favourably, although slowly, and it will be many weeks before we shall see him at the "prompt" side, looking "'Appy," as he is called.

Miss Edna May was unable to get away to christen the three lion cubs born at the Mammoth Fun City, so Hackenschmidt, the Russian Lion, who is fulfilling an engagement at Olympia, was called upon to perform the ceremony. The leonine babies were named Mammoth, Fun, and City.

Mr. Sam Mayo recently brought an action for libel against *The Sun* newspaper in consequence of a paragraph in their issue of March 31, 1906, but all imputations having been unconditionally withdrawn and regret and apology expressed, Mr. Mayo's whole object in bringing the action has been attained. The settlement arrived at before Mr. Justice Jelf may, therefore, be considered quite satisfactory to everyone concerned

Miss Winifred Hare, who has made such a great success in *Aladdin* both at the Shakespeare, Clapham, and in Birmingham, where she was visited by a deputation of "gallery girls," who came all the way from Liverpool especially to see her, will commence a month's engagement at the Tivoli on March 4. Visitors to the Tivoli during that period may come in for lively times one fine night, for Miss Hare has received an intimation from a number of her friends and admirers "among the gods" at Birmingham that they propose to come up to London by excursion train *en masse* one day in order to accord her an ovation that will take her by surprise, and will serve as a send-off to a contemplated tour abroad.

Mr. Fred Marlow, who was proprietor of the Bow Palace, and who has for years past been located at the Empire, Southend, has taken up his quarters again in London. He is now at the Marquis of Lorne, in St. Martin's-lane, where he will be glad to see old friends and make new ones.

Miss Lil Hawthorne and her husband (Mr. John E. Nash) arrived in Liverpool on Thursday from New York, per s.s. Baltic. Miss Hawthorne commences the season by a special week at the Empire, Bristol, commencing on Monday next; then the Moss and Stoll tour.

Miss Louise Zetland, the sister of Mr. Leon Zeitlin, of the Metropolitan, who has been singing with great success at the Tivoli and Metropolitan, unfortunately injured her eye during the process of "making-up" the other evening. An oculist has ordered complete rest for several weeks.

Mr. Andrew Howard, of the Mysterious Howards, silent mental telepathists, has nearly recovered from his illness, and will resume his engagement at the Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, shortly.

Mr. Albert Bruno, who is playing the part of Perkins in Mr. Fred Karno's *Moses and Sons* (originally produced at Birmingham), commenced his career by taking an active part with his father in the management of an important London hotel. The stage, however, for which he hankered, had too many attractions for him, and after appearances as an amateur and a preliminary canter as a successful understudy in the production of *Aladdin* at the Metropole, Camberwell, he played juvenile lead in a tank drama by John Douglass.

He found his true metier as Tweedlepunch (Willie Edouin's part) in *Florodora*, and while appearing in this character at he Grand, Fulham, his performance was watched by Mr. Fred Karno, who immediately engaged him to take up the part of Perkins in *Moses and Sons*, relinquished by Mr. Fred Kitchen, who had obtained a pantomime engagement. Mr. Bruno has also played Welland Strong, in which rôle Mr. R. G. Knowles appeared at Toole's Theatre. Such a bright and clever comedian as Mr. Bruno is an acquisition to the halls.

Mr. William Lee, the esteemed father of Miss Hettie Lee, died on Monday at his residence through the terrible malady cancer, and leaves a wife and eight sons and daughters to mourn his loss. The funeral will take place on Saturday, at two o'clock, at Tooting. Since writing the above we have heard with great regret that Miss Hettie Lee (Mrs. Harry Nation) has lost her daughter (Winifred Maude), who passed away quite suddenly on Thursday.

Mlle. Ghita Corri, who appeared last week at the Gaiety, Chatham, in place of Miss Katie Lawrence, was at once re-engaged by Captain H. E. Davis for the present week, and has again made an enormous success at this popular Chatham theatre in selections from her extensive répertoire national and favourite songs, including her latest song-scena, "La Cigarrera," a haunting Spanish melody and dashing episode illustrating the life of a fascinating cigarette-girl, of which big Continental attraction, we understand, Mlle. Corri has secured sole English rights. Next week she will present "La Cigarrera" at the Crouch End Hippodrome.

Miss May Lilian Levey is delighting Scotch audiences with her bright and up-to-date songs. At Aberdeen this week there is a three-cornered election in full swing, with open-air meetings held every night, and the Women's Rights League addressing crowds in the streets and public squares. This has not prevented the patrons of the Rosen and Bliss Palace from putting their money down in thousands to hear Miss Levey's humorous vocal illustration of the "Suffrage for Women" question.

A cable to hand from New York states that the Three Laurels (acrobats) and Alexandre and Hughes (recently playing the parts of the comic men in the production of *Cinderella* at the Camden) opened on Monday with enormous success.

The Mohamed Ben Mohamed troupe of Souasa Arabs are at present achieving a huge success at the Winter Gardens, Berlin, the foremost vaudeville theatre of Germany.

Mlle. Lucretia, who is this week appearing at the Theatre Royal, Smethwick, in the rôle of Dick, in Messrs. J. R. Moore and Kennedy's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, has, owing to her great success, been re-engaged for Christmas, 1907-8. Mr. Percy Victor, with his wonderful musical dogs, and Mr. J. Pauletti, her clever cat, have also been engaged.

Mr. Harry Conlin is very proud of having won the silver cup presented by Mr. F. W. Wyndham to the Edinburgh Theatre Royal Golf Club.

Mr. Ernest Hampson (of the Hampson Bros.), out of numerous applicants, has been granted the sole permit from the Prestwick and Girvan Town Councils to give pierrot entertainments in connection with the Girvan bandstand. Mr. Hampson will also be lessee of the refreshment rooms.

The news that Messrs. Francis and Day will during the forthcoming week be offering artists some special novelties in the way of songs will induce numbers who are so fortunate as to be in town to pay a visit to Mr. Lester Barrett in order to select something to suit them in their individual lines. The well-known house is especially rich just now in what promise to be "real winners," a few of which figure in the firm's advertisement elsewhere.

The famous Native Choir from Jamaica, who so successfully toured the provinces last year, are safe in Kingston. None of them have been injured by the recent terrible earthquake, although some have lost relatives also their homes and property. The Jamaicans will return to Liverpool next month, and their managers are now booking another tour to commence on Easter Monday.

Mr. Walter Bellian, who is well known in dramatic circles as business-manager, and has held appointments as resident-manager at the Grand Theatre, Swansea, Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd, Prince of Wales's, Wolverhampton, and Royalty Theatre, Chester, produced on Monday a new sketch at the Circus of Varieties, Bury, entitled *A Night's Frivolity*. Mr. Bellian played the leading part, and was capitally supported by Mr. I. W. Groves as principal comedian and Miss Ethel Potten. The sketch met with an enthusiastic reception, and Mr. Culling, proprietor of the Circus, immediately booked it.

The 500th meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held on Wednesday afternoon, with Mr. Pat Carey in the chair. Mr. Douglas White proposed, and Mr. Fred Neiman seconded, the resolution that a further sum of 100 guineas be divided between the charities of ten railway companies. This was put to the meeting, and carried unanimously. The weekly statement of receipts and expenditure was submitted and passed as read. Dr. Cookson, of Moor-lane, Preston, was appointed as hon. medical officer, and Mr. George Robinson, of Northumberland-court, Blackett-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, was also appointed as dental surgeon.

Mr. Will Oliver, the evergreen, completes his fifty-fifth year to-day, and we feel sure that he will be overwhelmed with congratulations from friends in all parts of the United Kingdom. "The man on the spot" retired from the stage nearly seventeen years since, and is proud of the fact that his last engagement was with dear old Sara Lane, and that Miss Marie Lloyd, then in her teens, was principal girl in that production. His appearances behind the footlights now are restricted to the special annual performance given by the Water Rats at the London Pavilion. At the last matinée of that popular fraternity Will appeared as the "army" in the travesty of *Robin Hood*. Booted and spurred and in armour burnished and bright he looked a gallant knight indeed! He keeps his weight down to 112lb. His shadow, therefore, must not grow less.

The latest quotations of music hall shares are as follows:—Alhambra, 1⅛; Canterbury, ¾; Empire (15s. paid), 1½; Empire (10s. paid), 1⅛; London Pavilion Ord., 4⅛; London Pavilion Pref., 5; London Coliseum, ⅛; Metropolitan, ¾; Moss Empire, 5½; Moss Empire Five per Cent. Pref., 3⅛; Oxford, 6⅛; Palace, 11s. 6d.; Tivoli, 6; Varieties Consolidated Theatres, 13s.

John Kibble, 24, a costermonger, of Douglas-place, Clerkenwell, was charged at Clerkenwell with assaulting Frank Mabe and Arthur Preston, agents of the Music Publishers' Association. A man named Walter Jones was also charged with disorderly conduct. In consequence of two men having been charged with attempting to break into a shed in Douglas-place, the attention of the police was directed to premises, which it was alleged, contained pirated music. Sergeant Barton, warrant officer, stated that he found 800 copies of music on the premises, but they were apparently not pirated. He, however, found one copy of "How'd you like to spoon with me?" published by Francis and Day. He seized some catalogues with a pencil mark against the song mentioned, and he also discovered a paraffin oil tin. Mr. d'Eyncourt adjourned the case against Jones, and ordered Kibble to pay a fine of 40s.

Miss Ella (of Ella's Lions) was presented by the management at the Empire, Middlesbrough, last week with a handsome gold medal suitably inscribed. This is the thirty-sixth medal this famous lady has received from various managers during her four years' stay in England.

The Elbas have this week been mystifying audiences at Wakefield in their expositions of second-sight and thought reading. On Wednesday night three of the smartest clerks in the town were invited to the platform to use the chalk as quickly as they could on three separate blackboards at one time. Mme. Elba correctly called out the answers to each sum, the Professor remaining quite silent on the stage.

The Donohoes, including that celebrated comedienne Miss Ruby Hallier, are making a gratifying success in the screaming absurdity, *The Man That Never Saw a Woman*, from the pen of E. Carter Livesey and T. W. Rawson of *Would-be Actors* fame.

Chung Ling Soo, the Chinese conjurer, will be seen once again at the Hackney Empire next week. His father was Scotch and his mother Chinese, and although born in China, he has spent a good part of his life in Western countries. Chung has a curious story to tell of himself. His father, a missionary named Campbell, in Canton, married a native girl. These mixed marriages are said to be not at all uncommon, for missionaries are human, after all, and the girls of Canton are said to be the prettiest in all China. The name Chung Ling Soo means "Extra Good Luck," and it was given to him because he happened to be the first boy born into the family after a run of four girls. His wife's maiden name, Suee Seen, means "Water Lily."

Chung became a conjurer by inclination. When a young medical student in Canton he was attracted one day by a conjurer at a street corner and so fascinated by the fellow's tricks that he began to pay more attention to sleight of hand than to anatomy or the pharmacopœia. Finally, the sight of another conjurer friend fixed his destiny. He threw physic to the dogs, and became a prestidigitator. He has been four times round the world, and will soon undertake a fifth tour. Chung, who has workshops at Manchester, makes no secret that he owes his success as a conjurer to mechanical appliances, as well as to quickness of hand and eye. When performing before the terrible Dowager Empress of China he took her fancy so much that she made him a Mandarin of the First Button and gave him a bracelet of pure gold.

Speaking at the Hackney Empire Music Hall on Thursday, where a matinée was held on behalf of the Lord Mayor's Cripples' Fund, the Lord Mayor said her Majesty the Queen had consented to open a function at the Mansion House in June in aid of the fund.

Mr. Sinclair, formerly with Mr. Forbes-Robertson, was appointed on Friday (yesterday) manager of the new Alhambra Theatre, Belfast.

Mr. Ernest Ch. Gittins, for the present, has reluctantly cancelled his elaborate preparations for the production with nine artists of Donizetti's *La Fille du Regiment*, as this popular opera is already being toured on the music halls. His next venture will be Balfe's charming operetta, *The Sleeping Queen*, played alternately with his own version of the Bedroom Scene from *Fra Diavolo*. Mlle. Adèle Prescott will undertake the rôles of the Queen and Zerlina respectively.

Mr. Harry Dacre, who claims that his songs have produced a greater pecuniary profit than those of any other author-composer, living or dead, has lately been seized with a severe attack of "autographobia." The amiable Harry wishes to secure and preserve the signatures of all those public singers who have sung his phenomenally successful songs. The signatures of seaside serenaders will be equally welcome with those of scintillating stars. Already Mr. Dacre has filled a huge album with autographs, but he is insatiable.

By permission of Mr. Charles Wertheimer, the series of living pictures at the Empire now includes reproductions of the two pictures stolen from his house in Norfolk-street, Reynolds' "Hon. Mrs. Yorke," and Gainsborough's "Nancy Parsons." The originals being only kitcat size, some difficulty has been experienced in their representation as exact copies, but this Mr. Wilhelm has surmounted. The two works of art were shown for the first time at the Empire on Wednesday evening.

Mr. Tom Fancourt and Miss Jennie Rubie are by way of producing shortly a comic opera, entitled *Gretna Green*, which will play thirty minutes. The costumes will be of the period of the Farmer King, George the Third. Of course, there is an exciting elopement of the lovers. The comedy relief will be strong, and specially-composed musical numbers will add to the attractiveness of a most agreeable novelty.

Mlle. Camilla D'Alberg, the piquante actress who within a year has proved herself to be an attraction of the first order in the wordless play *La Main*, is at present engaged in rehearsing a novelty, not as intensely dramatic as the above-mentioned, but most humorous, and at the same time artistic and refined. This wordless farce will very shortly be seen on the boards.

The offer of an engagement from a Manchester music hall has reached the laziest man in the world, George Thompson, who, though healthy, stayed in bed for twenty-nine years in his mother's house near Belfast. The offer is £8 a week to appear on the stage for a certain time each evening. Thompson's decision is uncertain, for hitherto he has despised "filthy lucre," even refusing all monetary inducements to allow himself to be photographed. He recents publicity, asking, What business is it of anyone if he lies in bed?

Mr. Billie Williams, the Australian vocalist, this week published with Mr. David Day's firm two new songs, one from his own pen—"John, go and put your trousers on," the tale of a kilt—and one by C. W. Murphy and Dan Lipton, entitled "Where, oh, where!"

Seldom has a selection of popular songs "caught on" so instantaneously and abidingly as the "Monte Carlo Selection, No. 1." Alike in theatres, music halls, and first-class restaurants, in town and country, is this melodious pot-pourri to be nightly heard, a fact exciting little wonder, when one learns that it contains such world-wide successes as "Bamboo bungalow," "Queen of Old Samara," "Tiny firefly," "Remember me to mother dear," and other equally notable melodies.

"THE WINDOW CLEANER."

A Sketch, by Herbert Sargent, Produced for the First Time at the Tivoli, Liverpool, on Thursday, Feb. 14.

This smart little trifle, which was in the hands of Miss Stella Millar, Mr. Frederick C. Leighton, and Mr. Weston, is quite up to Mr. Sargent's standard, and went particularly well. The story concerns a young lady who, in order to avoid being forced into an unwelcome marriage by her uncle, leaves home and takes a small flat in a remote part of London. While here she learns that he has discovered her whereabouts, and in order to prevent him taking her home again induces a window cleaner to declare himself her husband. A knock at the door is followed by the appearance of not the expected uncle, but her lover, who has returned from abroad, and found her hiding-place. Still fearing the arrival of the uncle she keeps up the marriage story, and introduces the window cleaner as her husband. The lover, however, discovers the trick, and quarrels with the cleaner, who is thrown downstairs. The latter reappears in the course of a few minutes disguised in female garments and announcing himself as the mother of the injured cleaner, demands compensation, which he receives, whereupon he at once reveals himself.

Miss Millar afforded much satisfaction as the runaway young lady; and a deal of fun came from the efforts of her two fellow-artists. There were some excellent opportunities for creating merriment, and it may be safely prophesied that *The Window Cleaner* will find favour wherever presented. The audience followed it with delight.

FRED LOCKE FUND.

The arrangements in connection with the benefit to be given at the Princess's, Glasgow, on Friday, in aid of this unfortunate author and his family, are taking definite shape, and there is every prospect of a handsome sum being realised. An attractive bill has been got out, and practically every artist of note within reach of Glasgow will appear. Many sympathisers in the profession who happen to be engaged at a distance on that day have sent cheques in token of their good wishes, and we have much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of the following sums by the hon. treasurer of the Fund, Mr. J. S. Crichton, 9, Bridge-street, Glasgow:—

	£	s.	d.
The Merveilleuses Company	3	3	6
Joseph O. M'Allister	2	2	0
Miss Dollie Bell	2	2	0
Neil Kenyon (2nd sub.)	2	2	0
Lester Collingwood	1	1	0
J. Hickory Wood	1	1	0
Artists in Panto. at Theatre Royal, Glasgow	0	18	0
James Robertson	0	10	0
A. Rose	0	10	0
Sundries	0	7	0
G. Hunter	0	5	0
W. R. Hunter	0	5	0
Janet Arthur, Southampton	0	5	0
Jack and Lizzie Gordon	0	5	0
John Y. Innes	0	2	6
T. Marr	0	2	6
Watson Hume	0	2	6
W. A. Abercromby (5th sub.) ..	0	2	6

SONGS. WRITERS. AND SINGERS.

THE fame of Charles Wilmott and Herman E. Darewski, jun., and of their song, "Home again, my cherry blossom," is being noised abroad, and the principal Continental military bands are now using the melody as a march. A leading newspaper, the *Karlsbader Tagblatt*, thus eulogises the number in a recent issue:—"Not only in London but practically all over England this song, which has already established itself, promises to become the rage everywhere. Pretty Miss Annie Mars, who has only just entered her seventeenth year, is singing this popular number with extraordinary success every evening at the Alhambra, London. Rarely has a song shown such quick signs of becoming a 'hit.'"

THAT well-known artist, Charles J. Taylor ("Cee-Tee") whose sketch of the late George Le Brunn which appeared in these columns is treasured by many, has just written and composed two humorous songs, which will shortly be issued by Messrs. Francis and Day. They are entitled "It's nothing to what he's going to have" and "I think I ought to tell you." Mr. Taylor was responsible for the well-known success "I mustn't let her see me all at once."

THAT inimitable comedian, Little Tich, has just accepted from the author of his famous ballet-girl travesty, "My sweetheart had been in the sun" (Mr. John P. Harrington), an entirely new and original comedy study, entitled "The General." This novelty, which has been appropriately melodised by that popular composer, Mr. Jas. W. Tate, whose work has been much in evidence of late, is now in active rehearsal, will be produced at an early date.

MR. ALEC HURLEY and his talented company are now busily engaged in rehearsing Messrs. Harrington and Tate's new musical comedietta, *Cockneys in Japan*, which will see the light in London at no very distant date. Report speaks most highly of a charming sentimental song in the piece for Mr. Hurley, in which, while wooing a supposed Geisha, he, in mellifluous tones, extols the many virtues and graces of "A gal—a little gal across the sea."

So unprecedentedly great has been the success that Miss Lilian Lea has achieved with the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s big winner, "Queen of Old Samara," by J. F. Lambe, as a pantomime hero, not only in Sunderland but also in Leith and Greenock, that this talented artist has now arranged to specially "feature" it at all Mr. G. Adney Payne's halls, during her forthcoming London season. As a first song Miss Lea will sing the same firm's tuneful German song, "I'm going back to the Fatherland," by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford, which is also being sung by Miss Lena Verdi and Talbot and Pearce.

THAT the répertoire of even our foremost singers and comedians leaves something to be desired need hardly be insisted on. Our stars themselves and the public have long felt that some wider choice of subjects is desirable, and as a step towards improvement Mr. L. H. David has made arrangements with several celebrated song-writers, both French and German, and has prepared English versions of their most successful songs—humorous, comic, and serious. If, as is stated, the melodies of these numbers are tuneful and catchy and the lyrics possess literary worth, there should be a great demand for them.

THE Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., have just added to their catalogue two attractive numbers, one a coon serenade, "My dark-eyed Lou," written by Percy Edgar and composed by Harry Von Tilzer, and the other, "Share my little nest with me," written and composed by George Arthurs and Orlando Powell. These two numbers are of the "free" variety.

A CHARMING descriptive ballad, by Andrew Sterling and Harry Von Tilzer, entitled "Just across the Bridge of Gold," featured with great success by Miss Florrie Forde and Mr. Jack Charman, has just been published by the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Co. A limited number of permissions will be granted.

A HIT of the Royal Court pantomime, Liverpool, is the charmingly-rendered song by Miss Hetty King "When I get back to Piccadilly." The publishers, Shapiro, Von Tilzer Co., have had big calls for this number, and are now printing the third edition.

MISS AMY CLEVERE, the charming vocalist and dainty dancer, has arranged to produce immediately a pretty song, entitled "Pearl," written and composed by A. J. Mills. This is No. 24 on the Star Company's catalogue, and it will be "heard of" anon. No. 25 on the same list is a semi-humorous Scotch love-song, entitled "Jeannie McGregor," which has just been successfully produced at the Empire, Swansea.

MISS ANNIE PURCELL in London and Miss Florrie Gallimore in the provinces are both making great impressions with Castling and Murphy's quaintly pretty Welsh song, "On the Isle of Anglesey." As a result the Star Company have had to reprint in large quantities to cope with the demand for copies.

A DELIGHTFUL new song, "Primrose," by A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott, will be staged in a most elaborate manner, the rustic setting representing Primrose Farm being a masterpiece of scenic art. "Primrose" will be sung by Miss Lilian Lea.

MR. WHIT CUNLIFFE, the man who has made the country ring with "Hello! hello! hello! It's a different girl again," has a new song by the writers of that great hit (Geo. Arthurs and Bennett Scott) which bids fair to rival its predecessor in popularity. The new ditty, which has some really humorous verses and a bright, dashing melody, is entitled "Beware! beware!" and will shortly be issued by the Star Company.

MR. ALEC HURLEY has accepted a song from Medley Barrett's versatile pen. It is entitled "His nibs, my son," and is published by Messrs. Francis and Day, who have just secured from Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford a ditty called "If you don't want lots of gold."

A VERY dainty song, entitled "Rosebud," by Harry Castling and F. Godfrey, will presently be placed on the market by Messrs. Francis and Day, and a taking number in preparation by the same firm is Murray, Leighton, and Hilbury's "Comrades, here's health to you!" Miss Marie Kendall will feature the first-named morceau.

THAT dainty trio, the Floradora Girls, who achieved such a success in the Grand Theatre, Brighton, pantomime with their rendering of "Queen of Old Samara," have just accepted from Messrs. Harrington and Tate a new comedy scena of a most novel character, entitled *Two's Company—Three's None*, which they are now busily preparing for production at Camberwell the week after next.

CHARMING Miss Edie King, fresh from her successes in the Crown, Peckham, pantomime, will specially "feature" all through the Stoll tour a new and dainty ditty, written and composed by Messrs. Dave Hall and Herbert Rule, entitled "Joan, Joan, Joan, come home!" Miss Madge Temple will also sing this "taking" song in the West End, and the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. are issuing it in their "Sixpenny Successes" series.

MR. BERT CLARK EXPLAINS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Now that the struggle is over, would you mind me using your columns to point out to my brother and sister artists a few facts which have not been explained to them by an over-zealous Executive and Alliance Committee of the V.A.F.

I have, much to my dismay, been called a traitor. From the start of the struggle, I never fully believed in the precipitate methods used, and at a mass meeting held at the Surrey I essayed to ask certain questions showing plainly how I felt, but the enthusiasm of the meeting, wrought up to fever point by the platform agitators, compelled me to sit down unheard. It is said that I convened the first meeting of an independent committee to inquire into the situation. This is true, and from that meeting emanated the common-sense movement towards peace. At that meeting were the following people:—Marie Lloyd, Arthur Roberts, Vesta Tilley (represented), Little Tich, Harry Randall, Wilkie Bard, Marie Dainton, Carl Hertz, the MacNaughtons, Alexandra Dagmar, George Leyton, Alice Lloyd, Fred Ginnett, Raymond and Kurkamp, Annie Purcell, the Gothams, Joe Elvin, Arthur Rigby, and Wal Pink. The three latter are members of the Executive Committee of the Alliance. At that meeting the various points were discussed, and a letter was sent to the executive of the V.A.F. as follows:—"Will the Executive Committee of the V.A.F. meet a committee consisting of the undersigned to consider the present state of affairs, with a view to some honourable and amicable settlement to both parties concerned?" All the names heretofore mentioned in this letter, with the exception of the three members of the Executive Committee, were among those who affixed their signatures. The Executive signified their willingness, and met us at Frascati's two hours after the note was sent.

What took place at that meeting was that we asked if they would consider a third party to find out from the managers what they were prepared to offer—the answer, of course, to be taken back to the Executive Committee. We, the third party, anticipating that a reply would be delayed, sent the following letter to the Executive Committee of the V.A.F. and National Alliance:—"Feb. 2,'07.—We, the undersigned, would like to know the result of your decision *re* the suggestion put before you yesterday. Kindly let us know definitely before 12 o'clock to-night to address given. In the event of no reply to our request, you leave us no alternative but to adopt such measures as we may deem necessary for all concerned in the present crisis." The signatures above appended were also attached to this note.

The result of this ultimatum was a meeting at the Trocadero between the managers and the third party, Mr. Joe Elvin acting as intermediary. If there had been any idea up to this time that I was acting solely for the managers my attitude at the meeting would have completely dispelled it, and I would like either Arthur Roberts, Arthur Rigby, or Miss Marie Lloyd to substantiate my contention. I court the fullest investigation. The people who sympathised with this movement, but were prevented from attending, sent the following wire:—"Congratulate on wholly sensible course. Personally cannot stand interference of paid agitators, whose only virtue is 'gift of the gab,' which leads emotional people astray.—G. ROBEY." "Yes, with pleasure; sooner settled the better.—FANNY FIELDS." "Impossible to be at meeting to-day. Am in sympathy with you, but have no faith in outside agitators.—WILKIE BARD." "Certainly; am with you whatever you arrange.—WILL EVANS." "Am with you; and I trust for diplomatic settlement advantageous to all.—VESTA TILLEY."

From here the work of the third party was finished, as a Conciliatory Board, composed of four great Labour leaders, stepped in, as we did, with the object of saving all they could, I believe, for the stage hands and musicians. I personally took no further action, and might add that I did not, and have not, worked; therefore cannot be called a blackleg. If, however, the facts I have stated brand me as a traitor, then I plead guilty to the charge. It was stated by Mr. Ben Tillett that I had sold my conscience for a *contract* and a ride in a motor-car. Mr. Ben Tillett can scarcely be conversant with music-hall work, as the first contract I could accept would be in the year 1912.

In conclusion. It is always a well-known fact that a man coming in between two people grappling each other by the throat, and both equally determined, will surely receive some of the misdirected blows of each antagonist; and if those blows have hurt and have to be borne with I shall bear them; but the future will justify my actions and that of the third party herein mentioned. I have asked the Executive Alliance Committee for a fair and impartial trial of my movements during the strike. This is two weeks ago, but have received no answer.—Thanking you in anticipation, believe me, yours faithfully,

HERBERT CLARK
(Clark and Hamilton).

Feb. 21.

"THE DEVIL'S SUNDAY" AND "A WOMAN'S HONOUR."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—My attention has been called to a sketch produced at the Middlesex Music Hall on Feb. 11, and in your criticism of same you say (referring to the incident of putting out the lights for a duel), "such novel conditions for a duel can assuredly never before have been invented."

Your critic had evidently never seen *The Devil's Sunday*, produced by Mr. John Lawson at the Metropolitan, Nov. 26, 1906. In this sketch all lights are extinguished for a duel with revolvers between the prisoner on bail and Lord Harrington. "One, two, three" is counted, and both men fire. The lights are then raised, and the latter character is discovered dead.

This same situation (with very little alteration) is in the sketch your criticism refers to, and it can hardly be called a coincidence, as I notice you state it was produced for the first time last Monday.—Yours faithfully,

(MRS.) RICHARD POLE,
Author of *The Devil's Sunday*.

Queen's Club, West Kensington, Feb. 16.

THE amalgamation of the Keith and Williams establishments in the States is, we are given to understand, to be opposed by another combine headed by Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger.

END OF THE STRIKE.

THE ARBITRATION.

Mr. George Ranken Askwith, the arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade in the music hall strike, made an interim award upon certain points which it was necessary should be cleared up before the questions of wages and contracts could be entered into. This award, which was issued on Feb. 14, was as follows:—

"The managers of music halls in London and the provinces having had certain matters of dispute with artists, musicians, and stage hands in their employment, and all parties having agreed to refer all matters in dispute between them to me, the undersigned, George Ranken Askwith, and having requested the Board of Trade to confirm such reference, and the Board of Trade having formally appointed me, the undersigned, to act as arbitrator, and the parties having requested me to issue immediately an interim award upon certain matters necessary to be determined before the hearing of questions of wages and other matters in dispute, I award and declare that on and after Saturday, the 16th day of February, no artist who is under contract to the above-named managers, or has agreed to abide by the result of this arbitration, shall perform at the Scala Theatre or elsewhere, in violation of any contract, or in furtherance and continuance of the present strike; and that all legal proceedings by any of the managers against any of the artists, or other persons concerned, shall be withdrawn, and that all artists and other persons holding contracts shall be allowed to fulfil their contracts with the managers on and from Monday, the 25th February, upon giving notice of their intention to fulfil their contracts on or before Saturday, the 16th February; and, further, that all pickets, meetings, and issuing of circulars or notices in connection with, or in furtherance of, the existing strike, shall forthwith cease.—As witness my hand, this 14th day of February, 1907. (Signed) GEORGE RANKEN ASKWITH."

In consequence of this notification the National Alliance decided to close the Scala on Saturday night, the 16th. The lease of the house for four weeks cost £1,200, without the incidental expense of producing the revue, *A Night With the Stars*, the nucleus of which was found by the author, Max Goldberg, in his melodrama, *Secrets of the Harem*.

The arbitration proceedings opened on Tuesday at the St. Bride's Institute before Mr. G. K. Askwith, of the Board of Trade, who was accepted by

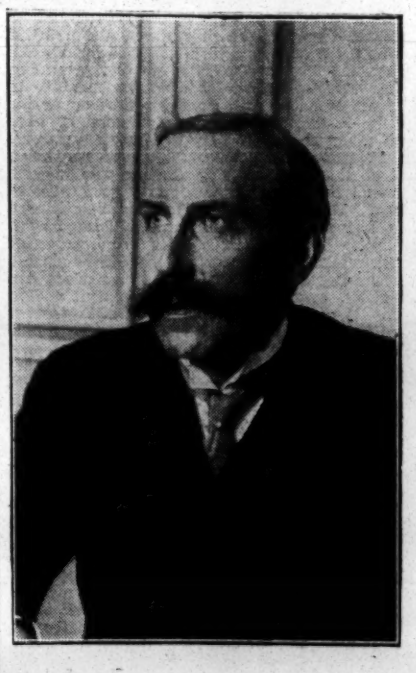

Photo by Half-Tones, Ltd.

MR. GEORGE RANKEN ASKWITH.

both parties on the Conciliation Board. There were present on behalf of the music-hall managers Mr. Walter Payne (barrister), Mr. Henry Tozer, Mr. Henri Gros, and Mr. Philip Rutland, J.P. (solicitor to the managers). The artists were represented by Mr. Edmund Browne (barrister), instructed by Messrs. Pattinson and Brewer, Mr. W. H. Clemart (Variety Artists' Federation), Mr. Wal Pink, Mr. Joe O'Gorman, and Mr. Brewer (solicitor to the artists). Others present included Mr. J. B. Williams and Mr. C. Jesson (for the musicians), and Mr. W. Johnson and Mr. C. Pickering for the stage hands. Alderman Mitchell and Mr. Arthur Roberts attended as representatives of the Conciliation Board. The proceedings were strictly private.

On Wednesday arrangements were made by which a number of musicians will return to work on Monday next, and a further number a fortnight later. Conferences are taking place between the parties with regard to the remainder. These arrangements will shortly be embodied in the form of an interim award by the arbitrator. The question of finding employment for the stage hands is now under consideration.

That Mr. George Ranken Askwith is entitled to fill the difficult position of arbitrator in the music hall dispute is readily conceded by all parties. As a peacemaker he possesses a remarkable record. When with Lord Alverstone in Paris at the time of the Venezuelan Arbitration, he made a speech which occupied two days in delivery. He was also with Lord Dunraven in New York at the Valkyrie-Defender Inquiry, and for years he has been chosen by the Board of Trade to arbitrate in some of their most difficult cases, and has taken part in some historic settlements, among them being the Manchester tramways dispute, the weavers' strike in Scotland, the London Compositors' dispute, the tin-plate workers' dispute in Wales, the Nottingham lace weavers' strike, which lasted eight weeks, and a colliery dispute. The Army Council sent him to deal with the Raunds bootmakers' march, and he felt highly flattered when, as a result, the district boot trade chose him as their permanent arbitrator.

"WHEN, when, when is your ship a-coming home?" by Pelham, McGhee, and Rule, will be "featured" by that rising young singer, Miss Minnie Mace, at all her engagements, and bids fair to be one of the most successful numbers issued by the enterprising Monte Carlo Publishing Co.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE PALACE.

Like other theatrical and operatic stars, Mr. Hayden Coffin has found a temporary home at the Palace Theatre, which holds a very high place in the regard of both professions, due possibly to the happy thought on the part of the managing-director, Mr. Alfred Butt, of providing special programmes for special audiences. In the decadent days of the halls it was considered a great error of judgment to introduce music in any way seriously as an art, and singers of the calibre of Marie Tempest and Hayden Coffin were regarded as quite beyond the pale of a variety contract. Two causes have hitherto contributed to this estrangement between the halls and the exponents of the highest cult in singing—the prejudice of the artists themselves, and the fear on the part of the proprietors lest, in any attempt to get out of the beaten track, they should be making halting steps towards an educational policy that might be resented by pit and gallery. Mr. Butt has, however, the courage of his convictions, largely based no doubt on the dicta of that departed Nestor of caterers, that Gamaliel of managers, Mr. Charles Morton, who, like all representative men, was in advance of his time when he made operatic selections and part-songs the chief plank of his variety entertainment at the Canterbury. Mr. Morton, we know, was always ambitious to engage the best representative English singers for the Palace Theatre stage, and though he did not live to see the fruition of his hopes, he was much encouraged by the direct upward trend of the entertainment over which he presided so ably.

To return to Mr. Coffin. He commenced his selections on Monday with "Melisande from the wood," which he also sang on the night of the Palace anniversary. Goetz's song was accompanied by the orchestra as well as the piano, and the interpretation lacked nothing in warmth or fervour. "Tommy Atkins," a favourite number from *The Gaiety Girl*, won a popular success by its rousing chorus and catchy melody, and the enthusiasm shown on Monday was quite sufficient to justify its selection. Mr. Coffin sang it in a more robust style than usual, and won a hearty encore by the vigour and spirit of his rendering. He then introduced a dainty setting by Ethelbert Nevin of "Oh! that we two were maying," and in his rendering showed his perfect appreciation of tone-colour, as well as his command of *mezza voce*. The song, which should speedily have a wider popularity, has been specially orchestrated by Mr. Herman Finck, whose "effects," produced mostly by muted strings and wood wind, are most artistic. The orchestra may also be complimented. Every musician seemed to play *con amore*, and aided in no little degree a matchless interpretation. Mr. Hayden Coffin has held for over twenty years a unique position on the English stage, and when listening to him on Monday one could quite comprehend the reason why. Granted that he possesses great natural endowments, there are few gifted with such high intellectual appreciation of tonal shading or such perfect phrasing.

Miss Vesta Tilley is still giving much pleasure to crowded audiences by her male impersonations. On Monday she introduced an old friend in "Algy," the Piccadilly Johnnie, who has won the regard and excited the laughter of the spheres. Theatrical history of late has taught us that, after all, Algy is a welcome adjunct to the theatres, and though Miss Tilley's presentation of his little weaknesses—which are mostly those of downright good-nature—does not excite our respect for him, we think there is much to be said for him when we contrast him with the superior and very *blasé* young exquisite of less aristocratic pretensions. Miss Tilley is unapproachable in the character.

Among Mr. Butt's latest introductions are Mas Andres, a pigeon pair of French duettists, who present a burlesque of a Parisian *revue*. The *commère* is a smart little actress, who acts more or less as a feeder to her companion, a grotesque who will be even funnier when he gets more used to English audiences. He is responsible for a clever bit of quick-change business as a gendarme and a pickpocket, and parodies with many touches of eccentricity an Italian conductor. A novel sensation of the bill is the lariat-throwing of Jack Joyce, who has won his remarkable skill during his daily life as a Texan cowboy.

THE TIVOLI.

The Tivoli has introduced to the London public this week a turn of exceptional interest by securing the services of a Buddhist dancing girl—by name Ser Pharah. Her series of devotional exercises is such as the Hindu dancing girl—trained to religious worship, and living and dying in the temple—is accustomed to daily. The acts of devotion are spread over five tableaux representing the offerings of a maiden to the god Shirah, and subsequently some poses. Ser Pharah translates the sacred legends into action by a number of slow and undulating movements of the most graceful and artistic kind. At the opening of the scene, which is laid in an Indian forest outside a temple of Buddha, Ser Pharah is discovered slumbering at the feet of a golden image. Awakening, she decks herself with jewels, and swathing her comely form in a raiment of cloth of gold she commences her acts of terpsichorean devotion before the shrine. Her sinuous movements are marked by gradations of fervour, until at last she works herself into a frenzy of devotion, tears off her trinkets, casts off her wraps, and as a suppliant humbles herself before the shrine in that state "which is expressly imposed upon its votaries by the Buddhist creed, and is the acme of purity."

Mr. Aubrey Fitzgerald, who recently made a plunge into variety at the cosy Strand house, is now presenting a comic interlude entitled *The Spider and the Fly*. It is the old story of a gentleman of adventurous spirit coming to the wrong flat. This time it is the secretary of the Bayswater Moral Mission that arrives in the apartment of a lady of the stage who is expecting her *fiancé* to sup with her. He should have gone to a floor higher up, but he is not altogether sorry he has made a mistake. The modern Eve, in a bewitching gown, tempts him to drink champagne and persuades him to eat. Under the subtle influence of her charms, and inspired by Bacchanalian impulses, he hurls defiance at an elder of the church—an uncle, who also comes to the wrong flat—and locks him in with the lady in her bedroom On this embarrassing situation the curtain falls. Mr. Aubrey Fitzgerald plays the Stiggins-like character on very amusing lines; and the lady finds an attractive representative in Miss Madge Hyde.

Mr. Nelson Jackson, against whose name the word "raconteur" is printed, is that and a good deal more He entertains one with an amusing burlesque of an Italian song, in which very little of the language of the Campagna can be recognised. At the piano he also describes in song the three ages of man—twenty, forty, and sixty—and his optimistic views of the good time possible at each of those stages of life are convincingly given and tunefully set. Mr. Jackson's stories are also decidedly good, and as a monologue entertainer he is exceptionally droll. Mr. Horace Lane, a new find of Mr. Joseph Wilson, at times reminds one of Mr. Ernest Shand, and is a genuinely smart comedian; Miss Alice Hollander, who has returned to the Tivoli on her recovery from indisposition, is singing "O, dry those tears" with her customary success; Miss Madge Lessing and her merry maids are seen and heard to advantage in *Snowland;* and Miss Annie Purcell makes her newest song, "In the Isle of Anglesey," a very acceptable number indeed. The other turns in the bill have already been noticed in these columns.

HOLBORN EMPIRE.

In the programme at the Holborn Empire this week there are several names that are unfamiliar to the regular patron of the London halls, but all the same the entertainment is excellent of its kind, and includes an unusually large number of refined musical turns. The quintet under the direction of Mr. Benbrick Blanchard, and styling themselves the Roman Singers, wear the classic garb of ancient Rome, and their voices harmonise in very pleasing style in the rendering of several well-chosen selections. The five vocalists, who have adopted Roman titles that possess a punning significance, are Miss Ella Lorraine, Miss Dorothy Carter, and Messrs. Lawrence Wensney, J. C. Cox, and Roland Bagnall. The last-mentioned is responsible for the comedy element, and, seated at the piano, sings the song of "The Simple Curate," concluding with an amusing imitation of the reverend gentleman announcing various coming events in the parish. The Roman Singers are very well received. Another musical performance in which artistic excellence is a very marked feature is that given by the Metropolitan Operatic Quartette, consisting of two lady and an equal number of male vocalists. They give selections from well-known operas, and their admirable singing evokes loud applause from every part of the house, showing that there is no lack of appreciation of really good music when its interpretation is entrusted to capable artists.

An attractive novelty in the current bill is the appearance of Mme. Yvette de Laabe in a series of charming art poses, representing the work of the sculptor. A number of classical figures are represented by Mme. de Laabe, and some of these are set off by some beautiful electric effects. Amongst the most striking figures are those of the famous Venus of Milo, Eve before the Fall, Salambo, Galatea, and finally a beautiful female doing homage to the marble bust of King Edward the Seventh. During the brief intervals between the poses an interesting series of art pictures are shown, so as to avoid any risk of tediousness being experienced by the spectators.

The Trentanovis are two ladies—apparently mother and daughter—who give a clever gymnastic act, and meet with a favourable reception. The apparatus used in the performance is prettily decorated with flowers, adding considerably to the general effect. Les Sousloffs, described as terpsichorean experts, who made their London début at the Palace some time ago, are here, and their marvellous dancing, more particularly that of the lady, evokes nightly a perfect furore. The last-mentioned announces the name of each in pretty broken English, and is from the beginning on good terms with the audience. Miss Edie Gray and her two coons give a telling rendering of a well-arranged trio, and are repeatedly recalled. Miss Lily Harold appears in a charming scena entitled *Lavender*, in which she has the assistance of a young lady vocalist. She next gives the ditty "What does it matter?" which is illustrated by the appearance of a Gibson girl and a number of Suffragettes who are "moved on" by an energetic constable. Mr. Jay Laurier is a comedian with a style of his own that is both quaint and effective. He has a laugh which is quite infectious, and makes good use of it in his ditty "Silly Billy Brown." Miss Elsie Bernard is an American comedienne who wears a dress that is the admiration of all the ladies, and in her song "At the top of the tree" introduces patter having reference to John Burns, the Suffragettes, and other topical matters. Her turn is quite a success. Mr. Dan Filmer has a good song in "Nothing to worry about"; and Miss Molly Doone, a pleasing comedienne, scores with the ditty "I wish I were you," concluding with a neat dance. Mr. Charles Cardle, who possesses a capital voice, also contributes to the programme, a special feature of which is the appearance of Mr. John Lawson and company in the famous sketch *Humanity*. The Imperial Bioscope shows us Little Tich in some of his latest and most comical impersonations. Mr. Claude Marner is the manager here, and Mr. J. C. Cuthbertson fulfils the duties of acting-manager.

THE EUSTON.

A prominent place on the Euston bill is occupied by Edith Finlay's company, in *The Pet of the 21st*, which we noticed on its original production in 1905 at the Bedford. It is a shortened version of *La Fille du Régiment*, an opera in which the talents of that great singer, Jenny Lind, were employed to the fullest advantage. The score, by Donizetti, is full of brightness and sparkle, in accordance with the theme of the story, which never dwells on a sad note. The little girl who has been found on the field of battle when an infant and brought up by the regiment—the 21st—is played by Miss Edith Finlay, who sings an aria from the opera with considerable culture and refinement. Again do we hear the celebrated "Rataplan," one of the tunes that never die, and the choruses generally are spiritedly given. Mr. S. Rodhart puts plenty of vim and sparkle into his rendering of Sergeant Pierre, a part that he invests with all the amiable and soldierly qualities demanded. Mr. R. Hyett is effective as Tony; Miss Evelyn Shelley is a sufficiently amusing Marchioness; and Messrs. R. Braham and J. H. Boyde adequately fill the other parts.

A comedy sketch that affords considerable amusement is discovered in *My Birthday*, played by Lambert and Glover. The gentleman who has the birthday is living in bachelor apartments, which are invaded by an old sweetheart of the long ago, who affects to be a very tyrant in petticoats. She smokes and drinks and generally makes things lively. Eventually she explains who she is, and the mere male having discovered that there is a loving heart behind all the apparent boisterous mannishness, elects in future to go in double harness. The trifle is admirably played by both artists, and meets with a deservedly cordial reception.

Major Newell, long since at the London Pavilion, proved his wonderful facility as a skate-dancer, and his act, always interesting, has lost nothing of its skill or cleverness. Wonderful high kickers are the Sisters Caselli, whose undulating grace and unity of movement are well displayed in a double dance, which is a veritable *tour de force*. A very big hit is made by Miss Mattie McNichol, who looks very pretty and interesting in the tartan of a youthful clansman. Mattie sings "Annie Laurie" in a way that goes straight to the heart, and in another Scotch ditty is loudly applauded and recalled. This bonnie Scotch lassie has evidently caught on in London.

The Minnesota Quintet are heard to advantage in an original comedy-singing mélange; the three Sisters Kay appear in the dual rôles of vocalists and mandolinists; Frew and Frew (from the North) go in for cross-talk of quite the conventional pattern; Haig and Russell present the comedy duologue, *Your Loving Aunt*; and Miss Evelyn Taylor is also announced as among the current attractions, but did not put in an appearance on the occasion of our visit.

THE SURREY.

The strongest attraction in the strong programme here this week is the appearance of Georg Hackenschmidt, and packed houses have acclaimed his powers as a wrestler. On the evening of our visit the champion had for his first opponent a stalwart butcher of Walworth, Dick Burber, whom he easily defeated in 1min. 45sec. His second opponent was Ted Miller, and the champion found him a very wily and tough customer indeed, Miller keeping him very busy for 6min. 8sec. The Surrey boys nearly went frantic with excitement, and rewarded Miller with an ovation for his plucky performance.

The Treshams, in their smart comedy act, *Roads Up*, keep the audience highly amused.

Seated around the watchman's fire, five young gamins give excellent effect to a part-song, which eventually awakens the watchman in his box, who goes for the youngsters, and then ensues a wild revel of pantomime and knockabout business. The watchman at last captures his tormentors and agrees to let them go free if they will give him an extempore entertainment. The youngsters soon demonstrate that they are quite efficient artists, for one lad sings "Sally in our Alley" with absolute perfect expression, while others indulge in step-dancing, comic boxing, and a military finale.

That dainty and charming young dancer Edie King wins all hearts in a pretty song-scena, "Let me show you." She gives a series of international dances that are most captivating, and fully demonstrates the poetry of motion and the undeniable skill of a thorough artist. Zeta Grey and company appear in their comedy act, *The Lancashire Lass*, and her singing of "Alice, where art thou?" and selections from popular operas, wins enthusiastic approval. Eldra and his clever and intelligent dog give a charming and interesting entertainment, which is further heightened by the dark background and electrical effects. The audience divide their admiration between the skill, patience, and acrobatic abilities of Eldra, and the docility and intelligence of the dog. Harry Champion is always sure of a hearty and sincere welcome here, and the insistent demands of his admirers impelled this popular comedian to nearly double the time allotted him.

Rell and Butt are resourceful comedians, and keep their audience in a merry vein with quaint patter, lively cross-talk, buck and rag-time dancing, and much amusing side play, especially their novel cigarette act. Wallace Whitney as a burlesque fireman is full of fun and patter, and creates much laughter when at the telephone. Bert Brantford has a good original song in "The Sweep Coon," and his smart dancing wins him warm appreciation. Beattie Foster gives a quaint character study in her song, "My old man's football mad." Harvey and Holt do remarkably well in their musical mélange, set in a very pretty and original winter scene. Lester May, a comedian of the Harry Ford type and methods, has a good song in "Did I? Yes."

Raymond's Bio-Tableaux is in itself an entertainment, and the laughable incidents attending the adventures of "A Gay Old Masher" are followed with shrieks of laughter, which is eloquent of thorough enjoyment. The excellent order kept in every part of the vast auditorium is a tribute to the efficient management of Mr. Charles Craig.

EAST HAM PALACE.

In *A Noble Brother* Mr. Charles Carte and company have an interesting sketch. The principal character of Jerry, the tramp, as played by Mr. Carte, is a somewhat difficult one to comprehend because of its seemingly varying and peculiar phases. We have neither seen nor heard of any other tramp like this Jerry, and in Mr. Carte's hands our derelict assumes a changefulness of mood and action and manner which, if it does nothing else, certainly denotes intense originality on the part of its creator. But in its representation on the stage we get just a little too much buffoonery, which tends to destroy whatever sympathy we might feel for the victim of a noble deed of self-abnegation, and at the same time makes one question the sincerity of the pathetic scenes. Otherwise, as we have already indicated, the playlet is of considerable human interest. Mr. Carte knows how to act, and we are sure he will do nothing which would lose him what has always been extended to him in the past, namely, the favour of his audience in his excellent enactment of many rôles. Miss Doris Brookes is delightfully engaging as the heroine, Nana Leigh; and from Miss Esther Faithfull as Mrs. Leigh we get a quiet, dignified, and altogether charming study of an elderly lady. Mr. Payne Reynolds does well as the hero, and Mr. Burton Ford is sufficiently obnoxious as Henry Travers; while a commendable portrayal is the veteran soldier of Mr. Howard Thorne. Miss Winnie Rose is successful as Rose Rapid.

The musical comedy sketch, *A Trip to Coon Town*, is a wild, whirling, noisily-laughable performance. We are told that the company has been chosen from the artists in the late *In Dahomey* production. Certainly they give good value for their money. The singing of such pieces as "The old home," "Erastus Johnson," "Sandy," and the "Flower Song" are marked by that quaintness of melody and manner that is characteristic of plantation folk. The dancing, too, is both attractive and smartly executed. A man, an elephant, a horse, and a pony join in an altogether admirable demonstration of animal intelligence directed by the human brain. The trainer is Captain Maximilian Gruber, and he is to be complimented upon a show which indicates a great amount of thought and care and patience on his part. Some of the tricks performed by the animals are very amusing, some very clever, and all worth witnessing. Miss Ivy Adelaide, a dainty soubrette, entertains the house with her enchanting rendering of a love song; and young Vento, the boy vocalist, also distinguishes himself in a similar direction. One can always listen to Miss Ruby Emerson with a feeling of pleasure. This week she is doing her best to increase the marriage rate of East Ham, and time will tell whether her efforts prove successful. In her song "Then you're all right" she points out what an absolutely silly thing it is to be a bachelor. Take a small flat, take some furniture, take a girl, and—"then you're all right." The song is delivered with a capital appreciation of the subject of the lines; and Miss Emerson is also heard to advantage in "Boys and girls." Benson and Geoffreys are hugely amusing with their comedy duologue; and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope Company is to be congratulated upon the series of pictures entitled *The Boy's Revenge*.

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE.

Although recent unfortunate events have, naturally, had a bad effect on business here as well as elsewhere, the public for whom Mr. Arthur J. Barclay caters so wisely and so well have shown no disposition to desert him at a critical time. Indeed, there has been an almost remarkably good attendance on many occasions of late, notwithstanding the conspicuous absence of stars of the first magnitude, and on Monday of this week the house presented as prosperous an appearance as one could desire. In the frequent absences of Mr. Barclay, necessitated by the dual control of two establishments, he leaves behind him an admirable substitute in Mr. Geo. F. Slatter, on whose willing shoulders much of the brunt of the battle has fallen.

The programme for the present week includes several items of exceptional interest, while all may be described as quite up to a fairly high-water mark of excellence. After an agreeable overture, well played by the orchestra under the experienced direction of Mr. H. Petersen, Mr. Fred Pollard, eccentric comedian, opens the ball with considerable success in an amusing song, "Awfully ticklish here," and a rather clever parody on "Excelsior," both of which take the fancy of the house. Miss Irene Meldon, looking very dainty, sings with much charm, and fairly captivates the audience with her exceedingly neat and nimble dancing. The Sisters Victoria, four pretty young ladies, besides proving themselves accomplished performers on various instruments, sing with much acceptance, and finish their performance with some energetic dancing; altogether a charming and refined turn. One of the pronounced successes of the programme is the performance of Newell and Niblo, who play with amazing dexterity, precision, and fulness of tone on the saxophone and the xylophone. Their manipulation of the latter instrument especially is very good, and rouses the audience to something like enthusiasm, resulting in a well-merited encore. Miss Lily Arthur is a little lady possessed of a large amount of talent, which is skilfully exploited, firstly in a dialect song descriptive of a country girl's experiences in London, and afterwards in a tuneful number in which she impersonates a poor flower-girl. Miss Arthur is a capable actress as well as a good singer, and she may be described, without any flattery, as one of the most promising young actress-vocalists we have had here for a long time. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, as usual, is immensely popular, and this week the pictures are quite up to their best and most interesting form.

Sketches are always an important feature in the Walthamstow bill of fare, and this week we have two excellent examples of this popular form of variety-theatre entertainment. The first of these is that clever and interesting little piece, written by Louis N. Parker, and entitled *The Man in the Street*. There is much genuine amusement in the sketch, while every now and then a chord of tender pathos is touched. *The Man in the Street* is played by Mr. Nevill Graham and his company, and it could not have been consigned to better hands. Mr. Nevill Graham himself gives a marvellous picture of the "wastrel," Gover, loquacious to a degree, suspicious, and not over scrupulous on the vexed subject of meum and tuum—a character-picture of rare merit admirably played; Mr. C. Wallace Aston is good as the artist, Philip Adare, and Miss Margaret Watson acts with discrimination as his wife, Minnie. The piece is received with hearty applause. The other "episode" of the evening, *Beauty and the Burglar*, by Geo. R. Sims (it is unusual to have the names of two such distinguished authors on one programme), has been seen here before, but is none the less welcome on that account. It is pure, unadulterated farce from beginning to end, and keeps the audience in a constant simmer of amusement. Miss Millie Engler's company is engaged in its interpretation, and it could not have fallen into better hands. Miss Engler looks supremely handsome, acts with great point and finish, and sings brilliantly a pretty song by Garnet Wolsley Cox. Mr. W. L. Rockliffe does his share of the work well as the unexpectedly-returned husband, Jack Rippleby, who tries to pose as the burglar. But the prime favourite of the cast is undoubtedly the servant, Polly, played by Miss Louie Tinsley. This lady is that rara avis, a genuinely funny female low comedienne, who brings out every point of the strange character to its full value, and carries the audience with her from start to finish. The programme finishes with something like an actual novelty, although it is but a variation of the well-established human statuary idea. This is Mme. Clasen's living art bronzes. The figures are taken from several well-known pictures, such as Millet's "Angelus." After all, the best of the series are those that reproduce statuary, the most successful to our mind being "The Thorn," "Eros," and "Ishmael." These are all impersonated by a handsome youth, and are exceedingly artistic. Altogether, as a bid for novelty, the experiment is well worth seeing, and much care and thought have evidently been bestowed on the subjects. The stage-management is in the capable hands of Mr. Joseph Grant.

CAMBERWELL PALACE.

A comprehensive list of artists is this week filling the Camberwell hall, the patrons of which are flocking in gratifying numbers to the Palace by the Green. Conspicuous in a well-assorted bill is a production called *Outflanked*, an elaboration of a sketch which some time since attained popularity. The sketch deals with a sergeant of the 9th Lancers who is ordered abroad for active service, but is reluctant to depart without his sweetheart. Kitty Benson, the maiden in question, is equally opposed to the prospect of leaving England, and the sergeant hits upon an ingenious scheme whereby to make his sweetheart disgusted with her situation at an hotel and induce her to accompany him. He repairs to the saloon in the character of a young man bound for a fancy ball. His dress is that of the Georgian period, powder, wig, and all; but scarcely has Kitty turned her back to get him a drink than the young "buck" is changed into a tramp of the most disreputable kind, who demands a pint of ale. Kitty, with disgust, goes to fulfil the order, and in a trice the tramp disappears, and Kitty is greeted by a brawny Scotchman. The kilts give place to the skirts of an ancient dame, who in turn is replaced by a giggling female in gorgeous array. At this point Kitty, who has been growing more and more perturbed, penetrates her lover's disguise, and indignantly refuses to relent until she is offered the post of a Red Cross nurse in the coming campaign. The sergeant speedily appears in full regimentals, and the young lady's facility in quick-change is displayed by her assumption of the uniform of the hospital brigade. The series of impersonations is crowned by a representation of Britannia—a change which is perhaps the most astonishing of all.

The transformations are made in view of the audience by Mr. Henry Coutts, whose alertness and agility in his work is of an extraordinary character. The various episodes are fitted with funny dialogue, in which the vivacity and brightness of Miss Dot Kemp as Kitty are invaluable. The young lady also dances neatly and sings snatches of songs with ability. The sketch is in two scenes, and is realistically mounted, Mr. Louis Du Cane making a smart captain of Lancers. It is asserted that Mr. Coutts is the first artist in his line to perform without assistance. £500 is offered to anyone, stage hands included, who can prove that he uses a double, or has any help in the effecting of any of his changes, but as they are made in the very centre of the stage far from any friendly hand, it is apparent that the money is not likely to change hands. Great applause is lavished upon the skilful performer, who has many recalls.

Midway in the programme is the dramatic episode *The Sorceress*, in which the tale of a Jewess who resorts to many bold expedients in order to trace her lost child is told. The sketch has some thrilling moments, and is well acted by Miss Esther Phillips in the title-rôle, by Miss Kitty Carlisle as the daughter, by Miss Millie Luckstone as an Italian Countess, by Mr. Fergusson as a young Count, and by Messrs. Beaton and Beverley as two thieves. Vernon's Bioscope supplies a couple of films, in one of which the experiences of a yawner are mirthfully portrayed, while the other deals fantastically with the pranks of "Puck." A distinct hit is made by Gillin, a ventriloquist, who has an unlimited fund of humour. His parleying with a puppet is very droll and fresh, and the voice of the cheeky boy proceeding from under the table is admirably simulated. Mr. Gillin keeps his audience amused throughout, and loud applause is justly bestowed on him. The Loves are two clever boy and girl duettists, who sing well and do a skipping-rope dance with admirable precision. Mr. Harry Freeman exhilarates the audience with his songs "Not me" and "Share it among the lot"; and another trusted favourite is seen in Miss Lottie Lennox, who gains the ungrudging assistance of the audience in her choruses. An eccentric method recommends the effusion of Mr. E. W. Selman to favour; and the programme is also contributed to by Mr. Rossi Ashton in a song-sketching act; Miss Kate Walters, the fisher-girl; and the Boisset (Frank and Albert) Troupe in *The Bricklayers*. Mr. P. A. Lennon, the manager, thoroughly maintains his reputation for courtesy and business-like methods; and Mr. Leon A. Bassett's orchestra responds loyally to his beat.

The birthday of Stylo, the juggler, and that of his wife (Miss Beatrice Bourne) happens to be on the same date—the 28th inst—and, strange to say, they are of the same age.

MR. T. C. CALLAGHAN.

Mr. T. C. Callaghan, a popular comedian, is a gem from the Emerald Isle, having been born in the county of Mayo. Early in life he migrated to Birmingham, where for a few years he worked as house painter and decorator. His first appearance was as a clog dancer in a ghost show called Morris's Ethescope, three shows a night and six and seven on a Saturday, for the large salary of seventeen and sixpence a week. With this show he came to London, and pitched on some vacant land behind Park House, where now stands Charrington's Tabernacle; from here they went to the Berners Hall, which is a part of the Agricultural Hall. After eight weeks there they moved into St. Mary's Hall (now the Islington Empire), as the Berners Hall was not large enough for the big business they did. After that they visited Aldershot, and put in a season of seven months at the Alexandra Theatre. This should have been followed by a season at Croydon, but on the

Photo by Simmons.

MR. T. C. CALLAGHAN.

Sunday previous to their opening on the Monday the booth was destroyed by a gale, being literally blown to pieces.

After that Mr. Callaghan joined Dr. Lynn, the celebrated humourist and conjurer, and with Lim he stayed nearly four years at the Egyptian Hall. When the Doctor decided to go touring through India Mr. Callaghan made up his mind to try the music halls, and made his first appearance at the Rodney's Head, Mile End Road, at which hall a good many now well-known music-hall artists made their débuts. He was rather successful at this hall, as clog dancing was in great demand then, and he was pretty good with the clogs. The late George Harwood saw him at the Rodney's Head, and engaged him for the Varieties, Hoxton. Then Harry Hart gave him a six weeks' engagement at the Old Raglan, in Theobald's-road. Since that date he has appeared at almost every hall of note in the United Kingdom. It was while performing at Gatti's (Arches) that T. P. Hudson (Hudson's Surprise Party) saw Mr. Callaghan and his wife (Florrie St. Clair) do their turns, and he was so satisfied with them that he at once engaged them, through Will Oliver, for a twelve months' tour through India, which reminds Mr. Callaghan of many pleasant days and grand sights too numerous to mention here. He was the first to do Irish songs and dances à la Ashcroft, and thus made a palpable hit.

After India he made up his mind to try Australia. He got an engagement with Frank Clark at the Gaiety, Melbourne, for a month, and stayed a year. It was here he first introduced the boy singing in the gallery, a novelty which was soon copied in this country to an alarming extent. He was next engaged by Frank Smith, of the Alhambra, Sydney, for three months, and stayed nine, and subsequently returned for another six months; then he joined Mr. Hudson again for a tour through Queensland and Tasmania. After finishing with Mr. Hudson Mr. Callaghan joined Percy St. John's pantomime company, playing principal dame parts; he played six weeks in Brisbane, then toured South Australia and New Zealand. Then he returned to Sydney to fulfil engagements with Mr. Harry Rickards.

While engaged with Mr. Rickards at the Melbourne Opera House he observed a little incident which he thinks worthy of recounting. Mr. Will Whitman, the great comedian and end man, used to sing a parody on a well-known ballad, and at the conclusion a dog used to go on and push him off. One night his wife was standing in the wings with the dog when a lady artist went on to sing the self-same parodied ballad, but immediately she began the dog rushed on the stage and commenced to push her off. The laughter that followed may be imagined.

About eight years ago Mr. Callaghan returned to old England, and opened at the Empire, Bristol, under Mr. Adney Payne's management. Since then he has done six Moss and Thornton's tours, and begins the tour again after Christmas. He has been to Johannesburg three times with Mr. Sydney Hyman, from whom he received a flattering testimonial.

Mr. Callaghan was one of the principal judges when the late Dan Leno won the clog-dancing championship of the world; also one of the judges, with Dan Leno and Eugene Stratton, when Minnie Ray and Bella Perman danced for the ladies' championship at the London Pavilion. It may be added that Joe Elvin was a great friend to Mr. Callaghan, while the latter was in Australia, and always kept him well supplied with all the latest successful London songs.

Miss Gwennie Hasto, the charming dancer, is suffering from loss of voice and laryngitis, and has been compelled to rest by doctor's orders.

"Cash" is a comprehensive term for money in this country. In China, the word "cash" signifies the amount of smallest value issued in the Celestial Empire. It is a quaint piece of money, having a square hole punched through the middle. This is to enable the people to run a string through a large number of coins and to keep them secure. They are of bronze, and the mint authorities, each time a consignment is manufactured, before destroying the die, make one coin of silver. This is balloted for, and he who gets it is a very fortunate individual, for it is supposed to be a talisman against ill-luck, even as the old-time English lucky penny was. Chung Ling Soo has in his possession a number of these coins, and, to signalise his third visit to the Empire, Hackney, his little four-year-old daughter, Bamboo Flower, will give one of these Chinese silver lucky pennies away to the first person who each day books a seat for the circle. Soo says, "If I had my way, I would give every member of the audience one, but there are not that number in existence." Competition to secure one of these unique coins should be keen amongst patrons of the Empire week.

THE EMPRESS.

All manner of sketches—farcical, operatic, and melodramatic—are contained in Mr. Nelson Francis's bill this week at the Empress, where large audiences are being nightly entertained. In the first category must be placed a new comedietta in one scene by Eric Albury, produced on Monday, entitled

"JUST IN TIME."

Cecil Fairfax ..... Mr. Eric Albury
Arthur Weston ..... Mr. Herbert C. Walton
Mrs. Chamberlet ..... Miss Naomi Hope-Scarth
Susan ..... Miss Alice Howard
Policeman XY 4 ..... Mr. Chas. Huntley

Comic incidents are numerous in the little piece, in which two impecunious young men share the comforts of a combined room, for which the rent is overdue. They fancy a "12 to 1 chance" for the day's race, but have not the wherewithal to back it, until an opportunity presents itself in the silver teapot which has come up with the breakfast. One of the young men hurries off with it to the pawnshop, leaving the other to face the revilings of the landlady, who misses her property and sends for the police. Fortunately, at this moment, the friend, who with marvellous celerity has pawned the teapot, backed the "cert.," drawn the winnings, and redeemed the utensil, returns just in time to place the article unobserved on the table, and save his companion from disaster. Mr. Eric Albury as a young man in pyjamas and an eyeglass keeps the merriment well alive throughout, and Mr. Herbert C. Walton gives a droll rendering of the brother in distress. Funny conceptions are provided by Miss Naomi Hope-Scarth, who makes a good deal out of her part as the landlady, and by Mr. Charles Huntley, who is a jovial policeman, a "slavey" being typically portrayed by Miss Alice Howard.

An operatic turn is given to the entertainment by Messrs. Lempriere Pringle and J. C. Piddock's company, in the musical episode, *The Romany King*, written by E. C. Matthews, and composed by Clement Locknane. The scene is a gipsy encampment, and the harmony is begun by Mr. Morgan Williams, who, as Reuben, a Romany "kinchin," displays a pleasing tenor in a joyous ballad. Mr. Pringle himself has the part of the Gipsy King, and asserts his right to the title in an inspiriting number, which fully displays his rich baritone. The King is about to wed Cynthia, one of the tribe, but there is a Castilian Count who tries to lure her from him. The result is a duel with daggers, in which the Count is disarmed and at the mercy of his opponent, who, however, lets him off, and the interesting excerpt ends with a quartet, in which tuneful aid is given by Miss Mary Powell as the charming Cynthia, and by Mr. Piddock as the baleful Count.

The element of the dramatic is furnished by Mr. Fred Maxwell and company in the powerful sketch, *Dick Dare, M.P.*, which has already served the popular actor so successfully. Mr. Maxwell's impersonation of the chivalrous M.P. is a thrilling one, and his vigorous acting and spirited delivery make an irresistible appeal to the house, from which constant cheers are elicited. The dual part of the twin sisters is undertaken with sweetness and grace by Miss Louise Biddulph, who imparts not a little dramatic strength into the impersonations. Mr. Charles Levey creates a marked impression as the scheming Rafael Valois; and Mr. Sam Harcourt as Lord Savage and Mr. Wm. Clare as Sir Edward Vernon supply the comedy relief. The playlet is elaborately mounted and proves enthralling to a degree.

Prominent in popularity is Mr. Alec Hurley, who at Brixton is seen in two new impersonations, in which his versatile talents are vividly reflected. A well-written song, with the refrain, "Come along, my little 'Liza," presents the coster in the attitude of a lover bidding his "donah" elope. The song has a fascinating lilt, and, sung in Mr. Hurley's skilfully-modulated tones, quite entrances the house by its tunefulness as well as its fantastic fun. Humour is also contained in greater proportion in Mr. Hurley's impersonation of an individual who "ain't no one in particular," and obstinately refuses to divulge his identity. The song is so well sung and acted that the audience is kept on the *qui vive* of amused expectation up to the very last word, and the favourite comedian can only escape after many curtain-calls. Valazzi does wonders in the juggling line, in which a heavy cannon-ball figures; but the missile is put to still more startling uses when he performs what is described as "sloping the slope," by walking the metal spheroid up and down a steeply-inclined board, a feat which gains ringing plaudits.

A novel musical act is supplied by Diamond and Beatrice, the first-named playing a harp, which he carries bodily, at the same time doing a step dance, the lady afterwards playing skilfully on the clarionet. Miss Margaret Ismay and her White Coons sing songs and give clever dances, of which the Indian scena, *Kickapoo*, is an agreeable feature; the Gotham Quartet revive the best features of their entertainment, in which melody and mirth are so agreeably mingled; Effie Stuart, a juvenile Scotch comedienne, does a pretty skipping-rope dance; and others who contribute to the programme are the Llewelyns, in operatic duets; the Mayvilles, the Liliputian novelty artists; Jean Rae, eccentric; the Pitrescu Brothers, in a musical act; Mr. Jack Dawe, comedian; and Ruffell's up-to-date pictures.

THE GRANVILLE.

At the Granville this week Mr. Tom Costello is the bright particular star, and he contributes a turn replete with artistic and entertaining items. His new patriotic song concerning the proposed reduction in the Navy and the still, small voice of Nelson's spirit whispering words of warning to John Bull against leaving unguarded our sea-girt isle, will appeal to all lovers of their country. It has a catchy and tuneful refrain, in which audiences speedily take part. In his most popular scena, *The Poor Old Clown*, he especially scores with a fine character-part, and quite pathetic is the scene where he practises his old tricks on a real "Bobbie" in the street. His new burlesque, *The Suffagettes*, is in lighter vein, and his accessories in the shape of Snuffy Amy and Tow-haired Sarah ably assist in the fun-making.

Mr. R. A. Beaton and company present a capital farcical sketch, by Roy Redgrave, entitled

"POOR PHIL GARLIC."

Major Garlic ..... Mr. R. A. Beaton
Lieut. Phil Garlic ... } Mr. Edwin Fergusson
Lieut. Jack Chanter } Mr. Edwin Fergusson
Ben Buggins ..... Mr. Albert Spencer
Boots ..... Mr. Ernest Cole
Nance Garlic ..... Miss Bessie Beaton
Sarah Chanter ..... Miss Gertrude Rosalind

Lieut. Phil Garlic is supposed to have been slain in the Boer War, but was really only wounded. His wife and child, of whose existence his father was unaware, come and plant themselves on Major Garlic, his father. Lieut. Jack Chanter, who has conceived the idea of passing himself off as Phil, and to that end has changed clothes and papers with him, also arrives with Ben Buggins, his wife's brother, to acquaint Major Garlic of his escape from death. Shortly after Sarah arrives on the scene with her child, and is followed by the real Phil Garlic. Here is an imbroglio which, being cleverly and comically worked out, it can be left to the imagination of the reader to conceive the laughter it provokes. Specially good are Mr. R. A. Beaton as the distraught Major and Miss Gertrude Rosalind as Sarah, Jack Chanter's hysterical wife.

Gillin, the unique ventriloquial humorist, supplies a very good turn, and the way in which his figure shows its teeth and grins after scoring off him is alone worth seeing. His patter is clever and original, and never vulgar. Charles Dare's Minstrels take one back to the palmy days of Moore and Burgess's Ethiopians, from whom his troupe is recruited, their methods being identical with those of the celebrated occupants of the platform at the late St. James's Hall. Their songs—comic and serious—and the jokes which are interlarded find great favour, being clever and well delivered. Little Agnes Tina is a marvel as a child mimic, and her imitation of Marie Lloyd is quite equal to that of many a renowned adult. Lottie Lennox is a great favourite down Walham Green way, and her ditties about the inconsolable "grass-widow" who had to take her old man's trousers out of pawn to remind her of her sailor-husband, and, again, in the reverse of the medal—the sailor absentee who wrote home for news of the old homestead—she is immensely popular. Lee and Kingston cause much fun by their latest successful impersonation of the difficult courtship and the humours of its exposition; Alice Maydue causes considerable laughter by her skit on the methods of melodrama; the Three Cape Girls prove their great agility as dancers; Harry Maynard is heard to advantage both as an advocate of man's rights and in a more serious and sentimental ballad of the rich and the poor man; Vernon's Bioscope with new pictures—"A river trip in France," "The Yawner," and "Puck teasing a suburbanite"—is, as usual, well to the fore; Hughes and Elliott (singers and dancers), Cissie Hare in "Only a waif," the Mayvilles (lilliputian artists), Arthur Croxon in his one-man village concert, and Alice B. Raymond and John Kurkamp in their musical speciality act complete the programme.

THE PALACE, STOKE NEWINGTON.

The principal item in the programme at the Palace, Stoke Newington, this week is the engagement of Dr. Walford Bodie, who is giving his amazing electrical exhibition, and drawing crowded houses nightly to witness it. Dr. Bodie has acquired an enviable reputation in London, and his performance has lost none of its power to attract large audiences. The engagement is ample evidence of Mr. Albert Gilmer's desire to place the best that is obtainable before his patrons, and Dr. Bodie's experiments in the treatment of paralysis have evoked the customary display of enthusiasm. The variety portion of the programme is marked by excellent contrast. A most amusing sketch, entitled *Binks' Blunder*, is provided by Mr. Harry Russell and company, and is played to shrieks of laughter from start to finish. There is not a dull moment in it, the plot taking some fresh turn when least expected, and maintaining the interest to the end. Played, too, for all it is worth by the lady and gentlemen who appear in it, its popularity is no matter for surprise. The Sisters Love contribute a taking duet with an ear-haunting melody, "I want no other little boy but you," and the dance with which they conclude evokes much enthusiasm. The child stories of Mr. Sam Spira cause much amusement. Mr. Spira handles the piano so skilfully that he leaves his audience craving for a longer exhibition of his talent in this direction. The trick bicycle riding of Lincoln and Warren is neatly and cleverly executed, and that their performance is entirely to the liking of those witnessing it is proved by their enthusiastic reception. The smart patter and energetic dancing of the Sages add not a little to the enjoyment of the performance, and theirs is among the brightest and most attractive of many bright and attractive items. Miss Blanch Juliet, Mr. Julian Ross, Enid and Ediss all do good work, and the Palace Pictures retain the popularity they have enjoyed since the opening of the hall. More than a word of praise is due to the orchestra, which is under the experienced direction of Mr. Norfolk Megone, while the comfort of those in front is looked after by Mr. T. J. Robinson with all his customary care and consideration.

GRAND, CLAPHAM.

The Russian Lion is rampant this week at Clapham Junction, the residents of which thriving suburb have flocked to witness the prowess of Hackenschmidt in his "catch-as-catch-can" contests. At each performance a challenge is issued from the stage, the terms of which provide that £10 will be paid to any British wrestler whom Hackenschmidt fails to throw in ten minutes, and £25 to any opponent similarly qualified whom he is unable to overcome in fifteen minutes, while £100 lies in wait for any British athlete who can vanquish the Russian in fifty minutes. A local champion essayed to gain the first-named award on the evening of our visit, but he held out for less than half the time. A bout with a gentleman not inappropriately named John Strong proved more protracted, but the contest was finished in five minutes. Hackenschmidt seems just now to be in the best of trim, and his lithe and active movements are watched with breathless interest, his manner of "getting to grips" being especially admired.

A big line on the bill is devoted to Cora Williams and company, who present a musical mélange, entitled *Willie off the Yacht*. The individual alluded to in the title is a blithe young man, who leaves his yacht to enjoy the society of two charming young ladies. For their pleasure, as well as that of the audience, he sings a number of songs, the most effective being "For ever in my dreams," in which his fine baritone is exercised with inspiriting effect. Nor are the ladies backward in vocal accomplishments, one of them appearing as a "lady from the moon" and singing a descriptive song agreeable to the theme. The other young lady, besides joining in the choruses, is responsible for a hornpipe, an impersonation of a Gibson Girl, and for many droll expressions of indignation when she learns that Willie's choice is in favour of her companion. The trifle is very well played, and gets a thoroughly gratifying reception. A comedy sketch is also supplied by Paul Kaye and company in *The Knight of the Garter*, which tells of the infatuation of a foppish youth for an actress who loses an article of attire, and in which a travesty of a "Johnnie" stands out prominently.

The banjo is manipulated in novel fashion by Mr. Ben Jackson, who, after a number of choice morceaux, shows how it is possible to play the instrument with one hand and do some clever card-palming with the other. His strumming of the banjo in all sorts of positions, selected more for their inconvenience than as an aid to melodious expression, forms an amusing feature of Mr. Jackson's entertainment which is greatly enjoyed. Lecarsha exhibits considerable deftness in conjuring with cards, doing the trick of reducing the size of a pack very neatly. An illusion with a tea-caddy is also skilfully done, and the performer gets on excellent terms with his audience. Miss Ida Brophy is a petite comedienne with a prepossessing manner, a good voice, and a decided talent for dancing, Her singing of a song with the refrain "I wish I were you" appeals tunefully to the ear, and her dancing possesses the elements of novelty as well as of neatness. Miss Brophy makes a decided hit, and the audience were enthusiastic in their demands for an encore. Another comedienne with terpsichorean abilities is found in Miss Agnes Hanson, who supplements her song of the love-story of "Harry and Carrie" with a dance in which some remarkable high-kicking is done. Mr. George Lill, a comedian of eccentric methods, gets a hearty laugh for every verse of "I couldn't resist the temptation"; and similar results are accorded his parody of the familiar nursery rhyme, "Sing a song of sixpence," which deals with a variety of subjects. The Pasquali Brothers, equilibrists, are also contained in the diversified programme, of which the Bioscope is a greatly-interesting feature. Mr. H. Keteman is still in command of the Grand Hall, and his efforts to secure the comfort of the patrons remain unrelaxed.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

FAIRS, FEASTS, AND WAKES IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND WALES, FOR MARCH.

ENGLAND.

Mar. 1. Downham (2,500)
Mar. 2. Oswestry (9,600)
Mar. 2. St. Buryan's (1,300)
Mar. 2. Wisbeach (9,426)
Mar. 4. Dudley (49,000)
Mar. 5. Bury (60,000)
Mar. 6. Belford (1,600)
Mar. 7. Blandford (3,600)
Mar. 7. Hingham
Mar. 7. Camborne (8,200) (1,600)
Mar. 7. Maiden Newton (700)
Mar. 9. Odiham (3,200)
Mar. 11. Stamford (8,200)
Mar. 12. Stockport (70,600)
Mar. 14. Wadebridge (2,300)
Mar. 16. Alston (Cumbs.) (3,300)
Mar. 18. Grantham (17,600)
Mar. 19. Upper Ottery (700)
Mar. 19. Wootton-under-Edge (2,200)
Mar. 21. Okehampton (2,600)
Mar. 22. Caistor (Lincs.) (2,000)
Mar. 22. Pendlebury (13,672)
Mar. 22. Retford (4,200)
Mar. 23. Malton (4,800)
Mar. 23. Pickering (3,500)
Mar. 23. Pontefract (13,400)
Mar. 23. Woburn (2,400)
Mar. 25. Clitheroe (11,400)
Mar. 25. Gomersall Feast
Mar. 25. Henley-in-Arden (1,000)
Mar. 25. Leigh (Dorset) (400)
Mar. 26. Durham (15,000)
Mar. 26. Ottery St. Mary (3,500)
Mar. 27. Bridgnorth (6,000)
Mar. 28. Norwich (111,700)
Mar. 28. Stamfordham (900)
Mar. 29. Bacup (22,500)
Mar. 29. Doncaster (29,000)
Mar. 29. Haslingden (18,600)
Mar. 29. Padiham (12,200)
Mar. 29. Todmorden (25,400)
Mar. 30. Bakewell (3,500)
Mar. 30. Bilston (24,000)
Mar. 30. Birkenhead (111,000)
Mar. 30. Blackburn (127,527)
Mar. 30. Blackheath (21,000)
Mar. 30. Clevedon (6,000)
Mar. 30. Colne (25,000)
Mar. 30. Deptford (110,000)
Mar. 30. Exeter (47,000)
Mar. 30. Gainsborough (17,700)
Mar. 30. Garston (17,300)
Mar. 30. Godmanchester (2,000)
Mar. 30. Great Grimsby (63,006)
Mar. 30. Halesowen (9,000)
Mar. 30. Hendon (Welsh Harp) (17,000)
Mar. 30. Hinckley (11,300)
Mar. 30. Hockham (600)
Mar. 30. Holmfirth (9,000)
Mar. 30. Jarrow-on-Tyne (31,300)
Mar. 30. Lindfield (2,300)
Mar. 30. Malvern (16,000)
Mar. 30. Middlesbrough (91,300)
Mar. 30. Midsomer Norton (6,000)
Mar. 30. Morecambe (12,000)
Mar. 30. New Brighton (10,000)
Mar. 30. Newcastle-on-Tyne (214,803)
Mar. 30. Newmarket (10,700)
Mar. 30. Northampton (87,000)
Mar. 30. North Shields (50,000)
Mar. 30. Northwich (17,600)
Mar. 30. Plymouth (107,509)
Mar. 30. Portsmouth (189,000)
Mar. 30. Richmond (Surrey) (31,000)
Mar. 30. Rothwell Feast (6,211)
Mar. 30. Rushden (12,500)
Mar. 30. Ryde (Isle of Wight) (11,000)
Mar. 30. Salford (Trinity Market Ground) (221,000)
Mar. 30. Selby (8,000)
Mar. 30. Shipley Glen Feast
Mar. 30. Southport (48,400)
Mar. 30. South Shields (97,300)
Mar. 30. Stafford (20,275)
Mar. 30. Stourbridge (16,000)
Mar. 30. Thornaby (16,000)
Mar. 30. Tunbridge Wells (33,400)
Mar. 30. Tring (1,400)
Mar. 30. Wanstead Flats (9,200)
Mar. 30. Worthen (11,000)

SCOTLAND.

Mar. 2. Roxburgh (958)
Mar. 5. Jedburgh (2,222)
Mar. 11. Haddington (3,992)
Mar. 20. Dumfries (18,680)
Mar. 30. Dunfermline (1,742)

WALES.

Mar. 2. Brecon (6,000)
Mar. 8. Menai Bridge (1,800)
Mar. 15. Penmorfa (1,466)
Mar. 18. Cowbridge (1,000)
Mar. 19. Corwen (6,000)
Mar. 29. Holyhead (9,726)
Mar. 30. Cardiff (164,000)
Mar. 30. Maescwmmer (800)
Mar. 30. Menai Bridge (1,800)
Mar. 30. Merthyr Tydfil (26,500)
Mar. 30. Neath (14,000)
Mar. 30. Newport (Monmouth) (67,000)
Mar. 30. Pontypridd (23,000)
Mar. 30. Towyn (3,500)
Mar. 30. Tredegar (18,000)

THE fair at Lynn Mart this year presents many new and attractive features, and Mr. W. H. Wright Market Inspector, is to be congratulated on the admirable arrangements of the ground.

THE great novelty of this year's fair is the magnificent new motor-car machine—the very latest thing in motors—turned out by Messrs. Savage Bros., Ltd, the well-known roundabout makers of Lynn.

THIS machine presents a whirling maze of light and colour, with an interior roof (revolving), and lit up with powerful electric lamps. The motor-track is built larger than usual, and the entrance-ways more commodious. The music is supplied by one of Marenghie et Cie's latest masterpieces, and the decorations and artistic fittings are of the most rich and chaste character. Messrs. Relph and Pedley are the proprietors, and we anticipate that the latest new thing in motor-car machines with the Relph and Pedley enterprise behind it will have a big season of success.

THERE are two other sets of motor-cars at Lynn, each perfect of its kind. We refer to the high-class machines of G. T. Tuby and Sons and Ben Howden and Son (G. Asplands). G. T. Tuby and Sons also exhibit a capital composite set of horses and cockerels. Other special features of the fair are two gliding towers, P. Collins's helter-skelter, and J. Holdsworth's Alpine glissade. There are juvenile motors by Holmes and park swings by W. Thompson and W. Cheeseman.

THE main positions on the fair-ground are occupied by three cinematograph theatres—E. Farrar's, J. Proctor's, and Messrs. Tuby and Sons' well-known concerns. Each of these splendid shows exhibited special ranges of up-to-date films, and were patronised in turn by delighted audiences.

BRAHAM'S trained birds and the charming lady conjuror, Miss Braham, in her pleasing interlude of magic and mystery, gave their usual performances to appreciative crowds; and Laing's picture gallery did good business. The shooting-ranges and bottle-batteries, always a big feature of this fair, were supplied by Messrs. H. Westrop (2), W. Westrop, F. Cooper (2), G. Holmes, W. Forster, H. Parkins, Wm. Cheeseman, J. Holmes (2), and Sherratt; football-net frames by C. Summers, and coker-sheets and varieties by Holmes, and other caterers; bazaars by Bond, Whyatt, Cooper, Cheeseman, and local traders; pannum stalls by Messrs. Thompson and Suett. There were about seventy stalls of various traders—confectioners, jewellers, novelty and toy dealers, handsellers, and market traders.

IT was especially interesting to see the great Market Square and the many streets leading to it crowded with thousands of visitors all on pleasure bent. The first four or five days of the fair have been blessed with fine, though cold, seasonable weather, the railway companies, with their usual enterprise, ran many extra trains and cheap excursions, and the quiet town of Lynn was all alive with the eager, show-loving people from the countryside

THE first day of the fair witnessed the quaint local ceremony known as "Proclaiming the Mart." Owing to the unavoidable absence of the Mayor, the ex-Mayor (Alderman Dunn) declared the Mart open. The weather was very fine, and a large crowd of people attended the formal opening ceremony. As in past years a platform was erected opposite the Bank Chambers, in front of two sets of switchbacks, on which a large proportion of those present assembled. The Deputy-Mayor, who was attended by the sword and mace bearers, was supported on the platform by Messrs. S. S. Burlingham, C. H. Ayre, R. Green, W. R. Smith, F. J. Carpenter, G. Gemmell, L. Skinner, R. Taylor, C. W. Croad, F. J. Miles, W. O. Jones, H. M. Wilkin, E. J. Rolfe, J. W. Woolstencroft (town clerk), J. H. Webb (surveyor), C. T. Ives (magistrates' clerk), J. W. Shaw, W. G. Payne (chief constable), G. H. Anderson (borough accountant), H. Barrett, and J. Atkinson. Amongst the showmen present were Messrs. Tuby, Howden, Proctor, Pedley, Farrar, Geo. A. Howden, Holdsworth, Braham, Westrop, and Holmes.

THE Deputy-Mayor said:—"Fellow townsmen and strangers from afar. We have met together to-day to celebrate once more the very ancient institution of opening the King's Lynn Mart. Before I call upon the official to read that learned document, the proclamation, which is very ancient, let me say that we wish that those who have come from a long distance may enjoy good health, and I hope," he added, with characteristic humour, "that they have not brought the spotted fever with them. We wish them all very fine weather, we wish them all very good trade, and when they leave us we hope they will think no worse of us than they do to-day." The Town Crier then read the proclamation, after which the Deputy-Mayor said: "Just one word from the Mayor. He is unable to be present to-day, but he would like the visitors to know that there is ample accommodation for the children in the schools. He, being an earnest and religious man, would also like them to know that there is every provision made for them to worship on the Lord's Day. The Mayor's best wishes to you all."

THE Rev. T. Horne, Guild Chaplain (in fulfilment of a promise given to the vicar of Lynn last year) conducted Divine service on the Fair Sunday. Though primarily intended for show-people, the service was attended by a considerable number of friends. The choirs of St. Margaret's Church and St. Nicholas' Church, with the local clergy, walked in procession from their respective parishes and united forces on the show-front, making a most impressive sight. The service was held in Proctor's cinematograph show, kindly lent for the occasion. The showmen and their families attended in most gratifying numbers. The Guild service (sung throughout by the united choirs) was heartily taken up by the congregation. The Vicar of Lynn, assisted by the parish clergy, took the service, and the Rev. T. Horne (chaplain) preached. The showmen's service in a show booth has been the universal theme of conversation in Lynn during the week.

IT is, we understand, the intention of the chaplain to give similar services on the principal fair-grounds of the United Kingdom during the coming season.

PRESIDENT KEMP'S cinematograph exhibition, with its splendid organ, is present on the Darwen Market Ground.

A PUBLICATION which has just been issued by the Great Northern Railway Company should prove extremely useful to fanciers, agriculturists, horse and cattle dealers, and sportsmen. It takes the form of a handy booklet, and gives particulars of the principal dog and poultry shows, cattle and horse fairs, agricultural shows and racing fixtures to be held during 1907, in addition to a large amount of information as to rates, fares, &c. Copies of the book may be obtained gratis on application to any Great Northern station or office, or from the Chief Passenger Agent, King's Cross Station, London.

THE ORIGINAL TOM THUMB.

The numerous and confusing paragraphs concerning the interesting dwarf Garnsey, of Wellington, whose death we recorded last week, of necessity revived in the minds of old showmen many memories of the original and most famous of all dwarfs, "General Tom Thumb." We suppose that the confusion in the minds of the busy paragraphists arose from the somewhat misleading title "Field-Marshal Tom Thumb," assumed by Mr. Garnsey when he was before the public as a prodigy of nature.

P. T. Barnum, in "the story of his life," written by himself, says "that in November, 1842, I was at Bridgport, Connecticut, where I heard of a remarkably small child, and at my request my brother, Philo F. Barnum, brought him to the hotel. He was not two feet high; he weighed less than sixteen pounds, and was the smallest child I ever saw that could walk alone. He was a perfectly-formed bright-eyed little fellow, with light hair and ruddy cheeks, and he enjoyed the best of health. He was exceedingly bashful, but after some coaxing he was induced to talk with me, and he told me that he was the son of Sherwood E. Stratton, and that his own name was Charles S. Stratton. After seeing him and talking with him, I at once determined to secure his services from his parents and exhibit him in public. I engaged him for four weeks at three dollars a week with all travelling and boarding charges for himself and his mother at my expense. They came to New York on Thanksgiving Day, Dec. 8, 1842, and I announced the dwarf on my museum-bill as 'General Tom Thumb.'"

That was the introduction to the world of this famous midget, and the story of his after-success in America and through Europe is set out in several interesting chapters in the story of Barnum's life and enterprise.

The success of the little General in Liverpool and afterwards in London was instantaneous and complete, but it must never be forgotten that the success was as much due to the daring and original showman, Barnum, as to the talent and charm of the little man. Barnum's biggest hit in London during his successful season with the General at the Egyptian Hall was when he was able to close the door of the hall, and exhibit the announcement, "Closed this evening, General Tom Thumb being at Buckingham Palace by command of Her Majesty."

One of the best stories of the ability of the little General was concerned with this visit to Royalty. Barnum thus details it—"Surprise and pleasure were depicted on the countenances of the Royal circle at beholding this remarkable specimen of humanity so much smaller than they had evidently expected to find him. The General advanced with a firm step; as he came within hailing distance he made a very graceful bow, and exclaimed 'Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.' A burst of laughter followed this salutation. The Queen then took him by the hand, led him about the gallery, and asked him many questions, the answers to which kept the party in an uninterrupted strain of merriment. The General familiarly informed the Queen that her picture-gallery was first-rate, and told her that he should like to see the Prince of Wales. The Queen replied that the Prince had retired to rest, but that he should see him on some future occasion. The General then gave his songs, dances, and imitations, and after a conversation with Prince Albert and all present, which continued for more than an hour, we were permitted to depart."

The funniest incident of this visit was occasioned by the little General's reading of the instructions given him by the Lord-in-Waiting as to "backing" out of the Royal presence. Barnum, who had been duly instructed as to the etiquette of leaving the Royal presence, exhibited the greatest aptitude in the somewhat awkward movement. The little General, however, not wishing to be outdone by Barnum, when he was losing ground turned immediately and ran a few steps until he was level with Barnum, and then with all solemnity and ceremony resumed the process of "backing" out, and so continued to alternate his methods of reaching the door of the gallery, and so making his exit from the Royal presence. These tactics of retreat provoked the greatest possible merriment from the Royal spectators.

Upon another visit to Buckingham Palace, Queen Victoria kept her promise, and introduced him to the Prince of Wales. "General," said the Queen, "this is the Prince of Wales." "How are you, Prince?" said the General; and then, standing by the Prince, he added, "The Prince is taller than I am, but I feel as big as anybody," upon which observation he strutted up and down the room as proud as a peacock amidst shouts of laughter from all present.

A most interesting chapter in Barnum's book is concerned with the courtship of General Tom Thumb and Lavinia Warren, the charming little woman who became Mrs. Tom Thumb. It appears that when Miss Warren was on exhibition at Barnum's museum, the General was taking a "vacation" at his country house, and, like most other professionals, whenever he visited New York he must call upon Barnum at the museum, and there it was he met his fate—the charming Miss Warren. Speaking to Mr. Barnum, he said, "She is the most charming little lady I ever saw, and I believe she was created on purpose to be my wife. Now," he continued, "you have always been a friend of mine, and I want you to say a good word for me. I have got plenty of money, and I want to marry and settle down in life, and I really feel as if I must marry that young lady." Barnum could not repress his little joke, and said "Lavinia is engaged already." "To whom, Commodore Nutt?" "No, General, to me," Barnum replied. "Never mind," said Tom Thumb, laughing, "you can exhibit her for a while, and then give up the engagement; but I do hope you will favour my suit with her." Realising the little man's earnestness, Barnum, who had always stood his friend, said, "I will not oppose you in your suit, but you must do your own courting. I tell you, however, that the Commodore will be jealous of you; and, more than that, Miss Warren is nobody's fool, and that you will have to proceed very cautiously if you can succeed in winning her affections."

How cautiously and well Tom Thumb did proceed is shown in the fact that he won Miss Warren for his wife, although he had a most formidable rival in Commodore Nutt, then on exhibition with the charming Lavinia at Barnum's museum.

And to finish this eventful story—the little man sought Mr. Barnum's help to break the news gently to the defeated Commodore. "Mr. Barnum," he said, "I want somebody to tell the Commodore that Lavinia and I are engaged, for I am afraid there will be a row when he hears of it." "Do it yourself, General," Barnum replied. "Oh," said the General, with a shudder, "I would not dare to do it, he might knock me down." Then it was that the intrepid Lavinia came to the rescue and said "I will do it." The bold Commodore got over his defeat, and officiated at the marriage as the General's best-man.

MR. ARTHUR MARTIN resumes duty on Monday next as advance manager for Lord John Sanger and Sons, Ltd., this making his fourteenth consecutive season with the popular Sanger family.

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The Rest at the Fountain.
Arrival in Egypt.
The Holy Family at Nazareth.
The Carpenter's Shop at Nazareth.
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PUBLIC LIFE.

Christ is Baptised.
The Wedding Feast.
Mary at the feet of Jesus.
The Woman of Samaria.
The Daughter of Jairus.
Christ walks upon the Waters.
Lazarus raised from the Dead.
The Transfiguration.

THE DEATH AND PASSION.

Entering Jerusalem.
Jesus in the Temple.
The Last Supper.
The Mount of Olives.
Jesus before Caiaphas.
Peter denies Christ.
Jesus before Pilate.
Scourging and Crowning with Thorns.
Christ given to the People.
Bearing the Cross.
Calvary.
On the Cross.
Agony and Death.
Taking Christ from the Cross.
The Tomb.
The Resurrection.
The Ascension.
Tableau.

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SHOWMEN'S MEETING AT KING'S LYNN.

The annual meeting of the United Kingdom Showmen and Van-dwellers' Protection Association (the Showmen's Guild) took place in the Assembly Room, the Town Hall, Lynn, on Wednesday, Feb. 20. The Mayor (Councillor Rose) presided, and was supported by the Vicar of Lynn, the Rev. Gordon Roe, Aldermen Miles and Dunn, Councillor Skinner, Mr. Wm. Savage, and other local gentlemen.

The showmen present included Wm. Mitchell, John Whiting, George Kemp, Ben Mitchell, H. R. Hibbert, John Green, R. Chipperfield, J. Chipperfield, Henry Studt, Jacob Studt, S. Braham, J. Proctor, Tom Harniess, H. J. Wallis, Ben Howden, Alf. Ball, Wm. Holmes, J. George, and others. Amongst the agents and trades present were Messrs. Wm. Kemp, L.N.W.R., H. G. Bloxham, J Brown, S. Sconce, and Denby.

The Mayor, in opening the proceedings, said that, in the name of the Corporation, he welcomed the showmen to Lynn. He had a vivid memory of Lynn Mart nearly half a century ago. The contrast between things as they were then and as they exist to-day was indeed great. He well remembered the ancient idea of roundabouts—the hobby-horses. He had as a child helped to push the platform round that contained the weird, carved images supposed to be horses and to drive round the more fortunate children who had pennies to purchase a ride; or, when more fortunate than his schoolmates, he himself bestrode a hobby and was driven round by his companions of those days. These were pleasant memories, and they made him very tender towards and tolerant of the Mart as an old institution of Lynn. Compare the small beginnings of his early years with the grand roundabout machines on the Mart to-day and the improvement was tremendous. He further instanced the vast progress in the shows. When he was a boy a famous show—that Lynn people thought marvellous—was Clapton's Mechanical Exhibition. So great had been the advance in shows that a show like Clapton's would have little chance alongside the magnificent concerns that came to the Mart in these days. (Applause.) He had read, with great pleasure, the Rev. T. Horne's interesting article, "British Shows and Showmen." He found in that article full justification for the aims and work of the Showmen's Guild, and he wished the Society all possible success. Showmen might rest assured that all the Corporation of Lynn could do would be done to further their work of supplying good and wholesome amusement for the people. (Cheers.)

Mr. T. Watson Wright, Guild solicitor, then delivered a trenchant address on the legal and Parliamentary work of the Guild. When, in the year 1889, they began their trade-protection work they only knew of one or two dangers at the most threatening them and their business. They would never forget the war of calumny and of prejudice they had to meet and fight nearly twenty years ago, centred in and waged around the Movable Dwellings Bill of the late George Smith. That Bill was not allowed to become law. Public opinion, aroused by the work of their Society, would not tolerate the proposed invasion of the civil liberties of showmen, whose business was as right and as lawful as any other class of traders in the Empire. (Applause.) After defeating the iniquitous Movable Dwellings Bill, they were compelled to improve their organisation and to oppose restrictive bye-laws, and then further to extend their work by Parliamentary opposition to Private Bills containing additional power clauses against them and their business. He referred at length to the sixty Private Bills that the Executive Committee had opposed and successfully dealt with during their six or seven years of Parliamentary work. He instanced the great concession won for showmen from the important County Council of Middlesex, and he showed how far-reaching and how beneficial such a victory would be. Coming down to the present year, he pointed out that only two Bills were before the Houses of Parliament that in any way touched their interests—Bills promoted by the local authorities at Rawtenstall (Lancashire) and Penrith. The committee had opened negotiations with both these Corporations. Penrith had met them in a fair and reasonable spirit, and they had come to a friendly understanding with Penrith. (Applause.) With regard to Rawtenstall, they had failed to secure just rights by friendly negotiations, and they were now opposing that Corporation by petition against their Bill. He was fully convinced that only by the continued and strenuous work of their Society could showmen be secured in their business in life and the large capital sunk in it protected. (Great applause.)

At this point the Mayor, owing to a prior engagement, had to leave the meeting, and his place in the chair was kindly taken by Alderman Miles.

Before calling upon the next speaker, Alderman Miles said that he wished to endorse all the kindly words of welcome used by the Mayor, and to add to that his own appreciation of the way in which the showmen carried on their enterprises at the Mart. Like the Mayor, he was a man of Lynn—in fact, he was a product of the Mart, having been born on the Fair day—a "Valentine." All his life he had felt a warm interest in the shows and other entertainments of the Mart, and he had, during the two terms of his office as Mayor of Lynn, attended their meetings when they were held in the Corn Exchange. He would ask the Rev. T. Horne, Chaplain, to address the meeting. (Applause.)

The Hon. Chaplain said that he would not travel over the ground so well and so fully covered by the Guild solicitor and his colleague (Mr. Watson Wright). He would rather, for the purpose he had before him, confine his remarks to the public part of their necessary and important work. Less than ten years ago it was thought a remarkable thing for a parson to identify his life and his work with travelling show-folk. It has ceased to be extraordinary when we have twenty or thirty clergy in all parts of the country acting as hon. chaplains to the Guild and scores more interested in travelling show-people. Only last Sunday the clergy of the parish of Lynn had taken part with him in a showmen's service in a show-booth on the Mart. So quickly had public interest and public knowledge of them and their work grown. He ventured to maintain that the service in a show on the fair-ground was as devout, as reverent, and as helpful a service as could possibly be. Not only was this so as regards show-people, but it was also true of their Christian friends who came and joined in their fellowship of worship. (Applause.) Twelve or more years ago Lynn stood alone in its civic welcome of the travelling showman. Lynn was the only borough that, by its Mayor and Corporation, recognised the work and life of the people's amusement caterers. He assured the chairman that the good lead of King's Lynn had been followed by other important Corporations. Towns like Gloucester, Hull, and Rotherham had, like Lynn, welcomed the showmen, and their chief magistrates and civic dignitaries had testified in public meeting assembled their readiness to co-operate with the showmen to increase and to improve the open-air pleasures of the people. These things were no slight achievements to have secured in their past years of anxious and arduous struggle. Showmen were now recognised as having a right and proper place in the economy of the State. The hard strain and stress of modern industrial life required the relief and the absolute change and necessary recreation so admirably afforded by our national holidays, our fairs, feasts, and wakes. (Applause.) It was now admitted by all true students of human life that cessation from toil—good and necessary as it is—is not enough. There must be amusement as well as rest. The powers of mind, neglected by the pressure upon and overwork of other faculties, needed to be exercised and drawn out. Unless our people are to be allowed to sink, or are driven into, the state of mind that borders dangerously on the insane, there must be times of rest and times of sensible play. Shows and showmen at all periods in our national life have provided such rational and necessary amusement. The showman of to-day is not only up-to-date, but, in many instances, a bit before his time. He sometimes introduces a novelty that fails to touch public imagination until the showman actually educates his patrons up to the show. (Cheers.) He mentioned, with pride, that here in Lynn it was like carrying coals to Newcastle to testify to the civic patronage and encouragement of the show and the showman. How far they had progressed was seen in the fact that great public bodies like the London County Council had expressed their desire to co-operate with the showmen to make the holiday fairs of the people in and around London all the better and brighter for the multitudes using the great open spaces under the Council's control at holiday times. This better spirit was being manifested all over the country, and it augured well for the continued well-being of their Society and its work. (Great applause.)

The Rev. Gordon Roe, Vicar of St. Margaret's, Lynn, said how glad he was to welcome the show-people once more to his parish, to gather their children into the parish schools, and in every way to minister to their necessity in the things of God. He had no fear for the success of the Guild so long as it had two such splendid champions as the solicitor and the chaplain. (Applause.) He had listened with peculiar pleasure to the two excellent addresses—the strong, fighting speech of the legal champion and the lucid and interesting speech of their chaplain. Both were admirable, and both had the power of putting the case for the showman before the general public in a way that carried conviction. Mr. Horne had referred to the service on the Mart on the previous Sunday. That service, attended as it was by a great number of show proprietors and their wives and families, had greatly gratified both himself and his people. Not only Mr. Horne's address in the show-booth in the afternoon, but his sermon in the Parish Church in the morning had much impressed them. He would be glad to welcome their chaplain another year. (Cheers.) He desired to thank Mr. John Proctor, proprietor of the show in which their Sunday service had been so well held. He concluded by wishing them every success and blessing in their work and life.

Letters of apology were read from Mr. John Wilmot, vice-president, Glasgow, prevented by illness, who sent his annual subscription of £5; and from Mr. Fred Bibby, of Manchester. It was also announced that the showmen on the Mart would give their annual benefit night to the Lynn charities.

On the motion of the Rev. T. Horne, votes of thanks were accorded to the Mayor, Alderman Miles, and the Vicar, and the meeting terminated.

LYNN MART.

The people of the Royal Borough of King's Lynn are justly proud of their annual fair, locally known as Lynn Mart. The Mart, or fair, can be traced back without any break to the days of King John, and it is one of the historic glories of this interesting Anglian town that the Mart has continued with undimmed glory through all the changes that have marked the chequered record of the ancient town. The proclamation of the Mart is quite a special feature of the fair, the Mayor, accompanied by the Town Clerk and other officials of the Corporation, and with them a goodly number of the Aldermen and Borough Councillors, formally opens the fair. In addition to the corporate body, King's Lynn boasts a number of special state functionaries; there are no less than four mace-bearers and the sword-bearer (an important functionary, for the sword in question was presented by King John to the town of Lynn after the signing of Magna Charta).

Surrounded by the members of the Corporation and the officials, the Mayor takes his place on the very spot formerly marked by the Market Cross, and addresses a few words of welcome to the showmen, and makes reference to the holding of the Mart to the whole body of listening townsmen. The Mayor then calls upon the Town Crier to read the ancient Charter—the very bond and seal of the corporate liberties of the people of Lynn.

The wording of this ancient document is as follows:—

"Oyez—oyez—oyez! Whereas, by Royal Charter and Prescription, the Corporation of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of King's Lynn, and their successors, are empowered to have and hold in perpetuity within the said Borough one Mart or Fair yearly, on the 14th day of February, and for six days thenceforth next and immediately following, with all the accustomed liberties and privileges thereto belonging and appertaining: Now the said Borough Corporate, acting by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Councilmen of the said Borough, do hereby by Proclamation of their Common Crier, publish and make known that the said Mart or Fair, to be holden this year, doth begin on the present 14th day of February at 12 o'clock noon, and shall continue for the space of six days, from henceforth next following, with all the ancient and accustomed liberties and privileges so far as the same will now apply. And that all persons do forbear to show forth wares on the Lord's Day. And, further, that all such persons as may be justly suspected of evil behaviour do avoid this Borough and the Liberties thereof.—God Save the King! Oyez—oyez—oyez!"

Probably no fair in the United Kingdom better illustrates the remarkable transition from the ancient to the modern conception of what a pleasure-fair may be. With the exception of Oxford Fair, we know no place in the United Kingdom where the conditions are so markedly favourable to the natural growth of the show business. Of course Oxford holds its fair at a time of the year when the climatic conditions are completely in favour of the open-air pleasures of the people. September is an ideal month for the people's pleasure fair, and it is a great contrast to see the people in the midst of the severe cold and most changeable weather of February bravely endeavouring to get all the fun and merriment out of their fair at Lynn.

We have made a pilgrimage to Lynn Mart for many years in succession, and the remarkable thing to our mind has been the unconquerable optimism and undaunted perseverance of the showmen in particular and the people of Lynn in general in persevering with a fair that as often as not is held in snowstorms or the severe cold of mid-February.

Lynn is the Mecca of travelling showmen; whether they have business at the fair or not, showmen from all quarters journey to Lynn Mart. The principal shows and riding-machines beginning their round at this fair include those that keep in this part of the country, following a succession of fairs right away up to Easter.

Lynn is celebrated for its roundabouts machine works, the celebrated firm of mechanical engineers established many years ago by John Savage, and now carried on as Savage Bros., Ltd., doing the biggest trade in the making and repairing of roundabouts in the world. Many of the best machines on the road are sent to Lynn at the end of the show business season to be thoroughly overhauled, repainted, and prepared for the next year's season. If there are novelties in the roundabout world they are generally seen for the first time at Lynn Mart, so it often happens that the keen showman combines business with pleasure when he makes his visit to Lynn Mart.

Another interesting feature of Lynn Mart is the annual meeting for that part of the country of the Showmen's Guild, fully reported in another column.

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.

President, Lord George Sanger.

Hon. Chaplain, the Rev. T. Horne.
Hon. Treasurers: W. M. Mitchell, Esq., Manchester Centre; F. H. Pedgrift, Esq., London Centre.
Hon. Secretary, T. Hurst, Esq.
Office of the Guild: *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London, W.C.

Objects of the Guild.

1. To conserve the business interests of all open-air amusement caterers and entertainers, whether menaced by faddist legislation or by public bodies.

2. To vindicate the character and the avocation in life of the showman whenever unjustly maligned or attacked.

3. To defend the fairs and holidays of the people whenever and wherever threatened, and to encourage all legitimate efforts for uplifting and betterment of the entertainments of the people.

Further subscriptions, whether from members, traders, or friends, may be sent to either of the hon. treasurers, the hon. secretary, or to the Guild secretary, *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE GUILD FUNDS, 1906.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
J. Hibbert and Sons	4	0	0	G. H. Cornwall	0	10	6
James Pettigrove and Sons	2	2	0	Mrs. John Cornwall	0	5	0
Alf. Ball	0	10	6	W. Bishop	0	5	0
				G. T. Williamson	0	5	0

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE GUILD FUNDS, 1907.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Lord George Sanger	100	0	0	J. H. Chipperfield	0	10	6
Proceeds of the Bolton Ball, per Robt. Pike, Esq.	21	19	4	T. Burgin	0	10	6
E. H. Bostock	5	5	0	W. Moore	0	10	6
C. Burrell and Sons	5	0	0	J. Butlin	0	10	6
W. Payne	3	3	0	Wm. Beach	0	10	6
Sir Robert Fossett	2	2	0	Simpkin, Wilkinson, and Gibson	0	10	6
F. Bostock	2	2	0	H. Taylor	0	10	0
T. Clarke	2	2	0	C. Hyatt	0	10	0
Hastings and Whayman	2	2	0	J. Searle	0	10	0
T. E. Read	1	1	0	Minerva Automatic Co.	0	10	0
C. Smith	1	1	0	F. A. Glover and Co.	0	10	0
Frank Turner	1	1	0	H. Hughes	0	10	0
H. Scard	1	1	0	Geo. Beach	0	9	6
Mrs. Pettigrove	1	1	0	W. Fisher	0	7	6
Marshall Hill	1	1	0	J. Edwards	0	5	0
R. H. Mellor and Sons	1	1	0	R. Holdsworth	0	5	0
W. F. Jury	1	1	0	T. White	0	5	0
J. Wentworth	1	1	0	T. Bolesworth	0	5	0
Marenghie et Cie	1	1	0	J. Saunders	0	5	0
T. Smith (G.C.R.)	1	1	0	Mrs. Traylen	0	5	0
Ben Mitchell	1	1	0	E. Bentley	0	5	0
S. Forrest	1	1	0	J. Westray	0	5	0
Fred Gray	1	0	0	W. Westray	0	5	0
Jacob Studt	1	0	0	C. Bailey	0	5	0
R. Clasper	1	0	0	C. Andrews	0	5	0
T. Creber	1	0	0	Mrs. Andrews	0	5	0
Alf. Ball	1	0	0	A. Gentle	0	5	0
J. Manders	0	10	6	J. Marshall	0	5	0
W. Bibby	0	10	6	W. Walcot	0	5	0
H. Forrest	0	10	6	F. Wilson	0	5	0
George Beach	0	10	6	H. J. Rowe	0	5	0
Wm. Le Neve	0	10	6	W. Hyatt	0	5	0
Forrest Bros.	0	10	6	J. Wilson	0	5	0
				T. Stone	0	5	0
				F. Saroski	0	5	0
				C. Ives	0	5	0
				Anon	0	5	0

Per Frank Turner, Esq. (2nd list):—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
T. Harniess	1	0	0	E. Taylor	0	5	0
C. Hill	0	10	0	C. Cain	0	5	0
W. Wilson	0	10	0	B. Chittock	0	5	0
W. Hussey	0	10	0	T. Irish	0	5	0
R. Fossett, jun.	0	5	0	G. Pickard	0	5	0
W. Slatter	0	5	0	I. Hyatt	0	5	0
H. Read	0	5	0	G. Irwin	0	5	0
H. Street	0	5	0	G. Saunders	0	5	0
E. Hussey	0	5	0				

Per Rev. T. Horne:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
General Wilmot	5	0	0	E. Farrar	0	10	6
G. T. Tuby	2	2	0	Mr. J. Brown	0	5	0

Per Fred Bibby:—Mr. John Beach (Ireland), 10s.

Per T. Hurst:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Wm. Kemp (L.M.W.R.)	1	1	0	S. Braham	0	5	0
B. Howden	0	10	6	John George	0	5	0

Per H. R. Hibbert:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
H. G. Bloxham	0	10	6	R. Chipperfield	0	5	0
S. Sconce	0	10	0	J. Chipperfield	0	5	0

Per J. H. Geoghegan:—J. Taylor, 5s.

Per John Whiting:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
James Goodwin	1	1	0	R. Newall	0	10	6
Mrs. Thornley	1	1	0	Mrs. Harrington	0	10	6
J. Whiting	1	1	0	Harry Cox	0	10	6

The above list is correct in accordance with the lists sent in by various committeemen enrolling members. The Guild secretary requests that any members not listed as above will communicate at once with him, and the mistake will be rectified in future publications of the list of members' names.

Three weeks ago Wallace, the fine African lion, who permits himself to be seen by visitors to Olympia, walked proudly up and down his cage with the full consciousness that he was a father of three as fine cubs as ever played with their own tails. The Mammoth Fun City closed its successful career on Saturday last, so the "naming" ceremony of the baby lions had to be hurried up. It took place in the circus arena on Friday afternoon last. Miss Edna May had promised to officiate, but at the last moment she sent the following telegram to Mr. Cochran:—"Regret frightfully Mr. Frohman has read notices of my appearing, and refuses to allow me to appear. Please know it is not my fault as was looking forward to it tremendously. Very sorry.—Edna May."—An efficient substitute was found in Hackenschmidt, the champion wrestler, who, after throwing two opponents in the approved style, clothed his pink and white flesh in the ordinary garb of civilisation, and marched back to the ring, followed by three people carrying the fluffy little balls of brown and black fur, quite sleepy and innocent-looking. For the "naming" water was used, as the baby elephants christened at Olympia by Miss Marie Studholme have developed alcoholic tendencies. Hackenschmidt poured a liberal supply of water over each furry head—the size of his hands is well known to Madrali and others—and named the first cub Mammoth, the second Fun, and the third City. They were decorated with neck ribbons of red, white, and blue, entwined with a rosegay. Mrs. Cochran stood sponsor to the little ones.

The first American Amusement Park ever built in England is to be opened on May 20 in the Royal Botanical Gardens, Manchester, which is to be converted to the purposes of an exhibition on a scale unprecedented in the thriving manufacturing town. Propositions from the best park shows for installation on a sharing basis are invited by Mr. John C. Brown, the general manager, of 64, Cross-street, Manchester, who, however, confines his invitation to concerns already established and not in need of financial assistance.

"THE ERA" NEW YEAR'S SHILLING FUND FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

Once more we take pleasure in opening our columns to *The Era* New Year's Shilling Fund on behalf of the Music Hall Home, and in doing so we take still further pleasure in being able to associate with that appeal the names of the president of the Fund, Mr. Thomas Barrasford, and Miss Vesta Victoria. Mr. Barrasford's kindly offices in connection with the Music Hall Home are well known, and the fact that he has again given permission for the use of his name in calling attention to the requirements of the home is a guarantee—if, indeed, guarantee were needed—that he is satisfied as to the way in which the institution is being conducted, and that he considers it worthy of support. It is also gratifying to be able to associate with the New Year's appeal such a prominent variety artist as Miss Vesta Victoria who, though in New York, continually expresses her interest in the work of the home.

There can be no question as to the usefulness of the Music Hall Home. Its address is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E., and Mr. and Mrs. Fruin, the secretary and matron respectively, put forward every effort for the comfort of the inmates. At present there are eight of these, and the desire is to increase the number, which can only be done when sufficient funds for the purpose are collected. During the past year two or three of the temporary inmates have recovered their health and strength sufficiently to enable them to look for engagements. These secured, they left the Home, and the vacancies thereby created were immediately filled up. Now, this home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work which has been performed by the institution in the past, as this must be within the recollection of our readers. The ages of the inmates range from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the home until the day of their death, and their funeral expenses will be paid for out of the funds of the home. The vice-presidents and the committee are sincerely desirous of increasing its scope of usefulness. They would like to be in a position to afford shelter to many more deserving members of the variety profession, who have been stricken with poverty and illness in their declining years.

We feel we need say little more. Mr. Barrasford and Miss Victoria join in a strenuous appeal for the generosity of the profession in support of *The Era* Shilling Fund. When, twelve months ago, we brought before our readers the claims of this deserving charity, a very considerable sum of money was collected in separate shillings. That last year's appeal, however, and most of the money obtained by it, are, as Miss Marie Lloyd would say, "a thing of the past, old dear." We are entering upon a new year. What is the prospect? It is that of help badly needed by many of your brother and sister artists who are, in common parlance, "down on their luck," and some of whom, by reason of their age, are likely to remain in that unhappy condition.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Contents of collecting-box at the Hippodrome (late Tivoli), Leeds, one of Mr. Barrasford's halls, per Charles Weldon	5	7	9
Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Mannering	1	5	0
Leoni Clarke	1	1	0
Collecting-box, Palace of Varieties, Ltd., Manchester, per Nelson Barry	1	0	0
Bros. Webb	0	10	0
Geretti	0	5	0
Belford and Mars	0	5	0
A. Lazarus	0	2	0
Agnes Pittman	0	1	0

Collected by Mr. Horace Wheatley, £3 11s.

Horace Wheatley	40	Anthony	1
Terrance Wheatley, jun.	1	Claire Romaine	1
Catherleen Wheatley	1	Sydney James	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Gilbert Fernie	1
Eileen Wheatley	1	Harry Edson	1
Horace Wheatley, jun.	1	Leslie Romani	1
Grandma	1	Lizzie Kirk	1
Auntie	1	Emmie Romani	1
MacWheatley the Dog	1	Frank Turner	1
Edgar Marriott	1	Mrs. F. Turner	1
Frank Leon	1	J. G. Henderson	1
Ted Waite	1	C. Pastor	1
Edgar Romaine	1	Sister Marion	1
Robert Robertson	1	M. Egerton	1
Florence Lambeth	1	Fred O'Malley	1
		George Harvard	1
		Gus W. Blake	1

Collected by Mr. Harry Conlin, Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, £4 7s.

Bros. Egbert	10	Us again, again	1
Us again, again, again, again	7	Us again, again, again	1
Albert Egbert	5	Gladys Cooper	1
Harry Conlin	5	Doris Cooper	1
Rosie Coleman	5	Vera Elvey	1
Mark Sheridan	5	M. Claire	1
Gwladys Elvey	5	Mr. Whitehead	1
Edna Loftus	5	Ian Lloyd-Mackenzie	1
Daisy Dormer	5	Herbert Darnley	1
S. Egbert and Mac	5	Harry Nelson	1
Mark's Room	4	Erchie Mitchell	1
Mac's Bar, 3 Rose-street, Edinburgh	3	Harry Bendon	1
Harry Lupino	2	A. R. Pole	1
Us again	2	Us	1
Betty Green	1½	Cade Burnett	1
		Deane Tribune	1
		Estella Tribune	1

Collected by Regan and Ryan, Court Theatre, Liverpool, £1 14s.

Malcolm Scott	5	H. Brockbank	2
Fanny Fields	5	Patty Yole	2
Regan and Ryan	5	M. R. M.	1
Harry Tate	5	Doris Dean	1
Hetty King	5	Poppy Wilkinson	1
Fanny Dango	2		

Collected by Mr. Gus Elen, £2.

Gus Elen (V.A.F.)	10	Edith Villa	1
Mrs. G. E.	1	Cruet	1
The Chickens	1	Boots	1
The Pheasants	1	The Dustman	1
Buller (St. Bernard)	1	Mrs. Carter	1
Major (Pomeranian)	1	Found	1
The Cook (16st.)	1	The Postman	1
The Housemaid	1	Admission	1
The Motor	1	Lizzie C.	1
The Gardener (Bob)	1	Meriah	1
The Parrot	1	Our Tyke	1
The Canary	1	New Pyjama 'At	1
Inky (Black Cat)	1	Luggage Man's (tip)	1
Four-Pots-a	1	Book-Boy's (ditto)	1
Twelve Coppers	1	Cab to *Era* Office	1
Two Sixpences	1		

Collected by Mr. Tom Fancourt, 15s.

Tom Fancourt	1	Margaret Ruby	1
Alf Selby	1	Queenie Clements	1
Harry Ray	1	Lottie Cora	1
Lillie Caldon	1	Florrie Cora	1
Arnold Richardson	1	Mrs. Howarth	1
Jennie Rubie	1	Anon.	1
B. Elton	1	Ernest Laws	1
T. Elma	1		

Collected by Mr. Billy Williams, £2 19s. 9d.

Billy Williams	5	E. I. S.	1
Miss Du-Roche	5	A. Hanson	1
Miss M. Sealby	5	W. Marshall	1
Andre Avocat	5	J. B.	1
Miss M. Langdon	2½	B. B.	1
Oliver Round	2½	J. Kelly	1
Roze and Calvert	2½	W. E. D. V.	1
W. W. Walton	2½	W. Clarke	1
Churnell	2½	O. L. Rendell	1
F. E.	2	Wirson Kurat	1
J. K.	2	T. Dare	1
Miss Mab Paul	2	Geo. W. Thorpe	1
Adelaide	2	H. B.	1
King	1½	I. B.	1
W. E. R.	1	Maxwell	1
F. D. B.	1	Graham	1

Collected by Rich and Rich, 11s.

Rich and Rich	5	W. Fullbrook	1
Smarte Bros.	2	Charles Homer	1
H. O. Wills	1	Lola Patey	1

Collected by Mr. Geo. Rapley, £1 1s.

Sandy and Carl	2	Edwin Zarac	1
Nellie Moore	1	Fred Lloyd	1
Beatie Moore	1	Tom Shenton	1
Marion May	1	Syd Russell	1
Bertha St. Ruth	1	Chas. Denman	1
Cissie Conyers	1	Fred Bentley	1
The Sydney Girls	1	W. Parker	1
F. J. Little	1	Geo. Rapley	1
Chas. Zarac	1	Mrs. Geo. Rapley	1
Finest Zarac	1	Baby Rapley	1

Collected by Carl Hertz, £1.

F. Bernard	1	Wartemberg Bros.	1
Fred Poplar	1	J. Wilson	1
Sinclair and Whiteford	1	H. Osborn	1
Edgar Romaine	1	Carl Hertz	1
Edgar Romaine	1	Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1	Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1	Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1		

Collected by Bliss and Bliss, £1 12s.

George Bliss	1	Pushfoot	1
Leo Bliss	1	Nellie Bailey	1
Jack Cromo	1	Gerald	1
W. Stewart	1	Charlie Hardup	1
Ruby Aiston	1	Kitty Chic	1
Arthur Aiston	1	Zena Page	1
Billy Hoofum	1	Kathleen Tremayne	1
James Kiddie	1	May St. Pierre	1
Tom Kelso	1	Lena Arnold	1
E. Bernhardt	1	Aline Goldsmith	1
Harold Batt	1	Edie Graham	1
Mr. Skimps	1	Minnie Grey	1
Mr. Skopes	1	Eva Mountcastle	1
Ben De Freece	1	M. Maquade	1
Kitty Kildare	1	Nellie Bailey	1
Nellie Bailey	1	Marie Beresford	1

Collected by Tom Vine, £1 2s. 6d.

Tom Vine	2½	George Bernard	1
Sisters Grovini	2	Pichel Troupe	1
Jessie Harper	1½	Brothers Story	1
Fred Leighton	1	Famous Henderson	1
Arnold H. Colmer	1	Brothers Austin	1
Arthur Arscott	1	Lucy Coventry	1
George Arscott	1	F. R. Griffiths	½
George Neale	1	Joe Huda	½
H. F.	1	Mimic Maston	½
Carl Bernardo	1	Tony Rallis	½
Lee's Marionettes	1	J. C.	½

Collecting cards of subscriptions, as soon as filled, should be forwarded to the Hon. Treasurer. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, *The Era* Office, 5 Tavistock street, Strand, W.C.

RICHMOND THEATRE.

An attractive list of artists was billed last week. A prelude to the good things provided is an excellent selection by the capable band. Miss Jessie Burnett, a clever comedienne, sings quite prettily the lament of a coon who is anxious that his love should return to Borneo, that particular locality being apparently in high favour just now. Mr. Wal Robbins, a study in black and white, gets off witticisms anent trades generally and the contradiction of woman in particular. He evidences his ability as a musician by a really capably interpreted performance of "Queen of the Earth" on the Japanese one-stringed fiddle, and was deservedly applauded. "Will you love me in December as you do in May?" is the musical interrogative put forward by Miss Lola Vereker with pictorial suggestions by the bioscope. Miss Vereker is a refined and clever vocalist, and sings delightfully. Mr. J. H. Darnley's sketch, *Ducks and Drakes*, illustrates the follies and foibles of the eccentricities of Sandsea beach. The Cape Girls specialise in Terpsichore pure and simple; their dancing is wonderful in its way—in fact, their versatility is a matter for wonder. On Monday they won popular verdict "hands down" by reason of their clever performance; they had the distinction of a triple "call." Miss Ouida MacDermot confides to the audience musically the wonderful things she would do "When grown up," which include a wild ambition to play Lady Macbeth. Mr. George Newburn is a mimic of some merit; his imitations of Mark Sheridan, Fred Earle, Harry Lauder, and George Lashwood are vociferously applauded and keenly appreciated by the audience. Artists have already recognised the value of the bioscope as a pictorial ally, and Mlle. Dionde is not slow to avail herself of so powerful an adjunct. Many of her excerpts are very beautiful, but she achieves a real triumph in "The Doomed City." Vernon's Bioscope showed one of the loveliest stretches of the beautiful Meuse from Anseremme to Dinant, and, combining humour with interest, finished with the humorous film of "Two Little Scamps."

The Pathé Frères, of Charing Cross-road, have completed a new series of films illustrative of the Passion Play. The Biblical account of the Saviour's life and death is set out in four groups dealing with the birth of Christ, His early childhood, His public life, and His death and passion. The subjects are elaborately staged and beautifully coloured, and altogether furnish pictures of a most superior kind.

HARRY DACRE

SONG WRITER and AUTOGRAPH COLLECTOR,

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"I WANT TO SEE THE OLD HOME AGAIN."
"GOOD-BYE, MIGNONETTE,"
"AS YOUR HAIR GROWS WHITER,"
"I CAN'T THINK OB NUTHIN' ELSE BUT YOU, LULU,"
"THE LADS IN NAVY BLUE,"
"COULD WE RECALL,"
"WHILE LONDON'S FAST ASLEEP,"
"I'LL BE YOUR SWEETHEART,"
"SHE'S A SENSIBLE GIRL,"
"TING-A-LING,"
"PLAYMATES,"
"THE GHOST OF BENJAMIN BINNS,"
"DAISY BELL,"
&c., &c., &c.

ANY PUBLIC VOCALIST,

great or small, sending his or her autograph and permanent address will receive (post paid)

SOMETHING BRIGHT and BEAUTIFUL.

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One Quarter	6s. 6d.	8s.
Half Year	13s. 0d.	16s.
One Year	26s. 0d.	32s.

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"The Era" Buildings, 5 Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

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COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E., March 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, May 6, 13, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING, March 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, May 13, 20.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER, May 6, 13, 20, 27, Aug. 5, 12, 19, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER, March 25, April 1, 11 (3 nights), 22, May 13, 20, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON, March 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, May 6, 20, Aug. 5, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD, April 22, May 20, 27, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON, March 25, April 15, May 20, 27, June 10, Aug. 5, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER, March 25, April 29, May 20, 27, June 3, 10, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON, March 18, April 8, 15, 22.
Address, MILTON BODE, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for March 25 and April 1, at Dalston, Reading, Chester, Wolverhampton.
Wire, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Companies.
GRAND T., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, March 11, May 6, onwards.
METROPOLE T., GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE, March 11, May 6, onwards.
QUEEN'S T., GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE, March 18, 25, April 8 and 15.
Address, SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead-on-Tyne. Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD, April 1, 29, May 13, 20, 27 (six nights). April 22 and May 6 (three nights).
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON, April 15, May 6, 13, 27, June 3.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1 (three nights only), onwards.
Address, E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County T., Bedford.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 13. A few Autumn Dates Open for First-class Attractions only, Musical Comedies preferred.
Address, HARRY YORKE.

BRIDLINGTON SPA THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.
Thoroughly Up-to-date, Re-opens July 29. Electricity throughout; new scenery; large stage dimensions.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Opening week (no dramas).
HENRY HAGUE, General-Manager.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, Companies, March 25, April 15, May 13, 20.
ATHENÆUM THEATRE, LANCASTER.
Vacant March 11, 25, April 1, 8 (3 nights), 22, May 13 and 20. Address, STANLEY ROGERS, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions for QUEEN'S T., FARNWORTH, BOLTON, April 1, 22, May 13, 20, 27, June 10, 17.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE, March 21, 22, 23 (three nights), May 6, 13, 20.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

NEW
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BELFAST.
Proprietors, Alexandra Theatre Co.
A Handsome Brick Melodrama Theatre. Heated by radiators. Lighted by electric and gas.
WANTED, Big Productions, Aug., on, with exceptions. Dramas new to this City.
J. LEICESTER-JACKSON, Greenisland, Belfast.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, April 8, 9, 10.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, March 25, at Princess's and Lyceum, Govan.
Address terms and particulars to RICH. WALDON.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEST BROMWICH, Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Gen.-Man., Mr. Herbert Vere.
WANTED, First-Class Melodramas, Musical Comedies, &c., vacant March 25, April, on.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only, for Weeks of April 15 and 29.
Wire or write,
W. W. KELLY, 8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

LYCEUM THEATRE, STAFFORD.
WANTED, Companies, March 18 (3 nights), April 1, and on. Change of bill if drama.
JAMES ELPHINSTONE.

BRIDLINGTON SPA THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.
This theatre is being built on the site of the old one. Holding value £100. New scenery and electricity throughout. Vacant dates.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only, between July 29 and Oct. 31.
HENRY HAGUE, General-Manager.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE
WANTED, High-class Companies. March 7 (three), 14 (three), 18, and 25, and on, with exceptions. Can arrange Stock Season, commencing April 8. W. E. POTTS

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford. First-Class Companies, for Easter week (April 1), April 22, and onwards. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

GRAND THEATRE, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, Companies, March 4, '07, also Whit Week, May 20, First-class Musical Comedy preferred; this is one of the busiest weeks in the year. Silence a negative. Apply,
T. SERGENSON, Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, March 25, May 6, 13, 20, 27, and a few Autumn dates.
FRED GRANVILLE, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

WANTED, Big Attractions, April 1, on, Grand, Radcliffe; also April 8 and Répertoire. April 29, on, with exceptions, Grand, Chorley. Address, SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-Class Companies,

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER,
Vacant April 1, 15 (three nights), onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH,
Vacant Feb. 28 (three nights), March 4, onward, with exceptions.
(Last three nights of each week).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY,
Vacant April 1 (Share or Certainty), onward, with exceptions.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY,
Vacant April 1, 8, 22, onward, with exceptions.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE,
Vacant April 1, 8, 15, onward, with exceptions.

"THE LOST CHORD,"
Vacant Aug. 5, onward, with exceptions.

"SPAN OF LIFE,"
Vacant March 4, 11, onward, with exceptions.

"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S,"
Vacant April 1, 8, 29, onward, with exceptions.

"CINDERELLA,"
Vacant Feb. 10, 1908, onward, with exceptions.

Companies "Farmed" through Fit-ups.

To Let, on Royalty, "THE PRAIRIE FLOWER" and "OUR BRITISH EMPIRE."

Excellent Plants Printing.

All communications to
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

WANTED, First-class Attractions only. GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON, March 25 (3 nights).
THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH, April 15.
Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT, 1 and 2, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

WANTED, High-Class Musical Comedy or latest London successes, for the following dates:—
March 4,
March 11,
March 18,
March 25,
April 22, and onwards.
Address, CHAS. E. MACHIN, Avenue Opera House, Sunderland.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
WANTED, Strong Attractions, March 4, March 4, March 18, March 18, March 25, March 25 April 1 and on, with exceptions.
Wire, R. C. BUCHANAN, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 22, Oct. 7, and various dates, Spring, 1908.
WILLIAM MARTIN, Theatre Royal, Exeter.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for March 11, 18, 25, and April 1.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-street, S.W.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY.
WANTED, First-class Musical or Dramatic Cos. for March 4, 11, 18, onwards, with exceptions. L. CARSON, Keighley.

THEATRE ROYAL, ILKESTON.
Manager and Licensee, Mr. L. F. A. ROGERS.
WANTED, April 22, 29, onwards.
Silence a courteous negative.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for April 18, 19, and 20. April 22.
Sound Attraction for Aug. Bank Holiday, Aug. 5, and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

THEATRE ROYAL, HEBBURN.
WANTED, First-Class Companies only, Musical Shows preferred, April 3, 15, and 22, May 6, 13, also big Attraction for Whit week, Nov. 4, 11, and 18.
This week playing to packed houses with "La Poupée." CHARLES ELDERTON.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, March 4, 18, April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20.
Now booking for the Fall.
Apply,
Owner and Manager, JAMES KIERNAN.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, LLANDUDNO.
Under new management.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 1, onwards with exceptions. Address, J. RITSON, General-Manager.

STANLEY, DURHAM, NEW ROYAL, LTD.
WANTED, big Attractions, April 29 (through misunderstanding), also for a few early Autumn dates. Apply, MARK H. LINDON.

GRAND THEATRE, MANSFIELD.
WANTED, No. 1 Companies, new brick theatre, centre of town, stage 60 by 40, 40 to flies, opening 30, population (3-mile radius) 90,000, 15 miles from Nottingham, Vacant April 15 and 29. Now Booking Autumn.

WANTED, Companies, March 4, 11, 18 (3 nights), onwards, with exceptions, for Spring and Season dates. Apply, PHILLIPS, Coliseum, Aberystwyth.

PAVILION, CHORLTON-CUM-HARDY, MANCHESTER.
WANTED, Musical Comedies, Burlesques, or Light Drama, for March 18, April 8, 15, 23, on. Last week Mr. Henry Bedford and Co. in "Gipsy Jack." This, F. S. Gilbert's Opera Co. Apply, W. JAMES WRIGHT, Proprietor

WANTED, First-class Attraction, for T. R., Aston, March 25. Wire, BARNARD, Chislett-road, West Hampstead, N.W.

WANTED, First-class Companies. Halifax, April 15; Rochdale, May 6; Bury, May 13. Address (no wires), OTTO C. CULLING, Bury.

WANTED, Strong Attraction, March 18. Address.
HENRY BOWMAN, Ampitheatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Sound Attractions, Easter, April 15, and onwards, excepting Whit. Apply, SHERWOOD and Co., Opera House, Wakefield.

WANTED, Managers with Real Attractions to Send Dates they Require to
J. F. ELLISTON, Theatre Royal, Bolton.

THEATRE ROYAL, BURY ST. EDMUNDS.
WANTED, Companies, March 18 (3 nights), March 25, April 8 (3 nights). EADE MONTEFIORE, c/o The Kennington Theatre. Telegrams, "Busily, London."

KING'S THEATRE, SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.
WANTED, No. 1 Cos.
Wanted, No. 1 Cos.
No vacant dates till Autumn.
Booked in conjunction with Mansfield.

DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, Companies, April 8, 15, 22, May 9, 27, June 3, 10, 17, July 8, 29, and onwards.
MURRAY KING, 2, Hungerford-road, London, N.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORTHING.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, three nights, one matinée, March 4, 7, 14, 18, several dates onwards; large stage, good staff, electric light, permanent orchestra of nine. Only good Companies booked Wire or write, SEEBOLD. Silence a polite negative.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, March 4 (?), April 1 (?), 22, May 6, 13, June 3; also various Autumn Dates vacant; liberal terms to the right class of Company. Address, FRANK KING.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District. Holds £90 at Ordinary Prices.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 15 (first vacant date) and June 3, on. The Spring bookings for the above include Lionel Rignold and Ada Blanche in "What the Butler Saw," "La Poupée," Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Tearle, James Kiddie's "Dick Whittington," "Her Luck in London," "A Little Vagrant," "The Night of the Party," Norman V. Norman, "Two Little Vagabonds," Miss Maud Hildyard, "The Traitor," Allan Wilkie, "Sapho," "Lucky Durham," "A Warning to Women," "In Holy Russia," "The Power of the Cross," "Lights Out," J. B. Mulholland's "The Electric Man," &c.

The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions Touring.

All Applications for Dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.
The Leading Theatre of the Town.
The only theatre in the town lighted by electricity.
The Season's Bookings include:—
"His House in Order," "All-of-a-Sudden Peggy" (Miss Decima Moore), "The Freedom of Suzanne" (Miss Mabel Love), "The Prince of Pilsen," "Miss Lancashire, Limited," Wentworth Croke's "My Sweetheart," "The Christian," "The 'Varsity Belle," "Home, Sweet Home," "The Worst Woman in London," "The Spider and the Fly," Charles Harrington's "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "Sherlock Holmes," "The Shulamite," "The Woman Who Gambles," "The Lion and the Mouse." Local Amateurs in "The Idler" (for the Mayor's Hospital Fund), &c., &c., &c.

WANTED, Companies, April 29, May 6, Aug. 5, onwards.
Apply,
CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-Class Companies.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS, May 20, June 3 (?), July 8, 15, 22.

PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE, May 20, 27 (?), June 3, 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22. Big Musical Comedies Wanted for Whit Week, both Theatres; must be Big Shows, or not entertained. H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, JULIAN MALVERN.
WANTED, High-Class Attraction, April 29, Whit week, July 1, 8, and on;
also good Variety Combination, for three nights, commencing March 28.
Address,
CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

THE NEW HIPPODROME T., COVENTRY.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
No. 1 Companies.
No. 1 Companies.
No. 1 Companies.
The best House in the Town.
The Largest House in the Town.
And the Recognised House for Producing First-Class Companies.
The House where the Money is Made.
Dates can now be arranged for Summer and Autumn Season, for First-Class Productions, High-Class Musical Comedy or Dramatic. Nothing but the very best entertained, and the best of terms will be given, as our motto is "To live and let live."
Big Pantomimes, Ballets, and Sensational Attractions, something that will draw and please the public, can arrange immediate dates for Flying Matinées. Any price paid to the right class of production; money no object.
Apply,
T. M. SYLVESTER, 217, Piccadilly, W.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, March 25 (unexpectedly vacant), five nights, or probably six, May 13, June 3 and 17.
Apply, T. W. ROWE.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April 15, May 20, Aug. 12, 19, and on.
JAMES BELL.

THEATRE ROYAL, YORK.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for March 11. Apply, WADDINGTON and SONS, Stonegate, York.

ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD.
Proprietors, Messrs. TRENCHARD and JONES.
WANTED, No. 1 Musical or High-class Comedy Attractions, April 8 and 29, May, June 17, and a few Autumn Dates open. Only Best Dramas entertained. For dates, apply above.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple

THEATRE ROYAL, WATERFORD.
WANTED, Companies for April 8, onwards, good Easter Panto. Write (Musical Companies preferred), JOHN COLLINS, Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, good Dramas for March 11, to follow Tomkinson's Royal Gipsy Co.; also March 18, 25, and onwards. Apply, P. WILSON.

WANTED, First-class Companies (Musical preferred), Feb. 28, March 14, and April 1 (3 nights). BUTLER, St. George's Theatre, Kendal.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, onwards. Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

QUEEN'S PALACE, RHYL;
PUBLIC HALL, COLWYN BAY.
WANTED, good Attractions, March 4, on.
CHAS. R. CHAPLIN, Colwyn Bay.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"THE GAYEST OF THE GAY."
"THE GAYEST OF THE GAY."
The most Successful Play Produced during the Year 1906.
WANTED, April 29 and May 6, in First-class Theatres only. Wire or write,
W. W. KELLY, 8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Weeks of June 3 and 10, Scala Production.
Wire or write,
W. W. KELLY, 8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 29 (?), May 13 (?), 27. CHARLES HARRINGTON, Theatre Royal, Hanley.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO., In the Romantic Irish Musical Play,
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, Easter, only vacant date for this Play. Grand production, "Rollicking Rory." Autumn. T. R., Castleford, Feb. 25 (six nights).

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, April 1, May 6, 13
Address, J. W. CORDINER, Feb. 25, Theatre Royal, Aldershot.
See Companies advertisement, Page 2.

FRANK M. THORNE'S CO.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this money-maker, May 6, only vacant date this year.
Apply,
F. M. THORNE, Theatre Royal, Whitehaven.

"THE POWER AND THE GLORY,"
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, April 8 (South), 15, May 6, 13, Whit (Midlands).
ERNEST CHESNEY, 137, Westbourne-ter., London, W.

THEATRES WANTED.

Grand Autumn Production,
"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres, April 29 and Aug. 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

Grand Autumn Production,
"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, March 11, April 15 and 29.
Apply,
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, March 25.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, March 25, Aug. 19 and 26, and Dec. 23.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, March 25, Sept. 9, 23.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 12, Sept. 16, 30.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, May 13 and 20.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Theatres, May 13, Aug. 12.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, March 25, April 8, 22, 29.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

"TOMMY," by Jerome K. Jerome.
MISS ANNIE HUGHES as TOMMY.
WANTED, Summer and Autumn Dates.
"'Tommy' is a great play; Annie Hughes is a great actress."
Address, Miss ANNIE HUGHES, 4L, Portman-mansions, Baker-street, W.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Easter, April 22, 29, May 6, Whit week, onwards, with exceptions, for the above Attraction. Address, F. BROOKE WARREN, 8, Wellington-road, Southport.

"IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND," "THE THREE MUSKETEERS," "JEANIE DEANS," also Shakespearean and Classical Répertoire.
EDMUND TEARLE and COMPANY.
WANTED, March 11, 18, 25, April 1, onwards. Add., EDMUND TEARLE, Theatre Royal, Halifax

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN."
WANTED, March 4, 11, and April 1
Sixth year of continuous Tour.
Also "THE ANARCHIST TERROR."
Either or both Plays.
Wire, ESMOND, Theatre, Stafford; next, T.R., York

"THE ANGEL OF UNREST."
Mr. Alec Flood's and Mr. Aubrey Fitzmaurice's Co
WANTED, March 25, (to follow Theatre Royal, Plymouth), Easter, onwards.
Wire to-day, F. MARTIN MORRIS, 12, Wyke-gardens, Clapham-road, S.W. After Sunday, Theatre Royal, Brighton.

Mr. HERBERT RALLAND'S PRINCIPAL CO.
"LA POUPEE."
"LA POUPEE."
WANTED (unexpectedly vacant), March 11. Newcastle district. Letters RALLAND, T. R., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
WANTED, March 18, through transferring. Easter, Easter, Easter.
G. M. MONTANINI, The Garrick Theatre, Hereford.

LINGFORD CARSON'S CO.
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, good Theatres, for this great Money-maker, April 8 and 22, May 6 and 13. Managers wishing to secure this Attraction for Autumn please communicate. L. CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

E. H. KNIGHT and GEORGE DENHAM'S CO.
"THE GRIP OF IRON."
WANTED, April 29, on, to Whit Week, Aug. 5, on, with exceptions.
GEORGE DENHAM, This, Royal, Barnsley; next, Royal, Colchester.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COMPANY.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, April 1, for this ideal Holiday Attraction; new uniforms and effects; band of Drums, Fifes, and Bugles for parade.
F. G. KIMBERLEY, Junction Theatre, Manchester.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Aug. 26, Sept. 16.
FRED BULMER, P. O. W. Theatre, Nuneaton.

"FOR AULD LANG SYNE."
WANTED, Aug. 5, onwards.
FRED BULMER, P.O.W. Theatre, Nuneaton.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
FRED BULMER, P.O.W. Theatre, Nuneaton.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, Easter Week.
FRED BULMER, P.O.W. Theatre, Nuneaton.

"THE END CROWNS ALL," Comedy Drama.
AUGUSTA TULLOCH and CO., including AMBER WYVILLE, from Wyndham's T., London.
WANTED, April 29, 3 nights; to precede Wisbech; May 24, 3 nights, to follow Deal; June 3 and 10, to precede Scarbro'. North preferred; various Autumn. Address,
A. TULLOCH, 54, Gurney-street, London, S.E.

MESSRS. WILSON and WOODWARD'S
"NEW RED RIDING HOOD" CO.
WANTED, Good Theatres for above, March 11, April 1, 15, and on. Wire or write, Globe T., Walmer, Deal.

WANTED, Theatres, Miss Frances Delaval's Co., "Her Lost Self," "The Biggest Scamp on Earth." Vacant April 1, 15, Whit., Aug. 5. Wire, to-day, Alex., Sheffield; Mon., T. R., Dumfries.

"THE STREETS OF LONDON."
WANTED, April 8 and 29 (Midlands), May 20, June 3, 10 (North). EADE MONTEFIORE, c/o The Kennington Theatre, London. Telegrams, "Busily, London."

Mr. ALBERT CHEVALIER
and a Specially Selected Company,
in a Triple Bill, including
"PANTALOON," by J. M. Barrie.
WANTED, Dates, from April 1, onward.
Wire, INGLE, 7, Dorset-road, Ealing.

"THE INDIAN MUTINY."
WANTED, Good Theatres, March 18 (to follow Dalston), March 25 (to precede Barnsley).
Address, FRANK E. BURDETT,
To-day, West London. Feb. 25, T. R., Sheffield.

"SAPHO."
WANTED, Really First-Class Theatres,
March 18,
March 18,
April 1,
April 1.
Wire, JAMES BELL, Theatre, Darlington.

"A HEART'S DESIRE."
A Magnificent Production. Enthralling Play. Splendid Scenery. New Pictorials. Powerful Cast.
WANTED, April 1, 8, various onwards.
H. ELLIMAN, 5, Vernon-street, Dublin.

"HER LOST SELF," by Nita Rae. Enormous Success of Return Visit to Alexandra, Sheffield.
"THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH," by F. A. Scudamore.
WANTED, March 7, 8, 9, April 1, 15, May 20, Aug. 5. Wire, to-day, FRANCES DELAVAL, A. T., Sheffield; next, Dumfries (3), Hawick (3).

"HER MARRIAGE VOW."
WANTED, Sept. 2 (?), 16 (?), 23, Oct. 14, one of best plants printing on road, including forty-eight sheet full pictorial.
GARSIDE and KNOWLES, Carlton Theatre, Birmingham.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for the Great Money-maker, "WOMAN WHO GAMBLES," April 8, 15, 22, 29.
Fine Production. Strong Cast.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Dates for MRS. MORTON POWELL and Star Cast, in this Superb Production, July 1, 8, 15, Aug. 5.

MRS. MORTON POWELL will early in the Autumn produce a new and powerful Play, from the pen of S. Buchanan Rogerson, Vacant Sept. 2, 9, 16, Oct. 14, 21.
Address,
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Dates for this powerful Play. March 18, 25, April 1, 8.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

Mr. NORMAN V. NORMAN'S TOURS.
WANTED, Theatre, April 1, April 1, April 1

THEATRES WANTED.

"HIS HOUSE IN ORDER,"
by A. W. Pinero.
as played at the St. James's Theatre for the past twelve months.

Mr. H. RALPH KIMPTON
has arranged with
Mr. George Alexander
to Tour a Company
with this London Success.

WANTED, Dates, for the Autumn.
Address,
St. James's Theatre, S.W.

"HOME, SWEET HOME,"
Mr. FRANK LINDO,
Miss MARION WAKEFORD,
and Full Company.

WANTED, Good Theatres for few remaining dates this year. First vacancy April 22.
Address, FRANK LINDO,
This week, Spennymoor; next, Palace, Newcastle.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."

WANTED, good Theatres, March 18 (?), April 15, 29, on. Acknowledged everywhere to be the success of 1907. There is not a finer Staged, Dressed, or Played piece now on tour. Every sheet of printing specially cut. Everything carried. A thoroughly sound, genuine, financial success. Refer W. W. Brierley, Esq., T. R., Tyldesley, where we closed to a record Saturday night, despite the elements. The piece is ingenious in construction, with a clever domestic story, and quite void of blood and thunder piffle. Bookings include: Bootle, Cardiff, Swansea, Newcastle, T.R., Leeds, Rotherham, Chesterfield, Q., Liverpool, Col., Oldham, O. H., St. Helens, Rawtenstall, Bilston, Mansfield, Leicester, &c., &c., &c.
E. A'DELL, Muncaster Theatre, Bootle.

WANTED, Halls or Small Theatres, London, or within 20 miles, to send at once early vacant weeks for High-class Bioscope Entertainments. WALLACE, 303, High Holborn, London, W.C.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Two Ladies, Leading Parts, "Pirates of Penzance." Special week, March 18. Rehearse week previous. Apply enclosing photos., Z. ANDREWS, Theatre, Aberdare.

WALTER BELLIAN'S SKETCH CO.,
"A NIGHT'S FRIVOLITY."
WANTED, Smart Chambermaid, rehearse next week, small part, but important. Photo., lowest terms, refs., 106, Tottington-rd., Bury.

WANTED, a Lady to play Biddy, "SHADOWS OF A GREAT CITY."
Send photo. and lowest terms to
ABRAHAMS, 26, Great Eastern-road, Stratford.

"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
PAUMIER AND HOWARD'S TOUR.
WANTED, Gentlemen, for Otto (character, light comedy), Prince Eugene (juvenile heavy), rehearse Tuesday, West London; both to understudy. Particulars, to-day, ALFRED PAUMIER, T. Royal, Castleford; next, West London, N.W.

"WHAT THE BUTLER SAW" CO.
WANTED, Good experienced Actor and Actress. Apply, with terms and full particulars. Letters only. No cards. LIONEL RIGNOLD, 398, Clapham-road, London, S.W. Silence in all cases a polite negative.

"THE LOVE THAT WOMEN DESIRE."
WANTED, First-Class Leading Gentleman, open Easter; tall, good voice essential; also Carpenter, thoroughly competent and willing; single man preferred. Photos., full particulars, G. CARLTON WALLACE, Theatre Royal, Sunderland.

GLOSSOP-HARRIS REPERTOIRE CO.
WANTED, Young, Experienced Actor, for Claudio, Benvolio, &c. Very lowest terms and full particulars to FRANK CELLIER, JUN., O. H., Cheltenham.

"SOMEBODY'S SWEETHEART."
WANTED, Juvenile Light Baritone, Rehearse Monday, through releasing.
EDWARD MARRIS, Theatre, Grantham

WANTED, Gentleman, Play Iago and Seconds, Ian Maclaren Shakespearean Old English Comedy Company.
Age, height, references, rehearse Monday,
Wire, IAN MACLAREN,
38, Cork-road, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, Irish Actor to play Myles, "Colleen Bawn," ditto, Eily, both to enter tank.
ROBERT, 9, Ostend-place, S.E.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, to open immediately, a really good Responsible Actor; tall and young. Lowest terms to EDMUND TEARLE, Theatre Royal, Halifax.

WANTED, Powerful Young Juvenile Leading Man, Sketches, London.
FRED BROOKE, 55, Ridley-road, Dalston, N.E.

WANTED, Character Actor, for Small Part. All particulars, actual salary, and photos., to WALTER MAXWELL, Theatre Royal, Aston.

WANTED, Man to speak few lines in "The Collar Stud" and look after Scenery. Open Monday. BARTLETT, Bertha House, Park-row, Bristol.

WANTED, Really Good Tenor, play Don Cæsar, in music hall sketch, in London. Wire, to-day, GITTINS, Palace, Newcastle-on-Tyne; next, Grand, Glasgow.

WANTED, by well-known Author-Manager, two Ladies and three Gentlemen, or experienced Amateurs, to give services for Trial Show, First-class Dramatic Sketch, London Hall. If suitable long engagement. Letters only, SWINDEN, 10, Harper-street, S.E.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Acrobatic and Step Dancers,
Acrobatic and Step Dancers,
Acrobatic and Step Dancers,
Young, Clever, and Attractive,
Young, Clever, and Attractive,
Smart Girls, for Dancing Troupes;
Smart Girls, for Dancing Troupes;
must be able to cartwheel, split, shoulder leg, &c., or no use calling. Apply, 11 to 3, daily,
SINCLAIR'S Stage Dancing Academy,
118, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Lady Dancers, for Paris,
Small Troupes from two to six, in Costumes.
Send Photos. and terms
to
Agence Franco-Anglaise,
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WANTED, Acrobatic Dancing. Wanted, a Smart Girl, age about 17 years, for above. Send full particulars of capabilities, references, and photo., at once.
Address, KELLINO FAMILY,
Empire Palace, Bradford.

WANTED, Dancers, Young, Respectable Girls, good figures; preference given to those who can sing. Write (with photo. and details of previous experience) or call,
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55A, Booth-street East, Manchester.

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ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Child Actress (14), Waif or Juvenile parts; or would understudy; has had 4 years' child parts; good refs. JESSIE APTED, 93, Euston-road, King's Cross.

WANTED, Known, Charles Homer, Baritone, Juv. Lead, Heavies, Disengaged Feb. 25. Wire, T. R., Bolton.

WANTED, by Elocutionist, Engagements at At Homes, Concerts, &c.
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WANTED, Known, the Mysterious Lilith, the Prettiest and most Sensational Mystery on the Variety Stage, at Liberty March 11 and 18.

Proprietors and Managers
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should Secure this Star Act.

Also Lilian Warren's
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All coms.,
Empire, Swansea;
next week, Empire, Newport, Mon.

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WANTED, Pantomime Artists, all Lines, next season. Lowest terms, photos., age, last two references, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

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WANTED, Contracts for Painting and Making Scenery; best material used. For terms apply, MANAGER, Grand Theatre and Hippodrome, Stalybridge.

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WANTED, Known, the Cheapest and Best Firm for Scenery and Properties is FIELD and HART, 9, Beadell-street, Upper Norwood. (Managers' opinion.) Write for price list.

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WANTED, Stage-Manager and Carpenter combined, good benchman, immediately. Apply, letter only, with copies of references, to Stage Dept., Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, SHEFFIELD.
WANTED, Reliable Bill Poster, used to Ladder Work and willing to make himself useful; must be sober and energetic. References and full particulars, Mr. C. W. RAMSAY, Acting-Manager, Mark Envelopes "Bill Poster."

WANTED, Smart Young Fireman, with best references, for London Music Hall.
Apply, Box 4,431, "The Era."

WANTED, Wardrobe Mistress, Resident; must have good experience, and first-class references. Apply, Mr. FRED KARNO, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell.

WANTED, Known, Edwin W. Smith (late Parthenon Music Hall, Liverpool) is open for Engagement as Manager or any position of trust; long experience. Address, C/o Mr. N. Christensen, 32, Great Charlotte-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Young Man, Re-engagement as Assistant Manager, &c., in a First-Class Theatre; security given; experienced, smart, and energetic; or would invest in a genuine Theatre as Assistant Manager, &c. KEYFORD, 87, Lower Cheltenham-place, Montpelier, Bristol.

WANTED, Re-engagement, by E. Walpole, advance agent, theatres or fit-up, thoroughly experienced, excellent refs. 25, St. Anne-st., Chester.

WANTED, Engagement, by Energetic Agent, late Tomkinson's, Poole's, Vint's, West's, Chattell, Maggie Morton, &c. Address, TOMKINSON'S AGENT, T. R., Blyth.

WANTED, Known, Fred Lewis, Circus Agent, Disengaged, tenting or permanent; 3 winter seasons with John Henry Cooke, Esq. Address, 8, Grindlay-street, Edinburgh.

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WANTED, by a young man, with 12 years' experience of travelling with various kinds of Shows, Engagement as Working Foreman or Property Master, or any similar capacity, with good Travelling Show or Troupe; have own tools for repairs, carpentry, &c.; good appearance for dooring or stage; sober, reliable, not afraid of work; highest refs. Address, Box 4,425, "The Era."

Box Office.
WANTED, Engagement; many years Grand Theatre, Islington. F. O. TERRY,
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WANTED, Engagement as Wardrobe Mistress, able to take entire charge; own machine; just left Panto. Address, Box 4,371, "The Era."

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WANTED, to complete Orchestra, at the New Hippodrome, Belfast. Leader, Bass, and Clarionet; open March 28. Apply to EDGAR HAINES, Conductor, 27, Adelaide-road, Dublin.

WANTED, a First-Class Conductor, for the Llwynypia Prize Flute Band, must understand Boehm Flutes; references required. Apply, D. BEVAN, Sec.

WANTED, Conductor, for Newport. Apply, Stating, age, salary required, and references, to OSWALD STOLL, Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, immediately, Lady Violinists, 'Cellists, Viola, Basso (six in all), to complete orchestra. Interview imperative. Write, N781, c/o Shelley's, Gracechurch-st, E.C.

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WANTED, good Violinist; a good opportunity for an Intelligent young Musician in a Cavalry Band now serving at home.
Good pay and private engagements.

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WANTED, Reliable First Violinist.
Apply,
SHERWOOD and Co., Opera House, Wakefield.

WANTED, Lady Cornettist, who has played in Bands, to join at Hamburg, Feb. 28, an English Ladies' Orchestra, touring Continent, three months' Contract given with return fares; eng. prolonged if satisfactory to both parties. State if soloist. References given and required. Terms, Miss HUNT, English Ladies' Orchestra, Peters' Concert Establishment, Hadersleben, Schleswig Holstein, N. Germany.

WANTED, Good Cornet. State age, references, and salary; 36 weeks' engagement.
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WANTED, Good First Cornet. Apply, with instrument, 12 noon Tuesday next, WILL TAYLOR, Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, S.E.

WANTED, One Week, March 4, Cornet, Grand, Radcliffe; also Viola, 'Cello, two weeks. Lowest terms first letter, SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

Musician.

WANTED, Clarionet and String Playing combined, for a Permanent Staff Band in England; a very good opportunity for a good player who can enlist; special privileges. Apply to N. N., care of Hawkes and Son, Denman-street, Piccadilly-circus, London, W.

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Write terms, experience, Box 4,421, "The Era."

WANTED, Lady 'Cellist and Vocalist combined, for summer engagement; also Lady Violinist-Vocalist. MUSICAL DIRECTOR, 348, Kilburn-lane, Maida Hill.

WANTED, Pianist, for Small Band, Touring Trades Exhibition; permanency for sober, steady man. Salary 30s., and fares after joining. Address, MANAGER, Exhibition, Foresters' Hall, North Berwick.

WANTED, Lady Pianist, smart, for Star Music Hall Act; good salary. Apply at once, MORGAN, 115, Rusholme-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Musicians, for the R.M.S. "Ortona," leaving Tilbury for Australia, March 8. Violin, Piano, Clarionet, and String Bass. Ability and character reference indispensable. Apply to F. C. CANE, Bandmaster, 28, Nelson-street, East Ham, Essex.

WANTED, immediately, Orchestra for Brixton Theatre. Letters only.
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WANTED, Musician Attendants, Viola and First Violin. None but thoroughly competent players need apply. Wages commencing at £33 per annum, increasing to £38 in the first year, then by annual instalment up to £45, and according to promotion, to £50 and £65, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform. Apply to the MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

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WANTED, Engagement, as Conductor or Leader (Violin), any capacity. Particulars, address, J. COTTERELL, 19, Providence-st., off Livesey-st., Rochdale-rd., Manchester.

WANTED, by experienced Leader (Violin), Re-engagement in good Variety Theatre or other business. Address, VIOLINIST, 266, Liverpool-street, Salford.

WANTED, Known, Edward Parker, Musical Conductor (Piano), Disengaged Monday, London and Suburbs only; many years' experience. 2, Trinity-square, Borough, S.E.

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WANTED, by Solo Cornet, Engagement. ARTHUR KINGSNORTH.
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WANTED, by Good Cornet (transpose from trumpet parts), Engagement, in good orchestra, for season. Add., CORNET, 47, East-st.-buildings, Baker-st., London, W.

WANTED, Engagement, Cornet, any business, good soloist; well up in Variety and Drama; at Lib. for Monday. Wire, PLANT, Londondery Inn, Seaham Harbour.

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WANTED, by Clarionet, Engagement, Theatre or Variety. Best refs., and reliable. Apply, CLARIONET, 89, St. Stephen's-avenue, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

WANTED, Engagement by Solo B Flat Clarionet, Military or Orchestra, First-class Performer. G. ROSSI, 7, Alma-terrace, Rock-road, Torquay, Devon.

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WANTED, Engagement by Double Bass or Bombardon Player; experienced and reliable; at Liberty April 1. L. GILDO, 24, Hoxton-road, Torquay.

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WANTED, Engagement, as Viola or Drums (tymps. if required), any business, experienced and reliable. CHAPMAN, 140, Hampton-rd., Southport.

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WANTED, Engagement, by Two Ladies, one a good Pianist; can sing and dance. SISTERS ANDERSON, 12 Mill-lane, Dronfield, near Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist-Vocalist, Choir or Concert Party; join at once.
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WANTED, by Lady, Engagement, as Orchestral Pianist; experienced, good Sight-reader. Refs. PAYNE, 211, Stanhope-st., Regent's Park.

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WANTED, Bandsmen.
Good Musicians required,
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For particulars, apply to
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WANTED, Engagement, Double Drummer, young, in or near Liverpool, any Bus. Liberty after March 9. CLAYTON, 6, Peter-st., Seacombe.

WANTED, Summer's Engagement, by Double Drummer, with Effects; any Orchestra; abstainer; good references. CRYER, 34, Myrtle-place, Bingley, Yorkshire.

WANTED, Known, Mme. H. E. Angless's Ladies' Orchestra, open to accept engagements. From three to thirty performers. 78, Norwood-road, Herne Hill, S.E.

WANTED, The Shakespearean Ladies' Orchestra, 12-30 performers, beautiful costumes, fine criticisms; also the Gascoyne Quintette, Quartette, or Trio Terms and vacant dates, Miss GASCOYNE OLD, 238, Edgware-road, London.

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WANTED, Known, Madame Wilton Davis's Ladies' Orchestra (The Grosvenor), great success Collins's, Trio Dis. for Summer. Manager, Mr. Wilton Davis, Tenor and Humorist, 42, Linton-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, Known, Shikissimma Band, Japanese Ladies' Orchestra, at Liberty for Piers, Kursaals, &c., effective Costumes. Address, Glenthorpe, Chesterfield-road, Newbury.

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WANTED, Agency to Book the Royal Bohemian Bands; good commission to those only who can offer first-class engagements. Apply, J. WILHELM RUSSELL, Conductor, 18, Clerkson-street, Mansfield.

WANTED, by Rabottini's Popular Orchestra, Attractive Uniforms, for Seaside, Exhibitions, Concerts, &c. Apply, F. P. RABOTTINI, 157, Blythe-road, West Kensington, London.

WANTED, Known, Godfrey Holbech's Band, patronised by Royalty. Highest testimonials. Open for Easter, Whitsuntide, or Summer Engagements. Any number as required. Smart uniform. Apply to GODFREY HOLBECH, 14, Hugh-street, Eccleston-square, London, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Leonard Gautier's Orchestra, Disengaged for Summer Season. Address, Royalty Theatre, Chester.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands, apply Bureau, 8, Bedford-terrace, Kensington. Quartet Disengaged, scarlet and gold or evening dress.

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KING OHMY'S GRAND CIRCUS,
HYDE.
WANTED, Talent; Wanted, Sensations; Wanted, everything that money can procure; also useful Circus Performers in all Lines.

Address,
KING OHMY, Ohmy's Circus, Hyde.

Under the Direction of J. Bannister Howard.
CRYSTAL PALACE.
WANTED, Ring Acts, Cyclists, Musical Acts, Animal Acts, Bar and Trapeze Acts; in fact, anything but singing and speaking acts. Two performances a day, at 3 and 6. All applications to ALFRED SELWYN, Empire Theatre, Hull.

WANTED, Easter, Whitsuntide, onwards, High Rope, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Cyclists, Lithos., memos., lowest terms, permanent address, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

SPENNYMOOR CIRCUS and NOVELTY HIPPO.
WANTED, for March 4, and on, Specialities of every Description.
Address, C. ALGIE.

WANTED, Bank Holiday, Aug. 5, 1907, for Kidderminster Weavers Monster Fête and Picnic, First-Class Aerial Performers and other Artists; best talent only. Lithos., posters, and all particulars as to terms, &c., to be sent without delay to HY. GRIFFITHS, 241, Hurcott-road, Kidderminster.

WANTED, Dec. 23, Bristol, Star Specialities, with lithos; must be new to town. Lowest terms, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Good Equestrian Circus, Gondolas, Swings, all complete Shows for Easter Carnival at New Brompton, Kent, 2 weeks, probably longer. Address, Professor CHARLES, Director, High-street, New Brompton, Gillingham, Kent.

WANTED, Haverhill Gala, August Bank Holiday, good Outdoor Show, for Ring.
Full particulars and lowest terms.
G. W. ROBSON, Secretary, Haverhill.
Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, Smart Tumbler
for long Engagement.
Amateurs save stamps.
All coms.,
JOE BOGANNY,
Empire, Birmingham.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence

WANTED, Known, Two Dominos, Comical Animal Act, away from all other dog and donkey acts, circus, varieties, or drama, Vac. Feb. 25, tenting later. DOMINO, 71, Kennington-rd., London.

WANTED, Known, Frank Anderson (Handy Andy), Eccentric Clown. Numerous Comic Interludes, Frank Anderson's Asses, the Quaintest Animals Performing. Concluded successful engagement, Mr. Austin Fryers, Hengler's Circus. For vacant dates, 41, Lavan-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Comical Walker, Talking Clown, with good entrées; also globe speciality; also tenting. Wire, Leicester House, Leonard-rd., Portsmouth.

WANTED, Neddy Vokes, Europe's Funniest Musical Comedian, Talking Knockabout Clown, Liberty, home or abroad. Address, 16, Moreton-street, Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Les Steckels, Gymnastic Speciality. This week, Empire, Hull; next, Pavilion, Leicester. Liberty March. Agent, STEBB.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lo Lo, Lady Gymnast and Teeth Speciality; also Little May, graceful contortionist and dancer. This, Pal., N. Shields; next, Poole's Pal., Treherbert. Lib. March 11, Vac. for tenting. Letters to Treherbert.

WANTED, Known, the Aubrys, Triple Bar Performers, Comedy, open for engagements. This week, Empire, Paisley. Wire or write immediate.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Monday, Feb. 25, Walonell's Comedy Gymnasts and Dog.
9, Havil-street, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Mlle. Lockhart, Speciality Globe and Tight Wire Artist, thanks Proprietors and Managers for offers. Opens March 31 with Behrens and Smith's Circus, Germany. Permanent address, Hildathorpe, Hay Mills, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Chevalier Ponchery, Monarch of the High Rope, at Liberty Whit Monday, and August Bank Holiday, for Big Fêtes only. High-street, Cradley Heath, Staffs.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro, the Modern Blondin, at Liberty for Fêtes and Galas. Enormous success, Crystal Palace, London. Terms, 121, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea.

WANTED, by Herr Swartz, the World-renowned Equilibrist, March 4, 11; also mimic show if required. Hippodrome, Blackheath, near Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, in a Screamingly Funny and Clever Cycling Act. Big success, this, T. R., Smethwick; next, Lyceum, Crewe. Free April.

WANTED, to Join, Troupe Straight or Comedy Acrobats; good top-mounter. Address, ACROBAT, 6, Andrew-place, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, Engagement, by Smart Tumbler and Acrobatic Balancer.
SCROGGS, 32, Stonehill-road, Gunnersbury, W.

WANTED, Known, Tumbler wishes to join Comedy Act, Sketch, or other. Address, HARRY DEANS, 10, Herbertson-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagements, by good Juggler; would join Circus or Touring Variety Co. E. BOUCHER, 2, Nottingham-rd., Bishopston, Bristol.

WANTED, Engagement, as Tentmaster, sixteen years with Lord George Sanger, last three years with E. H. Bostock, through South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, home or abroad.
DICK WILSON, 40, Upper-marsh, London.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Variety Artists of every Description, to write, with full particulars of Act, together with lowest terms and list of bookings, to
SYDNEY B. SMITH,
DE FRECE'S Agency,
178, Charing Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, for March 11, Tour.
A. E. SMITH, Theatre Royal, Colne.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, March 4, Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; hall small.
P. REYMOND, as above.

Scarborough.
WANTED, Monday, March 4, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines. Nothing too Big. Full particulars to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, March 4, and onwards.
A. E. PICKARD, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, for immediate and future dates.
JOHN CASSIDY, Victoria Theatre, Stanley, Durham.

WANTED, Variety Artists and good Combinations. Send photos. and fullest particulars to ARTHUR BUCHANAN, Agent, 64, Broad-st., Birmingham. No callers.

GAIETY, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, to open immediately,
Comedians,
Comediennes,
Good Double Turns,
also Specialities New to Glasgow.
Artists known to me kindly communicate, with absolute lowest terms net.
HARRY BOWERMAN, General-Manager.

TOWER PAVILION (Hall in course of erection), HARBOUR GREEN PAVILION, PORTOBELLO, Third Season, 1907.
WANTED, the very Finest Al Fresco and Musical Comedy Artists. I require twenty-five thoroughly capable and experienced Artists, to uphold the reputation of Scotland's leading Pierrot Pavilions, both under cover. Ladies and Gentlemen send recent photos., giving full details of experience, age, &c. Those capable of producing Concerteds, state numbers. Eighteen weeks' season. Sole Proprietor, HARRY MARVELLO, 40, Albert-street, Dundee. Hall builders communicate. Spaces for stalls, also tea and billiard rooms in Tower Hotel to Let; Advertising Curtain.

PAPA BROWN'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Artists,
8, Cleveland House, Hackford-road, Brixton, S.W.
Phone, 887 Brixton. Tel., "Jibbers, London."

WANTED, Al Fresco Artists all Lines, for Margate, Dandy Coons (Minstrels), to open July 1, for twelve weeks, also for Smart Serenaders, Margate, to open Whit Monday, for seventeen weeks, in each case a week rehearsals before opening. To save time, state age, married or single, lowest salary required, photos. required where not known, stamped envelope for reply. All must be steady, young, and of good appearance. Members of each troupe will have two kinds of costumes, therefore each Artist must be prepared to pay for one suit, the other I will provide. When writing, give permanent address. HARRY GOLD, Queen's T., Castleford.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Concerts and Music Halls. Interviews by appointment only.
SCOTTISH MUSICAL AGENCY, 107, George-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Feb. 25, on. Nothing too big.
Write, FRED DURHAM'S Agency, 1a, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone, 15 Brixton.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, nothing too big, to book immediate dates. Applv.
HARRY S. HART, Variety Agent, Star Palace, Bermondsey, S.E. 'Phone, 1048 Hop.
"Telegrams, "Hart, Star, Bermondsey."

THE NEW PALACE, READING.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Autumn onwards. All communications, G. HOWARD WATSON, Stanhope and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C. Telephone, 6070 Gerrard.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, March 4, 18, April 1. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Known, Artists wishing to be booked for First-Class Music Hall Engagements to communicate with BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, new to Castleford. State lowest first letter; small town. V.A.F.'s only. BEANLAND and EMERSON, Queen's Theatre.

WANTED, First-Class Artists. Send vacant dates, and absolute lowest. I can book you. VENTOM SWIFT, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Tops of Bills, Sisters, Comedians, &c. Send list of bookings and vacant dates, also permanent address. HARRY WARD, 3, Adelaide-street, Strand.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Stars, on Share or Salary. Good combinations entertained with star attractions. GEO. SAPHRINI, Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines; those coming North with odd weeks vacant, communicate. I can book you. VENTOM SWIFT, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Artists, of all Descriptions. Write or call, with full particulars,
J. W. JOHNSON,
Pantomime and Variety Agent,
86, Waterloo-road, S.E.

COVENTRY HIPPODROME.
Proprietors, COVENTRY HIPPODROME Co., LTD.
WANTED, Agents and Artists to please Note that from Dec. 23, 1906, no Contracts will be recognised unless signed by the Secretary and Manager, T. M. SYLVESTER, Manager; G. E. WRIGHT, Secretary.

Important Notice to Artists.
WANTED, Known, the Pier Pavilion, Southport, is closed for extensive alterations, and that the Directors hereby give notice that all contracts are cancelled until further notice.

CIRCUS and HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
WANTED, Known, Rehearsal Monday next, 2 o'clock, for Pringle's North American Animated Photo Co., and Varieties. Letters, SMITH and Co., Red Lion Hotel, Rochdale.

WANTED, Stars, Big Turns, Feb. 25, March 4, 11, onwards.
Wire or write to
JESS VERNO'S Agency,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone, 2076 Royal.

WANTED, Stars, Novelties, and Reliable Turns, of every description, for immediate and future dates, and to complete book. DAVE HYMAN, Agent, 167, Stamford-street, S.E.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
immediate and onwards,
the biggest Stars in the business.
Note.—Full list of bookings complete and absolute lowest in the first instance, or useless. Can guarantee for forty weeks out of every fifty-two England alone, without my Continental and American bookings, if you are the Act I require.
HARRY BURNS, Sole Proprietor,
Harry Burns' Agency (established 1885),
Head Office, Empress Theatre, Hartlepool.
Telephones 0231 and 0231A Hartlepool.
Telegrams, "Burns, Empress, Hartlepool."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Big Variety Turns,
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Something New and Up to Date,
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Novelties and Sensational Acts,
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Novelties and Sensational Acts,

For Immediate and Future Dates, for
London, Liverpool,
Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle,
Glasgow, Belfast,
Dublin, Manchester, Bolton,
Wolverhampton, Oldham,
Hartlepool, Shields, Barrow,
Carlisle, Darlington,
Hull, Middlesbrough, Stockport,
Blackpool, Morecambe,
Brighton, Boscombe, Margate,
Portsmouth, Southampton,
Bath, Lincoln, Leicester, Bradford,
Halifax, Sheffield, Blackburn,
Lancaster, Stockport, Burnley, Derby,
Attercliffe, Stoke, Grimsby.
St. Helens, Accrington, Warrington,
Bury, Hanley, Stockton, &c., &c.
Send, at once, terms, dates, and lithos.
Those having a good act can rely on getting Immediate Work.
WILL SLEY,
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41, Oxford-street,
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Manchester.
Telephone, 09144.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession,
Acts New in Dublin, for the above,
the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland,
Direct or through Agents.
All communications to WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

Under the direction of J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, for Hippodrome, King's Lynn, and T. R., Bury St. Edmunds (3 nights each), Variety Turns, from March 11, onwards. All applications to ALFRED SELWYN, Empire T., Hull.

WANTED, Star Variety Turns,
Immediate and Future Dates.
Big Gala Acts, May 20, onwards.
EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
'Phone, 09261. Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester."

PALACE THEATRE,
CORK.
Manager, HENRY KEMBLE.

WANTED, March, April, May, and Autumn, from September,
Big Specialities, Jugglers,
Cycle Acts, Animal Shows,
Nothing too Big.
Full particulars, Lithos., and Lowest Terms.

WANTED, March 4 and 11, North, Four Big Specialities.
Apply, lowest terms,
GEO. ZALVA,
Hippodrome, Scarborough.

WANTED, Big Specialities, March 4, and on, New to Stanley preferred.
JOHN CASSIDY, Victoria Theatre, Stanley, Durham.

WANTED, A1 Specialities, present and future dates.
MARTINO'S Agency, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Talent, all Lines.
JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1686 Royal.

WANTED, Talent in all Lines of the Variety Profession, for spring and summer tour, under canvas, those doing two or more turns preferred. Frank Selby, of Musical Selbys, communicate; good picture show, supplying own cylinders and full accessories; also property and baggage man. Address, H. GILES, 28, West Derby-rd., Liverpool.

DUNDAS'S AGENCY.
WANTED, First-Class Talent all Lines. Must send absolute lowest in first letter.
52, Rosthwaite-road, West Derby, Liverpool.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Gala Attractions of every Description.
JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1686 Royal.

WANTED, for immediate Dates, Good Combinations for
HIPPODROME, COLCHESTER,
HIPPODROME, MARGATE,
First-Class Dramatic Sketches Entertained.
Write, with full particulars, to
SYDNEY B. SMITH,
178, Charing Cross-road, W.C.

HIPPODROME, BLYTH, NORTHUMBERLAND.
WANTED, Feb. 25, March 4, on, Combinations, good percentage for anything with drawing powers, Poole, Hamilton's Minstrels, &c.; building holds 1,500, best position, electric and gas. Address, TUDOR.

WANTED, Combinations, for May, June, July, and August, for Hippo., Wakefield, and Empire, Hull. ALFRED SELWYN, Empire, Hull.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, for Webster and Girling's Agency, 150, Strand, with which is amalgamated Hugh Wigglesworth's Provincial Agency. Address, as above, to HUGH WIGGLESWORTH, General-Manager, late of Blackpool, Morecambe, &c. Telegrams, "Entertainers, London." Telephone, 2990 Central.

VENTNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
PIER ENTERTAINMENTS.
WANTED, Known, the Council invite Tenders from Proprietors of Concert Parties and Entertainment Caterers, for the privilege of providing Entertainments in the Pavilion of the Royal Victoria Pier, Ventnor, during the season 1907. Full particulars and form of tender may be had on application to the TOWN CLERK, Ventnor.
Feb. 15, 1907.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

ROYAL
HIPPODROME,
BELFAST,
Now in Course of Erection,
and
when
Finished
will be the largest and Handsomest Building in Ireland.
WANTED, February onward, all the Finest Acts in the World.
Price no object.
New and Novel Turns of every Variety.
The above is Booked
in conjunction with
TIVOLI THEATRE,
DUBLIN.
WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
WANTED, Star Acts, all Lines, absolute lowest, once nightly. Lessee, Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

HULL AND WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, all Classes of Acts, for March 4 and onwards. ALFRED SELWYN, Empire T., Hull.

WANTED, the Greatest Acts in the Business, March 4, and on. LEO FRITZ'S Agency, 40, Glenshaw-mansions, Brixton-road, S.W. 'Phone, 457 Brixton.

WANTED, for Aug. 5 (three days), open air, twice daily, four good Acts for Northampton, eight good Acts for Blisworth, also Variety Acts all kinds for March 4, Scotland; good Acts for Lancashire town, and also for North of England town. Latest bookings include Daisy De Roy, Zasma, Foromo, Staffo, Sladene, Knoto, &c. MCASKELL'S Agency, Palace, Bristol.

A.O.F.
Fête, Whit Monday.
WANTED, Known, Tenders are required for Stage Performance, Roundabouts, Amusements, and Cinématograph Show. Tenders to be sent not later than March 14. Further information apply to WM. HARRIS, Secretary, 40, West-street, Trowbridge, Wilts.

WANTED, Top Liners, Star Comedians, and any Big Act, to send full bookings and terms to FRANK LYNNE, Empire, Coventry.

WANTED, Big Tops, for the North, Mar. 4, on, also Big Tops for Empire, Paisley, can be booked if acts good. Agent, DREW BAILEY, 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, First-class Minstrel Troupe, Choir, or Complete Variety Co., with two hours' programme, Northern town, New Year week. Terms, share or certainty. Particulars, specimen printing, &c., CALVERTO, Giffnock, Glasgow.

WANTED, March 4, Star Comic, Serio, or Speciality Act, near Bristol. Wire lowest terms, T. GANNON, Agent, West Grove, Bristol.

WANTED, March 4 and 11, April 1, Star Comedians, Comediennes, &c.
Funny Acts for France, March 25, on.
GEO. AYTOUN, 120, Kennington Park-rd., London, S.E.
Wires, "Antics, London." 'Phone, 1949 Hop.

WANTED, a First-class Star Comedian, suitable for good-class Exhibition Audience, six days, March 11. Address,
H. HAGUE, Spa Gardens, Bridlington.

WANTED, Smart Comedian, must be refined; large répertoire, for Summer Season. State terms and full particulars, Box 4,430, "The Era."

WANTED, for Joseph Poole's Myriorama, March 11, 18, and later, good Comic Singers, Novelty and Comedy Acts new to Wales. Lowest terms to F. MAYER, Public Hall, Ystalyfera.

WANTED, Smart Girl, for New Illusion, also Youth. Write, with height, age, and full particulars, LARCHER, 30, Pimlico-road, S.W.

WANTED, Young Lady, for Living Pictures; good figure, appearance, permanent engagement. Photos., terms. MANAGER, 28, Upper Brook street, C.-on-M., Manchester.

WANTED, Good Models, for Tableaux; must pose well. STANTON, 171, Stanhope-street, N.W. Interviews only by appointment.

WANTED, Experienced, Smart Assistant, for "Black Magic," height about 5ft. 10in.; no fancy salary; long tour. Letters, W. A., Post Office, Abercarn, Mon.

WANTED, immediately, First-Class Operator, for Bioscope, gentlemanly, steady, and willing, total abstainer preferred.
To the Right Man,
a long and comfortable engagement with an old-established company. Also wanted, a strong, smart Baggage-Man.
State age, terms, and full particulars to
FRED BUXTON,
Town Hall, New Mills, Derbyshire.

WANTED, First-Class Bioscope, latest Films, constant change, thirteen nights, Easter (lime), must be cheap; can arrange later dates. Fullest particulars, price, to GEO. KINGSTON, 11, Alexandra-avenue, Blackpool, N.S.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, with own Show, complete, ninety minutes, for Easter week; must be up to date. MANAGER, 123, Lavender-sweep, London, S.W.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, March 4, onwards, Phedona, in her Musical Specialty Brilliant Floral Electric Fit-up. Great Success, Messrs. Griffins and Blake's Pantomime. All coms., CHARLES E. MASSEY, Circus, Rochdale.

WANTED, Monday next, and March 4, by Elsie Earle, in the most successful Song Scena, "Holly and Mistletoe," all Scenery, &c., carried. Wire, Empress, Hartlepool, or G. and F. PEEL.

WANTED, by Sisters Beatrice, Duettists and Dancers, Vacant Monday. Wire or write, 35, Florence-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, Percy Maye, open Monday, owing to Contract for Loughborough having been lost in post. Thanks for offers of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Kilmarnock, North Shields, and Scarborough. Wires, C/o Smith, 6, Whitehall-crescent, Dundee.

WANTED, Known, Dan Gregory, Acrobatic Eccentric, just concluded Circus, Hull Highly complimented. Monday, Hippodrome Dewsbury, Feb. 25; vacant Monday, March 4 and 11

WANTED, by F. H. Dundas, Actor, Monday. Wire for a turn,
Central Hall, Sheffield.

WANTED, Mar. 4, on, by J. C. Oliver, in "Mirthful Mysteries," Marvellous Pot-Pourri of Animal Conjuring and Balancing; experienced Lecturer. Circus, Hull, third week.

WANTED, March 4, 11, 18, by Trippello, in Refined Comedy Musical Act, introducing most marvellous Saxophone playing ever heard, also finest set of Tubular Bells ever placed before the public (fifteen bigger than me). Just concluded Stoll Tour. Elaborate Fit-up. 53, Gregory-boulevard, Nottingham.

WANTED, March 4, also 11, Cambo, the Musical Monkey, in novel musical act; also ventriloquial show. This, Hippodrome, Ipswich; next week, Hippodrome, Lowestoft. Wire or write.

WANTED, by Fred Dorman, Descriptive Vocalist, March 11. This week and next, "Humpty Dumpty." Prince's Theatre, Bristol.

WANTED, by Harry Albery, Eccentric Comedian and Dancer, March 4, 11, and 18. Address, next week, Empire, Oldham. Panto. settled.

WANTED, March 4 and 11, by Harry Plowden, the Great Patter Comedian.
Write, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Monday next, by Harry Leaton, a good, sound, vocal comedian. Big hit, this week. Empire, Shildon, where wire.

WANTED, Known, Tom Garland, just a Vent. and Conjurer, wants March 11. Big success and draw, this, Palace, Cork. Wire or write.

WANTED, Known, Harry Clifton, Patter Comedian and Song Writer, at Liberty. Address, 15 Guildford-road, South Lambeth, London, S.W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Managers to read what "The Era," Feb. 16, says re Palace, Attercliffe: Li-Chang-Hi is an exceptionally clever illusionist. Most of his tricks are new and cleverly performed, and he proves himself a past master in the art of deception. Nuff said. Next week, Empire, Dudley. Vacant March 18, 25, also April 8, on. Perm. add., see Card.

WANTED, Known, Mr. English Lester is meeting with considerable success in the provinces with his brilliant Magical Act and up-to-date Picture Entertainment. Mr. Percy Young is associated with the entertainment, and gives some exceptionally clever lightning sketches in crayon and coloured sands, concluding with a novel effect of Vesuvius in Eruption. His musical monologues have the right ring about them, and go well with the audience.

WANTED, Monday next, Feb. 25. Wire, 25, Devonshire-house, Bath-terrace, London, S.E. The Great Kyoto, with his Mysterious Comedy Japanese Box, a contortionist, comedy Japanese juggling, conjuring, and pug dog. Also May Geraldine, a sprightly comedienne, vocalist, dancer. Also Vacant March 11, 25, April 1, 15, onward. Now is your time for securing two reliable and drawing turns. Wire above address, quick.

WANTED, by the Vulos (Alfred and Flossie), March 4, 11, 18, 25, and on. Try us for one week. Sure to give us a return. The New Coons from the Moon, Four Acts in One, Singing, Juggling, Facial Impersonating, and Paper-tearing. We carry full-size scenery. This is one of the Finest Acts ever produced. For refs., refer to Messrs. KLOOF and FIELD, this, Queen's, Fleetwood; next, T. R., Tyldesley. Vacant March 4, 11, 18.

WANTED, March 4, 25, by The Gentrys (Alice and Frank), Refined Comedy and Acrobatic Speciality Artists. Coms., T. R., Hyde. See Cards.

WANTED, Known, the Original Musical Mintos have no connection with the party using our name at Hawick this week.

WANTED, Easter, on, the Mintos, Lady and Gentleman, Musical Eccentrics and Vocalists. Sketch Artists, Comic Duettists. Wire, 34, Booth-st. East, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Lance and Lane (Ernie and Elsie), Eccentric Duettists and Acrobatic Top-boot Dancers. This, Hippo., Stockton; Lib. March 4. Coms., SINCLAIR and Co., 118, Kennington-road, London.

WANTED, Known, the Forestiers, in a smart, up-to-date Quick-change Episode, "Brought to her Senses." Sole Agent, HARRY BURNS.

WANTED, Immediate Dates, by Fred Mason, the Whistling Comedian, and Marie St. John, Descriptive Vocalist. Address, 104, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Monday next, also March 11, 25, The Monckton, in their Refined Excruciatingly Funny Musical Comedy Episodes. Wire, Hippodrome, Loughborough.

WANTED, March 11, on, The Monckton, Comedy Sketch Team, in Screaming Farcical Successes, "What Railing Did," also "Hoo from Wych." 12, Kyott's Lake-road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham.

WANTED, March 11, on, The Cailows, Comedy Duettists, Dancers, &c.; Tom Franks, Ventriloquist; two smart turns. Perm. address, VENTO, Cottage, Accrington.

WANTED, Known, Sill and Sillcott, the Silent Comedians, with a Novel and Interesting Act, are at Liberty Monday, also March 4 and 11. Wire or write, Hippodrome, Oldham.

WANTED, by Brothers Lawrence, Vocalists, Champion Ragtime Dancers, Engagement. Great Success in New Song. Wire, Hippodrome, Oldham.

WANTED, March 4 and 11, Raymond and Colby, new Scotch Comedy Act; great success this week, Hippo., Ipswich.

WANTED, Known, Sword and Robb, Comedians, Liberty Monday.
Wire, New Theatre, Ilkeston.

WANTED, Monday next, by Dale and Dale, Acrobatic Comedians and Chair Leapers.
Wire, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, the World-famed Musical Clowns, Bros. Webb, at Liberty March 4, 11, 18. Address, Moss and Stoll, Manchester.

WANTED, by Pearce and Ward, Comedy Artists, unexpectedly vacant Monday. Wire one or two good acts, 18, Clerkson-st., Mansfield.

WANTED, Known, Ryde and Beeman, Eccentric Acrobats, Vacant Feb. 25. Wire, Theatre Royal, Hyde. After Saturday, 140, Ellor-street, Pendleton, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, by Crosby and Walker, Comedians. Wire, Tivoli, South Shields; Mon., 3, Clement-st., Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, Feb. 25 and March 4, by The Carls, Comedy Trampoline Speciality, that can follow them all. Roars of laughter and applause. Big success everywhere. Just finished Continental Tour. Splendid lithos. 85, Rectory-rd., London, N.

WANTED, Known, Joe Boganny's Lunatic Bakers
have March 11 free, 1907.
All Coms.,
Empire, Birmingham.

WANTED, Monday next, also March 4 and 11, by Titan, Telka, and Wyllie (three acts). Strong Man act, Musical Turn, and Ballad Vocalist. Managers in want of three Reliable Acts wire at once. Titan starring here this week. Big success. Finishing to-night, Palace, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, early bookings, "The Noodles," Sketch and Song Artists (2), for Halls, Piers, Picture Shows, appeared Sadler's Wells, Victoria Theatre, Tivoli, Manchester, Paddington, Liverpool, &c. 55, Market-street, Buxton.

WANTED, Known, The Donohoes, screaming Absurdity. "The Man that Never Saw a Woman," vacant March 4, 11, 18. See Back Page. P., Grimsby.

WANTED, Feb. 25, March 4, 11, by Los Granadas, Trampolin Comedy Gymnasts, a Novelty. 64, Upper Sutton-street, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Monday next, Feb. 25, by Poole Pelham Troupe, Three Ladies, One Gent., Novelty Acrobats and Champion Acrobatic Dancers. Tivoli, South Shields.

WANTED, Feb. 25 and March 4, 1907, The Venturinis, the latest and sensational Illusion, "? So ? Da ?"; creation of two women from nothing. This week, Top of the Bill, Hippodrome, Crouch End. The Venturinis are the best drawing turn for anywhere. Wire, VENTURINI, 6, Felix-avenue, Crouch End, London, N.; or, SOMERS and WARNER, Agents, London.

WANTED, Live Agent, to book Unrivalled Living Statuary turn at Good Halls. Big money wanted. STANTON, 171, Stanhope-street, N.W.

WANTED, by Miss Ella's Lion Show, April 15, 29, and May 6,
London or South.
Communications, week Feb. 25,
Palace Theatre, Aberdeen.

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WANTED, Known, Sergt.-Major Williams' Dogs, new and novel tricks; undoubtedly one of the finest exhibitions of Dog Training ever seen.—Vide Press. Agent wanted. 2A, Belgrave-street, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Devereux's Troupe of Clever Dogs, the four-footed animals with human brains, a novel show, Liberty May 6. Pavilion, Leicester.

WANTED, dates, Palmer and Rimlock, Comedy and Sensational Cyclists, on the Teacup Track, local competition. Coms., 18, Royal-canal, Dublin

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Roundabout Maker, Tewkesbury.

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Try one of my famed parcels, containing
Ten English Lever and Twelve Silver Geneva Watches. Best Value ever Offered.
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WANTED, Curiosities, Freaks, &c., male or female, for Paris and towns in France, eight months' engagement, commence March 31. Send particulars to H. G. GALLON, 47, Rue Duvivier, Aubervilliers, Seine, France.

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HAMILTON,
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WANTED, Good Side Show, at once, for Touring Exhibition.
Wire, MANAGER, Exhibition, Merthyr.

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Apply, Manager, Exhibition, Drill Hall, Merthyr.

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WANTED, Known, Sketches, Comedy and Dramatic, by well-known authors, for sale or hire. Sketch written for well-known eccentric comedian for sale. Ivan Gore, King's T., Hoxton, N.E.

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George Lashwood, Bioscope, Park's Eton Boys, Florence St. John, Ed. E. Ford, Leipzic, Burns and Burns, May and Lily, Maningos, Harmony Four.

ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
The Magic Carpet, Bioscope, Marzella's Birds, Rose Hamilton, Vey's Juveniles, Three Tauberts, Howard and St. Clair, Vetter Bros., Cullane's Comedy Four, Lilian Dundas and Co.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Karno's "Football" Co., Wee Mona, Carlos Cæsaro, Burley and Burley, Bernard and Weston, Ailsa Douglas, Frank and Jen Latona.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Tschernoff's Dogs, Three Missouris, Gus Elen, Simms and Simms, Fitzroys, George Ridgwell, Knick Knacks, Two Chinese Princesses, Hurley and Cole, Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Karno's "Early Birds," Bonnie Goodwin and Piccs, Forrest and King, Schenk Bros., J. H. Scotland, Stephens and Rennier, Jordan and Harvey, Bioscope, Stylo, Beatrice Bonnie.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
The Dandies, Florence, Rhoda Bros., Bijou Russell, Harry Drew, Seeley and West, "Crystal Gazing," Bioscope, "Happy Holland," J. W. Magers.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Kellinos, Arthur Lennard, Lizzie Fletcher, Three Sisters Chester, Andrew Roy, Bioscope, G. W. Hunter, Paulinetti and Piquo, Manning's Entertainers.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Selma Braatz, Neilson Sisters, Two Bostons, Mr. and Mrs. Lucas, Goggin and Davis, Cliff Ryland, Nina Gordon, Winnie Gordon, Master Clifford, Van Biene and Co., Chas. Robinson.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Ernie Mayne, "A Night in Montmartre," Steve McCarthy, Marie Kendal, Bioscope, Five Bogannys, Harry Leybourne, Hymack, Mlle. De Dio, De Witt, Burns and Torrance.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Bioscope, "The Light at the Window," Fergana Trio, Allan Hanbury, Alice May and Co., Robb Gilmore, Vasilescu Troupe, Ruth Doris.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Our Curate," Bioscope, Little Ganty, Madge May, Cole and Rags, Lindon's Vaudevilles, Barrett and Knowles, "Iona," Hetty Chattell, Auto Atlas.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
La Milo, Bioscope, Harry Lawson, Arthur Melrose, W. Bellonini, The Wyffs, Coloured Meisters, Princess Pauline, Harold Hughman, "Three of a Kind."

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Chung-Ling-Soo, Ethel Ra Leslie, Lilieth Leyton and Co., Herbert Rule, Madge Grey, Roma and Romani, Bert Woodward, Collins and Rice, Howard and Harris, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Will Evans, Arthur Gill, Lockhart's Elephants, Ruby Dahl, J. W. Rickaby, Rhoda Paul, Dan Leno, jun., Chronophone, Stella Girls, Illustrated Song.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Horace Goldin, Harry Bedford, McConnell Trio, Eily Adair, Hall and Earle, American Comedy Four, Rex King, "The Stowaway," Illustrated Song, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Fred Storey and Co., Chas. Norton, Abdullah Arabs, Percy Honri, The Jees, The Courtiers, Kitty Marion, The Uniques, Sisters Sprightly, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
"The Devil's Sunday," Trapnell Family, Fanny Erris, Nellie Coleman, Dome, D'Arc's Marionettes, Cambrian Trio, Little Don, Illustrated Song, Bioscope.

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EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Carl Hertz, Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Lieut. Travis, Wartenburg Bros., Sinclair and Whiteford, My Fancy, Welsh Wanderers, Arabella Allen.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Peggy Pryde, Ike Scott and Son, Orpheus, Gladys Mavius, Newhouse and Ward, Lilian Warren, Karno Four, Bioscope, Collier and Child.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Arthur Rigby and Co., Laurie's Kindergarten, Sadie Simpson, Sisters Anderson, Lennie and Hast, Victor Newman, Ed. Arthur and Co., Les Strads, Jack Neil, Bioscope.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
"Rogues of the Turf," Verno and Voyce, The Findens, Sisters Geretti, Les Voces, Jack Camp, The Robertys, Schwartz Bros., Bioscope.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Kate Carney and Co., Bioscope, Lilian Lowe, Ongars, Dusty Rhodes, Gus Garrick, Solari Duo, Jimmy Shields, H. Rogers and Co., Claire Romaine.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"The King's Minister," Bioscope, Illustrated Song, Bros. Webb, Montague Bros., Billy Farrell, "Belles of the Kitchen," Bros. O'Gormon, Cecilia Maude, The Kirbys.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
"Moving In," Belloni's Cockatoos, Mendel, Hartley Wonders, Maggie Walsh, Lily Burnand, The Gems, Tennyson and Wallis, George Leyton and Co., The Bioscope.

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CLOSED.

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Rehearsal at 1 for :—
May Moore Duprez, Alisons, Fred Elton, Carrie Joy, Martin Adeson and Co., Pictures, Kelly and Ashby, Edie Veno, Dan Conroy, "Office Hours."

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Carlotta Levey, Harry Clifford, Thorpe and Co., Lily Tiso, Carney and Armstrong, Sybil St. Elmo, Prof. Vox, Stein Eretto Troupe.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Harry Tate's Co. in "Fishing," Three Panamas, Chas. Russell, Oakdene, Pictures, Kate Trail, Tuppe, Four Royal Welshmen.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.
(Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance.)
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Scarlet Mr. E's, Blanche Vincent, Mr. and Mrs. George Leonard, Prof. Corelli, Wal Pink, Pictures, Dolliologi, Maynards, Horace White, Cardigan Sisters.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
The Garganis, Will Van Allen, Mlle. Sylvia's Vocal Tableaux, Selbinis, Parker and Parr, Esta Stella, Little Zola, Bioscope.

THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Harry Ford, Arthur Albert, Ted Young, Walter Munroe, Bert Weston, Olga Dare, Ray Maskell, Four Watsons, Genaros, Vernon Troupe, Three Florodora Girls, Tambo and Tambo, "Hearstrings," Pictures, Menotti, Rosie Bartlett, Ouida Macdermott.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Both Performances.
The Boissetts in "The Dock Strike," Victoria Monks, Carl Howard, Harry Maynard, Bert Weston, Sisters Warner, Ted E. Box, Cissie Hare, Ben Hur, Pictures.

EMPIRE, COVENTRY.
(Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance.)
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Tribune's "Bo-Peep," Prof. Dunning, Kahn and Kahn, Terry and Lambert, Watson's Dogs, Frank Lynne, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND
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Artists and Agents please note that Bookings for the above Theatre have now commenced.

READING THEATRE and EMPIRE, SWINDON.
Artists and Agents please note that Bookings for the above Theatres, which open April 1, have now commenced.

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ARTISTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT THE ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON, IS WITHIN THE AREA ABSOLUTELY BARRED BY US.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras (Fifteen for those engaged at the London Coliseum). Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, or at least TWO WEEKS, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagement cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

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"CHEYENNE,"
"I CAN SEE RED ROSES BLOOMING,"
"BOY BLUE,"
"COME BACK TO BORNEO,"
"IN MY PAGODA,"
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"IT IS THE SCARECROW,"
"MY IRISH ROSIE."
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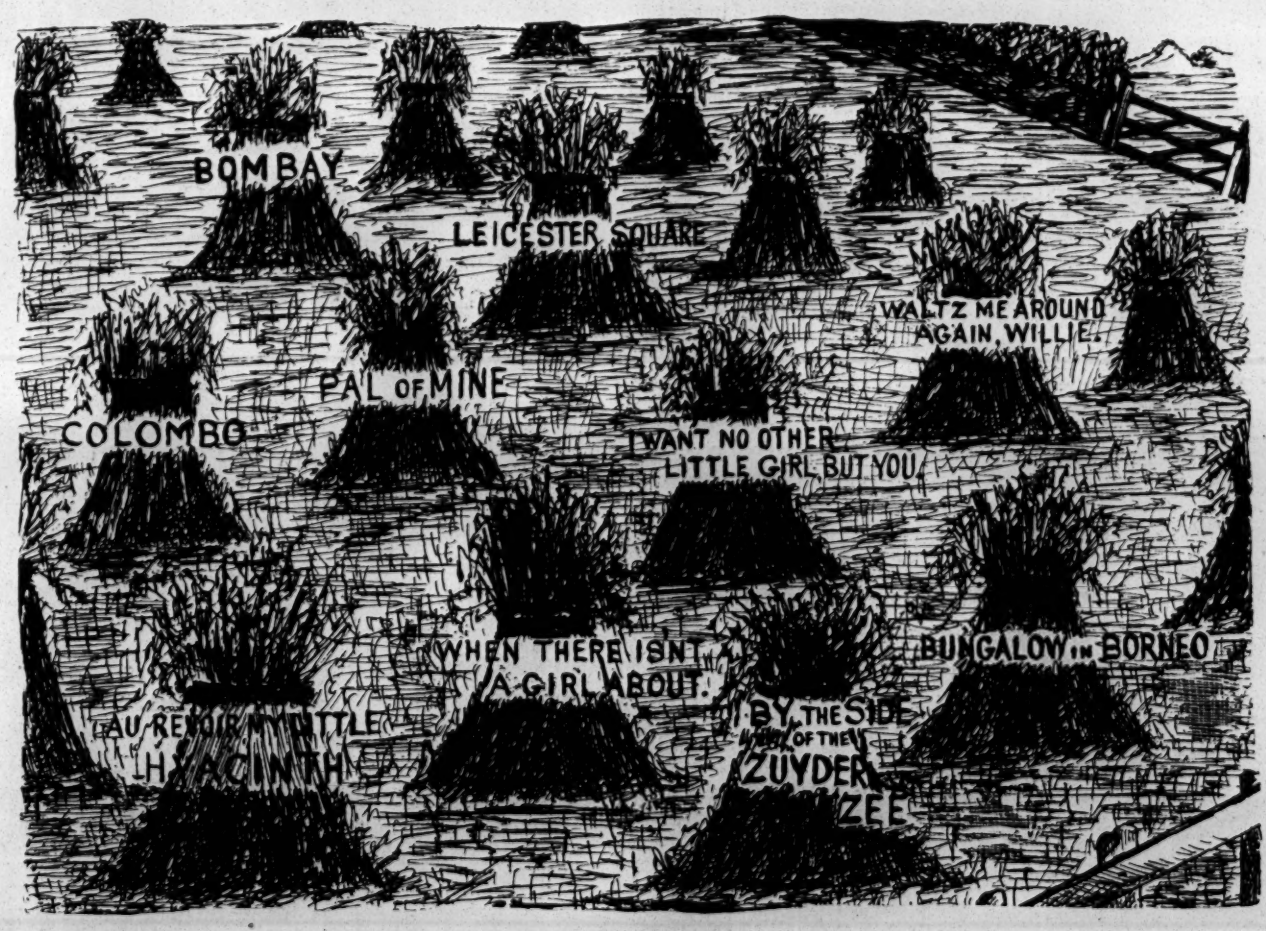

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All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office.

Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns.

Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not re-booked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follows :—

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All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

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HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.
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Phyllis Dare, Stephen Adeson, Mabel Le Roy, Mdlle Yetta, Frank Boyce, Reynold's Minstrels, Juno Salmo, Cosgrove and Burns, Two Rubies, Pictures, Tom Leamore.

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FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, FEB. 25, 1907.

PROVINCIAL CIRCUIT.

SPECIAL NOTICE.
Rehearsal at all Halls, Monday, at 12-0 sharp.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
R. C. Note, Lytton and Bland, Helen Martin, Daisy Devonport, Devereux's Dogs, Cochrane and Co., Bioscope.

PALACE, LINCOLN.
George Brookes, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Katos, Lizzie Daniels, Chas. Torbay, Harris and Worth, Counsell and Mills, Three Whirligigs.

GRAND, SHEFFIELD.
Constance Juno, Ashby and Moore, Czar Troupe, Steckels, Andie Burn, Fred Southern and Co., Bioscope.

PALACE, BATH.
Cot and Colibri, Wilfords, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Dan Robans, Smith and Johnson, Cull-Pitt, Mona McDonald, Dickinson and Johnson.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Marie Loftus, Percy Hannan, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Blake and Granby, Salvino, Harry Taylor, Simosa San, Maitland Comedy Trio.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Bros. Luck, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Max Duffek, Vowles and Bryan, Carlton's Mysterious Cross, Gus Harris, Gracie Bard, Tally-Ho Trio.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, HALIFAX.
"The Fighting Parson," Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Lorrisons, Waltons, Ray Ford, Francis O'Flynn, Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Eight Sunrays, Johnny Holland, Mlle. Sylvesto, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Gladys Witton, Dene and Dawson, Meier and Mora, Sibon's Circus.

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"My Pal Jerry," Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Albano Troupe, Gicardo, Alskarno Trio, Speedwell, Ethel Yorke, Barton and Ashley.

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"Cinderella."

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves."

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THE BRITANNIA.
Matinée Monday.
Ethel Loftus, Moon and Morris, Rell and Butt, "House Full" Company, Lester May, Chas. Santon, Vaudeville Company, Three Cape Girls, Raymond, Zetta Grey and Co.

FORESTERS.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Arnold Bell and Company, Woodward and Walton, Raymond, Wilkinson, Tom Dawson, Violet Harvey, Bros. Blackwell, Chas. Austin, Montague Irwin and Company, Fred Moule and Company, Harry Freeman.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
Flo Yaymen, Davis and Gledhill, Geo. Westland, Mac and Hill, Wallace Whitney, Beattie Foster, Raymond, The Florias, La Vivandiere Company, Laurie Wallis, Harry Freeman.

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All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band parts.
Matinée every Monday.
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Notice.—All artists carrying Scenery must have it Fireproof, according to L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

All Bill Matter or Notification of Appearance must be sent in 14 days prior to opening. All Artists must attend Band Rehearsal, or their Contracts may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

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"WEDDING BELLS."
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Bill matter must be sent two weeks in advance.

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7. Twice Nightly. 9.
Rehearsal at 11 o'clock for
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The girl is instructed by a monk as to her future life inside the convent, and the nuns re-arrange her dress in conformity with their own. Tying back all her hair, they place on her head the usual emblems of the sisterhood. She is taken to the kitchen, where certain work is given her to accomplish within an allotted time.

The young lover, recovering from his temporary unconscious state, goes to the convent where his sweetheart is confined, and requests to see her. His entreaties being in vain, he looks around in desperation to force his way in. A huge tree being near one of the barred windows, he climbs up, and, with his dagger, removes the obstruction, and gets inside.

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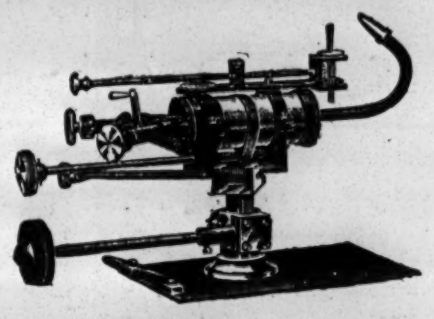

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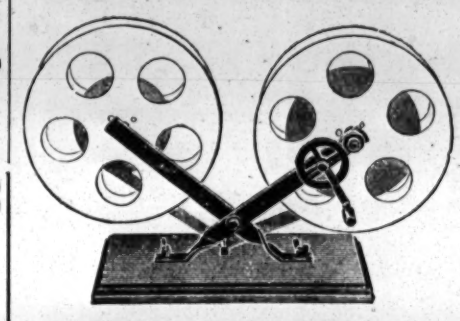

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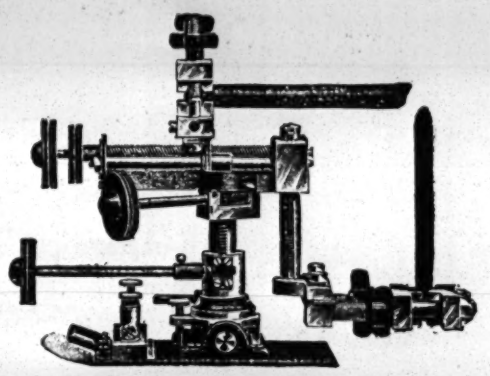

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—Mr. Martin Harvey opened on Monday before a crowded house with *The Only Way*. His acting as Sydney Carton is splendid, not only in its sincerity, but also in its restraint, and the impression he makes will for ever remain in the memories of many playgoers. Miss de Silva played with exquisite tenderness as Mimi and Miss Coleridge's Lucie Manette was exceedingly graceful and winning; Mr. Charles Glenney acted with all his usual power as Defarge, and excellent work was likewise contributed by Messrs. Craske, Alexander, Hewland, and Fred Wright, sen. During the week *A Cigarette Maker's Romance* was also played.

PALACE THEATRE. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Resident Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The sensational turn of Miss Ella and her forest-bred performing lions is followed with breathless interest; the Five Abradoffs appear in a quaint comedy act, *Prehistoric Times*. They are rapturously applauded. Vasey and Ramsay also contribute an amusing comedietta; the Prinellas produce a unique scena, *A Country Flirtation;* Les Bollingers give an original lightning painting turn; and among other successful artists are Mr. Victor Travers, comedian; Miss Bertha Norwood and Miss May Tudor, comediennes; and the Levans, with illustrated songs.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr. Walter Melville's company opened here on Monday in *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning*. Mr. Roy Redgrave gives a painstaking performance as Willie Mason; Sidney Sarl must be complimented for his acting as Bill Slater; the part of Jack Fenton is ably presented by Mr. Frank Robertson; and Willie Reed is good as Johnnie Walker. Miss Frances Ruttledge gives a scholarly reading of Sophie Coventry; Lucy Coventry is in the safe hands of Miss Hilda Baynton; and the remaining parts are capably sustained.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Potter, Vandy, and Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Parsons.—Capital entertainment is provided at the above hall this week. Edie and Ramsden, one of the smartest turns we have seen here, is clever, refined, and amusing; Prince Ismail is an Indian fakir with some very neat tricks; Lord, Murray, and Lord gave an excellent sporting gymnastic act, which is well received; the Greys, operatic duettists, render some excellent numbers in good style; the Haley's Juveniles are always welcome; Frank Maura is a clever foot-manipulator; Will, character vocalist, is good; and the Hippo-Bioscope furnishes some very good pictures.

ALDERSHOT.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—*Dare-Devil Dorothy* is on a return visit. Mr. J. W. Cordiner is still piloting the tour for Mr. Henry Swinerd, and, if anything, the comedy is more attractive than ever. Miss Nellie Harcourt is an old favourite, and, besides her lively acting, she skilfully contributes dancing, songs, and skipping-rope items. The Sisters Blake as acrobatic dancers are particularly clever; Miss Dorothy Desmonde uses a splendid contralto voice to advantage; and Miss Marie Vere is also a success vocally; whilst Mr. Bert Edwards has a fund of humour as principal comedian. Mr. Walter Ashley (Fielding) and Mr. H. C. Ward (Dudley) are clever with their respective impersonations; Mr. Dean Cliffe is amusing as Featherstonhaugh; and Mr. B. Edwards convulses the audience with his humorous Silas. Miss Dorothy Desmonde's is a charming impersonation of Dorothy; Miss Marie Vere is capable as Ruth; and Miss Nellie Harcourt is full of life and go as Judith.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Revill.—This week we have Mr. Fred Karno's company in *Saturday to Monday*. The piece runs merrily, Mr. Roland Martin's characterisation of Johnny Willie Jaggs, the bridegroom, provoking much laughter; Miss Amy Rogerson as the bride contributes her full share to the absurdity of the varied situations. Good work is done by Messrs. Bradbury, Melville, H. Summers, H. Wallace, J. Fletch, G. Cooper, F. Palmer, S. Lansdown, V. H. Crawford, Dick Rose, and Misses Daisy Stone Ada Maskell, Louie Arnold, Lily Olive, Lucy Walden, Mabel Clarke, Kathleen Dennis, Louie Lilian, Muriel Palmer, and Valletta Rushton.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—Mr. Harry Tate is here again with his really funny *Motoring* sketch; Rosie Reval is a charming serio, with a gay and dashing manner; Amy Anderson and company introduce a new sketch in three scenes; good business is introduced by those expert musical eccentrics, Zanfretta and Napio; Sid, Myra, and the dog are a trio of performers whom the audience would willingly watch for a longer "turn"; the actor-vocalist, L. B. Athol, gives an artistic vocal production, entitled *Dreamland*, which is very interesting; Douglas and Gordon are also very entertaining in a novel comedy act; Fred S. Perke and Co. introduce a sketch of the Charles II. period, Mr. Perke being seen in the title-rôle; the Bioscope pictures illustrate a drama of the Western goldfields.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. A. Wordsworth. — The popular picture entertainment once more holds sway here with an interesting and up-to-date series of films. Miss Marion Scott, burlesque artist, has been engaged, and her efforts are highly appreciated.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—The enterprising management here has done well in securing the famed Savonas as the leading attraction during the present week, for packed houses are the rule at every performance, and the legend, "house full," is much in evidence. As a musical turn the Savonas are without rival, whilst the stage setting and the novel electrical effects are lavish and beautiful. The Elliotts give a daring bicycle act, for which they receive well-merited applause; Miss Eloina contributes a graceful gymnastic display; Mr. E. C. Clayton has a fine series of pictures, including "A Venetian Tragedy"; Mr. Claude Tomlin is an acceptable character vocalist, his style being easy and his songs of the sensible order; a mirth-provoking turn is that of Mr. Jack Rae as a comedy gymnast and juggler; and a strong contribution is that of Snowball and Miss Dolia, American comedy eccentrics.

AYR. — GAIETY THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. W. Day.—On Monday and Tuesday the attraction was the powerful drama, *The Scarlet Clue*, with Miss Grace Warner in the leading part, supported by Mr. George Gordon and an excellent company. In the rôle of Michael Stanton, alias Flash Mike, Mr. Gordon gives a powerful portrayal of the villain; as Billy the Rotter, Mr. J. L. Leigh keeps the audience in the best of humour throughout; Mr. Arthur Page gives a clever exposition of the part of Crazy Jim; Miss Hilda Herne acts to the life of Elsie Dane, a Sister of Mercy; Miss Kathleen Cranston as Mother Scrooge, a hag, does exceedingly well; Mr. Jack Armitage gives a clever delineation of the double part of Jack and Harry Esmond, twin brothers; in the exacting rôle of Sal Scarlet, in which she assumes various aliases, Miss Grace Warner displays her versatility.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Dudley Harcourt.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's company is the attraction here this week in the drama, *The Beast and the Beauty*. Mr. Herbert Ford submits a masterly representation of Jack Barrymore, the "Beast," and Mr. William E. Passmore furnishes a good impersonation of the Earl of Loman; the part of Henry Denner is embodied in capital style by Mr. Bernard Mervyn, the villainy of the character being well depicted; Mr. Harry Winpenny as Dick Soanes meets with a good reception and Father Paul is in the capable hands of Mr. Stanley Vivian; Mr. Will Corrie portrays Tom Chicken with good effect; Mr. Eric Campbell gives a manly and earnest rendering of the part of Ned Sampson; Mr. Alfred Wood is suitably placed as Mr. Sharp, and Mr. Harry Seton as James, a footman, is successful. Miss Lydia Andre ably represents Violet, the "Beauty," and Miss Daisy Gwynne submits a forcible delineation of Delilah Vane. A special word of praise is due to the scenery and staging of the drama.

BARNSLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—Mr William Greet's company in *The Earl and the Girl* is paying a return visit here this week. Mr. Alfred Donohue convulses the house with his quaint assumption of Jim Cheese; Mr. Thos. Kennard is successful as Dick Wargrave, his vocal numbers being capitally rendered; Miss Gertrude Simpson is delightfully interesting as Elphin Haye; Mr. Leslie Owen as Crewe Boodle scores in his rendering of "The Grenadiers"; Miss Winnie Plumpton is a graceful and dignified Miss Bliss; Miss Kathleen Gerrard, as Mrs. Shimmering Black, has a part which suits her admirably; Mr. Greville Hayes as Bunker Bliss, Mr. Ernest Plumpton as Downham, and Mr. Sam Lyons as Mr. Talk add considerably to the humour of the play; Miss Lina Hicks is a pleasing Liza Shoddam.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stone.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company, in *Lucky Durham*, is here. Mr. Edmund Kennedy is a convincing and forceful John Durham; and Miss Alice Esther Belmore an engaging and winning Helen Vallerton. Lord Mountfallon has a good representative in Mr. Robert Forsyth; Mr. Arthur Leigh is eminently successful as the Hon. Reginald Steighton; Miss Florence Dulhunty is a natural and graceful Margaret Steighton; and Mrs. Durham is a dignified and fine character as drawn by Miss Louisa Gourlay.

HIS MAJESTY'S.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Frank Bateman's dramatic company, in *No Wedding Bells for Her*, is here. Miss Lizzie Montague gives a fine portrait of Lola Delaspierre; and Doris Fane is beautifully presented by Miss Dora Pass. Mr. Stuart Lomath is a typical clergyman, Mr. Percy Shaw an admirable Dick Delver, and Mr. George Herbert contributes a good character-sketch of Horatio Fane.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—Mr. H. A. Saintsbury, who has for the last few weeks been touring in the West with his dramatic version of the novel *Anna of the Plains*, occupies the boards here. Mr. Saintsbury himself gives a graphic rendering of the pious veldt farmer, Matthew Kerrins; the jealous disposition of his spouse, Sarah Kerrins, being vividly brought out by Miss V. Vivian. The young Britisher, Michael O'Donoghan, is portrayed by Mr. Hilliard Vox; and the Boer settler, Piet Van Heller, by Mr. C. H. Croker-King, each of whom enact their parts with care and effect. Miss Dorothea Desmond acts with becoming delicacy and discrimination the difficult character of Anna. The amusing two-scene play, *The First Night*, follows, and the same artists exhibit versatility in their lighter work. On Thursday, a new afterpiece, entitled *Jocelyn and Jester*, by Mr. Ronald Macdonald, was down for production.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth. — The varied programme for the current week includes Henry Cot, the French giant, and Prince Colibri, the Russian dwarf, the great contrast between them creating much curiosity and amusement; Cull-Pitt, in his pot-pourri of conjuring, wit, and mimicry, is highly entertaining; muscular manhood, combined with wonderful equilibristic feats, is supplied by the Wifords; Dickinson and Johnson, after a long absence, are again giving their clever and graceful tank performance; old favourites are the well-known coloured duo, Smith and Johnson; Dan Robins, baritone vocalist, sings a couple of ballads with acceptance; Mona McDonald proves herself an accomplished comedienne; Raymond's Bio-tableaux show a fine series of Swiss scenery in winter.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—On Monday night Miss Elaine Verner's company opened a week's stay here. In *Saints and Sinners* Mr. Harding Thomas gave a capital portrayal of Jacob Fletcher, his acting being decidedly above the average. Mr. E. Rayson-Cousens appeared as George Kingsmill; Mr. Edgar Kent scored as the villain, and the part of Samuel Hoggard was in the capable hands of Mr. John J. Hooker; Miss Elaine Verner was successful as Letty Fletcher, and the part of the servant Lydia was played in excellent style by Miss Ada Clarke. In *Judah* the rôle of Vashti Dethic was taken by Miss Verner, and Mr. Thomas was responsible for the interpretation of Judah Llewellyn. *The Middleman* was played on Wednesday, when the parts of Mary and Cyrus Blenkarn were played by the two principals.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—We are favoured this week with a visit from Mr. Harold V. Neilson and company, who are presenting Mr. Alfred Sutro's play, *The Perfect Lover*. Mr. Harold V. Neilson, an exceedingly clever actor, must be accorded chief honours for his brilliant and skilful impersonation of Joseph Tremblett; and a delightful actress, Miss Amy Sangster acquitted herself with distinction as Lilian Tremblett. Mr. W. Lemmon Warde was all that could possibly be desired as William Tremblett; and one could not desire a more admirable impersonation of Lord Cardew than that submitted by Mr. Frank Beresford. The rôle of the Hon. Susan Lesson was done full justice to by Miss Gertrude Sterroll, a clever actress; Miss Dorothy Milne was certainly charming as Martha Tremblett; the parts of Mrs. Morphitt, Mrs. Barter, and Mrs. Bonham were splendidly portrayed by Miss Lilian Kevil Davis, Miss Edith Dent, and Miss Elsie Savile. Miss Renee de L'Estrade gains many admirers for her finished impersonation of May; and other rôles were capitally sustained by Messrs. John Detlow, Reginald Hargreaves, H. B. Peppin, and D. Gow.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Freece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—Miss Alice Pierce has been accorded a splendid reception for her impersonations of celebrated actresses; as Raymond's living studies in animated sculpture, Clito furnishes a wonderfully effective turn, the various poses being much admired; Mr. C. St. John Denton and Mr. George Nowland's company, including Marjorie Lawrence, present the "Punch and Judy Girls," a company of exceedingly smart juveniles, who have made a big hit. Mr. Fred Earle, of "Seaweed" fame, has been accorded a capital reception for his comic songs; and the Tokio troupe appear to great advantage in their sensational acrobatic and equilibristic act; a splendid exhibition of the art of Terpsichore has been presented by Las Molasses; and also here are

Miss Alice Ormonde, a charming comedienne; Burnette and Corri, eccentric jugglers; and the Palace pictures.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Miss Carlotta Levey, who made such a tremendous hit in local pantomime, has been strikingly successful with her clever rendering of all the pantomime hits, "Cheyenne," &c. The jumping feats of the Stein-Eretto troupe are certainly marvellous; and an immense reception has been accorded Prof. Vox, one of the smartest ventriloquists before the public. Mr. Harry Thorpe and Miss Zoe Coe appear to much advantage in their high-class comedy episode, *My Burglar;* and the charming ballad vocalism of Miss Sybil St. Elmo has fairly delighted the crowds. Carney and Armstrong have afforded much pleasure with their speciality act; and also appearing are Miss Lily Tiso, comedienne and dancer; and Mr. Harry Clifford, comedian.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Alhambra Dramatic Company, under the direction of Mr. M. Montgomery, is here with Mr. Walter Howard's drama, *Man and Wife.* Mr. Horace Denton furnishes an exceedingly clever impersonation of Paul Revere, his acting throughout being worthy of high praise; and the iniquities of Captain D'Espaire are realistically portrayed by Mr. Balfour Dennistoun. Miss Roma Tremayne gives a delightful representation of Marcelle, the heroine; and Mr. Cyril Grier treats us to a careful study of Sergeant Jacques. Miss Nina Blake-Adams's enactment of the cripple boy is a skilful performance; Mr. Elmore Frith must be commended for his splendid impersonation of Colonel Latour; and Miss Mattie Crawford is vivacious and charming as Rosette. The humour of the piece is mainly sustained by Mr. Tom H. Solly, who was decidedly funny as Bambo; and Miss Alice Clarke was all that could possibly be desired as Ruth Revere. Other parts were carefully interpreted by Messrs. Ed. Smythe, J. E. Davies, and F. Moselle. Mr. Tom H. Solly is responsible for the stage-management. The Alhambra Bioscope, under the direction of Mr. W. E. Newlove, exhibits a splendid picture this week, "Pals; or, My Friend, the Dummy."

BILSTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Battersby; Musical-Director, Mr. J. E. Machin.—*Beauty and the Beast* pantomime is an attraction here. The singing of Miss Vesta Fay as Prince Charming and the acting of Miss Lizzie Round as Beauty are two prominent features. The Misses F. Gibbs (Fairy Starlight), Nellie Newman (Bon Bon), and Girtie Newman (Daisy) are well to the front. The antics of Edwin and Atom, as Flip and Flop, are very diverting; Mr. Mark Lane is a good Twiddleums; and Mr. Charles Rowen works hard as the Baron.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—On Monday and during the week the Clifton Operatic Society have been giving representations of *Dorothy* in aid of the funds of the local charities. The opera is presented in a highly creditable manner, Mme. Florence Bellamy in the title-rôle and Miss Agnes W. Spears as Lydia Hawthorne, acquitting themselves with marked ability; Mr. Thomas E. Francis as Harry Sherwood, displayed considerable skill; Mr. Jack Henderson is an excellent Lurcher, and Squire Bantam is well played by Mr. G. E. T. Read. Remaining parts are filled in a very creditable manner. Special scenic effects have been provided by Mr. W. W. Kelly, and the augmented orchestra is under the baton of Mr. F. Hamilton Jackson.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties. — Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. Whit Cunliffe is a prominent attraction, and the Ten Loonies, in their mad musical sketch, *Dotty,* have made an unmistakable hit; the Five Casino Girls, brass instrumentalists, are a great success, and Miss Effie Stuart, Scottish comedienne, has many admirers. Other turns are contributed by Mr. Dick Geldard, comedian; Starr and Leslie, club manipulators; Mr. Walter King, comedian; and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*The Queen of Hearts* has now reached its second edition, and the theatre is, if possible, more crowded than before. The pantomime is now embellished with a harlequinade, in which Mr. George Robey, who makes an inexpressibly droll clown, is supported by that admirable comedian, Mr. Edward Lewis as pantaloon, Mr. T. A. Shale as policeman, Mr. Tom Hearn as Lord Edgbaston, Miss Millie Lindon as harlequin, Miss Valli Valli a graceful columbine, and Miss Ethel Haydon as nursemaid. Furthermore, several new songs have been introduced, including "Queen Elizabeth," by Mr. Robey; "The picture frame," which is a new song written by Mr. W. Jackson Houlston, composed by Mr. Guy Jones, and sung with every success by Miss Lindon; "The Queen of Samara," by Miss Valli Valli; and "Eileen Allanah" and "My cherry blossom," by Miss Haydon. Mr. T. A. Shale now contributes "Lou, Lou," and the new and funny business presented by the comedians meets with the heartiest success. On Friday "Students' Night" was announced, when the medicos, in multi-coloured garments, were expected in full force.

Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Captain Swift* takes the place of *Crusoe's Adventures,* which was withdrawn on Saturday last amid many expressions and tokens of goodwill to those engaged therein. *Captain Swift* is presented by Mr. M. Russell Rosse, who has cast the piece with excellent taste and discretion. Mr. Edward Sorley, as Captain Swift, brings out the latent goodness of the rôle with considerable feeling and effect: Miss E. Nolan O'Connor shows clever emotional power as Mrs. Seabrook; Mr. Chas. Boult acts as Gardiner with excellent self-possession; Mr. T. Weldon Atherstone applies much force to the rôle of Marshall; Mr. Martin Roland depicts the impetuosity of Harry Seabrook in an excellent manner; Miss Adah Barton reflects the charm of Stella with much ability, and Mr. Albert Bernard, Mr. W. E. Chewd, Miss Beatrice Marsdene, and Miss Lillian Revell shine in the cast. *A Happy Pair* precedes.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—*Cinderella* is running with undiminished success, the bookings for this widely-popular pantomime extending as far as Easter. Meanwhile, Mr. Collingwood's anniversary approaches, this being an occasion which his myriad friends and patrons never fail to celebrate with due éclat and circumstance.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*The Soldier's Wedding* paid its first visit here last Monday, and immediately took the crowded house by storm. Mr. Wingold Lawrence stirred the audience into frequent outbursts of applause with his fresh and manly impersonation of Jack Brown; Mr. Beresford Whitcomb was well suited both in ability and appearance as Col. Graham; Mr. Raymond Wood gave a forcible rendering of the Colonel's nephew, Courtenay; Miss Jessie Winter displayed vivacity and winsomeness as Nancy Lee; Miss Marie McAulay did justice to the rôle of Julie de Beauvrais; Mr. A. G. Melford scored as Tommy Spratt; and Mr. Fred Yarnold, Mr. Frederick Byron, Miss Georgie de Lara, Miss Ettie Carlisle, and Little Albert did well. The play is staged in Mr. Walter Melville's usual complete style.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The London Fireman* draws large audiences this week with Messrs. Garside and Knowles's company. Miss Nelly Shirley is highly popular in the rôle of Ida Curtis; Miss Nelly Garside figures successfully as Polly Bramble; Miss Beatrice Sinclair is seen to advantage as Grace; Mr. Philip Renouf as Bill Stinger is all that could be desired; Miss Nelly Waddington acts finely as the Countess Fleming; Mr. J. Forbes Knowles as the hero, Hal Curtis, gives a striking impersonation; Mr. Edward L. Garside shines in his vivid assumption of the returned convict, Ratty; Mr. Herbert Humber realises the rôle of Viscount Fleming with due effect; and Messrs. Lionel Thomson, Walter Wilby, Fred Monney, W. Burgess, Joe Rockley, and Edward Wishaw are exceedingly good in their parts.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*The Lion and the Mouse* is staged here by Mr. Walter Maxwell's company. Mr. Leslie Carter's powerful impersonation of the American financier, Ryder, is much appreciated; Miss Christine Silver gives a charming as well as strenuous impersonation of the heroine, Shirley Rossmore; Mr. Douglas West finds favour as James Rossmore; Mr. Lewis Edgard gives full effect to the part of Jefferson Ryder; Miss Margaret Nybloc is graceful and clever as Kate Roberts; Miss Elspeth Dudgeon ably interprets the rôle of Mrs. Ryder; Mr. John Wheatman portrays the character of J. Whitmore Roberts, M.P., very successfully; and Mr. Herbert Chown acts with agreeable humour as the Hon. Fitzroy Bagley. *Nearly Severed* is also in the bill, and is very successful.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Mr. Hymach is a quick-change artist of an original character, who, dispensing with the usual screens, changes his clothes in full view of the audience with lightning-like rapidity. Marie Kendall's several new songs are rendered in fine style; Mlle. de Dio gives an exposition of weird and fantastic dancing, obtaining wonderful effects by means of coloured lime-lights; a clever entertainment is presented by De Witt, Burns, and Terrance in *The Awakening of Logs;* while the Five Bogannys are expert risley artists. *A Night in Montmartre* is the title of a sketch for which Mildred Devere and company are responsible, depicting life in the slums of Paris at midnight: Harry Labourne, comedian; Steve Macarthy, the Irish coon; and Ernie Mayne, the simple comedian, contribute enjoyable items.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The Three Demons present about the last thing possible in the art of trick cycling. Miss Nell Emerald sings several enjoyable songs, which are well received; Harwood's Juveniles present a clever sketch, entitled *A Children's Christmas Eve;* Amurat is a strong man, who varies his performances with musical selections; and Sable Fern is a charming vocalist. Belle Davis, with her "pick-chick" actors; Carr and Rose, humorist: Frank Gee, burlesque comedian; N. Richardson comedian; Welda and Wynne, comedy artists; and Harry Russon, comedian, complete an enjoyable programme.

Bordesley Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—Mr. Fred Winn's company are seen in the sketch *The Light at the Window,* written by Mr. Frank Dix. In the rôles of Mrs. Wishart and Jim Wishart, Daisy England and George W. Cockburn respectively perform in a satisfactory manner. The Vasillescu company prove very attractive pantomimists; a protean sketch is presented by Alice May and company, called *Tranquillity*—it is full of amusing incidents; Allen Hanbury and Robb Gillmore are two capital comedians; while the Fergano Trio, head and hand balancers; and Ruth Dorris, juvenile vocalist, also entertain in their several ways.

Curzon Hall.—William Hamilton's Excursions are attracting crowded houses here. The pictures are very realistic, and form an enjoyable evening's entertainment. The scenes are enlivened by several variety artists, including Judge's cockatoos, parrots, and macaws; Hector, in an exhibition of hoop-twirling and wire-walking; and Howe and Hardie, in a smart acrobatic turn.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — **Eden Theatre.**—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company, under the direction of Mr. James Willard, is here with *The Midnight Mail.* In his impersonation of Harry Steyne Mr. George Harvard stands out prominently; Mr. Fred G. Evison makes a capable villain, and Mr. Austin Mortimer is a most convincing Leonard Royle. The rôle of Hassin Padisha is well filled by Mr. Harold B. Lewis, and Mr. Harry Emmerson is an excellent Donald Craig; Miss Ada Oakley as Mary Steyne proves an ideal heroine, and Lady Phyllis Eustace has an able exponent in Miss Phyllis Dailley.

BLACKBURN. — **Theatre Royal.**—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Manager, Mr. Reginald C. Yorke.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company in *Are You a Mason?* is visiting here, and the farce is drawing good houses. Mr. E. H. Patterson is extremely comical as Amos Bloodgood, and as Frank Perry Mr. Howard L. Tracy is also responsible for much fun; unusual interest centred in the appearance of Mr. Victor Kerr as Ernest Morrison, for Mr. Kerr is a Blackburn man; Miss Adelaide Grace appears as Caroline Bloodgood, and plays the part well; while Miss Margaret Fareleigh, Miss Babs Stuart, and Miss Madge Henrique are excellent as her three daughters. The piece is preceded by the one-act dramatic episode, *A Bad Penny,* in which Miss Dora Harvey, Mr. Buchanan Wake, Mr. George R. Austin, Mr. Victor Kerr, and Mr. C. W. Hammond appear with good effect.

New Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company in *The Worst Woman in London,* with Miss Olga Andre in the title-rôle, is appearing here.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—The following artists are appearing at this place of amusement:—The Six Brothers Luck company in their comic sketch, *The Hotel Parade;* Gracie Bard, coon artist; Vowles and Bryan, vocalists; Carlton's mysterious cross; Max Duffex, contortionist; Gus Harris, Hebrew character delineator; and the Tally Ho Trio in musical comedy.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. William Mollison and company are here in three Shakespearean plays. *The Merchant of Venice* was played on Monday, and met with a most cordial reception from a big house. Mr. Mollison gave a powerful rendering of Shylock, and quite won the approval of the audience; Bassanio and Antonio were skilfully played by Messrs. Henry Worrall and B. A. Pittar respectively; and Mr. Henry Deas gave satisfaction as Gratiano. The Duke of Venice found a dignified exponent in Mr. W. A. Mackensy; Mr. Roy Cushing was painstaking as Lorenzo; and Launcelot Gobbo was fittingly impersonated by Mr. Alec F. Thompson. Miss Evelyn McNay contributed an excellent study of Portia, and in the trial scene evoked the warmest enthusiasm by the spirited manner in which she delivered her lines. Nerissa was pleasingly played by Miss Elsie Vron; and Jessica, in the hands of Miss Edith Blair-Staples (an actress well known in Blackpool), found a most attractive representative. *Macbeth* was played on Tuesday, and *As You Like It* Wednesday, each play being repeated during the week.

Grand Theatre.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—*Sinbad the Sailor,* played by Miss Lena Stanton and Mr. Harry Joseph's company, has found a home here this week. Miss Stanton appears in the title-rôle, and acts, sings, and dances with considerable cleverness. Tinbad, the tailor, is played by Little Keno, a comedian endowed with rare gifts. Mr. Harry Joseph wins approval as King Krusty and Mr. Bruce Green plays Mrs. Sinbad. Specialities are introduced by the Alhambra girls, vocalists and dancers; Wyman, comic acrobat; P. J. Durney, globe expert; and Farrell and Gorman, musical eccentrics.

BLYTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Mr. John H. Tomkinson's No. 1 Royal Gipsy Choir has supplied the attraction at the Royal this week, and has been well patronised. Being a strong variety combination the programme has met with much appreciation.

BOLTON.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—This week Miss Florence Baines and a well-selected company are appearing here in the musical farce, *Miss Lancashire, Limited.* The part of Mary Ellen Thompson, "the Lancashire lass," is undertaken by Miss Florence Baines, and during the time she is before the audience they are continually kept laughing. The remainder of the characters are in capable hands.

Grand Theatre, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—A good show is given here by a clever company, comprising the Three Sisters Macarti, in their graceful and clever speciality act, concluding with a serpentine dance in mid-air; Clifford Morgan, baritone vocalist; Harry Marlow and May Manton, in an interesting sketch, *Other People's Babies;* Fred Hallam, comedian; Ernest Montefiore and company, in their original dramatic and musical sketch, *The Little Colonel;* Cline and Clarke, black and white speciality dancers and comedy artists; Carl Lynn, animal mimic; the Marconis, electric wonders; Hardie Palm, comedian; James Shingleton, singing collier; De Wynne Brothers, clever head and hand balancers; and the Imperial Bioscope.

BOOTLE.—Muncaster Theatre. — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Young.—A musical drama, entitled *His Sister's Honour,* is being presented here this week by Messrs. E. A'dell and F. Charbot's company. The piece is full of interesting pathetic situations interspersed with some bright portions of humour. Miss Kathleen Eckart enacts the rôle of Dora Stanley with much feeling, and Miss Ethel Ashleigh is well placed as Ivy Merton. The difficult part of Frank Stanley is capitally sustained by Mr. Evelyn A'dell; Sir Richard Redevers is adequately impersonated by Mr. H. C. Robinson; while much amusement is caused by Mr. Sidney Dean as Timothy and Miss Bessie Deares as Maria.

BOSCOMBE. — Hippodrome.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. De Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—At the head of the bill is Fred Ginnett's company, in the equestrian sketch, *Turpin's Ride to York,* in which the training of the marvellous mare, "Black Bess," shows to great advantage. A hearty greeting is accorded Dutch Daly; Sydney and Maud score in song and a dainty dance; Fred Villars is a vocal comedian of no mean talent; Zelda is a versatile instrumentalist; the Sister Brooks are particularly clever dancers and singers; Beatrice Mayer is a pleasing vocalist; and the Hippodrome pictures are as interesting as usual.

BOSTON.—Palace Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. Saphrini.—A good house assembled on Monday to welcome a return visit of Mr. Ed. Ranier, who has made himself a great favourite amongst the Bostonians with his sketches. This week he is presenting *A Son's Devotion* and *The Bank Robbery,* and is meeting with a cordial reception. Les Henris do a clever and interesting turn; the Brothers Mills perform some wonderful tricks on the trapeze; Jock McKay, Scotch comedian; Zernyi, hand-balancer; Joe Henessey, club swinger; the Victorian Boys, International dancers; Alice Maude and company, in *Apartments for Two,* complete a really good programme.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietors, David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—*Alice Sit-by-the-Fire* is paying a first visit here, and this clever play is well acted by Mrs. Russ Whytal's company. The title-rôle, which is admirably suited to her, is charmingly played by Mrs. Whytal; Mr. J. J. Bartlett is very successful as the peppery Colonel; no one is better placed than Mr. Aubrey Mallalieu, who is quite convincing in the part of Stephen Rollo; while Mr. T. Pauncefort as Cosmo Grey does good work. Considerable praise is due to Miss Beatrice Bramah for her clever rendering of Amy Grey; and Miss Lucie Verrier as Leonora and Miss Ninon Dudley as Richardson complete a strong cast.

BRADFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—*Peter Pan* was presented to a crowded and eager audience here on Monday night by Mr. Charles Frohman's company. Miss Zena Dare's wistfulness, buoyancy, and pathos are delightful features of her acting in the part of the freakish Peter; Mr. Lionel Mackinder's Pirate Captain is wonderfully grotesque; Mr. G. W. Anson as Smee and Mr. Stratton Mills as Gentleman Starkey are very humorous; Mrs. Irene Rooke is excellent as Mrs. Darling; and Miss Florence Wells as Tiger Lily and Mr. H. Warden as Panther are picturesque. The work of the juveniles of the company is cleverly accomplished, Miss Ella Q. May, as the demure Wendy, being particularly noticeable. Others who merrily fill their parts are Master Walter Cross and Master Philip Tonge, as John and Michael Darling respecively. Peter's Band, viz., Miss Malthere as Nibs, Miss Markham as Curly, the Misses Phyllis and Florence Markham as the Twins, Master Leslie Oswell as Slightly, and Mr. G. Lupino as Nana (the nurse dog) are delightfully entertaining.

Prince's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—*Cinderella's* successful run is drawing to a close. Miss Florrie Forde, the principal boy, had her benefit on Monday night, when a crowded audience proved a fitting testimony to the lady's popularity. She was the recipient of many floral tributes, and a silver-framed mirror and clock, the mirror being presented by Miss Alice Williams, the charming Cinderella of the pantomime. Extra turns were contributed by Little Vi Davis, Miss Marie West, Miss Cissie Williams, Mr. Jo Monkhouse, Miss Alice Williams, Miss Ray Forde, Mr. George Gray, Mr. Arthur Lennard, the Maitland Trio, Messrs. Percy Hannon and Harry Taylor, Mr. Lavater, Mr. F. Sumner, Miss Flo Florence, and Miss Estha Hayward.

The Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—The popular actor-vocalist Arthur Lennard is on a return visit here, and is again well received, and amongst the members of the excellent company who also win favour this week are Lizzie Fletcher, comedienne; the Mannings, entertainers, in their droll new edition of *The Hotel Boots;* Paulinetti and Piquo, the amusing comedy gymnasts; the Kellinos, in their remarkably clever Risley act, *Venetia;* Andrew Roy, with good tenor songs finely illustrated; the smart Chester Sisters, banjoists, vocalists, and dancers; and the droll comedian and raconteur G. W. Hunter. Some fine up-to-date films are shown by the American Bioscope.

Palace Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. R. H. Foster.—Marie Loftus, the comedienne, bright as ever, in her usual "chic" style is delighting the audiences here this week. Harry Taylor, Lancashire comedian, contributes successfully; *The Man in Possession* is a capital comedy sketch by Blake and Granby; Percy Hannon contributes some good baritone songs; an instrumental performance by Salvino, a clever juvenile, forms a popular item; Simosa San juggles with great dexterity; in their comedy sketch, *The Pictures,* the Maitland Comedy Trio are amusing; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux show some fine pictures.

BRIGHTON.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Mr. Charles Steuart and company are here this week with *The Little Stranger.* The boy-actor, Edward Garratt, gives a distinctly clever and amusing impersonation of Tom Pennyman, the manikin, who poses as the little stranger; Miss Dora Hole makes an admirable Nurse; Miss Mary Allestree meets with warm praise for her enactment of Mrs. Dick Allenby; Miss Daisy Atherton acts brightly as Effie Peacock; and Mr. Charles A. Doran as Paul Veronsky, and Mr. Charles Hanbury as Alec Howard, submit excellent character-studies. Mr. Charles Steuart is well placed as Captain Dick Allenby; and the remaining characters are ably sustained. The farce is preceded by *The Second Mrs. Grundy.* At Thursday's special London matinée Mr. James Welch and company from Wyndham's Theatre appeared in *When Knights Were Bold.*

Alhambra.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—There is a capital company here this week. Carter Livesey and Lilian Rosebery are delightfully entertaining in *The Would-be Actors Rehearsing in a Drama;* the Lyons Trio are pleasing pantomimists and dancers; Conway and Garland are well received in their screaming absurdity, *Left in Charge;* Rosie Archer is highly successful as a mimic at the pianoforte; Frank Halter and Marie Ray, in their comedy speciality act, provide much fun; Ethel Dover is an amusing and versatile comedienne; the Three Sados give a clever juggling entertainment; the Sisters Caselli are capital duettists and dancers; Connie Morie is a dainty comedienne and dancer; J. C. Morris and Ted Cowan, comedians, submit good turns; and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—An excellent programme is sustained here this week. Hal Forde, comedian, gives a capital turn; the Juanitas, Spanish acrobats, are clever and original performers; the Lilian Brothers are smart silver chain experts and acrobats; Ross and Grayson are warmly applauded for their musical and dancing mélange, with "piano playing extraordinary"; Mlle. Marjutti is remarkably lissom in her acrobatic feats; Cairns and Lynch are neat American buck dancers in wooden shoes; William Gourlay is well received in "The Return of Hamlet"; Andrews and Thomson are pleasing operatic comedy duettists; Mamie Cannon is a capital coon comedienne; Austin and Cowan are successful vocal entertainers; and the Barrascope pictures are amusing.

BRISTOL.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—*Humpty Dumpty* still attracts crowded houses at each performance. It is in all respects a very fine pantomime, the scenery is painted in artistic style, the dresses are exceptionally tasteful and of the very best quality, the ballet is decidedly good, and the speciality dances of the Superba Tiller Quartette obtain much appreciation. Miss Sybil Arundale is well placed as Rudolph, the principal boy; she has a bright and engaging style, sings with much expression the various numbers allotted to her part, and she dances cleverly; Miss Maud Darling is in every way pleasing as Princess Aurora (the principal girl); she acts vivaciously, sings in a pleasing style, and dances exceptionally well. The comedians are all very smart in their respective parts, their amusing songs all taking well. Mr. John Donald has now taken the place of Mr. Cyril Thompson as the Demon Soaro, the latter having to leave the company, by permission of Mr. Chute, in consequence of his engagement with *The Geisha* company. Mr. Donald's fine voice is heard to advantage in several songs, and on Monday evening he had a flattering reception.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—This is the last week of the highly-successful pantomime *Cinderella.* On Tuesday evening Messrs. Karr and Kooney had a benefit, when the house was packed. These able exponents of Ceasem and Grabbem, the broker's men, have been very popular with all parts of the house, and on the night of their benefit had a most flattering reception. The pantomime went admirably from start to finish, and new specialities and business were introduced by most of the principals. By kind permission of Mr. J. M. Chute, Carlton, the clever card manipulator from the Prince's Theatre, appeared as an extra attraction. T. E. Dunville, the well-known comedian, by kind permission of Mr. Horace Livermore, also appeared, and there were numerous other extra attractions.

Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—T. E. Dunville, the popular comedian, heads the programme; his songs are amusing, and he obtains much applause for his efforts. Dandy George and his wonderful dog, Rosie, present an interesting turn, the little dog being so admirably trained that it appears to evince almost human intelligence. The Brothers Huxter, acrobats, do a clever turn in which are included some remarkable somersaults; Lozelle, gymnast, does a sensational performance; McCaskell does some smart conjuring tricks; Herbert Adams, in his act, "Cyclumina," displays his skill as an expert trick and fancy cyclist; Keith and Morson amuse with their absurdity, *The Meet;* Jennie Sydney is a pleasing vocalist and dancer; and the performance concludes with a good display of animated pictures.

Empire.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Lil Hawthorne, comedienne, heads the bill here in a clever and interesting turn, and is warmly applauded. Maud Courtney is a pleasing vocalist, with amusing stories; "Mr. C" has a good baritone; and is also successful in patter; Marie Reeve, coon comedienne and dancer, is appreciated; Phern and Phern are decidedly clever musical speciality artists; Tom Woottwell, eccentric comedian, has some amusing songs, and is much applauded; Barlee and Smith entertain with a smart comedy act; *An Agent's Office;* and Charles Lilburn, comedian, makes the most of his opportunities. The performance concludes with a display of pictures by the Empire Bioscope.

BROUGHTON.—Victoria Theatre, Ltd.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company, in the play, *The Village Blacksmith,* by G. Carlton Wallace, had a flattering reception on Monday. Mr. Sam Livesey, a man of fine physique, cleverly sustains the title-rôle; the other strong man, Mr. Joseph Carter, makes a splendid villain; little Miss Bertha Hanbury as the child, Harry Strong, is remarkably intelligent, and gives promise of a successful future; Mr. George V. Campbell is very funny as Billy Twigg; and comedy is also ably represented by Mr. Thomas E. Marshall as Jeremiah Parkins, Mrs. T. C. Livesey as Sal Parkins, and Miss Edith Giddens as Martha Mopps. Lucas Marle and Sir John Harman are efficiently played by Mr. Edwin Maydew and Mr. George Wilton; Miss Cassie Le Grande is a charming Ruth Parkins; and Miss Maggie Edwards is seen to advantage as Kate Strong.

BURNLEY.—Victoria Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—A lively and vivacious performance is that of Mr. Chas. Macdona's company in *The Gay Parisienne* at this house this week. Mr. Will Harman very cleverly fills the part of Ebenezer Honeycombe; Miss Lilian Talbot is a charming Julie Bon-Bon; Mr. Squire Day a funny Major Fossdyke; Mr. Phillip Moore sings most acceptably as Tom Eversleigh; as also does Miss Nance O'Neill as Norah. Mr. Clifford Seyler is a lively Mr. Pompler; and Miss Holford Beringer a dignified Mrs. Honeycombe. Some delightful quartettes are rendered by the Imperial Glee Singers; and the whistling solos of Mr. Cecil Lawrence are very good.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — **Opera House (New Hippodrome).**—Proprietor, Mr. H. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—Ray and Miles are responsible for an amusing juggling act; and Mlle. Rosini, with her miniature menagerie, represented by dogs, is well received; a sweet and pleasing singer is Winnie Wentworth; and Jean Seul, the man of mystery, submits some bewildering tricks. A really good turn is given by Craig, Rose, and Craig, in their gymnastic speciality; Mr. Keane Harker gains golden opinions for his comic songs and patter; and the Clement Trio, in their flying trapeze act, fairly astonish the audience. The Raymond Bio-Tableaux exhibits some of the very latest pictures.

BURY (Lancs.). — Theatre Royal and Opera House, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—*A Royal Divorce,* under the management of Mr. W. W. Kelly, is being played here this week. Miss Edith Coles as Josephine is delightful; whilst the part of Stephanie is charmingly played by Miss Helen Richmont; Miss Agnes Imlay is good as Marie Louise; Mr. Frederick Victor gives a fine impersonation of Napoleon; and Mr. Claude Agnew makes an excellent Talleyrand. The play is well staged.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead.—Mr. H. A. Langlois and company are appearing here in his farcical sketch entitled *Loose Tiles.* Mr. H. A. Langlois makes up capitally as Littlejohn, the giant of the mountains. Other turns are Doris Myddleton, mimic; Joe Dale, comedian and dancer; Charles Howarth, comedian; the Saxonias, in their musical mélange; Clare Chadwick's ladies' quartette; and Diana Hope and Co. in sketch, *The Wishbone.*

CAMBRIDGE. — New Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Mr. Silvanus Dauncey and Mr. M. V. Leveaux's company paid a return visit here on Monday night with *The Walls of Jericho.* The play was beautifully produced and well received, Mr. A. E. Anson playing with great skill Jack Frobisher; while Miss Gladys Mason, as his wife, Lady Frobisher, won golden opinions. Mr. George A. Brandram as Hankey Bannister was excellent; and Miss Mona Wynne gave a natural representation of Lady Lucy; as did Miss Marguerite Cellier as Lady Westerby. A noteworthy cast was completed by Mr. Cyril Baleine, Mr. Alexander Cassy, Mr. A. W. Tyrer, Mr. George Percy, Mr. Joseph Herbert, Mr. Wilfred S. Lune, Miss Edith Cuthbert, Miss Leonora Thomas, Miss Evelyn Maxwell, Miss Muriel Mason, and Miss Millie L. Emden.

CARDIFF.—New Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robt. Redford.—*The Little Michus* is here this week, the company being Mr. George Dance's. The part of General des Ifs is capably undertaken by Mr. Foster Courtenay, who keeps the house in one continuous roar; another comedian who is responsible for many a laugh is Mr. Gilbert Childs as Bagnolet, his antics throughout the piece being exceedingly humorous. In the rôle of Gaston Riguard, Mr. William Everard is seen and heard to advantage; and Artistide Vert is interpreted by Mr. Robt. C. Harcourt with quiet, but effective, humour. The Little Michus have captivating representatives in Miss Alice Coverick and Miss Gipsy Dale. This latter young lady is a Cardiff actress, and the audience on Monday night accorded her a special reception. Miss Mary Young as Mme. Michu gives a bright and pleasing delineation; while Mr. Leon Simkin is praiseworthy as Pierre Michu. Mlle. Marjorie as Mlle. St. Cyr daintily executes two solo dances.

Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—The drama, *At Cripple Creek,* has attracted large audiences at the Royal. The part of Joe Mayfield is enacted by Mr. Stanley Bedwell in a most praiseworthy manner; Miss Agnes Verity as Dynamite Ann gives an exceptionally powerful delineation; while a particularly charming heroine is found in Miss Lily Beagle. Mr. Eric Hudson as Martin Mason and Mr. Oscar Power as Manuel Alvarez are two very capable actors; Mr. Will Hook gives a lively and amusing interpretation of Reggie Harwood, and receives excellent support in his comedy from Miss Daisy Carlton as Maggie Mason. Little Rosie Hopkins as Tatto captivates all by her wonderful representation.

Empire.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. W. Lea; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—The sketch *The Devil's Sunday* makes a great impression with its striking moral, and Mrs. John Lawson's fine rendering of Fay Faber is a clever piece of acting. D'Arc's Marionettes are the perfection of this line of business. The D'Arcs are Cardiffians, and have been accorded a most flattering reception. Miss Nellie Coleman is a most entertaining comedienne; the Thrapnell Family are graceful and talented acrobats; Dome, the clay modeller, is particularly entertaining; and Little Don is successful with his amusing comedy. The Cambrian Trio of lady vocalists, King Kingston (the popular tenor), Fanny Erris (character comedienne), and the Bioscope with pictures of the Berlin disaster complete the programme.

CARLISLE.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company, in the ever-popular musical comedy, *Florodora,* is appearing here this week. Mr. Alf E. Passmore, a funny Tweedlepunch, scores a decided success; Mr. H. V. Cropton sings and acts nicely as Abercoed; and Mr. Stanley White makes an excellent Cyrus W. Gilfain. Captain Donegal and Leandro are well-played by Mr. Harry Perry and Mr. Edwin Oxlee respectively; Miss Kate Leicester is a fascinating Lady Holyrood; Angela Gilfain is brightly and vivaciously played by Miss Lily Gullick; Miss Daisy Lake is a charming Dolores; and Miss Nellie Barnwell a pretty and pert Valleda.

The Palace.—Proprietors, the Palace Theatre, Carlisle, Limited; Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—The Stavordale Quintette, who head the list this week, are scoring a great success with their excellent banjo playing, &c. The New York Nippers, in *Bed-time,* are paying a return visit; the Jackley Trio cause plenty of fun in an acrobatic act; Harry Conlin is a funny comedian and a great favourite; Gwennie Hasto, vocalist and dancer, is much appreciated; George Fairburn scores with his mimicry; Fentone, speciality entertainer, does well, as also does Nellie Martell, comedienne. The Pepiscope complete the bill.

CARMARTHEN.—Assembly Rooms.—Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—On Monday and Tuesday evening the Ormonde Family appeared at the Assembly Roo

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beauland and W. H. Emerson; Business-Manager, Mr. W. H. Emerson.—Henderson and Stanley, in their instrumental and acrobatic act, occupy a prominent place on the bill. Their business is clever, and provides a quarter of an hour's genuine amusement. George Rennard sings some good songs, and is making a success; Herman, juggler, provides a clever turn, and is adroit in the gentle art of making something out of nothing; Rowan and Moore get a good reception as speciality artists; the Brothers Brooks give some humorous fooling of the best quality; some dainty dancing and charming singing is provided by the Sisters Brand; Miss Flo D'Orville is in evidence as an original ballet girl; Hy. Gold is a distinct success in a song-scena, *Cloudland;* the Loyal Dominion's company of animated pictures are still showing some interesting pictures.

CHATHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. Geo. G. Ridley.—Mr. George Dance's company is paying a return visit with *Veronique*. Miss Ethel Negretti is engaged for the title-rôle, and makes a popular success. Agatha is represented in excellent style by Doris Greville; as the Countess Miss Edith Devonshire proves quite a favourite; Miss Neste Laurel is a pleasing little Denise; Mr. Roland Bottomley is repeating his easy interpretation of Florestan de Vallancourt; Mr. Percival Knight is a sprightly M. Loustot; and in the hands of Mr. Tom Seymour M. Coquenard proves a highly-amusing personage.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. Frank J. Donne.—The leading attraction here is the Daunton-Shaw Troupe of Australian trick cyclists; Walker and May are adding to their many local admirers; the New Macs patter, sing, and dance to everyone's satisfaction; ballads are pleasingly rendered by the Three Grosvenors; the Edisonograph has a laughable film, "The Tomboys"; the Sisters Dorell are neat dancers; and Maudie Macdonald, ballad vocalist; and George Leonard, comedian, complete the bill.

CHELTENHAM.—OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—This week an acceptable change is afforded by Miss Florence Glossop-Harris and Mr. Frank Cellier, jun.'s, Shakespearean répertoire company, which opened on Monday evening with *Romeo and Juliet*. Mr. Frank Cellier as Romeo, youthful and gallant in appearance, was by turns impetuous and tender, despondent and hopeful, speaking his lines with emotion and real feeling; Miss Florence Glossop-Harris was a very sweet, poetic, and girlish Juliet; Mr. Percy H. Vernon played the part of Mercutio with spirit and intelligence; the Tybalt of Mr. A. Cotton-Holmes and the Capulet of Mr. Edward Landor were very satisfactory studies; Miss Kate Turner was excellent as the nurse; Miss Ethel St. Barbe was prominent as Lady Capulet; Mr. David Santley was convincing as Friar Lawrence; Mr. Basil Deane a good Benvolio; and Mr. Herbert Halford acted with commendable drollery as the clownish Peter.

CHESTER.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—*Sergeant Brue*, as presented by Messrs. E. Lockwood, R. Crossman, and P. M. Foster's company, is the attraction here this week. Mr. E. Russell is a tower of strength in the title-rôle; Mr. Tom Shelford is excellent as Michael Brue, his topical song, "Do you follow me?" bringing down the house. Miss Ella Daincourt makes a great success with her song, "Under a panama"; Miss Constance Berkeley submits an amusing impersonation of the servant, Daisy. Inspector Gorringe has an able representative in the person of Mr. Clive McKee; whilst Mr. Henry Chichester makes a hit as Mr. Crank. Miss Edith Housley makes a charming Lady Bickenhall, scoring heavily in her song "Instinct." One of the chief factors in the success of the piece is Mr. Charles McLagan's laughable portrayal of Cookie Scrubbs. Other characters are in capable hands.

MUSIC HALL.—Agents, Messrs. Phillipson and Golder.—Dr. Carl Herman, the electric-healer, is appearing here, supported by a variety company and the Bioscope.

CHESTERFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Armstrong.—Pardoe's pantomime, *Cinderella*, constitutes this week's attraction. Miss Lottie Holland is a splendid Prince Charming; and Miss Beattie Shamrock, in the title-rôle, is all that can be desired. Miss Nelly Rose is a good Princess Rosalla; and Miss Ada Sterling is praiseworthy as Dandini. Miss Elsie Kedward shows grace as Fairy Rose Leaf; Miss Violet Rivers and Miss Louie Bright appear with success as the sisters, Eva and Maud; specialities are introduced by the Pardoes, the Brothers Hannaway, Miss Nellie Rose, the Desmond Girls, and Zenith, animal impersonator.

CHORLEY (Lancs).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hemingway.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is presenting *The Silver King* at this theatre. Mr. Paul Beckett submits a capital impersonation of the Spider; and Mr. William Dempsey as the wily Elijah Coombe, Mr. Ralph Leo as the timid Henry Corket, and Mr. Seton Bernard as Cripps are capable exponents of the Spider's accomplices. Mr. Horace B. Herbert shows considerable ability in his delineation of Wilfred Denver, and the coolness and resourcefulness of his acting are very pronounced; Miss B. Doyle plays with much tenderness and pathos the part of Nellie Denver; Mr. Percy Foster's impersonation of the faithful Jaikes is a first-class piece of acting.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—Messrs. E. H. Knight and G. Denham's company in *The Grip of Iron* opened here on Monday to a large house. Mr. Fred Powell, with whose personality as Simmonet, the strangler, the locals are well acquainted, was in quite his best form; Mr. George Denham as the Smiler was intensely funny; Mr. Wallace Curnock made a manly Paul; Miss Muriel Inglis aided the success as Sophie; Miss Rosabel Dodd, charmingly attired, was extremely good as Cora; and Miss Maggie Stuart was a capable Marie Guerin. A couple of really humorous parts were those of the new and old school detectives as delineated by Mr. J. R. Lockwood and Mr. John Brittain; and De Belfort and De Ribas were ably sustained by Mr. Norman Tracy and Mr. A. G. Polson-Turner.

HIPPODROME.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Mr. Chas. Morritt is paying a return visit this week with entirely new business; Mme. Beulah proves herself a marvel of mental telepathy; the Boy Samson gives a fine exhibition of weight-lifting; the Blind Man of Memory, also on a return visit, is accorded a hearty welcome; Marie Blythe possesses a voice of great power; and Chas. Sloman is extremely good with his eccentric songs and patter.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Variety occupies the boards this week, and for the first time the two-houses-a-night system has been tried here with great success. The programme includes Osmond, musical comedian, who is well received; Miss Ada Clare, serio-comedy vocalist; Professor Willard's mannikins; Miss Clare Hastings, vocal comedienne; Mexican Max, assisted by Mlle. St. Clair, in a sensational shooting act; the Izons, grotesques; Joe Hasting, in feats of jumping; the bounding Loubetts, in their excellent acrobatic turn, concluding with a series of animated pictures, which are exceptionally good.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—*The Night of the Party* is the attraction for the week, and was well received on Monday night. As Mr. Crosbie Mr. Sebastian Smith was admirable; he played with great spirit, and caused much amusement. Mr. Douglas Munro as Flamber was successful; Mr. Frank H. Denton was a capable Frank Frayne; and as Bogle Mr. Stanley Arthur was amusing.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—An excellent bill of fare here includes Charles Spessardy's Bears, who give a clever performance; Lily Healy is a smart dancer; Fox and Melville, in illustrated pictures, give an entertaining turn. Valazzi scores as a juggler and equilibrist; Onda and Leon are a pair of clever horizontal-bar performers; Louis Hardt performs some wonderful feats of strength; the Musical Schaffers, in their speciality, are entertaining.

COVENTRY.—THE EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. A. Rand.—One of the chief items here is a pantometta, entitled *Bo-Peep*, by Martin Byam, produced by Dean Tribune. The piece contains many popular songs, and is altogether very successful. Terry and Lambert make a big hit in a couple of character studies from life; Prof. Dunning gives a very clever ventriloquial act; Watson's dogs are presented, and show to what perfection animals can be trained; Frank Lynne is successful as a transatlantic comedian; Kahn and Kahn, modern necromancers, are well received; and there are the usual Bioscope pictures.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor, J.P.—Pantomime is again the order of the day here, the Moore-Kennedy company presenting *Dick Whittington* Mlle. Lucretia, who is an old favourite, is an ideal principal boy, and is a pronounced success in her various musical numbers; Miss Helena Barton is a charming Alice Fitzwarren; Miss Josephine Townsend is captivating as the Princess; Miss Mollie Revell is well suited as the Fairy Queen; and Miss May Vincent, as Viscount Piccadilly, and Miss Lily Rhodes as Sir Rowland, are good. Mr. Will Sands humorously sustains the rôle of Idle Jack; Mr. Will Tozer is a capital Emperor; the Canadian Boys (Kino and Kirby) create roars of laughter as Shuffle and Shirk; Mr. Clarence Turner is an able exponent of Captain Bunting; Mr. Percy Victor is commendable as Alderman Fitzwarren; Mr. Fred Fulton gives a creditable performance of Betsy Mary Ann; and Little Hatch is funny as Bullock. Mons. Pauletti displays cleverness as the Cat. Specialities are introduced by Mlle. Lucretia, Mons. Pauletti, Will Sands and May Vincent, Victor's Musical Dogs, Palais Royal Quartette of Dancers, Tom Lewis, Clarence Turner, and Little Hatch. The chorus is a powerful one, and the orchestra is under the able direction of Mr. H. E. Nation.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—Mr. Milton Bode has sent us an exceptionally good company this week to interpret the tuneful *Belle of Mayfair*. Miss May Yates wins all hearts by her enchanting portrait of Julia Chaldicott; Miss Mabel Dent makes a lively Pincott; Misses Paola Fernau and Jessie Swinney are charming as Sophia and Corrie Fay; Miss Agnes Tandy has a remarkably fine stage presence as H.S.H. Princess Carl of Ehrenbreitstein; Miss Emily Stevens is a comely and attractive Lady Chaldicott; Miss Aurelie de Loriere is great in the dual rôles of Countess of Highgate and the Gibson Girl; and Misses Evelyn Davenport, May Harriss, and Leslie St. John are fascinating as Lady Rosaline Rockesby, Lady Violet Gussop; and Diana P. Cholmondeley. Mr. Haddon Cave gives a sound performance as the Earl of Mount Highgate; Mr. Edward Hugonnet sings and acts to perfection as the Hon. Raymond Finchley; Mr. Harry Parker is quaint and curious as Sir John Chaldicott; Mr. Gwyn Alwyn makes the most of the rôle of Hugh Meredith; Mr. Lauri Lisle gives a capital sketch of Comte de Perriet; Mr. George McCloskie is good as Dr. Marmaduke Lawrence, Bishop of Brighton; and useful work is put in by Messrs. Fred Brundon, Louis Wigley, and H. Buckland.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Herrick.—Mr. Horace Stanley and company are presenting the well-known drama, *The 10.30 Down Express*, here this week. Mr. Geo. Beverley is distinctly good as Jack O'Mally; Mr. Chad Burden as James Inderick acts with strength and power; Mr. Edwin Clarke as Huntley Mason is well placed; Mr. Alaric Burton gives an excellent representation of Cuthbert Leigh; Mr. Tom Roydon as Seth Coombes is very convincing; and Mr. Horace Stanley is particularly able in the rôle of Sam Wagstaff. Miss Elsie Capell as Bessie Leigh acts with grace and sincerity; Miss Evelyn M. Walton causes much merriment as Lettie Leigh; Miss Josephine Lee makes the most of the part of Olive Coombes, and Miss Kate Kilpack as Peggy Potts is commendable.

PUBLIC HALL.—The Zancigs gave their marvellous "thought-reading" act here on Monday, and caused quite a sensation. Two performances were given to packed houses. The Zancigs were supported by Miss Katie Moss, soprano and violinist; Miss Clara Alexander, in plantation songs; Miss Ethel Grimes, light soprano; Mr. Sydney Jarvis, baritone; Mr. David Brazell, operatic baritone; Mr. E. Thornley-Dodge, society entertainer; and Mr. Harold E. Scott, solo pianist and accompanist.

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—We have here this week the American drama, entitled *Alaska*, played by Mr. Hilliard Vox's company. Mr. Percy Ballard is successful as Skookum Jim, being excellently supported by Miss Violet Crawford as Alaska. Mr. G. Flayton works hard as Ned Larson; Baptiste, the half-bred, is well represented by Mr. H. Naylor Grimson; and Mr. Geo. Poole creates amusement as Pompey. Miss Muriel Vox displays ability as Jessie Dalton; and as the Widow's Mite Little Winnie Webster is worthy of mention.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Mr. Lewis Waller's company is attracting highly-appreciative houses here this week with *Robin Hood*. As the romantic outlaw himself Mr. Robert Minster plays with both daring and genius. As Lady Marion de Vaux Miss Marie Polini has the sympathy and admiration of her audience from start to finish. An outstanding feature of the production is the striking presentment of Prince John by Mr. Ballendon Clarke. Richard of England is very capably handled by Mr. Stockall Ward; and FitzAlwynne is well played by Mr. Arthur Willerby; while Hugo de Longespee has a powerful exponent in Mr. H. Elliott Ball. As Little John Mr. F. C. Villiers takes a high place; and Mr. Augustus Wheatman is a really capital Friar Tuck. Mr. Hugh Wakefield carefully portrays De Tracy, and Mr. Edwin H. Jacobs is praiseworthy as the Abbot. Allan-a-Dale is excellently accounted for by Mr. Ethelbert Edwards; and Will Scarlett is cleverly depicted by Mr. Laurence Tessier. Queen Eleanor is finely sketched by Miss Mabel Younge; Miss Moore Lane submits an exceedingly dainty characterisation of Adela; and Miss Lilian Lait well merits honourable mention as Alison Much. It is hardly possible to speak in terms too commendatory of the vocal efforts of Mr. Ethelbert Edwards and Mr. Augustus Wheatman.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—Phil and Nellie Peters, American comedy entertainers, top the bill this week, and prove themseves quite the funniest turn seen here for some time. Their indescribable drolleries fairly take the house by storm. Another capital turn is that of Les Rallis, the artist and his monkey, a splendid impersonation, by the way, which introduces some clever knockabout comedy. The Seven Wulfrunas, lady and gentleman acrobats, execute various difficult feats in capital style, and are deserving of high praise. Fred Forsfall, a mimic, is an undoubted success; Marie Leonard, comedienne, appears to distinct advantage in her charmingly-rendered songs; the Brothers Levett submit a brilliant vaulting act; and Steeley and Dowton, burlesque artists, cause much diversion. The Palace Bioscope also contributes in no small way to a good all-round programme.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—John S. Thompson's company enter on the last week's engagement with their pantomime, *Red Riding Hood*. It is a well balanced and richly mounted little production, and a distinguishing feature of the entertainment is the first-class excellence of the specialities. Mme. Bartenelli performs some astounding contortionist feats; Pulo is a very accomplished juggler; Carl Esmond, tramp cartoonist, reaps plenty of applause; and a smart little quartette of exponents of the terpsichorean art, the Vanetta Troupe, add to the attractiveness of the programme.

DONCASTER.—NEW THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's company presented *The Still Alarm* to a large gathering on Monday. Mr. Glenville himself is an athletic exponent of Jack Manley; Mr. George Arthur had the sang-froid necessary to an interesting rendering of John Bird; and Mr. Tom Beasley brought out effectively the nobility of Willie Manley. Mr. Fred Osmond's Doc Wilber was artistically presented; and the rôle of Franklyn Fordham was satisfactorily rendered by Mr. Lewis Gordon. Miss Mabel Veriton was the embodiment of a mother; Miss Gertie Reid made an admirable Cad Wilber; and Miss Maud Warburton was a pathetic Elinor Fordham.

DOVER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. B. Carter; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred C. Dew; Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Ltd.—That the return visit of Mr. H. F. Maltby's *Youngest of Three* company was a popular engagement was proved by the excellent houses and enthusiastic audiences attracted the early part of the week. There has been a complete change of cast, the only exception being Mr. Maltby, who still retains his original part of George Wendover. This clever young author-actor's impersonation was even more strikingly effective than on his previous visit, its chief point still being the absolute naturalness that carries conviction. Mr. A. S. Wyn Weaver has been allotted the part of Gerald Wendover, and scored a distinct success with his rendering of the courageous young lover. The leading traits in the character of Philip Radford lost nothing of their significance as portrayed by Mr. Reginald Favell, and Mr. Frano Stoney made prominent by admirable acting the minor part of Samuel Johns. A genuine bit of real comedy was contributed by Mr. Lyndon C. Irwin as Paul, and Mr. Harris Fraser also showed considerable humour as Joshua Pynne. The charming personality of Miss Mora Maltby did much to render the character of Lucy Dulley lovable. The pathetic part of Florence was emphasised with skill by Miss Grace Richardson; and Miss Janet Hodson realised to the full the pride of the stately eldest Miss Dulley. Much amusement was caused by Miss Dolly Cousin's good work as Jane, particularly in the last act; and Mr. S. Amclegg as Hickey, Mr. R. Seeth Innes as Loke, and Mr. George Laidlow as Perkins considerably helped towards the general success. On Thursday an entirely new play by Mr. Maltby was produced. This proved to be a costume comedy of the eighteenth century, entitled *Sir George of Almack's*.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Lessees, The Vaudeville Syndicate; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Holt; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. C. R. Standfield.—Fred Lawrence and special company top the bill this week, and gain a good reception for their admirably-played comedy-drama, *My Landlord*, produced under the direction of Mr. Lew Lake. The Brothers Curran bring down the house with their exceedingly clever boxing act. A humorous turn is given by Billie Taylor, a most amusing comedian and expert dancer. The Sisters Edwards, two prettily-dressed comediennes, score with their well-chosen songs. The popular Eton boy, in the person of Miss Lillian Victoria, gains much applause for her interesting turn. Some smart cross-patter is contributed by the Brians. The Brothers Addeley appear in the comedietta, *An Officer's Servant*, their musical item being also novel, and gaining an encore. The Bio-Tableaux Pictures are highly amusing.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Mr. George Edwardes's company is here this week in the enterprising manager's latest production, *The Lady Dandies* (The Merveilleuses), which has drawn excellent houses. There are many old friends in the cast, Mr. Eric Thorne singing admirably in the character of St. Amour, Prefect of Police, and causing no end of amusement. Mr. W. Tallier Andrews has a nice voice, and appears with great success as Dorlis. Mr. Lennox Pawle as Tournesal and Mr. Jack Cannot as Malicorne are a most amusing pair; Mr. Robert Hale as the dandy Lagorille has a good voice, and acts with consummate ability. Miss Anna Hickisch, with her excellent voice and pleasing appearance, gains great appreciation for her portrayal of Lodoiska (La Merveillense); Miss Deborah Volar sings nicely as Illyrine; and Miss Dora Langham, in the rôle of Egle, is particularly good. Miss Vivian Talleur as St. Cyr, a dancer, is also successful. The dresses and scenery are splendid, and the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Harold Vicars, is all that could be desired.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The Hippodrome season here continues to attract good houses. This week we have Mme. Alice Esty, in her operatic scena, "Betta the Gypsy," Mme. Esty's excellent acting and her artistic singing as Betta being greatly admired. Mr. Crawford Kent as Betta's husband, Mr. Charles Ommaney as the Chief of Gypsies, and Miss Lena Pierpoint as the Queen also appear with success. Kreamer and Braun, in their cycle act, introducing the American horse Dolly Varden in a racing performance, are well received. Voldam Brothers are clever Dutch acrobats, and score decidedly; Bert Williams is an excellent ventriloquist; and Gerhardi Mohr does some smart somersault feats; the Three Olympiers give a series of beautiful bronze scriptural figures, which are most artistic; the Paul Hesse Trio, in their acrobatic and wire act, win appreciation; and Bert Coote's Yankee Doodle Girls sing and dance in a pleasing and effective manner. Toch and Tard, gymnastic eccentrics, are warmly applauded for their grotesque wrestling, which is particularly smart; and the Royal Pictures are also an attraction.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The fare submitted here this week is again of a first-class nature, the principal attraction being Miss May Moore Duprez, whose excellent songs, dances, and amusing patter receive well-merited applause. Martin Adeson presents a new sketch, entitled *The Masked Lady*, which provokes much laughter; Carrie Joy renders her songs in a style which elicits hearty appreciation; Fred Elton's speciality act, "On Board an Ocean Liner," is highly amusing. The Allisons, comedy artists, meet with a good reception; Kelly and Ashby, "bounding billiardists," give a clever performance; the Clarence Corri company, in their sketch, *Office Hours*, is brimful of fun; Edie Veno gives an enjoyable turn of song and dance; and the Empire Pictures are, as usual, interesting.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Ricardo and Salving top the bill here in a smart acrobatic and equilibristic act, which is loudly applauded. The Cecilias, lady instrumentalists, perform some clever musical selections, and the Westwoods score again in their comedy cycling act. Florence Smithers and company, in their sketch, *Hard Lives*, create much amusement; and capital business is added by Newman and Gros, dialect comedians; Bert Lytton, swell comique; the Orchids, duologue artists; Harry Fife, versatile comedian; and Elton and Elma, triple-bar performers. The Bioscope pleases with new films.

ABBEY THEATRE.—*The White Cockade*, a comedy in three acts, by Lady Gregory, was again presented here on Saturday night last, and was well received by the large audience present. The rôle of Patrick Sarsfield was graphically depicted by Mr. F. J. Fay, and King James II. had an able exponent in Mr. Arthur Sinclair. Mr. J. M. Kerrigan did full justice to the part of Carter, Secretary to King James, and Miss Sara Allgood effectively portrayed the rôle of a poor lady. The comedy element was well sustained by Mr. W. G. Fay as Matt Kelleher, and he was ably supported by Miss Maire O'Neill as his wife Mary; while Mr. J. A. O'Rourke was satisfactory as the son, Owen Kelleher. Mr. Harry Young made the most of the part of the Williamite Captain; and as the first and second Williamites Messrs. A. Power and W. Wright were both good.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The artists appearing here include:—Walter Boyd, versatile comedian; Little Eva, American coon vocalist; the Moodys, comedians; Alex Kennedy, comedian and dancer; Nellie Lloyd, *chic* comedienne; Little Leno, boy comedian; and the Cinematograph.

DUMFRIES.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. E. Potts; Manager, Mr. Payne-Seddon.—For the first three nights this week the attraction is Miss Delaval and company in *Her Lost Self* and *The Biggest Scamp on Earth*. Miss Francis Delaval played with much acceptance the part of Philiphine Marcel. Miss Clare O'Sullivan as Lucille and Dorothy was very favourably received; Miss Min Johnston as Daddy's Darling was well portrayed. Mr. Cecil Gray was a marked success as Wilfred Daventry; Mr. G. Osmond Tearle was well placed as Norman Esmond; Mr. Leslie Yorke as Paul Kimberley and Mr. L. W. Halfpenny as Victor Elsworth were very good, the rest of the company lending good support.

DUNDEE.—PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—May Henderson occupies the place of honour this week, and her vigorous dancing meets with much appreciation. Horton and Linder, two exceedingly clever gymnasts, give an exceptionally clever performance, which is characterised throughout by great skill and daring; Helen Charles, who is possessed of a good voice, supplies a novel and very enjoyable turn in her drawing-room entertainment. Others who contribute to a varied and attractive programme are the Brothers Ralson, Lena Brunton, Barney Armstrong, Bert Dawson, and Lade Henderson; while the Bioscope, like the poor, is always with us.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—Star turn here is May Lilian Levey, who is scoring a terrific success, her song, "The Suffragette," being encored again and again. Magna, in classical and artistic poses, is another strong draw. Philip Sefton, baritone vocalist, a big favourite at this house, scores again; while George Young, blind musician and concertina player, contributes a very enjoyable musical turn. The Percys, speciality performers, are decidedly clever, their "Showman" song being a delightful bit of comedy. The Chronophone and the North-American Animated Pictures are amongst the other attractions.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Owing to their enormous success last week, Mr. Percival has wisely retained Mr. Jury's Animated Photo company for another week. An entirely new series of pictures are shown this week, combining humorous, pathetic, and tragic subjects. The picture programme is pleasingly interspersed with variety turns, including Vera Bateman, a charming ballad vocalist, and Harry Jennings, a capital comedian and dancer. Quite a feature of the entertainment is the delightful music supplied by the orchestra during the picture show.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company opened here on Tuesday night a two-nights' engagement in *A Chinese Honeymoon*. Mr. Harold Cotter is a capable Hang Chow; Mr. Louis Ashmeade is a creditable Chippie Chop; Mr. Frank Sutton makes a good Hi Lung; Mr. J. Maxwell Edwardes ably sustains the part of Tom Hatherton; and Mr. Ernest Sefton sings and dances well as Mr. Pineapple. Miss May Davis is bright and pleasing as Mrs. Pineapple; Miss Alma Bolton does credit to the rôle of Mrs. Brown; and Miss Kitty Clayton is exceedingly funny as the eccentric little waitress, Fi-Fi. Miss Louie Leighton does well as Mi-Mi; Miss May Stevenson plays with great charm the part of Soo-Soo. The chorus is highly efficient, and the staging and dresses excellent.

EASTBOURNE.—PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Messrs. Gale and Polden's animated pictures of naval and military life are being shown this week. The pictorial work is throughout most entertaining and admirable, and appeals strongly to the audience. Very clever musical sketches are contributed by Mr. Wilfred Lyndon; and Miss Maudie Wright is an excellent and pleasing vocalist.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Devonshire Park and Baths Co., Ltd.; Managers, Messrs. Murray, King, and Clark. Mr. Russell Rosse's company is appearing here during the week in *A Pair of Spectacles* and *Caste*. In the former, Mr. David James gives an even and effective performance as the kind-hearted Benjamin Goldfinch; Mr. Norman Clark's work as Uncle Gregory from Sheffield was of the very best, and the audience frequently recognised his conspicuous success; Mr. Albert Wray and Mr. Eric Maxon were both smart and capable as Percy and Dick; and Mr. F. J. Hampson and Mr. M. Denham deserved praise as Lorimer and Bartholomew. Miss Ida Phillips was an interesting and animated Mrs. Goldfinch; Miss L. Kingston an attractive Lucy Lorimer; and Miss Rachel de Travis a satisfactory Charlotte. *A Silent Woman* was well acted as the curtain-raiser.

EDINBURGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—The successful pantomime here has been followed by the powerful drama *Lights Out*, presented by a company under the direction of Mr. J. Maundy Gregory. The various parts are sustained with admirable ability. Mr. Charles Esdale as Lieut. Von Lauffen gives a clever performance of the light-hearted villain, acting throughout with excellent dramatic effect. Mr. Lionel D'Arragon's portrayal of Sergeant Volkhart is a strong piece of melodramatic acting; and Mr. Kenneth Brampton as Lieut. Von Howen forcible and impressive. Mr. Francis J. Bithell supplies an amusing character study as Corporal Queiss; and the acting of Mr. Frederick Clifton as Private Michael is full of humour. Miss Francis Davie is charming as Klara Volkhart, and the emotional passages of the part are acted with sincerity and pathos. Good work is also done by Mr. Arthur Stone as Captain Von B. Bameurtz; and by Mr. Lambert Plummer as Capt. Ledenburg—a bright bit of comedy acting. The drama is preceded by a smart little play, *A Hundred Years Hence*, capitally acted by Miss Bella Donaldson and Mr. Lambert Plummer.

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull.—The customary cordial reception has marked the appearance of Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson and their Shakespearean company in a round of the well-known plays. The week's engagement opened with *Hamlet*, of which an excellent rendering was given. Mr. Benson's scholarly interpretation of the leading part is marked by careful study; and the Ophelia of Mrs. Benson is a sweet and winning impersonation. Mr. Clarence Derwent as the King, Mr. H. O. Nicholson as Polonius, Mr. George Buchanan as Laertes, and that sound comedian Mr. George R. Weir as First Gravedigger played with force and spirit; while Miss Helen Haye and Miss Leah Hanman were successful as Gertrude and the player Queen. *Julius Cæsar* was effectively staged on Tuesday, with Mr. Benson at his best as Marcus Antonius, Mr. Edward A. Warburton a really noble Brutus, Mr. Clarence Derwent a vigorous Cassius, and Mrs. Benson and Miss H. Haye in the rôles of Portia and Calphurnia. *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Macbeth*, *As You Like It*, and *The Merchant of Venice* have been included in the productions of the week.

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's production of *The Blue Moon* remains here for another week, and has been drawing good houses. Miss Florence Imeson is a tower of strength in the part of Millicent Leroy, which this clever actress plays with abundant dash, while her singing and dancing are marked by daintiness and brightness. Mr. Reginald Switz has deepened the favourable impression made by his really humorous powers as a comedian; and Mr. Alfred Beers as Moolraj is distinctly droll. Nothing can be more graceful than Miss Clarice Lockstone's impersonation of Chandra Nil, the Blue Moon, and her singing is characterised by fervour and expression. Mr. Thomas Holding is a stately Prince; and the other members of the company, notably Mr. J. Edward Fraser as Captain Jack Ormsby; Mr. George Mudie, jun., as Bobby Scott, and Mr. Alfred Clark as a Major Vivian Callabone, give skilful performances of their respective parts. The chorus work is admirably rendered, and Mr. Ernest Hurman displays much ability as conductor.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Baby Betty Green and Nipper Lupino Lane are apt and clever juveniles, whose singing and dancing quite take the fancy of their audiences; while Miss Daisy Dormer and Miss Violet Englefield are charming comediennes. Miss Jeannie Mackay renders her several songs very delightfully in finished and artistic style; Mr. Billy McLain's coloured sextette put great animation into their coon songs and dances; and both Mr. Charles Vincent and Mr. James Brady are adepts in singing humorous and character ditties. Smart conjuring tricks and illusions are deftly performed by Sylvesta; Lidden and Hayward contribute an interesting musical speciality; and the entertaining sketch *His Birthday* is most enjoyably presented by Miss Minnie Hunt and Mr. Rhys Thomas. The outstanding feature of the bill is the extraordinary acrobatic display given by the Kremos, whose astonishing Risley performance is carried through with wonderful skill and neatness.

EXETER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—This week Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is presenting here *Oliver Twist*. As Fagin, Mr. Stanley Drewitt gives a finished performance; and Mr. Cecil A. Collins is capital as Bill Sikes. Miss Edith Anton Laing is decidedly good as Nancy. her acting being all that could be desired. Little Mirrie Omar does well in the title-rôle, and although young, shows great promise; as Rose Maylie, Miss Eva Stuart is a distinct success, her acting being natural; Mr. Edward Comerbach ably sustains the part of Mr. Brownlow; and Mr. W. H. Rotheram is good as Mr. Grimwig and Monks. Mr. Paige Lawrence's Harry Maylie is a success.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—*Human Hearts* is the title of the drama which ran for the first three nights of the week. It was presented by Mr. Robt. MacDonald's company, and took very well indeed. Mr. W. D. Fazan played the hero very well; while Mr. Ernest Gray made a palpable villain. As Jem Mason, Mr. E. H. Dobell is deserving of a special line. His low comedy work was very clever. The part of the mother was played with rare effect by Miss Edwin Palmer; and the quiet and loving Ruth Larkins (Miss Dora Watson) stood out in bold relief against the unscrupulous and base Jeannette Logan (Miss Maud Lindon). Miss Rena Roberts, as a girl-actress, did her part very nicely. The other parts were well filled. On Thursday the Falkirk Operatic Society appeared in the comic opera *Dorothy*.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—The attraction this week is *Peter's Mother*, capitally presented by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. The character of Lady Mary Crewys is capably interpreted by Miss Ruth Mackay; Mr. Charles Harley acts impressively as Sir Timothy Crewys; Mr. Percy Hutchison is responsible for a striking portrayal of Peter Crewys; Miss Mary Griffiths does excellent work as Lady Belstone: Mrs. Mallalieu leaves nothing to be desired as Miss G. Crewys; Mr. Eille Norwood as John Crewys plays naturally and with success; Mr. William Mallalieu makes a good Canon Birch: Dr. Blundell is in the safe hands of Mr. Drew Mackintosh; Miss Ethel Royale shows ability as Mrs. Hewell, and Miss Hilda Honiss is conspicuously successful as Sarah. The comedy is preceded by *Chalk and Cheese*.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stear.—On Monday and two following nights Mrs. Morton Powell's company appeared here in *When it was Dark*. This interesting play was excellently presented, Miss Elizabeth Watson giv-

BUCHANAN'S
"BLACK & WHITE"
THE WHISKY OF WORLD WIDE REPUTE

ing a fine impersonation of Gertrude Hunt. Mr. Cyril Austin-Lee submitted a powerful rendering of Rev. Basil Gortre, and Mr. Geo. H. Pitt dealt with the difficult part of Constantine Schuabe in an artistic manner. The Llewellyn of Mr. Arthur B. Murray was a fine character-study; and Mrs. Morton Powell was a charming Helena Byers. The other characters were well filled by Messrs. Hy. Heller, Miller Wilson, G. Mortimer, and W. B. Somerville.

GATESHEAD. — King's Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; General-Manager, Mr. Harold Arnold.—The Dayton Family, risley performers par excellence, top the bill here this week, and obtain richly-deserved applause; Collinson's company in *The Topsy-Turvy School*, causes much amusement; Susie and Protti, continental speciality dancers, submit a clever entertainment; wonderful is the correct description of the dancing of Lily Flexmore, who makes a tremendous hit; there is much that is excellent in the ventriloquial business of Russell Carr; Richardson Taylor, siffleur and mimic, is warmly praised; Milner Verren, an acceptable tenor; Jack Barrie, Scotch comedian; and the pictures shown by Vernon's Bioscope make up a capital "show."

Metropole Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Councillor Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas France.—Miss Maud Hildyard is presenting *The Great Awakening* to good audiences here this week. Miss Hildyard's Lola Selby takes rank as one of the best pieces of work ever presented to Gateshead playgoers. Mr. A. C. Hardie proves an able exponent of James Selby; and Mr. Frank Liston shows great ability in the dual parts of Sir Henry and Jack Merton: Mr. Stephen Langton makes the most of his opportunities as Guy Rogan; and Mr. Gordon McLeod is effective as Harry Lambert. Mr. J. H. Booth is well placed as Richard Wilson; and the comedy is capitally exploited by Mr. Willie Scott (Billy Brass) and Miss Lila Nordon (Selina Worts). A very dainty Molly Merton is presented by Miss Doris Digby.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Councillor Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—Mr. Frank Ayrton's company is appearing here in *The Power of Gold*. Mr. Geo. Lyttleton supplies an effective Hadgi Zambra; Mr. R. F. Stacy is well suited to the rôle of Paul Judson; Mark Harley is cleverly rendered by Mr. Richard Harris; Mr. Wilson Wyte as Marc Anthony, Mr. Frank Holyoake in the part of Dr. Saunders, and Mr. W. Victor as Peter Maguire, are responsible for good embodiments: whilst Mr. Ayrton is quite at home in the humorous part of Sammy Smudge. Miss Amy McNeill makes a powerful Lady Brandon, and Miss Lily Prescott does well as Meg Judson; Miss Madge Seymour is a vivacious Norah Donnelly, and Little Prudence as Paddy Blake is very popular.

GLASGOW.—King's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company opened their second week's engagement with *Faust* before a crowded audience. Mr. Joseph O'Mara gave a very fine rendering of the title-rôle, and was repeatedly recalled. Mr. Charles Manners, whose voice is so well suited to the part of Mephistopheles, was eminently successful, and largely shared the good appreciation of an enthusiastic audience. Mr. William Denver as Valentine was highly successful, being gifted with a fine voice and good stage presence. The Marguerita of Mme. de Vere was a charming study, and her singing throughout was irreproachable. Miss Mildred Bryan as Siebel sang sweetly and took no small share in the general success. The other parts were in able hands, and the chorus thoroughly competent. The treatment given by the orchestra, under the able direction of Signor Ronnaldo Sapio, was very fine, and largely contributed to the successful interpretation of the work. Nicolai's *Merry Wives of Windsor;* Verdi's *Aïda*, for the first time by this company; *Tannhäuser, Carmen, Il Trovatore*, and the ever-green *Bohemian Girl* complete the répertoire here.

Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—This week the Orpheus Club are giving their annual production in the cause of charity, their choice being the Savoy opera, *Merrie England*.

Royalty, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. Charles Frohman's company has opened here for two weeks with *Peter Pan*. This company closed on Saturday at the Duke of York's Theatre, and opened in Glasgow on Monday, when the play went without a hitch, a feat worth recording, considering the elaborate scenery required for *Peter Pan*. Miss Pauline Chase is the Peter Pan, a change since the extravaganza was last in Glasgow, and a charmingly simple little fellow she makes; while Miss Hilda Trevelyan as Wendy is a delightful "little mother." The other Darling children are nicely portrayed by Master George Hersee as John and Master Ernest Hollom as Michael; also the dog-nurse, Nana, by Mr. E. Silward. Mr. Loring Fernie demonstrates what diversity of character an actor can assume by doubling the parts of a mild city gentleman and a truculent captain of a band of pirates. Miss Mary Mayfren is equally excellent as the attentive mother seeing her children put to bed, and as the bereaved one who thinks her little ones may be gone for ever.

Grand, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. D. Macfarlane.—On Monday the Carl Rosa Opera Company had an excellent send-off for their fortnight's season of opera, the house being crowded in every part, while the enthusiasm of the audience was very marked. Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* was the opening selection, and under the conductorship of Mr. Walter Van Noorden an exceptionally good performance was given. Mr. Charles Victor in acting and singing made an ideal Figaro; while the Susannah of Miss Elizabeth Burgess was full of sprightly humour and vocally perfect. Miss Lucille Hill made a welcome reappearance as Countess Almaviva, and gave the music of the part with sympathetic charm. A distinct hit was made by Miss Doris Woodall as Cherubino, her performance being voted one of the best seen here in recent years. Mr. Arthur Winckworth's fine voice proved of immense advantage as the Count, while his acting as the amorous and jealous husband was specially good. Miss Annie Walker, Miss Douglas Wilson, and Messrs. Frederick Clendon, Albert Felton, Alec Richard, and Frank Inniss completed a good cast. On Tuesday *Il Trovatore* was given, with Miss Grace Nicoll, Mr. Julius Walther, and Mr. Dillon Shallard in the leading parts. On Wednesday Nicolai's *Merry Wives of Windsor* was given with an exceptionally clever cast; and performances of *Fidelio, Cavalleria Rusticana, Pagliacci, Tannhäuser*, and *Rigoletto* complete the week's list of attractions.

Princess's.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—*Mother Goose* is now the only pantomime running in Glasgow, and still continues to attract large houses nightly. The principals have all introduced new business and new songs. Miss Ethel Campbell as Robin has established herself a favourite; the same may be said of Miss Ella Retford as Marguerite; and the Sisters Hall as Strephon and Dorothy have danced themselves into popularity. The Fairy Greatheart of Miss Sadie Wade is a charming performance, and Miss Grace Elvio pleasingly portrays the part of Spirit of Discord. The comedians all work hard, and keep the house in good humour. A very clever performance is that of Messrs. Foreman and Fannan (Spottem and Robert), their business being very amusing. Other favourites are Messrs. Austin Lenton, Wal Croft, and Harry McClelland.

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—*The French Spy* is proving a very strong card at this popular house. Mr. Fred Benton has a good company. As the strong man, Fritz, he makes a most enjoyable study of the rôle, and is much in evidence. In a lengthy cast, where there are quite a galaxy of capable performers, we may single out especially the Captain Sommers of Mr. Beresford Lovett, Lieut. Maxwell (Mr. L. Chasby), Count Romanoff (Mr. Max Coutts), General Trepoff (Mr. H. Travers), Alexis (Mr. Chas. Digby), and Knipps (Mr. S. Perry). The ladies—Misses Ella Seton, A. Harrison Tate, and Madge Devereux—deserve commendation.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Colin's Excursions Round the World take the form of an interesting series of animated pictures, which are shown under the "conductorship" of Madame Ainsworth. Between the various scenes a variety entertainment is offered, and adds to the enjoyment of the night. Sterling and Cashen are clever dancers; Miss Violet Robson's scena, *The Lady Artist*, is well received; as are the efforts of Fred Lyndo and Barney Noble.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Mussett.—Geo. Lashwood, vocal comedian, meets with a rousing reception, his several songs being delivered in masterful style, and being thoroughly appreciated. The Harmony Four also are welcomed, their comedy creating great amusement. Other notable turns include Florence St. John and company in a perplexing comedy interlude; May and Lily, vocalists and instrumentalists; Ed. E. Forde, facial contortionist: Park's Eton Boys, vocalists; Burns and Burns, comedians; the Maningos, juvenile balancers; Leipzig, conjurer; and the Bioscope with an up-to-date series of films.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The conjuring act, *The Magic Carpet*, is a most mysterious item, and wonderfully well carried through. Lillian Dundas and company appear in a dramatic and thrilling sketch entitled *The Doom of Delilah*, written by Cecil Raleigh. Rose Hamilton gets quite an ovation on her first visit since the Metropole pantomime concluded, and her songs are given with much vivacity. Howard and St. Clair in a comedy turn are as funny as ever; Cullane's Comedy Four contribute a lively musical sketch, with lots of fun. Another good comedy and vocal turn is that of Vay's Juveniles, who were heartily received; the Three Taberts play well on their xylophones: Marzella's cockatoos, &c., are wonderfully trained: and Vetter Bros. give an equilibristic speciality. On the Bioscope, pictures of Little Tich are shown with much fidelity to life.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr Samuel Lloyd.—The energetic manager here has again made a happy hit by securing Little Tich, who has not been in Glasgow for a considerable time, and as a result the Pavilion is crammed to its utmost capacity. The versatile Tich is in great form, and his newest ditties are quite in his best style; in addition, he obliges with a big-boot dance. Three artists from the Grand pantomime are retained here—Luna Love, who proves a great favourite: Little Maudie Francis, whose tiny voice and clever step-dancing catch on immensely; and Frances Kapstone, the smart soubrette. Ernest Rees is another strong card in the programme, and his eccentricities take well. Cribb and Cribb are a smart pair of humorists; the Ringling Trio are clever stilt-walkers, &c.; and Millie Howell's motto songs catch the public ear at once.

Coliseum.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—We are visited by Fred Karno's company in *The Football Match*, a mirth-provoking burlesque of the popular game, in which the well-known footballers, W. C. Athersmith, J. W. Crabtree, and Fred Spikesley appear as more or less serious players, while the comic business is cleverly sustained by Harry Weldon, Will Poluski, jun., Jack Royal, and others. The musical specialty of Frank and Jen Latona is always welcome in this city, and the present visit is no exception; the balancing feats in Carlos Caesaro's naval act formed a picturesque feature in the programme; two diverting turns are seen in the amusing contortions of Burley and Burley, and the smart patter of Bernard and Weston. Ailsa Douglas sings a couple of songs in good style, and that promising juvenile, Wee Mona, shows a real aptitude for song and dance.

Palace.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry M'Kelvie.—W. F. Frame, Scotch character comedian, tops the bill, and had a splendid reception on the opening night, his songs being received with rounds of applause. H. O. Wills, "water-rat" comedian, also shared the honours, and received marked appreciation Other turns are those of Ada Martine, comedienne and dancer; the Zampas, duettists and dancers: Jack Hylton, comedian; the Two Dixons, banjoists and dancers; Charles Gardner, eccentric comedian: and the Bioscope, with a select series of pictures.

Gaiety, Ltd. — General-Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—There is a good company here this week under the management of Mr. Bowerman, who assumed control a week ago, in place of Mr. W. H. Howard, resigned. Curtis and Vanity, acrobatic dancers, who are in great favour in Glasgow, top the bill, and, as usual, had a big reception: the Sisters Desmond sing and dance in a pleasing manner; and a popular local baritone, Stratton Wilson, sings well-chosen songs in an artistic style. The Harmony Boys are entertaining in *Home for the Holidays*, a song-scena; Fred Collins, Scotch comedian; Cling and Clancy, in patter, singing, and sand-dancing, also furnish enjoyable turns: and Bendon's Bioscope shows some up-to-date pictures.

GLOUCESTER.—Palace.—Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—Mr. F. V. St. Clair, the topical and extempore vocalist, pays his first visit to the town, and makes a decided impression. The Smythsons are also accorded a hearty welcome for their clever and novel sketch, *The Lie Alarm*. Miss Flo Inman is a neat serio and dancer; and Mr. Tom Collins, with his songs founded on nursery rhymes, is quaint. Bell and Bell are responsible for a sketch, *Making the Best of It;* and Beattie Kent has some taking songs, which she supplements with smart dancing. Mr. Johnny Dwyer, both in low comedy and a homely ballad, gets at once on the best terms with the audience; and Hicks' Clerks, as comedians, vocalists, and dancers, are applauded. Mr. W. G. Webber displays his excellent bass voice to advantage in popular ballads. The Bioscope is this week showing some capital and realistic films of the Berlin disaster off the Hook of Holland.

GOOLE.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John E. Tomlinson. — Messrs. A. Hamilton - Warden and Chas. V. Sandford's company is appearing here this week in the domestic drama, *A Woman with a Past*. Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves gives a manly and vigorous portrayal of David Heath; Mr. A. Hamilton-Warden acts with much power the rôle of Dr. Clement Harper; Mr. G. Moreton-Williams as the villainous Uriah Craven is excellent; Mr. Chas. V. Sandford's highly amusing portrayal of Frank Dellannoy is the cause of much merriment Miss Maisie Hanbury charms the audience by her graceful, tender, and womanly portrayal of Bessie: Miss May Dallas is bright and winsome as Dorothy Heath, and Miss Eva Bertram gives a powerful portrayal of Clara Darrell. The dresses are quite a feature, and the scenery and effects worthy of special mention.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — Royal Aquarium. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—The attraction for the week is the convict drama, *Sentenced for Life*, played by Mr. Bulmer's company. Sir Wallace Stillwell is well represented by Mr. R. Brancepeth-Nevell; and Captain Derrick and Lieut. Stillwell are capitally portrayed by Mr. Tom Robertson and Mr. Ernest Dare. Mr. T. C. Glenville is successful as the Rev. Martin Orris: much amusement is caused by Mr. Chas. Conway as Bill Sharkey, and Mr. Reg. Aldroyd as Toby. Miss Hilda Merriless is effective as Adele Gray: and Kate Rennel, Lady Stillwell, and Lady Gray find able exponents in Miss Violet Wentworth. Miss Dorothy Howard, and Miss Kitty Huntley.

GREENOCK.—Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—The annual visit of the Compton Comedy Company is an interesting event, vastly enjoyed by local playgoers, and on Monday *Davy Garrick* was the attraction. In the title-rôle, Mr. Compton was seen to great advantage, and his efforts were greatly appreciated; Miss Mackenzie as Violet deserves great praise; Mr. Henry Crocker, as usual, made an admirable Alderman Gresham; and as the Hon. Tom Tallyhaut, Mr. Dennis Cleugh was very good. Miss Marie Hassell made an excellent Mrs. Rumbelow; Miss Barbara Pigott does well as Selina; and the other members of the cast lend valuable support. On Tuesday *The Gentleman in Grey*, a new play from the pen of Mr. Montague Compton, was presented for the first time here to a large, enthusiastic audience, and was received with every mark of approval. Other performances announced for the week were *The School for Scandal, She Stoops to Conquer*, and *Edmund Kean*.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—The Pichel Troupe of Risley performers head the bill here, and they perform feats of exceptional cleverness and daring; another interesting turn is that provided by the Brothers Durrant. Other acceptable turns are the Two Jays, "kwarrelsome komedians"; Tiny Arnold, a dainty comedienne; Arthur Slater, the whistling man in white; and Clark and Gold, banjo artists. The Empire pictures complete the bill.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. A. White.—Bennett and Martell, in their nautical scena, *The Lost Mariners*, cause much merriment; Alice Blandford is a popular contributor, her songs being good and brightly rendered; Joseph B. Montague, assisted by Miss Alys Hardy, appear in a sketch entitled *The Welsher Welshed*, which proved as laughable a burlesque as has been seen here; Tom Stewart's impersonations are good; Blanche Marion is a sprightly comedienne; Sammy Shields, an old favourite, makes a hit; and the Paviscope pictures are excellent.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry.—The third pantomime of the present season is proving very attractive. It is Mr. Gar Kiddie's version of *Bo-Peep*, and is on thoroughly up to date lines. Miss Lizzie Payne is altogether charming as Bo-Peep, her dainty dancing being a popular feature. An ideal principal boy is seen in Miss Susie Bevan, and her singing is greatly admired. Mr. W. Hagues Gatty as the Demon, and Miss Nora Beverley as Fairy Moonbeam, are also responsible for good vocal work. The comedians are in exceptionally strong force. Mr. Kiddie himself appears as Tommy Long, and scores greatly as an eccentric comedian; whilst Mr. J. W. Groves is genuinely funny as Granny Brown. Mr. Bert Allen, despite his diminutive proportions, is also a cause of much merriment as Johnny Stout, and is ably supported by Mr. Albert Kail as Jimmy Green. Messrs. Gilroy and Cross introduce an abundance of amusing business as the tramps, Weary William and Tired Thomas; and Mr. R. C. Carlton makes the most of the character of the Baron. Specialities are presented by the Lohrenz quartette, the Solon trio, and the Hammersley troupe of dancers.

Curry's Tivoli.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—The miniature musical farce, *The Prince of Monte Carlo*, is repeating its former success here. It is presented with an abundance of dash and spirit, and Mr. Harry Roxbury provokes unlimited mirth as the eccentric policeman. J. P. Ling is not only a clever mimic, but also displays engaging humour, and his many impersonations are well received. Wragg and Wragg perform remarkable feats of swordsmanship; Gillin is a ventriloquist with new ideas; the Lynches contribute good songs, accompanied by artistic limelight illustrations; Lily Lena is a vivacious comedienne; and Harry Barclay, comedian; and Boyd and Gilfain, in a comedy and vocal act, complete an attractive programme.

The Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—The illusions invented and produced by the Ten-Ji troupe, a quartette of Japanese magicians, completely mystify the audiences. The tricks are both smart and novel. Mount and Corelli prove to be extremely versatile artists, their turn including good singing, clever dancing, and new jokes. The Sisters Grovini display more than average skill as acrobats; Harry Hilton also accomplishes neat conjuring feats; Clito Clifford meets with favour as a Creole vocalist and dancer; Harry Carsdale is a successful mimic; whilst Hans and Lux, comedians and dancers; and the Donohoes, in a sketch, also present entertaining business.

HALIFAX. — Theatre Royal, Ltd. — General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's company in *Revenge* is attracting good houses here, chief honours falling on Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson and Mr. George Da'per, who successfully interpret the principal rôles.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Hayman and Franklin's trifling American concoction *The Matrimonial Agency* has set Halifax laughing. Rossi Ashton's caricatures are sketched with lightning rapidity; Rita and Roma sing excellently; Fred Casburn is as eccentric as ever; as are Frobel and Ruge, Continental grotesques; Bert Dansie, Florence Deighton, the Bros. Corcoran (musical shipbuilders), and some mirth-provoking pictures complete the bill.

Palace and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Ed. Harrison.—The great music hall sketch *The Fighting Parson* is being played here to large and delighted houses by Mr. George Gray and company, after a short absence. Mr. Gray's interpretation of the title-rôle is a well-conceived study. In addition to the above, Ray Ford, Francis O'Flynn, the Lorrisons, and Pyck, and Tholl and Taylor are on the programme. On Thursday a gala matinée was given, when the stars, including Florrie Forde, appeared from the Leeds and Bradford pantomimes.

HANLEY. — Royal, Ltd — Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Mr. Charles Harrington's company is paying a visit in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Mr. J. W. Rogers is all that can be desired as Legree; Mr. Walter Langford as the lawyer proves most amusing; Mr. Harrington sustains St. Clair admirably; Uncle Tom is cleverly played by Mr. J. Carr; Miss Sylva Stella is a capital Topsy, her representation being much appreciated; Eva is nicely played by Miss Holly Haselwood. The harmonised melodies are much applauded, and the scenic effects are first class.

Grand.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—Ernest Shand heads the bill here, and scores an undoubted success; the Albert and Edmunds comedy troupe are seen in a sketch, *Two in a Tree;* the Saxon Trio are always welcome, and their performance, as usual, is truly wonderful; Cleland is most amusing, and his tumbling is heartily enjoyed; Mme Ada Gatley contributes a really clever turn upon a swinging wire; Horace Jones, Welsh comedian, scores a great success in his football song; Tate and Tate provide an amusing and clever performance; Raie Walters in her fishing song is appreciated. The pictures are capital.

HARROGATE. — Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Smith.—For the first three nights of this week the Opera House was occupied by Mr. John Gerant and company in the military drama, *At Duty's Call*. As Harold Alison, Mr. John Gerant repeated the clever performance he has given now close on 2090 times; Mr. Harry Scott was excellent as Captain George Alison; and General Gordon had an able exponent in the person of Mr. Ernest St. John. The comedy element was in the safe hands of Miss Eva Belle as Mary and Mr. Harry Ugar as Terry O'Hallason, and they were applauded loudly for their efforts. As Salema, Miss Weston gave a finished performance; and Miss Lily Grammonde did well as Dora Drummond. Messrs. Warden and Sandford's company in *A Woman's Past* are here for the rest of the week.

HARTLEPOOL.—Empress.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—Laughter reigns supreme whilst Doody and Wright, the Australian comiques, are on their funny business: Rose Elliott, "the singer of sensible songs," has thoroughly ingratiated herself with her audience; Harry Burns's juveniles have returned, and their smart dancing and singing are much admired; Alsopp and Bekwith are amusing in song and patter; with pretty stage effect Handel and Lee introduce a variety of well-executed musical selections, and gain a well-deserved encore; the dramatic sketch *The Club Raid* is performed by the Collinson Co.

HASTINGS.—Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Miss Annie Hughes and company opened a week's visit here on Monday in Jerome's admirable play, *Tommy*. Jane was finely presented by Miss Annie Hughes, who was equal to the varying demands of the rôle; and "Mr. Morrison" was cleverly delineated by Miss Winifred Pearson. The young girl, Honour, had a capable exponent in Miss Ida Richardson; the punctilious editor of *Good Humour* was well played by Mr. Evelyn Vernon; and Mr. Willie Hartill acted in a breezy style as William Clodd: Mr. Rupert Lister was convincing as Dick Danvers; and Mr. Reginald F. Beach was very amusing as Flipp, the office boy.

Pier Pavilion. — Pier-Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. Fred J. Little and Mr. Fred Darcy's company is paying a return visit, and appearing in the domestic play *The Shadow of a Crime*. Mr. W. Ruddle-Brown well sustains the important rôle of Harry Bullington; the villainous character of Ralph Esmond is cleverly portrayed by Mr. Hugh Mowburn; Miss Nellie Hovitt gives a charming rendering of Loyale Norman; and Dora Bullington, in the hands of Miss Nellie Moore, is delightfully natural; Mr. J. B. Murray's Sir Edward Bullington is a fine, manly performance.

Hippodrome Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Miss B. Lawton, a pleasing singer, takes the place of honour on the bill this week. Considerable artistic musical ability is shown by The Staccatos; Miss Vera Mayne is an excellent vocalist; Mr. G. K. Steadman displays remarkable skill as a trick violinist; a good turn is given by The Sprees, vaudeville artists, who are warmly applauded; Miss Nellie Navette is a charming serio and dancer; Marlo is a remarkably smart juggler; the droll sayings and manner of Mr. Joe Conway are greatly applauded; the special Bioscope films are interesting and the entertainment concludes with a highly amusing sketch by Geoffreys and Benson.

St. Leonards Pavilion Theatre.—Pier Master and Entertainment Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—Mr. Nugent Monck and company continue to attract by the production of Shakespearean dramas. This week *The Taming of the Shrew* is being played. Petruchio could hardly be in better hands than those of Mr. Gordon Bailey; Grumio has a careful and painstaking exponent in Mr. Nugent Monck; Mr E. Coutts also gives satisfaction; Miss Hilda Bruce Potter as Bianca is sympathetic and womanly; Miss Katherine Stuart brings to the part of Katherine a passionate energy at once refined and natural.

HUDDERSFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—*The Prince of Pilsen*, played by Mr. Harriss's company, is having a cordial reception. Much of the success of the presentation is undoubtedly due to the very clever fooling of Mr. Harry Kilburn, who, as Hans Wagner, keeps the house in a roar with his quaint sayings; Miss Sophie Harriss looks a fine figure of a woman as Mrs. Maddison Crocker; Mr. Frank Crimp sings with much taste as the real Prince, and Mr. Bernard Russell does not spare himself in his representation of that ineffable fool, Shrimpton; Mr. Ernest Gifford as François is as lively as if he were stuffed with mercury; Miss Alice Nixon looks sweet as Nellie Wagner; and Miss Mollie Wynne is delightfully pert as Jimmie.

Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M Robinson.—The bill includes the Four Juggling Geraldos, in their clever manipulation of hoops and clubs; Miss Mabel le Blanche, comedienne; Spry and Monti, in a busting duologue; the Four Jumels in a well-executed musical act; Don Miguel's bulls, an exhibition of animal training; Martinengo in his finished performance on the 'cello; the Three Celtics, with their happy mixture of artistic singing and dry humour; the Rinaldos, a trio of expert acrobats; and the Biograph.

HULL.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—It is obvious that many years have sped since the playgoing public witnessed an original presentation of *Monte Cristo*. Dumas' drama has been burlesqued times out of number, but the striking episodes of the play proper have not been seen for many a day. The version that Mr. Junius Booth submits is one that affords ample scope for the actor as well as the dramatist. As Edmond Dantes Mr. Booth gave an excellent performance; and as Mercedes Miss Lally Forsythe acted admirably. The play was beautifully mounted.

Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—The bull's-eye of public appreciation and admiration has been hit this week by that excellent comic opera *Amasis*. Hull being the first starting point of the present tour, the audience had the opportunity given it of welcoming that charming singer and fine actor Norman Salmond, who was a resident here before taking to the stage. Inspired by the warmth of his reception, Mr. Salmond sang in excellent style as the High Priest. Miss Constance Drever has a voice of exquisite tone and wide range, allied to fine histrionic power, and Mr. Rutland Barrington has proved himself to be an ideal comedian, and created a fine impression in the city. Mr. Richard White and Mr. Laurie de Frece are admirable adjuncts to the clever comedy of Mr. Barrington.

Alexandra Theatre.—Morton's, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. G. W. Morton.—One really marvels how Mr. Morton manages to keep the pot a boiling as he does for the patrons of this very popular playhouse. Each week in rapid succession he brings for his patrons striking melodramas, which never fail to please. In *The Woman who Gambles* Miss Mabel Mannering as the Countess comes back with a reputation which she very ably sustains.

HYDE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—The two performances a night continue to be popular here. Topping the bill are Mme. Angelo's Living Statues in classical poses; Buffalo Bill's Guards go through a series of military manœuvres, pyramid-building, and fort-scaling with smartness and precision; the Gentry's provide a novel tumbling act; Whisper is a clever juggler, and introduces some smart patter; the Three Macdonalds are expert musicians, and their performance is vociferously applauded; the Keylsos Company create much merriment in their laughable burlesque, *The Silly Servant;* Miss Beattie Bloom is a charming vocalist, and the Bioscope pictures are excellent.

Ohmy's Circus.—A great attraction here this week is the grand spectacle *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, the principal characters in which are ably sustained by Mr. Ohmy, the Misses Ada and Bella Ohmy, and Mr. H Dale, and Claude Ohmy's equestrian feats continue to maintain their popularity; the Two Stidders provide a capital musical entertainment; Mlle. Montaro's horse is exceedingly well trained; Yorick and Yorick are clever acrobats; Mons. Silleto is an expert juggler; the Wambas (La Belle Lily and Albert) are smart gymnasts and clever comedy musicians; and some interesting living pictures are shown. August and September create roars of laughter in a funny sketch.

ILKESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee, L. F.A. Rogers.—We return to drama this week with Mr. Arthur Carlton's company, in *The Span of Life*. Mr. R. S. Trelawney ably plays the part of the hero; and Mr. Sanderson Moffat, in the heavy part, makes a distinct success; Mr. Walter Dale and Miss Kitty Russell provide the comedy in good style. Others are Mr. James Jarrett as Joshua Gurnet, the Stebbings Trio as Dismal Brown, Tipton Brown, and Dapper Brown. Miss Mary Moffat ably fills the rôle of Cecil Blunt; and the same may be said of Miss Phyllis Hamilton as Mrs. Jelf and Miss Guinevere Shilton as Kate Heathcote.

Queen's Palace of Varieties.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. T. Knightall.—"Juggling on the Lawn" by the Garellys is warmly appreciated. Helena Sleath and Chas. Aldin entertain with their musical performance, named *Dashing Duval*. Mons. Gela wins applause for his gymnastic display; and other artists who contribute to the programme are Sabino, instrumentalist; Albert Reade, in a dramatic performance; Madeline Love, soprano; Gladys Welford, comedienne; and Leonard Gale, comedian.

IPSWICH.—Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The programme here this week is headed by the Leslie Brothers, in a sketch entitled *Music. Mad*—a clever act. The Three Ettenas are seen in a smart display of globe-walking and balancing; Fred Herbert as a topical vocalist is entertaining; Fred Land's singing is well received; Esme Gordon is a bright and vivacious comedienne; the Two Wiltons are capable duettists and dancers; and the Delevines appeared to advantage in a comedy act called *Flipp and Flopp*.

JARROW.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr Jerold E. Reed.—This week Messrs. Levy and Cardwell's juvenile pantomime company is here with *The Sleeping Beauty*. Miss Dolly Dodds is well placed as Beauty; while Miss Kittie Trewhitt is capital as Prince Florizel, and Miss Mona Townshend is quite at home as Sir Alfronso. The Bros. Armstrong prove excellent fun-makers in the parts of the Queen and Asbestos; Miss May Gibson is charming as Queen Claribel. The singing and dancing of various members of the company is much appreciated, and several specialities are introduced by the Margueritte Troupe of Dancers and Miss Edie Camm, baton swinger; La Belle Annette, solo dancer; and Wee George Wood, miniature comedian.

KEIGHLEY. — Queen's Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Carson.—Messrs. Carson and Kendall present a variety entertainment this week. The sketch, *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law*, interpreted by Mr. Flockton Foster's company, is exceedingly funny; Mr. Ernie Myer's humour creates roars of laughter; the charming singing of Lillie Lonsdale is a musical treat, and her songs are encored nightly; King Leo is an excellent ventriloquist; and Mr. Ugo scores in his magical scena. Fannie Humber's musical entertainment is much appreciated; and the Lovelaces and Kate Eplett provide good turns. Weisker Brothers' Bioscope completes an excellent programme.

KIDDERMINSTER. — New Opera House. — Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. James P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon, jun.—The boards are occupied this week by Mr. Percy Norman's company, who present each evening the drama *A Woman Worth Winning*. Mr. Sydney Barton ably depicts the part of the Czar Nicholas; while Mr. Gilbert Standing as Amos Pauloff is good. Mr. A. Mackay, in the rôle of Fergus Lovinskie, gives a good display of acting. Roma Pauloff is well-played by Miss Maud Buchanan; and Miss Iris Daventry, in the rôle of Lola Kalnovky, excels herself.

KILMARNOCK.—King's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager Mr. J. Major Ward.—On the first three nights of this week the powerful drama, *Held Apart*, was staged by Mr. A. Clifton Alderson's company. Mr. H. K. Ayliff gave an excellent impersonation of James Douglas (alias Jim Barlow); Mr. Leonard Lawrence acted skilfully as John Douglas; Mr. A. W. Norman made a successful Captain Ford: Mr. E. G. Batley submitted an entertaining delineation of the character of Hugh Trevor; and Mr. R. B. Drysdale as Andrew M'Pherson created much laughter. Miss Ruby Loncraine was a graceful and charming Sybil Grey; Miss Beatrice Holmwood an impressive Lady Grant, and Miss Ethyle Murry an admirable Countess. Miss Grace Warner, supported by Mr. George Gordan and company, was billed for Thursday.

KIRKCALDY.—King's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Burton.—Mr. George Henry's company appeared in *The Sledge Hammer* on Monday. Mr. Cliffe Appleby in the rôle of Matthew Derrick was a very effective old man; as his three sons, Messrs. Morris Maude, Wm. Carriden, and S. Crossley were capital; good amusement was provided by Mr. Frank Litchfield as Tom Walker and Mr. Victor C. Rolfe as Sammy Shaw, and Miss Marion Ashley as Katherine. Miss Jessie Hope was excellent as Rose Maywell, and Miss Lottie Davis a satisfactory Mrs. Derrick.

LANCASTER.—Athenæum.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alf. Hook.—Mr. Norman V. Norman and company are appearing here this week with a round of plays which includes *Robin Hood, David Garrick*, and *The Adventures of Lady Ursula*. The last-named was presented on Tuesday evening to a large audience. Mr. Norman appeared as Sir Geo. Sylvester, and acted with remarkable skill; Mr. Francis Hope was admirable as the Rev. Mr. Blimboe; Mr. Brember Wells was all that could be desired as Mr. Dent; whilst Mr. Aubrey Mathers was most successful as the Earl of Hassenden. The title-rôle was in the hands of Miss Beatrice Wilson, who gave an exquisite rendering; Miss Sybil Ruskin as Dorothy Fenton won great praise; as also did Miss Hilda Gregory as Mrs. Fenton.

LEAMINGTON. — Theatre Royal. — Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—Mr. Allan

capable Emilia. Other characters were ably sustained by Mr. G. W. Dockwray, Mr. John Paley, and Mr. George Munro. *Hamlet, The Lady of Lyons, The Merchant of Venice, Romeo and Juliet, As You Like It,* and *The Bells* were also billed.

ROYAL ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Lessee, Mr. A. White.—The Scarlet Merrions, a smart troupe of first-class entertainers, are making their first appearance in Leamington this week. Quite a feature of the entertainment is the introduction of Mr. Norman Sinclair, clever banjo soloist; Mr. Frank E. Probin, a refined baritone, sings with artistic taste; and Mr. Harry Watson's items are equally well rendered. Mr. Tom Purslow scores a great success with his humorous contributions; Mr. J. D. Driscall's comic character songs are well received, and prove highly amusing. The troupe have some excellent concerted items, which they render in excellent style; Mr. Hamilton Gough is a pianist of decided ability.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—The new musical play, *See-See*, replaces pantomime this week, and with an excellent George Edwardes's company presenting it, proves a very popular engagement. Mr. Frank Danby looms large on the comedy side of the production, his drolleries as Han Kee keeping the house in a continual roar; Mr. W. H. Rawlins, too, extracts a great deal of quiet fun from his rôle of Chevo, and is very popular; Mr. Leonard Mackay plays the love-sick wooer to perfection, singing honeyed love-ballads with rare ability; Miss Lily Elsie is very pleasing and attractive in the title-rôle; Miss Amy Augarde delights with accomplished vocal work as the fortune-teller; and Miss Topsy Sinden scores an emphatic success in a generous part, her clever dancing being quite a feature of the evening. The production is staged and dressed in Mr. Edwardes's usual sumptuous style, and a well-balanced chorus supports.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—The vocal sketch, *Happy Holland*, which occupies a big place in the week's bill here, is chiefly welcome because it features that clever artist, Jake Friedman, whose work is always popular. A second novel episode, called *Crystal-Gazing*, with W. H. Day and Laura Dyson as chief executants, also proves an enjoyable tit-bit. We are pleased to renew acquaintance with Seeley and West, the musical comedy pair; that clever dancer, Bijou Russell, foots it in inimitable style; the Dandies contribute vocal and miscellaneous contributions; Florence is an accomplished mimic of music hall stars; Harry Drew, with his songs, scores the usual success; a fine gymnastic turn is executed by the Rohda Brothers; and J. W. Magers is a smart and effective comedian. The Bioscope pictures continue to be of excellent quality.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; General-Managers, Mr. Chas. Weldon and Mr. Claude Shayler.—John Tiller's delightful production of *Dick Whittington* is here for a second week, and continues to attract full houses nightly. There are some first-class variety turns in addition, notably, Keen and Waller, with a novel and amusing speciality; Ida Ross, comedienne; and Starr and Jerome, who prove very entertaining in song, dance, and comedy business.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General and Business Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—Mr. George Alexander's company in *His House in Order* is meeting with a gratifying reception. In the exacting part of Nina Miss Dorothy Grimston scores a brilliant success; and Mr. Stephen T. Ewart as Hilary Jesson is conspicuous with a finished performance, both artists being accorded unstinted applause. Mr. J. Edward Pearce as Filmer Jesson is very good; and Mr. Herbert Lomas as Sir Daniel Ridgeley, Mr. Ernest R. Hollway as Pryce Ridgeley, Miss Augusta Haviland as Lady Ridgeley, and Miss Elaine Sleddall as Geraldine Ridgeley are all to be complimented on excellent portrayals. Miss Doris Champion plays exceedingly well as Derek Jesson; and Miss Jean Cadell is capital as Mlle. Thome. Both Mr. Charles Tyrel as Major Maurewarde and Mr. Luke Forster as Dr. Dilnott are a success; and Mr. Langford Browne as Harding and Mr. J. Douglas Campbell as Forshaw deserve a meed of praise. The play is beautifully staged.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—The American drama *A Fight for Millions* is being presented here this week by Mr. Robert Perris's company, under the direction of Mr. Karl H. Edwards. Mr. Robert Perris as the hero, Tom Manley, is very good; and Miss Eva Purcell as Pearl Rivers is also to be complimented on a meritorious performance. Mr. J. Schofield does well as Hudson Rivers; and Mr. Alex. C. Grant as Richard Dudley is a success. Miss Elma C. Turner as Helen Dudley is excellent; and Miss Dorothy Wilkinson as Little Madge is all that can be desired. Much hearty laughter is created by Mr. Karl H. Edwards as Willie Neverwork, Mr. Harold Turner as Solomon Moses, and Miss Rosie Kearns as Betty and Mag Brady. Miss Edith Hook as Mrs. Hudson Rivers, Mr. Nicholas Conway as Harold Hobbs, and Mr. George Hodges as Robert Mackenzie, are also to be praised.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertram G. Iles.—Mr. John F. Preston and company are seen in the racing episode *Rogues of the Turf*. As Joe Flaxman (an old trainer) and Nellie Somerton (his ward) Mr. John F. Preston and Miss Hilda Shirley are very good; and others in the company who also deserve much praise are Miss Mabelle F. Barlow (Marion), Mr. Horace Custins (Sammy Flaxman), and Mr. George Harvard and Mr. Hardy Marco as the rogues of the turf. Verno and Voyce, the delightful singing comedians, are scoring a splendid success in their up-to-date duet "The Amateur Newsboy"; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden, a clever pair of light comedy artists, create roars of laughter with their success, *Two to One;* Les Voces are operatic vocalists whose singing is received with unstinted praise; the Robertys are very smart juvenile whirlwind and national dancers; the Bioscope is showing "The Animated Mattress"; and the Schwartz Brothers, Continental parodists, also appear. Frank and Free, a most amusing comedy duo, who are very successful; and Fred Glenville, an entertaining artist with illustrated songs, are deputising for Mr. Jack Camp and the Sisters Geretti.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Mr. Roy Cochrane and company are presenting the interesting domestic story *A Rolling Stone*, the chief parts in which are sustained in excellent style by Mr. Roy Cochrane (Dorison North), Mr. T. Nellar (Perk E. Perkins), Mr. G. Stephenson (Jim Hastings), and Miss L. Hastings (Lena Merrick). They are also playing with success an original comedy entitled *A Scottish Legacy*. Captain Devereux's dogs are put through a wonderfully clever show, which meets with a very hearty reception; Lytton and Bland score a well-deserved success with their speciality *A Lesson in Love;* R. C. Note goes well; Helen Martin, a fine vocalist, is well received; Daisy Devonport is a capital comedienne and dancer; Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope, which is hugely popular here, is showing "A Tour in Bonnie Scotland."

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Rousby.—Pantomime again holds sway this week, Mr. Peter Thompson's company being here in *Babes in the Wood*. Miss Maud Beaumont plays Robin Hood in a sprightly manner, singing with much spirit; as Maid Marion Miss Lou Langley is all that can be desired; Mr. T. G. Vane is a most comical Dame; the Danbys cause much amusement as Tim Tired and Willie Wearied; Mr. Wilton Marsh figures agreeably as the Baron; and as the Babes Miss Renee Grahame and Miss Babs Lloyd contribute largely to the success. The specialities include N. T. Kioto, the Japanese equilibrist; Miss Renee Grahame, male impersonator; the Yankee Quartette of acrobatic dancers; Miss Rosa Walmsley, skipping-rope dancer; and Miss Babs Lloyd.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—*Honour Thy Father* is receiving a powerful interpretation at the hands of Mr. T. Morton Powell's company here this week. Mr. Walter M. Cameron appears with distinction in the rôle of Gabriel Garth, whose wife, Gertrude, is ably impersonated by Miss Kate Newton; and to Miss Mabel Coleman is allotted the trying part of the erring daughter, Lilian, which she portrays with much success. Mr. W. R Winning acts cleverly as the evil genius Duncan Bly; and the hero, Jack Halyard, is played in manly fashion by Mr. Bertram H. Ross; a charming representative of his sweetheart, Mercy Merry, being found in Miss Muriel Dean. The humorous element is well developed on conventional lines by Mr. W. H. Melrose and Miss Ada Salmon in suitable parts; Mr. Claude Merton, Mr. Frank Eden, and Mr. Fred Rolls lend efficient aid; and the many minor characters in the cast are adequately filled. A very effective tableau precedes the final fall of the curtain.

LINCOLN. — PALACE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Sydney Arthur.—George Brooks is scoring heavily on a return visit, and the bill also includes the Three Whirligigs, Charles Torbay, Counsell and Mills, Lizzie Daniels, Harris and Worth, the Katos, and Raymond's Bioscope.

LIVERPOOL. — ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—*In Holy Russia*, played by Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's able company, has proved a big draw here this week. Mrs. Cassidy acted with dramatic strength as Renee Rubinoff; endless laughter followed the work of Mr. Cassidy in the rôle of Micky Nolan; Mr. Frank Copeland was a stately Sir Harry Beresford; Mr. Martin Sands scored as Count Petrolski; and good support also came from Mr. Robert Cockroft (Czar) and Mr. Arthur Stratton (Colonel Forrest).

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—The programme submitted here this week includes Lydia Yeamans, a great favourite in Liverpool, whose songs and mimicry are loudly applauded. The Four Rios are undoubtedly in the forefront as gymnasts: Corbyn's dogs provide an excellent turn, their tricks and antics being both clever and amusing: Frank Dunlop is a capital laughter-maker; Thompson's Topweights create a good impression with their boxing and wrestling; Marie Collins delights the audience with her songs; Burnett is a clever impersonator; Emma Don's black and white coons sing and dance prettily, and the Sisters Hall are well received.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—*The Girl who Lost Her Character* has been played here to packed houses. Mr. Vincent W. Carlyle presented a most creditable Rev. Robert Everton; Mr. Stanley W. Gordon afforded every satisfaction as Jack England and Private Johnson; Miss Ethel Bracewell earned the sympathies of her audience by her able Molly Vernon; and valuable assistance came from Mr. Frank Adair (Captain Caversham), Miss Emmie Barton (Rose Seymour), Miss Lydia Mannington (Marian Franklyn), Mr. George Mitchell (James Sutton), and Miss Daisy Meynard (Isabella Jones).

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendall; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—*Woman and Wine* has afforded much pleasure here this week, being interpreted by an excellent company, under the control of Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds. Miss Cissie St. Elmo acted with effect as Marcel Rigadout; Mr. Edmonds offered a capital picture of the student, Dick Seymour; Miss Violet Sims made a pathetic Mary Andrews; as Professor Sauter Mr. George Child scored; Mr. John S. Haydon, in the character of Hugh Seymour, was effective; and other well-played parts were Janet Marlow (Miss Ethel Vinroy) and Alphonse Beaudet (Mr. Fred W. Goddard).

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Top of the bill here this week is Arthur Prince, who gives a capital all-round ventriloquial turn; Raku, a Japanese wrestler, is watched with interest; J. H. Darnley and company have a screamingly funny act, *What a Night;* Jack and Evelyn are a popular pair of comedy artists: Claire Greta has some smart Spanish dances; and also in the list are the Jansons, gymnasts; Harry Briggs, vocalist; Terry and Bentley, comedy artists; Walter Stanley, comedian; and Johnny Fuller, acrobat and jumper.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—*Shadows of a Great City* has been played here this week by the "Royal" stock company, headed by Mr. Percy Boucher as Jem Farren.

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. M. Montgomery.—The "Royal" stock company here is giving with great success *Her Fatal Past*, the principal parts being in the safe hands of Mr. Wallace Campbell (Mark Desmond), Mr. H. G. Brandon (Nobbs). Miss Lina Nazeby (Ruth Fernside and Belle Lara). and Miss Gladys Hastings-Walton (Honor Symes).

PARK PALACE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime, *Little Cinderella and the Glass Slipper*, has paid a visit to the popular south-end house this week.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—The smart comedians, Harrigan and Holt, are foremost here this week, delighting everybody; the Sisters Russell present a clever comedy skit, *Josephine;* Dolly Andrews, a rising young comedienne, sings sweetly; and also in the list are T. W. Barrett, comedian: Bright and Bright; Don Cameron, vocalist; and Jules Kiora, hand balancer.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Top of the bill here this week are Fred Eustace and company with an ably-presented sketch, *Our Curate;* Auto-Atlas gives a remarkable exhibition of weight-lifting with his teeth; Little Ganty is as funny as ever; Surrie Lindon's vaudeville entertainers have a neat comedy mélange, *Monks at Play;* and others who appear are Madge May, a dainty comedienne; Cole and Rags, humorous jugglers; Charles Frazer and company, with the smart, mystifying entertainment, *the Enchanted Iona;* Barrett and Knowles, patter comedians; and Hettie Chattell, burlesque actress.

LLANDUDNO.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. R. Chaplin.—On Monday Mr. Carr Loates's company appeared here in *At the World's Mercy*. Mr. W. H. Irving as Captain Frank Manley acts well throughout; Mr. Carr Loates as Jabez Barber sustains that character in good style; Mr. Geo. D. Knight as Morris Goldstein (the Jew) is well placed; Mr. Jess Boxer, in the comic part of Charlie Smart, is excellent; Skittles is in the capable hands of Miss Cissie Milford; Miss Kate Johnson does well as Alice Lloyd; and Miss Gwenny Ashdown is effective as Dot.

LOUGHBOROUGH. — NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—After a three weeks' variety entertainment we return again to drama, and excellent fare is provided by Mrs. Morton Powell's company in *When It Was Dark*. The cast is a powerful one, and includes Miss Elizabeth Watson as Gertrude Hunt; her sympathetic acting wins for her much well-deserved applause. Mr. Cyril Austin-Lee, in the rôle of the Rev. Basil Gortire, creates a favourable impression; and Mr. George H. Pitt is a capable Constantine Schuabe. As Helena Byars, Mrs. Morton Powell is very effective; Miss Bessie Ellis does capitally as Grace Goldeye; and other parts are well sustained by Mr. Henry Heller as the Rev. Mr. Byars, and Mr. Arthur B. Murray as Sir Robert Llewellyn.

LOWESTOFT. — MARINA.—Managing-Director, Mr E. A. Smith.—Lovers of drama are again well provided for this week by the first presentment locally of *A Warning to Women*. The members of the company all work well, and the staging and dressing are particularly fine. Mr. C. Watson Mill gives a fine study as Shaun, a wandering minstrel; and Miss Rosalind Tate is seen to advantage as Moira Kennion.

MANCHESTER.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, the United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company opened here on Monday in *The Morals of Marcus*. Some good work was apparent in the presentation of the piece, notably Miss Hilda Antony's version of Carlotta, a difficult but entirely successful impersonation. Mr. H. Nye Chart as Sir Marcus Ordeyne gave also a fine and skilful rendering of the philosopher in a quandary; while Mrs. H. Nye Chart provided an acceptable impersonation of Judith Mainwaring, the woman moving in the background; and Mr. David Domville was sufficiently cynical and shallow as Pasquale, the libertine and *poseur*. A good word should be added for Miss Eleanor Gilbart as Antoinette, Mr. Cecil Brooking as Stenson, Miss Mary Weigall as Mrs. Ordeyne, Miss Gladys Purnell as Dora, and Miss Conyers Radcliffe as Mrs. McMurray; and the remaining parts were suitably filled.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—*The Belle of Mayfair* remains another week, playing to good houses.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A return visit of Messrs. Northway and Garrod's company in *The Prodigal Parson* is the attraction here this week. Mr. W. V. Garrod as the Rev. Tom Godley has a good part, which he renders with excellent dramatic effect; and Mr. Alfred Northway provides a capital contrast as the suave and villainous Enoch Jaggins. Miss Gwen Stewart plays sympathetically as Fern Godley, Tom's wife; Mr. William Hayward is successful as Ben Jaggins; Ned Kettlepin is cleverly portrayed by Mr. Walter Vincent; and a very nice rendering of Myrtle, the blind child, is to the credit of Miss Violet Jeffreys. Light humour is added in good style by Mr. Owen Remonde and Miss Lydia Hart.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Charles Baldwin's company in *Bank Clerks*, a very funny concoction, is the top turn here this week Wright, Ismay, and Wright are also prominently successful in their wonderful dancing act; and good turns are given by Pueblo and Cropp, versatile Creole speciality artists; Harry Morris, a smart character comedian; Standing, the singing mill lad; Stanley and Vandyke, in a clever sketch, *On the Shelf;* Annie Cohen, ballad vocalist; Little Dence, an accomplished young songstress; and Chas. Lestree, a clever juvenile juggler. The pictures add to the amusement.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The big turn here this week is provided by Kate Carney, the popular coster comedienne, whose répertoire includes the enormously successful scena, *Liza Johnson*. Claire Romaine, who also figures prominently on the bill, gives a trio of songs in capital style; Lilian Lowe, ballad vocalist, has a good voice and is well received; the Ongars give a wonderfully clever exhibition of international dancing; Gus Garriell, comedian, makes a hit in his burlesque imitations; and other entertaining items are added by Dusty Rhodes, a comedy raconteur; Harry Rodgers and company in a dramatic episode, *Told in a Flat;* Jimmy Shields, the one-legged eccentric dancer; and the Solari Duo, vocalists and instrumentalists. The Bioscope depicts a variety of sensational pictures.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—Messrs. John Lawson and company are to the front here this week in a sensational episode, *The King's Minister*, which is presented with considerable success, Mr. Lawson's assumption of the title-rôle being particularly satisfactory. Carrie Laurie's Juvenile Comedy Company are seen to advantage in *The Belles of the Kitchen;* and the amusing business of the Kirbys is well received. The statuesque poses of the Montague Brothers are very effective; the O'Gorman Brothers have some good patter; one, Billy Farrell, is a capital coon comedian; and Cecilia Maude is a refined vocalist. "Down the vale" is well rendered by Miss Mildred Timms, assisted by the choir, who also render West's madrigal, "Lacking my love," in fine style. "Flags and Faces of all Races" is a decidedly novel subject shown on the Bioscope.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead — The attraction here this week, by way of a change from the usual variety programme, is a condensed version of the popular drama, *Life's Sweetest Sins*, presented in excellent style by a company under the direction of Mr. T. Arthur Jones. The rôle of Captain Harold Marston is depicted in strong, heroic fashion by Mr. T. Arthur Jones; while Miss Marie Daventry succeeds in depicting the natural and sympathetic character of Doreen Rivers. The sinister part of Dr. Colbrooke is in the capable hands of Mr. Oswald Douglas; while others who act well in important rôles are Mr. Robert Sawin, Mr. Clem Horlock, and Mr. Alexander Wills. The humorous element is well brought out by Mr. Edgar Morgan and Miss Elsie Warton.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Messrs. Holland and Wood's capital pantomime, *Aladdin*, after a very successful week at the Grand Junction Theatre, are doing good business here.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. Peter Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—The star turns here this week are provided by charming Lelia Roze in her delightful quick-change and musical scena *A Dressing-room Drama*, and that highly original comedian, Edwin Boyde. Another good turn is that of Chris Richards, the quintessence of eccentricity; and exceptionally well trained are the animals introduced by Alfred Trentanovi. Very amusing are the Brothers Ashley in their comedy boxing act, *Next, Please;* Lloyd Morgan is a pleasing vocal comedian; Lanos and Montes are clever eccentric acrobats; and Fred Harrison, comedian, contributes a song. Interesting pictures of the wreck of the "Berlin" are shown by the Palace pictures.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—The Howes, in their triumph of mental telepathy, and La Rochells, the charming artist's model, in her classical poses, are still the attractions here. Les Rubens are good singers; the Columbia Trio are amusing in their vocal absurdity; Ye Merrie Peasants score in a scena, *A Village Courtship;* and the Brothers Hayes are smart cross-talkers and sand-dancers. Other satisfactory items are contributed by Les Montaldos, equilibrists on the slack wire; Agnes Hanson, a neat dancer; Rowland Hill, eccentric comedian; Jennie Lynwood, comedienne; and Hunter and Maris, comedy artists. As usual Raymond's Vivagraph pictures are good.

HIPPODROME, HULME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The Days are wonderfully smart in their second-sight performance, and top the bill here this week. The Woodwards are exceptionally clever trick cyclists; and the ventriloquial absurdity of Eustace and Eyre is exceedingly good. Harry Taft, comedian, is well received; Little Tim, a comedian of the quaint order, keeps the house in a good humour; Beau and Belle are good singers; Charles Somers, comedian, and George Foyle, comedian, are both very amusing; and Ellis and Watts dance well. The Bioscope pictures depict the "American Convict's Escape."

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton, and District Theatres, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Cecil Clayton.—Mr. Bert Rutley's company is here in the musical play *An English Belle*. The whole of a heavy cast sustained their respective parts in a very efficient manner. Among the specialities, the Revell Troupe caused great laughter in their farcical sketch, *Mischief*. The singing throughout was good and the dancing graceful.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Herbert Darnley; Resident-Director, Mr. Tom Jennings; Acting Manager, Mr. Mark Lorne.—Mr. Leonard Dalrymple's company is appearing here in the drama *As Midnight Chimes*. Mr. Percy Maitland plays the part of Luke Dezzard in a masterly manner; as Dave Stannard, Mr. G. B. Williams is very successful; Mr. James Salter, in the comedy part of Tat Spavin, causes roars of laughter; Mr. Herbert Pearce is excellent in the rôle of Ezra Gamble; Mr. Leonard Dalrymple represents the coastguard with credit; Miss Maud Hastings wins the sympathies of the audience by her admirable rendering of the part of Mary Stannard; Miss Madge Berresford is an amusing Susette, a French maid; Miss Marion Ryder creditably plays the part of Little Davy; and Miss May Swire, in the rôle of Zamora, a Hindu girl, is excellent.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Manager Mr. George FOX.—Mr. Edgar Brooks and company have occupied the boards here this week. In addition to an excellent series of Empire pictures there are some good variety turns. Mr. Harry Daubney gives an excellent ventriloquial turn; Miss Gertrude Standish contributes some good songs; the Levanos appear in an amusing sketch, entitled *How's Your Uncle?*; and the musical turn by Zembra and Zembra is appreciated.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Edward Michael; Business-Manager, Mr. A. Austin-Leigh.—The Margate stock company has appeared here this week in a successful production of Haddon Chambers's four-act comedy, *The Tyranny of Tears*. The piece has been produced under the direction of Mr. A. Austin-Leigh, who plays admirably the rôle of the young novelist, Clement Parbury; Mr. Austin-Leigh cleverly portrays the indulgent husband; Miss Lilian Rogers makes a capital Mrs. Parbury, her consistent acting going far towards sustaining the interest of the comedy; Miss Mabel Archdall is very good as Hyacinth Woodward, Parbury's secretary; and some admirable acting is done by Mr. Wallis Clark as George Gunning, the cynic. Mr. J. P. Allen creates considerable amusement in the character of Colonel Armitage, the dapper little man of the world; Evans, the servant, is capably interpreted by Mr. J. P. Lallen.

HALL-BY-THE-SEA. — Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—The Claymores, juvenile performers, in an original speciality dancing and juggling act, are a good turn this week; and Harry Bold comedian and raconteur, proves amusing. The Sages, comedy artists, are good in their special line, which includes dancing, singing, and burlesque acting; and Bob Hamilton, Scotch comedian, creates plenty of hearty laughter. Holden's original comic manakins are cleverly manipulated; Florence Leonard, ballad vocalist, contributes to the programme, which is concluded with two very laughable cinematograph pictures.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Lewis Gilbert.—Frank Seeley scores a genuine success in slap-dab fights; Winifred Ward is a pleasing male impersonator; Spencer and Marks in their act, entitled *The Stage-struck Waifs*, meet with warm appreciation; Stan Leigh's humour is greatly enjoyed; the Three Preston's provide plenty of fun in their laughable absurdity *The Liftman's Kiss;* Dolly Weston is very entertaining; and Desmouli and Mora give a clever performance on the triple bar. The theatre Bioscope completes the programme.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Frece.—The Three Moxons, Continental acrobatic comedians, give a good show; Florence Carlow is well received; and the Royal Quintette of Vocalists meet with approbation. Zasma is a smart gymnast; Harry Belmont's clog-dancing is highly appreciated; and Hector and Sultan are excellent comedy grotesques.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Mr. Herbert Ralland's principal company presents the comic opera, *La Poupée*, here this week. The rôle of Hilarius is admirably impersonated by Mr. Fred Seymour; Miss Mysie Devine, a very graceful and attractive Alesia, sings sweetly and acts capably; Miss Nina Zambray is a delightful Marie; and Miss Dora Dickens and Miss Mita Cree are pleasing as the Dolls. Miss Edith Hunter is a success as Mme. Hilarius; and Miss Doris Dickens and Miss Alice Roche do full justice to the parts of Henri and Guduline. Mr. Fuller Allen as Baron Chaterelle, and Mr. Bert Rolfe as Bazilique, are all that can be desired; and Mr. A. Stephens sustains the part of Benoit to perfection. Mr. Arthur Cozens is amusing as Lancelot; and Mr. Walter Balfour good as Father Maxime.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, The Middlesbrough Grand Opera House Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. K. Chatto.—Mr. Fred Jarman's company is here this week with *Under the Czar*. In the leading part of Nicholas Yeroslaff, Mr. Willson Howard is really good; Miss Lillian Herries's impersonation of the true Russian girl is full of interest; Mr. Gerald Smythe acquits himself admirably as Captain Johnson; and Miss Beatrice Annersley is exceedingly good as Siomka. Mr. G. Fleming does justice to the part of Captain Gurko; Miss Madge Clare is effective as Zara Bhurs; Mr. George H. Doyle is seen to advantage as the Major; and Mr. W. Bestwick is a clever representative of Count Nesseldorf.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor and Director, Mr. Alf. Graham.—Claude Feldman's Beau-Ideal Troupe of juveniles score a tremendous success here with their act of mimicry, dance, and song; Mahatma, styled the queen of second sight, astounds audiences; Joe Humphreys, vocal comedian, fully sustains his reputation; the Gladenbecks provide some thrilling hand-balancing and ring acts; and Callie and Walker create roars of laughter. Other turns are provided by Marie Weston, vocalist; F. C. Fields and Miss F. Lewis, and the Palascope.

MOTHERWELL. — NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant. Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer and company are paying a return visit here, and on Monday opened with *From Washerwoman to Duchess*. Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer very successfully sustains the rôle of Catherine, afterwards Duchess of Dantzig; Mr. Robert Pitfard is a masterly and soldier-like Lefebvre; Mr. F. Skein's interpretation of Fouche is one of outstanding merit; and Mr. Leonard Cheetham does well as the indiscreet young Lieutenant. Mr. Sydney Bland is effective as Napoleon I.; Miss More Dunphie gives an interesting study of Mme. de Stael; and Miss Rita Sponti is a bright and vivacious Rosalie. For the last three nights of the week Mr. F. B. Woulfe and company are announced to appear in *Robin Hood*.

NEATH. — CASTLE THEATRE. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Haggar.—The capital presentation of *The Nihilist* has proved a big draw here. Mr. Will Haggar is an excellent Ivan; Mr. Jack Desmond, as Prince Alexandra, plays the part with effect; Mr. James Haggar as John Smith is amusing; Mrs. Will Haggar as Princess Olga is charming; Miss Sylvester as Katerine is very good; and Little Jenny scores as the Little Czarina. *Leah, The Wicklow Wedding*, and *The Gipsy King* are also in the week's bill.

NEWPORT.—EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Major Gallaghar; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Page.—Peggy Pryde, who heads the bill here, sings songs that captivate the house. Lilian Warren, with the aid of pictorial representation, sings some pretty numbers; and Orpheus, in his musical scena, *The Solitary Rehearsal*, give excellent performances upon various instruments. A turn that is popular is that by a father and daughter, described as "a collier and his child," who give a mental telepathic performance; Gladys Mavius does well in the song-scena, "Rosie is waiting," in which she is well supported by Dot, whose dancing for a child is excellent; Newhouse and Ward display ability upon cycles; a knockabout turn by the Karno Four affords much amusement; Ike Scott and Son are successful in song and patter; and the Bioscope, showing interesting pictures, complete the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Seddon.—Mr. J. B. Mulholland's company opened here on Monday, presenting the new fantastical farce, *The Electric Man*. Mr. Bernard Copping appears as Walter Everest and the Electric Man, and his clever duplication of the parts evokes much laughter and applause; Mr. Sydney Lynn plays Jack Strange with due effect; Mr. Legai Robinson makes an amusing Mr. Jobbins; Mr. Chris Grose is an effective General Pomery; Miss Dorothy Hullah is a capable Mrs. Everest; Miss Amy Fanchette gets some fun out of the part of Mrs. Anderson; Miss Gertrude Tate is a charming Stella; and Miss Isa Bellington an efficient Mary.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—The boards here this week have been occupied by Messrs. Pitt and Halling's company with *£1000 Reward*. As Gilbert Lisle, Mr. Fred Wilberforce is a decided success; Mr. J. Newton Cowling makes the most of Fred Ingleford; Mr. Frank J. Pitt, is good as Fred Ingleford, his son; and Vincent Rainsworth is played in capital style by Mr. Charles Halling. Mr. Frank Dallis makes quite a hit as Inspector Gilbert; Mr. Geo. Scully is clever as Dick Springthorpe; As Mme. Sanson, Miss Daisy Halling plays the part in a satisfactory manner; Miss Cissie Francess scores as Kitty Springthorpe; and Miss Lynn Darlington is highly successful as Meg, her rendering of "Eileen Alannah" meeting with much applause.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The Simsons, in *The Burglar's Surprise*, are proving a great attraction here; Messrs. Belrose and De Velin, vocal artists, have met with a cordial reception; Mr. Fred Spencer is a capital comedian; Miss Cissie Trixie, juvenile vocalist and dancer, is clever; Messrs. Rayner and Reece, comedians, go well; Cavalli, entertainer, is loudly applauded; Mr. Walter Levetto, the dancing marvel, is smart; and the Bio-Photoscope meets with its usual success.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden.—Mr. Henry E. Leigh's company in *The 'Varsity Belle* is here. As Professor Septimus Stoney, Mr. James Danvers is excruciatingly funny; Theocritus Ward Sparkleton is cleverly portrayed by Mr. Edward Chester; the two undergraduates, George Barker and Albert Perrin, find excellent representatives in Messrs. R. H. West and R. Barraclough respectively; and Mr. Frank Liliput is a typical College Scout. Miss E. Rainbow is decidedly good as Mrs. Barker; Miss Tessa Myers submits a charming impersonation of Maud Stoney; and Miss J. Sullivan's Eve Stoney is admirable. Miss Josephine Ellis dances well.

NORWICH.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Councillor F. W. Fitt.—An attractive programme is presented this week. Mr. Syd May is an excellent impersonator of popular variety artists, and his representation of the late Dan Leno evoked much applause, and as Hackenschmidt wrestling with a dummy, was most amusing; the Cumberland troupe are clever cyclists, and were well received; May Martin is a pleasing comedienne and very smart; George Prince is a veritable "crazy comic," and creates much fun; the Herald Comedy

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Four, in harmony, comedy, and dancing, are amusing; while Primavesi exhibits some clever juggling tricks; Rose and Calvert, in a comedy scene, are entertaining; and Woolmer Young as a comedian is appreciated. The Hippo. Biograph has some very attractive pictures.

NOTTINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*The Lady of Ostend* pays its initial visit this week, and has been warmly welcomed. Mr. Lawrence Brough gives the requisite humorous touch to his portrayel of the light-hearted Baron; Mr. Henry Hampson plays with characteristic agitation as Dick Whortles; and Mr. Percy Marshall lends substantial aid in the rôle of the elderly Joseph Carbury. Mr. Dalziel Heron capitally exploits the prize-fighter, Toby Krockitt; Miss Marion Ripley scores throughout in the name-part; Miss Kate Milford impersonates Dorothy Whortles in a graceful and charming manner; and Miss Bessie Harrison puts plenty of spirit into her assumption of Matilda Carbury.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Chas. P. Cooke.—*Her Love Against the World* has attracted large audiences this week. Mr. Walter Howard, the author of the play, acts with military dignity as the Earl of Strathmere; Mr. W. H. Hallatt gives an effective rendering of Prince Othmar; Mr. Mayor Cook excites the keenest repugnance by his portrayal of the knavish Prince Ravensburg; and the Prince Maurice of Mr. Sam Arthur is a conscientious piece of work. Miss Ellen Snow plays the Princess Idalia with artistic conception and dramatic intensity; Miss Blanche Steele earns distinction as Shulah; and Miss Julie De Esco satisfactorily impersonates Corona. The humour is capitally exploited by Mr. Richard Webb as Fritz, and Mr. Henry B. Lewis as Heinrich Pimpernickle.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles H. Bowmaker.—*The Isle of Ooma*, a comedy operasketch, is being presented here by Arthur Rigby and company, and proves a great attraction, being admirably staged and mounted. Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten is a turn which always pleases, and the clever dancing of the twin Sisters Anderson ensure them a very hearty welcome; Edward Arthur and company are seen and heard to great advantage in an abbreviated edition of *The Lily of Killarney;* and the musical scena presented by Lennie and Hast is deserving of every praise. Jack Neil, comedian, and Sadie Simpson, a great favourite here, highly commend themselves; Victor Newman mimics well-known actors; the Strads can always be relied upon for a diverting entertainment; and the programme is completed by an admirable series of films.

NUNEATON. — Prince of Wales's Theatre and Entertainments Co., Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Mr. Bulmer's company opened here on Monday to a good house with *When Woman Hates.* Miss Chrissie Dunbar gives a striking portrayal of Cora Daintry; Mr. C. Lodge-Percy does good work as Godfrey Lawton; Mr. Leslie Lingham gives an excellent study of Lieut. Rokeby; and Miss H. Schrier as Marie wins favour. Miss Zara Dare makes a pathetic Little Nellie; Miss Gladys Hawthorne as Edith Rokeby is well placed; an abundance of comedy is supplied by Mr. Evan Roland (Pat O'Brian), Mr. Walter Clark (Alfonso Picolet), and Misses Mary Dolby and Sybil Houghton as Mrs. Potts and Sally.

OLDHAM.—Empire Theatre.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—This week Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's company conclude their successful tour with the pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood.* Misses Baby Lillybelle and La Belle Sylvia are well placed as the Babes; Miss Amy Allnut is a dashing Robin Hood; and Miss Anena Walton as Maid Marion sings and acts well. Miss Kathleen Emmett and Miss Nelly Dyson, as Will Scarlet and Merrie Mavis, are very pleasing; as are Miss Gertrude Mason and Miss Nellie Cross as Little John and Allan-a-Dale. The company is strong in comedians, among whom are Mr. D. J. Tandy (Sir Brokah de Pawn), Mr. Harry Albery (Araminta), Mr. Dawson Dewick (Sammy), Messrs. Grapho and Jackson (Burgling Bill and Gentle George), and Farr and Farland as the Two Pages, are capital banjo duettists. Miss Norah Prendergast is very good as Sylvania; Mr. Leonard Charles makes an impression as Infernalto. Specialities are introduced by the Lohrenz Quartette and the Hammersley troupe of lady dancers.

Colosseum.—Manager, Mr. W. Eastwood.—Messrs. Carpenter and Cooper's company present for the first time here *The Spider and the Fly.* Miss Amy Venimore as Stella gives a good account of herself; Miss Nina Vaughton plays Edith Macalister very nicely; and Miss Lucy Murray as Molly Blake is capital. Others who acquit themselves creditably are Mr. Benson North and Mr. E. J. Preston, as Cyril and Welby Girdlestone respectively, Mr. A. H. Hill as David Strong, Mr. H. C. Lancley as the pastor, and Messrs. C. Preece and C. Russell as Remus and Romulus.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Howgate.—Fred Kitchen and Frank Lister, in a well-acted sketch, entitled *No. 99*, are a feature here, and have caught on. Another excellent turn is provided by Miss Sarah Berry, a favourite vocalist in Oldham; Minnie Cunningham, the charming comedienne, sings as well as ever; the New York Comedy Four are a good quartette of humorous harmonisers; Robins and Collier, in *The Lady and the Porter*, are entertaining; the Stack and Milton Trio are exceedingly smart in a bounding bar act; Nina Martina sings some capital songs; and Ford Williams, Welsh baritone, also takes well. The Royal Dottoscope is showing new pictures.

Hippodrome. — Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—Jack Pleasants, a comedian with a style of his own, creates much laughter; the Donatos are a pair of smart acrobatic clowns, and they receive much applause; the Five Musical Palmers are excellent in their musical entertainment; Leslie and Player are a pair of refined duettists and patterers; and Daisy Almer is a praiseworthy vocalist and dancer. As a character vocalist Miss Florence Watson is to be commended; and the Sisters Brenton are engaging comediennes and dancers. George Hall gains high opinions as a whistling comedian; and the Dottoscope shows interesting scenes.

OXFORD.—New Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill.—On Monday night Mr. Lewis Waller's company opened here with *Brigadier Gerard.* Mr. Arthur Somers, excellently made up, played with considerable force as Napoleon; Mr. George Mallett showed great skill in delineating the wily Talleyrand; Mr. Cecil Wynne scored well as General Goulaincourt; the officers of the Hussars were played in brave fashion by Messrs. F. Powell, J. H. Twyford, E. Bennett, W. Blake, W. Thompson, H. Standing, and Percy Baverstock; Mr. H. Turner capitally represented the faithful trumpeter Papilette; while Mr. Langhorne Burton realised to the life the gallant and enterprising Captain Gerard, who carries all before him. Agnes and Mère Lafitte found excellent exponents in Miss Margery Chard and Miss Florence Denbigh; while Miss Muriel Godfrey Turner invested the character of the Comtesse de Roqueleure with a charm that captivated all present.

PAISLEY.—Paisley Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Bentz.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's capable company, including that popular artist, Miss Minnie Palmer, is paying a visit here this week with the interesting and well-known play, *My Sweetheart.* Miss Palmer as Tina is charming, both in manner and appearance; as Tony Faust, Mr. Robert H. Howard displays exceptional abilities; Mr. Gilbert Heathfield does excellent work as Dr. Oliver; Mr. Fred W. Leonard submits a capital sketch of Joe Shotwell; very amusing is the Dudley Harcourt of Mr. Alfred Ibberson; Mr. Leslie Tyler makes a commanding Harold Bartlett; Mr. Alfred May as Farmer Hatzell is good; Miss Mildred Sylvester presents a careful study of Mrs. Fleeter; Mrs. H. E. Russell as Mrs. Hatzell is to be commended for an excellent embodiment; and Peek-a-Boo is intelligently played by Miss Elsie Forster.

Empire.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Tom Toy.—Appearing with success here this week are the following:—Esmond, Verona, and Esmond, in their comic knockabout absurdity, *The Raw Recruits;* Nell Brough, siffleuse; Jack Brindall, Scotch comedian and dancer; D'Auras, in their thought-transmission act; the Aubreys, comedy gymnasts; Denton Brothers, acrobatic comedians; and Frank Coyle, versatile comedian.

PERTH.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Perth is fortunate in having Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company (North) here during the week, the répertoire including *The Taming of the Shrew, Merchant of Venice, Macbeth, Merry Wives of Windsor,* and *Hamlet.* In *The Taming of the Shrew,* Mr. Lionel Bevans adopts the rôle of Baptiste with much acceptance; Mr. Philip Merivale proves a suitable exponent of Vincentio; Mr. Gerald Ames's Lucentio wins special favour; Mr. Henry Herbert evinces considerable skill in his powerful portrayal of Petruchio; Mr. Reginald Owen also shows fine points in his adaptation of the old gentleman, Gremio; Mr. Henry Morrell's Hortensio is a pleasing feature; Messrs. E. Spencer Geach and Charles Francis are clever and suitably adapted to the parts of Tranio and Biondello; Mr. Esme Filmer is well placed as a pedant, as also is Mr. Charles Bruce as a tailor; Mr. Ross Shore's Grumio is clever and amusing; Miss Mary Webb is an admirable widow; Miss Louise Graeme is all that one could picture the graceful Bianca; and Miss Dorothy Green's Katharina, the shrew daughter of Baptista, is a powerful production of one who is rightly classed as an actress of no ordinary talent.

PLYMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—Mr. William Greet's company, in *The Earl and the Girl,* is again "down West," and is quite as popular as it was a year or two ago. The management are distinctly fortunate in being able to retain the services of Mr. William Stephens as Jim Cheese, the dog-trainer, the drolleries of this accomplished comedian in his many embarrassing situations being irresistibly funny. The Misses Jennie Richards ('Liza Shoddam), Beatrice Anderson (Mrs. Shimmering Black), and Hilda Gray (Flora, Lady Rosedale), who are at different times associated with Mr. Stephens, also contribute very materially to the diverting situations; Miss Frances Earle is quite bewitching as the American heiress, Elphin Haye; Mr. Arthur Harrold as Dick Wargrave has an excellent voice, the audience receiving the full benefit of the same in the vocal numbers allotted to this part; Mr. H. Courtin is realistic as the impetuous American, A. Bunker Bliss; and as the respective representatives of the American and English legal professions, Messrs. W. Norman and Greene Taylor make the most of their opportunities. The dance, "L'Entente Cordiale," in which Miss B. Ford, L. Doran, N. Lawrence, E. Beverley, B. Grand, and G. Scott participate, is a very pretty exhibition, and proved popular. On Monday, by the generosity of Mr. Williams, a collection was permitted for the Crusade of Rescue and Homes for Destitute Children, London.

Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. C. F. Williams; Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant.—*The Guilty Man* is the attraction at the Grand this week. Mr. Cecil A. Melton as the hero, George Seymour, impersonates a very difficult part with plenty of realism; Mr. Edward Beecher as James Redman, the "guilty man," plays with consummate ability; Mr. Larry Clements has seldom been seen to greater advantage than in his rendering of a Jew; and Mr. Arthur Beaufort introduces a welcome touch of humour as an innkeeper. Miss Elaine Vanbrugh gives a creditable rendering of the part of Audrey Priestly, the village schoolmistress; Miss Beatrice Hudson as Sukie Barton plays well; and Miss Irma Farington capably impersonates Nell Radford.

Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Acrobatic cleverness is the distinguishing trait of this week's programme, Ryan and Hall, comic wrestlers, going through some wonderful contortions; Mason and Bart perform exceedingly difficult feats on the horizontal bar; Harry Grey, the Australian nugget, again scores in his quaint feminine "get-up"; Kitts and Windrum have a tasteful and refined little sketch, entitled *The Cuckoo;* Osborn and Brooks present an item of a similar nature in *The Motorist and the Maid;* Olive Armidale is correctly styled a dainty comedienne; and May and Theresa have an up-to-date protean act. The remaining turns are Bartlett and company, in a sketch, and Vernon's pictures.

PORTSMOUTH. — Theatre Royal. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. George Alexander's fine company, with the great comedy, *His House in Order,* opened here on Monday evening to a well-filled and keenly-appreciative house. Mr. Frank Fenton gave a masterly performance of the part of Hilary Jesson, his efforts being substantially rewarded by numerous recalls; Mr. Cyril Harcourt was all that could be desired in the much family-managed Filmer Jesson, M.P.; Sir Daniel Ridgeley was well portrayed by Mr. George Fitzgerald; Mr. George Silver did admirably as Pryce Ridgeley; and Miss Moyna Hill was well fitted with the part of the boy, Derek Jesson. Nina was characteristically played by Miss Auriol Lee, who made her points with great effect; Lady Ridgeley was sustained by Miss Henrietta Leversett with perfect naturalness, just suited to the part; Geraldine Ridgeley was taken by Miss Audrey Campbell with distinct success; and Miss Lilli Kehr did extremely well as Mlle. Thomé. The mounting of the piece was much admired.

Princes's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—The powerful and well-known drama, *The Lights of London,* is being played here this week by Mr. Herbert Hollister and company. Mr. C. F. Collins gives a fine and impressive personation as Harold Armytage; Clifford Armytage is taken by Mr. Riddell Robson with complete success; Seth Preene is ably and consistently performed by Mr. Herbert Hollister; the kind-hearted Jarvis Family are well represented by Mr. Chris Mason, Miss Nellie Fern, Miss Rennie Douglas, and Mr. Arthur Bell, who do full and ample justice to the lighter side of the drama; the street arab, Joey, is capitally taken by Miss Rita Wallace; and Bess is sympathetically and well sustained by Miss Jeanne Burgoyne. The remaining characters are in excellent hands, and the staging all that could be desired.

PRESTON. — Royal Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—The chief attraction is a laughable burlesque, entitled *The Smoking Concert,* presented by arrangement with Mr. Fred Karno; *A Night in Japan* is a very pleasing musical sketch, finely staged, and including some pretty songs and dances; Polo and Florence give an excellent acrobatic display; Anthony is a novel and skilful comic conjurer; the Maisanos gain hearty applause for their clever and droll musical act; Harry Hallam and Josephine Stanton present an artistic musical sketch, *A Broken Journey;* good turns are also given by Nell Cotter, comedienne; and George Duval, humorous entertainer and stump orator. Bioscope pictures complete the entertainment.

RAWTENSTALL. — Grand Theatre. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. George Dickinson.—Mrs. F. Wybert Clive's company is here this week in *The Conscript,* which was performed on Monday evening before an appreciative audience. As Karl Truevitch, Mr. H. Creagh Hunt gave a capital portrayal; and Mr. Douglas Watson was very effective as Ivan Manloff; as Paul Hardisti, Mr. Walter Steele gave a powerful reading of the part, gaining a distinct success; Mr. William Head was an excellent Doggervitch, and Mr. P. Strongbow scored as Tretch Troloff; and Mr. Wybert Clive gave a clever impersonation as Maxim Fredka. Miss Cissie Reenan was a sweet and clever little Carl; and Miss Nellie Douglas as Wanda submitted a sparkling and taking portrayal of the character; Miss Maud Elliott as Dame Katinka was good; as also was Miss Olga Datre as Catherine; Miss Florence M. Daly gave a charming personation as Nadia Truevitch.

READING.—Royal County Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. A. Wenman.—Dr. Walford Bodie, the electric wizard, is an attraction this week in a double sense, and his marvellous cures and performances are causing much wonder and excitement. Dr. Bodie is supported by an excellent variety company, which comprises Bella Skene, a smart burlesque actress and vocalist; little Dolly Robson, the child wonder; Belford and Mars, two clever comedy duettists; Clarice Mignon, the banjo queen; T. Duriah, comedian; and Mr. T. Norman Mills, the Australian actor vocalist.

Baker's Hippodrome is still doing good business. An excellent variety entertainment is being given, together with a splendid show of bioscope pictures.

ROTHERHAM.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. Bert Coote's company is paying a return visit with *The Fatal Wedding.* Mr. Ernest Owtrim is seen to advantage as Howard Wilson, and Mr. Guy Hastings scores as Robert Curtis; Mr. C. H. Hughes is very amusing as Toto, and Mr. Cyril Melton is quite a phlegmatic Peter Schwartz; Mr. Jack Waring is deserving of mention as O'Reilly, and Mr. Arthur Law Raynor is successful as the Rev. Dr. Lanceford. Miss Katherine Clarke gives a clever portrayal of the part of Mabel Wilson; Miss Leah Marlborough does well as Cora Williams; Miss Julie Temple scores as Bridget; little Miss Marie Wilson is pleasing and interesting as the Little Mother; and Master Freddie Hockling is to be commended for his portrayal of Frank. Special turns are introduced by Miss May Maddison, vocalist; Mr. Walter Aubrey, Lancashire clog-dancer; Miss Dorothy Pain, who is deservedly applauded for her singing of "Killarney"; Miss Edith Alcoe; and Miss Marie Wilson, who sings "Honey, won't you stop teasing me?" together with a well-balanced juvenile chorus.

RUGBY. — Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geoffrey Fulton.—This week Mr. Barr is presenting the pantomime of *Aladdin.* Mr. Carl Fredericks is excellent as the Emperor of China, and proves himself to be an excellent comedian and vocalist: Mr. David Phillips as Widow Twankey is capital: Messrs. Duncan and Morton, as the two Chinese policemen, cause much amusement by their clever and humorous acting; the part of Abanazar is in the capable hands of Mr. Will Sherlock, who does exceedingly well; Mr. Wilfred Dave is very good as the Vizier. Miss Maudie Vincent is delightful as Aladdin; and as the Princess, Miss Lora Lyndon is charming; Miss Maudie Vincent is also successful as a vocalist. Little Della as the Genii of the Lamp is a clever little actress of bewitching personality; Miss Dorothy Wilson is fascinating as Pekoe, and Miss Ormisha as the Captain of the Guard is a success. The Ta Pynketos, Jap magicians, give a remarkable juggling turn; Miss Peggy Lyndon scores in her musical act; the Sisters Hawker give a refined exhibition of acrobatic dancing; Duncan and Morton, as comedy artists, are much appreciated; Mme. Cordelia in her electric picture dance is one of the chief features; the Ohio Male Quartette give much pleasure, and the Empire troupe of lady dancers are very good. Mlle. Zarina Tankerville proves to be an exceptionally graceful dancer.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*The Unseen Power,* written by Mr. Harry Starr, drew a good house on Monday, when the author undertook the part of Fred Granville, and the disguises as a costermonger, a young lady, and a darkey commanded the fullest appreciation. Mr. Fred W. Graham as Horatio Cracklesby made a lot of fun out of the character; and was ably assisted by Miss Lizzie Jacobs as Jennie Smith. The villainous Antonio Romano was well portrayed by Mr. Edwin Firth; Mr. William Miller submitted a capital study of Harold Granville; Mr. Will Hee was very good as George; and Miss Dolly Starr presented the waif, Chris, in a highly-successful manner. The trying part of Lucretia found an excellent exponent in Miss Kate Norris; Miss Madge Blundell as Amita made a satisfactory impression; and a charming Lucy was provided by Miss Lye Jeffries. *Otto, the Outcast,* was announced for the latter half of the week.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Fred Karno's *The Dandy Thieves,* under the management of Mr. Harry Dooley, was presented on Monday night. Sergeant Lightning was very cleverly undertaken by Mr. W. E. Matthews; Mr. Frank Morton acted and sang well as Lord Essem; Miss Leonora did well as Lady Maud; and Mr. Charles Usher was a satisfactory Mr. Miffin. The other characters were in good hands, and the choruses were much enjoyed.

Royal Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—An enjoyable variety entertainment, twice nightly, is provided this week. *The Smart Set* is a very good show, including Miss Hilda, light soprano, and Miss Georgie Martin, comedienne. The comical musical clowns Alec Hurline and Tom Le May; Sam Redfern, the Black Emperor; Bessie Travis, musical ventriloquist; Yorkshire Tom, mimic; Bert and Dora, comedy artists; Tony Iveson, ragman at the piano; and T. C. Edwards, baritone, also appear, and give most acceptable turns.

SALISBURY. — County Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr. T. Brinsmead. — Messrs. W. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson's company have had a hearty reception from good houses in *Charley's Aunt.* Mr. Basil Lynn gives a spirited rendering of Jack Chesney. and Mr. J. E. Stephenson as Charley Wykeham acts in a manly fashion; Mr. McCausland Stewart is entrusted with the part as Sir Francis Chesney, which suits him capitally; as Stephen Spettigue. Mr. Percy Tyler is very good, and loses no opportunities; and Mr. Tom Macfarlane as Lord Fancourt Babberley scores heavily and is loudly applauded. Miss Sybil Greig as Amy and Miss Dorothy Barrington as Kitty both play with skill and refinement; Miss Grace Baring makes a dignified Donna Lucia, and Miss Norah Johns is capital as Ela Delahey.

SCARBOROUGH. — People's Palace and Aquarium.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Morgan; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—Fanny Robina, the star turn here this week, has had most gratifying receptions in the favourite songs, "The Albert Hall Concert" and "King Baby." Miss Florry Cooper, who is possessed of a well-trained voice, renders "The stars are angel voices" with great effect; Miss Fredrica's troupe of well-trained terriers and pony perform wonderful tricks; Lottie Poole sings and dances well; Frank Weir has a good supply of capital songs; J. H. Malva is an entertaining ventriloquist; Alfred E. Rick is an amusing comedian; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope's new pictures include "The Billiard Fever," and "Oh! that Molar." Carley and Place are also in the bill.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. George Zalva; Manager, Mr. Morgan.—An excellent entertainment is provided here. Bob Stephenson dances with remarkable dexterity; Alf Bishop causes plenty of merriment; Miss Dot Moss is a charming little artist; Harry Friskey submits an up-to-date juggling turn full of humour; and the Metropole animated pictures greatly add to the attractiveness of the bill.

SHEERNESS.—The Palace.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Phil Reymond.—A capital company appears here this week, comprising Mr. Nick Ohlson, an eccentric comedian; Miss Josie Watson, who is greatly admired as a comedienne and vocalist; Mr. Phil Reymond still continues a huge favourite; Miss Topsy Levane, too, is a first-rate burlesque actress and vocalist; and the Holroyds conclude with a screaming comedy sketch, *My Yorkshire Cousin.*

SHEFFIELD. — Lyceum Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The fantastic farce, *The Electric Man,* was played for the first time in Sheffield on Monday by Mr. J. B. Mulholland's company, the audience being kept thoroughly amused by the novel and laughable situations. Mr. Stanley Cooke, who was, as usual, cordially welcomed, added to his reputation by a clever and original impersonation of the Frankenstein-like inventor, Walter Everest. Mr. Lloyd Towman was firm as the industrious detective, Jobbins; and Mr. Archie Selwyn did good work as Jack Strange. Miss Lucy Edwin showed a stronge sense of humour as Mrs. Anderson; and the fun was kept going by Miss Amy Francis, Miss Sybil Brookes, Miss Gladys Jesson, and Mr. Vivian Willis.

Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The late George Daventry's famous money-making military play, *The Indian Mutiny,* has long been a favourite with local lovers of stirring melodrama, and Mr. Frank Burdett's company has again demonstrated the strength of its hold on the sympathies of popular audiences.

Alexandra Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is here this week in the exciting drama *Her Forbidden Marriage,* which is well played and effectively mounted. As George Madison, Mr. Harry Lonsdale acted in a manly, convincing way; Mr. Fred de Vere caused great amusement as Timothy; the villain, Devereaux, was cleverly represented by Mr. Louis Hector; and Mr. James Raymond was good as Dr. Fenwick. Miss Gertrude Bonser was a graceful, pathetic, and interesting Lucy; Miss Nellie Fletcher a convincing Lady Superior; and Miss Madge Yates a bright and vivacious Patty Lovejoy.

Empire Palace.—Proprietors, The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—On Monday Mr. Auguste Van Biene appeared with great success in his pathetic sketch, *The Master Musician,* in which he had the assistance of Miss Lena Burnleigh. Mr and Mrs. Lucas, in their scenes from *Oliver Twist* and *Little Nell,* were very successful, and both sketches were carefully staged. Mr. Charles Robinson, with illustrated songs, proved a good turn; the Sisters Neilson danced and posed gracefully; and the Misses Nina did a refined drawing-room entertainment. The Two Bostons are old local favourites; Mr. Cliffe Ryland pattered as humorously as ever; Master Clifford danced with neatness and agility; Goggin and Davis did a comic military acrobatic act; and the smart juggling of Selma Braatz won repeated and deserved applause.

Grand Palace of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—The following talented performers are delighting the Grand clientèle this week:—The Czar Troupe, Mr. Andie Burn, Fred Southern's combination in a sketch, the clever Steckels, Ashby and Moore, and Miss Constance Juno. A pleasing feature is Pallister's Bioscope with local pictures.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Victor Samson.—*Aladdin* brings the pantomime season to a finish here, and variety business is the rule again.

SHREWSBURY.—Theatre Royal. — Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Mr. Charles Majilton's company of eccentric comedians are here this week in *The Trippers, Round the Clock,* and *The Plumber,* all extravagantly funny. In *Round the Clock,* which was put on on the opening night, Mr. Chas. Majilton was agile and clever as Gabriell Gadforth; Mr. Herbert Ashmore acted well as Old Gewgag; Mr. Ben Storey made much merriment as Denby; and Mr. Jim Bond was successful as Mr. Bartle Burk. Mr. Frank Majilton as a policeman was droll and lively; Mr Rundle Wilson made a good cabman, and Miss Maddie Majilton looked well and played brightly as Mlle. Salprunelle. Miss Amy Majilton sang and acted creditably as Bertie Kelvin; and Miss Nora Christie was excellent as the servant, while Miss Harriet Round won praise as Miss Binkle.

SOUTHAMPTON. — Grand Theatre. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fred Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Mr. and Mrs. Kendal are this week delighting large audiences with a répertoire of popular plays. They opened on Monday with *The Ironmaster,* which was well received. The acting of Mr. and Mrs. Kendal in the respective rôles of the Ironmaster and Claire was admirable, and they had to repeatedly bow their acknowledgments. On Tuesday *The Elder Miss Blossom* was successfully presented; and on Wednesday and Thursday the farcical comedy, *A Tight Corner,* was given with equal success.

Palace.—Proprietors, the Palace (Southampton), Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—The premier attraction is Mr. Lew Lake and company in *My Pal Jerry,* which creates unbounded enthusiasm. Barton and Ashley excel as a comedy duo; the Albano Troupe of instrumentalists submit an entertaining turn; and others who do well are the Alaskarno Trio of acrobats; Speedwell, lightning sketch artist; Gicardo, boy juggler; and Ethel Yorke, comedienne.

Hippodrome.—Sole proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. P. Howell.—Irma Lorraine, in her series of artistic poses, occupies the place of honour, and well merits the applause she receives. Harry Champion and Horace Wheatley are a couple of old favourite comedians who do well; Max Gruber, with his elephant, horse, and pony, gives a clever animal turn; and others who contribute are the Sisters Wingrove; Kopski, pianist; and Maud Wilton, mimic.

Philharmonic.—The marvellous Zancigs drew two packed houses on Thursday, and mystified everyone with their wonderful seance. They were supported by a capable company of concert artists, and the entertainment, which was under the direction of Mr. Alfred Moul, was a complete success. Mr. Sydney Paxton, the touring business-manager, met with a most cordial reception, and was heartily welcomed by his many Southampton friends and admirers.

SOUTHPORT.—Opera House, Winter Gardens.—Proprietors, the Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—Mr. William Maclaren and Miss Lily C. Bandmann are this week paying a return visit in the late Wilson Barrett's powerful play *Claudian.* Mr. Maclaren's conception of the title-rôle is marked with dignity, deportment, and realistic characterisation; Miss Lily C. Bandmann submits a careful study of Almida; and Mr. F. Owen Chambers presents a capital portraiture of the crafty Tetrarch; Mr. Douglas Earle does full justice to the part of the blacksmith Agazil; Mr. C. J. Challoner is highly commendable as Belos, and praiseworthy performances are given by Miss Maud Garth, in the character of Edessa, and Mr. Ulick Burke as the Hermit.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred. Coulson.—Mr. Arthur Carlton presents *In Sight of St. Paul's* to appreciative audiences. John Gridston is powerfully delineated by Mr. Herbert Cecil; a capital portrayal of Tom Chichester is given by Mr. Ernest R. Allen; Mr. W. H. Domoney is good as Harry Chichester; Bildstein is well accounted for by Mr. Henry Gilpin; Miss Gussie Everitt depicts forcefully the part of Cynthia Dell; and the Aleen Miller of Miss Cissie Bellamy is a praiseworthy performance. The humorous parts are well sustained by Mr. Herbert Colley as Jim Palfrey and Miss Sybil Hammersley as Becky Vetch.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Proprietors, The South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—The sketch *Fishing,* presented by Harry Tate's company is very popular. The Four Royal Welshmen, vocalists, are proving a great attraction; and Oakdene, comedy ventriloquist, provides a unique turn. The Three Panamas are a good troupe of acrobats and dancers; other good turns embrace the Tupps, comedy acrobats; Kate Trail, in an entertainment at the piano; Charles Russell, in a song-scena; and the Bioscope.

SPENNYMOOR. — Cambridge Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—Local patrons assembled in full force on Monday to witness the performance of *Lucky Liza* by Mr. Dickie Clare's company. Miss Madge Brownie in the name-part is the life and soul of the piece, her songs and dance being executed with much vigour and skill. Mr. Clare, who sustains the rôle of Silas Slim, succeeds in keeping his audience in the best of humour; Mr. Syd Hind, a droll Paul Pettitoe, is ably assisted by Miss Vesta Brownie, a delightful Virginia; and as Peter Pettitoe and Barnaby Blatherwick, Mr. T. W. Benson and Mr. A. W. Thompson are extremely amusing.

STAFFORD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—Ediscope Barnum Pictures are the principal attraction here this week, augmented by variety turns, including Lulu, lady instrumentalist, who gives a very clever and very effective turn. Otto Ethardo is a skilful juggler, Mlle. Pardoe a clever dancer, and Loder Lyons a ventriloquist of marked ability.

STALYBRIDGE.—Grand Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Managers, Messrs. W. A. Jackson and Eugene E. Hardie.—Amongst the artists in a well-selected programme are Sandy and Carl, the gentle knockabouts; Mlle. Vanda, the adroit juggler; McCann's Dog Circus; Herbert Madden, light comedian; Miss Tosco, the queen of equipoise; Ray and Calden, American comedy duo; Sisters Terry, baby mimics; and Ormonde Penstone and his Chinatown belle, Tsaou-ngo, in their magical potpourri, &c. The performances on Thursday evening were for the benefit of local charities.

ST. HELENS.—Theatre Royal and Opera House, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—*Sherlock Holmes* is the attraction here this week, capitally played by Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart's company. Mr. Stewart himself essays the part of the detective, and quickly ingratiates himself in the hearts of his audience. Miss Gladys Harvey is seen to distinct advantage as Alice Faulkner; Mr. W. H. Pemberton represents Dr. Watson with ability and due care; as Professor Moriarty, Mr. James Skea shows that he has studied the requirements of the part well; and Miss Georgina Wynter is an excellent Mrs. Larrabee. Master Leslie Hall gives a very smart performance as Billy; Mr. James Hare does well as James Larrabee; and all the other characters are well placed. Mr. Walter J. Bayliss is manager for the company.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. Vic Carnell.—Miss Florrie Gallimore heads the bill here. She has a budget of new songs, and adds to her numerous successes. Others contributing to an excellent programme include Mr. J. H. McCann, roller-skate dancer; Pete and Juno, coloured vocalists and dancers; Miss Nellie Farrell, comedienne; Munroe and Jones, in duologue, *The Way to Win a Bet;* Mr. J. A. Wilson and his dog Towser; and the Brothers Pim, gymnasts.

STOCKPORT. — Theatre Royal and Opera House. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—The appearance here this week of Mr. Charles Macdona's company in *The Toreador* has attracted large audiences. Mr. Sidney Granville is distinctly successful as Carajola; Mr. Robert Rous is funny as Sammy Gigg; Mr. Fred Thompson thoroughly amusing as Sir Archibald; and Mr. J. Herbert Willis acceptable as Augustus Traill. Miss Mina Carlton as Donna Teresa acts and sings effectively; Mrs. Malton Hoppings is delightfully impersonated by Miss Gwen Clifford; Miss Mabel Gregory makes a captivating Nancy; and Susan is pleasingly played by Miss Leah Howard.

Empire. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—The remarkable acrobatic abilities of the Leopold Family have been the chief feature here this week, and among others Oakley and James, in *A Tit-bit of Everything,* are exceedingly smart. The Calcotts give a pleasing and refined musical act; Jones and Mansfield, in a vocal scena, *Jack Sheppard,* are greeted with much favour; whilst The Siddons, comedy jugglers; Adams and Ward, acrobatic comedians; Mary Glenn, Scotch character vocalist; and Henry Bekker, illusionist, add their full share to the entertainment.

STOKE.—Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr. H. Miller.—Good houses welcomed the Countess Romanow on Monday in her classical poses, representing modern and antique statuary. Mr. C. Wordley Hulse and company are seen in a capital sketch, *The Fight in a Forge,* which is much appreciated; Donna's Trio contribute some smart balancing feats; Geo. Gulliver is a good ventriloquist; Katie Marsh sings and dances admirably; Wilson Blackledge, in his musical humorous sketch,

his song "Rabbits" causing much amusement; La Bolero is in the able hands of Miss Millie Hylton, who does that important rôle every justice, her vocal efforts winning for her hearty applause, especially in the song entitled "Oh, Lu la-lu" Miss Nellie Hodson makes the most of her opportunities as Louise, and also sings well; Mr. L. Bullock-Webster scores by his clever rendition of Norman Popple; and Jacques Kenyon finds an apt exponent in Mr. Robert MacLachlan.

AVENUE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—Mr. Edward Graham-Falcon's company is appearing here this week in *Bluebell in Fairyland*. The title-rôle is entrusted to Miss Mamie Finbow, who fills the part in excellent style; Mr. Lawrence Emery is much in evidence as Dickie; and Mr. Frank Lennard scores as Mr. Joplin. The Fairy is in the hands of Miss Vera Viyard, a vocalist of considerable ability. The rôles of Mab and Winnie are ably filled by Miss Bertha Johnson and Miss Emily Wall.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Hemingway.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company with *The Love that Women Desire* is the attraction here. Mr. Jerrold Heather acquits himself in excellent fashion as Philip Carnaby; Mr. Alfred Brandon gives a powerful rendering of Richard Abington; Mr. J. C. Stewart is well placed as Squire Abington; and Mr. John Hignett causes much amusement by his clever impersonation of Dennis O'Rourke. Miss Lalla Stanhope is a charming Sybil Thorburn, and Miss Gladys Murray a pleasing Madge Abington.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Managers, Messrs. Alfred Browne and Syd. B. Stringer.—Another excellent all-round programme is provided here this week. Fred Ginnett's Boys' Army, a cavalry regiment in miniature, provide a somewhat unique turn; J. H. Milburn, the ever-popular comedian, is as amusing as ever; Harry Nelson, the Tyneside comedian, gets a flattering reception; Reed and Stevens score in an amusing duologue, entitled *Married, or Photographed;* Cookson is a ventriloquist of more than usual ability; Edie Grey and the Boys, in harmony; Fatmah Diard, vocalist; and Mons. Slippere, blind pianist, also contribute. The entertainment winds up with an admirable show of animated pictures.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton and District Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Cecil Clayton; Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—Mrs. Fred J. Kirk's company in *The Naval Detective* is paying a visit here this week. On Monday the company gave a smart all-round performance, and gained a favourable verdict. Mr. Gerald Alexander works hard and wins success in the title-rôle; Mr. Alf Stretton is good as Dr. Schreiner; Mr. W. S. Hybert plays the Hon. Bertie Fairlox in most amusing fashion; Miss Edith Claris is responsible for some capital comedy; Miss Louie Fountaine as Phyllis Leslie exhibits versatility in the assumption of three distinct characters; the Sisters Shaw give a good exhibition of dancing. *In Old Madrid* was announced for the last three nights.

TON-Y-PANDY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—Mr. W. Greet's No. 1 Company is here with *The Sign of the Cross*. Marcus Superbus is admirably undertaken by Mr. Frank Petley; Mr. C. Yorke gives a clever interpretation of Nero; the Tigellinus of Mr. Charles Aldred is thorough in point of viciousness and cruelty; Mr. Frank Wood is well cast as Glabrio, while the Favius of Mr. Walter Fleet is most praiseworthy. Miss Marie Leonhard makes a sympathetic and graceful Mercia; Miss M. Newcomb is nicely suited as Poppæa, and as Stephanus Miss Dulcie Greatwich wins the sympathies of the audience.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Carey; Manager, Mr. L. Gunnell.—Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company in *Two Little Vagabonds* has been well received this week. In the name parts two clever young actresses in Miss Edie Martin and Miss Josie Beltram have been secured, while the principal adult characters are well sustained by Mr. A. E. Melbourne as George Thornton, Mr. Sidney Vautier as Captain Darville, and Mr. L. Ellis as Bill Mullins, while among the ladies Miss Grace Heywood and Miss Rosslyn Vayne portray the parts of Thornton's wife and sister respectively.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company is here this week in the drama, *The Silver King*. Mr. Fred D. Daviss gives a powerful and artistic representation of Wilfred Denver; Mr. Edward J. George repeats former triumphs as Jaikes; Mr. T. St. George Lowther proves very capable as Captain Skinner; and is well supported by Mr. Arthur Wright as Coombes, Mr. George Belmore as Geoffrey Corker, and Mr. Warris Lindon as Cripps. Mr. Byron Pedley is smart as Baxter, the detective; Miss Daisy Scudamore gives a sympathetic conception as Nellie Denver; Miss Viola Holland acts with power as Olive Skinner; Miss Mary Simpson gives satisfaction as Mrs. Gamage; and the juvenile characters are well undertaken by Miss Florence Hale Daviss and Master Douglas Thomas Shine.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—The Four Merry Japs, in a Japanese song scena, get a good reception; Mr. Will Godwin, comedian, contributes an interesting turn; Mr. Alf. Levarne is smart on the wire; the Four Monte Carlo Girls dance well; a clever performance is given by Miss May Zant's troupe of juvenile vocalists and dancers. Miss Nellie Young, comedienne, and Mr. Phil Rees, double-voiced vocalist, also merit favour.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—The Selbinis are performing their unique bicycle somersault from a spring board; the Garganis, acrobats, and Esta Stella, coon comedienne and dancer, are well received; Will Van-Allen creates great fun; Little Zola, comedian, meets with a good reception; Parker and Parr, a duo of Welsh comedy vocalists; Mlle. Sylvia's vocal tableaux; and the American Bioscope, contribute to the programme.

GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. and Mrs. Maclaren's company are appearing here this week in *Proof*. Mr. Gerald Kennedy makes a fine, manly Pierre Loraine; Mr. W. J. Butler is most successful as Lazare; as Chamboran, Mr. Wilford Bailey is well placed; Mr. Carl Beechey makes a capital Count D'Aubeterre; Miss May Grimshaw makes a charming Valentine; Miss Avron is seen to advantage in the part of the Duchess D'Aubeterre; Miss Phena Powell sustains the part of Mme. Deprets; and Miss Beatrice Shirley sustains the part of Adrienne with good effect. The scenery and mounting are excellent.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's No. 1 company, in the drama entitled *The Little Bread Winner*, is proving a great attraction here this week. Mr. Eugene Santley's interpretation of Lord William Dorrington is warmly appreciated; whilst the part of Richard is characteristically sustained by Mr. Mathew Boulton. Mr. Alfred Maurice submits an able rendering of Joseph Prior; a considerable amount of humour is displayed by Mr. Stanley Leedham in his able representation of Charles Prior; the highest praise is due to Little Miss Emmie Thomas for her clever portrayal of Meg; the part of Margaret Daventry is in the capable hands of Miss Mary Fulton; and Miss Nellie Thorne-Hallam gives an excellent embodiment of Kate Cherry.

WELLINGBOROUGH.—EXCHANGE THEATRE.—A hearty reception has been accorded Mr. and Mrs. John Walters' *Babes in the Wood* pantomime this week. Mr. Ally Benson scores immensely as Dame Flossie, and Messrs. Traynor and O'Connor are ideal Robbers. These, combined with Mr. Ernest Thirlway (who, as the Baron, is excellent), make a quartette of humorists that ensures the success of the pantomime. The Landor Brothers and Mr. Phil White as Clown, Pantaloon, and Policeman, are also very diverting; Miss Lillian Florence as Fairy Goodheart shines with first-rate songs; and the Babes are charmingly rendered by Miss Sally Hooley and Baby Blyth. A vivacious Maid Marian is found in Miss Fanny Adamson; and Miss Bertha Cousins does well as Robin Hood. Mr. Frank Stanhart quickly established himself as a great favourite in the part of Soft Tommy.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—*The Heart of a Hero* is here, the drama being staged well and capitally played by Mr. Lingford Carson's company. Mr. Charles Draycott evinces considerable power in his impersonation of Jim Resdale; Mr. J. Dobson Clyde does well as Mark Marl; Mr. Ernest J. Fare is well suited to the part of Wilfred Marl; Timothy Heighno, the funny man of the piece, is capitally sustained by Mr. Will White; Mr. Sidney C. Cranston is all that can be desired in the character of Jack Collinson; Mr. Morley Carroll makes a smart Detective; and a clever bit of character-acting is submitted by Mr. Harry Scatchard as the miser George Winson. Miss Marie Robson is good as May Ryder; the same remark applies to Miss Nellie V. Warden as Susie Slack; and Miss Muriel Thompson does full justice to the part of Nell Resdale. For the end of the week the same company is playing *The Octoroon* and *The Ticket of Leave Man*.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Player.—Mr. J. E. Coyle, who heads the bill here this week, gets a hearty reception; a smart turn is submitted by Ruby Aston; Will Musgrave creates great fun with his popular songs; a novel performance is given by the Three Delaries, in "the Demon Grotto"; Rogers and Weston present a funny sketch entitled *In Answer to an Advert;* a remarkable turn is that of Datas, who astounds the audience with his wonderful memory; Miss Dot Hardy gives some clever songs; and Lee and Kingston, in their practical joking, cause much fun. The Hippodrome pictures are still up to date.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. H. E. Feather.—The interesting and intensely dramatic success, *Leah Kleschna*, is paying a return visit, and, as played by H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company, is having a gratifying reception. The Leah of Miss Bessie Rignold is a powerful impersonation, which calls forth the warmest appreciation; William F. Grant gives a studied rendition of the rôle of Paul Sylvanie; Paul Belmore creates a deep impression in the character of Kleschna; Campbell Goldsmid deserves unreserved praise for his acting in the part of Schram; and Hamilton Deane is effective as Raoul Berton; and others who creditably fill the parts allotted them are Ronald Daniel as General Berton, Ethel Russell as Mme. Berton, and Helen Belgrave as Claire.

PALACE. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Johnny Holland and company, with their sketch, *The Millionaire*, meet with considerable approbation; Silbon's miniature circus of performing cats, dogs, and ponies, and Meier and Mora, in their exhibition of ball-punching, are also old favourites, who are remarkably well received. Sparkling vivacity is shown by the Eight Sunrays in their pretty dances; Miss Gladys Witton, a clever juvenile artist, has a fine contralto voice; the marvellous contortions of Mlle. Sylvesto create quite a sensation; the comedy act, *Stage Aspirants*, by Dene and Dawson, is provocative of hearty laughter; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are more than usually amusing.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—The late Mr. Walter Melville's combination, in the popular moral play, *A Girl's Cross Roads*, has been well received during the week. An excellent representation of the part of the ingenuous old farmer, John Meadows, is given by Mr. Chas. Franmore. Mr. Wilson Gunning is good as Jack Livingstone; Mr. Fred Ingram accentuates the humour in the part of Toby Turvey; and the character of Cuthbert Lumley, a queer card, has a capital exponent in Mr. Gerald Gordon. The part of Barbara Wade, the drunken wife, is tragically portrayed by Miss Hilda Beverley; Miss Florence Zillwood scores as Nellie Meadows, the farmer's daughter; and Miss Mabel Scudamore capably impersonates the part of Tilly Vane.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—The Dancing Gilberts; the Violas, thought readers; Renson and Waite, a comedy couple; and the Three Renards, in a fine gymnastic aerial show, are loudly applauded. The Aurora troupe are wonderfully clever trick cyclists; and the Alburtus give a startling exhibition of club-throwing; and, in addition, Jessie Millar is an admirable cornet player. Other first-class turns are given by Little Pete, comedian; Shang Hia, Eastern magician; Earle and Melville, patterers, comedians, &c.; and Stewart and Morgan, vocalists, in the scena, *The Return to Ireland*.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival.—This week Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is appearing here in *The Four Just Men*. Mr. Oswald Cray fills the part of Geo. Manfred in a clever and skilful manner; and is well supported by Mr. Wernham Ryott as Jules Polecart, Mr. Cecil Warde as Don Gonsalez, and Mr. Charles McCann as Miguel Thery. The character of Sir Philip Ramon is admirably portrayed by Mr. H. Bonhote Wilson; Mr. Edgar L. Hocking is a capable Manuel Garcia; Mr. Norman Aveling does well as John Blount; and Mr. Arthur Gordon is a successful Superintendent Falmouth. As Juanita Ramon Miss Florence Radcliffe is seen to advantage; and Miss Kate Sydney is an effective Mrs. Travers. The remaining characters are in good hands, and the play is capitally staged.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—The attraction here this week is *The Trumpet Call*, which is produced by a good company, of whom the principal artists are Mr. Leonard Yorke, Mr. Chas. F. Cooke, Mr. John Dennys, Mr. Freddy Bentley, Mr. Jos. Bracewell, Miss Helena Millais, and Miss May Foster.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—The popularity of *A Country Girl* appears to show no diminution, and Mr. Chas. Macdona's company is this week receiving liberal support. Mr. Arthur Staples as the ubiquitous Barry is particularly droll; Miss Florence Brewster makes a bright and vivacious companion, Sophie; Mr. Martin D. Pitts is well suited to the part of Geoffrey Challoner; Miss Violet Leslie is a charming Margaret Joy; Nan is safely entrusted to Miss Edith Maynard, whose songs get a most flattering reception; Mr. Bernard Vaughan finds the part of the Rajah of Bhong exactly to his liking; and Miss Irene Wood sings well as the Princess.

EXETER HALL, for so many years the home of the Y.M.C.A., has just been sold by Messrs. Garrett, White, and Poland, of Hanover-street. It is understood that the purchasers are Mr. Joseph Lyons and Mr. M. Gluckstein (both partners of the well-known firm of Messrs. J. Lyons and Co., Ltd.), who have obtained a renewal of the lease from the Crown and intend erecting a new building suitable for commercial purposes upon the site. The contents of the hall will be sold by auction after the forthcoming May meetings, when the new owners take possession.

THE LATE JOHN A. ATKIN MEMORIAL.

The following gentlemen have consented to act as a committee:—Messrs. Lester Collingwood, Arthur Shirley, Harris Fineberg, G. M. Polini, W. Bennett, E. Hill-Mitchelson, Tom H. Taylor W. R. King, E. Hewitson, W. Fraser Brunner, Harry Chappell; secretary, Mr. Ashley Page; hon. treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift.

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS, £40 18s. 6d.

	£	s.	d.
Standard Theatre Staff	2	15	0
Fred Powell	2	2	0
Mr. and Mrs. A. Melville	1	1	0
E. H. Knight	1	1	0
Lester Collingwood	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Arnold	10	6	
W. Schaffer	10	6	
Fred W. Warden	10	6	
W. T. Cope	10	6	
Mrs. M. L. Cope	10	6	
Mr. and Mrs. Bert E. Hammond	10	6	
Arthur Shirley	10	6	
W. R. King	10	6	
E. Hill-Mitchelson	10	6	
G. M. Polini	10	6	
Harris Fineberg	10	6	
Sam Livesey	10	6	
Harry Agar-Lyons	10	6	
Mr. Tom H. Taylor's *Worst Woman in London* Co., per F. Vernon Travers	10	6	
H. W. Kelly	10	6	
Members of the *Female Swindler* Co., per O. Silverstone	10	6	
Mr. Walter Melville	10	6	
Mr. Fred Melville	10	6	
Douglas Bruce	10	6	
Mr. Ashley Page	10	6	
Miss Marion Denvil	10	6	
Soldier's Wedding Co.	10	6	
Terriss's Theatre Staff	10	6	
Mr. Harry Chappell	10	6	
Mr. James Peerless	10	6	
Mr. Fraser-Brunner	10	6	
Frances Ruttledge	10	6	
Mrs. Fielder	10	6	
Mr. John Fielder	10	6	
Driven from Home Co., per Frederick Sandy	10	6	
Jack Haddon	10	6	
J. B. Howard	10	6	
Mrs. Walter Melville	10	6	
Hugh Robertson	10	6	
Ugliest Woman on Earth Co., per Tubby Edlin	10	6	
Mr. Smith	10	6	
J. W. Peards	10	6	
F. Dangerfield	10	6	
David Allen and Sons	10	6	
Tom H. Taylor	10	6	
Page and Son	10	6	
Mr. and Mrs. John Gott	10	6	
Bessie Elma	10	6	
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Durie	10	6	
Miss Fay Lonsdale	10	6	
E. Hewitson	10	6	
Milton Bode	10	0	
A. G. Hawkins	10	0	
Mr. T. Greenwood-Croft	5	6	
Eric Campbell	5	0	
Herbert Ford	5	0	
Walter H. Nightingale	5	0	
J. W. Cordiner	5	0	
Mr. George E. Mudd	5	0	
Agnes Imlay	5	0	
John B. Shinton	5	0	
West London Theatre Management	5	0	
Sid	5	0	
T. E. Ward	5	0	
James Skea	5	0	
B. F. S.	5	0	
Wm. Eastwood	5	0	
Standard Theatre Staff	5	0	
Frank Gallagher	5	0	
A. Roseberry	5	0	
Mrs. MacGregor	5	0	
Marie Kildare	2	6	
Bernard Mervyn	2	6	
William E. Passmore	2	6	
Louie Adair	2	6	
Alice Bowes	2	6	
Nellie Bouser	2	6	
Harry Wimpenny	1	0	
Will Corrie	1	0	
Stanley Vivian	1	0	
Alfred Wood	1	0	
Mr. G. V. Campbell	1	0	
Harry Chappell, jun.	1	0	
Agnes Pitman	1	0	
From the members of *Her Forbidden Marriage* Co., per Roland Yorke:—			
Mr. Henry Lonsdale	10	6	
Mr. and Mrs. Roland Yorke	5	0	
Miss Nellie Fletcher	2	6	
Miss Gertrude Hunt	2	6	
Miss Madge Yates	2	6	
Mr. Louis Hector	2	6	
Mr. Fred De Vere	2	6	
Mr. Leonard Maxwell	2	6	
Mr. Rawden Vivian	2	6	
Mr. Leslie Nolan	2	6	
Mr. Leslie Nutter	2	6	
Mr. William Griffin	2	6	
Mr. C. J. McCarthy	2	6	

Subscriptions will be duly announced if forwarded to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, 5, Tavistock-street, W.

"WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—About three years ago at the County Theatre, Kingston, I produced, for copyright purposes, "a new and original fantastical fairy play" entitled *My Fairy Fanciful*, which I had written in conjunction with Mr. Ernest Martin. The argument was to the effect: In these progressive days of ours there are still, it must be presumed, "evil spirits," Idleness, Retrogression, and Destruction, which are still doing their utmost to counteract and retard the beneficent influence of the "good fairies"—Education, Progress, and Enlightenment. To illustrate this, it became necessary to take the action of the play from the present century back into the middle ages. The idea of the modern characters, being suddenly cast into the midst of their ancient ancestors lent itself to many humorous situations.

Two of the characters, Dick and Tom, in *My Fairy Fanciful*, attired in modern costume, demonstrated up-to-date accomplishments before these people of the middle ages. Tom accidentally ignited a match, and the whole crowd of spectators—apprehensive of witchcraft and demonology—became panic-stricken. In *When Knights were Bold* at Wyndham's, Mr. James Welch, in similar circumstances, lights a cigarette, and the crowd of "the good old times" behave just in the same way. Like unto Tom and Dick, Mr. Welch as Sir Guy de Vere also creates fun out of his modern dialogue as contrasted with ancient prose. I contend that the idea upon which Charles Marlowe's piece is founded belongs to *My Fairy Fanciful*.—Yours faithfully, CHARLES ROSS.

O.P. Club, Feb. 28, '07.

THE ACTORS' UNION.

SIR,—Soon we shall be called on to elect officers to govern the Actors' Union, and I hope all members will see the necessity of having a large majority of rank-and-file actors on the council; if not, it will only be another Actors' Association. The *élite* of the profession cannot see eye-to-eye with their less distinguished brothers.

I trust the governing body will be equally as humble as the provisional committee, although a few are standing aloof, owing to our lack of weight, as they put it.—Yours faithfully,

Feb. 22, '07. ROBSON PAIGE.

"OTHELLO" AT KENNINGTON.

On Thursday, Feb. 28, Revival, at the Kennington Theatre, of Shakespeare's Tragedy.

Othello	MR. OSCAR ASCHE
Duke of Venice	MR. J. FRITZ RUSSELL
Brabantio	MR. CALEB PORTER
Senator	MR. HENRY KITTS
Iago	MR. ALFRED BRYDONE
Cassio	MR. H. R. HIGNETT
Roderigo	MR. G. KAY SOUPER
Montano	MR. REGINALD IAN PENNY
Lodovico	MR. ERNEST GRIFFIN
Gratiano	MR. STANLEY FARBRIDGE
First Gentleman	MR. R. F. ANSON
Second Gentleman	MR. GORDON HARKER
Emilia	MISS CONSTANCE ROBERTSON
Bianca	MISS LEILA NORRIS
Desdemona	MISS LILY BRAYTON

It is not often that a surburban theatre is selected for so important a revival of a Shakespearean play as that of *Othello*, at Kennington, on Thursday afternoon; but the keen interest taken in the performance of the tragedy was shown by the presence of an enthusiastic audience which filled every part of the house. Those who have closely followed Mr. Oscar Asche's stage career, and admired the many fine character-impersonations he has presented in various notable productions, must have had a fairly good idea of the manner of man his Othello would be. From a mere physical point of view there could be no question as to his fitness for the part, and Mr. Asche's admirers had little doubt as to his possession of other, and far more important, qualifications for one of the most trying and arduous rôles in the whole range of Shakespearean tragedy Nor were they disappointed. Mr. Asche achieved a triumph that must have well repaid him for the close study and real hard work involved in a successful representation of the Moor. Perhaps the most striking feature of the new Othello was the vivid contrast between the quiet, dignified bearing and speech of the Moor in the first two acts, and the tempestuous passion exhibited after the poison of a morbid jealousy has worked its baleful effect upon his nature, and transformed him into a furious being wholly intent upon having an awful revenge for the perfidy of the woman for whom his love has turned to hate. The speech to the Senate was delivered quietly and naturally, but it was impressive nevertheless. In the stirring third act Mr. Asche rose to the occasion, and the storm of passion once broken loose, the hitherto sedate, unemotional Moor becomes a prey to the fiend of jealousy, and there quickly forms in his turbulent soul the resolve to murder the woman he has been led to believe has wronged him. The scene was so powerfully and vividly represented that, at its conclusion, the curtain had to be raised many times. And so on to the end of the tragedy Mr. Asche held the audience, and did every justice to the mingled brutality and pathos of the bed-chamber scene. With regard to the costume of Othello, he appeared throughout the play as a Moor, and not dressed in the usual mediæval Italian costume. In the first act he wore a putty-coloured Oriental tunic, with a broad silk sash, and a dagger thrust into it. His head-dress was a long, striped burnous, falling in heavy folds down his back. The feet, save for the thin, open Moorish slippers, were bare. His jewels consisted of massive gold earrings and a large emerald on the first finger of the right hand. The charm of Miss Lily Brayton's Desdemona was its sweet womanliness and the apt expression of regard and intense love for her lord and master. Desdemona's pitiful pleading for her life in the bedroom scene roused the deepest sympathies of the audience. Indeed, throughout the performance Miss Brayton's reading of the character left little to be desired. Mr. Alfred Brydone, in his embodiment of Iago, was evidently bent upon avoiding the presentation of an ordinary melodramatic villain. His conception of this leading part had many good points, not the least conspicuous of which was a grim humour that was most effective in the less important scenes. Mr. H. R. Hignett gave a good rendering of Cassio, earnestness and sincerity being conspicuous features of a thoroughly satisfactory performance. Mr. G. Kay Souper was an amusing Roderigo; Mr. J. Fritz Russell was a sufficiently dignified Duke of Venice; and Mr. Caleb Porter scored as Brabantio. Mr. Reginald Ian Penny was well placed as Montano; and the Lodovico of Mr. Ernest Griffin made a favourable impression. Mr. Stanley Farbridge was an excellent Gratiano; Miss Constance Robertson played with acceptance as Emilia; and Miss Leila Norris as Bianca completed the cast.

MR. WALTER W. HEDGCOCK has arranged for the following artists to appear at the Crystal Palace Promenade Concerts during next week at six o'clock, except Saturday, when the concert will commence at 6.30:—March 4: Miss May Peters and Mr. Alfred Heather; 5th: Miss Agathe Irelande and Mr. Philip Ritte; 6th: the Westminster Singers, including Messrs. George May, Wilfrid Kearton, Bertram Mills, and W. H. Brereton; 7th: Miss Mabel Silvester and Mr. Alexander Tucker; 8th: Miss Phillis Davies and Mr. David Evans; 9th: Miss Annie Bartle and Mr. Fred Upton (with stories and condensed novels).

"THE JACKDAW."

A Comedy in one act, by Lady Gregory, Produced for the first time on any stage at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Saturday, Feb. 23, 1907.

Joseph Nestor	MR. F. J. FAY
Michael Cooney	MR. W. G. FAY
Mrs. Broderick	MISS SARA ALLGOOD
Tommy Nally	MRS. ARTHUR SINCLAIR
Sibby Fahy	MISS BRIGIT O'DEMPSEY
Timothy Ward	MR. J. M. KERRIGAN

The scene of this amusing comedy is the interior of a small general shop at Cloon, and the owner, Mrs. Broderick, who is the possessor of a jackdaw, expecting a writ for ten pounds, her neighbours come to console her, amongst the number being one Joseph Nestor, who is noted as the best man in the country for advice. Mrs. Broderick's neighbours advise her to go to the Courthouse and see the magistrate or creditor, which she consents to do, leaving the shop in charge of Nestor. Presently a stranger enters and inquires for Mary Broderick. The new-comer turns out to be her brother, who has been for years in South Africa, and whose name is Michael Cooney. He has come to pay her debt, but does not wish to let her know, fearing she might apply to him for help too often. He censents to buy the jackdaw for the sum of £10, but he wants the money to be given to her in some secret way, and being suspicious of Nestor's good faith, he is in a dilemma as to what to do. Nestor suggests putting the notes in "Old Moore's Almanac," and asking Mrs. Broderick some question which will necessitate reference to the book on her return. Cooney demands a receipt for his money and departs. While Nestor is fumbling with the almanac Mrs. Broderick enters, and he thrusts the notes into his pocket, and tries to cheer her. At length an idea strikes Nestor Mrs. Broderick has a jackdaw which a friend of his in South Africa would be willing to buy, as he wants a bird to remind him of home, and if she will consent to sell it he will give her £10. She accepts, and hurries off to the court to pay her debt and be free. The neighbours, hearing of her luck, rush in search of the man who will give cash for birds. It is here the fun becomes fast and furious, and as the police enter to hold an inquiry the curtain falls. Mr. W. G. Fay caused no end of laughter by his impersonation of Michael Cooney and Miss Sara Allgood displayed considerable ability in the rôle of Mrs. Broderick; Mr. J. F. Fay as the self-important Joseph Nestor was highly successful, and Miss Brigit O'Dempsey was excellent as Sibby Fahy; Mr. J. M. Kerrigan created much amusement as Timothy Ward and Mr. Arthur Sinclair was capital as Tommy Nally.

DEATH OF MR. O. GOLDSCHMIDT.

Mr. Otto Goldschmidt, the husband of Jenny Lind, and himself a well-known musician, died on Sunday morning at his residence, Moreton-gardens, South Kensington. He had been ill for some time, but the end was sudden. Otto Goldschmidt was born in Hamburg in 1829, and although he was associated with his famous wife, whom he married in America in 1852, in her successes in various lands, he became a naturalised Englishman and settled here after Mme. Lind's retirement twenty-four years ago.

Mr. Goldschmidt first appeared as a pianist at the age of 16. Mendelssohn, Schumann, Von Bulow, and Chopin were his teachers. His best known composition is "Ruth," an oratorio performed at the Hereford Festival in 1867, and in which his wife sang. Mr. Goldschmidt founded the Bach Choir, and was its first conductor. He and his wife also instituted the Mendelssohn scholarship, and he was associated with the Royal Academy of Music, of which he was once vice principal.

Jenny Lind died at Malvern in 1887; there she is interred, and in the same grave her husband who has survived her nearly twenty years, was buried on Thursday. The obsequies were largely attended, Canon Pelly, Vicar of Malvern, officiating at the graveside. The immediate mourners were Mrs. Maude (daughter), Mr. Walter Goldschmidt and Major Ernest Goldschmidt (sons). Mr. Victor Maude (grandson), and Mrs. Gregory (granddaughter).

The first part of the service was conducted at St. Mary-le-Bolton's Church, Kensington, in the morning, before the remains were transferred to Malvern. Among those attending the service were Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Maude, Mr. Victor Maude, Sir George Martin (organist of St. Paul's Cathedral). Sir Hubert Parry, Sir Squire Bancroft, Sir Bartle Frere, and Mr. Ernest Glehn (representing the Bach Choir).

THE WORLD OF CRIME. True Detective Stories by M. F. Gordon, late Chief of the Paris Detective Police. Edited by Albert Keyzer. Mr. Keyzer certainly had a "lucky find" when he "discovered" the diary of the late chief of the Paris detectives. The matter in these most exciting and interesting narratives is sufficient to suggest a dozen sensational novels; and Mr. Keyzer has done his work of putting the facts into literary form very cleverly. "The World of Crime" is a book which it is difficult to lay down when once one has dipped into it; and its perusal leaves the reader wishing there was a second volume of the same sort to enjoy.

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LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.
On Monday, Feb. 25, the Drama, entitled
"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."

Mr. Melville's curiously-named play attracted a fairly large audience to the King's on Monday evening, and certainly found favour with the occupants of the pit and gallery, who were very vigorous in their appreciation. The drama is exciting enough in all conscience, as the trio of villains do not appear to be backward in the slightest degree if murder becomes necessary to ensure success to their plans. Then the curiosity of the audience is excited to a tremendous pitch by the fact that the "ugliest woman" appears thickly veiled throughout the piece until a few minutes before the curtain falls. Mr. Philip Darien makes an exceedingly capable Jack Merriman, the hero, who meets with the usual amount of persecution, until at the end he emerges triumphant from the ordeal. As Hubert Gold, Mr. Leyton Chancellor, who is used to such characters, succeeds in portraying an out-and-out villain, who stoops at nothing to gain his ends; Mr. Charles Barrett makes a good second scoundrel of Antonio Luchesi; the young artist, Tom Redvers, is so capitally played by Mr. Allan Devonport that regret is expressed at his early disappearance from the play; Mr. Gerald Valentine is a breezy Griffiths, the purser; Mr. Tubby Edlin, in the ridiculous part of Tubby Herrick, contrives to extract an endless amount of laughter; the London hooligan, Raggles, is powerfully depicted by Mr. Cecil de Lee; the small characters of White, Bullock, and Green are admirably sustained by Messrs. George Potter, Fred Newton, and George Burton; and Dr. Carr is carefully performed by Mr. Leonard Thackeray. "The ugliest woman"—unnamed all through the piece—is unquestionably well acted by Miss Beatrice Homer, in view of the difficulty arising by being veiled during the piece. Miss Nell Oliver acts spiritedly and looks fascinating as Rose Courtenay; and Miss Violet Macree's conception of the Italian girl, Merita, meets with distinct approval, her acting evoking loud applause from the audience.

THE MARLBOROUGH.
On Monday, Feb. 25, the Comedy, in Three Acts,
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."

Charley's Aunt has evidently the recipe of Cleopatra for perennial youth, for the present return visit finds its drawing powers undiminished by age. As Col. Chesney, Mr. Brandon Thomas contributes very largely to the success; and Mr. Walter Beaumont gives a very humorous portrayal of the amorous old solicitor, Stephen Spettigue. In Mr. Hastings Lynn we find a dashing exponent of the undergraduate Jack Chesney; and as his chum, Charles Wykeham, Mr. Richard B. Mason renders very useful assistance. Mr. Arthur Chesney puts any amount of "go" into his embodiment of Lord Fancourt Babberley, and causes much amusement with his quaint impersonation of Charley's Aunt, from the place "where the nuts come from." Favourable comment is also due to Mr. Sydney Compton for his portrayal of Brassett, a college scout. Miss Lena MacNaughton merits warm commendation for her amusing performance as the real Aunt from Brazil, Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez; and the sprightly interpretation of Kitty Verdun by Miss Bertha Northam is well appreciated. Miss Ida Vynall is an attractive Amy Spettigue; and Ela Delahay is represented in a fitting manner by Miss Ruth Nightingale. *Charley's Aunt* is preceded by a play in one act, also by Mr. Brandon Thomas, entitled *A Highland Legacy*. The author himself undertakes an important part in the play, namely, Tammy Tamson MacDonnel, and is highly successful. Mr. Hastings Lynn is an able representative of Gordon MacDonnel; and Mr. Walter Beaumont capably delineates the character of Cavendish Howley. Other rôles are very satisfactorily filled by Mr. Sydney Compton (Mr. Dobson), Mr. M. A. Wetherall (Job Fixem), Miss Katherine Vereker (Mrs. Butler), and Miss Elsie Robertson (Clara).

THE CAMDEN.
On Monday, Feb. 25, the Comedy, entitled
"THE FREEDOM OF SUZANNE."

This week a change is made from the comedy of Shakespeare to the light comedy of modern days, and Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company are appearing here in Mr. Cosmo Gordon Lennox's very amusing play, *The Freedom of Suzanne*, which is attracting good audiences, who find ample scope for a good evening's entertainment in the doings of Suzanne Trevor. As Suzanne, the young wife who longs for freedom, and when she acquires it prefers the mastership of a husband, Miss Mabel Love is quite delightful, and her rendering of the rôle is in every way praiseworthy. Perhaps Miss Love is seen to the best advantage in the quieter scenes of the play. However, it is evident that she has been very wise to go in for this style of play, and we shall look forward to seeing her again. As the husband of Suzanne, Mr. Templer Powell acquits himself admirably and scores a big success. Mr. F. G. Thurstans is most amusing as Fitzroy Harding, the gentleman who has the habit of generally "putting his foot into it," much to the merriment of other people. It is a capital piece of acting. Miss Annie Stalman is good as Suzanne's stately mother-in-law; while Lady Isabel Bury is charmingly depicted by Miss Violet Ley. Sir Horace Hatton is played in a most finished manner by Mr. Patrick Quill. The doting Lord Datchet is presented in a neat little character-sketch by Mr. J. Hastings Batson; while the other two of Suzanne's admirers, Captain Harry Cecil and Tommy Keston, are capitally portrayed by Messrs. Townsend Whitling and Richard Neville. Miss Florence Harwood displays her skill as a comedy actress by her playing of Fanny Minching, the companion. Miss Dorothy Lart is seen to advantage as Mrs. Tustail; and Mr. Bruce Smith does well as the butler. The comedy is preceded by a bright little trifle from the pen of Miss Rosemary Rees, entitled *Her Dearest Friend*, a one-act play of more than usual interest, in which the characters are capitally sustained by the Misses Violet Ley and Annie Stalman and Mr. P. Quill. Both plays are adequately staged, and the costumes are extremely pretty. Mr. John E. Watson is the manager for the company.

CORONET THEATRE.
On Monday, Feb. 25,
"A CHINESE HONEYMOON."

Milton Rode's company is appearing this week in the successful Strand musical comedy, *A Chinese Honeymoon*. The pretty music by Howard Talbot and the numerous vocal *bonnes-bouches* are welcome as ever, and the ingenuity of the plot tickles the sense of humour of the audience. Mr. Rudolph Kloss makes a capital Emperor Hang Chow, his great stature, urbane manner, and his clear, resonant voice are admirably suited to the part. Miss Nancy Rossiter is a graceful and refined exponent of the part of the Princess Soo Soo, and her song, "Egypt," with elaborate "business" embellishment, is highly effective, and nightly gains a decided encore. Her song with Japanese parasol effects is also much appreciated. Miss Gladys Ward is bright and alert as the ex-typewriter. Mrs. Pineapple, whose jealousy gets her and her spouse into such dreadful trouble. She sings "The à la girl" and a coon song capitally. Mr. George Rydon is a highly successful fun-maker as Mr. Pineapple—"he of the rosy whiskers," as George Robey would say—and he materially adds to the gaiety of the proceedings, whilst his delivery of the "Happy, happy land" ditty is truly comical. Chief honours, though, fall to Miss Gwennie Harcourt, who cuts the quaintest little figure imaginable as the weird wisp of a waiting-maid. Fi-Fi, and keeps the audience in one continuous roar of laughter by her droll antics. Her rendition of the always popular songs, "I want to be a lady" and "When I make my début," are all that could be desired in the way of whimsicality. Mr. P. Allerton Turner is appropriately cynical and saturnine as the law-making Lord Chancellor. Chippie Chop; and Mr. Leonard May enacts the part of Hi Lung, Lord High Admiral and marriage-monger, on broadly humorous lines. Mr. Harry Jennings breezily flits through the part of Tom Hatherton, with the playful topical ditty, "I hear they want some more," brought well up to date. The parts of the bridesmaids are played by a smart and attractive group of girls—Misses Dorothy Radcliffe, Iris Roy, Kathleen Kerr, and Elsie Shillings. Misses Ada Booth, Daisy Moule, and Bertha Buckley represents small parts of maids-of-honour, &c. Mr. P. Allerton Turner undertakes the duties of stage management, and Mr. Alfred Munro assists Mr. Edward Lytton in the front of the house.

DALSTON THEATRE.
On Monday, Feb. 25, the Sporting Drama, by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley, entitled
"BOUND TO WIN."

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company is presenting the domestic and sporting drama, *Bound to Win*, at the Dalston Theatre this week. The applause indicates that both story and acting are acceptable. The representation certainly lacks nothing in the matter of general "go," and in several individual instances the acting is of pronounced merit. Mr. Frank Holbery as Harry Lyndon; Mr. Edward Bikker as Squire Forbes; and Mr. George Steel as Philip Ayre represent gentlemen of the sporting world in a way which renders the characters absolutely true to life. Mr. Arnold Allen's character sketch of Horatio Buffit, a racing swell, and his singing of a song about a millionaire, make him popular; Mr. J. Franklin also does well as Ned Oakley; Willie Winkins, a stable lad, is effectively played by Mr. Dick Seddon; and other typical personages are well portrayed by Mr. Sidney Rudge as Joe Blake, a tipster bookie; Mr. Harry Honk as George Moores, a wrong jockey; Mr. Stead as a workhouse keeper; and Mr. Herbert King as Detective Shirley. Miss Effie Macintosh effectively enacts the part of Winnie Oakley, an interesting character in the piece; Miss Violet Langley is equally good as Marion Forbes; and Miss Kate Froude as Gladys Orme so convincingly portrays a thoroughly heartless woman that she stirs up the feelings of the audience to quite a pitch of resentment. Others in the cast are Miss Annie Lee, Mrs. J. Franklin, Mr. Sam Warren, and Master Willie Aytom.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.
On Monday, Feb. 25, the Musical Play, entitled
"THE DAIRYMAIDS."

The popular manager, Mr. Cecil Paget, following his usual practice of presenting local playgoers in turn with all the London successes, this week provides a great attraction by the engagement of Mr. Robert Courteidge's company in *The Dairymaids*. The production is well staged, and excellently acted, the result being that crowded houses have been the rule. Miss Violet Lloyd is a very fascinating Peggy Brudenell, and her acting is most vivacious. She scores great successes with her songs, "The Sandow girl," and "Tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor," and the duet with Mr. Staples, "Mary and Jane." Miss Rhoda Gordon is a charming Winifred, and gains a triple encore for her taking song, "Hello! little stranger," in which she is ably assisted by three clever little children. Mr. Lionel Victor soon makes himself a prime favourite as the jolly Jack tar, Joe Mivens, and his genial humour is contagious. Sam Brudenell is ably impersonated by Mr. E. Statham Staples, who dances well, and is loudly encored for his topical song, "The ladies' club." That experienced actor, Mr. Forbes Dawson, rattles through the part of the light-hearted Irishman Dr. O'Byrne in delightful fashion; and Mr. Alec Fraser as Captain Fred Leverton is deservedly encored for his artistic rendering of the pretty ballad, "Dreamland." Miss Beryl Vaudrey acts and sings well as Helene. Miss Cissie Sephton as Eliza gives a capital character-sketch of the country maid-of-all-work, and her songs "Mary" and "Why does she want to grumble" are excellently sung. Her dancing is also much appreciated. Miss Edith Blanche is a stately Lady Brudenell; and Miss Madge Avery displays appropriate dignity as the schoolmistress, Miss Pychase. Mr. George Desmond is a gallant and light-hearted Lieut. Bruedenell. There is a large and efficient chorus, and the orchestra is under the able bâton of Mr. Albert Bartlett. Mr. J. B. Gordon acts as general-manager. The scenery by Conrad Tritschler is a notable feature of the production, the set of the first act, the Model Dairy at Hindstead, being a particularly pretty piece of brushwork.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.
On Monday, Feb. 25, the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE CATCH OF THE SEASON."

Mr. George Dance's company is here this week with the above-named bright musical play, which is a strong attraction. Miss Moya Mannering as Angela has a delicate, dainty style that is admirably suited to the portrayal of the combined maidenish reserve and girlish high spirits of the modern Cinderella. Miss Mannering throws herself whole-heartedly into her work, and as she is as good a vocalist as she is an actress she at once firmly fixes herself in the good graces of her audience. Miss Emily Mellon is amusing as Lady Crystal; and Miss Isobel Dickens and Miss Florence Lee are sufficiently designing and selfish as the two daughters, though they are both far too charming to come up to the traditional idea of the "ugly sisters." Miss Maud Davies is a stately and pretty Duchess of St. Jermyns. As the Duke of St. Jermyns, Mr. Frank Lincoln has a part in which he simply revels, his untiring energy and clever dancing and singing making him a worthy successor to the well-known creator of the character. Mr. Lincoln is particularly successful with the delivery of the "patter" with which the part abounds and keeps his audience laughing almost continuously. Lord Dundreary finds a capable exponent in Mr. E. H. Kelly, who hits off the foolish young nobleman to the life, the fatuous manner in which he delivers his inanities being very amusing. Mr. Hampton Gordon distinguishes himself in the small part of Sir John Crystal; and Mr. Franklin Miles makes the most of Mr. William Gibson. The page, Bucket, is played with great success by Master Grata, who is responsible for a great deal of laughter, and is indeed a youngster of much promise. The chorus is tuneful and remarkably well stage-managed, the dresses are pretty, and the scenery is on an unusually elaborate scale, the ballroom being a particularly handsome set.

THE PAVILION.
On Monday, Feb. 25, the Play, by Jacob Gordon, entitled
"THE BROTHERS; OR, EVERLASTING HATE."

Jacob Gordon's drama, *The Brothers; or, Everlasting Hate*, was staged here on Monday by the Jewish Operatic and Dramatic Company. The piece was excellently represented, and mounted with much completeness. The histrionic ability of Mr. C. Natansohn was seen to advantage in his presentment of Reb Gedalie Lurie, the quality of manly endurance being cleverly expressed. A charming and delightful impersonation of Rivkele by Mme. Natansohn materially contributes towards the success; and Mme. Goldstein is competent as Soreh Dveire. Mr. Isaacowitch plays Alter Zipes with the requisite seriousness; and an earnest portrayal of Reb Shrage is given by Mr. J. Goldsmith. An agreeable representative of Yerachmiel is found in Mr. J. Soherman, who enacts his comedy scenes with admirable ease and spirit. Mr. J. Fineberg depicted with sufficient incisiveness the part of Tobih Lurie; and a performance of great merit is given by Mr. M. Gusofsky, who is quite at home as Yankele. Mr. N. Hamburger is useful as a doctor; and Mme. Bloom is an efficient servant. During the week *The Rich Beggar, The Kreutzer Sonata, The Beggar, Holy Sabbath*, and *First Love; or, No. 87*, have been played.

LYRIC OPERA HOUSE, HAMMERSMITH.
On Monday, Feb. 25, the Drama, entitled
"AN UNWEDDED WIFE."

This drama is being witnessed by crowded houses, and is proving very popular. Miss Ethel Van Praagh plays with much power the leading part of Marian. "the unwedded wife," being especially good in the pathetic scene in Act 2, when Marian's child (sweetly played by Little Doris) dies. Miss Van Praagh is supported by a capable company, which includes Mr. Valentine Henry, who gives an admirable rendering of the part of Frank Armstrong. As Philip Blackstone, the cause of all the trouble in the play, even to the extent of murdering his own child, Mr. E. St. Clair Forbes acts forcibly; Mr. Logan Dana is good as John Hawthorne; David Drummond is cleverly performed by Mr. J. A. Grove; Miss Violet Wilson, a pretty Elsie Langham, acts with much sweetness; the comedy is well supplied by Mr. Will Casey, who is very humorous as Napoleon B. Boomer; Mr. Harry Townley is funny as Perkinson Pimple; Miss Jessie Gillette plays Caraway Crumpet well; and as P.C. O'Runyin, C.I., Mr. J. Edward Whitty is most amusing. The play is well staged.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.
On Monday, Feb. 25, Farcical Comedy, entitled
"A NIGHT OUT."

Mr. Charles Macdona's company is here with a revival of this well-known piece, and with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sugden in the principal parts, it goes as well as ever. The second act, with its true Palais Royal flavour, is the making of the play, and the best efforts of all concerned were combined to secure an admirable representation. The volatile, though elderly, Joseph Pinglet is ably played by Mr. Edward Thirlby, whose impersonation of a hen-pecked husband for once "off the chain" is very funny. Mr. Mark Lester gives due emphasis to the broad humour of the part of Mathieu, the old country notary with the convenient stammer; and Mr. Godfrey Saville makes up well as the studious schoolboy who is led astray. Mr. Charles Sugden's easy and natural style is well suited to the portrayal of Paillard, the unemotional architect, whose indifference to his wife is the mainspring of the complications of the play, and his acting is as fresh and breezy as ever, which is saying a good deal. Mr. Fred Penley displays great agility as the younger waiter at the Hôtel Mascotte; and Mr. Thomas Barry is excellent as Bastien, the head waiter at the same doubtful establishment. Mr. Newstead Adams is lively and vehement as the Italian, Botticelli, one of the guests at the Hôtel Mascotte. Mrs. Chas. Sugden as Mrs. Paillard, the neglected wife, is good throughout, much of the fun of the situations being due to her acting, while her costumes and hats have also a striking effect. As Angelique, the wife of Pinglet, Miss Constance Groves is a real "home-ruler," with a genuine sense of humour. The sprightly maid, Victorine, is in the hands of Miss Lilian Stafford, who gives a piquant portrayal of a pert domestic; Mathieu's four charming daughters are merrily acted by Mesdames Dorothy and Muriel Dance, Elvira Stuart, and Emmie Kemp; and Mr. Dare Austin is very good in the small part of the Inspector of Police, Brochard. The play involves two heavy changes of scenery, the whole of which has been specially designed for this company, and serves to complete an excellent production.

GRAND, FULHAM.
On Monday, Feb. 25, the Musical Play, entitled
"THE BEAUTY OF BATH."

At Fulham Mr. George Dance's principal company is giving an excellent show in *The Beauty of Bath*. Mr. Leslie Holland is responsible both for the production and for the rendering of the leading rôle, Lieut. Alington, R.N., a part in which he does uncommonly well. His acting is breezy and vivacious, and his spirits never flag, whilst when occasion calls for real dramatic effort, as in the love scenes and the meeting with his mother, he is quite equal to the situation. Mr. Fred Leister is dignified as Lord Bellingham; and Mr. Reggie Grey is good as the fatuous Lord Quorn, also furnishing a clever patter song. Mr. Sheriff Clunes does all that is needful as Beverley; and Mr. Jack Crichton is an amusing representative of Sir Timothy Bun, contributing one or two capital songs and several clever eccentric dances. Mr. Sydney Grata enters into the part of Lemon Goodge, the programme boy, with great spirit, and scores repeatedly. Miss Maggie White as Dorothy Bun charms with her graceful acting, and entertains the audience with some clever versions of comic songs in ballad time. Miss Jessie Fraser does well as Truly St. Cyr, the actress, and adds to her reputation as a particularly graceful dancer. The eight Bath Buns are represented by a bevy of charming young ladies in ravishing toilets. Miss Ida Laurie is good in the difficult part of Mrs. Goodge, late of Bloomsbury. To Miss Edith Cruikshanks as Mrs. Alington falls the most dramatic episode in the play, the reunion with her son after ten years absence, and in this her acting rises to a really high level of excellence. The title-rôle, Betty Silverthorne, the Beauty of Bath, is taken by Miss Gladys Guy, who acquits herself admirably, her acting, singing, and dancing being alike charming, and well deserving of the applause obtained. The play is handsomely mounted and dressed. Mr. Leslie Holland is responsible for the stage management, and Mr. Gordon Stamford acts as musical director.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.
On Monday, Feb. 25, Shakespeare's Comedy,
"THE TAMING OF THE SHREW."

The interest with which Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton have been able to invest Shakespeare in the popular mind was fully exemplified by the cordial reception which was accorded the production of *The Taming of the Shrew* by the large audience which filled the Kennington Theatre on Monday night. Mr. Asche has gathered round him a remarkably strong and well-balanced company, the members of which all put their best work into the piece, and gave a thoroughly sympathetic interpretation of the comedy. The staging and dressing were both excellent, the room in Baptista's house and the garden scene in particular being very fine sets. In this version the Induction is played, and the humour of this added largely to the enjoyment of the evening, besides enabling Mr. Oscar Asche to show what a consummate artist he is. His representation of Christopher Sly appealed with potent effect to the sense of humour of the audience.

As Petruchio in the play itself Mr. Oscar Asche scored a big triumph. His rollicking high-handedness in dealing with the refractory Katharina evoked perpetual merriment, and was in strict accordance with the best conceptions of the part. Mr. Asche is certainly one of the best exponents of Shakespeare which the present-day stage possesses. He was admirably supported by Miss Lily Brayton, who gave a magnificent delineation of the complex character of Katharina. It is a long time since the many-sidedness of the Shrew has been presented with such complete success, and Miss Brayton is to be congratulated on her brilliant acting.

The Lucentio of Mr. H. R. Hignett was a wonderfully clever study. He was quite at home in the rôle and became a warm favourite with the audience. Miss Agnes Brayton made a demure and lovable Bianca. The two rejected suitors for her hand, Gremio and Hortensio, were well taken by Mr. Caleb Porter and Mr. Ian Penny, who are both fine actors. Mr. G. K. Souper was a remarkably fine Tranio, while Mr. B. F. Anson's Biondello was well worthy of mention. Mr. Henry Kitts made an amusing Grumio, and Miss Constance Robertson was seen to advantage as Curtis. Mr. Alfred Brydone did very well as Baptista, and Mr. FitzRussell was all that could be desired as Vincentio. Mr. W. R. Staveley as the Pedant, Mr. Gordon Harker as the Tailor, Miss Leila Norris as the Widow, and Mr. Stanley Farbridge as the Steward all deserve a good word, for although their parts were small they were played skilfully and well.

THE PRINCE'S, POPLAR.
On Monday, Feb. 25, the Drama, entitled
"THE COAL KING."

Since its production at the Elephant and Castle on October 24, 1904, Messrs. E. Martin and F. Llewellyn's drama, *The Coal King*, has met with considerable success in the provinces, and on Monday it was submitted at Poplar's handsome playhouse to the judgment of a large audience, who received this healthy piece with acclamation. The play is well written as regards dialogue, which is of the requisite vigour, while the construction abounds with dramatic effect, and does infinite credit to the skill of its practised authors. Messrs. G. M. Polini and L. Maitland's excellent company work hard throughout the evening, with happy results. A manly and earnest Tom Roberts is found in Mr. Lauderdale Maitland, who infuses such goodwill and power into his acting as to find much favour with those in front. Mr. Escott Robinson plays Walter Hartford with unconventionality, his performance being a consistent and well-thought-out sketch of unforced malignity. Mr. Cole Aspinall is well adapted to the rôle of Sir Reginald Hartford; and as the vacillating and remorseful Dick Shirley, Mr. Frank Dalton makes full use of his opportunities, giving an interesting portrayal. Mr. Alfred Terriss causes much amusement by his humorous rendering of Jim Williams: and Mr. John Coghlan is impressive as Seth Baker, being remarkably good in the entombment scene. Miss Gertrude Valentine is charming as Grace Shirley, her acting throughout being of unusual excellence. Miss Sinna St. Clair succeeds in enlisting the sympathy of her audience by her fine exposition of Mad Ann; and the necessary piquancy and pertness of Araminta Green are well displayed by Miss Enid Ross. Capable support is given by Mr. Angus Hall as Ned Jenkins, Mr. Harry Nelson as Jack Brown, Mr. L. Fenwick as James, Mr. Louis Stanford as Thomas, Mr. Fabian Lock as Saxby, and Miss Eveline North as Mrs. Baker. The staging and mounting are in the best possible taste, while the general manager of the theatre, Mr. Harry Lyons, is ceaseless in his efforts in looking after the comfort of his audience.

THE STANDARD.
On Monday, Feb. 25, Balfe's Opera, entitled
"THE PURITAN'S DAUGHTER."

The performance of Balfe's delightful opera, *The Puritan's Daughter*, was accorded an excellent reception at the Standard on Monday. The members of Mr. J .W. Turner's company did full justice to their respective rôles, the result being an interpretation of high excellence. Mr. J. W. Turner scored an instantaneous success as John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, and created a profound impression from first to last. He tunefully rendered the pieces of music falling to his share, and won well-deserved applause. Mr. Tom Griffiths is worthy of warm commendation for his artistic efforts as Charles the Second. He uses his excellent voice to good effect, and met with due appreciation. The part of Clifford, a young cavalier, was portrayed by Mr. George Ridding with distinguished ability: whilst Mr. Sidney Clifford must be congratulated upon his fine performance as Colonel Wolff, and his singing of several pleasing numbers was much appreciated. Mr. F. Clark did all that was possible as Fleetwood, and Mr. G. Ridding as Seymour gained sincere approbation for his careful and melodious rendering of the songs allotted to him. Again Mr. Richard Cummings was given an opportunity of proving his worth in a part of mirthful nature, and he certainly did so in a capital manner; as Ralph he was particularly amusing. Miss Jessie Dennis placed before her admirers an excellent conception of Jessie, her tasteful and pleasing singing being much enjoyed. Miss Kitty Brownless sang with expression and feeling as Mary Wolff, and deserves high praise for her graphic interpretation of the rôle. The carefully-trained chorus was responsible for some tuneful music, and the orchestra rendered admirable service under the bâton of Mr. T. Lawton. Other operas for the week are *The Bohemian Girl, The Rose of Castille, The Daughter of the Regiment, The Lily of Killarney*, and *Il Trovatore*.

THE TERRISS.
Monday, Feb. 25, the Drama, by Gordon Holmes, entitled
"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."

The favourite stock company is now back again at the Terriss, appearing in the above exciting drama. Needless to say, each member receives a cordial reception, and the combination gives an interpretation of the piece which is in every respect satisfactory. Mr. Ashley Page has the principal part, which is one that affords him every chance of showing his versatility. As Weary Willie, the tramp, Michael Grahame, the man wrongfully convicted, and Convict 89, Mr. Page scores a distinct success. Miss Marion Denvil makes a sweet and sympathetic Edith Neville, and acts with great effect in the powerful scene in the third act, where Edith recognises Michael Grahame as her father. Mr. Johnny Chippendale brings out all the comic possibilities of the character of Patrick O'Laragan, an Irish constable; and Miss Mattie Everett ably assists in the fun-making as Betty Hyne. Mr. J. C. Aubrey brings out forcibly the unmitigated villainy of Jasper Thorn; and Mr. Tom Taylor, the popular stage-manager, gives an excellent character-sketch of the stern, but good-hearted, Superintendent of the Gaol. Mr. John Sargeant ably enacts the rôle of the benevolent banker, Frederick Neville; and Mr. Ernest E. Norris makes a chivalrous and engaging young lover as Harold Trevalyen. As Marian Thorn, Miss East Robertson is very sympathetic; and Messrs. Gerald Morgan and Archie Turner cause some laughter as a couple of unruly convicts. The scenery and effects are well up to the mark, and the production is received throughout with much favour.

THE SHAKESPEARE.
On Monday, Feb. 25, the Opera, in Two Acts, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, entitled
"THE MIKADO."

The enormous success that is being attained at the Savoy by the revival of the popular Gilbert and Sullivan operas has whetted the appetite of suburban playgoers, and in large numbers they have availed themselves of the opportunity afforded them this week at the Shakespeare Theatre of witnessing the performances of such old favourites as *The Mikado, The Gondoliers, The Yeomen of the Guard, Patience*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*. An excellent company has been obtained by Mrs. D'Oyly Carte, and they must have been highly gratified by the enthusiastic reception accorded their presentation of *The Mikado* on Monday evening. In Miss Hope Hastings was seen an admirable Yum Yum. She rendered the music in a manner that stamped her as an artist possessed of exceptional gifts, and quickly gained the favour of the audience. An ideal Pitti Sing was found in Miss Lulu Evans, who made a charming appearance in the part, and was heard to advantage in her songs. Miss Theresa Rassam, an accomplished vocalist, sang and acted well in the rôle of Katisha; and Miss Mabel Burnege was eminently satisfactory as Peep Bo. Mr. Charles Walenn scored a decided hit in his embodiment of Ko Ko, and his quaint and irresistible humour provoked the audience to roars of laughter. Mr. Fred Billington as Pooh-Bah fitted the character to perfection, and acquitted himself with distinct success. Mr. Pacie Ripple as Nanki Poo made the very most of his opportunities, and his fine voice was greatly admired. The talents of Mr. Albert Kavanagh were well employed in the part of the Mikado; and Mr. Leicester Tunks is to be commended for his representation of Pish Tush. The orchestra and chorus, under the direction of Mr. T. Silver, contributed in no small degree to the success of the performance. Mr. H. E. Bellamy is business-manager, and Mr. Fred A. Leon stage-manager, for Mrs. D'Oyly Carte. The comfort of the audience was, as usual, well attended to by Mr. E. de Hague Body, the popular acting-manager for Mr. Dudley Bennett.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.
On Monday, Feb 25, the Musical Play, entitled
"THE GIRL BEHIND THE COUNTER."

Mr. Mouillot has a strong company appearing at the Royal County Theatre this week in this amusing and tuneful production, which has been attracting good houses. The title-rôle is filled by Miss Nora Brocklebank with a dainty charm that has won her many friends; Mr. Arthur Cartwright makes an admirable Charles Chetwyn, in which part he discloses the possession of a fine baritone voice; a successful impersonation of the café proprietor, Mons. Duval, is given by Mons. Jules Charmettes; and Mr. H. B. Clarke Chadwick is equally good as General Sir Wilkie Willoughby. Mr. A. M. Moore, who appears as the waiter, sustains much of the humour of the production; whilst good work is also put in by Mr. Howard Cridland as Viscount Gushington; by Mr. Frederick Park as Adolphus Dudds; by Miss Olivia Eltone as Millie Mostyn; by Miss Doris Langdon as Ninette; and by Miss Rose Helene as Susie. There is a numerous chorus, which, with an augmented orchestra, as ably controlled by Mr. Herbert Sullivan Brooke.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.
On Monday, Feb. 25, the Play, entitled
"THE SPRING CHICKEN."

This popular success was enthusiastically received, and the various pretty numbers loudly applauded. Mr. J. S. Durant's Gustave Barbori was a capital performance, full of brightness and go: Mr. Henry Averill was excellent as the head clerk, Boniface; Mr. A. Drinkwater submitted a clever character-study as Baron Papouche; and Mr. Edwin Dodds was most amusing as head waiter at the Crimson Butterfly. Mr. Fred Payne was a warm favourite in the part of Mr. Girdle, playing with quaint humour throughout; his wife (Mrs. Girdle) had a capital representative in Miss Nellie Kavanagh; Stephen Henry Girdle and Emmy Lou were amusingly impersonated by Mr. C. Brierley and Miss Lilian Errol; the Baroness Papouche was well played by Miss Clarice Cartner; and Dulcie Barbori had a very charming representative in Miss Florence Wix. Miss Sally Leonard and Miss May Fraser were very good as La Belle Cissi and La Modise. Clever Miss Chrissie Ralland was deservedly a huge favourite as Rosalie; Mr. John Dace was excellent as Napoleon, the office boy. The other parts were all admirably filled by Messrs. E. C. Moylan, Lipscomb, F. G. Davis, C. Baker, Emil Adame, and G. Fisher; Mesdames Mollie Esmond, Enid Brook, Irene Vivian, Ella Stanley, Ida Hamilton, Vera Dart, and Laura Haydn. The chorus sang well and looked most attractive in their pretty dresses. The scenery was beautiful and appropriate, and the augmented orchestra played well under the direction of Mr. Knight Pearce.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.
On Monday, Feb. 25, the Drama, entitled
"THE ASSASSIN."

Mr. Augustine Knight's company is meeting with every success this week in *The Assassin* at the Stratford Theatre Royal. Mr. Augustine Knight, in the important rôle of Prince Demetri, plays with considerable power, and dons many handsome uniforms to advantage. Miss Ella Vane acts with force and feeling as the Countess Wanda, "the Assassin," and is always realistic and convincing. Mr. Edward E. Ashby's fine stage appearance well befits the part of Ipanoff, and he plays with successful results. Mr. Theo Balfour makes a soldierly and dignified Duke Karl; and Mr. Cecil H. Raymond provokes plenty of mirth as the gesticulating Baron Alphonso. Mr. Edwin Jenner as the stolid, good-hearted Captain O'Neil, is a great favourite; Mr. Tom J. Taylor is very droll and amusing as Peter; and Mr. Chauncy Morris is seen to advantage as General Nicol. Miss Hetty Senior is decidedly popular as the genial American, Connie Jonathan; Miss Frances Waring contributes a sympathetic performance as Nita; and Miss Marie E. Robertson is a bright and vivacious Katrina. The remaining parts are all carefully played, and the piece is capitally mounted.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.
On Monday, Feb. 25, the Comedy, entitled
"WHAT THE BUTLER SAW."

The return visit of this amusing piece is proving a strong attraction at the Stratford Borough Theatre this week. Mr. Lionel Rignold continues to score heavily as Pink, the rôle of the ubiquitous Butler affording many opportunities to this exceedingly droll comedian, of which he does not fail to take full advantage. Miss Ada Blanche obtains a most cordial reception as the pseudo widow, Mrs. Barrington, and she plays the part with a becoming brightness and gaiety. Mr. Charles Fawcett makes a buoyant and manly Jack Barrington; Mr. William Dunlop plays with ease and fluency as Sir Charles Foden; and Mr. George Ascott hits off exactly the idiosyncrasies of General Dunlop. Mr. Harry Rignold plays in true comedy vein as the Hebraic parvenu Abraham Weinstein, and Mr. Roy Byford is responsible for a capital sketch of Professor Shale. Sidney Clifford is well played by Mr. Leo St. Clair, and Mr. Alec Alves makes an excellent Vere de Bogyne. Miss Marie Daltra as the conventional Miss Foden submits a performance of considerable merit; and Nora is charmingly impersonated by Miss Jennie Wigney. The two Miss Dunlops have graceful exponents in Miss Dorothy Hart and Miss Vera O'Connell; Miss Elsie Gaunt plays with all the necessary hauteur as Mrs. Fleming Smyth; Miss Julie St. George is a very appropriate Mrs. Hake; and Miss May Hart gives a clever display of juvenile precocity as Sophonisba Hake.

Presentation.—At the Royal, Hull, last Saturday, Mr. H. R. Mathews, on terminating his engagement as musical director for the *Mr. Popple* company, was presented on the stage by Miss Millie Hylton, on behalf of the company, with a well-filled sovereign purse, inscribed "To one of the best." Miss Hylton, after thanking Mr. Mathews for the able manner he had conducted for her, expressed the great regret they all felt at losing him, and she hoped they should meet again. Mr. Mathews, in thanking them, said he should always appreciate the kind thought that had prompted them to make such an unlooked for and generous present. He particularly desired to thank the ladies and gentlemen of the chorus, who had worked so loyally for him, enabling him, whilst doing his duty to his employer, to earn their esteem and respect. Mr. Mathews, by the way, is the brother of the popular manager of the Duke of York's Theatre.

Makes the Skin as Soft as Velvet.—Beetham's "LAROLA" preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold, winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, chaps, &c., and Keeps the Skin Soft, Smooth, and White at all Seasons. Invaluable for the Complexion, Delightfully Soothing and Refreshing after walking, golfing, cycling, motoring, dancing, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles, 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. Beetham and Son, Cheltenham.—[Advt.]

"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."

A Military Drama, in Four Acts, by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley; produced for the first time on any stage at the Grand Junction Theatre, Manchester, on Monday, Feb. 25.

Captain Deane ..... MR. JOHN B. SHINTON
Captain Gerald Temple .. MR. J. O. STEVENSON
Henry Thornton ..... MR. CLAVERING CRAIG
General Rochester ..... MR. ARTHUR KEAND
Sub.-Lieut. Percy Brattle .. MR. FRANK HOWARD
Holly ..... MR. FRED TENAUR
Burly Bill ..... MR. VERNON COOPER
Smarty ..... MR. GEORGE FRANKLIN
Joe Philpots ..... MR. FRED NEWBURN
P.C. Wilson ..... MR. ALFRED THOMSON
Alphonsus ..... MR. O. MYTH
Jemima Eliza ..... MISS EADIE MACKLIN
Gwendoline Temple ..... MISS ALICE LOVE
Fanchette ..... MISS EVE ELWES
Florence Deane ..... MISS SYLVIA VICKERS
Doreen Illingsworth ..... MISS ADA RYDER
Queenie Deane ..... MISS MAY CRAIG
Cora Lea ..... MISS LOTTIE ADDISON

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's drama, *A Soldier's Honour*, produced at the Grand Junction Theatre, Manchester, on Monday, the 25th, contains without doubt all the elements of a popular success. It is compounded of situations for the most part already known in melodrama, though they are freshly contrived and made to carry a more than ordinary weight of pathetic interest, which gives a strong human value to the play.

Motives of love and deception create the opening situation. Captain Jack Deane, in love with Doreen Illingsworth, but persuaded by Henry Thornton—the swell captain of a gang of thieves—that she does not return his love, marries in a fit of pique Cora Lea, an attractive woman who is secretly at the head of the female branch of the thieves' gang, and whose object in marrying Jack is to gain entrance into society for nefarious purposes. When Captain Deane discovers that he has been duped by Thornton, and that Doreen really loves him after all, he is inclined towards suicide: but the revolver with which he is about to commit the act—from which his friend Captain Gerald Temple saves him in time—is used with fatal effect by Cora Lea to silence Jack's mother, who has overheard some incriminating conversation between her son's wife and Thornton. Thornton himself is in love with Doreen; but Cora's affections are fixed on Gerald Temple. That the woman has possibilities of good in her is shown in a scene where the two soldiers are at the mercy of the gang in their den, and for the sake of her love for Gerald she releases them both, though her object had been to rid herself of Jack, so as to be free to marry the man of her heart if he will have her—which he will not. Her hatred of her husband increases since her true self has become known to him, and Gerald's scorn does not abate. After nine years she, in company with her child and Jack's and a clever member of the gang named Holly, follows her husband's regiment to South Africa—the period being that of the Boer War—and engages upon a scheme to dishonour him in the eyes of his General and the army, by obtaining possession of certain despatches with which he is entrusted. The scheme succeeds, but Cora presents her confederate, who is there on behalf of the gang, with a dummy packet, while the real one she is impelled—through a softening influence—to give back into the hands of Gerald Temple, who is thus enabled to save his friend's honour. In this section of the play much interest centres round the child Queenie, between whom and her father pathetic passages occur. Her influence also is felt in the adjustment of the situation created by the theft of the despatches. Cora's duplicitous act toward the gang leads eventually to her downfall from the position she has held among them—though in the culmination the sentiment of redemption is in her, and she is shot dead in protecting Queenie from the thieves, who would have killed the child to obtain some diamonds which she has taken from her mother's hands, insisting that they are a gift from Santa Claus—the time being now Christmas. The child's share in these later incidents is pretty and highly effective, and the whole concludes upon a note of tragic though happy readjustment.

Miss Lottie Addison's delineation of Cora Lee was admirably done, though the part is full of subtle difficulties. As Captain Deane Mr. John B. Shinton played with a manly and commendable sincerity, and in the rôle of a true friend. Gerald Temple to wit, Mr. J. O. Stevenson presented a natural and heroic character-sketch with unfaltering precision. Mr. Clavering Craig made an excellent villain of uncompromisingly evil intent; while a clever piece of work was the General Rochester—a dupe of Cora Lea's—of Mr. Arthur Keand. Miss Ada Ryder's Doreen Illingsworth was a beautifully neat and unaffected depiction of a true-hearted and sweet-natured girl; and the child Queenie, a character of potentially similar type, was nicely impersonated by Miss May Craig. In humorous parts, Mr. Frank Howard was excellent as Lieut. Brattle, and Miss Edie Macklin made quite a success as Jemima Eliza. Others who distinguished themselves were Mr. Fred Tenaur as Holly, the hypocrite; and Miss Sylvia Vickers as Florence Deane, Jack's mother; while the smaller parts were satisfactorily filled.

Incidental music has been supplied by Mr. W. C Pike, and the handsome scenery is by Mr. H. O. Richardson. The play is certain of a successful run.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The programme of the orchestral concert of the Royal College of Music given on Thursday evening, Feb. 21, was more than usually ambitious. The orchestra first performed Beethoven's *Leonora* No. 1 overture with a fair amount of success, under the watchful care of Sir Charles V. Stanford; and Mr. James Friskin gave a skilful rendering of Cesar Franck's symphonic poem, "Les Djinns," for piano and orchestra, although at times the soloist was somewhat overpowered by the orchestra, the young performers of which simply revelled in the crashing chords and weird harmonic effects of this remarkable work. The final item of the concert was Berlioz's symphony, "Fantastic," "Episode de la vie d'un artiste." Of this famous symphony, which was first heard at the Paris Conservatoire in 1830, Schumann says:—"Berlioz was a young student of medicine in Northern France, a brilliant composer, who thinks to surpass Beethoven by employing five movements for the 'Fantastic' Symphony, Beethoven only requiring four." But Schumann was very complimentary to the young French musician, and said the eccentric passages fully illustrate Berlioz's second title, "An episode in the life of an artist." The orchestra did excellent work in the symphony, being most effective in their playing of the second movement, the "Ball scene," the "March to execution," and the wild music of the "Witches' Sabbath." The duet from Verdi's *Otello* (closing scene), Act 1, was sung with considerable dramatic intuition by Miss Ada B. Ritchie and Mr. Thomas Watson, the audience being lavish in their applause; the orchestral accompaniment was also admirably played. In Recitative and Air, "Dove Sono" (*Figaro*), Mozart, Miss Ethel Duthoit was successful in her singing of the familiar music. There was a very large and enthusiastic audience.

PRESENTATION.—At the King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield, on the 20th ult., Mr. Edward Gray, the popular manager, who on this occasion took his second annual complimentary benefit, was presented with a large photo of himself in fine dark oak frame, with a brass plate attached bearing an inscription, as a token of esteem and regard from the stage, orchestra, and house staff.

"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."

A new Romantic Play, in Four Acts, by Walter Howard; produced for the first time in London at the Royal West London Theatre, on Monday, Feb. 25.

Paul Valmer ..... MR. ALFRED PAUMIER
The Crown Prince Leopold ..... MR. FREDK. W. FREEMAN
Lieut. Eugene Von Strelsburg ..... MR. ERNEST E. IMESON
Capt. Rudolph Von Scarsbruck ..... MR. CLINTON BADDELEY
Sub-Lieut. Kulman ..... MR. ARTHUR RADFORD
Father Gerard ..... MR. W. S. HARDY
Sergeant Max ..... MR. JAMES E. PAGE
Corporal Otto ..... MR. EDWARD FLETCHER
Private Bobo ..... MR. ALGIE SPALDING
Nathon ..... MR. J. HARRINGAY
Sergeant of the Guard ..... MR. C. E. DANE
Conrad ..... MR. CHAS. STEPHENS
Trooper Fritz ..... MR. MARK SHELDING
Trooper Ludwig ..... MR. BERT LEWIS
Kathie ..... MISS ADA CHAMPION
Marie ..... MISS PRUDENCE LAURENCE
Rozel (alias "Satanella") ..... MISS MARION FAWCETT
Second-Lieut. Carl Helsburg } ..... MISS ANNIE
Princess Astrea Von Strelsburg } ..... SAKER

The Midnight Wedding, which was first produced at Manchester in the autumn of 1905, is a very good specimen of the romantic drama. In the first place there is a romantic marriage, and that means a capital beginning for a play of this type. When the Princess Astrea Von Strelsburg weds at the midnight hour in the private chapel of this noble family an entire stranger, who happens to be Paul Valmer, the sword master of the Red Hussars, and they part immediately after the ceremony is over, the interest of the audience is at once enlisted, and the expectations which are aroused of exciting events to follow are fully realised. The explanation of the midnight wedding is that the Princess has been persecuted by the odious attentions of Captain Rudolph Von Scarsbruck, and to escape being forced into marriage by him adopts the desperate expedient already referred to. The villainous Captain has an ally in the Princess's brother, Lieut. Eugene Von Strelsburg, who is a reckless gambler, and has lost not only his own money but his sister's fortune at the gaming table The Captain continues his relentless pursuit of the wife in name only, and plots with her brother that he shall be discovered in her bedroom at night, so as to bring shame and disgrace upon her. He accordingly climbs to the balcony of Astrea's chamber and enters by the window, from which the Princess had just previously been gazing. Happily, Paul Valmer sees the Captain enter, and, suspecting danger to Astrea, follows, and is able to foil the villainous intentions. A duel between the two men is arranged, but Paul, having been injured in the right arm, is compelled to fight with his left, and is dangerously wounded. But ere these events the Crown Prince has acknowledged Paul to be his son, whose mother he deserted. He is now desirous of winning Paul's forgiveness and publicly acknowledging him as his son and heir. The Princess, who to be near the man she loves has donned the uniform of a lieutenant in the Hussars, bravely defends herself when attacked by Captain Von Scarsbruck, but is severely wounded. However, there is a happy ending to the romantic story; and the devotion and fidelity of the hero is adequately rewarded.

Mr. Alfred Paumier bears himself gallantly as Paul Valmer, and he also plays the part with an earnestness and spirit deserving of the highest praise. In the scene where he confronts Von Scarsbruck in the Princess's bedchamber, and again in the duel with that officer, his acting is real and impressive. Miss Annie Saker is equally successful in her portrayal of the Princess Astrea Von Strelsburg, displaying not only a womanly charm in her rendering of the part, but delivering her lines with marked effect. Astrea's love for Paul Valmer is also expressed with genuine feeling. Miss Saker also looks well as the supposed lieutenant, and her spirited encounter with Von Scarsbruck evokes the enthusiasm of the audience. Mr. Clinton Baddeley gives an excellent representation of Captain Rudolph Von Scarsbruck, the bold attitude and bullying tone of the villain being admirably assumed throughout. Mr. Ernest E. Imeson does all that is possible with the part of Lieut. Eugene Von Strelsburg, for whom one feels even more contempt than for the villain-in-chief. Mr. Fredk. W. Freeman gives a forcible impersonation of the Crown Prince Leopold, and Mr. W. S. Hardy is a dignified Father Gerard. The romantic story is pleasantly lightened by some comic scenes, in which Sergeant Max, Corporal Otto, and Private Bobo, who are comrades in war but rivals in love, play leading parts. They are all enamoured of Kathie, the waitress at the "Golden Lion"; and by a trick the private gets the preference. An exchange of clothes which takes place between Bobo and Kathie while they occupy two sentry boxes placed close together causes roars of laughter, the little private being comically impersonated by Mr. Algie Spalding. The corpulent sergeant has a capital exponent in Mr. James E. Page: and Mr. Edward Fletcher is good as the corporal. Miss Ada Champion is a sprightly representative of Kathie. Miss Marion Fawcett is well placed as Rozel, alias "Satanella"; and minor rôles receive careful treatment at the hands of Messrs. Arthur Radford, J. Harringay, C. E. Dane, Chas. Stephens, Mark Shelding, and Bert Lewis. The tour is under the able direction of Mr. Alfred Paumier; the scenery is from the brush of Mr. H. O. Richardson, and the incidental music is by Mr. Ben Barrow.

"A HUNDRED YEARS HENCE."

A New Fantastic Play, in One Act, by Margaret Stanley Clark, Produced at the Royalty Theatre, Glasgow, on Monday, Feb. 18.

Hon. Billy Windermere .. MR. LAMBERT PLUMMER
Astrea Dacre ..... MISS DONALDSON

This new comedietta deals with the theme made familiar by novels like "Looking Backward," and plays such as Mr. Edward Compton's *To-morrow*, viz., the bewilderment of a person projected into a century other than his own. There are only two characters in this version—the Hon. Billy Windermere, a relic of A.D. 1907, and Astrea Dacre, a lady living in A.D. 2007. The Hon. Billy, after a late night up West, which concluded with the drinking of a potion prepared by a studious old professor, wakens next morning (as he thinks) in a bewildered state, to find himself included in a collection of curiosities in the museum of a scientist of a hundred years hence. His evening dress and white shirt are, strange to say, as spotless and immaculate as if he had only laid down for forty winks Through a series of questions addressed to the lady he acquires the information that in the year 2007 ladies rule Parliament, propose to the gentlemen, work hard to keep their dear husbands in ease and comfort, and heliograms and air-ships have reached such a state of perfection that anyone can receive wireless messages from China or Peru, and can spend part of the day in St. Petersburg, and yet be home in time for tea. The Hon. Billy is so much impressed by these manifest advantages that he graciously and modestly accepts the lady's proposal to marry him, and prepares to settle down under these improved conditions. The play was pleasantly interpreted by Mr. Lambert Plummer as the vacuous swell of 1907, and Miss Donaldson as the lady in the Greek robes, which are to be the mode in 2007.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

DEATH OF ROSINA BRANDRAM.

We regret to announce the death at Southend, on Thursday night, of Miss Rosina Brandram, one of the "Old Guard" of the Gilbert and Sullivan company. Miss Brandram had been suffering from a complicated attack of illness, and it had been evident for some time past that there was no hope of her recovery. Her friends must all be thankful that her suffering is over.

Miss Brandram as a child possessed a voice of phenomenal depth, and while on a visit to Italy was introduced to Signor Nava, the celebrated *maestro di canto*, under whom she entered on a course of training. At the completion of this she returned to England, and soon obtained her first engagement. She made her theatrical début at the Opéra Comique in 1877, where she succeeded Mrs. Howard Paul as Lady Sangazure in *The Sorcerer*, and played Little Buttercup in *Pinafore* on occasion. She was afterwards the first representative of the following parts in Gilbert-Sullivan opera:—Lady Blanche in *Princess Ida*, Katisha in *The Mikado*, Dame Hannah in *Ruddigore*, Dame Carruthers in *The Yeomen of the Guard*, the Duchess of Plaza-Toro in *The Gondoliers*, Lady Sophy in *Utopia, Limited*, and the Baroness Von Krakenfeldt in *The Grand Duke*. She was Kate in the first American cast of *The Pirates of Penzance*, and when the opera was revived in London in 1888 she played Ruth. Among her other original parts are Mrs. Bowcher in *Mock Turtles*, Aunt Olympia in *Tobacco Jars* (1889), the Widow Jackson in *Captain Billy* (1891), Mrs. Crumpet in *He Stoops to Win* ((1891), Lady Vernon in Grundy and Sullivan's *Haddon Hall* (1892), Miss Sims in Barrie, Doyle, and Ford's *Jane Annie* (1893), the Marquise in Carré and Messager's *Mirette* (1894), Joan in Pinero, Carr, and Sullivan's *Beauty Stone* (1898), Dancing Sunbeam in Sullivan and Hood's *The Rose of Persia* (1899), Lady Newtown in Sullivan, German, and Hood's *The Emerald Isle* (1901), Queen Elizabeth in German and Hood's *Merrie England* (1902), and Nell Reddish in German and Hood's *A Princess of Kensington* (1903); also, rôles in *Little Hans Andersen* (Adelphi, 1903), and *Veronique* (Apollo Theatre, 1904).

THE LATE MISS ROSINA BRANDRAM.

"DR. MEREDITH'S EXPERIMENT."

A Play, in Three Acts, by Henry Harding; produced for the first time at the Balfour Institute, Liverpool, on Saturday, Feb. 23.

Wilson ..... MR. HARRY ASTLEY
Mrs. Allington ..... MISS IVY PIERPOINT
Colonel Horace Allington .... MR. J. R. ASHTON
Lady Barbara Lyndell ..... MISS M. A. FORBE
Sir Aubrey Lyndell ..... MR. H. SANDERSON
Hon. Charlie Carter ..... MR. FRANK SHEARIM
Dr. Julian Meredith ..... MR. HENRY HARDING
Muriel Lyndell ..... MRS. FRED WILKINSON
Mrs. Maher ..... MISS P. RUTHERFORD

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The author, who is a well-known Liverpool amateur actor, has written a most interesting, and, at the same time, clever play. It is skilfully contrived, and full of dramatic point, and should certainly prove sucessful when it is presented by professional players and sent on tour, as is intended. The theme is somewhat novel, and being full of human feeling obtains a good hold upon an audience. Briefly the story sets forth that Dr. Meredith cherishes an honourable attachment for Lady Barbara Lyndell, wife of Sir Aubrey, who shows towards her persistent neglect. A report having come from abroad that the Knight is dead. Lady Barbara, after much hesitation, accepts Dr. Meredith's offer of marriage, but as the wedding party arrive home from the church the missing Sir Aubrey turns up. The situation is certainly a dramatic one, and very powerfully presented. Awakening to a sense of his selfishness and past neglect of his wife, the Knight resolves to atone, and leave her happy with her new husband by attempting suicide. Meredith, however, saves his life by performing an operation, shrinking from the temptation to kill him, and, after re-uniting the couple, leaves them for ever. The play is considerably lightened by the introduction of comedy, while the dialogue is crisp and interesting. As Meredith, the author played in excellent style, fully realising the character; equally good was the Sir Aubrey of Mr. H. Sanderson; Miss Forde went through a trying ordeal with flying colours, her Lady Barbara being a carefully-studied piece of work. It was particularly convincing in the stronger scenes. Mrs. Fred Wilkinson is worthy of commendation for her Muriel; Mr. Harry Astley did the most with the part of Wilson, the old servant; Miss Rutherford was a perfect type of respectable housekeeper; as the Colonel, Mr. J. R. Ashton played with spirit; Mr. Frank Shearim threw a deal of life into his embodiment of Charlie; and Miss Ivy Pierpoint proved satisfactory as Mrs. Allington. The play was produced by the Lyric Amateur Dramatic Society, under the guidance of the author, to whom the audience at the close gave a rousing reception.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. Wm. Gillespy, lately acting-manager at the Metropole Theatre, Glasgow, was presented on Saturday by the staff with a handsome gold hunter watch, suitably inscribed, and a morocco leather pocket-book. Miss Gillespy, who assisted in the clerical work, was the recipient of a beautiful ruby and diamond ring, and a crocodile leather purse.

MR. BANNISTER HOWARD has arranged for a special flying matinée on Tuesday, when Miss Decima Moore and full London company will appear at the Crystal Palace Theatre in *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy*.

IN our notice of *The Beauty of Bath* at the Richmond Theatre last week, the name of Mr. Gordon Stamford, the musical director, was given as stage manager, whereas the duties of that office were efficiently attended to by Mr. Leslie Holland.

"THE GENTLEMAN IN GREY."

A Comedy in Three Acts, by Montague Compton, Produced, for the first time, at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, on Friday, Feb. 22.

Charles Lovely ..... MR. EDWARD COMPTON
Sir George Repington .... MR. HENRY CROCKER
Anthony Clare ..... MR. VERNON O. CRABTREE
Francis Vernon ..... MR. DENNIS CLEUGH
Tabrum ..... MR. G. WALLACE JOHNSTON
Justice Gregory Moon .... MR. MONTAGUE LANE
Major Constantine Tarry .. MR. CHARLES ROGERS
Thomas ..... MR. PHILIP GORDON
John ..... MR. HUBERT C. BRETT
Dicky ..... MR. ARTHUR ELSMORE
Mrs Courteen ..... MISS MARIE HASSELL
Phyllida ..... MISS PHYLLIS RELPH
Mrs. Tabrum ..... MISS MARION LE STRANGE
Polly ..... MISS BARBARA PIGOT
Betty ..... MISS MACKENZIE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The interest of Mr. Edward Compton's engagement at Edinburgh last week was heightened by the initial performance of a new play from the pen of his elder son, Mr. Montague Compton. The theatre was crowded by an audience which gave an enthusiastic reception to the work of the young dramatist. The scene is laid in the picturesque period of the middle of the eighteenth century, and the plot turns upon the love affairs of Miss Phyllida Courteen, the young daughter of a rich widow. Francis Vernon, a *roué* masquerading under the name of Amor, has had several clandestine meetings with Phyllida, and has at length presuaded her to leave home, taking with her a valuable pearl necklace, and join him at the "Basket of Roses" Inn, where she is to enquire for him as "the Gentleman in Grey." Charles Lovely, an impulsive, warm-hearted young man, who has quarrelled with his only relative, an uncle, Sir George Repington, a wealthy merchant in London, has also met Phyllida and fallen in love with her. To replenish an empty purse, Lovely has made a bet with Vernon to hold up the stage coach for London, and in this enterprise he is joined by his friend, Anthony Clare. The first scene closes with the discovery of Phyllida's elopement, and the departure of Mrs. Courteen, accompanied by the members of the household, Betty, her maid, and Thomas, her footman, and two elderly admirers, Major Constantine Tarry and Justice Gregory Moon, to find the runaway. In the second scene of the first act Lovely and his friend successfully stop the stage-coach and rob the passengers, who include, in addition to Mrs. Courteen and her companions, Lovely's uncle, Sir George Repington. Lovely and Clare in Act 2 make their way for shelter to the "Basket of Roses" Inn. The former is dressed in grey, and the landlord, mistaking him for Vernon, announces to Phyllida the arrival of her lover. The young girl is covered with confusion at seeing a stranger, whom she remembers having met once only, and the gentlemen retire to allow her to regain her self-possession. Vernon now appears on the scene, and, in an interview with Phyllida, reveals his real nature, and tells her that he has possessed himself of the pearl necklace which she gave into the charge of the postboy. Stung to desperation, the girl strikes him across the face, and he is about to retaliate when Lovely and Clare re-enter. Lovely hears Vernon addressed as Amor, takes in the situation, and resolves to rescue Phyllida from her plight. The party sit down to supper, which is interrupted by the arrival of the delayed stage-coach, and Phyllida escapes to her room. Lovely is placed in an embarrassing position, but he carries it lightly through, bantering passengers, driver, and guard alike, and his identity is suspected only by Sir Charles Repington and Betty. Vernon sees his opportunity, and charges Lovely with being the highwayman; but the latter turns the tables on his accuser by denouncing him as the robber of the pearl necklace, and Vernon is bound, and locked up under the guard of Thomas, the footman. The third act is devoted to unravelling the tangled skein of circumstances into which Lovely has been drawn. He restores their property to the passengers, makes peace with his uncle, and generously permits Vernon to escape. The discomfited villain, however, returns at the moment when Phyllida is endeavouring to leave the inn. He makes a last appeal to her, but is repulsed, and is once more forced by Lovely's entrance to retire checkmated. A love scene between Phyllida and Lovely follows, and the comedy ends with the anticipation of happiness for both. Mr. Montague Compton has written an attractive, agreeable play, in which much skill is shown alike in dialogue and construction. Many of the lines have an epigrammatic ring and freshness, and there are dainty gems of speech which have an almost Elizabethan flavour. The comedy is full of exceptional promise, but as it stands it is too long. The scene at the robbing of the stage-coach will bear condensation, and so, too, will the third act. Montague Compton's comedy should prove a worthy addition to his father's repertory.

Mr. Edward Compton, under whose direction the play was rehearsed and produced, was seen at his best in the character of Charles Lovely. There are abundant opportunities in the part for the display of Mr. Compton's versatility, and the actor was equal to all the demands made upon him. The robbing of the stage-coach was carried through with an air of gay bravado; there was force in his scenes with Vernon, pathos in the act in which he is recognised by his uncle, and beauty and tenderness in his acting in the love passages with Phyllida. Mr. Compton made a distinct triumph in the part, and was loudly recalled at the close of each act. Mr. Henry Crocker, in the well-drawn character of Sir George Repington, played with virility and power. Mr. Dennis Cleugh as Francis Vernon presented an admirable picture of the scheming villain, and he evinces command of passion in the scene with Phyllida in the third act. A quaint character, Tabrum, landlord of the "Basket of Roses Inn," who gives flowery names to everything, was well acted by Mr. G. Wallace Johnston, but the senility of the part was somewhat overdone. Thomas, the footman, who has a great command of Biblical illustration, was humorously portrayed by Mr Philip Gordon; and Anthony Clare was excellently acted by Mr. Vernon O. Crabtree. The conventional characters of Justice Gregory Moon and Major Constantine Tarry were sustained by Mr. Montague Lane and Mr. Charles Rogers. John, the guard, and Dicky, the driver, of the "Invincible" stage-coach, were adequately presented by Mr. Hubert C. Brett and Mr. Arthur Elsmore. In Miss Phyllis Relph, who played the part of Phyllida, Mr. Compton has found an actress of talent. Miss Relph, who is graceful of figure and beautiful of face, completely realised the character of the trusting maiden, and she showed dramatic gifts of sympathy, pathos, and power. Miss Mackenzie was a bright, exuberant Betty; and Miss Marie Hassell was highly entertaining as the amorous Mrs. Courteen. Miss Marion Le Strange was a capital Mrs. Tabrum; and an exceedingly clever impersonation of the small part of Polly was given by Miss Barbara Pigot. The play was beautifully mounted, and at the close the members of the company were recalled, and bouquets were handed to the principal ladies. On the final fall of the curtain there were loud calls for the author, and Mr. Compton led his son on the stage. Enthusiastic applause followed, and Mr. Compton said that that was a memorable evening for him. Amongst the many birthday presents which he had received on his last anniversary there was the gift of the manuscript of *The Gentleman in Grey*. He read the play, and when he had finished, he said, "Edinburgh," and made up his mind to produce the play in the city which he considered one of the most critical in the kingdom. He had shown his faith in the comedy by producing it, and he asked the question fearlessly, and expected as fearless an answer, "Was the play a success?" A unanimous shout of "Yes!" came from all parts of the house. Mr. Compton, resuming, said that that verdict had made the author's mother, who was present, a proud and happy woman; it had made him, the author's father, a proud and happy man; and it had made the author himself one of the proudest and happiest young men in the country. Renewed applause succeeded the close of Mr. Compton's speech, and Mr. Montague Compton again bowed his acknowledgments. In answer to shouts of "speech," Mr. Compton said his son thanked them from his heart, but preferred to be known rather as an author than as an orator.

"THE ROSE OF DAWN."

A Poetical Play, in Three Acts, by Herbert T. Rainger, Produced at the Victoria Rooms, Cheltenham, Feb. 22.

King Morten ..... MR. EDGAR WAITHMAN
Aglovale ..... MR. HERBERT T. RAINGER
Melias ..... MR. REGINALD BACH
Reuten ..... MR. E. WEAVER
Itho ..... MR. H. HUMPHRIS
Ebel ..... MR. LYN RAINGER
A Holy Man } ..... MR. J. WELLAND
Jester } .....
Ettarde ..... MISS JOAN BRADY
Linet ..... MISS NORA A. PROSSER
Godda ..... MRS. R. WEBB

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

In this new play Mr. Rainger has certainly gone one better than his previous efforts, *The Cap-Maker's Daughter* and *The Bitter Sea*. He has cleverly utilised a difficult theme, and handles his subject in a praiseworthy manner. Aglovale, a King whose throne has been usurped by his son, Morten, lives in disguise amongst the woods with Melias, his illegitimate son. Being of a dreamy, romantic disposition, he is more contented in the forest than upon the throne. His great fear is lest a prophesy, uttered at the birth of Melias, that the latter should die upon the sword of his brother Morten, should be fulfilled. For many years they live peacefully amongst the peasants, until at length King Morten conceives a violent passion for a fair lady named Ettarde, whom he meets while hunting in the forest. She flies from him, and claims Aglovale's protection. Aglovale reveals himself to his son, who is stricken with remorse, declaring that he will not only marry Ettarde honourably, but also restore his father to the throne. Aglovale, though filled with great fear concerning his meeting with Melias, readily forgives Morten. Ettarde, however, does not love Morten, nor can his entreaties move her. Melias intervenes, and a struggle ensues in which Morten is slain. And now Aglovale, though horrified at Morten's death, cannot help feeling relieved that Melias, whom he so dearly loves, can now never suffer the fulfilment of the prophesy. He conceives the idea of getting Melias placed upon the throne. The latter has become enamoured of Ettarde, and finds that his love is returned. But even as he clasps her to him a wild hermit, the same fanatic who uttered the prophecy years before, intervenes, and forbids the union, as Ettarde is the child of Melias's mother by a peasant husband. Melias is filled with horror and despair, and when Ebel brings to him Morten's sword, he falls upon the blade, preferring death to a life of sin or sorrow. And so Aglovale, hastening to tell Melias that he is King, is confronted with his dead body; but at the bidding of the holy man he sets aside his sorrows and takes up the crown.

Owing to the illness of one of the cast, the author was called upon at the last moment to assume the rôle of the exiled King, Aglovale, which he did with considerable success. The strongly contrasted parts of the King's sons were played by Messrs. Edgar Waithman and Mr. Reginald Bach; the former looked well as Morten, and spoke his lines forcibly and clearly, and the ill-fated Melias became a most attractive personality in the hands of Mr. Bach. Mr. Lyn Rainger as Ebel provided the necessary touch of comic relief in scenes with Godda, a part well played by Mrs. R. Webb. Miss Joan Brady acted nicely as Ettarde; and Miss Nora Prosser submitted a pleasing study of the peasant girl, Linet. Mr. J. Welland coupled the parts of the Jester and the Holy Man in a satisfactory manner; and Messrs. E. Weaver and H. Humphris did well as Reuten and Itho. Appropriate music was composed by Mr. Ernest A. Dicks, F.R.C.O., who conducted the orchestra. "A song of the woods," in the first act, was capably rendered by Mr. Lyn Rainger, and Mr. J. Welland, the Jester, footed it to a lively dance measure in the second act.

OPENING OF EAST OXFORD THEATRE.

Under the management of Mr. Frank Stuart, this house, originally known as the Empire, was reopened on Monday night under the immediate patronage of the Mayor (Coun. E. J. Brooks). The theatre was crowded in every part, and great enthusiasm was evinced by a very appreciative audience. One of the chief and most important of the alterations carried out has been the entire reconstruction and enlargement of the stage, which is now 40ft. wide by 28ft. deep and 40ft. high. The proscenium opening, which formerly was 21ft. wide by 18ft. high, is now 26ft. wide by 20ft. high, and by means of the fireproof curtain the stage, in case of necessity, can be entirely isolated from the auditorium. The building is fitted throughout with electric light.

The opening attraction was Mr. Charles Macdona's company in Mr. Paul Rubens' musical play, *Three Little Maids*. Mr. Frank Henderson made a capital Lord Cheyne, and kept the house in roars of laughter with his excellent by-play, and he was ably supported by Mr. Eric Barrington as M. de L'Orme and by Mr. Frank Wilson as Bryan Molyneaux. Mr. Bert Barton was good as Cupid, and danced in grand style; Mr. Burgess Barratt was a typical parson as the Rev. Mr. Branscombe; the Three Little Maids found dainty representatives in Miss Mabel Kerridge as Ada Branscombe, Miss Daisy Sylverton as Hilda, and Miss Eva Weigh as Edna Branscombe; all three danced and sang artistically. Miss Kate Graham-Beck bore herself with befitting dignity as Lady St. Mallory; while Miss Laura Wright fairly revelled in the humorous part of Gretchen. Lady Rosemary Beaulieu, Venetia Grafton, and Lady Marjory Crichton received careful treatment at the hands of Misses Hilda Stericker, Bertha Trench, and Nellie Clapton respectively. At the close of the performance Mr. Frank Stuart made a speech, in which he thanked in fitting terms his patrons for their hearty support on this auspicious occasion. The future bookings are attractive, and should help to make the house a success, both artistically and financially. Mr. Macdona's scenery showed the new stage to the greatest advantage, the tea-shop in Act 2 calling forth the loud applause of the house.

METZLER AND CO. are the publishers of the whimsical ditty, "Cupid's Motor Car," written by Percy Greenbank, and composed by Carlotta Rowe, who has put in the easy key of C a melody that will cause the most inexperienced vocalist no trouble. In fact, "Cupid's Motor Car" will charm the amateur, when more ambitious music might disgust them, for which reason the discussion between Cupid and Old Father Time as to the method of employing the motor car so as to lead up to wedding bells may be warmly commended.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham is on his way home after a brief sojourn in Egypt, thoroughly invigorated, it is hoped, and ready for his season at the Criterion, which begins on April 8. Rehearsals of *The Liars*, in which the eminent actor reappears with Miss Mary Moore, are to begin immediately. The cast will be, in many respects, identical with the original one, but the part formerly played by Mr. Alfred Bishop will be taken by Mr. Henry Kemble. The Criterion is now undergoing complete renovation, and will present a spic-and-span appearance on its reopening.

Mr. Lionel Brough is being tenderly nursed by his daughter Mary, his son Sidney, and Mr. Brough's sister, Miss Lily Brough In the garden of his house in South Lambeth-road is a rose-bush standing in a tub, and to one of the branches of the plant is tied, daily, a fresh bulletin of the patient's condition. Our latest information on going to press was that Mr. Brough was much weaker, and that his condition was causing great anxiety.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree was able to announce a splendid result of the matinée of *The Red Lamp*, given at His Majesty's in aid of St. Mary's Hospital for Women and Children, Plaistow, on Thursday, the proceeds of the performance reaching £875. In the course of a speech Mr. Tree announced that *The Red Lamp* would be promoted to the evening bill on Saturday, the 16th inst, when the programme would include a new dramatic episode, in one act, entitled *The Vandyck*, for which Mr. Weedon Grossmith had been specially engaged. The run of *Antony and Cleopatra* will end on Friday, the 15th inst., when the entire production will be transferred to Berlin.

The Academy of Dramatic Art, the idea of which originated in the mind of Mr. Tree and which was founded by him three years ago, is progressing in a highly satisfactory manner. The first meeting, and also the opening classes, took place at His Majesty's Theatre. It was soon decided, however, that the school must have a home of its own, and the house in Gower-street, where Mr. St. John Hankin, the dramatist, used to live, was secured for the purpose. About a year ago Mr. Tree handed over the school to a board of administrators, and the institution was reconstituted and the management vested in a Council, which included such prominent members of the theatrical profession as Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr. John Hare, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. Forbes Robertson, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. Arthur Pinero, and Mr. J. M. Barrie.

Although Mr. Tree personally, by reason of his various responsibilities, is prevented from taking a share in the conduct of the Academy, he keeps himself *au fait* with what goes on at 62, Gower-street, and has been responsible for introducing several of the pupils to the stage. At the present moment, however, Mr. Tree is well enough content with having been the originator of a successful undertaking which has done, and is doing, good service to British drama. Pupils are at this moment waiting to be admitted to the Academy, and it has been found necessary to start evening classes in order to supplement the tuition given in the daytime. It will, however, be necessary to enlarge the accommodation of the Academy so as to permit of a greater number of pupils taking advantage of its benefits.

The memory of the late Wilson Barrett is to be perpetuated in the new church at Elvanfoot, in the Leadhills district, fifty miles from Glasgow, where a stained-glass window is being erected, bearing the inscription, "In memory of Wilson Barrett, Actor and Dramatist, 1847-1904." A full-length figure of Christ is depicted in an attitude of entreaty. Above is a group of cherub heads surrounding the prominent emblem of the Cross, and the sacred monogram, with the last words from *The Sign of the Cross*—"O come to the Light beyond."

The origin of the memorial is interesting, and characteristic of the wide sympathies which the late actor always displayed. Mr. Barrett was a frequent visitor in the neighbourhood, and on the last occasion, shortly before his death, he handed to a well-known lady in the district a sum of money as a contribution to the new church. On hearing of Mr. Barrett's death, the lady devoted the money, so generously given, for the erection of this memorial window, which is from the designs of Mr. Stephen Adam, F.S.A.

Mr. George Alexander has been greatly impressed during his electoral campaign by the interest in political economy displayed by his lady constituents, and as a consequence has become a convert to Woman's Suffrage. The decision of the popular actor-manager is no doubt further influenced by the fact that among his most ardent canvassers are a number of favourite actresses, headed by Mrs. Alexander, and including Miss Nina Boucicault, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Miss Phyllis Broughton, Miss Alexandra Carlisle, Miss Grace Lane, and Miss Nancy Price, who scour the highways and byways of South St. Pancras in search of votes for their candidate.

The Copyright Play Protection Association, which has recently been established at 11, Newport-house, Great Newport-street, is welcome. Its objects are to prevent, first by warning managers, afterwards by taking legal process, all unpaid-for, unauthorised, and piratical representations of members' dramatic properties in Great Britain and Ireland; to stop, as far as possible, the wholesale trading in copyright MSS, which leads to piratical performances; and to guard the interests of authors and proprietors of copyrights generally.

The original members include Messrs. Geo. R. Sims, Ben Landeck, F. Sutton Vane, Eric Hudson, Walter Melville, Fredk. Melville, Geo. Gray, Arthur Shirley, Walter Howard, E. Hill-Mitchelson, Henry Bedford, W. W. Kelly, Graham Falcon, Walter Henry Tilson, and W. J. Patmore. The secretary, Mr. S. Clare, invites information with regard to infringements of authors' rights, and adds that some scores of day-bills sent from all parts of the kingdom, announcing representations of various comedies and dramas unauthorised by the authors or proprietors, are in the committee's possession.

The Managers' Club was packed with a brilliant assemblage on Sunday, when the first ladies' concert was given. The entertainment, which was under the direction of Mr. Charles St. John Denton, was unanimously voted the best concert yet given under the auspices of the club, whose new premises are cosily situated in Savoy-mansions. Miss Ethel Walker, the gifted young comedienne, opened the proceedings with a pianoforte solo, and later on sang humorously "Are we downhearted?" and "If you only knew." Mr. J. M. Hay gave a couple of his choicest selections: Mr. Alfred Lester introduced "The Scene Shifter's Version of *Hamlet*"; Mr. Charles Collette commanded hearty laughter with a patter sketch; and the programme was also contributed to by Mr. Frank Grahame, Mr. Leonard Russell, Miss Dorothy Southgate, Miss Ethel Denny, Miss Eily Heléne, Miss Ethel Beech, Mr. George Rowlands, Miss Violet Loraine, Mr. Fred Pomé, Miss Maud Denny, Miss Ivy Moore, and Mr. Norman Latham

Miss Lena Ashwell, having finished her American tour under the management of the Shubert Brothers, arrived in England on Wednesday by the White Star liner Majestic.

Mr. W. Clarkson has testimonials from innumerable celebrities as to the efficacy of the art he so skilfully practises. The latest is made in connection with the unfortunate Harry Thaw, now undergoing his trial for murder. "At one of those night clubs where one might amuse oneself harmlessly if one wanted," said a writer in *Vanity Fair* recently, "Thaw had been forced into a quarrel by certain men who knew more about his future financial prospects than we did, and as a result he was very badly mauled. On the following morning he called to see me in the not very smart cab which he used by the day—and night—with two of the most dreadful black eyes imaginable. Mr. Clarkson may remember how Thaw, who was giving a large party that night, was facially painted so successfully that none of his guests were aware that he had been operated upon."

Mr. E. S. Willard is making his farewell tour of the Western States, America, where he is held in the most affectionate regard, and is drawing abnormally crowded houses at the various towns visited. At Milwaukee his reception was particularly distinguished by warm enthusiasm, and the feeling of the audience was one of keen regret at the loss of so distinguished an ornament of the stage. Mr. Willard sails for England on April 9.

Miss Ellen Terry celebrated her birthday on Wednesday, and was the recipient of congratulations from admirers both in England and America. The famous actress showed the versatility of her art at the Empire Theatre, New York, on the 11th ult., when she appeared in a double bill, composed of *The Good Hope* and *Nance Oldfield*. It was the first performance in New York of the former play, and Miss Terry's exquisite embodiment of the fisherman's widow was followed with intense interest, the appreciation of the audience being manifested in a most emphatic manner at the close of each act.

"Amasis," the charming comic opera by Fredk. Fenn and Philip Michael Faraday, finished up its run in London last week at the Princess's Theatre, Kennington, and during the present week has been played at Hull. The full London company is being retained with the exception of Miss Ruth Vincent, for whom, however, a capable substitute has been found in Miss Constance Drever.

Last week Mr. Rutland Barrington was unable to appear through indisposition, but has now completely recovered. Mr. Barrington is a comedian for whom it is extremely difficult to provide a competent understudy, and the management were somewhat at a loss, until on Tuesday night, at very short notice, Mr. Faraday, the gifted composer of the opera, stepped into the breach, and played the part for the remainder of the week. The secret was well guarded, and therefore th applaus given to Mr. Faraday was fairly and squarely earned.

An interesting golf handicap took place at Bristol on the 22nd inst., when the artists and staff of the Prince's *Humpty Dumpty* pantomime competed for a silver cup presented by Mr. Horace Mills. In the first round Mr. David Fisher beat Mr. Carlton (received 36 strokes), Mr. Cyril Thompson beat Mr. George Chapman (received 10 strokes), Mr. F. Conquest (received 10 strokes) beat Mr. J. M. Chute, Mr. Horace Mills beat Mr. F. S. Green (received 25 strokes), and Mr. F. Griffiths, sen., beat Mr. F. Griffiths, jun. In the second round Mr. F. Conquest beat Mr. F. Griffiths, sen. (received 18 strokes), Mr. Horace Mills beat Mr. Cyril Thompson (received 15 strokes), and Mr. David Fisher was a bye. The semi-final resulted in Mr. David Fisher beating Mr. Fred Conquest (received 10 strokes), Mr. Horace Mills being a bye. In the final, Mr. David Fisher (15) defeated Mr. Horace Mills, and thus won the cup.

Mr. George Alexander had a busy day last Thursday. He rose at eight, and while dressing and while at breakfast answered enquiries concerning his election. At ten he went to his study, and worked with his secretary for half an hour. Thn he motored to the St. James's and rehearsed *John Glayde's Honour*, amidst constant interruptions concerning municipal business. He left at 2.45 in his motor-car for his committee-rooms at St. Pancras, and was engaged for an hour with canvassers, after which he went canvassing himself. In the evening he spoke to a crowded meeting at Toplady Hall, under Whitfield's Tabernacle.

Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's production of the late Wilson Barrett's last play, *Lucky Durham*, is in its third year, and is booked far into 1909. The entire production built by the author for his London season, is travelled complete, and the company selected is a powerful one. *Leah Kleschna*, toured by the same progressive firm, is also in its third year, and booked well ahead. the whole of the New Theatre production being carried. Among Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's enterprises is also the Heath—Wilson Barrett (Bullock) version of *East Lynne*, which is proverbially a safe card for a manager to play.

Henry Seton Merriman's wonderful novel, "With Edged Tools," has been dramatised by Mr. H. Armitage, the late Wilson Barrett's Manager, who, with his partner, Mr. Arthur Leigh, is engaged in touring *Leah Kleschna* and *Lucky Durham*. The story has been closely adhered to, and the vital interest of the story of the society woman who plays fast and loose with the affections of two good men, and is in turn cast off by both of them, is fully sustained. A star cast is being got together, and the production will run well into four figures, everything, including furniture and all accessories, being carried.

A new domestic drama, in four acts, entitled *The Robe of Righteousness*, by Norman Towers, will be produced on Wednesday, March 13, at the Theatre Royal, Ilkeston. The cast will include Mr. Frank Dallas, Mr. Chas. Halling, and Miss Daisy Halling.

"The House that Jack Built" concluded its most successful career at the Grand, Glasgow, on Saturday, and the utmost enthusiasm prevailed. Presentations were the order of the evening, and all the principals were the recipients of handsome gifts. Miss Luna Love, the popular Jack of the pantomime, by the way, won the prize offered by a local paper for the most popular pantomime artist. It consisted of a pearl and diamond brooch, with green enamel lover's knot above, and was suitably inscribed.

The great success of *The Shulamite* has been so pronounced that Mr. H. Theodore has decided to send out a second company in the autumn. *The Shulamite*, it may be recalled, is not a melodrama, but a powerful play dealing with stirring times among the Boers. Mr. Theodore, by the way, is the managing-director of the Victoria Theatre, Broughton, Manchester, a property that has mightily improved under his regimé, and is fast becoming one of the best, as it is among the newest and most beautiful, theatres in the provinces.

The last week has been reached of Mr. Robert Courtneidge's successful production, at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, of *Aladdin*, perhaps the most popular pantomime of the Arthurian reign at the Royal. Tuesday evening was set apart for the benefit of Miss Florence Smithson, and a crowded house showed appreciation of this talented artist's efforts. Mr. Dan Rolyat, one of the favourites in the previous year's pantomime, Mr. Dan Crawley, Mr. Imro Fox, Mr. Tom Leamore, and Reynolds' Minstrels assisted in making the evening's entertainment a memorable one.

Mr. George Edwardes is perfecting his plans for the provision of a successor to *The New Aladdin* at the Gaiety, and has secured from Mr. George Grossmith, jun., and Mr. E. L. Bernam a piece dealing with the famous Koepenick incident over which the world was recently moved to mirth. Mr. Adrian Ross and Captain Basil Hood are to be responsible for the lyrics, and Mr. Ivan Caryll and Mr. Lionel Monckton for the music. Mr. Edmund Payne will be seen as the amazing pretender, a part which should yield unlimited drollery, and a number of interesting pictures of German student and military life will be contained in the piece. An interesting announcement in connection with the production is the engagement of Miss May De Sousa for one of the principal rôles.

Another representative of the drama seeking election to the County Council is Mr. Walter Reynolds, who has long been associated with theatres at Leeds and Blackburn, and has gained no little renown as an actor. He has also made a name as a playwright, and nearly twenty years ago brought out his drama, *Church and Stage*, at the Avenue. and only five years ago produced his own play. *The Sin of a Life*, at the Princess's. Mr. Reynolds some time since married the popular actress, Mrs. Lancaster Wallis, among whose many artistic achievements may be numbered that of having played Cleopatra to the Antony of the late Mr. James Anderson, when Chatterton revived the tragedy at Drury Lane in 1874. Mr. Reynolds is standing in the Moderate interest for Hampstead.

Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison, who are enjoying such enviable prosperity with *Peter's Mother*, have now added another London success to their list, Mr. Otho Stuart having decided that *The Stronger Sex*, now running to crowded houses at the Apollo, shall be seen in the provinces under the Hutchison management. Mr. Percy Hutchison is already booking the tours of Mr. John Valentine's fine play, which makes the thirty-first first-class attraction secured by this management during the last twenty years. *The Stronger Sex* is one of the hits of the West End season, and its many fine dramatic situations may be relied upon to appeal powerfully to country playgoers.

A flying matinée of *You Never Can Tell* will be given by Messrs. Vedrenne and Barker at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, on Thursday. The entire company from the Court Theatre will travel to Brighton for the matinée, which will in no way interfere with the usual performance at the Court in the evening.

The Brixton Theatre is to be reopened on Monday with the pantomime *Aladdin*. Mr. Dan Thomas, who has acquired no little renown for dame parts in pantomime, will be the Widow Twankey, and the title-rôle will be played by Miss Daisy Yates. The pantomime will be followed by a succession of the best attractions touring. The theatre, which was temporarily transformed into a music hall at the latter end of the year, but failed to obtain the permit to give two performances a night, was redecorated for the occasion, and now presents a bright interior. Mr. R. W. Allum will resume his former position of manager.

The Middlesbrough Grand Opera House was sold by auction on the premises on Tuesday afternoon by Mr. T. Douglas, of the firm of Messrs. Wellman and Douglas. The theatre—an admirably-appointed one—was erected in 1903, and occupies one of the best positions in the town. Bidding was started at £15,000, and when it had reached £18,500 it was declared an open sale. Messrs. Richard Murray, of the North-Eastern Breweries, and other bidders carried the offer to £22,500, when Mr. Albert Smith bid £23,000, at which figure the property was knocked down, amidst applause. Mr. Smith has been chairman of the directors of the Opera House since it was built.

A pleasing incident took place at the Royalty Theatre, Barrow-in-Furness, on Saturday night. when Miss Annie Stone ,daughter of the very popular resident-manager, was the recipient of a beautiful solid gold bracelet in commemoration of her twenty-first birthday. Miss Stone is a clever and capable young actress, and has several times assisted the companies at the theatre by stepping into the breach due to the indisposition of an artist.

Mr. Alfred Martin, who recently concluded his seventh pantomime engagement as advertising-manager for Mr. Milton Bode at the New Theatre. Cardiff, and Opera House, Leicester, has just been re-engaged by Mr. Bode for one of his companies as advance-manager in the autumn and as advertising-manager for one of his pantomimes next Christmas.

"Richard III." will be the next dramatic reading of the British Empire Shakespeare Society. and will be given at Queen's Gate Hall on Thursday afternoon. Mr. Athol Stewart will be the Richmond; Miss Gertrude Scott, Margaret; Miss Eily Malyon, Elizabeth; Miss Beatrice Irwin, Anne; and Mr. Acton Bond, Richard III. The other principal parts will be taken by Messrs. C. Leveson Lane, Arthur Burne, Philip Knox, Carlton Brough, and Theodore A. Hill; and Misses Evelyn Hope, Ruby Feetum, and M. Davies Webster.

Mr. Godfrey Tearle, supported by a strong company, including Miss Molly Malone, will on Monday, March 11, at the Prince's Theatre, Poplar, produce for the first time in London, *A Soldier of Fortune*, by Gordon Holmes. It is a romantic costume play, and will be elaborately staged, the scenery, dresses, wigs, &c., having been specially designed and executed for this production. The tour will be under the direction of Haldane Crichton, and the advance manager will be Mr. Alfred Martin.

Mr. Bannister Howard this week completes the first year of his enterprise at the Crystal Palace Theatre, which was reopened on Feb. 26 last by Sir Charles Wyndham. Mr. Howard has quite fulfilled the undertaking he then made to supply the theatre-lovers of the district with the best available talent, and as a consequence the house has entered upon a career of the utmost prosperity. Next Monday witnesses the production of *Anna of the Plains*, a new piece, adapted by H. A. Saintsbury from the novel by Alice and Claude Askew. The play is of strong domestic interest, and is centred around a Boer family on the veldt in South Africa. *Anna of the Plains* will be followed by a new one-act costume play of the period of 1820, entitled *Jocelyn the Jester*, written by Ronald Macdonald specially for Mr. Saintsbury, who will appear in both pieces.

Miss Dorothy Clifton at a moment's notice filled the place of Miss Alice Williams, who was unable through indisposition to appear in the title-rôle of the pantomime at the Prince's Theatre, Bradford, on Tuesday. Miss Clifton, who is a niece of Mr. Chas. B. Bedells, and has already achieved success in *The Christian* and *Veronique* No. 1 companies, made a charming Cinderella.

Mr. Alfred Donohoe, who is making such a success as Jim Cheese in William Greet's *Earl and the Girl* company, will shortly appear at the music halls. Mr. Donohoe has a quaint personality that should appeal at once to the humorous perception of a variety audience.

Mr. J. H. Russell, the musical director at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, has taken over the licence of that well-known riverside hostelry, the Anglers' Hotel, at Teddington.

Mr. Martin Harvey has won a great triumph as Hamlet at the new and handsome Her Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, this week. Both performances have been attended by the local "intellectuals" in force, and Scottish reserve has given place to warm enthusiasm, in which Miss de Silva has shared appreciably. Mr. Harvey opens at the King's Theatre, Glasgow, on March 11, when he will play *The Spell* in conjunction with *The Corsican Brothers*. In the revival of Miss Violet Longbridge's piece on March 11, Mr. Harvey, Miss Mary Rorke, and Miss de Silva will appear in their original parts. The specially-written music by Mr. Norman O'Neill, which shows this rapidly-rising composer at his best, will be employed as heretofore.

Messrs. Bode and Compton, the proprietors of the Leicester Royal Opera House, have now completed an excellent system of heating the theatre, stage included, which has added much to the comfort of the patrons of the house. The offices of Mr. Henry Dundas, the general and business manager, will in future be found at the front of the theatre, having been transferred from the back of the stage.

Mr. Henry Moxon, an able actor, who has been before the public for upwards of forty years, has we regret to learn, been stricken with paralysis, and will never be able to act again. He is in urgent need of assistance, and Mr. E. Hoggan-Armadale, of whose company Mr. Moxon was for five years a member, is organising a fund to aid him in his dire necessity. Mr. Moxon, whose age is between sixty and seventy years, is now residing with friends in Barrow-in-Furness. Subscriptions will be welcomed by Mr. Hoggan-Armadale at Castle View, Ruthin, N. Wales, and will be acknowledged in our columns.

Mr. Thomas Sidney, the stage-manager at the Royalty, is deserving of every credit for the brevity of the "waits" during the French performances this season. On Monday night, with the King present, and the heavy "strikes," the entr'actes were eleven minutes and nine minutes—an achievement the more notable when the smallness of the stage is considered.

Mr. Norman V. Norman gave a special performance of *Robin Hood* on Thursday at Barrow-in-Furness which was under the immediate patronage of the Mayor, the Societies of Foresters and Oddfellows, and the principal residents of the town.

Mr. J. E. Beaumont, General-Manager of the Lyceum and Theatre Royal, Sheffield, who was recently elected president of the dramatic branch of the Sheffield Dickens' Fellowship, produced for that society on the 22nd ult. a version of Dickens' novel, "The Cricket on the Hearth," at the Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield. The scenery and effects were kindly lent by the Directors of the Sheffield Lyceum and Royal Theatres.

Miss Jennie Armstrong, who has made a distinct success this year at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, the "Suffragette" song being a special feature of the pantomime, has been re-engaged by Mr. John Hart for principal boy, 1907-8.—Mr. Mayor-Cooke has been engaged by Messrs. Howard and Hallatt for the autumn as Prince Ulric, the heavy lead in *Her Love Against the World*.

Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson on Monday assumed the active management of the Metropole Theatre, Glasgow, of which his father is the managing-director. Tall and of fine presence, young Mr. Jefferson seems to be the right man for his place, and the appointment is sure to prove a popular one.

Owing to the indisposition of Miss Connie Leon, the part of Sidone in Baron H. Harriss's No. 1 *Prince of Pilsen* company on tour was pluckily undertaken at short notice by Miss Peggy Franklin. Miss Franklin was most successful, and played the part three nights.

Since taking over the management of H. M. Theatre, Carlisle, Mr. Thos. Courtice, joint-lessee with Mr. R. Stewart M'Kim, has worked with such energy and enterprise that this pretty theatre has now become wonderfully popular. The first visit of the Moody-Manners Opera Company last week proved an extraordinary and unqualified success, the previous best week's business being exceeded by no less than £200. This is a just tribute to Mr. Courtice's business capacity and local popularity, and a proof that the extensive improvements he has carried out are fully appreciated.

A pleasing little ceremony took place on the stage of the Edinburgh Theatre Royal on the occasion of Mr. Mark Sheridan's benefit on Friday evening of last week, when Mr. Geo. T. Minshull, the general-manager of Messrs. Howard and Wyndham's Theatres, presented the beneficiare with a valuable diamond and pearl breast-pin as a mark of the company's appreciation and in recognition of the fact that this season was the twelfth consecutive engagement which he had filled under the present management. Mrs. Sheridan was also presented with a handsome diamond ring. Mr. Sheridan suitably acknowledged the gifts. Saturday evening saw the close, amidst a scene of great enthusiasm, of the pantomime *The Babes in the Wood*. The principal members of the cast were called upon to make speeches, and at the end of the final act actors and audience joined heartily in the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, the world's monarchs of magic, have been making their usual success in Portugal, and have just terminated two months' season at the Colysee Royal, Lisbon. This building is a combined theatre and circus, with a stage 240ft. deep. The auditorium has 99 private boxes and holds over 7,000 persons. During the recent carnivals it was packed at every performance. Oporto is now claiming Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco for a few weeks. In the autumn, Servais Le Roy will produce his mystical musical play for a run of the best British provincial theatres, the bookings for which are being arranged by Mr. Scott Phipp.

Miss Violet Barton-Astor, who has been playing with great success the rôle of Millicent in Messrs. Lionel Glenister and Wood-Ingram's *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy* company, has been released from her engagement, having to rest for six months under doctor's orders. She is re-engaged by Messrs. Glenister and Ingram for the autumn.

"The Lily of France" is to be the title of Mr. Louis N. Parker's new play, relating to Joan of Arc, which Mr. Beerbohm Tree will produce at His Majesty's on his return from Berlin. The character of the heroine will be sustained by Miss Viola Tree.

Mr. Charles Hannan's new play, *The Coachman with Yellow Lace*, which is adapted from his novel, will be produced at the Hammersmith Lyric Theatre on March 25. Mr. Hannan's fantastic comedy, *The Electric Man*, which proved so successful at the Royalty, is being adapted into German by Mrs. Bertha Pogson.

Miss Gwynne Herbert has received her third re-engagement from Mr. Frederick Harrison, and will take up the part of Mrs. Hawell in *Peter's Mother*, which is to be transferred to the Haymarket this afternoon. Miss Herbert has recently been playing Mrs. Charles Calvert's part in *Lady Huntworth's Experiment*—a new line of business in which she met with gratifying results.

The annual meeting of the Drury Lane Lodge of Freemasons, No. 2,127, was held at the Hotel Cecil on Saturday, when the Lord Mayor and many Grand officers were present. The theatrical profession was represented by Mr. James Fernandez, Mr. Henry Neville, Mr. Harry Nicholls, and many others. The W.M., Mr. C. T. Coggin, installed Mr. S. H. Tatham Armitage, M.D., P.G.D., as his successor in the chair. The new Master appointed Mr. James Powell and Lord Athlumney as his wardens, Mr. Thomas Catling treasurer, and Mr. J. Percy Fitzgerald secretary.

Mr. Tree is to respond to the toast of "The Players," which will be proposed by Mr. A. B. Walkley at the Stage Society's annual dinner, to be held on Sunday week at the Criterion Restaurant. The chair is to be taken by the Right Hon. Sir John Gorst, and other speakers will be Mr. J. T. Grein, Mr. W. J. Locke, Mrs. Pember Reeves (wife of the High Commissioner of New Zealand), and Mr. Frederick Whelen, the chairman of the Society, who will respond on its behalf.

The Actors' Orphanage Fund has received £150 from the Lyceum Provident and Benevolent Fund, which has just been wound up. The funds of this excellent institution have also been added to by the sums of £11 16s., collected by Miss Pauline Chase for her autograph, and £10 1s. from Mr. and Mrs. Fred Terry (Miss Julia Neilson), gained from the same remunerative source.

Miss Sophie Harriss, whose pet Yorkshire toy terrier Dodger made quite a reputation for himself by reason of the numerous prizes he won, to say nothing of his extraordinary escapades, one of which brought him to an untimely end some two years ago at the Hotel Cecil, has been replaced by a pedigree canine of the same costly breed, named Hero, who promises to outvie his gifted predecessor, although he has only reached the tender age of ten months. This latest addition to Miss Harriss' entourage shares his fair mistress's craze for motoring, and has already developed a marked partiality for witnessing *The Prince of Pilsen*.

Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, whose appointment as professor of the Paris Conservatoire has given such widespread satisfaction, has had at least one predecessor in the past. We refer to Augustine Brohan, who was not only an accomplished comedienne, but was also a cultivated lady of great social distinction. She came in contact with all the most illustrious in the art, literature, and politics of Paris, and, like Mme. Bernhardt, added greatly to the prestige of the French stage.

A marriage is arranged and will take place at Emmanuel Church, West Hampstead, on April 27 next, between Mr. Trevor Langton Lane (Messrs. A. and S. Gatti and Mr. Charles Frohman's companies) and Miss Amy Gertrude Nathan-Burgess. daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Edward Nathan Burgess, 6, St. Margaret's-place, Brighton.

The Celli Fund has been enriched this week by one guinea from Mr. Martin Harvey, one pound from Mr. H. G. Pelissier, ten shillings from Mr. Ernest H. Maude, and one guinea from Mr. Frank Maitland.

Mr. H. B. Irving's late Waldorf success, *Lights Out*, has made its début before Glasgow and Edinburgh audiences during the past two weeks. meeting with widespread criticism and hearty enthusiasm. Mr. Maundy-Gregory has been complimented both by the Press and play-going public on the care which he has shown in the production.

The first performance of Mr. Coryton Day's new play, *The Unknown Philanthropist*, will take place on Thursday at the Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill, under the direction of Mr. Robert Castleton. The principal parts will be played by Miss Mabel Durrant, Miss Helen Tytler, Miss Grace Batley, Messrs. E. W. Thomas, Madgewick, Howe, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Castleton.

Mr. E. H. Sothern and Miss Julia Marlowe begin their London season on or about April 22 at the Waldorf Theatre. The programme for the first week will include Gerhart Hauptmann's fairy play, *The Sunken Bell*, Mr. Percy Mackaye's drama, *Jeanne d'Arc*, and *Twelfth Night*. The second week will be devoted to *When Knighthood was in Flower*, *The Daughter of Jorio* (by D'Annunzio), and *As You Like It*; and *Romeo and Juliet* will have a place in the programme for the third week. Mr. Sothern and Miss Marlowe, who will appear in all the plays, bring over a large company and the entire scenery for their productions.

A concert, under distinguished patronage, will be given at Queen's Hall on Thursday next at 8. The giver of the entertainment, Mr. A. Sarga, has furnished the programme with dramatic poems for recital, as well as songs and other attractive selections.

Mr. Edward Compton's second son, Francis Sydney, has just been gazetted to the Inniskillen Fusiliers, and will probably go to India with the second battalion.

Police investigation at the King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy, which was entered by burglars last week, has proved that the theatre door was not unlocked, and that the building had been made secure in every way on the previous Saturday night. The burglars, it appears, entered by means of an adjoining roof near a staircase window at the back of the theatre. The office was burst open, the lock hanging by a splinter of wood. The safe. had only one lock, with three bolts, yet after the failure of the thieves to blow it open, it took the police fully half an hour to unfasten it in order to ascertain whether or not its contents were intact.

Mr. W. Burdett-Coutts writes from 1, Stratton-street, W.:—"Will you allow me to make it known, in answer to many inquiries and communications on the subject, that I propose to write, or to engage a more competent literary hand to write, a 'Life of the Baroness Burdett-Coutts'? May I ask that those who are disposed to aid my object, and who possess letters of interest from the Baroness, should send them to me (after May 1) or communicate with me on the subject. All documents will be treated with great care and returned intact to their owners after the necessary extracts have been made from them."

Mr. F. Teale Lingham, the manager of the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, was the victim of a brutal assault on Monday at the hands of a man named John Rollins, a stall-holder in the local market-place. Rollins, who was under the influence of drink, had been creating a disturbance in the pit, and was being ejected by the attendant, when Mr. Lingham came along the vestibule and advised the man to leave the building quietly, but the latter continued his disorderly behaviour, and finally struck Mr. Lingham a violent blow over the left eye, causing a wound which had to be stitched by a doctor. The man was taken into custody and charged at the Newcastle Police Court on the following day, when the Bench imposed a fine of 10s. and costs or fourteen days for drunkenness, and on the charge of assault sentenced him to a month's hard labour.

In response to numerous requests, Mr. George Edwardes has arranged to give a special extra matinée of *The Lady Dandies* (The Merveilleuses) at Daly's on Wednesday, March 13, when the 135th performance of this successful play will be reached. The special representation will in no way interfere with the usual Saturday matinée.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The "Lay On" Boys.

AN old actor writes, with reference to our article on Stock Companies, to describe an organisation with the above title at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, in the "'seventies." The "Lay-on" Boys were a gallery claque; and the name originated in the cry, "Lay on!" which was the signal for the applause of the gang. It was their custom to wait outside the stage-door, and, at the departure of the actors and actresses, to blackmail them politely. Most of the performers found it best to comply with these demands, as refusal resulted in a hurricane of hoots and hisses on the next appearance of the refuser. Our correspondent remembers the coaxing request of one of the "Lay-on" Boys for half-a-crown for the gang. "It's better than having your eyes gouged out, isn't it, sir?" remarked the young ruffian; and the "Lay-on" Boys did not hesitate, in cases of stubborn opposition, to apply the severest punishment. The "Lay-on" blackmail became a troublesome tax, and the police were helpless against the offenders. The system gradually died out with the advent of travelling companies.

The Entente Cordiale.

JUST at the time when Mr. Tree will be going over to Germany, Director Gregor will be bringing the entire company of the Komische Oper across to London. Director Gregor has taken the Adelphi for a season of eight weeks; orchestra, chorus, and scenery go direct from the Komische Oper to London, and the expenses of the undertaking will be considerable. Offenbach's delightful work, *Hoffmann's Erzahlüngen* is to be the *pièce de résistance*, and there is little doubt that it will meet with the same appreciation as it has done here, where it has passed its 300th performance. *Lakmé*, too, may possibly be put in the bill during the season. Director Gregor will break the ice in London in the matter of a no-star system. His company is an admirable all-round one, and he himself is an advocate of the modern "ensemble" theory, which puts the effect of the performance as a whole before the effect produced by individual singers. *Hoffmann's Narration* has never yet been given in England, and can scarcely fail of its mark. It is genuine light opera, full of charming melodies that would become favourites with any nation.

Othello's Nobility.

THE keynote of Othello's character, says Mr. Oscar Asche in a *Daily News* interview, is his nobility. He is a blunt, good-natured soldier, and so simple that he is easily imposed upon in things unfamiliar to him or too subtle for him to understand. His very passions—love, hate, jealousy—are mere expressions of this elemental temperament of his. When Othello gets wild he becomes a true savage. His rage is unbounded. He "sees red." But not once does he betray any method in his fury. It is sudden, overpowering, as is generally the case with all honest, simple people.

Married Already.

A MUNICH paper has published an amusing story of how a gentleman from Nebraska was so immensely impressed by the performance of Miss Olive Fremstad, in the part of Salomé, in Richard Strauss's opera, that he wrote proposing marriage to her in these terms:—"Dear Miss Fremstad,—You are unique in the world. I would bet my last dollar against a match that there is nothing for you, in the whole universe, but the sacred interest of art. I, too, am alone in the world. I am six foot high, have a fine position, blue eyes like yours, all my hair, and much landed property. Will you marry me? I will buy a piano. I would rather that my head were in your hands—even if it were on a dish, like John's—than that it remained on my shoulders, and me to be the husband of any girl you like in Nebraska. Here is a stamp for the reply." The lady answered:—"I have received your letter, but I do not see how I can agree to your kind suggestion. My work at the theatre leaves me no time to concern myself with the many formalities and ceremonies involved in getting married. Besides, there is another obstacle. Mr. P. S. Edson would never allow it." There the letter ended, but it was followed by a postscript, which said:—"Mr. P. S. Edson is my husband."

Royal Playgoers.

KING EDWARD and the Royal Family, says the *Express*, have been patronising the theatres to an unusual extent since the beginning of the year. His Majesty, who has always been particularly interested in the French theatre, has seen the French plays at the New Royalty on four occasions since Jan. 1. On an average King Edward goes to the West-end theatres about fifteen times in the course of a theatrical season. The Prince and Princess of Wales have also had an exceptional spell of theatre-going this year. They have seen many of the more popular productions at the West-end houses, and they have taken Prince Edward with them to see *Sindbad*, *Peter Pan*, and *The Yeomen of the Guard*.

Parker and Pageantry.

"MY plays have to give way to pageants at present," says Mr. Louis N. Parker in *P.T.O.* "I am, however, expecting to be called for rehearsals very shortly in connection with Mr. Tree's production of my *Joan of Arc*, the leading character in which drama is to be portrayed by Miss Viola Tree. I am not sure whether Mr. Tree will appear in it himself, but he has promised to produce it as soon as a new play is required, and has had mine in hand for the last eighteen months. The first announcement flooded America with Joans of Arc, and I am loth to give particulars of other plays I have in hand, for obvious reasons."

Looking Backward.

LET us place ourselves, says Mr. William Ascher in the *Tribune*, in the year 7000 of our era, and, looking backwards, try to discover Shakespeare among the luminaries of the spiritual firmament. Is it conceivable that he should then subtend any appreciable angle of vision? No doubt, if anything at all resembling the English language survives, some portions of his works will survive; for he wrote with incomparable beauty, and beauty is the one thing really worth conserving. But will the world of 7000 A.D. have any relish for his stories, except, perhaps, as we relish the stories of *Jack the Giant Killer* and *Sindbad the Sailor*?

Chopin's "Because."

MR. MARK HAMBOURG has told a *Daily Express* representative that no pianist should start on his trip without at least two hundred pieces in his repertory to draw from. The concerto Mr. Hambourg is most asked for is the Tchaikowsky in B flat minor, and of Beethoven's sonatas, the "Appassionata." These "requests" he receives from ladies all over the world, and they are generally handed to him as he enters the concert hall. One of the most curious "special requests" he ever had made to him was in Melbourne. He was sitting down to perform an encore piece, when a shrill voice suddenly cried, "Please play Chopin's 'Because.'" Musicians need not be told that the "Berceuse" was intended, though some might think it was a companion piece to Schumann's "Why?"

We shall be obliged if our readers will send us any amusing anecdotes they may hear, or accounts of any quaint incidents they may witness while acting or rehearsing.

THE ADELPHI.

On Tuesday, Feb. 26, Revival of the Drama, by Hall Caine, entitled

"THE PRODIGAL SON."

Magnus Stephensson	MR. FRANK COOPER
Oscar Stephensson	MR. WALTER HAMPDEN
Stephen Magnusson	MR. HENRY NEVILLE
Oscar Neilson	MR. AUSTIN MELFORD
Dr. Olsen	MR. OSCAR ADYE
The Pastor	MR. FRED GROVE
The Sheriff	MR. FRANCIS CHAMIER
Neils Finsen	MR. HERBERT HEWETSON
Director of Casino	MR. CECIL ROSE
Eric Arnasson	MR. KENELM FOSS
Jön Vidalin	MR. DERWENT
Agent of the Bank	MR. HOWARD RUSSELL
A Croupier	MR. A. E. MAYNE
Helga Neilson	MISS CECIL CROMWELL
Margaret Neilson	MISS FLORENCE WOOD
Anna Magnusson	MISS DORA PERCIVAL
Madama Pandher	MISS KATHLEEN CARTERET
Gudrun	MISS MARJORIE DAY
Marta	MISS DORA E. CLEMENTS
Thora, Elin	MISS LILY HALL CAINE

The great strength of Mr. Hall Caine is that he is not afraid to be simple. All his stories are elementary in their appeals. And this really is the method of the greater artists. They take a primitive theme, and exalt it by elaborating the treatment. The plot of Balzac's *Grand Homme de Province à Paris* is not more complex than that of *The Prodigal Son*, which was revived with complete success at the Adelphi Theatre on Tuesday evening. Both are tragedies of the artistic temperament. Where Mr. Caine has shown his perception of the necessities of the stage in *The Prodigal Son* is in his Monte Carlo business. With this exception the action moves on dramatic rather than theatrical lines. Soon after the rise of the curtain we realise the position of affairs at the old "Inn Farm" in Iceland. The selection of the locality alone is thoroughly judicious. A sentiment of poesy and romance still clings to these rarely-visited and comparatively unknown countries. We are free to give the reins to our fancy, and to believe that romance still lives in the land of geysers and diminutive ponies. And then the contrast between modernity and primitive life is so curious! Oscar Stephensson, the "born musician," comes back from Oxford and "up-to-date" civilisation into an atmosphere of elementary passions and non-complex emotions. The curious perversity of Thora Neilsen, who prefers the brilliant ne'er-do-well to his brother, Magnus, has often been paralleled in real life; and the result, as in reality, is misery. For the fickle Oscar soon tires of the tame little Thora, and finds "metal more attractive" in her sister, Helga, the vocalist. And so, of course, everything goes amiss. Thora is killed by the shock of learning her husband's infidelity; and Oscar forges his father's name to a heavy cheque.

Then the "theatrical effect" comes in. It is more or less of an accident that Oscar finds himself penniless at Monte Carlo, and is induced by the proprietor of a gambling "hell" to become an accomplice in a scheme to cheat at the tables. It is, however, absolutely necessary for the purposes of the play—which demands a powerful scene at this point—that Oscar should have a revulsion of feeling which makes him hurl his winnings among the gamblers, and rush out, resolved on repentance and reform.

Then we revert to drama proper, and witness Oscar's return to the farm, rich and repentant, to find Magnus ruined by Oscar's forgery, but still cherishing Thora's child. And the prodigal atones for his errors by saving his brother from bankruptcy, and then goes out into the wide world again.

All our readers will remember how successful was the production at Drury Lane Theatre in the September of 1905 of Mr. Hall Caine's popular play. It had, indeed, an admirable cast, including Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Henry Neville, Miss Mary Rorke, Mr. Frank Cooper, Mr. Austin Melford, Miss Nancy Price, and Mrs. John Wood. Fortunately several of these first-rate artists are available for the present revival. Mr. Frank Cooper repeats his fine portrayal of Magnus Stephensson. The deep seriousness, the intense earnestness, and the suggestion of repressed emotion which originally distinguished Mr. Cooper's creation have, if anything, been matured and increased by repetition; and his acting throughout is full of the stern sincerity and the manly pathos which make his Magnus Stephensson one of the greatest of this clever actor's achievements. It is no small factor of his success that he is able without difficulty to realise the broad-shouldered, muscular, and virile individual of Mr. Hall Caine's conception. Mr. Henry Neville's absolutely accomplished art enables him to deal with the rôle of Stephen Magnusson in a manner which leaves nothing to be desired in the way of firmness and finish, and he endows his representation with a geniality and generous warmth which are thoroughly appropriate. Mr. Austin Melford's striking individuality and practised ability lend distinction to the part of Oscar Neilson, which stands out much more strongly than if it were in the hands of a less original artist. Mr. Melford's make-up has perhaps something to do with this agreeable result. Miss Lily Hall Caine suggests very happily the amiability and simplicity of Thora's character, her agreeable ingenuousness, her gentle kindness, and her sensitive nature being shown with great tact and skill. As Elin, Miss Caine is also very sucessful, the sweet, unspoilt character of the girl being very delicately depicted. Miss Cecil Cromwell is well chosen to represent the wayward and fascinating Helga, and realises admirably the reckless, selfish, and unprincipled impulses of the adventuress. In the third act she plays with deep earnestness and passionate power. Miss Florence Wood gives a very humorous and effective interpretation of the quaint and cynical Margaret Neilson, making every droll speech tell by her acute and emphatic delivery; and Mr. Oscar Adye does excellent and well-considered work as Dr. Olsen. Mr. Fred Grove contributes a neat embodiment of the Pastor; and Mr. Herbert Hewetson must be warmly praised for his clever treatment of the character of Neils Finsen. Mr. Cecil Rose supplies an effective portraiture of the Casino Director; Mr. Kenelm Foss must be congratulated on his efforts as Eric Arnasson; Mr. Derwent as Jön Vidalin is thoroughly satisfactory; Mr. Howard Russell's Agent of the Bank of Denmark deserves distinct commendation; and Mr. A. E. Mayne is seen to advantage as a Croupier. Miss Dora Percival as Anna is the most amiable and indulgent of mothers; Miss Kathleen Carteret is excellent in every way as Madama Pandher; and Miss Marjorie Day and Miss Dora E. Clements are efficient as Gudrun and Marta respectively. Triumph over the difficulties of the part of Oscar Stephensson is achieved by Mr. Walter Hampden, whose handsome exterior, vivid and spirited demeanour, and dramatic intensity where the latter quality is necessary, make his reading of the rôle in every respect highly satisfactory.

The revival of *The Prodigal Son* is thoroughly artistic and conscientious. Comelli's costumes, Mr. J. M. Glover's music, and Messrs. R. C. McCleery, H. Emden, and Bruce Smith's scenery, were again admired at the Adelphi on Tuesday. The play had the heartiest of receptions from a highly-delighted audience, and Mr. Hall Caine, on his appearance at the conclusion, was warmly applauded.

DINNER TO MR. J. M. GLOVER.

Mr. J. M. Glover's election to the Mayoralty of Bexhill-on-Sea was fittingly signalised on Sunday evening at the Hotel Cecil, when he was entertained at a banquet attended by a goodly company of his London friends and others. Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., presided, the vice-chair being occupied by Mr. Marshall Hall, K.C. The table list was as follows:—Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P. (chairman), Councillor J. M. Glover (Mayor of Bexhill), Lord George Loftus, Mr. John O'Connor, M.P., Mr. T. E. Rogers (Town Clerk of Bexhill), Mr. Kennedy Jones, Mr. Leopold Wenzel, Mr. Walter Lumley, Mr. J. Strauss, Mr. Brinsley Harper, Mr. Sidney Smith (Drury Lane), Dr. Horace Duncan, Mr. G. W. Byng, Mr. H. Wilson (hon. sec.), Mr. E. Marshall Hall, K.C. (vice-chairman), Mr. Peter Keary, Mr. Herbert Johnston, Mr. I. Seaman, Mr. Herman Finck, Mr. F. Trevoe, Dr. George, Mr. W. H. Keeping, Mr. Hy. Isaacs, Mr. R. Northcott, Mr. J. N. Rogan, Mr. Geo. Scott, Mr. W. M. Brutton, Mr. T. Miller, Mr. Sidney Smith, Mr. E. Mallinson, Mr. Max Isaacs, Mr. E. Pickering, Mr. H. Woodford, Mr. J. Willing, Mr. Ben Nathan, Mr. E. J. Pape, Mr. H. Billinghurst, Mr. H. H. Olley, Mr. J. L. Latey, Mr. D. Nathan, Mr. Lovell Phillips, Dr. Kelson, Mr. W. Woodward, Mr. J. McCauley, Mr. P. Teofani, Mr. E. Cousans, Mr. G. Astoul, Mr. J. Crook, Mr. Chas. Angelo, Mr. Edwd. Jones, Mr. F. Swindell, Mr. J. H. Wood, Mr. Wallace Read, Mr. W. Frampton, Mr. M. Matthew, Mr. F. Wilson (*Bexhill Observer*), Mr. F. H. Douglas, Mr. Hubert Greenwell, Mr. Frank Rowe, Mr. Harman, Mr. A. Campbell, Mr. C. Pennack, Mr. B. O'Donnell, Mr. J G. Durant, Mr. M. Parker, Mr. C. Pavone, Mr. A. Comelli, Mr. H. Blackmore, Mr. C. H. Thomas, Mr. J. Jacobs, Mr. C. H. Taylor, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Holliday, Mr. J. D'Auban, Mr. E. D'Auban, Mr. Luigi Naintree, Mr. A. Schmid, Mr. C. Alias, Mr. Lionel Belmore, Mr. Harry Fragson, Mr. F. Van Duzer, Mr. A. Conquest, Mr. J. Nathan, Mr. A. Davidson, Mr. Arthur Sturgess, Mr. R. Pool, Mr. W. Webster, Mr. W. P. Watkins, Mr. J. F O'Hea, Mr. M. Stockley, Mr. H. T. Antiss, Mr J. W. Meadows, Mr. B. Schweitzer, Mr. C. Fryer, Mr. C. H. Cochran, Mr. Louis Tracey, Mr. Angelo Asher, Mr. Oldbury Brough, Mr. J. R. Hall, Mr. J W. Davis, Mr. Timms, Mr. Leonard Carter, and Mr. O'Brien.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR, proposing the health of "Our Guest," said he need claim very little indulgence at their hands when he stood up to propose what was the toast of the evening. The big gathering of friends before him was the highest testimony to the merits of the Mayor of Bexhill. He was somewhat tempted to give them a short biography of him, and perhaps he was in a better position to do so than most gentlemen in the room. There was a rumour that he came from the same country as the speaker, one of whose earliest recollections before he left the Emerald Isle being of a very brilliant musician named Prof. Glover, who was one of the highest authorities on music in the country, who held a high official position in the Education Department, and was the editor of the classic edition of the melodies of Moore. That Professor Glover was the grandfather of their guest that evening, with whose history he (the speaker) would now deal. The present Mr. Glover emigrated from Ireland as a very young man. He could then be traced to Normandy, and from Normandy he found his way to Paris. Finally, he came to London. He (Mr. O'Connor) recollected that some thirty-seven years ago, on his first journey to London, he found himself the companion of a violinist, who was employed at the old Grecian Theatre. He firmly believed that that violinist was now sitting on his right. He first found mention of him in the year 1885, at the Empire Theatre, where Mr. Glover was the musical director. After that Mr. Glover gradually found his way to Drury Lane, and now Glover and Drury Lane had become synonymous terms. In fact, Mr. Glover's name had become a household word and an institution in the City of London. Now that gentleman had been seized with a morbid desire for political distinction. At that moment, too, the distinguished manager of a theatre was seeking the suffrages of London as a member of the County Council. Many members of the theatrical profession had received titles, and they might yet have Mr. Beerbohm Tree as the Duke of Haymarket and Mr. George Alexander as Viscount St. James. Political ideas had also entered the brain of Mr. Walter Reynolds. Well, all those gentlemen were merely aspirants. Mr. Glover had ceased to inspire—he had become the chief in the Council of Bexhill-on-Sea. He (Mr. O'Connor) confessed that he had never been to Bexhill, but he had always heard that that rising seaside resort was a very charming place, with good hotels and excellent golf. It was a high compliment to Mr. Glover that he had been elected Mayor by the Municipal Council of Bexhill when his connection with that body had not been of very long duration. They were there that night to say that, in their opinion the Council could not have made a better choice. Mr. Glover's career had been one of steady success. A man who for over fourteen years had been able to conduct so complex and difficult an enterprise as a Drury Lane pantomime was no common man and no ordinary musician. He held his office by no tenure excepting the tenure of his own ability. In the musical profession—a profession which held a great place in the speaker's heart, and for which he had endeavoured to do something—Mr. Glover held a very high place. Mr. Glover was a versatile man. He had been a valued contributor to journals with which Mr. O'Connor himself had been, or was still, connected, and there was not one of his literary productions which did not show a kindly and a generous spirit towards the craft and the members of the craft with which he was associated. They would not have gathered there that night in such large numbers merely to honour a Mayor; they were honouring a man they all knew and they all loved. They would all join heartily in drinking long life and prosperity to the Mayor of Bexhill, Mr. Glover.

MR. J. M. GLOVER, rising amid a loud ovation after his health had been most enthusiastically toasted with musical honours, said that his old friend, Mr. O'Connor, had said a great deal about him which he did not think he should be able ever to live up to. The chairman had drawn, from a chronological point of view, a faithful history of his career from the night that he left Ireland, but he would tell Mr. O'Connor that his first public appearance as a public singer was as a boy in the Public Hall at Galway. It was quite right to say that he had been for fourteen years at Drury Lane, where he succeeded his friend, Mr. Johnny Crook, and it was to that gentleman's good-feeling and want of jealousy that he was allowed to conduct the band at Covent Garden, which was the means of his being introduced to Sir Augustus Harris. Proceeding, Mr. Glover said that he had not accepted the Mayoralty of Bexhill from personal vanity. It was his intention to do all he could for Bexhill, and he might mention that he was the first Mayor to be invested with the chain which Lord Brassey presented to the Borough. In conclusion, he wished to thank them heartily and sincerely for the honour which they had done him in entertaining him that evening, and he was emboldened to assert that the confidence and good feelings which had been reposed in him would not be misplaced.

MR. MARSHALL HALL, K.C., in proposing "The Chairman," remarked that he had known "Tay Pay" for a very long time—a fact which afforded him no small pleasure. Mr. O'Connor had occupied the chair exceedingly well, and had spoken his best that night in doing honour to Mr. Glover.

THE CHAIRMAN briefly acknowledged the toast.

MR. B. O'DONNELL, in proposing the health of Mr. Harry Wilson, paid a high compliment to that gentleman for the capital arrangements he had made as hon. secretary in attending to matters in connection with the dinner.

MR. HARRY WILSON, in replying, said that he had received some three hundred letters expressing appreciation of Mr. Glover, in addition to a bunch of telegrams. One from Bexhill said:—"Bexhill's congratulation to London for the honour to our dear old Mayor." Mr. Tree, Mr. Alexander, and other heads of the profession had wired, regretting their inability to be present. Mr. Wilson, after entertaining his hearers to some amusing reminiscences connected with his Bow-street practice, proposed a vote of thanks to the gentlemen and lady who had treated them to song and music. Mr. Wilson concluded by making an appeal on behalf of the *Referee* Children's Dinner Fund.

MR. FRANK ROWE, who represented the *Referee* at the dinner, took a plate round the tables and collected £7 for the fund referred to.

The proceedings were enlivened by stories, songs and recitations by Mr. J. Hickory Wood, Mr. Harry Fragson, Miss Margaret Cooper, Mr. Ben Nathan, Mr. Charles Angelo, and Mr. Denis O'Sullivan.

"THE DAUGHTER OF HERODIAS."

A Play, in One Act, Music by Granville Bantock, Words by Brinsley Trehane, Produced at the Comedy Theatre, on Monday Afternoon, Feb. 25.

Herod	MR. ROBERT HILTON
Astrologer	MR. HARVEY BRABAN
Slave	MR. ARTHUR BLAIR
Salome	MISS MABELLIA DANIELL

A semi-private performance of this picturesque, though slight, one-act play was presented at a matinée at the Comedy Theatre on Monday. Possibly the recent discussion on the subject of *Salome* may have suggested the utilisation of the well-known account in Josephus for the purpose of introducing a "dance turn"; but it is agreeable to find much literary merit in the lines of *The Daughter of Herodias*, as Mr. Brinsley Trehane's piece is termed. From a dramatic point of view, however, it seems incomplete; one expected, after the elaborate fascinations of Salome, to see, if not the execution of John the Baptist, at least the evidence of his slaughter in the shape of his head on a charger. When the action opens, Herod is discovered on his throne, gorgeously attired in purple and fine gold. To him enters his Astrologer, and discourses warningly of the King's fate if he yields to the influence of Salome. Herod stands a good deal of admonition, but eventually turns upon the Astrologer, and declares himself the impenitent adorer of the daughter of Herodias. This infatuation is explained when Salome enters in the attire of a dancer, and does a long and voluptuous *pas seul*, Herod meanwhile gloating on her beauty. At the conclusion she crawls up to the King, and whispers in his ear a request, which, after an obvious moral struggle, he grants, handing her an order, presumably for the execution of John the Baptist. The Astrologer now intervenes, and administers to the callous Salome, who reclines in cynical meditation on the floor, a melancholy prophesy of her punishment in the next world, and of her reputation in future ages. The curtain falls on the picture of Salome, dismayed at last by the Astrologer's declamation, looking out in terror from between two curtains at the back of the stage.

The Daughter of Herodias was thoroughly well played. Mr. Robert Hilton made a dignified and intense Herod, and spoke the lines allotted to the amorous monarch with excellent expression and emphasis. Mr. Harvey Braban's elocution as the Astrologer was excellent, and he put great earnestness into his delivery of the impressive admonitions and denunciations which the rôle contains. Miss Mabellia Daniell was a very handsome, active, and supple representative of Salome, doing her Eastern dance with an amount of graceful pose and eloquent pantomime that quite accounted for Herod's admiration. Mr. Arthur Blair did good work as the Slave; and the play had been ably stage-managed by Mr. Montague Wigan, Mr. Granville Bantock's music being well written and appropriate.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION REFORM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In your leading article last week you invite opinions on the above subject, and I am therefore tempted to think that a few words from a very old member of the Association may not be out of place. Probably, in common with all who have the welfare of the Association at heart, and consequently that of the whole profession, I cordially welcome the advent of a strong Reform Party to power, since it suggests an up-growing power of life within the Association; and I am in accord with the Reform Party in wishing to bring the Council within reasonable limits. At the same time, I cannot help thinking that the Reform Party are pursuing a most grievously mistaken policy in advocating the refusal of the agency to deal with any salaries below £2 per week.

Whilst the idea undoubtedly springs from a very laudable intention, it is likely to defeat its own ends. What is likely to be the result of this limitation? There are, sir, several hundreds of actors of considerable experience touring the provinces who do not earn more than 30s. or 35s. per week. The responsible actor or actress (which includes all but the leading man, heavy man, comedian, leading lady, heavy lady, and, perhaps, chambermaid) in what is generally known as "second-class dramas" I do not think ever receive more. There are also numerous actors in every kind of touring company—who claim sufficient experience to entitle them to membership of the Association—who do not receive more than 35s. Again, there are many joint engagements for quite important parts in good companies which do not carry more than £3 15s.

Now, sir, the Association admits those to membership who have played speaking parts for eighty weeks. If we examine the payment in any other line of life, not requiring a large educational outlay and competitive examinations, do we find that they are paid at the rate of £2 per week after eighty weeks' service? I do not think so. I take my own case. After serving two years in the Bank of Scotland my remuneration for the third year was at the rate of £30 per annum.

I come to the conclusion, then, that if this new rule be carried the Association will find itself in the peculiar position of holding out both hands and begging actors who have served eighty weeks, but who have not been fortunate enough to force themselves up to the £2 standard, to join our ranks and at the same time barring the door with the exclamation, "You must not seek any engagements through our agency—you are below the limit!"

What we want especially is that every actor should be a member of the Association; and, I ask most solemnly, who amongst those who have not reached the £2 standard is going to join the Association in these circumstances? Those who did would be in a preposterous position.

Surely those who manage the Agency are capable of fixing a limit according to the class of engagement offered without such a hard and fast rule as is suggested. I am strongly of opinion that there are many other reforms of much more crying need. I should be glad if you would allow me to enumerate them:—

(1). The proper heating of dressing-rooms in provincial theatres. I have myself brought this subject before the Council, but have been informed that they have no legal means of dealing with the matter. Yet it is of crying importance. There is very little complaint to be made nowadays with the sanitary condition of theatres, but there is a great deal of fault to be found with the heating arrangements. Does it really matter, sir, whether an actor dies of typhoid fever or rheumatic fever or pneumonia? Personally, I confess to a certain amount of indifference as to which I take my risk of. There are a great many theatres at the present time in which the dressing-rooms are not fit to put anyone in because of the want of proper heating arrangements; and I am of opinion that we are considerably worse off in this respect than we were fifteen or twenty years ago.

(2). The proper heating of stages. Since the introduction of the electric light the cold upon some stages is insufferable, and dangerous to ladies clad in evening dress or burlesque costume. That it is unnecessary is proved by the fact that many stages are properly heated with hot pipes.

(3). The old question of six performances per week instead of seven. This is always a sore point with the actor, and I do not think the seven performances' arrangement is very satisfactory to many managers.

(4). The laying down of carpets or mats in all dressing-rooms. At the present time one is sometimes expected to place one's bare feet on a concrete floor or on boards, which on Mondays are often wet.

(5). The methods applied for the preservation of life and health should be insisted upon for the most minor members of a company as well as for stars and principals. In many theatres the chief dressing-rooms are well looked after, whilst the smaller fry can catch colds or anything else without any trouble. Why, sir? From the abominably selfish reason that they can be more easily dispensed with.

(6). The admission of acting-managers and ad vance agents to membership. I cannot see that their exclusion is in any way justified. Their interests are identical with the actor, and if the acting-manager is bound to be a manager's man to a certain extent when he is representing the manager, he is not when out of employment, and he would profit equally with the actor in schemes for improvements. Mr. Granville Barker's statement on this subject cannot be taken seriously, since, probably, at least, half the acting-managers are already members of the Association, being qualified as actors.

In conclusion, sir, I should like to impress upon every member of the Association that what we want is to have as many members as possible. Let us avoid most carefully anything which savours of exclusion. Once the Association includes the great majority of the profession, it does not matter how many managers there are in it; they would be hopelessly outnumbered by the actors.

To those who are not members the moral pointed out is, Join, join, join! If you join in your hundreds instead of twos and threes you would be able to command the ship in a very short time.—Yours faithfully, ERNEST H. PATERSON.

Are You a Mason? Co.,
Theatre Royal, Blackburn, Feb. 27.

SIR,—I trust that you will allow me to say a few words in support of Mr. Henry Tweedie's proposal, contained in his letter printed in your last issue. I have played a "thinking part" at many meetings and discussions on the subject of the Association and "Reform," and scarcely have I ever heard it suggested that anyone should be asked to stand for the Council who had a veteran's experience of the provinces.

Let me say that I have been for about fourteen years a member of the A.A., and I have derived very great *personal* benefits from it, for which I am extremely grateful, and therefore I would be sorry to join leagues or unions set up in competition with the Association as it now stands. Nevertheless, in common, I fancy, with many, if not most, provincial actors, I am not enamoured of the names of those in high places on that body.

If reform is to come from within, it can only come from reconstitution. The governing body should consist, in part at least, of veteran provincial actors of repute—men who have grown old and wise in their calling, whose personalities are strong; who can apply an intimate knowledge, gained by long experience, to practical legislation.—Yours faithfully,

ROBERT CASTLETON.
Actors' Association, 10, King-street, W.C.
Feb. 26 1907.

ON Thursday afternoon, the 21st, a third meeting of actors, having for their object the promotion of trades union principles among provincials, was held at the Salisbury Hotel, Manchester, Mr. Fred Bentley presiding. All present united in agreeing upon the wording of the title, and in pledging themselves to support a Provincial Actors' Union upon the lines already set forth; and a number of names were duly subscribed and forwarded to the headquarters in Bedford-street, from which centre the profession had already been extensively circularised.

ACTORS' UNION.

Certain alterations have been made in the suggested rules drawn up by the Provisional Committee chosen to organise an Actors' Union; and they now read as follows:—

1. The provisional title of the body is the Actors' Union.

2. This body to be registered under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900.

3. That this Union is being formed for the object of working for the sole welfare and interest of actors and actresses in the dramatic and musical profession.

4. Qualification for membership of the Union shall be as follows:—That all entering the profession can be admittel as probationary members, but no one to be allowed to vote or sit on the council who has had less than five years' experience. Each candidate for election shall be proposed by one and seconded by two Fellows of the Union, who, from personal knowledge, can vouch for the candidate as professionally and socially fit for membership.

5. That the entrance fee be 2s. 6d., and the subscription 6d. per week, to be paid for forty weeks of the year. Members to be in full benefit must not allow their weekly subscriptions to fall into arrear.

6. A levy of 6d. per head to be made on all members on the occasion of the death of a member of the Union.

7, That a Provident Fund (from the then existing fund) will be considered as soon as the Union is on a sound financial footing.

8. That any member of the Union becoming a manager or acting-manager shall during the period of his management forfeit his right of vote, and cease to hold executive powers in the Union.

9. That the Union be governed by a council of twenty-four Fellows annually elected by members, the council to have powers to add to their number.

10. That branches of the Union, at the earliest date possible, shall be formed in other centres, such as are already forming in London and Manchester.

11. Members shall be known by numbers, and each shall have a card, to which special stamps issued by the Union shall be affixed denoting the weekly payments.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE SOUTH LONDON.

The decorations are out at the South London, and a huge sheet of bunting drawn across the London-road blazons forth to the world that "Peace with honour" has been secured. With the return of the popular favourites to their places at the footlights has come an access of attendance, and the vast hall over which Mr. William Payne exercises so genial a sway has twice nightly held audiences of huge dimensions. The chief source of attraction has been the sketch, *Dick Dare, M.P.*, in which Mr. Fredk. Maxwell appears. Like most of Mr. Maxwell's productions, the sketch abounds in thrilling situations which possess current interest, and a high pitch of excitement is reached in the course of the playlet. Mr. Maxwell acts the indomitable M.P. with his customary fire and energy, and wins the cheers of the audience, which are heartily and frequently renewed. Mr. Maxwell is loyally supported by his company, and the episode is mounted with characteristic liberality. Of lighter texture is the sketch, *Beauty and the Burglar*, played by Miss Millie Engler and company in very diverting fashion. The work of the trifle lies equally in the hands of a young actress and her housemaid. The husband of the actress becomes jealous, and determines to impersonate a burglar and break into his own house. The actress is alarmed, and induces her servant to talk like a man in order to frighten the interloper away. The domestic is the possessor of a gruff voice, and the husband behind the door is made to overhear terms of endearment being addressed by his wife to an admirer, until he bursts forth in a rage to find himself confronted only by his wife and the maidservant. The sketch is admirably acted, the young wife being daintily played by a comely lady, who sings a song agreeably.

A sensation is caused by the feats of John Marx, who demonstrates his right to the title of the "strongest man in the world," and is willing to compete against any man breathing for £1000 aside. Marx does many weight-lifting feats with bar-bells and dumb-bells, breaks with his hand a horseshoe against which half a dozen men have tugged in vain, and later succeeds in lifting a platform upon which 25 men are standing. A competition for prizes of £1 and 10s., presented by the management, and open to all the inhabitants of South London, is now in progress, and the opportunity of trying their strength has been eagerly taken advantage of by the stalwarts of the district, many of whom have had the estimates of their own strength rudely shattered on attempting the task set them. Not the least popular feature of the current bill is Ruffell's Bioscope, which begins with a picture of the Conciliation Board, among the members of which Mr. Arthur Roberts is easily recognised. "The Cook's Dream" is a curious film, in which the head of the culinary department plays all sorts of fantastic tricks: while "A visit to Auntie" depicts the pranks of a schoolboy, who gives his elderly relatives a lively few minutes, the representation of which is made decidedly funny.

Happily recovered from recent indisposition, Miss Constance Moxon arouses enthusiastic plaudits by her monologue, *A Toff for Ten Minutes*, in which she impersonates a ragged urchin who is mistaken for one of the guests at a fancy dress ball, and gains admission to the drawing-room. The "boy" finds himself alone, and being possessed of a taste for music, goes to the piano and entertains himself with imitations of music hall stars, including Chirgwin, with his popular Blind Boy," and of Fragson, with "Whispers of Love." The interlude is very acceptable for the sake of its refinement and the cleverness of its interpreter, whose cultured vocalism, familiar to lovers of comic opera as well as those of variety, is most agreeably displayed. Mr. Ernest Ball gives his remarkable study of the miser whose song, "Gold," is rendered so impressively as to cause unlimited applause. The Sisters Tinsley sing "The bungalow in Borneo," and dance with the utmost neatness and precision; and the programme is completed by Rice, Rose, and Davis, Miss Beatrice May, and Mr. Fred Pollard.

CAMBERWELL EMPIRE.

There can be no denying the fact that Messrs. Jesse Sparrow and Harry Bawn's variety theatre on Denmark-hill has "caught on" in Camberwell, and now the Council's cars pass its doors it brings nightly many patrons from Dulwich and surrounding neighbourhood, who are sure of a genuine evening's amusement, for the programme is always full of infinite variety.

This week the premier turn is Miss Gertrude Glenn and her admirably-selected company, in a musical comedy scena, *Larks in the Park*. The scene is near the Achilles Statue, Hyde Park, where an excellent chorus of nursemaids, soldiers, and a motley crowd of park habitués are indulging in a mad frolic of fun and some tuneful music. In their midst come a newly-married couple of middle age, who are in London on their honeymoon. The man rails at his wife for deceiving him, for at the station she has introduced him to her two grown-up boys. The fun that ensues when the boys turn up and make things very lively for, not only their stepfather, but the policemen and a bevy of charming young ladies, can be better imagined than described. It is impossible to fully describe all the good things in this miniature musical comedy, for from the opening chorus of the maids and the soldier's "Good morning, Miss," to the closing mélange, "The fashion in the Army," the attention of a delighted audience is held in pleasurable anticipation all the time. A special word of praise is due to the sextet, who give splendid effect to their song, "The art of making love," while the elegant costumes, scenery, and general effects lend themselves to the general success.

Julia Kent and Alex Keith keep the house in a roar of merriment with their smart duologue, *The New Barmaid*, so full of original repartee that there is not a dull moment throughout; while their new edition of the old character-sketches, *Gallery and Boxes*, wins them a well-merited ovation. The Nelson and Thomas combination, in a merry little comedietta, *A Fight for a Fiver*, skilfully portrays how an ingenious wife gets even with her husband when he refuses to give her five pounds to purchase a new hat. The lady proves herself an adept in character studies, and delineates in a finished style the lively French girl, the Ugliest Woman on Earth, and the Irish mother-in-law; while the husband and a resourceful page-boy play their parts with just that *soupçon* of exaggeration allowed in farcical comedy. The Steinway Quartette, in a song-scena entitled *Songs of the Sea*, render with admirable expression such old favourites as "Tom Bowling," "Remember me," "Fatherland," and "The jolly British Tars."

Connie Williams has a good song, "Boys, take care," and her fairy-like dancing is full of tireless energy and tricky devices that make her a warm favourite. The Lambert and Hans Quartette give a series of harrowing pictures of "Visiting Day" in our prisons, workhouses, and the homes of the poor. Happy Joe Williams, coloured singer and dancer, in immaculate evening dress, fairly dances himself to merry rag-time music into favour. Arthur Goodman, the tramp trick juggler, is highly amusing, for while cleverly juggling with everything movable on the stage, he keeps up a running fire of witticisms that make their mark every time. Frank Cumminger, sand-dancer to perfect time and tune, demonstrates in the cleverest style all the steps in the dancer's répertoire, and works hard for the applause that rewards his efforts. In a pretty rural scena Charles Cornish and his eight youthful Cotton Coons, in a combination of songs and pretty graceful dances, is highly diverting, and proves up to the hilt the well-known phrase, "All that you want is a coon song—and the coons." Jeapc's Animated Graphic Pictures give clearly and distinctly such interesting pictures as last Saturday's demonstration against the L.C.C. Wastrels, the wreck of the Berlin, and its survivors and their gallant and fearless rescuers.

THE FORESTERS'.

The patrons of the Foresters' have nothing to complain of this week, either as to the quality or the quantity of the entertainment supplied. Mr. Arnold Bell, whose appearances on the legitimate stage in dramatic rôles will not be easily forgotten, is here with a company in the sketch, *Lost in London*. Mr. Bell himself is seen and admired in his striking representation of a sturdy miner, and others who are seen to advantage in their respective rôles are Mr. Cuthbert Imrie, Mr. Frank C. Robson, Mr. W. G. Gregory, Miss Violet Campbell, and Miss Frances Campbell. The piece is elaborately staged. Mr. Tom Dawson, the blind comedian, comes in for a goodly share of attention and applause for his admirable rendering of the song, "Sympathy." Miss Violet Harvey has a bright and attractive style and delivery which are employed to the best advantage in her ditty about "Sunday Night." Messrs. Raymond, of Bio-tableaux fame, are to be congratulated on the fine series of animated photographs depicting a tragedy which bears the title of "The Indian's Revenge." Messrs. Woodward and Walton distinguish themselves as vocalists and rag-time dancers; and Mr. Fred Wilkinson, assisted by Miss Emilie Alderton, presents a really marvellous exhibition of magic and illusions. Mr. Bert Brantford is deputising for Mr. Harry Freeman, who has been unable to appear this week at the Foresters'. Mr. Brantford has original ideas as to the way in which a song should be sung, and his acting and singing of his "Sweep" song entitle him to distinction as a character vocalist.

Mr. Montague Turner and company have an extremely laughable trifle in the sketch, *A Dead Certainty*, produced for the first time on Monday last. The story may be briefly outlined. A henpecking wife has for the last twenty years locked up her husband's cigars and wines. The poor man imagines that he sees an opportunity of a little revenge when his nephew arrives from America with an invention which is designated "liquid frost." By this wonderful concoction you can, by an injection into the ear of an animal, put it in a condition of sleepy freeziness; an injection of an antidote into the other ear, and the animal awakens to warm life and activity. The uncle suggests to the nephew the possibilities of such a treatment in the case of his recalcitrant wife, and they enter into a mild conspiracy. The lady, however, overhears their conversation, and, during their absence, empties a bottle of the liquid frost, filling it up with water. Of course, what happens afterwards may be imagined. Mr. Montague Turner as the nephew, Mr. E. W. Avery as the uncle, and Miss Harriett Taylor as the wife extract a good deal of fun out of the playlet. Mr. Charles Austin is hugely entertaining in a couple of songs, one concerning a widow and the other about the man who slept for twenty-nine years. Mr. Fred Moule and Mr. E. D. Nicholls's company make merry with a mock melodrama, *That Dreadful Detective*, the absurdities of which create uproarious laughter. Mr. Courtney Robinson, Miss Ada Lucelle, Miss Ada Frank, and Mr. Wilton Drury support Messrs. Moule and Nicholls in an able manner. The Brothers Blackwell submit an exceedingly smart skate-dancing act.

QUEEN'S, POPLAR.

A good programme is always to be found at Messrs. F. and M. Abrahams' well-appointed and comfortable establishment, which, under the energetic and skilful management of Mr. Jack Woolf has gained such popular favour that at every performance seats are at a premium. In the excellent entertainment provided this week Mr. Frank Couch is included, and his song, "How to make love," is very successful, while his parody on "The Charge of the Light Brigade," with topical and local verses, is exceptionally smart, and proves exactly to the taste of his hearers. Walton and Lester are amusing in their duet, "Down by the river," which they sing in raiment and properties of a startling nature from the top of their miniature house boat. Afterwards they give an exhibition of mock conjuring which is very laughable. Miss Dora Lyric, with a good voice and handsome presence, contributes in admirable style "Somebody cares for you" and "All that glitters is not gold," the house taking up the chorus of each song with keen relish. A refreshing *pot-pourri* of melodies and dances is given by Fernee's Juveniles, who receive great applause for their efforts. The Boston Twins present a turn which is distinctly funny; and the sketch, *My Friend the Enemy*, with electrical effects, is much appreciated.

A striking dramatic episode is that entitled *Vengeance*, which is presented with no lack of dramatic effect by the Deane-Jennings company. It is elaborately mounted, the explosion in the final scene being extremely realistic. Mr. Fred Jennings is powerful as the scheming Captain Barry Gridge; the genial part of the light-hearted Lieut. Roy McAlister is made the most of by Mr. Harry Barford; Mr. A. P. Kaye is to be complimented on his impersonation of Andy Twiddle: Mr. Harry Newton is a capable Simon Croke; and an interesting interpretation of Leonora Acoli is submitted by Miss Beatrice May; a sympathetic Millicent Marsden being found in Miss Cora Deane. The new Bioscope, with some beautifully-arranged pictures, is always sure of a hearty welcome, and much praise must be awarded to Mr. F. Venton for his conductorship of the model orchestra, which during the evening is heard to advantage in "La Iosada" march and "By the side of the Zuyder Zee" valse.

THE BEDFORD.

Mr. B. Pearce Lucas has so long run the Bedford "on its own" that one was surprised at the attack made upon it at the latter end of the recent strike by the tripartite Alliance. If there is one hall in London more barred than any other it is certainly the Camden Town establishment; and it seemed to those competent to judge that the calling out of artists, stage hands, and musicians was a wanton exercise of power against a place that owes none of its prosperity to trust methods, and that in its own modest way has done no little towards the introduction of new talent to London. The experience of Mr. Lucas has not been, perhaps, so unpleasant as that thrust upon other proprietors, and his chief regret is that some excellent members of his staff, whom he respected and highly esteemed, through the ukase of the strike leaders, have been compelled to terminate engagements which were marked by the greatest harmony between employer and employed.

This by the way. Like his compeers, Mr. Lucas has benefited by the return of the sheep to the fold, and large audiences during the week have been enthusiastic in their praise of an excellent entertainment. The chief attractions of this are found in three sketches—two of comic complexion and one deeply tragic. *The Duchess of Tooting* needs no introduction to our readers. She is a relation on the mother's side to *Charley's Aunt*. The real "duchess," who has her title conspicuously displayed on her luggage, is ousted from her hereditary dignity by a young man who takes her name in order to rescue his friend, Charles Cash, from an awkward predicament, and to secure for him and his newly found bride the nice snug little *dot* of £10,000. How this is done and the way it is accomplished may be learnt in most agreeable fashion by watching Mr. Sidney Bacon's company, each member of which plays with rollicking energy. The conduct of the pseudo duchess excites screams of laughter. No names are given in the programme, so that we are unable to praise individual members of the crowd, but it is quite an exhilarating performance.

Miss Alice Yorke, an excellent actress, is concerned in the presentation of an amusing trifle, entitled *A Yacht for Sale*, originally produced at the Oxford. The seller of the taut little "craft" dilates on her good qualities, which are attributed by the lady to a maid whose character she has come to enquire about. Of course, she has mistaken the address, and matters are easily explained after fifteen minutes of laughter at the game of cross purposes which is so cleverly played.

A Society Woman, presented by the Alan Holt company, is a dramatic episode with a life-and-death struggle between the villain and the heroine, whose husband has escaped from gaol, where he has been serving a sentence imposed upon him for the crime of the "wrong 'un." In the fight lamps are thrown and smashed, and the stage is strewn with broken glass. It is therefore, with some anxiety that one watches a lady in evening dress rolling recklessly about the floor, and one trembles for her safety.

Early in the evening Mr. W. L. Murray emulates the Roman gladiator, and his muscular frame is exhibited in all its athletic beauty in various poses. His feats of strength, too, are presented in an interesting way, and he is watched with much pleasure in his entertainment by all sections of the house. We should add that he is the winner of the Sandow gold belt for the world's championship. Melancholy seems to have marked Mr. Mark Leslie for his own, and he will more nearly answer to the description attached to his name—"the brown-faced beau"—when he smiles. The Howards puzzle and mystify by their second-sight business and thought transference; the Three Kentucky Girls sing and dance successfully; Mr. Ben Jackson shows some clever tricks with banjoes; and Mr. Charles Cardle, vocalist, who has a charming and well-rendered number in "Iona"; the Imperial Bioscope pictures, and Miss Amy Elvira, burlesque artist, are other attractions in a programme of much excellence.

RICHMOND THEATRE.

There is a varied bill here this week containing quite a host of good things. The Scarlet Mr. E's—to say nothing of their jester—are old favourites, and they afford a striking example of the attractions that really find favour with every section of the public; they sing admirably, and their jester is a wag of the first water. The Maynards give some examples of marvellous marksmanship. Their accuracy is surprising, and they readily win favour and applause. They deserve both. Not alone is Mr. Horace White a clever pianist, but he is equally at home as a drawing-room ventriloquist. Mimicry is a strong point with him, and whatever he does is done well. Bright and vivacious, merry Miss Blanchie Vincent scores a complete success with her clever vocalisation; while the Sisters Cardigan, as duettists and dancers, simply take the gallery boys—and everyone else—by storm; they are quite a deft-footed twain, who should do even better. Merriment took hold of the audience when Mr. and Mrs. G. Leonard began to elucidate the mysteries of *Coming Home*, and peals of merriment were heard from rise to fall of the curtain. As a humorous interlude it would, perhaps, be hard to find a more entertaining turn than Corelli, for not alone is he a clever juggler, he is a wit; in fact, more often than not he has "his tongue in his cheek," and his audacity is surprising: a clever personality is Corelli. An experienced artist and an old favourite. Mr. Wal Pink, proves a cheerful addition to the programme; he gives a monologue entitled *The Cheap-Jack*, and very admirable it is; so much so that one regrets when the popular comic makes his exit. Quaintly pretty is *Dollioligi*; the title gives the keynote to the production, which affords an opportunity for a dainty terpsichorean performance, and if we do not quote the names of the dancers it is because we failed to find them on the programme, but they deserved to be there all the same. The Bioscope maintains its high standard of excellence, and Mr. Guy's capable orchestra does much, with a selection from *Veronique*, to brighten a particularly entertaining evening.

THE STANDARD.

No one can complain of any lack either of quality or quantity in the current bill at the Standard, Pimlico, which establishment, by the way, was only indirectly affected by the recent music hall warfare. A capital comedy sketch is that entitled *My Lady's Chamber*, played by Mr. and Mrs. Royston-Dene and company. The plot reveals how a certain unscrupulous society dame, Lady Barrington, having obtained possession of a compromising letter, calculated to excite his wife's suspicions, has no compunction in levying blackmail upon Lord Newcombe. But his lordship turns the tables on her ladyship by gaining admission to her chamber and refusing to leave until she has given up the letter and also written a note couched in endearing terms to himself. Mrs. Royston-Dene gives a capital embodiment of Lady Helene Barrington, and Mr. Royston-Dene is excellent as Lord Newcombe; while her ladyship's maid Rosetta is smartly represented by Miss Sheelah Desmond. In an interesting and dramatic sketch, entitled *Dan the Outlaw*, Mr. Herbert Shelley sustains no fewer than five characters. The scene represents the interior of the Old Post Office, Rathmines, in the County of Dublin, and the date is 1787, when George the Third was King. Wolf Mooroo, the white-haired old postmaster, is the murderer of Lord Kinsale, but circumstantial evidence points to Dan Shannon, a young Irishman, as the guilty party. He flies the country; and at the opening of the "episode," as it is called, the real criminal is seen gloating over his ill-gotten wealth, which is kept locked up in a strong box, together with a written and signed confession of the murder, which, he mutters to himself, will be found after his death. But the document slips to the ground unknown to the old man, who believes he has replaced all the contents of the box. The next arrival is Dominic Corrigan, a watchman, who discovers the written confession on the floor; but he is unable to read, and places it in a jug on the table. Dan Shannon, the outlaw, returns to his native place, and is warmly welcomed by his sweetheart. He accidentally knocks over the jug, and so discovers the document which clears him of the false charge of murder. The postmaster, when he makes the discovery that the confession is missing, commits suicide, and Dan obtains the King's pardon. Mr. Herbert Shelley is very smart in making his quick changes, and he plays each of the five parts—which includes the Banshee—exceedingly well, winning the applause of the audience.

Mr. Fred W. Millis, the ventriloquist, is included in the list of entertainers, and meets with his usual success, his imitation of a fractious child being particularly good. Mr. J. G. Taylor has a capital song in "As long as the world goes round"; Agnes Tina is a clever little girl who delights the audience with her imitations of Marie Studholme, Marie Lloyd, Harry Lauder, and other well-known artists. Another smart juvenile is Master Cliff, comedian and dancer. Mr. George Antill scores with a couple of ditties; some admirable gymnastic work is done by the Three Romas. On the night of our visit Mr. Lawrence Barclay successfully deputised for Mr. Michael Nolan; the Crown Trio of vocalists are well received, and so, too, are Mr. A. E. Clifford, comedian; Miss Ada Parker, comedienne and dancer; and Miss Gracie Lawn, comedienne. A new series of animated pictures shown by the Edisonograph are also among the many attractions. Mr. T. S. Dickie, the proprietor and manager, has an excellent lieutenant in Mr. Maurice Volny; and Mr. Frederick Allwood is the able musical director.

HACKNEY EMPIRE.

A particularly varied programme is that submitted at this hall for the ensuing week, and very large audiences are the deserved result at each performance. Mr. Herbert Rule, a quaint comedian, has a good song in "I don't know," which serves admirably to display his humorous powers, and he is accorded a very hearty call. Miss Lilieth Leyton and Mr. John Spurling present an amusing little trifle, entitled *The Order of the Bath*, in which the many hilarious situations arising from a lady and gentleman erroneously believing that they are locked in a bath-room at eleven o'clock at night, are utilised for all that they are worth. Both Miss Leyton and Mr. Spurling act with brightness and point, and frequent laughter testifies to their success. Miss Ethel Ra Leslie, who appears in a very handsome gentleman's costume of the seventeenth century, proves herself to be the possessor of a very good voice, which is used with taste and effect in a ballad on the familiar topic of "Roses," her reception being very gratifying. Collins and Rice, a pair of comedy artists, who appear in a turn consisting of patter, singing, and dancing, gain the applause of the house. A particularly pleasing number is that of Roma and Romani, both the lady and gentleman being excellent musicians. The lady contributes items on the piano, mandoline, cornet, and bugle, and the gentleman solos on the piccolo, flute, and bugle. The selections by the gentleman on the first two instruments are exceptionally clever, and the repeated calls at the conclusion of the act were thoroughly well-earned. Miss Madge Grey, a dialect comedienne, impersonates such diverse characters as a Scotchman, a Lancashire lad, a coster, and a Jew, reciting "The Village Blacksmith," and the running accompaniment of laughter to her character studies is the best tribute possible to her success.

Billy Howard and Kathryn Harris appear in *The Adventures of a Happy Hooligan*. The slight plot of an amateur lady dramatist having advertised for a leading man, and a tramp turning up in his place serves to introduce the gentleman in a great deal of comical business, and both in some extraordinary agile dancing, the item being well received. The star turn of the bill this week is Chung Ling Soo, the conjurer, who presents an amazing clever performance. Some of his tricks, such as changing the fluid in two bottles, producing sand and sawdust out of empty boxes, and an inexhaustible collection of articles out of a home-made drum, are performed with tremendous rapidity, his illusion, too, in producing within a revolving glass cabinet suspended some two feet from the stage a member of his company is altogether bewildering in its smartness. Not the least satisfactory feature of the act is the consummate ease and finish with which every trick is accomplished.

An extra turn is appearing this week, the artist being Mr. Fred Keeton, a comedian. His first song, "For better or worse," dealing with matrimonial troubles, is given in good style, and he makes an unmistakable hit in his second, "I'm not supposed to know what I'm about," two very cordial calls being the result. He makes good use of facial expression, and evidently is an experienced performer. Bert Woodward submits a trick bicycle turn, and a capital film on the Bioscope, "A Voyage Across the Atlantic," completes an attractive evening's entertainment. A word is due to the orchestra under the direction of Mr. Walter Johnston, and Mr. John Christie, assisted by Mr. D. Earle Charles, discharges with every courtesy the onerous duties "in front."

THE DUCHESS, BALHAM.

The celebration of peace is carried out on an elaborate scale at Balham, where Mr. Bertram C. Ross, the energetic manager, has been at considerable pains to beautify the Duchess. The exterior of the house is prettily illuminated, but this brilliant effect is surpassed within, where every part of the handsome auditorium is tastefully adorned with flags and banners of every variety. Union Jacks, Royal Standards, ensigns, pennants, and every conceivable emblem of national rejoicing are lavishly displayed, while from every private box depends a chandelier fitted with red, white, and blue lamps, which have a very pretty effect. The current programme is of an excellence consistent with so auspicious a week, and boasts many artists whose names are known to fame. Miss Victoria Monks receives a gratifying reception when she takes the stage. Her first contribution, with the refrain "Say, hallo, old man," has the ring of homely sentiment that appeals to the popular ear, and Miss Monks succeeds thoroughly in making the words reach the hearts of all. The renown of "Leaving home" had preceded the popular comedienne, with the result that her singing of the chorus might have been dispensed with, so heartily did her admirers join in its rendering.

Infinite variety is given to the bill by the inclusion of items which have the complexion of novelty. Especially refreshing are the tricks of a canine comedian called Kiswaski, introduced by Mr. Stelling, who is able to keep up a conversation with his four-footed friend. The animal seems quite to enjoy standing on one forefoot on his master's upraised hand, and wags his tail with pleasure when he is commanded to pick up a glove while promenading on his forelegs. A supreme effort is accomplished when he climbs a high ladder, from which the rungs and one side are subsequently removed, and the animal is left standing on his hind legs on the top of his precarious perch. The show is a pretty one, and Mr. Stelling is rightly accorded an ovation. Tambo and Tambo put the instrument from which they take their name to many peculiar uses. Their dexterity is well displayed by the spinning of tambourines with each hand, later on tossing them to one another with admirable precision and skill. Handbasins are similarly treated, the feet being also brought into play. The most astonishing display comes at the end, when a quantity of tambourines to the number of something like two dozen are kept going on a framework while each one is adjusted.

An attractive feature of the bill is provided in Kronau's military spectacle, *Our Boys in Blue*, in which a feast of scenic splendour is embellished by music and singing. The set depicts a battle at sea, of which the defence of a fort and the blowing up of a warship provide thrilling incidents, which gain loud and continued cheers. Great interest is taken in the pictures of the Hook of Holland disaster, presented on Ruffell's Bioscope, clear and vivid views of the life-boat and its devoted crew being presented, and the ill-fated steamer being also plainly visible.

Comedy and music are deftly combined by the Motramos, one of whom gives a very comic impersonation of a gushing individual who joins his lady companion in a musical morceaux constantly interrupted by drolleries of a most laughable kind. A duet on concert flutes is tunefully rendered, and afterwards the lady acquits herself creditably on the trombone, while her partner suspends his comicalities, and plays the saxophone with no little skill, the performance of the clever couple resulting in many recalls. Martinette and Wallace, two coloured gentlemen, also vary their musical *pot-pourri* with droll patter. Their entertaining turn, too, has the merit of novelty, especially when the blooms in a number of flower-pots are turned to the purposes of melody. A bright and fascinating comedienne appears in the dainty person of Miss Edith Fink, who sings her songs with delightful animation; and other artists in the bill are Mr. Pat Raffety and Mr. George Antill, comedians.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA.

Owing to pressure on our space, we have been compelled to hold over the weekly instalment of the above. The series will be continued next week.

(*For other Variety Notices see pages* 21 *and* 23).

ON THE ROAD, MARCH 4.

An Abandoned Woman.—Pontypridd.
Alaska.—T. R., Horwich.
Amasis.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Anna of the Plains.—Crystal Palace Theatre.
Are You a Mason?—Cambridge.
Asche, Oscar.—Fulham T., S.W.
As Midnight Chimes.—Athenaeum T., Lancaster.
Assassin.—Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.
At Cripple Creek.—Theatre Royal, Leicester.
At Duty's Call.—Avenue T., Kettering.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs.—Paisley T., Paisley.
Beast and the Beauty.—Aquarium T., Yarmouth.
Beautiful Fiend.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
Beauty and the Barge.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
Beauty of Bath.—Shakespeare, Liverpool.
Belle of Mayfair (Bode).—Oxford and Leamington.
Belle of New York.—King's T., Hammersmith.
Benson, F. R. (N.).—New T., Aberdare.
Benson, F. R.—T. R., Glasgow.
Benson, F. R. (S.).—Kirkcaldy and Falkirk.
Blind Foundling.—Kirkcaldy.
Blue Moon.—New T., Sunderland.
Bulmer, Mr.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—Grand T., Glasgow.
Cassidy, J. Rice.—T. R., Preston.
Catch of the Season.—O. H., Leicester.
Chinese Honeymoon (Bode).—Camden T., N.W.
Christian, The (Croke).—Grand T., Southampton.
Christian, The (Howard).—Worcester.
Claudian.—Theatre Royal, Rochdale.
Coal King.—Theatre Royal, Sheffield.
Compton Comedy Co.—King's T., Glasgow.
Conscript, The.—Colosseum T., Oldham.
Country Girl (Macdona).—Surrey District.
Dairymaids.—Coronet Theatre, W.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—East Oxford, Oxford.
D'Oyly Carte.—Grand T., Croydon.
Driven From Home.—Alexandra T., Widnes.
Dr. Wake's Patient.—Edinburgh.
Earl and the Girl (M.).—Victoria T., Broughton.
Earl and the Girl (N.).—T. R., Ashton.
Electric Man (N.).—O. H., Cheltenham.
Electric Man (S).—County Theatre, Reading.
Face at the Window.—T. R., Darwen.
False Wife.—Star Theatre, Swansea.
Female Swindler.—Theatre Royal, Aston.
Fight for Millions.—T. R., Stockport.
Florodora.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Florodora (Howard).—Greenock.
Four Just Men.—Grand T., Eccles.
Freedom of Suzanne.—Birmingham.
French Spy.—Gaiety T., Ayr, Kilmarnock.
Gay Parisienne.—Marlborough T., N.
Geisha.—Prince's T., Manchester.
Glossop-Harris Repertoire Co.—County T., Bedford
Golden Ladder.—T. R., Plymouth.
Go-Won-Go Mohawk.—Cardiff.
Great Awakening.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
Grip of Iron.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
Held Apart.—Century T., Motherwell.
Her Forbidden Marriage.—Grand T., Brighton.
Her Love Against the World.—P. T., Accrington.
Hero of the Flag.—Alhambra, Dudley Port.
Hill-Mitchelson.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
His House in Order (N.).—Royalty T., Chester.
His House in Order (S.).—Kennington Theatre.
Home Sweet Home.—New T., West Stanley.
Honour thy Father.—O. H., Perth.
Hour of her Triumph.—Alhambra T., Stourbridge.
Indian Mutiny.—T. R., Croydon.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—Bath and Cardiff.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Cheadle and Dawley
La Poupee (Ralland).—Grand T., W. Hartlepool.
Lights o' London.—T. R. Stratford.
Lights Out.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
Lion and the Mouse.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
Little Breadwinner.—T. R., Bilston.
Little Stranger.—T. R., Hull.
London Fireman.—O. H., Kidderminster.
Love that Women Desire.—Palace, Newcastle.
Lucky Durham.—Theatre Royal, Hanley.
Man and Wife.—T. R., West Bromwich
Man's Enemy.—Dover.
Manxman.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Martin Harvey.—H. M. T., Dundee.
Merveilleuses.—Grand Theatre, Leeds.
Midnight Mail.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
Midnight Wedding.—T. R., Aldershot.
Mollison, William.—O. H., Middlesbrough
Monte Cristo.—Farnworth.
Moody-Manners (A.).—Edinburgh.
Moody-Manners (B.).—T. R., Dewsbury.
Morals of Marcus.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
Moss, Miss Eva.—O. H., Tunbridge Wells.
Mr. Popple.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Napoleon the Great.—Lyceum T., Govan.
Night Out.—Grand T., Derby.
Norman V. Norman.—T. R., Halifax.
Oliver Twist.—D. P. T., Eastbourne.
Otto, the Outcast.—T. R., Barnsley.
Peter's Mother (N.).—Northampton.
Peter Pan (No. 1).—Theatre Royal, Bradford.
Peter Pan (No. 2).—Royalty Theatre, Glasgow.
Plucky Nipper.—Globe T., Deal.
Power of Gold.—T. R., North Shields.
Prince of Pilsen (Harris).—T. R., South Shields.
Private Secretary.—T. R., Bournemouth.
Prodigal Parson.—T. R., Stratford.
Proof.—Theatre Royal, Wednesbury.
Revenge.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Royal Divorce.—O. H., Burnley.
Saints and Sinners.—Grand Theatre, Luton.
Sapho (Annie Bell).—Lyceum T., Newport.
Sentenced for Life.—T. R., Norwich.
Shadow of a Crime.—Grand T., Nelson.
Sherlock Holmes.—County T., Kingston.
Shulamite.—O. H., Torquay.
Sign of the Cross.—Grand T., Swansea.
Silver King (Howard).—Colne and Pontefract.
Silver King (Polini and Melford).—L. T., Crewe.
Soldier's Honour.—Gateshead.
Soldier's Wedding.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Somebody's Sweetheart.—T. R., Grantham.
Still Alarm.—P. O. W., Mexborough.
Three Little Maids (Macdona).—T. R., Chatham.
Throne of Terror.—O. H., Dudley.
Tommy.—Empire Theatre, Southend.
Toreador (Macdona).—Radcliffe.
Traitor Prince.—Lyceum T., Pentre.
Traitor, The.—Royalty T., Barrow.
Trumpet Call.—Prince's T., Poplar.
Two Little Vagabonds.—T. R., Bury St. Edmunds.
Tyrant, The.—Junction T., Manchester.
Ugliest Woman on Earth.—Huddersfield.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—Muncaster T., Bootle.
Under the Russian Flag.—Grand T., Nelson.
Under Two Flags.—Metropole T., Devonport.
'Varsity Belle.—O. H., Coventry.
Veronique.—Borough T., Stratford.
Village Blacksmith.—Court T., Wigan.
Walls of Jericho.—T. R., Nottingham.
Warning to Women.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
Wearin' o' the Green.—Shrewsbury.
What the Butler Saw.—T. R., Portsmouth.
When It Was Dark.—Queen's T., Longton.
When Woman Hates.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
White Chrysanthemum (Macdona).—Newcastle-on-T.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—Theatre Royal, York.
Women and Wine.—Empire T., Oldham.
Worst Woman in London.—T. R., Macclesfield.
Youngest of Three.—West Pier, Brighton.
10.30 Down Express.—T. R., Windsor.
£1,000 Reward.—Carlton T., Birmingham.

MISS EVELYN TAYLOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of last Saturday you state in your report of the Euston that Evelyn Taylor was down to appear, but did not put in an appearance on the night of your representative's visit. She appeared at every performance last week, also at the Chelsea Palace and Metropolitan. During the strike, lasting five weeks, she appeared at 174 performances.—Yours faithfully,

LEO FRITZ,
Business Manager.

40, Glenshaw-mansions, Brixton, Feb. 28.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

COMMERCIAL.—*Address a letter to J. B. Howard's Offices, 3, Bedford-street, Covent Garden, W.C.*

J. J.—*If the will has been proved, you can obtain a copy from Somerset House. The cost depends upon the length of the will.*

HOODMAN.—*When* Hoodman Blind *was produced at the Princess's, Aug. 18, 1885, the principals were Messrs. Wilson Barrett, E. S. Willard, Clifford Cooper, C. Fulton, George Barrett, George Walton, Charles Hudson, H. Bernage, W. A. Elliott, Mark Ambient, Murray Carson, and Cooper Cliffe; Misses Eastlake, Alice Cooke, A. Belmore, Maudie Clitherow, and Mrs. Huntley.*

W. J. PRUST.—*The first adaptation of* Little Lord Fauntleroy, *by Mr. E. V. Seebohm, was produced at the Prince of Wales's, Feb. 23, 1888, with Miss Annie Hughes in the name-part. After the action brought by the author of the story (Mrs. Hodgson Burnett) this version was prohibited. Mrs. Burnett's own adaptation, entitled* The Real Little Lord Fauntleroy, *was produced at Terry's, May 14, 1888, when the title-rôle was played by Miss Vera Beringer.*

PATENTEE.—*Apply at the Patent Office, Southampton Buildings, Chancery-lane, W.C.*

S. G.—*The London Pavilion was rebuilt in 1887. Thirteen years later several structural alterations were made, and the present building was opened on Nov. 12, 1900.*

HARRY GALE.—The Old Guard, *comic opera, adapted by H. B. Farnie from "Les Voltigeurs de la 32éme," music by Robt. Planquette, was produced at the Grand Theatre, Birmingham, on Oct. 10, 1887, and in London at the Avenue Theatre, on Oct. 26, the same year.*

MRS. J. SARGENT.—*Accidentally omitted.*

ONE INTERESTED.—*The answer to both your questions is in the affirmative. An article on the subject will shortly appear in* The Era.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth** or **Death** or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny.**

The charge for a notice of **Marriage**, not exceeding forty words, is **Two Shillings and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

HARRISON.—On the 28th Jan., at Kentish Town, London, Lillie Harrison (Mrs. John Clarke—late of Fred and Lillie Harrison, variety artists), of a daughter. Both doing well.

DEATHS

BERTRAM.—Feb. 28, of cancer, Charles Bertram, conjurer, aged 52.

DUBOIS.—Feb. 20, James Dubois (Alfonso Maillaird), animal impersonator, known as "the Man Monkey," aged 37. Deeply regretted.

GOLDSCHMIDT.—Feb. 25, at his residence in Moretongardens, South Kensington, Otto Goldschmidt, musician, and husband of Jenny Lind, aged 77.

LINGHAM.—Feb. 25, Randall Hopley Lingham, actor and author, father of Mrs. James Carter-Edwards, aged 87.

MANSELL.—Feb. 28, Richard Mansell (Maitland), theatrical lessee and manager.

IN MEMORIAM.

BLOOM.—In loving memory of my dear father, Philip Bloom, who died March 4th, 1906. Never forgotten by his ever-loving son, Woolfe "Wisper."

HOMFRAY.—In affectionate and loving memory of Reginald Stockton, and his wife, Ella Stirling, who both died Feb. 27, 1898.

KENDALL.—In ever loving memory of my dear mother, Mary Kendall, who died March 3, 1905. Never forgotten by her Marie. Rest in peace.

SEATON.—In loving memory of my dear wife, Marie Clifford (Mrs. R. G. Seaton), who passed away March 2, 1906. Never forgotten. "Be at rest."

THORNE (Sarah Macknight).—In ever loving memory of our darling mother (Sarah Thorne), who passed away Feb. 27, 1899.
A loving mother, a true friend,
Thinking only of others until her end.

FOR SYMPATHY.

MRS. DUBOIS and Family sincerely thank all friends who so kindly sent letters and wires of sympathy. Please accept this notification of our extreme gratitude.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

THE working staff of the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, held their annual supper on Monday evening at the King David Hotel, and the event proved very successful. Mr. J. M. Chute, the proprietor and manager, presided, and he was supported by a number of the principal artists in the pantomime of *Humpty Dumpty*, including Mr. Horace Mills, the Brothers Griffiths, Mr. George Conquest, Mr. C. Wakeman, Mr. J. Donald, and Carlton. Mr. George Jackson (scenic artist), Mr. Frank S. Green (acting manager), Mr. Henry Turner (stage manager), Mr. David Fisher (assistant stage manager), and Mr. Fred Irwin were also among those present.

MR. H. WILSON proposed the health of the chairman, who, having acknowledged the compliment, gave "The working staff," speaking in high terms of the manner in which the duties of the respective departments of the theatre were performed. The responders were Mr. H. Wilson (machinery and mechanical effects), Mr. H. Momber (properties, &c.), and Mr. A. Bawn (electric lighting). "Resident officials" was then submitted by the chairman, who paid a warm tribute to the excellence of the work performed by these gentlemen, which had contributed a great deal to the success of the performances. He expressed regret that Mr. George Chapman, whose pantomime music was greatly appreciated, was unable to be present. In Mr. Chapman's absence the toast was acknowledged on behalf of the orchestra by Mr. C. Wakeman, and responses were also made by Mr. George Jackson, Mr. Henry Turner, and Mr. F. S. Green. Mr. H. Turner proposed the health of the members of the pantomime company, Mr. Horace Mills responding for the gentlemen and Carlton for the ladies.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

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"Alec"
Andreassen, Mr. Albert
Artois, Mr. John
Ashington, Mr. H.
Barnett, Mr. Walter
Bastow, Mr. George
Batson, Mr. J. Hastings
Beaufort, Mr. Leslie
Beere, Mrs. Bernard
Belleur, Mr. Kyrl
Bohemians, The
Boisset Troupe
Bowman, Miss Isa
Boyd and Gilfain
Bradford, Mr. Chas.
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Donaldson Bros.
Drew, Mr. Chas.
Duggan, Miss Maggie
Edmonds, Mr. E. V.
"Elverton"
Ferriss, Mr. Arthur
Florence and Lillian
Fortman, Mr. N. M.
Fossett, Mr. Harry
Fox, Mr. Housley
Freeman, Mr. Harry
Fulford, Mr. Quinton
Fuller, Prof.
Garth, Miss Maud
Gaze, Mr. Leslie
Gerald, Mr. Frank
Gray, Miss Mona
Gregory, Mr. E. G.
Grenville, Mr. Alfred
Gooes, Messrs. Gunnar
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Kenealy, Mr.
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Pinder's Circus
Potter, Mrs. Brown
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Stormont, Mr. Leo
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Vasco
Ventris, Mr. Arthur
Vernon, Miss H.
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Wakeley, Miss Minnie
Waldron, Mr. Joe
Walton, Mr.
Waterfield, Mr. C.
Weybourn, Miss E.
Whirligigs, The
Whitcombe, Mr. B.
Willard, Mr. George
Williams, Mr. Harcourt
Winter, Miss Lily
Wylie, Mr. Laurie
Yates, Mr. Fred
Yorick, Mr. Tom
Yorke, Mr. Leonard
Zedna, Miss M.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen :—

Hermann Vezin—Saturday, March 2.
Richard Temple—Saturday, March 2.
Nellie Navette—Saturday, March 2.
Marie E. Robertson—Saturday, March 2.
Albert Le Fre—Saturday, March 2.
Fred Dalton—Saturday, March 2.
G. W. Gael, Saturday, March 2.
Ada Reeve—Sunday, March 3.
Cissie Bellamy—Sunday, March 3.
Ada Crossley—Sunday, March 3.
Jessie Lindsay—Sunday, March 3.
Felix Napoli—Sunday, March 3.
Stuart Robson—Monday, March 4.
A. Hall Menzies—Monday, March 4.
Effie Mason—Monday, March 4.
Nancy Renshaw—Monday, March 4.
Ada Hollingsworth—Monday, March 4.
Katherine Rind—Monday, March 4.
Mary Campbell—Monday, March 4.
J. Someville Ellis—Monday, March 4.
Arthur Stratton—Monday, March 4.
Fred Emney—Tuesday, March 5.
Fewlass Llewellyn—Tuesday, March 5.
Harry Bawn—Tuesday, March 5.
Lucie Victor—Tuesday, March 5.
Georgie de Lara—Tuesday—March 5.
Charles Lester—Wednesday, March 6.
Leonard Rayne—Wednesday, March 6.
Will Bishop—Wednesday, March 6.
Edith Grey—Wednesday, March 6.
Lily Seymour—Wednesday, March 6.
Chas. Cartwright—Thursday, March 7.
Ivy Ellaline Thorne—Thursday, March 7.
Ida Murray—Thursday, March 7.
Fred Graham—Thursday, March 7.
Albert E. Ansell—Thursday, March 7.
Stanley Radcliffe—Thursday, March 7.
Florence St. John—Friday, March 8.
Ernestine Walter—Friday, March 8.
Leonard Russell—Friday, March 8.
Edward Offley—Friday, March 8.

MR. W. STYLO writes to correct an error in our last week's "Birthday List." The name Beatrice Bourne should have read Beatrice Bonnie.

"THE COAL KING" is being patronised by enthusiastic houses this week at the Elephant and Castle, the stock company giving an admirable interpretation of Messrs. Martin and Llewellyn's powerful play. Mr. Albert Ward imbues the hero with virility and earnestness; and Mr. Horace Hunter makes his mark as the villain, Walter Harford. Mr. Frank Harrison gives an excellent portrayal of Sir Reginald Harford; and Mr. W. H. Hatchman's sketch of the sub-manager, Dick Shirley, is clever. Roars of laughter are evoked by Mr. Teddy Coleman in the part of Jim Williams. The dramatic skill of Miss Kathleen Russell is effectively employed in the rôle of Grace Shirley. Mrs. F. Calhaem creates a marked impression by her rendering of the character of Mad Anne. The rôle is an exacting one, but the wide experience and finished methods of the popular actress enable her to present a study which well deserves the cheers with which it is greeted.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1907.

PESSIMISM AND THE PROVINCES.

The recent sale of the properties and goodwill of "HOWARD and WYNDHAM, Limited," of the Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Newcastle Theatres, to Messrs. R. C. BUCHANAN, of the King's Theatre, Edinburgh, and Mr. ERNEST STEVENS, of the Marlborough Theatre, London, at an advanced price of £160,000, deserves consideration. It may be asked of the occurrence, as the student enquired concerning "Paradise Lost," "What does it prove?" It is difficult to say. "HOWARD and WYNDHAM, Limited," was registered in 1895. The company owned the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, and the Theatre Royal and King's Theatres, Glasgow, and held leases of the Royalty Theatre, Glasgow, and the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The authorised capital was £150,000, in shares of £5, £100,000 being ordinary, and £50,000 5 per cent. cumulative preference. £70,000 of the ordinary and £30,000 of the preference shares were issued and paid up. There were also £15,000 of debentures. For the first year of the company 8 per cent. was paid on the ordinary shares; for each of the six years to 1901-2, 10; for 1902-3, 15; for 1903-4, 20. A bonus of 100 per cent. was paid in May, 1904, absorbing the old reserve fund. For 1904-5, 7½ per cent. was paid on the increased capital as from May 2, 1904, and for 1905-6, 10. The new reserve fund was £12,500, and the insurance reserve fund was £2500.

The reasons given for the sale by Mr. MICHAEL SIMON, the chairman of the company, in his speech at the Edinburgh meeting were various. Mr. SIMON'S view or the future of the British drama was gloomy in the extreme. "Everyone who knew anything about theatrical business," he said, knew that the ebb had set in. The present balance-sheet of the company showed a very considerable diminution in the profits. Theatrical business, said Mr. Simon, was not what it had been, and Mr. WYNDHAM, feeling that very keenly, was desirous of relinquishing management. They had had to contend against the competition of the music halls. Then there were the "extravagant" demands of star artists at pantomime time. When they were met with a set of conditions like these, he thought they should, after having had ten years of prosperity, realise their properties to the fullest extent possible and avoid the period of danger. There were, he continued, cycles of prosperity and cycles of adversity in connection with theatrical ventures; and it was quite within the bounds of possibility that depreciation might set in in an inverse ratio to the amount of appreciation. It is stated, however, that the augmented price offered by Mr. BUCHANAN and Mr. STEVENS, who raised their bid from £146,000 to £160,000, was due to the fact that another syndicate had made advances to HOWARD and WYNDHAM for the purchase of the properties.

It is difficult to obtain reliable data concerning any business, but doubly so in the case of theatres. It is only when they become public companies, and their affairs are thus disclosed, that we get any information; and even then the bare figures are often misleading.

Let us take the record of some provincial theatrical companies. The Theatre and Opera House, Leeds, Limited, was registered in 1876 with an authorised capital of £50,000 in shares of £50, of which £24,600 has been subscribed and paid up. For some years to April, 1893, the dividends were 2 per cent.; for three years to 1895-6, nil; for 1896-7, 4 per cent.; for the seven years to 1903-4, 5 per cent.; for 1904-5, 4; and for 1905-6, 5.

The Theatre Royal, Manchester, was registered with an authorised capital of £40,000 in shares of £10, of which £33,690 has been issued and paid up. For each of the five years to 1896-7, 3 per cent. was paid; for 1897-8, 4; for 1898-9, 5 and a bonus of 3¾; for 1899-1900, 6; for 1900-1, 5; for 1901-2 and 1902-3, 4; for 1903-4 and 1904-5, 3; and for 1905-6, 5. The reserve fund is £2000.

The United Theatres Company, Limited, the offices of which are in Manchester, was registered in 1898 with an authorised capital of £100,000. The dividends for the period 1899 to 1903 varied between 5 and 10 per cent.; for 1903-4, only the preference dividend was paid; for 1904-5, the ordinary shareholders got 5 per cent.; and for 1905-6 only the preference dividend was paid.

We admit that in theatrical business, as in trade generally, there are, as Mr. SIMON said, "cycles" of prosperity and cycles of adversity; the mistake is to attribute these "cycles" to what is commonly called Fate, and not to natural causes. Good times and bad times, as any professor of economics will tell us, are simply periods of over-production, extravagance, and wild speculation, followed by periods of unemployment, thrift, and caution. It is not that there are not now as many theatrical fish in the sea of population as ever—there are more; but the bait offered them is not sufficiently attractive. When it is so they "bite" freely enough. As an instance, the takings for the week's recent visit of the MOODY-MANNERS Opera Company to Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle, reached very little short of £600, £400 never having been quite reached since the rebuilding of the house. Now what is the secret of Mr. MANNERS' success? Is it not chiefly his artistic enthusiasm? It seems to us that the reason of a great deal of the "bad business" in the provinces has been just the decay of this artistic enthusiasm and ardent individuality in the profession. To a great extent, the drama of late years has been "running on its momentum." We have been "playing down" to the public, and giving them what they want, instead, as Mr. TREE says, of giving them what we want them to have, and making them take it by sheer ability. There is too much machinery about our "attractions." Musical comedy is almost entirely a manufactured article; and the same may be said of much modern melodrama. Playwriting has become a base mechanical craft, instead of an intoxicating, fascinating struggle for fame. If we look at our list of companies on the road we find that, even now, ancient as they are, such fine plays as *The Silver King*, *The Lights of London*, *Proof*, *The Manxman*, and *Saints and Sinners* are holding their own. When an art, or even an artistic trade, is carried on on purely commercial principles, it decays, even on its financial side. The great monetary successes of the past were not written "to order," but in response to artistic impulses; the great melodrama managements were ambitious, not mercenary. The way to make money with theatres is to spare neither brains nor pains nor cash in order to give the public first-rate plays, performed by the best artists procurable, and thoroughly well mounted. When a brewer finds his sales falling off he does not—if he be wise—brew worse beer, but better. We must not attribute any falling off in the theatrical business to "cycles." We might as well be astrologers and attribute them to the influence of the planets. "'Tis in ourselves that we are thus or thus." There is, one hears, every prospect of general trade being good in this country for the next four or five years. Is the stage to share in the approaching prosperity?

DEATH OF MR. RICHARD MANSELL.

We regret to announce the death on Thursday last of Mr. Richard Mansell, who at an early age became a member of the theatrical profession. The deceased, besides begin an actor, was for many years one of the best-known theatrical managers in London. In the 'seventies he was lessee and manager of St. James's, where he produced Offenbach's *Bridge of Sighs* (Le Pont des Soupirs), and other operas; was afterwards joint lessee (with his brother) of the Lyceum, and was responsible for the famous production of *Chilperic*, with the composer, Hervé, in the cast. He was resident-manager (under E. G. Saunders) of the Coronet Theatre from its opening in 1898 to 1903, where he, under Mr. E. G. Saunders, supervised a revival of *Chilperic*, with Miss Winifred Hare in the title-rôle. He appeared at the Coliseum as Jacob in *Joseph and His Brethren*.

An amusing story is told of the deceased manager in connection with the time he was the lessee of the St. James's Theatre. He fell foul of the Lord Chamberlain on the subject of the length of the ladies' dresses at that theatre. The next night all the fair members of the chorus appeared in full-length nightdresses.

THE next play to be produced by the Stage Society will be Brieux's *Les Hannetons*, performances of which will take place on the 24th and 25th of this month.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

THE usual weekly meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association was held on Tuesday, when there were present Mr. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), Mr. A. B. Drinkwater (deputy chairman), Mr. H. W. Mote (solicitor), Mesdames Carlotta Addison, Georgina Hamilton, and Kate Phillips, Messrs. Granville Barker, Cecil Barth, J. Cooke Beresford, Clarence Blakiston, Acton Bond, W. Grahame Browne, Lewis Casson, Burton Cooke, H. Athol Forde, Laurence Irving, Kenyon Musgrave, Herbert Shelley, Algernon Syms, Brandon Thomas, Frank Vernon, Fredk. Volpé, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). Mr. C. Aubrey Smith was elected chairman of the Council for 1907-8, and Mr. A. E. Drinkwater deputy chairman for a like period.

ELECTIONS on the various committees resulted as follows:—Finance and General Purposes Committee: Messrs. Cecil Barth, J. Cooke Beresford, Acton Bond, Lewis Casson, A. E. Drinkwater, H. Athol Forde, Laurence Irving, Alfred Kendrick, and M. R. Morand. Special Committee: Messrs. Clarence Blakiston, C. Hayden Coffin, Arthur Holmes-Gore, M. R. Morand, Kenyon Musgrave, and Spencer Trevor. Subscription Committee: Messrs. Cecil Barth, J. Cooke Beresford, Acton Bond, and Thalberg Corbett. Commissioners Committee: Mesdames Georgina Hamilton, Rose Mathews, Phyllis Relph, Lucy Sibley, and Blanche Stanley; Messrs. F. J. Arlton, Cecil Barth, Leslie Carter, Clive Currie, Frank G. Dunn, S. Major Jones, Ralph Roberts, Edmond T. Sayers, and Brandon Thomas. It was agreed that every member of the Council was *ex officio* a member of this committee. Social and Library Committee: Mesdames Hylda Franklin, Georgina Hamilton, Rose Mathews, Margaret Parker, Kathleen Russell, and Lucy Sibley; Messrs. Cecil Barth, Robert Castleton, Clive Currie, A. E. Drinkwater, Frank G. Dunn, and Arthur Morris. Each committee has power to add to its number.

THE election of members of the Alteration of Articles Committee was postponed. Mavis Hope, Gertrude L. Robins, Frank Royde, Joseph Herbert, Kathleen M. Begbie, Harvey Braban, Austin Spencer, Robert Atkins, and Wm. Farren, jun. (for reinstatement) were nominated for election to the Actors' Association.

THE hon. solicitors reported they had issued a summons to recover salary due to a member, and they had also advised a member on a point submitted, and, further, that a member had decided to abandon his claim against a manager. The secretary reported that the eighth bi-monthly meeting of the members would be held on Thursday, the 14th inst., at 2.30, in the saloon at 10, King-street. Two cases of alleged insanitation in provincial theatres were dealt with. The meeting of the Council opened at 2.30, and closed at 5.55 p.m.

THE Finance and General Purposes Committee held a meeting on Tuesday last, opening at 6 p.m. and closing at 6.45. There were present: Messrs. J. Cooke Beresford, Acton Bond, Lewis Casson, A. E. Drinkwater, H. Athol Forde, C. Aubrey Smith, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). Mr. Acton Bond was elected chairman for 1907-8. Questions of finance were considered, and instructions given.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The concert of Wednesday evening was equally divided between vocal and instrumental pieces. In the latter Miss Daisy Walker was especially happy in her piano solo of Godard's "Chromatic Waltz," which she played with freedom. Miss Beryl Eager, although not quite so successful, displayed talent in Ries' "Adagio in B flat," from Suite in G for violin. Master Cecil Hay, for so young a performer, gave great promise in his piano solo, "Valse in A flat," by Chopin, being heartily applauded at the close. In Beethoven's "Romance in F," Miss Catherine Wyman played the violin with considerable ability; and another young student, pupil of Mr. Norman Cummings, played Liszt's piano solo, "Chant Polonais No. 1," in a manner that reflected great credit on his professor. Miss Gertrude Muir Irving, in her violin solo of Svendsen's "Romance," somewhat dragged the time, though neatly executing this difficult solo; in a less exacting piece Miss Irving would have been more successful. The vocal items were "Oh! hear the wild winds blow," by Mattei, in which Mr. Mace Ashton displayed an excellent voice, but was not entirely happy either in its production or intonation; while Miss Lilian Adams, in essaying Lane Wilson's "Carmena," rather spoilt the effect by singing with a certain amount of vibrato, no doubt caused by nervousness. Mr. A. C. Steed sang Blumenthal's "My Queen" so well that he had no need to force his voice; and Miss Bertha Brown may be praised for her singing of "Mine Enemy," by Olga Rudd. Miss Brown has a mezzo-soprano that will amply repay careful cultivation. The other songs given were "Come, my love, to me" and "Madrigal" (Chaminade), sung by Miss E. Boncey; and "Oh, waving trees," by Graham Peel, in which Mr. W. H. Cooper was heard to some advantage. The programme ended with a recitation, "My First and Last Appearance" (E. F. Turner), by Miss Irene Graham, pupil of Miss Kate Rorke. The accompanist was Miss Jenny Hyman.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress on Tuesday were present at the formal opening at the Guildhall School of Music of the handsome new organ costing 1000 guineas, built by Messrs. Norman and Beard, of Norwich, which has been erected in the concert room of the above institution. This fine instrument completes the musical equipment of the School. The Lord Mayor, in the course of his short speech, made some humorous remarks about the new organ, which is of the most approved modern pattern, and also, in speaking of the Guildhall School, said they were anxious to be up to date.

A short programme was given, Dr. Warwick Jordan playing some organ solos, Miss Barwell-Holbrook and Miss Romea giving several songs, and Miss Doris Cloud a violin solo.

THE one hundredth performance of *Sindbad* at Drury Lane was reached on Wednesday without any sign of abatement in the pantomime's power to attract. Fragson celebrated the occasion by introducing still another new song, "The hat shop," the words of which are by Messrs. Wimperis and Davidson, and the music composed, as usual, by the clever Anglo-French comedian.

WE record with regret the death of Mr. Archibald Gunter, who attained considerable fame some years ago as the author of the engrossing novel, "Mr. Barnes of New York," and also made a name as a dramatic author. His plays, most of which were produced in America, included *Prince Karl*, *Two Nights in Rome*, *Fresh, the American*, *After the Opera*, *The Deacon's Daughter*, *The Dime Novel*, *Little Puck*, *My Official Wife*, *One Against Many*, *The Soul of an Actress*, and a dramatisation of "Mr. Barnes."

OPERA lovers of an older generation will have pleasing memories of Mme. Georgina Burns, a vocalist of great culture, who won considerable success in a former day, but has now been overtaken by misfortune. Mme. Burns was one of the principals of the Carl Rosa Company, and afterwards embarked on an operatic enterprise with her husband, the late Mr. Leslie Crotty, only to meet with failure. Mme. Burns for some twelve years has been partially paralysed, and is now penniless and living in constant dread of the workhouse. Mrs. Bagot, wife of Lieut.-Col. Bagot, of Levens Hall, Milnthorpe, has opened a fund to assist the unfortunate lady to establish herself in Liverpool, where she hopes to gain a livelihood as a teacher of singing.

DINNER TO MR. JOHN ABBOTT.

There was a sound of revelry on the night of the 22nd ult. at the Crown Restaurant, when the staff of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter gave a farewell dinner to their companion, Mr. John Abbott, prior to his departure for America to take up a position of trust under Mr. Fred Day, the manager of the New York branch of the well-known firm. Besides the majority of the staff, a number of friends and well-wishers, representing other big music-publishing houses and the printing and allied trades were also present to do honour to the young man who had been specially selected for a coveted post. The proceedings were of the most enjoyable character, and the dinner was fully in keeping with the traditions of the famous restaurant, being personally supervised by Mr. H. L. Seddon, the proprietor. The menu card is appended, it being of a novel character, and one which Fred W. Leigh is accused of having drawn up:—

A Few Friends Have Pleasure
in filling some of the vacancies in the interior of
MR. JOHN ABBOTT,
prior to his departure (Feb. 27, 1907) for New York, U.S.A., where all are confident he will worthily uphold the fame and extend the interests of
FRANCIS, DAY, AND HUNTER,
who, by sending him thither, delicately express their appreciation of the loyalty and all-round competence displayed by him during the eight years of his connection with their staff.

What's the Matter with John Abbott? He's All Right!

Who's All Right?..... John Abbott!
"For feeding prepare,
With napkin unfurled;
John Smith's in the Chair—
All's right with the world."
Rudyard Khayyam.

PROGRAMME.

(From the noun, PROG—victuals; and the verb, RAM—to force in, to cram.)

Thick Mock Turtle. Julienne.
"It's time to begin—
Hold your whist for a minute!
The soup's coming in—
May we never be in it!"
Omar Kipling.

Fried Filleted Sole and To(e)mato(e).
(An attempt to evolve a joke from the conjunction of SOLE and TO(E) ended in de-FEET.)
"When Isaac Walton wielded the rod,
He was very familiar with carp and pike;
And though old Ike lies under the sod,
They still get a line now and then from Eyke."

Roast Ribs of Beef, or Roast Leg of Mutton and Jelly.
"When full of beef,
Or stuffed with mutton,
To find relief,
Undo a button."
From "Table Etiquette," by D'Arby Kelly.

Roast Surrey Fowl and Ham.
O Fowl of Surrey! ere you died,
And sage was rammed in your inside,
I wonder if you ever knew
That this proud fate awaited you.
Did dreams foretell that you would be
Immortalised in verse by ME?
And, Ham-attended, served up thus
To fill the inner parts of US?

Sauté and Boiled Potatoes and Cabbage.

At this point the writer of the foregoing will be the recipient of a unique gift. Mr. William Francis, Junr. (of London and New York), will hand him a lemon. After a scarcely noticeable interval the lemon-taker will reply in a few short words.

Gentlemen of the Press are requested not to report the speeches.

Diplomatic Pudding, or Apple Fritters.

Cheese Straws, or Cheese and Celery.

Several excruciatingly funny things had been selected from "JOKELETS" (published by Francis, Day, and Hunter, 142, Charing Cross-road, Oxford-street End, London, W.C., and 15, West 30th Street, New York) to enliven the concluding portion of the Programme; our Chairman, however, in order to give the company a chance of settling into a frame of mind suited to the serious character of what is to follow, decided not to use them.

Some People have threatened to sing—
MAY HEAVEN PROTECT US!

"God Save the King!" "Hail, Columbia!"

The reference to Isaac Walton in the foregoing is in honour of Mr. William Eyke, one of the firm's travellers, who is a respected member of the profession's very own angling society, the Stockwell, and an authority on roach fishing.

The speeches were brief and to the point, the Chairman, Mr. John "Sixpenny Pops" Smith, the manager of the firm, proposing the toast of the evening, "Success to John Abbott," in neatly-turned phrases to which the voyager responded. During the evening a telegram was handed to Mr. Abbott, which was read to the company, it running thus: "Rest assured of our fullest confidence and heartiest wishes.—William Francis and David Day." Another feature of the evening was the drinking of far-away Fred Day's health with musical honours. Uproarious merriment was caused by the ceremony of each member of the party forming in procession, headed by Mr. W. Francis, jun., and handing Mr. Abbott a lemon, which appears to be an American equivalent for the phrase in vogue here of "taking the cake." A eulogistic speech was also made by Mr. Berridge, sen.; and a letter was read purporting to emanate from pirate music-hawkers of London wishing a jolly good riddance to John Abbott, and regretting that he had not departed for America long ago, and taken young Briebach and "Willie" Preston with him. These gentlemen—like Mr. Abbott, mighty pirate hunters both—were present. Mr. Charles Wilmott made a capital vice-chairman.

A concert followed the dinner, contributed to by some well-known artists, the pianists being Messrs. H. E. Rether, Hermann E. Darewski, jun., Penyston Miles, Leonard Bellamy, and the brother of Wyley Price who, after Mr. Pether's overture, opened the ball with "My fiddle is my sweetheart," accompanying himself on the violin, on which instrument he afterwards played Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever," with verve and fire. Hermann E. Darewski, jun., exhibited an interesting experiment in animal magnetism, and H. E. Pether showed the same ease and facility with a pack of cards that he does at the keyboard. The following songs were also given:—"The dear old shore," John Smith; Miss Vesta Victoria's great success, "Poor John!" (with special verse in honour of John Abbott), W. Francis, jun.; "Don't you think he's mad?" Arthur Francis; "The Old Green Isle," William Eyke; "I'm a little bit deaf today," "Folkestone for the day," and "Logic," Edgar Curtis; "Wire in, my lads," Fred W. Leigh; "We parted on the shore" and "Hello! hello! hello!" John Abbott; "The song without a name," Charles Wilmott; "Birdseed," Edgar Bateman; "The Trumpeter," Leonard Bellamy; "Johnny used to drive the coffee-mill," "Willie" Preston (of Messrs. Chappell's staff); "Tooral-I-ay," James Hutchens; "The galloping Major" and "Nobody," Mr. Will Randall; and "Our Beano" and "Father!" Will Edwards. "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem brought the function to a close.

THE "QUEEN OF SPADES."

New Ballet, in Three Scenes, Action and Dances composed and arranged by Signor Alfredo Curti, Music by Signor Mario Costa.

Produced at the Alhambra on Monday, Feb. 25.

The Sculptor ..... MISS JULIA SEALE
His Fiancée ..... } MISS L. BRYANT
Spirit of Good ..... }
Director of Kursaal ..... SIGNOR G. ROSI
The Marquis ..... SIGNOR SANTINI
L'Etoile ..... } MLLE. ALEXIA
Queen of Spades ..... }
The Jester ..... SIGNORINA MORINO

There is no surcease of the charm and elegance that one expects in an Alhambra ballet in Mr Alfred Moul and Mr. George Scott's latest production, and we gaze on the sensuous beauty of the three scenes into which *The Queen of Spades* is divided with the conviction that the new era of choreographic production, if it lacks something of the classical tradition, has lost none of the qualities that recommend it to the general public. A decided innovation is the series of Urbanora pictures, which enable one to follow the action of the story, and form a connecting link between the scenes, which are rich in glowing colour and animated by some very delightful divertissements.

The Gardens of the Kursaal reveal to us the cosmopolitan gaiety and *désœuvrement* that may be encountered at some of the more fashionable of Continental health resorts. The crowd is bent apparently on honouring a young sculptor, whose *chef d'œuvre* has been just unveiled. The director, in a speech much interrupted by loud applause, voices the congratulations of the crowd; but dearer than all to the young sculptor are the felicitations of his fiancée. Unfortunately, however, for his peace of mind, he finds metal more attractive in the sinuous graces of L'Etoile, a famous Parisian dancer. He is fascinated by her, and, with the desire to secure her favours, he "plunges" at the tables, and loses his money as rapidly as unreflecting lovers usually do on the stage, the fatal card against him always being the queen of spades. He seeks oblivion in the wine-cup, and finally sinks into stupor. The cinématograph is brought into play to picture his dream. During his period of unconsciousness he sees L'Etoile's boudoir. Her lover enters. The sculptor, goaded to madness, draws a pistol, and shoots at his rival. The screen then lifts, and we are in a golden palace—a shrine of pleasure, where the various "liqueurs" disport themselves in a valse, and we have a grand march of playing-cards, the ballerine and figurantes making their entry down a broad flight of steps. The card ballet is as ingenious as it is beautiful, and among the variations are a strikingly effective "bridge" minuet and mazurka. Into this vortex of dissipation the young sculptor is introduced by Folly, and he is again mocked by L'Etoile, who disguises herself as the Queen of Spades.

In the grotto of "La Source"—a picture of translucent wavelets washing the floors of a cave roofed with stalactites of surpassing beauty, with a figurante of perfect proportions realising the celebrated picture quoted—nymphs in sea-green disport themselves behind ingeniously-arranged and cleverly-illuminated lengths of gauze, and the apotheosis of the ballet is reached when the Spirit of Good, having resuscitated the form of the sculptor, fortifies him against the evil influence of the Queen of Spades, and he is left in a state of rapture. This is shared by the audience, who gaze on a scene of shimmering brightness and singular beauty.

Mlle. Alexia, who, we believe, makes her first appearance at the Alhambra, has been, if we mistake not, seen at the Empire since the reopening of that house in a turn of acrobatic dancing. She is termed a *danseuse de genre*, and her whirlings and twirlings are immensely clever and sensational. She is assisted by M. Orfeo, whose *pas bondissant* round the stage brings down the house. A welcome return to the home of her former triumphs is made by Miss Julia Seale, who plays the difficult rôle of the young sculptor with considerable dramatic force and no little pathos. Miss Seale's art has mellowed during her absence in France and Italy, and the hearty welcome accorded her proves that she has not been forgotten. Signorina Morino is a piquant examplar of Folly, and her solo is one of the most artistic things in the production. Signor Giovanni Rosi puts humour into his interpretation of the part of the Director of the Kursaal; and Signor Amedeo Santini's miming as the Marquis sufficiently conveys the significance of the part. The tarantella by the corps de ballet in harlequin and harlequina dresses of shaded blue was one of the successes of the night. Another was the clever dance by Misses Ida Bailey, Florrie Rowe, Annie Mortimer, Nellie Coleman, Daisy Summers, and Belle Davis. Signor Mario Costa's music is melodious, vivacious, lightsome, and well scored; and the costumes, so admirably designed by Comelli, have been turned out to perfection by the one and only Alias. Much credit is due to Mr. A. G. Forde for the smoothness of the first performance. There were honours and bouquets for the principals on Monday, and everyone concerned was called amid scenes of considerable enthusiasm.

CROUCH END HIPPODROME.

The prosperity of this, one of London's latest variety theatres, seems to be established, as is evidenced by the large audiences that muster here night after night. The situation of the theatre is greatly in its favour, having a large surrounding district to draw upon; but that, without liberal and spirited catering, would count for little. Fortunately, Mr. H. de Groot directs the house, and in his experienced hands the business of the house is safe. The worthy efforts of Mr. J. Howard Hutchinson, the chef d'orchestre, and his companions lead off with an overture, Suppe's "Light Cavalry," excellently rendered, after which follows a variety programme of a very high standard of excellence. A distinct hit is made by Miss Marie Neilson, comedienne and dancer; as the latter she is seen to considerable advantage. An interesting item is the conjuring entertainment supplied by Lazeen; and Mr. B. H. Almon proves himself almost as expert on his hands as most are on their feet—he is a veritable "upside-down" marvel. Tom Bass has some funny songs and patter, and Miss Ethel Dunford charms her audience with capital renderings of "Mlle. New York" and "I can see the red roses blooming." Mr. Antonio Medcalf contributes a couple of good songs, and the programme is varied with an original sketch, entitled *Woman's Wiles*, in which Miss Margaret Cavania and company provide a clever and humorous act. Espinosa and Neilson's dancing is a very commendable item; and the vocal scena entitled *Waiting*, as presented by Ghita Corri, gains for her abundant applause. An important engagement is that of Henri Cazman in his world-famed entertainment of *La Café Chantant*. Although obviously suffering from a distressing cold, he afforded welcome diversion with his excellent entertainment, which he carried out with all the point and significance that characterise his efforts. Miss Yolande Noble, a very chic comedienne, is markedly successful with songs given in very chic style. The Maritana Operatic Company, a quartette of much excellence, appear in selections from Wallace's *Maritana*, and are much appreciated. The condensed opera is staged in a satisfactory manner, and is well received. The lengthy programme concludes with a series of pictures presented by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.

MISS JESSIE M. LYONS, who is considered one of the best delineators of coloured parts, commences the Stoll tour with her successful sketch, *Nelly of the Veldt*, on the 18th inst. at Walham Green.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Miss Marie Lloyd has benefited greatly by her visit to Madeira, from which beautiful island she sailed on Tuesday. She is expected home at Granville Lodge, King Henry's-road, on Sunday, and a warm welcome awaits her at the Oxford and Canterbury on Monday.

The Brixton Theatre will re-open with a production of a version of *Aladdin* on Monday. Mr. R. W. Allum (who has been acting-manager of the Putney Hippodrome) will return to the house wherein he was so popular.

Although no official announcement appears to have been made in connection with the impending changes at the Putney Hippodrome, the hall will close down this Saturday evening. Some of the staff, we understand, are being transferred to either the Empress, Brixton, or the Duchess, Balham. After an interval of about a fortnight, the place, which has been sold by the mortgagees, Messrs. J. H. Kingerlee and Son, builders, Oxford, will be opened under the auspices of Mr. Walter Gibbons on the two-shows-a-night system.

All our English humorists are going to America. George Mozart's monologues have been "knocking 'em" in New York; and Mr. Will Evans, a descendant of famous clowns, sailed for the States on Wednesday.

Mr. Will Oliver, "the man on the spot," announces that by mutual consent the firm of Oliver and Holmes will dissolve partnership, and that after March 25 next he will work on his own, transacting business at Spot Lodge, Brixton-road, S.W. Will, who commenced his career as an entertainer at the age of fifteen, has spent over forty years of his life in the profession.

Richard Warner, Ltd., on Tuesday afternoon, had a party, and revealed the comfort and convenience of their new suite of agency offices at Lyric Chambers, 27, Shaftesbury-avenue, to a number of friends and clients. The new offices are divided into seven rooms, all of which are furnished with studious elegance, and with a view to facilitate the rapid transaction of business.

The Zancigs concluded their engagement at the Alhambra on Saturday night, when Mr. Alfred Moul presented Mrs. Zancig with a beautiful diamond star. The provincial tour has no connection with the Alhambra, other than the fact that arrangements have been made with Mr. Alfred Moul personally for its control and direction.

Mr. Hayden Coffin recollected that Wednesday was the centenary of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and sang at the Palace Theatre "The Village Blacksmith," set to music by the famous basso of his day, W. H. Weiss. There is another version by Blockley, which has been forgotten.

So successful has been the engagement of Miss Vesta Tilley at the Palace that it has been extended for another two weeks. And if it is possible for this clever artist to so arrange, she will accept the offer of Mr. Alfred Butt to still further prolong her stay at the Shaftesbury-avenue variety theatre for six weeks more.

May and Flora Hengler, as juvenile singers and dancers, were immensely popular on this side, and America, which has claimed their services for a long time, reluctantly parts with them for a short special engagement at the Empire, where they open on Monday. Other additions to the programme at this variety theatre on the same evening are Miss Marquis, with her clever troupe of trained ponies, and Leon Roget, the musical mimic, who will pay a return visit.

Terriers Charles Stevens and H. Griff enjoyed a final reception at the meeting of the fraternity on Sunday at headquarters previous to their departure to-day for South Africa, from Waterloo at 11.15, per ss. "Kenilworth Castle," when a crowd of Terriers and friends will bid them bon voyage. Griff was presented with an enlarged picture of himself, handsomely framed, from the Association, the work being executed by Terrier Arthur Simmons, artist and photographer, of Westminster Bridge-road. Many compliments were flying around and the evening closed with the merry clinking of cannikins.

Mr. John Lawson opened at the Manchester Hippodrome on Monday with *The King's Minister*, scoring a distinct success with his portrayal of the Prime Minister. The local Press, in describing the scenery and effects, say such a set has not been seen at the Hippodrome since the opening. This veritable dramatic gem from the accomplished pen of Cecil Raleigh will be seen at the Bordesley Palace during the coming week. On May 6 Mr. Lawson returns to town to produce at the Holborn Empire a new sketch, entitled *The Unwritten Law*, the leading incident of which will be founded on the Thaw case. A lady well known in musical comedy circles has been engaged to sustain the leading part.

The directors of the Palace Theatre have decided to give a matinée on behalf of the widows and orphans of the crew of the ss. Berlin, and to hand the proceeds of such matinée to the fund started by the Mayor of Harwich, who has gladly accepted this offer. The matinée will take place on Thursday, March 7th, under most distinguished patronage. A specially augmented programme will be presented, and seats can now be booked.

The death is announced of Mr. Robert Walter Chandler, the father of Miss Eva Carrington, the Gibson Girl in *The Catch of the Season*, who married Baron de Clifford in February, 1906. The late Mr. Chandler was originally in the Horse Guards, and was a magnificent specimen of the cavalryman, being 6ft. 4in. in height. On leaving the service he became a uniformed attendant at the old Trocadero, in the time of the late Mr. Sam Adams.

Presiding at the meeting of the Empire Palace on Feb. 22, Mr. Frederick Hurdle remarked that he had been called upon to take the chair in the unavoidable absence of Mr. George Edwardes, who was laid up with an attack of influenza. The board was able to declare a dividend at the rate of 13 1-3 per cent., and proposed to carry forward the substantial sum of over £6000. The shareholders, he thought, would approve of the action of the board in effecting a leasehold redemption policy for the return of the capital of the company to the shareholders at the expiration of the lease in the year 1958. A brief discussion followed, in the course of which Mr. Ernest T. Polden, director of the Palace Theatre, remarked that he knew something of the difficulties of the variety entertainment business during recent years, and congratulated the directors on the success of the company's business during the past year. The report was adopted.

At the Empire a new ballet is in course of preparation, though it will not be required for some time yet. It is to be the work of Mr. Adrian Ross, who should provide something out of the common, while Dr. Osmond Carr will be responsible for the music.

In consequence of a programme error, the name of Miss Madge Hyde was given in our notice of Mr. Aubrey Fitzgerald's sketch at the Tivoli. Miss Hyde writes to point out that her Christian name is Aithea.

Mr. J. Bannister Howard, like Mr. Walter Gibbons at Ealing, Mr. G. A. Payne at Walthamstow, and Mr. George Dance at Richmond, is in the enviable position of holding two licences—dramatic and music hall—for the Royal Theatre, King's Lynn, and will re-open it as a Hippodrome on Monday. Mr. Howard is trying the experiment of running three nights only each week, two houses a night, and booking the other three nights in conjunction with Mr. Eade Montefiore, of Bury St. Edmunds.

Mr. Auguste Van Biene and Mr. Oswald Stoll have arranged a grand benefit matinée in aid of the widows and orphans of the crew of the ill-fated s.s. Berlin at Liverpool during the week of March 11, under most distinguished patronage. Mr. Van Biene will appear in his new one-act playlet, *The Master Musician*, supported by Miss Lena Burnleigh, and a very strong programme is being arranged.

Trusts or monopolies in any industry cease to exist where there is healthy competition, and there is plenty of rivalry among music hall proprietors throughout the country. As soon as one touring association is successful in various towns, opposition—very much to the benefit of the public seeking amusement—is bound to be forthcoming. Quite recently we were told an octopus organisation monopolised the Empires and Palaces from London to Edinburgh; but on every side rival establishments are being opened, and the public will shortly have a choice of variety theatres all over the country that are not ruled by any one combination.

Foremost among these newcomers is Mr. Walter de Frece, who, associated in some instances with Mr. F. Monillot and Mr. Thomas Barrasford, is rapidly adding to the places of amusement in the provinces. Within a couple of months three new pleasure resorts will be opened under his management. The first, on March 4, will be the Palace, Leeds, formerly known as the Queen's Theatre, which, as rebuilt, is one of the largest in the town, and will be run by Mr. de Frece on the two-houses-a-night system. Then on April 1 he will open as a music hall the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh; and the following week will see the inauguration of the New Hippodrome, Portsmouth, a magnificent building, which has cost £50,000, and which, though providing a refined vaudeville entertainment, will not rely on profits derived from the sale of intoxicating liquors.

In the list of applications made out for the consideration of the adjourned general annual licensing meeting in Birmingham on Thursday next is one by Mr. Walter de Frece for a music, singing, and dancing licence in reference to premises about to be erected in New-street on land adjoining the Theatre Royal

The plans have been prepared and temporarily lodged in the office of the Magistrates' Clerk, and it is said that they show a building with an imposing frontage to New-street, between the Theatre Royal and the Dairy Company's premises, and running back a considerable distance, the interior of the auditorium being arranged somewhat after the style of the Empire in Hurst-street. Messrs. Ansell and Ashford, who are acting on behalf of Mr. Walter de Frece, tell us that the application will not be pushed this year, there having been some informality in the giving of the statutory notice. It is conjectured, however, that the applicant may bring his scheme before the magistrates in order to obtain, if possible, some expression of opinion as to the likelihood of the necessary licence being granted before committing himself to a costly scheme of building.

A benefit concert, for the assistance of the widowed mother of Mr. Frank Rushbrook, late stage manager at the Palace Theatre, Grimsby, who was accidentally killed on the stage three weeks ago, was held in the Palace last Sunday evening. The concert was organised by the management and directors of the theatre, and was very generously supported, the house being literally packed in every part. The band of the Grimsby Artillery Volunteers performed a capital programme of music, and pleasnig vocal items were contributed by Miss Ethel Stephenson, a popular local contralto.

The second of the series of flying matinées initiated by Signor Rino Pepi at the Palace, Carlisle, proved an enormous success, the house being packed in every part at double prices. This is hardly a matter of surprise when we note that the special turns included the popular artists, George Lashwood, Lottie Collins, Neil Kenyon, Bella and Bijou, George Formby, and the Brothers O'Brien, a galaxy of talent rarely seen at one time in even the best class provincial halls.

Mr. Sinclair Neill has been appointed general-manager of the Alhambra Theatre, Belfast, in succession to Mr. Henry T. Downs, the latter having been appointed manager of the Belfast Royal Hippodrome. Mr. Neill, who was formerly in Mr. Forbes Robertson and Mr. F. R. Benson's companies, is very popular in Belfast, of which city he is a native, and his appointment has given the utmost satisfaction to his numerous friends in the Northern Capital.

One of the biggest benefits that has been given in Liverpool for years took place on Tuesday afternoon last, when Mr. Edwin W. Smith, for many years proprietor of the Parthenon Music Hall, was honoured by the presence of a crowded audience assembled in the Star Theatre. Mr. Harris Fineberg very kindly gave the use of his establishment, band, and staff, while variety artists flocked from all quarters in and around Liverpool to show their appreciation of Mr. Smith, who is immensely popular. In addition, the principal theatrical officials of the city offered their services, among those present being Messrs. W. W. Kelly (Theatre Royal, Birkenhead), D. J. Clarke (Argyle, Birkenhead) Arthur Lawrence (Royal Court), James Marks (Tivoli), Fred Willmott, M. and G. Montgomery, Albert Bulmer (Olympia), Fred Weisker, &c.

A most enjoyable feature of the vast programme was a new and novel revue by the following principals from the Royal Court pantomime:—Hetty King, Fanny Fields, Malcolm Scott, Harry Tate, Fanny Dango, Harriso.. Brockbank, Doris Dean, Poppy Wilkinson, M. R. Morand, and Regan and Ryan. Seated round in a semi-circle, with Mr. Scott, attired as the Gibson Girl, as interlocutor, each artist was called upon to render an item, but the fun was fast and furious when some of them gave imitations of their fellow artists present. In the course of an interval Mr. Smith, speaking with emotion, thanked all, particularly Mr. Fineberg, for the overwhelming kindness that had been shown him.

With the object of encouraging new talent, Mr. Stoll is putting on twelve trial turns at the Bordesley Palace next week, two of which will appear each night.

Miss Katie Marsh has just finished four weeks with Mr. T. Allan Edwardes, with great success. She opens next week on the Barrasford tour at the Hippodrome, Birmingham.

Mr. George Collins, the quaint comedian, will produce on Monday next at the New Palace, Leeds, a parody on "Good-night, Mr. Brown, I'm out." It is by his brother, Charles Collins, and is published by Messrs. Francis and Day.

The Variety Artists' Federation will hold its first annual general meeting at the Trocadero on Tuesday, April 9. Its first birthday, Feb. 18, synchronised with the announcement of peace in the music hall dispute.

Mr. Frank Hardie has bought from Brien McCullough *The Summer Cloud*. George English has on royalty *The Two Runaway Girls*, and Brien will shortly produce a farcical sketch, *The Wrong Letter*, which he thinks will turn out another "winner."

Mr. Coe, of the Hammersmith Palace of Varieties, who last week gave a matinée in aid of the Mayor of Hammersmith's appeal for the Lord Mayor's Cripple Fund, has this week repeated his kindness, only the object is the Chiswick Soup Kitchen, whose funds had fallen to a very low ebb. Mr. Coe is presenting them with the gross takings for the matinée which took place on Thursday.

With regard to statements that have appeared in the Press respecting the future of the Grand Theatre, Islington, Mr. Harry Bawn writes that a case is now pending between the Empire, Camberwell, Ltd, and the Grand Theatre, Islington (1905), Ltd., for specific performance of the contract entered into by those respective companies.

With the advent of the new ballet at the Alhambra, Mr. George Scott reopened the gallery to the public. The seating accommodation has been vastly improved, and the gods can absolutely lounge in comfort. The entrance fee has been raised, and is now a shilling; but no one will grudge the additional outlay in order to see a delightful entertainment amid what may be termed luxurious surroundings.

Mr. Bransby Williams, who has been having a series of triumphs at Glasgow, is due at the Empire, Leicester-square, on Monday, when he will open with an entirely new entertainment. In pantomime Mr. Williams gives our country cousins more than a taste of his quality as a comedian, and it is to be hoped that Londoners will see more of him as possessed by the nimble spirit of mirth.

Mr. Charles Willmott, the librettist of "Home again, my cherry blossom," has on the stocks another flower scena, of which the melody is again from the graceful pen of Herman E. Darewski.

A most interesting case will shortly come on in the law courts between Messrs. Cadle, music hall agents, and Harry Lauder, with regard to agreements and commission, which has reference to the introduction of the now celebrated Scotch comedian to London.

Coram, the ventriloquist, has at last arrived. It seems that he was very ill in New York, and it therefore accounts for his non-appearance, as advertised. "Jerry," the dummy, who makes fun at his master's expense, proved a great "hit," but it is surmised that it is the complete subordination of the "master" that causes the applause.

Mr. Bertie Wright (brother of Huntley and Fred), will join the ranks of variety artists. At a very early date he will be seen on the Moss and Stoll circuit. His songs and patter have been supplied by the well-known author, J. F. Lambe.

Mlle. Camilla D'Alberg, who, as we have already stated, is about to produce a new wordless farce, is busy rehearsing the same with the assistance of the well-known pantomimist, Espinosa, and will shortly submit it to a select audience at a West-end theatre, at a full-dress rehearsal, with stage effects. The music, which is by Algernon H. Lindo, is full of charming melody.

Mrs. John Lawson, in *The Devil's Sunday*, has been appearing during the past week at the Cardiff Empire, this being her tenth week on the Stoll tour. This clever lady's reading of the character of Fay Faber has met with more than ordinary success, and she opens at the Islington Empire next week.

On Wednesday morning a great send-off was given to Mr. and Mrs. John Abbott at Euston, quite a crowd assembling on Platform 13 to see the travellers depart by the 9.50 a.m. boat special. Both the London branches of Messrs. Francis and Day were very fully represented, headed by Mr. and Mrs. David Day, who were accompanied by their daughter and granddaughter and Mrs. William Francis. Mr. Abbott is taking up a position of trust in Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter's New York branch.

Among the many others present were Mr. John Smith, Mr. Chas. Wilmott, Mr. W. Francis, jun., Mr. Arthur Francis, Mr. and Miss Udloff, Mr. and Mrs. Bellamy, Mr. H. E. Darewski, jun., Mrs. Prosser, Mrs. Boniface, Mr. and Mrs. Eyke, Mr. Jas. Hutchens, Mr. and Mrs. Berridge, Mr. Berridge, sen., Mr. Tom Leo, Mr. Dan Alger, Mr. Bert Lucas, Mr. Charles Griffiths, Mr. W. Harris, Mr. F. Morley, Mr. Charles Rooker, Mr. F. Abbott, Messrs. Leigh and Pether, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Bateman, Mr. Templar, Mr. Connor, and many more. The window of the voyagers' carriage was adorned with a frontispiece of Walter Emerson's celebrated song, "Here's another one off to America," and "The dear old shore" was sung, and rousing cheers given as the train departed. The Abbotts sailed later in the day from Liverpool on the s.s. "Baltic."

In consequence of the Hippodrome, Hounslow, and Palace, Tottenham, closing, Mr. Lennox Barry has terminated his engagement as general-manager for Mr. John Lawson, and is at present disengaged.

Previous to taking up music hall management, Mr. Barry had some very useful experience as stage-manager with Mr. Geo. Edwardes's and Mr. Geo. Dance's companies, and has also appeared with success on the halls as a baritone vocalist.

Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope was again to the front in reproducing the lifelike picture of the Hook of Holland disaster at fifteen London and six provincial halls on Monday night, the films being received with the utmost interest and applause. We understand that on Good Friday they are showing complete performances of animated pictures at thirty-seven London and provincial halls, each show being of two-and-a-half hours' duration.

The latest quotations of music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1⅞; Canterbury, ⅞; Empire (15s. paid), 1½; ditto (10s. paid), 1⅛; London Pavilion Ordinary, 4⅜; ditto, Preference, 5; London Coliseum, ⅛; Metropolitan, ⅝; Moss Empire, 4¾; ditto, 5 per cent. Preference, 3⅞; Oxford, 6⅜; Palace, 11s. 6d.; Tivoli, 6; Var. Cons. Theatres, 13s.

After a most successful tour of seven months in the provinces, the Glenroy troupe of dancers appear in town on Monday at the Metropolitan and Middlesex.

The 501st meeting of the Executive Committee of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association was held on Wednesday afternoon, when the following members were present:—Messrs. Fred Neiman, Charles Coborn (V.P.), Fred W. Millis (V.P.), Harry Bancroft, John Alexander, Charles McConnell, Jeff Vendome, Bob Hutt, Frank Gerald, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). Several questions as to funds and insurance claims were considered, and it was decided to call a special meeting of the members of the committee on Wednesday next to discuss a letter received.

Mr. Fred Karno's company produced on Friday last, the 22nd ult., at Barnard's Palace of Varieties, Chatham, for copyright purposes, a sketch entitled *The Old Master*.

Mr. Walter Stanton has been secured by Mr. Oswald Stoll to give his unique representation of the Giant Rooster twice daily at the London Hippodrome, from Monday next, for three weeks.

The Terriers will give their fifth social concert of the season on Sunday at the Dover Castle Hotel, when ladies are specially invited.

Artists from the music halls are in growing demand at social entertainments. On Wednesday, at Lord and Lady Farquhar's evening party, Mr. Harry Fragson sang a whole budget of his songs before the King and Queen.

The Three Florodora Girls will produce next week at the Palace, Camberwell, a new musical comedy scena of a most novel character entitled *Two's Company, Three's None*, written by Harrington and Tate.

Mr. Harry Lauder returns to London on Monday, and is due at the Paragon, where an excellent programme includes Mme. Glasen's Living Art Bronzes, the Piccad American Pantomime Company, Winifred Hare Grais' Baboon Prodigies, the Eight Stars of Holland, Little Cliff, Abbie Mitchell, Daisy James, Michael Nolan, and others.

Master Clermont Kennedy, who made such a success at the Oxford and other London halls last summer, has just returned from America after an absence of four months. So great has been his success that he returns next autumn at double his previous salary. He will shortly appear at the Palace. Master Clermont Kennedy, while in the States, secured four boys, who are responsible for singing, dancing, mock drama, ventriloquism, and magic. The act is just one of the kind that will be snapped up by managers, for it is an absolute novelty

A scandal has occurred at a Madrid circus. The audience took exception to the manner in which a dancer interpreted the "Mattchiche," and hissed her; whereupon the artist, facing the audience, made an insulting gesture with her hand. A terrible tumult at once broke out. The audience smashed everything they came across. The situation was complicated by the interference of the guards, and the circus was not cleared until two o'clock in the morning.

Miss Florry Cooper, who is meeting with gratifying success everywhere, has made some excellent records for the Edison Bell Phonograph Company, and was rather surprised recently on arriving at her apartments to hear her own voice. It came from the kitchen. The landlord had a phonograph and had bought her records.

His friends will regret to learn of the accident to Mr. Charles Rezene, of Rezene and Robini, who slipped on going down some stairs at his lodgings in Hanley and injured his ribs. He has been unable to appear this week at the Grand, Bolton.

One is glad to see Mr. Vincent (Mr. Coe's popular manager of the Hammersmith Palace of Varieties) about again. He has for some weeks been laid up with an attack of rheumatism, but, we are pleased to say, is now much better.

Mr. Alfred Butt, the managing director of the Palace Theatre, scored two distinct successes there on Saturday by means of his Bioscope organisation. Immediately the news of the tragedy at Holland was made known to London, he dispatched a strong section of operators, under Mr. Barker, to the scene, and the result of their efforts was shown on Saturday afternoon. Londoners may now have the awful completeness of the wreck brought home to them by the long series of pictures Mr. Butt presents. The lifeboat is seen leaving for the wreck, and apparently the picture is taken from the prow of a vessel in the lifeboat's wake. The waves are seen breaking all over the doomed Berlin, and the high seas running show that the operators did not spare trouble in securing a complete picture.

Harry Lauder reappears at the Tivoli, after his pantomime triumphs at Newcastle in the character of Roderick McSwankey, on Monday. He will sing songs from his répertoire, and it is expected that he will include "The reason why I wear a kilt," which created such a furore in the pantomime. Miss Winifred Hare also returns to the cosy Strand house on the same evening, having completed a most successful pantomime engagement.

Miss Maie Hoey has resigned her engagement at Hengler's Circus, Argyll-street, where she has been playing twice daily as fairy queen and columbine. She has had an offer from Mlle. Camilla D'Alberg, but has had to refuse that and several others as she is desirous of securing a London theatrical engagement. A mime, a dancer, and a musician, Miss Hoey should soon gain her wish.

Miss Florrie Bray, the charming comedienne, is appearing this week at the Metropolitan with great success, her song, "Mary on the Pier," being taken up by the audience in a hearty manner and calling forth loud applause.

Mr. Geo. Saphrini, lessee and manager of the Palace Theatre, Boston, has taken over the Borough Arms Hotel.

A number of pantomime artists at present engaged at Liverpool had a merry time of it at the close of last week. What was described as "Ye old English theatrical supper and carousal" was held at the Adelphi Hotel, the "founder" of the feast, for which "three crown pieces of silver" were charged, being Mr. Harrison Brockbank. Everyone was, of course, attired in ancient costume, and the appearance of the strange company, as, headed by the night watchman carrying his lamp, they wended their way along the streets from one of the theatres to the place of revelry, was the most grotesque ever seen abroad at dark in the Mersey city. Great fun resulted from the detection of some delinquent whose costume was not perfect, and several of these sinners were temporarily placed in the stocks at the end of the supper-room, while others were penalised by being ordered to forego one or more courses on the menu list. Commander McNab, a well-known nautical gentleman of Liverpool, attired as Little John, presided at the feast, and the proceedings were kept up until dawn.

Jake Friedman, who is bringing his *Happy Holland* sketch next week to the Hackney Empire, had a funny experience in South Africa shortly before the war broke out. When giving an entertainment in Johannesburg he introduced a number of gags in the Dutch "taal." In one a telegram was handed to him on the stage, and he read aloud, "For Heaven's sake, Friedman, come quick! the English are on the border.—Kruger." That always got a good laugh. But it was turned against him on the Saturday night when a big man came up to the stage door and said to him, "I have a warrant for your arrest for treason." He was taken aback, and felt very sheepish, but said, "Well, hurry up, or I'll miss my train." "Oh! I'll take you to the station," was the reply, suggesting that it was necessary to take him to Pretoria. When on the platform, the big man suddenly turned and said: "Well, hadn't we better have a drink before you go?" He was one of the boys!

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

Messrs. Clark and Hamilton have just disposed of the copyright, plates, and stock of their entire catalogue of musical publications to Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, they having determined on giving up music publishing for good.

That favourite light comedian, Mr. George Lashwood, on the Stoll tour, both in Glasgow this week and Newcastle last, has scored a most signal success with Messrs. John P. Harrington and Jas. W. Tate's latest comedy "winner," "Don't forget tonight," and the local press speaks most highly of the song, which has nightly gained vociferous encores. The Monte Carlo Publishing Co. are indeed fortunate in securing so good a singer and song for their "Sixpenny Successes" first time of asking, and the publication of the song is being pushed forward post-haste, to cope with the ever-increasing trade demands.

Two new songs by Harry Castling and Fred Godfrey have been secured by Messrs. Francis and Day entitled respectively, "Julia" and "I'll tell her on the telephone."

That ubiquitous trio Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford have just disposed of three charming new ditties to Messrs. Francis and Day. The names are "Violets, white and blue," "Why don't you come round and see me?" and "Soon I'm leaving Dublin Town."

The same firm are issuing a dance which will be in great demand at the magnificent dancing halls of Blackpool and Manxland, by and by. It is the "Imperial Waltz, No. 2," by J. Powell, composed by Heinrich Hucke.

Charles Osborne has placed two good songs with Mr. David Day's firm, written in the well-known manner which has made his name "familiar in the mouth as household bread," as Mrs. Malaprop would say. One is entitled "Where's my two 'bob' gone?" sung by A. G. Spry, and "Potted poetry," which will be sung by Mr. Bernard Russell, Mr. Owen May, and other well-known entertainers.

Other songs shortly to be placed on the market by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter are "Mabel, I'll send you a cable," by W. Dacre and Kenneth Lyle; "Lucette of Lucerne," by Gilbert Wells and George Everard; "It's a girl" (sung by Mr. Wolmer Young), by G. A. Stevens; and "I want a big balloon," by Valentine Watson.

One of the greatest successes ever known at the Holborn Empire has been achieved by charming Miss Lena Verdi in her rendering of Messrs. Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford's dainty German song, "I'm going back to the Fatherland," published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. Both song and singer, this week, proved instantaneous "hits," and the tuneful lilt of this "taking" ditty will soon be on the lips of the "man in the street" all over London. Miss Lilian Lea also produces this song, on Monday next, at the Pavilion, Glasgow, in conjunction with "Queen of Old Samara," prior to opening in London, with both songs, at the Payne Syndicate halls.

So great has been her success in pantomime with the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Company's "The Bluebell's Wedding" that Miss May Marton intends to feature this bright number in her music hall engagements.

Miss Marie Kendall has just put on a very attractive song written and composed by Mr. R. P. Weston, entitled "Put that in your pipe and smoke it." This number, which scored an instantaneous success, has been secured for publication by the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Company, Ltd.

The Monte Carlo Publishing Co. have just secured from Herr Julian Kandt his latest "Valse Lente," a most melodious number, which will be played all through the forthcoming season of his celebrated band, at Weston-super-Mare. Full orchestral parts are now in preparation, and in addition to its publication in ordinary waltz form, it will also be separately published as a song, with appropriate words, written by Mr. John P. Harrington.

Miss Clarice Mayne has made an unqualified hit at the Tivoli, Brixton Empress, and Hammersmith Palace this week, with Messrs. Dave Hall and Herbert Rule's catchy chorus song, "Joan, Joan, Joan, come home." Miss Edie King has been duplicating the other fair singer's success, with the same song, at the Metropolitan and Holborn Empire. The Monte Carlo Publishing Co. are adding "Joan" to their fast-growing catalogue of "Sixpenny Successes."

"My Tiny Firefly," by Ballard Macdonald and Donovan Meher, is immensely popular, and over half a hundred singers have discovered the fact. Miss Edie Veno is the latest important artist to sing this tuneful number, and in a letter from Belfast she reports that it is "going terrific" in the Irish city this week. The Monte Carlo Publishing Co. include this "winner" in their catalogue.

The favourite march, "Queen of the West," by Herr Julian Kandt, is published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. in their "Sixpenny Successes" series (with full orchestral parts to match), and has proved so successful that Messrs. Boosey and Co. (by arrangement with the younger firm) have now issued full military band-parts of this striking composition

Mr. Reuben More has been very busy with his pen lately, having published no fewer than seven numbers. He has placed "Nora, my Leonora" with the Monte Carlo Publishehs, "The mad poet" with Messrs. Reynolds and Co., and "The tramp of the soldiers," "Friends," "I do love you," "Only a rose-leaf," and "If I took a cosy little summer-house for you" with E. R. Smith and Co. All these should prove big summer hits.

Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter have this week accepted for publication a charming chorus-song, entitled "My beautiful Avon rose," written and composed by J. F. Lambe and T. W. Thurban.

The extent to which the late Mr. Alfonso Mallaird, who was better known as Mr. Jas. Dubois, "the man monkey," was beloved by his friends on the stage, and by the public in general, not only in Oldham, but throughout the country, was fully manifested by the large number who attended his funeral, which took place on Saturday afternoon. One of Mr. Dubois' particular friends, Mr. Ernest Dottridge, we regret to say, is very ill and confined to the house, and he was therefore unfortunately unable to be present, but he was represented by his sister, Miss Dottridge.

The interment took place at Chadderton Cemetery, the Rev. J. Embling, curate of St. Mary's, being the officiating clergyman. Mrs. Emily Dubois, the widow; the son; Mr. and Mrs. Howarth, brother-in-law and sister-in-law respectively; Mrs. Murgatroyd, sister-in-law; and Mr. Thomas, brother-in-law, followed as mourners. The coffin was of polished oak, and was elaborately mounted with heavy brass fittings. The inscription on a large brass plate, read: "Alfonso Mallaird (James Dubois), died 20th February, 1907, aged 37 years." There were twenty-six beautiful wreaths.

PEACE DAY—MONDAY, FEB. 25.

THE STARS RETURN.

To the question "Can the world do without music halls?" we may reply, "The world can do better with them," and our contention was substantiated on Monday when the stars returned to the proscribed halls, and ushered in the beneficent sway of "gentle peace." We will, without any apology whatever to Mr. Frank Gerald, give a new significance to the initials V.A.F. by federating them as Variety, Amity, Fraternity, and we do this on the authority of large audiences who welcomed with the greatest heartiness in all the halls their favourite entertainers. It was said that the London public would get out of the music-hall habit, and some managers and proprietors were apprehensive they would not get into it again; but a survey of the principal West End halls that have been on the boycotted list assured us of the fact that the "music-hall habit" is only likely to be lost with the advent of Macaulay's New Zealander among the ruins of London Bridge.

Bunting and benison marked the grand peace festival. Everywhere on Monday flags were fluttering in the breeze. The Vaudeville Club (the stronghold of the Water Rats) hung a banner on their outer walls, and across the street the announcement "All old favourites return to the halls to-night" proclaimed to the passers-by the revival of harmonious relations between pros. and proprietors. Mr. Blyth-Pratt boldly printed a bar or two of the ballad "In Old Madrid" with the magic words, "Come, my love, the stars are shining." Mr. Joe Elvin was evidently glad to get back, and the audience was just as pleased as he was when he made his entrée in the droll comicality *Trespassers, Beware*. A special feature of the entertainment was the exhibition on the screen of the portraits of the members of the Conciliation Board.

The Tivoli looked glorious, and its electrical façade shone with added brightness on the names of the returned stars, the chief of whom was Mr. Arthur Roberts, who appeared in a revised version of *Where's the Count?* and was quite taken aback at his reception. At the Holborn Empire, where the strike began, "Peace Night" was proclaimed in huge letters, and flags inside and out testified to the joyous feeling, which was shared by immense audiences, the second being only limited by the capacity of the house. Mr. Fred McAvoy made a brave show at the Euston, the façade being boldly decorated with bannerets and pennons. Red, white, and blue, the prevailing colours, were seen in the electroliers on the dress circle front, and in American and English flags.

The historic house over the water, the Canterbury, with "Peace Night" in gigantic letters on its front, held a large audience that rejoiced with the amiable Fred Miller, the resident-manager, and the stars behind the footlights at the "happy issue" of arbitration.

Mr. Henri Gros, a born fighter, came up smiling at the Metropolitan, where he received many felicitations at the peaceful turn affairs had taken. Among the favourites appearing were Mr. Paul Martinetti and his troupe of pantomimists, who were heartily welcomed. Walter Munroe came in for similar honours, and Georg Hackenschmidt's show was watched with great interest.

Walthamstow Palace was decked with banners and bunting, while on the front was to be seen in large letters "The Strike is Ended. Peace with Honour. All Stars Will Appear." Islington Empire drew two large audiences to assist in the "Great Commemoration, Feb. 25, End of Strike. Return of all Star Artists. Peace With Honour," and everywhere the old order of things in the way of variety entertainment evidently afforded immense satisfaction to all and sundry.

MUSIC HALL ARBITRATION.

THE CASE OF THE MUSICIANS.

Mr. G. R Askwith, the arbitrator appointed to settle the music hall dispute, issued on the 22nd a second interim report, dealing with the case of the musicians. He says:—"I award and declare that all musicians who, in consequence of the strike, are without employment, may forthwith apply for engagements, and upon such application shall be given the vacancies at present existing in the orchestras (agreed at 20 per cent. of those who are now unemployed), and those vacancies which will arise in the course of the re-arrangement now in progress, and to be completed by March 11 (agreed at 30 per cent. to those who are now unemployed). The same engagements shall be either at the same halls where they were previously engaged, or at other halls, but at no less rate of pay than the rate which they previously received. To the remainder of the whole body on strike who may not have been able to obtain engagements on or before March 11, either at music halls or elsewhere, preference shall be given at the music halls concerned in respect of vacancies arising before publication of my final award. I concur with the agreement of the parties that for the purpose of absorbing the said musicians quickly and without friction, the managers will supply a list of the managers and music halls concerned in the dispute, to whom application can be made, and lists of the places vacant, and the number and character of the instruments required, and that the musicians may themselves choose and select by whom from amongst their number application for such places may be made. Any balance of musicians not absorbed at the end of the proceedings and prior to the publication of an award upon wages and other questions in dispute shall be referred to me for consideration."

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE EMPIRE.

To the Empire since our last visit have come the Roundheads, who represent a romantic musical incident in the time of the Civil War between Charles, sometimes called "the Martyr," and the Parliament. On the stage the adherents of Cromwell have generally been pictured as dull dogs, with a puritanical horror of such unholy levity as the singing of a drinking song. The "varlets" of the great Protector at the Empire have been turned topsy-turvey as it were by Mr. Roland Carse, the librettist, and Miss Vinnie Lloyd. They have cakes and ale, and the gentleman has endowed them with sentiments that would have excited the pious contempt of an Ironside, while the lady has given them many tuneful bars in a bolero, and encouraged them to languish in love lilts that are worth the singing. And let it at once be said that the Roundheads sing uncommonly well. They include Messrs. J. T. MacCallum, Ralph Nairn, Robert Hyett, and John Doran. They intrude as a search party into a Royalist mansion with the intention of arresting Richard Caversham; but, gadzooks! he gets behind a sliding panel. The troop, without further troubling about the Amalekite, determine to remain and make a night of it. The numbers include a pretty love song concerning "Dorothy," a lyric in praise of Cromwell, and a military song with a fine swing. The incident is beautifully mounted, the Royalist Mansion being well realised, and the costumes and armour are quite correct. Of the slight opportunities afforded them in the characters of Richard and Sybil Caversham, Mr. Edmund Holick and Miss Yvonne Ingram make the most.

The living pictures are a great success, and much interest is felt in the reproduction of the stolen Reynolds, "The Hon. Mrs. Charles Yorke," and the stolen Gainsborough "Nancy Parsons," which are given by permission of Mr. Charles Wertheimer, the owner of both canvases. "Hope," after the picture by G. F. Watts, "The Huguenot," after Millais, "The Bath of Psyche," after Lord Leighton, and "Romeo and Juliet," after Frank Dicksee, evoke much applause, and the selection and composition of the music by Mr. Cuthbert Clark can again be praised.

Newcomers to the Empire are Foster and Foster, who are pianists and singers. The one does a remarkable performance on a piano, with the keys covered over, in that he plays prestissimo a number of octave passages when wearing about nine pairs of gloves, which are afterwards removed amid the laughter of the audience by his partner, who is clever and funny in a "poultry" song. The Ergotti and King Luis troupe have increased their combination, and show very advantageously in a fine exhibition of Risley tricks and shoulder somersaulting; and at the end of the programme fun is supplied by Olms and Carbeth.

Mlle. Celia Galley, a Parisienne to her fingertips, vastly amuses the house by her parodies. Of course, La Belle Otero does not escape the shafts of her satire, and the tricks of the Spanish artist are cleverly hit off by Celia while singing a few bars from the Habañera, from *Carmen*. Réjane as that volatile and vulgar laundress Mme. Sans Gêne—a delightful impersonation that has won unbounded admiration on both sides of La Manche—is another favourite comedienne that Mlle. Galley imitates; and the great Sarah is very amusingly travestied in a scene from *La Dame aux Camélias*.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

In common with many other music halls in the metropolitan district the main entrance to the Islington Empire has been gaily decorated in celebration of the termination of the artists' strike, and many coloured lights and flags are the outward and visible signs of the rejoicing at the amicable ending of a memorable quarrel. The names of star artists once more figure in the programme, and "Peace with honour" has happily taken the place of strife with disorder. Considerable interest has been shown in the appearance this week of Mr. George D'Albert and company in a dramatic sketch in three scenes, entitled *'Tis Never Too Late to Mend*, which has been specially written for Mr. D'Albert by Mr. Paul Pelham, with music by Mr. Nelson Howlett, and scenery and effects by Mr. Francis H. Bull. The leading character is that of the Rev. Arthur Stirling, a prison chaplain, whose kindness of heart and many good deeds have gained for him the regard and respect of the convicts who are serving their time at Portland. He is summoned to attend the death-bed of Black Harry, a dying convict, who repents of the evil life he has led, and is consoled by the earnest words of the chaplain. He also succeeds in suppressing a mutiny in the jail. Left alone, the chaplain hears the sound of a gun, which is a signal that one of the prisoners has escaped. Climbing over some rocks, the convict makes his appearance, and the chaplain in him recognises his own brother, who is serving a long term of imprisonment for forgery. It is his duty to prevent the escape of the runaway, and the strong appeal made by his brother fails to deter him. Then follows a desperate struggle between the two men, and the warders appear. Obtaining possession of a gun, the convict fires and fatally wounds his own brother. The sketch closes with the death of the chaplain and the arrest of his assassin. Mr. George D'Albert, who is making a new departure in playing the part of the Rev. Arthur Stirling, gives a careful and well-studied sketch of the good prison chaplain, and the struggle between the brothers is rendered in very realistic fashion. Mr. D'Albert also introduces a song called "'Tis never too late to mend," the last verse of which is sung at the beside of the dying convict. Mr. Peter Kelly gives a capital portrait of the unruly prisoner, comedy and tragedy being cleverly combined; Mr. Geo. Victor plays forcibly as the escaping convict; and the two warders are well represented by Mr. Frank Irwin and Mr. Harry Lennox; Mr. A. Maine as Black Harry completing the cast.

Mr. Leonard Mortimer and his No. 1 company are also here in the stirring military sketch, entitled *Dandy Dacre*, a story of the late Zulu Rebellion. The scene is the Residency, Natal, and the date 1906, and the sketch abounds in exciting incidents. Mr. Leonard Mortimer gives an excellent embodiment of the title-rôle, and has the valuable support of Mr. Maurice Hoffman as Sir Michael Collyn, Mr. Andrew Money as Paul Hiensen, Mr. Edwin T. Collins as Richard Dacre, Miss Edith Lewis as Alma, and Miss Ida Clifford as Lady Eva. The sketch is exceedingly well staged. Barton and Franklin are described as instrumental, vocal, and dancing specialists. They are assisted by a lady, and all wear the garb of Old Gaul. Their varied programme is much appreciated, and the trio are several times recalled. Miss Ida Brophy gives a piquant rendering of "I wish that I were you," and scores with a neat little dance. Mr. Henry Carlton plays the title-part in his sketch, *The Window Cleaner*, and works exceedingly hard as the representative of the supposed Spanish nobleman. He receives able assistance from the members of his company. Mr. Harry Anderson, the popular comedian, is very successful with "Rolling merrily on" and "My new pal"; the Sisters Carina display genuine ability in their refined musical mélange; Mr. Arthur Aldridge, tenor vocalist, gives an admirable rendering of a tuneful ballad; and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope presents interesting pictures of the wreck of the Berlin, and of those who took part in the rescue. Mr. George L. Wilson, the manager, is to be congratulated on being at last free from the worries caused by the strike, and he has the active co-operation of Mr. Harry Blight as acting-manager.

THE CANTERBURY.

Mr. Fred Miller had the Canterbury gaily decorated on Monday, and flags and bunting all over the front of the old-established hall proclaimed that it was "Peace Night." Early among the returning "stars" was Mr. Alec Hurley, who received a cordial welcome. His song, "Come along, Eliza," in which a coster stands beneath the window of his lass and beseeches her to elope, has already attained huge popularity, and the whistling refrain is quite melodiously taken up by the gallery. Mr. Hurley also sings of a mysterious individual who "Ain't nobody in particular, not anybody at all," but whatever his profession is, it seems to pay well, for the comedian is attired in a neat suit, with just a touch of gaudiness to set it off. The attention of the audience is kept alert throughout the song, the rendering of which displays the singer's artistic low comedy to the fullest extent.

A return after many months is made by Cinquevalli, the eminent juggler, whose reception proves that his popularity has not one whit abated. Through all his ingenious and hazardous feats his dexterity and nerve are apparent, and applause loud and long is lavished upon his startling performance. The niceties of balance are admirably displayed throughout, and his tricks as the human billiard-table, his juggling with cues, and his feats with the cannon-ball, are more expert and diversified than ever. Piquancy is added to the performance by the efforts of his droll assistant, who compels the constant laughter of all. The Boisset Troupe arouse shrieks of laughter with the riotous fun of *The Bricklayers*, the merry capers of the hod-carriers, the dancing to the organ, the comic lunch party, and the numberless diversions of the sketch being as irresistible as ever.

An operatic flavour is given to the entertainment by the inclusion in the programme of Miss Agnes Molteno, the well-known prima donna, who sings "Good-bye to summer" with great tenderness and feeling. Later the comely chanteuse decorates her pretty white frock with a plaid scarf, to give character to "Robin Adair," which is rendered with many graces of expression and is loudly cheered. The entertaining contribution of the Mayvilles is agreeably varied, and the quaint puppets with the human heads are made to present a series of impersonations in which comedy and vocalism are well allied. A "cookie and bobbie" give way to two lady singers and dancers, who in turn are replaced by a soldier and a lass of the Salvation Army, who sing and play the drum and tambourine in approved fashion. A Scotch couple are also presented, and the applause conferred on the indefatigable pair is very hearty. Mr. Burt Shepard, who now accompanies himself on a grand piano, sings quaintly of "The furniture man," and afterwards purveys what he describes as "potted poetry," by means of which "Casabianca" and "Christmas Day in the Workhouse" are cleverly condensed into one verse, "The Village Blacksmith" and "Excelsior" being separately treated in the same way. The effect is decidedly droll. The Eight Stars of Holland give an interesting series of native songs and dances, in which the spinning-rooms, orphans coming from church, and fair-time in Zeeland are presented in picturesque and melodious fashion. National songs are also given by Mr. C. Emlyn Jones, and a quartette of ladies who wear dresses typical of the four quarters of the British Isles, appropriate songs and choruses being sung with admirable effect. Mr. Harry Vaux sings the praises of a night policeman, and finishes up with a realistic struggle with a burglar; and the programme is also contributed to by the Five Whiteleys, in a marvellous wire act; Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, which gives scenes from the appalling wreck at the Hook of Holland; Ferris and Farnley; Miss Cissie Esdale; Mr. Morny Cash; and Mr. James Stewart, the tramp at the piano.

(*For other Variety Notices see pages 16 and 23.*)

[*Photo by Hana.*

THE PEACEMAKERS IN THE MUSIC HALL WAR.

Reading from left to right, the names are:—MR. WALTER PAYNE, Counsel for the Entertainments Protection Association; MR. HENRY TOZER, Chairman of the Syndicate Halls; MR. OSWALD STOLL, Managing-Director of the Moss and Stoll Companies, MR. HENRI GROS, President of the Entertainments Protection Association, MR. ARTHUR ROBERTS; MR. EDMUND BROWNE, L.C.C., Standing Counsel to the Trades Union Congress; MR. W. C. STEADMAN, M.P., J.P., Secretary to the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress; ALD. I. MITCHELL, L.C.C., Secretary to the General Federation of Trades Unions; MR. WAL. PINK (standing behind Mr. Mitchell).

DUELS IN THE DARK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In your issue of Feb. 23 there is a letter from the author of *The Devil's Sunday* relating to an incident of a duel (with revolvers) in the dark in both that and another sketch, *A Woman's Honour*. I should like to point out that the incident is not original in either of them, I myself having toured a play entitled *A Gentleman of England*, in 1905. The said play was first produced at the Elephant and Castle Theatre in 1904, for Mr. Norris's benefit, the exact date having escaped me. I have a poster-cut of this incident.—Yours faithfully, BERNARD LIELL,
Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, Strand.

"JUST IN TIME."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I see by a notice in your last issue, there was a sketch produced at the Empress Theatre, Brixton, bearing the above title. I beg to state that I produced a sketch entitled *Just in Time* at the Prince's Theatre, Horwich, Lancs, Sept. 14, 1903, as you will see by the enclosed programme. I am writing this letter merely to prevent me from being accused of plagiarism.—Yours faithfully,
H. W. SCOTT.
23, Portland-avenue, Salford, Feb. 26.

HARRY REYNOLDS' MINSTREL QUINTETTE

AT PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.

There is life yet in a minstrel show when it is done as well as the Reynolds company do it. They gave extreme pleasure to the audience.—*Newcastle Journal*, Feb. 26, 1907.

Reynolds' Minstrels gave a delightful turn. This will become one of the most popular of such entertainments.—*North Mail*, Feb. 26, 1907.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

The fairs ahead for next week are Dudley, on the London and North-Western and Great Western Railways; Bury, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Belford, on the North-Eastern; Blandford, on the Midland and South-Western; Camborne, on the Great Western; Hingham, on the Great Eastern; Maiden Newton, on the Great Western; and Odiham, on the London and South-Western.

In Scotland there is Jedburgh, on the North British. In Wales, Menai Bridge, on the London and North-Western.

Our readers will remember that twelve months ago negotiations were opened up with the Wallasey District Council with reference to certain additional powers they sought to obtain in a private Bill introduced by them into Parliament. Not only did the Showmen's Guild enter into costly negotiations, sending its Parliamentary solicitor to interview the town clerk and other persons interested, but also Mr. Ravenscroft, a local showman, instructed a Liverpool barrister to act for him in the matter as an aggrieved ratepayer.

The end of the matter was, after the Showmen's Guild for the whole body of showmen, and Mr. Ravenscroft individually, had petitioned Parliament, the District Council withdrew the additional powers clause, and quite naturally everybody expected that that was the end of the matter. But it was not so, for now we are informed that the District Council is trying to obtain through the Chester County Council the very same bye-laws, penalising the show business, that they agreed not to seek in their private Bill. Upon this action of the local authorities at Wallasey we have to remark that it is extremely hard and unjust on the local showmen that the Council should, after having come to terms with them, seek to obtain in a decidedly underhand manner the same bye-laws from the county authority that they had failed to obtain under their own powers. We have also to add that this very equivocal action of the local authorities is another illustration of the need for constant vigilance on the part of the Showmen's Guild to prevent whenever it is possible the penalising of their business by public bodies.

The legal advisers of the Wallasey District Council must have been aware, when they promoted their private Bill of last Session, that the Cheshire County Council had power, according to statute, to propose bye-laws for the whole of the county, and that the bye-laws, if unopposed and sanctioned by the Home Office, would apply to Wallasey. Had the District Council approached the County Council, the probability is that, in the interests of the other parts of the county, the drastic regulations wanted by the Wallasey Board would have been modified, and in all likelihood successfully opposed at the Home Office by the Showmen's Guild. The Wallasey authorities, anticipating that their private Bills might get through Parliament without opposition, loaded it with the additional powers clause; that clause was thrown out after an expensive petition, and now the Wallasey Board has the temerity to go to the Chester County Council and ask the county to do what they failed to accomplish.

We want to strongly emphasise the injustice of these proceedings. Had the Wallasey District Council approached the County Council in the proper manner provided by statute, and not sought to obtain their prohibitory bye-laws by private legislation, the showmen petitioners would have been saved considerable expense, time, and labour, for the Local Government Acts provide that forty days' notice shall be given of the intention of the County Council to promulgate bye-laws. More than that, the Council cannot originate bye-laws without a two-thirds majority voting in their favour at a duly convened meeting for that purpose. Of course, all this publicity and all this careful consideration and lapse of time is to safeguard the rights of the people whose interests may be threatened by the proposed bye-laws. Now, in the face of this care on the part of the authorities to give possible objectors to proposed bye-laws full opportunity to make their grievances known, it will be readily seen that whenever a Corporation or a District Council is promoting a private Bill in Parliament, that they will ask for additional powers, on the off-chance that the Bill may get through without serious opposition. It was so with the Wallasey Bill of last Session, for, when its promoters found that the showmen opposition jeopardised their Bill, they threw over their showmen clauses, knowing that they could still approach the County Council, and possibly get what they wanted from that body.

Just before Christmas last the Cheshire County Council passed bye-laws drawn on the lines suggested by the Wallasey Board, and applicable to the whole of the county. These bye-laws were duly published, and a copy sent up to the Home Office for ultimate approval. The Showmen's Guild petitioned the Home Secretary against these bye-laws, and the result of that petition is being anxiously awaited by the executive council of the Guild.

Bostock and Wombwell's No. 1 great menagerie on Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 20 and 21, gave some great performances in the Cattle Market-place, which were well patronised both days. Our Oxford correspondent further states that the May pleasure fair will take place on Friday, May 3, in the centrally-situated Cattle Market-place.

Not only is Burslem seriously exercised in the defence of its fair, but the adjoining town of Hanley is also threatened with the removal of its wakes from the Market-square. The question was seriously debated at a meeting of the North Staffordshire Traders' Association, held in Hanley a few days ago, and a good deal of strong feeling was expressed by the assembled traders against the continuance of the fair at Hanley. But it was pointed out that in the face of a strong opposition that the people of Hanley would show towards any proposal to interfere with their wakes that it was hopeless to expect the Town Council to agree to the proposal of the Traders' Association to remove the fair.

Some time ago, when a similar proposal was before the people of Hanley, Mr. P. Collins so organised and led the popular feeling in defence of the wakes that the principal abolitionist lost his seat on the Borough Council, and it was made manifest beyond all dispute that the people of Hanley would not allow any interference with their time-honoured wakes and local holidays. We are very much afraid that this movement against the wakes of Hanley is but another phase of the same narrow-minded prejudice that has shown itself so signally at Burslem, and that unless the people of the Potteries bestir themselves, and the show-people vigorously maintain their struggle for the fairs, the Staffordshire district will lose its fairs and wakes.

Mr. Edwin Crouste, the well-known jockey-act rider, writes to us from Madras, under date Jan. 31, that FitzGerald's circus, with which he is touring India, Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand, is having a most successful season in Madras, and that the circus, after a short season at Bangalore, will open for a season at Bombay on March 3.

THE FAIRS AT BRENTFORD.

One of those insidious attacks upon the liberties of the people, and concerned with the preservation of their fairs, has been made and successfully defeated at the charming old town of Brentford. Brentford has two pleasure fairs, one in the month of May and the other in September. Both these fairs would be large, important, and attractive fixtures but for the extremely restricted area of the Market-ground upon which they are forced to be held. There has been a conspiracy of neglect upon the part of the authorities for some years past, with the obvious intention of using the insignificance of the fair as an argument for its ultimate abolition. When the enterprising showman has endeavoured to run a large fair-ground at the fair time, all manner of obstacles have been put in his way by the local governing authorities, and, although Brentford is the centre of a very large residential population, the fair upon its ancient ground is of a very small and uninteresting character.

This conspiracy of neglect and the prevention of individual enterprise has at last led up to what the authorities have been scheming for all along—a public movement to abolish the Brentford markets and fairs, and thus to do away with the pleasures of the people.

The Urban District Council for some time past have been treating with the Middlesex County Council, the owners of the markets and fair rights, for the purchase of the charter rights, in order that they might abolish both markets and fairs. Terms were agreed upon, and the only thing needed to finish the bargain was to get the consent of the ratepayers, and it was at this point that the people of Brentford were told for the first time that their markets and fairs were in danger. The statutory meeting was called a fortnight ago, and to the surprise and consternation of the district (although the meeting numbered but fifty persons, and seems to have been but little known to the general body of ratepayers), there were a sufficient number of objectors to the proposed abolition to defeat the proposal to buy the fair rights.

The matter then came before the District Council again, and the extreme course was taken of disregarding the properly convened meeting, and calling another meeting, in order to make a second appeal to what was hoped would be a more largely attended and more favourably inclined body of ratepayers. In pursuance of this resolution, the following notice was published in the local Press, and duly advertised upon the notice-board at the Vestry Hall:—

BRENTFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Notice is hereby given that, under the provisions contained in Schedule 3 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and in pursuance of a requisition duly signed, a meeting of owners and ratepayers of the said district will be held on Wednesday, the 27th day of February inst., at eight o'clock in the evening, at the Committee Room of the Vestry Hall, Old Brentford, for the purpose of considering and (if thought fit) passing the following resolution, viz.:—"That this meeting of owners and ratepayers of the Urban District of Brentford, in the County of Middlesex, do hereby in pursuance of the provisions contained in Schedule 3 of the Public Health Act, 1875, consent to the Urban District Council purchasing of the Middlesex County Council the right to hold markets upon the open spaces in front and rear of the Town Hall at Brentford, and the carriage-way on the east and west sides thereof, with Court of Pie Poudre, and all the dues, tolls, customs, piccage, stallage, and profits belonging to the said markets, as granted by the charter or letters patent of King Charles the Second, on the 6th day of March, in the eighteenth year of his reign, and to take stallage, rents, and tolls in respect of the use by any person of such markets."—Dated this 20th day of February, 1907.

J. T. Taylor,
Chairman of the said Council.

Mr. Wm. Bedford, a well-known metropolitan showman, sent a copy of the notice to this office, and the executive of the Showmen's Guild, in the interests of London showmen, determined to watch the local proceedings, and to take any action necessary to defend the fair.

On the day of the meeting an official of the Guild, in company with Mr. Bedford, did most useful work interviewing the principal market traders and shopkeepers in the vicinity of the market who were interested in the preservation of both markets and fairs. This useful work was done as a precautionary measure, because if the markets were attacked, and that attack was defeated, there would be no need for anxiety concerning the fair. To defend the markets was the first line of defence for the peoples' fairs. There was a crowded meeting. The large room of the Vestry Hall was filled by interested ratepayers. The platform was occupied by the members of the District Council. The chairman, Mr. J. T. Taylor, J.P., explained the failure of the Council to carry their resolution at the former meeting, and detailed the negotiations between the local Council and the county authorities to take over the markets and fairs with a view to their abolition. He explained that the Middlesex County Council had purchased the old Town Hall at Brentford, and also the fair rights, and that the markets and fairs had been carried on under the County Council. A recent Act of Parliament obtained by the county authorities gave them full power to abolish the markets, but the fairs would have to be abolished according to the statute provided for that purpose.

The District Council met the County Council, and an arrangement was come to whereby the County Council should sell all their rights in the fairs and the markets for a sum of £500. The interest was to be at the rate of 3½ per cent., payable by instalments of £29 16s. 11d. An agreement was formulated between the two Councils, but before the District Council could enter into that agreement the sanction of the owners and ratepayers had to be obtained. This was why the meeting had been called. He wished them to understand very clearly that this agreement covenanted to sell to the District Council the markets and fairs for the purpose of abolishing them. The fair would be got rid of by an order of the Secretary of State, and the markets would eventually be abolished.

He believed that the abolition of the fairs and markets would be for the benefit of Brentford, and he therefore moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting of owners and ratepayers of the Urban District of Brentford, in the County of Middlesex, do hereby, in pursuance of the provisions contained in Schedule 3 of the Public Health Act, 1875, consent to the Urban District Council purchasing of the Middlesex County Council the right to hold markets upon the open spaces in front and rear of the Town Hall at Brentford, and the carriage-way on the east and west sides thereof, with Court of Pie Poudre, and all the dues, tolls, customs, piccage, stallage, and profits belonging to the said markets, as granted by a charter or letters patent of King Charles the Second, on the 6th day of March, in the eighteenth year of his reign, and to take stallage, rents and tolls in respect of the use by any person of such markets."

This was seconded by Mr. Gome, vice-chairman of the Board, in what was intended to be a very convincing speech; but, alas! for the orator, when he got as far as the phrase, "this curse of a fair," the audience would hear no more, and although he tried his best to win the ear of the audience he was compelled to sit down, with the pathetic remark, "As you will not hear me, I second the resolution." Vigorous speeches were made by a number of ratepayers against the resolution, and one member of the Council who endeavoured to justify the proposal of abolition on sanitary grounds was met with a running fire of comment and opposition.

By this time the District Council grasped the obvious fact that they were playing a losing game, and the chairman then very wisely put the matter to the vote, with the result that it was lost by at least three to one. The meeting, though somewhat noisy, was good-tempered throughout, and concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman. We sincerely trust that now the people of Brentford have been roused to the danger that threatened their old-time people's markets and fairs, they will keep a watchful eye on their representatives on the District Council, and that the members of that important body will keep more in touch with their constituents, and not take it for granted that the persistent clamour of a few wordy fanatics represents the real feeling of the great mass of the people.

We have dwelt at length upon this matter at Brentford, because we feel that, with the rapid growth of Greater London, a number of fairs within the twenty-mile radius will, in the near future, be of the greatest importance to the show business, and that although as at Brentford the fair is of small importance at the present moment, in the years to come with the growth of the population, they may become of great business value. We also think that the attack on the local holidays of the people at present secured to them by the occurrence of their annual fairs is one to be vigorously met and defeated.

Mr. John Jones has had a great success with his deservedly popular variety and cinématograph show during this winter at Bristol. He has been ably assisted by his talented family and Miss Florrie Sutton, who is making a name for herself as a clever danseuse. Miss Fanny Jones, in her daring tight-rope act; Miss Agnes Jones, dancer; and Miss Sophie Jones, champion dancer of the West, have ably sustained their previous reputations, and added another to their series of triumphs.

The executive of the Showmen's Guild is still in correspondence with the local committee at Burslem, organised for the defence of the wakes, and is only waiting for an opportune time to usefully co-operate with the local committee.

P. Collins's grand motor track paid a visit to Crewe, opening on Thursday night last, Feb. 21. The people of Crewe turned out in good form after the wet and miserable week before, and fully enjoyed themselves riding over the hills and dales. There were also Collins's Yankee helter-skelter, that came in for a good share of patronage; also Collins's Royal twin yachts, direct from Olympia, London, and Collins's Wonderland, with a grand array of London artists, and the very latest, the Chronophone talking and singing pictures; Chaplin's juvenile roundabout and stalls, Wright's shooting saloons and cokernut shies, West's smallest horse in the world, Beaumont's Emmas and shies, Dillon's football, and a host of other stalls and minor attractions. The business was moderate. They remove to Oswestry, Salop, ready for the Great Oswestry March pleasure fair, which takes place March 7.

The Town Council of Pudsey are now prepared to book and allot spaces for the local Feasts this year. All applications are to be marked "Pudsey Feast," and to be made to Mr. George Campbell, addressed to the Town Clerk, Municipal Offices, Pudsey.

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DEATH OF A FAMOUS SOUTH AFRICAN SHOWMAN.

The *South African News*, under date Jan. 31, records the death of Mr. Bonamici. His death was somewhat sudden, being apparently in his usual health but a short time before his decease.

Mr. Bonamici, who was in his 59th year, was an Italian, having been born in Florence. He was known throughout the length and breadth of South Africa, having in the old days been associated with Bell's Circus, in which both Mr. Fillis and he were engaged.

He joined Mr. Fillis in 1879, and had, with the exception of a few brief intervals, been with him ever since.

To his widow the suddenness of his death is naturally a terrible blow, and its severity is only slightly less to Mr. and Mme. Fillis, to whom he was not only the most conscientious, painstaking, and loyal of managers, but also a very intimate and beloved friend.

Arthur Bonamici was, as most South Africans know, for many years connected with Mr. Frank E. Fillis's various enterprises as a circus proprietor in this country; and although he figured prominently in theatrical affairs for a period, he once more found himself in association with his former comrade during the last five years of his life.

He landed in South Africa (from Brazil) twenty-seven years ago, and made his first bow to the public of this country as manager of Bell's Circus. On the death of Mr. Richard Bell in 1880, Bonamici became associated with Frank E. Fillis, and this was probably the starting point of his success in the country. When Mr. Fillis left South Africa for a tour in Australia and the East, Bonamici brought out the Standard Opera Company, with that well-known burlesque actress, Miss Agnes Delaporte, at its head. Mr. Grant Fallowes, at present Mr. Leonard Rayne's business representative, was the tenor in this company. At that time Mr. Bonamici held the lease of the Standard and Globe Theatres, also of the Amphitheatre in Johnanesburg; and the Theatre Royal, Durban, also came under his direction for a time.

Mr. Bonamici's first appearance as an operatic impresario in Cape Town was witnessed in 1893, when he became the lessee of the present Opera House, the opening of which he signalised with a grand production of the popular opera *Dorothy*, Miss Leonora Braham, Miss Sophie Harris, Miss Trixie Gilfillan, Mr. R. S. V. Gregg, and Mr. Fred Coyne figuring in prominent parts. It was during this season that Mascagni's world-famous *Cavalleria Rusticana* was played for the first time in Cape Town.

In 1894 Mr. Bonamici brought to South Africa one of the greatest stars in the operatic world, the Scottish prima donna, Miss Marguerite Macintyre, who appeared at the Opera House in *Traviata*, *Faust*, and *Cavalleria Rusticana;* and near the close of the year the celebrated Jennie Lee ("Jo") visited Cape Town under his management.

Then followed one of the most ambitious undertakings of his life, the bringing out of a complete and costly Italian Opera Company from Milan, a venture which, though attended with much artistic success, brought the manager but little, if any pecuniary reward.

Afer this, Mr. Bonamici devoted his attention almost exclusively to Johannesburg, where he established his headquarters; and there such distinguished singers and entertainers as Charles Santley, Signor Foli, Sims Reeves, Mme Albani, Charles Arnold, Mark Twain, Max O'Rell, Stuart Cumberland, and others appeared under his direction at one time and another.

He provided the last entertainment, with the Charles Arnold Company, in Johannesburg and Pretoria prior to the outbreak of the war in 1899, and left the Transvaal capital, in obedience to an intimation from the Boer Government, on October 5, 1899. In 1900 he went to Europe to organise the Imperial Circus for Frank Fillis, and with this combination he appeared in Cape Town in 1902.

Since that time little has been heard of Mr. Bonamici, but on Boxing Night last year his many local friends once more encountered his familiar features on entering Fillis's Circus in Caledon-square. A wonderful change had, however, been wrought in the appearance of the man; he had aged considerably, and looked worn, sad, and troubled. It was a wreck of the old Bonamici one saw; and, though still ready to talk about matters relating to his profession, the weary and dejected look on his face never changed. He took a gloomy view of everything, and sighed for the pre-war days in South Africa, when all showmen had a fair chance of success.

As a manager, Mr Bonamici was always courteous and affable, though never effusively so, and his death will be deplored by a wide circle of friends. In a sense he had passed out of the public eye, but he will always be remembered as one of the early pioneers in theatrical affairs in South Africa.

MR. TOM GREEN, the well-known comedian and stage-director, in conjunction with Mrs. Green (Miss Nellie Gordon) and Miss Jennie Green and their full dramatic company, have been specially re-engaged by G. C. Bromhead, Esq., of Goumondt and Co., London and Paris, for their new productions.

AN accident to the fireproof curtain at the Margate Hippodrome on Saturday evening caused momentary alarm, but very little damage was done and no one was injured. As the curtain was being lowered at the close of the first performance there was a terrific crash, and a quantity of bricks and masonry came tumbling down on to the stage. Some of the debris fell into the orchestra, knocking several keys off the piano, and causing the musicians near to beat a hasty and undignified retreat, but Mr. Mellor, the conductor, and other members kept playing on, and but few of those leaving the building knew that anything had happened. It appears that as the metal curtain was being lowered the iron pulley block at the end came down and brought with it a quantity of bricks and masonry. Manager Bawtrey was quickly on the stage. Mr. J. M. Paramor, contractor, happened to be in the house, and with the utmost promptitude—in less than ten minutes—the curtain was made safe and was raised in time for the second house.

PROFESSOR DAVENPORT, who made a brave attempt to swim the Channel last year, is giving daily exhibitions of high diving and ornamental swimming from the Pier at Eastbourne. Professor Davenport has given his sensational diving performances in many parts of the world, and last year brought back to England the championship of South America. He is a young, clever, and ambitious athlete, with any amount of pluck, and as a swimmer and high diver should make a name for himself.

WILL BATEMAN'S and Harry Storkey's annual concert took place at the Battersea Town Hall on Monday under the patronage of the Mayor of Battersea. The long list of artists included vocalists, instrumentalists, comedians, and miscellaneous, amongst the latter being Messrs. Geo. Ellis, in characters from Dickens; Geo. Richmond, farmyard mimic; Alf Montagu, ventriloquist; and W. E. High, the "mad skater."

WE understand that Mr. Robert Forsyth is the managing director of the new syndicate that will take over the Victoria Pier, Folkestone, on the termination of Messrs. Keith Prowse's tenancy. This popular Councillor will also open the New Guildford Gardens at Dover at Whitsuntide, and in addition will run the promenade concerts at Bognor.

"THE ERA" SHILLING FUND FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME

Mr. Barrasford and Miss Victoria joint in a strenuous appeal for the generosity of the profession in support of *The Era* Shilling Fund. When, twelve months ago, we brought before our readers the claims of this deserving charity, a very considerable sum of money was collected in separate shillings. That last year's appeal, however, and most of the money obtained by it, are, as Miss Marie Lloyd would say, "a thing of the past, old dear."

Subscribed to date, 754½ shillings.

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Mark Sheridan	5	M. Claire	1
Gwladys Elvey	5	Mr. Whitehead	1
Edna Loftus	5	Ian Lloyd-Mackenzie	1
Daisy Dormer	5	Herbert Darnley	1
S. Egbert and Mac	5	Harry Nelson	1
Mark's Room	4	Erchie Mitchell	1
Mac's Bar, 3 Rose-street, Edinburgh	3	Harry Bendon	1
Harry Lupino	2	A. R. Pole	1
Us again	2	Us	1
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Oliver Round	2½	J. Kelly	1
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W. W. Walton	2½	W. Clarke	1
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Billy Hoofum	1	Kathleen Tremayne	1
James Kiddie	1	May St. Pierre	1
Tom Kelso	1	Lena Arnold	1
E. Bernhardt	1	Aline Goldsmith	1
Harold Batt	1	Edie Graham	1
Mr. Skimps	1	Minnie Grey	1
Mr. Skopes	1	Eva Mountcastle	1
Ben De Freece	1	M. Maquade	1
Kitty Kildare	1	Nellie Bailey	1
Nellie Bailey	1	Marie Beresford	1

Collected by Tom Vine, £1 2s. 6d.

Tom Vine	2½	George Bernard	1
Sisters Grovini	2	Pichel Troupe	1
Jessie Harper	1½	Brothers Story	1
Fred Leighton	1	Famous Henderson	1
Arnold H. Colmer	1	Brothers Austin	1
Arthur Arscott	1	Lucy Coventry	1
George Arscott	1	F. R. Griffiths	1
George Neale	1	Joe Huda	1
H. F.	1	Mimic Maston	1
Carl Bernardo	1	Tony Rallis	1
Lee's Marionettes	1	J. C.	1

Collected by Regan and Ryan, Court Theatre, Liverpool, £1 14s.

Malcolm Scott	5	H. Brockbank	2
Fanny Fields	5	Patty Yole	2
Regan and Ryan	5	M. R. M.	1
Harry Tate	5	Doris Dean	1
Hetty King	5	Poppy Wilkinson	1
Fanny Dango	2		

Collected by W. Kloof, Kloof and Field's *Aladdin* Co., £1 1s. 6d.

Verona Quartette	2	W. Kloof, jun.	1
Bros. Shetland	1½	Harold Kloof, jun.	1
Harry Gold	1	Harry J. Nelson, Fleetwood	1
Bert Goldin	1	T. R. Bennett, Fleetwood	1
T. M. Lee Isor	1	T. P. Hornby, Fleetwood	1
Vulo	½	G. Taylor, Grimsby	½
Sisters Simmons	1	W. H. Betney, Grimsby	½
Fred Fields	1	Elephant (Potted Meat)	½
Florence Lewis	1	Dog (Karno)	½
Master Freddy Fields	1	May Florence	½
Allan Grey, Musical Director	1		
W. Kloof	1		
Cissie Ransay	1		

Collected by Carl and Carr, 11s.

Carl and Carr	2	A. Lotto	1
W. Brown	2	E. Lotto	1
Emily Custance	2	B. Roberts	1
E. Davey	1	V. Kingdon	1

Collected by Miss Nellie Christie, Argyle Theatre, Birkenhead, £1 3s.

Nellie Christie	5	George de Lara	1
B. N.	2	The Bassos	1
Ella Lane	1	Julian Ross	1
Eida Burman	1	Jack Charman	1
Herbert La Martine	1	S. de Groot	1
Sylvia du Barry	1	Maude Courteney	1
Eva Lumley	1	Mabel Bardine	1
Bertha Woolcote	1	Pattie Verner	1
May Fallowfield	1	Josie Mooney	1

Collected by Mr. T. S. Lonsdale, £1 13s.

W. Pratt	2	Sydney James	1
Velvero	1	R. Gilbert	1
T. S. Lonsdale	1	E. Pherson	1
Mr. Cragg	1	Andreassen Bros.	1
Mill May	1	Toch and Tard	1
Johnny Dwyer	1	Mike Cray	1
Frederic Culpitt	1	The Marconis	1
E. H. Williams	1	Clarions	1
F. Lauteron	1	E. Amoda	1
The Panamas	1	Ben Hur	1
Delornes	1	Carter Livessy	1
B. Stavordale	1	Lillian Rosebery	1
Jock Whiteford	1	Espinosa	1
G. Chamberlain	1	Amber Austa	1
Herbert Shelley	1	Will E. Haines	1
Frank Shelley	1	Robbie Roy	1

Collected by Miss Sable Fern, £2 16s.

Malcolm Scott	10	Fred Wood	1
Sable Fern	5	George Peel	1
W. H. Galpin	2	Josh Dixon	1
J. E. Grist	2	Johnnie Whiteman	1
Frank Leo	1	Carrie Kenyon	1
Will Rags	1	Leah Ardell	1
W. Griffin	1	Dolly Moore	1
E. Dubois	1	Bee Cycles	1
Mrs. Dainton	1	Butcher	1
Marie Dainton	1	Hal Forde	1
The Allisons	1	Bill Manning	1
Geo. H. Brooks	1	Joe	1
Kenneth Macleod	1	Claire Romaine	1
A. Jennings	1	Ernest Rees	1
Belles in Orient	1	Will Poluski, jun.	1
Jock Whiteford	1	Edgar Romaine	1
Samuel Lloyd	1	Herbert Coltesmore	1
Alma Gray	1	Laurence Rutledge	1
George Kirby	1	J. McCabe	1
Neil Kenyon	1	H. J. Edwardes	1
Will Lambert	1		

Collecting cards of subscriptions, as soon as filled, should be forwarded to the Hon. Treasurer. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, *The Era* Office, 5 Tavistock street, Strand, W.C.

EALING HIPPODROME.

When Scheherazade, the beautiful and resourceful wife of Shahriyar, enthralled her lord with the fictions of "The Thousand and One Nights," she could have imagined nothing more enticingly romantic than the story of *Aladdin; or, the Wonderful Lamp*. This week, however, at Ealing the *Aladdin* presented is a "saucy young scamp," written, invented, and produced by Mr. Dan Thomas, with music by Carl Hamlin, Messrs. Lewis Linton and Walter Drury being responsible for the specially painted scenery. Scheherazade would rub her eyes with astonishment could she see this up-to-date edition of the young "scamp of the Lamp" as created by dainty and shapely Miss Daisy Yates. Her sauciness is bewitching, her songs are tuneful, and her dancing is excellent. The production is particularly bright and exhilarating, the exterior of the Baths being the scene of an immense amount of clever fooling by the two bath attendants; and with the arrival of Widow Twanky (Mr. Dan Thomas) the merriment becomes uproarious, her song, "I want a young man to kiss and cuddle me" instantly catching on. The susceptible "relict" is continually finding a new "mash," and as she assumes a new hat for each conquest her millinery bill at the Pekin "Louise" must be heavy. Mr. Thomas extracts every possible atom of fun from his part, and his turn is a chain of comicalities intersecting the story of the Wonderful Lamp from Market-place to Palace. A well-sung duet for Aladdin and the Princess (Miss Amy Bellwood), "I want no other girl but you," and a quintette, "Run, run, little one run," conclude the second scene, and we are taken, scene the third, to the Cave of the Lamp. Here Aladdin, when entrapped by Abanazar (Mr. Arthur Mordant), is succoured by the Genie of the Ring (Miss Marie Lewis). In scene four, Twanky's garden, the Vizier (Mr. Chas. Dore) amusingly reveals his love for the fair sex in "Girls, girls, girls," and the coy widow warbles sweetly of the "Old homestead." In scene five, the Twanky Laundry, fun and frolic brim over. Abanazar, in his search for the magic lamp, hides himself in the copper, but the fact of it being washing-day makes his choice of a place of concealment an unfortunate one. Pails of water persuade him to leap from his temporary refuge, and, seized with terror at the apparition, the widow asks herself if she has "got 'em again." Here Miss Amy Bellwood trills the pretty song "Snowflakes," and afterwards Aladdin and his frisky mother join in the duet, "Two of whiskey." Scene six is a corridor of the Palace. Here Messrs. Haverley and Homer have their opportunity, and their cross-talk is decidedly funny, their dancing being also full of surprises. Their song, "We are a couple of policemen," brings down the house. With a magic ring nothing is impossible, and so in scene seven we are transported to Brighton beach with troupes of charming nereids. An amusing travesty of the Zancigs is introduced with good effect by the Vizier and the Widow. In scene eight, Pekin Harbour (?), the Vizier, Twanky, and Slip and Slop have a witty quartette of condensed fun, "What! what! what!" Scene nine, and last, Aladdin's Garden Party, brings to a focus the entire company, and a final triumph is achieved in "Starlight," which is given with good effect. The whole production is excellently presented. The ladies of the chorus are handsome, the dresses are exceedingly tasteful, and the whole brims over with mirth. The special engagement of the Four Dandies is a welcome aid to the success achieved.

Early in the evening Mr. Alec Kennedy amuses with his song, "The knights of old they robbed the rich—while we—we rob the poor." Le Franc's Juveniles are clever little vocalists and dancers, and have a gratifying reception. Some thrilling incidents in the wreck of the Berlin are thrown on the screen by the Imperial Bioscope, the films revealing the embarkation of Prince Henry of the Netherlands being remarkably distinct. Mr. E. W. James and his genial lieutenant, Mr. L. Westcott Hicks, must feel proud of the strong programme presented.

THE "FRED LOCKE" MATINEE AT GLASGOW.

The readiness of the profession to lend a helping hand to any friend in need was never better exemplified than in the splendid programme which was arranged for the above matinée at the Royal Princess's, Glasgow, on Friday, the 22nd ult. Mr. Rich. Waldon's popular theatre, specially granted for the occasion, was crammed from floor to ceiling, and every item of a lengthy programme evoked the heartiest enthusiasm. The opening turn, after a spirited overture, was an acrobatic dance by Miss Dollie Bell's Six English Violets, followed by a most amusing knockabout sketch by the Elvio Comedy Trio, consisting of Miss Grace Elvio and Messrs. James Ross and Harry Taylor. This sketch went exceedingly well, and at the conclusion of it Miss Elvio was rewarded with a beautiful bouquet, which she immediately handed to the stage-manager, in order that it might be sold either intact or as buttonholes, and from the rapidity with which it was bought up in the latter shape it must have added a goodly sum to the day's drawings. In quick succession items were contributed by Miss Ethel Campbell (of the Princess's pantomime), who gave a first-rate suffragette song; Miss Ella Retford (principal girl here), in a coon song, and later on with Messrs. Foreman and Fannan, appearing in their smart circus burlesque. Messrs. Austin Lenton and Wal Croft gave a comedy scene from the *Mother Goose* pantomime; and another excellent turn was the "Menzies' Bus" scene from the same. This is one of the best items in Mr. Waldon's annual, and with the running track alongside the 'bus and the moving panorama behind the effect is most realistic. Lots of fun was introduced, and the passengers on the 'bus included quite a bevy of beauty from the local theatres, and most of the comedians, including Mr. Fred Kitchen, who was unfortunately prevented from taking a more active part in the day's proceedings owing to an injured arm. In the course of the afternoon Mr. Waldon made a telling and pathetic little speech, detailing the sad features of Mr. Fred Locke's illness, and this was followed by a very clever item, a poem written by Mr. Harry McLelland, the versatile Baron in the Princess's pantomime. The lines are an adaptation of Kipling's "Absent-minded Beggar," and the request to "pay, pay, pay" was so well responded to that over £5 was thrown on the stage in the course of a few minutes. Other enjoyable turns were given by Mr. Peter D. Bermingham, Miss Carrie Foy, and Miss Adela Crispin, from the Paisley pantomime; Miss Marie Kendal, who sang "Just like the ivy"; Sisters Hall, the popular duettists of the Princess's pantomime; Freddie Whittaker, the Cat of the Grand pantomime, who, in addition to his clever performance on the stage, used his persuasive powers among the audience to such good effect that he collected nearly £3 for the fund. From the Italian Circus came a clever clown and trained dog turn; the Harmony Four, from the Grand, gave their excellent musical comedy items; Mr. Martin Conway sang a lively ditty, and "walked round" as requested; Mr. W. F. Frame sang a catchy song, and spoke a few words in support of the charitable object of the matinée; and the lengthy programme wound up with a musical mélange, entitled *The Blue Pigeons*, in which nearly the "whole strength of the company" took part. It is hoped that considerably over £100 will be added to the Fred Locke Fund as a result of the generosity of all concerned. In addition to the many professional and other friends who bought tickets for the performance, the following donations from sympathisers at a distance are acknowledged by Mr. J. G. Crichton, 9, Bridge-street, Glasgow:—

	£	s.	d.
Collected by Peter D. Bermingham, from Paisley Pantomime Artists	2	0	0
Arthur Williams	1	1	0
John E. Coyle (second sub.)	1	1	0
J. C. Gulliland	1	1	0
Robert Hunter	1	0	0
Milton Bode	0	10	0
Fred Evans (second sub.)	0	10	0
Hugh Macfarlane	0	10	0
Amand Mascard	0	5	0
Henri Vollmer	0	5	0
Chas. Franmore (second sub.)	0	5	0
Chas. Humphry	0	2	6
J. B.	0	2	6

AN ELECTRIFIED FILM.

"The Wonderful Electric Belt" is the title of L. Gaumont and Co.'s latest film. It is, as the proprietors say, "electrified right through, a continuous current of fun (not alternating)." Those very striking advertisements setting forth the marvellous revigorating capacities of electric belts in general and those which act directly on the nervous system through the medium of the vertebra in particular, are familiar to all. One of these ingenious advertisements is the pivot upon which the plot of the story turns. A listless, lackadaisical man gets one of these marvellous "Vigour" contrivances into position across his backbone, and the results are vigorous indeed; so much so that its subtle influence permeates his whole body, and the "power" gets beyond his control—well, the galvanic battery is not in it with the electric belt. A tramp then appropriates the belt, thinking he has got a cop; but the tables are quickly turned, for the belt cops him, for when the energetic motive force becomes greater in the magnetic field than the resistance the tramp gets coped by the "copper," and finally finds himself wound up in a coiled armature and carried off the scene.

Exhibitors on the look-out for something novel and new—and who is not?—cannot do better than get "The Wonderful Electric Belt," which has already proved a magnet in several houses of note.

"THE DEVIL'S SUNDAY."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In your current number the authoress of *The Devil's Sunday* challenges my allusion to the duel scene in *A Woman's Honour* as novel, and refers to the production of her sketch last November wherein a fight with pistols in the dark occurs. It is true I had not the pleasure of seeing *A Woman's Honour*, but I read your account of it, and would know from that as well as from previous productions that such a situation was not new. I would point out, however, that in *A Woman's Honour* one of the combatants, to prevent him treacherously firing before the signal is given, is covered by the revolver of a third party, and it was to this circumstance that the episode seemed to me to owe its novelty.

Originality is so precious nowadays that every atom is worthy of recognition.—Yours faithfully,

Feb. 23. YOUR REPRESENTATIVE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Having had my attention drawn to a letter in last Saturday's *Era*, written by the author of *The Devil's Sunday*, in which he criticises your report of my sketch, *A Woman's Honour*, and also says that the duel arrangements in the latter sketch being similar to his can scarcely be a coincidence, I wish to state that at the time of his production at the Metropolitan I was en route for Australia, under contract to Harry Rickards, and did not return to England till last July, when, strange to say, my opening week was at the Metropolitan with my own turn. Perhaps that also was not a coincidence. I must plead guilty of never before hearing of the sketch *The Devil's Sunday*, but not of plagiarism.—Yours faithfully, BERT DANSON.

Dundee, Feb. 28, '07.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

DEATH OF CHARLES BERTRAM.

The lamented Charles Bertram—who died at his residence at Streatham on Thursday—with his amusing gag, "Isn't it wonderful?" was one of the most popular conjurers that ever handled a card. He gave his first public entertainment at the small St. James's Hall just a little under a quarter of a century since, and speedily became a favourite entertainer both at Sandringham and Marlborough House. A very pretty story is related of a special entertainment at the latter royal residence. The King and Queen, then the Prince and Princess of Wales, had invited a few particular friends to dinner, and afterwards Mr. Bertram was ushered into the drawing-room to give a few card tricks. In the course of the "experiments," the Prince, with others, was asked to take a card, and Bertram said to his Royal Highness: "Your card, sir, is the queen of hearts, is it not?" "No," replied the Prince, "the king of spades," at the same time showing it. "Will you allow me to look, sir?" said the apparently puzzled conjurer, coming up to the Prince, who handed him the card. With a rapid pass Bertram produced a portrait of the Princess of Wales (the present Queen), with the remark, "I'm sure, sir, that this lady is the queen of hearts." Everyone was, of course, delighted.

Mr. Bertram was associated with the introduction into England of the disappearing lady trick, invented by M. Buatier de Kolta, and first exploited in Paris under the title of "L'Escamotage d'une personne vivante," and made a considerable reputation, the part of the lady being played by Mlle. Patrice. He had a fund of genial patter, and was a favourite at the halls, fulfilling many successful engagements therein at the West End.

Born at Woolwich in 1853, in his early manhood he "read" for the Nonconformist ministry, but had to relinquish his studies therefor on account of delicate health. His father, a meat contractor, bought for him a wine and spirit business near Long Acre, and here he practised his art before friends, and occasionally gave entertainments of a private nature. How he became a conjurer was often told by him. Travelling on the Continent with a dear old friend, they went one day into a café in Ghent at the invitation of a captain of the Garde Civique, "who insisted upon our taking a bottle of campagne with him. We seated ourselves at a small table, and the champagne was duly brought. The garçon cut the string, up went the cork into the air, and it fell upon the table, whereupon our Belgian friend, taking up the cork, and making pretence to swallow it (and, really, I thought that he had done so), promptly, with a wry face, blew it out from his nose again." Bertram asked for an explanation, practised the trick till he was perfect, added others—and became eminent.

Once Mr. Bertram performed before the Shah (just deceased), who did not care to trust the magician with his large diamond. It was jocularly remarked in a comic contemporary that his Majesty of Persia had conferred upon him the "order of the eel." He had travelled a great deal in the course of his career, making tours in America, India, and Japan, and everywhere winning friends. He was a popular member of the Savage Club, where he will be much missed. He had been only recently married.

The royal children much appreciated Mr. Bertram, and many were the gatherings to which he was commanded. The King always considered that there was a strong resemblance between himself and the deceased, and there were instances of the conjurer being mistaken for Edward VII. Mr. Bertram was fond of telling a story about a lost train and a special. He had to be at Sandringham for a birthday party, and to be there a certain train had to be caught at Liverpool-street. He somehow miscalculated the time, and, arriving at the station, found the train had gone, and the next one would arrive in Norfolk too late for him to give his entertainment at Sandringham. Mr. Bertram knew he must not disappoint, he therefore wired that he was coming on, ordered a special, and succeeded in reaching Sandringham just in time to give the entertainment. The story of the "special" reached the ears of the King, and the fee included the extra expenses Mr. Bertram had incurred. No "palming" of any other conjurer in recent years equalled that of Charles Bertram, and in addition to this marvellous dexterity, his "patter" was of the best. He appreciated India very much, and throughout that vast land his friends were many. The entertaining magician leaves a great gap in the ranks of conjurers to-day, for geniuses in the line are rather rare.

"THE WINDOW CLEANER."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA

SIR,—In reference to your report in *The Era* of last Saturday of a sketch produced at the Tivoli, Liverpool, by Miss Stella Millar, entitled *The Window Cleaner*, I should like to make it known that this title is my sole property. I produced a farcical comedy under this title at Barnard's Theatre Royal, Woolwich, during the week of June 5, 1905, and a full report of the same appeared in *The Era* dated June 17, 1905, in your report for the Royal Albert, Canning Town. I have played it almost continually from the above date, and I am booked at almost every hall of note both in London and country with same. To save proprietors any unnecessary inconvenience, and anyone concerned any further trouble, I should esteem it a favour if you would kindly publish this letter in the columns of your valuable paper.

Thanking you in anticipation.—Yours faithfully,

HENRY CARLTON.

Empire, Islington, Feb. 28.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Contains in a handy compass and in a clear style the law relating to theatres and music halls. The book is well up to date.—*Law Times.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

Mr. A. A. Strong has compiled an exceedingly useful volume dealing carefully, intelligently, and fully with the law bearing upon things theatrical. As a book of reference this excellent digest will be found invaluable.—*The Era.*

MR. JACK WOOLF, manager of the Queen's Theatre, Poplar, asked the magistrate at the Thames Court on Monday for a licence to enable two little girls to perform at the theatre during the ensuing week. Mr. Mead, having questioned the girls' mother, said there ought to be a trustee in such cases with regard to the earnings of the children, for he did not approve of parents having the opportunity of exploiting their children and living on them. He granted the licence on the understanding that something permanent should be done for the children's pecuniary benefit. He was no enemy to such performances, but it was his duty to look after the welfare of the children, and see that the Education Act was not evaded.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR

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"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

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MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E., April 8, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING, March 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, May 13, 20.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER, May 6, 13, 20, 27, Aug. 5, 12, 19, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER, March 25, April 11 (3 nights), 22, May 13, 20, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON, March 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, May 6, 20, Aug. 5, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD, April 22, May 20, 27, June 3, Aug. 5, 12, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON, March 25, April 15, June 10, Aug. 5, 12, 26, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER, March 25, April 29, May 20, 27, June 3, 10, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON, March 18, April 8, 15 (three nights), 22 (six nights), May 2 (three nights), May 13, on.
Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for March 25 and April 1, at Reading and Wolverhampton, and April 11 (3 nights), at Chester.
Wire, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Companies, GRAND T., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, May 6, 13, 20, and 27.
METROPOLE T., GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE, May 6, 13, 20, and 27.
QUEEN'S T., GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE, March 18, 25, April 8 and 15.
Address, Sidney Bacon, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead-on-Tyne.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Attractions only, GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON, March 25 (3 nights).
THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH, April 15.
Apply, Frdk. Mouillot, 1 and 2, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY T., BEDFORD, April 1, 29, May 13, 20, 27 (6 nights), April 22 and May 6 (3 nights).
GRAND T., LUTON, May 6, 13, 27, June 3.
T. R., CANTERBURY, March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 15 (3 nights only), on.

E. Graham-Falcon, County T., Bedford.

NEW ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BELFAST.
Proprietors, Alexandra Theatre Co,

One of the Handsomest Theatres in Ireland.
Heated by radiators.
Lighted by electric and gas.

WANTED, Big Productions, Autumn. Dramas New to this City.
J. Leicester-Jackson, Greenisland, Belfast.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 13. A few Autumn Dates Open for First-class Attractions only, Musical Comedies preferred.
Address, Harry Yorke.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 11, 12, 13, April 8, 9, 10, 22, 23, 24, May 2, 3, 4.
Apply, William Peacock.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, Companies, April 11, 12, 13 (three nights), 22, May 13, 27, and onwards.
Murray King, 2, Hungerford-road, N.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 8, 22, May 13, 20.
Andrew Melville, Metropole Theatre, Birmingham.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEST BROMWICH, Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Gen.-Man., Mr. Herbert Vere.
WANTED, First-Class Melodramas, Musical Comedies, &c., vacant March 25, April, on.

AVENUE THEATRE, KETTERING.
WANTED, Companies, Musical, Drama, or Variety, March 18, April 29, May 20, June 6 (three nights), June 13 (three nights), July 1 (three nights). Frank Payne.

WANTED, First-class Dramatic Attractions, for the Star Theatre, Swansea, the Best Drama House in Wales.
Vacant dates, April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, and on.
William Coutts.

GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 25, May 6, 20, 27, and a few autumn dates.
Fred Granville, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

THEATRE ROYAL, ILKESTON
Manager and Licensee, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.

WANTED, April 29, onwards.
Silence a courteous negative.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, March 18, April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20.
Now booking for the Fall.
Apply,
Owner and Manager, James Kiernan.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORTHING.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, March 18, 21, 25, April 1, onwards, three nights, one matinée each instance; large stage, electric light, good staff, and orchestra of nine performers. Only good Companies need apply to Seebold, as above.
Silence a polite negative.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE, GLASGOW.
LYCEUM THEATRE, GOVAN.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions for both Theatres, March 25, April 1 (Holiday week), 22, 29. Address, Rich Waldon.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, First-Class Musical Attractions, Aug. 12, 19, Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, and on.
James Bell.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, Companies, March 25, April 15, May 13. ATHENÆUM THEATRE, LANCASTER, Vacant March 11, April 8 (3 nights), and May 13. Address,
Stanley Rogers, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-Class Companies,

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER,
Vacant April 15 (three nights), onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH,
Vacant March 18, 25, April 25, onward, with exceptions
(Last three nights of each week).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY,
Vacant April 1 (Share or Certainty), onward, with exceptions.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY,
Vacant April 8, 22, 29, onward, with exceptions.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE,
Vacant March 18, April 8, onward, with exceptions.

"THE LOST CHORD,"
Vacant Aug. 5, onward, with exceptions.

"SPAN OF LIFE,"
Vacant March 11, 25, April 8 onward, with exceptions.

"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S,"
Vacant April 1 and 8, onward, with exceptions.

"CINDERELLA,"
Vacant Feb. 3, 1908, onward, with exceptions.

Companies "Farmed" through Fit-ups.

To Let, on Royalty, "THE PRAIRIE FLOWER" and "OUR BRITISH EMPIRE."

Excellent Plants Printing.

All communications to
Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, CARLISLE.

Lessees,
Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim.

The Premier Theatre of Cumberland.

Bookings include:
Moody-Manners Opera Co., Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean Co., "His House in Order," "The Breed of the Treshams," "The Walls of Jericho," "Mr. Popple, of Ippleton," "The Dairymaids," "Blue Bell in Fairyland," Mr. Norman V. Norman, "The Youngest of Three," "Claudian," and Mr. Edward Terry.

WANTED, for few remaining Autumn Dates, First-Class Attractions, Musical preferred, Silence a polite negative.

Apply,
Thos. Courtice, Manager.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

WANTED, Strong Attractions,

March 18, March 18,
March 25, March 25,
April 1,
and on,
with exceptions.

R. C. Buchanan, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only, for weeks of April 15 and 22.

Wire or write,
W. W. Kelly,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

THEATRE ROYAL, BURY ST. EDMUNDS.
The Gem Theatre of East Anglia, at a Decorative Cost of £1,500.

WANTED, Companies,
March 18 (three nights),
March 25 (three or five nights),
April 8 (three nights),
and various (three nights), on.
Bookings include the Moody-Manners Opera Co., "The Duchess of Dantzic," "The Cingalee," "The Belle of Mayfair," "Peter's Mother," "The Shulamite," &c., &c. Eade Montefiore, Kennington Theatre. Tel., "Busily, London."

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE.
WANTED, Big Holiday Attraction for March 25 week (Good Friday Night included); unexpectedly vacant.
Also May 13, June 3, 10, July 1.
Apply, T. W. Rowe.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, May 6, May 6, May 6, May 6, Aug. 5, and onwards, with exceptions. Address, T. Allan Edwardes.

HIPPODROME THEATRE, MANSFIELD.
WANTED, First-Class Company, for Easter week, Musical preferred. The only theatre in the centre of Mansfield. Electric lighting. Heated throughout. Seats 1,500. Large Stage. Finest break-journey in Midlands.
Apply, Herbert Darnley, 18a, Brixton-road, S.W.
Few Spring and Autumn Dates.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, LLANDUDNO.
Under new management.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 1, onwards with exceptions. Address,
J. Ritson, General-Manager.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, J. Bannister Howard.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 22 and Oct. 7, also Feb. 17, 1908, and various, onwards. William Martin,
Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Strong Attractions (Drama or Musical Comedy), for March 18, April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, and 20 (Whit Week, musical attraction preferred). A. C. Moody, Lessee, New Theatre Royal, Blyth.

WANTED, Musical and Farcical Comedies, April 8, May 13, on, Grand, Chorley; last week, "Miss Lancashire, Limited," £260, and second visit within eleven months; also April 8, on, Grand, Radcliffe. Address, Sante, Radcliffe.

ROTUNDA THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Strong Drama, March 25, 1907.
M. Montgomery, Rotunda, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class Dramatic or Musical Attraction, for week of March 25.
William Giffard, Broadway T., New Cross, S.E.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 1 and 8, for Perth Theatre.
Apply, J. H. Savile, Paisley Theatre.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, HORWICH.
WANTED, March 18, 25, onward, with exceptions, good Companies. Address with daybill, F. Lewis, as above.

WANTED for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-Class Companies for Easter Week (April 1), April 22, 29, May 13. Address, E. B. Goulden.

WANTED, Companies, March 18, 25, April 8 (3 nights), on. For vacant dates, apply Phillips, Coliseum, Aberystwyth.

WANTED, Sound Attractions, Easter, April 8 (?), April 15, and onwards, with exceptions.
Apply, Sherwood and Co., Theatre, Wakefield.

WANTED, Companies, March 18 (3 nights), Easter, and on.
James Elphinstone, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, First-class Musical or Dramatic Cos. for March 18, onwards, with exceptions.
L. Carson, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

WANTED, No. 1 Companies, April 15, 29, also Autumn Dates.
Guarantee or Certainty to Good Shows.
Man.-Director, Grand Theatre, Mansfield.

WANTED, Good Companies, April 22, 29, and Autumn.
Manager, King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

WANTED, Strong Attractions, for April 29 and May 20 (?).
Francis Laidler,
Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

COMPANIES WANTED.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.

The Leading Theatre of the Town.

The only theatre in the town lighted by electricity.

The Season's Bookings include:—
"His House in Order," "All-of-a-Sudden Peggy" (Miss Decima Moore), "The Freedom of Suzanne" (Miss Mabel Love), "The Prince of Pilsen," "Miss Lancashire, Limited," Wentworth Croke's "My Sweetheart," "The Christian," "The 'Varsity Belle," "Home, Sweet Home," "The Worst Woman in London," "The Spider and the Fly," Charles Harrington's "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "Sherlock Holmes," "The Shulamite," "The Woman Who Gambles," "The Lion and the Mouse." Local Amateurs in "The Idler". (for the Mayor's Hospital Fund), &c., &c., &c.

WANTED, Companies, April 29, May 6, Aug. 5, onwards.

Apply,
Calvert Routledge.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District.
WANTED, First-Class Attraction, for April 15.
This week, "Lucky Durham" (third visit), to be followed by some of the best Attractions on the road.
Apply,
Hugh Robertson, T. R., Jarrow.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, for QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH, April 1, 22, May 13, 20, 27, June 3.
This house is in the full tide of success, playing to more money than has ever been taken in the corresponding period since the theatre has been built.
The average receipts this year are fast on to per week. £180 per week.
This year Drama has played to
in a week. £270 in a week.
in a week. £219 in a week.

First-Class Staff Band, Advertising, Everything for success.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
This popular Playhouse,
March 18, 19, 20, May 6, 13, 20.

Morton Powell,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.

The above building has been purchased by Mr. Albert Smith, of Middlesbrough, the Chairman of the late Company, and all contracts that have been entered into will be carried out accordingly.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
First-Class Attractions,
First-Class Attractions,
First-Class Attractions,
First-Class Attractions,
First-Class Attractions,
First-Class Attractions,
First-Class Attractions,
First-Class Attractions,
March 18, 25, April 1, 8, May 13, and onwards.
March 18, 25, April 1, 8, May 13, and onwards.
March 18, 25, April 1, 8, May 13, and onwards.
Would entertain First-Class Pantomime for Easter week and week following.
NOTHING TOO BIG.
NOTHING TOO BIG.
BIGGER THE BETTER.
BIGGER THE BETTER.
SHARE OR CERTAINTY.
SHARE OR CERTAINTY.
For First-Class Attractions.
Will guarantee anything really good.
Will guarantee anything really good.
All communications to
John E. Jowsey, Grand Opera House, Middlesbro'.
Telegrams, "Magnet."
Nat. Tel. 413, 426, 500.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-Class Companies.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
June 3 (?), July 15, 22.

PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE,
May 20, 27 (?), June 24, July 8, 15, 22.
Big Musical Comedy Wanted for Whit Week.
H. W. Rowland, Theatre, Folkestone.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, and 15.
Apply, Mr. Robert Arthur, 24a, Regent-st., S.W.

PALACE THEATRE, RHYL.
WANTED, First-class Attractions for the Season, Musical or Farcical preferred. This Magnificent Theatre holds 3,000. All modern improvements. Only place of amusement; 30,000 weekly visitors during season. Address, Will Smith, Manager, Palace Theatre, Rhyl. London Representative, Nelson Trueman, Esq., Regent-st.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, Julian Malvern.
WANTED, High-Class Attraction, April 29, Whit week, July 1, 8, and on;
also good Variety Combination,
for three nights, commencing March 28.
Address,
Chas. M. Julian, General-Manager.

ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD.
Proprietors, Messrs. Trenchard and Jones.
WANTED, No. 1 Musical or High-class Comedy Attractions, April 29, May, June 17, and a few Autumn Dates Open. Only Best Dramas Entertained. For dates, apply, Manager, Charles Trenchard.

THEATRE ROYAL, HEBBURN.
WANTED, First-Class Companies (Musical preferred), April 8, 15, 22, big Attraction for Whit Week, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 4, 11, Dec. 2, 9, 16. The season's bookings include: "Three Little Maids," "Sins of a City," "The Honeymoon," "An Abandoned Woman," "The Toreador," "Love that Women Desire," "La Poupée," "Prodigal Parson," "Grip of Iron," "A Broken Heart." Last eight weeks' gross receipts, £1,461 12s. 9d.
For dates, Charles Elderton, General-Manager.

BRIDLINGTON SPA THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.
Thoroughly Up-to-date, Re-opens July 29.
Electricity throughout; new scenery; large stage dimensions.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Opening week (no dramas).
Henry Hague, General-Manager.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE
WANTED, High-class Companies, March 7 (three), 14 (three), 18, and 25, and on, with exceptions. Can arrange Stock Season, commencing April 8. W. E. Potts

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, SEAHAM HARBOUR.
WANTED, good Attractions, April 1, Musical; May 20, 27, June 3, 10, and 17, Aug. 5, 19, 26, Sept. 2, 16, 30, on. Address, Sidney Beltram.

STANLEY, DURHAM, NEW ROYAL, LTD.
WANTED, Big Attractions, April 29 (through misunderstanding), also for a few early Autumn dates. Apply, Mark H. Lindon.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. Ashton, Strand, Barnstaple.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for March 25, April 29, May 13, 20.
Apply,
Mr. C. F. Williams, T. R., Plymouth.

WANTED, Managers with Real Attractions to Send Dates they Require to
J. F. Elliston, Theatre Royal, Bolton.

COMPANIES WANTED.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, April 8 and 29. Address,
Gerald Harding.

WANTED, Big Attraction for Pontypool, Easter Week, Pantomime or good Combination. Shares. Write, Will Stone, Workmen's Hall, Blaenavon, Mon.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. Cotton.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres, April 29 and Aug. 12.
Walter Melville, Standard Theatre, E.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 15 and 29.
Apply,
Walter Melville, Standard Theatre, E.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, March 25.
Walter Melville, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE,"
WANTED, Theatres, March 25, Aug. 19 and 26, and Dec. 23.
Frederick Melville, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, March 25, Sept. 9, 23.
Frederick Melville, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 12, Sept. 16, 30.
Frederick Melville, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, May 13 and 20.
Tom H. Taylor, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Theatres May 13, Aug. 12.
Tom H. Taylor, Standard Theatre. E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, March 25, April 8.
Douglas Bruce, Theatre Royal, Smethwick, Birmingham.

"THE GAYEST OF THE GAY."
"THE GAYEST OF THE GAY."
The most successful Play produced during the year 1906.
WANTED, Aug. 12 and 19, in First-Class Theatres only. Wire or write, W. W. Kelly, 8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Weeks of June 3 and 10, Scala Production.
Wire or write,
W. W. Kelly,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 29, Aug. 5, on.
Charles Harrington, Muncaster Theatre, Bootle (return), "The Sailors of the King."

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.,
In the Romantic Irish Musical Play,
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, Easter, only vacant date for this Play. Grand production, "Rollicking Rory." Autumn. Add., T. R., Shrewsbury, March 4 (six nights).

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, April 1, May 6, 13, 20, 27.
Address, J. W. Cordiner, East Oxford Theatre, Oxford.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY," No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Autumn dates, from Aug 5 onwards.
Address, E. C. Stafford, c/o Samuel French, Ltd., 26, Southampton-street, Strand, London, W.C.
Wanted, to Lease, a good Provincial Theatre.

"TOMMY," by Jerome K. Jerome.
Miss ANNIE HUGHES as TOMMY.
"'Tommy' is a great play; Annie Hughes is a great actress."
WANTED, Dates, June 3, 17, July 8. Booking Autumn. Address, Miss Annie Hughes, 41, Portman-mansions, Baker-street, W.

E. H. KNIGHT and GEORGE DENHAM'S CO.
"THE GRIP OF IRON."
WANTED, April 29, on, to Whit Week, Aug. 5, on, with exceptions.
George Denham,
This, R., Colchester; next, Lyric, Hammersmith.

"FOR AULD LANG SYNE."
WANTED, First-class Theatres.
Fred Bulmer, Alexandra T., Sheffield.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
WANTED, Easter, Easter, Easter.
Fred Bulmer, Alexandra T., Sheffield.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, Easter Week.
Fred Bulmer, Alexandra T., Sheffield.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Aug. 26, on, with exceptions.
Fred Bulmer, Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, good Theatres, for this great Money maker, April 8 and 22, May 6 and 13. Managers wishing to secure this Attraction for Autumn please communicate. L. Carson, T. R., Leigh.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, March 25, Aug. 12, 26.
Andrew Melville, Met. T., Birmingham.

"A LIFE'S STORY."
WANTED, April 1. Wire, wire, wire.
Stanley Carlton, Empire, Dundee.

"A MARRIAGE OF VENGEANCE."
WANTED, April 1, between Glasgow and Manchester. Stanley Carlton, Empire, Dundee.

"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON,"
By Geo. R. Sims.

WANTED, March 18 (London or South), Whit Week and onwards.
H. Hollister, Queen's Theatre, Swindon.

FRANK M. THORNE'S CO.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this money-maker, May 6, only vacant date this year.
Apply,
F. M. Thorne, Lyceum Theatre, Govan.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE."

WANTED, Easter, Easter, Easter.
G. M. Montanini,
To-day, The Garrick Theatre, Hereford; next week, Lyceum, Pentre.

"THE INDIAN MUTINY."
WANTED, good Theatres, March 25 and April 15. Wire or write, Frank E. Burdett, T. R., Sheffield; March 4, T. R., Croydon.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, March 25, April 8, 22.
Harry Foxwell, Theatre Royal, Hebburn.

FRANK BERTRAM'S TOUR.
"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS."
WANTED, Sept. 30, Nov. 11 and 18,
"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."
Address, Bertram, Killarney, Lewisham, S.E.

CHARLES CONSTANT'S "BLUEBEARD" BURLESQUE.
WANTED, for the above Powerful Success. First-class Theatres, April 29, May 6, and Whit Week.
William Martin, Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
April 8, 15, 22, May 27, June 3.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Dates,
Mrs. MORTON POWELL
and Star Cast,
April 1, July 1, 8, 15, Aug. 5.
Mrs. MORTON POWELL
will, early in the Autumn, Produce a New and Powerful Play
from the pen of S. Buchanan Rogerson.

All communications,
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Dates,
March 18, April 1 (?), 22, 29.

Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

Mr. ALEC FLOOD'S and
Mr. AUBREY FITZMAURICE'S COMPANY.
"THE ANGEL OF UNREST: A STORY OF 1812."
"THE ANGEL OF UNREST: A STORY OF 1812."
"THE ANGEL OF UNREST: A STORY OF 1812."
"THE ANGEL OF UNREST: A STORY OF 1812."
"THE ANGEL OF UNREST: A STORY OF 1812."
WANTED, Easter (1st April), onward.

Production Monday next, at the Theatre Royal, Brighton.

Wire, F. Martin Morris, Theatre Royal, Brighton.

SHINTON AND GREENWOOD'S TOURS.
"THE PRICE OF HER SOUL,"
By Wm. Hibbert.
WANTED, April 15, 22, May 20, fourth year of Tour. "A London Society Tigress," by Wm. Hibbert. A magnificent production, with an excellent company. A few Autumn Dates vacant.
Wire, "Inez, Liverpool." 'Phone 97 Anfield.
Address, John B. Shinton, Elm Dene, Victoria-rd., Tuebrook, Liverpool.

MRS. SAM DUCKWORTH'S Specially-selected Company, in the great Domestic Drama,
"HER NAMELESS CHILD?"
A play second to none. Everything carried.
Mr. Sheriff Howard, of the Queen's, Longton, remarked after Monday night: The play has touched my audience more than any I have had here for years. Will Managers please refer?
WANTED, April 1 (to precede Leeds), 22 (to follow Birmingham). Re dates, Sam Duckworth, Theatre Royal, Ton-y-pandy.

Over 2,000th Performance.
Eade Montefiore's Perennial Production,
"THE STREETS OF LONDON."
Fine Cast of Old Favourites.
WANTED, April 8, 29, May 20. Bookings include Leicester, Chester, Northampton, Shrewsbury, Kidderminster, Walsall, &c. Scenery repainted and several added scenes. Eade Montefiore, Kennington T., S.E. Tel., "Busily, London."

"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
WANTED, March 25, April 15, on, for this Sterling Attraction.
James Hare, Theatre, Castleford

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, April 15, 29, May 6, to precede St. Helens.
Another success at Bootle.
Refer H. Pennington, Esq.
Wire, E. A'Dell, March 4, Hippo., Mansfield.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
"IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND," "JEANIE DEANS," "THE THREE MUSKETEERS," and Shakespearean and Classical Répertoire.
WANTED, March 11. Wire, Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN."
WANTED, March 18 (follow Belfast), April 1. The splendid acting of the company in a play which requires much of its exponents was generally appreciated. . . . Beautifully staged. The mystic effects are cleverly produced—Yorkshire Post. Also, "THE ANARCHIST TERROR" if desired. Either or both Plays. Wire, to-day, Loie Esmond, T. R., York; next, T. R., Seaham Harbour.

WANTED, for "When a Man Hates," "When a Man Hates," April 22, May 6, June 3, North. Every scene carried; very powerful company; special printing by David Allen. Wire for this sure paybox attraction to W. Graham Arthur, Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Theatre, "The Silent Witness," unexpectedly vacant Monday, or March 7 (3 nights), printing ready. Wire, Neville, Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood.

"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, March 11, through transferring. Opened to a splendid house at Dalston. Refer. March 11 Vacant, to follow Osborne, Manchester. Wire for this great attraction., F. G. Kimberley, Junction, Manchester.

MISS EMMA LITCHFIELD'S COMPANY.
WANTED, March 25, April 1, for the Great Novelty Drama,
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
Address,
Stuart Cleveland, New Theatre, Consett.

Mr. ALBERT CHEVALIER
and a Specially Selected Company,
in a Triple Bill, including
"PANTALOON," by J. M. Barrie.
WANTED, Dates, from April 1, onward.
Wire, Ingle, 7, Dorset-road, Ealing.

"A BROKEN HEART."
WANTED, good Theatres, March 25, April 15.
Harry Foxwell, Theatre Royal, Hebburn.

"WOMAN AND WINE."
WANTED, Large First-Class Theatre, April 1 (through cancelling Swindon). Playing to enormous business. E. Vivian Edmonds, To-day, Queen's, Liverpool; next, Empire Theatre, Oldham.

Hardie and Von Leer's Co.
TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS.
WANTED, First-class Theatre, March 11.
Wire immediately, "Vagancy, London."

"SAPHO."
"SAPHO"
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, March 18, April 1, May 6, 27, June 3, 10, 17, 24.
Enormous success everywhere. Miss Annie Bell as Fanny Le Grande.
Wire, James Bell, T. R., Darlington.

"THE POWER AND THE GLORY,"
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, April 8 (London or South), 15, May 6, 13, Whit. Ernest Chesney, 137, Westbourne-terrace, London, W. Tele. 2051 Mayfair.

FRANK J. PITT and CHARLES HALLING'S CO.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, for this Successful Attraction, April 22 (through transferring), April 29, May 13, June 17, 24, July 1, on, with exceptions.
Carlton Theatre, Birmingham.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Easter (April 1), for this ideal Holiday Attraction. New Uniforms and Effects. Band of Drums, Fifes, and Bugles for Parade.
F. G. Kimberley, J., Manchester; next, Gateshead.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, April 22, 29, May 6, Whit Week, August Bank Holiday, onwards, for the above Attraction.
Address, F. Brooke Warren, 8, Wellington-road, Southport.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Theatres, April 22 and 29, Whit Week, and Aug. 5.
Dickie Clare, T. R., Crook.

WANTED, Theatres, for March 18, 25, Easter, April 8, 15 (for Musical Shows). Communicate, Chas. Macdona, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, April 1, Whit, Aug. 5, for "Money Makes the Man," "No Escape," everything First-Class. Coleman Davies, T. R., Seaham Harbour.

"THE KING OF CRIME."
WANTED, Important Theatres, Aug., onwards.
Harry Battersby, T. R., Bilston.

THEATRES WANTED.

ALFRED B. CROSS' TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."

WANTED, March 18 and April 1. Autumn rapidly booking.
"DIVORCED,"
a New and Powerful Emotional Drama, can now be played in conjunction or separately. March 4, Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle.

"HOME, SWEET HOME."
"HOME, SWEET HOME."
MR. FRANK LINDO,
MISS MARION WAKEFORD,
and full Company.

WANTED, Good Theatres, for the few remaining Dates this year. Whit Week and August Bank Holiday vacant. Address,
To-day, Palace, Newcastle;
Next, T. R., West Llanelly.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEORGE KIRK'S "HER LUCK IN LONDON" CO.
By Charles Darrell.

WANTED, Sept. 30 (?), Oct. 7. CHARLES A. LEICESTER,
Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.

Special Notice.
The Managers of the Famous Native Choir from Jamaica have much pleasure in announcing that the members of the Combination are all safe in Kingston, Jamaica, and uninjured by the recent terrible earthquake, and will return to Liverpool next month.
Second Tour can now be arranged.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
First Vacant Date, Easter, and onwards.
Répertoire.
Solos, Novel Glees, and Choruses,
Plantation Melodies, Original Coon Songs,
Freedom Dances, Instrumental Solos,
Descriptive Pieces, Jamaica Jottings, Sketches, &c.
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WANTED, Smart, Tall, Juvenile Man, for Tom Manley; also Young, Pretty, Juvenile Lady; Good Comedian.
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WANTED, Good Juvenile Leading Man. Send photo., last two references, lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

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WANTED, Robust Comedian, for Professor Ginnifer, and Lady for Mrs. Wicklow; also smart young Carpenter, able to play small part if necessary. Address full particulars, age, height, salary, &c., to CHARLES F. COOKE, Prince's Theatre, Poplar, E.

WANTED, Gentleman, to play Small Parts. NORMAN V. NORMAN,
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WANTED, Juvenile Gentleman, one week, Sketch, Liverpool. Age, height, photos., references, and lowest terms. Letters only. H. LESLIE BELL, 14, Fonthill-road, Kirkdale, Liverpool.

WANTED, Amateurs to please write in, giving fullest particulars, and enclosing photo., to PRINCIPAL, 9, Hart-street, W.C.

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WANTED, few Useful People, also Band of four or five, also Agent, one that knows how to work, for a very small Circus; money must be low, but sure. CIRCUS MANAGER, Post Office, Silverton, Devonshire.

WANTED, Two Smart Boys, over 14, that can do a little Acrobating or Horizontal Bar Work. JAKE ALMO, Drill Hall, Darlington.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence

WANTED, Known, Don Miguel's Performing Bulls, this, Hippo., Huddersfield; next, Circus, Hyde; vac. 11, 18, 25. Wire or write, Circus, Hyde, Cheshire.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lo Lo, Lady Gymnast, Graceful Trapeze, Teeth Speciality Artist; also Little May, Juvenile Speciality Dance Artist and Contortionist. This act can be fixed on any stage in 20sec. This, P., Treherbert; next, P., Gloucester. Lib. March 11.

WANTED, Fêtes and Galas, &c., three distinct acts, Alex and Jolly, first-class comedy trapeze bar act; the Holmars, comedy acrobatic clowns; Miss Myria Lo-La, lady trapeze expert, the personification of beauty, grace, and talent. J. ALEX, 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Leonzi, Wonderful Contortionist, also Trapeze Show; two First-class Acts, Liberty for Tenting. Add., 80, Northfield-rd., Crookes, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Chevalier Ponchery, Monarch of the High Rope, at Liberty Whit Monday, and August Bank Holiday, for Big Fêtes only. High-street, Cradley Heath, Staffs.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro, the Modern Blondin, at Liberty for Fêtes and Galas. Enormous success, Crystal Palace, London. Terms, 121, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea.

WANTED, Known, Mlle. Lockhart, Speciality Globe and Tight Wire Artist, opens March 31 with Behrens and Smith's Circus, Germany. Permanent Address,
Hildathorpe, Hay Mills, Birmingham.

WANTED, Monday, 4th, Les Henris (M. and Madame), Elegant Equilibristic and Gymnastic Act, big Top or Bottom. Wire, Palace, Boston, till Sunday morning.

WANTED, Known, The Florias, Comedy Slack-wire Artists and Equilibrists. Enormous Success, London Halls, Macnaghten. Vacant March 18. 35, Florence-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, Known, Ward's Water Wonders, three in number, two ladies, one gent, open Easter, onwards. ERNEST WARD, 11, Lugard-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, by good Juggler, Engagement with Circus, Troupe, or would join Pierrots. E. BOUCHER, 2, Nottingham-road, Bishopston, Bristol.

WANTED, Engagement, as Tentmaster, sixteen years with Lord George Sanger, last three years with E. H. Bostock, through South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, home or abroad. DICK WILSON, 40, Upper-marsh, London.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Variety Artists, for Hutchinson and Graham's Vaudeville Company; long tour. Terms, lithos., HUTCHINSON, 22, Green-terrace, Sunderland.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, March 11, Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest. Hall small. P. REYMOND, as above.

Scarborough.
WANTED, Monday, March 11, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines. Nothing too Big. Full particulars to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, March 11 and onwards.
A. E. PICKARD, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Good Variety and Speciality Artists, one week, March 11. Lowest terms, references, and lithos., JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum T., Stafford.

WANTED, for Stock Season of four or five weeks, commencing about June 3, Artists in all Lines. Apply, stating absolutely lowest summer terms, experience, and references, to
Box 4,442, "The Era."

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar J. Coyne kindly communicate.

Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, Known, Artists wishing to be Booked for First-class Music Hall Engagements to communicate with BROOKS'S Agency, 35, Shaftesbury-avenue.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Concerts and Music Halls. Interviews by appointment only. SCOTTISH MUSICAL AGENCY, 107, George-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, March 18, April 1, 8. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Fêtes and Galas, from Whit Week and onwards. WILL TEMPLE, Entertainment Contractor, Meadows, Nottingham.

WANTED, Artists of Every Description. Lowest terms and where can be seen working. DUNDAS' Agency, 52, Rosthwaite-rd., West Derby, Liverpool.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT,
Empire, Wrexham.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists, March 25, nothing too big, well-known Top; good Comedian for Middle; any big Speciality Act. Clayton, Grand, Mansfield.

WANTED, Young Al Fresco Artists, Ramsgate and Alexandra Palace; big répertoire, refined. All particulars, letters, Dave Hall, 81, Walcot-square, Kennington, London.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, March 4, on. Nothing too big.
Write, Fred Durham's Agency, 1a, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone, 15 Brixton.

VENTOM SWIFT'S AGENCY.
WANTED, First-class Artists, Immediate Dates and onwards. Those coming North with odd weeks communicate. I can book you.
Ventom Swift, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Artists all kinds, for Scotland, March 11; letters by Tuesday morning's post. Latest bookings include Decars, Rick and Ridge, Titan, Wyllie, Bunsen and Burner, Sefton Bros., Lashmars, and Celest. Will anyone send me Kyasya's address for next week. Address, McAskell's Agency, People's Palace, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, coming North, to send dates and terms,
Anderson's Agency, 6, Great Clyde-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists of all Descriptions. Write fully, or call,
J. W. Johnson,
Variety and Dramatic Agent,
86, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Herbert Jay, having contracted to provide Concerts in all the Large Provincial Towns for a Large Political Organisation, desires Provincial Concert Artists to send him particulars of their Work, &c. Communications only answered when engagements are offered. Address, 10, Jermyn-street, London.

WANTED, First-Class Artists in all Lines, for the 11th, also strong Bottom of Bill. Address, with lowest terms, Dr. Carl Hermann, Music Hall, Chester, till Sunday; after, Victoria Hall, Dewsbury.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
WANTED, Known, Rehearsal Monday next, 2 o'clock, for Pringle's North American Animated Photo Co., and Varieties. Letters, Smith and Co., Red Lion Hotel, Rochdale.

Important Notice to Artists.
WANTED, Known, the Pier Pavilion, Southport, is closed for extensive alterations, and that the Directors hereby give notice that all contracts are cancelled until further notice.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
immediate and onwards,
the biggest Stars in the business.
Note.—Full list of bookings complete and absolute lowest in the first instance, or useless. Can guarantee for forty weeks out of every fifty-two England alone, without my Continental and American bookings, if you are the Act I require.
Harry Burns, Sole Proprietor,
Harry Burns' Agency (established 1885),
Head Office, Empress Theatre, Hartlepool.
Telephones 0231 and 0231a Hartlepool.
Telegrams, "Burns, Empress, Hartlepool."

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to Brooks's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-av., W.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities. Bigger the Act the Better, Sisters, Comedians, &c. Send permanent address, list of bookings.
Write, Harry Ward,
3, Adelaide-street, Charing Cross.

WANTED, Stars and Novelties for immediate dates, also Troupe of Performing Monkeys. Good acts with immediate vacancies. Call
Alfred Saker and Co.,
Variety Agents,
17, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W.

PALACE, BOSTON.
WANTED, good Turns all Lines, also Stars, on Shares, and good Combinations.
Geo. Saphrini, Borough Arms Hotel, Boston.

WANTED, Star Variety Turns, immediate and future dates,
Big Gala Acts, May 20, onwards.
Edgar Stebbings, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. 'Phone 09261. Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, few Small Turns, to share, Theatre, Sacriston, Durham, Monday. Wire,
Osmond, Theatre, Consett.

WANTED, Big Star Turns, March 11, 18, 25, onwards.
Wire or write,
Jess Verno's Agency,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone, 2076 Royal.

WANTED, for Bradford, for March 18, Star Turn not booked at Bradford Empire or Palace. Nothing too big. Francis Laidler, Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Talent, all Lines, anything meritorious.
James Fioni's Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1685, Royal.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY.
WANTED, the best of Talent, for the North, March 11 and on; big Tops write in, for Empire, Paisley. 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

PALACE THEATRE,
CORK.
Manager, Henry Kemble.
WANTED, Big Attractions,
March 11 and onwards.
Nothing too Big.
Call Monday, March 4:
Three Demons,
Harry Fife.
Royal Tokio Troupe,
Du Calion,
Flo Smithers and Co.
The Orchids,
Hugo Troupe,
Bert Coote's Indian Maids.

BRADFORD ORIGINAL AL FRESCO PAVILION AND CAFE CHANTANT.
WANTED, Refined and Clever Speciality Acts, that can work to a piano, and amuse a class audience (weekly engagements only), two shows daily, at 3 and 7.30; large covered-in Stage and Dressing-rooms.
Lighted with electricity and heated by gas throughout.
Third season commencing Easter Saturday till middle of October.
Also Wanted to write in, a Gentleman Pianist-Vocalist, well up in Al Fresco business and strictly steady. State terms, lithos. (if any), and where can be seen within fifty miles of Bradford during the next four weeks, to
W. Scott Bentley, 9, White's-view, Bradford.

WANTED, for Whit Monday, Gala Acts of Every Description, Aerial, Ground, Animal, &c. Lithos., memos., terms, to George Burton (of Sheffield), 4, Milton-rd., Widnes.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
WANTED, Star Acts, all Lines, absolute lowest, once nightly. Lessee, Manager, J. Cummings.

WANTED, Good Speciality Acts for Summer, Seaside Halls. Terms and particulars to Brooks's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, smart Speciality Acts, for Picture Tour. Quote absolute lowest terms and vacant dates, to save correspondence. Letters only. Pictures, 142, Long-acre, London.

WANTED, Special Acts of all Kinds. Macdonald Trio, Jack Rea, Connan and Doyle. Send addresses, Martino, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Acts for Prize Matinée, at Foresters' Palace, E, March 7. Sam Hart, 7, Lancashouse, Ruscroft-road, Brixton.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Big Variety Turns,
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Novelties and Sensational Acts,
For Immediate and Future Dates, for
London, Liverpool,
Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle,
Glasgow, Belfast,
Dublin, Manchester, Bolton,
Wolverhampton, Oldham,
Hartlepool, Shields, Barrow,
Carlisle, Darlington,
Hull, Middlesbrough, Stockport,
Blackpool, Morecambe,
Brighton, Boscombe, Margate,
Portsmouth, Southampton,
Bath, Lincoln, Leicester, Bradford,
Halifax, Sheffield, Blackburn,
Lancaster, Stockport, Burnley, Derby,
Attercliffe, Stoke, Grimsby,
St. Helens, Accrington, Warrington,
Bury, Hanley, Stockton, &c., &c.
Send, at once, terms, dates, and lithos.
Those having a good act can rely on getting Immediate Work.
Will Sley,
Will Sley,
Will Sley,
Will Sley,
Will Sley,
Will Sley,
41, Oxford-street,
41, Oxford-street,
41, Oxford-street,
41, Oxford-street,
41, Oxford-street,
41, Oxford-street,
Manchester.
Manchester.
Manchester.
Manchester.
Manchester.
Manchester.
Telephone, 09144.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."

WANTED, Variety Novelties, for Webster and Girling's Agency, 150, Strand with which is amalgamated Hugh Wigglesworth's Provincial Agency. Address, as above, to Hugh Wigglesworth, General-Manager, late of Blackpool, Morecambe, &c. Telegrams, "Entertainers, London." Telephone, 2990 Central.

WANTED, Eight Specialities, to complete Companies for Northampton and Blisworth, three days, Aug. 5. McAskell's Agency, People's, Portsmouth.

HIPPODROME, BLYTH, NORTHUMBERLAND.
WANTED, March 4, 11, and 18, Combinations; good percentage for anything with drawing powers. Poole's, Hamilton's, Minstrels, &c. Building holds 1,500; best position; electric and gas.
Tudor, Blyth.

WANTED, Top Liners, Star Comedians, and any Big Act, to send full bookings and terms to Frank Lynne, Gaiety, Birmingham.

GRAND T. AND EMPIRE, DONCASTER.
WANTED, for March 11 and onwards, the Greatest Possible Attractions in all Lines. Wire. Wire. Apply, with particulars, to
Leo. Fritz's Variety Agency, 40, Glenshaw-mans., Brixton-road, S.W. Telephone, 457 Brixton.

WANTED, High-class Star Attractions, for Glasgow, for April 15, onwards.
Nothing too Big to consider.
Fred Karno, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell, S.E.

A.O.F.
Fête, Whit Monday.
WANTED, Known, Tenders are required for Stage Performance, Roundabouts, Amusements, and Cinématograph Show. Tenders to be sent not later than March 14. Further information apply to Wm. Harris, Secretary, 40, West-street, Trowbridge, Wilts.

WANTED, Whit Week, First-class Concert Party, Gipsy Choir, or any big attraction, for Pier Pavilion, Folkestone, seating capacity 900. Full particulars, Robert Forsyth.

WANTED, Complete Pierrot Company for Summer Months.
Arthur Carlton, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, for Easter week, Good Picture Show, Minstrels, or Choir, for First-class Town, 40 miles from London; population 40,000; business certain; sharing terms. Seaton, 3, Lebanon-gardens, Wandsworth, London, S.W.

WANTED, March 11, 18, Comedians, Comediennes, &c.
Funny Acts wanting to be booked France must send lithos. and lowest,
Geo. Aytoun, 120, Kennington Pk.-rd., London S.E.
Wires, "Antics, London." 'Phone, 1949 Hop.
Provincial Representative, Frank Lynne.

WANTED, a Posturer and Knockabout.
State tricks,
age, and height, &c.,
Reid, Empire Palace, Leicester.

WANTED, Tour, pair of refined Sisters, Duettists and Dancers, combine small parts. Particulars, photos., lowest terms, Broadbent-Bell, Lyceum, Stafford.

WANTED, for Music Halls, a Young Lady, good voice, and a good step-dancer.
Apply by letter,
Fantastic, Wilson's Advertising Offices,
60, Ludgate-hill, E.C.

WANTED, Young Lady, playing three or more Instruments, for First-class Musical Act. Apply, Zerbinis Troupe, 47, Oxford-street, Wellingborough.

WANTED, Smart Young Lady, good figure (Amateur preferred), as Assistant for High-class Sporting Act, to go abroad. Permanent engagement. Full particulars, with reference.
Box 4,459, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Lady, Good Figure, and used to arm movements, for electrical dance, one in district preferred. Write, Wood, 44, Bath-row, Birmingham.

WANTED, smart, intelligent Boy, age about 15; must speak well, Sing and Dance; good appearance. Address, with full particulars, J., 17, Manor-gardens, Larkhall-rise, Clapham.

WANTED, smart Boy, not more than 14; must dance well. Apply this week, Tivoli, Manchester, care of Hayes, March 4, 32, Walter-street, Regent-road, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Thought-reading Turn, Zancig style. Write, quoting lowest terms, to Devereux, 4, Duke-street, Adelphi, London.

WANTED, Cinematograph Operators; steady employment. Write,
Box 4,672, Willing's, 125, Strand.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.
TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, March 11, 18, and April 1, to precede and follow Stockport, Phedona, in her Electrical Musical Speciality. This, Bilston; next, Rochdale. Coms., Charles Massey, Circus, Rochdale.

WANTED, March 11, by Doris Myddleton, actress, vocalist; and Musical Howard, in new pot-pourri act, instruments, mental telepathy. Hippo., Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday, also 18, 25, April 1, 8, by Babs Lloyd, Star Artist, Hit of the Pantomime; also Nellie Vance, Comedy Artist and Dancer. Wire, Theatre, Leigh; or 51, Fairhurst-street.

WANTED, by the Sisters Beatrice, Duettists and Expert Dancers, vacant Monday next; just finished Macnaghten London Circuit. 35, Florence-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, Monday next, Cambo, the Musical Monkey, big Novelty; also Ventriloquist. Wire for a draw. Hippodrome, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Known, Dan Gregory, Musical Acrobatic Eccentric, this week appearing at the Hippodrome, Dewsbury, with success, vacant Monday, March 4 and 11. Wire, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Monday next (wire), and few immediate Vacancies, B. Nurse, Coloured Sims Reeves Tenor. Wire, 504, Fore-street, Lower Edmonton.

WANTED, Known, Harry Clifton, Patter Comedian and Song Writer, at Liberty. Address, 15 Guildford-road, South Lambeth, London, S.W.

WANTED, Summer, from Whit, by Walter Howard, Comedian, Instrumentalist; good useful performer, Concerted and Sketches. 18, Boyson-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Jas. Ward, Original Comedy Musical Act, "The Publican," Special Scenery; Liberty shortly. Springfield-st., Dewsbury.

WANTED, Monday next, on, by George Ritter, Comedy Musical Act (good), Trombone, Violin, Xylophones, Gags; am also good Pianist. Wire or write, 48, Tenison-street, Waterloo, S.E.

WANTED, Monday next (through obliging), also 11th, Mons. Savaro, Great Bird Mimic and Equilibrist. Wire offer, Hippodrome, Blackheath, near Birmingham.

WANTED, Monday next, by Harry Albery, Eccentric Comedian and Dancer, also March 18. Wire, Empire, Oldham. Any distance. Panto. settled. Wire.

WANTED, Mon., by Paul Esson, the Funny Dutch Dialect Comedian. Wire or write, 66, Darncombe-street, Moss Side, Manchester.

WANTED, March 11, by Fred Dornan, Descriptive Vocalist.
This week and next,
"Humpty Dumpty," Prince's Theatre, Bristol.

WANTED, Monday next, by Harry Leaton, a good sound Vocal Comedian. What a Hit. Second week, Empire, Shildon, where wire.

WANTED, Monday next, also March 11, by Miss Edie Sheldon, refined comedienne and balladist. Wire, write, 35, Florence-st., Islington, London.

WANTED, March 18, 25, also April 8, on, by Li-Chang-Hi, the Chinese Conjurer par excellence. Usual great success, E., Dudley; next, Palace, Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, Carl Seamonti, the marvellous Art Gallery, Athlete, and Stone King. This week, New Varieties, Belfast; at Liberty Monday, 11th. Perm. address, 54, Hillman-st., Belfast.

WANTED, to join, Sketch or Theatre Company, Droll Comedian, abstainer; Patter, Own Songs, working double. Bert Marshall, Trent Bridge, Nottingham.

WANTED, March 11, 25, April 1, 15, Kyoto, Comedy Japanese Contortionist, Juggler, Conjurer, and Dog; also May Geraldine, Sorightly Comedienne and Dancer. Monday, Hippodrome, Maidstone. Wake up to something good. Wire or write.

WANTED, Monday and immediate dates, by Reg. Templeton, Comedian; and Stella May, Dainty Comedienne. This week, success, Grand. Save delay. Wire, 9, Lord-street, Doncaster.

WANTED, Known, The Vokes, Neddy and Jessie, Refined Comedy Musical Artists, Liberty March 11, 18. Address, Temperance Hall, Merthyr Tydvil.

WANTED, March 11, Billy Bland and the Nono Girls, "The Amorous Lawyer," original, novel. Wire, 4, Woolton-rd., Wavertree, Liverpool.

WANTED, Monday and 11th, near Glasgow, Barney Noble (Comedian) and Olive Veno (Lady Dancer); two distinct Acts. Wires, Lyceum, Govan.

WANTED, Monday next, by Marcus Boyle and Ada Whitton. Wire, Victoria Theatre, West Stanley, Durham.

WANTED, April 8, onwards, The Monckton (Fred and Lillie) present their High-class Musical Farcical Episodes. Monday, Co-operative Hall, Crewe.

WANTED, by The Prinellas, Monday next, for their Beautiful Scena, "A Country Flirtation." Wire, Palace, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Dates, for D'Argan and Dene's Novelty Comedy Act; also Elsie Russell, Comedienne; two sure successes. Wire quick for Mon., Britt., Glasgow.

WANTED, March 11 and April 8, Bros. Webb, Famous Musical Clowns, Empire, Burnley.

WANTED, Known, Carl and Carr, the Refined Versatile Comedians, are producing a New and Original Drawing-room Entertainment, require April 8, 15, 22. This and next, starring, Palace Theatre, Portsmouth, 6th return. Grand reception nightly.

WANTED, by Chant and Chant, Refined Comedy Duo, Monday next, also 11, 18, 25. Another gigantic hit. Palace, Kilmarnock. Wire.

WANTED, by Ariel and Astarte, Lady and Gentleman Gymnastic Pot-Pourri Act, March 4, through misunderstanding. Wire, Palace, Stoke Newington, N. Also free March 25, April 1

WANTED, March 11 and 18, by The Two Daniels, Comedy Niggers. Wire to-day, Poole's, Brynnamman; Monday, Pembroke Dock.

WANTED, March 11, 18, Poole and Poole, Class Comedy Couple and Pedestal Dancers. This, Alhambra, Edinburgh; March 4, Hippo., Stockton.

WANTED, March 4, 11, and 18, by The Carls, Comedy Trampoline Speciality, that can follow them all. Roars of laughter and applause. Big success everywhere. Just finished Continental Tour. Splendid lithos. 85, Rectory-rd., London, N.

WANTED, Monday next, March 11, 18, 25, through misunderstanding, by the Vulos, "New Coons from the Moon," introducing singing, juggling, facial impersonating, and paper tearing. Thanking Messrs. Kloof and Field for successful Panto. tour, where refer for refs. Wire, wire, wire. T. R., Tyldesley. We carry full size scenery.

WANTED, Known, the Three Rochesters vacant after March 2, for their charming Scena, introducing the smallest Barefooted Sand Dancers in the world; also Victoria, strong Descriptive and Ballad Vocalist; two distinct Acts. Managers wire, Care of 659, Fulham-road, S.W.

WANTED, March 11, by Herbert Lenton and Pierrot, in refined Speciality Act. Address next week, Grand, Halifax, or Richard Warner and Co., London.

WANTED, March 11 and 18, by Titan, Telka, and Wyllie (three reliable Acts), Strong Man Act, Musical Turn, and Ballad Vocalist. Managers wanting three good turns, wire or write. Vacant for good Tour or Summer Engagement. Address, 8, Clarendon-road, Upper Brook-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, The Four Herberts, the Jolly Californian Farmers and Maid, free March 25, through Hall closing. Offers invited.
March 4, Palace, Porth.
March 11, Palace, Gloucester.
Communications, Madame Herbert.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, that I
Fred Staig,
Manager of
THE THREE DEMONS,
wish to thank the many Agents for offers of Contracts, but in order to avoid trouble and unpleasantness, I ask all Agents in future to refrain from offering to
Proprietors and Managers,
THE THREE DEMONS,
as I have placed my Sole Business for England and Scotland
in the hands of
Mr. Walter Bentley,
of Cromwell House,
Surrey Street, Strand, W.C.,
to whom all communications in future re this Act should be addressed.
Signed, Fred Staig,
for the Three Demons.

WANTED, by the Great Henderson Four, March 4, Acrobatic Musical Show.
Address, Queen's, Castleford.

WANTED, by Five Abadaroffs, Monday next and later. Big Success, Aberdeen (return). Address, 95 Stretford-road, Manchester. Agents, Stebbings and Sley.

WANTED, March 11, 18, by Los Granadas, Trampolin Comedy Gymnasts, a Novelty. Monday, Hippodrome, Burton-on-Trent.

WANTED, March 11, 18, 25, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist; two smart acts. Monday, T. R., Bristol.

WANTED, Al Fresco Engagement, May 27, on, by Gulliver, Vent. and Vocalist; big rép.; experienced; smart appearance. Address, Palace, Attercliffe.

Wanted,
JACK McKENZIE and Co., in
"THE BELLE OF BARCELONA."
"THE BELLE OF BARCELONA."
"THE BELLE OF BARCELONA."
WANTED, March 18, and April 8 (North), March 18 and April 8.
March 18 and April 8.
Beautifully dressed and mounted.
Twenty Artists.
18, Rumford-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, for Matt Wilkinson's Laughing Success, "The Registry Office," and Violet Beatrice, boy impersonator. Wire, Palace, Greenwich.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Harry Liston and Miss L. Lumley's "Merry Moments," re-booked Lincoln, Derby, &c.; few vacant dates. St. George's Hall, Langham-place, W.

WANTED, Known, Tom Herman's Juvenile Naval, Military Spectacle. Always success. Vacant March 18, on. 68, Sayer-st., New Kent-rd.

WANTED, Known, Emma Don and Co., Vacant March 11, '07, owing to closing.
Address,
March 4, Hippo., Accrington.

WANTED, Monday, also March 11, by Billy Ross and Co., greatest comedy act on the stage. Wire, Duchess, Balham, London, S.W.

WANTED, by Miss Ella's Lion Show, April 15, 29, and May 6,
London or South.
Communications, week March 4,
Palace Theatre, Dundee.

WANTED, Known, Princess Fayette, in her Sporting Act, with Ponies and Dogs. Few vacancies. All coms., Care of "The Era."

WANTED, Known, a young Trick and Comedy Cyclist will accept anything immediately; does over eighteen tricks, own machines. Who's first? Address, Box 4,412, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Lightning Artist and Comedian (Amateur prize-winner) would accept good berth with travelling show; arrange sketches, sing, box, make up well, versatile. 9, Honeybrook-road, Clapham Park.

WANTED, by First-class Comedy Acrobat and Pantomimiist, Engagement in good Troupe. Francis (late Francis and Melli), 54, Lillie-road, Fulham, S.W.

WANTED, Dancing Lessons, by Music Hall Artist; Buck Dancing, New American Steps. Box 4,449, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagements, Public or Private, Harmon's Bioscope, Marionettes, also Royal Punch and Judy, with Toby. 326, Earlsfield-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Tour, for Mazzoni's Animated Pictures and Juggling Act; also Cabinet Mysteries and Illusions if required. Wire or write, 4, Wellington-row, Bethnal Green, London.

WANTED, by Whitehouse, Bioscope Operator, Engagement; abstainer and reliable. This, P.O., Truro, Cornwall; next, 1, Market-place, Staplehurst-road, Hither Green, S.E.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.
TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman, Silver King (regd.), Auctioneer, Valuer, Expert and Authority to the United Kingdom and Van Dwellers' Association, Auctioneer to Lord George Sanger (England's Greatest Showman), and Leading Showmen of Great Britain. Sales and Commissions conducted in any part of the World. If you want to Buy or Sell anything connected with the Business, consult Tom Norman, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand. Change of address. Wanted to purchase or engage all kinds of Novelties and Curiosities (alive or dead), if suitable for exhibition.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know Simons, of 100, 101, 102a, Houndsditch, is going ahead with up-to-date Lines in Field Glasses, Fancy Goods, Clocks, Jewellery, &c.
There is no cheaper house for you.

WANTED, Known, .22 "R" and "D" cartridges, Winchester Repeaters, Water Balls, Targets, Globes, New Savage Repeaters. Greene, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known.—A Word to the Wise is Sufficient. A Client writing June 25, 1906, says:—Bag puncher took £300 in a little over three months. For price, write Sole Agents to the Makers, viz., the Mills Novelty Co. Minerva Automatic Co., 120, York-rd., King's Cross, London, N. Largest Variety of Automatic Machines in the trade. No Junk. Don't buy worn-out machines.

Auctioneers.
WANTED, Known, Great Value Offered in Secondhand Silver Watches.
Auctioneers only supplied.
Write to-day for full particulars,
C. G. Clacher, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.
Try one of my famed parcels, containing Ten English Lever and Twelve Silver Geneva Watches. Best Value ever Offered.
In great demand. Price, £5 5s.

WANTED, Showmen to save money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of specially prepared paints, colours, varnishes, brushes, &c., and every requisite for decorating caravans, roundabouts, swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. Leete and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

To Showmen, Market Men, Pitchers, Callers, Auctioneers, Theatres, Exhibitions, Stall Holders, Penny Bazaars, For Gaffs, Hiring Fairs, Shows,
The Catch of the Season.
WANTED, Wanted, Known,
The Balmoral Confectionery Co.,
20, Diana-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Under new Proprietorship.
After making extensive alterations to their packing warehouses, are now working early and late to get a terrific stock of Banks' Milk Chocolate.
Large packets marked 3d., guaranteed.
The Greatest and Quickest Penny Line on the Market. Sells at Sight.
All orders despatched same day. No waiting. Send at once for sample case.
7s. gross, carriage forward, cases free.
Cash with order.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, known. Wanted, known. Important.
That the Next Meeting of the
BRITISH ROUNDABOUT PROPRIETORS AND SHOWMEN'S UNION
will be held at the
Queen's Hotel, Bury,
on Wednesday next, March 6,
at 2.30 p.m.
Important Business.
Signed, Thos. Hurst, Secretary.

WANTED, Known, Jaconelli and Co., Builders of Piano-Organs, Automatics, Tuners and Repairers of all kinds of Barrel Organs and Pianos, Marking a Speciality by Wm. Holmes, late of Manchester. 40, Banbury-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, all kinds of Showmen's Painting undertaken, oil paintings, scenery, letter cloths. Roche, Artist, 22, Lansdown-rd., Lee, London, S.E.

RHYL WORLD'S FAIR.
WANTED, First-class Novelties, Side-shows, Illusions, Natives for African Village, Egyptian or Hindoo Dancers, Helter Skelter, Topsy Turvey House, Jewellery, Photos., Wireworkers, Fairy Floss, &c. This magnificent building, covering over 3,000yds., will be complete, with everything up-to-date; electric light, band, &c. Nominal rents. Free stands to anything with drawing power. No Freaks. Apply, Will Smith, Manager, Palace, Rhyl.

WANTED, Novelties and Freaks of Nature, for Bagan's Waxworks, Belfast, North-street; also Lady Palmist and Tattooist, on shares; good opening.

WANTED, Bar Novelties, Coloured Ladies, or Midgets. State lowest terms, to live in. Manager, Wheatsheaf Hotel, Wakefield-rd., Bradford.

WANTED, Attractive Novelties as Side Shows, for London, large centre of Amusements, to open at Easter; big business; sharing terms.
Write, Devereux,
4, Duke-street, Adelphi, London.

WANTED, at Once, Novelties of every Description, used to Fair Business, to write in to Henry Wall, 6, Beech-st., Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, for Booth, a good Performing Novelty, with Paintings or Posters, able to do own dooring, for the Summer Season, commencing March 27, 1907. Will Fred and Alice Bowman communicate? G. Baker, Showman, Oaklands Farm, West Hythe, Kent.

WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, Open at Once, Sale of Books and Postcards allowed. Chas. A. James, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, good Freaks or Novelty, with good Flash, fresh to Hull. Wire for Monday. Manager, Exhibition, 26, Hessle-road, Hull.

WANTED, Phrenologist, Lady or Gentleman, must be well up in the business. Terms, Shares; splendid opening. Send full particulars, Box 4,417, "The Era."

WANTED, a good Character Reader; best position in Manchester. James Pattison, Exhibition, Market-street, next door to State Café, Manchester.

WANTED, Hypnotic Subjects, for Entertainment at Manchester; must be genuine. Letters only to Devereux, 4, Duke-street, Adelphi, London.

WANTED, Female Hypnotic Subject, young, respectable, good cataleptic; working Fairs, genuine subjects only apply. Burgess, 57 Coal Clough-lane, Burnley.

WANTED, good Pair of Knockabout Comedians for Bioscope Exhibition, to work inside and outside, to open Easter; long Engagement if suitable. Lowest terms, &c., to Sydney Russell, Grand Theatre, Nelson, Lancs.

WANTED, Good Auctioneer;
must be money-taker,
straight worker.
also Planksman write.
W. Knight, Standard Auction Mart, Thrapston.

WANTED, a Smart Girl, for Living Carriage. Apply, Mrs. T. Relph, Cinématograph, Fair Ground, Ramsbottom.

WANTED, Good Shops for Strong Show; good draw. Monday next, Exhibition, High-st., Gateshead. Liberty March 11, 18, and 25, Scotland preferred. Terms, shares. Cyclops and May, Gateshead.

WANTED, Known, Alastor (from Olympia), Scientific Character Reading from the Hands, Face, and Astrology. Disengaged. Rental or shares. 19, Danvers-street, Chelsea.

WANTED, Known, that I terminate a most comfortable twelve months' engagement with Mr. A. Twigdon at the end of Easter week, and shall then be open to take a situation as Manager, Agent, or Doorsman. Address, Tom Bew, (Cockney), c/o Mrs. Steward, Church-street, Chadsmoor, Cannock, Staffs.

WANTED, at Once, by Successful Lecturer, reliable Lantern and Operator; also some good Song Slides. Apply, Tubbs, East Leaze, Baydon, Wilts.

WANTED, Situation as Handseller and Planksman; good Frontsman, not afraid of work. Apply, H. Johnson, 13, Russell-street, Waterhouses, Durham.

WANTED, Situation, by smart, experienced Young Auctioneer; first-class Salesman; understands the business thoroughly; undeniable references. Box 4,444, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Tentmaster or Lampman; thoroughly experienced. John Ward, 1, Jubilee-place, Regent-rd., Gt. Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known, Set of Large Distorting Mirrors, at Liberty for Exhibitions, Bazaars, &c. Mirrors, 19, Marchmont-st., Russell-square, London.

SEAFORTH EASTER FAIR.
WANTED, Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, Stallowners, and all other Travellers in General, to Know I have taken a large Plot of Land close to the Overhead Railway Station, Seaforth, and intend holding a monstrous Easter Fair on it. Persons requiring ground for same apply to John Collins, 304, Scotland-road, Liverpool. Rents reasonable, and no one barred. I have also got the following places for Spring Fairs, Hyde Road, Manchester, Spring Fair, second week in March; Gorton Spring Fair, the week following; and Queen's Road, Manchester, Monster Easter Fair, and other places to follow. All applications for Space to be made to John Collins, 304, Scotland-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, to Let, a large piece of ground, on the slopes of the Great Orme, in splendid position, suitable for Open Air Entertainments. Apply,
E. F. Griffiths, 15, Mostyn-street, Llandudno.

BOROUGH OF PUDSEY, PUDSEY FEASTS.
WANTED, Known, to all concerned, Mr. George Campbell has been appointed by the Town Council of Pudsey to book and allot Spaces for the above Feasts. All applications to be made to Mr. George Campbell, addressed to the Town Clerk, Municipal Offices, Pudsey, marked "Pudsey Feast." Benjamin Dufton, Town Clerk. Municipal Offices, Pudsey

WANTED, Known, few Spaces to Let, for Touring Exhibition; also Side Show, at once. Wire Saturday, Exhibition, Merthyr; Monday, Tredegar.

WANTED, to Let, Spaces for Cycle Racer, at Pleasure Gardens, Hampstead Heath, Photography, &c., Season Easter to Nov. 5. 5, Denning-road, Hampstead.

WANTED, to Let, Ground for Roundabouts, Shows, &c., for Easter Fair. Apply, J. Beaumont, Fair Ground, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, to Let, Spaces for Stalls and Games, in Busiest Part of Walworth. Apply, 12 to 1 o'clock, at 355, Walworth-road.

WANTED, Known, the Fair Field, Kidwelly, to Let, in centre of Town; Tin Works and Collieries going well. Terms moderate. Apply, Morris, Cowparks, Kidwelly, S. Wales.

WANTED, to Let, Ground, at Byker, for Shows or Roundabouts, from March 4 until the Easter Holidays are over; one of the Best Show Grounds in the North of England. Apply, Cottrell's Cinematograph, Market-place, Morpeth, Northumberland, till Thursday; Fair Ground, Kelso to follow. Will J. Wilson send his address.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that the following is a complete
COPYRIGHT LIST OF FAIRS, FEASTS, WAKES, AND CARNIVALS IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND WALES FOR MARCH.
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ENGLAND.

Mar. 2. Oswestry (9,600)
Mar. 2. St. Buryan's (1,300)
Mar. 2. Wisbeach (9,426)
Mar. 4. Dudley (49,000)
Mar. 5. Bury (60,000)
Mar. 6. Belford (1,600)
Mar. 7. Blandford (3,600)
Mar. 7. Hingham (1,600)
Mar. 7. Camborne (8,200)
Mar. 7. Maiden Newton (700)
Mar. 9. Odiham (3,200)
Mar. 11. Stamford (8,200)
Mar. 12. Stockport (70,600)
Mar. 14. Wadebridge (2,300)
Mar. 16. Alston (Cumbs.) (3,300)
Mar. 18. Grantham (17,600)
Mar. 19. Upper Ottery (700)
Mar. 19. Wootton-under-Edge (2,200)
Mar. 21. Okehampton (2,600)
Mar. 22. Caistor (Lincs.) (2,000)
Mar. 22. Pendlebury (13,672)
Mar. 22. Retford (4,200)
Mar. 23. Malton (4,800)
Mar. 23. Pickering (3,500)
Mar. 23. Pontefract (13,400)
Mar. 23. Woburn (2,400)
Mar. 25. Clitheroe (11,400)
Mar. 25. Gomersall Feast
Mar. 25. Henley-in-Arden (1,000)
Mar. 25. Leigh (Dorset) (400)
Mar. 26. Durham (15,000)
Mar. 26. Ottery St. Mary (3,500)
Mar. 27. Bridgnorth (6,000)
Mar. 28. Norwich (111,700)
Mar. 28. Stamfordham (900)
Mar. 29. Bacup (22,500)
Mar. 29. Doncaster (29,000)
Mar. 29. Haslingden (18,600)
Mar. 29. Padiham (12,200)
Mar. 29. Todmorden (25,400)
Mar. 30. Bakewell (3,500)
Mar. 30. Bilston (24,000)
Mar. 30. Birkenhead (111,000)
Mar. 30. Blackburn (127,527)
Mar. 30. Blackheath (21,000)
Mar. 30. Clevedon (6,000)
Mar. 30. Colne (25,000)
Mar. 30. Deptford (110,000)
Mar. 30. Exeter (47,000)
Mar. 30. Gainsborough (17,700)
Mar. 30. Garston (17,300)
Mar. 30. Godmanchester (2,000)
Mar. 30. Great Grimsby (63,006)
Mar. 30. Halesowen (9,000)
Mar. 30. Hendon (Welsh Harp) (17,000)
Mar. 30. Hinckley (11,300)
Mar. 30. Hockham (600)
Mar. 30. Holmfirth (9,000)
Mar. 30. Jarrow-on-Tyne (31,300)
Mar. 30. Lindfield (2,300)
Mar. 30. Malvern (16,000)
Mar. 30. Middlesbrough (91,300)
Mar. 30. Midsomer Norton (6,000)
Mar. 30. Morecambe (12,000)
Mar. 30. New Brighton (10,000)
Mar. 30. Newcastle-on-Tyne (214,803)
Mar. 30. Newmarket (10,700)
Mar. 30. Northampton (87,000)
Mar. 30. North Shields (50,000)
Mar. 30. Northwich (17,600)
Mar. 30. Plymouth (107,509)
Mar. 30. Portsmouth (189,000)
Mar. 30. Richmond (Surrey) (31,000)
Mar. 30. Rothwell Feast (6,211)
Mar. 30. Rushden (12,500)
Mar. 30. Ryde (Isle of Wight) (11,000)
Mar. 30. Salford (Trinity Market Ground) (221,000)
Mar. 30. Selby (8,000)
Mar. 30. Shipley Glen Feast
Mar. 30. Southport (48,400)
Mar. 30. South Shields (97,300)
Mar. 30. Stafford (20,275)
Mar. 30. Stourbridge (16,000)
Mar. 30. Thornaby (16,000)
Mar. 30. Tunbridge Wells (33,400)
Mar. 30. Tring (1,400)
Mar. 30. Wanstead Flats (9,200)
Mar. 30. Worthen (11,000)

SCOTLAND.

Mar. 2. Roxburgh (958)
Mar. 5. Jedburgh (2,222)
Mar. 11. Haddington (3,992)
Mar. 30. Dumfries (18,680)
Mar. 30. Dunfermline (1,742)

WALES.

Mar. 2. Brecon (6,000)
Mar. 8. Menai Bridge (1,800)
Mar. 15. Penmorfa (1,486)
Mar. 18. Cowbridge (1,000)
Mar. 19. Corwen (6,000)
Mar. 29. Holyhead (9,726)
Mar. 30. Cardiff (164,000)
Mar. 30. Maescwmmer (800)
Mar. 30. Menai Bridge (1,800)
Mar. 30. Merthyr Tydfil (26,500)
Mar. 30. Neath (14,000)
Mar. 30. Newport (Monmouth) (67,000)
Mar. 30. Pontypridd (23,000)
Mar. 30. Towyn (3,500)
Mar. 30. Tredegar (18,000)

BLACKPOOL SANDS.

WANTED, Known, the South Shore Pleasure Beach is the only site in Blackpool for Open-air Attractions.

The grounds are forty acres in extent, right on the sea front, and are situated immediately next the Promenade at the Electric Tramway Terminus. From April 1 to Dec. 31, 1905, 4,000,000 passengers were carried on these tramways. The permanent attractions now include the "River Caves of the World," "Maxim Flying Machine," "Sea Circus," &c. Great Canadian Water Chute now being erected for next season, commencing at Easter. For sites and concessions for really good Novelties apply personally, Office on Grounds. Letters only, 14, Balmoral-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Let, Temperance Bar and Lavatories, Palmistry, Stalls, Games, Amusements, cheap, at "Fun City," Seaside Promenade. DIRECTOR, 80, Highgate, Kendal.

WANTED, Helter Skelter Lighthouse, or similar attraction, sharing terms, for Pier Gardens, Folkestone, season. ROBERT FORSYTH.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100, 101, and 102A, Houndsditch, has Special Departments for 9ct. Rings, Secondhand Watches, Unredeemed Pledges, Cheap Jewellery. All up-to-date Lines.

WANTED, to Sell, Caravan, 15ft. by 8ft. clear outside, door in front, bed at back, coal stove, drawers, cupboards, lockers, mirrors, weight 30cwt., nearly new, in splendid condition, suit high-class showman or private gentleman. Particulars of TOM NORMAN, Auction Department, "The Era" Office, 5, Tavistock-st., London, W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, a Magnificent Pullman Car Living Carriage, beautifully fitted, separate bedroom. Cost £170; price £55. BLOOM, White Hall, Haughton, Darlington.

WANTED, to Sell, New Patent Roundabout Riding Machine, the Only One in this Country. A Great Novelty, and a Fortune at the Seaside or any place of Resort (permanent); carries 36 persons, resembles Razzle-Dazzle; cost over £300 to build, scarcely soiled; circumstances compel it to be cleared at once for £40; will take more in one day. A chance of a lifetime. Can be viewed by appointment only to RETSILL, 164, Pentonville-road, London, N.

WANTED, to Sell, Show, with Organ and Engine two Vans; or exchange for Rail Living Van, furnished. WILCOX, Silwood Inn, Frome.

WANTED to Sell, Automatic Machines, Husbands, Babies, Love-Letters, Palmistry, Lunatics', Marriage, and Liars' Licences. MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square, W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, new, shop soiled, from 5s.; Card Delivery, Games, Fortunes, Electrics. MANAGER, 5, Denning-road, Hampstead.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines of every Description, latest and best. WORMALD, 123, Blythe-road, Olympia, Kensington, London. Established 1887.

WANTED, to Sell, a complete Mechanical Working Model Exhibition, cheap, room wanted. Address, D'ARC'S Permanent Waxworks, Cardiff.

WANTED, to Sell, Cinématograph Peep Show, 29 look at once, beautifully decorated in gold, on four wheels, for hand or pony, a money coiner. HOMER STONE, 7, Abbey-road, Oxford.

The Hook of Holland Disaster.

WANTED, to Sell, Six Copies of the above, will be available on March 11; lengths 350ft. Special low prices.
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First come, first served.

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SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, to Sell, one of my Helter Skelters or Slipping the Slip, in First-Class order, complete, with waggons, one like Sid White's. Having three, will sell one.
Apply,
P. COLLINS, Gondola Works, Walsall.

WANTED, to Sell, cheap, Fine Oil Painting, from life, of angry tiger, 6ft. by 4ft.
Box 4,453, "The Era."

WANTED, 9ft. or 10ft. Living Waggon, must be cheap and in good condition for cash. Address, J. WELLS, Post Office, Hyde.

WANTED, to Buy, Galloping Horses, not over 38 in frame, Savage's or Sidman's. Will give good price for secondhand lot. Also for sale, Set of Savage's Steam Bicycles, rides 40; Organ and everything. Can be seen working. BERT, Stanley-road, Chingford.

WANTED, to Buy, Waxworks and Variety Business. Full particulars, price, &c.,
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WANTED, Canvas Booth, 20 by 30, lamps, &c., complete, about Glasgow preferred. State price, condition. 50, Shepherd-street, Bury.

WANTED, cheap for cash, Black Birkmyre Tilt, for Booth, 30 by 50, in 1 or 2 pieces.
ABEX, 41, Brunswick-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Purchase or Engage, Freaks and Big Attractions. Particulars, with photos. and lithos., to PICKARD'S Great Show, Glasgow.

Special Notice.

WANTED, for Hancock's Winter Gardens, Plymouth, a good Traction Engine Driver, one who is used to Show Hauling. Apply as above, HANCOCK, Plymouth.

WANTED, a thoroughly reliable Traction Engine Driver (Fowler), to assist with electric plant; must be single and sober man; also one or two useful Knockabouts, that can do turns inside and to assist with Show. W. BIDDALL, Electric Pictures, Beaconsfield-road, Acton Green.

WANTED, Traction Engine Driver, also Centre Engine Driver, also four good men used to Galloper. PRUETT, St. George's, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, the Seventy Thousand Showmen who use the Columns of "The Era" and are moving about should know that they can make "The Era" Offices their Permanent London Address. Letters received will be held till called for, or immediately re-addressed according to instructions. Address all communications respecting the Letter Department to the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, to Sell or to Let, The Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

Apply to J. W. DAVIDSON, COOKSON, and Co., 6, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Known, Fred Karno is Disposed to Sell, after Completion of Run, the Pantomime, "The House that Jack Built," Grand Theatre, Glasgow, in its entirety. Can be seen nightly at the above Theatre. The success of the Provinces; beating all records.
Apply, FRED KARNO, 28, Vaughan-rd., Camberwell.

WANTED, to Sell, owing to Expiration of Lease, the Entire Production of "LITTLE STOWAWAY" of Ethel Artden and George Abel, Limited. Magnificent scenery, uniforms, guns, music. A splendid set. Cheap to immediate purchaser. Apply, B. ABEL, 223, Upper Brook-st., Manchester.

WANTED, to Sell, Two Bioscopes, 1 Prestwich and 1 Urban, with or without Arc or Lime Outfit, cheap; stamp for reply; Films for Sale and Films for Hire. Terms and list, WALTER PAYNE, 346, Brixton-road.

WANTED, to Sell, large stock of Films, majority good as new, from 1d. per foot. Large consignment of new, up-to-date subjects just received from the Myrioramas. Send for up-to-date list. POOLE, Palace, Gloucester.

WANTED, to Sell, Bioscope and Films.
BENDON, 301, Cathcart-road, Glasgow.

WANTED, to Sell, Cheap, Good Up-to-date Films, excellent condition, mostly comic, large selection. Send for list, MILSOM, Verona, Malmesbury.

WANTED, to Sell, the "Hook of Holland Disaster" Film (length 350ft.), splendid condition; price £6, absolute bargain. Apply, CHAPMAN, Broadway Theatre, New Cross.

WANTED, to Sell, "Master's Tea Service," "Puck's Pranks," "Love Wins Out," "Miner's Daughter," "Father's Footsteps," "Caught in a Trap," "Fine Birthday Cake," equal to new. BOLTON, Bioscope, Pontefract.

WANTED, to clear, large quantity of Films, all bargains. List per return. JURY'S Imperial Pictures, 142, Long-acre, London.

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WANTED, to Sell, Undetectable Leg Paddings, Tights, Animal Skins, Blondin Donkeys, Elephants, Cows, &c. MAYERS, 22, Shepperton-road, Islington, London.

WANTED, to Sell, the Gondola, the Great Gondola Mystery, 15 guineas; Triangular Disappearance Cage, new principle, 5 guineas; Treble Trunk Illusion, a big hit in any programme, 15 guineas; Scale Illusion, 12 guineas; Growth of Flowers, Dove Appearance Cage, Dial, Bamboo Mystery, &c. Cash or exchange. LESTER, Aylesbury.

WANTED, to Sell, two good Stage Illusions, life size Vent. Act, Skip for same, quantity small Tricks; good condition, cheap, clear. DEXTER, Poplar House, Brook Green, Hammersmith.

WANTED, to Sell, Handsome Box Trick, suitable Sailor and Lass. Cost £12; accept £3 10s. Call evenings after Saturday. SHUTTLEWORTH, 38, Queen Margaret's-grove, Mildmay, London.

WANTED, to Sell, cheap, beautiful very large Diamond Marquise Ring, forty stones in. Taken for debt; sacrifice £8. Approval. BLOOM, Haughton, Darlington.

WANTED, to Sell, two Cub Lionesses, three and four months old, and one young Leopardess, four months old, all in one group; also one fine Wolf, four years old. Apply W. SEDGWICK, Menagerie, Fair Ground, High-st., Stratford, London, E.

WANTED, to Sell, splendid advertisement, Pair Midget Ponies, Gig, &c. HYBERT, care of Creber, Printer, Plymouth.

WANTED, to Sell, two Running Globes, also two Sets of Sleigh Bells, cheap. A. HUMPHREYS, 8, Crewsdon-road, Brixton-road.

WANTED, to Sell, Proscenium, 24 by 18 opening, Cloths 24 by 18, Wings, Battens, Limes, &c. PH. BENNETT, 82, Cleethorpe-road, Grimsby.

WANTED, to Sell, Costumes for Summer Concert Party, with use of Title, "The Dons and the Dunce," Five Gowns, Eton Jacket, Mortar Boards, £2 10s. inclusive; several Pierrot Suits, 3s. 6d. each. R. MORE, 141, Percy-road, Southsea.

WANTED, to Sell, all kinds of trick Musical Instruments; Electric and otherwise. Sole British Manufacturer, LISLE, 5, Cuthill-rd, Camberwell.

WANTED, to Sell, 100 Tip-up Chairs, also 120ft. of Pit-seating, upholstered. LEWIS and DEAKIN, 124, Cleveland-street, Wolverhampton.

WANTED TO SELL.

WANTED, to Sell, a Lady's Wardrobe, Evening, Day Gowns, Furs, Mantles, and Plate. Seen any afternoon, 2 to 6. No dealers. 3, Somerleyton-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, to Sell, three Horizontal Bars, new, cheap.
Apply, Box 4,465, "The Era."

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WANTED, to Sell, Several Original Sketches, Songs, &c., Sole Rights. Letters only, HOWARD, 9, Berwick-street, Manchester.

WANTED, to Sell, or Let, Powerful Modern Drama, Scenery, Properties, and Printing.
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The Publisher, "The Era,"
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Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras (Fifteen for those engaged at the London Coliseum). Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, or at least TWO WEEKS, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagement cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

N.B.—Silence in every case a polite negative. Artists are requested not to enclose stamped envelope. Letters marked "Private" will be delayed.
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"SNOWFLAKES,"
"FIGHTING FOR THEIR KING AND SIRELAND,"
"CHEYENNE,"
"I CAN SEE RED ROSES BLOOMING,"
"BOY BLUE,"
"COME BACK TO BORNEO,"
"IN MY PAGODA,"
"WHY DO THE GIRLS LOVE CHARLIE?"
"HENNY KLEIN,"
"IT IS THE SCARECROW,"
"MY IRISH ROSIE."
"I WANT MOLLY AND SHE WANTS ME."

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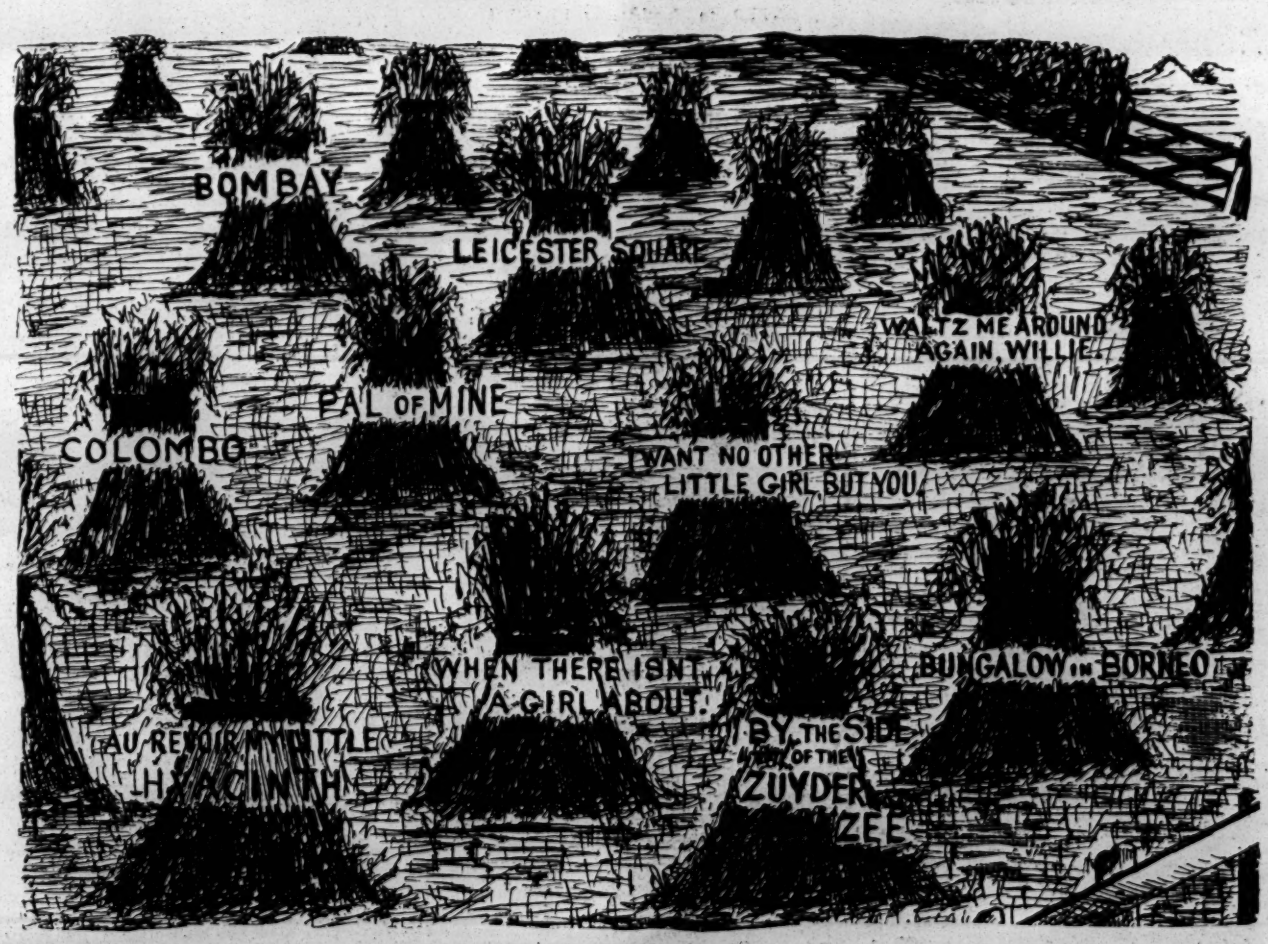

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Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns.

Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not re-booked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follows :—

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N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

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(ARTHURS and LYLE.

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FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1907.

PROVINCIAL CIRCUIT.

SPECIAL NOTICE.
Rehearsal at all Halls, Monday, at 12·0 sharp.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Tom Kelso and Co., Bros. Adderley, Lilian Victoria, Ashbey and Moore, Pictures, J. B. Selph, Giant and Midget.

PALACE, LINCOLN.
Three Graces, Walter Keating, Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, Marion Fletcher, Gillin, Alskarno Trio, Harry Freeman, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

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The Wilfords, R. C. Note, Daisy Davenport, Bros. Mills, Fred Southern and Co., Pictures, Sword and Robb.

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Nat Clifford, Ethel Yorke, Gicardo, R. A. Speedwell, Three Gregsons, Lombart Bros., Three Clarions, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Ten Ji Troupe, Violet Nunn, Waltons, Prof. Thornbury, John Macauley, Gladys Witton, Barton and Ashley, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Three Olympiers, Kitty Ferguson, Percy Hannan, Mysterious Lilith, Edith Sylvesto, Maitland Comedy Co., the Bensons, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

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The Krags, Harry Taylor, Simosa San, Edwards and Dacre, Lise Rolland, Max Duffek, Harmony Four, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Casey's Circus, Andy Burn, Minnie Fenton, Johnny Holland and Co., Sisters Wes, Vowles and Bryan, Stewart and Morgan, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

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THE BRITANNIA.
Matinée Monday.
Josephine Colona and Co., Le Diabelo, Raymond, Harry Bancroft, The Florias, Richardson Taylor, Eldra and Dog, Arthur Royce, Maudie McDonald, Emmie Ames, Fred Moule and Co.

FORESTERS.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Vaudeville Co., Ernesto, Florence Yaymen, Fatmah Diard, Chas. Dixton Co., George Westland, The Custances, Percy Johnson, Raymond, Marie Collins, Tom Davies and Co., Brull and Helmsley.

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Matinée every Monday.
"House Full" Co., Walter King, Margaret Parker, Paolias, Bob Hamilton, Raymond, Mamie Cannon, Cape Girls, Sylvia Martin, "Cruise of the Calabar," Will Lear.

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All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band parts.
Matinée every Monday.
Davis and Gledhill, The Lannons, Billy Farrell, Blanche and Powell, Takio, Moon and Morris, Mac and Hill, Chas. Santon, Arnold Bell and Co., Raymond, Rosella, Harry Sims.

Notice.—All artists carrying Scenery must have it Fireproof, according to L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

All Bill Matter or Notification of Appearance must be sent in 14 days prior to opening. All Artists must attend Band Rehearsal, or their Contracts may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

N.B.—All Billing Matter, accompanied by Pictorials, and Business Communications relating to the Provincial Circuit, must be addressed to the

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"MOLLY BAWN."
"GROW, LITTLE MUSHROOM, GROW."
"IOLA."
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"WANDA FROM ANACONDA."
"MY MONTANA MAID."
"CAN'T YOU FIND A LITTLE TIME TO SAY 'GOOD EVENING'?"
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7. Twice Nightly. 9.
Rehearsal at 11 o'clock for
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Rehearsal at 2 o'clock for
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3.	The Infant Jesus' Sleep.	15.	The Scourging.
4.	The Woman of Samaria.	16.	"Ecce Homo!" (Behold the Man).
5.	The Raising of Jairus' Daughter.	17.	Jesus is made to carry His Cross.
6.	Mary Magdalene.	18.	Jesus falls for the first time.
7.	Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem.	19.	The Incident of St. Veronica.
8.	The Last Supper and Sacrament.	20.	The Ascent to Calvary.
9.	In the Garden of Olives.	21. 22.	The Crucifixion and Agony.
10.	"Simon, Sleepest Thou?"	23.	The Descent from the Cross.
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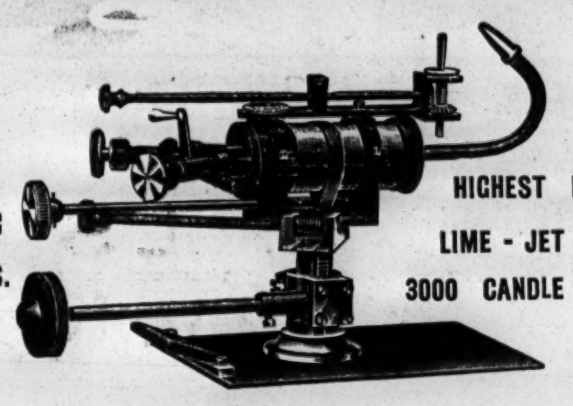

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
The "Era Annual" for 1907 is now out. It is full of good things, and will be eagerly perused by all who are interested in dramatic and musical affairs and personnel. Portraits of, and original contributions by, several public favourites and managers appear, including Miss Ellen Terry, who tells "How I Spend My Day"; Mr. Frank Cooper, Mr. Arthur Collins, Mr. Charles Collette, Mr. Frank Curzon, Mr. Matthew Brodie, Miss Constance Moxon, Miss Edith Cole, and Mr. Tom Craven. There is, in addition, the usual store of miscellaneous theatrical information which is indispensable to all who are interested in stage matters.—Liverpool Post, Jan. 25.

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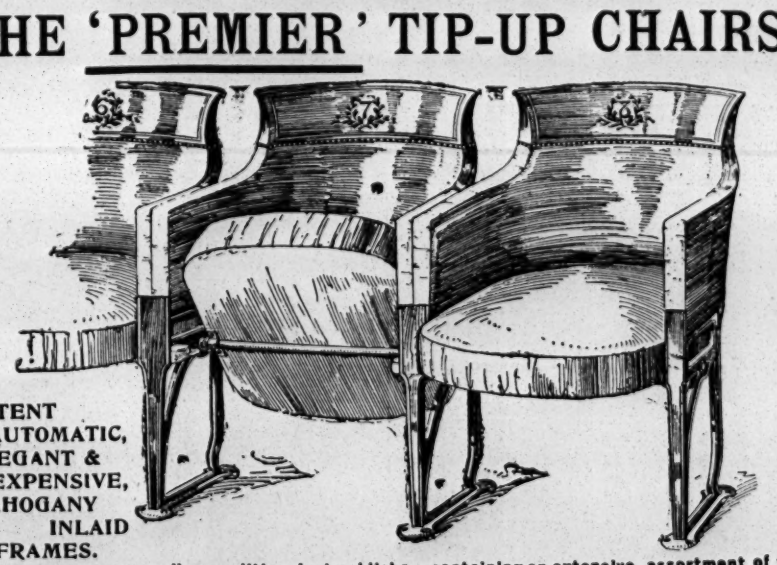

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AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, JAN. 22.—*Revenge* is Mr. Bland Holt's latest play at the Theatre Royal, and the lavish display of Austrian uniforms and costumes ranks the production amongst the best of this conscientious manager's stagings. The palace, the prison, the explosion, are all realistic, and heartily applauded. The company is unchanged, each and all fitting into conventional rôles, the comic rôles being entrusted to Mr. and Mrs. Bland Holt; the hero and heroine to Mr. Walter Baker and Miss Frances Ross; villainy is portrayed by Mr. Albert Norman and Miss Harrie Ireland; Miss Jennie Pollock, Messrs. Charles Brown, Arthur Styan, and Max Maxwell have each a strong character, and every member of the company does yeoman service for their popular "chief."

"PARSIFAL," contrary to all predictions as to the chances of a religious epic at Christmas-time, is drawing large houses at Her Majesty's, and when the pantomime, the afternoon attraction, is withdrawn, a series of *Parsifal* matinées will no doubt result in a rush of staid suburbanites.

"ALICE IN WONDERLAND" will finish its course on Saturday, and it will be remembered as a very fine performance by a large number of exceedingly clever children, every one of them entering into the spirit and essence of the story.

"THE NEW CLOWN" will run to the end of the season, the immense business obviating all necessity for a change of bill.

AT the Palace, the Harry Macdona company is playing *Jane* and *Nan, the Good-for-Nothing*, with great acceptance. Miss Ailsa Sherbrooke is clever and sprightly as Nan.

THE Tivoli has George Chanti as its newest attraction, and from his first appearance to the end of his turn the audience was most effusive in expressions of delight and satisfaction. Larry Lewis, Violet Stockelle, Selbo, Hilda Lane, Fred Curran, Cora Casselli, and many others do well, and Mr. Claude Seplastriere, an excellent artist, is applauded for his lightning portraits and sketches.

THE Amphitheatre is now undergoing alterations. "Wonderland City" is increasing in attraction and popularity. Mr. Anderson's latest additions are Mons. and Mme. Cheffalo, Prof. McCormick, and Baker and Kilpatrick's circus.

SPENCER'S Theatroscope company, managed by Mr. J. L. Goodman, is doing good business at the Lyceum Theatre.

QUEEN'S HALL.

A large audience filled Queen's Hall on Saturday afternoon, March 2, when the eighth symphony concert was given. Although on this occasion there was no novelty brough forward, the performance reached the high level Mr. Wood and his splendid orchestra have always maintained. The concert began with the beautiful Prelude from *Lohengrin*, played with the utmost delicacy and finish. The orchestra followed this by giving a masterly interpretation of Tschaikowsky's "No. 4 Symphony in F minor," a work which the composer dedicated to "My best friend," who was Mme. Nedeshda von Mick, a lady of ample means, who assisted the young artist through the most trying period of his career. In the "No. 4 Symphony" the Russian composer is certainly not at his best, some of the music being too mannered. Still, Mr. Wood is so renowned a conductor of Tschaikowsky's work that the utmost justice was done to the intricate score, the remarkable Scherzo being played with the most consummate skill and dexterity, and rewarded with enthusiastic applause. A special feature of the afternoon was Rubinstein's "Concerto No. 4 in D minor for Pianoforte and Orchestra," with Mme. Teresa Carreño as the pianist. Needless to say, this was a brilliant performance, and Mme. Carreño's playing a perfect triumph of technical art. The audience, after recalling the talented pianist four times, insisted on a solo for encore. The concluding item in the programme was Lalo's refined "Norwegian Rhapsody," most delicately played by the fine orchestra, which included among its instruments the auxetophone double bass, kindly lent by the inventor, the Hon. C. A. Parsons.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The College chamber concert of Friday evening, March 1, began with Schumann's "Quartet for Strings in A minor, op. 41, No. 1," which was neatly executed by Miss Esther Capel-Cure, Miss Marjorie Beer, Mr. Herbert Kinze, and Miss Beatrice Jones, the most skilfully played being the third and the lively fourth movement. A welcome feature of the concert was the duet from Verdi's *Trovatore* "Ai nostri monti," known in the English version as "Home to our mountains." It was capitally sung by Miss Dorothy Martin and that promising young vocalist, Mr. Merlin Davies. There are many other examples from the chief operas that might with advantage be sung at the concerts of our principal music schools, in view of the great interest taken in all matters operatic, and the noble hall of the Royal College affords a good opportunity for a young artist to test his powers. The concert platform is sadly overcrowded, but sooner or later there will be a demand for good English operatic vocalists. The harp as a solo instrument has of late been much neglected, therefore Miss Edith Scruby's really brilliant performance of Saint-Saëns's "Fantasia in A minor" formed a pleasing feature in the concert. The young lady was unfortunate in the breaking of a string shortly after beginning her solo, but nothing disconcerted, she finished her performance amidst great applause. Miss Minnie Arnold, the possessor of a fine and well-trained voice, sang C. Debussy's Recit. and Air, "Air de Lia," with good effect; and Theodora Hunter and Miss Winifred Gardiner secured a satisfactory performance of the "Sonata for Violin and Piano in A," by César Franck, the violinist in particular producing a pure, rich tone. In E. Elgar's "Queen Mary's Song" and "Shepherd's Song," Miss Jessie Hill was heard to advantage, and the programme concluded with a careful performance of Brahms's "Quartet for Piano and Strings in G minor," the players being Miss Ellen Edwards, Mr. Arthur Beckwith, Mr. Herbert Kinze, and Mr. Charles Warwick-Evans. Miss Alice Cotton and Miss Ellen Tuckfield were the accompanists.

THE season of the German Theatre in London, which begins on April 5 at the Great Queen-street Theatre, will last only for three weeks. A varied répertoire will, nevertheless, be given, starting with a four-act play by Rudolf Herzog, entitled *Die Condottieri*, represented by the members of the famous Royal Court Theatre of Munich, including Herrn Albert Heine and August Weigert, Fräulein von Hagen, and Fräulein Rabitow, &c. Director Hans Andresen has also engaged Karl William Büller and Frau Bardou-Müller in the *Biberpelz* and the merry farce *Die von Hochsattel*, and there will also be two performances of Grillparzer's *Ahnfrau*.

THE Charles Santley Jubilee Concert, which is being organised by Earl Kilmorey, is making excellent progress. The date fixed is May 1, at 3 p.m., which is the only convenient opportunity afforded by reason of the engagements already made by the management of the Albert Hall. At the suggestion of the Duke of Norfolk, chairman of the General Committee—who has headed the list with a generous contribution—a testimonial fund has been opened, to which donations are invited, payable to the hon. treasurer, Sir Douglas Straight, at the Royal Albert Hall.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN. — His Majesty's Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—*Beauty and the Barge* is enjoyed this week by large houses. The part of Captain Barley is played most delightfully by Mr. Blake Adams, and Miss Dido Drake makes a charming Ethel. Messrs. Edward Coventry, Walter Pemberton, and Charles N. White appear most successfully as the Lieutenant, the Major, and John Dibbs. The piece was splendidly staged. It is preceded by the comedietta, *Jerry and a Sunbeam*, in which the characters are cleverly represented by Mr. Pennington Lush and Miss Mary Pemberton.

Palace Theatre.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Miss May Henderson, the "dusky comedy queen," heads the bill this week; her turn is delightfully piquant. The Tally Ho trio are as warmly welcomed as ever, and Johnson and De Vere give a sensational and original cycle track and light rope act; Mr. W. J. Ashcroft is enthusiastically received; and among the other successful artists are Mr. Bert Wanson, a quaintly humorous comedian; Mons. Slippere, a wonderfully clever blind novelty pianist and baritone singer; the Zednas Trio, comediennes and graceful dancers; Miss Blanche Marion, an excellent coon comedienne and buck dancer; Little Pete, a good patter comedian; and the Poole Pelhams, who are skilful acrobats and expert dancers.

ABERTILLERY.—Theatre Metropole.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Geo. W. Ventom.—Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Tomlinson's company are here this week with *Secrets*, and are attracting large audiences. Mr. Wilson Summers gives a manly and vigorous portrayal of Lieut. Herbert Markham; Nouredin Ali is well played by Mr. Wilton Richards; Mr. Reggie Brown as the Hon. Cecil Cholmondeley is diverting; Mr. John E. Tomlinson and Miss Lizzie Palmer as Ibrahim Al Murad and Ismalia are admirable, and Zuleika is well played by Miss Nellie Navarro. The dancing of the Tivoli Quartette is entrancing. The setting and dresses are excellent.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—On Monday Messrs. Hallet and Howard's company opened here in *Her Love Against the World*. Mr. Walter Howard plays the part of Eric, the Earl of Strathmere, with an earnestness and bearing that deserves great credit; Mr. Mayor Cook presented an admirable picture of the scheming villain, Elric, Prince of Ravensburg; the part of Prince Athmar, played by Mr. W. H. Hallet, was a distinct triumph; Mr. H. B. Lewis gives a very amusing impersonation of Heinrick Pimpernickle, and is ably seconded by Mr. R. Webb as Fritz. Mr. Sam Arthur must be complimented for his excellent performance as Prince Maurice; Sergent Kasper is a good character-sketch by Mr. Arthur J. Moss; Miss Ellen Snow as Princess Idalia showed her dramatic powers of sympathy and pathos; Miss Rossie St. John presented a carefully-studied part in Nello; Miss Blanch Stiel is very good as Shulah; Misses L. Lennon and Hettie Ferguson as Katinka and Gretchen were very good.

Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Potter, Dandy, and Weisker.—The Matweef Hugoston troupe is a particularly clever turn; Fields and Lewis must be complimented for their comedy vocal act, and Mlle. Pollo gives a clever and daring performance; the Sisters Melba are charming duettists; and other contributors to the programme are Lottie De Abbey, Harry Luck, T. E. Johnson, Emma Don, and the Bioscope.

ALDERSHOT.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's talented company, in *The Midnight Wedding*, is here this week. Mr. Alf. Paumier finds ample scope for his admirable elocutionary powers, and a commanding personality aids the impersonation; and Miss Annie Saker is responsible for a charming and talented portrayal of Astrea. The rôle of Captain Rudolph is ably played by Mr. Ernest Imeson; and he has a good help-mate in villainy in Mr. Edward Fletcher as Eugene. Mr. F. W. Freeman is a vigorous Prince Leopold; Mr. W. S. Hardy as Father Gerrard does well. The humorous side of the play is well sustained by Messrs. J. E. Page, Vernon Vane, and Algie Spalding, and they, with Miss Ada Champion (Kathie), cause much amusement.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—This week a return visit is being paid here by Mr. Wm. Greet's company with the popular musical comedy, *The Earl and the Girl*. As Jim Cheese, the cockney dog-trainer, Mr. Alfred Donohoe, while giving free rein to his comic powers, is careful not to vulgarise the part. Mr. Thos. Kennard as Dick Wargrave sings several ditties pleasantly; Elphin Haye is impersonated with vivacity by Miss Gertrude Simpson; there are a number of other characters which stand out prominently, notably the Hon. Crewe Boodle, admirably sustained by Mr. Leslie Owen, Bunker Bliss by Mr. Greville Hayes, Downham by Mr. Ernest A. Plumpton, Mr. Talk by Mr. Sam Lyson, Mr. Hazell by Mr. Tom Stephens, Mr. Dudley Cranbourne by Mr. Bernard Leslie, and others, who give telling impersonations of their respective characters. Liza Shoddam, the cockney sweetheart of Jim Cheese, is cleverly hit off by Miss Lina Hicks; Miss Ida Stratham is a fascinating Daisy Fallowfield, Miss Winnie Plumpton an amiable Virginia Bliss, and Miss Kathleen Gerrard a capable Mrs. Shimmering Black.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—This week we have performances of an astounding character by the Tan-Kevais, real Chinese from Manchuria, who cause immense wonder with their magic business, juggling, and spinning feats, and clever acrobatic work; Yorkshire Tom is a good mimic; Bessie Travis, musical ventriloquist, is excellent; Toney Iveson is an interesting pianoplaying ragman. It is difficult to introduce anything in cycling of a novel character, but the Woodwards undoubtedly take a first place as expert wheelmen; Huline and Le May are comical musical clowns; Henry Hallam and Josephine Stanton give a capital musical comedy sketch; the Fimans introduce some good "business" into their comedy scene, *The Fire Station*; Clare Chadwick's Ladies' Quartette are singers who produce in combination some sweet harmony; the Four Jumels also score in a musical act. The pictures are still an attraction.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—The Seven Savonas are retained here for a second week as the premier attraction, and render in excellent taste the trying overture from *Tannhäuser*. By way of contrast, they introduce a lively musical scena, embellished with beautiful limelight and electrical effects, entitled *Down South*, in which negro melodies and plantation dances are quaintly rendered. Charlton provides an excellent conjuring turn, in which dexterity and novelty are well blended; Miss Lily Vane is much appreciated as a burlesque artist; Mr. George Gulliver is a most amusing and enjoyable ventriloquist; Mr. Arthur Boyne is a mirth-provoking comedian; hearty applause is accorded to the Two Wiltons, duettists and dancers; and the programme is completed by Mr. Clayton's Attergraph pictures.

BARNSTAPLE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Bridge Trustees; Manager, Mr. Harry Ashton.—Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson's company presented *Charley's Aunt* here on two evenings this week. Mr. Tom Macfarlane undertook the part of the "aunt" with delightful effect, keeping the audience in continual good humour. Messrs. Basil Lynn and J. E. Stephenson thoroughly exemplified the irresponsible and light-hearted undergraduates; Mr. Percy Tyler made much of the pompous old lawyer Stephen Spettigue; and Mr. McCausland Stewart sustained with dignity the part of the Colonel. Miss Grace Baring charmingly depicted the rich old aunt, and other parts were well represented by the Misses Sybil Grieg, Dorothy Barrington, and Norah Johns.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson and Harris Fineberg's company in *The Traitor* is here. Prince Rudolph has an able exponent in Mr. Bentley Evans and Mr. Stephen E. Scanlon in the title-rôle plays with distinction; Miss Isabel Hunt is a clever Lieutenant Nicholas, and the difficult part of Lulu the Avenger is capitally taken by Miss Effie Bartlett, while Miss Gwynne Warren makes an irresistible Countess Zicka.

His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Miss Frances Delavel and company appeared here for three nights in *Her Lost Self*. Miss Delavel herself as Phillipine was most successful, and Mr. Cecil Gray as Wilfred Daventry displayed excellent abilities. Mr. G. Osmond Tearle as Paul Kimberley and Miss Clare Sullivan as Dorothy were both good, while much humour was contributed by Mr. Horace Buckley as Tom Flyaway and Miss Nell Ingram as Bridget Mahone. Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge, the esteemed and enterprising lessees, took their annual benefit on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Tivoli Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting.—J. Collinson's company gives an exceedingly funny comedy sketch, *The Topsy-Turvy School*, and Harry Leybourne is an up-to-date comedian; Miss Frances Drew is an agreeable burlesque actress; Clara Magda, a graceful gymnast; and Geo. Reeves an amusing comedian; Ada and Edward, in a musical act, and Conan and Doyle, comedians, complete the cast.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—After an all too long interval Mr. and Mrs. Kendal commenced on Monday a special three-day engagement with *The Elder Miss Blossom*. Mrs. Kendal as Miss Dorothy Blossom has rarely given us anything in the way of character more exquisitely finished or more perfectly conceived. Mr. Kendal as Andrew Quick played admirably. Miss Jessica Thorne showed undoubted histrionic talents as Sophia Blossom, the clerical lover the Rev. Arthur Leacroft being well enacted by Mr. C. W. Standing. The two authors of the piece, Mr. Ernest Hendrie and Mr. Metcalfe Wood, were excellent in their respective impersonations of Christopher Blossom and Withers. Mr. Bassett Roe made much of his few chances as Major Twentyman. Mr. R. Burnett and Mr. W. M. Rutherford apeared as Tyrel Jones and Wells. Capital support was given by Mrs. A. B. Tapping and Miss Kate Bishop as Cooper and Mrs. Wells. On Tuesday *The Ironmaster* was staged.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Nat Clifford, the nimble one, is once again exerting hnmself as an accentric dancer; the Lombart Brothers distinguish themselves as clever athletes; R. A. Speedwell, in his speciality, "Art in a Hurry," is wonderfully smart; Gicardo, boy juggler, can give points to many of his seniors; the Three Clarions, in their absurdity "The Would-be Tenor," are responsible for some good dancing and amusing banter; the Three Gregsons, in their knockabout act, "The Dummy," are on a return visit; Ethel Yorke, comedienne, sings a couple of songs aceptably; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are as entertaining as ever.

BATLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Whitty; Manager, Mr. Alfred Taylor.—Mr. Charles March gives a sound, powerful, and telling reading of the character of Paul Baldot in *The Gamester of Metz*. He is ably supported by Messrs. Paul Teulon, Wilfrid Prothero, J. W. Millar, P. Wentworth, W. A. Brayne, and Misses Eva Lyndhurst, Zana St. George, and Una Lane. The play is well staged.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—Miss Florence Glossop-Harris, supported by Mr. Frank Cellier, jun., and company, are occupying the boards here this week. The opening piece was *Romeo and Juliet*, in which Mr. Cellier was eminently successful as Romeo. Miss Glossop-Harris won all hearts by her charming portrait of Juliet; Miss Kate Turner as the nurse was excellent; Miss Irene Woodford and Miss Muriel Curry as Lady Montague and Lady Capulet respectively helped considerably towards the success of the piece. Mr. Percy H. Vernon was a capital Mercutio; Mr. Edward Landor played with verve the part of Capulet, and Mr. A. Cotton-Holmes' Tybalt showed evidence of careful study; Friar Laurence found a capable exponent in Mr. David Santley, Mr. Stanley Roberts was good as Benvolio, and Mr. Herbert Halford caused some fun as Peter. During the week *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Carmen*, and *Camille* have drawn fairly good houses.

Corn Exchange.—On Wednesday the Zancigs gave two extraordinary performances of mind-telepathy at this hall. They had the assistance of several well-known London artists.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. George Edwardes' company produced, on Monday, for the first time in Belfast, the merry musical comedy, *The New Aladdin*, which had a hearty reception. Chief honours are conferred on that charming actress, Miss Ida Kene, who is a most vivacious Princess, singing her songs with every possible success; another feature of the performance is the impersonation of Tippin, the page-boy, by Mr. George Gregory, whose rich humour was irresistible and his various songs warmly encored; as the romantic Sally, Miss Cressie Leonard is also entitled to high praise, her graceful impersonation winning all hearts; as the Genie of the Lamp, Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., could not be excelled; and Miss Jessie Lonnen is a most delightful Charm of Paris, her dancing being superb; Miss Irene Verona is unequalled as the Spirit of the Ring, her song "Back to the Strand," affording much pleasure; as the Lost Constable, Mr. John Brabourne adds much to the enjoyment of the audience by his droll portrayal; and we have nothing but praise for Miss Mary Fraser, whose impersonation of the Scotch Lassie was remarkably clever. Mr. Ernest Mahar appears as General Ratz, and his rendering of French songs is keenly appreciated; Miss Nellie Lonnen as the Dancing Girl, furnishes an admirable exhibition of the art. The chorus and augmented orchestra are under the direction of Mr. Ernest Vousden, and the piece is mounted and dressed in exquisite taste and lavish style.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—Madame Alice Esty heads the bill, and this famous prima donna delights large audiences with her cultured vocalism, her songs being encored; the feats of the Three Romas, the gladiator marvels, are astounding; Miss Rose Hamilton is a charming comedienne, with good songs; and a big hit has been made by Mr. Herbert Lloyd, whose novel comedy act creates roars of laughter; Miss Ethel Walker, society entertainer at the piano, commands the success she deserves; and the Westwoods are decidedly clever comedy and expert cyclists; Mr. Fred Harrison, comedian, and the Palace pictures complete.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John S. Walker.—Mr. Fred Karno's sketch *Moses and Son* is the leading attraction this week, and the phenomenal success achieved is largely due to the impersonation of Perkins by that clever comedian, Mr. Fred Kitchen; other rôles in the sketch have been capitally portrayed. Mr. Ed. E. Ford, a clever Australian, furnishes some remarkably realistic imitations, and made a big hit on Monday; Burns and Burns appear to great advantage in their amusing speciality, *Fun in a Museum*; Mr. Ryder Slone is an exceedingly clever actor-vocalist; and the Bros. Corcoran delight all with their novel musical act; Boy Glenn, the versatile story-teller, completes the programme.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Sinclair-Neill.—The Alhambra Dramatic company, under the direction of Mr. M. Montgomery, produced this week the sensational drama, *The Price of Sin*, by E. Hill-Mitchelson. Mr. Horace Denton achieved distinction by the excellence of his acting as Lieut. Cecil Roy; and the rôle of the heroine, Nancy Crawford, was admirably played by Miss Nina Blake-Adams; Mr. Cyril Grier upholds his reputation by his finished impersonation of Jack, the welsher; Miss Roma Tremayne acted with rare judgment as the adventuress, Kate Crelyn, her portrayal being worthy of much praise; the iniquities of Frank Foster were realistically portrayed by Mr. Em. Heanley. The humour of the piece was in the safe hands of Mr. Tom H. Solly, who was very funny as the Rev. James Small, being ably assisted by Miss Mattie Crawford, as Charlotte King; Mr. Elmore Frith is entitled to much commendation for his faithful interpretation of Major Crawford, and Mr. Balfour Deninstoun is an admirable Jake Foster; Mr. Ed. Smythe's impersonation of Jim Trotter completes the cast. Mr. Tom H. Solly is responsible for the admirable stage management. The Alhambra Bioscope, under the direction of Mr. W. E. Newlove, exhibits some interesting films.

BILSTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Battersby; Musical-Director, Mr. J. E. Machin.—Mr. J. A. Campbell is successfully presenting *The Little Breadwinner* here. In the company are Mr. Matthew Boulton and Miss Mary Fulton, as the hero and heroine, both excellent. Little Emmie Thomas as Meg of the title-rôle is very popular. Exceptional merit attaches to Mr. Eugene Santley in the part of Lord William Dorrington; Mr. Alfred Maurice as Joseph Prior undertakes the heavy lead well; and both Mr. Stanley Leedham (Charles Prior) and Miss Jenny Bostock (Bridget O'Flannaghan) are well placed.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Mr. E. Lockwood, Mr. R. Crossman, and Mr. P. M. Foster's company are on a welcome return visit with the musical comedy *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. E. Russell's assumption of the title-rôle is in all respects excellent, all the points of the character receiving full justice, and he is admirably supported by Mr. Charles McLagan, who, as Crookie Scrubbs, is irresistibly funny. Mr. Arthur Stroud exhibits exceptional vocal ability as Gerald Treherne, and makes the most of his opportunities, and Aurora is daintily played by Miss Ella Daincourt. Miss Edith Housley gives a splendid rendering of Lady Bickenhall; Mr. Crank is well played by Mr. Harry Chichester. Mr. Tom Shelford is a good Michael Brue, and Miss Constance Berkeley scores as Daisy. Other parts are suitably represented, and the chorus is most efficient. Mr. Leonard Gautier is the musical director.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. Bransby Williams in his widely known and appreciated representation of Dickensian and other characters is the premier turn here and achieves his usual distinction; Mr. Arthur Lennard, the popular actor-vocalist, is also a leading attraction; and prominent in a capital programme are Mr. Fred Earle, an excellent comedian; Mr. Tom E. Finglass, coon vocalist and dancer; Clive and Clark, black and white artists; Bennett and Martell, entertaining comedians; Miss Lizzie Fletcher, comedienne; Miss Maidie Scott, vocalist; Recco, burlesque acrobat; and Brown's Royal Bioscope. The able orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Ernest Denny.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—The second edition of *The Queen of Hearts* is even more successful than the first, and that is saying much. The utmost delight attends the restoration of the harlequinade, in which Mr. George Robey disports as clown, and certainly one of the gems of the pantomime is Mr. Edward Lewis's John Peel, which he works with ludicrous effect, and to innumerable encores. Mr. Lewis's share in the success of the production has been immense. The other new features have already been enumerated, and it remains but to say that *The Queen of Hearts* ends its triumphant reign on Saturday next. Mr. Phlip Rodway takes his annual benefit on Monday. Mr. Robey's bespeak is fixed for Friday.

Prince of Wales's Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*The Freedom of Suzanne* has derived much interest and patronage this visit from the presence in its company of Miss Mabel Love, whose assumption of the titular rôle reveals a capacity for pathos which, with her natural grace and animation, keeps the house delighted. Mr. Templer Powell supports with his finished and well-restrained portrayal of Suzanne's husband, and the other parts are ably sustained by Mr. Chas. Marsden as the uncle, and Messrs. J. H. Batson, Townsend Whitling, and Richard Neville as the three admirers, are all uniformly good. The ladies include clever and graceful studies by Miss Violet Ley as Lady Mabel, Miss Dorothy Lart as Mrs. Tustail, Miss Florence Harwood as Miss Minching, and Miss Annie Stalman as Lady Charlotte. *Her Dearest Friend* is played first, and introduces Miss Violet Ley as Molly, Miss Annie Stalman as Ursula, and Mr. P. J. Quill as Robert.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—*Cinderella* continues its triumphs without ceasing, the run of this popular pantomime being assured up till Easter. Last week the Rocket Club paid its annual visit, and besides joining vivaciously in the choruses, made handsome presents to Mr. Collingwood and to the artists and attendants. Mr. Collingwood's anniversary takes place on Tuesday.

Metropole Theatre. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*Driven from Home* exercises all its old fascination, as played here this week by the Metropole Company. Miss Rose Ralph elicits tears and sympathy with her touching portrayal of Laura Raybrooke; Mr. Percy Dawsone scores as the husband, Walter Hatherleigh; Mr. Austen Milroy rouses the audience considerably with his clever powers of dissimilation as Geoffrey Waring; Mr. Andrew Emm (Melville) in the serious rôle of the outcast, Willie, proves that he can move an audience to tears as well as laughter; Mr. Fred A. Marston is well placed as the unnatural parent, Anthony Raybrooke; Mr. Albert E. Mann as John Anderson infuses acceptable comedy, and is well seconded by Miss Amy Corelli as Margaret; Miss Jessie Yatman is deserving of every praise as Walter Hatherleigh, the younger; and Messrs. Edward Finlay, Francis Everard, Horace Moseley, and the Misses Bella Power, Edith Leslie, Amy Williams, and others act meritoriously.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*£1000 Reward* is drawing full and enthusiastic audiences here, with Messrs. Pitt and Halling's company. Mr. Fred Wilberforce elicits unmistakable signs of displeasure with the thoroughness of his acting as the villain, Gilbert Lisle; Mr. J. Newton Cowling acts the rôle of Fred Inglefood to the utmost advantage; Mr. F. J. Pitt deserves commendation as the son; Mr. Chas. Halling interests the audience vastly as Vincent Rainsworth; Mr. Geo. Scully affords an agreeable diversion as Dick Springthorpe; Mr. Arthur Merton gives a taking portrayal of Fighting Jepps; Mr. Frank Dallas is in high favour as Inspector Gilbert; Miss Lynn Darlington secures sympathy as Meg, the flower girl; Miss Crissie Frances supports humorously as Kitty Springthrope; Mrs. Sidney Halling is meritorious as Mrs. McCarthy; and Miss Daisy Halling acquits herself of the rôle of Madam Sanson in the most satisfactory manner.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*The Female Swindler* is prospering here, Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company playing to a full house nightly. Miss Grace E. Leslie's portrayal of the central rôle again holds the audience in thrall, her clever resource and artifice being more than ever admired; Miss Florrie Thelsey is applauded for her graceful acting as May Andrews; Mr. Stanley Radcliffe is powerful and incisive as Geoffrey Warden; Mr. Guy P. Ellis gives manly expression to the rôle of Harold Travers; Mr. Joseph Millane as John Coulson is hailed with the utmost satisfaction; Mr. John Belton vouchsafes an absorbing representation of Abraham Mikestein; Mr. Henry Wright in a quadruple rôle displays an infinity of resource and humour; and Miss Mary Dawson assists in the fun as Mary Ann Mee.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Mark Sheridan heads the bill, and is accorded well-merited applause. Miss Florence St. John in her smart sketch *Quits* proves one of the hits of the programme; the Kellinos are wonderful risleyists, and their act, "Venetia," is very interesting; Clarence C. Corrie's company presents the pleasing musical episode *Heartstrings*, a feature of which is the talented violin-playing of Miss Gladys Hooley; Manning's Entertainers are comedy artists of the whirlwind type, who give a new edition of *The Hotel Boots*; and Gracie Moore is a soprano vocalist of much ability; Paulmetta and Piquo, comedy gymnasts; J. W. Mayers, comedian; Alfred Grady, comedian and dancer; and Da Silva, in choruses, complete the programme.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford.—Pantomime occupies the boards at the Hippodrome this week, Mr. John Tiller's Christmas extravaganza *Dick Whittington and his Cat* being presented. There are seven scenes, the songs are numerous and tuneful, and the chorus is an exceptionally strong one. The artists include Miss Jessie Templeton as Dick, Miss Nellie Rodney as Alice, and Mr. Lytton as Idle Jack. Several other interesting items are provided. Earle and Melville give a clever dialogue and dancing turn; William Gourlay gives an entertaining act entitled *The Return of Hamlet*; and Katie Marsh proves herself a charming vocalist and dancer.

Bordesley Palace. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—Mr. John Lawson, of *Humanity* fame, fills the premier position this week with his company in *The King's Minister*. In the part of the Prime Minister of England Mr. Lawson acquits himself in a highly satisfactory manner, and the remainder of the company perform equally well; Peggy Pryde captivates with her latest and most pleasing songs; the Karno Four are very amusing in a comic pantomime; and Cole and Rags are expert comedy jugglers; Belrose and De Velin are excellent vocalists; and Bert Harrow is a funny comedian.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — Eden Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—Miss Maud Hildyard is paying a farewell visit prior to her Australian tour with *The Great Awakening*. Miss Maud Hildyard cleverly portrays the rôle of Lola Selby; and Guy Rogan, her accomplice, is well played by Mr. Stephen Langton; Mr. Frank Liston gives a manly rendering of Jack Merton, and Mr. A. C. Hardie does exceedingly well in his impersonation of the escaped convict; Captain Lambert is capably upheld by Mr. Gordon McLeod, and Mr. J. H. Booth is well placed as Richard Wilson. A winsome Molly Merton is seen in Miss Doris Digby. Comedy is supplied by Mr. Willie Scott as Billy Brass and Miss Lilla Nordon as Selina Worts.

BLACKBURN. — Theatre Royal.— Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Manager, Mr. Reginald C. Yorke.—*The Fatal Wedding* is always a strong attraction in Blackburn, and Mr. Bert Coote's company is appearing here this week before crowded houses. The cast is a good one, the children's parts being especially well filled, and Miss Marie Wilson is charming as Jessie, the little Mother; Miss Leah Marlborough acts forcefully as Cora Williams; while as Mabel Wilson Miss Katherine Clarke is all that can be desired; Mr. Ernest Outtrim plays Howard Wilson excellently, and Mr. Guy Hastings as Robert Curtis is good; Mr. Cyril Melton in the part of Peter Schwartz does some capital work, and the humorous parts of Toto and Bridget are filled by Mr. C. H. Hughes and Miss Julie Temple to perfection.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. E. A. Page.—Mr. Augustine Knight and company are presenting *The Assassin* here to good audiences. Mr. Knight appears with much effect as Prince Demetri and is well supported by Miss Ella Vane as the Countess Wanda; Miss Frances Waring acts well in the part of Nita, and Miss Ada Douglas is good in the part of Nardine Farina. Mr. Edward E. Ashley makes a dignified Ipanoff.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—The Olympiers, who present representations in bronze of classical sculpture, are the "star" turn here, and other artists are Kitty Ferguson, vocalist; the Maitland Comedy Trio; Percy Hannan, baritone vocalist; the Bensons, musical comedy artists; Mlle. Sylvesto, contortionist; Lillian Warren, in illustrated songs; and the mysterious Lilith.

BLYTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Messrs. Levy and Cardwell's juvenile pantomime company have presented their pretty pantomime, *The Sleeping Beauty*. In the title-rôle Miss Dolly Dodds gave a charming portrayal; and Prince Florizel found a capable exponent in Miss Kitty Trewhitt. The Sir Alfonso of Miss Mona Townshend was well received; the appearance of the Bros. Armstrong as the Queen and Asbestos was the signal for much fun. The singing and dances introduced were much enjoyed by the large audiences who have witnessed the production. Wee George Wood, the boy comedian, gave a praiseworthy performance.

BOLTON.—Theatre Royal, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—This week we have a visit from Carpenter and Cooper's company in the sensational play *The Spider and the Fly*. Mr. Benson North as Cyril Girdlestone and Miss Nina Vaughton as Edith McAllister, the hero and heroine, obtain the full sympathy of the audiences in their trials and troubles, and Mr. Arthur H. Hill is applauded for his rendering of the part of David Strong; Mr. H. C. Lanceley plays well the rôle of the village pastor; Miss Lucy Murray is a typical Irish girl, Molly Blake; Mr. Ellis J. Preston as Welby Girdlestone and Miss Amy Venimore as Stella Grey, "the Spider," meet with howls of execration from the audience at each appearance.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—Excellent turns are given by Miss Rosina Caselli, who meets with a great reception on presenting her clever performance with a midget troupe of Mexican dogs; Mr. Van Allen, "the tramp musician"; the Silver Tone Quartette of melodious vocalists and cake-walk dancers; Jack Pleasant, comedian (with a style of his own); Vanola, Mexican antipodiste; Cullen and Carthy, along with Little Cluley, eccentric comedians, in a screaming comedy act; the Vyponds (Fred and Maud) society entertainers; the Lovelaces, in illustrated song; the Zelovas, acrobatic equilibrists; Miss Edith Marion, contralto vocalist; Wallie Croker, mimic and siffleur, and the Imperial Bioscope.

BOSCOMBE. — Hippodrome.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—Capt. Max Gruber's elephant, horse, and pony are put through many tricks which do great credit to their trainer; Geoffreys and Benson are amusing in a well acted duologue, entitled *Spoofed*; Mlle. Rénee presents a refined instrumental act; Maud Desmond is pleasing with her pictorial songs; the Three Ettenas are clever in their globe speciality act; as a male impersonator Winifred Ward at once commands applause; and Frank Seely is humorous in his two songs. The Hippodrome pictures, as usual, conclude the bill.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's talented company in *The Private Secretary* occupies the theatre this week, and despite many previous visits this farcical comedy attracts as well as ever. The name part is in the safe keeping of Mr. Donald Price-Evans, and Mr. W. Hargreaves as Mr. Cattermole is really excellent, while strong support comes from Mr. W. T. Elworthy, Mr. J. P. E. Hussey, Mr. V. Gilbert, Mrs. Alfred Davis, Miss Cecily Wade, Miss Beth Elliott, and Miss Dorothy Shawe.

BRADFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—Mr. Barrie's delightful fairy play *Peter Pan*, which has entered on its second week here, has aroused great interest. Miss Zena Dare in the title-rôle, Miss Ella Q. May as Wendy, Mr. Lionel Mackinder as the Pirate, Mr. Anson and Mr. Stratton Mills as two of his band, Mr. George Lupino as Nana, and the other members of Mr. Charles Frohman's excellent company, are the recipients of hearty marks of appreciation for their admirable acting.

Prince's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—The run of Mr. Laidler's highly-successful pantomime *Cinderella* draws to a close with the present week. On last Monday night Miss Alice Williams, the charming exponent of the title-rôle, had a crowded audience for her benefit. She was the recipient of many lovely floral tributes and many presentations; amongst the latter were a silver-framed mirror from Miss Florrie Forde, the principal boy; a hand-bag with silver fittings, presented by Mr. Harry Martell from a few admirers, together with a floral slipper, gold bracelet, and silver dressing table from members of the company and friends in front. To Miss Forde Miss Williams presented a balloon and cage of flowers, together with a gold locket; and Mr. Laidler publicly thanked Miss Williams for her individual efforts in adding so greatly to the success of the pantomime. Extra turns were contributed during the evening's performance by the Coloured Meisters from the Empire Theatre; Messrs. John Macaulay and Thornbury, from the Palace Theatre; and by Miss Forde. Miss Flo Florence, Miss Nicholson, Miss Cissie Williams, Mr. Jo Monkhouse, Mr. Leslie Barker, Mr. Douglas Campbell, Mr. L. F. Sumner, Mr. H. T. Butler, and the the fair *bénéficiaire*.

The Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—The Boy Army, trained by Mr. Ginnett, in a military tournament and a series of musical rides, arouses considerable enthusiasm here this week, the youngsters displaying exceptional smartness and precision. The other members of this week's company who contribute to an admirable programme are Princess Pauline, comedienne; Jimmy Shields, one-legged eccentric dancer; Bijou Russell, a clever sand dancer; Cliff Ryland, an entertaining story-teller and comedian; the Coloured Meisters, a quartette of vocalists; Charles Fraser and company, in a capital sketch, *Enchanted Iona*; Master Clifford (son of Cliff Ryland), comedian and dancer; Ethel Donna, a graceful comedienne and dancer; and Chris Richards, comedian.

Palace Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. R. H. Foster.—The Ten Ji Troupe of Japanese Magicians provide a distinct novelty here this week in a performance which is bewildering and extremely clever. John Macaulay renders character ballads with skill, and coon songs by Violet Nunn find much favour; Thornbury paints in sand, smoke, and crayon with his usual skill; Gladys Witton, juvenile contralto, possesses an excellent voice; the Waltons are an eccentric couple of gymnasts; there is some capital comedy in Barton and Ashley's act, *Canal Boat Sal*; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux show some interesting pictures.

BRIGHTON.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—The romantic play, *The Angel of Unrest*, written by Richard A. Greene, was produced here on Monday evening, and is fully noticed in another column. At Thursday's special London matinée the Vedrenne-Barker company, from the Royal Court Theatre, London, gave a performance of *You Never Can Tell*.

Alhambra.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—The Sousloffs, Continental dancers, submitted a clever turn, which is enthusiastically appreciated; the Sivronis, premier comedy duo, merit unstinted praise; Mark Melford and company are well received in the screaming comedy sketch, *Nonsuited*; Marie Blythe, contralto vocalist, sings in pleasing style; Freda Spry and B. S. Monti are highly successful in the scena *The Dandy Guardsman*; George Brown, Yorkshire comedian, is very entertaining; Les Tostias, pianists and mandolinists, are accomplished performers; the Brothers Brook, comedy artists, keep the house rippling with laughter; Lilian Travelli, American burlesque and light ballad vocalist, wins cordial applause; Sam Dalton is an eccentric comedian; the Sisters Brand are capital duettists and speciality dancers; and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting and amusing.

West Pier.—Secretary and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Mr. H. F.

BURY (LANCS.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—This week the proprietors have closed the Circus of Varieties, and the variety programme is being carried out at this house. The Dunlops, bicycle eccentriques; Lytton and Bland, comedy sketch artists; Lilian Sivado, trapeze artist; Harry Plowden, comedian; Leo Dryden, descriptive vocalist; Ada Colley, soprano; and Los Rupertos, equilibrists, are in the bill.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Sons.—Mr. Chas. Magilton and company of comedians are here in a laughable absurdity, entitled *The Trippers*; and the Ottawas submit a musical sketch, *After the Hunt*. The Newsboys Quintette of singers and dancers, and Mr. E. W. Eustace and Miss Dorothy Eyre, in a ventriloquial absurdity, called *Tomkins, Jun.*, are also among the attractions.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—A splendid reception was given on Monday night to Mr. Geo. Dance's company in their initial visit here with *The Beauty of Bath*. In the title-rôle Miss Gladys Guy looked and acted the part to perfection, her singing and dancing being most delightful. Mr. Lester Holland put any amount of "go" into Lieut. Richard Alington; while Mr. Sheriff Clunes played his double, Mr. Beverley, with great success. Mr. Jack Crichton is always funny, and as Sir Timothy Bun he simply revelled in the part; Mr. Frederick C. Leister made a sufficiently stately Viscount Bellingham; Mr. Reggie Guy made a most idiotic Lord Quorn; Mr. Sydney Grata was great as Lemon Goodge; and Miss Ida Laurie was also very acceptable as Mrs. Goodge; Miss Edith Cruikshanks was especially good as Mrs. Alington.

GUILDHALL.—Mr. and Mrs. Zancig and an excellent company of variety artists gave two performances here on Tuesday. In the afternoon the hall was well filled, and showed great interest in the remarkable performance of the Zancigs, and in the entertainment given by Miss Katie Moss, Mr. David Brazell, Mr. Sydney Jarvis, Mr. E. Thornley-Dodge, Miss Clara Alexander, and Miss Ethel Grimes.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—During the first part of the week the boards were occupied by the Cardiff Amateurs, and a welcome visit from Mr. and Mrs. Kendal followed. *A Tight Corner*, *The Housekeeper*, and *The Ironmaster* are the répertoire.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robt. Redford.—The American-Indian actress, Go-won-go Mohawk and company, in *Wep-ton-no-Mah*, have had a successful engagement here. The clever Indian lady provides a romantic and admirably acted portrayal of the mail-carrier, and receives substantial support from Mr. C. W. Charles as Colonel Stockton and Mr. Edward Leroy as Spanish Joe. The entire company renders capable and praiseworthy work.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. W. Lea; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—The marvellous blind pianist, Mendel, is on a return visit here, and is delighting Cardiff audiences with his wonderful musical talent. A capital sketch is presented by Mr. William H. Day and Miss Laura Dyson, entitled *Crystal Gazing*. A pleasing performance is that of the Gems, who in "Song, Play, and Mirth" give a sprightly entertainment. *The Chaperon* is an exceedingly funny sketch, in which Frank Bertram and company evoke much laughter. Carlos Caesaro is exceptionally clever in his naval balancing act; and Lily Burnand, comedienne, renders two catchy songs. Belloni's cockatoos are old favourites; the Schwarz Bros., burlesque artists, and the Bioscope complete a fine programme.

CARLISLE.—H. M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—*The Manxman* is attracting good audiences here this week. Mr. Alfred B. Cross has staged the piece most effectively, and as Pete gives a successful performance. Miss Minnie Watersford gives a finished and sympathetic rendering of Kate; Miss Kitty Livesey is quite attractive as the servant; and Mr. Sydney C. Kearns as the Deemster, Mr. Frank Etheridge as Cæsar Cregeen, and Miss Mona Spedding contribute creditable performances.

THE PALACE — Proprietors, The Palace Theatre, Carlisle, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—The top of the bill here is occupied by "Dedio," a novel and distinctly interesting turn, the scenic and lighting effects being most beautiful, with enthusiastic approval. Adams and Ward combine wonderful acrobatic feats with funny comedy; Picitt Zizette stage their act in quite a novel manner, their business being distinctly smart and their illusions most mystifying; Fancourt and Ruble give a comedy act in which humour, singing, and dancing are well assorted; Arthur Slater is a clever whistler, with quite a style of his own; Woodhouse and Wells are capital comedians; Stidder and Dunbar have a smart musical act; and the always-popular Pepiscope adds much to the success of the performance.

CARMARTHEN.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS. — Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—This week Mr. Hubert O'Grady's No. 1 Company paid a visit to the town, and presented, with much power, the sensational drama, *A Fast Life*. Mr. Harry Harrild as Sir Oliver Franklin was very good, as was also Mr. Fred Aldworth as John Dixon, the bank manager, and Mr. Donald Jones as James. Miss Violet Wood as Julianna was most commendable, and her songs delighted the audience; Miss Ada Hender as the Hon. Mrs. Cleveland deserves praise; Mr. Frank Fox as Tommy Burke was amusing, and proved himself a capable comedian. *The Coastguardman's Daughter* has also been successfully presented.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman.—This week *A Destroyer of Men* is being presented by Mr. James Hare and company, and is meeting with a capital reception. Mr. James Hare plays with ability and resource and is seen to distinct advantage as Karl Mischala. The vindictive Olga Mischala is cleverly portrayed by Miss Irene Clifford. The part of Michael Mischala is exceptionally well taken by Mr. Charles Bickell. Miss Gladys Lloyd gives a pleasing and sympathetic reading of Vidal Ravel. The Count Starevitch of Mr. C. P. Wentworth is an able performance, and worthy of much praise. Mr. Ross Warren infuses plenty of humour into the part of Coco Tachoski. Miss Alice Buckland's portrayal of Nina Pattakake is clever and finished. Mr. Chas. Coventry admirably sustains the part of Fedor Strellitski. Colonel Linlevitch is in the safe hands of Mr. Arthur Swain, while Mr. Arthur Minns gives a creditable performance as Sergeant Keana.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs. Charles Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—The programme submitted to a well-filled house on Monday was one of all-round merit. A most enjoyable turn is given by Rita and Roma, vaudeville entertainers. The Stanley and Henderson Quartette are here another week, and are still popular favourites. George Hyam is a clever comedian; Leo and Jerry give a smart and amusing ventriloquial turn; Nellie Rose, with song and dance, is much appreciated; the Decars with their untamable donkey Tomato succeed in winning applause; Wheater and Day are an amusing couple; while W. Meer is an up-to-date comedian. The Loyal Dominion company's Animated Pictures are still in favour.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. Geo. G. Ridley.—This week marks a return visit of *Three Little Maids*, the company being toured by Mr. Charles Macdona, under the management of Mr. Julian Graham. Ada, Hilda, and Edna find capital representatives in the Misses Mabel Kerridge, Daisy Sylverton, and Eva Weigh respectively. Miss Kate Graham-Beck is very natural as Lady St. Mallory; Miss Laura Wright is quite a success as Gretchen; and the Misses Hilda Stericker, Bertha French, and Nellie Clapton do well as the Three Society Ladies. Mr. Frank Henderson scores throughout as Lord Cheyne, and Mr. Eric Barrington is sufficiently demonstrative as M. de L'Orme. Mr. Burgess Barratt appears as the Rev. Mr. Branscombe, and stage-manages, and Mr. Bert Barton deserves credit for his amusing portrayal of Cupid.

THE GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. F. J. Donne.—The bill of fare here includes Lily Black, comedienne; the Brothers Allen, a pair of nimble dancers; Miss Omega, who gives a display on the wire, and later on appears as a member of the Onatis Troupe of Jugglers; Maud Laverne, a burlesque artist of commanding appearance; and Horace Wheatley, a smart dancer and patterer. In *The Doom of Delilah*, by Cecil Raleigh, Miss Lilian Dundas gives a powerful impersonation of Mrs. Olive Durant.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—The leading attraction here is *Fishing*, a concoction which, as presented by Mr. Harry Tate's company, creates roars of laughter. Gregson and Goodfellow are scoring here again; the Raymond Trio of Instrumentalists give a pleasing act; Will Driscoll succeeds as a swell comedian and dancer, as does Nellie Chandos, with coon songs and dances. Mock melodrama is ably enacted by Conway and Garland, under the title of *Left in Charge*; the Davenports display dexterity in their conjuring act; and the Three Kentucky Girls and Pictures by Lacey's Erascope complete the programme.

CHESTER.—ROYALTY THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Mr. Geo. Alexander's company, in *His House in Order*, is paying its first visit here. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart must be accorded chief honours for his skilful impersonation of Hilary Jesson. He is admirably supported by that talented young actress Miss Dorothy Grimston as Nina. Miss Carmen Woods acts naturally as Derek Jesson. Mr. J. Edward Pearce does all that is possible with the part of Filmer Jesson. A priggish and self-satisfied Pryce Ridgeley is found in the person of Mr. Ernest R. Holloway. Mr. Luke Forster submits an excellent character study of Dr. Dilnot, and causes much amusement during the short time he is on the stage. Mr. Herbert Lomas is all that could be desired as Sir Daniel Ridgeley, and Major Maureward had a suitable representative in Mr. Charles Tyrel. The rôle of Lady Ridgeley is done full justice to by Miss Augusta Haviland, and Misses Elaine Sleddall and Jean Cadell are well placed as Geraldine Ridgeley and Mlle. Thome respectively.

MUSIC HALL.—Agents, Messrs. Phillipson and Golder.—The New York Animated Picture company opened a six-nights visit here on Monday. Several fine films are shown, including a capital series entitled "Christ amongst Men." Mr. Will Hunter, a clever ventriloquist, adds variety to the entertainment. The company is also exploiting Gaumont's "Chronophone" with great success.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—Mr. Macdona's chief company in *Are You a Mason?* opened a three-nights' engagement here on Monday. Mr. Ernest Cossart shone brightly as George Fisher; Mr. E. H. Patterson and Mr. H. L. Tracy were intensely funny as the pseudo Masons; Mr. Buchanan Wake as John Halton, and Mr. G. R. I. Austin as Hamilton Travers, added to the general hilarity; Miss Adelaide Grace as Mrs. Bloodgood was a good sample of the determined suffragette, and introduced three charming daughters in the Misses Margaret Fareleigh, Babs Stuart, and Madge Merrique; Miss Dora Gregory was extremely well placed as the candid and loquacious Lottie; and Miss Dora Harvey made a very handsome picture as Mrs. Halton. The one and only bona-fide Mason was worthily depicted by Mr. Victor Kerr.

HIPPODROME.—Joint-Proprietors, Mr. F. Mouillot and Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Tom Conover tops the bill with the skit, *The Drink Cure*, and goes very well; the reception accorded Jack Lane, the Yorkshire rustic, is quite uproarious; Flo Cecil, a smart comedienne, dances in very fine style; Mlle. Zelda, is a refined musical act, is greatly appreciated; the Claymores, in a speciality, give a most pleasing effect; Tod Lowen, comedian, is a huge success; Harry Bold scores decisively with smartly-told stories; and Mr. James Hargreaves, the popular musical conductor, is loudly applauded for a violin performance.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Two concerts, afternoon and evening, were very successfully carried out on Monday last in this commodious hall, by arrangement with Mr. Charles Macdona and under the direct management of Mr. Sydney Paxton. The dominant item was a very effective demonstration of thought-reading by the now famous Zancigs, their feats being vociferously applauded. Mr. E. Thornley-Dodge was conspicuous as a mimic and lightning sketch artist; Mr. Sydney Jarvis and Mr. David Brazell were highly successful with their baritone songs; and Mr. Harold E. Scott proved himself an accomplished solo pianist and a most able accompanist; Miss Ethel Grimes, a light soprano, was much applauded; Miss Clara Alexander was very entertaining with her impersonation of plantation people; and Miss Katie Moss contributed high-class songs to her own violin obbligato.

COLWYN BAY. — PUBLIC HALL. — Lessee, Mr. C. R. Chaplin.—Mr. Carr Loates' company appeared on the 1st and 2nd inst. in *At the World's Mercy*. In the rôle of Jabez Barber, a solicitor, Mr. Loates was interesting; W. H. Irving gave an excellent idea of a sea captain; Mr. George D. Knight was a typical Jew; and Mr. L. E. Eykin appeared as a ruffian. Mr. Jess Boxer caused roars of laughter as Chas. Smart, a musical artist, and in his line was particularly smart. The best performances were those of the two youthful artists, Cissie Milford and Gwennie Ashdown, as Skittles and Dot. Miss Kate Johnstone embodied Alice Lloyd, the heiress; and Miss Kathleen Loates made a charming serio, her clog dancing being exceptionally clever.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Miss Emma Litchfield's company is here this week with the drama *A Clever Impostor*. Miss Litchfield, in the quadruple rôles of Sarah Ellen, Old Rebecca, Molly O'Flynn, and Nora Grosvenor, is eminently successful. Mr. Stuart Cleveland is most effective as Manual Teixeira, the "clever impostor" of the title; Mr. Herbert Evelyn does full justice to the part of Capt. Desmond; and as Maisie Grosvenor Miss Isabel Singleton is excellent. Miss Maud Steeple is a capable Margaret Grosvenor; Mr. John Worth gives a finished performance of the part of Stephen Grosvenor; and as Bob Darnforth Mr. Robert W. Lynn is clever. Mr. Edward Swinton as Jim Brightside and Miss Florence Gomer are responsible for the comedy element, in which they are thoroughly successful. The piece is well mounted and admirably staged.

CORK.—PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—The star turn here is that presented by the Three Demons, who give a sensational performance on bicycles on a revolving platform in mid-air. Harry Fife sings well, and gives a clever monologue; Du Calion submits a daring and clever turn on ladders; Newmann and Gross are an effective pair of comedians, and provide plenty of fun; Bert Coates' Ten Indian Maids go through pretty evolutions, and sing and dance well; the Orchids please with mirth, song, and harmony; and the Great Tokio Troupe of Japanese performers provide balancing and acrobatic feats. Miss Florence Smithers' comedy-sketch, *Hard Lines*, produced by Owen Dacroy and company, is very entertaining.

COVENTRY. — THE EMPIRE. — Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. A. Rand.—This house continues to be exceptionally well-attended. A clever turn is given by the Leslie Brothers, musical comedians; the Garganis, a trio of smart acrobats, are given a hearty reception; G. W. Hunter, raconteur, is capitally received; Maggie Walsh, the Lancashire singing mill-girl, is enthusiastically welcomed; Gladys Huxley is a dainty comedienne and dancer. The Hartley Wonders appear in a smart jumping speciality act, and James Kurry is a clever eccentric comedian. The Bioscope Pictures are up to date.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Mr. Ernest R. Abbott is here on a return visit with a round of plays. In *A Wife's Triumph* Mr. E. R. Abbott gives us a finished piece of acting as Frank Wilson, and Mr. W. H. Garbois supplies a very careful study as Ellis Jordan. Mr. Douglas C. Phelps makes a hearty and jovial Robert Dewhurst, and Mr. Weedon Ross is first rate as Julius Hartman. Mr. Edwin Keene deserves praise for his Ben Bradford, and Mr. W. H. Davis Brown is a capital Stubbs. Mr. D. Pentland as Charles E. Rylan, and Mr. P. C. Douglas as William W. Williamson both do well. Mr. John Lester is quite at home as Willett, and Mr. F. Seen is also in his element as Higson. Mr. Fred C. Roper merits special mention for his Lopez, and Mr. Thomas Searle claims recognition for his able Griggs, whilst Mr. T. Wilson is a dignified Mr. Brackenbury. Miss Kathleen Stewart is well chosen for Alice Wilton, and Miss Marjorie Tennant could not be better placed than as Margery Crib. Miss Hetty Jones is a pleasing little Frank and Miss Ada Abbott a powerful Bessie Dewhurst.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE. Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor, J.P.—Messrs. Polini and Melford's company in *The Silver King* is proving a great attraction here. Miss Daisy Scudamore has achieved a notable success as Nellie Denver, acting with much delicacy and feeling. Miss Viola Holland makes as much as possible of the part of Oliver Skinner; and Miss Flossie H. Daviss and Master Douglas Thomas are two clever and pretty children; Mr. Fred D. Daviss appears to have a part after his own heart; Mr. Edward J. George excellently plays the old servant, Jaikes; Mr. L. St. George Lowther powerfully sustains the rôle of Captain Skinner; and Mr. George Belmore is a capital Henry Corkel; Mr. Warriss Lindon renders able service as Gripps, and Mr. Arthur H. Rooke is good as Geoffrey Ware.

CROOK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Limited; Manager, Mr. Wallace Davidson.—This week Mr. Dickie Clarke's company of comedians are appearing in the musical absurdity, *Lucky Liza*, in which Mr. Dickie Clarke causes merriment in a triple rôle. The title part is ably represented by Miss Madge Browie, and Miss Vesta Brownie as the romantic Virginia does exceedingly well.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company is paying a welcome return visit here, the répertoire being *The Mikado*, *The Gondoliers*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Trial by Jury*, *Patience*, *Yeomen of the Guard*, and *Iolanthe*. On Tuesday *The Gondoliers* won much favour. Mr. Tom Redmond was remarkably good as Don Alhambra del Bolero; Mr. Charles R. Walenn deserves warm praise for his rendering of the Duke of Plaza-Toro; Mr. Leicester Tunks made a big hit as Luiz; and Messrs Pacie Ripple and Albert Kavanagh were quite up to the mark as Marco Palmieri and Giuseppe Palmieri. Miss Theresa Rassam exactly fitted the rôle of the Duchess of Plaza-Toro; Miss Mabel Graham made a charming Casilda; Miss Hope Hastings enacted Gianetta in the best possible manner; and Miss Lulu Evans made a pleasing impression as Tessa. The chorus was exceptionally fine.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—Mr. Frank E. Burdette's company, in *The Indian Mutiny*, is the attraction here this week. Mr. Edward M. Hamilton as Lieutenant Manley does well. Mr. Cyril Harrison as Captain Manley is very good; Mr. John Davidson is capable as Major Ingleby; Mr. Cecil Morland is a characteristic Terry O'Brien; Mr. Villiers Stanley as Nebu Singh acts with ability; Mr. J. S. Sheddon gives an admirable impersonation of Abul Khan; and Mr. Ernest Keand submits an excellent representation of Ra Goonga. Miss Agnes Kingston is very pleasing as Kate Ingleby; and Miss Melrose Millett fills the difficult rôle of Ghuz-nah in a powerful manner.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Walter Gibbons; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—A palatable and varied bill of fare is presented at this popular house. Lew Lake and company cause no little excitement and amusement in the sketch, *The Bloomsbury Burglars*; Woodward and Walton are clever rag-time dancers; George Newburn gives a number of smart impersonations of popular comedians; Wyndham and Waters are comedy vocalists who are enjoyed; the Three Sisters Sprightly, vocalists and expert dancers, bring down the house; George Antill, a comedian, introduces legmania tricks which cause much laughter; J. P. Ling is a mimic of ability; Lillie Lassah, fresh from Crystal Palace pantomime triumphs, is given a cordial reception; Mlle. Yvette De Laabe appears in her reproductions of sculpture; and the Bioscope Pictures are good. Mr. Sidney Axford is an efficient musical director.

DARLINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Messrs. Warden and Sandford's drama, *A Woman's Past* is here this week. Miss Maisie Hanbury is delightfully pleasing and natural as the heroine; Mr. George Morton Williams is a typical villain in the part of Uriah Craven; Mr. W. H. Hargreaves is successful as David Heath; Mr. Charles V. Sandford well sustains the important character of Frank Dellannoy; Miss May Dallas is a charming Dorothy Heath; and Miss Eva Bertram clevely delineates the rôle of Clara Darrel. Other parts are well filled by Mr. Philip Nailor as Bloater, Mr. Frank Hayling as Scubby, Mr. Wilson Munroe as Spriggins, Mr. Cecil Dainton as Bob, and Miss Phyllis Monckton as Kate.

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company are this week presenting *The Face at the Window*. Mr. Scott Leighton essays the part of Lucio Delgado (the wolf) in a masterly manner; as Paul Gouffet Mr. T. W. Dunscombe scores heavily; Mr. Gilbert Hall gives a careful rendering of Lucian Cortier; and the comedy parts are in the capable hands of Miss Gladys Newcombe and Mr. C. Alan Hineson; Miss Marie Tenant makes a capital La Pinau; and Miss Marie Barrett a charming Marie de Brisson.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Langley Wyatt.—Mr. Charles Macdona is presenting Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sugden and company here this week in *A Night Out*. In his original part of Paillard, Mr. Sugden repeats his familiar success; and Mrs. Sugden gives a charming delineation of Marcelle. Mr. Edward Thirlby's Pinglet is a really capital performance, and Miss Constance Groves is to be complimented upon her rendering of Mrs. Pinglet; an exceedingly amusing and well-played part is that of Mathieu by Mr. Mark Lester; and Maxime is capably accounted for by Mr. Geoffrey Saville. Miss Lilian Stafford is a dainty Victorine, and Misses Emmie Kemp, Elvira Stuart, Dorothy Dance, and Muriel Dance figure agreeably as Mathieu's daughters. Mr. Fred Penley and Mr. Thomas Barry are richly deserving of special mention; Mr. Dare Austin in a dual part is entirely successful, and Miss Lilian Elen should also not be allowed to pass unnoticed. The other characters are efficiently handled, and the piece goes with all the merry swing associated with it of yore.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—The principal turn this week is supplied by the Vasilescu troupe of triple-bar gymnasts, and their acrobatic feats, in which the comedy element is strong, gain well-deserved applause; Edith Muir and Hubert Bartlett and company present a farcical comedy, *The Collar Stud*, which causes great amusement; Kioto, equilibrist, has some exceedingly clever tricks; Agnes McKellar, soprano, with her pretty songs, is a favourite; the Two Zampas, speciality artists, submit a pleasing turn; Chas. Gardner, comedian, is responsible for some hearty laughter; and Jack Rae, as a hat manipulator, is highly diverting. The Bioscope concludes.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—On Monday the stage version of Ouida's *Under Two Flags* formed the attraction here, and was well played by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company. Mr. Wellesley Draper proved himself an actor of no mean ability in the exacting part of Royellieu; Miss Cissy Maitland was a fascinating and delightfully sympathetic Cigarette; Mr. Arthur Elwyn as the cordially-detested Colonel Chanteroy gave a fine representation of the part; Mr. Harry Benson was very good as a gentleman of the "fast" type; Miss Mabel Ormonde treated the part of Princess Venetia Corona with delicacy and skill; and Mr. Robert Faulkner was an aristocratic Lord Rockingham.

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—Mr. A. E. Smith's Christmas pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, was presented here on Monday. The Immortals were represented by a bevy of interesting ladies, including Misses Marie Walker, Nellie Loft, Queenie and Grace Glenville, Cissie Flinton, May Colley, Florence Pierce, Madge Duncan, Ella Lamb, Doris Blackwell, Freda Leager, Emily Brownless, Ruth Carter, May Agnew, and Anna Beardmore. Among the Mortals Miss Frances Cotterell was popular as Mermaid; and Miss Kathleen Garnon added effect to Robin Hood; Miss Elsie Douglas treating Maid Marion with fine artistic appreciation. Sparkling humour came from Mr. J. H. Maxwell, who was an exceptionally capable Baron Balderdash; and Mr. Fred Kampdale gave vigorous support in enacting Dame Nuisby-Digga; the title-rôle claimed the efforts of Misses Rosie Morris and Ivy Rochfort, both of whom were well received; Miss Poppie Howard upheld Marjory Daw in a manner worthy of the best traditions of that celebrated character; and Mr. R. Gordon contributed largely to the general success by his inimitable representation of Friar Tuck. A number of specialities went to make up a splendid programme, these including Miss Marie Walker, trombone player; Wal. Bendene, human crocodile; Miss Elsy Douglas, expert dancer; Messrs Reed and Lerne, novel comedians; the Palace Troupe of lady dancers, and Mr. J. H. Maxwell, big boot dancer and hat spinner.

DOVER. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Ltd.; Chairman of Directors, Mr. B. Carter; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred C. Dew.—Messrs. Power and Kirby's company is this week presenting the melodrama, *Man's Enemy*. The part of Tom Drake is played in a most forcible and convincing manner by Mr. John Power; Mr. Norman A. Overton suggests with much skill the varied phases of the character of Harry Stanton, his powerful acting gaining him well-deserved applause. The dignity of General Sir Arthur Stanton is admirably realised by Mr. William Jeans; and Mr. T. Arthur Ellis is a manly Fred Lisle. Mr. Hartwell J. Kirby's excellent portrayal of Count Lanski wins him success; while a well-drawn and splendidly-played character-sketch is the rendering of Bill Saunders by Mr. Charles E. Johnson. Some good comedy is contributed by Mr. Fred Owen, who gives a capable impersonation of the kindly-hearted Jew, Isaac Barnett; and the Adolphe D'Embonpoint of Mr. Herbert Claremont is a really humorous and meritorious piece of work. Miss Constance Medwyn gives a fine, consistent portrait of Sarah Drake; Miss May Grayce wins the hearts of her audience for her sympathetic Grace Leslie; a most amusingly burlesqued rendering of a servant is given by Miss Fanny James as Polly Harris; little Mabel Spencer as Nellie Saunders is most natural and pleasing, and Miss Jennie Douglas Hicks is most pathetic as the ill-used Mrs. Saunders.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Lessees, The Vaudeville Syndicate; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Holt; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Charles R. Standfield.—One of the most amusing turns this week is contributed by Vernon and Burdell in the form of a sketch, entitled *What Price Me?* Friscari's smart and pleasing performance as a hat manipulator and juggler was received with rapturous applause. Ker and Koe, a couple of good comedians, and Mark Tapley, with his amusing songs, score decided successes; Idalia May is a graceful transformation dancer; and Belle Harcourt is a clever burlesque comedian. There is a most humorous sketch, entitled *Fun in a Pawnshop*, in which Mr. Raleigh Abrahams and a talented company of comedians prove themselves adepts in the art of funmaking. Some fine pictures on Raymond's Biotableaux complete the programme.

DUBLIN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The patrons of this popular place of amusement are being well catered for in the way of novelties and talent. This week we have Alice Pierce, the American impressionist, who gives some exceedingly clever and interesting impersonations of celebrated actresses. Alfred Trentanovi's exhibition of animal training is marvellous, and his mules, baboons, and dogs do some remarkable feats; Lloyd Morgan excels as a vocal comedian; and R. S. Meikle, the Scotch baritone, wins appreciation. The Four Rio Brothers, in a smart gymnastic performance, are very good; and the Musical Schafers, in their electrical spectacle, "The Garden of Melody," is both pleasing and entertaining. Luis Hardt, the boy Samson, displays some astounding feats; and Spessardy's performing bears are particularly good, and heartily appreciated. Derenda and Green do a fine club-juggling act; Johnny Fuller gives an imitation of a cat on the wire with great success; and the Royal Pictures complete the programme.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Chas. Hyland.—Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company, under the direction of Mr. M. A. Leveaux, opened here on Monday with *The Morals of Marcus*. There was a very crowded house, and the play was heartily enjoyed. With a charming and pleasing manner Miss Hilda Antony cleverly enacted the rôle of Carlotta. Mr. H. Nye Chart acted with considerable dramatic skill as Sir Marcus Ordeyne; Mrs. H. Nye Chart gave an admirable portrayal of Judith Mainwaring; and Mr. David Domville did capitally as Sebastian Pasquale. Miss Mary Weigall gave a good portray of Mrs. Ordeyne, and her daughter Dora was well played by Miss Gladys Purnell. Mr. A. H. Leveaux as Hamdi Effendi, Mr. Cecil Brooking as Stenson, Miss Conyers Radcliffe as Mrs. McMurray, and Miss Eleanor Gilbart as Antoinette were all praiseworthy in their respective parts.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The premier attraction here this week is Jan Rudenyi, the famous violinist, who delights everybody with his brilliant playing. He is ably assisted by Miss Dora De Winton and Mr. John D. Saunders in "The Power of Music." The marvellous hand-jumping feats performed by the Steineretto Troupe are adequately appreciated; Harry Thorpe and Zoe Coe have a decidedly amusing sketch in *My Burglar*; Sybil St. Elmo, a charming ballad vocalist, sings her songs in a pleasing and artistic manner; Lily Tiso is a *chic* comedienne and dancer; and Professor Vox gives a novel and amusing ventriloquial performance; Harry Clifford scores heavily with his comic effusions; and Blanche Vincent, burlesque artist, is deservedly applauded for her excellent songs. Carney and Armstrong do a clever act; and the Empire Pictures are as interesting as ever.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—A good programme here this week is headed by Katie Lawrence, an old Dublin favourite, who renders her songs in a manner that sets the audience cheering lustily. Hall and Wilson, in a novel and exciting bicycle race, are deservedly applauded; Joe Cookson's ventriloquial turn is eminently successful. An entertaining vocal and instrumental act by Henrietta and Selina proves vastly popular; Cronow, facial expert, is well received; the Garellys, in a double club speciality act, are warmly appreciated; and Nono, coon vocalist and dancer, scores. Kitty Phelps finds a ready acceptance for her vocal contributions; Onda and Leon, in a gymnastic display, are clever and amusing; and the bioscope pleases with new films.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Chas. A. James.—The programme this week consists of Jack Danby, comedian; Howard Callon, actor vocalist; Miss Annie, serio and mandolinist; Little Prince, comedian and dancer; and the cinematograph.

DUMFRIES. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. W. E. Potts; Manager, Mr. Payne-Seddon.—For three nights this week, commencing Monday, we had Mr. Wentworth Croke's company, with Miss Minnie Palmer, in *My Sweetheart*. Mr. Robert H. Howard was all that could be desired as Tony; Mr. Richard Elliott's impersonation of Dr. Oliver was excellent; Mr. Alfred Ibberson's Dudley Harcourt was well portrayed; Miss Minnie Palmer as usual was a great success as Tina; Miss Mildred Sylvestre played with ability as Mrs. Fleeker; and Mrs. H. E. Russell and Miss Elsie Forster as Mrs. Hatzell and Peek-a-Boo were both well placed.

DUNDEE.—PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—Miss Ella's performing lions are a strong top turn. These monarchs of the forest go through a marvellous performance, and their fair trainer receives much hearty applause at the conclusion of her daring entertainment; Victor Travers is a first-class comedian; Les Bollingers, rag painters, contribute a very pretty turn; and the Levans score with their illustrated songs; Vasey and Ramsey in their well worked comedy act, are vastly amusing, their excellent dancing being a feature of their turn; May Tudor, a chic comedienne with a taking style, is accorded a hearty reception; as are also Alfred Ripon, ventriloquist, and Crossley and Walker, cross-talk comedians. Vernon's Bioscope complete a good all-round bill.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—Topping the bill are Le Cren Trio, eccentric dancers, who appear with great success in their military absurdity; Daisy De Roy, charmingly gowned, sings all her latest successes, and enhances her already high reputation here; Russ Dene, coon comedian and banjoist, makes a decided hit; as does also Sefton Brooks, an artist of outstanding ability; the Farrows, burlesque artists, are responsible for much mirth; and Sam Paul is exceptionally good as an actor-vocalist; Sabino in an enjoyable musical act, and Magda, in artistic poses, are popular items. The Cronophone and the cinematograph complete the attractions.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—After a successful fortnight of animated pictures, drama again holds the boards here, *A Marriage of Convenience* being presented by Mr. Stanley Carlton's company. Miss Rubie Maude gave a powerful and careful rendering of the leading part of Stella, a Parisian adventuress; while Miss Georgina Thomas as Elsie Dean, the persecuted heroine, played most sympathetically; Mr. Arthur Dudley as Paul Earnscliffe, the hero, acted admirably throughout.

EASTBOURNE.—PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Messrs. Matthew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company is this week enacting Frank Lindo's drama, *Home Sweet Home*. Miss Leila Zillwood is a strikingly handsome heroine. Joan, and her consistently excellent work is very appealing; Miss Jenny Clare is a bright and lively Sybil Fay with a good song and dance; Little Dolly Turner gives her lines in a natural, pleasing manner as Dora, and Miss Constance Cluer is a very good Sal. Mr. Arthur Hinton works hard and well as Stephen Armitage, and his work grips the audience; in a character-sketch, Mr. Frank Hudspeth is a really admirable David Armitage; Mr. Travis Green as Lucas Lyle is a strong, realistic villain; Mr. W. Graham Arthurs uses his opportunities to great advantage as Dick Redmayne; Mr. Arthur Lowry and Mr. Tom G. Warren both deserve praise as the Duke of Ancaster and Percy Ashfield; and Mr. Lester Norton ably assists as Solomon Keary.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Devonshire Park and Baths Company; Managers, Messrs. Murray, King, and Clark.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's capable company is appearing throughout the week in a dramatised version of *Oliver Twist*. A notably strong performance is given by Mr. Stanley Drewitt as Fagin, and able work deserving special praise is done by Mr. Cecil A. Collins as Bill Sykes, and the fine work of these two gentlemen contribute largely to the general success; Mr. Charlie Clark is a highly amusing Artful Dodger; Mr. W. H. Rotheram is a very good Mr. Grimwig; Mr. Edward Comerback is an excellent Mr. Brownlow; and as Harry Maylie, Mr.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Mr. George Lashwood heads a well-balanced programme, and does much to attract and gratify large audiences. With his pleasing voice and spirited style he gives a rollicking rendering of his songs, and gains unstinted applause. Tschernoff's exhibition of trained dogs and ponies is of exceptional merit, and includes not a few novel features; Denton and Rowlands's company of juveniles, with Little Marjorie Lawrence, contribute a delightful entertainment of singing and dancing; another capital turn is provided by the Robertys, juvenile whirlwind dancers; and the Tupps give a clever display of eccentric acrobatic exercises. Mr. Charles Robinson's fine baritone voice is heard to advantage in several illustrated songs; the excellent imitations by Mr. Albert Whelan, Australian entertainer, are favourably received; Bernard and Weston are genuinely funny comedians; Vetter Brothers appear with unqualified success in their vocal equilibrist speciality, *The Page's Recreation*; the Wyffs create considerable amusement with an exhilarating absurdity, and up-to-date films are shown by the Bioscope.

Exeter. — Theatre Royal. — Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Pantomime again holds sway here, Mr. John A. Thompson's company appearing for a fortnight in *Little Red Riding Hood*. Miss Ella Willmer does well in the title-rôle, her dancing being one of the best things of the evening; while the Prince Allfair of Miss Beatrice Varley is commendable. Miss Fay Desmond as the Fairy Queen is a decided success, her singing being very tuneful. Mr. Fred Latimer as the Dame and Mr. George Newnham as the Baron are very amusing; Mr. Fred Anderson as Tommy Green and Mr. Lovell Rowland as Simple Simon are two capital comedians, and contribute greatly to the success of the production. The specialities include Mlle. Bartenetti, the clever gymnast; and the Boultons, smart burlesque comedians.

Falkirk.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—The first three nights of the week the drama, entitled *The Blind Foundling*, was presented by the company of Mr. C. H. Phelps and Mr. Harry Tilbury. Mr. Phelps as Gerald Dalton filled the part admirably; as Parson Ray Mr. Frank Harvey acted well; the adventurer, Mark Redman, was excellently portrayed by Mr. Alfred George Fry; and Miss Belle Tilbury as Isabel made him a fitting companion in crime. Miss Arline T. George played very charmingly the part of Viola Waterford; and Miss Mabel Hall appeared to much advantage in the title-rôle. Mr. Tilbury as Dick Dobbins afforded considerable amusement, and Miss Trixie Toole as Mrs. Dobbins added to the merriment.

Folkestone.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—*Alice Sit by the Fire* is this week being presented here by Mrs. Russ Whytal and company. Mrs. Russ Whytal impersonates the name part in an impressive and nuanced manner; Mr. J. J. Bartlett scores a great success as Colonel Grey; Amy Grey finds a clever representative in Miss Beatrice Bramah; Mr. Thomas Pauncefort is praiseworthy as Cosmo Grey; Mr. Aubrey Mallalieu capably sustains the rôle of Stephen Rollo; Miss Lucie Verrier makes the most of her opportunities as Leonora Dunbar; Miss Ada Marius and Miss Beresford are good in their respective parts of Nurse and Fanny; and Miss Ninon Dudley cleverly fills the rôle of Richardson.

Gateshead. — King's Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; General-Manager, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Rare old J. H. Milburn, with his humorous songs, fulfils all the duties of a "star" here this week; Keen and Waller, a couple of eccentrics, make a very successful appearance; J. C. Scotter, a local comedian, is applauded for his songs and patter; De Vere and Kenwick provide a novelty by singing standard ballads to the most ludicrous pictures; Harris and Worth, described as "sporting" comedians, treat us to some new jokes; refined and accomplished musical entertainers are discovered in the Ellimans; the three Sisters Thurban also submit a musical act which earns unstinted praise; the Two Kays give a delightful song-scena entitled *The Nightingale*, which is rewarded with well-merited applause; Reed and Stevens, in a farcical duologue, *Married or Photographed*, please immensely, and a humorous picture shown by Vernon's Bioscope causes great merriment.

Metropole Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Coun. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas France. — *Leah Kleschna* has drawn huge audiences here this week and the excellent patronage has been well deserved, for this excellent work is far in advance of anything seen here in recent years. Messrs. Armitage and Leigh have sent a strong company, chief in which is Miss Bessie Rignold, who depicts Leah Kleschna in a manner which leaves nothing to be desired; Kleschna affords Mr. Paul Belmore an opportunity of revealing his great ability; a better and more effective Paul Sylvaine than that submitted by Mr. William F. Grant could not be wished for; Raoul Berton is faithfully portrayed by Mr. Hamilton Deane; Mr. Campbell Goldsmid's Schram is a powerful piece of acting; Mr. Roland Daniel is successful in the part of General Berton; and Misses Helen Belgrave and Ethel Russell as Mme. Berton and Claire Berton respectively do well in small parts. The staging is excellent.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Coun. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's new drama, *A Soldier's Honour*, forms the fare at this house. Mr. John B. Shinton is seen to distinct advantage as Capt. Deane, and Mr. J. O. Stevenson acts well in the rôle of Gerard Temple; Mr. Clavering Craig makes the most of Henry Thornton; Miss Lottie Addison (Mrs. Kimberley) acquits herself admirably in the all-important rôle of Cora Lee; Miss Ada Ryder is charming as Doreen Illingsworth; and a sweet little actress in Miss May Craig impersonates Queenie Deane effectively. The comedy receives the best of treatment at the hands of Mr. Frank Howard, as Percy Brattle, and Miss Edie Macklin as Jemima.

Glasgow.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson opened here on Monday for a two-weeks' stay, producing their fine setting of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as their principal item, with matinées of five other plays during the run. Shakespeare's fairy play is given with the beautiful music by Mendelssohn and the aid of a fine chorus and augmented orchestra. Mr. Murray Carrington and Miss Estelle Stead make a striking couple as Duke Theseus and his bride Hippolyta. The two sets of lovers are picturesquely played by Messrs. F. R. Benson and Clarence Derwent as Lysander and Demetrius; and Misses Tita Brand and Helen Haye as their respective ladies. Mrs. F. R. Benson is again Titania, Queen of the Fairies, and acts the part with animation. Mr. George Buchanan is a handsome Oberon; Bottom, the weaver, is humorously portrayed by Mr. Geo. R. Weir (who was accorded the reception due to an old friend), and his fellow craftsmen are amusingly played by Messrs. E. A. Warburton, P. D. Owen, Stanley Howlett, G. Hannam Clark, and H. O. Nicholson as Quince, Snug, Flute, Snout, and Starveling respectively. Mr. Reginald Davis acted well as the indignant parent, Egeus. Miss Leah Hannam made a most engaging Puck; and the music allotted to the singing fairies was excellently rendered by Misses Cissie Saumarez and Agnes de Liana.

King's, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—This week the Compton comedy Company is paying one of its periodical visits, commencing on Monday with a very complete and enjoyable performance of *The School for Scandal*. Mr. Compton was repeatedly recalled for his spirited acting of the rôle of Charles Surface, and in offering a few words of thanks, the popular comedian referred to the time thirty years ago when, as a very young stock actor, he first played the part in Glasgow. Mr. Henry Crocker was an admirable Sir Peter; and as Sir Oliver Surface Mr. Philip Gordon was capitally suited; the Joseph Surface of Mr. Dennis Cleugh was a well-finished performance; the parts of Crabtree and Moses were cleverly doubled by Mr. G. Wallace Johnston; and other well-filled rôles were Sir Benjamin Backbite (Mr. Vernon O. Crabtree), Rowley (Mr. Charles Rogers), and Careless (Mr. Montague Lane). The Lady Teazle of Miss Mackenzie was an ideal representation of the part; the characters of Lady Sneerwell and Mrs. Candour had talented exponents in Miss Phyllis Relph and Miss Marie Hassell respectively; and a pleasing Maria was seen in Miss Marion Le Strange. The programme for the rest of the week consists of two performances of *Davy Garrick*, and one each of *The Rivals*, *Edmund Kean*, *Tragedian*, *The Gentleman in Grey* (the new play by Mr. Compton's son, Mr. Montague Compton), and *She Stoops to Conquer*.

Royalty, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—*Peter Pan* continues to be a great draw here, and an additional matinée was given on Thursday this week, in addition to the ordinary Wednesday and Saturday matinées, to accommodate the demand for seats.

Grand, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. D. Macfarlane.—The Carl Rosa Opera Company is now in its second week here, and crowded houses continue to enjoy its artistic performances. *Don Giovanni* was the attraction on Monday, with Mr. Charles Victor as the amorous Don, Mr. Edward Daviss as Don Ottavio, and Mr. Arthur Wenckworth as Leporello; they each gave effective renderings of their parts. Donna Anna was finely interpreted by Miss Grace Nicoll; and the parts of Donna Elvira and Terlina were ably embodied by Miss Elizabeth Burgess and Miss Ina Hill. *Lohengrin* was presented on Tuesday, with Mr. Julius Walther in the title-part; *Faust* on Wednesday, with Mr. Edward Davies and Miss Grace Nicoll in the principal parts; *Carmen* on Thursday, in which a Glasgow lady—Miss Retta McAllister—took the part of Micaela; and *Fidelio* on Friday. The season of opera at the Grand has been highly successful, and the visits of the Carl Rosa recall, and easily stand comparsion with, the palmiest days of this excellent organisation.

Royal Princess's.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—*Mother Goose* has now entered upon its last two weeks here, and the second edition of this highly-successful pantomime has been improved by new songs, dances, &c. On Monday Miss Ella Retford was given a benefit, and a crowded house showed its appreciation of this popular lady's share in the success of the pantomime. On Friday Miss Ethel Campbell, the principal boy, took her benefit, and for both occasions many professional friends lent their assistance.

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—The stirring drama, *The Midnight Mail*, holds the boards here this week, and is presented by Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company with realistic effect. Harry Steyne had an effective rendering in the hands of Mr. George Harvard, and Miss Ada Oakley was sympathetic and telling as Mary Steyne; Mr. Fred G. Evison played with much ability the character of Bill Brewer; Mr. Austin Mortimer ably portrayed Leonard Royle; while as Hassen Padisha Mr. Harry Emmefson was a capable villain. Miss Mildred Carr was responsible for a capital impersonation of Nancy Brewer. Miss Phyllis Dailley undertook in a very pleasing and finished fashion the part of Lady Phyllis Eustance.

Lyceum.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Richard Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company presented on Monday evening a new historic drama, entitled *Napoleon the Great*. The performance of Mr. Hugh Montgomery as Napoleon was a highly meritorious one; and he ably brought out all the well-known characteristics of the Emperor in manner and gesture. The sorely-tried Colonel Lavarennes was excellently interpreted by Mr. Oliver Birrell. Mr. Phil Harper as Colonel Meuron made an ideal villain, acting in a most convincing manner. Miss Maude Russell gave a charming study of the heroine, Leonie Marboeuf, and Miss Leslie Warner as Marie Walewsku was equally successful.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Mussett.—A capital programme here is headed by that favourite coster comedian Gus Elen. His many songs are vociferously cheered, and his "Work" song is quite a feature of the evening. Than the Kremo Family it is safe to say not a better troupe of Risleyists have visited Glasgow. Their work is smart and clever, and it is hardly possible to conceive a movement unknown to the members of the troupe. Baby Betty Green, who has been recently appearing in the Theatre Royal pantomime, Edinburgh, with much success, meets with a capital reception. Her dancing is exceptionally clever, and her every action is pleasing. Billy McClain and company (including Mlle. Cordelia) form an interesting turn in the Southern scena, "The Hottest Coon from Dixie." Miss Jeanie Mackay is indeed a pleasing vocalist. Other turns of amusement are Cecilia Maud, vocalist; Chas. Vincent, comedian; James Dunn, tenor; while the comedy turn of Arthur Bedini is well received. The American Bioscope terminates a capital programme.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—This ever-popular house has as its chief attraction this week Theo Hardeen. Mr. Hardeen is frank enough in admitting all comers on to the stage with their various handcuffs, leg-irons, &c., from all of which he speedily releases himself. His box trick, although old, is very clever. Oswald Williams and company present an exceedingly interesting turn, consisting of many and various illusions, and their "show" is highly appreciated. Mr. Williams's mystifications are exceedingly clever. A well-known turn in Glasgow is that of Terry and Lambert, in their character-sketch, *The Cobbler*. Ben Harris and his nippers in their comedy-sketch, *A Promising Pupil*, is another turn which is well received. Hinton and Wooton, in their football match on cycles, as representing local teams, is indeed a novel turn, and both artists deserve credit for the skill they have attained. Other turns include Jas. Brady, comedian; Fielding and Hull, comedy artists; Lidden and Hayward, musical speciality artists; and Dougal St. Clair, entertainer. "The Policeman's Little Run" is shown by the Hippodrome Bioscope.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—Whit Cunliffe tops the bill here, and the popular light comedian comes supplied with several catchy new songs, which go well. Lillian Lea is a dainty singer, and her elaborate scenic rendering of "The Bungalow in Borneo" is highly successful. Ronald Bayne and Evelyn Hope give with fine effect the Drunken scene from *David Garrick*. Madoline Rees, from the Royal pantomime, sings well; and Ada Martine, from the Metropole pantomime, is a very neat dancer. Lena Brunton's imitations are extremely good; the Donatos, one-legged acrobats, contribute a particularly clever acrobatic turn; James A. Reilly and May Templeton appear as a Dutchman and his girl with success; and Bert Dansie gives a clever descriptive song.

Coliseum. — Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—A very attractive programme is submitted here this week. Fred Karno's *Football Match* production is amusing large audiences; Jordan and Harvey, Hebrew comedians, are fresh arrivals. Other notable turns include the Three Consol Girls, acrobatic dancers; the Ongars, vocalists and dancers; Sylvesta, magician; King Kingston, descriptive tenor; Vay's Juveniles, in a clever comedy sketch; the Bioscope, with an up-to-date series of pictures; and Fred Kitthen and Frank Lister's company, in the powerful dramatic sketch, *No. 99*, in which Frank Lister acts with much effect as the convict.

Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—Rose Elliott, the sweet singer of sensible songs, is the star here, and her tuneful ballads catch on immensely. Ernest Rees, the droll comedian, is another strong favourite, and shines alike in song and patter. Rosa Loader gives a most enjoyable musical turn as "a slavey at the piano." The Falcons are extremely clever acrobatic equilibrists, with a host of new feats and smart comedy items. George Helm and Emmie Cozens do well in a comedy sketch, *The Doctor and the Patient*; Bros. Durrant are clever acrobats and contortionists, with an airship novelty; Hastings and Fields contribute a neat song and dance turn; Will Letters is clever in his eccentric ditties; Reynold's Minstrels give a typical negro entertainment; and the Bioscope Pictures conclude an attractive programme.

Gaiety.—Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—Williams and Warden, the popular Irish comedians, top the bill here, and have had a cordial reception; Mark Anthony, comedian, has also proved a favourite, his several songs being rendered in pleasing fashion. The other artists include Vincent, expert acrobat; Clark and Gold, American banjo artists; the Jays, patter comedians; the Percys, duettists and dancers; Lillie Laurie, soprano; Andy Conlin, contortionist; and the Bioscope, with a novel series of pictures.

Glossop. — Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. Lingford Carson's répertoire company (under the direction of Mr. Charles Draycott) is here this week. On Monday and Tuesday large houses witnessed good representations of the drama *A Modern Adventuress*. Mr. Draycott gave a masterly exposition of the character of Pietro Donelli; Mr. Morley Carroll was well placed as William Delby; and Mr. Sydney C. Cranston gave a clever portrayal of the hero, Harry Delby. Mr. J. Dobson Clyde was prominent as Walter Beale, a detective; whilst Mr. H. Scatchard as Steve Meredith left nothing to be desired. Mr. Ernest J. Fare was praiseworthy as Wallace Danton; Mr. Will White (John Crompton) and Miss Nellie V. Warden (Sally Hodges) provided plenty of fun, and also contributed good songs; Miss Muriel Thompson in the dual parts of Violet Meredith and Maud Delby displayed much skill; Miss Marie Robson was sympathetic as Vinette Delby. The week's programme included *The Heart of a Hero*, *The Octoroon*, and *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*.

Gloucester. — Palace. — Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—Fred Cary heads the bill this week with an excellent turn; George and Edwards, comedians, give some smart patter and dancing; The Cecilias, lady instrumentalists, do well; Edie Endon is a clever sand dancer; a graceful act on the trapeze is contributed by Queenie Lolo; Vera Mayne is in favour as a singer; Little May is kindly received in her Irish dance; Emmie Holder, with a really fine voice, receives full recognition; Hector and Sultan are good in a comedy turn; and the Jackley Trio keep the fun going in their comedy speciality. The Palace Bioscope, as usual, shows some good films.

Great Yarmouth.—Royal Aquarium—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's company is here this week with *The Beast and the Beauty*. Mr. Herbert Ford gives an effective representation of Jack Barrymore (the Beast) and Miss Lydia Audre is excellent as Violet (the Beauty). Other characters capitally portrayed are the Earl of Loman by Mr. William E. Passmore, Henry Denver by Mr. Bernard Mervyn, Tom Chicken by Mr. Will Corrie, Dick Soanes by Mr. Harry Wimpenny, Ned Samson by Mr. Eric Campbell, Mr. Sharp by Mr. Alfred Wood, James by Mr. Harry Seton, Clarice by Miss Gertrude Camp, Mimi by Miss Mamie Rendle, and Deliah Vane by Miss Daisy Gwynne.

Greenock.—Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietors, the Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—The musical play *Florodora*, presented by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's No. 1 company, is the attraction here this week. Mr. Alf E. Passmore as Anthony Tweedlepunch plays in mirth-provoking style; Mr. Stanley White is an excellent Cyrus Gilfain; Mr. H. V. Cropton is distinctly good as Frank Abercoed; and the same may be said of Mr. Harold Perry as Captain Donegal. Miss Kate Leicester acts with appropriate dignity as Lady Holyrood; Miss Daisy Lake is a winsome Dolores, and sings throughout with great charm; Miss Lily Gullick acts well as Angela Gilfain, and sings and dances delightfully. The chorus and augmented orchestra, under the able direction of Mr. W. Brightwell, add much to the attractiveness of the popular play.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—Curtis and Vanity, American comedy artists, who head the bill here, give a smart performance, and are loudly applauded. The Brothers Hayes do some clever business in *The Porter and the Professional*; an amusing sketch is that presented by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shelley, entitled *Miss Summerson's Baby*; Gertie Douglas is a clever artist, who sings well; Bert Lytton, comedian, is successful, and the Empire pictures are up to date.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. A. White.—The bill here includes the Harvey Boys, who amuse with their boxing speciality act, entitled *That was Me*; the Sisters Poole sing and dance in a pleasing manner; the Ringling Trio are clever stilt-walkers; Jock McNab and company appear in a farcical comedy entitled *The Egyptian Mummy*, creating great amusement; Kit Keen, coloured comedian, obtains applause; and the pictures shown by the Paviscope make up a good show.

Grimsby.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry.—Mr. Ian Maclaren is presenting a series of Shakespearean plays and old English comedies. The week was opened with the ever-popular *David Garrick*, and Mr. Maclaren's impersonation of the actor was an excellent piece of work. Miss Edith Coleman supported him admirably as Mabel Brockson. Other plays staged during the week were *Othello*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Hamlet*, and *Macbeth*.

Curry's Tivoli.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—The Aquamaroff Troupe of Russian dancers and singers give a most interesting performance; a capital sketch is given by Howard and Collinson; and others appearing are Angeline, a clever lady juggler; Harry Bickley, comedian; Mdlle. Roza and her dogs; Eadie and Ramsden, in a sketch; Cedar and Elgar, comedians; and Auto, an instrumentalist.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—"Uncle Willie" Churchill is enhancing his reputation here as a humorist, and his witticisms cause roars of laughter; Les Rollis present a novelty as the artist and the monkey; and others contributing to the programme are Li Chang Hi, Chinese magician; Lola Patey, burlesque actress; Storey and Trigg, eccentrics; Miss Hulo Hodgson and Mr. Harry Lowther, in a sketch; the Cymros, comedy duettists; and Carson Hicks, coon singer.

Halifax.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—The visit of Mr. Norman V. Norman in a répertoire of costume plays has aroused considerable interest here. *Robin Hood* was given a great welcome on Monday. The striking personality of Mr. Norman made him a warm favourite in the title-rôle; Miss Beatrice Wilson's Maid Marion was a delightful and artistic achievement; Mr. Aubrey Mather aroused enthusiasm as Little John; a plausible Lord Guy of Gisborne was found in Mr. Norman Leslie; Mr. Brember Wills soon earned the execrations of the audience as Simon; and Mr. Kenneth Bruce was admired as King Richard; Mr. Francis Hope proved a good-humoured Friar Tuck.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—An attractive company is headed this week by Mdlle. Irma Lorraine, whose posing is much admired; the New York Comedy Four are also warmly greeted; Frank Cumminger and Miss Colona, champion buckwing and speciality dancers, are exceptionally smart; and Herbert Lenton, expert equilibrist; J. W. Mace and Rose Harvey, together with the Ergotti and King Luis Troupe, Risley performers, create favourable impressions.

Palace and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Ed. Harrison.—The Harmony Four supply one of the brightest turns that has ever visited here; Edwards and Dacre are successful in a duologue, "What a Life"; a clever turn is provided by Simosa San, a juggler, who introduces some wonderfully trained pigeons; Max Duffek, Hary Taylor, Bros. Krags, and Mdlle. Rolland, and some interesting pictures are also among the attractions.

Hanley. — Royal, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company is paying a welcome return visit in *Lucky Durham*. Mr. Edmund Kennedy is once more seen in his faithful portrayal of John Durham, which is truly clever and artistic; Miss Helen Belmore contributes a charming interpretation of Helen Vallerton, and as the mother of John Durham, Miss Louisa Gourlay is delightful; Mr. Robert Forsyth is well placed as Lord Mountfallon; as the Hon. Reginald Steighton Mr. Arthur Leigh once more presents a fine character sketch; Mr. A. E. Walker is a capital Mr. Vallerton; Miss Frances Wolviston as Lady Mountfallon is distinctly successful; and Miss Florence Dulhunty as her daughter is exceedingly good.

Grand.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—A capital programme is submitted this week. The Melody Makers, under the direction of Mr. Cecil Clarke, are seen in a vocal and instrumental sketch, *The Burglar's Dream*; Mr. Darrel Llewellyn's fine baritone voice is heard to advantage, and the dancing of Mr. Hugh Ray is appreciated; Dinah Morris and her company of Southern Belles are seen in a musical sketch, *The Lost Coon*; Selina Braatz, in her juggling performance, brings down the house; Tom Maxwell and Virginia Francis return in their comedy act, which is most diverting; Beatie Renee is a smart comedienne and mimic; Frank Harwood has a good presence and sings in taking style; George Brooks, comedian, scores; and Forster's Comedy Company is seen in a capital sketch, *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law*. The pictures include the wreck of the "Berlin."

Hastings.—Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—A strong attraction is found here this week in Mr. Lewis Waller's company in *Brigadier Gerard*. Mr. Langhorne Burton makes a great success as Captain Gerard, giving a delightful representation of the redoubtable young Gascon. No less successful is Miss Muriel Godfrey Turner, who appears as La Comtesse de Roquelaure, a part that is suited to her personality and her great dramatic talents; Mr. Arthur Somers makes an admirable Napoleon, looking and acting the part effectively; a favourable impression is made by Mr. George Mallett in his able portrayal of the great Talleyrand; Mr. J. Henry Twyford plays the boastful Major Bron vigorously; and Miss Margery Chard imbues the part of Agnes with brightness and charm. Admirable service is also rendered by Messrs. Cecil Wynne, Sidney Young, James Crowe, Reginald Mason, Harry Turner, and the remainder of the numerous cast. The play is very nicely staged, and meets with a deservedly favourable reception.

Huddersfield.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews. — Mr. Frederick Melville's drama, *The Ugliest Woman on Earth* is here, with Miss Beatrice Homer in the chief part. The supreme ugliness is, except for one brief flash, discreetly veiled, but Miss Homer does good work under even such a disadvantage; exceptional ability as a comedian is shown by Mr. T. Edlin as Herrick; Miss Nellie Jackson as Aggie is a distinct help; the hero is played in a straightforward, effective manner by Mr. Philip Darien; and Mr. Leyton Cancellor as Gold and Miss Nell Oliver as Rose Courtney do good work.

Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—At the head of a thoroughly interesting programme are the Three Rainats in a smartly executed and daring performance on the flying trapeze. There are also here the Five Vernons, brilliant xylophone players; Henderson, a blind musician, who charms with his contributions as a concertina-player of high-class music; Walter Curtis, whose funniosities create roars of laughter; Miss Florence Deighton, ballad vocalist; Miss Addie Dorina, who gives a clever protean turn in her sketch, *Dr. Spot's Patients*; Frank Boyce, descriptive vocalist; Mlle. Onra, in her performance on the slack wire; and some new and interesting pictures on the Biograph.

Hull. — Theatre Royal. — Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Hull has been hearty in its acclamations of *The Little Stranger*, and Mr. Michael Morton's play has fully caught on. No wonder when talented Master Ed. Garrett is the Little Stranger. He has a manner of making the audience roar that few could beat. Mr. Wynn Miller's pretty little play—itself a perfect model of dramatic construction—forms a most attractive second piece, and a curtain-raiser miles above the average.

Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Local Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller. — The Karnos and *His Majesty's Guests* are interchangeable terms—both are productive of much fun. The extravaganza brings with it this time a fresh Sergt. Lightning; though we do not see the name of Fred Kitchen, we have a very clever substitute in Mr. Geo. Hestor. The Shoplifter is capitally portrayed by Miss Leonora Castelle.

Alexandra Theatre. — Mortons, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—The name of Melville is one with which to conjure up images of melodrama. This week his *Soldier's Wedding* is proving the drawing power of his work. It tells an old tale with considerable force, and is breezy and bright. As the soldier hero, Mr. Wingold Lawrence finds full scope for his powers; Miss Jessie Winter has a rôle in which she secures the audience's sympathy. Good business has been the result of this visit.

Palace. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Jno. S. Barnett. — George Leyton, the celebrated actor-vocalist, creates a good impression with his new scena, *The Wreck of the Birkenhead*. The next principal turn is Henry J. Corner, who leads in *The Dandies*. Another excellent engagement is that of Andrew Roy, from Covent Garden; his songs are well rendered and aptly illustrated. Simms and Simms are clever comedy instrumentalists; the Neilson Sisters are dainty comediennes and dancers; and Ailsa Douglas is a capable vocalist. The Two Bostons complete an excellent company.

Empire.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—The Leopold family of acrobats are good tumblers; illustrated songs by Agnes Lynch are well rendered; and Miss Henriquette Maude describes in an original, clever, and racy style pictures of her travels. The other turns are quite up to the average.

The New Hippodrome.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Tom Lunn.—The Burnells, musical comedy artists, top the bill in their sketch *On the Links*; Tom Lloyd and Walter Stanley have some excellent songs; Winifred Stewart, soubrette, makes a big hit; and the Five Casino Girls are clever musicians. Milner Verron and the Mahatmas complete the bill.

The Circus.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—The Globe Animated Pictures are amusing big crowds nightly. Mr. J. C. Oliver also gives an interesting turn.

Hyde.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Good houses are again the rule here this week. The Kurios, a funny trio, create roars of laughter; the Three Derbys, clever acrobats, in skilful feats are loudly applauded; the Sisters Varley are charming duettists; Bee Sinclair sings with artistic expression; Flo Melville throws plenty of spirit into her songs; Arthur Bearle is a talented mimic; Varden creates merriment by his ventriloquial sketch; Shavo is an expert juggler; and the Bioscope pictures are greatly enjoyed.

Ohmy's Circus.—The Phillipi Brothers, in their marvellous acrobatic staircase act and other feats, are proving a great draw here. They share the honours with the Performing Bulls; the Watsons, smart acrobats; Kyasyas (Jack and Cassa), who are loudly applauded; Miss Lily and Claude Ohmy in clever riding; August and September, in droll sketches; and Living Pictures. Claude Ohmy took his benefit on Wednesday.

Ilkeston.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Mr. Harry Graham's pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, is the attraction this week, the title-rôle being entrusted to Miss Mabel Howe. Miss Grace Stafford appears with effect as Mary Muffit, and Miss Mabel Kessler achieves success as Boy Blue, her cornet and post horn solos giving much pleasure to the audience; the Misses Dickie Faie and Cissie Langdale are suitably placed as Prince Charming and Margery Daw; Miss Tessa D'Alberti is good as Fairy Glowworm; Mr. Harry Howe makes a capital Dame, his songs being given in good style; and Messrs. Grant and Kelly add greatly to the fun as Johnny Stout and Johnny Green, their knockabout and cross patter act being highly appreciated; Mr. Will Raglan works well as the Wolf; and Mr. Jas. Green is seen as Baron Badlot; the Escaladers, double ladder performers, are exceedingly clever, and the Gaye Trio are exceptionally smart little dancers.

Queen's Palace of Varieties.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. T. Knightall.—Mlle. Rosini presents a miniature menagerie, which pleases; U. C. Ugo is an illusionist of merit; J. C. Heffron, character comedian, does well; Flo Wade, vocalist; Gipsy Ann, with a dog telling fortunes; Sisters Ford, duettists; Eric King, comedian; and Cissie Ross, serio, also appear.

Ipswich.—Lyceum Theatre.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Grey.—The four-act romantic drama *A Warning to Women* has been played here during the week by a company under the direction of Mr. C. Watson Mill. Mr. Mill gains the approval of the audience by his impersonation of Shaun, the wandering minstrel; and Mr. Norman G. Cannon, in the part of Dr. Marcus Dread, is an orthodox villain; Miss Rosalind Tate as the Squire's daughter displayed both pathos and tragic power in her rôle of Moira Kennion; and Miss Grace Barton did justice to the part of Shelia. Other characters were well sustained by Messrs. W. Benge, Henry Rutland, George Harvey, and Miss Edith Rulland.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The star turn in an attractive programme this week is Syd May, whose clever impersonations of various well-known artists are very clever and amusing; George Prince, who calls himself the Crazy Coon, is very droll; and Fredy and Carmen contribute an attractive musical act. Other turns include May Markow, a pleasing comedienne; Rose and Calvert, in a comedy act; Woolmer Young, vocalist; Primavesi, juggler; and the Cumberland Troupe of cyclists, who are warmly applauded for their unique feats on the wheel.

Jarrow.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jerold E. Reed.—Mr. Charles H. Lester and company are appearing here this week, in *The Bank of England* and *The Sorrows of Satan*. In the former drama, Mr. Lester furnishes a clever study of Sherlock Holmes; Mr. G. Clifton Boyne plays with force as Stephen Hartley; Mr. C. Herman Pullen does full justice to the part of Hon. Bertie Burlington; Mr. F. Ernstone is an excellent Godfrey Dane; Mr. Harry T. Wood a manly Eric Dane; and Mr. Edmond O'Grady an amusing Gordon Isaacs. Miss Lallah Davis gives an interesting rendering of Aminta; Miss Dorothy Riddell is simply charming as Sylvia Barraclough; and Miss Marjorie Davenport does full justice to the part of Margaret Dane. Mr. W. R. Stanley and Miss Annie Thomas look well after the parts of Tommy Sprouts and Lucy Lockett.

Kilmarnock.—King's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Major Wand.—Commencing on Monday, for three nights only, Mr. George Henry's company presented the domestic comedy-drama *The Sledge-Hammer*, by Wilson Barrett. Mr. Cliffe Appleby made an excellent Forgemaster; Messrs. Wm. Carriden and Stephen Crossley as Jacob and Simon, his sons, thrilled the audience in their terrific fight with sledge-hammers; Mr. Morris Maud as Everard, the educated son, was very effective. The humorous side of the drama was well sustained by Mr. Frank Litchfield as Tom Walker and Mr. Victor Rolfe as Sammy Shaw; Miss Jessie Hope made a charming Rose Maywell; Miss Marion Ashly a good-natured Catherine Herris, and Miss Lottie Davis a dignified Mrs. Derrick. Mr. Fred Benton's company presented *The French Spy* on Thursday.

Kirkcaldy. — King's Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Burton.—Mr. F. R. Benson's company opened here on Monday night, when *Hamlet* was performed. Mr. Henry Herbert in the title-part was a tower of strength, and completely eclipsed his previous successes here; the Ophelia of Miss Dorothy Green was a wonderful study, and she is to be congratulated on her brilliant acting; Mr. E. Spencer Geach was capitally suited as the King, and as the Queen Miss Mary Webb was in every way praiseworthy. Mr. Ross Shore was conspicuous as Polonius, and spoke his lines well; Mr. Gerald Ames merited a good word as the Ghost; and Mr. Charles Francis as Horatio and Mr. Reginald Owen as Laertes were both excellent.

Lancaster.—Athenæum.—Lessee and Manager,

ton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertram G. Iles.—The premier position is taken here by Dean Tribune's pantometta, *Bo-Peep*, which is accorded a very good reception. The music is pretty, and there is also plenty of fun, the principal parts being in the safe hands of Ethel Lonsdale as Bo-Peep, Dean Tribune as Simple Simon, Estella Tribune as Boy Blue, Medley Barrett as Baron Bustup, Harry Tribune as Shadows, and David Denard as Dame Dishwater; the Selbinis give a wonderfully clever show as trick-cyclists, besides being expert baton swingers and acrobats, and their reception is most enthusiastic; Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten introduces a number of exceptionally well-trained children, whose entertainment, *A Model School*, proves extremely popular and amusing; the twin Sisters Anderson are vivacious speciality artists, whose smart skipping-rope dance meets with a very hearty reception; Frank Couch, fresh from pantomime, here makes a first appearance, and is successful with his original patter; Lennie and Hast, in a poetic phantasy, *The Sea Nymph*, are very good, their singing and acting calling forth great praise; the Strads are both clever and amusing in their musical sketch, *The Night Before the Concert*; Alice May and company present a humorous protean sketch entitled *Tranquillity*; Sadie Simpson, a smart comedienne and dancer, scores a success.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Interest is aroused here by the first visit of Henri Cot, the French giant, and Prince Colibri, the midget; roars of merriment are called forth by Tom Kelso and company, in the comic absurdity, *The Silly Servant*; the Brothers Adderley are entertaining duettists and musical mimics, their local hits also being smart; Ashby and Moore are capital Dutch delineators, and very clever dancers; Lillian Victoria's male impersonations are good; and J. B. Selph, in song scena, "The Veteran's Dream," is successful; Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope continues its popularity.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Rousby.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company is appearing here this week in *The Power of the Cross*. The piece is admirably staged. Mr. George A. De Gray proves his fitness for so arduous a task as that of Baron Wolfe Curzola; Mr. Chas. Linney as Gerald Fairfax contributes some fine acting, as does also Mr. Frank Stephens as Benjamin Hawke. Mr. A. J. Haviland's depiction of Dr. Leslie Fairfax leaves nothing to be desired: Miss Stanley Burt gives an excellent rendering of Margaret Seaton; the part of Rita Lascelles, the adventuress, is well portrayed by Miss Cicely Desmond; and Blanche Kingsley is cleverly sustained by Miss Phyllis Vaughan. The comedy element is smartly furnished by Mr. Richard E. Nugent as Timothy O'Dowd, who is ably seconded by Miss Etta Turner as Dolly Gray.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—The interesting American comedy-drama, *Human Hearts*, is well-played by Mr. Robert Macdonald's company, under the direction of Mr. W. J. Henderson. The part of Tom Logan is admirably acted by Mr. W. D. Fazan; and Jeannette Logan receives a realistic impersonation at the hands of Miss Maud Lindon; Mr. Ernest Gray gives a telling portrait of the villainous Frederick Armsdale; Jem Mason and Mose Jones find good representatives in Mr. E. H. Dobell and Mr. George Hewitson; Jimmy Logan and Limpy Morgan are cleverly interpreted by Messrs. Fred Lester and Mr. Harry Turner; while Mr. Henry Walton puts genuine humour into the part of Deputy Warder Weston; Mrs. Edwin Palmer plays carefully as Samantha Logan; Little Gracie is nicely acted by Miss Reana Roberts; the Ruth Larkins of Miss Dora Watson is a highly commendable performance; and Miss Althea Hyde appears with success as Helen Shaw.

LICHFIELD.—ST. JAMES'S HALL.—On Wednesday night Messrs. Henry Chattell and G. W. Bowes, by arrangement with Mr. William Green, presented *The Sign of the Cross* to a large and most appreciative audience. The Marcus of Mr. Wallace G. Court was a very satisfactory presentation; Mr. Burton W. Yaldwyn, Mr. Cyprian H. Matthews, and Mr. Lionel Yaldwyn were each excellent representatives of Nero, Dijellinus, and Licinius respectively; the Glabrio of Mr. Donald McAdam, an excellent piece of acting, was on the traditional lines of the part; the Mercia was Miss Nancy York, who gave an intense reading of the role; Berenice was excellently played by Miss Lena Gordon; and Dacia found a lively representative in Miss Dorothy Lambert; the Favius of Mr. W. Burton and the Stephanus of Miss Winifred Williamson were notable instances in a very adequate cast. The scenery and dresses were admirable.

LINCOLN.—PALACE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arthur.—A superb series of art pictures is presented by the Three Graces, three ladies whose representations of statuary are marvellously effective. Harry Freeman had to contribute four songs to each house on Monday, such a furore did he create; and an encore was insisted on for Gillin, a smart ventriloquist. Marion Fletcher, Pyck, Tholl and Taylor, the Alaskarno Trio, Walter Keating, and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux add to the enjoyment of the evening.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—The new Chinese comic opera, *See See*, opened the dramatic season here on Monday, and was received with demonstrations of delight. The fun created by Mr. Frank Danby as Hang-Kee and Mr. W. H. Rawlins in the ponderous character of Cheoo, was fast and furious; Mr. Leonard Mackay as Yen acted and sang with taste, his song, "The Man of the Moment," earning several encores; Miss Lily Elsie was a sweet See See, and rendered pieces in exquisite style; Miss Topsy Sinden made a hit with her special dances; Miss Amy Augarde played well as Mai-Yai, the fortune-teller; and the other principal rôles were filled most efficiently.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—In Liverpool the Melville dramas always prove a strong attraction, and *The Girl who took the Wrong Turning*, presented here this week, has proved no exception to the rule. Miss Frances Ruttledge, in the title-rôle, acted with taste and discretion; Miss Hilda Baynton was a sweet Lucy Coventry; Mr. Roy Redgrave was a manly Willie Mason; Mr. Sidney Sarl gave a capital rendering of Bill Slater; and other able artists were Miss Nannie Meade (Vesta), Mr. Walter Thornton (James Harcourt), and Mr. Frank Robertson (Jack Fenton).

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—The regular season commenced here on Monday with *The Beauty of Bath*. In the title-rôle Miss Ellaline Terriss renewed her acquaintance with her numerous Liverpool friends, who accorded her a most hearty welcome; Mr. Seymour Hicks also come in for a flattering reception, his work as Lieut. Alington being followed by continuous laughter; Mr. Stanley Brett as Mr. Beverley assisted greatly with the comedy; Master Valchera was a funny programme boy; Mr. Sydney Fairbrother presented a humorous Mrs. Goodge; and worthy support came from Mr. William Lugg (Viscount Bellingham), Mr. Laurence Caird (Lord Quorn), and Miss Florence Lloyd (Mrs. Alington).

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—Flush with success from the Royal Court Theatre pantomime Hetty King topped the bill here on Monday, and added greatly to her popularity. A very attractive turn is that of Countess Romanow, whose splendid figure is seen to advantage in artistic poses; Doris Deane, also from the Royal Court pantomime, is loudly applauded for her very attractive items; Marie Jones delights with her quick changes; and Ross and Grayson are well received; Harry Claff and the Primrose Quartette also entertain.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—*Her One Great Sin* has done good business here this week. Miss Lydia Donovan, who brought an excellent company, played Grace Warhurst in a most efficient manner; Mr. C. Quinton Fulford was a powerful Arnold Thornhill; the part of Reuben Warhurst was ably undertaken by Mr. Claude H. Seaton; the well-known Lambert family, so long connected with this drama, were well to the fore, Mr. Charles E. Lambert being a striking and humorous Dan Hundle; Miss Louie Walton repeating with success her picture of the scheming hag, Bet Hundle; Miss Nellie Lambert making an attractive Nancy Wimpenny; and Miss Maudie Lambert playing the child's part of Grace with every intelligence.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Top of the bill here this week is Harry Ford, who has been well received for his funny songs and patter; some surprising illusions have come from Roland; the Columbia Comedy Trio created great amusement with their humorous operatic pieces; Ada Fawn pleased her audience with several popular songs; the singing and dancing of Starr and Jerome were much appreciated; dancing on the wire by Miss Yetta was a particularly clever act; Austin and Cowan were loudly applauded for their vocal efforts; and others in the bill were Ida Ross, comedienne and Tyrolean vocalist; Billie Burfurd, comedienne; Gus Hindell, comedian; and Charlie Williams, negro comedian.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES. — Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—The Royal stock company here is affording great satisfaction with the drama, *When the Lights are Low*. Mr. Percy Boucher causes much amusement with his Willie, and other well held parts are those by Messrs. Cecil Ravenswood, Sydney Grant, Harry Tresham, E. D. Allen, R. Wilton, Leo Montgomery, Miss Florence Palmer, Miss Beryl Ravenswood, and Miss Florence Cameron. The Royal Bioscope shows some excellent pictures.

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. M. Montgomery.—The Royal stock dramatic company here is this week giving a clever rendering of *The Terror of Paris*, the principal parts of which are impersonated by Messrs. Wallace Campbell, Frank S. Stickland, Francis E. Wybert, H. Hesslegrave, H. G. Brandon, Charles Herberte, Miss Gladys Hastings-Walton, Miss Lina Nazeby, and Miss Florence Barnes.

PARK PALACE.—Proprietors, Lancashire Vaudeville Syndicate, Ltd.; General Director, Mr. Walter De Frece.—The stock dramatic company here is this week presenting *A Man in a Thousand*, the principal characters of which are undertaken by Mr. Albert Sember (Owen Penrose), Mr. Walter Foster (Jim Barkis), Mr. Hugh Carmichael (Gregor Gibson), and Miss Lilian Burns (Hester Penrose).

WESTMINSTER. — Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager Mr. G. Montgomery. — Ford and Barris are top of the programme here this week, delighting everyone with their dancing and singing; Carrina Leonard has some taking songs; the roller skating of J. H. McCann is ably executed; Percy Farrimond, the singing collier, earns a cordial reception; some particularly clever painting is quickly done by Leo Cromo; Harry Levaine shows himself to be a quaint comedian; and the list also contains the names of Nora Martyn, vocalist, and the Three Behans, duettists and speciality artists.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Marie Kendall is here this week, affording pleasure with her popular songs; Frank and Jen Latona have an excellent musical comedy turn; Tom Terris and company, including Miss Mildred Devere, present an interesting scena. *A Night in Montmartre*; Dan Conroy causes much laughter with his songs and patter; the Five Bogannys as the Lunatic Bakers, are extremely lively and funny; some delightful songs come from Marguerite Broadfoote, a refined comedienne; Fred Elton, at the piano, has a capital speciality turn; and others who appear are the Three Tauberts, xylophonists, and Steve McCarthy, the Irish coon.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards. *Somebody's Sweetheart* is being played here this week by Mr. Edward Marris's company. Miss Effie Vincent very prettily characterises Lulu, and meets with great success: Martin Blabbs is in the hands of Mr. George Bentwood, whose acting proves a source of unbounded merriment; Mr. Charles Bertram in the rôle of Santon Ashleigh gives an excellent interpretation; and Miss Millie Gordon supplies a natural delineation of Freddie Ashleigh. Stephen Leventon is in the capable hands of Mr. W. B. Nugent; and other parts are well sustained by Reginald Hamber as Old Joe, Miss Maisie Jerrard as Zora, and Miss Dolly Payne and Miss Rosie Chandler as Norah and Molly.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Mr. T. H. Taylor's company in *The Worst Woman in London* is here this week. Miss Olga Andre is seen to advantage in her original character of Frances Vere; Miss Polly Marsh brightly depicts the part of Matilda Parker; Mr. Geo. Gaisford scores an immense success as Jack Felton, and James Milford is played with discretion by Mr. F. Vernon Travers.

MAIDSTONE.—HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—The Ten Loonies are drawing crowded houses to this popular place of entertainment this week with their clever musical sketch, *Dotty*. Ford and Hanson are smart instrumentalists. Kyoto, with his clever burlesque conjuring and acrobatic act, is well received; A. P. Boswell is a comedian with original methods; Miss Esme Gordon is a clever dancer, and Miss May Geraldine, together with the Bioscope, complete the programme.

MANCHESTER.—PRINCE'S THEATRE, LTD.—Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—An elaborate production of *The Geisha* is the attraction here this week. It is in the hands of Mr. Mouillot's chief company, whose rendering is reminiscent of the best days of the popular musical piece. Miss Louise Collier's singing as O Mimosa San is a great treat, and her acting generally is full of daintiness and charm. Miss Florrie Saunders adds a pretty delineation of Molly Seymour, her dancing and singing being much enjoyed; while Miss Violet Kenyon's depiction of the French interpreter, O Juliette Diamante, is lively and individual. Mr. Edward Carlton has great chances as Wun Hi, and certainly avails himself of them to the utmost; Mr. Cyril Thompson is manly, agreeable, and excellently equipped in point of vocal gifts as Reginald Fairfax; and Mr. Lionel Braham makes a capital Imari, chief of police. The remaining parts are suitably filled, and the total effect is excellent.

GAIETY THEATRE, LTD.—Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—An interested audience witnessed the performance here on Monday of *Lights Out*. Mr. H. B. Irving's successfully played version of the German military play interdicted by the Kaiser. Mr. J. Maundy-Gregory's company gave a very creditable rendering, and the general staging was realistic and formally satisfying to the eye. Miss Frances Davie gave a very intelligent rendering of Klara Volkhardt, and a strong and convincing depiction of her embittered father, the sergeant, was provided by Mr. Lionel D'Arragon. As the rivals, Von Lauffen and Helbig, Mr. Charles Esdale and Mr. Richard Fielding played with sincerity; and Mr. Kenneth Brampton was applauded for a quietly forcible delineation of Von Howen. Mr. Lambert Plummer as Captain Lebdenburg displayed some excellent light comedy in the court-martial scene; and others who contributed to an interesting interpretation of the play were Mr. Francis J. Bithell, Mr. Frederick Clifton, and Mr. F. Wigton. A fantastic play in one act, *A Hundred Years Hence*, preceded.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's successful sporting drama *Bound to Win* is the fare here this week. The play was seen quite recently by local audiences, and is still proving a strong attraction. Mr. George Steel as Harry Lyndon, Mr. Edward Fryer as Philip Ayre, Miss Kate Froude as Gladys Orme, and Miss Violet Langley as Marion Forbes, are the principal members of the cast, and besides these successful interpretations good work is done by Mr. Arnold H. Arnold as Buffit, Miss Annie Lee as Flo Searching, Mr. J. Franklin as Ned Oakley, and Mr. Edward Bikker as Squire Forbes. The play has a strong sporting flavour, and is staged in excellent style.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's principal company is here this week in Walter Howard's well-known drama, *Two Little Drummer Boys*, condensed to suit the requirements of two shows a night. A brisk performance is given, in which Miss Kathleen Magee particularly distinguishes herself as Margaret Rivers, and Mr. Fred Emery is seen to advantage as Captain Carsdale. Mr. Archie Helsby makes a good villain; and the two boys of the title are neatly impersonated by Miss Maggie English and Miss Maudie Douglas. Plenty of amusement is caused by the humorous efforts of Mr. J. Magraph, Mr. H. Lynden, and Miss Lizzie Chambers.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. R. Flanagan; Manager, Mr. P. Ryan Smith.—*A Woman Worth Winning*, a drama of "Russian life and strife," is staged here this week by Mr. Percy Norman's No. 1 company. Mr. A. B. Mackay as Fergus Lovinski has a good part, which he renders with distinction, and Mr. Percy Norman provides a strong character study as General Borinski. As Roma Pauloff Miss Maud Buchanan presents a careful and sympathetic impersonation; and credit is due also to Mr. Charles R. Hann as Bardoff, Mr. Hall Eldon as Scribbles, and Miss Ida Mackay as Katerina Kloss. The play is bright and dramatic, and lacks nothing in the way of stage effects.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Miss Marie Dagmar and Mr. Fred C. Somerfield are here this week in their recently produced Venetian drama, *The Tyrant*. Miss Dagmar and Mr. Somefield are still in the principal rôles, and many (if not all) of the original cast remain, of whom Mr. Roy Fortesque, as the tyrant Angelo, Mr. Lionel Atwell, as Rudolph, Miss Millie Ford, as Katherine, and Miss Lallah Shelton, as Eulie, are the most prominent. The play is apparently embarked upon a career of success.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—Sensationally crowded houses—with hundreds turned away from the doors—signalise the appearance here this week of La Milo, in her series of beautiful classical poses. *The Mystery of the Cliff*, an episode by Will Evans and Tom Craven, is played acceptably by a capable cast; and other good turns are provided by Harry Marte, comedian and dancer; Professor Dunning, ventriloquist; Harold Hughman, the Mexican mimic of familiar sounds; Les Voces, operatic vocalists; Verno and Voyce, in their vocal scena *The Amateur Newsboy*; Barrett and Knowles, patter comedians; Kahn and Kahn, in a necromantic act; and Harry Lawson, comedian. The pictures show the cowboys of the West.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—Arthur Rigby and company are presenting here this week, with much success, an original Eastern episode entitled *The Isle of Ooma*, introducing good songs and dances and effective scenery and costumes. Auto-Atlas astounds the audience by lifting with his teeth a genuine motor car whilst balancing on two upright poles. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden are seen to great advantage in a capital sketch, *Two to One*; and Minnie Hunt and Rhys Thomas are equally successful in their trifle, *My Birthday*. The Students, under the direction of Wallis Arthur, present a delightful musical comedy interlude; Stelling introduces his very clever dog Kiswaski; Hettie Chattel does well as a male impersonator; and Carlos Menard is an exceedingly clever trick violinist. Two vocal items by the choir and an amusing film shown on the Bioscope are also included in the programme.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. P. Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Marie Loftus provides the top star turn here this week, her impersonations of past and present music-hall stars being capital, and her reception flattering. Hill and Whitaker make a great hit in their unique novelty in music and song, and the efforts of the artists are greatly appreciated. Mr. and Mrs. Lucas successfully present scenes from the work of Charles Dickens; Shawlene, undoubtedly the world's greatest whistler, is well received; the Robertys Family are clever and amusing in their equilibristic and juggling pantomime; and good turns are also contributed by Constance Mori, a charming speciality dancer; the Macdonald Trio of eccentric musicians; and the Lorrisons, comedy duo. The Palace Pictures, as usual, are good.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. J. B. Taylor.—Jack McKenzie and company are to the fore here this week in the smart musical comedy *The Belle of Barcelona*, the dancing, singing, and general effects being very effective. The Days are exceedingly clever second-sight seers; Edwin Garth is a funny comedian; the Four Maisanos are clever; Little Deene sings well; and other satisfactory turns are provided by Bean and Belle in a pretty scena; Pots and Florence, in a highly-finished acrobatic performance; and Edwards, the Australian baritone. "The Jewel Robbers" are depicted on the Bioscope.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—*A Coster's Honeymoon* is presented here this week in a highly satisfactory manner by Amy Anderson and a capable company. Harry Carlton, the popular comedian, scores as Billy Shine in a successful sketch, *The Window Cleaner*; and Lady Julia is an intelligent ape that does some exceedingly smart things; Phern and Phern are pleasing and expert instrumentalists; Clifton and Gibson; eccentric comedians, have some amusing patter; and Harry Taft, the whistling comedian, is popular. Wright, Ismay, and Wright, in a speciality dance, and Charles Somers, a comedian of the stand still order, also contribute to the programme. "A Loafer's Lucky Day" is shown on the Bioscope. On the occasion of our visit Fraser and Haley, duettists, did not appear.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—The Marvellous Howes, in their clever mental telepathy act, and La Rochelle, in a new series of poses, remain here another week. Tom Wootwell, the "loose-legged" comedian, is particularly funny, and is well received. Adah Grey sings sweetly; Amy De Liska, a good singer, makes a hit with a chic French song; and Craig, Roze, and Craig are clever novelty gymnasts and dental athletes. Other smart and enjoyable turns are those of Tennis and Laune, comedians; Welda and Wynne, sand dancers; Ray and Miles, comedy jugglers; Florence Watson, character vocalist; and Emily Lyndale, vocalist. Raymond's Vivagraph complete.

HIPPODROME (HULME).—Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Kay.—*A Japanese Love Story*, a smart and pretty musical sketch, tops the bill here this week, with a strong cast. The Czar's Royal Russian Troupe of Dancers provide an exceptionally clever turn, and the Three Royal Temples, operatic vocalists, including Madame Louie Gilbert, are good singers. Other good turns are those of Zanfretta and Napio, musical eccentrics; Charles Windermore and Clare Manifield, in comedy duologue; Doris Myddleton, mimic; Godfrey James, singing collier; George Duval, stump orator; and Belle and Broadway, in a novelty scena.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton, and District Theatres, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. C. Clayton.—King Pantomime ruled here this week, when Miss Lena Stanton and Mr. Harry Joseph's capable company presented *Sinbad the Sailor*. Miss Stanton, who made herself a name in Mansfield last season, played the title-rôle very cleverly, her singing, dancing, and acting receiving great appreciation. Little Keeno played the part of Tinbad the tailor, and caused great merriment with his eccentricities; he gave some admirable impersonations during the course of the play. Mr. Bruce Green as Mrs. Sinbad was exceedingly funny; and as King Krusty Mr. Harry Joseph was successful; the Princess was capably played by Miss Marie Santley. The choruses were well sung and the dancing was excellent. Among the specialities, the Alhambra Girls, vocalists and dancers, gave a good turn; as also did P. J. Durney, globe expert; Farrell and Gorman, musical eccentrics; and Wyman, acrobat.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Herbert Darnley; Resident-Director, Mr. Tom Jennings; Acting-Manager, Mr. Mark Lorne.—The musical drama, *His Sister's Honour*, presented by Messrs. E. A'Dell and Chabot's company is here this week. Miss Ethel Ashleigh plays the part of Ivy Merton with great success; as Dora Stanley, Miss Kathleen Eckhardt plays with great pathos; Mr. H. C. Robinson enacts the part of Sir Richard Redvers very creditably; the exacting rôle of Frank Stanley is in the very capable hands of Mr. E. A'Dell. The comedy parts are in the excellent keeping of Mr. Sydney Dean as Timothy and Miss Bessie Dean as Maria, and they succeed in causing a great amount of merriment. The staging is good, and the scenery excellent.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Edward Michael; Stage and Business-Manager, Mr. A. Austin Leigh.—*Caste* has been revived here this week with success. Mr. Robert Gray, who sustains the rôle of the Hon. George D'Alroy, is to be congratulated upon a finished performance in the part. As Capt. Hawtree Mr. A. Austin-Leigh is well placed. His sangfroid is in excellent contrast to the go-ahead policy of the Hon. George, and in this the energetic assistant-manager is in his element. Mr. Wallis Clark gives a realistic representation of the despicable old drunkard Eccles, and Mr. Richard Trieve gives a carefully studied presentation of Sam Gerridge. Miss Gertrude Harrison as Esther is delightful, presenting a charming appearance, combined with delicacy and grace, whilst Miss Mabel Archdall as the volatile Polly admirably portrays the character of that versatile young lady. Miss Emmie O'Reilly makes a stately Marquise de St. Maur.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—Miss Anita Gay, ballad vocalist, sings well, and Mlle. Rosetti shows evidence of skill as an instrumentalist, her 'cello and violin solos being loudly applauded. Vivacity characterises the singing and dancing of Lew Loman, comedian, her efforts receiving due recognition. An amusing turn is provided by Bromley and Fontein, the comic operetta duo, in their scena, *A Musical Birthday*. Rosalie Jacobi sings delightfully some tuneful coon songs, and gets her fair share of applause; Chas. Sloman, eccentric comedian, is amusing, and Lauri Wylie and his mimicking manakins, impersonating some of the leading music hall stars, is good, and what makes a good finish is another series of the interesting Bioscope pictures which help largely to popularise the Hippodrome performances.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lewis Gilbert.—Harriett Vernon tops the bill here, and has met with a flattering reception, her songs and scenas being greatly enjoyed; C. Wordley Hulse and company supply a good turn in the dramatic sketch, *A Fight in a Forge*; Sid Brandon is a clever comedian; and other clever turns are contributed by the Three Delaries, Leslie Race, vocalist, Leah Arden, balladist, Frank Gee, comedian, and the Bioscope with an excellent series of pictures.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's company is this week presenting *The Still Alarm*. Mr. Matthew H. Glenville gives a powerful interpretation of Jack Manley; Mr. Geo. Arthur plays with ability the rôle of John Bird; a highly capable rendering of Willie Manley is submitted by Mr. Tom Beasley; the Franklin Fordham of Mr. Lewis Gordon is most satisfactory; Mr. Fred Osmond makes the most of the part of Doc Wilber; Miss Maud Warburton submits an intelligent and artistic portrayal of Elinor Fordham; Miss Maud Veriton is a capable Mrs. Manley; and Miss Gertie Reed is a sprightly Carrie Wilber. The Lyric Comedy Four join in delightful harmony.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company occupy the boards here this week with the musical comedy, *Mr. Popple of Ippleton*, which makes its first appearance on Teeside. Miss Myllie Hylton as La Bolera is a brilliant success, both her acting and singing being of the highest order. Mr. Arthur Longley is exceedingly humorous as Mr. Popple, while Mr. Tom May as Platt sustains the part to perfection. Mrs. Hennay finds a pretty and graceful exponent in Miss Stella St. Audrie, and Miss Alice Rene is delightful as Mrs. Doring. Mr. L. Bullock-Webster is exceedingly good as Norman Popple, and Miss Cora Lingard as Violet Brinton is very graceful and attractive. Mr. Sydney Courtenay as George Hennay and Mr. James Stevenson as Henry Doring are all that can be desired. Miss Nellie Hodson is excellent as Louise, and for the part of Jacques Kenyon a clever representative is found in Mr. Robt. McLachlan. Mr. Douglas Greet does full justice to the part of Lord Downe, and as much may be said of Mr. B. Pyne as Pat Fenton, Mr. J. J. Dauncey as Hon. Buretta, and Miss Daisy Dennis as Gladys.

OPERA HOUSE.—Acting-Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. Kerr Chatto.—Mr. Wm. Mollison, the famous actor, is this week appearing here in a series of Shakespearean plays. There was a good house on Monday night, when Mr. Mollison, supported by an excellent company, gave a fine interpretation of *The Merchant of Venice*. In the rôle of Shylock Mr. Mollison was seen at his best, his interpretation of the character being very impressive, particularly in the trial scene. Miss Evelyn McNay, whose great talents as an actress have won for her a foremost place in the affections of English playgoers, gave a flawless portrayal of the part of Portia, the rich heiress. Mr. B. A. Pittar as Antonio was very convincing, and Miss Elsie Vrow was charming as Nerissa. Mr. Henry Worrall acted with great distinction the part of Bassanio, and Miss Blair-Staples was delightful in the character of Jessica. Mr. Kendal Chambers acquitted himself admirably in the rôle of Balthazar, while Mr. W. A. Mackersy was decidedly effective as the Duke of Venice. Mr. Ray Cushing as Lorengo was exceedingly good, and Mr. Fred Ellis did full justice to the part of Tubal. Mr. Henry Deas as Gratiano and Mr. Alex Thompson as Launcelot Gobbo were very amusing. Miss Hermione Black and Miss Jeannie Fitzgerald were pleasing as Portia's pages, and Mr. Whitford was excellent as the Prince. Mr. Stuart Black, Mr. Walton Palmer, and Mr. Harold Neville also do full justice to interesting rôles. During the week *Macbeth*, *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush*, and *As You Like It* have been staged.

NELSON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Mudd.—Messrs. T. J. Little and F. D'Arcy's company in *The Shadow of a Crime* has had a successful week at this theatre. Miss Nelly Howitt as the beautiful Loyale Norman adds to the reputation she has already created in the town as a charming actress; whilst Miss Nita Langford displays no little vivacity in presenting the difficult character of Mrs. Thomas Brown. Ralph Esmond, the murderous villain, is powerfully played by Mr. Hugh Newburn; and as Jim Murdock, the avenger, Mr. Wm. Matthews is specially good. There is abundance of really good humour provided by Mr. S. T. Purcell as Tom Brown, the henpecked husband. Miss Nellie Moore pleasingly portrays Dora Bullington; and Miss Bertha St. Ruth makes a sprightly Sarah, the servant. Mr. J. B. Murray gives a genial representation of the character of Sir Edward Bullington; and as his son Harry, Mr. W. Ruddle Brown shows capable acting. The dresses and scenery are specially attractive.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL. Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—*The Perfect Lover* is being played this week for the first time in Newcastle by Mr. Harold V. Neilson and company. Mr. Harold Neilson figures to great advantage in the part of Joseph Tremblett, being forcible and convincing in his acting; the cynical money-grabbing husband is excellently depicted by Mr. W. Lemmon Warde; and the performance of Mr. Frank Beresford as the Perfect Lover is on the whole a pleasing one. Miss Amy Sangster is captivating as the most unfortunate lady in the play; and Miss Gertrude Sterroll acts with distinction the part of a strong-willed maiden lady.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—The popular musical comedy *The White Chrysanthemum* is paying a second visit to Newcastle this week, and it is an excellent company that is sent by Mr. Charles Macdona. Especially successful is Miss Muriel George as Sybil Cunningham (the White Chrysanthemum), her sweet voice being heard to great advantage. A regular "sea-dog" is Mr. Shirley Lea as the bluff and hearty Admiral; and Mr. H. Langdon Bruce as Lieut. Armitage and Mr. H. E. Gardner as Lieut. Belmont look well, play well, and sing well. Indeed, these two part could not be better filled. Mr. James Dallas as Private Perks and Mr. Richard Telford as the Chinaman both contribute very acceptably to the many humorous incidents of the piece. Miss Dorothy Rephton is bright and vivacious as Betty Kenyon; and Miss Wilmot Karkeek is a distinct success as the American heiress.

GRAND THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—*Sunday* is presented this week by a well-balanced company selected by Mr. Louis Calvert. Miss Emelie Polini in the title-part quickly won favour by her charming and natural acting; Mr. Max Montesole gives a capable and accurate reading of the part of the tempter; and the four guardians are well portrayed by Messrs. Wm. Lockhart, Sidney Rennef, Cecil Tapp, and Arthur Vezin. Others prominent in the company are Messrs. Leonard Pagden, Ernest A. Douglas, and Ernest Harrison, and Miss Rosalind Ross and Miss Muriel Pope.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Now a firmly-established favourite on "coaly Tyne" Miss Florence Smithson, fresh from her triumphs in the ten weeks' run of pantomime at the Royal Theatre, appeared as the star artist at the Pavilion this week. On Monday evening Miss Jose Collins, from the Tyne pantomime, also proved a great success. A comic boxing act was given by the Brothers Ashley; and a novel pantomimic sketch by the Vandykes proved quite to the taste of the house. The Society Quartette of vocalists give an agreeable turn; and in a varied act Meier and Mora proved popular. A good programme also included clever dancers in the Britons; the Two Dixons, banjo, song, and dance artists, and Letine, who gave an amusing and surprising speciality act. The Barrascope pictures depict the great boxing match between Gunner Moir and "Tiger" Smith.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton.—Mr. Auguste Van Biene is appearing here this week in the successful playlet entitled *The Master Musician*. Mr. Victor Newman contributes two clever studies of Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree as Svengali in *Trilby* and the late Sir Henry Irving as Mathias in *The Bells*. Some excellent impersonations are also given by an artist figuring under the name of Florence. Seeley and West, musical comedians, prove as successful as ever; Miss Kitty Traill and the Four Royal Welshmen contribute good music; and a novel equilibristic act is given by the Rhoda Brothers. Messrs. W. Cooke and company score in their melodramatic sketch *With Royston's Horse*, and the De Breans, jugglers and sciographists, are another good turn.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Seddon. — Mrs. Henry de la Pasture's pretty comedy, *Peter's Mother*, presented by Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company, is paying a first visit this week with gratifying results. Miss Ruth Mackay gives a charming and convincing impersonation of Lady Mary Crewys; Mr. Charles Harley makes an impressive Sir Timothy Crewys, Bart.; Mr. Percy Hutchison cleverly brings out the salient points in the character of Peter Crewys; Mr. Eille Norwood plays with quiet and consistent ease as John Crewys, Q.C.; Miss Mary Griffiths as Lady Belstone and Mrs. Mallalieu as Miss G. Crewys are excellent; Mr. W. Mallalieu is good as Canon Birch; Mr. Drew Mackintosh is a capital Dr. Blundell; Miss Ethel Royale is an efficient Mrs. Hewel; and Miss Hilda Honiss makes a sweet and engaging Sarah. The comedietta *Chalk and Cheese* supplies an amusing curtain-raiser.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans.—Mme. Irma's Six Juggling Girls give an effective display with rackets, clubs, &c.; and the Bros. Henres in their clever speciality follow somewhat in the same groove. Smith and Johnson, the society coloured duo, are well received; Maude Vera renders some pleasing ballads; and Howard and Townsends, lady duettists; Master Maston, mimic; Bert Byrne, comedian; Irene Ray, serio-comic; and the Mackweys, in their clever and surprising knockabout acrobatic comedy act, are are highly successful. The Palace Pictures, by C. Vincent, are both

scena "Rosie is Waiting," receives a highly gratifying reception; and Orpheus, the master of melody, delights everyone by his excellent playing of various instruments. "The Wonderful Electric Belt," an amusing series of pictures on the Bioscope, completes an excellent programme.

NUNEATON.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Mr. Herbert Baer's company is drawing good houses with the pantomime *Aladdin*. The piece is full of humour, the music bright, the scenery artistic, and the dresses exceptionally pretty. Miss Maude Vincent, in the title-rôle, at once wins favour; Miss Lora Lyndon makes a charming Princess; Mr. David Phillips as Widow Twankey possesses a fund of humour, and is ably assisted by Messrs. Duncan and Morton (Chinese Police), and Mr. Will Sherlock as Abanazar. Mr. Carl Fredericks is a good Emperor. The Sisters Hawke are smart acrobatic dancers, Miss Peggy Lyndon gives a pretty musical act; and interesting turns are given by Ya Pyn Keto's Jap musicians, Duncan and Moreton, Mme. Cordelia, the Ohio Male Quartette, the Empire Troupe, and Mlle. Tankerville (dancer).

OLDHAM.—Empire Theatre.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Miss Mary Austin and Mr. B. Vivian Edmonds' company in *Woman and Wine* opened here on Monday. Miss Cissie St. Elmo as Marcel gave a capital rendering; Miss Joan Periera was highly successful as La Colombe; Miss Violet Sims made a sympathetic Mary Andrews; Miss Ethel Vinroy was a smart Janet Marlow; and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds an artistic Dick Seymour. The bully Alphonso was capitally enacted by Mr. F. W. Goddard; Professor Sauter was capital in the hands of Mr. G. Child; and Mr. John S. Haydon was good as Hugh Seymour.

Colosseum.—Manager, Mr. W. Eastwood.—Mrs. F. Wybert Clive's company occupies the boards here this week in *The Conscript*. Mr. H. Creagh Hunt in the title-rôle, Karl, is capable; Mr. Douglas Watson plays Ivan Manloff in a capital manner; Mr. Walter Steele is a good Count Paul; Mr. Wybert Clive a satisfactory Maxim Fredka; Mr. Wm. Head does well as Doggervitch; and Miss Florence M. Daly as Nadia Truevitch shows careful study; Miss Maud Elliott and Olga Datre appear with credit as Dame Katinka and Catherine respectively; Miss Nelly Douglas and Mr. P. Strongbow as Wanda and Tretch Trotoff present comedy that is much enjoyed.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Howgate.—At the top of the bill here is the Aurora Troupe of Cyclists. Gustave Fasola, Indian Fakir, has some good illusions; Ghita Corri, prima donna, uses her splendid voice with good effect; Elton and Edwin are capital banjo duettists; and Claude Feldman's Beau Ideal Troupe of Juveniles are well received. Ted and May Hopkins cause much merriment; Gus Garrick is funny in his impersonations; Arthur Woodville, comedian and dancer, is very good; and the Royal Dottoscope shows some good films.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—Dick's Comedy Five give a very amusing turn; Carl Lynn as an animal mimic has a good reception; Harwood's Juveniles appear in a good sketch; Renson and Waite are an excellent comedy duo; and Kendrick and Laura are excellent vocalists and dancers. Ruby Emmerson is a dainty comedienne, and D. W. Watson as a vocalist and cornet soloist is applauded. The Dottoscope is again showing some interesting pictures.

OXFORD.—New Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill.—On Monday Mr. Milton Bode's company commenced a successful visit here with *The Belle of Mayfair*. Miss May Yates won all hearts by her delightfully piquant and clever performance of Julia Chaldicott; Pincott was played in dainty fashion by Miss Mabel Dent, who is also strong in the dancing line; Miss Emily Stevens was excellent as Lady Chaldicott; Miss Agnes Tandy sang delightfully as the Princess Carl, and Miss Aurelie de Loriere sang the Gibson girl song with success. Mr. Harry Barber was the life and soul of the play as Sir John Chaldicott, his droll style appealing irresistibly to the audience; Mr. Haddon Cave was sufficiently aristocratic and haughty as the Earl of Mount-Highgate; and Raymond found a most natural and effective exponent in Mr. E. Hugonnet; Mr. G. Alwyne scored heavily as Hugh Meredith; and the parts of the Comte de Berrier and the Bishop of Brighton found able exponents in Messrs. L. Lisle and G. McCloskie.

East Oxford Theatre.—Lessees, Winifred Stuart and Mr. Watson Mill; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. Henry Swinherd's company is fulfilling a week's engagement here with *Dare-Devil Dorothy*; Mr. Walter Ashley who possesses a fine voice, makes a robust and manly Captain George Fielding, and Mr. Henry C. Ward sustains Captain Edward Dudley with praiseworthy restraint, and is well supported by Mr. Arthur Hartley as Hawkins; Mr. Bert Edwards succeeds in keeping his audience highly amused as Silas Crump, and Miss Nellie Harcourt shares his success as Judith, besides giving a very clever skipping-rope dance; Mr. Deane Cliffe is humorous as Featherstone Haugh; Miss Blake as Polly and Miss Lillie Blake as Rosy Ann contribute same fascinating dances; Miss Marie Vere makes a delightful Ruth Montrose, and Miss Dorothy Esmonde is charming and dignified as Dorothy Montrose, singing in excellent taste. Several good specialities are given in the course of the play.

PAISLEY.—Paisley Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Bentz.—On Monday night Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer opened a week's stay with the following répertoire: *Sapho, From Washerwoman to Duchess, Hamlet, Jane Shore*, and *Mary Queen of Scots*. In the former play Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer acted with conspicuous ability and discrimination the difficult character of Sapho, and Mr. Sydney Bland submitted an excellent and skilful impersonation of Jean Gaussin. Mr. Fenton was well suited as Dechelette; in the rôle of Cæsar Gaussin Mr. Leonard Cheetham was very effective; Mr. Robert Pittard ably sustained the part of Cadoual; and as Lacœur and De Potter Mr. Claud Sykes and Mr. Ashmore J. Vincent respectively accomplished good work. Miss Katherine Herbert was an excellent Divonne Gaussin; Mme. Hettema was capably embodied by Miss Adelaide Cecil; and as Eugenie and Rose Sanchez Miss Ida A. Chapman and Miss More Dunphie respectively performed excellently.

Empire.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Tom Toy.—Miss Carrie Foy, who heads the bill here this week sings songs that captivate the house. Others of an excellent company include Jack Weir, comedian and dancer; Jessie Star, Scotch vocalist and comedienne; Sterling and Cashen (Frank and Minnie), military comedy duettists and dancers; the Two Robsons, versatile comedians; Lily Benson, comedienne and top-boot dancer; and Fred Lyndo, eccentric comedian and dancer.

PERTH. — Theatre Royal. — Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company, under the general management of Mr. Frank Eden, is responsible this week for a pleasing production of the domestic drama, *Honour Thy Father*. Mr. Walter M. Cameron's realistic portrayal of Gabriel Garth wins special favour; Mr. Bertram H. Ross is responsible for a highly-successful impersonation of Jack Halyard; Mr. W. R. Winning enacts the heavy rôle of Sir Duncan Bly with the requisite force and tact; Mr. W. H. Melrose's Ned Pennycomquick is quite taking; Mr. Fred Rolls's humorous Mike Copplestone creates a pleasing diversion at times from the dramatic element; Mr. Claude Merton is well adapted to the double rôle of Job Merry and George Bloggs; Mr. Frank Eden is an admirable Dr. Sleek; and Mr. Philip Armstrong is rightly placed as Sam Seizam the bailiff. Miss Kate Newton finely depicts the trying rôle of Gertrude Garth; Miss Mabel Coleman exhibits exceptional talent in her portrayal of Lilian Garth; Miss Ada Salmon scores a success as Poppy Cornleigh; Miss Maud Grey scores in the part of Violet Wilfred; Miss Muriel Dean's charming conception of Mercy Merry is a feature of the performance.

PLYMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. C. F. Williams; Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—The highly-exciting drama entitled *The Golden Ladder* has been received here with unstinted applause. Mr. William Clayton impersonates the rôle of the hero, Frank Thornhill, and gives a fine representation of a manly young cleric; the heroine, Lillian Grant, receives clever treatment from Miss Elsie Marriott Watson; Mr. Milne Taylor as Michael Severn is a typical stage villain; and Mr. Douglas Howard as Peranza is another capable actor. Mr. Fred May as Samuel Peckaby causes much laughter; Miss Nellie Graham as Peckaby's "better half" is also amusing; and Miss Beattie Wilson is an irrepressibly voluble Prisoner No. 2. Other members of a capable company are Messrs. Fred Archer, Fred Mace, Gilbert Elvin, and Miss Teresa Hayes.

Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. C. F. Williams; Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant.—The well-known drama *The Sins of the Fathers* is this week at the Grand Theatre. Mr. Cecil A. Melton undertakes his customary part of the hero, and as George Armitage gives a representation that will compare favourably with his best efforts; Mr. Edward Beecher is the villain, Sir Reginald Moreland, and receives the applause generally bestowed on a capable exponent; Miss Elaine Vanbrugh is an attractive Camilla; and Miss Irma Farington is a fascinating Ethel Harmsworth.

Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Mr. Harry Cadle's company in *Mick Whittingtun* is "starred" here this week. The Leolard Bros. are on a return visit; Boyd and Gilfain are also back again after an interval; the Brothers Huxter are remarkably agile long-distance somersault performers; Keith and Merson are a smart pair of patterers and contortionists; Lorna Doone is a graceful little dancer; Ethel Dotford is an acceptable and pleasing vocalist; and Mlle. Lumière's serpentine dancing, accompanied by electric light effects, is a pleasing spectacular display. Vernon's pictures complete the bill.

PONTYPRIDD.—Royal Clarence Theatre.—Owners and Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—The attraction this week is Mr. Harry Foxwell's company in *An Abandoned Woman*. Mr. Walter Spinner capably portrays Captain Seaton; Sir Marmaduke Seaton is in the able hands of Mr. George Gormley; Mr. P. Marton Wright scores as Robert Saunders; Philippe Malvoisin is admirably sustained by Mr. B. J. Leill; and Mr. Hugh Brady as Paddy Boyle is a host in himself; Miss Georgette Thierry is to be highly complimented for her able rendering of Ninon Malvoisin; Miss Elsie Dean shows ability as Sally Sloper; La Celeste is capably portrayed by Miss Lily Addison; and Eleanor Dean is faithfully represented by Miss Edith Harris.

PORTH. — The Palace (late Opera House).—General-Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—The Joseph Poole's Myriorama and Variety Amusement Amalgamation are here for the week. The pictures are quite up to date, and the specialities include the Wonderful Paulasto Troupe of Sensational Eccentrics in *Frolics in a Garden*; the Veronas, lady dancers and duettists; the Four Herberts, in "Farm Funniosities"; Felix Somers, facialist; Miss May Finch, characteristic vocalist; the Silly Selbys, drolls; and Juanita M. Di Olivera, with her collection of performing cockatoos.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche with company in that most diverting piece, *What the Butler Saw*, are drawing large and appreciative audiences here this week.—The ever-smiling and ubiquitous Butler Pink is taken by Mr. Rignold in his best manner, his legitimate comedy keeping the house in one ripple of laughter. Miss Ada Blanche as Mrs. Barrington is charming, playing the part with archness and delightful vivacity; Jack Bannister is exceedingly well sustained by Mr. Charles Fawcett; Mr. Louis Lingard is well placed as Sir Charles Foden, and Messrs. George Ascott, H. H. Rignold, and Roy Byford give clever portrayals as General Dunlop, Abraham Weinstein, and Professor Shale respectively. Miss Marie Daltra is very good indeed as Miss Foden; Nora is neatly presented by Miss Jenny Wigney; Miss Elsie Gaunt as Mrs. Fleming Smyth and Miss Julie St. George as Mrs. Hake act effectively.

Prince's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—The military play, *Revenge*, is being presented here this week by Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson and company. The exacting part of Prince Orloff is powerfully and successfully acted by Mr. Hill-Mitchelson; Mr. George Daiper as Captain Loris Vanessa gives a natural and manly portrayal; Captain David Carr, R.N., is most capably played by Mr. Lancelot Usher; Mr. Russell Bogue as Jim Jennings, A.B., and Mr. Francis Serle ably sustain their respective rôles. Miss Violet Carlyle as the Queen is quite regal in her embodiment, and plays naturally; Miss Amy Ellam as Draga Vanessa acts with distinction; and Miss Maud Stuart as Tusha, Miss Ada Douglas as Olga, and Miss Alice Barber as Cora Brook all do good work. For Friday evening *Rogues and Vagabonds* was billed.

Empire Palace.—Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—T. E. Dunville, the famous eccentric comedian, is here, and gives some four or five of his inimitable numbers to highly delighted audiences. R. H. Douglass is a very talented monologue artist, who works hard and is a distinct success; the Leonards are a capable pair of comedians, vocalists, and dancers; Reil and Butt, vaudeville entertainers, are very humorous and droll; Vandinoff is a clever lightning painter in oils; the Sisters Pine are a smart pair of duettists and dancers; the Bohemians, comedy instrumentalists, meet with approval; Minnie Wren, soubrette, with a capital voice, gives some very taking numbers; Dick Graham, vocal comedian, and Payne's Bio-photoscope complete an excellent entertainment.

PRESTON.—Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—At the head of the bill this week are the Smart Set, whose vocal contributions and dances gain loud applause. Fred S. Peake and company appear in a thrilling sketch entitled *The Gambler*; a capital musical act is given by the Saxonias; Bert and Dora score a success with their songs and dialogue; and good turns are also supplied by Little Tim, quaint comedian; Jack Hylton, eccentric comedian; Wheeler and Wilson, funny acrobats; and Bruce and Ross, novel comedy duo. Bioscope pictures conclude the entertainment.

RAWTENSTALL. — Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. George Dickinson.—This week we have the new melodrama, *The Master Criminal*, which was presented on Monday evening by Miss Winifred Chalmers's company with great effect. As Telford Lestage, Mr. Henry L. Osmond gave a most efficacious impersonation; whilst as Cecile Miss Winifred Chalmers was equally successful; Mr. Harold C. Macartney as Philip Manners gave a clever portrayal; and Miss Kate Somerville as Mabel Manners was charming, and acted cleverly; Mr. Harry Cooke as Tommy Dale and Miss Mabel Tremere as Peggie Perks were exceedingly good as comedians; little Lizzie Power as Winifred Manners displayed considerable talent; Mr. John C. Carlyle makes an excellent Ben Beaudy, and Mr. Ernest Noble an effective Gentleman Jim.

READING.—Royal County Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles A. Wenman.—Mr. J. B. Mulholland's company is here this week in the farcical play, *The Electric Man*. Mr. Bernard Copping plays excellently as Walter Everest, inventor and electrician, and also acts very cleverly as the animated automaton; Mr. Sydney Lynn plays in good style as Jack Strange; Mr. Legal Robinson as the private enquiry agent and Mr. Chris Grose as General Pomeroy are both good. Miss Dorothy Hullah is effective as Mrs. Everest; Miss Amy Fanchette is amusing as the portly landlady; Miss Gertrude Tate as Stella and Miss Isa Bellington as Mary are both capable impersonations. The play is preceded by the comedietta, *Obliging a Friend*.

Large Town Hall.—The St. Louis Animated Pictures are again being exhibited at this hall. The pictures include both the "talking" and "singing" variety, and a number of interesting and amusing films. Symonds' World's Fair has opened for a season here.

REDDITCH.—Public Hall.—Manager, Mr. W. Treadgold.—*The Sign of the Cross* Co., under the management of Messrs. H. Chatiell and G. W. Bowes, gave two performances here on Saturday and Monday, and met with success. Marcus and Mercia in the hands of Mr. Wallace G. Court and Miss Nancy York are specially worthy of mention.

ROCHDALE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*Claudian* is presented to the patrons here this week by a very capable company. Mr. Wm. Maclaren submits a masterly portrayal of Claudian; Mr. F. Owen Chambers cleverly impersonates the tyrannical Thariogolus; Mr. Douglas Earle is heard to advantage as the blacksmith Agazil; Mr. C. T. Chaloner as Belos, together with Miss Maud Garth as Edessa, create much amusement as a love-sick twain; and Miss Lily C. Bandmann acts with telling effect the part of Almida.

Circus and Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Smith and Co.—Pringle's North American Animated Picture Company conclude a third successive week's engagement here with an entire change of pictures both amusing and instructive. Variety turns are submitted by Margutti, flexible Venus, and Phedona, in a novel musical act with floral electric stage effects.

Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Rastus and Banks, coloured American entertainers, in the *Major and the Maid*, are amusing with their patter and vocalism, and some clever acrobatic dancing is also given; Phillips and Terry submit a screamingly funny absurdity without title; Harrison Bros. are a diverting pair of comedians in *Quaint Conceit*; Rowland Hill, "the curious comedian"; Daisy Morell, versatile vocalist; Marie Dale, comedienne; George Hill, whistling comedian, and the Empire Bioscope also contribute.

RUGBY. — Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geoffrey Fulton.—This week a variety company is giving a very good entertainment. Morritt, the hypnotist and wonder-worker, submits an excellent exhibition; Millie Legrand, serio, is good; Sylvester Stuart, Brenda Leslie, the Boy Samson, Harry Weldon, Charles Bradford, La Sylph, and the Wonderful Blind Man all give turns which are much appreciated. The pictures displayed by the Rayograph are also good.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales' Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Golden.—*An Unwedded Wife* was presented here on Monday. Miss Ethel Van Praagh as Marian skilfully sustains the title-rôle; Philip Blackstone, the villain, is played with care by Mr. E. St. Clair Forbes; there is a good deal of humour in Perkinson Pimple, as played by Mr. Harry Townley; and Mr. Will Casey as Napoleon B. Boomer, Miss Jessie Gillette as Caraway Crumpet, and Mr. J. Edward Whitty as Police-constable O'Runyin keep the audience in roars. Miss Rosalie Heath is a charming Elsie Langham; Little Doris very cleverly portrays Reggie; Mr. Valentine Henry presents the hero, Frank Armstrong, with ability; Mr. Logan Darra works well as John Hawthorne; David Drummond is successfully played by Mr. J. A. Grove; and Mr. Wilton Bedford is clever and amusing as Christopher Lennox.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—The mysterious Japanese art of self-defence, Ju-Jitsu, is demonstrated by Rakir and his assistants, including a not very strong-looking little lady who throws a man with ease; Four Juggling Geraldos, with their clubs and hoops, are very smart and amusing; Barney Armstrong, comedian, gets much applause; *The Grass Widower* is comical as presented by Roy (Harry) and Fenton (May); Evelyn Taylor scores with her songs; and the programme also includes good work by Mabel La Blanche, ballad vocalist; Gilbert's Circus, with dogs and cats; Amy Elvira, comedienne; and some comic pictures on the Bioscope.

Royal Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—Charles Baldwin's company in the absurdity, *Blank Clerks*, this week heads a good all-round programme, which also includes a smart athletic act by the Edgertons; a stump speech by Billy Richardson; some good dancing by La Petite Voltaire; Pueblo and Cropp, versatile speciality artists; Bendons, in song scena; Harry Morris, comedian; Cribb and Cribb, in comedy scena; Fred Casburn, comedian; and some interesting pictures of Western goldfield scenes on the Bioscope.

SEACOMBE.—Irving Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—An agreeable change is provided here this week in a strong variety company, headed by the Waldrons, the principal item being a musical absurdity, *The Silly Burglars*, whose antics cause much merriment. The Three Romars give a really clever and funny triple bar act; the Albano Troupe present a refined and entertaining musical act; Miss Iris Banfield is heard to advantage in a couple of smart songs; and other good items include the Apollo Trio, acrobats and statueseques; the Waldrons, in their well-known burlesques; Leo Vincent, a smart ventriloquist; Sadie Seymour, comedienne; Doris Jeffs, child vocalist and quick-change artist; Will Lemmie, comedian; Terry and Snowdon, in their song, dance, and patter act; Frank Coyle, topical comedian; and an excellent display of living pictures by the Royal Bioscope.

SHEERNESS.—Palace.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Phil Raymond.—A capital company here this week includes Mr. Nick Ohlson, eccentric comedian, who is voted very funny, and Miss Josie Watson, a popular serio and burlesque actress. The Zigzags cause roars of laughter with their clever pot-pourri act, including their marvellous "second sight" business. Mr. Phil Reymond, the ever-popular comedian, scores nightly with his well-rendered comedy songs, and Miss Topsy Levane continues a firm favourite with songs and dances. The Holroydes conclude with *All Aboard*, which causes no end of amusement.

SHEFFIELD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The successful comic opera *Amasis* was presented for the first time to a local audience on Monday, under the direction of Mr. Louis Calvert. Mr. Rutland Barrington acted with his well-known geniality and humour as Pharaoh; Mr. Roland Cunningham, as Prince Anhotep, sang with dramatic feeling; and the part of Cheiro was ably sustained by Mr. Whitworth Mitton, whose voice was heard to advantage; roars of laughter and hearty applause rewarded the efforts of Mr. Reginald White and Mr. Lauri de Frece, as the two eccentric court officials; Mr. Frank Perfit made an imposing Captain of the Guard, and Mr. Norman Salmond was admirable as the High Priest; Miss Constance Drever made a beautiful picture of feminine grace as Amasis, and the charm of her voice completed her speedy conquest of the audience; Miss Winifred Hart-Dyke's dancing was a perfect realisation of the "poetry of motion"; Miss Madge Vincent was a bright and vivacious Natis. The chorus contributed greatly to the general success.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*The Coal King* was played to a demonstrative audience on Monday by Messrs. Polini and Maitland's company. Mr. Lauderdale Maitland as Tom Roberts, played with rugged sincerity, and the villainous Walter Harford was depicted in strong colours by Mr. Escott Robson; Mr. Alfred Terriss made an amusing Jim Williamson, and well-played characters were Mr. Frank Dalton's Dick Shirley, Mr. Charles Whitlock's Sir Reginald, and Mr. John Coghlan's Seth Baker. Miss Gertrude Valentine was a graceful Miss Shirley; Miss Sinna St. Clair's Mad Ann was a strong and interesting character study; and the humours of Araminta were cleverly portrayed by Miss Enid Ross.

Alexandra Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Mr. Bulmar's company is here this week in the favourite comedy-drama, *When Woman Hates*. Miss Chrissie Dunbar is a handsome and talented representative of Cora, and she receives excellent support. *East Lynne* was billed for Friday with Miss Dunbar as the unfortunate Lady Isabel.

Empire Palace.—Proprietors, The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The splendid programme this week is headed by Mr. Fred Karno's pantomime company in the screaming melodramatic absurdity, *Early Birds*, which on Monday kept the large audience in a continuous state of hilarity; Mr. Walter Bellonini and his amusing page were loudly applauded in their smart juggling act; the Three Amaranthes did a clever acrobatic-terpsichorean speciality, which brought down the house; Linden's vaudeville quartet did a refined and humorous sketch, called *The Jolly Monks*; the Howards are amusing comic instrumentalists; and other good turns are Miss Edie King, vocalist and dancer; Miss Ruth Doris, serio; Mr. Harry Drew, vocalist; and the American Bioscope.

Grand Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—The Wilfords, acrobats; Sword and Robb, comic sketch artists; Mr. Fred Southern's sketch company; the Brothers Mills, novelty performers; R. C. Note, comedian; Pallister's popular biograph, with up-to-date pictures; and Miss Daisy Devonport, are doing well at this cosy hall.

SHREWSBURY.—Theatre Royal. — Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey's company are here this week with *The Wearin' o' the Green*. Mr. Chas. Mackey is clever and amusing as Barney O'Hea, and his songs are spiritedly given; Mr. Mansell Fane acts and sings well as Shamus M'Dermott; Mr. David M'Farlane is successful as Connor Martin, Sheriff; Mr. H. Sainsbury makes a smart military officer as Sir Geo. Courtney, and acquits himself creditably in the part; Mr. John S. Chamberlain as the evilly-disposed Michael Kenny, acts well, and calls forth execrations. Mrs. Chalmers Mackey performs the part of Norah M'Grath with grace and talent; Miss Nana Flensberg is a vivacious and pleasing Biddy M'Ginn; Miss Adele Liddon plays with expression the part of Mrs. M'Dermott; the Misses Nellie Moore and Mona Russell both merit praise as Edith and Gladys Astruther respectively, and Miss Kathleen Clare makes a capital servant as Ellen Fitzgerald.

SOUTHAMPTON. — Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Proprietor, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is this week proving a big attraction in *The Christian*. In the part of Glory Quayle Miss Vashti Wellborne gives an admirable impersonation, and achieves a great success; Miss Grace Chalmers is prevented from playing by illness, but Miss Wellborne is an efficient substitute; Mr. Frank Tennant's John Storm is highly dramatic; Mr. Frederick Scarth is excellent as Lord Robert Ure; and Miss Molly Weir acts well as Mrs. Callender; Mr. Charles E. Dering cleverly handles the part of Archdeacon Wealthy; and Mr. W. Brisco Owen, as Horatio Drake, is conspicuously good.

Palace, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Trussell.—Miss Lois du Cane and company provide the star attraction with their sketch, *A Prodigal Wife*, which is exceedingly well played. Austin Rudd is as droll as of yore; Brüll and Hemsley score a success in a novel singing and dancing speciality, *Fun in a Music Shop*; Lillie Langtry is as lively as ever; and the Maples, comedy duo, sing and dance with acceptance; Dan Robans, a very fine singer; Les Frasettis, musical soloists; and Culpitt, a smart comedy juggler, &c., all win golden opinions.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Manager, Mr. H. P. Howell.—Fred Ginnett and Co. are topping the bill with *Turpin's Ride to York*, an equestrian episode which successfully appeals to the audience; Holden's Comic Mannikins is another well appreciated turn; and Bert Williams is a smart ventriloquist; Selby and Myers dance excellently; and others who do well are the Four Hearns, eccentric acrobats; Fred Villars, light comedian; and Maud Esmond, comedienne. Mr. Shackleton's overture of the various styles of playing "The Old Bull and Bush" is both novel and clever.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson.—A return visit of Baron H. Harriss's company in *The Prince of Pilsen* is proving highly popular. Mr. Harry Kilburn makes the part of Hans Wagner, the Cincinnati brewer, stand out, his never-failing humour always having effect; the Mrs. Maddison Crocker of Miss Sophie Harriss is a creditable performance, and Mr. F. Crimp sings and acts well as the Prince; Miss Alice Nixon is pleasing as Nellie Wagner, and Mr. Bernard Russell hits off the Earl of Shrimpton to perfection. Mr. R. Sydney is seen to advantage as Lieut. Tom Wagner; Miss Ada Watson makes an impression as Edith Adams, and Miss Connie Leon is a charming Sidonie. Mr. Ernest Gifford creates laughter as Francois, and Miss Mollie Wynne is satisfactory as Jimmie; Mr. Albert Vernon ably conducts an excellent chorus and augmented orchestra.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Proprietors, The South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. F. Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—A laughable sketch, entitled *Moving In*, is presented by Herbert Darnley's company; the Three Missouris, acrobats, maintain the high reputation which they have gained; clever illusions are submitted by Morimura, assisted by the Japanese lady Miaka. Boy Dryden as a mimic of popular artists is well received; and the Knick-Knacks are smart dancers. Other turns are those of Hurley and Cole in a song-scena, the Fitzroys, gymnasts, and the Bioscope.

Tivoli.—Proprietors, Messrs. J. K. Hall and Jos. Sweeney.—Will Letters, the popular comedian, gets a great reception; Douglas and Jack, acrobatic comedians, are very successful in their efforts to please; a highly enjoyable musical turn with electrical effects is submitted by Handel and Lee; Syd Morris, banjoist, makes an impression. The remaining popular items, Elsie Earle (comedienne), Norah Bremner (expert dancer), and the Tivoli Bioscope, conclude the bill.

SPENNYMOOR.—Cambridge Theatre. — Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—The Edlscope and Barnum Animated Picture and Variety Company, under the management of Mr. J. B. Kennedy, are here this week. The pictures include some of the latest novelties of the photographer's art, and are both amusing and interesting. A series of slides depicting scenes illustrative of popular songs and ballads are also highly appreciated. Filling in the breaks between one series of pictures and another a number of speciality turns are contributed. Amongst those deserving of special notice are the Cedrics, Vic Verney, Stilvo, the Two Ver Vains, Vela, the Oldham Singing Mill Girl, and M. Reni and his clever dog.

STALYBRIDGE.—Grand Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fiori; Resident-Managers, Messrs. W. A. Jackson and Eugene E. Hardie.—The company this week comprises Harle and Harle, speciality artists; the Three Sisters Lee, acrobats, vocalists, and dancers; Nellie Cotter, comedienne; Elton and Elma, triple bar grotesques; the Belzacs, burlesque team; W. G. Webber, bass; Bros. Hannaway, comedians and dancers; J. W. Hall, the Lancashire comedian; and several extra turns.

ST. HELENS. — Theatre Royal and Opera House, Ltd. — General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader. — Mr. Edmund Tearle and company are paying their annual visit. *Othello* was the attraction on Monday evening, Miss Esther Tearle being conspicuous for a fine rendering of Desdemona. Mr. Tearle's assumption of the Moor was powerful. During the week *The Three Musketeers, Jeannie Deans, Ingomar, Hamlet, It's Never Too Late to Mend*, and *Julius Cæsar* were to be given.

Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Wilmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. Vic. Carnell.—Haley's Prize Juveniles head the bill here. Clarke and Glenny, Harry Rogerson, Andy Fagan, Jimson's Dogs, Frank Maura, Harry Luck, Bertha Winder, and Dell and Hall are also among the attractions of a strong bill.

STOCKPORT. — Theatre Royal and Opera House. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—Large audiences have been interested in the America drama, *A Fight for Millions*, capitally played by Mr. Robt. Perris's company. Mr. Robt. Perris in the chief character of Tom Manley acts effectively, and Mr. Alex. C. Grant impersonates the villain Richard Dudley with much power and ability. Most efficient is Mr. Karl H. Edwards as Willie Neverwork, and Solomon Moses is an amusing character in the hands of Mr. Harold Turner. Pearl Rivers has a charming representative in Miss Eva Purcell, Miss Elma C. Turner acts sympathetically as Helen Dudley, and Miss Isabel Edbrook is pleasing as Mrs. Hudson Rivers.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—Hippodrome Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Geo. and Robt. Nicholson; Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—The Lorch Family are here this week, and delight their audience with their acrobatic feats. Miss Nellie Stevens and company present an historical sketch, entitled *My Lady Betty*, which is greatly enjoyed; Spencer and Marks, in their sketch, *Stage-struck Waifs*, are very amusing; and Doody and Wright cause roars of laughter with their impersonations; Queenie May, a young and promising vocalist, is well received; Les Marsumas as comedians on wheels are exceedingly clever; and Poole and Poole are unique in their pedestal dancing act. The pictures are very amusing.

Grand Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Councillor J. Batty; Manager, Mr. W. Batty.—Mike Whallen heads the bill this week, and is greatly appreciated in his humorous patter; Sisters McNulty create a favourable impression with their dancing; the equilibristic feats of the Three Ferganos are highly appreciated; Lilian Lowe is a sweet and artistic singer; and Carlotta Levey renders popular songs with great success; Harry Nelson, a Tyneside comedian and an old favourite here, is very amusing; and the Bros. Ralston, excellent vocalists, are popular. The pictures, as usual, are very interesting.

STOKE.—Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr T. Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr. H. Miller.—A sensational illusion is performed by the Venturinis. A sensational sketch is provided in *Jealousy*, in which Miss Constance Elgin, Miss Evelyn Vaudray, and Mr. A. Bartlett are specially successful. A smart acrobatic display is provided by the Seven Wulfrunas. The dancing of Phillips and Merritt is excellent. Robert Dohn as a manipulator of cannon balls, &c., provides a notable turn. Myra Love sings nicely. The Bros. Levett introduce some clever vaulting. Tom E. Cliffe is a good comedian, and the Pictures are diverting.

SUNDERLAND.—King's Theatre.—Managing-Directors, Messrs Ernest Stevens and R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry L. Carlo.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company in *The Blue Moon* drew a crowded house here on Monday night. Mr. Alfred Clark is highly amusing as Major Vivian Callabone, and is entirely in his element; the same may be said of Mr. Reginald Switz as Private Charles Taylor. Captain Jack Ormesby is in the able hands of Mr. J. Edward Fraser; the Moolraj of Mr. Alfred Beers is excellent, and Mr. George Mudie is well placed as Bobbie Scott; Mr. Thomas Holding is conspicuous as the Prince; Miss Ethel Callanan is a pleasing Evelyn Ormsby, whilst Miss Florence Imeson is entrusted with the rôle of Millicent Leroy, who scores by her songs and dances. The title-rôle is portrayed by Miss Clarice Lockstone, a vocalist of considerable ability.

Avenue Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jos. Hemingway.—Mr. Lewis Waller's company in *Robin Hood* is the attraction here. Robin Hood finds an apt exponent in Mr. Robert Minster, and Mr. Bellenden Clarke gives a capital rendering of Prince John; Hugo de Longespee is in the capable hands of Mr. H. Elliott Ball; Mr. Augustus Wheatman is highly

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—Mr. Andrew Melville's company hold the boards here this week with the evergreen drama *Driven From Home*. The play is well put on, and the acting is of a high standard. Mr. Felix Pitt is well placed as Anthony Raybrook, handling the part with skill and artistic restraint; Mr. Herbert Young does all that is possible with that of Walter Hatherleigh; and Mr. Frederick Sandy is responsible for a finished piece of characterisation as Geoffrey Waring. The Peter Pettifer of Mr. E. Lawrence is a performance which it would be difficult to improve; Mr. Leonard Aardale is an admirable Willie, playing with fine pathos; Miss Beatrice Western, who has a capital reputation locally, is seen to great advantage as Laura Raybrook, and also doubles the part of the younger Hatherleigh. She is indeed an acquisition to the cast. Miss Lizzie Ingles is an actress of resource, and does fine work as Barbara. Miss Amy Wilson is a charmingly sympathetic Mrs. McCarthy. The Saw Mill scene is wonderfully realistic.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company, in *The Village Blacksmith* (G. Carlton Wallace) has attracted full houses nightly. Mr. Sam Livesey, as John Strong, the Village Blacksmith, plays the part naturally and with great power. The wrestling scene between him and Mr. Joseph Carter (Capt. Leo) is a realistic piece of acting. Mr. Geo. V. Campbell as Billy Twigg, a country lad, is an exceedingly humorous rustic who greatly delights the audiences. Miss Maggie Edwards impersonates Kate Strong the blacksmith's wife, and, together with Miss Bertha Hanbury, who takes the part of Harry Strong, the blacksmith's son, creates a most effective scene as the latter is supposed to be in a dying condition.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Lotto, Lilo, and Otto are smart trick cyclists, and Tate and Tate are marvellously clever acrobats. Ce-Me-Maree is a contortionist of the first order; and Gus Harris is a fine Hebrew character delineator with an excellent voice. Keir and Kempton, vocal soloists, pay a welcome return visit; and Jack Neil, Scots pattering comedian, is recalled nightly. Nellie Farrell, an extremely popular singer; Massona, a good juggler; *Three of a Kind*, a pleasing sketch; Mark Merry, comedian; and the Diable Rouge, ventriloquist, complete a good list of artists. On Wednesday afternoon a special benefit performance was given in aid of the Wigan Infirmary, when, in addition to the above-named artists, the following gave their services: Miss Florrie Gallimore, Miss Ada Cerito, Miss Gracie Bard, and Jack Pleasants.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—A return visit by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company in that powerful stage representation of Mr. Hall Caine's charming story *The Christian* is being much appreciated by a large section of the playgoing public this week. The play is admirably presented, and prominent in a most capable company are Mr. Rawson Buckley (John Storm) and Miss Laura Walker (Glory Quayle), whose powerful impersonations have received gratifying acknowledgment nightly. As Horatio Drake Mr. Ernest Sitwell shows unlimited resource; and Mr. P. Gadge Twynam's Lord Robert Ure is distinctly artistic. Miss Constance Stephens as Mrs. Callendar displays commendable restraint.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Mr. Leigh Lovel and company opened here on Monday, presenting *The Master Builder*. Mr. Lovel gives an excellent impersonation of Halvard Solness; and Miss Ethel Caryllon scores as Aline Solness. Mr. Bruce Lindley does well as Dr. Herdal; Mr. A. Collins Rolfe is very fine as Knut Brovik; while Mr. Wilton Ross deserves praise as Ragnar Brovik. Miss Dora Levis is well placed as Kaia Fosli; Miss Octavia Kenmore is good as Hilda Wangel.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls.—This week Jake and Emilie, society entertainers, provide a most interesting performance; Walter Leslie and Lilian Player, comedy duettists, render some excellent songs; Mr. Tom Hulme's comic songs are well received; Miss Elsie Kenward, acrobatic dancer, contributes a pleasing turn; and Mr. Hyam Long, with his comedy musical show, also does well.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—Mr. Allan Wilkie, supported by his own company, is appearing this week with success in a series of Shakespeare's plays. In *Hamlet*, on Monday, Mr. Wilkie gave a fine rendering of the Danish prince; indeed, he astonished all by the fire with which he endowed the part. Miss Ine Cameron acted capably as Ophelia; Mr. G. Alexander Marsh was a picturesque Laertes; and Mr. George Munro manifested versatility by playing the parts of the Gravedigger and Poloni in excellent style.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—Harry Roxbury and his excellent company are making merry this week in *The Prince of Monte Carlo*, a trifle specially suited to the inimitable style of Mr. Roxbury, who fairly convulses the audiences by his clever eccentricities. Clito poses marvellously, and is well received. The favourite, Fanny Robina, is heartily received nightly, and, in conjunction with that sweet singer, Florry Cooper, is a decided success. The Moxons, Tiny Arnold, Billie Burt, Clelland, and the Bioscope complete the bill.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, March 4, the Drama, entitled

"A GAMBLER'S DAUGHTER."

The return visit of *A Gambler's Daughter* has been very successful in Marylebone, the West Londoners thoroughly enjoying the piece and the capable acting shown. As the genial Irishman, Desmond O'Dare, Mr. Robert Ayrton has a part that fits him like the proverbial glove, and his easy, suave methods win frequent applause. Mr. Alfred Sanders impersonates the wily Hebrew, Solomon Solomons, in typical fashion; Mr. Victor portrays the vacillating Jack Grant suitably; Mr. Milton proffers a robust rendering of the American capitalist, Ralph Gillman; Mr. Harry Barham is energetic as Captain Stanhope; whilst Mr. Chas. Stirling brings the villainies of Stephen Brand well to the fore, his representation of the character being full of merit. Miss Harriett Lloydall as the negress Auntie Zeb, puts in plenty of good work, and scores accordingly; Miss Maggie Hobart and Miss Annie Broughton do well as Mrs. Sam and Mrs. Jake respectively; and Miss Adria Hill, in the dual rôle of Mildred and Miriam Grant, plays with plenty of spirit, marked with skilful effect, her efforts calling for high praise. The piece is well mounted and staged, the whole production being most satisfactory.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, March 4, the Musical Comedy, entitled

"THE GIRL BEHIND THE COUNTER."

Mr. Frank Curzon's latest musical comedy success was presented by Mr. F. Mouillot's Co. here on Monday, and was enthusiastically received. Miss Nora Brocklebank invests the character of Winnie Willoughby with a dainty freshness and charm that are very attractive; Miss Rose Helene as Susie is delightfully entertaining; Miss Olivia Eltone is a very pleasing Millie Mostyn; Miss Doris Langdon is a charming Ninette; and the numerous smaller parts are capably filled by their attractive and clever representatives. Mr. Arthur Cartwright's fine voice is heard to the greatest possible advantage in "The land where the best man wins," and he is excellent as Charles Chetwyn. The other pretty and taking numbers receive full justice at the hands of the various artists responsible for their rendering. M. Duval, proprietor of the Maison Duval, is capitally represented by Mr. Jules Charmettes; Mr. Clarke Chadwick is very good as Sir Wilkie Willoughby, whose better half is well impersonated by Miss Winifred Knightly; Mr. A. M. Moore is very amusing as the waiter, as are Mr. Frederick Park as Adolphus Dudds and Mr. Howard Cridland as Viscount Gushington. The other male parts are well filled; the chorus look very pretty and sing well, and the orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Hubert Sullivan Brooke.

"SIR GEORGE OF ALMACK'S."

A New Costume Comedy of the Eighteenth Century, in Four Acts, by H. F. Maltby, produced for the first time at the Theatre Royal, Dover, on Thursday, Feb. 28.

Walter Inman ..... MR. H. F. MALTBY
Sir George Wimbledon .... MR. WYN WEAVER
The Duke of Porchester.... MR. HARRIS FRASER
James Briarley ..... MR. REGINALD FAVELL
Sir Christopher Chiselhurst ..... MR. LYNDON C. IRWIN
Sir Montague Huntley.... MR. R. SEETH INNES
Colonel Wodehouse ..... MR. FRANC STONEY
Joseph ..... MR. GEORGE LAIDLAW
Lady Clare Houseby ..... MISS MARA MALTBY
Betty Price-Cordiner .. MISS GRACE RICHARDSON
Lady Whenow ..... MISS JANET HODSON
Mary ..... MISS DOROTHY COUSINS

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The delightful theme which secured for Mr. Maltby's former comedy, *The Younger of Three*, so favourable a reception is replaced in this play by a stronger and entirely different interest. The genuinely witty lines, the amusing, and at times powerful scenes, well worked up, and the distinct characterisation, all contributed to the undoubted success which was achieved. The fine scenery, procured from the Carlyle Scenic Studio, lends itself admirably to the pretty costumes of the period, and with effective grouping some very pretty stage pictures are secured.

The first act serves principally to introduce Sir George and his friends. We learn that Lady Clare Houseby, a young and fascinating widow, is living with her sister Betty Price-Cordiner, under the guardianship of their uncle, Walter Inman. He has made a will leaving his money to his nieces on the condition that one of them becomes the wife of his stepson, Sir George Wimbledon. Though engaged to Betty, George has given his love to the elder sister Clare. The fair Betty six months ago was secretly married to James Briarley, a man with an income of but £100 a year. For fear of incurring her uncle's anger, and thus losing all chance of inheriting his money, the young lady has prevailed on her husband to keep their marriage secret, for a time at least. The Duke of Porchester, a man of doubtful reputation, returns to London and endeavours to pick up the thread of his amorous discourse of two years ago with Lady Houseby, but she is a wiser woman now, and merely laughs at his ardour. Sir Christopher Chiselhurst is another visitor who brings news of an "affair of honour" between a certain Colonel Granville and Sir George Wimbledon, commonly known as Sir George of Almack's, the smartest and most exclusive club in town, who is mockingly referred to as the champion swordsman of England. The curtain falls on this most exquisite specimen of dandyhood acknowledging the polite greetings of his friends with one of his famous bows. In the second act—the Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells—an erstwhile companion of the duke, Colonel Wodehouse by name, a man of many aliases, and with none too scrupulous a sense of honour, makes his appearance. Sir George proposes to Lady Clare, and is rejected. He and the Duke of Porchester quarrel, and a challenge is given and accepted.

The Green Man, near Tunbridge Wells, is the scene of the third act. Hither come Sir George and his second, Montague Huntley, and a strange interview takes place between the friends. Sir Montague implores Wimbledon to depart before the duke arrives, and to leave the country for a time. Sir George, amazed by such advice, presses Huntley for an explanation. Reluctantly the latter speaks, and for the first time in his life the dandy hears the world's real opinion of the man they have flattered and courted. The reason why his previous opponents have offered extravagant apologies instead of fighting him is not because they fear his skill as a swordsman, but because they know he is incapable even of defending himself with success; that, like the rest of the world, his fencing master has been laughing at him for a conceited coxcomb. Sir Montague adds that the loudest to laugh was the lovely Lady Houseby, and Wimbledon, who is hardly convinced that Huntley is not jesting with him, takes exception at the use of the lady's name, and draws his sword on his friend. That his words are true as regards Sir George's lack of skill at fencing is proved by the rapidity with which he is disarmed, and the equally speedy surrender he is forced into by Sir Montague's greater knowledge of wrestling. However, his manhood asserts itself, and he goes forth bravely to meet his fate at the hands of one of the most experienced swordsmen in England. Before his departure he writes a line to Lady Houseby, imploring her forgiveness for his egoism, and stating that he is trying to make amends. Porchester enters, fully determined to kill his man. He informs Colonel Wodehouse that he is anticipating the arrival of Lady Clare, who has heard where the duel is to take place, and who is coming to try and stop the fight. Wodehouse receives instructions and a bribe to detain the lady on any pretence until it is too late for her to interfere. This he succeeds in doing. However, Wimbledon, by a lucky thrust, disables the sword arm of his opponent; but the very humble young man who enters Mr. Inman's apartments later in the day is indeed a contrast to the dashing "young blood" of the morning, and when he, with genuine modesty this time, begs the honour of Betty's hand in marriage, her answer is not difficult to guess. On his finding that Clare is willing to take her sister's place and marry his stepson, Inman's anger cools, and there is nothing left to do but stick together again the will in the girls' favour he destroyed in his frenzy.

The character of Sir George Wimbledon, the exquisite dandy, with his striking mannerisms and unbounded conceit, is a most difficult one to impersonate, and it was much to Mr. Wyn Weaver's credit that he made Sir George, in spite of all, a lovable fellow. The genuine spirit of comedy in the first part of the play, and later the absolute sincerity of his acting, made a deep impression on the audience. Walter Inman is another part with strong characterisation. Possessed of a keen sense of humour, a slight testiness of temper, and a heart tender as a woman's, the portrait sketched by Mr. Maltby is complete. A fine stage presence assisted Mr. Harris Fraser materially in his assumption of the rôle of the Duke of Porchester. The unscrupulous nature of the man was exceedingly well suggested by the artist, who certainly made the most of an unthankful part. On Mr. Franc Stoney unstinted praise must be bestowed for a really fine piece of acting as Colonel Wodehouse. Two character sketches, entirely dissimilar, were the Sir Christopher Chiselhurst of Mr. Lyndon C. Irwin, and the Sir Montague Huntley of Mr. R. Seeth Innes. The affectation of the former was well contrasted by the manliness of the latter, and special praise is due to Mr. Innes for his meritorious portrayal. The ardent James Briarley had a capable exponent in Mr. Reginald Favell. Miss Price-Cordiner was played by Miss Grace Richardson, and this clever young lady scored a great success in the part. The charm of Miss Mara Maltby's exquisitely-modulated voice, and the general gracefulness of her former impersonations, have won for her a warm place in the hearts of local playgoers, but rarely has she had such scope for her undoubted talent as in her brother's latest production. From grave to gay, from laughter to tears, she carried the audience with her, and the proud and imperious Lady Houseby, when endowed with the charm of her own personality, became entirely irresistible. The part of Lady Whenow, effective in its intense vivacity, was cleverly acted by Miss Janet Hodson; and an amusing rendering of a country waiting maid was the work of Miss Dorothy Cousins. The new comedy was received with much enthusiasm.

ENGLISH ARTISTS' "BERLIN" FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Will you be so kind as to draw attention in your columns to the above-mentioned fund, which has been started with a view to enabling all British singers to express their feelings of sympathy and comradeship towards the dependents of the German opera singers who were involved in the wreck of the Berlin?

According to present information, thirteen of these artists were drowned, twelve of them being chorus singers; and this sad fact makes a more eloquent appeal to us than any amount of words. Here is an opportunity for all British singers to show that they are colleagues in reality, and whilst the most substantial subscriptions of principal singers are necessary, it is hoped to receive a general response also from chorus singers in small contributions—to make the fund, in fact, a representative message from the whole of the singing profession.

The following have already joined the committee which is being formed:—Mme. Marie Brema, Mrs. Henry J. Wood, Mr. John Coates, Mr. Ben Davies, Mr. D. Ffrangcon-Davies, Mr. Gervase Elwes, Mr. Robert Hilton, Dr. Theo Lierhammer, and Mr. Robert Radford.

An account has been opened at the London and South-Western Bank, Ltd., 451, Oxford-street, London, W., and subscriptions may be sent there; to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, care of *The Era*; or to the undersigned, who would be glad to send subscription-cards to responsible managers of singing companies.—Yours faithfully, JOHN COATES.

9M, Hyde Park Mansions London, N.W.
March 7.

Subscriptions already received:—

Mme. Marie Brema	£10	10	0
Ben Davies	10	10	0
Dr. Theo Lierhammer	10	10	0
John Coates	10	10	0
H. Plunket Greene	5	5	0
Gramophone Co.	5	5	0
Robert Radford	5	5	0
Gervase Elwes	5	5	0
"V."	5	0	0
Miss N. Quaritch	3	0	0
Mrs. C. M. Reid	3	0	0
Miss Gleeson-White	2	2	0
Two Friends	2	2	0
Mrs. George Swinton	2	2	0
Mrs. Percy Tarbutt	2	0	0
John Harrison	1	1	0
Walter Hyde	1	1	0
J. Campbell McInnes	1	1	0
W. D.	1	1	0
Robert Hilton	1	1	0
H. Gregory Hast	1	1	0
Miss Alice Holländer	1	1	0
Miss Edith Kirkwood		10	6
Walter Kirby		10	6
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Copland		10	6
Arthur Barlow		10	6
H. Asprey Dick		10	0
Two Frequenters of the Dresden Opera		7	6
L. S.		2	6

PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In reference to your article, "Pessimism and the Provinces," I should like to say a few words. Drama has been dangerously weakened by bad writers who call themselves "authors"; men who have no talent for writing, who do not understand the art of characterisation; to whom real human nature, high aspirations, nobility of character and sentiment, are unknown qualities, as far as their dramatic efforts go. They are poor copyists. One good human play is repeated innumerable times, with this or that alteration, by men who have no ability to "create." A series of situations, careworn and old, parts played by the usual "lines," who are sick of the monotonous tasks given to them; a plot that seldom varies, scenes that never do; a critical pit and gallery, stalls and circle, waiting for something good to elevate and inspire them, instead of which they are left indifferent. They know it all, and are tired of it; so they go where they can get *variety*.

Drama should elevate, variety amuse; both can hold their own if springing from the right sources. Anyone, it seems, can write a drama nowadays; but how few "inspire" one?

If a drama goes badly, perhaps the manager will introduce a song or two, and these happening to go well, will lull the manager into the belief that his play is strengthened thereby; whereas it shows only weakness when the audience will welcome something quite outside the story as a relief. Let the author go to the heart of things: learn that he can't write, or, if he can, more shame for him to debase natural talents by writing to order, thinking to please the public, and afraid to show the world *himself*, for fear they might not approve.

If drama is to do good, it must be as an art, not a mechanism. Let the theatre be large or small, good or bad, controlled by syndicate or working man, human nature and intelligence remain the same all over, and can be appealed to, if the appeal is genuine.

As a result of bad plays we get bad artists. One can't feed a child on husks and expect it to thrive. How many actors and actresses of the present day are striving for something above these much-worn and conventional dramas? How many go on year after year in the hope that each fresh part will bring something good, something *real*? The ambitions with which they started are slowly and surely crushed, until they, like the so-called "authors," work by mechanism, not art.

Those few who have never played any but well-written parts cannot realise what this means to some. It's like forcing an artist to daub out "pot-boilers" for a living, when the longing is for better and nobler inspiring work.

Those who *can* write put aside conventionality and *other men's works*, and write for the love of art, and from their own convictions.

Citing Moody-Manners Opera Company in your leading article, what higher form of art can we judge by? Then, some say, the public want trash. They insult the intelligence of the working orders to such a degree that it is a wonder they tolerate bad drama even as well as they do.

Let authors, both "would-be" and "have been," "go back to the source and find divinity." The fault lies in the produce, not the market.—Yours faithfully, A PROVINCIAL ACTRESS.

"WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I note in your last issue a letter from Mr. Chas. Ross, in which he contends that the idea on which *When Knights Were Bold* is founded belongs to a fairy play of his own, produced three years since.

May I be permitted to point out to Mr. Ross that I wrote, and produced at the Theatre Royal, Bradford, on Nov. 13, 1903, "a musical fantasy," in which I took the central character (also attired in modern costume), 3,000 years back; and, strange to say, I also "ignited a match," to the discomfiture of the pre-historics, and not only smoked a cigarette, but presented the box to an "ancient ancestor," together with the coupon!—Yours faithfully, ARTHUR STIGANT.

Theatre Royal, Manchester, March 3, 1907.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In reference to the letter of Mr. Charles Ross *re* the above play in your last issue, I beg to point out that Charles Marlowe's play was in my possession ten years ago. That is seven years before *My Fairy Fanciful* was produced.—Yours faithfully, WILLIAM HOLLES.

38, Wellington-street, W.C., March 3, '07.

DEATH OF MR. W. B. BROADHEAD.

With regret, we announce the death of Mr. William Birch Broadhead, who was for some three years a member of the Manchester City Council, and was well known in Lancashire as the proprietor of several theatres and music halls. Mr. Broadhead, who was only thirty-four years old, died at his residence, Park-road, Whalley Range, Manchester, on Sunday night, after only a week's illness.

He was present at the Town Hall on the occasion of the theatre licensing by the Watch Committee on Feb. 21, but caught a cold while motoring from London, and succumbed to an acute attack of pneumonia, accompanied by heart failure.

Mr. Broadhead, who is the eldest son of Councillor W. H. Broadhead, last year's Mayor of Blackpool, was intimately concerned in the theatrical life of Lancashire. About a dozen years ago he headed a concern which started with the object of developing the entertainment business outside the centre of the city. The first theatre opened was the Osborne, in Oldham-road, and so successful did the venture prove that in a few years Messrs. Broadhead built the Metropole and the Junction Theatres. The firm took a prominent part in the development of local music halls some years ago, and they now own, in addition to the theatres mentioned, the hippodromes in Hulme, Queen's Park, and Salford, and a variety theatre, the King's, Longsight. The theatre undertakings of the firm have extended to other Lancashire towns, notably Preston and Bury.

Mr. Broadhead was a hard worker, and personally conducted the most important business with the theatres. The news of his untimely end almost at the beginning of a promising career has been received by his numerous friends with sincere regret.

The cremation of the late Mr. Broadhead took place at Manchester Crematorium. The cortège left the late residence of the deceased in Park-road on Wednesday about half an hour before noon. A short service had previously been held in the house.

The principal mourners were:—Councillor W. H. Broadhead and Mrs. Broadhead, of Blackpool, father and mother; Mrs. W. B. Broadhead, widow; Mr. Percy B. Broadhead, only surviving brother; Miss Broadhead, sister; Miss H. Broadhead, sister; Rev. G. O. Bainton and Mrs. Bainton, of Blackpool; brother-in-law and sister; Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Thompson, of London, brother-in-law and sister; Mr. H. Winstanley, secretary to Mr. Broadhead; and Mr. Sylvester Smith, a life-long friend.

Awaiting their arrival at Chorlton, the managers and members of the general staffs from all the Broadhead theatres at Manchester, Salford, Bury, Ashton-under-Lyne, and Preston, together with the artists appearing at the theatres, assembled to the number of about 300. Headed by a band, consisting of musicians from the various theatres, they marched four abreast to the Crematorium, the band playing Chopin's "Funeral March." The managers present were:—Messrs. E. T. Kay, H. Hearn, W. S. Leech, E. Lindsell, J. B. Taylor, T. W. Meek, C. H. Wentworth, J. Mason, F. Dry, and A. Evanson. Many nationalities were represented among the employees and artists. Chief among them was a troupe of Chinese. Two omnibuses were required to convey the wreaths and floral emblems to the Crematorium. Among the senders were the members of the family and other relatives, and the staffs of the various theatres under the control of Messrs. Broadhead.

The burial service was read by the Rev. G. O. Bainton. The committal to earth took place at Blackpool on Thursday, when all the ten Broadhead halls remained closed.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, March 4, the Drama, entitled

"SHERLOCK HOLMES."

There have been numerous and appreciative audiences at the Royal County Theatre this week to witness this interesting play, which had so favourable a reception on the occasion of its first presentation in the riverside town some time ago, and there could be no doubt from the manner of its reception that the exciting events of the story were as keenly appreciated as before. The title-rôle is ably filled by Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart; and Mr. W. Pemberton gives a fine portrayal of the part of Dr. Watson. Mr. James Skea gives a good account of himself in the part of Prof. Moriarty; and valuable assistance is rendered by Mr. James Hall as James Larrabee. Master Leslie Hall makes many friends by his impersonation of the part of Billy. Amongst the ladies of the company, the performance of Miss Gladys Harvey as Alice Faulkner, and of Miss Georgina Wynter as Madge Larrabee, were much appreciated. The play was admirably staged in every respect.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association was held on Friday, March 1, when there were present: Messrs. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman), Henry W. Mote (solicitor), Henry Warburton (counsel); Mesdames Georgina Hamilton and Kate Phillips; and Messrs. Henry Ainley, H. Granville Barker, Clarence Blakiston, Acton Bond, Lewis Casson, H. Athol Forde, Alfred Kendrick, Kenyon Musgrave, Frank Vernon, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). A matter placed before the Council, after a lengthy discussion, was disposed of.

The usual weekly meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday last, when there were present: Messrs. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman), Henry W. Mote (solicitor), Henry Warburton (counsel); Mesdames Clare Greet, Georgina Hamilton, Edith Wynne Matthison, Maud Milton, and Kate Phillips; and Messrs. J. Cooke Beresford, Clarence Blakiston, Acton Bond, W. Graham Browne, Lewis Casson, H. Athol Forde, C. V. France, Alfred Kendrick, Norman McKinnel, Fredk. Morley, Spencer Trevor, Frank Vernon, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). A case of alleged bogus management was considered, and the hon. solicitors were requested to look into the matter, and, if necessary, take proceedings to recover the amount due to the member lodging the complaint. The hon. solicitors reported that they had advised members on points submitted.

It was agreed by the majority present that the Council recommend: "That acting-managers transacting business for a company in which they have no proprietary interest shall be eligible for election as members of the Actors' Association, subject to a record as to past work, corresponding to that supplied by actor applicants, being satisfactory to the Council." Miss Eugenie Vernie and Miss Cecile Anson were elected as commissioners. Two cases of alleged insanitation at provincial theatres were considered, and the explanations given by the authorities were deemed satisfactory. Dr. F. K. Kerr, 57, Easter-road, Leith, was elected as an hon. medical officer to the Association. Robert Horton and P. Perceval Clark were nominated for election as members of the A.A.

The following proposition was put to the meeting: "That a special general meeting be called, not later than March 30 next, to make the following changes in the articles of association: Delete article 11, and substitute for it, 'The Association shall be governed by a Council consisting of a president, eight vice-presidents, and twenty-five ordinary members, who shall be elected annually at the general meeting in accordance with article 25, sections 2 and 3, and shall hold office for one year. Any retiring member shall be eligible for re-election. The Council shall have power to transact all the business of the Association. Five to form a quorum.'" The proposition having been seconded, it was discussed at considerable length, and upon being put to the vote was declared lost.

The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was received. The Suggestion Book was considered, and entries made. The meeting opened at 2.30, and closed at 6 p.m.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee held a meeting last Tuesday, when there were present: Messrs. Acton Bond (chairman), J. Cooke Beresford, Lewis Casson, A. E. Drinkwater, H. Athol Forde, C. Aubrey Smith, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). An expenditure on behalf of the social meetings was authorised. Questions in connection with the internal decoration of the premises, together with necessary repairs, were considered, and instructions were given for the obtaining of estimates.

The Commissioners' Committee held a meeting on Tuesday last, when there were present: Mesdames Georgina Hamilton, Rose Mathews, and Lucy Sibley; Messrs. Burton Cooke, Ralph Roberts, Edmond T. Sayers, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). Miss Rose Mathews was elected chairman of this committee for the year 1907-8. Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn was elected a member of the committee. A complaint made by a late member of the A.A. was placed before the meeting by a member of the committee, and, the secretary having stated that the matter had already been dealt with by the Council, it was resolved that this committee could not go into it.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. Geo. E. Carleton, the business-manager for Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company, with *The Village Blacksmith*, was presented on his birthday, the 28th ult., by Mr. and Mrs. Sam Livesey with a handsome solid silver cigar-case, suitably inscribed. The gentlemen of the company also took occasion to present Mr. Carleton with a genuine cowhide kit bag.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, March 4, the Musical Comedy
"THE BELLE OF NEW YORK."

"The Belle" pays a return visit to the King's this week, and large houses testify to the enduring popularity of this most popular of the musical comedy importations from the land of the stars and stripes. The piece appears to lose nothing of its freshness, and is as attractive now as when it first caught the fancy of the English public on the production at the Shaftesbury years ago. The present company, under the management of Mr. J. Bannister Howard, is exceptionally strong, and helps to make the play go with a swing and a dash that are distinctly exhilarating. Mr. Paddy Dupres makes a very quaint and quietly effective Ichabod Bronson, and keeps the audience in evident good humour. Harry Bronson is ably rendered by Mr. John Doran, who sings very pleasantly. Mr. Max Copeland is an exceedingly droll "Polite Lunatic," and roars of laughter reward his clever acting. Mr. A. Sandoe is a substantial Doc Smifkins, and Kenneth Mugg is played very comically by Mr. Walter Uridge. Blinky Bill is undertaken by Mr. Frank Lawton, whose whistling and dancing are invariably encored. The twin Counts Ratsi and Patsi are amusingly portrayed by Mr. Yeoman and Mr. Cody; Fricot and Snooper are capably handled by Mr. C. W. Anson and Mr. Owen O'Brien. Miss Empsie Bowman is a bewitchingly demure Violet Grey, and fully deserves the many plaudits she receives for her singing and acting. As Fifi Fricot, Miss Lily Maxwell scores a well-merited success; she makes a characteristic Parisienne, and looks fascinating. Kissie Fitzgarter and Mamie Clancy find a clever representative in Miss Florence Hersee, whose liveliness is just what is required. Miss Winnie Browne is a handsome and dashing Cora Angelique. The ladies of the chorus are exceedingly attractive in new costumes, and act very animatedly, and the gentlemen of the chorus sing tunefully. The orchestra is under the judicious control of Mr. B. J. Patterson.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

The reception accorded the second return visit of Mr. Chas. Macdona's company in *The Gay Parisienne* on Monday was of the most enthusiastic nature, principals and chorus alike coming in for their full share of appreciation. In the personnel of Mr. Macdonna's company it is pleasing to notice several old favourites who have done him yeoman service. As Ebenezer Honeycombe, the "shining light," the genial and clever comedian Mr. Will Harman has capital material, which he uses with skill. His eccentricity is delightfully spontaneous and his humour infectious, and that he makes the most of his many admirable opportunities goes without saying. Miss Lilian Talbot is an ideal Mlle. Julie Bon-bon. She is graceful in every movement, and her tasteful dancing and singing enhance in no small degree the effect of the rôle. Major Fossdyke, of the Battersea Butterfly Shooters, has a capital exponent in Mr. Squire Day, who infuses plenty of life into the part and acquits himself with credit vocally. The rôle of Tom Everleigh is wisely entrusted to Mr. Philip Moore, who proves himself equal to the call made upon him; his rendering of "In Dreamland" is one of the hits of the evening. Miss Holford Beringer, a lady possessing a voice of no little culture, gives an artistic portrayal of Mrs. Honeycombe, and is in every way suited to the part, displaying undoubted vocal ability, of which she makes full use in her satirical song on "Man." Miss Nance O'Neill fills the part of Norah with much charm both in acting and singing; and the characters of Angela, Maud, Ethel, and Gladys, the Major's daughters, are pleasingly rendered by the Misses Kathleen O'Mally, E. McHardy, Gertrude Davies, and Lucie Donato. Praise is due to Mr. Douglas Howard for his impersonation of Amos Dingle; and Mr. Leslie Waller makes the most of the part of Algernon Ducie. Mr. Fitz-James and Mr. Bloomfield Jones' long association with the parts of Hans and Fritz make their work admirably natural, and gain them hearty recognition. Mr. Clifford Seyler as M. Pompier abounds with humour, and his song "Gertie on the go," with an eccentric dance, is one of the features of the piece. Miss Madge Soutter, who undertakes the part of Ruth, has a humorous style which well accords with the character, and scores a success with her number "Sister Mary Jane's top note." All the other parts are capably represented, the work of the chorus is praiseworthy, and the score is smoothly and very well treated by the augmented orchestra, under the skilful direction of Mr. C. Encyl Lewis. The rendering of various quartettes by the Imperial Glee Singers is highly appreciated; and praise is also due to Mr. Cecil Lawrence for his whistling medley.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, March 4, the Musical Play, entitled
"A CHINESE HONEYMOON."

That merry musical comedy, *A Chinese Honeymoon*, is proving a big attraction at the Camden this week, where large audiences are being vastly amused by the adventures of the gay Mr. Pineapple and his lively bride. Mr. George Dance's company includes many versatile artists, who make the play go with a great swing. As Princess Soo-Soo Miss Nancy Rossiter sings delightfully, her song, "Egypt," being a pretty number. Another song, with a dainty umbrella dance, is also much appreciated. Mr. George Rydon, an energetic comedian, is in capital form as Mr. Pineapple, scoring heavily with the popular "Happy Land" verses. A most engaging Mrs. Pineapple is found in Miss Gladys Ward, who plays with great spirit and has some very good songs, notably the "A la Girl," which she renders in *chic* style. Miss Ward also contributes a pretty coon lilt, which concludes with a neatly-executed dance. The Lord High Admiral, Hi Lung, becomes a most diverting personage as portrayed by Mr. Leonard May, and his efforts to secure a wife for the Emperor cause endless hilarity. The chief honours in the lighter vein, however, undoubtedly fall to Miss Gwennie Harcourt, who is quite one of the best lady comedians to be found. She has a genuine sense of drollery, and as Fi Fi she is a tremendous success. Her song, "I want to be a lady," is given with rare point and humour, and in "When I make my début" she fairly brings down the house by her droll skits on the Gibson Girl and Sousa. The Emperor, Hang Chow, is depicted by Mr. Rudolph Kloss in a stately manner. He has a fine voice, which he uses to advantage. Mr. P. Allerton Turner, with a clever make-up, is good as Chippie Chop, the Lord Chancellor; Mr. Harry Jennings makes a smart and dashing Tom Hatherton, playing in finished style; Miss Brown, the official mother-in-law, finds an able representative in Miss Maud Adams, who adds considerably to the enjoyment of the audience; the Misses Dorothy Radcliffe, Iris Roy, Kathleen Kerr, and Elsie Skillings make bewitching bridesmaids; and Miss Ada Booth and Miss Daisy Moule are a couple of dainty maids-of-honour. The orchestra and chorus work well under the bâton of Mr. W. J. Damant; and the stage is under Mr. P. O. Turner's direction. Mr. Alfred Munro is the general-manager for the company.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, March 4,
"THE DAIRYMAIDS."

Mr. Robert Courtneidge's excellent company, in the merry farcical musical play, *The Dairymaids*, is furnishing fun and frolic here this week. The piece is very prettily mounted and staged, the scene of Lady Brudenell's model dairy farm at Hindstead wafting the fragrance of the meadow and the scent of the hedgerows across the footlights. A large assortment of pretty and shapely girls brighten and beautify the stage, while the gymnasium at Miss Penelope Pychase's academy is a realistic set. Miss Violet Lloyd, a bright, intelligent, and wholly charming representative of the part of Peggy, scores considerably in her lively and exhilarating "Tinker, tailor" song, and in her "Sandow girl" ditty, with its chorus of charming representatives of the "getting stronger" sex, she also duly emphasises all the points. Miss Rhoda Gordon looks smart in her dairymaid's dress, and her song, "Hullo, little stranger," with the clever child exponents of the chorus chiming in, earns encomiums galore. Miss Beryl Vaudrey, in the small part of Helene (their half-sister), has in "My own little Rose" one of the prettiest songs of the piece. Miss Cissie Sephton is full of life and animation as Eliza, the bucolic maid-of-all-work at Pychase's, and has a capital song in "Mary kept a dairy," almost equally good being her ditty, "Why do they want to grumble?" With two such capable comedians as Mr. E. Statham Staples as Sam Brudenell and Mr. Harry Dent as Joe Mivens, needless to say the ball of fun is kept rolling at a terrific pace throughout. Their combined efforts in the "Poacher" duet are excruciatingly funny; while in "Jane and Mary" Mr. Staples (with Mr. Geo. Desmond as Lieut. Frank Brudenell) gets in some good "business," and he is very effective in his song of the ladies' club "In Dover Street." Mr. Forbes Dawson brings a ripe judgment and an easy manner to bear upon the part of Dr. O'Byrne, R.N.; and Miss Edith Blanche gives a very pleasing and discreet rendering of that of Lady Brudenell. Mr. Alec Fraser as Captain Fred Leverton has a pretty song, "Dear little girl of dreamland"; Miss Madge Avery is duly acrimonious and unprepossessing as Penelope Pychase; and some exceedingly pretty girls figure in the chorus. Mr. J. B. Gordon is general-manager to the company, and Mr. Arthur Paterson stage-manager for Mr. Courtneidge; whilst Mr. Albert Bartlett conducts the augmented orchestra.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, March 4, the Comic Opera,
"THE LITTLE MICHUS."

Those winsome damsels, the two little Michus, are paying a return visit to Peckham this week, and are being deservedly accorded a very hearty welcome. Mr. George Dance's premier company gives an interpretation of the piece which leaves nothing to be desired. Miss Alice Coverick has a very tuneful voice, and acts with much intelligence as Marie Blanche; and Miss Gipsy Dale provides a fascinating portrait of the demure little Blanche Marie. Both ladies bring down the house with their delightful rendering of the duet, "The prayer to St. Valentine." Mr. Foster Courtenay provides a character-sketch of great ability and comic force as the choleric General Des Ifs, and his narrative concerning the quaint habits of the Gazeka causes roars of laughter. Mr. William Everard makes a comely lover as Gaston Rigaud, and his singing is excellent. Mr. Gilbert Childs materially aids the fun, and dances very neatly as the eccentric Bagnolet. Mr. Leon Simkin contributes a good character-sketch as the old farmer, Pierre Michu. Mlle. Marjorie, in the rôle of Mlle. St. Cyr, does some graceful dances. Mr. Robert C. Harcourt causes considerable amusement as the foolish young bumpkin, Aristide Vert; Miss Mary Young is well placed as the shewish Mme. Michu; and Mr. Edwin Stanley extracts a good deal of fun out of the part of the Market Man. Mr. Otto Manns ably conducts the orchestra, and the large chorus work hard and successfully. The scenery and effects are beyond reproach, and the production is received with great favour.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 3, the Comedy entitled
"HIS HOUSE IN ORDER."

The fascination which Mr. Pinero's delightful comedy *His House In Order* still possesses for the playgoing public, despite its lengthy and successful run at St. James's Theatre, was amply demonstrated by the large and appreciative audience which assembled at the Kennington Theatre on Monday to witness its first production in the Southern suburbs. The enterprise which Mr. Robert Arthur has shown in securing this first-class attraction has, furthermore, been rewarded by excellent business throughout the week. The play is certainly admirably presented, for Mr. Geo. Alexander's company includes the names of several artists of high standing, who have added to their reputations by the sympathetic manner in which they present the various characters entrusted to them. The piece does not give much scope for staging, but the scene at Overbury Towers is well put on. Mr. Frank Fenton gave a careful and complete study of the character of Hilary Jesson, around whom the story is woven. His happy treatment of the many difficult situations which arise stamped him as an actor of fine artistic perception, and he made himself first favourite with everyone present. Miss Auriol Lee was a pretty and impulsive Nina. She acted with fine feeling, and in several of the trying situations in which she was placed appealed to the susceptibilities of the audience by the charming grace of her personality. Mr. Cyril Harcourt gave a remarkably fine representation of the part of Filmer Jesson, M.P., being seen with especial advantage in Act IV., when he discovers how he has been deceived, and has, consequently, misjudged Nina. As Major Maurewarde, Mr. Lloyd Lowndes scores a great triumph, the part giving him excellent scope for displaying his high histrionic powers. Miss Audrey Campbell was very fine as the passionless Geraldine Ridgeley; while Mrs. Kemmis as the overbearing Lady Ridgeley was all that could be desired. Mr. George Fitzgerald made a big hit as Sir Daniel Ridgeley, and Mr. A. E. Benedict created a great deal of amusement as Dr. Dilnott; while Miss Maisie Richardson was an interesting and attractive figure as Derek Jesson. Mr. Geo. Silver gave a clever impersonation of the not easy character of Pryce Ridgeley; and Mr. Reginald Besant deserves a good word for his delineation of the rôle of Harding. As Mlle. Thomé Miss Lille Kerr was seen at her best; while the minor parts of the reporter and the servants were creditably taken by Mr. Cyril Cattley, Mr. Barnett Parker, and Mr. Frank Elton.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, March 4, the Drama, entitled
"DRIVEN FROM HOME."

Mr. J. M. East's stock company this week has revived the famous drama, *Driven from Home*, in which sentiment and humour are combined in equal parts with episodes of the most exciting kind, one scene revealing the interior of a saw-mill with machinery in motion. Each member of the popular company receives a hearty greeting as he or she appears. Mr. Albert Ward, who is accorded a specially cordial reception, is seen as Willie, the outcast—a complex character, the difficulties of which are many and varied, but the favourite actor surmounts them easily. Mr. Ward plays throughout with distinction, his fine declamatory powers drawing forth frequent cheers for the vigorous lines he has to deliver. The tribulations of Laura Raybrook, the young wife, who is turned ruthlessly from the parental roof, are borne with becoming fortitude by Miss Lilly Hammersley. She obtains in a constantly-increasing degree the deepest sympathies of all, being especially affecting in the poignant scene in the snow-laden streets, and in every phase of the part the actress's dramatic gifts are fully apparent. Miss Hammersley cleverly doubles the part with that of Walter Hatherleigh the younger. Mr. C. Groves, jun., plays admirably as Walter Hatherleigh, Laura's unfortunate husband, who is shot for poaching. Manly and confident, Mr. Groves makes Walter a favourite throughout his career—brought prematurely to a close. Anthony Raybrook, the inflexible father, is strikingly depicted by Mr. H. W. Hatchman, who puts the cast-iron nature of the man realistically before the audience. As Barbara Ashdown, Raybrook's servant, who afterwards becomes his wife, Miss Hettie Godfrey rouses the audience to a high degree of resentment; Mr. Horace Hunter as Geoffrey Waring is again seen in the rôle of villainy, of which there is a liberal allowance in the piece, and by his expressive delivery and varied action give full value to the part; Mr. Brian Daly as the faithful old servitor, Jabez Thomas, is successful throughout. Comedy relief is supplied in profusion by Mr. Teddy Coleman, who makes John Anderson a blythe and cheery personage; and Miss Marie Wright ably assists the fun as his sweetheart, Margaret. Humour is also furnished by Mr. George Thorne, jun., who, as Tom Mortlakes, makes the most of the scene in which the bellringer and his mates (played by Mr. S. Feversham and Mr. E. Hudson) cause a drunken diversion. Mr. J. M. East gives a really clever character-sketch as Saunders, "a bad sample of the British workman"; Mr. Frank Harrison as the solicitor, Adam Marley, gains applause for his delivery of many effective lines; Miss Gladys Anderson gives a characteristic rendering of a well-disposed slavey; and other parts in a long cast are satisfactorily sustained. The orchestra, under the able direction of Mr. Albert A. Forshaw, ably supplies the incidental music.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 4, the Farcical Comedy, entitled
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."

Mr. Brandon Thomas is appearing with great success this week at the Dalston Theatre in his world-famous farcical comedy, *Charley's Aunt*. As Colonel Sir Francis Chesney Mr. Thomas continues to demonstrate his capability for acting a popular part, as well as writing one. Mr. Walter Beaumont's Stephen Spettigue is a noteworthy specimen of broad comedy, and the bumptious and fussy type of provincial lawyer has here an actual counterpart. An excellent view of the days of college life is afforded by Mr. Hastings Lynn as Jack Chesney, Mr. Richard B. Mason as Charley Wykeham, and Mr. Spencer Trevor as Lord Fancourt Babberley. The latter individual, during the greater part of the piece, impersonates Charley's Aunt, and his vagaries keep the audience in a roar. Mr. Sydney Compton's Brassett, a college scout, is a true sketch of the subservient and self-constrained manservant. Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez (the real Charley's Aunt), as represented by Miss Lena MacNaughton, is a most effective contrast to the bogus relative, whom the legitimate relation is pleased to allude to as "a frump." Miss Bertha Northam as Kitty Verdun, Miss Ida Vynall as Amy Spettigue, and Miss Ruth Nightingale as Ela Delahay, are bright and bewitching, and add materially to the life of the piece. The one-act play, *A Highland Legacy*, by the same gifted author, in which he plays the part of Tammy Tamson MacDonnel, and is very ably supported by Mr. Hastings Lynn, Mr. Sydney Compton, Mr. Walter Beaumont, Mr. M. A. Wetherall, Miss Katherine Vereker, and Miss Elsie Robertson, is of itself a delightful little entertainment.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, March 4, the Opera, by S. Feinman, entitled
"THE JEWS IN MOROCCO."

Mr. S. Feinman's successful barbaric opera, *The Jews in Morocco*, was repeated on Monday night by the Jewish Operatic and Dramatic Company, to a house crowded in every part. The piece has an interesting story, dealing with love, intrigue, and persecution of the Jews by a treacherous Pasha, while the music, by Prof. F. Staub, is at times very tuneful, the final march being an instance of good orchestration. Some magnificent scenery has been specially painted, which, with the gorgeous dresses, the superb mounting, and the extra large chorus and dancers, make this production one of the most noteworthy during the present engagement. Mr. S. Feinman brings to the interpretation of the part of Raphael great gifts of elocution and stage art; while Mr. M. Gusofsky plays with distinctive grace, ease, and power the character of Joseph. An exceedingly clever and picturesque representation of Miriam comes from Mme. F. Epshtein. That clever artist, Mr. J. Scherman, is well suited as Yull, and gives a performance that is marked with all his quaint and humorous characteristics. The sensual and passionate Nadar Pasha is rendered with vigour by Mr. J. Fineberg; and Mr. N. Hamburger is energetic as Kamill. Mr. J. Goldsmith supplies an admirable picture of the persecuted and venerable Reb Shabsie; and Mr. Isaacowitch enacts with force and dignity the Sultan of Morocco. Miss R. Bryh is delightful as Chane, her vocal numbers gaining much applause; and a splendid exposition of the Princess Medina is given by Mme. J. Kayzer, whose portrayal is of unusual skill and impressiveness, being seen to advantage in the Forest scene. Mr. S. Feinman must be congratulated for his excellent stage-management, particularly the Combat in the Arena, and the Assembling of the Court in the Palace, which were splendidly arranged.

GRAND THEATRE, ISLINGTON.

On Monday, March 4, the Drama, entitled
"A WARNING TO WOMEN."

Once again has the Grand, in spite of many vicissitudes, opened its doors as a theatre, Messrs. W. and F. Melville, the proprietors of the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, having acquired the controlling interest. Few better directors of a temple of melodrama could be imagined, and the theatre reopens with everything in its favour. A very large audience was present on Monday, standing room in the pit and gallery being at a premium. The opening attraction is one that contains all the elements necessary to ensure popularity, and the impression made on the audience by Mr. C. Watson Mill's powerful play was deep and lasting. The Messrs. Melville have selected one of the strongest stock companies seen here, and the scenery and mounting are on that lavish scale that is associated with their name. Mr. Ernest E. Norris as Shaun submits a particularly clever character-study. Pathetic, intense, and humorous in turn, every phase of the part is admirably portrayed, and the actor may be congratulated on the success he achieved. Mr. T. C. Aubrey as Marcus Drens is also entitled to warm praise. He has to portray something different from the conventional stage villain, and he comes through the ordeal with flying colours. Mr. Charles Craston as Fergus M'Naughton plays the young Irish squire with discretion and effect, his acting in the second act being especially good. Mr. Jack Denton as Eversleigh is amusing in a part of which he made the most, and he is also entitled to a word for his efficient direction of the stage. Mr. A. P. Kaye as Squire Kennion presents a sound reading; Mr. A. Fellowes Bassett as the Irish Priest is altogether excellent as the sympathetic clergyman; Mr. George Earlsworthy as De Joules is responsible for some amusement in the third act, his performance being very commendable. Messrs. E. Harvey White, Lionel Russell, and John Willeston, in smaller parts, are all satisfactory. Miss Maude Stewart Drewry as Sheila gives a natural and bright performance as the younger sister, and gains a most cordial reception. Miss Kate Browning as Molly O'More, an old Irish wise woman, does everything possible with the rôle; Miss Grace Lester as Hildred submits a realistic and repulsive picture of a degraded woman, her acting reaching a high level; Miss Beaumont Collins as Moira Kennion represents the character from which is derived the title of the play. Her depiction of the woman, the slave of drink and morphia, more sinned against than sinning, is clever, and held the closest attention of the audience, a call being accorded her and Mr. Norris at the end of the third act. Miss Ida Taylor as Myles plays sympathetically as the cripple without overdoing the part. Numerous smaller parts are all in good hands. Mr. Tom H. Taylor is the acting-manager for W. and F. Melville, and is very attentive in the discharge of his onerous duties.

Mr. William P. Gliddon, who has been for so many years chef d'orchestre at the Grand Theatre, retains that position under the new management.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, March 4, Auber's Opera, entitled
"FRA DIAVOLO."

The third week of Mr. J. W. Turner's English opera season at the Standard was opened on Monday by a performance of *Fra Diavolo*. Every effort had been used to make the representation a conspicuous success, and the large audience emphasised its appreciation of the good work done by loud and continued applause. Mr. J. W. Turner supplied an admirable portrait of Fra Diavolo, and quickly sang himself into public favour. Mr. F. J. Hargrave rendered an excellent account of himself as Lorenzo. He tunefully sang the pieces of music falling to his share, and proved of considerable value all through. As Lord Allcash, Mr. John Ridding deserves praise for an admirable portrayal, which scored for him a decided success. Mr. Sidney Clifford, with his fine voice, ably rendered the various numbers allotted to him, and his performance as Giacomo was received with much enthusiasm. Mr. Richard Cummings made good use of his ability in the character of Beppo; whilst Mr. George Ridding played the part of Matteo with considerable effect. The rôle of Lady Allcash received satisfactory support at the hands of Miss Grace Parish; and Miss Kitty Brownless was everything that could be desired as Zerlina, her singing of several pleasing numbers being much appreciated. During the week successful performances have been given of *Il Trovatore*, *Maritana*, *Nigel*, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, *Satanella*, and *Faust*.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, March 4, Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton, in Shakespeare's Comedy,
"THE TAMING OF THE SHREW."

Mr. Asche and Miss Brayton have gathered round them a good all-round company of artists, and are delighting Fulham audiences with *The Taming of the Shrew*, and with *Othello*. Mr. Asche has retained the "induction," in which Christopher Sly, tinker, &c., figures largely. The connection of this with the play proper seems, to modern eyes, to be of the slightest, but it gives Mr. Asche an opportunity of displaying great talent as a low comedian. In *The Taming of the Shrew*, Mr. Asche and Miss Brayton repeat their excellent performances in the leading rôles, and they are admirably supported. The part of Petruchio, the determined and masterful lover, suits Mr. Asche down to the ground, and he plays it with rich humour and inimitable strength and assurance. Miss Lily Brayton, as before, astonishes one with the volcanic energy she puts into her outbursts of temper, while the tender and charming way in which she plays the loving wife in the final scene, shows her capacity as an actress of real power, and in the same scene her elocution is beautiful. Mr. Alfred Brydone, as her father, Baptista, is a delightfully dignified and courtly old gentleman. Mr. Caleb Porter again plays the amorous old Gremio, with a thorough appreciation of the part and plenty of humour. Mr. FitzRussell does well all that is required of Vincentio. Mr. H. R. Hignett's handsome person and graceful bearing are seen to advantage as the successful lover, Lucentio. Mr. Reginald Penny does well as Hortensio; and Mr. G. Kay Souper shows plenty of dramatic skill as the servant, Tranio. Mr. R. F. Anson scores a success as the servant, Biondello, and shows considerable power as a comedian in that eccentric part. Mr. Henry Kitts repeats his successful performance as Grumio, and the careful point he gave to his speeches and his mock-heroic attitudes, gave rise to much hearty laughter. Mr. W. R. Staveley played the "Pedant" with broad humour; while Miss Constance Robertson as Curtis, Mr. S. B. Farbridge as the Steward, Mr. Gordon Harker as the Tailor, and Miss Leila Norris as the widow, acquit themselves satisfactorily in their respective parts. A new Bianca appears in the person of Miss Agnes Brayton, who acts charmingly as a foil to her energetic sister, and the good looks and demure grace of this Bianca quite justify the ardour of her numerous lovers. There are some very pretty sets of scenery by W. T. Hemsley and Joseph Harker, and the dresses are excellent. Mr. W. R. Staveley is an efficient stage-manager, and Mr. Christopher Wilson wields the conductor's bâton.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, March 4, the Musical Play
"THE SPRING CHICKEN."

Mr. George Dance's company has been playing here this week with the above-named popular musical play, and has proved a strong attraction. Miss Chrissie Ralland is well suited as Rosalie, and, throwing herself heart and soul into her work, soon dances and sings her way into the hearts of her audience. Her gay, insouciant style is just the thing for the part, and her rendering of several charming numbers is much appreciated. Mrs. Girdle finds a very efficient representative in Miss Nellie Kavanagh, who, while playing the part broadly on the lines laid down by its original exponent, yet infuses sufficient originality to make her performance both interesting and distinctive. Miss Clarice Cartner puts in some good work as the Baroness Papouche; Miss Florence Wix makes the most of Dulcie Babori; and Miss Lilian Errol is amusing as Emmy Lou. As Gustave Babori, Mr. J. S. Durant has a part after his own heart, and plays with wonderful agility and good spirits. His excellent singing is as much appreciated as his clever acting, and several of his songs are loudly re-demanded. Mr. Fred Payne is responsible for a most amusing rendering of Mr. Girdle, and his sayings and doings are followed with the keenest interest. He is perhaps at his best in the scene in the Malmaison Restaurant, but all through his grotesque worries and his comical expression thereof keep the audience in a ripple of laughter. Mr. Harry Averell plays Boniface with a good deal of distinction, and sings in excellent style; Mr. Edwin Dodds's amusing rendering of the head waiter is provocative of much laughter; Mr. C. Brierley makes the utmost of his few chances as Stephen-Henry; and Mr. E. C. Moylan does as well as possible in the small part of the restaurant proprietor. The chorus is decidedly tuneful and the mounting in good taste.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, March 4, the Musical Comedy, in Three Acts, entitled
"SERGEANT BRUE."

At the Shakespeare Theatre on Monday a cordial greeting was extended to Mr. Robert Crossman's principal company, who presented the sparkling musical comedy, *Sergeant Brue*. The visit was rendered the more interesting by the fact that several of the company had appeared, with great success, in the recent pantomime here. Mr. Arthur Reynolds scored a decided hit in the title-rôle, and his clever acting kept the audience in continual laughter. A fine character study of Crookey Scrubs was given by Mr. Clarence Ibbotson, whose most successful numbers were "George Washington" and "Put me in my little cell." In the latter he was ably assisted by Mr. Arnold Forrester as Mr. Lamb and Mr. Tom Robertson as Captain Bay. The talents of Mr. J. H. Goldsworthy were well employed in the part of Michael Brue, and he gained much applause for his songs. Mr. C. Sims was thoroughly satisfactory as Mr. Crank; and Mr. Cecil Hood as Inspector Gorringe also rendered good support. Mr. H. Soutar as Matthew Habisham, and Mr. E. Mozar as Gerald Treherne, were seen to advantage in their respective parts. Miss Cissy Raymond was well suited in the rôle of Lady Bickenhall, and rendered her songs with marked effect. Miss Mary Hay made a charming appearance in the part of Aurora Brue, and was accorded an encore for her excellent singing of "Under a Panama." Miss Marion Hargrave was amusing as Daisy; and commendation is due to Miss Ethel Ivimey for an attractive presentation of Mabel Widget. Amongst others giving good support mention may be made of Miss Lilian Leslie, Miss Ethel Ford, Miss Kitty Rawlinson, and Miss Mabel Keith. The chorus is very efficient, and the dresses, scenery, and effects are alike of the best. The augmented orchestra is ably directed by Mr. Sidney Shaw.

LYRIC OPERA HOUSE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, March 4, the Drama, entitled
"THE GRIP OF IRON."

It is now over twenty years since this play first went on tour, and, like Tennyson's brook, seems as though it will go on for ever, judging from the reception it nightly obtains. It is natural, therefore, to seek for the reason of this long-continued popularity, and it is easily found. The interest of the audience is attracted within a few minutes of the rise of the curtain by the murder of Captain Guerin by Simmonet the Strangler, and from then till the end of the play Simmonet is hardly off the stage for ten minutes. This character is the attraction, and the incidents of his double life as Jagon, the lawyer's clerk, and as the Strangler, keep the audience absorbed in the play until the final curtain, when he commits his last murder by strangling his partner in crime, Lorentz de Ribas, and then gives himself up to the police. In the play, too, there is plenty of comedy, for which Loustalot the Smiler is chiefly responsible. Almost from the earliest days of *The Grip of Iron*, Jagon (alias Simmonet) has been played by Mr. Fred Powell. It would, therefore, seem probable that his performance by this time would show some signs of weariness, but one looks for these signs in vain. He is as good as ever. It is a most exacting part, but Mr. Fred Powell is excellent in it all through. Excellent also is Mr. George Denham as the Smiler. At the Lyric he is a great favourite, and roars of laughter greet him throughout. Mr. Denham's make-up is very clever. Mr. A. G. Polson-Turner is exceedingly good as Lorentz de Ribas, the Spanish Adventurer; and Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood as Alphonse de Coucou, the detective of the new school type, gives a good imitation of the deliberate ways of Sherlock Holmes. As Dobet, the detective of the old school type, Mr. John Brittain is very funny; Mr. Wallace Curnock effectively plays the part of the falsely-accused Paul Blanchard; Robert de Belfort, the lawyer, is well portrayed by Mr. Norman Tracey; Miss Rosabel Dodd is good as Cora Simmonet, the daughter of Jagon; and as Sophie Blanchard Miss Muriel Inglis wins the sympathy of the house. Miss Maggie Stewart is a dainty Marie Guerin, and sings her song well. The other characters are all ably embodied, and the play is splendidly mounted, the last scene, Drawing-room of Lorentz de Ribas' Villa, being very effective.

THE PRINCE'S, POPLAR.

On Monday, March 4, the Drama, by Geo. R. Sims and Robert Buchanan, entitled
"THE TRUMPET CALL."

Messrs. Geo. R. Sims and Robert Buchanan's play, *The Trumpet Call*, is the attraction for the current week at the Prince's, which was well filled on Monday by an audience who carefully followed the many exciting incidents in this interesting drama. Mr. Chas. F. Cooke has brought together a company of considerable talent, who, by their powerful acting and general attention to detail, present the piece in finished style. The scenery is effective, especially the exterior of the Angler's Delight and the Barrack Yard, and the mechanical changes are well arranged. Mr. Leonard Yorke did full justice to the part of Cuthbert Cuthbertson, his performance being marked by great intensity and ability. The unthankful character of Richard Featherstone has an admirable exponent in Mr. John Dennys, who knows well what is required of him, and makes every line tell. Mr. Joe Bracewell has plenty of scope in the rôle of Prof. Ginnifer, his rendition causing much amusement, while his make-up was very good. As the warm-hearted Sergt.-Major Milligan Mr. Chas. F. Cooke succeeds in every way; and Mr. J. Betterton is satisfactory as Sir William Barton. Mr. W. G. Blunt acquitted himself well as the frenzied James Redruth; and Mr. Freddie Bentley was right to the front with his humorous impersonation of Tommy Dutton; while Mr. G. Hastings as Colonel Engleheart, Mr. J. B. Glover as Captain Sparks, Mr. Frank G. Kent as Flash Bob, and Mr. Alec Murray as a Doss House Keeper were performances of much merit. Miss Doris Gilham is to be highly congratulated for her successful portrayal of the difficult part of Astrea, the brilliancy of her acting at the close of the third act rousing the house to enthusiasm. Miss Helena Millais gives a tender and sympathetic delineation of the much-tried Constance, full of talent and entirely successful; and a dainty and winsome Lavinia Ginnifer is found in Miss May Foster, who captivates her hearers by her song, "Tale of a stroll." Miss Helena Rigby is seen to advantage as Mrs. Wicklow; and Little Cuthbert is made the most of by Miss Ethel Glyde; the remaining characters of a long cast being in the competent hands of Messrs. A. Cecil, B. Snowden, George Wilton, S. Lindsey, T. Scott, Miss F. Heys, Miss M. Bowyer, and Miss Jessie Dene.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, March 4, the Drama, entitled
"THE SIN OF HER CHILDHOOD."

Mr. J. A. Campbell, the writer of the above play, is an author whose dramatic effusions are always appreciated by the good folk of Rotherhithe, and accordingly a return visit from *The Sin of Her Childhood* meets with the cordial reception that an old friend deserves. The members of the talented stock company are afforded plenty of opportunity of showing their capabilities in the production, and they avail themselves of the chances to the full. Mr. Ashley Page, in the rôle of the handsome, chivalrous young clergyman, the Rev. Allan Grey, has a part that fits him like a glove, and he enlists from the outset the sympathies of the audience by his manly and impassioned acting. Miss Marion Denvil wins all hearts by her artistic rendering of Mary Haysel, the young girl who suffers secretly for the sin of her youth. Little Marie is sympathetically enacted by Miss Lulu Bowes; and Hannah Spry, as represented by Miss Alic Bowes, soon becomes a warm favourite. Eric Dugdale is capitally played by Miss Elsie Jezzard; Mr. Clinton Baddeley brings out successfully the unmitigated villainy of Stephen Haysel; and Miss East Robertson supplies an exceptionally clever character-sketch as the malignant Marie Haysel. Mr. Johnny Chippendale acts with much humour as the rollicking, good-hearted Irishman, Barry O'Reilley; and Miss Mattie Everett ably enacts the rôle of Eliza Muggins, causing much amusement. Mr. Cecil G. Calvert is good as Captain Thornton; and Mr. John Sargent does all that is possible with the somewhat limited opportunities afforded him by the part of Thomas Haysel. Mr. Tom Taylor is a duly dignified Sergeant of Police; and the remaining characters are all adequately played. The scenery and effects are well up to the mark.

The in-patients of the Cancer Hospital, Fulham-road, were entertained on Monday by the Butterflies. The first part of the programme consisted of songs, dances, and recitations, and the second of the pantomimic skit entitled *Aladdin*. The whole programme was excellently carried out and much enjoyed. A vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Fred W. Howell, the secretary, was heartily accorded.

"THE ANGEL OF UNREST."

A STORY OF 1812.

A Romantic Play, in Four Acts, by Richard A. Greene, and produced at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, on Monday, March 4, 1907.

Napoleon I. .....MR. ALEC FLOOD
Papa Bompasse .....MR. HENRY BELDING
Paul Brandt .....MR. CREAGH HENRY
General Renaudot ....MR. AUBREY FITZMAURICE
Colonel Bernaise.....MR. RICHARD A. GREENE
Captain Lemesnil .....MR. ALEXANDER BRADLEY
Captain Leblanc .....MR. GEORGE CHASE
Captain Beaupré .....MR. L. P. DANKS
Mons. Lepine .....MR. LAURENCE VINING
Herr Kolsch .....MR. JAMES CHIPPENDALE
Herr Grondwetter .....MR. GERALD CLARKE
Hugle .....MR. JAMES CHIPPENDALE
Jurgons .....MR. DUDLEY WALTON
Tugot .....MR. FRED STONE
Mme. Renaudot .....MISS PATTI MARCH
Lisette .....MISS RITA IMESON
Julie .....MISS FLORENCE TRESSILIAN

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The large audience in the Brighton Theatre Royal, on Monday last, gave a very enthusiastic reception to *The Angel of Unrest*, on the occasion of its production by Mr. Alec Flood and Mr. Aubrey Fitzmaurice's company. At the close of the performance there were loud calls for the author, who, in a short and graceful speech, expressed his thanks to the audience for their very cordial appreciation of the play. Unstinted commendation must be given to the scenery, painted by Mr Walter P. Warren and Mr. Archibald Middlemass; the set by the latter artist, descriptive of "The Morning after Beresina, on the Retreat from Moscow," is particularly commendable.

The play itself is written in excellent style. The Angel of Unrest is the Emperor Napoleon I., and the play deals with incidents associated with the march of Napoleon and his legions from Dantzic to Moscow, and the compulsory and appalling retreat of the Emperor from the latter city. The scene of the first act is laid in "A Room in the House of Mons. Lepine" at Dantzic. Lepine, known as the President of the League and Council of 33, for the removal of Napoleon, is making preparations for entertaining a few friends in celebration of the marriage of his daughter Julie with Captain Lemesnil. Papa Bompasse, a private in the Imperial Guards, arrives to take up his quarters in Lepine's house, for the Emperor and his army have reached Dantzic. The bluff veteran, Bompasse, noticing the nervousness of two of Lepine's friends—members of the League—begins to scent mystery. The bride and bridegroom return from the wedding, and Bompasse is soon captivated by the winsome and graceful bearing of the bride. The old Guardsman joins in the festivities. A visitor is announced, and Paul Brandt, a French Bourbonist in the English Naval Service, appears. In a quiet interview with Lepine, Brandt informs the latter that his life is in danger, for the Emperor has given orders for his capture. Brandt and Lepine make a hurried departure for Antwerp, and soon afterwards Colonel Bernaise, of the Headquarters' Staff, comes in, and, announcing that the Emperor needs the attendance of Captain Lemesnil, bride and bridegroom are parted, and the curtain falls, with Julie in tears. In the second act, in "A Farmhouse near the Borodino," three months later, it is seen that the Russians have been defeated. Bompasse, who has been slightly wounded, arrives, with his head bandaged. Brandt, accompanied by Julie and her maid Lisette, enter. Hugle, the Russian peasant, in charge of the farmhouse, places a bedroom at the service of Julie and Lisette, but not before the young wife, after expressing her gratitude to Brandt for his kind assistance, begs him to leave the place, and thus avoid being captured. Three disorderly soldiers arrive, and drag Julie and Lisette from their room, but Bompasse comes to the rescue. Napoleon, accompanied by some of his staff, now appears upon the scene, and hearing of the escapades of the ruffianly soldiers, orders them to be shot. Then, in spirited scenes, he confronts Brandt and Captain Lemesnil. The latter, it is soon evident, has acted the part of spy, and explains to the Emperor that he married Julie in order to be the better enabled to arrest her father. Brandt, on his part, defies the Emperor, and refuses to reveal Lepine's hiding-place. Brandt's punishment seems certain; but in a scuffle with those deputed to take him away, Julie's young husband, Captain Lemesnil, is struck down by Brandt, and Bompasse, realising the captain's perfidy, kills the hated spy. In the third act, at the "Quarters of General Renaudot on the Petrovka, Moscow," Julie receives a visit from the Emperor. She believes Brandt to be guilty of the death of her husband; and, acting under the influence of Napoleon, writes to him asking him to come to her. Bompasse delivers the letter, and at night he and Brandt arrive. In a powerful scene Bompasse denounces Captain Lemesnil, exposes his treachery, and acknowledges that he killed him. Again confronted by the Emperor, Brandt refuses to make any terms with him, and his death is ordered, and as the window from which he is to be hanged is being opened, it is seen that the city is in flames. The Emperor leaves the burning house hurriedly, and Bompasse rescues the pinioned Brandt. In the opening of the last act the Emperor is summoned away by a messenger, who announces that the army is on the march, flanked by Russian troops. The faithful Bompasse arranges a meeting of Brandt and Julie in the forest. The young widow, who now fully realises the sincerity and love of Brandt, consents to become his wife, and they resolve to find an asylum in England. Shots are heard—for the opposing troops have met—and old Bompasse, struck by a stray bullet, falls, and quietly passes away.

The performance, on the whole, ran very smoothly. Mr. Alec Flood, upon whom devolved the anxious duties of producing the play, admirably looked his part as Napoleon, and acted with earnestness, and at times with telling vigour. As the strong-willed Emperor he was seen at his best in the second act, when demanding explanations from his spy, Captain Lemesnil, and the defiant Paul Brandt. He was also effective in his scene with Julie in the third act. As the breezy, warm-hearted Bompasse Mr. Henry Beldam merits distinct praise. The amorous nature of the old Guardsman was admirably portrayed in his scenes with Julie's maid Lisette, and he was powerfully effective in many phases of the character. Captain Lemesnil, in the third act, evoked the most enthusiastic outburst of applause heard during the entire performance. Mr. Creagh Henry achieved complete success as Paul Brandt. His acting was easy, polished, and convincing, and he gave his lines with great elocutionary skill. Miss Florence Tressilian was refined and winsome as Julie, and secured the sympathy of the audience by the sincerity of her acting. Miss Rita Imeson made a vivacious and attractive Lisette; and Miss Patti March made the most of her few opportunities as Mme. Renaudot. In the two characters of Herr Kolsch and Hugle Mr. James Chippendale acquitted himself admirably. Mr. Aubrey Fitzmaurice's General Renaudot and Mr. Richard A. Greene's Colonel Bernaise were well played; Mr. Alexander Bradley was effective in the thankless part of the spy, Captain Lemesnil; Mr. Laurence Vining was successful as Mons. Lepine; Mr. Gerald Clarke was suited as the nervous Herr Grondwetter; and satisfactory support was rendered by Mr. George Chase (Captain Leblanc) and Mr. L. P. Danks (Captain Beaupré). The incidental music of the play is by Mr. H. Henderson, Mus.Bac.; the electrical effects by J. C. Robertson and Co., Glasgow; the costumes are designed by Hyman and Sons, London; and the wigs are by Gustave.

DEATH OF EMILY STAFFORD.

We regret to record the death of Miss Emily Stafford (Mrs. Albert Bernard). The deceased lady died quite suddenly on Wednesday at 35, Lansdowne-gardens, Stockwell, at the age of fifty-nine. The daughter of a well-known artist, Miss Emily Stafford was educated at Queen's College, and commenced her stage career in the late Captain Disney Roebuck's company, playing the juveniles in the old comedies, modern pieces, and burlesques. She was soon engaged for leading business, and had engagements in stock seasons in Liverpool, Manchester, Bradford, Birmingham, &c. While staying in Liverpool, after a stock engagement, she played her first part in farcical comedy. Owing to the illness of a lady in Charles Wyndham's company, Miss Stafford went on at a few hours' in the part of Mrs. Grahame, in *The Great Divorce Case*. The following year found her supporting the late Charles Mathews as Mrs. Weddagain, in *My Awful Dad*. Later she toured with her husband's company in Geo. R. Sims's first comedy, *Crutch and Toothpick*. In 1887 she went for a season to America, playing the aristocratic and character parts in the late Miss Rosina Vokes's celebrated triple bill. Since then she has played nearly all the best modern comedy old women—Mrs. Fitzjohn, *The Balloon*; Mrs. Gillebrand, *The Arabian Nights*; Mrs. Tubbs,, *Pink Dominos*; Mrs. Birkett, *Betsy*; Mrs. Rollit, *Woodbarrow Farm*; Mrs. Pannell, *Turned Up*; Lady Darby, *The Case of Rebellious Susan*; Lady Wargrave, *The New Woman*; and Mrs. Pinglet, *A Night Out*. She also played a clever little character sketch of an old servant in *My Innocent Boy*.

MISS EMILY STAFFORD.

The funeral is fixed to take place to-day at Nunhead Cemetery.

A.A. SOCIAL.

Mr. Lawrence Grant addressed the members of the Actors' Association at the social gathering on Friday afternoon last week on the subject of acting as an art. Mr. H. B. Irving occupied the chair.

Mr. Grant, in his speech, stated that acting as an art laboured under great difficulties. It was, for instance, impossible to make the art side of acting coincide with the economic side. He then went on to explain what economy really was—it was not a question of saving money. Ruskin had said that economy was an art, and Mr. Grant therefore thought that acting and economy should be synonymous terms. The manager's art should be the art of managing the art of his theatre. The manager, however, was lacking in artistic attributes. Instead of looking for a great artist, he satisfied himself with an intelligent automaton. Comparing the different conditions under which the painter and the actor pursued each his art, Mr. Grant remarked that the former took his own time over a picture, and when he had finished it, it was done for all time. The case of the actor, on the other hand, was very different. He had to submit to criticism at the very worst time—under the strain and amid all the accidents of a first night. The painter could always see his picture, whereas the actor never could, and in that respect, at least, the artist of the brush and palette had an advantage over the artist of the drama. But, for all that, dramatic art, in its true sense, meant commerce in its highest sense.

Miss Rose Mathews, Miss Mayne Young, Mr. F. H. De Quincey, and Mr. Cremlin briefly addressed the meeting during the debate which followed.

The chairman made a few remarks, which he prefaced by stating that the social gatherings would do much to interest actors and actresses in the work of the Association. Everyone would be glad to see that there had been started a reform party in the Association. It was a good sign that the members of that body were fighting about something. Coming to the address they had listened to that afternoon, he thought that Mr. Grant was on a hopeless quest when he tried to convince them that economy was disassociated with money. Mr. De Quincey, a previous speaker, had said that art was only receptive by those who could appreciate its beauties; but it had been shown over and over again that some of their greatest actors had been most popular with what were known as the common people. Where would Shakespeare's plays have been but for the common people of his day? Fortunately, art made its great appeal, an appeal which could be understood and fully appreciated by all classes, and if it failed to make that appeal, art would disappear. The greatest writers in the world had treated acting as an important art; and the ebullitions against acting which were manifested from time to time should not weaken the faith of the actor in the nobility of the art he practised. Acting in its highest manifestations held as great a place as any other art. Had not Kean, Betterton, Macready, Robertson, and others demonstrated the qualifications of acting to be considered an art? If it was merely the art or business of a mimic, they could go into the street and find plenty of people quite capable of that kind of art. It had to be remembered that the actor was called upon to create something which was not to be found in Nature.

A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Grant for his lecture.

A CONCERT will be given at the Constitutional Hall, Harlesden, on Tuesday next, in aid of the Balaclava Light Brigade Charge Survivors' Relief Fund. Amongst other prominent "turns" will be the Foxes, comedy sketch artists; the Boltons, in their knockabout act; the Lindens' dramatic company; and Prof. Bert Jackson, in his ventriloquial entertainment. A group of Balaclava heroes will be present, and "The Charge of the Light Brigade," will be recited by one of the "boys of the old brigade," Sergeant John Ford.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

AN ADAPTATION OF "ANNA."

On Monday, March 4, at the Crystal Palace Theatre, the Play, in Four Acts, adapted by H. A. Saintsbury from the Novel by Alice and Claude Askew, entitled

"ANNA OF THE PLAINS."

Matthew Kerrins .....MR. H. A. SAINTSBURY
Michael O'Donaghan .....MR. HILLIARD VOX
Piet Van Heller .....MR. C. H. CROKER-KING
Sarah Kerrins .....MISS V. VIVIAN
Anna .....MISS DOROTHEA DESMOND

The hand of an expert is evident in the adaptation of "Anna of the Plains," the interesting novel of Boer life and character, which was introduced in its dramatic form to London on Monday, having been originally produced at the Theatre Royal, Worthing, on Jan. 28. In preparing the story for the stage, Mr. H. A. Saintsbury has weaved the dramatic fibre of the novel into a play which is full of effective situations. The resemblance to *The Shulamite*, adapted from the same source, is only of the faintest kind, and the drama has a power of its own which never fails. Peace reigns, at the opening of the play, over the home of Matthew Kerrins, a typical figure of the veldt, whose farm is established by the "well of the plains." His daughter, Anna, has just nursed through a dangerous illness a farm hand named Piet Van Heller, who develops an illicit love for her. She returns his affection, and gives him as a keepsake a lock of her hair. Piet, however, is a married man, and, making excuses for his departure, takes farewell of Anna outside the house during a thunderstorm, when he clasps her in a passionate embrace.

Anna's secret is penetrated in the second act by Tante Sarah, Matthew's second wife, who has hated the girl from her first acquaintance with her. She loses no time in revealing the child's dishonour to her father, whose stern sense of justice can only be appeased by turning his daughter from his door. He is about to flog her, but is prevented by his overseer, a young Irishman named Michael O'Donaghan, who declares that it is he who is responsible for Anna's shame. The father consents to a belated wedding, which takes place with due celebration, after Anna's child has been born and buried; but eventually Anna confesses her duplicity to her father, who, moved by the nobility of the young Irishman, relents, and bids his daughter dwell in peace with her husband. Of his little hoard of savings the old man gives half to Michael, who proudly produces the lock of hair which Anna had given to her betrayer. Anna is a witness of the scene, and demands to know how he became possessed of the keepsake, and Michael is obliged to admit that he had had a conflict with Piet, and left him bleeding and senseless, probably dead. Anna has conceived a love for Michael, but the conviction that he is the murderer of her child's father is sufficient for her to determine that they must sever, and, after receiving Matthew's blessing, they go out together, only to part at the door.

Overtaken by age and infirmity, Matthew yearns in the last act for news of his child. At last he is visited by Michael, who tells him of Anna's resolve and of their parting. Michael is closely followed by Piet, alive and well, who, having lost his wife, says he comes to repair his wrong to Anna. Matthew, however, realises that it is his money that Piet wants, and orders him from the house. The villain meets with no better reception from Anna, who reappears after her lonely exile, and loads her betrayer with scorn. Anna's objection to sharing Michael's home having thus been removed, husband and wife are united, and Matthew dies, blessing them with his last breath.

Five characters only are included in the cast, but the play is none the less engrossing, no lack of colour being apparent. Mr. H. A. Saintsbury has a fine part in that of Oom Matthew, whom he invested with all the leonine qualities requisite. Stalwart in appearance, and wearing a venerable beard, he was magnificent in his wrath, but in the later portions of the play he presented a piteous picture of the patriarchal old man, broken with age and infirmity, and pining for a sight of his child. There is grim humour, too, in his references to his wife, of whom, despite the attitude adopted by the Boer nation towards their womenfolk, Matthew stands in some awe. The difficulties of the title-rôle are many and various, but Miss Dorothea Desmond surmounted them with the certainty born of talent and experience. She has the appearance, fair-haired and frail, exactly suited to the part, and the utter despair of the young girl was suggested in the tones of her voice and in the intensity of expression. Mr. Hilliard Vox clothed Michael O'Donaghan with all the attributes of manliness and vigour consistent with the part. He should guard, however, against a clipping of the consonants which mars his delivery; but the spirit and fire which he imparted into the impersonation are deserving of warm commendation. The unscrupulous Piet Van Heller was invested with passionate energy by Mr. C. H. Croker-King, who put the situation of the first act realistically before the audience, and in his subsequent scene acted with due ferocity. The gleams of humour which are permitted to lighten the piece are due to "Tante" Sarah, played with a sense of drollery by Miss V. Vivian, who was also very intense in the depiction of her hatred towards Anna. The piece was realistically mounted, even the pipe with which Matthew soothes his ruffled feelings being of native make, and curtain calls were frequent and hearty. The evening was concluded by a new comedietta, by Ronald Macdonald, first produced on Thursday last week at the Theatre Royal, Bath, entitled

"JOCELYN THE JESTER."

Jocelyn Savage .....MR. H. A. SAINTSBURY
Sir Giles Wedderburn..MR. C. H. CROKER-KING
Percival Kingston, Esq. ..MR. HILLIARD VOX
Joe Chirrup .....MR. LOUIS SCOTT
Martha Wumpling .....MISS V. VIVIAN
Lucinda .....MISS DOROTHEA DESMOND

Frivolity is the theme of the above little piece, which deals with the elopement of Lucinda, daughter of Sir Giles Wedderburn, with a young gallant. The runaway couple are pursued by the stern parent, but on the very morning of the wedding, Lucinda and her husband have a "quarrel," and the young bride runs away, loses her purse, and takes refuge in a country inn, where the scene is laid. She finds a benefactor in Jocelyn Savage, another traveller, who entertains her with luncheon and levity, and prevails upon the landlady to provide her with a room. The arrival of the angry father and the equally irate husband results in a duel with swords between the latter gentleman and Jocelyn, who soon disarms his opponent. Eventually he is allowed to explain that his interest in the young lady arose from the fact that he is Sir Giles's long-absent brother, and is able to secure the reconciliation of the Baronet and the newly-married pair. The little piece is brightly written, and boasts some neatly-turned dialogue, in which there is no little humour. Mr. H. A. Saintsbury played the Jingle-like character of Jocelyn in a buoyant and devil-may-care fashion, which was in remarkable contrast with his former impersonation. Despite the rapid delivery characteristic of the part, the drollery of the lines was completely preserved, and the house was kept in constant laughter. Miss Dorothea Desmond made a pretty picture of the dainty and dimpled Lucinda, and played with captivating demureness. The buxom landlady was grotesquely embodied by Miss V. Vivian; Mr. Louis Scott gave a quaint impersonation of a waiter; Mr. C. H. Croker-King was a typical exponent of an enraged paterfamilias; and Mr. Hilliard Vox gave an admirable rendering of her young husband. Both plays had the advantage of admirable mounting, the storm scene in the former in particular being weirdly impressive

DEATH OF MISS EMILY THORNE.

We regret to announce the death of Miss Emily Thorne (Mrs. Gillmore), who passed away on Tuesday at her residence in Abbey-road, St. John's Wood, after an illness lasting about a fortnight. She was sixty-nine years of age. The sister of Sarah and Thomas Thorne, Emily Thorne made her first appearance on the English stage at the Strand Theatre (then Punch's Playhouse), in a benefit performance, in the part of Sally Scraggs, in *Stage Struck*, and with such success that she was induced to enter the dramatic profession. Her first engagements were at the Theatres Royal, Manchester and Bristol. Miss Emily Thorne made her London début on Easter Monday, 1859, at the Adelphi Theatre, in the title-rôle of *The Fair One with the Golden Locks*. She remained at the Adelphi for three years. In 1862 she visited the United States, opening at the Winter Garden, New York, as Miranda, in *The Tempest*. She remained in America for seven years, and travelled there extensively as an English ballad singer. She took her leave of the American stage in Chicago in the spring of 1869 at the Opera House, and shortly after sailed for England. On her return to London she fulfilled engagements at St. James's, Opéra Comique, the Criterion, and later, the Haymarket theatres, where she appeared in May, 1879, as Mrs. Malaprop in *The Rivals*. Miss Thorne joined Mr. Toole soon after his opening of the Folly Theatre, appearing in all the pieces during his tenancy of the house—*The Butler*, *The Don*, *Walker, London*, and *Paw Claudian*. Her last appearance was in a piece called *Teddy's Wires*, at the Strand. Many years ago she married Mr. John Parker Gillmore, better known as Captain Cavendish. She has two sons living, one of them being Mr. Frank Gillmore, now in America with Miss Crossman, the other a successful orange-planter in California. Her funeral will take place at Kensal Green Cemetery to-day, at 2.45.

[*Photo by Barraud.*

THE LATE MISS EMILY THORNE, IN "PAW CLAUDIAN."

ACTORS' UNION.

Mr. Cecil Raleigh will preside at the meeting of actors and actresses which will be held at the Criterion Restaurant on Monday afternoon to form an Actors' Union, and to discuss its rules and constitution. The following circular has been sent out:—

1. The title of this body is to be the Actors' Union.

2. That this Union is being formed for the object of safeguarding the interest and welfare of all those who earn their living by acting or singing in musical or dramatic plays.

3. The Union will be governed and developed on strictly democratic lines—by actors for actors.

4. Qualifications for membership: That all entering the profession can be admitted as probationary members, but no one to be allowed to vote or sit on the Council under five years' actual experience on the stage, or five years' membership of the Union. That each candidate for election shall be proposed by one and seconded by two fellows of the Union, who from personal knowledge can vouch that, in their opinion, the candidate is professionally and socially fit for membership.

5. That the entrance fee be 2s. 6d., and a subscription of 6d. per week to be paid for forty weeks of the year. Members to be in full benefit must not allow their weekly subscriptions to fall in arrears. Those who are desirous of doing so can pay their subscriptions quarterly 5s., half-yearly 10s., or annually 20s.

6. That any member of the Union becoming a manager or acting-manager, shall, during the period of his management, forfeit his right of vote and cease to hold executive powers in the Union.

7. That the Union be governed by a Council of twenty-four fellows annually elected, all being allowed to offer themselves for re-election.

8. That branches of the Union at the earliest date possible shall be formed in other centres, such as are already forming in London and Manchester.

9. Members shall be known by a number, and each shall have a card to which special stamps issued by the Union shall be affixed, thus denoting their weekly payments.

The objects of the Union are:—

1. To establish and maintain an honest living minimum salary.

2. To abolish the unfair competition of unpaid or premium-paying amateurs on the professional stage.

3. To insist on the decent and healthy structural condition of theatres.

4. To found a Provident Fund, Loan Fund, and Old Age Pension Fund so soon as the Union is on a sound financial footing.

5. To give free legal advice to all members.

6. To grant free legal protection to all members.

7. To collect a levy of 6d. per member in the event of the death of any member, to defray the funeral expenses and assist the widow, widower, children, or next-of-kin.

8. To form an honourable, solid, and united body of actresses and actors whose decisions will be accepted with respect, and whose protests will be made with authority when directed towards the reform or abolition of any abuses that are detrimental to the interest of the stage.

THE Mayor of Coventry, Alderman Lee, is to preside shortly at a meeting of representative citizens to discuss arrangements for holding a "Lady Godiva" procession early in August. The scheme to be submitted includes the grouping of historical characters so as to form a pageant representing some of the most notable events connected with the Saxon and Norman associations of the city of Coventry.

THE annual dinner of the Hibernian Society, of which Mr. James Macready Chute, of the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, is president, will take place on the 19th of this month at the Royal Hotel, Bristol.

"NELLY NEIL"—REVISED EDITION.

When a musical play has reached its half-century it may be said to have turned from the by-lane of doubt into the broad road of success; and the demeanour of the audience at the launching of the second edition on Tuesday evening proclaimed that all is well with *Nelly Neil*. In the first place, the lady has the placid loveliness of Edna May to recommend her, and we are thinking that the hearts of susceptible playgoing manhood will be racked with disappointment when the fair actress, who belongs almost as much to John Bull as to Uncle Sam, leaves the footlights on her marriage. May the pronounced success of *Nelly Neil* postpone the date of that event for months is the earnest wish of Miss May's legion of admirers. It was difficult for her to improve upon her first-night rendering of the title-rôle of the McLellan-Caryll piece. Her apostleship of the simple life is as sweet, suave, and as convincing as ever. She now shares the success of a new duet, "Kiss, kiss," into which she puts much arch coquetry.

Mr. Joseph Coyne also adds to his score in the same duet, and his quiet, unobtrusive method—highly appreciated by Londoners from the first—grows on one. In the second act he is endowed with a new number, resembling in a slight degree the famous selection from *The Mikado*, "They never would be missed." In the Gilbert-Sullivan work the references were mostly to statesmen. In Mr. Coyne's song he describes the kind of ditties in musical comedy that could very well be done without. Of the excellent opportunities afforded by this number the American comedian makes the very most, and is deservedly cheered.

Since the opening night Mr. E. Dagnall—who made such a hit as Inspector Bott in *The Amateur Socialist*—has relinquished the part of Nordheim, and his successor is Mr. Fred Wright, jun., whose reading of the character has breeziness and alertness. These are the recognised factors in his success. His numbers are "Poor Bobby," in which the lot of a melancholy policeman on his lonely beat is cleverly treated in humorous verse by the author, and "Demon," the latter fashioned somewhat on poor E. J. Lonnen's "Bogie Man" song. His most laughable item is found in "Jane, the Suffragette," a subject that has been very broadly treated of late by Mr. Tom Costello in the halls. Mr. Wright is supported in the song by lady disciples of female franchise, and the scene is made exceedingly laughable. Mr. Wright is certainly like his more celebrated brother; but this counts as a decided advantage, and he has a part now that gives him a real chance, of which he avails himself to the full.

Miss Kitty Gordon looks exceedingly handsome as the Princess Rasslova, and her acting has all the needful vivacity and resolution of a fair Russian revolutionist. The part is not lacking in romance, and Miss Gordon's impersonation is certainly picturesque.

Miss Mary Brough as the motherly Mrs. Neil puts a deal of comedy into the part, and works up some droll business with Mr. Joseph Coyne in the quartet "Girls, be girls for ever." So good a comedienne might have further opportunities.

Miss Molly Lowell has but little chance of distinguishing herself, but contrives to present a picturesque embodiment of the romantic Countess of Rokeby. Miss Gertrude Lester sings exceedingly well as the Hon. Muriel Vickery, her number in the second act—"The Butterfly"—being the musical gem of the piece.

Mr. Robb Harwood, a sound comedian, plays the police-sergeant Pink with a welcome amount of comic detail, and, as a slave to duty, his upbraidings of Nordheim add much to the merriment of the piece.

Mr. J. J. Dallas as Mr. Tizzle puts no little comicality into the terror of the bomb-haunted manager of the fruit shop, and though the part is sketchy, this capital *farceur* gives it a firm outline.

Mr. Langford Kirby, who appears as the Viscount Larktonbigh, the head of the disciples of Nelly Neil, cuts an amusing figure as a coster-aristocrat who eschews the smart set and dotes on the simple life, and sings and acts agreeably.

Miss Flossie Hope and Miss Carrie Bowman, two clever young ladies from the States, may be singled out for special praise in their "ikey" song as costers. It is entitled "Harriet of the Strand." The impersonation of one of them reeks of the Borough Market, and is positively lifelike.

The work of the minor characters is of much importance to the ensemble, and in this connection may be mentioned Messrs. A. T. Gullifer, Henry Warren, Frank Walsh (as the chauffeur with aristocratic hauteur), and Akerman May (a picturesque Orloff); Misses Edith Neville, Kathleen Warren, Manon Margottine, Louie Lynton, Gertrude Thornton, and Gerty Latchford. Miss Madge Hodgkinson, who appears as the dairymaid, does not have a word to say, but is expressive and dainty, and knows how to act. Excellent dancers are found in Misses Beatrice Grenville, Edith Kelly, Ethel Badham, Dolly Corke, Lena Leibrandt, and Amie Payne.

Mr. B A. Meyer, the business-manager, adds much to the pleasure of a visit to the beautiful Aldwych Theatre, where the entertainment is blessed with two important essentials—daintiness and diversion. *Nelly Neil* always possessed considerable merit as a piece in the lighter vein, and it is so vastly improved that it should easily pass the century. Mr. Sydney Ellison has a keen eye for artistic effect, and Walter Johnstone, Hugo Baruch, and W. Helmsley give us a series of stage pictures that could hardly be excelled.

SMART
NEW
HATS.

Mr. LEWIS, French Artistic Milliner, of the Rue Royale, Paris, and the Maker of the Hats of Sarah Bernhardt, Marthe Regnier, Feline, Liane de Pougy, Otero, and other leading actresses of the French Stage, is showing at his Salon at 210, Regent Street, London, W., his latest creations in Artistic Hats, Ruffles, Boas, &c.

HATS SENT ON APPROVAL.

MAISON LEWIS,
210 REGENT STREET, W.
18 RUE ROYALE, PARIS.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP

Sir Charles Wyndham is now at Naples, on his way home from Egypt. He contemplates beginning his season at the Criterion on the 8th of next month, when *The Liars* will be revived. Sir Charles has also in hand several new plays, the production of which will give a welcome impetus in the forthcoming seasons.

Our warmest congratulations are offered to Mr. George Alexander, whose hard fight for a seat on the County Council was crowned with victory on Saturday, when he was returned at the head of the poll for South St. Pancras. Mr. Alexander's oratorical abilities and appreciation of municipal problems, as well as his great popularity, are reflected in the substantial majority by which he was elected, the number of votes recorded for him exceeding by 1,350 those of his opponent. Felicitations are also due to Mr. Walter Reynolds, another representative of the profession, and a staunch municipal reformer, who was successful in the contest at Hampstead, obtaining second place with the formidable majority of 2,630.

Certain misleading and inaccurate statements have been published concerning the future management of the Lyceum Theatre. The real facts are as follows. The property was sold by auction last summer, and was repurchased by the debenture-holder, Mrs. Arnold, for the sum of £119,500, the bidding starting at £100,000. From Mrs. Arnold, Mr. Henry R. Smith has secured a lease of the theatre, and a syndicate is being formed under the title Popular Playhouses, Ltd., Mr. Henry R. Smith and Mr. Ernest Carpenter being appointed joint managing directors.

Under this arrangement Mr. Smith, who is the actual leaseholder, will undertake the entire management of the theatre, and Mr. Carpenter will fulfil the duties of producer of plays and stage manager. It is intended to run the house at popular prices, and strong, healthy melodrama of the old Adelphi type will be the fare. New plays by Mr. Geo. R. Sims, Mr. Arthur Shirley, Mr. Ben Landeck, and Miss Harriett Joy, written singly and in collaboration, will in due course be produced. The prices fixed will be—stalls, 5s.; dress circle, 2s. 6d.; pit, 1s.; and gallery, 6d.; this scale being just half that of any other West End house. The management will be enabled to offer a comfortable seat at a strictly low price owing to the immense holding capacity of the theatre.

The theatre is at present undergoing a complete renovation, both externally and internally. The decorations are being carried out by Messrs. Boekbinder and Co., and the new electric installation is by Messrs. Buchanan and Co., while the new fire curtain, &c., will be supplied by Messrs. Merryweather. The front of the house will be brilliantly illuminated by the new Mercurial arc lamps.

All the requirements of the London County Council have been complied with, and the licence of the Lord Chamberlain has been issued to Mr. Smith. The Lyceum will reopen on Saturday, the 30th inst., with Mr. Walter Howard's romantic play, *Her Love Against the World*, for which production special scenery is being painted by Messrs. Ryan, D. Young, and W. R. Cox. A strong company has been engaged, including Mr. Norman Partridge and Miss Nora Kerin in the leading rôles.

The New Theatre, now in course of construction in Central Park West, New York, is one of the most important enterprises ever undertaken in connection with the stage in that city. Efforts to interest the better class of New York theatre-goers in the "elevation of the stage" have hitherto failed for want of money; but there will be no such drawback this time. A sufficient number of boxes for the Tuesday and Thursday performances have been sold, in perpetuity, for $25,000 each. The persons who have bought these will occupy the same relation to the house that the box-holders do towards the management of the New York Metropolitan Opera House, and it is expected that the boxes will greatly increase in value as time goes on. Only about 300 seats in the stalls and balcony for these nights are to be sold, and applications are already numerous. An "orchestra" seat for these two performance may be bought outright for $3750, and seats in the first row of the balcony may be purchased for $3000. Only the first ten rows of the orchestra stalls, and the first row of the balcony are to be distributed in this manner. The owners of the seats are not assessable under any circumstances, and no seats for other evenings than Tuesdays and Thursdays will be sold outright. The performances on "owners' nights" will be invariably a presentation of opera comique on Tuesday, and some dramatic production on Thursday. The operatic performances will not be of such a nature as to compete with performances of grand opera.

The late Mr. Richard Mansell (Richard Roberts Maitland), whose death we recorded in our last issue, was buried on Tuesday at Acton Old Churchyard. The funeral service took place at St. Mary's Church, Acton, and was attended by several actors and actresses. Wreaths were sent by the following:—Widow and Brothers, Sir William Ball, the Hammersmith Conservative Association, the Yorick Club, the employees of the Coronet Theatre, Mrs. Brandon, Mr. Jocelyn Brandon, Mr. and Mrs. Allberry, Eade and Guy Stenning, Laurie and Gertie Maitland, Mr. Polini, and Mr. Leishman. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. Theo Dunkley.

Mr. Martin Harvey, who has been playing to enormous audiences at Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee, this week—creating a new record on the opening night for a Monday—was entertained by the New Club on Tuesday at a supper, which was very largely attended. In response to the toast of his health, which was pledged amid great enthusiasm, Mr. Harvey made an interesting speech, setting forth tersely and with much effect some new reflections concerning the Drama and the varied extent of its appeal. The function was especially notable for its geniality and bonhomie, and was quite a success.

Donations from unusual, but no less acceptable, sources have been received by the Actors' Benevolent Fund this week. A lady, having won a bet of two guineas over Mr. George Alexander's election to the London County Council, forwarded a cheque for that amount to Mr. Alexander, who at once passed it on to Mr. Coltson. Similarly, a sum of £3 10s., received by Mr. Charles Manners from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Glasgow, in appreciation of the assistance given to the morning and evening services at that church on the 3rd inst. by Mme. De Vere and Mr. Manners, has also been generously devoted to the fund.

Mr. Lionel Brough's condition, according to our latest bulletin, was critical. He was sleeping under morphia, and very weak.

"Salome" has been prohibited at the Budapest Opera House, despite the fact that rehearsals had been going on for some weeks. The Minister Andrassy has given it as his opinion that there is nothing detrimental to either religion or morals in Strauss's opera; but the prohibition has gone forth from high quarters, and he can do nothing against it.

Mr. John Coates, who owes much of the success of his career to the encouragement he received in Germany, has taken the initiative in raising a fund for the relief of the dependants of the opera singers who were involved in the recent calamitous wreck of the Berlin. Mr. Coates calls his project the British Singers' Berlin Fund, and his appeal to all his colleagues, from the highest to the lowest, is one that in such a necessitous case will assuredly bear fruit. As will be seen by a letter from Mr. Coates which we print in another column, a representative committee, including Mme. Marie Brema, Mrs. Henry J. Wood, Mr. Ben Davies, and Mr. Ffrangcon-Davies has already been formed, and additions are being constantly made. An account has been opened at the London and South-Western Bank, Oxford-street, and subscriptions, which will be duly acknowledged in our columns, may be sent there; to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, care of *The Era*; or to Mr. Coates, at 9M, Hyde Park Mansions, N.W.

Mrs. Langtry made her début in England as Lady De Bathe on Wednesday. The popular actress has had a most gratifying tour of the United States, her engagements, originally arranged for ten weeks, extending to five months. Lady De Bathe, it is pleasant to learn, has no intention of retiring from the stage with her new-found honours, but will prosecute her brilliant career indefinitely. She will rest for a while, but has in preparation a new society play by Mr. Graham Hill, which is to be produced by Mr. David Belasco in New York prior to its appearance in London.

The will of the late Mr. Lucas D'Oyly Carte, elder son of the late Mr. Richard D'Oyly Carte, was proved on Wednesday, the value of the estate being £59,366. The testator left all his personal effects, motors, boats, gear, &c., to his brother Rupert absolutely, and he bequeathed £2,500 to Mr. W. J. Fanning, of the Kelling Open Air Sanatorium, Holt, Norfolk, and £1,000 to Dr. W. F. Burton-Fanning, M.D., of Norwich, £1,500 to his god-daughter, Daphne Burton-Fanning, daughter of the said Dr. W. F. Burton-Fanning, and £5,000 to the Kelling Open Air Sanatorium at Holt, Norfolk. All his other property he left to his brother Rupert.

Miss Marie Tempest will end her too-protracted absence from the West End stage at Easter, when she will make her appearance at the Comedy in a four-act play, entitled *The Truth*, by Clyde Fitch, the prolific American dramatist. In the company will also be Mr. Allan Aynesworth, Mr. Dawson Milward, Miss Sybil Carlisle, and Miss Rosina Filippi. The piece, it may be remembered, was originally produced in New York last January.

Mr. Cyril Maude and Miss Winifred Emery will be again happily associated in the comedy *Her Son*, by Horace Annesley Vachell, which will be introduced to London at the first of a series of matinées at the Playhouse on Tuesday. Mr. Alfred Bishop will have the part of a baronet, and the accomplished young actress Miss Wynne Matthison will have a striking character part. Master Bobbie Andrews, who made a distinct hit in the original production at Glasgow last November, has been retained for the rôle of the boy Min, and the cast will be completed by Miss Florence Haydon, Miss Emma Chambers, and Miss Kate Harwood.

Mr. Charles Manners gave "A Little Chat on Music" to the members of the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution in the large Synod Hall on Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Manners said temperament in singing, as in other walks of life, was one of the principal aids to success. It was necessary that one should convince oneself, and in convincing oneself one convinced everybody else who was listening. The doctor, the barrister, the clergyman was most successful who was able to carry conviction with him There had been a good deal of talk about church services not being made interesting enough. He had opportunities of hearing different preachers on Sunday evenings, and he felt that while the preachers were intensely interested and earnest, they were not all able to keep the people interested. Earnest and religious men could be found who rattled off the grandest and greatest words that one could imagine as if these words meant nothing at all. If only our clergymen were to study elocution the services would be fifty per cent. more interesting. Temperament, of course, was the thing that was final, and education had much to do with it.

Mr. Manners concluded his lecture with some interesting remarks on the subject of voice production, and gave an illustration of the practical value of his observations by a dramatic rendering of the song "To-morrow will be Friday." Supplementary to the lecture was a programme of music by the following ladies and gentlemen of the Moody-Manners company: Miss Ross Stewart, Miss Weir, Miss Alvard—who sang the charming air "The briefest glance," from Rossini's *Cinderella*—Mr. Brindle, Mr. Renshaw, Mr. J. Johnston, and Mr. Gulland. Signor Safio played the accompaniment in a brilliant style. Mr. Manners, who was cordially applauded throughout, received something in the nature of an ovation at the close of his lecture.

The halo which surrounds the brilliant author of *The School for Scandal* has not been dispelled by the very interesting play which Miss Gladys Unger has written around Richard Brinsley Sheridan. As everyone knows, the real career of Sheridan was so adventurous and romantic that an authoress may be allowed the greatest licence of invention. When Major Mathews, an ungallant libertine, harassed the young Bath concert-singer, Miss Linley, with his unwelcome attentions, Sheridan called him out, disarmed him after a few passes, and made him sign an apology. In a second duel, which was forced on him by Mathews, Sheridan's foot slipped, and he fell on the ground, with his opponent on top of him. Both their swords were broken, and Mathews, while keeping Sheridan down, and "uttering horrid curses," stabbed him in the body, face, and throat, leaving him for dead on Claverton Downs, near Bath, where the encounter took place. Sheridan's whole life was indeed a romance.

Baron Harriss's No. 1 *Prince of Pilsen* company entered upon its first series of return visits at the Theatre Royal, South Shields, this week. Despite the fact that the prices have been raised, the business has been excellent, and a special matinée has had to be arranged to meet the demand for seats. Miss Sophie Harriss, the "star" of the company, has been the recipient of many bouquets and baskets of flowers nightly, a special feature of these floral tributes being one each evening from Messrs. John and Fred Coulson, the lessees of the theatre, designed with much ingenuity, the name of the fair prima donna on each occasion being inscribed in mimosa, her favourite flower.

Mr. Harcourt Williams, who followed Mr. Matheson Lang in the part of Othello at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester, will himself have to leave the cast after March 16 to rejoin Mr. H. B. Irving as his leading man.

Messrs. Vedrenne and Barker will next month devote the Court Theatre to the dramatic consideration of woman suffrage, having secured from Miss Elizabeth Robins a play in which the rights of the fair sex are asserted. The new piece, which is described as "a dramatic tract in three acts," and is at present without a title, will be played at a series of Tuesday and Friday matinées, beginning on April 9. The action takes place in the present year on a Sunday afternoon, and the second act will represent a meeting of Suffragettes in Trafalgar-square.

Mr. Bannister Howard's attraction at the Crystal Palace Theatre next week will be Mr. Milton Bode's company in *A Chinese Honeymoon*. Patrons of the Palace have been so largely on the increase that two matinées each week—namely, on Wednesday and Saturday—are found necessary to meet requirements.

Mr. Edward Marris, who has disposed of the Theatre Royal at Grantham on lease to enable him to devote his attention to a more important enterprise, was accorded a complimentary benefit on the 28th ult., when a packed house was the result. The programme was an exceptionally good one, and included the first act of the musical play, *Somebody's Sweetheart*, in which Mr. and Mrs. Marris appeared. The farcical interlude from *The Dandy Doctor* was also presented, and in this Mr. Marris, with the aid of Mr. Walter Nugent and Miss Norah Melton, kept the audience in a constant state of merriment. Members of Mr. Marris's companies also contributed to the programme.

Before the fall of the curtain Mr. and Mrs. Marris came forward to say farewell. Mr. Marris, in a short speech, thanked the public for their friendship and support, and introduced the new manager, Mr. Campbell. A basket of flowers laden with chocolates was presented to Mrs. Marris, who was also the delighted recipient at the hands of "a few friends" of a dainty leather hand satchel. Mr. Jack Parker, the stage-manager, who has served Mr. Marris so well for the past six years, was presented by him with a gold watch.

A dramatised version of Part 1 of *The Pilgrim's Progress*, adapted by Mrs. Hadley and Miss E. Ouless, will be given at the Imperial Theatre on Saturday afternoon and evening next. The proceeds of the performance will be divided between the London Hospital and the Diocesan Church Funds. One of the most notable dramatisations of Bunyan's famous work was that produced at the Olympic at the Christmas of 1896, when Mr. W. L. Abingdon appeared in the rôle of Apollyon.

Mr. Alfred Cuthbert, who is touring in America as stage-director for Miss Olga Nethersole, has been the recipient of a handsome scarf-pin from that lady, as a mark of appreciation of his work in taking up and playing, at a very short notice, the long and important part of the Prince de Bouillon in *Adrienne Lecouvreur*, at Salt Lake City. Mr. Cuthbert, during his stay in the States, has secured the rights of two plays, of which he has great hopes in this country.

Miss Phyllis Dare, Miss Marie Dainton, Mr. Lewis Sydney, and a large concert party will appear on Monday at the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne. This temple of the drama, under the new management of Murray King and Clark, is rapidly becoming one of the "plum" provincial dates. An equally attractive programme is promised for Easter week, which will be followed by Mr. Albert Chevalier in his new triple bill and by Messrs. Charles Cartwright and Gerald Lawrence with their company, supported by Mr. Charles Collette and Miss Fay Davis.

Proof of the continued vitality of *The Prodigal Parson* was forthcoming last week at the Osborne Theatre, Manchester, when Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod's company played to £60 more than on the last visit of the piece, despite the fact that it was the play's sixth appearance in the town within the last twelve months. The present tour has lasted fifty-six weeks without a break, and the piece is practically booked up for another year.

The pantomime of *Mother Goose* at the Royal Princess's Theatre, Glasgow, will terminate its season on Saturday next, having by that time run into its fourteenth week, thus establishing a record at the theatre. The author of the pantomime is Mr. J. James Hewson.

Messrs. Armitage and Leigh, with their *Lucky Durham* company, are making their third trip to Hanley this week, and opened to over £10 in excess of their previous visits, despite the fact that Paderewski had a concert at the Town Hall on Monday night. The houses during the week have surpassed their best records, and a return visit (the fourth) has been booked. *Leah Kleschna* has won golden opinions in Gateshead, and return visits have already been arranged. Mr. Bacon has also booked Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's new play, *With Edged Tools*, adapted from Henry Seton Merriman's famous novel, the cast for which will be found to be an "all-star" one.

Miss Decima Moore is among the distinguished arrivals this week from abroad, and on Tuesday returned from a jaunt to Africa, where she has had thrilling adventures. She has been carried ninety miles in a hammock, bitten by a wild horse, entertained by native kings and chiefs, and assisted at a native law case. Miss Mooore, nevertheless, duly appeared at the special matinée of *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy* at the Crystal Palace in the afternoon of her arrival, and is now on a tour of the merry comedy.

Arrangements have been made for Miss Wynne Matthison to appear in her creation of Everyman, in the old morality play of the same name, for a series of special matinées, to be given at the Coronet Theatre on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 20th and 21st, and the 27th and 28th inst.; while on Saturday afternoon, the 23rd inst., Miss Matthison will be seen in the same remarkable impersonation at the Kennington Theatre. With the exception of a single week at the Shaftesbury two years ago, Miss Wynne Matthison will thus make her first reappearance in this character, which she has made peculiarly her own, since her triumphs in America.

Miss Maude E. Ward concludes this week at West Bromwich her successful performances of Marcelle, in *Man and Wife*. After a week's rest and recuperation Miss Ward begins rehearsals of Nell Greystone in the new production, *Second to None*, written by Walter Howard.

The Theatrical Managers' Association has decided to address a circular to the London papers requesting that details of the plots of forthcoming productions shall not be given. It is thought that the premature revelation of the story conduces to the benefit neither of the producer nor of the author of a piece, and it is by reason of this conviction that the appeal is to be made.

An extensive building site at Ilford, admirably adapted for the purposes of a theatre, was offered for sale at auction by Messrs. A. E. Williams and Co., at the Mart, Tokenhouse-yard, on Thursday. The property was bought in at £1,800.

The Vaudeville Theatre is to revert to comedy pure and simple at the conclusion of the run of *The Belle of Mayfair*—when that apparently far-off event shall occur. A new costume play in three acts, by Mr. Louis N. Parker, will inaugurate the fresh procedure. It was at the Vaudeville, it is interesting to recall, that Mr. Parker's first dramatic effort, a small piece called *The Buried Talent*, received recognition.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey (Miss N. de Silva) have been in considerable distress during the last few days owing to the illness of their daughter. As a consequence, Miss de Silva has been unable to play several nights this week, and has been in Brighton, nursing Miss Harvey. Happily, however, her patient is now somewhat better, and Miss de Silva will, all being well, make her reappearance as "the red-haired girl" in Rosamond Langbridge's *The Spell* at Glasgow on Monday.

Mr. Norman V. Norman has been drawing crowded houses this week at the Theatre Royal, Halifax. On Monday the performance of *Robin Hood* was under the patronage of the Regular and Volunteer Forces in Halifax, on Wednesday of the Friendly Societies, and on Saturday of the Worshipful Master and Freemasons of Probity Lodge.

Mr. Norman, we regret to learn, met with a painful accident last week, when he fractured the middle finger of his right hand while playing hockey against Lancaster Grammar School. Though this does not prevent Mr. Norman's acting at night, it will keep him away from his favourite sport for some little time. Mr. Norman's hockey team has met with a good deal of success lately. Two of the local clubs in Barrow-in-Furness were met last week, the result of one match being a draw, while the other team was defeated by six goals to nil.

A most successful Bohemian concert was given on Wednesday by the chorus gentlemen of the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, pantomime. Mr. Harry Lewis was in the chair, and amongst those who contributed songs were Misses Millie Lindon, Ethel Haydon, Valli-Valli, Messrs. Geo. Robey, Edward Lewis, T. A. Shale, and Stanley Liston, recitations being given by Miss Helene Cecile and Mr. Frank Roy.

Paul Lincke, the composer of "Glow-worm," has finished another operetta, which is being adapted for the English stage by a well-known adaptor. Judging by the popularity attained by "Glow-worm," Paul Lincke's operetta should have a warm reception.

The next Actors' Association social will be held on Friday next, when Miss Gertrude Kingston will give an address, entitled "The Truth About English Acting."

In consequence of the marvellous success of *Sherlock Holmes* on the last two tours, Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart has decided to extend his spring tour a few weeks.

Miss Sophie Harriss, the leading lady of Baron Harriss's *Prince of Pilsen* company has been singularly fortunate since joining the ranks of lady automobilists in escaping mishaps, until last Sunday, on her journey from Huddersfield to South Shields, when a breakdown happened, leaving her with her maid, her jewel case, her husband's advance director, and a lady companion on a desolate Durham Moor, within a few hours of theatre time. Not a soul was to be found to glean information from; so Miss Harriss and her party were obliged to tramp through a pitiless snowstorm along the highway for nearly five miles, when a timber waggon loomed in sight, the driver of which, amply compensated, was induced to convey Miss Harriss and her drenched companions to Ferryhill Junction, where a special train awaited them to carry them to their destination.

The British Empire Shakespeare Society gave a greatly appreciated reading of *Richard III.* on Thursday afternoon at Queen's Gate Hall, before an audience which, despite the inclemency of the weather, taxed the seating capacity of the hall well-nigh to the utmost. In the course of some remarks at the commencement of the proceedings, Mr. Acton Bond (one of the honorary directors of the society) read the following telegram from Princess Louise Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein: "Am so sorry prevented from attending to-day's reading. Had so hoped to be present." Mr. Bond emphasised the satisfaction felt by the society that the interest taken by Her Royal Highness in their proceedings was of such a very active nature. Mr. Acton Bond, under whose direction the reading was given, appeared in the title-rôle, and in the cast were also Mr. Athol Stewart, as Richmond; Mr. Arthur Burne, Clarence; Mr. C. Leveson Lane, Buckingham; Mr. Philip Knox, Hastings; Mr. Herbert Hewetson, Edward IV.; Mr. Carlton Brough, Stanley; Mr. Douglas Alington, Rivers; Mr. Lawrence Grove, Brakenbury; Mr. Charles Staite, Dorset; Mr. Theodore A. Hill and Mr. Ivan Berlyn, the two murderers; Miss Gertrude Scott, Margaret; Miss Eily Malyon, Elizabeth; Miss Beatrice Irwin, Anne; Miss M. Davies Webster, Duchess of York; Miss Marguerite Adamson, Prince of Wales; and Miss Ruby Feetum, Duke of York. Miss Enid Rose read the stage directions.

Miss Pauline Chase, whose succession to the part of Peter Pan has had such agreeable results, is to appear next autumn in another play from the pen of Mr. J. M. Barrie, which he is writing for Mr. Charles Frohman. Mr. Barrie is now at work upon the new piece, which will be presented in the autumn—in all probability at the Duke of York's Theatre.

Miss Violet Osmund, who is playing the Lady Journalist in *The New Barmaid*, had a trying experience last Monday. Having paid a visit to town on Sunday, she missed her train the following morning, and had to leave by the 3.35 from Paddington, which got her into Cardiff at 6.30. There she found nothing by which she could get to Ton-y-pandy, where the company was playing, but after an hour of worry and anxiety at length succeeded in obtaining a motor-car, which conveyed her to the theatre just in time to take up her second entrance. It is a very rough road from Cardiff to Ton-y-pandy, and at some points of the journey the travelling reached the rate of fifty miles an hour. Miss Osmund says the cold was intense.

Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison will at Easter start another tour of *Peter's Mother*, for which an exceptionally powerful company has been engaged. The title-rôle will be played by Miss Lilias Earle, who has for many years sustained the leading parts under the above management in *The Liars*, *Mrs. Dane's Defence*, *Mrs. Goringe's Necklace*, and other high-class plays. Mr. Renouf, whose success in *Mons. Beaucaire*, *The Christian*, *Sherlock Holmes*, &c., will be pleasantly remembered, has been secured for the exacting part of John Crewys. Mr. F. C. Meads, a rising young actor, has been cast for Peter, a character which he has already played with great success. The entire production made specially for the "command" performance at Sandringham has been secured by Mr. Hutchison, and will be utilised on this tour.

"Patience" is to be the next revival at the Savoy Theatre, where Mrs. D'Oyly Carte hopes to produce it during Easter week. The quaint opera was among the earliest of the Gilbert and Sullivan successes, and the cast at its production at the Opera Comique on April 23, 1881, included Miss Leonora Braham, Miss Jessie Bond, Miss Alice Barnett, Miss Julia Gwynne, Miss Fortescue, Mr. George Grossmith, Mr. Rutland Barrington, Mr. Richard Temple, and Mr. Durward Lely.

Messrs. Ernest Martin and Fewlass Llewellyn were fortunate enough to have three of their plays performed simultaneously in the suburbs last week. *The Coal King* formed the attraction at Poplar and the Elephant and Castle, and *Matrimony, Ltd.*, and *Her Wedding Dress* furnished the programme at Putney.

Miss Maimie Brickwell is achieving a triumph in South Africa in musical comedy. Her impersonations of the heroines of *The Beauty of Bath*, *The White Chrysanthemum*, and *The Dairymaids* have been especially admired by the playgoers of the Rand, her singing and acting forming the subject of the warmest eulogy.

During the engagement of the Moody-Manners Opera Company at the King's Theatre, Glasgow, last week, the chorus of *Tannhäuser* was augmented by 65 members of the Glasgow Grand Opera Society, which came into existence about a year ago. The experiment was so successful that Mr. Manners has decided to import the entire chorus to Edinburgh, to appear in *Tannhäuser* this afternoon. A special train will be provided to carry them to Edinburgh and back to Glasgow, and they will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Manners at dinner en route.

Similar societies already exist in Middlesbrough, Dublin, and Sheffield, the last-named being the parent one. Last year the members appeared in *Lohengrin* and *Tannhäuser*, and when the company revisits Sheffield in a few weeks' time the local chorus will appear in the two operas named and also in *Faust* and *Aida*. Mr. Manners hopes that these societies will in due course be able to give their own performances of grand opera, in which case he has promised to lend principal artists entirely free of cost, and encourage them by the loan of band parts, costumes, and by personally supervising rehearsals or sending one of his stage managers to do so.

Mr. William Bailey, of the West London Theatre, did not seek re-election for the West Marylebone Division on the London County Council. During the time he served on the Council Mr. Bailey was considered by the London Theatre Managers' Association, to which he belonged, as their representative at Spring Gardens.

Miss Tita Brand has been engaged to play her original part of Knowledge in the production of *Everyman* at the Coronet Theatre on March 20 and subsequent dates, and at the Kennington Theatre on March 25.

The closing of the Liverpool pantomimes last Saturday was marked by much enthusiasm. At the Royal Court Theatre, where Mr. Robert Arthur recorded the biggest success he has ever had in Liverpool, presentations to the principal artists were numerous. Miss Hetty King was given a stick of a most valuable character. The handle was in the form of an elephant, carved in ivory, and encrusted with diamonds, rubies, pearls, and other precious stones; in addition the artist received some fifteen bouquets, one of which, standing 6ft. high, had the words "Our Hetty" arranged in flowers. Happy Fanny Fields came in for a pair of clogs filled with flowers, and Harry Tate was the recipient of a bearskin rug. When the Shakespeare pantomime closed a number of complimentary speeches were made, and Mr. Herbert Cottesmore presented Mr. George M. Saker, the conductor of the orchestra, with a case of pipes.

Mlle. Camilla D'Alberg's latest novelty, *In at the Finish*, is almost ready for production, and may be shortly expected. Mlle. D'Alberg will not herself take part in *In at the Finish*, as she is under contract to appear in *La Main* at the end of May in New York, where she has already made a name for herself as leading lady under Mr. H. Conried. The chief parts in *In at the Finish* are the two men's rôles.

Plans have been passed in committee for the proposed new Empire Theatre at Devonport, which is to be built for Mr. George Dance from the designs of Mr. Frank Matcham, and it is understood that a dramatic licence will be granted in the event of the building being completed in accordance with the plans. The building will have a very fine frontage of 80ft. in length, and the depth will be 130ft. The floor of the theatre will provide for pit, stalls, and orchestra stalls, above which there will be a commodious balcony and a gallery. Each part of the house will have a separate entrance and exit, and waiting-rooms are also to be provided in the event of the house being used for two performances. It is expected that the theatre will be completed by the beginning of September.

Miss Lena Ashwell, whose tour of America was brought to a premature close at Chicago through illness, has returned to London, happily restored to health. After taking a prolonged rest Miss Ashwell purposes introducing to London several new plays which she acquired in America. One of the novelties that may be expected will be found in *The Undercurrent*, a piece which the popular actress produced with every promise in the States.

An event of much interest to the musical world occurred on Tuesday, when Mr. Mark Hambourg, the popular Russian pianist, was married to Miss Dorothea Muir Mackenzie, daughter of Sir Kenneth Muir Mackenzie, Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor. The happy couple became acquainted about a year ago in Brussels, where Mr. Jan Hambourg, the bridegroom's brother, was studying under M. Ysaye. Miss Mackenzie was also a pupil of M. Ysaye, and thus met the brother of her future husband. Later, Mr. Mark Hambourg went to Brussels to give a pianoforte recital, and the two fell in love with each other at their first introduction. The honeymoon will be spent in the South of France, but the holiday will be brief, in view of Mr. Hambourg's professional engagements.

Interesting theatrical mementoes were disposed of by Messrs. Puttick and Simpson on Monday, when a silver-mounted goblet, made from Shakespeare's mulberry tree, fetched 52 guineas. Engraved upon the mount is the following inscription: "This cup is a piece of a Mulberry Tree set by the Hand of the Immortal Shakespeare in his garden at Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire." A carved casket, made of oak taken from Shakespeare's birthplace during the time of its restoration, following its purchase for the nation in the year 1847, was sold for 5 guineas.

Among other lots was a gold fob-seal, engraved with portrait of David Garrick, said to have belonged to the great actor, which realised £3 7s. 6d., An original document, dated March 9, 1805, signed by the Master Trustees and Committee for the Fund for Decayed Actors belonging to the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, suggesting that Master Betty shall "exert his transcendent Talents for us One Night, for his poor, aged, and infirm Brethren," &c., which went for £1 15s.

A great treat is in store for the patrons of this afternoon's concert at the Crystal Palace, where Harold Bauer and Jean Gerardy will give a joint recital. The programme will include Sonata in A minor (Greig) for piano and 'cello, piano solos of Schumann, "Air de Ballet" (Gluck-Saint-Saëns), a Scherzo of Mendelssohn, Liszt's Rhapsodie No. 13, and other attractive selections. The vocalist will be Mr. Walter Wheatley and the accompanist Mr. Charlton Keith. For the evening promenade concerts at the Crystal Palace the artists engaged by Mr. Walter W. Hedgcock are Misses Evelyn Vernham, Helen Blair, Annie Bartle, and Carrie James, and Messrs. J. A. Bovett, Robert Dennant, Arthur Grover, and others.

The Committee of the Actors' Benevolent Fund for 1907 and 1908 is now in process of constitution. All subscribers of a guinea and upwards are entitled to nominate and vote in the election of the Executive, which must be composed of fourteen members of £5 and upwards, and seven members of not less than one guinea. Gentlemen qualified as above, and who are willing to serve on the Committee, are requested to send in their names not later than Thursday, April 4. In the event of there being more than twenty-one candidates an election will take place on Thursday, April 11, at 4 p.m., at 8, Adam-street, Adelphi, when the voting papers will be examined and recorded by the scrutineers appointed at the annual general meeting.

"MR. SHERIDAN."

A Comedy, in Four Acts, by Miss Gladys Unger, Played, for the first time in London, at the Garrick Theatre, on Wednesday, March 6.

Richard Brinsley Sheridan ....MR. BOURCHIER
Tom .....MR. WALTER PEARCE
Lord Cray .....MR. CYRIL KEIGHTLEY
Mr. Rundle .....MR. SYDNEY VALENTINE
Edwards .....MR. CHARLES V. FRANCE
Mr. Baines .....MR. LEONARD CALVERT
Minzes .....MR. ARTHUR WHITBY
John .....MR. LAWSON BUTT
Messenger .....MR. ALFRED BRISTOWE
Tim .....MR. EDWARD RIGBY
Sliver .....MR. WILLIAM BURCHILL
A Sheriff's Officer .....MR. CHARLES GOODHART
Another Sheriff's Officer .....MR. FRANK LACY
Curate .....MR. HARRISON CARTER
A Country Squire .....MR. DOUGLAS IMBERT
Kitty Montmorency .....MISS NANCY PRICE
Prudence Rundle .....MISS PAMELA GAYTHORNE
Mrs. Ogle .....MISS HELEN ROUS
Esther .....MISS ALEXANDRA CARLISLE

Mr. Sheridan, which was first performed at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, in the August of 1904, is brightly written, and is full of interesting and amusing incident. Sheridan was troubled a good deal by his relations—his father always depreciated him, and even found fault with *The School for Scandal*; and, in *Mr. Sheridan*, his son Tom gives him "very great uneasiness." It is hoped that Tom Sheridan will win the hand of the charming Miss Esther Ogle; but his father has news of the youth's having entangled himself with a married lady at Cambridge. When Miss Ogle arrives at Sheridan's house at Wanstead, Tom's head is too full of his Cambridge flame for him to do himself justice as a suitor; and his rival, Lord Wilfred Cray, finds that the lady will not favour his suit. In retaliation, his Lordship schemes to buy up Sheridan's debts, throw the embarrassed author into prison, and thus disgust Esther with the idea of a union with Tom.

In the second act Sheridan is visited by Kitty Montmorency, an actress, who has been badly treated by Lord Cray. The good-natured dramatist gets Kitty to accept an offer of marriage which is made to her by an honest inn-keeper. Then Sheridan is pestered by a Mr. Rundle, who accuses him of paying attentions to his—Rundle's—wife at Cambridge, while he was absent in Jamaica. Rundle, in proof, produces a letter from Tom to the lady; and the affectionate father, making himself the scapegoat for his offspring's imprudence, does not deny the impeachment, and consents to meet Rundle "with pistols for two" next morning.

Miss Ogle has now conceived an affection for Sheridan *père*, who gives a ball in her honour. He also is enamoured. Mrs. Rundle, the wife of Sheridan's previous visitor, arrives, and Sheridan conceals her to prevent her meeting the troublesome Tom. The dramatist now proposes to Miss Ogle; but she, having misconstrued his action with regard to Mrs. Rundle, refuses him, and accepts Lord Cray. Rundle arrives, pugnacious. In the encounter which follows Rundle is wounded by Sheridan, who releases Mrs. Rundle, and advises her to ask her husband's forgiveness, and then hurries off with Miss Ogle, after an explanation, to get married. He is followed by Sheriff's officers to the inn now kept by Kitty and her husband. He dexterously deceives his pursuers, who arrest Lord Cray by mistake. He is, however, eventually released, and the dramatist receives, most opportunely, a cheque for £15,000, which he has been expecting, and which relieves him of his difficulties.

Naturally, the figure of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, poet and dramatist, manager, and Member of Parliament, dominates the play, and Mr. Bourchier makes a very lovable personality—with a most engaging brogue—of the impulsive, emotional Irishman. We have grown so accustomed to seeing Mr. Bourchier in character parts that it must have been something of a surprise, even to his most enthusiastic admirers, to note the quiet ease with which he played the part of the simple, unassuming genius, the Sheridan as shown us in Miss Unger's play. Mr. Bourchier realises to the full the underlying pathos, the quick flashes of wit, the boyish irresponsibility of the famous Irishman, and he invests the character with a charm and a simplicity which, we frankly acknowledge, we had hardly expected from him, versatile as he has proved himself to be. In the scene where Esther, seated at the spinet, facing the portrait of his dead wife, sings the old English song, "How could you leave me?" what varied emotions flit across Sheridan's face! He is conscious, first of a vague, elusive memory, then of a sudden realisation, as he catches sight of his wife's picture, that it was from her lips that he had last heard the song; and, lastly, he fixes a look of unutterable sadness and longing on the likeness of his dead wife, the glance being followed by a hurried exit, with the murmured words, "I must be alone!" All this shows Mr. Bourchier in the light of an actor who can appeal to the emotions as well as to the intelligence. However small the part may be which Mr. Sydney Valentine plays, he invariably manages to invest it with character and feeling; and in this case his performance of the injured husband, who has every reason to believe himself more wronged than is the case, is marked by a dignity of bearing and an incisive style which make the character stand out, although it is comparatively insignificant. Nature has aided Mr. Valentine's art by endowing him with a fine voice, which arrests the attention and charms the ear of the listener. The part of Sheridan's prig of a son is played by Mr. Walter Pearce in a manner which makes it an excellent foil to the genial, light-hearted father; and the rôle of the unscrupulous young scoundrel, Lord Cray, is enacted with commendable restraint by Mr. Cyril Keightley. Mr. Charles V. France gives a first-rate performance as an old servant who has lived long enough with his master to have acquired a superficial resemblance to him in more ways than one. Mr. Arthur Whitby makes the moneylender, Minzes, a Jew of the approved stage type. The Messenger from Morland's Bank, with an impediment in his speech, is represented very humorously by Mr. Alfred Bristowe; and Mr. Edward Rigby, as Tim, the "boots," gives a clever little character-sketch. Mr. Leonard Calvert makes a very determined creditor; and Mr. William Burchill strikes a good note as Sliver, who may be more aptly described as Lord Cray's "creature" than as his servant. Mr. Charles Goodhart is excellent as a stupid country bumpkin of a Sheriff's Officer; and is ably seconded by Mr. Frank Lacy as another "of that ilk." Mr. Lawson Butt as Honest John, the innkeeper, is very successful as the manly husband and lover of pretty Kitty Montmorency. Mr. Douglas Imbert is a typical Country Squire; and Mr. Harrison Carter an amiable Curate. As Esther, the heroine of the play, Miss Alexandra Carlisle deepens the good impression which she made in *The Morals of Marcus*. Her Esther is an altogether delightful little person, fresh and sweet, with dainty little ways and a rippling laugh. The transition from frank admiration of the genius Sheridan to love of the man is shown by very delicate touches; and the curtain, at the end of the second act, falls on a charming picture of Esther gazing, with a face full of wistful absorption, at the picture of the first wife, the Miss Linley of history. The airs and graces of Kitty Montmorency are engagingly presented by Miss Nancy Price, who, in the last act, conveys very prettily the love she bears to her "honest John," under all the affectations of the actress. Miss Helen Rous plays Mrs. Ogle with all her usual ability, and is very funny in the last act, when she overhears Lord Cray referring to her as "Old Ogle." Miss Pamela Gaythorne gives a pretty little picture of the repentant wife, Prudence Rundle. *Mr. Sheridan* was very favourably received.

DRURY LANE THEATRE.

MATINEE FOR LONDON'S CRIPPLES.

More than one thousand pounds was realised at the performance given at Drury Lane Theatre on Tuesday afternoon in aid of the Lord Mayor's Cripples' Fund. An altogether admirable programme was presented, and it can be said at once that the audience had an unusually good bargain in return for what they paid for their seats. Miss Winifred Emery, with an eloquence which could not be surpassed, and could not be denied, delivered a touching appeal for assistance to the Fund, the address having been written by Captain Robert Marshall.

Lady Bancroft, in announcing the amount of the donations and the sum netted by the matinée, and thanking the audience for their liberal support of the Lord Mayor's scheme, said:—"It must afford the Lord Mayor the utmost measure of happiness to see the great desire of his life thus approaching nearer and nearer to completion, and I sincerely hope and trust that the institution for which he has worked so hard and so long will soon come into existence. I only wish I could give him what is wanted to make up the requisite sum, for in that case he would not have long to wait. Such a home as is contemplated by him will serve to reconcile these poor hopeless and helpless little ones in their sad affliction. For just think how doubly hard it must be for them to endure pain in a miserable home, amid squalid surroundings, bad air, bad food, bad everything. This home, with all its splendid advantages, will bring sunshine into their lives, will soothe and alleviate their sufferings, and make their little world look ever so much brighter. Trades and industries of a skilled character will be open to these children, who in this way will be provided with an object in life, and thus be enabled to gain a livelihood for themselves."

As to the entertainment, Mr. Tree, aided by members of His Majesty's Theatre company, presented his striking performance of *The Man Who Was*; and Mr. Cyril Maude was seen in *The Beauty and the Barge*, supported by actors and actresses who formed part of the original cast. Mr. H. B. Irving and Mr. Lewis Waller delivered recitations in superb style. Mr. Huntley Wright entertained the house with his rendering of the song "It's only a question of time," and Mlle. Genée delighted all by her execution of a pretty dance. Mr. Alfred Lester gave "The Scene-shifter's Lament," in his gently humorous way; and Mr. Walter Passmore, Mr. Harry Randall, Mr. Harry Fragson (who obliged with several ballads), Mr. Fred Emney, Miss Queenie Leighton, and Miss Marie George and other members of the Drury Lane company, appeared in a pot-pourri from *Sindbad*, Mr. Randall and Mr. Emney, as usual, provoking an outburst of uncontrollable laughter by their comic business in the afternoon tea scene. Mr. Ben Davies was heard to fine effect in "Mother o' Mine," words by Kipling and music by Mr. Frank Tours; to Miss Margaret Cooper praise is due for her very pleasing rendering of "My heart's at your feet." The most novel feature of the matinée was *A Prehistoric Lord Mayor's Show*, arranged by Mr. E. T. Reed and Mr. Edmund Payne. This "show," into which a good deal of knockabout fun was introduced, proved exceedingly diverting.

The trial scene from *Pickwick* was performed by a cast of stars. The immortal Buzfuz found a flamboyantly eloquent exponent in Mr. Edward Terry. Mr. Harry Nicholls played the irritable Justice Stareleigh with a realism that seemed to have been begotten of years spent on the judicial bench. Of course, in person, face, and manner one could scarcely wish for a better representative of the great Pickwick than Mr. J. J. Dallas, who treated the house to a delightful performance. Serjeant Snubbin has a very uphill fight against the robustious Buzfuz, and Mr. Terry Hurst acted extremely well as the defender of the unfortunate Pickwick. Miss Fanny Brough played the sympathetic Mrs. Cluppins with exquisite humour, and Mr. Arthur Williams was a very entertaining Sam Weller; while others taking part in the scene were Mr. Fred Wright, jun. (Nathaniel Winkle), Mr. George Byrne (Mr. Fogg), Miss Carlotta Addison (Mrs. Bardell), Miss Georgie Esmond (Mrs. Saunders), Mr. Ackerman May (Associate), Miss Iris Hawkins (Master Bardell), Mr. Robt. Pateman (Old Weller), Mr. Wm. Dexter, and Mr. T. P. Haynes.

FUNERAL OF MISS BRANDRAM.

The funeral of Miss Rosina Brandram, one of the Savoy favourites of former days, took place on Tuesday. The body was first conveyed to St. Mark's Church, Southend, where a choral service was conducted by the Rev. G. J. Lodge. Subsequently the remains were conveyed to the City of London Cemetery, at Ilford, for cremation. The funeral cortège, consisting of a hearse and two mourning carriages, arrived at the cemetery at 1.30 p.m. The chief mourners were the brother and nephew, Messrs. Wm. Moult and Aubrey Moult, Mrs. W. Moult, Mr. George Papps, Mr. R. B. Creak, and Miss E. A. Tidd, cousin. The coffin, which was covered with floral tokens of affection and regard, was taken into the chapel adjoining the crematorium, and the choral service was concluded, the officiating minister being the Rev. G. J. Lodge. The inscription on the coffin ran:—"Rosina Butcher (Rosina Brandram), died Feb. 28, 1907, aged 61 years." The wreath sent by the author of so many Savoy Theatre operas had attached to it a card, bearing the following inscription:—"In affectionate remembrance and much gratitude.—W. S. Gilbert." "In affectionate memory of my dear and faithful friend, Rosina," were the words on the card which accompanied Mr. George Grossmith's wreath; and Mrs. R. D'Oyly Carte's affectionate appreciation was expressed by the inscription, "With deepest regret from her old friend." Another wreath was forwarded as "A tribute of regard from the new Savoy Company"; and there were similar tributes, over thirty altogether, to the memory of the deceased from the Savoy Orchestra and the Southend Operatic Society, and many personal friends, including Mr. and Mrs. Moult, Aubrey and Baba, Mrs. Tidd and family, Mr. Herbert Sullivan, Mr. and Miss Bennett, Mrs. Buck, Mrs. Fellowes, Mrs. Dickson, Miss Rooke, Mr. and Mrs. Tomkins, Ernest, Mrs. Crombie, Miss Clara Jecks, Mrs. Frederick Tidd, Miss Lorrimer, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cellier, Cousin George, Mr. and Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Corlis, Harriet, R. B. Creak, Rosie Nixon, and "In Loving Memory of a very great artist and a very dear friend.—E. A. E."

A RARE chance to would-be automobilists is offered by Messrs. Warrilow and Co., of Weston-super-Mare, who have 150 motor-cars on hand to dispose of at great bargains, in addition to 6500 cycles, new and secondhand, from 25s. each. A 100-page illustrated catalogue, giving full details, may be had free on application to the firm named, who guarantee a saving of 50 per cent.

"THE GREAT CONSPIRACY."

A Drama, in Three Acts and Four Scenes, by Pierre Berton, Adapted from the French by Madeleine Lucette Ryley, Produced at the Duke of York's Theatre, on Monday, March 4.

Napoleon Bonaparte .....MR. JOHN HARE
Captain Roger Crisenoy ....MR. HENRY AINLEY
Colonel Rapp .....MR. LYALL SWETE
Marquis de Tallemont .....MR. AUBREY SMITH
The Cardinal Fesch ....MR. A. E. DRINKWATER
Fouché .....MR. JERROLD ROBERTSHAW
Regnier .....MR. E. DAGNALL
Adjutant Barral .....MR. EDWARD SASS
St. Rejant .....MR. JOYNSEN POWELL
Bernard .....MR. ARTHUR WONTNER
François .....MR. DRELINCOURT ODLUM
De Cobentzel .....MR. HERBERT DANSEY
De Remusat .....MR. ARTHUR ELDRED
Caulaincourt .....MR. G. COURTNEY
Marshal Murat .....MR. C. WELLESLEY
Marshal Duroc .....MR. HERBERT BUNSTON
Marshal Lannes.....MR. SYDNEY HAMILTON
General Junot .....MR. E. JEPHSON
Prince Borghese .....MR. E. BROOKFIELD
Roustan .....MR. W. HUBERT
Brutus .....MR. P. L. JULIAN
Gaston .....MR. R. HAIGH
Jeanne des Briantes ....MISS IRENE VANBRUGH
Josephine .....MISS MADGE MCINTOSH
Hortense .....MISS JANET ALEXANDER
Pauline Borghese .....MISS JANE MAY
Caroline Murat .....MISS ELSA SINCLAIR
Mme. Junot .....MISS NELLA POWYS
Mme. Lannes .....MISS ADA HOMER
Mme. De Remusat .....MISS MARGARET FRASER

M. Pierre Berton's piece, *La Belle Marseillaise*, which was produced at the Ambigu Theatre in the March of 1905, is a skilful bit of theatrical craftsmanship. At times it is rather too theatrical; especially when an explosion—a double-barrelled one—shakes the house, and fills the stage and auditorium with the odour of gunpowder. The introduction of a poisoned snuff-box verges on the absurd, and the peremptory way in which the villain is put out of his misery in the last act is decidedly quaint. But, withal, the shuttlecock of interest is always in the air. We are ever palpitating on the verge of a discovery, and, if some of us have lost the power to palpitate at M. Berton's simple, but effective, inventions, it only shows that we have lost other things as well.

The action opens in a Paris restaurant, kept by a *ci-devant* Marquis de Tallemont, under the name of Lacaussade. The Marquis married a young girl of good family when she was only twelve, in order to settle a family dispute; and, as he is much her senior, and his mind is given entirely to the projected blowing-up of the hated Bonaparte, the connection between them is purely platonic. The void thus left in the heart of Jeanne is soon filled by Roger Crisenoy, a young officer, one of Napoleon's *aides-de-camp*, who adores the Emperor. As Crisenoy is one of the devoted adherents who watch in turns over Bonaparte's safety, it is desirable that he should be kept out of the way while the conspirators carry out their plan; so De Tallemont tells Jeanne to detain her admirer at dinner till the clock strikes seven—the hour for which the explosion is fixed. Thus is provided a very tantalising scene, ending in a declaration of passion, two tremendous bangs, and the front of the restaurant being smashed in. We are informed immediately afterwards that De Tallemont's head has been blown off; but this is a mistake—it is Bernard, one of the conspirators, who has been decapitated, while disguised in De Tallemont's coat. The Marquis is very much alive, and binds Jeanne over to keep the secret.

This secret it becomes the object of Napoleon to drag from her in the next act; for the Marquis is at his old game of assassination again, and his existence is suspected by Fouché, who is anxious to expose the incapacity of his successor, Regnier. There is a long, but adroitly-handled, scene, in which Napoleon, showing talent as a cross-examiner worthy of the late Sir Henry Hawkins, turns poor little Jeanne's evidence inside out. She, true to her promise, maintains that De Tallemont is dead. She confesses, however, that she loves Crisenoy. "Then, why not marry him?" asks Napoleon; and, driven up into a corner, the alleged widow consents to commit bigamy rather than be false to her word, the scene ending with the civil marriage of the parties. Jeanne tells Crisenoy the truth, and, as he stoutly maintains his ignorance when questioned by Napoleon, he is put under arrest. In the last act, De Tallemont turns up in disguise, as the trusted agent of the idiotic Regnier, and tries to poison Napoleon with medicated snuff, placed in a box which is a duplicate of Bonaparte's own. Jeanne recognises her legal husband, and manages to change the boxes, so that Napoleon retains the harmless one. Hearing from Fouché of the intended trick, Napoleon orders her to take a pinch from the box, which, of course, she does very boldly. Croisenoy recognises De Tallemont, and challenges him to a duel; but, in the young man's absence, and by De Tallemont's special request, Colonel Rapp "takes on the job," and the Marquis perishes by the Colonel's trusty blade.

Mr. John Hare's Emperor had the most important factor of a Napoleonic embodiment—active, acute intelligence. He gave an admirable idea of Bonaparte in one of the irritable, energetic moods which are described by De Bourrienne as being of frequent occurrence. The piercing eyes, flashing fire under the pent-house brows, the alert movements, and the sharp *staccato* delivery, were amply characteristic. It should be remembered that it was only late in life that Napoleon developed the corpulence which is one of the "points" in our imaginary creation of the famous Corsican; when young he was notoriously small and thin. In early life he might have been described as a saturnine little rat. Mr. Hare's Napoleon is the Napoleon of the English caricaturists, which certainly had foundation in fact. His acting in the scenes with Jeanne was marvellously crisp and telling, and the complete mastery of the Emperor's genius over his surroundings was emphasised with striking skill. Mr. Henry Ainley was all that could be desired in the way of good looks, gallant bearing, and dramatic effectiveness, as Captain Roger Crisenoy; and Mr. Lyall Swete gave a full-bodied and duly important embodiment of Colonel Rapp. Mr. Aubrey Smith played the part of the Marquis de Tallemont for all that it was worth, and made the most of his scanty opportunities; and Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw was an excellent Fouché—smooth, easy, and persistent. Mr. E. Dagnall was comically conceited and silly as Regnier, and performed his task very judiciously; and the panic terror of the conspirator, Bernard, was graphically shown by Mr. Arthur Wontner. Miss Irene Vanbrugh won all hearts, and made a delightfully dainty Jeanne de Briantes. Whether coquetting with Crisenoy in the first act, or quivering under the attacks of Bonaparte in the second, she was equally clever and charming. Miss Madge McIntosh realised Josephine happily, if contemporary portraits may be trusted; and Miss Janet Alexander was a pretty and pleasing Hortense. The members of the Napoleonic Court all had careful and conscientious representatives; and the piece was liberally and tastefully dressed, Messrs. Bruce Smith, W. Hann, Ernest Hann, and McCleery's scenery being excellent. M. Charles Bianchini and Mr. Tom Heslewood's designs for the costumes were capably carried out; and Mr. Dion Boucicault's direction ensured the smoothness of the production. The piece had a cordial reception from an appreciative audience, Mr. Hare being received with especial enthusiasm.

"MY DARLING."

A New Musical Play, in Two Acts, Written by Seymour Hicks and Composed by Herbert E. Haines, Lyrics by Chas. H. Taylor, Additional Numbers by Evelyn Baker, Additional Lyrics by P. G. Wodehouse, Produced at the Hicks Theatre, on Saturday, March 2.

Sir Henry Heldon .....MR. J. F. MCARDLE
Hon. Jack Hylton .....MR. HENRY A. LYTTON
Maurice Le Blanc .....MR. ARMAND KALISZ
Oddy .....MR. TOM GRAVES
Squib .....MR. ARCHIE MCCAIG
Hon. Mutty Farrell .....MR. MERVYN DENE
The MacSporan .....MR. CHAS. CHILDERSTONE
Hon. Chas. Dimsdale .....MR. GEORGE CASTLES
Lieut. Taff Davies .....MR. KENNETH MACLAINE
Alphonse .....MR. JACK THOMPSON
Auguste .....MR. HAROLD BORRETT
Adolphe .....MR. ALFRED LLOYD
Achille .....MR. ALFRED HAINES
Slow .....MR. CHARLES CAFFREY
Sir Charles Aldershot .....MR. CYRIL CLENSY
Sir Arthur Jagg .....MR. WILL BISHOP
Daphne Bell .....MISS BARBARA DEANE
Sylvaine .....MISS BERYL FABER
Lady Heldon .....MISS CLARE GREET
Mrs. Pomeroy P. Green ..MISS HELEN KINNAIRD
Lisette .....MISS ETHEL NASH
Mlle. Andaro .....MISS MARGUERITE LESLIE
Hon. Miss Gram O'Phone..MISS GLADYS MARSDEN
Gabriel Reeve .....MISS ALICE HOLLANDER
Miss Edinburgh .....MISS SYLVIA STOREY
Miss Newcastle .....MISS RENA GOLDIE
Miss Dublin .....MISS DOROTHY ROBERTS
Miss Liverpool .....MISS KITTY MELROSE
Miss Llanfaerfechan .....MISS LYDIA WEST
Miss Birmingham .....MISS ELSIE KAY
Miss Brighton .....MISS BIRDIE SUTHERLAND
Miss Bristol .....MISS VASHTI EARLE
Miss Sheffield .....MISS DORIS STOCKER
Miss Leicester .....MISS DINNIE GRAHAM
Miss Manchester .....MISS CLAIRE RICKARDS
Miss London .....MISS MAY GATES
Joy Blossom .....MISS MARIE STUDHOLME

Scenes of daintiness, costumes of supreme loveliness, beautiful girls, comedy broad and effective, and a sincere and convincing dramatic scene, are among the distinguishing features of the latest musical comedy arranged and planned by Mr. Seymour Hicks, who, in productions of a similar kind, has won name and fame. It is not exactly what *My Darling* is at the present moment, it is what she will become in the hands of an ever-watchful management, who will prune and elaborate, delete and amend, until as a piece of attractive and harmless frivolity the new production will answer all the requirements of an ever-growing public, who insist on a judicious mixture of frivolity and fun, and who, as long as they have plenty of incidental song and dance, do not trouble in the least about a plot. This essential, however, is supplied.

We have no *fin de siècle* treatment of a nursery legend, but an imbroglio that reminds the old playgoer of the very successful *Pink Dominos*. Sir Henry Heldon is a distant relation of Joskin Tubbs, the naughty old gentleman of the Criterion farce mentioned. He is proprietor of a newspaper called the *Daily Butterfly*. Being in Paris, which always spells impropriety on the English stage, Sir Henry determines to have what is called in the vernacular of Bohemia a real good time. Lady Heldon is rather suspicious than submissive, and also takes a little excursion abroad. The meeting of the old couple and all and sundry of the characters supplies the comic interest. The heroine, an English girl from the convent, unsophisticated and sweet, as a matter of course—is she not named Joy Blossom?—is loved by the Hon. Jack Hylton, a typical young scion of the English aristocracy, who, during his salad days, has had love passages with Sylvaine, a diva of the Folies-Bergères, with the usual result, a packet of compromising letters. These she will surrender only at a heavy price. Meetings are arranged at the Hôtel D'Ontelle, and in the end the Frenchwoman capitulates to the appeal of Joy Blossom, and gives up the records of the foolish and dangerous infatuation of Hylton. He, too, suffers no little mental trepidation through the misunderstandings of which he is the victim. The *blasé* woman of the world surrenders the prospect of blackmail for "a kiss of the pure lips" of the English maiden. Jack Hylton's goodnature, we should add, leads him into considerable trouble, and when he takes the place of his friend, M. Maurice Le Blanc, an opera tenor—indisposed through having dined and wined too freely—the result is an "embarrassment" of cross-purposes all round, in which Daphne Bell, the fiancée of Le Blanc, has a share. This is all we need say of the plot.

Mr. J. F. McArdle's title to be considered a low comedian of the first rank was established by him when he created last May at Wyndham's the character of General Sir Wilkie Willoughby, in *The Girl Behind the Counter*. His Sir Henry Heldon presents a ludicrous appearance in the second act, and the gay old dog's appreciation of the beauty and *chic* of the "Butterfly Girls" is quite excusable and comically expressed. Compromising situations are treated by Mr. McArdle with all the droll resource of an accomplished actor, and he scores most unmistakably throughout. Miss Marie Studholme realises the demure prettiness and unsophisticated charm of Joy Blossom, singing with sufficient sincerity, too, to make the "Glow-worm" ballad acceptable. She has a chance later in the piece, wherein the heart of the English girl is touched by the unexpected self-sacrifice of the French adventuress, and herein Miss Studholme plays with a pretty sincerity that gets at the hearts of her hearers. Miss Beryl Faber, an actress of considerable gifts, as Londoners have been admitting since she graduated with honours as the cold-blooded Miss Geraldine Ridgeley in *His House in Order*, finds herself in musical comedy in a part more flamboyant than the one she has been playing with so much success for a twelvemonth. As Sylvaine she portrays the chagrin of the disappointed diva with no little picturesqueness and power, and in the little scene to which we have referred she holds the house by the dramatic significance of her acting. Mr. H. A. Lytton, the Savoyard, has a part after his own heart in Jack Hylton, and scores a very great hit in the patriotic and military number "Hats off to the King," in which representatives of a Scotch corps of the British Army are in evidence, a touch of sentiment being given by Mr. Lytton's appearance as an aged and decrepit Chelsea pensioner. Mr. Lytton also scores with Miss Studholme in a pretty duet at a luncheon table. Mr. Armand Kalisz, a newcomer to the London stage, appears as M. Maurice Le Blanc, and is fortunate indeed in having so interesting a scena as "The shady side of Bond-street," a dainty concerted number, in which both sexes adopt the costumes of the sixties with very novel effect. Miss Barbara Deane as Daphne Bell sings with power and volume, but forces her notes in the number, "The songs my mother sang," which includes excerpts from Killarney" and "Home, Sweet Home." Miss Helen Kinnaird is imposing and amusing as the American widow, Mrs. Pomeroy Green, a new edition of Mrs. Shimmering Black in *The Earl and the Girl*, and is broadly comic when Mrs. Green disguises herself as Joan of Arc, the maid of Orleans. Miss Ethel Nash makes a sprightly Lisette; Miss Alice Hollander, from the Tivoli, who plays Gabriel Reeve, a French singer, gives with good effect a song concerning "women and wine"; Miss Clare Greet has no lack of ludicrous situations in which to display her well known drollery; Master Archie McCaig is a pert and saucy page-boy as Squib; Mr. Tom Graves is responsible for an amusingly effective impersonation of Oddy, the proprietor of the hotel; Mr. Charles Childerstone is seen to advantage as The MacSporan; and Mr. Mervyn Dene is smart and soldier-like as the Hon. Mutty Farrell.

"PETER'S MOTHER" AT THE HAYMARKET.

The traditions of the Haymarket will in no way suffer by the appearance on its stage of *Peter's Mother*, which on Saturday went into residence at the theatre so ably governed by Mr. Frederick Harrison. Mrs. Henry de la Pasture's delightful piece, which has already borne several removals without injury, may not remain long in its present home, as the new play, *The Palace of Puck*, is only waiting the complete restoration to health of Mr. Charles Hawtrey for production; but the favour bestowed on *Peter's Mother* might well justify its reproduction at still another West-end house, where its stay would be more permanent. The fragrance of Miss Marion Terry's performance of the title-rôle has been little disturbed in the transition from place to place, and the grace and refinement of her acting extert their customary influence, and serve to give Miss Terry's embodiment of Lady Mary Crewys a high place among her most artistic achievements. Mr. A. E. Mathews is fortunately retained for the selfish son, Peter, and his reputation is greatly enhanced by the representation. His assumption of the youth's arrogance and invincible egoism, so far as his mother is concerned, is superb, but by a touch of real cleverness he manages to give sufficient character to the part to secure it a position in favour, and the audience are fain to admire the plucky young soldier, so smartly presented by Mr. Mathews. As Sir Timothy Crewys, Mr. Norman McKinnell again presents his vivid study of the invalid, soured by pain and suffering, which finds expression in look, word, and action. Miss Beatrice Ferrar makes a girlish and comely figure of the youthful Sarah Hewel, and delivers her lines with the utmost point. Another newcomer to the cast is Miss Gwynne Herbert, whose embodiment of the self-approving Mrs. Hewel is a conspicuous success. Miss Herbert's presence on the stage is brief, but she makes it notable for a performance full of vivacity and charm. Mr. E. W. Garden gives to Canon Birch a clerical cut that does not finish with his coat, and to his quiet and unassertive drollery much of the laughter that arises is due. The manifest difficulties of the part of John Crewys, Q.C., are artistically surmounted by Mr. Dawson Milward who imparts all the requisite tenderness to the rôle, while his delivery of the little lecture to Peter which precedes the close of the play, was so neatly done that the cheers of the audience on Saturday broke out enthusiastically. Mr. Alfred Bucklaw gives a commendable sketch of Dr. Blundell, and skilfully moulds his sonorous voice, which has declaimed the stirring lines of many a strenuous character, to the necessities of the part of the fashionable medical man. The oddities of the widowed Lady Belstone and Miss Georgina Crewys are shared by Miss Dolores Drummond and Miss Alice Beet, who are both richly humorous in their impersonations. Messrs. Eric Lennard and Montague Elphinstone undertake with credit the duties of butler and footman respectively. *Peter's Mother* is preceded by Keble Howard's comedietta, *Compromising Martha*, the revival of which is fully justified by the amusement it affords. Miss Dagmar Wiehe is most attractive as the young lady who combines sweethearting with philanthropy, and as her coadjutor Mr. E. W. Tarver skilfully reconciles the dignity of the cloth with the ardour of the lover. Miss Florence Haydon's representation of Martha is a piece of work in which expert facial play is not the least prominent of a clever impersonation; and Miss Lydia Rachel's embodiment of a country housewife is a marvel of quaintness.

"HEDDA GABLER" AT THE COURT.

A houseful of enthusiasts assembled at the Court Theatre on Tuesday afternoon when the first of a series of matinées of Ibsen's play, *Hedda Gabler*, was given. Justice was rendered to the piece by a skilfully-selected cast, of which Mrs. Patrick Campbell was the prominent figure, and the performance afforded keen enjoyment, although the plaintive requests to "speak up" which came occasionally from the gallery were not wholly unwarranted. *Hedda Gabler* is a creditable specimen of Ibsen's constructive ability, and the satisfaction with which it was received in London some sixteen years ago, when the title-rôle was played by Miss Elizabeth Robbins, was renewed with marked intensity on Tuesday. As the play is one of Ibsen's most dramatically effective, so is its leading character one of his most complex, and if Mrs. Campbell did not rise to supreme heights in her portrayal, she presented a clever study of the class of part for the interpretation of which she is justly renowned. Mrs. Campbell yields to none in her depiction of utter boredom, and to this phase of the character she was true in every detail, especially when Hedda's ailment took the form of a candid contempt for her husband. It was in conveying the exact intention of the rôle that Mrs. Campbell's hold of the part weakened, and Hedda's attitude towards Mrs. Elvsted, her interest in Lövborg, and her feeling for Judge Brack were suggested with scarcely sufficient weight. Mrs. Campbell has at command much deeper effects of light and shade, and that she did not put them into the picture is due only to the fact that she slightly misjudged her aim. It was nevertheless a performance on a high artistic scale, and Mrs. Campbell's fine presence and measured tones were of incalculable value in the achievement. Mr. Laurence Irving, who was loaned by Mr. Charles Frohman, gave character to Eilert Lövborg. With meaning in every word and look, the actor played upon the emotions of the audience by many well-studied tricks of gesture, facial expression, and delivery, and supplied in the rugged, dissipated young essayist an impersonation that was weirdly fascinating. The tête-à-tête with Hedda Gabler was unmistakably the most impressive in his performance, and the conduct of the scene in which the ingenuity of the playwright is vividly displayed was a masterly piece of dramatic finesse. Mr. James Hearn was insidiously effective as Judge Brack, who aspires to make the Hedda's family triangle complete. He pursued his sinister purpose with all the sagacity of a skilled financier building up his gains, and his discomfiture at the end was very pronounced. The silly and self-sufficient spouse was played to perfection by Mr. Trevor Lowe, who made George Tesman the very ideal of a good-natured bookworm, whose affection for his wife does not mar his enthusiasm for his work. Tesman's attitudes and expressions were always in tune with the part, and Mr. Lowe's performance was clever and evenly balanced throughout. The part of the ill-advised Mrs. Elvsted present many difficulties, but Miss Evelyn Weeden surmounted them in a way that reflected creditably on her ability. She is gifted with a prepossessing appearance and a pleasingly impulsive style, and it was little wonder that sympathy was extended to the warm-hearted young lady. An impersonation full of charm and serenity was given by Miss Adela Measor, who beamed through the part of Miss Juliana Tesman, and shed a welcome gleam of comedy on the scene whenever she appeared. The cast was completed by Miss Mary Raby, who was a properly sedate Berta. A distinguished audience gave evidence of complete approval, and warmly recalled the chief performers at every curtain.

"THE ANGEL OF UNREST," which was produced with gratifying success last Monday at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, will not wait long before being performed in London, Mr. Fred Fredericks having secured it for the Borough Theatre, Stratford, the week commencing March 25.

STOCK COMPANIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—There can be no shadow of doubt that the travelling company does not now enjoy that popularity extended on its inception. Whether it be that the performers have had no opportunities of "making a name," and thus do not individually attract the public, the reason does not seem necessary to argue in this letter, but if the provincial theatre is to maintain its prestige as an amusement provider to the masses, it would appear politic to hearken to the voice echoing public sentiment.

At this period there is only one city in Great Britain possessing a number of stock companies, and the following are the names of the theatres where the principal companies perform:—His Majesty's, Haymarket, Playhouse, Gaiety, St. James's, Garrick, Daly's, and Court. Possibly experts infer that the success of these combinations depends on individuality, which individuality secures a "following," and as this said "following" increases week by week, it seems to be, in the ordinary progress of things, for respective performers to become well known and popular, or develop gradually into West-end favourites or stars. Thus, it will be admitted that the "favourite" is made by long seasons at one place; he becomes known, people speak of him as "great" in this and that, he "draws" the public on his particular line of business, his peculiar mannerisms, his drawl, his singing, his dancing, or whatever other speciality he exhibits, and by his permanency in one theatre he takes root, and may speedily be termed part and parcel of the theatrical business.

With the touring actor it is altogether different. His stay in a town is limited to one week only, and as the public visit the theatre more with the object of seeing the "London success" than anything else, it is but reasonable to state that the name of the individual actor is forgotten when he departs from a theatre; and herein would appear to be the stumbling-block in the way of the performer's progress, for it must be conceded that every actor—and this general term includes the actress—has personal mannerisms and "tricks" which must be continuously demonstrated to gain any degree of notoriety, and the mere fact of exercising his talents in one place for any length of time adds materially to his opportunities for making that headway borne of serious ambition, which latter is the true instinct of every earnest worker in all departments of the human beehive.

It might, therefore, with sound logic, be prognosticated that the leading resident-managers of provincial theatres will in due course consider carefully the policy of emulating the system of the London stock companies, whether for musical plays or otherwise, and organise their own combinations of talented people, drawn both from the market and from the ranks of clever "locals." Let us take Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow, and Edinburgh as examples of cities for treatment under such a régime. In all these important national centres there must be lying dormant local talent of the first quality, which fact can be proved by visiting the popular amateur concerts or dramatic representations. The local manager-producer may in course of time set himself to find these people, who would naturally have some little "following" at the onset, and by judiciously bolstering them up with experienced talent from the London or central market, and keeping the crowd well before his patrons, build and develop companies as satisfactory in comparison as any in the metropolis, and such a course would obviate the modern tendency of turning on variety shows at slack intervals of dramatic seasons. Moreover, as there are smaller theatre towns all round the larger cities, it is easily argued that after a season at the so-and-so centre the company could take a trip to the outlying places, where it is apprehended their performances have already been discussed by native patrons and are awaited with keen anticipation and pleasure.

Then, again, it can be taken into consideration that the established entertainments at the several centres would attract the London managers, and in all probability not only the plays themselves would be taken *en bloc* to the larger area of London, but the artists also would have a broader and finer field for their endeavours which would improve their chances of gaining a place in London; and authors, composers, and responsible producers would find a wide and open market for the exercise of their natural attainments. So it would seem that the whole business, from beginning to end, would employ more people and the most deserving workers, and in its transitory stages prove of immense importance in elevating the British theatre, and raising them from their present somewhat desultory apathy and indecision.

Experts may be inclined to favour the opinion that, when the above state of affairs develops itself then will come more propitious times for formulating such schemes as the proposed Actors' Union, if such an organisation is then considered essential to the interests of the worker. But many might say with some truth that when a business is prosperous, and everybody is satisfied, then the necessities of unions and such-like combinations becomes a secondary consideration, and the chances of organising very remote.—Yours faithfully,

March 5, '07. WAT. W. ESSPEA.

DEATH OF SIR AUGUST MANNS.

We regret to record the death of Sir August Manns, the eminent musician, which occurred at his residence, White Lodge, Beulah Hill, on the evening of the 1st inst. He was born on March 12, 1825, in a village near Stettin, in Pomerania, and when quite a young man became a member of a regimental band at Dantzig. Then, after gaining orchestral experience in Berlin, and publishing some compositions which attained a certain popularity, he became bandmaster of a regiment commanded by Colonel Von Roon, afterwards the famous German War Minister. In 1854 he accepted the offer of the position of sub-conductor of the Crystal Palace band. The nucleus for a subsequently famous orchestra was then only a wind band under Herr Schallehn. It was not till Oct. 14, 1855, after he had accepted engagements in Leamington, Edinburgh, and Amsterdam, that he became conductor-in-chief, added other instruments to his band, and induced the directors to support a full orchestra and provide a special concert hall. The celebrated Saturday Concerts were then established. The influence these important concerts have had upon the history of music in England is a matter of common knowledge. In spite of his exacting duties at Sydenham Hill, he concluded a season of promenade concerts at Drury Lane in 1859, and a winter series in Glasgow for some years following. Shortly before the death of Sir Michael Costa, Manns succeeded him as conductor of the Handel Festival in 1883, which post he held till 1900. During this time he also conducted the Sheffield Festivals of 1896 and 1899. The honour of knighthood was conferred upon him in 1903, and he also received the degree of Doctor of Music by Oxford University.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, when the remains were laid to rest in West Norwood Cemetery. The service was conducted by the Rev. W. B. Taylor, Vicar of All Saints', Upper Norwood. The wreaths and other floral tributes which accompanied the coffin to the grave spoke eloquently of the affection in which the late conductor was held by the musical profession throughout the country.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA.

Owing to pressure on our space, we have been compelled to hold over the weekly instalment of the above. The series will be continued next week.

BRIXTON THEATRE RE-OPENED.

The standard of the drama has once again been raised in Brixton, and the handsome house which was erected for the purpose in the autumn of 1896, returned on Monday to its allegiance. Since the theatre closed its doors last October the house has been renovated in preparation for its reopening as a music hall, but its service in the cause of variety was brief, and the redecorations now serve to brighten the building for its dramatic patrons. Mr. R. W. Allum, who was formerly connected with the administration, has been retained as manager, and his energy and personal popularity will do much to influence the return of good business.

Pantomime, which has in the past always been a leading feature at the Brixton Theatre, has been chosen for the opening attraction, and the selection has been justified by excellent houses throughout the week. The pantomime is that of *Aladdin*, as written, invented, and produced by Mr. Dan Thomas, a popular comedian, and from the laughter that has been aroused its purpose has been well served. The piece is amply furnished with fun and frolic, and is also admirably equipped with music by Carl Hamlin. Among the chief scenes is that of Pekin, where a "feast of lanterns" is celebrated, and a ballet of jewels performed by half a hundred local children figures in the cave scene, from which Aladdin escapes in an electric airship. A well-painted cloth depicts Brighton beach, whereon ladies in elegant bathing costumes disport, and the pantomime terminates in grand fashion with Aladdin's Garden Party—a scene of dazzling effect.

The comic features of the production, many of which are novel, are supplied chiefly by Mr. Dan Thomas, whose whimsicalities in the part of Widow Twankey are unbounded. He is indefatigable in the creation of mirth, and his merry jesting, his singing, and his dancing well deserve the hearty recognition obtained. Especially evident is his low comedy in the song "The wedding walk," in which the marriage of the widow is celebrated, and his share in the duets and interpolated items shows him to be a remarkably resourceful and alert comedian. Assistance in the entertainment is obtained from Miss Daisy Yates, a bright and animated Aladdin, who acts vivaciously and sings and dances in most exhilarating style. Particularly effective is a series of music hall travesties in which the pair indulge, the specimens of Irish comedians, sister serios, and coon performers being the cause of uncontrollable laughter. A prepossessing brunette is found for the part of the Princess Badroulbadour in Miss Amy Bellwood, who acts with refinement and sings agreeably. Her rendering of "Snowflakes," aided by a comely chorus, is an effective feature of the production. Two droll policemen are forthcoming in Messrs. Haverley and Homer, who are responsible for many comic exchanges, and supply some smart dancing. They are associated with Mr. Thomas and Mr. Chas. Dore in a quartet with the quaint refrain, "What! what! what!" Mr. Arthur Mordant makes an impressive personage of the Magician, and delivers his lines with more than ordinary excellence; and Mr. Chas. Dore, who plays the Vizier, shares Mr. Thomas's success in a burlesque of the Zancigs and of the retentive Datas. The formidable stature of Mr. Arthur Jenner lends dignity to the rôle of the Emperor; and Miss Ethel Robinson and Miss Rosie Conroy make a captivating pair as Pekoe and his sweetheart. The duties of the Slave of the Lamp and the Genie of the Ring are undertaken respectively by Miss Minnie Saunders and Miss Marie Lewis.

Numerous specialities are provided in the course of the pantomime, and to the Four Dandies, a clever quartet of danseuses, much applause is rightly devoted. Many familiar subjects are artistically realised by the A Be-Be Postcards, of which a comely young lady forms the centrepiece. The Valdos give a clever tumbling exhibition on Brighton beach; and Selvini does some deft card-palming, and proves his ability to produce rabbits from empty saucepans and flower-pots with real blooms from hollow cones.

C.C.C. ANNUAL SUPPER.

The annual supper of the Compton Comedy Company, in celebration of the twenty-sixth anniversary of its foundation, took place on the evening of the 1st inst. at Blythswood House, Greenock. The occasion was graced by the presence of Mrs. Edward Compton and family, who had travelled North for the production at the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, of Mr. Compton's eldest son's new comedy, *The Gentleman in Grey*, and the success achieved by this interesting production added much to the pleasant atmosphere which invariably pervades these gatherings.

After the usual loyal toasts had been honoured, Mr. J. H. Savile, of the Perth and Paisley Theatres, in a felicitously-worded speech, referred to his early association with the now celebrated company, and the gratification it afforded him to be present on this occasion and see the numerous members of the Compton family with them. He proposed the toast of "Mr. and Mrs. Compton and Family's good health, and continued prosperity to the C.C.C.," which was drunk with enthusiasm, the company subsequently joining in "For he's a jolly good fellow."

Mr. Compton responded in a neat and happy speech, in which he dwelt on some memories and some members of the company during the twenty-six years of its existence. He spoke feelingly of the pride and satisfaction he felt in the success of his elder son in the rôle of a dramatist, to which his company had so materially contributed.

One of the features of the evening was the presentation to each guest of an art reproduction of the picture painted by Mr. Herman G. Herkomer of Mr. Edward Compton as David Garrick, with a suitable inscription on each. An interesting entertainment was subsequently provided, contributions being made by Miss Le Strange, Mr. Montague Lane, Mr. Vernon Crabtree, Mr. Edward Compton, Miss Pigot, Mr. Philip Gordon, Miss Mackenzie, Mr. Montague Compton, Miss Phyllis Relph, Mr. Wallace Johnston, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Henry Crocker, and Mr. J. H. Savile. A sketch was performed by Mesdames Viola and Katie Compton, Mrs. E. M. C. Mackenzie, Miss Marie Hassell, and Mr. Brett, and the evening concluded with the time-honoured customary recitations by Mr. Edward Compton of "The Country Fair" and "The Irish Schoolmaster."

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, March 4, the Comic Opera, entitled

"VERONIQUE."

Mr. George Dance's company is fulfilling a week's engagement at the Borough Theatre with *Veronique*, and this bright and exceedingly tuneful musical composition is meeting with the hearty approval of local playgoers, despite the fact that the piece has previously visited Stratford. Helene de Solanges (Veronique), as impersonated by Miss Ethel Negretti, is a vivacious and dainty damsel who wins all hearts and Miss Negretti's singing, especially in the "Swing" song, is greatly enjoyed. Mr. Rowland Bottomley makes a handsome and gallant Florestan de Vallancourt, and sings with excellent judgment. Mr. Tom Seymour plays Monsieur Coquenard on broadly comical lines, and is decidedly successful in the part; Mr. Percival Knight is very droll and drily humorous as Monsieur Loustot; and Mr. Scott Cullen portrays Seraphin in genial vein. Miss Doris Grenville is seen to advantage as Mme. Coquenard; and Miss Edith Devonshire plays Mme. de Champe d'Azar very appropriately. Aunt Benoit has a sound exponent in Miss Maud Leonard; and Miss Neste Laurel makes a pretty and petite Denise. Minor parts are all in capable hands, and the concerted numbers are well rendered by the large and efficient chorus under the bâton of Mr. Clement Locknane.

THE LATE JOHN A. ATKIN MEMORIAL.

The following gentlemen have consented to act as a committee:—Messrs. Lester Collingwood, Arthur Shirley, Harris Fineberg, G. M. Polini, W. Bennett, E. Hill-Mitchelson, Tom H. Taylor W. R. King, E. Hewitson, W. Fraser Brunner, Harry Chappell; secretary, Mr. Ashley Page; hon. treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift.

List of Subscriptions, £41 9s. 0d.

	£	s.	d.
Standard Theatre Staff	2	15	0
Fred Powell	2	2	0
Mr. and Mrs. A. Melville	1	1	0
E. H. Knight	1	1	0
Lester Collingwood	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Arnold		10	6
W. Schaffer		10	6
Fred W. Warden		10	6
W. T. Cope		10	6
Mrs. M. L. Cope		10	6
Mr. and Mrs. Bert E. Hammond		10	6
Arthur Shirley		10	6
W. R. King		10	6
E. Hill-Mitchelson		10	6
G. M. Polini		10	6
Harris Fineberg		10	6
Sam Livesey		10	6
Harry Agar-Lyons		10	6
Mr. Tom H. Taylor's *Worst Woman in London* Co., per F. Vernon Travers		10	6
H. W. Kelly		10	6
Members of the *Female Swindler* Co., per O. Silverstone		10	6
Mr. Walter Melville		10	6
Mr. Fred Melville		10	6
Douglas Bruce		10	6
Mr. Ashley Page		10	6
Miss Marion Denvil		10	6
Soldier's Wedding Co.		10	6
Terriss's Theatre Staff		10	6
Mr. Harry Chappell		10	6
Mr. James Peerless		10	6
Mr. Fraser-Brunner		10	6
Frances Ruttledge		10	6
Mrs. Fielder		10	6
Mr. John Fielder		10	6
Driven from Home Co., per Frederick Sandy		10	6
Jack Haddon		10	6
J. B. Howard		10	6
Mrs. Walter Melville		10	6
Hugh Robertson		10	6
Ugliest Woman on Earth Co., per Tubby Edlin		10	6
Mr. Smith		10	6
J. W. Peards		10	6
F. Dangerfield		10	6
David Allen and Sons		10	6
Tom H. Taylor		10	6
Page and Son		10	6
Mr. and Mrs. John Gott		10	6
Bessie Elma		10	6
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Durie		10	6
Miss Fay Lonsdale		10	6
E. Hewitson		10	6
Henry Chattell		10	6
Milton Bode		10	0
A. G. Hawkins		10	0
Mr. T. Greenwood-Croft		5	6
Eric Campbell		5	0
Herbert Ford		5	0
Walter H. Nightingale		5	0
J. W. Cordiner		5	0
Mr. George E. Mudd		5	0
Agnes Imlay		5	0
John B. Shinton		5	0
West London Theatre Management		5	0
Sid		5	0
T. E. Ward		5	0
James Skea		5	0
B. F. S.		5	0
Wm. Eastwood		5	0
Standard Theatre Staff		5	0
Frank Gallagher		5	0
A. Roseberry		5	0
Mrs. MacGregor		5	0
Marie Kildare		2	6
Bernard Mervyn		2	6
William E. Passmore		2	6
Louie Adair		2	6
Alice Bowes		2	6
Nellie Bouser		2	6
Harry Wimpenny		1	0
Will Corrie		1	0
Stanley Vivian		1	0
Alfred Wood		1	0
Mr. G. V. Campbell		1	0
Harry Chappell, jun.		1	0
Agnes Pitman		1	0
From the members of *Her Forbidden Marriage* Co., per Roland Yorke:—			
Mr. Henry Lonsdale		10	6
Mr. and Mrs. Roland Yorke		5	0
Miss Nellie Fletcher		2	6
Miss Gertrude Hunt		2	6
Miss Madge Yates		2	6
Mr. Louis Hector		2	6
Mr. Fred De Vere		2	6
Mr. Leonard Maxwell		2	6
Mr. Rawden Vivian		2	6
Mr. Leslie Nolan		2	6
Mr. Leslie Nutter		2	6
Mr. William Griffin		2	6
Mr. C. J. McCarthy		2	6

Subscriptions will be duly announced if forwarded to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, 5, Tavistock-street, W.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, March 4, the Drama, entitled

"THE PRODIGAL PARSON."

The patrons of the Stratford Theatre Royal are finding *The Prodigal Parson* much to their liking, and the piece is playing to excellent audiences. Messrs. Northway and Garrod's company interpret the piece with entire credit, and the staging and mounting is most appropriate. Mr. W. V. Garrod makes a manly and interesting figure of the Rev. Tom Godley, and is extremely popular; and Mr. Alfred Northway plays with sound judgment as Enoch Jaggins. Mr. Wm. Hayward submits a most convincing performance as Ben Jaggins; and Mr. W. Vincent portrays Ned Kettlepin with much ability. Mr. Owen Redmonde does exceedingly well as Phil Drive; Mr. T. Edward Evans smartly enacts George Markby; Mr. H. Fredericks plays appropriately as Kaston; and Mr. E. Ashton is well placed as Fritz. Miss Gwen Stewart very charmingly impersonates Fern Godley, and enlists the sympathies of the audience throughout; Miss Lydia Hart capitally impersonates Gretchen Van Crans; and Miss Dot Russell scores heavily as Fraulein Koralle. Miss E. Fredericks is a satisfactory Pomeroy; and Miss Violet Jeffries submits an intelligent performance of the child, Myrtle Godley. On Friday night *Still Waters Run Deep* was the attraction, with *Delicate Ground* as a curtain-raiser.

An application for a licence for a new theatre for Long Eaton was made at the local Petty Sessions on Tuesday by Mr. E. Williams on behalf of Mrs. Agnes Anne Bell Barnes of Liverpool. It was stated the building would have ample means of ingress and egress, and careful attention had been given to the safety of the public. The auditorium would be 60ft. by 48ft., and the stage 48ft. by 35ft., and the seating accommodation would be 1100. Mr. Lindsay Edwards, manager of the Theatre Royal, Loughborough, would be lessee. The plans had been passed by the District Council. Opposition was entered by the Rev. J. C. Bevington on behalf of the Free Church Council, on the ground that the licence carried with it a permit to sell drink. Mr. Williams said it was not proposed to ask for a licence for the sale of intoxicating liquors that day. The Bench granted the application on condition that no drink licence was sought for.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

Miss Helen S. Gall's piano solo of Liszt's "Rhapsodie, No. 2" was the first item in the programme of Wednesday evening's concert, and certainly one of the most attractive of the instrumental pieces; and next in point of technical skill was the piano solo of Miss Ethel Richardson, who chose for her example Chopin's "Nocturne, Op. 62, No. 2," in which the young lady displayed much of the delicacy of touch required for this composer's works. A first performance of an "Andante" and "Allegretto," by Miss Margery Hope, was most skilfully played on the violin by the composer. The second movement ("Allegretto") was by far the more original and interesting, and the young composer was warmly applauded. In the "Scherzo," for piano, by Emmeline Brooke, Miss Emmeline Forster's playing may be commended; and Mr. Anissim Tschaikov greatly pleased the audience by his clever clarionet solo, "Concertino," by Weber. The vocal portion of the concert consisted of well-selected and not too difficult songs. Miss Celia Hills sang "Sweet June," by Landon Ronald, pleasingly, but was not quite certain in her intonation; while Miss Violet Oppenshaw did justice to Finden's pretty song, "Temple Bells." The two male vocalists of the concert, Mr. A. Chappell-Harverson and Mr. Fred Thomson, greatly distinguished themselves, the first in Mozart's "Qui Sdegno" (*Il Flauto Magico*), and the latter in "Winter" and "The Letter," from Sullivan's "Songs of the Wrens," Mr. Thomson singing in quite a professional style. Other clever students were Miss Dorothy Freeman, heard in Goetz's song, "Melisande," and Miss Gertrude Gill, in Randegger's Canzone, "Ben è Ridicolo." An effective recitation, by Mr. E. F. Crome, of Philpotts' "The Sandwiches," a fishing story, closed the proceedings. Miss Jenny Hyman was the accompanist.

On Thursday evening, Feb. 28, the pupils of Mme. Montem Smith held a most successful vocal recital in the concert room of the school. The executants were the lady pupils of Mme. Smith, Master Cecil Hay being the only representative of the male sex present, and with one or two exceptions the programme consisted of songs. The concert began with Godard's two-part song, "The Shepherd's Song." Miss Frances Cohen was heard in "O were it always spring"; and Miss Ida Hilton skilfully sang "A Folk Song," by G. H. Clutsam. In default of readily finding a more difficult example, Miss Grace Cole sang Meyerbeer's famous aria, "Roberto, o tu che adoro," in which, of course, success for a student was impossible, no matter how clever the teacher or apt the pupil. Miss Cole may, however, be credited with the intelligent use of a bright and flexible voice. The same remarks also apply to Miss Elsie Haughton's singing of the beautiful, but difficult, "Ave Maria" of Max Bruch, although in this case the vocalist showed a keen sense of the devotional feeling required. Another ambitious effort, though not quite so exacting, was the air, "Oh love, from thy power," from Saint-Saëns's *Samson and Delilah*, sung by Miss Fanny Cuthbert. Miss Alice Brooker may be commended for her rendering of three songs, "Where the Abana flows," "Beloved in your absence," and "How many a lonely caravan," from Amy Woodforde-Finden's *A Lover in Damascus;* and Miss Catharine Baker displayed an excellent contralto voice in "Mine Enemy" (Olga Rudd), a gloomy, but simple and effective, song; while Miss Beatrice Weatherley, a very young soloist, was admirably suited in Liszt's "Thou'rt like a flower" and Schubert's "Who is Sylvia?" both of which were sung with considerable finish and clear intonation, very promising in so young a singer. Master Cecil Hay was also much applauded for his singing of Robert Batten's vocal waltz, "The Nightingale." Other clever pupils of Mme. Smith's were Miss Bertha Lansdell, Miss Jennie Baker, who sang three songs from 'Liza Lehmann's "The Life of a Rose," and Miss Elsie Kimpton; while the duet, "What is love but folly," by F. Aylward, was brightly sung by Misses Grace Cole and Fanny Cuthbert.

MR. A. SARGA'S CONCERT.

At Queen's (Small) Hall on Thursday evening, March 7, Mr. A. Sarga, composer and lyrist, gave, under most distinguished patronage, a highly-successful and well-attended concert. The artists included Mr. Joseph O'Mara, the famous tenor; Mr. A. H. Gee, an Australian baritone; Miss Carrie Tubb, Miss Adelaide Watts, and Master E. Gubbins. Señor Gomez was the solo violin, and Mr. Ernest Meads and Mme. Marian May gave some humorous and dramatic recitations; the band also of H.M. Irish Guards, by kind permission of Col. R. J. Cooper, M.V.O., under the conductorship of Mr. C. H. Hassell, greatly added to the attractiveness of the concert. The entire proceeds of the programmes sold were given to the Lord Mayor's Crippled Children Fund, and before the commencement of the concert his Worship the Mayor of St. Pancras, Alderman D. McGregor, in a few eloquent words, earnestly desired the audience to do all in their power in so good a cause. The first item in the programme was the "Introduction to Act III." of Wagner's *Lohengrin*, admirably played by the Irish Guards. In Bishop's song "Tell me, my heart," Master E. Gubbins was loudly applauded. A recitation, "Selected," by Mme. Marian May, was also greatly to the taste of the audience. The first of Mr. A. Sarga's compositions, a dramatic song entitled "The Bastinado," was splendidly sung by Mr. Joseph O'Mara, and happy indeed is the composer who can have his works sung by so fine a tenor. Both song and singer were so warmly greeted that an encore was inevitable, and Mr. O'Mara responded by singing the last verse. Mr. A. Sarga, who seems equally at home in writing song or recitation, had his "Babylonish Patriot" (with a violin accompaniment composed and played by Señor Gomez) finely recited by Mr. Ernest Meads. The order of the programme was not quite adhered to, as Señor Gomez, having another engagement, played his violin solos, "Romance" (Wieniawski) and "Polonaise" (Vieuxtemps), in the first part of the concert. Miss Carrie Tubb, who has a pure and brilliant soprano voice, sang "Till God comes," a devotional song by Mr. Sarga, and, being encored, repeated the last verse. A pleasing piano solo, "Romance in F," was cleverly played by its versatile composer; and Mr. A. H. Gee, who has a fine baritone voice, gave great effect to Mr. Sarga's "King Shahregar" (an Arabian Humoresque). "Sekah Allah" (a Tartar song of drought) was Mr. O'Mara's second rendering of Mr. Sarga's compositions, and pleased the audience no less than the others; while Mr. Ernest Meads was very dramatic in his recitation of Mr. Sarga's "The Vulture." Miss Adelaide Watts, a contralto, was set down for two songs by Sanderson and Liddle; and the band of the Irish Guards gave capital effect to a "Slavische Rhapsody" by Friedmann. The accompanists were Mr. Sarga, Miss Amy Simmonds and Miss Katherine Stuart.

Miss Lilian Dundas and company open at Richmond and Hammersmith on Monday next in Cecil Raleigh's successful sketch, *The Doom of Delilah*.

Mr. W. Payne Seddon has purchased for early production a dramatic episode, in one act, entitled *No Other Way*, by Ernest Bliss.

The complete production of the Drury-lane pantomime, *Cinderella*, which was such a success at the National Theatre at Christmas, 1905, is for sale at the theatre. Upwards of 600 dresses, properties, scenery, the Cinderella coach (specially made in Paris for this production), revolving platform for ponies, and the magnificent panorama, "On the Road to the Ball," all in perfect condition, are offered at a reasonable price.

ON THE ROAD, MARCH 11.

Alaska.—Royalty T., Llanelly.
All-of-a-Sudden Peggy.—T. R., Hull.
Amasis.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Angel of Unrest.—Pier P., Eastbourne.
Anna of the Plains.—Cheltenham.
Are You a Mason?—Brighton.
Asche, Oscar.—Coronet Theatre, W.
As Midnight Chimes.—Queen's T., Gateshead.
Assassin.—Junction T., Manchester.
At Cripple Creek.—Star T., Liverpool.
At Duty's Call.—Theatre Royal, W. Bromwich.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs.—Kirkcaldy and Falkirk.
Beast and the Beauty.—Marina T., Lowestoft.
Beautiful Fiend.—Theatre Royal, Colne.
Beauty and the Barge.—Empire T., Oldham.
Beauty of Bath.—Shakespeare T., Liverpool.
Belle of Mayfair (Bode).—Aldershot.
Benson, F. R. (N.).—Ayr and Kilmarnock.
Benson, F. R.—T. R., Glasgow.
Benson, F. R. (S.).—Mountain Ash and Rhymney.
Blue Moon.—Theatre Royal, Hanley.
Bulmer, Mr.—St. James's T., Manchester.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—Alexandra T., Greenock.
Cassidy, J. Rice.—T. R., Aston.
Chinese Honeymoon (Bode).—Crystal Palace T.
Chinese Honeymoon (Macdona).—Chorley.
Christian, The (Croke).—T. R., Bournemouth.
Christian, The (Howard).—Rugby and Nuneaton.
Claudian.—Theatre Royal, Ashton-under-Lyne.
Coal King.—Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.
Compton Comedy Co.—H. M. T., Dundee.
Conscript, The.—Theatre Royal, Barnsley.
Country Girl (Macdona).—Midlands.
Dairymaids.—New Theatre, Cardiff.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Grand T., Hull.
D'Oyly Carte.—Crown T., Peckham.
Driven from Home.—Lyceum T., Govan.
Dr. Wake's Patient.—Newcastle.
Earl and the Girl (M.).—Victoria T., Broughton.
Earl and the Girl (N.).—O. H., Bury.
Electric Man (S.).—Gaiety T., Hastings.
Face at the Window.—Grand T., Radcliffe.
False Wife.—Kidderminster.
Female Swindler.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
Fight for Millions.—King's T., Mansfield.
Freedom of Suzanne.—Manchester.
French Spy.—Gaiety T., Leith.
Gay Parisienne.—P. O. W., Nuneaton and Rugby.
Geisha.—O. H., Southport.
Glossop-Harris Repertoire Co.—Grand T., Luton.
Golden Ladder.—T. R., Bristol.
Go-Won-Go Mohawk.—Hereford.
Great Awakening.—Royalty T., Barrow.
Grip of Iron.—T. R., Croydon.
Her Forbidden Marriage.—West London Theatre.
Her Lost Self.—O. H., Workington.
Her Love Against the World.—T. R., Blackburn.
Her Luck in London.—Lyric T., Hammersmith, W.
Her Marriage Vow.—Grand T., Newcastle.
Her One Great Sin.—H. M. T., Barrow.
Hero of the Flag.—Wedgewood T., Burslem.
Hill-Mitchelson.—Theatre Royal, Leicester.
His House in Order (N.).—T. R., Huddersfield.
His House in Order (S.).—Boro' T., Stratford.
Home Sweet Home.—Pleasure Gardens, Folkestone.
Honour thy Father.—P. O. W., Salford.
Hour of her Triumph.—T. R., Sutton-in-Ashfield.
Indian Mutiny.—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—County T., Reading.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Dawley and Wem.
La Poupee (Ralland).—Avenue T., Sunderland.
Leah Kleschna.—Grand T., Derby.
Lights Out.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
Lion and the Mouse.—New Theatre, Oxford.
Little Breadwinner.—Aquarium T., Yarmouth.
Little Stranger.—King's T., Edinburgh.
London Fireman.—Grand T., Newcastle.
Love that Women Desire.—Grand T., Eccles.
Lucky Durham.—Theatre Royal, Bath.
Man and Wife.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Man's Enemy.—Cardiff.
Manxman.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
Martin Harvey.—King's T., Glasgow.
Merveilleuses.—P. O. W., Birmingham.
Midnight Mail.—Coatbridge and Motherwell.
Midnight Wedding.—Chatham.
Mollison, William.—T. R., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Monte Cristo.—Court T., Wigan.
Moody-Manners (A.).—Middlesbrough.
Moody-Manners (B).—O. H., Halifax.
Morals of Marcus.—Court T., Liverpool.
Moss, Miss Eva.—Pier P., Eastbourne.
Mr. Popple.—Darlington.
My Sweetheart.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
Napoleon the Great.—Gaiety T., Clydebank.
Night Out.—York.
Norman V. Norman.—T. R., Halifax.
Otto, the Outcast.—Lyceum T., Crewe.
Peter's Mother (N.).—Wolverhampton.
Peter Pan (No. 1).—Grand T., Leeds.
Peter Pan (No. 2).—T. R., Edinburgh.
Plucky Nipper.—T. R., Edmonton, N.
Power of Gold.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
Prince of Pilsen (Harris).—T. R., Birkenhead.
Prodigal Parson.—Empire T., Southend.
Private Secretary.—Grand T., Southampton.
Proof.—Theatre Royal, Darwen.
Revenge.—Theatre Royal, Leicester.
Royal Divorce.—Theatre Royal, Rochdale.
Saints and Sinners.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
Sentenced for Life.—T. R., Colchester.
Sherlock Holmes.—Marlborough Theatre, N.
Shulamite.—County T., Bedford.
Sign of the Cross.—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
Silver King (Polini and Melford).—T. R., Wolverhampton.
Soldier's Honour.—T. R., Castleford.
Somebody's Sweetheart.—T. R., Grantham.
Still Alarm.—O. H., St. Helens.
Three Little Maids (Macdona).—Cambridge.
Tommy.—New T., Portsmouth.
Toreador (Macdona).—Wakefield.
Trumpet Call.—Grand T., Nottingham.
Tyrant, The.—Prince's T., Accrington.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—T. R., Leigh.
Under the Russian Flag.—Irving T., Seacombe.
Under Two Flags.—Lyceum T., Newport.
Village Blacksmith.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Walls of Jericho.—T. R., Bradford.
Warning to Women.—T. R., Sunderland.
Wearin' o' the Green.—Grand T., Woolwich.
What the Butler Saw.—Prince's Theatre, Bristol.
When It Was Dark.—Colosseum, Oldham.
When Woman Hates.—St. James's T., Manchester.
White Chrysanthemum (Macdona).—Manchester.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—T. R., York.
Woman's Past.—T. R., South Shields.
Women and Wine.—Metropole T., Birmingham.
Worst Woman in London.—Palace T., Newcastle.
Youngest of Three.—Worthing and Eastbourne.
10.30 Down Express.—Dover.
£1,000 Reward.—Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.

DEATHS OF THE MONTH.

Feb. 1.—Mrs. Elizabeth Rushforth.
,, 5.—Guy Waller, aged 34.
,, 7.—Arthur Augustus Wood.
,, 9.—Kathleen Maccabe, aged 35.
,, 10.—William Cheesman, aged 46.
,, 10.—George Clemments, aged 67.
,, 11.—Sam De Voy, aged 64.
,, 18.—William Lee, aged 52.
,, 20.—James Dubois, aged 36.
,, 21.—Wulfruna Phœbe Nation.
,, 25.—Otto Goldschmidt, aged 77.
,, 25.—Sam Weller, aged 47.
,, 26.—Randall Hopley Lingham, aged 87.
,, 26.—Mrs. G. E. Burnett, aged 27.
,, 28.—Richard Mansell.
,, 28.—Charles Bertram, aged 52.
,, 28.—Rosina Brandram, aged 61.

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"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

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All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "THE ERA," LTD., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

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(two doors off Wellington Street)
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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ARTHUR WILLIAMS.—The Pilgrim of Love, *burlesque, by H. J. Byron, revived at the Strand Theatre, Aug. 30, 1869. Cast:—The King of Toledo, Mr. Edward Terry; Ebben Bonabben, Mr. H. J. Turner; King of Granada, Mr. Hunter; Prince Ahmed, Miss Robertha Erskine; Aldegonda, Miss Lucy Fosbrooke; Miss Lennox and Miss Bella Richardson appeared as the evil genius and the good genius respectively; and in the cast were also the Misses Kate Newton and Green, and Messrs. E. Bruce, Edge, Barnett, &c.*

B. B.—The Man from Blankley's *was produced at the Prince of Wales's, April 25, 1901.*

SURREYITE.—*The Surrey Music Hall was burnt down June 11, 1861.*

CLARE ABSOLOM.—*There are many books of recitations published. Write to S. French, theatrical publisher, Southampton-street, Strand.*

SOUTHPORT.—*We can find no record of the date. A letter addressed to Sir Squire Bancroft, The Green Room Club, would no doubt bring a reply to your enquiry.*

M. E.—*James Fawn appeared in the Drury Lane pantomimes of 1880-81 and 1881-82.*

H. W.—*(1)* Our Boys *was first produced at the Vaudeville, Jan. 16, 1875, and ran till April 18, 1879. (2) Mr. Charles Warner was the original Charles Middlewick.*

H. E. O.—*He can please himself about taking your offer or putting the case into the County Court.*

W. D. F.—*Charles Dickens died June 9, 1870.*

SWEEPER.—*(1) Yes. (2) Give us the date, and we shall be able to inform you.*

R. JESSUP.—*We have no information on the matter.*

G. V.—*Yes.*

M. KOSTORIS.—*Write to the manager of the theatre for the information.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth** or **Death** or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence,** every additional word **One Penny.**

The charge for a notice of **Marriage,** not exceeding forty words, is **Two Shillings and Sixpence,** every additional word **One Penny.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

BENT.—At Stockton-on-Tees, on Feb. 25, the wife of Harry Bent, mimic (Carlotta Lunn), of son, stillborn. Wife progressing favourably.

REGAN.—On March 6, at 153, Kensington, Liverpool, the wife of Geo. Regan, of a daughter. Both doing splendidly.

MARRIAGES.

MOXON—BAINTON.—March 3, at St. James's Church, Bristol, by the Rev. E. F. Neep, Edwin Moxon (Moxon Troupe) to Frederica Bainton, sister of Irving Bosco, and granddaughter of the late James Sheering, of Bristol.

NETTLEFOLD—REDGRAVE.—At the Christian Free Church, Brighton, on Wednesday, March 6, by the Rev. Priestly Prime, Frederick John Nettlefold, eldest son of Frederick Nettlefold, Esq., of Streatham-grove, Norwood, to Ellen Maud Redgrave, daughter of John Drew Pratt, Esq., of Pratshayes, Exmouth.

DEATHS

BASSETT.—Feb. 28, at 41, Christchurch-road, Streatham Hill, James Bassett (Charles Bertram), aged 53 years. Foreign and colonial papers please copy.

BERNARD.—March 6, at 35, Lansdowne-gardens, Stockwell, suddenly, Mrs. Albert Bernard, professionally known as Emily Stafford, aged 59.

BRANDRAM.—Feb. 28, at Southend, Rosina Brandram, actress and vocalist.

BREWER.—March 5, suddenly, George Brewer, showman, aged 50.

BROADHEAD.—March 3, at his residence, 12, Park-road, Whalley Range, aged 34 years, William Birch Broadhead, of the firm of Wm. H. Broadhead and Sons, theatre proprietors.

COWAN.—On Monday, March 4, at 5, Waterloo-road, S.E, Clara Cowan, mother of Ted Cowan, Sam Mayo, and Lew Loman.

DAYTON.—March 6, at Hamburg-Altona, Germany, E. Maus Dayton, father of the Dayton Family. Deeply regretted by whole family, relations, and friends.

GILLMORE.—On March 5, at 137, Abbey-road, N.W., Emily, beloved mother of Frank, Lily, and Archie (professionally known as Emily Thorne), American and Australian papers, please copy.

MANNS.—March 1, at White Lodge, Beulah-hill, Norwood, Sir August Manns, musician, in his eighty-second year,

RENAUDIN.—March 7, in Paris, Jules Renaudin, known as Valentine the Boneless, a celebrated French male dancer.

WELLER.—Feb. 25, at Lane House, High Bentham, after a long illness, Sam Weller, aged 47, late stage-manager Morecambe Winter Gardens.

IN MEMORIAM.

BROWN.—In loving memory of Henry Brown (Shakespearean Jester), who died March 4, 1902. Still mourned by his sorrowing wife and children.

GROVES.—In loving and affectionate memory of my dear husband, Walter Groves, who died at Blackpool, March 4, 1906. Sadly missed by his wife and children, Walter and Lilly.

Oh for the touch of a vanished hand
Or the sound of the voice that is gone.

SCARD.—In loving and affectionate memory of Mary Ann Hannah Scard, who passed away March 9, 1906, after a long and painful illness. Never forgotten by her ever loving husband and children.

SCARD.—In ever loving memory of our dear sister, Mary Ann Hannah Scard, who passed away March 9, 1906. Gone, but not forgotten by her loving brothers and sisters.

MR. FRANK HARWOOD has just purchased from Maurice Scott and A. E. Rick a new light comedy song, entitled "Matches and Love," which he intends to produce shortly. Mr. Harwood thinks he has got a winner in this number.

MISS MARIE EMPRESS, who is a descendant of the famous Edmund Kean, has been on the Moss and Stoll tour since last November. Provincial audiences have highly appreciated the charm of her songs and the beauty of her costly Parisian gowns. She returns to town on April 15, and sails for South Africa in September under engagement to the Messrs. Hyman.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Abud, Mr. Chas.
Ackroyd, Mr. L.
"Alec"
Andreassen, Mr. Albert
Ashington, Mr. H.
Athos, Mr. Jack
Baker, Mr. Chris
Barnett, Mr. Walter
Barton-Ashton, Miss V
Bastow, Mr. George
Beaufort, Mr. Leslie
Beau-Ideal Troupe
Beere, Mrs. Bernard
Bloom, Mr. J. G
Belleur, Mr. Kyrl
Biglow, Mr Dan
Blanard and Kennard
Bohemians, The
Boisset Troupe
Bowman, Miss Isa
Bradford, Mr. Chas.
Bright Bros.
Brown, Mr. Ben
Byron, Miss Maggie
Callan, Mr. John
Carney, Mr. Tom
Cartwright, Mr. Chas.
Champion, Mr. Harry
Chapman, Mr. B. B.
Chapter, Mr. Hal
Chipperfield, Mr. J. H.
Clasen, Madame
Clements, Miss Elsie
Cleveland, Miss Cissie
Coleby, Mr. Ernest
Comstock, Mr. Martin
Conder, Mr. A.
Conway, Mr. Phil
Cooke, Miss Elsie
Cooper, Mr. Milroy
Corsbie, Miss Dorcas
Crown Trio
Cruickshanks, Mr. Dick
Curre, Mr. Carne
Davis, Mr. E. B.
Davis, Mr. T. G.
Delmar, Mr. Neville
Desmond, Miss D.
De Vere, Mr. Walter
Dewey, Miss Maude
Donaldson Bros.
Doyle, Mr. Charles
Drewitt, Miss R.
Dryden, Mr. C. Leslie
Duggan, Miss Maggie
"Elverton"
Elvo, Mr. Jim
Faith, Miss Rose
Ferriss, Mr. Arthur
Fitz-Gibbon, Mr. Dermot
Flexmore, Miss Mabel
Florence and Lillian
Fontains, Les
Forsyth, Mr. Robert
Fox, Mr. Housley
Fulford, Mr. Quinton
Fuller, Prof.
Gaze, Mr. Leslie
Geddes, Mr. J. D.
Godart, Miss Gertrude
Grans, Mr. Frank
Gregory, Mr. E. G.
Grenville, Mr. Alfred
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Haviland, Mr. William
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Hearn, Mr. Dick
Height, Miss Amy
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Jones, Mr. Ernest R.
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King, Miss Ethel
Kinko, Mr. Paul
Kioto, Mr. N. T.
Laidlaw, Miss
Lane, Mr. G.
Lawrence, Mr. Woods
Ledna, Miss F.
Le Grand, Mr. H.
Lemoine, Miss Rose
Lennard, Mr. Arthur T
Leslie, Mr. G. Allan
Lever, Mr. C.
Leyshun, Mr. Arthur
Lions, Mr. G.
Mac, Mr. Joe
Mackney, Mr. E. W.
Mason, Miss Delia
May, The Mysterious
Maynard, Miss Jennie
McDonald, Miss M.
McKenzie, Mr. T.
Melba, Miss Mabel
Mellor, Madame
Meyers, Mr. Fred
Mills, Mr. Oscar
Moon & Harris, Messrs.
Moore, Miss M.
Moore, Miss Winnie
Morrell and Mouillot
Morton, Mr. Claude
Mozart, Mr. S. W.
Mulrooney, F. and R.
Murray, Mr. A. B.
Murray, Mr. G. E.
Nicoll, Miss Yetla
Norman, Mr. A. W.
Norrie, Mr.
O'Gorman, Mr. J.
Oliver, Mr. J. C.
Ongars, The
Pakay, Madame
Partridge, Mr. Norman
Pearce, Mr. H.
Pook, Madame
Ravanagh, Miss Ella
Ray, Miss Gladys
Reano, Mr. Thomas H.
Reeves, Mrs. J.
Rennie, Miss Maggie
Revell, Mr. H.
Ringham, Mr. Mark
Roberts, Mr. Charlie
Robertson, Mr. Forbes
Rogers, Mr. Gilbert
Rooney, Mr. M. J.
Rosine, Mr. Carl
Russell, Mr. James O.
Ruston, Mr. Ernest
Salida and Vone, Messrs.
Samson, Mr. Harry
Sansbury, Mr. Vernon
Satsuma, Mrs.
Scott, Mr. H. W.
Scott, Mrs. Veretta
Scott, Mr. Walter
Seaforth, Selina
Seeley, Mr. Frank
Selby, Mr. Alf
Staley, Mr. Cass
Stanislaus, Mr. Louis
Stone, Mr. Frank
Stormont, Mr. Leo
Taylor and Phillips
Terrier, Madame F.
Thomas, Mr. A. D.
Trewey, Mons.
Valesco, Miss Ivy
Vasco
Ventris, Mr. Arthur
Vernon, Miss H.
Wakeley, Miss Minnie
Waldron, Mr. Joe
Walonell, Mr. Jack
Walton, Mr.
Warren, Mr. L. Ross
Whirligigs, The
Whitcombe, Mr. B.
Williams, Mr. Harcourt
Wilson, Mr. J. Morton
Yates, Mr. Fred
Yorick, Mr. Tom
Yorke, Mr. Leonard

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Gwendoline Burney.—Saturday, March 9.
James Skea—Saturday, March 9.
Jerrold Manville—Saturday, March 9.
Edward Terry—Sunday, March 10.
Sarasate—Sunday, March 10.
Chas. Pell—Sunday, March 10.
Daisy Cook—Sunday, March 10.
Ernest St. John—Monday, March 11.
Colin Hazlewood—Monday, March 11.
Frank E. Burdette—Monday, March 11.
Arthur Patmore—Monday, March 11.
Arthur Forrest—Monday, March 11.
Wybert Clive—Tuesday, March 12.
Harry Gribben—Tuesday, March 12.
Annie Saker—Wednesday, March 13.
Alexandra Dagmar—Wednesday, March 13.
Edwin Boyde—Wednesday, March 13.
H. P. Owen—Wednesday, March 13.
Dot Hardy—Wednesday, March 13.
Roland Hope—Wednesday, March 13.
Chas. Waterfield—Wednesday, March 13.
Ethel Donna Ryland—Thursday, March 14.
Wybert Rousby—Thursday, March 14.
Oswald Lingard—Thursday, March 14.
Leslie Stuart—Friday, March 15.
Mrs. Kendal—Friday, March 15.
Lily English—Friday, March 15.
Ruth Edwin—Friday, March 15.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. E. R. Beaumont, the business-manager for Messrs. Bodé and Compton at the Theatre Royal, Leicester, who produced one of the most charming pantomimes that has ever been placed on the "Old Royal" stage, has been the recipient of a handsome present from members of the company in the shape of a complete smoker's companion, which stands 3ft. high, and contains every requisite. Accompanying the presentation was the following letter, bearing the signatures of the principal artists:—"Milton Bode, Esq.'s, pantomime, *Aladdin*, 1906-7. Dear Mr. Beaumont,—We ask your acceptance of the accompanying small token of our appreciation, and trust that for many years to come, when sitting in the comfort of your fireside, it will remind you that the undersigned (who thoroughly recognise that the office of pantomime producer is no sinecure) recognised as artists that you did your best for their individual comfort."

IT will be remembered that a matinée performance was given in the Palace Theatre of Varieties, Belfast, last April, and on that occasion a sum of £130 was realised. At a meeting of the committee on Monday, 4th inst., that amount was allocated as follows:—£50 to the Royal Victoria Hospital, to qualify Mr. William Laird (one of the committee) as a life governor; £20 to the Mater Infirmorum Hospital; £5 to the Forster Green Hospital; £5 to the Maternity Hospital; and £50 to be divided amongst four theatrical charities as follows: £15 to the Actors' Benevolent Fund, £10 to the Actors' Orphanage, £15 to the Music Hall Benevolent Fund, and £10 to the Music Hall Home. Mr. Fred W. Warden occupied the chair at the meeting. It was decided to have a benefit matinée performance at the Palace this year on or about April 20.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1907.

MANAGERS IN COUNCIL.

Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER'S triumph at the polls on Saturday is in its way unique. Mr. ALEXANDER is the first actor-manager who has contested an election as County Councillor while retaining his position as actor and manager, and actually rehearsing a piece. We read of correspondence in connection with the struggle arriving even in the midst of rehearsals, and of Mr. ALEXANDER displaying marvellous powers of endurance in combining the functions of orator and canvasser. The exploit is certainly extraordinary. Mr. WALTER REYNOLDS is also to be congratulated on the ease with which he has turned from writing plays and managing theatres to making speeches and soliciting votes.

The solitary instance of a theatrical manager entering Parliament is a brilliant one. SHERIDAN'S political career was as successful as were his plays. The management of Drury Lane Theatre, on which he entered in 1776, was by no means a sinecure. In 1777 he produced *The School for Scandal*, which narrowly escaped suppression by the Lord Chamberlain on the ground that Moses was intended for one HOPKINS, a candidate in the famous City contest for the office of Chamberlain. At the age of twenty-eight SHERIDAN had reached the pinnacle of theatrical triumph. He was manager of Drury Lane Theatre, and he had written the cleverest comedy of his day.

But this was not sufficient for SHERIDAN'S ardent enterprise. He determined to become a Member of Parliament, and preferred to adopt the method of appealing to the electors for their suffrages rather than be nominated by a patron for a pocket borough or purchase a seat. He put up for Stafford, for which constituency he was duly returned. On the first night on which he spoke in the House, SHERIDAN came up to the gallery after his speech, and asked WOODFALL, of the *Chronicle*, what he thought of his—SHERIDAN'S—maiden attempt. The reply was, "I think this is not in your line. No, SHERIDAN, you had much better stick to those pursuits you are so much more fitted for." Upon which SHERIDAN, leaning his forehead on his hand for a few seconds, exclaimed, "It is in me, and, by God, it shall come out!" How splendidly it *did* "come out" was shown when he made his eloquent oration in favour of the impeachment of WARREN HASTINGS. But SHERIDAN was not only a brilliant speaker; he was unflagging in his attendance at the sittings of the House, and was thoroughly practical in all his views.

It should not be forgotten, however, that SHERIDAN, though a manager, was not an actor-manager. It was possible for him to devote part of his day to the affairs of Drury Lane Theatre and part to the debates in Parliament. It would be difficult for a modern actor-manager to do this owing to the times of theatrical performances "clashing" with those of the sittings of the House. Even in the case of an actor-manager performing at the Imperial Theatre, and having a division-bell in his dressing-room, he could hardly, without unseemly haste, slip across the road and into a "lobby" between the acts.

Owing to the sittings of the County Council taking place in the afternoon, and on Tuesdays, Mr. ALEXANDER will find it easy to combine his functions. By a happy accident, the assemblies of our civic parliament are not held on either of the two days in the week which are devoted to matinées.

The modern actor-manager, even without this latest field for his energies, is a living prodigy. Still the wonder grows how he manages to perform duties so many and so various as those which attach to his position. As a Popular Idol, he can hardly evade the claims made upon his time by Society. He must keep up an establishment, entertain, receive visits, and return them. As a man of business, he must keep a sharp eye upon the financial side of his enterprise, watching carefully his incomings and outgoings, and, while never shrinking from expenditure when required by policy, carefully guarding against waste and extravagance. As a "producer," he must have a natural pictorial taste and the power of inventing and ordering "effects"; an eye for colour and grouping, and a thorough practical knowledge of the machinery of the stage. As a chooser of plays, he must be endowed with the *flair* which can detect the grain of wheat in the bushels of chaff which are represented by the hundreds of worthless MSS. sent to him for perusal; and as a discoverer and enlister of talent, he must be able to select his "support" as NAPOLEON selected his generals—by instinct. And with all this he must never lose sight of the fact that he is the central attraction of each new production; that on his analysis and exposition of the principal part hangs the success of the production; that "the play's the thing," and his "creation" only second to the drama itself in importance. With so many distractions, it is almost incomprehensible how the actor-manager is able to concentrate himself on the study of his rôle, to place it in the crucible of his clear and keen mind, and submit it to the fire of his genius. The explanation is that our actor-managers are exceptional men. They are able, by sheer force of energy and intellect, to concentrate their powers of thought on the matter immediately under their attention; to do in a few moments, by instinctive penetration, what lesser men have to attain to by hours of study; to "toil terribly" at business, at art, and at social ambition. They have, in short, the qualities which make NAPOLEON'S universality the marvel of history. We are told of JULIUS CÆSAR—and, at this distance of time, we have no means of disproving the assertion—that he was accustomed to read, write, and dictate all at the same time. The manager who, in addition to the responsibilities which we have enumerated, has the civic welfare to attend to, is indeed an astonishing product of our modern civilisation.

THE ACTORS' UNION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—The first general meeting of the Actors' Union will be held on Monday, March 11, at 2 p.m., in the Grand Hall, Criterion Restaurant, when it is to be hoped all those who can possibly attend will do so. Those who cannot, and would like to join, are requested to send their names and addresses to the Hon. Sec., 49, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

We do not think it necessary to offer an apology for initiating this movement, as we do not believe any actor or actress can say that it is not required. Doubtless there are many others better qualified to start such an organisation, but they have not come forward, and thus it has been left to us to carry it to its present stage.

It is hoped that branches of the Union will be formed in the more important centres of the United Kingdom.—Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR BAWTREE.
(On behalf of the Provisional Committee.)
49, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C., March 8, '07.

LADIES AT HOCKEY.

MISS CECILIA FOWLER'S TEAM v. MISS WINIFRED BRADLEY'S TEAM.

Played near Clifton Downs on March 2. The following were the teams:—

MISS FOWLER'S TEAM: Miss Ethel Bowman, goal; Miss Ivy Bowman and Miss Lilla Carter, backs; Miss Cecilia Fowler (captain), Miss Lillie Belding, and Miss Nellie Stephens, half-backs; Miss Bertha Godfrey, Miss Lillie Clayton, Miss Amy Bernard, Miss Rosie Davies, and Miss Minnie Leonard, forwards.

MISS BRADLEY'S XI.: Miss May Fisher, goal; Miss Alice Gibbs and Miss Jessie Lewis, backs; Miss Edie Lawrence, Miss Nellie Lawrence, and Miss Gertrude Thomas, half-backs; Miss Winifred Bradley (captain), Miss Alice Mitchell, Miss Maude Burgess, Miss Kit Montgomery, and Miss Irene Bradley, forwards.

Referee: Miss Gracie Leonard. Result: Miss Fowler's team, nil; Miss Bradley's team, 2 goals. Miss Jessie Lewis scored the two goals for Miss Bradley's side.

THE Prudential Assurance Company's fifty-eighth annual report, for the year ending Dec. 31, 1906, has just been issued. In the ordinary branch the number of policies issued during the year was 79,942, assuring the sum of £7,529,031, and producing a new annual premium income of £424,145. The premiums received during the year were £4,290,971, being an increase of £167,653 over the year 1905. The claims of the year amounted to £1,947,444. The number of policies in force at the end of the year was 807,218. In the Industrial Branch the premiums received during the year were £6,499,028, being an increase of £359,978; while the claims of the year amounted to £2,376,863. The total number of policies in force at the end of the year was 16,764,654. The assets of the company in both branches, as shown in the balance-sheet, are £63,887,008, being an increase of £4,422,632 over those of 1905. The valuation has, as usual, been made by Mr. F. Schooling. For each of the past ten years a reversionary bonus at the rate of £1 10s. per cent. on the original sums assured has been added to all classes of participating policies in the ordinary branch issued since the year 1876. The directors are now pleased to announce a reversionary bonus at the rate of £1 12s. per cent.

PARTICULARS are now to hand of the designs of Mr. F. Bennett Smith, F.R.I.B.A., architect, of Manchester, under whose superintendence the building of the Royal Court Theatre, Warrington, which was burnt down last Christmas, is being rapidly pushed forward. A new entrance will be made to the pit, and an entrance to the second tier or gallery, which is to be erected in addition to the grand circle, will be provided. The vestibule and crush-room are to have a mosaic pavement, and the walls mahogany dados with doors to match. The auditorium will contain pit, circle, and gallery, with boxes on either side, and will have a coved ceiling with eliptic dome. At the stage end the arrangements will be brought thoroughly up to date, and be capable of accommodating the best dramatic productions. A fireproof curtain will shut off the stage from the auditorium in case of fire, and a fire-resisting staircase will give access to the dressing-rooms. It is intended to adopt a complete system for heating the whole of the theatre, and the electric light will be employed throughout.

AMIEL, the well-known bender, V. L. Granville, actor-impersonator, and Techow's cat show have left this week for Australia, under engagement to Mr. Harry Rickards. They were booked through Pacey and Reeves' agency.

MR. HARRY GRIBBEN, who, it will be remembered, was so successful in the Paisley pantomime, has undergone a painful nasal operation at the hands of Mr. Stanley Turner and Dr. D. G. Munro. We are pleased to say that Mr. Gribben is swiftly recovering.

MISS MAUDE STEWART DREWRY has been engaged by Mr. Wentworth Croke to play Thora and Elin in his autumn tour of *The Prodigal Son*

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LES JACOBINES."
Comedy, in Four Acts, by M. Abel Hermant, produced at the Vaudeville on Feb. 22.

Germaine ..... MLLE. GABRIELLE DORZIAT
Mme. Le Mesnil ..... MLLE. CECILE CARON
Nini ..... MLLE. JEANNE HELLER
Catherine ..... MLLE. HARLAY
Mme. Dupont-Genest .... MLLE. ANTONIA HUART
Le Marquis d'Esparon ..... M. LERAND
Lucien Drouart ..... M. LOUIS GAUTHIER
Le Général Pravdine ..... M. BARON FILS
Dupont-Genest ..... M. JOFFRE
Barnett ..... M. ANDRE DUBOSC
Loupiau ..... M. VICTOR BOUCHER
Dominique Bernier ..... M. A. HALL

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Feb. 28.—M. Abel Hermant, the most observant of our young playwrights, had a happy inspiration when he started writing *Les Jacobines*. He had a splendid field before him, but, apparently, the daring nature of the subject frightened him, and, timidly, he only gave us a story indifferently told. In the personages of the piece we recognise—or think we do—some of the members of a well-known family in Paris. The "Jacobines" are not, as might be thought, the wives of the "Jacobins" of 1793. They are women—not of the highest breeding—who have secured a certain position in society. Germaine, the daughter of Mme. Le Mesnil, the widow of a politician, is married to Lucien Drouart, a barrister. Brought up in a queer milieu that holds peculiar views on things in general, Germaine's ideas are what we call "advanced." According to her, if husband and wife do not get on well, the best thing for them to do is to divorce at once, and enjoy life the best way they can. Having fallen in love with Dominique Bernier, a married man, but anything but a model husband, Germaine does not hesitate a moment. As she does not want to deceive the man whose name she bears, she decides to divorce Lucien and marry Dominique, who will then also divorce his wife. When, however, Germaine, in the coolest manner possible, lays her scheme before Lucien, the latter, who holds different views on marriage, remonstrates with her, and points out the immorality of such a proceeding. Lucien's attitude places Germaine in an awkward position. Lucien has in no way convinced her, but she was anxious to do things in a straightforward manner. As to Dominique, he has no such scruples. If Lucien is obstinate, so much the worse for him; and under those conditions the only course open to them is to run away. Germaine consents, but when she tries to steal out of the house she unexpectedly stands face to face with her husband. The conversation is rather stormy, but in the end Lucien consents to withdraw his opposition to the divorce, on condition that Germaine stays one more night in his house—in a separate room. In the meantime Dominique has been waiting in vain for Germaine, and tries to find out what has become of her. He, too, runs into Lucien's arms, who tells him what has taken place. The meeting of the two men, of course, leads to no result, for only Germaine can disentangle the situation. She will have to choose between her husband and the other man. She hesitates, and Dominique is smart enough to understand that he has lost the game. And, as he and his wife have agreed to part company, he marries Nini Loupiau, a curiously unprincipled girl, with no scruples of any kind. They will be a well-assorted couple. The work was capitally played, especially by Mlle. Jeanne Heller, who was intensely funny as the impossible Nini.

"LA MAISON D'ARGILE."
Play, in Three Acts, by M. Emile Fabre, produced at the Comédie-Française on Feb. 25.

Valentine ..... MLLE. LARA
Mme. Henri Armières .... MME. SEGOND-WEBER
Mme. de Rehy ..... MLLE. PERSOONS
Marguerite ..... MLLE. MAILLE
Mme. Armières ..... MME. MADELEINE ROCH
Julie ..... MLLE. FAYLIS
Ternand ..... M. LEITNER
Henri Armières ..... M. JACQUES FENOUX
Jean ..... M. GRAND

IN his new piece M. Emile Fabre shows himself as great an antagonist of divorce as M. Hermant. He, too, does not admit the selfishness of those who want "to live their own life." In other words, he tries to prove that mariage involves duties, and does not merely confer rights. According to him, money is the enemy, the cause of trouble and family dissensions; and in these three acts we hear much—a little too much, perhaps—of money, of dowries, of legacies. Mme. Armières has obtained a divorce from her first husband, M. Rouchon, a brutal and vulgar individual, and has married a man she loved. M. Rouchon has gone to Tunis with his son Jean; whilst Valentine, the daughter, has remained with the mother. M. Armières, the second husband, manages the factory his wife inherited from her parents, and they have another daughter called Marguerite. Unfortunately, Armières does not prove himself an able manager. He loses money over the factory, he speculates, and his ruin soon is complete. All this happens while the negotiations concerning Marguerite's dowry are in progress. The only way to save the situation and not jeopardise the girl's chances is to sell the factory, whereupon a buyer presents himself — Jean Rouchon. Jean and his father have made a fortune in Tunis, and when the former calls on his mother he says: "I know there is a buyer prepared to pay £32,000. I have only £24,000. I therefore ask you to advance me the balance on the money due to me after your death, and give me the preference." But Mme. Armières cannot accede to this request. The greater part of her private fortune has been lost by her second husband, and she can only make that advance by sacrificing her husband's honour and her daughter's interests. The scene that ensues is painful in the extreme. Jean overwhelms his mother with reproaches; and Valentine joins in the fray, pointing out that she is being entirely overlooked for the sake of her step-sister. Marguerite then comes to the rescue. She refuses to accept a dowry under these conditions, and decides to follow her father to Tiflis, where a post of engineer has been offered him. As to Mme. Armières, she will remain behind in her wrecked home, a proceeding more than incomprehensible. The second act—by far the best in the play—was admirably interpreted by Mme. Segond-Weber and Mlle. Lara. M. Fenoux was also much applauded in the rôle of M. Armières.

M. POREL has taken a partner. The gentleman is M. Peter Carin, the director of the Théâtre des Capucines. Their partnership will only begin on Sept. 1, but MM. Porel and Peter Carin are already now making their arrangements for the coming season, and engaging new artists. The fact of having joined M. Porel will not prevent M. Carin from remaining at the head of the Capucines, which under his direction has become a thriving undertaking.

IN a few days the rehearsals will begin at the Comédie-Française of *Le Gendre de M. Poirier*, wherein Mlle. Piérat will impersonate Antoinette. The play is somewhat old-fashioned, but it is always popular with the public, who were glad to hear M. Claretie decided to replace it on the répertoire.

THE Opéra announces for Monday the performance of Gluck's *Armide*, with Mme. Félia Litvinne in the title-rôle.

THE news brought by a London paper that an English company intends to give a series of English operettes at the Gaîté during the summer months is without foundation. Some little while ago a gentleman came to Paris to talk the matter over, but as he could not offer sufficient guarantees the negotiations dropped, and were not renewed.

"LA FAUTE DE L'ABBE MOURET,"
Play in four acts and twelve tableaux, by M. Alfred Bruneau, founded on Zola's novel, produced at the Odéon on Feb. 28.

Albine ..... MLLE. SYLVIE.
Désirée ..... MLLE. JEANNE LION.
Le Teuse ..... MLLE. LUCE COLAS.
Rosalie ..... MME. BARJAC.
La Rousse ..... MME. KERWICH.
Lisa ..... MLLE. RENEE MAUPIN.
Serge Mouret ..... M. VARGAS.
Frère Archangias ..... M. PERRIN.
Le Docteur Pascal ..... M. MOSNIER.

PARIS, THURSDAY, MARCH 7.—"Le Faute de l'Abbe Mouret" is the least realistic of Zola's novels, and as such differs widely from the long series that describes the history of the Rougon-Macquart family. It is, perhaps, for this very reason that it appealed strongly to the author, who had sketched the scenario with the view of having it produced in the course of the year. But Zola died suddenly, and M. Bruneau, who has already dramatised several of the great writer's novels, undertook the task of finishing the work of his departed friend. He performed it with loving care, and was well aided by M. Antoine, who, like a true artist, understood that unless the piece was elaborately staged no justice whatsoever could be done to it. M. Antoine certainly did wonders, and to him is due the success which the play secured. The story of the young priest in the small village, who lives with his sister and an old servant, is known to most people. Serge Mouret, the priest, loves his calling. Sincere in his belief, scrupulous in the performance of his duties, his life has always been above suspicion. In an unfortunate hour, however, he makes the acquaintance of Jeanbernat, an eccentric fellow, keeper to a magnificent, but deserted, estate near the village. This Jeanbernat has adopted his orphan niece, the sixteen-year-old Albine, a beautiful girl, whom he has allowed to run wild on the property. The priest, whose health has been undermined by mystic dreams, remains for a while with Jeanbernat, and is nursed by Albine, who takes him for long walks in the garden—in the "Paradou," as they call it. And it is obvious that it refers to the Garden of Eden, where the first man fell a victim to temptation. An indescribable feeling comes over Serge, against which he is not proof, and ere long the young couple fall into each other's arms. The sin has been committed, and the priest awakes to the enormity of it. The only way for him to atone is to leave the woman he loves, and to devote himself heart and soul to the work of his sacred office. For all that, he is continually haunted by a vision of Albine, and when the girl asks him to go back with her to the "Paradou," to the beautiful flowers, and the mystic retreats he has not the strength to resist, and follows her. But when they reach the tree where he and Albine first spoke to one another of their love, he tells her that he has banished her from his heart and that he is only listening to the voice of duty. Albine understands. Her sweetheart is gone, and the "Paradou," once beautiful and bright, has now become gloomy and sad. Gathering large numbers of wild roses, she returns to the room where she nursed the sick priest, and dies, poisoned by the overpowering scent of the flowers. M. Bruneau's music is well suited to the work, which was well interpreted. Special praise is due to Mlle. Sylvie, a delightful Albine.

"LA PUCE A L'OREILLE."
Farcical comedy in three acts, by Georges Feydeau, produced at the Nouveautés on March 2.

Raymonde ..... MLLE. CASSIVE.
Lucienne ..... MLLE. SUZANNE CARLIX.
Olympe ..... MME. ROSINE MAUREL.
Eugénie ..... MME. JENNY ROSE.
Victor-Emmanuel Chantebise / Poche ..... M. GERMAIN.
Camille Chantebise ..... M. TORIN.
Vinache ..... M. MATRAT.
Feraillon ..... M. LANDRIN.
Tournel ..... M. MARCEL SIMON.
Homenidès de Histangua .. M. MILO DE MEYER.

M. Feydeau's farce is on the time-honoured lines. He has given free scope to his wonderful fancy, and the easily-amused Nouveautés audience rewarded him by receiving the new piece with roars of laughter that augur well for its future success. Victor Chandebise and his wife, Raymonde, are a model couple. Raymonde has absolute confidence in her husband, and he is worthy of her trust. One day, however, a small parcel arrives by post addressed to Victor-Emmanuel, and his wife, on opening it, sees that it contains a pair of braces. Worse still, it has been forwarded to him by the manager of the Hotel du Minet Galant, at Montretout, well known in the world "où l'on s'amuse." Raymonde at once has the "puce à l'oreille"—French slang for having suspicion—and she resolves to lay a terrible trap for her erring husband. The truth is that the poor man is quite innocent. One of his nephews, Camille Chantebise, is staying with him—an impossible creature, who, afflicted with an impediment of speech, cannot pronounce consonants, which does not prevent him from courting the fair sex. The tell-tale braces are his property; but this Raymonde does not know. She wants to catch Victor-Emmanuel *in flagrante delicto*, and punish him afterwards. She asks her friend Lucienne to write him that she has fallen violently in love with him, making an appointment with him at the Hotel du Minet Galant. Victor, who does not know the lady's writing, cannot believe his eyes. In his excitement he shows the letter to everybody, and also to Homenidès de Histangua, Lucienne's husband, a fiery, jealous South-American Spaniard, who recognises his wife's writing, and swears to murder her, her lover, the manager of the hotel, the waiters—in fact, everybody. And then the trouble begins, for we meet all the personages at the hotel. Raymonde, eager to "catch" her husband, goes there accompanied by young Tournel, secretly in love with her. We see there Camille, who has an appointment with Raymonde's maid. Lucienne, her terrible husband, and other personages also appear on the scene; and, to make matters worse, Boche, one of the waiters in the hotel, bears a striking likeness to Victor-Emmanuel. It is impossible to distinguish one from the other. The trick to make an actor play a double rôle is an old one; but, be it said in the author's praise, he dealt cleverly with it, and brings about some shriekingly funny situations. At one time we began to fear that M. Feydeau would never be able to disentangle the plot; but this clever playwright knows his business, and in the last act—a very good one, by the way—order is once more restored. In the hands of an ordinary company the farce might have fallen flat; but with men like Germain, Torin, Matrat, etc., the play was in safe hands, and they acted it brilliantly. M. Feydeau owes them a debt of gratitude.

THE Variétés has commemorated the centenary of its foundation by the production of *La Revue du Centenaire*, a revue in three acts and ten tableaux, by MM. Paul Gavault, P. L. Flers, and Eugène Héros. This theatre really came to life in 1790, under the auspices of the famous Mlle. Montansier, when it bore the name of Théâtre de la Demoiselle Montansier. In the course of time the house kept changing its name, until in 1807 it called itself "Les Variétés," and has never since been rechristened. A dangerous year for playhouses was 1807. Napoleon did not care for theatres—although he liked classical dramas—and during that year only seven houses were allowed to keep open. The Variétés also figured on the condemned list, but owing to the protection of the Minister Cambacérès, the friend of one of the actresses there, they were allowed to continue their performances. M. Samuel, the manager, has done wonders in the way of staging, and I do not remember ever having seen such magnificent scenery in any Paris house, whilst the costumes, etc., are on an equally grand scale. The great Napoleon is, of course, introduced; but we also had up-to-date personages like the Lord Mayor's coachman, Clémenceau, Caruso, the King of Naples, M. Claretie, etc. The revue is not remarkable for its wit, but, with its strong cast and the treat it affords to the eye it supplies a pleasant night's entertainment.

THERE is, unfortunately, no necessity to devote much space to *Vive l'amour!* the three-act vaudeville by MM. Albin Valabrègue and Wulfram Canaple, produced at the Palais Royal. The authors have tried to amuse us, but their jokes fell painfully flat. Nobody felt interested in Mme. Aristide Bouffard, nor in Ferdinand Durandol, her admirer, nor in the means the latter gentleman employs to prove to the lady that her husband is not a paragon of virtue. The capital cast, including Mme. Jeanne Cheirel, Mlle. Marthe Lutzi, Mlle. Lucienne Delmay, M. Galipaux, M. Hamilton, and the other artists, made heroic efforts to save the piece, but the odds were too heavy against them. We had the right to expect better things from that able farce writer, M. Valabrègue.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"ROMEO UND JULIA AUF DEM DORFE,"
Musical Idyll, in five scenes, by Frederik Delius, Produced at the Komische Oper, Feb. 22, 1907.

Manz ..... HERR PRÖLL.
Marti ..... HERR FLESCHER
Sali ..... HERR MERKEL
Brenchen ..... FRAULEIN DE PADILLA
Der schwarze Geiger ..... HERR ZADOR
Das schlanke Mädchen ..... FRAULEIN PICKERT
Das wilde Mädchen ..... FRAULEIN BRUNTSCH
Hornist ..... HERR BOETEL
Bassgeiger ..... HERR HERBERT
Schiffer ..... HERR BEGEMANN
Erster Bauer ..... HERR FABIAN
Zweiter Bauer ..... HERR FUHRMANN
Erste Bäuerin ..... FRAULEIN FLEISCHMANN
Zweite Bäuerin ..... FRAULEIN HEINE-ULMER
Pfefferkuchenfrau ..... FRAULEIN WIEGREBE
Glücksradfrau ..... FRAULEIN KLEIN
Possenreisser ..... HERR KEIM
Schiessbudenmann ..... HERR THOMASCHEK

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Feb. 28.—This was somewhat of a new departure for the Komische Oper, the work having few pretensions to operatic rank. That the reception was cordial to the verge of enthusiasm was entirely due to the beautiful mounting. This was another triumph for Director Gregor, and deservedly so, picture after picture unfolding itself before us, each more effective than the last, the culminating scene being a field of scarlet poppies, brilliantly true to life. The libretto has been drawn by Herr Delius from a book of the same name by the German poet, Gottfried Keller, and those who have not read the latter find a difficulty in comprehending the former. In the prologue we see a couple of peasants, Manz and Marti, eating their mid-day meal in the fields peacefully enough, their children, Sali and Brenchen, playing together. A wandering fiddler breaks the harmony, an old question of a right-of-way cropping up. Manz and Marti quarrel furiously, and retire from the scene sworn foes, while the children are forbidden ever to speak to each other again. In the following acts we see the young people—scions of the village Montecchi and Capuletti—drawn together by their mutual love. Both families have been plunged into poverty and misery by the foolish quarrel, and the youthful lovers must suffer in consequence. After dreaming dreams of bliss that can never be realised, they come to the conclusion that the only thing to do is to die together. The music is very uneven, being in parts lyrical and effective, at other times inadequately expressive. The interpretation was the customary good one of the Komische Oper. Fräulein Artot de Padilla made a very charming village Juliet, delighting her audience as much by her natural, winning acting as by her singing. To Herren Pröll, Merkel, and Zador must be accorded unstinted praise for their respective renderings; and chorus and orchestra, under Kapellmeister Cassirer's direction, were satisfactory. Artists, composer, and Dr. Gregor were "called" repeatedly.

BY the Kaiser's special wish Mme. Suzanne Desprès gave a performance of Racine's *Phèdre* at the Neues on Saturday, supported by the L'Œuvre company. Although cordially received, the spontaneous ovations which rewarded the star at some previous performances were lacking; there was at times a certain stiffness in the acting, the general opinion being that the rôle did not suit Mme. Desprès as well as the others—notably Nora—in which we had occasion to admire her some weeks ago. The Kaiser and Kaiserin, who were present with friends and a large suite, followed the play with deep interest, expressing their appreciation to the manager during one of the entr'actes.

WE have another famous artist within our gates at the present time—Herr Josef Kainz, formerly of the Berlin Lessing company, now member of the Imperial Burg at Vienna. Herr Kainz has been engaged at the New Schauspielhaus for twenty-five performances, at an unusually high salary for Berlin, amounting to £90 a night, English money. The opening play—on Monday evening—was Goethe's fine drama *Torquarto Tasso*, the title-rôle of which is one of the great actor's best parts. That Herr Kainz was welcomed with a degree of enthusiasm seldom seen here goes without saying. As regards the interpretation, the "guest" was at his very best; it was a masterpiece of acting, and to remember the number of times Herr Kainz was called and cheered would be a difficult task. The New Schauspielhaus company did well on the whole, Fräulein Fehdmer giving an interesting account of the Princess.

A NEW operetta, entitled *Der Schwerenöter von Anno Tobak*, by Gustav Wanda, was announced for first production at the Theatre des Westens on Friday last. Owing, however, to the indisposition of one of the principal artists it had to be postponed, and *Der Bettelstudent* took its place in the bill at the last moment. There were few signs of disappointment apparent in consequence of the alteration, Millöcker's bright little work being capitally interpreted.

THE military farce, *Im bunten Rock*, by MM. von Schönthan and Schlicht, which enjoyed a long run some years ago at the Royal Schauspielhaus, met with a very cordial reception on its production at the Schiller O. last week. It was not quite satisfactorily acted, the whole dragging somewhat, and several of the chief actors being less good than usual.

HERR MAX KRETZER has just completed a new drama—*Leo Lasso* entitled—which will be produced here shortly.

SIGNOR MASCAGNI will conduct a concert in the Philharmonic in the middle of April, and Edward Grieg in the same hall a few nights earlier.

THE death is announced of Herr Aloys Prasch, former lessee and manager of the Theatre des Westens and—at an earlier period—of the Berliner Theatre. He was some dozen years ago Intendant of the Court Theatre at Mannheim, and was known for excellent taste in stage matters. Notwithstanding his indefatigable business capacities, Herr Prasch was pursued by ill-fortune during the past few years, and became bankrupt. His misfortunes preyed upon his mind till his removal to a sanitorium became imperative, and there, at the early age of forty-nine, he passed away on Friday last.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Mr. Walter Gibbons, as we anticipated, has added the Putney Hippodrome to his circuit, and will reopen the house on Monday on the two-houses-a-night plan. Mr. Clifford King, who was appointed manager by Mr. William Grimes, will be succeeded by Mr. Chris Marner, recently at the Duchess Palace, Balham. He is brother to Mr. Claude Marner, of the Holborn Empire.

Mr. Eugene Stratton by the time these lines are in print will have commenced his homeward journey, after scoring a remarkable success at the Hyman establishments in South Africa, and reaches these shores on Saturday, March 23. At the Empire, Johannesburg, the "dandy coon" was the recipient of handsome presents—a silver salver and a silver cigarette-box.

Mr. Dick Knowles is utilising his globe-trotting experiences, and recently gave his new illustrated lecture, entitled "Old Worlds Through New Eyes," at the Carnegie Lyceum, New York. There was a large attendance, and Mr. Knowles showed some beautiful views, with an entertaining description of them. Dick, as we all know, is a fellow of infinite jest, and he would have long since become a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society had the quidnuncs of that worthy corporation not been such sticklers for facts.

The Dutch boom is upon us again in the theatres and halls. At the Prince of Wales's Theatre Miss Isabel Jay as *Miss Hook of Holland* frames her pretty face in sabots, and both Miss Madge Lessing and Miss Annie Purcell, the girl who sings "By the side of the Zuyder Zee" successfully, are scoring great successes in Dutch business. The American variety became popular when "Fritz" Emmett first visited us, and Mr. Jake Friedman, one of its exponents, is introducing it once again in his sketch *Happy Holland* at the Empire, Hackney.

Miss Ada Alexandra, who was the first "Dutch girl" to make a name in the halls, is lying very seriously ill at her residence, 30, Carlton-mansions, Portsdown-road, Maida Vale, and it is with much regret that we learn that she is suffering from the last stages of cancer. Her medical adviser has given up all hopes of recovery. Miss Alexander would like to hear from some of her old friends in the profession.

Mr. George Edwardes, who was successful in securing the music-hall licence for the Empire, has resigned the chairmanship of the company and his seat on the board of directors. He has taken this step because he desires to give all his attention to Daly's and the Gaiety Theatres. It was in July, 1887, that Mr. Edwardes leased the Empire from the late Daniel Nicols, of the Café Royal, and with Sir Augustus (then Mr.) Harris, and opened it as a variety house on Dec. 23. Since then, on a paid-up capital of £31,250, it has earned more money than any other theatre run as a limited liability company in the West End. The shareholders on one occasion received as much as 84 per cent.

Mr. Charles Jesson, London Secretary of the Musicians' Union, whose work for the National Alliance during the strike was so conspicuous, was again returned on Saturday a member of the L.C.C. by a large majority for Walworth. Mr. Joe Elvin, Mr. Maurice Hoffman, Mr. Harry Mountford, and Mr. Frank Gerald gave him considerable assistance both previous to and on the day of the election.

Messrs. Hana, Ltd., to whom we were indebted for the excellent Conciliation Board group—otherwise known as the Peacemakers—which adorned our issue last week, now inform us that permanent prints of the photograph can be had at the rate of 7s. 6d. each by applying to them at 22, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C. No doubt many of our readers will secure a copy of this excellent souvenir by the artists' photographer of a momentous event in the history of the halls.

The Oxford anniversary is somewhat later this year, probably on account of the strike. The function, which is one of the pleasantest of the kind, is announced for Friday, March 22, and will be the first annual under Mr. Blyth Pratt as manager. The élite of the profession will be on the stage and the aristocracy of syndicates and circuits in the stalls.

Minnie Duncan and Arthur E. Godfrey, of *Me and 'Er* fame, have concluded a most successful engagement in Australia with Mr. Harry Rickards, have returned to England by the Orient Royal Mail liner Ormuz, and open at the Oxford and Empire, Islington, on Monday. During their stay in Australia they successfully produced two new coster acts, entitled *The Coster's Baby* and *The Coster's Courtship*, both written by Murray and Everard. They also produced *The Sceneshifter's Lament*, by arrangement with the author, Mr. Alfred Lester, of the Palace and Gaiety Theatres.

Mr. W. H. Kirby, a new recruit to the variety stage, has proved such a success that this week he is playing three halls, namely, the Bedford, Middlesex, and Granville. The Moss and Stoll tour follows. It will be remembered that Mr. Kirby made a hit as the Page in *Cinderella*, at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, last Christmas.

Mr. Ted E. Box, comedian, was on Sunday last initiated into the mysteries of the Terriers' Association, Terrier Leon Bassett performing the ceremony.

The latest quotations of music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1⅛; Canterbury, ½; Empire (15s. paid), 1½; Empire (10s. paid), 1½; London Pavilion Ordinary, 4¾; London Pavilion Preference, 5; London Coliseum, ⅛; Metropolitan, ⅝; Moss' Empire, 4⅞; Moss' Empire 5 per cent. Preference, 4⅛; Oxford, 6⅝; Palace, 10/6; Tivoli, 6¼; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 13/0.

The usual monthly meeting of the Music Hall Sick Fund will be held at the York Hotel on Wednesday next, at 2 o'clock.

The Balham Empire, 75, High-road, Balham, was offered at the Mart on Tuesday by Messrs. George Head and Co. in conjunction with Messrs. Stimson and Co. The property was bought in at £2,850.

Miss Belle Travers, who has recently concluded a very successful engagement with Mr. Gar Kiddie's pantomime company, is about to produce a farcical sketch, entitled *Unmentionables*, expressly written for her by Mr. F. F. Smiles. Miss Travers has recently returned from a long tour of South Africa. It is of interest to note that she was the first professional to appear in Johannesburg under Mr. Edgar Hyman's management after the late war.

The 502nd meeting of the Executive Committee of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association was held on Wednesday afternoon, when the following members were present:—Messrs. Joe O'Gorman (chairman of committee), W. H. Clemart (president), Fred Herbert (vice-chairman), A. Borelli, W. Welsh, Pat Carey, Albert Le Fre (V.P.), John Alexander, J. W. Cragg (hon. trustee), Harry Bancroft, Fred W. Millis (V.P.), Wal Pink, Walter Munroe, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). The minutes having been confirmed, a number of matters of importance were brought before the meeting and discussed at length. The weekly statement of receipts and expenditure was submitted, and was passed as read.

Mr. Walter de Frece has arranged to take over two theatres now controlled by Mr. John Hart, which will bring up his circuit of halls to a total of eighteen. It is his intention to gather the best possible talent around him.

A complimentary dinner was given last week to Mr. Charles Bush, to mark his eight years' association with the Leeds Queen's Theatre, and his appointment as acting-manager of the new Palace. The gathering was held at the Grand Central Hotel—Mr. Arthur Willey in the chair—and in handing over a cheque for 30 guineas, subscribed by a number of Mr. Bush's friends, Mr. Willey paid a glowing tribute to the popularity of the recipient.

The New Palace, Leeds (late the Queen's Theatre) opened its doors as a music hall on the twice-nightly system on Monday, and two crowded houses were in evidence for the inauguration. Mr. Walter de Frece, who is now in control, was well received in an opening speech from the stage; and Mr. Charles Bush, the popular acting-manager, also came in for a warm welcome. Great improvements have been effected in the interior, including a lavish scheme of redecoration and upholstery, and the comfort of patrons has been studied and catered for in every particular. Mr. de Frece will bring to the Leeds Palace Mr. Harry Lauder, Mr. Malcolm Scott, Miss Ada Reeve, and —immediately she has fulfilled her other contracts —Miss Vesta Tilley.

The capital of the company formed to run the "White City," an American amusement park, at the Manchester Botanical Gardens, is given at £40,000. There are, however, no shares on the market, the whole of the money having been promptly found by the promoters of the movement. The work of construction is going on with remarkable rapidity, and the electricity supply will be obtained from a plant to be erected on the site. The new venture will probably open in May.

On Monday Mr. Acton applied to the Manchester County Licensing Justices on behalf of Mr. John Calvin Brown, acting on behalf of the syndicate promoting the "White City," for a six days' music and dancing licence. There had been, counsel said, music for some considerable time past at the Botanical Gardens, Manchester, and now an influential company, with a substantial board of directors, had been formed, and they were going to turn the Gardens into what they hoped would be a great success as a place of public entertainment. They asked for a licence from noon till midnight in the application form, but the hours would, of course, be in the discretion of the Bench. The Bench granted the licence till 11 p.m.

Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, proprietor of the Empire Theatre, Rochdale, applied at the adjourned General Annual Licensing Sessions, Bolton, on Monday, for a licence for a proposed Empire Theatre to be erected (from plans already passed by the Bolton Corporation) in Deansgate, Bolton. Something like £5000 is proposed to be spent on the building, to accommodate about 1200 or 1300 people. The chairman, in granting the licence, spoke of the good impression made by Mr. Hargreaves, who, he said, was just the sort of person to whom they would entrust the erection and conduct of such a place. Mr. William Duncan, of Rochdale, is the architect.

Mr. Sinclair Neill, who has just been appointed manager of the New Alhambra Theatre, Belfast, has had a long experience of theatrical matters, having been with Mr. Forbes-Robertson, Mr. F. R. Benson, Mr. Wm. Mollison, and Mr. Chas. Warner's companies. His appointment has given the greatest possible satisfaction to his host of admirers in Belfast, of which city he is a native.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Lucas have just concluded a second most successful Moss' Empires tour, receiving great praise from all the provincial Press for their scenes from "The Old Curiosity Shop." They have also been offered a lucrative pantomime engagement, which they are unable to accept, as their arrangements for the next eighteen months are complete. At the Palace, Manchester, recently, Mrs. Lucas was presented with a beautiful bouquet bearing the inscription "A token of welcome from the Manchester Dickens Society."

The annual meeting of the shareholders of Warden, Ltd., was held on the 28th ult. at the Palace Theatre, Belfast. The chairman (Mr. S. C. Allen), in moving the adoption of the directors' report and statement of accounts for the year ended Jan. 26, 1907, stated that the profits had been sufficient to pay the previous half-year's dividend on the preference shares, 5 per cent. on the preference share capital, and 4 per cent. on the ordinary share capital, and to transfer to the reserve accounts £1394, and carry forward to the next account £376. Mr. H. C. Kelly was re-elected a director, and Messrs. Craig, Gardiner, and Co. were reappointed auditors.

Rather a novel souvenir is on view in the windows of that well-known theatrical resort in Glasgow, popularly known as Johnny Crichton's. This is the collar, tie, and dress shirt (or, at least, the starched portion thereof), worn by Mr. Fred Kitchen at a recent theatrical dinner in Glasgow. On these Mr. Kitchen secured at the time the autographs in pencil of all the guests present, and the result is an ingenious memento of the occasion, the signatures including most of the ladies and gentlemen appearing in the pantomimes at the Royal, Grand, and Princess's this year, with, in some cases, their catch-words or gags appended.

A remarkable incident occurred in the Coliseum, Glasgow, on Saturday night during the progress of Fred Karno's *Football Match* sketch, in which several well-known professional footballers appear. A man occupying one of the boxes became so enthusiastic that while leaning far forward he suddenly overbalanced himself and fell over the edge of the box into the stalls below, a distance of 12ft. His startled cry immediately drew the attention of the audience from the stage, and for a time the most intense excitement prevailed. The man was found to be practically unhurt, however, his fall having been broken by his landing upon the head of an unfortunate clerk, William Forsyth, who was sitting in one of the stalls. The latter came off much worse, being most severely bruised and shaken, and he was immediately conveyed home in a cab.

A scene unprecendented in the annals of pantomime in Dublin was witnessed outside the stage-door of the Gaiety Theatre on the last night of the pantomime. A crowd numbering about four hundred awaited the appearance of several of the prominent artists. The first to emerge was Tom E. Finglas (Pompey), admittedly "the" success of the production. He was promptly seized by a number of admirers and carried shoulder high into Grafton-street, a distance of 300 yards. Fred Arthur (the Sultan), who followed, was similarly treated. A speech being demanded, Mr. Finglas addressed the bhoys and colleens, Mr. Arthur also having to respond. In his few words he informed the warm-hearted Dubliners that it was "Tom's" last appearance in Ireland previous to his departure for Australia. There was then a general desire expressed to shake the hand of their favourite, on whose memory the scene will be indelibly engraved.

Mr. H. Griff and Mr. Charlie Stevens had a record send-off from Waterloo last Saturday, when they started on their journey to South Africa. Quite a crowd of brother Terriers assembled, and sang the joyous strains of their anthem, which, by one consent, was many times encored. Not only Terriers, but Water Rats and other friends added to the heartiness and jollity of the gathering.

Amongst those assembled on the platform we noticed Messrs. G. P. R. Burgess and Son, Joe Lawrence, F. H. Kohler, Leon Bassett, George Cooper, Ben Whiteley, Will Edelsten, E. C. Webb, M. McDowall, Billy Moss, Pat Carey, Jesse Sparrow, Charlie Cornish, Teddy Giles, Wal Pink, Frank Gerald, H. E. High, Ted E. Box, Miss Leslie, Kitty Clare, Jessie Burnette, Mr. and Mrs. Horace White, Tom E. Cliffe, Fred Hughes, Ben Woodger, H. Davis, E. E. Cooke, G. V. O'Connolly, C. C. Bartram, and Harry Lester. Both Mr. Stevens and the famous clown received many wires from absent friends.

The Terriers on Sunday gave their fifth social concert of the season at their headquarters, the Dover Castle Hotel. About eighty, including friends, were present. Amongst those who contributed to the evening's entertainment, were Tom Packer, W. L. Murray, Ada Norman, the Three Coopers, Guy Ryder, Elsie Baker, Miss Salter, Mrs. Arthur Dainton, Miss Edie Godfrey, Mrs. Beatie Godfrey, Catherine Leslie, F. W. Millis, Ted E. Box, and Mrs. Croxson. Mr. J. C. Moore presided at the piano; Mr. Leon Bassett occupied the chair; Mr. Ben Woodger acted as M.C.; and the complete arrangements were in the hands of the secretary, Harry Lester.

Fresh from his pantomime successes in the provinces, Mr. Bransby Williams, who has done so much to spread the knowledge of Charles Dickens among the masses, reopens at the Empire on Monday with a new entertainment, entitled *Mephisto à la Mode*. This will embrace some amusing imitations of popular actors.

One of the biggest successes in comedy sketches has, by all reports, just been achieved by Mr. Chas. M. Daly, the popular comedian, who, until just lately, has been touring suburban London and principal provincial towns with the Apollo and Shaftesbury Theatres' success, *Mr. Popple, of Ippleton*, playing the comedy part of Platt, with that prince of musical comedy comedians Mr. G. P. Huntley, who is at present making such a hit in *Miss Hook of Holland*.

Mr. Daly's success is with a screaming short, pithy comedy, entitled *I Must Have It*, in which he portrays a dude tramp, resembling somewhat Percy de Vere, Esq., in *The Lights o' London*—a part peculiarly suitable to his style. He is supported by a good company, among others being Miss Maggie Byron, who was so long associated with *Three of a Kind*. Messrs. Rosen and Bliss, after seeing *I Must Have It* on Monday at the Palace, Stoke Newington, immediately offered Mr. Daly twelve weeks.

The Canterbury, during the early régime of the father of the halls, Charles Morton, was dubbed by George Augustus Sala the "Academy over the Water," and the Empire will shortly be designated the Tate Gallery in Leicester Square. So successful have the new living pictures been that the directors have decided to constantly add new works of art to the collection. Next week's changes will include Leslie's well-known picture, "Uncle Toby and Widow Wadman," "The Knight Errant," by Sir J. E. Millais; "Hit," by Lord Leighton; a nocturne and two fresh bronzes—"Perseus"—by Brough; and "The Eagle Slayer." In another branch of pictorial art there will also be a novelty next Monday on the Biograph—a series of pictures showing the laying of the Brooklands Automobile Race Track.

Mr. Mark Melford's fiftieth sketch was produced last week with the utmost success. *The Lawyer's Letter; or, Once a Year*, eclipses the majority of this author's best sketches, and was received with enthusiasm at Collins's. Seeing no prospect of his return to the legitimate stage, Mr. Melford's plays are to be disposed of, with copyright, plants, and pictorials, commencing with the four-act drama, *The Hidden Terror*.

Mr. George Barclay, always on the look-out for novelties, saw one of the funniest Scotch sketches possible at the Zoo Hippodrome, Glasgow, last week, and in less than twenty-four hours had it booked up eighteen months ahead. The title is *The Egyptian Mummy*, and it is humorously played by Sandy McNab and company. It has never been seen out of Scotland; but now, owing to Mr. Barclay's astuteness, we shall soon be laughing at it in London.

Mr. Maurice E. Bandmann considers he has made a great discovery in India in Professor Grossi and Mme. Roux. Mr. Bandmann claims that Grossi, as mind reader and wonder worker, absolutely stands alone. Mr. Bandmann discovered him quite by chance, and immediately engaged him to appear in one of his Calcutta theatres, where the impression made was so profound that Mr. Bandmann secured him for three years, and is now making arrangements for his appearance in London. Unlike others, Grossi, who is an Italian, goes through all his feats in absolute silence. Not a word is spoken or a sound uttered to his medium. He has completely taken Calcutta by storm.

Mr. Edwin Brett and Miss Emmeline Orford, the popular vaudeville artists, have in preparation a musical comedy, entitled *The New Star*, for six principals, chorus, and ballet, which they intend to produce on their return to the London halls this spring. They have already settled their Christmas season as principal comedian and principal boy.

A deputation of the Grand, Clapham, Cycling Club waited on Mr. Harry Bawn at the Camberwell Empire on Saturday, and presented him with an enamelled gold medal, as a small recognition of services rendered to the club during the three years of his presidency.

Charles Collette finishes a long and most successful tour in the London and provincial halls with his sketch, *Tea for Two*, and rejoins Mr. Charles Cartwright, to repeat his famous impersonation of Micawber in the revival of *Dan'l Peggotty*, at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, on Monday next. It will be remembered that Mr. Collette, who has played Micawber in *Little Em'ly* for many years in the provinces, made a big hit in the part in the mid-seventies, at the Standard and now defunct Park Theatres, under the management of Messrs. John and Richard Douglass.

Mr. Malcolm Scott, who, during the week, has proved a big success at the Liverpool Tivoli, leaves the Mersey to-day (Saturday) for Las Palmas on a holiday.

Miniature Marie writes us from Cape Town to say she is recovering nicely from her terrible illness of enteric fever. She has made a great success with Messrs. Hyman and Co. in Africa, and it was during her last three weeks at the Tivoli, Cape Town, that she was taken ill and removed to Somerset Hospital, where she received all the care that was possible. Marie says she does not know how to thank her brother and sister artists for their great kindness to her. It will be June before her return, when we shall see her at the West-end halls in some novel numbers.

Brown, Le Clercq, and Co. have just concluded another successful pantomime engagement, and open in London next week in *Black Justice*. They have recently refused a very tempting offer from America.

We feel sure that Mrs. Fred Karno's numerous friends will be glad to hear that she has recovered from her serious illness, which was caused by ptomaine poisoning.

At the Palace Theatre, Stoke Newington, on Thursday next, a grand matinée will be given under distinguished patronage in aid of the funds of the Metropolitan Hospital. Many well-known London artists have kindly promised their services.

Mrs. John Lawson has been drawing tremendous houses this week at the Islington Empire with *The Devil's Sunday*. A particularly gorgeous scene was used, and the accomplished lady, in her part of Fay Faber, has been scoring her usual success. Next week this clever sketch will be seen at the Palace, Manchester.

John Lawson will produce at the Camberwell Palace on April 1 a new episode, entitled *The Unwritten Law*, the plot being somewhat on the lines of the Thaw tragedy. Scene 1 shows the House of Glass; Scene 2, The Roof Garden. Between the changes will be exhibited a special Biograph film, portraying "The Downfall." Something startling is promised both in the way of mounting and effects.

Miss Lil Hawthorne played her first engagement since her return from America at the Empire, Bristol. She was accorded a magnificent reception, and received numerous bouquets and packets of chocolates from her many admirers. The business during the week has been enormous, hundreds being turned away. Miss Hawthorne starts her annual Moss and Stoll tour on Monday, March 18. Miss Hawthorne experienced very rough weather on her journey from New York, and was afloat on the night of the great storm which wrecked the Berlin.

Mr. Bob Hutt, who is topping the bill this week at the Middlesex with his *Welcome Home* company, appeared at the historic Drury-lane house on Monday, but has been unable to play since in consequence of an attack of laryngitis.

Mr. Charlie Rich (Rich and Rich) will resume work on Monday at the Hippodrome, Brighton, after an enforced rest of two weeks by order of his physician, Dr. Stuar-Low, under whose care he has been during that time, and at whose hands he has undergone two operations on the throat, both fortunately successful.

Mr. James Wynes has been again appointed manager of the Grand, Hanley, after an absence of two years. Mr. Wynes inaugurated the two-shows-a-night system in Hanley, previous to his engagement with Mr. Oswald Stoll, which lasted nine years.

Miss Florrie Bray, who is appearing this week at the Palace, Chelsea, and the Metropolitan, has scored an immense success. Mr. Hugh J. Didcott saw Miss Florrie Bray at the first-mentioned hall, and now, as her sole agent, is securing for her many dates.

Owing to the loss of his mother Mr. Sam Mayo was unable to answer to his number on Monday at the opening of the New Palace, Leeds. Mr. Fred Land was sent on from the City Varieties, an act of courtesy on the part of Mr. Wood that Mr. Walter de Frece must have appreciated most heartily.

From the same cause, Mr. Ted Cowan, Mr. Sam Mayo's brother, has been absent from his engagement at the Islington Empire, where he received the wire containing the sad news on coming off the stage at the Monday matinée.

The friends of Miss Carlotta Lunn will be pleased to hear that she is now recovering from her recent illness. She owes her recovery to the care and kindness of Nurse Cliff and the skill of Dr. Couan, of Stockton. She will resume business on March 25, with new numbers and an elegant wardrobe. Her latest song is entitled "Poverty parts good company."

Mr. Bert H. Delmar, whose success as a topical patterist was so marked some weeks back, is being rapidly booked up. As a writer and composer he has also demonstrated his ability in Miss Gracie Grahame's number "Fishing" (Shapiro, Von Tilzer), Frank Lynne's "Can't make it out" (Francis and Day), Harry Grey's "Carrie" (Price and Reynolds), and Charles Cardle's great hit "Iona" (Price and Reynolds).

The Six Æolians, under the direction of Mr. Charles Parker, are now in their third week of success at the Palace, and this refined act is one of the brightest gems of Mr. Butt's programme. They have been secured by every prominent management for some time ahead.

An interesting case under the Music Copyright Act came up at the Bromley, Kent, Police Court on Monday. Susan Puriago was charged with having in her possession a number of copies of pirated music at Chislehurst. The prisoner pleaded that she was "no scolard," and did not know the difference. She sold it as "piloted" music, and obtained it by sending through the post. Prisoner's husband said they got the music at New Cross. Anybody could get it, and hundreds of people sold it as "piloted" music. A fine of 10s. and 5s. 6d. costs was imposed, and the copies of music taken from prisoner were ordered to be destroyed.

Mr. Ernie Mayne has just finished pantomime, and is now in town for three months. As usual, he is meeting with great success.

The New Royal Hippodrome, Belfast, of which Mr. Harry Downs, of the New Alhambra, Belfast, has just been appointed manager, is fast approaching completion, and it is confidently expected will be ready for opening on Easter Monday. Mr. Downs has just appointed quite an army of officials, stage-manager, and bill inspectors.

Captain Sperling and Captain Jansen, the gallant lifeboatmen who performed such noble service in the saving of lives from the wreck of the steamship Berlin, were honoured as heroes at the Palace Theatre on Thursday afternoon, when a matinée was given by the directors in aid of the relief fund started by the Mayor of Harwich. Earlier in the day—to be precise, at 9 a.m.—Mr. Miller, of the Palace Theatre, had met Captains Sperling and Jansen on their arrival at Liverpool-street Station, and driven off with them in a motor car. At the Mansion House the car was held up by a policeman, and Mr. Miller took the opportunity of pointing out the historic building to the visitors. This, however, hardly seemed to interest them. It was the mass of traffic and people that caused their great astonishment. "Where do they come from?" was the ever-repeated question. It being explained that the people were going to work, they asked, "Where do they live?" "Outside London," was the reply. "Then, where does your London end?" But Mr. Miller gave it up. In due course they arrived at the Queen's Hotel, where Mr. E. A. Pickering, the assistant-manager of the Palace, and Mr. T. Bailey, the manager of the hotel, were waiting to receive them.

Eight hundred shillings have been received this week for the benefit of the Music Hall Home Fund. They have been sent to us by Mr. Walter P. Wells, the hon. treasurer of the Edinburgh Theatrical Sports, which are given annually in the cause of charity.

Mr. B. Pearce Lucas, the managing-director of the Bedford, has fixed Thursday next, March 14, for his annual matinée on behalf of the much-depleted funds of the North-West London Hospital in Kentish Town-road. The entertainment will be under distinguished patronage, and the Mayor and Borough Council of St. Pancras will be in attendance. Mr. Lucas hopes to hand over £250 to the Hospital secretary.

Miss Agnes Nolan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Nolan, made her first appearance on any stage at the London, Shoreditch, on Thursday, Feb. 28, with such good results that Mr. Richards, the manager of that cosy hall, immediately kept her in the programme for the present week.

The latest recruit to the music hall stage is Miss Isabelle Dillon, whom Messrs. Blackmore have booked to appear at the Richmond Music Hall on March 18. Miss Dillon's experience in musical comedy and pantomime should stand her in good stead.

Sylvester's Hippodromes, Ltd., a new company, is just being registered. Several well-known gentlemen are financially interested, some acting as directors. On sites that have been secured in several towns a new style of hall will be erected. A fine position has been secured in the centre of Crewe, and plans are now being prepared by Woodhouse and Co., Nottingham, who have also the contract for the building. Plans have also been approved by the authorities at Peterborough, where the building operations are now about to commence.

Mr. Lempriere Pringle and Mr. J. C. Piddock will produce an entirely and original whimsical operatic trifle entitled *The Musical Burglar*, written by Bertrand Davies, music by Clement Locknane. The cast will include Miss Ethel Negretti, Mr. E. W. Colman, and Mr. J. C. Piddock; also a quartette of male voices. The production will take place on March 18 at the Hippodrome, Huddersfield. Messrs. G. and F. Peel have got the booking arrangements. The sketch will be conducted by the composer.

"Valentine the Boneless," a curious character whom English visitors to Paris knew well by sight some fifteen years ago, died on Wednesday. His name was Jules Renaudin, and he was the greatest male dancer that Paris has ever known. He was old enough to remember Mabille, and had danced with the famous Clodoche, but his own principal successes were scored at the Jardin de Paris and the Moulin Rouge.

Mr. Harry Liston, in whose well-known entertainments Miss Lord Lumley is a prominent figure, has received numerous inquiries concerning his associate. Miss Lord Lumley bears the same name as a young lady found drowned in the river at Fulford, York. In a satchel attached to the waistbelt of the deceased was a card which bore the name, "Miss Lumley, The Holmes, Scarborough." Strange to say, Miss Lord Lumley invariably wears jewellery very similar in all respects to that found on the body, and the fact that she has made numerous appearances at Scarborough has doubtless strengthened the impression that she might be the Miss Lumley mentioned in the paragraph. Mr. Liston writes to assure the public that the deceased was not Miss Lord Lumley, who is still associated with his entertainments.

The crowd that is likely to visit Sydenham to witness the football match between Crystal Palace and Everton will afterwards have an opportunity of seeing Peter Bannon, the official premier champion wrestler. On this occasion he is offering £25 to each of the following men if he cannot throw them all within one hour:—W. Kline, the champion of London; James Waller, the 12st champion of Essex; and S. Scholl, the 12st. champion of Germany. An interesting match, particularly to the Everton visitors to the Palace, will be one for £25 between Reece, of Everton, and Philip Gotz, 11st. champion of London, for the best of three falls. Last, but not least, Peter Bannon will wrestle Max Minion, the Canadian 16st. champion, for £50, the best two falls in three.

Mr. Harry Lauder returned to the Tivoli on Monday night, after his pantomime engagement, and rarely indeed does one have the opportunity of witnessing such enthusiastic scenes in a music hall as those which testified to the popularity of the Scotch comedian. He was heard in three familiar numbers, "She's ma' daisie," "The Kilt," and "My Scotch Bluebell," and each of these he sang with his customary effectiveness.

At the conclusion of his turn Mr. Lauder heartily thanked all present for their gracious welcome. "I am extremely grateful," said Mr. Lauder, "for this very marked tribute of your esteem, and the memory of this scene will not readily be forgotten. It is pleasing to know that one is not forgotten though absent from London. I have not prepared any more ballads for this evening, but during my six weeks' stay at this house I hope to introduce several new songs to your kind consideration, and, in the meanwhile, I remain your very grateful servant."

Mr. Harry Downs was the recipient of some marks of esteem at the New Alhambra Theatre, Belfast, on Saturday evening. Mr. T. H. Solly, on behalf of the Alhambra Dramatic Company, presented Mr. Downs with a gold-mounted walking-stick; and Mr. Sinclair Neill, the new manager, handed to him as a gift from the orchestra, staff, and a few friends, a beautiful diamond and pearl breast-pin. Mr. Downs, in his reply, referred to the happy relations that had always existed between the company, the staff, and himself. Although he was leaving the Alhambra, he was not leaving the city, and would always be pleased to see their faces at the new Hippodrome. In introducing Mr. Sinclair Neill, the new manager, he assured them he was succeeded by a gentleman of high personal qualities, and one that would always be anxious to afford them the utmost satisfaction.

Mr. W. B. Broadhead's sudden death came as a great shock to his numerous friends in Blackpool and Manchester, and a very promising career has thus been cut off at the early age of thirty-four. Mr. Broadhead married Miss Edith Moore, only daughter of the late Mr. A. Moore, of Hornby-road, Blackpool, whom, with four young children, he leaves to mourn their loss.

He was born at Stockport, and came to Blackpool in his school days, receiving part of his education at the Grammar School. Upon leaving school he assisted in the management of the old Prince of Wales Baths, Blackpool, which stood on the site of the Palace, and frequently took part in the water shows, which were such a popular feature, and won many prizes. Mr. W. B. Broadhead afterwards went to Manchester, and took up the management of various theatres. In 1902 he won a seat on the City Council, representing New Cross Ward, but was defeated in 1905. On Wednesday, the day of the funeral, all the ten Broadhead halls were closed. Mr. Percy Honri (brother-in-law) was among the mourners.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

DITTIES of a smart, humorous, and refined nature issued by Mr. David Day's firm, are now being studied with avidity by hosts of artists who are equipping themselves for the coming season. One greatly favoured by the gentlemen is "Round the clock; or, the strenuous life," by Redmond and Thurban, and the intelligence that that gifted and delightful artist Miss Margaret Cooper is about to add to her répertoire H. E. Pether's "farmyard fantasy," entitled "My sweet bird of paradise," has caused many smart feminine artists to do likewise.

MISS FLORRIE GALLIMORE made, at the Hippodrome, St. Helens, a few nights since, a great and instantaneous success with a new song, entitled "You wonder why I love you?" which tells of an elderly man's affection for a young girl because she is so like her mother, whom once he had hoped to make his bride. The words and music—the first from his pen for the popular artist—are by Henry F. Greenfield.

MISS DAISY DORMER will exploit a charming new "Rocky Mountains" romance by that clever trio of song-writing experts, Messrs. Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford, entitled "Don't go back to Carolina," at all her forthcoming engagements in town and country; whilst Mr. G. H. Elliott will also feature the same tuneful number on the expiry of his engagement at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, where he is still nightly creating a furore with the same writer's "Bamboo bungalow." Both songs are published by the same firm—the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.

MISS MADGE TEMPLE, who scored so heavily during her engagement at the London Coliseum last year, will shortly appear at a leading West End music hall in a new production of a sweet Milesian ballad, entitled "Kitty Brady, my Irish lady," by Mr. J. F. Lambe (author-composer of "Queen of Old Samara"), a lilting number racy of the soil, which in Miss Temple's experienced hands is predestined to great and lasting success. The song will be published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. in their "Sixpenny Successes" series at an early late.

MR. EDGAR CURTIS is engaging an efficient company to support him during the forthcoming summer at the Bandstand Concerts at the well-known and important situations at Ramsgate, on the East and West Cliffs. His humorous song "I'm a little bit deaf to-day" has been enquired for by entertainers all over Great Britain, and will be issued by Messrs. Francis and Day on Saturday next.

MISS MARY MARS, the dashing principal boy from Fred Karno's successful Glasgow pantomime, has this week made a hit at the Tivoli and Empress, Brixton, with Castling and Godfrey's romantic Indian song, "You shall have a shalimar" (Indian garden). Miss Mars is to be congratulated on the introduction of a number that is sure to be among the successes of the year. The Star Co. have secured this winner.

AMONG the novelties the Star Co. have in the press are the following:—"Where the North-road leaves the Minster City," by Harry Staunton; "When the wedding bells rang out for you and me," by A. E. Richards and Maurice Scott; "Wallflower," by Paul Pelham and Herbert Rule; Florrie Gallimore's latest stormer, "You wonder why I love you?" by H. F. Greenfield; and "Has anyone seen a German band?" by A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott. The writers are confident this number will rival their famous "Zuyder Zee" in popularity.

THE Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., have secured a new song, entitled "Why does a lady," written by George Arthurs and composed by Mr. Ernest Shand, who has been featuring it with great success on the Stoll tour. The publishers will shortly issue it in their popular "Sixpenny Edition."

MISS PEGGY PRYDE will shortly produce a new song written and composed by Miss Gladys Mavius, entitled "Just those three words." The publishing rights are vested in the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd.

A NEW song, entitled "Primrose," arranged as a scena, was produced at the Pavilion, Glasgow, on Thursday. It is by the popular providers A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott, and has a catchy refrain.

AMONG the many purchases acquired from leading song-writers by Francis, Day, and Hunter during the last few days are no fewer than four songs from the joint pens of Harry Castling and Fred Godfrey, viz.: "In Demerera," "My 'Are-you-there?' girl," "Two little wooden shoes," and "The day you became my bride."

HERMANN E. DAREWSKI, JUN., has set to music a pretty song, the words by F. R. Westbarr, and named "The north wind and the rose." It has been accepted for publication by Messrs. Francis and Day.

A FRESH impression of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter's comic song "Birdseed" is being struck off by the printers, and constitutes the fourth edition.

NEW songs which Messrs. Francis and Day will shortly issue, in addition to others, include "She haunts me," by Murphy and Lipton; "Just say good-bye to the days that are gone" (sung by Miss Josie Mooney), by Fred Fey; "If I can't come round to your house" (George D'Albert), by Chas. Collins; "Since Father started gardening" (Little Cliff), by Harry Heath and Will Hyde; "Mabel, I'll send you a cable" and "There's a dear little house that Jack's built," by Worton David and Kenneth Lyle; and "All that I want is a cosy cot and you," by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford.

THE clever song, "I ain't nobody in particular," which has attracted much attention in the hands of Mr. Alec Hurley, is from the pens of Scott Mackenzie and Fred W. Leigh.

MISS NELL COTTER is making a big success with her popular coon song, "I'm going to leave you." It is written and composed by her brother, Chas. Collins, who was also responsible for the "Little wooden hut," and is published by Feldman and Co.

AN erroneous impression having got abroad that Mr. J. F. Lambe's charming song, "Queen of Old Samara," belongs to the "free" variety, the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. wish it to be distinctly understood that prior singing rights for the G. Adney Payne Syndicate halls have been allocated by them to Miss Lilian Lea, whilst Mr. Fred Elton holds prior rights for the Moss and Stoll tour until further notice. A few rights for halls outside these have, however, been granted.

IN consequence of the great success Miss Daisy Mayer has won with her quaint rag-time coon song "Ain't you gwine to let me say good-bye?" written and composed by Paul Knox, wherein the singer narrates the story of a coon who, upon being arrested and arraigned for petty larceny, pleads eloquently with the judge for the privilege of just one last word with his only "pal," a "dog of the mongrel kind," it has been accepted for early publication by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co., who anticipate a big sale for the number in "Sixpenny Successes" form.

HEROES AT THE PALACE.

How readily the members of the theatrical profession respond to a call for help for any deserving charitable purpose has been fully demonstrated this week, during which several benefit performances have been given in aid of one good cause or another. On Thursday afternoon at the Palace Theatre an entertainment was presented, the total receipts going to swell the Mayor of Harwich's fund for the widows and orphans of the crew of the ill-fated S.S. Berlin. Captains Sperling and Jansen, two of the sailors who distinguished themselves in the work of rescue in connection with the disaster, occupied a box, and were the centre of interest whenever the eyes of the audience were not riveted upon what was going on on the stage.

During the afternoon the two lifeboatmen were presented with gold medals, which the directors of the Palace Theatre had specially struck. The medals, the decoration of which consisted of laurel wreaths, bore on one side the inscription, "Presented by the Directors of the Palace Theatre," and on the reverse side, "For bravery in connection with the S.S. Berlin Disaster, off the Hook of Holland, Feb. 21, 1907."

The Mayor of Harwich, in making the presentation, thanked the directors of the Palace Theatre, Mr. Alfred Butt, the artists, and all who had assisted to make the matinée a success. He (the Mayor) had received a telegram from the Queen of Holland, expressing her sympathy with the sufferers, and intimating that she was sending £25 towards the fund. A telegram of acknowledgment had been despatched to her in the name of the Palace audience. It was hoped that the result of the matinée would be an addition of £500 to the £5,000 already in hand. It was regrettable that, owing to the sudden illness of another of the heroes, Captain Berkhout, it was not possible that afternoon to present the third gold medal.

At the invitation of the Mayor, rousing cheers were given for Captains Sperling and Jansen, and the Dutch National Anthem was played by the band, partly in honour of the presence of the Dutch Ambassador.

There were twenty-five items on the programme, but time did not admit of the appearance of all the artists. Miss Vesta Tilley gave her delightful rendering of "Following in father's footsteps," concluding with her amusingly characteristic soldier study. Mr. Hayden Coffin was heard to advantage in "Tommy Atkins"; and Mr. Henry Lytton delivered in fine style the song, "First and last appearance on the stage," from *My Darling*. Mr. Harry Fragson treated the audience to his piano entertainment, which included that popular number of his concerning the misfortunes of an ambitious playwright; and Miss Gertie Millar, assisted by a chorus of little girls, created a good deal of amusement with her "Grandmamma" ditty. Mr. Courtice Pounds gave a further demonstration of his vocal attainments by a splendid rendering of "I'll sing thee songs of Araby." Mr. Harry Lauder kept the house in a state of merriment with his recital of the experiences of one McKay, his singing of Scottish comic and serious songs being altogether admirable. Miss Evie Greene captivated all hearts by her expressive performance of her "Honeymoon" song; and Miss Marie Dainton submitted a number of imitations of well-known artists. Miss Margaret Cooper accompanied herself at the piano in the singing of some capital verses, the burden of which concerned the yearning of a domestic to be a grand lady. Miss Camille Clifford and Mr. Leslie Stiles, with the assistance of eight prettily-dressed girls, appeared in the attractive *Gibson Girl* scena; and Miss Ada Reeve told in amusing fashion what would happen if the world were governed by girls, both this song and that concerning a stage-struck lassie proving among the most agreeable features of the programme. The McBans were seen in an exceedingly skilful juggling act; and the Palace Girls sang and danced themselves into favour. The Æolians also won applause for their smart dancing and pleasing melodies; and the Bioscope appropriately enough exhibited pictures of the Berlin wreck.

MUSIC HALL ARBITRATION.

THE CASE OF THE STAGE HANDS.

Mr. G. R. Askwith, the arbitrator, in a further interim award in connection with the music hall dispute, says:—"In further arrangement of the music hall dispute, and in addition to awards published by me on Feb. 14 and 21, 1907, I award and declare with regard to the stage hands that I concur in the agreement between the parties not to examine at the present time the question of the justice or injustice of the strike. I award that stage hands who, in consequence of the strike, are without employment, may apply for engagements, and shall be entitled to vacancies now existing or arising (agreed at 50 per cent. of those who are out of employment), such vacancies to be filled up on or before March 11, and those employed to receive payment at such rate as the arbitrator may subsequently decide to be payable to each class as and from March 11, but pending such decision temporarily at the rate paid in the first week of January, 1907. The remaining stage hands shall be given preference for employment in respect of vacancies arising before the publication of my first award. Any balance not absorbed in obtaining work before the end of the proceedings and prior to the publication of an award upon wages and other questions in dispute shall be referred to me for consideration. The stage hands may themselves choose and select by whom application may be made for the aforesaid vacancies."

BARNARD'S PALACE, GREENWICH.

A large and well-pleased audience assembled on Monday night in this bright and comfortable hall—where their wants are so well catered for by popular Mr. Bert Dent—prepared to do full justice to the excellent fare provided by the management for their amusement. Miss Belle Elmore, a charming comedienne, contributed two catchy songs, entitled "Such a good young man" and "Charlie," which were well received. Miss Doris Dare sang pleasingly of "Mary." Myrtle and Grove were successful with "I am an American girl" and "I'm the guv'nor." Dave Wallace had a flattering reception for his rendering of "Off to Canada" and "The old apple tree" (parody). The imitations of Bandoni were excellent, and his concertina solos admirable. Miss Lily Esplin was very successful in her contributions, entitled "Suffragette," "Wrestling Mad," and a coon song. The Horsley Brothers were warmly applauded in *Goldberg's Fighting Ring*. Chris Masters sang very quaintly "Somebody's waiting for me." The Geary Trio, barrel organ dancers, made a decided hit with their sand and step dances. Miss Marie Tilley, comedienne and top-boot dancer, was well applauded for her song, "On Saturday," and a clever dance. Mr. Fred Hanlon's patter is smart and novel, and he scored with his song entitled "Proverbs." Miss Clara Waly sang pleasingly "Everybody knew he'd been to town." Messrs. Prentice and Brite did well in their comedy duologue, "Jimmy," and also in "Call and see me sometimes." Miss Connie Levara, the charming soubrette, is also in the programme. A most attractive feature is the exhibition by Ruffell's Bioscope of a new and interesting series of animated pictures. The band, under the direction of Mr. William Skerry, play some bright and up-to-date selections.

WIRELESS music is one of the possibilities of the future. The results may occasion startling changes, and economy in entertainment must certainly be one outcome. With the establishment of communication between the Syndicate halls a comedian—at the end of this century, perhaps—would be able to sing at one house and be applauded in six.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE OXFORD.

Miss Marie Lloyd is back again at the Oxford, and Mr. Blyth Pratt smiles once again as he looks round the house, which is now resuming its appearance of prosperity to which we were accustomed in the ante-strike days. The favourite comedienne, after her holiday in Madeira, returns in excellent fettle, and it was patent to her admirers on Monday that she rejoiced at her reappearance at a house where her success was never in doubt. The feeling was mutual, and the magnetism of sympathy evidently inspired her as the stepped on to the stage in a beautiful gown of white satin and chiffon to sing of "The custom of the country," to give us in inimitable fashion a monologue on the racy and romantic incidents of Lady Jane's train journey, and to inspire us with the Castilian *brio* of her Spanish song. Nothing new can be said of these numbers, unless it be noted that they afford the popular Marie the necessary opportunities of showing her many-sided genius. Early in the evening Miss Jessie Preston, who was born nearer the Clyde than the Thames, raised shouts of laughter when she appeared as the Scotch lassie of Mr. Harry Lauder's celebrated song, which she sings by permission of the comedian from o'er the border. Signor and Mme. Borelli combine refinement with fun and music in their turn at the piano, for which they secure the unstinted approval of their kind friends in front; Mr. W. H. Clemart, one of our most popular ventriloquists, has been afflicted with catarrh, but in spite of this misfortune he has been able to afford considerable diversion by his figures, the crying baby being as realistic as ever.

The absence of one of the turns let in Mr. Jay Laurier, from the Tivoli, and that comedian scored a most gratifying success with his humorous song and patter, "Silly Billy Brown." Another deputy, Mr. Dion Wade, took the place of Mr. Dutch Daly, absent through indisposition, and favoured the house with some capital imitations of George Robey and R. G. Knowles, both of whom are immense favourites at this house. Mr. Wade is evidently a close observer, and has caught the mannerisms and voices of both stars to a nicety. Mr. Dan Crawley, who has just returned from a successful pantomime engagement, gives an eccentric dance that is intensely amusing, and rounds off a triumphant appearance by the broad extravagance of a dame impersonation. An interesting appearance is made by the Eight Stars of Holland, who are heard and seen in the songs and dances of Zeeland in fair time, and in other Dutch scenes. Miss Amber Austa gives originality to the coon business by her eccentricity of movement and her clever dancing; the Ernesto Sisters, in a wire act, do many startling things, among them being a well-executed cake walk on the two filaments of steel; and Dandy George and his dog Rosie submit an act that seems to grow in popularity, the canine doing exactly what is expected of her, and that with the greatest alacrity. Herr Grais' baboons include a Blondin performer, who on removing his garments stands forth in all the glory of a gymnast's costume. His greatest feat is when he loops the loop on a bicycle. His companion has a sly sense of fun, and causes considerable laughter.

As statuary representations are just now the rage, Mr. Blyth-Pratt has been fortunate in securing Mlle. Henriette Marcel de Serris' bas-reliefs and representations of celebrated pictures. Among the latter is Millet's "Gleaners," an artistic realisation of a famous work by the great French painter.

Mr. Joe Elvin comes late in the programme, but is very welcome in the farcical absurdity *Trespassers Beware!* The only Joe, in a trip up the river, loses his rudder, and gets mixed up with the people who are posing for a faked cinematograph picture, of which an assassination forms the chief sensation. One can easily imagine the Cockney comedian in a series of "tremulous" situations, and the sketch is continually punctuated with laughter. Other turns announced on the bill are Mr. John Kurkamp, Miss Madge Lessing, Mr. Jack Camp, and the Great Northern Troupe, who dance as delightfully as ever.

THE HIPPODROME.

The latest novelty—sensation would be probably a more appropriate word—at the Hippodrome is Bud Snyder's new cycle act, which was seen for the first time on Monday evening. Next to the dangerous looping the loop performances which excited so much attention a few years ago, Mr. Snyder's feats are the most daring things we have seen. His *magnum opus* consists of his mounting a flight of stairs of sixteen steps, jumping with his bicycle over a man on each alternate step, and, arrived at the top, executing various tricks without dismounting from his machine. Finally, still on the cycle, he jumps from one table to another fixed on the platform erection, and then falls sheer on to the ground, a distance of twenty feet. The audience watch his progress in breathless silence, and the applause on the successful consummation of the trick is simply deafening. Another feat is almost as interesting, and gives us a cycling see-saw, in the centre of which is a tall pedestal, on which is perched Snyder's assistant on a bicycle. Snyder rests on the low-level end of the saw, his man drops on to the saw, and Snyder flies into the air, turning a complete somersault, with his feet still on the pedals. The Hippodrome management are to be congratulated on another "find." It is an advertising device, eminently adaptable for stage purpose, and which should become exceedingly popular, which enables one, by throwing two lights alternately on a modelled surface, to obtain two distinct effects of the pictures. One of the most striking instances of this is afforded when, by a manipulation of the electric lights, the face of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is made to represent that of his chief political opponent, Mr. Balfour. In the same way a thin cat is changed into a fat one—probably an idea for a famous brand of condensed milk; while another example is given when a young and pretty girl becomes a railway porter.

What is called a Japanese pot-pourri act is furnished by the Lukushimas, a troupe of really talented performers. These people certainly seem to have mastered the possibilities of centrifugal force, as is evidenced by their skilful juggling with pans filled with water. Not less wonderful are their balancing and gymnastic feats with the aid of a pole, and the somersaulting of one of the junior members of the troupe from the upturned feet of another. The domestic life of the poultry-run is realistically portrayed by Mr. Walter Stanton, who, artistically "made up" as a giant rooster, struts about the ring in a characteristically avian manner. He is, indeed, "a quaint old bird," and with the assistance of a highly-trained specimen of the real article, succeeds in presenting a turn at once novel and mirth-provoking. In Hale and Francis we have a couple of smart hoop manipulators; and the Mezzettis are responsible for an exceedingly interesting and neatly performed comedy bar act. There is an old saying that it takes a wise man to play the fool, and Cruickshank, who dubs himself "the fool of the family," displays an unusual sense of the ludicrous. Lavater Lee is as droll as ever; and Prince Kokin continues his entertaining Japanese jugglery. His balancing tricks are remarkable for the neatness and precision with which they are accomplished.

The Chrono-Megaphone may now be considered a distinctive and popular feature of the Hippodrome programme. We are shown an animated picture of a scene from *The Mikado*, and the gramophone rendition of "Tit Willow" is commendably distinct, the words of the song synchronising with the movements of the actor in the picture. The same remark applies to another series, depicting a recruiting sergeant appealing to a youth, "Come, my boy, and be a soldier"; while another film, unaccompanied by vocalisation, but extremely laughable, represents an aged woman, "Granny," whose features assume a variety of expressions indicative of ever-changing mental attitudes. Tina Clementina submits an attractive shooting act; and Mlle. Von Etta distinguishes herself as an illusionist. Mr. Sam Elton is a riotously funny individual. What with rolling about the stage in all manner of postures, meeting with a multitude of accidents, rollicking with piles of china plates, and engaging in antics which one would associate with an inebriate condition, he contrives to keep the audience in an uproariously merry frame of mind and a disturbed frame of body. Boris Lensky treats the house to his scholarly violin interpretations of the works of the famous composers; and the contortionist display of Genaro and Theol help one to realise to what a marvellous degree of flexibility the human body can attain. The beautiful spectacle *The Treasure Ship in Fairy Seas* maintains its pleasing influence, Miss Simeta Marsden as the hero, the Misses Annette Kellermann and Gladys and Maud Finney as the Mermaids in their swimming exhibition, Tiller's Eight Snowdrops as the dancing sea nymphs, and Herr Heidenreich's flying ballet, all contributing to the success of the production, under the able supervision of Mr. Frank Parker.

PARAGON.

The Paragon programme is usually well varied and interesting; it is particularly so this week, all tastes being carefully and judiciously catered for. Those who take great delight in rollicking fun may be recommended to direct their special attention to a production by the Piccad American pantomime company, entitled *Burglars of New York*. In spite of the vigilant care of an old man three thieves, making their burglarious way over a wall, break into a house, and this is the prelude to a highly diverting piece of business, which keeps the audience well amused during its progress. The veteran caretaker gives the alarm, and after the burglars come three policemen, one of them being a comically fat representative of the law. When he falls on his back his attempts to recover his upright position are suggestive of the efforts of a blackbeetle similarly placed; and cause roars of laughter. But previous to the arrival of the constables, the robbers have reared a plank against one of the windows of the house, and down this are slid in quick succession various articles of furniture, which are received by a burglar stationed below for this express purpose. Then the comic chase of the thieves by the police proves most amusing, the latter always getting the worst of it in the hurried scramble through doors and windows. All the members of the company work exceedingly hard in keeping up their reputation as fun-makers, and their untiring efforts are crowned with complete success. It is only skilful acrobatic performers who could so easily achieve such laughable results from their doings, and the company thoroughly deserves the liberal applause with which they are greeted at the close. Novelty is also represented by Mlle. Clasen's "Living Art Bronzes." This unique exhibition is given by two ladies and four gentlemen who pose as bronze replicas of some of the most beautiful and interesting statuary in the world of art. Amongst the most notable are Ishmael dying of thirst in the desert, the Angelus, Eros, the God of Love, the Last Gunners, and Pro Patria. The artistic beauty and merits of this show are evident to all beholders.

Mr. Harry Lauder, who is engaged at the Paragon this week, appears to be rapidly developing his ability as a comedian pure and simple, apart from his excellent qualities as a comic singer. His latest successes warrant the assumption that he would be a valuable acquisition to the stage proper in humorous character parts should he ever care to make the experiment. In one of his new songs he comes on wearing a kilt, and gives a remarkably clever impersonation of a man suffering from extreme cold. The back cloth represents a dreary snow-clad landscape, and this gives an appropriate setting to Mr. Lauder's shivery old man. The burden of the song is that the wearer of the kilt has given up trousers because his wife was in the habit of going through his pockets every night while he was fast asleep. Another clever piece of work is Mr. Lauder's burlesque Highland soldier, who wears Wellington boots and does a funny trot round the stage. The accompanying ditty is in praise of "My Daisy," and the representative of the military hero introduces much laughable patter. Mr. Lauder concludes with his "Mary, my Highland belle" song, that much-praised lassie being represented by a young lady who dances gracefully.

The ladies known as the Eight Stars of Holland give their characteristic native songs and dances with much acceptance; and Signor and Mme. Borelli are as successful and amusing as ever in their musical and humorous "tit-bits," concluding with their realistic feline imitations. Miss Winifred Hare has a couple of pleasing new songs in "Just 'cos the bee loves honey" and "Cheer up, Mary." She sings both these novelties in her usual artistic and attractive style, and in the last-mentioned she presents a strikingly handsome appearance in a pretty blue uniform and cocked hat. On the night of our visit Mr. Billy Hobbs, coloured comedian, deputised for Mr. Pat Rafferty; and Mr. George Bendon also contributed a couple of songs. The programme includes Mr. Charles Whittle, a comedian of genuine ability; Mr. David Poole, a clever ventriloquist; Miss Daisy James, a comedienne who is always well received; and Miss Abbie Mitchell, creole singer of plantation songs. Other attractions are Herr Grais' baboons and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope. Mr. Chas. Beecham's managerial duties are admirably carried out, and a word of praise is due to the orchestra under the direction of Mr. Arthur Grimmett.

HAMMERSMITH PALACE.

This week the bill at this house is topped by Mr. J. G. Grahame and company, in the dramatic sketch, *The Yellow Fang*. The sketch is founded on the crimes alleged to be committed in San Francisco opium dens by the Chinese proprietors. Mr. Grahame, as the keeper of the den, Hung Kow, is excellent, presenting an admirable portrayal of the bullying, cowardly Chinese opium dealer. His assistant, Sun-Ku, is well played by Mr. Cyril Rawdon. Mr. Charles Seguin is a good Jim Nares, Hung Kow's decoy; the drunken sportsman, who is murdered in the den, is in the safe hands of Mr. E. Beresford; Mr. G. Lane is capital as the Policeman; and the most important character is Judith Beck, a white opium slave, played by Miss Lascelles. Her performance as the half-mad opium slave is admirable. The sketch is well staged, and the incidental music by Harold Austin is appropriate.

Mr. Tom Costello has an exceedingly humorous song on the suffragette subject, and is assisted in his patter by two cleverly made-up "would-be voters." Another star comedian is Mr. Phil Ray, the peculiar patterer, and the way he clips his words appeals greatly to the audience. Miss Ethel Dove is a pretty and clever comedienne. A novel sketch is introduced by Lambert and Hans, entitled *Visiting Day*. Mr. Herbert La Martine sings "I'm a Yankee Doodle boy," performs some clever bâton manipulations, and dances well. Kenneth and Kant are clever vaudeville artists; Kenneth does some excellent "knockabout" business and plays a violin skilfully, whilst Kant is a pretty and neat dancer.

Miss Elsie Roby, in *The Slavey's At Home*, introduces a novel method of playing the piano with the aid of a dusting-brush. Miss Roby also gives a sand dance, playing the piano at the same time. The Valescoe's Circus consists of a remarkably clever pony, two dogs, and a monkey. All the animals have been well trained, and do their tricks very smartly. Mr. Bob Hamilton, Scotch comedian, has a humorous song, with some very funny patter, and is also a good concertina player. His imitations of a church organ and the bagpipes are excellent. Mr. Hal Forde's song, "Don't you worry if you lose your girl" is a tuneful ditty, and his other song, "Buy my book," is exceedingly funny. The juggling with Indian clubs by Hanvarr and Anna Lee is clever. Hanvarr juggles with a table and two chairs, and also with a hat, several tennis balls and bat. Miss Maude Prenton has a chic manner and sings well "She is such a classy girl"; and Mr. George Leonard sings "Sailing in my balloon," the chorus of which is quickly taken up by the gallery. The programme is completed by some interesting animated pictures by the Edisonograph.

NEW CROSS EMPIRE.

An excellent and varied programme is provided this week for the patrons of this popular temple of amusement, which is so ably presided over by the courteous resident-manager, Mr. Ernest Bridgen. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Louis La Rondelle, render the overture to *Don Juan* (by Mozart) in the brilliant style which makes the band here one of the most enjoyable items of the evening's programme. The most interesting turn this week to the majority of the audience is that of Lockhart's Elephants. These well-trained quadrupeds excite wonder and admiration by their clever performances, and by the intelligence and docility with which they respond to every word of Captain Taylor, who introduces them. They pose, dance, play musical instruments, and do many other clever tricks, which were greeted with loud and enthusiastic applause. Another novel and interesting contribution is that of Gaumont's Chronophone, by which we not only see the animated pictures of popular artists, but actually hear their voices in some of their most attractive songs, notably Mr. Frank Rowe and Miss Margaret Carter, who are heard in the "Miserere," from *Il Trovatore*, and three members of Mr. George Edwardes's company are seen and heard in "This little girl and that." Messrs. Johnson and Bert are well received in a novel comedy act, entitled *A Queer Customer*. Mr. Clarence C. Corri presents a musical farcical comedietta, in one scene, entitled *Office Hours*, which is interpreted by an exceptionally clever all-round company, including Messrs. Arthur White, Johnnie Schofield, jun., George Danvers, jun., George Delaforce, Harry Monkhouse, Miss Violet Hicks, also Miss Florence Leigard and Mr. Frank A. Wood, both late of the Carl Rosa Opera Company, who use their pleasing, well-trained voices with much effect. The chorus is attractive and tuneful, and the Coralie Troupe of dancers are a pleasing feature of the entertainment, which brims over with knockabout fun and humorous situations. Mr. Charles Coverdale, who is billed as "writer, composer, and singer of his own songs," possesses a quaintly funny style that makes him very popular. Mr. Willie Gardener wins admiration for his wonderful exhibition of skill as a skate-dancer. Mr. J. W. Rickaby sings a couple of amusing songs entirely to the taste of his audience. Miss Ruby Dahl wins well-deserved applause for her latest novelty, entitled *Merry Mannikins*. The Meymotts (Harry and Ada) appear with considerable success in a smartly-written and well-acted trifle, called *Semi-Detached*, which deals with the tenants of two adjoining flats, who, after many quarrels, ultimately agree to marry and make the two flats into one.

STRATFORD EMPIRE.

Stratfordians are being deeply mystified this week by the wonderful feats of Mr. Horace Goldin. He might rightly be described as the prince of prestidigitators, so bewildering and so dexterous is his performance, trick succeeding trick with such rapidity that the audience are kept in one gasp of astonishment. Perhaps the most sensational—or theatrical—effect is produced when Goldin places a young lady inside a cannon, which is fired in the direction of the roof, above the audience, and lo, a large trunk is hauled therefrom to the stage, and from an inner trunk there steps the damsel. There is no mistaking it is the same lady, and rounds of applause greet the feat. The multitudinous things which Goldin conjures from apparently nowhere, include even ducks and rabbits; while a fully-furnished bedchamber, with its sleeping occupant, is materialised from within four empty curtains, and a lady is raised into space with absolutely no visible means of support, the performer walking to another part of the stage. Hall and Earle provide abundance of amusement during their acrobatic turn, the combination being very welcome, and the expert jumping of one of the duo into a series of tubs arouses plenty of applause. Ernest Torrance sings in excellent style "Somewhere," and the song is illustrated with a fine selection of pictures thrown on to a screen. Eily Adair wins favour with her singing and clever step-dancing; and Rex King, described as "The One-Man Programme," contributes a versatile entertainment which is much enjoyed. The McConnel Trio, in the musical medley sketch, *Mrs. Skinner's Lodgers*, supply some merry moments. Mrs. Skinner's two gentlemen boarders are in arrears with their rent, but she would be willing to forego this if either would become "her second." Arriving home late one night penniless, after a day at the races, they decide that their only chance is for one of them to marry Mrs. Skinner, and the amusing complications which ensue are provocative of endless laughter, added to which the trio are vocalists of no mean order.

That well-known sketch, *The Little Stowaway*, in two tableaux, treats of a very popular theme. The title-rôle is well impersonated by Miss Eva Lumley, and able assistance is rendered by Mr. John K. Walton, Mr. H. S. Shaw, Mr. Hugh Metcalfe, and Mr. Lawrence Stevenson. The American Comedy Four present a strikingly grotesque appearance, and the mixture of drollery and high-class vocalism is in high favour. Harry Bedford is very successful in "A little bit of sugar on the top," and afterwards appears in a sort of tramp's soliloquy, "There's no Bow Bells ever ringing out for me," which meets with ready approval. The Bioscope pictures are always in favour, and this week's series, including "The Little Blind Girl," are received with acclamation. Mr. T. S. Mayne is deservedly popular in his managerial capacity, and he has an assiduous lieutenant in Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.

"JUST IN TIME."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In reply to Mr. H. W. Scott's communication in last week's issue of your esteemed paper concerning my sketch, *Just in Time*, produced at the Empress Theatre of Varieties, Brixton, I must at once disclaim any knowledge of such title having been used, and can only suggest that "Two great minds," &c. I have also been informed since seeing your correspondent's letter that many years ago the late Mr. John S. Clarke produced a piece at the Avenue Theatre bearing the same title, which, I believe, ran only three nights, so that I am afraid both Mr. Scott and myself are *not* "Just in time."—Yours faithfully,

ERIC ALBURY.

5, Portsdown-road, W. March 4.

GITTINS'S condensed version of *Maritana*, in two scenes, has topped the bill during the past three weeks at Collins's, the Hippodrome, Crouch End, and the London, Shoreditch, where the people's favourite numbers, "Scenes that are brightest," "Sainted mother," and "In happy moments," have been encored at each performance. Mr. Gittins, like Mr. John Lawson, with whom he was associated for so many years, takes a special pride in dressing his operas.

"THE ERA"

SHILLING FUND

FOR THE

MUSIC HALL HOME

Mr. Barrasford and Miss Victoria join in a strenuous appeal for the generosity of the profession in support of *The Era* Shilling Fund. When, twelve months ago, we brought before our readers the claims of this deserving charity, a very considerable sum of money was collected in separate shillings. That last year's appeal, however, and most of the money obtained by it, are, as Miss Marie Lloyd would say, "a thing of the past, old dear."

Subscribed to date, 1567½ shillings.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Edinburgh theatrical and vaudeville sports, per Walter P. Wells	40	0	0
Contents of collecting-box at the Hippodrome (late Tivoli), Leeds, one of Mr. Barrasford's halls, per Charles Weldon	5	7	9
Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Mannering	1	5	0
Leoni Clarke	1	1	0
Collecting-box, Palace of Varieties, Ltd., Manchester, per Nelson Barry	1	0	0
Bros. Webb	0	10	0
Geretti	0	5	0
Belford and Mars	0	5	0
A. Lazarus	0	2	0

Collected by Mr. Horace Wheatley, £3 11s.

Horace Wheatley	40	Anthony	1
Terrance Wheatley, jun.	1	Claire Romaine	1
Catherleen Wheatley	1	Sydney James	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Gilbert Fernie	1
Eileen Wheatley	1	Harry Edson	1
Horace Wheatley, jun.	1	Leslie Romani	1
Grandma	1	Lizzie Kirk	1
Auntie	1	Emmie Romani	1
MacWheatley the Dog	1	Frank Turner	1
Edgar Marriott	1	Mrs. F. Turner	1
Frank Leon	1	J. G. Henderson	1
Ted Waite	1	C. Pastor	1
Edgar Romaine	1	Sister Marion	1
Robert Robertson	1	M. Egerton	1
Florence Lambeth	1	Fred O'Malley	1
		George Harvard	1
		Gus W. Blake	1

Collected by Mr. Harry Conlin, Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, £4 7s.

Bros. Egbert	10	Us again, again	1
Us again, again, again, again	7	Us again, again, again	1
Albert Egbert	5	Gladys Cooper	1
Harry Conlin	5	Doris Cooper	1
Rosie Coleman	5	Vera Elvey	1
Mark Sheridan	5	M. Claire	1
Gwladys Elvey	5	Mr. Whitehead	1
Edna Loftus	5	Ian Lloyd-Mackenzie	1
Daisy Dormer	5	Herbert Darnley	1
S. Egbert and Mac.	5	Harry Nelson	1
Mark's Room	4	Erchie Mitchell	1
Mac's Bar, 3 Rose-street, Edinburgh	3	Harry Bendon	1
Harry Lupino	2	A. R. Pole	1
Us again	2	Us	1
Betty Green	1½	Cade Burnett	1
		Deane Tribune	1
		Estella Tribune	1

Collected by Mr. Gus Elen, £2.

Gus Elen (V.A.F.)	10	Edith Villa	1
Mrs. G. E.	1	Cruet	1
The Chickens	1	Boots	1
The Pheasants	1	The Dustman	1
Buller (St. Bernard)	1	Mrs. Carter	1
Major (Pomeranian)	1	Found	1
The Cook (16st.)	1	The Postman	1
The Housemaid	1	Admission	1
The Motor	1	Lizzie C.	1
The Gardener (Bob)	1	Meriah	1
The Parrot	1	Our Tyke	1
The Canary	1	New Pyjama 'At	1
Inky (Black Cat)	1	Luggage Man's (tip)	1
Four-Pots-a	1	Book-Boy's (ditto)	1
Twelve Coppers	1	Cab to *Era* Office	1
Two Sixpences	1		

Collected by Mr. Tom Fancourt, 15s.

Tom Fancourt	1	Margaret Ruby	1
Alf Selby	1	Queenie Clements	1
Harry Ray	1	Lottie Cora	1
Lillie Caldon	1	Florrie Cora	1
Arnold Richardson	1	Mrs. Howarth	1
Jennie Rubie	1	Anon.	1
B. Elton	1	Ernest Laws	1
T. Elma	1		

Collected by Mr. Billy Williams, £2 19s. 9d.

Billy Williams	5	E. I. S.	1
Miss Du-Roche	5	A. Hanson	1
Miss M. Sealby	5	W. Marshall	1
Andre Avocat	5	J. B.	1
Miss M. Langdon	2½	B. B.	1
Oliver Round	2½	J. Kelly	1
Roze and Calvert	2½	W. E. D. V.	1
W. W. Walton	2½	W. Clarke	1
Churnell	2½	O. L. Rendell	1
F. E.	2	Wirson Kurat	1
J. K.	2	T. Dare	1
Miss Mab Paul	2	Geo. W. Thorpe	1
Adelaide	2	H. B.	1
King	1½	I. B.	1
W. E. R.	1	Maxwell	1
F. D. B.	1	Graham	1

Collected by Rich and Rich, 11s.

Rich and Rich	5	W. Fullbrook	1
Smarte Bros.	2	Charles Homer	1
H. O. Wills	1	Lola Patey	1

Collected by Mr. Geo. Rapley, £1 1s.

Sandy and Carl	2	Edwin Zarac	1
Nellie Moore	1	Fred Lloyd	1
Beatie Moore	1	Tom Shenton	1
Marion May	1	Syd Russell	1
Bertha St. Ruth	1	Chas. Denman	1
Cissie Conyers	1	Fred Bentley	1
The Sydney Girls	1	W. Parker	1
F. J. Little	1	Geo. Rapley	1
Chas. Zarac	1	Mrs. Geo. Rapley	1
Ernest Zarac	1	Baby Rapley	1

Collected by Carl Hertz, £1.

F. Bernard	1	Wartemberg Bros.	1
Fred Poplar	1	J. Wilson	1
Sinclair and Whiteford	1	H. Osborn	1
Edgar Romaine	1	Carl Hertz	1
Edgar Romaine	1	Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1	Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1		

Collected by Bliss and Bliss, £1 12s.

George Bliss	1	Pushfoot	1
Leo Bliss	1	Nellie Bailey	1
Jack Cromo	1	Gerald	1
W. Stewart	1	Charlie Hardup	1
Ruby Aiston	1	Kitty Chic	1
Arthur Aiston	1	Zena Page	1
Billy Hoofum	1	Kathleen Tremayne	1
James Kiddie	1	May St. Pierre	1
Tom Kelso	1	Lena Arnold	1
E. Bernhardt	1	Aline Goldsmith	1
Harold Batt	1	Edie Graham	1
Mr. Skimps	1	Minnie Grey	1
Mr. Skopes	1	Eva Mountcastle	1
Ben De Freece	1	M. Maquade	1
Kitty Kildare	1	Nellie Bailey	1
Nellie Bailey	1	Marie Beresford	1

Collected by Tom Vine, £1 2s. 6d.

Tom Vine	2½	George Bernard	1
Sisters Grovini	2	Pichel Troupe	1
Jessie Harper	1½	Brothers Story	1
Fred Leighton	1	Famous Henderson	1
Arnold H. Colmer	1	Brothers Austin	1
Arthur Arscott	1	Lucy Coventry	1
George Arscott	1	F. R. Griffiths	½
George Neale	1	Joe Huda	½
H. F.	1	Mimic Maston	½
Carl Bernardo	1	Tony Rallis	½
Lee's Marionettes	1	J. C.	½

Collected by Regan and Ryan, Court Theatre, Liverpool, £1 14s.

Malcolm Scott	5	H. Brockbank	2
Fanny Fields	5	Patty Yole	2
Regan and Ryan	5	M. R. M.	1
Harry Tate	5	Doris Dean	1
Hetty King	5	Poppy Wilkinson	1
Fanny Dango	2		

Collected by W. Kloof, Kloof and Field's *Aladdin* Co., £1 1s. 6d.

Verona Quartette	2	W. Kloof, jun.	1
Bros. Shetland	1½	Harold Kloof, jun.	1
Harry Gold	1	Harry J. Nelson Fleetwood	1
Bert Goldin	1	T. R. Bennett, Fleetwood	1
T. M. Lee Isor	1	T. P. Hornby, Fleetwood	1
Vulo	½	G. Taylor, Grimsby	½
Sisters Simmons	1	W. H. Betney, Grimsby	½
Fred Fields	1	Elephant (Potted Meat)	½
Florence Lewis	1	Dog (Karno)	½
Master Freddy Fields	1	May Florence	½
Allan Grey, Musical Director	1		
W. Kloof	1		
Cissie Ransay	1		

Collected by Carl and Carr, 11s.

Carl and Carr	2	A. Lotto	1
W. Brown	2	E. Lotto	1
Emily Custance	2	B. Roberts	1
E. Davey	1	V. Kingdon	1

Collected by Miss Nellie Christie, Argyle Theatre, Birkenhead, £1 3s.

Nellie Christie	5	George de Lara	1
B. N.	2	The Bassos	1
Ella Lane	1	Julian Ross	1
Eida Burman	1	Jack Charman	1
Herbert La Martine	1	S. de Groot	1
Sylvia du Barry	1	Maude Courteney	1
Eva Lumley	1	Mabel Bardine	1
Bertha Woolcote	1	Pattie Verner	1
May Fallowfield	1	Josie Mooney	1

Collected by Mr. T. S. Lonsdale, £1 13s.

W. Pratt	2	Sydney James	1
Velvero	1	R. Gilbert	1
T. S. Lonsdale	1	E. Pherson	1
Mr. Cragg	1	Andreassen Bros.	1
Mill May	1	Toch and Tard	1
Johnny Dwyer	1	Mike Cray	1
Frederic Culpitt	1	The Marconis	1
E. H. Williams	1	Clarions	1
F. Lauteron	1	E. Amola	1
The Panamas	1	Ben Hur	1
Delornes	1	Carter Livesay	1
B. Stavordale	1	Lillian Rosebery	1
Jock Whiteford	1	Espinosa	1
G. Chamberlain	1	Amber Austa	1
Herbert Shelley	1	Will E. Haines	1
Frank Shelley	1	Robbie Roy	1

Collected by Miss Sable Fern, £2 16s.

Malcolm Scott	10	Fred Wood	1
Sable Fern	5	George Peel	1
W. H. Galpin	2	Josh Dixon	1
J. E. Grist	2	Johnnie Whiteman	1
Frank Leo	1	Carrie Kenyon	1
Will Rags	1	Leah Ardell	1
W. Griffin	1	Dolly Moore	1
E. Dubois	1	Bee Cycles	1
Mrs. Dainton	1	Butcher	1
Marie Dainton	1	Hal Forde	1
The Allisons	1	Bill Manning	1
Geo. H. Brooks	1	Joe	1
Kenneth Macleod	1	Claire Romaine	1
A. Jennings	1	Ernest Rees	1
Belles in Orient	1	Will Poluski, jun.	1
Jock Whiteford	1	Edgar Romaine	1
Samuel Lloyd	1	Herbert Coltesmore	1
Alma Gray	1	Laurence Rutledge	1
George Kirby	1	J. McCabe	1
Neil Kenyon	1	H. J. Edwardes	1
Will Lambert	1		

Collected by Albert and Edmunds, 18s.

Mr. E. Edmunds	5	Fred Barnard	1
Patrick Playfair	1	Harry Weston	1
Miss Bella	1	Miss Blanche Albert	1
Mrs. Albert	1	C. Maude	1
Miss Rose Hamilton	1	Winnie Edmund	1
Mr. K. Hamilton	1	James Dunlop	1
A. Martini	1	Mr. J. Albert	1

Collected by Fred Land, 16s.

Fred Land	1	Dick Cruikshanks	1
Mrs. Land	1	Carl Rosine	1
Charlie, Stage-Manager	1	H. Harwood	1
Harry Vardon	1	Grant and Grant	1
Dora Lyric	1	Counsel Louie	1
Yukio Tani	1	Mills, Oscar	1
Walter Bentley	1	Harry Dean	1
Wilfords	1	Effie Stuart	1

Collecting cards of subscriptions, as soon as filled, should be forwarded to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, *The Era* Office, 5 Tavistock street, Strand, W.C.

NOVELTIES AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL.

Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant have this week introduced some new and attractive items into their programme at St. George's Hall. Quite in keeping with the traditions of the "Home of Mystery" is the performance given by Joad Heteb, an Egyptian necromancer, who invents his own tricks, and preserves complete silence during the time he has possession of the stage. He begins by thrusting into his mouth strips of flaming paper, which strange meal he apparently enjoys. Four pieces of cardboard have printed on them the figures 1, 2, 3, and 4. These are mixed together, and placed one beneath the other on a stand. Then the conjurer, removing a cover from a duplicate set of figures, they are found to be in precisely the same order as the figures arranged on the other stand. With his thumbs tied securely together he also performs astonishing tricks with small hoops, and with a brightly-coloured sushade, which, after being reduced to a dilapidated condition, is restored to its original state in a most mysterious manner. There can be no doubt that Joad Heteb is a remarkably clever wizard. In the performance of his tricks he has the assistance of a graceful young lady. A little later the audience watch with mingled feelings of wonderment and admiration the "experiments in sleight-of-hand" introduced by Mr. Karl Germain, an American magician with a pleasant manner. It would be tedious to describe in detail how this expert conjurer does extraordinary things in the way of quick changes with coloured silk handkerchiefs. He also has his own peculiar and altogether original method of making coffee, cups of which, hot and steaming, are handed to lady members of the audience. Then a youth is induced to go on the stage, a watch is borrowed from a lady, and presently a real live rabbit is found concealed beneath the lad's jacket, with the watch attached to a ribbon fastened round the animal's neck. There are also inexplicable tricks which involve the marvellous changing of a vase filled with confetti into a pigeon, which mysteriously disappears. A rose tree grows in a few minutes, and the flowers distributed amongst the audience; and Mr. Germain brings his excellent entertainment to a conclusion by the instantaneous production of the flags of all nations, with the Union Jack conspicuously in the front. With regard to the rest of the programme, Mr. Harry May Hemsley is still affording delight with his exceedingly clever, humorous drawings, and his realistic imitations of children of various ages. Mr. J. N. Maskelyne introduces his new and mysterious effect, entitled *The New Page*, explaining that the gentleman who plays that part does not in the least mind being made the subject of Mr. Maskelyne's experiment, but rather enjoys it. The perplexing playlet, entitled *The Enchanted Hive*, is well worth seeing; and Mr. Barclay Gammon is successful with his humorous musical interlude, entitled *Snippets*. Mention should also be made of the selections played by the orchestra under the able direction of Mr. F. Cramer. These musical performances agreeably fill up the brief intervals in an exceptionally attractive and interesting programme.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

EDINBURGH SPORTS CARNIVAL.

Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, the hon. treasurer of the Music Hall Home Fund, has received the following letter and balance-sheet from the hon. treasurer of the Edinburgh Theatrical and Vaudeville Sports:—

Dear Sir,—Herewith I have much pleasure in forwarding you a draft for £40, being share of proceeds of our annual Theatrical and Vaudeville Sports voted to the Music Hall Home Fund, and of which we ask your acceptance.—Yours faithfully,

WALTER P. WELLS,
Hon. Treasurer,

Edinburgh Theatrical and Vaudeville Sports.
Balance Sheet.

By Gate Receipts at Market and Powderhall		£141	2 4
,, Collection		119	18 9
,, Sale of Dolls		4	17 0
,, Sale of Golf Clubs		1	0 0
,, Mr. G. T. Minshull's Flower Fund		5	15 0
,, Tickets sold		55	15 0
Donations—			
Miss Phyllis Dare	£5 5 0		
Miss Glwadys Elvey	1 1 0		
Miss Daisy Dormer	1 1 0		
John Henry Cooke, Esq.	3 0 0		
Robert Wilson, Esq.	1 1 0		
John M'Lauchlan, Esq.	0 10 0		
Arch. Mackay, Esq.	0 10 0		
Joe Ellis, Esq.	1 1 0		
Knox Dick, Esq.	2 2 0		
Norman M'Pherson, Esq.	1 1 0		
Welsh Rugby Team	1 6 0		
Moss' Empires, Ltd.	1 1 0		
Gaiety Theatre, Leith	1 1 0		
Messrs. Johnstone and Son	2 13 7		
Bode	0 6 2		
		22	19 9
		£351	7 10
To Rent of Market		£3	3 0
,, Printing Account: Peddie, Ewen and Co.		13	11 0
,, Advertising: *Dispatch*		5	6 0
,, Do. *Evening News*		3	16 0
,, Player and Son: Hire of Horses, &c.		13	10 2
,, Sutton and Co.: Hire of Lorry		0	6 0
,, Donaldson and Co.		0	11 10
,, J. Clinkscales		0	18 0
,, Labour Bureau, per Firemaster		1	2 6
,, Music Fees to Bands, &c.		13	3 2
,, Police		2	7 3
,, Commissionaires		1	5 0
Secretarial Expenses—			
Postages, &c.	£1 14 2		
Cab Hires at Sports	0 8 6		
Stablemen	0 10 0		
Joiner Work	1 0 0		
		3	12 8
Sum to Distribution Account		280	0 0
Balance on Deposit with Commercial Bank		8	15 3
		£351	7 10

Distribution Account.

By Sum from above		£280	0 0
		£280	0 0
Leith Hospital, per J. Bulman, Esq.		£40	0 0
Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, per W. S. Caw, Esq.		40	0 0
Royal Victoria Consumption Hospital, per N. Cairns, Esq.		40	0 0
Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, per Messrs. Forbes, Moncrieff, & Douglas		40	0 0
Eye, Ear, and Throat Infirmary, per J. P. Watson, Esq.		40	0 0
Music Hall Home Fund, per F. H. Pedgrift, Esq.		40	0 0
Actors' Orphanage Fund, per Hon. Treasurer		40	0 0
		£280	0 0

W. PARHAM WELLS, Hon. Treas.,
Empire Palace.

VARIETIES AT KING'S LYNN.

Last Monday saw the inception of an interesting innovation at the New Royal Theatre, King's Lynn, when a variety programme was presented for the first time in the history of the house. King's Lynn Theatre has from time to time welcomed many famous actors and actresses upon its boards, including Charles Kemble, both the Keans, Eliza Brunton and Fanny Kemble, Gustavus V. Brooke and Robson, besides a host of others. Since the present lessees—Messrs. J. Bannister Howard, Ltd.—took it over, the theatre has been renovated and the seating accommodation renewed, so that it now occupies a position equal with the better provincial theatres. The promise made by Mr. Bannister Howard in 1904 to give to Lynn performances of real merit has been amply fulfilled, and now that the lessees have recently been granted an open licence they have decided to vary their attractions by presenting good music-hall programmes. Judging by the patronage accorded to the theatre this week the new form of entertainment is likely to prove a matter of mutual satisfaction to the lessees of the theatre and its patrons. It is intended to give two performances nightly at seven and nine o'clock for three nights a week, booking the company for the remainder of the week with Bury St. Edmunds, where Mr. Eadie Montefiore is also the lucky possessor of an open licence.

This week's programme includes many excellent turns. Blanche and Diacoff, in their amazing cycle whizz, give an exhibition of much skill and daring; Arthur Melrose proves himself master of the art of whistling; the Dunvilles are responsible for a clever musical comedy act; and Fred Charles is popular as the laughing comedian. Jury's Imperial Pictures include the latest of the Hook of Holland disaster; and the Wy's Comic Pantomime company are funny in the extreme.

Mr. Howard, in a few explanatory remarks on Monday night, said he thought the new form of entertainment he was introducing would prove popular in King's Lynn. He would ensure a good and new programme each week, and for the autumn had again an excellent list of bookings in prospect.

The changes necessary in the theatre and the stage-management have been capably carried out by Herr B. Pareezer, the business-manager.

"An Electrified Film" is a fitting sobriquet for L. Gaumont and Co.'s new picture, "The wonderful Electric Belt," for it is, as the proprietors claim it to be, "a continuous current of fun (not alternating)." Everyone is familiar with those striking advertisements setting forth the marvellous invigorating properties of electricity when applied to the vertebral column through the medium of a belt placed in such a manner that it immediately has a resurrecting effect on the nervous system. The plot of the picture centres round one of these advertisements. A lazy and lacksdaisical fellow is, unknown to himself, fitted with one of these "belts," and the potential force at once makes itself evident in such a way that he attracts everything with which he comes into contact. An enterprising tramp appropriates the coat, and at once a series of galvanic shocks set in, and the "passing current" gets too great for the conductor, and results in a disastrous overflow of energy. "The Wonderful Electric Belt" has proved itself a "magnet" of no mean power at several houses of note where it is a great "attractor."

VARIETY IN AMERICA.

Vaudeville is making great strides in America. The popularity of the variety houses there has never been comparable with the popularity of the music halls of London and the provinces, but new vaudeville houses are being opened, new "combines" are being formed, and almost every day the newspapers announce the outbreak of a new vaudeville "war" between the various cliques of rival managers, all of which denotes extraordinary activity in this field of amusement, and would seem to indicate that vaudeville is steadily advancing in the good graces of the American public. A short while ago Mr. B. F. Keith and Mr. F. F. Proctor were in competition with each other. Mr. Keith had only one theatre in New York while Mr. Proctor had four; but Mr. Keith's importance in the vaudeville field was by no means in the same ratio. He was a "magnate," and the time came when Mr. Proctor, despite his four houses, evidently thought that a partnership or alliance with Mr. Keith would conduce to their mutual advantage. And so it came to pass that the Fifth-avenue Theatre and the vaudeville theatres situated in Twenty-third, Fifty-eighth, and One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth streets were dubbed "Keith-Proctor houses." Mr. Tony Pastor, who has a faithful following of his own, has always pursued the even tenor of his way and let "wars" and "combines" severely alone. Mr. Oscar Hammerstein, who has lately blossomed out as an operatic entrepreneur, has always been quite a personage in the vaudeville world, but he was not in the "Trust." He was an "Independent," and always asserted that he intended to be one till the end of his days. His house, the Victoria, has grown in popularity during the last year or two. Mr. Hammerstein imported a large number of European "acts," and, being a mighty factor in vaudeville, was a thorn in the flesh of the new "combine." Then there was Mr. Percy G. Williams, who brought over such shining lights as Chevalier, Vesta Tilley, and Vesta Victoria, to say nothing of a score of others of lesser note. A few years ago Mr. Williams was known in New York as the proprietor of the Orpheum, in Brooklyn, which borough is practically as far away as Chicago as far as the theatregoers of New York proper are concerned. Mr. Williams, when he invaded New York, soon made things "hum." His two theatres, the Colonial and Alhambra, have proved a boon to amusement-seekers living "uptown," being noted for the excellence of their programmes and being handsomely and comfortably appointed. Mr. Williams, like Mr. Hammerstein, was an "Independent"; in fact, there was a sort of working agreement between these two managers whereby they stood side by side with their backs to the wall and dared their enemy, the voracious "Vaudeville Trust," to "come on." But the trust idea is rampant in America, and whether the commodity be lamp-oil, meat, tobacco, or vaudeville the dealer doing business "on his own" usually finds pretty soon that the battle is to the strong. Recently the inevitable happened. The "combine" took Messrs. Williams and Hammerstein into the fold, and a new company was formed, to be known as the United Booking Offices of America. The active management of the company is to be vested in Mr. Edward F. Albee, general-manager, and Mr. Percy G. Williams, as business-manager. Mr. B. F. Keith is president of the company, Mr. F. F. Proctor vice-president, and Mr. A. Paul Keith secretary and treasurer. The board of directors will include, in addition to the gentlemen already mentioned, Messrs Victor G. Williams, John J. Maloney, and William Hammerstein. The new agreement makes no change in the management of any of the theatres concerned; they are merely joined for booking purposes and for the convenience of the various people interested. There will be no "pool" or mutual sharing of profits and losses, but each manager will take care of his own interests as heretofore, except that his bookings will be done from the general offices.

Another important factor in vaudeville was left out in the cold by the new arrangement. Mr. William Morris, who for many seasons has booked the principal attractions for the theatres of Mr. Hammerstein and Mr. Williams, is the leading vaudeville agent in the United States. He has always been "Independent," and it is said that he refused the offer of an enormous salary to run the new booking concern. He was not to be out in the cold very long. It soon developed that he was to be the nucleus of a rival "combine" of which the principals are those active and militant members of the big theatrical syndicate, Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger, against whom and their partners an indictment has just been found alleging conspiracy and restraint of trade. The scene of the operations of the rival camp is to be the New York Theatre, which is to be remodelled and converted into "the handsomest vaudeville house in the world." Mr. Erlanger is quoted in the newspapers as saying that he means to provide entirely new material for the entertainment of the public, and that he knows where it can be obtained. He promises that his bills will open the eyes of those who have been applauding vaudeville shows here and elsewhere during the last ten years. Many new "acts" are to be imported from Europe, where a number of agents will be constantly on the watch for novelties. It is officially announced that there will be no reduction of the present salaries of performers, but there is no doubt that a number of agents will have to take to some other line of business, as the majority of the performers will book direct.

Mr. B. F. Keith, the "father of continuous vaudeville," believes that the new arrangement will benefit the performers, and work for the best interests of the public.

"As the situation exists to-day," he says, "a vaudeville performer of a meritorious character can have employment fifty-two weeks in the year; he can be sure of his pay; he can know in advance just what his treatment is to be with respect to the special provisions for his comfort. Instead of booking ten weeks here, a dozen weeks there, and half a dozen somewhere else, with probably weeks intervening between his engagements, we can give him a contract for fifty-two weeks, or even longer if we agree on the terms, and thus end all the worry of the business for the performer.

"What is even more important—certainly from the point of view of the public, who want varied attractions—is the fact that we are now in a position, owing to the extensive circuit formed, to place the very best vaudeville performers in such a way that they will not have to appear in the same house twice in the same year, and may even spend a year and a half in other theatres before playing a return engagement.

"This is made possible by the fact that in our Eastern booking office we provide shows for about sixty theatres, and when the Western circuit is included the theatres under the control of the combination extend from Portland, Me., to Portland, Ore.; literally, I mean, stretch across the continent.

"To mention Percy G. Williams, F. F. Proctor, and Oscar Hammerstein, of this city; S. Z. Poli, with his circuit of theatres in New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury, Hartford, Springfield, and Worcester; Plympton B. Close, of Washington; James Kernan, of Baltimore; Michael Shea, of Buffalo; Harry Davis, of Pittsburg; the Bennett Theatrical Company, of Canada; James E. Moore, of Portland; James Moore, of Detroit; John Brugerman, of Paterson and Hoboken; Hyde and Behman, of Brooklyn; George E. Ketchum, of Toledo; Hurtig and Seamon, and the managers in Columbus, Cleveland, and Trenton, is to name only a few of the men who have pooled their interests so far as the booking is concerned.

"To illustrate the magnitude of the undertaking, the booking figures for next week aggregate $175,000 in our office. Before the combination was effected the figures were quite as large, of course, but there was a knocking together of heads which could not go on for ever without somebody getting his head broken.

"Something had to be done to place the vaudeville business on the same sort of footing as any well-conducted business."

FUNERAL OF MR. CHARLES BERTRAM.

The sun glittered on the bewilderingly multitudinous tombstones of the Necropolis at Norwood on Tuesday afternoon last as the remains of Charles Bertram were borne to their last resting-place. A considerable number of people assembled in the cemetery to pay a final tribute of respect to one who in his life had contributed so largely to the enjoyment of others.

The funeral cortège left the residence of the deceased in Christ Church-road, Streatham, shortly after half-past twelve, arriving at the cemetery about one o'clock. In the first carriage there were Mr. James Bassett (the only son), Mr. William Bassett (brother), and Mr. Charles Bassett (cousin). The second was occupied by Mr. Walter Palmer and Mr. Chas. J. Vollhardt (brothers-in-law), and Dr. Ross Sinclair, one of the medical attendants to the family; while in the third there were the Rev. Southey Nicholl, Mr. H. C. Turner, and Mr. George Ashton. Carriages which followed contained Mr. Under-Sheriff J. D. Langdon, Mr. William Whiteley, and Mr. Harry Preston.

The ceremony, both in the church and at the graveside, was conducted by the Rev. Southey Nicholl, Vicar of Christ Church, Streatham, and there were many affecting scenes among the bystanders as the coffin was being lowered. The coffin, which was of plain polished oak, bore the inscription:—

JAMES BASSETT
(Charles Bertram),
Died Feb. 28, 1907,
Aged 53 Years.

The grave, it may be mentioned, is next to that of Angela Godfrey, the wife of Mr. Herbert Godfrey, the well-known musician and bandmaster. That lady was laid to rest only a few months ago, and Mr. Godfrey, who was present at Mr. Bertram's obsequies, little dreamt that he would be so soon called to the same plot of ground to do honour to the memory of an old friend. And the graves of Mr. Bertram and Mrs. Godfrey are only divided by a strip of pathway from that of Sir August Manns, who was interred on Wednesday afternoon.

Among those who assembled in the cemetery were Mr. Paul Cinquevalli, Mr. Arthur Weston, Mr. Charles Garratt, Mr. Robert Peart, Mr. James Chilcott, Dr. Byrd-Page, Mr. Herbert Godfrey, Mr. Edward H. Peacock, Mr. George Robins, Mr. Arthur Helmore, Mr. Barclay Gammon, Mr. J. W. Ivimey, Mr. Bellingham, Mr. Burgess Brown, Mr. Lorne Wallett, Mr. E. W. Linging, Mr. E. T. Mills, Mr. Charles Capper, Mr. F. Lawson, Mr. Charley Moore, Mr. Sydney Gandy, and Mr. James Chilcott.

The floral tributes were as beautiful as they were numerous. That from the widow consisted of a magnificent harp, 4ft. high, composed of lilies of the valley and white roses, surmounted by a bunch of pink roses, tied with white ribbon, with gold strings, one being broken. A pathetic message said:—"In sweet and loving memory of my dearly-loved husband, from his heart-broken wife, March 5, 1907." A pretty wreath of white lilac, hyacinths, and lilies of the valley was addressed, "To our darling dad, from his sorrowing children." The Lyric Lodge of Freemasons sent a lovely wreath, bound with heliotrope ribbon, of arum lilies, lilies of the valley, hyacinths, blue violets, camelias and mimosa; while a fine anchor came from "The Boys at Ashton's." "A Memento from the Savage Club" consisted of white carnations, tulips, white azaleas, and lilies of the valley; and accompanying "A message of deepest sympathy, from the members of the Bons Frères Club," was a large wreath of laurel, orchids, arum lilies, and lilies of the valley. Mr. and Mrs. Kennerley Rumford forwarded a handsome wreath of arum lilies, lilies of the valley, white lilac, and white roses. Lilies of the valley, the favourite flowers of the deceased, formed part of nearly every floral token. Other wreaths were sent by Mr. W. S. Penley, Mr. J. Morrison McLeod, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Peacock, Mr. and Mrs. Bartholomew, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Langton, Mr. J. N. Maskelyne, Mrs. F. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Limes, Mrs. Peart and family, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sullivan, "Westminster Pals," Staff Hay's Agency, "The Magic Circle," Concert Artists' Benevolent Association, Mrs. Corrie Jackson and sons, Mr. Charles Garratt, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Lyell, Gillett Family, Mr. Charles Capper, Dr. and Mrs. Ross Sinclair, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cinquevalli, Mr. Malcolm R. Aird, Miss Van Wart, Mr. Charles Urban, Dr. Byrd-Page, Mr. Charles and Miss Sis Bassett, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Turner, Miss Fisher and Captain Blanch, "Sam and Gerty," Mr. Tom Field, "Nonnie and Dave," Mr. George Schneider, Mr. and Mrs. H. Goodwin Bailey, Mr. Neville Maskelyne, Mr. and Mrs. Stratford Jolly, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Whiteley, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Gandy, Miss Whiteley, Mr. Wm. Whiteley, Mr. and Mrs. James de Lara Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Potter, Miss Lockyer, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Helmore, and Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Norman and sons.

The funeral arrangements were undertaken by Messrs. Crabb and Son, of 100, Brixton-hill, S.W.

"FRED LOCKE" FUND.

The recent highly-successful benefit matinée given by Mr. Rich. Waldon at the Royal Princess's, Glasgow, has been the means of giving a decided impetus to the subscriptions on behalf of this deserving case. Friends and sympathisers in all parts of the country have been sending donations, and the following are gratefully acknowledged by the hon. treasurer, Mr. J. G. Crichton, 9, Bridge-street, Glasgow:—

	£	s.	d.
Port Glasgow Amateur Dramatic Society (now lapsed), surplus funds, per J. O. M'Allister	4	0	0
J. H. Savile, Paisley	2	2	0
Collected at Lauder's Bar, Glasgow, per Harry M'Clelland	1	5

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

THE fairs ahead for next week are:—Stamford, on the Great Western, North-Western, and Midland Railways; Stockport, on the London and North-Western, Midland, Cheshire lines, Great Western, Great Central, and Great Northern; Wadebridge, on the Great Western and South-Western; and Alston (Cumb.), on the North-Eastern. Penmorfa (Wales), on the Cambrian Railway; Haddington (Scotland), on the North British Railway.

THE principal cattle markets and horse fairs for the month of March are:—Market Rasen, on the 12th; Knaresboro', Morpeth, and Drogheda, on the 13th; Horncastle, on the 14th; Preston and Newark, on the 15th; Alston (Cumb.), Hertford, Ballybay, on the 16th; Oakham, Grantham, Athlone, Northampton, Malton, on the 18th; Congleton and East Ilsley, on the 20th; Chester, on the 21st; Caistor (Lincs.), on the 22nd; Pontefract, Leicester, and Retford, on the 23rd; Clitheroe, Rugby, Stockport, and Morpeth, on the 25th; Durham, on the 26th; Preston and Newcastle-on-Tyne, on the 27th; Nottingham, Horncastle, Clones, and Norwich on the 28th; and Grantham, on the 30th.

OUR Welsh correspondent supplies us with the following interesting items of news:—Alexander's circus visited Brecon; Wadbroke's cinématograph is at Aberavon; Dooner's cinématograph theatre is at Ystalyfera; E. Danter, with roundabout and varieties, is at Maesteg; John Studt is open at Cardiff; J. T. Danter is at Leith with ostriches, shooting gallery, and varieties; and with him is Thomas Danter, with fair-ground novelties. J. North, jun., is at Maesteg with his big boats and high fliers.

ALF. BALL, with his electric bioscope and theatre of varieties, continues his successful season at West Ealing. W. Biddall, with electric exhibition, is having an excellent season at Acton Green.

THROUGHOUT the whole of showland we are quite certain that Mr. and Mrs. P. Collins and their son, Mr. Patrick Ross Collins, will be the recipients of the most hearty and sincere congratulations this week, on the occasion of the coming of age of Mr. Patrick Ross Collins. This interesting event took place on March 7. We join our warmest congratulations with the whole of the show world community; in the first place to the mother and father, and in the second place to the subject of the auspicious occasion. We gladly publish the following letter:—

To the Rev. T. Horne, "The Era," London.

REV. SIR,—An interesting meeting was held by the employees of Mr. and Mrs. P. Collins, at Oswestry, on Sunday last, to decide some form of a testimonial to be presented to Mr. Patrick Ross Collins, on the occasion of his gaining his majority on March 7, 1907. Mr. John Tinney presided, and Mr. George Bailey was appointed secretary, with the following gentlemen as committee:—Messrs. John Gordon, Samuel Freeman, H. C. Humphries, "Little Titch," F. Sherwood, and W. Kelly. It was proposed by Mr. J. Gordon, and seconded by "Little Titch," and unanimously decided, that the testimonial should take the form of an illuminated address, to be presented to him on Thursday. The committee were given full powers to procure the best testimonial possible, as the funds subscribed by the employees present at the meeting exceeded all expectations.—Yours truly,

GEORGE BAILEY, Hon. Sec.

WITH regard to the failure of the Brentford District Council to carry through their scheme for the abolition of the markets and fairs, a great deal of ill-tempered disappointment is being expressed by the defeated abolitionists, and all manner of suggestions made with a view to re-open the question. One suggestion is that a poll be taken, in order, it is said, that a better expression of opinion on the part of the whole community may be obtained. We do not think that showmen who are interested in retaining Brentford fairs have the least cause to fear a straight vote of the people of Brentford, but it must not be forgotten that two meetings legally called have been already held, and that at the last of these meetings a ratepayer very pertinently asked the chairman, "If this meeting was a failure, how many more the District Council intended to call?" The chairman's answer was clear and decided. "None at all. This will be taken as final." We do not see how a poll can be honestly demanded after that official declaration from the chair.

WE regret to announce the sudden death of Mr. George Brewer, a well-known West of England showman. Mr. Brewer was in charge of his fair-ground novelties, and located in the district of St. Thomas, Exeter, when he had a sudden seizure of the heart, and, before medical aid could arrive, death took place. Mr. Brewer was forty-nine years of age, and highly esteemed amongst the showmen of the West of England. His specialities were roundabouts, shooting galleries, and variety stalls. He made Exeter his headquarters, and always wintered there. We tender to the bereaved family our sincerest sympathy.

WE are not at all certain whether the American notion of Amusement Parks is likely to be a success in the Mother Land. We are told that in America there are over four hundred such parks, and that only one has turned out a failure. We have reason to believe that the Tramway Company at Wakefield intend opening an Amusement Park at the end of one of their tram routes, and to combine the business of an Amusement Park with that of electric tram traction. We also hear of a big scheme for turning the Botanical Gardens, Manchester, into an Amusement Park. To be a success in a district like Manchester, it must be a big scheme.

WE understand that Mr. Charles Heathcote, of Manchester, is to be the architect of the scheme, and that the side shows and the more permanent amusements are to be under the direction of the famous American showman, John Calvin Brown. The scheme is an ambitious one, and the capital that the company is asking for (rumour says between fifty and sixty thousand pounds), is not too much to undertake the transformation of so vast an area as the Manchester Botanical Gardens. Amongst other things, it is proposed to concert the existing sunken circular flower garden into a lagoon, to be connected with a series of small lakes and winding waterways, and taking in the existing ornamental lake. It is proposed to erect a tower 250ft. high in the centre of the Gardens, the lower portion of the tower to serve as refreshment rooms, and the first floor to be utilised as a bandstand.

IN fine summer weather refreshments will be served in the open air, on the greensward around the tower. At night the tower will be illuminated, and, indeed, the whole of the gardens and promenades, with electric lights. A feature of the promenade will of course be the side shows. There will be a ball-room and a skating-rink. Other attractions contemplated are a Japanese tea garden, a Ferris wheel, Chinese helter-skelter, a captive balloon, a novel switchback, constructed in the form of a figure eight, and an American toboggan, known as "Bumps." There are to be boating on the lakes, scenes of Venice, caves, and a hall of mirrors. A large new building is to be erected for the purpose of holding various exhibitions. If the scheme is carried through, arrangements will be made for the continuance of the various horticultural shows of the Royal Botanical and Horticultural Society, as heretofore.

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.

President, Lord George Sanger.

Hon. Chaplain, the Rev. T. Horne.
Hon. Treasurers: W. M. Mitchell, Esq., Manchester Centre; F. H. Pedgrift, Esq., London Centre.
Hon. Secretary, T. Hurst, Esq.
Office of the Guild: *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London, W.C.

OBJECTS OF THE GUILD.

1. To conserve the business interests of all open-air amusement caterers and entertainers, whether menaced by faddist legislation or by public bodies.

2. To vindicate the character and the avocation in life of the showman whenever unjustly maligned or attacked.

3. To defend the fairs and holidays of the people whenever and wherever threatened, and to encourage all legitimate efforts for uplifting and betterment of the entertainments of the people.

Further subscriptions, whether from members, traders, or friends, may be sent to either of the hon. treasurers, the hon. secretary, or to the Guild secretary, *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE GUILD FUNDS, 1907.

	£	s.	d.
Lord George Sanger	100	0	0
Proceeds of the Bolton Ball, per Robt. Pike, Esq.	21	19	4
E. H. Bostock	5	5	0
C. Burrell and Sons	5	0	0
General Wilmot	5	0	0
W. Payne	3	3	0
Sir Robert Fossett	2	2	0
F. Bostock	2	2	0
T. Clarke	2	2	0
Hastings and Whayman	2	2	0
Tom Norman	2	2	0
G. T. Tuby	2	2	0
T. E. Read	1	1	0
C. Smith	1	1	0
Frank Turner	1	1	0
H. Scard	1	1	0
Mrs. Pettigrove	1	1	0
Marshall Hill	1	1	0
R. H. Mellor and Sons	1	1	0
W. F. Jury	1	1	0
J. Wentworth	1	1	0
Marenghie et Cie	1	1	0
T. Smith (G.C.R.)	1	1	0
Ben Mitchell	1	1	0
S. Forrest	1	1	0
James Goodwin	1	1	0
Mrs. Thornley	1	1	0
J. Whiting	1	1	0
Wm. Kemp (L.M.W.R.)	1	1	0
W. Wilmot	1	0	0
Fred Gray	1	0	0
T. Harniess	1	0	0
Jacob Studt	1	0	0
R. Clasper	1	0	0
T. Creber	1	0	0
Alf. Ball	1	0	0
George Beach	1	0	0
J. Manders	0	10	6
W. Bibby	0	10	6
H. Forrest	0	10	6
Wm. Le Neve	0	10	6
Forrest Bros.	0	10	6
E. Farrar	0	10	6
B. Howden	0	10	6
R. Newall	0	10	6
Mrs. Harrington	0	10	6
Harry Cox	0	10	6
H. G. Bloxham	0	10	6
J. H. Chipperfield	0	10	6
T. Burgin	0	10	6
W. Moore	0	10	6
J. Butlin	0	10	6
Wm. Beach	0	10	6
Simpkin, Wilkinson, and Gibson	0	10	6
H. Winterbottom	0	10	6
H. Taylor	0	10	0
C. Hyatt	0	10	0
W. Wilson	0	10	0
C. Hill	0	10	0
J. Searle	0	10	0
W. Hussey	0	10	0
Minerva Automatic Co.	0	10	0
S. Scone	0	10	0
John Beach	0	10	0
F. A. Glover and Co.	0	10	0
H. Hughes	0	10	0
W. Fisher	0	7	6
J. Edwards	0	5	0
R. Holdsworth	0	5	0
T. White	0	5	0
T. Bolesworth	0	5	0
J. Saunders	0	5	0
Mrs. Traylen	0	5	0
E. Bentley	0	5	0
J. Westray	0	5	0
W. Westray	0	5	0
C. Bailey	0	5	0
C. Andrews	0	5	0
Mrs. Andrews	0	5	0
A. Gentle	0	5	0
J. Marshall	0	5	0
W. Walcot	0	5	0
F. Wilson	0	5	0
H. J. Rowe	0	5	0
W. Hyatt	0	5	0
J. Wilson	0	5	0
T. Stone	0	5	0
F. Saroski	0	5	0
C. Ives	0	5	0
Anon	0	5	0
E. Taylor	0	5	0
C. Cain	0	5	0
J. Chittock	0	5	0
T. Irish	0	5	0
G. Pickard	0	5	0
J. Hyatt	0	5	0
G. Irwin	0	5	0
G. Saunders	0	5	0
R. Fossett, jun.	0	5	0
W. Slatter	0	5	0
H. Read	0	5	0
H. Street	0	5	0
E. Hussey	0	5	0
S. Braham	0	5	0
John George	0	5	0
R. Chipperfield	0	5	0
J. Chipperfield	0	5	0
J. Taylor	0	5	0
J. Brown	0	5	0
A. Deorden	0	5	0
W. Ballantyne	0	5	0
J. Fish	0	5	0
T. Haworth	0	5	0
Isaac Hill	0	5	0
T. Knighton	0	5	0
S. Mayne	0	5	0
T. Manning	0	5	0
C. Simpson	0	5	0
D. Stevens	0	5	0
J. Mayne	0	5	0

The above list is correct in accordance with the lists sent in by various committeemen enrolling members. The Guild secretary requests that any members not listed as above will communicate at once with him, and the mistake will be rectified in future publications of the list of members' names.

OSWESTRY March Fair was held in two fields, and was attended by P. Collins's motor-cars, wheeley-whirley, slipping-the-slip, steam yachts, and the great show, which was drawing crowded houses by aid of the chronophone. Stalls by Hall, Beaumont, Fossett, and Turner; juvenile horses by Chaplin; Winchester ranges by Turner, Hall, Fossett, and Wright—all did record business in the recreation grounds. In the White Lion Croft, C. Farrell's motors, racing cockerels, jumping horses, and the great Coliseum, whose pictures were the latest, did capital business; as also did C. Farrell's Winchester repeating ranges, and throwing stalls by Curry, Shaw, Bennett, and others.

OWING to the large increase in orders for his Animatograph films, machines, and accessories, Mr. Robert W. Paul has found it imperative to enlarge his works at Muswell Hill, and has already placed a contract for the work, which is to be proceeded with forthwith. Customers may, therefore, be sure that, despite the big increase in the demand for Mr. Paul's pictures, no delay will occur in the execution of orders.

MR. GEORGE BREWER, a Bath showman, whose caravans are now at Exeter, had a seizure on Tuesday evening. A doctor was at once sent for, but on his arrival Mr. Brewer was found to be dead. The deceased, who was only about fifty years of age, had a sudden attack of illness a short time ago while on a visit to Truro.

FIVE wolves were born in Purchase's Menagerie, at Lavender-hill, S.W., last Wednesday. Mother and cubs are doing well.

FOSSETT'S circus visited Merthyr Tydfil last Saturday, and attracted large audiences at both afternoon and evening shows.

AT the Empress, Hartlepool, Schiavonis, acrobats, give a marvellous performance; Witty Walton is as fresh and funny as ever. The Tennessee Guards' military manœuvres are well executed. An effective performance is given by Montaldo's cockatoos. The company includes Rose Sylvester, Dan Paulton, and Alice Blandford.

AT the Palace, West Hartlepool, Casey's Circus is a very amusing show. Johnny Holland's company and Stewart and Morgan take well; Andy Burn is a capital dancer; and the Sisters West, Vowles and Bryde, and Minnie Fenton are appreciated.

THAT juvenile prodigy, Little Cliff, is now busily engaged in rehearsing, for immediate London production, one of the quaintest coon songs Messrs. R. P. Weston and F. J. Barnes have yet been responsible for. This ditty, which bears the title "The coon's conscience," tells of the theft of a chicken by a "nig," who, after killing it and nursing his guilt and the dead chicken for a whole fortnight, feels the pangs of conscience too much for him, and returns the bird to its lawful owner, who is, however, somewhat reluctant, for sufficiently obvious reasons, to accept the dubiously-fresh conscience-offering. The Monte Carlo Publishing Co. are publishing this number.

STORIES OF THE ROAD.

BY THE REV. T. HORNE.

BILLY MANDERS' SERMON.

(Copyright.)

You remember the great Billy Manders,
The king of the fair and the feast,
The rival and peer of the Wombwells,
With his fifty horse-load of wild beast.

Then, hear ye, a tale of the Manders,
Of Billy, of Rosie, his wife,
That well may answer some slanders
Brought against shows and show life.

I tell you this story to prove you
That life, as it's lived in a van,
Has its power and its pathos to move you,
As only true life stories can.

They were working the West Coast of Ireland,
And had taken the Paddies by storm,
Who crowded from bogland and mireland
To see great Maccomo perform.

One night, when workworn and tired,
Sweet sleep from Manders had fled;
He heard the sound of the lock being wired,
And he gripped his pistol o'er head.

The burglar a moment stood by the fire,
The curtains hid Manders from view;
Though masked, the man's whole attire
Told Bill of a tradesman he knew.

The intruder was no common thief,
But a dealer, he had twice seen that day,
With a face he had noticed deep lined with grief,
As he stood at his door o'er the way.

The midnight robber gazed quickly around,
Eagerly seeking the likeliest place
Where the cash-box could be found,
When his eye caught Manders' stern face.

Pointing to the door, Bill said, "Scoundrel, go!"
In a whisper that chilled the man's heart,
The burglar retreated with footsteps slow,
Then Rosie woke up with a start.

"What is it? Who is it?" cried she—
Billy told her the tale, and his guess
Who the thief might turn out to be,
How he knew him at once by his dress.

They talked it out, and relented
Of their first mind to punish the thief;
"Poor chap!" said Bill, "he seems quite demented,
Or like someone quite broken by grief."

Next day a sad story came to the show
Of a tradesman found shot in his bed;
It was suicide, through misfortune and woe,
"'Tis our visitor," was all Billy said.

He went to the shop and saw the dead man,
Who was still in the same tell-tale dress;
At once he determined to find out a plan
To help in the widow's distress.

A weeping mother and sweet children three
Touched dear old Bill to the heart;
So he gave her ten pounds—and taught you and me
How we might play "life's better part."

To give good for evil is a hard thing to learn,
Though a lesson quite easy to teach;
So when my heart's bitter, in quick thought I turn
To the sermon Bill Manders did preach.

I've told you this story to prove you
That life, as it's lived in a van,
Hath its power and its pathos to move you
As only true life's stories can.

AT the invitation of Hepworth M.F.G., Messrs. L. Gaumont and Co.'s employees paid a visit on Saturday to Walton-on-Thames to play a friendly game of football, with Mr. Houghes of the New Norwoof Film Co., as referee. The weather was ideal, and there was not a single hitch to mar the show. Kemplen, Gaumont's centre-forward, kicked off at 4 o'clock, and a game, characterised right through by vigour and vim, was commenced. At half-time the score stood, Hepworth 1, Gaumont 0, Fisher (inside-right) having got a fine goal for Hepworths. In the second half it was soon evident that Gaumont's were determined to equalise points if nothing more. Long kicking appeared to be the order of the day, the backs being in excellent form. Sumpter, Gaumont's inside-left, soon scored a goal at short range, and Primer immediately after scored a very awkward goal for the same side. Saunders, Hepworth's inside-right, soon followed suit, and when the whistle went the score stood 2 all. The teams afterwards adjourned to the Swan Hotel for tea, after which harmony was indulged in. Mr. Parfrey, secretary to Messrs. Hepworth, speaking for the hosts of the evening, expressed the pleasure it gave them to entertain their visitors; and Mr. T. A. Welsh, assistant-manager to Messrs. Gaumont, made an appropriate reply. Mr. Houghes, chairman, made some humorous remarks on some aspects of the game, and a very pleasant evening terminated with "Auld lang syne."

MR. WILLIAM HENRY COMBES, of Crediton-road, West Hampstead, who died on Jan. 13, left estate of the gross value of £60,484, with net personalty £60,203. The deceased gentleman was the proprietor of the *Entr'acte* until 1904, when that paper was sold. That he was a man of the widest sympathies and the kindliest nature is proved by the following bequests:—£1,000 to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, £1,000 to Dr. Barnardo's Homes, £1,000 to the Charity Organisation Society, £1,000 to the Hospital for Incurables at Putney, £1,000 to St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, £1,000 to the Salisbury Infirmary, £1,000 for the benefit of the poor of the parish of Tilsbury, Wilts, £500 to the Forget-Me-Not Society, £250 to the Sisters of Nazareth, Hammersmith, £250 to King Edward's Hospital Fund, £250 to the London Hospital, £250 to the London Fever Hospital, £250 to the West London Hospital, £250 to the British Home for Incurables at Streatham, £250 to the Mount Vernon Hospital for Consumption, Hampstead, £250 for the benefit of the poor attending the Congregational Chapel at Tisbury, £200 to St. Luke's Home for the Dying Poor, £200 to Dr. Campbell's School for the Blind, Norwood, £200 to the Sussex County Hospital, £300 for repairing the fabric of the parish church at Tisbury, £200 for the purpose of establishing a club-room at Tisbury, and £100 to the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, for the benefit of the poor attending there.

ALEXANDER FERGUSON (31) and Alma Waller (25), music hall artists, were charged before the Salford Stipendiary on Tuesday with causing a disturbance in the Regent Theatre, Salford, by inciting the audience to hoot Miss Evelyn Taylor. Mr. H. Raymond, the manager, on Monday explained that Miss Taylor, during the music hall dispute, made a tour of a number of the proscribed London houses, and her action was resented by the members of the Variety Artists' Federation. Those working in the same "show" at the Regent this week were against her. When Miss Taylor appeared on the stage on Monday evening the two defendants behaved in a disorderly manner, but left the theatre when spoken to by a constable.

BOTH defendants stated that they were guilty of indiscretion, and were extremely sorry. Mr. Makinson said it was a serious matter for people to take the law into their own hands in this way, and such conduct could not be tolerated in England; but as the defendants appeared to regret their action, he would bind them over to be of good behaviour. They must, of course, pay the costs, and he hoped that this would put a stop to such conduct.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, FEB. 27.—*Brewster's Millions*, a comedy in four acts, adapted from George Barr McCutcheon's story, by Winchell Smith and Byron Ongley, scored a pronounced success at the New Amsterdam Theatre recently, and having grown in popularity, has just been transferred to the Hudson Theatre for a longer run. Montgomery Brewster, familiarly known as "Monty," is left a million dollars by his grandfather, and is celebrating the event when he is informed that a forgotten uncle has willed him seven times that amount provided he spends the original fortune within a year, and keeps the secret to himself. He must not even confide in the girl he loves, or propose marriage to her until the million is gone. "Monty" accepts the proviso, and plunges in, and the difficulties and complications that ensue are highly interesting and amusing. He hires a cab at midnight to wait until he goes to keep an appointment at nine o'clock on the following morning; he tries to bet on the wrong horses and make foolish investments; he opens a business-office for the express purpose of going bankrupt; he pays enormous salaries to people who make frantic efforts to restrain him and save his money; he even backs a comic opera, and makes a star of a chorus girl. All to no purpose! The worst horse wins, the bank that should have failed is saved by his making an extra deposit in trying to get rid of more money; his investments pay big dividends; and the chorus girl scores an immense success. In sheer desperation "Monty" abandons New York, and takes a score of guests on a trip around the world in a luxurious yacht, chartered at a fabulous figure. The scene showing the yacht Flitter, at first lying at anchor in the Mediterranean, and afterwards in the midst of a storm, is the finest illusion of its kind seen here for a long time. After he has visited Monte Carlo, where he "breaks the bank," and has financed an Italian carnival at an expense of two million francs, his friends lock him up in his cabin, and order the captain to sail for New York. Only one month remains, and "Monty" is still encumbered with half a million dollars. To dissipate this sum he violates one of the laws of the ocean in regard to distress signals, and pays an enormous fine. Finally, he finds himself penniless half an hour before the expiration of the year. The former chorus girl tries to lend him money, and his friends conspire together to give him a fine birthday present, but he succeeds in keeping them away. Just as he feels that he has won, a friend comes to repay a loan—a fortune in itself. "Monty" discovers that he needs this amount to pay the executors' fees, and he hands over the money to the lawyers as the clock strikes twelve. The love interest is created by the fact that "Monty's" sweetheart, Peggy Gray, to whom the young spendthrift cannot explain his peculiar behaviour, suspects him of undue friendship with the chorus lady.

Mr. Edward Abeles as Montgomery Brewster is earnest and convincing, and his performance of the part has won unanimous praise.

As Dick Crawford, in the three-act farce comedy, *Caught in the Rain*, Mr. William Collier is dispensing dry humour of the sort that might seem inane in cold print, but which is, nevertheless, responsible for much laughter and other manifestations of enjoyment nightly at the Garrick Theatre. He says the funniest things in the most matter-of-fact way, which makes them the more effective, and is certainly pastmaster of the art of quick repartee. The piece was written by Mr. Collier and Grant Stewart. Dick Crawford begins with being a woman-hater, but tumbles head over heels in love with Muriel Mason, whom he meets under an awning during a heavy rain. With characteristic blundering he mistakes her identity, and when James Maxwell, his mining partner, wants him to marry the girl in order to gain control of some valuable property, he indignantly refuses, believing that Muriel Mason is the name of a girl he detests. Muriel overhears a remark which makes her believe that Dick loves another, and when Maxwell proposes to her she accepts him, although she really loves Dick. She is not married to Dick's partner, however, and the game of cross purposes ends with the ruin of Maxwell, who is a sordid schemer, and a happy understanding between the lovers.

IN aid of the funds of the Printers' Pension, Almshouses, and Orphan Asylum Corporation, the staffs of the London and County Printing Works (printers of *The Era*) and *Bazaar* have arranged a smoking concert, which will take place at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C., on Monday evening next. Mr. Ernest A. Mynott (works manager) will preside. A capital programme has been secured, among those who have kindly consented to give their services (in addition to members of the staffs and their friends in the trade) being Misses E. J. Bidwell, Elsie Lisle, Aline Sudbury (a rising young soprano), Daisy Pullen (the "Somerset" reciter), Captain Adams (prestidigitateur), Messrs. Will Draper (siffleur), H. Bullen Saunders, Fred Clements, Fred Edwards, Benn Hogg, Harry Good, and Fred Cooper. The accompanists will be Messrs. G. Hardy, S. J. Price, and A. L. Walter. The promoters will welcome the presence of friends of a good cause at the concert.

THE third annual dinner of the Railway Passenger Canvassers was held on Saturday evening at the Criterion Restaurant, when nearly 100 representatives of the various railway companies in the United Kingdom were present. Mr. W. Charles Simpson (Great Western Railway) occupied the chair, Mr. W. Bratt (Midland Railway) being in the vice-chair, and they were supported by Mr. James Wright (L. and N.W.), Mr. Crang (Great Northern), Mr. A. H. Hoyle (L. and S.W.), and Mr W. Barton (Great Central). The chairman, in his felicitous speech, outlined the history of the movement, associating the names of Messrs. Frank Lunnon and R. W. Tye, the energetic hon. secretaries, as the originators. Amongst those present were representatives from the following towns:—Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Newcastle, York, Chester, Manchester, Liverpool, Plymouth, Cardiff, Exeter, Londonderry, Lowestoft, Cambridge, Birmingham, Brighton, &c. The visitors included Mr. C. Douglas Stuart (secretary Music Hall Artists' Railway Association) and Mr. Bass (Great Southern Railway, Buenos Ayres, South America). During the evening was given an interesting concert, which was contributed to by many of those present.

THE late Mr. August William Petrie, whose sudden death at the beginning of February deprived the Cape Town Opera House orchestra of its successful manager and double bass player, was born at Frankfort-on-Maine in 1851. His parents settled in England, at York, and he was brought up in that city. The first part of his musical career was with the noted Sanger's Circus, with whom he travelled throughout England, Scotland, and Wales, visiting all the principal towns and many of the minor ones also. He came out first to Cape Colony in 1883, with the late William Leslie's American Minstrel Company, and travelled through the country with them. In 1886 he returned to England, and for eight years he was associated with a good deal of concert work in London, principally as double bass player with Meyer Lutz, the well-known Gaiety conductor. He was also one of the founders of the London County Council band. He returned to Cape Town in 1894.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

COVENT GARDEN BALL.

Prompted by the announcement that this was the last but one of the series of balls for the season, a large gathering of dancers attended to enjoy the good things provided by Mr. Frank Rendle. The fancy costumes were more numerous than usual, and originality marked the success of many of the productions. The first prize, a Stanhope canteen, fitted with service of electro-plate cutlery, was taken by a beautiful dress, "Only a Bunch of Grapes." A lady in green satin dress, covered with rocks and ferns, and named "My Rockery," was awarded the second prize—a silver Louis XIV. tea set. The twelve other prizes were taken by the following dresses:—"£1,000 Reward" (a topical allusion to the recent theft of pictures at Park-lane), "Sweet Songsters," "A Girl at the Well" (an Egyptian study), "All Stained Glass," "Waiting at the Church," "Little Miss Muffet," "Lilac," "A Thing of the Past," "A Snow Storm," "Kisses" (a Dutch girl), "The Treasure of the Sea," and "Chrysanthemum." A particularly elaborate and effective dress bore the title of "Forbidden Fruit," while a handsome "Goddess of the Earth" promenaded the auditorium in a classic robe, artfully arranged to represent corn and wheat and barley. There were a fair proportion of gentlemen in fancy dress, amongst others being "Gollywogs," "Jesters," "I've Blued My Money," and the "Toreadors." Dan Godfrey's band delighted the company with a popular selection of music. The last dance is announced for the 15th inst., Boat Race Eve.

NEW MUSIC.

"The House of the Presence," song, by Miss Robson, music by Adolph Mann, with organ obbligato, published by J. B. Cramer and Co., Oxford-street. The writer of the verses of this song is the daughter of the famous comedian, Robson, one of the most remarkable men of genius that ever adorned the English stage. It is singular how differently the children of these wonderful stage favourites look upon life. For example, the son of Charles Matthews became a celebrated King's Counsel, and this very week has been knighted by His Majesty. Miss Robson seems to have taken a hint from Hood's famous poem, "The Haunted House," for "The House of the Presence" is in one sense haunted by memories of a beloved one. Miss Robson says,

"At eve, in the falling twilight,
When the moths of the night take wing,
There has fallen the far, faint echo,
Of the songs you used to sing."

The song is dedicated to Mme. Rosa Bird, and the music of Adolph Mann has considerable merit; while, as a song of sentiment, "The House of the Presence" will be sure to find a host of admirers, for, if well sung and well accompanied, it will be extremely effective. The organ obbligato is also introduced with much skill.

"THE WINDOW-CLEANER."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—With reference to Mr. Henry Carlton's communication in *The Era* for March 2, I hasten to assure him that, until I read his letter, I was ignorant of the fact that the title, *The Window-Cleaner*, had been used prior to the production of my sketch at the Tivoli, Liverpool. I shall, of course, change the title. May I ask you to publish this explanation of what must have appeared to Mr. Carlton to be a misappropriation of a title to which he had prior claim?—Yours faithfully,

HERBERT C. SARGENT.

4, Whitehall-court, S.W., March 5.

ONE of Harry Tate's *Motoring* companies, under the managership of Mr. George Manton, started from London last July for Australia, appearing at Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, &c. The tour, which was very successful, lasted about seventeen weeks. The company returned to Tilbury Docks on Sunday, the 17th ult., at 12.30 p.m., leaving the same day for the Hippodrome, Hull, where they opened on the Monday. On Sunday, the 24th ult., they came to Liverpool, departing again on the Monday for South Shields, where they played for four nights. When in Liverpool the manager and company were surprised to hear that they were expected to proceed on Saturday, by the Kenilworth Castle, to South Africa, for a tour of twelve weeks' duration, opening at Cape Town, and then visiting Johannesburg, Kimberley, and Durban. The total distance during this "run" from one end of the world and back, including inland journeys, will be about 43,800 miles. This is said to be one of the longest, as well as the smartest, "tours" on record.

MESSRS. PAUL PELHAM AND HERBERT RULE have supplied the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. with yet another melodious waltz-chorus song, in the shape of a number they have this week placed with the Berners-street firm, entitled "Sweet, sweet bells of Shandon." A great success has been achieved by the same firm and writers' charming "domestic" song, "I'm thinking always of you," in America, where it is issued by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter (by arrangement with the Monte Carlo Co.).

M. CLEMENCEAU has by circular abolished the collection system in French music halls. Entertainers have frequently been paid not more than a franc a day, and must make up a more or less living wage by handing the plate round among the customers drinking. We never descended to this sort of thing even in the forgotten days of the obscure sing-songs. These country town café-concerts are full of bitter little tragedies, says the *Daily Telegraph*, and the most pathetic experience of all is to watch and hear an artist's grateful amazement when anyone in the café behaves like a gentleman towards her. The system is simply a form of white-slave trade, of which, unfortunately, English girls have sometimes been the victims.

HENCEFORWARD proprietors will be strictly forbidden ever to let their singers go among the audience under any pretext. Moreover, the premises must be closed immediately after the performance, and the common practice of running supper-rooms in connection with the so-called music hall is to be stopped. The reform might be extended to Holland with the greatest advantage.

MR. BERT GILBERT, having finished his pantomime engagement, starts on the Stoll tour at the Hackney Empire on Monday. He was born and reared an actor, by parents who had been likewise born and reared actors, themselves the children of actors; in fact, Mr. Gilbert represents a fourth generation of actors. Mr. Gilbert in private life is Gilbert Hazlewood, son of the late Mr. H. C. Hazlewood, playwriter and theatre proprietor, of Wolverhampton, the town where Mr. Gilbert was born during his father's lesseeship of the Theatre Royal and Prince of Wales's Theatre there, the latter being under Mr. Hazlewood's control for thirty-seven years. Mr. Gilbert's mother was one of the most popular members of the famous Birmingham Theatre Royal stock companies, performing a great variety of parts, from Portia, Juliet, and the Lady of Lyons, to Tony in *My Sweetheart*, and principal boy in pantomime. Mr. Gilbert's grandfather was a famous actor of the Old Drury stock company, and his speciality, like that of Miss Winifred Emery's grandfather, was Yorkshire and quaint characters.

CARL AND CARR, comedians, have been granted the use of the Band Stand, Victoria Park, Plymouth, for pierrot entertainments during the summer months.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR

MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS, ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

This Scale does not apply to "Trade" Advertisements in these Columns.

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5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, W.C.
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The Publisher,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

IN case of the non-delivery of "THE ERA" by the First Post, the Publisher will be greatly obliged if Advertisers will forward their Postal Wrappers with the time of delivery marked upon them.

COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.,
April 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
March 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, May 13, 20.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
May 6, 13, 20 27, Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26, Sept. 2, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
April 11 (3 nights), 22, May 13, 20, 27, June 3, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
April 29, May 6, 20, Aug. 5, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
April 22, May 20, 27, June 3, Aug. 12, 19, 26, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
April 15, June 10, Aug. 5, 12, 26, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
March 25, May 20, 27, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
April 15 (three nights), 22 (six nights),
May 2 (three nights), May 13, on.
Address, Milton Bode, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
GRAND T., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
May 27, onwards.
METROPOLE T., GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE.
May 13, 27, onwards.
QUEEN'S T., GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE,
March 25, April 8, 15, July 29, onwards.
Address, Sidney Bacon,
Metropole Theatre, Gateshead-on-Tyne.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for County Theatre, Bedford, April 1, 29, May 13, 20, 27 (6 nights), April 22 and May 6 (3 nights). Grand Theatre, Luton, May 6, 13, 27, June 3. Theatre Royal, Canterbury, March 18, 25, April 1, 15 (3 nights only), on.
E. Graham-Falcon,
County Theatre, Bedford.

NEW
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BELFAST.
Proprietors, Alexandra Theatre Co.

One of the Handsomest Theatres in Ireland.

WANTED, Big Productions, Sept. 2, 9, 23, on.
Big Panto.,
Xmas and New Year.
J. Leicester-Jackson,
Greenisland, Belfast.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEST BROMWICH, Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Gen.-Man., Mr. Herbert Vere.
WANTED, First-Class Melodramas, Musical Comedies, &c., vacant March 25, April, on.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, THEATRE ROYAL, MANCHESTER, April 22.
Apply, John Hart, Theatre Royal, Bradford.

BRIDLINGTON SPA THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.
Thoroughly Up-to-date, Re-opens July 29.
Electricity throughout; new scenery; large stage dimensions.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Opening week (no dramas).
Henry Hague, General-Manager.

GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, March 25, May 6, 20, 27, June 3, and a few Autumn Dates. Fred Granville, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions only, for weeks of April 15 and 22.
Wire or write,
W. W. Kelly,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

WANTED, good Drama, March 25 (five nights), also big Attractions for April 8 (?) and 15, owing to transfer, also May 6 and Aug. 12.
Sidney Cooper,
Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, LLANDUDNO.
Under new management.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 8, 18 (3 nights), 22, May 6. The only Spring dates. J. Ritson, General-Manager.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, April 22-23-24; 25-26-27; 29-30-May 1; May 2-3-4.
Apply,
William Peacock.

NEW OPERA HOUSE, HALIFAX.
WANTED, really First-Class Companies, May 13, and Whitsun week.
Otto C. Culling, Bury.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-Class Companies, for April 1, 22, 29, May 6 and 20. Address, E. B. Goulden.

WANTED, an exceptionally fine Attraction, for April 8 (no Dramas), Theatre Royal, York. Apply, Waddington, Stonegate, York.

WANTED, Companies, March 18, 25, onward, with exceptions.
F. Lewis, Prince's Theatre, Horwich.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions only. Pavilion Theatre, St. Leonards. For vacant dates apply immediately to Elvey Thomas.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, March 25 (3 nights), April 3, 4, 5, onwards. Wire, Phillips.

STANLEY, DURHAM, NEW ROYAL, LTD.
WANTED, Good Attractions, April 29 and Autumn.
Apply, Mark H. Lindon.

WANTED, Big Attractions, Easter and April 29, Grand, Radcliffe; also May 13, Grand, Chorley. Address, Sante, Theatre, Radcliffe.

WANTED, First-class Musical or Dramatic Attractions, March 18, onwards, with exceptions. L. Carson, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

WANTED, Companies, March 18 (3 nights), April 8, and dates on.
James Elphinstone, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

THEATRE ROYAL, SCARBOROUGH.
Sole Proprietress, Mrs. Henry Mayhew.
The Popular Theatre.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, Easter (April 1), unexpectedly vacant. Wire, F. P. Morgan, Manager.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, week Mar. 18, Week March 18.
Address, J. P. Moore.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-Class Companies,

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER,
Vacant April 15 (three nights only), onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH,
Vacant March 25, onward, with exceptions.
(Last three nights of each week).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY,
Vacant April 1, Share or Certainty, onward, with exceptions.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY,
Vacant April 1 (?), onward, with exceptions.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE,
Vacant March 18, April 8, onward, with exceptions.

"THE LOST CHORD,"
Vacant Aug. 5, onward, with exceptions.

"SPAN OF LIFE,"
Vacant March 25, April 8, onward, with exceptions.

"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S,"
Vacant April 1, May 13, onward, with exceptions.

"CINDERELLA,"
Vacant Feb. 10, 1908, onward, with exceptions.

Companies "Farmed" through Fit-ups.

To Let, on Royalty, "THE PRAIRIE FLOWER" and "OUR BRITISH EMPIRE."

Excellent Plants Printing.

All communications to
Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

GRAND OPERA HOUSE,
MIDDLESBROUGH.

Acknowledged to be one of the finest, best equipped, and most up-to-date Theatres in the Provinces.

Holding capacity over 3,500.

Proprietor, Albert Smith, Esq.
Thanks for congratulations and good wishes.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
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First-Class Attractions,
First-Class Attractions,
March 25,
April 8,
May 13,
onward.
Share or Certainty.
All communications to
Jno. Ed. Jowsey, Grand Opera House, Middlesbro'.
Telegrams, "Magnet, Middlesbrough."
Telephones 413, 426, 500.
Silence a polite negative.
Re Panto. 1907-8. Will Mr. John Denton write in?

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

Vacant, March 18, March 18,
March 25, March 25,
April 1, and on, with exceptions.
WANTED, Strong Attractions.
Wire,
R. C. Buchanan,
Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, Julian Malvern.
WANTED, High-Class Attractions, April 29 (Musical Festival week), May 20, July 1, 8, and on. Bookings include "Mr. Popple," "Blue Moon," "Raffles," "Girl Behind the Counter," "Earl and the Girl," "Breed of the Treshams," &c.
Address, Chas. M. Julian, General-Manager.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for April 18, 19, and 20
(three nights),
also April 22.
Required, Sound Attraction for Aug. 5 and onwards, with exceptions.
Address,
Thos. Swinton.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE,
EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, Companies, April 1 (three nights), 22, May 13, 27, and onwards.
Murray King, 2, Hungerford-road, N.

ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD.
WANTED, Musical or High-Class Comedy Attractions, vacant May, June 17 and 24, and a few Autumn dates open; only best Dramas entertained. For dates apply, Manager, Charles Trenchard.

WANTED, Strong Attractions (Drama or Musical Comedy), for March 18, April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, and 20 (Whit Week, musical attraction preferred). A. C. Moody, Lessee, New Theatre Royal, Blyth.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, First-Class Attraction, for April 1, 15, 22 (Fair week, Musical preferred), May 13, June 3, 24 (Royal Show week).
Address, Frank King.

MARINA THEATRE, LOWESTOFT.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April 8 and Whit week, not Drama latter. Apply, E. A. Smith.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, Dramatic and Musical (latter preferred), for Gaiety T., Dundee, twice nightly; Sole Lessee and Manager, R. A. P. Williams.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, May 13, June 17, and Aug. 5 (Bank Holiday).
Apply, T. W. Rowe.

WANTED, First-class Attractions,
March 18, 25,
April 1, 15, 22.
Apply, Mr. Robert Arthur,
24a, Regent-street, S.W.

DUMFRIES AND HAWICK THEATRES.
WANTED, Good Company, March 18 (not drama), also April 1, 3 days each town.
W. Payne Seddon,
Coombe House, Holford, Bridgwater.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Dramas or Big Star Combinations,
April 15, 22.
E. H. Page.

GRAND T. AND OPERA HOUSE, ECCLES.
WANTED, Big Attractions, April 15, April 15, 29, 29, May 6 and 13; only First-Class Attractions entertained.
All communications,
Hamilton Baines, Grand Theatre, Eccles.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, May 6, also Aug. 5, and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, T. Allan Edwardes.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, April 8 and 29, also Good Show, not Dramatic, 3 nights, March 25. Address, Gerald Harding.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, April 15, May 13, July 15, 22, 29.

ATHENÆUM THEATRE, LANCASTER.
WANTED, April 8 (three nights), May 13. Add., Stanley Rogers, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

The Premier Theatre in the Furness District.

Holds £90 at ordinary prices.

WANTED, First-Class Attraction, April 1, to oblige J. B. Mulholland, Esq.; other vacancies, June 10, 24, on, with exceptions.

The following, amongst others, are future Bookings for the above Theatre: E. Hill Mtichelson's "The Traitor," Miss Maud Hildyard, J. Maundy-Gregory's "Lights Out," Allan Wilkie, "Man's Enemy," J. B. Mulholland's "The Electric Man," Lingford Carson's Co., "A Warning to Women," Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Tearle, "In Holy Russia," "Her Luck in London," "A Little Vagrant," "A Destroyer of Men," "The Breed of the Treshams," "Life of a Showman," Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's Cos., The D'Oyly Carte No. 1 Répertoire Co. (tenth visit), "Raffles," The F. R. Benson Co. (third visit), Baron H. Harriss's No. 1 Co., "The Prince of Pilsen," Mr. Percy Hutchison's Cos., including "Peter's Mother," &c., &c.

All applications for dates to

Hugh Robertson,
T. R., Jarrow.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.
The Leading Theatre of the Town.
The only theatre in the town lighted by electricity.
The Season's Bookings include:—
"His House in Order," "All-of-a-Sudden Peggy" (Miss Decima Moore), "The Freedom of Suzanne" (Miss Mabel Love), "The Prince of Pilsen," "Miss Lancashire, Limited," Wentworth Croke's "My Sweetheart," "The Christian," "The 'Varsity Belle," "Home, Sweet Home," "The Worst Woman in London," "The Spider and the Fly," Charles Harrington's "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "Sherlock Holmes," "The Shulamite," "The Woman Who Gambles," "The Lion and the Mouse." Local Amateurs in "The Idler" (for the Mayor's Hospital Fund), &c., &c., &c.
WANTED, Companies, April 29, May 6, Aug. 5, onwards. Apply, Calvert Routledge.

NEW ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE,
RAMSGATE.
Sole Lessee and Manager, Jules Richeux.

WANTED, Known, only vacant dates this season, May 30 (three nights), June 3, 10, 17, 24, July 1, 8, Sept. 30. Bookings include D'Oyly Carte Repertoire Co., "Raffles," "White Chrysanthemum," "Dairymaids," "Mr. Popple," "The Country Girl," "Three Little Maids," "Dr. Wake's Patient," "Saturday to Monday," "His Majesty's Guests," &c. Communications re dates to Herbert Jay, 10, Jermyn-street, London.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE
WANTED, High-class Companies, March 14 (three), 18, and 25, and on, with exceptions. Can arrange Stock Season, commencing April 8. W. E. Potts

THEATRE ROYAL, ILKESTON
Manager and Licensee, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.

WANTED, Companies, April 29, onwards.
Silence a courteous negative.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, March 18, April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20.
Now booking for the Fall.
Apply,
Owner and Manager, James Kiernan.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORTHING.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, March 18, 21, 25, April 1, onwards, three nights, one matinée each instance; large stage, electric light, good staff, and orchestra of nine performers. Only good Companies need apply to Seebold, as above.
Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. Ashton, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, Big Attraction for Easter, through closing of Skating Season; only companies with big drawing powers entertained. Could arrange for Good Friday and Easter Sunday.
Manager, Pier Pavilion, Southend.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, onwards. Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. Cotton.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
WANTED, good Variety Combination, for three nights, commencing March 28.
Address, with lowest sharing terms,
C. M. Julian.

THEATRES WANTED.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres, April 22, April 29, and Aug. 12.
Walter Melville,
Standard Theatre, E.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 9, 23
Apply,
Walter Melville,
Standard Theatre, E.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, March 25.
Walter Melville,
Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, March 25, Aug. 19 and 26, and Dec. 23.
Frederick Melville,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, March 25, Sept. 9, 23.
Frederick Melville,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 12, Sept. 16, 30.
Frederick Melville,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Theatres, May 13, Aug. 12.
Tom H. Taylor,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, March 25 and April 8.
Douglas Bruce,
Opera House, Coventry.

"THE GAYEST OF THE GAY."
"THE GAYEST OF THE GAY."
The most successful Play produced during the year 1906.
WANTED, Aug. 12 and 19, in First-Class Theatres only. Wire or write, W. W. Kelly,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Weeks of June 3 and 10, Scala Production.
Wire or write,
W. W. Kelly,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 29, May 6, to oblige Mr. Sounes.
Vacant Autumn Dates.
Charles Harrington, Theatre Royal, Leigh.

The Greatest of all Irish Productions.
MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S
"ROLLICKING RORY," Autumn, 1907.
Bookings complete for 1907.
WANTED, Theatres, now booking Spring, 1908.
Chalmers Mackey,
March 11, Grand Theatre, Woolwich (six nights)

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
May 6, 13, 20, 27.
Address, J. W. Cordiner,
Grand Theatre, Hull.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR. SILVANUS DAUNCEY and
MR. M. V. LEVEAUX'S TOUR
in
"THE WALLS OF JERICHO."

WANTED, First-Class Theatre, for April 15 (vacant through transferring).

Address,
Mr. Silvanus Dauncey, 22, Charing-cross, S.W.

ALFRED B. CROSS' TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
WANTED, April 1, 8, May 13, 27, and June 17.
Autumn rapidly booking.
"DIVORCED,"
a New and Powerful Emotional Drama,
can now be played in conjunction or separately.

March 11, Met., Gateshead.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY," No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Autumn dates, from Aug 5 onwards.
Address, E. C. Stafford,
c/o Samuel French, Ltd., 26, Southampton-street, Strand, London, W.C.
Wanted, to Lease, a good Provincial Theatre.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
WANTED, Xmas, and New Year's Week.
Thanks to F. Morgan, Esq., Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff, W. Eastwood, Esq., for contracts. Managers invited to witness this great success. Magnificent scenery. Beautiful uniforms and dresses. Special cast. Spring, 1908, nearly full. Managers with vacant dates write at once to
F. G. Kimberley, T. R., Castleford.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, April 1 (Easter), for this ideal Holiday Attraction; new uniforms and effects; band of drums, fifes, and bugles for parade. F. G. Kimberley, Queen's, Gateshead; next, Castleford.

"THE PET OF THE EMBASSY."
A New and Original Musical Play,
in Two Acts.
Full West End cast,
including
Witty Wattie Walton,
the well-known Comedian, as
John William Bung (a Middy).
Full Operatic Chorus of 40 Voices.
Splendid Costumes and Scenery.
Special New Printing.
Guaranteed one of the Greatest Musical Shows Produced.
Don't Fail to Book It.
WANTED, for this great Attraction, April 29, April 29,
to follow
Avenue Theatre, Sunderland
and precede Grand Theatre, Newcastle.
Also May 13 and 20.
Now Booking
Autumn and 1908.

All communications re Dates, &c.,
Hamilton Baines,
Grand Theatre, Eccles.

FRANK J. PITT and CHARLES HALLING'S CO.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, for this Successful Attraction, April 22 (through transferring),
April 29,
May 13,
June 17, 24, July 1, on, with exceptions.
T. R., Ilkeston.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN."
WANTED, March 25 and April 1 (or seven nights March 30). The splendid acting of the company in a play which requires much of its exponents was generally appreciated. . . . Beautifully staged. The mystic effects are cleverly produced.—Yorkshire Post, Feb. 26, 1907.
Also, "THE ANARCHIST TERROR."
Either or both plays.

Wire, to-day, Loie Esmond, T. R., Seaham Harbour.
March 11, T. R., Belfast.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, April 15, May 6, and 27, to precede Junction T., Manchester. Same opinion everywhere: "There is not a finer played, dressed, or staged drama touring."
E. A'Dell, Grand, Rawtenstall.

"LIFE OF A SHOWMAN."
WANTED, Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov. 4, only open time this year. Magnificent production.
Address, Sante, Grand Theatre, Chorley.

"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS"
(By arrangement with Mr. Martin Harvey).
WANTED, Sept. 30, Nov. 11,
"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."
Vacant Aug. 12, Sept. 23, Oct. 14.
Bertram, Killarney, Lewisham, S.E.

LINGFORD CARSON'S CO.,
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, good Theatres, April 8, 22, May 6, 13.
L. Carson,
To-day, Leigh; Monday, Theatre Royal, Sheffield.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, Easter, Easter, Easter,
Fred Bulmer, St. James's T., Manchester.

"FOR AULD LANG SYNE."
WANTED, First-class Theatres.
Fred Bulmer, St. James's T., Manchester.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
WANTED, Easter, Easter, Easter.
Fred Bulmer, St. James's T., Manchester.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, Easter Week.
Fred Bulmer, St. James's T., Manchester.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Aug. 26, on, with exceptions.
Fred Bulmer, St. James's T., Manchester.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, March 25 (North), May 6, 13, and Whit Week.
Dickie Clare, T. R., Seaham Harbour.

"THE NEW WORLD."
WANTED, Easter (Share or Certainty), strong Dramatic Cast and good Varieties. Wire, White, Pardoe's, Middleton; next, Alexander, Widnes.

"THE KING OF CRIME,"
by Arthur Shirley and Ben Landeck.
WANTED, Important Theatres, Aug. 5 and on.
Harry Battersby, T. R., Bilston.

WANTED, Theatres, "The End Crowns All," Comedy-Drama, Augusta Tullock and Co. A Play for all classes. Wanted, April 29, three nights (to follow Ilkeston), May 23, three nights (to follow Deal). June 10 (to precede Scarboro'). A. Tullock, 54, Gurney-street, London, S.E.

"SHERLOCK HOLMES."
H. Hamilton Stewart in the Title-rôle.
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, April 8, 15, owing to extension of Spring Tour; also various Autumn dates. Apply
Walter J. Bayliss, Marlborough Theatre, N.

WANTED, Easter, various onwards, for "A Heart's Desire," new printing and scenery, powerful cast. Messrs. Elliman, 5, Vernon-street, Dublin; or 1, Regent-terrace, Gateshead.

"WOMAN AND WINE."
WANTED, Easter Week, through cancelling. Wire, Edmonds, Empire T., Oldham.

Miss EMMA LITCHFIELD'S COMPANY,
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
WANTED, Good Theatre, for Easter.
Stuart Cleveland, Miners' T., Ashington.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, May 6, August Bank Holiday, Aug. 12, 19, 26, onwards, for the above Attraction.
Address, F. B. Warren,
8, Wellington-road, Southport.

THOMAS THORNE AND CO.
WANTED, Easter Week.
Wire, Russell Rosse, 10, King-st., W.C.

"MONEY MAKES THE MAN," "NO ESCAPE."
WANTED, April 1, Whit, Aug. 5, everything First-class. Coleman-Davies, T. R., Belfast.

"HER LOST SELF," by Nita Rae; "THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH," by F. A. Scudamore.
WANTED, March 25, April 1, May 20.
Frances Delaval, H.M.T., Barrow-in-Furness.

THEATRES WANTED.

SHINTON AND GREENWOOD'S TOURS.
"THE PRICE OF HER SOUL,"
by William Hibbert.
WANTED, April 1 (?), 15, 22, May 20,
"A LONDON SOCIETY TIGRESS,"
by Wm. Hibbert.

Something New and Novel,
with Star Cast.

Wanted, August Bank Holiday,

also few Autumn Dates.

John B. Shinton,
T. R., Castleford.

"HOME, SWEET HOME."
"HOME, SWEET HOME."
MR. FRANK LINDO,
MISS MARION WAKEFORD,
and full Company.
WANTED, Good Theatres, for the few remaining Dates this year,
Whit Week and August Bank Holiday vacant.
Address,
To-day, Theatre Royal, West Stanley;
next, Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

MR. ALEC FLOOD and MR. AUBREY FITZMAURICE'S CO.,
in the new Napoleon Play,
"THE ANGEL OF UNREST,"
a Story of 1812.
Received with enthusiasm on its production last Monday at Theatre Royal, Brighton.
Four Calls after each Act.
Everything carried.
The most Artistic Pictorial Printing on the Walls.
WANTED, Easter, follow Borough, Stratford, onwards.
Wire, F. Martin Morris,
Theatre Royal, Brighton.
Letters, Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.

"TOMMY," by Jerome K. Jerome.
Miss ANNIE HUGHES as TOMMY.
"'Tommy' is a great play; Annie Hughes is a great actress."
"Tommy" is what Richard Le Gallienne would term "a separate ecstasy."
WANTED, Dates, August and September.
Address, Miss Annie Hughes,
4L, Portman-mansions, Baker-street, W.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEORGE KIRK'S
"HER LUCK IN LONDON" CO.
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Sept. 30 (?), Oct. 7.
Charles A. Leicester,
Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.

KIDDIE'S KOMEDY KOMPANIES.
KIDDIE'S KOMEDY KOMPANIES.
KIDDIE'S KOMEDY KOMPANIES.
KIDDIE'S KOMEDY KOMPANIES.

J. GAR KIDDIE'S
UNDOUBTED SUCCESSFUL PANTOMIMES,
"BABES IN THE WOOD"
and
"LITTLE BO-PEEP."
These are really First-Class Productions.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Production Dates for Christmas next,
for both these Subjects;
must be First-Class Theatres.

Write,
J. Gar Kiddie,
9, Ollier-terrace,
Widnes.

FRANK M. THORNE'S CO.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this money-maker, May 6, only vacant date this year.
Apply,
F. M. Thorne, Gaiety T., Clydebank.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, March 14 (three nights), 18, 25, Easter, for Musical Attractions. Communicate, Chas. Macdona, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue.

WANTED, First-class Theatres having large stage and large holding capacity, for Christmas Production
of
JAMES KIDDIE'S
Colossal Gorgeous Pantomimes,
"LITTLE ALADDIN."
"LITTLE CINDERELLA."
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
Can arrange for two, three, or four weeks for the above Sure Successes.
Address,
James Kiddie, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

The New Romantic Servian Drama,
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
Beautifully Mounted and Dressed; Big Plant of Printing; very strong Cast.
WANTED, March 25 (wire), April 15, 29.
James Hare,
Wires, T.R., Castleford; letters, T.R., Chesterfield.

WANTED, March 25, for Mr. and Mrs. John Walters' Enormously Successful Pantomime,
"THE BABES IN THE WOOD."
"THE BABES IN THE WOOD."
Full Co. of Fifty Artists,
Full Co. of Fifty Artists.
and the finest plant of scenery and dresses touring.
Wire, Walters, Town Hall, Stourbridge.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Messrs. Elliman's Enterprises, "A Heart's Desire," Lead Jim, Comedy Old Man Coombes, Ingenué Elsie, School Girl Gwennie, Chambermaid (broken English) Julie, Emotional Lead (must be dark) Orija. Apply, Frank Adair, 51, Hill-street, Coventry.

WANTED, Eccentric Character Comedy Old Lady, for Farcical Comedy; also First-Class Comedian, for Irascible Military Officer. Fullest particulars to Sidney Dooley, 55a, Booth-street East, Manchester.

"THE SEVEN SISTERS."
WANTED, First-class Juvenile Lady and Gent., and various others, Easter week. References, terms, &c., J. P. Moore, Kidderminster.

WANTED, Good Responsible Man, Capable playing Character Part, and willing to look after baggage.
Long Tour; Rehearsal Tuesday.
Send references, terms to
Manager, 106, Dudley-terrace, Grantham.

WANTED, Bill Sikes in "Oliver Twist," John Storm in "The Christian," both to open Easter. Letters only, which must be marked "Oliver Twist" or "The Christian."
J. B. Howard, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

WANTED, Gentleman, Juvenile Lead, tall, open Monday week.
Apply, 153, Stamford-street, S.E.

WANTED, a Gentleman capable of playing Small Parts.
W. Howard Ashley, Theatre Royal, Halifax.

Amateurs, &c.
WANTED, immediately, for First-Class Tour, smart, refined Amateur, for Sketch in Concert Company. Preference given to one able to play piano or give turn. Small premium; good salary from commencement. Box 4,504, "The Era."

WANTED, Girls, age 14 to 16, tall, must high kick. Call Monday, 12 to 3. Madame, 41, Danbury-street, Islington.

WANTED, for Summer Season, Baritone who can also help with accompaniments. Reply to Brytwelle, 23, Southwold-road, Clapton, N.E.

WANTED, good Baritone, play small part and Piano, able to arrange duets, young.
Address all particulars to Box 4,505, "The Era."

WANTED, Tenors and Basses; must be young and good-looking; also Launcelot, for special week of "La Poupee." Apply, Darrell and Co., 415, Strand.

WANTED, First-Class Dancer (gentleman), to join Comedian, producing really good new Skit; must be proficient in the art. Box 4,481, "The Era."

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, the Mysterious Lilith, the Prettiest and most Sensational Mystery on the Variety Stage.
At Liberty March 18 and 25.

Proprietors and Managers requiring a Sure Draw should Secure this Star Act.

Also Lilian Warren's Vocal Pictures.

All coms.,
This, Palace, Blackburn;
next, Hippodrome, Burton-on-Trent.

WANTED, join, Refined Concert Party, Mabel Burnet Steytler, South African Reciter, 'Cellist, Accompanist. Inquiries, c/o Bolus, 90, Cannon-street, London.

WANTED, by Lady, Small Part, Dancer, Instrumentalist, &c., Engagement to combine Secretarial duties; experienced; own typewriter; references. Box 4,500, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Operatic Artists coached, own residences if desired, by Brilliant Musician of Experience. Terms, apply Miss HOCKEY, 73, Oxford-road, Gunnersbury.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, all Lines, next season. Lowest terms, photos., age, last two references, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Principals in all Lines, for Pantomime, Chorus, not less than 5ft. 5in. in height. Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Scenic Artist, open at once. BENET, Royalty, Llanelly.
Chas. Neville write.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO. LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams "Theatrical."

OLDHAM SCENIC STUDIOS.
WANTED, Contracts for Scenery; first-class work guaranteed.
H. O. RICHARDSON,
Theatre Royal.

WANTED, Contracts, for Brilliant, Effective Scenery, Attractive Settings, lowest prices. Carlyle Scenic Studio, W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, by Sidney Beltram, Contracts, travelling or stock, scenery repainted, or salary engagement. Address, Waterloo Hotel, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, K. J. McLennan, Scenic Artist, Contracts for Special Scenery and Productions. Postal address, 16, Cambridge-road, Norbiton, London, S.W.

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract, town or provinces, refs. Address, 40, Randolph-gardens, Maida Vale, London.

STALYBRIDGE SCENIC STUDIO.
WANTED, Contracts for Painting and Making Scenery; best material used. For terms apply, MANAGER, Grand Theatre and Hippodrome, Stalybridge.

WANTED, Engagement, Scene Artist's Assistant, well recommended, capable. G. c/o HON. SEC., 55, Bryanston-street, W.

MISCELLANEOUS.

HIPPODROME, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, Stage-Manager and Bill Inspector (combined), for Season, nine days, Easter, and Whitsuntide, onwards; must be a competent hand, and have good references. Apply to MANAGER, Hippodrome, Blackpool.

SPENNYMOOR CIRCUS, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, a Smart Billman, that is not afraid to work; one used to handling the brush preferred. Can open at once.
Address, C. ALGIE

WANTED, Practical Lanternist, with own Projector, understanding Electrical Work.
STANTON, 171, Stanhope-street, N.W.

WANTED, Box Office Keeper. Only those having filled a similar position in a West End Theatre need apply to
MANAGER,
Lyceum Theatre, Strand, London.

WANTED, a Woman who thoroughly understands Cutting and Fitting, and to assist in Show-room for serving. Salary 30s. per week.

Write full particulars to Box 4,497, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, vacant, W. C. Burns, over twenty years' solid experience, management Circus, Menagerie, Theatre, Variety, &c., road, resident, or rail, practical experience two houses nightly, bars, accounts, and bookkeeping. N.B.—Life abstainer. Recent references, Signor Galeffi, Frank Macnaghten, Esq., E. H. Bostock, Esq., Zoo-Hippodrome, Glasgow. Unique knowledge Great Britain and Ireland. Success guaranteed where success is possible. 138, Duchess-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Edwin W. Smith (late Parthenon Music Hall, Liverpool) is open for Engagement as Manager or any position of trust; long experience. Address, c/o Mr. N. Christensen, 32, Great Charlotte-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Gentleman wishing to gain insight into Music Hall business, post as under-manager or secretary; salary no object; speaks German and French. Box 4,473, "The Era."

WANTED, by Clerk or Secretary, Situation; character; moderate salary; shorthand, typewriting, and other accomplishments. WILLIAMS, 27, Bow-lane, Preston, Lancs.

WANTED, by Lady Secretary, thorough Theatrical Experience, Re-engagement; expert Shorthand-Typist and Book-keeper; take charge correspondence; excellent refs. Box 4,470, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Fred Lewis, Circus Agent, Disengaged, America, Great Britain, Ireland; Tenting or Permanent. Care of SHILLINGLAW, 8, Grindlay-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, by Young Man, Engagement in a London Theatre or Music Hall, as Box Office Clerk, 4½ years' experience; good refs. State salary. Box 4,472, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Wardrobe Mistress, just left Panto; good reference. D. LANGFORD, 7, Oakden-street, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Useful Maid to Actress or Variety Artist, Town or Tour; good packer; just leaving Star Artist (Music Hall).
Address, Box 4,483, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Lady, experienced, capable, wishes to join good Touring Company, to take charge of a baby, any age; used to travel.
Box 4,493, "The Era."

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

WANTED, First Violin, Viola, Second Cornet, and Clarionet, for the Alhambra Palace, Morecambe. Send terms and references to FRANK B. BEARD, 101, Balsall Heath-road, Birmingham.

WANTED, Second Violin, Chas. W. Poole's Myrioramas, to Open Mon., March 18; assist with fittings. State age, &c., FRED MANN, Mus. Dir., Keithley.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

HIPPODROME, BLACKPOOL.
General-Manager, T. P. DUIGNAN.
WANTED, First-class Leader, Drums (with Tympani and full effects), also other Musicians, to complete Orchestra, for Easter, Whitsuntide, and Season; only Good Musicians and those fully conversant with Variety Business and Good-class Music need apply. State age, experience, and references, to AMOS PARKER, Conductor.

WANTED, for Theatre, at Welsh Seaside, to open Mon., Mar. 11, Leader (Violin), Piano, Double Bass, Cornet. State lowest salary during off season.
Apply, by letter, MANAGER,
3, Drury-lane, Liverpool.

WINTER GARDENS, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, good Second Violins and Flute and Piccolo, for Easter, March 28 to April 6. Applications, stating experience and terms for two performances daily, to Mr. JNO. R. HUDDLESTONE, General-Manager.

WANTED, good Violinist, 'Cellist, and Pianist, Ladies, Vocalists preferred. Write, CONDUCTRESS, 146, Shepherd's Bush-road.

WANTED, Whitsuntide to Sept., Seaside, First Violin, Flute and Piccolo, 'Cello, and other instruments; 4½ hours daily, Concert and Variety; only competent performers, and know variety. Applicants must state age, refs., and lowest terms, MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, Brooklyn, Bridlington.

WANTED, Ladies, good First Violin, also Cornet, from Whit week until end of September; must be experienced in dance music. Address, Miss A. NEWTON, 5, Winter Gardens-terrace, Southport.

WANTED, at Once, for Suburban Theatre, Smart First Violin. Refs. and positive terms, Box 4,495, "The Era."

WANTED, for R. Fossett's Circus, Solo Cornet, Euphonium, Trombone, Double Drums; also a few good respectable Grooms and Tentmen.
Apply,
FOSSETT, Ravensthorpe, Northamptonshire.

WANTED, at Once, Young, Smart Lady Cornettist, for Stage Act, Mandolin Player preferred. BILLING, 21, Newport-court, London, W.C.

WANTED, Cornet Player, for Tenting Season; one used to Fair Business preferred. Write to S. MELVILLE, Post Office, Doneraile, Co. Cork.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for
Royal Engineers Militia Training,
July and August,
Good Solo Clarionet and Flute Players.
Apply,
BANDMASTER,
Castle, Monmouth.

WANTED, good Clarionet, open Monday 18th. Lowest terms and references, W. H. MELTON, Prince of Wales' Theatre, Mexboro'.

WANTED, a Bombardon Player, for Eastbourne Town Band, ex Army man preferred, pitching. Terms, shares. Apply, BAND SEC., Hartington Hotel, Eastbourne.

WANTED, for Opera House, St. Helens, March 18, for one week only, 'Cello and Viola. Lowest terms, J. DUXBURY, Mus.-Dir.

WANTED, good Harpist for Al Fresco and Hotel Business, South Coast; good reader; refined. Replies, J. HAYDEN, Flautist, G.P.O., Birmingham.

WANTED, Flute and Piccolo, also Viola, combine Reed or Brass. Apply, AUGUSTE DENTON, Mus. Dir., 86, Victoria-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Mandoline Teacher (gentleman), for Class Teaching, permanent position; good wages and commission; open at once. Apply, stating full particulars, FRYER, 20, St. Mary's-place, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, inclusive Terms for
Military Band,
consisting of not less than thirteen instruments,
for a period of ten weeks,
commencing July 1,
with Concert Party
of not less than four performers,
from Aug. 5 to Sept. 7.
Apply,
SECRETARY,
Band Committee, Clevedon.

WANTED, Musicians, must be Double-handed Performers, for the Spitalfields Industrial Exhibition, which opens on the 14th inst. State qualifications and salary required by letter to MANAGER, Spitalfields Industrial Exhibition 31, Brick-lane, E.

WANTED, for Australian Liner,
Sailing March 22,
Piano, Violin, and 'Cello.

BANDMASTER,
14, Brook-road, Twickenham.

SOMERSET AND BATH ASYLUM, COTFORD, near TAUNTON.
Bandsmen-Attendants
WANTED, unmarried, and under 30 years of age. Wages commencing at £26 per annum, rising to £46, with board, lodging washing, and uniform, and extra remuneration for services in the band. Apply, MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

WANTED, Band (double handed), for Seaside Resort, Wales; permanency to suitable men. Terms Shares. BANDMASTER, Box 4,484, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Lady Instrumentalist, for First-class Musical Act. Terms (live in), photos., particulars, ZERBINIS, Palace, Boston.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street,, W.C.
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, "A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violinist), Disengaged, composer of music "Silver King," &c. Dramatic Music, &c., composed and arranged. 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, by Musical-Director of Hotel, Café, Summer Orchestra, &c., extensive music library, and Solo répertoire; highest testimonials for character and ability. Address, J. H. SQUIRE, Violoncellist, 14, Marmion-rd., Southsea.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Leader-Conductor, Leader, First or Second Violin or Viola, Composer, Arranger; any business. BURBRIDGE, 22, Knowle-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Engagement, Leader or First Violin, any Business; thoroughly experienced and reliable; excellent refs. Apply, VIOLINIST, 6, Silk-street, Paisley.

WANTED, Engagement as Conductor or Leader, by First-Class Violinist; good references; any business. HECK, 74, Moss-terrace, West-street, Southport.

WANTED, Engagement, by thoroughly experienced Variety Conductor (Violinist); highest London and Provincial references, extensive library. CONDUCTOR, 178, Humberstone-road, Leicester.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or First Violin, any Business, experienced. Apply, CHAS. BACON, Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury.

WANTED, Re-engagement by Good Leader or First Violin, in good Variety Theatre or other business, stock of music, &c. J. C., 11 Gilpin-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagements, Liberty March 23, J. Nella, Musical-Director and Scenic Artist combined; entire Scenery of "Her Nameless Child." Theatre Royal, Ton-y-Pandy.

WANTED, Known, Solo Violinist (Gentleman), Artistic Player, Attractive Répertoire, good Accompanist, Baritone, all-round Musician, educated, seeks Engagement with refined Concert or Pierrot Troupe, for Summer at select Seaside Resort. Can be well recommended. Terms quite low, pleasant, high-class engagement being first consideration. H. J. B., care of A. King, 10, Chadwell-street, Clerkenwell.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Violinist, Solos or Orchestra; experienced; age 21; good appearance. C., 3, Lebanon-gardens, Wandsworth, London, S.E.

WANTED, by Violinist, Pupil of Professor Sevcik, First-Class Orchestral Engagement; Solos if required; open at once. KARNO, c/o White's Music Warerooms, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Miss Nell Osgo, Violinist, Solo Mandoline, Banjo; 5 years on Continent. 35, Florence-str., Islington, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Lady, Violin or Viola, London preferred. E. STEVENS, 40, Hilldrop-rd., Camden-rd., London, N.

WANTED, Engagement by Violinist; experienced in Variety and Dramatic business. G. R., 71, Cross-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, as Second Cornet, Engagement in Music Hall or Theatre; age 22. D. M., 2, Moreland-st., Finsbury Park, N.

WANTED, by Cornet, practice in Orchestra, neighbourhood Liverpool; any business; services gratis. Reply, CORNET, 161, Grafton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, as Solo Cornet, Tenting or any other Business.
WM. FLETCHER, 95, Hornby-street, Bury, Lancs.

WANTED, Engagement by Cornet, also by Pianist, combine Violin, together or separate, Liberty 16th. BENNETT, 7, Picken-street, Riccarton, Kilmarnock.

WANTED, Engagement, by Solo Cornet; thoroughly experienced, and transposing; can start at once. Address, Box 4,488, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Cornet Soloist, for the Season, any business; no objection Town Band, String; good references. W. C. BUCHER, Soloist, 3, Marmion-road, Tankerton, Whitstable.

WANTED, by good Cornet, Trombone and Bombardon Players, Engagements; pitching. Terms shares. Apply, SECRETARY, 23, Garth-terrace, Burton-lane, York.

WANTED, by experienced Cornet, good Transposer (combine Viola), Engagement for season, Orchestra preferred. CORNETTIST, 47, East-street-buildings, Baker-street, W.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, Solo Clarionet, Military Band or Orchestra; first-class Instrumentalist. Apply, G. HARRISON, 9, Bridge-street, Thornaby, Stockton.

WANTED, Engagement by Clarionet, thoroughly experienced; high refs.
H. HART, 25, Sidney-road, Southport.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Two First-class Musicians, Contra-Bassist (late of Moody-Manners Co.), and 'Cellist. DEFILIPPIS, 3, Soho-street, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass, First-class, good refs., reliable, any business, or deputising, 'Cello or Bass. VINCENT, 26, Erskin-rd., Walthamstow.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Engagement, through reducing Band, Liberty 18th, or 11th if wanted. JONES, Grand Theatre, Mansfield.

WANTED, Engagement, by excellent Bassoonist, any Business; long and varied experience; excellent references. W. H. SEEKER, 4, Ravensbury-villas, Morden-road, Mitcham.

WANTED, Engagement, Contra Bass or Trombone, can open immediately, vacant through theatre closing. First-class refs. Wire, DUMBLETON, Rose Villa, Mardyke, Cork.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Bassoonist, Concert, Theatre, and Variety; experienced; good refs. Write, BASSOON, 50, Merrion-st., Briggate, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, by reliable, experienced Bombardon and Double Bass Player; at Liberty April 1. G. LAZZARI, 24, Hoxton-road, Torquay.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Solo Trombone; good refs.
D. RITCHIE, 52, Bradstone-road, Folkestone.

WANTED, by Trombone, Engagement, any business; can combine Euphonium; good references. ORCHESTRAL, 3, Exon-st., Walworth London.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, competent and reliable Trombonist, any business. Address, T. BLEACKLEY, 262, Waterloo-street, Bolton, Lancs.

WANTED, Engagement by Trombone, good all-round experience and reliable; would deputise. TROMBONE, 51, Army-st., Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, by Trombone, combine Euphonium Engagement, good Soloist; excellent refs.; at Liberty. Apply, GEORGE GRUBER, 45, Wynyard-road, Hillsborough, Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement by good Bombardon, at Liberty; well experienced, steady, and reliable. WM. HOCKLEY, North-road, South Ockendon, near Romford.

WANTED, Engagement, as Saxhorn; at Liberty for Tenting; can open Easter, Ireland preferred. WILLIE SWIFT, Empress-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, for Little Girl, on 'Cello; also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLE, 35, Granville-square, King's Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, experienced; North preferred, as engaged here at present. "'CELLO," 134, Engadine-street, Southfields, London.

WANTED, Engagement by 'Cellist, Silver Medal N.C.M., and Certificates; good sight reader. 'CELLIST, 96, High-st., Brentwood, Essex.

WANTED, by experienced Viola, permanent situation; excellent references.
W. H. WHITE, 10, Paget-road, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known, Arthur Cowen, Viola, Grand Theatre, Glasgow, is open to accept Summer Engagement. Permanent address, 20, Monteith-row, Glasgow.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by First-class Oboe Player, at Liberty from June till September; excellent refs. Apply, J. H. FIELD, Oboe, Moody-Manners Opera (B.) Co., on Tour.

WANTED, Engagement by Experienced Oboe, for Summer or Orchestra, late Guards' Band. Address, OBOEIST, 95, Flaxman-road, Camberwell.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flautist, Oboist, and Drummer, separate or together; permanent; experienced and reliable. 14, Stanhope-street, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo, through reduction of Orchestra; any business. FLAUTIST, Empire, Greenock, Scotland.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flautist; experienced and reliable; would Deputise. T. CLEMENTS, 93, Goldsmith-road, Leyton, Essex.

WANTED, Known, Flute and Piccolo, Disengaged, any business; used to Variety; steady, reliable; good refs. FLAUTIST, 244, Mitcham-road, Tooting, S.W.

WANTED, Shop as Flautist, at Liberty March 25. KAYNER, 43, Hodson-street, Blackburn. Perm. add., 78, South-street, Huddersfield.

WANTED, Engagement as Pianist or Conductor, through disappointment; good arranger; excel. refs.; exper. Var., Dram. business; Orch. or Self; steady, reliable; good reader. Address, 25, Main-street, Cadoxton, Barry.

WANTED, by Pianist, Accompanist, Sentimental, and Humorous Vocalist, Second Tenor, Glees, respectable, competent. Offers. PEEL, 16, Norfolk-street, Hyde, Cheshire.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by Brilliant Pianist-Conductor, Composer, Arranger, thoroughly experienced, fine library; permanent or tour. 4, Derby-st, Moss Side, Manchester.

WANTED, Mr. Lorenzo Lewis, ever reliable Variety Pianist, Conductor, "Bo-Peep" Panto., Moss and Stoll's Tour, at Liberty 25th inst., any business. 744, Oxford-road, Reading.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Experienced Orchestral Pianist; can combine Viola; good offers invited; London preferred.—Box 4,476, "The Era."

WANTED, immediately, joint, by S. Conolly, Pianist, also E. Conolly, Violinist, any Business; experienced, and temperate. 20, Spring-vale, Dartford, Kent.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Pianist; sober and reliable; can open at once; good references. Address, PIANIST, 10, Bathrow, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement, by Orchestral Pianist, combine Violin, Easter and Summer, through theatre closing; experienced; good refs. E. MANLEY, 311, Leeds-road, Nelson, Lancs.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Lady Pianist (18), accompanist and sight reader; pictures, stationary preferred. GRAY, 12, Woodland-road, Crystal Palace.

WANTED, by Pianiste-Vocaliste, Engagement, tour preferred; experienced, excellent sight-reader. Good offers only. Concert party or Orchestra. Box 4,490, "Era."

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Double Drummer, with effects; any Orchestra; abstainer; good references. CRYER, 34, Myrtle-place, Bingley, Yorkshire.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Double Drummer, with effects; good refs.; double with Cornet. JELFS, 1, Victoria-villa, Abbey-road, Torquay.

WANTED, immediately, Engagement as good Double Drummer, Variety, Theatre, Orchestral work, London preferred. AMY VETTA, 48, Crewdson-road, Clapham-road, London.

WANTED, Engagement as Drums or Viola, any business; experienced and reliable.
CHAPMAN, 140, Hampton-road, Southport.

WANTED, Engagement by First-Class Double Drummer, thoroughly experienced, Variety preferred; steady, reliable. DRUMS, 177, Balls Pond-road, Islington, London, N.

WANTED, Known, Mme. H. E. Angless's Ladies' Orchestra, open to accept engagements. From three to thirty performers. 78, Norwood-road, Herne Hill, S.E.

WANTED, Known, The Shikissimma Band, Ladies' Japanese Orchestra, at Liberty for Piers, Exhibitions, &c.; effective costume. Glenthorpe, Chesterfield-road, Newbury.

WANTED, by Rabottini's Popular Orchestra, Attractive Uniforms, for Seaside, Exhibitions, Concerts, &c. Apply, F. P. RABOTTINI, 157, Blythe-road, West Kensington, London.

WANTED, Known, Godfrey Holbech's Band, patronised by Royalty. Highest testimonials. Open for Easter, Whitsuntide, or Summer Engagements. Any number as required. Smart uniform. Apply to GODFREY HOLBECH, 14, Hugh-street, Eccleston-square, London, S.W.

WANTED, Known, the Scottish Ladies' Orchestra, most attractive ensemble. Success of the day in Cairo. Ten players (seven ladies, three gentlemen), free for Easter. For terms apply, SIGNOR MORI, Gd. Continental, Cairo.

WANTED, Engagement, Ladies' Orchestra; experienced for Hotel, Seaside, &c.; fancy costume. Apply, Box 4,486, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Madame Wilton-Davis's Ladies' Orchestras, Trios, and Soloists, open for Summer. Re-engaged Collins's; great success. 42, Linton-street, Islington.

WANTED, Engagement, for small String Band, experienced, any business.
Apply, Box 4,480, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Rosabel Ladies' Military Band, for Summer Season; scarlet and gold uniforms. HART and SON, 28, Wardour-street, W.

WANTED, by Ladies' Norwegian Band, Summer Engagement, brilliant success Dublin, 1906; large répertoire; lovely costume. CONDUCTRESS, 20, Stamer-street, Dublin.

WANTED. Known, Mr. Leonard Gautier's Orchestra, Disengaged for Summer Season. Address, Theatre Royal, Norwich.

WANTED, Engagements for Orchestra, any number, smart uniform, up-to-date répertoire; highest references. LOUIS METZ, 62, Wellington-road, Charlton, S.E.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands, apply Bureau, 8, Bedford-terrace, Kensington. Quartet Disengaged, scarlet and gold or evening dress.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

KING OHMY'S GRAND NEW CIRCUS, HYDE.
WANTED, Great Star Artists and Big Novelties in all Lines,
also a Full Working Company.
share or salary, for Easter week (April 1).
All must be new to the town of Hyde.
Address, KING OHMY,
Ohmy's Grand Circus, Hyde.

WANTED, Circus Acts, in all Lines, for immediate and future dates. ALFRED SAKER and Co., 17, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, an extra good Cycle Polo Player. State experience.
Address, Box 4,499, "The Era."

WANTED, smart Comedy Three-bar Performer. State tricks, height, weight, age, and salary required. Open at once. Address,
WILL ONDA, Kenwyn, Penwortham, Preston.

WANTED, Young Man, as Improver, for Acrobatic business; one that can Tumble and Bear preferred. Box 4,478, "The Era."

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Les Steckels, Gymnastic Speciality, Mar. 25, April 1. This, T. R., Rotherham; Monday, Ohmy's Circus, Hyde. Agents, STEBB and DURHAM.

WANTED, by Ariel and Astarte (Lady and Gentleman), Gymnastic Novelty Act, March 25, April 1, 8, 15. Address, Theatre, King's Lynn.

WANTED, Dates, La Dors' Troupe, male and female, six in number, in their Acrobatic Tumbling Roman Double Ladder Wonders and Pyramid Grouping, &c.; also De Toreadors, in "The Bull-Fighters" Two distinct acts. Letters, c/o "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Lecardo Bros., Comedy Acrobats, at Liberty March 11, 18, 25, and April 15. Write, 75, Elliott-st., Openshaw, Manchester.

WANTED, by Lindon Bros., Famous Acrobatic Marvels and Chair Equilibrists, Hand and Head Balancers, Liberty, Tenting. C/o "Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro, the Modern Blondin, at Liberty for Fêtes and Galas. Enormous success, Crystal Palace, London. Terms, 121, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea.

WANTED, March 18, also Tenting, The Three Altons, Marvellous Contortionists and Barrel Experts; and Gardon and Gardon, Muscular Gymnasts; Two First-class Acts by Three Genuine Performers. 6, Victoria Park-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Bernardo, Idiotic Juggler, Vacant March 11, Nov. 25.
Wire, 10, Goldsmith-street, Dublin.

WANTED, Known, Wilbur Darrell, late Lulaine Darrell Trio, is Open to accept Engagement with good Ring or Trapeze Show. Wire or write, 8, Denery-street, Bedlington, Northumberland.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Young Lady, 19 years of age, perfect in Hand Balance and Slack Wire, wishes to join English Troupe or Young Lady. Address, F. JAMES, 94, Cobourg-st., Woodhouse-lane, Leeds.

WANTED, an Engagement by a young and experienced Triple Horizontal Bar Performer; will join troupe or partner. JOHN ALMO, Poole's Co., Darlington.

WANTED, by Gymnast, Engagement, in Comedy Bar Act or Gymnastic Speciality. Letters, WILL DENTON, General Post Office, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, as Tentmaster, home or abroad, travelled England and Continent. JOHN WARD, 1, Jubilee-place, Regent-rd., Gt. Yarmouth.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

HIPPODROME SEASON.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
WANTED, Variety Artists of every description, nothing too big. Send full particulars, list of bookings, lowest terms, to ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Scarborough.
WANTED, Monday, March 18, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines. Nothing too Big. Full particulars to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, March 18, Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest. Hall small. P. REYMOND, as above.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, for Lanc. Terms and full particulars first instance, to MANAGER, 6, Hampton-court, Lynn.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, Co. DURHAM.
WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, March 25 and on. Address, JOHN CASSIDY.

WANTED, Variety Artists, April 1 and on, Lowest Terms for Jarrow. Combinations with Drawing Tops write. ADRIM, 9, Swinburne-place, Newcastle.

WANTED, for Hall, South Wales, Variety Artists; also Cinematograph, April 3, 4, 5, 6, also for Gala Season. WOOD, Caterer, Cheese-lane, Bristol.

AMPHITHEATRE, RAMSGATE.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, for five nights only, commencing Tuesday, March 19 (twice nightly).
Address, HENRY BOWMAN.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, March 18 and onwards.
A. E. PICKARD, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Artists all Lines,
Artists all Lines,
Artists all Lines,
Artists all Lines,
Artists all Lines,
Artists all Lines,
Artists all Lines,
for O. Maus Dayton's
No. 1 and No. 2 Vaudeville Companies.

Call for Monday, March 11, Theatre Royal, Macclesfield; Dayton Family, Mlle. Fontain's Marionettes, Geo. Gulliver, The Perceys, Frank Coyle, The Lauriers, The Three Beyers, Vernon's Bioscope, The Cecilian Family, &c.

Please accept silence polite negative.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Artists
in
all
Lines
for
immediate Dates.
Artists not receiving any reply to last advert., kindly communicate later to
HARRY BOWERMAN,
General-Manager.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Concerts and Music Halls. Interviews by appointment only. SCOTTISH MUSICAL AGENCY, 107, George-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, coming North, to send dates and terms,
ANDERSON'S Agency, 6, Great Clyde-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now on.
Apply,
Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Refined Al Fresco Artists, must be well up in Concerted Sketches, &c., dress well on and off. Age, height, photos., last two references, lowest terms for long season, rehearsal May 13, open May 18. CARL and CARR, sole Proprietors, Palace, Gloucester.

WANTED, Known, Artists wishing to be booked for First-Class Music Hall Engagement, to communicate with BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, March 18, April 15, 29. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Feb. 18, onwards, new to Castleford, small town. State lowest. BEANLAND and EMERSON, Queen's Theatre, Castleford.

THE NEW PALACE, READING.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Autumn onwards. All communications, G. HOWARD WATSON, Stanhope and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C. Telephone, 6070 Gerrard.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for immediate and future dates. Nothing too big. DEETRICH'S Vaudeville Bureau, 31, Islington, L'pool.

WANTED, for Tour, commencing March 25, at Crewe, Artists and Specialities, be used to Minstrel business, otherwise useless. Jim Carr write in. Three days' rehearsal. PERRY, 81, Chetwode-street, Crewe.

WANTED, Artists of all Descriptions,
Write or call,
J. W. JOHNSON,
Variety and Dramatic Agent,
86, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists of every Description, for Special Prize Matinée. Write, HARRY WARD, 3, Adelaide-street, Strand.

WANTED, Portable, reliable Artists, useful, and capable of Lines, Turns; must study, or try to study. Salaries sure. K. HUGHES, T., Braintree, Essex.

VENTOM SWIFT'S AGENCY.
WANTED, First class Artists, Immediate Dates and onwards. Those coming North with odd weeks communicate. I can book you.
VENTOM SWIFT, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

WANTED, the following Artists to attend Rehearsal, Circus, Rochdale, Monday, March 11: Rehearsal at 2 o'clock for Dr. Hermann's Grand Aggregation of Stars, Dr. Carl Hermann, the Three Bostonians, Leslie Bell and Miss Lily Pearle in a Modern Episode, Clye and Rochelle, De-Cars and Tomato, the performing Mule, Vosco, Mad Magician, Steve Cooke, Comedian, James Ward, the Musical Publican, the Hermascope. Dr. Hermann would like to hear from Managers of large Theatres or Halls, share or rental.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
WANTED, Known, Rehearsal Monday next, 2 o'clock, for Dr. Carl Hermann's Company. Letters, SMITH and Co., Red Lion Hotel, Rochdale.

COVENTRY HIPPODROME.
Proprietors, COVENTRY HIPPODROME Co., LTD.
WANTED, Agents and Artists to please Note that from Dec. 23, 1904, no Contracts will be recognised unless signed by the Secretary and Manager. T. M. SYLVESTER, Manager; G. E. WRIGHT, Secretary.

WANTED, Up-to-date Animated Picture Show, working other Acts preferred; also Variety Artists, March 14, &c. Full particulars, lowest terms, letters only, ERNEST DILLON, 31, Victoria-st., Blackpool.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, March 18 and 25, April 1, Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for smaller items.
State towns at Liberty for.
Can fix big numbers any odd weeks.
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY.
WANTED, April 1 and on, all the Biggest Stars to write. Continental Acts can be Booked at Once for the following places: HIPPO., Perth; T. R., Paisley; Empire, Paisley, Greenock, Dundee, Aberdeen, and Glasgow. Dramatic Sketches write. Countess Romanow and La Milo booked by me for Perth and Dundee. 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, March 18, 25, Stars, Comedians, Comediennes, &c., England, Big and Funny Acts for France, to open March 15 to May 15. Lithos and lowest. GEO. AYTOUN, 120, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E. Wires, "Antics, London." 'Phone, 1949 Hop.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities. Bigger the Act the Better, Sisters, Comedians, &c. Send permanent address, list of bookings. Write, HARRY WARD, 3, Adelaide-st., Charing Cross.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Star Variety Turns, immediate and future dates.
Big Gala Acts, May 20, onwards.
Required, Big Specialities for Xmas, 1907.
All must state lowest first letter.
EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. 'Phone 09251. Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, Speciality Turns, for New Year's week, in Scotland; must be good. State terms. COURTNEY'S Agency, 16, Broughton-place, Edinburgh.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Talent, all Lines, anything meritorious.
JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for the Hippodrome, Perth, for April 1 and 8, May 13, and on, the Best Talent that Money can Get, Continental Acts in all Lines, Good Dramatic Sketches. All the Biggest Star write in, stating their lowest terms, to J. H. SAVILE, T., Paisley.

WANTED, Star Acts in all Lines, nothing too big. This week's bookings include Three Sisters Transfields, Claude Ginnett's "Dick Turpin's Ride to York," Wright and Elton, Daisy De Roy, Courtney Family, Baroux and Bion, Charles Austin, Albano Troupe, Irma Lorraine, The Tatlers, W. Permane's Bears, and others.
Send bookings and lowest terms.
FRED DURHAM'S Agency,
1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.
Telephone, 15 Brixton.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
WANTED, Star Acts, all Lines, absolute lowest once nightly. Lessee, Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

WANTED, good Speciality Acts, for Summer, Seaside Halls. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Two Cheap Acts, Aug. 5, 3 days, Blisworth, twice daily. Address, MCASKELL'S Agency, 126, Roker-avenue, Sunderland.

HIPPODROME, BLYTH, NORTHUMBERLAND.
WANTED, March 18, 25, on, Combinations, good percentage for anything with drawing power, Poole's, Hamilton's Minstrels, &c.; building holds 1,500: best position; electric and gas. Address, TUDOR.

SPENNYMOOR CIRCUS, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Specialities of every description, March 18, and on.
Address, C. ALGIE.

WANTED, big Specialities of all Kinds. MARTINO'S Agency, Barcroft-st., Grimsby. Macdonald Trio send address.

HIPPODROME, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, for Easter Holidays, Nine Days, Whitsuntide, and Summer Season, onwards, All the Latest and Greatest Variety Attractions.
All communications to
T. P. DUIGNAN, Gen.-Manager.

WANTED, Attractions for Picture Show, Easter Monday, near London, Doubles doing Single preferred. Lithos. and lowest to LESTER, Aylesbury.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, for Webster and Girling's Agency, 150, Strand, with which is amalgamated Hugh Wigglesworth's Provincial Agency. Address, as above, to HUGH WIGGLESWORTH, General Manager, late of Blackpool, Morecambe, &c. Telegrams, "Entertainers, London." Telephone, 2990 Central.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Top Liners,
Animal Shows, Big Specialities,
new to Stanley preferred, April 1 and on.
Address, JOHN CASSIDY.

WANTED, Top Liners, Star Comedians, and any Big Act, to send full bookings and terms to FRANK LYNNE, Theatre Royal, Oldham.

WANTED, Big Numbers in all Lines. CAVILL and Co.,
Musical Variety and Dramatic Agents,
127, Clapham-road, London, S.W.
Telegrams, "Dramatical, London."

WANTED, Artists and others to Note, from March 25, Will Oliver will be on his own, and for a time will do business from Spot Lodge, Brixton-road. He will undertake the business of a few new and up-to-date turns, but has more ordinary turns than he requires. Turns who have been going over the ground for donkeys years, and expect him to revive them save stamps. Can be seen only by appointment. Please note this fact.
All coms. to
WILL OLIVER, Spot Lodge, Brixton-road, S.W.

WANTED, Complete Pierrot Company for Summer Months.
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, for Al-fresco, Young Lady, smart, Soubrette and Dancer, willing to work in Sketches (season); also Good Artists, all Lines, and Specialities.
H. JOHNSON,
Pavilion, Sale, near Manchester.

WANTED, clever Children, Girls over 14, to learn Dancing, for Troupes; must be smart and pretty; free tuition in Singing and Dancing. Apply 11 to 4, SINCLAIR'S Stage Dancing Academy, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Smart Young Lady, graceful Dancer, for splendid Music Hall Scena. Height and particulars, Box 4,492, "The Era."

WANTED, Smart Acrobatic and Step Dancers who can sing. Apply, 11 to 4, SINCLAIR'S Stage Dancing Academy, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Pair of Smart Sisters, Duettists and Dancers; also Good Pianiste-Vocaliste, read at sight, young, good appearance. SINCLAIR, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, for Pierrot Pavilion, open June 12 weeks, Ladies and Gents, Refined Vocalists, &c., Pianist (Lady), First-class Operator with own Up-to-date Bioscope (Singing Pictures). Lowest terms, particulars, first letter,
FRED M. BARBER, Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.

WANTED, Soprano and Contralto, used to Choirs, for Picture Show. Photos., &c., HAYES Epochograph Co., Corn Exchange, Newark, Notts.

WANTED, Dancing Lessons, by Music Hall Artist; Buck Dancing, New American Steps. Box 4,449, "The Era."

WANTED, good Operators, must know their work or useless; also Wanted, Married Couple, no children, wife to assist in house, other servant kept; man to take charge of stores and film hire department; able to operate when wanted, and live on premises. Li Calsi write. WALTER PAYNE, 346, Brixton-road, London.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, at once, Bioscope Operator, with own Films and Machine; long Tour; lowest terms; also Artists, sharing terms. STOCKTON, 35, Rochdale-road, Bacup.

WANTED, Known, Mantell and Oval kindly communicate at once with PROPRIETOR, c/o "The Era" Office, re Season's Engagement.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Six Nights, by Alma Curzon, Comedienne, March 11; reliable turn. Wire Saturday, Hippodrome, Scarborough. After, 10, Bower-street, Bradford.

WANTED, Known, Lucy Coventry, Comedienne and Expert Dancer. This week, Hippodrome, Margate. Vacant Monday. Perm. address, 37A, Church-street, Stoke Newington, N.

WANTED, Known, Sheila McNeil, Scotch Comedy Artist, Vacant Monday, also 18th. Wire, Hippodrome, Shildon.

WANTED, March 18, 25, Magna, the beautiful and classical Poseuse, second week Gaiety, Dundee; March 11, Gaiety, Glasgow. To save amateurs' talk Magna depicted Venus De Milo over nine years ago in Mr. Stoll's Great Tableaux Production. Address, Gaiety, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Harry Clifton, Patter Comedian and Song Writer, at Liberty. Address, 15 Guildford-road, South Lambeth, London, S.W.

WANTED, Monday, 11, 18, April 1, Phedona, in her Electrical Musical Speciality. Wire, PHEDONA, 15, Dane-street, Rochdale.

WANTED, 18th, 25th, April 1, 8, Little Babs Lloyd, Star Artist; also Nellie Vance, Comedy Artist. Monday, Hippodrome, Scarboro', Wire.

WANTED, by Sisters Beatrice, Duettists and Expert Dancers, March 18 and on. Wire or write, Monday, People's Palace, Portsmouth.

WANTED, from April 3, and on, Al Fresco work, by Will Beanland, Light Comedian, with Speciality. Female Impersonator. Address, 6, Shakespeare-street, Halifax.

WANTED, Known, Alfred Thomas, Comedian, Principal London Concerts, open for Summer High-Class Party or Tour; Originality, Refinement. Terrific Répertoire. 68, Truro-road, Wood Green.

WANTED, by Mr. Pat Carey, Monday next and onwards. Communicate,
The Laurels, Arnison-road, East Molesey.

WANTED, Mon., by Paul Esson. Funny Dutch Dialect Comedian. Sure Success. Wire, 66, Darncombe-street, Moss Side, Manchester.

WANTED, March 11, Wire, Harry Luck, Eccentric Character Comedian; good. Hippodrome, Accrington.

WANTED, by Will Candlish, Eccentric Musical Coon, an Act full of fun. Monday, March and 11, Wire, Theatre, Musselburgh.

WANTED, by Floria, Celebrated Continental Equilibrist, now performing with enormous Success, London Halls, Macnaghten. Vacant Mar. 18. 35, Florence-st., Islington, N.

WANTED, March 18 and 25, also April 8, onwards, by Li-Chang-Hi, the up-to-date Chinese Magician, concluding with usual great success. P., Grimsby. Next, Gaiety, Blyth.

WANTED, Monday, March 11, also 25, Kyoto, Japanese Contortionist and Versatile Act; also May Geraldine, Comedienne, Dancer. Wire, Hippodrome, Maidstone. After Saturday, 25, Devonshire-house, Bath-terrace, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, the Vokes, Neddy and Jessie, Europe's Funniest Musical Artists, Lib. March 11. Wire, Temperance Hall, Merthyr Tydvil, Wire.

WANTED, April 8, onwards, The Moncktons, in Screamingly Funny Musical Comedy Episodes. Next week, Managing Company, Empire Theatre, Riddings, Derbyshire.

WANTED, Known, Ted Young and Ada Twibell, at Liberty Monday next, through closing of Hippodrome, Putney. Wire one or both. 13, Clapham-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, De Ora, Refined Sensational Gymnast; Rosie Rickards, Comedienne and Dancer; vacant March 18, 25. Address, Hippo., Spennymoor, co. Durham.

WANTED, the Musical Palmers have vacant March 25, Special Music for Good Friday Concert, Illustrated Song. Address, Metropole Theatre, Manchester.

WANTED, by Edward Clark and Sadie Gold, American Expert Banjoists, Dancers, and Entertainers, March 18 and 25. March 4, Gaiety, Glasgow; March 11, Palace, Kilmarnock.

WANTED, the Bohemians (Will and Madge), Instrumentalists and Comedy, March 25, Empire, Portsmouth; next, Hip., Crouch End, London.

WANTED, March 11 and 18 and April 1, by The Carls, Comedy Trampoline Speciality, that can follow them all. Roars of laughter and applause. Big success everywhere. Just finished Continental Tour. Splendid lithos. 85, Rectory-rd., London, N.

WANTED, Known, Lenton and Bertram can be engaged for their marvellous Thought-reading and Mental Telepathy Act. 15, Grange-terrace, Wood Green, N.

WANTED, Known, Carl and Carr's Merry Pierrot Entertainers.
Band Stand, Victoria Park, Plymouth.

WANTED, Known, Pearce and Ward, Comedy Artists, vacant Monday. Wire for one or two good Acts. Wire, Gaiety, Blyth, N.B.

WANTED, Monday, also 18th, by Chant and Chant, Comedy Vocalists and Patterers, North. Wire for a sure fire hit. Gaiety, Glasgow.

WANTED, Monday, also March 18, by Moody and Manners, Cross-Talk Comedians.
Wire, 144, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin.

WANTED, Monday next, onwards, by Parker and Parr, Welsh Comedians.
This week, Richmond Theatre.

WANTED, Known, Sword and Robb, Comedians and Dancers, Liberty Monday.
Wire, Grand, Sheffield.

WANTED, March 18, 25, for Howard's Mental Telegraphy, New Code, a Startler; also Novel Musical Act. Starring, Lyceum, Stafford.

WANTED, Known, The Sefton Bros., Acrobatic Grotesques, at Liberty for Galas. Address, 7, St. Martin's-place, Tennant-street, Birmingham. Thanks J. Wilder and Allan McAskell, Esqs., for Contracts, including York and Northampton Great Fêtes.

WANTED, Known, Vacant March 11, 18, Victorian Boys, International Dancers; also Hennessy, Juggler; Two Good Specialities. Wire, 18, Carter-street, Sunderland.

WANTED, March 11, 18, by Los Granadas, Trampolin Comedy Gymnasts, a Novelty. 64, Upper Sutton-street, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, The Florias, Comedy Slack-wire Artists and Equilibrists. Enormous Success. London Halls, Macnaghten. Vacant March 18. 35, Florence-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, March 18 and 25, by Titan, Telka, and Willie (three acts), Strong Show, Music Act, and Ballad Vocalist. 16, Gilroy-st., Wigan.

WANTED, Monday next, by Stanley's Urchins, Talented Troupe of Boys, Singing and Dancing Act. Wire, offers, STANLEY, Victoria T., Kettering.

WANTED, by Stavordale Quintette, March 11, 18, April 8, 15. Wire for Monday next, 2, Pump-square, Boston; after, 29, Ouseley-rd., Balham.

WANTED, Monday next, by Billy Ross and Co., Greatest Comedy Act on the Stage.
Wire, Duchess, Balham, London, S.W.

WANTED, Easter week and later dates, for the Mammoth Fun Carnival, a double high-class Vaudeville Company, including The Dagonets and a Company of Refined Specialities; splendid stock of printing and lithos. JOSEPH BLASCHECK, 43, Southfield-road, Bedford Park, London, W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, March 18 and later, Five Abadaroffs, Comedy Merchants of high order; big success through Scotland. 95, Stretford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, March 25, April 1, 15, 22, 29, also Al Fresco Engagement, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist; huge success Stoke and Attercliffe (both returns). One continual roar of laughter from start to finish. Monday, T. R., Macclesfield.

WANTED, March 11, 18, 25, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist; and De Lil, Illusionist. Wire, T. R., Bristol, Saturday; then, Union-road, Macclesfield.

WANTED, Known, Tom Garland, Vent., the greatest, wants a few dates. Wire, this, Opera House, Treherbert; or next, 12, Poplar-road, Wrexham.

WANTED, August, Pier or Seaside Hall Engagements, by I.D.K. Minstrels (Bijou Troupe); High-class Show; also Pictures if required. MANAGER, 185 Upland-road, E. Dulwich.

WANTED, by Miss Ella's Lion Show, April 15, 29, and May 6,
London or South.
Communications, week March 11,
Hippodrome Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees.

WANTED, Monday, Bush's American Dog Circus, also Mexican Bill, Sensational Ladder Act; both Top Liners. Wire, Grand Theatre, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Judge's Cockatoos, vacant April 15, 22, and 29. Wire or write, Curzon Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Young Man who has had plenty of experience as an amateur Comic Singer and Sketch Artist, an Engagement with First-class Seaside Pierrot Troupe. Will accept small salary. Address, Box 4,491, "Era" Office.

WANTED, by Smart Young Comedian, Part in Comedy Sketch; can sing; moderate salary. Write or wire, SIMPSON, 68, Grove-lane, Camberwell.

WANTED, Known, Tumbler wishes to join Comedy Act, Sketch, or other. Address, HARRY DEANS, 10, Herbertson-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Wanted, Apparatus, Long or Short Engagement.
CHANG SOW,
18, Limehouse-causeway, E.

WANTED, Piers, Gardens, Halls, Share or Salary, May, on. High-Class Variety and Pictures. Drawing Numbers. J. C. OLIVER, Grand Circus, Hull.

WANTED, Engagements, Public or Private, Harmon's Bioscope, Marionettes, also Royal Punch and Judy, with Toby. 326, Earlsfield-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements, for Bioscopes, Theatres, Halls, Tours, &c. LIVERPOOL CINEMATOGRAPH Co., 24A, Islington, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by Operator, with own new Bioscope, for Summer. Write, OPERATOR, Box 4,501, "The Era."

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman, Silver King (regd.), Auctioneer, Valuer, Expert and Authority to the United Kingdom and Van Dwellers' Association, Auctioneer to Lord George Sanger (England's Greatest Showman), and Leading Showmen of Great Britain. Sales and Commissions conducted in any part of the World. If you want to Buy or Sell anything connected with the Business, consult TOM NORMAN, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand. Change of address. Wanted to purchase or engage all kinds of Novelties and Curiosities (alive or dead), if suitable for exhibition.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know. Simons, of 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch, is going ahead with up-to-date Lines in Field Glasses, Fancy Goods, Clocks, Jewellery, &c.
There is no cheaper house for you.

WANTED, Known, .22 "R" and "D" cartridges, Winchester Repeaters, Water Balls, Targets, Globes, New Savage Repeaters. GREENE, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known.—A Word to the Wise is Sufficient. A Client writing June 25, 1906, says:—Bag puncher took £300 in a little over three months. For price, write Sole Agents to the Makers, viz., the Mills Novelty Co. MINERVA AUTOMATIC Co., 120, York-rd., King's Cross, London, N. Largest Variety of Automatic Machines in the trade. No Junk. Don't buy worn-out machines.
To Showmen, Market Men, Pitchers, Callers, Auctioneers, Theatres, Exhibitions, Stall Holders, Penny Bazaars, For Gaffs, Hiring Fairs, Shows,
The Catch of the Season.
WANTED, Wanted, Known, The Balmoral Confectionery Co., 20, Diana-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Under new Proprietorship.
After making extensive alterations to their packing warehouses, are now working early and late to get a terrific stock of Banks' Milk Chocolate.
Large packets marked 3d., guaranteed.
The Greatest and Quickest Penny Line on the Market. Sells at Sight.
All orders despatched same day. No waiting. Send at once for sample case.
7s. gross, carriage forward, cases free. Cash with order.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that the Gourock Ropework Co., Ltd., Largest Tent Manufacturers in the World, have a large stock of New and Secondhand Circus Tents made from their famous Rotproof and Waterproof Tent Canvas, "Birkmyres Cloth." The most durable and waterproof Canvas for Showmen's Tents, &c. Buy from Manufacturers and save middlemen's profit. GOUROCK ROPEWORK Co., LTD., Lancaster-place, Lowestoft.

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WANTED, Known, Great Value Offered in Secondhand Silver Watches.
Auctioneers only supplied.
Write to-day for full particulars,
C. G. CLACHER, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.
Try one of my famed parcels, containing Ten English Lever and Twelve Silver Geneva Watches. Best Value ever Offered.
In great demand. Price, £5 5s.

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WANTED, Known, Jaconelli and Co., Builders of Piano-Organs, Automatics, Tuners and Repairers of all kinds of Barrel Organs and Pianos, Marking a Speciality by Wm. Holmes, late of Manchester. 40, Banbury-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, if you want a Gun, Pistol, or Rifle repaired, Blank Ammunition, or anything appertaining to Shooting, send to F. CHORKERRID, Gunsmith, 41, Newington-butts, London, S.E. All repairs tested on my range before returning.

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RHYL WORLD'S FAIR.
WANTED, good Side Shows, Illusions, Flying Lady, Topsy Turvy House, American Ice Drink Fountain, &c., Fancy Jewellers (shops ready fitted). Park held in Palace Buildings, Band, Electric Light, &c. Sixteen weeks' season. Splendid opportunity for Novelties, Novel Trades, or Shows. Apply, SECRETARY, Palace, Rhyl.

WANTED, at Once, Novelties, Side-shows, also Operator, with own Bioscope, Novelties suitable for refined Exhibition starting the 14th inst. Apply, MANAGER, Spitalfields Industrial Exhibition. Main entrance, 31, Brick-lane, E.

WANTED, Attractive Novelties as Side Shows, for Easter week onwards, at London, large centre of amusements, big business; Sharing terms. Anyone with Talking and Singing Wax Head write immediately. No cailers. DEVEREUX, 4, Duke-street, Adelphi, London.

WANTED, at Once, Novelties of every Description, used to Fair Business, to write in to HENRY WALL, 6, Beech-st., Broughton, Manchester.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Novelties, with Paintings, shares, for Stoke Newington, Seven Sister's-road, Shepherd's Bush. Address, PROPRIETOR, 100, Lower Marsh, Lambeth, London.

WANTED, Novelties and Freaks of Nature, for Bagan's Waxworks, Belfast, North-street; also Lady Palmist and Tattooist, on shares; good opening.

WANTED, First-Class Novelty, with good Window Flash. Exhibition, 91, King's-road, Chelsea. Good Piano and Engine for Sale.

WANTED, Startling Novelties and Freaks, for BURNETTE'S Waxworks,
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WANTED, for Booth, a good Performing Novelty, with Paintings or Poster, able to do own dooring, to open March 27, 1907, for the Summer Season. Terms, shares. G. BAKER, Showman, Oaklands Farm, West Hythe, Kent.

WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, Ashanti Village and Dahomey Warriors, Spaces to Let for Wire Workers, Handkerchief Embroidery Machines, Electric Engravers, Palmists, Phrenologists, Opticians, Monograms; also Space for First-Class Riding Machine and Aerial Flight, for sixteen weeks, Seaside Season. Good doorsmen and lecturers write in to PICKARD'S Great Show, Glasgow.

WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, Open at Once, Sale of Books and Postcards allowed. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, and Attractions, now and onwards.
PICKARD'S Great Show, Glasgow.

WANTED, Phrenologist, Lady or Gentleman, must be well up in the business. Terms, Shares; splendid opening. Send full particulars, Box 4,482, "The Era."

WANTED, Hypnotic Subjects, either sex; young, respectable; good genuine Cataleptics; probable long engagement. BURGESS, 57, Coal Clough-lane, Burnley.

WANTED, Good Doorsman, for Portable Cinematograph Show; also one or two useful men for inside; those not used to the business save stamps. Apply, FAULKNER'S Cinematograph, Janestreet, Leith, N.B.

WANTED, immediately, thorough good Doorsman, for Mirrors; must be steady, reliable. State age, wages, &c., MIRRORS, Trades Exhibition, Selkirk, N.B.

WANTED, Single Young Man, to get pitches and floor. Address,
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WANTED, experienced Man, for Ghost business; must be practical and strictly steady. Lowest terms, refs., &c., Box 4,479, "The Era."

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WANTED, Known, Arthur Clark, Comedian, Planksman, is at Liberty. Address,
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WANTED, Situation as Auctioneer, good Smart Salesman, Money-taker; understands business; thoroughly excellent references. Box 4,477, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Set of Large Distorting Mirrors, at Liberty for Exhibitions, Bazaars, &c. MIRRORS, 19, Marchmont-street, Russell-square, London.

BLACKPOOL SANDS.
WANTED, Known, the South Shore Pleasure Beach is the only site in Blackpool for Open-air Attractions.
The grounds are forty acres in extent, right on the sea front, and are situated immediately next the Promenade at the Electric Tramway Terminus. From April 1 to Dec. 31, 1905, 4,000,000 passengers were carried on these tramways. The permanent attractions now include the "River Caves of the World," "Maxim Flying Machine," "Sea Circus," &c. Great Canadian Water Chute now being erected for next season, commencing at Easter. For sites and concessions for really good Novelties apply personally, Office on Grounds. Letters only, 14, Balmoral-road, Blackpool.

SEAFORTH EASTER FAIR.
WANTED, Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, Stallowners, and all other Travellers in General, to Know I have taken a large Plot of Land close to the Overhead Railway Station, Seaforth, and intend holding a monstrous Easter Fair on it. Persons requiring ground for same apply to JOHN COLLINS, 304, Scotland-road, Liverpool. Rents reasonable, and no one barred. I have also got the following places for Spring Fairs, Hyde Road, Manchester, Spring Fair, second week in March; Gorton Spring Fair, the week following; and Queen's Road, Manchester, Monster Easter Fair, and other places to follow. All applications for Space to be made to JOHN COLLINS, 304, Scotland-road, Liverpool.

"UPPER WELSH HARP" FAIR GROUNDS, HENDON, N.W.
WANTED, to Let, for the Three Bank Holidays of 1907, these well-known and beautifully situated Fair Grounds, with a frontage of over 400ft., facing the Edgware-road, Hendon, where Fairs have been held for Centuries. Trams and 'buses pass the grounds, and only two minutes from railway station.
For particulars, apply personally to
I. F. JACOBS, Solicitor,
12, Herbert-road, Hendon, N.W.

WANTED, Tenders from Showmen, for large field adjoining the Old Welsh Harp, Hendon, Steam Roundabouts and Side Shows, Easter, Whitsun, and August Holidays. All communications to BURGESS and Co., Old Welsh Harp, Hendon, N.W., or ALF. JOHNSON, Entertainment Manager, 28, Claremont-rd., Cricklewood, London, N.W.

WANTED, Known, to Circus Proprietors, Showmen, and Al Fresco Entertainers.—To Let, large piece of Land, close to joint railways station centre of town, splendid opening for Easter.
Address,
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WANTED, to Let, Pleasure Ground adjoining Highgate Woods, London, North, 100ft. square, suitable for Shows, Swings, Roundabouts, Shooting Gallery, &c.; great attractions for School Treats. Apply, C. RIMOLDI, Victoria Restaurant, Archway-road, London.

SPORTS GROUND, REDHILL.
WANTED, to Let, during the four Summer Months, May, June, July, and August, the above, suitable for Athletic Fixtures, Games, Shows, &c., about 9 acres close to Redhill Town and Station, surrounded by a population of some 30,000. The two Bank Holidays are at present Vacant. Apply to the Secretary, Mr. BERT SIMMONS.

WANTED, Known, that our Annual Easter Carnival, Chapelfields, Belfast, will open on March 28. All old comers please write at once; still a few Spaces to Let for small Side Shows.
Applications apply Messrs. TOFT and TURNBULL, 30, Russell-street, Belfast.

WANTED, to Let, Ground for Roundabouts, Shows, &c., for Easter. Apply, BEAUMONT, Fair Ground, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, to Let, Ground at Byker, for Shows or Roundabouts, one of the best Show Grounds in the North of England. Apply, COTTRELL'S Cinématograph, Show Ground, Amble, Northumberland.

WANTED, Known, Spaces to Let, Pens, Sweets, Photographer, Sketch Artist, for Touring Exhibition; also Side Show. MANAGER, Trades Exhibition, Abertillery.

WANTED, Known, we keep our men winter as well as summer. Will Jarvis write in again? Signed, W. C. and S. HANCOCK. All parties requiring ground for the Exeter Easter Fair in the old recognised Fair Field, Okehampton-road, apply to W. C. and S. HANCOCK, Winter Gardens, Plymouth.

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WANTED, to Let, Spaces in above Building, for Stalls, &c.; also Fine Ground for Pierrots, Entertainers. Terms, rental or share. Letters, LEON WOOD, Colosseum, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Let, Open Front Shop, Best Business Street, Auctions, Bazaars. Apply, RICKERBY, Botchergate, Carlisle.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know. Simons, of 100, 101, and 102A, Houndsditch, has Special Departments for 9ct. Rings, Secondhand Watches, Unredeemed Pledges, Cheap Jewellery.
All up-to-date Lines.

WANTED, to Sell, by Tender, The Whole of the Show complete, except tilts, linings, organ, and cinematograph machines,
late the property of Mrs. James Leo, consisting of
one front stage wagon, 30ft. long, 8ft. wide, 9ft. high, to carry organ, all steps, stages, shutters, complete, large boxes underneath, 6in. tyres, cinematograph box attached to side, and water-cart; all new March, 1905.
One lurry, 21ft. long, 8ft. wide, to carry booth, large boxes underneath, 6in. tyres; new March, 1906.
One booth, 34ft. wide, front 32ft. wide, back 64ft. long, 18 rows of seats with upholstered backs, gallery 21ft. run, all complete, except tilts and linings; new June, 1906.
One road living carriage, panelled, 24ft. long, 8ft. wide, 8ft. high, on side separate bedroom, draw-out bed in living-room, painted and grained fittings, mahogany overmantel, bedroom and roofs decorated birds and flowers, &c., brilliant cut windows, large box underneath, 6in. tyres to wheels; new March, 1906.
All the above fitted with traction ironwork and built by Orton and Sons, Burton-on-Trent.
Also the 8 horse-power traction engine and electric lighting plant, as used on above Show, and supplied by Burrell and Sons, Thetford; new March, 1905.
Tenders to be delivered on or before March 14, for either the whole or any part, stating if for cash or terms, to
ORTON & SONS,
Burton-on-Trent,
who do not bind themselves to accept highest or any Tender.
The Show can be seen on the Quay at Whitehaven.

Important to Showmen, Amusement Caterers, and Speculators.
WANTED, to Sell, a new Motor-Roundabout (Autodrom), 20 metres diameter, 20 elegant motors, with seats for six persons, altogether for 120 persons, with steam engines and electro dynamo motor, beautifully decorated and painted, with elegant entrance pavilion, grand organ, with figures, most striking electric illuminations, the most up-to-date and brilliant concern ever brought out, nine waggons for transport, and all the necessary accessories. Price £7,000. For further particulars apply to GEO. WM. KIDERLEN, 27, Milton-street, London, E.C.

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30. GRAND THEATRE, DOUGLAS.
31. OPERA HOUSE, DONCASTER.
32. HIPPODROME, LEEDS.
33. NEW TOWN HALL, SUTTON COLDFIELD.
34. NEW HIPPODROME, WEST BROMWICH
35. TOWN HALL, GRANGE-OVER-SANDS.
36. NEW GRAND THEATRE, MANSFIELD.
37. THEATRE ROYAL, MANCHESTER.
38. NEW CHURCH, BRIGHOUSE, YORKS.
39. ALBERT THEATRE, CANNING TOWN.
40. PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE, PONTYPOOL.
41. PARKGATE CHAPEL, ROTHERHAM.
42. EYAM CHAPEL, EYAM.
43. NEW EMPIRE, COVENTRY.
44. NEW HIPPODROME, COVENTRY.
45. THE WHOLE OF THE MAGNIFICENT DRAPERIES FOR WALTER MELVILLE'S LATEST PRODUCTIONS.
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50. NEW HIPPODROME, MERTHYR TYDVIL.
51. NEW MUNICIPAL INSTITUTE, KEIGHLEY.
52. MAGNIFICENT NEW KING'S THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
53. NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BURY ST. EDMUNDS.
54. THE PALACE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

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EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal at 1.30 for :—
Gus Elen, Kate Trail, Three Missouris, "With Royston's Horse," Four Royal Welshmen, Fitzroys, Knick Knacks, Hurley and Cole, George Ridgwell, Bioscope, Ben Harris's Nippers.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Peter Bannon's Wrestlers, Bioscope, Albert Whelan, Schenk Bros., Robertys, Punch and Judy Girls, Barrett and Knowles, Carlos Menard, H. C. Barry, Auto Atlas.

ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Tschernoff's Dogs, Walter Munroe, Bioscope, The Tupps, The Wyffs, Johnny Dwyer, Azella Wilson, Frank Cass, Dare's Minstrels, Debreans, Arthur Saxon Trio.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
"Mumming Birds," Bioscope, J. H. Anthony, Three Prestons, Ergotti and King Luis, Fernee's Juveniles, Albertus and Millar, Garganys, Students, Imro Fox.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Lennie and Hast, Stevens and Rennior, Lidden and Hayward, Forrest and King, Alice May and Co., Allan Hanbury, Vetter Bros., E. Arthur and Co., Bioscope, Yamato, Taiko and O'Fugi-San.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Military Tournament, Chris Richards, Three Amaranths, Howards, Arthur Lennard, Lizzie Fletcher, Edie King, Cliff Ryland, Jimmy Shields.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Dick Turpin," Neilson Sisters, Ailsa Douglas, Two Bostons, Goggin and Davis, Simms and Simms, Bioscope, Andrew Roy, Russell Wallett, Chas. Dillon.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
George Leyton, Hettie Chattell, Dan Conroy, Geretti Sisters, Kelly and Ashby, Billy Farrell, Harry Ford, Harold Hughman, Celtic Comedy Trio, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
George Gray and Co., Harry Lawson, Kitts and Windrum, Mezzetti and Mora, Maningos, Carrie Joy, Kitty Marion, J. H. Scotland, Jordan and Harvey, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
George Lashwood, Bioscope, W. Bellonini, Coloured Meisters, Sinclair and Whiteford, James Kurry, Three Careys, Leslie Bros., Les Uniques, Frazer's "Iona."

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
"On Parole," Bioscope, Arabella Allen, Ted and May Hopkins, Harry Drew, Princess Pauline, Laurie and Beattie.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"The Isle of Ooma," Bioscope, Lily Tiso, King Kingston, Harry Clifford, Prof. Vox, Three Consol Girls, Stein Eretto Troupe, Sisters McNulty, Mike S. Whallen.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Auguste Van Biene and Co., Bioscope, Grovini Sisters, Sybil St. Elmo, Hunt and Thomas, Effie Stuart, George Kreamer, Harry Marte, Carney and Armstrong, Bijou Russell.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Lew Lake and Co., Bert Gilbert, Cissie Curlette, Bros. Dean, Mdlle Von Etta, The Strads, Dennis Drew, Fred Cullane's Co., Illustrated Song, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
"Happy Holland," May Evans, Bros Horne, Lady Fauntleroy, Allis and Cassati, The Boccaccios, Rosa Loader, Russell Brandow, Robb Gilmour, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Chung Ling Soo, Ethel Ra Leslie, L. Leyton and Co., Herbert Rule, Madge Grey, Roma and Romani, Bert Woodward, Collins and Rice, Howard and Harris, George Newburn.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
"Office Hours," Arthur Gill, Lockhart's Elephants, Ruby Dahl, J. W. Rickaby, Rhoda Paul, Dan Leno, jun., Johnson and Bert, Willie Gardner, Chronophone.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
George Gilbey, Tom Owen, Chas. Norton, Abdullah Arabs, Hartley Wonders, Maggie Walsh, The Jees, Marie Santoi and Co., Tennyson and Wallis.

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Rehearsal at 3 for :—
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EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
"Our Curate," Trapnell Family, Fanny Erris, Nellie Coleman, Dome, D'Arc's Marionettes, Cambrian Trio, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Carl Hertz, Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Lieut. Travis, Wartenburg, Bros. Karno Four, Peggy Pryde, Carina Sisters, Phil and Nettie Peters, Bioscope.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
Hetty King, Ike Scott and Son, Orpheus, Gladys Mavius, Newhouse and Ward, "Heartstrings," Will Evans's Co., Mora and Flora, Bioscope.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Karno's "Dame Trot," Bioscope, Stylo, Rinaldo Trio, Sisters Anderson, Jessie Buckle, Chas. Robinson, Seeley and West, Beatrice Bonnie.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Florence St. John and Co., Bioscope, Illustrated Song, Selbini Troupe, Three Tauberts, Tom Terriss and Co., Fred Elton, Collier and Child, Sadie Simpson, Laurie's Kindergarten, Frank and Jen Latona.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Horace Goldin, Harry Bedford, Hall and Earle, McConnell Trio, Eily Adair, American Comedy Four, Rex King, "The Little Stowaway," Illustrated Song, Bioscope.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
The Wrestlers, Bros. Corcoran, Boy Glen, Kathleen Cogan, Billy McClain's Sextette, Ryder Slone, Burns and Burns, Pictures, Ed. E. Ford.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Jan Rudenyi and Co., Blanche Vincent, Sylvesta, James Brady, France and Stuart, Charles Vincent, Jeannie Mackay, Kremos.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Darnley's "Skirmishers," Marie Empress, Morton and Bowman, Bioscope, Rhoda Bros., Florence, Crown Trio.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.
(Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance.)
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Marguerite Broadfoote, Arthur Melrose, Leo Stormont, Nina St. Elmo, Matt Wilkinson and Co., Pictures, Rumbo Austin and Nippers, Violet Beatrice, Lilian Dundas and Co.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
La Milo, Ryan and Hall, Frank Couch, Lozelle, Stelling and Dog, Lupino Bros., Nipper Lupino Lane, Bioscope.

THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Mark Melford and Co., Terry and Lambert, Cruikshank, Marriot Edgar, Jack Lane, Will Johnson, Michael Nolan, Katie Lawrence, Three Sisters Grosvenor, Esta Stella, Cull Pitt, J. Alexander and Co., Moon and Morris, Pictures, Chas. Cardle, Fullbrook and Co., Leipsig.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Both Performances.
Tribune's "Bo Peep," Brown and Le Clerq Co., The Delevines, Dan Crawley, Maud Belmont, Three Sisters Grosvenor, Olga Dore, Cull Pitt, Dale and O'Malley, Pictures, Chas. Cardle.

EMPIRE, COVENTRY.
(Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance.)
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Hymack, Six Imrie Girls, Baker and Balfe, Belrose and De Velin, Vay's Juveniles, Vasilescu Troupe, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND
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Artists and Agents please note that Bookings for the above Theatre have now commenced.

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Artists and Agents please note that Bookings for the above Theatres, which open April 1, have now commenced.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.
ARTISTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT THE ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON, IS WITHIN THE AREA ABSOLUTELY BARRED BY US.

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Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras (Fifteen for those engaged at the London Coliseum). Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, or at least TWO WEEKS, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagement cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

N.B.—Silence in every case a polite negative. Artists are requested not to enclose stamped envelope. Letters marked "Private" will be delayed.
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"CHEYENNE,"
"I CAN SEE RED ROSES BLOOMING,"
"BOY BLUE,"
"DON'T TELL THE WORLD YOUR TROUBLES."
"COME BACK TO BORNEO,"
"IN MY PAGODA,"
"WHY DO THE GIRLS LOVE CHARLIE?"
"HENNY KLEIN,"
"IT IS THE SCARECROW,"
"MY IRISH ROSIE."
"I WANT MOLLY AND SHE WANTS ME."

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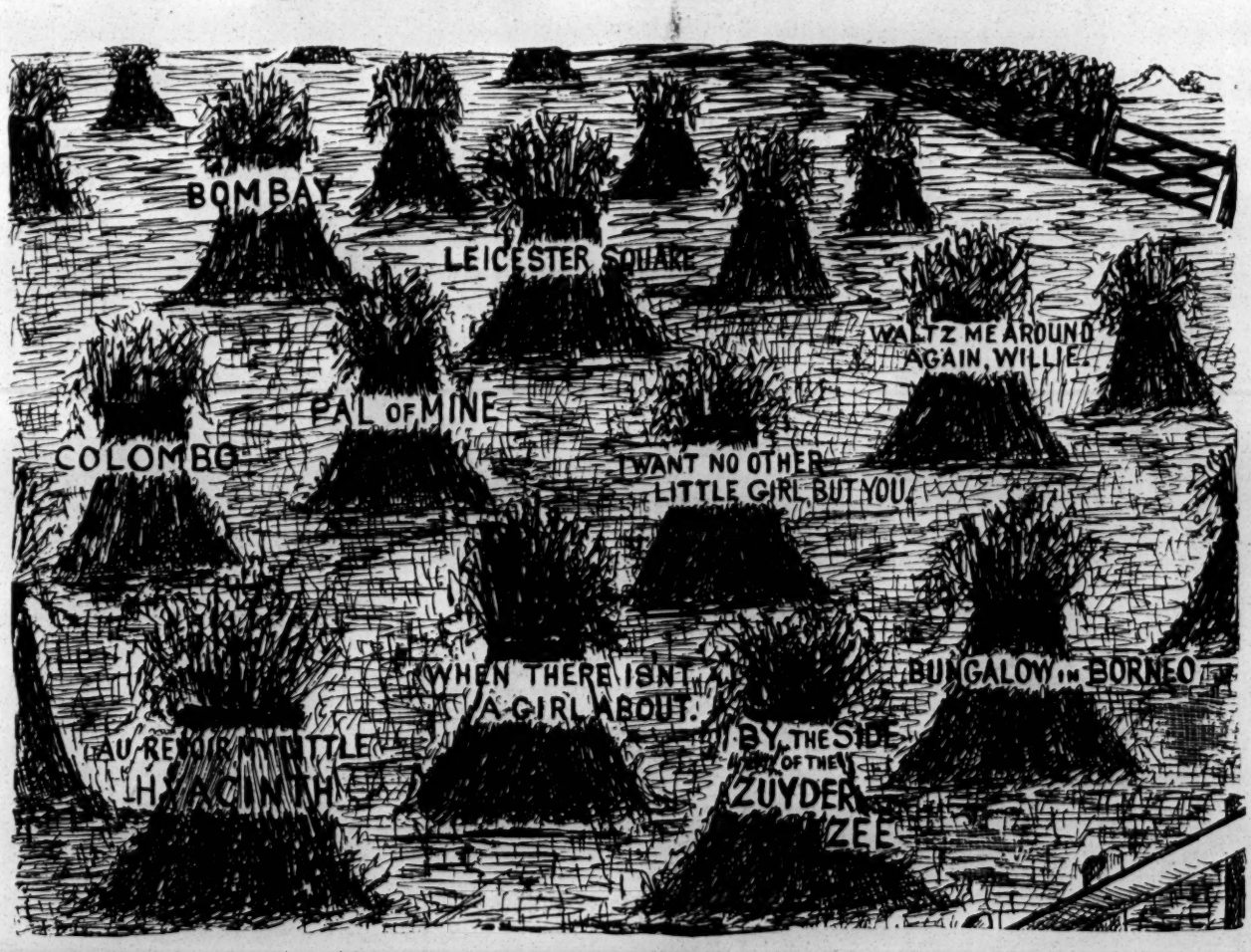

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Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not re-booked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follows :—

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Katie Marsh, Society Quartette, Myra Love, Pictures, Juanitas, John Tiller's Co., in "Aladdin."

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Robbie Roy, Pollo Jerome, Bros. Ashley, Julian Mack, W. Gourlay, Harwood Juveniles, Pictures, Keen and Waller, Geraldos and La Blanche, Modern Venus, Gunner Moir.

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PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.
Frank Leon, Beatrice Lindley, Dave O'Toole, Austin and Cowan, Rose Elliott, Pictures, Harvey Boys, Ada Fawn, Effie White, Sammy Shields, C. Williams, Pictures.

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"BIG SHIP SAILING."
"CHATEAU ON THE RHINE."
"BELLE OF THE DARDANELLES."
"DON'T BE AFRAID, LITTLE SOLDIER."
"COME FOR A SAIL IN MY YACHT."

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CALLS

FOR WEEK COMMENCING

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1907.

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Edith Sylvester, Bros. Mills, Pictures, Johnny Worman, Madge Morley, Frank Hardie and Co., Simosa San, Dave McNeil.

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Aquamarinoff Troupe, Fred Herbert, Cissie Coman, R. A. Speedwell, Albano Troupe, Williams and Warden, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

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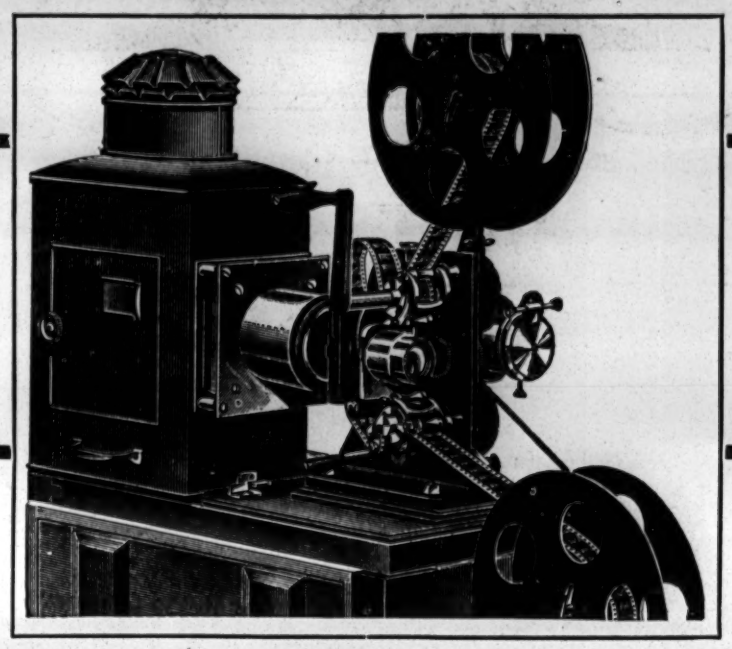

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"The Era" Annual for 1907, published at a shilling from 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, is, as usual, a happy conmbination of record, almanac, and literary symposium. The last-mentioned aspect is one that most commends the work to the lay reader. The literary contributions are signed by well-known artists who have contributed personal experiences of remembered incidents, and whose portraits adorn the pages. A touch of pathos is lent to an otherwise cheery publication by the inclusion of stage and music-hall favourites who died last year, one of whom was Mr. J. L. Toole.—Financier and Bullionist., Feb. 6.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Geo. W. Denton; Stage-Manager, Fred Thomas.—Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's company is here this week in *The Traitor Prince*. Mr. George M. Montanini is powerful in the name-part, and is well supported by Miss Kate Walford, as Vashti; Mr. Lincoln Calthorpe gives a pleasing interpretation of Lieut. Frank Derrick; Miss Rose Routledge does well as Lola Dane; and Mr. A. Hallman, as Billy Bright, Mr. L. Musgrove as the Hon. Bobby, and Miss Netta Mitchell as Pansy Blossom well sustain the lighter vein of the piece

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—On Monday night Miss Marie Dagmar and Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company presented for the first time here the powerful and romantic Venetian drama entitled *The Tyrant*. Mr. C. F. Somerfield gave a capital portrayal of Homodie; Mr. Roy Fortescue submitted an admirable impersonation of Angelo; Mr. Lionel Atwil as Rudolph was all that could be desired; Mr. Percy Brown must be complimented on his humorous reading of Victor; Mr. Alec Findlater was good as Lieut. Tasker; Messrs. Geary and Wade were excellent in their respective parts of Abrossi and Roderic; Mr. C. E. Warne was an ideal priest; Miss Millie Ford gave a charming portrayal of Lady Katherine; Miss Lallah Shelton scored as Eulie; the part of Reginella was in the capable hands of Miss Olive Lloyd; and Miss Dagmar gained many admirers for her finished impersonation of Fisbe.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker.—Countess Romanow has been accorded a splendid reception for her series of poses entitled "Nature Unadorned." Mr. T. E. Hughes is a finished artist with a good voice; the Sisters Russell are amusing in their sketch, *Napoleon*; Ray and Miles are good in their juggling act; the Primrose Quartette score in their vocal scena; Conan and Doyle are well received; Clark and Glennie are very amusing; Craig, Rose, and Craig give a novel gymnastic act; Claire Greta is well received; and the Hippo pictures complete a good bill.

ALDERSHOT.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—Mr. Milton Bode's company in *The Belle of Mayfair* gives a performance of an excellent order, the dressing and general spectacular effect being particularly good. Mr. Harry Parker as Sir John exploits a continuous vein of humour; Miss May Yates is successful in the "courting" scenes as Julia with Mr. Hugonnet (Raymond); Miss Agnes Tandy uses her rich, well-balanced voice to advantage in the part of the princess; Miss Emily Stevens (an old favourite here) is capital as Lady Chaldicott; Miss Auralie de Loriere scores heavily as the Gibson Girl in a chorus that is one of the best features of the performance; Mr. Haddon Cave, Mr. Glyn Alwyn, and Lauri Lisle are fine exponents of their respective rôles; and there are many in minor parts who help materially towards the success.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Mr. W. Maclaren and Miss Lily Bandmann and company are here again with Wilson Barrett's play *Claudian*. In Mr. Maclaren's impersonation of the title-rôle we get the qualities of dignity, power, and astuteness excellently portrayed. Miss Lily Bandmann is admirable as Almida; Mr. F. Owen Chambers as the Tetrarch of Charydos gives an excellent impression of the crafty Oriental; Mr. C. T. Chaloner is amusing as Belos, whose sweetheart, Edessa, is played with a good deal of comic ability by Miss Maud Garth. As Agazil Mr. Douglas Earle finds scope for plenty of vigorous acting. Other characters of a minor description were satisfactorily filled by Messrs. W. Hubbard, C. Gerrard, W. Nixon, B. Elliott, D. Murray, G. F. Floyd, Misses Rosa Webster, Geraldine Meredith, and Violet Barclay.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—This week's bill includes the Four Maisanos, four funny Frenchmen; Florry Cooper is a charming singer of popular ditties; Fanny Robina gives her songs in good style; George Rapley displays talent as a burlesque singing comedian; Leon and Williams are diverting acrobats; and Pueblo and Cropp are Creole artists with attractive American specialities. The feature of the week's programme, however, is the musical comedy burlesque *The Belle of Barcelona*, in which appear Mr. Jack McKenzie and upwards of twenty artists, including the Barcelona troupe of dancers.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. A. Wordsworth.—Pictures are still the popular attraction here, and a number of illustrated songs are given by Miss Ivy Nelson.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—A programme of average merit is submitted here this week. Those clever comedians and dancers, Downes and Langford, contribute a mirth-provoking turn; Mr. Charles Lestree is a smart juggler with up-to-date methods; a welcome return visit of the Watson Family, high-class vocalists and instrumentalists, is a strong item, and their efforts are deservedly recognised; Miss Edith Muir and Mr. Hubert Bartlett and company present a laughable comedietta entitled *The Collar Stud*; Mr. Clayton's Attergraph pictures include a dramatic episode, "The Indian's Revenge"; the Sisters Walmsley, full of vivacity, are pleasing in song and dance; Maston is a mimic of ability; and Mr. Tom E. Cliffe is a good comedian and dancer.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company opened a three nights' and matinée engagement here on Monday night with *The Merchant of Venice*. Mr. Henry Herbert as Shylock made a great impression with his clear enunciation and masterful reserve; Miss Dorothy Green was the Portia, and she delighted the audience with her admirable acting in the Court scene; Miss Louise Graeme was excellent as Jessica; and as Lorenzo Mr. Reginald Owen made the most of the part. The Prince was well played by Mr. Philip Merivale; and nothing could have been finer than the Antonio of Mr. Gereld Ames. Mr. Ross Shore was the Lancelot, and he gave a capital embodiment of the part. The other members of the company were equally successful.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Dudley Harcourt.—Miss Winifred Maude's company is here this week with *The Convict*. Mr. William Vane gives a powerful and realistic representation of the title-rôle; Mr. Leonard S. Harrison is effective as Mr. Britton; and Mr. W. Bradford as Captain Hurley is an unscrupulous schemer of the deepest dye. Mr. Victor Du Cane depicts the dual rôles of Sergeant Holmes and Alphonse Godin with grim humour; Mr. W. E. Simpson does justice to the part of Noro, and Mr. Frederick Gerratt is amusing as Mike Larne; Miss Winifred Maude wins sympathy as Nellie Seaforth; and Miss Ethel Tinsley does well as Miriam Goldberg. Miss Marion Holly as Harry Seaforth is very natural, and as Jenny Wright Miss Jenny Hackett is eminently successful.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Miss Maud Hildyard and company are here in *The Great Awakening*.—As Lola Selby Miss Hildyard distinguishes herself greatly by an artistic portrayal; Mr. A. C. Hardie gives a good performance of James Selby; Mr. Frank Liston shows his versatility in the rôles of Sir Henry Merton and Jack Merton; Mr. Stephen Langton is an efficient Guy Rogan; and Messrs. Gordon McLeod, Willie Scott, and J. H. Booth are good respectively as Captain Harry Lambert, Billy Brass, and Richard Wilson. Miss Doris Digby is a sympathetic Molly Merton.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Miss Lydia Donovan and company in *Her One Great Sin* are here. Miss Donovan as Grace Warhurst plays with considerable distinction; Mr. Claude H. Seaton as Reuben Warhurst acts in good style; Mr. C. Quinton Fulford makes an excellent Arnold Thornhill; and Miss Maude Lambert as the child is very good. Excellent comedy is contributed by Miss Nellie Lambert and Mr. Fred Hodson.

TIVOLI.—Lessees, Messrs. Laban and Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Edgar Laban.—Ross and Grayson are at the top of the bill here this week as a musical mélange, which is exceedingly well received; Sandford and Lyons are droll comedians and clever dancers; and the Brothers Redmond create roars of laughter. Irene Rose is a really first-class comedienne; Fancourt and Ruby give a smart and well-staged comedy act; Stidder and Dunbar are very humorous in a musical pot-pourri; and Marion Scott sings some pleasing songs in a tasteful manner.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—A return visit of *Lucky Durham* is proving popular here. Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh maintain the strength of their company. Miss Alice Esther Belmore now impersonates Helen Vallerton and Mr. Robert Forsyth undertakes the rôle of Lord Mountfallen, and both are good successors to the previous representatives; Mr. Edmund Kennedy continues to give his sound and impressive portrayal of John Durham; and the Reggie Steighton of Mr. Arthur Leigh remains a capital piece of comedy acting.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—The Ju-jitsu wrestling bouts with Yukio Tani are proving interesting and exciting this week; a capital interlude is that supplied by Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, American comedy artists, in *The Dancing Master*. Brull and Hemsley likewise present an amusing turn, *Fun in a Music Shop*; a farcical sketch, *After the Races*, is rattled off cleverly by Madge Morley and two associates; J. P. Selph is a good character vocalist; a young ballad singer that gains plenty of admirers is Marion Fletcher; Walter Keating, coon singer, also appears; Raymond's Bio-tableaux form, as usual, an agreeable wind up.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—*The Shulamite* commenced a week's sojourn here on Monday. The part of Simeon Krillett was taken by Mr. Algernon J. Hicks; in the rôle of Deborah Krillett Miss Ruth Shepherd thoroughly deserved the warm applause evoked by her sympathetic rendering; Mr. Charles Fancourt submitted a clever impersonation of Robert Waring; Mr. George Rammell was an effective Jan Vanderberg, Miss Emily Levettez a capital Tante Anna Vanderberg, and Miss Chrissie Bickerstaff an obedient slave-girl.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. Loie Esmond's company opened here on Monday with *The Sorrows of Satan*. Mr. Edward Neville must be commended for his remarkably fine conception of the difficult rôle of Prince Lucio; Miss Cecilia Dare, a charming actress, presented a convincing impersonation of Lady Sybil; Miss Loie Esmond was the American heiress, Diana Cheaney, to the life; and a skilful impersonation of Geoffrey Tempest was presented by Mr. J. McCaig; Mr. Coleman Davies played the rôle of Lord Lynton with much distinction; Miss Cecil Bryne was amusing as the garrulous lodging-house keeper, Mrs. Grimbes; and Miss Rosie Neville was all that could be desired as Mary Clare.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—The Three Golden Graces, although billed here, did not appear on Monday, having missed the connection from the Continent. Matthew Brodie and company appear to great advantage in a comedy dramatic episode, entitled *A Drummer of the 76th*, by Louis Cohen, in which Mr. Brodie's acting as Napoleon Bonaparte and Miss D. Vivian's impersonation of the Drummer were excellent. Mr. Alfred Trentanovi's troupe of mules, baboons, and dogs perform some remarkable tricks; and the feats of strength by Mr. Luis Hardt have created quite a sensation; Mr. Laurence Barclay is a capital comedian with good songs; and also here are the Three Zaracs, comedians on the bars; Miss Constance Mori, comedienne and dancer; Mr. Lloyd Morgan, comedian, and the Ladderites.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The celebrated Hungarian violinist, Mr. Jan Rudenyi, heads the bill here, and is supported by Miss Dora De Winton and Mr. John Saunders in a musical romance, entitled *The Power of Music*; the extraordinary acrobatic feats of the Kremo family have evoked loud enthusiasm; and France and Stewart appear in their clever American racing comedy, *The 100 to 1 Chance*, which has created much merriment. Mr. James Brady's comic songs have been hugely enjoyed, and the extraordinary feats of Sylvesta, assisted by Miss Vera De Courtnay, have created much amazement. Miss Blanche Vincent is a delightful comedienne; and also here are Mr. Chas. Vincent, comedian; and Miss Jeannie Mackay, vocalist.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Sinclair Neill.—The Alhambra Dramatic Company, under the personal direction of Mr. M. Montgomery, is presenting this week the sensational drama, *The Unknown*. Mr. Horace Denton is responsible for a clever impersonation of Harold Merrybright; Miss Nina Blake Adams presents a skilful impersonation of Bessie; the villainies of Arnold Tyson are realistically depicted by Mr. E. H. M. Heanley; Mr. Cyril Grier sustains the difficult rôle of Jack Salt with no little credit; and Mr. Elmore Frith is an admirable Dr. Brinkton. The humour of the piece is in the safe hands of Mr. Tom H. Solly, irresistibly funny as Pat; and Miss Mattie Crawford, a droll Jimmy. Mr. Ed. Smythe as Albert Stormking is all that can be desired; and Miss Alice Clarke in the part of Louise acquits herself well. Mr. Tom H. Solly is responsible for the stage arrangements. The Alhambra Bioscope, under the direction of Mr. W. E. Newlove, exhibits a very humorous film, "A motor-car race for a wife."

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Baron H. Harriss and his very capable company are doing excellent business with *The Prince of Pilsen*, a musical comedy new to this town. Mr. Harry Kilburn is well suited as Hans Wagner, a part to which he does the fullest justice; and Miss Sophie Harriss gives a spirited and faultless rendering of Mrs. Maddison Croker; Mr. Frank Crimp as Carl Otto acquits himself with marked ability; Lieutenant Tom Wagner is well embodied by Mr. Roy Sydney; Arthur de Willoughby Rossmore is cleverly sustained by Mr. Bernard Russell; and Francois is admirably presented by Mr. Ernest Gifford. Sidonie, the French maid, is cleverly played by Miss Connie Léon, whose dances are one of the features of the performance. Miss Ada Watson is a charming Edith Adams, and Nellie Wagner is suitably enacted by Miss Alice Nixon; Miss K. Albert is particularly successful in the rôle of Maisie Manhatton, the Gibson girl; and the cast generally is irreproachable. Furnished with a numerous and efficient chorus and a wealth of accessories, the comedy has produced a most favourable impression here.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. T. E. Dunville, the popular comedian, heads a capital company, and is again scoring heavily. Harry Thorpe and Zoe Coe in their sketch, *My Burglar*, have caught on immensely; and a liberal programme also includes Miss Georgina Leonard, an accomplished burlesque actress; the Haytors, in an entertaining sketch, *Cabby Knows His Fare*; Mr. Victor Travers, eccentric comedian; Sandy and Carl, knockabout comedians; Mr. Ned Lincoln, character-comedian; and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*The Queen of Hearts* terminates its enormously successful twelve weeks' run to-night, when it will have achieved just a hundred performances. Last night Mr. Geo. Robey took a benefit, Mr. Wilkie Bard, among others, being down to swell the attractions.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*The Lady Dandies*, otherwise *Les Merveilleuses*, is presented here by Mr. George Edwardes's company. That favourite burlesque comedian, Mr. Eric Thorne, gets a great reception for his clever and droll assumption of St. Amour; Mr. Robert J. Hale, who is always welcome in any piece, improves his popularity as the dandy, Lagorille; Mr. Talleur Andrews vocalises with much success as Dorlis; and Messrs. Jack Cannot and Lennox Pawle are in the forefront with some clever business as the police agents Malicorne and Tournesal. Miss Anna Hickisch has the audience under her thrall as La Merveilleuse, singing and acting with the utmost ease and charm; Miss Deborah Volar endows the rôle of Illyrine and the lyrics pertaining thereto with consummate art and expression; Miss Dorah Langham plays the part of Egle to full advantage; and Miss Vivien Talleur as the dancer, St. Cyr, gives a saltatorial display which brings down the house.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—*Cinderella* still pursues the even tenor of its success, and the artists, who have all built solid reputations for themselves, have lost none of their spontaneity or enthusiasm. The various societies, as well as the general public, continue their support, and on Friday, last week, the Woolpack Musical Society attended the pantomime, headed by Mr. Harold Wallace, who brought his forces up two hundred strong.

METROPOLE THEATRE. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*Woman and Wine* forms the attraction here, played by Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmond's company. The rôle of "the woman," Marcel Rigadout, is acted with much dramatic skill and effect by Miss Cissie St. Elmo; while with softer and sympathetic touch Miss Violet Sims scores as Mary Andrews. Miss Joan Pereira as La Colombe makes a hit; and Miss Ethel Vinroy is well equipped for the rôle of Jane Marlow. Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds adorns the character of the student Seymour with many excellent traits; Mr. Fred W. Goddard supplies a powerful contrast as Beaudet, the bully; Mr. John S. Haydon gives clever effect to the rôle of Hugh Seymour; Mr. George Child provides a fine personation of the professor; and the subsidiary characters are in good keeping. The Bal Masqué scene is embellished with the clever specialities of the Lottie Stone troupe of Whirlwind Dancers.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The Scales of Justice* is being acted here by Mr. Andrew Melville's well-known company. Miss Rose Ralph embodies the double rôle of Mary and Jenny Maxwell, and infuses much charm and sympathy therein; Mr. Percy Dawsone acts with acceptable vigour as Harry Maxwell; Mr. Francis Everard is well liked for his manly acting as Tom Duncan; Mr. Fred A. Marston is appropriately breezy as Jack Breeze; Mr. Austen Milroy accounts for the villain's rôle. Antonia Cordova, in the most skilful and satisfactory manner; Mr. Edward Finlay does excellent work in the rôle of Mendoza; Mr. Andrew Emm is the life and soul of the humorous element as Tony Wilkins; Miss Amy Corelli makes a fascinating Polly; Miss Florence Nelson gives a clever representation of Inez Cordova; and Little Elsie is meritorious as Jenny.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company is playing *In Holy (?) Russia*, which pleases Astonians well. Mr. Cassidy appears in his inimitable impersonation of Michy Nolan, which sets the audience in frequent roars of laughter; Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy figures as the heroine, Renee Rubinoff, in her usual clever and charming style; Mr. Frank Copeland delights the audience with his fine acting as Sir Harry Beresford; Mr. Martin Sands makes a popular rôle of Count Gregori; Mr. Carl Rovinelli acts in an exceptionally able way as Steragoff; Mr. Jo Cuthbertson's acting as Baron von Pleve is vigorous and impressive; Mr. Frederick Loyd is most able as Michael Natolski; Mr. Arthur Stratton scores immensely as Col. Richard Forrest; Miss Florence Creagh acts powerfully as Catska Lavotski; and Miss Annie Dudley as Mrs. Forrest and Miss Alice Marsden as Madame Natolski do well.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—George Lashwood, who tops the bill, delights the audience with his songs; he also gives his well-known scena *Oh for a Night in the West*. *The Enchanted Iona*, a sketch given by Mr. Chas. Frazer and company, is capitally produced; Walter Bellonini is a decidedly novel juggler; the Coloured Meisters rightly have an interesting turn; the performance of the Leslie Brothers, comedy musicians, is greatly appreciated; Les Uniques give an exciting ladder display; Sinclair and Whiteford are seen to advantage in a comedy sketch; and James Kurry, eccentric comedian, and the Three Careys, Australian entertainers, complete a varied programme.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford. — John Tiller's Christmas extravaganza *Dick Whittington* is retained for another week. Other excellent turns are provided by Jock and Evelyn, whose humour and vivacity always ensure success; Miss Zetta, who performs a cake-walk on the wire; and May Fallowfield and Dan Robans, vocalists.

BORDESLEY PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The principal item this week is a dramatic episode entitled *On Parole*, presented by Bellew and Stock's company. Miss Edie Sweeter acts touchingly as the drummer boy. Lauri and Beatty give an entertaining musical comedy turn; Arabella Allen submits clever impersonations of characters from Dickens; Ted and May Hopkins are amusing Welsh humorists; and Frank Darwin and Harry Drew are also responsible for interesting items. The Bioscope pictures of the wreck of the ill-fated Berlin are greatly appreciated.

BILSTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Battersby; Musical-Director, Mr. J. E. Machin.—Miss Winifred Chalmers' company in *The Master Criminal* is here this week. Mr. Henry L. Osmond as Telford Lestage and Miss Chalmers as Cecile submit some powerful acting and thrilling scenes. Mr. John C. Carlyle is also very effective as Ben Beaudy. The comic side of the piece has the adequate services of Mr. Harry Cooke as Tommy Dale and Miss Mabel Tremere as Peggy Perks.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—After a lapse of between eleven and twelve years, patrons of the Eden are again enjoying a return visit of *The Silver King*, which is being presented by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company. Mr. Horace B. Herbert as Wilfred Denver gives an impressive rendering of the title-rôle; whilst Miss B. Doyle presents a sympathetic conception of the character of Nellie Denver. The faithful servant, Daniel Jaikes, is admirably played by Mr. William Allison; Mr. Paul Beckett is a powerful Captain Herbert Skinner; Mr. Laurie Hunter scores as Geoffrey Ware; Messrs. Wm. Dempsey and Seton Bernard are capable exponents of their respective parts, Elijah Coombe and Cripps; Samuel Baxter, a detective, is well acted by Mr. Alex. Begbie, and Mr. Ralph Lee is conspicuous as Henry Corkett; Miss Dorothy Love is a pleasing Cissie, and as Olive Skinner Miss Dorothea Black is all that can be desired.

BLACKBURN. — THEATRE ROYAL.— Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Manager, Mr. Reginald C. Yorke.—Mr. W. H. Hallatt and Mr. Walter Howard's company is drawing crowded houses in the drama, *Her Love Against the World*. Mr. Walter Howard himself appears in the principal character of Eric, Earl of Strathmere, with great effect, his acting being extremely good. Miss Ellen Snow acts forcefully as Ivie, Princess of Idalia; while Miss Rossie St. John does some good work as Nello, the youthful brother of Eric; Mr. Mayar Cook is sufficiently villainous as Ulric, while Mr. W. H. Hallatt as Prince Othmar is also good. The necessary comedy relief was well introduced by Mr. Henry B. Lewis (Heinrich), Mr. Richard Webb (Fritz), Miss Lizzie Lennon (Katinka), and Miss Hettie Ferguson (Gretchen). The play is well staged, and the costumes and uniforms are of the best.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company are appearing here in *Two Little Drummer Boys*.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—The artists this week are Lilian Lea, songstress; Gillin, ventriloquist; Story and Trigg, eccentric comedians; John Macaulay, vocalist; Lise Roland, equilibrist; the Krags, acrobats; and the Mahatmas, thought readers.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—*The Night of the Party* is being played here this week by a capable company under the direction of Mr. Charles H. Williams. The brunt of the work falls on the shoulders of Mr. Sebastian Smith, who plays the part of Crosbie in a manner that wins for him the warmest encomiums. Mr. Frank H. Denton makes an excellent Frank Frayne, and Mr. Douglas Munro gives a capital representation of Flamber. Mr. Charles F. Bruce as Mr. Roundle and Mr. Stanley Arthur as Mr. Boyle likewise contribute clever studies. Miss Beatrice Mervyn acts the part of Lady Hampshire with grace and naturalness; Miss Marion Lewis gives a good account of herself as Mrs. Young, and Miss Florence French is well suited to the rôle of Gipsy Vandelier.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is in possession here this week with *A Broken Heart*. Mr. Henry Wolston presents a vigorous portrayal of John Barnard, which wins well-merited recognition; and Mr. Henry Earlesmere effectively plays Stephen Rayiton. A very clever impersonation of Tony Tibbets is supplied by Mr. Will Lindsay, and Cash Gills is successfully delineated by Mr. Charles Vivian; Mr. Roy Gordon creditably portrays the Rev. Mr. Staunton, the village curate. Undoubted histrionic skill is exhibited by Miss Sheila Walsh in the dual rôle of Grace Fanshawe and Mrs. Kellett; whilst Miss Vera Fordyce as May Barnard and Miss Julia Calcraft as Mrs. Barnard make the most of their respective parts.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—A very fine spectacular act, entitled *Electra's Bower*, produced by Abdullah and La Superbe, meets with the most cordial reception here nightly. The Brothers Heyes find favour in a humorous sketch, and J. A. Willson is a clever comedian who possesses a well-trained dog; Edwards and Espinosa appear in a musical and dancing act; Johnny Holland and company supply a sketch that pleases well; Fielding and Hull are tuneful vocalists; Gus Garrick contributes a laughable turn; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden appear in a ludicrous farce, and J. W. Ellison proves himself to be a clever comedian. Vernon's Imperial Bioscope winds up the show as usual.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Mr. Charles H. Phelps and Mr. Harry Tilbury, supported by a capable company, have appeared during the week in the domestic drama, entitled *His Dishonoured Wife*. Mr. Phelps as the village blacksmith, Frank Lindon, plays well throughout; and Mr. Harry Tilbury as Mickey Doolan causes much fun. In the important part of Florence Lindon Miss Belle Tilbury soon becomes a favourite.

THE GAIETY.—Lessee, Mr. George E. Good.—Li-Chang-Hi heads the bill here, and gives a marvellous, mystifying turn; Miss Ada Clare in song and dance has proved a warm favourite; Mr. J. Hegarty, comedian and sifflеur, is a capital turn The Gaiety Bioscope shows some good pictures.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. William Tudor.—Varieties and pictures are proving a good draw here.

BOOTLE. — MUNCASTER THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Manager, Mr. H. Pennington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—*Cinderella*, presented by Mr. Gus Levaine's company, is the attraction here this week. Miss Lizzie Levaine appears in the title-rôle with success, her singing being well received; Miss Dora Denmark makes a dashing Prince Charming; and Miss Fanny Collins gives a spirited performance of Dandini. Miss Ada Conway is seen to advantage as Dorothy; Lord Tom Doddy is a clever Pepper, the page; and the ugly sisters, Evelina and Grisella, are humorously portrayed by Mr. Cecil Webb and Mr. D'Arcy Mould. Mr. Arthur Collins is well placed as Baron Hardup; and Messrs. Ashby and Anderson are amusing as Ping and Pong. Specialities are introduced by the Ruby Quartette, acrobats; and the topical duet, entitled "1910," by Mr. Cecil Webb and Lord Tom Doddy is deservedly encored.

BOSCOMBE. — HIPPODROME.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—Some splendid poses in animated sculpture are presented by Chas. Raymond's Clito; Billy Williams, the popular parodist, is a great favourite; Selby and Myers, comedians and patterers, are a pair of exceptionally clever dancers; Tom Collins excels as a topical vocalist; Beattie Kent is a pleasing comedienne and clever dancer; Maud Esmond (serio) is also well received; Kopski was unable to appear, but a satisfactory deputy was found in Arthur Ball. The Hippodrome pictures maintain their usual good standard.

BOSTON. — PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. Saphrini.—A welcome return visit of the Zerbinis troupe, in their gorgeous spectacular musical act, introducing many new features, is made here; a good performance is given by Capita with his up-to-date mannikins; the comedy oddity H. J. Kemble greatly pleases the audience; M. and Mme. Sardou give an amusing and puzzling magical act, introducing their cabinet illusion; Miss Katie Moore has proved a great favourite with her catchy songs; La Belle Rosa, the Royal mandolinist, gives pleasing solos; a neat second-sight exhibition is given by Collin and Irene, who also introduce the box trick; Sands and Vincent are amusing in their grotesque comedy act; an old favourite, Marie Rivers, is on a welcome return visit; Ernest Heathcote, eccentric comedian, has a peculiar style of his own; and a laughable pantomime sketch is given by Mr. Harry Wys and company.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—A large audience on Monday heartily greeted *The Walls of Jericho*, which is on a return visit. The company is Mr. Arthur Bourchier's by arrangement with Messrs. Silvanus Dauncey and M. V. Leveaux, and it is entirely changed from that which last brought the play here, but is of all-round excellence, and a fine representation is witnessed. Mr. A. E. Anson gives a vigorous and thoroughly artistic performance of the part of Jack Frobisher, and is well supported. As his wife, Lady Alethea, Miss Gladys Mason acts with considerable power and charm; Mr. G. A. Brandram's Hankey Bannister is an excellent effort; Miss Nona Wynne as the girlish and frivolous Lady Lucy Derenham is piquant and altogether admirable. The eccentric Marquis of Steventon is cleverly portrayed by Mr. Cyril Baleine; and Mr. A. Casey, Mr. A. W. Tyrer, Mr. G. Percy, Mr. J. Herbert, Mr. W. S. Lane, Miss Marguerite Collier, Miss Edith Cuthbert, Miss Leonora Thomas, Miss Evelyn Maxwell, Miss Muriel Mason, and Miss Millie L. Emden contribute impersonations which leave little to be desired. The dresses are exceptionally fine.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—The successful run of *Cinderella* was brought to a close here on Saturday. Eleven weeks constitute a record for pantomime at this theatre, and the final performance was witnessed amidst much enthusiasm. The theatre was packed, the utmost good humour prevailed, and the ladies of the company were literally besieged with floral tributes. Mr. Laidler, in a neat and telling speech, tendered his thanks to the audience for the support accorded during the pantomime season, and to the company for their united efforts in contributing to the phenomenal success of the production, and on behalf of the company he presented to Mr. Butler, the stage-manager, a gold watch chain and pendant, and on behalf of himself he also handed to Mr. Butler a case of fish carvers. To Mr. Walter Scott, the conductor, the company presented silver-mounted hair-brushes; Mr. Laidler supplemented these gifts with a silver-mounted bâton; and the popular lessee also handed to Mrs. Claridge a hand-bag, the gift of the dressers. On Monday night last Mr. Fred Karno's company of comedians commenced the regular dramatic season with *His Majesty's Guests*, a production familiar to Mr. Laidler's patrons. There was a large audience, who roared with laughter at the eccentricities of the comedians, amongst whom Mr. George Hestor is again to the fore as Sergeant Lightning. Lord Easem (Flash Jack) is once more a success in the hands of Mr. Frank Morton. Mr. Sid Kearns is the begging Minks, Mr. C. Usher Miffing, and Miss Leonora Castelle the shoplifter.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—George Leyton, the actor-vocalist, in a stirring scena, *The Wreck of the Birkenhead*, is most dramatic and impressive here this week; and Harry Ford, the quaint comedian, who elicits hearty laughter, is a striking contrast. The Celtic Comedy Trio are responsible for some excellent harmony; Kelly and Ashby, "the bounding billiardists," are clever and exceedingly funny; the Mexican mimic, Harold Hugman, submits some clever imitations; male impersonations by Hettie Chattell, character vocalist, are excellent; a smart trapeze performance by the graceful Geretti Sisters wins applause; Billy Farrell, with his capital coon songs and dancing, and Dan Conroy, with acceptable comedy, also contribute; and the American Bioscope shows some fine pictures.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. R. H. Foster.—Harry Vardon, an amusing ventriloquist, opens a fine programme here this week, and Madoline Rees, a charming comedienne, contributes acceptably. Those "electric wonders," the Marconis, submit a truly marvellous performance, and a most diverting turn, viz., *The Studio*, by Mulvey and Miriam, elicits hearty laughter. In a smart musical comedy turn the Bensons are very successful; the Matweef Hugoston troupe of Russian acrobats and dancers in a clever performance win unstinted applause; Edie Endon submits good sand-dancing; classical poses by the Three Graces are artistic and charmingly accomplished; and some entertaining pictures are shown by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BRIDLINGTON. — NEW SPA AND GARDENS. — Manager and Secretary, Mr. Henry Hague.—In consequence of the fire last autumn the Spa company are unable to hold their usual annual exhibition in their own buildings, so have secured the Palace for the week, where Mr. Hague has drawn together a good show. For his entertainment programme he has secured Mr. Chas. H. Allan's talented exhibition orchestra, who give great delight by their excellent performances. The variety talent includes the Four Sisters Sligo, a good quartette of instrumentalists, vocalists, &c., and Mr. Oliver Conroy, character comedian.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company is here this week with *Are You a Mason?* Mr. E. H. Paterson gives an amusing impersonation of Amos Bloodgood; Mr. Havard L. Tracy as Frank Perry and Mr. Ernest Cossart as George Fisher are very entertaining; Mr. Buchanan Wake adds to the fun as the breezy Yorkshireman, John Halton; and Mr. Victor Kerr acquits himself admirably as Ernest Morrison. Miss Adelaide Grace submits a good enactment of Mrs. Caroline Bloodgood; Miss Margaret Fareleigh is a pleasing Eva; and Mr. George R. J. Austin as Hamilton Travers, the veteran actor, and Miss Dora Gregory as the Irish servant, Lotti, are distinctly clever. Able support is given by Miss Babs Stuart, Miss Madge Merique, and Miss Dora Frank Harvey. The farce is preceded

Mueller and Coyne provide an up-to-date singing, dancing, and tumbling act; and the performance concludes with a good display of animated pictures.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Mr. Wm. Greet's principal company entered on its second week here on Monday, and continues to draw good houses with *The Earl and the Girl*. A highly trained chorus and full opera orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Evelyn Baker, add much to the success of the delightful entertainment.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The excellent play, *Sunday*, is again presented at this house this week by Mr. Louis Calvert's able company. A charming actress is Miss Emilie Polini, who undertakes the title-rôle; Miss Muriel Pope makes a pleasing Nun; and Miss Rosalind Ross is very good as Mrs. Naresby. Mr. William Lockart as the rough, good-hearted Towzer and Mr. Sydney Rennef as Davy are to be complimented. Mr. Ernest A. Douglas is a natural Tom Oxley, and Mr. Leonard Pagden is admirable as Colonel Brinthorpe. Lively is well played by Mr. Cecil Yapp; Mr. Arthur Vezin is good as Jacky, and Mr. Max Montesole as Arthur Brinthorpe is most praiseworthy.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Rosina Casselli tops the bill here this week with her troupe of cute little Chihuahua dogs from Mexico. Vanola is a smart risley performer, and his turn evokes much applause. Frank Haywood, actor-vocalist, is very fine in a song-scena, *My Pipe;* and the Macdonald Trio in a musical garden are both tuneful and laughable. The Brothers Adderley are smart mimics in a sketch, *An Officer's Servant;* the Sisters Brenton are clever dancers; much hilarity is created by Stanley and Vandyke with a comedy act, *Mr. Penwiper;* and the Empire Theatroscope illustrates "A trip across the Atlantic."

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. H. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—Exceptionally good turns are the order here this week. Lil Hartley (comedienne) gives her songs in capital style; Adelina cleverly impersonates celebrities; Lilian Warren with her pleasing vocal pictures is an immense favourite; Mlle. Fontainbleau's highly-trained dogs are amusing; Maxey and Pete excel as trick and comedy cyclists; Harry Leatori's topical songs are well received; the gyrations of the mysterious Lilith are watched with intense interest; and the entertainment concludes with the Bio-tableaux.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore.—This week a dramatic treat is provided by the Ian Maclaren Shakespearean Company in *Hamlet*. Mr. Maclaren's fine rendering of the Danish Prince leaves nothing to be desired; the Polonius of Mr. Arthur Fayne is praiseworthy; and Mr. Frank Royde (Laertes), Mr. W. Hartford (the King), and Mr. J. Bryant (Horatio) may be singled out from a cast of all-round excellence. Miss Katherine Harrington plays Ophelia with intense pathos, and Miss Edith Coleman's powerful acting as the Queen draws forth repeated applause.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L. — Mr. Charles Macdona's company in *Three Little Maids* paid a welcome return visit here on Monday. Miss Mabel Kerridge, Miss Daisy Sylverton, and Miss Eva Neigh played the Sisters Branscombe in most becoming style; Mr. Frank Henderson made the most possible of Lord Cheyne; Miss Kate Graham-Beck was good as Lady St. Mallory; Mr. Bert Burton as Cupid was very funny; Gretchen was well rendered by Miss Laura Wright, as was Miss Price by Miss Maud Maale. The theatre was occupied on Thursday and Friday by the Bijou Amateurs in *The Bells*, in which Mr. Redfern was announced to play his favourite part of Matthias.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. R. Redford.—That amusing musical play *The Dairymaids* is attracting large audiences here. Miss Rhoda Gordon as Winifred and Miss Violet Lloyd as Peggy are certainly two very charming ladies; Miss Beryl Vaudrey, who fills with much credit the rôle of Helene, displays her sweet voice to great advantage; Miss Cissie Sephton's impersonation of the country maid-of-all-work is smart; and as Lady Brudenell Miss Edith Blanche is admirable. Mr. Harry Dent as Joe Mivens causes peals of laughter; Mr. E. Statham Staples is hardly less amusing in his clever delienation of Sam Brudenell; Mr. Geo. Desmond is a free-and-easy Lieut. Brudenell; and Dr. O'Bryne is capitally acted by Mr. Forbes Dawson. Mr. Alec Fraser, who sings well, makes a handsome Capt. Fred Leverton.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robt. Redford.—*A Girl's Cross Roads* is the name of the stirring drama presented at this theatre on Monday night. Mr. Charles Franmore is to be complimented upon his rendering of John Meadows; Mr. Wilson Gunning makes a capital hero of Jack Livingstone; Mr. Gerald Jordan, in the rôle of Cuthbert Lumley, is well placed; Miss Hilda Beverley as Barbara Wade is clever; the part of Constance Cornell is capably undertaken by Miss Jessica Black; Miss Florence Zillwood is an interesting Nellie Meadows; the comedy of Mr. Fred Ingram (Toby Turvey) and Miss Mabel Scudamore (Tilly Vane) is acceptable.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. W. Lea; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—On top of the programme we have George Gilbey, a capital comedian, his song and patter concerning "The Goalkeeper" being exceedingly humorous. Another clever comedian on the bill is Tom Owen, who appeals greatly to Cardiff audiences with his Welsh comedy; the Hadj Abdullah troupe of genuine Arabian acrobats are indeed sensational; the Hartley Wonders give a marvellous jumping speciality; a mimic of the first water is Chas. Norton; and Tennyson and Wallis cause many a laugh during their turn. Marie Santoi renders a delightful Japanese musical comedy; the Musical Jees, in their latest comedy sketch *The Scarecrow*, are good; and another fine turn is that of Maggie Walsh, the Lancashire Singing Mill Girl.

CARLISLE.—H. M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mr. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice. — *The Lady of Ostend* is here on a return visit. Mr. Lawrence Brough has again brought a most capable company. Mr. Henry Hampson's Dick Whortles is in every respect a fine performance; the ripe experience of Mr. Percy Marshall is distinctly notable in his clever handling of the Father-in-Law; Mr. Lawrence Brough scores his usual success as the Baron; and Mr. Dalziel Heron looks and acts the prize-fighter to the life. In the title-rôle Miss Marion Ripley gains warm and well-deserved approval; Miss Kate Milford again contributes a finished portraiture of Dorothy Whortles; and Miss Muriel Harding as the niece and Miss Bessie Harrison as the mother-in-law are also much in evidence. *At the Risin' of the Moon*, a romantic Irish play, precedes the comedy. *The Saucy Sally* was billed for the three last nights of the engagement.

THE PALACE. — Proprietors, The Palace Theatre, Carlisle, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls. Park's Eton Boys are paying a first visit here, and render popular songs in a telling and effective manner; Harry Leybourne, also here for the first time, is responsible for clever and versatile business; a marionette circus is wonderfully well worked by the Petrams, their stage fit-up being quite novel; Millie Howell sings well; the Elgars are refined and spirited in their Irish song scena; Charles Ulrick gives a daring performance with a huge barrel; and the Sisters Thurban, vocalists and instrumentalists, and the Pepiscope, with new pictures, complete a nicely varied entertainment.

CARMARTHEN.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS. — Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week Mr. T. R. Nugent's dramatic company has appeared here. On Monday evening *The Streets of London* was presented. Mr. W. Pimm was very good as Gideon Bloodgood; Mr. W. Dewhurst as Mark Livingstone, Mr. H. Proctor as Puffy, and Mr. A. Martin as Edwards also did well; while Mr. H. Compton in the dual rôle of Capt. Fairweather and Paul (his son) gave a clever representation to the respective parts. Master Sidney was excellent in his impersonation of the part of Dan, and the same may be said of Mr. T. R. Nugent as Badger; Miss Maggie Gardiner as Alida Bloodgood, Miss Gladys Greet as Lucy Fairweather, and Miss E. Woodleigh as Mrs. Puffy were likewise a success. On Tuesday evening *The Colleen Bawn* was presented, and on Wednesday *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman.—The new and stirring military drama *A Soldier's Honour*, produced only so recently as a fortnight ago at the Junction Theatre, Manchester, by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company, is here this week. The principal interest is centred in Cora Lee, a notorious thief, capitally played by the authoress, Miss Lottie Addison (Mrs. Kimberley). Miss Ada M. Ryder is exceptionally pleasing as Doreen Illingsworth; Mr. John B. Shinton is a clever actor, and his impersonation of Capt. Deane is excellent; Mr. Clavering Craig plays the villainous Henry Thornton with his usual conspicuous success; Jemima Eliza gives Miss Edie Macklin ample scope in which to show her abilities, and she is screamingly funny; Miss Isa Lyndon makes a charming Queenie Deane; the Fanchette of Miss Eva Elwes is a capital performance; Sub-Lieut. Percy Brattle and Gwendoline Temple are amusingly played by Mr. Frank Howard and Miss Dora Taylor; Mr. Ed. Warden acquits himself with success as Captain Gerald Temple; a creditable portrayal of General Rochester comes from Mr. Arthur Keand; while Mr. Fred Teneur gives a capital character-study of Holly. Smarty and Joe Philpots are well played by Messrs. Franklin and Cooper.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs. Charles Beanland and W. H. Emerson; Business-Manager, Mr. W. H. Emerson.—An interesting programme has again been arranged here. J. Aitkin Wright and company, in their sensational episode *Beneath a Mask*, are excellent; a very dexterous performance on the silver rings is contributed by Akbar; the Royal Quintette, presenting a picturesque appearance, are clever dancers, vocalists, and pipers; Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, as singing cardboard box makers, are thoroughly entertaining; a highly diverting sketch, *How to be Happy though Married*, is briskly performed by Miss Eunice Wright and company; Miss Bella Leaburn is a vivacious comedienne; the Sisters Clare, tastefully costumed, sing and dance with much *naïveté;* D. W. Watson does excellent work, and is well received as a vocalist and cornet and coach-horn player. The Loyal Dominion company's animated pictures conclude a most enjoyable evening.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. Geo. G. Ridley.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company is appearing here in the latter's new romantic play, entitled *The Midnight Wedding*. Miss Annie Saker gives a powerful impersonation of Princess Astrea Von Strelsburg, and receives excellent support from Mr. Alfred Paumier, a fine Paul Valmar. Messrs. Edward Fletcher and Ernest Imeson do well in the rôles of Lieut. Von Strelsburg and Capt. Von Scarsbruck respectively. The Crown Prince Leopold has a skilful representative in Mr. Fredk. W. Freeman. Messrs. James E. Page, Vernon Vane, and Algie Spalding succeed in causing plenty of merriment as the Three Red Hussars, Max, Otto, and Bobo; and Miss Ada Champion makes a lively Kathie.

THE GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. F. J. Donne.—Here we have Ida Brophy, a neat dancer; Allsopp and Beckwith, an amusing couple; Mark Leslie, who scores with his dancing coon impersonations; The Royal Korries, with novel musical instruments; Austin Rudd, an old favourite, who gets a splendid reception nightly. The Sisters Ford give character duets; and the Edisonograph has a laughter-provoking film entitled *The Wonderful Hair Restorer;* but the tit-bit of the programme is Miss Kate Carney, who sings in her own telling style, "I'm Coming Back, Love," and "On the Good Old Surrey Side," and, supported by a hard-working company, appears later in *The Brighton Promenade*, which proves most popular.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—The Poluski Brothers top the bill, and easily maintain their position in the front rank of patter comedians; Lottie Govell's singing and dancing are greatly enjoyed; Lambert and Hans display originality in their vocal scena, entitled *Visiting Day;* Tom E. Conover and company's farcical sketch, *The Drink Cure*, proves highly amusing; Lacey's Erascope has a capital film, depicting the doings of the Hooligans of the West; Metz and Metz, comedians and dancers; the Bros. Curran, in a boxing act; and Tom Dunmore, comedian, complete the company.

CHESTER.—ROYALTY THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—This week Mr. J. B. Mulholland's company in *The Electric Man* is the attraction here. Mr. Stanley Cooke, in the dual rôles of Walter Everest and Prometheus Frankenstein, submits a finished piece of acting; Mr. Archie Selwyn makes a bright and breezy Jack Strange; a neat sketch of Mr. Jobbins, the stupid detective, is furnished by Mr. Lloyd Townrow; Mr. Richard Purdon does well as the explosive General Pomeroy; Miss Sybil Brooke appears to advantage as Mrs. Everest; Miss Evelyn Shelley is a typical landlady as Mrs. Anderson; Miss Gladys Jesson deserves praise for her Stella Pomeroy; and Miss Amy Francis is well suited as Mary Everest. The chief piece is preceded by a curtain-raiser, entitled *A Matrimonial Advertisement*.

CHORLEY (Lancs.). — GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Hemingway.—Mr. Charles Macdona's excellent company is presenting *A Chinese Honeymoon* here. The company includes Mr. Ernest Sefton, who as Mr. Pineapple is a tremendous success; and Mr. J. Maxwell Edwardes also is exceptionally good as Tom Hatherton. Miss Kitty Clayton admirably depicts the droll Fi-Fi; Mrs. Pineapple is well rendered by Miss May Davis; and Soo-Soo most charmingly presented by Miss May Stevenson.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Herbert J. Montague. — The attraction here this week is the drama *Napoleon the Great*, presented by Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company. Mr. Hugh Montgomery gives a fine interpretation of Napoleon; Mr. Oliver Birrell a convincing rendition of the unscrupulous Colonel Lavarennes; Mr. Phil Harper makes a manly Jules Nouron; Paul Laczinska is smartly acted by Mr. Bartlett Garth; Mr. Frank M. Thorne is an entertaining Pierre Pompennet; Mr. Albert Sinclair a good Sergeant Choupin; and Fouche is safe in the hands of Mr. G. Acton Dix. Miss Leslie Warner looks and acts charmingly as Marie Walewska; Miss Maud Russell does excellent work as Leonie Marbœuf; Miss Marie Harcourt is a vivacious Marcelle Choupin; and Miss Florence Thorne is well placed as Mère Dumont. The staging and dresses are excellent.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton. — Mr. Bulmer's *Sentenced for Life* company opened a week's engagement here on Monday. Mr. Ernest Dare played the exacting rôle of Roy Stillwell in a meritorious manner; and Mr. J. C. Glenville also did well as the Rev. Mr. Orriss. Mr. Tom Robertson was conspicuous as the treacherous Paul Derrick; and quite a fund of humour was displayed in the characters of Percy McGentle, The Tadpole, and Bill Sharkey by Mr. Dan Agar, Mr. Reg Oldroyd, and Mr. Charles Conway respectively. Miss Hilda Merriless was a very witty Adele Grey; and Miss Violet Wentworth was prominent throughout as Kate Rennel.

HIPPODROME. — Joint Proprietors, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot and Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—The Herald Comedy Four, who are no strangers here, are nightly meeting with a flattering reception, which is thoroughly deserved. Bert Williams displays considerable ingenuity in his ventriloquial feats, and is a popular turn; Grace Langley, the chic comedienne, appeals strongly with her really supple movements and agile dancing, and is loudly applauded; the Sivames, comedy artists, Henry Harris, vocal impersonator, and Lew Loman, comedian, contribute to the entertainment. A special feature this week is a series on the screen depicting the "Hook of Holland" disaster and accompanying rescues, and it is a big draw, many of the lost men belonging to this vicinity.

CORK.—PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—There is a capital programme submitted here this week. The Three Royal Dreadnoughts (Lilian, Vera, and Major Charles) give a clever exhibition of rifle-shooting; the Three Farcanas provide a remarkably good acrobatic turn; Katie La Blanche and La Belle Sylvia are smart comediennes; an enjoyable turn is given by Burnetti, a quick change character musician; Frank Sylvo is a clever juggler; Frank Harrison, comedian, contributes capital songs; and the Indian Maids remain over from last week.

COVENTRY. — THE EMPIRE. — Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. A. Rand.—An exceptionally good programme is being submitted here. Mr. Hymack, the chameleon comedian, proves very entertaining and most mystifying; the Six Imris Girls are clever in a pleasing display of racquet and club juggling; Baker and Balfe are expert xylophonists; Vay's Juveniles appear in a graphic realisation of life in the slums; the Vasilescu Troupe (four in number) are clever eccentric horizontal bar performers; Belrose and De Velin give a couple of charming duets; and Gracie Moore is heard in a couple of well-known songs illustrated by lantern slides. The Bioscope pictures are up to date.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—*The Girl who Lost Her Character*, by Mr. Walter Melville, is gaining popularity here. Captain Caversham is well portrayed by Mr. Frank Adair; Miss Ethel Bracewell comes in for a capital reception as Molly Vernon; Mr. W. Vincent Carlyle makes an admirable clergyman; Mr. Stanley Gordon is successful as Jack England; Miss Lydia Mannington is seen to advantage as Marion Franklin; and Miss Emmie Barton does well as Rose Seymour.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Mr. Herbert Barr's pantomime company is here this week with *Aladdin*. Mr. Carl Fredericks plays the part of the Emperor of China, and makes the most of it; Miss Maudie Vincent is a capital Aladdin; Mr. David Phillips is responsible for a life-like Widow Twankey; Mr. Will Sherlock as Abanazar has a part to his liking; Miss Dorothy Wilson is smart as Pekoe; Mr. Wilfred Dane is first-class as the Vizier; Miss Lora Lyndon makes a winsome Princess; Mr. Alf. Selwood is funny as Washee; Messrs. Duncan and Marton as the Chinese police cause much merriment; Mr. Barton is well-chosen for the part of Chow Choh; Mr. Ernest Pattison and Little Della as the Genii of the Lamp and Ring fill their respective parts satisfactorily; Miss G. Dale is a sweet princess attendant; Miss Lily Burgess deserves mention for her So-Shi; and Miss Marie Desmond is well-placed as captain of the guard.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor, J.P. — Mr. Harry Starr's company is playing to good houses here. For the first three nights *The Unseen Power* was presented, and Mr. Harry Starr as Fred Granville appeared with his usual success. Mr. William Miller was a capable exponent of Harry Granville; Mr. Edwin Firth gave a performance of Antonio Romano; Mr. Fred W. Graham as Horatio Crakleaby was responsible for the humour; Mr. Will Hee gave a meritorious representation of George Granville; Miss Kate Norris excellently sustained the difficult rôle of Lucretia Granville; Miss Madge Blundell was successful as Anita Romano; and Miss Lye Jeffries (LucyRomano), Miss Lizzie Jacobs (Jennie Shrub), and Miss Dolly Starr (Chris) deserve a word of comment. On Thursday *Carl the Clockmaker* was played, and on Friday *Otto the Outcast*.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—Mr. Russell Rosse is presenting *Captain Swift* and *A Happy Pair* at the Grand this week. In the drama, Mr. Edward Sorley is excellent as Wilding; Mr. Albert Bernard is commendable as Mr. Seabrook; Mr. Marlyn Roland does well as Harry Seabrook; Mr. Charles Boult makes a manly Gardiner; Mr. T. Weldon Atherstone acts with power as Marshall; and useful work is put in by Messrs. W. E. Chewd and Clarence Pelham as Ryan and Bates. Miss E. Nolan O'Connor makes a womanly Mrs. Seabrook; Miss Beatrice Marsdene is a charming Mabel Seabrook; Miss Lillian Revell is capital in the rôle of Lady Staunton; and Miss Adah Barton plays with telling effect as Stella.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—Messrs. E. H. Knight and G. Denham's company in *The Grip of Iron* is proving attractive here this week. Mr. Fredk. Powell's acting of Jagon is worthy of high praise; Mr. Wallace Curnock as Paul Blanchard is capital; Mr. A. G. Polson Turner gives a good representation of Lorentz de Ribas; Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood as Alphonse de Concou is received with favour; Mr. John Brittain as Dodot is a prominent figure; Mr. Norman Tracey as Robert de Belfort is effective, and Mr. G. Denham as Loustalot creates much merriment. Miss Rosabel Dodd as Cora Simonnet does exceedingly well; Miss Muriel Inglis as Sophie Blanchard acts with sincerity, and Miss Maggie Stewart as Marie Guerin deserves praise.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Walter Gibbons; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—Joe Elvin and company are meeting with a big reception here in *Forester's Day;* Fred Clements is an interesting light comedian; Mamie Iris is a dainty comedienne and dancer; the Brothers Bright are great in their act, *Gymnasts du Salon;* Arthur Reece, comedian, is a warm favourite; Frances Scorer, comedienne and dancer, is pleasing; Osborn and Brooks are a clever comedy duo; the Carlyles bring down the house with their whirlwind dances; Walton and Lester the comical wizards, are a big attraction; and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope is worth waiting for.

DARLINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company is here with the musical comedy *Mr. Popple*. In the title-rôle Mr. Arthur Longley causes unbounded merriment by his quaint style; Mr. L. Bullock Webster makes a capital Norman Popple, his dancing being very clever; the part of La Bolero, played by Miss Millie Hylton, is everything that could be desired; Miss Nellie Hodson is charming as Louise; and Miss Cora Lingard is excellent as Violet Brinton. Miss Alice Rene as Mrs. Doring is artistic; Miss Stella St. Audrie gives a finished rendering of Mrs. Hennay; Mr. Tom May is well up to the part of Platt, servant to Freddy Popple. There is an effective chorus, and some excellent dancing is done by other members of the company.

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—This week Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Maclaren's No. 1 company is appearing in *Proof*. Mr. Gerald Kennedy gives a capital rendering of Pierre Lorance; as Lazare, Mr. W. J. Butler is all that could be desired; the genial Chamboran is well played by Mr. Wilford Bailey; as Duke D'Aubeterre, Mr. Carl Beechley is prominent; and Victor de Launey is in the capable hands of Mr. G. Ridgeway Thorne. Miss May Grimshaw is excellent as Valentine; as also is Miss Beatrice Shirley in the dual parts of Madeleine and Adrienne; Miss Phena Powell makes a pleasing Mme. Deprets, and Miss Avron a charming Duchesse D'Aubeterre.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Langley Wyatt.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company is this week appearing in *Leah Kleschna*. Miss Bessie Rignold in the title-rôle submits a thoroughly artistic presentment, and creates an excellent impression all through. Mr. Wm. F. Grant as Paul Sylvaine achieves an unqualified success, his performance being conspicuously clever and effective. Raoul is played by Mr. Hamilton Dean, who makes a detestable character histrionically attractive; Schram is played with dramatic force and effect by Mr. Campbell Goldsmid; Miss Ethel Russell capably accounts for Mme. Berton; Mr. Roland Daniel acquits himself well in the dual part of General Berton and Valentine Fayne. Other characterisations that might be mentioned are the Claire Berton of Miss Helene Belgrave and the Sophia Chaponniere of Miss Violet Thorold.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—Harry Tate's No. 1 company is starring here this week in that mirth-provoking sketch *Fishing*, which is thoroughly appreciated. *The Hypocrite*, a dramatic incident, introducing some clever sword play, is powerfully treated by Fred S. Peake and company. A charming item is that of the Cymros, Welsh duettiste, who deserve special mention; Phillips and Merritt, society entertainers, in song and dance are a great success; Charlton, conjurer, submits an interesting turn; Lola Patey, burlesque actress, pleases with her songs; Carson Hicks, coon singer and dancer, gains deserved applause. The Bioscope adds greatly to a good programme.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—*Sapho* is the strong attraction for the week, and principal interest naturally centres in Fanny Legrand. This difficult part is undertaken in first-class fashion by Miss Ada Abbott, who presents a highly creditable character study of the many-sided woman, and reaps hearty applause for her clever performance. Others parts are played by Mr. E. R. Abbott, a capable actor; Mr. Douglas Phelps, an old Devonport favourite, who is accorded a hearty welcome, Miss Marjorie Tennant, Miss Doris Dew, and Messrs. John Lester, Weedon Ross, and Davis-Brown.

DONCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—There was much that was delightful in the variety combination that appeared here on Monday, and among the whole of the turns, the last one, Dinah Morris and her famous troupe of Southern Belles, including Bessie Morris in the speciality, "The Lost Coon," was the most warmly recognised. Miss Cissy Lambeth, operatic vocalist, was well received; Messrs. George Vaset, the celebrated tenor, and James Millbrook, the coloured tenor, gave great delight; Lulo Franks, acrobatic dancer, was clever; Harry Wright's topical and popular songs were appreciated; and Master Langden proved that the use of the words "champion boy dancer" was not a meaningless form. Other popular artists were Nellie Gannon, the descriptive vocalist; Peggy Fame, comedienne, and Bob Hartley, comedian and dancer.

DOVER. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Ltd.; Chairman of Directors, Mr. B. Carter; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred C. Dew. —Once again that sensational drama, *The 10.30 Down Express* is drawing good houses nightly. Mr. Horace Stanley still makes Sam Wagstaffe a most popular personage; Mr. George Beverley enacts with praiseworthy zeal the part of Jack O'Malley; a clever rendering of the infamous James Inderwick is contributed by Mr. Chas. Burdon; Seth Coombes is powerfully portrayed by Mr. Tom Roydon; an admirable study of an old country gentleman is given by Mr. Alaric Burton; Mr. Edwin Clarke delivers the lines of Huntley Mason, the detective, with force and precision; and a most amusing sketch of Bletherby Baggs is presented by Mr. Arthur E. Francis, and Mr. John Morgan succeeds in raising a laugh by his drollery as Hodge. The pleasing portrait of Bessie Leigh given by Miss Elsie Capell is an excellent contrast to the vivacity of Miss Kate Kilpack as Peggy Potts. Letitia Leigh is a highly amusing maiden lady as played on broad comedy lines by Miss Evelyn M. Walton; and Miss Josephine Lee makes the most of her somewhat limited opportunities as Olive Coombes.

DUBLIN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—An excellent array of talent is appearing here this week. An old Dublin favourite is Charles Coborn, and his songs are heartily enjoyed; Zaro and Arno do some clever feats on the horizontal bar; the acrobatic display given by the Creo Brothers is particularly smart; and the Three Demons appear most successfully in their sensational cycle act of racing on the devil's table, suspended in mid-air; the Three Romas, described as the Herculean Gladiators, give an excellent and effective exhibition; John Deering is a most acceptable vocalist and instrumentalist; and Mike Cray causes no end of amusement by his eccentric juggling, and his canine assistant proves a clever and novel addition to his performance. *A Trip to Coontown* is splendidly played by a company of coloured artists, their songs and dances being warmly appreciated. Another capital turn is the Tokio Troupe of Japanese Marvels, in their acrobatic and equilibristic pot-pourri; May Rawlinson's vocalism is greatly admired; and the Royal pictures are up to the usual standard.

GAIETY THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Mr. H. B. Irving's version of the German military play, *Lights Out*, was presented here on Monday night by Mr. J. Maundy Gregory's company, and met with a good reception from the large audience present. Mr. Lionel D'Arragon as Sergeant Volkhardt acted with great force and convincing sincerity; Miss Frances Davie portrayed with charm and feeling the rôle of the ill-fated heroine, Klara Volkhardt; and Mr. Charles Esdaile as Von Lauffen, and Mr. Richard Fielding as Helbig, were both commendable in their respective parts. Praise is also due to Mr. Kenneth Brampton for his excellent impersonation of Von Howen; and the comedy element was well sustained by Lambert Plummer as Captain Lebdenburg. The part of Captain von B. Bannewitz had an able exponent in Mr. Arthur Stone; and the rôles of Corporal Queiss and Privates Michael and Speiss were well filled by Messrs. Francis J. Bithell, Frederick Clifton, and F. Higton respectively. A fantastic play, entitled *A Hundred Years Ago*, preceded, and was well received.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh. — This week big houses are attracted by the wrestling act by W. A. Allan; the Brothers Corcoran do a clever musical turn; and Kathleen Coghan sings and dances in a pleasing style. Burns and Burns cause much merriment in their speciality act, "Fun in a Museum"; Ed. E. Forde is most original, and is warmly appreciated; Boy Glenn is a capital Raconteur; and Billy McClain and Co., including Mdlle. Cordelia, are particularly good in a southern scena, "The Hottest Coon in Dixie." Ryder Slone also appears with success, and the Empire pictures are up to date.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy. — Herr Fritz, assisted by Mlle. Jeanette, in a clever and mysterious illusion act, is the centre of attraction here; George Reeves scores a success with his mirth-provoking songs; the Ramlos, whirling comedians, in a remarkably smart and humorous comedy act, are deservedly applauded; Miss Daisy Devonport, comedienne and dancer, sings and dances in capital style; the Brothers Pim afford great amusement in "A Pierrot's Nightmare"; the Roman statuary act of The Olmars is a praiseworthy performance; Miss Frances Drew, comedienne, has many admirers; Polo and Florence, in their speciality act, are very good; R. C. Note, with popular songs, is well received; and the bioscope is particularly good, with an interesting film of the wreck of the steamship "Berlin."

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Charles A. James.—The company engaged here this week includes Jack Danby, comedian; Howard Callor, actor-vocalist; Miss Annie, serio and mandolinist; and Little Prince, comedian and dancer.

DUMFRIES. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. W. E. Potts; Manager, Mr. Payne-Seddon.—For three nights this week, commencing Monday, we had Mr. Stanley Carlton's company in *A Marriage of Vengeance*. The principal part was sustained by Mr. Arthur Dudley in an able manner; Mr. Stanley Carlton as Geoffrey Vannock was well placed; Mr. F. Bulmer Pitt did capable work as Max Rheinhardt; Miss Rubie Maud as Stella was all that could be desired; Miss Lottie Pearce as Amelia was very smart, and Miss Georgina Thames as Elsie Dean was very charming.

DUNDEE.—PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—The chief turn on the bill is Casey's Circus, which proves most amusing, the burlesque on *Dick Turpin's Ride to York* being a capital bit of fooling. Edie Gray and her Boys sing delightfully, and get a very warm reception; as does also Mons. Slippere, the clever blind pianist and vocalist. Stave, electric comedy artist, contributes a decidedly novel turn; the Four Poole Pelhams, acrobats; the Zednas Trio, comediennes and dancers; Little Pete, patter comedian; and Reed and Stevens, in their duologue, *Married or Photographed*, are well received, and the Bioscope, as usual, completes.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—Schilling, the man who walked round the world for a wager, is proving a big draw here. Ghita Corrie, dramatic soprano, is also a trump card; and Spencer and Marks, comedians, likewise score a decided success. Jimmy Charters, in song and dance, and the Farrows, in a well-worked sketch, contribute enjoyable items. Some capital new films are exhibited on the Bioscope. The Original Lancashire Harmony Boys, assisted by Mr. Cliff Dover, appear with great success in their vocal scena, *Home for the Holidays*. Daisy De Roy has been retained, and is repeating her success of last week. A capital sketch, entitled *What Will Happen Next*, in which quite an array of talent appears, is a strong item.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—A very strong bill is presented here this week, Fred Karno's troupe of acrobats and comedians appearing in that laughable burlesque, *The Early Birds* and the equally funny *Mumming Birds*. The other turns appearing are of a high-class order, and include Lillie Stuart, a dashing comedienne and dancer, who scores a terrific hit; Charles Denion, eccentric comedian; Lincoln and Warren, trick cyclists; the Sisters Lavender, and the Miltons, a smart comedy duo.

EASTBOURNE.—DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE. —Proprietors, The Devonshire Park and Baths Company; Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—On Monday a successful flying matinée was given here. Miss Phyllis Dare proved a great favourite, and gave her songs in her light, graceful manner. Miss Marie Dainton very charmingly imitated popular artists; Cazabon delighted the audience with his fine violin-playing; Miss Gwendolin Hart held the audience with her recitations; and Mr. Lewis King was highly amusing in his tales and sketches. The stage was occupied during the latter part of the week by Mr. H. B. Maltby's company in *Sir George of Almack's* and *The Youngest of Three*.

PIER PAVILION. — Manager, Mr. George Hayes. — Mr. Alec. Flood and Mr. Aubrey Fitzmaurice's company is apearing here in *The Angel of Unrest*. Premier honours must be awarded to Mr. Henry Belding for his fine work as Papa Bombasse; Mr. Alec. Flood is a realistic Napoleon; Mr. Creagh Henry as Paul Brandt gives a refined and finished performance; Mr. Alexander Bradley is a smart Captain Lemesnil; and Mr. Richard A. Greene, the author, is a capital Colonel Bernaise. Mr. Aubrey Fitzmaurice is a fine General Renaudot; Mr. James Chippendale is an interesting Herr Kolsch; and Mr. Laurence Vining and Mr. Gerald Clarke lend able assistance as Lepine and Gronwetter. Miss Florence Tressilian is a pretty and dramatic Julie, Miss Rita Imeson a bright and pert Lisette, and Miss Patti March an effective Madame Renaudot.

ECCLES.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Hamilton Baines; Manager, Mr. Albert Orton.—The attraction here is Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company in *The Love that Women Desire*. Mr. J. G. Stewart plays a strong part as Squire Abingdon; the character of Richard Abingdon is capably undertaken by Mr. Alfred Brandon; the Philip Carnaby of Mr. Jerrold Heather is good; Dr. Brandreth is well depicted by Mr.

The Four Royal Welshmen give a very enjoyable rendering of glees and part-songs; Miss Kate Traill is an acceptable entertainer at the piano; Mr. George Ridgwell appears as a versatile vocalist; the Fitzroys show skill on the trapeze; the Three Missouris put in some really hard knockabout work; Ben Harris's Nippers provide singing, dancing, and boxing varieties; the Knick-Knacks introduce several catchy duets; the Bioscope shows some interesting and amusing films; and Hurley and Cole contribute their appropriate scena, *Let Bygones Be Bygones*.

Alhambra Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Ventom Swift.—This place of entertainment, after having undergone many changes of fortune, seems, under the present management, to have, at last, settled down to a period of prosperity. The programme this week is of a pleasantly-diversified character, and includes, amongst other clever artists, the Five Abadoroffs, in a genuinely-funny act entitled *Prehistoric Times*. The Sisters Poole are great favourites, and dance and sing in an exhilarating style; Miss Elsie Earle is a tasteful vocalist, and her songs are heartily applauded. Mr. Fred Yates, an effective baritone singer, Messrs. Hennessey and Martell, humorists and dancers, Mr. Percy Floyd, descriptive vocalist, and the Alhambrascope are also on the bill.

EXETER. — Theatre Royal. — Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—*Little Red Riding Hood*, produced by Mr. John A. Thomson's company, continues to draw large and appreciative audiences. Miss Ella Willmer in the title-rôle, and Miss Beatrice Varley as the Prince are great favourites; Mr. Fred Latimer as the Dame and Mr. George Newham as the Baron greatly enhance their reputation; while Mr. Fred Anderson as Tommy Green and Mr. Lovell Rowland as Simple Simon continue to amuse with their smart gags and local topical allusions. Miss Fay Desmond proves herself to be a fine operatic vocalist; the Boultons are smart burlesque artists; and Pulo is a clever boy juggler. Mlle. Bartenelli is a marvellous lady bender and gymnast.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—*Held Apart; or, The Painted Woman*, was the title of the drama presented on the first three nights of the week by Mr. A. Clifton Alderson's company. Mr. H. K. Ayliff, as the adventurer, played admirably. He has a fine stage presence and a capital voice. Miss Ethel Murray took the part of Countess de Castro, and acted very well; Miss Ruby Loncraine as Sybil Grey was very pleasing, both in voice and manner; Mr. Leonard Lawrence, as the Laird of Glen Ross, played excellently; Mr. Robert B. Drysdale appeared as the Scottish shepherd, a character he represented with marked ability; as Lady Grant, Miss Winifred Love was charming; Mr. E. G. Batley proved irresistible in his light comedy work.

FOLKESTONE.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Messrs. Travis Green and Arthur Hinton's company is here in *Home, Sweet Home* this week. On Friday *The Sorrows of Satan* was played. Miss Zeila Zillwood gives a pleasing and sympathetic reading of Joan; Mr. Arthur Hinton as Stephen Armitage displays excellent abilities; Mr. Frank Hudspeth as David Armitage is a typical old "salt"; Mr. Arthur Lowry's Duke of Ancaster is good; Mr. Tom G. Warren as the Hon. Percy Ashfield causes amusement; Mr. Travis Green is all that can be desired as Lucas Lyle; Mr. W. Graham Walters plays Dick Redmayne excellently; Sal has a suitable representative in Miss Constance Cluer; Miss Jennie Clare is especially good as Sybil Fay, and scores a success in a song and dance; Little Dolly Turner is a sweet and natural Dora; and Mr. Lester Aims is well chosen for the part of Solomon Keary.

GATESHEAD. — King's Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; General-Manager, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Large and enthusiastic audiences have given Ada Colley a hearty welcome on her third visit here within twelve months. There is no more popular artiste visits this town. Leo Dryden is also accorded much applause for his excellent songs; H. O. Wills is as quaint a personage as we have seen here; McCann's performing Irish terriers provide an enjoyable "turn"; Johnson and Devere win praise for a clever cycle act; Carl Howard, with his bluff conjuring, causes great amusement; Lily Foy, comedienne, and pictures by Vernon's bioscope make up a good entertainment.

Metropole Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Coun. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas France.—Mr. Alfred B. Cross and company, in the drama, *The Manxman*, have drawn large audiences here this week. Mr. Cross, in the part of Pete, which, by the way, he has played over 1,500 times, acts with his usual success; Miss M. Watersford depicts in a clever manner Kate Cregeen; Philip Christian receives excellent treatment at the hands of Mr. Sydney D. Kearns; Cæsar Cregeen is successfully portrayed by Mr. Frank Etheridge; Miss Nellie Freeland does exceedingly well in the part of Nancy.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Coun. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—Mr. Leonard Dalrymple's company, in *As Midnight Chimes*, provides the fare at this house. Mr. Percy Maitland's impersonation of Luke Dezzard is a good piece of work; a capital Dave Stannard emanates from Mr. C. B. Williams; Mr. Herbert Pearce is seen to advantage as Ezra Gamble; a humorous Tat Spavvin is presented by Mr. James Salter; Miss Maud Hastings supplies an effective portrayal of Maud Stannard; and Miss Madge Beresford is highly diverting as Suzette. Special mention should be made of Miss Marion Ryder's Little Davy.

GLASGOW.—King's, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—A crowded house welcomed Mr. Martin Harvey on Monday, and followed with interest his acting as the twin Dei Franchis in *The Corsican Brothers*. The play was no doubt a novelty to most of the audience, as it has not been played in Glasgow for many years. The performance was a very fine one, and Mr. Harvey was equally happy as the impulsive Fabien dei Franchi or as the more dreamy Louis. The vision scenes were wonderfully well done, and the duel in the last act was powerfully realistic as to acting; while as an example of stage-setting it was most picturesque. Mr. Vincent Sternroyd as Chateau Renaud played the cool man of the world with incisive effect, and his share in the duel scene was particularly fine. Miss Mary Rorke acted with quiet pathos as the mother of the twin Corsicans; and Miss Coleridge ably filled the part of Emilie de Lesparre. Mr. Albert E. Raynor was well placed as the Baron de Montgiron; and Mr. George Cooke gave dramatic force to the part of Baron Martelli. The rival heads of the two families, who have a vendetta to settle, were amusingly played by Mr. Fred Wright, sen., as Colonna, and Mr. Philip Hewland as Orlando. Mr. Alfred Mansfield as Meynard, Mr. P. Alexander as Boissec, and the ladies in the bal masque scene, lent able support. At the conclusion of the play Mr. Martin Harvey had to respond to the warmth of his reception in a few words of thanks.

Royalty, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. Edward Graham-Falcon's company commenced a two weeks' engagement on Monday with the fairy-dream play *Bluebell in Fairyland*. The part of Bluebell is taken by Miss Mamie Finbow, who gives a pleasing depiction of the little flower girl; Mr. Lawrence Emery, a promising young actor, does well as Dickie, the crossing-sweeper; the parts of Mr. Toplin and the Sleepy King form an effective contrast as played by Mr. Frank Lennard; Mr. Harry Douglas extracts a deal of fun from the two characters he impersonates (Policeman and Reigning King); two hard-working comedians, Messrs. T. H. Bishop and Charles Resti, successfully undertake the parts of footmen in the play and the schoolboys in the dream; in the agreeable rôle of the Good Fairy Miss Vera Visard makes a hit with the song "Moon, dear!"; as the Queen and the Water Lily, Miss Constance St. Bride sings in good style; the cat, Peter, is well represented by Mr. W. Blincoe; while some smart dancing is done by the San Remo Girls.

Grand, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. D. Macfarlane.—This week, beginning on Tuesday, performances of Offenbach's famous comic opera *The Grand Duchess* are being given by the Glasgow College of Music Operatic Society, one of the best of our local organisations. The proceeds are devoted to charity.

Royal Princess's.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—After a highly-successful run of over thirteen weeks, the pantomime of *Mother Goose* is now on its last days, and is as popular as ever. The Sisters Hall had a benefit on Monday, when they were assisted by a number of artistic friends, and Mr. Waldon's benefit took place on Thursday, when more extraneous talent was forthcoming. But after Saturday the pantomime must be withdrawn, to make room for other engagements.

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—This week Mr. Chas. H. Lester's company is appearing at the Metropole in that well-known detective play *The Bank of England*. As Sherlock Holmes, Mr. Lester himself appears, and holds the audience right through with his powerful and capable acting; Mr. G. Clifton Boyne has a heavy part as Stephen Hartley, and plays it with much zest; Mr. J. H. Firman makes a capital Sir Sydney Barraclough; much amusement is caused by Mr. F. C. Berridge as the dude, the Hon. Bertie Burlington; Mr. F. Ernstone does exceptionally well as Godfrey Dane; Mr. Harry Wood as Eric Dane acts in an able manner; while as Gordon Isaacs, Mr. Edmond O'Grady makes himself a favourite. Much of the fun of the play comes from Tommy Sprouts (a racing man), and in this rôle Mr. Edwin Helm is untiring. Miss Lallah Davis is a capital Aminta Beane, and to this talented actress much of the play's success is due; as Sylvia Barraclough, Miss Dorothy Riddell does excellently; while the Misses Davenport and Thomas appear successfully as Margaret Dane and Lucy Lockett respectively. The whistling of Mr. Will Whittaker is also much appreciated.

Lyceum.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Richard Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. Andrew Melville's company opened on Monday in *Driven from Home*. The cast is a very long one, but we may single out for special notice Mr. Felix Pitt as Anthony Raybrook, Mr. Frederick Sandy as Geoffrey Waring, Mr. Harry Cornwall as Jabez, Mr. Leonard Aardale as Willie, Miss Enid Wilde as Margaret Bailey, and Miss Beatrice Western as Laura Raybrook and Walter the younger. These principals were repeatedly recalled, and the drama as a whole was much enjoyed.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Mussett.—A good all-round company is billed here this week, the chief attraction being the engagement of Peter Bannon, wrestler. Auto-Atlas gives a wonderful exhibition of strength; a clever turn is contributed by Albert Whelan, Australian comedian; and the trick violin playing of Chas. Menard met with great success. Other accentable turns include the Robertys, expert dancers; H. C. Barry, comedian; Schenk Bros., hand-balancers; Barrett and Knowles, comedians; the Punch and Judy company of juvenile artists; and the American Bioscope, with new pictures.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The principal turn this week is Pschernoff's trained dogs and ponies; the Arthur Saxon Trio show many astonishing feats of strength and endurance; Dare's Minstrels render some effective harmonised songs, intermixed with comic patter; the De Breans are jugglers of a high class, besides showing surprising facility as shadowgraphists; the Wyffs submit an amusing sketch; Azella Wilson is a daintily graceful performer on the horizontal bar; the Tupps are a pair of funny acrobats, who do daring feats in a comical way; Frank Cass is a clever comedian who is well received; and Johnny Dyer is also a favourite.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—Annie Purcell tops the bill here, and this sweet singer contributes several attractive songs. Robert Perris and company cause roars of laughter in a sketch consisting of the Café Riche scene from *A Trip to Chinatown*; José Collins is a pleasing vocalist; Musical Silvo, on a number of novel and tuneful instruments, contributes some excellent items; Sisters Terry are great favourites here, and their Scotch and Irish medleys take extremely well; Tate and Tate are clever acrobats, with many novel tricks; Kit Keen, coon vocalist, is well received; Larola is an extremely smart juggler and knockabout; Kathleen Gray sings effectively; Fed Box is an eccentric comedian from Australia; Rose Cabani, vocalist and dancer, completing a well diversified programme.

Coliseum. — Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette. — Fred Karno's sketch *Mumming Birds* is the principal item in a lengthy programme, and the fun in this lively piece never flags for one instant; Alburtus and Bessie Miller give their smart turn, with cornet playing, club swinging, and some most accurate "dolly" hitting; the Three Prestons, in their *Liftman's Rise* sketch, are, if possible, funnier than before; Ergotti and King Luis, in their Risley act, deserve the highest praise for their skill and daring; Fernee's Juveniles are a clever crowd of youngsters: Imro Fox, the magician, proves as mystifying as ever; the Students, in a studio scene, contribute some smart songs, &c.; the Garganis are clever acrobats; and J. H. Anthony, Scotch comedian, also deserves mention.

Palace.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Richard Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry M'Kelvie.—Regan and Ryan, comedians and dancers, are the principal attraction here, and are excellent entertainers; Meir and Mora, variety artists, submit a performance that is deservedly applauded. The programme also includes Gertie Douglas, comedienne; the Three De Veres, comedy acrobats; the Brooklands, comediennes and dancers; the Sisters Lotus, operatic vocalists; the Danbys, comedians and dancers; Dan Whiteley, eccentric comedian; Raymond and Colby, comedy artists; and the Biograph, with a new set of pictures.

Gaiety, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. H. Bowerman.—Hall and Wilson are smart in their bicycle race; and Barney Noble's songs and patter are vigorously encored. The St. Johns present a musical act both novel and amusing; Ted Curtis and his Piccaninnies are cake-walkers and sand-dancers of ability; Rodin exhibits wonderful skill as a comedy cyclist; Magna elicits much applause for her classical poses; W. H. Smart, comedian, Kitty Lavinge, top-boot dancer, Olive Veno, clog-dancer, and the Bioscope, complete the programme.

GLOSSOP. — Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—*Cissy*, presented by Miss Gladys Silvester and Mr. Fletcher Sansome's company, is here this week. Miss Hetty Lind, in the rôles of Cissy Vere, Florine, and Mike, is exceedingly successful, also singing in good style; Miss Silvester as Mary Hopps is most praiseworthy, her songs, backed up by a good chorus, being much applauded; Miss Dora E. Eastlake represents Olive Temple, an adventuress, in a capable manner; Miss Kitty Vernum (Kitty), Miss Daisy Towers (Sally), Miss Maisie Mills (Daisy), and Miss Kitty Lea (Polly) score a success with songs and dances. Mr. Fletcher Sansome is a droll Titus Thomas, B.A., receiving applause for his song, "Daughters of Eve"; Mr. Harry Vernon gives a fine portrayal of Victor Carleton; Mr. Sydney Humphries gains much favour as Dossy Bowers; and Mr. Basil Mitchell does well as Gilbert Temple.

GLOUCESTER. — Palace. — Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—A capital programme is provided this week. Clown Barker, with his performing dogs, cats, monkeys, pony, and donkey, has a good reception; the Four Herberts, who bottom the bill, work hard in their acrobatic act to achieve success; Messrs. Ford and Hanson give a musical turn of much merit; and Lorne and Rene, in a singing sketch "Capital and Labour" are in favour. The Sisters Hypatia are smart duettists and dancers; Will Wye, comedian, contributes a couple of eccentric songs; the Paul Hesse Trio, equilibrists and wire-walkers, are wonderfully clever, the juvenile member of the team being entitled to great praise; Carl and Carr are a pair of entertaining comedians; and Miss Billie Burford renders some taking songs. The Bioscope is always worthy of notice.

GOOLE.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. J. E. Tomlinson.—Mr. William Campbell's company is presenting here this week the drama *A Woman's Constancy*. In the principal rôle (Mona Brayton) Miss Alice Defoe gives a very touching and finished representation. Mr. W. Campbell Maxwell makes Stephen Hayes a capital villain; Mr. Albert H. Clarke is well placed as Robert Brayton; Mr. Ernest Foster gives a manly and highly effective portrayal of Lieut. Frank Carlton; Mr. Arthur Weston is clever as Phillip Darcio; Miss Susie Campbell is a pleasing Mrs. Crawford; Miss Phyllis is successful as Bessie White; and Miss May Cross does well as Mabel Joyce. Mr. Ernest Turner as Sam Mudd and Mr. T. Lewis as Tom Meddows are highly successful in their respective parts.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—Royal Aquarium—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company is here this week with *The Little Breadwinner*. Mr. Eugene Santley is excellent as Lord William Dorrington; Mr. Matthew Boulton effective as Richard Lawrance, and the two brothers, Joseph and Charles Prior, are well played by Mr. Alfred Maurice and Mr. Stanley Leedham. Miss Margaret Fulton is sympathetic as Margaret Daventry; Kate and Ruth Cherry find able exponents in Miss Nellie Thorne-Hallam and Miss Kitty Melville; and Little Emmie Thomas prettily and cleverly portrays Meg.

GREENOCK.—Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietors, the Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—The Carl Rosa Opera Company is here this week. On Monday evening *Lôhengrin* was presented to a crowded house, and evoked considerable enthusiasm. Mr. Julius Walther appeared as Lôhengrin; his vocalism was particularly fine, and he acted with great ability; Mr. Dillon Shallard was highly successful as Teiramund; Mr. John Ebbeles, as Henry the Fowler, filled the part with great credit, and sang his music excellently; and as the Herald, Mr. Fredk. Clendon deserves mention. For the part of Elsa, a highly accomplished actress and vocalist was found in Miss Grace Nicoll; and Madame Marie Alexander was the Ortrud, and gave an excellent account of herself, both vocally and histrionically. The choruses are sung in praiseworthy style, and the orchestra was all that could be desired. On Tuesday evening *The Marriage of Figaro* was presented, and received well-merited applause from a large audience. The week's répertoire includes *Carmen, Fidelio, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Tannhäuser*, and *Faust*.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—The programme this week is headed by Welda and Wynne, speciality artists, who provide an interesting show. An attractive vocalist is seen in Miss Anita Wayman; Helm and Cozens appear in a mirth-provoking sketch, entitled *The Doctor and the Patient*; Corman's Juveniles, a troupe of attractive young ladies, sing sweetly and dance neatly; Cullen and Carthy, comedy artists and dancers, are exceedingly clever; and the animated pictures conclude.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. A. White.—This week's attractions include Hardeen, the well-known handcuff manipulator, who submits a clever turn; Bert Dansie, character vocalist, is good; Ada Martine, comedienne and dancer, is favourably received; James A. Reilly, assisted by Miss May Templeton, in *The Dutchman and his Girl*, are successful; a scene from *Davy Garrick*, as presented by Ronald Bayne and Evelyn Hope, secures well-merited applause; Robins and Collier, in a musical comedy scena, entitled *The Lady and the Porter*, please immensely; and the Paviscope pictures complete.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry.—The melodrama, *No Wedding Bells for Her*, presents many attractive features. The central character of Lola Delaspierre is taken by Miss Lizzie Montague, and her portrayal of the adventuress is very realistic; Lola's companion in crime, Abney Stone, is vividly represented by Mr. Charles Liddon. Mr. Stuart Lomath is a popular figure as the clergyman, Frank Hatherleigh; Mr. Percy Show is sufficiently keen and resolute as the detective, Dick Delver; Mr. Percy Beresford is well adapted to the part of Harold Trevelyn; Mr. George Herbert offers a neat study in character as the old actor, Horatio Fane; Mr. Fred Vaughan is a breezy exponent of the excitable theatre manager, Adonis Tightfist; and Miss Dora Pass is altogether charming as Doris Fane. Mr. Will Skelton and Miss Bessie Franks, in the comedy parts of Simpkins and Peggy, introduce good songs and dances.

Curry's Tivoli.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—A capital exposition of the mysteries of Ju-jitsu is given by Tarro Myaki, the champion professor of the art. Competitions are being held in connection with this turn. Another popular turn is that given by the Leonard Trio, who are musicians of considerable ability; a sketch, *Cockie*, by Picton Roxborough and Fanny Wright, is extremely laughable; Bert Harrow sings good comic songs; Ross and Lewis accomplish attractive dancing; and Barney Armstrong, comedian, and Herbert Gunn, a singing collier, complete a good programme.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—Hackenschmidt is drawing crowded houses at each performance. The exhibition of the prowess of the world-renowned Russian wrestler is greatly appreciated, and various wrestlers have tried their skill against the champion. Kioto, a Japanese equilibrist, is smart; Lauri Wylie's mannikins are capital imitations of well-known artists; the Seven Wulfrunas give a clever acrobatic performance; and the Kimberley Bros., comedians; the Bros. Levett, vaulters; and Harry Albery, comedian and dancer, also contribute good turns.

HALIFAX.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Enthusiasm was manifested here on Monday when, after a lengthy absence, the Moody-Manners Opera company opened with *Cavalleriana Rusticana* and *I'Pagliacci* to a delighted and crowded house. A magnificent reception was accorded Miss Enriqueta Crighton, whose assumption of Santuzza was admirable; Mr. Seth Hughes achieved distinction as Turiddu; as did Mr. Marshall Vincent as Alfio, the singing of both being superb. Miss C. Oxley was successful in the small rôle of Lola. In *I'Pagliacci* the acting and tenor singing of Mr. Chas. Carter as Beppe made a marked impression, and Mr. George Neilson came in for well-earned applause for his interpretation of the clown Tonio; and Miss Lucie Lever proved quite a favourite as Nedda. The specially-augmented orchestra gave an excellent rendering of the music, and Mr. Harrison Frewin conducted skilfully.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Sam Winks.—A strong company is again here, Miss Belle Davis and her "chicks" keeping the audience well amused, the singing and antics of the juveniles being indeed smart; Athelstane Lee, a well-known baritone, delights with excellent songs; Belle Greene scores well with clever imitations of juveniles; Little Don causes roars of laughter with his whimsical portrayal of a Life Guardsman; George C. Doughty and company in *Captain Cupid*, a refined comedy, is proving attractive; Derenda and Green in a club-swinging act are also enthusiastically received; H. E. High, a grotesque comedian, and the Whitworth Cycling Girls are exceptionally brilliant in their respective lines.

Palace and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Ed. Harrison.—Miss Alexandra Dagmar, the popular comedienne, is applauded in unmistakable fashion; Charles Vandyke and company in *Nicodemus* are up-to-date in every detail; G. W. Hunter is to be relied upon as a raconteur; the Maitland Trio in "The Picture," Les Frasettis, Minnie Fenton, and Gladys Witton participate in a good bill.

HANLEY. — Royal, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company opened here on Monday in *The Blue Moon*. As Private Taylor Mr. Reginald Switz is irresistibly amusing; Moolraj finds a capital exponent in Mr. Alfred Bees; Mr. Alfred Clark as Major Callabone plays with excellent effect; Mr. J. E. Fraser is well placed as Captain Jack Ormsby; as Bobbie Scott Mr. Geo. Mudie, jun., does well; Mr. T. Holding contributes a capital performance as the Prince; as Chandra Nil Miss Clarice Lockstone is all that could be desired; Miss Florence Imeson works admirably as Millicent Leroy; Miss Callanan and Miss Mabel Lorrell are well suited to their respective parts. The mounting and dressing are first-class.

Grand, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. James Wynes.—Mark Sheridan returns once more, and, as usual, is a great success. The Lindon Vaudevilles' artistic vocalism and dancing is admirable; the Sisters Onetti contribute a gymnastic turn which is novel and exceedingly clever; Barrington plays the piano skilfully in difficult positions; Renson and Waite are effective comedy artists and patterers; Paulinetti and Piquo are a pair of entertaining and clever gymnasts; Odeyne Spark is a chic comedienne, with good songs; Frank Leslie has a capital song in "I've been dreaming"; and the Bioscope shows some entertaining pictures.

Victoria Hall.—Two capital audiences on Tuesday welcomed the Zancigs in their mystifying thought-reading performance. Included in the programme is Miss Ethel Grimes, a charming light soprano, whose songs with own violin obbligatos were a great feature of the entertainment, her "Ave Maria" being vociferously encored; Miss Clara Alexander in her plantation songs was most successful; Mr. Sydney Jarvis rendered "A corporal's ditty" well; "The Prologue" from *Pagliacci* was admirably sung by Mr. David Brazell; Mr. E. Thornley-Dodge is diverting in his sketches, and Mr. Harold Scott is an excellent solo pianist and accompanist.

HARROGATE.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Smith.—Hardie and Von Leer's company came here on Monday for three nights in the ever-popular drama *Two Little Vagabonds*. George Thornton was well played by Mr. Arthur E. Melbourne; and Captain Darville had an able exponent in Mr. Sidney Vautier. Miss Grace Heywood as the sorrowful Mrs. Thornton was excellent throughout; Miss Rosslyn Vane was good as Mrs. Scarth; Miss Edie Martin as Dick and Miss Josie Beltram as Wally were both well placed; Miss Shaw made a good Biddy Mullins; and Mr. Lionel Ellis an efficient Bill Mullins. Mr. Harry F. Wright in the small part of Leeson was excellent.

HARTLEPOOL. — Empress. — Proprietors, Messrs. Everton and J. W. Cragg; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—The programme submitted for this week is resulting in houses filled at every performance. The principal attraction is the Lorch Family, risley acrobats, whose exhibition is carried out with wonderful dexterity and precision. Bob Selridge, a pantomime favourite, has a warm welcome; Selma Braatz, a talented young lady, performs some astounding juggling feats; sweet Mollie Woolstenholme is gaining numerous new admirers; the contortions of Burley and Burley take well; Joe Cookson's ventriloquial act is somewhat novel and decidedly clever, and some pretty dancing is done by dainty Bertha Norwood.

HASTINGS.—Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Mr. J. B. Mulholland's company occupy the boards this week. A good beginning to the evening is made by the comedietta, *Obliging a Friend*, in which Mr. Sydney Lynn, playing as Frank Dutton, is well supported by Mr. Legal Robinson as Julius Wopper. Miss Amy Fanchette makes much merriment as Mrs. Wopper, and Miss Gertrude Tate is pretty and merry as Ellen Audrey, and Miss Dorothy Hullah does well as the perplexed Susan. This is followed by the very fantastical farce, *The Electric Man*, and here Mr. Bernard Copping plays very cleverly as Walter Everest, the scientist inventor, and assumes the rôle of his invention—the electric man—the dual rôle so perplexing to his friends, and which he plays with much alertness. He has able support from Mr. Sydney Lynn as Jack Strange, Mr. L. Robinson as Mr. Jobbins, Mr. Chris Grose as General Pomeroy, and Miss Amy Fanchette as the buxom landlady, Mrs. Anderson. The Misses Dorothy Hullah, Gertrude Tate, and Isa Bellington complete the cast. All do their best with the incongruous improbabilities of the story.

Pier Pavilion.—Pier-Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Miss Maude Fergusson and company are appearing here in the military drama, *His Excellency the Governor*. In the title-rôle Mr. W. Kirkwood is quite at home, and gives a natural impersonation of the part; Mr. Wentworth Fane puts plenty of healthy vigour into his embodiment of Captain Carew; Mr. Ellis Carlyle gives a characteristic sketch of Bavenstock, the secretary. A sturdy and convincing rendering of Captain Rivers is submitted by Mr. George Marriott, jun.; Miss Maude Fergusson is delightful as Stella de Gex; Miss Violet Agnew makes a charming Ethel Carlton; a touch of distinction is given to the part of Mrs. Bolingbroke by Miss M. Souter.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—The programme this week is drawing a host of admirers, and is opened by the versatile comedienne Miss Sadie Stanley. Cline and Clair engage in a laughable sketch which is much applauded; the eccentric comedian, J. C. Morris, gives another well-appreciated turn; Maitland and Homer are associated in a musical and novel comedy act; Mr. Dudley Hayes as a character-comedian is accorded a hearty reception; the Sisters Richmond's Californian Girls are graceful dancers, and achieve a great success. A remarkable exhibition of thought transmission is shown by the Two Howards: it is a truly wonderful performance; an excellent vocalist is seen in Miss Ethel Arundel; the Brontes conclude a good entertainment by a delightfully-rendered comedy duologue.

HEREFORD.—Garrick Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Harry Barnsley.—Miss Go-Won-Go Mohawk's company in *Wep-ton-No-Mah* made a welcome appearance on Monday, and met with marked approval from a packed house. Miss Go-Won-Go Mohawk plays admirably in the title-rôle; Mr. C. W. Charles sustains the part of Colonel Stockton with good effect; Mr Edward Leroy gives a capable rendering of Manuel Lopes; Messrs. Guy Hackney and Dan Ryan as Sam White and Curry Cullen cause roars of laughter.

HOYLAND.—Metropole.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. R. Baker.—Mr. F. H. Neville's company opened on Monday night with *The Silent Witness*. Mr. Aubrey Carrington gave an excellent interpretation of Philip Meredith; and Mr. F. H. Neville as Ian Vedder was all that could be desired. Mr. W. H. Irving as Mr. Meredith and Mr. J. Holt as Tom Lockwood were very good; Mr. Fawcett Lomax as Joe Jorum caused great hilarity; Miss Marie King is an admirable Polly Lockwood; Anita was played with spirit by Miss Dolly Bell; and Miss Ethel Whitely as Estelle Meredith gave a good account of herself.

HUDDERSFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—Mr. Geo. Alexander's company, playing *His House in Order*, is a thoroughly capable combination. First place must be ceded to Miss Dorothy Grimston, whose Nina is conspicuous for the delicate yet entirely firm touch called for by the character. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart's agreeable stage presence, added to his ripe experience, make Hilary Jesson the dominant individuality he is intended to be; Mr. J. Edward Pearce is successful as Filmer Jesson; Miss Doris Champion is natural as the boy Derek; Miss Jean Cadell makes a most vivacious Mlle. Thomè; and the Ridgeleys, father and mother, son and daughter, are capably represented by Mr. Herbert Lomas, Miss Augusta Haviland, Mr. Ernest R. Hollway, and Miss Elaine Sleddal. The comedy is very completely staged.

Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The famous musical family, the Savonas, are putting the holding capacity of the hall to its severest test, crowds attending nightly to show the appreciation they feel for the musical treat provided by the *Temple of Orpheus*. Six of the same troupe as the Cycling Elliotts show a wonderful skill in this accomplishment. Other turns on the excellent bill are Miss Florence in her popular illustrated songs; Jack Martin, actor vocalist; the Four Colonials, in a prettily-arranged song scena; Edwin Brett and Emmeline Orford in their merry duologue, *The Two Lovebirds*; Senorita Eloma, a graceful trapeze artist; Miss Rose Harvey, comedienne; Milner Verren, tenor; and some new pictures on the biograph.

HULL. — Theatre Royal. — Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—The latest success at this house is *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy*. Its complications, cleverly contrived by its author, are such as to keep the audience amused through the whole of the play. No better Peggy could be found than Miss Decima Moore, whose naturalness is well worthy of imitation by other artists; she realises every phase of the rôle. The Jimmy of Mr. Lionel Glenister is a splendid companion picture, and he is seen to the best advantage in the pretty little love episodes. As Lady Crackanthorpe Miss Kate Wingfield has all the attributes of the society lady; the Mrs. O'Mara of Miss Naomi Neilson discloses all the raciness of the Emerald Isle. *The Lady who Dwelt in the Dark*, a dramatic episode, precedes the comedy.

Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wynn Muller.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company in *Dare-Devil Dorothy*, now in the eighth year of its tour, is proving attractive at the Grand this week. Being something out of the common, it catches on to the taste of the audience, who do not care for stereotype conventional entertainment. The dainty dances and sweet songs of Miss Nellie Harcourt (Judith) and the sparkling wit of Mr. Bert Edwards (Silas Crump) are notable features. The plantation scena with the children is also much admired. The variety turns and the atmosphere of Bosco's circus are all admirable in themselves. Miss Marie Vere is a soprano vocalist of no small power.

Alexandra Theatre. — Mortons, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*The Spider and the Fly*, from the pen of those talented collaborators Tatton Vane and Arthur Shirley, is a play above the average; its incidents are exciting, its episodes interesting. As the hero Mr. Benson North is well suited; Miss Amy Venimore gave a subtle rendering of the Spider; whilst as the heroine Miss Nina Vaughton was most charming. The comedy rôles were successfully filled by Mesdames Ada Palmer and Lucy Murray and Messrs. Charles Preece and Charles Russell.

The Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. John S. Barnett.—Fred Ginnett's company of boy cavalrymen, whose display of horsemanship is very smart; Arthur Leonard is as popular as ever; and the reappearance of Chris Richards is very welcome. The Three Amaranths give an expert exhibition of acrobatic dancing; and other artists include Cliff Ryland, Edie King, Jimmy Shields, Lizzie Fletcher, and the Howards.

The Empire.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Harry Stingsby.—Will May and Theresa, very clever performers, top the bill; Blanche and Diacott go through a thrilling performance; comic vocalists are well represented by George Hyam, Nellie Rose, and Allen Amber. Gettmah, a mystifying magician, and Kelly and Kelly complete an excellent programme.

The Hippodrome.—Lessees, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Tom Lunn.—Tom Foy and company appear in two of their celebrated sketches; J. A. Hall, the popular eccentric comedian, makes a big hit; the Dancing Gilberts are good exponents of the terpsichorean art; and other good turns include Harry Levaine and Toney and Novel.

The Circus.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Animated pictures are still drawing record houses.

ILKESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. F. F. A. Rogers.—The drama *£1000 Reward* is being played here for five nights by the company of Messrs. Pitt and Halling, the remaining evening being set apart for the production of *The Robe of Righteousness*.

Queen's Palace of Varieties.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. T. Knightall.—Sterling and Cashen, duettists, head the bill, and win admiration; Knoto, contortionist, is good in his line; Flo Varley, serio, secures marked attention; Frank Sterling, comedian, Neil Hardy, comedian, and Eric Kino, comedian, also appear.

IPSWICH.—Lyceum Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Leonard Grey.—Miss Elaine Verner and Mr. Harding Thomas and company commenced a week's engagement here on Monday, when the *Middleman* was played. Mr. Thomas appeared to great advantage in the title-part, and was repeatedly applauded throughout. Miss Ver

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—Fred Ginnett and Co. are presenting the new equestrian sketch, *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, in bright and attractive style; Russell Wallett, who made a big hit as the dame in the recent Royal pantomime, continues his success here; a big reception is accorded Andrew Roy, a tenor vocalist of more than average ability; Simms and Simms, the comedy instrumentalists, furnish ten minutes of uproarious merriment; and broad comedy is also the feature of a burlesque sketch by the Two Bostons. The Neilson Sisters make a successful appearance with a novel specialty; Ailsa Douglas sings in charming style; Charles Dillon is a comedian of merit; and Gogin and Davis, with comic acrobatics, prove vastly amusing.

NEW PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—There is a generous programme of good things here, Herbert Lloyd, leading with his grotesque comedy turn, which is productive of uproarious merriment; effective classical groupings by the Three Olympiers form an artistic and enjoyable turn; a dramatic sketch, by Grahame and Harrington, makes a big impression; a couple of favourite comedians, Morny Cash and Ernest Rees, are in the bill. The Westwoods are a couple of exceedingly clever trick cyclists; Lyric and Austin please in eccentric comedy; a smart comedy juggling turn by Burnetti and Corrie is well received; and Maud Wilton, comedienne, is also a popular contributor.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; General-Managers, Mr. Chas. Weldon and Mr. Claude Shayler.—Mr. John Tiller's admirable production of *Aladdin* again takes up the major portion of the evening. In addition, capital variety turns are submitted with considerable success by The Juanitas, wonderful Spanish acrobats; Myra Love, comedienne; Katie Marsh, vocalist and dancer; and the Society Quartette in vocal entertainment.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General and Business-Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—Mr. George Dance's principal company is here this week in *The Beauty of Bath*, In the title-rôle Miss Gladys Guy is seen to great advantage; Mr. Leslie Holland, a very clever artist, scores as Lieutenant Richard Alington, R.N.; Mr. Jack Crichton is most amusing as Sir Timothy Bun; Mr. Reggie Grey, as Lord Quorn, is to be complimented on a clever performance; Mr. Sheriff Clunes as the actor, Beverley, makes an excellent impression; and vivacious Miss Jessie Fraser as the actress, Miss Truly St. Cyr, is a smart dancer. Mr. Sydney Grata is very good as Lemon Goodge; and Mr. Frederick C. Leister is capital as Viscount Bellingham. Miss Edith Cruikshanks plays extremely well as Mrs. Alington; Miss Ida Laurie, as Mrs. Goodge, is a success; Miss Maggie White is popular and clever as the Hon. Dorothy Bun; Mr. John Valentine as the Earl of Orpington, and Miss Florence Hylton as Lady Bun, are also deserving of much praise.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's capable company in the military play, *Revenge*, is the attraction here this week. A fine performance of the part of Prince Orloff is given by Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson; Mr. George Daiper is all that can be desired as Captain Loris Vanessa; Mr. Lancelot Usher, as Captain David Carr, R.N., merits praise; Miss Amy Ellam plays well as Draga Vanessa; and Miss Violet Carlyle makes a good impression as the Queen. *Rogues and Vagabonds* was underlined for Friday.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertram G. Iles.—A most welcome reappearance of Hetty King, the clever and versatile male impersonator, is the chief item in this week's programme. A well-played dramatic episode, entitled *The Mystery of the Cliff*, by Will Evans and Tom Craven, is another enjoyable and interesting feature; Gladys Mavius has a delightful song-scena entitled "Rosie is Waiting," being assisted by a clever youngster called Dot; Orpheus delights all with his musical scena; Newhouse and Ward create great merriment with their clever and humorous cycle act; Harry Welldon, comedian, whose name does not appear on the programme, evokes the heartiest of laughter; Clarence C. Corri's company presents a pathetic musical episode, entitled *Heart Strings*, introducing the clever violinist, Miss Gladys Hooley; Ike Scott and Son are funny comedians; and Nora and Flora in a vocal and musical quick-change act also appear. The bioscope depicts "The Wreck of the 'Berlin,'" &c.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Frank Hardie and company, in the exciting dramatic episode, *The Turn of the Tide*, take the lead here this week. The sketch is most cordially received. The variety part of the programme is contributed to by Madge Daley, a smart burlesque actress; the Brothers Mills, clever acrobats; Johnny Worman, a mirth-provoking character comedian; Simosa San, in her pretty juggling act, introducing pigeons; Mlle. Sylvester, in a clever speciality act; and Dave McNiel, comedian. Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope, depicting "The Wreck of the 'Berlin,'" and other pictures, well maintains its immense popularity here.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Rousby.—Mr. Chas. Harrington and company are this week paying a welcome return visit with the evergreen *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Uncle Tom has a faithful exponent in Mr. J. Carr; Mr. Leslie Beaufort gives a good account of George Harris; and Phineas Fletcher, the Quaker, receives careful treatment from Mr. J. H. Renney; Mr. J. H. Rogers submits an effective rendering of Legree, the slave-owner; Mr. Chas. Harrington is an efficient Mr. St. Clair; Mr. W. Langford creates much amusement as Marks; Miss Sylvia Stella quickly scores a success as Topsy; and Miss Holly Haslewood as Little Eva is very creditable. The specialities in the Plantation scene are greatly enjoyed.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—A strong company, organised by Mr. Fred Benton, gives a good rendering of Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's absorbing drama, *The French Spy* In his original part of Fritz, Mr. Benton repeats an interesting and successful impersonation; Miss Madge Devereux, in the name-part, and Miss Harrison Tate, as an adventuress, sustain their respective rôles with conspicuous ability; the hero, Captain Sommers, is well represented by Mr. Beresford Lovett; and the Count Romanoff of Mr. Max Coutts lacks nothing of requisite stage villainy. A refreshing vein of humour running through the piece is effectively worked by Mr. Charles Digby as a Russian dude, Mr. Seymour Perry as a waiter, and Miss Ella Seton as Julie of the halls

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—An admirable company, under the direction of Mr. M. V. Leveaux, is appearing here this week in *The Morals of Marcus*. Mr. Locke's brilliant work met with ready acceptance, and the crisp, telling dialogue in it was richly enjoyed. To Mr. H. Nye Chart was extended a flattering reception for his fine and finished picture of the bachelor philanthropist; Miss Hilda Antony readily gained the favour of her audience for what was an excellent idea of the adventurous Carlotta, an exacting rôle; every praise is due to Mr. H. Nye Chart, whose talents were seen to advantage in the part of Mrs. Mainwaring; the characters of Mrs. Ordeyne and Miss Dora were ably undertaken by Miss Mary Weigall and Miss Gladys Purnell respectively; Mr. David Domville did the most with Sebastian; a praiseworthy Antoinette comes from Miss Eleanor Gilbart; and other members of the company who distinguished themselves were Mr. A. H. Leveaux (Hamdi), Mr. Cecil Brooking (Stenson), Miss Mary O'Neill (Lady Wynn), and Miss Conyers Radcliffe (Mrs. McMurray).

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—*The Village Blacksmith* pays a return visit here this week, Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's able company staging it in good style. Mr. Sam Livesey repeated his effective representation of John Strong, earning loud applause; Mr. Joseph Carter's picture of the scoundrel, Captain Leo, was as excellent as ever; Miss Maggie Edwards made a tender Kate Strong; the child Harry found in Miss Bertha Hanbury an intelligent exponent; and a deal of humour was provided by Mr. George V. Campbell, as Billy Twigg, Mr. T. E. Marshall (Parkins), and Mrs. T. C. Livesey (Sal).

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—Excellent business is being done here with *The Beauty of Bath*, which puts in a second week. Mr. Seymour Hicks and his charming wife must feel highly pleased at the cordiality of the welcome that has been extended to them.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—The programme of considerable attraction is headed by E. Hoggan Armadale in a piece entitled *The Sleigh Bells*, which draws forth commendable and deserved applause, the acting being most dramatic, displaying the histrionic abilities of E. Hoggan Armadale to advantage; Mlle. Roza's troupe of dogs greatly pleases the audience, for a finer exhibition of animal training would be hard to meet with; the peculiar and original equilibristic movements of Frank Maura are applauded; Harry Rogerson is the cause of much amusement; the Smythsons, in their sketch, *Love Germs*, also assist in this line; other turns well worthy of mention being by Lottie D'Abley, T. E. Johnson, Bake. and Lindsay, and the Lorrisons.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—As on its previous visit here, *At Cripple Creek* has done capital business, the "house full" boards being used during the week. Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company presented the work. Mr. Stanley Bedwell played well as Joe Mayfield; Miss Agnes Verity handled the part of Dynamite Ann with credit; and other well-represented characters were those of Martin Mason (Mr. Eric Hudson), Manuel Alvarez (Mr. Oscar Power), Belle Gordon (Miss Lily Beagle), while pretty songs and dances were introduced by Miss Daisy Carlton and Mr. Will Hook, who as Leander, was particularly funny. Little Rosie Hopkins proved delightful as Little Tatto.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Gunner Moir, a champion boxer, is top of the bill here this week, and his severa. bouts with opponents have proved a strong attraction; the posing of "The Modern Venus" has been much admired; Harwood's Juveniles provided a pretty scena, *A Children's Christmas Eve:* some particularly clever samples of club juggling and hoop rolling come from the Four Geraldos; William Gourlay aroused much laughter with his sketch, *The Return of Hamlet;* Keen and Waller, eccentric comedians, provided food for merriment; as did the Bros. Ashley, with their boxing act, *Next, Please;* and also in the list were Mlle. Pollo, gymnast; Robbie Roy, dancer and comedian; Mabel La Blanche, vocalist; and Julian Mack, with plenty of capital patter.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES. — Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—The Royal stock company were this week presenting *On Circumstantial Evidence*. Mr. Percy Boucher is a humorous Jeremiah Tobin, and other parts are well held by Messrs. Cecil Ravenswood, Harry Tresham, Sydney Grant, and Robert Wilton; and the Misses Beryl Ravenswood, Florence Cameron, and Florence Palmer

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. M. Montgomery.—The stock company here is producing with success *Shadows of a Great City*. Among the principal artists are Messrs. Wallace Campbell, Frank S. Strickland, Francis E. Wybert, H. G. Brandon, Miss Lina Nazeby, Miss Florence Barnes, and Miss Gladys Hastings-Walton

PARK PALACE.—Proprietors, Lancashire Vaudeville Syndicate, Ltd.; General Director, Mr. Walter De Frece.—The Park Palace stock company here is doing good business, the drama presented this week being *What Women Suffer*. Mr. Albert Sember takes the parts of John and Wilfred Coventry with credit; and other principal characters are in the keeping of Messrs. Walter Foster, Albert Guyon, and Will Percy; Miss Lilian Burns, Miss Nelson Ramsay, and Miss Violet Barley Clarke.

WESTMINSTER. — Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—N. C. Bostock, a favourite here, heads the bill, and sings some of his latest songs; a smart ventriloquial act is provided by La Diable Rouge; Lillie Le Breton goes through some graceful trapeze work; the McKays are an amusing pair of comedians and clever lightning oil painters; Joe Conway, the "pocket comedian" proves very diverting; Ted Waite has several taking songs; and Nellie Elaine sings and dances very daintily.

OLYMPIA, LTD.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—Foremost here this week is Van Biene with his clever playlet, *The Master Musician*, which has proved very enjoyable; Kreamer and Brawn's American racing act, which includes a test of speed between a ridden horse and a cyclist, caused some sensation; Carney and Armstrong entertained immensely with their singing, dancing, and whistling act; Minnie Hunt and Rhys Thomas exhibited their fine vocal powers in *Her Birthday;* the Sisters Grovini are graceful acrobats; Bijou Russell dances in admirable style; and also in the list were Sybil St. Elmo, vocalist; Effie Stuart, Scotch comedienne and speciality dancer; and Harry Marte, comedian and dancer.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Top of the bill this week are Arthur Rigby and company with the comic opera, *The Isle of Ooma*, which has afforded general pleasure; Mike S. Whallen has kept his audience in roars of laughter with his merry stories; the hand jumping of the Steineretto troupe has caused surprise; King Kingston, possessor of a capital tenor voice, rendered several pieces, including the picture song, "Doreen," with pleasing effect; as acrobatic dancers the Three Consol Girls want a lot of beating; Barney Fox was as humorous as ever with his ventriloquial show; Lily Tiso proved herself a clever dancer and sweet singer; and the Sisters McNulty, duettists and dancers, with their southern pastimes, and Harry Clifford, comedian, also appeared.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors, Liverpool Theatre of Varieties, Ltd; Manager, Mr. James Marks.—Hill and Whitaker, a smart couple, pay a return visit here with their scena of music and song; James Fawn brings his latest successes; Gertie Gitana, a versatile young comedienne, has a good reception; R. T. Meikle renders several capital Scotch baritone songs; Oakley and James prove very diverting; the remarkable dancing of the Ongars is loudly applauded; as a mimic of animals Carl Lynn is to be commended; Little Salvino gives an able turn as a juvenile instrumentalist; and Harry Cotton, comedian, is also in the list.

HAYMARKET.—Licensee, Mr. J. S. Childs.—Harry Calden and company remain another week playing the dramatic sketch *A Heart of Gold;* the Two Kings, American speciality artists, prove a good turn; Billy Renton is a smart comedian and dancer; and the Sisters Ely show talent as duettists.

ROSCOMMON.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Top of the programme here this week is the "great" Vincent, acrobat and tumbler, whose work is good; Walker and Lake have a budget of funny sayings; Joe Dale renders some taking chorus songs; Leo Cromo shows a deal of skill as a paper manipulator, smoke painter, cartoonist, &c.; the Three Behans have a smart show as vocalists, dancers, and comedy quick change arists; and the roller skate dancing of J. H. McCann is much enjoyed.

LLANDUDNO.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—This theatre reopened on Monday under entirely new management, the lessee being Mr. Albert E. Vaughan and general-manager Mr. J. Ritson. An orchestra has also been added. Mr. Broadbent Bell's company appeared in the musical farcical comedy *Captain Blarney*. In the title-rôle Mr. Sam S. Wilford does himself great credit; Mr. Bernard Lovett as Frank O'Driscol acts and sings well, and is ably supported by Miss Ethel Lovett in the part of Emily Banks, her numerous songs being received with applause. Mr. Broadbent Bell as the Rev. Horatio Kneebone evokes uproarious laughter; Miss Norah Coronne as Mrs. Banks plays with much feeling throughout. Miss Louie Lonora (Bella) and Mr. F. Denary (Sam Brown) both do well.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—This week Mr. Hilliard Vox's company is appearing here in the spectacular play, *Alaska*. Mr. Percy Ballard as Skookum Jim takes the part exceedingly well; Mr. Arthur Rogers as Pompey Cæsar also does remarkably well; Father Bernard is capitally undertaken by Mr. James Fox; as Ned Larson Mr. H. Naylor Grimson gives a fine representation; and Mr. Gilbert James as Malumite Kid is also very good. Miss Maud Wilson in the part of Nelly Samarintha is decidedly clever; Miss Muriel Vox, as Jessie Dalton is most charming and effective; and Miss Violet Crawford as Alaska, an Indian, merits much praise.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—*Under the Czar*, played by Mr. Fred Jarman's able company, has met with acceptance. Mr. Wilson Howard did justice to the character of Nicholas Teroslaff; and Mis Nellie Bonsor exercised much judgment as Sonia Gregorovitch; Captain Johnson had an able exponent in Mr. Gerald Smythe; Miss Beatrice Annesley was an excellent Siomka; Mr. George H. Doyle a capital Zakhar Kovesky; and the rôle of Zara was well acted by Miss Madge Clare. As Michael Granoviski Mr R. Merring was admirable; and Mr. Louis Weston was good as Paul Ignad.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. Smith.—A strong attraction this week is Mr. Fredk. Melville's company in *The Beast and the Beauty*. Mr. Herbert Ford is well placed as Jack Barrymore (the Beast); Miss Lydia Andre as Violet (the Beauty) also appears to advantage; Miss W. E. Passmore submits a careful study of the Earl of Loman; and Messrs. Bernard Mervyn (Harry Denver) and Will Corrie (Tom Chicken) are both very good.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. F. Freeland.—In addition to the excellent series of pictures we have Thompson's Juvenile Athletes; Friskey, eccentric juggler; Nelly Duval, American comedienne; and the Smalleys, in their comedy act.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Miss Florence Glossop-Harris and Mr. Frank Cellier, jun., are at this theatre this week. On Monday they opened with *Romeo and Juliet*, in which Miss Harris made a fascinating Juliet; and Mr. Cellier gave a romantic rendering of Romeo, the balcony scene being especially good. Miss Turner as the Nurse was capital; Mr. Halford caused some merriment as Peter; and Mr. Stanley Roberts, Mr. A. Cotton Holmes, and Mr. David Santley were excellent as Benvolio, Tybalt, and Friar Lawrence respectively. *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Carmen*, and *Camille* are also in the répertoire.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—A capital variety company is occupying the boards here this week. The Dayton Family give a fine acrobatic performance, and their latest production, *Le Rendez-Vous*, is refined, clever, and comical. Geo. Gulliver, ventriloquist, gives a turn which pleases everyone; the Cecilian Family, in a musical act, are well received; Frank Coyle, comedian, is amusing; Mlle. Fontain's mannikins cause roars of laughter; the Lauriers give a good turn; and the Percys, statue dancers, are well received.

MAIDSTONE.—HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—A good programme is made up of the following: Cline and Clark, duettists and dancers, on a popular return visit; Bromley and Fontein, in their musical sketch *A Musical Birthday;* Miss Marie Blythe, a popular contralto; Theodore Jones and company, in the operatic scena *Jack Sheppard;* Arthur Goodman, a clever and funny tramp juggler; the Sisters Edwardes, who dance well; Harry Desmond, comedian; George Davis and company, in a sketch, and the Bioscope.

MANCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmonston Shirra.—The reappearance of *The White Chrysanthemum* in Manchester was enjoyed by a fairly good audience at this theatre on Monday. The piece was presented with much vivacity by Mr. Chas. Macdona's company, Miss Muriel George being seen to excellent effect in the title-rôle, Mr. Richard Telford playing with capital humour the part of Sin Chong, and Mr. Jamie Dallas sustaining in highly capable style the lively character of Private Perks; while as Lieut. Reggie Armitage Mr. H. Langdon Bruce sang and acted well, Mr. H. E. Garden made an acceptable Chippendale Belmont, and Mr. Shirley Lea gave a good account of himself as the Admiral; Miss Wilmot Karkeek offered a distinctly characteristic interpretation of Cornelia Vanderdecken, and Miss Dorothy Sephton added a pleasing embodiment of Betty Kenyon. A full chorus and an augmented orchestra are among the strong features of the production, which is throughout brilliant, tuneful, and entertaining.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, LTD.—Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—It is not always that the first appearance in Manchester of a new musical piece is heralded by so enthusiastic a receptpon as that which was accorded to Mr. George Edwardes's *See-See*, staged at this theatre on Monday night before a crowded house. Whether *See-See* can be accurately termed a comic opera or not does not seriously matter; the quality of the music and the vocal renderings, together with the brilliance of the staging and the indefatigable spirit of fun which accompanied the action, more than satisfied expectations—it sent the audience into repeated outbursts of delight, which ended finally in a rousing climax of applause as the curtain fell. In the title-part Miss Lily Elsie contributed much to the success by her pleasing personality and vocal talents; a great hit was made by Miss Amy Augarde in a cultured vocal and comedy rendering of Mai-Yai; and Miss Octavia Barry gave proof of her excellent voice as one of the wives of Cheoo; while Miss Topsy Sinden danced with exceeding grace and activity, and smart impersonations of Lee, Humming Bird, and Mrs. Hoang-Wang were given by Miss Alice Hatton, Miss Daisy Wallace, and Miss Adeline Lester respectively. As Yen, Mr. Leonard MacKay gave evidence of his fine voice to such effect that, in one song—"I'm the man of the moment," to wit—the audience was scarcely satisfied after three encores, and his general delivery and perfect ease of expression will be remembered as a triumph. Added to all these, Mr. Frank Danby scored tremendously by his comic rendering of Hang-Kee, and Mr. W. H. Rawlins was at his very best in the part of Cheoo; while a performance of distinct merit was the Hoang-Wang of Mr. Myles Clifton, and all the remaining parts were in good hands.

GAIETY THEATRE, LTD.—Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—A very pleasing performance of *The Freedom of Suzanne* is the nightly attraction here this week, with Miss Mabel Love in the title-rôle. Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is a capable one, providing, in addition to Miss Mabel Love's admirable depiction of Suzanne Trevor, a capital Charles Trevor in the person of Mr. Templar Powell, and excellent interpretations of Fitzroy Harding and Sir Horace Hatton by Mr. F. G. Thurstans and Mr. Patrick Quill; while among the ladies Miss Annie Stalman is an effective Lady Charlotte, Miss Violet Ley is good as Lady Isabel Bury, and Miss Florence Harwood does well as Lady Fanny Minching. Among the remainder of the cast Mr. Richard Neville is amusing as Tommy Keston. The comedy is preceded by a nice little playlet called *Her Dearest Friend*, which is invariably well received.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Miss Adria Hill and Mr. Robert Ayrton's company is here this week in the successful drama *A Gambler's Daughter*, which deals dramatically with gambling and the drink habit, and the redemption of the gambler's daughter from the evil influences of her father's life. Miss Adria Hill has a strong part as the daughter, and fills it admirably, while as the honest Irishman, Desmond O'Dare, Mr. Robert Ayrton is highly successful; Mr. H. Barham gives a manly depiction of Dick, "the Weasel," and Mr. Charles Stirling presents a powerful picture of Stephen Brand, and much amusement is provided by Mr. Alfred Sanders as the Jew, Solomons, and Miss Harriet Lloydall as Auntie Zeb. Others worthy of mention are Mr. Fred Dobell, Mr. Richard Pitt, and Miss Lizzie Gordon.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A capital programme here this week is headed by Amy Anderson and company in *A Coster's Honeymoon*, and the excellent musical turn of the Five M.P.'s. Other good turns are given by Edwin Garth, a clever comedian; Fred Casburn, novelty comedian; Daisy Palmer, a smart serio and dancer; George Duval, an amusing stump orator; Bruce and Ross, novelty comedy couple; the Edgertons, in a sensational act; Hallam and Stanton, in their smart musical sketch *A Broken Journey;* and Lily Arthur, the clever "toy" comedienne. The Pictures complete.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. R. Flanagan; Manager, Mr. P. Ryan Smith.—Mr. Bulmer presents here this week a strong company in a comedy drama entitled *When Woman Hates*. The cast includes Miss Cissie Dunbar, who gives a powerful depiction of the sinister and deceitful character of Cora Daintry, whose interests dominate the action. Mr. Leslie Lingham adds a bold delineation of Lieut. Fred Rokeby, R.N.; and an outstanding impersonation is that of the child, Nellie, by little Zara Dare.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A popular attraction is here in the shape of Mr. E. Hill Mitchelson's drama *The Assassin*, which is excellently played by Mr. Augustine Knight's company. Mr. Augustine Knight is particularly good as Prince Demetri, whose rival, Ipanoff, is depicted with considerable skill by Mr. Edward E. Ashby; Miss Ella Vane as the Countess Wanda is a strong force in the success of the play, and Miss Hettie Senior is fine as the American girl; while Mr. Tom J. Taylor and Mr. Jack H. Smiths provide humorous interest cleverly. The cast, however, is good throughout, and the staging elaborate and effective.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—This week local audiences have the opportunity of seeing Fred Kitchen in the "Dame" part in Fred Karno's pantomime *The House that Jack Built*, after its winter success at Glasgow. Needless to say, the fun is of the best kind, and the production generally is worthy of its place in the bill. A smart turn is that of Seeley and West, the black and white musical comedians; and other excellent business is supplied by Stylo, the hoop manipulator; the Rinaldo trio of comedy acrobats; the Australian Twin Andersons, singers and speciality dancers; Chas. Robinson, a capital vocalist, in an illustrated song; Beatrice Bonnie, comedienne; and Jessie Buckle, vocalist. The pictures as as good as usual.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—Florence St. John tops the bill here this week in a neat comedy interlude, *Quits*. Frank and Jen Latona make a great hit in their delightful musical comedy act; the Selbins are sensational trick cyclists of a high order; Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten Juveniles are successful in their clever and amusing entertainment; and the Three Tauberts are extraordinary xylophonists; the Collier and his Child are exceedingly smart in their thought-reading performance; Fred Elton, in his speciality, *On Board an Ocean Liner*, is good; Tom Terris's company, including Mildred Devere, are seen to advantage in a sensational scena, *A Night in Montmartre;* and Sadie Simpson sings and dances acceptably; Beatrice Vere, of the choir, sings "A picture no artist can paint" (illustrated song) with success; the choir render "The Miller" effectively; and the Bioscope Pictures are good.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. Peter Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—La Belle Tortajada, the celebrated Spanish dancer, is the star attraction here this week, and her singing and dancing are much appreciated. A very fine sketch, *The Devil's Sunday* (described as a "Tirade") is provided by Cissie Lawson, supported by a capable cast; and G. H. Elliott, fresh from his success at the Theatre Royal, gives a popular turn in his best style. Good turns are added by John Le Hay, in a farcical musical episode; Ethel Walker, entertainer at the piano; Nellie Moore, a clever little lady in character studies from well-known works; Will Van Allen, musician and raconteur; Rose Hamilton, comedienne; Harry Russon, light comedian; and Gregson and Goodfellow, a smart comedy duo. The pictures also are interesting.

GRAND.—Jasper Redfern's animated pictures are excellent and unique. Capital turns are given by Los Granadas on the horizontal bars, and Percy Curry, the "candy man," in a capable vaudeville company.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT. — General Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead.—*A Japanese Love Story*, presented in capital style by Fred Cooper and a strong company, is here this week. The Tennessee Guards are particularly good in their lightning military manœuvres, and are well received; Lady Julia is a remarkably clever ape· J. W. Gallagher, eccentric comedian, causes much laughter; Phern and Phern, in a delightful musical act, are deservedly applauded; and good turns are also contributed by Sam Redfern, the "Black Emperor"; Nellie Voltaire, comedienne, mimic, and dancer; and Cribb and Cribb in comedy scena; Robert Dohn, as an extra turn, gave a well-received weight-lifting performance. "Love Wins Out" is the subject shown on the Bioscope.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—General Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead.—The Smart Set (under the direction of Walter George), including Hilda Light, soprano, and Georgie Martin, comedienne, are to the front here this week in an exceedingly pleasing vocal entertainment; Gus Harris, the Hebrew delineator, in "The Synagogue," is good; Huline and Le May are clever musical clowns; and the Three Royal Temples sing well; Yorkshire Tom is a clever mimic; Billy Richardson, stump orator, is extremely popular; and Harris and Worth are smart sporting comedians and patterers; Bessie Travis is a good musical ventriloquist; and T. C. Edwards, the Australian baritone, sings in good style. "Black and White" and "The Tramp's Revenge" are amusing films shown on the Bioscope.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Florrie Gallimore, the ever-popular comedienne, is the top star here this week, and meets with a flattering reception, her songs being catchy and artistically rendered, as usual; another successful turn is that of the Two Bees (Harry and Flora Blake) in their smart comedy scena, *The Man in the Moon;* Barbara Babington is a charming vocalist, who sings nicely; Correze and Keith present an amusing and exceedingly clever equilibristic act; and Renee Grahame, a refined vocalist, renders "Mother" in a decidedly effective and pleasing manner; Alf Chester is a capital comedian; and the Passmore Brothers are funny comedians and dancers; the Howes, in their triumph of mental telegraphy, and La Rochelle in new poses, remain here still another week; Josie Delaine did not appear on the occasion of our visit. Raymond's Vivagraph Pictures are good.

HIPPODROME (HULME).—General Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead.—Charles Majilton and a company of forty artists head an excellent programme here this week with a screamingly funny sketch entitled *The Trippers*, which causes no end of merriment. An exceptionally clever gymnastic turn is given by the Four Rio Brothers; Harry Morris is a capital character comedian; the Saxonias contribute a charming musical mélange and are repeatedly recalled; whilst entertaining items are offered by Frazer and Haley, duettists; Bert and Dora, comedy artists; Nell Cotter, comedienne; and, last, but not least, the Three Coopers, harmonising vocalists. "Oh, that Hat" is the amusing subject shown on the Bioscope.

MANSFIELD.—HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Herbert Darnley; Resident-Director, Mr. Tom Jennings; Acting-Manager, Mr. Mark Lorne.—During this week Mr. Henry Leigh's company has presented *The Varsity Belle* to good houses. Mr. James Danvers as Professor Stoney enacts his part in an excellent manner; in the parts of Mr. Paton and Gaye Sparkleton, Miss Josephine Ellis is quite at home; Mr. Frank Lilliput in the rôle of Runyard creates laughter; Miss Tessa Myers is charming in the rôle of Maud Stoney; Mr. Edward Chester's interpretation of the part of Theocritus Sparkleton is much appreciated; Eve Stoney is capably played by Miss J. Sullivan; Miss Emma Rainbow is a typical mother-in-law. The one-act play, *The Last Hour*, precedes.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton, and District Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Cecil Clayton.—This week Mr. Robert Perris's company is here in *A Fight for Millions*. Mr. Roland Kent admirably portrays the character of Tom Manley; in the part of Willie Neverwork Mr. Karl H. Edwards is successful; the heavy part of Richard Dudley is in the capable hands of Mr. Alex. C. Grant; Mr. Harold Turner is well placed as Solomon Moses; Miss Eva Purcell gives a life-like rendition of the part of Pearl Rivers; as Helen Dudley Miss Elma C. Turner plays sympathetically; and Miss Isabel Edbrook is appreciated in the rôle of Mrs. Hudson Rivers. The play is greatly appreciated by the good houses. As usual, the staging was all that could be desired.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. George Fox.—The Royal Alexander and Vaudeville and Bioscope Company are here this week with an up-to-date series of pictures. In addition to the pictures, good turns are given by Arthur James, versatile artist; Max and Leo, in comedy sketches; and Erni Stuart, light comedy merchant.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Edward Michael; Stage and Business Manager, Mr. A. Austin Leigh.—Produced under the stage-direction of Mr. A. Austin Leigh, the Irish play, *The Colleen Bawn*, has this week been performed by the Margate stock company, and the revival of so old a favourite has been received with enthusiasm. Mr. A. Austin Leigh sustains the rôle of Hardress Cregan successfully; Mr. Robert Grey has been good as Kyrle Daly, and Mr. J. P. Lallen has excellently portrayed the part of the parish priest, Father Tom; Mr. Richard Trieve has done well as Corrigan, the lawyer; and Mr. Hyland Shea has been conspicuous as Myles-na-Coppaleen; Mr. Wallis Clark has been in evidence as Danny Mann, and Miss Emmie O'Reilly has been in her element as Mrs. Cregan. Miss Belle Travers has made a delightful Colleen as Eily O'Connor; and Miss Mabel Archdall has most successfully assumed the rôle of Anne Chute, the heiress. Miss Mary Ford as Sheelah Mann, Miss May Halloran as Ducie Blennerhassett and Miss Gladys Howitt as Kathleen Creagh were each satisfactory in their respective parts. Mr. H. G. Mason as Mr. O'Moore and Mr. Arthur Moyne as Hyland Creagh completed an all-round efficient cast.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—There has been a departure this week from the ordinary variety programme by the introduction of drama sufficiently condensed to permit of two representations each evening. Mr. Arnold Bell's company has been appearing in the stirring drama, *Called Back*, with Mr. Dave Clark as Dr. Ceneri, Mr. Roy Jackson as Macari, and Miss Lilian Earle as Pauline, who have been conspicuously successful in their respective parts. The principals have been ably supported by Mr. Bernard Mortimer as Gilbert Vaughan, Mr. Jack Graydon as Anthony March, Mr. Sydney Pearson as Captain Kenyon, Mr. Scott Holmes as Captain Varnloff, Mr. Joe Bardsley as the Perisher, Miss S. O. Chisman as Ellen Vaughan, and Miss Kitty Douglas as Priscilla.

HALL-BY-THE-SEA.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Evans.—The Harry and Fred Poole's Myriorama has been showing here this week, and depicting in brief the leading events of the world. In addition to the pictures, there is an excellent variety entertainment, which includes George French's troupe of acrobatic cyclists; Mr. Bert Gates, guide and entertainer; Harry Dowsett, eccentric comedian; the Snow Family, knockabout and expert skaters; Learto and his clever dog Babs; Miss Florence Hamilton, soprano; and Houston, magician and illusionist, whose turn is a remarkably smart one. A number of amusing animated pictures add to the interest of the programme.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Louis Gilbert.—King's College Boys top the bill here, and supply a pleasing musical turn; Harry Barclay is well received; the Three Firmans afford endless amusement in their pot-pourri act; the Royal Delvines are clever; Mr. and Mrs. George Leonard, in a comedy sketch, *Coming Home*, delight their audiences; the Boston Twins are exceedingly amus

is effective as Nell Radford; Miss Kate Sylvester is amusing as Sukie; Miss Francis Giddings scores as Laura Rustly. Tuesday was set apart for the benefit of Mr. Neville Courtnay, late of Messrs. Johnson's Theatre, who is about to undergo a serious operation at the Swansea Hospital. An interesting presentation took place on Saturday evening, when the Seven Sisters Collier gave Mr. Haggar a silver-mounted walking-stick suitably inscribed for his kindness in allowing them the use of his theatre for their meetings.

NELSON.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Mudd.—Another of Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's military dramas, *The Traitor*, is being played here this week by a capable company. The title-rôle is in the hands of Mr. Stephen E. Scanlon, who as Chief of the Police and No. 1 of the society of anarchists shows powerful acting; Zula, "the avenger," is given a charming delineation by Miss Effie Bartlett; whilst Miss Gwynne Warren represents the important character of Countess Zicha with considerable effect. As Prince Rudolph, the Crown Prince, Mr. Bensley Evans is eminently successful; and the part of Elsie Dupres, the French detective, is attractively played by Miss Lilian Mathews. Miss Isabel Hunt pleasingly portrays Lieut. Nicholas, the Little Martyr; Mr. W. T. Hurst sustains strongly the character of Captain Ross; and amongst other notable players should be mentioned Miss Olive Wanty, who as Cen-Cen, the Japanese, is quite charming; General Hertz, Zoff, and Jack Boult, sustained respectively by Mr. Arthur McColloch, Mr. Edward Lowrie, and Mr. Fred Haming are highly amusing.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—Theatre Royal. Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham. — Mr. William Mollison is appearing here this week, in a répertoire of plays comprising *Macbeth*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush*, *As You Like It*, and *Richard III.* On Monday, *Macbeth* was staged, the production being in every respect in keeping with Mr. Mollison's reputation as an actor-manager. His interpretation of the title-rôle revealed him as not only an actor worthy of taking a leading place in the most distinguished company, but as a profound and cultured student of Shakespeare. Mr. Mollison must be counted most fortunate in having in Miss Evelyn McNay, who took the part of Lady Macbeth, a feminine counterpart, maintaining to the life the strength of the tragic story. At every drop of the curtain, both artists were accorded a most flattering reception. Other parts were ably taken by Mr. W. A. Mackersy, Mr. Henry Deas, Mr. Hugh Shaw, Mr. Whitford Kane, Mr. B. A. Pittar, Mr. W. Walton Palmer, Mr. Henry Worrall, Mr. Harold Neville, Miss E. Hermina Black, Mr. Eric Dane, Mr. Roy Cushing, Mr. Fred Ellis, Mr. Alec F. Thompson, Mr. William Hughes, Mr. Kendal Chalmers, Miss M. Roberts, Miss E. Blair-Staples, Miss Josephine Woodward, and Miss Elsie Vron. On Tuesday *The Merchant of Venice* was presented.

Tyne Theatre and Opera House.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—In the bright and wholesome play, *Dr. Wake's Patient*, Mr. Charles Macdona's company is appearing at this theatre this week. Mr. Thalbert-Corbett as the Doctor is manly, tactful, and sympathetic; a sweet and graceful impersonation of the Lady Patient is given by Miss Fyfe Alexander; and others in the cast deserving commendation are Mr. Ivan Cleveland, Mr. George Howard, Mr. Allan Pollock, Mr. Adam Alexander, Miss Georgie Trewman, Miss Kate Osborne, and Miss Clara Earle.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—Good entertainment is provided at this theatre this week by Messrs. Garside and Knowles's company, in *The London Fireman*, a joint production of Arthur Shirley and George Conquest. In the leading part, Mr. J. Forbes Knowles scores a decided success; and Mr. Herbert Humble also gives a capital character sketch. Others prominent in a capital production are Mr. Edward L. Garside, Mr. Philip Renouf, Mr. Lionel Thomson, Miss Beatrice Sinclair, Miss Nellie Shirley, Miss Nellie Waddington, and Miss Nellie Garside.

Pavilion Theatre. — Managing - Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Old favourites are found here in the Harvey Boys, whose boxing act forms the chief feature of their highly amusing sketch; Miss Beatrice Lindley, a refined vocalist, who plays her own accompaniments, contributes a couple of songs in pleasing style; Miss Ada Fawn is a capable comedienne; the kaleidoscopic dances of Miss Effie White prove a triumph of arrangement and bewildering movement; Miss Rose Elliott's songs prove popular; Charlie Williams, negroistic comedian, dances with good effect; and Frank Leon, the world's champion clog dancer, gains great applause. Other turns are Dave O'Toole, comedian, and Austin and Cowan, vocal entertainers. A popular new series of pictures on the Barrascope is found in "The Fox Hunt."

Empire Theatre.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Yamato, champion ju-jitsu wrestler of the world; Tacko, boy champion; and O-Fugi-San, an attractive young lady, born of English parents, in Japan, and the lady champion of ju-jitsu wrestling, are giving interesting exhibitions here. Alice May and company submit a laughable sketch, entitled *Tranquillity*; and in a picturesque scena, Lennie and Hast present a novel and amusing entertainment; Stephens and Rennior are good comedians and sand-dancers; Allan Hanbury is a new comedian, who scored well; and Lidden and Hayward contribute a clever musical act; the Vetter Brothers and Forest and King provide excellent acrobatic acts; and a strong feature of the good all-round entertainment provided is the excerpt from *The Lily of Killarney*, given by Edward Arthur and company, the capital efforts of the talented vocalists calling forth hearty rounds of applause; "The Loafer's Lucky Day," shown by the Bioscope, proved very amusing, the pictures being unusually clear.

NEWPORT.—Lyceum.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper. — Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company, with *Under Two Flags*, is delighting good houses here this week. Miss Amy Maitland, an excellent actress, portrays Cigarette with a gaiety, passion, and self-sacrifice that commend itself to the house; while Mr. Wellesley Draper is a dignified Bertie Cecil, playing with earnestness which is convincing throughout. Miss Mabel Ormonde is a charming Princess Venelia; Miss Ella Dixon is bright as Lavinia; and Mr. Chas. West is eminently successful as Barklie Cecil. Mr. Chas. Brooke's Lord Royellieu is vigorous; Mr. Robert Faulkner does well as Lord Rockingham; and Mr. Arthur Elwyn's Colonel Chanteroy is acceptable. Mr. Jos. Cowell's Captain Claud de Chanrellon is particularly breezy; Ezra Barone, by Mr. Fred Beck, and Mr. Harry Benson as Rake, who sing and dance admirably, provide a very entertaining bit of comedy.

Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Major Gallagher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Page.—Heading the bill here this week are Fred Eustace and company, in *Our Curate*, a sketch that is proving popular; Mr. and Miss D'Arc's Marionettes give remarkable impersonations of various music hall stars; Nellie Coleman is a lady comedian of merit; and the Trapnell Family are exceedingly smart in acrobatic tricks. Dome, the clay modeller, is comical; Fanny Erris, as a character comedian, sings a couple of good songs; and the Cumbrian Trio of lady vocalists are deservedly popular. The Bioscope, showing a very amusing set of pictures, completes the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—Opera House. — Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Seddon.—Mr. George Dance's company is appearing this week in *The Little Michus*, in which Miss Alice Coverick and Miss Gipsy Dale give delightful presentments of the name parts. Mr. William Everard as Gaston Rigaud is highly successful in his singing and acting; Miss Mary Young sings well in the part of Mme. Michu; Mr. Foster Courtenay is immensely funny in the character of General Des Ifs; Mr. Gilbert Childs is truly comic as Bagnolet; and Mr. Leon Simkin as Pierre Michu, Mr. Robert C. Harcourt as Aristide Vert, and Mr. Edwin Stanley as the Market Man are distinctly good. Mlle. Marjorie contributes some pretty dancing; Otto Manns ably directs the orchestra.

Palace of Varieties.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans.—Great sympathy with Leoni Clarke was expressed by his fellow-townspeople at his non-appearance on account of his father's sudden death on Monday morning. The management promptly secured the engagement of Marguerite Ismay and her four White Coons to fill the gap, which they did with success. A very pretty and effective turn is Maurin's Marvellous Fountains, concluding with pretty groups of statuary; the Onyx Duo present some good quick-change dancing with success; the Four Jumels are clever in their musical act; Nat Watkins amuses with his comic singing; Clara Sefton commands attention as a clever dancer; the Le Gren Trio of eccentric burlesque artists furnish an amusing acrobatic display; the Orchids bloom in mirth, song, and harmony; and C. Vincent depicts with success the "Tour of a Menagerie" on the Bioscope.

NORTH SHIELDS. — Theatre Royal. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Large audiences have assembled here this week to witness Messrs. Levy and Cardwell's juvenile company with *The Sleeping Beauty*. In the title-rôle Miss Dolly Dodds gives an admirable impersonation; Miss Kitty Trewhitt makes an excellent Prince Florizell; Miss Mona Townshend is an attractive Sir Alphonso, Miss Addie Gibson a good Bluebell, and as Berty Dalrimple, Wee George Wood makes a hit. As the Queen and Asbestos the Brothers Armstrong score a well-deserved success.

Central Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The star here this week is Mr. Johnny Danvers, the popular comedian, who has had a cordial reception; the Arnos, comedy artists, are clever; and the Sisters Volbecque, comedy couple, go well; the Amborites, in their musical act, are well received; Mr. Charles Ousley, comedian and dancer, is a great favourite; Wincarnis, speciality artist, meets with favour; and the Bio-photoscope is still a special feature.

NORWICH.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. P. M. Foster's company in *Sergeant Brue* is here this week. Mr. E. Russell in the title-rôle is very amusing; Mr. Tom Shelford is good as Michael Brue, while Mr. Arthur Stroud does excellently as Gerald Treherne; Mr. Chas. McLagen is amusing as Crookie Scrubbs, and Mr. Henry Chichester creates fun as Mr. Crank. Miss Edith Houseley deserves praise as Lady Beckenhall; Miss Mabel Keith scores as Aurora Brue; Miss Ailsen Macdonald pleasingly represents Mabel Widgett; Miss Constance Berkeley is delightful as Daisy.

Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—The Gotham Comedy Quartette head the bill, and are well received; Harry Grey, the Australian Nugget, pleases with his unique performance; the Pines (Vesta and Minnie) are amusing in their musical comedy *Maggie's Day Out*. The Gladenbacks are clever hand-balancers and ring speciality act; Olive Armidale as a comedienne is well received; the Leonards are successful in their sketch, *Point Duty*; while Venie Clements as a comedian and dancer, and Bill Hobbs, coon comedian and dancer, have good receptions. The Hippo. Biograph is very entertaining.

NOTTINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robt. Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—An excellent company, under the direction of Mr. J. Bannister-Howard, is producing that evergreen favourite *The Belle of New York*. Miss Empsie Bowman makes an ideal Violet Gray, her appearance, singing, and acting being all that could be desired; and she is ably assisted by Mr. John Doran as Harry Bronson. Miss Lily Maxwell looks very charming as Fifi, and her singing is received with rounds of applause. The dancing of Miss Winnie Browne is provocative of enthusiasm, especially in "La Kraquette," which she dances together with Mr. Lionel Yeoman. One can scarcely conceive the piece without Frank Lawton as Blinky Bill, and his whistling loses none of its power to interest and amuse. Several topical songs are introduced with great effect by Mr. Paddy Dupres, who very successfully essays the rôle of the elder Bronson; and much amusement is caused by Mr. Alfred Sandoe as Snifkins and Mr. Walter Uridge as Kenneth Mugg. As indispensable to success as anyone is Mr. Max Copeland, who again and again compels the audience to roars of laughter by his vagaries as the Polite Lunatic; and the quaint dancing of Miss Florence Hersee deserves mention. Under the bâton of Mr. B. J. Paterson the chorus numbers are capitally rendered.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—*The Trumpet Call* proves a strong attraction here, and the company of Mr. C. F. Cooke work up the exciting incidents in a capital manner. Mr. Leonard Yorke gives a careful and able study of Cuthbertson; Mr. C. F. Cooke brings out the genial nature of Sergeant-major Milligan; Mr. John Dennys plays the part of the scoundrelly Richard Featherstone with incisive force; and as officers of the Royal Artillery Messrs. J. Betterton, G. Hastings, and J. B. Glover do admirable work. Miss Doris Gilham gives the fullest expression to the powerful emotions of Astrea; and Miss Helena Millais imparts an attractiveness to the piece by her sympathetic embodiment of Constance. Miss May Foster makes a charming Lavinia Ginnifer; and Miss Helena Rigby supplies a natural touch as Mrs. Wicklow. Praise is also earned by Mr. Freddie Bentley, whose mercurial humour infects the audience, and Messrs. W. G. Blunt and Alec Murray.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Bowmaker.—The marvellous illusions of Carl Hertz are drawing immense houses this week, who accord this clever artist a mighty reception. The Carina Sisters submit a charming musical entertainment of piano, violin, and flute, which draws vociferous applause. The vivacious methods of Peggy Pryde are always welcome, and her exuberant humour compels the heartiest of laughter. The knockabout business of the Four Karnos and the distinctly American turn of Phil and Nettie Peters maintain the fun at a high pitch. The ventriloquial item of Lieutenant Travis is artistic and amusing; the Wartenberg Brothers show skill as Risley acrobats. Fred Poplar and Kitty Wager also appear. The American Bioscope, with animated pictures, completes an excellent programme.

NUNEATON.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company opened for three nights on Monday with *The Gay Parisienne*. There was a crowded and appreciative audience each night. Miss Lilian Talbot in the title-rôle scores a decided success; Mr. Clifford Seyler makes an ideal Mons. Pompier; Mr. Will Harman as Ebenezer Honeycombe is excruciatingly funny, and produces roars of merriment as Major Fossdyke; Mr. Squire-Day is good; Miss Holford Beringer fills the part of the dignified Mrs. Honeycombe in capital style; Miss Madge Soutter does excellent work as Ruth, and is responsible for an amount of fun; Mr. Philip Moore as Tom Everleigh wins applause; and Miss Nance O'Neill makes a charming Norah. Deserving of praise are Mr. Douglas Howard as Amos Dingle and Mr. Leslie Waller as Algernon Ducie. Some pretty numbers are given by the Imperial Glee Singers; and Mr. Cecil Lawrence supplies an amusing whistling medley. For Thursday, Friday, and to-night (Saturday) Mr. J. Bannister-Howard's company, in *The Christian*, is billed.

OLDHAM. — Empire. — Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme. — Mr. Arthur Hardy's company, in *Beauty and the Barge*, is paying a first visit here. Mr. Blake Adams as Capt. Barley keeps the merriment going; Lieut. Seton is played in good style by Mr. Ed. Coventry; the part of Herbert Manners is well handled by Mr. Aubrey Mallalieu; Mr. Chas. A. White makes the part of John Dibbs humorous; and Mr. Walter Pemberton is a good Major Smedley. Miss Dido Drake is a dainty Ethel Smedley; Miss Mary Pemberton is very good as Lucy Dallas; Miss Ruby Wyndham helps to keep the fun going as Mrs. Baldwin; and Miss Mona Robin, and Mrs. Braithwaite, are excellent as Mrs. Smedley and Mrs. Porter respectively; Mr. Forester Harvey is a capable Augustus; and Mr. Ewart Drake an effective George Porter.

Colosseum. — Manager, Mr. W. Eastwood. — Mrs. Morton Powell is paying a return visit here, with *When It Was Dark*. Mr. Cyril Austin Lee as the Rev. Basil Gortre is excellent; Miss Elizabeth Watson gives a capital portrayal of Gertrude Hunt; Mr. George H. Pitt as Constantine Schuabe is distinctly good; and Mr. Arthur B. Murray as Sir Robert Llewellyn highly successful; Mrs. Morton Powell invests the part of Helena Byars with much interest.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Howgate.—Kelly and Gillette, in *Fun on a Billiard Table*, cause roars of laughter; Carlotta Levey's songs are much enjoyed; the Three Sisters Macarte are graceful in a novel act; Edith Marion, contralto, sings well; the Harrison Bros. are droll comedians; Frank Lynne is funny; the Columbia Comedy Trio are excellent in an operatic absurdity; the Three Merrils are clever trick cyclists; and the Dottoscope shows a humorous picture.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—R. Pender's Troupe of Continental Stilt-walkers head the bill here, and also appear in a smart sketch, *Hands Up*; Evelyn Taylor obtains a good reception for her well rendered songs; Leo Trainor, vocal comedian, has some amusing songs; Les Montaldos, on the slack wire, introduce some well trained parrots and cockatoos; Primavesi, juggler, performs some smart feats; and the Bros. Lavelle are energetic comedy acrobats; the Dottoscope shows a very interesting picture.

OXFORD.—New Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill.—The latter half of last week Mr. George Dance's excellent company in *The Beauty of Bath* drew crowded and appreciative houses. This week Mr. Walter Maxwell's company is here with *The Lion and the Mouse*, which met with a cordial reception. Mr. Leslie Carter achieves a complete success as John Ryder, his robust, forcible acting just fitting the part; Jefferson finds a pleasing exponent in Mr. L. Edgard; Mr. H. Chown is highly amusing as the Hon. Fitzroy Bagley; while Rossmore, Stott, and Roberts find capable representatives in Messrs. D. West, A. Roland, and J. Wheatman. Miss Christine Silver again wins all hearts here by her delicate and refined performance of Shirley Rossmore; Miss Maude Townsend gives a clever sketch of Mrs. Ryder; and Miss Margaret Nybloc is a bright and pleasing Kate Roberts.

East Oxford Theatre.—Lessees, Winifred Stuart and Mr. Watson Mill; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. T. Arthur Jones's company, including Miss Marie Daventry, is here with *Life's Sweetest Sins*. Mr. T. Arthur Jones gives a finished and careful portrayal of the hero, Captain Harold Marston; the villain, Dr. Colbrooke, is powerfully represented by Mr. Oswald Douglas. The villain's accomplices, Kimberley Coutts and the Rev. Edward Grey, find able exponents in Messrs. Robert Sawin and Clem Horlock; Mr. Alexander Wills makes a genteel Ernie Wodstone, and Mr. Ernest Hamilton is good as Martin; Mr. Edgar Morgan, a delightful Bob Tanner, convulses his audience by his whimsicalities; Miss Elsie Walton makes the most of her opportunities as Bess Grayson; and Miss Mary Ainslie is full of vigour as Fay Colbrooke. Miss Marie Daventry enlists sympathy from the very beginning of the play by her charming and winsome interpretation of Doreen Rivers.

PAISLEY.—Paisley Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—In possession this week is the Paisley Opera Club, this amateur combination performing very successfully Gilbert and Sullivan's opera, *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Mr. Herbert Marchmont, an old Savoyard, has acted as instructor to the amateurs, and is stage-managing the performances.

Empire.—Lessee, Mr. J H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Tom Toy.—Animated pictures are a distinctive feature in this week's programme, inculding fine films of the wreck of the s.s. Berlin. Jardine, eccentric acrobat; Madge Pollard, coon singer and dancer; and George Rae, comedian and dancer, furnish excellent turns.

PETERBOROUGH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—This week Mr. Charles Carey, in conjunction with Mr. Harold Vantage, presents the musical comedy, *The Pick of the Bunch*. Mr. Charles Carey is an excellent Halliwell Menit; Mr. Buckstone Clair as Colonel Joseph Menit plays the part creditably; Mr. Harold Wantage ably sustains the character of Dick Seymour; Miss M. Sadie scores a success as Nancy; Miss Eva Ellis is a charming Ruth Gay; and Miss Madge Christopher is all that can be desired as Nellie Mather; Miss Nellie James is well placed as Wilhelmeina.

PLYMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*The Perfect Lover* is the attraction here this week. As Joseph Tremblett, Mr. Harold V. Neilson gives a capital representation of the character; Mr. W. Lemmon Warde as William Tremblett presents a life-like embodiment of a mercenary company promoter; Mr. Frank Beresford is a manly Lord Cardew; and Mr. John Detliv furnishes a careful, and, at times, very amusing study of an impecunious relation. Miss Amy Sangster is quite at home in the difficult part of Lillian Tremblett; Miss Gertrude Sterroll as the Hon. Susan Lesson represents an austere society woman; Miss Dorothy Milne is highly creditable as the somewhat vacillating Martha Tremblett; and Miss Renee L'Estrade is a girlish May Tremblett. Smaller parts are capably filled by Miss L. K. Davis (Mrs. Morphitt), Miss E. Dent (Mrs. Barter), and Miss E. Savile (Mrs. Bonham).

Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. C. F. Williams; Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant Acting Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant. — The romantic Servian drama, entitled *A Destroyer of Men*, is being staged here this week. Miss Irma Farington undertakes the part of Olga Mischla, and performs her arduous duty in commendable fashion; Mr. Edward Beecher gives a clever impersonation of Count Starevitch; Messrs. Dunlop Stewart and Cecil Melton, as Karl Mischla and Michael Mischla respectively, earn the sympathy of the audience; and Miss Beatrice Hudson as Nina Pattakake is aptly termed "All Smiles." Other parts are taken by Mr. Larry Clements and Miss Elaine Vanbrugh.

Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Mr. Harry Roxbury and company, in his diverting musical mélange, entitled *The Prince of Monte Carlo*, form the principal turn here, and are received with rounds of applause; Valazzi, Canadian athlete and juggler, gives a unique exhibition of the difficult art of jugglery; Messrs. Carter and Mason and Miss L. Roseberry extract heaps of fun out of their skit on embryo actors; the Maples present an attractive comedy act and dance; Mr. J. W. Winton is an accomplished ventriloquial entertainer; and Miss Pattie Bella an engaging comedienne. Vernon's pictures and Mr. Bert Weston complete the programme.

PONTYPRIDD.—Royal Clarence Theatre.—Owners and Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—Mr. William Greet's company is presenting this week *The Sign of the Cross*. Mr. Frank E. Petley as Marcus Superbus proves himself an artist of great ability; Nero is in the able hands of Mr. C. Yorke; Tigellinus is admirably portrayed by Mr. Charles Aldred; Mr. J. Wetherall is conspicuous as Licinius; Miss Mary Newcombe wins all hearts as Poppœa; Miss Gertrude Price as Berenice is a great success; Favius is ably assumed by Mr. Walter Fleet; Titus and Meles are carefully characterised by Messrs. Clifton Yates and R. Chapman respectively; Stephanus is capably delineated by Miss Dulcie Greatwich; Mercia is admirably played by Miss Marie Leonhard.

PORTH.—The Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—The programme this week includes the latest sensation, Man *v.* Motor; the Davis and Gledhill Trio, roller champions; Vera Mayne, Canadian comedienne; George and Edwards, patter comedians and dancers; the Original Cecils, lady instrumentalists; Robert Gilbert's dogs' and cats' circus; Hector and Sultan, eccentric comedy grotesques; Fred Cary, comedian; Marquis and Mignonette, in a comedy act, entitled *Little Willie*; and the Palace pictures.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Miss Annie Hughes, supported by her talented company, is appearing here this week in the play *Tommy*. Miss Hughes plays Jane "Tommy" with delightful crispness as the Sub, and gives a charming and intense womanly portrayal in the second and third acts, receiving enthusiastic calls at the end of each. Mr. Rupert Lister is a most convincing lover, and plays the generous young Irishman with conspicuous success. Peter Hope is taken by Mr. Evelyn Vernon, who gives a really fine performance as the old Editor of "Good Humour." The manager, William Clodd, is sustained by Mr. Willie Hartill in a brisk and shrewd business manner that is most effective; and Mr. Reginald F. Beach is very good as the office boy Flipp. Mr. Morrison is excellently acted by Miss Winifred Pearson, who makes her points very neatly. Honour, who only appears in one scene, is undertaken by Miss Ida Richardson in a praiseworthy and natural manner. The piece is preceded each evening by *Good for Nothing Nan*, in which Miss Hughes plays Nan most artistically.

Prince's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's No. 1 company is here this week with the powerful domestic drama *Man and Wife*. Miss Kate Hallam as Marcelle is most intensely realistic in her portrayal, and wins much applause; Mr. John F. Traynor as Paul Revere, a conscript, gives a powerful rendering of a rather trying part; Mr. Wilson Coleman as the villainous Captain D'Esparre is clever and suitably callous in his performance; Messrs. Edward Van Biene and Ambrose Horton are distinctly good in their respective parts of Colonel Latour and Sergeant Jacques; Bimbo and Bambo the twin brothers, are most divertingly embodied by Messrs. Sydney Bryant and Van Gully. They are well suported in their humour by Miss Polly Denville as Rosette. The blind Ruth Revere and the cripple boy Jean are pathetically sustained by Miss Violet Temple and Miss Ethel F. Greene.

Empire Palace.—Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—An excellent programme is submitted here this week. The Kellinos with their acrobatic pot-pourri "Venetia" win great applause for their exceedingly clever performance; Walter Levetto, the dancing wonder, is an exceptionally expert exponent of the art; the Raymond Trio, instrumentalists and dancers, give a refined and versatile entertainment; Geo. Brook, comedian, is an able and eccentric singer of taking songs; Roze and Calvert in a refined comedy act present a smart turn; Woolmer Young, vocal comedian, has a capital voice, and uses it to advantage; the Three Luna Girls, vocal and Terpsichorean trio, are well received; and the bill also includes Baroux and Bion, speciality artists, Lizzie Daniels, a dainty soubrette, and Payne's Bio-Photoscope.

RADCLIFFE. — Grand Opera House. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company is on a return visit with *The Face at the Window*. Mr. Scott Leighton gives a fine performance of Lucio Delgado: the dramatic ability of Mr. T. W. Dunscombe is seen to advantage in the rôle of Paul Gouffet; Mr. C. Alan Hineson is heartily applauded for his comedy as Peter Pottleberry; and he is effectively supported by Miss Gladys Newcombe as Babette. Mr. F. C. Raphael submits a good character study of Jean Barbelon; and Miss Marie Barrett acts with pathos as Marie de Brisson.

RAMSGATE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Bowman.—On the first four nights of the week these boards were occupied by Miss Emily Huby's capable company in *The Price of Pleasure*. Mr. Howell Webb scored heavily as Sir James Feather stone; Miss Helen Raymond contributed an effective piece of acting as Alice Rivers; Mr. C. Howell did well as Charles Mordaunt; and Mr. F Bentley was excellent as Gilbert D'Armant.

RAWTENSTALL. — Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. George Dickinson.—Messrs. E. A'Dell and F. Chabot's company is here this week with the musical comedy, *His Sister's Honour*. Miss Kathleen Eckhardt gives a sympathetic and artistic impersonation of Dora Stanley; as Ivy Merton Miss Ethel Ashleigh is most successful; Mr. E. A'Dell is clever in the character of Frank Stanley; and Mr. H. C. Robinson makes an admirable Sir Richard Redvers. Miss Bessie Dean as Maria and Mr. Sydney Dean as Timothy keep the audience in continual roars of laughter.

READING.—Royal County Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. A. Wenman.—A special attraction is being provided this week by the engagement of Mr. and Mrs. Kendal, who are appearing in several of their favourite characters. The répertoire for the week comprises *The Ironmaster*, *The Elder Miss Blossom*, and *The Housekeeper*.

ROCHDALE. — Theatre Royal, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*A Royal Divorce* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Frederick Victor submits a powerful impersonation of Napoleon; Mr. Claud Agnew cleverly portrays the intriguing Talleyrand; Mr. Graham Woods speaks his lines with telling effect in the rôle of Marquis de Beaumont; Miss Agnes Imlay makes an impressive Marie Louise; Miss Helen Richmond as the light-hearted Stephanie de Beauharnais is quite a favourite; and Miss Edith Cole sustains the part of Josephine with her accustomed power.

Circus and Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Co.—Dr. Carl Hermann, described as an electrician and scientist, mystifies his audience with his clever tricks and illusions; he also creates roars of laughter with his hypnotised subjects. A sketch entitled *The Red Letter*, by the H. Leslie Bell and Lilly Pearl company, and produced for the first time, is creating unusual interest. Other items on the programme include Steve Cooke, comedian; Three Bostonians, singers and dancers; James Ward, the Yorkshire Paderewski; Clyo and Rochelle, in comedy effusion; Vosco, mad magician; and pictures by the Hermascope.

Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Jack Pleasants, comedian, tops the bill here; his quaint vocalism and mannerisms create roars of laughter. The Picquays give a refined and pleasing exhibition of balancing; Cremator (Mr. Arthur Schofield) shows some clever tricks and illusions. Other artists include Little Bobbie, mimic; Maude Kaye, coon vocalist and dancer; Eric, ventriloquist; The Vekeys, banjoists; Percy Farimond, singing collier; Ruby Emmerton, comedienne; and the Empire Bioscope.

ROTHERHAM.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. Arthur Carlton's company is here this week with *In Sight of St. Paul's*. Mr. Arthur Armfield is seen to advantage as Mr. Chichester, and Mr. Ernest R. Allen gives a capital portrayal of Tom Chichester. Mr. W. H. Domoney is a smart Harry Chichester; and Mr. Herbert Cecil scores as John Gridston. Mr. Henry Gilpin as Bildstein and Mr. Edward Valentine as Fretley Burnside are also deserving of mention. Miss Cissie Bellamy is very pleasing as Aileen Miller; and Miss Sybil Hammersley scores as Becky Vetch; Miss Gussie Everitt gives a highly finished portrayal of Cynthia Dell; and Miss Louie Valentine is seen to advantage as Beatrice.

RUGBY. — Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geoffrey Fulton.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company on the first three nights of the week presented *The Christian*. Miss Laura Walker as Glory Quayle gives a rendering full of passion and power and of great artistic merit; Miss Constance Stevens is very good as Mrs. Callender; and as Polly Love Miss Edith M. Savery does well. As the Hon. John Storm Mr. Rawson Buckley is an unqualified success; Mr. P. Gedge Twyman as Lord Robert Ure gives a first-rate rendering; Mr. Ernest Stedwell is excellent in his presentment of Horatio Drake; Mr. Anthony Rawles as the Faro King and Mr. Arthur Beverley as Lorimer are both good. Mr. Harry Colbeck is effective as Father Lamplugh; and Mr. Phipps Stanley as Archdeacon Wealthy is well placed.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales' Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company is paying a return visit to this theatre with the successful domestic drama *Honour Thy Father*. Mr. Walter M. Cameron makes an interesting study of the pathetic character of Gabriel Garth, assisted by Miss K. Newton as Gertrude Garth; Duncan Bly is cleverly presented by Mr. W. R. Winning. Comedy is sustained by Mr. W. H. Melrose as Ned Pennycomquick; Mr. Fred Rolls as Mike Copplestone, and Miss Ada Salmon as Poppy Cornleigh. Jack Halyard is a satisfactory piece of work by Mr. Bertram H. Ross; Job Merry and George Bloggs are both well portrayed by Mr. Claude Merton; Violet Wilfred and Mercy Merry are respectively ably played by Miss Maud Green and Miss M. Dean.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—*A Scotch Marriage; or, a Trip to the Highlands*, a farcical musical comedy incident, produced by Harry Fischer and E. Norton Folgate, occupies a considerable portion of the programme, the principal parts being well sustained by Mr. Wellesley Smith, Mr. Billy Holmes, Mr. Harry Fischer, Miss Julia Bassett, Miss Louie Danby, and Mr. Peter Bermingham. The Tricky Trio do some smart acrobatic dancing. The Gibson Girls and other specialities are much appreciated. Acceptable turns include some very amusing business by Doody (Sid) and Wright (Edie), Australian comiques; the Sisters Varley, duettists; Childe Stuart, refined comedian; Terry (Marie) and Bentley (J. S.), refined comedy artists; Dolly Denvers, smart lady buck dancer; Helen Martin, operatic vocalist, and Charles Bignell, comedian.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—A programme full of good things is presented this week. *The Fight in the Forge*, by C. Wordley Hulse and company, is a most sensational dramatic scena, well presented. Sam Shipley, eccentric comedian and dancer, is much applauded; Little Tim, quaint comedian; Harry Taft, whistling comedian; Dawson Dewick, comedian; the Days, second-sight seers; Bean and Belle, in *The Pierrot's Serenade*; Czar's Royal Russian troupe of dancers; Clifton and Gibson, eccentric comedians, and Beattie Worth, comedienne, also appear.

SEACOMBE.—Irving Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. Jack Haddon's company is presenting *Under the Russian Flag* here this week. General Romanoff is adequately portrayed by Mr. George Herbert; Michael and Ivan being excellently depicted by Mr. Jack Haddon and Mr. Charles Stafford respectively. Captain Demetrius, Alexis Skopolopki, and Colonel Souvaroff are in the capable hands of Messrs. Sydney Arnold, Templar Ellis, and W. Wilson. Mr. Hal Forde causes great mirth by his humorous rendering of Peter Poulski; Mr. Edward Avinal displays some earnest and clever acting as Wolf Marishla, whose wife, Luka Marishla, is strongly portrayed by Miss Marie Rayner. Vear Vassiloff is ably acted by Miss Violet Lytton; and Ogarita by Miss Molly Hackett.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. Sidney Bertram.—*Lucky Liza* holds the boards here this week, and is being presented by Dickie Clare's company of comedians. Mr. Clare as Silas Slim and other characters displays much humour; Paul Pettitoe is smartly drawn by Mr. Syd Hind; Biffins is a ludicrous character as played by Mr. J. W. Forrest; M

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—*The Power of Gold* is meeting with an excellent interpretation here at the hands of Mr. Frank Ayrton's company. In the rôle of Lady Brandon Miss Amy McNeill submits a sound and polished performance; as Dr. Zambra Mr. George Littleton, both in make-up and deportment, presents a clever impersonation; Meg Judson has a careful exponent in Miss Lily Prescott; Mr. R. F. Stacey appears with telling effect as Paul Judson; as Mark Harley Mr. Richard Harris plays with care and discretion; and Miss Madge Seymour and Mr. Ayrton, who appear in their original parts, Sammy Smudge and Norah Donnelly, give a delightful exhibition of comedy.

STAFFORD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—At the top of the bill here is Ginnett's *Rejected Remounts*, whose funny antics provide uncontrollable laughter. The Ventuennis are the most mystifying of illusionists; Herr Winckler is a clever conjurer; Dan Noble is responsible for a couple of good songs; the Chronophone talking pictures are novel and interesting; and the Howards, exponents of mental telepathy; Doris Myddleton, a clever girl vocalist; and Marie Yorke, a comedienne with pleasing songs, augment an excellent programme.

STALYBRIDGE.—GRAND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Managers, Messrs. W. A. Jackson and Eugene E. Hardie.—This week's programme includes Tom Stuart in his character excerpts from celebrated plays and novels; Mr. Harry Pleon's sketch, *The Club Raid*; the Sisters Charnley, duettists and dancers; Fred Lyndo, burlesque comedian; Lytton and Bland, in an entertaining duologue; Massono, juggler; the Three Dusky Princes, coon serenaders; Hess and Lisborn, skating artists, &c.

ST. HELENS. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD. — General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—*The Still Alarm* is paying a return visit here under the management of Messrs. Glenville and Osmond. The exciting incidents and the wonderfully rapid turn-out of the fire brigade are much appreciated; the comic relief is in good hands; and the glee singing in the Station scene lends variety to the stronger passages in the play.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Wilmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. Vic. Carnell.—Mr. John F. Preston brings for the first time to St. Helens a condensed version of *The Rogues of the Turf*, and, judging by the large audiences the visit is a welcome one. A strong company of variety artists complete the programme.

STOCKPORT. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—*Saturday to Monday*, presented by Mr. Fred Karno's talented company, has highly amused large audiences here this week. Mr. Roland Martin is exceedingly funny as John Willie Jaggs, and with Mr. V. H. Crawford as John Willie Jaggs, jun., the pair create the heartiest of laughter. Miss Amy Rogerson is delightful as Clorinda, other parts being in capable hands.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—The Five Whiteleys give a smart acrobatic performance; the Silver-Tone quartette of coloured vocalists and cake-walk dancers are very entertaining; Cecilia Maude is a pleasing descriptive vocalist; the Three Orros are clever gymnasts; H. Flockton-Foster's sketch company causes plenty of mirth in the sketch *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law*; the Stebbings, comedy acrobats, are successful; Edie Tennis and Gertie Laune in their vocal scena, *Chapters from Life*; and Ward and Davis in their musical comedy duologue, *Wanted, a Typist*, are received with much favour.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Geo. and Robt. Nicholson; Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Miss Ella's lion show is here this week, and is attracting large audiences; Lily Lonsdale possesses a rich soprano voice and sings brilliantly; Ernie Myers causes great merriment with his patter; and the Sisters Dixon are well received for their dancing act. Maxwell and Frances present a comedy sketch comprising artistic dancing and good singing; Londoun Cameron is an unique conjurer, and is very amusing; and the Two Mackeys cause roars of laughter in their knockabout act. The pictures are very good.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Councillor J. Batty; Manager, Mr. W. Batty.—Fred Earle heads the bill this week with his popular "Seaweed" song; Mr. and Mrs. Lucas are greatly appreciated in their portrayal of characters from the works of Dickens; Sisters Jonghmans are an excellent trio of singers and dance artists; and Herr Bekker is a smart conjurer; Starr and Leslie, in their comedy act, score greatly; the Waldrons present a humorous sketch, *The Silly Burglar*; and Harry Reynolds' Minstrel Troupe are an attractive feature. The pictures are excellent.

STOKE.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr T. Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr. H. Miller.—The premier position here this week is held by Max Gruber's elephant, horse, and pony, whose performance is capital throughout. Miss Hulo Hodgson, Mr. Harry Lowther, and company are seen in a farce which is irresistibly funny; the Bros. Lilian, on the rings, provide a turn of excellence; Lily Vane is a capital vocalist; Kendrick and Laura are seen in a first-class dancing act; Walter Wade is a comedian of merit; Wheeler and Wilson are a pair of enjoyable comedy acrobats; and Bright and Bright provide an enjoyable entertainment.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Stevens and Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Carlo.—The laughable comedy *Charley's Aunt* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Spencer Trevor gives an amusing rendition of the rôle of Lord Babberly; Mr. J. E. Bedells scores as Colonel Chesney, and Mr. Walter Beaumont is successful as Stephen Spettigue. Mr. Hastings Lynn and Mr. R. B. Mason are equally good as Jack Chesney and Charles Wykeman respectively; and Mr. Sydney Compton is capable as Brassett. Miss Bertha Northam and Miss Ida Vynall present pleasing embodiments of Kitty Verdum and Amy Spettigue; and Miss Lena McNaughton is an imposing Donna Lucia; Miss Ruth Nightingale is successful in the less-important rôle of Ela Delahay. The comedy is preceded by a short playlet, entitled *Fourchette and Company*, in which Mr. W. Beaumont, Miss Elsie Robertson, and Mr. W. A. Wetherall appear with advantage.

AVENUE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—Mr. Herbert Ralland's company in *La Poupée* is paying a welcome return visit here this week. Mr. Fred Seymour continues to fill the rôle of Hilarius, and acquits himself in excellent style; Lancelot is in the able hands of Mr. Arthur Cozens; Mr. Arthur Dennis is amusing as Loromois, and the same may be said of Mr. Fuller Allen as the Baron Chanterelle. Mr. Walter Balfour scores as Father Maxime; Miss Edith Hunter is a pleasing Mme. Hilarius, and Miss Mysie Devine scores as Alesia, her vocal efforts being worthy of special praise.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jos. Hemingway.—*A Warning to Women* drew a crowded house here on Monday night. Fergus McNaughton finds an apt exponent in Mr. Norman B. Cannon; and Mr. Richard Vane gives a strong impersonation of Dr. Marcus Dread. Mr. C. Watson Mill is a pleasing Shann; and the same may be said of Mr. Carter Slaughter as Lord Eversleigh. Miss Rosalind Tate does ample justice to the somewhat difficult rôle of Moira Kennion, and Miss Grace Barton is a charming Shella. Miss Ellen Beverley is good as Molly O'Moore.

PALACE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Managers, Messrs. A. Browne and S. B. Stringer.—George Formby, comedian, tops the bill here, and is as droll and amusing as ever; Les Bollingers, rag painters; W. J. Ashcroft, comedian; Two Kays, in scena entitled *The Nightingale*; Keith and Meson, in absurdity; Otto and Olga, comedy artists; Vasey and Ramsey, in a comedy dancing act; and the Schiavonis troupe of comedy acrobats also contribute acceptable turns. There is in addition an excellent show of animated pictures.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD. — KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton, and District Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Cecil Clayton; Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—Mr. Fred J. Webb's company is here with *The Hour of Her Triumph*. The piece was well received on Monday evening. Mr. Fred J. Webb as Eugene Harberry, the heavy lead, gives a fine rendering of the part; Miss Barbara Gott as Rose Denton, upon whose shoulders the lion's share of the work falls, is most capable; Miss M. Danvers Smith as Nellie Clavering, Miss Mamie Stanton as Linda Denton, Mr. James Stuart as Rosenis Montmorency (an actor) all play with success, and the comedy is well looked after by Miss Nancy Doris as Jenny Jinks, Miss Lallah Price as Martha Jinks, and Mr. Louis Nanton as Ben Brodie.

TON-Y-PANDY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—Mr. John A. Thomson's company is attracting good audiences here this week in *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Miss Edith Wallis played the title-rôle very cleverly, her singing receiving great appreciation; Jill was well presented by Miss Maggie Allwood; Mr. Harry Harcourt made a capital Dame; and Teddy Worth and Percy Galino add greatly to the fun as Tommy Tucker and Billy Piper. Mr. R. Lomas scores a success as Jacko, his marvellous feats on the rope and perch being well received.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Mr. Morice Prendergast's company in the sensational drama, *A Woman of Pleasure*, is here this week. As the Countess of Carlingforth, Miss Grace Carew acted with much force; Mr. Ernest F. Wallace did well as the unbending Lord Carlingforth; of the Rev. Luke Goddard a good character-study was given by Mr. H. Lewis; as Major Barrows, Mr. Arthur Gilroy played with vigour; Mrs. Josiah Bumpwell, as presented by Mrs. Charles Eaton, was very successful; and she was well supported by Mr. Edmund Baker as Bobby Bumpwell; as Dolly Dimple, Miss Dolly Gilroy did exceedingly well, her songs being enthusiastically encored, and Mr. A. E. Maskell as Joe Ploughman was quaint. Lord Arthur Selwood was intelligently presented by little Miss Sylvia Eaton.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company in the musical comedy, *The Toreador*, is the attraction this week. Mr. Sydney Granville is highly successful as Carajola; Mr. Robert Rous is irresistibly funny as Sammy Grigg; Mr. Fred Thompson is a capital Sir Archibald, and Mr. Herbert Willis an able Augustus Trail. Mr. Henry Arthur is well suited as the Governor, and Mr. Richard Adams proves effective as Mr. Pettifer. Miss Nina Carlton sings and acts capably as Donna Teresa; Miss Leah Howard makes a charming Susan; Miss Mabel Gregory is a delightful Nancy Staunton, and Miss Florence Wood a dainty Dora Selby. Miss Gwen Clifford gives a clever impersonation of Mrs. Malton Hoppings.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Joe Carroll, champion wrestler, heads the bill this week, and proves a great attraction. Miss Florence Hilton, male impersonator, scores a hit; Nelson and Thomas, sketch artists, prove amusing; Mr. T. C. Callaghan, comedian, is applauded; and Agnes and Arthur Lynch, song-illustrators, provide a capital turn.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—A capital programme is presented here this week, the principal turn being La Milo, the enamelled Venus. Her classical poses are remarkably faithful, especially the Venus de Milo. Her manager (Cruickshanks) gives an exhibition of his marvellous gifts in lightning pictures; Frank Cough, patter comedian, is well received; the Lupino Brothers are exceedingly good in their comic speciality act; and Stelling and his canine comedian, Kiswaski; Lozelle, in an elegantly-dressed act; Myan and Hall, an acrobatic comedy team; Nipper Lupino Lane, a clever boy comedian; and the American Bioscope complete the bill.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Willmot.—A delightful entertainment is provided here this week by Haley's Juveniles, whose dancing and singing are alike excellent; Marie Jones, assisted by Ernest Munro, is seen to advantage in the quick-change duologue, *The Way to Win a Bet*. Andy Fagan is an up-to-date comedian; and Kloof and Ramsay score well in a musical comedy act. The Melroses are capital burlesque artists; and Violet Ashcroft is a dainty comedienne; Houpla and Hecla are a pair of novel equilibrists and acrobats, and the Bioscope pictures are good.

WEDNESBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Kuner.—This week Mr. Edward Marris's musical play, *Somebody's Sweetheart*, is drawing crowded houses here. Mr. W. B. Nugent gives a characteristic impersonation of Stephen Leverton; whilst the rôle of Stanton Ashley is ably rendered by Mr. E. B. Bertram; Miss May Norris makes up well as Fred Ashleigh; Mr. Geo. Bentwood does some clever work in the part of Martin Blabbs; Old Joe, the negro servant, is effectively portrayed by Mr. Frank Gala; Miss Maisie Jerrard as Zoro the Gipsy is warmly applauded; and as Lulo Miss Effie Vincent proves highly efficient; Miss Dora Hargreaves plays the prominent part of Miss Ainsley. The barmaids, Nora and Molly, are admirably presented by Miss Rosie Chandler and Miss Dolly Payne respectively.

WEST BROMWICH. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—Mr. John Gerant and Company opened on Monday with *At Duty's Call*. Mr. Gerant in his well-known impersonation of Harold Allison is powerful; Captain Geo. Allison is played by Mr. Harry Scott in a manly style; Mr. Ernest St. John makes a capital General Gordon; Mr. Walter P. Carr is well placed as Jack Spencer; Joey Trott in the hands of Mr. Ivan Mavis is all that one could desire; Mr. Harry Ugar as Terry O'Hallaron causes a good deal of laughter; Miss Lily Grammond is excellent in the character of Dora Drummond, and Miss Jeannie Weston plays strongly as Salema, Miss Eva Bell being good as Mary.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Player.—A good all-round programme here is headed by Daisy Dormer, who gives a clever and pleasing turn. A return visit of the Royal Delomes is welcome; some smart illusions are presented by Mr. Henry Hilton; applause greets those novel equilibrists, Los Rupertos; Fred Keeton contributes good songs; Kisby scores as the Call Boy; Miss Leah Orden has a charming voice; Miss Adey Spencer is a smart dancer; and the Burnells, as droll as ever, fairly keep the house in roars with their popular sketch, *On the Links*.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Lessee, Mr Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. Herbert E. Feather.—Mr. Norman V. Norman and his company are appearing this week in *David Garrick*, *The Adventures of Lady Ursula*, *Robin Hood*, and *Nell Gwyn*. In the first-named play Mr. Norman undertakes the title-rôle of David Garrick, and gives a fine impersonation. Miss Beatrice Wilson is no less successful in her portrayal of Lucy Westham; Mr. Brember Wills ably fills the part of Alderman Westham; and the rôle of the Hon. Bob Martingale is well played by Mr. Aubrey Mathers.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Barton and Ashley are well remembered here, and their performance was looked forward to. Their sketch, *Canal Boat Sal*, keeps the audience in roars of laughter. Percy Hannan, a fine voiced young baritone, repeats his success; *What a Life!* a sketch by Edwards and Dacre, is sparkling with fun and humour; the performance by Max Duffex, musical contortionist, is sensational and certainly novel; the Sivronis, burlesque artists, do some funny business; Fioretti and Elly, in a barrel and spade jumping act, are artists of undoubted merit: the Waltons, expert gymnasts, perform some startlingly clever feats; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are more than usually interesting.

WEST STANLEY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, The Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Miss Ethel Van Praagh and Mr. J. E. Whitty's company in *An Unwedded Wife*, is proving a good attraction here this week. Mr. Harry Townley and Miss Jessie Gillette are responsible for some refined humour as Perk Pimple and Carry Crumpet; Mr. E. St. Clair Forber gives a powerful portrayal of Philip Blackstone; Mr. Logan Darra is a good John Hawthorne, Miss May Axon an interesting Elsie Langham; and the title-rôle is ably handled by Miss Ethel Van Praagh.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Raws; Responsible Manager, Mr. John Cassidy.—The top of the bill here is occupied by Clarke's Nippers; Raynor and Reece are clever and entertaining; Miss May Tudor is a winning comedienne; the Levans give a clever turn; Mozzetto is a marvellous juggler; Mr. Geo. Russell creates a deal of humour; Mr. Harry Raley is a sweet boy vocalist; and the Vicoscope has a new series of pictures.

WHITEHAVEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Clark.—Miss Grace Warner's company is engaged here in popular plays, *The Scarlet Clue* being presented on Monday. Mr. George Gordon does justice to the part of Michael Stanton; Mr. J. Armitage is successful as Harry Esmond; Mr. J. Leigh is an amusing Billy, and Mr. F. Heywood a good Edward Crocker; Miss M. Stammer makes a pleasing Miss Esmond; and a powerful performance of Sal is submitted by Miss Grace Warner. During the week *Lady Audley's Secret* and *East Lynne* are being presented.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddle.—This week we have here *The New World*, played by Mr. Will White's capable company. Mr. Victor Rae is a manly Jack Hawley; Mr. W. S. Stevenson is sufficiently villainous as Jim Rawlings; Mr. Albert Carlton plays the unpleasant part of Jose Alvarez with ability; Mr. Willie Hicks is exceedingly humorous as Pete; Mr. Will Bass and Mr. Fred Guinness are a comical pair, and their work is invaluable to the success of the production; Mr. Will White appears with entire success as the good-hearted Col. Belan Clayton; Miss Evelyn Rosbon is a clever May Walton; while the highest praise should be accorded Miss Beatrice Moore for her excellent performance as Jenny Williams; the Samantha of Miss Maud Leslie is an amusing study. In the hotel scene specialities are given by Miss Beatrice Moore, Messrs. Bass and Guinness, and Mr. Willie Hicks, who all reveal talent of a high order.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Mr. Junius Booth's company, in the dramatised version of Dumas' *Monte Cristo*, has attracted large audiences during the week. Mr. Junius Booth enacts the part of Edmund Dantes with much versatility and power, and he is ably supported by Mr. Beckett Bould as M. Nortier and Mr. A. Bowerman as Baron Danglers. Miss Sallie Forsyth as Mercedes, Miss Amy Manfree as Sophie Douglas, and Miss Alice West as La Carconte portray their respective parts admirably.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—John Lawson and company, in the realistic sketches *Humanity* and *The Devil's Sunday*, are the chief features of this week's programme. Other excellent turns are furnished by Great Mittzi, Japanese juggler; Smith and Johnson, coloured performers; the Three Cape Girls, comediennes and dancers; and Florrie Bray, versatile comedienne. Mlle. Melita, dancer; Les Valdos, tumblers, knockabouts, &c., Eva Chadwick, girl vocalist, and Will Musgrave, comedian, form the complement of an entertaining bill of fare.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival.—This week Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company are appearing here in the attractive comedy *Peter's Mother*. An excellent portrayal of the part of Sir Timothy Crewys is given by Mr. Charles Harley; Mr. Percy Hutchison does admirably as Peter Crewys; Mr. Eille Norward is seen to advantage as John Crewys; Mr. William Mallalieu is capital as Canon Birch and Mr. Drew Mackintosh is an effective Dr. Blundell. As Lady Mary Crewys Miss Ruth Mackay gives a natural and artistic impersonation, while she charms everyone with her grace and style; Miss Mary Griffiths is a most efficient Lady Belstone, and Mrs. Mallalieu is a capable Miss G. Crewys; as Sarah Miss Hilda Honiss is very successful, and Miss Ethel Royale does well as Mrs. Hewell. The play is preceded by *Chalk and Cheese*, in which Mr. Drew Mackintosh, Miss Ethel Royale, and Miss Hilda Honiss creditably sustain the respective parts.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—This week *The Silver King* is being presented by Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company. Mr. Fred D. Daviss essays the part of Wilfred Denver in excellent fashion, and he is well supported by Miss Daisy Scudamore (Nellie Denver), Mr. Edward J. George, Miss Flossie Hale-Daviss, Miss Viola Holland, and Mr. L. St. George Lowther.

EMPIRE PALACE.—The special attraction here is Irma Lorraine, whose various artistic poses are most effective. Other items in a good programme are Athos and Collins, musical comedians; Rachel Lowe, vocalist; Dol Hardy, comedienne; Happy Atwood, comedian; and the Sisters Belmont, duettists and dancers.

WORKINGTON. — OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Manager, Mr. Falconer Jackes.—On Monday Miss Frances Delaval's company presented *The Biggest Scamp on Earth* to a large and appreciative audience. As Mamoi Miss Delaval played with striking effect; Mr. F. Lillywhite as the hero was effective; and Mr. Cecil Gray as the villain proved quite successful; Mr. H. Buckley was satisfactory as "Nap"; Mr. F. Taylor's comedy was enjoyed, and he was well partnered by Miss Nell Ingram; Miss Clare O. Sullivan was charming as the heroine, and quite won the sympathy of her auditors; Mrs. E. Lyons was excellent as Mother Hawke; as Bobby Miss Carrie Johnson played with ability.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Mr. H. F. Maltby and company opened here on Monday with *Sir George of Almack's*. Mr. H. F. Maltby gives an excellent delineation of Walter Inman; Mr. Wyn Weaver excellently portrays Sir George Wimbledon; Mr. Harris Fraser typicaly enacts the part of the Duke of Porchester; Mr. Reginald Favell does well as James Briarley; and Mr. Lyndon C. Irwin is effective as Sir Christopher Chiselhurst. Miss Dorothy Cousin is winsome as Mary; and Miss Mara Maltby capitally takes the part of Lady Clare Housby. *The Youngest of Three* was played at Wednesday's matinée, and Miss Chistine Silver appeared in *The Lion and the Mouse* on Thursday.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls.—A really good all-round show is delighting the patrons here this week. Reed and Lerne, in their novel electric comedy turn, go well; the Bodina Trio are clever musicians; the Royal Estos, speciality artists, score decidedly, and Mr. J. J. Beswick, a quaint comedian, also does well. The animated picures are particularly good.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, H. J. Dacre.—*A Night Out* is here, with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sugden in the cast. Mr. Sugden as Paillard gives one of those clever character-sketches for which he is celebrated. As Pinglet, Mr. Edward Shirley is a decided success; as the meek and mild Mathieu, Mr. Mark Lester contributes in no small degree to the general amusement; Mrs. Sugden, a handsome Marcelle, acts with much charm; and Miss Constance Groves and Miss Lillian Stafford are in every way excellent as Angelique and Victorine.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—Joe Reichen's dog performance has proved a genuine attraction here; Marstro and Oretta in their expert juggling performances are warmly applauded; Helen Charles, in her novel entertainments, fully deserves the applause bestowed; Stewart and Morgan are applauded for their clever singing; and Mr. Herbert Bates's rendering of *The Death of Nelson* was a most enjoyable item; Walter Curtis is again amusing with his witticisms; and the facial expressions of Fred Spencer cause merriment. A capital company is completed by the Cumberlands, favourite cyclists.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The concert of Wednesday at the Guildhall School of Music opened with Mendelssohn's Andante and Capriccio in E, for solo pianoforte, played by Miss Helen Squire. A somewhat more ambitious and equally successful effort was Miss Jennie Watson's violin solo of Wagner's "Preislied," as arranged by Wilhelm. Miss Watson has freedom of execution, and with a little care in the matter of correct intonation ought to become a skilled performer. Zanetta's quaint Tempo di Minuetto for piano, neatly executed by Miss Winifred Bamford, was much applauded, and Miss Ethel Harman imparted considerable interest to her violin solo of Spohr's Allegro from Concerto Dramatique. A mandoline duet, "Overture des Marionettes," by Gurlitt, was excellently played by Miss L. Branston and Miss L. Cooper, pupils of Mme. Waldahoff. In the vocal part of the programme Mr. John T. Barnes may be praised for his singing of "The Curfew," by Monk Gould, and Miss Maude Eason made a good impression by her careful rendering of Godard's "Chanson de Florian." Mr. Oswald Fullbrook hardly got the full effect out of Sullivan's once popular song, "Once Again," in spite of a pleasing voice; but Miss Bessie Hayward was very successful in four songs by Liza Lehmann, from her cycle "The Life of a Rose." Miss Hughes and Miss Henderson, set down for songs by Maude V. White and Augusta Holmes, were through illness unable to appear. A recitation, "Sheltered," by Orme Jewett, was cleverly given by Miss Elvina Straker, one of Mr. Cairns James's pupils. The accompanist was Miss Jenny Hyman.

NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

LONDON.

FEB. 2. *Nelson*, play, in one act, by Louis Cohen (copyright performance)—Coronet.
" 4. *Her Dearest Friend*, play, in one act, by Rosemary Rees—Coronet.
" 4. *Le Petit Hôtel*, by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy (M. Georges Berr, Mlle. Bertiny)—Royalty.
" 4. *Le Légataire Universel*, by Regnard (M. Georges Berr, Mlle. Kolb)—Royalty.
FEB. 5. *A Northern Romance*, play, in four acts, by Cicely Wroughton (produced by amateurs)—Comedy.
" 5. *The Philanderer*, topical comedy, in four acts, by Bernard Shaw—Court.
" 6. *Mr. Gull's Fortune*, comedy, in three acts, adapted by H. Chance Newton from *L'Héritage de Monsieur Plumet*, comedy, by Théodore Barrère (a version of the same comedy by Mr. James Mortimer, entitled *The Alderman*, was produced at the Criterion Theatre on April 29, 1887—revived at the Jodrell (The Novelty/ Nov. 24, 1888)—Terry's.
" 6. *Weighed in the Balance*, adaptation of a story, with songs, by W. H. C. Nation—Terry's.
" 6. *Pitch and Toss*, comedy-drama, in one act, by Miss Graham—Amateur Players' Theatre, Victoria-street, S.W.
" 6. *In Furnished Rooms*, monologue, by Miss Graham—Amateur Players' Theatre, Victoria-street, S.W.
" 8. *Nigel*, romantic opera, in two acts, composed by Stephen R. Philpott, written by Percy Pinkerton (originally produced at Grand Theatre, Birmingham, Jan. 25, 1907)—Shakespeare, Clapham.
" 11. *Major Jennings*, farce, in three acts, by F. A. Besant Rice—Camden.
" 11. *Education de Prince*, comedy, in three acts, by Maurice Donnay (originally produced at the Paris Variétés, March 17, 1900) (Mlle. Jeanne Granier)—Royalty.
" 11. *The Tattooed Man*, comic opera, in two acts, book and lyrics by Harry B. Smith, music by Victor Herbert (copyright performance)—Bijou Theatre, Bayswater.
" 11. *The Cassilis Engagement*, comedy, in four acts, by St. John Hankin (Incorporated Stage Society)—Imperial.
" 11. *A Night with the Stars*, musical comedy hotch-potch, in two acts, by Max Goldberg (National Alliance lesseeship)—The Scala.
" 12. *The Mystery of Marcus; or, Antony and Cleopatra in a New Light*, an architectural hash, in three courses, by W. J. H. Leverton—Guildhall School of Music Theatre.
" 14. *Three Blind Mice*, comedy, in three acts, by Arthur Law (originally produced at the Theatre Royal, Margate, July 30, 1906)—The Criterion.
" 14. *The Redemption of Agnes*, an Italian mediæval religious play, in three acts (copyright performance) — Bijou Theatre, Bayswater.
" 25. *The Daughter of Herodias*, play, in one act, by Brinsley Trehane, music by Granville Bantock (semi-private performance)—Comedy.
" 25. *The Midnight Wedding*, play, in four acts, by Walter Howard (originally produced at the Grand Junction Theatre, Manchester, Oct. 30, 1905)—Royal West London Theatre.

PROVINCES.

FEB. 1. *Some Day*, drama, in a prologue and three acts, by V. Temple—Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford.
" 11. *A Matrimonial Bureau*, farce, in one act, by "Sparrowdrop"—Queen's Royal Theatre, Dublin.

REVIVALS

FEB. 2. *Le Voyage de M. Perrichon*, comedy, in four acts, by Eugène Labiche and Edouard Martin (M. Coquelin's season)—Royalty.
" 7. *La Bataille des Dames*, comedy, by Scribe and Legouvé (M. Georges Berr, Mlle. Bertiny)—Royalty.
" 7. *Le Baiser*, comedy, in verse, by Théodore de Banville (M. Georges Berr, Mlle. Bertiny)—Royalty.
" 8. *Le Mariage de Figaro*, comedy, in five acts, by Beaumarchais (M. Georges Berr, Mlle. Bertiny)—Royalty.
" 26. *The Prodigal Son*, the drama, by Hall Caine (originally produced at Drury Lane Theatre on Sept. 7, 1905)—Adelphi.

PROVINCES.

FEB. 2. *The Amateur Fire Brigade*, sketch, by Arthur Jefferson (copyright performance)—Metropole, Glasgow.
" 15. *The Melcombe Marriage*, play, in three acts, by Winifred Dolan — Theatre Royal, Brighton.
" 18. *Terence*, comedy of Irish life, in four acts, by Mrs. B. M. Croker—Theatre Royal, Margate.
" 18. *A Hundred Years Hence*, fantastic play, in one act, by Margaret Stanley Clark—Royalty Theatre, Glasgow.
" 20. *With Edged Tools*, version, in five acts, of Henry Séton Merriman's novel (copyright performance) — New Gaiety Theatre, Ayr.
" 22. *The Rose of Dawn*, play, in three acts, by Herbert T. Rainger (produced by amateurs)—Victoria Rooms, Cheltenham.
" 22. *The Gentleman in Grey*, comedy, in three acts, by Montague Compton—Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.
" 23. *Dr. Meredith's Experiment*, play, in three acts, by Henry Harding (produced by amateurs)—Balfour Institute, Liverpool.
" 25. *A Soldier's Honour*, military melodrama, in four acts, by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley—Grand Junction Theatre, Manchester.

PARIS.

FEB. 2. *Madame Tantale*, vaudeville, in three acts, by Henri Kéroul and Albert Carré—Palais-Royal.
" 5. *No. 13*, vaudeville, in three acts, by Henri Kéroul and Albert Carré — Folies-Dramatiques.
" 7. *Sa Sœur*, comedy, in three acts, by Tristan Bernard—Athénée.
" 9. *Les Etoiles*, play, in four acts, by Jean Jullien—Molière.
" 20. *Les Hirondelles*, operette, in three acts, by Maurice Ordonneau, music by Henri Hirschman—Gaîté.
" 22. *Les Jacobines*, comedy, in four acts, by Abel Hermant—Vaudeville.
" 23. *L'Amie des Sages*, lyric comedy, in three acts, by M. Allou—L'Œuvre.
" 23 *Fernand*, one act, by Jean Mazeran—L'Œuvre.
" 25. *La Maison d'Argile*, play, in three acts, by Emile Fabre—Comédie-Française.
" 25. *Le Dieu Terme*, antique comedy, by G. Nigond—Comédie-Française.
" 28. *La Faute de l'Abbé Mouret*, play, in four acts and twelve tableaux, founded on Zola's novel, by Alfred Bruneau—Odéon.

BERLIN.

FEB. 2. *Die Jungfern von Bischofsberg*, five-act comedy, by G. Hauptmann—Lessing.
" 4. *Zu den Sternen*, four-act play, by L. Andrejeff—Kleines.
" 4. *Eine Hochzeitsnacht*, comedy, in one act, by A. Stiehler—Figaro.
" 4. *Sein Ideal*, comedy, in one act, by Felix Berger—Figaro.
" 6. *Zuirrkommen*, three-act comedy, by J. Clairmont—Luisen.
" 8. *Meissner Porzelan*, four-act comedy, by Hans von Kahlenberg—Neues.
" 9. *Haben Sie Nichts zu Verzollern?* three-act farce, by MM. Hennequin and Veber—Residenz.
" 15. *Der Erbe von Baskerville*, play, in four acts, drawn from Conan Doyle by F. Gibson—Luisen.
" 15. *Das Dumme Luder*, one-act play, by Paul Scheerbart—Figaro.
" 15. *Der Schornsteinfeger*, one-act play, by Paul Scheerbart—Figaro.
" 15. *Der Regimentswechsel*, one-act play, by Paul Scheerbart—Figaro.
" 15. *Das Gift*, one-act play, by Paul Scheerbart—Figaro.
" 15. *Herr Kammerdiener*, one-act play, by Paul Scheerbart—Figaro.
" 16. *Der Milliardär*, operetta, in three acts, by Ferdinand Gradl—Central.
" 16. *Adieu, Thérèse!* one-act comedy, by L. Renner—Figaro.
" 16. *Sein Alibi*, farce, in three acts, by Wilhelm Wolters—Figaro.
" 21. *Romeo und Julia auf dem Dorfe*, five-act opera, by F. Delius—Komische Oper.
" 25. *Mieze und Maria*, four-act comedy, by Georg Hirschfeld—Lessing.
" 25. *Die Kralle*, play, in four acts, by H. Bernstein—Kleines.

PLOTS OF PLAYS.

That valuable body, the Theatrical Managers' Association, as we stated last week, has been obliged to protest against the practice of describing, wholly or in part, the plots of plays prior to their production. The Association has addressed a circular letter to the editors of London newspapers on the subject. The letter runs as follows:—

11, Garrick-street, London, W.C.
March 12, 1907.

SIR,—The Theatrical Managers' Association (the members of which control the most important theatres in London and the provinces) desire to point out to you that a serious danger has lately arisen in the conduct of their business. On at least two occasions, recently, the plots and incidents of original plays to be produced in London have been given in the columns of one or two leading newspapers without the sanction, desire, or authority of the author or the manager, and have, in fact, been communicated to the Press through the treachery of some persons actively engaged in the enterprise, and against the express wish of author and manager.

The Theatrical Managers' Association appreciate most cordially the friendly attitude of the leading newspapers to them, and they trust that they will not be considered unreasonable in requesting the Proprietors and Editors to protect their interests by refusing to publish the plots and incidents of plays before production, unless the managers and authors should be agreeable to such a course.—We are, Sir, your obedient servants (on behalf of the Theatrical Managers' Association),

George Alexander (Vice-President).	Cecil Paget.
J. E. Vedrenne.	J. Bannister Howard.
J. M. Chute (Vice-President).	F. Mouillot.
Arthur Collins.	T. H. Birch.
A. and S. Gatti.	R. C. Buchanan.
George Edwardes.	Lawson Lambert.
Arthur Bourchier.	H. C. Beryl.
Frank Curzon.	J. W. Rowland.
Tom B. Davis.	Arthur Jefferson.
Frederick Harrison.	E. J. Domville.
William Greet.	William Morton.
Milton Bode.	Edward Marris.
Ernest Carpenter.	W. W. Kelly.
J. B. Mulholland (

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, March 11,
"SHERLOCK HOLMES."

Messrs. William Gillette and Conan Doyle's thrilling play, *Sherlock Holmes*, paid its first visit here on Monday, and was accorded a hearty reception from a well-filled house, the frequent and spontaneous applause testifying to the grip of the piece. The episode in the career of the great detective, showing his connection with the strange case of Miss Faulkner is of absorbing interest that is fully maintained by Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart's company. The part of Sherlock Holmes has evidently received much careful study from Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart, who gives a convincing and striking protrayal of the famous detective. Mr. Stewart thoroughly deserves the genuine approbation which he secures by his highly satisfactory impersonation. Mr. Allan Jaeyes does excellently as Dr. Watson, and Mr. Fred Bell must be awarded a meed of praise for his capital delineation of John Forman. Mr. James Skea as Professor Moriarty is highly successful, his exposition of this "Napoleon of crime" being a well studied representation. The despicable character of James Larrabee is undertaken by Mr. James Hare, who comes through the ordeal with flying colours. The Sydney prince of Mr. Edward Mervyn is a careful study, and the parts of Alfred Bassick, Jim Cragin, Thomas Leary, and "Lightfoot" McTague are suitably allotted to Messrs. Wilson, Roberts, Gordon K. Bull, W. Pemberton, and Harold Broughton. The minor parts of John and Parsons are also well filled by Mr. William Wilson and Frank Spray. Master Leslie Hall must not be forgotten for his excellent portrayal of Billy, the page. Master Hall is a clever little comedian, and has a future before him. Miss Georgina Wynter carries off a good share of the honours with her finished impersonation of Madge Larrabee, her assumption of the rôle being not only consistent, but clever. Miss Gladys Harvey proves herself an able actress in the part of Alice Faulkner; and Miss Rosalie Notrelle does very well as Therese. Mr. Henry Littlejohn (Sir Edward Leighton), Mr. Frank H. Moar (Count von Stahlbourg), Miss Grace Howard (Mrs. Smeedley), and Miss Dot Seilby (Mrs. Faulkner) complete a cast that could scarcely be improved upon. The staging and scenery are excellent.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, March 11, the Drama, entitled
"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."

Mr. Walter Melville's company appeared here on Monday evening in his latest and most successful play, *The Soldier's Wedding*. The audience were quick to recognise its merits, and accorded it a most cordial reception. The drama has an interesting story running through it, and the characters are well drawn. There is one scene of an old farmhouse, which is exceedingly pretty, and the live stock that are introduced make it most realistic and an altogether delightful piece of scenic art. The hero of the story, Jack Brown, a smart and gallant soldier, is played in an admirable manner by Mr. Wingold Lawrence, who has a light and breezy style, and is seen to advantage throughout the piece. Miss Jessie Winter has already become a favourite in Camden Town, and her appearance as Nancy Lee is very welcome; she plays in her accustomed charming and simple style, and wins the full sympathy of the audience for the character. Mr. Beresford Whitcombe is well placed as Colonel Graham, a part which he fills with distinction. Julie de Beauvrais, the adventuress, is capably portrayed by Miss Marie McAuley, who has a very dramatic style; while Mr. Raymond Wood incurs the wrath of the gods by his picture of the villain of the play, Charles Courtenay, a very creditable piece of work, displaying much skill. Mr. A. Gambier Melford is amusing as the amateur cracksman, Tommy Spratt, whose adventures prove to be so useful in bringing the two schemers, Julie and Courtenay, to justice. Miss Ettie Carlisle is also the cause of much mirth as Lizzie Walker, the poor girl in search of a husband; Miss Georgie De Lara is seen to great advantage as Peggy Munro; and Teddy Munro is smartly played by a youthful actor billed as Little Albert. Mr. Fred Yarnold gives a clever sketch of an old countryman as Nathaniel Lee; and Mr. Frederick Biron makes a good David Munro. There are several minor characters, which are in each case capably filled. The play is staged in the most complete style, and Mr. Walter Melville certainly omits nothing which can add to the success of the production, and he is amply repaid for his efforts. Mr. A. G. Melford is to be complimented on his excellent stage-management; and Mr. Beresford Whitcomb is the general-manager for the company. Mr. George F. Ford's orchestra, as usual, acquit themselves admirably, and play several very pretty selections. Mr. Robert Arthur's interests are well looked after by Mr. Wilfred Stanford.

GRAND THEATRE, ISLINGTON.

On Monday, March 11, the Drama, entitled
"IN A WOMAN'S GRIP."

For the current week the above drama has been staged, and an audience that packed the cheaper portions of the theatre extended to it on Monday the full meed of popular approval. Mr. Frederick Melville's drama is another of his feminine studies, and it is sufficient to say that if nothing particularly new finds a place in his work it bears all the evidences of emanating from an experienced writer for the stage. Last week's company, with one or two additions, are responsible for the performance, and they all work very hard for the general success. Mr. Ernest E. Norris as Frank Haydon submits another excellent reading; manly and dignified, he makes much of his opportunities. Mr. T. C. Aubrey as Maurice Stanton plays the conventional heavy rôle in the approved manner, acting with power, and scoring a success. Mr. A. P. Kaye as Lambert portrays the character with skill. Mr. E. Harvey White as Joe Buller extracts much laughter from the many unfortunate situations in which he finds himself. Mr. James E. Manning as Sharkey is responsible for an effective study of an old salt; Mr. F. Summers as Mr. Fairley is adequate in a small part; Mr. Robert Soane as the Governor of the Prison does everything possible with a poor part; and the same may be said of Mr. Cushley as Dr. Edwards. Mr. Henry Johnston as Dick Langley is worthy of commendation; Mr. H. Bowen as Sir Edward Morton realises excellently the dignified diplomatic representative; Mr. Jack Denton as the Mad Doctor portrays that singular character with effective touches. Miss Beaumont Collins, in a triple rôle, succeeds in interesting her audience; Miss Maude Stewart Drewry as Lillian Fairley does everything possible with a part of limited opportunities, and acts with the requisite sympathetic touch; Miss Lena Delphine, of whom we have pleasant memories here, is bright and amusing as Molly Smithers, and contributes not a little to the gaiety of the evening. The remaining smaller parts, of which there are many, are all in good hands. The scenery and mounting are on a lavish scale, the British Embassy scene in Paris being a particularly good stage picture.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, March 11, the Drama, entitled
"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."

This play is aptly described as a "whirlwind drama of surprises," for incident follows incident with startling rapidity. Mr. Henry Lonsdale is a well-knit, manly figure as George Madison, his acting being strong and robust and his elocution well-nigh faultless. As the rascally Charles Devereux Mr. Louis Hector acts with energy and force, and there is also a certain amount of dignity in his bearing, which greatly adds to the value of his portrayal; Mr. Leonard Maxwell is persevering as Geoffrey Broughton; Mr. Rawden Vivian is quietly earnest as the Rev. Mr. Dean; Mr. Phillips gives a clever character study of the old rustic, Joe Lambkin; Mr. Fred de Vere works hard and is distinctly amusing as Timothy Tuttutt; and Mr. Mr. Herbert Goddard is responsible for a well-defined delineation of Sir George Lancaster. Miss Nellie Fletcher pleasingly portrays the Mother Superior; Miss Ruth Hunt is pleasantly vivacious as Patty Lovejoy; Miss Gertrude Hunt brings the brutality and coarseness of Lady Lucretia Lancaster's character well to the fore; whilst Miss Gertrude Bonser wins plenty of sympathy for the womanly way in which she sustains the rôle of the sorely-tried Lucy. The piece was well received, its popularity in Marylebone evidently being as strong as ever. Mr. Roland Yorke is Mr. Frederick Melville's hustling general manager.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday March 11,
"THE TAMING OF THE SHREW."

Miss Lily Brayton and Mr. Oscar Asche and their well-chosen West-end company are appearing at the Coronet this week in Shakespeare's delightful comedy *The Taming of the Shrew*, as exploited so successfully at the Adelphi. From the realistic representation of the induction, with Mr. Oscar Asche as the metamorphosed tinker, Christopher Sly, to the final scene of the play, when Kate the Curst has become comformable to the ordinary routine of married life, and furthermore acknowledges Petruchio as her lord and master, a triumph of artistic frolic is exhibited. It seems like "painting the lily" to revert to Miss Brayton's *tour de force* in the part of Katharina, the shrew, just as it is "gilding refined gold" to praise the picturesque and robustious arrogance of Mr. Asche's Petruchio. It will perhaps convey more than mere reiteration of our intense admiration for these two extremely notable performances to say that Miss Lily Brayton and Mr. Oscar Asche play their parts better than ever, the demoniac fury of the termagant pitted against the determined and dominating spirit of the man, who meets her on her own ground of tyranny allied with blustering and frantic folly, are grandly, nay, magnificently portrayed. The other parts are capitally rendered. Miss Agnes Brayton makes a very sweet and gentle, but withal knowing, Bianca; and her lovers, Lucentio and Hortensio, are excellently limned by Mr. H. R. Hignett and Mr. Reginald Ian Penny, who act with dignity and spirit, and speak their lines trippingly on the tongue. The part of Gremio, the elderly suitor for the hand of the fair Bianca, is most drolly depicted by Mr. Caleb Porter, who, besides contributing a sterling performance, also undertakes the duties of stage management. Mr. Alfred Brydone is most urbane and courtly as Baptista, the rich gentleman of Padua, who is father to the two maids whose courtship and marriage form the subject of this merry play. Mr. Kay Souper as Tranio, Mr. R. F. Anson as Biondello, and Mr. Henry Kitts as Grumio do splendid service, and add considerably to the merriment of the proceedings; Miss Constance Robertson as Curtis, Mr. W. R. Staveley, Miss Leila Norris, Mr. Gordon Harker, and others all fit well in the picture. The piece is handsomely mounted and staged, and the pretty and appropriate incidental music by Noel Johnson is well rendered by the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Christopher Wilson. Mr. Alfred Wareing acts as business-manager to the company.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, March 11, the Musical Comedy, in Two Acts, entitled
"THE SPRING CHICKEN."

This popular and diverting musical comedy is proving a great attraction at the Shakespeare Theatre this week, and Mr. George Dance's principal company is being received with great enthusiasm. The play, excellently interpreted, goes with a swing from start to finish, and the witty lines and amusing scenes provoke continuous laughter and cheers. Mr. J. S. Durant submits a most effective rendering of the gay advocate, Gustave Babori, and acquits himself with success. Mr. Fred Payne in the part of Mr. Girdle proves a worthy successor to his brother, of Gaiety fame, and keeps the audience in a constant state of merriment, not a dull moment intervening whilst he is on the stage. His duet with Mr. Durant entitled "Sunday afternoon in London" evokes roars of laughter, and is one of the titbits of the evening. Mr. Edwin Dodds is amusing as the waiter Felix; Mr. C. Brierley gives an excellent impersonation of Girdle's son, Stephen Henry; and Mr. Harry Averell as Boniface is thoroughly satisfactory. Miss Chrissie Ralland, a very bright and engaging Rosalie, sings and dances with much vivacity; as Mrs. Girdle Miss Nellie Kavanagh has a part that fits her to perfection, and scores a decided hit with her songs "Regent-street" and "I guess, Oh I guess." A pleasing performance of Dulcie Babori is given by Miss Florence Wix, who renders her song "Oh, so gently" with much expression, and is accorded much applause. As Emmy-Lou, Miss Lilian Errol acquits herself artistically; and Miss Clarice Cartner makes a charming Baroness Papouche. The minor parts are all capably sustained, and the chorus and augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Knight Pearce render valuable aid. The piece is very handsomely dressed and liberally mounted. Mr. Harry B. Earle is manager and Mr. Edwin Dodds stage-manager for Mr. George Dance.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Tuesday, March 12, the Opera entitled
"THE GONDOLIERS."

It is now over twenty years since the first of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas began to attract all London, but it may be truly stated of the various productions that despite length of time age cannot wither nor custom stale their infinite variety. It is, therefore, not surprising that South Londoners have been flocking in large numbers to the musical feast which has been provided for them at the Crown, Peckham, during the present week. Needless to say, the D'Oyly Carte Principal Répertoire Company interprets the work of the master-hands with a fidelity and a minuteness of detail which cannot be too highly praised, the representation of the various characters being well-nigh perfect. On Tuesday a notably good performance was given of that sparkling opera of Venetian life, *The Gondoliers*. Mr. Charles R. Walenn was to have essayed the important rôle of the Duke of Plaza-Toro, but owing to his unfortunate indisposition, the part was played at short notice by Mr. Fred Edgar. Mr. Edgar made a notable success, playing the character of the fussy little henpecked Duke with much humour, and getting all the fun possible out of his various musical items. Mr. Tom Redmond was well placed as the Grand Inquisitor, making that important functionary a very quaint and amusing person, and giving a capital rendering of "No possible doubt whatever." Mr. Albert Kavanagh as Giuseppe was a tuneful and picturesque gondolier, and Mr. Pacie Ripple as Marco also acted well throughout, and scored a great success with the ballad, "Take a pair of sparkling eyes." Mr. Leicester Tunks looked handsome as Luiz, and was deservedly encored for his solo in the first act. Miss Hope Hastings did well with the ballad, "Woman's heart must go with woman's hand," and proved a winsome Gianetta; while Miss Lulu Evans was a fascinating Tessa, her voice being very sweet and her enunciation very distinct. The quartette, "A regular royal queen," rendered by the Misses Evans and Hastings and Messrs. Ripple and Kavanagh, was a great success. Miss Mabel Graham was good as Corsilda, and Miss Mabel Burrage as Vittoria sang her solo in the first act, "Roses red and roses white," very tunefully. Miss Theresa Rassam was a most dignified Duchess of Plaza-Toro. The operas are produced under the direction of Mr. F. A. Leon, while Mr. T. Silver is the able musical director, Mr. H. E. Bellamy being the business-manager. During the week *The Mikado*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Yeomen of the Guard*, *Princess Ida*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *Trial by Jury* have also been played.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, March 11, the Play, in Four Acts, by Sutton Vane, entitled
"THE SPAN OF LIFE."

The play running this week at Fulham is *The Span of Life*, a fairly robust melodrama of the ordinary type. In addition to the usual attractions of melodrama it has a specially thrilling scene, in which the heroine is enabled to escape across a chasm by the aid of three acrobats, who link themselves end to end so to say, and span the gap with a human bridge, over which she is able to walk. This part of the performance is most successfully done by the Stebbing Brothers, who also give a clever acrobatic display between two scenes. As actors, moreover, they acquit themselves worthily in the play proper. The hero, Richard Blunt, is played by Mr. R. S. Trelawney with earnestness and power; Mr. Sanderson Moffat as Dunstan Leach is an admirably persistent and cold-blooded villain, and makes the most of his part; Mr. Walter Dale has the gift of humour, and causes many hearty laughs as Nutty Brown, also scoring with a good rendering of a comic song, satirising the prevalent fashion for "Good-bye" songs; Mr. James Jarret contributes a good study of character as Joshua Gurnet, the light-house man; and Mr. Charles Noel impersonates an Inspector of Police. Mr. J. Petersfell is dignified as the kind-hearted Arab Azrek; Miss Phyllis Graham, who takes a double part—the child Cecil Jelf in the first act, and the son of the hero and heroine in the later acts—gives a satisfactory rendering of each. Miss Phyllis Hamilton shows some power as Mrs. Jelf; Miss Kitty Russell acts throughout with much skill and humour as the maid-of-all-work, Shrove Tuesday, with a successful song; and Miss Guinevere Shilton does well in the onerous part of the heroine, Kate Heathcote.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, March 11, the Tragedy, in Four Acts, by Lateiner, entitled
"THE EXILE."

Although J. Lateiner's tragedy of *The Exile*, as presented by the Jewish Operatic and Dramatic Company at the Pavilion on Monday night, on scarcely lay claim to any attraction as a novelty, yet the story dealing with a phase of Nihilism as applied to the Jewish faith is in every way interesting and thoroughly effective. The piece receives skilful treatment from the capable Yiddish artists, and, at the same time, is exceedingly well mounted. On Monday Mr. Chas. Natansohn fully sustained his high reputation by his performance of Osip, in which he displayed much pathos and strong emotional power. Mme. Natansohn exhibited talent of a very high order, her rendering of the suppressed passion, energy, and tenderness of Luboff Michailovna being of unusual excellence and winning for her recalls at the close of every act. Mr. J. Fineberg is always at his best when depicting tyrannical scoundrels; therefore, he is seen to particular advantage as Nicolai Nikitin, a part which he invests with the necessary brutality; while Mr. Isaacowitch is deserving of much praise for the admirable way in which he succeeded in the character of Ivanoff. Careful intelligence was shown by Mr. J. Goldsmith as Reb Jacob; and Mr. S. Schilling was well placed as Michele, Mr. N. Hamburger being satisfactory as a Detective. Mme. Goldstein found favour as Sarah; and Mme. Josephson as Alexander, Mr. Markowitz as Fiodor, and Mr. Levene as a Colonel, did good work when required. The tableau at the close of the play, of the Nihilists grouped round a garlanded statue of Liberty, is most picturesque. During the week performances have been given of *The Bigamist*, *Son of the Star*, *Broken Hearts*, *Otheilo*, and *Sulamith*.

RICHMOND THEATRE.

On Wednesday, March 13, the Musical Comedy,
"THE CATCH OF THE SEASON."

Quite a full house assembled to witness the flying visit of *The Catch of the Season*, to which a particularly favourably reception was accorded. Premier honours went to Miss Moya Mannering, a delightful Angela, who sang and danced to perfection. She won a full meed of applause for her tasteful rendition of "I'll be a good little girl," and in Act II. she was heard at her best in "Molly" and "Teasing." Mr. Frank Lincoln was capital as the Duke of St. Jermyns, faithfully reproducing the original part with wonderful exactitude. His chief vocal successes were "The Church Parade" (Act II.) and "A rooster sat on a barnyard fence." The Hon. Honoria Bedford, admirably played by Miss Florence Lee, was another charming representation. She sang with much archness "The amorous coon," and contributed largely to the general success. To Mr. E. H. Kelly fell the somewhat thankless rôle of Lord Dundreary, and he did his best to make the part attractive, and succeeded. Miss Isobel Dickens's Sophia was a capable representation; and Mr. Hampton Gordon played the part of Sir John effectively and unostentatiously. Miss Emily Mellon proved altogether irresistible as the good-hearted Lady Crystal, and Miss Maud Davies was an efficient Duchess of St. Jermyns. Bucket found a sufficiently precocious exponent in Master Grata; and excellent work in a lesser degree was done by Mr. G. Dickens as Higham Montague, Mr. H. Gordon as Lord Yatton, and Mr. F. Miles as Mr. Gibson. Miss Lilian Wesson was satisfactory as the Princess, and Miss Belle Napier played Lady Caterham with refinement. The Gibson Girls were early favourites, and merit recognition. The difficulties of stage-managership—always intensified at "flying matinées"—were readily surmounted by Mr. J. Wigley, and a good word is due to Mr. J. A. Robertson, the musical conductor.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, March 11, Balfe's Opera, entitled
"THE BOHEMIAN GIRL."

On Monday, Mr. J. W. Turner's English opera company gave a fine rendering of the above beautiful opera. The company, chorus, and orchestra alike worked hard and well, and made the production one which greatly appealed to the tastes of the large audience present. The part of Thaddeus was played by Mr. F. J. Hargrave with marked success. Throughout the evening he maintained a standard of excellence which found great favour. Mr. John Ridding gave a praiseworthy impersonation of Count Arnheim. His interpretation of the rôle was full of feeling, and proved a decided success. Mr. Sidney Clifford had a good opportunity of proving his worth as Devilshoof. He accomplished his task with credit, and sang his various numbers in the best of style. Mr. Richard Cummings as Florestein gave a capital rendering in his usual droll manner; Miss Jessie Dennis worked hard and cleverly as the Gipsy Queen, and deserves every praise; Miss Maud Esdale gave every satisfaction as Buda; and Arline was most capably represented by Miss Christine Gomez, whose voice was heard to great advantage throughout the opera. Other operas upon this week's programme are *The Rose of Castille*, *Faust*, *Il Trovatore*, *The Waterman*, *Nigel*, and *The Lily of Killarney*.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, March 11, the Comic Opera, entitled
"VERONIQUE."

After a short absence Kingston playgoers were delighted to renew acquaintance with this charming musical production, when it was re-staged at the Royal County Theatre on Monday evening, and their reception of it was as cordial as on the occasion of its former visit. Amongst a capable company, which Mr. George Dance engineered, chief honours are carried off by Miss Ethel Negretti, who played the title-rôle, and sings well. Miss Neste Laurel is a sweet and engaging Denise; Miss Edith Devonshire, with a fine contralto voice, makes a favourable impression as the Countess de Champ d'Azur; and Miss Doris Greville acquits herself well as Mme. Coquenard. Mr. Roland Bottomley is an acceptable Florestan de Vallancourt; whilst the low-comedy work of the piece is ably sustained by Mr. Tom Seymour as Mons. Coquenard, and by Mr. Percival Knight as Mons. Loustot. The opera is admirably staged in the matter of costumes and scenery, and an augmented orchestra and a numerous chorus are ably controlled by Mr. Clement Locknane.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, March 11, the Musical Comedy entitled
"A CHINESE HONEYMOON."

Mr. Milton Bode's company is certainly one of the smartest musical comedy companies that has appeared in Mr. J. Bannister Howard's season so far, and although the play is no novelty to theatre-goers the public has gathered in good numbers at each performance. The production is well put on, with special scenery, a large chorus, and plenty of new business has been introduced. Mr. Rudolph Kloss as the Chinese Emperor Hang-Chow is an imposing figure, and delivered his lines quite in the Savoy manner of distinctness; and Mr. P. Allerton Turner's careful make-up and acting as Chippie-Chop, the Lord Chancellor, were very commendable. The Admiral Hi-Lung of Mr. Leonard May had a distinctly nautical flavour and many quaint touches; and Mr. Harry Jennings cleverly played the young English officer, Tom Hatherton, and introduces a new topical song, "I hear they want some more," which was encored. In the part of Mr. Pineapple Mr. George Rydon has a "full hand," and by his singing and acting causes much merriment as the susceptible bridegroom whose wedding-trip is the *raison d'être* of the piece. Miss Eva Bevington was an immediate success as Mrs. Pineapple, and had many opportunities of showing her cleverness in singing and dancing. As the Princess Soo-Soo Miss Nancy Rossiter, possessed of a fine voice, sang effectively the song "Egypt" in the second act, with its charming effects of lighting and the full chorus, being re-demanded many times. Miss Gwennie Harcourt took a line of her own as the quaint Cockney servant transplanted in China, and was the success of the evening. Her complete disregard for appearance and her natural acting were much appreciated. The officious mother-in-law, Mrs. Brown, was an awesome figure in the hands of Miss Maud Adams; and the four bridesmaids made a pretty group as acted by Mesdames Iris Roy, Kathleen Kerr, Elsie Skillings, and Dorothy Radcliffe. The dresses were rich and varied, and, with the augmented orchestra, the play was produced in a manner worthy of its continued popularity.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 11, the Military Play,
"THE INDIAN MUTINY."

Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company are appearing this week at the Dalston Theatre in a new version of the military play, by George Daventry, entitled *The Indian Mutiny*. The lurid story, the colouring afforded by the Oriental scenery and the native costumes, interest the audience to an unusual degree; and the constant changes of scenery add to the sense of excitement. The members make the representation duly effective. Among the British characters Mr. Edward M. Hamilton makes an interesting Lieut. Manley; Mr. Cyril Harrison represents Captain Manley in true military style; and an equally prominent personage in the story, Major Ingleby, Commissioner in charge of the Garrison, is well represented by Mr. John Davidson. Mr. G. Birch does well as Ensign Blake. The proverbially amusing servant is found in Captain Manley's attendant, Terry O'Brien, capably sketched by Mr. Cecil Morand; Mr. F. Anderson is an effective Sergeant Thompson. Miss Lillie Grey is amusingly prominent as Mrs. Major Ingleby (the martinet), and Kate Ingleby is played in interesting fashion by Miss Agnes Kingston. Mr. Villiers Stanley provides a vivid portraiture of the relentless leader of the rebels, Nebu Singh. Another striking representation is Mr. George Belmont's Abul Khan. Miss F. Melrose Millett as Ghuz-nah, Brahmin priestess, trained to arms, has a part quite distinctive in its way, and she does not fail to make the most of her opportunities.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, March 11, the Musical Comedy entitled
"SERGEANT BRUE."

Mr. Robert Crossman's company is appearing here this week in the charming musical comedy called *Sergeant Brue*. The name-part is in the clever hands of Mr. Arthur Reynolds, whose rendering of the character is beyond praise, being an altogether admirable piece of artistic work. His singing of "The bobby's beano" and share in the trio "Lal-lal-la" are capitally given. Michael Brue is acted in manly and interesting style by Mr. J. H. Goldsworthy, who sings delightfully the pretty numbers allotted to the part, especially the song entitled "So did Eve." Miss Mary Hay is an attractive Aurora Brue, her songs, notably "Under a Panama," being very pleasingly rendered. Miss Marion Hargrave is a bright and pretty Daisy; Miss Ethel Ivemy is a pleasing Mabel Widgett; and the other ladies' parts were well filled by Miss Lillian Leslie (Vivienne Russell), Miss Ethel Ford (Lena Dare), Miss Kitty Rawlinson (Louisa Claire), and Miss Mabel Keith (Eva Graham). Miss Cissy Raymond is a capital Lady Bickenhall, and her songs, "My Lady Busy," "Instinct" and "Musical Comedy" are admirably rendered. Mr. E. Mozan is very good as Gerald Treherne, and his singing of "A world for you" is excellent. Mr. H. Soutar's impersonation of Matthew Habisham was a clever study; Mr. H. C. Hood is good as Inspector Gorringe; and Mr. Arnold Forrester as Mr. Lamb, Mr. Tom Robertson as Captain Bay, and Mr. C. Sims as Mr. Crank are all praiseworthy exponents of their respective characters. Mr. Clarence Ibbotson as Crooky Scrubbs presents an amusing interpretation of the part, his songs being warmly applauded, especially "George Washington." Mr. Sydney Shaw is the musical director, and must be congratulated on his success; and Mr. A. C. Pottow is the courteous business-manager.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, March 11, the Drama, entitled
"LIFE'S SWEETEST SIN."

Mr. Brabner's exciting nautical drama has not previously paid a visit to Rotherhithe, but this week it is receiving a capital representation at the hands of the talented stock company at the Terriss Theatre. Mr. Ashley Page plays the rôle of the hero, Captain Harold Marston, in a buoyant and breezy fashion, which wins all hearts, and his stirring declamation recalls memories of the late William Terriss. Miss Marion Denvil contributes a sympathetic portrait of the heroine Doreen Rivers, and the struggles of the unhappy girl who finds herself an unwilling victim to a horrible craving for morphia are most artistically depicted. Mr. John Sargent causes roars or laughter as the bluff old salt, Martin; and Mr. Johnny Chippendale ably aids him in the task of fun-making as the would-be sporting valet, Bob Tunner. Miss Mattie Everett is amusing as Bess Grayson; Mr. Weldon Atherstone contributes a firm and consistent portrait of the villainous Doctor Colbrooke, whose two rascally confederates are well played by Messrs. Tom Taylor and David Noble. The repentant rake Ernie Wodstone is well acted by Mr. Cecil G. Calvert; Miss East Robertson is warmly applauded for her clever acting as the good-hearted Fay Colbrooke. The scenery and effects are a prominent feature in the production, the rising and the sinking of the submarine boat in the third act being most realistically managed.

THE LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

This week Mr. George Kirk and Miss Mary Neil's company is here with the drama *Her Luck in London*. Miss Neil's performance as Nellie Harborne is admirable. The audience follow with keen interest Nellie Harborne's career from the time she is a simple country maid to the finish—the reconciliation with her husband. Mr. Charles Leicester is the Hon. Fitzgerald O'Connor, the Irish nobleman. He is an excellent Irishman, and well portrays the characteristic temperament. Mr. Magill Martyn is very good as the villain, Richard Lenowen; Mr. Douglas Tremayne plays well as the Rev. Lionel Strong; and Mr. Tyrone Power as Stephen Harborne, the harsh father of Nellie, looks quite a country farmer, and acquits himself well in a difficult part. Mr. Bruce Chapman as the hard-up dude, Algie Kurcumbrie, makes himself appear as foolish as the part requires. Lilian Harborne, the narrow-minded sister of Nellie, is cleverly played by Miss Francis Bruce; and Miss Marie Clavering makes a good picture of the faded town beauty, Mme. Gabrille, who afterwards turns out to be the mother of Nellie. The comedy is well supplied by Mr. J. Selby Dillsen and Miss Florrie Groves as Jerry Gotobed and Maud Gladys Shovepenny respectively. The minor parts are well filled by Messrs. E. S. Nuttall, G. Stone, and W. Wroe as gilded youths; Henry Hope as O'Connor's servant; Misses Pamela Hodson as Angelina Plantagenet, the second Mrs. Thirsty; Daisy Moss, Queenie Lamont, and Kitty Gerald as Evening Stars; and Dora Woodberry as the barmaid. The play is well staged and costumed, Miss Neil's dresses being particularly pretty. Mr. Leicester acts as general manager for Miss Neil and Mr. Newman Maurice courteously looks after all requirements in "the front."

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 11, the Musical Comedy entitled
"THE CATCH OF THE SEASON."

This successful musical piece has been received with enthusiastic appreciation at the Kennington Theatre. A feature of Mr. George Dance's production is that the book is brought down to date, and there are many topical lines and some new songs. A capable successor to Mr. Seymour Hicks has been found in Mr. Frank Lincoln, who acts the part of the Duke of St. Jermyns with a rollicking dash which wins the hearts of the ladies. He is in great form in the scene in which he banters the Gibson Girls, and, besides being a good comedian, he has the further advantage of possessing an engaging personality. As Angela, the real "catch of the season," Miss Moya Mannering is delightful. Of prepossessing appearance, invested with a fund of original humour, and a vivacious manner, Miss Mannering lends to her interpretation of the character a charm of its own. Miss Belle Napier makes an admirable Lady Caterham, the benevolent fairy godmother of Angela; and Mr. E. H. Kelly is exceedingly good as Lord Dundreary. Miss Maud Davies gives an artistic representation of the part of the Duchess of St. Jermyns; while a really clever performance is that of Mr. Franklin Miles as the father of the Gibson Girls. The rôle of Sir John Crystal, the henpecked husband, is creditably sustained by Mr. Hampton Gordon; and Master Grata scores a distinct hit as Bucket, the page. Miss Isobel Dickens and Miss Florence Lee furnish a careful study of the somewhat unthankful parts of the two Sisters Bedford; while Miss Emily Mellon is very good as Lady Crystal. Mr. Geo. Dickens (Higham Montague), Miss M. Carew (the Princess), and Mr. Hugh Henson (Lord Yatton) all deserve mention; while one of the principal attractions of the evening's entertainment is the appearance of the bevy of attractive Gibson Girls. The chorus is strong and the concerted numbers go well under the conductorship of Mr. J. A. Robertson, the musical director.

Miss Rosetta A. Robson, the authoress of the clever new song, "The House of the Presence," which we noticed last week, is the granddaughter, not the daughter, of the well-known comedian, E. M. Robson.

In the Court of Chancery on Tuesday an order was granted for the compulsory winding-up of the Winter German Opera, Limited. The petitioner was Herr Wilhelm Herold, Court singer to the King of Denmark, who was one of the artists, said counsel, brought to London to sing at the German Opera, and had not been able to obtain payment of his fees.

LONDON.

CRANSTON'S HOTELS

(UNLICENSED).

To meet the demand for accommodation in these Hotels, and to prevent as far as possible a recurrence of the disappointment and inconvenience to visitors who have been unable hitherto to secure Rooms, the

IVANHOE HOTEL

has been erected, and the Three Hotels, which are in close proximity to each other, contain 650 rooms

The Ivanhoe,	Bloomsbury Street. Telegrams, "Redgauntlet,"	300 Rooms. Opened March, 1906.
The Kenilworth,	Great Russell Street. Telegrams, "Everyone."	200 Rooms. Opened March, 1903.
The Waverley,	Southampton Row. Telegrams "Robsart."	150 Rooms. Opened March, 1900

High-Class Establishments. Excellent Cuisine.
Every Modern Equipment. Central Situation.
Inclusive Charge for Bed, Breakfast, Attendance and Bath, 5/-
These Hotels are pronounced by the entire Press to be THE BEST in London.

"HER SON."

A Play, in Four Acts, by Horace Annesley Vachell, performed for the first time in London at the Playhouse on Tuesday afternoon, March 12.

Sir Augustus Helmingham..MR. ALFRED BISHOP
Richard Gascoyne .....MR. CYRIL MAUDE
Min .....MASTER BOBBIE ANDREWS
Lady Helmingham ....MISS FLORENCE HAYDON
Crystal Wride .....MISS WYNNE MATTHISON
Suzanne .....MISS EMMA CHAMBERS
A Toy Seller .....MISS KATE HARWOOD
Dorothy Fairfax .....MISS WINIFRED EMERY

It is scarcely worth while to confuse the reader's perception of the plot of *Her Son* by comparing it, in detail, with that of the original version which was produced at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, on Nov. 15 last. The play has certainly been improved by the elision of three or four of the characters, and by taking ten years off the interval between the first and second acts. When *Her Son* was presented to the audience at the Playhouse on Tuesday afternoon the first act was substantially the same as before. It takes place at the flat of Miss Dorothy Fairfax, a charming young lady of independent means, who lives in a flat at Battersea. She is engaged to a young and impecunious journalist called Dick Gascoyne. Crystal Wride, an actress, calls on Dorothy, and threatens to commit suicide if Dorothy marries Dick. Crystal has been living with him as his mistress, and they have quarrelled and parted; but she still loves him desperately. If only Dorothy will postpone her marriage with Dick for a year Crystal will reform and live virtuously during that period. Dorothy consents, and Dick goes off to Darkest Africa for the twelvemonth. Crystal does not tell Dorothy that she—Crystal—has had a child by Dick, and that the infant is out at nurse in France.

At the end of eight years we find Dorothy living at Bournemouth. She has adopted an eight-year-old boy named Min, whom we immediately suspect of being Crystal's "kid"—we use the lady's own terminology—by Dick. Dorothy has been passing as a widow, and has adopted the infant while in France, where she has been living in retirement for four years, during all of which time Dick was detained in Central Africa. When he returned he heard of Dorothy as a widow, and drew the natural inference that she had grown tired of waiting for him. Crystal Wride was at hand to take advantage of the error. She married Dick, and has become a successful actress. Gascoyne was told of the birth of the child, but was led to believe that it died in infancy.

Dick and Crystal arrive at Bournemouth in the second act; and Crystal, noticing the likeness between Dick and Min, draws certain injurious conclusions. Dorothy is wrung by anxiety as to her proper course. Ought she to retain Min, of whom she is devotedly fond, or should she be strictly honest and yield up the boy to his unnatural mother? After much emotional argument the truth is told; but Dick and Crystal consent to leave Min in Dorothy's care, and as Crystal's death from disease is only a question of time, it is made evident to the audience that Dorothy has only to wait for Dick to become her husband.

The sagacious reader of this scenario will have no difficulty in estimating the weight and depth of *Her Son*, which made a pleasant afternoon's entertainment at the Playhouse on Tuesday. It could not be said to entirely exhaust the capacities of its exponents, who gave one the impression of what is called, in Turf slang, "being out for an airing." Perhaps the performance was all the more agreeable for its entire absence of effort and over-strain. At any rate, nothing could have been more tenderly affectionate and delicately emotional than Miss Winifred Emery's Dorothy Fairfax. The emotional phases of the sweet and kindly creature were depicted by Miss Emery with the ease which only comes of absolute accomplishment and long experience. Mr. Cyril Maude played Richard Gascoyne with all the fine facility and polished freedom which we expect from him; and Master Bobbie Andrews quite won the hearts of the audience by his clever and natural embodiment of Min. The comedy relief was supplied by Mr. Alfred Bishop as the elderly, overbearing Sir Augustus Helmingham, and by Miss Florence Haydon, who had an amusing and thankful rôle in that of Lady Helmingham, and handled it in the most artistic way. Miss Wynne Matthison, looking very attractive as the erring actress, Crystal Wride, played the part for all that it was worth; and Miss Emma Chambers was satisfactory as the French servant, Suzanne. Miss Kate Harwood, well made up, spoke her lines well as the Toy Seller.

THE DOT STEPHENS FUND.

EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY POUNDS.

A committee meeting was held at the offices of J. Bannister Howard, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, on Tuesday, March 12, at one o'clock, at which it was agreed that the money should be dealt with at once. After various suggestions it was unanimously decided that the money should be placed on deposit at a bank, with instructions to pay out the sum of £2 per week to Miss Stephens, or, in the event of her decease, to her mother, and in the further event of her mother's decease the balance of the money should go equally to two benevolent charities, viz., the Actors' Benevolent Fund and the Music Hall Home. The committee, as hereunder signed, agreed to act as trustees to the fund. It was arranged that Mr. Herbert Ralland should see Miss Dot Stephens with a view to gaining her assent to the above conditions.

(Signed)
J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
HERBERT RALLAND.
HATTON WHARTON.

Miss Dot Stephens most willingly agreed to the above conditions, and has sent the following letter of thanks to the subscribers and helpers of the fund:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

DEAR SIR,—Permit me through the columns of your valuable paper to express my heartfelt gratitude to the members of the theatrical and music-hall profession for their great kindness and assistance.

I feel sure my friends will believe how very, very grateful I am.

I cannot express my gratitude sufficiently to Messrs. Bannister Howard, Herbert Ralland, Oswald Stoll, and F. H. Pedgrift, of *The Era*, who have been such good friends to me.

Yours very truly,
DOT STEPHENS.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
To subscriptions (as per list)....	849	7	3
„ cash over	1	0	6
	£850	7	9

PAYMENTS.

	£	s.	d.
By payments to Miss Stephens....	146	12	0
„ petty cash	3	16	4
„ cheque books	0	4	6
„ subscriptions not paid	3	3	0
„ amount on deposit	600	0	0
„ balance at bank	96	11	11
	£850	7	9

J. BANNISTER HOWARD (hon. treasurer).
3, Bedford-street, W.C. March 14, 1907.

DEATH OF MISS M. A. VICTOR.

We regret to record the death of Miss M. A. Victor, the well-known actress, who passed peacefully away on Wednesday afternoon at her residence in Highbury at the age of seventy-six. Miss Victor, who was the mother of Miss Emma Victor, had been on the stage since her earliest childhood, for she came of an old theatrical family, and she had supported Macready, Phelps, Chas. Kean, and Helen Faucit (Lady Martin). With Phelps she appeared at Sadler's Wells in such parts as Lady Freelove in *The Jealous Wife* and Mopsa in *A Winter's Tale*. Later she made her appearance at the Strand Theatre in *The Latest Edition of the Lady of Lyons*, a burlesque by H. J. Byron, produced in 1858. Miss Victor was a member of the Strand company for some time, and then she became a popular favourite at the Grecian Theatre under the Conquest régime.

In 1882 Miss Victor began an engagement at Drury Lane, appearing as Polly Burt in *Pluck*; in *Freedom*, produced on Aug. 4, 1883; and in *A Sailor and his Lass*, produced on Oct. 1 of the same year. Miss Victor had a brief experience of comic opera at the Comedy Theatre under the management of Miss Melnotte in 1886, and in the following year appeared in farcical comedy under the management of Mr. Hawtrey at the Globe. Then she joined Mr. Edward Terry, appearing as Mrs. Chuffy in *The Churchwarden*, with which Terry's Theatre was opened on Oct. 17, 1887, and in the succeeding piece, *The Woman-Hater*, produced on March 21, 1888, Miss Victor was the Mrs. Gil-

[*Photo by Alfred Ellis.*
THE LATE MISS M. A. VICTOR.

fillian. She was next engaged at the Criterion Theatre, being the Mrs. Hardcastle in the revival of *She Stoops to Conquer*, on May 10, 1890; the Mrs. Charity Smith in *Sowing and Reaping*, produced on July 5; and the Mrs. Buck in *Welcome, Little Stranger*, produced on Aug. 6. She took part in the production of *Husband and Wife* on April 30, 1891, and of *Miss Decima* on July 23. In *Incognita*, produced at the Lyric on Oct. 6, 1892, she was the Estrella Tintemara. She was the Mrs. Knight Williams in *The Great Unpaid*, at the Comedy, on May 9, 1893. On April 14, 1894, she appeared as Martha in Henry Irving's production of *Faust*.

In April, 1895, she appeared with Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt at the Trafalgar, afterwards the Duke of York's, Theatre in *Baron Golosh*, originally produced at the Star Theatre and Opera House, Swansea. Next she went to the Vaudeville to play Miss Romney in *The Strange Adventures of Miss Brown*—a favourite part—her embodiment of which won the warm eulogy of the late Mr. Robert Buchanan, part author of the piece. On Oct. 14 the play was transferred to Terry's Theatre, and Miss Victor remained a member of the company. When *The Romance of a Shopwalker* was produced at the Theatre Royal, Colchester on Feb. 24, 1896, and was transferred to the Vaudeville Theatre, London, two days later, Miss Victor played the part of Mrs. Tomkins. On March 28 she was again at the Vaudeville, appearing as Angelique in *A Night Out*. This was followed by an engagement at the Shaftesbury Theatre with Mr. Musgrove, when she successfully appeared in *A Scarlet Feather*, produced on Nov. 19. She also took part in *The Conquerors*, produced by Mr. George Alexander at the St. James's Theatre on April 14, 1898; and on May 30 following she went to the Royalty Theatre. Later, she was at the Comedy Theatre for three weeks. Then she rejoined Henry Irving's company to again play Martha in *Faust*, revived on Sept. 3. On Feb. 10, 1904, she appeared in *A Clean Slate*, produced at the Criterion Theatre, and this was her last engagement, retiring after a theatrical career extending over the long period of sixty years. When a mere child Miss Victor played Prince Arthur in Macready's revival of *King John* at Drury Lane Theatre in Oct., 1842, and the critic of a London newspaper of that date thus describes the effect produced by her acting:—"The great heroine of the night was a child, a little girl of eight, who represented Arthur. Never was a piece more full of grace, nature, and pathos. When she hears her doom from Hubert, with 'tears in her eyes,' distraction in her aspect, she looked a picture of despair. Her handkerchief became wet with her tears, she wrung her hands and stamped her tiny feet upon the ground in the very extremity of mortal agony. It was too perfect.

It should be added that Miss Victor was for many years in receipt of an annuity from the Royal General Theatrical Fund.

THE ACTORS' UNION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Everybody will be reading your report of the general meeting of the Actors' Union that took place on Monday last, and I hope that they will notice that Miss Gertrude Kingston is the first artist of repute to come forward and speak on behalf of the sweated and suppressed rank-and-file actor. To me it is very remarkable that no actor or actress of note has come forward before.

Time has shown that the success of our calling does not depend on a few stars in London and a whole host of practically "nobodies" in the provinces. The policy of our managers in spreading the work over so many has created these "nobodies," and excessive competition in the end has not benefited either touring-manager, resident-manager, author, or artist, to say nothing of the public. Unless we combine and suppress the amateur—for at least a time—this state of things will get worse. There is no reason that I know of why actors who have served the managers well in the past should be passed over for novices except that the latter are cheaper.

I feel sure, now that Miss Kingston has led the way, that if the rank and file will only combine we shall be supported by every actor and actress of note in the kingdom.

It is freely whispered in London that many of our most respected managers will uphold the Union, and condemn, at any rate, the practice.—Yours faithfully,
ROBSON PAIGE.

49, Bedford-street, W.C., March 13.

"DAN'L PEGGOTTY."

New Version, in Four Acts, by H. Kellett Chambers, of Charles Dickens's novel, "David Copperfield," produced at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, on Monday, March 11.

Dan'l Peggotty .....MR. CHARLES CARTWRIGHT
Ham .....MR. LIONEL BELMORE
Steerforth .....MR. GERALD LAWRENCE
David Copperfield .....MR. STANLEY HARRISON
Mr. Micawber .....MR. CHARLES COLLETTE
Uriah Heep .....MR. A. B. TAPPING
Mr. Wickfield .....MR. J. D. ROSS
Littimer .....MR. GEORGE DE LARA
Mrs. Steerforth .....MISS ETHEL SARJIENT
Rosa Dartle .....MISS CLARISSA SELWYNNE
Aunt Betsy Trotwood .....MISS HELEN VICARY
Agnes Wickfield .....MISS GORDON WALKER
Mrs. Gummidge .....MISS NELL DOUGLAS
Mrs. Barkis .....MISS BEATRICE GROSVENOR
Martha .....MISS LILLIE CAVENAGH
Little Em'ly .....MISS ETHEL WARD

"Believe me if all those endearing young charms" sounded early in the new play at Hammersmith on Monday. It was Steerforth singing to Little Em'ly, and from the moment that Moore's old melody was heard in a melodious tenor at the wings while the heroine's uncle, her promised husband, and her friends faced the audience the success of the new version of Dickens's favourite work was assured. The scene was one of real dramatic strength, and prepared the way for others of equally agreeable effect. While preserving the individuality of the old seafarer round whom his play is written the adaptor has managed to introduce into his dramatic scheme all the most important characters in the famous novel, and to link them together to form a drama of absorbing interest, for which a future should be ensured. Early acquaintance is made with David Copperfield, now grown to man's estate, in the office of Wickfield and Heep—the redoubtable Uriah—who has been taken into partnership with Mr. Wickfield, over whom he exercises a fell influence. Steerforth comes to visit David, and soon Peggotty and Ham loom large in the doorway, bringing with them Little Em'ly, who thus makes her first acquaintance with Steerforth. A move is made in the second act to Peggotty's hut, where the old salt announces Em'ly's engagement to Ham, and Steerforth's influence over the girl is revealed. The outcast, Martha, ventures into the hut, and Peggotty's wrath is aroused, but he is moved by Em'ly's compassion, and supplies the wretched woman with money. Evening comes without the return of Little Em'ly, till at length Ham breaks the news of her disappearance with Steerforth, and the old man, after an impressive scene, sets out on his memorable quest.

Peggotty seeks out Steerforth's mother in the third act, but his attempts to induce her to consent to the marriage of her son and Em'ly are ineffectual. News of Em'ly is brought to David at Mr. Wickfield's by Littimer, Steerforth's servant, who informs David that the unhappy girl has left her betrayer and is somewhere in Spain, whither Peggotty immediately starts. In this scene Uriah Heep, after aspiring to marriage with his partner's daughter Agnes, is denounced by Wilkins Micawber, and is sent out into the arms of Bow-street runners. Em'ly is at length found by Martha, and taken to her humble garret. To this apartment Rosa Dartle, the rejected of Steerforth, comes to gloat over Em'ly's misery, and his servant, Littimer, at his master's bidding, is just offering her marriage when Peggotty enters and clasps the unhappy girl to his bosom. The last act is devoted to the bringing of Steerforth in a dying condition to the hut, and to the re-uniting of the little family, and their determination to seek happiness in a foreign land.

Well-known and popular artists combined to secure an effective representation. Perfection was attained in the principal part by Mr. Charles Cartwright, whose Dan'l Peggotty was a performance quite worthy of the actor's well-won reputation. With his mellow voice, tender solicitation for his niece, and vigorous action, Mr. Cartwright must have been the very Peggotty that Dickens drew. His scene at the close of the second act, when he learns of his misfortune, was made very impressive, and it is little wonder that the calls at the end of each act were many times repeated. Miss Ethel Ward endowed the rôle of Little Em'ly with a prepossessing appearance and a voice the plaintive tones of which admirably befitted the character. Miss Ward gained sympathy at the outset by the freshness and charm of her portrayal, and her subsequent scenes with Steerforth were marked by dramatic significance which gave them added value. A high degree of emotion was reached in Em'ly's meeting with the unfortunate Martha, and the young girl's exhibition of terror at the thought of being deceived was profoundly touching. Again, in the attic, where she finds refuge, Little Em'ly's wretchedness was impressively suggested, and Miss West's appeal to the susceptibilities of the audience was throughout complete. Another capital portraiture was that of Uriah Heep, played by Mr. A. B. Tapping with the excellence that was to be expected from so practised a performer. Accent and gesture were in tune with the part, and though he made the character of the fawning, squirming sneak sufficiently repulsive, there was a humour about the impersonation that rendered his presence always welcome. To Mr. Lionel Belmore praise must also be given for a performance of outstanding merit as Ham. Voice and appearance were quite in keeping with the part of the humble but honest-hearted young fisherman, and Mr. Belmore's share of the success of the evening was no insignificant one. Mr. Charles Collette was happily secured for Wilkins Micawber, a rôle which he made his own some years ago. Mr. Collette's make-up was a study, and the swelling pride and grandiloquence of the impecunious but resourceful old gentleman was assumed with irresistible humour by Mr. Collette, who exacted laughter even when Micawber, overpowered by the excess of his emotion, was fain to express by eloquent action the sentiments his voice failed to speak. The difficult rôle of Steerforth was played by Mr. Gerald Lawrence, whose reading of the rôle put Steerforth's evil nature promimently forward. Mr. Lawrence, however, never lost hold of the lighter side of the part, and his buoyant acting was ever an agreeable feature of the performance. Mr. Stanley Harrison gained general favour by his bright impersonation of David Copperfield, whose scenes of sentiment with Agnes Wickfield might well be elaborated. The latter character was daintily played by Miss Gordon Walker, who made a comely and gentle Agnes, and won the hearts of all. Miss Clarissa Selwynne as Rosa Dartle assumed the malignance of the disappointed girl with intensity; and Miss Lillie Cavenagh increased the pathos of the part of Martha by the clearness with which she delivered her lines. Miss Nell Douglas drew a whimsical picture of Mrs. Gummidge; Miss Beatrice Grosvenor embodied the tender-hearted Mrs. Barkis with success; Miss Ethel Sarjient made a refined and ladylike Mrs. Steerforth; and Aunt Betsy received adequate treatment at the hands of Miss Helen Vicary. A word of praise is due to Mr. George De Lara for a strikingly characteristic impersonation of Mr. Littimer; and Mr. J. D. Ross gave an effective rendering of Mr. Wickfield.

THE successful production of *The Babes in the Wood*, which has just terminated an eleven weeks' run at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, is now for sale. *The Sleeping Beauty*, last season's pantomime at the Grand Theatre, Leeds, and *Mother Goose*, produced at the Theatre Royal, Sheffield, last Christmas, are also to be disposed of. Application for all three productions should be made to Mr. John Hart, Theatre Royal, Bradford.

MR. BANNISTER HOWARD'S ENTERPRISES.

Mr. J. Bannister Howard is not merely an enterprising man, but a strenuous worker. He has succeeded in every undertaking he has engaged upon, and he has succeeded, too, where other men have failed. It is not our intention to make invidious comparisons, but a statement, from the gentleman's own lips of what he has been doing recently will make interesting reading.

"I am so far pleased with the Crystal Palace results," says Mr. Howard. "It is just over a year that I took over the place, much against the warnings of my friends. You see, the Palace was of great utility to me in many ways. It has three fine scene docks, and one of the biggest storages in London. I was thus able to store the scenery, dresses, and baskets of twenty of my companies, and, in addition, the opportunity was afforded for keeping a scenic artist on the spot. In this way I am saving over £500 per annum on scenic contracts and storage.

"I had the greatest difficulty at the commencement to secure companies for the Crystal Palace. Thanks to Sir Charles Wyndham, I got a splendid send-off. One of the first engagements was that of the Moody-Manners Opera Company. They were afraid to come when I approached them, but I gave them a big guarantee. They did so well that they have entered into contracts with me to appear twice a year, once in the spring, and again in the autumn. I had an enormous success with my pantomine *Aladdin*. You see, I went back to the olden days, and

MR. J. BANNISTER HOWARD.

gave the people a good and really funny pantomime, with the demon traps and the harlequinade and the shadow business, so seldom seen nowadays. It proved so popular that for five weeks I presented it twice daily. On the last day we gave three performances, at 12 o'clock, 3, and 7.30."

Mr. Howard considers that the Crystal Palace is very far from being "dead." "Of course," he goes on to add, "it is very unfortunate that they are short of capital, but I really believe that if fresh capital were obtained and the place were run on the Blackpool lines of a sixpenny admission and sixpenny return fares from London it would prove to be one of England's most popular resorts. It is an open secret that sooner or later the 'tube' will be down there, and then, if not before, we shall get the sixpenny return tickets."

Speaking on the subject of theatrical depression, Mr. Howard emphasises the fact that there has been a very great slump in business. He attributes it to various causes. Trade has been bad with the working classes for some little time past, and they have got so much in arrear in money matters that—particularly in the Lancashire and Cornish districts—the men are now putting forth every effort to pay old debts. "Music halls have affected the theatres to a considerable extent. The labouring classes like to patronise a place where two performances are given nightly. Then there has also been a great dearth of suitable plays, with the consequence that to-day there are only a few good attractions on the road.

"I hardly know what it is to take a holiday. I never have less than six companies on the road, and that is the number I have out this spring. Until recently I was controlling four theatres, but I have now reduced my establishments to two—namely, the Crystal Palace and the King's Lynn Theatre. A couple of weeks ago I started the latter place as a hippodrome, and the innovation has met with gratifying success. Instead of opening it every night in the week, I run two houses nightly for the first three days, an arrangement which works extremely well."

The subject of this interview was one of the foremost promoters of the Managers' Club, of which he has every reason to be proud. It is now a flourishing concern, and enables resident and touring managers to keep in touch with one another.

And yet, in spite of his multifarious interests, Mr. Howard finds time to assist the distressed members of the profession. His goodly service in connection with the Dot Stephens' Fund will not be quickly forgotten. "The outcome of the appeal for that unfortunate artist," he says, "was extremely satisfactory. With the kind help of Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, of *The Era*, a sum of £850 has been collected."

Most of our readers are aware of the prominent part taken by Mr. Howard for many years in sports of all kinds. He is an enthusiastic cyclist and cricketer, and an expert swimmer, and he plays a fine game at billiards. Like several other well-known managers, he takes an interest in horse-racing, and frequents the meetings "if only to enjoy the fresh air," as he puts it. Asked as to whether he intended following the example of some of his theatrical confrères and form a stud, he replied that that was too expensive a luxury.

"THREE BLIND MICE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—May I beg the favour for a small space in your paper to recount to you a fact connected with the comedy *Three Blind Mice*, now playing at the Criterion Theatre. That title I claim as mine. I wrote a three-act comedy some years back called *Three Blind Mice*, licensed and registered the same, and toured with it. I have since let it out to amateurs for odd nights. But the author and the partnership management at the Criterion deny my right, and insist upon retaining the title, with no return or apology for the wrong done me. If it is legal to use my title now, why, when I wrote a comedy called *Our Girls* some years back did Messrs. James and Thorne, of the Vaudeville, send an offer of £150 for suppression of my title, an offer which at that time I refused? Whereupon the Lord Chamberlain granted them a licence for their comedy, by Byron, called *The Girls*. If my right to the name of my piece was good *then*, why not as good *now*?—Yours faithfully,
BRANDON ELLIS.

TERRY'S THEATRE.

On Saturday, March 9, revival of the Musical Extravaganza, in Three Scenes, by Gilbert A'Beckett, entitled

"THE LAST OF THE LEGENDS."

Karl .....MISS MABEL MAARTENS
Count Fritz .....MISS KATHLEEN MAUREEN
Sir Hubert de Bow .....MR. WILLIAM DEXTER
Wilhelm .....MISS IRENE VAUGHAN
Seltzerwasser .....MR. CHAS. A. STEPHENSON
Dorothea .....MISS HETTY TEMPEST
Erlinda .....MISS DOLLY YORKE
Lady Bertha .....MISS GLADYS ARCHBUTT
Smith .....MR. T. P. HAYNES

Mr. W. H. C. Nation has revived a musical extravaganza by Mr. Gilbert A'Beckett, in which several songs written by Mr. Nation himself are introduced. The dialogue has been brought up to date by references to current topics, including, of course, the new motor 'buses, the recent strike amongst the music-hall artists, and the late London County Council's bad bricks. As a contrast to the musical play of the present day *The Last of the Legends* is to a certain extent interesting, but its fun seems old-fashioned, and, generally speaking, falls flat; and one misses the gaily-dressed stage crowd without which no modern musical piece is considered complete. The most attractive part of the entertainment is Mr. Nation's songs, most of which are "imitated from the French," the words being wedded to pretty melodies, which fall pleasantly on the ear. The first scene, representing the ruins of an ancient castle on the banks of "the wide and winding Rhine" is picturesque; and the plot, which is not particularly clear, is founded on one of the old legends of the famous river. With one exception the leading characters belong to the middle ages; they are Karl, a youthful Baron of Pilfersburg, his friend Count Fritz, Sir Hubert de Bow, a Norman knight with a red nose and an enormous sword, Seltzerwasser, a melancholy jester, and Lady Bertha and her companions. To the old castle on the Rhine comes a typical Cook's excursionist, who introduces himself as "Smith, first Duke of Bayswater." He is supposed to be living a century or so in advance of the present period, and as evidence of the progress made in various directions proceeds to partake of a dinner consisting entirely of tabloids, containing the essence of various meats, &c. He also carries with him a wonderful electric machine, with which he tries curious experiments with his new companions, but the mournful jester, annoyed that the tourist can tell him no new jokes, obtains possession of the machine and its owner is made a prisoner, and confined in one of the dungeons of the castle. The last scene represents the castle restored; and after the prisoner has undergone a comic mock trial the piece merrily concludes with song and dance.

The members of the company do all that is possible with the materials at their disposal. Miss Mabel Maartens, taking the place of Miss Shelley Carton, who had met with an accident, is a handsome, good-looking Karl, and sings in excellent style "Only a tear." Miss Gladys Archbutt is a charming Lady Bertha, and scores with Mr. Nation's pretty ditty, "The Tic-Tac of the Mill." Miss Kathleen Maureen is a sprightly Count Fritz, and gives in pleasing style "Sparkling Eyes," "Bitter Sweet," and "I love you." Miss Dolly Yorke is a very dainty representative of Erlinda, and is loudly applauded for her artistic rendering of "Tell me why?" She also joins Miss Kathleen Maureen and Miss Irene Vaughan in the trio, "A Village Roundelay." Mr. T. P. Haynes deserves every credit for his brisk and amusing embodiment of the tourist Smith. Mr. Charles A. Stephenson is grimly humorous as the melancholy jester Seltzerwasser; Mr. William Dexter is duly truculent as the Crusader, Sir Hubert de Bow; and other characters have attractive representatives in the Misses Irene Vaughan and Hetty Tempest.

The one-act play, entitled *Weighed in the Balance*, is retained in the programme, Mr. T. P. Haynes now appearing in the part of Farmer Maywood, formerly played by Mr. Charles Groves. He is ably supported by Messrs. W. Dexter, H. Armstrong, Guy Williams, Terry Hurst, and Thompson, and the Misses Mabel Maartens and Gladys Archbutt.

LADIES AT HOCKEY.

MISS CECILIA FOWLER'S XI. v. MISS MAY FISHER'S XI

Played near Clifton Downs, on Saturday, March 9. Miss Winifred Bradley was unable to play for her side owing to injury received in the match on Saturday last. The following were the teams:—

Miss Fowler's XI.—Miss Ethel Bowman, goal; Miss Lilla Carter and Miss Ivy Bowman, backs; Miss Cecilia Fowler (captain), Miss Lillie Belding, and Miss Nellie Stephens, half-backs; Miss Bertha Godfrey, Miss Amy Bernard, Miss Minnie Leonard, Miss Gracie Leonard, and Miss Lillie Clayton, forwards.

Miss Fisher's XI.—Miss May Fisher (captain), goal; Miss Alice Gibbs and Miss Rosie Davies, backs; Miss Edie Lawrence, Miss Gertrude Thomas, and Miss Nellie Lawrence, half-backs; Miss Irene Bradley, Miss Alice Mitchell, Miss Minnie Hamilton, Miss Maudie Burgess, and Miss Florrie Hooper, forwards.

Referee, Miss Kit Montgomery. Result: Miss Fowler's XI., nil; Miss Fisher's XI., 2 goals. Misses Irene Bradley and Gertrude Thomas scored the goals.

SMART NEW HATS.

Mr. LEWIS, French Artistic Milliner, of the Rue Royale, Paris, and the Maker of the Hats of Sarah Bernhardt, Marthe Regnier, Feline, Liane de Pougy, Otero, and other leading actresses of the French Stage, is showing at his Salon at 210, Regent Street, London, W., his latest creations in Artistic Hats, Ruffles, Boas, &c.

HATS SENT ON APPROVAL.

MAISON LEWIS,
210 REGENT STREET, W.
16 RUE ROYALE, PARIS.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree's remark in his speech at the Stage Society dinner on Sunday about the price of seats in theatres has been the cause of general comment. Mr. Tree said he thought the prices charged were too high. The theatres had to compete with the music halls, and he thought that managers were "too proud" in clinging to their 10s. 6d. stalls. To form a sound judgment on the question it is necessary to be in the secrets of managerial finance in London; but, coming from such a source, the opinion is certainly significant.

Mr. Martin Harvey has just received the following very interesting communication, which reached him over the signature Louis A. Barbé. In view of his current revival of *The Corsican Brothers*, it will be read with genuine pleasure, dealing as it does at first hand with the original and actual Corsican Brothers of real life. "According to an account I have just read—which is, as I understand, taken from Mr. Dutton Cook's 'Nights at the Play'—Dumas professed that, while travelling in Corsica, he had been hospitably received by the Comtesse Savilia dei Franchi at her château, in the village of Sullacarro; that he became the friend of her twin sons; learned of the mysterious sympathy existing between them; of the love of Louis for the beautiful Emilie de Lesparre, and of the villainy of Château-Renaud; that he was present at the two duels of the Corsicans with the Frenchman—the duels being fought at Vincennes with pistols, and not at Fontainebleau with swords.

"What I have to relate," continues M. Barbé, "is not, I admit, nearly so romantic. But it has this advantage: it was told me by one who claimed to be, or, at any rate, to have suggested, Louis dei Franchi. This was the well-known French historian, Louis Blanc. Many years ago—about the middle of the 'sixties—when he was living in exile, I met him several times at the house of a friend. On one occasion he told us what impressed me so much at the time that I feel sure that I can reproduce at least the main fact with absolute accuracy. One night, when Louis Blanc was in Paris, he was murderously assaulted—knocked on the head with a bludgeon, I think—as he was coming out of the theatre. The attack appears to have been a very savage one, and the victim of it was at first thought to have been killed. A few days later a letter came from Madrid, where Louis Blanc's brother Charles was living at the time. It contained the information that a remarkable thing had happened. Charles had suddenly fallen down as though stricken with apoplexy. On regaining consciousness, he said: 'Something, I am sure, has happened to Louis.' Day and hour were stated, and a comparison shows that they coincided with the attack on Louis. The story got to the ears of Dumas, and supplied him with the motif of his story."

Mr. H. B. Irving and his brother Laurence are devoting much time to tabulating the enormous mass of manuscripts and letters left by their celebrated father in readiness for the biography of him, which they will write in conjunction. The authors will aim at giving as full and exhaustive a record of the great actor's career as possible, laying particular stress on that part of his life spent in touring the provinces. It is intended to embody in the biography reminiscences of those friends and relatives of Sir Henry who are still living.

The first list of donations to the Georgina Burns Fund includes a subscription of £5 each from the Prince and Princess of Wales. Many more sums, varying from ten guineas downwards, show the sympathy which the case of the once popular vocalist has aroused. It is hoped to raise a sufficient fund to place in the hands of trustees for the benefit of Mme. Burns, and further contributions will be thankfully received by Mrs. Bagot, Levens Hall, Milnthorpe, Westmorland, or by the Hon. Social Secretary, Church Army, Bryanston-street, W.

Miss Fanny Brough, whose sympathetic and practical interest in the wellbeing of her poorer sisters has so frequently been displayed, was among the speakers at the meeting held on the 8th inst. at London House, St. James's-square, on behalf of the Medical Aid Society, whose object is to provide necessitous gentlewomen with free medical aid during illness. Miss Brough said she considered that "genteel" poverty was the gravest and hardest of all poverty. Perhaps the need of assistance such as the Society offered was more apparent in her own profession than any other. Here youth was so soon past, and when gone everything else went with it, and it was admirable that members of the profession should be able to rely on assistance in time of sickness.

The work of executing the statue of the late Sir Henry Irving has been entrusted by the Memorial Committee to Mr. Thomas Brock, R.A. As the final list of subscriptions will shortly be published, it is earnestly requested that all members of the theatrical profession who have not yet contributed, and who may desire to join in this memorial to their late chief, will at once send their donations to Mr. John Hare, at 75, Upper Berkeley-street, W.

The profession has lost a much-esteemed member by the death of Mr. Henry Osman, who passed away on the 8th inst., after many months' suffering, borne with remarkable fortitude. He was operated upon at the Southern Hospital, Liverpool, in April last for a growth in the throat, and later was admitted into St. Thomas's, London, where he was discharged as incurable. On the 7th inst. he was taken to the Friedenheim Hospital, N.W., where he died the following day. Henry Osman was a great favourite with all who knew him, and there are many who will be grieved to hear of his death. He was a good actor, a genial comrade, and a staunch friend. He was a valuable supporter of *The Era*, or, as he used familiarly to call it, "The Actor's Bible." The deceased leaves a widow and one child. The funeral took place on Tuesday at Woking.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree will be honoured by the presence of the German Emperor at each of his forthcoming productions in Berlin. The series begins on Friday, April 12, with *Richard II.*, the plays for each day following being *The Merry Wives of Windsor* on Saturday, *Twelfth Night* on Sunday, *Hamlet*, which will be played without scenery, on Monday, *Twelfth Night* again on Tuesday, *Antony and Cleopatra* on Wednesday, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* on Thursday. Mr. Tree will also give a special matinée of *Trilby* on the Sunday.

Mr. Cyril Maude has not only lent the Playhouse, but will himself appear in an entertainment to be given at the handsome new theatre in aid of the Alexandra Hospital for Children on March 25. The performance will also be brightened by Mlle. Genée, who has promised to appear as the Dryad in Miss Dora Bright's new little play of that name.

Mr. Lionel Brough had a better night on Thursday, but his condition up to the time of writing was still serious.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier was present at the annual examination of the Elocution Class of the Royal College of Music on Wednesday morning, and furnished a report to the president (H.R.H. the Prince of Wales) and Council.

An interesting presentation was made to Mr. Martin Harvey after the performance at the King's Theatre, Glasgow, on Monday evening. The donors were the members of the Martin Harvey Amateur Dramatic Club (Glasgow), and the gift took the form of a handsome silver rose-bowl. The matter came as a complete surprise to the popular actor, who expressed, in a few heartily-spoken and happily-chosen words, his sense of the honour done him. The gift was made by the secretary, on behalf of the club corporate, "as an indication of their appreciation of Mr. Harvey's attainments as an actor." Miss Harvey, we are glad to add, is now considerably better, and Miss de Silva (Mrs. Martin Harvey) has rejoined the company, which is appearing next week at the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

A reminder may be given of the O.P. Club ladies' annual dinner at the Criterion to-morrow. The festive board will be graced by Miss Winifred Emery and Miss Edna May, who will both reply to the call of "Our Guests," to be proposed by Mr. Sidney Dark, the president; while Miss Marie Illington will toast the chairman.

The new costume play, *The Youngest of Three*, will be Mr. Bannister Howard's attraction at the Crystal Palace Theatre next week. The piece, which was produced at Worthing just a year ago, and deals with the old coaching days, has been extremely well received in all parts of the country. The period of the story is 1815, and the central idea is the elopement of a young couple and their subsequent discovery at a roadside inn. The production is elaborately staged, all the original scenery and properties being carried, and the costumes are picturesque. The company includes Miss Mara Maltby, Miss Grace Richardson, Mr. Wyn Weaver, Mr. Stuart Willson, and the author himself, Mr. H. F. Maltby.

Mr. Phil R. Davey has been presented by the Marquis de Leuville with a handsome stick. It is a pleasant habit of the Marquis to present a lady reciter or singer at his "At Homes" with an elegant gift, and on a recent occasion Miss Sharlotte was the recipient of an expensive opera cloak. Several of the crowned heads of Europe, it may be added, have followed the example of President Roosevelt, and sent a gracious acknowledgment of the latest edition of the Marquis's "Peace" book, which is to be sent personally to members of the Peace Conference at The Hague.

Mr. Henry Tweedie has completed, and hopes shortly to have produced at a West End theatre, a sporting drama, in a prologue and four acts, entitled *Rob, the Trainer*. It is a play of domestic interest, with novel effects, and at least one startlingly realistic episode.

Mr. Alfred Lester, who is now playing the lost constable in *The New Aladdin* with such marked success, will add to his duties and to the gaiety of the public by reappearing at the Palace Theatre on Monday in a new comedy duologue, written by Arthur Wimperis and Walter Davidson, with, it is needless to say, additional gags and impromptus by the comedian himself. Mr. Lester, who will be assisted by Miss Lilly Mills, has high hopes of making as big a hit with his new production as he did with his *Scene-shifter's Lament*, of which, by the way, he was sole author. The engagement, it should be added, will in no way interfere with Mr. Lester's performances at the Gaiety.

The second *Humpty Dumpty* golf handicap in connection with the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, was very keenly contested, several of the matches being fought out on the last green. Mr. J. M. Chute, the proprietor of the theatre, presented a silver cigarette case as the first prize, and Mr. H. L. Vaughan (the captain of the Bristol and Clifton Golf Club) offered a box of golf balls to the "runner-up." The various rounds resulted as follows: D. Fisher, jun., beat "Carlton" (received 46); F. Griffiths, jun. (received 5), beat F. Griffiths, sen.; J. M. Chute beat G. R. Chapman (received 13); F. Conquest (received 24) beat Horace Mills; F. S. Green, a bye. Second Round—Fisher beat Green (received 15); Griffiths, jun. (received 33), beat Chute. Conquest, a bye. Semi-Final—Conquest (received 10) beat Fisher. Final—Griffiths, jun. (received 24) beat Conquest.

The report of the directors of the Birmingham Theatre Royal, Ltd., to be presented at the annual general meeting on March 26, states that the trading profit for the year ended Dec. 10, 1906, was £1,973 5s. 10d. After writing off the sum of £598 11s. 2d. for depreciation on equipment and setting aside the sum of £165 for redemption fund there remains a balance of £1,209 14s. 8d. net profit in part redemption of deficiency standing in last year's accounts.

Mr. Philip Rodway's benefit at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, on Monday, brought that popular gentleman a record house and many tangible tokens of good will. Miss Ada Reeve, who had journeyed down specially to sing a new song, entitled "June," composed by Mr. Guy Jones, was received rapturously, and there were many others who shed lustre on the function. During the evening Mr. Rodway was presented with a drawing-room stove lamp from the front male staff, a silver coffee service from the ladies, a pair of candlesticks from the back of the house, a gold-mounted pin from Mr. Geo. Robey, and a case of pipes from the members of the Edgbaston Conservative Club.

Mr. Lester Collingwood's fourth anniversary at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, was celebrated on Tuesday, when Mr. George Robey, from the Theatre Royal, and other prominent artists staying in the district reinforced the company playing *Cinderella*. The house was full, every available seat having been booked long before the date of the performance. During the evening Mr. Albert Bushell and a few friends took the stage, and presented Mr. Collingwood with a diamond and opal scarfpin, an umbrella, and other pleasant tokens of esteem, while Mesdames Bessie Butt and Minnie D'Aubyn gave him a beautifully-chased loving cup. Later the artists and stage staff presented Mr. Collingwood with an elegant curb and fire utensils, together with an illuminated address to which all subscribed.

Terry's Theatre, of which Mr. Nation concludes his lease at the end of the month, will be then occupied by Mr. Gaston Mayer, under whose direction the popular American play, *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*, will be produced on April 25. The entire company, including Mrs. Madge Carr Cook, that has been playing in the piece in America for three and a half years will come over to this country, and the American manager who produced the comedy will also be imported.

At the Royal Academy of Music, the Goldberg prize for sopranos and mezzo-sopranos has been awarded to Mary Fielding (a native of Batley, Yorks.), Ida Kahn being highly commended and May Horton and Clara Smith commended. The adjudicators were the Misses Amy Castles, Ethel Wood, and Cicely Gleeson-White. The Sterndale-Bennett prize for female pianists was secured by Dorothy Grinstead (a native of Caterham, Surrey), Helen M. Dodd being highly commended and Rose Keen commended. The adjudicators were Miss Lily West and Mr. Ernest Fowles.

The Irving Memorial Committee held a meeting last Monday, when the chair was occupied by Mr. John Hare, supported by Messrs. George Alexander, Acton Bond, Lewis Casson, Norman Forbes, Alfred Kendrick, and Chas. Cruikshanks (sec.). Several matters in connection with the memorial were discussed, and the secretary received instructions.

The usual weekly meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association was held on Tuesday last, when there were present Messrs. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman), Henry W. Mote (solicitor), Henry Warburton (counsel, Misses Georgina Hamilton and Kate Phillips, and Messrs. Henry Ainley, H. Granville Barker, J. Cooke Beresford, Clarence Blakiston, Acton Bond, W. Graham Browne, Lewis Casson, C. F. Collings, Burton Cooke, H. Athol Forde, Arthur Holmes-Gore, Alfred Kendrick, Frederick Morland, Brandon Thomas, Frank Vernon, Frederick Volpe, and Chas. Cruickshanks (sec.).

The hon. solicitors reported that they had advised several members and written letters on their behalf. Dr. Archibald Revie, of Calcutta Lodge, Kilmarnock, and Dr. Henry Brine Blunt, of Linden Villas, Westfield-road, Wakefield, were elected as hon. medical officers to the Association. The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was received.

The proposition was placed before the Council—"That the following be added to the Bye-laws and Regulations: 'The Association Agency will not deal with offers of engagements for speaking parts carrying less than £2 per week.'" The chairman stated that he was informed by the Agency clerk that, so far as he could gather from the books after going back for the three years 1904-5-6, the only engagements made through the Agency at a salary under £2 were seven in number, and consisted of four at 30s. and three at 35s. The proposition, which was discussed at considerable length, was carried.

The Suggestion Book was considered, and an entry made. Alfred S. Barber and Wilfred Draycott were nominated for election. Two former members were nominated for reinstatement. The meeting opened at 2.30 and closed at 4.45.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee held a meeting last Tuesday, when there were present Messrs. Acton Bond (chairman), J. Cooke Beresford, Lewis Casson, A. E. Drinkwater, H. Athol Forde, Alfred Kendrick, C. Aubrey Smith, and Chas. Cruikshanks (sec.). Several questions affecting finance were discussed, and a regulation was made with respect to certain details in connection with the Agency department.

The Subscription Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, when there were present Messrs. J. Cooke Beresford, Acton Bond, Burton Cooke, A. E. Drinkwater, C. Aubrey Smith, and Chas. Cruikshanks (sec.). Mr. Acton Bond was elected chairman for the year 1907-8, and Messrs. Burton Cooke and A. E. Drinkwater were elected members of this committee. Questions as to the method of payment of the annual subscription were discussed at considerable length, and ultimately it was agreed to adjourn the matter for further consideration after the committee were in possession of certain information, which the secretary was directed to obtain.

Mr. Jerrard Grant Allen is shortly sending out a company with Mr. Arthur Law's evergreen farce *The New Boy*. In the course of the tour, some time in May, a new one-act play, entitled *Meg, the Mobswoman*, by Mr. Leon M. Lion and Mr. W. Strange Hall, will be produced.

Mr. Allan Wilkie paid his first visit to the Theatre Royal, York, last week, and made an enormous success, playing to exceptional business, Lent and powerful opposition notwithstanding. So pleased were the management with Mr. Wilkie and his company that they have booked him for two return dates, and have secured his services for a date in the season at Scarborough, all on greatly increased terms. Mr. Wilkie is making several additions to his cast for the autumn, which will then number upwards of thirty artists. Mr. Albert Morrow and Mr. Stewart Browne, two well-known artists on the staff of Messrs. David Allen and Sons, are now busily engaged making sketches for the various situations in all the Shakespearean plays included in Mr. Wilkie's répertoire, and in the autumn Mr. Wilkie will have one of the finest and most varied plants of printing to be found anywhere.

Miss Amy Fanchette is appearing with great success as Mrs. Anderson in *The Electric Man*, now in its twelfth week on tour with J. B. Mulholland's company. Such charming places as Hastings, Brighton, Portsmouth, Exeter, and Bath are included in the itinerary, so that Miss Fanchette may look forward to a tour as pleasant as it is prosperous.

The Society of British Composers is organising a memorial to the late Sir August Manns. A committee, including the names of Sir A. C. Mackenzie, Sir C. H. H. Parry, and Sir C. V. Stanford, is in course of formation, and all native artists and music-lovers are invited to send subscriptions to Mr. F. Corder, chairman, at the offices of the Society, 309, Oxford-street, W.

"A Soldier's Honour," by Miss Lottie Addison, produced at the Junction Theatre, Manchester, on Feb. 28, has proved a conspicuous success. This play is undoubtedly the finest work this talented young authoress has yet turned out, which is saying a great deal, as her prolific pen is already responsible for *A Sister's Sin*, *Bound to Win*, and *A Country Rose*, which have all enjoyed long runs. The tour is under the personal direction of Mr. F. G. Kimberley.

Mr. Leslie Carter, who has been appearing at the New Theatre Royal, Oxford, during the early part of this week, with Mr. Walter Maxwell's *The Lion and the Mouse*, was on Sunday night the guest of the Olympian Dramatic Club of Oxford University, when he recited "The Execution," from the Ingoldsby Legends.

Mr. William Mollison made his first appearance as Richard III. at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, during the past week, and gave, as was to be expected, a masterly performance of the character. The event attracted a keenly critical audience, who recalled Mr. Mollison again and again, the enthusiasm culminating in a perfect storm of applause at the termination of the play.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge, who have done so much by the exercise of energy and administrative skill to bring prosperity to His Majesty's Theatre, Barrow-in-Furness, were accorded a joint benefit on the last three nights of last week, the house being crowded on each occasion. An undoubted attraction was supplied in Miss Decima Moore, who appeared in her charming impersonation of the title-rôle in *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy*, with which the talented young actress has just started a tour after her travels in far-off lands. In an interval of the performance Mr. Routledge stepped in front of the curtain and thanked his patrons for the support accorded to Mrs. Routledge and himself, and hoped to merit a continuance of their generosity. He mentioned that, as the result of recent charity performances in the theatre, £100 had been given to various deserving objects, a remark which elicited the warmest applause.

The children engaged in the Drury Lane pantomime entertained on Thursday afternoon a select little audience to a performance in which they alone figured. This "matinée" was given in the Bijou Theatre, or Ballet Room, of Drury Lane, and the programme consisted of "A children's pantomime, *The Forté Thieves*, thrown together by A. S. Painter, music jumbled up by Half Holliday, and produced by A-Door-Bang." The special scenery, we were told, was by "Willing Hands and Co.," the costumes arranged by "Mrs. Per Hannum," "properties made, found, and purloined by the only Jones," and wigs by "Weary Willie Clarkson."

As to the juvenile actors and actresses, a villain with a most terrifying countenance and most terrifying ways was to be found in Master Jack Frost, who took the important rôle of Captain and Chairman of the Forté Thieves Co., Ltd.; while Miss Jessie Evans made a sprightly Ganein. Master W. Bishop and Master Teddy Gordon were amusing as Ali Baba and Cassim respectively; and Miss A. McDonald played in sprightly style as Hassarac. Miss Florrie Clarke as Morgiana, Miss Gertie Britton as the Fairy, and Masters Middleditch and Burton as the Donkey contributed to the fun-making; while Miss Vickie Hoghen gave evidence of her abilities as the principal dancer. For such a tiny stage the scenery was extremely well arranged. Miss Mimi Thornton worked in strenuous fashion as the business-manageress, while Mr. Edward Spillhim as the stage-manager and Master Sidney Smith as the junior acting-manager entered into the spirit of the entertainment, and rendered excellent service. The pantomime, which was repeated yesterday afternoon, proved a most enjoyable little "show."

Antipodeans will shortly have an opportunity of endorsing the verdicts of England and the United States on Leslie Stuart's *chef d'œuvre*, as Mr. Milton Bode has arranged to produce *The Belle of Mayfair* down under.

"The Girls of Gottenberg" is the provisional title selected by Mr. George Edwardes for his forthcoming production at the Gaiety after *The New Aladdin* shall have run its course. The piece, which has a liberal dash of the military element, is divided into two acts, the first opening at a German cavalry barracks, and going in the second scene to a pretty German village. The second act is laid in a beer garden on a hill overlooking the Rhine. Mr. George Grossmith, jun., will have the part of a dashing young cavalry officer in the Blue Hussars; Mr. Edmund Payne will be a regimental barber, masquerading as a captain; and Miss Gertie Millar, Miss May de Sousa, Mr. Robert Nainby, and Mr. Alfred Lester will also be among the principals.

Mr. Charles Constance's burlesque production of *Blue Beard* has been meeting with gratifying success in the provinces, and will shortly be seen at the Crystal Palace Theatre. Miss Isa Bowman is the principal boy, and she is supported by an excellent company.

"The Red Lamp," which will be rekindled at His Majesty's Theatre this evening, will have a cast of exceeding strength. In addition to Mr. Tree as Demetrius, and Miss Constance Collier as Princess Claudia, there will be an imposing array of artists, comprising Miss Alice Crawford, Miss Kate Cutler, Mr. Lyn Harding, Mr. Yorke Stephens, Mr. Basil Gill, Mr. Herbert Grimwood, Mr. J. Fisher White, Mr. J. Cooke Beresford, Mr. Charles Quartermaine, Mr. A. B. Imeson, Mr. Harry C. Hewitt, Mr. S. Yates Southgate, Mr. Cyril H. Sworder, Miss Muriel Alexander, and Miss A. Bruce-Joy. In the new one-act piece *The Vandyck*, which follows *The Red Lamp*, both Mr. Tree and Mr. Weedon Grossmith will appear.

Mr. Norman V. Norman finished a remarkably fine week at the Theatre Royal, Halifax, by giving a special performance of *David Garrick* to a house filled to overflowing in all parts. At the end of his present tour Mr. Norman intends to again give a series of pastoral plays, those under his management last year having proved so great a success.

Miss Sophie Harriss, who is visiting the New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, Mr. W. W. Kelly's palatial playhouse, this week with Baron Harriss's *Prince of Pilsen* company, has met with another unique experience. Whilst being conveyed in her motor car by the Birkenhead Ferry across to Liverpool, after the performance one evening, a sudden gust of wind lifted from her shoulders a costly sable cape (a souvenir of her recent visit to St. Petersburg) and carried it off in the darkness towards the sea. By a remarkable stroke of luck it alighted on the deck of a tug boat near two miles down the river, and was conveyed to its fair owner next day at the Adelphi Hotel without having sustained the slightest damage!

"Yours Merrily," otherwise John R. Rogers, writes in a cheery letter from St. Paul, Minnesota. He declares he has forgotten how to grow old, and that he will be in London in July. In an interview in an American paper it is said of Mr. Rogers that he is the prince of agents, and in the time that he has given over to the promotion of theatrical enterprises he has made seven tours of the world. Mr. Rogers studied law in Cincinnati, and expected to accomplish much in a professional way until someone told him that he should go on the stage. He secured an engagement, but after he had acted once (and only once) they put him in the box office, and he has been connected with the business end of the theatre ever since.

Mrs. Russ Whytal, who has been recently winning golden opinions by her performance in Barrie's charming play, *Alice Sit-by-the-Fire*, on tour, is about to embark on a short season of the "legitimate," supported by Mr. G. S. Titheradge and a company including Mr. Eardley Turner and Mr. Courtenay Foote. The répertoire will include *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Sheridan's *School for Scandal*. Her tour starts on Easter Monday at the Theatre Royal, Hull.

Miss Mabel Garden has been engaged by Mr. Albert Chevalier to play Columbine in Mr. J. M. Barrie's play *Pantaloon*, which he will include in his tour with a triple bill. Miss Garden, it may be recalled, was the original exponent in London of Rosie when Miss Eleanor Robson appeared as Merely Mary Ann at the Duke of York's Theatre.

"Peter's Mother," now running so successfully at its fourth London home, the Haymarket, is to be seen next week at the Marlborough Theatre under the management of Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison. This will be the first production of this attractive play in the suburbs, and a very powerful cast, including Mr. Eille Norwood, Mr. Percy Hutchison, and Miss Ruth Mackay, has been engaged for its representation.

Mr. Frank Beresford has been engaged by Mr. Wentworth Croke for his *Christian* tour.—Mr. Scott Craven will play the part of Prince Maurice of Saxonia in the forthcoming Lyceum production, *Her Love Against the World*.

The Brixton Theatre will recommence its dramatic season on the 25th inst., when Mr. Russell Rosse will present Mr. Sydney Grundy's well-known play, *A Bunch of Violets*. In the cast will be Mr. Walter Maclean as Sir Philip Marchant and Miss Eleanor Delaporte as Mrs. Murgatroyd. The return to the usual routine of this popular playhouse is looked forward to with great interest by the large residential population of the suburb.

Mrs. D'Oyly Carte has decided upon Thursday, April 4, as the date of the revival of *Patience* at the Savoy. The title-rôle will be in the fair hands of Miss Clara Dow, Mr. C. H. Workman will be the Reginald Bunthorne, and the remainder of the parts are allotted to Messrs. Frank Wilson, Richard Andean, Harold Wilde, and John Clulow, and Misses Jessie Rose, Marie Wilson, Ruby Grey, and Louie Réné.

A conspicuous figure of the operatic and dramatic world has passed away in the person of Mr. Maurice Grau, the eminent impresario, who died in Paris on Wednesday after a long illness. Mr. Grau was born in Brünn, in Austria, in 1849, and emigrated to New York with his parents when he was only five years old. He was originally intended for the law, but his uncle, Mr. Jacob Grau, who was a theatrical director, engaged his services as an assistant when he was directing the American tour of Ristori in 1866. In 1872 Mr. Grau embarked on his own ventures, among those who visited the United States under his management being Rubinstein, Salvini, Mme. Patti, Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, Sir Henry Irving, Miss Ellen Terry, M. Coquelin, Mme. Jane Hading, and Mme. Réjane. In 1897 Mr. Grau succeeded the late Sir Augustus Harris as director of the Covent Garden opera. He subsequently became lessee of the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, since his retirement from which he has resided in Paris.

Mr. Mayor-Cooke has been re-engaged by Messrs. Howard and Hallatt for the part of Prince Ulric on the autumn tour of *Her Love Against the World*.

The wedding of Mr. Neil Forsyth, general-manager of the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, to Miss Mary Helen Cathcart was quietly celebrated at St. Peter's, Musselburgh, Midlothian, on Thursday. In honour of his approaching marriage, Mr. Forsyth was entertained on Saturday night at the Imperial Restaurant by the London musical critics, and by them was presented with a massive silver salver. Another wedding gift presented on the occasion took the form of two Louis XVI. tables, which had been subscribed for by some "friends of the opera," the contributors including Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Sir Frederick Bridge, the Council of the Royal Academy of Music, Wilhelm Ganz, Mr. Landon Ronald, and Mr. T. McDonald Rendle. In acknowledging the presents, Mr. Forsyth said it was particularly gratifying for him as a manager to learn in so practical a fashion that he had won the goodwill of the musical critics.

The beautiful Scala is once more to come into the list of active theatres, and will be opened about the middle of next month with an Egyptian play by Mr. Alfred C. Calmour, called *The Judgment of Pharaoh*. The piece is in four acts, three of which are laid in Egypt and one in Judea. Mr. Calmour, it will be remembered, wrote *The Amber Heart* for Miss Ellen Terry.

An admirable concert was given on the 8th inst. at the Bermondsey Town Hall on behalf of the Railway Men's Convalescent Home, Herne Bay, the utility of which is strikingly evidenced by the fact that the five survivors of the crew of the ill-fated steamship Berlin are now being restored to health within its precincts. The Orpheus Glee Society opened the programme with "A hunting we will go," and also contributed several other part-songs, including the "Soldiers' Chorus" from *Faust* and German's exquisite "O peaceful night." 'Cello solos were furnished by Mr. Lionel Horton, who gave the "Liebeswerbung" of Becker, Popper's Polonaise, and the same composer's Gavotte. Mr. Ernest Pike rendered Trotère's "In your dear eyes" and Sullivan's "Take a pair of sparkling eyes" in cultivated style, and also joined in Balfe's duet "The sailor sighs" with Miss Esther Franklin, whose singing of Elgar's "Land of hope and glory" and "The laddie I love," by Joan Trevalsa, was warmly appreciated. "The History of England" as told by a little girl and reproduced by Miss Belle Green formed a diverting interlude in the well-arranged entertainment. Mme. H. Smith-Martin and Mr. John Corker were the accompanists, and Roper Ginn's orchestra supplied a comprehensive selection of music.

Mr. Charles Hannan's new four-act play, *The Coachman with Yellow Lace*, which is to be produced at the Hammersmith Lyric on March 25, will be found to be more after the class of play to which such pieces as *Sweet Nell of Old Drury* belong. Readers of Mr. Hannan's novel, upon which his play is based, will recall that the plot deals with the exciting adventures of the so-called Duchess of Balcarra, who is forced by her father to unwittingly rob the man with whom she has fallen in love, and who ultimately tracks her down.

At the Long Eaton Petty Sessions on the 5th inst. a license was granted to Mr. Lindsay Edwards, at present manager of the New Theatre, Loughborough, for a new brick building to be erected in Derby-road, Long Eaton, and to be called the St. James's Theatre. It is to be a modern, up-to-date theatre in every respect. The auditorium is 60ft. by 48ft., and the stage 48ft. by 35ft. The building will seat 1,100 persons, and is to cost about £6,000.

"Jeanne D'Arc," the play by Mr. Percy MacKaye which is to be included in the Sothern-Marlowe season at the Waldorf, deals with six episodes in the career of the Maid of Orleans. The action of the play opens beneath the Ladies' Tree near Domremy in the spring of 1428, and proceeds to the Court of the Dauphin of France. The third act is laid outside the walls of beleaguered Orleans, and in the fourth act, the first scene of which takes place on the outer walls of Troyes, will figure the brilliant Coronation pageant of King Charles and his entry into Rheims, accompanied by Jeanne. The last scene depicts Jeanne in prison, alone and deserted save for the faithful Duc d'Alençon, the character played by Mr. Sothern.

The action of Rudolf Herzog's *Die Condottiere*, with which the German Theatre in London is starting its eighth season, takes place in Venice in the fifteenth century, and the plot centres round the well-known statue by Verocchio erected in memory of Coleone, the famous leader of the troops of Venice. This play, which has found its way all over Germany, has been adapted for the English stage by L. H. David.

"Sindbad," which has proved one of Mr. Arthur Collins's most attractive annuals at "Old Drury," will come to a triumphal end on Saturday next. The last performances are being attended with the customary festivities. To all the children engaged in the pantomime, we may add, Mrs. Collins will give her annual treat.

The attendance of Royalty at the theatre is being well maintained. On Saturday last the Queen and the Dowager-Empress of Russia were present at Wyndham's, and witnessed *When Knights were Bold*; and the same evening saw the Prince and Princess of Wales again at the Royalty, where *Feu Toupinel* was being played. The Queen and the Dowager-Empress of Russia went playgoing again both on Tuesday and Wednesday, the former day being devoted to *Raffles* at the Comedy and the latter to *John Glayde's Honour* at the St. James's, at which the Prince and Princess of Wales were also present. On Thursday the Prince and Princess followed the Queen's example, and paid a visit to *When Knights Were Bold* at Wyndham's.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Mr. Tree's "Suffragette."

THERE were two brilliant "gems" in Mr. Beerbohm Tree's speech at the Stage Society's dinner last Sunday. Mr. Tree said "My youngest suffragette, who, I am sorry to say, is not here to-night—her eighth birthday occurred this year—was found by me, on arriving home one afternoon, dressed in knickerbockers, and weeping bitter tears—tears that were falling on to the grass, making holes into which worms were creeping. I said, 'What is the matter? What a disgraceful state! How did you get those knickerbockers?' She said, 'I bought them of a boy for 1s. 6d.' I said, 'What is the matter?' She said, 'This is my eighth birthday, and I have made up my mind to one thing. You tell me I should make good resolutions on my birthday—I am no longer a girl, but a boy. I will be a boy from to-day.' I said, 'My dear, I'm afraid it is too late.' She said, 'Not at all; you don't understand,' and she wept passionately, and then added, 'All the good people that have ever lived have been men—look at King David, and look at you.' I said I would rather not look at King David—his public utterances I approved, but for the rest— And she said, 'All the wicked people who have ever lived have been women. Look at Eve. It was she who said to Adam, "May I tempt you with an apple?" Father, I don't want to go about the world tempting men with apples.' I said, 'Well, my dear, you are a philosopher, but it seems to me, old-fashioned person that I am, that whereas as tyrants women are ridiculous, as slaves there is no limit to their power. I was looking the other day at a picture of an old master—it was called "The Slave." There was a woman in chains. The chains were held by a man, and the woman's head was turned smilingly back, and the man looked yearningly towards her. *He* was the slave.'"

The Cant of Negation.

VERY much to the point, too, was the following:—"I read in the newspapers this week the report of a conversation with a very brilliant young actor who declared that the drama was in decadence, and that musical comedy was triumphant, and he added that it was all nonsense to talk about Art, that all we thought of was the commercial side and the accumulation of wealth. The cant of Art is to be deprecated, but still more to be deprecated, I think, is the cant of negation. If we may be permitted to be proud of the accumulation of wealth through musical comedy, surely we, on the other hand, may also justly be allowed to be proud of our poverty ensuing from the legitimate drama. Poverty is often our only reward. Just as the tyranny from above is to be deprecated, there is a thing which is more lamentable still, and that is the tyranny from below. We have not a very large public perhaps—perhaps not so large as that of the Germans—but there is still plenty of appreciation for the best work, and I think more people have failed from having too low an opinion of the public than from having too high a one."

A Jealous Pony.

THOSE who have witnessed the admirable performances of Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry in that popular play, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, now running at the New Theatre, will remember the entrance of Mr. Terry in the pony-cart; and of the pony a quaint incident is recorded. The animal, an exceptionally quiet one, walks up and down the stairs to and from the stage at each performance without being at all troublesome—more like a dog than a pony; and he has become so familiar with the whole routine that it is difficult to restrain him from anticipating his entrance cue. One evening last week he managed to rush with Mr. Terry on to the stage quite a minute before his time, thus cutting out some of the dialogue and practically spoiling the situation. In consequence Mr. Terry insisted on having another pony for the following evening. Pony No. 1 made his appearance at the stage door as usual, and so had the mortification of seeing another enter the theatre in his stead; but pony No. 2 was not a success, so Mr. Terry decided to reinstate the old one. But on the following night pony No. 1 absolutely refused to enter the stage door. Gentle persuasion failed; the pony sulked, and would not budge an inch; and eventually, with the help of six property men, he was carried struggling down the stairs to the stage, and at his cue had to be forcibly pushed on. It was several evenings before the jealous animal had entirely forgotten the incident and became his docile self again.

An All-round Man.

MR. CLAUDE ARUNDALE, the author of *The Gipsy Girl*, writes plays only as a hobby, and devotes his chief energies to architecture. Having just finished building a public-house, he is now erecting two churches, and has also drawn up the plans and selected the site for a new theatre. Mr. Arundale combines the duties of author, composer, part-lyricist, designer of scenery and costumes, and poster-writer for his new play, and has, in addition, superintended the painting of a portion of the scenery.

Portable Hills.

WE have heard of the faith that can "move mountains," but in *The Great Train Robbery*, a play by an American author, which is to be the leading feature of Pawnee Bill's Wild West and Far East show, the hills are easily movable. The mounting, says the *New York Dramatic News*, includes a 30-ton engine and two regulation passenger coaches, portable mountains, steel railroad tracks, a prairie and a forest, dance halls, gambling-houses, streets, and a reservoir of 100,000 gallons capacity.

Sheridan's Laziness.

"THE indolence of Sheridan's character," writes a correspondent, "has been said to have been accompanied by an extraordinary power of hard work whenever spurred to it by any extraordinary motive. As an illustration of this, the date of the production of *The School for Scandal* is said to have been announced before the whole play was in the hands of the actors." Both "sayings" are unfounded on fact. Sheridan was one of the most strenuous men that ever lived. As for the latter statement, how could Garrick have read the play before it was put in rehearsal, and how could the Examiner of Plays have passed an opinion adverse to its being licensed if it was not finished till the last moment?

A Terrible Act.

I REMEMBER, writes our old correspondent, Mr. Edmonds, an intense Transatlantic actor visiting England, named Kean Buchanan. He was the possessor of a New England drawl, which made him lengthen out his words somewhat. One night in the last act of *Othello* this failing had been more than usual; and when the actor drawled out "I—know—*this*—act—shows—turrible and grim!" a gentleman in the gallery, imitating his New Englandese drawl, said, "Yaas—and—so—have—the—o-ther—four!"

Lucid Intervals.

DURING Mr. Mark Hambourg's visit to South Africa two years ago the following dialogue was overheard by him on the occasion of one of his recitals. A well-known Cape Town lady was in the stalls; the "Appassionata" sonata was in progress, and the little pause between the second and third movement had been reached. "My dear," said the lady to a friend who was with her, and who thought the sonata was over, "don't get up. These breaks are only what musicians term their 'intervalla lucida.' You'll know when it's done by the applause."

"THE LITTLE ADMIRAL."

A Play, in a Prologue and Three Acts, by Horace Hodges and T. Wigney Percyval, produced at the Lyric Theatre on Saturday, March 9

Admiral Sir Anthony Addenbrooke ..... MR. A. E. GEORGE
Baron Von Loewe ..... MR. HERMAN DE LANGE
John Speedwell ..... MR. CHARLES FULTON
A Waiter ..... MR. SHIEL BARRY
Miss Quick ..... MISS CARLOTTA ADDISON
Anne Churchill ..... MISS EVELYN MILLARD
Lieut. Anthony Addenbrooke, R.N. ..... MR. LEWIS WALLER
Lieut. Joseph Shafto, R.N. ..... MR. C. M. LOWNE
Captain Kent, R.N. ..... MR. CHARLES GROVES
Cobbledick ..... MR. HERBERT JARMAN
A Process-Server ..... MR. W. BERTHUE

"He was a saint, was the little Admiral; he drank and he swore, but he was a saint all the same, the little Admiral was," is the epitaph bestowed by his old servant Cobbledick upon Admiral Sir Anthony Addenbrooke, the Little Admiral of the play which has been produced by Mr. Lewis Waller at the Lyric Theatre. The piece is the joint work of two actors, Messrs. Horace Hodges and T. Wigney Percyval, already well-known to theatre-goers as the authors of *Sunday*, which has been played with such continuous success both in London and the provinces by Mr. Fred Terry and Miss Julia Neilson.

The action of *The Little Admiral* opens in the year 1821. The scene of the prologue is a private room in an inn on the frontier of France, on a bitterly cold January day in 1821. Through a window at the back, the ledges of which are piled with snow, we get a glimpse of a very wintry-looking street. The room is in the temporary possession of two English ladies, one old and fragile, the other young and beautiful, but both very poor. The younger is full of solicitude for the health of the elder, and in order to procure her comfort is willing to marry the first wealthy man who comes forward. It is difficult to reconcile her determination with her refusal of a rich but grotesque German baron, who is most anxious to lay his heart and his money at her feet. To the two women comes a lawyer, John Speedwell, with the request that they will place their apartment, the only private room in the hotel, at the disposal of an old man, Sir Anthony Addenbrooke, who is dying. The ladies agree, and presently the old man enters. He takes an immediate and violent fancy to the girl, Anne Churchill, and insists upon her remaining with him while his lawyer recapitulates the terms of the Admiral's will, by which the bulk of the money (£60,000) will go to his grandson, Lieut. Anthony Addenbrooke, R.N., on condition that the young gentleman shall have reached the position of Commander before June 24, 1823. Until that date the Lieutenant is to remain in entire ignorance of the fact that his grandfather has left him a penny, in order, as the Admiral says, that he shall prove himself a man for his own sake, and not for the sake of the money. The act drop goes down on the old man muttering brokenly in one of the sudden sleeps of old age and infirmity; and the girl sitting by his side, his hand in hers, and her thoughts fixed on the future.

In the first act of the play proper three months have elapsed; and we find ourselves in the room of Anthony Addenbrooke the younger at Portsmouth, and learn that in the meantime the Little Admiral is dead. Young Anthony, who shares his rooms with a chum, Joseph Shafto, is leading the gayest, the most reckless existence imaginable. His room is littered with unpaid bills, his friend and his old servant are full of stories of his mad escapades. Anthony himself rushes in, slamming the door in the face of pursuing duns. He decides to leave Portsmouth with his friend, and to take up his abode in a cottage belonging to him in Hampshire. He has received news that the adjoining cottage has been let to two maiden ladies, from whom he may expect a visit at any time. The lawyer Speedwell arrives, first to raise his hopes to the skies and then to dash them to the ground with the news that his grandfather had not mentioned his name in his will, and that his only legacy is a letter urging his grandson to work, as work will bring him more than he can realise. The disappointment is great; so great that Anthony despairs, and is meditating suicide when his future tenant, Anne Churchill, enters, and saves him from self-destruction.

The coming of Anne makes another man of Anthony, who falls desperately in love with her, and for her sake turns over a new leaf, works hard, saves money, pays his debts, and is on the high road to promotion, urged perpetually forward by Anne. In the last act—a charmingly pretty Cottage Garden scene—the fateful June 24 is but a week distant. Anthony, still in ignorance of the fortune awaiting him, has won his way all along the line. He declares his love to Anne; but Anne had reckoned without her heart; and her love for Anthony makes her loathe and despise herself for her original motives in desiring to entrap him. She begs him to wait until June 24 for her answer. A visitor for Anthony arrives in the person of John Speedwell, who informs him of his promotion and also of the grandfather's bequest. Anthony is overjoyed until, in the course of conversation, Speedwell mentions that a third person knew of the conditions of the will, a Miss Anne Churchill. At first Anthony is completely overwhelmed by the news, but eventually he declares his faith in Anne, and puts her to the test in a conversation from which Anne emerges triumphant; and the end is happiness and marriage bells.

As the Little Admiral Mr. A. E. George gives a beautiful and clever study of an old man, broken in body but strong in spirit. He touches the whims and eccentricities of old age with an exquisite note of pathos; they provoke laughter, but it is the laughter which is very near tears. Mr. Lewis Waller is a manly, handsome hero, full of life and fire. He plays the part of the young scapegrace with a boyish grace which is very captivating; and he makes love to Anne in the irresistible manner which has made him so greatly and so deservedly popular with the fair sex. Miss Evelyn Millard looks as pretty as a picture in her ringlets and quaint costumes, and is a very sympathetic Anne. She is particularly good in the prologue, in her scene with the old man, which she plays with great feeling and charm. There is no actress on the stage who makes a sweeter, a daintier, a more lovable old maid than Miss Carlotta Addison. She is the embodiment of one of the old ladies of "Cranford"; her pretty little old-maidish ways are as fascinating to watch as her sweet soft voice is grateful to the ear. She is so natural, so womanly that it is easy to understand the devotion of Anne Churchill to her friend. Mr. C. M. Lowne as Joseph Shafto gives excellent assistance, his slow, deliberate methods forming a capital contrast to the impetuous Anthony of Mr. Waller. That fine actor, Mr. Charles Fulton, has a rather unsympathetic part as Lawyer Speedwell, but it is needless to say that he gets every ounce of acting matter out of it, and manages to make a sketchy character convincing. As an old sea-dog, Captain Kent, Mr. Charles Groves plays with fine vigour and effect; and Mr. Herman de Lange as Baron von Loewe contrives to make the curious character plausible. Cobbledick, the old servant, is very well played by Mr. Herbert Jarman, who invests the part with much humour. Mr. Shiel Barry is good as a French waiter, and Mr. W. Berthue as the unseen Process-server does all that he can with a very small part.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. Frank Bentz, who terminated his engagement as manager at the Paisley Theatre on Saturday, was the recipient of a few useful presents subscribed for by the staff of the theatre.

THE ACTORS' UNION.

A MINIMUM WAGE.

If a large and enthusiastic meeting can be accepted as an augury of success, then the Actors' Union may be said to have entered upon its existence with happy prospects as to the future. Some four hundred members of the profession assembled at the Criterion Restaurant on Monday afternoon with the object of hearing the scheme verbally explained; and, if approved, of signifying their acceptance of it by becoming members of the Association. It would have been, perhaps, more business-like had a resolution on the subject been put to the meeting, for such a formality could have been brought forward as a reply to future criticisms. Such a resolution, too, undoubtedly would have been unanimously passed, and that the meeting was in entire accordance with the objects of the Actors' Union was amply proved by the considerable number of actors and actresses who paid their entrance fee before quitting the hall.

MR. CECIL RALEIGH occupied the chair, and was supported by Miss Gertrude Kingston, Mme. Rouir, Mr. Arthur Bawtree, Mr. F. H. Chamier, Mr. J. A. Bentham, Mr. Fred Bentley, Mr. E. Y. Rae, Mr. Harry Mountford, Mr. Bulbeck (hon. solicitor), Mr. Robson Paige (treasurer), and Mr. Oswald Marshall (secretary). Among others present were Mr. Ben Webster, Mr. Edward O'Neill, Miss Agnes Thomas, Mr. Frank Lacey, Mr. Harry Paulton, jun., Mr. Frank Gerald, Mr. C. C. Bartram, Mr. Maurice Hoffmann, Mr. Arthur Eldred, Mr. J. W. Ryder, Mr. Harrison Carter, Mr. H. Athol Forde, Mr. Charles Craston, Mr. H. Tripp Edgar, Mr. Walter Russell, the Musical Schaffers, Miss Anna Beaumont, Miss Keith Lytton, Miss Mary Bessle, Miss Lucy Sibley, Mr. Dermot Fitzgibbon, Miss Elsie Carew, Miss Vane Featherstone, Mr. A. S. Albery, Mr. Fred Albery, Miss Maude Bowyer, Mr. J. W. Braithwaite, Miss May Buckstone, Miss Gwendolen Burney, Mr. Alfred Bennett, Mr. Lewis Casson, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Compton, Mr. E. H. Clive, Miss Violet Chamier, Miss May Conrad, Mr. J. J. Dallas, Mr. J. Telly Dillsen, Mr. Phillip Durham, Mr. Cyril Fairlie, Mr. I. Farelly, Mr. Jack Fortescue, Mr. Cecil Fowler, Mr. Fred Fern, Miss Grace Garside, Mr. Franklin Graham, Mr. C. R. Gibbon, Mr. Lawrence Grant, Mr. John Groves, Miss Hettie Hertzfeld, Miss Mona Hungerford, Mr. G. Harrison-Carter, Mr. E. M. Hamilton, Mr. Chas. Kean, Mr. Henry Latimer, Mr. Piet Leslie, Miss Ella Linden, Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn, Mr. M. G. Mackey, Mr. Cecil Morand, Mr. H. C. Morton, the Musical Schaffers, Mr. Henry Nelson, Mr. Goodwin Nook, Miss Margaret Parker, Miss Catherine Parry, Miss Violet Russell, Mr. Arthur Rodney, Mr. Geo. Rollit, Mr. Robert Rivers, Mr. R. W. Steele, Miss Blanka Stewart, Mr. Charles Taylor, Mr. R. S. Trelawney, Mr. J. R. Turnbull, Miss Lilian Tweed, Miss Nelly Wilkinson, Mr. Ashton Winslow, Mr. Roland Williams, and Mr. W. H. G. Wynne. Many letters and telegrams expressive of sympathy with the movement were received, among others, from Mr. Charles Allan and Miss Phyllis Broughton.

The statement issued for the purposes of the meeting supplied to each person who attended the meeting was as follows:—

THE ACTORS' UNION.

"Enslave a man, and you destroy his ambition, his enterprise, his capacity."

1. The title of this body is to be the Actors' Union.

2. That this Union is being formed for the object of safeguarding the interest and welfare of all those who earn their living by acting or singing in musical or dramatic plays.

3. The Union will be governed and developed on strictly democratic lines—by actors for actors.

4. Qualifications for membership: That all entering the profession can be admitted as probationary members, but no one to be allowed to vote or sit on the Council under five years' actual experience on the stage, or five years' membership of the Union. That each candidate for election shall be proposed by one and seconded by two fellows of the Union, who from personal knowledge can vouch that, in their opinion, the candidate is professionally and socially fit for membership.

5. That the entrance fee be 2s. 6d., and a subscription of 6d. per week to be paid for forty weeks of the year. Members to be in full benefit must not allow their weekly subscriptions to fall in arrears. Those who are desirous of doing so can pay their subscriptions quarterly 5s., half-yearly 10s., or annually 20s.

6. That any member of the Union becoming a manager or acting-manager shall, during the period of his management, forfeit his right of vote and cease to hold executive powers in the Union.

7. That the Union be governed by a Council of twenty-four fellows annually elected, all being allowed to offer themselves for re-election.

8. That branches of the Union at the earliest date possible shall be formed in other centres, such as are already forming in London and Manchester.

9. Members shall be known by a number, and each shall have a card to which special stamps issued by the Union shall be affixed, thus denoting their weekly payments.

The objects of the Union are:—

1. To establish and maintain an honest living minimum salary.

2. To abolish the unfair competition of unpaid or premium-paying amateurs on the professional stage.

3. To insist on the decent and healthy structural condition of theatres.

4. To found a Provident Fund, Loan Fund, and Old Age Pension Fund so soon as the Union is on a sound financial footing.

5. To give free legal advice to all members.

6. To grant free legal protection to all members.

7. To collect a levy of 6d. per member in the event of the death of any member, to defray the funeral expenses and assist the widow, widower, children, or next-of-kin.

8. To form an honourable, solid, and united body of actresses and actors whose decisions will be accepted with respect, and whose protests will be made with authority when directed towards the reform or abolition of any abuses that are detrimental to the interest of the stage.

All communications to be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, 49, Bedford-street, Strand, London, W.C.

THE CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said that as the result of that meeting a new condition of things would prevail in the English stage. The Actors' Union was a necessity. It was not an experiment, nor was it merely the wish of a few. It had become a necessity by reason of the economic conditions that prevailed in their calling. There was a time when the actor was a Bohemian and a good-natured person, who passed his time acting badly by night and drinking by day; but that time had passed. They had to remember that those who employed them had fallen into methods that did not obtain in the old days. They now had to deal with syndicates and trusts. It was this system of syndicating that drove their music-hall brothers and sisters to form themselves into a federation. Very few of them could boast that they worked more than thirty weeks a year, and in that respect they were worse off than the variety artist. When they saw the condition of things in the North of England—a syndicate owning a London suburban theatre, the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, and practically every theatre in Scotland—did they not think it was time they gave up talking and wondering, that they forgot for a moment their art, and dealt with themselves as workers? He would call upon the secretary to read a short account of what had been happening in the provinces and in London.

The Secretary (MR. OSWALD MARSHALL) read his report, as follows: The Actors' Union only having been in existence a few weeks, the first report is necessarily brief, and consists mainly of how the organisation came into being. Some five or six weeks ago half a dozen actors were discussing the music-hall strike—not the rights and wrongs of it, but the loyalty that existed and does still exist in the ranks of the music-hall profession. That loyalty made those half-dozen ponder, and ponder deeply, of the utility of such an organisation as the Federation. The outcome of their meditations was another meeting. This time they came to business, and decided to hold a public meeting to ascertain as far as possible the feeling of the profession in regard to a similar association for actors. In the meantime Mr. Fred Bentley had called together some fifty or sixty ladies and gentlemen playing in Manchester and district for the purpose of forming a provincial Union. After some correspondence with Mr. Bentley the Manchester branch decided to throw in their lot with us. The first meeting was such a success that those responsible for it determined to go on, with the result that this Union was founded. Since then we have had three meetings, each one more enthusiastic than the last. At one of them some of the Reform Party were present. They begged us to join them, but that was impossible, not because we are not in accordance with their views, but because of the hundreds in the profession who are not, never have been, and never will be, in sympathy with the Actors' Association. At the last meeting we held a programme was drawn up, and a provisional committee of twelve was elected to carry out the preliminary arrangements. Through the generosity of a friend we have an office rent free for three months. A gentleman not connected with our calling kindly gave a donation of £5; a whip round at one of the meetings brought £1 0s. 6d.; and the Provisional Committee themselves have subscribed £3. With this money we have had two lots of circulars printed, one of which you have before you now. These were dispatched to nearly every company playing in London and the provinces, and also to many others who have the misfortune to be out of employment at present. The result of these circulars and the intimation of such an organisation through other channels has brought a reply from over two hundred and fifty actors and actresses, all ready and willing to join the Union. This, I think, is a very good beginning, and it now remains with you to nurture the seed which this committee has planted.

THE CHAIRMAN said that they could not have an association of managers conducting a trades union of actors. He regretted at the present moment that he was not eligible for membership of the Union because he was not an actor, although he had been one. He wished this union to be a union of actors who were actually earning their living by their calling. Let it be conducted by them for them. It must be "un-managerial"—for actors and actresses alone.

MISS GERTRUDE KINGSTON remarked that one of her earliest objections to the Actors' Association was the fact that there were employers on the committee. She, however, became a member of that body, but she found that the objects for which it was supposed to exist were not fulfilled. At the last meeting of the Association an attempt was made to introduce acting-managers to membership, and they were told that if it were not for the actor-managers the Association could not exist, because the actors did not pay their subscriptions. If that were so, then she thought there was no use for the Association. One other point; she desired to say that there was a painfully evident want of solidarity among actors and actresses. The Actors' Union could not be carried on successfully unless there was an absolute understanding that everyone coming into it was going to do what the other person was going to do. They must stick by one another.

MR. ARTHUR BAWTREE, chairman of the Provisional Committee, said: One of the most discouraging things about our calling is the lack of unity. We don't seem to be working together for a purpose. What we need is a big inspiring motive—a something to weld us together, to concentrate our energy, so that we may be a big force in our chosen profession. It seems to me, if we would begin now, to-day, on this Union of ours, it would give us this motive, this something to do, which can occupy each one of us. The need of an Actors' Union is manifest. It would give us an established position. It would show the outsider that within our ranks are force and energy sufficient to produce a tangible result—an Actors' Union; that we are, indeed, a power. Let us each constitute ourselves a committee of one, to hustle for the Union. Put on your thinking-caps to discuss what you yourself can do to make this Union a great and glorious success. We are young; we must either grow or stagnate. Out of an earnest desire for growth and progress will come, before we know it, a new and grand organisation. We must have enthusiasm, not indifference; willingness to subordinate ourselves to our purpose, if we would reach results, and an imperfect result is better than no result at all. Could there be a finer symbol of dignity and worth, of the earnest endeavour of our players, than a powerful Union? Won't it symbolise that the actor, from the strolling player, has merged into something finer and higher, that he has outgrown, left behind that old mantle of irresponsibility, and has clothed himself anew in the dignity of high aims? That he has kept pace—nay, is ever in advance in the march onward? That spiritually and mentally he has grown into man's estate?

THE CHAIRMAN, rising to speak again, urged that there was no necessity for hesitation on the part of anyone as to the line of action he or she should adopt in the matter under consideration. They were not going to ask whether the Actors' Union was to be founded or was not to be founded. The Actors' Union was founded. Another meeting would be held in three or four weeks' time, when only members of the Union would be present. All they had to do for the present was to send in their names and join, and at the same time to send in their subscriptions. Let them boldly plank down their half-crowns to the secretary.

MISS KINGSTON here took the opportunity, amid a perfect storm of applause, to sign her name on the form of application and hand her—the first—entrance fee to the secretary.

THE CHAIRMAN, continuing, stated that at the forthcoming meeting the members of the Union would elect the Council. At that meeting, too, they would be able to discuss and decide upon the rules which should be the basis for conducting the Union. The objects of the Union were plainly set forth in the circular before them. The first object was the establishment of a minimum salary. It was not to be thought for one moment that any man or woman could live decently on less than forty shillings for one week. They wanted £2 per week for six performances, full payment for matinées, and the number of hours for rehearsals to be limited. It was desirable to apply to rehearsals the eight-hour day principle, and it was only by bringing that subject to the attention of managers through the medium of such a union as this that they could hope for improvement. The rehearsals should be better organised, so that girls and men need not be kept hanging about doing nothing until they were required, and having to leave the theatre at two o'clock in the morning, when there was no means of getting home except by a six-shilling cab, which they could not afford. It was a pity that the rehearsals were not over earlier, so that people could go home by tram or omnibus. Payment for rehearsals would be a matter for future consideration by the Council to be appointed. Then, it should be made perfectly clear that the Actors' Union welcomed to its ranks all who earned their living by acting or singing on the stage, and especially did this apply to those who appeared in musical comedy, for they were the people who suffered most from long rehearsals. Neither he nor the committee was in favour of a complicated scheme of payment for rehearsals. All they wanted was an amount, say, four shillings a day, which would cover cost of lunch and conveyance to and from the theatre. Harking back to the question of a minimum wage, the speaker stated that the provincial salaries were the curse of the calling. What sort of a time was the woman going to have who received fourteen shillings per week? Was such a condition of things just? Was it reasonable? Was it even honourable? The Actors' Union would lead to the abolition of blackleg labour. The premium-paying or unremunerated amateur who went upon the stage more or less from a sense of vanity would no longer exist. The novice would have to be paid just as if he were a regular actor, and for this obvious reason: That the moment a minimum wage was insisted upon, and the manager had to pay a salary whether he engaged an amateur or an accomplished actor, the bonâ-fide artist would be employed. Recruits were not wanted, for there were enough accomplished actors and actresses to serve all reasonable purposes for the next ten years.

MR. FRED BENTLEY, appearing on behalf of provincial actors, stated that he had been working on the trades union idea for several years, and he was deeply proud of the honour of speaking before so many members of the profession. The large gathering proved that there were some at least who had the true interests of their calling at heart. He had heard several actors and actresses mention the word "union" in rather contemptuous tones. Well, he would point out that lawyers were not above having their union. No lawyer would work under a certain fee. Neither would doctors. Why should actors arrogate to themselves a position superior to that of lawyers and doctors? The Actors' Union should stand as a guarantee of efficiency, and the letters "A.U." after a man's name should signify that he was a thoroughly capable actor. Of course, from the first members who joined the Union they could not ask for guarantors, but once the scheme was on a sound footing every member who proposed a candidate, and the two seconders, should be able to guarantee that the person they were recommending was thoroughly fit to be a member.

The CHAIRMAN here made clear a point as to the subscription. It had been fixed at sixpence a week for forty weeks in the year, thus providing for the period of twelve weeks' rest in the summer months. It would be seen that the total subscription for the year was only £1.

MR. HARRY MOUNTFORD, chairman of the National Alliance, hoped that the Actors' Union would be represented on the Alliance. The actors had been driven to form a trades union, and every actor and actress should join the one which was now in existence. It was an interesting fact that exactly a year ago last Saturday the first public meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation was held. There should be no distinction in the Actors' Union between the provincial and the London actor.

MR. LAWRENCE GRANT, rising from the body of the hall, remarked that the views of the provisional committee of the Union seemed to be, as regards rehearsals, that four shillings a day should be paid. That would amount to twenty-four shillings a week. The Chairman had quoted a case of rehearsals lasting for twelve weeks, and by this system the actors would get a total of £14. He would point out that the Actors' Association had obtained for them the precise amount. One-third salary was paid for all rehearsals after three weeks.

The CHAIRMAN called Mr. Grant to order.

MR. GRANT went on to say that they were all desirous of unity, as some of the previous speakers had remarked, but was it with the idea of unity that this "opposition show"—the Union—was started?

The CHAIRMAN said he was not going to hear Mr. Grant on the subject of the Actors' Association. They did not care tuppence what became of the Association.

MR. GRANT: I thought you were speaking of the unity of the profession.

The CHAIRMAN: No, the unity of the Union.

MR. GRANT protested, if he were not allowed to talk about the Actors' Association, against any further discussion on the subject.

MR. MAURICE HOFFMAN urged everyone to join the Actors' Union. He hoped that at some future time the National Alliance would include the members of the theatrical profession

MME. ROUIR expressed a desire to see the front ranks of the profession leading in this movement. She thought every element of the legitimate stage, dramatic, operatic, comic opera, and musical comedy, should be represented in the Actors' Union.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. Robson Paige and seconded by Mr. J. Bentham, concluded the proceedings.

GUILDHALL OPERATIC STUDENTS.

On Friday evening, March 8, the students of the Guildhall School of Music gave a performance of Auber's *Fra Diavolo*. Although at the present day Auber's opera sounds somewhat old-fashioned, it contains undeniably pretty music, and is well adapted for a student performance. Mr. Frederick Blamey, who impersonated the hero, has an agreeable, but not strong, tenor voice, which he managed with considerable skill, while his acting was always intelligent; and Miss Maude Willby deserves praise for her singing in the part of Zerlina. Miss Willby received much applause for her solo, concluding with a very effective shake in the second act, a Chamber in the Inn. As Lady Allcash Miss Edith Romea may be commended for her acting, but the part requires more sprightly singing. She was well supported by Mr. Stanley Goldstein as Lord Allcash; while Mr. Andrew Pace and Mr. Robert Carr as the two bandits, Beppo and Giacomo, greatly amused the audience by their clever comic business and capital make-up. Mr. Robert Fletcher ably sustained the part of Matteo, and Miss Fanny Taylor appeared as Francesco. Mr. Edwin Lewis acted the part of Lorenzo (Captain of the Carabineers) with ability. The concerted music was well rendered, particularly the trio in the second act. The orchestra under Mr. Richard H. Walthew played with commendable spirit; and the stage-management of Mr. B. Soutten was excellent. The scenery of Mr. W. Hemsley, especially in the last act, was admirably painted, and the bright and effective costumes of the performers were kindly lent by the Royal Opera Syndicate, Covent Garden.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. Ernest Plumpton, stage-manager of Mr. Wm. Greet's *Earl and the Girl* company, was this week the recipient of a handsome silver cigarette-case, presented by the members of the Skipton A.D.C. in recognition of his work in the production of *Our Boys* recently.

Two sacred concerts will be given at the Crystal Palace on Good Friday. The first will be at 3.30, and the artists will include Miss Agnes Nicholls, Mme. Ada Crossley, and Mme. Clara Butt, Mr. Charles Saunders, Mr. Kennerley Rumford, and Mr. Santley. The Crystal Palace Choir, Military Band, and London Symphony Orchestra will also take part. Mr. Fred W. Holloway will be the organist, and Mr. Walter W. Hedgcock will conduct. At the evening concert, at 7.45, the artists will be Mme. Mary Conly and Mr. Thomas Meux. Mr. Holloway will again be the organist and Mr. Albert Fox will accompany. By permission of Col. A. E. Codrington the full band of the Coldstream Guards will play, under the leadership of Lieut. J. Mackenzie Rogan.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

PUTNEY EMPIRE.

Within the short space of a week, during which the place of amusement formerly known as the Hippodrome has been closed, Mr. Walter Gibbons and his lieutenants have been able to complete their arrangements for re-opening, and on Monday last the erstwhile deserted hall was once more brilliantly illuminated, and business was in full swing.

Whether the two-houses-a-night system will be successful in the Putney district remains to be seen, but on Monday evening, at the second show, there seemed to be more than a little difficulty in finding seats for all comers. New management is a term synonymous with innovations. We see by the programme—now issued at half the former price—that the name of "Hippodrome" has been changed to Empire. Mr. Foster C. Marner now occupies the position of manager, vacated by Mr. Clifford King. Conductor and orchestra are also new, and gave an exceedingly good account of themselves. The programme was a very strong one, and the various artists must have been delighted by the heartiness of their reception.

The first item, Messrs. Woodward and Walton, provided a clever exposition of dancing, the lady of the pair being exceedingly neat and graceful in her movements. That highly-entertaining coon, Will English, appeared next in a darky's serenade to "Daisy," following his singing by an eccentric dance, which delighted his hearers. Barnard's Marionettes were equally amusing, the figures being deftly manipulated in song and dance, the turn terminating with an exciting adventure, resulting in the breakdown of a motor-car. Mary Glen, a pleasing vocalist, for her first contribution sang "Loch Lomond," and afterwards, neatly attired as a "guid fish-wife," gave "Caller Herrin'" in a way which brought down the house. The Sousloffs, described as Russian Imperial terpsichorean experts, gave a very vigorous turn, ending in the "Turbillion." Rosie Archer was clever in her imitations of well-known comediennes, including Vesta Victoria, Vesta Tilley, Kate Carney, and Marie Kendal.

With the appearance of Tom Costello the audience were soon roaring with laughter, his latest absurdity, *The Suffragettes*, being too funny for words. He received excellent assistance from the two "examples," who finally exercised their "rights" and "lefts" also to great advantage. Much amusement and no little ability are infused into the sketch by the Ten Loonies. Several concerted pieces were well rendered, and the acrobatic pianist performed some clever feats during his lucid periods. An extra good series of pictures, "A Visit to Niagara," gave splendid views of river scenery, culminating in the "Niagara Falls" and "Rapids." The star turn was Mr. Arthur Roberts and his talented company in *The Woman Who Was*. As the disguised shop-girl the favourite comedian finds endless opportunity for his "gagging" propensities; his unexpected interpolations sometimes prove too much for the members of his company, and keep the audience in roars. The following are included in the cast, and ably support their chief:—Mr. Chris van Bern, Miss Florence Darley, Miss Jessie Burgwitz, Miss Andree Corday, and Miss Ruby Celeste, who fills her part with characteristic ability.

GRAND, CLAPHAM.

The seating capacity of Mr. Walter Gibbons' Grand Palace at Clapham Junction this week has been thoroughly taxed, and many habitués of the hall have been fain to avail themselves of standing room. A great attraction has been the presence in the programme of Miss Victoria Monks, who, however, on Wednesday, the night of our visit, was out of the bill through indisposition. Mr. H. Ketteman, the able manager, made the fact known to the public at the entrances, and also exhibited an announcement on Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, which compensated in part for the disappointment by the addition of interesting films to its stock of current pictures. The headline of the bill is occupied by Miss Maude O'Dell, who, as Galatea, is repeating the exhibition of human statuary which aroused so much interest recently at the Palace. Subjects of every variety are presented, including Vénus de Médée, Le Miroir de Bacchus, Helen of Troy, La Vérité, and La Fortune. The perfect pose and contour of the figures are admirably preserved. Each has the exact appearance of chiselled stone, and the admiration aroused by the clever studies is expressed in the warmest applause.

An especially attractive item in a strong programme is furnished by *The Duchess of Tooting*, which is presented with the customary gaiety, animation, and tunefulness by Mr. Sidney Bacon's company. The production has all the best effects of musical comedy, and passes from melody to mirth by easy transitions thoroughly to the taste of the audience. A merry interlude is that of Spry and Monti, who enact an amusing scene outside a representation of the Horse Guards in Parliament-street. An armour-clad Lifeguardsman occupies the saddle on a realistic, though wooden, charger, until the rider is upset by a small boy armed with a pea-shooter. The soldier finds consolation in flirting with a young lady, with whom he carries on a conversation, frequently interrupted by the cheeky urchin. Many comicalities are indulged in during the course of the act, which ends with a song and a quaint dance, executed with undeniable skill.

The tambourine is put to unaccustomed uses by Tambo and Tambo, whose spinning of the instrument surpasses understanding. The manner in which they keep a tambourine going on each finger and pass them to and fro is very deft, and their spining of hand-basins with both feet and hands is also marvellous. A culminating point is reached when, one by one, they set a couple of dozen tambourines spinning merrily, while others are kept going with the feet. The pedal extremities are also effectively utilised by Mr. Frank Cumminger, who has arrived at a rare state of perfection in sand-dancing, executing manœuvres that can be the result only of long and arduous practice. The cheers with which his efforts are greeted are thoroughly deserved. The Six Lancashire Lassies are a bevy of radiant maidens, whose only resemblance to the natives of the cotton-town would seem to lie in the clogs which adorn their feet. After singing in gleeful chorus of "Eileen" they do a number of solo and "concerted" dances, in which many varieties of stepping are introduced. Costumes of scarlet hue and golden trappings are afterwards assumed, and a chorus and dance executed with pleasing effect. Miss Edith Fink finds material for the display of a cultivated voice and captivating style in the popular "Shy Ann" and "Jo-burg"; and Mr. Chas. Austin, who numbers among his impersonations that of a lone widow, creates laughter by his broad comedy.

RICHMOND.

Merriment is the keynote here for the week, and so quite apropos Mr. Max Guy's capable orchestra opens with a tuneful march, "The Jolly Japanese." Then Miss Violet Beatrice, as a dashing son of Mars, chanted a song that won the approval of the audience; her "Little Soldier" should make quite a host of recruits. Rumbo Austen let the audience into the mysteries of the training of acrobats; Rumbo is quite a genial wag, and his pupils promptly enter into the fun of the thing, and shrieks of merriment testify to the approval of the audience. As a whistling comedian Mr. Arthur Melrose will want a lot of beating, for not only does he whistle with extraordinary skill, but he pipes imitations that are as realistic as they are clever; altogether a clever turn. Sensational drama is provided in Cecil Raleigh's *The Doom of Delilah*. It is a fine *pot-pourri* of villainy; forgery, illicit love, treachery, assignations, and a few other trifles go to form a menu that everyone appeared to enjoy. Olive, the Delilah in question, is in love with one Jack Weston, but he has other charmers; and after an absence of four years he appears on the scene. Olive taunts her quondam lover with infidelity, but Weston is resolute; he has simply called for the last time to say "Good-bye" to Olive. Jack denounces her, and leaves her to chew the cud of bitter repentance, although there is little of the commodity in her nature. Anon her other lover, Philip, appears; he has heard all, and by way of showing his appreciation he promptly strangles this wayward Delilah; then, as he also has sinned, he sacrifices his own life, and the curtain falls. The sketch is admirably written, and contains some smart lines. The episode was powerfully interpreted; Miss Dundas as Violet was superb, and she was well supported by the male members of the company, whose names, however, do not appear on the programme. A bright little comedienne, Miss Nina St. Elmo, sings prettily of "Marguerite" and "Jenny was a housemaid." Mr. Leo Stormont met with an enthusiastic reception; he sang, with all his accustomed ability, "a barrack-room ditty," in which he painted the glories that belong to Tommy Atkins, and followed up his success with a stirring ballad, "The Lifeboat Men"; he easily won the sympathy of his auditors and a full meed of applause. *The Registry Office* proves a very amusing little sketch; the worries of a young couple before the Registrar who are anxious to wed prove highly diverting; Mr. Matt Wilkenson and company assisted in the production, and did very well. A great reception awaited Miss Marguerite Broadfoote, who has already established herself as a prime favourite here. She simply took the house by storm; the theme of her first song was the same that gave Mr. Caudle a sleepless night—viz., an umbrella. Her second contribution, "Little Trixie," found favour with her admirers, for "Trixie" is quite an entertaining person, so much so that the audience were also heard chanting her praises—and Miss Broadfoote's. As a finale Miss Broadfoote sang her "Nursery Rhymes," and was recalled again and again. Vernon's Bioscope gave a few illustrations demonstrating the supposed charms of "The coiner's life," and the audience gave their final volley of applause as the curtain rang down. Mr. Kay Draco is responsible for the front of the house, the arrangements of which are, as usual, excellent.

CHELSEA PALACE.

The cosy hall at Chelsea enjoys the benefit of constant patronage, and whatever circumstances of wind or weather may prevail, its habitués are certain of comfort and amusement within its walls. Mr. Henri Gros, the managing-director, is astute and experienced enough to know that it is the best that pays, and the entertainment which he provides is always one which can be relied upon to amuse. The overture supplied by Mr. Angelo Asher's excellent orchestra is a selection from *Madame Angot*, and forms no inconsiderable source of pleasure to the audience. They are later moved to admiration by the descriptive power of Miss Dora Lyric's singing, the sentiment of "All that glitters is not gold" being well and tunefully brought out. To Elton and Edwin, who make melody on the banjo, much appreciation is extended. They are expert manipulators of the instrument which our own King raised to its present popularity, and find no difficulty in playing a march of Sousa's with properly vigorous expression. Chirgwin's "Blind Boy," rendered as a duet, pleases greatly, and the overture to *Poet and Peasant* is so artistically executed that the clever pair are called upon to acknowledge a double recall.

The exhilarating dances of the Glenroy Troupe in *The Lads of the New Brigade* meet with similar honours. A Scotch reel by three comely maidens, and a sailor's hornpipe by the gentlemen, prove a source of delight, but it is when the ladies dress up in Highland uniform, and sing a martial chorus, and take part in a series of sword exercises, that the audience surrender completely to the fascinations of the performers. An Irish reel, in which some neat stepping is done, serves to complete an entertainment that has attractions for all. The poetry of motion is also practised by My Fancy, the clever danseuse, who, since she took the eye of the town some years since, has occupied a position quite on her own ground. My Fancy has a comely appearance, and dances like an automatic doll—automatic, that is, in respect to the accuracy of her movements, for no figure could reproduce the grace and refinement with which My Fancy invests her step and sand dances, each of which is loudly acclaimed.

Dispensing for the time being with his "Welcome Home," Mr. Bob Hutt gets, nevertheless, a cordial reception for his eccentricities in "Make haste" and "Oh, Jerusalem," in both of which contortions of feature are comically conspicuous. Mr. Hutt also enters into disputes with the orchestra, which are provocative of the utmost hilarity. Mr. Tatten Hall is a comedian who resorts to caricature for his effects. His assumption of a "Johnnie" with an eyeglass is very laughable, and the figure he cuts as a huntsman is equally ludicrous. Exquisite effects are obtained on sweet-toned bells by Mr. Will Cornish, who afterwards plays "The Lost Chord" as a duet on a set of curious metal tubes, which have an imposing sound, well in keeping with Sullivan's famous melody. The popular ballad "Sing me to sleep" is also played on a number of ordinary bells, and the charm of the performance wins well-deserved applause. The Boisset Troupe are seen in their whimsical production *The Wild West*, in which the popular comedians cause unlimited laughter; and Jeapes' Animated Graphic supplies a series of pictures of a most interesting character. Mr. Edward Swanborough, whose illness has now unhappily lasted nearly a year, is able occasionally to visit the hall, but will not brave the night air. Meanwhile, managerial affairs go smoothly under the control of Mr. J. Norman Berlin, who is held in the highest esteem.

"BLUFF AND BUNKUM."

Humorous Sketch, by Philip Martin, produced at the Bedford on Thursday, March 7.

James Schomberger ....Mr. Lawrence Derrick
Schietz ....Mr. P. Martin
Charlie Flow ....Mr. Harry Taylor
Theresa Lascelles ....Miss Alice Vere

This bright little sketch, which plays but fourteen minutes, met with a very favourable reception. On the rise of the curtain Schietz is discovered in the sale-room, off which, on the prompt side, is shown the private office of the principal. Schomberger, who enters, gives Schietz advice as to serving customers, with much blatant exaltation of himself. Charlie Flow, a dude, who comes into the store to make some purchases, forgets the items. After some humorous lines, he departs on the entrance of Mlle. Theresa Lascelles, a French adventuress, who wishes to purchase a sable cape. After selecting one, she tenders in payment a cheque for 850 dollars. Acting on the orders given him, Schietz takes the cheque into Schomberger, who makes inquiries over the telephone of the bankers on whom the cheque is drawn. A few moments later a favourable reply is received. In the meantime, the lady, taking advantage of the delay, leaves the store, and going to the bank, withdraws all her money, and closes her account. On her return to the store she is seen by Schomberger himself, who is gulled by her to let her take away the cape. Immediately after her departure Schomberger is rung up by the bank, and informed of the fact that mademoiselle has drawn out her money and closed the account. He rages out into the store, and puts all the blame on to the unfortunate Schietz, and in a lively rally bonnets him with the boxes and kicks him out of the store. The bulk of the work of the sketch fell to Mr. Lawrence Derrick as Schomberger. He gave a first-rate presentment of the self-made bumptious American business man; the other three parts were also well played.

STARS FOR THE CANARIES.

Crowds gathered on the Liverpool landing-stage last Saturday morning to witness the departure of Mr. Malcolm Scott and a party for Las Palmas. In order to recuperate after the stress of pantomime work, Mr. Scott is taking to the Canary Islands a party including Harry Tate, Mr. R. Morand, Mr. Romaine, Walter McEwen, Misses Doris Dean, Fanny Dango, Theresa Foote, Mrs. Tate, Mrs. Dean, and Claire Romaine. "Happy" Fanny Fields was to have been with the party, but was unfortunately prevented at the last moment by illness. With the idea of combining business with pleasure Mr. Scott has taken the theatre, Teatro Perez Galdos, at Las Palmas, and the company opens there to-day for six nights, after which it will return on one of the Elder-Dempster line steamers, which is due to arrive at Plymouth on the 29th. With such an "all star" company record business is assured.

Sir Alfred Jones, of the Elder-Dempster line, have made special arrangements for the comfort and convenience of the party. Both on the outward and the homeward trip the vessel puts in and stops at Las Palmas, especially for them. The Sekondi, on which they sailed, carried her full complement of passengers, who were gleefully anticipating the good times the happy company will undoubtedly give them during the voyage. A foretaste of the fun was given when Harry Tate was observed in naval uniform on the "bridge," directing operations as the vessel left.

Among those present to bid their comrades "bon voyage" were Miss Hetty King, Miss Marguerite Broadfoote, the Brothers Luck, E. Eddlestone, Roy Redgrave, and M. Adler. Mr. Harry Tate appeared on the bridge of the tender in a mock exhibition of skipper, with the regulation nautical cap and greatcoat. He gave "directions" wholesale, and surveyed operations from the bridge with an air of seriousness, interrupted now and again with amusing ejaculations to his friends ashore. Mr. Walter McEwen accompanies the party as managing-director.

"THE RED LETTER,"

a Play, in One Act, by H. Leslie Bell, produced on Monday, March 11, at the Circus and Hippodrome, Rochdale.

Samson Whyte ....Mr. H. Leslie Bell
Harry Shaw ....Mr. Horton Tree
Bartnell ....Mr. Chapman
Constable ....Mr. G. Harrison
Evelyn Shaw ....Miss Lily Pearl

As will be seen from the thinly-disguised names of the characters, *The Red Letter* is a reflex of a notorious murder trial now taking place in America. Scene 1 opens on the roof gardens of a New York theatre, where Bartnell, hearing that Harry Shaw is leaving New York that night for Pittsburg, and that his wife will be alone, plans a robbery of her jewels. Samson Whyte enters from the theatre, followed by Harry Shaw, from whom Whyte asks a favour, and Shaw, guessing rightly it is money he wants, promises to let him have it the same night enclosed in a red letter. Mrs. Shaw arrives, and, after bidding her husband good-bye, is persuaded by Whyte to be allowed to take her home. A bioscope film here depicts the couple being driven to her home in a hansom. On arriving there Mrs. Shaw tells Whyte this must be their last meeting, when they hear sounds which they think betoken the return of Harry Shaw. Assuming he must have missed his train, and not desiring to be caught, the deluded young wife effects Whyte's escape through a window, where he is immediately pounced upon by a constable who demands an explanation, in the midst of which Harry Shaw turns up. Whyte expresses his belief that there is a burglar in the house. They return with the constable, and are horrified to find that Mrs. Shaw has been murdered. Not finding any trace of the murderer, Harry Shaw then asked Whyte how he surmised there was a burglar in the house. Whyte starts guiltily, whereupon Shaw accuses him of having murdered his wife. Whyte then tells him the whole story, taunting him with the character of his wife, whom he asserts was his (Whyte's) mistress before she married Shaw. Stung by this taunt, Shaw shoots at Whyte and kills him, the curtain falling on the arrest of Shaw for the murder of Whyte.

The play is short, but full of exciting incidents throughout. Mr. H. Leslie Bell makes a convincing Samson Whyte; Harry Shaw is ably portrayed by Mr. Horton Tree; Bartnell and the Constable are effectively sustained by Mr. Chapman and Mr. G. Harrison; and Miss Lily Pearl acts with telling effect the part of Evelyn Shaw.

The funds of the City of London Auxiliary of the Printers' Pension, Almshouse, and Orphan Asylum Corporation were generously increased on Monday by a smoking concert, arranged by the staff of the London and County Printing Works, Drury-lane, W.C. (printers of *The Era*), held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Mr. Ernest A. Mynott, the works manager, occupied the chair, and Mr. L. Upcott Gill, principal of the firm, Mr. Crandon D. Gill, and Mr. Bernard Gill were also present. A comprehensive programme, consisting largely of "native" talent, was provided, notable among the successes of the evening being the efforts of the "Bazaar" Glee Club, who contrasted the concerted drolleries of "Jenks's Vegetable Compound" with the vigorous harmonies of "Life's a Bumper." Greatly appreciated items were the recitations in Somerset dialect by Miss Daisy Pullen and the singing by Miss Aline Sudbury, a promising soprano, of "Ofttimes" and "She wandered down the mountain side." A "séance magique" was submitted by Capt. E. H. Adams; the Marlborough Quartet sang "Annie Laurie"; a duet, "The Twins," was given by Messrs. T. C. Bond and G. J. Blower; and Messrs. Pattle and Hargrave combined their vocal abilities in Balfe's "Excelsior." Humorists were found in Messrs. T. C. Bond, Fred Clements, Will Draper, Fred Edwards, Alf. Ellerton, Ben Hogg, E. Lacy, and Harry Massey; and ballads were contributed by Miss E. J. Bidwell, Miss Elsie Lisle, and Messrs. Thos. C. Bell, E. Hargrave, Leonard Holmes, Chas. Pattle, H. Bullen-Saunders, Fred Smith, Edgar Stacey, Hubert Stone, and Albert Walter, a duet on the pianoforte being furnished by Messrs. G. Hardy and S. J. Price (who also proved most efficient accompanists), and a solo by Mr. L. J. Holmes. Mr. W. A. Perkins acted as musical director, and Messrs. J. L. Lawrence and J. W. Simpkins capably fulfilled the duties of hon. secs. The concert, which realised £45, the record for the season, proved very enjoyable, and the hope that the function would become a "hardy annual" was generally expressed.

A matinée at the Hippodrome, Southampton, in aid of the dependents of the victims of the Berlin disaster on Thursday resulted in securing £100 for the Mayor of Harwich's fund.

Mr. Editor.—Sir,—While thanking your correspondent for his notice of our act at Barnard's, Greenwich, in last week's issue, will you kindly rectify the error "Messrs. Prentice and Brite." It should be—Mr. Harry Prentice and Miss Florence Bright (in *Jimmy*).

St. Armande, the hypnotist, is in London, booking dates. Without the aid of electricity or drugs he has effected many cures, his method, hypnotism, has been approved by such eminent physicians as Sir William Broadbent and Sir William Gardiner. His demonstrations are amusing and scientific.

ON THE ROAD, MARCH 18.

All-of-a-Sudden Peggy.—T. R., Hull.
Amasis.—Theatre Royal, Glasgow.
Angel of Unrest.—T. R., Plymouth.
Anna of the Plains.—O. H., Wakefield.
Are You a Mason?—T. R., Birmingham.
Asche, Oscar.—Borough Theatre, Stratford.
As Midnight Chimes.—T. R., Seaham Harbour.
Assassin.—Court Theatre, Wigan.
At Cripple Creek.—Alexandra T., Hull.
At Duty's Call.—Ton-y-pandy.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs.—Gaiety T., Leith.
Beast and the Beauty.—T. R., Aldershot.
Beauty and the Barge.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
Beauty of Bath.—King's T., Glasgow.
Belle of Mayfair (Bode).—T. R., Bath.
Belle of New York.—Grand T., Hull.
Benson, F. R.—Alexandra T., Greenock.
Benson, F. R. (N.).—Century T., Motherwell.
Benson, F. R. (S.).—New T., Tredegar and Ebbw Vale.
Bluebell in Fairyland.—Royalty T., Glasgow.
Blue Moon.—Kennington Theatre.
Bound to Win.—Junction T., Manchester.
Broken Heart.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Bulmer, Mr.—Grand T., Walsall.
Bunch of Violets.—Grand T., Nelson.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—King's T., Edinburgh.
Cassidy, J. Rice.—T. R., Smethwick.
Catch of the Season.—Deptford.
Chinese Honeymoon (Bode).—County T., Kingston.
Chinese Honeymoon (Macdona).—Lancashire Dist.
Christian, The (Croke).—New Theatre, Oxford.
Christian, The (Howard).—Dudley.
Claudian.—Theatre Royal, Stockport.
Coal King.—Queen's T., Workington.
Compton Comedy Co.—O. H., Perth.
Conscript, The.—Theatre Royal, Goole.
Country Girl (Macdona).—Surrey District.
Dairymaids.—Prince's T., Bristol
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—County T., Bedford.
D'Oyly Carte.—O. H., Tunbridge Wells.
Driven from Home.—Glasgow.
Dr. Wake's Patient.—Preston.
Earl and the Girl (N.).—T. R., Rochdale.
Electric Man (S.).—West Pier, Brighton.
Eternal City.—Theatre Royal, Hull.
Face at the Window.—Grand T., Chorley.
False Wife.—Prince's T., Preston.
Female Swindler.—Grand T., Mansfield.
Fight for Millions.—King's T., Sutton-in-Ashfield.
Floradora (Howard).—Ayr and Kilmarnock.
Four Just Men.—Theatre Royal, Hull.
Freedom of Suzanne.—Newcastle.
French Spy.—Kircaldy and Falkirk
Gay Parisienne.—Ilkeston.
Geisha.—Shakespeare T., Liverpool.
Glossop-Harris Repertoire Co.—Eastbourne.
Golden Ladder.—Grand T., Nottingham.
Go-Won-Go Mohawk.—T. R., Worcester.
Great Awakening.—Victoria T., Burnley.
Grip of Iron.—County T., Reading.
Held Apart.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
Her Lost Self.—Athenæum T., Lancaster.
Her Love Against the World.—Star T., Liverpool.
Her Luck in London.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Her Marriage Vow.—Lyceum T., Crewe.
Her One Great Sin.—Osborne T., Manchester.
Hill-Mitchelson.—T. R., Bristol.
His House in Order (N.).—Wolverhampton.
His House in Order (S.).—Crown T., Peckham.
Home Sweet Home.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
Honour Thy Father.—T. R., Blyth.
Hour of Her Triumph.—P. O. W., Salford.
Human Hearts.—Lyceum T., Govan.
Indian Mutiny.—T. R., Croydon.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—O. H., Leicester.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Oswestry and Newport.
Lady of Ostend.—T. R., Bolton.
La Poupee (Ralland).—T R., South Shields.
Leah Kleschna.—T. R., Sheffield
Lion and the Mouse.—Grand T., Eccles.
Little Breadwinner.—T. R., Norwich.
Little Stranger.—Prince's T., Manchester.
London Fireman.—Lyceum T., Crewe.
Love that Women Desire.—Grand T., Eccles.
Lucky Durham.—O. H., Cheltenham.
Man and Wife.—Grand T., Brighton.
Manxman.—Theatre Royal, Hanley.
Martin Harvey.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Merveilleuses.—Theatre Royal, Nottingham.
Midnight Mail.—T. R., Clydebank.
Midnight Wedding.—Grand T., Woolwich.
Mollison, William.—King's T., Sunderland.
Monte Cristo.—Broadway T., New Cross.
Moody-Manners (A.).—Liverpool.
Moody-Manners (B.).—Theatre Royal, Bury.
Morals of Marcus.—P. O. W., Birmingham.
Mr. Popple.—Grand T., W. Hartlepool.
My Sweetheart.—H. M. T., Dundee.
Napoleon the Great.—T. R., North Shields.
Night Out.—Avenue T., Sunderland.
Norman V. Norman.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
No Wedding Bells for Her.—Huddersfield.
Oliver Twist.—Theatre Royal, Chatham.
Otto, the Outcast.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
Peter Pan (No. 1).—Grand T., Leeds.
Peter Pan (No. 2).—T. R., Edinburgh.
Peter's Mother (N.).—Marlboro' Theatre, N.
Power of Gold.—T. R., Jarrow.
Prince of Pilsen (Harris).—O. H., St. Helens.
Private Secretary.—Pier P., Eastbourne.
Prodigal Parson.—P. G., Folkestone.
Proof.—Theatre Royal, York.
Revenge.—T. R., Bristol.
Robin Hood.—Kirkcaldy.
Royal Divorce.—T. R., Dewsbury.
Sailor's Sweetheart.—New T., Cambridge.
Saints and Sinners.—T. R., Colchester.
Saturday to Monday.—Grand T., Derby.
Sentenced for Life.—T. R., West Bromwich.
Sherlock Holmes.—King's T., Hammersmith.
Shulamite.—Grand T., Luton.
Sign of the Cross.—New Theatre, Cardiff.
Silver King (Howard).—Fleetwood and Kendal.
Silver King (Polini and Melford).—Northampton.
Soldier's Honour.—Queen's T., Farnworth.
Span of Life.—Theatre Royal, Cardiff.
Still Alarm.—T. R., Chesterfield.
Throne of Terror.—T. R., Sunderland.
Tommy.—Gaiety Theatre, Dublin.
Toreador (Macdona).—Lincoln.
Traitor Prince.—Central T., Northwich.
Traitor, The.—T. R., Barnsley.
Trumpet Call.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
Tyrant, The.—Grand T., Newcastle.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—Grand T., Nelson.
Under the Czar.—Collosseum, Oldham.
Unwedded Wife.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
Village Blacksmith.—T. R., Birkenhead.
Under the Russian Flag.—Spennymoor.
Walls of Jericho.—Camden Theatre, N.W.
Warning to Women.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Wearin' o' the Green.—Prince's T., Poplar.
What the Butler Saw.—T. R., Manchester.
When It Was Dark.—H. M. T., Blackpool.
When Woman Hates.—Grand T., Walsall.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—T. R., Whitehaven.
Woman's Past.—T. R., Leamington.
Women and Wine.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
Worst Woman in London.—Rugby.
Youngest of Three.—Crystal Palace Theatre.
10.30 Down Express.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
£1,000 Reward.—T. R., Rotherham.

Mr. Eardley Turner has been engaged to produce Mrs. Russ-Whytal's Shakespearean Répertoire, and appear in the comedy rôles in connection with it. Mr. Turner's Shakespearean performances with Mr. Tree's répertoire company will be remembered.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA.

Owing to pressure on our space, we have been compelled to hold over the weekly instalment of the above. The series will be continued next week.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Dolly.—*When Dorothy was shifted from the Gaiety to the Prince of Wales's, at the end of December, 1886, Miss Tempest played the name-part for several hundred nights. When the Lyric opened Dec. 17, 1888, the run of Dorothy was continued till the following April.*

T. H. W.—*Miss Louie Freear played Puck in Mr. Tree's revival of* A Midsummer Night's Dream *at Her Majesty's in January, 1900.*

H. P.—*"The Mouse-trap Man" was originally sung by George Leybourne.*

Leicester Square.—*The original Little Buttercup, at the Opera Comique, was the late Miss Everard.*

J. K. H.—(1) *Miss Nelly Moore died on Feb. 22, 1869.* (2) *Sir Augustus Harris died June 22, 1896.*

W. M.—*Mr. Lewis Waller made his first appearance on any stage at Toole's Theatre in March, 1883.*

G. C.—Bonnie Dundee, *a romantic historical play in five acts, by Mr. Laurence Irving, was produced at the Adelphi, March 10, 1900.*

L. K.—*All you can do is to instruct a solicitor to write to the executors claiming the articles you name.*

Playgoer.—Twelfth Night *was revived at Sadler's Wells Theatre by Samuel Phelps on Feb. 26, 1848.*

Frank Etheridge.—*You had better write to the Registrar of the County Court, pointing out that you cannot attend at the hearing, and ask that the matter may be adjourned to a date when you can attend personally.*

Harold Montague.—*The local authorities are right, and your entertainment requires a theatrical licence. The whole question is discussed on pp. 56 and 57 of Strong's "Dramatic and Musical Law," published at this office, price 3s. 6d.*

H. Rowan.—*No, so far as our knowledge goes.*

W. L. Frost.—*Harry Clifton, the comic and motto vocalist, died July 15, 1872, aged forty.*

Mrs Putney.—*We have no information concerning the gentleman you mention.*

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Edith Blande—Saturday, March 16.
Harry Elliston—Saturday, March 16.
Amy Maitland—Saturday, March 16.
Phyllis Broughton—Sunday, March 17.
Kathleen Magee—Sunday, March 17.
Hubert H. Davis—Sunday, March 17.
Nellie Wallace—Monday, March 18.
Amy St. John—Monday, March 18.
Mrs. Bennett—Wednesday, March 20.
Rosie Lupino—Wednesday, March 20.
Martin Comstock—Wednesday, March 20.
Mabel Engelhardt—Sunday, March 17.
Pat Doherty—Sunday, March 17.
G. W. Hunter—Sunday, March 17.
F. R Adair—Monday, March 18.
Muriel Alleyn—Monday, March 18.
Joe Lawrence—Tuesday, March 19.
Fred Daly—Tuesday, March 19.
Susie Melrose—Tuesday, March 19.
Frank A. Gordon—Wednesday, March 20.
Alice Maple—Wednesday, March 20.
G. Ross-Carr—Wednesday, March 20.
Bella Pateman—Thursday, March 21.
Norman Partridge—Thursday, March 21.
Harry Randall—Friday, March 22.
Harry Brett—Friday, March 22.

ILLNESS OF AN ADVANCE AGENT.

Our readers will learn with regret that Mr. John Mitcheson, the well-known advance agent, has just left Westminster Hospital, London, after three months' severe illness with diabetes, resulting in the loss of his eyesight, and is still in a sad state of health. It appears that when ahead of *The Still Alarm* company some fifteen months ago he contracted a severe cold at Seacombe. Eventually under medical advice he entered Birmingham Hospital. A few weeks afterwards he was able to rejoin his company, and finished the tour. But towards the end of the year he was subjected to an almost continuous attack of the complaint, and, under the advice and assistance of Dr. Brookbank James, eye specialist, he entered Westminster Hospital to undergo a special course of treatment.

Mr. Mitcheson was well known amongst Freemasons in the North of England, as it was at Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1875 where he took his M.M. degree. "Mitchie," as he was familiarly termed when touring, was well known and highly respected for his sobriety and industry, and was a very hard-working agent. Amongst the companies he represented were *The Earl and the Girl, The Blue Moon, The Still Alarm, The Christian, When a Man Hates, The Girl from Bond-street, The Slaves of Passion, In the Ranks, Two Little Vagabonds, Oliver Twist, Little Nell, The Fisher Girl, The Lights o' London, The Mockery of Marriage, The Brace of Partridges, Secret Service, Uncles and Aunts, The Red Lamp*, the Norman Comedy Co., *The Black Bishop*, &c. Personal friends are anxious to render him some assistance in his present distress. He is now resting, through the generosity of a friend, until some arrangements can be made for his future. Those willing to assist in such a distressful case are kindly requested to communicate with Mr. John Mitcheson, 20, Ballater-road, Brixton, S.W.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

Bristol X.L.C.R. and Harry Hare's Orchestral Band Athletic Clubs v. Bristol X.L.C.R. Second and Music Halls Athletic Clubs.

Played on Clifton Downs, Saturday, March 2. The following were the teams:—

Bristol X.L.C.R. and Orchestral Band: H. Belding, goal; A. Hamlin (captain) and J. Lewis, backs; H. Elmore, F. Harrison, and S. Carter, half-backs; J. Aubrey, H. Clements, E. Bowman, A. Mattock, and H. Edwards, forwards.

Bristol X.L.C.R. Second: F. B. Nicholls, goal; F. Thorne and E. Denton, backs; F. Wedmore, J. Lacey, and T. Neagle (captain), half-backs; F. Hansford, A. English, P. Reardon, R. Cullen, and H. C. Douglas, forwards.

Referee: G. Adams. Linesmen: J. Leonard and H. Hare.

Result: Bristol X.L.C.R. and Orchestral Band Athletic Clubs, 1 goal; Bristol X.L.C.R. Second, nil. J. Aubrey scored the only goal.

All men who shave themselves will take a lively interest in the "Nutshell" automatic stropper, just introduced by Messrs. Rheinberg and Co., of 32 Snow-hill, London, by whom the difficult operation of stropping a razor is reduced to a mere matter of turning a handle. The automatic principle is so precise that both sides of the blade receive equal strokes from the stropping-band. The "Nutshell" stropper is—as its name implies—compact and complete in itself, and requires no outside support. The blade is inserted through a slot, the apparatus is held in one hand, and the handle turned with the other. The advantages offered by this novel process will be thoroughly appreciated by travellers. We understand that the makers guarantee each machine, the price of which is 12s. 6d., and allow ten days' free trial.

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Soldene, Miss E.
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Terrier, Madame F.
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Vernon, Miss H.
Wakeley, Miss Minnie
Waldron, Mr. Joe
Whirligigs, The
Whyte, Mr. Karl
Williams, Mr. Harcourt
Wilson, Mr. J. Morton
Wilton, Mr. Arthur
Winona, Mr. Edwin
Yates, Mr. Fred
Yorick, Mr. Tom
Yorke, Mr. Leonard
Zedora Troupe

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

HOWARD.—March 10, Mrs. Wilson Howard (Miss Carlotta Anson), of a fine boy. Both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

FORSYTH—CATHCART.—March 14, at St. Peter's Church, Musselburgh, Midlothian, Neil Forsyth, manager of the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, to Mary Helen, daughter of the late J. W. Cathcart.

HEARNE—RAWLINGS.—Feb. 23, at Chicago, George William Hearne (Deonzo), of Auer and Deonzo, acrobats and barrel jumpers, to Ethel Rawlings, pianiste, of Danville, Illinois.

STUDT—SMITH.—At Holyrood Church, Southampton, Wednesday, March 6, 1907, John, second son of Mr. Jacob Studt, Victoria Hall, Southampton, to Emily, daughter of Mr. J. Smith, roundabout proprietor, of Sholing, Southampton.

WILMAN—DAVIS.—Feb. 9, '07, at Brixton Registry Office, by special licence, Fred Wilman (of Phern and Phern), youngest son of A. Wilman, Green Gates, Yorkshire, to Rosina, eldest daughter of John and Jane Davis, Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

DEATHS

CLARKE.—March 11, at his residence, The New York Tavern, Northampton, Josiah Clarke, aged 70, father of Leoni Clarke (the Cat King). Deeply regretted.

GRAU.—March 13, in Paris, after a long illness, Maurice Grau, American impresario, aged 57.

MAYCOCK.—March 8, at 39, Edith-road, Selhurst, John Henry Maycock, late of the Royal Italian Opera Co., in his 90th year.

OSMAN.—March 8, Harry Osman, "Little Osie," dearly-loved husband of Marie Moore, late of the "Silver King" company; aged 46. "Readiness is all."

OSMAN.—March 8, at the Friedenheim Hospital, N.W., after many months' suffering, Henry Osman, actor.

VICTOR.—March 13, at Highbury, N., Mary Anne Victor, actress, aged seventy-six.

FOR CONDOLENCE.

BROADHEAD.—The widow and family of the late Mr. Wm. Birch Broadhead and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Henry Broadhead and family desire to express their grateful thanks for the numerous letters and telegrams of sympathy (and also for the beautiful floral offerings) received by them in their great bereavement. It is hoped this acknowledgment will be received as an inadequate expression of their heartfelt gratitude.

IN MEMORIAM.

CRASTON.—In loving memory of my darling mother, Marie Craston, who fell asleep March 13, 1900. Never forgotten by her loving daughter, Annie.

GILLETTE.—In loving memory of Ada Gillette (née Ada Watson), who fell asleep March 18, 1904.
"You are not forgotten, Ada dear,
Nor ever shall you be.
As long as life and memory last
I will remember thee."
From her loving mother.

KEITH.—In loving memory of our dear father, Charles Henry Keith, circus proprietor, died March 16, 1895. Gone, but never forgotten by his loving children.

MACINTOSH.—In loving memory of Elinor Macintosh, who died March 14, 1906, at the Carnival, Glasgow. Sadly missed and never forgotten by her parents, Mary and Solomon Macintosh.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1907.

MARRIAGE AND THE DRAMA.

The play which Mr. SUTRO has written for Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER is so effective and interesting, dramatically, as an "entertainment of the stage," that the ethics of *John Glayde's Honour* appear to have somewhat escaped notice. There are certain novelties in the piece, nevertheless, which are significant, and one of them is the way in which the sympathy is divided between the wife and the husband. This was impossible for a dramatist writing under the influence of what are now denounced as "old-fashioned" ideas. The typical wedlock-drama of the last generation was *East Lynne*. In this the erring wife eloped with the villain—a thorough blackguard—in an access of impulsive jealousy, caused by a misunderstanding. She only won the sympathy of the audience by the strength of her maternal love, which led her back to her children in the character of their governess. The tendency of our wedlock-plays has usually been similar to that of *East Lynne*. In *Frou-Frou*, an adaptation of which was very popular in this country, the husband was again blameless, and the wife "went wrong" from irritation at finding that her sister has taken her place—platonically, of course—in her home, the *divorcée* finally coming back to die repentant.

Then came IBSEN, the main purpose of whose works, as has been explained by Mr. BERNARD SHAW, was "immoral"—that is to say, not conforming to current ideals; the main effect of the plays being, Mr. SHAW pointed out, to proclaim "the importance of being always prepared to act immorally, to urge upon women that the desirability of their preserving their chastity depends just as much on circumstances as the desirability of taking a cab instead of walking." We all know how, in *Hedda Gabler*, Mrs. Elvsted leaves her husband to look after Lövborg, and finally settles down as collaborator with Tesman in the preparation of that gentleman's writings for the publisher. Then there was Mr. HENRY ARTHUR JONES with *The Case of Rebellious Susan*. Here the wife, aggrieved by her husband's infidelity, "goes wrong" with a young man abroad, saves herself from conviction by lying, and finally, hopeless and disillusioned, returns to her husband's arms. We were certainly "moving," even in the nineties.

Mr. SUTRO's drama is an odd instance of the compromise which a tactful playwright makes when writing for an average audience. The plan of the play, in the hands of an "advanced" dramatist writing for a matinée at the Court Theatre, would, of course, have been treated very differently. The non-conventional view of John Glayde and his wife is that they are two absolutely useless, and therefore contemptible, personages. He is a gambler in stocks and shares; and whether the millions are in his pocket or that of his "enemy" Mr. Huggins is a matter of absolute indifference to the community. Mrs. Glayde is neither a mother, a worker, or a worker's companion—the only capacities in which a woman can make herself respected. But there is this to be said on her side: we cannot say whether her failure to produce offspring is her fault, and her other shortcomings have been caused by circumstances beyond her control. The old dramatists never left the erring wife a leg to stand on.

It is not the incidents of a drama, but the way in which the characters are treated, that decides the effect on the audience; and the old school would have made John Glayde high and mighty all through, shooting the lover and maintaining his marital dignity to the last. Instead of which, the wife is made the injured party and given a very fair defence. According to the ALEXANDRE DUMAS the Younger method of winding up a wedlock-play, the husband who neglected his spouse was called a *vibrion;* and, at the right moment, someone killed him, leaving the lady for the lover. John Glayde, whose vice of gambling has been the cause of his temporary desertion of his wife, is disposed of in another, and really much more sensible way. He simply resigns the woman to his rival, promising to divorce her so that she may be able to marry him. It is true that Mr. SUTRO, by the mouth of a pragmatical friend of the lover, foreshadows that his marriage with Muriel will be a failure; but, after all, as far as that goes, Lerode runs no more risk than any ordinary bridegroom; and it is quite on the cards that he may be happier with Mrs. ex-Glayde than with the young lady chosen for him by his fond parent.

Another novelty in this play which deserves to be drawn attention to is the way in which the author has let his heroine "humbug" her husband. "Nature," says SCHOPENHAUER, "has endowed Woman with the power of dissimulation for her own protection. To use it, therefore, at every opportunity is just as natural to her as claws and teeth are to the lion, tusks to the elephant and wild boar, horns to the bull, and supplies of ink to the cuttle-fish in order to discolour the water." But, in the past, in serious plays, our dramatists never made their adulterous heroines lie. They might "deceive" their husbands, as the consecrated phrase goes; but, tell a fib about it—never! The result was that at the *première* of *John Glayde's Honour* the audience were as completely taken in by Muriel's protestations and blandishments in the scene with Glayde in the third act as was the husband himself. In spite of all indications to the contrary, they could not believe that a dramatist would have permitted his heroine to descend to deception. What with the suffragettes demanding a Parliamentary vote, and our married stage heroines of plays being left in peaceable possession of their lovers and possible wedded bliss, the petticoated sex is advancing both on the boards and elsewhere.

THE ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—As the mover of a resolution passed to-day by the Council of the Actors' Association that the following be added to the by-laws and regulations:—

"The Association Agency will not deal with any offers of engagements carrying a salary of less than £2 per week for a speaking part,"

will you allow me to point out that though the immediate and practical effect will be neither drastic nor far-reaching—may, in fact, scarcely be felt at all, since, we are informed, in three years only seven engagements for a less sum than £2 a week have been made—yet considerable importance may be attached to the Council having officially approved of the principle that no actor qualified by election to the Association should work at an unworthy wage.

I hold very strongly that the primary business of the Association is with the economic conditions under which its members work; and that nothing can excuse the absence of attempts to meliorate those conditions, however difficult that task may seem, and however partial the attempts may be. I hope that the small step taken to-day in what appears to me the one right direction, will be regarded by those who have lost belief and interest in the Association as an earnest that reform, not necessarily revolution, within the Association may be the means of achieving reforms, without revolution, for the profession at large.—Yours faithfully,

H. GRANVILLE BARKER.

Court Theatre. March 12, 1907.

THE annual Irish Ballad Concert, under the direction of Mr. W. Saunders and the Crystal Palace Company, will take place this (Saturday) evening at the Palace. There will be a band of harps and the grand organ, and the accompanists will be Messrs. Henry Bird, F. R. Kinkee, and Walter W. Hedgcock. The names of such distinguished singers as Mr. Santley and Mme. Blanche Marchesi are alone sufficient to draw an enormous audience, without taking into account the many other well-known artists who will appear. Miss Hedwig Hantko, Miss Eleanor Clarke, Miss Amelie Molitor, Mr. Plunket Greene, Mr. Thomas Meux, Mr. Crauford Kent, Mr. Thomas Gibbs, Mr. Douglas Lott will also contribute to the programme.

MISS MAXIME ELLIOTT, whose grace and talent have inspired playgoers here as well as in America with so much admiration, is to revisit London in the autumn, and will begin a three months' season at the Lyric on Sept. 9. At the end of Mr. Lewis Waller's occupancy of the Lyric in July the Moody-Manners season of opera in English will begin.

BRIEUX'S *Les Hannetons*, translated by Mr. H. M. Clark, will be produced by Miss Janet Achurch for the Stage Society at the Imperial Theatre on March 24 and 25. Messrs. Charles V. France, Nigel Playfair, Edmund Gwenn, Kenneth Rivington, and Asheton Tonge, and Misses Mabel Hackney, Miss Dora Barton, Miss Florence Adale, and Miss Lola Duncan will be included in the cast.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"JOHN GLAYDE'S HONOUR."

A New and Original Play, in Four Acts, by Alfred Sutro, produced at the St. James's Theatre on Friday, March 8.

John Glayde ..... MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER
Trevor Lerode ..... MR. MATHESON LANG
Howard Collingham .. MR. W. GRAHAM BROWNE
Christopher Branley ..... MR. NORMAN FORBES
Michael Shurmur .... MR. MICHAEL SHERBROOKE
Walters ..... MR. E. VIVIAN REYNOLDS
Servants ..... MR. NORMAN TREVOR, MR. CECIL BEVAN
Muriel Glayde ..... MISS EVA MOORE
Princesse de Castagnary ..... MISS HENRIETTA WATSON
Lady Lerode ..... MISS HELEN FERRERS
Mrs. Rennick ..... MISS GWENDOLEN FLOYD
Dora Longman ..... MISS MAY MARTYN

Calypso, Fenelon tells us, was unable to console herself in the absence of Ulysses. The fidelity of "grass-widows" has always been a matter of incredulity to the mere man, to whom propinquity means so much. Yet to one of the sexes, at any rate, is supposed that "absence makes the heart grow fonder." The sailor may have a wife in every port; but he expects his own to be always metaphorically waiting for his return on the quay. As a general rule, and taking human nature for what it is, it is better for married people to live together. The practice may engender dislike, but it favours fidelity.

Such are the lessons which Mr. Sutro teaches in his play, *John Glayde's Honour*, which was produced, with immense success, at the St. James's Theatre on the 8th inst. It must not be supposed, however, that there is anything didactic about the drama. There are the characters; there is their influence on each other, and there is the result. The piece is broadly, strongly, and simply dramatic. It is contrived with the sound skill which Mr. Sutro has shown in his former pieces, and its scheme carried out with admirable ease and effectiveness. It is not only that the design is excellent; not an inch of the canvas is neglected, and the detail is as well studied as the outline of the work. *John Glayde's Honour* does great credit to Mr. Alexander's gift of selection. It is exactly the play for the St. James's company, and piece and players mutually benefit from the happy conjunction.

The phenomenon, often to be observed in the American quarter of Paris, of the fashionable wife with the toiling absentee husband, has been taken by Mr. Sutro as the basis of his story. Muriel Glayde, the childless wife of John Glayde, the American millionaire, has been left to herself in Paris, while Glayde has been busy with his financial schemes in America. And here comes in one's doubt, one's uncertainty as to Mr. Sutro's attitude as the author of the play. Is he, like the modern advanced school of moralists, pleading "extenuating circumstances" for the wife; and, like Mr. Bernard Shaw, objecting to the institution of marriage as at present made and provided? Or is he standing in the old ways and advocating the "womanly woman" and her "subjection" to the orthodox marriage tie? On the whole, looking at the way in which Mr. Sutro has handled his characters, we should say that he was conservative in his marital politics. Mr. Pickwick's plan, when there were two mobs, was to shout with the biggest; and a play is much more likely to be popular if it appeals to the large working majority.

Mr. Sutro so manages matters that we side with the masterful millionaire, who comes back to his semi-deserted wife expecting to find her "waiting on the quay" in regulation fashion. Instead, he learns that she has found an "affinity" in a painter named Trevor Lerode, who has been painting her portrait. Muriel has been amusing herself in a frivolous semi-Bohemian set. Lady Lerode, not in the interests of virtue, but in those of her son, whom she wants to marry well, has warned Glayde, by a telegram, of the danger to his "honour"; and when the millionaire arrives in Paris he realises that the condition of things is serious. So he determines to put a stop to the scandal at once. He tells Lerode that he must not finish Muriel's portrait, and must part with her for ever. Then Muriel, fearing that her husband may shoot her lover, and driven to the natural weapon of the weak, lies like the proverbial gasmeter. She persuades Lerode to pretend to acquiesce in Gladye's decision, but really to get ready to run away with her that evening at six. When Glayde discovers that she has already "gone wrong" with Lerode, she deludes him with fair words and promises of repentance, and talks of leaving Paris with him, and "turning over a new leaf." But Glayde, always kept on his guard by his astute secretary, Michael Shurmur, is determined to bring matters to an issue. He finds Lerode and Muriel together in the former's studio; and, after making a last appeal to Muriel, which she rejects, hands her over to Lerode with the words:—"This woman loves you. She used to be my wife. She loves you beyond everything else—honesty, truth, shame. She has made the greatest of all sacrifices for you—she has lied and betrayed. . . . Take her away. I shall divorce her—you can get married. I shall make provision for her, that she never may want. Take her, and help her—*to lie and betray no more.*"

The John Glayde is Mr. Alexander—Mr. Alexander at his best, with the iron hand just half withdrawn from the velvet glove of style and manner that he wears so well; Mr. Alexander, with the virility and force that he so often and so artistically subdues, employed in this instance with admirable effect. In every phase of the character he is equal to the demands made upon him; in every scene in which he is engaged he dominates the situation by a marvellous mixture of ease, earnestness, and energy. Seldom has Mr. Alexander had a part which took him back more completely to his "earlier manner." Especially is this the case in connection with the powerful scene between man and wife in the third act, when Glayde writhes in an agony of disappointed love and hopeless rebellion against his fate. Very fine, too, is Mr. Alexander's acting at the end of the second act, when, with his mind already overstrained with the excitement of colossal financial gambling, Glayde receives evidence of his wife's falsity. The blow tells; and the "Iron King" collapses for the moment, with lowered eyelids and quivering lips. Excellent throughout is the way in which the sleepless alertness and merciless cunning of the mammoth schemer are indicated in the keen and restless eyes and the active, mobile features. Mr. Alexander has laid aside for the time the suave and polished graces which were so valuable in slighter society parts; and has proved that he is equally able to portray the vigorous and virile passions of elemental humanity. A very happy choice of the representative of the rôle of Muriel Glayde has been made in Miss Eva Moore. Miss Moore has exactly the personality which harmonises with the character. We have no sense of inconsistency when Muriel employs, in order to hood-wink her husband, the same tones and the same embraces which she has used as endearments in her love-scene with Lerode. We are not surprised when, in spite of all the wise counsel of her friend, the Princesse, Mrs. Glayde decides to rush to her ruin. And in this latter scene Miss Moore expresses the strength of the woman's passion as well as the weakness of her character. It is evident that Venus has attached herself thoroughly to her little prey; and that this petty Phèdre is no longer responsible for her actions. Mr. Matheson Lang, besides looking the part of Lerode perfectly well, has a resolute manliness of manner which dignifies the rôle of the married woman's lover—always tending dangerously to the absurd—and gives interest to the combat between the artist and the millionaire. Mr. Norman Forbes' Christopher Branley is an entirely original embodiment which bites into the memory; and one of the greatest hits in the production is made by Mr. Michael Sherbrooke, who assumes, with the friendly tyranny of the trusted ally, a well-studied American twang and manner. Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds supplies a most artistic embodiment of the old, subdued servant, Walters; and Miss Henrietta Watson is irreproachable in every way as the Princesse de Castagnary, playing the part with her accustomed decision, acuteness, and emphasis. Miss Helen Ferrers is comical without caricature as the half-foolish and half-shrewd Lady Lerode; and Miss Gwendolen Floyd gives a satisfactory exposition of the rôle of Mrs. Rennick, Miss May Martyn showing intelligence and promise as the *ingénue*, Dora Longman, whose fiancé, Howard Collingham, has an easily adequate and thoroughly competent exponent in Mr. W. Graham Browne. *John Glayde's Honour* has started on its career of success with every symptom of its prosperity being long-continued; and both Mr. Alexander and Mr. Sutro may be warmly congratulated on the result.

LEGAL NOTES.

By ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B.

Some interesting and instructive cases have been heard in the Courts during the past month. One of the most important was that of Gillett *v.* Barrasford, which came before the Court of Appeal. Mr. Fred Gillett, the plaintiff, was to perform for a number of weeks at various London music halls, referred to in the contract. The defendant was Mr. Thomas Barrasford, who was at that time the lessee of the Lyceum, which was then being run by him as a music hall, and was one of the halls covered by the contract. The plaintiff had appeared for a week at the Lyceum, when he received a letter from Mr. Barrasford to the effect that, owing to extensive structural alterations required to be made in the stage for the production of the ballet *Excelsior*, the Lyceum would have to be closed during the following July and August, and the contract so far as performing there was concerned would have to end three weeks before the date fixed.

The plaintiff, when the date of closure came, asked to be paid the £90 which, by the closure of the theatre, he was deprived from earning. This request was not met, and the plaintiff thereupon brought this action in the County Court. The defendant relied on a clause in the agreement, which was in these terms:—"In the event of the proprietors closing any theatre through damage by fire . . . or from any other reason whatever, in their own absolute discretion, then this contract shall be null and void so far as it may relate to any such theatre."

A great many disputes arise from time to time in theatrical contracts on similar clauses, and in many cases proprietors use this clause in a very arbitrary manner, though no suggestion is made that Mr. Barrasford did in this case. It is very important, therefore, to see how the Court of Appeal construed the clause, which seems undoubtedly very wide. It was considered by two out of the three Judges that the words "from any other reason whatever" meant some cause external to that, and outside the control of the parties to the contract. As Sir Gorell Barnes said: "Here Mr. Barrasford decided, for reasons which seemed to him to be for his advantage, to close the theatre, and therefore he was liable to the plaintiff to make good the loss which that act had caused him."

The effect of this and other very similar cases is to show that the Courts as a rule favour the artist, and will not allow a strong clause of that kind to work a hardship on those who are not responsible for the closing of the theatre. I have commented on several similar cases from time to time in the past as they arise, and it will be generally found that the artist has succeeded.

When an artist does not appear at a music hall in accordance with his contract, as a rule he is liable in damages. This does not apply if the artist is ill, or is prevented by "act of God" from appearing; but, apart from these causes, the proprietor of the theatre can make him pay damages for non-appearance. The difficulty, however, is to prove the damages, and in the cases which come before the Court, the amount actually allowed to the proprietor is often considerably short of that claimed. This was illustrated in a case which came before Judge Willis at the Southwark County Court this month, when Mr. Hart, of the Star Music Hall, Bermondsey, sued Fred Cullane, of the Cullane Trio, for £10 damages for breach of contract. In giving his judgment His Honour said he could not allow two turns for the one, nor could he give anything for general damages, because he was sure the defendant's breach did not affect the patronage of the hall. He gave judgment for the plaintiff for £4 6s. and costs.

The question of the liability of the owner of the theatre for injuries caused to an employee in the course of his employment is of great importance to the profession. As is well known, a new Act will come into operation in July next, which deals very widely with accidents to employees. But, meanwhile, the law is in a far from satisfactory state, as was shown by the recent case, in the Court of Appeal, of Burr *v.* the Theatre Royal, Drury-lane, Ltd. In that case the plaintiff was performing at Drury-lane in the chorus. After the curtain had come down at the end of the performance she and other members of the company were leaving the stage to go to their dressing-rooms, when something fell upon her and injured her. It was held in this case that what is known to lawyers as "the doctrine of common employment" applied, and that the plaintiff could not recover. This means that as the accident was probably caused by another employee of the defendants the plaintiff could not recover, as she was supposed to take the risk of accidents caused by a fellow-employee when she entered into the contract. This doctrine is a subtle and artificial one—the sort of doctrine, indeed, that is loved by the lawyers. It is satisfactory to think that the new Act will give persons in the position of the plaintiff full redress for all injuries incurred in the course of their employment. The importance of the new Act can hardly be over-estimated, and it is to be hoped that both managers and artists will awake to their liabilities and privileges thereunder.

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"A SOLDIER OF FORTUNE."

A Romantic Drama, in Four Acts, by Gordon Holmes, produced at the Prince's Theatre, Poplar, on Monday, March 11.

Lieutenant Rupert Clive .. MR. GODFREY TEARLE
The Earl of Annandale ..... MR. ALFRED GRAY
Sir Stephen Cunningham MR. BALIOL HOLLOWAY
Dr. Thorn ..... MR. WILLIAM LOWE
Mr. Harry Steele .... MR. ALEC WILSON WYNNE
Sergeant Cass ..... MR. HARRY BLEZARD
Colonel Ferrars ..... MR. CYRIL ESTE
Curran ..... MR. F. FRANKS PORTSMOUTH
Doyle ..... MR. LESLIE CROWTHER
Phineas Sturge ..... MR. SIDNEY R. PALFREY
Martin Thule ..... MR. JAMES ANDERSON
Silas Marne ..... MR. VICTOR SWANN
Jerry Dobbs ..... MR. EDMOND T. SAYERS
Grace ..... MISS VIOLET BARNETT
Mistress Cullen..... MISS ETHEL MATTHEWS
The Lady Phyllis ..... MISS MOLLY MALONE

That period of history which immediately preceded the murder of King Charles the First—a period of civil strife in England, a period of picturesque costumes, customs, and manners—will ever have a fascination for lovers of romance. And still greater is the fascination which is exercised when the romance is given living shape on the stage; when the different characters breathe and afford proof that they have a being; when we are shown what the life of the period was like, and we are not called upon to exert any great effort of the imagination to conjure up scenes which shall appropriately represent the descriptions of the author. Of course, the greatest master of English fiction has left us a number of imperishable pictures of this period, and in *A Soldier of Fortune*, Mr. Gordon Holmes' costume drama produced on Monday at the Prince's, Poplar, one seems to recall such well-known characters as Sir Geoffrey Peveril and Major Ralph Bridgenorth, or Sir Henry Lee and Trusty Tompkins. But even if such a reminiscence be suggested, the story of the drama is in itself perfectly original. There is a similarity in all such plays. We have the baronial castle hemmed in by the Roundheads. We have the gallant old Cavalier and his lovely daughter. There is the indispensable underground passage and the local inn. The landlord is old and possessed of an only daughter of pleasing exterior and skittish propensities. The author in the present play has daringly made mine host an expatriated Irishman. Then we have the hero who is extremely handsome, brave almost to recklessness, and able, like Mr. Silas Wegg, to "drop into poetry" when lunar and other influences are favourable; and the villain, who is an embodiment of almost every possible brand of villainy, including cowardice, swindling, and an amount of talent in the direction of mendacity which would have qualified him for the editorial chair of a society journal. The story is simple and well told. Lieutenant Rupert Clive, beau ideal of a dashing cavalier, on his way to Annandale Castle, with his troop of horse, puts up for the night at a wayside inn. There he meets the Lady Phyllis, daughter of the Earl of Annandale, travelling under the escort of her cousin, Sir Stephen Cunningham, to her ancestral hall. The latter gentleman, it seems, is engaged to be married to his fair cousin, and he soon gives us a sample of his personal tastes. Most gentlemen of the period indulged pretty freely in the wine-cup, but they drew the line at gambling with loaded dice. Then the party is surprised by a Roundhead patrol, but manages to escape and reach the castle. In the second scene we are introduced to this beleaguered mansion. A gallant stand has been made, and it seems probable that the flag will be kept flying until relief is sent by the King. But suddenly it is discovered that supplies had run unexpectedly short. In the person of Captain Sturge there comes an emissary from the besiegers, offering terms of surrender to the garrison. Of course, these are rejected. Sturge warns the garrison that the aqueduct which supplies the castle with water has been discovered and cut. Nevertheless, "no surrender" is the garrison's reply. Unfortunately, there is a traitor within the gates, and he is no other than Sir Stephen Cunningham. He is caught by the Lady Phyllis in the act of signalling with a lantern to the besiegers. Why she does not immediately denounce him is not easy of explanation. By this time it need hardly be said that that particularly disagreeable person has become violently jealous of the soldier of fortune—Lieut. Clive. Nevertheless, the two men agree to proceed by the underground passage on a venturesome attempt to reach the Royal forces and bring succour. Having had some experience of Sir Stephen's propensities for the indiscreet use of firearms—only a few minutes previously the said Stephen had fired at Clive—the Lieutenant takes the precaution of allowing that gentleman to precede him into the underground tunnel. Eventually they arrive at the inn, where the Lieutenant imprisons Stephen in a room, from which he is shortly afterwards released by Roundheads, and Clive is made prisoner. He, in his turn, succeeds in escaping and, finally, after undergoing a series of thrilling experiences, reaches Annandale Castle as an enquiry is being held into the conduct of Cunningham, eventually clears himself of the imputations made against him by Stephen, and the curtain falls on a pretty love scene.

High praise can be bestowed upon Mr. Godfrey Tearle for a really admirable performance as Lieutenant Rupert Clive. Firstly, he presents us with a fine figure of a picturesquely-attired Cavalier. He is gaiety and gallantry personified, and delivered his lines with good expression. Graceful and charming, engaging, winsome, and sweet is Miss Molly Malone as the Lady Phyllis, and she certainly wins the sympathy of her audience from the time that the play opens. Mr. Alfred Gray gives us a capital study of an old nobleman of the period, his make-up, speech, and manner being most effective. Mr. Baliol Holloway is convincingly villainous as Sir Stephen Cunningham, and acts with force and subtlety in the part. Mr. Edmond T. Sayers is intensely entertaining as the landlord of the inn. Mr. Sidney R. Palfrey gives a really excellent character-study of the Roundhead, Captain Sturge. His family wrongs have turned that quiet Lincolnshire draper into a bigoted fanatic, yet one cannot but sympathise with the fearless bearing of this gloomy zealot. The audience thoroughly appreciated Mr. Palfrey in the part. Miss Violet Barnett is a lively village Hebe as Grace, the young lady who is perfectly conscious of her personal attractions and ready to accept the gallantry of the Cavaliers who make use of her father's hostelry. Mr. William Lowe played the part of Dr. Thorne, a sort of *amicus familiæ* of the Annandale family. In most of those old romances it is usually the family clergyman who acts in this capacity, but the change was a pleasant one, and was more than justified by Mr. Lowe's treatment of the part.

The scenery is elaborate; that of the battlements of Annandale being particularly pretty, while the costumes are of a rich and artistic description. Mr. Haldane Crichton is the able general-manager of the company, and Mr. Harry Lyons attends in his usual careful manner to the requirements of the front of the house.

THE management of Kennington Theatre have this week inaugurated the system of booking all seats in advance, and the satisfactory manner in which this method has operated with the production of *The Catch of the Season* shows that it has come to stay. Mr. Harry Brandreth, the acting-manager, is to be congratulated on thus studying the convenience of his patrons. That charming musical comedy *The Blue Moon* will be the attraction at Kennington Theatre next week.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

The Arbitrator, Mr. G. R. Askwith, it is understood, will reach the case of the artists on Wednesday; and in any case the promulgation of an award concerning the performers cannot be made until after Easter. The case for the musicians, which was concluded by Mr. J. B. Williams on Tuesday, has taken much longer than was anticipated, and the case against them was only opened on Wednesday by the managers' representative. The delay is paralysing business, as proprietors are naturally awaiting for an award before filling up vacant dates.

Mr. Gus Elen will probably be added to the list of English character comedians whose work is appreciated in the States, as he has, we are given to understand, received from America a most flattering offer through Mr. George Foster. The coster comedian has it under consideration.

Miss Marie Lloyd has learnt to ride, and might have been seen at Hampstead on Sunday with a popular manager and an acting-manager as companions. Mr. Alec Hurley was unable to put foot in stirrup through an accident he met with while riding near his own house in King Henry's-road on the 8th—an accident that prevented his appearance on the same evening at the Ealing Hippodrome.

Miss Winifred Hare, who sails for South Africa on Saturday next, has been associated with many striking successes, but never with songs achieving such instantaneous and enthusiastic popularity as the two new numbers introduced for the first time at the Tivoli, Paragon, and Canterbury, on Monday, entitled "Cheer up, Mary," and "Just 'cause the bee loves honey," both numbers published by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter. If these two numbers (especially "Cheer up, Mary") are not the rage of the pantomimes next Christmas we shall be much mistaken.

La Tortajada, one of the famous Spanish dancers who make the Palace their home in London, will pay a fourth visit to the beautiful variety house in Shaftesbury-avenue on Monday. She will give three items, appearing first in the character of a toreador, secondly as a young Spanish girl in pathetic circumstances, and thirdly as a young person enamoured of a black cat! In this last we are promised something new and striking in the way of chorus effects.

Carlton, the card manipulator and humorist, started his journey to Australia on Wednesday from Victoria, leaving for Marseilles, where he will embark on the Ortona. A number of professional and private friends assembled on the platform to wish the voyager a safe journey and success "down under" during his engagement with Mr. Harry Rickards.

The Oxford announces the fourteenth anniversary of the re-opening for Friday evening next, when a large number of additional artists have kindly consented to appear, including Harry Lauder, Marie Lloyd, Alice Hollander, Madge Lessing, Kurkamp, Dan Crawley, Dutch Daly, Harry Champion, Tom Leamore, Gladys Huxley, Jessie Preston, and other artists of note.

The Alhambra, within whose walls Leotard and the greatest gymnasts have met with recognition, will introduce to an English audience on Monday for the first time America's "last word" in bounding wire aerialists—the marvellous Millmans. Miss Birdie Millman is an evening's wonder in herself, and the trio's sensational performance has been acclaimed in every city in the United States.

At the Alhambra this evening, for the fourth year in succession, the University crews will celebrate "Boat-race Night." A cinematographic record of the contest will be added to the peerless "Urbanora" pictures.

Messrs. A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott, the well-known writers of "By the side of the Zuyder Zee," will produce next week, for the first time on any stage, an entirely new and original musical absurdity, entitled *His Worship—the Mayor*, at Collins's. Mr. Maitland Marler will be the chief comedian, and will be supported by a powerful company.

The new Empire ballet now in active preparation, will, it is hoped, be ready by the end of April. It is in three scenes, the period being the spacious days of the Duke of Marlborough. The simple and interesting story is by Mr. Adrian Ross, who has evidently been inspired by the incident, recounted in *The Spectator*, of Sir Roger de Coverley's visit to Vauxhall Gardens. The music is by Dr. Osmond Carr, and the dances are being arranged by Mme. Katti Lanner, Mr. Wilhelm being responsible for the gorgeous costumes and general supervision of the production. Mlle. Genée will, of course, play the heroine.

The success of Mr. Gustave Kerker's burlesque on grand opera, *Burning to Sing*, at the Empire, from which house it was lately withdrawn to make way for other attractions long under contract, has led to arrangements being made to present it on a tour of the chief provincial variety houses. The series of living pictures, so prominent a feature of the current programme at the Empire, will also be reproduced in the provinces at the conclusion of the Empire engagement. Mr. Arthur Aldin, the acting-manager of the Empire, who is booking both attractions, has, we believe, very few dates open for the completion of these tours.

Miss Margaret Ashton, who was compelled on account of ill-health to abandon her engagements for the last eight months, is making a welcome reappearance next week at the Argyle, Birkenhead. The popular American cantatrice, who spent the autumn months at her home in Denver, Colorado, has undoubtedly greatly benefited by the well-earned rest. She recently spent a fortnight in Paris, whence she returned with some new and charming costumes. She begins shortly a three months' tour upon the Moss circuit.

Advices from South Africa are to hand recording the unequivocal success scored by Miss Connie Ediss on her opening night. Commencing with Messrs. John P. Harrington and Jas. W. Tate's comedy number, "When I marry a millionaire," which immediately caught the fancy of the audience, she followed on with no less than five other numbers, old and new, including another from the same pens, entitled "I felt so awkward." The South African papers are unanimous in proclaiming Miss Connie Ediss one of the most pronouncedly successful English artists that has ever visited their country. Of course Miss Ediss has been to the Transvaal before, but her first visit was previous to her becoming a Gaiety comedienne.

Little Thomas, for twenty-seven years corner-man of the Mohawk-Moore and Burgess Minstrels, holds a Bohemian concert on the evening of the 26th inst. at Stanley Hall, Junction-road, Kentish Town. The cheery veteran, who in spite of his seventy-odd years has still a voice of undiminished power, is sure of being well supported by brother and sister artists, because it is so well known that his services are ever to be relied on and ungrudgingly given when required.

The Queen's Theatre, Keighley, which is fully licensed, is for sale by private treaty; also a site for a music hall, of which the plans have already been passed by the Corporation.

The first anniversary of the opening of the Palace Theatre, Carlisle, was celebrated on Thursday, the 7th, by a complimentary benefit to the popular managing-director, Signor Rino Pepi. No less than twenty-seven turns took part in the performance, and the house was packed in every part. Peter Bijou, of Bella and Bijou, who travelled specially from London to honour his old friend, had a most flattering reception.

During an interval Signor Pepi's local and professional friends occupied the stage, and the following presentations were made:—By Councillor J. H. Minns, on behalf of local friends, a handsome and massive gold watch; by Mr. A. E. Nicholls, the acting-manager, on behalf of the band and staff, a beautiful polished oak spirit tantalus, with fine cut decanters; by Mr. Willie Edlesten, on behalf of the Agents' Association and artist friends, a handsomely-framed illuminated address, signed by the givers, a fine gun in case (value £30), and a cheque for £60 14s.

Signor Pepi, who received quite an ovation, returned thanks in a cleverly-worded and effective little speech, and after the performance entertained the staff, artists, and his numerous friends to a supper and dance at the Great Central Hotel. Among the agents present were Messrs. Willie Edlesten, Ernest De Vere, Fred Higham, E. Edlesten, Bert Howell, and Tom Cavill.

Tuesday being the birthday of the popular manager, Mr. Walter Norman, several telegrams were received at the Hastings Hippodrome from his brother and sister artists and other managers. The staff of the house, to show their appreciation and respect, presented him with an engraved gold-mounted walking stick.

The plans for Mr. George Dance's new theatre at Devonport, which, it is understood, is to be rebuilt at a cost of £30,000, have been passed by the Surveyor's Committee, and came up for the final decision of the Council on Thursday. Mr. Matcham is the architect, and it is hoped the theatre will be ready for occupation by August. It will be booked in connection with the Moss-Stoll tour, and will be run alternately as a legitimate and variety house—a plan only possible in the provinces where a double licence prevails.

Councillor C. W. Poole, with his customary generosity, has accorded a benefit at the Palace, Gloucester, to-day to the Gloucester Football Club. On hearing that the finances of the club were this season not up to the usual standard, owing to various causes, he at once came forward and offered the services of his artists, theatre, &c. Needless to say, the committee gladly availed themselves of the Councillor's kindness, and it is certain the club will materially benefit.

Mr. E. J. Dexter, the popular manager of the Palace Theatre, Dundee, appeared in a new rôle on Friday evening, the 8th. Along with a well-known local gentleman, he entered the den of Miss Ella's performing lions, and treated the audience to a very fine display of billiards. Had Mr. Dexter known that all the time the largest and most ferocious of these kings of the forest had his eye on him, and was smacking his lips at the idea of a prospective meal, his hand would not have been so steady. However, we are glad to learn that he got out of the den before Leo had made up his mind what part of his anatomy to attack first.

Mr. Jack Waters, the acting-manager of the Royal Theatre of Varieties, Warrington, was the recipient of a handsome silver-mounted cigar-case and cigarette-holder on Saturday evening from Miss Florrie Gallimore, Miss Josie Delaine, Harrigan and Holt, and Tommy Hughes. The gifts were a recognition of many kindnesses extended, and Miss Gallimore, in making the presentation, referred to "Jack" as "one of the best."

Mr. Fred Barnes, who is scoring such a hit in the Alexandra pantomime, *Cinderella*, at Birmingham, is, like many other prominent artists we could name, a native of the hardware city, where his popularity goes to prove that though the prophet may be without honour in his own country, the comic singer certainly is not. Mr. Barnes impersonates types of the beau-monde, which he invests with an easy, graceful deportment and a pleasing and picturesque stage presence, plus a melodious singing voice and distinct enunciation.

Mr. J. C. Oliver, the original Magical Jester, concludes a five weeks' successful engagement at the Grand Circus, Hull, to-night. A fluent descriptive lecturer, a vocalist, and a clever conjuror, Mr. Oliver is known the world over for his versatility.

Miss Jennie Johns, who has just completed a successful pantomime engagement as principal girl with Mr. L. F. Elliston, is causing a furore nightly on her return engagement at the Hippodrome, Lancaster.

Mr. Fred Reeves (of the firm of Pacey and Reeves), though much improved in health, will, by request of his medical man, prolong his stay at Brighton for a few days.

Miss Beatrice Worth, after her long and serious illness, extending over six months, made her reappearance at the Hippodrome, Salford, last Monday and scored a big success.

Owing to a severe cold on the part of Mrs. Leo Sterling (Miss Addie Love), Sterling and Love were unable to do their domestic musical squabble for the first three nights last week at Norwich. The manager (Mr. Fitt), however, kindly consented to accept Mr. Sterling as a single turn, and was so pleased with the versatile Leo that he paid the week's salary in full, an act greatly appreciated by both artists.

The closing of the pantomimes at Liverpool after a long and successful run has released a number of well-known artists, among them Malcolm Scott, Harry Tate, M. R. Morand, Walter McEwen, Edgar and Claire Romaine, Fanny Dango, Doris Dean, and Theresa Foote. These ladies and gentlemen sailed for Las Palmas, Canary Islands, on Saturday as guests of Sir Alfred Jones, and will start to-night a series of six performances at the Teatro Perez Galdos.

Miss Ethel Rawlings, of Danville, Ill., was married to Mr. George William Hearne, of London, in Chicago on Saturday, Feb. 23, by the Rev. Mr. Smith, of the 47th-street Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. Hearne was formerly pianist at the Unique Theatre in Danville. Mr. Hearne is known in the profession as George Deonzo, of Auer and Deonzo, acrobats and barrel jumpers. The reception, which took place at the home of the Three Barneys, 4515, Western-avenue, was followed by an elegant wedding dinner. Mr. and Mrs. Hearne are spending their honeymoon in the West.

Mr. Leoni Clarke, the famous Cat King, mourns the death of his father, who passed away at the New York Tavern, Northampton, on Monday, at the age of 70. The deceased gentleman was much respected and esteemed by a wide circle of friends.

Miss Agnes Molteno has just concluded a most successful pantomime engagement with Mr. J. F. Elliston, and will now turn her attention to her scene, with living tableaux, beautiful scenery, and lighting effects, which she produced just before Christmas. Miss Molteno should have opened on March 4 at Putney, and March 11 at the Grand, Islington, but owing to change of management, &c., her contracts are off.

Mr. John Lawson's latest episode, *The Unwritten Law*, is now in active preparation. Special scenery is being prepared by one of our leading scenic artists, and special dresses have been designed by the head of a well-known firm of dressmakers. Indeed, the display of gowns will endear this work to the heart of every woman in the audience, and on that one merit alone it should prove an attraction.

Mrs. John Lawson created a record last week at the Empire, Islington, with *The Devil's Sunday*, the business being tremendous the whole week. This clever lady has been playing during the week at the Palace, Manchester, where she has made a big success. She returns to town, and opens with Mr. Walter Gibbons at Croydon.

It is definitely settled that towards the close of the current year one of the most popular comedians now on the London variety stage will "gang awa'" to New York, where it may confidently be anticipated a tremendous welcome will await him.

This week, at the comfortable Queen's, Poplar, which Mr. Jack Woolf so ably and energetically manages, Mr. Dudman Bromwich has been presenting his sensational sketch of *In Old Madrid* with unqualified success. Some really excellent acting is to be found, notably that of Mr. Albert Ward, who gives an exceedingly powerful study of Fernando Cassillis, and Miss Kate Neville, who is seen in a most virile performance of Violet, being well supported by Mr. George Dalroy as Frank Lyndhurst, Mr. Harry Bristow as Horatio Hodges, and Miss Doris White as Madeline.

Mr. William Holles is producing on Monday at the Camberwell Empire a new sketch of pathetic interest, in three scenes, entitled *The Stepmother*, written by Arthur Shirley, part author of *Two Little Vagabonds*, &c. The incidental music has been composed by Mr. Wm. Neale. Mr. Holles will play the part of Bob Bristow, first mate of the Sea View; and Miss Phyllis Manners Anna, his second wife. Miss Nannie Goldman will be seen as Danny, Bob's son by his first wife.

Mr. Joseph Wilson's Easter programme will contain no less than four Harrys—Harry Relph (Little Tich), Harry Lauder, Harry Fragson, and Harry Randall. The cabinet of mirth will include also among its ministers George Robey, Mark Sheridan, and Phil Ray. Little Tich is taking a short holiday in Paris, where he is extremely popular, previous to his return to town at Easter.

Mr. Alfred Lester, who, it will be remembered, struck a happy "note" in *The Scene-shifter's Lament*, is to be in the Palace programme on Monday. Mr. Lester is appearing at the present time at the Gaiety, but, with the aid of a fast motor-car, will find time to fulfil his engagement with Mr. Butt. He will introduce a new comedy duologue by Arthur Wimperis and Walter Davidson, tentatively entitled *A Restaurant Episode*. Like most episodes, the plot is implied rather than expressed. The scene is a dining-house, at which extraordinary lunches for 1s. 6d. can be obtained. Miss Lily Mills will support Mr. Lester.

A tabloid pantomime, *Bo Peep*, will be the principal attraction at the Hackney Empire next week. It is produced by Mr. Deane Tribune, comedian. *Bo Peep* is treated in a novel way, and no expense has been spared to make the Palace scene quite exceptional of its kind. There is a military chorus and a surprise march; but the heart and soul of the piece is, of course, Mr. Deane Tribune, at whose antics, in the rôle of Simple Simon, it would be quite impossible to forbear a hearty laugh. Deane Tribune, who is really Willie Cowan Reid, was born in Glasgow "some little time ago." Before he essayed the rôle of a funny man he was employed as a butcher in Sauchiehall-street.

Phil and Nettie Peters, also in the bill, are American artists, who have had a most gratifying success during the short time they have been in England. Mr. Peters is an unusually clever character and eccentric comedian, vocalist, and dancer. His work in the title-rôle of *His Highness the Boy*, an American extravaganza, is his most successful effort. Mrs. Peters is also a great factor in the success achieved.

"Cherry Blossom" is the title of a Japanese musical episode, in two scenes, written by Michael W. Ring and composed by E. W. Rogers, which will be produced at the Richmond Theatre (by special arrangement with Mr. Frank Allen) on March 25. The special scenery is by W. R. Young, and the cast will include Mr. Johnnie Schofield, Mr. Cyril Dane, Miss Noel Gordon, Miss Rayner Golden, and Mr. Arthur Budd.

Mr. B. Pearce Lucas gave a very successful matinée at the Bedford on Thursday in aid of the funds of the North-West London Hospital in Kentish Town-road. The Mayor and Borough Council were present, and Mr. Cassel, Sir W. Collins, M.P., and other prominent public men in St. Pancras graced the proceedings. The house, which was prettily decorated, was packed.

"Auto-Atlas" is the name chosen by a handsome, well-set-up German athlete, whose most astonishing feat at the London Hippodrome will be to raise a genuine motor-car—filled with passengers from the auditorium—with his teeth while hand-balancing on two upright poles. The car and its living freight weigh upwards of a ton, and to make the feat even more difficult, when the vehicle is raised off the ground the machinery is set in motion and the wheels are made to revolve at top speed. He is willing to lift any car weighing three tons. Auto-Atlas's business commences by a wire-walking demonstration, and he traverses the wire, juggling with bar-bells of enormous weight, gun-carriage wheels, and other weighty articles.

The 503rd meeting of the Executive Committee of the Music Hall Artistes' Railway Association was held on Wednesday afternoon, when the following were present:—Messrs. Fred Neiman, Jack Collinson, John Alexander, Douglas White (hon. treasurer), Charles Pastor, Fred W. Millis (V.P.), Harry Bancroft, Bob Hutt, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). The minutes having been confirmed, questions of refunds were considered. Dr. Colston Wintle, of Bristol, was appointed as hon. medical officer, and the following agents were elected:—Mr. Fountain, of the Corn Exchange Hotel, Boston, and Mr. W. Ambler, of the Keel Inn, Castleford. The weekly statement of receipts and expenditure was submitted and passed as read.

The latest quotations of music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1⅝; Canterbury, ½; Empire (15s. paid), 1½, do. (10s. paid), 1⅛; London Pavilion Ord., 4¾, do. Pref., 5; London Coliseum, ⅛; Metropolitan, ⅝; Moss Empire, 4¾, do. 5 per cent. Pref., 4⅛; Oxford, 6⅜; Palace, 10s. 6d.; Tivoli, 6½; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 13s.

A particularly interesting animated picture of Norway's Derby is being exhibited at the Palace Theatre this week. The interest in the event, which occurred last week at Christiania, does not appeal directly to horse-lovers as does our popular race for the blue riband of the Turf. Norway's "sports" are keen on ski jumping. In the picture are to be seen the ski jumpers taking their record leap into space, and in some cases having a snow bath at the conclusion of the jump. A noteworthy feature is that showing King Haakon, Queen Maud, and their guest Princess Victoria, in their Royal box.

Miss Vesta Tilley on Monday commenced the concluding week of her present engagement at the Palace Theatre, whereat, in consequence of her success, Mr. Alfred Butt has re-engaged her to appear in some new creations. The Howard Brothers have returned after the somewhat serious illness of Mr. James Howard, and the numerous requests from the audience during the silent thought transmission test afford strong testimony of the interest of the public in this form of entertainment.

The special Easter production at the Hippodrome is to be a sensational and spectacular piece called *The Hurricane*, designed, like so many of the house productions, by Mr. Rudolph de Cordova and Mrs. Alicia Ramsey, and arranged by Mr. Frank Parker, who promises some original and startling effects in the way of a terrible disaster at sea. Mr. John Douglass did something very impressive in his rainstorm in *The Ruling Passion* at the Standard, and Mr. Tree's "thunder" is a record in realism. It will be interesting to watch the Hippodrome stage-manager and equestrian director's developments when he elects to ride the storm. New machinery of the most novel kind is being installed, and the usually placid waters of the arena may be expected to assume a very turbulent aspect indeed. No canvas waves for Mr. Parker!

Marie Fassnauer, the Tyrolean giantess, will arrive in London this morning. She is twenty-seven years old, eight feet in height, and weighs twenty-four and a half stones. A lorry will convey her from Victoria Station to lodgings near the London Hippodrome, where she will appear on Monday. Her great-grandfather was a giant, but her brothers and sisters are of normal height. She is practically a vegetarian, and, like all the Tyrolese, very devout. She is nearly 50ins. round the chest, and her dresses require three times the ordinary quantity of material.

A telegram has just been received from Herrn Director Heinemann, of the Panoptikon Theatre, Berlin, stating that Mariedl had an extraordinary experience and nearly lost her life. Great difficulty was found in persuading her to come from her home in the Tyrol, a village called Riednau, where she was originally discovered. Owing to the severe weather, coupled with avalanches and other Alpine elements, it was found to be almost an impossibility to get her to come down until the weather set in warmer. The peasants in the settlement, eleven in number, were commandeered to conduct her with safety to the bottom of the mountain, a distance of seven thousand feet. In their descent, although she was tethered to them by a rope, the hindermost guides slipped, and Mariedl was drawn forward by those in front of her. Being such a size, she could not keep a proper foothold, and for a distance of about a quarter of a mile over the ice and snow they had to practically run in order to recover their proper equilibrium. Had it not been for the fact that, although in a dangerous position, they were in a fairly straight line, the whole lot might have fallen into a crevasse and been lost for ever.

Mr. Wilkie Bard took a big benefit on Friday night, the 8th, at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, where he has been appearing so successfully as the Baron in *The Babes in the Wood*. The pantomime closed on the 9th, after a capital run, amidst appreciative demonstrations from a bumper house. It is with regret we hear that Mr. Bard sprained his ankle on his benefit night.

Miss Maude Odell (the statuesque Galatea, recently of the Palace Theatre), was crossing Westminster Bridge on Tuesday when she noticed a very small boy in the middle of the road. He looked to be in considerable danger from the traffic, and suddenly a motor-omnibus coming along skidded, and in a trice the boy had been knocked down, and was lying almost under the wheels, crying for help. Miss Odell was the nearest person to him at the time, and just rushed forward and pulled him away. The poor little fellow was crying and trembling violently, and, of course, had been badly frightened and not a little hurt, but he soon got over his fright. Miss Odell's dress was torn, and was covered with mud from a passing 'bus.

The secretary of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund has received the following sums collected by Mr. Harry Randall at Drury-lane Theatre:—Miss Queenie Leighton, £2 2s.; Harry Fragson, £2 2s.; Walter Passmore, £1 1s.; Arthur Conquest, £1 1s.; Drew and Alders, £1 1s.; Fred Emney, 10s. 6d.; and Harry Randall, £2 2s. The committee thank these ladies and gentlemen for their contributions.

Mr. Bates Maddison's new sketch, *What the Butler Did; or, The Man with Two Wives*, comes to town next week at the Richmond Theatre. It is by Mr. Albert Voyce, and the author considers it his funniest sketch. It is novel, ingenious, and is bound to give delight to the lovers of sheer fun. It will be produced for Mr. Bates Maddison by Mr. Roger Alwyn. Mr. Maddison's successful sketch, *Charley's Uncle*, will be seen at the Royal Standard, Pimlico, during Easter week.

Just as Miss Sylvia Martin and her Arab mare Princess Beatrice were about to appear at Sadler's Wells Theatre on Friday night (8th inst.) part of the staging collapsed, throwing the horse into a vault. Miss Martin had stooped to stroke her pet dog, and was uninjured. The mare, however, was considerably hurt, and some time elapsed before its release.

Miss Margaret Parker has added yet another success to her répertoire of sketches. In this, her latest, which is a "glimpse of life," entitled *Sunshine*, she has been assisted by Mr. William Felton. It was produced at Walthamstow Palace on Feb. 25, and played throughout the week with undoubted approval. *Sunshine*, together with *Under the Seal* (which, by the way, is still going very strong), will be played by Miss Parker and her company during their forthcoming Australian tour. She has just secured the sole rights of a "stirring interlude," entitled *Lucky Jim*, by Marion Fawcett, which she hopes to produce before leaving England to fulfil engagements booked by her sole and untiring agent, Mr. Hugh J. Didcott.

At Westminster County Court the Birmingham Hotel and Restaurant Company sued Mr. Philip Yorke, described as a theatrical manager, with an office in Gerrard-street, W. The claim was in respect of eatables and drinks supplied to a band of sixty performers. Mr. Yorke said his salary, when in work, was about £500 a year, but he had done very little work since September. He had been connected with several bands. His wife, who was a composer, paid the rent of the flat in which they lived. There was an order in bankruptcy against him. The case was adjourned until April 16.

Mr. Fred Karno, the well-known music hall artist, was sued in the Lambeth County Court on Wednesday by Mr. Harold Hilliard, theatrical manager, for £52 for sketches supplied and expenses. During his evidence Mr. Hilliard remarked that, amongst other things, he revised a sketch called *The Thirsty First*. The Judge: What?—Mr. Hilliard: *The Thirsty First*. I am not responsible for the titles, your Honour. The Judge: Oh, the title is all right. I was just wanting to know what it was. Mr. Karno said that Mr. Hilliard was paid £5 a week (to include everything) for his services as author and stage-producer, and there was no agreement to pay for sketches. Ultimately judgment was given for plaintiff for £35.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

Mr. Tom Costello has completed the final rehearsals of his song "The ten-bob rise," and will probably introduce it to the public on Monday night. As is his wont, the resourceful comedian has thought out some original business for the number, which is regarded as one of the best efforts of the author of "The 'ouses in between." The music is by Bennett Scott, and the song has already been placed on the market by Mr. David Day's firm.

So stupendous has been the success in America of Miss Vesta Victoria's funny sequel to "Waiting at the church," entitled "I've told his missus all about him," by Harrington and Tate, that last Saturday's American mail conveyed to the lucky publishers (the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.) the gratifying intelligence from Mr. Fred Day (manager of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter's American house, who hold the publishing rights of the song for U.S.A.), that he has issued specially-printed orchestral parts of this sterling success, which is literally selling in thousands.

Miss Alice Lloyd has scored heavily in America with Harrington and Le Brunn's comedy coster song "Never introduce your bloke to your lady-friend" (Miss Rosie Lloyd's well-known song) and Mr. J. F. Lambe's romance "Queen of Old Samara," an American edition of which latter song has now been issued by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, by arrangement with the Monte Carlo Company.

Miss Marie Lloyd has during the week accepted from Messrs. John P. Harrington and Jas. W. Tate an entirely new and original comedy "study," entitled "A girl who takes things as they come." The same author and composer's successful song "Custom of the Country," which Miss Lloyd is singing at all her engagements with such *éclat*, forms one of the Monte Carlo Publishing Company's "Sixpenny Successes."

Miss Vesta Tilley will shortly produce a new song entitled "The Seaside Smile," written by Mr. Worton David and composed by Kenneth Lyle. The publishers are Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd.

"England's the place for me" is the title of Miss Gladys Mavius' latest success. In a letter from Nottingham Miss Mavius writes that the song is "going strong," and she intends to feature it throughout her tour. Shapiro, Von Tilzer are also the publishers of this number.

Mr. Sam Mayo has been scoring a terrific success at the Walthamstow Palace this week with his "Mirth Mixture," or "My half was underneath," and "I'm going to sing a song." The Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., have issued the above numbers in their "Sixpenny Popular Edition."

Mr. T. E. Johnstone last week at Accrington produced a new song by the late Albert Hall entitled "Falling Stars." The pleasing and catchy chorus was at once taken up by the audience.

Little Queenie May, the child artist with the abnormal voice, has been engaged by Mr. Bushell till 1908, so strong did she go with Birmingham audiences in her "Irishman request" and motor-car songs. She has greatly pleased during the week at the Metropolitan and Camberwell Empire. She opens at Belfast immediately.

Mr. John Smith is adding to Messrs. Francis and Day's "Sixpenny Pops" the following new numbers, the catalogue now comprising 359 items:—Little Tich's "We close at two on Thursdays"; Miss Vesta Tilley's "The king of the house is baby" and "Jolly good luck to the boys that love the soldiers"; Harry Lauder's "That's the reason noo I wear a kilt"; Miss Ada Cerito's "Half-time—change over!"; "My Yokohama Queen," made so popular by Clarke and Hamilton; and Bernard Phelps's "Convent Girl's Waltz."

Mr. John E. Coyle has happily recovered from a severe illness, and such is his new-found energy that he is working five turns. He is a great favourite at the London Pavilion.

Miss Maidie Scott is compelled to take three or four weeks' rest owing to a relaxed throat. Miss Scott has worked every week since July, 1905, so it is not to be wondered at that her throat wants a rest.

Miss Emmie Ames closes a successful London season to-night (Saturday), opening at Gloucester next Monday in her scena, "Emmie's Christmas tree."

Miss Ruby Hallier, who is meeting with such success in *The Man that Never Saw a Woman*, will no doubt be remembered as the Mrs. O'Flanaghan in A. C. Lilly's *Drummed Out* sketch, in which she played two London and provincial Stoll tours and at the Syndicate halls.

Mr. L. Austin Millais, manager to "Venus," the late Lord Leighton's model, complains that certain unscrupulous persons are using the title which she has made so famous on the London Syndicate halls. Proprietors will do well to note that the genuine article is the *only* one toured by L. A. Millais.

Miss Jessie M. Lyons, who is meeting with great success in the halls with her sketch, *Nelly of the Veldt*, opens with it at the Granville, Walham Green, on Monday.

To Mr. George Burgess a grand complimentary benefit will be given on Thursday evening next at the Brixton Empress. Mr. Burgess was for some years associated with Captain Purkiss, and became acting-manager of the Royal, under Mr. Arthur Swanborough. At this gentleman's death he became manager for Mr. John Brill. The special bill will include Harry Lauder, Victoria Monks, Marie Lloyd, Alec Hurley, Neil Kenyon, Little Maudie Francis, and many others.

Miss Nellie Beacon made her début on the variety stage at the Canterbury on Monday. She sang two numbers, "Love me and the world is mine" and "If I dared to tell my love to you," published by Witmarks, of London and New York, and at once established herself in favour. Miss Beacon toured for some time with *Florodora*, playing the part of Dolores. Her appearance on the music-hall stage is due to those energetic variety agents, Alfred Saker and Co.

The monthly meeting of the Committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund was held on Wednesday at the York Hotel, York-road. Mr. Pat Carey (president) occupied the chair, and there were also present Messrs. Frank Heath (treasurer), Tom Carney, W. J. Wainratta, W. Brisco, and W. West. The financial statement for the year 1906 was submitted, by which it was shown that after deducting all payments and expenses there was a substantial balance in hand. The sick payments for the year amounted to £128 5s., and the subscriptions to £186 3s. 10d.; while the expenditure for salaries, printing, advertising, &c., amounted to £65 13s. 10d., this being paid out of the management fund. The Chairman congratulated the members on having had a satisfactory financial year. It was agreed that the balance sheet be printed and circulated, and some formal business having been disposed of, the meeting closed with the usual vote of thanks to the chairman.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE EMPIRE.

The return of Mr. Bransby Williams to the Empire brings to that house a popular personality, and one whose gifts have raised him above the army of mere mimics who have trodden the variety stage from time to time. He has just fulfilled a most successful engagement in Glasgow, where he has been playing the part of Fitzwarren, and comes back to Leicester-square with an act which is not only ingeniously devised, but which, moreover, shows a keen sense of humour. For the nonce Mr. Williams becomes Mephisto. A gay, even a debonair devil is he, and with his entry we recognise the philosophic and reflective Mephistopheles of Goëthe. It is, however, Mr. Williams's plan to give us the devil up to date—the devil as he would be played by such widely dissimilar individualities as Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. G. P. Huntley, and Mr. R. G. Knowles. Dressed in "diabolic" scarlet from head to foot, this visitant from Hades enters at the back on to a darkened stage, heralded by vivid flashes of stage lightning. We begin to look around for Dr. Faustus. He is referred to only when Mr. Williams, excellently made up, speaks in "Alexandrines"—George Alexandrines—the voice of the actor-manager at St. James's, "the matinée idol," being exactly reproduced in every inflection. George has something to say of his recent election, and of putting the L.C.C.'s "house in order." He gives way to G. P. Huntley, who, coming from "Ippleton on the branch line" suffers, apparently, from brain disturbance at the mere thought of being called upon to play Mephisto, and his mental equilibrium is not restored by the constant outbursts of "melo" music. After Mr. Huntley has retired, presumably to "pot rabbits," Mr. Beerbohm Tree, who refers to the days when he played the Devil in *The Tempter*, treads the stage, to talk of His Majesty's and Berlin. We get a glimpse, too, of R. G. Knowles and Mr. Fred Kaye; but a distinctly precious impersonation is that of the old showman, who announces that he is about to present the drama of *Faust and Margaret* with a lady who has played the latter rôle in every corner of the British Isles for the past forty-nine years. The old gentleman is wonderfully made-up. The "dip" of the toothless mouth, the sunken jaw, and the "clouded" effect of the heavy, stilted utterance, with the occasional whistle, are very skilfully counterfeited, and though the character has its pathetic note, it is accepted by the audience as a frankly comic creation, and heartily laughed at. Mr. Bransby Williams is a distinct acquisition to the Empire programme, and the warmth of his reception marks him out as a special favourite.

Newcomers to the Empire are the Sisters Hengler, who have been growing in public favour ever since they appeared as children on the stage of the other house in the Square. This is but a few years since, and the young ladies have not lost one jot of the refinement and grace they exhibited in their earlier years. They sing prettily of the twilight, their voices, though not powerful, being very sweet. Another melody of theirs is in waltz time, and to this they dance very daintily. In their third essay they display the *brio* of the dark-eyed Castilians in a cachuca, and are also generously applauded in a step dance.

The Biograph here is kept up to date, and the interesting films this week include a series of pictures of the making of the Brooklands track near Weybridge, with the steam navvy at work, and other picturesque details. *The Débutante* continues its triumphant course, with the incomparable Genée in the title-rôle; and Mlle. Marquis, with her trained cobs, contributes a smart act to a long and varied programme, of which the living pictures form a most artistic item.

LONDON PAVILION.

The cosmopolitan tastes of our English lovers of variety are well catered for by the popular Mr. Frank Glenister, who has this week introduced a very inspiriting troupe of performers. They exhibit the gaiety and sparkle of the Slav in a very delightful series of songs and dances. There are nine artists, seven of whom are ladies, and they are called Les Fleurs Polonaises. The entrain of their show is simply irresistible. Garbed in picturesque native costumes of light blue and red, the crowd present the life and vivacity of a national village fête. The *volkslieder* of the peasants have something of the character of the Magyar melodies; but sound a more cheery note. They are arranged by Polish composers, and the rapid pirouettes and whirlings of the two chief dancers are done to strains that are strikingly uncommon. Mr. Julius Prout is responsible for the Itu Mazurka, and the final dance, "The Krakowiak," is said to be the favourite "Polnische tanze," with peer or peasant, and can claim a lineage of four hundred years. Several excerpts are from the Polish opera *Helda*, by Stanislas Moniusko, and the turn is one of the brightest and most enjoyable that has been seen on the London variety stage for a long time. The music, we should add, is played *con amore* by the excellent band under the direction of Mr. Bond Sayers.

Examples of living statuary, so artistically presented by the Seldoms, are growing rather than decreasing in favour, and this pleasant experience for the management is due to the variety of groups introduced. A very fine addition to the series was introduced on Monday It is called "The Fountain." Miss Olga Seldom as a water nymph holds a vase from which a stream is being poured into a large font. Beneath this three human supports crouch, and the effect is most marble-like and artistic. One can quite understand the admiration of the great French sculptor, Professor Reinhold Begas, who will be in London next week to make special studies of Fraulein Olga for his contribution to this year's Salon. Other groups in the series include such groups as Lambeau's "Wrestlers," Boucher's "Reaching the Winning Post," and "The Woman or the Vase," after a painting by Professor H. de Siemiradzki.

The burning question of "Votes for women" is treated in the most extravagant vein by Mr. Tom Costello, who is eventually attacked by Suffragettes and considerably mauled, much to the amusement of the audience. Mr. Phil Ray's abbreviated patter is extremely popular; and Mr. Edwin Boyde's parodies are found to be intensely droll. Mr. John E. Coyle, who returns to this house after a severe illness, wins the heartiest laughter by his odd style in song and patter, and is a genuine favourite—a description that applies equally as well to Miss Marie Dainton, who introduces with great success imitations of Edna May, Vesta Tilley, Mrs. Patrick Campbell, and Connie Ediss. Dancing looms large in the programme. Mr. Dolly Golden shows hereditary talent both as a step and skirt dancer; Miss Esta Stella puts life into her graceful evolutions as "a military maid"; Susie and Protti are remarkable speciality dancers; and then we have the Pavilion Girls, who are graceful exponents of the terpsichorean art. Tom and Marie Motramo have been retained to prove that fun and music in alliance give an immense deal of pleasure: Mr. Arthur Aldridge, the Pavilion tenor, sings with great power and sweetness; and other excellent items in a varied bill are contributed by Josh Dixon, a popular eccentric comedian; Mr. James Stewart, the tramp at the piano; Dale and O'Malley, comedians; Miss Elsie Steadman, light comedy vocalist; Mr. Charles Banks, singing comedian, who is assisted by his wonderful canine partner, "Woof"; and Zaid, the Spanish Moor, in a novel speciality, assisted by Orienta.

HOLLOWAY EMPIRE.

A thoroughly good and well-varied programme is provided this week for the delectation of the patrons of this hall. The first turn on the programme is Lady Fauntleroy, a clever ventriloquist, who succeeds in highly amusing her audience in the course of a conversation with her figure, in the guise of a Blue-coat boy, and a very cordial reception greets the conclusion of her act. Allis and Cassati, a pair of comedy artists, next claim the attention, the lady being a good vocalist and the gentleman a comedian of resource, and in addition a good dancer, hearty plaudits testifying to the success of their appearance. Miss May Evans, a character comedienne, gains a good reception for a coster ditty, "He opened his mouth too wide." A very acceptable item is submitted by the Boccaccio Minstrels. This trio manage to extract genuine humour from their performance, all of them being experienced comedians, while the purely musical side of their turn is beyond reproach, Signor Francia being an exceptionally clever mandoline soloist, and another of the troupe equally accomplished as a pianist, their vocal efforts being also worthy of praise. They are enthusiastically received. Russell Brandon, a coloured artist, makes a successful bid for popular approval, his dancing, which is of the eccentric order, being very smart, a well-deserved call being the result. Another musical act of great merit is that presented by Miss Rosa Loader, a distinctly clever mimic. Her make-up, which is of the Louie Freear type, is effective, and her imitation of performances given by friends of her mistress at a party the evening before are amusing studies of amateur vocalists. Perhaps the most ludicrous examples are the contralto singing, "Seaweed" and the comedian struggling with "The Holy City," Continuous laughter greet her efforts, and an undeniable call is the well-earned reward. Robb Gilmore, in his first song, "It suits me very well," makes a favourable impression, and his second, a burlesque descriptive number, proves much to the taste of the audience. At the bottom of the bill this week are the Brothers Horne, in their familiar "pugilistic" encounter entitled *The Biter Bit*. The turn makes all its old appeal to the humorous propensities of the house. The lady of the troupe contributes a neat song and dance, and the innkeeper fills in the picture, the exciting set-to at the end bringing it to an exciting conclusion. The curtain accorded them at the end is very cordial. A very elaborate act occupies the place of honour this week, this being Jake Friedman and company, in *Happy Holland*. The production is an amusing operetta. The authors and composers, Messrs. Everhardt, Leyton, and Friedman, have strung together a story concerning a young and amorous Dutchman suspicious of his lady-love, telling her he is going away, only to make it possible for him to return disguised as a lady guide. This provides many amusing situations, while the musical numbers, of which there are many, are melodious and very cleverly arranged. Mr. Friedman himself is the mainstay of the performance, and scores a gratifying success. Miss Florence Hunton as Gretchen acts brightly, and proves herself to be the possessor of a good voice. Valuable support is rendered by Mr. L. Ellis as a Frenchman, Mr. Fred Dennis as a Yankee, Miss L. Braham as a lady of physical culture, and Mr. John Tudor as the innkeeper. A numerous and tuneful chorus aids the production, and the mounting, which represents the Quay of Rotterdam, is very picturesque. Applause that was frequent and loud testified to the complete success that was achieved, the fall of the curtain being accompanied by every sign of popular approval. The Bioscope this week is up to date, many films of the recent Dutch shipping disaster being shown A word is due to the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Forbes Russell, for their admirable contribution to the evening's entertainment.

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE.

The programme at this popular house is headed this week by the famous illusionist, Horace Goldin, assisted by Miss Jeanne Fransiolli and company. Mr. Goldin's performance is remarkable for the excellence of his tricks and for the rapidity with which he works. His *pièce de resistance* is still the famous cannon business. Miss Fransiolli is placed inside a large cannon, a shot is fired, a trunk is hauled rapidly down a stout wire from the roof, opened, and the lady steps out! The American Comedy Four are always a welcome turn. Their costumes are now more ludicrous than ever, and their excellent fooling provokes roars of laughter. Mention must, of course, be made of their fine part-singing. Ernest Torrence is the lucky possessor of a fine baritone voice, and his singing of "Somewhere" is illustrated by a large number of charming lantern pictures. Eily Adair proves herself a bright comedienne and a particularly smart dancer; the McConnell Trio appear in a musical medley sketch, *Mrs. Skinner's Lodgings*. The trio consist of a lady and two gentlemen, all very capable artists. The sketch is most amusing, most of the action being carried on by the singing of parodies or snatches from well-known songs. Hall and Earle provide an exceptionally clever turn of the comedy-acrobat order, which meets with well-merited applause; and Rex King, billed as

"It's a great big shame."
Gus Elen and Harry Lauder out shooting.

The One-man Programme, is certainly versatile and very popular.

That excellent comedian, Mr. Harry Bedford, is singing his latest successes, "A little bit of sugar on the top" and "There's no Bow Bells ever ringing out for me." Mr. Bedford is particularly successful in the last item, which gives him an opportunity of introducing character work such as he delights in.

We have a revival of that famous sketch of Fred Bowyer's, *The Little Stowaway*. The present production, in two tableaux, is elaborately mounted and excellently acted. Miss Eva Lumley takes the part of the poor little waif who comes to so tragic an end, and is responsible for a very capable performance. Mr. John K. Walton acts in fine style as the good-natured old captain, and Mr. H. G. Shaw does well as Lieut. Burton. The sketch is received with great applause. Credit should be given to Mr. Bertie Shelton for the praiseworthy manner in which he has produced it. The programme is completed by a delightful series of travel pictures on the American Bioscope illustrating the beauties of California. Pictures of the Hook of Holland disaster are also shown. A compliment should be paid to the orchestra for its excellent playing of the overture.

VITAGRAPH FILMS.

CHAT WITH MR. GEO. H. SMITH.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

Animated photography holds a deservedly high place in our variety entertainments to-day, and, as a matter of fact, is becoming increasingly popular. The writer has attended music hall entertainments in which by far the most interesting portion of the programme consisted of a cinématograph display. One can scarcely wonder, then, at the success attained by many of our well-known purveyors of what the Americans call "motion pictures." The Vitagraph Company of America is the latest concern to be represented in England. It is only two months ago since they opened offices at 10, Cecil-court, Charing Cross-road, W.C., for the purpose of officially introducing their wares to British people. The firm certainly make their début in England with excellent credentials. Their "subjects" have long been recognised as

Photo by Hana.

MR. GEO. H. SMITH,

the General-Manager of the Vitagraph American Co.

of considerable merit, and the fact that one of the features of their business will be the adoption of the price of fourpence per foot of film may perhaps lead to their acquiring a large turnover.

The Vitagraph Company has been in existence some twelve years, and up to the beginning of the present year its productions were exploited by other firms. The partners in the business are Mr. Wm. Rock, Mr. A. E. Smith, and Mr. Stuart Blackton. Mr. George H. Smith, a brother of one of the partners, is the London manager, and his wide knowledge of the cinématograph world is certain to be employed to great advantage in the service of the company he represents.

The Vitagraph Company are famous for their "thrill" story films, and Mr. Smith was good enough the other day to give the writer a private view. "The Haunted Hotel" is the title of one that we witnessed, and as it is the latest that has been sent over from the States, and has not yet been seen in this country, it may be worth while to describe it. To begin with, we are shown a desolate-looking house, standing alone in a lonely country, surrounded by gnarled and twisted trees. The moon is slowly rising, and black, storm-driven clouds are traversing the sky. Witches are seen flying through the air on broomsticks, and the only sign of life is the smoke ascending from the chimney. The sky grows darker; vivid flashes of forked and sheet lightning betoken an approaching thunderstorm. The rain falls in heavy sheets, while the lightning flashes intermittently. The windows and doors of the house rock to and fro, then spin round, and finally change places. Then the house undergoes a weird and curious transformation. Two windows slowly turn into eyes, and the door becomes a nose, and the steps curve up into the resemblance of a grinning mouth, while the thatched roof becomes a mass of lank and matted hair crowning the huge and hideous face of a goblin. We next see the interior of this mysterious place. The traveller enters and is terror-stricken at the weird incidents that follow. He seats himself at a table, and to his surprise the dishes are placed and shifted by invisible hands. A large knife mysteriously raises itself in the air, and slowly cuts slice after slice from a large bologna. The napkin then unfolds itself and wipes the blade of the knife. The knife then cuts slices of bread from a loaf, the teapot steams and pours tea out into the cup. A little imp appears over the edge of the milk pitcher, and, climbing down, tilts the pitcher until the milk pours out. The traveller, who fled in dismay at the first of these manifestations, now returns, and is just about to commence his meal, when he notices puffs of tobacco-smoke issuing from the milk pitcher, and then, to his surprise, the little imp rises up and roguishly wags its head at him. The traveller retires, and suddenly ghostly figures rise through the floor and dance around his bed, ending their capers by dancing on the terrified traveller as he kicks and struggles. The room suddenly begins to tilt and sway up and down; the furniture all rolls into one corner, and the traveller frantically climbs up the steep incline of the floor. Without further warning, the room suddenly spins round and round, over and over; first the floor is on top, then the ceiling, the terrified traveller meanwhile clutching the bed in a frenzy of fear. The entire back of the room now falls out, and the huge head of a ogre appears. He gropes around the room, and seizing the traveller in one of his huge, clawlike hands, whisks him out of the bed, clothes and all. All the scenes are wonderfully realistic and ghostly, and the film should have a great sale.

Another up-to-date animated picture story goes by the name of "The Automobile Thieves," and is an absorbingly interesting little drama, and is extremely well arranged. Another still describes the dream of an impecunious author, who sees a young and beautiful "heroine" being constantly pursued by a deep-dyed villain. The title appropriately enough bestowed upon this amusing burlesque melodrama is "And the Villain still Pursued Her." A fourth series once more brings to one's notice that much-debatable person, the mother-in-law, and we are shown how the peace of mind of a happy young couple is disturbed by the arrival of the wife's mother. The various "situations" are funny in the extreme. Other sets of pictures are "A Race for a Wife," a motor car romance; "Foul Play," a drama of a bank robbery; "The Mechanical Statue," a laughable episode concerning a boy's plaything; and illustrations of the International Auto Race, run on Long Island for the Vanderbilt Cup.

The Vitagraph company may be congratulated upon the production of photographic representations which are remarkably clear in quality and attractive and original in subject.

THE METROPOLITAN.

Early in the evening Mr. Jack Edgar's cosmopolitan programme at the fine house in the Edgware-road is blessed by the presence of Mr. Walter King, who has a strong sense of the ludicrous, when he patters of a poor creature of a husband blessed with a thoughtful and frugal wife, who, in mournful voice tells him she is doing her best to give him a respectable funeral, and save him from a parish burial. Mr. Walter King has a way of getting down to the common domestic details of the toiling masses that is certainly very funny. Mr. Ben Albert, who progresses steadily in public favour, has excellent material in his couple of songs, which run out of the beaten groove, and do not refer to the lodger or a fierce mother-in-law. To hear them heartily applauded is very encouraging. Mr. George French can hardly be congratulated on his first song, full of whiskered wheezes, but his "working classes" ditty is a decided winner. In it Mr. French adopts a very clever make-up, and his success is unmistakable. Ten minutes of hearty laughter result from Mr. Mark Melford's impersonation of the barrister in *Non-suited*, the fair defendant being represented in fascinating style by Mrs. Melford.

Lively and interesting are the terms most applicable to the turn of the Eight Stars of Holland, who represent the peasants of the Netherlands at work and play, the country dances in which they so heartily join completely disproving the idea that the Dutch take their pleasures sadly. The brave Dutch hero who was honoured by Londoners last week, looks out upon the audience from the screen upon which the solemnly interesting pictures of the wreck of the Berlin are thrown by Jeapes' Animated Graphic. The terrible conditions under which the gallant rescue of the three women survivors was effected can be realised through these admirable films. The marvellous album is a clever example of the work of the camera and the ingenuity of the operator in "faked" photography. It was Dion Boucicault who wrote in *The Octoroon* that the apparatus cannot lie. Our modern film providers know better.

Kurkamp, the singing conductor, now appears without his companion, Miss Alice Raymond, the lady posthorn and cornet soloist, and sings in cultured style, and with much power and charm of voice, "Ah! che la morte" and a pretty ballad, "In loveland," that owes its origin to an American composer. Mr. Kurkamp is hailed with delight, and applauded with fervour from gallery to stalls. Such turns as his are always welcome in the halls. Miss Maud Courtney, the American girl, has a full-flavoured accent, but this adds to rather than detracts from her stories, which, however, are not so smartly told as those of her brother, who, later in the programme, appears as Mr. C. Miss Courtney, however, is a pleasing personality, and her philosophical song is particularly well rendered. In a duet she has the assistance of the aforesaid brother, who sings from the circle. The turn is very heartily acclaimed. Mr. C. has a falsetto of high range, which is heard to advantage in the ballad "Killarney." Miss Daisy Jerome, another American girl, may be congratulated on the great success of her number, "A little pat of butter on the floor." It is particularly well written, and equally well sung.

The Glenroy Troupe of five includes three bonnie Scotch lassies, who make a brave show as Highlanders, and dance the measures of their native heath with rare skill, vim, and energy. The "mere men" of the crowd are capital hornpipers, and as "gossoons" dance an animated jig. Miss Daisy James, the Gibson girl, shows the true spirit of travesty in all her work, and is a very popular turn; Mr. Leo Stormont sings effectively "Good-night, beloved," which attains all the importance of an illustrated scena; and the Six Brothers Luck present with marked success their original pantomimic absurdity *Blazes; or, the Lightning Fire Brigade*. The subject is exploited in the heartiest spirit of humour, and in the hands of such well-known *farceurs* the success of the production is never for a moment in doubt. Miss Queenie May, a youthful artist, shows great promise. Other turns announced include Barlee and Smith, Harry Pleon, and Sibb and Sibb, double trapeze artists.

SADLER'S WELLS.

A couple of thrilling dramas in a programme ought surely to satisfy the most ardent admirer of the sensational play. These productions, sandwiched by a variety of entertaining items, form a most attractive bill of fare, and a liberal amount of patronage bestowed upon the famous Clerkenwell theatre is the natural result. An excellent specimen of the detective drama is seen in *The Master Hand*, which is being played by Miss Josephine Colona and company. The leading character, Nelson Keane, is a detective, who, like his great predecessor, Sherlock Holmes, takes to criminal investigation for the love of the work and the excitement, not to say danger, which its pursuit involves. He is determined to exterminate a gang of desperadoes, who make murder a fine art, and at the head of which is a certain Dr. Stephen Meredith. This man, cleverly disguised, calls upon the detective, and attempts to poison him; but a mirror reveals the dastardly deed, and the would-be murderer is frustrated. Then the detective makes up so as to closely resemble a member of the gang, an Italian known as "The Darkey," and in this disguise is enabled to gain admission to their headquarters. Bruno Marcarelli, the man impersonated, turns up, but is shot by Neale and his dead body thrown from a window. But the finding of the corpse arouses suspicions, and the detective, removing his disguise, pluckily defies the infuriated members of the gang. He is quickly overpowered, and Eva Meredith, the supposed daughter of the chief, who has always been on the side of Keane, is also taken prisoner. Their deaths are decreed, but ere the sentences can be carried into effect the police, led by Jimmy, a protégé of the detective's, make a raid upon the place, and all the members of the "Great Murder Syndicate" are apprehended. Mr. Arthur St. John deserves every credit for his bold, manly embodiment of the detective, known as "The Master Hand." Miss Josephine Colona also plays with force and feeling as the supposed daughter of Meredith. Miss Ida St. John does well as the waif Jimmy; and Miss Kitty Bennett is amusing as Keane's landlady, Mrs. Chatmore. Mr. J. James is excellent as Dr. Meredith; and other members of the murder gang are ably embodied by Messrs. E. Aldworth, Archie Grant, and J. Dennett.

The other sensational drama in the bill, entitled *The Call to Arms*, is excellently played by the Vaudeville Dramatic Comedy Company, and is produced under the direction of Mr. John Rintoul. The story goes back to the stirring times of the Peninsular War, the scenes being laid in Spain, when a British army was at that time marching through the country under the command of Wellington. Mr. Herbert Pearson is a frank, soldierly Colonel Beresford, whose Spanish wife, Lenona is well played by Miss Helena Walbran. Mr. J. G. Leighton supplies a capital embodiment of Hector La Roche, a French renegade, who commits a murder and robs his victim, Carlos Camora, a part that is safely entrusted to Mr. Ernest Percy. Mr. Charles Ludlow as Orlando Orpington, an English moneylender, and Miss Gracie Fordyce as Elsa, a waitress, give commendable support. The ordinary turns include Moon and Morris, comedians, who cleverly negotiate what is described as a simultaneous dance. The performer known as Ernesto is a neat and skilful juggler and equilibrist. Quite a new version of *The Streets of London* is given by the educated dogs introduced by Captain Deveraux. Most of these canine performers are "dressed up" so as to represent human beings; and their quaint appearance is the cause of much merriment. The show is a remarkable combination of canine sagacity and clever training. Blanche and Powell, in their drawing-room entertainment, are most favourably received, the lady affording evidence of the possession of an excellent voice. The Lannons, a lady and gentleman representing the characters of a policeman and maidservant, give a remarkable exhibition of pedestal dancing. Mr. Richardson Taylor, who works with one figure only, is not only a clever ventriloquist, but also excels as a mimic of various song birds. Mr. Chas. Lanton scores as a double-voiced vocalist; and the name of Charles Valvo, military ventriloquist, is also included in the programme, a notable item in which is "The Wreck of the Midnight Mail," shown by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux. Mr. Pete Murray is the courteous acting-manager at "the Wells," and Mr. Payne is the conductor of the orchestra.

THE BRITANNIA.

A particularly varied and attractive programme is this week submitted to the patrons of this theatre, and large audiences are the result. After a well-rendered overture by Mr. Carl Hamlin and his confrères, Mr. Will Lear sets the ball rolling with an excellent descriptive song, "Waterloo," which receives hearty applause. The charming and smartly-dressed Sisters Bartholomew give a sweetly-sung duet, "Hurry up, Matilda McGee," followed by a really good dance, which is well received. An amusing comedy duologue, entitled "A game for two," is given by the Custances, and, being punctuated with some smart sayings and flashes of humour, it creates a favourable impression. Walker and May introduce some very good coon songs, notably "Coontown Jubilee," and finish with a first-class sand-dance. Mr. Walker, although he is totally blind, is a genuine humorist, and causes laughter with his quaint sayings, while his deft dancing meets with a cordial reception. The chief item on the programme is Mr. Leonard Mortimer's company in *The Kettledrum*, which is a stage version of one of Captain Kettle's stories, and is well performed by this capable company. Mr. Mortimer makes an excellent Captain Owen Kettle, and gives a lifelike portrait of this fiery little man; Mr. J. G. Leighton plays well as Lord Esmond Slade; and his treacherous secretary is ably presented by Mr. Edwin J. Collins. Mr. Reginald Weighall causes amusement by his funny antics as General Corlanger; the adventuress Donna Inez Thelestina is forcibly enacted by Miss Edith Lewis; and Miss Ida Clifford plays Lady Edna very gracefully. The playlet is well mounted and daintily dressed. Another very successful item is Mr. Albert Wyndham and his company in *Clarence's Dream*. Mr. Wyndham, who is a fine elocutionist and a powerful actor, gives an admirable performance of Clarence, and the recital of his dream is received with perfect silence until the end, when the audience accord him loud applause, which he thoroughly deserves. The crafty and cunning Gloster is well played by Mr. L. Deveridge; Mr. Murray does well as the attendant Brackenbury; the two murderers have excellent representatives in Messrs. Gilbey and Gascoigne; and Miss F. Pateman is a sprightly page. Takio, a Japanese, gives some good examples of his powers of mimicry with realistic imitations of the motor-car, woodsaw, and the nightingale. Those fine vocalists the Steinaway Quartette introduce into their scena, *The Sons of the Sea*, some tuneful singing, and receive hearty applause for their rendering of "Tom Bowling" and "The anchor's weighed." The remainder of the programme includes Messrs. Bernard and Western, an amusing couple; and Milsted and Bell, in a musical Indian comedy scena. The entertainment is brought to a close by some excellent pictures of "Secrets of a Nunnery," depicted by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

THE MIDDLESEX.

On Tuesday evening was produced at the Middlesex, for the first time in the West End, a sketch in one scene, written by George Roy, entitled *La Marseillaise; or, the Story of a Song*. In a garret in the poor part of Paris we find Rouget de Lisle, poet, musician, patriot, soldier, and composer of the French National Anthem, which was first sung by the soldiers of the Rhine. Apprehensive of being cast into prison as the writer of seditious songs, he has assumed another name. "La Marseillaise" has already been heard on the boulevards, and Paul le Grand, a young aristocrat, is anxious to secure the song for Louise Lavarre, a café chantant vocalist, of whom he is the devoted admirer. The request is refused, but the girl herself contrives to get possession of the composition, and sings it with much success. Fame comes to its composer, and Louise, the café chantant singer, proves to be his own daughter, he having been separated from her and her mother many years ago, but for both of whom he has searched in vain. The sketch was very favourably received. Mr. Walter Raynham gave an admirable portrayal of De Lisle, and Miss Rita Tomkins was a pleasing representative of Louise Lavarre. Mr. Edward Pollard was good as Paul le Grand and Miss Kitty Kirwan did very well as the Irish landlady, Mme. Drouet. The appropriate music is by Mr. Josef Pelzer, and the admirable scenery and effects are by Mr. Harry Potts.

Prominent amongst the single turns engaged here is Mr. R. H. Douglas, who is delighting the patrons of the Drury-lane hall with his clever detective monologue. His various disguises, concluding with that of an old miser, give variety and artistic effect to an excellent performance, the merits of which are readily recognised. The Kennedy Quartette in the comedy act, *True Irish Hearts*, give a slice of Hibernian drama of the kind made popular years ago by Dion Boucicault. Familiar characters are the wicked squire, and the unfortunate hireling who is in his power; the pretty village lassie and her manly lover, who in the end triumphs over the villain of the piece. All these parts were excellently played. The Somersons appear with amusing results in *The Suffragette*; Mr. Bert Brantford, comedian, sings a capital ditty in the character of a chimney sweep; the Sisters Allen distinguish themselves as duettists and speciality dancers; Mr. Sid Bandon, in the guise of a burly butcher, sings "Buy, buy, buy" with good effect; Vere and Royal, lady and gentleman comedy artists, give a clever musical sketch, illustrative of the difference between people who travel first class and people who travel third. The Sisters Brand meet with a flattering reception as vocalists and dancers. Wee Mona is a remarkably smart child singer and dancer, scoring in a song entitled "You, just you," also with "When the band begins to play," and concluding with a dance that evokes much well-earned applause. Miss Susie Marney, descriptive vocalist, contributes two songs in effective style; the Brothers Brook do well as comic duettists; Little Tichbourne sings quaintly as a miniature soldier wearing elongated boots, and Mr. Jack Lane, "the Yorkshire Rustic," after singing a ditty about a visit to the "Zoo," gives some capital imitations of a German and other singers, to his own accompaniment on the piano. Mr. Mark Melford and company are appearing in the farcical sketch entitled *Non-suited*, which is as successful as ever in evoking laughter. Mr. Joe O'Gorman, with a couple of songs and his comical stories, retains his popularity. Blake and Granby provide abundance of real fun in the comedy duologue *The Man in Possession*. Mr. Lew Lake's company is engaged in the representation of the late G. H. Macdermott's comedy drama, entitled *My Landlord*, Mr. George Thursby appearing as John Beringer, Mr. Chas. Clapton as Constable 24 B, Miss Marie Bryan as Mrs. Wright, and Mr. Fred Lawrence as Bincksesteven, the bounder, the burglar, and the bobby. In addition up-to-date pictures are shown by the new Bioscope.

(For other notices of Varieties, see page 16.)

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

The fairs ahead for next week are:—Grantham, on the Great Northern; Upper Ottery, on the London and South-Western; Wotton-under-Edge, on the Midland; Okehampton, on the London and South-Western; Caister (Lincs.), on the Great Central; Pendlebury, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Retford, on the Great Northern and Great Central; Malton, on the North-Eastern; Pontefract, on the Great Northern, North-Eastern, Lancashire and Yorkshire, and Midland; and Woburn on the London and North-Western. In Scotland—Dumfries, on the Glasgow and South-Western and Caledonian Railways. In Wales—Cowbridge, on the Taff Vale; and Corwen, on the Great Western and North-Western Railways.

At an important meeting of Scottish agriculturists held at Dalkeith on March 7, Lord Stair presiding, a discussion took place of considerable interest to travelling showpeople. A proposal was made to do away with the hiring fairs which have existed for centuries, and to try and find, what the meeting said would be, a better system of hiring farm servants. We are not sure what is the object at the back of this movement, but we are quite certain of this, that it will take a very strong and influential body of men to abolish the hiring fairs so deeply rooted in the industrial life of agricultural districts. There are, of course, other reasons for regarding the proposed new system with grave suspicion. If it meets with any measure of success at all it will be at the cost of the workers. As the matter now stands, the hiring fair gives the workers at least one holiday, at least one purple patch in a life of terrible dullness and an existence at the best full of monotony and loneliness. To take from the workers one of the all too few opportunities of holiday and enjoyment is not only to do a great wrong to an important industry, but also to commit a great social and economic blunder. We trust that Lord Stair and the gentlemen who are at the back of this movement to do away with the hiring fairs will reconsider the question, and look at it from a more humane point of view.

At the Fairground, Lillie-road, Fulham, in addition to the show novelties exhibited by the lessee, Mr. James Manders, there are Fred Gray's roundabout set, Saunder's throwing games, and J. Whayman's shooting gallery, with other exhibits of a minor character.

At the Deptford Fairground, High-street, are Hastings and Whayman's cinematograph theatre and a variety of small amusements provided by various caterers.

On the Whitechapel Fairground is Barker's electric cinematograph; and on Mrs. Manley's ground at Battersea is Biddall Brothers' electograph.

On Fred Gray's ground at the New Cut is J. Manders' helter-skelter, and also F. Gray's shooting gallery and swings.

W. Taylor's cinematograph theatre is located on W. Beech's ground at Acton.

Wm. Biddall, with electric exhibition, is still at Acton Green; and Alf. Ball's electric bioscope continues its successful run at West Ealing.

Purchase's menagerie is located on F. Gray's ground at Lavender-hill, and with the menagerie are F. Gray's switchback and a number of small novelties.

Visitors to the Crystal Palace should not miss seeing the ostrich farm, which comes from Nice, France, and is to be found in the western annexe of the South Nave. It is decidedly a novelty and most interesting. These fine birds are on their first visit to England, and breeding, ostrich riding, and racing are practically illustrated and the general routine of the farm explained. Much interest will be shown by ornithologists in the pedigree birds Napoleon, Louis, and La Camille. The managers of the show claim that the last-named bird is the originator of the Gibson walk.

A valuable contribution to the resources of the art of cinematography has been made by Pathé Frères, the eminent French firm, who have produced a film in which the Life of Christ is portrayed in every known detail, additional effects being given by exquisite tones and tints. The colouring, which has been put in by a mechanical process, gives a capital suggestion of Eastern glow and picturesqueness, while the various apparitions incidental to the picture are done by dissolving methods, by which the figures appear and fade away softly rather than jerk themselves into view. A private representation afforded on Tuesday in the exhibition-room of their commodious premises in Charing Cross-road revealed the beauties of the pictures, which no showman eager for a powerful attraction should neglect to secure.

The series, which comprises over forty different views, traverses the whole of the episodes relative to the life of the Saviour, beginning with the Annunciation by the Angel Gabriel to Mary. The arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem and the vain search for a shelter is realistically portrayed, the hurrying of the citizens to and fro providing an animated scene. A view of the shepherds receiving the fateful news from angels precedes the arrival of the three wise men, and the interior of the stable where the Holy Family has found shelter is speedily shown.

The Massacre of the Innocents and the subsequent Flight into Egypt are displayed in interesting succession; and later comes a glimpse of the home-life of the Child, who is initiated by Joseph into the mysteries of carpentry, only to be discovered soon after in the midst of the Wise Men of the Temple. Christ's baptism, his miracle at the marriage feast at Canaan, the pardon of the Magdalen, the raising of Lazarus from the dead, and the walking on the water are all done with marvellous realism, while the subsequent transfiguration on the Mount of Olives has a sublime effect. The entry of the Saviour into Jerusalem amid the waving of palms and the singing of Hosannas forms a marked contrast to the Last Supper and the betrayal by Judas; and the subsequent appearances before Caiaphas and Pilate are reproduced, together with the crowning with thorns, the scourging at the pillar, the miraculous imprint on the handkerchief of Veronica, the painful ascent of Calvary, and the nailing to the Cross.

The last sad scene, when Christ gives up the ghost, is rendered startling by vivid flashes of lightning and the rending of the earth. The Resurrection and the Ascension are portrayed with equal care, the effect of the Saviour rising amid a halo into the clouds being cleverly secured and an apotheosis giving a view of the heavens with its celestial occupants. The pictures, which have been all staged at the Pathé Frères' works near Paris, are represented in reverent fashion, any semblance of caricature being avoided. Always impressive and, in some cases, awe-inspiring, the views are interesting to all sections of the public, and would prove valuable to pious people by bringing vividly before the eye scenes and incidents on which they love to dwell. The film is 3,133ft. in length, and is supplied by Pathé Frères at their establishment at 33-35, Charing Cross-road, of which Mr. Courant and Mr. C. Ivatts are the courteous managers.

THE COMING OF AGE OF MR. PATRICK ROSS COLLINS.

DINNER AND PRESENTATION.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Collins, of Walsall, and their only son, Mr. Patrick Ross Collins, who has just completed his studies at Ratcliffe College, Silesby, the Alma Mater of Mr. Seymour Hicks, were on Thursday, March 7, the recipients of hearty and sincere congratulations from all parts of the kingdom, not a few cable messages coming from the States, on the occasion of Mr. Patrick's coming-of-age that day. In honour of the event Mr. and Mrs. Collins entertained a large party of friends to a *recherché* banquet in the evening at the Hotel Royal, Oswestry. Covers were laid for close on a hundred guests, a magnificent spread was placed upon the tables by Mr. and Mrs. Jones, and altogether a delightful evening was spent, one which will live long in the memories of those whose good fortune it was to be present no less than in the lasting recollection of the young gentleman in whose special honour the feast was designed. The

[*Photo by Morris.*

MR. PATRICK ROSS COLLINS.

reception was timed for 11 o'clock, and for nearly an hour afterwards happy parents and joyful son were busy receiving their guests, according them a hearty welcome to their board, and in return receiving from them their heartfelt congratulations and genuine good wishes for many years of combined happiness and never-ending prosperity. After full justice had been done to the many good things provided, for the viands were all of the best, and beneath which the tables literally groaned, an interesting toast list was gone through. The post-prandial proceedings were presided over by Mr. Ernie Leech, of Crewe. The Royal toasts were duly observed, the health of Mr. and Mrs. Collins and their son was toasted with musical honours and bumping cheers, the other toasts including the absent friends and the Press, with which the names of the Rev. T. Horne and Mr. Summers, the local representative of *The Era*, were associated.

The toasts were interspersed with a number of musical items, contributed by the chairman, Little Tich, and Messrs. Leech, McMeekin, and Kay.

During the evening a presentation of an illuminated address was made to Mr. Patrick Collins by the many employees of his highly-esteemed parents, in which testimony was borne to the kind and considerate manner in which Mr. and Mrs. Collins always treated all those in their service, to the prominent position they occupied in the show world, and to the high regard which was entertained for them by their many friends and admirers scattered throughout the globe. Mr. J. Gordon introduced the subject of the presentation in a neat, complimentary speech, and Little Tich, in words apropos to the occasion, made the presentation.

Mr. Patrick Collins, who was received with cheers, loud and prolonged, in a maiden speech, made an appropriate response. He thanked them for the honour they had done him that evening, for the many kind things that had been said of his father and mother, which, if they would permit him to say so, were thoroughly well deserved (hear, hear, and cheers), assured them that he would always cherish the address, and expressed the hope that he would some day merit the position now occupied by his parents of head of the showman's world. (Applause.)

Mr. Collins, sen., in response to loud calls for a speech, also spoke. His rising was also signalised by much cheering, and when this had subsided, Mr. Collins referred to the fact that that day had been one of long and anxious anticipation to him and his fond wife. (Applause.) That day he felt as proud as any nobleman in the land, and he assured them that he regarded that as the happiest moment in his life. Then, amid the cheers of all present, Mr. Collins handed to his son a beautifully-jewelled gold chronometer watch, inscribed with his monogram in diamonds, as a memento of the occasion and of a proud father's love. That watch, he said, he obtained for his boy sixteen years ago, and he had treasured it for him under lock and key, in anxious anticipation of that great day. Concluding, Mr. Collins prayed for God's blessing upon his dear wife and son.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to dancing, which was continued with much zest until the wee sma' hours anant the twa'; the hour of breaking up, in fact, being something like six o'clock.

Mr. Patrick Collins was the recipient of some 120 valuable presents, ranging from handsome jewelled gold and silver articles, to silk ties. In addition to the £200 watch given him by his father, he received cheques of £100 each from his mother (who also gave him a diamond ring), his uncle, Mr. John Collins, and his aunt, Miss M. Collins; a silver cigarette-case from Mr. Leech; a five-pound Jubilee piece, nicely mounted, from his adopted sister, Miss Clara Collins; a diamond breast-pin from his cousin Miss Flora Hobbs; a smoker's combination cabinet, from his cousin Master Walter Hobbs; a case of gold sleeve-links from his cousin Master George Hobbs; a case of silver-backed toilet brushes from Miss Fossett; a writing-case from Mr. George Bennion; a case with silver-mounted fittings from Mr. E. Dutton; together with presentations from the Hall, Lewis, and Wright families.

Among those who sent messages of congratulation and best wishes to parents and son were Mr. Holyoake and family, Chester; Mrs. Weir and family, Burton-on-Trent; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hibbert, Stockport (cousins); Mr. Fred Savage, King's Lynn; Sir Robert Fossett; Miss Maggie Collins, Chester; Mr. John Collins, who wired "I am very sorry I cannot get to Patrick's coming-of-age to-day to have the pleasure of wishing him many happy returns of the day and all the happiness and success in the world. With this post am sending Patrick a hundred-pound cheque as a memento of the occasion. Hoping you will all have a pleasant day.—Yours, John and Selina Collins." Also from Mrs. John Collins, who also regretted inability to attend festivities through illness; John and Nora Collins; Mr. Charles Jones, Wrexham; Mr. Swann, London; Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Young; Mr. and Mrs. Dutton, Wrexham; Nelly Jones, Wrexham; and last, but not least, the telegram from the Rev. T. Horne: "Showmen's Guild chaplain sends the heartiest congratulations to Mr. Patrick Ross Collins on attaining his majority to-day. God bless him!"

It should be mentioned that the committee responsible for the presentation from the employees consisted of Messrs. John Tinney (chairman), John Gordon, S. Freeman, H. C. Humphries, F. Sherwood, W. Kelly, Little Tich, and G. Bailey (hon. sec.).

The grand old showman, Lord George Sanger, drove down to *The Era* Office on Wednesday. He seemed as well and hearty as ever, and looked the thorough English gentleman as he is, as he drove away in his carriage drawn by two pretty ponies. The President of the Showmen's Guild still remains the leader and friend of all showmen, and is as keenly alive as ever to the interests of the great British industry that caters for the amusement of the people of the Empire. It affords the greatest encouragement to the executive workers of the Showmen's Guild to feel and to know that the Empire's greatest showman still champions the manifold interests of the showman world.

Bostock and Wombwell's No. 1 Royal Menagerie is on a week's visit at Cardiff. The management are to be congratulated upon the condition of the animals, which are too numerous to mention. Captain Wombwell goes through some daring performances with the lions, &c.

Miss Ada Alexandra's hippodrome and circus paid their annual visit to Leith, and gave an excellent performance.

At Cefn, under Charles Farrell's management, were the following excellent concerns for the fair:—Farrell's Royal coliseum of living pictures and variety show, the racing cockerels and flying motor machines, Winchester range and variety stalls; shooting ranges by Messrs. Turner, Fossett, and Wright; throwing games, cokersheets, and other varieties by Messrs. Kemp, Bennett, Walker, Currie, Turner, Fossett, and other caterers.

Subscriptions to the Showmen's Guild 1907—W. Biddall, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. R. Pilling, 10s.

We draw our readers' attention to the special article on the Rawtenstall Fair and Markets. It is of especial interest to our Lancashire showmen readers, and it illustrates what we have before impressed upon all local showmen, the prime necessity of being sure of your facts before you take action. We cannot understand how it happened that, although local showmen were consulted, no one seemed to have had full knowledge of the history of the fair at Rawtenstall. There are, of course, points of great interest and of importance to the show business in the Rawtenstall case, but it seems to us extremely unfortunate that expensive defence proceedings by way of petition should have been taken only to ascertain the interesting facts that at Rawtenstall the fair is not a market and that the existing fair was in no sense threatened by the Bill. Had the Corporation given the Guild Executive Committee assurances of these facts there would have been no expensive proceedings by petition. Rawtenstall Corporation, like many another corporation, thought they could ignore the showmen.

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The Resurrection.
The Ascension.
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RAWTENSTALL CORPORATION BILL.

In Parliament.
House of Commons—Session 1907.
PETITION
Against the Bill Praying to be Heard by Counsel.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble petition of Susan Holden, Charles Horton, and Ernest Albert Horton.

Sheweth—

1. That a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") has been deposited in the Private Bill Office of your Honourable House, intituled "A Bill to authorise the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Rawtenstall to construct and work tramways, and to provide and work omnibuses, to confer further powers upon them in relation to their electricity and markets undertakings, to authorise them to construct a street work, and to acquire lands, and to make further provision with regard to the health, local government, and improvement of the Borough of Rawtenstall, and for other purposes."

2. The promoters of the Bill are the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Rawtenstall (in the Bill and hereinafter called "the Corporation").

3. Your petitioners are showmen, stall-holders, and others, who are in the habit of attending fairs held within the Borough of Rawtenstall for the purpose of carrying on their businesses thereat. The property, rights, and interests of your petitioners are injuriously affected by the Bill, and they object thereto for the reasons hereinafter appearing.

4. It is proposed to be enacted by Clause 94 of the Bill as follows: "If any person shall without the licence of the Corporation in any part of the borough hold or permit to be held any market he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £20, and to a daily penalty not exceeding £5. Provided that nothing in this section or in section 13 of the Markets and Fairs Clauses Act, 1847, shall be held to deprive the Corporation of any right to proceed by action or otherwise which the Corporation would have had if those sections had not been enacted."

5. While the provisions of the said Clause 94 are in terms limited to "any market," your petitioners are advised that this word in contemplation of law includes a fair, and they humbly submit that the provisions of the clause are a serious infringement of the rights of showmen, stall-holders, and others, and that it is contrary to the public interest that any restriction should be placed upon the letting or hiring of land for the purpose of their businesses.

6. The preamble of the Bill in so far as it relates to the matters aforesaid is unfounded, and cannot be substantiated by argument or evidence.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honourable House that the Bill may not pass into law as it now stands, and that they may be heard by their counsel, agents, and witnesses against the preamble and clauses thereof, and, in the event of the preamble being proved, then in support of such clauses and provisions as may be necessary for their protection and benefit, and that your Honourable House may grant to your petitioners such further and other relief in the premises as to your Honourable House may seem meet.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

SUSAN HOLDEN.
CHARLES HORTON.
ERNEST ALBERT HORTON.

The above petition is the only one lodged by the Showmen's Guild in the interest of its members this Session of Parliament, and the conclusion of this case marks the end of the Parliamentary work for the present year. This is satisfactory, because it indicates that the energetic and persistent work of the organised showmen has at last made a strong impression upon the promoters of Private Bills. From the necessity of opposing eighteen Bills in 1898 to only one in the present Session there is full evidence of the eminently salutary work of the Showmen's Guild.

There is also this additional satisfaction, that action was only taken in the Rawtenstall case because of the extremely technical point at present undecided—whether a market can be legally termed a fair. There are instances in which the term "fair" is interchangeable with "market" but these cases have arisen only where the market or fair is by Royal grant or long-established prescription. The weakness of the showmen's claim to any rights to hold a fair at Rawtenstall lies in the fact that the customary fair (or wakes) at Rawtenstall is neither a fair by charter nor prescription.

This case was before the Court of Referees on March 12 on the question whether the petitioners were entitled to a *locus standi* against the Bill. Clause 94 of the Bill proposed to inflict a penalty on any person holding, or permitting to be held, a market in the borough without the licence of the Corporation.

The facts of the case appear to be that the Corporation of Rawtenstall have established a market under the powers conferred by Section 166 of the Public Health Act, 1875, with which Act there is incorporated by the following section the provisions of the Markets and Fairs Clauses Act, 1847, "in so far as the same relate to markets." In connection with this market there has sprung up a practice of holding, at certain seasons of the year, what is commonly spoken of in the locality as a fair; but there has never been any grant of a fair by the Crown, nor, of course, can there be any fair by prescription in connection with a modern market. Notwithstanding, however, that there is no legal fair, the Corporation have never raised any objection to showmen standing on the market-place, but, on the contrary, have received tolls from them until about four years ago, when the showmen began to hire private land in consequence of a considerable part of the market-place having been appropriated for other purposes.

There were two substantial questions in dispute: (1) Whether the provision of amusements and the sale of articles on the private ground occupied by the showmen and stallholders constituted a fair; and (2) whether a fair could be included in the term "market." It was contended by the petitioners, on the authority of the judgment of Mr. Justice Bruce in Collins *v.* Cooper, decided in 1893, that such a gathering might now be described as a fair, although probably not so in former times. It was also contended by the petitioners that the word "market" includes a fair on the authority of the well-known dictum of Lord Coke, who said that "every fair is a market, but every market is not a fair." It was contended, on the other hand, that no fair could be constituted by the mere assembling of persons on private ground, without grant or prescription, and that, whether this was a fair or not, it was certainly not a market, and therefore not covered by the clause.

The Court of Referees, on hearing these arguments, decided that the petitioners were not entitled to a *locus standi* to oppose the clause. Unfortunately, the Referees do not give reasons for their decisions, and therefore it is only possible to gather what arguments have influenced them from remarks made by them during the hearing of the case. Judging from various statements by Sir David Brynmor Jones, who apparently took the leading part in the decision, the Referees substantially adopted the view of the promoters of the Bill that there was no fair, and, even if there was a fair, it was not a market. It therefore followed that the petitioners could not be hurt by the Bill, and were not entitled to oppose. The Referees seemed to think that it would not be right in the present day to attach very much importance to the dictum of Lord Coke, which, of course, has no authority as a legal decision, and that the general scheme of the Markets and Fairs Clauses Act and the Bill under discussion indicated that nowadays markets and fairs have become distinguished, and that one cannot be comprehended under the other.

It will thus be seen that, although the *locus standi* has been refused, the decision of the Court is favourable to the petitioners, as it declares that when this Bill is passed they cannot be proceeded against under its provisions. It must be remembered, however, that a decision of the Court of Referees is not regarded as binding upon any other tribunal, and, if proceedings should at any time be taken the question would have to be fought out independently. But it is hardly likely that the present generation of Corporation officials, at any rate, would expose themselves to the odium of taking proceedings after they have so emphatically declared that proceedings cannot be taken.

MR. JOHN STUDT has favoured Bridgend with his fine new motor-cars for a week's visit.

MR. JOHN JOHNSON, of the Victoria Theatre at Barry Dock, is still doing record business.

THE attention of London showmen is drawn to the notice of a special meeting of members of the Guild and all other Metropolitan showmen at the Star and Garter Hotel, near the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, next Wednesday afternoon. See advertisement for further particulars.

A "FREE Fun Park" is to be opened at the Tower, New Brighton, under the management of Mr. William Holland, at Whitsuntide. Thirty-five acres of ground are attached to the Tower, and a hundred shops and side-shows are available for everything new and novel. A big show of the "Savage South Africa" or "Buffalo Bill" type is wanted for the Sports Velodrome, which is a third of a mile long, and fitted with two magnificent grand stands, and houses and cages are ready for a good menagerie. A troupe of Pierrots are also invited to tender for use of outdoor dancing platform and bandstand, and under-cover accommodation in wet weather.

LORD GEORGE SANGER has decided to dispose of his Grand Theatre at Ramsgate, which enjoys an all-the-year-round season, and is adapted for two-houses-a-night business. The theatre can be sold separately, or in conjunction with hotel and shops adjoining. The veteran showman gives as his one reason for selling that "a man at eighty is somewhat too antique and slow for the active, wicked world."

THE CINEMATOPHONE.—The Walturdaw Company, Ltd., of 3, Dean-street, High Holborn, have brought out an extremely valuable and useful appliance for showmen. It is known as the Cinematophone, a combination of Gramophone and Cinematograph, and can be fitted to any machine, so simple is it. So perfect is the synchronism that every movement of the singer or players acts in perfect accord with the music. As to power, with a small attachment added to the machine, the Albert Hall itself could be filled with sound, and as easily can the sound be reduced for a small hall. The effect is perfect, the living pictures—the human voice.

AT West Hartlepool the market yard is quite merry. C. Baker's twin yachts, Mander's cinematograph, Butler's two-headed baby, and Beaumont's numerous shies and galleries are great attractions. At the parent borough, the High-street is quite ablaze with the magnificent display of electricity from Wm. Murphy's excellent new cinematograph, the front and organ of which is reported to have cost thousands.

MR. CHAS. W. POOLE'S myriorama and variety company are concluding their second week at the Drill Hall, Darlington, having played to packed houses. The pictures, with effects, are splendid; they also show some new animated photographs, including the wreck of the s.s. Berlin. Little Miss Edie is a clever child vocalist; the Three Almas are marvellous on the triple horizontal bars; the Swift Trio, cyclists, are a wonder in themselves; Mr. Geo. Menoa (the guide and humorist) will, with the help of C. F. Couper, take you over the world in a pleasing manner.

"FRED LOCKE" FUND.

The accounts in connection with the benefit matinée at the Royal Princess's, Glasgow, recently, were finally adjusted last week, and show that the theatre drawings, including tickets sold, programmes, postcards, &c., amounted to £97, and the donations sent to over £40. Deducting the cost of printing, bill-posting, wages of stage-hands and orchestra, £14, the result is that the "Fred Locke" Fund benefits to the extent of £123. Of this sum, £100 is being banked on deposit receipt in the names of the joint trustees, Messrs. Rich. Waldon and J. G. Crichton, and the balance on current account. The following additional subscriptions are acknowledged by Mr. J. G. Crichton, 9, Bridge-street, Glasgow:—

	£	s.	d.
Walter McEwan	0	10	6
Lionel Rignold (second sub.)	0	10	0
Sam Walsh	0	5	0
W. Faulkner (second sub.)	0	2	6
W. J.	0	1	0

MENTAL TELEPATHY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—A paragraph in last week's "Variety Gossip" speaks of a new discovery, viz., *Silent* Mental Telepathy. May I call your attention to the fact that I worked Silent Mental Telepathy seventeen years ago at Shoreham Gardens, near Brighton, two years ago at the Aquarium, Scarborough, and am this week presenting the same at the Lyceum Theatre, Stafford?—Yours faithfully,

MUSICAL HOWARD.

Lyceum, Stafford. March 13.

WILLIAM CHARLES TOWN, thirty-eight, a labourer, of Napier-road, West Ham, was charged on Monday with assaulting Police-constable Bolton, 16 K R. On Saturday evening, when crowds were seeking admission to the Stratford Empire, the prisoner moved out of one of the queues and sought to force his way into the house out of his turn. Police-constable North, 606 K, turned him away. He had a quart bottle containing beer in his hand, and suddenly he went behind Police-constable Bolton (who was regulating the crowd) and struck him behind the left ear with the bottle, which was then knocked out of his hand by North. Bolton bled freely, and his wound was dressed by the divisional surgeon. The prisoner pleaded guilty to the assault, but he afterwards suggested that the bottle "accidentally caught" the officer. Mr. Gillespie said the prisoner might have killed the constable, and sent him to gaol for the full term of six months with hard albour.

Mr. T. W. Rawson and Miss Lily Bertram are occupying the place of honour this week at the Eastbourne Hippodrome with Mr. Carter Livesey's clever sketch, *Would-be Actors*. Mr. Rawson some time ago had the misfortune to fracture his leg, but his recovery is now complete, and his capital acting, together with the excellent work of Miss Bertram, keep the house in constant merriment, and several "curtains" are the rule. After his tour with Mr. Wyndham's company in America Mr. Rawson migrated to the halls, where he has already figured as a most successful comedian.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"THE ERA" SHILLING FUND FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME

Mr. Barrasford and Miss Victoria join in a strenuous appeal for the generosity of the profession in support of *The Era* Shilling Fund. When, twelve months ago, we brought before our readers the claims of this deserving charity, a very considerable sum of money was collected in separate shillings. That last year's appeal, however, and most of the money obtained by it, are, as Miss Marie Lloyd would say, "a thing of the past, old dear."

Subscribed to date, 1624½ shillings.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Edinburgh theatrical and vaudeville sports, per Walter P. Wells	40	0	0
Contents of collecting-box at the Hippodrome (late Tivoli), Leeds, one of Mr. Barrasford's halls, per Charles Weldon	5	7	9
Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Mannering	1	5	0
Leoni Clarke	1	1	0
Collecting-box, Palace of Varieties, Ltd., Manchester, per Nelson Barry	1	0	0
Bros. Webb	0	10	0
Geretti	0	5	0
Belford and Mars	0	5	0
A. Lazarus	0	2	0

Collected by Mr. Horace Wheatley, £3 11s.

Horace Wheatley	40	Anthony	1
Terrance Wheatley, jun.	1	Claire Romaine	1
Catherleen Wheatley	1	Sydney James	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Gilbert Fernie	1
Eileen Wheatley	1	Harry Edson	1
Horace Wheatley, jun.	1	Leslie Romani	1
Grandma	1	Lizzie Kirk	1
Auntie	1	Emmie Romani	1
MacWheatley the Dog	1	Frank Turner	1
Edgar Marriott	1	Mrs. F. Turner	1
Frank Leon	1	J. G. Henderson	1
Ted Waite	1	C. Pastor	1
Edgar Romaine	1	Sister Marion	1
Robert Robertson	1	M. Egerton	1
Florence Lambeth	1	Fred O'Malley	1
		George Harvard	1
		Gus W. Blake	1

Collected by Mr. Harry Conlin, Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, £4 7s.

Bros. Egbert	10	Us again, again	1
Us again, again, again, again	7	Us again, again, again	1
Albert Egbert	5	Gladys Cooper	1
Harry Conlin	5	Doris Cooper	1
Rosie Coleman	5	Vera Elvey	1
Mark Sheridan	5	M. Claire	1
Gwladys Elvey	5	Mr. Whitehead	1
Edna Loftus	5	Ian Lloyd-Mackenzie	1
Daisy Dormer	5	Herbert Darnley	1
S. Egbert and Mac.	5	Harry Nelson	1
Mark's Room	4	Erchie Mitchell	1
Mac's Bar, 3 Rose-street, Edinburgh	3	Harry Bendon	1
Harry Lupino	2	A. R. Pole	1
Us again	2	Us	1
Betty Green	1½	Cade Burnett	1
		Deane Tribune	1
		Estella Tribune	1

Collected by Mr. Gus Elen, £2.

Gus Elen (V.A.F.)	10	Edith Villa	1
Mrs. G. E.	1	Cruet	1
The Chickens	1	Boots	1
The Pheasants	1	The Dustman	1
Buller (St. Bernard)	1	Mrs. Carter	1
Major (Pomeranian)	1	Found	1
The Cook (16st.)	1	The Postman	1
The Housemaid	1	Admission	1
The Motor	1	Lizzie C.	1
The Gardener (Bob)	1	Meriah	1
The Parrot	1	Our Tyke	1
The Canary	1	New Pyjama 'At	1
Inky (Black Cat)	1	Luggage Man's (tip)	1
Four-Pots-a	1	Book-Boy's (ditto)	1
Twelve Coppers	1	Cab to *Era* Office	1
Two Sixpences	1		

Collected by Mr. Tom Fancourt, 15s.

Tom Fancourt	1	Margaret Ruby	1
Alf Selby	1	Queenie Clements	1
Harry Ray	1	Lottie Cora	1
Lillie Caldon	1	Florrie Cora	1
Arnold Richardson	1	Mrs. Howarth	1
Jennie Rubie	1	Anon.	1
B. Elton	1	Ernest Laws	1
T. Elma	1		

Collected by Mr. Billy Williams, £2 19s. 9d.

Billy Williams	5	E. I. S.	1
Miss Du-Roche	5	A. Hanson	1
Miss M. Sealby	5	W. Marshall	1
Andre Avocat	5	J. B.	1
Miss M. Langdon	2½	B. B.	1
Oliver Round	2½	J. Kelly	1
Roze and Calvert	2½	W. E. D. V.	1
W. W. Walton	2½	W. Clarke	1
Churnell	2½	O. L. Rendell	1
F. E.	2	Wirson Kurat	1
J. K.	2	T. Dare	1
Miss Mab Paul	2	Geo. W. Thorpe	1
Adelaide	2	H. B.	1
King	1½	I. B.	1
W. E. R.	1	Maxwell	1
F. D. B.	1	Graham	1

Collected by Rich and Rich, 11s.

Rich and Rich	5	W. Fullbrook	1
Smarte Bros.	2	Charles Homer	1
H. O. Wills	1	Lola Patey	1

Collected by Mr. Geo. Rapley, £1 1s.

Sandy and Carl	2	Edwin Zarac	1
Nellie Moore	1	Fred Lloyd	1
Beatie Moore	1	Tom Shenton	1
Marion May	1	Syd Russell	1
Bertha St. Ruth	1	Chas. Denman	1
Cissie Conyers	1	Fred Bentley	1
The Sydney Girls	1	W. Parker	1
F. J. Little	1	Geo. Rapley	1
Chas. Zarac	1	Mrs. Geo. Rapley	1
Finest Zarac	1	Baby Rapley	1

Collected by Carl Hertz, £1.

F. Bernard	1	Wartemberg Bros.	1
Fred Poplar	1	J. Wilson	1
Sinclair and Whiteford	1	H. Osborn	1
Edgar Romaine	1	Carl Hertz	1
Edgar Romaine	1	Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1	Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1		

Collected by Bliss and Bliss, £1 12s.

George Bliss	1	Pushfoot	1
Leo Bliss	1	Nellie Bailey	1
Jack Cromo	1	Gerald	1
W. Stewart	1	Charlie Hardup	1
Ruby Aiston	1	Kitty Chic	1
Arthur Aiston	1	Zena Page	1
Billy Hoofum	1	Kathleen Tremayne	1
James Kiddie	1	May St. Pierre	1
Tom Kelso	1	Lena Arnold	1
E. Bernhardt	1	Aline Goldsmith	1
Harold Batt	1	Edie Graham	1
Mr. Skimps	1	Minnie Grey	1
Mr. Skopes	1	Eva Mountcastle	1
Ben De Freece	1	M. Maquade	1
Kitty Kildare	1	Nellie Bailey	1
Nellie Bailey	1	Marie Beresford	1

Collected by Tom Vine, £1 2s. 6d.

Tom Vine	2½	George Bernard	1
Sisters Grovini	2	Pichel Troupe	1
Jessie Harper	1½	Brothers Story	1
Fred Leighton	1	Famous Henderson	1
Arnold H. Colmer	1	Brothers Austin	1
Arthur Arscott	1	Lucy Coventry	1
George Arscott	1	F. R. Griffiths	1
George Neale	1	Joe Huda	1
H. F.	1	Mimic Maston	1
Carl Bernardo	1	Tony Rallis	1
Lee's Marionettes	1	J. C.	1

Collected by Fred Land, 16s.

Fred Land	1	Dick Cruikshanks	1
Mrs. Land	1	Carl Rosine	1
Charlie, Stage-Manager	1	H. Harwood	1
Harry Vardon	1	Grant and Grant	1
Dora Lyric	1	Counsel Louie	1
Yukio Tani	1	Mills, Oscar	1
Walter Bentley	1	Harry Dean	1
Wilfords	1	Effie Stuart	1

Collected by Regan and Ryan, Court Theatre, Liverpool, £1 14s.

Malcolm Scott	5	H. Brockbank	2
Fanny Fields	5	Patty Yole	2
Regan and Ryan	5	M. R. M.	1
Harry Tate	5	Doris Dean	1
Hetty King	5	Poppy Wilkinson	1
Fanny Dango	2		

Collected by W. Kloof, Kloof and Field's *Aladdin* Co., £1 1s 6d.

Verona Quartette	2	W. Kloof, jun.	1
Bros. Shetland	1½	Harold Kloof, jun.	1
Harry Gold	1	Harry J. Nelson	
Bert Goldin	1	Fleetwood	1
T. M. Lee Isor	1	T. R. Bennett, Fleetwood	1
Vulo	½	T. P. Hornby, Fleetwood	1
Sisters Simmons	1	G. Taylor, Grimsby	½
Fred Fields	1	W. H. Betney, Grimsby	½
Florence Lewis	1	Elephant (Potted Meat)	½
Master Freddy Fields	1	Dog (Karno)	½
Allan Grey, Musical Director	1	May Florence	½
W. Kloof	1		
Cissie Ransay	1		

Collected by Carl and Carr, 11s.

Carl and Carr	2	A. Lotto	1
W. Brown	2	E. Lotto	1
Emily Custance	2	B. Roberts	1
E. Davey	1	V. Kingdon	1

Collected by Miss Nellie Christie, Argyle Theatre, Birkenhead, £1 3s.

Nellie Christie	5	George de Lara	1
B. N.	2	The Bassos	1
Ella Lane	1	Julian Ross	1
Eida Burman	1	Jack Charman	1
Herbert La Martine	1	S. de Groot	1
Sylvia du Barry	1	Maude Courteney	1
Eva Lumley	1	Mabel Bardine	1
Bertha Woolcote	1	Pattie Verner	1
May Fallowfield	1	Josie Mooney	1

Collected by Mr. T. S. Lonsdale, £1 13s.

W. Pratt	2	Sydney James	1
Velvero	1	R. Gilbert	1
T. S. Lonsdale	1	E. Pherson	1
Mr. Cragg	1	Andreassen Bros.	1
Mill May	1	Toch and Tard	1
Johnny Dwyer	1	Mike Cray	1
Frederic Culpitt	1	The Marconis	1
E. H. Williams	1	Clarions	1
F. Lauteron	1	E. Amoda	1
The Panamas	1	Ben Hur	1
Delornes	1	Carter Livesay	1
B. Stavordale	1	Lillian Rosebery	1
Jock Whiteford	1	Espinosa	1
G. Chamberlain	1	Amber Austa	1
Herbert Shelley	1	Will E. Haines	1
Frank Shelley	1	Robbie Roy	1

Collected by Miss Sable Fern, £2 16s.

Malcolm Scott	10	Fred Wood	1
Sable Fern	5	George Peel	1
W. H. Galpin	2	Josh Dixon	1
J. E. Grist	2	Johnnie Whiteman	1
Frank Leo	1	Carrie Kenyon	1
Will Rags	1	Leah Ardell	1
W. Griffin	1	Delly Moore	1
E. Dubois	1	Bee Cycles	1
Mrs. Dainton	1	Butcher	1
Marie Dainton	1	Hal Forde	1
The Allisons	1	Bill Manning	1
Geo. H. Brooks	1	Joe	1
Kenneth Macleod	1	Claire Romaine	1
A. Jennings	1	Ernest Rees	1
Belles in Orient	1	Will Poluski, jun.	1
Jock Whiteford	1	Edgar Romaine	1
Samuel Lloyd	1	Herbert Coltesmore	1
Alma Gray	1	Laurence Rutledge	1
George Kirby	1	J. McCabe	1
Neil Kenyon	1	H. J. Edwardes	1
Will Lambert	1		

Collected by Albert and Edmunds, 18s.

Mr. E. Edmunds	5	Fred Barnard	1
Patrick Playfair	1	Harry Weston	1
Miss Bella	1	Miss Blanche Albert	1
Mrs. Albert	1	C. Maude	1
Miss Rose Hamilton	1	Winnie Edmund	1
Mr. K. Hamilton	1	James Dunlop	1
A. Martini	1	Mr. J. Albert	1

Collected by Sisters Chester, £1 7s.

Florrie Chester	1	H. Horner	1
Leslie Chester	1	Great Hughes	1
Mrs. Chester	1	Albert Phanto	1
Ethel Condor	1	James Osmond	1
Fred Regina	1	Charles Mildare	1
Cliff Ryland	1	J. Allison	1
F. Picitt	1	Tom E. Conover	1
J. Kellino	1	Lester Carey (Three Careys)	1
Albert Kellino	1	Lennie and Hast	1
Will Kellino	1	Butterflies	1
John Kellino	1	E. W. Manning	1
Stacey and Williams	1	Henry Hilton	1
Mendel	1	W. H. Wallis	1
W. Meyer Sarnthaler	1		

Collected by Miss Lillie Lassah, 10s.

Mr. W. Onda	1	E. Sharpe	1
Charles Constant	1	J. McCarthy	1
J. B. Howard	1	Nobbler	1
G. Lambert	1	Jerry	1
Fred Bowyer	1	Lillie Lassah	1

Collected by Dale and Vale, £1.

F. V. St. Clair	2½	Charlie Williams	1
De Biere	2½	Bert Williams	1
Lillian Victoria	2	Herbert Madden	1
Shoe Black Hero	1	Stylo	1
T. M. Paul	1	Laurie Stuart	1
Charles Lilburn	1	George and Lelia	1
Dick and Dorothy	1	Coro Corina	1
Kyoto	1	Dale and Vale	1

Collecting cards of subscriptions, as soon as filled, should be forwarded to the Hon. Treasurer. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, *The Era* Office, 5 Tavistock street, Strand, W.C.

THE ELLIOTTS AND SAVONAS.

AT THE HIPPODROME, HUDDERSFIELD.

Musical Huddersfield should visit the Hippodrome this week. The Seven Savonas are paying a return visit with their extraordinary creation *The Palace of Orpheus*. There is indeed music in the air whilst this combination is occupying the stage—and music of quite an unusual character. On their last visit we described the wonderful paraphernalia of instruments which the Savonas call into requisition, ranging from an organ to—well, they have no common names. Some remarkable effects are brought out in their rendering of the overture to *William Tell*—such that would probably startle the composer could he have heard them. At the same time, it is a feat the more exceptional by reason of the variety of instruments used and the cleverness shown by the players. The electrical effects also form a great feature of the Savonas' entertainment.—*Daily Chronicle*, March 12, 1907.

The Savonas are here! What need is there to say more? Judging by the numbers who got in and tried to get into the Hippodrome last night it would almost seem that comment here is needless, but for the sake of those who have not had the good fortune to see this clever troupe it may be as well to say that they are seven excellent musicians, whose versatility is such that they are masters of a variety of instruments, which enable them to produce many and varied effects in their performance. Perhaps the most enjoyable item was the overture to *William Tell*, in which they used thick brass instruments most effectively in the storm scene, and again their bells, xylophones, &c., after the storm was over. Their manipulation of the musical discs, a novelty to most of us, their smart manœuvring and smart comedy work, combined with striking scenic effects and becoming costumes, make this a turn for which it would be difficult to find an equal, much less a superior. When one remembers that they and the Elliotts are the same people, it seems difficult to believe that one member of the company would give our best local billiard players as much as they could manage in a 500 up. The Savonas naturally take first place, the enthusiasm they aroused was tremendous; but they do not monopolise the attention of the audience.—*Daily Examiner*, March 12, 1907.

PIERROT entertainers are invited by the Corporation of the Borough of Hartlepool to tender for the right to give performances on the Promenade during the ensuing season, or, in case of inclement weather, in the Market buildings. Tenders are to be sent not later than March 20 to Mr. H. W. Bell, the Town Clerk.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

NEW YORK, FEB. 27.—"THE STRAIGHT ROAD," a drama in four acts, by Clyde Fitch, after winning a fair share of success at the Astor Theatre, has gone "on the road." In this play Miss Blanche Walsh impersonates Moll O'Hara, a girl of the slums; and Mr. Charles Dalton appears as Bill Hubbell, a New York saloon-keeper. A lady missionary, Miss Thompson, tries to reform Moll, and finds it a hard task. The missionary is in love with Douglas Ames, who makes love to Moll on the sly. Moll knows that he is a bad specimen, and plans to show him up. This she does by inviting him to her room, so that Miss Thompson may surprise him in his love-making. But, instead of the missionary, Bill Hubbell, who is fond of Moll, bursts into the room, and relieves his feelings by beating Moll unmercifully, and smashing everything in sight. Left alone, Moll turns to the whisky bottle, and is about to indulge when a ray of light from a street lamp falls on a picture of the Madonna, and Moll drops the bottle and falls on her knees. After that her conversion is an easy matter, and she is made happy with Bill Hubbell.

MR. LOUIS MANN, the comedian with the peculiar dialect and twisted "explanations," has made a hit at the Casino in a musical comedy called *The White Hen*, the book and lyrics of which were written by Roderick C. Penfield and Paul West; while the music was composed by Gustave Kerker. Mr. Mann appears as Herr Blindner, proprietor of the White Hen tavern, in the Tyrol, who is about to wed Pepi Gloeckner, a Viennese singer, who has been introduced to him by a marriage-broker. Blindner, however, gets in the way of a motor-car, and is badly damaged. He sues for damages through Erich Weiss, a lawyer attached to the matrimonial bureau, who has already been engaged by the motorist, Paul Blancke, to fight any such action. Pepi falls in love with Blancke, and Blindner becomes enamoured of Lisa Sommer, a typist employed by Weiss. Lisa and Pepi exchange places with each other at the double marriage ceremony, both being closely veiled. Blindner's wife disappears, and being under the impression that he has kept his contract and married Pepi, he has no desire to see her. The lawyer, to extort money, makes him believe he has married two women, which adds to the innkeeper's misery, until Lisa informs him that she, and not Pepi, is his wife.

Mr. Mann is responsible for most of the laughter; while the singing honours are won by Miss Louise Gunning as Pepi and Miss Lotta Faust as Lisa. Mr. R. C. Herz, who appears as Erich Weiss, the lawyer, sings a topical song so pointedly and cleverly that he is repeatedly recalled. Mr. Robert Michaelis is warmly applauded for his excellent rendering of "Edelweiss" and several other numbers. Mr. Kerker has turned out another tuneful score, with the result that the music of the piece leaves a most agreeable impression.

"ALL-OF-A-SUDDEN PEGGY," with Miss Henrietta Crosman in the title-rôle, has been received with unqualified approval at the Bijou Theatre. The rôle of Peggy, the warm-hearted, impulsive Irish girl, fits Miss Crosman as if the part had been written for her, and the delicacy and charm of her interpretation won instant appreciation from the Press and the public. The Hon. Jimmy Keppel is played with admirable finish and effect by Mr. Frank Gillmore. Mr. Ernest Stallard, always conspicuously successful when he was a member of Mr. E. S. Willard's company, is extremely good in the farcical character of Anthony, the entomologist. Mr. J. R. Crauford gives an excellent impersonation of the self-important Major Archie Phipps; and Mr. Addison Pitt plays Jack Menzies in a praiseworthy manner. Other parts are cleverly handled by Misses Jane Marbury, Kate Meek, Ann Warrington, Ida Waterman, Mr. C. A. Chandos, and Mr. John Marble. The good taste displayed in the scenery and appointments deserves mention.

MR. WILLIAM GILLETTE has written a melodramatic sketch called *The Red Owl*, and it has been successfully presented at the vaudeville houses. Some valuable bonds have been stolen from their owner by the brother-in-law of the victim, who suspects his wife of complicity in the crime because she has given him some sleeping tablets in his tea in order that he may enjoy a much-needed rest. The wife vindicates herself by shooting the thief when he is threatened with arrest, and tries to escape. The nervous fears of the husband are aggravated by the wide-eyed gaze of a "red owl"—hence the title.

MR. WILLIE EDOUIN and Miss Florence Reed shared the principal honours of the first performance of the three-act farce comedy, *His Day Off*, at Worcester, Mass., on the 11th inst. It deals with the escapades of Watty, a chauffeur, and Capt. Phil Cathcart, on the night before the latter's marriage to Edna, Lady Harborough's daughter. They believe they have seriously assaulted and robbed a man, and are aided in escaping by the heroine.

THE Manhattan Theatre, formerly the Standard, will shortly be demolished to make way for local improvements in connection with a new subway. Mr. William A. Brady, who succeeded Mr. Harrison Grey Fiske as lessee, has disposed of the fagend of the lease to Messrs. Al. H. Woods and Samuel Gumpertz.

MR. E. H. SOTHERN and Miss Julia Marlowe, who are appearing in the Shakespearean plays of their répertoire, and winning golden opinions for their artistic interpretations at the Lyric Theatre, intended to produce Gabriele d'Annunzio's play *The Daughter of Jorio*, during their present engagement at that house. Their contract with the author, however, forbids the production of the play until he has witnessed the rehearsals, and as he is unable to visit America just now, Mr. Sothern and Miss Marlowe expect to give the first performance of the play during their forthcoming engagement at the Waldorf Theatre, London, when Signor d'Annunzio will be able to be present.

AT Mr. Percy G. Williams's Colonial Alhambra and Orpheum Theatres during the last fortnight the following artists from "the other side" have appeared for the first time before American audiences: Rex Fox, ventriloquist; the Six English Rocker Girls, singers and dancers; Nellie Wallace, London comedienne; the Three Laurels, acrobats; Alexander and Hughes, musical comedians; the Bounding Gordons, acrobats; the McNaughtons, talking comedians; and Alice Lloyd, singing comedienne.

AN APPEAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—It is rarely I trouble you with a letter of any kind, but I feel sure you will on this occasion favour me by inserting this appeal to all who know me. It is on behalf of an aged lady left totally unprovided for, the widow of the late Sam De Voy, one of the oldest and most respected men I ever met in the business. He struggled

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR

MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS, ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

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"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

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COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.,
April 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
April 1, 8, Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
May 6, 13, 20, 27, Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26, Sept. 2, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
April 11 (3 nights), 22, May 20, 27, June 3, 10, Aug. 5, 12, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
May 6, 20, Aug. 5, 12, 19, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
April 22, May 20, 27, June 3, Aug. 12, 19, 26, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
June 3, 10, Aug. 5, 12, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
May 20, 27, June 3, 17, 24, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
April 15 (three nights), 22 (six nights),
May 2 (three nights), May 13, Sept. 2, 9, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-Class Companies,
GRAND T., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
May 27, onwards.
METROPOLE T., GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE.
May 13, 27, onwards.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE.
Queen's, March 25, April 8, 15, July 29, onwards.
Address,
SIDNEY BACON, Metropole T., Gateshead-on-Tyne.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for County Theatre, Bedford, April 1, 29, May 13, 20, 27 (six nights); April 22 (three nights).
Grand Theatre, Luton, May 13, 27, June 3.
Theatre Royal, Canterbury,
March 25, April 1, 15, 22, 29 (three nights only), on.
Address E. GRAHAM FALCON,
County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-Class Attraction, for Easter.
E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-Class Company, April 1 (three nights), for T. R., Canterbury.
Add., E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-Class Company, April 22 (three nights),
E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-Class Attraction, for Easter.
E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
WANTED, Really Sound Attractions, for April 8, 15, and 29, and for April 22, Consett.
Apply, HUGH ROBERTSON, Jarrow.

NEW
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BELFAST.
Proprietors, ALEXANDRA THEATRE CO.

One of the Handsomest Theatres in Ireland.

WANTED, Big Productions, Sept. 2, 9, 23, on.
Big Panto.,
Xmas and New Year.
J. LEICESTER-JACKSON,
52, Upper Arthur-st. Wires, "Sunbeam, Belfast."

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-class Companies.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
May 6, July 15, Oct. 28, Nov. 4, 11, 25,
Dec. 2, 9.

PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE,
May 20, July 15, Oct. 21, 28, Nov. 11, 18.
Big Musical Comedy Wanted for Whit Week.
H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

METROPOLE THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
WANTED, Best Attractions Touring, for April 22, May 13, 20.
ANDREW MELVILLE.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for
March 25,
April 1, 15, 22, and 29.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR,
24A, Regent-street, S.W.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions,
May 13, Aug. 19 and 26.
Address,
HARRY YORKE, Theatre Royal, Blackburn.

AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, SUNDERLAND.
WANTED, for March 25, High-class Musical Comedy or London success.
Wire, CHAS. E. MACHIN.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions only, for weeks of April 15 and 22.
Wire or write,
W. W. KELLY,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

BRIDLINGTON SPA THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.
Thoroughly Up-to-date, Re-opens July 29.
Electricity throughout; new scenery; large stage dimensions.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Opening week (no dramas).
HENRY HAGUE, General-Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, ILKESTON
Manager and Licensee, Mr. L. F. A. ROGERS.
WANTED, Companies, May 20 (Whit), 27, onwards, June 3 to July 29;
Open to Let on Rental, or Stock Company.
Silence a courteous negative.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEST BROMWICH, Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Gen.-Man., Mr. Herbert Vere.
WANTED, First-Class Melodramas, Musical Comedies, &c., vacant April 8, 15, 22.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, April 8, 9, 10, 25, 26, 27, May 2 3, 4, and May 13, 14, 15.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

THEATRE ROYAL, BRISTOL.
Managing-Director, Mr. ERNEST CARPENTER.
WANTED, First-Class Dramatic Attractions, for April 15 and 29.

WANTED, Companies, for
OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON,
March 25, April 15, July 15, 22, 29.
ATHENÆUM THEATRE, LANCASTER.
Vacant April 8 (3 nights).
STANLEY ROGERS, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-Class Companies,
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER,
Vacant April 15 (3 nights only), onward (with exceptions)..

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH,
Vacant March 25, April 25, onward (with exceptions). (Last 3 nights of each week.)

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY,
Vacant April 1, 15, 29, onward (with exceptions).

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY,
Vacant April 8, 22, onward (with exceptions).

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE,
Vacant March 18, April 8, onward (with exceptions).

"THE LOST CHORD."
Vacant Aug. 5, 19, onward (with exceptions).

"SPAN OF LIFE."
Vacant March 25, April 8, onward (with exceptions).

"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S."
Vacant May 13, 20, onward (with exceptions).

"CINDERELLA."
Vacant Feb. 3, 1908, onward (with exceptions).

To Let, on Royalty, "THE PRAIRIE FLOWER" and "OUR BRITISH EMPIRE."

Excellent Plants Printing.

All communications to
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

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BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.
The Leading Theatre of the Town.
The only theatre in the town lighted by electricity.
The Season's Bookings include:—"His House in Order," "All-of-a-Sudden Peggy" (Miss Decima Moore), "The Christian," "The 'Varsity Belle," "Home, Sweet Home," "The Worst Woman in London," "The Spider and the Fly," Charles Harrington's "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "Sherlock Holmes," "The Shulamite," "The Woman Who Gambles," "The Lion and the Mouse." Local Amateurs in "The Idler" (for the Mayor's Hospital Fund), Messrs. Leveaux and Dauncey's Co., "The Walls of Jericho," Mr. Percy Hutchison's Co. (including Miss Mabel Love), in "The Freedom of Suzanne," Mr. Albert Chevalier in "Pantaloon," &c.
WANTED, good Attraction, April 8 (through transfer), May 6, Aug. 5, onwards, with exceptions. CALVERT ROUTLEDGE, H.M.T., Barrow.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

Vacant
March 25, March 25,
April 1, 8, 15,
and on,
with exceptions.

WANTED, Known,
First-class Attractions
can have
four weeks' run.
Wire, Wire, Wire.
R. C. BUCHANAN,
Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, JULIAN MALVERN.
WANTED, High-Class Attractions, April 29 (Musical Festival week), May 20, July 1, 8, and on. Bookings include "Mr. Popple," "Blue Moon," "Raffles," "Girl Behind the Counter," "Earl and the Girl," "Breed of the Treshams," &c.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 6, 13, 20. Booking Now for the Fall of the Year.
Apply,
JAMES KIERNAN, Owner and Manager.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, HULL.
WANTED, May 27, Good Strong Popular Play. Please write list and description printing, also tour booked.
WILLIAM MORTON.

GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, March 25, May 6, 20, 27, and a few Autumn Dates.
FRED GRANVILLE, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.
WANTED, Good Company, for April 22, I wishing to transfer a date.
J. B. HOWARD, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

WANTED, Companies, for Coliseum, Aberystwyth, March 25 (3 nights), April 3, 4, 5, onwards. For season dates, apply, PHILLIPS.

GRAND THEATRE, BRIGHTON.
Managing-Director, Mr. ERNEST CARPENTER.
WANTED, First-Class Dramatic Attractions, for April 15, 22.

DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, Companies, April 11, 12, 13, April 22, May 9, 10, 11; 27, 28, 29; June 3; 10, 17, 24; July 8.
MURRAY KING, Devonshire Park, Eastbourne.

EAST OXFORD THEATRE.
Now one of the best dates in the Provinces Can stage the largest production touring. Electric light throughout.
WANTED, First-Class Dramas, for April 15 and 22; Good Musical Shows, April 29 and onwards (full term); also Wanted, Big Musical Attractions, for June 24 and July 1 (Commemoration and Oxford Pageant weeks), two of the biggest weeks in the year. All communications to
FRANK STUART, Manager.

Easter vacant. Wire for Easter.
WANTED, First-Class Attraction, for Easter week, through obliging Mr. Will White, "New World" Co. Wire, SNELSON, Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood.

WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, April 29, May 13.
M. MONTGOMERY, Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Companies, 25th, onwards, none but good need apply.
MANAGER, New Theatre, Musselburgh.

WANTED, Sterling Attraction, March 25, Address, JAMES P. MOORE,
Opera House, Kidderminster.

PALACE THEATRE, RHYL.
WANTED, Big Attraction, for Easter Week, one of the biggest weeks of the season, Musical preferred, Aug., and on Vacant, Musical or Farcical Comedy only. WILL SMITH, Palace T., Rhyl, London. Representative, KELSON TRUEMAN, 233A, Regent-street.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-Class Dramas, or Big Star Combinations, April 15 and 29.
E. H. PAGE.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April 1 (?), 22 (Fair week), Musical Show preferred; May 13 and 27 (?), June 24 (Royal Show week), Aug. 5, on. Address, FRANK KING.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, through obliging, First-Class Attraction, April 15, April 15, April 15, April 15; also May 6, Aug. 5, and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

WANTED, Big Attractions, Easter, April 20, May 6, 27, Grand, Radcliffe; also May 13, 20, 27, Grand, Chorley; also Autumn, both towns.
Address, SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

GRAND THEATRE, CROYDON.
WANTED, First-class Entertainment, for Saturday night, March 30,
Easter Eve, Dramatic or Concert Party.
Must be well-known Artists.
Apply, LAWSON LAMBERT, as above.

VICTORIA THEATRE, BROUGHTON.
Manager and Licensee, J. FRED WATSON.
WANTED, Strong Attractions for April 15, 22, and 29,
all May and June.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

The Premier Theatre in the Furness District.

Holds £90 at ordinary prices.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, June 10, 24, on, with exceptions.
The following, amongst others, are future Bookings for the above Theatre: E. Hill Mitchelson's "The Traitor," Miss Maud Hildyard, J. Maundy-Gregory's "Lights Out," Allan Wilkie, "Man's Enemy," J. B. Mulholland's "The Electric Man," Lingford Carson's Co., "A Warning to Women," Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Tearle, "In Holy Russia," "Her Luck in London," "A Little Vagrant," "A Destroyer of Men," "The Breed of the Treshams," "Life of a Showman," Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's Cos., The D'Oyly Carte No. 1 Répertoire Co. (tenth visit), "Raffles," The F. R. Benson Co. (third visit), Baron H. Harriss's No. 1 Co., "The Prince of Pilsen," Mr. Percy Hutchison's Cos., including "Peter's Mother," &c., &c.

All applications for dates to

HUGH ROBERTSON,
T. R., Jarrow.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.

Proprietor, Mr. ALBERT SMITH.

A Magnificent Building, Splendidly Equipped.

Accommodation for over 3500 persons.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions,
Wanted, First-class Attractions,
Wanted, First-class Attractions,
Wanted, First-class Attractions,
Wanted, First-class Attractions,
Wanted, First-class Attractions,
Wanted, First-class Attractions,
for May 13, onwards, with exceptions.
for May 13, onwards, with exceptions.
for May 13, onwards, with exceptions.
for May 13, onwards, with exceptions.
for May 13, onwards, with exceptions.
for May 13, onwards, with exceptions.

Will guarantee anything really good.

All communications to

JOHN E. JOWSEY,

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.

Telegrams, "Magnet."

Nat. Tel., 413.
Nat. Tel., 426.
Nat. Tel., 500.

This Week,

THE MOODY-MANNERS PRINCIPAL OPERA COMPANY.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, for QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH.
May 13, 20, 27, June 10.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE,
May 6, 20.
This house to Let for non-Dramatic Attractions in June, July, and August, or Combinations can be received one, two, or three nights; only one Combination booked each week.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for April 18, 19, and 20 (three nights);
also April 22 and 29.
Required, Sound Attraction for Aug. 5, Bank Holiday, and onwards, with exceptions.
Address,
THOS. SWINTON.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, LLANDUDNO.
Under new management.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 8, 18 (3 nights), 22, May 6. The only Spring dates. J. RITSON, General-Manager.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE
WANTED, High-class Companies, March 18, and 25, and on, with exceptions. Can arrange Stock Season, commencing April 8.
W. E. POTTS.

STANLEY, DURHAM, NEW ROYAL, LTD.
WANTED, Good Attraction, April 29.
Apply, MARK H. LINDON.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

CHORLTON PAVILION,
CHORLTON-CUM-HARDY, MANCHESTER.
WANTED, Good Musical Comedies, Farcical Sketches, Burlesques, Light Dramas, &c., for vacant weeks in March, April, May, June, and on; Good Companies do well. Share or certainty.
Apply, PROPRIETOR.

WANTED, First-Class Attraction, for T. R., Chatham, April 8.
BARNARD, Chislett-road, West Hampstead.

WANTED, First-Class Company, for Corn Exchange, Bedford (holds 1,000), Easter Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday; business certain to good show. MANAGER, 3, Lebanon-gardens, Wandsworth, London.

TERMINUS HALL, LITTLEHAMPTON, SUSSEX.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April, onwards, good July, August, and September Season dates, two or three nights; would let to good Stock Company for July. Apply, G. E. REDMAN, Manager.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
WANTED, good Variety Combination, for three nights, commencing March 28.
Address, with lowest sharing terms,
C. M. JULIAN

WANTED, Known, Drill Hall, Winsford. Now Booking First-class Attractions for Oct. 1 to Dec. 7 next. Apply, W. H. WILLIAMS, Manager.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE GAYEST OF THE GAY."
"THE GAYEST OF THE GAY."
The most successful Play produced during the year 1906.
WANTED, Aug. 12 and 19, in First-Class Theatres only. Wire or write, W. W. KELLY, 8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Weeks of June 3 and 10, Scala Production.
Wire or write,
W. W. KELLY,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, June 3, Aug. 5, also Spring, 1908.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, T. R., Nelson.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, May 13, 20, 27.
Address, J. W. CORDINER,
Royal County Theatre, Bedford.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR,"
by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
WANTED, First-class Theatre, for Xmas Week.
The Play of the Year.
Greatest Success we have ever had.
Now negotiating with Alex., Sheffield; Alex., Hull; P. O. W., Grimsby; Rotunda, Liverpool.
See the piece; bookings follow.
F. G. KIMBERLEY, Queen's T., Farnworth, Lancs.

FRANK M. THORNE'S CO.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this money-maker, May 6, only vacant date this year.
Apply,
F. M. THORNE, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres, April 22, 29, May 13.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, May 13, 20.
Apply,
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 12.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 5, 12, 19, and Dec. 23.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 9, 23, Dec. 23.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Theatres, May 13 and Aug. 12.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 12, Sept. 16, 30.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, May 13, 20.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, April 8, 29.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, W. Lon. T., Edgware-rd., W.

WANTED, Theatres, for Musical Attractions, Easter week, April 8, Aug. Bank Holiday, Xmas, '07. Communicate CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, First-class Theatres who are Vacant April 29, May 6, 13, and 20,
to communicate immediately with
J. BANNISTER HOWARD, 3, Bedford-st., Strand, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Theatres only, for Wilson Barrett's Great Play, "THE SLEDGE-HAMMER," April 1, 15, and May 20. Only vacant dates till August.
GEORGE HENRY, Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield.

Miss EMMA LITCHFIELD'S COMPANY.
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
WANTED, Aug. 5, on, Good Theatres.
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
A Sound Financial Success.
STUART CLEVELAND, New Theatre, Stanley, Durham.

"RAFFLES."
Mr. REGINALD DANCE'S COMPANY
(by arrangement with Mr. Leonard Boyne and Mr. Thomas McKenzie).
(Under arrangement with Charles Frohman).
WANTED, Autumn Dates,
Aug. 5, onwards, with exceptions,
London's Greatest Success.
Business-Manager, E. CECIL PRICE,
For dates, apply to A. BINGHAM,
10 and 11, Jermyn-street, London, S.W.
Telegrams, "Stirpes, London."
Telephone, 6554 Gerrard.
All arrangement completed for this Spring.

"THE POWER AND THE GLORY,"
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, April 8, 15.
ERNEST CHESNEY, Globe Hotel, Bilston.

"THE SEVEN SISTERS."
WANTED, Good Theatres, for this Popular Scudamore Revival, April 8 (?) and 15.
Address, J. P. MOORE, Kidderminster.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, good Theatres, April 8, 15, 29, May 20. HENRY L. OSMOND,
Bilston; next, T. R., Macclesfield.

"THAT WOMAN FROM FRANCE."
MISS BLANCHE ST. ALBANS and Powerful Co.
WANTED, Whit (big Theatre), also June. J. LEICESTER JACKSON, 52, Up. Arthur-st., Belfast.

WANTED, for Herbert Barrs' Pantos., Plays (toured by Midland Syndicate), Whit Week, for Musical Versions "Life" and "East Lynne." Autumn Dates for "Wanted by the Police." "Aladdin" Pantomime (just concluded 11 weeks' tour) for Sale. Production next year settled. Jan. 20, 27, open. HERBERT BARRS, Westlands, Wolverhampton.

"HOME, SWEET HOME,"
by Frank Lindo.
WANTED, Good Theatres, April 29, May 6,
and Whit Week.
Address, FRANK LINDO, T. R., Darlington.

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
Continued Success. Third Year.
WANTED, April 15, through obliging. Wire for April 15, April 15, North; May 20 (Whit), Midlands.
Aug. 12, follow Alexandra, Birmingham.
FRANK AYRTON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

E. H. KNIGHT and GEORGE DENHAM'S CO.,
"THE GRIP OF IRON."
WANTED, May 13 and Whit week (Midlands or South), Aug. 5, on, with exceptions.
GEORGE DENHAM,
This, Royal, Croydon; next, County, Reading.

"SAPHO."
"SAPHO."
WANTED, Really First-Class Theatres, Easter Week,
June 3, 10, 17.
An enormous success everywhere.
Wire,
JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

"AS GOOD AS GOLD."
WANTED, good Theatres, April 29, May 6, 27, Whit week (?), June 17, and on, with exceptions. SAMUEL JAMES, Warwick House, 8, Warwick-court, Gray's Inn, W.C.

"A HEART'S DESIRE."
A Powerful Cast, Beautiful Scenery and Printing. Easter still open, various onwards.
WANTED, First-Class Theatres.
Messrs. ELLIMAN, 5, Vernon-street, Dublin.

SHINTON and GREENWOOD'S TOURS.
"THE PRICE OF HER SOUL,"
by William Hibbert.
WANTED, April 8, 15, 22.
"A LONDON SOCIETY TIGRESS," by Wm. Hibbert. Something New and Novel, with Star Cast. Wanted, August Bank Holiday, also few Autumn Dates. JOHN B. SHINTON, Queen's, Farnworth.

Mr. ALBERT CHEVALIER
and a Specially Selected Company,
in a Triple Bill, including
"PANTALOON," by J. M. Barrie.
WANTED, Dates, from April 1, onward.
Wire, INGLE, 7, Dorset-road, Ealing.

"TWO MERRY MAIDS."
Successful Musical Comedy; thirty First-class London Artists.
WANTED, May 6, onwards, with exceptions.
HARRY WARD, 3, Adelaide-st., W.C.

WANTED, Important Theatres, Aug. 5, onwards.
HARRY BATTERSBY, Theatre Royal, Bilston.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, Easter, Easter, Easter,
FRED BULMER, Grand Theatre, Walsall.

"FOR AULD LANG SYNE."
WANTED, First-class Theatres.
FRED BULMER, Grand Theatre, Walsall.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
WANTED, Easter, Easter, Easter.
FRED BULMER, Grand Theatre, Walsall.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, Easter Week.
FRED BULMER, Grand Theatre, Walsall.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Aug. 26, on, with exceptions.
FRED BULMER, Grand Theatre, Walsall.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES,"
April 8, 15, 22.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
MRS. MORTON POWELL
and Star Cast, including
Miss Elizabeth Watson,
Mr. Cyril Austin-Lee,
Mr. Arthur B. Murray,
Mr. Geo. H. Pitt.
Vacant,
April, 1, 8, 15, 22.
MRS. MORTON POWELL
will shortly produce a powerful play, by S. Buchanan Rogerson.
Address,
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
April 22, 29, May 6, 20.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE END OF THE WORLD."
By S. Buchanan Rogerson.
WANTED, Dates for
Grand Autumn Production.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

ALFRED B. CROSS' TOUR,
including Miss Minnie Watersford (Mrs. Cross),
"THE MANXMAN."
By Hall Caine.
WANTED, May 13, 27, Whit week (through obliging), and Aug. 5, and few later.
New Special Printing, Scenery, and Effects.
"DIVORCED,"
a New and Powerful Emotional Drama,
can now be played in conjunction or separately.
March 18, T. R., Hanley.

FRANK J. PITT and CHARLES HALLING'S CO.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, for this Successful Attraction,
April 22 (?), April 29,
May 13, June 17, 24,
July 29, Aug. 12,
Sept. 23, Sept. 30, on.
Refer James Alexander, Esq.
Carlton Theatre, Birmingham.
T. R., Rotherham, March 18.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEORGE KIRK'S "HER LUCK IN LONDON" CO.
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Sept. 30 (?), Oct. 7.
May 20, unexpectedly vacant through Manager Relinquishing Lease.
CHARLES A. LEICESTER,
Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth.

LINGFORD CARSON'S CO.,
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, April 15 (through obliging), April 22, May 6, 13.
CARSON, to-day, Royal, Sheffield; next, Mexboro'.

The Greatest of all Irish Productions.
MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S
"ROLLICKING RORY," Autumn, 1907.
Bookings complete for 1907.
WANTED, Theatres, now booking Spring, 1908.
CHALMERS MACKEY, Mar. 18, Prince's, Poplar, six nights.

"A BROKEN HEART."
"A BROKEN HEART."
WANTED, Big Theatres only, April 15, 29, and Aug. 5.
Produced at Grand Theatre, Blackpool, on Monday last, and scored a terrific success.
Refer T. Sergenson, Esq.
The talk of Blackpool.
Without doubt the Dramatic success of 1907.
HARRY FOXWELL, Grand Theatre, Blackpool.
Next, Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool (Race week).

Mr. ALEC FLOOD and
Mr. AUBREY FITZMAURICE'S CO.,
in the New Napoleon Play,
"THE ANGEL OF UNREST,"
a Story of 1812.
Received with enthusiasm at Theatre Royal, Brighton, and Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.
Everything carried.
The Most Artistic Pictorial Printing on the Walls.
WANTED, Easter, between Borough, Stratford, and Crown, Peckham, several dates onward.
Booking Summer and Autumn. Wire, F. MARTIN MORRIS, Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne. Letters to Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN."
WANTED, March 25 and April 1, on, Seven nights, March 30.
Most satisfactory opening Monday night at Belfast Tuesday, a drop of 31/- only.
Wednesday, £2 better than Monday
Thurs., splendid house assured by advance booking
The Belfast Press:
"Rivals Dante. . . Destined to hold its place on the stage for many a day. . . Reception last evenings augurs well for a successful week."—The Northern Whig.
"The presentation generally is most effective, indicating careful and able work on the part of all concerned. . . Will doubtless score during its stay in Belfast."—Morning News.
"Good reception by a very large house. . . The company is a most efficient one. . . The staging and lighting are particularly effective, and the result is that interest is maintained throughout." Belfast News-Letter.
Also "THE ANARCHIST TERROR."
Either or both plays. Wire
LOIE ESMOND, T. R., Belfast; next, T. R., BATLEY.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, Christmas, 1907, and on,
for Gorgeous Production of an up-to-date "Aladdin."
Everything done to ensure success.

Communications,
PERCY NORMAN,
T. R., Hyde.

Mr. RUSSELL ROSSE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Easter, for Various High-class Attractions. Wire, RUSSELL ROSSE, H. M. T., Aberdeen.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, May 6, 13, and Whit Week, for this Great Success.
DICKIE CLARE, Miners' Theatre, Ashington.

"THE END CROWNS ALL."
Comedy Drama by Augusta Tullock.
WANTED, May 23 (3 nights), to follow Deal; June 24, to follow Scarboro'; various, Autumn. Address, A. TULLOCK, 54, Gurney-street, London, S.E.

"LIFE OF A SHOWMAN."
WANTED, Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov. 4, only open time this year; magnificent production.
Address, SANTE, Theatre, Chorley.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, May 6, August Bank Holiday, Aug. 19, 26, onward, for the above Attraction.
Address, F. BROOKE WARREN,
110, Woodvale, Dulwich, London, S.E.

"ROBESPIERRE."
WANTED, for "Robespierre; or, the Throne of Terror," April 1 (between Royal, Sheffield, and H. M., Carlisle; April 15, various on.
MILLER, Royal, Sunderland.

Established 1888. Established 1888.
JOHN H. TOMKINSON'S
ROYAL GIPSY CO.,
ROYAL GIPSY CO.,
ROYAL GIPSY CO.,
Acknowledged to be the smartest and most up-to-date Show on Tour.
WANTED, good Theatres and Music Halls, for few remaining Autumn dates; also 1908.
Address,
JOHN H. TOMKINSON, Smallthorne, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, Easter Week and on, with exceptions, for "St. Armande," the world-famous Hypnotist; the man who hypnotised the Czar; and strong Combination.
C/o "The Era."

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE PET OF THE EMBASSY."
A New and Original Musical Play,
in Two Acts.
Full West End cast,
including
Witty Wattie Walton,
the well-known Comedian, as
John William Bung (a Middy).
Full Operatic Chorus of 40 Voices.
Splendid Costumes and Scenery.
Special New Printing.
Guaranteed one of the Greatest Musical Shows Produced.
Don't Fail to Book It.

WANTED, for this great Attraction,
April 29, April 29,
to follow
Avenue Theatre, Sunderland
and precede Grand Theatre, Newcastle.
Also May 13 and 20.
Now Booking
Autumn and 1908.

All communications re Dates, &c.,
HAMILTON BAINES,
Grand Theatre, Eccles.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, having large Stage and large Holding Capacity, for Christmas Production
of
JAMES KIDDIE'S
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JAMES KIDDIE'S
Colossal Gorgeous Pantomimes,
"LITTLE ALADDIN,"

"LITTLE CINDERELLA,"

"DICK WHITTINGTON."
Can arrange for two, three, or four weeks for the above sure success.
Can play two houses nightly if required.

Address
JAMES KIDDIE, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

Special Notice.
The Famous Native Choir from Jamaica have arrived in England, having been uninjured by the recent terrible earthquake.
Second Tour can now be arranged.
March 11 to 26, Liverpool; Good Friday, St. Anne's; Saturday, Manchester; Easter Sunday, two performances, the Palace, Blackpool.
WANTED, Wanted. Known,
First Vacant Date, April 8,
and onwards, with exceptions.
Répertoire: Solos, Novel Glees, and Choruses, Plantation Melodies, Original Coon Songs, Freedom Dances, Instrumental Solos, Descriptive Pieces, Jamaica Jottings, Sketches, &c.
Evening Dress, Native Costume, and Camp Meeting Costume for Sacred Concerts.
Equally at home in Theatres, Concert Halls, Pier Pavilions, Music Halls, or Drawing-rooms.
Splendid lithos. A sure draw anywhere.
For booklets and terms,
apply to
Messrs. H. E. JONES and A. DOUGLAS,
21, Water-street,
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ENORMOUS SUCCESS AT THE COLONIAL PRODUCTS EXHIBITION, ST. GEORGE'S HALL, LIVERPOOL.
Hall packed three times daily.

ARTISTS WANTED.

Musical Comedy.
WANTED, New "Catchy" Settings for a New Musical Comedy shortly to be produced in London; great opportunity for ambitious young Composers; also required, Leading Lady and Chorus; all must be under 25, with good trained voices and appearance. Previous experience unnecessary, as it is the desire of the management to achieve something novel.
Box 14, "Advertiser" Office,
Northumberland-avenue, W.C.

WANTED, to complete Company, short Stock Season, commence Monday, April 1, rehearse Friday previous, Heavy, Juvenile, Low Comedian, Old Man, Responsible Gentlemen, Chambermaid, capable of Old Women, Heavy Lady, &c. Absolute lowest terms first letter to W. E. POTTS, Opera House, Dunfermline.

WANTED, Entire Company, "Our Flat," opening Easter. Artists having played the Comedy Preferred. ROLLO BALMAIN, 10, King-street, Covent Garden.

WANTED, for "The Grip of Iron," strong emotional Actress, for Sophie Blanchard, eight weeks' tour, commencing Easter. Apply, stating lowest Summer terms, photo., GEORGE DENHAM, County Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, for Special week, Lady, for Title-rôle in "Duchess of Dantzic," preference given to one who has played part. Apply, DENTON'S, Maiden-lane, Strand.

WANTED, Lady, to play Barbara Hare, special week, March 25, North. Apply, PERCY WHITE, Post Office, Dundee.

WANTED, Juvenile Leading Man, also Light Comedian, for Special Week.
Rehearse town March 25.
Photos., refs., actual height, lowest terms.
ERNEST CHESNEY, Globe Hotel, Bilston.

WANTED, tall dashing Juvenile Gent; good modern wardrobe, Comedy Sketch; rehearse March 25. Refs., photos., lowest terms, long engagement. SID COTTERELL, 16, Crewsdon-road, Brixton, London.

WANTED, Smart Young Juvenile Gentleman, for one week, commencing March 25. Rehearse Dublin, March 20. Photos, terms, to HARRY TREVANION, Empire Theatre, Dublin.

GEORGE GRAY AND CO.
WANTED, Good Character Actor, capable of Aristocratic Dean, and Strong Character Parts. All particulars, photos., height, references (taken up), lowest terms.
G. GRAY, Empire, Sheffield.

WANTED, for F. Glessop-Harris Répertoire Co., Young Actor, for Small Parts. Lowest terms and full particulars to FRANK CELLIER, JUN., Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, First-Class Eccentric Comedian, for Mike Copplestone, in "Honour Thy Father." MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, Smart Amateurs, good figures, Walking and Small Parts, West End Theatre, also Provincial Tours. KIRKLEY, 29, Wellington-street, Strand.

WANTED, Known, Ladies, Gents., few Vacancies; introductions guaranteed. Stage Dancing, Elocution, and Deportment Taught. Photo. and stamp. DEMPSEY and WARWICK, Theatrical Agents, 9, St. James's Hall, Manchester.

WANTED, at Once, Gentleman for Duologue; height not under 5ft. 11in. Apply, between 1.30 and 3, Saturday, GRENFELL, Sheldon's Offices, 14, Glasshouse-street, Piccadilly.

WANTED, six smart Dancers, for West End Theatre. Apply to-day (Saturday), between 11 and 4 o'clock. RIPLEY WOODSTOCK'S Agency, 36, Gerrard-street, W.

WANTED, for the Continent, from May to Oct., fifteen Dancers, about 5ft. 6in. high, and must have good figures. Send full particulars and photos. to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233A, Regent-street, W.

WANTED Smart Trio of Dancers; good appearance, decent voices, for big production.

BERT DENT, Palace, Greenwich, S.E.

WANTED, Sopranos, Contraltos, Tenors, and Basses, Lady and Gentleman Musicians for all Instruments. Apply, between 11-3, any day, 11, Leicester-place, Leicester-sq. JOHN KURKAMP.

WANTED, for Dare's Minstrels, Douglas, Isle of Man, Open Whitsun, Powerful Tenor and Basso; also smart Comedians, with voices; long engagement to the right people. State experience, age, and absolute terms. CHARLES DARE, 296, Old Kent-road, London.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by couple, Disengaged April 3, Joint Engagement, Char. Com., Com., and Light Com., Chambermaids, &c.; good refs. Write, Box 4,518, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, at Once, Character, Comedy, Parts, with A.S.M.; capable, reliable. ALLEN, 6, Montpelier-place, Knightsbridge, London.

WANTED, by First Tenor, Joint (Variety Quartette) Partner, Season Party, combine Violin, Jap, Guitar. Letters, EVAN, 19, Union-road, Brecknock-road, N.

WANTED, join, Refined Concert Party, Mabel Burnet Steytler, South African Reciter, 'Cellist, Accompanist. Inquiries, c/o Bolus, 90, Cannon-street, London.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Principals in all Lines, for Pantomime, Chorus, not less than 5ft. 5in. in height. Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, all Lines, next season. Lowest terms, photos., age, last two references, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists for Easter, Principal Boy and Girl, Girl Babe.
J. W. JOHNSON, Variety and Pantomime Agent, 86, Waterloo-road.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Artist, to Open on receipt of wire, to Paint following Cloths (size 18 by 20): Camp, Landscape, and Alps scene, also fine Reversible Wings, for Friday next production. Can work Sunday. Paint frame and palette ready. Wire terms, BENET, Royalty Theatre, Llanelly.

WANTED, Scenic Artist, for few weeks; must be good. Wire lowest summer terms; join Monday. SMITH, 8, Verulam-place, Bournemouth.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams "Theatrical."

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WANTED, Contracts for Painting and Making Scenery; best material used. For terms apply, MANAGER, Grand Theatre and Hippodrome, Stalybridge.

WANTED, Contracts, for Brilliant, Effective Scenery, Attractive Settings, lowest prices. Carlyle Scenic Studio, W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, by Sidney Beltram, Contracts, travelling or stock, scenery repainted, or salary engagement. Address, Waterloo Hotel, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract, town or provinces, refs. Address, 40, Randolph-gardens, Maida Vale, London.

WANTED, Known, K. J. McLennan, Scenic Artist, Contracts for Special Scenery and Productions Postal address, 16, Cambridge-road, Norbiton, London, S.W.

WANTED, Known, A. W. Moore, Scenic Artist, thanks T. Morton Powell, Esq., for comfortable engagement. At Liberty, Engagement or Contract. Address, 6, Queen-st., Brighouse, Yorks.

OLDHAM SCENIC STUDIOS.
WANTED, Contracts for Scenery; first-class work guaranteed.
H. O. RICHARDSON,
Theatre Royal.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Energetic and Capable Man, to Manage a London Music Hall. State experience and salary required to Box 4,526, "The Era."

WANTED, for Big Variety Combination, Gent. for Acting-Management; nominal investment expected. Fullest particulars, VAUDEVILLE, 26, Agate-road, W.

WANTED, good reliable Agent, able to drive pony and trap, able to use the brush. Apply, Pinder's Circus. Address to Post Office, Bellshill, Scotland.

WANTED, a reliable Advertising Canvasser; one who understands procuring Advertisements for Curtains and Programmes. Apply by letter to A. E. ABRAHAMS, 26, Gt. Eastern-road, Stratford, E.

WANTED, for Spring Tour of "A Message from Mars," commencing April 22, good Carpenter and Baggage-man, both to play parts; those familiar with the piece preferred; also Walking Lady, with daughter to play Child's part; vacancy for Walking Gentleman. Apply, with lowest terms and references, J. F. GRAHAM, Prince of Wales' Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, Steady Sober Bill Poster, constant shop to suitable man.
Wages, 24s.
DE REES, LTD., Newport, Mon.

WANTED, good Window Billers.
Full particulars,
RALPH PRINGLE, Victoria Hall, Sunderland.

WANTED, Lady, for Box Office, experienced shorthand and typist, with own machine preferred. State full particulars, references, age, and salary expected, to
MANAGER, Empire, Hackney.

WANTED, Known, vacant, W. C. Burns, over twenty years' solid experience, management Circus, Menagerie, Theatre, Variety, &c., road. resident, or rail, practical experience two houses nightly, bars, accounts, and bookkeeping. N.B.—Life abstainer. Recent references, Signor Galeffi, Frank Macnaghten, Esq., E. H. Bostock, Esq., Zoo-Hippodrome, Glasgow. Unique knowledge Great Britain and Ireland. Success guaranteed where success is possible. 138, Duchess-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Harry Dean, at Liberty for Advance, Acting or Business Management; good offers invited. Late Livermore Bros. Court Minstrels, Royal Italian Circus, Jury's Pictures, &c. Wire, 6, Botolph-alley, Eastcheap, E.C.

WANTED, Post as Entertainment-Secretary to London Club by Manager of Concert Party. Particulars to MANAGER, 12, Richmond-road, Leytonstone.

WANTED, by Gentleman (aged 32), Engagement as Assistant Box Office Keeper; thoroughly acquainted with cashiering and secretarial duties; 16 years' experience (one situation); excellent references. Address, Box 4,507, "The Era."

WANTED, Re-engagement as Advertising Manager; eight years with Moss' Empires, Ltd. Address, H. P., 22, Clayton-road, Peckham.

WANTED, by Fully-qualified Electrician, permanency, used to Arcs, Limes, Gas Effects, &c.; own repairs; highest references; 14 years' experience; combine other duties. Apply Box 4,520, "The Era."

WANTED, by Bill-poster, young man, Situation; good refs. S. VERRELL, 97, Park End, Bromley, Kent

WANTED, Engagement as Barman, in Theatre or Music Hall, or as Money-taker, &c.; good refs. T. HEATH, Dibden, Hythe, Southampton.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

WANTED, to open Saturday, March 16, Musical Director (Pianist), one used to Picture business preferred; good salary paid. Address, WALTER W. HOOK, St. Louis Pictures, Town Hall, Oxford.

WANTED, for Crewe, one week, March 25, Violinist, Leader, Pianist, and Cornet; must be well up in variety, otherwise useless. T. Kirby write in. Wm. Perry, 120, Richmond-road, Crewe.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

DEVONSHIRE PARK CO. NEW ORCHESTRA, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, from June 1 (permanent), Second Leader, two First Violins, one Second Violin, First Viola, Second Clarionet, Oboe (Cor Anglais), Bassoon, Cornet, First and Second Horn, Euphonium (to combine Second Violin or Viola). Those of above whom can combine Harp preferred. Applicants must be thoroughly experienced in Symphony work. Apply, stamped envelopes, to MUS.-DIR., Devonshire Park, Eastbourne. Have to play trial in London during Holy Week.

WANTED, Young Gentleman, Society Violinist, to play Class Solo, for Musical Romance (Music Halls); long tour; find own costume, Dickens' period. Particulars, lowest terms, photo., MANAGER, 2, Rock-cottage, Staple Hill, Bristol.

WANTED, Cornet Player, ex-Army man preferred, must be one with experience as Soloist; a very good engagement in a first-class Line Regimental Band now at home.

Apply to F. S.,
C/o Hawkes and Son,
Denman-street, Piccadilly-circus, London, W.

WANTED, Cornet, for Tomkinson's Gipsy Co., touring; must be young, steady, and reliable. Age, terms, references, also recent photo., to LOUIS ELGAR, M.D., New Theatre, Consett.

WANTED, good Cornet, Trombone and Bombardon Players, pitching. Terms, shares. Apply, SECRETARY, 23, Garth-terrace, Burton-lane, York.

THEATRE ROYAL, HULL.
WANTED, First-Class Cornet. Write age, previous engagements, references, if married.
B. T. LITTLE.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, also good Double Bass, outside business at Stratford-on-Avon, commencing April 22, for one or three weeks if suitable. Salary. Write, MUSICUS, 8, Madeley-road, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

WANTED, competent Double Bass, also First Violin, open Easter Monday.
Send copies of testimonials and lowest salary expected, to Mr. JOHN HORGAN, Manager, O. H., Cork.

HIPPODROME, BLACKPOOL.
General-Manager, T. P. DUIGNAN.
WANTED, Good Trombone (to combine Euphonium when required), also Musicians all lines, to open March 28, nine days, Whitsuntide, also Summer Season. All must be first-class instrumentalists and fully conversed with Variety business and good-class music. State age, experience, and lowest terms to AMOS PARKER, Conductor.

WANTED, for Tenting Season, commence Easter, Bombardon, Trombone, Euphonium, E flat Horn. T. REYNOLDS, Leader, P.O. (till called for), Bargoed, S. Wales.

WANTED, Lady 'Cellist and Gentleman Pianist, immediately, hotel business. MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, 348, Kilburn-lane, Maida Hill, W.

WANTED, Lady 'Cellists, at Once.
Apply, 11, Leicester-place, Leicester-square.
JOHN KURKAMP.

WANTED, 'Cello, must be good Soloist and well up in Variety business; open March 25. Apply, HOWARTH, Conductor, Empire, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Flute, 'Cello, and Trombone, for Easter Week; ten performances.
Apply, Mr. PEILGEN, Pier, Eastbourne.

WANTED, good experienced Orchestral Pianist, to commence at once; must be steady; permanency if suitable. Wire age, &c., V. C. WHITE, Conductor, Hippodrome, Norwich.

WANTED, First-Class Variety Pianist, used to Al Fresco, long season, open Whitsun; young, refined, able to transpose, &c. State terms. HARRY REYNOLDS, Empress, Hartlepool.

WANTED, a good Side-drummer or Solo Cornet Player,
as an Attendant in a County Asylum.
Salary commencing £34, increasing to £48, all found.
Single man.
Apply with testimonials.
W. GRAINGER, County Asylum, Stafford.

WANTED, to Train with Band 3rd Lincoln Regiment, from May 27 to June 22, 1907, two First Clarionets, B Flat; two Second Clarionets, B Flat; two Third Clarionets, B Flat; one Flute and Piccolo, one Solo Cornet, one First Cornet, two Second Cornets, one Solo Trombone.
H. BOSER,
Capt. and Adjt. 3rd Lincoln Regiment.

WANTED, a Ladies' Band (six players), for sixteen weeks from Whit Week. double-handed if possible, and to include two or three vocalists. Send full particulars and photos. immediately to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233A, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, First-Class Musicians, String Players and Pianists, for White Star and Cunard Steamships; Musical duties only. Good accommodation. State age and experience, with references. Conditions on application to Mr. C. W. BLACK, 19, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Lady Instrumentalists, all instruments, for Orchestra, for Touring Trades Exhibitions, Vocalists preferred, permanent engagements. State salary, experience, with full particulars, to Box 4,514, "The Era."

WANTED, Military or Brass Band, for Two Concerts on Good Friday. Apply, F. J. ROBINSON, Theatre Royal, Darwen.

SOMERSET AND BATH ASYLUM, COTFORD, near TAUNTON.
Bandsmen-Attendants
WANTED, unmarried, and under 30 years of age. Wages commencing at £26 per annum, rising to £46, with board, lodging washing, and uniform, and extra remuneration for services in the band. Apply, MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

WANTED, for Summer Season, for Minstrel Troupe, must Black; Harpist, First Violin, Flute, Double Bass; all must read and transpose MS. at sight. State age, experience, and photo., which will be returned; strict sobriety. GILBERT ROGERS, Aberystwyth.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street,, W.C.
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, "A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster, "Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, Conductor (Violin), Music Hall preferred; highest references, which will bear investigation; reliable and fully experienced. Address, Box 4,521, "The Era."

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Leader, Second Violin, 'Cello, Bass, and Trombone, all thoroughly experienced and reliable; any business, together or separate. HOWARD, Lyceum T., Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Lorenzo Lewis, ever reliable Variety Pianist, Conductor, terminating Moss and Stoll's Panto. Tour, vacant 25th inst. or later. 50, Harbut-road, Clapham Junction, London.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, immediately, Engagement as Leader or First Violin, can combine Piano, compose and arrange; fully experienced; first-class references. Address, VIOLINIST, 10, Royal George-st., Stockport.

WANTED, Permanent Engagement, as Conductor or Leader; Brilliant Violinist; extensive library; good references; any Business. HECK, 66, Portland-st., Southport.

WANTED, Re-engagement, by reliable Leader (or First Violin); experienced in every Line; Stock of Music, &c. Address, J. C., 11, Gilpin-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, by A. Rogerson, Mus. Dir., Solo Pianist and Accompanist, Engagement, March 25 and Easter week. Address, Pavilion, Choriton-cum-Hardy, Manchester.

WANTED, by Leader or First Violin, Engagement; experienced, Theatre, Hotel, and Variety; excellent references; London preferred. Box 4,523, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement by Conductor (First-Class Violinist) or as Leader; experienced in Variety or Theatre; smart and reliable. H. STONE, c/o Empire, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Maitland Lacey, Musical-Director, invites immediate offers; long references; thoroughly experienced Theatre or Variety; Score and Arrange. Wire or write, Empire, Greenock.

WANTED, by Edward Parker, Musical Conductor (Piano), Engagement, London and Suburbs only; many years' experience. 2, Trinity-square, Borough.

WANTED, by Leader (or as First Violin), Summer Engagement or permanency; experienced any business. J. W. WILDE, Leader, Palace Theatre, Bath.

WANTED, by Lady Violinist, Position in Orchestra; good Soloist. State duties and remuneration to BRADBURN, Mount Pleasant, Hodge Bower, Ironbridge, Shropshire.

WANTED, by Violinist, Pupil of Professor Sevcik, First-Class Orchestral Engagement; Solos if required; open at once. KARNO, c/o White's Music Warerooms, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, Offers, for Summer Season, Two Violinists, good, young. BINNALL, 4 Eastgate-st., Rochdale.

WANTED, Engagement by Young Lady Violinist, Soloist, and Orchestral; tour or permanent; good appearance. Box 4,512, "The Era."

WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement, used to Variety and Ball-room business; refs.
Write, C. G., 15, Kelvin-terrace, Charlton, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Hugh Sangster, Violin, Disengaged; very large experience all Businesses, town or country. 6, Sprowston-road, Forest Gate, Essex.

WANTED, by Maude Cliffe and Eveline Vanstan, Violinist and Pianist, and Clever Refined Vocalists; Lib. 25th. 28 Market-st., Kidsgrove, Staffs.

WANTED, an Engagement, by competent Orchestral Cornet Player; open at once. J. A. WILSON, 8, Kirkwood-rd., Chalk Farm, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement, for Two Cornets, together. Apply, G. AVISS, late Band-Sergeant, King's Royal Rifles, 6, Warneford-terrace, Leamington.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Cornet, Trumpet combined Viola, at Liberty March 25. 27, Ilminster-gardens, Clapham Junction.

WANTED, Engagement, by good experienced Clarionet, Theatre or Music Hall; can join at once. HENRY DONALDSON, 32, Dolcliffe-road, Mexborough.

WANTED, Engagement by Clarionet, thoroughly experienced; good refs.
H. HART, 25, Sidney-road, Southport.

WANTED, Known, Fred Field (Clarionet), King's, Kirkcaldy, at Lib., any Business, through theatre closing. Address, after 23rd, 154, St. John-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Two First-class Musicians, Contra-Bassist (late of Moody-Manners Co.), and 'Cellist. DEFILIPPIS, 3, Soho-street, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Double Bass, sober and reliable; seaside preferred.
Address,
Basso, 50, Wardle-road, Sale, Cheshire.

WANTED, Engagement, by Bassoonist; good all-round, Concert, Theatre, Variety Business; good refs., &c. Write, BASSOON, 50, Merrion-street, Briggate, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Bassoonist, Disengaged; open for Summer Season, Opera or Tour; splendid ref.; ex-Guardsman. AMOS, 92, High-st., Thornton Heath.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty now for Season, Four-stringed Bass Player, any Business (Variety); 2 last seasons, Morecambe. LUCAS, Hanover-terrace, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, Bassoon, May to Sept. Last three seasons, Municipal Orchestra, Weymouth. Address, L. CHAPMAN, Moody-Manners "B" Opera Co., on Tour.

WANTED, Engagement by Bass (four strings), first-class refs., reliable; fifteen years' experience; any business. VINCENT, 26, Erskine-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, by Contra Bass, Engagement; any business; experienced. Address, 20, Huntsmoor-road, East Hill, Wandsworth.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by well-experienced First-Class Trombone, Tenor and Bass; young, smart appearance. HUNT, 73, Lothian-road, Brixton.

WANTED, immediate Engagement, by good experienced Trombone Player, steady and reliable; splendid refs. TROMBONE, 51, Army-street, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Competent Trombonist; any business; at Liberty after March 23; excellent references. BERT ROBINSON, 7, Octavia-street, Kirkcaldy, Fife.

WANTED, Engagement, Euphonium, combine String Bass, Easter and Summer, any Business; theatre closing; experienced. W. FARQUHAR, King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy, Fife.

WANTED, Engagement, by Reliable Experienced Bombardon and Double Bass Player. G. LAZZARI, 24, Hoxton-road, Torquay.

WANTED, Engagement, as Saxhorn; at Liberty for Tenting; can join Easter, Ireland preferred. WILLIE SWIFT, Empress-st., Belfast.

WANTED, Engagement by experienced French Horn and 'Cellist (double handed); excellent references; abstainer. Apply, P., King's Cottage, Lawrence-street, Chelsea.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, for Little Girl, on 'Cello; also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLE, 35, Granville-square, King's Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, experienced; North preferred, as engaged here at present. "'CELLO," 134, Engadine-street, Southfields, London.

WANTED, Engagement, Lady 'Cellist; experienced, for Orchestra; young and good appearance. Box 4,524, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by First-Class 'Cellist; highest references and experiences. PHILLIP SMITH, 78, Palatine-road, Stoke Newington, N.

WANTED, Engagement as 'Celloist, any Business. Address,
Box 4,534, "The Era."

WANTED, Summer Engagement as Viola; good reference.
J. CONDRON, 60, Surtees-st., Bishop Auckland.

WANTED, by Young Lady, Engagement, Viola or Violin; experienced.
E. STEVENS, 40, Hilldrop-road, Camden-road, N.

WANTED, Known, Arthur Cowen, Viola, Grand Theatre, Glasgow, is Open to accept Summer Engagement. Permanent address, 20, Monteith-row, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, by Oboist; gained high degree from Royal College of Music; also excellent references from theatres; can start immediately. 17B, Northbrook-rd., Bowes Park, N.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement for the Summer, by a good Oboeist; last two seasons Weymouth. C. E. DAVEY, Oboe, Kennington Theatre, London.

WANTED, Engagement as Oboe or Drums, tympani if required; Theatrical and Orchestral experience; high references; can open immediately. 14, Stanhope-street, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement by Harpist, with small Band or Violinist, &c. (not pitching). LESBY, 54, Battersea-rise, New Wandsworth, S.W.

WANTED, by experienced Flute and Piccolo Player, with excellent recent references from Manager and Conductor, Engagement in Theatre or Variety Establishment. E. EVERETT, 114, Milkwood-road, Herne Hill.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, young man, First-class, Engagement, Orchestra or Military; good home and foreign references; any district. Apply, KITE, 65, Hall-street, Stockport.

WANTED, Engagement, good Flautist, or deputising; Flat and Concert Pitch Instruments. O. H., 53, Sugden-road, Lavender-hill, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, as Pianist or Conductor, through disappointment; good arranger, excellent refs., good reader; exper. Var., Drama Bus., Orches. or self; steady, reliable; any dis. 25, Main-st., Cadoxton, Barry.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Experienced Orchestral Pianist; can combine Viola; good offers invited; London preferred.—Box 4,476, "The Era."

WANTED, by Pianist, Engagement; experienced; Hall or Theatre; good refs.; can double Clar. PAVEY, c/o. The Grand, Clapham.

WANTED, by Pianist, willing to go on tour, seaside, &c., good sight reader. Write terms, TESTAR, Clovelly, Seward-road, Hanwell.

ACCOMPANIST.
WANTED, by experienced Pianist-Accompanist, well up in all styles, including Grand Opera, Summer Engagement, with High-class Concert Party; excellent Sight-reader, Composer, and Arranger. Box 4,517, "The Era."

WANTED, by Pianiste-Vocaliste, Engagement, tour preferred; experienced, excellent sight-reader. Good offers only. Concert party or Orchestra. Box 4,490, "Era."

WANTED, Known, Miss Nellie Justice, Pianiste, at Liberty Summer Engagement; Good Sight-reader, Transposer, First-class Soloist. References. 233, Cambridge-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, as Pianist or Pianist-Conductor; well experienced; permanent or tour. MUSICIAN, 18, Claribel-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Pianist, Accompanist, Composer, Arranger, Read and Transpose at sight; smart, gentlemanly. GRAHAME, 102, Standishgate, Wigan.

WANTED, Engagement (theatre closing), Easter and Summer; Orchestral Pianist, combine Violin; experienced. EDWARD MANLEY, 311, Leeds-road, Nelson, Lancs.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Pianist; experienced and reliable; good references; can open at once. Address, PIANIST, 10, Bath-row, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Double Drummer; thoroughly experienced; Variety preferred; good refs. LILLE, 177, Ball's Pond-road, Islington, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Double Drummer, with Effects, any Business; double First or Second Cornet. MUSICIAN, 1, Victoria-villa, Abbey-rd., Torquay.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Lady, Double Drummer; is also an excellent Pianist; thoroughly conversant in all lines; highest credentials. Box 4,530, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Mme. H. E. Angless's Ladies' Orchestra, open to accept engagements. From three to thirty performers. 78, Norwood-road, Herne Hill, S.E.

WANTED, Known, The Shikissimma Band, Ladies' Japanese Orchestra, at Liberty for Piers, Exhibitions, &c.; effective costume. Glenthorpe, Chesterfield-road, Newbury.

WANTED, Known, the Grosvenor Ladies' Orchestra, Collins's, Islington; Bands and Trios; open for Summer. MDME. WILTON DAVIS, 42, Linton-street, Islington.

WANTED, by Rabottini's Popular Orchestra, Attractive Uniforms, for Seaside, Exhibitions, Concerts, &c. Apply, F. P. RABOTTINI, 157, Blythe-road, West Kensington, London.

WANTED, Engagement, Ladies' Orchestra; experienced for Hotel, Seaside, &c.; fancy costume. Apply, Box 4,486, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Scarlet Imperial Band, Disengaged Easter and Summer; picked Instrumentalists; can be heard West-End. CONDUCTOR, 10, Emlyn-road, Wendell Park, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Orchestra, all steady and reliable, used to any business; open Whit Monday; good répertoire. Apply Box 4,513, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Godfrey Holbech's Band, patronised by Royalty. Highest testimonials. Open for Summer Engagement.
Any number as required. Smart uniform.
Apply to GODFREY HOLBECH,
14, Hugh-street, Eccleston-square, London, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements for Orchestra, any number, smart uniform, up-to-date répertoire; highest references. LOUIS METZ, 62, Wellington-road, Charlton, S.E.

WANTED, Engagements by well-known Orchestra, ten performers, disengaged for season, seaside, or any business. Terms, CONDUCTOR, 19, Radipole-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands, apply Bureau, 8, Bedford-terrace, Kensington. Quartet Disengaged, scarlet and gold or evening dress.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

KING OHMY'S GRAND NEW CIRCUS, HYDE.
WANTED, Big Star Turns, in all Lines, for present and future dates; Riders, Gymnasts, Acrobats, and useful Circus Turns; a good Top of Bill Turn write for April 8.
Address,
KING OHMY, Ohmy's Grand Circus, Hyde.

BURTON'S FETES AND GALAS.
WANTED, May 20, June 8, and numerous other Dates, Novel, Sensational, Spectacular, Aerial and Ground Acts, Gymnastic Displays, Double Acts. Submit lithos., memos., terms, bookings. GEORGE BURTON, Fargate, Sheffield.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for one week only,
commencing Monday, June 17, 1907,
Japanese Troupe Equilibrists, Pot-Pourri Acts, Jugglers, Musical Grotesques, Acrobats, Risley Performers, Dogs, &c.
Send full particulars, lithos., and lowest terms, to FREEAR and SON, 39, Dame-street, Dublin.

WANTED, Speciality Acts, for Gala, Easter Monday. Lithos., terms, and particulars, to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, a few good Acts for Tenting; also Young Lady Equestrian, with or without own Horse; also Cornet, Trombone, Euphonium Players; also good reliable Tent-master. Address, Post Office, Bellshill, N.B.

ALEXANDRA'S HIP., TENTING SEASON, 1907.
WANTED, for the above, to commence March 25, 1907, Lady Gymnasts (single or double trapeze), good three-bar and acrobat show; also jockey act rider write. Address, D. TAYLOR, Circus Skating Rink, Worcester. Hall and Wilson, roller cyclists, write.

WANTED, Comic Knockabout, Ring and Trapeze Performer; for smart, willing worker good engagements. State all particulars. Box 4,528, "The Era."

WANTED, a Youth, age 16 to 20; must be close Back-bender, for Comedy Sketch.
RYAN and HALL, Hippodrome, Wigan.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Bimbo, the original Circus Clown, with good Trick and Comic Entrées, and very high Stilt Performer, suitable for large buildings and Galas. Selly Park, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Jack Alfrano, Liberty for Tenting, Clown and Agouste, Rings, Entrée, Hats. Address, 4, Chesnut-place, Highgate-road, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lolo, Charming Lady Gymnast, assisted by Little Eva; also Little May, Speciality Dancer and Contortionist, Wanted, through disappointment, March 18 and 25; at Liberty for Tenting; two solid Acts. Ohmy's Circus, Hyde.

WANTED, Known, The Maros, Comedy Bar Act, Big Success, Macnaghten's London Halls, Liberty May 6, 13, 27. Address as above.

WANTED, The Lindon Bros., Comedy Acrobatic Act; also in their Novel Chair Act Head and Hand Balancing. Two Acts. Tumbling Clowns. Liberty, home or abroad. C/o "The Era."

WANTED, April 1 and 8, Les Henris, equilibrists and gymnastic act; big Top or Bottom; elaborate stage set, magnificent costume. Be sure you get the original Henris, M. and Mdme. Write, Hip., Maidstone, 18; G., Birmingham, 25th.

WANTED, by Houpla and Hecla, Premier Equilibrists and Acrobats, March 18, 25, and Tenting Season. Wire, Theatre Royal, Warrington.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, in a Novel and Funny Cycling Act, vacant March 25, April 1, S. Wales. Poole's Myriorama, O. H., Treherbert, S. Wales.

WANTED, by Gymnast, Engagement, in Triple Bar Act or Comedy Sketch. Millar, 174, Snowdon-street, Glasgow, S.S.

WANTED, Engagement, as Tent-master, at Once; thoroughly experienced. John Ward, 1, Jubilee-place, Regent-road, Great Yarmouth.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

PALACE OF VARIETIES, OLDBURY.
Proprietors, Messrs. Tyrer and Bostock.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, April 1, on, Specialities, Doubles doing Single Acts. Hall small. Lowest terms, lithos., W. B. Bostock, T., Kidderminster.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, March 25, Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest. Hall small. P. Reymond, as above.

Scarborough.

WANTED, Monday, March 25, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines. Nothing too Big. Full particulars to Morgan, Aquarium.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, March 25 and onwards. A. E. Pickard, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Mr. O. Maus Dayton's Vaudeville Company No. 2, commencing April 1. Five or six weeks' solid engagement. Comfortable engagement; sure money. No commission stopped. Terms must be low. Plenty of work for the right people. Address, 8, Charlotte-street West, Macclesfield.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates. William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Concerts and Music Halls. Interviews by appointment only. Scottish Musical Agency, 107, George-street, Glasgow.

THE NEW PALACE, READING.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Autumn onwards. All communications, G. Howard Watson, Stanhope and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C. Telephone, 6070 Gerrard.

WANTED, Al Fresco Artists, all Lines. Lowest terms and full particulars for Carl and Carr's Merry Pierrot Entertainers, Band Stand, Victoria Park, Plymouth. Next week, Palace, Porth.

WANTED, Artists, single and double turns, two weeks, April 29, May 13, 27. Chas. A. James, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now on. Apply, Mr. J. J. Scott, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists Known to me to send lowest Combination Terms for April 15. Stars in all lines write. Lilian Warren, 77, St. Mary's-street, Cardiff.

WANTED, Known, Artists wishing to be Booked for First-class Music Hall Engagements to communicate with Brooks's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for immediate and future dates. Nothing too big. Deetrich's Vaudeville Bureau, 31, Islington, L'pool.

VENTOM SWIFT'S AGENCY.
WANTED, First class Artists, Immediate Dates and onwards. Those coming North with odd weeks communicate. I can book you. Ventom Swift, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Artists, March 25, onwards, Good Doubles apply. Hall small. Warde and Wylie and Minky Elliott write. Hippodrome, Blackheath, Staffs.

WANTED, Artists all Lines. Will Los Dorians, Le Wist, Codge, Drum and Major, and J. P. Carroll send addresses? Dan Noble, Palace, Oldbury.

"KENNEDY'S KOMIKS"
(Title Copyrighted and Registered).
WANTED, Al Fresco Artists, Choir Singers, and Crisp Specialities, for this Summer Novelty Attraction. Absolutely lowest terms. J. P. Mobbe, Opera House, Kidderminster.

WANTED, First-Class Artists, for Circus, Rochdale, April 1. Combination terms. Hicks's Clerks, Gordon House, Wolfa-street, Derby.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, coming North, to send dates and terms, Anderson's Agency, 6, Great Clyde-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, March 18, on. Nothing too Big. Write, Fred Durham's Agency, 1a, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone, 15 Brixton.

WANTED, for Grand T. and Empire, Doncaster, Artists all Lines, for Good Friday night. Artists in Vicinity of Doncaster March 25 week. Wire, Leo Fritz, Hippo., Lancaster.

WANTED, First-Class Sketch Artists, must be young, dress well on and off stage; sobriety strictly essential; must be quick studies; long engagement to suitable people. State particulars, &c. Also First-Class Attractions of every description, share or certainty (latter preferred). Gaiety Theatre, Dundee (twice nightly). R. A. P. Williams, Sole Lessee and Manager.

WANTED, First-Class Artists only, for First-Class Variety Theatres, immediate and future dates; also Pantomime. Verno's Agency, 16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone, 2076 Royal.

WANTED, Known, the Committee of the Cirencester Hospital Demonstration are prepared to receive Tenders for Artists, for their Fête on July 4, 1907. Tenders, with Picture Posters, to be sent on or before Saturday, March 23, 1907, to A. Burton, 7, Ashcroft-road, Cirencester, Hon. Sec.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
WANTED, Known, Rehearsal Monday next, 2 o'clock, for Le Diabelo, Ferris and Farnley, George Bernard, Sisters De Lacey, Frank Houston, Barker and Ellis, H. O. Borie, Three Transfields. Letters, Smith and Co., Red Lion Hotel, Rochdale.

WANTED, Artists to Note this Fact.—On and after March 25, Will Oliver can only be seen by appointment at Spot Lodge, 233, Brixton-road, S.W. I have received hundreds of letters, but cannot reply to all. Again I beg to state I am full for ordinary turns, and I have all the sketches I require. Spot will be on the road April 6, and will then see all the turns time will permit.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Stars and Novelties, in all Lines, for immediate and future dates; Big Acts. Send full list of bookings and absolute lowest terms. Alfred Saker and Co., Variety Agents, 17, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone, 194 Brixton. 'Phone, 194 Brixton. 'Phone, 194 Brixton. 'Phone, 194 Brixton.

WANTED, March 25, April 1 and 8, Stars in all Lines. Stars in all Lines. Full up for smaller items. State towns at Liberty for. Can fix big numbers any odd weeks. Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to Brooks's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Variety Stars, Speciality, and Illustrated Song Artists, week March 25. Terms must be low. James Elphinstone, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Star Variety Turns, immediate and future dates. Big Gala Acts May 20, onwards. Required, Big Specialities for Xmas, 1907. All must state lowest in first letter. Edgar Stebbings, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. 'Phone 09261. Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, Good Variety Turns, for Combinations, Monday next and on. W. J. Mackay, 26, Agate-road, W.

WANTED, Monday next, for Scarboro' and Edinburgh, Five Good Singing Turns and Two Specialities; must be new to above towns. Wire lowest, Geo. Zalva, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, One Good Sentimental Turn, for week March 25; able to work Sacred Show, Good Friday. Beanland and Emerson, Queen's Theatre, Castleford.

WANTED, Entirely new Acts to London, new productions of every kind, for Special "début" matinée, at Foresters' Music Hall, London, April 4. New Productions and Turns new to the Halls given every facility, and Engagements guaranteed to successful items. In addition, their Booking will be undertaken by this office; also Five Pounds in Prizes. All applications, with full details, with stamped envelope, Henri Cazman's Agency, 138, Denmark-hill, London, S.E.

WANTED, Good Speciality Acts for Summer Seaside Halls. Terms and particulars to Brooks's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Speciality Acts, March 25, April 1, onward. Martino's Agency, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, Burton's Gala and Variety Agency Require May 20, June 8, and numerous other Dates. Novel, Sensational, Spectacular, Aerial and Ground Acts, Variety Artists all Lines, Easter Week. Lithos., memos., vacancies, terms, to George Burton, Fargate, Sheffield.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Talent, all Lines, anything meritorious.
James Fioni's Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Talent for Refined Seaside Troupe, no fancy price, and must be Artists. Box 4,506, "The Era."

WANTED, good Speciality, Musical or otherwise, for two weeks, commencing April 15, South Coast. State lowest terms. Harry Reynolds, Empress, Hartlepool.

WANTED, Double Speciality doing Single, four nights, April 8, Bulford. Address, Fred Boulton, Opera House, Torquay.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, good Bottom, for April 1; Wanted, good Bottom, for April 1; new to Stanley preferred; also Wanted, Artists, now and future dates. Always openings for anything new. Full particulars, &c., to John Cassidy.

WANTED, Top Liners, Star Comedians, and any Big Act, to send full bookings and terms to Frank Lynne, Hippodrome, Wigan.

HIPPODROME, BLYTH, NORTHUMBERLAND.
WANTED, March 25, April 1 and 8, First-class Combinations. Tudor, Blyth.

GRAND THEATRE and EMPIRE, DONCASTER.
WANTED, the greatest possible Attractions, for March 25 and onwards. Send full booking and particulars to Leo Fritz's Variety Agency, 40, Glenshaw-mansions, Brixton-road, London, S.W. 'Phone 457 Brixton.

NEW BRIGHTON TOWER.
FREE FUN PARK.
35 acres of beautiful grounds open free to the Public.
The Biggest thing of its kind in this Country.
WANTED, from Whitsuntide onwards, a First-Class Pierrot Troupe, to use the outdoor Dancing Platform, with covered Stage and Dressing Rooms; indoor Café Chantant (with fit-up), for use during inclement weather.
Apply, William Holland, Manager.

WANTED, Complete Pierrot Company for Summer Months. Arthur Carlton, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, for Dare's Minstrels, Colwyn Bay, North Wales, open Whitsun, Refined Comedians and Robust Tenor; also smart Pianist and Violinist; both to Sing or with Speciality. State experience, age, and absolute terms, Charles Dare, 296, Old Kent-road, London.

Al-Fresco Artists Wanted.
WANTED, First-class Scotch Comedian, also Comedian or Baritone, able to accompany at Piano occasionally (in pianist's absence); both for Ayr or Dunoon. Write, Alf. J. Laurance, 7, Western Broadway, Hammersmith, W.

WANTED, April 1 and 8, Star Comedians, Comediennes, Gala Acts, Pantomime Artists, Al-Fresco Comedians, &c. Geo. Aytoun, 120, Kennington Park-rd., London, S.E. Wires, "Antics, London." 'Phone, 1949 Hop.

WANTED, good Quaint Comedian, one week, London Music Hall, March 25. If suitable, tour to follow. Manager, 6, Camden-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, for Concert Company, six months' Tour South Africa, sail March 23, smart Comedian, used to concerted work, Dancer or with speciality preferred. Wire (or call before 6 p.m.), to-day (Saturday), Sydney James, 98, Kyverdale-rd., Stoke Newington, N.

WANTED, a good Refined Comedian, for week of March 25. Lowest terms to Grand Theatre, Mansfield.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Star Comedians, Comedy Acts, &c., April 1, and on, for the North. 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, Good Vocalist, for Illustrated Songs; also Lecture on Animated Pictures. Open 28th. Apply, Henry Phillips, Hippodrome, Grimsby.

WANTED, Minstrel Vocalists, May 6 and on. Apply by letter, Tom Birchmore, Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, for three nights, Easter, at Derby, Bioscope Operator, with own machine; up to date Pictures, to give two hours' show each evening. Address, with lowest terms, to A. Hooley, No. 1, Midland-street, Long Eaton.

WANTED, Operator, must be sober and thoroughly experienced. Snape's Cinématograph Pavilion, Musselburgh.

WANTED, Operators, must be thoroughly experienced. Full particulars, Ralph Pringle, Victoria Hall, Sunderland.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, THE MYSTERIOUS LILITH, THE MYSTERIOUS LILITH, THE MYSTERIOUS LILITH, in her Palace of Roses. The prettiest and most sensational Mystery Act ever presented. Elaborate Stage appointments. Enormous success at Palace, Blackburn, last week. Lilith the talk of the town.

Starring this week, HIPPODROME, BURTON-ON-TRENT. Always a Draw. Always a Sensation. Proprietors and Managers requiring a Big Attraction should secure this Star Act.

Also LILIAN WARREN'S VOCAL PICTURES, Liberty March 18 and 25.

All coms. to Lilian Warren, Sole Proprietress, 77, St. Mary's-street, Cardiff.

WANTED, April 1, onwards, Phedora, in her Electrical Musical Act; also as Kathleen Kildare, the Irish Singing Flower Girl and Instrumentalist; flowers made and distributed at each performance; 260 flowers given every week. Coms., Town Hall, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Known, Managers, Agents, &c. There is only one Original Venus, Lord Leighton's Model. Palace, Walthamstow, next. Don't accept copies, "La Venus," nor "Moderne" distorted titles. The Genuine Venus produces her studies in flesh-coloured enamel. Manager, L. Austin Millais. Day's Agency.

WANTED, Mar. 18, on by Babs Lloyd and Nellie Vance. Hippo., Scarboro, wire quick. After Sunday, 3, Dispensary-place, Wakefield.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Walmsley, in their Scena, "From School to Stage," introducing Graceful Acrobatic Skipping-rope Dancing and Refined Singing. Disengaged April 8 and 22. This, Palace, Attercliffe; next, Palace, Grimsby.

WANTED, by Sisters Beatrice, Duettists and Expert Dancers, March 18. Wire, People's P., Portsmouth, per add. 35, Florence-st., Islington.

WANTED, March 25, on, by George Ritter, Musical Speciality, Trombone, Violin, Xylophones, and Patterer (am also good Pianist), also vacant, Summer (last season Ramsgate). Wire or write, this, Treharris; next, Victoria Hall, Rhymney, Monmouth.

WANTED, Known, Alfred Thomas, the Popular Concert Comedian, Open for Easter and Summer, High-class Al-fresco or Tour. Management if required. 68, Truro-road, Wood Green, N.

WANTED, immediate dates, Bu-Val, Happy Dutchman, with Concertinacalities. 54, Tewkesbury-rd., N. 'Phone, 1833 Tottenham.

WANTED, Monday, by Harry Walker, the Eccentric Singing and Talking Comedian, any distance. Wire, 12, Brook-street, Kennington, London.

WANTED, Monday next, by Harry Albery, Eccentric Comedian and Dancer. Wire, 75, Newmarket-street, Grimsby. Panto. settled.

WANTED, March 18, to precede E. Hull, also April 8, onwards, by Li Chang-Hi, Chinese Magician. Starring with usual Great Success, Gaiety, Blyth. Wire for Monday.

WANTED, Known, J. C. Oliver, the Original Magical Jester, thanks Arthur Carlton, Esq., for Panto. Engagement; also S. Thornley, Esq., and G. Knightall, Esq., for Offers. Lib. Monday, on. Sure success. Wire, Grand Circus, Hull.

WANTED, April 8, onwards, The Moncktons (Fred and Lillie), in Screamingly Funny Musical Comedy Episodes, "Are Wives Dummies," "A Woman's Curiosity." Complimented by Payne Seddon, Esq. Specially engaged by Bannister Howard. 18th, Hippodrome, King's Lynn. 21st, Hippodrome, Bury St. Edmunds.

WANTED, March 25, April 1, by The Gelders, clever magicians, &c.; Ivy Dene, Soubrette. This, Aq., Scarborough; next, Brit., Glasgow.

WANTED, The Vokes's (Ned and Tessie), Europe's Funniest Musical Artists, Liberty March 11, April 1. Wire, 16, Moreton-st., Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, Mon., March 18, Charley Dixon, the Eccentric Comedian, Dancer; Kate Lynd, Comedienne; two distinct turns. Wire, 20, Gordon-street, Kettering.

WANTED, Monday next, also March 25, Sardous, Illusionists, Marvellous Mystifiers, and Marie Riviers, Popular Songstress. Wire, Palace, Boston. Wire.

WANTED, April 1, 15, onward, Kyoto, Japanese Comedy Act; May Geraldine, Comedienne and Dancer. Prince's Theatre, Accrington.

WANTED, March 25, Fields and Lewis, the greatest laughing hit before the public.—Vide Press. Last night the audience at the Alhambra were enraptured with the performance of Fields and Lewis, the celebrated vaudeville stars of burlesque, which set the audience rocking with laughter. They are worthy of their place at the top of the bill. This, Hippodrome, St. Helens; March 18, Theatre Royal, Warrington; vacant, March 25, wire.

WANTED, by Edward Clark and Sadie Gold, American Expert Banjoist, Singers, Dancers, Liberty July and Aug., Seaside Halls and Piers. March 18, Gaiety, Dundee.

WANTED, Monday next, also Easter, The Percys (Harry, Lillie), Duettists, Dancers, Speciality Performers; distance no object. Wire, Theatre Royal, Macclesfield.

WANTED, Known, Letta and Minni, Vacant for Easter; good lithos. Address, 11, Addison Park-mansions, Kensington, London, W.

WANTED, The Bohemians, Instrumentalists and Comedy, March 25. This, Hip., Crouch End; next, Empire, Burnley (wire).

WANTED, March 18, 25, for Duncan and Brasques, original and refined Duologue, written by Everard and Leighton. Wire, Napoli, 44, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Lenton and Bertram can be engaged for their marvellous Thought-reading and Mental Telepathy Act. 15, Grange-terrace, Wood Green, N.

WANTED, Monday next, Poole and Poole, Comedy Act, clever Trick Table Dancers. Wire quick, 49, Albemarle-road, Taunton (a winning number).

WANTED, Known, Taylor and May, two famous Coloured Artists, just finished eight months' tour; open Broadhead's Tour, March 25; Liberty 18th. Wire, 3, Chapel-street, London-rd., Manchester.

WANTED, Monday, also April 22, May 6, by Chant and Chant, Refined Vocal Comedy Duo. Wire for Monday, Gaiety, Glasgow.

WANTED, March 18 and April 1, by the Carls, Comedy Trampoline Act, that can follow them all. Roars of laughter and applause. Success everywhere. Just finished Continental Tour. Halls, Circuses, or Galas. 85, Rectory-road, London, N.

WANTED, Monday, onwards, for Howard's Mental Telepathy and Musical Acts. This week, Starring, Lyceum, Stafford, wire. Thanks Mr. Ginnett for offer.

WANTED, Known, Thomson's Top-weights, the Greatest Little Boxers, Wrestlers, Club-swingers, in the World. Several immediate dates vacant. Wire, Hippo., Lowestoft.

WANTED, Monday next and later, Five Abadaroffs, Comedy Act. Big Success, Edinburgh. Open for Continent. Perm., 95, Stretford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Los Granadas are a Big Hit at the Grand, Manchester, this week. Thanks to Messrs. Wilder's for Contract and Messrs. Gannon and Bayley for offers.

WANTED, March 18 and 25, by Los Granadas, Trampolin Comedy Gymnasts, a Novelty. 64, Upper Sutton-street, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Dates, La Dors' Troupe, male and female, six in number, in their Acrobatic Tumbling Roman Double Ladder Wonders and Pyramid Grouping, &c.; also De Toreadors, in "The Bull-Fighters." Two distinct acts. Letters, c/o "The Era" Office.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, The Florias, vacant Easter, just concluded Macnaghten Circuit; Comedy Slackwire Artists and Equilibrists of extraordinary strength; great sensational tricks on pedestal. March 18, Palace, Plymouth; March 25, Hippo., Lowestoft; vacant, April 1.

WANTED, April 15, 22, and 29, by The Boultons and Mlle. Bartenelli, two first-class Acts, Speciality Comedy Acts, and Wonderful Lady Gymnast and Contortionist; also vacant, Whit, for Galas. Address, Opera House, Torquay.

WANTED, Karl Birvell, Novelty Ventriloquist and Mimic. Big show, fit-up, &c.; Speciality. Lib. Monday. Wire, V. T., Sacriston, Co. Durham.

WANTED, April 1, 8, 15, 22, for Eric's Ventriloquial Novelty. Wire, 54, Bachelor-street, Hull.

WANTED, Monday next, also May 13, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist; and De Lil, Illusionist; two acts. Wire, Union-road, Macclesfield.

GEORGE GRAY and CO.
"THE FIGHTING PARSON."
WANTED, April 8 next, for "The Fighting Parson," Share or Certainty.
Communications, G. Gray, Empire, Sheffield.

WANTED, Monday next, onwards, with exceptions, for Fred Ramsdale's Comedy Sketch Co., in "The Squire's Daughter," Topping Bill here; return date offered. Refer Israel Price, Esq. Wire for Monday; Easter vacant. Fred Ramsdale, Palace, Merthyr.

WANTED, Halls, &c., for Fred Fenn's Gaiety Pierrots, good show; offers invited for Al-Fresco Season. Edmund House, Richmond-road, Leytonstone.

WANTED, by Miss Ella's Lion Show, April 15, 29, and May 6, London or South. Communications, week March 18, New Palace Theatre, Northampton.

WANTED, Known, Fontainbleaus, Marvellous Troupe of Canine Wonders. This week, Hippo., the talk of Burton; vacant March 18, 25. April 1, wire.

WANTED, by Pygmies from Central Africa, same as appeared London Hippodrome, dates before May 12. J. J. Harrison, Brandesburton Hall, Hull.

WANTED, March 25, for great copyright Sporting Novelty, "Whizzing the Whirl." Funniest Act on Earth. King Alexander, Empire, Greenock.

WANTED, Known, Young Man, good All-round Tumbler, wishes to join Comedy, Sketch, or Troupe; also Clever Boy, to learn, slight knowledge. Box 4,508, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Smart Tumbler wishes to join Sketch or Comedy Act. Address, Box 4,530, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-Class Cinématograph, Selections from 80,000ft. of latest subjects, best machine, electric or lime; also first-class Comedy Conjuring Act, Handcuffs, and Plate Manipulations, and High-class Lady Vocalist, Ballads, Illustrated Songs; twenty minutes' to two hours' show. Manager, 3, Lebanon-gardens, Wandsworth, London.

WANTED, Engagements, Public or Private, Harmon's Bioscope, Marionettes, also Royal Punch and Judy, with Toby. 326, Earlsfield-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, First-Class Cinématograph, up-to-date Films. Wire or write, this yeek's address, Power, Cinématograph, Post Office, Dublin.

WANTED, Engagements, for Bioscope, twenty minutes to two hours. Liverpool Cinematograph Co., 24a, Islington, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Harmon's Royal Marionettes and Bioscope, Open for Easter also August, Sept. 326, Earlsfield-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Operator, with own new Bioscope, for Summer. Write, Operator, Box 4,501, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement by First-Class Bioscope Operator and Electrician, two hours' show, lime or electric. Boulter, 66, Park-road, Dukinfield.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman, Silver King (regd.), Auctioneer, Valuer, Expert and Authority to the United Kingdom and Van Dwellers' Association, Auctioneer to Lord George Sanger (England's Greatest Showman), and Leading Showmen of Great Britain. Sales and Commissions conducted in any part of the World. If you want to Buy or Sell anything connected with the Business, consult Tom Norman, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand. Change of address. Wanted to purchase or engage all kinds of Novelties and Curiosities (alive or dead), if suitable for exhibition.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100, 101, 102a, Houndsditch, is going ahead with up-to-date Lines in Field Glasses, Fancy Goods, Clocks, Jewellery, &c. There is no cheaper house for you.

WANTED, Known, .22 "R" and "D" cartridges, Winchester Repeaters, Water Balls, Targets, Globes, New Savage Repeaters. Greene, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known.—A Word to the Wise is Sufficient. A Client writing June 25, 1906, says:—Bag puncher took £300 in a little over three months. For price, write Sole Agents to the Makers, viz., the Mills Novelty Co. Minerva Automatic Co., 120, York-rd., King's Cross, London, N. Largest Variety of Automatic Machines in the trade. No Junk. Don't buy worn-out machines. To Showmen, Market Men, Pitchers, Callers, Auctioneers, Theatres, Exhibitions, Stall Holders, Penny Bazaars, For Gaffs, Hiring Fairs, Shows, The Catch of the Season.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, The Balmoral Confectionery Co., 20, Diana-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Under new Proprietorship. After making extensive alterations to their packing warehouses, are now working early and late to get a terrific stock of Banks' Milk Chocolate. Large packets marked 3d., guaranteed. The Greatest and Quickest Penny Line on the Market. Sells at Sight. All orders despatched same day. No waiting. Send at once for sample case. 7s. gross, carriage forward, cases free. Cash with order.

Auctioneers.
WANTED, Known, Great Value Offered in Secondhand Silver Watches. Auctioneers only supplied. Write to-day for full particulars, C. G. Clacher, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow. Try one of my famed parcels, containing Ten English Lever and Twelve Silver Geneva Watches. Best Value ever Offered. In great demand. Price, £5 5s.

WANTED, Showmen to save money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of specially prepared paints, colours, varnishes, brushes, &c., and every requisite for decorating caravans, roundabouts, swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. Leete and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Known, all kinds of Showmen's Painting undertaken, Oil-paintings, Scenery, Letter Cloths. Roche, Artist, 22, Lansdown-road, Lee, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Jaconelli and Co., Builders of Piano-Organs, Automatics, Tuners and Repairers of all kinds of Barrel Organs and Pianos, Marking a Speciality by Wm. Holmes, late of Manchester. 40, Banbury-street, Birmingham.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.
President, Lord George Sanger.
WANTED, Known, Important Meeting of London Showmen, Wednesday next, March 20, at 3 p.m., at the Star and Garter Hotel, Upper-st., Islington. Business: Report of Mitcham Fair Dispute, and other matters. Convener, T. Horne, Chaplain.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, at the "WHITE CITY," MANCHESTER, "WHITE CITY," MANCHESTER, "WHITE CITY," MANCHESTER, "WHITE CITY," MANCHESTER, "WHITE CITY," MANCHESTER, "WHITE CITY," MANCHESTER, "WHITE CITY," MANCHESTER, "WHITE CITY," MANCHESTER, opening Whit Monday, May 20th, closing November.

High-class Side Shows of every description.

Topsy-Turvy House.
Topsy-Turvy House.
Topsy-Turvy House.
Electro-Platers and Engravers,
Electro-Platers and Engravers,
Electro-Platers and Engravers,
Wire-Workers, Phrenologist,
Wire-Workers, Phrenologist,
Wire-Workers, Phrenologist,
Photographer, &c.
Photographer, &c.
Photographer, &c.

Spaces to Let on Sharing Terms.
Spaces to Let on Sharing Terms.
Spaces to Let on Sharing Terms.

Apply, Mr. John C. Brown, Managing-Director, White City, Ltd., 78, King-street, Manchester.

THE TWO-HEADED PATAGONIAN GOLIATH.
Admission One Shilling.
WANTED, Shows, &c., new to U.S.A. As our Attractions periodically play the same American Circuits, would Sell the Two-headed Giant Exhibition (at close of London engagements), or exchange for Novelty new to the States. All communications to permanent address, Kap-Dwa Co., 54, Shaftesbury-avenue, London.

WANTED, a good strong Show, male and female, to work on sharing terms, Booth Ground, for week before and Easter week, on a good ground. Crecraft, Taff Wells, Glam.

WANTED, Novelties and Freaks of Nature, for Bagan's Waxworks, Belfast, North-street; also Lady Palmist and Tattooist, on shares; good opening.

WANTED, Novelties, Freaks, sale of books and post-cards allowed; can open at once. Chas. A. James, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Novelties, three best shops in London, with good Flash and Drawing power. Estelle's Exhibition, 335, High-street North, East Ham, E.

WANTED, at Once, Novelties of every Description, used to Fair Business, to write in to Henry Wall, 6, Beech-st., Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, good Novelties and Side Shows, with Window Flash, to open Monday, March 18, at Funland Exhibition, Hoe-street, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Novelties, with Good Flash Wire, for Monday; also Bioscope. Professor Ruby, Ruby Casino, 25, Whitechapel-road, London, E.

WANTED, Novelties, four good Shops, shares or salary. Wire for Monday. Good Trancé write. Proprietor, 100, Lower-marsh, Lambeth, London.

RHYL WORLD'S FAIR.
WANTED, Flying Lady Illusion, Topsy Turvy House, Spaces for three more Side Shows, Shops vacant for Jewellery, Handkerchiefs, or any Novel Trades; fitted and electric light. Secretary, Queen's Palace, Rhyl.

WANTED, sound useful people, used to Fair business, also a Speciality that can work outside and inside of Picture Show; also a Traction Driver as second, must be sober and reliable. All must assist when moving. Apply, Payne's Dreamland, Tilbury Dock.

WANTED, Good Pair of Knockabout Comedians, for Bioscope Exhibition, to work inside and outside of show; open Easter. Lowest terms, &c, Sydney Russell, Dalston Theatre, London.

WANTED, for Crighton's Cinématograph, two Knockabout Comedians, used to Fair business; sobriety and sociability essential; live in or out. Crighton's Electric Palace, Fair Ground, Attleborough.

WANTED, good Planksman, Comedian, also Pianist-Vocalist, used to Auction Marts preferred. Will Harry Clark and Sidney Stewart write? Box 4,509, "The Era."

WANTED, good Doorsman, to make himself useful, and work Fat Show; permanency for suitable man. John Hastings, Fair Ground, Deptford, Midget Show, London.

WANTED, Doorsman and Working Manager, experienced, to join New Show after Easter; also Operator, and a few useful men. Apply, G. Aspland Howden, 8, York-cottage, Boston, Lincs.

WANTED, at once, smart man, as Watchmaker and Comedian, for Auction Mart. State wages and reference. Porter Bros., Barnoldswick.

WANTED, Assistant Lady Character Delineator, salary and commission. Apply, photo., to Jessy, 193, Brompton-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, Phrenologist (gent.); terms, shares; splendid opening for one well up in the business. For particulars, apply, Box 4,519, "The Era."

WANTED, Hypnotic Subjects. State recent experience. Box 4,525, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Man that understands electric light and to make himself useful about Picture Show. Apply, stating lowest terms, and references, W. Biddall, Exhibition, Beaconsfield-rd., Acton Green.

WANTED, a Young Woman, with experience and that knows the game, for Shooting Jungle; wages and commission. Wilkie, People's Palace, South Shields.

WANTED, Young, Pretty, Bright, and thoroughly experienced Girl, for Shooting Saloon; long seaside engagement. Secretary, Queen's Palace, Rhyl.

WANTED, Known, P. Marland's Royal Punch and Judy, with champion Dog Toby, at Liberty for Fêtes, Galas, &c. Address, 142, Chesham-road, Bury.

WANTED, Known, Arthur Clark, Comedian, Planksman, &c., is at Liberty. Address, C/o 6, Hudson-street, Burnley, Lancs.

WANTED, Situation as Auctioneer; experienced smart, energetic salesman; understands business thoroughly; undeniable references; now disengaged. Box 4,510, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Set of Large Distorting Mirrors, at Liberty for Exhibitions, Bazaars, &c. Mirrors, 19, Marchmont-street, Russell-square, London.

SPORTS GROUND, REDHILL.
WANTED, to Let, during the four Summer Months, May, June, July, and August, the above, suitable for Athletic Fixtures, Games, Shows, &c., about 9 acres close to Redhill Town and Station, surrounded by a population of some 30,000. The two Bank Holidays are at present Vacant. Apply to the Secretary, Mr. Bert Simmons.

WANTED, Known, a few Spaces to Let, with Touring Exhibition; also good Side Show. Manager, Trades Exhibition, Town Hall, Pontypool.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

BLACKPOOL SANDS.

WANTED, Known, the South Shore Pleasure Beach is the only site in Blackpool for Open-air Attractions.

The grounds are forty acres in extent, right on the sea front, and are situated immediately next the Promenade at the Electric Tramway Terminus. From April 1 to Dec. 31, 1905, 4,000,000 passengers were carried on these tramways. The permanent attractions now include the "River Caves of the World," "Maxim Flying Machine," "Sea Circus," &c. Great Canadian Water Chute and Scenic Railway from Coney Island now being erected for next season, commencing at Easter. For sites and concessions for really good Novelties apply personally. Office on grounds. Letters only, 14, Balmoral-road, Blackpool.

"UPPER WELSH HARP" FAIR GROUNDS, HENDON, N.W.

WANTED, to Let, for the Three Bank Holidays of 1907, these well-known and beautifully situated Fair Grounds, with a frontage of over 400ft., facing the Edgware-road, Hendon, where Fairs have been held for Centuries. Trams and 'buses pass the grounds, and only two minutes from railway station.

For particulars, apply personally to
I. F. JACOBS, Solicitor,
12, Herbert-road, Hendon, N.W.

WANTED, Known, that our Annual Easter Carnival, Chapelfields, Belfast, will open on March 28. All old comers please write at once; still a few Spaces to Let for small Side Shows.

Applications apply Messrs. TOFT and TURNBULL, 30, Russell-street, Belfast.

WANTED, to Let, Spaces at Pleasure Gardens, Hampstead Heath, for Cycle Racer, &c., for Easter, MANAGER, 5, Denning-road, Hampstead.

WANTED, to Let, Splendid Spaces, facing sea, for Pierrots and others, at Tankerton-on-Sea. S., 25, Montague-place, Russell-square, W.C.

WANTED, Known, we keep our men winter as well as summer. Will Jarvis write in again? Signed, W. C. and S. HANCOCK. All parties requiring ground for the Exeter Easter Fair in the old recognised Fair Field, Okehampton-road, apply to W. C. and S. HANCOCK, Winter Gardens, Plymouth.

WANTED, to Let for Summer Season, commencing Easter, Victoria Hall, High-street, Lowestoft, suitable for Auctioneer, Exhibitions, or Fancy Bazaar. For terms and particulars apply, MANAGER, 182, Hoe-street, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Known, Here you are; Auctioneer's Sale Room, electric lights, main thoroughfare, central position, trade booming, money-takers all right (any trade). LAMARCHE and Co., Nelson, Lancashire. Telephone 4Y1.

WANTED, to Let, Open Front Shop, Best Business Street, Auctions, Bazaars. Apply, RICKERBY, Botchergate, Carlisle.

WANTED, for Easter, Space for Side-show, Illusion; rent or sharing terms. CLARK, 34, Lister-street, Nuneaton.

WANTED, Position (Seaside or Exhibition) for Waxwork Exhibition; share or rent; good show. MASON, Settles-street, London, E.

NEW BRIGHTON TOWER.
FREE FUN PARK.
35 acres of beautiful grounds open free to the Public.

The Biggest thing of its kind in this Country.

WANTED, from Whitsuntide, onwards, an up-to-date and attractive Menagerie, on shares, must have several good Animal Training Acts and good outside show. We have a commodious Menagerie House, with a few animals, and can arrange with tenant for use of house with cages, and loan of own animals.

Will Kay's or Mander's Menageries write?
Apply, WILLIAM HOLLAND, Manager.

NEW BRIGHTON TOWER.
FREE FUN PARK.
35 acres of beautiful grounds open free to the Public.

The Biggest thing of its kind in this Country.

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"The Treasure Ship," Helene and Emilon, Genaro and Theol, Lukushimas, Sam Elton, Prince Kokin, Renard Trio, Mezzettis, Tina Clementa, Piccolinos, Chronophone, Bud Snyder, Lavater Lee, Mariedl.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal at 1.30 for :—
"The Isle of Ooma," Florence, Rhoda Bros., Sammy Shields, Victor Newman, Seeley and West, E. Arthur and Co., Carlos Menard, Morton and Bowman, Blanche Vincent, Bioscope.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
"Duchess of Tooting," Four Royal Welshmen Badie and Ramsden, Effie Stuart, Mayvilles, Rinaldos, Collier and Child, "Zululand," Bioscope, Leslie Bros.

ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
"Casey's Circus," Kate Traill, Fitzroys, Peretti and Mora, Lambert and Glover, Frazettis, George Ridgwell, Knick Knacks, Bioscope, Austin Lenton and Co.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Yamato, Taiko and O-Fugi-San, James Kurry, John Clyde, Glenn and Griffiths, Leo Tell, Katie Butler, Three Missouris, Hurley and Cole, Bioscope, "Yellow Fang."

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
La Milo, Darnley's "Moving In," Arthur Lennard, Lizzie Fletcher, Schenk Bros., Neilson Sisters, Goggin and Davis, Two Bostons, Kitty Marion, Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"The King's Minister," Hetty Chattell, Kitts and Windrum, Mezzetti and Mora, Geretti Sisters, Carrie Joy, Billy Farrell, Celtic Comedy Trio, Bioscope, Barbara Babbington.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Boy Army, Jimmy Shields, Three Amaranths, The Howards, Master Clifford, Edie King Cliff Ryland, Ethel Donna, Schwartz Bros., Three Prestons.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Mike S. Whallen, Harry Lawson, Edie Veno, Stein Eretto Troupe, Harry Clifford, Prof. Vox, Simms and Simms, the Dandies, Jordan and Harvey, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
George Gray and Co., Five Delevines, Fred Elton, Three Tauberts, Lidden and Hayward, Gwennie Hasto, Dusty Rhodes, Harold Hughman, Illustrated Song, Ailsa Douglas.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Rogues of the Turf," Jack Neil, Three Delares, Cline and Clark, Maningos, Dan Conroy, Cambrian Trio, J. H. Scotland, Bioscope, Millie Lindon.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Lottie Lennox, Ameda, Kelly and Ashby, Nellie Coleman, Dome, Fanny Erris, Bioscope, F. Bernard and Co.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Hymack, the Students, Ryder Slone, Burns and Burns, H. C. Barry, Garganys, Boy Glen, Bioscope, Tschernoff's Dogs, Park's Eton Boys.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Jail Birds," Beatrice Bonnie, Florence and Lillian, Stylo, Marzella's Birds, Illustrated Song, Ed. E. Ford, Bioscope, Florence St. John, Henry Coutts.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
"Bo-Peep," Syd May, Ruth Lytton, Carter Livesey and Co., Jackley Trio, Mark Merry, Elsie Claire, Phil and Nettie Peters, Bioscope, Leipsig.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Lew Lake and Co., Bert Gilbert, Cissie Curlette, Bros. Dean, Mdlle. Von Etta, Fred Culane and Co., Les Strads, Dennis Drew and Boys, Illustrated Song, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Vesta Tilley, Bros. Horne, May Evans, Lady Fauntleroy, Allis and Cassatti, the Boccaccios, Rosa Loader, Russell Brandow, Robb Gilmour, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Chung Ling Soo, Ethel Ra Leslie, Lilieth Leyton and Co., Herbert Rule, Madge Grey, Roma and Romani, Bert Woodward, Collins and Rice, Howard and Harris, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Horace Goldin, Harry Bedford, McConnell Trio, Eily Adair, Hall and Earle, Harry Leybourne, Bioscope, Illustrated Song, Frank Darwin, Gertrude Bradshaw.

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EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Tom Owen, Chas. Norton, Abdullah Arabs, Hartley Wonders, Maggie Walsh, the Jees, Marie San Toi and Co., Bioscope, Ouida Macdermott.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Mendel, Carlos Caesaro, Belloni's Cockatoos, Lily Burnand, Frank Bertram and Co., Teresa Da Silva, Little Don, Bioscope, "Crystal Gazing."

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Hetty King, Trapnell Family, Sinclair and Whiteford, D'Arc's Marionettes, Arabella Allen, Horace Jones, "Heartstrings," the Uniques, Bioscope, Arthur Severn.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
Carl Hertz, Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Lieut. Travis, Wartenburg Bros., Karno Four, Peggy Pryde, Tennyson and Wallis, Bioscope.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Dame Trot," Ike Scott and Son, Vetter Bros., Lily Tiso, Speedwell, Fernee's Juveniles, Bioscope, Dare's Minstrels.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
A. Van Biene and Co., Azella Wilson, Newhouse and Ward, Illustrated Song, Coloured Meisters, Gladys Mavius, Carney and Armstrong, Orpheus, Bioscope, Speedy.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
George Kirk and Co., Arthur Gill, Lockhart's Elephants, Moran and Mareece, Marguerite Ismay and Piccs., J. W. Rickaby, Raie Walters, Rhoda Paul, Chronophone, Neil Kenyon.

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Rehearsal at 1 for :—
The Kremos, James Brady, Ingram and Irving, Chas. Vincent, Sylvesta, Jeannie Mackay, Bioscope, "100 to 1 Chance."

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EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Corman's Juveniles, Allan Hanbury, Alice May and Co., Stevens and Rennior, Lennie and Hast, Pictures, Forrest and King, Frobel and Ruge, Chris. Richards.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.
(Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance.)
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Russell Wallett, Edie Anderson, Stidder and Dunbar, Jack Crawley, Eight Cotton Coons, Isabel Dillon and Child, Pictures, Bertha Norwood, "What the Butler Did," Jock McKie.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
George Lashwood, Bioscope, Walter Curtis, Bonnie Goodwin and Piccs., Ed. Laurie and May Beattie, Kirbys, Bros. Bright, Jeanie Carron.

THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Victoria Monks, Sisters Sprightley, Borellis, Dan Crawley, Ernest Rees, George Antill, David Poole, Walter King, Maudie Ford, Maud Beaumont, Sylvia Du Barry, Jessie Lyons and Co., in "Nelly of the Veldt," Maud and Sidney Wood, "House Full" Co., Pictures.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Both Performances.
"Happy Holland," Tom Costello, Mark Melford, the Borellis, J. E. Coyle, Jack Lane, Chas. Lilburn, Ruby Dahl, Pender Troupe, Pictures.

EMPIRE, COVENTRY.
(Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance.)
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"The Mystery of the Cliff," Ted E. Box, Lozelle, Alix Lukos, Mdlle. Eldee, Stelling and Dog, Bioscope, The Gems.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND
(Now in course of erection).
Artists and Agents please note that Bookings for the above Theatre have now commenced.

READING THEATRE and EMPIRE, SWINDON.
Artists and Agents please note that Bookings for the above Theatres, which open April 1, have now commenced.

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ARTISTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT THE ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON, IS WITHIN THE AREA ABSOLUTELY BARRED BY US.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras (Fifteen for those engaged at the London Coliseum). Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, or at least TWO WEEKS, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagement cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

N.B.—Silence in every case a polite negative. Artists are requested not to enclose stamped envelope. Letters marked "Private" will be delayed.
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"CHEYENNE,"
"I CAN SEE RED ROSES BLOOMING,"
"BOY BLUE,"
"DON'T TELL THE WORLD YOUR TROUBLES."
"COME BACK TO BORNEO,"
"IN MY PAGODA,"
"WHY DO THE GIRLS LOVE CHARLIE?"
"HENNY KLEIN,"
"IT IS THE SCARECROW,"
"MY IRISH ROSIE."
"I WANT MOLLY AND SHE WANTS ME."

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Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns.

Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not re-booked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follows :—

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MR. T. GERALD MORTON.
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BIRMINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, LEICESTER, AND DISTRICT.
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LONDON DISTRICT.
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N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

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HIPPODROME, LEEDS.
Four Maisonas, Regan and Ryan, Rosie Elliott, W. Gourlay, Yetta, Ellwanger and Co., Gunner Moir, Pictures, Hayes and Suits.

HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.
Phyllis Dare, Dan Robans, Jenny Johns, Meier and Mora, Harvey Boys, Letine, Effie White, Nell Richardson, Brittons, Frank Leon, Sisters Marion, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.
Venus, Bros. Ashley, Robbie Roy, Los Rupertos, J. C. Seater, John Tiller's "Aladdin."

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.
Katie Marsh, Chas. Somers, Bennett and Martell, Two Falcons, Pictures, Myra Love, Harwood's Juveniles, Three Merrills, Primrose Quartette, Arthur Prince, Drum and Major.

ALHAMBRA, PARIS.
Mr. and Mrs. Voelker, Satsuma, Francis and Alfred, Two Butterflies, Bertisch, Clara Peschard, Galetti, Emilo and Recco, Mignonette Kokin, Bros. O'Brien, Les Alma, Wild, Willie and West, Pictures.

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"BIG SHIP SAILING."
"CHATEAU ON THE RHINE."
"BELLE OF THE DARDANELLES."
"DON'T BE AFRAID, LITTLE SOLDIER."
"COME FOR A SAIL IN MY YACHT."

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CALLS

FOR WEEK COMMENCING

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1907.

PROVINCIAL CIRCUIT.

SPECIAL NOTICE.
Rehearsal at all Halls, Monday, at 12·0 sharp.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Rosella, Carlotta De Yonson and Co., Reilly and Taylor, Sisters West, Pallister's Pictures, Andy Burn, George Bendon.

PALACE, LINCOLN.
Nat Clifford, J. B. Selph, Ada Martini, T. C. Edwards, Brull and Hemsley, The Lombarts, The Bensons, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BATH.
Harmony Four, The Katos, Flo Chevalier, Harry Vardon, Edwards and Dacre, Percy Hannan, The Waltons, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Bros. Luck, Frank Coyle, Sisters Edwards, The Mahatmas, Walter Keating, Williams and Warden, Bros. Henres, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Alexandra Dagmar, Violet Nunn, Cairns and Lynch, Thornbury, Three Dreadnoughts, Minnie Fenton, G. W. Hunter, Edie Endon, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, HALIFAX.
Three Olympiers, Marion Fletcher, Fioretti and Elly, Albano Troupe, Mulvey and Miriam, John Macauley, Matweef Hugostons, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Three Graces, T. C. Jacques, Simosa San, Lise Rolland, D. W. Watson, The Smythsons, The Krags, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Martelloni Troupe, Elsie Roby, Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, Rich and Rich, Madge Morley and Co., Baker and Balfe, Aquamarinoff Troupe, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

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Matinée every Monday.
Ernesto, George Brookes, Lizzie Daniels, Leoni Clarke's Cats, Chas. Santon, The Paolias, Richardson Taylor, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Mamie Cannon, Will Lear, Vaudeville Sketch Co., Maudie McDonald.

THE BRITANNIA.
Matinée Monday.
Florence Yayman, W. B. Raby, Fatmah Diard, Moule and Nicholls and Co., Blanche and Powell, Stacey and Williams, Phill Raby, Gertie Moore, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, The Maros, "La Vivandière" Sketch, Florence Vincent.

FORESTERS.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
The Beau Ideals, The Lannons, Will Johnson, Daisy Martell, Walker and May, Takio, Moon and Morris, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Jack Lane, Captain Devereux, "Cruise of H.M.S. Victory."

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
Zeta Grey and Co., Maudie Scott, E. W. Selman, Ivy Gallard, Chas. Valvo, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Little Zola, Bernard and Weston, Tom Davis and Co., Arnold Bell and Co., Fred Lawrence and Co.

SURREY THEATRE.
All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band parts.
Matinée every Monday.
Leonard Mortimer and Co., Walter King, Sisters Bartholomew, Steinway Glee Singers, Harry Anderson, Winnie Derson, Milsted and Bell, The Custances, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Josephine Colona and Co., Herbert Clifton, Marie Collins.

Notice.—All artists carrying Scenery must have it Fireproof, according to L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

All Bill Matter or Notification of Appearance must be sent in 14 days prior to opening. All Artists must attend Band Rehearsal, or their Contracts may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

N.B.—All Billing Matter, accompanied by Pictorials, and Business Communications relating to the Provincial Circuit, must be addressed to the

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"CHEERO."
"ALL ALONE IN OLD COLOGNE."
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"IOLA."
"DOWN ON THE BEAUTIFUL RHINE."
"SAN ANTONIO."
"WANDA FROM ANACONDA."
"MY MONTANA MAID."
"CAN'T YOU FIND A LITTLE TIME TO SAY 'GOOD EVENING'?"
"WEDDING BELLS."
"WON'T YOU FLOAT WITH ME IN MY GONDOLA?"

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MR. GEORGE TRAILL, "Monsieur Beaucaire" Tour. Disengaged May 27. Theatre Royal, Margate.

MR. HENRY TWEEDIE, Business-Manager, Tours Booked. Disengaged. 45, Cresswell-rd., Twickenham.

MR. A. W. TYRER, As Harry Dallas, "Walls of Jericho" Co. Theatre Royal, Brighton. Disengaged April 28?

MR. and MRS. EDWARD VAN BIENE (Kate Hallam), Bus. Mgt., Star Lead, Spring with T. E. Ward; Autumn, L. Carson. C/o. Era.

MR. and MRS. CHAS. B. VAUGHAN (Miss M. Lewes). Mr. Vaughan supporting Mr. Forbes Robertson, Amersterdam T., New York.

MR. HERBERT VERE, Business Man., Tour or Resident, Juveniles, Heavies, Stage-Man. T. R., West Bromwich.

MR. PERCY H. VERNON, Malvolio, Mercutio, Touchstone, Don Pedro, &c., Miss F. Glossop-Harris's Co. Emp. T., Southend-on-Sea.

MR. FREDERICK VICTOR, Napoleon, "A Royal Divorce." Theatre Royal, Glasgow.

MR. and MRS. DOUGLAS VIGORS (Lucy Beaumont). D. V., T. R., Dublin; L. B., 8, Bridge-avenue, Hammersmith.

MR. EDWIN WALTON, March 25, 39, Mainwaring-rd., Seacombe, Cheshire.

MR. PERCY CARNE WARAM, Gratiano, Aguecheek, Julius Cæsar, Feloship. C/o. Low's Exchange, 1123, Broadway, New York.

MR. ALBERT WARD, Lead, Disengaged. 22, St. Agnes-place, Kennington Park, S.E.

MR. HYLTON WARDE, Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler's Comedy Co., South Africa. 17, Doris-rd., Norwich, or A.A.

MR. W. LEMMON WARDE, March 25, Address, 4, Gladstone-street, Scarborough.

MR. HENRY WATSON, Disengaged for Leading Parts. 168, Stockwell Park-road, Brixton, S.W.

MR. FRANK WEATHERSBY, Theatrical Agency, 3, Bedford-street, Strand. 'Phone, 3781 Cen. Tel., "Frivolous, London."

MR. & MRS. ALFRED WELLESLEY (Miss Beatrice Webb), "The Peacemaker." This, H., Leeds; next, Hippodrome, Liverpool.

MR. W. G. WESLEY, Comedian. Sing and Dance. At Liberty. 161, Northumberland-st., Toxteth Park, Liverpool.

MR. C. A. WHITE, "Beauty and the Barge," Theatre Royal, Preston.

MR. WILL WHITE, F.O.S., Touring, "The New World." This, Grand, Radcliffe; Next, Grand, Chorley.

MR. & MRS. TOWNSEND WHITLING (Violet Ley), Marlborough Theatre, N.

MR. HERBERT WILLIAMS. The Kettle Sang, 'twas on the 'Ob, The Pot didn't, being on His Eminence.

MR. LEONARD WILLIAMS, Disengaged. Juvenile Lead. Disengaged. Burkelands, Carlisle-rd., Hove, Brighton; or A.A.

MR. STEWART D. WRIGHT, Manager Ahead, "Oliver Twist." Disengaged April 6. Offers, T. R., Chatham; next, T. R., Huddersfield.

MR. EDWIN H. WYNNE, Comedy, Character, Musical Comedy. 39, Aigburth-mansions, Brixton, S.W.

MR. DUNCAN YARROW, Disengaged. 20, Willowbridge-road, Canonbury, N.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MAIE HOEY, Offers invited. Mime, Actress, Classical Dancer. C/o "The Era."

MASTER LESLIE OSWELL, Slightly. "Peter Pan" Company, April 1, Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield.

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STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

AT a well-attended meeting of the members of the General Staff Branch, N.A.T.E., held on Sunday evening in the St. George's Hall, Westminster Bridge-road, with Mr. C. Thorogood, the branch president, in the chair, the secretary, Mr. William Johnson, submitted a lengthy statement on the recent music-hall dispute and the arbitration proceedings. It was decided to send the best thanks of the meeting to the Variety Artistes' Federation and the Newcastle Branch of the N.A.T.E. for the donations sent to the London funds. The former society sent a cheque for £25, and the latter £21.

A RESOLUTION was unanimously adopted that the present committee hold office until the annual general meeting could be held for the purpose of electing the usual officers and dealing with the usual business of an annual meeting. A resolution was also carried approving the formation of a permanent alliance between the Variety Artistes' Federation, the Musicians' Union, and the N.A.T.E., upon a basis to be submitted to, and agreed to, by each society.

MR. A. EARNSHAW, lately electrician at the Paragon Music Hall, has been appointed electrician at the Duke of York's Theatre. Mr. Earnshaw's many friends will be glad to know he has "gone West."

AT a meeting in Middlesbrough last Sunday it was decided to form a branch of the N.A.T.E., and over 40 applications for membership were filled and accepted. Representatives of the Newcastle Branch, Messrs. Paterson, Oxnard, and Collins, have assisted in the formation of this branch.

MR. ODOARDO BARRI'S CONCERT.

At Steinway Hall, on Thursday evening, March 21, Mr. Odoardo Barri gave a most successful concert, in which the following pupils of Mr. Barri made their professional début:—Mme. Bertha Humphreys, Miss Mary Benson, Miss Dorothy Longstaffe, and Mr. Robert Hine. Mr. Barri was also assisted by the following professional artists:—Mr. Frank Tebbutt, Signor Tito Mattei, and Mr. Percy Frostick, as well as three of his well-known pupils: Miss Maud Santley (who has been engaged for the forthcoming opera season at Covent Garden), Mr. Frank Arthur (also in the list of basses at the Royal Opera), and Mr. Rupert Pounds. The programme, which included over twenty items, began with Handel's duet "The Lord is a man of war," sung by Mr. Robert Hine and Mr. Frank Arthur. In Chaminade's song "L'Eté" Mme. Bertha Humphreys gave a brilliant interpretation; and Mr. Rupert Pounds made a most favourable impression in Handel's air "Why do the nations?" while Miss Dorothy Longstaffe was well received in the recit. and aria "Che farò" (from *Orfeo*), and later in the programme was heard in "A love gift" (Monk Gould) and "Beyond" (Ed. St. Quentin). P. de Faye's pretty song "Tell her I love her so" was pleasingly sung by Mr. Frank Tebbutt. A chief feature in the concert was "No more tears," a new song, composed by Mr. Odoardo Barri and sung by Miss Maud Santley, with violin obbligato, most artistically introduced and skilfully played by Mr. Percy Frostick. The new song, which was admirably suited to Miss Santley's fine contralto voice, created a marked impression, Miss Santley repeating the last verse in response to a hearty encore. Another clever pupil of Mr. Barri's—Mr. Robert Hine, who has a most pleasing and sympathetic baritone voice—was encored for his capital singing of Sullivan's "Thou'rt passing hence," and responded with "I know two bright eyes." Miss Mary Benson had hardly enough power for the famous air from *Samson and Delilah*, "Mon cœur s'ouvre à ta voix," although she had a pleasing mezzo-soprano voice. In "Vulcan's Song" Mr. Frank Arthur used his fine bass voice with great effect, and the quartette, "A Regular Royal Queen," which concluded the first portion of the programme, was well rendered by Mme. Humphreys, Miss Santley, Mr. Tebbutt, and Mr. Pounds. Mr. Percy Frostick was much applauded for his spirited playing of Sarasate's violin solo "Zigeunerweisen," and later in the concert he was set down for "Souvenir," by Franz Drdla, and Schubert's "L'Abeille." Signor Mattei also gave a piano solo of two of his own compositions. "Mélodie Caprice" and "Dentelle," which greatly pleased the audience.

Mr. David Richards presided at the piano, and Mr. Odoardo Barri may be heartily congratulated on the success of his concert and the way in which his pupils did justice to his excellent method of voice production.

PRETTY HATS.

Spring is with us—and spring hats. To spend an hour at Maison Lewis is to glimpse into the future of fashion—to realise Hurlingham in May and Henley in July—to discover what is worn to-day, and, far more important, what will be worn to-morrow. The well-known house of hats in Regent street, with its handsome salons and exclusive "creations," represents Paris in London. Artistic designs and smart inventions, novelties and revivals, new materials and new ideas, in brief, the last word in hats, is spoken at Maison Lewis, and if the early promise of a sunny season is fulfilled there is every prospect of exceptionally big business. Madame Wagenman, the quick and courteous manageress of the London branch, is a great authority on millinery of the minute, and she gives an interesting forecast of fashions. Novelty and variety are the principal qualities to be found in the composition of the spring hats. Some are as wide in the brim as one sees in Gainsborough's portraits, some are high in the crown, some are dipped over the face in the quaintly charming style worn by the ill-fated French beauty Madame Lamballe, commonly called the mushroom shape. Flowers and foliage, occasional fruit—notably cherries and little silver apples—hold their own as decorations, and a striking novelty is a big black rose, with a fiery red centre, beautifully made, petal on petal, in the finest silk. Blue is always a popular colour, and will be used a great deal on this year's models, especially the soft, somewhat indefinite shade that is called Gobelin. Different degrees of chocolate brown and old rose will also be found on many of the smartest hats, and among the many beautiful plumes perhaps the most enchanting are long ostrich feathers of smoke-grey. The aigrette is happily rare, and a clever imitation of the plumage of the bird of Paradise proves that art can be the means of sparing nature.

One of the most attractive Paris models at Maison Lewis was in pale green, with a high, rather small crown, loops of moiré ribbons, and three big black ostrich plumes. Another design, that should be worn by a blonde, was entirely composed of fine lace and delicate peach-coloured satin ribbon, with sprays of the palest pink roses. A third was carried out in deep peacock green, with touches of the favourite coffee-coloured chiffon. A fourth was a striking arrangement of Nile green, covered with black net, an enormous black bow at the back, and a single full-blown rose on the left side. A "summery" hat was in fine biscuit-coloured straw, with a great cluster of blush roses under the folded brim, a wreath of the same flowers, and a few simple rose-tint bows. A smaller hat was exactly the colour of a red chrysanthemum, trimmed with quantities of small poppies and shot-silk ribbon. One of the most effective of the purple hats was almost hidden in tiny rosebuds and leaves, as fresh in colour and as daintily arranged as if they had just been gathered.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERAVON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. D. Jones.—The patrons of the above are presented this week with one of Mr. John A. Thomson's companies in *Jack and the Beanstalk*. A charming principal boy is Miss Edith Wallis; Miss Maggie Allwood as Jill possesses a first-rate voice; and the same can be said for Miss Nellie Stewart as Little Bo-Peep. Mr. Wallace Bosco excels himself as Sir Peter Piffin; and Mr. Harcourt as Mother Hubbard is quaint. Some excellent dancing by the Violetta troupe. Miss Georgie Mansell as a pocket edition of Vesta Tilley, Lomas as Jacko the monkey, with a performance that ranks very high, and Mr. Percy Galino in a talented musical pot-pourri, are other attractions.

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Geo. W. Denton; Stage-Manager, Fred Thomas.—Dr. Leon Dent's Globe Choir are here this week, and a capital entertainment is given. The singing of the choir, particularly of the soprano and contralto soloists, is excellent, and the humorous songs of clever Little Gerty Dire and others are well received. Mme. Dint, in her trance state, is also an interesting item in the bill.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—This week we have a new departure in a variety company of really clever artists. First on the bill comes the Kellmos in their grand speciality act, *A Fête in Venice*, fairly brought down the house, having to appear again and again. Mr. Gus Garrick is very amusing in his music-hall titbits; Will McIvor is also very good; and Dale and Vale were appreciated. May Geraldine is a chic comedienne; Les Poli Trio are expert xylophonists; Dane O'Toole is a quaint comedian; the Two Erolls are particularly smart in their leaping act; and Kyoto, with his mysterious box, and Payne's biograph complete a good show.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Parsons.—A very good bill is provided at the above hall this week by Adams and Ward in a comedy act; Joe Dale, comedian; the Melroses, in *The New Page*; Mlle. Roza's canine show; Wilford Gregory, Andy Fagan, the Surrey Lindon Vaudeville Co., and the Biograph.

ALDERSHOT.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—*The Beast and the Beauty* is being played here by Mr. Fred Melville's company. Mr. Herbert Ford impersonates the Beast with excellent results; Mr. Bernard Mervyn moulds the pernicious, deep-scheming Lord X. with fine effect; as the faithless wife Miss Daisy Gwynne is dramatic and clever; whilst Miss Lydia Audre is winsome and talented as the Beauty. Mr. Eric Campbell is a capable Samson; and humour is suitably introduced by Mr. Will Corrie (Tom Chicken).

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—The pantomime farce, *His Majesty's Guests*, is paying another of its periodical visits here, Mr. Fred Karno's company being again responsible for its performance. Mr. Geo. Hestor is an exceedingly droll representative of Sergt. Lightning; good work is also done by Mr. Frank Morton as Lord Easem, and by Miss Leonora Castelle as Lady Maud. Mr. Miffin is amusingly portrayed by Mr. Chas. Usher. Other important characters are played by capable exponents of grotesque absurdity, and expert acrobats, viz., Messrs. A. Bolton, Harry Rowe, Skerras, Tom Manardo, M. Johnson, S. Gosling, and Misses Edith Ager as Dolly, and Kittie Bruton as the New Woman.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—The programme here includes Alf. Davies, an actor-vocalist of talent; Lily Arthur, the toy comedienne; J. W. Gallagher, eccentric comedian; T. E. Gilbey, in a sensational balancing act; the Ottawas, a troupe of Canadian cowboys and musical experts, in the scena entitled *After the Hunt*; Nelson's Newsboys' Quintette; the Elgars, refined vocal artists; the Days, clever second-sight seers. *A Japanese Love Story* is a reminder of musical comedy, and in this Mr. Stephen Harland, a good tenor vocalist, and others successfully appear.

ATTERCLIFFE.—PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr T. E. Owen. The management here have provided a varied and attractive programme this week, headed by Mr. Alf. Gibson, aptly stlyed "the quaint comedian," whose songs are evidently to the popular taste. The Three Sisters Grovini are exceptionally smart acrobats; Mr. Harry Carsdale is a mimic of ability, and well deserves the title of "Farmyard Linguist"; Miss Gwennie Hasto, daintily costumed, sang charmingly, and in her dances gave an exhibition of the true poetry of motion, for which she received hearty applause; Mr. Clayton's "Attergraph" pictures are up to the usual standard of excellence, and include "Foul Play," which is very realistic; Mr. Henry Hilton is an illusionist of ability, and his tricks are deftly performed; Miss Dorothy Veld is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; and Stuart and Evans, comedians and dancers, provide a turn of much merit.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—On Monday night Mr. J. B. Howard's company presented *Florodora*. Mr. Alf. E. Passmore gave an inimitable and clever interpretation of the character of Anthony Tweedlepunch; Mr. Stanley White as Cyrus W. Gilfain was excellent; Mr. H. V. Cropton made a grand impression with his acting in the part of Frank Abercoed; the part of Captain Arthur Donegal was well played by Mr. Harold Perry; while the Leandro of Mr. Edwin Oxlee was picturesque and more pleasant than we have seen. Miss Daisy Lake was admirable as Dolores; and Miss Lily Gullick as Angela Gilfain could not have been in better hands. The other members of the company gave the best of support, and the piece was beautifully staged.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. J. Maundy-Gregory's company in *Lights Out* is here. As the erring daughter, Klara Volkhardt, Miss Frances Davie plays a trying rôle with great success; Mr. Charles Esdale is a splendid Lieut. Von Lauffen; Mr. Lionel D'Arragon is an affecting and capital Sergeant Volkhardt; and Mr. Richard Fielding a capable Corporal Helbig.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—*The Scarlet Clue* is presented here this week by Miss Grace Warner and company. She herself, in the triple rôles of Scarlet Sal, alias Mrs. Stanton, alias Madame La June, is very powerful and brilliant; Mr. George Gordon is a capital Michael Stanton, and Miss Hilda Herne a sweet and sympathetic Elsie Dane. Mr. Jack Armitage, in the dual parts of the twin brothers, does well, and Miss Kathleen Cranston makes a realistic study of Mother Scroogs. Last night the Furness Academy of Art did *The Idler*, on behalf of the Hospital Saturday Fund.

TIVOLI.—Lessees, Messrs. Laban and Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—The Six Æolians are at the top of a good bill here this week, and their singing and dancing are of a very high order. Blake and Granby create roars of laughter with their comedy sketch, *The Man in Possession*, and Bob Hamilton, the Scotch comedian, is an extra good turn; his songs and patter quite take on. Millie Howel is a refined singer, with a beautiful stage presence; the Three Sisters Thurban give a much admired instrumental and vocal turn: and Amos Howel is quite an expert coloured coon singer and dancer.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—For the third time *A Chinese Honeymoon* is paying a visit to Bath, and, as usual, is much enjoyed by that large section of playgoers who plump for musical comedy. The present company is under the direction of Mr. Milton Bode, who has been fortunate enough to secure Miss Gwennie Harcourt to give her inimitable rendering of Fi-Fi, and this clever little lady's popularity remains unabated. Mr. Rudolph Kloss makes a capital Hang Chow, his speech and manner suiting the part admirably; Soo-Soo has a charming representative in Miss Nancy Rossiter, her finished vocalism securing her many encores; Mr. George Rydon gets much fun out of the part of Mr. Pineapple, his newly-wedded wife finding a capital exponent in an old Bath favourite, Miss Eva Bevington; Mr. Harry Jennings easily carries off the duties of enacting Tom Hatherton; Chippie Chop is sketched with dry humour by Mr. P. Allerton Turner; Mr. Leonard May adds to the fun as Hi-Lung; the awe-inspiring Mrs. Brown has a stately and confident exponent in Miss Maude Adams. The chorus is a particularly strong and capable one, and with the excellent local orchestra, under the conductership of Mr. W. D. P. Dament, gives the concerted pieces and choruses in fine style.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—A gratifying reception was accorded to the Harmony Four, a clever and amusing quartet of gentlemen. In the guise of Chinamen the Waltons give a silent eccentric acrobatic turn that secures them rounds of applause; the Katos, with their mannikin automatic theatre, are watched and listened to with pleasure; with each succeeding visit Percy Hannon, the young baritone vocalist, increases his number of admirers; Harry Vardon, ventriloquist, strikes an original vein with his telephone conversation; the favourite songs "Always" and "A man in Manitoba," are given by Flo Chevalier with success; Edwards and Dacre present a laughable comedy duologue of cross purposes; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux exhibit the best and latest films.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company, under the direction of Mr. J. W. Cordiner, is here in *Dare-Devil Dorothy*. Miss Nellie Harcourt as Judith and Mr. Bert Edwards as Silas Crump come in for rounds of applause. The company also includes Messrs. Walter Boyce, Walter Ashley, Henry C. Ward, Arthur Hartley, Keen Cliffe, W. G. Hearson, and Misses Marie Vere, Dorothy Desmonde, Lillie and Mabel Blake.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. Brandon Thomas's company opened here on Monday in the farcical comedy *Charley's Aunt*. Mr. Spencer Trevor was thoroughly successful as Lord Fancourt Babberley, keeping the audience in roars of laughter; Mr. Hastings Lynn and Mr. Richard B. Mason were admirable as Jack Chesney and Charlie Wykeham; and Miss Lena Macnaughton played the rôle of Donna Lucia with charm and skill. Mr. Chas. Bedells must be commended for his able impersonation of Sir Francis; Mr. Walter Beaumont was the fussy lawyer, Stephen Spettigue, to the life; Miss Bertha Northam was a delightful Kitty; and Miss Ida Vynall and Miss Ruth Nightingale would, indeed, be difficult to surpass as Amy Spettigue and Ela Delahay. Mr. Sydney Compton was a most effective Brasset. A good curtain-raiser was found in *Fourchette and Company*.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—The chief attraction here this week is the American musical mélange *A Trip to Coontown*, presented by eighteen coloured artists from *In Dahomey* company. Their entertainment met with great success on Monday. The Creo Brothers gain much approval for their creation, "The Gypsies"; and Bert Coote's Yankee-Doodle Girls are good vocalists and smart dancers. The Three Ferganos submit their remarkable equilibristic novelty; Miss Joan Deering is a charming vocalist and instrumentalist; and also appearing are Mr. A. E. Clifford, vocal comedian; Miss Ada Parker, comedienne and dancer; Little Salvino, juvenile instrumentalist; and the Palace pictures.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Messrs. Kitchen and Lister head the bill, and present with immense success their American dramatic sketch *Number 99*. A hit has been made by Billy McClain and company, including Mlle. Cordelia, who appear in their smart Southern scena, *The Hottest Coon from Dixie*. A fine exhibition of dancing has been furnished by Robertys, aptly described as marvellous; and an amazing illusionist, Morimura (who is assisted by the charming Japanese lady, Imako), performs some extraordinary feats. Mr. Albert Whelan, entertainer, appears in a performance it is always a pleasure to listen to; and also here are the Tupps, comedy acrobats; Miss Cora Carina, speciality artist; and Miss Kathleen Cogan, comedienne and dancer.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Sinclair Neill.—The Alhambra Dramatic Company is appearing here this week in the fine drama *When the Lights are Low*. To the rôle of Guy Goldsworthy full justice has been done by Mr. Horace Denton; Miss Nina Blake-Adams, a charming actress, furnishes a clever impersonation of Nan; Mr. Cyril Grier is a decidedly good Ikey; and much praise is due to Mr. Elmore Frith for his capital impersonation of Macpherson. The villainies of Captain Roland Goldsworthy are realistically portrayed by Mr. E. M. Heanley; the humour of the piece is in the hands of Mr. Tom H. Solly, a funny Willie; and Miss Kathleen Osborne's acting as the blind girl Stella is certainly irreproachable. Miss Isobel Norman appears to advantage as the adventuress Violet Christie; and Miss Mattie Crawford's Kittie reflects much credit on this able actress. Miss Alice Clarke and Mr. Ed. Smythe complete the cast. Mr. Tom H. Solly is responsible for the admirable stage-management. The Alhambra Bioscope, under the direction of Mr. W. E. Newlove, exhibits a most amusing picture, "Oh! that Cheese."

BILSTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H Battersby; Musical Director, Mr. J. E. Machin.—Mr. Edward Marris's company are playing *Somebody's Sweetheart*. Mr. W. B. Nugent as Stephen Leverton and Mr. E. H. Bertram as Stanton Ashleigh are prominent in the cast. Old Joe, by Mr. Frank Gala, proved characteristic. Very good portrayals of Zoro and Lulu are witnessed at the hands of Miss Maisie Jerrard and Miss Effie Vincent. Mr. George Bentwood is very comical as Martin Blabbs; and Miss May Norris is a very clever impersonator of Freddie Ashleigh. The two dancers are Misses Dolly Payne and Rosie Chandler.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is fulfilling a highly-successful engagement with *The Village Blacksmith*. Mr. Sam Livesey repeats his powerful and interesting performance of John Strong, in which he is well supported by Miss Massie Edwards as Kate Strong. Captain Leo, the villain of the piece, is forcibly represented by Mr. Joseph Carter, and his wrestling encounter with John Strong is a leading feature. Much humour is provided by Mr. George V. Campbell, as Billy Twigg; and Miss Edith Giddens as Martha Mopps and Messrs. Edwin Maydew, Thomas E. Marshall, George Wilton, Mesdames T. C. Livesey and Cassie Le Grande are prominent in a capital cast. The child, Harry, is intelligently played by Miss Bertha Hanbury. The scenic effects are elaborate.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Miss Daisy Dorman, a charming and accomplished comedienne, heads a very excellent company, which also includes the Brothers Egbert, in their entertaining act, The *Happy Dustmen*; Miss Margaret Ashton, the American Girl, and deservedly a great favourite; Mr. W. J. Churchill, the popular comedian; Mr. Edwin Brett and Miss Emmeline Orford in their well-sustained sketch, *Two Lovers*; Mr. Will Musgrave, comedian; Miss Rose Finette, vocalist; and Duncan and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Are You a Mason?* is the cry now, the humours of this roaring farce being fully and truly exploited by Mr. Charles Macdona's company. Mr. E. H. Paterson provokes frequent and hearty laughter as the henpecked but still errant husband, Amos Bloodgood; Miss Adelaide Grace makes many clever hits as Mrs. Bloodgood; Mr. Buchanan Wake sends the fun coursing merrily as the bucolic candidate, John Halton; Mr. Howard L. Tracy, as the co-deceiver, Frank Perry, contributes materially to the success; Mr. Ernest Cossart as George Fisher, Mr. G. R. J. Austin as Travers, and Mr. Victor Kerr as Morrison each supply an effective portrayal; while Miss Margaret Farleigh makes a most charming Eva. Miss Dora Gregory scores as Lotti, and the Misses Babs Stuart and Dora Frank Harvey shine among the others. *The Farce* is preceded by *A Bad Penny*, in which Mr. Buchanan Wake, Mr. G. R. J. Austin, Mr. Victor Kerr, Mr. C. W. Hammond, and Miss Harvey shine.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*The Morals of Marcus*, in which Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company appears here under the direction of Mr. M. V. Leveaux, is attracting attentive and highly appreciative audiences. Mr. H. Nye Chart, for his splendidly drawn character of the titular rôle is accorded a most flattering reception; Miss Hilda Antony gives enchanting qualities to the character of Carlotta; Mrs. H. Nye Chart acts with exquisite tenderness as Judith Mainwaring; Mr. David Domville asquits himself with admirable aplomb as the conscienceless roué Pasquale; the Misses Mary Weigall and Gladys Purnell are suc-

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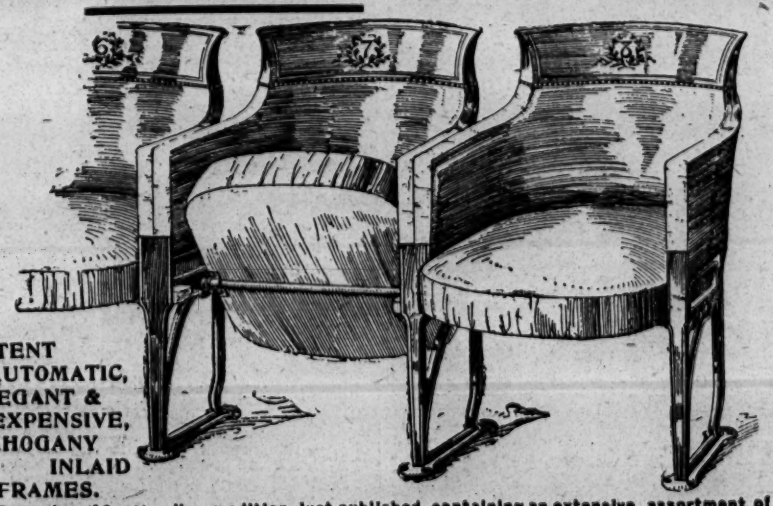

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cessful as Mrs. Ordeyne and Dora respectively; and Mr. A. H. Leveaux as Hamdi, Mr. Cecil Brooking as Stenson, Miss Conyers Radcliffe as Mrs. McMurray, Miss Eleanor Gilbart as Antoinette, and Miss Mary O'Neill as Lady Wynn do good service to the play.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—*Cinderella* must perforce, and notwithstanding its continued enormous success, be withdrawn on Saturday next to make way for other engagements. This, the thirteenth week, has been marked by a special complimentary benefit to the Brothers Obo for their admirable services as the Ugly Sisters; and next Thursday Miss Bessie Butt, the winsome and versatile Cinderella, is to be accorded a similar compliment. For Tuesday next Mr. Collingwood has arranged a matinée in aid of the local charities.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—Mr. Melville's own company appears here in the evergreen and moral drama *It's Never Too Late to Mend*, to which local interest attaches, inasmuch as the novelist gained much of his material from a study of Winson Green Gaol. The play is here exceedingly well-staged and acted. Mr. Fred A. Marston throws praiseworthy vigour into his portrayal of Tom Robinson; Mr. Percy Dawsone (who takes a complimentary benefit next Thursday) makes a typical George Fielding; Mr. Francis Everard wins cheers with his manly embodiment of the Rev. Francis Eden; and Mr. J. Hindle Taylor as Crawley, Mr. Edward Finlay as Hawes, Mr. Austen Milroy as Meadows, and Mr. Emm as Jackey (one of his brightest and most popular parts) share in the success. Miss Rose Ralph is in thorough sympathy with the part of Susan, and Miss Jessie Yatman imparts a true touch of pathos to the rôle of Josephs.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*Secrets; or, The Cross and the Crescent*, appears here, with Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Tomlinson's company. Mr. Reggy Brown depicts the hero, Lieutenant Markham, with much verve and ability; Mr. Wilton Ricards gives due effect to the rôle of the Caliph; Mr. John E. Tomlinson is seen to advantage as Ibrahim Al Murad; Mr. Will Bird is popular as Breezy Bill; Mr. Lal Abdul Cottman makes much of the part of Kara Mesrour; and Messrs. H. Ernestine, Alf Deprez, H. C. Burt, and Bryan Williams figure creditably in the play; Miss Lizzie Palmer creates a pleasing impression as Ismalia; Miss Nelly Navarro gives a fine portrayal of Zulieka; while the humorous rôles, which are all given with superfine ability, include Mr. Victor T. Raymond as Cholmondeley, Mr. Herbert Woodin as Wilkins, and Miss Madge Palmer as Winnie. Miss Cissie Harcourt does well as Khassi Ki.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*The Fatal Wedding* revisits this theatre, its attractions by no means lessening on repetition. Mr. Ernest Owtrim is highly popular as the hero, Howard Wilson; and much success attends the efforts of Mr. Guy Hastings as Robert Curtis, Miss Katherine Clarke as Mabel, and Miss Leah Marlborough as Cora. The other parts are also well represented by Mr. C. H. Hughes, Mr. Cyril Melton, Mr. Jack Waring, Miss Julie Temple, and Miss Marie Wilson, the latter as Jessie coming in for much praise. The specialities include Miss May Maddison in "Yankee Doodle Dandy," with full chorus; Miss Dorothy Pain, a budding Clara Butt, who sings "Killarney" with emminent success; Miss Edith Alcoe in "A Pic-nic for Two," and Master Walter Aubrey, the popular boy Lancashire clog dancer.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The chief attraction here is the racing episode, entitled *Rogues of the Turf*, presented by John F. Preston and company, Mr. Preston figuring as the chief character, Joe Flaxman. The introduction of three racehorses adds realism to the sketch. Millie Lindon sings with that charm which has won her great success; the Maningoes are clever head and hand balancers; and the Three Delaries are responsible for a smart speciality act, entitled *The Demon Grotto*. Dan Conroy, comedian; the Cambrian Trio, lady vocalists; Clive and Clark, black and white comedy artists; and Jack Neil, eccentric comedian, and J. H. Scotland, basso, complete an enjoyable programme.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The pantomime *Aladdin* is presented in tabloid form by John Tiller and company. The cast is a strong one, and includes several well-known artists, Bessie Cohen as Aladdin, Fred Dark as the Widow Twankey, May Sharples as Pekoe, and Little Britton as Schnapps. There are a number of tuneful songs and clever dances, fun being plentiful throughout. The Modern Venus appears in a number of classical poses; the Rupertos, equilibrists; Robbie Roy, comedian and dancer; and a comedy sketch, entitled *Next, Please!* presented by the Bros. Ashby, are all interesting turns.

Bordesley Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—Lottie Lennox, the well-known comedienne, holds the premier position here, and her songs are well rendered. Frank Bernard's company is responsible for a farce, entitled *Hello!* Nelly Coleman is a clever artist who is always well received; Dome is a clay-modeller of the eccentric type; Mlle. Amela, novelty entertainer; and Fanny Erris, comedienne, complete a varied and attractive programme.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — Eden Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—Miss Ethel Van Praagh and Mr. J. E. Whitty's company presented here on Monday the drama entitled *An Unwedded Wife*. Miss Ethel Van Praagh gives an emotional and painstaking interpretation of the title-rôle; Philip Blackstone is powerfully represented by Mr. E. St. Clair Forbes; the part of John Hawthorne is entrusted to Mr. Logan Darra, who does full justice to it; Mr. J. A. Grove successfully sustains the rôle of David Drummond; Mr. Valentine Henry makes an excellent Frank Armstrong; Miss Gladys May is seen to great advantage in her portrayal of Elsie Langham; and Little Doris is very good as Reggie. As Caraway Crumpet and Perkinson Pimple, Miss Jessie Gilette and Mr. Harry Townley are responsible for much bright amusement; whilst Mr. J. E. Whitty as P.c. O'Runyin, Cl. and Mr. Will Casey as Napoleon B. Boomer also add to the comedy interest of the play.

BLACKBURN. — Theatre Royal.— Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Manager, Mr. Reginald C. Yorke.—Mr. Henry E. Leigh's company is appearing here in the farcical comedy, *The 'Varsity Belle*. The piece is new to Blackburn, but its sparkling humour has quickly established it in the favour of local play-goers. Mr. James Danvers as Septimus Stoney is responsible for much of the fun, and makes a decided hit in that character. He is well supported by Mr. Frank Lilliput as Runyard, college scout, and Mr. Edward Chester as Theocritus Ward Sparkleton. The parts of the two undergraduates, George Barker and Albert Perrin, are well filled by Mr. R. Horley West and Mr. Ralph Battersley. Miss Josephine Ellis plays the double rôle of Mr. Paton of Emmanuel and Gaye Sparkleton with a charming vivacity, while Miss Emma Rainbow as Olive Barker, Miss Tessa Myers as Maud Stoney, and Miss J. Sullivan as Eve Stoney are excellent.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company, under the direction of Mr. Charles Draycott, appeared here on Monday and Tuesday in *A Modern Adventurer*. On Wednesday *The Octoroon* was played; on Thursday *The Heart of a Hero*; and on Friday *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaughten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—Miss Alexandra Dagmar, the popular comedienne, tops the bill this week again, and gains many plaudits; G. W. Hunter is an extremely funny comedian; and the Three Royal Dreadnoughts exhibit their remarkable prowess as rifle shots. Minnie Fenton, Scotch comedienne; Thornbury, lightning artist; Violet Dunn, coon artiste; Edie Endon, comedienne; and Cairns and Lynch, American buck dancers, also gives turns.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone. — Mrs. Morton Powell's company is giving a very intelligent representation here this week of the play *When It Was Dark*, which is founded on Guy Thorne's famous novel of that name. The exponents of the principal parts have been carefully selected, and the result is a performance of more than average merit. Mr. Cyril Austin Lee is well suited as the Rev. Basil Gortre; and Mr. George H. Pitt very cleverly portrays Constantine Schwabe. Mr. Arthur B. Murray as Sir Robert Llewellyn, and Mr. Henry Heller as the Rev. Mr. Byars, also acquit themselves well. The important rôle of Gertrude Hunt is played with great distinction by Miss Elizabeth Watson; whilst Helena Byars finds a most capable impersonator in Mrs. Morton Powell.

Grand Theatre.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—*Sapho*, as enacted by a company under the direction of Mr. James Bell, is this week's fare here. The title-rôle is played by Miss V. St. Lawrence, who proves herself to be an actress of no mean ability; Mr. Otto Minster is effective as Jean Gaussin; Mr. Oliver Rogers gives an accurate reading of Father le Grande; and Mr. George Antley a realistic portrayal of Césaire.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The excellence of the programme here this week is beyond the slightest doubt. With Wilkie Bard topping a bill which also contains the names of Hilda Jacobsen, a queen of burlesque, and Harry Weldon, one of Blackpool's favourite comedians, business is unusually brisk. Other contributors are Tennis and Laune, in a sketch; Belrose and De Velin, duettists; the Meymotts, in a laughable turn; Jessie Buckle, comedienne; Albert Athas and Lizzie Collins, in a farcical comedy; Odeyne Spark, vocalist and dancer; A. G. Spry, comedian; and Mona Macdonald, vocalist.

BOLTON.—Theatre Royal (Ltd.)—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—This week Mr. Lawrence Brough and company are here in the farcical comedy, *The Lady of Ostend*. Mr. Lawrence Brough admirably sustains the part of the light-hearted Baron de Longueville; Mr. Henry Hampson gives a fine rendering of the character of Dick Whortles; Mr. Percy Marshall is very successful as the father-in-law, Joseph Carbury; and Mr. Dalziel Heron looks the part of the prize-fighter, Toby Krockitt. Miss Marion Ripley scores throughout as the Lady of Ostend, and is deservedly applauded; Miss Kate Milford is graceful and charming as Dorothy Whortles; and Miss Bessie Harrison is spirited and stately in her assumption of Dick's mother-in-law, Matilda Carbury. At the *Rising of the Moon*, a romantic Irish play, in one act, precedes the comedy, and *The Cruise of the Saucy Sally* was billed for Friday evening.

Grand Theatre (Ltd.).—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—An excellent programme is submitted here, headed by Carrie Laurie's Juveniles, who, in their kindergarten act, meet with much applause from the audience. Other turns are Chris. Masters, character vocalist and comedian; Smith and Johnson, coloured duettists; Madoline Rees, versatile comedienne; the Harrison Brothers (Silly Willy and Georgy Porgy), in their absurdity, *Quaint Conceit*; the Two Cape Girls, clever duettists and long-boot dancers; Tom Stuart, in his dramatic and burlesque character sketches from famous plays and novels; May Fallowfield, dainty soubrette; Ted Waite, vocal comedian; the Three Royal Temples, including Mme. Louis Gilbert, soprano; the Huxter Brothers, acrobats; and the Imperial Bioscope.

BOOTLE. — Muncaster Theatre. — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Manager, Mr. H. Pennington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—*In Sight of St. Paul's*, played by Mr. Arthur Carlton's company, is proving a strong attraction here. Mr. Ernest R. Allen gives a powerful study of Tom Chichester; and Mr. W. H. Domoney is well placed as Harry Chichester. Mr. Valentine submits a good portrayal of the difficult rôle of Fretley Burside; and Mr. Henry Gilpin is a capital Blidstein. Mr. Herbert Cecil makes the most of the part of John Gridston; and has a capable assistant in Miss Gussie Everitt as Cynthia Dell. Mr. Arthur Armfield is seen to advantage as Mr. Chichester; and Miss Cissie Bellamy is a sympathetic and sweet Aileen Miller. The comedy element is in the safe keeping of Mr. Herbert Colley and Miss Sybil Hammersley as Jim Palfrey and Becky Vetch.

BOSCOMBE. — Hippodrome.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—J. H. Darnley, supported by a good company, is well received in a farcical sketch, entitled *What a Night*, the various incidents causing much amusement. Zarmo is clever in a combination of admirable fooling and smart juggling; the Zampas score a big success in their speciality dancing; as a ventriloquist, Bert Williams displays marked talent, his singing evoking much applause; Helen Martin is a cultured vocalist, her rendering of Tosti's "Good-bye" meeting with marked favour.

BOSTON. — Palace Theatre of Varieties. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. George Saphrini.—Billy Ross and company, in their great sporting comedy act, *A Hot Member*, head the bill this week. Others are Dick Brandon, singer of funny songs; Nellie Sheldon, the Australian star comedienne and speciality dancer; Jack Heffron, with his budget of comic songs; Sisters Leslie, duettists and dancers; Miss Edna Cragg, burlesque artist, sings in her usual charming style, and appears a great favourite; Ernie Williams, character vocalist; and last, but not least, Curtis Leo, the great illusionist, conjurer, and juggler, who fairly mystified his audience with his clever illusions and smart juggling feats.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—Mr. Robert Crossman's *Sergeant Brue* company is on a welcome return visit. Mr. E. Russell is really good in the name-part; as Crookie Scrubbs, Mr. T. H. Shale, whose voice is appreciated, is exceedingly droll; Mr. Tom Shelford makes the part of Michael Brue stand out prominently; Miss Constance Berkley plays Aurora charmingly; and as Lady Bickenhall, Miss Edith Housley is a success; Miss Mabel Keith doing all that is possible with the part of Daisy.

BRADFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—A return visit of *Sunday* is the attraction here. The company is Mr. Louis Calvert's, and an excellent performance of the piece is given. Miss Emélie Polini is very charming and thoroughly convincing in the title-rôle, and she has admirable support from Mr. Leonard Pagden as Colonel Brinthorpe, Mr. E. A. Douglas as Tom Oxley, Miss Rosalind Ross as Mrs. Naresby, and Mr. W. Lockhart, Mr. S. Renney, Mr. C. Yapp, and Mr. A. Vezin as Towzer, Davey, Lively, and Jackey respectively.

Prince's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Hardie and Von Leer's company commenced a return visit on Monday with *Two Little Vagabonds*, and the familiar play was again well received. Miss Jessie Beltram and Miss Edie Martin as Dick and Wally respectively meet with success. Miss Grace Heywood as Marion Thornton, Mr. A. E. Melbourne as George Thornton, and Mr. L. Ellis as Bill Mullins are excellent, and the other members of the capital company contribute good impersonations, the strong interest in the play being well sustained.

The Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—The company here consists of Jordan and Harvey, entertaining Hebrew comedians; Harry Clifford, comedian; The Dandies, a bright quartette of entertainers; Mike S. Whallen, comedian; Harry Lawson, comedian; Edie Veno, comedienne; the clever Stein-Eretto troupe of acrobats; Sims and Sims, comedy instrumentalists; Barney Vox, ventriloquist; and the American Bioscope.

Palace Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Ralli.—The Six Bros. Luck, in their pantomimic sketch, *The Hotel Grande*, are successful contributors to a fine programme here, the other members of the company being Walter Keating, coon artiste; the Bros. Henre, jugglers and club swingers; Williams and Warden, comedians; Frank Coyle, comedian; the Sisters Edwards, duettists and dancers; Mahatmas, second-sight marvels; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

St. George's Hall.—Manager, Mr. S. Carter.—Mr. Francis Laidler commenced a short season here on Monday with a strong variety company, consisting of Florrie Ford, Mab Paul, Alice Williams, Jo Monkhouse, Mary Palmer, George Davies and Co., Ethel King and Maurice Hoffman, the Cosmens (George and Nellie), Ted Young, Viola, Lavater F. Sumner, Fred and Hanson, the Black and White Comedy Quartette, Ada Twibell, Atroy, the Avigny Trio, and the New Century Company's Animated Pictures.

BRIGHTON.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Mr. Ian Maclaren and company opened here on Monday with *Hamlet*. Mr. Ian Maclaren gave a masterly portrayal of the title-rôle, one of the best enactments of the part ever submitted to a Brighton audience. His conception of the character was original and his elocution and acting were alike excellent. Miss Katherine Harrington made a graceful and sympathetic Ophelia, and was superbly effective in the mad scene. Mr. W. S. Hartford was admirably suited as the King; Miss Edith Coleman achieved distinct success as Queen Gertrude; Mr. Frank Royde's Laertes, Mr. J. V. Bryant's Horatio, and Mr. Arthur Fayne's Polonius were well played; while Mr. George Powell as the Gravedigger and Mr. F. Stafford Dawson as the Ghost deserve commendation. The programme for the week also included *David Garrick, Delicate Ground, The Merchant of Venice, Twelfth Night, She Stoops to Conquer, As You Like It*, and *Othello*.

Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company is here this week with *Man and Wife*. Mr. John F. Traynor submits an excellent portrayal of the hero, Paul Revere, and the heroine, Marcelle, finds a charming exponent in Miss Kate Hallam. Mr. Wilson Coleman is powerfullly effective as Captain D'Esparre; Mr. Edward Van Biene's Colonel Latour and Miss Violet Temple's Ruth Revere are admirably played; and Mr. Edward Leslie is well suited as the priest of St. Denis. The light comedy element is ably sustained by Mr. Sydney Bryant and Mr. Val Gully as Bimbo and Bambo, and Miss Pollie Denville as Rosette. Among others who render satisfactory support are Mr. Ambrose Horton (Sergeant Jacques) and Miss Ethel F. Greene (Jean). The drama is finely staged.

Alhambra.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—There is a capital company here this week. Hayman and Franklin are very amusing in *Goldstein's Visit*; Nipper Lupino Lane, juvenile comedian and dancer, gives a good turn; Hanvarr and Anna Lee are effective in jugglery and comedy; the Herald Comedy Four are well received in comedy, harmony, and dancing; the Zelovas display clever equilibristic and acrobatic feats; James Willard and company evoke hearty laughter with their sketch *The Little Wonder*; Roze and Calvert are warmly applauded for their absurdity act; Lily Mayfield is a dainty comedienne and dancer; Grogie, the Sussex yokel, Charles Craston, comedian, and Maggie Rimmer also provide pleasing turns; and the Alhambrascope pictures are very interesting.

Hippodrome Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford. — An attractive programme is submitted here this week. Mr. John Tiller's company appears in the pantomime *Dick Whittington and His Cat*, an excellent and merry entertainment with good singing and dancing. Miss Jessie Templeton (Dick), Miss Nellie Rodney (Alice), and Will Lytton (Idle Jack) submit capital impersonations, and much fun is afforded by Teddy Gibbs (Captain) and Barney Dixon (Mate). Other good turns are provided. Walter Emerson is a smart comedian; Arthur Royce, comedian at the piano, is very entertaining; Jack Rae is a comedy gymnast and hat manipulator; Webb and Branston are artistic operatic duettists; and the Barrascope pictures are amusing.

West Pier.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Mr. J. B. Mulholland's company is here this week with the fantastic farcical play *The Electric Man*. Mr. Bernard Copping as Walter Everest, the inventor, and also as the animated automaton, submits several clever and bewildering changes which are very amusing. He is ably supported by Miss Amy Fanchette as the illiterate landlady, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Sydney Lynn as Jack Strange, Mr. L. Robinson as Mr. Jobbins, and Mr. Chris Grose as General Pomeroy.

BRISTOL.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—This week we have *The Dairymaids*, capitally played by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company. Miss Edith Blanche is stately and in every way pleasing as Lady Brudenell; the Misses Violet Lloyd and Rhoda Gordon are charming exponents of the sisters Peggy and Winifred; Miss Cissy Sephton is really amusing as Eliza; Miss Beryl Vaudrey is interesting as Helene; and Miss Madge Avery is sufficiently austere as Miss Pychase. Mr. Harry Dent makes a capital sailor as Joe Mivens; he is always amusing, does some acrobatic work, and dances capitally. Mr. E. Statham Staples and Mr. George Desmond have good parts as Sam Brudenell and Lieut. Brudenell, taking full advantage of all their opportunities; and Mr. Forbes Dawson is in every way commendable as Dr. O'Byrne. The chorus is strong and effective, and excellent work is done by the augmented orchestra under the direction of Mr. Albert Bartlett.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—The drama *Revenge* is here for the week, played by Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's company. Mr. Hill-Mitchelson acts with considerable power as Prince Orloff; Mr. George Daiper is excellent as Captain Loirs Vanessa; Miss Violet Carlyle displays considerable power in her graceful exposition of the Queen; Miss Cissie Podmore is pleasingly interesting as Lieutenant Maurice; Miss Amy Ellam and Miss Alace Barber act well in their respective parts of Draga Vanessa and Cora Brook; and the remaining characters are all well cared for by other members of the company.

Palace Theatre.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Harry Roxbury's musical mélange, in three scenes, *The Prince of Monte Carlo*, heads the programme, and proves to be both attractive and amusing. Tom and Marie Motramo score with their musical-comedy duologue, *Do You Reverse?* Bob Stephenson, comedian, obtains applause; the Maples are exceptionally expert as speciality dancers; Beaty and Blanche, vocalists and dancers, are clever in their line; Kent and Keith (Julia and Alex) are highly successful in their speciality; George French, comedian, is popular; and the perfomance concludes with a good selection of animated pictures.

Empire.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident Manager Mr. Sid Macaire.—Roland, illusionist, tops the bill, and is highly successful in mystifying cabinet tricks, conjuring, &c., assisted by Miss Marjorie Russell; Albert Le Fre, comedian, obtains much applause for an excellent turn; Minnie Cunningham, comedienne, has some pleasing songs, and is popular with all parts of the house; the Rayner Trio do some smart conjuring and acrobatic work; Fred Dornan descriptive vocalist, is successful; Lily Watson, character comedienne, does a good turn; Ben Jackson is a clever trick banjoist; Charles Ridgwell, comedian, obtains applause; the Jagos, speciality artists, have a good dancing and musical act; and Wilton Heriot and company score in a quick-change act entitled *An Anglo-American Alliance*. The performance concludes with interesting animated pictures.

BROUGHTON.—Victoria Theatre, Ltd.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson. — Mr. Charles Constant is this week presenting the pantomime *Blue Beard*. The choruses are well sustained under the direction of the musical composer, Mr. H. Hahn. Miss Isa Bowman gives a spirited portrayal of Selim, and a charming Fatima is that by Miss Dorothy Dempster; Mr. Charles Lake is an excellent Blue Beard; Mr. Gus Danby as Bamboozlem, Mr. Alec Godfrey as Pimole, Mr. Mac Stuart as Shacabac, and Mr. Johnny Clegg as Sister Ann cleverly keep the fun going from start to finish. The specialities include dancing and singing by Stuart and Stuart and Little Felicia.

BURNLEY.—Victoria Opera House. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Homer.—Miss Maud Hildyard and company are here playing *The Great Awakening*. Miss Hildyard as Lola is a clever emotional actress, and is frequently applauded for her performance; Mr. Frank Liston is a manly Jack Merton, and Mr. Gordon McLeod is a smart Captain Lambert; Guy Rogan is ably undertaken by Mr. Stephen Langdon; Mr. J. H. Booth is good as Richard Wilson; and the comedy in the hands of Mr. Willie Scott as Billy Brass and Miss Lilla Nordon as Selina, is excellent; Miss Doris Digby as Molly does well.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Miss Carlotta Levey holds a good place in the excellent programme here this week; her two songs, "A Gentleman" and "A Gambling Man," win for her great appreciation. Roars of laughter greet the performances of Kelly and Gillette in a comedy act; the Merrinos give a very merry turn, and Barry and Knowles make another very funny turn; J. S. James can handle the banjo well; the Bohemians are very musical on a variety of instruments; the Colvilles (Nancy and Edie) are smart dancers; and the New Empire Theatroscope shows a good picture, "The curfew shall not ring to-night."

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—New Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. H. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—The Arthur Saxon Trio head a first-class programme this week, their astounding feats of strength being loudly applauded. Miss Beattie Bloom gives her songs in good style; the Two Dominos also do well, and cause much laughter; the Onyx Duo, in their quick-change specialities, are well received; an original turn is that by Wisper, comedy juggler; Happy Joe Williams thoroughly earns the title; Ryde and Beeman shine in their comic acrobatic posturing; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux is also in evidence.

BURY (Lancs.).—Theatre Royal and Opera House, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company is here this week. On Monday *Carmen* was presented to a crowded house. A flattering reception was given Mlle. Zelie de Lussan, whose acting and singing as Carmen were delightful. Mr. Charles Carter as Don José and Mr. M. Vincent as Escamillo were particularly fine, and sang their music excellently. Miss Lucie Lever as Michaela was highly successful. The choruses were well sung, and the augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Harrison Frewin, was all that could be desired.

Circus of Varieties. — General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—There is a good programme here, including Alburtus the First and Miss Jessie Miller in a musical sketch, entitled *A Scene on the Fair Ground;* Howard and Collinson in an amusing sketch, called *The Porter and the Parcel;* Cyclumina, trick cyclist; Jennie Hartley, who sings and dances well; the Brothers Hannaway, comedians; Millie Payne, comedy star; and Harry Taylor, the Wigan comedy warbler.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead; General-Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—The big item here is *A Coster's Honeymoon*, played by Amy Anderson and Co. Other turns include the Three Coopers, vocalists; the Musical Keiths; Charles Windermere and Clare Manifield, in a comedy duologue, *A Narrow Squeak;* Fred Cosburn, comedian; and Clifton and Gibson as eccentric comedians.

CAMBRIDGE. — New Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Miss Ada Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is paying a return visit here with *A Sailor's Sweetheart*. The piece is admirably staged and proves most interesting. Mr. Wellesley Draper makes a first-class Lieut. Charles Clive; and Miss Mabel Ormonde is a dainty and winsome heroine, Grace Mayland. Mr. Arthur Elwyn has thoroughly grasped the villain's part; Miss Ella Dixon plays with spirit as Phœbe Pembery; and Miss Amy Maitland makes a rattling character of Mrs. Pembery. The rest of the cast is also perfectly satisfactory.

CARDIFF.—New Theatre.—Sole Lessee and Proprietor, Mr. Robert Redford.—The enthusiastic reception accorded to Mr. William Greet's company at the New Theatre on Monday night furnished proof that *The Sign of the Cross* still enjoys wide popularity. Miss Marie Leonhard's Mercia is feelingly enacted, and wins high praise; Mr. Frank E. Petley is a manly and effective Marcus Superbus, and brings out all the strong points of that difficult rôle. Miss Dulcie Greatwich is to be congratulated upon her delineation of Stephanus; and Berenice is in the capable hands of Miss Gertrude Price. Miss Lily Ward (Ancaria) and Miss Cissie Carlton (Dacia) could not possibly be improved upon. Mr. C. Yorke creates a good impression as Nero; and Mr. Charles Alfred is admirably suited as Tigellinus. The character of Licinius is undertaken by Mr. J. Wetherall; and Miss Mary Newcombe makes a dignified Poppœa.

Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robt. Redford.—*The Span of Life*, which is this week presented by Mr. Arthur Carlton's company, is a perfect triumph of stage realism. Mr. R. S. Trelawney acts very creditably as Richard Blunt; and Mr. Sanderson Moffat as Dunstan Leech submits a capital rendition. Mrs. Jelf receives a faithful impersonation from Miss Phyllis Hamilton; and Kate Heathcott is undertaken by Miss Guinevere Shilton. The comedy of Mr. Walter Dale as Nutty Brown is one of the main features of the play; and an additional attraction is the clever acrobatic performance of the Stebbing Brothers. Mr. James Jarrett appears as Joshua Gurnett, and is also an able stage-manager.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. W. Lea; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring. — Mr. Horace Golden has packed the Empire nightly, and his wonderful conjuring feats, performed so amazingly quick, are the talk of the city. A couple of clever comedy acrobats are Hall and Earle, who are successful as the Chinaman and the Tramp; the McConnell Trio get liberal applause for their smart musical sketch, *Mrs. Skinner's Lodgers;* Barry Lindon's magnificent bass voice is heard to much advantage, and the illustrations are exquisite; a really clever comedian is Harry Leybourne; and another excellent mirth-maker is Harry Bedford, with his original songs. Eily Adair, a talented comedienne and dancer; Frank Darwin, actor-vocalist; Gertrude Bradshaw, a gifted soprano; with the Bioscopic pictures of "The Daughter of the Regiment," complete the entertainment.

CARLISLE.—H. M. Theatre.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mr. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Mr. Norman V. Norman and his répertoire company opened here on Monday to a fairly large audience. The piece selected was *Robin Hood*, in which Mr. Norman V. Norman played the title-rôle in a masterly and artistic manner; Mr. Norman Leslie was exceedingly good as Lord Guy of Gisborne; Mr. Brember Wills as Simon Hardwryste gave a finished performance; and Mr. Francis Hope was a humorous and painstaking Friar Tuck; and the Little John of Mr. Aubrey Mathers was all that could be desired. Miss Beatrice Wilson scored an emphatic success as Maid Marian; and the simpering Clorinda was admirably played by Miss Sybil Ruskin. *David Garrick, The Adventures of Lady Ursula,* and *Nell Gwynne of Drury Lane*, are also billed for the week.

The Palace. — Proprietors, The Palace Theatre, Carlisle, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—Starr and Leslie constitute the chief turn here, and give a clever exhibition of club manipulation; Jinson's "Pets at Home" is a very amusing and entertaining item; the Crown Trio are good vocalists, and meet with quite an ovation; Julian Mack, the dame, on a return visit, is as popular as ever, which can also be said of the Brothers Redmond, acrobatic comedians; Madeline Rossiter, comedienne and dancer, is scoring a great success; and the pleasing singing of Marion Scott is much appreciated. The Pepiscope is well to the fore.

CASTLEFORD.—Royal.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Cr. Hy. Masterman.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company is playing here for the first time *The Worst Woman in London*. Miss Olga Audre appears in the title-rôle (the part she originally played at the Standard), and she makes a decided hit. Her acting is forceful and well sustained, and she wins enthusiastic applause. Miss Elizabeth Watkins gives an excellent performance of Ruth Milford. Graceful and womanly in bearing, she at once wins the sympathy of the audience. James Milford, the victimised father, is ably and intelligently portrayed by Mr. F. Vernon Travers, whose acting is clever and well studied; Jack Felton is in the hands of Mr. George Gaisford, and his reading of the part is much appreciated; Mr. Paul Barry-Lewers is well suited to the character of Vincent Lyle, and plays it in an admirable manner; Mr. L. Booker gives a good account of the difficult rôle of Philip Armstrong, his impersonation of the revengeful madman being very clever; Mr. H. Monte appears to advantage as Hugh Drayton; the comedy element is supplied by Mr. W. Garvey as Bob Goldfinch, and Miss Polly Marsh as Matilda Parker. They have some amusing situations, and play their parts admirably.

Queen's Theatre of Varieties. — Proprietors, Messrs. Charles Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—The fine programme prepared here meets with general approval, and is attracting crowded houses. The Whitworth Cycling Girls, assisted by Campkin, comedy cyclist, give an enjoyable turn in their sporting act, *Riding to Win;* a good turn is that of Juan and McQue as comedians and knockabouts, and they are worthy of the praise bestowed upon them; Henriette and Selina give some splendid selections on various instruments; Nelson and Thomas amuse considerably with their laughable sketch *A Fight for a Fiver;* Lillie Currie sings several songs both sweetly and tunefully; the McKays paint in oils a beautiful landscape with lightning-like rapidity; Hallie gives a novel turn as an eccentric juggler; Miss Jeannie Evans as a songstress is much appreciated; and the Loyal Dominion Co.'s animated pictures still take well. Mrs. H. B. Coda directs the orchestra of this house with much energy and skill.

CHATHAM. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. Geo. G. Ridley.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's *Oliver Twist* company is on a return visit. Mr. Stanley Drewitt is repeating his powerful and clever impersonation of Fagin; Mr. Cecil A. Collins is in every way suited to the rôle of Bill Sikes; Miss Edith Anton Laing is a good Nancy, and gains everyone's sympathy; Rose Maylie proves an interesting character as represented by Miss Eva Stuart; Mr. Edward Comberbach does full justice to the part of Mr. Brownlow; as Monks, and later in the play as the gouty Mr. Grimwig, Mr. W. H. Rotheram's skilful acting is thoroughly appreciated; a lively couple are the Artful Dodger (Mr. Charlie Clark) and Barney (Mr. Sydney Porter); and little Mirrie Omar displays plenty of confidence in the title-rôle.

Gaiety Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. Frank J. Donne.—Otto Menotti tops the bill here, his sensational and daring feats being greatly admired by Gaiety patrons; Lilian Elfreda is successful in imitating several well-known music-hall artists; roars of laughter are created by Farley, Rennie, and Farley in *Fun at a Railway Station;* Hallam and Stanton have a well-written musical comedy sketch, *A Broken Journey*, in which they make a decided hit; Tom Woottwell is going particularly well here; Harry Mayville (vocalist), Howard and Lenore (nimble dancers), and the Edisonograph complete the attractions.

Barnard's Palace of Varieties.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Coram is the leading attraction here, and his clever ventriloquial act is freely applauded; Miss Dolly Elsworthy's company secures the entire attention of the audience throughout in *Right's Right*, a sketch in which Miss Elsworthy shines conspicuously as Venus; J. H. McCann's dancing on roller skates is indeed smart; Ross and Lewis amuse with *Fits and Misfits*, the gentleman's eccentric dancing being much admired; the Alskarno Trio are recalled for their Risley business and somersault-throwing act; Molly Doon is a neat little comedienne; Dick Graham (character vocalist), Cole and Wood (duologue artists), and Minnie Wren (serio) appear; and Mr. Lacey's Erascope interests with "The Rag-picker's Daughter

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—A treat is provided here this week in a visit from Gladys Silvester and Fletcher Sansome's company with *Cissy*. Miss Silvester takes the part of Mary Mopps in vivacious and pleasing manner; Mr. Fletcher Sansome convulses the house as Titus Thomas; Miss Hetty Lind possesses a marvellous voice and makes a first-rate Cissy Vere; Mr. Harry Vernon is a pleasing Victor Carleton, and sings well; Mr. Fred Wade submits a careful study of Dossy Bowers, and employs a powerful voice to advantage; Miss Dorah E. Eastlake does a good piece of acting as Olive Temple; Mr. Basil Mitchell represents the heavy part of Gilbert Temple in a thoroughly cynical style; Miss Kitty Lea deserves praise for her Kitty Malone; and Miss Trissie Mills, Miss Kitty Vernum, and Miss Daisy Towers, as Sally Spring, Daisy Meadows, and Polly Winters, sing and dance to perfection.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor, J.P.—Messrs. Garside and Knowles' company, in *The London Fireman*, is this week's attraction. Mr. J. Forbes Knowles sustains the dual rôles of Col. Fleming and Hal Curtis with conspicuous ability. Mr. E. L. Garside is clever as Ratty; Mr. Walter Wilby is well suited as Joe Bluener; Mr. Herbert Humber is an able exponent of Viscount Fleming; Mr. Lionel Thompson appears as Doctor Gerrard and Abel Fortnum with success; Mr. Philip Renouf is a humorous Nixey Stinger; Miss Beatrice Sinclair is a sympathetic Grace Curtis; Miss Nellie Waddington a lifelike Gladys Fleming; and Miss Nellie Garside as Polly Bramble is a favourite.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—Mr. Lewis Waller's talented company is being received with favour here in *Brigadier Gerard*. Mr. Langhorne Burton admirably fits the title-rôle, and deserves warm praise; a fine impersonation of Talleyrand is submitted by Mr. George Mallet; Mr. Arthur Somers acts with effect as the Emperor Napoleon; Mr. Cecil Wynne is equal to the responsibilities of the rôle of General de Caulaincourt; Mr. Sidney Young is reliable as Monsieur D'Albert; Mr. James Crowe is capitally made up as Monsieur Basompierre; Mr. Harry Taylor is appropriate as Trumpeter Papilette; Mr. Frank Powell, as Colonel Guerin is creditable; Mr. J. Henry Twyford is commendable as Major Bron; Mr. Edwin Bennett does well in the part of Major Oliver; and Mr. Reginald Mason deserves a word as Pierre. Miss Muriel Godfrey Turner enacts the rôle of Comtesse de Roqueleure with all the tact and skill of an accomplished actress; Miss Florence Denbigh is excellent as Mère Lafitte; and Miss Margery Chard makes a pleasing impression as Agnes.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Herrick.—*As Good as Gold* is being played here this week by an excellent company. Mr. Jackson Hayes cleverly depicts the villain, Sir Richard Wharncliffe; Mr. Albert Wainwright is capable as Lieut. Jack Stanton; Mr. Fred W. Fysher is very impressive as Mark Williams; Mr. Herbert Fuller does well as Horatio Spankes; Mr. Joseph Rowlands causes much laughter as Timothy Nias; and Mr. T. H. Jarman is commendable as Capt. D'Arcy James. Miss Agnes Collier fills the rôle of Kate D'Arville in telling style; Miss Lily Fuller gives a good representation of the Kipper, Wharncliffe's son; Miss Maude Merrick, as Madge Merry, is a success; and Miss Rosalie makes a fascinating Nora Williams.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Walter Gibbons; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—Mr. and Mrs. John Lawson and company are winning approbation here in the graphic sketch, *The Devil's Sunday*; Nellie Farrell, Irish comedienne, is quite at her best; Arthur Aldridge's fine tenor voice is heard to advantage; Sambo and Tambo submit a smart banjo act; Hooker and Davis are expert dancers and pantomimists; Prof. Dunning is an exceptionally clever ventriloquist; Kahn and Khan are good in sleight-of-hand tricks; and the Mysterious Cross illusion causes a sensation.

DARLINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Crowded houses have greeted Mr. Frank Lindo's company, in *Home, Sweet Home*. Miss Marion Wakeford as Joan proves herself to be a clever young actress; and to Miss Ray Rochefort (Sybil Fay) praise must also be awarded; Mr. Frank Lindo makes a marked impression in the part of Stephen Armitage; Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle is good as David Armitage; Mr. F. Miles Hodgson is a typical villain as the Hon. Percy; Mr. Jack Patrick is seen to advantage in the comedy part; Mr. Lionel Ray scores as an old man; Mr. Ernest E. Owens does capital work as Lord Silvermore; Miss Ray Rochefort sustains the part of Dora with skill and intensity.

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company has appeared here for three nights this week on a return visit in *A Chinese Honeymoon*. Soo-Soo is all that one could desire as played by Miss May Stevenson; Miss Kitty Clayton is a distinct success as Fi-Fi; Mr. Ernest Sefton makes an amusing Mr. Pineapple; and Miss May Davis a charming and vivacious Mrs. Pineapple; Miss Mary O'Higgins is sufficiently austere as Mrs. Brown; and Miss Madge Davis and Miss Sybil Ross are pleasing as the bridesmaids. Mr. Harold Cotter (Hang Chow), Mr. Frank Sutton (Hi-Lung), Mr. Louis Ashmeade (Lord Chancellor), and Mr. J. Maxwell Edwards (Tom Hatherton), are all very good.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King. Consequent on their very favourable reception of last week, Mr. Ernest R. Abbott's company has been re-engaged, and is appearing in the attractive drama *A Wife's Triumph*. Mr. E. R. Wilton gives a touching representation of the depths to which a man may be dragged by betting; Miss Ada Abbott as Bessie Dewhurst wins the sympathy of the audience, and Mr. Douglas Pheps is well fitted in the part of Robert Dewherst. Mr. Edwin Keene as Ben Bradford and Miss Marjorie Tennant as Alice Wilton supply the humorous element, and this could not be in better hands. Other members of the cast are Mr. W. Ross; Mr. W. H. Garbols; Mr. W. H. Davis-Brown and the Misses Doris Dew and Hetty Jones.

DEWSBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Asquith.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is here this week in *A Royal Divorce*. Mr. Frederick Victor may be congratulated for his studied portrayal of the "Little Corsican," developing in his action and utterance those characteristic traits and features of Napoleon. The Empress Josephine is superbly played by Miss Edith Cole, whose emotional earnestness and fidelity make the character a living reality as well as most impressive in respect to histrionic artisticness. Other rôles are considerately and convincingly presented by Messrs. Claude Agnew (Talleyrand), Graham Woods (Marquis de Beaumont), Alfred Grenville (General Augereau), St. George Frere (Marshal Murat), Wm. Robbins (Dr. Corvisart), and Geo. Hudson (Grimaud, the innkeeper), and Misses Helen Richmond (Stephanie de Beauharnais), Agnes Imlay (Marie Louise), &c. Miss Maggie Cardiff plays with boyish prettiness and charm the little King of Rome.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. Weldon.—Austin, Boyd, and Trixie Gilfain present a curious mixture, but clever and enjoyable, of tenor vocalism, and bagpipes, in various musical comediettas; the anatomical peculiarities of limbs and body in motion and in respose of Souplessi are positively weird and startling; McCann's Irish terriers and leaping dogs are a conspicuously attrative feature, which suit the popular taste; Miss Lillian Victoria, the famous Eton boy; Chas. Rowen, comedian; Bros. Lavelle, quaint comedy acrobats; and Bioscope pictures complete the programme. On Thursday the management arranged the annual benefit in aid of the Dewsbury and District General Infirmary, when a clear half of the gross takings in both houses will be handed over to that most deserving institution.

DONCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—Variety entertainments continue to draw crowded houses here. Charles Morritt, with a man in a trance, is weird; quite a furore is caused by Blanche and Diacoff, champion cyclists; Charles Bradford is sparkling as a comedian; and Mme. Beulah, a marvel of mental telepathy, bewilders. La Sylph is an exceptionally interesting turn in her illuminated dance; Boy Samson performs wonderful feats of strength; and Brenda Leslie, song illustrator, scores. The Wonderful Blind Man of Memory creates a sensation.

DOVER. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Ltd.; Chairman of Directors, Mr. B. Carter; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred C. Dew.—After a long run of dramas, a variety entertainment is proved to be an appreciated change. Two sketches are played, viz., *My Son's Wife*, presented by Harrold's company of comedians, and *The Enemy of Man*, a dramatic episode, contributed by Mr. W. J. Mackay and company. Bert Fox's songs are well received; Glenroyd and Cross sing a masher and coster duet; the Mannikins are a popular item; Roy and Terriss, the former a clever musician and amusing comedian, score well; and May Kent, burlesque artist, and Payne's Bio-photoscope, complete the programme.

DUBLIN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The ever-popular Lydia Yeamans, accompanied by F. J. Titus, is the attraction here this week, and delighting all with her vocal contributions and mimicry; a clever musical sketch, entitled *Poor Beggar*, is well presented by Mr. John Le Hay, supported by Miss Mary Duggan and Mr. Chas. Courtley; and the trick cycle riding of the Marsumas is appreciated to the full. Mr. Matthew Brodie and Miss Dorothea Vivian, in the dramatic episode, *The Drummer of the 76th*, scores a decided hit; C. St. John Denton and George Rowland's company of juveniles is heartily welcomed; and the Mackweys, in a whirling act on the wire, evoke applause. As comedy jugglers, Cole and Rags are mirth-provoking; and Hal Forde is a comedian of more than ordinary merit. Burnetti, quick-change musician, is highly successful; Ducalion, in a ladder act, and the Royal pictures, conclude an enjoyable programme.

GAIETY THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland. — Miss Annie Hughes and company in *Tommy* opened here on Monday. Miss Hughes had a flattering reception for a charming and clever conception of the title-rôle; and Mr. Rupert Lister was praiseworthy as Dick Danvers. Peter Hope was in the capable hands of Mr. Evelyn Vernon; and Miss Winifred Pearson deserves high compliments for her portrayal of Mr. Morrison. The part of William Clodd had an able exponent in Mr. Willie Hartill; the rôle of Honour was successfully filled by Miss Ida Richardson; and Mr. Reginald F. Beach was capital as the office boy, Flipp. *Good-for-Nothing Nan*, in which Miss Hughes appeared as Nan, preceded, and was well received.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—Heading the bill here are the Kremo Family, whose marvellous gymnastic act causes quite a sensation, and is rapturously applauded; France and Stewart, in an amusing sketch, *The 100 to 1 Chance*, scores a success; and James Bradv, eccentric comedian, is as popular as ever. Ingram and Irving, in a smart little comedy act, *The New Office Boy*, are highly diverting; and Charles Vincent enhances his reputation as a comedian. Sylvesta, assisted by Miss Vera De Courtnay in a clever conjuring act, elicits applause; Jennie Mackay, an accomplished vocalist, sings some descriptive songs effectively; and the Empire pictures are, as usual, up to date.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The El Tris Tampico Troubadours, who top the bill here, give an exceedingly interesting performance, which wins cordial applause; the Lancashire Harmony Boys, assisted by Cliffe Dover, comedian, use their voices to much advantage in their clever and harmonious turn; and the Wakeman Quartette prove acceptable in a musical comedy sketch. The Trentanovis Sisters, in a daring gymnastic act, receive well merited applause; and Fred Harrison is a capital comedian. Sill and Silicott, in a novel railway skit, *Lively Luggage*, cause much laughter; and Lena Wylie is a pleasing comedienne. The Sisters Nella, in their pot-pourri act, are well received; and Witty Will Wicker, "the ideal Scot" also scores. The Bioscope is always an attraction.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Chas. A. James.—The following artists are appearing here this week:—Conn and Davis, in their comedy act, *The Page and the Chauffeur*; Miss Annie Rose, vocalist and dancer; Ted Warner, eccentric comedian; Will Bent, instrumentalist and dancer; and Jack Twist, comedian.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is playing *The Christian* this week. Mr. F. Rawson Buckley acts the noble part of John Storm in a skilful manner, and a more pleasing and natural rendering as Glory Quayle could not be desired than that of Miss Laura Walker. Another well-studied part was that of Horatio Drake by Mr. Ernest Stidwell; and Mr. P. Gedge Twyman was distinctly good as Lord Robert Ure. Miss Constance Stephens deserves a word of praise as the warm-hearted Mrs. Callander.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Nightingale.—The Ramlos, comedy gymnasts, are great favourites; and the Olmar Trio, Roman statuary acrobats, give a clever performance. Bertha Winder, aptly described as the dancing marvel, was in great form; E. Heathcote is a very droll comedian, with good songs; Sadie Seymour, comedienne, proved a pleasing turn; Maud Godfrey is a good descriptive vocalist; Deane-Jenning's company gave a powerful rendering of a dramatic sketch entitled *Vengeance*. The Empire pictures complete the bill.

DUMFRIES. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. W. E. Potts; Manager, Mr. Payne-Seddon.—For the first three nights of this week we are favoured with a visit of Mr. Charles Macdona's principal company in *The White Chrysanthemum*, which has drawn capital houses. Miss Muriel George is charming as Sybil Cunningham, her singing being above the average; Miss Dorothy Sephton as Betty Kenyon is very smart as the young widow; and Miss Wilmot Karkeek as Cornelia Vanderdecken is well placed. Mr. Shirley Lea impersonates Admiral Sir Horatio Armitage in an able manner; Mr. H. Langdon Bruce is a great success as Lieut. Reginald Armitage; and Mr. H. E. Garden takes the part of Lieut. Chippendale Belmont in a most acceptable manner. The hit of the evening, however, is Mr. Richard Telford as Sin Chon, who kept the house in continual merriment. The rest of the company lend good support.

DUNDEE.—PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—J. W. Hall tops this week's bill, and is enthusiastically received; J. H. Milburn, always a big favourite here, repeats his former successes; the Three Tivoli Girls sing and dance themselves into favour in charming style; Arthur Croxon and Carl Howard display a happy gift of humour in their respective turns; and Lily Foy is a neat and stylish comedienne. A sketch, entitled *The Nightingale*, is rendered by the Two Kays, who sing very sweetly; and a popular item is a laughable piece, *Stage Aspirants*, by Dene and Dawson. Owing to illness, the *Tally Ho Trio* were unable to appear on Monday. Vernon's Imperial Bioscope, with an entirely new set of pictures, completes a capital bill.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—Monday was the second anniversary of the occasion of Mr. Williams taking over the reins of management here, and two capital houses assembled to enjoy the programme provided. Starring is Yvette de Laabe, who appears in a series of daring and exquisitely beautiful art poses. During the interval between the poses a special series of art pictures are shown, the whole turn being artistic in the extreme. Bert Lytton, a swell comique, submits a turn of real excellence, and was recalled again and again. A comedy sketch, entitled *The Queen of the Cannibal Island*, is the cause of much laughter; Mlle. Fountain's Mannikins are extremely amusing; and others who contribute enjoyable turns are the Lauriers, speciality artists; the Two Jays, comedians; Clark and Gold, American banjo artists; and the Gaiety Electro-motorscope.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Jury's Picture Company, after a short absence, pays a welcome return visit with a collection of the very latest films. Jack Ramsay, a capital comedian and raconteur; and Lillie Benson, a pleasing vocalist and dancer, contribute enjoyable turns.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Fred Karno's troupe of comedians is fulfilling a week's engagement here. The burlesque sketch, *Mumming Birds*, along with the pantomimical burlesque, *Early Birds*, form the principal items of a lengthy and good programme. The fun is lively and never flags, the artists engaged putting in some very clever work. Mr. Charles Denton, the celebrated London comedian, is very successful in his turn; the singing and dancing of the Sisters Lavendar was much appreciated; the Miltons gave a smart and entertaining turn; Lincoln and Warren contributed a skilful and clever trick cyclist's turn; Lillie Stuart, comedienne and dancer, is well received.

EASTBOURNE.—DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Devonshire Park and Baths Company; Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—Throughout the week Miss Florence Glossop-Harris and a capable company are appearing in a number of Shakespearean and other well-known plays. On Tuesday evening *Romeo and Juliet* was staged in a very worthy manner. Miss Florence Glossop-Harris as Juliet gave an earnest, intelligent performance, which held the profound interest of the audience throughout; Miss Muriel Curry was a dignified Lady Capulet; and Miss Kate Turner was most effective as the Nurse. Mr. Frank Cellier, handsome and picturesque, gave his lines with fine effect, and as Romeo was a great success; Mr. Percy H. Vernon was a keen and notably able Mercutio; Mr. David Santley was an impressive and sympathetic Friar Lawrence; Mr. Arthur Goodsall was an excellent Benvollio; Mr. A. Cotton Holmes a satisfactory Tybalt; and Mr. C. C. Frere a very good Paris. Mr. Edward Landor was a strong Capulet; and Mr. Herbert Halford made much fun out of the part of Peter.

PIER PAVILION. — Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's company is appearing here in *The Private Secretary*. Mr. Donald Price-Evans cleverly supplies abundant fun as Robert Spalding; Mr. W. Hargreaves repeats his very effective performance as Cattermole; Mr. Vivian Gilbert merits a special word of praise for fine work as Gibson; Mr. Radolfe Reade and Mr. James P. E. Hussey share the honours which fall to them as Douglas Cattermole and Henry Marsland; Mr. W. T. Elworthy looks and acts well as Mr. Marsland; Miss Dorothy Shaw and Miss Beth Elliott are delightfully dainty and charming representatives of Edith and Eva; Mrs. Alfred Davis is a really admirable Miss Ashford; and Miss Cicely Wade causes amusement as Mrs. Stead.

ECCLES.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Hamilton Baines; Manager, Mr. Albert Orton.—Mr. Walter Maxwell's principal company is this week appearing here in *The Lion and the Mouse*. Miss Christine Silver gives a realistic portrayal of Shirley Rossmore; Miss Maude Townsend and Miss Margaret Nybloc undertake their respective parts as Mrs. Rossmore and Kate Roberts creditably; Miss Elspeth Dudgeon is good as Mrs. John Burkett Ryder; Mr. Leslie Carter as John Burkett Ryder scores an unmistakable success; Mr. Martin Rowlands acquits himself well as Jefferson Ryder. Other parts are ably rendered by Mr. Herbert Chown (Hon. Fitzroy Bayley), Mr. Douglas West (James Rossmore), Mr. Arthur Roland (Alfred Stott), and Mr. John Wheatman (J. Wentmore Roberts, M.P.).

EDINBURGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—Mr. Charles Frohman's company remains here for another week with *Peter Pan*, which is being played to crowded and enthusiastic audiences.

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Limited; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Carpenter.—Last Monday evening, in spite of most unfavourable weather, when Mr. Martin Harvey and company began a week's engagement, the Lyceum Theatre was crowded in every part. Interest has run high on the present occasion, for the popular actor has produced *The Corsican Brothers*, a play which has not been seen in this city for some years. The performance on Monday was a decided success. Mr. Harvey, in the dual rôles of Fabian and Louis dei Franchi, acted with striking grace, tenderness, and passion; Mr. Vincent Sternroyd was a picturesque villain as Château Renaud; Mr. Albert E. Raynor's impersonation of the Baron de Montgrim was of marked excellence; and a capital character sketch of Baron Martell was given by Mr. George Cooke. Mr. Alfred Mansfield acted with much acceptance as Maynard; and the parts of Antonio Sarrole and Colonne were played with force and humour by Mr. J. Barber, and that sound old actor, Mr. Fred Wright, sen. A word of praise is due to Mr. P. Alexander for a humorous bit of acting in the small part of Boisset. Miss Coleridge was charming and expressive as Emily de Lesparre; and Miss May Rorke brought all her attractiveness to bear upon her pathetic performance of Madame dei Franchi. The play was beautifully mounted, and was followed by the one-act tragedy, *The Spell*, by Miss Rosamond Longbridge. In response to loud applause at the close of the performance, Mr. Harvey briefly thanked the audience for their warm reception of himself and his company. On Wednesday and Thursday evenings, *The Breed of the Treshams*, with Mr. Harvey in his fine impersonation of Lieut. Revesby, The Rat, was given; and on Friday *The Cigarette Maker's Romance*.

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—After an absence from the city of almost a decade, the Carl Rosa Opera Company is once more gratifying Edinburgh playgoers with a round of favourite operas, and crowded and brilliant houses have emphasised the popularity of this excellent combination of artists. On Monday evening *Tannhäuser* was produced with Mr. Julius Walther in the title-rôle; Mme. Lucile Hill as Elizabeth; Mme. Marie Alexander as Venus; Mr. Dillon Shallard as Wolfram; Mr. Arthur Winckworth as the Landgrave; and Mr. Charles Le Sueur as Walther. All were in good voice, and with a full orchestra, chorus, and ballet, Mr. Eugene Goossens conducting, a thoroughly enjoyable representation was given. Mozart's *Don Giovanni* was staged on Tuesday, when this delightful opera was admirably rendered by Mr. Charles Victor as the Don, Miss Elizabeth Burgess as Elvira, Miss Ina Hill as Zerlina, and Miss Grace Nicoll, a young Edinburgh lady, whose advance in her profession has been notable, and who sings with much finish and brilliancy, as Donna Anna, with Mr. Arthur Winckworth as Leporello, Mr. Edward Davies as Don Ottavio, and Mr. Eugene Goossens again conducting. *Carmen* received a fitting interpretation on Wednesday with Miss Doris Woodall in the name-part, Mr. Julius Walther as José, Mr. Charles Victor as Escamillo, and Miss Elizabeth Burgess as Micaela, Mr. Walter van Noorden being the conductor. The week's repertory has also included *Faust*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Fidelio*, and *Il Trovatore*.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Mr. Arthur Rigby, who heads an excellent programme here this week, appears in a sparkling musical playet, *The Isle of Ooma*, and is ably assisted by a capable company. Mr. Victor Newman scores in his impersonation of Matthias in *The Bells*; Carlos Menard proves himself an expert violinist; Morton and Bowman, in their comedy duologue, are very amusing; the singing of Edward Arthur and company in an excerpt from *The Lily of Killarney*, is of a high standard; the Rohda Bros. give a novel and clever equilibristic turn; and Seeley and West; Florence, lady mimic; Sammy Shields, comedian; Blanche Vincent, comedienne; and pictures on the Bioscope complete the programme.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Ventom Swift.—The leading feature in a good programme here this week is the interesting bicycle race of Messrs. Hall and Wilson. The speed and distance are shown by a novel indicator on the machines, and much enthusiasm is evoked by the efforts of the riders. Mr. Frank Vallance is a clever conjurer; Mr. W. H. Smart is successful in his sketches; and Mr. T. C. Callaghan is a smart comedian. Little Venus, a taking little vocalist, is loudly applauded, both for her singing and dancing, and Oakley and James provide a turn which is full of amusement.

EXETER. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Morice Prendergast's company is presenting *A Woman of Pleasure*. Mr. Ernest F. Wallace is excellent as Lord Carlingforth; and Miss Grace Carew as Alice Deach is decidedly good. Mr. Arthur Gilroy does well as the villain, Major Barrows; Mr. Noel H. Lewis ably sustains the part of Rev. Luke Goddard; Mr. Edmund Baker as Bobby Bumpwell, and Mr. A. E. Maskell as Joe Ploughman, together with Miss Dolly Gilroy as Dolly Dimple, introduce some amusing scenes and dialogues, and cause roars of laughter.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—The fine old English historical play, *Lady Godiva*, was produced on Monday and Wednesday by Mr. F. B. Woulfe and company, in presence of large and appreciative audiences. In the character of Tom of Coventry, Mr. Woulfe had ample scope to demonstrate his ability as an actor; and in voice, stage presence, and acting, he was admirable. He was capably assisted by Miss Ethel Griffies, an actress of charming appearance, clear voice, and graceful action, who in the title-rôle well merited the applause received. Miss Barnet, as Lady Aldyth, was admirable. The part of Leofric, Earl of Mercia, was assumed by Mr. E. Holland Day, at whose hands it received every justice; Mr. Clifford Rean, in the character of Algar, the supposed Earl of Northumbria, proved a sinister enough person; and Edgar, the nameless, found a clever exponent in Mr. Cecil Renton. Miss Edith Lorraine, as Elfrida, became quite a favourite, and her "business" with Robin (Mr. Rob Anderson) was very welcome. Mr. E. E. Dunstan acted the part of the spy and the caitiff well enough to be hissed. On Tuesday evening Mr. Woulfe and company gave an excellent production of *Robin Hood*. For the rest of the week Mr. Fred Benton's company, in *The French Spy*, was announced.

FLEETWOOD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—This week Mr. Bannister Howard's company in *The Silver King* is here. The title-rôle is taken by Mr. Horace E. Herbert, who achieves a great success. Mr. Paul Beckett as Captain Skinner, "the Spider," acts admirably, and is well supported by Mr. William Dempsey as Elijah Combe, a rascally marine store dealer; Mr. Seton Bernard as Daniel Jaikes, the servant, is excellent; and Mr. Ralph Leo as Henry Corket, the young clerk, is also good. Miss B. Doyle gives a very spirited rendering of the difficult part of Nellie Denver, and Miss Dorothea Black as Captain Skinner's wife has also caused a success. In the parts of Denver's two children Miss Dorothy Love and Miss Josephine Mackintosh both earned rounds of applause. Last week Mr. Snelson had his annual benefit, at which there was a crowded house, and during the interval he was presented with a gold watch subscribed for by a number of his patrons.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland. — Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's company opened here this week in *The Prodigal Parson*. Mr. W. V. Garrod played with force and feeling the title-rôle; Mr. Alfred Northway as the despicable Enoch Jaggins acted realistically; Mr. William Hayward as Ben Jaggins showed marked ability; Ned Kettlepin was capably enacted by Mr. W. Vincent; Mr. Owen Redmonde was a humorous Phil Drive; Miss Lydia Hart contributed largely to the success as Gretchen; Miss Dot Russell sang and danced delightfully as Fraulein Korale; Miss Violet Jeffries gave a charming representation of Myrtle Godley; and Miss Gwen Stewart's rendering of Fern Godley was pleasing and natural. On Friday *Still Waters Run Deep* was played.

GATESHEAD. — KING'S THEATRE. — Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. H. Arnold.—Hardeen, described as the handcuff king, gets through his clever performance with wonderful smartness; undoubtedly one of the cleverest ventriloquial turns presented in this town in recent years is that given by Jay W. Winton; the Ringling Trio are clever acrobats and comedians; Mons. Slippere, blind novelty pianist and baritone singer, gets loud applause; Crosby and Walker, cross-talk comedians, make a hit; Bert Danser, a very eccentric patter comedian; Marie Empress, comedienne; the Sisters Poole (society entertainers); and the "King's" pictures complete the bill.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Coun. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas France.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's juvenile company is appearing in *The Sleeping Beauty*. Miss Kittie Trewhitt, in the part of Prince Florizel, pleases immensely, and an enjoyable performance of Beauty is presented by Miss Dolly Dodds. These young ladies gain loud applause for an excellently rendered duet entitled "Will you love me in December?"; Miss Mona Townshend makes a dashing second boy; and Miss Isa Gibson appears with success as Trixie. Amongst the comedians are Messrs. Doyle and Gibson (Dreadnought and Flashlight), Bros. Armstrong, Master Jack Harrison, Pat Sloan, Taylor Snowball, and Wee George Wood, an eleven-year-old mimic of promise. Specialities are introduced by the following:—Miss Edie Camm (baton manipulator), La Belle Annette (solo dancer), and the Marguerite Troupe of speciality dancers.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Coun. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—Miss Winifred Maude's company (under the direction of Mr. Victor Du Cane) is presenting *The Convict* at this house. Mr. Du Cane does well in the dual rôle of Sergeant Holmes and Alphonse Godin; Mr. William Bradford presents a powerful Captain Hurley; Mr. Wm. Vane is successful as George Britton; Mr. Britton is well treated by Mr. Leonard Harrison; Miss Maude is to be praised for an excellent Nellie Seaforth; and other ladies in the cast are Misses Jenny Hackett (Jenny Wright), Ethel Tinsley (Miriam Goldberg), and Marion Holly (Harry Seaforth).

GLASGOW.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—A decided hit has been made here by *Amasis*, presented practically by the London cast. Mr. Louis Calvert's company is headed by Mr. Rutland Barrington as Pharaoh, and though the popular actor was suffering from a slight loss of voice, the humour of his performance was as mirth-provoking as it possibly could be; Miss Constance Drever as Amasis sang brilliantly, and had a most enthusiastic reception, the more so as she pluckily appeared despite a sprained ankle and against doctor's orders. The quaint personality of Mr. Lauri de Frece caught the fancy of the audience right away, and his Keeper of the Crocodiles is a most amusing character; Miss Madge Vincent as the lively Natis gave a performance of special merit; Mr. Reginald White contributed a clever bit of eccentric comedy as Ptolemy; and the fine voices of Mr. Roland Cunningham as Prince Anthotep, Mr. Whitworth Mitton as Cheiro, and Mr. Norman Salmond as the High Priest gave excellent effect to their various musical items. Mr. Frank Perfitt as the Captain of the Guard, and Mr. George F. Mackarness as a Wine Merchant, gave able support. Mr. Winifred Hart-Dyke contributed some clever dances.

KING'S, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—Mr. Charles Frohman's company commenced a two weeks' engagement here on Monday, when local playgoers had their first opportunity of seeing Miss Ellaline Terriss and Mr. Seymour Hicks in *The Beauty of Bath*. The house was crowded in every part, and Mr. Hicks and his wife, as Lieut. Alington and Betty Silverthorne, received an exceedingly cordial welcome. The fine distinction given to the part of Viscount Bellingham by Mr. William Lugg was much admired; while the Lord Quorn of Mr. Laurence Caird was an aristocrat of quite a different type. As Mr. Beverley, the actor, Mr. Stanley Brett played with commendable spirit; the Sir Timothy Bun of Mr. J. C. Buckstone was a sound and hearty performance; and Master Valchera's Lemon Goodge caught the fancy of the audience from the start. The Mrs. Alington of Miss Florence Lloyd was a skilful blend of humour and pathos; as Mrs. Goodge, Miss Sydney Fairbrother was distinctly amusing; and Miss Maudi Darrell filled the rôle of Truly St. Cyr very well indeed.

GRAND, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. D. Macfarlane.—*East Lynne* again makes a bid for popularity at this fine theatre, and with considerable success. Miss Edith Olive gives a graceful, pathetic, and intelligent reading of Lady Isabel; and the Archibald Carlyle of Mr. Charles Boult wins favour. Mr. Arthur E. Pringle as Francis Levison is effective; and Mr. Joseph B. Montague as Constable A.1 is quite refreshing. The one-act comedietta *A Legend of Vandale*, by A. E. Drinkwater, is also being presented.

PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—After a record run of fourteen weeks the pantomime *Mother Goose* was withdrawn on Saturday, and on Monday Mr. Andrew Melville's company opened here in *Driven from Home*. Mr. Felix Pitt as Anthony Raybrook plays in a telling manner; Mr. Leonard Aardale brings into prominence the part of Willie; Miss Beatrice Western sustains the rôles of Laura Raybrook and Walter Hatherleigh with effect; Geoffrey Waring, impersonated by Mr. Frederick Sandy, is a creditable performance; and Walter Hatherleigh, sen., is well presented by Mr. Herbert Young. Mr. Harry Cornwall figures prominently as Jabez Thomas; and Miss Enid Wilde is effective as Margaret Bailey.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson's company is here this week in *Held Avart*, a stirring drama, in which Mr. H. K. Ayliff gives a strong delineation of an unscrupulous rascal. James Barlow; Miss Ethyle Murray ably enacts a picturesque creole, Quito Garcia; Miss Ruby Loncraine is charming as Sybil Grey; Mr. Leonard Lawrence as John Douglas makes a manly hero; and amusing comedy is supplied by Mr. E. G. Batley as Lord Loftus; ably assisted by Miss Gertrude Homewood as Lily Granville-Stark. Mr Rob B. Drysdale as a Scotch shepherd contributes a good deal of broad, pawky humour.

LYCEUM. — Proprietor, Mr. Richard Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden. — At the Lyceum this week Mr. Robt. Macdonald is presenting, under the direction of Mr. W. J. Robertson, Mr. Hal Reid's American comedy-drama *Human Hearts*. The cast is exceptionally good. Mr. W. D. Fazan makes a capital Tom Logan; Frederick Armsdale is capably portrayed by Mr. Ernest Grey; Mr. Geo. Hewitson does well as Rose Jones; and as Jem Mason, Limpy Morgan, and Mike Corrigan, Messrs. Dobell, Turner, and O'Dwyer appear to advantage.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Mussett.—Sidney Bacon's company, in *The Duchess of Tooting*, is the leading item in this week's bill, and lots of lively fun is provided by Messrs. Stephen Adeson, Frank Hertie, Misses Dora Heritage, Josie Farrington, &c., in the leading parts. Eadie and Ramsden, a smart pair, have lots of clever business; Leslie Brothers give a most enjoyable and amusing comedy musical turn; the Mayvilles, in their liliputian business, prove great favourites; the Rinaldo Trio contribute a good acrobatic

May Morton renders a Japanese song in taking style; the Sisters Ford, character duettists, are admirable artists; and Madge May's singing of "All that Glitters is not Gold" is heartily appreciated.

GREENOCK.—Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietors, the Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Benson and their Shakespearean company are proving a great draw, and an excellent selection of plays has been presented during the week. On Monday, *The Taming of the Shrew* was played to a delighted and enthusiastic audience. Mr. F. R. Benson appeared as Petruchio, and his very fine delineation of the character was truly an artistic triumph; equally good was Mrs. Benson in the rôle of Katherina; and Miss Gwladys Wynne was a naturally charming and graceful Bianca; Mr. George Buchanan, as Lucentio, gave a dignified rendering of the part; and the Baptista of Mr. Edward A. Warburton was artistically represented; Mr. Murray Carrington, as Vincentio, claimed distinct recognition, and a special word of praise is due to Messrs. George R. Weir and Clarence Derwent, who revelled in the humorous parts of Grumio and Tranio, respectively; other characters were ably taken by Mr. H. O. Nicholson, Mr. Percy D. Owen, Mr. Stanley Howlet, and Miss Cissie Saumares.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—The star turn here this week is furnished by Lord, Murray, and Lord in a gymnastic mélange entitled "The Intruder," which proves very amusing; a capital turn is presented by Burns and Bentley; Tate and Tate, a smart pair of acrobats, earn loud applause; Elsie Earle submits an attractive song scena entitled "Holly and Mistletoe"; Barney Noble, comedian, has been highly successful; and the Empire Pictures conclude a good entertainment.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. A. White.—Lawrence Barclay, a capital comedian, is the chief attraction this week, and meets with a flattering reception; an excellent turn is provided by Charles Ulrick, "the barrel king and trancka wonder; Silvo's selections on the musical glasses and the silvochimes are much appreciated; Kathleen Gray, comedienne, and Ruby Emmerson, comedienne and dancer, are both favourably received; H. O. Wills, comedian, is also successful, and the Paviscope Pictures are up to date.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry.—Mr. W. W. Jacobs' delightful comedy, *Beauty and the Barge*, is being received with enthusiasm. Mr. Blake Adams represents the affable Captain Barley to the life, and in his realisation of the author's ideal of the river craftsman is admirably supported by Mr. Fred Knight as the mate Tom Codd and Mr. Forrester Harvey as Augustus; Mr. Edward Coventry is altogether excellent in the part of Lieut. Seton Boyne, and the same may be said of Mr. Aubrey Mallalieu as Herbert Manners; Mr. Walter Pemberton adds to the merriment of the piece by his representation of the irascible Major Smedley; Mr. Charles White is quaintly diverting as the gardener John Dibb; and Mr. Ewart Drake does justice to the part of George Porter. The lady characters are excceptionally well portrayed Miss Dido Drake is charmingly naive as Ethel Smedley, Miss Mary Pemberton is a winsome Lucy Dallas, Miss Nona Robin is good as Mrs. Smedley, and Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite and Miss Ruby Wyndham accomplish good character studies as Mrs. Porter and Mrs. Baldwin.

Curry's Tivoli.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—A continual roar of laughter is created by Harry Tate's motoring skit; Theo Bouwmeester's sketch, *Who is Guilty?*, in which he represents seven characters, is worthy of all praise; the Sisters Macarte are a trio of clever ladies who combine dancing and wire-walking; Lotto, Lilo, and Otto perform smart cycling feats, and other good turns are given by Frank Cass, comedian; Kisbey, who is styled the "call boy"; Miss Adey Spencer, in a speciality; and Miss Eva Chadwick, vocalist.

Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—Much interest is being centred in the visit of Mrs. Brown-Potter, who is appearing in her dramatic scena illustrating an episode in the life of Mary, Queen of Scots, and is capably supported by the company associated with her. A sketch of a novel and distinctly humorous character is given by Mr. Harry Russel and Miss Verna Reid; Kiaro displays equilibristic feats of more than ordinary difficulty; Frank Sylvo accomplishes smart juggling; and others appearing are Phillips and Merritt, vaudeville artists, the Sisters Walmsley, in a vocal speciality, Kendric and Laura, drawing-room entertainers, and George Gulliver, ventriloquist.

HALIFAX.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—We are having another of Mr. Frederick Melville's productions, entitled *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*, here this week, and extraordinary business is being done. Miss Beatrice Homer makes an instantaneous success as the ugliest woman, extorting much good work out of a rather unthankful rôle; a plausible stage villain is found in Mr. Leyton Cancellor, who makes the most of his opportunities as Hubert Gold, as does Mr. Chas. Barrett in the character of Antonio; while Mr. Philip Darien sustains excellently the much-thwarted Jack Merriman. Miss Nell Oliver excites suspicion as the unscrupulous profligate, Rose Courtney; a convincing character-study of the Italian girl Morita is presented by Miss Violet Macarbe; while much relaxation is extorted out of the quaint rôle of Tubby by Mr. Edlin, who is adequately supported in the merriment making by Miss Nellie Jackson, a good-humoured Aggie Brown; and Mr. Cecil de Lee must not be forgotten as Raffles.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Sam Winks.—The Three Rainats are seen in an intrepid and sensational gymnastic act which meets with prolonged applause. Laughter is at high-tide while the Burnells occupy the stage with their inimitable skit, *Fun on the Links*; and more than a little successful is Ted Cowan, a comedian with a good répertoire. Nora Desmond, Wal Owen, Zelda, Arthur Slater, and Cosgrove and Burns, together with the Boston Twins, complete the bill.

Palace and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Ed. Harrison.—Living replicas of the great masterpieces in statuary are being depicted realistically by the Three Olympiers, whose episode is rightly named *Beauty in Bronze*. Equally clever are the Matweef Hugoston troupe of Russian dancers, who are heartily approved of; as is John Macaulay, an excellent vocalist. Floretti and Elli, Marion Fletcher, the Albano troupe in a delightful musical interlude, and Mulvey and Miriam, in their speciality, *The Studio*, soon win the warm favours of the audiences.

HANLEY.—Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Mr. Alfred B. Cross and Miss Minnie Watersford opened here on Monday in *The Manxman*. Mr. Cross is seen as Pete, and his impersonation is one of great excellence. Mr. Sydney C. Kearns contributes a good reading of the character entrusted to him; as Kate Kreegan Miss Watersford is distinctly successful; Mr. Frank Etheridge as Cesar Cregeen plays the part in a telling manner; Mr. Maurice York does well as Ross Christian; Sir Mylcrest finds a worthy representative in Mr. C. H. Mortimer; Monty Missit is ably sustained by Mr. E. C. Howitt; as Nancy Miss Nellie Freland is well placed; and Miss Hasel Dent is an excellent Miss Christian.

Grand, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. James Wynes.—A capital programme is headed by Alexandre and Hughes, their turn consisting of cross-talk and some clever concertina playing; the Rio Brothers are seen in a gymnastic display which is much appreciated; Mr. and Mrs. Lucas return in "Scenes from Dickens," which are well acted; the Proveannie Family of cyclists provide a turn which is distinctly interesting and smart; Victor Travers is an eccentric comedian with a style all his own; Derenda and Green, in their juggling club act, are much appreciated; Maud Vera is a good descriptive vocalist; Bernard and Weston are a smart pair; and the pictures are interesting.

HARROGATE.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Smith.—For the first three nights of this week we have *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy*, well played by Messrs. Lionel Glenister and Wood Ingram's company. As Peggy O'Mara, Miss Decima Moore is all that could be desired, and presents the bright and vivacious girl to the life. Miss Neilson is excellent as Mrs. O'Mara; Miss Kate Wingfield makes a handsome and dignified Lady Crackenthorpe; Mr. Wood-Ingram is good as Lord Crackenthorpe; Mr. Henderson Bland gives a pleasing sketch as Major Archie Phipps; Miss Eva Lonsdale and Miss Despa are both excellent in their parts of Millicent Keppel and Mrs. Colquhoun respectively; Mr. Glenister appears as the Hon. Jimmy Keppel. The play is well mounted and dressed. For the remainder of the week, Messrs. E. A'Dell and F. Chabot's company are billed in *His Sister's Honour*.

HARTLEPOOL.—Empress.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—Verno and Voyce are here again with some new business, and take as well as ever; the Sisters Desmond are also well remembered here, and their reception is such as must be indeed gratifying to them. A capital high-class comedy episode, *My Burglar*, is well played by Thorpe and Coe; Little Dot Moss, a chic comedienne, is also an expert banjoist and dancer; merriment is the result of the comedy acrobatic scena, *Off to the Races*, by the Decars. The singing by Phil Mouat, the Stockton joiner baritone, is pleasing; choruses are well rendered by Harry Reynolds' Minstrel Quintette; Joe Sterling, an amusing comedian, and a new set of pictures conclude the list.

HASTINGS.—Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—*Home, Sweet Home* is being presented here this week by Messrs. Matthew Glenville and Fred Osmond's company. Mr. Arthur Hinton as Stephen Armitage gives a true and manly interpretation of the hero. His father, a characteristic old salt, is well taken by Mr. Frank Hudspeth; Mr. Arthur Lowry puts dignity into the part of the Duke of Ancaster; a clever character sketch of his unruly son is given by Mr. Tom G. Warren. The unthankful part of Lucas Lyle is played by Mr. Travis Green in quite a masterly manner; Mr. Henry Millow makes an excellent Dr. Granby. Miss Leila Zillwood as Joan is a performance of conspicuous ability, and quite realises the character. A brisk and vivacious representative of Sybil Fay is seen in Miss Jennie Clare. Stephen's child, Dora, is charmingly played by little Dolly Turner, whose manner is simple and natural. On Friday and Saturday the company appear in *The Sorrows of Satan*.

Pier Pavilion.—Pier-Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—*Sowing the Wind* is attracting good audiences. Miss Maud Fergusson is a charming Rosamond, sweet of voice, bright, fresh, and girlish; an able impersonation of the widower Brabazon is given by Mr. Poole Kirkwood; Mr. George Marriott, jun., as Sir Richard Cursitor does the part ample justice. Mr. Deakin (attorney-at-law) is well represented by Mr. John Edgcumbe; Mr. Charles Lloyd acquits himself admirably as Lord Pepworth; Mr. Wentworth Fane puts plenty of healthy vigour into the embodiment of Ned Annesley; Miss Ina Soutar and Miss Violet Agnew give intelligent representations of the Hon. Mrs. and Maud Fretwell.

Hippodrome Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—The turns this week are varied and interesting. The Gamanos show great musical ability; some clever impersonations of great men are given with great dexterity by Mr. Bock Pylade; Miss Bell Elmore is a pleasing and attractive vocalist; the bioscope exhibits some new and up-to-date films; a very amusing musical comedy is enacted by Harry Prentice and Florence Brite; Miss Madge Osmonde quite excels as a male impersonator; the Roman Gladiator, as exemplified by Mr. W. L. Murray, is a fine specimen of living statuary; the droll sayings and manner of the comedian Mr. Tom Parker are highly diverting. A dramatic sketch, *Mad Jasper*, is ably performed by Messrs. Chas. Wright, Louis du Cane, and Miss Katie Blair.

St. Leonards Pavilion (Pier) Theatre.—Pier-master and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—The Ashley Animated Picture and Variety Company are holding the boards here this week. The variety artists are very entertaining. A clever musician is seen in the Musical Stunto; other comedians are Bob Gates, big-boot dancer; Lallah Delmar, serio; the Ashley Bioscope; Billy McKeever and Ada McGovern, ball punchers; Dutch Sid, sabot dancer; Zillah Stanley, ballad vocalist; Yank Murphy, in a display of the ju-jitsu art of self-defence.

HEREFORD.—Garrick Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Harry Barnsley.—This week Miss Lily Batchelor presents the late Griffin and Drake's pantomime, which is attracting good houses. Miss Lizzie Round is a charming principal boy; Mr. Sam Griesley gives a fine exhibition of acting as the witch Spitfire; and an agreeable feature is the excellence of the dancing of Messrs. Taylor and May.

HOYLAND.—Metropole.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. R. Baker.—On Monday Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company opened here with *Her Nameless Child*. Mr. J. W. Evelyn gives an excellent impersonation of Anthony Ford; Mr. G. Duncan is a manly Arthur Ford; Mr. Ellerslie Pyne as the villain does well; and as his accomplice, Mr. Fred Griffiths is all that can be desired. The comedy element is in the capable hands of Mr. Fred Danvers as Tom Rivers, who is ably assisted by Miss Florence Hall as Bessie Brooks. Miss Pattie Hastings as Phyllis acts with good effect; Miss Grace Jones is an excellent Lady Sybil; and as Crayont Miss Madge Trevelyn is interesting.

HULL.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Mr. Bannister Howard's company in *The Four Just Men* is here. The four just men are cleverly personated by Messrs. Oswald Cray, Wernham Ryott, Cecil Warde, and Chas. McCann. The leading rôle of Sir Philip Ramon finds a splendid representative in Mr. H. B. Wilson; as Mrs. Travers, Miss Kate Sainton brings all the verve of an American. As Juanita, Miss Florence Radcliffe is very successful; as the Spanish patriot, Mr. Charles Percival was very satisfactory. On Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday nights *The Eternal City* held the boards.

Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—The ever-verdant and acceptable *Belle of New York* is drawing big business. There is an exceptionally pleasing Belle in Miss Empsie Bowman: she invests her rôle with distinctive charm; Cora Angelique finds an excellent representative in Miss Winnie Brown; Miss Lily Maxwell is a very pleasing Parisienne. The Mr. Bronson of Mr. Paddy Dupres is good; the lunatic is entrusted to the hands of Mr. Max Copeland, who keeps the house well amused; Mr. Frank Lawton, the original whistler, provides no small share of the evening's amusement; he proves himself to be equally as expert with the bones.

Alexandra Theatre.—Mortons, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—A striking and stirring drama with an American setting is taking the audience by storm at this ever-popular house. It paints a picture of the lurid life in the mining camps, as its name suggests, *Cripple Creek*. Joe Mayfield is well impersonated by Mr. Stanley Bedwell, and Miss Agnes Verity is a very commendable Dynamite Ann. The Little Tatto of Miss Rosie Hoskins is a performance that is highly commendable.

The Palace.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Jno. S. Barnett.—John Lawson surpasses himself with his new production, *The King's Minister*. He is supported by an excellent company of actors and actresses. Hettie Chattell is a character artist of much ability; Carrie Joy, an old favourite, has some nice songs; Billy Farrell, with his patter and dancing, makes a hit; the Geretti Sisters give a clever trapeze act; the Celtic Comedy Trio are talented vocalists; Barbara Babbington, a local pantomime favourite, is very popular; Mezzetti and Mora appear in a comedy bar act; and Kitts and Windrum, in their military contretemps, *The Cuckoo*, are delightful.

The Empire.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Appearing here are Andrews and Thompson, Reed and Lerne, Les Blancs, Nellie Norah, and Geo. Cullen.

The Hippodrome.—Lessees, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Tom Lunn.—Florrie Gallimore makes a welcome appearance here, and she has to respond with encore songs; Josie Delaine is a very smart dancer; the Crystals make a first appearance here with much success; the Brothers Hayes fully sustain their reputation; Joe Humphries is a good descriptive vocalist; Welda and Wynne in a comic dancing act create much amusement; and a capital sketch, entitled *Prince Arthur*, presented by Albert Wyndham and company and Cissie Dryden, complete an excellent bill.

The Circus.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Animated pictures are drawing crowded houses.

HYDE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Mr. Percy Norman's *A Woman Worth Loving* company is delighting large houses here this week. Mr. A. B. Mackay plays with manly force and vigour the rôle of Fergus Lovinski; the callous and despicable nature of General Borinski is graphically depicted by Mr. Percy Norman; Mr. Chas. R. Hann gives a finished study as Ivan Bardoff; Mr. Julian Hall is sufficiently servile as Drego; and Messrs. Sidney Barton and Gilbert Standing praiseworthily impersonated Czar Nicholas and Amos Pauloff, respectively; Miss Maud Buchanan endows the rôle of Roma Pauloff with womanly grace and charm; and Miss Iris Daventry gives a pathetic rendering to her lines as Lela Kalnooky. The humorous element is admirably supplied by Mr. E. C. Edwards as Peter Popples; and Miss Ida Mackay as Katerina Kloss, who receive able assistance from Mr. E. Hall Eldon, who makes Bertie Scribbler an amusing personage. The artists are repeatedly called before the curtain.

Ohmy's Circus.—Crowded houses are the rule here this week. Heading the bill are Carta and Martziana, whose marvellous balancing feats are nightly vociferously applauded; Alvantte is clever on the sliding wire; Claude Ohmy's wire walking performance is very popular; the Two Lecardos give a wonderful acrobatic table act; Miss Angerline is an expert juggler; Alvenna Watson's troupe of performing dogs show astonishing sagacity; the equestrian feats of the Three Ohmys are loudly applauded; August and September appear in several funny sketches; and Ohmy's Living Pictures are excellent.

ILKESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company is appearing here this week in the musical comedy, *The Gay Parisienne*. In the title-rôle Miss Lilian Talbot gains warm and well-earned approval; and Mr. Clifford Seyler is an excellent representative of M. Pompier. Mr. William Harman, as Ebenezer Honeycombe, is a capital comedian, his droll manner causing roars of laughter; Miss Holford Beringer gives a capital impersonation of Mrs. Honeycombe; and Miss Nance O'Neill is a pleasing Norah. Mr. Philip Moore sings well and is applauded as Tom Everleigh; and Mr. Douglas Howard is successful as Amos Dingle. Mr. Squire Day is very good as Major Fossdyke; and as his daughters the Misses K. O'Malley, F. McHardy, G. Davies, and L. Donati are deserving of praise. The Ruth of Miss Madge Soutter is an amusing performance, and so is the Algernon Ducie of Mr. Leslie Waller. The remaining parts are well filled, and the dresses and scenery much admired.

Queen's Palace of Varieties.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. T. Knightall.—Collin and Irene, illusionists, have the premier position on the bill, which they well deserve. Flo Varley, comedienne, is still attracting; La Belle Rosa, solo instrumentalist, is much applauded; Herbert Potts, eccentric comedian, Tessie Vandean, serio and dancer, and Allen Amber, comedian, complete the programme.

IPSWICH.—Lyceum Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Leonard Grey.—The time-honoured piece, *East Lynne*, has been played here during the week by Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company. A striking portraiture of Lady Isabel is given by Miss Julia Kennard; and Mr. Frederic Harker, as Francis Levison, is a cynical villain of the usual type. Justice Hare is carefully played by Mr. C. C. Grattan; and P.C. Bullock has a droll representative in Mr. Alfred Tate. The other parts are efficiently acted by Miss Ethel Hardacre, Miss Ethel Savill, Miss Jessie Bayes, and Mr. Alfred Beaumont.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The Gotham Comedy Quartette contributed the principal turn here this week; their glee-singing is admirable, and their comedy business is of a refined order. Other attractions include Olive Armidale, a pleasing comedienne; the Gladenbecks, clever hand-balancers; the Pines, in a musical comedy called *Maggie's Day Out*; the Leonards, who contribute a musical medley entitled *Point Duty*; and Harry Grey a clever comedian.

JARROW.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jerold E. Reed.—This week's attraction is Mr. Frank Ayrton's Co., in *The Power of Gold*. Mr. Geo. Lyttleton gives a most excellent rendering of the part of Hadji Zambra; while Mr. R. F. Stacey is most manly as Paul Judson; the part of Mark Harley is most ably handled by Mr. Richard Harris; Miss Amy McNeill plays the part of Lady Brandon to perfection; while Miss Lily Prescott makes an ideal Meg Judson; Little Prudence makes the most of the part of Paddy Blake, a street Arab; Mr. Frank Ayrton and Miss Madge Seymour in the parts of Sammy Smudge and Norah Donnelly cause much amusement; and Mr. Frank Holyoake is quite at home in the part of Dr. Stephen Saunders.

KEIGHLEY.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Carson.—A capital variety company is appearing here twice nightly. Derenda and Green's juggling act is extremely clever; Stanley's Urchins provide a good turn; Mdlle. Du Roche uses a fine voice with charming effect; Geo. Rae is a capital Scotch comedian; Leo Trainer is also amusing, and has some capital patter; The Reavys on the silver chain win much applause; Master May possesses a sweet voice, and knows how to use it; Lily Hayes dances and sings in good style.

KIDDERMINSTER.—New Opera House.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. T. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—The boards are occupied this week by Mr. Broadbent Bell's company, in the musical farcical comedy, *Captain Blarney*. Mr. Sam S. Wilford, in the title-rôle, acts in a pleasing manner; Mr. Broadbent Bell, as the Rev. Horatio Kneebone, is excellent; Mrs. Emily Banks, the wealthy widow, is cleverly played by Miss Norah Coronne. The piece is well mounted and staged.

KING'S LYNN.—New Royal Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. J. Bannister Howard, Ltd.; Business-Manager, Herr B. Pareezer.—The excellent entertainment here this week includes the Three Pirmans, who are responsible for a capital pantomime act, an unusually clever combination of acrobatic skill and drollery that it would be hard to surpass. The Monckton, in their musical comedy episode, *Are Wives Dummies?* give a bright and amusing turn; the Royal Quintette submit an exhibition of light and graceful dancing which is keenly appreciated; and Miss Queenie Seymour proves herself a really funny comedienne. The Sisters Clare sing and dance well; and Mr. Sam Paul proves popular as a comedian. Jury's pictures are again excellent.

KIRKCALDY.—King's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Burton.—On Monday Mr. Fred Benton's company opened with *The French Spy*; Mr. Beresford Lovett gave a skilful rendering of Captain Sommers; Mr. Max Coutts was villainy itself in the rôle of Count Romanoff; General Trepoff had a capable exponent in Mr. Hugh Travers; and equally successful was Mr. C. Aymond as Lord Aynsley. Mr. Charles Digby as Viscount Alexis made a capital dude, and, along with Mr. Seymour Perry as Knipps, kept the audience in a good humour. Mr. Benton undertook the German strong man's part with unquestioned success; the title-part was in the hands of Miss M. Devereux, whose interpretation was highly praiseworthy; and Miss A. Harrison Tate as Olga made a hit.

LANCASTER.—Athenæum.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hook.—The attraction this week is Miss Frances Delaval and company in *Her Lost Self* and *The Biggest Scamp on Earth*. The former was presented on Monday evening with Miss Delaval in the rôle of Philipine Marcel. She was ably supported by a strong company, including Mr. Cecil Gray as Wilfred Daventry, Mr. G. Osmond Tearle as Norman Esmond, Mr. Leslie Yorke as Paul Kimberley, and Mr. Horace Buckley as Tom Flyaway, who, together with Miss Nell Ingram as Bridget Malone, introduced much acceptable comedy.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. John Porter and W. J. Fergusson; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Martin.—Sanford and Lyons are at the top of the bill here, and have a good reception. The Macdonald Trio supply a pleasing musical turn; and Mr. Flockton Foster's sketch company, in *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law*, wins hearty applause. Bert Harrow, comedian; the Three Sisters Kiner, dancers; Jack Martin, actor-vocalist; and the Hippograph, in new pictures, not forgetting Evelyn Taylor, vocalist, complete a first-rate entertainment.

LEAMINGTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—The attraction here this week is Messrs. A. Hamilton Warden and Charles V. Sandford's company in the domestic drama *A Woman's Past*. Miss Maisie Hanbury plays the part of the much persecuted heroine with naturalness and feeling. She is ably supported by Mr. W. H. Hargreaves, who gives a very commendable performance of David Heath; and Mr. C. V. Sandford, who, as Frank Dellanoy, is most amusing. Other parts are ably sustained by Miss Eva Bertram, Mr. A. H. Warden, and Mr. G. Moreton Williams.

LEEDS.—Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—*Peter Pan* remains for a second week, and its delightful freshness and originality continue to attract and charm full houses.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—*Miss Lancashire Limited* is a farce with music, and proves a welcome change from the usual dramatic fare provided. The all-important part of Mary Ellen Thompson is drawn on broad comedy lines, and in it Miss Florence Baines keeps the house in continual merriment by her clever and versatile acting; Mr. Bert Burton renders admirable support as the Yankee Jew, Isidore Moses; John Higgins, the trustee, is well represented by Mr. David Donalson; a decidedly clever impersonation is that of Eva Lancashire by Miss Annie Mitchell.

Empire.—Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—An interesting series of cavalry evolutions executed by a troupe of mounted youths, under the title of the Boy Army, is the feature of this week's bill; the Three Amaranths are seen in remarkably clever acrobatic dances; Edie King illustrates with success various styles of the terpsichorean act; a comedy sketch by the Three Prestons is provocative of the greatest merriment; whilst the Howards, with their musical act, are a popular line; Cliff Ryland is still a favourite with smart new songs and patter; Jimmy Shields demonstrates what can be done in the way of dancing with only one leg; and Ethel Douna, comedienne, Schwartz Bros., Continental specialists, and Master Clifford, juvenile comedian, are also applauded for excellent turns.

Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Bush.—Great interest centres in the appearance of Miss Alice Pearce, a young actress, whose ability and versatility find scope in a series of studies and impressions from well-known plays; Arthur Reece, the popular vocal comedian, is a big success with smart new items; Luis Hardt is well named the Boy Samson, for his feats of strength are remarkable; the Eugene Family are seen in a sensational gymnastic act; Trentanovi's animal show is one of the best we have seen; and a successful appearance is also made by Harry Russon, comedian, R. T. Meikle, baritone vocalist, and Amy Sullivan, comedienne.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; General-Managers, Mr. Chas. Weldon and Mr. Claude Shayler.—Boxing exhibitions by the redoubtable Gunner Moir are a big feature this week; W. T. Ellwanger and Co. are appearing in an amusing sketch, entitled *The Peacemaker*, with great success; Regan and Ryan are vastly popular in an entertaining comedy episode; the Four Maisanos provide a musical act which is well liked; Hayes and Suits are a clever example of the up-to-date comedy duo; William Gourlay is a comedian of merit; Rose Elliott sings ballads in charming style; and Miss Yetta gives her dancing act on the wire with success.

City Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—That popular coon specialist G. H. Elliott is delighting hosts of admirers with his able delineations; Helen Charles deserves, and is awarded, a big reception for a capital musical turn; Marlow and Manton achieve success in a comedy sketch; Marie Blythe, a charming vocalist, is amongst the most popular turns in the bill; and the Ongars, Fielding and Hull (vocal entertainers), Harry Wright, the Picquays (in comedy sketch), and Fyne and Hurley (comedians) contribute acceptable items.

LEICESTER.—Royal Opera House.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General and Business-Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—Mr. and Mrs. Kendal and company are making their reappearance here, and are meeting with a most cordial reception. On Monday they opened with *The Ironmaster*, in which Mr. Kendal as Phillipe Derblay and Mrs. Kendal as Claire de Beaupré played their parts in a manner which left nothing whatever to be desired. These talented artists were supported by a very good company, Mr. Bassett Roe as the Duc de Bligny, Mr. Ernest Hendrie as Moulinet, Mr. C. W. Standing as Octave, Mr. Metcalfe Wood as Baron de Préfont, Miss Marie Lohr as Suzanne Derblay, and Miss Sara de Groot as Athenais being particularly successful. Others who are also to be praised for excellent delineations are Miss Kate Bishop as Brigette, Mr. A. B. Tapping as the Marquis de Baupré, and Miss Dora Fellowes as the Baronne de Préfont. *The Elder Miss Blossom* is underlined for Tuesday and Friday, and on Wednesday and Thursday *A Tight Corner* was to be played for the first time locally.

Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—The attraction here is a visit of Miss Adria Hill and Mr. Robert Ayrton's company in their latest successful drama, *A Gambler's Daughter*. Miss Adria Hill does full justice to the dual rôles of Mildred and Miriam Grant; and as Desmond O'Dare, Mr. Robert Ayrton is most successful; Mr. Harry Barham plays well as Dick, the same remark applying to Mr. Sidney Fienes as Stephen Brand; Miss Maggie Hobart is deserving of praise as Little Miriam; and Miss Harriett Lloydall is capital as Auntie Zeb, a negress.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertram G. Iles.—The premier attraction here is Carl Hertz, in a gigantic show of illusions, including his latest sensation, "The Bridal Chamber." This trick is a particularly fascinating one, and leaves the audience completely spellbound; Miss Emiline D'Alton is a charming assistant. At the other end of the bill is Peggy Pryde, who keeps the audience in the merriest of moods. Lieutenant Travis gives a thoroughly enjoyable ventriloquial show; the Wartenburg Bros., the clever novelty double-foot equilibrists, score a well-deserved success; Tennyson and Wallis, comedians and patterers, create hearty laughter. Kitty Wager, a pretty comedienne; the funny Karno Four, in their comic pantomime, *The Dinner Hour*; Fred Poplar, and the Bioscope are other attractions.

Pavilion Theatre.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Carlotta de Yonson and company are presenting the detective drama, *Sexton Blake*, which is eliciting unstinted praise. Mr. C. Douglas Carlile as Sexton Blake, Carlotta de Yonson as Leah Coursell, and Mr. Charles A. Carlile as the Master Criminal play the leading rôles in good style. The variety portion is contributed to by the Sisters West, duettists and dancers; Reilly and Templeton, with their comedy creation, *The Dutchman and His Girl*; George Bendon, the white coon; Mlle. Rosella, the graceful lady gymnast; Andy Burn, comedian and dancer; and Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope.

LEIGH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Rousby.—Messrs. Chas. H. Phelps and Harry Tilbury's company is appearing here this week in *The Blind Foundling*. Mr. Chas. H. Phelps' interpretation of Gerald Dalton is highly commendable; Mr. Frank Harvey admirably represents the part of Parson Ray; Miss Belle Tilbury shows considerable power as the heartless Isabel; Fairy, the blind foundling, is sympathetically and ably rendered by Miss Mabel Hall; Miss Aline T. George is a pleasing Viola Waterford. The lighter side of the play is entrusted to Mr. H. Tilbury and Miss Trixie Toole as Dick Bobbins and Winnie Dobbins respectively.

LEITH.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer brings a strong company with a répertoire of notable plays. *From Washerwoman to Duchess*, a version of *Madame Sans Gêne*, of which the talented tragedienne is herself the authoress, was staged on Monday evening, and cordially received. The Fouché of Mr. F. Skein, the Lefebvre of Mr. Robert Pittard, and the Adrian of Mr. Leonard Cheeham were interpretations of sterling merit; while Mr. Sydney Bland gave an interesting study of Napoleon; and Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer was seen to advantage in the leading rôle of Catherine; with Miss Rita Sponti a pleasing Rosalie. *Mary Queen of Scots* was played on Tuesday, Mrs. Palmer appearing with much power and pathos as the unhappy Queen, ably supported by Messrs. Skein, Cheetham, Pittard, and Bland in the principal male rôles, and Miss Katherine Herbert as Queen Elizabeth. *East Lynne*, *Sapho*, and *Jane Shore* have also been included in an attractive week's bill.

LINCOLN.—Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank King.—For the Race Week no better attraction could have been secured than a return visit of *The Toreador*, excellently presented by Mr. Charles Macdona's company. Miss Florence Wood is a charming Dora Selby, singing and dancing delightfully; and Miss Mabel Gregory is a fascinating Nancy. Much capital is made of Mrs. Hoppings by Miss Gwen Clifford; Miss Leah Howard is a very successful Susan; and Miss Nina Carlton gives the requisite dramatic touch to the part of Teresa. Mr. Robert Rous as Sammy and Mr. Fred Thompson as Archie are thoroughly amusing; and Mr. J. Herbert Willis is happily fitted as Trail. As the Toreador, Mr. S. Granville is all that can be desired. Mr. Lin Levahin conducts a capital chorus and well-balanced orchestra.

Palace.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Fred Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arthur.—Nat Clifford is making a hit on his first appearance, his style being intensely amusing. The Bensons have also caught on; and J. B. Selph, the Lombards, Brull and Hemsley, and T. C. Edwards contribute varied and taking turns. An effective film of a run with the Fitzwilliam hounds is shown through Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

Central Hall.—Dinah Morris and her company are here in *The Lost Coon*, in which Miss Morris's singing and dancing are highly attractive. Miss Bessie Morris also being thoroughly successful. Individual turns of high merit are given by Miss Cissy Lambeth, operatic vocalist; Lulu Franks, speciality dancer; Master Longman, champion boy dancer; James Milbrook, a talented coloured vocalist; George Vasit, tenor; Warman, Wallace, and Co., in *The Broken Exchange*; Staffo, the juggling butcher; Arden and Arley, comedians; Lily Vanders, acrobatic dancer; the Dinahscope, with new pictures; Sydney Studholm, in a clever acrobatic trampoline act. Mr. Crandon Bevan is the musical conductor of a bright show, which is under the general management of Mr. Jack Morris.

LIVERPOOL.—Royal Court Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—The city on the Mersey, which, in former times,

week; Miss Florence St. John and company please immensely with the comedy *Quits;* the remarkable degree of training shown by Marzella's birds has elicited admiration; a neat instrumental act is provided by Florence and Lillian; Stylo pleases with his hoop manipulation; and the list also contains the names of Beatrice Bonnie, comedienne; Henry Coutis and company, with a smart quick-change production, entitled *Outflanked;* Charles Robinson, who has some pretty picture songs; and Edward E. Ford, comedian.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Plenty of laughter has been caused here by Hymack, a comedian of considerable talent; Tschernoff's animals have been watched with interest; H. C. Barry, well known in Liverpool, had several excellent songs; the vocalism of Park's Eton Boys earned loud applause; much fun was caused by Burns and Burns, with their trifle *Fun in a Museum;* Boy Glenn proved exceedingly interesting with his smart patter; some clever acrobatic work was performed by the Garganis Trio; and also in the list were Ryder Slone, with a song scena; and the Students, with their speciality, under the direction of Mr. Wallis Arthur.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors, Liverpool Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. James Marks.—A capital all-round programme is submitted here this week. At the top is Irma Lorraine, whose charming tableaux-vivants have been much admired; Jack and Evelyn, a popular comedy couple, bring their latest amusing creations; Lloyd Morgan, the new vocal comedian, was heartily approved; the Brown and Kelly combination provoked endless laughter with their absurdity *The Butler Knows;* Rose Hamilton proved a vivacious comedienne; a capital turn was that presented by Will Van Allen, tramp musician and raconteur; as an Anglo-Dutch commedienne and dancer Blanche Holt gave every satisfaction; and Constance Moir, comedienne and speciality dancer, and Mark Leslie, coon comedian and dancer, also appeared with credit.

HAYMARKET.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. Edwin W. Smith.—Harry Calden and company remain another week, presenting the sketch *My Dear Irish Home on the Banks of the Shannon.* G. H. Keith renders some catchy songs; Harry Mansell sings and dances in good style; and the Sisters Clifton, duettists and dancers, also appear.

ROSCOMMON.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Wilmot.—Bioscope pictures of the siege of Port Arthur constitute the principal feature of the progamme here this week. In the variety portion are Lillie Le Breton, trapeze artist; Violet Ashcoft, vocalist; and Joe Conway, comedian.

LLANDUDNO.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Arthur E. Vaughan; General-Manager, Mr. J. Ritson.—For three nights this week Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company appeared in the melodrama, *A Beautiful Fiend.* Mr. Beaudyn's impersonation of Ivan Paulovitch is a thoroughly good all-round portrayal; and the same may be said of Mr. J. P. McBride as Count Fedor Karateff. Sergius Strogoff is in the capable hands of Mr. Herbert Skardon; Miss Irene Munro as Nadine Karateff does a difficult part full justice; Miss Sidney Crowe as Wanda Lubinoff (the beautiful fiend) is excellent, her dramatic byplay being very telling; Malachi (Mr. W. Robertson Foulis) and Christopher Crackles (Mr. Harry Oates) are in good hands.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—Mr. Beaudyn's company is here this week with *A Beautiful Fiend.* The cast is a powerful one, and includes Miss Sidney Crowe, who presents a fine study of Wanda Lubinoff. Mr. Montague Beaudyn is seen to great advantage as Ivan Paulovitch; Mr. J. P. McBride makes an excellent Count Karateff; and Mr. Harry Oates ably supplies the humour of the piece as Christopher Crackles. Miss Irene Munro, as Nadine Karateff, gives the right touch of pathos to the rôle; and Miss Annie Clunn is good as Patty Woodlands.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Mr. Chas. March's company is paying a return visit this week in *The Gamester of Metz.* As Paul Baldot Mr. March proves himself an actor of ability, and is particularly smart in his various disguises in the third act; Mr. Wilfred Protheroe is suitably placed as Captain Badaire; and equally successful is Mr. Geo. Harle as Louis Badaire. Clever character-sketches are submitted by Messrs. P. Wentworth and W. A. Brayne (Martin); Miss Una Lake is sweetly sympathetic as Paul Baldot's sister; and Miss Eva Lyndhurst does well in the small part of the Countess Baldot.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—The eighteenth week of Living Pictures at this house shows no diminution in the large crowds that throng this building nightly, and the marked success which has distinguished the season is due both to the brilliant programme submitted week after week, and the admirable manner in which the pictures are selected and shown, their value being considerably enhanced by the descriptive lecture which accompanies them. The variety numbers are all good. Prince Ishmael and Mdlle. Valeria, Hindoo illusionists, top the bill; Alf. Bishop and Jim Hegarty are also well received.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Packed houses this week have accorded an enthusiastic reception to Miss Winifred Chalmers's company in *The Master Criminal.* Mr. H. L. Osmond in the title-rôle gives a realistic impersonation; and Mr. H. C. Macartney submits a good study of Phillip Manners. Miss Winifred Chalmers enthralls the audience by her fine portrayal of Lady Trayennes; Miss Kate Somerville charmingly portrays the part of Mabel Manners; and little Lizzie Power wins the favour of the house as Winifred. Miss Mabel Tremere is diverting as Peggy Perks, and, in conjunction with Mr. H. Cooke as Tommy Dale, make many merry moments. Mr. J. C. Carlyle as the detective, Ben Beaudry, is a good character-study; and Mr. E. Nobel is amusing as Gentleman Jim.

MAIDSTONE.—HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—Another good programme this week is headed by Mlle. Lumière, speciality fire dancer; Mme. Haydee submits a clever marionette act; Kloof and Ramsey, instrumentalists and vocalists, cause hearty laughter; Counsell and Mills are popular in their sketch, *On the Stage;* Les Henris, gymnasts and equilibrists, perform some clever feats; the Bros. Brooks, speciality artists, are amusing; and Miss Rosie Bartlett, vocalist; the Sisters Brand, duettists; Delafiore, instrumentalist; and the Bioscope complete the bill.

MANCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmundstone Shirra.—A return visit of *What the Butler Saw* was welcomed here on Monday by a large audience, that manifested the fullest appreciation of the clever and amusing qualities of the play. Miss Ada Blanche as Mrs. Barrington, Mr. Lionel Rignold as Pink, the butler, and Mr. Charles Fawcett as the good-tempered Irishman, Jack Barrington, are the three with whom the greatest responsibility lies, and it is needless to say that their efforts are wholly successful. The numerous subsidiary rôles are also in good hands, and the entire performance is as entertaining as the most exacting playgoer could desire.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, LTD.—Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—Mr. Charles Steuart introduced here on Monday Mr. Michael Morton's successful novelty, *The Little Stranger,* in which the wonderful boy-actor, Edward Garratt, appeared in the part of the Baby, as played by him in London. Plenty of laughter accompanied the action, and the entire cast played with a distinctly intelligent idea of the effect it was intended to produce. Mr. Charles Steuart was excellent as the proud, embarrassed father, and as the mother of the weirdly-developing infant Miss Mary Allestree exhibited her wonderment and distress in a manner remarkably convincing. Miss Dora Hole as the nurse was also very good, and Mr. Fred Epitaux contributed a life-like impersonation of Eames, the butler. As Alec Howard, Mr. Charles Hanbury added much to the cheerful spirit of his part; Mr. Charles A. Doran's attitudinising as Paul Vronsky was excellent; and capital character sketches were contributed by Mr. Stanley Lathbury as the General, Mr. Arnold Lucy as Sir George Peacock, Miss Christine Rayner as Effie, Miss Mary Stuart as Mrs. Allenby, and Miss Alice Clayton Greene as Lady Peacock. The pleasing curtain-raiser, *Dream Faces,* deserves a word of praise.

GAIETY THEATRE, LTD.—Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—Mr. Harold V. Neilson and company are here this week in Sutro's play, *The Perfect Lover,* which was introduced to Manchester audiences for the first time on Monday night. The play is, of course, interesting, and full of smart and cultured passages of dialogue, which are brought out neatly by the cast. Mr. Harold V. Neilson gives a strong rendering of Tremblett; Miss Amy Sangster as Lilian acts with her usual ease and charm; and Mr. Bernard Limpus presents a good idea of Lord Cardew. Others who distinguished themselves are Mr. W. Lemmon Warde as William Tremblett and Miss Gertrude Sterroll as the Hon. Susan Lesson; and the remaining parts are in capable hands.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Miss Lydia Donovan presents here this week Frank M. Thorne's drama, *Her One Great Sin.* The company is a good one. Miss Lydia Donovan as Grace Warhurst, the erring wife, acts with great ability and convincing pathos; and as Arnold Thornhill Mr. C. Quinton Fulford has a part that suits him admirably. Mr. Fred Hodson and Miss Nellie Lambert are responsible for much humour as Jerry Jumble and Nancy Winpenny, and among others who agreeably support the principa's Miss Maudie Lambert is deserving of praise as a really clever juvenile.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son.—Fanny Robina, the ever-popular comedienne, tops the bill here this week, and meets with a good reception. Florry Cooper sings "The Stars are Angel Faces" in fine style; Bessie Travis is highly successful as a ventriloquist; Les Valdos are funny in their motor-'bus sketch; Huline and Le May cause much merriment with their musical absurdities; and the dancing of the Czar's Royal Russian Troupe is clever and amusing. Other good turns are those of Little Tim, a quaint comedian; Amurat, musical athlete; and Billie Bint, comedian. On the occasion of our visit Gilroy and Gross, who figure on the programme, did not appear. The Animated Pictures are interesting.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Richard Flanagan; Manager, Mr. P. Ryan Smith.—Mr. F. H. Neville's company is here this week in a sensational drama entitled *The Trail of Sin.* The principal parts are in the able hands of Mr. F. H. Neville, Mr Fawcett Lomax, and Miss Ethel Tooney, and the piece is well staged. *The Ticket-of-Leave Man* is down for the second half of the week.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company is still entertaining local audiences with their sensational sporting drama, *Bound to Win.* The principal parts are in the able hands of Mr. George Steel, Miss Violet Langley, Miss Kate Froude, Mr. J. Franklin, and Mr. Edward Fryer; while the humorous element is cleverly exploited by Mr. Arnold H. Allen, Mr. Dick Seddon, and Miss Effie Macintosh. Thoroughbred horses appear in the racecourse scene.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Berry.—Mr. Flanagan's production of *Othello,* apart from its general excellence of interpretation and staging, has every appearance of establishing a record for itself in the number of different actors who have been called upon to assume the title-rôle. Mr. Harcourt Williams, who followed Mr. Matheson Lang, is now succeeded by Mr. Lawson Butt. Each interpretation will be remembered as distinct from the others; and, for the audience, these changes amount to a somewhat striking lesson in comparisons. The production remains extremely popular.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—Mr. Fred Kitchen as Dame Trot, in the Karno pantomime, *The House that Jack Built,* is again the attraction here this week, and a sufficiently powerful one. Dare's Minstrels are also prominent, in a negroistic act of great merit; and excellent turns are added by Ike Scott and Son, comedians and dancers; Speedwell, the lightning painter; Fernie's Juveniles, a smart combination of youthful talent; the Vetter Brothers, in a fine equilibristic act; and Lily Tiso, vocalist and dancer. The Biograph shows a series of amusing pictures.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—Van Biene, the famous actor-musician, is the top star here this week in a playlet entitled *The Master Musician,* introducing several 'cello selections in his usual excellent style, and ably supported by Miss Rose Summers and Miss Lena Burnleigh. A highly sensational item is provided by K. P. Speedy, the world's highest diver, who dives from a height of 130 feet into the arena lake. Exceedingly clever and amusing are Newhouse and Ward in their trick cycling act; and the Coloured Meisters are entertaining vocalists. Orpheus scores a big success in his musical scena; Gladys Mavius is an excellent dancer, and along with her assistant "Dot" is well received; Azella Wilson is a charming and graceful gymnast; and Carney and Armstrong sing and whistle well, and cause some amusement. Vocal items by the choir, and "The Wonderful Electric Belt," shown on the Bioscope, complete the programme.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. Peter Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—The principal feature of this week's programme is *The Woman Who Was,* played by Arthur Roberts and company—an excellent entertainment. Holden's mannikins supply a clever and pleasing turn; Herbert Shelley sings some good songs; and Carl Lynn is a capital mimic of animals; while Jessie Merrilees is a pleasing vocalist; Jack Pleasants, comedian, is quaint and popular; Ricardo and Spalding present a remarkable equilibristic novelty; and Henry Bekker is a smart conjurer. The Palace Pictures are immensely entertaining.

GRAND.—Jasper Redfern's Pictures are excellent. The show includes the Electric Belt, a startling entertainment; the Three Derbys, comedy risley experts; Binns and Binns, cross-talk comedians; Alex Royal, comedian; and the Lavails, in their sensational aerial act.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The top turn here this week is the Smart Set of vocal entertainers, under the direction of Walter George. Henry Carlton, the popular character-sketch comedian, supported by a clever company is also prominent; and good turns are added by Mack Ollive, the well-known sifflеur and dancer; George Hyam, comedian; Mac and Hill, patter comedians; Nell Cotter, comedienne and dancer; Pueblo and Cropp, clever creole artists; the Saxonias, in a fine musical act; and Billy Richardson, the well-known stump orator. The pictures are good.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son.—Charles Majilton and company are appearing here this week with great success in that amusing sketch *Round the Clock.* The Woodwards are clever and original in a cycle act; Cribb and Cribb are smart patterers and singers; Bert and Dora are capital comedy artists; Dawson Dewick, comedian, makes a hit; Doris Middleton is a charming juvenile artist; L. B. Athol is a good actor-vocalist; and the singing collier, Godfrey James, sings well. "The Prospectors" is the subject of the Bioscope Pictures.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Alan Holt's company is seen to advantage here this week in an effective dramatic episode, entitled *A Society Woman,* introducing a sensational fight rivalling that in *Humanity.* Madge Temple, the well-known comedienne, sings in her most charming manner; and some capital dancing is done by Harry Ray and Lillie Calden in their comedy act, and by the Sisters St. Julian, duettists. Fred Herbert, an up-to-date vocalist, makes a hit; and smart turns are also those of Daisy Silcott, burlesque actress; Jack Heath, comedian; and Harry Luck, comedian. The Howes and La Rochelle still remain in the programme, as successful as ever.

HIPPODROME (HULME).—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son.—a good all-round programme is offered here this week, headed by the Welsh Wanderers, who sing sweetly and are delightful harpists. The Tennessee Guards go through some smart military manœuvres; and Hauptmann Marquis Jtonye, in his equilibristic act, is excellent. The Elvio Comedy Trio, in a knockabout absurdity, are well received; and entertaining turns are furnished by the Sprangelettis with their miniature circus; Sam Shipley, eccentric, character, and dialect comedian and dancer; Beattie Worth, comedienne; Barfoot and Casson, comedy artists; and the Gentrys, in an acrobatic speciality. Acting as deputy for Charles Rutland, comedian, Vernando provided, on the occasion of our visit, a decidedly clever and original ventriloquial act, which is deservedly well received. The Bioscope Pictures are vastly amusing.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton, and District Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Cecil Clayton.—Mr. Gus Levaine's company have produced the pantomime, *Cinderella,* to good houses during the week. Miss Dora Denmark is a first-class Prince Charming; in the title-rôle, Miss Lizzie Levaine is charming, and receives great appreciation for her singing; as the valet, Dandini, Miss Fanny Collins is warmly applauded; Mr. Arthur Collins is a capital Baron; and as Pepper, the page, Lord Tom Doddy is quite at home. In the hands of Messrs. Cecil Webb and D'Arcy Mould, the Ugly Sisters cause a great amount of merriment; Miss Ada Conway is well suited to her part. The scenery and staging is praiseworthy. Among a large array of specialities are the Zola Troupe, acrobats; the Alpine Brothers; the Ruby Quartette, dancers; and several others.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Herbert Darnley; Resident-Director, Mr. Tom Jennings; Acting-Manager, Mr. Mark Lorne.—Good houses have been the rule here this week, during which Messrs. Power and Kirby's capable company present the drama, *Man's Enemy.* Mr. John Power plays the character of Tom Drake in a capable manner; in the exacting part of Harry Stanton, Mr. Norman Overton proves himself an actor of great power and ability; Mr. Wm. Jeans is a soldierly General Sir Arthur Stanton; Fred Lisle is capably portrayed by Mr. T. Arthur Ellis; Mr. Fred Owen gives an excellent interpretation of the character of the kind and honest Jew, Isaac Barnett; in the humorous part of Adolphe D'Embonpoint, Mr. Herbert Claremont is successful; Miss May Grayce gives a very feeling interpretation of the rôle of Grace Leslie; as Sarah Drake, Miss Constance Medwyn is excellent; Miss Fanny James causes great merriment as Polly Harris, the servant; and little Mabel Spencer is good as Nellie Saunders. All the other characters are ably sustained.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Edward Michael; Stage and Business Manager, Mr. A. Austin-Leigh.—The Margate stock company has been presenting during the week the four-act drama *Captain Swift,* and the piece has been cleverly played and very favourably received. The title-rôle is finely sustained by Mr. A. Austin-Leigh; Miss Mabel Archdall as Stella contributes largely to the success; Mr. Robert Grey is remarkably good as Mr. Gardiner; and Mr. H. G. Mason does well as Marshall. Miss Emmie O'Reilly makes a powerful Mrs. Seabrook.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—Mr. Arnold Bell's company has been appearing here twice nightly in the tabloid edition of the Adelphi drama *Lost in London.* Mr. Roy Jackson plays well as Gilbert Featherstone; Mr. Howard Hardy is an excellent Sir Richard Loder; the parts of the miners have been efficiently presented by Messrs. D. Clark, W. C. Gregory, Dickson Tate, and G. Graham; and Mr. Wilton Drury is particularly funny as Benjamin Blinks. Miss Lilian Earle plays the heroine, Nelly Armroyd, with care and finish; and Miss Kitty Douglas makes the most of the part of Tiddy Draglethorpe.

MERTHYR TYDFIL. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—The premier place of honour is held by the Morton Comedy Trio, a combination of mirth and melody; the Borghetti troupe of acrobats arouse enthusiasm by their clever performance; and Mlle. Sylvesto, lady contortionist, is well received. Milner Verrin's songs are re-demanded; Sukell and Lizzette cause hearty laughter in their comedy sketch, *The Crazy Cook;* Fred Dunstones is popular with his songs; Nell Emerald is a charming coon artiste; and the bioscope, with capital pictures, also add to the attractiveness of the bill.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Kappo and Ella are expert gymnasts; the Canellys' speciality, "Juggling on the Lawn," is highly appreciated; the Two Leons do well as duettists and dancers; Alec Aubrey, the Welsh athlete, gives a smart show on the rings; Mlle. Melita is a clever dancer; Metzi is a talented Japanese juggler; and Cissie Kingsley is a pleasing vocalist. The biograph also supplies some very interesting pictures.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company is this week presenting here the drama, *The Power of the Cross.* Mr. Geo. A. de Gray gives a powerful interpretation of the mysterious character of Baron Wolfe Curzola; Mr. Chas. Linney submits a capable exposition as Gerald Fairfax; Mr. Alex. J. Haviland is equally successful as Dr. Fairfax; Mr. Frank Stephens cleverly depicts the shady lawyer, Benjamin Hawke; Mr. A. Reed does well as David Kingsley; while Mr. Richard E. Nugent is always interesting as Timothy O'Dowd. Miss Stanley Burt is entirely in sympathy with the character of the unfortunate Margaret Seaton; Miss Phyllis Vaughan is an excellent Blanche Kingsley; and the rôle of the adventuress, Rita Lascelles, is cleverly sustained by Miss Cicely Desmond.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—The new romantic drama *A Warning to Women,* by Mr. C. Watson Hill, is played here this week by the author's own company. Miss Rosalind Tate gives a capital rendition of the part of Moira Kennion, creating a very good impression. This week Mr. Watson Mill is seen in a new character, that of Shaun, the wandering minstrel, which he successfully portrays; Miss Ellen Beverly figures with great effect as Molly O'Moore; and Mr. Richard Vane is seen to marked advantage as Dr. Dread. Mr. Norman Cannon is capital as Fergus McNaughton, and Mr. Carter Slaughter acts with great distinction as Lord Eversleigh. Miss Grace Barton is charming as Shella Kennion, and Mr. Henry Rutland's impersonation of Squire Kennion is full of good acting. Mr. John Willerton as Sir John Harkaway and Mr. Arthur Halley as Sir Thomas Riding are all that can be desired, and Miss Ellenor Grove is pleasing as Hildred. Mr. George Harvey, Mr. Stanley Wood, Mr. B. W. Davies, Miss Phillis Brook, Miss Edith Rutland, and Miss Dolly Hope all perform their respective parts in a satisfactory manner. The piece is capitally staged.

OPERA HOUSE. — Proprietors, The Middlesbrough Grand Opera House Co., Ltd.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—Mr. Weedon Grossmith's farcical comedy *The Night of the Party* was presented for the first time on Tees-side on Monday night, when it created a most favourable impression. The music is dainty, the scenery is beautiful, and the costumes exquisite. The whimsical Mr. Crosbie was admirably impersonated by Mr. Sebastian Smith, who commands the laughter of his audiences with wonderful readiness. A good deal of the success of the piece is due to the sprightliness of Miss Beatrice Mervyn as Lady Hampshire. Mr. Douglas Munro was very amusing as Mr. Flambert, and Miss Lilian Williams figured with great effect in the rôle of Paulina. Mr. Frank H. Denton is exceedingly funny as Mr. Frayne, and Mr. Eric Forth does full justice to the part of Sir Charles Hampshire. Miss Marion Lewis as Mrs. Young, Miss Florence French as Gipsy Vandelier, and Miss Elizabeth Maud as Baby Hastings were all that could be desired. Miss Lena Grantham was good as Nannie Portland, and Mr. Charles F. Bruce sustained the part of Mr. Roundle to perfection. Mr. Stanley Arthur was a capital Mr. Boyle, and Mr. Ernest Rivarz was good as Hargen. Other members of the company who add to the attractiveness are Mr. Arthur Bell as Alec Montressor, Mr. Charles Wilson as Horace Cloughe, Mr. Abbey as Mr. McRoth, Mr. Samuel Plinge as Captain Bleary.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles Rembges. La Pia, in a new spectacular statuary production, is the star turn here this week. In her representations of "Music," "The Mirror," "Summer," "Morning," "The Nymph," "Alone," and "Liberty," La Pia was superb to a degree, and the added effects of the falling waters give the finishing touch to a lavishly magnificent bit of stagecraft. R. H. Douglas, a monologue artist, creates roars of laughter with his clever impersonation of a barrister in a breach of promise case; and Daisy Mayer scores heavily with her coon songs and dancing. The New Macs cause much laughter with their songs and patter, as do also the Dalgarnos in their comedy duologue *Caught Napping.* Alice Blandford is an excellent singer, and Kerr and Koe score in their absurdity *Yards and Houses.* Other turns are provided by the Sisters Dorrell, duettists and dancers, Johnny Dwyer, comedian, and the Empire Pictures.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Alf. Graham; Manager, Mr. Griffiths.—Tom Foy, a popular Middlesbrough favourite, is paying a return visit here this week in his sketch *The Yorkshire Lad in London,* and his quaint humour keeps the house in a constant ripple of laughter. Foy's Comedians cause much laughter in their sketch *Jolly Tars in China;* and Harry Nelson, the great comedian, who is here another week, fully maintains his reputation. The Two Anartos give a pleasing musical turn, and the Dancing Gilberts score. Fraser and Mac, comedy artists, do well, and Jessie Star is an excellent vocalist. Other turns are provided by Gladys and Alber and the Palascope.

MOTHERWELL. — NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant.—Mr. F. R. Benson's North Shakespearean company is this week appearing in a series of plays, including *The Taming of the Shrew, The Merchant of Venice,* and *As You Like it.* Miss Dorothy Green appeared with great success as Rosalind; Celia was sweetly played by Miss Louise Graeme; Mr. Charles Francis was exceptionally fine as Orlando; Touchstone was drolly depicted by Mr Ross Shore; Mr. Gerald Ames acted with dignity as the Banished Duke; and that sterling actor Mr. Henry Herbert contributed a finished piece of work as the melancholy Jaques. The parts of Silvius and Corin were excellently limned by Mr. Philip Merivale and Mr. Esme Filmer; Phœbe had an exceedingly apt impersonator in Miss Mary Webb, and mention should be made of the singing of Miss Webb as Amiens.

NELSON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Mudd.—This week Charles Harrington's No. 1 company is producing *Uncle Tom's Cabin.* The title-rôle finds a faithful exponent in Mr. J. Carr; whilst Eva is sweetly played by little Miss Hazelwood. Leslie Beaufort renders a good account of himself as Geo. Harris, the runaway; Eliza being touchingly portrayed by Miss Hathaway. The character of Legree is powerfully sketched by Mr. H. Rogers; Phineas Fletcher, the Quaker, is carefully treated by Mr. J. H. Remney; Mr. Chas. Harrington acts efficiently the rôle of Mr. St. Clair; whilst as Marks, the lawyer, Mr. W. Langford creates plenty of amusement. Miss Sylvia Stella shows praiseworthy insight in delineating Topsy. She scored a great success in singing "Miss Snow," the dance being cleverly executed. The other specialities which are introduced in the plantation scene were equally good.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Messrs. Bacon and Bolam; Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—On Monday evening Miss Marie Dagmar and Mr. Fred. C. Somerfield's company presented their powerful and romantic drama entitled *The Tyrant.* Mr. Fred. C. Somerfield as Homodie gives an excellent rendering of that character; Mr. Roy Fortescue is admirable as Angelo; Mr. Lionel Atwil as Rudolph is also good; the humour of the piece is well looked after by Mr. Percy Brown as Victor; Mr. Alec Findlater is a dashing Lieut. Tasker; whilst Messrs. Geary and Wade as Abrossi and Roderic do well in their respective parts. Miss Millie Ford is an excellent Lady Katherine, Miss Lallah Shelton scores heavily as Eulie, and Miss Olive Lloyd is successful as Regmella; and Miss Marie Dagmar's acting is a tower of strength, and she, along with the other members of the company, is accorded a most enthusiastic reception.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—*The Freedom of Suzanne,* from the pen of Mr. Cosmo Gordon Lennox, on the occasion of its present visit to Newcastle is staged at the Theatre Royal. As Suzanne Miss Mabel Love now appears, and she is seen to advantage in a character on the impersonation of which the success of the whole piece really hangs. Mr. Templer Powell ably fills the part of Charles Trevor; and very clever and amusing is Mr F. G. Thurstans as Fitzroy Harding. Creditable studies of the trio of worshippers of Suzanne are furnished by Mr. J. Hastings Batson, Mr. Townsend Whitling, and Mr. Richard Neville. Others in the cast, and forming a well-balanced company, are Mr. Gerald Alexander, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Bruce Smith, Miss Annie Stalman, Miss Florence Harwood, Miss Violet Ley, Miss Dorothy Lart, Mrs. F. Turner, and Mr. I. Young.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—A great attraction at this theatre this week is the musical extravaganza *The New Aladdin.* Mr. George Edwardes has sent an excellent company. Mr. George Gregory, a favourite with North-country audiences, is irrepressibly funny as Tippin; Mr. John Brabourne, with his easy, stolid style, gives a decidedly artistic and highly-diverting impersonation of the Lost Constable; a capital impression is made as the Genie of the Lamp by Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., who scores heavily in songs and dances, the "No-Hat Brigade" skit being one of the best items of the evening; the acting, singing, and dancing of Miss Cressie Leonard, who fills the part of Aladdin, are excellent; and Miss Ida Rene as the Princess sings with characteristic spirit and humour. Others sharing in the honours of the entertainment are Mr. William Spray, Mr. Frank Hector, Mr. Ernest Mahar, and Miss Irene Verona. The staging and chorus are well up to the standard of productions sent from the Gaiety Theatre.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Managing - Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—The visit of Arthur Prince is another huge success. His ventriloquial exhibition is of the best, his success with the "Middy" being a feature of the performance. The Three Merrills, comedy cyclists, introduce several novel items, and earn well-merited applause; the Harwood Juveniles, in a delightful scena, *A Children's Christmas Eve,* display great talent as vocalists and dancers; and a nautical scena, "The Lost Mariners," by Bennett and Martell, is another agreeable turn; and the Two Falcons prove themselves funny and capable acrobatic equilibrists. Drum and Major are a capital comedy turn; the Primrose Quartette's vocal efforts greatly delight the audience; Myra Love proves herself to be a chic comedienne; Katie Marsh is a vocalist with a pleasing voice; and C. Somers is a capital comedian.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—La Milo, the original enamelled Venus, is the top of the bill here this week. On Monday evening she was accorded a great reception for her beautiful classical poses; Arthur Lennard proved a great favourite; his new songs all gained rapturous encores; Herbert Darnley's company sketch, *Moving In,* provokes roars of laughter throughout; Kitty Marion, comedienne, was in good form and greatly appreciated; whilst Goggin and Davis are a pair of eccentric comedians who do well. Lizzie Fletcher renders her songs in her own inimitable way; the Two Bostons, the novelty showmen, give a turn that is full of mirth; whilst the Neilson Sisters, comediennes and dancers, have a host of admirers. The Schenk Brothers, head and hand balancers, and the Bioscope pictures complete a capital bill.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*The New Barmaid,* a delightful musical comedy, is being presented here this week by Mr. Alexander Loftus's company, under the direction of Mr. E. W. Vaughan. Mr. Loftus plays Bertie White cleverly, and in combination with Mr. Jas. Grant as William White is responsible for a full measure of fun; while Mr. Chas. Adeson as Mons. Bonsor is amusing, his dancing being particularly good. Mr. Jas. Hawks sings excellently as Captain Lovebury; and Mr. Harry Collier does well as Colonel Claymore. Miss Violet Osmond as Dora Heather, Miss Grafton as Brenda Louth, and Miss Amy Preston as Ethel Joy were very attractive, and the chorus showed that they were well trained.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Major Gallagher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Page.—Mendel, the blind pianist, who is the chief turn here, is proving attractive with exhibitions of his skill; *Crystal Gazing,* an interesting sketch, is presented by Mr. W. H. Day and Miss Laura Dyson; Bellonini's cockatoos perform some clever feats; and *The Chaperon,* a very amusing sketch, is performed by Frank Bateman and Co. Lily Burnand, a lady of charming grace, is in high favour; Carlos Cæsaro go through a wonderful naval act; Little Don causes much laughter; and Theresa de Silva sings rollicking choruses. The Bioscope, showing comical pictures, completes the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Seddon.—Again Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's excellent company is presenting *The Silver King* to large houses. Mr. Fred. D. Daviss gives a fine and convincing rendering of Wilfred Denver, and thoroughly deserves the great success that he achieves; Miss Daisy Scudamore again charms and delights with her sympathetic presentment of Nellie Denver; and Miss Flossie Hale Daviss as Cissy is certainly one of the best and most natural of child actresses that we have had. Mr. Edward J. George is still the pet of the pit and gallery as the faithful Jaikes; Mr. L. St. John Lowther makes a very effective Spider; Mr. Arthur Wright as Elijah Coombe, Mr. George Belmore as Henry Corkett, and Mr. Warriss Lindon as Cripps are excellent. Miss Viola Holland makes a good-looking Olive Skinner; Miss Louie Hale is very amusing as Tabitha Durden; and Miss Bessie Wright is well placed as Susie.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans.—Ella's lions are the premier attraction here this week. Four Merry Mascots provide dancing and singing that gain them applause; Cedar and Elgar give a good skit, *When Knights Were Bold;* Neil Hardy, comedian, is funny; Little Dando is provocative of much mirth; C. Vincent has a fresh supply of subjects; Smarte Brothers appear as acrobatic eccentrics; Chas. Cowen is another eccentric comedian; Ena Latone, chorus vocalist, makes a big hit with "Zuyder Zee"; and Phern and Phern entertain with a musical act.

NORTH SHIELDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—A large audience assembled here on Monday to welcome Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company with *Napoleon the Great.* Mr. Hugh Montgomery as Napoleon created an excellent impression; Mr. Oliver Birrell was a capable Colonel Lavarennes; Mr. Phil Harper a good Colonel Jules Meuron; Paul Lakinska was in the able hands of Mr. Bartlett Garth; Mr. Frank M. Thorne gave a capital representation of Pierre Pompennet; Mr. Albert Sinclair scored as Sergt. Choupin; and Mr. C. Acton Dix made the most of Monsieur Fouché. Miss Leslie Warner was a charming Marie Walenska; Miss Maud Russell an interesting Leonie Marbœuf; Miss Marie Harcourt a pleasing Marcelle; and Miss Florence Thorne was seen to advantage as Mère Dumont.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—Lady Julia, the human ape, in her clever performance, is attracting good houses here; the Four Watsons, vocal, musical, and comedy artists, are as successful as ever; Messrs. De Vere and Kenwick, with their burlesque pictures, are popular; and Miss Ada Whitton, male impersonator, makes a great hit. Mlle. Pollo, gymnast, is very smart; Messrs. Sandes and Vincent, comedy artists, are funny; and the Bio-photoscope is still popular.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden.—Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's company is the attraction this week in *The Traitor Prince.* Mr. George M. Montanini presents a powerfully dramatic embodiment of the title-rôle; Miss Kate Walford's Vashti is a clever delineation; Mr. Lincoln

corded to Little Emmie Thomas as Meg, especially in her song "Daddy"; and Miss Lissa Young is favourably received as Bobby Trott. Miss Mary Fulton is praiseworthy as Margaret Daventry; and Miss Nellie Thorne-Hallam displays much ability as Kate Cherry. The other characters, including those represented by Miss Jenny Bostock, are ably filled, and render admirable assistance. The scenery is very effective.

Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. F. W. Fitt.—The attractions here this week are the famous Craggs, in their mirthful sketch, and the clever tricks they introduce are much appreciated; the Carbiacs are also an excellent acrobatic turn; Howard and St. Clare keep their reputation for amusement in their tit-bit, *Do You Want to Buy any Coke?* the Norman and Leonard Trio are successful in *The Itinerant*; Gillen is a novel ventriloquist, and takes well; Rosie Archer, the lady mimic, is very entertaining; Annie Casey is a pleasing comedienne; Charles Carol is good as a comedian; and the Hippo. Bioscope is most interesting.

NOTTINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robt. Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*The Lady Dandies* opened on Monday to a crowded and expectant house, and many recalls were the result of a fine performance. Miss Anna Hickish invested La Merveilleuse with a charm and delightful energy that compelled frequent applause, and her vocalism retained all its customary skill and effect; Miss Ada Thomas captivated the audience by her cultured and tasteful rendering of the music allotted to Liane; and the enjoyable singing of Miss Deborah Vojar won a deserved share of recognition; Mr. Harold Thorley is to be congratulated on his excellent use of a fine baritone voice; and Mr. Robert Hale gave the fullest expression to his numbers as An Incroyable; Mr. Eric Thorne's comedy talent has never been better placed than in the rôle of St. Amour, his amusing patter and topical songs completely convulsing the house. He was capitally assisted by Mr. Lennox Pawle (Tournesol) and Mr. Jack Cannot (Malicorne), both of whom also scored considerably in their topical songs. Les Merveilleuses were well represented by Misses Mabel Hirst, Barbara Dunbar, Daphne Earle, Kate Milner, and Flora Chetwynd; and the clever dancing of Miss Vivien Vowles (a Nottingham young lady) produced an enthusiastic demonstration.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—The company of Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Esmond present *The Golden Ladder* here this week. Mr. William Clayton gives a polished performance of the manly young cleric Frank Thornhill; and Miss Elsie Marriott Watson admirably depicts the earnest and womanly heroine Lilian Grant; Mr. J. Milne-Taylor plays with fine subtlety as the oily and audacious Michael Severn; and he is capably assisted in his scheming by Mr. Douglas Howard as Peranza; the Jim Dixon of Mr. Fred Archer is also a well thought out piece of acting. The humorous element is capably interpreted by Mr. Fred May as Mr. Samuel Peckaby and Miss Nelly Graham as Mrs. Peckaby, their amusing sayings evoking frequent laughter. Miss Nina Vesta as Victoria Alexandra, and Miss Beattie Wilson as the Tearer, also add to the merriment, and other parts are well filled.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Bowmaker. — The return visit of Miss Hetty King, the successful male impersonator, is greeted with enthusiasm, and large audiences testify nightly to the popularity she has achieved; Fred Sinclair and Gracie Whiteford in the sketch *Getting Even* exhibit a versatility which produces an excellent impression; and Arabella Allen, in impersonations from Charles Dickens's novels, shows a wonderful power of adaptation; D'Arc's Marionettes, with their life-like imitations of popular music hall artists, command well-deserved applause; and the efforts of Horace Jones, the Welsh comedian, meet with well-merited recognition. Amongst the most graceful acrobats and tumblers on tour must certainly be counted the Trapnell family; whilst Les Uniques present an attractive and interesting performance on their beautifully illuminated ladders; Clarence C. Corri's sketch, introducing Miss Gladys Hooley, the violinist, is worthy of special mention; and Mr. Arthur Severn's singing receives its due reward. A series of excellent pictures complete an altogether commendable programme.

OLDHAM.—Empire Theatre.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Mr. Robert Crossman's No. 1 company is appearing here this week in the successful musical comedy *Sergeant Brue*. The name-part is in the capable hands of Mr. Arthur Reynolds, and his songs are given in an artistic manner; Mr. J. H. Goldsworthy as Michael sings delightfully; and Miss Mary Hay is very bright as Aurora. Miss Marion Hargrave is excellent as Daisy; Miss Ethel Ivemy is very good as Mabel Widget; Miss Cissy Raymond as Lady Birchenall renders her songs in a capital manner; Mr. H. Soutar as Matthew Habisham, Mr. E. Mozar as Gerald Treherne, Mr. A. Forrester as Mr. Lamb, are deserving of mention; and Mr. Clarence Ibbetson appears as Crookey Scrubbs with much success. Other parts are played in a praiseworthy manner by Misses Leslie, Ford Rawlinson, and Keith, and Messrs. Hood, Robertson, and Sims. An augmented orchestra and a strong chorus are well to the fore under the bâton of Mr. Sydney Shaw.

Colosseum.—Manager, Mr. W. Eastwood.—Mr Fred Jarman's company in the Russian drama *Under the Czar*, is here. The cast includes Mr. Wilson Howard as Nicholas Yerosolaff, and he acts in a highly-finished manner; Mr. G. H. Doyle is good as the villainous Major Kovesky; Mr. Carl Vallender as Alexis Petroff, and Mr. L. Weston as Paul Ignat, are responsible for the comedy. Mr. Gerald Smythe scores as Captain Johnson, as does Mr. A. E. Rose as Major Suvaroff. Miss Nellie Bonser is charming in the character of Sonio Gregorvitch, the heroine; Miss Beatrice Annersley is capital as Siomka; and Miss Madge Clare is excellent as Rara Bhura.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Howgate.—Miss Lil Hawthorne is at the head of a capital programme this week, and her latest successes are well received; George Formby is an amusing comedian; Nada Moret scores with "Dargai"; the Five Jaunitas give a marvellous acrobatic vaulting act; and Karr and Cooney, comedians, cause much laughter in their vaudeville act. Lillian Lowe is a delightful vocalist; and the Five Whiteleys are smart in their acrobatic, wire-walking, musical tions gain much applause; Miss Ena Compton, comedienne, appears with great success; as does Arthur Roscoe, comedian. The Royal Dottoscope concludes with a capital film.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—Lillie Langtry, comedienne, keeps the audience in capital humour with her excellent songs; the King's College Boys are received with much favour; Tiny Arnold, song and dance artist, is much appreciated; Sandy and Carl are refined comedians; and Cantora sings songs of the nations in costume very nicely. Tom Moore is a good character comedian; and *A Night's Frivolity* is presented by W. Bellian's company in a very amusing manner. The Dottoscope is again showing new pictures.

OXFORD.—New Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorritt.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company, in *The Christian*, is proving a great attraction here this week. Miss Grace Chalmers gives a capital performance of Glory Quayle, holding her audience right through the play; and Miss Molly Hayden agreeably fills the part of Mrs. Callander. Mr. Frank Tennant acts with great power as John Storm, and looks the rôle as well as he acts it; Father Lamplugh and Archdeacon Wealthy are capitally played by Messrs. E. Ling and C. E. Dering; Mr. F. Scarth gives a careful and finished representation of Lord Robert Ure; and Mr. Frank Beresford imparts great interest to the character of Horatio Drake; while the Faro King and the Manager of the Colosseum find excellent exponents in Messrs. B. Conway and F. Pounds. The scenery is elaborate and the play well mounted.

East Oxford Theatre.—Lessees, Winifred Stuart and Mr. Watson Mill; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. and Mrs. John Walters's company opened here on Monday evening to a very full house with the pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*. The piece goes from start to finish with a delightful swing. Mr. Ernest Thirlway makes a capital Baron Wheresmecash; and is ably supported by Messrs. Traynor and O'Connor as Blustering Bill and Wavering Wally. Mr. Ally Benson gives an admirable exhibition of his powers as a sifleur, and as Dame Flossie causes considerable fun; Mr. Frank Standart makes the most of Soft Tommy; the Landor Brothers prove themselves clever acrobats; and Binks as Policeman Run-em-in gives some capital imitations. Miss Lillie Miller looks natural and effective as Robin Hood; and Miss Fanny Adamson wins all hearts as Maid Marian, her "Fishing" song being greatly appreciated. Miss Jessie Yondi is a dainty Dolly Dimple; praise is due to Miss Sally Hooley and Baby Blyth for their excellent and natural performance as the Babes, Bertie and Cissie; the Emerald Quartette contribute some effective dances; and the scenery is capital.

PAISLEY.—Paisley Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company, under the direction of Mr. O. Silverstone, is presenting this week the sensational drama, *The Female Swindler*. Miss Grace E. Leslie as Lu Valroy makes a detestable character, histrionically attractive, and she receives excellent support from Mr. Stanley Radcliffe, who is an excellent Geoffrey Warden. Mr. Joseph Millane enacts with praiseworthy zeal the part of John Coulson; Mr. A. Kenyon Gray gives a capital rendering of James Oliver; Mr. Henry Wright scores in his various disguises as the humorous detective, Billy Binks; a capital study of Abraham Mikestein is supplied by Mr. John Belton; Harold Travers is played with dramatic force and effect by Mr. Guy P. Ellis; Mr. D. Winstow as Detective Dixon is quite satisfactory; Miss Florrie Kelsey as May Andrews achieves an unqualified success; Miss Mary Dawson capably accounts for Mary Ann Mee; and Miss Edith Gray is praiseworthy as Mrs. Poppem.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager. Mr. Frank Wilson.—Exceptionally good turns are the order here this week. The Five Bogannys, in their Risley performance as "The Lunatic Bakers," create much merriment; W. J. Ashcroft, the original "solid man," is accorded a very warm reception; Cullen and Carthy, comedians, assisted by Little Cluley, are amusing and entertaining; the Sisters Terry, vocalists and dancers, are well received; Oakdene, ventriloquist, does a highly-pleasing turn; clever and exceedingly funny is the comedy act, *The Doctor and His Patient*, by George Helm and Emmie Cozens; George C. Doughty and Co., in a comedy scena, *Captain Cupid*, are applauded; and the Hippodrome Bioscope graphically portrays the comicalities of Little Tich.

PERTH.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—The celebrated Compton Comedy Company, whose yearly advent is so eagerly looked forward to, is drawing crowded houses nightly. The répertoire includes *Edmund Kean*, *The Gentleman in Gray*, *Davy Garrick*, and *School for Scandal*. As Edmund Kean, Mr. Edward Compton is accorded quite an ovation, and fully upholds his reputation as a leading comedian; Mr. Dennis Cleugh depicts the part of Lord Murcott with well-timed force and judgment; Mr. G. Wallace Johnston shows excellent points in Sir Hugh Lidcombe; Mr. Henry Crocker, an old Fair City favourite, in Jabberer, reaches a high order of talent; Mr. Herbert C. Brett proves an invaluable Tibbs; Messrs. Arthur Elsmore and S. Cole Winton are successful strolling players; and Mr Charles Rogers is an ideal landlord. Mr. Vernon O. Crabtree is suitably adapted to the rôle of Benskin, as also is Mr. Montague Lane to that of Cinderberry, and Mr. Philip Gordon is all that is required of Shekelton. Miss Phyllis Ralph wins special approval as Lady Lidcombe; Miss Marian Le Strange is suitably placed as Ophelia to Kean's Hamlet; Misses Sarhara Pigot, Marie Hassell, Rose Parker, and Nellie Walters are prominent; and Miss Mackenzie is all that can be desired as Amy Sellaer.

PETERBOROUGH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—Crowded houses witnessed the performance of *The Sign of the Cross* on Monday and Tuesday, played by Mr. William Greet's company. Mr. Wallace G. Court was responsible for an excellent impersonation of Marcus Superbus; the Nero of Mr. Burton W. Yaldwyn was thoroughly good; so, too, was the Tigellinus of Mr. Cyprian H. Matthews. Miss Nancy York appeared with great success as Mercia; Miss Dorothy Lambert made a delightful Dacia; and Berenice was charmingly portrayed by Miss Lena Gordon; while Miss Kathleen Day as Poppœa and Miss Winifred Williamson as Stephanus deserve special mention.

PLYMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. C. F. Williams; Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—Messrs. Flood and Fitzmaurices' Company is here in *The Angel of Unrest*. The leading part of Papa Bompasse is played with conspicuous ability by Mr. Henry Belding. Mr. Alec Flood makes a cold, impassive Napoleon I., a study quite in accordance with the most authentic historic descriptions of the Emperor; Mr. Creagh Henry is a quiet, reserved, and manly Paul Brandt; Mr. Alexander Bradley has a none too attractive part as the spy Captain Lemesnil, but performs it in such fashion that, however contemptible the character, one cannot but admire the stage exposition; and Mr. Richard A. Greene is a well-set soldierly Colonel Bernaise. Miss Florence Tressilian has a difficult part as Julie, daughter of Lepine, but she acquits herself in a way that completely wins the sympathies of a critical audience, and Miss Rita Imeson is a vivacious Lisette. A feature of the piece is the exceptionally fine mounting.

Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant.—A sensational comedy drama entitled *Devotion for a Life*, is staged this week by the capable stock company. Mr. Cecil A. Melton undertakes the always arduous dual rôle, but adequately rises to the occasion, his performance of Richard Devine and John Lemoine being a very creditable piece of acting; Mr. Walter Terriss is well suited to the part of Sir Richard Devine, and Mr. Edward Beecher successfully impersonates Lieut. Maurice Frere. Mr. Larry Clements' vocal accomplishments find scope in the part of Mickey, the Moucher. Miss Irma Farington is the leading lady as Sarah Lemoine; the other ladies deserving mention are Miss Beatrice Hudson (Lady Devine) and Miss Elaine Vanbrugh (Sylvia Vickers).

Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—T. E. Dunville is again "down west" and is, of course, starred; Horace White, pianoforte ventriloquist, has had good receptions; the Florias perform some slack-wire business indicative of great powers of endurance; Arthur Goodman, tramp juggler, gets plenty of fun out of some smart cigar-box manipulation; Jolly Crissie Cross submits an attractive song and dance; the Lyons Trio have some amusing business as pantomimists and dancers, and Percy Curry has a humorous skit on a rag and bone vendor. Vernon's pictures complete the programme.

PONTYPRIDD.—Royal Clarence Theatre.—Owners and Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—The attraction this week is Mr. S. Arthur Jones's company, in *Life's Sweetest Sins*. Mr. T. Arthur Jones acts Captain Harold Marston in a masterly manner; Mr. Oswald Douglas ably portrays Doctor Colbrook; Kimberley Coutts and Rev. Edward Grey are well embodied by Mr. Robert Swain and Mr. Clem. Horlock respectively. Mr. Edgar Morgan makes a capital Bob Tanner; Miss Marie Daventry is enthusiastically received as Doreen Rivers; the doctor's daughter is admirably portrayed by Miss Mary Ainslee; and Miss Elsie Walton, as Bess Grayson, is worthy of high praise.

PORTSMOUTH.—Prince's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—The interesting drama *Her Luck in London* is being presented here this week by Miss Mary Neil and Company, Miss Neil sustaining the part of Nellie Harborne in an exceptionally capable manner. The Hon. Fitzgerald O'Connor finds an able representative in Mr. Charles A. Leicester. Mr. Douglas Tremayne plays well as the Rev. Lionel Strong. Mr. Henry Charles invests the tenant farmer Stephen Harborne with all the austere personality suitable to the part; Mr. M. Martin is quite successful as Richard Lenowen. Miss Frances Bruce's portrayal of Lillian Harborne is all that could be desired; Madame Gabrielle is well embodied by Miss Marie Clavering, and Mr. J. Telly Dillsen as Jerry Gotobed, with Miss Florrie Groves as Maud Gladys Shovepenny, provide plenty of amusement in their respective rôles.

Empire Palace.—Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Leading the bill, Madame Irma Clasen's Living Art Bronzes are greatly admired for their finished presentation and gain well merited applause. Sisters Redfern, banjoists, vocalists, and dancers, are a smart pair; the Bros. Leotard, clowns, handbalancers and hat throwers, are very clever and highly amusing; Frank Couch, patter comedian, is particularly smart; the Ralston Bros., specialty artists, give an excellent rendering of some taking songs. Wrights and Elton, vaudeville entertainers, do capable work and are appreciated. Idalia May, speciality danseuse, dances well; Hill and Whittaker, vocalists and instrumentalists, are a capital pair of artists; Richard Finberg in popular character studies from famous plays shows much histrionic power. Payne's Biophotoscope with some new pictures completes an enjoyable programme.

RAMSGATE.—Amphitheatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—Monday was "Irish night" at the "Amphi," a St. Patrick's programme having been arranged by Mr. H. S. Boyland. One of the chief features was the appearance of Miss Ethel Bryan, while Herr Bela Rauscher (violinist) had a flattering reception. Irish songs dances, and playlets made up the programme, the company consisting chiefly of local amateurs. On Tuesday Jury's Pictures commenced an engagement for the rest of the week, giving excellent exhibitions of animated photographs, and capital variety turns.

RAWTENSTALL. — Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. George Dickinson.—An exceptional attraction is provided here this week in Mr. Gilbert Payne's company, in *The Honeymoon*. Mr. Gilbert Payne as Nathaniel Noodle is a clever comedian, and is responsible for much of the success of the play; Mr. Leslie Erle is a capital Jack Armstrong; and Mr. Fred Hulton an equally effective Archie Mashington. As Victor L'Estrange, Mr. Harry Hoyland is excellent; and Mr. Bert Grey is good as Timothy Tubb. Miss Pattie Fairley is a clever Madge Armstrong, her acting being full of life and go; as Emeretta Noodle, Miss Lillian Ramsdale is very successful, supplying an excellent partner to the irrepressible Nathaniel; Miss Madge Still makes a capital Sarah Slabb; and Miss Nellie Dyson as Stella le Brunn is admirable; and all the minor characters are well sustained. Numerous musical items of a bright and taking character are well rendered; and the Four Sisters Godfrey give several charming and clever dances. The staging is excellent, and the performance was thoroughly enjoyed by a large and delighted audience.

READING.—Royal County Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Wenman.—Messrs. E. H. Knight and G. Denham's company is appearing this week in the ever-popular sensational drama, *The Grip of Iron*. Mr. Fred Powell again assumes the part of Simmonet the Strangler (a character which he has sustained over 5,000 times) in the most powerful and thrilling style. Mr. George Denham gives an excellent portrayal of the part of Louslalot, "the Smiler." Mr. Wallace Curnock, as Paul Blanchard, Mr. A. G. Polson-Turner as Lerentz de Ribas, Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood as Alphonse de Coucou, Mr. J. Brittain as Dodet, Mr. Norman Tracey as M. de Belfort, and Mr. Henry Lawrence as M. de Beaudin all deserve special mention. Miss Rosabel Dodd acts with great ability as Cora Simmonet; Miss Muriel Inglis scores repeatedly as Sophie Blanchard; Miss Maggie Stewart is good as Marie Guerin; and Miss Pope Royal acts effectively as Mlle. Delaney.

Large Town Hall.—The famous Zancigs appeared here at two performances on Monday last and displayed their marvellous powers of thought transference to the wonderment and mystification of large audiences. In addition to the Zancigs an excellent concert programme was gone through. Miss Ethel Grimes proved herself a pleasing light soprano; Miss Kate Moss sang with taste and played the violin obbligatos to her own songs with much skill and expression; Miss Clara Alexander gave several plantation songs and recitations with considerable humour and pathos; Mr. Sydney Jarvis, the Canadian baritone, was in good voice; Mr. David Brazell also sang effectively; Mr. E. Thornley-Dodge displayed his abilities as a society entertainer and lightning cartoonist; and Mr. Harold Scott was an accomplished pianist. The booking arrangements were in the hands of Mr. T. Waite.

ROCHDALE. — Theatre Royal, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*The Earl and the Girl* is the attraction here this week, and is represented by a very capable company. Jim Cheese is a prominent character, and has an excellent exponent in Mr. Alfred Donohoe; Dick Wargrave is in the safe hands of Mr. Thomas Kennard, whose acting and vocalisation is much appreciated; the Hon. Crewe Boodle has an able representative in Mr. Leslie Owen; Mr. Greville Hayes as the fiery A. Bunker Bliss is seen to advantage; Downham and Mr. Talk are both effectively impersonated by Mr. Ernest A. Plumpton and Mr. Sam Lysons; Miss Kathleen Gerard makes a capital Mrs. Shimmering Black; Miss Lina Hicks is a typical Liza Shoddam; the part of Elphin Haye is sweetly enacted by Miss Gertrude Simpson; and Miss Ida Stratham's vocalism in the part of Daisy Fallowfield is greatly enjoyed.

Circus and Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Co.—Le Diabelo, in looping the Devil's Wheel, creates a sensation here, the performance of this daring feat holding the audience breathless; the Three Transfields, charmingly attired, give pleasing selections on various instruments; George Barnard, actor-vocalist, possesses considerable histrionic abilities and vocal powers; the Sisters De Lacey are pleasing duettists; Frank Houston, comedian; H. O. Borie, comedy juggler; Barker and Ellis, comedy artists; and Ferris and Farnley, patter comedians, also contribute to a capital programme.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves.—Packed houses are the rule here this week. Countess Olga Romanow, described as cousin to the Czar of Russia, appears in a series of classic poses, which are staged with fine lighting effects; the Four Juggling Geraldos have a hearty reception, their club juggling and hoop rolling being amongst the best ever seen here; Gertie Gitano quite captivates the audience by her charming vocalism and dancing; N. T. Kioto, Japanese equilibrist; Princess Pauline, comedienne; Elton and Elma, in their knockabout triple bar act; Mabel La Blanche comedienne; and the Empire Bioscope complete one of the most enjoyable programmes ever submitted at the increasingly popular place of amusement.

ROTHERHAM.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Messrs. Frank J. Pitt and Charles Halling's company is here this week with an old favourite, *£1,000 Reward*. Mr. Fred Wilberforce is very forcible as Gilbert Lisle, and Mr. J. Newton Cowling gives a manly portrayal of Fred Ingleford; Mr. Charles Halling is smart as Vincent Rainsworth, and Mr. George Scully is seen to advantage as Dick Springthorpe; Mr. Frank Dallas creates much amusement as Inspector Gilbert; and Mr. Arthur Merton scores as Fighting Jepps; Mr. Frank J. Pitt is also deserving of mention as Fred Ingleford, jun. Miss Cissie Francess is very chic as Kitty Springthorpe and Miss Lynn Darlington scores as Meg; Mrs. Sidney Halling is deserving of mention as Mrs. McCarthy, and Miss Daisy Halling gives a realistic embodiment of Mme. Senson; Miss Lynn Darlington receives well-deserved applause for her song, "Eileen Alannah."

RUGBY. — Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geoffrey Fulton.—This week Mr. Frank R. Burdett's company is presenting *The Indian Mutiny*. Mr. Edward H. Hamilton as Lieut. Manley is clever and vigorous; and Mr. Cyril Harrison as Captain Manley is equally good. Mr. John Davidson is well placed as Major Ingleby; and Mr. Cecil Morand is amusing as Terry O'Brien. Mr. F. S. Shedden, both as regards acting and make-up, is excellent in every way as Abdul Khan; and Mr. Villiers Stanley looks the typical native officer. Mr. Ernest Keand gives a representation true to life of a religious devotee; as Ghuznah, Miss F. Melrose Millett acts with grace and ability; and Miss Agnes Kingston as Kate Ingleby and Miss Lillie Grey as Mr. Ingleby both do very well.

Town Hall. — The Scarlet Merrions, vaudeville artists, are appearing this week, and giving a very high-class entertainment. The members of the company are all artists of great merit. Mr. J. Driscoll is very successful in his humorous songs; Mr. Tom Purslow, in his humorous and dramatic items, is much appreciated; Mr. Frank Robin and Mr. Harry Watson are also very good; Mr. Norman Sinclair displays exceptional talent as a banjo soloist; and Mr. Hamilton Gough at the piano was excellent. Miss Dorree rendered several songs in first-class style.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales' Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*The Hour of Her Triumph* is successfully presented this week by a good all-round company under the direction of Mr. Fred J. Webb, who creditably plays the part of the villain, Eugene Harbury. The leading rôle of Rose Denton is acted with sterling ability by Miss Barbara Gott. Good work is done by Mr. Harry Stuart as Harold Clavering and Mr. Clifton Earle as Jack Vernon. Mr. Louis Nanton as Ben Brodie, a Yorkshireman, Mr. J. Stuart as Rosecrus Montmorency, and Miss Hetty Gale as Jenny Jinks keep the comedy well to the front. Miss Lallah Price as Sal Soaker, and afterwards as Martha Jinks, also makes a good impression. Miss M. D. Smith as Nellie Clavering and Miss Mamie Stanton as Linda Denton give clever impersonations of those characters.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Miss Marie Kendall has some comical songs which catch on; the business by the Avon and Crest Comedy Artists is very amusing; a clever thought-reading exhibition is given by the D'Oustas. Other smart turns are contributed by Ethel Dove, comedienne; Frederic Neiman, ventriloquist; Steve McCarthy, comedian and expert dancer; Fred Laud, eccentric comedian; Denby and Dent, comic vocalists and patterers; Cliff and Kean, singing, comedy, and dancing act; and the Five Casino Girls, brass instrumentalists. At the matinée on Tuesday, Mr. Fred J. Watson (manager of the Victoria Theatre, Broughton) produced a neat sketch entitled *The Phantom Earl*, which is noticed in another column.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—Mr. Fred Norburn, in *A Winter's Eve* obtains much applause; U. C. Ugo is a clever illusionist; Tankwai's troupe of jugglers are smart. The programme also includes Harris and Worth, amusing comedians; Jollions, vocalists; Bob Best, eccentric comedian; Lila Lingard, male impersonator; Eustace and Eyre, ventriloquists; and Jack Hylton, eccentric comedian.

SEACOMBE.—Irving Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—*The Pick of the Bunch*, a musical comedy by Charles Carey, is here this week. The part of Halliwell Monit is well played by the author; Colonel Joseph Monit is well portrayed by Mr. H. Buckstone Clair; Nancy is effectively presented by Miss M. Sadie; and Dick Seymour ably handled by Mr. Harold Wantage. Miss Madge Christopher is a pleasing Nellie Mather; and Miss Nellie James a capital Wilhelmina.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. Sidney Beltram.—Mr. Leonard Dalrymple's company is here with the drama *As Midnight Chimes*. Mr. Percy Maitland presents a powerful portrayal of Luke Dezzard; Dave Stannard is depicted in manly style by Mr. Chas. Burrunston; as Old Ezra Mr. Herbert Pearce plays with much earnestness; Tat Spavvin finds a skilful and humorous exponent in Mr. James Salter; Mr. Leonard Dalrymple is successful as Nat Wilson; Detective Pollard is well portrayed by Mr. J. Lionel; Mary Stannard is charmingly presented by Miss Maud Hastings; as Suzette Miss Madge Beresford is pretty and vivacious; Zamora is skilfully drawn by Miss May Swire; and as Little Davy Miss Marion Ryder does well.

SHEERNESS. — The Hippodrome. — General-Manager, Mr. F. Leighton.—An interesting programme submitted here this week comprises the Three Society Girls, who gain a hearty reception for their clever impersonation of artists past and present; Miss Lillian Clare and company, in the comedy act *Married All of a Sudden*, create plenty of amusement; a clever exhibition of furniture balancing by A. P. Boswell is received with well-deserved applause; Tray and Rich, comedians and patterers, provoke much merriment; Mr. Phil Bransby gives a couple of coster songs in capital style; Edith Manley, extempore vocalist, and Alec Kennedy, actor vocalist, successfully contribute; and the Bioscope pictures are excellent.

Palace. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Phil Raymond. — The Byrons are appearing here in their clever act, their dancing and double banjo playing being excellent; Miss Hilda Gordon is a good ballad vocalist; Mr. Harry Royde finds favour as a versatile comedian; Miss Josie Watson pleases all with her serio songs; Mr. Phil Reymond fully maintains his reputation as a first-class comedian; Miss Topsy Levane is another big favourite here; the Nicholsons conclude with a laughable comedy act.

SHEFFIELD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—A crowded and enthusiastic audience received with delighted applause Mr. George Edwardes's company on Monday in the brilliantly staged musical play *See-See*. The final tableau was a glorious feast of harmoniously arranged colours, and it formed a fitting culmination to a series of exquisite stage pictures. The performance all round was on a par with the artistic beauty of the mounting. As See-See Miss Lily Elsie was charming, and she sang and acted with the requisite naiveté and arch coyness. Miss Amy Auguarde sang effectively as Mai-Yai. Miss Topsy Sinden danced with her accustomed grace and skill; and Miss Octavia Barry was cordially applauded for her delightful singing. Mr. Frank Danby is a big Sheffield favourite, and made another hit in the mirth-provoking character of Hang-Kee. Mr. Leonard Mackay won hearty and deserved plaudits for his clever vocalism and finished delivery; and well-played rôles were the Lei of Miss Alice Hatton, the Cheoo of Mr. W. H. Rawlings, and the Hoang-Yang of Mr. Miles Clifton.

Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company opened on Monday in the thrilling drama *Leah Kleschna*. That favourite dramatic artist Miss Bessie Rignold acted with power and pathos as Leah, and she compelled sympathy for the beautiful and ill-fated heroine. Mr. W. F. Grant submitted a fine reading of the character of Paul Sylvane. Mr. Paul Belmore was effective as Kleschna; and other well-played parts were Mr. Hamilton Dean's Raoul, Mr. Ronald Daniel's Dr. Berton, Miss Helen Belgrave's Claire Berton, Miss Violet Thorold's Sophia, Miss Ethel Russell's Mlle. Berton, and Mr. C. Goldsmid's Schram. The piece was carefully mounted.

Alexandra Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*Woman and Wine* is again being performed to large audiences, and the presentation of the favourite spectacular drama of Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds's company meets with approval. Miss Cissie St. Elmo looks a beautiful creature in her elaborate confections as the handsome and callous-hearted Marcel Rigadout, and her pretty and revengeful rival, La Colombe, is acted with force and passion by Miss Joan Pereira. A contrast to these "daughters of pleasure" is the character of the sweet English maid, Mary Meadows, gracefully represented by Miss Violet Sims. Mr. John S. Haydon has brought all his experience to bear on the part of Mr. Seymour, and the result is a first-rate character-study. The unheroic hero of the play, Dick Seymour, is made the most of by Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds; Mr. Fred W. Goddard is a dashing and whole-souled villain as Beaudet; and Mr. George Child makes general merriment as the giddy old masher, Prof. Sauter. In the Bal Masqué scene the celebrated Lottie Stone troupe of acrobatic dancers appears with great success.

Empire Palace.—Proprietors, The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—George Gray's new sketch, *Parson Gray, V.C.*, was played for the first time in Shifnal on Monday, when it received the instantaneous and approving verdict of a crowded audience. It is quite a Drury Lane drama acted in thirty minutes, and in dramatic interest and character drawing Mr. Gray's new production is a distinct advance on *The Fighting Parson*. Miss Gwennie Hasto is a handsome and talented vocalist and dancer; the Three Tauberts do a skilful musical act; and other popular performers this week are the Five Delevines, Dusty Rhodes, Liddon and Hayward, Mr. Fred Elton, Miss Alsa Douglas, Mr. Roy, and Mr. Harold Hughman, a clever mimic and humorous entertainer.

Grand Palace.—Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—The following artists are billed this week:—Mr. Tom Yorke, comic vocalist; the Bros. Adderley; the Phillips and Lloyd company in sketches; Miss Ray Royal, and Miss Gladys Wilton. In addition Pallister's Biograph, with animated pictures of humorous happenings and topical events, is a leading feature of the entertainment.

SHREWSBURY.—Theatre Royal. — Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—On the first three nights of the present week the rollicking *Charley's Aunt* was admirably put on by Messrs. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson's company. Mr. Percy Tyler was amusing and capable as Stephen Spettigue; Mr. T. S. McCausland Stewart made a military-looking and aristocratic Sir Francis; Mr. Basil Lynn was very bright throughout as Jack Chesney; Mr. J. E. Stephenson made a capital Charley; Mr. Tom Macfarlane extracted plenty of humour from the part of Lord Fancourt Babberley; Mr. W. A. Stoltuck merited praise as Brasset; Miss Grace Baring was graceful and clever as Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez; and the Misses Sybil Greig, Dorothy Barrington, and Norah Johns, as Amy Spettigue, Kitty Verdun, and Ela Delahey respectively, were a bevy of attractive and accomplished ladies. The play was preceded by the dramatic episode, *No Other Way*, produced for the first time here, and specially noticed in another column.

Music Hall.—Joseph Poole's popular Myriorama is here this week with a varied and thoroughly enjoyable show. Apart from the fine series of pictures there are several excellent turns. The Four Rosaires are a very smart troupe of acrobats; Funny Johnny O'Rourke is an amusing artist; the Sisters Eileen and Mayne are a most clever and agile couple; Harry Miers and his lady assistant contribute a diverting juggling turn; the Three Boleros are accomplished triple-bar performers; and a living marionette entertainment is exceedingly well done. The guide and vocalist is Mr. Bert Berry, who is thoroughly at home in his work, and he is ably assisted by Mr. Percy Brunel.

SOUTHAMPTON. — Grand Theatre. — Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—A powerful attraction is this week being presented in Mr. Chas. Cartwright's company, who appear in *Dan'l Peggotty*. The central figure is remarkably well played by Mr. Cartwright, who is a born actor; Mr. Chas. Collette creates great amusement by his light and airy method as Micawber; Mr. Gerald Lawrence is a handsome and dashing Steerforth; and Mr. A. B. Tapping does exceedingly well as Uriah Heep. Mr. Lionel Belmore submits a fine piece of acting as Ham; and Miss Ethel Ward plays prettily and pathetically as Little Em'ly. Splendid support is given by the Misses Nell Douglas, Beatrice Grosvenor, Clarissa Selwynne, and Mr. Stanley Harrison. The play is beautifully staged, and great and deserved applause testified to the enjoyment of the audience.

Palace.—Proprietors, The Palace (Southampton), Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—The programme here is very strong in dancing. Chief honours fall

Harley and Melton, in a sketch; and Fred Cary, a remarkably clever comedian, complete a capital programme.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD. — General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—*The Prince of Pilsen* is undoubtedly one of the best musical plays that has visited this theatre. There is not a dull moment. Beautifully mounted and handsomely dressed, it is being presented by a company of artists of distinction, surrounded by a well-balanced chorus. Mr. Harry Kilburn scores in the character of Hans Wagner; Mr. Frank Crimp gives a fine, robust performance of the title-rôle; Miss Sophie Harriss is foremost among the ladies; and is ably supported by Miss Alice Nixon, Miss Ada Watson, Miss Mollie Wynne, and Miss Connie Leon. Mr. Herbert Higgins is the genial representative for Mr. Baron Harriss.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Wilmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. Vic Carnell. — Mr. Horace Wheatley, who heads a strong programme at this house, proves to be a good draw; T. E. Hughes is successful; and Harry Taft makes a welcome reappearance. Newton and Wooton introduce a novelty in the way of bicycle football.

STOCKPORT. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—*Claudian* has commanded the presence and close interest of crowded audiences throughout this week on the occasion of its autumn visit. Mr. William Maclaren gives an impressive portrayal of Claudian; and Mr. F. Owen Chambers acts with power and ability as the Tetrach. As Belos Mr. Charles T. Chaloner is amusing; and Agazil has a throughly capable representative in Mr. Douglas Earle. Miss Lily C. Bandmann as Almida charms everyone with her graceful acting; and Edissa is pleasingly represented by Miss Maud Garth.

EMPIRE, LTD.—Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—Diabuen is deputising here this week for Tarro Myaki, the exponent of Ju-jitsu (who, it was stated, is seriously ill), and several interesting bouts have been witnessed. A varied programme is presented in addition, including Addie Dorina, a clever protean lady, in *Dr. Spot's Patients*; Ormonde Penstone, entertaining magician and billiard-ball manipulator; the Four Hearnes, smart and amusing acrobats; Florrie Bray, versatile comedienne; Grapho and Jackson, mirth-provoking comedians, in *Fun in a Restaurant*; Will Ellerslie, refined comedian; and Lola Patey, character vocalist.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—HIPPODROME THEATRE. —Proprietors, Messrs. Geo. and Robt. Nicholson; Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—*Mick Whittingtun*, a pantomime scene, is presented this week, bristling with humorous incidents, and causing great amusement. Harry Lee is a mimic of renown, and his imitations of various voices are appreciated; Burley and Burley are a funny pair of comedians, while Alice Maple in her song and dance is charming; the Cumberlands score in their cycling acts; John Cronow is an old favourite here, his facial representations being very real; Selma Braatz, lady juggler, possesses unusual ability in this line, being both amusing and interesting. The pictures, as usual, are very good.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Councillor J. Batty; Manager, Mr. W. Batty.—Whit Cunliffe heads the bill this week, delighting the audience with his latest successes; Harry Drew, the Welsh basso, is very dramatic in his songs, and Gillin in his ventriloquial scene is humorous; Frank Harwood, actor-vocalist, is an artist of a high order; and Alexander Edwin, who possesses a remarkable voice, is loudly encored; Keith Merson and Co. present a humorous sketch, and the Schiavonis troupe of acrobats are excellent, their head-work being particularly good. The pictures conclude a capital programme.

STOKE.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr T. Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr. H. Miller.—Harry Tate's company heads the bill here in that capital sketch *Fishing*, which is most amusing. Marie Jones, assisted by Ernest Munroe, contributes a clever duologue; the Kimberley Boys are irresistibly funny, and cause roars of laughter; Snowball and Jolia provide a good turn, the dancing and tumbling introduced being exceedingly clever; Lauri Wylie, with his mincing mannikins, is most successful; Charlton is a conjurer of much merit; Carson Hicks sings coon songs well and also dances cleverly; the Sisters Brook are smart vocalists and dancers; and the pictures are good. Mr. T. Allan Edwardes, with his usual generosity, gave two performances on Thursday for the benefit of the Stoke Amalgamated Friendly Societies.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD. — KING'S THEATRE. —Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton, and District Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Cecil Clayton; Manager, Mr. Edward Gray. — Mr. Robert Perris's company, in the American drama, *A Fight for Millions*, is filling the bill here this week. The play abounds with dramatic incidents, and the cast is well chosen. Mr. William Macready as Tom Manley, Mr. Karl H. Edwards as Willie Neverwork, and Mr. Alec C. Grant as Richard Dudley, each deserve credit for their rendering of these three important characters. Miss Elma C. Turner as Helen Dudley, Miss Rosie Kearne as Betty Brady, with song and dance, Miss Dorothy Wilkinson as Little Madge, all achieve success; and Miss Winifred Symons scores distinctly as Pearl Rivers.

TODMORDEN.—TOWN HALL.—Proprietors, Corporation of Todmorden; Secretary, Mr. Howarth Stansfield.—Morris's Animated Picture Company is here for six nights with a large and varied selection of films. The audience on Monday evening was a good one. Mr. Gilbert Edwards rendered two baritone songs in first-class style to the accompaniment of illustrated pictures.

TON-Y-PANDY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—This week the boards are occupied by Mr. John Gerant's company in *At Duty's Call*. As Captain Alison, Mr. Harry Scott is a great success; Mr. John Gerant scores heavily as Harold Alison; Mr. Harry Ugar is very funny as Terry O'Hallaron; Miss Lily Grammonde makes a graceful Dora Drummond; Miss Jeannie Weston scores as Sulema; and Miss Eva Belle is good as Mary.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime company in *Little Red Riding Hood* is paying a welcome return visit here this week, and was enthusiastically received on Monday evening. In the title-rôle, Miss Ella Willmer is particularly pleasing and bright, and her dancing is much admired. She is well supported by Miss Beatrice Varley, who gives a dashing and effective representation as the principal boy. Miss Fay Desmond is a vocalist of much ability, and is heard to advantage in her various numbers as the Fairy; and Miss Ivy Boulton and Miss Kate Pennington as Boy Blue and Rosa respectively were also well placed. Mr. Fred Anderson as Tommy Green and Mr. Lovell Rowland as Simple Simon are great favourites, and provide continuous amusement. As the Dame Mr. Fred Latimer and as the Baron Mr. George Newham do well; and Mr. Fred Boulton as Sandy is very droll. There is also a very effective chorus. Among the specialities may be mentioned Mlle. Bartenelli, lady bender and gymnast, her performance being really wonderful; Carl Osmund, tramp cartoonist; and the Boultons, burlesque dancers.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS. — OPERA HOUSE. — Lessee, Mr. Charles Carey; Manager, Mr. L. J. Gunnell.—This week is devoted to Savoy opera, and the most famous of the Gilbert and Sullivan series are being presented under the direction of Mr. F. A. Leon by a strong company, in which the chorus do really excellent work. On the occasion of our visit the ever-popular *Mikado* had a thoroughly appreciative reception, all the principal numbers being encored. Mr. Pacie Ripple took the part of Nanki-Poo, and was in excellent voice; Yum-Yum found a charming impersonator and the possessor of a well-trained voice in Miss Hope Hastings, whose solos won a full measure of applause. The other members of the trio of little maids were Miss Lulu Evans and Miss Mabel Burnege, and their well-known concerted selection went as well as ever. As the Lord High Executioner Mr. Charles R. Walenn was fully equal to the demands made upon his powers of comedy and of vocalisation, his famous "Tit Willow" song being encored again and again; Mr. Fred Billington scored his usual success as the imperturbable Pooh-bah; Miss Teresa Rassam not only sang admirably, but infused the necessary amount of emotion into the rôle of Katisha; and Mr. Albert Kavanagh as the Mikado gave a character-study of the ironical monarch of Japan which was quite worthy of Savoy tradition. Excellent comedy was also displayed by Mr. Leicester Tunks as Pish-Tush, and by Mr. Fred Drawater as Go-To. The second performance was devoted to *The Gondoliers*, and was equally successful. Mr. Charles R. Walenn made the most of the incisive humour of the Duke of Plaza Toro; and Mr. Fred Billington as the suave Grand Inquisitor was equally excellent. Mr. Leicester Tunks as Luiz and Miss Mabel Graham as Casilda fully sustained the love interest; and the temporary rulers in Barataria and their faithful spouses were admirably impersonated by Mr. Pacie Ripple, Mr. Albert Kavanagh, Miss Hope Hastings, and Miss Lulu Evans. Miss Theresa Rassam was a stately Duchess of Plaza Toro; and Miss Norma Russell made the most of her part of the Foster Mother. For the succeeding performances *Pinafore* and *Patience* have been particularly well received.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. H. A. Saintsbury and company opened here on Monday night with the new play, *Anna of the Plains*, and met with an enthusiastic reception. Mr. H. A. Saintsbury gives a fine portrayal of the character of the veteran Boer Matthew Kerrin; Mr. Hilliard Vox acts with much dramatic strength as Michael O'Donaghan; and Mr. C. H. Croker King acquits himself well as Piet van Helder. Miss V. Vivian is excellent as Sarah Kerrin; and Miss Dorothea Desmond gives a delightful rendering as Anna, her rendition being full of merit. It is followed by a comedietta, entitled *Jocelyn Jester*, which merits applause.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—The Waldrons, comedy artists, prove highly amusing; Miss Flo D'Orville, comedienne, is much appreciated; Fox and Melville, song illustrators, are good; Misses Millmay and Theresa give a clever protean entertainment; Les Steckles, ring performers, are smart; and the Brooklands are dainty duettists and dancers. R. Hatfield, singing collier, also scores.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES. —Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Willmot.—Emma Don and her talented troupe of young black and white comedians have delighted all here this week, and their singing and dancing exploits have enhanced their reputation; Craig, Roze, and Craig are exceptionally smart gymnastic experts; the Sisters Melba are charming vocalists; and the Lorrisons are a pair of droll comedians. Fields and Lewis are smart burlesque artists; and Ray and Mills amusing jugglers. T. E. Johnstone has a good voice, and sings a number of capital songs; and the Three Behans, refined comedy artists, and the pictures, are good.

WEDNESBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Kuner.—The attraction here this wek is Mrs. Fred J. Kirke's musical comedy-drama, *In Old Madrid*. The cast includes Mr. Leslie Austin as Frank Lyndhurst and Count Corregillo. Warm appreciation is paid to Mr. George Whillis in the rôle of Mendoza Stittagano; the part of Fernando Cassilus is interestingly portrayed by Mr. Alfred Stretton. Much laughter is created by Mr. Walter M. Aybert in his amusing interpretation of Horatio J. Rodgers; whilst the rôle of Marmaduke R. Fitzsimmons is ably rendered by Mr. Chas. Burns. Miss Francesca Strickland makes a capital study of the part of Violet Lyndhurst; the impersonation of Lolo Stittingano, the Spanish girl, is left to the safe keeping of Miss Louie Fountaine, her songs and dances being much admired. Excellent work is also contributed to by Miss Amy Shaw as Gracie Featherstone and Miss Julia Harris as Maud de Vere. On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings *The Naval Detective* is billed.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—Mr. Bulmer's company in the well-known drama, *Sentenced for Life*, has been accorded a warm welcome at this cosy place of amusement this week. Though the play has been to West Bromwich several times previously, it has lost none of its attractiveness; indeed, the inclusion in the company of Mr. Dan Agar has lent additional interest to the production. He introduces some clever songs and specialities, and proves himself extremely popular. As Captain Paul Derrick, Mr. Tom Robertson is good; Mr. Ernest Dare scores as Lieut. Roy Stillwell. Mr. Geoffrey Lutherlane is an ideal clergyman, and Mr. Howard Keene as Beckwith, the blackmailer, has a part well suited to him. Mr. T. C. Glenville and Mr. Reg. Oldroyd provide plenty of amusement as Two Komical Konvicts; while Miss Hilda Merrilese as Adele Gray, Miss Blanche Hill as Kate Rennel, Miss Muriel Martin as Lady Stillwell, and Miss Kitty Huntley as Lady Grey are as charming as they are clever.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Player.—Another attractive programme submitted this week includes Sam Mayo, the original immobile comedian, whose songs are well received; Mr. and Mrs. George Leonard are clever in the duologue *Coming Home*; Mr. Walter Wallace is a capable comedian; Milner Vernin is a popular tenor vocalist; Yorick and Yorick are smart acrobats; and Keir and Kempton sing duets with successful results. Bliss and Bliss are funny comedians; Tock and Tock provide a first-rate turn, and the Hippodrome pictures complete the programme.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Lessee, Mr Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. Herbert E. Feather —Mr. Charles Macdona presents Miss Millie Hylton and company in *Mr. Popple (of Ippleton)*, with Miss Hylton in the rôle of La Bolero, into which she infuses some sparkling vivacity and graceful acting. Mr. Arthur Longley plays splendidly the part of Freddy Popple; Miss Cora Lingard achieves considerable success in the rôle of Violet Brinton; some excellent dancing and singing is done by Mr. Tom May as Platt and Miss Nellie Hudson as Louise.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—The principal item here is the beautiful statuesque posing by the Three Graces, whose exhibition is gaining universal admiration; *Love Germs*, a laughable sketch, is successfully played by the Smithsons; Simosa San, a charming lady, expert in juggling, introduces some highly-trained pigeons in a novel performance; the Kraggs, described as "phenomenal gymnasts," are justly named. The remaining turns include Lize Rolland in modern equilibrism; T. C. Jaques, a versatile comedian; D. W. Watson, cornettist and coach-horn artist; and a new series of films, one of which depicts the rescue work at the wreck of the Berlin.

WEYMOUTH.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. J. Nobbs.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company is paying a return visit here with *A Country Girl*, and has met with a most enthusiastic reception. Miss Olive Prince was delightful as Marjorie, and Miss Edith Maynard natural as Nan; Miss Nan Holmes was charming as the Princess, and Miss May Florence capably represented Mme. Sophie; Miss Florence Brewster as Mrs. St. Quintin, Miss Kitty Stone as Nurse, and Miss Maud Read as Lady Anchester, and Miss Nellie Read as Miss Carruthers all did well. As Barry, Mr. Arthur Staples won quite an ovation, and Mr. Martin D. Pitts as Geoffrey Chaloner was very successful; Mr. Bernard Vaughan's Rajah of Bhong was admirably played, as was also the Sir Joseph Verity of Mr. W. O. Billington. The singing was remarkably good, and the musical direction, under Mr. Edmund Peterson, was all that could be desired.

WHITEHAVEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Clark.—Lovers or Shakespeare have had a rare treat afforded them in the visit of Mr. Allan Wilkie's company. On Monday evening *Othello* was presented, with Mr. A. Wilkie as the Moor. Mr. Wilkie gave a powerful rendering of the part, and he received excellent support from Mr. Alexander Marsh as Iago. Miss Carrie Baillie (who is well remembered here) gave a delightful study as Desdemona; and Miss Irene Cameron was convincing as Emilia. The week's bill includes *The Merchant of Venice*, *Hamlet*, *David Garrick*, *The Lady of Lyons*, and *The Bells*.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—Messrs. Carpenter and Cooper's company is here in the new drama, *The Spider and the Fly*. The play created an excellent impression on Monday evening. Mr. Benson North proved to be an excellent Cyril Girdlestone; the Welby Girdlestone of Mr. Ellis J. Preston was satisfactorily villainous; Mr. H. C. Lanceley as the Rev. McAllister was sound; the David Strong of Mr. Arthur H. Hill was praiseworthy; Mr. Charles Russell and Mr. C. A. Preece as the twin brothers, Romolus Roe and Remus Roe, were immensely successful. Miss Ina Naughton was altogether charming as Edith McAllister, and won the hearty sympathy of the audience; Miss Amy Venimore was an unscrupulous Stella Gray, "the spider"; Miss Lucy Murray's Molly Blake was an admirable piece of characterisation; the part of Jane Ellen Scrivener was well handled by Miss Ada Palmer; Miss Winifred Barton was clever as Flipps, the mudlark. In minor rôles Miss Nellie Burgess, Miss Kate Parker, Mr. G. H. Parker, Mr. Robert Castle, and Mr. G. H. Thomas were excellent.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co. — Mr. Augustine Knight and company have presented Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's modern romantic drama, *The Assassin*, here this week. The acting of the piece is uniformly good throughout, and the play is excellently staged. Mr. A. Knight as Prince Demetri delineates the character with power and subtlety; and Mr. Edw. E. Ashby takes the part of Ipanoff. Mr. Cecil H. Raymond is a very humorous Baron Alfonso; Mr. Theo Balfour is excellent as Duke Karl; Mr Chauncey Morris is a powerful General Nicol; and Mr. Edwin Jenner as Capt. O'Neil typifies the dilatory wooer successfully. Miss Ella Vane impersonates Countess Wanda, the assassin, very forcefully; and Miss Hettie Senior as Connie Jonathan, and Miss Frances Waring as Nita, are also admirable.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Miss Ada Colley, "the Australian nightingale," possesses a fine soprano voice, and sings several ballads artistically. Ryan and Hall are exceedingly clever and amusing acrobats, comedians, and comic wrestlers. Capital comedy is also furnished by Dolly Denver, the Danbys, Frank Lynne, and Florence Smithers and company. Mlle. Rossini's well-trained dogs create much amusement and astonishment; and the Davis and Gledhill Trio give a sensational cycling act, *Man v. Motor*. Maxwell and Francis are graceful and accomplished vocalists and dancers; and Leo Dryden, actor-vocalist, is also very popular.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival. —A fine treat for local playgoers is provided here this week in the production of *His House in Order*, by Mr. George Alexander's company. The part of Hilary Jesson is entrusted to Mr. Stephen T. Ewart, who displays great artistic abilities, and is altogether successful in his admirable impersonation. Mr. J. Edward Pearce gives an excellent portrayal of Filmer Jesson; Mr. Herbert Lomas is a perfect Sir Daniel Ridgeley; Mr. Ernest R. Holloway enacts the part of Pryce Ridgeley in a manner which leaves nothing to be desired; Mr. Charles Tyrel is a capable Major Maureward; and Mr. Luke Forster a capital Dr. Dilnott. The character of Nina is splendidly sustained by Miss Dorothy Grimston, who proves herself to be a charming and naturally clever actress. Miss Augusta Haviland is effectively austere as Lady Ridgeley; Miss Elaine Sleddall is a most efficient Geraldine Ridgeley; Miss Jean Cadell a successful Mlle. Thorne; and Miss Carmen Woods ably delineates Derek Jesson. The whole production is most meritorious.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—At this house the attraction is *The Unseen Power*, produced by Mr. Harry Starr, in which this well-known actor has the opportunity of displaying his versatility. He is supported by an able company, of whom Mr. Edwin Firth, Mr. William Miller, Mr. Fred Graham, Mr. Will Hee, Miss Madge Blundell, Miss Dolly Starr, Miss Lizzie Jacobs, Miss Kate Morris, and Miss Lye Jeffries are the most prominent.

EMPIRE PALACE.—To this week's bill the following artists contribute: Pat Rafferty, Irish comedian; Lucy Weston, vocalist; Eva Hope and company, in Dickens' characters; Wallau, juggler; Fyne and Hurley, comedians; the Sisters Lytton, duettists; and Tom Shenton, comedian and dancer.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—After an absence of some thirteen years, Worcester theatre patrons find a return visit of Miss Go-Won-Go-Mohawk in *Wep-Ton-No-Mah*, very acceptable. The talented American Indian actress has throughout the week delighted large audiences by her agility as a horsewoman, and by her vigorous impersonation of the hero of the play. The introduction of highly-trained ponies adds considerably to the realism of the many scenes, in which the lady is a striking figure. Mr. C. W. Charles is well suited in the dual rôle of a cavalry colonel and a ranch owner; and Mr. Edward Leroy is a striking personality as Spanish Joe. Mr. Albert Sims takes the part of Franklin; Mr. Dan Ryan is a most popular young Irishman; and Mr. G. D. Hackney and Mr. W. H. Killen are invaluable in the "variety" part of the performance. Miss Minnie Goepel sings and dances delightfully; and Miss Jessie Hart proves herself a talented vocalist.

WORKINGTON. — OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Manager, Mr. Falconer Jackes.—A vast audience assembled on Monday to witness the production by Messrs. G. M. Polini and L. Maitland's company of *The Coal King*, the many scenes in which evoked great enthusiasm. Mr. L. Maitland as Roberts proved a veritable hero, and was loudly applauded; Mr. C. Whitlock was a sympathetic Sir Reginald, and acted well; as Walter, Mr. C. Whitlock scored as the villain; the humour of Mr. A. Ferris as Jim caused roars of laughter; and his partner, Araminta, played by Miss Enid Ross, deservedly shared the honours. Miss Gertrude Valentine was excellent and forcible as Grace; Miss S. St. Clair was dramatic as Mad Ann; and Miss E. Worth was good as Mrs. Baker. The scenery was effective.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls.—This week Fred Ramsdale's company in the musical comedy sketch, *The Squire's Daughter*, is a big attraction. Messrs. George and Edwards, patter comedians and dancers, do well; Miss Kitty Kearns is a pleasing burlesque artist; Mr. George Christian, comedian; and Mr. Billy Breton, character comedian, also meet with hearty applause.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—*Proof* has drawn large audiences during the week. Mr. Gerald Kennedy is a hardworking Pierre Lorance, and he gets through several trying scenes most cleverly; as the villainous Lazare, Mr. W. J. Butler gives a finished rendering of this unthankful rôle; as Chamboran, Mr. Wilford Bailey proves himself to be an able comedian, and altogether is a great success; Miss Avron as the Duchess and Mr. Carl Beechey as Duke D'Aubeterre give excellent renderings of popular parts; and Miss Beatrice Shirley looks and acts charmingly as Adrienne.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. J. Dacre.—The Lorch Family are amongst the finest exponents of the Risley style of entertainment at present before the public. During the week they have attracted crowded audiences. Kavados is an expert juggler; and Flo Melville sings a couple of catchy songs with taste. Story and Trigg do some very funny trapeze business; Harry Levaine once more amuses by his eccentricities; and Fanny Hunter is a nimble dancer. Sketches are given by Johnny Holland and company and Arthur Aiston and company.

"THE RISING OF THE MOON."

A Play in One Act, by Lady Gregory. Produced for the first time at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Saturday, March 9.

Ballad Singer ..... W. G. FAY
Policeman X ..... J. A O'ROURKE
Policeman B ..... J. M. KERRIGAN
Policeman Z ..... ARTHUR SINCLAIR

Lady Gregory's new one-act play was favourably received by a large and distinguished audience. The scene is the side of a quay in a seaport town. It is night, and the policemen are looking for a prisoner who has escaped, and on whose head a reward of £100 is set. The placard describing him is pasted on a great cask standing on the quay, and one policeman stays to watch the spot while the other two go off to finish posting up the reward bills. Then there appears a ragged fellow who tries to slip away down the quay, but Policeman X stops him and demands his business. "A poor ballad singer." He manages to persuade the watcher to let him remain; he will help to keep watch, and will not ask to share the reward. The two men sit back to back on the barrel, smoking, and the newcomer sings a ballad of "Granuaile." Policeman X tries to stop him, but soon the swing of the old tune and the thoughts of his boyhood overcome him, and he joins lustily in the song. A boat approaches, and the ballad-monger strikes up a verse of "The Rising of the Moon"—Casey's fine song. It is answered by the tune whistled from the boat. The policeman turns—"You are no ballad-singer?" "No; that placard will tell you who I am," and taking off his hat and wig, the singer appears as the hunted man. "Let me pass, the friend of Granuaile." The policeman struggles between his duty and his inclination. Just then his comrades are heard returning; the fugitive lies down behind the barrel, and when the two policemen come upon the quay Policeman X sends them away, and the hunted man goes free.

Mr. W. G. Fay acted the rôle of the ballad singer most successfully. Mr. J. A. O'Rourke was excellent as Policeman X, and Messrs. J. M. Kerrigan and Arthur Sinclair were both good in their respective rôles.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

MIEZE UND MARIA."

Comedy, in Four Acts, by Georg Hirschfeld, Produced at the Lessing Theatre, Feb. 25.

Dr. Weisach ..... HERR BASSERMANN
Graf Puzzuoli ..... HERR FOREST
Frau Weisach ..... FRAU LEHMANN
Professor Dietzschold ..... HERR FUCHS
Breuer ..... HERR RICKELT
Tiburtius ..... HERR STIELER
Lindigkeit ..... HERR SAUER
Mieze ..... FRAULEIN ORLOFF
Frau Hempel ..... FRAULEIN EBERTY
Hempel ..... HERR ZIENER
Adèle ..... FRAULEIN WICHMANN

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, TUESDAY, MARCH 5.—After the unlucky production of Herr Hauptmann's recent comedy, that of Herr Hirschfeld appears more deservedly successful than is really the case. It met with a reception that bordered on enthusiasm, and a few protesting hisses were drowned. The plot is as poor as can well be; it is the dialogue and the amusingly-drawn characters that make the running. The scene is laid in Berlin, at the present time, the action passing in the luxurious house of the wealthy art-dilettante Dr. Weisach. He and his wife are not a happy couple, the principal reason being that their union has not been blessed with children. Frau Weisach is a woman of religious and tender nature, and willingly acquiesces in the proposal to adopt Mieze Hempel, a girl of fourteen, whose father Weisach is. The child is a young savage, who has passed her life thus far in happy poverty and liberty in the obscure outskirts of Berlin. She does not take at all kindly to her luxurious surroundings, and resents having her former cognomen of "Mieze" changed to the more respectable one of "Maria." The atmosphere of the ultra-artistic house, with its Greek rooms and its Renaissance rooms, oppresses her, and she has no appreciation at all for the strains of "Parsifal" played on the organ by her effeminate papa. It is the old story of the bird in the golden cage, and one fine day the captive breaks her bonds and runs away to Pankow, where freedom and blissful vulgarity await her. Frau Weisach is not sorry, on the whole, that the good intentions have borne so little fruit, for the happy prospect of motherhood is held out to her after all, and we are left to draw the conclusion that all will go smoothly in the Weisach villa in future. The piece was capitally acted, clever little Fräulein Orloff again making her mark, and the mounting was a triumph of good taste. Herr Hirschfeld was present, and appeared before the curtain a number of times in response to the hearty applause.

MME. SUZANNE DESPRES has finished her second season at the Neues, having celebrated a series of triumphs. The least successful of her performances was the four-act comedy *L'Ainée*, by Jules Lemaitre, the action of which passes in a German pastor's family. This piece did not catch on, and was not repeated. The performance of *La Gioconda*, also, met with rather less appreciation than was anticipated. It has never been a favourite here, and only tolerated through the association with Eleanore Duse. *La Robe Rouge*, *Rosnie*, and other plays, however, given during Mme. Desprès' season were productive of the most favourable results, and the presence of the Emperor on several nights lent additional brilliance to the performances. Since the French company's departure Hans von Kahlenberg's rococo comedy *Meissner Porzelan* has filled the bill at the Neues every evening.

HERR KAINZ is drawing crowded houses, and his *Gastspiel* at the New Schauspielhaus may be considered the greatest success of the season. Last week the famous actor presented himself to us in a new rôle—that of Mephisto in Goethe's *Faust*. It was as interesting and original a conception as it was a magnificent piece of acting, and the wonder is that Herr Kainz has not thought of studying the rôle before. His peculiar ringing voice, his lithe and graceful movements, his magnetic power, and all the other characteristics of this rare artist have never been seen and heard and felt to better advantage than here. The guest was well supported by Fräulein Maren in the part of Gretchen, but the impersonator of the title-rôle was not satisfactory in any respect.

PAILLERON'S comedy *Die Welt, in der man sich langweilt* has been revived at the Royal Schauspielhaus, and, despite the traces of time which are distinctly visible, it was cordially received. A second revival at our Royal playhouse was Gutzkow's drama *Uriel Acosta*—a piece that is always sure of its mark. Herr Somerstorff gave the title-rôle in a masterly maner, as he has done some hundreds of times in his day, and the remaining characters were one and all admirably sustained.

A new three-act farce, *Die Erziehung zum Don Juan*, by Ernst Klein, met with great and undisputed success on its production last Saturday at the Schiller N. It is the period of the eighteenth century, and the plot, if not very original, is amusing. A young Count has been so tenderly guarded by his doting mother that at nineteen he is utterly ignorant of the charms of the fair sex. The solitude of the castle is invaded by visitors—kinsmen and women of the owners—and all conspire to educate the innocent youth into a Don Juan. The plot succeeds beyond their expectations or desire, and the Count—who begins by kissing the maids—soon out-Herods Herod, becoming a dangerous rival to the elder men. All comes, of course, to a satisfactory conclusion, and author, artists, and manager were called and heartily applauded.

ONE of our most popular low comedians, Herr Robert Guthery, took final leave of the stage last Thursday, the Metropol, where he played last, being the scene of many ovations. The house was packed; flowers, and presentations, and speeches were the order of the evening. Herr Guthery gave the part of the newspaper woman in the burlesque *Der Teufel lacht dazu*, and created a storm of friendly indignation by reading out, "Farewell benefit of Robert Guthery," and adding, in characteristic Berlin dialect, "Ah, that old man; it is time he retired!" Herr Guthery has been before the public fifty years, but he seems to us as fresh as ever, and his broad, bright humour will leave an unfilled gap.

"DER FAULE HANS,"

Opera, in One Act, by Alexander Ritter, Produced at the Royal Opera, March 8, 1907.

Königin von Brabant ..... FRAULEIN ROSE
Graf Hartung ..... HERR KNUPFER
Paulus ..... HERR BACHMANN
Rudolf ..... HERR ALMA
Kurt ..... HERR WITTEKOPP
Philipp ..... HERR FRANK
Erich ..... HERR LIEBAN
Ralf ..... HERR SOMMER
Hans ..... HERR PENNARINI
Harald ..... HERR KRASA
Erste Magd ..... FRAULEIN DIETRICH
Zweite Magd ..... FRAULEIN ROTHAUSER
Dritte Magd ..... FRAULEIN PARBS
Vierte Magd ..... FRAULEIN BARTHOLDT
Fünfte Magd ..... FRAU GOETZE
Sechste Magd ..... FRAU SCHEELE-MULLER
Schmied ..... HERR MODLINGER
Turmwart ..... HERR GRUEN
Bote ..... HERR NEBE

BERLIN, THURSDAY, March 14.—Herr Ritter's new work, of which we had heard so much, proved disappointing, and the cordiality displayed at its reception was due in great measure to the honoured name the composer bears in the musical world; also, perhaps, in a lesser degree, to the presence of their Imperial Majesties. Herr Ritter, who died last year, was over seventy years of age, and an interesting personality. He went to school with Hans von Bulow, was an intimate friend of Wagner's, and married the latter's niece; he was a thorough musician, an able conductor, and his compositions, orchestral and choral, are of a superior order. His opera, *Wem die Krone?* met, too, with considerable success some years ago. *Der faule Hans* pleases when it is lyrical or humorous, but the greater part of the music is in monotonous recitative Wagner-and-water style. The book is drawn from the well-known German poet, Felix Dahn, and the meagre plot is as follows:—Count Hartung has half-a-dozen sons, all of whom—with one exception—are resolute, brave, and manly specimens. The exception is Hans, the dreamer, whose inclinations lead him to do nothing at all. His laziness finally so enrages his father that he orders Hans to be chained to a block in the courtyard, to be the butt of all who pass by. Hans' opportunity is long in coming—and our patience is tried by the waiting—but it comes at last. The giants of Denmark, under King Harald's guidance, invade the country, pursuing the Queen of Brabant even to Hartung's castle. The slumbering Hans awakes; he tears his chains asunder, knocks over a number of giants with the greatest ease, and saves the beautiful Queen, who ultimately weds him in her gratitude and love. And now our eyes are opened, and we see that Hans is the typical German "Michel." It takes a good deal to rouse him from his dreams, but when once aroused he is—to use a vulgarism—all there. Thus, with a patriotic chorus, the opera comes to an end, and for a moment something like enthusiasm prevails. The characters, alas! afford no scope—the title-rôle excepted—for the display of operatic or vocal talent. A Hamburg singer, Herr Pennarini, gave the part of Hans; he possesses a good tenor voice and uses it intelligently. The conductor was Dr. Richard Strauss, which is sufficient guarantee that everything went off as well as possible.

THE Deutsches Theatre has tried its hand at broad comedy for a change, and it certainly has not any reason to regret the experiment. Nicolaus Gogol's merry piece, *Der Revisor*, was produced on Friday, with the result that the audience laughed as they had not done in that house for years. The Russian playwright wrote *Der Revisor* somewhere about 1835, but a good many of the scenes—allowing for very little exaggeration—would fit the condition of things in his country to-day. Gogol was, by the way, a personal friend of the Czar Nicolaus, and had the honour of witnessing his piece from the Imperial box. The story of the young good-for-nothing, who comes, up to his ears in debt, and penniless, accompanied by his man Ossip, to the little town which is daily awaiting a visit from the Government inspector, and who is taken for the great official, is doubtless known to your readers. There is probably no country so unfortunate as not to have enjoyed the clever farcical comedy. The Deutsches management, it is scarcely necessary to say, took the utmost pains with the arrangement of the cast, entrusing the best rôles to those of the company who possess the greatest aptitude for fun. Thus Herr Wassmann's rendering of the name-part—that is of the rôle of the pseudo-inspector—and those of Dobtschinski and Babtschinski by Herren Biensfeldt and Arnold were side-splitting; Faru Wangel, too, was exquisitely humorous. The laughable piece is filling the bill almost exclusively.

HERR RUDOLF RITTNER, one of the first members of the Lessing company, has again tried his hand at play-writing, and this time with more success than on a previous occasion. *Narrenglanz*, a four-act play, was produced for the first time on any stage at the Schiller O. last week, meeting with a very cordial reception, as genuine as it was well merited. It is the story of Wolf, jester and "spielmann" at the Court of one of the Electors. He is so high in favour that others are envious and plot his ruin. The opportunity his enemies long for comes very soon; the Court poet and a rival jester spy upon a meeting of Wolf and one of the ladies of the Court, Herrad von Wingen, and learn that the lovers are about to part. Herrad tells Wolf that to give the child that will some day be born to her a noble name she has resolved to wed the Knight of Pfalzberg within three days. One of Wolf's chief enemies, the Knight Enterlein, has made a song about the jester's love and its consequences, and after the wedding banquet sings it. Wolf, who soon perceives the drift of things, becomes beside himself with rage, and, snatching up a sword, strikes the singer. For this he is condemned to be publicly whipped—a disgrace which Wolf (who has been so well treated that he has forgotten his servitude) cannot and will not survive. So, although he is set at liberty by one of his friends almost before the punishment has begun, the unfortunate jester takes his life. The language of the play is poetic and romantic, without sentimentality, and the interest increases from act to act. The acting was excellent, Herr Ziegel (Wolf) and Fräulein Wuest, of the Lessing Theatre, as Herrad giving very fine renderings. Herr Rittner was "called" repeatedly and cheered to the echo.

THE Figaro, whose bill is plenteous in novelties, produced a little musical comedy entitled *Paris* last Th

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, March 18, the Play, entitled
"SHERLOCK HOLMES."

Most welcome, indeed, are such strong and interesting dramas as *Sherlock Holmes*, and large audiences have during the week renewed happy acquaintance with Sir Conan Doyle's world-celebrated detective and his marvellous acts and deeds. His hairbreadth escapes, the daring risks to which he exposes himself, and his love affair, all combine to invest him with a touch of romance that appeals to the audience to no small extent, and makes for a real popular success. The play has been seen at the King's on several previous occasions, but we can safely say that in no instance has the part of Sherlock Holmes been rendered with more tact and cleverness than by Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart, who, in the present revival, looks and acts the famous detective to the life. Mr. Stewart has evidently studied the novel, in order to grasp the true manners of the man. Most powerful, too, is the acting of Mr. James Skea as Professor Moriarty, the implacable enemy of Holmes. An incisive performance of Foreman is given by Mr. Fred Bell; and Mr. Allan Jeayes plays the character of the detective's medical friend, Dr. Watson, with much ability. Mr. James Hare is excellent as James Larrabee; and Mr. Edward Mervyn is an admirably humorous Sidney Prince. Alfred Bassick, Moriarty's lieutenant, is capably played by Mr. Wilson Roberts; and the three "thugs," Jim Craigin, Thomas Leary, and Lightfoot MacTague, are impersonated with realistic ferocity by Messrs. Gordon W. Bull, W. Pemberton, and Harold Broughton. Master Leslie Hall is a capital representative of the boy Billy. As Alice Faulkner, Miss Gladys Harvey plays sympathetically, and with much grace and feeling. Miss Dot Sielby is good as Mrs. Faulkner; and Miss Rosalie Notrelle is very bright in the small part of Thérèse. Miss Georgina Wynter represents Madge Larrabee in clever fashion, and deserves every praise. The scenery is up to standard, and the lighting effects are exceedingly well displayed.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, March 18, the Comedy, in Three Acts,
"PETER'S MOTHER."

Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company, including Miss Ruth Mackay, Mr. Percy Hutchison, and Mr. Eille Norwood, appeared here on Monday for the first time with *Peter's Mother*. They were well received, their visit having been looked forward to for some time, and more than realised all expectations. The company has been selected with more than usual discretion, each one being especially gifted for the part undertaken. Miss Ruth Mackay fills the title-rôle in a very able and charming manner, sustaining the interest of the character throughout. She was accorded an enthusiastic reception on Monday. The Sir Timothy Crewys is a finished and carefully-studied performance in the hands of Mr. Charles Harley. His clever acting and excellent delivery are most impressive. As Peter Crewys, the lion's share of the work falls upon Mr. Percy Hutchison, whose performance is a most meritorious one, fully earning the hearty approval bestowed upon him. Mr. Eille Norwood gives a powerful impersonation of John Crewys, K.C.; and Mr. William Mallalieu is excellently cast for the part of Canon Birch. It would be difficult to find a better exponent of Dr. Blundell than Mr. Drew Macintosh, who also excels in the stage management of the play. The undoubted capabilities of Miss Mary Griffiths as Lady Belstone and Mrs. Mallalieu as Miss G. Crewys is evidenced by the hearty approval of their efforts. As Mrs. Hewell, Miss Ethel Royale gives every satisfaction, whilst a charming reading of Sarah, her daughter, is given by Miss Hilda Honiss. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. T. Salver as Butler and Footman give capable renderings of their respective parts. The farce, entitled *Chalk and Cheese*, by Mr. Eille Norwood, precedes *Peter's Mother* as a curtain-raiser, in which Mr. Drew Macintosh and the Misses Ethel Royale and Hilda Honiss enact Walter Raymond, Sybil, and Perkin to the entire satisfaction and amusement of the audience.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, March 18, the Play entitled
"THE WALLS OF JERICHO."

Mr. Alfred Sutro's clever play fills the bill here this week, and the large audiences that have been attracted have proved Mr. Robert Arthur's wisdom in booking it for a return visit, many old friends and crowds of new ones showing their desire to see this much-talked-of play. Messrs. Silvanus Dauncey and Leveaux's company is an exceedingly well chosen one, and the characters are all admirably played. To Mr. E. A. Anson falls the rôle of Jack Frobisher, which he plays in a manly and vigorous manner. His deliverance of the great speech at the end of the third act is a fine effort given with great point, and its effect is very telling. Lady Alethea is played in charming and finished manner by Miss Gladys Mason, an actress of great merit, who acts throughout in a delightful way. Miss Mason gives a very clever study of a society lady of the period, and both in the lighter side of the character and in the more dramatic she is equally at ease. That breezy person, Hankey Bannister, is admirably portrayed by Mr. George A. Brandram, who plays the character in an honest, straightforward style that exactly suits the part. Miss Nona Wynne is very bright as Lady Lucy. The representative of the House of Peers, the Marquis of Steventon, is acted in an amusing way by Mr. Cyril Baleine; while Mr. Alexander Cassy is likewise good as Lord Drayton. Mr. A. W. Tyrer appears with success as Harry Dallas; Mr. George Percy does well as Hannaford; and Mr. Joseph Herbert is seen to advantage as Wilfred Renton. Lady Westerby is cleverly played by Miss Marguerite Cellier; and the card-loving Duchess is neatly sketched by Miss Leonara Thomas. Miss Edith Cuthbert is smart as Miss Mornington; and the Lady Parchester of Miss Evelyn Maxwell is a creditable piece of acting. The other characters are in each case carefully portrayed. The play is, as usual, mounted in the best style under the stage direction of Mr. G. A. Brandram. Mr. E. F. Mehrer is the manager for Messrs. Dauncey and Leveaux, and Mr. Wilfred Stanford, the acting-manager of the theatre, is always to the fore in looking after the comforts of its patrons.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, March 18, the Drama, in Four Acts,
by Walter Melville, entitled
"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."

A strong moral drama is always sure of a warm welcome from patrons of the Shakespeare Theatre, and the visit this week of Mr. Walter Melville's company in the above popular play is proving no exception to the rule, for at each performance the house has been literally packed from floor to ceiling with enthusiastic playgoers. The keynote of the drama, to quote the programme, is a stirring outcry against the curse of secret drinking and the undermining evils resulting from same; but Mr. Melville has handled the subject in a manner that, whilst fully emphasising the chief points, the play loses none of the alternating humour and pathos so dear to the hearts of lovers of this class of entertainment. The rôle of the unfortunate dipsomaniac Barbara Wade was undertaken with distinct success by Miss Hilda Beverley. An actress of considerable ability, Miss Beverley made a deep impression on the audience, and at the close of the performance was accorded considerable applause. Miss Florence Zillwood skilfully portrayed the abandoned nature of Nellie Meadows, and, acting with all the callousness that was necessary, acquitted herself with credit. Miss Jessica Black, who makes a pleasing appearance as Constance Cornell, acts with zest and sincerity; and warm praise must be accorded to Miss Mabel Scudamore, who as Tilly Vane kept the audience well amused. Mr. Charles Franmore as John Meadows was the rugged old farmer to the life, and acted throughout with pathos. He faithfully portrayed the main characteristic of the part, and his sterling work greatly added to the success of the play. Mr. Wilson Gunning played with much earnestness as Jack Livingstone; and Mr. Cyril Vernon was thoroughly satisfactory as Dr. Weston. Mr. Gerald Jordan presented a careful study of the villainous Cuthbert Lumley; and Mr. Fred Withers does all that is possible in the part of Luke Ramsden. The comic element in the play is supplied by Mr. Fred Ingram, and his impersonation of Toby Turvey evoked roars of laughter. The minor parts are capably enacted, and the scenery and effects all that could be desired. Mr. Fred Gallagher is business-manager and Mr. Fred Withers stage-manager for Mr. Walter Melville.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, March 18, the Musical Comedy,
"THE EARL AND THE GIRL."

Mr. William Greet's company is appearing this week in the evergreen *Earl and the Girl*, which the programme claims to be a record-breaking musical comedy. Like all the pieces in which Mr. Seymour Hicks has a hand, it is full of bustle and life, and the music, by Mr. Ivan Caryll, is replete with graceful and lilting melody. Miss Gertrude Melville as Daisy Fallowfield acts with animation and charm, and her songs, "The Owl," "When love comes knocking at the door" (with pretty and appropriate choral "business"), and "The Blush Rose of England," are delightfully rendered. Miss Francis Earle is a merry and bright little Elphin Haye, the American schoolgirl-heiress, and enters thoroughly into the fun of her part; and Mr. Arthur Harold skims lightly and very pleasantly through that of Dick Wargrave, their duet being agreeably rendered. "The cosy corner girl," in which they also take part, and "Zanzibar" are most acceptably given. Mr. Percy E. Wright as Hon. Crewe Boodle (the supposed heir) acts well, and has a delightful voice, which is heard to advantage in "Here come the Grenadiers." Miss Frances James as the strong woman, Mrs. Shimmering Black, acts well, and, if anything, is too prepossessing. Mr. William Stephens plays the character of Jim Cheese, the dog trainer, on broad low comedy lines, his rendering evoking an incessant ripple of laughter from the audience. Mr. Fred W. Pattrick as Hazel, mine host of the Fallowfield Arms, renders yeoman service in keeping up the fun of the farce; and Miss Jennie Richards scores as the impulsive, warm-hearted coster girl, Liza Shoddam. The "Entente Cordiale" dance in the second act is smartly executed. The orchestra, largely augmented by special instruments carried by the company, is under the direction of Mr. Evelyn Baker. Mr. Alexander Telford is the business-manager, and Mr. George A. Highland undertakes the duties of stage management.

THE PRINCE'S, POPLAR.

On Monday, March 18, the Irish Musical Play,
entitled
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."

As the spirit of St. Patrick was prevalent during the early portion of the week, it was a very happy inspiration that prompted the enterprising management of this comfortable theatre to engage Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey's capable company in the Irish drama, *The Wearin' o' the Green*, the story of which possesses much domestic interest and sound sentiment. Many songs and dances are introduced, making the entertainment exceedingly bright and enjoyable, and which on Monday night were evidently greatly to the taste of the large audience assembled. Barney O'Hea is played with humorous spirit by Mr. Chalmers Mackey, who creates much amusement, while his songs, "Why Paddy's always poor" and "Mistress Biddy," together with the Irish jigs so cleverly rendered, make the impersonation one of genuine merit. A bright and winsome Biddy M'Glun is found in Miss Nana Flensberg, whose song, "Barney O'Hea," was largely to the taste of those in front. Shamus M'Dermott finds a manly and earnest representative in Mr. Mansell Fane, whose fine voice is heard to advantage in "Those endearing young charms," "Nora Asthore," "Dear old mother" and "The wearin' o' the green." Mr. John S. Chamberlain plays the scheming villain, Michael Kenny, with energy and skill; and Gerald Courtney is acted with capital effect by Mr. St. John Stuart. Praise must be accorded Mrs. Chalmers Mackey for her delineation of Nora M'Grath, and Mrs. M'Dermott is carefully performed by Miss Adele Liddon; while good exponents of Ellen Fitzgerald, Edith Anstruther, and Gladys Anstruther are found in Miss Kathleen Clare, Miss Nellie More, and Miss Mona Russell. A finished reading of Sir George Courtney is presented by Mr. H. Sainsbury; and Mr. David M'Farlane puts in some good work as Connor Martin. Effective support is given by Mr. John Neville as Sergeant Yorke, Mr. George Edwards as James Weever, Mr. C. Quinlan as William Shuttleton, and Mr. Lawrence Sullivan as Mick Dolan. The scenery and mounting were in every respect satisfactory; and Mr. Harry Lyons, the attentive general-manager, is ever to the fore in looking after the comfort of his patrons, assisted by his able lieutenant, Mr. E. H. Grime.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, March 18, the Play, by Professor Hurwitz, with music by Prof. F. Staub, entitled
"THE POLISH BOY."

That the Yiddish patrons of this theatre are enthusiastic in their support was effectively demonstrated on Monday night, when a huge audience packed the house from floor to ceiling, amply testifying to the fact of their appreciation of Mr. S. Schilling, the talented and popular low comedian of the Jewish Operatic and Dramatic Company, who, by the permission of the management, had been accorded a well-deserved benefit. On this occasion *The Polish Boy*, a musical play, by Hurwitz and Staub, was the attraction, in which Mr. S. Schilling gave much satisfaction by his quaint and humorous impersonation of Schmuel Gorgel; he was ably seconded by Miss R. Bryh as Reizele, whose vocalisation of several exceedingly tasteful numbers was greatly to the delight of the house, while the many duets and dances of this entertaining couple were provocative in every instance of vociferous encores. Mr. S. Feinman displayed masterly acting as Kalmen Kratch; and Mr. M. Gusofsky was admirable as Berele, while a competent Postman was found in Mr. N. Hamburger. Mr. Isaacowitch is always to be relied upon for good work, and gave an effective portrayal of Methel Dayen; and Mr. J. Goldsmith played well as Faivish Machles, although a little variety in "make-up" would be acceptable. Mme. Goldstein acted with discretion as Machle; and Mme. Josephson was a capable Zirel Zveitel. The scenery and mounting were beyond reproach. The popular acting-manager, Mr. Fred Brown, certainly had his resources severely taxed, but was more than equal to the task. During the week *Kreutzer Sonata*, *Real Happiness*, *Mrs. Tartakoff's Revenge*, *The Jewish Hamlet*, *Blimele*, and *Holy Sabbath* have been played.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, March 18, the Comedy, entitled
"THREE BLIND MICE."

Mr. Arthur Law's very successful comedy has had to be removed from the Criterion in the full tide of success, and Fulham playgoers have had the opportunity of witnessing the play with the entire company and production just as it was given at the London house. The company is a strong one, and the members of it play the piece with just the right touch of comedy. Mr. Fred Kerr has an attractive rôle as Julian Shuckburg, and acts with delightful finish and a real sense of humour. The three lovers—the "blind mice"—are all ably represented. Mr. Hubert Druce is the ponderous Guest, and his make-up and facial contortions are very funny. Mr. O. B. Clarence is equally entertaining as the feeble Lavender; and Mr. Max Leeds rattles along most agreeably as the youthful Ricketts, and plays that very youthful lover admirably. Miss Kate Serjeantson is an excellent representative of the lethargic Lady Clarisforde; and Miss Dorothy Edwards acts with point and finish as the maid Jessop. Miss Granville has a less attractive part as Lady Richard Marrable, but plays with great skill and power; and Miss May Palfrey represents Marjorie Lovel with much charm and grace and a due spirit of fun. Miss Annie Hill makes the most of the part of Miss Tippings. The other characters are also capably played, viz., Mr. Littledale Power as Jim Sporrit the ostler, Miss St. Clair Swanzy as Mrs. Joliffe, and Miss Sheba Brozel as the waitress at the inn.

Three Blind Mice was preceded by the little play *A Queen's Messenger*, by J. Hartley Manners. In this Miss Granville acts with rare power as a lady who decoys a Queen's Messenger to her rooms in order to rob him of a despatch, and is afterwards stricken with remorse and gives away her advantage. She is well seconded by Mr. Wilfred Forster as the unfortunate Messenger.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 18, the Musical Play, entitled
"THE BLUE MOON."

A high standard of perfection has been deservedly attained by Mr. R. Courtneidge's company, which is appearing at Kennington this week in *The Blue Moon*, the cast being a distinctly powerful one. Miss Clarice Lockstone as Chandra Nil well merited the applause which her appearance on Monday evoked from the large audience. Mr. J. Edward Fraser and Mr. Thomas Holding as the rival suitors in the respective characters of Captain Jack Ormsby and Prince Badahur Samatsinghi of Karikhar, demanded the full sympathy of the assembly. Bobbie Scott, alias Aubrew Ellison, the literary critic, and Evelyn Ormsby, the Spring poetess, of whom he unconsciously wrote scathing criticisms, were well presented by Mr. George Mudie, jun., and Miss Ethel Callanan. Mr. Reginald Switz as Private Charles Taylor, with Miss Florence Imeson as the maid, Millicent Leroy, aroused much laughter from all who heard their lively but practical chatter and amusing songs. The central character of the piece, Moolraj, originally a deserter from the British Army, was admirably taken by Mr. Edward Lewis, who is a comedian of undoubted merit. The part of the Major, commanding officer of the Garrison at Naga, is humorously supported by Mr. Alfred Clark. Miss Mabel Lorrell gives a pleasing delineation of Lady Augusta Brabasham, and Miss Hilda Lockner and Miss Florence Foster as Miss Lovehill and Miss Sparrow respectively are worthy of all praise. The Englishmen living on the station play an important part in the setting, and especially in the harmonising of the various choruses. The principal of these are the Hon. Archie May, A.D.C. to the Major, and Clive Mansfield, of the Forestry Department, in which characters Mr. Frank Haylett and Mr. Edward Noble are seen at their best. The two English tourists, Farzer Jenkins and Henneker Makins, are adequately represented by Mr. A. C. McDearmid and Mr. Charles Francis. As the two native officers, Abdul and Hefez, Mr. Hugh Glendon and Mr. George Parti were very well suited to the parts. Oma, the native (Miss Maud Schwitz), and Ramah, the singing girl (Miss Christine Ferris), both belonging to Moolraj's itinerant band of musicians, were ideal Indians. The Six Ruby Girls, servitors at the Prince's Palace, were possessed of unusually fine voices, which sounded sweetly in their various part-songs. The two scenes, the Bungalow at Naga and the Court of the Ruby Palace at Karikhar, were very fine settings, which considerably enhanced the beauty of this charming production.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, March 18, the Comedy, entitled
"HIS HOUSE IN ORDER."

Mr. Cecil Paget gives us a great attraction here this week in the presence of Mr. Pinero's play, *His House in Order*, which has just finished such a successful career at the St. James's Theatre. Mr. George Alexander's company includes Miss Auriol Lee, who has sometimes played Miss Irene Vanbrugh's original part at the St. James's, and who now presents a splendid reading of the part of the wayward and misunderstood young wife, Nina Jesson. Her scene of the great renunciation in the third act was very finely given, and throughout she completely captured the hearts of the audience by her brilliant acting. Miss Lee received most able support from Mr. Frank Fenton, whose portrayal of the breezy and good-hearted man of the world, Hilary Jesson, is delightfully fresh and natural. His defence or Nina in the second act was capitally given, and his appeal to the girl's better nature in the third act had just the requisite sympathetic ring. Mr. Cyril Harcourt, who made a very favourable impression here in *Leah Kleschna*, scored a notable success as the cold and austere Filmer Jesson, and his final scene was especially well rendered. As the pompous, deep-voiced old humbug, Sir Daniel Ridgeley, Mr. George Fitzgerald was very well placed; and Mr. A. E. Benedict gave an admirable character-sketch of bluff Dr. Dilnott. Mr. Lloyd Lowndes made a gentlemanly Major Maureward; and Miss Maisie Richardson enacted the rôle of little Derek Jesson in a very natural and engaging manner. Mr. George Silver played to the life the character of the young cad, Pryce Ridgeley; and his prim sister, Geraldine, was safe in the hands of Miss Audrey Campbell. Miss Lilli Kehr played with an elegant manner and irreproachable accent the rôle of the French governess; and Mr. Cyril Cattley made a courteous Press interviewer as Forshaw. Mrs. Kemmis, Mr. Reginald Besant, Mr. W. Barnett Parker, and Mr. Reginald Thomas complete a cast of singular all-round excellence. The scenery is very effective, particularly the set of the third and fourth acts, the Hall at Overbury Towers. Mr. A. P. Horne is the general-manager for the company, and Mr. Cyril Cattley the stage-manager.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, March 18, Verdi's Opera, entitled
"IL TROVATORE."

Mr. J. W. Turner's English Opera Season is now in its fifth week here, and is still drawing large audiences and meeting with the success deserved. On Monday *Il Trovatore* was the chosen opera for production, and the representation secured was in all respects highly meritorious. Great praise is due to Mr. F. J. Hargrave for his exceptionally fine interpretation of Manrico. His excellent voice, full of expression, was heard to distinct advantage throughout the opera, and in the "Miserere" scene in the last act his vocal efforts attained a high standard of excellence, and his really wonderful performance met with due appreciation. Mr. Tom Griffiths, whose singing has always proved most acceptable here, again delighted his hearers with a very pleasing rendering of the music of Count di Luna. Mr. George Ridding rendered admirable service as Ferrando, and Mr. P. Newton was all that could be desired as Ruiz. In the rôle of Azucena Miss Jessie Dennis had a fine opportunity of displaying her skill and did so in good style, making the most of every opportunity offered. Miss Christine Gomez did all that was possible as Inez. As Leonora Mme. Sarah Williams displayed exceptional skill; her singing was decidedly impressive, and her high notes were rendered with wonderful clearness. In her final scene with Manrico she sang with great feeling, and was heartily applauded. The chorus and orchestra, under the able direction of Mr. T. Lawton, again gave valuable assistance. Other operas upon this week's programme are *Fra Diavolo*, *The Puritan's Daughter*, *Faust*, *The Bohemian Girl*, *Der Freischütz*, and *Maritana*.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, March 18, the Drama, entitled
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."

The Face at the Window has been on the road for a long time now, and its many exciting situations always ensure for it a warm welcome from a popular audience. Its reception at Rotherhithe has been very cordial, and the hearty hisses which greet the performance of the murderous scoundrel Lucio Delgado, alias *The Wolf*, by Mr. Weldon Atherstone, must be taken as a tribute to the great ability with which that gentleman plays an arduous part; Mr. Atherstone makes a decided success in the character. Mr. Ashley Page has a part somewhat out of his usual line as the Sherlock Holmes-like detective Paul Gauffet, which he plays in first-class style, his disguise as an old woman being a most clever assumption. Miss Marion Denvil acts with her usual grace and charm as the sorely-tried banker's daughter, Marie de Brisson; and Mr. David Noble is a young and gallant Lucien Certier. Mr. Johnny Chippendale acts with much humour as the eccentric Peter Pottlebury; and Miss Mattie Everett is very amusing as the French chambermaid, Babette. Miss East Robertson contributes an effective character-sketch as La Pinaw, and Mr. John Sargent is a grim Jean Barbelon; Henry de Brisson is impressively played by Mr. Cecil G. Calvert; and Mr. Tom Tayler does well in the small rôle of the doctor. The remaining characters are all in good hands. The various thrilling episodes, the appearances of the face at the window, the duel in the Luxemberg gardens, the fight on the house tops, and the electrification of the corpse are most effectively and realistically managed.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, March 18, the Drama, entitled
"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."

This pronounced dramatic success of Mr. Walter Melville's is always welcome in Marylebone, and a hearty reception was this week accorded the members of Mr. Douglas Bruce's excellent company. The predominant rôle of Captain Jeoffrey Caversham was most effectively handled by Mr. Frank Adair, who extracted every ounce possible out of the part. Mr. George Mitchell was perfectly easy and natural as the repentant forger, James Sutton; Mr. Vincent W. Carlyle ably portrayed the Rev. Robert Everton; Mr. C. Franklin scored as Detective Weathersby; Mr. George H. Asquin caused much laughter by his versatility as Dick Punch; and Mr. Stanley S. Gordon looked and spoke well as Jack England, alias Private Johnson, the sorely-tried hero. Miss Lydia Mannington sustained Marion Franklyn with force and passion; Miss Emmie Barton was pleasingly graceful as the delightful ingénue Rose Seymour; whilst Miss Ethel Bracewell as the supplicating and despairing Molly Vernon imparted plenty of realism into her interpretation. The piece was well mounted and staged.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, March 20, Shakespeare's Comedy,
"THE TAMING OF THE SHREW."

Mr. Fred Fredericks has provided local playgoers with a dramatic treat this week by the engagement of Mr. Oscar Asche, Miss Lily Brayton, and their company, who are appearing in *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Othello*. A crowded audience witnessed the performance of Shakespeare's merry play on Monday night, and testified to their enjoyment by unstinted applause. Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton in the principal rôles of Petruchio and Katharina are making numberless additions to their already long list of admirers by their delightful performances, and have to respond to numerous calls before the curtain. Mr. Alfred Brydone plays with dignity and ease as Baptista; Mr. J. Fritz Russell is well placed as Vincentio; and Mr. H. R. Hignett plays with distinction as Lucentio. Mr. Caleb Porter is exceedingly good as Gremio; and Mr. Reginald Ian Penny makes a dashing figure of Hortensio. Mr. G. Kay Souper contributes a spirited performance as Tranio; and Mr. R. F. Anson is an excellent Biondello. Mr. Henry Kitts makes the utmost of his opportunities as Grumio; and Mr. Stanley B. Farbridge as a steward, Mr. W. R. Staveley as a pedant, and Mr. Gardon Harker as a tailor play most appropriately. Miss Agnes Brayton is a very prepossessing Bianca, and acts with much charm and expression; and Miss Leila Norris as a widow and Miss Constance Robertson as Curtis submit entirely creditable performances.

On Tuesday and Thursday evenings *Othello* was played.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, March 18, the Musical Comedy,
entitled
"THE CATCH OF THE SEASON."

Mr. George Dance's company with this successful musical comedy commenced a six nights' engagement here on Monday before a large and delighted audience. The piece was admirably interpreted by all concerned, the scenery was artistic, the dresses very rich and appropriate, and the chorus well trained and attractive. The orchestra was ably directed by Mr. J. A. Robertson. Miss Moya Mannering was a delightful Angela, and sang her numbers, "I'll be a good little girl" and "Don't go too fast," very sweetly, and also her share in the duet "Suppose" was most pleasing. Mr. Frank Lincoln was very good as the Duke of St. Jermyns, and shared with Miss Mannering the warm applause of the audience, his songs, "Church parade" and "A quaint old bird," being admirably rendered. Mr. E. H. Kelly gave a clever representation of Lord Dundreary. Mr. C. Dickens as Higham Montague, Mr. Hugh Henson as Lord Hatton, Mr. Hampton Gordon as Sir John Crystal, Mr. Alfred Miles as Mr. William Gibson, Mr. Herbert Franklyn as Captain Rushpool, and Mr. F. Sealey as Almeric Montpellier all gave excellent expositions of their respective characters. A special word of praise must be accorded the Bucket of Master Grata. Miss Maud Davies was a handsome and dignified Duchess of St. Jermyns. Miss Emily Mellon was an attractive Lady Crystal, whose two daughters, Sophie and Honorie, had charming representatives in Miss Isobel Dickens and Miss Florence Lee. Miss Lillian Wesson was good as Miss Caw, as were Miss Carew as the Princess and Miss Belle Napier as Miss Caterham. Mr. Arthur Davis is the capable and courteous business manager of the company.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, March 18, the Musical Comedy,
entitled
"THE BELLE OF MAYFAIR."

Good houses have been the rule at the Kingston playhouse this week, where this attractive production is making a seven days' stay, and its reception has been of a favourable character, the company which Mr. Milton Bode has brought together being a most capable one, and the piece being presented with every consideration as to scenery, costumes, and other appointments. Miss May Yates makes a most engaging Julia Chaldicott, and thoroughly earns the favours which her efforts win. Mr. Harry Parker extracts a maximum of fun from the part of Sir John Chaldicott; and as Lady Chaldicott Miss Emily Stevens makes herself a great favourite with all parts of the house. A breezy impersonation of the Hon. Raymond Finchley is given by Mr. Edward Hugonnet; Miss Agnes Tandy is an attractive German Princess; Mr. Haddon Cave is good as the Earl of Mount Highgate; and Mr. Lauri Lisle acquits himself well as the Count de Perrier. Valuable assistance is also given by Mr. Gwyn Alwyn as Hugh Meredith, and by Miss Aurelie de Lariere as the Countess of Highgate. Mr. Thomas M. Tunbridge has effective control of the chorus and orchestra.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, March 18, for the First Time in London, the Romantic Play, in Four Acts,
by H. M. Maltby, entitled
"THE YOUNGEST OF THREE."

George Wendover ..... Mr. H. F. Maltby
Gerald Wendover ..... Mr. Wyn Weaver
Philip Radford ..... Mr. Reginald Favell
Samuel Johns ..... Mr. Franc Stoney
Joshua Pynne ..... Mr. Harris Fraser
Luke ..... Mr. R. Seath Innes
Hickey ..... Mr. S. Amclegg
Paul ..... Mr. Lyndon C. Irwin
Perkins ..... Mr. George Laidlaw
Anne Dulley ..... Miss Janet Hodson
Florence Dulley ..... Miss Grace Richardson
Lucy Dulley ..... Miss Mara Maltby
Jane ..... Miss Dolly Cousin

The course of true love runs with its accustomed perversity in the new costume drama introduced to London on Monday, but the author has played upon the old theme with such agreeable variations that it appeals with decided novelty. The freshness of the piece, which was originally produced at Worthing on March 8, 1906, is primarily due to the principal figure of the play, a young girl named Lucy Dulley, who lives with her two elder sisters, Anne and Florence, at Rose Cottage, Upleigh. Both the latter are old maids, whose affections have been misplaced, and, determined to preserve their youthful sister from a similar fate, they seek seclusion in the village of Upleigh. They nevertheless throw their cottage open for the purposes of charity to all who care to come in to see an ebony settee, a relic of the Armada, which adorns their sitting-room. The inevitable happens, for Gerald Wendover, a young artist, son of a neighbouring hunting squire, comes to view the curiosity, and ends by falling in love with the young girl. He breaks the news to his father in the second act, but the squire has other views for his son, and refuses to consent to his marriage with Lucy. Acting on the advice of his old friend Philip Radford, with whom he rides to hounds, old Wendover pays a visit to Upleigh in order to break off the match; but Gerald has overheard their plans, and before his father arrives has eloped with the maiden. They have gone only a few miles on the road when their chaise breaks down, and the young couple take refuge in an inn at a remote village named Pendlebury, where supper is provided. To this inn also come a hunting party, and Lucy hides behind the curtains of a recess. The huntsmen are in high spirits, and endeavour to obtain a glimpse of the lady, with the result that two of them are floored by Gerald's riding-whip. A conflict is prevented by the arrival of Mr. Wendover, who insists on the two lovers parting. The warmth of his language so provokes Gerald that he raises his arm to strike, but Lucy rushes between father and son and prevents the blow, and declaring her intention of returning to her sisters Lucy departs homeward in company with Philip Radford.

Two years elapse in the interval between the third and fourth acts, during which Gerald has gone to India with Radford. The two lovers correspond for some time, but Gerald's letters had ceased many months since. The cause of his silence is revealed when old Wendover, stricken with remorse, comes to Upleigh with the news of Gerald's death, which is conveyed in a letter written by the young man himself, who had been attacked by fever and penned the missive with his last strength. Wendover has scarcely announced the sad tidings when Radford enters with the news that Gerald had recovered and had accompanied him post haste from India, the statement being followed by the appearance of the young man himself. There is a vague reference to a reconciliation between Philip Radford and Florence, but it is so uncertain that it should be either elaborated or dispensed with altogether. The colloquy on the subject of love between the two elder sisters with which the play opens is rather tedious, but otherwise the piece has many bright moments; the dialogue is often witty, and one or two really powerful situations are reached.

Several gratifying successes were scored by the members of the cast, chief honours being gained by Miss Mara Maltby, who was delightfully fresh and impulsive in the title-rôle. She looked the character perfectly, and the childish innocence displayed in the dialogue gained in pleasing effect by its delivery. Miss Maltby has ability beyond her years, and while the girlishness of the character was preserved, her acting in the more emotional phases was touching by reason of its simplicity and grace. Mr. H. F. Maltby assumed the obstinacy and severity of George Wendover realistically. His snow-white locks were perhaps a little unsuited to a man of fifty, especially when so much energy and vigour was imported into the rendering, but Mr. Maltby's acting was deeply impressive throughout, and a sonorous voice and well-measured delivery gave emphasis to every line. A clear and well-modulated voice is also among the accomplishments of Mr. Wyn Weaver, who acted with courtly grace as Gerald Wendover. His share in the light comedy scene in the first act, which may be said to lay the foundation of the success of the play, was invaluable, and he bore himself throughout with buoyancy and acted with real dramatic strength in his stormy encounter with his father in the inn. Mr. Reginald Favell is also to be praised for his rendering of Philip Radford, the good-natured friend of the family, and the virility of his speech and action appreciably strengthened the piece. Miss Janet Hodson was duly precise and caustic in a refined degree as Anne Dulley, the eldest sister, and Miss Grace Richardson was amiable and well-spoken as Florence, the younger. A comic impersonation of a country yokel was furnished by Mr. Lyndon C. Irwin, who aroused sufficient merriment to justify an elaboration of the character; and Mr. Harris Fraser made an amusing personage of the landlord of "The Bowl of Punch." Miss Dolly Cousin was an unusually ladylike maidservant; and in the short scene in the inn Messrs. Franc Stoney, R. Seath Innes, S. Amclegg, and George Laidlaw all did well. The action, being laid in the Regency period, gives opportunity for the display of the picturesque, and Mr. H. F. Maltby may be congratulated on the completeness with which he has dressed and mounted the production, the hunting costumes and the quaint dresses of the ladies forming a striking contrast. In *The Youngest of Three* a grateful breath of sentiment is wafted over the footlights, and the audience at the Crystal Palace on Monday were enthusiastic in their expressions of approval.

ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY.

At the Royal Albert Hall on Thursday night, March 14, the Royal Choral Society performed Sir Edward Elgar's oratorio *The Kingdom* for the first time, and we may heartily congratulate Sir Frederick Bridge on most successful results, the chorus singing throughout being most impressive and the orchestra under perfect control. The finest effects were in the chorus, "O ye priests," given at the close of the first section, Peter's address to the men of Judæa, and Mary's fine solo, "The sun goeth down." There were some fine moments also in the Pentecost scene, with the chorus responding to the contralto recitative, one of the composer's most striking effects. The soloists were Miss Gleeson-White, Miss Edith J. Miller, Mr. Ben Davies (who received a warm greeting for his admirable singing), and Mr. Dalton Baker; while Mr. H. L. Balfour presided at the organ. There was not a large audience, but great interest was manifested in the performance.

Mr. Charles Pell, business-manager of the Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, is about to sever his connection with that place of entertainment.

A.A. SOCIAL.

Mr. Henry Arthur Jones was the chairman at a largely attended social gathering of members of the Actors' Association held on Friday afternoon last week, when Miss Gertrude Kingston read a paper on "The Truth About English Acting." Mr. George Bernard Shaw occupied a seat by the chairman.

Miss Kingston opened by saying that what she wished to speak about was the growing tendency to specialise in acting, and the belief that an actor could only play one kind of part—a part suited to his physical personality. The people who cast the actor for a part were like the bankers who invested one's money in British consols years ago, and tried to persuade one that it was safe because they were getting only two and a half per cent. for it. So when an actor had made a success in one part it was thought that he was sure to do it again in the same line, although, really, he wasn't. The fact was that he was so familiar with the style of part that he either took no trouble at all or he tried some new departure, and disappointed the stage-manager. "I am not here," said Miss Kingston, "to tell you that you can't act in England. I know that you can. But when I hear mediocre foreigners exalted into great actors to the detriment of our own I know that is because the Londoner takes the emphatic gesticulation and mobility of feature for acting. But I, who have an equal part of German and Italian in my veins, who studied in Paris as a very young girl, and know the mannerisms of all three nations, ask you to believe me when I tell you that every stationmaster abroad will speak and gesticulate with equal emphasis when you complain that the train is late. It will take you twenty years to arrive at the full completion of your powers. In this country they want the experience of forty on the shoulders of twenty. It is a fashion imported, I believe, from America. That is where the sadness of the actress's life comes in. After a woman has had a score of years' experience of the stage, by which time her powers are ripe, she no longer looks Juliet, or, rather, she is not allowed to play Juliet. The Yankee boss says: 'You are very young and very good to look at. Don't know whether you can act worth a cent. Don't care, anyway. I'll just make a star of you, and then the B. P. will think you can act, or if they don't they won't have the courage to say so.' That is in the main true—not that the B. P. don't know that you can act, but that they are too lazy to ask for their money back, and it is not quite gentlemanly to tell them at the box office that So-and-So is a bad actor. A nation that will submit to be robbed by municipal wastrels is capable of being bullied into accepting any standard of art. We are too idle to protest that it is the pitfall of boys and girls. Why bother about the architect's manifold designs when, with youth and good looks, you can build a pretty house that will pass muster? The real edifice, the edifice that rears its towers heavenwards, is built with blood and tears, and the best can only be conquered by wrestling with life and by experience of life. It is, too, a question of temperament. There are many who yearn for the good things of this world, and to them there seems no logical reason why they should not have them when a good presence and a good suit from the tailor in a man and a picture hat and beseeching eyes in a girl may grasp all the very best things in a few moments. Why work for work's sake when it is discouraging? Why contend with critics who cannot dissociate the actor from his part—to whom you are bad actors when you have bad parts and great actors when you have great parts; with the playwright who has seen someone with red hair and green eyes on the top of an omnibus who typifies his ideal of the part he has written; with the manager who engages by the foot-rule, for whom you are too tall or too short, too round or too scraggy?

Mr. George Bernard Shaw, entering into the debate which followed, said that his view of the existing state of things on the stage was absolutely contrary to that of Miss Kingston. That the older and more experienced actors did not get a chance was an extraordinary situation. Pretty young ladies in picture hats called upon him from time to time, and they all said, "Oh, Mr. Shaw, we cannot get a chance. We are young and beautiful. What are we to do? We would like to be in a beautiful play like *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*, but you give Miss Ellen Terry the leading part." Well, he (Mr. Shaw) had never found it difficult to get good acting. In fact, there was plenty of it. He would impress upon them that acting was a thing that certain managers and authors could do without if necessary. There was a certain kind of play which would be knocked to pieces were its production characterised by original conceptions of the parts or an attempt to make human beings of the characters. One single moment of reality would show up the artificiality of the play. He had seen marionette performances which were far more moving and lifelike. Many managers and authors did not know what real acting was. He produced his own plays at the Court Theatre, and the great secret of his productions was that he never produced a play at all. Actors and actresses seemed to feel quite uneasy unless they were practically told every mortal thing they ought to do. He himself preferred to leave everything to the intelligence of members of the cast; in fact, he learnt a great many things about his plays from the actors. Why so many plays proved unremunerative was that they were run too long. Under the Court Theatre system, if a piece were announced to run for four weeks it would be taken off at the end of four weeks, no matter if there was a demand for its continued production. By this means the public did not get tired of the plays produced at the house. His own plays were revived at an advantage, because everyone who had seen them once wanted to see them again.

The Chairman remarked that he thought that Mr. Shaw had represented one side of the question only. Constant training under the stock system was no doubt very bad for the public on which it was practised, but at any rate that system produced competent actors who were confident in their acting. The old stock company gave Irving one hundred and eight parts in his first year. It could not be gainsaid that for great emotional parts long practice was required, and in "stock" the actors failed in great parts before they succeeded in them, and opportunities were wanted for trying and trying again.

DRAMA IN THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SINGAPORE, FEB. 20.—A visit from the Bandmann Comedy Company, in *Raffles, the Amateur Cracksman*, has afforded much pleasure to crowded and enthusiastic houses. The company is an excellent one, and the play went with a "snap" from start to finish. Mr. Claude King as Raffles and Miss Florence Hamer as Mrs. Vidal were admirable, both being many times recalled. Mr. Clifford Brown as Crawshay and Miss Helen Grenville as Lady Ethel were excellent; and Mr. S. T. Pease as the ex-professional detective, Curtis Bedford, played cleverly. Mr. H. Sinclair Cotter as Lord Crowley was distinctly amusing; and Mr. P. Sanders as Harry Manders, Mr. Frank Peachey as Lord Amersteth, Miss Violet Vorley as Gwendoline, were commendable in their various parts. Goldby, Merton, Barraclough, Marie, and Lady Melrose were in the capable hands of Messrs. W. S. Butt, E. Phillips, T. H. Wallis, Miss F. Russell-Spiers, and Miss Dorcas Corsbie.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

A CRITERION MATINEE.

A special benefit matinée was given at the Criterion Theatre on the 15th, in aid of the Lord Mayor's Jamaica Relief Fund, under the auspices of the West India Committee and the Press Club, and by kind permission of Mr. Jerrard Grant Allen.

The only novelty in the programme was the production of a new comedietta, in one act, book and lyrics by Rita Strauss, music by Marjorie Slaughter, entitled

"THE WOODEN SHOE."

The Burgomaster .....MR. REGINALD HUNTER
Gaston .....MR. MAURICE D'OISLY
Pierre .....MR. RALPH HUTTON
Comtesse de Villemarche..MLLE. MARIE ST. PAUL
Mère Babette .....MISS SIBYL LONSDALE
Marie .....MISS RHODA STRAUSS
Lizette .....MISS ELSIE ST. DAVID WILLIAMS

The heroine of the story is a pretty peasant girl named Lizette, and the opening scene represents a village in Savoy, with a crowd of its inhabitants enjoying themselves with song and dance. Gaston, the son of the Burgomaster, has fallen in love with Lizette, but his father is strongly opposed to his wedding a poor peasant maiden, the adopted daughter of Pierre, the innkeeper, and his wife, Mère Babette, who, however, tells how years ago a lady came to the inn, and, when she departed, left a little girl behind. The forsaken infant the worthy couple have brought up as their own child. On the signboard of the inn is a little wooden shoe; its fellow was taken away by the lady. The Burgomaster is inclined to cast a doubt on the truth of the story, but the appearance of the lady herself and her French maid prove beyond question that Mère Babette has not been romancing. Lizette's mother is indeed no less important a personage than the Comtesse de Villemarche, who acknowledges her daughter; and it follows, as a matter of course, that the Burgomaster raises no further objection to the marriage of his son and Lizette.

Mr. Reginald Hunter played well as the pompous official, and "I am the Burgomaster," proved one of the best songs in the piece. Mr. Maurice d'Oisly was good as Gaston, and was applauded for his excellent rendering of the ditty, "Little Girl." Miss Elsie St. David Williams was a very bright and attractive Lizette, and sang with charming effect "Dreaming" and "I may be a lady." Miss Rhoda Strauss was appropriately piquant as the Comtesse's French maid, and scored with her song, "The love of dress," followed by a graceful dance. Mr. Ralph Hutton as the innkeeper and Miss Sibyl Lonsdale as Mère Babette were both well placed, and there was an attractive chorus of villagers.

The first act of Mr. Arthur Law's comedy, *Three Blind Mice*, was played, with Mr. Frederick Kerr as Julian Shuckburgh and Miss May Palfrey as Marjorie Lovell. Miss Constance Collier admirably recited two "Love Lyrics of the Seventeenth Century," with pianoforte accompaniment by Mr. Stanley Hawley; Mr. J. J. Dallas sang a song; the Criterion Theatre orchestra gave a musical selection from *The Gondoliers*, under the direc- of Mr. Brigata Bucalossi; Mr. James Welch recited "Hello!"; Mr. Courtice Pounds sang "Nora McGee," accompanied by Miss Marjorie Slaughter; Miss Kathleen Mayer gave four songs at the piano, including "Ma Sunbeam Girl" and "Wouldn't you?" and Chung Ling Soo, the Chinese conjurer, astonished the audience by some clever business. The entertainment, which was honoured by the presence of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, was under the stage-management of Mr. Duncan Druce; and the ladies who kindly sold programmes included the Misses Lilian Braithwaite, Alexandra Carlisle, Frances Dillon, Lilias Waldegrave, Marie Dainton, Kitty Mason, Enid Leonhardt, Sadie Jerome, and Eleanor Souray.

"THE ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS."

A New Drama, in Four Acts, by Norman Towers, Produced at the Theatre Royal, Ilkeston, on Wednesday, March 13.

Christopher Penfold ..MR. NEWTON J. COWLING
Dr. Brownlow Grundy ....MR. FRANK DALLAS
Lord Herbert Beechmond..MR. F. WILBERFORCE
Will Knightman .....MR. CHAS. HALLING
Rev. Pinkerton Grundy .....MR. GEO. SCULLY
Gunner .....MR. GEO. OWEN
Beryl Penfold .....MISS DAISY HALLING
Lady Pauline Beechmond..MISS L. DARLINGTON
Mrs. Penfold .....MRS. SYDNEY HALLING
Little Beryl .....MISS EDITH TEMPEST

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The play opens in the cottage of Christopher Penfold, a boat-builder, where Mrs. Penfold is seen working at a wedding-dress (the Robe of Righteousness), begun for a dead sister, and now being completed for their daughter Beryl. It is the desire of the boat-builder that Beryl shall marry Will Knightman, though the young lady herself has other intentions. Lord Beechmond finds that Beryl is the girl he has secretly met, this discovery being made when he and Lady Beechmond come to inspect the Penfolds' cottage. Will Knightman offers a present to Beryl on her birthday, which she refuses, much to his annoyance. The girl takes the first opportunity of revealing to Lord Beechmond her love for him, then, having quarrelled with her father, she follows his lordship to London. She calls at his rooms at the Langdon Hotel, but finds that he is absent. She has an interview with Lady Beechmond, and declares that she is the mistress of her husband and the mother of his child. Mr. Penfold calls on Lord Beechmond, and finds Beryl in the act of putting poison into a sleeping draught intended for Lady Beechmond. Beryl acknowledges her guilt, and endeavours to take the draught herself, but is prevented by Dr. Grundy. Beryl expresses her sorrow, and the curtain falls.

Ten years are supposed to elapse. Christopher Penfold saves a woman from a wreck, and conveys her to his cottage; but on the way she expires. He then discovers that she is his daughter. Will Knightman has also brought ashore a little girl, who proves to be the dead woman's child. Lord Beechmond makes enquiries concerning Beryl, and is told the sad news. He visits the Penfolds' cottage, but they decline to part with their granddaughter, and his lordship devotes the money he had settled on Beryl, but which she had not used, to the restoration of the village church. Mrs. Penfold takes heart, and again works at the wedding robe, which she hopes little Baryl will one day wear.

Mr. Newton J. Cowling gave a good representation of Christopher Penfold; and Mr. Frank Dallas ably filled the rôle of Dr. Grundy. Mr. Fred Wilberforce was painstaking in the part of Lord Beechmond. Mr. Chas. Halling submitted a clever interpretation of Will Knightman. Mr. Geo. Scully is amusing as the Rev. Pinkerton Grundy; and Mr. Geo. Owen did well as Lord Beechmond's valet. Miss Daisy Halling gave a successful rendering of Beryl Penfold; and Lady Beechmond had a good exponent in Miss Lynn Darlington. Mrs. Sydney Halling was an excellent Mrs. Penfold; and Miss Edith Tempest as Little Beryl left nothing to be desired.

HERR THEO. J. KLEE, the musical director of the Royal Opera House, Leicester, who is a prolific composer, in honour of St. Patrick's Day on Sunday last gave, for the first time, his Mass of "St. Patrick,' which was dedicated to St. Patrick's Church, Leicester, by the composer, and was rendered by a full choir and orchestra. Its beauty was greatly admired, and Herr Klee has been the recipient on all sides of congratulations on his work.

"SADIE OF BRANTOME," a comic opera, in two acts, written by Percy J. Barrow, with music by Paul De Loëtz, was produced for copyright purposes at the Palace Theatre, Porth, on Tuesday.

A NEW "PILGRIM'S PROGRESS."

A full and fashionable audience assembled at the Imperial Theatre on Saturday, when a new version of Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, written by Mrs. W. Hadley and Miss E. Ouless, was given both afternoon and evening in aid of the London Hospital and of the South London Diocesan Church Fund. The allegory was produced by Mrs. W. Hadley, in association with Mr. Nugent Monck, whose staging of recent productions of Morality Plays by the English Drama Society has won such favourable comment. Equal credit is due to his work in regard to *The Pilgrim's Progress*, which was given on a stage partially draped, but sumptuously dressed and mounted, and affording a view of exquisite spectacles. It was a series of living pictures with occasional dialogue rather than a play, some of the scenes being displayed for only a few minutes, but their beauty and grace amply atoned for the short waits necessary for their preparation.

The series of tableaux began with a children's dance in the City of Destruction, where Christian received the admonitions of the Evangelist and set out towards the Celestial City. His way through the Wicket Gate was shown in the second scene, and the third revealed the Pilgrim casting his burden at the Cross—an inspiring picture, in which the three angels, with their shining costumes and realistic wings, looked as seraphic as could be desired. Piety, Prudence, and Charity arming the Wayfarer was also an impressive spectacle, and the meeting of Christian with Apollyon in the Valley of Humiliation was well rendered, though the terrors of the conflict between the two were not very realistically conveyed by the simple means of a clashing of swords heard in utter darkness. Vanity Fair was depicted in the sixth scene, which was followed by Faithful at the Stake—a truly weird performance. The River of Death and the Celestial City formed the concluding tableau, followed by a Prologue spoken by a representative of Bunyan.

Music composed and arranged by Dr. R. Vaughan-Williams added considerably to the solemnity of the scenes. Several solos and part-songs adapted from traditional melodies were also given, a "Flower Girl's Song" at the opening being tastefully rendered. A plain-chant melody, sung after Christian's flight, by two ladies in unison, was less agreeable from the fact that the voices blended imperfectly, and were by no means together. There was a certain inequality to be noticed in the concerted pieces, which, however, were as a rule pleasingly sung. No names of performers were given on the programme, but the actors all had a high sense of their responsibilities. The impersonator of Christian acted earnestly and delivered his lines with due sonority, and the representatives of Byends, Faithful, and Hopeful might be singled out for especial praise. Apollyon was rendered with proper malignancy, and Obstinate was also portrayed appropriately. The tableaux had the inestimable advantage of being arranged by Mr. Frank Dicksee, the eminent Academician, whose artistic hand was evident in the effective groupings and the picturesque harmonies of colour. Applause during the performance was deprecated, but enough evidence was given that the production afforded delight to the eye and the ear, and that its repetition would be well justified.

ROYAL OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

The Opera Season for 1907, which commences at Covent Garden on April 30, promises to surpass all previous records to judge by the advance booking. The directors have arranged to give without cuts two complete cycles of *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, and two performances of *Die Meistersinger*, under the conductorship of Dr. Hans Richter. There will be no restriction as regards dress at the Ring performances, but ladies must remove hats or bonnets and wear no headgear whatever; also there will be no lights in the auditorium, and the audience are requested to be in their seats when the orchestra begins. These will be the only festival performances during the season, and every effort is being made by the directors to render the performances as artistically complete as in former seasons. The répertoire will include *Aïda, Andrea Chenier, Ballo in Maschera, La Bohème, Carmen, Don Giovanni, Faust, The Flying Dutchman, Fédora, Cavalleria Rusticana, Lorelei, La Gioconda, Hansel und Gretel*, a most welcome revival, and Mascagni's new opera, *Iris*, given for the first time. There will also be heard *The Merry Wives of Windsor, Otello, I Pagliacci, Rigoletto, Tannhäuser, La Tosca, Traviata, Madama Butterfly*, and probably some additional novelties. The artists engaged are: Soprani, Mesdames Giachetti, Destinn, Fichiger, Melba, Gleeson-White, Hempel, Knupfer Egli, Kurz, Agnes Nicholls, Fleischer-Edel, Gilibert Lepine, Galbranson, and Olszewski-Reinl. Contralti and mezzo-soprani, Mesdames De Cisneros, Maud Santly, Kirkby Lunn, G. Lonsdale, Edna Thornton, and Frau Tolli. Tenors, Messrs. Bassi, Herr Bechstein, Herr Burrian, Signor Carpi, Caruso, Jorn, Kraus, Neitan, Venturini, and Zucchi. Basses and baritones, Messrs. Frank Arthur, Crabbe, Geis, Gilibert, Griswold, Hupeden, Journet, Knupfer, Marcona, Mugnoz, Raboth, Scotti, Scandiané, Sammarco, Zudor, Van Rooy, and Stockhausen. The conductors are Dr. Richter, Mr. Percy Pitt, and Signor Campanini.

MRS. CHARLES GARTHORNE RELIEF FUND.

The following is a statement of receipts and expenditure to date in respect to the above fund:—

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
Rev. O. Slacke	1	1	0
A. W. M. Bosville, Esq.	3	0	0
Major Trethewey	1	1	0
W. C. Richards, Esq.	1	1	0
Miss Steel	2	2	0
F. G. Leamington, Esq.	1	1	0
Per Rev. O. Slacke	1	1	0
Mrs. Mapleson	0	10	0
Dr. Campbell	5	5	0
Mrs. Hunt	2	2	0
Mrs. Impey	0	10	6
Col. Slacke	3	0	0
Geo. Canninge, Esq.	0	10	0
"Adelaide Neilson" Fund	5	0	0
W. B. Redfern, Esq.	0	10	6
W. H. Hay, Esq.,	1	1	0
Alex. Mackey, Esq	3	0	0
Dr. Brunt	1	1	0
W. A. Bendelow, Esq., and Mr. and Mrs. G. V. Morgan	2	0	0
Per Editor of "The Captain"	1	1	0
E. G. Pearson, Esq.	1	1	0
Mrs. Castle	1	1	0
	£38	0	0

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
Printing	0	6	6
Postage	0	7	8
Advances to Mrs. Garthorne (£1 per week)	13	0	0
In bank	21	4	0
"	2	0	0
"	1	1	0
Com. on Scotch cheque and cheque	0	0	10
	£38	0	0

F. H. Pedgrift, Hon. Treasurer, *The Era* Office.

A NEW room recently opened at the Royal Eye Hospital, Southwark, has been named after the late Mr. J. L. Toole. The lamented comedian suffered a great deal with his eyes, and it is something in the nature of a coincidence that the site of his theatre in King William-street is now occupied by an ophthalmic hospital.

"THE SHADOW OF A CRIME."

A Drama, by Nita Rae, played for the first time in London at the Dalston Theatre, on Monday, March 18,

Harry Bullington .....MR. W. RUDDLE-BROWN
Sir Edward Bullington .....MR. J. B. MURRAY
Ralph Esmond .....MR. HUGH MEWBURN
Jim Murdock .....MR. WILLIAM MATTHEWS
Tom Brown .....MR. SIDNEY T. RUSSELL
Jim Todd .....MR. FRED J. LITTLE
John .....MR. FRED FERNE
Winifred Maud .....MISS ROSIE MAY
Dora Bullington .....MISS NELLIE MOORE
Stimeiza .....MISS MABEL WHITE
Priscilla .....MISS MADGE BLACKIE
Gwendoline .....MISS GERTRUDE ROLANDS
Ailsa .....MISS CONNIE LITTLE
Rosalind .....MISS MAY HESFORD
Samantha .....MISS LUCY HESFORD
Mrs. Thomas Brown ....MISS NITA LANGFORD
Sarah .....MISS BERTHA ST. RUTH
Loyale Norman .....MISS NELLIE HOWITT

The domestic play, *The Shadow of a Crime*, written by Miss Nita Rae and originally produced at the Pier Pavilion, Hastings, on May 28 last, was performed for the first time in London at the Dalston Theatre on Monday evening, and was accorded a most favourable reception. The story has the advantage of containing plenty of incident, and is sure to interest an audience appreciating the mingling of the domestic with the dramatic element. In the back parlour of Mr. Brown's general shop we are introduced to the much-married Brown, his boon companion, Jim Todd (quite a swell in his way), and to Mrs. Brown—a fine woman with an equally fine family, who are off to the seaside, while the devoted pater is to be left at home to look after the business. The fun of this scene, during which Todd induces his friend Brown to go away with him to the seaside "on the spree" while Mrs. Todd looks after the shop, leads up to the serious side of the piece, for in the scene following (Mrs. Brown's drawing-room) the audience make the acquaintance of Loyale Norman (who is the neglected wife of Ralph Esmond), her late school friend, Dora Bullington, and the wicked husband, Ralph. It soon transpires that, ignorant of the fact that Dora Bullington is the friend of his wife, and whom he does not meet in this scene, he has been making love to the lady in question at her father's place, near Dover, and aware that his union with her would be financially advantageous, he seeks to poison his wife; but the attempt fails, and he appears in his true colours to his faithful Loyale. The second act is full of dramatic interest. Watching the progress of the story as the various characters appear on the beach at Dover, one learns that Dora Bullington's brother, a naval officer, is in love with Loyale Norman (Mrs. Esmond), and she actually returns his passion, but cannot admit it, being the wife of the villainous Ralph. The latter becomes revealed to the audience as the murderer of a girl, the sister of a burly boatman, Jim Murdock. Jim tells the startling story, how he discovered on the throat of his murdered sister the marks of the left hand of a man who had evidently lost one finger down to a couple of joints. He swears vengeance on the murderer should he ever chance to meet him. In the last scene of the same act, during a visit to a smuggler's cave, Ralph Esmond attempts to strangle his wife, whom he leaves for dead; and then, creeping out at a secret door in the darkness he shuts in the cave Jim Murdock, who, after discovering that the same hand has attempted to commit this murder which successfully dispatched his sister, saves Loyale, and shelters her in his cottage. Jim contrives, through the agency of his sister, to get a letter delivered to Ralph (who is staying with Sir Edward Bullington at the Hall), asking him to meet him on Dover Cliffs at night; and on those dreary heights the men have a desperate struggle, which results in Jim Murdock being thrown over a precipice. But he is not killed. He lives long enough to confront his foe in Sir Edward Bullington's conservatory just as Ralph, after his true character has been found out, is on the point of bolting, and he shoots him dead. Thus Loyale Norman is left free to marry Harry Bullington, the naval officer, who really loves her, while his sister Dora just escapes the clutches of a relentless villain.

Messrs. Fred. J. Little and Fred Darcy's company presents the play with the most satisfactory results, and Mr. Little is responsible for the production. Mr. W. Ruddle-Brown plays the part of Harry Bullington in the manly style necessary to the character; while Mr. J. B. Murray quietly represents Sir Edward Bullington. Mr. Hugh Newburn so adroitly conveys the villainous instincts of Ralph Esmond that he is frequently hissed—the greatest compliment that can follow the enactment of such a part. Jim Murdock, the burly and brave-hearted boatman, has an excellent representative in Mr. Wm. Matthews, whose expressions of tender devotion to the memory of his dead sister are in strong contrast to his vows of vengeance against her murderer. Miss Nellie Howitt as Loyale Norman is provided with a part which affords abundant opportunity for acting of the sympathetic order, and to her credit it must be said that she does not miss a single opportunity for making all points tell, with the result that even early in the play she is on the best of terms with the audience. Dora Bullington has an effective representative in Miss Nellie Moore. The comedy element in the piece is in good hands. Mr. Sidney T. Russell's Tom Brown is made a really funny character, being the very embodiment of a hen-pecked husband; and Mr. Fred J. Little's Jim Todd is a character not easy to be forgotten. He is the very personification of the jovial friend, and the trouble into which he leads poor Brown is the cause of roars of laughter. Mr. Fred Erne's rigidity as a footman is remarkable; Miss Rosie May is a lively Winifred Maud; and Miss Bertha St. Ruth puts in a deal of good business as Sarah, a servant. Miss Nita Langford makes an exceedingly good-looking Mrs. Brown, and the manner in which she depicts distinctly varying moods adds much to the zest of the representation

The scenery, painted by Mr. W. D. Hobbs, of Hastings, is worthy of more than passing notice, the sea-coast views being most realistic.

COVENT GARDEN BALL.

Amongst the festivities which accompany the Oxford and Cambridge Boat-race, the fancy dress ball at Covent Garden holds a prominent position. Mme. Jeanne gained the first prize with "Postkarte from Amsterdam"—a dress of white chiffon, with a large apron bodice and sash of white satin, painted with pictures of Dutch life. The rest of the dress was covered with picture postcards painted on white satin. The same costumiere won the second prize with "Sunsets"—a costume of gold cloth, over which were sun-shaped satin panels, painted with sunsets in different lands. The season of the year supplied its quota to the picturesque costumes of the occasion. "Spring" was prettily represented by a white satin dress, with panels of country scenes, charmingly trimmed with spring flowers. Strongly in contrast to this was an unique costume, "The Beauty of Bath," composed of bath towels and various toilette requisites. One of the most effective dresses, and which was awarded third prize, was called "Queen of the Dragon Flies" (Clarkson). This was made brilliant by a liberal use of the electric light.

Other special prizes were gained by "In a Japanese Tea-House," "A Bachelor's Paradise," and "Wedgewood." An "extra" ball is announced for Friday, April 5.

REFORMING THE A.A.

Mr. Lewis Casson presided over a meeting of the Reform Party of the Actors' Association, which was held at 3, Bedford-street, on Monday afternoon. Also present were Mr. Granville Barker, Mr. Henry Ainley, Mr. Edmund Maurice, Mr. F. Cremlin, Mr. Lawrence Grant, Mr. William Farren, Mr. F. Topham, Miss Rose Mathews, Miss Lucy Sibley, and Mr. Fred Morland. Miss Wynne Matthison and Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn wrote deploring inability to attend.

Mr. Lewis Casson said that the Council of the Association had recently reaffirmed the principle of the election of acting-managers. That was entirely against the policy of the Reform Party. The retirement of all managers and business-managers from the Association was a reform to be undertaken immediately.

Mr. Granville Barker spoke strongly in favour of the reduction of the Council to twenty-five and an annual election of the Council. The Association was an actors' association, and if they allowed managers to become members they would go directly against the objects of the Association. The actor who became a temporary manager should be suspended from the Association during the time of his management. If he continued in management for a year, he should resign altogether.

Mr. Fred Morland said the present Council did not represent the Actors' Association. He also complained of the general ignorance of the doings of that body.

Mr. Edmund Maurice said there were still hundreds of dressing-rooms in the country which were not fit for a lady or a gentleman to dress in. He had urged in vain that lists of doctors be put up in the theatres. He thought it would be a mistake to exclude managers from the Association.

Mr. Lawrence Grant and Mr. F. Cremlin also spoke.

Mr. Lewis Casson moved that the following proposals should be put to a general meeting:—

(1) That the Council of the Actors' Association be reduced to twenty-five.

(2) That it be elected annually.

(3) That voting papers be given to all members.

(4) That managers and acting-managers be ineligible for membership.

(5) That members who undertake management for short periods be suspended during such periods.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Miss Rose Mathews suggested a collection to defray expenses. Mr. Lawrence Grant seconded, and the Chairman agreed to receive amounts up to five shillings. £4 13s. was, accordingly, collected.

Mr. Henry Ainley moved:—That this meeting sympathises with the work of the Actors' Union among those outside the Association, and calls upon the members of the Association to support the Reform movement among themselves to bring the two bodies into line, with a view to amalgamation in the future.

On the motion being put to the vote, the result was:—For Mr. Ainley's proposition, 22; against, 21.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION REFORM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Will you allow me space to answer Mr. Granville Barker's letter in your last issue? I have already stated my objections to this £2 limit in a former letter to you, and, whatever Mr. Barker may maintain, it must be perfectly plain to everybody that the real object of the proposal is to try and fix a limit "living wage" of £2. This limit may be all very well for London, but, I repeat, it is quite preposterous for the provinces.

We have always been supposed to be rather a conceited profession; and the new Council of the Association, and the brand new Actors' Union seem to be both afflicted with the disease, since they are at one in fixing a *living* wage at so ridiculously high a figure as £2 per week. It is all very well for a body of ladies and gentlemen to be elected at a meeting of the Association, which is only attended by those in London at the time; but I challenge the Council of the Association to take a poll of the *whole of the members* on this question. I venture to think they will find the great majority opposed to this limit.

I confess, Sir, to a feeling of great disappointment that my remarks on the subject of cold dressing-rooms and stages have met with no response. That the need of reform is urgent is easily proved by the fact that in this company, and solely from this reason, in the winter season of 1905-6 there were four persons laid up in the space of about five weeks, one of whom was forbidden by the doctor to play again for three months. During the past winter, again, there have been several cases of illness from the same cause, although not sufficiently bad to prevent appearance.—I am, yours faithfully,

ERNEST H. PATERSON.
(*Are You a Mason?* company.)

Theatre Royal, Birmingham,
March 20, 1907.

"THE OLD, OLD STORY."

A domestic drama, in four acts, performed at the Theatre Royal, Edmonton, on Monday, March 18.

Sir John Humphrey Hazel..Mr. H. J. BUTLER
John Hazel .....Mr. MORRIS MAUD
James Marlow .....Mr. W. HEILBRONN
William Grimshaw .....Mr. E. SURREY
Hilton Thorpe .....Mr. T. HADLIN
Bobby Blossom .....Mr. SYD H. MORTON
Higgins .....Mr. W. LOCKSTONE
Harry Newton .....Mr. T. MACDONALD
Sydney Austin .....Mr. W. LEWIS
Milford Arkwright .....Mr. A. WILLIAMS
Tilly Blossom .....Miss BONWIN CARLTON
Janet Marlow .....Miss ESTHER LAMONT
Jessie Hazel .....Miss KITTY MAYNARD
Nellie Hazel .....Miss MARIE DEMPSTER

The "story" told in this play is that of Enoch Arden John Hazel, a farmer, is in difficulties; and a villain named James Marlow tempts Hazel's wife Nellie, who scornfully rejects his advances. Hilton Thorpe, Nellie's first husband, whom she supposed was dead, turns up, having made his fortune abroad. Marlow has planned to revenge himself by buying the farm and turning the honest couple out; but Thorpe departs without revealing his identity, after leaving with Nellie's child, Jessie, £500 to relieve the farmer of debt. Marlow steals the notes from the child; but is again foiled, this time by a certain Bobby Blossom who has won heavily on a horse race, and comes to the rescue of the Hazels. The persevering Marlow murders Hilton Thorpe, and manages to throw suspicion on Nellie, giving evidence against her at her trial. Marlow is eventually shot by the warders of the prison where he is confined. The first husband and the villain being dead, John and Nellie are left to undisturbed happiness.

Miss Bonwin Carlton's company do full justice to the play, which had a trial trip at Deal last week. Mr. T. Hadlin is vigorously effective as James Marlow, and plays the part very powerfully. Mr. Morris Maud as John Hazel is manly and earnest; and as Nellie Hazel Miss Marie Dempster contributes a very sympathetic impersonation. Mr. E. Surrey as Grimshaw, a detective, shows remarkable versatility; Mr. Syd H. Morton as Bobby Blossom is decidedly funny; and Miss Bonwin Carlton as Tilly Blossom is bright, active, and intelligent. Mr. H. J. Butler as Sir John Hazel is excellent; Mr. W. Lockstone as Higgins is highly commendable; and Miss Kitty Maynard as Jessie Hazel is pleasing, pretty, and agreeable. The drama was very favourably received.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM and Miss Mary Moore will early next month make their eagerly-awaited return to the London stage at the Criterion, the scene of the earlier triumphs of the eminent artists, who have not appeared at the theatre named since the July of 1899. Mr. H. A. Jones' play of *The Liars*, with which the season starts, was originally produced at the Criterion with signal success as long ago as Oct. 6, 1897. At the termination of the run of *The Liars* Sir Charles will produce an original play, entitled *The Mollusc*, by Hubert Henry Davis.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER has accepted an arduous undertaking on the County Council, having been appointed a member of the Rivers and Highways Committee, which affects, among other things, the regulation of steamboats and tramways. Mr. Walter Reynolds has found an appropriate place on the Theatres and Music Halls Committee, to whose deliberations his extensive experience will be of the greatest value.

THE report of the directors of Howard and Wyndham (Limited) for the year to Feb. 28, 1907, states that the net revenue from theatres, programmes, rents, &c., amounts to £8,159 2s. 6d. and the net profit to £5,522 13s. 6d. The directors recommend that the profit should be dealt with as shown in the Appropriation Account; and have decided to expend £3,500 in equipping anew the Theatre Royal, Glasgow. They have set aside out of the profits for year to Feb. 28, 1907, the sum of £2,000 to partially meet this expenditure. The undertaking is under option of sale until May 15, 1907. The directors recommend that dividends at the rate of 5 per cent. on the preference and 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares of the company, both less income-tax, be declared.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE is to be banqueted during his visit to Germany by the principal theatre managers of Berlin and a number of prominent authors and newspaper editors. All the scenery and costumes for the various plays have been taken over, the work of removal having occupied about ten days. The engagement starts on April 12, and the company returns to London on Saturday, the 20th, reopening at His Majesty's on the following Monday with *The Tempest*.

MR. LEWIS WALLER will follow the revival of *Monsieur Beaucaire* at the Lyric with a reproduction of Tom Taylor's fine drama, *Lady Clancarty; or, Wedded and Wooed*. Miss Evelyn Millard will play the title-rôle. The piece was first produced at the Olympic in 1874, and it formed for some years a prominent item of Mr. and Mrs. Kendal's répertoire.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY has this week enjoyed one of the most successful visits he has ever paid to Edinburgh. The Royal Lyceum Theatre has been thronged at every performance by enthusiastic playgoers, and the revival of *The Corsican Brothers* has again proved a triumph. The re-modelled second act—in old versions admittedly the weak spot in the drama—has been specially singled out for critical approval and popular appreciation. On Monday Mr. Harvey, Miss de Silva, and company will appear at the new Alexandra Theatre, Greenock.

WE are happy to announce that the slight improvement manifested during the week in the condition of Mr. Lionel Brough is being maintained. The popular actor is still, of course, in a critical condition, but we hope that his health will now soon be on the mend.

THE cast of *Her Love Against the World*, by Walter Howard, which will be produced for the first time in London at the Lyceum on Saturday, will be headed by Mr. Norman Partriege, whose excellent performances in productions at Drury Lane are of recent memory. The company will also comprise Messrs. Eric Mayne, Frederick Ross, Scott Craven, Fred Grove, Lionel Gadsden, Henry Armstrong, Wilfred Edmunds, Edmund Waller, S. Major Jones, Harry Barford, and Gus Oxley, and Misses Marie Rignold, Madge Beresford, Maud Aston, Lulu Louden, Valli Valli, and Nora Kerin. Mr. Edmund Waller is the son of the popular actor-manager of the Lyric, and thus makes his début in the West End.

MR. WILLIE EDOUIN is shortly to revisit America, the Messrs. Shubert, the lessees of the Waldorf, having engaged him to play the part of an eccentric professor in the forthcoming production of *The Snow Man*. Mr. Edouin first appeared in the States in the farce *Dreams*, and his last part was in the character of Tweedlepunch in the American reproduction of *Florodora* at the New York Casino.

MR. WILLIE CLARKSON, the renowned wig-maker and costumier, had a narrow escape of being arrested as an anarchist at Boulogne on Saturday. Mr. Clarkson was on his way to Paris with a number of bombs which are to be used to produce the effective flashes of light in Mme. Sarah Bernhardt's forthcoming production of *Faust*, and while he was in the buffet a Customs official noticed the parcel in the railway carriage. As it felt heavy, he called his colleagues, and, to their great consternation, the bombs were discovered. The fearsome missiles were deposited in a tank of water, and six detectives were told off to watch the carriage and seize the Anarchists when they returned. On Mr. Clarkson's appearance it took him half an hour to convince the officials that the bombs were harmless.

MR. JAMES MACREADY CHUTE, the esteemed proprietor and manager of the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, presided at the annual dinner of the Bristol Hibernian Society, held at he Royal Hotel on Tuesday, when a tribute to the stage was paid by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Clifton. In proposing the toast of "The President," his Lordship referred to Mr. Chute as a great public educationalist who largely controlled the public taste of that ancient and illustrious city. He considered the manager of a theatre was a man of great responsibility. It was given to him, in large measure, to create, guide, and direct the public taste in a matter which most powerfully affected for good or evil the morals of the inhabitants of the city. The theatre was well directed and guided by Mr. Chute, and, owing to the quality of the performances he exhibited at the Prince's Theatre, he was a great factor for good in their midst.

THE president, whose health was drunk with musical honours, expressed his deep feeling of thanks to such a high dignitary of the Church for his testimony to his efforts. It was a great pleasure to announce that the collection—£206—was the largest in the annals of the society. Mr. Chute added that his great-grandfather was a prominent citizen of Dublin upwards of 150 years ago, and at his death, in 1811, he was publicly known as the Father of the Corporation. His grandmother presided over the destinies of the Theatre Royal, and he married an Irish lady. In conclusion, he drank "to the general joy of the company and prosperity to Ireland" from a cup presented to his great-grandfather in 1779.

MR. SEYMOUR HICKS, who is at Glasgow this week with *The Beauty of Bath*, sustained a painful accident on Monday evening, falling through a skylight and cutting his arm and hands. Mr. Hicks's part of Dick Allington was taken up by his brother, Mr. Stanley Brett.

MR. BANNISTER HOWARD has made an important development of his flying matinée scheme at the Crystal Palace Theatre, which will be visited on the afternoon of May 2 by Mme. Jane Hading, the distinguished Parisian actress, and company in *Frou-Frou*. It says much for the widespread popularity of Mr. Howard's enterprise at Sydenham that he is able to draw from among his patrons an audience for a French production.

MASCAGNI'S *Iris*, which was produced in Rome in 1898, will be among the novelties of the grand opera season at Covent Garden, which begins on April 30. Like *Madama Butterfly*, the opera is a tragedy founded on a Japanese theme, and ends with the suicide of the heroine. Mascagni, who describes his work as his finest and greatest production, thus alludes to the closing scene: "It was necessary to make Iris meet a violent end, and yet such as not to prevent her lingering through the entire act and taking part in the music. Drowning would not do, poisoning supposes acute bodily agony and contortions, while the knife and the revolver were æsthetically unfitting." The desired effect is gained by making Iris throw herself out of a window and lament her fate as she lies dying on the ground.

IN the Court of Bankruptcy on Tuesday an application was made by Mr. F. E. Wright, as trustee in bankruptcy of the estate of Mr. H. T. Brickwell, for the payment by Mr. Thomas Dott of £4,377 under an indenture dated Feb. 1, 1906. It was alleged on behalf of the trustee that Mr. Brickwell had a contract which gave him a lease of the Garrick Theatre from the year 1910, at a rent of £5,000 a year, a claim which, on being disputed, was upheld by the House of Lords. Subsequently Mr. Brickwell became bankrupt, and Mr. Dott was one of the creditors. It appeared that when the matter was investigated by the trustee Mr. George Edwardes and Mr. George Dance claimed an interest in the lease, as far as Mr. Brickwell's interest was concerned. The trustee undertook, with Mr. Dott, to bring an action against Mr. George Edwardes and Mr. Dance, to determine the rights as between Mr. Edwardes and Mr. Dance and the bankrupt, who was represented by the trustee. The trustee had no funds to fight the action, and the money was to be provided by Mr. Dott. It was arranged by a deed that Mr. Dott was to have an interest in the lease if the action succeeded. Eventually, by the advice of counsel, the action was settled. After hearing evidence, his lordship said Mr. Dott would have to pay to the trustee £2,559 under his agreement, in order to enable the trustee to pay 20s. in the pound to the creditors and in discharge of Mr. Dott's other obligations under the indenture.

THE next of the Actors' Association's socials, which are becoming increasingly popular, will be held at 10, King-street, on Thursday next, when a reading of *Othello* will be given by members of the Association, directed by Mr. Acton Bond. The reading will commence at 4 o'clock.

THE eighth bi-monthly meeting of members of the Actors' Association was held on Thursday, the 14th inst., when there were present W. Barnett-Parker, Ivan Berlyn, Marian Bird, Lydia Busch, V. Willox Cadogan, Robert Castleton, May Conrade, F. Cremlin, Henry Doughty, Vere Gerald, A. C. Gough, Lawrence Grove, Georgina Hamilton, Florence Harcourt, Winifred Ingham, P. L. Julian, Vera Leslie, Mrs. L. L'Estrange, Rose Mathews, Frank Melrose, Annie Montelli, F. Morland, Helen Mosley, Clara Nicholls, Lucy Sibley, James C. Taylor, Eugénie Vernie, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). Mr. Fredk. Morland was voted to the chair. A question as to the employment of non-members by managers who are members of the Association was discussed, and a resolution passed on the subject. A question affecting the arrangements of the agency in connection with the interviews between artists and managers at the times arranged for the making of engagements was considered, and a proposition bearing upon the matter was carried.

THE Council of the Actors' Association held its usual weekly meeting last Tuesday, when there were present C. Aubrey Smith (Chairman), A. E. Drinkwater (Deputy-Chairman), Henry W. Mote (Solicitor), Carlotta Addison, Clare Greet, Georgina Hamilton, Maud Milton, and Kate Phillips, Henry Ainley, J. Cooke Beresford, Clarence Blakiston, Acton Bond, Lewis Casson, C. F. Collings, Burton Cooke, H. Athol Forde, Arthur Holmes Gore, Alfred Kendrick, Norman McKinnel, Fredk. Morland, Brandon Thomas, Frank Vernon, Frederick Volpé, and Charles Cruikshanks (Secretary).

THE Secretary having reported the proceedings of the eighth bi-monthly meeting of members, the Council considered the proposition as to the employment of non-members by managers who are members of the Association, and the Secretary was directed to issue a whip, with a copy of the resolution passed, to all the members of the Council requesting their attendance to discuss the matter at the meeting of the Council on Easter Tuesday. The Council also considered the proposition carried at the same meeting affecting the arrangements of the agency, when the Secretary pointed out that the matter had already been dealt with by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

THE report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was received, and the recommendation submitted dealing with the arrangements of the agency was adopted, and the Secretary instructed to carry the same into effect. Two cases of alleged insanitation were considered, and instructions given. It was agreed that the offices of the Association should be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday. Two former members were reinstated, and Ethel Percival and Frank R. Gwyn-Richardson were nominated for election. The meeting opened at 2.30 and closed at 5.40.

THE Subscription Committee held a meeting last Tuesday, when there were present Messrs. Acton Bond (Chairman), Henry Ainley, J. Cooke Beresford, Burton Cooke, A. E. Drinkwater, C. Aubrey Smith, and Chas. Cruikshanks (Secretary). The Secretary reported the result of his interviews with the officials of the insurance company undertaking the risks affecting members, and that the propositions he had made dealing with the question were accepted by the company. The Chairman read the company's letter of confirmation, and the Secretary was directed to prepare a draft showing the necessary alterations in the articles of association, if the scheme put forward was sanctioned by the members at a general meeting to be summoned for the purpose. The meeting adjourned until Tuesday next at two o'clock.

THE Finance and General Purposes Committee held a meeting last Tuesday, when there were present Messrs. Acton Bond (Chairman), A. E. Drinkwater, H. Athol Forde, C. Aubrey Smith, and Chas. Cruikshanks (Secretary). A question dealing with the dressing-room accommodation at provincial theatres was under consideration. Certain propositions made by a member were discussed, and the Secretary was directed to write to him upon the subject. Tenders for the execution of decorative repairs to the premises in King-street were considered, and the matter was postponed pending the receipt of further tenders.

ONLY last week a number of Oxford students were punished at the local police-court for disturbances in the theatre, and this week a similar disgraceful exhibition has taken place at the sister University town. On Monday the performance of *A Sailor's Sweetheart* was thoroughly spoiled by the rowdy section of the undergraduates who attended the New Theatre, Cambridge. So continually were the members of the company disturbed by jeering remarks from the occupants of the stalls and a shower of missiles that an adequate presentation of the piece was rendered impossible. Every piece of sentiment was productive of an ironical remark, the love passages were openly ridiculed, and on some occasions the performers were greeted with a roar of mocking laughter, while others were pelted with sugar, coppers, and cake. No proceedings could be too drastic in dealing with such cases, and the first opportunity should be given these foolish and cowardly youths to cool their ardour in a police-cell.

THE death is announced of Mr. George Saul Fisher, who passed away on Sunday last at Trinity-street, Norwich, in the seventy-fifth year of his age. The deceased was the grandson of the original Fisher, who, it is said, established the association of players known as the Norfolk and Suffolk Company of Comedians, who toured through the Eastern Counties years ago. The Fisher family were noted for their histrionic abilities, and were held in high repute in their time.

MR. CHARLES MACDONA, whose touring enterprises have won such well-deserved popularity, has made some very important additions to his properties. Amongst the successes acquired last year were *Mr. Popple* and *White Chrysanthemum*, and the fresh musical pieces he has arranged to add to his tours are *Girl from Kay's*, *Veronique*, *Cingalee*, *Duchess of Dantzic*, *A Country Girl*, and *Little Michus*, with possibly *The Beauty of Bath* and *The Catch of the Season* to follow. A long string of successes is thus added to an already full list, and, in addition, that charming play *Dr. Wake's Patient*, with the entire Adelphi production, has been secured. The merits of Charles Macdona's "introduced companies"—a phrase he has himself invented—are so very well known, and the genuine business methods brought to bear on all his undertakings so highly appreciated, that his brother managers in the theatres as well as the playgoing public will thoroughly realise the increased advantages that are now offered.

THE Easter pantomime at Belfast will be *Goody Two Shoes*, the libretto by Fred Locke and music by Samuel P. Swinton, and will be produced at the Theatre Royal on the 30th inst. The cast includes Miss Ethel Campbell, Miss Maggie Bowman, Miss Carrie Foy, Miss Adela Crispin, Messrs. P. Bermingham, T. J. Morton, Jack Foley, H. S. Gubbin, and Karr and Kooney. The pantomime will be under the experienced supervision of Mr. Fred W. Warden, managing-director of the Palace and Theatre Royal, Belfast, and Mr. J. H. Saville.

MISS WYNNE MATTHISON will take the part of Viola and Mr. Acton Bond that of Malvolio in a dramatic reading of *Twelfth Night*, to be given by the British Empire Shakespeare Society in the Marlborough Hall, Regent-street Polytechnic, on the afternoon of Thursday, April 4. Miss Edyth Olive will be the Olivia, Miss Alice Arden Maria, Mr. Walter Hampden Orsino, Mr. Arthur Whitby Sir Toby, and Mr. Michael Sherbrooke Aguecheek.

HERR RAIMUND PECHOTSCH has been appointed musical director for the Lyceum, which reopens on the 30th inst. Herr Pechotsch has had a wide experience, having been conductor under Mr. Musgrove's management in the principal theatres in Australia. He was professor at the Guildhall School of Music before making his last tour as solo violinist to Australia, and on his return to London a year ago he was immediately appointed professor at the London Academy of Music and London College of Music. He was also for nearly two years professor of music to the Marchioness of Bute's family. His compositions, too, have met with great success, and many of his violin solos are dedicated to and played by Mischa Elman. Herr Pechotsch has composed the drama music for *Her Love Against the World*, with which the theatre will re-open, and also a march named "Lyceum" and dedicated to Mr. H. R. Smith, one of the directors of the enterprise. It is interesting to learn that Herr Pechotsch is the father of Jan Rudenyi, the celebrated Hungarian violinist.

MRS. RUSS WHYTAL has reached a momentous period of her career in her engagement by Mr. Tree to appear at His Majesty's Theatre during the Shakespeare Festival Week as Hermione in *The Winter's Tale* and the Queen in *Hamlet*. In taking up the part of Hermione Mrs. Whytal again follows Miss Ellen Terry, as she has just concluded her tour of Mr. Barrie's play *Alice Sit-by-the-Fire*, in which she has made a conspicuous success. Mrs. Whytal, who is American by birth, has employed her talents in all phases of her art—comedy, tragedy, and everything else. Her performance of Mary Queen of Scots in *'Twixt Axe and Crown*, revived at Fulham last year, will be agreeably recalled.

LADIES and gentlemen engaged at the two Bristol theatres and music halls next week who would like to spend an enjoyable afternoon on Clifton Downs on Good Friday are invited to send their names to Mr. Harry Hare, 35, Salisbury-road, Redland, Bristol, whose name so frequently appears in our columns associated with the reports of athletic sports week by week. Cricket and football tackle will be provided. Materials for the former game, as well as for lawn tennis, will also be furnished every Saturday afternoon from April till end of September.

MR. AND MRS. NORMAN MACOWAN will start their spring tour of *Monsieur Beaucaire* and *A Marriage of Convenience* on Easter Saturday at the Theatre Royal, Margate. The tour includes Exeter, Torquay, Eastbourne, and the principal South Coast watering-places. The first performance of the tour will mark the 535th appearance of Mr. Macowan and Miss Violet Sterne as Mons. Beaucaire and Lady Mary Carlisle respectively.

THE Moody-Manners Opera Company, playing at the Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool, intended to produce *Aïda* on Wednesday night, but, in consequence of the illness of Mr. Joseph O'Mara, that opera had to be abandoned, *Il Trovatore* being staged instead.

THE Liverpool Shakespeare Theatre is about to change hands. A big syndicate, which is busy in the north acquiring important places of amusement, has offered certain terms which have been accepted by the principal shareholders of that place. The transfer is almost an accomplished fact.

THE proposed autumn tour of Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's new production, *With Edged Tools*, by Henry Seton Merriman, will possibly be postponed, although nothing as yet can be definitely said. A private performance was given at Derby last week before a prominent London manager, who immediately snapped up the West End of London rights, in view of which an immediate production is probable. Capital business with both Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's other plays continues to be the rule, *Lucky Durham* at Cheltenham and *Leah Kleschna* at Sheffield (a return visit) having shown themselves to be attractions much to the public taste.

"THE PALACE OF PUCK" will be produced at the Haymarket on Tuesday, April 2. Mr. Charles Hawtrey, though making an excellent recovery from the operation that he recently underwent, is not sufficiently convalescent to take up the part intended for him in Mr. W. J. Locke's new play, and it has, therefore, been allotted to Mr. Frederick Kerr. *The Palace of Puck* is to be followed in due course by Mr. Michael Morton's adaptation of *Mlle. Josette, Ma Femme*, entitled *My Wife*, which will, in turn, be succeeded by another new comedy from Mr. Locke's pen.

MR. RICH WALDON, of the Royal Princess's, Glasgow, was the recipient of a handsome illuminated address on the occasion of his benefit a week ago. *Mother Goose* being Mr. Waldon's twenty-first pantomime at the Princess's, the principals in this year's annual thought the opportunity a suitable one for recording their appreciation of him as a manager. The address is well designed, and the pictorial portion shows Mr. Waldon seated at a table enjoying a cigar, while the names of the twenty-one pantomimes which constitute his jubilee record appear in the clouds of ascending smoke. The address is signed by the principal members of the company and a number of the resident staff. The occasion was also marked by the presentation of a silver service from his respective managers, viz., Mr. Murdoch (of the Princess's), Mr. Oakden (of the Lyceum), and Mr. McKelvie (of the Palace).

MR. MILTON BODE, the proprietor of the Royal County Theatre, Reading, was successful in an application to the Watch Committee last week asking that the restriction on smoking in the auditorium should be removed during certain parts of the year. The Council approved the recommendation of the Watch Committee, and a licence will therefore be granted to Mr. Bode to permit smoking in the theatre from the month of April to August inclusive.

"THE SILVER BOX" will be put on for a three weeks' season at the Court on the evening of April 8. The cast of Mr. John Galsworthy's powerful play will be practically the same as on its production in September last, and will comprise Messrs. James Hearn, A. E. Matthews, Cecil Rose, Dennis Eadie, Norman McKinnel, Trevor Lowe, Athol Forde, Lewis Casson, Edmund Gurney, Edmund Gwenn, and Norman Page, Misses Frances Ivor, Nora Greenlaw, Amy Lamborn, Mary Hamilton, and Mrs. Charles Maltby.

MR. AND MRS. HORACE HUNTER (Miss Lily Hammersley), who have just fulfilled engagements in the stock company at the Elephant and Castle Theatre, have been engaged by Mr. Wheeler for South Africa, and sail to-day by the Dumbarton Castle.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are still coming to hand for the Fred Locke Fund, and Mr. J. S. Crichton, 9, Bridge-street, Glasgow, this week acknowledges the following:—Mr. and Mrs. C. Finch-Hatton, Leicester, 6s.; Jim Cole, Sutton, Surrey (second sub.), 5s. The subscription previously acknowledged from the German Club should have been 24s., not 15s., and the name of Mr. Austen Lenton was misspelt.

A MATINÉE is being organised on behalf of Mr. Sydney Barraclough, the well-known singer and actor, who contracted a severe chill while he was playing in *The Gay Lord Vergy* at the Apollo Theatre last October. He has since been undergoing the open-air treatment for consumption, and happily the doctors expect that he will be permanently cured. Offers of assistance have been received from prominent members of the dramatic and musical professions, including Miss Edna May, Miss Mabel Love, Mr. Hayden Coffin, and Mr. G. P. Huntley. A strong committee is being formed, and Mr. Thos. Harold Ferrar, the temporary secretary, will be glad to hear of anyone willing to help. Mr. Barraclough's address is Cambridge Hill, Crowthorne, Berks.

MLLE. GHITA CORRI, who has been singing with great success in Scotland, will be the principal vocalist at the Good Friday evening concert at the Royal Victoria Hall, where Mr. Charles Corri, the popular conductor, will give a grand performance of Rossini's "Stabat Mater." Excerpts from Wagner's *Lohengrin*, *Tannhäuser*, and *Flying Dutchman*, in which Mlle. Corri will also sing, will be included in the programme. The festival choir and orchestra will be conducted by Messrs. Charles Corri and Clarence C. Corri, and the fine list of artists also includes Mme. Marie Titiens, Misses Flora Edwards, Sterling Wells, and Maud Santley, and Messrs. John F. McCormack, Elliston Webb, S. Harrison, and Charles Tilbury.

THE proprietors of His Majesty's Theatre, Barrow-in-Furness, have been so impressed with the steadily-increased prosperity of the theatre under the management of the lessees, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge, that they have decided to entirely rebuild it for them. The building, when completed, will be one of the most modern and luxurious in the provinces. Its holding capacity will be greatly increased, and it will have an admirably-appointed stage and auditorium, which should render it one of the leading northern dates. Arrangements are so far advanced that the reconstruction will be entirely completed by the middle of July, the opening date being fixed for Aug. 5.

MISS DORA CLEMENTS, a rising young actress, is at present understudying Miss Lily Hall Caine in her arduous part in *The Prodigal Son* at the Adelphi Theatre. The efforts of the youthful artist in the part of Thora have brought Miss Clements—who, by the way, is a niece of Mr. Hall Caine—many flattering offers of engagements.

"THE ANGEL OF UNREST," which was produced at Brighton on the 4th inst., will have its first London representation on Monday at the Borough Theatre, Stratford. The play is in the capable hands of Mr. Alec Flood and Mr. Aubrey Fitzmaurice's company.

THE last concert of the season at the Cancer Hospital, Brompton, was given on the 18th inst. by Miss Matilda Ellis, whose pupils, the Misses D. Lichtenfield, P. Brand, D. Hedges, H. Harris, and E. Wattson, delighted all with their clever recitations. Songs by the Misses Mayer and Russell and the Messrs. Bishop and Avuer and Master Crook, and Miss Dollie Lichtenfield's dances and Mr. Myer's recitations, enhanced the enjoyment of the evening.

THE Queen and the Dowager Empress of Russia and suite were present at the Prince of Wales's Theatre on the 15th inst., and witnessed the performance of *Miss Hook of Holland*. On the following evening the distinguished playgoers went to the Court Theatre, where *You Never Can Tell* is the attraction.

A PROFESSIONAL matinée of Mr. Charles Hannan's new play, *The Coachman with Yellow Lace*, which is to be produced at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, on Monday, will be given on Thursday. Mr. Hannan's play is in four acts, and has for motto the lines:—"I shall be a duchess, with many a silken gown. And I shall be your coachman, and drive in London Town."

MR. EDWARD COMPTON will give a special matinée of *The School for Scandal* at the Paisley Theatre next Saturday, when the entire proceeds, without any deduction, will be handed over to the Fund for the Restoration of the Auld Brig of Ayr. Mr. Compton's interest in this undertaking is easily understood when it is remembered that he is himself a Scotchman, and rejoices in the name of Mackenzie.

THE Scala Theatre is shortly to reopen with a play by Mr. Alfred C. Calmour, entitled *The Judgment of Pharaoh*. The scenes are laid in the land of Egypt, during the period of the Children of Israel's bondage to Pharaoh. The play is to reproduce the magnificence of the time, and stirring scenes of dramatic effect may be expected. The piece was originally produced under the title of *Jevan, the Prodigal Son*, at Manchester, in October of 1905.

"TOM JONES" will have its first production at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, on Saturday. Between eighty and ninety people, including principals, chorus, and instrumentalists, will go North for the production, and Mr. Edward German, the composer of the music, will conduct the first performance.

MISS ANNIE HUGHES has taken *Tommy* to Dublin this week, and the residents of the Irish capital have attended the Gaiety Theatre in overwhelming numbers. The local Press have been very eulogistic in praise, and have found in Mr. Jerome's clever work another exception to the rule that good books do not make satisfactory plays. Miss Hughes's performance in the title-rôle has won unstinted praise, her capabilities for the portrayal of emotion arousing especial admiration.

THE Shaftesbury is to re-open its doors on or about the 24th of next month, when a light opera by Walter Slaughter and Herbert Leonard, entitled *Lady Tatters*, will be produced. The action of the piece is laid in the reign of Charles II., the first act taking place in the courtyard of Ye Red Lion Tavern, Whitehall, the second in Gilchrist Court Hall, a country mansion, and the last in Whitehall Gardens, with a view of the river and of Lambeth Palace in the distance.

MR. WILL SMITH has returned from his long tour abroad as manager for Maurice E. Bandmann's opera company, and has already undertaken fresh responsibilities, having been appointed general-manager of the Palace Theatre and World's Fair, Rhyl. Mr. Smith is determined to run this fine theatre on the most modern principles, and has secured a number of excellent musical comedy companies.

MR. REGINALD DANCE, by arrangement with Mr. Leonard Boyne and Mr. Thomas McKenzie, under an agreement with Mr. Charles Frohman, is taking on tour the remarkably successful play *Raffles*. Spring bookings are already arranged, but dates in the early autumn are available.

MR. GERALD LAWRENCE, who is now associated in management with Mr. Charles Cartwright and Mr. A. B. Tapping on tour, will shortly appear as David Garrick. In the revival of the famous play Miss Fay Davis will make her reappearance as Ada. Mr. Cartwright will play Ingot, and Mr. Tapping and Mr. Charles Collette will also be in the cast. The tour is being booked by Mr. Fredk. Mouillot.

To our Masonic brethren we can strongly recommend the case of Sidney Walter Batting, whose only chance of election to the School will be in May. He is one of a large family, and the long and serious illness of his father previous to his death entirely exhausted the monetary resources of the family. Mr. Gerald Du Maurier, Mr. W. Lestocq, and Mr. James Douglas are assisting as much as it is in their power, and Mr. F. H. Pedgrift will be pleased to receive proxies addressed to him at our offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C. Mrs. Arthur Ayers, of 87, Streathbourne-road, Tooting Bec Common, S.W., is working for the case, and will be pleased to give every information.

MR. STUART ST. CLAIR, for twenty-eight years a member of the dramatic profession, is now in Leeds Infirmary, awaiting an operation on a tumour in his tongue. The result will prevent him from doing any professional work. As he has no relatives to assist him, he would be grateful to any old friends who would help to give him a start in a different occupation. Suscriptions may be sent to the Rev. Walter Green, St. George's Vicarage, Clarendon-road, Leeds.

THE installation meeting of Yorick Lodge of Freemasons, No. 2,771, was held on Tuesday at the Trocadero, when Mr. George Robins was placed in the chair as successor to Mr. Clarence Sounes. Among the Grand officers present was Mr. W. S. Penley, P.G.Treas. Mr. Duncan Tovey and Mr. F. T. Addyman were appointed as Wardens for the year, with Mr. Clarence Sounes and Mr. E. H. Bull, Past Masters, Treasurer, and Secretary respectively. Mr. J. Bannister Howard was among those who received minor offices.

MR. T. G. HALES, the well-known tinsel lace maker, who is severing his connection with Drury Lane Theatre, which he has served for the past thirty-nine years, marked the occasion by an "at home" on Thursday evening. The room in the theatre in which the proceedings took place was tastefully fitted up and decorated with electric lights and flowers.

MR. FRANK LESTER, who has made such a hit as the Lost Policeman in *The New Aladdin* at the Gaiety, and whose sketch, *A Restaurant Episode*, is such a pronounced success at the Palace, is not, as has been stated in print, a scene-shifter; in fact, he never was one. He comes of an old theatrical family, took to the stage at twenty, and has acted parts and run companies of his own in many towns in the provinces.

MISS GLADYS ARCHBUTT wishes us to state that she finished her engagement at Terry's Theatre last Saturday evening. On Monday evening, however, her name was still on the bills and programmes, and there were no printed slips to announce that she was not appearing.

MISS KEITH LYTTON has been engaged by Mr. Albert Chevalier to play the part of Mrs. Cartwright in *Atonement*. Miss Lytton will be recently remembered as Mrs. Dashwood in *Mice and Men*, with Mr. Forbes Robertson, and as Mrs. Primrose in *Olivia*, with Miss Winifred Emery.

PROSPERITY has attended the William Mollison Shakespearean tour since its opening at Aberdeen in the presence of the Lord Provost and other municipal magnates in their official robes—a gratifying result, due, in a large measure, to the exertions of Mr. Yolland, the advance manager. Further successes have also been achieved at Dundee, Newcastle, and Sunderland. Mr. Mollison is due at the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, on Easter Monday, when he will impersonate Macbeth. Mr. Sidney Cooper has extended the present tour, which will admit of only a brief vacation preparatory to the autumn tour, which is booked, with one or two exceptions, right through Christmas.

A CURIOUS diversity was shown at a sale of autographs of celebrated composers in Paris recently. A letter of Gounod and another of Verdi went for only 10 and 12 francs each, but a receipt by Grétry realised 30 francs. A couple of letters written by Wagner together fetched 318 francs; 103 francs was given for a receipt signed by Beethoven, and 125 francs for a short note written by Chopin. Two bars of the orchestral score of *Lohengrin*, written by the composer in pencil realised 130 francs; a few Beethoven sketches brought 180 francs; the MS. orchestral score of Massenet's *Phèdre*, 505 francs; a Chopin mazurka, 705 francs; and a little song by Schubert, written on one page was sacrificed for 13 francs.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Mr. Tree's Youth.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE has given a *Daily Mail* interviewer the following facts as to his—Mr. Tree's—early life. "I was born in London, but was sent to school in Germany as a boy. Only ten years of age at the time, I could not speak a word of German. I stayed there six years—and forgot much of my English. My time was chiefly spent at school at Schepfenthal, in the Thüringer Forest. I have vivid recollections of the day before a battle during the Prussian-Austrian War. The school was situated on the heights, and we were awakened early one morning, just as the sun was getting up, by the Prussians coming along in the valley below singing a war-hymn. It was one of my first and most dramatic moments, and the strains of their battle-song still seem to echo in my ears, intermixed with the words of command from the officers. In the vacations I sometimes stayed in Berlin with my relations, one of whom, during the war, commanded the first division of the Guards, while an uncle of mine (General von Unruh) was military tutor to the late Emperor Frederick. I returned to London at the age of seventeen, and at the age of twenty I went back to Berlin, but have been there only once since—after the Franco-Prussian War."

Mr. Jones and the "Nighties."

MR. HENRY ARTHUR JONES's speech at the A.A. Social last week was not without points of humour. He related how, when walking along the Strand one day with Mr. John Burns, the President of the Local Government Board spoke proudly of the architectural achievements of the London County Council at Aldwych. Mr. Burns, pointing to the Gaiety, enquired what was being played in that fine building; and Mr. Jones had with sorrow to state that songs were being sung there about ladies' "nighties."

English Plays in Germany.

GERMANS are greatly interested in all foreign art, says Herr Andresen, in the *Pall Mall Gazette*. Their artistic sympathies are international. Take up a Berlin newspaper any day and run your eye down the list of theatre pieces for that night, and what are the names you will find? Shakespeare, Bernard Shaw, Pinero, Oscar Wilde, Stephen Phillips. Far more than our own authors indeed. All that is good from France, England, Norway, Italy, Spain, we welcome it. We have a great longing to see what other people are thinking and doing. The public in Germany, as elsewhere, are now asking for something of the romantic, something that is real, but not realistic—plays like your *His House in Order*. "Ach, how splendidly that was acted and how perfectly it was put upon the stage! There again you English can teach our players a great deal. Your tall, handsome actors, so well dressed and mannered, and your beautiful actresses that walk the stage like—like . . . . I cannot say . . . . men and women who move their arms so naturally and with such dignity. Ah, you are splendid! You are a nation of kings!"

How Many to a Box?

How many guests, asks the *Daily Mirror*, is the holder of a theatre box ticket entitled to invite without paying for extra seats? The question is one which invites a good deal of discussion. A great amount of trouble arises from the fact that, almost without exception, a box ticket does not indicate the number of persons allowed to use it. Only the other day a party of five persons went to a certain West End theatre with a box ticket, and on arrival found that they had to pay an extra half-guinea, as the box which they had purchased was only supposed to hold four persons. While some boxes hold four, some five, and some six people, it is very necessary that the number should be printed plainly on the face of the ticket to save trouble and annoyance to theatre-goers. Better still, why not issue separate tickets for each occupant of the box?

Satirising the Suffragettes.

THE following are two of the verses of Mr. Philip Ashbrooke's new song, "The Giddy Little Glow-worm," which Miss Marie Studholme is singing in *My Darling* at the Hicks Theatre:—

In a far-off distant forest, where no human feet did roam,
A lonely little glow-worm had his lonely little home.
Till one day he thought, before he died, he'd like the world to see,
So he lit his little lantern and approached his friend the bee.
Now the busy bee had several times to London City flown,
And of its many wond'rous sights he had an expert grown;
His descriptions were so thrilling, as he showed his friend the road,
That the glow-worm said, "Ring off at once, or else I shall explode."
And the giddy little glow-worm, glow-worm, glow-worm,
The giddy little glow-worm showed a light;
And with an expectant face
Packed his little dressing-case,
And forthwith he crawled out into the night.

One day, patrolling Oxford Street, he reached the Marble Arch,
And found a shrieking regiment of women on the march,
Severely clad, in cotton gloves, and hair done up in nets,
And a flaming banner bearing the words "We are the Suffragettes."
Then our visitor got furious—"It is very plain," said he,
"That Asquith and his other friends can learn a tip from me.
When women like this, completely forget the duties of wife and mother,
I'd pack them off to a desert isle and make them govern each other."
And the giddy little glow-worm, glow-worm, glow-worm,
The glow-worm promptly then turned off his light,
For to London Town came he
Only pretty things to see;
And he wasn't strong enough to stand *that* sight.

Citizen Complainers.

THE late Shirley Brooks, says Mr. William Archer in the *Tribune*, suggested before the Select Committee of 1866 that the Censor might be converted into a sort of theatrical public-prosecutor, empowered to suspend a representation on the properly authenticated complaint of a certain number of responsible persons, until its merits or demerits should be determined by a court or committee constituted to that end. I propose several amendments on the scheme as stated by Mr. Brooks. There should, I think, be no official bearing any title analogous to Censor, public prosecutor, or the like; but it should be open to any citizen or citizens, singly or in combination, to lodge a complaint with the Lord Chamberlain against any theatrical entertainment, or part of such entertainment. Should he hold the complaint worth inquiring into, he should send to the theatre a jury of three or five men, regularly appointed to that end, who should report to him on the matter in question.

We shall be obliged if our readers will send us any amusing anecdotes they may hear, or accounts of any quaint incidents they may witness while acting or rehearsing.

"THE RED LAMP."

Drama, in Four Acts, by W. Outram Tristram,
Revived at His Majesty's Theatre,
on Saturday, March 16.

Paul Demetrius ..... MR. TREE
General Morakoff ..... MR. LYN HARDING
Allan Villiers ..... MR. YORKE STEPHENS
Prince Alexis Valerian ..... MR. BASIL GILL
Ivan Zazzulic ..... MR. HERBERT GRIMWOOD
Kertch ..... MR. J. FISHER WHITE
Count Bohrenheim MR. J. COOKE BERESFORD
Turgan ..... MR. CHARLES QUARTERMAINE
Rheinveck ..... MR. A. B. IMESON
Tolstoi ..... MR. HARRY C. HEWITT
Officer of the Police.... MR. S. YATES SOUTHGATE
Servant ..... MR. CYRIL H. SWORDER
Princess Claudia Morakoff
MISS CONSTANCE COLLIER
Olga Morakoff ..... MISS ALICE CRAWFORD
Felise ..... MISS KATE CUTLER
Madame Dannenberg .. MISS MURIEL ALEXANDER
Countess Voelcker ..... MISS A. BRUCE-JOY

The revival of *The Red Lamp* at His Majesty's Theatre on Saturday last took back many present to the night of April 20, 1887, when Mr. Tree made his first venture in theatrical management with Mr. Outram Tristram's play at the Comedy. The cast on that occasion was a strong one, Mr. C. H. Brookfield playing General Morakoff, Mr. Charles Sugden Allan Villiers, Mr. Robert Pateman Ivan Zazzulic, Mr. Charles Dodsworth Kertch, Miss Marion Terry Olga Morakoff, and Miss Rosina Filippi Félise. The revival at His Majesty's on Saturday last was most enthusiastically received by a crowded house. Mr. Tree's many admirers will be delighted to renew their acquaintance with his masterly performance of Demetrius, one of the most brilliant and polished impersonations in his répertoire. It is an unfailing delight to watch Mr. Tree as the crafty old spy, with his "slow, treacherous smile." The twenty years or so which have elapsed since Mr. Tree first played the part seem to have only made his performance more ripe, more perfect in detail, and more fascinating. Miss Constance Collier was a magnificent Princess Claudia, and acted with strength and passion throughout. Mr. Lyn Harding as General Morakoff gave a fine picture of a stern, unbending soldier, incapable of even a thought of disloyalty to his Czar. Mr. Yorke Stephens was as cool, self-possessed, and resourceful as possible as the American journalist. The part of Prince Alexis was most satisfactorily filled by Mr. Basil Gill; and Mr. Herbert Grimwood gave a very clever study of a craven and a sensualist as Ivan Zazzulic. As Kertch Mr. J. Fisher White acted with restrained passion which was very effective; and the Count Bohrenheim of Mr. J. Cooke Beresford showed careful study. The political suspects, Turgan, Rheinveck, and Tolstoi, were convincingly played by Mr. A. B. Imeson, Mr. Charles Quartermaine, and Mr. Harry C. Hewitt. Mr. S. Yates Southgate was a duly unyielding Police Officer; and Mr. Cyril H. Sworder made the most of a small Servant's part. As Olga Morakoff Miss Alice Crawford showed remarkable power, and played with consistent feeling throughout. Nothing could have been better than the Félise of Miss Kate Cutler; she was admirable in every detail; and Miss Muriel Alexander as Madame Dannenberg and Miss A. Bruce-Joy as Countess Voelcker acted with grace and ease.

The Red Lamp was followed by a dramatic episode, in one act, adapted from the French of Eugene Fourier Peringue, by Cosmo Gordon Lennox, played for the first time, and entitled

"THE VAN DYCK."

Arthur Blair-Woldingham ..... MR. TREE
John Peters ..... MR. WEEDON GROSSMITH
Mr. Porter ..... MR. ALFRED GODDARD
Franks ..... MR. A. B. IMESON
Lawson ..... MR. W. LEWIN

A great deal of prior interest was felt in *The Van Dyck*. In the first place, no hint of what was to be expected had leaked out. For some time after the curtain had risen there was an atmosphere of complete mystification in the house, so impossible was it to divine the "tendency" of the piece. It was not until about five minutes before the curtain came down that the great surprise was flashed upon the audience; and the house "rose to it" and rocked and roared with laughter.

The scene is Mr. Peters' flat. When the curtain rises Mr. Peters is discovered alone, playing softly on the piano. There is a knock at the door, which is disregarded. Then comes a second knock, and Mr. Peters goes to the door with an exclamation of annoyance, opens it, and discovers an eccentric gentleman. He is a neighbour, and has heard the performances of Mr. Peters on the violin and piano, and has come to thank him for the pleasure they have given him; in fact, he asserts that a certain sonata, which proves to be Peters' own composition, saved him on one occasion from suicide. Peters is flattered, and invites the strange visitor to remain. He accepts with alacrity, and wanders round the room, making casual remarks upon the many beautiful "objets d'art" which he sees—a picture by Thomas Lawrence, some old china, and a Stradivarius—all of which Peters has picked up in more or less discreditable ways for "mere songs." The visitor compliments Peters upon his taste, and ascertains the value of the various articles. Peters is more flattered, the manner of the visitor grows more eccentric, and finally he insists upon relating to his host the story of his life—a long, rambling, blood-curdling story full of incoherency and inconsistency. As he relates it he become very excited. Peters becomes nervous and tries to make his escape, which the lunatic—as the audience now recognises him to be—prevents. Finally, when Peters' life seems to be in imminent danger, the door is burst open and a doctor and a couple of warders enter and capture the lunatic, who by this time is raving mad. As the presence of Peters seems to infuriate his patient the doctor begs that he will retire while they get the man away, and Peters locks himself into his bedroom. Instantly the raving lunatic becomes a changed man. He takes over the command, with the words "Now, boys, on with the gloves; off with the stuff"; and in a very short space of time the flat is stripped bare. All that is left is an alleged Van Dyck, which the head burglar pronounces a "dud." The toot of a motor is heard, and then there is silence in the flat. Peters cautiously emerges from his retreat to find that he has been the victim of a clever gang of thieves. His only comfort is that they have left him what he considers the gem of his collection, the Van Dyck.

The performance of Mr. Tree as the burglar was extraordinarily clever. The slow merging of eccentricity into madness was intensely interesting. It was a study to watch the roving eye grow glazed and vacant with madness, the twitching of the features, the nervous, uncontrollable movements of the hands; to listen to the bursts of strange, maniacal laughter, and to mark the sudden change into the cool, alert, "swell mobsman." Mr. Tree's make-up was no less wonderful. To the keen observer there was from the very first a faint, indefinable suggestion of the criminal in his face, a certain laxity of feature, a touch of cunning in the expression. Mr. Weedon Grossmith had a very difficult part to play, and he sustained it admirably. He had very little to say, but everything to convey by his expression, which was inimitable. His face showed every emotion from smug satisfaction to growing nervousness, from realisation of insanity in his visitor to terror when he felt his life to be in danger; despair when he discovered he had been robbed of his precious possessions; and, finally, a transport of joy when on finding himself still the possessor of his cherished Van Dyck. The other parts were adequately filled by Mr. Alfred Goddard, Mr. A. B. Imeson, and Mr. W. Lewin.

ACTRESSES AND "O.P.'S."

The annual Ladies' Dinner of the O.P. Club took place at the Criterion Restaurant last Sunday evening. The president, Mr. SIDNEY DARK, was in the chair, and the chief guests of the evening were Miss Winifred Emery and Miss Gertie Millar. Mr. Cyril Maude was unfortunately prevented by a severe chill from being present. About 400 guests were present, and among them were Miss Winifred Emery, Miss Marie Illington, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Miss Isabel Jay, Miss Gertie Millar, Miss Lottie Venne, Miss Alexandra Carlisle, Miss Jeanne Aylwin, Miss Kitty Raeburn, Miss Thornton, Miss Liebbrandt, Miss Pamela Gaythorne, Mlle. Adeline Genée, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hentschel, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Workman, Miss Mabel Green, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Robbins, Mr. Frank Richardson, Mr. Lionel Monckton, Mr. G. Spencer Edwards, Mr. Hermann Finck, Mr. Alec Knowles, Mr. Frank Desprez, Mr. T. McDonald Rendle, Mr. W. Pett Ridge, and the joint hon. secretaries, Messrs. J. Davies Smith and Stanley Greig.

After the health of the King had been drunk the toast of "The O.P. Club" was proposed by Mr. FRANK RICHARDSON, who in his speech claimed to be the pioneer of the "plotless play." Referring to the production of a comic opera of which he was the librettist, he said his "book" being too long, he was obliged to cut half of it out, and the entire plot went. For this, said Mr. Richardson, he was soundly hissed by an outraged audience, and the papers the next day called him "fourteen different kinds of an idiot" instead of hailing him as a pioneer. Nevertheless, he said, if he had not invented plotless plays there would have been no musical comedy; and if there had been no musical comedy there would have been no Miss Gertie Millar.

MR. T. ORTON ROBERTS, in responding, said that although there were no lady members of the Club at present, one of its pleasantest functions was the ladies' dinner, and that ladies were always welcomed to the Sunday evening debates and lectures of the Club.

The toast of "The Visitors" was proposed by the PRESIDENT, who said that he could not imagine a better subject for his swan song than the Ladies, although it was a subject which had lately become somewhat fearsome on account of the onslaught of the Suffragettes on the amiable policemen outside Westminster. Mr. Dark did not see why women should not have votes, or why they should not take the places of the men altogether. He foresaw a time when Mrs. Carl Hentschel, as the president of the Club, would be sitting in the chair he was then occupying, and when he, with a face suffused with blushes, would rise to respond to the toast of "The Gentlemen." Mr. Dark referred personally to many of the distinguished visitors present—Miss Isabel Jay, whom, he said, might almost be known as the prima donna of the O.P. Club, so often had she delighted them with her charming presence; to Miss Lilian Braithwaite, who was a constant contradiction to the statement that there were no young actresses of talent on the stage; to Miss Marie Illington, whose art was such a delight to the English stage; and to Miss Gertie Millar, the bright particular star of the Gaiety Theatre, herself the very soul of gaiety, who seemed to have been born to daintily sing her husband's dainty songs. Finally, said Mr. Dark, it is my very proud privilege to ask you to drink the health of Miss Winifred Emery, whom I think we may, without impertinence, call "our Winifred," an actress who can touch with equal ease the chords of laughter and tears, a woman of noble character, a great craftswoman, who has worked hard at her craft. Mr. Dark then, on behalf of the Club, presented Miss Emery and Miss Millar each with a beautiful ostrich feather fan.

MISS WINIFRED EMERY, in replying to the toast of "The Visitors," said: I do not think anything could make me feel happier at this moment than to be able to thank you adequately for the most warm welcome which you have given me; but, although I have had long years of experience in making speeches on the stage, I have had no experience in making speeches off it, and that is a very different thing, believe me. So I asked my husband if he would speak for me; but unfortunately a severe chill has prevented him from being present to-night, so it devolves on me to say how very heartily I appreciate and am touched by the kind words which have been spoken, by this beautiful gift, and by the great honour you have shown me to-night.

MISS GERTIE MILLAR chose a very novel way of responding to the toast. She sang her reply, accompanied by her husband, Mr. Lionel Monckton, on the piano, introducing the various airs with which her name has become associated since her connection with the Gaiety, such as "Keep off the grass," "Bedtime at the Zoo," and "Little Mary." She began with a recitative:—

"Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I hope you will excuse me,
If I tell you in a song, instead of a speech, how greatly your compliments embarrass and confuse me.
You see, for occasions like this I have a most unfortunate memory,
And when I was a little girl I never had lessons in elocution like Miss Winifred Emery."

MISS MILLAR then proposed the toast of the Club in the words

"May you have health,
Wisdom, and wealth.
Here's to the Club in the Garden."

The toast of the chairman was given by Miss Marie Illington, who made a very humorous speech, which evoked much laughter. She said that she had come that evening prepared to give a two hours' lecture on the subject of the Suffragettes, although she did not sympathise with those ladies, but that she had been talked out by Mr. Sidney Dark. The chairman briefly responded on behalf of the Club.

The artists who contributed to the very excellent entertainment were Miss Esme Atherden, Miss Elsie Spain, Mr. Walter Hyde, Mr. Fred. Maguire, Mr. Morris Harvey, Mr. Edgar Coyle, Mr. C. H. Workman. Mr. Sinclair Mantell and Mr. E. J. Margetson accompanied at the piano.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The concert of Friday evening, March 15, commenced with an able performance of Mozart's Quartet for Strings in C, in which the crisp playing of the Menuetto by the executants, Miss E. Dorothy Devin, Miss A. Theodora Hunter, Mr. Frank Bridge, and Mr. Gershom Parkington deserved especial praise. Mr. F. Gershom Parkington and Mr. Ioan Powell also greatly distinguished themselves in Sonata for Violoncello and Piano in G, by Beethoven. An organ solo of Sir C. V. Stanford's Fantasia and Toccata in D Minor was well played by Mr. Eric Gritton; and Brahms' Quartet for Piano and Strings in A Major was cleverly performed by Miss Grace Humphery, Miss Lorna Downing, Mr. Frank Bridge, and Mr. Gershom Parkington. Miss Dora G. Arnell, who possesses a mezzo-soprano voice of great purity and considerable compass, was heard to great advantage in "Avenging and Bright," an old Irish melody, but she hardly got the full dramatic effect out of Schubert's "Aufenthalt." In two Romanzen—VIII. and II.—from Brahms' *Magelone*, Mr. Robert Chignell sang with good taste and expression; and Miss Bessie Bowness was greatly applauded in her song, "Amoureuse," by Massenet. The accompanists were Miss Alice Cotton and Miss Ellen Tuckfield.

A DRAMATIC version of Mr. F. Anstey's story, *The Brass Bottle*, was given for copyright purposes on the 14th inst. at the Haymarket Theatre.

ACTORS' DAY.

We have received the following report of the Advisory Board in connection with the funds collected on Actors' Day:—

"In tendering our advice as to the apportionment of the money collected at our initial Actors' Day, we of the Advisory Board have been confronted with a very signal difficulty, arising out of a radical difference of opinion amongst out subscribers regarding the destination of the money relinquished by them on October 18, 1906. That there has been a variance of opinion we do not attempt to deny; but it must be remembered that benevolent and provident schemes of such wide reach as this one have nearly always been confronted by initial difficulties.

"The great difficulty with which we of the Advisory Board have had to deal is this:—One part of our subscribers have given their money under the impression that it was to be applied solely to the support of existing theatrical charities; that in subscribing to Actors' Day they at one stroke relieved themselves of all further kindred subscriptions and appeals. But then there is the other part of our subscribers who have given *their* money to Actors' Day under the impression that it was to be set aside for a fund for the benefit of those only who had created that fund out of their own providence and sacrifice, whereby, in the course of years the whole body of theatrical artists should become united in a bond of mutual succour from which there should be excluded only those who remain obdurate to the common welfare.

"How, then, we of the Advisory Board have had to say to ourselves, can we reconcile the wishes of those who place the duty to existing theatrical charities in the foreground with the contrary wishes of those who deny that the fruits of their sacrifice and providence should be in any portion bestowed on people who steadily refuse to exercise either virtue? It is our hope that we have arrived at a means of compromise between these two attitudes towards Actors' Day by which none of our present subscribers shall be estranged, and the great number of those who have hitherto held aloof received into our midst. Many particulars and details we must, of course, leave to subsequent deliberation: we wish at present to indicate the principles of apportionment and suggested ultimate coalition by which we believe Actors' Day, as also existing theatrical charities, may be best fostered and utilised, and the noblest interests of the whole body of theatrical artists solidified and upheld.

"We advise that the sum collected on Actors' Day, 1906, and to be collected in succeeding years, be divided into two parts—that the one part shall be proportionate to and devoted to the making up of any deficit that may have been occasioned by the institution of Actors' Day in the annual amounts (taking the average of the last three years as the standard of calculation) collected from the theatres by the Actors' Benevolent Fund, the Actors' Orphanage and the Ladies' Theatrical Guild; that the other part of the sums collected on Actors' Day shall be set aside to form a fund that shall never at any time be at the service of any but its own subscribers. We are confident that the recommendation to devote some part of our fund to existing charities will be approved even by those who, as we think rightly, support the general principle that willingness to help should be a condition of relief; for it cannot be denied that existing charities may suffer by the institution of Actors' Day; nor that there will always be a proportion of contributors who will wish that a part of their contributions should go to the existing charities. It is our opinion that this special subscribers' fund should be divided into two portions: the one being allowed to accumulate till it shall have reached a figure sufficient to form the nucleus of an old age pension fund, the other being devoted to the relief of subscribers who have been overtaken with illness; and ultimately to establish a loan fund, the value of which we fully recognise.

"Within a period of years (not less than five and not more than ten) those charities to which Actors' Day will have so largely contributed shall be asked, in so far as their annual income is concerned, to conform to the rule governing the Special Actors' Day Subscribers' Fund, *i.e.*, that all who have not for a certain number of years, to be hereafter fixed, contributed to Actors' Day, shall be debarred from all assistance and benefits from any of those funds; but this will be asked only in so far as that annual income is concerned, and shall in no way affect the disposal of the income derived from their invested funds. And in order that no deserving but unfortunate actor or actress may be excluded from the working of this scheme, which, whilst wholly provident in principle, is based on our willingness to help one another, we would recommend that any actor or actress on the register who has been in employment for less than sixteen weeks during the preceding twelve months, on making statement of the fact in the appointed quarter, may be, on the verification of that statement, exempt from contribution, but shall be regarded as having contributed towards Actors' Day, and shall be excluded from none of the benefits or assistance in any way derivable therefrom.

"That is our scheme. We take care to provide that plenty of time shall elapse before our suggested system of coalition is established; no one is to be taken unawares, and there will, even after the proposed coalition, still remain the invested capital of the present funds to be disposed of, as in former years, by each in its own way. But we most strongly believe that the very life of Actors' Day depends on our taking up this stand—that they who would do nothing towards benevolence or providence when it lay in their power have no right to the benefits of the same in their adversity. Such dead-weights must rely on individual kindness of heart to afford them relief; but let them understand that Actors' Day is concerned with self-support and mutual support, and it has not been instituted to subsidise those lazy people who are resolved to live by the exertions of others, who bring the name of actor into contempt.

"Let us once more urge the much-desired advantages and long-felt needs attainable, as we believe, only by the adoption of such a scheme as ours, involving a certain measure of coalition.

"1. Actors and actresses will, each in his or her degree, provide for one another's age, sickness, or distress, thus fortifying mutual help with providence; the more fortunate and more wealthy assisting their less fortunate but, proportionately, as generous comrades.

"2. The relief of theatrical distress in all its branches will tend to be brought under one organisation, thereby increasing our grasp of its problems, utilising the accumulated experience of years, whilst decreasing the expenses of administration.

"3. In the place of many appeals to the actor and actress there would be only one.

"These are the benefits which we believe would flow from the general acceptance of Actors' Day, and of our present proposals; but they can only be brought about by a combined continuous effort of all who prize principles above institutions, and it is our conviction that their adoption would be fraught with good results, moral, social, and economic, for the calling of the actor.

"The full details of the scheme necessitate expert advice as to the allocation of the funds in future years. A further statement, which it is hoped will satisfy the views of both sides, will shortly be submitted to the profession."

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"THE FOLLIES" AT THE ROYALTY.

An evening of uproarious fun! This will be the verdict of Londoners who patronise the Royalty Theatre, and under the guidance of Mr. H. G. Pélissier give themselves up to the delights of melody and mirth, provided with such unsparing liberality by that gentleman and his versatile company of half a dozen—three of either sex. Their resources in the way of travesty, song, and jest seem to be endless, and the spirit of harmless raillery which prevails provides as much drollery as is to be found in half a dozen musical comedies. Contrary to the practice that usually obtains in theatres, the printed programme issued is worth all the money charged, for is it not garnished with burlesque advertisements and a comic historiette of Pélissier himself? The chief novelty of the opening section of the bill is a song-cycle in the style of Liza Lehmann's *Daisy Chain*, entitled *A Buttercup Cable*, "a song perambulator for those children too young for cycles." For this "cable-istic" utterance the author should be given a bit more "rope." However, it is the only thing about it that is at all elephantine; for the music is light and pretty, the quartette, "A hive of bees," being delightful. Other popular items are Mr. Lewis Sydney's cornet imitations, with unmannerly interruptions from Pélissier at the piano; "The flowergirl's song," by Miss Gwennie Mars and chorus; Mr. Norman A. Blumé's recitation in the 'Ercles vein, "The Last Shot," and some amusing parodies at the piano of the styles of Grieg, Chopin, and Liszt by Mr. Pélissier, who also sings his amusing "Mein Faderland" song in the character of a long-haired professor who has left the banks of the Rhine for his own good and that of his country.

The work of the Follies in their travesties of plays and operas has been the theme of praise in these columns, and their latest skit, *Baffles: A Peter Pantomime*, as its name implies, is a clever amalgam of fun founded on Mr. J. M. Barrie's fairy fantasy and the piece now running so successfully at the Comedy. The piece opens with a chorus of Folly children (from *Peter Pan*) founded on the "Bogie man" ditty so popular in the 'nineties. The author, Mr. J. M. Barrie, who enters, is "bound to say he likes the way that Peter's panning out." Mrs. Darling and the dog having delivered themselves of a tuneless and wordless lullaby, the canine doffs his fur, and Baffles is revealed. Bunny, who enters in search of him, is visibly pained to discover that he turns out to be a "dirty dog," and Baffles confesses himself a Pirate King, who has hidden ten million pirate copies of "Down by the Zuyder Zee" on Hampstead Heath. Bunny agrees to join him heart and soul in his effort to save the pirate copies from the police.

Peter Pan enters with a dark lantern (as the burglar in *Raffles*). The alarm-bell rings and wakes the children, who have retired to bed (three adult Follies in a miniature four-poster), Peter conducts them to the Blither-Blither Land—through the window because the flying-machine has broken down. After the introduction of Tinker Bell, "a prehistoric nymph," the Pirate King enters on a trolley drawn by two pirates and sings:—

"When I'm quite sold out at night
I cry with humour deft,
'I've neither got a copy*right*,
Nor yet a copy *left*!'"

A clever topical duet is that between the Pirate King and Tinker Bell, in which they lament the decline of the fairy and pirate king in public popularity, and the following sparkling skit is evidently founded on the memorable speech in *Raffles*:—"Have you ever pictured Peter when the play Peters out; when Peter begins to pall? In place of a house crowded with bejewelled aristocracy the stalls become a series of empty Rose du Barrie, dotted here and there with 3s. 9d. blouses and borrowed dress suits, the box-office receipts diminished day by day till not a single family adorns the family circle; the pit queue dwindled down, until it consists solely of the fireman's wife, the stage doorkeeper's uncle, two dogs, and a policeman. Then Mr. Charles Showman will 'present' another attraction from the States that'll put your nose out of joint and London will know you no more!" The interpretation showed that the rehearsals had not been thorough; but the whole thing is so witty and amusing that it is bound to be a success. The trio of authors, Arthur Wimperis, Arthur Davenport, and H. G. Pélissier, put something of the graceful spirit of a Planché into their lines, which are often very happily turned.

The bonne-bouche of the entertainment comes last with the skit on a variety entertainment. This is opened by Mic and Mac, Amurrica's slickest, quickest, cross-talk comedians, and is contributed to by Mr. Gush Squealin with a burlesque of Mr. Gus Elen in his out-of-work ditty; Mr. George Robeville, with a blend of the Robey and Dunville methods; Miss May de Colté, the serio of a quarter of a century since, who knows her business as well as the audience knows her accent; Mr. Ernest Bathos, the actor-vocalist, who reverently lifts his hat whenever he speaks the word "mother," and is assisted by a carroty-haired youth in the boxes; the Verrey-Worszt troupe of unmusical clowns, who parody the xylophone playing of the overture to *William Tell*; and Lieutenant Travesty Cole, whose human puppets enable him to do the marvellous feat of drinking, smoking, and speaking at the same time. The gallery boys of the coster breed are all consistent helpers in the scheme of fun, which sets the seal of success on an entertainment which is as refined and witty as it is clever and versatile.

"NO OTHER WAY."

A Dramatic Episode,
produced at the Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury,
on Monday, March 18.

Joe Carson ..... MR. WALKER
Martha Carson ..... MISS GRACE BARING
Letty ..... MISS NORAH JOHNS
Geoffrey Dale ..... MR. RALPH LYNN

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Described as a "dramatic episode," this *lever de rideau* was for the first time produced at Shrewsbury Theatre Royal on Monday, the 18th inst., and proved very successful. After twenty years' absence, Joe Carson returns home a starving outcast, and murders Geoffrey Dale's uncle, of which deed Geoffrey's *fiancée* is an unexpected witness. In the opening Letty Carson, the murderer's daughter, tells her mother, Martha Carson, that she has witnessed the crime; but neither is aware of the real identity of its perpetrator. Later the poor wife shelters her husband, but on learning the true facts of his guilt she sees no other solution of the problem than to urge him to self-destruction—"no other way"—to prevent the discovery of his guilt. Refusing, he arms himself with a revolver, and in the struggle with his frantic wife the weapon is discharged, and Carson is seen to fall. He is killed, by whether by his wife's hand or his own is left to the imagination. Mr. Walker played Joe Carson with considerable power and talent; Miss Grace Baring in the trying rôle of Martha Carson merited high praise; Miss Norah Johns was pleasing and effective as Letty, and Mr. Ralph Lynn made a very capable Geoffrey Dale.

PRESENTATION.—Mr J. H. Russell, who recently resigned the post of musical conductor at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston, which he had held since the theatre opened ten years ago, was on Saturday evening, after the performance of *Veronique*, presented with a silver salver from the staff.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

On Thursday evening, March 14, the pupils of Mr. Henry Gadsby gave an excellent pianoforte recital. The programme was varied and interesting, and in most cases well adapted to the pupils' ability. It was also very evident that Mr. Gadsby had taught his pupils to use their brains as well as fingers, and to impart to their performances some idea of the composers' poetical aims instead of mere mechanical dexterity. This was clearly shown in Miss Augusta Kemble's playing of "Bosquet de Julie" and "Mondscheinfährt," two charming little works of Bendel, and in Miss Louisa Willis's rendering of Sinding's "Marche Grotesque" and "Fruhlingsrauschen." Miss Alice Watson also gave quite the right expression to Sjogern's "Eroticon" No. 3, and Miss Louisa Dyer to Schubert's "Impromptu in A Flat." Schuman's "Kreisleriana," Nos. 2 and 5, was neatly executed by Miss Evelyn King; while Miss E. B. Foss may be commended for her playing of Beethoven's "Sonata Pathétique," although she slightly dragged the time in the slow movement. The most striking performance in the recital was that of Miss Ethel Harman (winner of the Brinsmead Prize of 1906), who was much applauded for her able and even brilliant playing of Chopin's Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise in E Flat; another clever performer of Chopin's works was Miss Muriel Grose, who played the famous Valse in A Flat with good results. The only male pupil of Mr. Gadsby who appeared at this recital was Mr. Charles Boadella, heard in Chopin's Grand Polonaise in A Flat. Other talented pupils were Miss Edna Borwick, Miss Annie Pearce, Miss Alice Lavell, and Miss Elsie Hebditch. The recital concluded with Weber's Concert Stück, played by Miss E. B. Foss, with orchestral accompaniment on second piano.

The first instrumental item of the concert of Wednesday was Miss Euphemia E. I. Johnson's piano solo Etude, "Des Ailes," by Godard, played with considerable freedom of execution. Miss Lily Selden (an advanced pupil of Mme. Waldahoff) was heard to great advantage in De Beriot's "Concerto in A minor," played as a mandoline solo. Miss Selden, although quite young, has already appeared in public. Another clever student was Miss Doris Cloud, who did great credit to her professor in Vieuxtemps' solo for violin, "Réverie," and "Allegro Molto," by Godard. Miss Cloud's tone and execution were excellent, and at the close she was warmly applauded. Mr. Arthur Jones had a fair amount of success in his harp solo, "Fantasia in C minor," by Spohr; and Miss Dorothy Wright and Miss Kathleen E. Hicks distinguished themselves in Saint-Saëns' duet for pianoforte, "Danse Macabre." A first performance of two songs, "Bright is the ring of words" and "Invictus," by Mr. Herbert M. Goldstein, was given, but owing to the vocalist, Mr. Robert Moore, not being quite at home, either in the words or music of the first song, the effect was somewhat lost. In "Invictus," the better of the two, Mr. Moore was heard to greater advantage. Blumenthal's melody, "An evening song," was sung by Mr. Arthur W. Morse with praiseworthy care and expression; while Miss Nellie Atkinson was heard in the scena, "My heart is weary," from *Nadeschda*. The concert concluded with a duologue, *The Other Woman*, by Alice Kingsley, in which two pupils of Miss Kate Rorke, Miss Annie Walden and Mrs. Fennell, appeared as Enid and Silvie. Miss Jenny Hyman performed the duties of accompanist.

On Wednesday afternoon a recital of the fine new organ recently erected in the Concert Room was given by Mr. Fountain Meen, who had arranged a capital programme, well calculated to show off the beautiful qualities of the instrument. The programme included J. L. Hatton's bright and effective "Toccata in F sharp minor," "Melody," by Dr. Davan Wetton, "Meditation in a Cathedral," by E. Silas; a quaint "Caprice" of Guilmant; E. Bernard's showy "Fugue in F"; a charming "Pastorale," by Kullak; and Henry Smart's "Grand Solemn March," in which the rich tone and power of the organ were well displayed. The recital was a great success, and the talented professor much applauded at the close.

THE CELLI FUND.

This fund is being raised on behalf of the two young daughters, aged seventeen and eighteen, of the late Frank Celli, well known in the theatrical profession, who died in Charing Cross Hospital two years ago, leaving them totally unprovided for.

List of subscriptions to date:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. W. Kendal	5	5	0
Mr. A. W. Pinero	5	5	0
Sir Squire Bancroft	5	0	0
Dr. C. Bell Keetley	5	0	0
Actors' Benevolent Association	5	0	0
Mr. Arthur Clark	3	3	0
Mr. W. S. Gilbert	3	3	0
Mr. Henry Arthur Jones	3	3	0
Mr. George P. Bancroft	1	1	0
Mr. Dion Boucicault	1	1	0
Mr. Arthur Bourchier	1	1	0
Mr. Albert Chevalier	1	1	0
Mr. G. Thorn Drury	1	1	0
Mr. George Grossmith	1	1	0
Mr. Martin Harvey	1	1	0
Dr. John Harold	1	1	0
Mr. C. T. H. Helmsley	1	1	0
Mr. F. Maitland	1	1	0
Mr. Frank Misselbrook	1	1	0
Mr. H. G. Pelissier	1	0	0
Dr. Howard D. Stewart	1	0	0
Miss Irene Vanbrugh	1	0	0
Mr. Luther Munday	0	10	6
Mr. Ernest H. Maude	0	10	0
Mr. Egerton Beck	0	5	0
H. J. S.	0	5	0
Mr. P. M. Turner	0	2	6
	£51	3	0

Contributions towards this most deserving case may be sent to:—Mr. S. Sherrington Chinn, 1, Albemarle-street, W.; Mr. C. T. H. Helmsley, St. James's Theatre, S.W.; Mr. Lawrence Kellie, 191, Portsdown-road, Maida Vale, W.; Mr. M. V. Leveaux, Garrick Theatre, W.C.; or the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, *The Era* Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Covent Garden, W.C. Cheques should be made payable to the "Celli Fund," and crossed.

At the Oxford City Police-court on Tuesday Richard Borlase Eady, of Oakwood Court, Kensington, Sydney Fishe, of the Randolph Stables, Oxford, and Russell Lloyd-Jones, of the Bath Club, London, formerly undergraduates, appeared to summonses for committing wilful damage and breach of the peace at the New Theatre, Oxford. Eady and Lloyd-Jones actually got on to the stage of the theatre during the performance of *The Little Michus* and broke up seats. The Bench fined the defendants £5 each, ordered them to pay costs, and on the second charge bound them over to keep the peace for six months.

The following announcement by the North-Eastern Railway Company will be welcome to those artistis and companies who include Spennymoor in their tour of the provinces: "A service of trains will be instituted on Sundays on the above branch, being timed to leave Spennymoor for Ferryhill at 7.15 a.m., 8.30 a.m., 6.15 p.m., and 8.15 p.m., and Ferryhill for Spennymoor at 7.50 a.m., 9.0 a.m., 5.55 p.m., 6.46 p.m., and 9.0 p.m., connecting at Feryhill with trains from and to the North and South. It has been decided to commence running these trains in April.

"THE ERA" SHILLING FUND FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME

Mr. Barrasford and Miss Victoria join in a strenuous appeal for the generosity of the profession in support of *The Era* Shilling Fund. When, twelve months ago, we brought before our readers the claims of this deserving charity, a very considerable sum of money was collected in separate shillings. That last year's appeal, however, and most of the money obtained by it, are, as Miss Marie Lloyd would say, "a thing of the past, old dear."

Subscribed to date, 1699 shillings.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Edinburgh theatrical and vaudeville sports, per Walter P. Wells	40	0	0
Contents of collecting-box at the Hippodrome (late Tivoli), Leeds, one of Mr. Barrasford's halls, per Charles Weldon	5	7	9
Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Mannering	1	5	0
Leoni Clarke	1	1	0
Collecting-box, Palace of Varieties, Ltd., Manchester, per Nelson Barry	1	0	0
Bros. Webb	0	10	0
Geretti	0	5	0
Belford and Mars	0	5	0
A. Lazarus	0	2	0
A Gus Elen Autograph	0	0	6

Collected by Mr. Horace Wheatley, £3 11s.

Horace Wheatley	40	Anthony	1
Terrance Wheatley, jun.	1	Claire Romaine	1
Catherleen Wheatley	1	Sydney James	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Gilbert Fernie	1
Eileen Wheatley	1	Harry Edson	1
Horace Wheatley, jun.	1	Leslie Romani	1
Grandma	1	Lizzie Kirk	1
Auntie	1	Emmie Romani	1
MacWheatley the Dog	1	Frank Turner	1
Edgar Marriott	1	Mrs. F. Turner	1
Frank Leon	1	J. G. Henderson	1
Ted Waite	1	C. Pastor	1
Edgar Romaine	1	Sister Marion	1
Robert Robertson	1	M. Egerton	1
Florence Lambeth	1	Fred O'Malley	1
		George Harvard	1
		Gus W. Blake	1

Collected by Mr. Billy Williams, £2 19s. 9d.

Billy Williams	5	E. I. S.	1
Miss Du-Roche	5	A. Hanson	1
Miss M. Sealby	5	W. Marshall	1
Andre Avocat	5	J. B.	1
Miss M. Langdon	2½	B. B.	1
Oliver Round	2½	J. Kelly	1
Roze and Calvert	2½	W. E. D. V.	1
W. W. Walton	2½	W. Clarke	1
Churnell	2½	O. L. Rendell	1
F. E.	2	Wirson Kurat	1
J. K.	2	T. Dare	1
Miss Mab Paul	2	Geo. W. Thorpe	1
Adelaide	2	H. B.	1
King	1½	I. B.	1
W. E. R.	1	Maxwell	1
F. D. B.	1	Graham	1

Collected by Rich and Rich, 11s.

Rich and Rich	5	W. Fullbrook	1
Smarte Bros.	2	Charles Homer	1
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Collected by Carl Hertz, £1.

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Edgar Romaine	1	Carl Hertz	1
Edgar Romaine	1	Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1	Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1	Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Little Tich	1		

Collected by Bliss and Bliss, £1 12s.

George Bliss	1	Pushfoot	1
Leo Bliss	1	Nellie Bailey	1
Jack Cromo	1	Gerald	1
W. Stewart	1	Charlie Hardup	1
Ruby Aiston	1	Kitty Chic	1
Arthur Aiston	1	Zena Page	1
Billy Hoofum	1	Kathleen Tremayne	1
James Kiddie	1	May St. Pierre	1
Tom Kelso	1	Lena Arnold	1
E. Bernhardt	1	Aline Goldsmith	1
Harold Batt	1	Edie Graham	1
Mr. Skimps	1	Minnie Grey	1
Mr. Skopes	1	Eva Mountcastle	1
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Kitty Kildare	1	Nellie Bailey	1
Nellie Bailey	1	Marie Beresford	1

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Charlie, Stage-Manager	1	H. Harwood	1
Harry Vardon	1	Grant and Grant	1
Dora Lyric	1	Counsel Louie	1
Yukio Tani	1	Mills, Oscar	1
Walter Bentley	1	Harry Dean	1
Wilfords	1	Effie Stuart	1

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W. Brown	2	E. Lotto	1
Emily Custance	2	B. Roberts	1
E. Davey	1	V. Kingdon	1

Collected by Miss Nellie Christie, Argyle Theatre, Birkenhead, £1 3s.

Nellie Christie	5	George de Lara	1
B. N.	2	The Bassos	1
Ella Lane	1	Julian Ross	1
Eida Burman	1	Jack Charman	1
Herbert La Martine	1	S. de Groot	1
Sylvia du Barry	1	Maude Courteney	1
Eva Lumley	1	Mabel Bardine	1
Bertha Woolcote	1	Pattie Verner	1
May Fallowfield	1	Josie Mooney	1

Collected by Miss Sable Fern, £2 16s.

Malcolm Scott	10	Fred Wood	1
Sable Fern	5	George Peel	1
W. H. Galpin	2	Josh Dixon	1
J. E. Grist	2	Johnnie Whiteman	1
Frank Leo	1	Carrie Kenyon	1
Will Rags	1	Leah Ardell	1
W. Griffin	1	Dolly Moore	1
E. Dubois	1	Bee Cycles	1
Mrs. Dainton	1	Butcher	1
Marie Dainton	1	Hal Forde	1
The Allisons	1	Bill Manning	1
Geo. H. Brooks	1	Joe	1
Kenneth Macleod	1	Claire Romaine	1
A. Jennings	1	Ernest Rees	1
Belles in Orient	1	Will Poluski, jun.	1
Jock Whiteford	1	Edgar Romaine	1
Samuel Lloyd	1	Herbert Coltesmore	1
Alma Gray	1	Laurence Rutledge	1
George Kirby	1	J. McCabe	1
Neil Kenyon	1	H. J. Edwardes	1
Will Lambert	1		

Collected by Albert and Edmunds, 18s.

Mr. E. Edmunds	5	Fred Barnard	1
Patrick Playfair	1	Harry Weston	1
Miss Bella	1	Miss Blanche Albert	1
Mrs. Albert	1	C. Maude	1
Miss Rose Hamilton	1	Winnie Edmund	1
Mr. K. Hamilton	1	James Dunlop	1
A. Martini	1	Mr. J. Albert	1

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Florrie Chester	1	H. Horner	1
Leslie Chester	1	Great Hughes	1
Mrs. Chester	1	Albert Phanto	1
Ethel Condor	1	James Osmond	1
Fred Regina	1	Charles Mildare	1
Cliff Ryland	1	J. Allison	1
F. Picitt	1	Tom E. Conover	1
J. Kellino	1	Lester Carey (Three Careys)	1
Albert Kellino	1	Lennie and Hast	1
Will Kellino	1	Butterflies	1
John Kellino	1	E. W. Manning	1
Stacey and Williams	1	Henry Hilton	1
Mendel	1	W. H. Wallis	1
W. Meyer Sarnthaler	1		

Photo by Brown, Barnes, and Bell, Liverpool.

OFF TO LAS PALMAS, ON BOARD S.S. "SEKONDI," GUESTS OF SIR ALFRED JONES.

Reading from left to right:—Back row.—Mr. Ernest Luck, Mr. Romaine, Mr. M. R. Morand. Middle row.—Walter McEwen, Mr. Lennox, Mr. Rennie, "Joe," Malcolm Scott, Harry Tate, E. Eddlestone. Front row.—Ray Hartley, Doris Dean, Theresa Foote, Fanny Dango, Hetty King, Mrs. Dean, Mrs. Tate, Claire Romaine, Marguerite Broadfoote.

Collected by Mr. Harry Conlin, Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, £4 7s.

Bros. Egbert	10	Us again, again	1
Us again, again, again, again	7	Us again, again, again	1
Albert Egbert	5	Gladys Cooper	1
Harry Conlin	5	Doris Cooper	1
Rosie Coleman	5	Vera Elvey	1
Mark Sheridan	5	M. Claire	1
Gwladys Elvey	5	Mr. Whitehead	1
Edna Loftus	5	Ian Lloyd-Mackenzie	1
Daisy Dormer	5	Herbert Darnley	1
S. Egbert and Mac	5	Harry Nelson	1
Mark's Room	4	Erchie Mitchell	1
Mac's Bar, 3 Rose-street, Edinburgh	3	Harry Bendon	1
Harry Lupino	2	A. R. Pole	1
Us again	2	Us	1
Betty Green	1½	Cade Burnett	1
		Deane Tribune	1
		Estella Tribune	1

Collected by Mr. Gus Elen, £2.

Gus Elen (V.A.F.)	10	Edith Villa	1
Mrs. G. E.	1	Cruet	1
The Chickens	1	Boots	1
The Pheasants	1	The Dustman	1
Buller (St. Bernard)	1	Mrs. Carter	1
Major (Pomeranian)	1	Found	1
The Cook (16st.)	1	The Postman	1
The Housemaid	1	Admission	1
The Motor	1	Lizzie C.	1
The Gardener (Bob)	1	Meriah	1
The Parrot	1	Our Tyke	1
The Canary	1	New Pyjama 'At	1
Inky (Black Cat)	1	Luggage Man's (tip)	1
Four-Pots-a	1	Book-Boy's (ditto)	1
Twelve Coppers	1	Cab to *Era* Office	1
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Collected by Mr. Tom Fancourt, 15s.

Tom Fancourt	1	Margaret Ruby	1
Alf Selby	1	Queenie Clements	1
Harry Ray	1	Lottie Cora	1
Lillie Caldon	1	Florrie Cora	1
Arnold Richardson	1	Mrs. Howarth	1
Jennie Rubie	1	Anon.	1
B. Elton	1	Ernest Laws	1
T. Elma	1		

Collected by Regan and Ryan, Court Theatre, Liverpool, £1 14s.

Malcolm Scott	5	H. Brockbank	2
Fanny Fields	5	Patty Yole	2
Regan and Ryan	5	M. R. M.	1
Harry Tate	5	Doris Dean	1
Hetty King	5	Poppy Wilkinson	1
Fanny Dango	2		

Collected by Tom Vine, £1 2s. 6d.

Tom Vine	2½	George Bernard	1
Sisters Grovini	2	Pichel Troupe	1
Jessie Harper	1½	Brothers Story	1
Fred Leighton	1	Famous Henderson	1
Arnold H. Colmer	1	Brothers Austin	1
Arthur Arscott	1	Lucy Coventry	1
George Arscott	1	F. R. Griffiths	½
George Neale	1	Joe Huda	½
H. F.	1	Mimic Maston	½
Carl Bernardo	1	Tony Rallis	½
Lee's Marionettes	1	J. C.	½

Collected by W. Kloof, Kloof and Field's *Aladdin* Co., £1 1s 6d.

Verona Quartette	2	W. Kloof, jun.	1
Bros. Shetland	1½	Harold Kloof, jun.	1
Harry Gold	1	Harry J. Nelson Fleetwood	1
Bert Goldin	1	T. R. Bennett, Fleetwood	1
T. M. Lee Isor	1	T. P. Hornby, Fleetwood	1
Vulo	½	G. Taylor, Grimsby	½
Sisters Simmons	1	W. H. Betney, Grimsby	½
Fred Fields	1	Elephant (Potted Meat)	½
Florence Lewis	1	Dog (Karno)	½
Master Freddy Fields	1	May Florence	2
Allan Grey, Musical Director	1		
W. Kloof	1		
Cissie Ramsay	1		

Collected by Mr. T. S. Lonsdale, £1 13s.

W. Pratt	2	Sydney James	1
Velvero	1	R. Gilbert	1
T. S. Lonsdale	1	E. Pherson	1
Mr. Cragg	1	Andreassen Bros.	1
Mill May	1	Toch and Tard	1
Johnny Dwyer	1	Mike Cray	1
Frederic Culpitt	1	The Marconis	1
E. H. Williams	1	Clarions	1
F. Lauteron	1	E. Amoda	1
The Panamas	1	Ben Hur	1
Delornes	1	Carter Livesay	1
B. Stavordale	1	Lillian Rosebery	1
Jock Whiteford	1	Espinosa	1
G. Chamberlain	1	Amber Austa	1
Herbert Shelley	1	Will E. Haines	1
Frank Shelley	1	Robbie Roy	1

Collected by Dale and Vale, £1.

F. V. St. Clair	2½	Charlie Williams	1
De Biere	2½	Bert Williams	1
Lillian Victoria	2	Herbert Madden	1
Shoe Black Hero	1	Stylo	1
T. M. Paul	1	Laurie Stuart	1
Charles Lilburn	1	George and Lelia	1
Dick and Dorothy	1	Coro Corina	1
Kyoto	1	Dale and Vale	1

Collected by Miss Lillie Lassah, 10s.

Mr. W. Onda	1	E. Sharpe	1
Charles Constant	1	J. McCarthy	1
J. B. Howard	1	Nobbler	1
G. Lambert	1	Jerry	1
Fred Bowyer	1	Lillie Lassah	1

Collected by Mr. Geo. Rapley, £1 1s.

Sandy and Carl	2	Edwin Zarac	1
Nellie Moore	1	Fred Lloyd	1
Beatie Moore	1	Tom Shenton	1
Marion May	1	Syd Russell	1
Bertha St. Ruth	1	Chas. Denman	1
Cissie Conyers	1	Fred Bentley	1
The Sydney Girls	1	W. Parker	1
F. J. Little	1	Geo. Rapley	1
Chas. Zarac	1	Mrs. Geo. Rapley	1
Ernest Zarac	1	Baby Rapley	1

Collected by Alley and Hart, 6s.

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Rose Hart	1	Grosvenors	1
Olga Romanow	1	Robertys	1

Collected by Newham and Latimer, 11s.

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George Newham	1	Pulo	1
Fred Latimer	1	Fred Boulton	1
Prof. T. Howard	1	Mlle. Bartenelli	1
Lillian Howard	1	Albert Victor	1

Collected by Tom Hearn, Esq., £2 17s.

Geo. Robey	20	Arthur Reece	1
Tom Hearn	13	T. A. Shale	1
Millie Lindon	5	A. Haytor	1
Valli Valli	3	Edward Lewis	1
Nat Clifford	2	James Smith	1
M. W. King	1	J. H. Whittaker	1
L. Collingwood	1	Walter Stanley	1
George Formby	1	Helina Cecile	1
Carlton	1	Griff	1
Frank Haytor	1		

Collecting cards of subscriptions, as soon as filled, should be forwarded to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, *The Era* Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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ON THE ROAD, MARCH 25.

All-of-a-Sudden Peggy.—O. H., Harrogate.
Angel of Unrest.—Borough T., Stratford.
Anna of the Plains.—Darlington.
Ashe, Oscar.—Court T., Liverpool.
As Midnight Chimes.—Grand T., W. Hartlepool
Assassin.—Opera House, Bury.
At Cripple Creek.—Theatre Royal, Bolton.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs.—New Gaiety T., Ayr.
Beautiful Fiend.—T. R., Barnsley.
Beauty of Bath.—King's T., Glasgow.
Benson, F. R. (N.).—Gaiety T., Leith.
Benson, F. R. (S.).—Abertillery and Brynmawr
Biggest Scamp on Earth.—T. R., Sunderland.
Blue Beard.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
Bound to Win.—Prince's T., Blackburn.
Brigadier Gerard.—Pier, Eastbourne.
Broken Heart.—Grand T., Nelson
Bulmer, Mr.—T. R., Wednesbury.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—King's T., Sunderland.
Cassidy, J. Rice.—Theatre Royal, Hanley.
Charley's Aunt.—T. R., Birmingham.
Coal King.—Alexandra T., Greenock.
Compton Comedy Co.—Paisley Theatre, Paisley.
Conscript, The.—Theatre Royal, Rotherham.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Artillery T., Woolwich.
Death or Glory Boys.—T. R., Bristol.
Destroyer of Men.—O. H., Coventry.
D'Oyly Carte.—P. O. W., Birmingham.
Dr. Wake's Patient.—Liverpool.
Electric Man.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Executioner's Daughter.—Prince's T., Poplar.
Face at the Window.—Irving Theatre, Seacombe.
False Wife.—Queen's T., Fleetwood.
Female Swindler.—Century T., Motherwell.
Fight for Millions.—Alexandra T., Widnes.
Florodora (Howard).—Kirkcaldy.
Freedom of Suzanne.—Marlborough Theatre.
French Spy.—Gaiety T., Clydebank.
Gay Parisienne.—Kennington Theatre.
Geisha.—Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.
Glossop-Harris Repertoire Co.—E. T., Southend.
Golden Ladder.—Woolwich.
Go-Won-Go Mohawk.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
Great Awakening.—Prince's, Accrington.
Grip of Iron.—Theatre Royal, Smethwick.
Her Forbidden Marriage.—Queens T., Longton.
Her Lost Self.—T. R., Sunderland.
Her Love Against the World.—Grand T., Halifax.
Her Luck in London.—Grand T., Brighton.
Her One Great Sin.—Osborne T., Manchester.
Hill-Mitchelson.—T. R., Bristol.
His House in Order (N.).—County T., Bedford.
His House in Order (S).—A. T., Stoke Newington.
His Sister's Honour.—Colosseum T., Oldham.
Home Sweet Home.—T. R., South Shields.
Honour Thy Father.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Hour of Her Triumph.—Grand, T., Doncaster.
In Sight of St. Paul's.—T. R., Stockport.
Irving, H. B.,—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Newport and Tamworth.
La Poupee (Ralland).—T. R., Goole
Lion and the Mouse.—O. H., Southport.
Little Stranger.—Grand T., Leeds.
London Fireman.—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
Love that Women Desire.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Lucky Durham.—Grand T., Newcastle.
Lucky Liza.—Lyceum T., Govan.
Man's Enemy.—Croydon.
Manxman.—Grand T., Walsall.
Martin Harvey.—Alexandra T., Greenock.
Merveilleuses.—Prince's T., Manchester.
Midnight Mail.—Prince's T., Preston.
Mollison, William.—Lyceum T., Newport.
Monte Cristo.—Broadway T., New Cross.
Moody-Manners (B.).—T. R., Birkenhead.
Mr. Popple.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Napoleon the Great.—Alexandra T., Hull.
New Aladdin.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
New World.—O. H., Chorley.
Night Out.—Carlisle.
Norman V. Norman.—Theatre Royal, Hull.
Otto, the Outcast.—Theatre Royal, Aston.
Our Boys.—H. M. T., Dundee.
Peter's Mother (N.).—King's T., Hammersmith.
Power of Gold.—T. R., Whitehaven.
Prince of Pilsen (Harris).—Court T., Wigan.
Private Secretary.—Camden Theatre, N.W.
Prodigal Parson.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Proof.—Theatre Royal, Chester.
Revenge.—T. R., Bristol.
Royal Divorce.—T. R., Glasgow.
Saints and Sinners.—Lyceum T., Pentre.
Sentenced for Life.—T. R., Wednesbury
Sergeant Brue.—Grand T., Derby.
Sign of the Cross.—T. R., Merthyr.
Soldier's Honour.—Star T., Liverpool
Swiss Express.—O. H., Cheltenham.
Throne of Terror.—T. R., Sheffield.
Tommy.—New Theatre, Cardiff.
Traitor Prince.—P. O. W., Salford.
Traitor, The.—O. H., St. Helens.
Two Little Drummer Boys.—Star T., Liverpool.
Tyrant, The.—T. R., Jarrow.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—Prince's T., Bradford.
Unwedded Wife.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
Village Blacksmith.—T. R., Castleford.
Under Two Flags.—T. R., Chatham.
Walls of Jericho.—T. R., Brighton.
Warning to Women.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
Wearin' o' the Green.—T. R., Aldershot.
What the Butler Saw.—T. R., Bolton.
When It Was Dark.—O. H., Harrogate.
When Woman Hates.—T. R., Huddersfield.
White Chrysanthemum (Macdona).—Edinburgh.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—Royalty T., Barrow.
Woman's Past.—Star Theatre, Swansea.
Woman Who Gambles.—West London Theatre.
Women and Wine.—Osborne T., Manchester.
Worst Woman in London.—King's T., Cardiff.
Youngest of Three.—Assembly Rooms, Malvern.
10.30 Down Express.—Crown T., Peckham.
£1,000 Reward.—T. R., Chesterfield.

Miss Louisa Peach, who rejoined Mr. Morton Powell last Monday, will appear next week in her original part, Countess Natalie, in *The Woman Who Gambles*, at the West London Theatre.

The opening Hippodrome performance at the Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmunds, was given on Thursday, the 14th inst., under the patronage of the Mayor and Corporation of the borough. A very large audience assembled to mark their appreciation of the spirited enterprise of the present management in thus catering for all classes of the community. An excellent variety programme was submitted, including Ariel and Astarte in a clever trapeze act; the Gentrys, in an amusing comedy sketch; Harding and Preston, who contributed excellent top-boot dancing; Jury's Imperial Pictures; the charming Berlin Belles, &c. The first house concluded with a speech from the popular lessee, Mr. Eade Montefiore, who received a tremendous ovation. He expressed his gratification at the way in which his new venture was received, pointing out that Bury St. Edmunds was following the lead of Norwich, Ipswich, Colchester, and many other towns, in all of which the innovation had been a striking success. The Hippodrome performances will be given at seven and nine o'clock on the last three nights of every week, the forepart of the week being open for the booking of first-class theatrical attractions.

The English Drama Society is making a bold experiment on May 6, when it will begin a short season at the Bijou Theatre, Bayswater, with *Cleopatra in Judæa*, by Arthur Symons, and *The Hour*, a play in three acts, by Nugent Monck, under whose direction the pieces will be produced. Browning's *Pippa Passes*, Ibsen's *The Master Builder*, and Shakespeare's *King Lear* will follow in due succession. Should the scheme be successful an endeavour will be made to establish a permanent "Théâtre Libre" in London.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "THE ERA," LTD., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

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"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington Street)
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephone, 4747, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SUBSCRIBER.—*E. A. Sothern died Jan. 20, 1881, J. L. Toole, July 30, 1906, Lady Clancarty, Dec. 31, 1906.*

T. M.—*Mr. George Grossmith, jun., made his first appearance on the stage in 1892, at the Criterion, in* Haste to the Wedding.

CAMDEN.—Quality Street *was produced at the Vaudeville, Sept. 17, 1902.*

C. R. O.—*The opening night of Henry Irving's management of the Lyceum Theatre was Dec. 30, 1878.* Hamlet *was revived, with Irving in the title-rôle, Miss Ellen Terry as Ophelia, Mr. Chippendale Polonius, Mr. Mead the Ghost, Mr. Forrester Claudius, Mr. F. Cooper Laertes, and Miss Pauncefort Gertrude.*

W. J. K.—Sweet and Twenty *was produced at the Vaudeville, April 24, 1901, and ran to the end of November the same year.*

NEW YORKER.—*Joseph Jefferson made his first London appearance as Rip van Winkle at the Adelphi, Sept. 4, 1865. His next London appearance in that part was at the Princess's, on Oct. 30, 1875.*

D. C.—*Miss Jessie Vokes first appeared as one of "the Vokes Children" (afterwards changed to "the Vokes Family") in 1861.*

BRIGHTON.—*When* Brantinghame Hall *was produced at the St. James's, Nov. 29, 1888, the two leading male characters were played by Mr. Lewis Waller and Mr. Rutland Barrington.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth or Death or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence, every additional word One Penny.

The charge for a notice of Marriage, not exceeding forty words, is Two Shillings and Sixpence, every additional word One Penny.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

LEECH.—March 11, Angel Hotel, Crewe, the wife of Ernie Leech (ventriloquist), of a son; both doing well.

UPTON.—On Sunday, March 17, 1907, at Colchester, the wife of F. C. Upton, of a daughter.

WIGLEY.—March 17, the wife of Alfred Wigley (Adelphi Theatre), of a daughter (Ella Alfreda Patricia).

MARRIAGES.

MARSDEN—CHARLTON.—On March 20, at St. Cuthbert's Church, Southport, by the rector, the Rev. J. Bibby Blakeney, Emily Gertrude Marsden, professionally known as Miss Omega, to William Charlton, professionally known as Prof. Dewar.

DEATHS

APTOMMAS.—March 16, at the residence of her son-in-law, 52, Pennard-road, Shepherd's-bush, W., Mme. Priscilla Aptommas (née Gill), many years harpiste to the late Sir Charles Hallé, the Richter, Rivière, and Mottl Concerts, &c.

COONEY.—Edward Cooney, Wolverhampton. Father dead. Funeral on Saturday, 2 o'clock. Come at once.—Brother TOM.

GRAHAM.—March 19, at 2, Inner-terrace, Upper Clapton, John Somerville Graham, the dearly loved husband of V. Winifred Hamilton.

HALL.—Feb. 1, at Sydney, New South Wales, Charles Hall, Australian actor, aged 69.

HENDERSON.—At Leeds, March 13, Frank Henderson, late Henderson and Stanley Quartette. Deeply mourned by his three sorrowing children.

IN MEMORIAM.

ALLEN.—In loving memory of our dear brother Harry Allen, who met his death March 19, 1906. Deeply mourned by his mother, sisters, and brothers, Morny Cash, Hardie Palm, Boy Glen.

HASWELL.—In loving memory of "Little Teddie," who passed away March 17, 1905. Never to be forgotten by his sorrowing parents.

HUMPHREYS.—In loving memory of my dear husband, John Dee Humphreys, who died March 21, 1906. Gone, but never forgotten by his sorrowing wife and family.—AMELIA HUMPHREYS.

FOR SYMPATHY.

The late Miss ADA ALEXANDRA.—Mr. Charles E. Haverly desires to tender his heartfelt thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Alec Hurley (Miss Marie Lloyd) for their very kind sympathy, and for the very beautiful floral tribute.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen :—

Sir Chas. Wyndham—Saturday, March 23.
Sydney Grundy—Saturday, March 23.
C. Irvine Bacon—Saturday, March 23.
Gilbert Hare—Saturday, March 23.
Arthur Brogden—Saturday, March 23.
Robson Paige—Saturday, March 23.
Hugh Carmichael—Saturday, March 23.
Maud Milton—Sunday, March 24.
Alec Hurley—Sunday, March 24.
Charles Harrington—Sunday, March 24.
Fred J. Little—Sunday, March 24.
Tom Maltby—Sunday, March 24.
Valerie Vaughan—Sunday, March 24.
Beattie Pollard—Sunday, March 24
Doris Brooke—Sunday, March 24
Marie Louise Dicker—Monday, March 25.
Fred Denby—Monday, March 25.
Mme. Jane Hading—Monday, March 25.
Emilie Polini—Monday, March 25.
Alexia Bassian—Monday, March 25
John Le Hay—Monday, March 25.
Tom Woottwell—Monday, March 25.
Ernest C. Gittins—Monday, March 25
Renée Ashley—Monday, March 25.
Arthur Knight—Tuesday, March 26.
Geneviève Ward—Wednesday, March 27
Percy B. Gooch—Wednesday, March 27.
C. C. Mannering—Wednesday, March 27.
Lizzie Boone—Thursday, March 28.
Frank Petley—Thursday, March 28.
Harry Lupino—Thursday, March 28.
G. H. Chirgwin—Friday, March 29.
Katie May—Friday, March 29.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

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Barker, Mr. Harry
Baroni, Mr. Harry
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Barton-Ashton, Miss V.
Bastow, Mr. George
Beaufort, Mr. Leslie
Beau-Ideal Troupe
Beaute, Mons.
Bernard, Mr. Albert
Blande, Miss Ethel
Bloom, Mr. J. G
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Bohemians, The
Bradford, Mr. Chas.
Brett, Mr. Edwin
Brooke, Miss Cynthia
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Bull, Mr. Gordon Kay
Byron, Miss Maggie
Cabley, Mr. G. H.
Carte, Mr. Chas.
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Champion, Mr. Harry
Chaplin, Mr. Sydney
Chipperfield, Mr. J. W.
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Conway, Mr. Phil
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Crown Trio
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De Rohan, Miss D.
Dexter, Prof. F. H.
Doyle, Mr. Charles
Drewitt, Miss R.
Dryden, Mr. C. Leslie
Duggan, Miss Maggie
Duncan, Mr. Albert
Durant, Mr. F. D.
Eckert, Miss K.
Eglington, Mr. Harry
Elliott, Mr. Billy
Evans, Miss Lulu
Fern, Mr. Will
Fernandez, Mr. James
Florence and Lillian
Fossett, Mr. Robert
Fulford, Mr. Quinton
Garbois, Mr. W. H.
Gaze, Mr. Leslie
Godart, Miss Gertrude
Govette, Miss Minnie
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Graves, Mrs. George
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Nicoll, Miss Yetla
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PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Thanks are due to "A Provincial Actress" for ventilating so important a subject as the quality of the plays in vogue in the provinces. That poor, carpenterd, unconvincing plays are among the root causes of bad business is beyond doubt. The lady is so evidently an earnest student that she will welcome criticism from one who is in entire sympathy with her ideals.

Her first paragraph deals with *effects* not *causes*. Who employs the authors? Who accepts and mounts their plays? The touring-manager. He accepts them with his eyes open. His action, however, is an *effect* of other *causes*. The touring-manager would say "terms are so bad I had to save somewhere." Now, it is a time-honoured custom to cut authors' fees—or dispense with them altogether—as a *first* resource in reducing expenses. The ways to do this are few. Either to get a novice to part with his first work for a few pounds and the joy of seeing himself "produced," or to get someone with a little experience to "knock together" time-proved materials—or adaptations—for the same few pounds. We can trace effect to cause a stage further. The merely commercial character of much provincial resident-management begets conventionalism. Few resident-managers read the MS. of a play as a guide to booking it. Do any? One told me he had not read a MS. play for eight years. He booked his attraction—he did not call it "play"—after seeing it, or on its reputation. A touring-manager would be more likely to get "dates" by saying his play was a second *Silver King*—or "second" any other big success—than that it was original and all your correspondent describes.

Here I join issue on her last line unhesitatingly. Such plays have little chance of being accepted by provincial touring-managers for production. They would have to be produced in West-End London first. This narrows a market already narrowed by individual considerations; so much that the majority of literary men get tired of the wastage in time and energy in merely trying to get their plays considered by the *few* likely managers.

It is futile to blame the inefficient authors. On the principle that a man has to know a good lot to know he knows little, the author aimed at will probably be blissfully ignorant that anybody means him. If, instead, "A Provincial Actress" could only infuse into many others her own lofty ideals and enthusiasm, and so create a demand for better work, and suggest means of giving it its opportunity, she would deserve a place in a Thespian temple of fame.

I would also timidly suggest that it might be possible to moderate the too general impression that authors' fees are simply taxes, and to get it understood that, *equally* with the actor, the author has a right to a living wage. This, though, I fear can only be a dream, and I almost apologise for mentioning it.—Yours faithfully,

A DRAMATIST.

THE late Mr. Charles Bertram, the conjuror, has left a widow and daughters in straitened circumstances, and his friends propose to give a benefit performance in their aid at a London theatre next month. The Lord Mayor has consented to join the general committee, which will include most of the prominent members of the Bohemian Clubs in the West.

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NAME.	DATE.
Abrahams, Messrs. F. & M.	March 31, 1906.
Alexander, Mr. Alex.	June 2, 1906.
Anderson, Late Mr. Reddick	Jan. 19, 1907.
Ashcroft, Late Mr. W. E.	October 27, 1905.
Ashton, Mr. George	May 5, 1906.
Ashton, Miss Margaret	September 1, 1906.
[illegible]tkin, Late Mr. John A.	Jan. 5, 1907.
Ball, Mr. Alf	September 1, 1906.
Barbour, Mr. William	March 3, 1906.
Barclay, Mr. Arthur J.	May 26, 1906.
Barlow, Miss Billie	March 10, 1906.
Barnett, Mr. Orlando	October 6, 1906.
Barrasford, Mrs.	February 10, 1906.
Beatty, Miss May	November 10, 1906.
Beecham, Mr. Charles	Dec. 22, 1906.
Bertoldi, Late Miss Ena	April 7, 1906.
Billington, Mrs. John	January 20, 1906.
Bordin, Signorina Maria	September 15, 1906.
Brandram, Late Miss R.	March 2, 1907.
Brickwell, Miss Mamie	Nov. 24, 1906.
Brookfield, Mr. Charles	Dec. 22, 1906.
Brooks, Mr. George	Dec. 29, 1906.
Bruno, Mr. Albert	Feb. 25, 1907.
Burns, Mr. W. C.	Feb. 2, 1907.
Burton, Mr. John	March 10, 1906.
Butt, Mr. Alfred	August 25, 1906.
Carrington, Miss Eva	February 24, 1906.
Cavalho, Miss Sylvia	March 3, 1906.
Cellier, Miss Marguerite	May 26, 1906.
Chappell, Late Mr. James	Feb. 2, 1907.
Cinquevalli, Mr. Paul	May 5, 1906.
Callaghan, Mr. T. C.	Feb. 23, 1907.
Clancarty, Late Lady	Jan. 5, 1907.
Clark, Mr. William	March 3, 1906.
Collins, Mr. Patrick Ross	March 16, 1907.
Conquest, Mr. Arthur	May 26, 1906.
Cooper, Mr. Charles K.	Feb. 23, 1907.
Coote, Mr. Bert	June 16, 1906.
Corri, Mlle. Ghita	September 22, 1906.
Costello, Mr. Tom	September 15, 1906.
Cotterell, Mr. Sid	July 14, 1906.
Courtice, Mr. Thomas	Dec. 22, 1906.
Cox, Mr. Ernest H. G.	Feb. 23, 1907.
Craston, Mr. Charles	Feb. 2, 1907.
Craven, Mr. Tom	Dec. 15, 1906.
Crisp, Late Mr. Henry	May 26, 1906.
Cruikshank, Mr. Alfred	March 17, 1906.
Dacre, Mr. Harry	Dec. 1, 1906.
Dallas, Mr. J. J.	July 7, 1906.
Dampier, Mr. Alfred	May 12, 1906.
Deering, Late Miss R.	July 14, 1906.
De Gracia, Mr. G.	May 19, 1906.
Denton, Mr. Jack	Feb. 2, 1907.
De Voye, Late Mr. Sam	Feb. 16, 1907.
Dixon, Mr. Robert	Dec. 8, 1906.
Elliott, Late Mr. J. B.	May 26, 1906.
Ellis, Miss M. E.	Feb. 2, 1907.
Featherstone, Late Miss B.	Jan. 5, 1907.
Gatti, Late Mr. Stefano	October 20, 1905.
Genée, Mlle.	September 22, 1906.
Gibbs, Miss Edith	March 3, 1906.
Giffard, Mr. William	Jan. 12, 1907.
Grace, Miss Amy	January 13, 1906.
Gray, Miss Dora	January 13, 1906.
Green, Mr. Richard	Jan. 19, 1907.
Grove, Mr. Fred	March 10, 1906.
Guy, Miss Gladys	Jan. 26, 1907.
Harris, Mr. Thomas	February 24, 1906.
Harrington, Mr. John P.	Dec. 8, 1906.
Harriss, Miss Sophie	April 7, 1906.
Harvey, Late Mr. Eddie	September 1, 1906.
Hastings, Miss Nora	March 10, 1906.
Heron-Brown, Miss Edith	June 16, 1906.
Hey, Miss Muriel	September 15, 1906.
Hitchens, Mr. H. J.	September 8, 1906.
Howard, Mr. J. Bannister	March 16, 1907.
Hunter, Late Mr. Harry	October 20, 1906.
Illington, Miss Margaret	June 2, 1906.
Irving, Late Sir Henry	Oct. 21, 1905.
Jerrard, Late Mr. J. F.	April 28, 1906.
Juliette, Mdlle.	January 13, 1906.
Kinghorne, Late Mr. Mark	November 10, 1906.
Kingston, Miss Bertha	February 24, 1906.
Kinnaird, Miss Helen	March 3, 1906.
Knowles, Mr. J. Forbes	July 7, 1906.
Lacy, Miss Maude	Feb. 23, 1907.
Lamonte, Miss Syria	November 10, 1906.
Lancaster, Miss Nora	Feb. 2, 1907.
Lauri, Mr. Edward	July 28, 1906.
Lazarus, Mr. A.	May 5, 1906.
Le Roy, Servais	June 23, 1906.
Lewes, Miss Miriam	June 16, 1906.
Leyton, Mr. H. Lawrence	Feb. 2, 1907.
Livermore, Late Mr. L. C. J.	October 13, 1906.
Livesey, Mr. Carter	March 24, 1906.
Loftus, Miss Kitty	January 20, 1906.
Love, Miss Mabel	December 16, 1905.
Lugg, Mr. William	October 6, 1906.
Macmillan, Mr. J. T.	May 26, 1906.
Maude, Mr. Cyril	June 2, 1906.
M'Culloch, Mr. Arthur	November 10, 1906.
Miller, Mr. Fred.	October 6, 1906.
Miller, Late Mr. Kennedy	March 10, 1906.
Millis, Mr. F. W.	May 5, 1906.
Milstead, Mr. Robert	Dec. 22, 1906.
Montague, Mr. Harold	Feb. 23, 1907.
Morgan, Mr. William	November 3, 1906.
Morris, Miss Sylvia	October 6, 1906.
Moss, Sir Edward	December 16, 1905.
Murray, Miss Alma	August 25, 1906.
Murray, Miss Lillian	October 6, 1906.
My Fancy	February 24, 1906.
Nicholls, Mr. Harry	Feb. 23, 1907.
Norman, Mr. Percy	July 28, 1906.
Norris, Mr. Ernest B.	July 28, 1906.
Oliver, Mr. Will	February 24, 1906.
Palmer, Miss Ada	November 3, 1906.
Parker, Mr. Frank	April 7, 1906.
Paxton, Mr. Sydney	September 29, 1906.
Payne, Miss Millie	November 3, 1906.
Payne, Mr. William	September 8, 1906.
Paulton, Mr. Harry	March 10, 1906.
Phelps, Late Mrs. Edmund	Jan. 12, 1907.
Phillips, Miss Ida	January 20, 1906.
Poole, Late Mr. Fred.	Feb. 2, 1907.
Poole, Late Mr. Joseph	October 27, 1906.
Price, Miss Dora	March 3, 1906.
Proctor, Late Mrs.	August 11, 1906.
Renee, Mlle.	June 2, 1906.
Rickards, Mr. Harry	June 30, 1906.
Rind, Miss Kathleen	October 6, 1906.
Ronald, Mr. Landon	Dec. 8, 1906.
Ross, Miss Adelaide	May 26, 1906.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

NEXT FRIDAY being GOOD FRIDAY,
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Intended for our Issue of March 30 should reach this Office
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THE ERA

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1907.

PRICES OF ADMISSION.

Mr. BEERBOHM TREE'S remark at the recent dinner of the Stage Society to the effect that the prices charged for stalls at theatres were too high has caused a good deal of comment. This is not the first time that discussion has been raised on the subject. In the October of 1870 the late DION BOUCICAULT led a correspondence in the London Press on the question of the charges for admission to the West End houses being too great, in which Sir SQUIRE BANCROFT said, in an interesting letter, "Until September, 1868, the prices were considerably lower to every part of the Prince of Wales's Theatre than at present. The pit and amphitheatre (although then decreased in size) have since not only yielded more money, but show a greatly increased numerical attendance; and I may add that Mr. ROBERTSON'S two comedies, which, perhaps, would appeal most to those portions of the house, *Ours* and *Caste*, were both produced by Mrs. BANCROFT at the cheap prices. The upper boxes, which formerly were chiefly valuable in the event of an overflow from other seats, were nearly doubled, both in numbers and in price, and are now constantly secured in advance. On several occasions in the old days intending visitors to the dress-circle have actually left the theatre when told by the money-takers that the charge was only three shillings, but no one grumbles about paying five shillings; while the stalls, which formerly seated fifty-four persons at six shillings, now hold one hundred and twenty-seven at seven shillings, and, to my certain knowledge, a very large percentage of them, throughout the first run of *M.P.*, from last April to August, were sold in Bond Street at eight shillings, and in some cases at still higher prices."

A further elevation of prices was made in 1873 in connection with the revival of *The School for Scandal* at the old Prince of Wales's, when the stalls were raised to ten shillings, and the prices for other parts of the theatre increased accordingly. The example was soon followed by the Gaiety Theatre, then by the Lyceum, and afterwards by all the leading playhouses in London.

The matter is purely one for business calculation, the foundation of which can easily be defined. A marketable commodity is worth just what it will fetch in the market. If, during the run of a successful piece, a manager finds that he can get people to come to his theatre in sufficient numbers to fill it night after night at the prices which at present prevail, he would be unwise to reduce the prices of admission. There is nothing here of the habitual play-going which exists in connection with the cheaper charges of the Continent. What keeps up the price of the stalls in London is not Art, but what is unkindly called "snobbery." Not to have seen a successful piece at a fashionable theatre is to argue yourself unfashionable, and to subject yourself to the depreciating conversation of your friends and acquaintances. There is a sheep-like tendency about stallites and dress-circleites which makes a failure complete and a success triumphal.

It is plausibly argued that if the stall prices were reduced people would visit theatres who abstain at present on the score of expense. But this argument will not bear investigation. If it were merely a question of seeing a play to advantage, the stalls would be deserted and the dress-circle overcrowded. The best places in the house, from an art point of view, are at the centres of the three or four front rows of the dress-circle. From a purely spectacular point of view, the stalls will not bear comparison with these. At least half of the seats are "out of focus"—they are too near the object; and in all of them the eye of the spectator is below the line of sight. Why, then do people pay 10s. 6d. to sit in the stalls when they could sit in the dress-circle for 7s. 6d.? For the same reason that a man has his clothes made in Bond Street. The garments made by non-famous firms might keep him warm as well; but they would not confer so much credit on their wearer. People go to the stalls as they join smart clubs and follow the fashions. They may not even like it; but they cannot escape their social obligations.

It will be observed that the BANCROFTS did not raise the price of their stalls to seven shillings until they had secured a definite status for their theatre. At the opening of the old Prince of Wales's they only ventured upon placing anti-macassars on the stall seats. Those anti-macassars were, however, the outward and visible signs of a great change that was at hand. Playgoing was to become "smart." In the sixties "smartness" had not even been invented. There was Society, a kind of aristocratic clique, to which, as DISRAELI put it, one could only obtain admission by having "birth, a million, or genius." But it conferred smartness; it did not exist on the strength of being smart. Playgoing was looked upon as a pleasure, not as a social rite. It was the present King, when Prince of Wales, who made the theatre fashionable.

If such an unheard-of thing should happen as the theatre losing its smartness, stalls will have to come down in price, or their number will have to be decreased. At present, a West End manager plays, so to speak, "double or quits." If he has a success he makes a great deal of money; if he has a failure, it has to "come off" very quickly. There is no reason why we should see only first-rate plays, any more than that we should read only first-rate novels, or, when at a picture show, look only at the great masterpieces. But when it comes to "weighing in" with half-a-guinea for a stall people like to make sure of their money's worth. And the net result is that the fate of the British drama is in the hands of the successful men of business. Not only do they, in many cases, find the capital for theatrical speculations; by their support or neglect as stallites a theatre stands or falls TALMA played at Erfurt to a pit full of kings. The modern London manager, to continue solvent, must have his stalls full of cash.

FUNERAL OF MISS M. A. VICTOR.

In a picturesque part of Finchley Cemetery the remains of Miss M. A. Victor, the veteran actress, were laid to rest on Tuesday afternoon. The little funeral procession left the residence at Highbury shortly after half-past twelve. The principal mourners, who occupied carriages, were Miss Emma Victor (daughter of the deceased), Miss Marie Beever and Miss Lilian Maude (granddaughters), Mr. Frank Mundill (grandson-in-law), and Mr. Harry Nicholls Mr. C. A. Cooper, an old friend of the deceased, and the representative of *The Era* were the only others present at the interment.

The Rev. F. H. Reichardt, M.A. (Camb.), Chaplain of Islington Cemetery, conducted the service both in the church and at the graveside. The coffin, which was of polished oak with brass fittings, bore the following inscription:

"MARY ANN SARCIAT
(Miss M. A. Victor),
Died 13th March,
1907,
in her 76th Year."

Several beautiful wreaths were sent to the house. One from the dead lady's daughter, Miss Emma Victor, was in the form of a harp with broken string composed of arum lilies, lilies of the valley, &c. Other floral tributes were from Miss Marie Beever (granddaughter), Mr. and Mrs. and Master Mundill, Miss A. E. Newcomb (sister), "In loving remembrance from her old friends Winifred and Cyril Maude," Mr. and Mrs. Horswell and family, Mr. and Mrs. Haskell and family, Mr. H. W. Mote, "Nieces at Gravesend and Ida," and Mr., Mrs., and Miss Flavel.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. S. W. Baker, of Upper-street, N.

UNDER the direction of Mr. Cyril Gilbert, an addition to the attractions of the music hall stage will shortly be presented in the shape of a musical scena, entitled *Under a Cactus Tree*, in which Miss Violet Gibson and her five white coons will make their début. No expense has been spared in the staging of this trifle, and the music, specially written for it, has been provided by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. Miss Gibson is, we understand, sister to the late Miss Gaynor Rowlands, whose lamented and premature death left a void in musical comedy.

ACTOR AND VARIETY ARTIST.

MR. ALFRED LESTER.

Mr. Alfred Lester, who has made such a distinct hit in *A Restaurant Episode* at the Palace Theatre, and is also playing the Lost Policeman at the Gaiety, is a great believer in gagging. "The art of gagging," he says, "is to know when to stop."

Mr. Lester is an example of the close connection between the theatre and the music-hall. He is on the stage at the Palace at nine o'clock with *A Restaurant Episode*, the performance of which occupies sixteen minutes A motor-car awaits him outside, and after a complete change of make-up and dress he appears before the Gaiety footlights at a quarter to ten.

The story of Mr. Lester's engagement at the Gaiety affords an indication that our theatrical managers and producers are ever on the *qui vive* for suitable people to help fill prospective casts, and that it is not much that they miss seeing. Mr. George Edwardes witnessed Mr. Lester's performance in the sketch *The Scene-Shifter's Lament* at the Palace, where the former gentleman was so impressed that he engaged Mr. Lester for the part of the Lost Policeman in the Gaiety production of *The New Aladdin*. An impression gained ground that Mr. Lester was originally a scene-shifter, and several newspapers alluded to him as the scene-shifter comedian. Such an idea, however, is quite erroneous, and it may be, therefore, of interest to relate how the material for the sketch was suggested to him by one of his own theatrical experiences. Mr. Lester was stage manager in a company under the control of Messrs. Foster and Clift. They were running a musical comedy called *The Officers' Mess* round the provinces. The speciality dancers taking part in the production complained that they had not sufficient time to change their dresses between the first and second dances, so Mr. Lester conceived the notion of going on himself, attired as a scene-shifter, and giving vent to his gagging propensities, and by so doing permitting the fair disciples of Terpsichore ample opportunities for completing their toilet and getting into other costumes. The "comic interlude," thus brought into being, developed to such an extent that a scene-shifter became the principal comedy personage in the piece.

Mr. Lester comes of an old theatrical family. His father, the late Alfred Leslie, was a comedian of the old school, and was the original Justice Hare in *East Lynne*. Both his mother and his grandmother were actresses, each bearing the name of Annie Ross. The subject of this brief sketch is only thirty years of age, and went on the stage when he was twenty. His first engagement was with a fit-up company touring in Ireland, and his salary was £1 a week. He progressed until he had a company of his own, which he designated the Costume Players, and with which he had stock seasons at such towns as Cardiff, producing *Richelieu*, *Nell Gwyn*, and *The Three Musketeers*, in all of which he took the leading parts. His subsequent experience was of a varied character.

A Restaurant Episode has caught on tremendously at the Palace, and bids fair to equal in popularity, if not to excel, *The Scene-Shifter's Lament*.

BIRMINGHAM THEATRICAL SPORTS.

Mr. Edward Foster, resident-manager of the Bordesley Palace, has forwarded us a copy of the balance-sheet relating to the Birmingham Theatrical Charity Sports of 1906. The apportionment of the moneys at the disposal of the committee has resulted in a very satisfactory distribution. The Music Hall Home Fund and the Music Hall Benevolent Fund benefit to the extent of £10 each, and not the least pleasing feature is the state of the fund for the endowment of a Theatrical and Music Hall Bed at the Children's Hospital. The commitee hope that the time is not far distant when the £1,000 required for this object will be realised. Mr. Edward Foster, much to his regret, has been compelled to abandon the secretarial work, owing to increased business calls, and Mr. P. D. Elbourne, resident-manager of the Hippodrome, Birmingham, has kindly consented to act. The balance-sheet is appended:—

BIRMINGHAM THEATRICAL SPORTS, 1906.

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward from last account	18	7	10
,, Cash taken at Gates	227	18	9
,, Collections and Sales	12	12	10
,, Proceeds of Concerts and Matinées, viz.:—			
Hippodrome £65 5 0			
Alexandra Theatre 62 11 3			
Empire 47 0 0			
Theatre Royal 33 10 0			
	208	6	3
,, Subscriptions and Donations	106	6	6
	£573	12	2

Payments

	£	s.	d.
By Printing, Advertising, and Bill Posting	27	12	9
,, Sports and Procession Expenses	32	10	0
,, Refreshments	8	3	0
,, Hire of Band	4	0	0
,, Hire of Vehicles	3	16	6
,, Police	5	7	0
,, Clerical Assistance	10	10	0
,, Secretary's and Treasurer's Expenses	13	13	1
,, Prizes	41	16	6
,, Donations, viz.:—			
Children's Hospital Bed Fund £150 0 0			
General Hospital 25 0 0			
Queen's Hospital 25 0 0			
General Dispensary 25 0 0			
Military Veterans 20 0 0			
Eye Hospital 20 0 0			
Lying-in Hospital 20 0 0			
Orthopædic Hospital 10 0 0			
Ear and Throat Hospital 10 0 0			
Skin Hospital 10 0 0			
Homœopathic Hospital 10 0 0			
Police Aid Clothing Association 10 0 0			
Music Hall Home Fund 10 0 0			
Music Hall Benevolent Fund 10 0 0			
Moseley Convalescent Home 10 0 0			
Crippled Children's Union 10 0 0			
Women's Hospital 10 0 0			
Blackwell Sanatorium 5 0 0			
Actors' Benevolent Fund 5 0 0			
Actors' Orphanage Fund 5 0 0			
	400	0	0
,, Balance carried forward	26	3	4
	£573	12	2

We have compared the above account with the treasurer's books, vouchers, and bank pass-book, and find it in accordance therewith. In our opinion it is a correct record of the committee's receipts and payments. We have also seen the bank pass-book for the Theatrical and Music Hall Children's Hospital Bed Fund, showing a credit balance, including interest, of £367 1s. 2d.

(Signed) CALDICOTT, HILL, & CALDICOTT,
Chartered Accountants, Birmingham.

A. W. MATCHAM,
Chairman of General Committee.
EDWARD FOSTER, Hon. Secretary.

MISS LILY TIBO was presented with a silver jewel-case by a few of the "bhoys" at the Dublin Empire last week.

THE LATE DICK MANSELL.

To recall my first meeting with Dick Mansell, writes Mr. T. P. O'Connor in a most interesting article in *P.T.O.*, I have to go back to a big house in a little back street in the old Irish town of Athlone, the town where he and I were born; and there I can still recall him, I think, in petticoats, as he and his brother Bill were pupils at the infant school of Miss Carroll, my first teacher. His father was William Lauderdale Maitland, a Scotchman, and a member of the ancient Lauderdale family. Dick Mansell's mother was a Roberts—an Irishwoman of good family—belonging to the same stout race as produced Lord Roberts, and allied also to a family with a title, of whom one, Sir Randal Roberts, was not unknown in theatrical circles in the far-off seventies. When I first knew the family, Captain Maitland—as he was then called—was head of the Revenue Police Force, a body, as the name implies, which was mainly concerned in the detection of illicit stills, then a flourishing and widespread occupation in the rural districts of Ireland. The Maitlands occupied a good social position; they entertained largely, chiefly the officers of the garrison. Maitland, though a Scotchman, had, by the strange spell of Irish life, as has always been the case, become more Irish than the Irish themselves. Mrs. Maitland was a woman of great attractions: sang splendidly, talked well, was handsome, and gay, and insouciante. Tall, thin, alert, soldierly, pleasant, with just a trace of a Scotch accent, such was Captain Maitland as I remember him, an inveterate sportsman, and abounding in good nature, in great dreams, in multiform activities. The right-hand man, the warm friend, the devoted adherent of the House of Maitland, was a sergeant of the Revenue Police—Tierney was his name.

When, on a burning summer day in the year 1870, I found myself in London, the very first persons I thought of were Captain Maitland and Sergeant Tierney. Captain Maitland had some kind of factory in the remote region of Bermondsey; and he lived in a fine house in Thurloe-square—that comfortable and opulent square just opposite the Oratory in Brompton. Dick was but twenty-one, like myself, when he burst upon London with what was then the new, unknown, and dazzling entertainment known as comic opera. We have gone a long way since 1870, and comic opera is now an ancient institution; but Dick Mansell and his brother, in 1870, were daring pioneers. But neither the one nor the other was a business man—how could they have been, inheriting such temperaments?—and their projects, while artistic successes, were financial failures.

It would require some pages to tell of all the enterprises in which Dick Mansell was engaged. He had the St. James's Theatre, where he produced *Vert-Vert*, and got into a row with the Lord Chamberlain because of a certain wild décolleté dance which was a colourable imitation of the can-can; he emigrated then to the Globe, where he produced the well-known comic opera of Offenbach, called *Les Brigands*, in French, and *Fal-sa-cappa*, in Mansell's version; and where there burst upon the stage one of the most beautiful women ever seen upon it—Cornelie D'Anka—a Viennese. In the Globe Theatre the story was the same as in the Lyceum. Here also Mansell artistically succeeded and financially failed.

If poor Mansell did not die of hunger, it was not, I am sure, that he did not in those far-off days know almost the deepest depth of privation. He became a dramatic agent; and I remember going up to the little room on the third floor where he kept his office. Henry Hermann—afterwards associated with Henry Arthur Jones in the production of *The Silver King*—was his partner; the two between them had to eke out of almost empty pockets as much tobacco as made a cigarette. From London Mansell got to the provinces, to Manchester and to Liverpool, and he toured in Russia; and at one time, I believe, he was the head of a circus. There was nothing in the world of the show which he did not know and in which he was not some time or other engaged; and the life was nearly always the same—epochs of great prosperity succeeded by intervals of want of employment, impecuniosity, perhaps privation.

For some years before his death, Dick Mansell successfully collaborated with Mr Saunders at the Coronet Theatre in Notting Hill. He produced French pieces among others; he and all his brothers spoke French like natives. The partnership came to an end, and once more poor Mansell was the man without employment. He had a short engagement at the Coliseum in the piece *Joseph and his Brethren*. It was the last time he appeared before the public. I used to frequently see him standing at the corner of streets, with that look of expectancy for someone coming which is so familiar a sight in London, and which to the old Londoner speaks so eloquently. I had a painful idea that once more he had fallen on evil days, and perhaps that he wanted. But he was very proud, and nobody would know even if he were suffering; and I believe he had generous assistance from a brother who is the last or the second last of the five stalwart sons of what the House of Lauderdale Maitland once consisted. He still remained a handsome though an aged-looking man; very tall, with very fine regular features; a bushy head of hair and a low soft hat; in short, almost the very image of the man in Quaker Oats.

To me, with all the memories associated with him, the main and supreme fact about him was that he was an Irishman. For behind the aged figure and the showman hat, and all the wear and tear of that chequered life of his, I always saw the little boy in petticoats who went to school at Miss Carroll's; and the old and sad town with the lonely streets and the beautiful big broad Shannon, and childhood and its dreams, its hopes, and its tip-toe expectation of the great unknown, untried, fascinating world beyond.

AT the Palace Theatre of Varieties, Derby, the programme this week is headed by Miss Lilian Dundas and Co., in a dramatic interlude, entitled *The Doom of Delilah*, which is capably presented, and achieves great success. The Three Whirligigs appear to distinct advantage in song and dance, and are acorded quite an ovation. Another capital turn is that of Xley and Hamilton, instrumentalists, whose entertainment is thoroughly enjoyed. Hector and Sultan, comedy merchants, keep the house in roars of laughter, and the Orchids, vocal entertainers, have an extensive répertoire of songs and gags. T. E. Cliffe, comedian, scores well, and Tom Kelso and Co. add to the merriment with a sketch, *The Silly Servant*. The Bioscope continues to maintain its well-deserved popularity.

MARIEDL, the massive Tyrolese maiden now exhibiting at the Hippodrome, seems to be quite enjoying herself since she arrived in London. On Sunday last, in a procession of six motor-cars, she journeyed to the George Hotel, Crawley, where Mr. George Green had arranged a Gargantuan feast, not only for her, but for the whole party. In all, something like forty people sat down to luncheon. She was visited by the local clergy, medical men, and the swell people from the vicinity. Afterwards, a run was made to Brighton, where she took tea at the Chatfield Hotel. Here, owing to the police authorities objecting, much excitement was caused, and a tremendous crowd got round the hotel, much to the discomfort of this big lady. She did not desire to be interfered with, being a private individual, with no ulterior motive but to take her own pleasure without creating trouble for anybody.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

ART IN STAGE-MANAGEMENT.

A broad view of the responsibilities of the stage-manager was taken by Mr. Cairns James, himself an experienced disciple of the craft, who lectured to the members of the Amateur Players' Association in their bijou theatre at 92, Victoria-street, on Wednesday. In taking up such a subject as stage-management for which Miss Mouillot had put him down, said Mr. James, he found himself face to face with a very considerable problem. The duties of stage-manager, as they were aware, embraced a variety of pursuits and premised an absolute knowledge of the stage and its mechanical operations. That particular kind of knowledge there was only one method of acquiring, and that was by being actually connected with the working of a theatre. From the professional point of view, no one who was not absolutely *au fait* with all the business of the stage could really be called a stage-manager. A knowledge of the stage and of all the effects to be produced by the use of its appliances was imperative. To be stage-manager of a theatre like Drury Lane was a liberal education in itself. It meant that at one time or another he had under his control 150 people representative practically of every form of technical labour—mechanicians, electricians, engineers, and all the crafts connected with the ingenious appliances by which the marvellous effects of the stage were produced. The commander-in-chief of such a vast army would have, therefore, to be both a skilled engineer and electrician as well as a practical carpenter. The stage-manager was responsible for the smooth working of the scenes, and if anything went wrong it was upon him that the responsibility devolved. He had had the privilege of seeing the stage of Drury Lane, directed by his partner, Mr. Ernest D'Auban, in full working order, and all the various mechanics were under his control.

Nearly all the stage-managers of the big establishments, continued Mr. James, began as boys in the theatre, and it was by such means that they were able thoroughly to understand what was required in the actual working of the stage. No better training for the theatrical profession could be conceived than to be stage-manager at one of the large theatres, and it was an extraordinary thing that so many people had risen in the profession through a practical knowledge of stage-management. Nothing could be more perfect than the productions at His Majesty's, which would be impossible but for the great knowledge of the stage acquired by Mr. Tree in his younger days. One of the greatest stage-managers of our time was the late Sir Henry Irving, to whom the revolution of the stage—at any rate in the production of Shakespeare—was entirely due.

Digressing a little, Mr. James gave an amusing account of his experiences while touring with Savoy opera in America, and incidentally paid a tribute to the abilities of the late Mr. D'Oyly Carte and to Mrs. D'Oyly Carte. The duties of a stage-manager, he continued, involved archæological research, and that could not be acquired simply by reading. The stage-manager, too, besides being a thoroughly practical man, must also be an exceedingly artistic person. It was in that respect that Mr. Tree excelled. He had a genius for grouping of which the scene of Ulysses' return was a magnificent example. The lavish scenic productions of the present time had led the public to expect so much that more modest productions would stand no chance. His friend Mr. Butt, of the Palace Theatre, would go to the expense of £150 for a single scene which only played twenty minutes. In *Les Merveilleuses*, Mr. George Edwardes's charming production at Daly's, they would find equal liberality, and the schemes of colour carried out by Comelli and others in the ballets at the Empire and elsewhere were designed on a similarly stupendous scale. The stage manager must nevertheless be an economist, and in that respect Mr. James would recommend him to the new County Council.

What, then, were the qualifications of the stage-manager; or, the better way to put it, what were not the qualifications of a stage-manager? He must be a man of tact, and must always know what to say. He had never known an amateur company who had been satisfied with the parts allotted to them, and he had never been in a professional production where every artist was satisfied; indeed, it was very difficult to find a professional company where anyone was satisfied at all. It was the duty of the stage-manager to exercise the quality of tact, and to smooth the ruffled feelings of the artist with a grievance. The stage-manager, too, must have imagination and an intellectual grasp of things dramatic. Great impressions could be gained by such minute details as the dropping of a book, and they had seen in *John Glayde's Honour*, at the St. James's, the enormous effect of an arm stealing through the door for the purpose of shutting it. Without that arm the scene would be far less impressive, and it had an electrical effect, not only on the audience, but on the actors as well. That was a striking touch of intellectual stage-management.

The author, however, should not be forgotten. In many cases, though he might have ideas of what he would like, the author was sometimes incapable of putting them into practice. That was not the case with Mr. Pinero, than whom there had never been in the history of the stage a more perfect stage-manager. No one had a greater mastery of stage mechanism, and that was due to his having been an actor, which gave him a thorough knowledge of the mechanical appliances of the theatre. In illustration of Mr. Pinero's command of stage technique, Mr. James told his hearers that during a final rehearsal at a certain London theatre, one of the actors found that he could not get round to the stage in time. "O, yes, you can," said the famous dramatist; "try again." The actor tried and again failed. "Then," said Mr. Pinero, "your scenery must be out." The manager declared it was not so, but Mr. Pinero, taking a foot-rule out of his pocket, measured the scenery round, and found it 2ft. 6in. out of place. He had reduced his scheme to definite measurements, and the matter of a few inches in the arrangement of the scenery was an absolute essential in the success of the scene. That incident would serve to show what a power the stage-manager is to-day, and of what importance he is as regards the work of actors in the productions of the British stage.

The lecture was brightened by many amusing references bearing upon the subject, and was followed by an entertainment by the scholars of the School of Musical and Dramatic Art, New Oxford-street, of which Mr. James is principal. It began with a representation of *The Little Wretch*, taken from Anthony Hope's "Dolly Dialogues," and was ably acted by Miss Agnes Thornton and Mr. F. Aubrey Millward. Miss Thornton also recited effectively a clever monologue, and Mr. Millward, who was enthusiastically encored, displayed a well-trained baritone in a song by Hermann called "Three Comrades," the dramatic effects of which were brought out in cultivated style. Miss Ettie Critchley—a youthful George Edwardes scholar—daintily recited "Coming Out"; Master "Fuzzy" Sherwood told in a natural manner of a boy and a baby; and Mr. Blake Thornton and Miss Maggie Kirkbride also contributed to the programme. Mr. Harold Howell, R.C.M., played some difficult accompaniments with great executive ability.

MISS MARGARET MURCH, who is now rehearsing the part of Lashota in Mr. Reeves Smith's new production of *The Last of His Race*, has been engaged by Mr. Wentworth Croke to play Helga on his autumn tour of *The Prodigal Son*.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Mr. Harry Lauder has settled to go to America, and will sail at the end of October next, opening with Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger on Nov. 4. This engagement of the Scotch comedian is at such a salary as to make us wonder how they make vaudeville pay across the streak; and our comic men are certainly reaping the benefit of the keen competition that is now raging between the combine of Keith, Proctor, and Percy Williams, and Klaw and Erlanger.

Mr. Lauder will take a holiday next week, and will go to Paris with his agent, Mr. George Foster, who will, in all probability, accompany him to America. Also sojourning in La Ville Lumière at the same time will be Mr. Harry Randall and Little Tich.

In a letter just to hand from Mr. Will Evans, that clever descendant of a famous family informs us that he has been told his success in New York is the biggest ever made by a single comedian. He speaks with unreserved praise of the splendid treatment he has received from the American people, and sends his kind regards to all London. The taste for English and Scotch comedy is evidently growing in the Empire city.

Mr. Alfred Butt has made elaborate arrangements for the "picturing" at the Palace Theatre of the Grand National, which was run yesterday. He has obtained sole and exclusive rights to photograph the race and its incidents, and an enormous staff—certainly the largest ever sent out of London on one picture—has been requisitioned. The entire course will be "in touch" with the various operators, and every phase of the race from start to finish will be shown on the screen on Saturday afternoon.

The Palace Theatre was crowded to its utmost capacity at both performances last Saturday, when Miss Vesta Tilley bade her farewell. In the evening the artiste was the recipient of a huge and tasteful basket of flowers, presented by the management as a mark of appreciation "to a real artist."

Mr. Harry Randall will produce at Easter his new horticultural song, entitled "The garden outside in; or, no more gardening out of the house for me!" which details how the Cockney enthusiast, exasperated by the vagaries of the British climate, transfers the entire garden, soil and all, indoors, and the surprisingly successful results thereof on each floor of his domicile. The song is by Edgar Bateman and the melody by the celebrated comedian himself.

Mr. Alfred Lester, of *The Scene-Shifter's Lament* fame, is now appearing at the Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, at 9 o'clock, as the gloomy and reminiscent waiter in *A Restaurant Episode*. The sketch plays sixteen minutes, and at 9.40 the comedian is ready to get on his beat as "The Lost Policeman" in *The New Aladdin* at the Gaiety. Mr. Lester adds another name to the small but distinguished list of comedians who have appeared on the legitimate and lesser stages on the same evening in two different characters.

Mlle. Genee will be playing the heroine in the new Empire ballet—no less a personage than the daughter of Sir Roger de Coverley, of the days of good Queen Anne. In the first scene—a lawn meet in front of the gabled residence of Sir Roger—a marriage is arranged between that young lady and a loutish neighbour of the Tony Lumpkin breed. She, with the pretty waywardness that is always associated on the stage with patches and powder, has chosen for herself, and makes plain her preference for a gallant young officer. The romance of the ballet increases in the second scene, wherein from a practicable balcony and window there are various elopements in masks and dominoes. In the final tableau all the characters meet at Vauxhall Gardens. Mr. Wilhelm has excelled himself in the designing of the early eighteenth century costumes.

One of the novelties in the new production at Richmond Theatre on Monday will be a Japanese *Wedding by Night*. Mr. Michael King has spared no expense. All the company in Scene 1 wear dresses with a scheme of colour of various reds, and in Scene 2 the scheme of colour for the dresses is white and gold. This is an ambitious production for the halls, as everything is entirely new and is carried complete by the company.

The Tyrolese giantess, Mariedl, who is now appearing at the London Hippodrome, attended Mass at the Brompton Oratory on Wednesday morning, and afterwards paid a visit to the Victoria Hospital for Sick Children in Chelsea, where she left a quantity of fruit and flowers for the "Annie Znuz ward." One reason for Mariedl's visit was to see Mr. Henry Garrick's little son, who has been in there for some weeks. Another reason was that she desired to see what care was taken of the children. She was not permitted to see any of the children, as the secretary explained that they had had a couple of deaths, and she being of such tremendous size, although so kind and genial, might cause more excitement in the wards amongst the youngsters than would be beneficial to them.

The latest quotations for music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1⅛; Canterbury, ½; Empire (15s. pd.) 1½, do. (10s. pd.) 1⅛; London Pavilion ordinary 4¾, do. preferred 5; London Coliseum, ⅛; Metropolitan, ⅝; Moss Empire, 5, do. 5 per cent. preferred, 4⅛; Oxford, 6⅝; Palace, 10s. 6d.; Tivoli, 5¼; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 9-16.

Venus, the late Lord Leighton's original model, is finishing a three months' starring engagement on the London syndicate halls, and commences a three months' tour under the management of Austin Millais, going to Manchester for eight weeks with Messrs. Broadhead.

The Mysterious Howards, who are now appearing with such success at the Palace Theatre, on March 15 gave a private performance at the Trocadero, before Sir Edward Ward, Mr. Haldane, Secretary of State for War, and their Committee. The Howard Brothers were afterwards presented with two very handsome presents in appreciation of their most extraordinary performance.

Miss Belle Elmore has returned to the stage after two years' absence, and is being well booked up.

A complimentary benefit was given at the Empress, Brixton, on Thursday night, to Mr. George Burgess, for many years manager of the Royal, and a most attractive programme was put forth by the manager, Mr. Nelson Francis; indeed, it was quite a night with the stars. Among those who appeared were:—Marie Lloyd, Harry Lauder, Victoria Monks, Daisy James, Little Mandie Francis, Little Ida Thompson, O'Gorman Brothers, Ernest Ball and company in *The Night Alarm*, Kurkamp, the Mysterious Mr. C., Walter Munroe, Chas. Whittle, Tom M. Hickton and company, Dan Whitley, Joe O'Gorman, Alec Hurley, Tom Leamore, Wal Pink and Joe Elvin in the racing sketch *The Jockey*, Cissy Paris, Emilie Herve and Charles Phillips, May Henderson, the Eight Dutch Girls, Duncan and Godfrey, Ella Lane, and Grais' baboons. Miss Dorothy Royal and Miss Violet Hutt sold programmes; and the committee included Mr. C V. Page and Mr. Bob Hutt.

The "White City," Old Trafford, Manchester, which is to open on Whit Monday, is being constructed with all speed. Several hundred men are giving the gardens such a turning over that former visitors will wonder where they are.

The Empire, Oldham, will, on Monday next, be opened by Messrs. Farrell and Miller. The former gentleman is a well-known comedian (Farrell and Willmot), and the latter the licensee of the Roscommon, Liverpool.

Mr. Edwin W. Smith, who for fourteen years was connected with the Parthenon, Liverpool, has become licensee and manager of the Haymarket in that city. The former licensee of the Haymarket, Mr. J. S. Childs, died about a week ago.

A rumour has got abroad in Liverpool that the Lyric Theatre has been purchased by a large syndicate. There is no foundation for such a statement, and we have the highest authority for announcing that Mr. Fred Willmot will for several years continue to arrange the bookings for that popular house.

Under the title of the Theatre Moderne, the old-established Parthenon in Great Charlotte-street, Liverpool, which once belonged to the Stoll family, was re-opened at the end of last week by Mr. Gunnar Gooes, well known as the proprietor of several cinematographic shows. The hall has been thoroughly renovated, and looks cosy, while the pictures shown are very beautiful and of a popular kind. Public patronage has, so far, been satisfactory.

It will be learned with regret by his friends in the profession that Mr. John H. Cooke, the well-known circus proprietor, has had recently to undergo an operation for cataract of the right eye. The operation has been highly successful, and we hope that the benefit derived from it may be permanent, and that Mr. Cooke may have many years of unimpaired health to devote to his work.

The United County Theatres, Ltd., of which Mr. Alfred Moul is managing-director, are pressing on their project to build a hippodrome at Devonport. Plans prepared by the well-known architect, Mr. Bertie Crewe, have already been lodged with the Devonport Borough Surveyor. The company possesses two valuable properties in the neighbourhood, viz., the Palace Theatre, Plymouth, and the Grand Theatre, Stonehouse, between Plymouth and Devonport.

On the authority of the dramatic editor of the *Yorkshire Evening Post*, a statement has been made that Mr. John Hart's theatres at Hull and Sheffield have been acquired as variety theatres by Mr. Walter de Frece. The local management are reticent upon the subject in the absence of Mr. John Hart, though they go so far as to question the statement, inasmuch as the bookings for the present season have long been made. Mr. Hart has not, however, contradicted the rumour, which is taken by many playgoers to suggest its correctness.

The Barnsley Empire Palace, which is pioneered by Mr. Will Smythson, manager of the Theatre Royal, Merthyr, and the Royal Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd, will open, so we are informed, on August Bank Holiday. The new Empire will have a frontage of 74ft. in Eldon-street, and extend backward 136ft. The main doors will be surmounted by an imposing central tower 40ft. high, while the façade of brick and stone is to be of a massive character. There will be accommodation for three shops, and a sliding roof for warm weather. The seating capacity is to be for 2,000.

The variety stage seems to have quite a fascination for Blackpool amateurs. One more succumbed to its charms on Monday, Mr. Sam Barker, of Cookson-street, entering into partnership with Miss Florence Ellis, a Blackpool young lady, who has been on tour some time now. Mr. Barker, it will be remembered, made quite a hit as the Chinaman in *The Geisha*, as produced by the Blackpool Lyric Amateurs, and, a few weeks ago, was the popular Barry in *A Country Girl*. The two commenced their enterprise on Monday at the Hippodrome, Rochdale, in a sketch, in which Miss Ellis sings to the accompaniment of Mr. Barker, who is "Buttons," on the 'cello, on which instrument he is a skilled player.

The transference of the date of the Birmingham Theatrical Charity Sports to the summer months has proved a great success, as the attendance of the public testified, and this year it is proposed to hold them (subject to the approval of the Aston Villa Football Club) on Whit-Tuesday, May 21. Mr. Edward Foster, the hardworking and courteous hon. secretary, has had to relinquish that office, owing to increased business calls in connection with his duties as resident-manager at the Bordesley Palace; and Mr. P. D. Elbourne, resident-manager of the Hippodrome, Birmingham, has kindly consented to act.

Mr. W. Ainsworth, who is severing his connection with the Hippodrome, Stockton, has been there for sixteen months. Previous to this engagement he was for five years manager of the Oxford, Middlesbrough. A benefit was given to him in the Exchange Hall, Stockton, on Thursday, the 14th. The hall was packed to its utmost capacity. The artists who appeared included Messrs. A. Riley, W. Colclough, J. Wetherell, E. Winpenny, E. Rouben, W. Penketh, A. Peake, and A. Greenewood (ventriloquist), Master Greenfield, Foo Shu (conjuror), Miss J. Thompson, and some of the principal artistes from the Grand, Stockton, and the Empire and Oxford, Middlesbrough. At the close the beneficiare suitably thanked the artists for their assistance and the public for their support.

Miss Florrie Gallimore and Miss Josie Delaine have been retained for another week at the Hippodrome, Hull, by Mr. Alfred Graham owing to their great success.

Mr. Geo. Bernard, the popular vocal actor, has been engaged by Mr. O. Maus Dayton as general manager for his No. 2 Vaudeville Company. The tour commences at Cheltenham on Easter Monday.

The funeral took place at the Northampton General Cemetery on Friday, the 15th inst., amid many manifestations of sympathy and respect, of Mr. Josiah Clarke, of the New York Tavern, Horsemarket, father of Mr. Leoni Clarke (the Cat King), of the Two Brewers, Abington-street. The mourners were:—Mrs. Clarke (widow), Mr. Leoni Clarke (son), Mrs. J. Hollowell (daughter), Mr. Charles Hollowell (grandson), Mrs. Gibson (daughter), Mr. Alfred Gibson (grandson), Mr. Harry Hollowell (grandson), Mrs. Bland (grand-daughter), Miss Chrissie (grand-daughter), Mr. Joe Gibson (grandson), Mrs. J. Weatherburn (grand-daughter), Mr. J. Weatherburn, Mrs. Clarke (daughter-in-law), Mr. J. Hollowell (son-in-law), Mrs. Will Hollowell (niece), Mr. W. Gibson (son-in-law), and Mr. Bell and Mr. S. Adams (personal friends). A deputation was also present from the Northampton Licensed Trades' Association. Floral tributes were received from, amongst others, the following:—Mrs. Clarke (widow), Mr. and Mrs. Leoni Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hollowell, Mr. and Mrs. Wills, professional friends of Mr. Leoni Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. W. Bolshaw, Mr. and Mrs. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Hine, Mr. and Mrs. Jones and a friend, Mr. and Mrs. Penfold (Wolverton), and Gladys Douglas.

The statement that Mr. Walter Gibbons has purchased the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, is entirely without foundation.

The many friends of Mr. Fred Reeves (of Pacey and Reeves) will be glad to know that he has quite recovered, and will be back at business on Monday next. He has been recuperating at Brighton.

Miss Constance Moxon, who was unfortunately compelled to abandon temporarily her London engagements, is now at Eastbourne, where she is thoroughly enjoying the complete rest and quiet of that delightful South Coast resort. She grows stronger every day, and hopes to resume her professional work in a week or so.

Mr. and Mrs. George Lashwood (Miss Lottie Williams) on Monday will celebrate the ninth anniversary of their wedding day. Mrs. Lashwood has happily quite recovered from a long and serious illness, and is now at her home in Wales.

Mr. George Leyton, who has been recuperating at Blackpool, has succeeded in raising the sum of £27 for the Berlin disaster fund by the sale of his songs, and has received from the Mayor of Harwich a warm acknowledgment of his energy in the work of charity. He is putting on a new song next week at the Lyric, Liverpool. It is entitled "You can't do without a girl." Well, of course!

The friends of Mr. Eugene Stratton are feeling some anxiety concerning his health, and we hear with regret that he was unable to complete his contract with Messrs. Hyman in South Africa in consequence of indisposition, from which it is hoped he will have completely recovered during his voyage home. He arrives in England to-day.

Mr. J. Bannister Howard has struck oil with the Hippodrome at King's Lynn. On Monday over 1,100 people paid for admission, and on Tuesday the attendance again totalled four figures. Really wonderful audiences for so small a town!

Mrs. John Lawson opens next Monday at the Empire, Croydon, with *The Devil's Sunday*. This clever lady returns to town for Easter Monday, and will be the main attraction at the Holborn Empire. The wonderful contrast shown between Fay Faber, the frivolling "smart" wife of *The Devil's Sunday*, and the "drab" in *A Bride for a Living*, is conceived by Mrs. Lawson with great skill, and both impersonations are instinct with power and subtlety.

Kearney P. Speedy, the world's highest diver, will, on Monday next, dive from a fixed ladder from a height forty feet above the Hippodrome into the arena lake 130 feet below—a veritable leap from the sky, entirely eclipsing similar performances by Fuller and William Finney at the now defunct Aquarium. Speedy, in his tights, ready for the famous leap, weighs 212lbs.

We regret to record the death of Miss Bonnie Goodwin, the well-known American actress, who passed away at her residence, 150, Lambeth-road, on Tuesday, the 19th. Some years since she was a partner in the firm of Guyer and Goodwin, and her home was at Providence, Rhode Island. She came over from America in 1901, and made her first appearance in London at the Apollo soon after that theatre, in Shaftesbury-avenue, was opened by Mr. Henry Lowenfeld with *The Belle of Bohemia*. Her piccaninny act was introduced into this rather weak American importation, and was found to be a novel song and dance turn. Its success as an incidental led to its transference to the variety stage. The deceased lady was married to Mr. Sam Lyons, who has received many letters of condolence in his bereavement.

The deceased lady will be buried by the Necropolis Company at Brookwood on Monday, the funeral train leaving the private Necropolis station at 11.50 a.m. A preliminary service will be held in Lambeth Parish Church at 10 o'clock.

The London Coliseum is announced for sale at the Mart, Tokenhouse-yard, on Thursday, April 25, at two o'clock, by Farebrother, Ellis, Breach, Gaisworthy, and Co., 29, Fleet-street, E.C. This most palatial theatre of varieties occupies a compact and unusually extensive site of about three-quarters of an acre, with frontages of 184ft. to the important thoroughfares of St. Martin's-lane and Bedfordbury, and 395ft. to May's-buildings and Taylor's-buildings. The property, which will be sold with possession on completion of purchase, is admirably suited for a national opera-house. It is held on lease for a term of 94 years unexpired, at a moderate ground-rent, with the benefit of freehold reversion to a portion of the building. Adjoining the Coliseum are several important freehold and leasehold business premises, producing about £1,500 per annum.

Mlle. Bresina, a vivacious young Parisienne who has lately been the talk of the boulevards, makes her London début at the Alhambra on Monday. The new chanteuse invests her songs with much freshness, and possesses many gifts of person and manner. From Easter Monday the bill will be further strengthened by the advent of the Four Golondrinas (including Mlle. Anita Manuela), who sing to their own accompaniments played on newly-invented and original instruments; and by M. de Biere, a modern and startling illusionist.

Application was made at Old-street on Monday on behalf of the management of the Foresters' for licences to allow four children under the age of fourteen years to appear in the week's programme there. The children—two boys and two girls—were in court, and were said to be over thirteen, and were accompanied by a woman and a person who, coming forward as having the care and guardianship of the children, gave his name as William Stanley Parker. The magistrate (Mr. Cluer) said his objection to these applications was that they were not made by the father or mother of the child, and refused the licence.

The many friends of Mme. Lizett (Mrs. Edward Ransley), of cycle sensation fame, will regret to hear of her death after a lingering illness. For the last three years she has been afflicted with paralysis, which she bore with great fortitude. The burial will take place on Tuesday next at 2.30 in the family grave at St. Mary's, Ilford.

The 504th meeting of the executive committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held at the offices of the association on Wednesday. There were present Messrs. Fred W. Millis (vice-president) (in the chair), Charles Coborn, Charles Pastor, Jeff. Vendome, Pat Carey, Harry Blake, A. Borelli, Joe O'Gorman, (chairman of committee), W. H. Clemart (president), Jack Collinson, Douglas White (treasurer), and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the correspondence was read. Various complaints and requests for funds were considered. The weekly financial statement was next read. This showed forty-six new members, and a cash total of £46 13s. In accordance with a resolution passed at the general meeting, the committee authorised the addition of £150 to the reserve fund. Mr. Arthur Rigby wrote, apologising for his non-attendance at the committee meetings owing to his being out of town. Mr. T. C. Callaghan, of the Marquis of Lorne, Reading, was appointed agent in that town. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

The production of *The Unwritten Law*, John Lawson's latest episode, has had to be postponed for a few weeks owing to the fact that an actress suitable for the leading part cannot be found. Mr. Lawson, however, hopes to overcome this difficulty and produce the work shortly. To fill up the gap he will produce *Sally in Our Alley* at the Camberwell Palace on Easter Monday.

Miss Omega, the well-known "Queen of the Wire," also of the Onatis Troupe of Algerian Jugglers, was quietly married on Wednesday morning to Prof. Dewar. A little later the happy couple left for Liverpool, where they embarked on the Teutonic for New York, where the bridegroom has several engagements to fulfil. The bride was the recipient of several very handsome presents, including a diamond marquise ring and an enamel and diamond studded watch from the bridegroom.

Miss Marian Scott has produced with success a new song, by R. P. Weston and Maurice Scott, called "Tick, tock"—not a new title, by the way. Mr. Albert Chevalier produced "Tick, tock" at the Tivoli in the 'nineties, when he appeared as an aged and reflective philosopher, whose musings in song were seemingly inspired by the glamour of romance surrounding an old grandfather's clock, which was a conspicuous object of the furniture. The song was one of his least successful efforts.

In his reply to Mr. Lea in the House of Commons to a question concerning the Dangerous Performances Bill, the Home Secretary, Mr. Herbert Gladstone said: "A Bill was introduced by the Government last year with this purpose, but did not succeed in passing. I see no prospect of legislation on the subject this Session."

One of the features of the entertainment given at the Empire, Dublin, during last week, was the singing of Ryder Slone, the actor-vocalist, and his song about "Sing-Sing" was a great success. The chorus of the song was taken up and sung right through without a break by a small boy in the gallery, and the loud applause which broke forth at its conclusion testified to the fact that the boy had a pleasing voice.

Feeling an interest in the lad, Mr. Slone and Mr. Ed. E. Forde, who was also appearing at the Empire, saw the boy after the performance, and found him "in a deplorable condition." His wretched state excited their commiseration, and they decided to do all in their power to relieve his distress. Their first plan was to provide him with a complete outfit, and obtain for him a position as errand boy in a city firm. However, Mr. Jameson, manager of the Curragh branch of Messrs. MacCabe, the well-known fishmongers, offered to receive the boy into his own home and provide for him as though he were his own son. This offer was naturally accepted gratefully by Messrs. Slone and Forde, who departed from the city with the consciousness of a good deed done.

All kinds of attractions are required for a large exhibition on the Continent from May to September, 1907. Liberal terms and special low rates are quoted for intended exhibitors, for the charge of admission being only half a franc ensures thousands being present daily. Sundays included.

Chas. M. Daly's latest success, *I Must Have It*, is starring on the Easter programme at the Palace, Hammersmith. Mr. Daly is producing another new one with the title *Oh, What a Glorious Time!* Both shows are fast booking in town and country. Mr. Daly is contemplating a visit to the States, and with *I Must Have It*, will tour the establishments of the new combine, the Orpheum, Proctor's, Keith's, and Hammerstein's circuit.

The comedy sketch, *My Wife's Husband*, by G. D. Lynch, will be presented by C. Douglas Cox and Co. at Collins's, Islington. The sketch has already passed the ordeal of a trial trip at the Middlesex. Mr. G. D. Lynch is the author of *The Lady Lawyer*, which had a long run at the Garrick under Mr. George Edwardes's management.

On Whit Monday two musical farces, entitled respectively *Typewritten* and *Money-hunting*, will be produced simultaneously at Westcliff, Clacton, and Herne Bay. Both are the work of Charles Osborne, who had a narrow squeak on Tuesday evening whilst on his way to Deptford to do a "turn" for an old professional who has fallen on evil times. The motor 'bus on which Osborne was riding, in company with another writer, lurched, and was within the veriest ace of turning right over.

Mr. Geo. Robey's success in the Theatre Royal pantomime, *The Queen of Hearts*, at Birmingham, culminated on Friday, last week, in a well-deserved benefit, when the popular comedian experienced the gratification which is born of a full house, plus the congratulations and presentations of his associates and friends. Mr. Wilkie Bard scored among the visitors who appeared, while Mr. Robey as the Queen surpassed himself. Replicas of Mr. and Mrs. Robey were distributed among the audience, the twain appearing in a clever trifle, *Business and Pleasure Combined*. Mr. Robey received a handsome ivory-handle, gold-mounted walking stick from the working staff, Mrs. Robey was presented with a silver purse, and the chorus made an interesting gift for their little ones. Mr. Lester Collingwood's gift was a gold locket fashioned as a miniature football, with the bénéficiaire's photo in his well-known character of the Mayor of Muddleton enamelled thereon, inscribed "To Mr. Robey from Lester Collingwood." *The Queen of Hearts* finished its three months' reign last Saturday, having certainly proved one of the most gorgeous, humorous, and best pantomimes ever produced in Birmingham.

Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, music publishers, of London and New York, brought an action on Tuesday, before Mr. Justice Joyce, to restrain the defendants, Messrs. Oliver Brothers, printers and publishers, at Darlington, from infringing the plaintiffs' copyright in fourteen songs by printing and selling them in the streets of the town on sheets of paper without the music. The defendants said that there was no copyright in the words, but only in the music, and therefore there was no infringement. His lordship granted an injunction, and directed the usual inquiry as to damages.

The first regular meeting of the Chelsea Lodge of Freemasons after the adjournment was held on Friday, the 15th, at the Town Hall, Chelsea, under the presidency of Mr. Albert Le Fre, Mr. J. W. Mathews, I.P.M., Serpentello, S.W., Harry Coutts, J.W., Rev. H. Heriot Hill (chaplain), G. Dyball, S.D., D. White, J.D., F. Clay, D.C., H. Walton, I.G., Lester Steward, W. S. Lyon (treasurer), C. J. Doughty (secretary), and a good muster of the Brethren and visitors. After the minutes of the last regular and emergency meeting had been read and confirmed, the W.M. initiated Messrs. Wingate Dix, Fred Keeton, and Andie Caine into the mysteries of the art, and further advanced Mr. S. Goodman, both ceremonies being performed in a most impressive manner; letters and telegrams were read from members of the Lodge from all parts of the kingdom, expressing their regret at being prevented from attending. At the conclusion of the business the Brethren adjourned to the Old Six Bells Hotel for tea. The next regular meeting, and last of present session, will be held at the Town Hall, Chelsea, on Friday, April 19.

Will the collectors for the Music Hall Home Fund kindly forward their cards to the hon. treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, so that the amounts may be duly acknowledged?

In response to his appeal on behalf of the widow of the late Sam De Voy, Mr. Will Oliver has received the following sums:—From a dear old pro., Ralph Tignell, £1; from Alfred Saker, who "has learnt to know that a stitch in time saves nine," 10s.; and from the Avrigneys, 2s. 6d. Subscriptions, which are much needed for this most deserving case, should be sent to Mr. Will Oliver, Spot Lodge, Brixton-road, S.W.

Miss Jennie Johns, at the conclusion of her new success, "Bertie," at the Hippodrome, Liverpool, on Tuesday, was so persistently recalled that the programme was practically stopped. The Liverpool Press is unanimous in its praise of this delightful artist. On Monday she goes to the Pavilion, Newcastle.

No doubt all friends will sympathise with Miss Molteno when they hear (after her efforts in producing the big scena *Dolly and a Coach*, which has cost her a considerable sum of money and anxiety) that yesterday the whole of the costumes used in the tableau, including some jewellery in a portmanteau, were stolen out of the dressing-room. The matter was at once placed in the hands of the police, but nothing up to now has been heard. Miss Molteno had all her work cut out to replace things for the show at night.

It has been decided that the next production at the London Hippodrome shall be renamed. Instead of *The Hurricane* as was originally intended, it has been found that *The Typhoon* is more applicable to the environment of the story. The action commences at a port of call in the China Seas, and continues on the high seas, where disaster meets a big passenger vessel, which is engulfed in the vortex of a typhoon. Mr. Frank Parker, who has been responsible for so many sensations at the London Hippodrome, has found it necessary to largely reconstruct his mechanical arrangements. He has had to amplify the rain effects at a cost of something like £1200. In addition to this, he has invented a new system of lightning effects, which will be produced by the use of his patent radium streak; and not only will the public get a most graphic and thrilling idea of a typhoon, but they will also have a realistic representation of the distress occasioned by the wreck of a huge vessel.

Included in the cast are Mr. Cecil Morton York, who has been in every Hippodrome production since the opening in 1900. Mr. York plays Dick Sandford, skipper of the Edward the Seventh. Mr. Bert Gilbert's foot will be on his native heath again, so to speak, and his name will be Macgregor—this time a Scotch engineer. Mr. J. Windham Guise also returns to the scene of his former triumphs in the character of Ling Foo, a Chinese priest. Newcomers will include Mr. Harrison Brockbank, who may be called upon to sing as the hero; and Mr. J. G. Grahame, who recently presented *The Yellow Fang* at the halls, and who will play a wealthy Mandarin. Miss Mary Allestree, a charming actress who has been seen before at the Hippodrome, has been chosen to play the heroine, Kate Vincent, an English girl. Miss Allestree, it will be remembered, supported Mr. Charles Warner in a shortened version of *Drink* at the Coliseum in the spring of 1906.

Protean artists will have to look to their laurels, as there is a new competitor in the field, in the person of Mr. Lennox Barry, the well-known music-hall manager. Whilst witnessing the second performance at the Bordesley Palace, on Tuesday evening last, Mr. Barry was informed that Mr. Frank Heather, one of the principal members of Mr. Frank Bernard's *Hello!* company, had been taken suddenly ill, and was unable to play. Upon hearing of the difficulty Mr. Barry immediately proffered his services to fill the vacancy, and in less than ten minutes was made up and on the stage, playing as a light comedy dude.

This, however, did not complete Mr. Barry's curious experience, for, on getting to the wings, he was informed by the stage manager that another member of the company, who had accompanied Mr. Heather home, had not yet returned. Without waiting for any further explanations, Mr. Barry immediately rushed up to the dressing-room, and, with lightning speed, quickly altered his make-up and attire, and in five minutes time was on the stage transformed into a burly prize-fighter, in which part he acquitted himself very creditably. Mr. Barry is not likely to forget his unique experience, for on Thursday evening he was presented by Mr. Frank Bernard with a handsome diamond and opal scarf-pin as a souvenir of his début as a "protean" artist.

The Terriers' dinner and ball provides one of the most attractive professional functions of the year, and its repetition on Sunday last at the Horns, Kennington, drew a record gathering, numbering nearly two hundred. President Jesse Sparrow occupied the chair, being ably assisted by Mr. G. P. R. Broyen, and at 9.30 p.m. dinner was served. Ample justice was done to a sumptuous feast. Telegrams were received and read out from Terriers Harry Wright, F. W. Millis, Walter Norman, and Charlie Stelling. After the loyal and other toasts of the evening had been given, the witching hour was heralded by the celebrated orchestra under the direction of Leon Bassett, under whose direction some lively and charming music was played, the ball being kept rolling till 5 a.m.

Amongst those present were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Neiman, Mr. and Mrs. E. Leathley, Mr. G. Burgess and party, Mr. and Mrs. Barney Hyams and sister, Mr. McDowall, S. H. Kent, Alf. Clapp, Charlie Pratt, Picton, Sam Stockton and party, E. C. Webb and party, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bawn (My Fancy), Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Lester, Mr. Jean Kohl's party, Spot, J. F. Lidle, Charlie Cornish, Douglas Stuart, J. J. Churchill, H. Maisner, Joseph Ucelli, Mr. Straus, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Conlin, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Cooke, Leon and Will Bassett and party, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Aarons and party, Mr. and Mrs. Sid Baker, Miss Baker, Harry Lester, Mrs. Lester, Miss Lester, James Stewart, Arthur Hampel, Alice Maydew, Henri Caryman, Bob Hutt and party, Mr. McLarte, F. Betzler, Leonard Gardener, George Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Will Johnson, Tom Packer and lady, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas White, Mr. and Mrs. George Pearson (Peggy Pryde), her son Tony and party, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hertz, Mr and Mrs. F. Kohler, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Hoyle, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Alexander and party, Charlie Sarina Best, Mrs. Dan Leno and son, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gage, Charlie Gage, Ray Maskell, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Green, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Larola, Mr. and Mrs. Deane Tribune, Mr. and Mrs. John Hart, Mr. Mark Ringham, Miss Ringham, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Cowper, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Rees, Alf Hillier, G. H. Kempton, Edward Johnson, Frank Gee, &c.

Messrs. E. C. Webb and M. McDowall ably officiated as M.C.'s, whilst Messrs. Fred Neiman, Tom Packer, Bob Hutt, George Pearson, Mark Ringham, and Harry Conlin acted as stewards. The catering was again in the expert hands of Mr. Jean Kohl, the highly satisfactory arrangements being completely carried out by the secretary Harry Lester, who found his best reward in a record success.

SONGS. WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

JUDGING from the enormous orders from all quarters of America for Miss Vesta Victoria's new song, "Poor John!" it is surpassing in popularity her famous "Waiting at the church" which swept that country last year. Cartoons founded on the ditty have appeared in many prominent papers, and Mr. Fred Day, the manager of the New York branch of Messrs. Francis and Day, reports that for the same length of time "Poor John!" has outsold the previous number two to one.

THE New York *Music Trades* a few days since commented as follows on the subject of the authorship of Miss Victoria's song:—"The *Evening Telegram*, a new York daily which devotes considerable space to theatrical and musical matters, claiming to be an authority on both subjects, printed in a recent issue the following:—'Bert Cooper, who wrote "Waiting at the church" and "Poor John!" for Miss Vesta Victoria, is not only her song writer, but her manager. Through his efforts Miss Victoria will extend her stay in this country for ten additional weeks at the expiration of her present engagement, which ends March 10.' It would be interesting to learn what Leigh and Pether, the clever English song writers, who contributed so largely to Miss Victoria's success in this country, would say if the above item should be seen by them."

MISS MARIE LLOYD accepted at sight a few days since a smart song called "Och, now! Go on!" by Scott Mackenzie, who is, with Fred W. Leigh, responsible for Mr. Alec Hurley's "I ain't nobody in particular." Mr. Arthur Reece will shortly produce a song by Mr. Mackenzie named "Isn't it funny how things occur?"

MR. HERBERT SHELLEY and Mr. Ernest Bucalossi have scored a decided hit with their new march song, "Mona May." Mr. Dennis Drew is singing it nightly on the Stoll tour with exceptional success.

MISS MARGARET COOPER has scored a marked success with Harry Dacre's song "The fisherman's daughter; or, mending nets for father" at the Palace Theatre. On the occasion of its first performance, so delighted were the audience with the song and its singer that they broke into a storm of applause at the end of the second verse, and at the conclusion greeted Miss Cooper with prolonged and vociferous demands for an encore.

SINCE Miss Cooper first introduced this dainty and refined trifle (which has a peculiarly catchy refrain) quite a number of high-class concert vocalists—soprano, mezzo, contralto, tenor, and baritone—have included it in their répertoires. It forms a delightful contrast to the more serious songs of the concert platform. Harry Dacre informs us that he is willing to grant a few free permits to music hall artists, and that band-parts are ready.

MISS HETTIE KING intends shortly to produce a new song, entitled "Good Old Saturday Afternoon," written and composed by Cecil Lidden, which has just been published in their popular Sixpenny Edition by the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd.

OTHER songs shortly to be placed on the market by the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Co. are "Sleighbells," by Messrs. Lawrance, Mellor, and Gifford, and "I'd like to call you sweetheart," both of which will be produced immediately.

THE Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., now have their assortment of songs ready for the summer season, and all seaside and al fresco artists should not miss the opportunity of obtaining some really smart and catchy numbers from this enterprising firm.

THAT great Gaelic success in "The New Aladdin" at the Gaiety Theatre, the Scotch duet so cleverly sung by Mr. Edmund Payne and Miss G. Aylwin, and entitled "In the Hielans," is written and composed by Gerald Grafton, and is being issued by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter.

MR. FELIX MCGLENNON, the renowned songwriter, for many years known as "The Starmaker," to whose pen the English-speaking race is indebted for such ditties as "Comrades" and "The Ship I Love," has once again entered the arena, and Mr. David Day's firm will shortly issue two songs by him, entitled "She Lives in the Isle of Man" and "Acushla Dear."

MISS FLORRIE GALLIMORE has acquired a comedy chorus song, written and composed by Henry F. Greenfield, entitled "What's in a name if the girl's all right?" The popular lady has made a great hit with "You ask me why I love you" from the same pen.

MISS FANNY ROBINA, with "Coming back home again," and Miss Florrie Cooper, with a new song, entitled "That's why I want to fly," both published by Mr. David Day, are making a big success.

AMONGST many others, Miss Rose Harvey and Mr. Harry Bancroft are going great guns in Mills and Scott's ubiquitous song, "Sailing in my balloon," which promises to be one of the biggest seaside numbers for the forthcoming season.

MISS LILIAN LEA, who has been charming our North Country cousins, returns to town on Monday, when she will produce a pretty new scena at the Canterbury, entitled "Primrose," by Mills and Scott. The Star Company have this number in the press.

MISS FLORRIE FORDE and Miss Ella Retford will feature Mills and Scott's new comedy chorus song, "Has Anyone Seen a German Band?" which will shortly be issued in the Star Company's series of Sixpenny Editions.

"THE WEDDING OF JACK AND JILL" is the title of a new ditty by Ballard MacDonald and Donovan Meher. Miss Ella Retford will produce this novelty at the Oxford on Easter Monday. It is included in the Star Company's catalogue.

ONE of the greatest successes ever achieved by a new song attended the production early this week at the Ealing Hippodrome of Messrs. Paul Pelham and Herbert Rule's number, "When, when, when is your ship a-coming home?" by charming Miss Lena Verdi, the catchy refrain of which was immediately chorussed by the entire audience. This song forms one of the Monte Carlo Publishing Company's "Sixpenny Successes."

MR. ERNIE MAYNE has a big winner in "I mustn't," written and composed by Harry Wincott, and also possesses promising new numbers by J. P. Long, Fred Allsopp, and other authors and composers.

MR. FRANK COYLE produced for the first time last week at Bradford a new original song, entitled "Poor Mother Eve!" by the late Albert Hall. It was a gigantic success, and should be a good number for pantomime boys.

THE Terriers will hold their Good Friday dinner and social at the headquarters, the Dover Castle Hotel, Westminster Bridge-road, S.E. Immediate application for tickets to the secretary, Harry Lester, is necessary.

DEATH OF ADA ALEXANDRA.

The announcement in our columns a fortnight ago that Miss Ada Alexandra was lying at her residence, 30, Carlton-mansions, Maida Vale, N.W., in the last stages of that dread disease cancer, must have prepared our readers for the news of her death, which mercifully released her from her sufferings at midnight on Friday, the 15th inst., her devoted husband and her sister (Mrs. G. M. Polini) having remained in continuous attendance for seven days and nights. Only members of the family were invited to the funeral, which took place on Tuesday at New Willesden Cemetery, but amongst the many beautiful wreaths from private friends and relatives, one magnificent tribute bore the inscription, "With deepest sympathy for their dear old friend.—Mr. and Mrs. Alec Hurley."

Miss Alexandra had been ailing for some time past, and had resided in Brighton for some

[*Photo by Roberts.*

THE LATE MISS ADA ALEXANDRA.

months, in the hope of recruiting her health; but, on the advice of Dr. Bland Sutton, she was brought to London last month, and it was then found that her case was quite hopeless. Her wonderful vitality was the source of great surprise to her physicians.

Born at Hounslow, Ada Alexandra was at an early age taken to Canada. Her theatrical career dates back to 1872, when, as a young girl, she returned from Canada, and immediately bounded into public favour as a German dialect comedienne. Associated with the late James Taylor, she was seen to great advantage in the drama, *Simon; or, A Dutch Girl's Trials*. Returning to Canada and America, she toured those countries with enormous success, and eventually came back to the Old Country, and produced one of her great successes, *The Mason*, in which the cheery Dutch Girl scored heavily as the vigorous German wife, her breezy manner and her inimitable accent marking her, as the *New York Herald* declared, "the foremost German dialect actress of the day."

After a number of years she again visited America, under the auspices of Messrs. Hyde and Behman, and eventually joined Mr. Edward E. Rice's forces. As showing Mr. Rice's far-sightedness in theatrical matters, he, having seen Miss Alexandra, made up his mind that she should play the important rôle of the German servant in the comedy-drama, *The Globe-Trotter*. Mr. de Lange, the author, had already fixed upon a well-known American star to play the part; but Mr. Rice declared, "My money only backs the show if Ada Alexandra plays the Dutch girl." His ripe judgment was proved by the fact that, although the company included Maurice Barrymore, William Hoey (of Evans and Hoey), Mrs. Dion Boucicault, Aubrey Boucicault, and other theatrical celebrities, she, as the veteran critic Stephen Fiske declared, made "the hit of the piece." Despite handsome offers from Mr. Rice and other American managers to remain, Miss Alexandra once more came back to England, and had another seven years' phenomenal run with her sketch, *The Mason*.

THE LICENSING MUDDLE.

Cases which were watched with interest by music hall artists were heard before Judge Willis at Woolwich on Wednesday.

In the first, Mr. Samuel Barnard, proprietor of the Theatre Royal, Woolwich, was sued by Ernest and Hilda Dillon, of Upper Sutton-street, Aston, Birmingham, for £15, loss alleged to have been suffered through defendant failing to carry out a contract engaging the Dillons to appear and give a performance at his theatre. Plaintiffs are music hall gymnasts, known as the "Bouncing Dillons," or "Graceful Hilda and Bouncing Willie."

Plaintiff stated that he received confirmation of a contract on Nov. 18 from Mr. Barnard. At the end of December he received, through his agent, a letter requesting him to alter the date of the performance from February, 1907, to January, 1908, as the London County Council had refused a music hall licence for that year to the theatre Plaintiff wrote expressing his willingness to comply, but pointed out that he would be at a loss by so doing. He did not receive a reply to his letter, so he wrote saying that if he did not receive an answer the dates must stand. He went to the theatre to fulfil his contract, but was told that the licence would not allow it. There were other variety turns at the theatre that week. Plaintiff lost a week's employment.

The defence was that the London County Council only granted a theatre licence, consequently a gymnastic performance would not be allowed.

His Honour gave judgment for £15 for the plaintiff, with costs.

Mr. Barnard was also sued by the Gladenbecks, gymnasts, for £18 for breach of a contract to give two performances nightly at the Theatre Royal, Woolwich, and one at the Theatre of Varieties, Greenwich. Defendant offered £8 for a show at the latter theatre, but it was declined. Judgment was given for the plaintiff for £18 and costs.

The Royal Villions, trick cyclists, sued Mr. Barnard for £15. It was stated that plaintiffs were offered a contract at Colchester for £15 and £2 10s. towards the railway fares, but they declined, as their price for the provinces was £20 a week. Judgment was given for the amount claimed, with costs.

The Three Missouris, acrobats, received judgment for £20 and costs against Mr. Barnard. They contracted to give two shows nightly at Woolwich and one at Greenwich, and were offered £8 to appear at the latter place, but declined to accept it.

MR. TOM HEARN, the laziest juggler on earth, sailed for America on the Kaiser Wilhelm Gros on Tuesday, and opens on the Reith circuit. Before starting he handed to the hon. treasurer the sum of £2 17s. collected for the Music Hall Home Fund.

SAVED FROM THE SUEVIC.

A CHAT WITH MISS JENNIE MAYNARD.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

"It made you proud to be British. There was not a bit of fuss; everybody forgot himself or herself to look after each other. The doctor said he never saw anything like the calmness of the ladies. I could not speak too loudly in praise of the officers, stewards, men, and everybody."

Thus Miss Maynard, who was one of the passengers rescued in the early hours of Monday morning from the ill-fated White Star liner Suevic, stranded on the terrible Stag Rocks off the Lizard. The lady certainly looked particularly well, and gave evidence of being in good spirits when, two days later, the writer interviewed her on the subject of her very trying experiences.

"I might begin by explaining," said Miss Maynard, "that I went out to Australia two years ago for the sake of my health. I gave no shows there whatever, although I had several offers of engagements. We left Sydney on Jan. 26, and had a magnificent passage all the way. Last Sunday night I went to bed as usual, sleeping amidships, and was suddenly awakened by an awful crash, followed by the sound caused by the boat crunching on the rocks. The doctor came round and told us to get dressed as soon as possible, and we were not long in obeying the injunction. After that the ladies were taken to the library—the men downstairs. There was not the least panic. After an interval of an hour and a half we were told to get into the boats—the women and children first. Captain Jones and the officers superintended the loading up of the passengers, two of the ship's boats going out first. I was in the first of these, and we knocked about in the open sea until the lifeboat took us in tow. When we got as near the shore as we could go the fishermen waded through the water and carried us to the lifeboat sheds at the Lizard. The first thing they did was to pour brandy down our throats. It was some time before we could be taken on to the village, where we were the guests of the White Star Company, who treated us extremely well and gave us railway passes to wherever we wanted to go.

"I believe the reason why everything passed off so smoothly was that we all took our 'tone' from the captain. He came round and said: 'Don't be in the least afraid; I'll get you ashore all right.' And he did, although I believe he did not think he would be able to do so. The engineer acted very promptly as soon as he realised what had happened. He fairly slid down the steps and closed the iron doors, and had the steam shut off. During the voyage the 400 passengers got on splendidly, and I was really glad to see them all alive after the grounding of the vessel.

"I have lost all my theatrical stuff and heaps of things I had made, for I have been two years preparing for the music hall stage. My money, too, lies in the Suevic in my handbag. You see, I had intended doing recitations, sketches, and songs on my return to this country, and my baggage included a fine jewelled dress for Juliet in the balcony scene. Then I had other costly dresses. I do hope it will be possible for me to get them."

Fortunately we were able to reassure Miss Maynard on this point, for, at the time of our interview, circumstances pointed to the recovery of the passengers' luggage.

Miss Maynard, who, by the way, is a native of

[*Photo by Hana.*

MISS JENNIE MAYNARD.

New South Wales, has appeared in many notable parts on the legitimate stage. She made a great success in the leading feminine rôle in *La Dame Aux Camélias*, notably in South Africa, and she has been scarcely less successful as Marie Antoinette (in the play of that name), as Mary Stuart (another historical play), as Rosalind in *As You Like It*, Lady Macbeth, and has been seen in the principal rôles in the late Frank Harvey's pieces, including *The World Against Her*, *The Land of Living*, *A Ring of Iron*, and *Judge Not*, as well as in the American farcical drama *The Strategist*. She has portrayed almost every Shakespearean character that a woman could portray, and she was for some years actively associated with Mr. W. J. Holloway's Shakespearean company. She retains, too, some interesting reminiscences of "back block" concerts in the wilds of Australia, and her idea now is to present monologue dialect sketches, both comic and tragic, on the music hall boards.

"The theatrical conditions in Sydney have never been so prosperous as now," she went on to say in the course of the interview; "but affairs are not so bright in Melbourne. But I don't see why they should not be. The Princess's Theatre in Melbourne is quite as fine and well-appointed an establishment as any I have seen elsewhere, not even excluding the West End of London. Yet the Brough-Fleming company could scarcely get a hearing, in spite of the fact that they presented such excellent plays as *Quality Street*, *The Admirable Crichton*, and *The Walls of Jericho*. There is no complaint heard as to the vaudeville side of the profession. Mr. Harry Rickards is doing very well, and is taking over the very best people he can get."

It might be mentioned that the other theatrical and variety people who were saved from the wreck of the Suevic were Mr. Harry Lumley Woolf, actor, and the Karnos, jugglers.

MR. ALBERT BULMER, the acting-manager of the Olympia, Liverpool, has been promoted by Mr. Oswald Stoll to an important position. Mr. Alan W. Young, the manager of Moss' Empires, Ltd., for Liverpool, Manchester, and district, having been transferred to London, Mr. Bulmer undertakes his Liverpool duties. The selection is a good one, for Mr. Bulmer is a man of tact as well as one of experience, having for years been secretary to the Carl Rosa Opera Company in the good old days, and also manager of the New Brighton Tower Company just prior to joining the Olympia a few years ago.

MISS MARGARET ASHTON.

After an absence of eight months from the vaudeville stage—an absence due to ill-health caused by the strain of hard work entailed by a practically unbroken series of engagements since the summer of 1903—the charming American cantatrice, whose winning personality and dramatic talents, allied with the natural brilliancy of a refined vocalism, have secured for her a widespread popularity with British audiences, made her reappearance this week at the Argyle Theatre, Birkenhead, preparatory to fulfilling a three months' tour with the Moss Empires.

Since her last appearance in England, the charming and accomplished soprano has spent many weeks in her distant home in Colorado, recuperating her strength amid the picturesque and rural scenes of Western

[*Photo by Ellis and Walery.*

MISS MARGARET ASHTON.

civilisation. Acting upon medical advice, she relinquished her winter engagements upon the Continent, which included such centres as Leipzig, Vienna, and Copenhagen, as well as numerous engagements in England.

Miss Ashton—of whom a charming portrait, recently taken by Messrs. Ellis and Walery, appears above—has not been idle during her enforced retirement, but has been quietly pursuing her studies in London, and will appear on the concert platform during the next season.

THE CANTERBURY.

America is the land of inventions, and the Canterbury is the home of novelty. It is quite fitting, therefore, that Mr. Fred Miller, the popular and energetic manager, should be the first to secure a new sketch in which the art of housebreaking as conducted on the most up-to-date principles is shown. Professional cracksmen might learn a lot from *The Burglars of New York*, which was introduced on Monday by the Piccads, a troupe of American pantomimists, but to the large audience that crowded the Canterbury it meant a quarter of an hour's continuous amusement. The methods adopted by the operators in burgling a house are startling in the extreme. After scaling the garden wall, a trio of burglars, one of whom is a nigger, frighten the porter away with unearthly yells, and then proceed to strip the house of its contents, sliding huge articles of furniture from the first-floor window by means of a plank reaching to the ground. The appearance of three policemen interrupt the proceedings, and unlimited fun is made out of the attempts of the officers to mount the inclined plank. At length they gain admittance through the street door, and a wild chase from windows to roof ensues, the fugitives and their pursuers literally throwing themselves out of the window and bouncing from the plank on to the ground. Finally the roof of the house falls in with a crash, and the housebreakers disappear over the wall with the constables in hot pursuit. Great excitement was caused throughout the scena at the startling leaps from the window and the hazardous mounting to the roof. Comic effects are created by the appearance of the policemen, and the antics of a stout officer who bounces about like a rubber ball are irresistibly droll.

A new series of pictures are admirably shown on Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope. The series begins with the portrayal of La Patrie, the first steerable balloon used in the French Navy. The ascent of the immense airship and its operations in space are depicted with startling effect, and the final descent and conveyance to dock is watched with great interest. Another engrossing series is called "Hooligans of the West," in which the capture of a white man by Indians and his subsequent rescue are conspicuous, the fight with the redskins and the fording of rivers on horseback being vividly portrayed. A state of perfection is reached in the pictures, which are displayed with admirable clearness.

First among the varieties of the bill is Mr. Harry Lauder, whose return to the Canterbury after his highly successful pantomime season is hailed with delight. Three songs are exacted from the popular Scotch comedian, who keeps his audience constantly alive with merriment. Mr. John Marx upholds his claim to be the "Herculean marvel" by a series of bar-bell and weight-lifting feats of almost incredible difficulty. The eccentricities of Rezene and Robini are as effective as ever in the production of mirth; Miss Daisy Jerome has a distinct hit in "The little pat of butter on the floor"; and Mr. Wilson Hallett's imitations of children are loudly acclaimed. The ventriloquial items submitted by Mr. David Poole are greatly enjoyed; Mr. Will English, a real coon, gets many recalls for his amusingly grotesque imitations; and other contributions to the strong programme consist of Mr. Jack Camp, the embodiment of quaintness; Mr. J. P. Ling, comedian; the Four Radium Girls, speciality dancers; and Miss Lottie Govell and Miss Gladys Huxley, both comediennes of merit. Under the leadership of Mr. Archie Howells the orchestra does excellent service.

OWING to their success in the pantomime at Christmas, Miss Maggie Bowman and Mr. Tom J. Morton have been re-engaged to appear as Goody Two Shoes and Smple Simon at the Theatre Royal, Belfast, Easter's production. They are enabled to do this through the kindness of Mr. Oswald Stoll and Mr. Frank Macnaghten in transferring certain dates for them. At the conclusion of the run of the pantomime they play their successful comedy duo, *She Loved a Policeman*, at Mr. Stoll's suburban halls.

MUSIC HALL ARBITRATION.

MR. ASKWITH AND STAGE-HANDS.

The claims of the National Association of Theatrical Employees for the London District were submitted to the Arbitrator on Monday, and have been printed in the shorthand notes of the proceedings. The particulars appear below. A statement on the case of the employees was submitted on Thursday morning by William Johnson, the general secretary, and it was arranged for an informal conference with the Arbitrator and representatives of both parties to take place on Friday (yesterday) with the view of coming to an agreement on as many points as possible. It may be that evidence will be submitted on Monday should it suit the convenience of the parties and the artists, whose case was opened on Thursday morning.

Among the leading managers present were Messrs. Oswald Stoll, J. de Frece, Thomas Barrasford, Henry Tozer, W. S. Gover, and Joseph Davis. The artists were represented by Mr. Joe O'Gorman, Mr. Wal Pink, Mr. W. H. Clemart, and counsel.

Proposed minimum rates and maximum hours for the working staff in music halls within the Metropolitan area—that is to say, within twenty miles of Charing Cross:—

1. HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS (STAGE).—The normal working hours (daytime) to be between 9 o'clock a.m. and 5 o'clock p.m. (allowing an hour for dinner) on five days of the week, Saturdays from 9 o'clock to 1 o'clock. Evening hours, from the commencement of the performance to its conclusion. All work done after the evening performance, or on Sundays, to be paid for at double-time rates. Wages for master carpenters, acting as stage-managers, £3 per week; for chief electricians, £2 10s. per week; for property masters, £2 10s. per week.

2. CARPENTERS (Bench Hands).—The rate of pay to be 10½d. per hour, or the London rate. Normal hours of labour, except when starting on a fresh job, to commence at 7 o'clock a.m., working to 5 o'clock p.m. (allowing half an hour for breakfast and one hour for dinner) on five days of the week, finishing Saturday at 1 o'clock p.m. Carpenters to work 8½ hours before charging overtime. Overtime rates to be as follows: On week days from 5 o'clock to 8 o'clock p.m., time and half; from 8 o'clock p.m. to 7 o'clock a.m. next morning, double time. After 1 o'clock Saturdays, on Sundays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday, double time to be paid. Two hours grinding money to be allowed on finish of a job after working 48 hours. Carpenters to give two hours' notice on leaving a job after working 48 hours.

3. DAYMEN.—Assistants to heads of departments and carpenters, employed by the day, for the week, or on the regular staff in the stage, flies, property, electrician's, limelight, or gas departments, to be paid a minimum of 24s. per week, exclusive of overtime or "show" money. The normal hours for each day, or week, to be between the hours of 9 o'clock a.m. and 5 o'clock p.m. (allowing one hour for dinner) on five days of the week, and from 9 o'clock to 1 o'clock on Saturdays. Overtime rates (on work apart from the actual working of a performance): From 5 o'clock p.m. to 8 o'clock p.m., time and half; from 8 o'clock p.m. to 7 o'clock a.m. next morning, double time. From Saturday, 1 o'clock, on Sundays, Good Fridays, Christmas Day, double time. Overtime for any less period than one and a half hours to be reckoned as a quarter of a day. Electrician's Department: Wire men to be paid 9½d. per hour, when engaged to do such work. Leading men in all departments to be paid 1s. per day above the minimum rate herein specified. Extra men, brass cleaners, porters, hall keepers, baggagemen, and such other men employed to do work in the hall, on the stage, or at front of the house, to be paid not less than 7d. per hour between the hours of 9 o'clock a.m. and 5 o'clock p.m. (Saturday, 1 o'clock). A period of time less than four hours to be reckoned as four hours, any period of time over four hours to be reckoned as a day. Overtime rates to be as specified above.

4. NIGHTMEN (including all those engaged to work during a performance in a stage department—stage, flies, properties, lights). Performances: Hours of labour, from the raising of the curtain to the conclusion of the performance and clearing the stage after the last item on the programme. Duties to be the setting and "striking" of the scenery and the operation (manipulation) of the lights used during the performance. Rates of pay: In one-show-a-night houses, 2s. per performance; in two-shows-a-night houses, 2s. 6d. per night and 2s. per matinée, not exceeding three hours in duration. A special performance exceeding the usual duration of a matinée, or evening performance in one-show-a-night houses, to be paid extra. Rehearsals: Between the hours of 7 o'clock a.m. and 12 o'clock (midnight), 2s. for three hours or any portion thereof; between the hours of midnight (12 o'clock) and 7 o'clock a.m., and on Sundays, Good Fridays, Christmas Day, 2s. for one hour and half or any portion thereof. All men engaged for a rehearsal to charge from the time of "the call."

5. All men not reinstated, or given similar positions to those vacated during the dispute, by the interim award, to be reinstated or given similar employment.

6. All workmen covered by the terms of the award shall be or become members of the National Association of Theatrical Employees, if otherwise eligible to do so, under the rules of that Association.

"A LINK IN THE CHAIN."

Dramatic Sketch, by Wynne Penwyn, produced at the Cambridge Music Hall on Monday, March 18.

Mr. Henry Waring ....MR. HENRY DOUGHTY
Dr. William Daneson .....MR. HENRY WATSON
Gertrude Vernon .....MISS BLANCHE GOODHALL
Sergeant Allen .....MR. JOHN W. GATES
P.C. Muir .....MR. CYRIL A. BENT

Mr. "Wynne Penwyn"—a name which hides the identity of a gentleman associated with the management of a London theatre—tells an intensely tragical story in the episode, *A Link in the Chain*. Dr. Daneson has taken advantage of a girl, Gertrude Vernon, presumably under an offer of marriage. He has, however, no intention of leading her to the altar, for he is now engaged to a wealthy woman who will be able to redeem his shattered fortunes. Gertrude, however, is anxious to meet him for the last time—she is anxious to show her betrayer that she has no further desire for life by ending it. So, seated in a corner of the Broad Walk in Kensington Gardens, she awaits, with anxious face, the appearance of the doctor. Noticing her forlorn looks and aspect of dejectedness, a detective (Henry Waring) stops to speak to the girl. He and her father had been old friends. Could he not be of service to her now? Will she come and stay with him? She declines his assistance, and he, for the moment, leaves her, promising not to lose sight of her. With the eventual arrival of Dr. Daneson there is a scene in which, after telling her that he cannot marry her, as he is in great need of money, the girl shoots herself. Detective Waring, who immediately makes known his presence, sternly condemns the doctor for his conduct, and points out the possible consequences, upon which Daneson uses the weapon upon himself with fatal results. Miss Blanche Goodhall acts with much feeling, sincerity, and pathos as Gertrude Vernon, and she is supported in good style by Mr. Henry Watson as the doctor and Mr. Henry Doughty as the detective.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Fairs Ahead.

The fairs ahead for next week are: Clitheroe, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Gomersall Feast, on the London and North-Western; Henley-in-Arden, on the Great Western; Leigh (Dorset), on the Great Western; Durham, on the North-Eastern; Ottery St. Mary, on the London and South-Western; Bridgnorth, on the Great Western; Norwich, on the Great Eastern, Midland, and Great Northern; Stamfordham, on the North-Eastern; Bacup, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Doncaster, on the Great Northern, Great Eastern, Great Central, Midland, and Lancashire and Yorkshire; Haslingden, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Padiham, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Todmorden, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Bakewell, on the Midland; Bilston, on the Great Western; Birkenhead, on the London and North-Western and Great Western; Blackburn, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Blackheath, on the South-Eastern and Great Northern; Clevedon, on the Great Western; Colne, on the Midland and Lancashire and Yorkshire; Deptford, on the South-Eastern, East London, London, Brighton, and South Coast and London, Chatham, and Dover; Exeter, on the London and South-Western and Great Western; Gainsborough, on the Great Northern, Great Eastern Junction, and Great Central; Garston, on the London and North-Western and Cheshire lines; Godmanchester, on the Great Eastern; Great Grimsby, on the Great Northern and Great Central; Halesowen, on the Great Western and Midland; Hendon (Welsh Harp), Midland; Hinckley, on the Midland and North-Western; Hockham, on the Great Eastern; Holmfirth, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Newcastle-on-Tyne, on the North-Eastern; Lindfield, on the London, Brighton, and South Coast; Malvern, on the Great Western and Midland; Middlesbrough, on the North-Eastern; Queen's Road, Manchester, on the North-Western; Hampstead Heath, Wormwood Scrubbs, Midsomer Norton, on the Midland and South-Western; Morecambe, on the North-Western and Midland; New Brighton, on the Wirral; Newcastle-on-Tyne, on the North-Eastern and North British; Newmarket, on the Great Eastern; Northampton, on the North-Western, Great Northern, London and North-Western, and Midland; North Shields, on the North-Eastern; Northwich, on the London and North-Western and Cheshire lines; Plymouth, on the Great Western and South-Western; Portsmouth, on the London, Brighton, and South Coast and London and South-Western; Richmond (Surrey), on the South-Western, North London, Metropolitan and District; Rothwell Feast, on the Midland; Rushden Feast, on the Midland; Ryde (Isle of Wight), on the Isle of Wight, Isle of Wight Central, London, Brighton, and South Coast, and London and South-Western; Salford (Trinity Market), on the Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North-Western; Selby, on the Great Northern and North-Eastern; Shipley Glen, on the Midland, Great Northern, and North-Eastern; Southport, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire, North-Western, Cheshire lines, and Great Central; South Shields, on the North-Eastern; Stafford, on the North-Western, Great Northern, and North Staffordshire; Stourbridge, on the Great Western and North-Western; Thornaby, on the North-Eastern; Tunbridge Wells, on the South-Eastern and London, Brighton, and South Coast; Tring, on the London and North-Western; Wanstead Flats, on the Great Eastern; and Worthen, on the North-Western and Great Western Railways.

In Scotland, Dunfermline, on the North British. In the Principality, Holyhead, on the London and North-Western; Cardiff, on the Great Western; Taff Vale, and London and North-Western; Maescwmmer, on the Brecon and Merioneth; Menai Bridge, on the London and North-Western; Merthyr Tydfil, on the Great Western, North-Western, Taff Vale, and Brecon and Merioneth; Neath, on the Great Western; Newport (Monmouth), on the Great Western and North-Western; Pontypridd, on the Taff Vale; Towyn, on the Cambrian; Tredegar, on the North-Western and Great Western.

News from Yorkshire.

Harry Ashington, with his marionette theatre, is just finishing a capital season at Stanley Lane Ends, near Wakefield, and with him on the same ground are Messrs. Bassett and Blackburn, with fair-ground varieties, stalls, Emmas, &c.

At Batley, for private business, are W. H. Marshall, with motor-cars; Proctor, with highfliers; Blake, with swings and Emma sheets; and Messrs. Holdsworth, Mitchell, and Vanner, with varieties.

At Rothwell are Messrs. Church and Bottomley, with roundabouts, steam yachts, and big boats; Miller, with shooting concerns and varieties; and "Freddy," with Emma sheets.

At Normanton are Charles Marshall, Burton, Wallett, and Walker, with fair-ground varieties.

W. Steward is at Wakefield for private business, and Sador's Wonderland show paid the cathedral town a visit a few days ago.

Fair Abolished.

The Home Secretary has granted the petition of the local authorities for the abolition of Weston Green Fair, held at Thames Ditton on Whitsun Monday. We are informed that it was a fair of very small importance, and one of its chief drawbacks was that there was no local interest, because there was no toll paid the ground was free, and it was "first come, first served." The probability is that under private venture, and on private land, with an able showman to organise the fair and control the letting of the ground, Weston Green Fair may be vastly improved.

Llangollen Fair.

The amusements at this fair were provided vided by P. Collins, with Wheeling-the-whirl machine, Jumping-horse set, and the Eddystone Lighthouse helter-skelter; Charles Farrell, with Coliseum of animated photography, steam yachts, and aërial flight; Winchester ranges, throwing games, and variety stalls by Messrs. Turner, Fossett, Walker, Lewis, and Shaw. The stormy wind much interfered with business at this fair.

Corwen Fair.

Maintained by the local district caterer, Mr. Charles Farrell, who provided a capital array of novelties, including cinematograph show, galloping horses, swings, shooting galleries, rifle ranges, and throwing games. With Mr. Farrell were Messrs. Wright, with fine art gallery, rifle saloon, and bottle-shooter; Fossett, with rifle range and bottle battery; and Turner, with similar concerns.

Clitheroe Fair.

Messrs. Relph and Pedley provided the principal attraction of this famous Lancashire fair. Their splendid cinematograph theatre was the big show; their grand new motor-car machine and the razzle-dazzle were great draws. The other shows were Hayden's second sight and occult temple, and C. Relph's up-to-date peep-show. The other machines were by Messrs. Taylor with steam horses, John Starkie with gem horses and swings, and J. Smith with highfliers. The rifle ranges, throwing games, and all the fun of the fair by Messrs. Broughton, Starkie, Taylor, Shorrocks, Lorenzo, Gallagher, Butterworth, Ingham, Redfern, Stanley, and Freer.

Portable Theatre Blown Down.

The county town of Monmouth was on Saturday night thrown into a state of excitement when at nine o'clock it became known that Mr. Harry Cowall's theatre had been blown down during a performance. The wildest rumours were circulated, and people whose friends had gone to the play hastened to the meadow near the Old Dixton Gate, where the theatre was pitched, and to their amazement and alarm they found the building a heap of burning wood and débris. The theatre was licensed to hold 200 people, and was inspected on Saturday morning by an official of the Monmouthshire County Council, and no apprehensions as to its safety had been entertained. Fortunately there were some indications of the coming collapse, and many members of the audience had got clear of the building before the final crash. The first intimation of danger was a rocking of the whole building soon after the play, *The Gipsy Queen*, started. Then one of the side galleries, which was raised a few feet from the ground, gave way and precipitated the occupants on to the floor. The proprietor, who had previously requested the audience to leave, as he apprehended danger from the rising storm, repeated the request with emphasis, undertaking to return the admission tickets and make them available for another performance. The audience as a body did not share Mr. Cowall's apprehensions, and wanted to see the end of the play. A few, however, left the building and received the tickets according to the proprietor's promise. Ten minutes later a terrific gust of wind blew the building over to an angle of 30 degrees, and it remained stationary for two or three minutes, fortunately for the audience. Mr. Cowell was seen by a Press representative on Sunday. The proprietor of the theatre paid high tribute to his company, who, with himself, he declared, were the last to leave the building. His wife was slightly injured in the disaster. Mr. Cowall brought his theatre from Abergavenny on Wednesday. There was a crowded audience on Saturday night, the performance being the first of the visit to Monmouth. Even before the play commenced Mr. Cowall suggested that the audience should leave, there being such a high wind blowing. But the audience were intent on the coming play, and remained seated. Mrs. Evesham, of Cinderhill-street, Monmouth, who, with her baby, was saved by crouching near a charcoal stove, said she acted on the impulse of the moment, and did not at the time notice the stove. Mr. Cox, of Birmingham, who was badly trampled upon, said he did not complain. It was a fair struggle to get out. A sad fatality was the death of a member of the audience named Thomas Fuller, whose body was found beneath the wreckage of the theatre.

Storm on the Fairground, Blackpool.

The waves pitched right over the promenade, even flooding neighbouring streets. The fairground suffered severely. The sea washed out eight stalls, partly smashed the switchback, and broke down the concrete wall and floor containing the lake for the water chute. A new sea circus was considerably damaged, expensive motors and dynamos being flooded. Men worked all night on the scenic railway structure to prevent it falling on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.

Glasgow Zoo.

An interesting event took place on Friday last at the Scottish Zoo, Glasgow, one of the female pumas having given birth to three fine sturdy babies. These are said to be the first baby pumas born in the Zoo since its establishment now almost ten years ago. It may be added that a splendid specimen of the native wild cat has been secured for the collection of animals at the Zoo.

The New Bioscope Co. gave a performance of the Passion Play at the Middlesex on Saturday. The films proved very interesting and won warm approbation.

Subscriptions to Showmen's Guild, 1907:—Andrew Purchase £1 1s., W. Steward 5s., per the Rev. T. Horne. H. Knowles 5s., D. Moore 5s., E. Stevenson 5s., Mrs. R. Stevenson 5s., Mr. W. Smith 5s., per Mr. W. Wilmot.

The *London Gazette* of March 15 contains the official notice of a proposal to abolish Norton Heath Fair. The petition to the Home Secretary is promised by the Ongar Rural District Council, and the Home Secretary requests that all parties who may wish to oppose the abolition shall communicate with him before April 15, upon which date he intends to consider the matter. It is for the showmen who travel the county of Essex to rouse themselves and to render all assistance they can to the Showmen's Guild in order that the fair may be saved.

Mr. H. Banford, the "second Dan Leno," comedian attached to Mr. Ball's "Lyceum," West Ealing, has collected, on behalf of the Ealing Cottage Hospital, the sum of £3 3s. 9d. by the sale of the picture postcards displaying his portrait in character. Mr. Banford will take a "benefit" at the Lyceum next Friday. The Mayor, we are informed, has consented to take the chair at an entertainment to be given at the Lyceum, West Ealing, in aid of the funds of the Ealing Philanthropic Institution.

Mr. Ball has had a most successful season at West Ealing, and has won many friends by his splendid enterprise in providing popular amusements for the people and his generous support of local charities.

Pontardawe (Wales) had for its entertainers Wadbrooke with cinematograph theatre, H. Studt and Son with gondola set and switchback, and Messrs. North and Son, Booth, and others with fairground varieties.

ANSWERS TO SHOWMEN.

Will Mr. Arthur Dashwood send in his address for the next few days? We will then send him the particular copy of "The Era" he has written for.

W. B. (Hounslow). — *Many thanks for your interesting letter with its many useful suggestions. The matters you have advised as worthy of consideration were fully talked out by the committee of the Showmen's Guild this week, and it was determined to keep a vigilant watch, and to take action at the first opportunity.*

J. D. (Poste Restante, Paris).—*We sincerely trust that you are now through your immediate difficulties. We shall be glad to hear from you from any of the Continental fairs.*

Fred Karno's company is at the Grand Theatre and Opera House, Derby, this week with *Saturday to Monday*. Mr. Rolando Martin, the indefatigable impersonator of the bridegroom, John Willie Jaggs, easily secures premier honours. Miss Amy Rogerson presents a clever depiction of the bride; and the part of her sister is vivaciously filled by Miss Daisy Stoke. Mr. V. H. Crawford, as the precocious John Willie Jaggs, jun., is in every way successful; and Mr. J. Fletch is delightfully droll as Spinks, a waiter. Mr. J. W. Bradbury is a commendable father-in-law, and Mr. Dick Harcourt is capital as "best man." One of the best vocal efforts comes from Mr. C. Herbert Summers, who plays as Violet Blake's lover. All the other parts are admirably sustained.

Espinosa, the eminent teacher of dancing, has at last decided to open a permanent academy in town. This should prove a boon to lovers of true dancing. It is at 116a, King's-road, Chelsea.

SHOW PROPERTY BURNT
IN RAILWAY TRANSIT.

IMPORTANT TO SHOWMEN.

At the Aylesbury County Court, before his Honour Judge Howland Roberts, on Wednesday, March 13, the case was heard of Alfred Ball, travelling showman, of Ealing, *v.* London and North-Western Railway Company. This was a claim for £75 damage to a cinematograph show during transit of same from Aylesbury to Oxford.

Plaintiff was represented by Mr. G. Whyteman Powers, barrister (instructed by Mr. Watson Wright, solicitor to the Showmen's and Vandwellers' Protection Association), and Mr. F. L. Lambert, solicitor, from the Euston office, appeared for the defence.

Counsel for the plaintiff briefly stated the leading facts to his Honour, stating that the claim was for £75 for damage by fire to the front part of a cinematograph show during transit from Aylesbury to Oxford. The goods were all right when they left Aylesbury, but were damaged during transit to Oxford. The front of the cinematograph van, which was very elaborate, was damaged by fire and completely spoiled. In order to get his goods from the custody of the defendant company he paid the carriage under protest. He set up the cinematograph at St. Giles's Fair, but its unfortunate condition militated very much against the attendance of the public, and thus there was a loss to plaintiff. He had consulted an expert in regard to the damage, who said the car could not be restored under £75, which was the amount of the claim.

Mr. Alfred Ball, travelling showman, of West Ealing, said he was the owner of two vans containing a cinematograph show. The fronts were carved and the panels filled in with oil paintings. He saw the vans put on the South-Eastern Railway at Stroud, with the intention of coming to Aylesbury, prior to St. Giles's Fair. At Dartford he had a breakdown with some of his other cars, and telegraphed to the stationmaster at Aylesbury to book the things on to Oxford, as he could not get to Aylesbury. When he saw the cars on Saturday on the L. and N.W.R. Co.'s line at Oxford, he found the carved work and oil paintings had been destroyed by fire. The estimate to restore the work was £75, and that was submitted by the cheapest man, one wanting £100. Before he drew his goods out from the railway he paid the carriage. He paid it under protest, as he wanted to get his goods out. He had to set up his show with the front burnt. He signed no contract with the L. and N.W. Railway, but signed at Stroud for the goods to come to Aylesbury. Before this happened he had no knowledge that the L. and N.W. Railway Co. had two rates, one at owner's risk and the other exempting the owner. He had since seen the stationmaster at Aylesbury, and believed he said he thought the goods were all right when they left Aylesbury. The goods arrived at Oxford on Saturday, Sept. 1, and the stationmaster at Oxford told him the train was stopped at Bletchley, where they put the fire out. There were four sections burnt. The stationmaster said he thought the fire was caused by the sparks from the engine.

Cross-examined: He owned other vans, and was in the habit of travelling by rail. He had paid many hundreds of pounds for carriage, and on all railways he paid 6d. per mile for carriage. He had no knowledge that that was owner's risk rate. He never knew that there was a rate of 7½d.—company's risk rate. It was the usual practice of show people to travel on the 6d. rate. The South-Eastern made him pay before his goods started, and he did not complain of having to pay the L. and N.W. before receiving his goods. He signed a document at Stroud, but did not know that it was a document saying that the goods would be conveyed at a cheaper rate at owner's

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The Tomb.
The Resurrection.
The Ascension.
Tableau.

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risk. He saw the goods loaded up at Stroud on Thursday, Aug. 30, and intended opening the show at Aylesbury on Aug. 31. He was only complaining of the destruction of the front. There was no covering put over the van, but he expected the railway company to put tarpaulin over the trucks. His opinion in the matter was that if the South-Eastern had covered the trucks the fire would not have occurred. On account of the breakdown, he abandoned the Aylesbury show and went on to Oxford. The new paintings were done by Smith, of Peckham, and the carving by Anderson, of Bristol. The three pictures that were burnt would cost about £50.

Re-examined: He had no knowledge that the L. and N.W. had two rates until after this occurrence. Two months after he was charged 6d. per mile and 25 per cent. extra. He had no knowledge as to what the 6d. per mile represented. He had been paid claims for damage by the South-Eastern. He was not at Stroud when the trucks actually left, and did not know whether they had a tarpaulin or not. In addition to the paintings, there was the carving and gilding, which was done up the year before.

His Honour intimated to Mr. Lambert that he could not see how he could rely upon a special contract as there was no signed contract.

Mr. Lambert intimated that he was really relying on the contract with the South-Eastern, arguing that that controlled the journey from Aylesbury to Oxford.

Mr. Thomas Robert Simmonds, of 12, Ladysmith-avenue, West Ham, pianist, in the employ of Mr. Ball, said he had travelled from Aylesbury to Oxford by the Great Western Railway, and paid a fare of 2s. 4d., which represented a distance of twenty-eight miles. He came to Aylesbury on Aug. 31, and made enquiries as to the goods, and was told they were all right. He then went on to Oxford. He saw the goods when they arrived, and saw they had been burnt. The truck was close to the engine, not further off than one coach. There was no tarpaulin on the truck. He was told they had been burnt on the journey.

Mr. John Robert Anderson, of Bristol, wood-carver and designer, said his speciality was the decoration of show fronts. He examined these goods of Mr. Ball's, and found they were practically destroyed. He estimated it would cost £75 to restore them.

Mr. Lambert said the only point he relied on was that the goods were carried under the contract with the South-Eastern Railway Co. Plaintiff had started on a journey for the purpose of coming to Aylesbury, but, in consequence of a breakdown, this arrangement was altered. He argued that the goods having arrived at 7.15 a.m. on Aug. 31, and the telegram was received at 2 p.m., directing another destination, it was, therefore, a continuing journey, as plaintiff had no one at Aylesbury to whom they might be delivered. He could not dispute the amount claimed if the company were held to be responsible.

Mr. Reginald Wyatt, booking clerk at Stroud to the South-Eastern Railway Co., said he witnessed plaintiff's signature for his van. He paid 6d. per mile for carriage, which was owner's risk rate, the other rate being 25 per cent. in excess. He had booked goods for Mr. Ball on several occasions.

Cross-examined: He had on five occasions booked goods for Mr. Ball from Stroud Station. He did not tell Mr. Ball there were two rates. The contract was sent to the L. and N.W. on Nov. 17.

Mr. Fred Randell White, booking clerk at Aylesbury, said the van arrived by the 7.57 a.m. train on Aug. 31. On receipt of the telegram the truck was sent on to Oxford. He knew Mr. Ball well, and he had always sent at owner's risk and signed the contract. He heard Mr. Ball say in November he knew it was taken at owner's risk rate, and he was surprised to hear him say he did not know there were two rates.

Cross-examined: He saw the truck on Aug. 31, but did not notice anything amiss with it. He did not know anything as to the age of the engine that took the goods. The engine that took them from Aylesbury only journeyed as far as Cheddington. He was not aware there had been a number of fires between Aylesbury and Oxford.

Mr. William Chadwick, stationmaster at Aylesbury, said he had dealt with Mr. Ball in regard to traffic on several occasions. He remembered Mr. Ball admitting in his office that he was aware the goods were taken at owner's risk rate. He also suggested, in regard to the claim, that they were willing to give and take.

Cross-examined: The fare to Oxford was 2s. 10d. by the L. and N.W. Railway. He was not aware as to the fare charged by the G.W.R.

Mr. Powers submitted that the effect of his telegram was to terminate the contract with the South-Eastern. If, as had been suggested, it was a continuance of the contract then he was suing the wrong company, and ought to have claimed from the South-Eastern. He argued there had been wilful misconduct on the part of the company in not covering the truck, and also in placing it so near the tender of the engine.

His Honour said he must take time to consider this case, and would give his decision at the April Court.

MITCHAM FAIR.

A conference of leading London showmen to discuss the question of Mitcham Fair was held on Wednesday this week at the Star and Garter Hotel, Islington. Among the showmen present and taking part in the discussion were Messrs. W. Biddall, Swales Forrest, J. Manders, Alf Ball, R. Clasper, W. Wilson, F. Turner, J. Manning, Fred Gray, George Beach, T. Knighton, and George Sanders. The meeting was convened by the Rev. T. Horne, acting for the Showmen's Guild, and its main object was to place before Metropolitan showmen the very complicated legal aspects of the dispute between the Mitcham Conservators and the showmen, which culminated in Messrs. Ball, Hill, and Wilson being cited in the High Court to answer a charge of trespass on the lands controlled by the Conservators.

Mr. Horne opened the proceedings by reading counsel's opinion obtained by the defendants (Messrs. Ball, Hill, and Wilson), and that mainly induced them to accept the injunction of the Court not to commit the technical offence of trespass on the common lands controlled by the Conservators of Mitcham. The point of the counsel's opinion of interest to Mitcham is set out in the following terms:—"Is there, then, any obligation on the owner of a franchise to hold a fair, or can he discontinue it at will? There is no case which directly answers this question, but it may be inferred from 24 Victoria, cap. 12, 'Abolition of Fairs, 1871,' and the general trend of decisions dealing with fairs, that the owner of a franchise has no absolute right to cease holding a fair and thereby prevent traders attending on the customary days. The point, however, is not free from doubt. But the present (Mitcham) case is complicated by the position of the plaintiffs, who are constituted Conservators by Act of Parliament, and have power under the Act of 1891, sections 38 and 40, to extinguish the right of holding a fair."

The sections of the Act of Parliament referred to (the Metropolitan Commons, Mitcham Supplemental Act, 1891), were then read. Section 38 provides that "the Lords of the said Manor of Biggin *v.* Tamworth claim the right of holding a fair on Upper Green," and that the promoters of the Bill recognise the rights of the Lords of the Manor. Section 40 confers on the Conservators powers of management, improvement, and control, as provided for in former clauses of the Act, and for such purposes the power of restricting, *diminishing*, or *extinguishing such rights or any of them* whenever it shall appear to the Conservators that the continuance of such rights will interfere with the control, preservation, or improvement of the Commons by the Conservators, or with any of the purposes of this scheme, upon payment by the Conservators of compensation to the bodies or persons severally interested in such rights.

The amount, if any, to be paid by the Conservators to such bodies or persons as and for compensation in respect of the restriction, diminution, or extinction of such rights shall be settled by agreement, or, failing agreement, then under the Provisions of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845.

Opening the discussion, Mr. Horne said that in the face of the evidence he had read from the counsel's opinion and the Act of Parliament upon which it was based, it was evident that having compensated Mrs. Bailey, the late owner of the franchise, by purchasing her rights, it placed the Conservators in full power and authority to extinguish the fair. There can be no doubt that to contest this right of the Conservators claimed by them as plaintiffs in the action for trespass against the three cited showmen would have been not only an extremely costly proceeding, but that the weight of evidence was against the possibility of the showmen winning the day. To put the case in as few words as possible, the Conservators have had power under their special Act of Parliament at any time during the past sixteen years to extinguish the fair as soon as they had compensated the legal holder of the fair rights.

It is extremely difficult to understand why the Conservators applied to the Home Secretary for an order to abolish the fair when they already possessed powers by purchase of the fair rights to extinguish Mitcham Fair. There can be only the suspicion that the Conservators thought that public opinion in Mitcham would be better satisfied if the Home Secretary abolished the fair, rather than it being done by the will of the Conservators, who might, in their turn, as they stood for election, be brought to book by the people of Mitcham. On the other hand, there is the significant fact that the Abolition of Fairs Act contains no provisions for compensating the vested interests, but that their own Act does contain clauses providing such justice being done to the owner of the franchise.

Arising out of the legal points raised by the Mitcham case, there are several interesting and important facts for showmen to remember. One of these points is that it is quite lawful to draw upon a fair-ground at the fair time and to disturb the soil for the purposes of erecting shows, &c., without giving any previous notice to the owner of the fair. In other words, when a fair is being held a showman cannot be summoned for trespass. Of course, when Mr. Ball and the other tenants drew on to the Mitcham Fair green they were not aware of the extraordinary powers that the Act of 1891 conferred upon the conservators. Had they been in possession of this very material fact it is very doubtful whether they would have made the venture they did. It was extremely unfair for the Conservators not to tell the showmen the full extent of their powers. Had this been done the Act of Parliament empowering the Conservators to extinguish the right of holding a fair would have been examined and a decision would have been made not in ignorance, but with full knowledge of the legal bearings of the situation.

Another important legal point is that the owner of a fair franchise cannot refuse to exercise his franchise without statutory power of abolition being exercised. Either the owner of the franchise must get the Home Secretary to abolish the fair in accordance with the provisions of the Abolition of Fairs Act, or else he must have a private Act of Parliament, as the Mitcham Conservators have, that gives him power to extinguish the franchise.

So far, then, it is perfectly clear that a fair cannot be abolished or extinguished at the will of the owner of the fair franchise, but it must be constitutionally done either directly through the Home Secretary or under the powers of a special Act of Parliament.

Mr. Ball informed his brother showmen of the interviews and negotiations he and Mr. Clasper had had on behalf of the Mitcham Fair tenants, with Alderman Foss, the chairman of the Board of Conservators. He was in a position to inform the meeting that it was still an open question whether the Conservators would permit the holding of a fair on another part of their common lands. A special meeting of the Conservators had been called, and he hoped to have a definite answer as to what the Conservators are prepared to do.

Mr. Horne pointed out the importance of arriving at a knowledge of the intentions of the Conservators before a certain number of that body had to present themselves for election in the month of April. Mr. Clasper spoke of the extreme anxiety on the part of the Mitcham people and the Parish Council of Mitcham to continue the fair, and he was of opinion that any of the Conservators going before the electors at Mitcham would lose his seat on the Board if he was known to be against the continuance of the fair. From all that he had seen and heard in recent interviews with prominent men at Mitcham when he had been down there with Mr. Ball, he was strongly of opinion that great public pressure was being brought to bear upon the Conservators to afford facilities for holding the fair at Three King's Common, a site that had been strongly recommended by the best friends of Mitcham for the continuance of its ancient fair. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Horne the very important question (in view of certain rumours floating about with regard to a private venture scheme to secure the transfer of the fair rights and the fair itself from the Conservators), whether there was any fair in the legal sense in existence at the present moment. Mr. Horne expressed the opinion that if the judgment in the High Court was a just decision, and if Messrs. Ball, Hill, and Wilson had been rightly condemned, then there was no fair in existence at the present moment at Mitcham. Either the defendants had been unjustly compelled to submit to the injunction of the High Court (which of course involved the previous extinction of the fair under the 1891 Act), or, if the fair still existed, and was capable at the present moment of being legally transferred to another site, still retaining all its ancient privileges, then the showmen defendants had been unjustly forced to acknowledge an offence of which (legally) they had not been guilty.

What the people of Mitcham may do is a question, of course, of great interest to showmen, and he sincerely hoped that the great body of public opinion so forcibly declared at the mass meeting in defence of the people's fair rights on the Fair Sunday last year would make itself felt at the ballot-box, and that "the awakening of Mitcham," of which this fair question had been the first indication, would develop so rapidly and effectively as to drive from power all those who have been endeavouring for some time past to deprive the people of Mitcham of their annual fair.

Other interesting questions were put and answered, and a general discussion took place on various points of interest to showmen with reference to the proposed abolition of Norton Heath Fair and the recent abolition of Weston Green Fair. The executive committee of the Showmen's Guild was instructed to take all necessary action both with regard to arousing public opinion in defence of the people's fair rights at Mitcham and to promote a petition from the local showpeople against the abolition of Norton Heath Fair.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES

THE PALACE.

Our interest in the theatrical art of Spain has been pleasantly stimulated lately by the union of hearts that gave as consort to the Iberian King one of England's fairest daughters; but La Tortajada, who came into Mr. Alfred Butt's programme on Monday evening, was already a favourite with the English public before the international event to which we have referred, and her art is so eloquent of the warmer South that she does not need the adventitious aid of the *entente cordiale* so happily established. She returns, after two years' absence, with her personal charm and magnetism undiminished. In a sunny, a coquettish, or a passionate vein, she completely captivates her audience by her complete subjection to the mood of the moment, and her range is such that, as she passes from fascinating *gaminerie* to passionate petulance, one is convinced that she might have been a great tragedienne had she not been so exquisite a comedienne. In her first number she illustrates the art of wearing the mantilla, and in a second selection from her répertoire shows how a young Andalusian maid, of both parents bereft, laments the fact in despondent strains. Finally, with inimitable *brio*, La Tortajada dashes into the fandango with irresistible energy and fascination. She kissed her hand to all parts of the house on Monday, and put herself on confidential terms with the occupants of a house which has built up a reputation as the London home of the chief Spanish exponents of the mimetic and terpsichorean arts

Mr. Alfred Lester, who is still playing the lost policeman in *Aladdin* at the Gaiety, has been kindly lent by Mr. George Edwardes to Mr. Butt. It will be remembered that it was in *The Scene-shifter's Lament* at the fine house in Shaftesbury-avenue that Mr. Lester made his first memorable hit as a comedian. He appears in a new comedy duologue, entitled *A Restaurant Episode*, specially written for him by Arthur Wimperis and Walter Davidson. Mr. Lester impersonates a waiter, whom melancholy has marked down for its own. Something like seven courses are given for eighteenpence at the historic house where he has "learned to labour and to wait" during sixteen years. The proprietor—"a very pertikler man"—fights shy of the viands provided with sparing hand by an unresourceful chef, and invariably goes out to dinner. A lady customer who wishes to sample the courses is advised to have Irish stew, as she will then get the whole of them at once. The confidential chat with the lady customer about her prospects on the musical comedy stage, and the energetic asides down the speaking tube, are all in the truest spirit of humour. Eventually the waiter finds himself "bilked." The trifle, which went exceedingly well, may be pronounced as an excellent vehicle for Mr. Lester's refreshing comedy, which caused shouts of laughter on Monday. *A Restaurant Episode* is certain to be as successful as the celebrated *Scene-shifter's Lament*, of which, by the bye, Mr. Lester is sole author. A good word may be said for the unobtrusive impersonation of the lady customer by Miss Lily Mills, who is natural and unaffected.

The Mysterious Howards are renewing their triumphs, and in their silent mental telepathy become most impressive in the correct guessing of playing cards and the dates of coins by the blindfolded partner on the stage, who writes down the result of his thought inspirations on a blackboard. The tests are very genuine, and the show throughout quite absorbing in its interest. Miss Nina Gordon at the piano gives some clever and amusing imitations, being endowed with no little vocal ability. Miss Margaret Cooper takes us into the higher realms of vocal expression, and fascinates us as much with her pianoforte playing as her singing; Mr. Hayden Coffin now sings "The Village Blacksmith," one of the songs that cannot be said to suit him; the Palace Girls sing and dance with their customary vivacity and chic; Miss Maude Courtney retails anecdotes that are not so fresh as her songs, in one of which she is assisted by a gentleman possessing a wonderful falsetto; the Juggling McBans display marvellous skill with Indian clubs; and Mas Andres are still entertaining in their burlesque of a Parisian *revue*. The Bioscope is invariably kept up to date, and of course presents last Saturday's boat race. Mr. Hermann Finck's cosmopolitan pot-pourri of melody is still a popular feature of the music at the Palace.

THE STANDARD.

Mr. Charles Carte is making his first appearance in a West End music hall in his sketch, in three scenes, entitled *A Noble Brother*. This is a version, specially adapted to the requirements of the variety theatres, of the American comedy drama bearing the same title, which was first performed in England at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, as long ago as the autumn of 1889. The plot of this play showed how the heroine is brought up as the daughter of an Army officer, but her real father proves to be an eccentric character known as "Jerry the Tramp." The young girl has won the love of a man well worthy of her affection; but the villain of the piece, having gained a knowledge of her parentage, tries to make mischief and separate the lovers. Jerry himself has performed a noble act of self-sacrifice to preserve untarnished the honour of a brother, and served a term of imprisonment in his place. The girl discovers who her real father is, and the dastardly scheme of the villain having been defeated, Jerry enters upon a new life, rendered happy by the love of a devoted daughter. The leading character of Jerry presents the striking contrasts of touching pathos and genuine humour. Mr. Charles Carte plays this part in such a manner as to render the audience wholly in sympathy with the wandering vagabond who, for the sake of another, has passed through a hard, bitter experience. The mingled pathos and humour which so strongly characterise Jerry are brought out cleverly and with the most telling results by his representative, who never fails to evoke the hearty applause of the house. Miss Doris Brookes gives an excellent embodiment of Jerry's daughter; Mr. Arthur Tomlin plays well as the villain; and Mr. Howard Thorne is good in the part of the good-hearted old Colonel already mentioned.

A Desperate Remedy is the title of a lively little sketch in which Mrs. Finden plays the part of a wife who "nags" her husband (Mr. Harold Finden) until the poor man receives with apparent indifference her threat to commit suicide. By substituting a dose of whisky for the poison which his wife has poured into a glass the much-badgered husband contrives to get a good deal of fun out of the situation, to the great delight of the audience. Rezene and Robini appear in their always successful trapeze act, the former having only just recovered from injuries caused by a fall downstairs. Little Tichbourne is a droll comedian who sings a ditty in the character of a soldier. He wears big boots, and some of his funny business is suggestive of that of a more famous little comedian. Miss Agnes Molteno and company in the song-scena entitled *An Old-time Story* meet with well-deserved success; and much diversion is caused by the farcical production *Astronomy*, capitally presented by Mr. W. Fulbrook and company. Miss Dora Lyric sings with good effect "All that glitters is not gold," and Mr. Harry Rogerson gives an amusing burlesque on modern melodrama. Miss Maud Esmond easily maintains her reputation as a pleasing comedienne; and the Sisters Allen score with song and dance. Miss Amy Milton (comedienne), Mr. Charles Lilburn, and Mr. Stan Aubrey (comedians) also contribute with successful results; while the pictures shown by the Edisonograph are appreciated. Mr. Maurice Volny ably discharges the duties of assistant manager, and Mr. Frederick Allwood lends assistance as conductor of the orchestra.

"THE STEPMOTHER."

A Dramette, in One Act, by Arthur Shirley, Produced at the Empire, Camberwell, on Monday, March 18.

Bob Bristow ..... MR. WILLIAM HOLLES
Anna ..... MISS PHYLLIS MANNERS
Clare ..... MISS FREEDA GREEN
Abraham Wiggins ..... MR. WALTER BOYLE
Sergeant Spigot ..... MR. FRANK FINCHAM
Danny ..... MISS NANNIE GOLDMAN

The Stepmother tells a story familiar enough in the annals of our police-courts through the prosecutions instituted by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and as told by Mr. William Holles, Miss Nannie Goldman, and their company, will enlist the sympathies of many audiences. Bob Bristow, first mate of the Sea Mew, on the death of his first wife, marries again, firm in the conviction that his second wife, Anna, is all that is gentle and kind, and will give to his orphan son Danny all a mother's love and care; but the opening scene in Bob's cottage soon lets the audience see that all the love is bestowed on Anna's own child, Clare, while a fierce hatred is manifested towards the deformed offspring of her predecessor. Bob returns from sea unexpectedly, just as his unfaithful wife has planned to elope to Canada with Abraham Wiggins, the secretary of a slate club. Bob is shocked at the appearance of his son, and Anna tells him the boy is sulky, and given to many vices. The lad dare not contradict, for fear of the formidable whip his stepmother lashes him with at the slightest provocation, and Bob takes an affectionate leave of his wife and daughter and goes to rejoin his ship, convinced that Danny is all his wife has told him. Anna again welcomes her paramour, and arranges to realise Bob's property, while Wiggins goes to secure all the slate club funds he can. Danny realises that life is not worth living, and, broken-hearted, makes his way to the cemetery, where the red-whiskered but kind-hearted police-sergeant finds him kneeling at his mother's grave praying to be taken to her. The sergeant learns Danny's sad story and takes him off to be medically examined by the police surgeon. Meanwhile Bob Bristow returns to his home unexpectedly, having received a telegram from his ship owners giving him command of another ship with a three days' leave. He is puzzled to find his house empty, and when his daughter Clare comes in and innocently tells him that she is soon to have another dada in Abraham Wiggins he begins to have suspicions, which are confirmed when Wiggins arrives expecting to find Bob's wife ready to start, but encounters her outraged husband instead. Bob forces the trembling Wiggins into a room and threatens to shoot him should he make the least noise. Anna comes in singing, and thinking it is Wiggins buried in the easy chair by the fire, says she has realised all Bob's property and is ready to start. Bob reveals himself, and, after upbraiding her, tells her to clear out. The sergeant appears on the scene and claims Wiggins as his prisoner for fraud; he also tells Bob that the divisional surgeon has examined Danny, and has found the poor lad bruised from head to foot. Anna, finding all her vileness and cruelty discovered, curses her husband and Danny, and leaves the house, while Bob is left clasping his boy in his arms.

Miss Nannie Goldman essays the character of the poor lad Danny with firmness and feeling, and touches the hearts of the audience in the cemetery scene by a display of deep emotions. As Bob Bristow Mr. William Holles acts throughout with a breezy earnestness that carries the whole production well on to success. Miss Phyllis Manners imbues the unsatisfactory character of his frail wife Anna with delicacy and tact, and creates a strong impression of abhorrence in her brutal scenes with Danny. As her daughter Clare Miss Freeda Green has little to do, but does that little thoroughly and well. As the canting hypocrite Wiggins Mr. Walter Boyle does not spare himself, and adds not a little to the general success. Mr. Frank Fincham gives an excellent character-study of a rural police-sergeant. The play is well mounted, and Mr. William Neale's music greatly assists the action.

Variety in abundance is provided by Mr. Jesse Sparrow and Mr. Harry Bawn in their current bill, which includes Selkirk's well-known juvenile scena, *All Scotch*, in which the clever family are supported by some sixty Camberwell juveniles; Eldra and his highly intelligent and well-trained dog Prince, who make a novel entry in a miniature balloon; the Three Sisters Richmond, a charming turn, who have a bright future before them; Fred Hallam, a quaint and original comedian; Earle and Melville, patter vocalists and smart dancers; the Michalinis, a couple of exceedingly clever and finished jugglers with comical methods; the Two Wiltons, who fairly dance themselves into favour; Stan Aubrey, an eccentric legmania comedian; and excellent pictures of the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race by Jeapes' Animated Graphic.

"HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR."

A New Musical Absurdity, in One Scene, by A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott, Produced at Collins's Music Hall on Monday, March 18.

Uncle Septimus Harcourt ..... MR. MAITLAND MARLER
Jack Harcourt ..... MR. E. L. DAVIES
Monty Fitz-Herbert ..... MR. EDWARD COLLARD
Polly Pinkerton ..... MISS MARIE CLAYTON
Lottie Lucas ..... MISS DORA ROSE
Kitty ..... MISS ERNESTINE DESBOROUGH

Those well-known song-writers Messrs. A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott, have successfully collaborated in the writing of this new musical sketch, or "absurdity" as the authors prefer to call it. They may claim to have made ingenious use of an old theatrical device which, indeed, has done duty in several once popular farces, and notably in Charles Reade and Tom Taylor's famous play, *Masks and Faces*. Mr. Septimus Harcourt, the Mayor of Mudborough, has two nephews, Jack Harcourt, an artist by profession, and Monty Fitz-Herbert, who is the heir to his uncle's wealth. Jack has offended the old gentleman by becoming engaged to an artist's model named Kitty and refusing to give her up because of his uncle's strong objection to the match. Jack, however, has painted a full-sized picture of Mudborough's mayor in his robes of office, and the artist has received a telegram from his uncle intimating his intention of paying a visit to Jack's studio to see the portrait. But another visitor arrives first—Monty Fitz-Herbert, who, finding the studio unoccupied, takes a malicious delight in adding enormous ears to the portrait of Uncle Septimus and also painting in black eyebrows and moustache. Having by a few swift strokes with a paint-brush completely ruined the picture he draws the curtain behind which it has been placed, and gleefully anticipating the results of his mischievous handiwork takes his departure. Then the Mayor himself arrives, admires the picture which Jack is painting of Kitty in the character of a pretty slave girl, and is horrified at discovering the monstrous caricature of himself. In his rage he aims a blow at the face and makes a big hole in the canvas. Monty, accompanied by a couple of giddy chorus ladies, returns, Uncle Septimus beats a hasty retreat behind the portrait and thrusts his face into the aperture he has made. Monty, little suspecting who is listening to his remarks, proceeds to amuse his lady friends by making some very disrespectful references to his uncle, and to cap his bad behaviour applies with a brush red paint to the tip of the old gentleman's nose This last indignity is too much for the Mayor to bear without protest, and to the consternation of his nephew he comes forward and very pointedly expresses his opinion of that young gentleman. Jack is restored to favour, while Monty seems likely to be cut off with that shilling which is the traditional portion of the young man who has given unpardonable offence to a rich relative.

The lively, unpretentious little piece was excellently played. That experienced comedian Mr. Maitland Marler was appropriately fussy and important as the Mayor of Mudborough, who, whatever happens, "stands on his dignity," though he so far unbends as to join in the final song and dance. Mr. E. L. Davies as Jack Harcourt, the artist, did well, and sang a good song addressed to the picture of his sweetheart. Miss Ernestine Desborough was an attractive representative of Kitty, and also showed vocal ability; Mr. Edward Collard was a capital Monty Fitz-Herbert; and the two chorus ladies, Polly Pinkerton and Lottie Lucas, had vivacious exponents in Miss Marie Clayton and Miss Dora Rose. The new piece met with a favourable reception.

The current programme includes Mr. Percy Honri, who has won renown as a concertina expert. His musical selections are agreeably interspersed with amusing patter, and he concludes with a medley in which many of the most popular songs of the day are introduced. Miss Yolande Noble sings a couple of songs with much acceptance; and the list of comedians includes Mr. Tom Costello with his latest success, "The Suffragettes," Mr. Edwin Boyde, Mr. Fred Lincoln, Mr. Harry Conlin, and Mr. Harry Pleon, whose mimicry is always effective. Other attractions are Miss Ollie Burgoyne, a Creole comedienne; and Miss Ada Fawn, who distinguishes herself both as a comedienne and ballad vocalist, the Sisters Wingrove, comediennes, and the L.C.C. Bioscope with a highly sensational series of pictures depicting robbery and murder. Mr. F. F. Wade is the able manager here, and Mr. Kopski has the direction of the orchestra.

WHAT THE BUTLER DID;
OR, THE MAN WITH TWO WIVES.

Sketch, by Albert Voyce, produced for the first time at Richmond Theatre on Monday, March 18.

The plot of this little piece, which "caught on" immediately at its production on Monday, is slight but sufficient for the purpose, which is frankly to cause laughter. Mr. Williamson, who is in financial difficulties, is expecting a visit from a wealthy uncle from South Africa. The uncle proposes to make Mr. Williamson a present of £500 if the latter can satisfy the old gentleman of his determination to settle down and lead a different life—a requisition from which it may be gathered that Mr. Williamson's pre-nuptial career has been of the wild order. Unfortunately, at the moment of the story's opening, Mrs. Williamson is away on a visit to her father-in-law, from which expedition much is hoped. In his dilemma Mr. Williamson orders his butler to assume feminine apparel and endeavour to propitiate the old uncle. The situations resulting from the butler's impersonation, his difficulties in his unaccustomed attire, and the complication following the real Mrs. Williamson's unexpected return, must be seen to be appreciated. It is sufficient to say that the audiences at Richmond have keenly enjoyed the butler's troubles, and have signified their enjoyment by loud and continuous laughter nightly. The farce is produced by Mr. Bates Madison's company, under the direction of Mr. Roger Alwyn, with Mr. Frank Hill in the principal part.

"THE SHADOW BETWEEN."

A Drama, in Four Acts, by Harry Kingston, T. C. Denville, and Charles Self, Produced at the Variety Theatre, Hoxton, on Monday, March 18.

Jack Rivers ..... MR. RONALD ADAIR
Martin Craft ..... MR. MURRAY YORKE
Jim Blair ..... MR. IVAN GORE
Ebenezar Maxim ..... MR. EDWARD THANE
Bobby Buck ..... MR. VICTOR ROWLAND
Convict 99 ..... MR. CHARLES CROSBY
Ben Brace ..... MR. W. GIBBS
Peter Jarold ..... MR. ARTHUR VERNE
Red-Nosed Guest ..... MR. DAVE AYLOTT
Warder Crafton ..... MR. BENSON WALLER
Cissie Smart ..... MISS LOUISE BRANDON
Nita Russell ..... MISS EUGENE MAGNUS

The habitués of the Variety—late the King's—Theatre, Hoxton, have had something this week to excite their feelings, for sensational incidents abound in the new play, called *The Shadow Between*. Jack Rivers is the hero, and he is in love with the heroine, Nita Russell. The villain is that lady's guardian, whose surname, appropriately enough, is Craft. As a craftsman in crime Martin Craft is a good second to our old friend Moriary. The play commences on the heroine's twentieth birthday, and we learn with much regret that her unscrupulous guardian has squandered her money, and it is now his aim, for reasons which require no great mental effort to divine, to prevent her marrying Jack Rivers. So the crafty Craft drugs her, and, with the aid of an Irish accomplice, Jim Blair, carries her over the hills and far away with the intention of ultimately securing for her a seat among the sainted dead. Jim Blair has his own ideas on the subject. He sees possibilities of blackmail in keeping the lady alive, at any rate for a time. He secretes her in his premises, where he attempts to chloroform her. Nita assumes a state of unconsciousness, and immediately afterwards she actually succeeds in chloroforming him and escapes. The two confederates overtake her, but they in their turn are overpowered by the ubiquitous hero. But, alas and alack! the innocent, unsophisticated Nita is lured once again into the arms of the evil conspirators by a hypocritical communication from artful Jim. But, after all, Jim has tender feelings, for he raises strong objections to the desire on the part of Craft to murder the girl. This insignificant difference of opinion leads to a desperate encounter between the two, and eventually the hero comes in to claim the girl of his choice.

It can be said that the acting was of infinitely superior quality to the stuff which the members of the company were called upon to present to the audience. Mr. Ronald Adair was vigorous and virile as the robust hero; and Mr. Murray Yorke played with equal forcefulness as Martin Craft. Miss Eugene Magnus submitted a pleasing and sympathetic study of the heroine, while Miss Louise Brandon was sprightly as Cissie Smart, and Mr. Ivan Gore as the Irishman and Mr. Chas. Crosby in the comedy part of Convict 99 acted in able fashion.

THE last smoking concert of the season was given at the Canonbury Club, Canonbury Tower, on Saturday evening, when Councillor A. O. Clarke presided and Mr. Councillor Elmes was the vice-chairman. The contributors to the programme included Mme. Flora Arnaulde, whose charming soprano voice was heard to much advantage in the "Jewel Song" from *Faust*, and later on in "Il Bacio." This highly-cultured French vocalist received with much applause. Miss Elmes was also successful with her two songs, "My heart at your feet" and "Dear heart." Mr. Dick Abner and Mr. J. Massingham helped to secure the success of the entertainment with their humorous contributions; and Mr. Lovett King, who acted as accompanist at the piano, also sang a comic ditty. Mr. Will Clinch was an excellent stage-manager.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps. *The Era* is posted on Saturday in time to reach London Subscribers by the *first* Town Delivery, and Country Subscribers should receive their Papers by the *first* London Post. Address, the PUBLISHER, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

EASTER ANNOUNCEMENT.

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NEXT FRIDAY being GOOD FRIDAY,
ADVERTISEMENTS
Intended for our Issue of March 30
should reach this Office
ON or BEFORE THURSDAY NEXT.
Letters from the Country should be Posted
ONE DAY EARLIER THAN USUAL.

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ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

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"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

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COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E., April 29, May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 10, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING, Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER, May 6, 13, 20 27, Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26, Sept. 2, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER, April 11 (3 nights), 22, May 20, 27, June 10, Aug. 5, 12, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON, May 6, 20, Aug. 5, 12, 19, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD, April 22, May 20, 27, June 3, Aug. 12, 19, 26, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON, June 3, 10, Aug. 12, 26, Sept. 2, 9, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER, May 20, 27, June 3, 17, 24, Aug. 5, 12, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON, April 15 (three nights), 22 (six nights), May 2 (three nights), May 13, Sept. 2, 9, on.
Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Companies.
GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE, May 13, June, July, Aug. 19, Sept. 9.
METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD, May 13, 27, June, July, Aug. 5, onwards.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD, April 15, May 13, Aug. 12, onwards.
Address, Sidney Bacon, Metropole T., Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for County Theatre, Bedford, May 13, 20, 27 (six nights), April 22, May 2 (three nights).
Grand Theatre, Luton, May 27, June 3, August 5, 19, September 2, onwards.
Theatre Royal, Canterbury, April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 20 (three nights only).
Address E. Graham Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Companies, April 22, May 2 (3 nights each). E. Graham-Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

NEW ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BELFAST.
Proprietors, Alexandra Theatre Co.

One of the Handsomest Theatres in Ireland.

WANTED, Big Productions, Sept. 2, 9, 23, on.
Big Panto.,
Xmas and New Year.
J. Leicester-Jackson,
35, Atlantic-avenue, Belfast.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions only, for weeks of April 15 and 22.
Wire or write,
W. W. Kelly,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

OPERA HOUSE, JERSEY,
and
ST. JULIAN'S HALL, GUERNSEY.
WANTED, First-Class Dramatic and other Attractions, April 29, onwards.
Address,
Edward Marris, Opera House, Jersey.

GRAND THEATRE, SWANSEA.
Brooks and Woodbridge, Lessees and Managers.
WANTED, No. 1 Companies only, April 15, 29, Aug. 12, 19, Sept. 2, Dec. 9. Only vacancies this year. Bookings include Mme. Jane Hading, Wm. Mollison, "Claudian," "Prince of Tilsen," Geo. Dance and Geo. Edwardes' Cos., "John Glayde's Honour," "Amasis," "Leah Kleschna," "Lucky Durham," &c., &c.
All coms., E. Oswald Brooks, Resident Partner.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Strong Attraction, April 22, 29.
Address, terms or certainty, to
Mr. Waldon.

THEATRE ROYAL, WINDSOR.
WANTED, Strong Attraction, for April 8,
Samuel James,
8, Warwick-court, Gray's Inn, W.C.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEST BROMWICH, Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Gen.-Man., Mr. Herbert Vere.
WANTED. First-Class Melodramas, Musical Comedies, &c., vacant April 8, 15, 22.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, June 17, July 8, 22, and 29.
Apply, T. W. Rowe.

BRIDLINGTON SPA THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.
Thoroughly Up-to-date, Re-opens July 29.
Electricity throughout; new scenery; large stage dimensions.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Opening week (no dramas).
Henry Hague, General-Manager.

GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 6, 20, 27, and a few Autumn Dates. Fred Granville, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

WANTED, owing to transfer,
Good Drama for April 15,
May 6 also vacant.
Sidney Cooper, Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

THEATRE ROYAL, HULL.
WANTED, May 13 and Whit Week, for Musical or other High-class Attraction.
Wm. Morton.

ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD.
WANTED, First-class Companies, May 13, 20, and 27, Aug. 12, Sept. 30. Address,
Charles Trenchard, Theatre, Pontypridd.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-Class Companies,

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER,
Vacant April 15 (three nights only), onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH,
Vacant April 25, onward, with exceptions.
(Last three nights of each week).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY,
Vacant April 15, 29, onward, with exceptions.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY,
Vacant April 8, 22, onward, with exceptions.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE,
Vacant April 8, 15, onward, with exceptions.

"THE LOST CHORD,"
Vacant August 5, onward, with exceptions.

"SPAN OF LIFE."
Vacant April 8, 15, onward, with exceptions.

"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S,"
Vacant May 13, 20, onward, with exceptions.

"CINDERELLA,"
Vacant Feb. 24, 1908, onward, with exceptions.

Companies "Farmed" through Fit-ups.

To Let, on Royalty, "THE PRAIRIE FLOWER" and "OUR BRITISH EMPIRE."

Excellent Plants Printing.

All communications to
Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

The Premier Theatre in the Furness District.

Holds £90 at ordinary Prices.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, June 24, July 1, 8, and 15, on, with exceptions.

The following, amongst others, are future bookings for the above Theatre:—
J. Maundy Gregory's "Lights Out," Allan Wilkie, "Man's Enemy," J. B. Mulholland's "The Electric Man," Lingford Carson's Companies, "A Warning to Women," Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Tearle, "In Holy Russia," "Her Luck in London," "A Little Vagrant," "A Destroyer of Men," "The Breed of the Treshams," "Life of a Showman," Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's Companies, The D'Oyly Carte No. 1 Répertoire Company (tenth visit), "Raffles," F. R. Benson's Co. (third visit), Baron H. Harriss's No. 1 Company, "The Prince of Pilsen," Mr. Percy Hutchison's Companies including "Peter's Mother," Mr. George Edwardes' own Company, in "See-See," &c., &c.

All applications for dates to
Hugh Robertson,
T. R., Jarrow.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies,
April 8, April 8,
April 15, 22, 29,
and on,
with exceptions.

Wire. Wire. Wire.

R. C. Buchanan, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for April 18, 19, and 20 (three nights);
also April 22 and 29.
Required, Sound Attraction for Aug. 5, Bank Holiday, and onwards, with exceptions.
Address,
Thos. Swinton.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, Julian Malvern.

WANTED, High-class Attractions, April 29 (Musical Festival Week), May 20, July 1, 8, and on.
Address, Chas. M. Julian, General-Manager.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 6, 13, 20. Booking Now for the Fall of the Year.
Apply,
James Kiernan, Owner and Manager.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, April 15, 22, July 15, 22, 29.
ATHENÆUM THEATRE, LANCASTER.
Vacant April 8 (3 nights).
Apply, Stanley Rogers, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

WANTED, Companies, April 8, 15, 22, May 5, and on; change of bill preferred.
James Elphinstone, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

PALACE THEATRE, RHYL.
WANTED, Big Attraction, for the Season, Aug. and on, Musical or Farcical Comedy only. Will Smith, Palace Theatre, Rhyl. London Representative, Kelson Trueman, 233a, Regent-street.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-Class Attraction, May 6, Aug. 5, and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, T. Allan Edwardes.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-Class Attraction, for May 13 and May 20 (Whit week).
Silence in all cases a polite negative.
Apply
Mr. C. F. Williams, T. R., Plymouth.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-Class Companies, for April 29, May 6, 13, and 20 (Whit Week). Address, E. B. Goulden.

PAVILION, CHORLTON-CUM-HARDY, MANCHESTER.
WANTED, Musical Attractions, Operas, &c., for Vacant Dates in April, May, June, and on. Best Business done in Summer here. Share or certainty. Apply, W. James Wright, Proprietor.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, April 8 and 29.
Address, Gerald Harding.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April 15, May 6, 13.
E. H. Page.

WANTED, through disappointment, First-Class Attraction, April 8. Wire, Saturday only, Savile, Paisley Theatre, or letters next week, J. H. Savile, Theatre Royal, Belfast.

WANTED, Companies, May 27, on, with exceptions. No wires.
East, Elephant Theatre, S.E.

WANTED, Big Attractions, May 13, 20, Grand, Chorley; also April 29, May 6, 20, 27, also Autumn. Sante, Theatre, Radcliffe.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April 22 (Fair week), May 13 and 27 (?), Aug. 5, on, with exceptions. Address, Frank King.

WANTED, Good Company, April 22.
Apply
Robinson, Theatre Royal, Darwen.

METROPOLE THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
WANTED, Best Attractions touring, April 22, May 13, 20. Andrew Melville.

NEW PAVILION THEATRE, WOLSINGHAM, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, good Dramatic and Variety Companies, for above newly-erected Theatre, April 8, 15, and 22. Address, Robt. Brown, Man.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Best Companies, April 1 and 3, 4, and 8, 9, 10, on. Wire, Phillips.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE
WANTED, High-class Companies, March 25, and on, with exceptions. Can arrange Stock Season, commencing April 8. W. E. Potts.

COMPANIES WANTED.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.
The Leading Theatre of the Town.
The only theatre in the town lighted by electricity.
The Season's Bookings include:—"His House in Order," "All-of-a-Sudden Peggy" (Miss Decima Moore), "The Christian," "The Varsity Belle," "Home, Sweet Home," "The Worst Woman in London," "The Spider and the Fly," Charles Harrington's "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "Sherlock Holmes," "The Shulamite," "The Woman Who Gambles," "The Lion and the Mouse." Local Amateurs in "The Idler" (for the Mayor's Hospital Fund), Messrs. Leveaux and Dauncey's Co., "The Walls of Jericho," Mr. Percy Hutchison's Co. (including Miss Mabel Love), in "The Freedom of Suzanne," Mr. Albert Chevalier in "Pantaloon," &c.

WANTED, good Attraction, April 8 (through transfer), May 6, Aug. 5, onwards, with exceptions. Calvert Routledge, H.M.T., Barrow.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.

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Owing to the
Continual increase of prosperity
at this Theatre,
the Proprietors
have decided to entirely
Rebuild and Reconstruct
the property,
which, when completed,
will be not only the most
Comfortable and Up-to-Date Theatre
in the Provinces, but will have
A HOLDING CAPACITY
A HOLDING CAPACITY
A HOLDING CAPACITY
SECOND TO NONE
SECOND TO NONE
SECOND TO NONE
in the town.

Personal management
is bound to tell.
The only Theatre in the town
lighted by electricity.

WANTED, Exceptional Attractions, for Aug. 5 (opening date), and various onwards,
Musical preferred,
for opening date.

Apply,
Calvert Routledge.
For Bookings
see other advertisement.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE,
MIDDLESBROUGH.

One of the finest and best-equipped Theatres in the Provinces.

Holding capacity over 3,500.

Proprietor, Mr. Albert Smith.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
First-Class Attractions,
First-Class Attractions,
First-Class Attractions,
First-Class Attractions,
First-Class Attractions,
First-Class Attractions,
First-Class Attractions,
First-Class Attractions,
First-Class Attractions,
May 27,
onward.

Share or Certainty.

All communications to
Jno. Ed. Jowsey, Grand Opera House, Middlesbro'.
Telegrams, "Magnet, Middlesbrough."
Telephones 413, 426, 500.

Silence a polite negative.

Mr. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions,
QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH,
May 13, 20, 27, June 10.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE,
May 6, 20, Aug. 26, Sept. 2.
This Theatre to Let for Non-Dramatic Attractions, June, July, and August.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

THEATRE ROYAL, ILKESTON
Manager and Licensee, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.
WANTED, Companies, May 20 (Whit), 27, onwards, June 3 to July 29;
Open to Let on Rental, or Stock Company.
Silence a courteous negative.

GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME, STALYBRIDGE.
Lessee and Manager, James Fioni.
WANTED, Big Atractions, April 8, May 13, later. Write, James Fioni, 21, Norton-st., Liverpool.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
WANTED, Dramatic or Variety Co., for three nights, commencing March 28.
Address, C. M. Julian.

WANTED, Companies, for the New Theatre, Musselburgh, Dramatic or Variety, commencing April 1. All coms., R. Ritchie, as above.

TERMINUS HALL, LITTLEHAMPTON, SUSSEX.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April, onwards, good July, August, and September Season dates, two or three nights; would let to good Stock Company for July. Apply, G. E. Redman, Manager.

WANTED, Known, Drill Hall, Winsford, Now Booking First-class Attractions for Oct. 1 to Dec. 7 next. Apply, W. H. Williams, Manager.

WANTED, for the New Hippodrome Theatre, Coventry, for Summer and Autumn Dates, good No. 1 Companies, Musical Comedy or Sensational Drama, something to draw and please the public. The Hippodrome is the recognised house of entertainment, the popular resort where the public concentrate to get good value for their money. A comfortable engagement is offered to all. Apply in first instance, T. M. Sylvester, 217, Piccadilly, London
Notice.—It has been circulated by some unscrupulous person that the above Hall is converting itself into a Drama House because it does not pay as Variety Hall. We are compelled, according to our licence, to play a certain amount of Drama, &c. The management beg to call the attention of those concerned to the following figures: Week commencing March 4, 1907: Monday, £64 7s. 2d.; Tuesday, £59 16s.; Wednesday, £74 8s.; Thursday, £79 1s. 3d.; Friday, £68 17s. 4d.; Saturday, £171 19s.—£518 8s. 9d. Silence is golden.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, for April 15, Musical or Good Picture Show; good business; share or rental. Apply, Manager, Waterloo Theatre, Whitby.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, onwards. Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. Cotton.

THEATRES WANTED.

LINGFORD CARSON'S CO.
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, April 22, May 6 (Lancs. or Yorks.), Sept. 9 (?), 30, Dec. 23, 30.
Carson, Prince's Theatre, Preston.

"A HEART'S DESIRE."
A Magnificent First-class Attraction.
Powerful cast, splendid scenery, and printing.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, April 15 and May 6, Whit Week, various, on; First-class Seaside Theatres for July. Messrs. Elliman,, 5, Vernon-street, Dublin.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres,
April 22, 29, May 13.
Walter Melville,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, May 13, 20.
Apply,
Walter Melville,
Standard Theatre, E.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 12.
Walter Melville,
Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE,"
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 5, 12, 19, and Dec. 23.
Frederick Melville,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 9, 23, Dec. 23.
Frederick Melville,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Theatres, May 13 and Aug. 12.
Tom H. Taylor,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, May 13, 20.
Tom H. Taylor,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, April 8, 29, Aug. 6.
Douglas Bruce, Shakespeare T., Clapham, S.W.

"THE GAYEST OF THE GAY."
"THE GAYEST OF THE GAY."
The most successful Play produced during the year 1906.
WANTED, Aug. 12 and 19, in First-Class Theatres only. Wire or write, W. W. Kelly, 8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Weeks of June 3 and 10, Scala Production.
Wire or write,
W. W. Kelly,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, May 27, June 3, on, with exceptions. Charles Harrington, Prince's Theatre, Bradford (return).

The Greatest of all Irish Productions.
MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S
"ROLLICKING RORY," Autumn, 1907.
Bookings complete for 1907.
WANTED, Theatres, now booking Spring, 1908. Chalmers Mackey, T. R., Aldershot, Mar. 25, six nights.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, May 13, 20, 27.
Address, J. W. Cordiner,
Royal Artillery Theatre, Woolwich.

FRANK M. THORNE'S CO.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this money-maker, May 6, only vacant date this year.
Apply,
F. M. Thorne, Alexandra Theatre, Hull.

Miss ANNIE HUGHES.
WANTED, Dates, August, September, October, November, for "TOMMY" and
"SWEET NANCY."
Miss ANNIE HUGHES as TOMMY, by Jerome K. Jerome, and SWEET NANCY, by Robert Buchanan. Three nights of each play.
"'Tommy' is a great play. Annie Hughes is a great actress." "Sweet Nancy is Annie Hughes and Annie Hughes is Sweet Nancy."
All Spring and Summer Dates filled.
Address, Miss Annie Hughes, New Theatre, Cardiff.

FRANK J. PITT and CHARLES HALLING'S CO.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, for this Successful Attraction, April 29,
May 13, June 17, 24,
July 29, Aug. 12,
Sept. 23, Sept. 30, on.
T. R., Chesterfield, March 25.

"FOR AULD LANG SYNE."
WANTED, First-class Theatres.
Fred Bulmer, T. R., Wednesbury.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, Aug. 5.
Fred Bulmer, T. R., Wednesbury.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, Aug. 26, on, with exceptions.
Fred Bulmer, T. R., Wednesbury.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Aug. 26, on, with exceptions.
Fred Bulmer, Theatre Royal, Wednesbury.

SHINTON and GREENWOOD'S TOURS.
"THE PRICE OF HER SOUL,"
by William Hibbert.
WANTED, April 15, 22,
"A LONDON SOCIETY TIGRESS," by Wm. Hibbert. Something New and Novel, with Star Cast. Wanted, August Bank Holiday, also few Autumn Dates. John B. Shinton, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

Miss Bonwin Carlton's Masterpiece.
"THE OLD, OLD STORY."
A Genuine Success.
WANTED, April , 29, May 6, 13, June 3, 10, 17.
Edward Surrey,
T. R., Edmonton.

"THE SWISS EXPRESS."
"THE SWISS EXPRESS."
"THE SWISS EXPRESS."
WANTED, Good Theatres, for April 8, May 6 and 27.
Address, C. and F. Renad, Opera H., Cheltenham.

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
Continued Success. Third Year.
WANTED, April 15, through obliging. Wire for April 15, April 15, North;
May 20 (Whit), Midlands.
Aug. 12, follow Alexandra, Birmingham.
Frank Ayrton,
Theatre Royal, Whitehaven.

JERRARD GRANT ALLEN'S CO.,
including Leon M. Lion,
in
"THE NEW BOY,"
by Arthur Law.
WANTED, May 27, June 17 (?), June 24 (?), and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, Jerrard Grant Allen, Criterion Theatre.

E. H. KNIGHT and GEORGE DENHAM'S CO.
"THE GRIP OF IRON."
WANTED, May 13,
Aug. 5, on, with exceptions.
George Denham,
This, Reading; next, Smethwick.

"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, Xmas week, by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley, and few dates in the spring and autumn, 1908. Re-booked at T. R., Leeds, Nov. 30, 1908, before paying first visit. Managers invited to witness the piece. F. G. Kimberley, Star T. Liverpool.

"A BROKEN HEART."
WANTED, First-class Theatres only, April 29, May 6 and 13.
Enormous Success at Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool. Without doubt the dramatic success of 1907.
Harry Foxwell, Grand Theatre, Nelson.

"SHERLOCK HOLMES."
H. Hamilton Stewart in title-rôle.
WANTED, First-Class Theatre, between London and Nottingham, April 15; also Autumn dates (South). Walter J. Baylis, 29, Winifred-grove, Clapham Common, S.W.

"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
Every scene and property carried. Gorgeous Servian Uniforms; enormous pictorial plant (ten d.c. lithos.); very strong cast. A genuine Financial Success in every theatre visited.
WANTED, April 15 and 29, May 6 and 13.
James Hare, Theatre Royal, Cardiff.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES,"
April 8, 15, May 27.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
April 15, 22, 29 (?),
MRS. MORTON POWELL
and All Star Cast, including
Mr. Cyril Austin-Lee.
Mr. Arthur B. Murray,
Mr. George H. Pitt.
and
Miss Elizabeth Watson.
Mrs. Morton Powell will shortly produce an Original Play,
by S. Buchanan Rogerson.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
April 22, 29, May 6, 20.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE END OF THE WORLD."
WANTED, Dates,
Grand Autumn Production.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

Mr. REGINALD DANCE'S COMPANY
"RAFFLES."
(by arrangement with Mr. Leonard Boyne and Mr. Thomas McKenzie).
(Under an agreement with Charles Frohman).

WANTED, Autumn Dates,
Aug. 5, onwards, with exceptions,

London's Greatest Success.

Business-Manager, E. Cecil Price,
For dates, apply to A. Bingham,
10 and 11, Jermyn-street, London, S.W.
Telegrams, "Stirpes, London."
Telephone, 6534 Gerrard.
All arrangements completed for this Spring.

"THE KING OF CRIME,"
by Arthur Shirley and Ben Landeck.
Kindly note.—We have at an enormous expense engaged Mr. Henry Bedford to star as Ronjarre in the above world-renowned attraction. Mr. Bedford was
The Creator of the Part,
and
acknowledged to be the finest exponent of the same.
New and Magnificent Scenery and Properties.
Troupe of whirlwind speciality dancers.
Thanks the following gentlemen for contracts and offers:—John Hart, Milton Bode, W. W. Kelly, Rich. Waldon, R. C. Buchanan, T. W. Rowe, Clarence Sounes, Sidney Cooper, R. Redford, E. H. Page, E. B. Goulden, A. M. Loader, J. Culeen, &c., &c.
WANTED, Important Theatres, Aug. 5, onwards.
Harry Battersby, Theatre Royal, Bilston.
All other coms.,
Ernest Chesney, 137, Westbourne-terrace, London, W.
Tele., 2051, Mayfair.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEORGE KIRK'S
"HER LUCK IN LONDON" CO.
By Charles Darrell.

WANTED, May 20 (unexpectedly vacant through Manager Relinquishing Lease), Sept. 30 (?), Oct. 7.
Charles A. Leicester,
Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth.

PAUMIER and HOWARD'S TOURS.
PAUMIER and HOWARD'S TOURS.
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
WANTED, through alteration of route, Nov. 11, London or South.
Alfred Paumier, Grand Theatre, Woolwich S.E.

MR. ALEC FLOOD'S and
MR. AUBREY FITZMAURICE'S CO.,
"THE ANGEL OF UNREST,"
a Story of 1812.
The greatest success of Napoleon Plays.
Refer Mr. H. Cecil Beryl and Mr Chas. F. Williams. Everything carried; magnificent pictorials.
WANTED, April 22, to follow Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, and Dates onward, including Whit.

Wire, F. Martin Morris, Theatre Royal, Plymouth. After Sunday, Borough Theatre, Stratford.

WANTED, Easter, "HER LOST SELF," by Nita Rae; "THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH," by F. A. Scudamore. Wire to-day, Frances Delaval, Athenæum Theatre, Lancaster. March 25, T. R., Sunderland.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, good Theatres, April 8 (follow Alex., Sheffield), 15, 22. Osmond, Macclesfield; next, T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, Big Theatres, April 8, 22, and Whit.
Harry Foxwell, Grand Theatre, Nelson.

An acknowledged success.
"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, April 15, May 6, Whit. Bookings include: Osborne and Junction, Manchester; O. H., St. Helens; O. H., Harrogate; G., Walsall; Col., Oldham; G., Burnley; M., Bootle; R., Leeds; R., Rotherham; R., Chesterfield; Met., Glasgow, &c., &c.
Practically everything carried, and every sheet of printing specially cut.
Wire, E. A'Dell, March 25, Colosseum T., Oldham.

"THE OFFICERS' MESS."
WANTED, April 11 (three nights), 15, May 13, the brightest and best-staged Musical Farce on the road. Cast includes Miss Nellie Sheffield, Miss Clara Nicholls, Mr. Charles D. Cleveland, and other well-known Artists. Magnificent new costumes; specially made for this production; everything carried. Penrhyn Forster, 11, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C. Telegrams, "Corodies, London." Telephone 2265 Gerrard.

Miss EMMA LITCHFIELD'S DRAMATIC NOVELTY, "A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
WANTED, June 3, 17, and July 1,
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
Played by an Excellent Company.
Advertised by Striking Posters.
Scenery painted by Hall Bros., Birmingham.
Written by a Successful Authoress, viz.,
Miss EMMA LITCHFIELD.
Introducing the Cleverly-trained Mare,
"Twilight."
Aug. 5 Open for Good Theatre.
It's a Good Show. Book it.
Add., Stuart Cleveland, Junction T., Manchester.

PANTOMIME.
WANTED, to negotiate Theatre for next Christmas, for First-class Production, four weeks or longer. Address for particulars, G. Brydon-Phillips, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, Strand, W.C.

"AS GOOD AS GOLD."
WANTED, good Theatres, May 6 (?), 13 (?) Whit week,
May 27, June 3, 17, and on, with exceptions.
Samuel James,
8, Warwick-court, Gray's Inn, W.C.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Aug. 26, Sept. 23, 30, Oct. 7.
W. M. Cameron, T. R., Middlesbrough.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, May 6, 13, and Whit Week.
Dickie Clare, Lyceum Theatre, Govan.

WANTED, for First-Class Company, in "Our Flat," April 8, 9, 10 (South). Letters only, Balmain, King-st., Covent Garden, W.C.

"THE ASSASSIN."
WANTED, Theatre, Oct. 21.
Augustine Knight, T. R., Bury.

STANLEY CARLTON'S COMPANY.
"A SECRET WEDDING."
by Fred Benton and Edward Darby.
WANTED, First-class Theatres only, Vacant May 6, follow Edmonton and precede T. R., Cardiff; May 20, June 3, precede Crewe; 17 (?), precede Alex., Birmingham; July 15, follow Empire, Oldham. Address this, Gaiety, Ayr; next, T. R., Hebburn.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE THREE MUSKETEERS."
The Best and Most Attractive Version of this Popular Play.

WANTED, Immediatet Dates, in First-class Theatres only, to follow
Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames.
Exceptional cast, including
Mr. Ernest E. Norris,
Mr. Frank Harding,
Mr. Maurice Hoffman,
Mr. Bruce Lindley,
Mr. Frederick Tyrrell,
Mr. Franklyn Graham,
Miss Vera Beringer,
Miss Ethel King,
Miss Dorothy Chard,
&c., &c., &c.
The entire elaborate production from Kingston carried. Everything done on absolutely First-class Lines.
Apply immediately to
PETER DAVEY,
Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
including Miss MINNIE WATERSFORD (Mrs. Cross).
WANTED, May 13 and 20 (through obliging), also June 24 and Aug. 5.
Rapidly filling Autumn.
"DIVORCED," a New Strong Emotional Drama, can be played in conjunction if necessary.
New printing, special scenery and effects.
March 25, G. T., Walsall.

Messrs. ARMADALE and WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, July 29, Aug. 5, Sept. 23, Oct. 7, onwards,
for the above Attraction.
Address, F. BROOKE WARREN,
110, Woodvale, Dulwich, London, S.E.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, having large Stage and large Holding Capacity, for Christmas Production
of
JAMES KIDDIE'S
JAMES KIDDIE'S
JAMES KIDDIE'S
Colossal Gorgeous Pantomimes,
"LITTLE ALADDIN,"

"LITTLE CINDERELLA,"

"DICK WHITTINGTON."
Can arrange for two, three, or four weeks for the above sure success.
Can play two houses nightly if required.

Address
JAMES KIDDIE, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN."
WANTED, April 1 and 8, also 29 (to precede T. R., Hanley).
Emphatic success at Belfast last week. Monday, an excellent house; Tuesday, a very slight drop; Wednesday, £2 better than Monday; Thursday, £5 ditto; Friday, £12 ditto, Saturday, doubled Monday. Advance booking splendid all the week.
Rivals Dante. . . . Destined to hold its place on the stage for many a day.—Northern Whig.
The staging and lighting are particularly effective.—Belfast News Letter.
Also "THE ANARCHIST TERROR,"
the six-years-old success.
Either or both plays.

Wire, wire to-day,
LOIE ESMOND. T. R., Batley,
March 25. T. R., Croydon (fourth visit).

"DAVID COPPERFIELD,"
"DAVID GARRICK,"
and Répertoire.
WANTED, Theatres, for Production of above, with the following Powerful Cast.
Mr. Charles Cartwright,
Mr. Gerald Lawrence,
Mr. Charles Collette,
Mr. A. B. Tapping,
and
Miss Fay Davis.
Vacant April 1, 22, May 27.
FREDK. MOUILLOT, 1 and 2, King-st., Covent Garden.

"THE PET OF THE EMBASSY."
A New and Original Musical Play, in Two Acts.

Full West End cast, including
Witty Wattie Walton,
the well-known Comedian, as
John William Bung (a Middy).
Full Operatic Chorus of 40 Voices.
Splendid Costumes and Scenery.
Special New Printing.
Guaranteed one of the Greatest Musical Shows Produced.
Under Stage-Direction of Mr. Harry Fischer.
Don't Fail to Book It.
WANTED, for this great Attraction, May 20,
to follow Middlesbrough.
Only vacant date.
Now Booking
Autumn and 1908.

All communications re Dates, &c.,
HAMILTON BAINES.
Grand Theatre, Eccles.

"LIFE OF A SHOWMAN."
WANTED, Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov. 4, only open time this year; magnificent production.
Address, SANTE, Theatre, Chorley.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 20.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"ROBESPIERRE."
WANTED, for "Robespierre, or The Throne of Terror," April 15, various on. This, seventieth week of Tour. W. J. MILLER, Royal, Sunderland; next, R., Sheffield.

WANTED, March 30, seven nights, or April 1 six nights, for "The Trail of Sin"; two pieces if required. MOORE, St. James's T., Manchester.

"TEDDY SMILES, THE SPORTSMAN."
WANTED, for this First-Class Musical Attraction, good Theatres, Music Halls, or Piers. Can play one hour or give complete entertainment. Share or certainty. Entire production carried. Own scenery and effects. Good plant of printing. Vacant April 8, 15, 22. North preferred. Wire or write, HEBDEN, 58, Stafford-street, Liverpool.

The Famous Native Choir from Jamaica.
Second Tour can now be arranged.
March 11 to 26, Liverpool; Good Friday, St. Anne's; Saturday, Manchester; Easter Sunday, two performances, the Palace, Blackpool.
WANTED, Wanted, Known, First Vacant Date, April 8, and on, with exceptions.
Répertoire: Solos, Novel Glees, and Choruses, Plantation Melodies, Original Coon Songs, Freedom Dances, Instrumental Solos, Descriptive Pieces, Jamaica Jottings, Sketches, &c.
Evening Dress, Native Costume, and Camp Meeting Costume for Sacred Concerts.
Equally at home in Theatres, Concert Halls, Pier Pavilions, Music Halls, or Drawing-rooms.
Splendid lithos. A sure draw anywhere.
For booklets and terms apply to Messrs. H. E. JONES and A. DOUGLAS, 21 Water-st., or 14, Dale-st., Liverpool. Wires, "Motherland, Liverpool." Telephones, 5650 or 2449 Central.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Sketch, one week, April 8, good Character Comedy Lady (Suffragette part), First-Class Eccentric Light Comedian (French dialect), Character Comedy Old Man, and Eccentric Chambermaid (Belinda); rehearse April 3. All particulars and photos., LEWIS GILBERT, Manager, Hippodrome, West Bromwich.

WANTED, various Artists, who have played in "Our Flat," tour commencing Easter. Letters only, BALMAIN, 10, King-st., Covent Garden, W.C.

WANTED, Monday, April 1, one night only, some competent Actors and good Variety Turns. Rehearse Tuesday, March 26. Lowest terms and all particulars, JOHN BURTON, King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy.

ARTISTS WANTED.

Musical Comedy.
WANTED, New "Catchy" Settings for a New Musical Comedy shortly to be produced in London; great opportunity for ambitious young Composers; also required, Leading Lady and Chorus; all must be under 25, with good trained voices and appearance. Previous experience unnecessary, as it is the desire of the management to achieve something novel.
Box 14, "Advertiser" Office,
Northumberland-avenue, W.C.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
WANTED, young Juvenile Lady, must be young and tall, to play Arte and double Keener, in "Shaughraun," one week, Glasgow, commencing April 1; rehearse same day. Preference given to one who has played parts before. Age, exact height, recent photos. (in all cases where not personally known to me, or useless), and absolute lowest inclusive terms, CHALMERS MACKEY, Theatre Royal, Aldershot.

WANTED, Heavy Man, also Soubrette, for Robust Irish Comedy part; Suburban Tour; rehearse Monday. BERTRAM, 5, Gilmore-road, Lewisham.

WANTED, Gentleman, smart, Heavy Part; also Irish Comedian, to sing; and Gentleman for Irish Character, Heavy. Apply letter first instance, L. K., 1, St. George's-mansions, Blackfriars-road, S.E.

WANTED, Heavy (capable pathos), for Romantic Sketch, Halls; also good Amateurs, for parts. Full particulars, DRAMA, Box 4,567, "The Era."

WANTED, Smart Leading Juvenile (light baritone), good voice and appearance essential, for Music Hall Sketch. Full particulars to Box 4,566, "The Era."

ORIGINAL SCARBOROUGH PIERROTS
(thirteenth season).
WANTED, for Private Enclosure, Al Fresco, First-Class Tenor, Bass, and Comedian, Musical Comedy Artists preferred, all must be young, refined, and versatile. Apply, with photo., stating age, experience, répertoire, references, and lowest Summer terms, to TOM CARRICK, Grand T., Halifax.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, join, Refined Concert Party, Mabel Burnet Steytler, South African Reciter, 'Cellist, Accompanist. Inquiries, c/o Bolus, 90, Cannon-street, London.

WANTED, Known, Geo. Clark, Male Soprano and Baritone, used to Concerteds and Sketches; refined, versatile, reliable. Offers invited for Summer. Post Office, Aberdeen, N.B.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by experienced Contralto Vocalist; good appearance; excellent répertoire and references. Write at once. Box 4,538, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, any Line, by young refined Comedian and Dancer (2 years Geo. Dance, Esq.); Light, Low, or Eccentric Comedy. Box 4,540, "The Era."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

PETER THOMPSON'S
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
WANTED, Full Company for 1907 and 8 Production. Artists unknown to me kindly send photo., age, height, references (imperative), which will be applied for. Please state absolutely lowest terms, and where to be seen working, to PETER THOMPSON, 88, Monton-road, Eccles, Manchester.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, all Lines, next season. Lowest terms, photos., age, last two references, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, for Pantomimes next Christmas, Principal Boy, Principal Girls, Comedians, Chorus (not under 5ft. 6in. in height), Conductor. Address, ERNEST DOTTRIDGE, Empire T., Oldham.

WANTED, Comedians, Dame, Baron (burlesque, heavy), Cat, Dog, &c. H. A. JORDISON, St. James's Hall, Manchester.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams "Theatrical."

WANTED, by Sidney Beltram, Contracts, travelling or stock, scenery repainted, or salary engagement. Address, Waterloo Hotel, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, A. W. Moore, Scenic Artist, terminated Engagement with T. Morton Powell, Esq., at Liberty for Engagement or Contract. Address, 6, Queen-street Brighouse, Yorks.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, capable Producer, refined Comic Opera, Provinces, Autumn. Address, giving full particulars, Box 4,549, "The Era."

WANTED, Good Stage-Manager for Pantomime. Lowest terms, names and addresses of last two references, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, First-Class Electrician, for a Music Hall near Manchester, must be able to work Bioscope. Apply, with references and full particulars, to Box 4,557, "The Era."

WANTED, a good reliable Poster Writer, to travel on the Continent with Circus, Norton B. Smith. English language only required. Good salary, and travelling expenses paid from England. Can commence April 1, 1907, in Freiburg-in-Baden. Address, NAT BEHRENS, Director, Circus Norton B. Smith, Freiburg-in-Baden.

WANTED, Bill-poster, steady, high-ladderman. Apply, giving references, THE GENERAL BILLPOSTING CO., LTD., Clayton-street West, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Smart Young Bill Poster and Good Window-Billers, to travel with Circus Agent. GOLLAN, 53, High Riggs, Edinburgh.

WANTED, good Effect Workers, high Window-Billers. Full particulars,
R. PRINGLE, Temperance Hall, Huddersfield.

JOHN SCOTT'S ROYAL CIRCUS,
on Tour.
WANTED, for Tenting, smart, reliable Young Man, to attend to Agent's Pony and Window-Bill. State lowest terms in first letter.
12, Charles-place, Hotwells, Bristol.

WANTED, a Woman, who thoroughly understands cutting and fitting theatrical costumes, also to assist in show-room. Write full particulars to Box 4,565, "The Era."

WANTED, Married Couple, no children, wife to assist as working housekeeper, other servant kept, man to take charge of stores and film hire department; able to operate when wanted. Apply, with full particulars and references, WALTER PAYNE, 346, Brixton-road, London.

WANTED, Position as Manager or Acting-Manager, good Suburban Theatre; age 39; fifteen years' experience; fair knowledge Music Hall work. Box 4,553, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Fred Lewis, Circus Agent, permanent or travelling, Disengaged.
C/o SHILLINGLOW, 8, Grindlay-street, Edinburgh.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Known, W. C. Barns, vacant to manage any class concern, road, rail, or resident, over twenty years' practical experience, Theatre, Variety, Circus, Pictures, &c. Note.—Life abstainer; well up in bars, two houses nightly; book-keeping and advertising; highest refs. Would accept management Billposting business. 138, Duchess-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, by Young Man, berth as Assistant-Manager, in Theatre (security); or would invest in a genuine Theatre. Particulars, J. KEYFORD, 87, Lower Cheltenham-pl., Montpelier, Bristol.

WANTED, Engagement as Clerk, Shorthand, Typist, Correspondent, Book-keeper, business experience, general assistance; moderate salary. CLERK, 177, Church-street, Whitby, Yorks.

WANTED, by fully qualified Electrician and Gas-fitter, permanency or touring; excellent references; just finished long tour; do repairs. Write, Box 4,560, "The Era."

WANTED, by J. B. Chandler, Carpenter, Resident or Tour, last two seasons with R. C. BUCHANAN, King's Theatre, Kilmarnock. References, J. Major Ward, Acting-Manager. Can join at once.

WANTED, Engagement, now or Autumn, by a thoroughly experienced Carpenter, Resident or Tour; Practical Bench Hand; full equipment of tools. C/o Buckley, Fern Lea, Lees, Oldham.

WANTED, by Bill-poster, young man, Situation; good refs. S. VERRELL, 97, Park End, Bromley, Kent

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

WANTED, at once, for small Orchestra in Touring Exhibition, Leader Violin, must be experienced and steady, permanency; salary 35s. and fares after joining. Address, with references, MANAGER, Trades Exhibition, Corn Exchange, Kelso, N.B.

WANTED, a Leader, Tympanist, and 'Cello, to open April 8. Apply by letter to PERCY B. BROADHEAD, Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, for the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth,
a good First Violin,
to combine Clarionet or Cornet.
Duties as Cadet Servant,
ex Navy or Army Man preferred.
Wages, £45 a year; uniform found.
Apply to BANDMASTER.

WANTED, Violinists, Viola, 'Cello, and Drums, for April 9, 10, and 12 (rehearsal and two performances), at Norwood Junction. Will give 30s. each. Apply by letter only, to EGERTON, 115, Strand.

WANTED, Violinist, good First, for Ocean Steamer, able to join Tuesday.

HETHERINGTON'S,
Bandmasters' Help Office,
163A, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, First Violinist, must be thoroughly experienced in Varieties and a good performer; permanency to suitable person. Lowest terms, age, and last reference, HARRY HINCHCLIFFE, Palace, Carlisle.

WANTED, for Bath Military Band, for seventeen weeks, from May 11, First (Ripiano) Cornet, First French Horn, Euphonium. Apply with references and stating age to WILLIAM SCHOTTLER, Bath.

WANTED, by the Weston-super-Mare Town Band, Cornet Player, steady, reliable; shares. W. PFAFF, Villa Nassau, George-street, Weston-super-Mare.

WANTED, Good Cornet, for Town Band; permanent; shares.
PHILLIPS, Richmond-avenue, Southend.

WANTED, for Town and Promenade Band, two good First Clarionets, B Flat. Terms shares. Address, J. BOYCE, 6, Queen's-retreat, St. George's-road, Cheltenham.

WANTED, a good E Flat Clarionet Player, for season, six months.
J. VINCE, St. Leonards.

WANTED, Solo Trombone or Euphonium, London Season, twenty weeks. Only First-class Character, Reliable ex-Army men need apply. Send age, full details, Box 4,546, "The Era."

WANTED, for Duffy's Circus, Euphonium, for Tenting Season. All people engaged with above write in for opening town by Tuesday. CIRCUS, Shankhill-road, Belfast.

WANTED, Bombardon, Euphonium, Saxhorn, Trombone, Tenting Season, no fares paid or advanced. Thanks who answered last week. T. REYNOLDS, P.O., Rhymney, S. Wales.

WANTED, Bombardon, Tenor, and two B flat Clarionets, for Pitching, at once; shares.
JACKSON, 3, Leslie-grove, Croydon.

WANTED, Summer Season, Seaside, Scotland, good First French Horn, First Cornet, Solo Euphonium, E Flat Bombardon (combine String Bass), also First-Class Clarionet (combine First Violin), five hours daily, no Sundays; references, &c., MANAGER, 38, Prince's-street, Southport.

WANTED, 'Cellist (lady), six months' engagement, Ireland: young; inexperienced no objection. Terms, refs., CONDUCTRESS, 20, Stamer-st., Dublin.

WANTED, Viola Player, must be well up in Variety business. State age and refs.
FREDERIC BRAHAM, Regent Theatre, Salford.

WANTED, Good Flute and Piccolo, for Lord John Sanger and Sons', Ltd., Royal Circus.
Apply, BANDMASTER,
to-day, Leyton; Mon., Edmonton.

MACNAGHTEN VAUDEVILLE CIRCUIT.
WANTED, good, steady, reliable Pianist thoroughly used to Variety Business, to open Thursday, March 28. Permanent engagement to suitable man. Apply, with full particulars, stating last three references, to Mr. COMPTON, Palace Theatre, West Hartlepool. Vacancy shortly for Drummer with own Effects.

WANTED, Good Working Pianist, for Picture Exhibition; one who is willing to be useful in all ways; must assist in erection and pulling down, and help in advertising department; expert player not so essential as a worker; salary, work or play. Open at once. Send two references. Terms, &c., to FREDERICK, G.P.O., Glasgow.

WANTED, Good Pianist, used to Picture Show, open Easter Monday; long Tour round London. MANAGER, 3, Lebanon-gardens, Wandsworth. Letters only.

WANTED, for London and Seaside, Lady Musicians, all Instruments. Write, in first instance, Box 4,562, "The Era."

WANTED, good Orchestra, twelve performers, in smart uniform, for ten weeks' Season at Bognor; no Sunday work. Particulars and terms. COUNCILLOR FORSYTH, Folkestone.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, "A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

SOMERSET AND BATH ASYLUM, COTFORD, near TAUNTON.
Bandsmen-Attendants
WANTED, unmarried, and under 30 years of age. Wages commencing at £26 per annum, rising to £46, with board, lodging washing, and uniform, and extra remuneration for services in the band. Apply, MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

WANTED, Musician Attendants, Flute, and Piccolo, B Flat Slide Trombone and E Flat Bass; wages £30 per year, and an extra allowance to bandsmen amounting to about £3 annually, rising £1 annually to £35, with board (no beer), lodging, washing, and uniform. Apply to the MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, Surrey County Asylum, Brookwood, Woking.

BAND 3RD WEST KENT.
To Pensioners and Time-expired,
WANTED, for above Training.
All Instruments may write in.
For particulars,
apply
BANDMASTER,
Barracks, Maidstone.

WANTED, Ladies' Orchestral Band, eight weeks, commencing March 28. Full particulars, R. PRINGLE, Temperance Hall, Huddersfield.

WANTED, Lady Wind Players, also Lady Drummer: town business.
Box 4,563, "The Era."

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violinist), Disengaged, composer of music "Silver King," &c. Dramatic Music, &c., composed and arranged. 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Arthur W. Creighton, Musical Conductor and Accompanist (Piano), Disengaged for Summer Season. South Coast preferred; refs. 170, Walworth-road, London.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Musical Director, Piano or Violin, Variety or Dramatic; highest credentials. W. J. ALDRETT, 42, Hartington-st., Gateshead-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, W. H. Brinkworth, Musical-Director, Violin, Piano, Composer, Arranger, ten years G. T., Islington. 14A, Heyworth-road, Downs-road, Clapton.

WANTED, offers, Maitland Lacey, Musical-Director (Violin), Variety or Theatre; thoroughly experienced; score and arrange. Refer present Directors, Empire, Greenock.

WANTED, Known, Reliable Leader or First Violin at Liberty, experienced; plenty of music and good instrumentalist. J. CARPENTER, 11, Gilpin-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement as Leader or First Violin; experienced, Variety, Orch., Dancing; reliable; refer. Terms, &c., G. BARRETT, 29, Nuttall-road, Bradford.

WANTED, by Violinist, Pupil of Professor Sevcik, First-Class Orchestral Engagement; Solos if required; open at once. KARNO, c/o White's Music Warerooms, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Violinist, to combine B flat Clarionet, at Liberty April 13; age 33 years; A.M.U. A. H. ELSMORE, 38, Upper Thomas-st, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement as First Violin, well up in any business; good references. Address, H. S. SOLOSKY, 20, Beaumont-sq., London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, by smart young Violinist (with Diploma), in good Orchestra; seaside preferred. Full particulars, refs., &c., apply, Box 4,541, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as First or Second Violin (can combine Viola), well up in Variety and Orchestral Work. MUSICUS, c/o Fulford Post Office, Fulford, near York.

WANTED, Engagement, by good experienced Violinist, any Business; good references. G. W., 33, Brewerton-road, Oldham.

WANTED, Known, Second Violin, Disengaged, sixteen years T. R., Aldershot.
BURKE, 253, High-street, Aldershot.

WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement, Easter and Summer, owing to Theatre Vacation; first-class refs. WM. BINGLEY, Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield.

WANTED, by Cornet, Engagement, Good Friday and onwards (First or Second). Address, CORNET, 55, Wycombe-road, Tottenham, N.

WANTED, Engagement by Competent Military and Orchestral Cornet Player; open at once. J. SHELDON, New-street, Chasetown, near Walsall.

WANTED, Engagement as Solo Cornet, Tenting or any other business; experienced.
WM. FLETCHER, 95, Hornby-street, Bury, Lancashire.

WANTED, Re-engagement by Corona L'Estrange, Versatile Character Actress, or Heavy business, Disengaged through termination Tour. 25, Exmouth-street, Everton, Liverpool.

WANTED, London Engagement, Cornet, Theatre or Music Hall, seven years last engagement; highest references. MORRIS, 1, St. Martin's-road, Stockwell, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, as Two Cornets, together preferred; steady and reliable. Apply, G. AVIS, 5, Warneford-terrace, Leamington.

WANTED, Known, Clarionet, Disengaged May 18; first-class references, leading Military and Orchestral Conductors; second or third preferred. "Ivydene," 13, Overdale-road, South Ealing.

WANTED, Engagement, by First B Flat Clarionet, good player, age 22.
F. YOUNG, 131, Brayard's-road, Peckham, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement by First-Class Clarionet: experienced string or military; good refs. H. HART, 25, Sidney-road, Southport.

WANTED, Engagement by First-Class Double Bass, steady, reliable, any business.
Basso,
50, Wardle-road, Sale, near Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass and Bombardon; experienced; genuine references. E. J. ELLIOTT, 67, Albion-street, Hanton, Hastings.

WANTED, Engagement, by Bassoonist, any Business; long and varied experience, Orchestral and Military; excellent references. SECKER, 4, Ravensbury-villas, Morden-road, Mitcham.

WANTED, Known, Bassoon, Disengaged, open for Summer Season, Opera Tour; ex-Guardsman. AMOS, 92, High-st., Thornton Heath.

WANTED, Easter Monday, by reliable, sober Trombone (not solo), any bus.; 18 years Army. TENOR, 37, Montgomery-street, Hove, Sussex.

WANTED, Known, First-class Trombone, at Liberty, any Business; strictly attentive to business, and reliable abstainer. Box 4,551, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, for Summer, by Trombone, Orchestral or Military.
P. GASCOIGNE, Grand Theatre, Croydon.

WANTED, Engagement, by Reliable Experienced Bombardon and Double Bass Player.
G. LAZZARI, 24, Hoxton-road, Torquay.

WANTED, immediately, Engagement as French Horn, in string or military band; over twelve years' experience; good reference. Address, A. W. V., 86, Chamberlayne Wood-rd., Kensal Rise, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement by experienced French Horn and 'Cellist (double handed); excellent references; abstainer. Apply, P., King's Cottage, Lawrence-street, Chelsea.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, for Little Girl on 'Cello; also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLE, 35, Granville-square, King's Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, by 'Cellist, Engagement, Theatrical, Orchestral, and Hotel experience; combine brass if necessary; Disengaged May 27. Apply G. BERNARD GODDALL, Violoncellist, Taj Mahal Orchestra, Bombay.

WANTED, Engagement, as 'Cello in Theatre or Variety Orchestra; thoroughly experienced; good references; near London preferred. INKPEN, Richmond Theatre, Surrey.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, Lady 'Cellist; experienced, for Orchestra; young and good appearance. Box 4,524, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, First-Class Solo and Orchestral 'Cellist, at Liberty. Address, 'CELLIST, 29, Tabley-road, Tufnell Park, N.

WANTED, Known, Oboist, Disengaged, gained high degree Royal College of Music; excellent references from Theatres. 179, Northbrook-road, Bowes Park, N.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by First-class Oboe; Disengaged June to Sept. Apply, J. FIELD, Oboeist, Moody-Manners Opera Co. (B Company), travelling.

WANTED, by Lady Harpist, Solo and Orchestral, Summer Engagement.
Box 4,554, "The Era."

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by a good reliable Flute and Piccolo Player.
H. CROWTHER, 53, Garfield-road, Scarboro'.

WANTED, by Experienced Lady Flautist, Summer Engagements. LILIAN LEVENS, 149, Upper Thomas-street, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement, or Deputising, by Flautist, experienced, any Business; good refs.; age 32. MUSICIAN, 89, Dollis-road, Church End, Finchley.

WANTED, Engagement, Flautist, Orchestra; season preferred; good reference. MILTON KNIGHT, 28, Aberdeen-terrace, Lidget Green, Bradford, Yorkshire.

WANTED, by Mr. Lorenzo Lewis, ever reliable Variety Pianist, Conductor, Engagement, large or small, just terminated Pantomime, Moss and Stoll's Tour. 14, Trelawney-road, Hackney, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Experienced Orchestral Pianist; can combine Viola; good offers invited; London preferred.—Box 4,476, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Miss Nellie Justice, Pianiste, at Liberty Summer Engagement; Good Sight-reader, Transposer, First-class Soloist. References. 233, Cambridge-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, by Pianist, Engagement in good Company; can transpose, and first-class accompanist. B., 5, Canbury-avenue, Kingston-on-Thames.

WANTED, Known, Engagement as Pianist or Violinist, for Summer; experienced; any business; Orchestral preferred. MADELEINE TUGMANN, 62, Alma-street, Falkirk.

WANTED, by Pianist, Young Lady, Summer Engagement, Concert Party, Orchestral or Dance business; brilliant, good sight reader, and accompanist. Particulars, H., 358A, King-street, Hammersmith.

WANTED, Engagement for Monday next, by highly competent Variety Pianist, composer, arranger, quick sight reader and transposer. GRAHAME, 102, Standishgate, Wigan.

WANTED, Engagement by Pianist, good arranger, any business, steady, reliable; excellent refs., good reader, exper. Var., Drama business; any distance. Address, 25, Main-st., Cadoxton, Barry.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Pianist; experienced and reliable; good references; can open at once. Address, PIANIST, 10, Bath-row, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement, Easter and Summer, Orchestral Pianist, combine Second Violin, through theatre closing; experienced; good refs. EDWARD MANLEY, 311, Leeds-road, Nelson.

WANTED, an Engagement, as Drums or Tympanis; long experience.
DRUMS, 125, Altmore-avenue, East Ham.

WANTED, Engagement, as Drums (Tympani if required), or Oboe, Theatrical and Orchestral experience, and reliable; can start immediately. 14, Stanhope-street, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Double Drummer; thoroughly experienced, Variety preferred; steady, reliable. LILLE, 177, Ball's Pond-road, Islington, London.

WANTED, Engagement, at Once, as Drums or Viola, any Business; 2½ years last engagement. CHAPMAN, 140, Hampton-rd., Southport.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Double Drummer, lady; is also an excellent Pianist and Accompanist; thoroughly experienced; best references. Box 4,561, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Mme. H. E. Angless's Ladies' Orchestra, open to accept engagements. From three to thirty performers. 78, Norwood-road, Herne Hill, S.E.

WANTED, Known, The Shikissimma Band, Ladies' Japanese Orchestra, at Liberty for Piers, Exhibitions, &c.; effective costume. Glenthorpe, Chesterfield-road, Newbury.

WANTED, by Rabottini's Popular Orchestra, Attractive Uniforms, for Seaside, Exhibitions, Concerts, &c. Apply, F. P. RABOTTINI, 157, Blythe-road, West Kensington, London.

WANTED, Engagement, Ladies' Orchestra; experienced for Hotel, Seaside, &c.; fancy costume. Apply, Box 4,486, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Godfrey Holbech's Band, patronised by Royalty. Highest testimonials. Open for Summer Engagement.
Any number as required. Smart uniform.
Apply to GODFREY HOLBECH,
14, Hugh-street, Eccleston-square, London, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements for Orchestra, any number, smart uniform, up-to-date répertoire; highest references. LOUIS METZ, 62, Wellington-road, Charlton, S.E.

WANTED, Engagements by well-known Orchestra, ten performers, disengaged for season, seaside, or any business. Terms, CONDUCTOR, 19, Radipole-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Engagements, by Orchestra, seven or more performers; used to any business; Double-handed if required; good répertoire; Disengaged March 25 and April 1. Apply, FRANK FISHBURN, Musical-Director, 55, Brentnall-st., Stockport.

WANTED, Known, Scarlet Imperial Band, Disengaged Easter and Summer. CONDUCTOR, 10, Emlyn-road, Wendell Park, W.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Leonard Gautier's Orchestra, at Liberty for Summer Season. "Soleure," Purley Park-road, Purley.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands, apply Bureau, 8, Bedford-terrace, Kensington. Quartet Disengaged, scarlet and gold or evening dress.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

KING OHMY'S GRAND CIRCUS, HYDE.
WANTED, Big Sensations and Startling Novelties, for April 8 and future dates, also useful Circus Turns in all Lines; nothing too big; money no object for great Acts new to this country.
Address,
KING OHMY,
The Tower Circus, Blackpool.

HIPPODROME and CIRCUS OF VARIETIES,
DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.
Director, F. J. CONNOR.
WANTED, Equestrian Acts, for Summer Season, commencing July 8.
Apply as above.

WANTED, for Tenting Season, Riders, with own Horses, Bar Performers, and Ground Acts; those doing more than one Act preferred. Correspondence only to H. GILES, 28, West Derby-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, Big Animal Acts and Sensations, on Sharing Terms. Prinz's Lions please communicate; splendid opportunity. Write W. MOORE, Northern and General Amusements Syndicate, Ltd., 46, Queen Victoria-street, London.

WANTED, a Boy about 14 for well-known Acrobatic Troupe; experience not necessary.
Add., LEVETT, Albert Hall, Canning Town, London, E.

WANTED, Youth or Young Man, Tumbler, for Comedy Troupe Acrobats; everything found. State tricks, &c., Box 4,559, "The Era."

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Circus and Hippodrome Proprietors, Managers, and Agents to Know that the Three Ohmys,
Greatest of all Lady Acrobatic, Somersault Bareback Riders, on Three Beautiful Trained Horses, specially engaged at the Tower Circus, Blackpool, where they can be seen during the next two weeks, appearing in the Greatest Act ever placed before the English Public, will shortly be at Liberty. All Agents should see this Great Up-to-date Act. Address, Claude Ohmy, Tower Circus, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Two Dominoes, Comic Act, Clown and Donkey, vacant 25th and April 1, through changing date for W. Bromwich. 71, Kennington-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lolo, Lady Gymnast and Teeth Speciality Artist, and Little May, in her graceful Contortionist and Dance, now on Tour with Tayler's Circus. Thanks for other offers.

WANTED, by Houpla and Hecla, Premier Equilibrists and Acrobats, March 25, April 1, and Tenting Season. Wire, 25, Benson-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, by The Florias, April 1, 8, Comedy Slack Wire Artists and Equilibrists of Strength. Enormous success everywhere. Hippodrome, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Fetes and Galas, &c., two or three distinct acts, viz., Alex and Jolly, Smart Comedy Three-Bar Act; The Holmars, Acrobatic Boxing Clowns; Miss Myria Lo-La, Big Stage Trapeze Act. Address, Alex., 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Mlle. Lockhart, Speciality Globe and Tight Wire Artist, thanks Proprietors and Managers for Offers. Opens March 31, Behrens and Smith's Circus, Germany. Thanks to Jules Guise for bookings.

WANTED, by Aldro Lukos, Man Monkey, Swinging Perch and Tumbling Antics, Liberty Halls, Cirques, Tenting, &c. 22, Osborne-ter., London, S.W.

WANTED, John Irvin, Foot Equilibrist, enormous hit at Hengler's Cirque, London, Lib. Easter, for Halls or Galas. The Evening News: John Irvin, equilibrist and balancer, has probably few equals; the displays he gave were deservedly applauded. 144, High-street, Deptford, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Gymnast wishes Engagement in Comedy Triple Bar Act or other Act. Aubry, c/o Penman, 10, Fauldhouse-st., Glasgow

ISLE OF MAN CIRCUS.
WANTED, Mr. O'Connor to write to "The Era" Letter Box for letter awaiting him.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, DURHAM.
WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, must be up-to-date, and new to Stanley preferred, twice nightly; also good Top, for April 8; also later dates vacant. Full particulars, John Cassidy, Victoria Theatre, Stanley, Durham.

Scarborough.
WANTED, Monday, April 1, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines. Nothing too Big. Full particulars to Morgan, Aquarium.

PALACE OF VARIETIES, OLDBURY.
Proprietors, Messrs. Tyrer and Bostock.
WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, April 1, on, Specialities, Doubles doing Single Acts. Hall small. Lowest terms, lithos., W. B. Bostock, General-Manager.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, April 1, Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest. Hall small. P. Reymond, as above.

WANTED, Refined Variety Artists, ten days, commencing Thursday, March 28, near London. Full particulars, R. Pringle, Temperance Hall, Huddersfield.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, April 1 and onwards.
A. E. Pickard, Britannia, Glasgow.

THE IMPERIAL VARIETY
THEATRICAL and CONCERT AGENCY,
19, Green-street, Leicester-square, W.,
under the direction of
Charles Hector, late of the L.C.C. Halls; and Harry Stowe, the Eminent Pianist and Composer.

WANTED, Artists, Specialities, Pierrot Troupes, and Acts of every kind, to Know that they may be engaged through this Agency.
Send photos and lithos.
Song, Scena, and Sketch Bureau; Bands provided. Songs, Scenas, and Sketches written. Music put to words.
Mr. Stowe is always in attendance, and can arrange appointments with Artists to play over and rehearse new Songs.

Office Hours, 11 to 6.

Wanted, Chorus Ladies and Amateurs.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Mr. O. Maus Dayton's Vaudeville Companies.
Managing-Director, Mr. O. Maus Dayton.
General-Manager, Mr. Geo. Bernard.
Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Ralph.
Comfortable Engagement.
Sure Money.

Lowest terms to O. Maus Dayton,
8, Charlotte-street West, Macclesfield.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Concerts and Music Halls. Interviews by appointment only. Scottish Musical Agency, 107, George-street, Glasgow.

THE NEW PALACE, READING.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Autumn onwards. All communications, G. Howard Watson, Stanhope and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C. Telephone, 6070 Gerrard.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, coming North, to send dates and terms,
Anderson's Agency, 6, Great Clyde-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. Scott, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, single and double turns, two weeks, April 29, May 13, 27. Chas. A. James, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Known, Artists wishing to be Booked for First-class Music Hall Engagement to communicate with Brooks's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, First-class Concert Artists, vacant for Easter; must be young, clever, and refined. Maggie Ranson write in. Wellesley Lynn, 119, Fielding-road, Bedford Park, W.

WANTED, Artists to take part in Animated Pictures at various times during the Season. Reply by letter, stating age, height, appearance, and when likely to be at Liberty.
R. W. Paul, Animatograph Works,
Sidney-road, New Southgate, N.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, with Up-to-date Novelties. Those wishing to be booked for Engagements to communicate by letter only, enclosing stamp, Barnes and Barnes, Music Hall Promoters, 429, Mile End-road, E.

BARNARD'S AGENCY, 33, Shaw-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Star Artists and Specialists please send vacant dates and bookings.
Old Clients keep me posted.
Success to V.A.F.

WANTED, refined Concert Artists, South Coast, Piers, from April. Photos., refs., terms (moderate), &c., Manager, 55, Market-st., Buxton.

WANTED, Artists for Seaside Halls. Lithos., terms, and particulars, to Brooks's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, now and onwards; 21 turns booked last week. Dates and terms, Dan Noble, 76, Bentinck-st., Doncaster. Contracts await Cooge and George Le Wist.

WANTED, First-Class Artists only, for First-Class Variety Theatres, immediate and future dates, also Pantomime.
Jess Verno's Agency, 16, Elizabeth-st., Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone 2076 Royal.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, for Queen's T., Castleford, April 1, onwards; small town, one house nightly (except Saturdays). State lowest first letter. Thanks to those who have written and not received replies. Impossible to answer all. Kindly accept silence a polite negative pro. tem. Address, Beanland and Emerson.

WANTED, Artists, April 1, onwards; rehearsal, New Theatre, Musselburgh, 3 o'clock: Garden's Royal Quintette, &c. Ventom Swift's Agency, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Haymarket Music Hall, Liverpool, and other Halls in the North. Address, Edwin N. Smith, 63 Great Charlotte-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Films." Telephone, 1219 Royal.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for London, Dover, Sandgate, Leicester, and Sheffield; also for town near Cardiff, May 6; nothing too big. Send lowest and bookings. Fred Durham's Agency, 1a, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W. Telephone 15 Brixton.

WANTED, Star Artists that can draw the Public, for July, Aug., and Sept.; new to Folkestone; no fancy salaries paid; well-known turns that want to combine business with pleasure please communicate full particulars and terms to Robert Forsyth, Pier Pavilion, Folkestone.

DICK SUTHERD and DAVE HALL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Al Fresco Artists for three Troupes, Ramsgate, must be well up in Sketches, Concerted Numbers, Gags, &c.; also Pianists; long, comfortable engagement to the right performers. Full particulars, age, lowest terms (not best offer), 81, Walcot-square, Kennington.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, April 8, 15, and 22, May 6, 13, 20, and 27, July, on.
Address, Will Onda, Grand Theatre, Mansfield.

COVENTRY HIPPODROME.
Proprietors, Coventry Hippodrome Co., Ltd.
WANTED, Agents and Artists to please Note that from Dec. 23, 1904, no Contracts will be recognised unless signed by the Secretary and Manager. T. M. Sylvester, Manager; G. E. Wright, Secretary.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to Brooks's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Entirely new Acts to London, new productions of every kind, for Special "début" matinée, at
Britannia Theatre, London, N., April 3.
New Productions and Turns new to the Halls given every facility, and Engagements guaranteed to successful items. In addition, their Booking will be undertaken by this office; also Five Pounds in Prizes.
All applications; with full details, with stamped envelope.
Henri Cazman's Agency,
138, Denmark-hill, London, S.E.

WANTED, Big Acts of every Description, for Galas and Seasides.

James Fioni's Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1686 Royal.

WANTED, New Acts, for extra Matinée at London Palace, Shoreditch, Wednesday, April 3. Sam Hart's Agency, 7, Lancaster-house, Rushcroft-road, Brixton.

WANTED, April 1, on, Variety Acts and Specialities, top, bottom, and sides of bill I can fix. Gannon, Agent, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Musical Acts, for Picture Entertainment, near London, Easter Monday. State lowest, 2 shows. Lester, Aylesbury.

WANTED, Talent, all Lines, for Stalybridge Hippodrome. James Fioni's Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

CIRCUS, SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Specialities of every description, March 25 and on, a good, sober Property Man may open at once. All Artists please note day show, Easter Monday, at 2. Address, C. Algie.

WANTED, Specialities of all Kinds, April 1, 8, 15, 22. Reply, sharp,
Martino's Agency, Hippodrome, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Sensational Novelties and Specialities of all kinds, for Fêtes, Galas, &c. Send lowest terms, lithos., &c., to Box 4,543, "The Era."

HIPPODROME, BLYTH, NORTHUMBERLAND.
WANTED, First-class Combinations, weekly, with pictures preferred. Address, Tudor, Blyth.

CIRCUS and HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE. Rehearsal, Monday next, 2 o'clock, for: Stanley and Vandyke, Jack Truman, Moxon Bros., Twisto, Jack Lane, Burnetti, Wallie Croker, N. Costello.
WANTED, April 29, Big Attraction, on Share. Letters, Smith and Co., Red Lion Hotel.

WANTED, for Easter Week, High-Class Entertainment, complete in itself; two hours duration, for South Coast Pier Pavilion; must have good printing. Sharing terms. Wire, Continental Agency, 4, Brixton-road, London.

WANTED, Top Liners, Star Comedians, and any Big Act, to send full bookings and terms to Frank Lynne, 12, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, for Whit Week, for Fashionable Pier Pavilion, seats 900, sharing terms, First-class Concert Party, Gipsy Choir, or Musical Show; Big Business can be done by really good Company, new to Folkestone and with Attractive Printing. Open Saturday, May 16. Also Companies for May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 24. All particulars to Robert Forsyth, Pier Pavilion, Folkestone.

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen, good Sketch Artists; interview necessary. John Clempert, 114, Devonshire-st., H. Broughton, Tel., 119, H. B., Manchester.

WANTED, for Fête, April 1, S. Wales, Troupe of Performing Dogs and Ladder Act. Lowest terms, Gannon, Agent, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, good Vocalists, Comedians, Speciality Artists, for Glasgow and District, May, June, July; also First Violinist for Orchestra, must be experienced in Variety business. H. L. Skivington, Empire, Greenock.

WANTED, Humorists, Character Impersonators, Vents., and High-class Concert Artists, for Pier Concert Party; no travelling; strict refinement essential. Lloyd Morgan, 30, Richmond-gardens, W.

WANTED, Drew Bayley's Agency, Comedians, Sisters, Comedy Knockabouts, Small Comedy and Dramatic Sketch, for the North, including the Hippo., Perth, April 1, and on.

170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, for Summer Season (Pierrots), commencing Whitsuntide, for Bridlington, smart young Comedian. State experience, répertoire, and lowest terms. C. Beanland, Queen's, Castleford.

WANTED, for a Fête in August, a Troupe of four or five Knockabouts.
Address, with full particulars, to
Anger and Bauer, 50, Rupert-street, W.

WANTED, immediately, Amateur Ladies or Gentlemen, playing Banjo, Mondoline, or Guitar well; those with voices preferred. Rae, 18, Woronzow-road, N.W.

WANTED, Young Man, must be smart, who can play in Sketches and Knockabout, one who can ride a little preferred. Height, age, Gibson, P.O., Dublin.

WANTED, four Coloured Boys, ages between 13 and 15 years, must be good Singers and Dancers, or else useless. Apply, stating capabilities, &c., Harry Instone, Royal Varieties, Oldham.

WANTED, Good Comedy Cycle Show, for Easter week, in London. Address, with full particulars to Anger and Bauer, 50, Rupert-st., W.

WANTED, Girl over 14, for Cecilian Troupe; must play piano and mandoline a little. 120, Victoria-dwellings, Farringdon-road, London.

WANTED, for Summer Season, Indoors, Animated Pictures, and Lady Pianist. Vocalist; 12 weeks certain. Gannon, Agent, West-grove, Bristol.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Good Friday, Hereford, Animated Pictures, with Passion Play, and from May 18, for twelve weeks. Gannon, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, a Bioscope Operator, with own Cinematograph and Films, for Sacred Concert, Good Friday night, and for one week, commencing April 15. Apply personally, Saturday morning, 12 o'clock, Abrahams, 26, Great Eastern-road, Stratford, E.

WANTED, First-class Operator, for Cinematograph; must be steady and reliable; good wages to the right man; make himself generally useful. Address, Cottrell's Electric Coliseum, Market-place, Bedlington, Northumberland.

WANTED, two good Bioscope Operators and Electricians. Letters to
Jack Barnes, Smethwick.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

The Greatest Mystery of Modern Times.
WANTED, Known,
MYTERIOUS LILITH,
in her Palace of Roses.
MYTERIOUS LILITH,
in her Palace of Roses.
The Prettiest and Most Sensational Mystery Act ever presented. Beautifully staged.
Always a draw.
Always a sensation.
Proprietors and Managers requiring a Big Attraction should secure this Star Act.

Also Lilian Warren's Vocal Pictures,
Liberty March 25.
Wire, Hippodrome, Burton-on-Trent.
Offers invited for May 13, 20, June 17.

Sole Proprietress, Lilian Warren,
Permanent address, 77, St. Mary's-street, Cardiff.

WANTED, Known, Miss Brandon, Solo Harpist, is Booking Engagements for Concerts, Entertainments, Harp and Piano played together, Brilliant Popular Selections, handsome costumes. Address, Writtle, Chelmsford.

WANTED, Known, Miss May Darrell, the celebrated Lady Banjoist (late Darrell Trio), at Liberty to join Musical Sketch. Dresden Cottage, Chesterfield.

WANTED, by Mlle. Sylvesto, Unique Lady Contortionist, April 1, 15, 22, May 13, 27. Write, Hippo., West Bromwich, Staffs.

WANTED, Known, Julia Evans, Comedienne, vacant April 1, Character Songs or Song Scena, "The Recruit" (two characters), Novelty, and only Show on Variety Stage played by Lady Artist of the kind. 21, St. Stephen's-rd., Lewisham.

WANTED, Known, La Rochelle, The Artists' Model, in a Beautiful Series of Daring and Artistic Poses. Now in the sixth week of her Engagement at the Tivoli, Manchester. Special effects carried. Good supply printing. Few dates open this year. Apply, Tate's Agency, 150, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Known, Managers, be sure you get the late Lord Leighton's Original Model Venus, finishes London Syndicates to-night; then Tours Provinces eight weeks. Manager, Austin Millais. Day's Agency.

WANTED, April 1, 8, by Babs Lloyd and Nellie Vance, Comedy Artists. Hippo., Scarboro'; Monday, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh. Wire, wire.

WANTED, by Sisters Beatrice, Duettists and Expert Dancers, April 1 and 8. Wire, 35, Florence-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, Known, J. C. Oliver, the Original Magical Jester and Versatile Star, at home, Theatre, Hall, or Circus. Offers home or abroad. Circus, Hull.

WANTED, April 1 and 8, Henri's Elegant Act, "Sport in the Electric Garden," elaborate Stage Set, magnificent Costumes. Be sure you get the original Henris, M. and Mdme.; the most artistic Equilibristic and Gymnastic Act. Write or wire, Gaiety M. Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, Easter week, also April 8 and 15, by Walter Howard, Great Musical Comedian. C/o "The Era."

WANTED, Monday, 25th, and April 1, by Arthur St. Clair, Light Comedian and Actor-Vocalist. Wire, Hippodrome, Blyth; refer Tudor.

WANTED, by Will Beanland, Female Impersonator and Singer, vac. Mar. 25, Ap. 8 and 15, also for Al-fresco. 6, Shakespeare-street, Halifax.

WANTED, Monday next, by Percy Johnson, Comedian, just concluded five successful weeks in London. Wire, Cooke's Circus, Edinboro'.

WANTED, Monday next, also April 1, by Harry Leaton, a good sound vocal Comedian. Wire, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Monday next, also April 15 and 22, by Harry Albery, Eccentric Comedian and Dancer. Wire, 42, Young-st., Doncaster.

WANTED, by Oliver Conroy, Comedian, April 1, 8, 22, 29. This, Palace, Aberdeen; next week, Palace, Dundee.

WANTED, by Lazern, the Mystic, New Zealand's famous Deceptionist, immediate and future dates. A success everywhere. 8, Rupert-court, W.

WANTED, by Lazern, the Mystic, New Zealand's famous Deceptionist, immediate and future dates. A success everywhere. 8, Rupert-court, W.

WANTED, Known, Lazern, the Mystic Magician and Illusionist, in a Novel and Up-to-Date Performance. 8, Rupert-court, W.

WANTED, Known, Lazern, the Mystic, the talk of every town, thanks Managers for return dates. 8, Rupert-court, W.

WANTED, Monday next, April 1, 8, C. H. Charlton, with Novel and Artistic Magic Act. Hippo., Stoke; after Sunday, Market-st., Hanley.

WANTED, by Recognised High-class Magician, few seaside dates, piers; highest possible references; smart and class work. Box 4,566, "Era."

WANTED, Known, that the "Collier and His Child" terminate 11 weeks' Grand Success on the Moss and Stoll Tour to-night at Empire, Glasgow. Want Monday next, two weeks only vacant. Wire, Tom Norman, 164, Pentonville-road, London.

WANTED, April 1, also 15, on, by The Great Kyoto, Japanese Comedy Mysterious Box, Contortionist, Comic Juggling, Conjurer, Dog. A Laughing and Applauding Hit. Also Miss May Geraldine, Vocalist, Comedienne, and Dancer. Enormous Success, Prince's T., Accrington. Monday, Queen's Varieties, Castleford. Wire or write.

WANTED, Known, The Vokes (Ned and Jessie) Refined Comedy Musical Artists, free March 25, April 1. Wire, 16, Moreton-street, Strangeways, Manchester. Our only fault, we are English.

WANTED, Known, Letta and Minni, Vacant for Easter; good lithos.
Address, 11, Addison Park-mansions, Kensington, London, W.

WANTED, The Bohemians (Will and Madge), March 25. Wire, Empire, Burnley, till Saturday; after, T. R., Tyldesley (wire).

WANTED, by Ariel and Astarte (Lady and Gentleman Gymnastic Pot-Pourri Act), March 25, April 8, 15. Wire, Royal Albert, Canning Town.

WANTED, Known, Lenton and Bertram can be engaged for their marvellous Thought-reading and Mental Telepathy Acts. 251, Seven Sisters-rd, London, N.

WANTED, by Edward Clark and Sadie Gold, American Expert Banjoist, Singers, Dancers, Entertainers. April 1. March 18, Gaiety, Dundee; March 25, Circus, Spennymoor, Co. Durham.

WANTED, Monday next, by Dan Noble and Marie Yorke.
Wire, Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, Easter, onward, by Musical Howard, Sensational Silent Thought Transmission, Coins, Sums, &c. Sure draw. Hippo., Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Known, Barney Noble and Olive Veno, Vacant April 1, 8, 15. Hippodrome, Spennymoor.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday, also April 1, 8, Bella Leaburn, Popular Comedienne; also Akbar, Gymnast. Wire for Monday, 20, Pritchard-street, Salford.

WANTED, Monday next, The Izons (Ada and Arthur), "Captain and Mate"; also Ada Clare, Serio; two Acts; only vacancy. 80, Blenheim-road, Moseley, Birmingham.

WANTED, Monday next, Sardou's Marvellous Illusion Act; also Marie Riviers, Popular Songstress. Big Hit everywhere. Wire, Shakespeare Theatre, Altrincham. Wire.

WANTED, Monday, and Easter week, Agouste and Lillian, Lady and Clown, Contortionists; also Savaro, Mimic. Wire offers, Conservative Hall, East Molesey, till Saturday; then, 65, Ellen-street, London, E.

WANTED, Monday next, 25th, The Dunvilles, Comedy Instrumentalists, Vocal, Dance, and Patterers, in up-to-date Musical Act. Wire to-day, New Theatre, Barry Dock.

WANTED, Easter, on, The Mintos, Musical Eccentrics, second distinct Turn if required. Wire, 34, Booth-street East, Manchester.

WANTED, by Wright and Elton, Original Comedy Act, April 1. This, E., Portsmouth; March 25, Hippo., Brighton.

WANTED, Monday next, 25th, by Fields and Lewis, Great Comedy Act. A Star Turn. Wire, Theatre Royal, Warrington.

WANTED, Easter, on, Levine and Wilton, Novelty Acrobatic Gymnasts on Elaborate Fit-up; conclude four weeks, Carlton's Co., Big Success. 36, Graham-road, Dalston.

WANTED, Known, What a Draw The Cecilians are! Greatest All-round Act on Variety Stage. We don't want the earth. Vacant March 25. 120, Victoria-dwellings, Farringdon-road, London.

WANTED, Known, What a Draw Cecilians are! Refinement a Speciality. Thanking Daytons for past contracts, also other five just received. Address, above.

WANTED, April 8 and 15, by Titan, Talka, and Wyllie (three Acts), Strong Man Act, Musical Turn, and Vocalist. Empire, Merthyr.

WANTED, April 1, by Royal Welsh Choir (ten picked voices), two distinct Scenas, superb Costumes and Scenery, also vacant Sacred Concerts, Good Friday. Manager, E. Heath, Empire, Stockport.

WANTED, April 1 and 10, by The Carls, Comedy Trampolin Act, that can follow them all; just returned from the Continent; Halls, Circuses, or Galas. Roars of laughter and applause. Success everywhere. 10, Naylor-road, Peckham, London.

WANTED, by The Florias, April 1, 8, Comedy Slack Wire Artists and Equilibrists of strength. Enormous success everywhere. Hippodrome, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Dates, La Dors' Troupe, male and female, six in number, in their Acrobatic Tumbling Roman Double Ladder Wonders and Pyramid Grouping, &c.; also De Toreadors, in "The Bull-Fighters." Two distinct acts. Letters, c/o "The Era" Office.

WANTED, April 8, 15, by Los Granadas, Trampolin Comedy Gymnasts, a Novelty. 64, Upper Sutton-street, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, one week, April 1, by Stanley's Urchins and Mlle. Du Roche; two good turns. Wire offers, Hippodrome, Stalybridge.

WANTED, Known, Tom Garland, the Greatest Living Ventriloquist, drew crowded houses last week, Merthyr; wants April 8, 15, 22, to follow Tivoli, Manchester. Thanks to F. V. St. Clair, Esq. Write, 12 Poplar-road, Wrexham.

WANTED, May 13 and Summer Dates, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist; and De Lil, Illusionist. Two smart Acts. Public Hall, Bury.

WANTED, March 25, April 1, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist; good goods; Great Comedy Act. Pal., Grimsby. Monday morning, Derngate, Northampton.

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Pier Pavilions, Halls, &c.,
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Popular Watering Places, Spas,
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Whit Monday open.

Managers kindly write
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WANTED, Known,
LEICESTER COOKE'S
"ZULULAND."
("With Royston's Horse.")
Now Starring,
Moss Stoll Tour.
Few vacant dates
from May 20.

Address next week,
Hippodrome, Stockton-on-Tees.

WANTED, Dates for Juvenile Spectacles, "Japan," "Brigands," "Scalp Hunters," Pantomime, "St. George and the Dragon," everything carried. Clarke, c/o "The Era" Office.

WANTED, by Ella's Lions,
April 15, 29,
May 6 and 13.
London preferred.
Communications week March 25.
Temperance Hall, Merthyr Tydvil.

WANTED, Known,
Caban's French Circus,
Ponies, Donkeys, and Dogs,
at Liberty
April 8, 15, and 22.
All communications, address
C. Caban, Exhibition, Gloucester.

WANTED, Known, Mlle. Roza's Great Canine Hippodrome and Football Team, and Only Dog Goal-keeper in World. Vacant March 25, April 13, and few on. Big draw; good printing; open for First-class Fêtes, Piers, &c. Managers wanting sure thing address 12, Mill-lane, Blackburn.

WANTED, Known, Sergt.-Major Williams' Dogs at Liberty Easter Mon., on; acknowledged by the Press as one of the finest exhibitions of dog-training ever seen. Agent wanted. 2a, Belgrave-street, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Devereux's Comedy Troupe of Dogs, the Most Novel Show in the World; the Troupe of Four-footed Animals with Human Brains. Liberty May 13. Alhambra, Sandgate.

WANTED, by Charlie Hampson's Meritorious Act, Dogs, Pigeons, March 25, April 1. Success London Halls. Cambridge, Commercial-street, London, E.

WANTED, Piers, Pavilions, or Spaces, for Summer Season. Full particulars to Bush, American Dog Circus, Public Hall, Barnsley.

WANTED, Monday next, Bush's American Dog Circus. Wire,
Public Hall, Barnsley.

WANTED, by Pygmies from Central Africa, same as appeared London Hippodrome, dates before May 12. J. J. Harrison, Brandesburton Hall, Hull.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Young Man, good All-round Tumbler, wishes to join Comedy, Sketch, or Troupe; also Clever Boy, to learn, slight knowledge. Box 4,508, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by First-Class Cinématograph, Selections from 80,000ft. of latest subjects, best machine, electric or lime; also first-class Comedy Conjuring Act, Handcuffs, and Plate Manipulations, and High-class Lady Vocalist, Ballads, Illustrated Songs; twenty minutes' to two hours' show. Manager, 3, Lebanon-gardens, Wandsworth, London.

WANTED, Engagements, Public or Private, Harmon's Bioscope, Marionettes, also Royal Punch and Judy, with Toby. 325, Earlsfield-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Operator, with own new Urban Bioscope and latest Films. Write, E. Pinkpank, 109, Park-st., Denmark-rd., Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, as Operator; or would join Concert Co., with Bioscope and Singing Pictures, on salary. Address, Pictures, 66, Park-rd., Dukinfield.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman, Silver King (regd.), Auctioneer, Valuer, Expert and Authority to the United Kingdom and Van Dwellers' Association, Auctioneer to Lord George Sanger (England's Greatest Showman), and Leading Showmen of Great Britain. Sales and Commissions conducted in any part of the World. If you want to Buy or Sell anything connected with the Business, consult Tom Norman, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand. Change of address. Wanted to purchase or engage all kinds of Novelties and Curiosities (alive or dead), if suitable for exhibition.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Tom Norman, Showman's Auctioneer, &c., attends all Principal Fairs, Feasts, &c., and transacts business with, and for, Showmen and Travellers of all grades, is desirous of representing one or more large firms, on terms. Satisfactory results guaranteed. References, bank and leading showmen. Apply, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, London.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100, 101, 102a, Houndsditch, is going ahead with up-to-date Lines in Field Glasses, Fancy Goods, Clocks, Jewellery, &c.

There is no cheaper house for you.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Market Workers to send to Simons for up-to-date List, which shows special money-making lines at low prices.

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WANTED, Known, .22 "R" and "D" cartridges, Globes, Balls, Winchester and New Military Repeaters, Pistols, and all repairs done. Greene, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known.—A Word to the Wise is Sufficient. A Client writing June 25, 1906, says:—Bag puncher took £300 in a little over three months. For price, write Sole Agents to the Makers, viz., the Mills Novelty Co. Minerva Automatic Co., 14, Charterhouse-buildings, E.C. Largest Variety of Automatic Machines in the trade. No Junk. Note Change of Address.

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Callers, Auctioneers, Theatres, Exhibitions,
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For Gaffs, Hiring Fairs, Shows,

The Catch of the Season.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
The Balmoral Confectionery Co.,
20, Diana-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Under new Proprietorship.
After making extensive alterations to their packing warehouses, are now working early and late to get a terrific stock of Banks' Milk Chocolate.

Large packets marked 3d., guaranteed.

The Greatest and Quickest Penny Line on the Market. Sells at Sight.

All orders despatched same day. No waiting. Send at once for sample case.

7s. gross, carriage forward, cases free.
Cash with order.

Auctioneers.
WANTED, Known, Great Value Offered in Secondhand Silver Watches.
Auctioneers only supplied.
Write to-day for full particulars,
C. G. Clacher, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.
Try one of my famed parcels, containing Ten English Lever and Twelve Silver Geneva Watches. Best Value ever Offered.
In great demand. Price, £5 5s.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that the Gourock Ropework Co., Ltd., Largest Tent Manufacturers in the World, have a large stock of New and Secondhand Circus Tents made from their famous Rotproof and Waterproof Tent Canvas, "Birkmyres Cloth." The most durable and waterproof Canvas for Showmen's Tents, &c. Buy from Manufacturers and save middlemen's profit. Gourock Ropework Co., Ltd., Lancaster-place, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Known, six good No. 1 Saloon Rifles, warranted 40s. the lot. Walcot, 391, City-road, Angel, London. One worth the money.

WANTED, Known, all Kinds of Showmen's Painting Undertaken, Oil-paintings, Scenery, Letter Cloths. Roche, Artist, 22, Lansdown-road, Lee, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Stacey's Stores, Settles-st., London, E., are still supplying all Showmen's Requirements, cartridges, guns, targets, glass, fair goods, &c.

MINIATURE FUN CITY, West-st., Bromley, Kent.
WANTED, at once, Side Shows and Attractions, with good Paintings or Posters; also a few Automatic Machines (no rubbish). Terms, Shares. Apply, Manager, above.

WANTED, Novelties and Freaks of Nature, for Bagan's Waxworks, Belfast, North-street; also Lady Palmist and Tattooist, on shares; good opening.

WANTED, Novelties, Freaks, sale of books and post-cards allowed; can open at once. Chas. A. James, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Novelties, for Present and Future Dates; good show wire for Monday; also good Doorsman and Man as Horsekeeper write. Laura Martino send address. Proprietor, 100, Lower Marsh, Lambeth, London.

WANTED, Living Novelties and Attractions, for April 15, for eight or ten weeks, in Glasgow. Apply, Pickard's American Museum, Glasgow.

WANTED, good Freaks and Novelties, for Burnetti's Waxworks.
273, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Side Shows, for Seaside, Summer Season, Talking Wax Head, the Chameleon, the Flying Lady, the Box Mystery, the Gondola. Share or rental to responsible management. Lester, Aylesbury.

WANTED, Big Side Shows, on Sharing Terms, for Summer Season. Write, W. Moore, Northern and General Amusements Syndicate, Ltd., 46, Queen Victoria-street, London.

WANTED, Stalls, Games, Novelties, Side Shows, Fish Pond, Wire Worker, Miniature Photos., Automatics, Palmistry, &c., for the Free Fun City, Promenade, New Brighton, 10,000ft. under cover; reasonable rentals. Melville, 57, Lower-parade, New Brighton.

RHYL WORLD'S FAIR.
WANTED, Flying Lady Illusion, Topsy Turvy House, Spaces for three more Side Shows, Shops vacant for Jewellery, Handkerchiefs, or any Novel Trades; fitted and electric light. Secretary, Queen's Palace, Rhyl.

WANTED, Lady Character Reader, to open at once, half shares; best position in Newcastle. Eunice Darrell, G.P.O., Newcastle.

WANTED, immediately, First-class Lady Palmist, to travel Seaside Resorts, Fairs, &c.; shares or salary; doorsman provided. Tom Norman, "The Era" Office.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

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WANTED, Novel Propositions of all kinds, for the occupation of Spaces in our

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Anything that is New and Novel.
Anything that will take Money.
Anything that amuses the Public.
Nothing too large, nothing too small.
A very big Show of the "Savage South Africa" or "Buffalo Bill" type wanted for the Sports Velodrome, which is a third of a mile long, and fitted with two Magnificent Grand Stands.
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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
"The Era" Annual for 1907, published at a shilling from 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, is, as usual, a happy combination of record, almanac, and literary symposium. The last-mentioned aspect is one that most commends the work to the lay reader. The literary contributions are signed by well-known artists who have contributed personal experiences of remembered incidents, and whose portraits adorn the pages. A touch of pathos is lent to an otherwise cheery publication by the inclusion of stage and music-hall favourites who died last year, one of whom was Mr. J. L. Toole.—Financier and Bullionist., Feb. 6.

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Rehearsal at 12 for :—
"The Duchess of Tooting," Lizzie Fletcher, Hunt and Thomas, Victor Newman, Marie Empress, Barbara Babbington, Corman's Juveniles, Blanche Vincent, Bioscope, Arthur Lennard.

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Rehearsal at 12 for :—
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EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
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Rehearsal at 2 for :—
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Rehearsal at 1 for :—
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DRAMATIC and MUSICAL CALENDAR. See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.

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FOR WEEK COMMENCING

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1907.

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Carlotta de Yonson and Co., Beau and Belle, Tom Yorke, Flying Peritas, Ray Royal, Tom Dawson, Lombart Bros., Pallister's Bioscope.

PALACE, LINCOLN.
Vandyke Troupe, Simosa San, Flo Chevalier, Madge Morley and Co., Gladys Witton, May Marton, Tom Collins, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BATH.
Aquamarinoff Troupe, T. C. Edwards, Andie Burn, Rosa Rossitti, Wyndham and Waters, Edna Latonne, Lauri Wylie, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

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Nat Clifford, Lise Rolland, Fioretti and Elly, The Krags, Steve McCarthy, Helen Charles, Minnie Fenton, Marie Kendall, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

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Closed for Decorations.

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PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Matweef Hugostons, Violet Nunn, John Macauley, Thornbury, Kerr and Koe, Smith and Johnson, Three Dreadnoughts, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
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THE BRITANNIA.
Matinée Monday.
Mr. and Mrs. Finden, Tom Davis and Co., G. Brooks, Lizzie Daniels, The Beau Ideals, Charles Valvo, Raymond's Bio-Tableoux, Ernesto, Herbert Clifton, Arnold Bell and Co., Clifton and Gibson.

FORESTERS.
Matinées Monday and Thureday.
Milsted and Bell, Tom Moore, Richardson Taylor, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Lew Lake and Co., in "Bloomsbury Burglars," Blanche and Powell, The Treshams, Will Lear, Josephine Colona and Co., Phil Rabey.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
Steinway Glee Singers, Will Johnson, Daisy Martell, Bartholomew Girls, Stacey and Williams, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Daisy De Roy, Leonard Mortimer and Co., Rell and Butt.

SURREY THEATRE.
All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band parts.
Matinée every Monday.
Florence Yayman, W. B. Raby, Walker and May, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Little Zola, The Morros, Laurie Wallace, Leoni Clarke's Cats, Vaudeville Sketch Co., Arthur Watson and Co.

Notice.—All artists carrying Scenery must have it Fireproof, according to L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

All Bill Matter or Notification of Appearance must be sent in 14 days prior to opening. All Artists must attend Band Rehearsal, or their Contracts may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

N.B.—All Billing Matter, accompanied by Pictorials, and Business Communications relating to the Provincial Circuit, must be addressed to the

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"CHEERO."
"ALL ALONE IN OLD COLOGNE."
"MOLLY BAWN."
"GROW, LITTLE MUSHROOM, GROW."
"IOLA."
"DOWN ON THE BEAUTIFUL RHINE."
"SAN ANTONIO."
"WANDA FROM ANACONDA."
"MY MONTANA MAID."
"CAN'T YOU FIND A LITTLE TIME TO SAY 'GOOD EVENING'?"
"WEDDING BELLS."
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N.B.—INTERVIEWED BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

CALLS for MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1907.

Rehearsals at 1 p.m.

PALACE THEATRE, PLYMOUTH.
George French, Claire Greta, Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, Bob Stephenson, Kent and Keith, Fred Villars, The Montaldos, Vernon's Bioscope, Tom Foy and Co.

PALACE THEATRE, BRISTOL.
Mark Melford, Arthur Goodman, Webb and Branston, Yolande Noble, Horace White, Crosby and Walker, Percy Curry, Vernon's Bioscope, Ingone Trio.

PALACE THEATRE, SUNDERLAND.
Whit Cunliffe, The Prinellas, Stave, Evelyn Taylor, The Maples, Beaty and Blanche, The Picquays, Vernon's Bioscope, The Motramos.

KING'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD.
Jack McKenzie and Co., "Belle of Barcelona," Cookson, Daisy Silcott, Martinetti and Son, Jack Heath, Lady Julia, Vernon's Bioscope, Schiavonis Troupe.

PALACE THEATRE, DUNDEE.
Fred Ginnett's "Dick Turpin," Goodfellow and Gregson, Madge Allan, Glennie's Marionettes, Oliver Conroy, Onda and Artell, Charlie Williams, Rejected Remounts, Vernon's Bioscope, Marstro and Gretta.

PALACE THEATRE, ABERDEEN.
Bella and Bijou, Carl Howard, Lily Foy, The Two Kays, Jay W. Winton, Halma, Andy Fagan, Keith and Merson, Vernon's Bioscope, J. W. Hall.

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BABY'S FIRST OUTING.

Code Word, CHICANE.

The careless nurse takes baby out and speaks to many people on the way and keeps on colliding with various obstacles. Eventually a naughty boy ties the pram to a dog, who rushes off with it, followed by an interested crowd of spectators. Finally the pram is precipitated into a pond, but baby is unhurt and is brought back to her parents in triumph by a kindly policeman.

Fine quality and really amusing.

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Another of Pathé's world-renowned industrial subject films. The whole process of paper making is shown, and is remarkably interesting.

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Code Word, BUREAU.

An old wizard succeeds in capturing a golden beetle which he casts into a melting-pot, from which there immediately appears a most beautiful form, succeeded by fountains of water and displaying lovely girls. This water then throws off splendid coloured effects rising higher and higher, eventually turning into a regular cascade, the centre of which is a glorius fairy.

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Code Word, BUFFLE.

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A VISIT FROM A MOTHER-IN-LAW.

Code Word, CHIC.

The young husband determines that as he does not want his mother-in-law to stay with them, he will get rid of her quickly. Bribes the servants, and they each, without seeming to do so, cause her some trouble. Finally, he takes her out in his car and bumps her out. She, in disgust, returns home again, to the intense joy of the husband. A very amusing subject, and some very funny effects.

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Code Word, CABANE.

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Scene		Scene	
1.	Arrival at Bethlehem.	14.	Jesus before Pilate.
2.	The Nativity, Adoration of the Wise Men.	15.	The Scourging.
		16.	"Ecce Homo!" (Behold the Man).
3.	The Infant Jesus' Sleep.	17.	Jesus is made to carry His Cross.
4.	The Woman of Samaria.	18.	Jesus falls for the first time.
5.	The Raising of Jairus' Daughter.	19.	The Incident of St. Veronica.
6.	Mary Magdalene.	20.	The Ascent to Calvary.
7.	Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem.	21. 22.	The Crucifixion and Agony.
8.	The Last Supper and Sacrament.	23.	The Descent from the Cross.
9.	In the Garden of Olives.	24.	The Burial of Christ.
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11.	The Betrayal and Arrest.		
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In the meantime the child has been found by a constable and taken to the home of a kindly old gentleman, who happens to be passing, he and his wife being delighted with the acquisition to their childless household; pointing out the necklace and birthmark borne by the child, the constable leaves.

After a few years comes retribution. The dressmaker, delivering at the home of the old people some dresses for a child, recognises the necklace it wears, and, examining the child, finds the birthmark. Overcome by true motherly love, she instinctively clasps the child to her bosom, but is repulsed and denied; a closing tableau touching every human heart.

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Manager: **Mr. O. Stansfield.**
Calls for Monday, March 25, 1907.

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Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Bert Goldin, T. W. Lonner, Florrie Wright, Maudie McDonald, Lois Du Cane and Co., Richard Finburg, The Paolias.

ALHAMBRA, SANDGATE.
Preston and Harding, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Sisters Charnley, Capt. Devereaux, Clara Victor, Fred Southern and Co., Harry Desmond.

GRAND, SHEFFIELD.
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Bill matter must be sent two weeks in advance.
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Harry McKelvie, Business-Manager.

GLASGOW PAVILION.
CALL for Monday, March 25, 1907.
7. Twice Nightly. 9.
Rehearsal at 11 o'clock for
Fred Herbert, Elliotts and Savonas, Nancy Dale, Ulrick, Ruby Emmerson, The Howards, Foreman and Fannan, H. O. Wills, Sisters Hall.

GREENOCK PAVILION.
Rehearsal at 2 o'clock for
Keen and Waller, Gus Barra, Nellie Stevens and Company, Sadie Simpson, Pictures.
All bill matter must be sent to Glasgow fourteen days ahead. Failing this, Artists will run the risk of having their Contracts cancelled. By order,
SAMUEL LLOYD, General-Manager.

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BLANCHE and DIACOFF'S VAUDEVILLE COMPANY, THEATRE ROYAL, ILKESTON.
Band rehearsal, Monday, 1 o'clock, March 25, 1907; for the following: Prince Fee Lung Co., Vanda, Joe Andy, La Belle Tosca, Flo Melville, La Rochelle, Syrett Bioscope, Moy King, Violet Cigale, Blanche and Diacoff.

SHEERNESS HIPPODROME,
General-Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton.
CALL, Monday, March 25, 1907.
Lionel Vaughan, the Fimans, Will Sergeant, Chummie La Mara, Chas. Clarke, Emmie Harlow, Laura Johnson.

MOODY BROTHERS, BIRMINGHAM. New Catalogue of Theatrical Stock Posters now ready, including the whole of Messrs. Clement Smith's, Messrs. Armitage and Ibbetson's, and Messrs. S. Boyd's Ltd. Contracts invited. Tel.. "Moody's. Birmingham." 'Phone 1206.

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Lead, Camden Theatre. Disengaged April 8.
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Yours very faithfully, ROBERT CROSSMAN.

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AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

MELBOURNE, JAN. 29.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE (Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson; Business-Manager, Mr. George Tallis).—Record houses are the order of the day at this theatre, the spectacular pantomime, *Mother Goose*, having hit the public taste. Owing to the success which has attended the production, the management anticipate it holding the boards till after Easter. All the artists have now thoroughly settled down into their parts, and the fun is kept merrily going from the rise till the fall of the curtain.

THEATRE ROYAL (Lessee, Mr. William Anderson; Business-Manager, Mr. Julius Grant).—The stirring melodrama, *When London Sleeps*, was revived on Saturday evening, and served to attract a large and enthusiastic audience. Miss Eugenie Duggan as Queenie Carruthers, "the white Queen of the air," was most effective, her wire-walking scene over the house-tops earning well-deserved applause. The Captain Rodney Hayes of Mr. Dunbar was a clever piece of work. Messrs. Bert Bailey and Edmund Duggan have the light relief all to themselves, and the result is entirely satisfactory. The various other characters were ably played by Miss Ada Guildford, Miss Hilda Fraser, Miss Lena Langridge, Miss Lillie Bryer, Mr. Nunn, and little Miss Sylvia Churches.

OPERA HOUSE (Proprietor, Mr. Harry Rickards; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Aydon).—A scene of great excitement prevailed at this theatre on Saturday evening, when Charlene and Charlene made their first appearance, these artists obtaining the most enthusiastic reception which has been accorded to anyone appearing at the Opera House for some considerable time. The turn is a star one in every sense. Mr. Charlene is a juggler of great ability, while Mme. Charlene is a finished performer on the xylophone. Taken on the whole, the performance is a welcome addition to the programme. Other artists who made their reappearance on Saturday include Miss Cora Caselli, dancer; Mr. Larry Lewis, quaint comedian; and Miss Violet Stockelle, soubrette; while Mr. Charles Leonard Fletcher, Rowell Sisters, Rochfort and Hart, Fred Russell, Annie Laurie, Lal Logie, and King and Benson lend valuable assistance to a particularly strong bill.

GAIETY THEATRE (Manager, Mr. Joe Solomons).—Miss Lyla Thompson made her reappearance on Saturday evening, after an absence of eighteen months, and was accorded a warm reception. A complete change of programme was given by Claude Sullivan, Ern Delavale, Frank York, Blutch Jones, Maud Perman, Harry Elliott, Fred Ireland, George Silcock, the Silvenis, Dan Cusack, and the Sylvans.

SYDNEY, JAN. 29.—The Willoughby-Ward-Palotta combination changed its bill at the Criterion on the 26th to *The Talk of the Town*. Mr. Hugh J. Ward is old Andrew Fullalove, J.P., and every possible atom of humour is extracted from the part by the ambidexterous comedian. Miss Grace Palotta enters into all the fun with which the author has stuffed Winifred Tiverton; and is aided and abetted by Mr. Edward Bonfield as Charles and Mr. C. Warburton-Gamble as a record-making Sneezer. The singing and dancing of these four people will long be remembered. This bill will last out the remainder of the season, when Mr. Edwin Geach takes his humorous coterie elsewhere. Mr. George Willoughby is Peter Sledge, a champion prize-fighter, and he is at his best in these boisterous parts; and Miss Edith Warren as his sweetheart, Tilly Du Val, helps him most loyally. Miss Olive Wilton and Miss Lillian Scarfe are the young wife and maid as to the characters born. Preceding this farce-comedy we have *The Vagabond*, in which Mr. Hugh J. Ward plays a pathetic rôle with consummate skill; and the daughter and artist are carefully acted by Miss Grace Palotta and Mr. Arthur Cornell.

MR. HARRY RICKARDS'S dramatic company opens at the Criterion on Feb. 2, under Mr. Allan Hamilton's management. *Home, Sweet Home* will be the play, and Miss Lilian Hallows and Mr. Sidney Howard are entrusted with the lead.

"PARSIFAL" is in its sixth week at Her Majesty's Theatre, and public interest and attendance continue unabated. Mr. Gaston Mervale's very fine impersonation of Klingsor is the talk of the town. Miss Tittell Brune as Kundry and Mr. Thomas Kingston as Parsifal deserve all the Press praise and public applause bestowed upon them.

THE pantomime, *Alice in Wonderland*, closed its season to an enormous house on the afternoon of the 26th.

MR. JULIUS KNIGHT, entrusted by Mr. J. C. Williamson to select a dramatic company in England for him, arrived during last week, and went on to Melbourne

"REVENGE" is delighting Mr. Bland Holt's many patrons at the Royal, and there is a note of impending change. The palatial scenery and careful all-round acting satisfy the most captious of critics, and steady good business, without boom or matinée, continues.

"JANE" and *Nan, the Good-for-Nothing*, at the Palace, show Mr. Harry Macdona and the other Australian actors and actresses at their best—an excellent performance, in which Miss Ailsa Sherbrooke makes a great success as Nan. The company goes next to Newcastle. *Dr. Bill* will be staged to-night, and play out the week, which concludes the Macdona season at the Palace.

THE Tivoli added Miss Gracie Grahame, a graceful dancer and a sweet singer, to its attractions last Saturday. The bare-footed dancerese, Miss Rhoda Dendron, became an instantaneous favourite; and the Three Gibson Girls made a welcome first appearance. Miss Cassy Walmer returned; Ohanti, Selbo, and the rest of Mr. Harry Rickards's large coterie of artists provide three hours, eight times a week, of song and fun.

WONDERLAND CITY has added to its attractions firework displays with set pieces, such as the Bombardment of Port Arthur, and touring trips to the Rocky Mountains and other inaccessible places.

BOVIS BROTHERS are crowding the Queen's Hall with their vaudeville company, temporarily ejected from the Amphitheatre, pending enforced alterations. Carden Wilson, the famous mimic, is still a great attraction; and some very fine biograph films are nightly added.

THE Theatroscope at the Lyceum, fierce melodrama at the Hippodrome, and many other minor shows, attract coin and its bearers in payable numbers.

SYDNEY, FEB. 5.—Mr. Harry Rickards has again ventured into the dramatic arena, this time securing as manager the experienced Mr. Allan Hamilton and the Criterion Theatre. The attraction is the melodrama, *Home, Sweet Home*. Mr. Sidney Howard appears as Stephen Armitage, and he makes the part an impressive one. Mr. Nelson Ramsay gains favour by his performance as old David Armitage; and Mr. George R. Montford looks and acts the blasé Lucas Lyle to the life. Mr. Harry Diver supplies a capital character-portrait of an old gaffer, toothless and garrulous. The Duke of Mr. Harold Wilson, and Dick, a fisher-lad, played by Mr. Harold West, are distinctly good. Miss Lilian Hallows has in Joan a most unconvincing heroine's rôle, but her talent and experience make it acceptable. Miss Pearl Keats delights the audience with her dainty but slangy Sybil Fay. Miss Margaret Damer is the Lady Summerton.

AN attempt was made to obtain an injunction to prevent Mr. Rickards from producing *Home, Sweet Home*, by Mr. George A. Herron, an actor, who had demanded first a part in the production, and a sum of money as compensation, he claiming that he had copyrighted and produced in Australia a play bearing the same title. The hearing was held in the Equity Court before Mr. Justice A. H. Simpson, who decided that there was not sufficient evidence to prove the copyright or production of the play, or of any confusion in the public mind so as to cause pecuniary loss to the plaintiff. He therefore refused to grant the injunction.

AT the Tivoli a new arrival is Miss Grace Compton, an accomplished burlesque artist, and an instantaneous favourite. Miss Addie Leigh also made her first appearance—a charming balladist. Miss Fanny Powers, the clever young mimic, has returned. Miss Ethel Preston, Selbo, Chansi, Hilda Lane, Claude Leplastrier, Cassie Walmer, Gracie Grahame, and others are also in the programme.

THE Lyceum is to undergo considerable alterations. Wonderland City has added Prof. Cormack, the high diving exponent, to its manifold attractions.

MR. CHARLES HALL, an excellent Shakespearean actor, died on the 1st inst., and was buried in the Waverley Cemetery next day. Mr. Hall was sixty-nine year old, and in his time played leading parts with W. H. Hoskins, George Rignold, Louise Pomeroy, and many others, as far back as 1863 or 1864, when he came to Australia. His wife, who survives him, was one of the Sisters Duvalli, who were in their time famous dancers. Mr. Hall had long since retired from the stage, and was engaged in teaching elocution, in which art he was a pastmaster.

SYDNEY, FEB. 12.—*Parsifal* is in its last week, and on Saturday the first of the revivals, marking the end of Miss Tittell Brune's three years in the Sunny South, will be begun. The play will be *Leah Kleschna*, with Mr. Thomas Kingston for the first time as Kleschna.

"REVENGE" is Mr. Bland Holt's most recent success, and he is now rehearsing *The Breaking of the Drought*, which promises an Australian story, Australian scenes and conditions. Then the popular actor-manager will take a rest until his Easter season in Melbourne. Mrs. Bland Holt goes home to revisit relatives and old familiar places.

"HOME, SWEET HOME," continues to delight the lovers of clean, well-acted drama. *The Modern Judas*, by J. St. John Denton, will be Mr. Harry Rickards's next bill.

AT the Tivoli, Mr. Fred Russell, with his mate, "Coster Joe," has reappeared, to the evident delight of Mr. Rickards's patrons. Art. Slavin is a capital whistler. Frank Walsrab, a good baritone, and Pearl Lovell, are heartily welcomed.

"THE KELLY GANG," in moving pictures, is a clever revival of the incidents in the life and capture of the notorious bushrangers, presented by Messrs. J. and Nevin Tait at the Palace Theatre. These scenes have been rehearsed and acted by persons in the very scenes where the gang worked, lived, and died.

MELBOURNE, FEB. 20.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE (Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson; Business-Manager, Mr. George Tallis).—Large audiences still crowd this theatre nightly to witness the gorgeous spectacular pantomime, *Mother Goose*. The production is now in its tenth week, and bids fair to run for some considerable time. Mr. Julius Knight was billed to appear in *Robin Hood* last week, but owing to the success of the pantomime, Mr. Williamson opened up in Ballarat instead, where Mr. Knight and his company have been doing excellent business since the opening night.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"PETIT JEAN,"

Comedy, in Five Acts, by MM. G. de Buysieulx and Roger Max, produced at the Œuvre, on March 9.

Françoise de Marsange..MLLE. SUZANNE DEVOYOD
Mme. de Garannes .....MLLE. JANE MAY
Mme. de Kerny .....MME. DELIA
Mme. Mahurel .....MME. MARREAU
Ginette d'Uzerches .....MLLE. MANON
Petit Jean .....M. MARIE DE L'ISLE
Comte de Novailles .....M. DAUVILLIERS
Mahurel .....M. JEHAN ADES
Royères .....M. PHILIPPE DAMORES
Comte d'Uzerches .....M. DUPARC
Lieutenant de Vussières.....M. CHEVALET

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, March 14.—The authors have evidently been inspired by *La Dame aux Camélias*, as they show us family life in opposition to an irregular situation. At the same time, they want to prove that if the courtesan or flighty actress is wanting in morals, the so-called respectable middle classes are not always what their name implies. Jean de Kerny, the hero in the play, nicknamed "Petit Jean," is lieutenant in a crack cavalry regiment. His father is general, and a brilliant career lies before the young man. He has been fortunate enough to save the life of Françoise de Marsange, a fascinating actress, whose horses ran away, and has fallen violently in love with the girl. His father dies suddenly, whereupon Jean at once leaves the army, ostensibly to manage the estate; in reality because he is of a literary turn of mind, and wants to be an author. And, having become Françoise's lover, he remains with his family in Dijon and starts writing poetry. But life in the small country town soon becomes unbearable. The "Philistine" milieu weighs on him. His mother is aggressively religious; and the Mahurels, his old uncle and aunt who are staying at the house, irritate him because they do not understand his literary aspirations. These Mahurels have a son, Jacques, Jean's pet aversion, whose wife is the mistress of Lieutenant de Vussières. With Françoise Jean feels happy. She appreciates his talent, and gives him the encouragement he does not find at home. And when Françoise tells him that she wants to return to Paris Jean heaves a sigh of relief and follows her to the capital.

We next find the young couple comfortably settled in Paris. They have many quarrels, but they are deeply attached to one another. Jean gives Françoise all the money she wants—that is to say, he thinks he does, for he does not know that his mistress is a spendthrift, and head over ears in debt. In order to meet her creditors the girl has applied to money-lenders, who threaten to seize her furniture. But sooner than tell her lover of the danger that hangs over her head, she applies for help to the Comte de Novailles, who has once been her protector. The Comte is a grey-headed gentleman, too old to embark into fresh intrigues, yet anxious to assist the young woman with whom he spent many pleasant hours. He shows himself disinterested in a way that is almost superhuman. All he wants is to see Françoise happy. Having paid her debts, he finances a playhouse where Françoise finds an engagement at five hundred francs a night, and the manager also undertakes to produce a play Jean has just finished. It is almost needless to say that Jean knows nothing of this whole arrangement; and the manner in which Françoise, the theatrical manager, and even the servants manage to keep the secret from Jean is one of the features in the piece. Jean's play is produced, and proves a great success. Jean's friends, who of late had neglected him somewhat, now press forward. Everybody congratulates him, and a foreign impresario buys the play for a big sum. And then the thunderbolt falls, for the secret leaks out. Two spiteful little actresses in the company inform Jean that the Comte de Novailles really owns the theatre; the objectionable uncle Mahurel comes suddenly upon the scene, and from him the terror-stricken Jean learns that Françoise's debts have been paid by the old nobleman. The scene in Françoise's dressing-room when Jean overwhelms her with reproaches is very telling. The girl shrieks and swears that she has not deceived him; that the Comte is not her lover; that she only applied to him like to an old friend; and that if she erred it was out of love for Jean. In vain. Jean is horrified, and the dispute ends in Françoise ordering him out of her room. Sick at heart Jean returns to Dijon, and Françoise soon afterwards learns that he is about to marry Ginette, a flighty girl, she knew when both were at the convent. Françoise has secured some compromising letters from Ginette to the Lieutenant de Vussières, and with the view of preventing the match she sends them to Jean. The marriage does not take place; but, for all that, Françoise and Jean never again come together. Hidden behind a tree in Jean's garden, Françoise hears him conversing with one of his friends, to whom he explains that he must give up his mistress. Jean then hears the rustle of a dress, and dimly perceives Françoise hurrying away. He rushes after her, but his friend holds him back, and the curtain falls. The work was very well acted, especially by Mlle. Devoyod.

"FLORISE,"

Comedy in four acts, in verse, by Théodore de Banville. Produced at the Odéon on March 13.

Florise .....MLLE. BERTHE BADY
Célidée .....MLLE DUX
Amarante .....MLLE. KERWICH
Lucinde .....MLLE. BARJAC
Guillemette .....MLLE. DIDIER
Alexandre Hardy .....M. DESJARDINS
Le Comte Olivier d'Atys .....M. CAPELLANI
Rosidor .....M. CLERGET
Jodelet .....M. DESFONTAINES
Sylvain .....M. MOSNIER

Written as far back as 1870, *Florise* had never been produced, although all lovers of French poetry are familiar with this gem; and it reflects the greatest credit on M. Antoine that one of the first acts of his administration should have been to place it on the répertoire of the Odéon. The scene of the story is laid in a country house near Blois. In this charming retreat lives the Comte Olivier, a youth of twenty, who has been adopted by his aunt Célidée, a lady of about thirty-eight. Whilst Olivier is dreaming of the great deeds of valour he wants to perform, and of a beautiful princess whose heart he will win, some strangely dressed people stop at the gates of the house. They are a company of strolling players. Their waggon is broken, and they ask the Comte to allow them to stay there until it is repaired. The youth is introduced to them by Alexandre Hardy, poet, and manager of the company; and he shakes hands with Miles. Amarante and Lucinde, with the fat Pymante, the thin Jodelet, and the noble Rosidor. But when Mlle. Florise makes her appearance Olivier is speechless with joy and admiration, for he has heard of her beauty and her talent. The players will only remain a few hours at the house, but much can be done in that time. The noble Rosidor starts making love to Aunt Célidée, whose diamonds have dazzled him; Pymante tickles Guillemette, the servant; and the latter makes eyes at the thin Jodelet. But Olivier has fallen madly in love with Florise, and he tells her so. The girl looks at him coldly, and shakes her head, but she, too, has caught the fever, and she promises the youth not to leave him. When Hardy learns this he is heart-broken. He, the poet, has always loved in her not only the great artist but also the woman. She is his muse, his all. And then he decides upon a stratagem. The old waggon is repaired, and in return for his hospitality Hardy asks the Comte to be allowed to let Rosidor and Lucinde play before him a scene of the piece he wrote. The rôle taken over by Lucinde was created by Florise, but as the latter informed Hardy that she would let the company depart without her the poet gives it to Lucinde. Seated near Olivier, Florise reproves Lucinde for the cold way in which she delivers her lines. She grows excited, and Olivier cannot check her, for she no longer is the woman who loves; she is the artist, the heroine in the piece. Florise leaves with her companions, and Olivier and his aunt are once more alone. The hurricane has passed, and they resume their quiet, uneventful life, a trifle sad, but resigned. With the exception of Mlle. Bady the work was well acted. Mlle. Bady, clever actress as she is, is not suited for the rôle of the refined Florise. M. Desjardins, however, gave a splendid impersonation of Alexander Hardy, the poet.

"BOUFFE-LA-ROUTE,"

Vaudeville, in Three Acts, by MM. Xanrof and Kraatz, produced at the Cluny on March 15.

Henriette Chantreau .....MLLE. BRELLY
Lazarette .....MLLE. FAVELLI
Arthémise Moutardet .....MME. FRANCK MEL
Justine .....MLLE. BARRE
Oenone .....MLLE. JEANNE HARDY
César Dumont-Latour .....M. J. PONCET
Hector Chantreau .....M. DAQUIN
Jean Caravel .....M. PERRET
Eustase .....M. VALOT

PARIS, THURSDAY, March 21.—*Bouffe-la-Route* has been adapted from the German, and the farce, we are told, raised roars of laughter all over the Fatherland. The Paris audience was less demonstrative, but it was much amused, and the piece is likely to prove a success. Hector Chantreau has been nicknamed "Bouffe-la-Route" because he is motor-mad; and Henriette, his charming little wife, is miserable to see him solely interested in his motor-car. Henriette is mistaken. The car does not engross all his attention. He has fallen in love with Lazarette, the wife of Dumont-Latour, a tragic actor. The Chantreaus have no children, but they have an aunt, Arthémise Moutardet, a funny creature, who dotes on children, and vows that Marielle, Henriette's sister, shall only marry a man who will be certain to increase the Moutardet family. And, as young Caravel has just proposed to Marielle, he is told he will have to satisfy the aunt that he will give every satisfaction. Caravel is at first taken aback, but he is resourceful, and informs the aunt that he has had a mistress who presented him with a baby. "Show me the baby!" says the aunt. Caravel then calls on Lazarette, and implores her to pretend that she has been his mistress and to tell the aunt that he is the father of her child. Lazarette is good-natured. She consents, but when her husband comes home unexpectedly and hears his wife say that she was Caravel's mistress, he flies into a terrible rage and grabs his revolver. In the third act things become still more complicated, for the unfortunate baby is in turns owned by all the personages in the play. It was fairly well acted, and I noticed with pleasure that the new Cluny management devoted more care on the staging.

"PARIS—NEW YORK,"

Play, in Three Acts, by MM. Francis de Croisset and E. Arène, produced at Réjane's, on March 16.

Lucien Duroc .....M. TARRIDE
Le duc de Ronceveaux .....M. BARON
Roland, Prince de Commersac.M. ANDRE BRULE
Napoleon Belroë .....M. SIGNORET
Harry .....M. PIERRE MAGNIER
Jérémie Jeffied .....M. NOISEUX
Vicomte de Radieuse .....M. PERRIERES
Desdemone .....MME. REJANE
La Duchesse .....MME. DAYNES GRASSOT
Hélène .....MLLE. BLANCHE FONTAIN
Suzette .....MLLE. LANTELME
Princesse d'Herzégovine..MLLE. SUZANNE AVRIL

MM. Francis de Croisset and Emmanuel Arène's new comedy promised well at the start. The first act is excellent, but the second is lacking in interest, while the third falls decidedly flat. The American society woman fares badly in the piece; but, in their virtuous indignation at the eccentricities of the millionaires, the authors have piled on the agony and turned their heroine into a caricature that falls short of the original. We have a large American colony in Paris worth studying. Paris attracts the American ladies, who come here, as they say, for a three or a six months' stay; but who are so fascinated by the pleasures of the capital that they frequently remain three or four years, leaving their husbands toiling in their counting-houses to supply their ladies with the necessary funds. In fact, the American husband is turned into a "drawee," a man on whom bills can be drawn; and he seemingly puts up with that humble position. Some of these ladies hold very advanced ideas as to what a woman may or may not do. They frequently startle the good Parisian, but I doubt whether among the whole set there ever was one who "carried on" like Desdemone, the before-mentioned heroine, an enormously rich young widow, who has come to Europe with her father, Napoleon Belroë, one of the "Four Hundred" of New York, to marry Roland, Prince de Comersac. This Roland is a penniless aristocrat, son of the equally penniless Duke de Ronceveaux, whose old family château has been mortgaged up to the hilt. Roland is good-looking, and Desdemone, finding him to her taste, accepts him as her *fiancé*. And Roland, in order to marry the handsome and rich Desdemone, discards his pretty mistress Suzette, who calls him a "deceitful pig." But Desdemone holds peculiar views on women's prerogatives, and she does not consider it necessary to wait until the legal knot has been tied before investing Roland with marital rights. Unfortunately, Roland is a miserable creature, for having received Desdemone's favours he at once returns to little Suzette. Desdemone comes to the conclusion that her *fiancé* is a "deceitful pig," and she tells him so. She then casts her eye on Duroc, a painter; and as she wants him to become her husband she also makes a close "study" of him, like she did of the Prince. Duroc, however, although quite willing to become an object of "study," does not want to launch out into matrimony. Desdemone and her millions frighten him. Finally, Desdemone falls back upon one of her cousins, who has come all the way with her from New York in the secret hope of securing her for a wife. And he becomes her husband, despite the fact that the lady has not "studied" him at all. The long arm of coincidence also helps the old Duke, whose hopes to see money come into his impoverished family had dwindled to nothing. Young Harry, Desdemone's brother, falls in love with Hélène, Roland's sister, so that the family escutcheon of the noble Ronceveaux will be regilded after all. Mme. Réjane, with her wonderful talent for imitation, introduced just enough "twang" into the rôle of Desdemone to make it funny; and her impersonation of that extraordinary lady was altogether clever. She was ably assisted by the admirable cast.

IT is with the deepest regret that I have to announce the death of M. Torin, whom I had occasion to mention last week in connection with the première of *La Puce à l'oreille*, brought out at the Nouveautés. M. Torin, one of our best comic actors, was the joy of Paris. Few actors enjoyed such popularity, and in the profession everybody esteemed him for his upright character. English visitors to Paris who flock to the Nouveautés will remember him. His real name was Victorin Schiffer, and he made a successful début at the Gymnase, whence he went to the Vaudeville. But it was at the Nouveautés that he became famous. His first rôle there was in *La Dame de chez Maxim*, after which he played leading parts in the répertoire of that house. A splendid artist, and a gentleman in the highest sense of the word, Torin will be regretted by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS,

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—The visit of Mr. H. B. Irving for various reasons has aroused the deepest interest of all classes in the city. With Aberdeen he begins his present tour, and all the plays in which he and his company appear are those long since made famous by his illustrious father. *The Lyons Mail* was presented on Monday night. Mr. Irving gave a fine interpretation of the double-part of Lesurques and Dubosc; Miss Dorothea Baird played with much pathos as Janette; Miss Sybil Noble was a very sweet Julie; and Messrs. E. Harcourt Williams as Courriol, Mr. Dodsworth as Choppard, and Mr. Tom Reynolds as Fouinard, portrayed their characters admirably. Mr. Frank Tyars was most successful as Jerome; and all the other parts were exceptionally well fitted. The repertory for the week includes *The Bells*, with Mr. Irving as Mathias; and the late Mr. W. G. Wills' *Charles I.*

Palace Theatre. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Resident Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Bella and Bijou, who appear with completely new business, make a brilliant success; Mr. J. W. Hall gives a wholly admirable turn, his singing and acting being alike effective; Mr. Jay W. Winton, ventriloquist, shows remarkable skill and resource; Halma, the youthful juggler, is not less successful; the Two Kays sing delightfully in their scena, *The Nightingale;* and Keith and Merson extract much fun out of their hunting sketch, *The Meet*. The drollery of Mr. Carl Howard is keenly relished; Miss Lily Foy is a graceful and sprightly comedienne; and Mr. Andy Fagan shows himself a clever "patterer" and dancer. "The Daughter of the Regiment" series of bioscope pictures is also highly appreciated.

The Zancigs.—This remarkable couple gave a wonderful, even awe-inspiring exhibition of their mental telepathic skill in the Music Hall last Monday. The house was crowded both in the afternoon and evening. Each feat was brought off without failure or falter, and the audiences were rapturous in their applause. The concert company included Miss Ethel Grimes, soprano; Miss Katie Moss, soprano; Miss Clara Alexander, plantation ditties; Mr. Sydney Jarvis, baritone; Mr. David Brazell, operatic baritone; Mr. E. Thornley-Dodge, society entertainer; and Mr. Harold E. Scott, pianist.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—On Monday Miss Maud Hildyard's company opened here with *The Great Awakening*. Mr. J. McBride gives a most artistic reading of the part of Guy Rogan, and Mr. A. C. Hardie presents a truthful portrayal of James Selby; the dual rôle of Sir Henry and Jack Merton is carefully enacted by Mr. S. Langton, and Mr. Willie Scott serves to keep the house in good humour as Billy Brass. Molly Merton is very good by Miss Doris Digby, and the part of Selina Worts is in the safe hands of Miss Lalla Nordon. Miss Maud Hildyard gives a very powerful impersonation of Lola Lelby.

ALDERSHOT.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—*The Wearin' o' the Green*, an interesting Irish drama, with a good sprinkling of musical numbers, dances, and natural Hibernian humour, is being ably presented by Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey's company. Both Mr. and Mrs. Mackey are responsible for prominent rôles, the former as Barney being a heavy scorer as premier mirth-provoker; and he has an able partner in Miss Nana Flensberg. Mr. Mansell Fane is also successful as Shamus.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Miss Winifred Chalmers' company is here for the week with the melodrama, *The Master Criminal*. Mr. Henry L. Osmond gives a vivid portrayal of the title-rôle, his acting being watched with intense excitement. Admirable is the support given by Miss Winifred Chalmers, a finished actress in the varied character of Cecile. As Philip Manners, Mr. H. C. Macartney scores; and Mr. C. Carlyle must be commended on his impersonation of Ben Beandy of Scotland Yard. Very able interpretation, too, is given of Gentleman Jim, one of the Red Gang, by Mr. Ernest Noble; and humour is paramount when Mr. Henry Cooke is on the scene as Tommy Dale. Useful work is done by Messrs. Russell Yorke, W. B. Somerville, H. Mason, F. Jordan, G. Gilbert, G. Jordan, and Misses Nita Neville, Alice Lloyd, Mabel Tremere, Kate Somerville, and Little Lizzie Power.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—The artists for the week at the Empire are Beattie Worth, a dainty comedienne, who sings and poses in a becoming manner; Doris Middleton, the wonderful mimic, appears successfully in her latest success; Mr. Gus Harris gives dramatic Hebrew creations; U. C. Ugo, assisted by Valeata, gives some mirthful myseries in his magical scena; Miss Daisy Palmer is a good serio and dancer; one of the features of the bill is the Smart Set, including Miss Hilda Light (soprano); Miss Georgie Martin, comedienne; the Five Musical Palmers, military musical experts, are greatly appreciated; Charles Windermere and Clare Manifield give a good comedy duologue; Mack Ollive, mimic and siffleur, and Miss Daisy Baldry are a clever couple; and Sam Shipley, eccentric dialect comedian. The Bioscope pictures are very good.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. E. Owen.—This week's programme here is headed by Sterling and Love in a vocal and instrumental comedy act, entitled *A Domestic Musical Squabble*, which is very enjoyable; the Sisters Selwyn are good as vocalists and speciality dancers; Mr. Tom Lloyd, a favourite comedian here, makes a welcome reappearance in old and new successes; Mr. E. C. Clayton's principal pictures on the Attergraph depict a graphic series, entitled "Hooligans of the West"; the Two Miltons give a scientific and comic skating act. Other interesting turns are supplied by Mr. Carson Hicks, coon delineator and dancer; Pueblo and Cropp, Creole artists; and Mr. H. Pawson, shadowgraphist.

AYR.—Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—Mr. Fred Karno's No. 1 Vaudeville Company opened here on Monday night, and their efforts were well received by a very fine audience. Mr. Chas. Denion made a great impression with his comic singing and quaint business; the Sisters Lavender sang and danced well; the Miltons caused genuine merriment; Lincoln and Warren, trick cyclists, were cheered for their clever and comical acrobatic turn; Lilly Stuart, comedienne, sang well and danced delightfully. The sketches, *Mumming Birds* and *Early Birds*, in which the whole of the company took part, afforded scope for some rollicking fun, and the result was most hilarious.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stone.—Mr. Allan Wilkie and Company opened with *Hamlet* on Monday, Mr. Wilkie giving a fine presentment of the unhappy Prince; Mr. G. Alexander Marsh made a capital Leartes; Mr. Herbert Morgan an impressive Ghost; and the part of Claudius was well taken by Mr. John Paley. Miss Ine Cameron was an effective Ophelia; and the Queen was well played by Miss Carrie Baillie. *The Merchant of Venice, Othello, Romeo and Juliet*, and *The Bells* are also billed.

His Majesty's.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—The British Empire Talking Picture and Variety Company are paying a return visit here. The varieties include Mr. Arthur Bright, a clever comedian; Little Doris, juvenile vocalist; and Mr. Harry Lamb, an amusing Scotch comedian.

Tivoli.—Lessees, Messrs. Laban and Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban. — The chief item here this week is the Lorch Family, wonderful Risley performers, whose clever feats meet with loud applause; the Crown Trio render solos and trios in a pleasing manner; Miss Kathleen Corgan is a dainty little comedienne and dancer; Julian Mack (the dame) creates roars of laughter with his patter; and Eldra and his dog give a beautifully-dressed, clever, and interesting show. Emil and Ediss submit a high-class banjo performance; Charlie Russell's songs quite take on with the audience; and Vernon's Bioscope winds up the programme with some capital pictures.

BATH.—Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—The programme here includes the Aquamarinoff Troupe of Russian dancers; Lauri Wylie, with his life-like mimical mannikin impersonations; Rosa Bonetti, who plays on the 'cello and violin with true artistic feeling; Wyndham and Walters, in *The Professor and His Pupil;* Edna Latonne, vocalist; Andie Burn, with his popular "Broken-down millionaire" song; T. C. Edwards, baritone; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—Mr. Geo. Alexander's company has been presenting during the week *His House in Order*, and has met with a hearty reception. As Nina, Miss Dorothy Grimston thoroughly deserved the success she achieved; Mr. Stephen T. Ewart as Hilary Jesson created an excellent impression; and Mr. J. Edward Pearce's Filmer Jesson was most effective. Miss Doris Champion was an excellent Derek; Miss Jean Cadell put plenty of go into the part of Mlle. Thomè; and the Ridgeley family were cleverly portrayed by Mr. Herbert Lomas, Miss Augusta Haviland, Mr. Ernest R. Holloway, and Miss Elaine Sleddal.

BELFAST.—Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—The chief attraction here is provided by Miss Irma Lorraine, who appears with success in a series of beautiful tableaux vivants. The Mackweys appear in their exceedingly smart and humorous wire act; and the clever actor, Mr. John Le Hay, and company, including Miss Mary Duggan and Mr. Charles Cantley, are seen in a musical and farcical episode. Bert Coote's Irish-Indian maids give songs and dances, and have made a hit; Mr. Will Van Allen, tramp musician and raconteur, deserves all the success he secures; Ross and Grayson are a droll comedy duo; Miss Daisy Davenport is a charming comedienne; and also here are Cole and Rags, R. C. Note, Mr. Hal Forde, light comedians, and the Palace pictures.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John S. Walker.—The chief feature of the bill is provided by Mlle. Clasoum's living art bronzes. Mr. Picton Roxborough and Miss Fanny Wright create roars of laughter with their farcical episode, *Cockie;* and Harry Trevanion and company return with their sketch, *A Bolt from the Blue*, which is always acceptable. The Fitzroys are aptly described as graceful and clever gymnasts; and Ingram and Irving successfully appear in their sketch, *The New Office Boy*. Miss Kate Trail submits a really fine entertainment at the piano; and also appearing are the Knick-Knacks, the Three Missouris, in their humorous entertainment, *Captain Kettle and his Mates*, and Mr. George Ridgwell, actor-vocalist.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Sinclair Neill.—The Alhambra Dramatic Company, under the direction of Mr. M. Montgomery, is appearing here this week with unqualified success in the evergreen drama, *The Colleen Bawn*. Much praise is due to the accomplished actress, Miss Nina Blake-Adams, for her delightful impersonation of the title-rôle, Eily O'Connor, which she invests with much charm; Mr. Horace Denton sustained the part of Hardress Cregan with great power; and Mr. Cyril Grier appears to advantage as Kyrle Daly. In the rôle of Myles-na-Coppaleen Mr. Tom H. Solly acquits himself with great credit, his humour being fairly irresistible; and the rôle of Danny Mann is undertaken by that experienced actor, Mr. H. Hesselgrave. Mr. Edward M. Heanley powerfully depicts the part of Mr. Corrigan; Mr. Elmore Frith is Father Tom to the life; and Miss Mattie Crawford's graceful assumption of Anne Chute has much to commend it. Miss Isabel Norman acquits herself with much distinction as Mrs. Cregan; and the cast is completed by Miss Alice Clarke, and Messrs. Ed-Smyth and J. E. Davies. The Alhambra Bioscope—under the direction of Mr. W. E. Newlove—exhibits a series of pictures, "The Hooligans of the Far West."

BILSTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Battersby; Musical-Director, Mr. J. E. Machin.—Under the direction of Mr. Haldane Crichton, we have *A Soldier of Fortune*, which is capitally and interestingly played. Mr. Godfrey Tearle as Lieut. Rupert Clive is really excellent, and a host in himself; the same may be said of Miss Molly Malone as the Lady Phyllis. Then other artists well to the front and effective in their impersonations are Messrs. Alfred Gray (Earl of Annandale), Baliol Holloway (Sir Stephen Cunningham), and William Lowe (Dr. Thorn). Mr. Victor Swann has a good comedy part as Silas Marne.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—The Moody-Manners Operatic Society was announced to begin a return visit here on Good Friday, inaugurating a brief season with a sacred concert.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties. — Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—A really fine company here this week includes such well-known comedians as Mark Sheridan, George Formby, G. W. Hunter, and Frank Seeley, who are all enthusiastically received. Miss Maud Cherry, comedienne, has many admirers; Fraser and Mac, patterers and instrumentalists, are a favourite turn; Miss Jessie Merrilees is an accomplished soprano vocalist; and Bliss and Bliss, eccentric comedians, have made a hit. Brown's Royal Bioscope, with some up-to-date pictures, is an acquisition.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Charley's Aunt* is the attraction here, with the author, Mr. Brandon Thomas, as the Colonel. Both play and playwright are enthusiastically greeted; and Mr. Spencer Trevor as the pseudo-aunt, otherwise Lord Fancourt Babberley, is the delight of all. Miss Lena Macnaughten is gracious and dignified as the real aunt, Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez; and youth and ability are conspicuous in Miss Bertha Northam as Kitty, Miss Ida Vynall as Amy, and Miss Ruth Nightingale as Ela. Mr. Walter Beaumont portrays the fussy and discomfited solicitor, Spettigue, most ably; Mr. Sydney Compton is part and parcel of the play as Brassett; and Messrs. Hastings Lynn and Richard B. Mason feature the undergraduates, Chesney and Wykeham, admirably. *A Highland Legacy*, also by Brandon Thomas, acts finely as a curtain-raiser.

Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company are paying their annual visit, which is always hailed with delight. *The Mikado* was down for Monday and Thursday, when it was at once apparent that neither opera nor company had lost their power to please. Miss Hope Hastings as Yum-Yum, and her fair compeers, the Misses Lulu Evans and Mabel Burege, charmed everyone with their exquisite vocalisation; Miss Theresa Rassam sang with rare emotion and skill as Katisha; the title-rôle was given with many subtle touches by Mr. Alfred Kavanagh; Mr. Chas. R. Walenn revealed splendid powers of comedy and vocalisation as the executioner; Mr. Fred Billington was among the shining lights as Pooh-bah; Mr. Pacie Ripple carried the rôle of Zanki-Poo with grand effect; and Mr. Leicester Tunks as Pish-Tush, and Mr. Fred Drawater as Go-To were successful. The choral and orchestral parts were also irreproachably rendered, and subsequent performances of *The Gondoliers, Iolanthe*, and *The Yeomen of the Guard* showed the very perfection of detail.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—*Cinderella* has now reached its fourteenth, and last, week, which, as usual, is being marked with many "finishing touches." Miss Bessie Butt's benefit on Thursday promised big things, her winsome and talented portrayal of the heroine having won her great fame and the "Owl Cake" to boot. Last Wednesday week the "Nuts" patronised the pantomime, adorned with the insignia of their order, and gave presents around, including a beautiful illuminated address and a silver salver to Mr. Collingwood. Last Sunday Mr. Collingwood entertained the lady members of the company to dinner, meting out the same generous treatment to the gentlemen on Monday. To-night is "last night," and this is always a great function here—ergo, a hearty send-off and other things will doubtless be accorded every artist.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*Not Guilty* is the announcement here, Mr. Melville's Metropole Company being responsible for some fine characters and situations. Mr. Percy Dawson's well-known and clever handling of sympathetic or heroic parts is well bestowed on the character of Harry Grafton; Mr. Austin Milroy's polished and incisive manner has good effect in the rôle of Oswald Brandon; Mr. Fred A. Marston as Nick Chaddox is a well recognized figure; Mr. Edward Finlay places the part of James Smiley on its rightful pedestal; Mr. Morley Carroll is successful as Jacob Grafton; and Mr. Francis Everard as Woodleigh, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor as Timothy Sprouts, and Miss Amy Corelli as Nancy Sarah Lee contribute much to the well-being of the play. Miss Rose Ralph has the audience well with her as Nelly Chaddox; Miss Florence Trevoir is admired as Alice Clavering, and Miss Kate Walfred is prominent as Mary Bird.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*A Woman Worth Winning* has scored well here. The company engaged therein is headed by Mr. Percy Norman, who, as General Borinski, gives proof of sound ability. Mr. A. B. Mackay moves the audienece to enthusiasm as Fergus Lorinskie; Miss Maud Buchanan gives a very good and highly sympathetic account of the heroine, Roma Pauloff; Miss Iris Daventry undertakes the rôle of Lola satisfactorily; and the comicalities of Mr. E. Hall Eldon as Bertie Scrubbles, Mr. E. C. Edwards as Peter Popples, and Miss Ida Mackay as Katerina are cleverly devised and much apreciated.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*The Unseen Power* is attracting large audiences here, with Mr. Harry Starr's company. Mr. Starr's well-known ability for disguise serves him to advantage in the rôle of Fred Granville; Miss Dolly Starr makes herself a great favourite as the son, Chris; Mr. Wm. Miller scores in fine style as Harold Granville; Mr. Wm. Hee wins approval as George; Mr. Edwin Firth stirs up desirable feeling as the steward, Antonio Romano; Miss Madge Blundell acts with perfect grace and ability as Anita; Miss Kate Morris is deserving of praise as Lucretia; Miss Lye Jeffries does well as Lucy Romano; Mr. Fred W. Graham keeps the audience in high glee as Horatio Cracklenby, the actor; and Miss Lizzie Jacobs lends useful support as Jennie Shrub.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Fred Karno's comedians can always be relied upon for a clever turn, and their latest production, *Jail Birds*, is as successful as their other sketches; Tom Costello depicts the laughable side of the suffragette movement, and gives several of his old favourites, including "The old clown"; the Stein Eretto Troupe of hand-jumpers give a very clever performance, concluding by jumping to the top of three tables; Don A. Meeley's combination give a comedy speciality act, entitled *A Merry Tramp;* while The Gems present an original turn, in which song and mirth are happily blended. Stelling and his canine comedian "Kiswaski"; Edie Veno, comedienne; Fred Frampton, burlesque actor; and Jeannie Carron, Scotch factory lass, also contribute enjoyable items.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—John Tiller's sketch, entitled *Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp*, has proved so successful that it is retained for another week. The extravaganza is supported by a variety combination, including Gunner Moir, the well-known boxer, who recently defeated Tiger Smith, a picture of the contest being shown on the Bioscope. The programme is completed by Arthur Royce, who presents a capital turn at the piano; and Gus Hindell, a quaint comedian.

Bordesley Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—Mendel, the celebrated blind pianist, heads the bill this week, with his wonderful performance; a dramatic episode, entitled *The Mystery of the Cliff*, by Messrs. Will Evans and Tom Craven, is much appreciated; Lozelle is a charming athlete, his performance ranking with those of the first water; another musical item is presented by Carlos Menard, trick violinist, his imitations of various animals and birds being very clever; Tom Lally has a fine voice; and Prof. Barney Vox is a very amusing ventriloquist. Harry Clifford comedian, receives an enthusiastic welcome.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone. — Mr. George Edwardes's company is here this week with the new Chinese comic opera, *See See*, which gets the most cordial reception nightly. Mr. Frank Danby as Hang Kee, and Mr. W. H. Rawlins as Cheoro, are hosts in themselves, and are singled out for special honours; Mr. Leonard Mackay is also well to the fore, and both by his singing and acting in the part of Yen, fully merits the applause showered upon him. The title-rôle is sweetly portrayed by Miss Octavia Barry; Miss Lilian Hewitson gracefully plays Mai-Yai; and Miss Topsy Sindon quickly dances herself into favour as So-Hie. The dresses and scenery are really magnificent.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—A very good all-round programme is provided here this week. The chief favourite is probably Russell Wallett, "the Lady in Black"; whilst Tony Wilson and Heloise are specially admired by lovers of gymnastic turns. The Coloured Meisters are tuneful vocalists, and they also meet with a warm reception; Victor Travers, a clever comedian; Ethel Dove, vocalist and dancer; Cissie Dryden, vocal character actress; Arthur Croxon, mimic; Barrett and Knowles, comedians; Lillian Rigby, in a musical act; Millie Howell, vocalist; and Brady and Johnson's comedy sketch company, also worthily take their respectiye places in the bill.

BLYTH.— Gaiety Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee, Mr. G. E. Good.—A crowded house has accorded the company here a capital reception. Olgo and Rochelle's comedy business in *An Actor's Antics* creates much hilarity; Clare Hastings finds favour, her number being well rendered; Charles Onsley gives a fine display of dancing; and the Gaiety Bioscope is much in evidence.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Tudor.—The variety turns that supplement the Pictures here include J. H. Kavanagh, comedian, whose turn met with a hearty reception. Bob Ord, vocalist, does a good turn; Sabino, the man of many instruments, wins favour; and D'Ord gives a capable gymnastic performance.

BOLTON.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is here with the comedy drama *At Cripple Creek*. Mr. Stanley Bedwell gives a manly rendering of the part of Joe Mayfield; Miss Lily Beagle is successful as Bella Gordon; the character of Little Tatto is delightfully taken by little Rosie Hopkins, who sings and dances cleverly; Miss Agnes Verity gives a powerful delineation of Dynamite Ann; Mr. Will Hook is amusing as Reggie Harwood; Miss Daisy Carlton sings and dances well as Maggie Mason; Mr. Eric Hudson is good as Martin Mason, the "terror of Cirpple Creek"; and Mr. Oscar Power as Manuel Alvarez, Mr. Arthur D. Layland as Wahketah, and Mr. Harry Leander as Ben White deserve praise in their several impersonations.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon. —The diversified programme here this week includes Messrs. Newhouse and Ward, cyclists, jugglers, &c., in their latest success, *The Amateur Marksman;* Miss Maud Kaye, coon vocalist and dancer; Alix Lukos, actor-vocalist; Charles Lestree, juggler extraordinary; Mr. Flockton Foster and his sketch company in *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law;* Miss Millie Payne, in songs peculiarly quaint; Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Lucas in scenes from Dickens; Harry Morris, character comedian and comic; Pete and Juno, coloured comedians and dancers; *The Little Guttersnipe*, by a company of old favourites and new faces; and the Imperial Bioscope.

BOOTLE.—Muncaster Theatre — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Manager, Mr. H. Pennington; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Young.—Miss G. Silvester and Mr. Fletcher Sansome's company is presenting *Cissy* here this week. Mr. Harry Vernon plays and sings well as Victor Carleton; and the title-rôle is cleverly portrayed by Miss Hettie Lind, who scores well with her songs. Mr. Basil Mitchell is well placed as Gilbert Temple, and Miss D. Eastlake is seen to advantage as Olive Temple. Mr. Fletcher Sansome creates much amusement as Titus Thomas, and Miss G. Silvester does well as Mary Mopps. The Vernon Trio are worthy of mention in their acrobatic dances.

BOSCOMBE. — Hippodrome.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. De Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—Sydney James' Strolling Players form the chief turn here, and are well appreciated in their refined entertainment of song and dance. Ernest Rees is a popular comedian, and causes much amusement with his patter; the Three Sisters Silcott shine as vocalists and dancers; Burnetti and Corrie are a clever and amusing pair of jugglers; Russell Carr is a good exponent of the ventriloquial art; Flo Warner is well received in her songs. Rosie Bartlett, who proves to be a chic comedienne, and the Hippodrome pictures conclude a good night's entertainment.

BOSTON.—Palace Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. Saphrini.—Closed this week, reopen next week with the musical sketch, *Crusoe the Sailor*. Return visit of the famous Revell troupe and powerful company.

BRADFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—The theatre is closed until Saturday, the 30th, *San Toy* being billed for that date.

Prince's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Mr. Charles Harrington's company is appearing here this week in the dramatised version of Mrs. Beecher Stowe's work, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The part of Mr. St. Clair is in the excellent hands of Mr. Harrington; Mr. J. Carr's Uncle Tom is a performance of cleverly-blended pathos and humour; Mr. J. H. Rogers is effective in a vigorous impersonation of the brutal Simon Legree; Miss Holly Haslewood prettily and pathetically fills the part of Little Eva; the mischievous Topsy is a bright and humorous impersonation by Miss Sylvia Stella; George Harris has a good exponent in Mr. Leslie Beaufort; as the irrepressible Marks Mr. W. Langford is well placed; Miss Hero Hathaway wins sympathy as Eliza Harris; Phineas Fletcher is capitally played by Mr. J. H. Renney.

The Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Mr. George Lashwood had a hearty reception on his reappearance here on last Monday night, and his new scena *Oh, for a Night in the West!* was one of the best of his bright, finished, and telling contributions to a fine programme, which includes Park's Eton Boys, a combination of good juvenile vocalists; Frank Cass, comedian; the Tauberts, who give a brilliant and artistic xylophone performance; Carrie Joy, comedienne; Azella Wilson, a smart and very graceful performer on the trapeze; Fred Elton, in an entertaining scena, *On Board an Ocean Liner;* Ailsa Douglas, vocalist; and some very fine pictures shown by the American Bioscope.

Palace Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ralli.—There is a company of all-round excellence here this week, which includes Minnie Fenton, a very dainty Scotch comedienne; Steve McCarthy, comedian, whose dancing is clever and unique; Fioretti and Elly, in a novel and clever barrel and spade jumping act; Lise Rolland, a very graceful and clever petite equilibrist and acrobat; Marie Kendall, bright as ever, with her telling and catchy songs; Nat Clifford, comedian, whose humour and funny "patter" provokes very hearty laughter, and whose dancing is distinctly original; the Krags, in a marvellous performance on the rings, combining grace with Herculean strength; Helen Charles, in a delightful drawing-room entertainment, combining music and mimicry; and some very interesting pictures shown by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BRIGHTON.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Messrs. Silvanus Dauncey and M. V. Leveux presented Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company here on Monday with *The Walls of Jericho*. Mr. A. E. Anson gave a manly and thoroughly artistic impersonation of Jack Frobisher, whose Australian friend, Hankey Bannister, had a sterling exponent in Mr. George A. Brandram. Miss Gladys Mason submitted an excellent enactment of Lady Alethea Frobisher; Miss Marguerite Cellier was refined and graceful as the warm-hearted Lady Westerby; Miss Nona Wynne made a bright Lady Lucy Derenham; Mr. Cyril Baleine's Marquis of Steventon was a clever character-study; Mr. A. W. Tyrer acquitted himself admirably as Harry Dallas; and able support was given by Mr. George Percy (Bertram Hannaford), Miss Edith Cuthbert (Miss Mornington), and Miss Leonora Thomas (the Duchess of Skye).

Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.—Mr. George Kirk and Miss Mary Neil's company is here this week with *Her Luck in London*. Miss Mary Neil merits warm praise for her finished enactment of Nellie Harborne; Mr. Charles A. Leicester is admirably suited as the Hon. Fitzgerald O'Connor; Mr. Douglas Tremayne gives a good portrayal of the Rev. Lionel Strong; Miss Maria Clavering's Mme. Gabrielle, and Miss Frances Bruce's Lilian Harborne are well played. Mr. Charles Stirling is successful as the Hilarity Lounge proprietor; and much amusement is afforded by Miss Florrie Groves as Maud Gladys Shovepenny, and Mr. J. Telby Dillsen as Jerry Gotobed.

Alhambra.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—George Robey, who is enthusiastically received, achieves distinct success with his songs and delightful patter; the Daunton-Shaw troupe of Australian trick cyclists submit a clever turn; Cline and Clark are capital black and white comedy artists and speciality dancers; Barlee and Smith are warmly applauded for their amusing episode, *A Rehearsal;* Edgar Budden, comedian, is clever with the bones, and is an expert roller-skate dancer; the Sisters Belmont are neat duettists and dancers; Sydney Carden, "a man and a piano," is well received; Ada Ollison, comedienne, and Grace Langley, comedienne and dancer, merit praise; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Payte are pleasing society entertainers; and the up-to-date Alhambrascope pictures are interesting.

Hippodrome Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—There is a capital company here this week. Phyllis Dare, who is warmly welcomed, gives her songs with grace and refinement; Cruikshank, "the fool of the family," is amusing; the Three Rubys are successful in their equipoise, acrobatic, and trapeze act; the Four Brothers Rio give a clever gymnastic turn; the Brothers Ashley are mirth-provoking in their sketch, *Next, Please*, which includes some smart boxing; Sam Spira, "entertainer at the piano," evokes hearty laughter; the Twin Andersons are warmly applauded for their skipping-rope dances; W. J. Churchill is a very quaint comedian; Harry Conlin, comedian, is successful; Wright and Elton are effective in their original "mirthisms"; Stan Aubrey is a good legmania comedian; and the Barrascope pictures are amusing.

West Pier.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Mr. Hilton St. Just's opera company is here this week, and includes Mlle. Louise Van Dalle (soprano), Mme. Marie Burnett (contralto), Mr. Hilton St. Just (tenor), Mr. Allen Morris (baritone), and Mr. F. H. Wood (bass). The admirably sustained programmes include *Maritana, Il Trovatore, The Bohemian Girl*, and *The Daughter of the Regiment*.

BRISTOL. — Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's company is here for a second week, the attraction now being the military play, *Death or Glory Boys*. The drama is played well, both in the way of scenery and uniforms, and the company is an efficient one all round. Captain Glyn Ferrars is played with considerable power by Mr. Hill-Mitchelson; Jack Malden has a conscientious and clever exponent in Mr. George Daiper; Mr. Wilton Reed acts in a highly effective manner as Colonel Ferguson; Mr. Lancelot Usher has a good part in Lieutenant Duff, and he makes the most of his opportunities; Miss Violet Carlyle presents a charming and interesting exposition of Nina Ferguson; Miss Amy Ellam distinguishes herself as Edith Malden; and the comic parts of Nat Wilks and Jane are capitally taken by Mr. J. Russell Boyne and Miss Maud Stuart.

Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Mark Melford and company head the bill with their amusing sketch, *Non-suited*, which is capitally played, and well staged. On Monday evening, in consequence of the unavoidable absence of Mr. Melford and his company, Mme. Lumiere gave a display of dancing, and obtained much appreciation. The Lyons Trio, pantomimists and dancers, are popular; Crosby and Walker excel as cross-talk comedians; Arthur Goodmar scores with juggling; Yolonde Noble is a pleasing comedienne; Horace White, ventriloquist, is applauded; Webb and Edna Branston are successful vocalists; Percy Curry, comedian, has some good songs; and the performance concludes with interesting animated pictures. For Good Friday a special entertainment was announced for the benefit of Mr. Welchman, a very attractive bill having been provided by the much-esteemed secretary and treasurer of this theatre.

Empire.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Dr. Bodie is packing the house with his series of interesting electrical experiments, in which he passed thousands of volts through his body, and does other extraordinary acts. Dr. Bodie, in a few words, explained his method of treating apparently hopeless cases of paralysis, and, in the presence of the audience, successfully operated upon several cases. Successful turns were also given by Mignon, in a refined drawing-room act; Belford and Mars, duettists and dancers; Primavesi, juggler, &c.; Belle Skene, comedienne and dancer; the Acmes, in their musical comedy act; Little Dolly Robson, vocalist, and one of Dr. Bodie's cures; Sisters Reno, international dancers; Tom H. Mills, actor-vocalist; and Minnie Mace, comedienne.

BURNLEY.—Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—One of the best of programmes is submitted here this week. The Brothers Egbert are a clever couple with their farcical comedy, *The Happy Dustmen*, in which their acrobatic feats are highly appreciated; Ernie Myers, one of the funniest of comedians; Margaret Ruby and Ernest Laws, in a pretty Tyrolean scena; the Brothers Zampah, one-legged acrobats; Coreeze and Keith, a pair of smart jugglers and comedy artists; and Lily Lonsdale, vocalist, are also in the bill. "The Reign of Terror," as shown by the New Empire Theatroscope, is excellent.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — Opera House (New Hippodrome).—Proprietor, Mr. H. Dudley Bennett; Manager, Mr. John Walter.—A good company here this week is headed by Mlle. Florence, of rolling globe fame, who gives a finished show; "Abex," the Miniature Hercules, does some astonishing feats of strength; William Kingsley is an expert handbell performer; Hoozee scores with an amusing ventriloquial entertainment; Ervin and Charlotta, illusionists; George Bernard, clever vocal actor; Gladys Wells, comedienne; Altom and Lois, comedy jugglers; and Mr. Harry Keeble, up-to-date comedian, with some good songs, are also in the bill.

BURY (Lancs.). — Theatre Royal and Opera House, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—Mr. Augustine Knight and company are here, playing the modern drama, *The Assassin*. Miss Ella Vane is good in the title-rôle; and Mr. Augustine Knight makes a villainous Prince Demetri. Miss Hettie Senior as Connie Jonathan, and Mr. E. C. Ashby as Impanoff, are also worthy of special mention.

Circus of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould. —The Three Graces, living statues, are the chief attraction here this week. Other capital turns include Henri Bekker, conjurer; Stylo, hoop manipulator; Horace Monti, who sings

dance; Jury's pictures are again enjoyable; and the Royal Quintette, in their National dances, win applause which is well merited.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—Patrons of the handsome new theatre are this week delighted by the charming play of Jerome K. Jerome, entitled *Tommy*, in which the accomplished actress Miss Annie Hughes makes a welcome reappearance in Cardiff. The piece requires very delicate handling, but receives every care from the excellent company supporting Miss Hughes, whose impersonation of the title-rôle is undoubtedly a very fine piece of acting. Mr. Evelyn Vernon in the character of Peter Hope displays considerable cleverness, his make-up being exceptionally good. As Wm. Clog, Mr. Willie Hartell draws many a smile by his smart and energetic exposition; while Dick Danvers receives a truthful and painstaking delineation from Mr. Rupert Lister, an actor of much ability. Miss Winifred Pearson makes the most of the part of Mr. Morrison; Miss Ida Richardson is an excellent Honour; and Mr. Reginald F. Beach, in his amusing representation of Flipp, shows true histrionic powers. The play is preceded by the well-known curtain-raiser *Good-for-nothing Nan*, in which Miss Hughes is seen to great advantage.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—For the first time we have a visit of Mr. James Hare's company in the romantic Servian drama *A Destroyer of Men*. Mr. Hare gives an effective study of Karl Mischla; Mr. C. P. Wentworth as Count Starevitch displays histrionic ability; Michael Mischla is ably impersonated by Mr. Chas. Bickell; and Mr. Arthur Conroy is excellently placed as General Drakensburg. Special mention should be made of Miss Irene Clifford, whose delineation of Olga Mischla is most powerful. The piece is livened by the clever comedy of Mr. Ross Warren as Coco Tachoski, who is capably supported by Miss Alice Buckland as the sprightly Nina. A particularly charming heroine is found in Miss Gladys Lloyd.

EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. W. Lea; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—A more clever or daring troupe of risleyists than the Kremo Family it would be hard to find, their performance being undoubtedly the most marvellous seen here for some considerable time. A great advance on the cinematograph bioscope is Gaumont's Chronophone; the Three Prestons present a laughable comedy sketch, entitled *The Liftman's Rise*; J. W. Rickaby is an exceedingly amusing comedian; Fernee's Juveniles are exceptionally good; and others on the programme are Milford Bros, Welsh burlesque comedians; Ruby Dahl, with her latest novelty *The Merry Mannikins*; and Arthur Gill, with his excellent singing.

CARLISLE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—The amusing farcical comedy, *A Night Out*, is a big attraction here this week, and as it is performed by one of Mr. Charles Macdona's companies, needless to say it is well played and liberally mounted. The principal honours are easily gained by that popular comedian, Mrs. Charles Sugden, who as Paillard, the architect, was the life and soul of the piece. He received excellent support from Mr. Edward Thirlby, a clever young comedian, whose spirited and amusing impersonation of Pinglet was much admired; Mr. Mark Lester, too, as the stuttering Mathieu, was quite successful; Mrs. Charles Sugden, who looked charming as Mrs. Paillard, made the most of her few opportunities; Pinglet's wife had a delightful representative in Miss Constance Groves; and the servant was played with any amount of vivacity by Miss Lilian Stafford.

THE PALACE.—Proprietors, the Palace Theatre, Carlisle, Limited; Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—A good programme is submitted here this week. Chief interest centres in the first appearance of Mr. Ernest Shand, who has "caught on" most decidedly; Bob Hamilton is a clever Scotch comedian and concertina player; Bert Byrne also finds favour; Mr. Frank Maura is a wonderful foot juggler; *The Man in Possession*, a cleverly-written little sketch, is amusingly presented by Messrs. Blake and Granby; Miss Lilian Lowe sings with excellent effect; and Gravetta and Parr contribute a pot-pourri act, which is notable for its versatility.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Henry Masterman.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longdon, and Livesey's company with *The Village Blacksmith* is appearing here for the first time. Mr. Sam Livesey gives a sound and effective performance of John Strong, his acting throughout reaching a high standard. Mr. Joseph Carter brings out with force all the malevolence and treachery of the unscrupulous Captain Leo; Miss Maggie Edwards's assumption of Kate Strong is charmingly unaffected; and Miss Cassie Le Grande is well placed as Ruth Parkins. Much of the comedy is supplied by Mr. George V. Campbell as Billy Twigg; Mr. Edwin Mayhew is very good as Lucas Marlar; Mr. Thomas E. Marshall gives a characteristic portrayal of Jeremiah Parkins; and the Sal Parkins of Mrs. T. C. Livesey is especially praiseworthy. Miss Bertha Hanbury gives a pleasing embodiment of Harry Strong; Miss Edith Giddens makes a capital Martha Mopps; and Mr. George Wilton does well as St. John Harman.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Charles Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—The Leopold Family top the bill here as lady and gentlemen acrobatic tumblers, and their work is done with exceptional neatness and skill. Kyoto is responsible for hearty laughter as a comedy Japanese entertainer; Handel and Lee show decided talents as instrumentalists; the tenor vocalism of Reg. Sugden is highly appreciated; Alf. Bishop as "the little lump of fun" is much applauded; Kelly and Kelly are clever as head balancers; May Geraldine, with dash and chic, contributes some much-appreciated ditties; and Jessie Star, described as "the female Harry Lauder," is appreciated.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren's company, in the drama, *Proof*, is paying a return visit here. Mr. Gerald Kennedy is a convincing Pierre Lorance; Mr. W. J. Butler gives a forcible representation of Lazare; Chamboran is made a humorous personage in the hands of Mr. Wilford Bailey; and Mr. Carl Beechey gives every satisfaction as Duke D'Aubeterre. Miss Beatrice Shirley as Adrienne has a part which fits her like the proverbial glove; Miss Avron is a stately Duchess D'Aubeterre; whilst Miss Phena Powell appears to advantage as Mme. Depretz. Miss May Grimshaw does good work as Valentine, displaying considerable ability in her scene with Lazare in Act 3. Mr. Albert Cavendish is the business and stage manager for Mr. and Mrs. Maclaren.

CHORLEY (Lancs).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hemingway.—The popular drama, *The New World*, is here this week. The company is a capital one, and includes Mr. Victor Rae, who is exceptionally good as Jack Hawley; Jim Rawlins is effectively rendered by Mr. W. S. Stevenson; and Pete (with songs, &c.) capitally presented by Mr. Willie Hicks, Messrs. Will Bass and Fred Guinness as Brutus Brown and Sam Smart respectively do very excellent work, and are much appreciated; Miss Beatrice Moore charmingly presents Jenny Williams, and is particularly pleasing in her several specialities; and Miss Evelyn Robson is well suited as May Walton.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Herbert J. Montague.—These boards are occupied this week with Mr. Fred Benton's company in the drama *The French Spy*. The part of Captain Sommers is well acted by Mr. Beresford Lovett; Mr. Max Coutts is highly successful as Count Romanoff; Mr. Hugh Travers speaks his lines well as General Trapoff; Mr. Charles Digby is amusing as Viscount Alexis; and the same may be said of Mr. Seymour Perry as Knipps. Miss A. Harrison Tate makes a charming Olga. The central figure, however, is the Countess Ande, the French spy, and in the hands of Miss Madge Devereaux it receives every justice.

COLCHESTER.—HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Percy M. Stephenson and company top the bill with a dramatic playlet founded on the Irish rebellion, and entitled *Face to Face*. Mlle. Renée, who is an immense favourite here, is vociferously applauded for each item of her musical act; Helen Martin, who possesses a singularly melodious voice, is popular with songs and ballads; Florence Leonard sings very sweetly, and is capitally received; a like remark applying to the reception of Fred Collins, the Scotch comedian.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—A return visit of the popular and well known drama, *The Plucky Nipper*, is being paid by Miss Bonwin Carlton and company, and on Monday night a creditable house gave it a hearty reception. Captain Frank Leslie and Ina Fenwick, the hero and heroine, are successfully taken by Mr. Morris Maud and Miss Esther Lamont respectively; Bill Burgess is capitally portrayed by Mr. Edward Surrey, the author of the piece; and as the Plucky Nipper, Miss Bonwin Carlton soon wins the esteem of the audience. Miss Kitty Maynard also deserves praise for her rendering of the blind girl, Daisy Paget. All the other characters are excellently chosen, and a word of praise should be given to the scenery and effects.

THE EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. A. Rand.—An excellent programme is being submitted by the management at the above house this week. The Aurora Troupe of trick cyclists, consisting of four men and a girl, perform some clever feats, and are most successful; another very enjoyable turn is provided by Dare's Minstrels, whose jokes, songs, and glees are well rendered. Morgan and Stewart receive an ovation in their vocal scena, *Leaving Ireland*; Howard and Collinson appear in a capital sketch, entitled *The Porter and Professional*; Frank Crouch is successful in some clever patter and songs; the Three Cape Girls, comediennes and dancers, give a capital show, and are heartily received; Vernon's Bioscope pictures concluding the programme.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Mr. Fred J. Kirke's company is giving us *In Old Madrid* this week. Mr. Leslie Austin takes the two characters, Frank Lyndhurst and Count Corregillo, in a masterly manner; Mr. George Whillis makes a first-class Toreador; Mr. Alf. Stretton as Fernando Cassilus handles the heavy part in able style; Mr. Walter T. Hybert as Horatio J. Rogers is responsible for the fun of the piece; and Mr. Chas. Burns makes a good Marmaduke R. FitzSimmons. Miss Edith Claris as Madeleine Ellesmere pleases the audience; Miss Lily Seymour is particularly well suited as Martha Jane Alice Grey Montmorency; Miss Francesca Strickland deserves special mention for her fine portrayal of Violet Lyndhurst; Miss Louie Fountaine's rendering of Lola Stittagano must not be overlooked; and Miss Amy Shaw and Miss Carlene Yorick, as Gracie Featherstone and Maude de Vere, are very well placed.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor, J.P.—*Her Nameless Child* is presented here this week by Mrs. S. Duckworth's company. Mr. J. W. Evelyn gives a powerful representation of Anthony Ford; Mr. Herbert Evelyn is suitably placed as Arthur Ford; Lord Henry Woodville is vigorously played by Mr. Ellerslie Pyne; Mongrole is in the capable hands of Mr. Fred Griffiths; Mr. Fred Danvers causes amusement as Tom Rivers; Miss Pattie Hastings gives a careful rendition of the rôle of Phyllis Ford; Miss Grace Jones is an excellent Lady Sibil Woodville; Miss Florence Hall a bright and vivacious Bessie Brooks; and Miss Madge Trevelyan a good Crayont.

CROYDON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Herrick.—Miss Loie Esmonde's company in *The Sorrows of Satan* is the attraction here this week. The part of Prince Lucio Rimanez has a capable exponent in Mr. Edward Neville; Mr. J. McCaigh earns distinction as Geoffrey Tempest; Mr. Fredk. Cherry is amusing as Morris; Mr. H. Carrington as Amiel is very effective; and Mr. Coleman Davis successfully represents Lord Lytton. Miss Rosie Neville as Mavis Clare is creditable; Miss Loie Ecmond plays the part of Diana Chesney in an able manner; Miss Cecil Bryne gives a good portrayal of Mrs. Grimbes; and Lady Sybil Elton is charmingly impersonated by Miss Cecilia Dare.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Walter Gibbons; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—A powerful programme is put forward here. Especially refreshing are the inimitable comedy duo, Allsopp and Bekwith, who bring down the house with their quaint and clever act *I'm Coming Upstairs*; Harriet Fawn is an excellent character comedienne; The Six Lancashire Lasses sing and dance themselves into favour; Sam Mayo, the immobile comedian, creates roars of laughter; Fred Earle, comedian, is invigorating; Duval and Maguire are great in a novelty burlesque act; the Marconis are astounding in their fire and electric display; the New York Comedy Four are amusing; and the Grand National on Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope is very good.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Mr. H. A. Saintsbury and company are here in the new play, *Anna of the Plains*, and the comedietta, *Jocelyn the Jester*. In the former piece Mr. H. A. Saintsbury is a typical Bible-reading Boer; Miss Dorothea Desmond, in the title-rôle, effectively portrays the part; Miss V. Vivian as the Boer's second wife is worthy of comment; Mr. Hilliard Vox as Michael O'Donoghan is extremely good; and Mr. C. H. Crocker-King has a good grip of the character of Piet Van Heller.

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—During the latter half of last week the boards of this theatre were occupied by Mr. John H. Tomkinson's No. 1 Royal Gipsy Company with an excellent variety entertainment. *Under the Czar* is the attraction this week. Mr. Wilson Howard is capital as Nicholas Yeroslaff; Mr. Geo. H. Doyle gives an effective rendering of the villainous Kovesky; Miss Nellie Bonser is responsible for some fine work as Sonia; and Miss Madge Clare makes a pleasing Zara. Comedy is introduced by Mr. Louis Weston (Paul Ignat), Mr. Carl Vallendar (Petroff), and Miss Beatrice Annersley (Siomka).

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Langley Wyatt.—Mr. Robt. Crossman's company is here on a return visit in *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. Arthur Reynolds repeats his pronounced success in the title-rôle, and Miss Cissy Raymond very charmingly acts Lady Bickenhall. Crooky Scrubbs is cleverly accounted for by Mr. Clarence Ibbotson, and Mr. J. W. Goldsworthy plays Michael Brue with much success. The Aurora Brue of Miss May Hay is a capital presentment; and Mr. Chas. Sims makes a creditable Mr. Crank. Miss Ethel Ivinev as Mabel Widget, and Miss Marian Hargrave as Daisy, are both praiseworthy. Altogether a capital all-round performance.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—The premier position in a varied programme is occupied by the Avolos, gymnasts, whose remarkably clever performance is generously applauded; the Voldam Brothers, Dutch eccentric acrobats, create hearty laughter, and fully maintain their reputation; the Watson Family provide a musical interlude, which is much appreciated; J. H. Wakefield scores as a coon comedian; and the Calcotts, duettists and dancers, introduce some pleasing banjo selections. Other enjoyable turns are contributed by the Paragon Trio, vocalists; Lily Sharplin, a dainty mimetic comedienne; and the bioscope, with up-to-date films.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. George S. King.—Mr. John A. Thompson's company is on a short visit in *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Miss Edith Wallace is an attractive principal boy; Miss Maggie Allwood quickly ingratiates herself with the audience for her portrayal of Jill, her singing being a strong feature; Messrs. Teddy Worth and P. Galino provide heaps of amusement by their grotesque representations of Tommy Tucker and Billy Piper; Miss Georgie Mansell is loudly applauded for her singing of the popular "Different girl again"; and Mr. R. Lomas is a smart rope performer.

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*The Hour of Her Triumph* is being played here. Harold Clavering is artistically presented by Mr. Harry Stuart; Mr. Clifton Earle as Jack Vernon proves himself a capable actor; Mr. F. J. Webb's nonchalance and sangfroid are peculiarly adapted to the part of Eugene Harberry; Mr. Louis Nanton as Ben Brodie is characteristic; Miss M Danvers Smith makes a success as Nellie Clavering; and Miss Mamie Stanton bears herself with grace in the rôle of Linda Denton.

DUBLIN. — EMPIRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The programme presented here this week is a strong one, and is being patronised by full houses nightly. The premier position is allotted to Kitchen and Lister in an amusing sketch entitled *No. 99*, which meets with a good reception. An excellent turn is provided by the Robertys troupe of speciality dancers, who execute some smart evolutions in a clever manner and are loudly applauded; Albert Whelan is a humorous comedian whose imitations of music-hall stars meet with appreciation; Hurley and Cole, in a charming little scena, *Let Bygones by Bygones*, score quite a success; Cora Carina, Anglo-Spanish speciality artist, has many admirers; the Tupps in their comedy acrobatic act are highly diverting; Morimura, Japanese illusionist, is well received; and the Empire pictures are up to the usual standard.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The following artists are appearing here this week:—Conn and Davis in their comedy act *The Page and the Chauffeur*; Miss Annie Rose, vocalist and dancer; Ted Warner, eccentric comedian; Will Bent, instrumentalist and dancer; Jack Twist, comedian; and the New Cinematograph.

DUNDEE. — PALACE THEATRE. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—The chief attraction here this week is *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, by Fred Ginnett and Co., who also appear with great success in that laughable sketch, *Rejected Remounts*; Marstro, assisted by Oretta, presents his clever equilibristic act; Charlie Williams, negroistic comedian, goes well, as does also Oliver Conroy, a capital comedian of the eccentric persuasion. Goodfellow and Gregson, in a highly entertaining sketch, prove exhilirating; and Onda and Artell are much admired in their gymnastic act; Glennie's Marionettes are responsible for hearty laughter; and Vernon's Bioscope completes a strong all-round bill.

GAIETY THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—A grand array of talent here this week is headed by the Three Panamas, acrobats and tumblers, who give a marvellously clever show; Fred Lyndo, eccentric comedian, scores heavily; and Fred Yorke, a basso vocalist of distinction, likewise proves popular. *In the Nick of Time* is the title of an exciting episode of life in China, in which George N. Schilling, the man who walked round the world, appears. Elsie Earle contributes a delightful song scena; and the Two Robsons give a fine exhibition of dancing. Others who appear with success are Venola Brothers, gymnasts; Oakdene, ventriloquist; and Lindsay and Harte, Scotch-American duo. A very laughable skit on the Zancigs, and the Electro Motorscope, with a fine display of films, complete.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Jury's Animated Photos proved such a success last week that the management have wisely retained them for this. Under the skilful manipulation of Mr. J. Crasswell, the pictures are shown with a steadiness which reflects credit on both operator and machine, while the collection of films is a most extensive one. Varieties which include The Gelders, magic makers; Ivy Dene, vocalist and dancer; and George Casey, comedian, complete a very enjoyable programme.

KINNAIRD HALL.—The Zancigs paid a visit here on Tuesday, when they gave afternoon and evening performances before packed houses. Some of the feats accomplished by them seem to leave no other explanation but that of mind telepathy, the tests to which they were subjected rendering collusion or code-signalling apparently impossible. Some critics suggest that the feats are accomplished by means of a silent code, but how such a code can be worked through closed doors is difficult to understand. A capital company supported the Zancigs, viz., Miss Ethel Grimes, soprano vocalist; Miss Katie Moss, soprano and violinist; Miss Clara Alexander, impersonator of plantation people; Mr. Sydney Jarvis, baritone; Mr. David Brazell, operatic baritone; Mr. E. Thornley-Dodge, sketch artist; and Mr. Harold Scott, solo pianist and accompanist.

EASTBOURNE. — PIER PAVILION. — Manager Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Lewis Waller's company is paying a return visit here with *Brigadier Gerard*. Mr. Langhorne Burton, looking and acting well, contributes a very fine performance as the swaggering Brigadier Gerard; Mr. George Mallett, in his splendidly-finished work, is a penetrating Talleyrand; and Mr. Arthur Somers, in an admirable make-up of Napoleon, spoke his lines with strong and telling effect. Mr. Cecil Wynne is the skilful stage-manager, and is, in addition, a very able Caulaincourt. Mr. Frank Powell and Mr. J. H. Twyford share honours as Colonel Guerin and Major Bron; Mr. Sidney Young is a definite and effective D'Albert; and Mr. J. Crowe is excellent as Bassompierre. Miss Muriel Godfrey-Turner, strikingly handsome and beautifully gowned, holds the keenest interest of the audience, and is a great success; while Miss Margery Chard is a pretty, bright maid Agnes.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; General-Manager, Mr. H. Day; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Smith.—At the head of the varied bill offered here this week is Clito, whose turn is essentially artistic, very finely carried out, and very popular; Mephisto has one of the cleverest contortion acts ever seen here, and he is prettily assisted by Miss Marie. Miss Edie Anderson is a smart and expert dancer, who sings well; Mr. Bock Pylades gives very clever facial imitations of celebrities; Mr. Happy Attwood gets many laughs for his funny get-up and songs; Miss Lucy Coventry pleases in song and dance, and excellent new pictures complete the programme.

EDINBURGH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—Mr. Mouillot's chief company is here again with that perennial fountain of gaiety, *The Geisha*, varying the week's programme with a change on Friday evening to *A Greek Slave*. Miss Louie Collier makes a charming representative, both vocally and dramatically, of O Mimosa San; excellent renderings of the several rôles of Juliette, Molly Seymour, and Lady Constance are given by Miss Violet Kenyon, Miss Florrie Saunders, and Miss Aubrey Ashton. Mr. Lionel Braham puts plenty of quiet humour into his personation of the imposing Marquis Imari; while the Wun Hi of Mr. Edward Carlton is, if possible, funnier than ever. As Reginald Fairfax Mr. Cyril Thompson sings and acts in a pleasantly unaffected fashion; and the other members of the company do full justice to their respective parts.

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—Mr. George Edwardes's company is appearing here this week in *The New Aladdin*. The piece owes much to the very capable comedians and vocalists who constitute the cast. Mr George Gregory, a clever actor, with an abundant sense of humour, is very droll as Tippin, the page; and that admirable artist, Mr. John Brabourne, is a really comic figure as the Lost Constable. Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., acts and sings with neatness and ease. His song, "Waltz me round again, Willie," is loudly encored nightly, and his performance of the part of the Genie of the Lamp is one of the most agreeable in the play. Miss Cressie Leonard makes an undoubted hit in the character of Lally; there is a finish and completeness about the impersonation which would be difficult to surpass; Miss Ida Rene as the Princess acts with much charm, singing with expression and dancing with exceeding grace; Miss Irene Verona is distinctly funny, without being too farcical, as the Spirit of the Ring; and Miss Mary Fraser, in the Scotch part of Jennie, speaks the Doric well and acts with brightness; Mr. Ernest Mahar is excellent as General Ratz; and amongst others who contribute their share to the success of the play is Miss Nellie Lonnen, a lithe dancer, as Laolah; and Miss Jessie Lonnen as the Charm of Paris. The piece is tastefully mounted, and the chorus and orchestra, under the leadership of Mr. Ernest Vousden, give general satisfaction.

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—*The White Chrysanthemum* has at last been brought to Edinburgh by the well-balanced company touring under the management of Mr. Charles Macdona, at whose hands the favourite lyrical comedy is acceptably rendered. Miss Muriel St. George is prominent in the cast as Sybil, and both her singing and acting commend her to the favour of the audience; Miss Wilmot Karkeek gains popularity by her dancing in the part of Cornelia; and the Betty Kenyon of Miss Dorothy Sephton is a pleasing performance. The leading male rôles are well divided among Mr. St. John Hamund as the Admiral, Mr. H. Langdon Bruce as Reginald; Mr. H. E. Garden as Chippendale, Mr. Richard Telford as the amusing Sin Chon, and Mr Jamie Douglas as Perks, all of whom, in conjunction with an efficient chorus, work well together towards the success of the piece.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Crowded audiences have been attracted to the house this week, the programme for which is an excellent one in all respects. La Milo gives her beautiful poses representative of celebrated statuary, and Mr. Cruickshanks cleverly fills in the pauses with his lightning caricatures of prominent persons; Mr. Henry Cadle and company afford a good deal of amusement by their sketch *The Casey Circus*, in which must be singled out for special praise the felicitous skit by one of the artists of a well-known figure in the music halls; an admirable turn is supplied by Frank and Jen Latona, the lady showing great proficiency as pianist and singer; Lennie and Hast are seen to advantage in their fantasy *The Sea Nymph*; and Alice May and company acquit themselves well in their sketch *Tranquillity*. Mr. Allan Hanbury, a new comedian, who displays much promise; Frobel and Ruge, in a novel aerial act; Forest and King, in a smart acrobatic turn; Stephens and Rennion, in their masterly sand-dance sketch; and scenes by the bioscope complete the entertainment.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Ventom Swift.—At this house large audiences continue to be the rule. A capital programme this week includes the names of Lambeth and Robertson, in an amusing sketch *Peace and Harmony*; the Two St. Johns, clever dancers; Erneste, an expert mimic and pleasing siffleur; Miss Lil Hartley, a smart comedienne; the Sisters Hula, excellent dancers; Field and Lewis, in an ingenious act; Mr. Tom Gibson, Scotch comedian; and the Alhambrascope.

FOLKESTONE.—LEAS PAVILION.—The popular society entertainers, "The Gipsies and their Jester," under the direction of Mr. D'Arcy Clayton, make their welcome re-appearance here this week to delighted audiences. Miss Muriel Fan is heard to advantage in several songs; Miss Florence Croft sings in a pleasing manner; Mr. D'Arcy Clayton and Mr. Eric Davidson are the possessors of excellent voices; Mr. Robert Tattersall submits some novel conjuring and ventriloquial sketches, which cause much amusement; and Mr. Will Gane as the "jester" is no whit less successful as a mirth-provoker.

GATESHEAD. — KING'S THEATRE. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harold Arnold.—*The Belle of Barcelona*, a tabloid musical comedy, is at the head of the bill here. The trifle is much appreciated. The Schiavonis Troupe display clever gymnastics; Lady Julia, the ape with the human brain, is interesting; Martine and Son, American song illustrators, are popular; Cookson, a speciality ventriloquist, has numerous admirers; and Jack Heath, comedian; Daisy Silcott, burlesque actress; and the King's Pictures complete.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Councillor Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas France.—Miss Ethel Van Praagh and J. Edward Whitty's company is presenting *An Unwedded Wife* here this week. Miss Van Praagh is seen to great advantage in the name-part; Mr. E. St. Clair Forbes presents a polished Philip Blackstone; John Hawthorne has a capable exponent in Mr. Logan Darra; Mr. Valentine Henry submits a capital impersonation of Frank Armstrong; Mr. Wilton Bedford is funny as Kit; Miss Isla Garnet Vayne makes a charming Elsie Langham; and a humorous Caraway Crumpet is supplied by Miss Jessie Gillette.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Councillor Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Smith.—Mr. Chas. March's company appears here in *The Gamester of Metz*. Mr. March himself figures in the rôle of Paul Baldot, and does the part full justice; Mr. Wilfred Prothero makes a powerful Captain Badaire; and Mr. J. W. Millar is seen to advantage as Du Basson; Miss Una Lane does well as Lucia; and Miss Zana St. George is successful as Gwendoline Pearson.

GLASGOW.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—This week we have *A Royal Divorce*, in which the part of Josephine is played by Miss Edith Cole, who gives a touching and impressive rendering of the badly-used Empress. The character of the Emperor is finely portrayed by Mr. Frederick Victor; while Mr. Charles Agnew is responsible for depicting the limping old statesman, Talleyrand. Miss Helen Richmond gives an excellent embodiment of vivacious Stephanie Beauharnais; while Miss Agnes Imlay gives a good rendering of the haughty Marie Louise. Miss Maggie Cardiff is charming as the little King of Rome, which she acts nicely and naturally; General Augeresu is ably handled by Mr. Alfred Grenville; and other well-sustained characters are Marshal Murat (Mr. St. George Frere), Marquis de Beaumont (Mr. Graham Woods), Grimaud (Mr. Geo. Hudson), Governess of the boy King of Rome (Miss Loyale Frere), Angelique de Varennes (Miss Violet Hudson), and Mother Lomas (Miss Helen Meadows).

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. William Downie.—This week Mr. Russell Rosse presents Mr. David James and company in the favourite comedy *A Pair of Spectacles*. The Benjamin Goldfinch of Mr. David James is a clever interpretation and receives well-merited applause; the part of Uncle Gregory is admirably handled by Mr. Norman Clark, who plays with vigour throughout; Mr. Charles Boult submits a capital reading of Dick; and Mr. Harry Ray does well as Percy. Miss E. Nolan O'Connor portrays the part of Mrs. Goldfinch with grace and charm; and the Joyce of Miss Hilda Blanche, and the Lucy Lorimer of Miss Margaret Frame are carried out in a finished manner. Lorimer has an able exponent in Mr. F. J. Hampson. The play concludes each evening with *The Welsher Welshed*, in which Mr. Joseph B. Montague is very amusing, and is ably assisted by Miss Alys Hardy and Miss Jenny Dysart.

KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—*The Beauty of Bath* continues to draw crowded and enthusiastic houses here, and the charm of Miss Elialine Terriss's acting and singing, and the volatile freshness of Mr. Seymour Hick's humour, find hearty appreciation. Local playgoers note with pleasure the talent and versatility of Miss Sydney Fairbrother, who, in the homely pathos of the *Two Little Vagabonds*, the tragedy of *The Darling of the Gods*, or the eccentric comedy of Mrs. Goodge in *The Beauty of Bath*, seems equally at home. Messrs. William Lugg, Stanley Brett, Laurence Caird, J. C. Buckstone, and the veteran E. W. Royce, all ably help the fun along, and a word of praise is due to Master Valchera for his humour as the boy; Lemon Goodge. Miss Florence Lloyd as Mrs. Allington, Miss Maudi Darrell as St. Cyr, and Miss Lillie McIntyre in a neat dance, share the honours of the evening.

GRAND, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. D. Macfarlane.—Planquette's tuneful opera, *Rip Van Winkle*, is being given here this week by a clever young organisation, the Glasgow Amateur Operatic Society, the proceeds being devoted to charity.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting Manager, Mr. H. Murdoch.—Mr. Edmond Tearle's excellent production of *Jeanie Deans* is here this week, Miss Kate Clinton again giving an exceedingly touching impersonation of Scott's immortal heroine. The rôle of Effie Deans is still in the hands of Miss Mary Campbell, who also acts with great tenderness and pathos; Mr. Bernhardt Turner gives considerable finish to the part of the Duke of Argyll; the David Deans of Mr. Joseph A. Keagh is an impressive performance; to the part of Dumbiedykes Mr. Alfred D. Adams gives a decided touch of character; in the rôles of Geordie Robertson (Mr. Clifford Marle) and Reuben Butler (Mr. R. H. Lace), good legitimate work is done; Mr. Herbert Tawse gives due weight to the part of the Lord Justiciary; as the opposing Counsel, Mr. Saxon Thomas (Crown) and Mr. Neal Fitzwilliam (Defence) play their parts well; Mr. George T. Grieg gives force to the character of Ratcliffe; as the Queen, Miss Alice Fleming acts with considerable grace; while strong dramatic effect is given to the characters of Madge Wildfire and her mother by Misses Esther Tearle and Ellen Armor respectively.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—A decided attraction has this week been placed before the patrons of the Metropole in the introduction, by Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company, of Messrs. Geo. R. Sims and Arthur Shirley's *Two Little Vagabonds*. Than Miss Edie Martin and Miss Josie Beltram no better "vagabonds" could be procured. Each does excellently, and is capitally received. Mr. Arthur E. Melborne and Miss Grace Heywood as George and Marion Thornton respectively, are before the "house" quite a time, and their efforts are highly appreciated; Mr. Sidney Vautier makes a splendid Captain Darvelle; Mr. Dunstan Haye does well as John Scarth; while Mr. Lionel Ellis gives an ideal portrayal of the Gaffer. To Miss Evelyn Shaw is due a word of praise for her clever impersonation of Biddy Mullins; and Miss Rosslyn Vayne is very taking as Barbara.

LYECUM.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. Dickie Clare heads his own company in the musical farcical absurdity, *Lucky 'Liza*, which opened to very good business on Monday last. It is strong in pantomime element, and is a capital example of Fred Locke's writing. The fun and frolic, singing and dancing are never at a pause during the three acts, and the audience is convulsed with laughter and merriment throughout. Mr. Dickie Clare works hard, and sustains the triple parts of Silas Slim, the Judge, and the French Waiter admirably; as Peter Pettitoe and Barnaby Blatherwick Mr. T. W. Benson and Mr. A. W. Thompson are responsible for much boisterous fun; while the parts of Paul and Biffins are excellently played by Mr. Syd Hynd and Mr. J. W. Forrest. As Marie Miss Bella Russell is quite acceptable; while the Misses Vesta and Madge Brownie act, sing, and dance with charming cleverness as Virginia and Lucky 'Liza respectively. The other characters are well placed, and a feature of the performance is the dancing of Miss Queenie Bell and the Sisters Mascot. The orchestra, under Mr. J. C. Maclean, gave some good selections during the evening.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Mussett.—The major part of the programme here is occupied by Fred Karno's company in *Dame Trot*, a condensed version of the pantomime which was such a success at the Grand recently. Mr. Fred Kitchen, Mr. Harry Lappo, Miss Luna Love, and Mr. Fred Whittaker still play the same parts as they did then, and the fun waxes fast and furious. Miss Aggie Morris, Miss Ada Whittaker, and Mr. Herbert Landeck all distinguish themselves in their respective rôles. A novel turn is that of Mr. Hymack, the chameleon comedian, who made a decided hit; Kisbey, the call-boy, also contributes a distinctly clever item; the Four Flying Eugenes show some daring aerial flights; Charles Robinson sings well in illustrated songs; Frank Lynne is a comedian with a taking

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manner; and a clever selection from Benedict's *Lily of Killarney* is sung by Edward Arthur and company.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Sydney Bacon and company, in the musical comedy, *The Duchess of Tooting*, top the bill, and had a hearty reception, the performance from start to finish being marked with exceptional merit and humour; Arthur Lennard, comedian, is still a great favourite, his songs being up to date and witty claim the attention of the audience, and he was repeatedly recalled. A clever turn is submitted by Victor Newman, in impersonations of Mr. Beerbohm Tree as Svengali, and the late Sir Henry Irving's masterpiece, Matthias; while the musical sketch *Her Birthday*, by Minnie Hunt and Rhys Thomas, was well received. The rest of the company include Marie Empress, comedienne; Corman's Juveniles, in novel scena, *The Waif;* Barbara Babbington, comedienne; Blanche Vincent, vocalist; Lizzie Fletcher, serio; and the Hippodrome Bioscope.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr Samuel Lloyd.—The Savonas are still the leading attraction here, and this week they are giving their musical show at every performance, the overture to *Tannhäuser* being their principal item. Foreman and Fannan, from the Princess's pantomime, appear in the ship and circus scenes; and the Sisters Hall are also retained in their taking ducts; while Miss Ethel Hall appears with Foreman and Fannan in their burlesque scene. H. O. Wills is a most original and quaint comedian, and his songs take well; the Howards give a display of thought-reading which is most astonishing; Charles Ulrick, barrel balancer, gives a clever turn; Ruby Emmerson sings well and dances neatly; and Fred Herbert makes a decided hit as a topical vocalist.

Coliseum.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—A strong programme is presented this week. Messrs. Seeley and West, old Glasgow favourites, are as successful as ever in their instrumental comedy; W. J. Ashcroft, the original solid man, also makes a great hit; Arthur Rigby's company present with much success a musical comedy, entitled *The Isle of Ooma* (Mr. Rigby is assisted by a company of twenty clever artists); the Rhoda Brothers are a couple of very smart head and hand equilibrists; Rich and Rich, singers and dancers; the Æolians, in their drawing-room instrumental act; Elsie Roby, in a humorous sketch, *The Slavey's at Home;* Florence, a clever lady mimic; and Clarence C. Corrie's company in a musical episode, *Heart Strings*, in which appears Miss Gladys Hooley, the talented violinist, add greatly to the success of the general performance.

Palace.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—Hanvarr and Lee give an excellent turn of the comedy order in juggling and acrobatics. Coram, as a ventriloquist, is undoubtedly clever, and has originality; while Lena Brunton, in new and old impersonations, had a capital reception, and was encored. Barney Armstrong, a renowned local favourite, gives a long, enjoyable turn, and in song, dance, and patter, is even fresher than ever, his "Band Parts" song being very funny; the Sisters Cora are smart comediennes, and dance very acceptably; in *The Messenger Boy* Tom Fancourt and Jennie Rubie give a good musical comedy sketch, the second scene of which is quite novel; George Collins justifies the term "a quaint comedian"; and Arthur Aldridge makes a big success in several fine tenor ballads. Amusing pictures are given on the bioscope, and good houses rule.

Gaiety.—Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—Cullen and Carthy (assisted by Little Cluly), eccentric comedians and dancers, top the bill, and provided an entertainment that was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience; T. C. Callaghan, Irish comedian, had also a good reception, and rendered several songs in his own artistic manner. The other artists include Jack M'Cormick, Scotch comedian; the Belmores, comediennes and dancers; Rene and Tich and other novel pictures.

GLOSSOP.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. Henry E. Leigh's company, in *The 'Varsity Belle*, is attracting large houses this week. Miss Josephine Ellis in the dual rôles of Mr. Paton and Gaye Sparkleton gives a unique performance, and scores with the song, "Those loving eyes"; Miss G. Sullivan as Eve Stoney also sings with telling effect "In Dreamland"; Miss Tessa Myers shines as Maud Stoney; Miss Emma Rainbow as Mrs. Barker does capital work; Mr. James Danvers as Professor Septimus Stoney is most mirth-provoking; Mr. Edward Chester as Theocritus Ward Sparkleton portrays that eccentric character well; Mr. R. Harley West as George Barker, and Mr. Roy Barraclough as Albert Perin, submit good delineations of undergraduates; and Mr. Frank Lilliput is diverting as Runyard. The comedy is preceded by *The Last Hour*.

GLOUCESTER.—Palace.—Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—The programme is opened by Miss Daisy Lane, comedienne; and the Gregson Comedy Trio follow with their sketch, *The Dummy;* the Carvers provide a capital dancing turn; Kail Stern, comedian and dancer, proves very agile; Baker and Balfe are excellent xylophone players; the Walonells are clever and funny on the bars; and Messrs. Bell and Pearl's company present a neat little sketch called *A Bit of String;* Ferris and Farnley are a pair of amusing cross-talk comedians; the Llewellyns give well-rendered operatic excerpts; Harry Carmen, polyglot artist, gives a clever impersonation of various nationalities; and the Bioscope concludes.

GOOLE.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John E. Tomlinson.—A great attraction this week is the comic opera, *La Poupée*, presented by Mr. Herbert Ralland's able company, which opened to a packed house on Monday. Mr. Arthur Cozens delights the audience with his clever impersonation of Lancelot; Mr. Fred Seymour is a capital Hilarius, who keeps the house in continuous laughter; Mr. Waller Balfour is highly successful as Father Maxim; and Mr. Fuller Allen is a dignified Baron Chanterelle. Mr. Arthur Dennis is well placed as Loremois; Balthazar finds an able exponent in Mr. E. Mooney. In the title-rôle Miss Mysie Devine gives a delightful performance, her songs and dances being taken up with great spirit; Miss Edith Hunter is a clever Mme. Hilarius; Miss Doris Dickens is a vivacious Henri; Miss Adeline Burgon is a captivating maid; and Miss Alice Roche a charming Gudaline. The chorus does admirable work, under the direction of Mr. H H. Shaw, and the scenery and dresses are excellent.

GREENOCK.—Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—An enthusiastic reception has been accorded to Mr. Martin Harvey and his company in *The Only Way* and *The Breed of the Treshams*. The play selected for Monday evening was the former, which was beautifully staged and excellently performed. Mr. Harvey's impersonation of Sydney Carton reached a high level of excellence, and during the course of the piece he was frequently and deservedly applauded. Miss N. de Silva in the rôle of Mimi is all that could be desired, and Miss Coleridge appears to great advantage as Lucie Manette. Mr. Leonard Craske makes the character of Charles Darnay an outstanding one, and Mr. Fred Wright, sen., is excellent as Dr. Manette. Others who contribute to the great success of the performance include Miss Mary Rorke, Miss Bessie Elder, Mr. Charles Glenney, and Mr. H. Blackmore.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—A good company here includes Richards and Salving, who present a clever equilibristic act, which wins loud applause. Arthur Boyne, comedian, causes a great deal of merriment. The Davis and Gledhill Trio, in their "Man and Motor" performance, are watched with much interest. A charming vocal turn by the Sisters Loftus gets well-deserved appreciation. King Alexander, comedian and mimic, obtains favour, and the Empire pictures are interesting.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. A. White.—Keen and Waller are here this week, and delight their audience with their clever and eccentric business. Gus Barra contributes a very enjoyable musical turn. A capital historical sketch, entitled *My Lady Betty*, is presented by Miss Nellie Stevens and company, and proves a great attraction. Jose Collins has a good voice, and uses it to advantage; and Sadie Simpson, comedienne and coon artist, is also successful. The Paviscope pictures are amusing.

HALIFAX.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—*Sunday* is a delightful play, and, notwithstanding that the present is the third visit of Mr. Louis Calvert's company, it is drawing well. This time we have a new Sunday in the person of Miss Emilie Polini, who proves very fascinating throughout. The three stalwarts, Towzer, Davy, and Jacky (whose fidelity to Sunday is conceived with much tenderness), are realistically portrayed by Mr. Wm. Lockhart, Mr. Sidney Rennef, and Mr. Arthur Vezin; Mr. Cecil Yapp wins distinction as Lively; Mr. Leonard Pagden makes an admirable Col. Brinthorpe; and Mr. Ernest A. Douglas retains, with advantage, the character of the good-hearted Tom Oxley.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. T. Winks.—An original fantasy is being successfully presented here under the title of *The Musical Burglar*, finely enacted by Mr. J. C. Piddock, of *Lady Slavey* fame, whose singing is enthusiastically received, as is Miss Ethel Negretti as Mlle. Nightingale. The Three Sisters Chester are always welcome; Boyd and Gilfain are very diverting; and Vasey and Ramsey, Tom Garrick, James and Alexander, Lorna Doone, and Ernest Torrence evoke applause.

Palace and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Ed. Harrison.—Mr. John Tiller's picturesque *Dick Whittington* pantomime has proved a very attractive booking for this popular house. A dashing Dick is found in Miss Jessie Templeton, whose dancing and vivacious ditties are well received; Alice is prettily presented by Miss Gould. As Idle Jack, Mr. Will Lytton's quips keep large audiences in continuous mirth; and Teddy Gibbs and Barney Dixon give him every assistance.

HANLEY.—Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company opened here on Monday in the stirring drama, *In Holy Russia*. The piece is capitally played and is nicely staged. Mr. Cassidy is seen as Micky Nolan, and is the heart and soul of the piece, his humour being really clever; Mr. Arthur Stratton makes a capital Colonel Richard Forrest; as the Russian spy, Catski Lavotski, Miss Florence Creagh does remarkably well, the part being admirably sustained; as the Tsar, Mr. Robert Cockroft acts well, his impersonation being most telling; Mr. Frank Copeland is well placed as Sir Harry Berresford; Mr. Martin Sands as the Count Gregori Petrolski does remarkably well in the part; as Laurice Steragoff, Mr. Carl Rovinello is successful; and Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy contributes a clever portrayal as Renée Rubinoff.

Grand.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. James Wynes.—The premier position this week is held by Gustave Fasola, whose illusions are first-class, most of his feats mystifying the large audiences. The Three Romas provide a turn which is clever, refined, and interesting, their feats of strength being displayed in quite a novel manner; Tom Wootwell returns in new songs, which are funnier than ever, and he is accorded a hearty welcome; Ryan and Hall prove a most amusing pair of comedians, the patter and acrobatic business being excellent; Cherry Lass is successful in her two items; Rastus and Banks in their sketch *The Major and the Maid* provide a smart turn, the acrobatic business of the male member being exceedingly clever; Miss Amy Russell has a nice voice, and renders her songs artistically; and the pictures are a good feature in the evening's entertainment.

HARROGATE.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Smith.—This week the theatre is occupied by Mrs. Morton Powell's company in *When It Was Dark*. Miss Elizabeth Watson appeared as Gertrude Hunt and made the most of her opportunities; Mr. Cyril Austin-Lee scored as the Rev. Basil Gortire; Mr. W B. Somerville gave a neat study of the character entrusted to him; and Mr. George H. Pitt was the millionaire, Constantine Schwabe. The comedy was in the hands of Mr. Arthur Murray as Sir Robert Llewellyn. Mrs. Morton Powell was good as Helena Byars.

HARTLEPOOL.—Empress.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—The programme submitted this week includes those favourite cyclists, the Cumberlands, in their wonderful acrobatic cycle feats; Will Letters is irresistibly funny and as popular as ever; the Brothers Corcoran, "musical shipbuilders," are experts on brass instruments; the dancing by Ellis and Watts is exceptionally clever; skilful trapeze work is done by Cara Magda; the comedy and mimicry by Harry Lee is much appreciated; the Sages (Will and Jenny) in burlesque are great favourites; Winnie Arnetta pleases all with her ballads; and the pictures are very good.

HASTINGS.—Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—A visit is paid here this week by Mr. Charles Constant's company with the pantomime *Blue Beard*, which affords a capital evening's entertainment. Miss Isa Bowman, in the rôle of Selim, is very capable, her songs winning a full measure of applause and her dancing affording much pleasure; Mr. Chas. Lake is efficient in the name-rôle; a pair of excellent comedians are seen in Messrs. Alec Godfrey and Mac Stuart, who contribute a clever whistling and coster song; Fatima is a very fascinating impersonation by Miss Dorothy Dempster, who does pleasing coon songs and good dancing; Miss Cissie Thompson possesses a fine voice, and is an expert dancer; Mr. Johnny Clegg is very comic as Sister Ann; Little Felicia, who impersonates Ashphodel, sings in the first scene very effectively from a stage-box; the ladies of the chorus prove very capable; and an augmented orchestra is well directed by Mr. J. C. Hahn.

Pier Pavilion.—Pier-Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—The farcical comedy, *The Strange Adventures of Miss Brown*, is attracting good houses. Mr. J. D. Hunter and his smart and clever company are always favourably received. The twofold character of Captain Courtenay and Miss Brown as exemplified by Mr. Hunter has all the drollery that one would expect from so genuine a comedian; Mr. Herbert Maule gives a polished interpretation of Major O'Gallagher; as Miss O'Gallagher, Miss Blanche Bayley plays her part with a light and effective touch; as Miss Romney, Miss Eva Bayley's performance is of conspicuous ability; Miss Violet Graham as Angelina Brightwell acts with a great deal of brightness and cleverness; Miss Violet Agnew gives a perfectly admirable sketch of Euphemia Schwartz; the boarders at the Academy are all well represented by the three Misses Ashley; Mr. Charles Hawker gives an intelligent sketch of the solicitor; Mr. Howell Seguin is altogether satisfactory as the foreign music-teacher; and Mr. Charles Lloyd gives an excellent account of the rôle of Sergeant Tanner, which he plays with the soundest judgment.

Hippodrome.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman; Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas.—A good programme is offered the patrons this week. Mr. Cyril Carle is most impressive in his "dream" songs; a diverting duologue by Bayley and Solo provides an interesting turn; Mr. C. Vincent Adams introduces a laughable song and patter as a railway porter; among the attractive films seen on the Bioscope is the wreck of the Berlin; the Four Sisters Victoria, in their skilful musical act, are a decided success; some tasteful and pleasing songs are sung by Miss Winnie Wynne; Clifford and Monti introduce an exceedingly funny sketch, *The Mad Actor;* the droll manner of Mr. Tom Dunmore contributes a good turn to the bill; in the mesmeric episode, *The Master-Mind*, the efforts of Miss Diana Hope and company are watched with keen interest; and the exponents of burlesque-comedy, Moon and Morris, are a decided acquisition.

HUDDERSFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—A drama, entitled *When Woman Hates* is here for the week, played by Mr. Bulmer's company. The various situations are effectively presented by the capable cast engaged, which includes Miss Chrissie Dunbar as the arch-villainess Cora Daintry; Mr. Gordon Robey, her accomplice; Mr. Percy Horton, breezy as Fred Rokeby; Miss Ethel Whiteley as Marie; and Mr. Evan Roland as the witty O'Brien. The play is well mounted, both as to scenery and dresses.

Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—At the top of the bill are Ergotti and Kinghen's troupe of clever risley acrobats; followed by John Holland and company in sketch; Cumminger and Colona, a pair of expert dancers; Vetter Brothers in a most attractive gymnastic entertainment—a really artistic show; Johnson and Devere in speciality; Ted Cowan, comedian; the Brennans, clever clog dancers; Loudon Cameron, conjuror; the Stavordale Quintette of instrumentalists in a much-appreciated act; and the usual interlude on the Biograph.

HULL.—The Hippodrome.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Tom Lunn.—Florrie Gallimore, owing to her great success, stays on a second week, and has to sing four songs before the audience are satisfied; Lola Patey, an old pantomime favourite, takes well; and other artists include the Ladderites, the Sivronis, the Three Zaracs, Josie Delaine, and the Tally-ho Trio.

The Palace.—Acting-Manager, Mr. John S. Barnett.—Van Biene appears in a striking little playlet, *The Master Musician*, in which he is well supported by Miss Lena Burnleigh. A couple of good turns are provided by Gwennie Hasto and Ray Maskell; Perette and Mona are smart in an original comedy; the Delevines are big favourites; Harry Lawson's songs cause much laughter; and Marion Fletcher and Harold Hughman complete an excellent bill.

The Empire.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—The star turn is provided by Harry Russell and Vera Reed in a laughable sketch, *Bink's Blunder*. Sandy and Carl give a clever display; Li-Chang-Hi is a smart conjuror; Flo D'Orville is a big favourite; Fox and Melville (American song illustrators) and Henriette and Selina (society entertainers) complete a good programme.

The Circus.—Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—A new set of animated pictures is drawing crowded houses.

ILKESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Blanche and Diacoff, in a clever cycle act, are meeting with warm approval; La Rochelle is seen in interesting poses; Mlle. Vanda (globe walker, &c.), Flo Melville (comedienne), La Belle Tosca (wire performer), and Prof. Syrett's Bioscope also appear with success.

Queen's Palace of Varieties.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. T. Knightall.—Doddy and Belle, in a musical absurdity, head the bill, and are well received; Yettmah, in Japanese magic, is again successful; Loo Byron (comedian), Staffo (the juggling butcher boy), Tessie Vandean (serio and dancer), Charlie Cowen (eccentric comedian), and Allen Amber (comedian) are the other turns.

IPSWICH.—Lyceum Theatre.—Closed until Easter Monday.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—That exceptionally clever troupe of acrobats, the Craggs, quite aroused the enthusiasm of Ipswich audiences with their unique performances. *The New Steward of the Channel Queen* was the title of this entertaining sketch, and the vagaries of a raw country bumpkin as steward of a liner were brimful of fun and drollery, sending the spectators into fits of laughter. In addition to this the marvellous acrobatic feats of these artists elicited hearty and unstinted plaudits throughout. The other chief turns included Clemart, who well maintained his title of a "novel ventriloquist"; Howard and St. Clair, in a little sketch, *Do You Want to Buy Any Coke?;* the Norman and Leonard Trio, in clever instrumental business; Les Cabracs, French comedy acrobats; Rosie Archer, in neat imitations of some of our "stars"; Olive Rayne, dancer; and Johnny Gilmore, who calls himself the "Australian Nugget," with quaint ditties.

JARROW.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr Jerold E. Reed.—This week Miss Marie Dagmar and Mr. F. C. Somerfield's company is here with the drama *The Tyrant*. Mr. Roy Fortesque is excellent in the part of Angelo, while Mr. F. C. Somerfield gives a capital portrayal of the part of Homodei. Mr. Lionel Attwill is pleasing in the part of the Prince de Roma, and Mr. Alec Mayhew is well placed as Pan. Mr. Percy Brown and Mr. Albert Rogers do full justice to the respective parts of Victor and Nobbo, and Mr. A. Findlater is quite at home in the part of Lieutenant Taska. The part of Tisbe is cleverly handled by Miss Marie Dagmar; while Miss Millie Ford is charming in the part of Lady Katherine, and Miss Lallah Shelton plays the part of Eulie with great care. Miss Vida Haslewood is very good as Daphne, and the same may be said of Miss Olive Lloyd as Reginella.

KEIGHLEY.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Carson.—Dickenson and Johnson, ornamental swimmers, provide a very clever and novel entertainment, and are much appreciated here; the Donatos, one-legged acrobats, win rounds of applause; the Musical Keiths display musical ability of high order; Manton and Marlow supply a capital sketch; J. A. Reilly and May Templeton create much laughter; Eva Compton sings well, and Dolly Denver is a clever dancer.

KIDWELLY.—Town Hall.—Secretary, Mr. P. S. James.—Mr. T. R. Nugent and company occupy the boards here this week with *The Streets of London, East Lynne, The Ticket-of-Leave Man*, and *The Factory Girl*. Mr. Nugent in the part of Badger in the first-named piece is highly to be commended. Miss Maggie Gardiner as Alicia Bloodgood was also very good. Master Sidney Nugent is a clever boy comedian and vocalist.

LANCASTER.—Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. John Porter and W. J. Fergusson; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Martin.—"Every turn a winner" is declared at this week's programme. The Maningos, at the head, give a marvellous acrobatic performance; the Meymotts, in a mirth-provoking sketch, *Semi-Detached*, are paying a welcome return visit; the Two Dixons, bâton swingers and dancers, are smart; and the Two Jays are capital comedians. Zeta Gray and company, in a musical scena, *The Lancashire Lass;* Lilian Victoria, the Eton boy; Vera Mayne, vocalist; and the Hippograph with pictures are all well received.

LEEDS.—Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—That fantastic novelty, *The Little Stranger*, is amusing good houses at this theatre. Master Edward Garratt, the diminutive comedian, supplies much exhilarating fun by his admirable presentment of the name-part; Mr. Charles Steuart is vigorous and convincing as the husband, Captain Allenby; his associate, Alec Howard, being impersonated with rare dash and go by Mr. Frank Hanbury; and Vronsky, the chief of the discomfited soul-hunters, has an effective exponent in Mr. Charles Doran. Miss Dora Hole admirably depicts the emotional wife "under a spell"; Miss Louie Tinsley distinguishes herself with a clever portrayal of the terrified nurse; and excellent work is also done by Mr. Stanley Lathbury, Miss Alice Ellestree and Miss Alice Green. *Dream Faces* proves an acceptable curtain-raiser.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—Once again the boards are occupied by Mr. Fred Karno's excellent company with the evergreen farce *His Majesty's Guests*, and once again full houses are entertained by the drolleries of Sergeant Lightning, played by Mr. George Hester, who is quite as amusing as any of his predecessors. The remaining rôles are all in good hands, Mr. Frank Morton and Mr. Chas. Usher, Miss Lenora Castelle, Miss Kitty Brunton, and Miss Annie Wright, all old favourites, filling their usual parts with success.

Empire Palace.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—Carl Hertz is an entertaining top-of-the-bill turn this week, his wonderful illusions effectively mystifying all. Mike S. Whallen, the clever raconteur, is very popular here; Billy Farrell, coloured dancer and eccentric, contributes a smart turn in his own inimitable style; a merry comedy episode is played by that talented pair, Kitts and Windrum; and some well-rendered vocal items are given by Gertrude Bradshaw; a comedy bar act by Mezzetti and Mora is diverting; the Celtic Comedy Trio are amusing; Frank Darwin proves a capital actor-vocalist; and Hettie Chattell, a popular burlesque actress, completes a strong programme.

Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Bush.—The management of this palatial hall are making a big bid for public patronage, and the engagement this week of the famous Hackenschmidt has been rewarded by full houses twice a night. Various local champions are trying a fall with the redoubtable Russian, and some strenuous bouts have been witnessed. Holden's Mannikins are a popular bottom-of-the-bill turn; the Claymores combine jugglery and capital vocal entertainment; Tray and Rich are a smart pair of eccentrics and dancers; and a skilful instrumental act is subscribed by Little Salvino. The comedians are clever, and include such favourites as Fred Harrison, Harry Bold, and Fred Hallam; and Lottie Collard, an attractive comedienne, completes the list.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; General-Managers, Mr. Chas. Weldon and Mr. Claude Shayler.—Arthur Prince is a leading line here, his clever ventriloquial act being, as usual, provocative of uproarious merriment; some artistic classical tableaux by the Modern Venus are interesting and effective; the Two Falcons perform comic acrobatics in clever style; a musical turn by the El Tampico Trio is much appreciated; and Meir and Mora, with a novel pot-pourri act, prove a popular line; Gertie Gitana is a favourite comedienne; Robbie Roy scores as a laughing comedian; Effie White is seen in an accomplished speciality dance; Nina Martino is a distinct success; and Dave O'Toole, the popular comedian, is also appearing.

City Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—Jack Pleasants leads the fun here, and his admirers accord him a big reception; Ike Scott and Son are a well-known and clever comedy pair, and do well; the Lavelle Bros. combine comedy and acrobatics cleverly; Burns and Bentley are talented vaudeville artists; a novel pot-pourri act by Penstone gets a big reception; and the Dancing Gilberts, Jas. Shingleton (vocalist), and Madeline Rossiter (comedienne) are also popular entertainers.

LEICESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—The attraction is provided this week by Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company, in the interesting military play, *The Indian Mutiny*, which is well staged. Mr. Edward M. Hamilton gives an excellent impersonation as Lieut. Manley; and as Captain Manley, Mr. Cyril Harrison is all that can be desired. Mr. Cecil Morand is mirth-provoking as Terry O'Brien; and both Mr. John Davidson as Major Ingleby and Mr. G. Birch as Ensign Blake are good. Mr. Villiers Stanley gives a capital sketch of Nebu Singh; Mr. Ernest Keand does well as Ra Goorga; Miss F. Melrose Millett deserves great praise as Ghuz-nah; and both Miss Agnes Kingston as Kate Ingleby and Miss Lillie Grey as Mrs. Major Ingleby are a success.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertram G. Iles.—George Gray and company are the great attraction here this week, and are presenting a new sketch, entitled *Prodigal Jack*. It is exceptionally well staged, and is done full justice to by a capable company. Mr. Gray is seen to great advantage in the principal part, and at the close is accorded quite an ovation. At the other end are Fred Sinclair and Gracie Whiteford, who keep the audience in a continual ripple of merriment with their exceedingly well played comedy sketch, *Getting Even;* the Trapnell Family of acrobats and tumblers give a clever show; the Kirbys are thoroughly amusing comedy artists and dancers; the Bros. Webb, the popular musical clowns, score a well-deserved success with a most enjoyable turn; J. H. Scotland gains a good reception for his singing of "In Happy Moments"; Bert Harrow is an entertaining comedian; and the Bioscope is a feature with the usual up-to-date films.

Pavilion Theatre.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Carlotta de Yonson and her clever sketch company are retained over another week, and is presenting with the greatest success the well-written American detective dramatee, *The Dandy Detective*. The Lombarts, speciality acrobats and hand-balancers, score with a good turn; Tom Yorke, chorus vocalist, meets with a well-deserved success; Beau and Belle are good in their novel and artistic singing scena; and others who are responsible for entertaining turns are the Flying Peritas, Continental gymnasts; Ray Royal, American songstress; and Tom Dawson, the blind comedian. Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is popular with "The Villain Still Pursued Her" and "The Grand National."

LEIGH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Rousby.—Variety is the order here this week, and is supplied by Mr. Pardoe's company. Miss Lottie Holland's singing is a feature of the evening; Messrs. Ford and Hanson supply a good musical turn; the Bros. Hannaway, comedians and clog-dancers, are capital; the Marvellous Pardoes, in their comedy act, *Uncle and the Cannibal*, are very amusing; Mr. Tom Griffith, baritone, sings creditably; Mr. Tom Hulme, comedian, is loudly applauded, and the Bioscope pictures are interesting.

LEITH.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—An interesting Shakespearean week has been provided by Mr. F. R. Benson's Northern touring company, the répertoire including *Hamlet, The Merchant of Venice, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, The Taming of the Shrew, As You Like It*, and *Richard III*. The combination is a strong one, and excellent performances have been given. Mr. Henry Herbert in the leading rôles has won universal commendation; Messrs. Spencer Geach, Ross Shore, Charles Francis, Reginald Owen, and Gerald Ames, with others, have also proved themselves actors of undoubted ability and promise. Miss Dorothy Green's impersonations of Ophelia and other principal parts are characterised by much grace and charm, as well as deep histrionic instinct; and success has also marked the efforts of Miss Mary Webb, Miss Louise Graeme, and Miss Rosa Burgess in their less exacting rôles.

LIVERPOOL.—Royal Court Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—Liverpool was afforded another intellectual treat on Monday, when Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton presented in a charming manner *The Taming of the Shrew*. The reception given to these favourite artists was exceedingly flattering. The Petruchio of Mr. Asche was regarded as an excellent reading of that part; Miss Brayton's fine accomplishments were seen in all their strength and subtlety as the Shrew; capital humour came from Mr. Henry Kitts as Grunio, and Mr. R. F. Anson in the rôle of Biondello; a charming Bianca was submitted by Miss Agnes Brayton; Mr. G. Kay Souper afforded good support as Tranio; and other well-held parts were Gremio (Mr. Caleb Porter), Hortensio (Mr. R. Ian Penny), and Lucentio (Mr. H. R. Hignett). The play was preceded by the amusing sketch, *The Induction*, in which Mr. Asche took the character of Christopher Sly. The other works of the week were *Othello* and *The Virgin Goddess*.

Rotunda Theatre.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—*Driven from Home*, presented by Mr. Andrew Melville's combination, has proved an attraction here this week. Miss Beatrice Western acted with effect in the parts of Laura Raybrook and Walter Hatherleigh, jun.; Mr. Felix Pitt made a good impression as Anthony Raybrook; Mr. Leonard Aardale was an efficient Willie; and other characters sustained with credit were Walter Hatherleigh, sen. (Mr. Herbert Young), John Anderson (Mr. F. C. Imbert), Jabez Thomas (Mr. Harry Cornwall), Margaret Bailey (Miss Enid Wilde), and Polly (Miss Madge Muriel).

Shakespeare Theatre, Ltd.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—*Dr. Wake's Patient* which first saw the light at this theatre, paid a return visit on Monday, and was thoroughly enjoyed. The company responsible was sent by Mr. Charles Macdona, and included Mr. Thalberg Corbett, whose Doctor was a distinct success; and Miss Fyfe Alexander, a most praiseworthy Lady Gerania. Mr. Allan Pollock acquitted himself well as Duff Wynterden; Mr. Ivan Cleveland was seen to advantage as the Earl; Miss Kate Osborne played the part of Mrs. Wake with every credit; and valuable help came from Mr. George Howard (Andrew Wake), and Miss Georgie Trewman (Countess St. Olbyn).

Lyric Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—An excellent programme has drawn crowded houses nightly this week. George Leyton heads the list with a stirring and patriotic scena, a feature of which is the appearance of the buglers from the stranded S.S. Jebba and Suevic. The Woodwards are clever equilibrists, and fully deserve the applause bestowed; Minnie Cunningham is a delightful comedienne, her songs being greatly enjoyed; Nash and Noel are very laughable, and their dancing is good; and others who are well received are Johnny Dwyer, Molly Doon, and Silbon's circus of dogs, cats, and ponies, an excellent exhibition of animal training. This week's pictures include the Grand National and the football match between Everton and West Bromwich.

Star Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—For the first time in Liverpool *A Soldier's Honour* has been presented here during the week by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company. The drama, which was put on in a creditable manner, has been received with approval. Mrs. Kimberley played powerfully as Cora Lee, and earned much applause; a fine picture of the honourable Captain Deane was submitted by Mr. John B. Shinton; praise is deserved by Mr. Edward Warden for his excellent Captain Temple; Mr. Clavering Craig distinguished himself as Henry Thornton; and capital comedy was provided by Miss Edie Macklin (Jemima Eliza), Mr. Frank Howard (Percy Brattle), and Miss Dora Taylor (Gwendoline).

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Heading a long list of artists here this week is Kronau's military spectacle *Our Boys in Blue*, which has been much admired; the antics of Regan and Ryan, a funny pair of comedians, have aroused continuous laughter; pleasing singing and well executed dancing come from the Silver Tone Quartet; W. T. Ellwanger and company presented a smart comedy sketch, entitled *The Peacemaker;* the Crystals distinguished themselves as vocalists and dancers; some taking songs were rendered by Rosie Lloyd; Walter Emerson had some humorous patter and songs; and also in the list were Katie Marsh, vocalist and dancer; Charles Somers, comedian; Rose Elliott, a sweet singer; and Myra Love, comedienne.

Royal Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—*The Unknown; or, a River Mystery*, has been played here this week by the Royal Stock Dramatic company. Mr. Percy Boucher held the comedian's part of Pat; Mr. Sydney Grant played with effect as Harold Merrybright; Mr. Harry Tresham afforded much satisfaction as Albert Stormking; and other principal rôles were impersonated by Mr. Robert Wilton (Arnold Tyson); Mr. Cecil Ravenswood (Jack Salt); Miss Florence Palmer (Bessie Merrybright); and Miss Beryl Ravenswood (Louise).

Paddington Palace.—Lessee, Mr. M. Montgomery.—An adaptation of *East Lynne*, by Mr. Percy Boucher, is being given here by the "Royal" Stock Dramatic company. The work has been given a careful interpretation, the principal rôles being held by Mr. Wallace Campbell (Archibald Carlyle); Mr. Frank S. Stickland (Francis Levison); Mr. Francis E. Wybert (Justice Hare); Mr. H G. Brandon (Mr. Dill); Miss Evelyn Kingston (Willie); Miss Gladys Walton (Barbara Hare); and Miss Lina Nazeby (Lady Isabel).

Park Palace.—Proprietors, Lancashire Vaudeville Syndicate, Ltd.—General Director, Mr. Walter de Frece.—The Stock Dramatic company here are this week producing *Queen of the Night*, by F. Thorpe-Tracy and Joan Berlin.

Westminster.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—Arthur Alston and company top the bill here this week with their very amusing sketch *Duck Hunting;* another pleasing turn is that provided by Emma Dan and her combination of black and white comedians, who submit a capital vocal scena and execute smart dancing; some remarkable work as a contortionist is done by Wilfred Gregory; Harry Nelson has a deal of good patter; and Harry Cotton shows himself to be a comedian of ability.

Olympia, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—Top of the programme here this week is John Lawson,

who with his company has been pleasing everybody with the sketch *The King's Minister;* the always popular Poluski Brothers (Will and Sam) are as lively as ever; Billy McClain and company, incuding Mdlle. Cordelia, go through a neat scena, *The Hottest Coon from Dixie;* Theo Hardeen performs some remarkable feats with handcuffs; loud applause is bestowed upon the Four Royal Welshmen for their charming glee singing; Lidden and Hayward have a clever musical act; the Mayville's are particularly smart lilliputian artists; the Four Karnos supply a merry pantomime, *The Dinner Hour;* James Brady, comedian, also appears, and the bioscope shows an excellent picture of the Grand National race.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Foremost here this week is Millie Lindon, whose reception for her well-rendered songs has been very flattering; John Leopold's company has caused endless laughter with *The House-Boat;* some astonishing cycling has been shown by the Proveanies; Leslie Brothers as musical comedians proved exceedingly popular; Sylvesta, assisted by Miss Vera De Courtnay, gave a fine exhibition of conjuring; the Rinaldo Trio of comedy acrobats were smart and funny; the Brothers Lang, merry knockabout comedians, raised a deal of laughter; and Jeannie Mackay, a pleasing vocalist, and Charles Vincent, comedian, also appeared.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors, Liverpool Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. James Marks.—This latest addition to the list of local places of amusement continues to enjoy hearty public support by reason of the good all-round programmes put forward. Top here this week is Arthur Roberts and company with *The Woman Who Was,* which has been richly enjoyed; Harry Grey, "the Australian Nugget," had a hearty reception for his humorous songs and patter; the Ettenas Trio presented an unique globe speciality; the singing of the Three Behans was much appreciated; Charles Sloman had some droll sayings; as a vocalist and dancer Ada Parker acquitted herself well; and others who appeared were A. E. Clifford, vocal comedian, and Sybil Armidale, comedienne.

HAYMARKET.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. Edwir W. Smith.—Harry Colden and company are here with the dramatic sketch *Watch and Wait; or, Kindred's Claim;* George Reeves has some popular songs; Frances Drew brings several pieces which meet with acceptance; and the comedy juggling of Frank Mark is much enjoyed.

ROSCOMMON.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot.—The big attraction this week has been Pathé Frères splendid bioscope pictures on the Passion Play, which have proved exceedingly attractive. In the variety portion are Craig, Roze, and Craig, gymnasts; Ray and Miles, with their comedy juggling act; and Nash and Noel, vocal specialists.

LLANDUDNO.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. A. E. Vaughan; General Manager, Mr. J. Ritson.—The chief attraction here for the week is the Parisian Animated Picture Co; all are thoroughly up-to-date, and a good two and half hours' enjoyment is afforded large audiences nightly; Miss Vi Eplett is exceptionally pleasing with her songs, "A Little Boy called Taps," and a Japanese song, "My Rickshaw Queen," in which she is assisted by four local comediennes in really good style; Mr. Ernest Ellerslie in his facial portraiture is above the ordinary.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—Mr. Harry Graham's pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood,* is being given here this week, with little Miss Mabel Howe, a charming and clever young lady, in the title-rôle. Miss Mabel Kessler is a fine Boy Blue, and sings, dances, and acts well; Mr. James Wood is capital as the Baron; whilst Mr. Harry Howe as the Dame is exceedingly funny. Messrs. Grant and Kelly as Johnny Green and Tommy Stout are very good; Miss May Wyatt and Miss Tessa De'Alberte as the Bad and Good Fairies respectively are deserving of much praise; as Prince Charming, Miss Dickie Fair is really charming; as is also Miss Grace Stafford as Mary Muffet and Miss Cissie Langdale as Margery Daw.

LOWESTOFT.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—Business here continues excellent, and the Hippodrome has become firmly established as the family resort of Lowestoft. The management have eliminated every display of rowdyism and tendency to interruption, and the best order prevails. A fine series of pictures has been submitted throughout the week, and The Florias; Jack Martin; and Martino, the Man Frog, have contributed to the programme.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Messrs. Glenville and Osmond are here this week with their company in *Home, Sweet Home.* The rôle of Stephen Armitage, the hero fisherman, is in the able hands of Mr. Arthur Hinton; while that of his father, David Armitage, is ably portrayed by Mr. F. Hudspath; Mr. Travers Green is successful as Lucas Lyle, secretary to the Duke of Ancaster, a part which is well played by Mr. A. Lowey. Miss Lelia Zilwood as Joan, David Armitage's adopted daughter, is good; as also is Miss Jennie Clare as Sybil Fay, a music hall "star"; little Dolly Turner takes her part of Dora, Stephen's child, very well; Mr. W. Graham Arthurs is good as Dick Redmayne, the fisherman. The scenery and effects are effective.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. H. Galtey.—Mr. Broadbent Bell and company, in the musical comedy, *Captain Blarney,* are being well supported here this week. Mr. S. S. Wilford, in the title-rôle, depicts the Irishman in a spirited style; Mr. B. Lovatt is good as Frank; and Mr. B. Bell makes a capital Rev. Horatio Kneebone. Mr. F. Druary is amusing as Sam Brown; Miss Ethel Lovett gives a charming portrayal of Emily Banks; Miss Norah Coronne is graceful as Mrs. Emily Banks; and Miss Vera Cooper performs the part of Mary Ann to perfection; whilst Miss Louie Lonora gives a capital impersonation of Bella.

MANCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Shirra—Mr. Geo. Edwarde's company appeared here on Monday in *The Lady Dandies.* The company is a strong one, and the piece has an air of its own, to which the character of the music contributes not a little. As Lodolska, Miss Anna Hickisch sings very well, and looks sufficiently charming; Mr. Eric Thorne as St. Amour has ample opportunities for the exhibition of his great talents as a comedian; and excellent work in the same line is added by Mr. Lennox Pawle as Tournesoi and Mr. Jack Cannot as Malicome; while Mr. Robert Hale figures well as Lagorille; and neat impersonations are given by Mr. Willie Ward, jun., Mr. George Curzon, and Mr. Harold Thorley. Mr. W. Talleur Andrews as Dorlic and Miss Deborah Volar as Illyrine sustain the heroic rôles most admirably, and great praise is due to both. Miss Vivian Talleur's dancing is also well worthy of note. Scenery and costumes are on a magnificent scale.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—One of the most successful dramas seen here for some time is presented by Miss Mary Austen and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds's company in *Woman and Wine.* Miss Cissie St. Elmo is excellently placed as Marcel Rigadout; and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds pleases everyone by his fine impersonation of Dick Seymour. Miss Violet Sims gives a delicate and sympathetic rendering of Mary Andrew; and distinctly good character sketches are added by Mr. Fred W. Goddard as Beaudet, Mr. John S. Haydon as Hugh Seymour, Mr. Frank Thomas as the Duc d'Arnac, and Miss Joan Pereira as La Colombe. Mumorous parts are equally well handled by Mr. H. Harrop, Mr. Geo. Child, Mr. G. P. Lester, and Miss Ethel Vinroy. The auxiliaries are numerous and the staging and dressing excellent.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The Frank Bateman Dramatic Company are here this week in the popular drama *No Wedding Bells For Her.* The play is exciting, and illustrates theatrical life on and off the stage. Miss Lizzie Montague sustains the principal part of Lola Delaspierre with capital effect; Mr. Stuart Lomath as Frank Hatherlegh is manly and convincing; Mr. Percy Shaw as Dick Delver makes a good detective; and Miss Dora Pass impersonates Doris Fane in clever style. Mr. Fred Vaughan as Tightfist (the manager), Mr. Will Skelton as Simkins (the nondescript), and Miss Bessy Franks as Peggy provide plenty of healthy fun, and all the minor parts are satisfactorily filled.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE—Lessee, Mr. Richard Flanagan; Manager, Mr. P. Ryan Smith.—Mr. Sidney Dench presents here this week Miss Dora Dench and a strong company in *Under the British Flag,* of which a vigorous and effective rendering is given. Miss Dora Dench and Mr. W. Hall are both excellent in the heroic parts of Dora Faith and Arthur Fane, and they are well supported by Mr. Arthur Belfour as William Brady, Mr. Jack Sidney as Don Jose, Mr. Roy Cavendish as Mr. Faith, Mr. John Dorey as Peter Piper, and Miss Florrie Griffiths as Nancy Bell.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Miss Emma Litchfield's principal company, under the direction of Mr. Stuart Cleveland, are here this week in their smart novelty drama, *A Clever Impostor.* Miss Emma Litchfield is very fine in a trio of distinctive character parts; and Mr. Stuart Cleveland is excellent as Teixeira, the imposter. Mr. Hubert Evelyn makes a manly and heroic Captain Desmond; Mr. Robert Lord is capital as Bob Darnforth; Miss Maud Steeple answers all requirements as Margaret Grosvenor; and Miss Isabel Singleton is good as Maisie. Among the remainder of an extremely well-balanced and capable company, Mr. Edward Swinton and Miss Nora Waylett are commendable for their brisk and effective humour.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—Lil Hawthorne, the popular comedienne, tops the bill here this week in a series of enjoyable songs. Prominent also is J. G. Grahame's company in *The Yellow Fang,* a grim and realistic episode in a 'Frisco opium den, finely staged and admirably acted. Capital turns are added by Fred Poplar, comedian; Gracie Moore, illustrated song vocalist; Burns and Burns, in a comic speciality; Marie Santoi and company in a Japanese scena; Lieut. Travis, in his well-known ventriloquial act; the Wurtenberg Brothers, novelty double-boot experts; and Kitty Wager, a pleasing comedienne. The Bioscope depicts the Grand Natonal.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—The smart manœuvres of "the Boy Army" form an interesting part of the programme here this week. Alexandra Dagmar, charmingly gowned, delights with song and story; Florence and Lillian are extremely pleasing in their refined vocal and instrumental act; and the animal novelty introduced by Tschernoff is something above the ordinary. H. C. Barry, that sterling musical comedy comedian, contributes a song in his characteristic style; Edward E. Ford's facial imitations are received with deserved applause; the King's College Boys make a hit in harmony and song; and Edward O'Neill and company are particularly good in *My Friend the Devil.* Vocal items by the choir and the Grand National on the Bioscope complete.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. Peter Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—The great attraction here this week is that popular eccentric comedian, Wilkie Bard, whose reception is extremely flattering. Luis Hardt, the boy Sampson, is well received in his artistic scena, "Flights of Imagination," showing how he emulated Sandow; and the Brown and Kelly combination make a hit in a screaming absurdity, *The Butler Knows.* Athas and Collins, a first-rate comedy duo, are exceedingly good; Jack Crawley is a capital vocal and instrumental mimic; Max Duffek, the Continental musical contortionist, is clever; Nellie Stratton sings pleasingly; and smart turns are also contributed by Blanche Holt, comedienne and dancer; and the Mozondas. The latest events are portrayed by the Palace pictures.

GRAND.—Jasper Redfern's pictures, with vaudeville interludes, are still the attraction here.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son.—Mr. Charles Majilton and company, including Mr. Jim Bond and Miss Maddie Majilton, are seen to advantage here this week in a screaming farce, *She Would be a Widow.* The Napoli Sextette, including the tenor, Mr. John Lloyd, are very successful in their vocal scena, *An Evening at Home;* as are also the Ottawas in their delightful vocal and instrumental scena, *After the Hunt.* Excellent turns are also those of Eustace and Eyre, in novel ventriloquial act; Leon and Williams, clever and amusing comedians; Godfrey James, a sweet-voiced singer; Bert Danson, a capital comedian; and Little Tim, a quaint comedian and an eccentric dancer. A film depicting "The Polar Regions" is shown by the Bioscope.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son.—Prominent in a good programme here this week is a smart and attractive musical sketch, entitled *A Japanese Love Story,* by Fred Cooper and Alf. Lezor. The play is bright and tuneful, the singing good, and the costumes pretty. The artists include Messrs. Stephen Hasland, W. S. Power, Fred Cooper, and Miss Tina Franks. The Days give a clever exhibition in second-sight; the Elsio Comedy Trio cause much laughter in their knockabout absurdity; the Three Coopers sing in a manner which calls forth the heartiest approbation; the Czar's Royal Russian Troupe dance exceedingly well; and the Bendons are successful in a song-scena. Mac and Hill (patter comedians), Jack Hylton (comedian), and Geo. Rapley (comedian) contribute pleasing items; and "The Dog Smugglers" are shown on the Bioscope.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Foremost comes Rachel Lowe, whose charming novelty songs are received with the utmost cordiality. Mlle. Sylvia du Barry also deserves the warm reception accorded her; and the Howes, in their highly successful mental telepathy act, complete a long engagement. Bennett and Martell, in their nautical scena *The Lost Mariners,* are good; and, in addition, satisfactory turns are given by Woolmer Young, vocal comedian; Flo Cecil, comedienne and dancer; the Sisters Temple, duettists; Gracie Bard, speciality artist; and Grant and Allen, burlesque comedians. Raymond's Vivagraph pictures are good, as usual.

HIPPODROME (HULME).—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son.—Fanny Robina, the popular comedienne, and Florry Cooper, a pleasant vocalist, after a successful week at the Metropole Theatre, are delighting the patrons of this hall. W. L. Murray, Britain's ideal of physical culture, is a very fine specimen of humanity, and gives a good turn; La Petite Voltaire is very good in Dutch song and dance; Tony Iveson, at the piano, is excellent; Phem and Phem are well received in their musical act; and Henry Carlton and company are good in *The Window Cleaner.* Other enjoyable items are those of Billy Bint, vocal comedian; the Jollions, harmonising vocalists; and Fred Casburn, comedian. The pictures are interesting.

MANSFIELD. — HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Herbert Darnley; Resident-Director, Mr. Tom Jennings; Acting-Manager, Mr. Mark Lorne.—During this week Mr. Edward McLean's company has been presenting *The Hero of the Flag* to good houses. Miss Gladys Vernon as Mabel Forrester, "the hero of the flag," plays very capably, and is applauded; Mr. Ernest Wingfield is well placed in the rôle of Paul Mansfield; Mr. Johnny McElroy as Johnny Truckle causes great merriment, as also does Miss Amy Randolph as Jenny Stubbs. Miss Lilian Beaumont gives a very powerful interpretation of the rôle of Ruth Clifford; Mr. Edward McLean is a merry, light-hearted Jack Lawrence; and Mr. Vernon Sansbury has a commanding presence as Captain Hilliard. All the other characters are capably sustained. The scenery is very effective, and the staging praiseworthy.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton, and District Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Cecil Clayton.—Variety holds the sway here this week, when Ginnett's *Dick Turpin* tops the bill. This sketch is received most enthusiastically, and is quite a success. The Royal Welsh Singers also provide an interesting turn, and are applauded. Ginnett's sketch, *Rejected Remounts,* creates unlimited merriment; and Mrs. Cecil Clayton is greatly appreciated for her singing; Steve Cooke, eccentric comedian, is applauded; Bert and Fay give an amusing skit, *The Curate and the Slavey,* in good style. The turn of the Sisters Clancy, vocalists and acrobatic dancers, is successful. Other turns are contributed by Alex Thomas and Jock Wright.

MARGATE. — HIPPODROME. — Sole Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—Mr. Arnold Bell's company have extended their engagement into a second week, and have changed the programme by playing the sensational drama, *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab.* The piece has been well played, the members of the company doing excellently in their individual parts. Mr. D. Hardy gave a capital impersonation as Brian Fitzgerald; Mr. Roy Jackson scored as Roger Moreland; and Mr. Dane Clark was well to the fore as Mark Frettleby. Miss Minnie Langtry was much appreciated as Mrs. Sampson; and Miss May Hardy was successful as Dora Featherweight. Miss Mabel Studholm portrayed the unthankful part of Mother Guttersnipe in a lifelike manner; and Miss Lillian Earle was praiseworthy as Sal Rawlins. Other members of the company in the cast who have each acquitted themselves well have been Miss Kitty Douglas as Madge Frettleby, Miss Poppy Hammersley as Rosanna Moore, Mr. W. G. Gregory as Oliver White, Mr. Bert Morley as Counsel for the Defence, Mr. C. D. Pearson as Malcolm Royston, Mr. F. Wilmot as Counsel for the Prosecution, and Mr. J. Exley as the Judge.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—A large and appreciative audience was present on Monday to witness the production of *The Sign of the Cross,* by Mr. William Greet's No. 1 company. The part of Marcus Superbus was filled in an able manner by Mr. Frank E. Petley; Miss Marie Leonhard was pathetic as Mercia; the rôle of Nero had an able exponent in Mr. C. Yorke; and as Stephanus, Miss Dulcie Greatwich was admirable. The parts of Glabrio and Philodemus were capitally filled by Messrs. Frank Wood and Harry Jones; Licinius and Tigellinus were well sustained by Messrs. J. Wetherall and Charles Aldred; and as Poppœa, Miss Mary Newcombe was all that could be desired. Mr. Tom Cook was good as Viturius; and as Berenice, Dacia, and Ancaria, the Misses Gertrude Price, Cissie Carlton, and Lily Ward were excellent. Mr. Walter Fleet as Favius, Mr. Clifton Yale as Titus, and Mr. R. Chapman as Meles were each admirable in their respective parts.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Miss Ella and her group of lions top the bill here, and prove a great attraction; Whyley is very funny in his musical act; Le Warren is a clever ventriloquist; Titan's feats of strength are much admired; Miss Telka is a pleasing balladist; the Darias amuse with their comedy scenas; the Biograph is also a prominent feature in a most acceptable programme.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE. Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Chas. H. Phelps and Harry Tilbury's company is here with *The Blind Foundling.* Mr. Chas. H. Phelps gives a vigorous interpretation of Gerald Dalton; Mr. Frank Harvey is a natural Parson Ray; Mr. Bernard Webb a clever Jasper Waterford; Mr. Albert G. Fry makes the most of the character of Mark Redman; and Mr. Harry Tilbury is an amusing Dick Dobbins. Miss Belle Tilbury cleverly portrays Isabel; Miss Aline T. George is a charming Viola Waterford; and Miss Mabel Hall pleasing in the title-rôle.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. C. Imeson.—Mr. Morton Powell's company is here, in the drama, *Honour Thy Father.* As Gabriel Garth Mr. Walter M. Cameron stands out prominently. To Miss Mabel Coleman is entrusted the difficult rôle of Lillian Garth, of which she gives a most impressive rendition; as Sir Duncan Bly Mr. Howell Travis acts with much feeling, and Mr. Claude Merton, in the dual rôle of Job Merry and George Bloggs, is capital; Miss Kate Newton is a pleasing Gertrude Garth; and Miss Muriel Dean does full justice to the rôle of Mercy Merry.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles Rembges.—Kelly and Ashby, in a comedy acrobatic act, maintain their popularity here; and La Pia, who is here for another week, delights in her classical poses. Barton and Franklin take the house by storm in their clever vocal and instrumental turn; Lily Langtry provides a charming act; Will Musgrave, who is here again, has lost none of his popularity; and other most enjoyable turns are given by Pathy Lanbury, vocalist; James Willard and company, in a sketch, *The Little Wonder;* Stedder and Dunbar, vocalists; and Victor Courtney, comedian.

OXFORD.—Proprietor, Mr. A. Graham; Manager, Mr. R. L. Griffiths.—Miss Addie Dorina, the protean artist, heads the bill here, and delights large audiences in her sketch, *Dr. Spot's Patients.* Miss Madoline Rees, who has a legion of admirers, as the result of her success in the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, provides a delightful turn; Eva Chadwick also meets with great success; and the other turns contributing to the programme are Harry Luck, comedian; the Pender Troupe, sketch artists; Welda and Wynne, speciality artists; Elton Peters, comedian; and the Continental Stilt-walkers.

NELSON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Mudd.—A play of strong human interest, Charles E. Clarke's *A Broken Heart,* is being performed here this week by Mr. Harry Foxwell's company. As John Barnard, the blacksmith, Mr. Henry Wolston scores a big success; whilst Mary Barnard, the erring wife, is touchingly delineated by Miss Vera Fordyce. Mr. Henry Earlesmere as Stephen Raylton makes a powerful villain; and his accomplice, Gash Gills, is cleverly acted by Mr. Charles Vivian. Mr. Will Lindsay in the amusing character of Tony Tibbets brings the house down by a really smart performance of the part; Mrs. Harry Foxwell makes a charming Miss Fanshawe, and is equally at home in the part of Mrs. Kellett; whilst Miss Florrie Sorsby very prettily presents Little Eva. The scenery and dresses are specially pleasing.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Business Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—The pretty musical play *Blue-Bell in Fairyland* makes a first appearance in Newcastle this week, being played by a well-balanced company sent out by Mr. Edward Graham-Falcon. Miss Mamie Finbow does well in the title-rôle, her vocal efforts being a feature of the performance; while Messrs. Harry Douglas, Lawrence Emery, Frank Lennard, J. H. Bishop and Charles Resti make most of the chances afforded them in the comedy element. All the minor parts are well filled, the chorus is a powerful one, and the San Remo Girls figure in some pretty dances.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company appear here this week in the popular and powerful five-act play *Leah Kleschna.* Miss Bessie Rignold, in the title-part, acts with much distinction; and Mr. Paul Belmore gives a clever impersonation of the well-drawn character of Kleschna. A sound actor, possessed of wonderful elocutionary power, in Mr. William F. Grant, takes the part of Sylvaine; and an excellent and convincing study of Raoul Berton is contributed by Mr. Hamilton Deane. Others in the cast are Messrs. Campbell Goldsmid, Roland Daniel, Bert Gunter, Bernard Rain, Aries Conway, Frederick Bannerman, Henry Buxton, Miss Ethel Russell, Miss Helene Belgrave, Miss Violet Thorold, Miss May Hamond, and Miss Edith Summers.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Mr. Arthur Carlton's company produce *The Span of Life* here this week to good houses. Mr. R. S. Trelawney gives a manly interpretation of the hero, Richard Blunt; Miss Guinevere Sineton is forcible in the part of Kate Heathcott; and Miss Phyllis Hamilton makes a successful Mrs. Jelf; whilst Miss Phyllis Graham does excellently in the double characters of Cecil Jelf and Cecil Blunt. The brothers Stebbing, who make a breezy trio of Jack Tars, considerably enliven the piece by their smart sayings; Mr. Sanderson Moffatt is an excellent villain, Dunstan Leach; and the comedy element is admirably sustained by Messrs. Walter Dale and J. Jarrett as Nutty Brown and Joshua Garnet respectively.

EMPIRE.—Moss Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Major Gallagher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Page.—Tom Owen, the Welsh comedian, is the star here, and convulses the house with his funny patter; Maggie Walsh, the Lancashire singing girl, meets with success; something new in jumping is presented by the Hartley Wonders; Tom Wood sings some excellent songs, illustrated by views; the Hadj Abdullah Troupe give a fine gymnastic turn; the Musical Jees (old favourites) come in for warm recognition; Chas. Norton is successful in mimicry; Ouida Macdermott, comedienne, does well; and the Bioscope shows pictures that are interesting.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Seddon.—This week, Friday excepted, Mr. Charles Carey, in conjunction with Mr. Harold Wantage, has presented the musical comedy *The Pick of the Bunch.* Miss Sadie distinguishes herself as Nancy; Miss Madge Christopher is a pleasing Nellie, and Miss Eva Ellis is good as Ruth; whilst Miss Nellie James works hard as the Dutch girl. Mr. H. Buckstone Clair is very droll as Colonel Joseph Menit; and Mr. Charles Carey as Halliwell Menit, Algernon W. Lee as Martin, and Mr. Harold Wantage as Dick Seymour all do well.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred. H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans.—Barrington's freak performances at the piano are deservedly applauded for their cleverness; the Sisters Denton please as duettists and dancers; F. S. Hulme is successful as a vocal comedian; Jack Rae is a smart and comic gymnast and hat manipulator; Mr. C. Vincent brings out a very laughable series of incidents on the bioscope; Vesta Fay appears as a male impersonator with effect; Mark Lane is another successful comedian; Bertha Winder, dancing marvel, provides a good turn; and Chas. Fisher's Pocket Opera Company finish the programme with excerpts from *Maritana* with appropriate scenery and dresses.

NORTH SHIELDS.—CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. William Mould.—Topping the bill here we have N. T. Kioto, equilibrist and juggler, who performs some very clever feats; Messrs. Clarke and Glenney, with *The Haunted House,* keep the audience in a happy mood; and Messrs. Drum and Major, comedy artists, are as popular as ever. Mr. Percy Maye is an entertaining impersonator; the Haverleys, song illustrators, introduce an enjoyable act; Moneta and Ford, comedy artists, are funny; and the Bio-Photoscope is still received with favour.

NORWICH.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. F. W. Fitt.—A popular programme is presented this week, among the foremost being Jordan and Harvey, Hebrew comedians, who create much laughter. Walter Purvis and company are appreciated in their sketch, *Cauliflower Joe;* the Waldrons, in their comedy act, *The Silly Burglar,* are amusing; Mlle. Haydee and her miniature vaudeville theatre is a pleasing turn; the Four Jumels give a clever musical act; E. J. Sheldon, "the man in white," is very good; Little Mamie Iris is a pleasing singer and dancer; Alfred Chester is a versatile comedian; and the Hippodrome Biograph give some interesting pictures.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company is appearing here in *East Lynne.* Mr. Alfred Beaumont combines fervour with judgment in his portrayal of Archibald Carlyle; as Lord Mountsevern Mr. Spencer Goodwin acts with restrained vigour; and Mr. C. C. Gratton endows the part of Justice Hare with the necessary sternness. Mr. Frederick Harker displays cool assurance as Francis Levison; and Mr. Harry C. Rutland neatly presents Richard Hare. Miss Julie Kennard gives the fullest expression to the emotions of the unhappy Lady Isabel; Miss Ethel Saville plays with nice discrimination as Barbara Hare; and Miss Ethel Hardacre does well in the character of Cornelia. Mr. Alfred Tate as the majestic Bullock gains hearty appreciation; and Mr. Cyril Hayward displays comedy ability as Dill. Miss Emily Frith makes a spirited Suzanne; and Miss Jessie Sydney an acceptable Joyce.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Chas. P. Cooke.—An excellent American drama, *Alaska,* makes its first appearance here, being presented by Mr. Hilliard Vox's company. Mr. Percy Ballard, in the character of Skookum Jim, makes every point in telling style, and his manliness soon puts his audience in sympathy with him; Mr. H. Naylor Grimson succeeds in investing the part of Larson with the necessary villainy; and Mr. James Fox makes an excellent Father Bernard. Mr. Stenson Liddard possesses the conventional stoicism required as Baptiste; and Mr. J. Howarth is a dashing naval officer. Miss Muriel Vox, a charming Jessie Dalton, acts in a spirited manner; Little Polly Percival is altogether at home in the child-part; Mr. Arthur Ferris and Miss Maud Wilson as nigger coons have excellent opportunities, which they do not fail to utilise; and Miss Violet Crauford gives a clever representation of Alaska, a Red Indian maid.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles H. Bowmaker.—The principal attraction this week is Mrs. John Lawson and company, with *The Devil's Sunday,* an intensely dramatic sketch, in which Mrs. Lawson does excellent work as Fay Faber. Another sketch, entitled *Hello!* by Frank Bernard and company, is provocative of much mirth; and the efforts of Miss Nellie Coleman, a comical little lady, cause no end of amusement. The Cambrian Trio of lady vocalists sing excellent ballads; and the rendering of "Sing me to sleep," by Mr. Andrew Roy, with accompanying lantern illustrations, makes an excellent turn. Dome causes laughter by his comical efforts in clay modelling; Tennyson and Wallis keep the audience convulsed; and the dashing style and lilting choruses of Miss Lily Burnand compel hearty and spontaneous outbursts of applause. Fanny Erris has a pleasing style; and some excellent films are shown on the Bioscope.

NUNEATON. — PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENTS CO., LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Prof. Chas. Morritt and his variety company occupy the boards here this week, and provide a good entertainment. In addition to Prof. Morritt's wonderful performance, some clever turns are given by Flemini, one-legged acrobat; Beulah, lady thought-reader; La Sylph and Brenda Leslie, dancers; Sylvester Stuart, boy vocalist; Charles Bradford, comedian; and Millie le Grand, comedienne.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—This week drama gives way to variety, and the principal attraction by the American Pictures is the Nelson *v.* Gans fight. Another attraction is provided by Haley's Prize Juveniles, including Dot and Spot, and they had a hearty reception. The Levans, in illustrated songs, also gained much applause for the capital manner in which they sang; George Russell, vocal comedian, was good; as were Farrell and Miller, comedians and dancers. The Theatrescope exhibited some capital pictures.

COLOSSEUM.—Manager, Mr. W. Eastwood.—Messrs E. A'Dell and Chabot's domestic drama *His Sister's Honour* opened here on Monday evening before a good audience. Mr. Evelyn A'Dell gave a manly delineation of the part of Frank Stanley; Mr. Gilson Brooke was excellent as Doctor Godfrey; Mr. Harry C. Robinson was very good as the villainous Sir Richard Redvers; Timothy Timid (with songs), as played by Mr. Sydney Dean, caused much laughter, and he was ably assisted by Miss Bessie Dean as Maria; Miss Kathryne Eckhart played Dora in a capital manner; and Miss Ethel Ashleigh, as Ivy Merton, was also very good; Miss Winnie Kennedy was smart as Gretchen (with song and dance); Messrs. Slater and Carston were good as Sergeant Lamon and Private Lopez respectively; and Mr. Harry Mitchelson was good as P.C. Worthie; as was Mr. John Leyland as Bill Buggins. Mr. A. Smith made a capital Johnny Bennett.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. H. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Howgate.—Trentanovi's mules, baboons, and dogs are a feature of the bill, and a very smart show is given by these well-trained animals; Alburtus the First and Jessie Millar, in *A Scene at the Fair Grounds,* create much amusement—Miss Millar is a capital cornetist. Ada Fawn had a hearty reception for her capital singing; the Huxter Brothers, acrobats, were a great success; Edwards and Espinosa are good musicians and dancers; Miss Mabelle May is dainty in her songs; Ian Colquhoun is a splendid baritone vocalist; Dan Conroy is a quaint comedian and dancer; and an amusing picture by the Dottoscope concludes the programme.

HIPPODROME. — Manager, Mr. H. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—Ross and Lewis cause much laughter by their comedy, and display some excellent dancing; Zelda is an expert performer on novel instruments; Charles Santon is a fine male soprano, and gained much applause; Cribb and Cribb also caught on in an original scena; the Smarte Brothers are novel acrobatic eccentrics; and Joe Oliver is a good vocalist. Wal Owen, the comedy man, and new pictures by the Dottoscope conclude the entertainment.

OXFORD.—EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessees, Winifred Stuart and C. Watson Mill; manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is this week presenting *The Soldier's Wedding* here. As Jack Brown Mr. Wingold Lawrence is robust and manly, and gives a very pleasing rendering of the character; while Mr. Beresford Whitcomb is well suited as Col. James Graham; Mr. Frederick Biron is an able exponent of David Munro, and Mr. Fred Yarnold is very natural as Nathaniel Lee; Mr. Raymond Wood sustains Charles Courtenay in a creditable manner; Mr. D. J. Hennessey is effective as John Marks; Little Albert wins golden opinions as Teddy Munro; and Mr. A. Gambier Melford as Tommy Spratt proves a great favourite. Miss Marie McAuley makes a stately and convincing Julie de Beauvrais; Miss Maggie Burton is a success as Mrs. Hatherton; and Miss Ettie Carlisle is full of life as Lizzie Walker. Miss Georgie De Lara gives a sympathetic portrayal of Peggy Munro, and Miss Jessie Winter deserves high praise for her careful and charming rendering of Nancy Lee. The play is well dressed and mounted.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Mr. Edward Compton and his renowned comedy company, which is ably piloted by Mr. H. B. Fitzgibbon, are making their reappearance here, and are, as in former visits, meeting with a most cordial reception. On Monday they opened with the new play, written by the clever comedian's son, Mr. Montague Compton, viz., *The Gentleman in Grey.* Mr. Compton appeared as Charles Lovely, and his fine delineation of the character was an artistic triumph. Mr. Dennis Cleugh gave an excellent rendering of the part of Francis Vernon; of sterling merit was the interpretation of Sir George Repington by Mr. Henry Crocker; Mr. Vernon O. Crabtree played with manly force and vigour the rôle of Anthony Clare; Mr. Wallace Johnston submitted an interesting study of Tabrum; as Justice Gregory Moon, Mr. Montague Lane rendered admirable support; as did also Mr. Charles Rogers as Major Constantine Tarry; capital comedy came from Mr. Philip Gordon as Thomas; and praiseworthy were the assumptions of John by Mr. H. C. Brett, and the Dicky by Mr. Arthur Elsmore. Mr. Compton's daughter, Miss Mackenzie, was unable to appear through indisposition; but Miss Phyllis Relph, with conspicuous ability, charm, and grace acted the part of Phyllida. Miss Marie Hassell figured with great effect in her embodiment of Mrs. Courteen; Miss Barbara Pigot made Betty an interesting and amusing study; Mrs. Tabrum was ably represented by Miss Le Strange;

BUCHANAN'S
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and Miss Nellie Walters as Polly was excellent. At the conclusion of the play, Mr. Compton was enthusiastically recalled, and had to submit to demands for a speech. The other plays billed for the week were *David Garrick*, *Edmund Kean*, and *The School for Scandal*, the latter to be performed at a matinée to-day (Saturday), when the proceeds will be devoted to the fund for the preservation of the Auld Brig o' Ayr, immortalised by the poet Burns.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur D. F. Bostock.—The position of honour this week is allotted the Ten Loonies, who provoke endless laughter with their musical absurdity, entitled *Dotty*. Lord, Murray, and Lord entertain with an amusing gymnastic mélange; Austen and Cowan, vocalists, give every satisfaction; Marie Terry and J. S. Bentley are clever and amusing as comedy artists; a capital turn is that provided by Walter Wade, raconteur and mimic; Effie Stuart, Scotch comedienne, gains applause; Kendrick and Laura score as society entertainers; and the Bioscope adds to the attractiveness of the bill.

PERTH.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. F. B. Woulfe is here this week with a powerful company, including Miss Ethel Griffies, and is delighting fair city audiences with pleasing productions of *Lady Godiva*, *Robin Hood*, *Jane Shore*, &c. In *Lady Godiva* Mr. Woulfe assumes the rôle of Tom of Coventry, in which he leaves nothing to be desired, ably sustaining the high place on the stage he has so creditably earned. Miss Ethel Griffies is entrusted with the title-rôle, to which she does full justice, and assists in no small degree in the success of the play. Miss Barnet's is a pleasing and able portrayal of Lady Aldyth; Miss Edith Lorraine's successful impersonation of Elfrida is received with hearty approbation; Mr. Cecil Renton gives a masterly idea of what is required of Edgar the Nameless, his talent being vividly pronounced; Mr. Bob Anderson is an amusing Robin Shackleton; Mr. E. Holland Day is seen to considerable advantage as Leofric, Earl of Mercia; as also is Mr. Clifford Rean as Elgar, the supposed Earl of Northumbria; Mr. G. Edward Dunstan ably sustains the important rôle of Unwolf Unwolfson. Other minor parts are suitably filled.

PLYMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. C. F. Williams; Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—Mr. Morice Prendergast's company, in *A Woman of Pleasure*, is the attraction this week. Mr. Ernest F. Wallace makes a fine, manly Lord Carlingforth; Mr. Fred Kay takes the double part of Jim Deach and Commandant Deach, an officer in the Boer army, with considerable ability, his articulation being very distinct; Mr. Arthur Gilroy, as Major Barrows, performs the part of the villain exceedingly well; Miss Grace Carew proves herself a clever and graceful actress as Alice Deach and subsequently the Countess of Carlingforth; and Mr. A. E. Maskell is a characteristic Devonshire yeoman. Other parts are entrusted to Mr. H. Lewis, Mr. J. W. Brandt, and Mr. Fred Laws.

Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Mr. Geo. French has a warm reception for his smart and catchy patter songs; the Montaldos present some well-trained performing parrots and pigeons; Tom Foy and company have a genuinely funny sketch in *The Yorkshire Lad in London*; Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor perform some good dancing; Claire Greta is an attractive comedienne and Spanish dancer; Kent and Keith have an acceptable duologue act; and Bob Stephenson furnishes a breezy song and dance. Mr. Fred Villars and Vernon's Pictures complete the programme.

PORTH.—The Palace (late Opera House).—General-Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting and Stage Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Topping the bill here this week we have Captain Max Gruber and his marvellous performing animals, elephant, horse, and pony. Poole and Poole, comedy couple, in songs, patter, and pedestal dancing, are undoubtedly smart; Miss Annie Nelson, the Australian vocalist, posseses an admirable voice, and is well received; Renson and Waite, comedy duo, are responsible for much genuine amusement; Mr. Harry Bickley, a quaint comedian, scores a success; Mr. Harry Bancroft, actor-vocalist, deserves special mention for his singing, which is much appreciated; Miss Emmie Ames, comedienne, makes a big hit; Mlle. Lucretia, burlesque artist and speciality dancer, is accorded a warm reception. The Palace pictures are good, and Will Wye, comedian, is also a capital turn.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Farcical comedy of the most mirth-provoking kind is being presented here this week by Mr. J. B. Mulholland's production of *The Electric Man*. Mr. Bernard Copping, who undertakes the dual parts of Walter Everest and his double the name-rôle, depicted the highly-strung inventor most ably, and his quick changes from one to the other were effected most cleverly. The young physician, Jack Strang, was briskly and capably performed by Mr. Sydney Lynn; Mr. Legai Robinson did very well as the private enquiry agent Jobbins; Mrs. Everest was carefully and effectively played by Miss Dorothy Hullah; Mrs. Anderson, in the hands of Miss Amy Fanchette, was a most diverting landlady; Stella and Mary were gracefully sustained by Miss Gertrude Tate and Miss Isa Bellington. The play is preceded each evening by a pretty little curtain-raiser, *Obliging a Friend*.

Prince's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod and company are presenting here this week the melodrama *The Prodigal Parson*. Mr. Garrod gives a characteristic and meritorious performance as the Rev. Tom Godley; Mr. Alfred Northway is most effective in his portrayal of the rascally Enoch Jaggins, and is ably backed by his brother Ben Jaggins, taken by Mr. William Hayward; Mr. T. Edward Evans, who stage manages, is very good as George Markby, a detective; Mr. Owen Remonde, as Phil Drive, is excellent, and in conjunction with Miss Lydia Hart as Gretchen von Craus, is repsonsible for the amusing side of the drama; Miss Gwen Stewart, as Fern Godley, does able and successful work; Miss Dot Russell, as Fraulein Korale, a dancer, shows marked ability; the blind child, Myrtle Godley, is portrayed by winsome and pathetic manner by Miss Violet Jeffreys.

Empire Palace.—Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—The programme here this week consists of Miss Carrie Laurie's Juveniles, who create plenty of amusement, and are amply rewarded by applause in their kindergarten act; Farley, Rennie, and Farley, in scena, *Fun at a Railway Station*, are most diverting; the Three Hesses are distinctly good in their equilibristic acrobatic act; Daisy Dormer scores well as a smart comedienne; Conway and Garland in burlesque absurdity, *Left in Charge*, are a humorous pair, and give a capital turn; Billy Williams, "the man in a velvet suit from Australia," as a laughter-making comedian would be hard to beat, received a splendid greeting for his clever singing and patter. Also appearing with advantage are Will Cornish, in musical bell act; Starr and Jerome, speciality vocalists and dancers; Ida Ross, a taking soubrette; and Payne's Pictures are quite up to date.

REDHILL.—Market Hall.—Proprietors, Market Hall Co.; Secretary, Mr. A. Simmons. — Messrs. Harry and Fred Poole's myriorama is this week's attraction, presenting a strictly up-to-date programme. The pictures of the myriorama are marvels of scenic art, the set pieces being exceedingly pretty; the bioscopic views are of the latest, and elicit much applause. High-class varieties are furnished by George French's Troupe of acrobatic cyclists in a novel and daring act; Mr. Bert Gates, a clever ventriloquist; Mr. Harry Dowsett, a versatile and decidedly eccentric comedian; Learto, assisted by his clever dog Babs, in quite an original musical act; the Snow Family of expert skaters, in a charming ice palace scene; Miss Florence Hamilton, whose vocal selections delight everyone; and Houston, the Chinese magician, who thoroughly mystifies the audience. Mr. Charles Poole is the general-manager.

ROCHDALE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—A vaudeville company is in possession of the boards here this week. Mme. Ada Colley, the Australian nightingale, heads the bill; Mr. Leo Dryden is heard in character songs; and other artists contributing to the programme include Trippello, saxophonist; the Dunlops, cycle eccentrics; Mollie Nolan, comedienne and dancer; Los Rupertos, comic equilibrists; Harry Plowden, comedian; Lilian Savado, trapeze artist; Lytton and Bland, comedy sketch artists and dancers; Frank Dandy, comedian; Ford Jennings, in the sketch, *Charlie's Indian*, and Turner's animated pictures.

Circus and Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Smith and Co.—Stanley and Vandyke top the bill here this week with a clever sketch, entitled *A Broken Promise;* the Three Moxons, smart acrobatic comedians, create roars of laughter; Jack Truman, tenor vocalist; Wallie Croker, mimic and siffleur; Burnetti, musician; Jack Lane, the Yorkshire rustic; Nellie Costello, vocalist; and Mons. Twisto, contortionist, complete a capital bill of fare.

Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—The Five Juggling Geraldos are retained after their most successful engagement last week; the Five Whiteleys make a favourable impression as acrobats; Sarah Berry, contralto, again appears, her selections being given with refinement and taste; Harry Levaine, comedian, finds favour with his amusing patter; and other attractions include Three Sisters Kilner, acrobatic dancers; Harry Ray and Lillie Calden, in *Peculiarities;* Mamie Cannon, trick pianist; Jimmy Shields, one-leg dancer; and the Empire Bioscope.

ROTHERHAM.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mrs. F. Wybert-Clive's company is occupying the boards here this week with *The Conscript*. Mr. H. Creagh Hunt is successful as Karl Truevitch, and Mr. Douglas Watson is seen to advantage as Ivan Manloff; Mr. Walter Steele scores as Count Paul Hardiski; and Mr. F. Strongbow is humorous as Tretch Trotoff, his songs being well received. Mr. Wybert Clive is smart as Maxim Fredka, and Mr. Murray Maude is deserving of mention as Lieut. Hardy; Miss Cissie Reenan is pleasing as Little Karl, her songs being highly successful; and Miss Olga Datre scores as Catherine; Miss Nellie Douglas is seen to advantage as Wanda, her song and dance receiving well-deserved applause; and Miss Florence M. Daly gives a clever portrayal of the part of Nadia Truevitch.

RUGBY. — Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geoffrey Fulton.—Miss Lena Stanton and Mr. Harry Josephs are this week presenting their pantomime, *Sinbad the Sailor*. Miss Stanton as Sinbad is successful in every way, and received an enthusiastic reception; Miss Marie Santley as Princess Yazora gives much pleasure by her graceful acting and tuneful singing; Miss Ethel Errol is good as Captain Selim; and as Liza Miss Norah Neville scores a success. Mr. Bruce Green as Mrs. Sinbad keeps the audience in a continual roar of laughter all the time he occupies the stage, and is ably seconded in his efforts to amuse by Little Keeno, whose representations of eminent variety artists are excellent. Mr. Harry Josephs is very good as King Krusty, and Mr. Fred Derby as Captain Cuttle is exceedingly droll. The Athenæum Girls give an acceptable turn as vocalists and dancers; Whyman, trick skater, is marvellously clever; P. J. Durney, globe walker, is good; the Dereneys, in their wire-walking and tumbling act, do well; and Farrell and Gorman, musical eccentrics, are much appreciated.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Messrs. Beandyn and Livesey are this week presenting *A Traitor Prince*, and the No. 1 Company are well received by good houses. Mr. G. M. Montanini gives a fine performance as Prince Rao Vashti, and the snake-charmer is well-played by Miss Florence Delmar. A manly Lieutenant Frank Derrick is presented in the person of Mr. Lincoln Calthorpe. The comedy business has full justice done to it by Mr. D. Hallman as Billy Bright, Mr. T. Musgrove as Hon. Bobby, and Miss N. Mitchell as Pansy Blossom, with Miss Clara O'Grady as Mrs. Martha Blossom. Miss Rose Routledge as Lola Vane is charming, and excellent work is done by Mr. James Sherwin as Cara, and Mr. D. Wynton, who doubles the part of Richard Vane with that of Colonel Vane.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Miss Hetty King holds her own in her male impersonations, and deservedly gets much applause; the D'Oustas are filling in another successful week with their mental telegraphy; the acrobatic performance by the Borghetti Troupe is very smart; and an excellent programme also includes Rosa Tilley (comedienne), the Maros (triple-bar comedians), Johnny Worman (comedian), Madge Daly (burlesque comedienne), J. T. Macmillan (Scotch character comedian), and Martin Conway (eccentric).

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, W. H. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—Venus, the model for some of the late Lord Leighton's most famous pictures, appears in a number of classical poses; Harry Russon, actor-vocalist, makes a good impression with his recitations; and George Hyam, eccentric comedian; the Elgars in their Irish song-scena; Les Valdos in their droll absurdity, *The Eccentric Motor-'Bus;* Gilroy and Gross, sand-dancing and comic patter; Belle and Broadway, dancers and duettists; the Simpsons in a clever musical act; Bowles and Bryan in their garden scena; and Nell Cotter, comedienne and dancer, also appear.

SCARBOROUGH. — People's Palace and Aquarium.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm Morgan; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—Curtis Leo, juggler, submits a capital programme; Saunders and Vincent give an excellent knockabout entertainment, with plenty of good patter; Medley Barrett, pierrot, sings popular songs well; Will Bereton is a comedian of many abilities; a sketch, entitled *The Squire's Daughter*, is submitted by Will Bereton, Mr. Fred Ramsdale, Mr. Frank Weatcroft, and Miss Ada Senior, and is much appreciated; Frank Senior also sings descriptive songs; Nellie Nora is a clever instrumentalist; and a film of Gunner Moir's great fight commands attention on the Bioscope.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. George Zalva.—The Poole Pelham Troupe of Acrobats give an excellent performance, and their dancing is much admired; Keane Harker is a comedian with humour of various degrees; Miss Winnie Wentworth is a fine dancer and singer; The Lovelaces are very popular with their illustrated songs; and a capital series of pictures is submitted.

SEACOMBE.—Irving Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company is doing well here this week with *The Face at the Window*. The Chevalier Lucio Delgado, alias Le Loup, receives a powerfully dramatic rendering at the hands of Mr. B. Hoggan Armadale, and Mr. T. W. Dunscombe merits great praise for his brilliantly successful interpretation of Paul Gouffet; Mr. Alfred Warne as Henry de Brisson, Mr. Gilbert Hall as Lucian Cortier, and Mr. George Phythian as Le Blanc are all equal to the demands made by their respective parts. The humorous section of the piece is well looked after by Miss Gladys Newcombe, as Barbette, and Mr. C. Alan-Hineson, as Peter Pottleberry. Miss Marie Barrett gives a pretty delineation of Marie de Brisson; and Miss Marie Tennant does full justice to La Pinau.

SHEERNESS.—The Palace.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Phil Reymond.—A capital company here this week includes Mr. Nick Ohlson, the funny patter vocalist; Miss Josie Watson, a popular comedienne; and the Holroydes, in their laughable comedy act *Baby;* Miss Topsy Levane, the well-known comedienne and burlesque actress, is singing a new song, written by Mr. Reymond, entitled "The Ladies' Parliament," which causes great fun; Mr. Reymond, himself an excellent comedian, still continues a big favourite; the Kingston Co. conclude with a sketch, *Billy's First Place*, which is responsible for many a hearty laugh.

The Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. F. Leighton.—A capital programme is presented this week at this popular house of entertainment. Lionel Vaughan's company in the comedy act *In Trouble* is productive of considerable amusement; Chummie La Mara is a pleasing and entertaining comedienne; the Firmans provide a capital comedy sketch entitled *The Fire Station*, which meets with approbation; Miss Emie Harlow contributes a couple of coon songs in pleasing style; Miss Laura Johnson gains sustained applause for her clever impersonation of Shakespearean characters; Will Sargent, comedian, is well received; and Charles Clark, character comedian, is also deserving of praise.

SHEFFIELD. — Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*The Throne of Terror*, a drama of the French Revolution period, is being played here this week. Mr. William J. Miller gives a striking representation of the interesting character of Robespierre; the "Incorruptible" and other parts are carefully acted by that talented artist Mrs. Walter Bentley and a good all round company. The scenery is elaborate and the costumes correct.

Alexandra Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay. — Those popular Alexandra favourites, Miss Winifred Maude and Mr. Victor Du Cane, are appearing to good houses in the sensational drama *The Convict*, supported by Messrs. Leonard Harrison, William Vane, W. Bradford, Alexander Garratt, W. E. Simpson, Mark Fenton, Bert Dexter, H. Johnson, Miss Marion Holly, Miss Ethel Tinsley, and Miss Jenny Hackett.

Empire Palace.—Proprietors, The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—Mr. Harry Ford, "a fellow of infinite jest," is again making the welkin ring with hearty laughter; and others who are doing good service in dispelling evil humours are Messrs. Carney and Armstrong, comedians, with original and clean ideas; the Dandies, in a smart drawing-room entertainment; Simms and Simms, two talented instrumentalists and laughter provokers; and the clever pair, Messrs. Drew and Alders, in a new whimsicality called *The Coastguards*. Miss Daisy Mayer brings down the house with her clever and novel quick-change and dancing act; Miss Lily Tiso is a handsome brunette with a captivating style; the Schenk Brothers do a clever head-balancing turn; and Mr. Herbert Shelley appears in a quick-change sketch called *Dan the Outlaw*. The Bioscope winds up an excellent entertainment.

Grand Palace.—Manager, Mr. R. Ralli.—A good array of talent pleased large audiences on Monday; the efforts of Miss Edie Endon, a smart dancer; Mr. J. B. Silph, comedian; the Custances, in a novel act; Fyne and Hurley; the Three Transfields; and the Lloyd-Phillips sketch combination meeting with general approbation. Some up-to-date animated pictures also proved very acceptable.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—Empire Theatre.—Empire Theatre Company, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. George Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—An exceptional programme is given here nightly this week by Miss Florence Glossop-Harris, whose Shakespearean plays are produced with complete success. *Twelfth Night* occupied Monday evening, and proved a thoroughly enjoyable performance. *Romeo and Juliet* was Tuesday's attraction, when the company was seen to great advantage. The scenery was both effective and good, while the costly dresses were an admirable feature. The title-rôles were taken by Mr. Frank Cellier, jun., and Miss Florence Glossop-Harris, and their impersonations were of a studious and really clever nature, which gained repeated recognition. Mr. David Santley was interesting in the character of Friar Lawrence, and Miss Kate Turner was eminently suited as Nurse. On Wednesday *Much Ado about Nothing* was given, Thursday's play being *The Taming of the Shrew*. For Good Friday special artists were engaged at the sacred concert, including Mr. Murri Moncrieff (tenor) and Mrs. Walder-Wallis (ballad vocalist), when members of Miss Glossop-Harris's company gave assistance. To-night (Saturday) *Carmen* is to be given.

SOUTHPORT.—Opera House, Winter Gardens.—Proprietors, the Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—Mr. Walter Maxwell's principal company is this week providing a capital interpretation of *The Lion and the Mouse;* Miss Nita Faydon submits an artistic portraiture of Shirley Rossmore; the part of John Burkett Ryder is depicted with great power by Mr. Leslie Carter, who merits unstinted praise; Miss Elspeth Dudgeon is an admirable representative of Mrs. John Burkett Ryder; Miss Maude Townsend does exceedingly well as Mrs. Rossmore; Kate Roberts is capitally impersonated by Miss Margaret Nybloc; Mr. Martyn Roland assumes the character of Jefferson Ryder with excellent effect; and other good sketches are supplied by Mr. Herbert Chown, as the Hon. Fitzroy Bagley; Mr. Douglas West (as James Rossmore); Mr. Geoffrey Hill (as Alfred Scott); and Mr. John Wheatman as J. Whitmore Roberts, M.P.

Albert Hall, Winter Gardens.—Lessee, Mrs. Charles Parker; Acting Manager, Mr. J. H. Meriz.—An attractive entertainment is provided here this week, the premier turn being supplied by the Tennessee Guards in their marvellous lightning drill and wall-scaling exhibition; other prominent items are contributed by the Wilfords, the wonders of human strength and physical development; Harwood's Juveniles in a novelty scena, entitled *A Children's Christmas Eve;* Ada Maud, contralto vocalist and burlesque actress; Agnes and Arthur Lynch in American picture songs; Jimson's novelty sketch, *The Burglar's Surprise;* Bert Bowden, quaint comedian; Cliff and Kean, vocalists and dancers; and the Bioscope with the latest films.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson.—The boards here are occupied this week by the popular domestic drama *Home, Sweet Home*, which is presented by Mr. Frand Lindo and company. Mr. Lindo is breezy and convincing as Stephen Armitage. The Joan of Miss Marion Wakeford is a charming performance. Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle is seen to advantage as David Armitage. Lucas Lyle, the villain, is well accounted for by Mr. F. Miles Hodgson. Miss Daisy Rochefort, as Dora, gains the sympathy of the house. Captain Gerald Gambler hits off the aristocratic duke in good style. The comedy element is ably sustained by Miss Ray Rochefort as Sybil Fay and Mr. Jack Patrick as the Hon. Percy, and Mr. George Overs is meritorious as Dick Redmayne.

Empire Palace Theatres.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. George F. Thompson.—The top of the bill is occupied by one of Mr. Harry Cadle's "Casey Court" productions, entitled *Mick Whittintun*, which is full of fun and frolic, good songs and choruses. The Two Bostons are clever comedians, and evoke much merriment. Characters from Dickens's works are cleverly portrayed by Miss Arabella Allen. Good acrobatic artists are found in Goggin and Davis, and other excellent turns are submitted by Maud Vera (descriptive vocalist), Kitty Marion (comedienne), the Neilson Sisters (vocalists and dancers), and the Bioscope.

Tivoli.—Proprietors, Messrs. J. K. Hall and Joseph Sweeney; Business-Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—A vocal scena entitled *Visiting Day*, submitted by the Lambert and Hands Quartette, is creating an impression; Dene and Dawson, in a sketch, *Stage Aspirants*, are responsible for much fun; Little Dot Moss is an exceedingly clever banjo-player and dancer; a good ventriloquial entertainment is presented by Cavalli; and the remaining popular items are Joe Sterling (comedian), Phil Mouat (the Stockton singing joiner), and the Tivoli Bioscope.

SPENNYMOOR. — Cambridge Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company is the attraction this week with *Two Little Drummer Boys*, which is making its third appearance here; Mr. Fred Emery, as the much-persecuted hero, Captain Carsdale, is a great success; Mr. Archie Helsby paints the vicious character of Captain Darrell in lurid colours. Miss Mildred Eversleigh submits a delightful sketch of Alma Kingsley, and Miss Kathleen Magee's impersonation of Margaret Rivers is remarkably good; as Eric Carsdale and Jack Smith, the name parts, Miss Maggie English and Miss Maudie Douglas—the latter of whom is a sister of Mr. Collins, the respected manager of the Cambridge—both submit meritorious performances; Miss Lizzie Chambers, Mr. Harry Lyndon, and Mr. J. Magrath are a droll trio of comedians.

STOCKPORT. — Theatre Royal and Opera House. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—Mr. Arthur Carlton's company has given excellent representations here this week of *In Sight of St. Paul's*, which has interested fairly large audiences. Mr. Ernest R. Allen acts the part of Tom Chichester in manly style, and John Gridston is capably played by Mr. Herbert Cecil; as Bildstein Mr. Harry Gilpin is thoroughly effective; Mr. Herbert Colley makes an amusing Jim Palfrey; a pleasing character is Becky Vetch, played by Miss Sybil Hammersley; Miss Cissie Bellamy acts sympathetically as Aileen Miller, and Miss Gussie Everitt displays ability as Cynthia Dell.

Empire. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—The chief attraction here is Le Diabelo in a daring feat of "Looping the loop." Among others are Mr. and Mrs. Kemp, smart quick-change artistes; the Two Daniels, negro comedians, clever clog-dancers, and bone soloists; Elton and Elma, an amusing pair on the horizontal bars; Lingos Serenaders in a pleasing entertainment; and Fred Cary, a comedian of ability.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—Hippodrome Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Geo. and Robt. Nicholson; Manager, Mr. George Stainton.—Leicester Cooke and Co., in *Zululand*, are drawing crowded houses here; the Sisters Lytton are a duo of excellent vocalists; Andie Caine, comedian, is greatly appreciated; the Martelloni Troupe of female acrobats are an unusually good turn; Edie Gray and "the boys" score greatly; Grapho and Jackson are humorous in their sketch *In a Restaurant;* Edie Montefiore cleverly presents a sketch, *The Little Colonel*, introducing pathos, humour, and song; Rose Pink is a dainty little singer and dancer; and the Pictures are humorous.

Grand Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Councillor J. Batty; Manager, Mr. W. Batty.—G. H. Elliot, the coon singer, heads the bill this week in his latest successes; the Primrose Quartette of male voices are greatly enjoyed; Verno and Voyce in their creation, *Jack Sheppard*, are interesting; The Four Aces are greatly appreciated in their acrobatic feats; Flo Hilton scores greatly as a song and dance artist; The Sisters Marion are favourites; Fred Land is a funny comedian; and Cosgrove and Burns cause great amusement as comedy duettists; the Pictures are humorous.

STOKE.—Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr. H. Miller.—The bill is headed by Messrs. Norburn and Campling's company in a three-scene sketch entitled *A Winter's Eve*. Mr. Fred Norburn, as a miser, acts in powerful style; Mr. John Campling is seen in two of the parts, both of which are ably played; Miss Annie Clyndes and Mr. Chris Mason, in their respective rôles, do well; the Sisters Grovini provide an acrobatic turn which has but few rivals; Doody and Wright are a smart pair, the dancing of the male member being extraordinary; Speedwell contributes a lightning painting turn which is admirable; the Three Temples score their usual success; the Sisters Walmsley dress nicely and sing and dance well; Johnny Walker is a comedian with good songs; and Hector and Sultan provide a funny act, their upside down boxing being very funny.

SUNDERLAND.—King's Theatre.—Managing Directors, Messrs. Ernest Stevens and R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry L. Carlo; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Hart.—The Carl Rosa Opera Company is paying a welcome visit here this week. On Monday night *Tannhäuser* was presented in a fashion quite up to the traditions of the famous combination; the title-rôle was in the hands of Mr. Julius Walther, who was in excellent voice; Mme. Lucile Hill charmed her hearers by the brilliance of her delineation of Elizabeth; Mme. Marie Alexander, who has a sweet and cultured voice, ably filled the rôle of Venus; the part of Wolfram was sung in capital style by Mr. Dillon Shallard. The week's programme includes: *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Carmen*, *The Bohemian Girl*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, and *Il Trovatore*.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jos. Hemingway.—Miss Frances Delaval's company in *The Biggest Scamp on Earth* drew a crowded house here on Monday night. Mr. G. Olmond Frank works hard as Derrick Knight, and the same may be said of Mr. Fred Lillywhite as Vivian Wakefield; Mr. R. Stillwell makes the most of his opportunities as Sir Aubrey Knight; Mr. L. W. Halfpenny is well placed as Napoleon Hawke; Miss Clare O'Sullivan gives a refined rendering of Irene May; and as Namoi Belvedere, Miss Frances Delaval is excellent; Mrs. Edmund Lyons submits a fine character study as Mother Hawke; whilst Miss Carrie Johnson pleases as Bobby.

Palace Theatre of Varieties. — Proprietors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Resident-Managers, Messrs A. Brown and S. B. Stringer.—Tom and Marie Moiramo, and their musical mélange, hold the place of honour this week; the Prinellas, in their farmyard scene, prove another excellent turn; the Picquays score by their clever drawing room entertainment; Beaty and Blanche, duettists; Stave, comedy artiste; Evelyn Taylor, comedienne; The Maples, comedy artistes; and the Palace Pictures complete the programme.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—King's Theatre.—Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton and District Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Cecil Clayton; Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—A welcome visit of Mr. Gilbert Payne and Co., in his musical, facical play *The Honeymoon* is being made here. As Nathaniel Noodle, Mr. Gilbert Payne is irresistibly funny; Mr. Leslie Erle plays Jack Armstrong in good style; as Col. Vandyke Brown Mr. Alvin Sawyer gives a spirited and comical performance; Mr. Fred Fulton is a good Archie; and Miss Patty Fairley a charming Madge Armstrong.

WAKEFIELD.—Royal Opera House.—Closed during Passion Week.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Dolly, Agnes, and Maude, described as factory nightingales, possess pleasing voices and win applause; the Two Volbecques, character comediennes, prove popular; Miss Henriquette Maude, the *Daily Mirror's* little New Zealand girl, describes her trip round the world, assisted by illustrated pictures; a clever turn is given by Lea, ventriloquist; Andrews and Thompson, American operatic comedy couple, sing well; and Reed and Lerne, comedians, also contribute to the programme.

WALSALL.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—The principal feature of the programme here this week is the musical mélange entitled *The Prince of Monte Carlo*, which is played by Mr. Harry Roxburgh's company. The piece is exceedingly humorous, and meets with a warm reception. Other items include James Kurry, comedian; the Royal Delomes, duettists and dancers; Redmond Brothers, comedy patterers; Eadie and Ramsden, in the musical pot-pourri *Charlie's Visit*; Mdlle. Ameda, speciality artiste; and Belloni's Cockatoos, in a remarkably clever performance.

Grand Theatre. — Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H, Westwood.—Mr. A. B. Cross and company are appearing here in *The Manxman*. Mr. A. B. Cross is cleverly representing Pete, as usual; Mr. Frank Etheridge makes a capital Cæsar Cregeen; Mr. Sydney C. Kearns is well placed as Philip Christian; Ross Christian finds a capable exponent in Mr. Maurice Yorke; Miss Minnie Waterford charmingly portrays the part of Kate Cregeen; Miss Nellie Freeland is successful as Nancy; and Miss Hazel Dent is good as Miss Christian.

WARRINGTON.—Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Willmot.—Horace Wheatley had a great reception here on Monday, and the true exponent of Hibernian humour scored a big hit. His latest success, "Do you know MacIntyre?" has caught on immensely. The Tan Kwai Troupe of Chinese conjurers and contortionists supply a remarkable entertainment; Lily le Breton is a graceful gymnast; and Zanfretti and Napio are heard to advantage in a novel musical turn. Ted Waite is an up-to-date comedian; and Tiny Arnold an exceedingly smart, diminutive comedienne. J. P. Carroll scores with the tambourine; and the pictures are good.

Parr Hall.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. H. E. Barnes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Brandon Blake.—Unfortunately for the promoters, Datas, the man with the wonderful memory, was unable to appear at this house, owing to illness; the Mahatmas are a capital star turn, and are really remarkable exponents of telepathy; Barton and Ashley are a pair of rare comedians; and the Henres, smart jugglers and club-throwers. The Sisters Edwardes delight all with their singing; and George Bendon is a capital coon artist. Brull and Thursby cause much mirth with their sketch, *Fun in a Music Shop;* Peters' pictures are a charming assortment; and Williams and Warden are amusing cross-talkers.

WEDNESBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Manager, Mr. T. Kuner.—Mr. Bulmer's company in *Sentenced for Life* is paying a return visit here this week. Mr. R. Brancepeth Nevill does exceptionally good work as Sir Wallace Stillwell; Mr. Tom Robertson is responsible for an able rendering of Captain Paul Derrick; the portrayal of Lieut. Roy Stillwell is left to the safekeeping of Mr. Ernest Dare; Mr. Geoffrey Sutherland scores a decided success as the Rev. Martin Orris; Henry Beckwith, by Mr. Howard Keane, is all that can be desired; Mr. Dan Agar's interpretation of Percy McGentile creates roars of laughter; the rôle of Adele Gray is artistically played by Miss Hilda Merrilese; as Kate Rennel, Miss Blanche Hill makes the most of her opportunities; and Miss Muriel Martin displays marked ability in the representation of Lady Stillwell.

WEST BROMWICH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Charles Watson Mill's company, in the picturesque melodrama, *A Wrecker of Men*, which is well mounted. The part of Jim Murley is exceedingly well played by Mr. Eric Campbell; Mr. Milner Noble acts in a characteristic manner the part of Pharosaphus; Mr. Millar Anderson is all that one could desire as Railton; Mr. Stanley Champion does well in the character of Guise Strange; Mr. Harry Dunning gives a smart rendering of Reggie; Mr. Charles Earl submits a clever impersonation of Ezekiel Isaacs and the Mummy; Eric Melville is well played by Mr. T. Carruthers; Miss Gwendoline Talbot does herself justice as Marion Isaacs; and Miss Ruth Zillwood as Risca Mallison well deserves the applause given her for her superb acting.

New Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Lewis Gilbert.—The Morton Comedy Trio are the attraction here this week, and gain repeated encores for their very clever rendering of the various glees; Mlle. Sylvesto presents some marvellous feats; a return visit of Fred Dunstone is well received; Rita and Roma contribute good singing; the Leonards are accorded a warm reception; Wheeler and Wilson submit a clever acrobatic act; Miss Florrie Green sings pretty songs with great success; a screaming comedy is that of Vesta and Minnie Pine's, entitled *Maggie's Night Out;* and interesting pictures of the great fight between Gunner Moir and Jack Palmer is received with delight.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—Grand.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. H. E. Feather.—A return visit of *As Midnight Chimes*, played by Mr. Leonard Dalrymple's company, is the attraction this week. Mr. Dalrymple, in the rôle of Dave Stannard, acts in masterly style; Luke Dezzard has an able exponent in Mr. Herbert Belmore; Mr. Herbert Pearce, as Ezra Gamble, is excellent; Mr. James Salter is a great favourite as Tat Spavin; Miss Madge Beresford makes a vivacious Suzette; Miss Marion Ryder does well as Little Davy Stannard; and Mary Stannard is creditably depicted by Miss Maud Hastings.

Palace. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—The Matweef Huguston Troupe of Russian singers, dancers, and acrobats, perform some startling and clever feats; the Three Royal Dreadnoughts (Lilian, Vera, and Major Charles) give an astounding exhibition of rifle

triloquism; John Macauley makes a decided hit in his character ballads; Violet Nunn earns good opinions for her coon songs; Kerr and Koe, cross-talk comedians, Smith and Johnson, coloured comedy duo, and some very amusing films are also included in the menu.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Ediscope and Barnum's electric animated pictures are here this week. The following artists also appear:—Vic Varney, whistling comedian; Stilvo, stilt performer; Mons. Reni and his wonderful dog; the Oldham Singing Mill Girl; the Ver Vains, clever dancers; Queenie Vane, a smart comedienne and dancer; Mlle. Corlettie, the famous American songstress; the Cédrics, comedy artists; and Vela, in a sensational wire act.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Raws; General-Manager, Mr. John Cassidy.—The programme this week includes Cavern and Cave, in a capital comedy trifle; Mr. Arthur Wade, a versatile baritone vocalist; Bros. Carney, a clever pair of comedy artists; and Barry and Yelrichs, a refined pair of comedians. The Vicoscope features are up to date.

WHITEHAVEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Clark.—Mr. Frank Ayrton's company is paying a return visit here in the drama, *The Power of Gold*. Mr. Geo. Lyttleton has a strong part in Hadji Zambra, and plays it well; Mr. R. F. Stacey is good as Paul Judson; and Mr. R. Harris acts effectively as Mark Harley. Mr. F. Ayrton as Sammy, and Miss Madge Seymour as Norah, are both well received; and Miss Amy McNeil is powerful as the adventuress, Lady Brandon.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—Mr. Robert Perris's company is here this week, under the direction of Mr. Karl H. Edwards, in the American drama, *A Fight for Millions*. The scenic effects are a remarkable feature of the play. Mr. William McCready is a capital Tom Manley; Mr. Alex. G. Grant is very powerful and convincing as Richard Dudley; Mr. Karl H. Edwards repeats his capital character-sketch of Willie Neverwork; Mr. J. Schofield is a satisfactory Hudson Rivers; Mr. Harold Turner presents a fine portrait of Solomon Moses; Mr. Nicholas Conway is an excellent Harold Hobbs; Miss Winifred Symons wins the hearts of all by her acting of Pearl Rivers; Miss Elma Turner as Helen Dudley plays a well-written part with decided ability; Miss Dorothy Wilkinson's Little Madge is charming; and Miss Rosie Kearns does good work as Mag Brady. Minor rôles are well filled.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company.—*The Prince of Pilsen* has been witnessed by large and appreciative audiences here. The play is handsomely mounted, and the fullest justice is done to the piece by Mr. Baron H. Harris's talented company. The part of Hans Wagner is admirably delineated by Mr. R. Sidney; Mr. Harry Kilbarn as the Cincinnati brewer is admirable; Miss Sophie Harris as Mrs. Maddison Crocker deserves very warm praise; Mr. Frank Crimp as the Prince of Pilsen does capitally; and Miss A. Nixon (Alice Wagner), Mr. B. Russell (Earl of Shrimpton), and Mr. E. Gifford (François) are seen to advantage in small parts. Mr. Harry Kilburn brings out the humorous features of the rôle excellently, and keeps his audiences in unconstrained merriment throughout. Mr. Frank Crimp as the Prince of Pilsen has a fine and commanding appearence, and sings the song "A Passing Cloud" very artistically; Mr. Bernard Russell as Rosemoss, the insipid dude, portrays the character realistically, and Mr. Ernest Clifford is a typical concierge as François. Mrs. Maddison Crocker has a prepossessing and able exponent in Miss Sophie Harris. Miss Ada Watson as Edith Adams, Miss Alice Nixon as Nellie Wagner, and Miss Connie Leon as Sidonie also win unstinted admiration.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Members of the Royal Gipsy Company, who introduce songs, dances, and patter, fill the bill this week.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—The popular melodrama, *The Worst Woman in London*, is proving attractive this week. The rôle of the adventuress is cleverly impersonated by Miss Olga André, who created the part; and Mr. P. Barry-Lewers proves an able assistant in her manifold villainies. Mr. G. Gainsford is a manly hero; and Miss E. Watkins as his sweetheart plays with perfect sympathy. Mr. W. Garvey introduces some clever comic business; and amongst the other noticeable members of the capable cast are Messrs. H. W. Monte, A. Rushen, F. V. Travers, and L. Booker, and Miss P. March.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—The great Ashley animated pictures and vaudeville entertainments are here this week. Musical Stunto is thoroughly entertaining in his clever act; Molly Dent proves herself a highly capable comedienne; Bob Gates delights the audience with his big boot dancing; Lallah Delmar possesses a fine voice, and uses it to advantage; the Sisters Hypatia, duettists and dancers, are a good turn; Billy McKeever and Ada McGovern are capable ball punchers; Dutch Sid is an excellent comedian and sabot dancer; and Yank Murphy capably portrays the art of Ju Jitsu.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls.—This week the Danbys, comedians and dancers; and the Dunvilles, in their up-to-date comedy act, *Les Domestiques de la Maison*, proved big attractions; Miss Nita Carman, a comedienne and dancer, was very pleasing; Mr. Dan Biglow, comedy patterer, was good; and Miss Minnie Moran sang and danced well.

YORK.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—Mr. Lingford Carson's répertoire company are here this week, and on Monday *The Heart of a Hero* proved a great attraction, and delighted a large audience. As Jem Resdale, Mr. Charles Draycott was at once a popular favourite, never missing an opportunity; Miss Muriel Thompson was very sympathetic as Nell; and a wonderfully clever impersonation of the miser, George Winston, was given by Mr. H. Scratchard. As the unscrupulous Wilfred Marl, Mr. E. J. Fare did well; whilst the comedy element was in the safe hands of Mr. Will White and Miss Nellie Warden.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brook.—Yvette de Laabe's posing has drawn crowded houses during the week; Harry Thorpe and Zoe Coe, in *My Burglar*, present the smartest sketch seen here for some time; Denton and Rowland's *Punch and Judy Girl* is a favourite item; and the rifle shooting of Winona causes wonder. Ray Wallace gives a neat turn at the piano; and Phil Rees is a capable vocalist. Francis O'Flynn, banjoist; Derenda and Green, funny juggler; and the MacDonald Trio complete the list.

THEATRICAL PATENTS.

The concise descriptions given below of recent patent applications are specially compiled by Messrs. Howard and Co., patent agents, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, London, W.C., who will assist readers in all patent matters

APPLICATIONS.

4840. George Robson, of Buckingham-street, Dalston, London: Improvements in, or connected with, exhibiting transparent pictures and announcements on a screen by daylight automatically, and apparatus therefor.

5114. Ernest Edward Rouse, c/o Thos. Cook and Son, Ludgate-circus, London: New device for public entertainment.

ALFRED LESTER
AT THE PALACE, LONDON.

A FEW PRESS CUTTINGS.

A RESTAURANT EPISODE.

Times, March 20, 1907.

"Palace Theatre.—Mr. Alfred Lester, well known as the melancholy scene-shifter, who explains the story of 'Hamlet,' appeared at the Palace on Monday for the first time in a new part, that of the melancholy waiter. Mr. Lester is always melancholy, and the more melancholy he is the more he makes his audience laugh. It is a very cheap restaurant at which he has been waiting (for a rise) for sixteen years. Everything is always 'off.' There are dead flies in the 'claret,' and the proprietor is careful to go elsewhere for his own meals. And Mr. Lester is the very spirit of the melancholy, seedy, inefficient place. His only customer is a young actress who is on her way to rehearsal, and after ordering your eighteen-penny *table d'hôte*, comes down to a glass of 'claret' and a biscuit, for which she leaves without paying, and Mr. Lester treats her with the same fatherly melancholy freedom which the scene-shifter used to show to the walker-on in the theatre. A melancholy, hilarious turn."

Morning Post, March 19.

"Another Palace favourite who reappeared last night is Mr. Alfred Lester. He is no longer the gloomy scene-shifter with original views as to the brightening of Hamlet nor the 'lost policeman' of *The New Aladdin*, but a waiter. The waiter, like the scene-shifter, is a disappointed and morose man. When his only customer, a lady of the musical stage, complains that she has been waiting for five minutes, he mournfully informs her that he has been waiting for sixteen years. The restaurant at which he waits is very ill-furnished with provisions, and one of the waiter's duties is to devise shifts to conceal the fact. He advises the lady not to dine *table d'hôte*, but to order Irish stew, as that way she will get all the *table d'hôte* at once. A great deal of fun is got out of his ignorance of the French terms appearing on the menu. At the end he finds himself balked, his attempt to overcharge her is foiled by her having no money, while the card she gives him turns out to be a tram-ticket. Much of the sketch went with a roar, and those parts which did not go so well can easily be worked up or cut. Mr. Lester was excellent in his own peculiar joyless fashion; he was quite sincere, natural, and unaffected."

Daily Mail, March 19.

"ACTOR AT TWO THEATRES.

"The Palace Theatre, to an already very strong programme, added several new attractions last night. Chief of these was Mr. Alfred Lester and Miss Lily Mills in a comedy duologue, entitled *A Restaurant Episode*. Mr. Lester is known to playgoing London as the lost policeman in *The New Aladdin* at the Gaiety Theatre. Last night he doubled his work by appearing at both theatres. The Palace sketch, in which he plays the part of a waiter getting lunch for a chorus-lady, is full of the quaintest sayings, delivered with a droll humour that kept the audience in constant laughter."

Daily Telegraph, March 19.

"Mr. Lester brings with him a new and amusing sketch, called *A Restaurant Episode*, in which he plays the part of a waiter with that gentle air of melancholy and of sorrowful resignation which served so to endear his now celebrated portrait of the 'Lost Policeman' to the British public. His new sketch starts most divertingly, and when he has elaborated the fun of the last few minutes its success from start to finish is assured."

Referee, March 24.

"Mr. Alfred Lester, whose Lost Policeman is perhaps the funniest feature in the now moribund *New Aladdin* at the Gaiety, presented a duologue sketch, entitled *A Restaurant Episode*. In this Mr. Lester represents a love-lorn waiter, who, in the course of waiting upon a lady customer—smartly played by Miss Lily Mills—contrives to muddle everything up, including the wildest of topical references. Mr. Lester plays the part as though he had absorbed the dictum of Dickens' waiter—'Don't think as how you can take up the waitering; you must be born to it.'"

Daily Graphic, March 18.

"Seldom does one hear more hearty bursts of laughter than those which frequently interrupted the playing of the duologue *A Restaurant Episode*. Mr. Lester has some very funny lines to deliver, and he says them in his own peculiarly humorous fashion. It is a sketch that is well worth seeing twice; in fact, it will probably get even better."

Daily Chronicle, March 19.

"Mr. Alfred Lester aroused roars of laughter by his quaint humour."

Standard, March 20.

"The 'turn' is much above the average. It is evident that Mr. Lester can act. He has a keen sense of character, which should carry him far."

Tribune, March 27.

"Easter will see many changes in the Palace programme, but I am glad to note that Mr. Alfred Lester will still retain his place. His study of a weary waiter in a cheap Soho restaurant is a delightfully clever and effective piece of acting. It is so quiet and so restrained that you wonder whether it will 'carry' throughout the huge house; but you have only to look at the audience to see that they revel in it from first to last, and do not miss a single point. The sketch itself is nothing but a rambling duologue between the waiter and the one customer who comes in to try the famous eighteen-penny-fifteen-course lunch, and at the end has no money wherewith to pay, and it is a curious jumble of old jokes and new humour. But Mr. Lester is essentially a new comedian. There is none of the old-fashioned buffoonery and vulgarity about him. He is a finished actor. He does not sing, he does not dance, but with an air of weary pathos he tells you his troubles, and also with an air of melancholy pride gives details about his sister who is on the stage: 'At least, she isn't exactly on the stage, but she sweeps the pit out at Terry's Theatre, and they think so much of her there that there's talk of her understudying the cloak room lady.'"

FOOTBALL.

BRISTOL X.L.C.R. AND HARRY HARE'S ORCHESTRAL BAND ATHLETIC CLUBS V. BRISTOL X.L.C.R. 2ND AND MUSIC HALLS.

Played on Clifton Downs, March 23. The following were the teams:—

Bristol X.L.C.R.:—H. Belding, goal; A. Hamlin (captain) and J. Lewis, backs; S. Carter, A. E. Bailey, and H. Slade, half-backs; J. Aubrey, H. Edwards, L. Hamlin, E. Belding, and E. Bowman, forwards.

Bristol X.L.C.R. 2nd:—F. B. Nicholls, goal; F. Thorne and B. Elmore, backs; T. Neagle (captain), J. Lacey, and E. Poole, half-backs; A. English, W. Ford, F. Hansford, P. Reardon, and R. Cullen, forwards.

Referee: D. O'Connor. Linesmen: H. Hare and J. Leonard.

Result: Bristol X.L.C.R., 1 goal; Bristol X.L.C.R. 2nd, 3 goals. J. Lacey (2), J. Aubrey, and A. English scored the goals.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"ALLERSEELEN,"

Play, in Three Acts, by Hermann Heyermanns, Produced at the Kleines Theatre, March 12, 1907.

Rita	FRAULEIN SOMARY
Nansen	HERR LETTINGER
Krankenschwester	FRAULEIN GOERIKE
Jacoba	FRAULEIN BUENGER
Bronk	HERR LICHO
Jannetje	FRAULEIN FRIED
Langebier	HERR ABEL
Dr. Geert	HERR NOELET
Van Dalen	HERR HEINICH
Der Mann	HERR EVERTH

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, March 21.—The famous Dutch dramatist has somewhat disappointed us this time. It cannot be laid to the fault of the translator—whose name, by the way, does not transpire—that *All Souls* is a distinct falling-off upon the well-written plays *Die Hoffnung* and *Ora et Labora*, which proved so successful at the same theatre a year or two ago. *Allerseelen* is monotonous and gloomy in the extreme, while the long religious and moral discussions between two pastors are most wearisome. The reception was respectfully cordial, and the stage-manager appeared at the close of the second act on behalf of the absent author. A few words will be sufficient for the narration of the plot. The scene is laid—as is always the case with Herr Heyermanns—in a village on the Dutch coast. Rita—a young woman about to become a mother—arrives at the village one stormy night to find the house whose shelter she is seeking closed, and the old woman who owned it dead. The poor girl, for she is little more, is desperate, and is found unconscious in the storm before the door of Pastor Nansen. The good man takes her in, and his housekeeper attends to her wants. Here Rita's child is born and given into the care of a rough nurse, with the result that some time afterwards it dies. Rita is disconsolate, and can scarcely be prevailed upon to leave the little corpse. The whole of the village now rises up against Nansen for taking the waif-and-stray into his house; but the pastor is more charitable than his flock, and will not turn her out. A brother clergyman, Herr Bronk, a fanatic, comes and argues with him, but all in vain, and finally the unfortunate philanthropist is asked to resign. Now an astonishing turn is given to events. We learn that Rita is not the lost soul everyone suspects her of being, but a respectable married woman, whose husband's return from sea has been unavoidably delayed. The old woman whom Rita came to the village to seek before her trouble was no other than her mother-in-law. Thus the villagers have expended their vituperation and the audience their sympathy in vain, and Heyermann's motives remain obscure. Rita's husband comforts her for her loss of the babe by prospects of a happy future, and as they are both young and love each other there seems no reason why their union should not be blessed. The piece was remarkably well acted, an artist new to Berlin—Fräulein Somary—creating a very favourable impression as Rita. Excellent renderings, too, were those of Fräulein Goerike, Herr Licho, Herr Abel, and Herr Lettinger. An interesting feature of the performance was the first appearance of Fräulein Fried in a dramatic rôle. The clever young artist was a favourite star of the halls under the name of Frid-Frid until quite recently. She has determined to undertake more serious work in future, and her impersonation of the peasant woman Jannetje was so good as to leave little doubt as to her success in the new departure.

HERR JOSEF KAINZ is still drawing crowded houses, his season at the New Schauspielhaus proving—as was only to be expected—an unqualified success. As a change from the classics the famous actor appeared in two modern plays last week—the versical one-act drama *Der goldene Schlüssel*, by Max Bernstein, and Hermann Bahr's drama, *Der arme Narr*. Both made their mark, the latter creating the more profound impression. It is the story of two brothers, one of whom—his father's favourite—passed his life in the gay path of "Wein, Weib, und Gesang"; the other, who was always envious of his younger brother, has attained to the position of a wealthy and honoured merchant, but his life has been one of work and dull prose. The men meet now that they are old, and the merchant has to acknowledge with some sadness that the gayer life has been the more enviable after all. Herr Kainz gave a magnificent impersonation of the comedown genius, and the support afforded by the company of the New Schauspielhaus was of excellent quality.

CONTINUING the Ibsen cycle, the Lessing revived on Saturday *Die Stützen der Gesellschaft* ("The Pillars of Society"). The cast was a brilliant one, and the reception was as enthusiastic as any manager could desire. Dr. Brahm's theatre has ever been the Ibsen theatre *par excellence* of Berlin, or—it may be said without exaggeration—of Germany, and this performance was another well-merited triumph for artists and manager alike. Herr Bassermann—who has refused the most tempting offers to return to the Royal Schauspielhaus—gave one of his most successful renderings in the rôle of Consul Bernick, and Fräulein Lehmann was equally fine in the part of Lona Hessel. Other characters were admirably sustained by Herr Marr, Herr Sauer, Herr Grunwald, and Fräulein Wuest. Every seat in the house was filled, and the play will certainly run a long time.

AT the Central Theatre a new operetta, entitled *Der blaue Klub*, has been produced, meeting with a cordial reception. The composer is Karl Kapeller—the head kapellmeister of the Karl Theatre at Vienna—and the book is by Herren Alexander Engel and Horst. The "Blue Club" is a card club in Venice, called thus on account of the exclusive blue-blood of its members. A commoner, Cesare Dolabella by name, is black-balled, to his great annoyance, but a friend of his, the Marquis San Felice—whose hobby it is to "adopt" wealthy parvenus—gets him through later on. Cesare is a child of fortune in many ways, his luck at cards being very great. From Signor Tarramonde—a thorough-paced gambler—he wins a fortune and a castle; and, finally, Tarramonde sets his daughter's hand as the prize. Here, too, Cesare is the winner; he does not know Marietta, but has heard much of her beauty and charm. It is a matter of course that in the end the two love each other, but this consummation is not reached until many obstacles are defeated. The acting was bright, and the singing for the most part satisfactory, while the mounting was very effective.

ONE of the most recent productions of the "chamber plays" of the Deutsches Theatre was Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*, with Frau Gertrud Eysoldt in the name-part. It was not altogether a success, Frau Eysoldt being more suited to exotic rôles like Salome, Electra, and the heroines of Wedekind. Hedda's rival, Thea, on the other hand, was splendidly played by Fräulein Höflich, and Herr von Winterstein gave an excellent account of Tesman. This work of Ibsen's has never been a great favourite here, and, personally speaking, the reasons, I think, are obvious. It will scarcely take anything like a firm hold in the bill.

THE booking for Mr. Tree's season has commenced, and is already—at raised prices—very brisk. There is no doubt that *Hamlet* is proving the greatest attraction at present to the Germans.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"THE PHANTOM EARL."

A Sensational Costume Sketch, in Two Scenes and a Tableau, by Arthur E. Pringle, produced at the Regent Theatre, Salford, on Tuesday, March 19.

Lord Geoffrey Stevedale	MR. WILLIAM GARRETT
Raymond Yorke	MR. JAMES DILLON
Landlord Wells	MR. HARRY LLOYD
Sophie	MISS WHYCABY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The first scene represents a lonely spot near Bury St. Edmunds, where Lord Stevedale dismounts from his horse to rest after a long ride on his way to the King, being the bearer of a secret mission. From a sealed packet which he had been requested to open on his journey he discovers that he is the heir to the Earldom of Glenthorpe, and his journey is to claim his rights and present his papers to the King for confirmation. Raymond Yorke, a notorious adventurer, appears, and overhears enough of Geoffrey's words to convince him that he is worth robbing, so he enters into conversation and picks a quarrel. They draw swords, and Stevedale is killed. Raymond then takes possession of a large sum of money and the documents. The second scene is the interior of the village inn late at night. The landlord and his daughter are complaining of the slackness of trade in consequence of a heavy snowfall, and are preparing to retire when a loud knocking at the door causes the landlord to ask who it is. Yorke thereupon demands admittance in the name of the King as Lord Geoffrey Stevedale. He enters, and after ordering refreshment for himself and his horse, "Coral Wreath," tells his host to leave him to find his bedroom himself. He is brooding over what he has done, and, feeling nervous, locks the door and pockets the key. Then he peruses the papers, and is disturbed by a knock at the door with a demand for admittance in the name of the King. He is startled by this request, but knowing the door is locked, makes himself comfortable at the table. The door opens, and Stevedale's apparition glides in and confronts Yorke, demanding the papers. Yorke is about to strike with his sword when Stevedale points to the bloodstain on his breast, and Yorke's weapon drops from his hand. Yorke takes the papers from the table, and Stevedale tells him that he will follow him wherever he goes. He then vanishes. Yorke rushes to the door, and finds it locked, just as he had left it, and tries to unlock it, but the key will not turn. He goes to the window and endeavours to escape, but finds that also fast. Finding himself thus a prisoner, he raves and rings for assistance. The landlord enters, and Yorke tells him he has just seen the phantom of the real Earl, and that he himself is the notorious adventurer Raymond Yorke. Then he falls dead from the excitement and fear. The tableau takes us back to the first scene, showing the Earl lying on the ground as when first killed.

The scenery has been specially painted for the sketch, and the first scene, a moonlight night in the snow, brought a round of applause. The costumes and staging show the period as the seventeenth century. Mr. William Garrett as Lord Stevedale and Mr. James Dillon as Raymond Yorke did exceedingly well, and deserved the unstinted applause which they received. The other parts were fittingly sustained. The whole was under the personal supervision of Mr. J. Fred Watson, manager of the Victoria Theatre, Broughton.

LONDON ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

On Monday evening, March 21, the London Academy of Music, at their branch, the Hampstead Conservatoire, gave a highly successful orchestral concert, which attracted a large audience. The programme commenced with the concert overture, "Youth," by Arthur Hervey, and it was at once evident that the Conservatoire orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. René Ortmans, had been most thorough in the matter of rehearsals. In Beethoven's Symphony No. 8 in F major the orchestra produced a full, rich tone, and greatly distinguished themselves by their spirited and correct playing. Other successful performances of the band were in the overture "Die Meistersinger" and in Tschaikowsky's Concerto No. 1 in B flat minor (first movement), in which Miss Ada Petherick (pupil of Mr. Carl Weber) cleverly gave the piano solo. Among the vocal items, Mme. Windsor Locke received much applause and a most hearty recall for her admirable singing of Handel's song "As when the dove," and Miss Dorothy Webb may be warmly praised for her skilful rendering of Giordani's song "Caro mio ben." This concert—the second of a series of three—is in connection with the Scholarship Fund in aid of free scholarships. The fund will be in the hands of Basil Champneys, Esq., and F. F. Atkins, Esq., who have kindly consented to act as trustees. The concert was a great success, and the London Academy of Music may be congratulated on the ability displayed by their students.

THE Leyton Urban District Council invite tenders for band of twenty performers, with bandmaster in addition, to play on three evenings a week at places within the district decided upon by the Council. Performances are to be given on Monday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings, from June 3 to August 10 inclusive. All information is obtainable from the office of the Surveyor to the Council, Town Hall, Leyton.

THE Princes of the House of Brunswick have been all, more or less, partial to theatrical entertainments. George II. frequently visited the theatre, and this monarch was at Drury Lane when the Culloden despatches were presented to him from the Duke of Cumberland, commonly known as "The Butcher." Prince Frederick of Wales possessed a taste similar to his father, and was very fond of instructing his children at an early age to repeat moral speeches out of plays. When his family were still very young, the Prince had plays at Leicester House, in which the children of His Royal Highness sustained the principal characters. These juvenile performances were under the direction of the celebrated actor, Quin.

THE LATE JOHN A. ATKIN MEMORIAL.

The following gentlemen have consented to act as a committee:—Messrs. Lester Collingwood, Arthur Shirley, Harris Fineberg, G. M. Polini, W. Bennett, E. Hill-Mitchelson, Tom H. Taylor, W. R. King, E. Hewitson, W. Fraser Brunner, Harry Chappell; secretary, Mr. Ashley Page; hon. treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift.

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS, £42 6s. 6d.

	£	s.	d.
Standard Theatre Staff	2	15	0
Fred Powell	2	2	0
Mr. and Mrs. A. Melville	1	1	0
E. H. Knight	1	1	0
Lester Collingwood	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Arnold		10	6
W. Schaffer		10	6
Fred W. Warden		10	6
W. T. Cope		10	6
Mrs. M. L. Cope		10	6
Mr. and Mrs. Bert E. Hammond		10	6
Arthur Shirley		10	6
W. R. King		10	6
E. Hill-Mitchelson		10	6
G. M. Polini		10	6
Harris Fineberg		10	6
Sam Livesey		10	6
Harry Agar-Lyons		10	6
Mr. Tom H. Taylor's *Worst Woman in London* Co., per F. Vernon Travers		10	6
H. W. Kelly		10	6
Members of the *Female Swindler* Co., per O. Silverstone		10	6
Mr. Walter Melville		10	6
Mr. Fred Melville		10	6
Douglas Bruce		10	6
Mr. Ashley Page		10	6
Miss Marion Denvil		10	6
Soldier's Wedding Co.		10	6
Terriss's Theatre Staff		10	6
Mr. Harry Chappell		10	6
Mr. James Peerless		10	6
Mr. Fraser-Brunner		10	6
Frances Ruttledge		10	6
Mrs. Fielder		10	6
Mr. John Fielder		10	6
Driven from Home Co., per Frederick Sandy		10	6
Jack Haddon		10	6
J. B. Howard		10	6
Mrs. Walter Melville		10	6
Hugh Robertson		10	6
Ugliest Woman on Earth Co., per Tubby Edlin		10	6
Mr. Smith		10	6
J. W. Peards		10	6
F. Dangerfield		10	6
David Allen and Sons		10	6
Tom H. Taylor		10	6
Page and Son		10	6
Mr. and Mrs. John Gott		10	6
Bessie Elma		10	6
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Durie		10	6
Miss Fay Lonsdale		10	6
E. Hewitson		10	6
Henry Chattell		10	6
Milton Bode		10	0
A. G. Hawkins		10	0
Mr. T. Greenwood-Croft		5	6
Eric Campbell		5	0
Herbert Ford		5	0
Walter H. Nightingale		5	0
J. W. Cordiner		5	0
Mr. George E. Mudd		5	0
Agnes Imlay		5	0
John B. Shinton		5	0
West London Theatre Management		5	0
Sid		5	0
T. E. Ward		5	0
James Skea		5	0
B. F. S.		5	0
Wm. Eastwood		5	0
Standard Theatre Staff		5	0
Frank Gallagher		5	0
A. Roseberry		5	0
Mrs. MacGregor		5	0
Marie Kildare		2	6
Bernard Mervyn		2	6
William E. Passmore		2	6
Louie Adair		2	6
Alice Bowes		2	6
Nellie Bouser		2	6
Harry Wimpenny		1	0
Will Corrie		1	0
Stanley Vivian		1	0
Alfred Wood		1	0
Mr. G. V. Campbell		1	0
Harry Chappell, jun.		1	0
Agnes Pitman		1	0
From the members of *Her Forbidden Marriage* Co., per Roland Yorke:—			
Mr. Henry Lonsdale		10	6
Mr. and Mrs. Roland Yorke		5	0
Miss Nellie Fletcher		2	6
Miss Gertrude Hunt		2	6
Miss Madge Yates		2	6
Mr. Louis Hector		2	6
Mr. Fred De Vere		2	6
Mr. Leonard Maxwell		2	6
Mr. Rawden Vivian		2	6
Mr. Leslie Nolan		2	6
Mr. Leslie Nutter		2	6
Mr. William Griffin		2	6
Mr. C. J. McCarthy		2	6
Per J. Murray Herriot, Marlboro' Theatre:—			
Ernest Stevens		5	0
Stanley Rogers		5	0
Sydney Arnold		2	6
J. Murray Herriot		5	0

Subscriptions will be duly announced if forwarded to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, 5, Tavistock-street, W.

AT the beginning of the eighteenth century play-bills were about the size of ordinary note-paper. About 1730 they grew to the size of letter-paper, 10in. by 8in., and to 2in. or more in length by the close of the century. The paper they were printed on was of a rough, hard texture, with heavy black type. No synopsis of "scenery" was given, or of the incidents, merely the name of the play to be performed, the date, a list of characters, with the actors' names, the time of the performance, and the prices.

LONDON.

CRANSTON'S HOTELS

(UNLICENSED).

To meet the demand for accommodation in these Hotels, and to prevent as far as possible a recurrence of the disappointment and inconvenience to visitors who have been unable hitherto to secure Rooms, the

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The Ivanhoe,	Bloomsbury Street. Telegrams, "Redgauntlet,"	300 Rooms. Opened March, 1906.
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LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, March 25, the Comedy, by Mrs. Henry de la Pasteur, entitled "PETER'S MOTHER."

Quite a hit has been made at the King's this week by the advent of *Peter's Mother*, one of the most delightful personages it has been our lot to see represented on the stage. Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is an excellent one. Miss Ruth Mackay as Lady Mary Crewys is entitled to pride of place. Miss Mackay makes a complete and absolute success in a part in which she is seen and heard to great advantage; Mr. Charles Harley invests Sir Timothy Crewys, Bart., with the necessary austerity in admirable fashion; Peter Crewys is excellently rendered by Mr. Percy Hutchison; well acted in every respect is the John Crewys, Q.C., of Mr. Eille Norwood; Mr. William Mallalieu provides a delicate touch of humour as Canon Birch; and Mr. Drew Mackintosh's Dr. Blundell is an impersonation of much merit. Miss Mary Griffiths sustains the rôle of Lady Belstone with remarkable skill, and is highly amusing; and Miss Crewys has a praiseworthy representative in Mrs. Mallalieu. Miss Ethel Royale is a capable Mrs. Hewell; and Miss Hilda Honiss is a bright and fascinating Sarah. The farce by Mr. Eille Norwood, entitled *Chalk and Cheese*, is also given, in which Miss Ethel Royale, Miss Hilda Honiss, and Mr. Drew Mackintosh cause much merriment. The scenery, appointments, and dresses are in excellent taste.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, March 25, the Comedy, in Three Acts, "THE FREEDOM OF SUZANNE."

Expectations have been keen respecting the coming of Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company, including Miss Mabel Love, in *The Freedom of Suzanne*, and we are well within the mark in saying that the highest have been realised. The audiences on the opening night and throughout the week have been most enthusiastic. Miss Mabel Love, in the part of Suzanne, almost reaches perfection. It is an extremely smart performance, and her good work is often rewarded with hearty applause. The light-heartedness and "don't care" sort of disposition of Suzanne were well brought out by the charming actress. The haughty imperiousness of Lady Charlotte Trevor is well exemplified by Miss Annie Stalman; and Miss Violet Ley, with a fine stage presence, gives a delightful portrayal of Lady Isabel Bury. The part of Charles Trevor is entrusted to Mr. Templar Powell, who plays the unhappy husband in a very commendable manner. Mr. Gerald Alexander scores with quiet effect as Sir Horace Hatton; and Messrs. J. Hastings Batson, Townsend Whitling, and Richard Neville are each well placed as Lord Datchett, Captain Harry Cecil, and Tommy Keston, three of Suzanne's ardent admirers. The Fitzroy Harding of Mr. F. G. Thurstan is full of ripe comedy, and justice is done to the broad humour of the character, especially in the first act. Miss Florence Harwood affords considerable amusement as Miss Fanny Minching; and Miss Dorothy Lart is admirably suited in the rôle of Mrs. Tustail. Considerable amusement is caused by Miss F. Turner as the charwoman, Mrs. Putman; and Mr. Montgomery (Budd), Mr. Bruce Smith (Mason), and Mr. J. Young (Porter) complete a cast it would be difficult to improve upon. A charming curtain-raiser by Rosemary Rees, entitled *Her Dearest Friend*, is capitally enacted by Miss Violet Ley, Miss Annie Stalman, and Mr. Richard Neville. The incidental and entr'acte music is well treated by the Marlborough orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Chas. Elcock, and Mr. Townsend Whitling is responsible for the excellent stage direction.

CORONET THEATRE.

"THE INTERLUDE OF YOUTH."

This week the English Dramatic Society have been giving performances of Old Morality plays, including *The Interlude of Youth*, *Everyman* (with Miss Wynne Matthison in the cast), and *The Redemption of Agnes*. Every care possible has been taken in the reproduction of the mediæval methods, and a laudable attempt to breathe the true spirit of their meaning and moral significance, as conveyed to the audience of earlier years, has been shown. The dresses have been designed by Miss Jennie Moore from pictures and MSS. of the period, while the music has been arranged from modes and folk songs of the fifteenth century. *The Interlude* is produced under the direction of Mr. Nugent Monck. *The Interlude of Youth* was first printed in 1554, but the play itself is of much earlier date. Its great rarity may account for the fact that hitherto it has escaped general notice, as only two or three copies of the original edition are existent. Briefly, the argument is this:—Charity comes from Heaven to plead with Youth, who will not go with her, but rather turns to his friends, Riot and Pride, who lead him to Lady Luxury. Now, when this little company would make merry at the tavern, Charity again approaches them, but they in jest chain her to the whipping-post, leaving her with a drunken song. Then Humility comes and releases her, and they, together, plead with Youth to forsake Riot and Pride, "and do after their counsel." Youth is so touched by their words that he leaves his evil ways, vowing to lead a new life of good ensample. There being no programme available, no names are given, but chief praise is due to the representatives of Youth and Charity.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 25, the Musical Comedy, entitled "THE GAY PARISIENNE."

The frivolities of *The Gay Parisienne* have not yet lost any of their attractiveness for the theatre-going public, and Kennington Theatre has resounded this week with merriment as the devious shortcomings of Ebenezer Honeycombe have been revealed. The piece is produced by Mr. Charles Macdona's principal company, a combination of versatile comedy artists who are fully capable of presenting the play in its best light. Much of the business has been brought down to date, and there are some new songs, so that no one to whom this particular form of entertainment appeals has any cause for disappointment at the performance. The staging is very good, the hotel scene in the second act being a pretty set; whilst the chorus is strong and well-balanced, and the concerted numbers are all rendered with effect. As Ebenezer Honeycombe Mr. Will Harman acquitted himself with considerable credit, and his amusing antics in Scottish costume in the second act delighted pit and gallery, whilst he made a big hit in the "Tweedledum and Tweedledee" duet with the Gay Parisienne, and the comic quartette in which he participated with Mrs. Honeycombe, Julie, and M. Pompier, at the end of the first act. Miss Lilian Talbot made a vivacious and sparkling Julie Bon-Bon, singing and dancing admirably, and making love with a fascinating abandon which was quite irresistible. She won an enthusiastic recall for her duet with Ebenezer, "First class and third." Mr. Squire Day was the most explosive Major Fossdyke that could be conceived, and worked hard to keep the fun both fast and furious. As Norah, Miss Nance O'Neill was both graceful and charming, and in the love scenes with Tom Everleigh (Mr. Phillip Moore), she shone with advantage. Mr. Moore made a manly and sturdy Tom, whose song, "Last night I lay a-dreaming," was finely rendered. Mr. Clifford Snyler was immense as the French dandy Pompier, presenting the extravagances of that character to the life, and receiving a great ovation for his rattling song, "Gertie on the go." Miss Holford Beringer was first-rate as Mrs. Honeycombe, and the successful manner in which she first impersonated the dominant partner, and afterwards the sorrowful widow, showed she possesses histrionic powers of no mean order. Miss Madge Soutter's amusing interpretation of the part of Ruth, the servant, secured for her appreciation without stint from the gallery. Mr. Douglas Howard was undeniably good as Amos Dingle; and Mr. Harry Bedbrook made an intensely humorous lovesick Algernon Ducie. The masculine quartette of Major's daughters were efficiently presented by Miss K. O'Malley, Miss E. McHardy, Miss G. Davies, and Miss L. Donati. Mr. J. FitzJames made up excellently as Hans, the German hotel proprietor; and the Fritz of Mr. Ned Dennis deserves mention. Quite one of the best features of the show was Mr. Cecil Lawrence's clever whistling medley in the second act, and the audience were not slow to indicate their approval of his efforts. The quartettes of Messrs. Dennis, Rose, Moore, and FitzJames always went well; and the augmented orchestra was under the direction of Mr. E. Lewis.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, March 25, the Farcical Comedy, "THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."

Once again we have a welcome visit from *The Private Secretary*, which is being played by Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's company, and is proving as great a laughter-maker as ever. The sorrows and misfortunes of the Rev. Robert Spalding, with his "goods and chattels," are a never-ending source of merriment, and the house fairly rocks with laughter. As the reverend gentleman, Mr. Donald Price-Evans is most diverting, his dry manner and quaint expression exactly suiting the part, of which he hits off the eccentricities without exaggeration. Mr. W. Hargreaves appears again in his old character of the irascible Mr. Cattermole, playing it with rare humour, and keeping the fun going whenever he is on the stage. Mr. J. P. Hussey makes a good Harry Marsland; Mr. Randolphe Read gives an admirable portrayal of the lively Douglas Cattermole; Sidney Gibson, the tailor who longs to be in society, is amusingly presented by Mr. Vivian Gilbert, who is particularly good in this part. Miss Dorothy Shawe is a charming and elegant Edith Marsland; and Eva Webster is portrayed in a captivating manner by Miss Beth Elliott. A fine sketch of the old Squire, Mr. Marsland, is given by Mr. W. T. Elworthy; and Mrs. Alfred Davis is most entertaining as Miss Ashford. The comedy is preceded by an amusing trifle by James Streete, entitled *My American Admirer*, which is smartly played by the Misses Elliott and Wade and Messrs. Elworthy and Hussey.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On March 25, the Drama, by Horace Stanley, entitled "THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS."

The week before Easter is scarcely considered to be a favourable one for theatrical business, but, nevertheless, very fair audiences have assembled at the Crown to witness the above drama. The production has now been seven years on tour, which fact is sufficient evidence of its lasting popularity. Mr. Horace Stanley's company render an excellent account of themselves in the piece. Mr. George Beverley is a light-hearted and buoyant Lieut. Jack O'Malley, and acts with genuine dramatic force in the more emotional passages; Miss Elsie Capell is a prepossessing Bessie Leigh, and acts very sympathetically; Mr. Horace Stanley caues roars of laughter as the jolly Jack Tar, Sam Wagstaffe; Miss Kate Kilpack ably helps to keep the ball of fun rolling as his sweetheart, Peggy Potts; Miss Evelyn M. Walton is very amusing as the amorous spinster, Letita Leigh; Miss Josephine Lee plays with power as Olive Coombes; Mr. Charles Burdon gives a clever study of incisive villainy as James Inderwick; Mr. Tom Roydon plays well as the broken-down Seth Coombes; Mr. Edwin Clarke is an alert Detective Mason; and Mr. Alaric Burton is an aristocratic Cuthbert Leigh. Mr. Arthur E. Francis does well as the unfortunate man-in-possession, Blaggs. There are some very effective sets, and the stoppage of the express train by the heroine in the third act is most realistically managed.

GRAND THEATRE, ISLINGTON.

On Monday, March 25, the Drama, entitled "A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."

Once again a large audience assembled at the Grand, this time to renew acquaintance with Mr. Walter Melville's powerful drama, *A Girl's Cross Roads*, and the social sermon the author preaches again made an effective appeal to the audience. Mr. Charles Franmore as John Meadows submitted an artistic study of the old farmer, his acting throughout being of a very high standard of merit. Mr. Wilson Gunning as Jack Livingstone played the sorely-tried husband with conviction and power; Mr. Cyril Vernon as Dr. Weston was good in a rôle of small opportunity; Mr. Gerald Jordan played the heavy part in the accepted manner; Mr. Fred Withers as Ramsden was commendable; Mr. Fred Ingram as Toby was responsible for much laughter, and found a valuable ally in Miss Mabel Scudamore, who played brightly as Tilly Vane. Miss Hilda Beverley as Barbara Wade submitted a cleverly conceived study of a woman who is the slave of drink. The part, which is a heavy one, makes great demands on the resources, both mental and physical, of the lady, but the difficulties are all surmounted with ease, particularly good being the pantomimic business in the third act, and the delirium scene which causes her death in the last scene of the play. Miss Florence Zillwood as Nellie Meadows, who played a woman of a certain type, is also worthy of praise for a sound performance. Miss Jessica Black as the unsophisticated Constance was good, and the numerous smaller parts were all in good hands. The scenery and mounting are very lavish, and Mr. Reeves' incidental music is accorded a good performance by Mr. Gliddon's orchestra. Mr. Tom H. Taylor is the courteous acting-manager for the Messrs. Melville.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 25, the Drama entitled "THE LONDON FIREMAN."

Messrs. Shirley and Conquest's fine play, *The London Fireman*, is this week interesting Dalston Theatre audiences. Hal Curtis, the young fireman, has a forcible representative in Mr. J. Forbes Knowles; Ida Curtis, the hero's wife, is played by Miss Nellie Shirley, who acquits herself well of her arduous duties; Mr. G. Herbert Humber is the supposed Viscount Fleming; Mr. Lionel Thomson plays with effect in the trying part of the blind Abel Fortnum; Mr. Walter Wilby is the Joe Bluener; and "Ratty" Curtis, the returned convict, is vigorously represented by Mr. Edward L. Garside. Miss Nellie Waddington gives the customary touch of hauteur to the character of the Countess Fleming; and Miss Beatrice Sinclair as Grace Curtis acts with sympathetic effect. Others taking part in the representation include Messrs. Philip Renouf, Fred Monney, W. Burgess, Joe Rockley, Edward Wishaw, A. Maxwell, and J. Herdman, and Miss Nellie Garside.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, March 25, the Comedy, entitled "OUR FLAT."

Mr. Rollo Balmain's company, in the evergreen *Our Flat*, has been playing here for five nights. Mrs. Musgrove's little play, with its strong human interest, its natural humour, and its satire on the hire system of furnishing and living on credit, maintains its popularity, and does not fail to produce abundance of hearty laughter. Mr. Sydney Leyton enacts the rôle of Reginald Sylvester very successfully, and is well backed up by Mr. Lawrence Edward as Clarence Vane. Mr. Harry F. McClelland put vigour into the part of the stony-hearted father-in-law, Mr. McCulkum. Mr. Wilfred Compton as Pinchard, Mr. Edward Lewis as Stout, the porter, and Mr. John Randall as the Furniture Foreman, are all satisfactory. As Nathaniel Glover, the eccentric theatrical manager, Mr. Richard Purdon scores one of the successes of the evening, his study of that eminent personage being full of rich humour. Miss Miriam Holt is charming as Lucy McCallum; and Miss Ruth Wallace makes the most of the part of Mme. Solant. Little Miss Ethel Townley plays the part well as the child, Clara Pryout. Another very successful impersonation is that of the maid, Bella, by Miss L. West; and Miss Sara Mignon acts well as Margery Sylvester. *Our Flat* is preceded by another old favourite in the shape of the immortal *Box and Cox*. In this, Mr. Langford Reid as Box, Mr. Wilfred Compton as Cox, and Miss Wallace as Mrs. Bouncer, all play with great spirit, and make the old piece go excellently.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, March 25, the Drama, by Frank Harvey, entitled "SHALL WE FORGIVE HER?"

The attraction at the Terriss this week is Mr. Frank Harvey's well written, emotional drama, *Shall We Forgive Her?* which formerly enjoyed a successful run at the Adelphi Theatre. The piece contains less of the sensational and more of the dramatic element than we are accustomed to here, but it is none the less welcome on that account. Miss Marion Denvil makes a great success as Grace West, and her final restoration to her husband, home, and child is greeted with much enthusiasm. Mr. Ernest E. Norris plays sympathetically the part of the hero, Oliver West; and Mr. Ashley Page gives an admirable depiction of the rôle of the calm, yet brave and resolute, clergyman, Paul Elsworth. Mr. J. C. Aubrey is well placed as the ne'er-do-well and vagabond, Neil Garth; and Mr. John Sargent gives a good character-study as the Scotch eye-specialist, Dr. McKerrow. Mr. David Noble is good as James Stapelton; Miss East Robertson portrays the rôle of the hard-hearted housekeeper, Joanna Lightfoot, with unflinching realism; and Mr. Johnny Chippendale and Miss Mattie Everett ably supply the comedy element. The piece is mounted with the care and completeness which every production at this theatre receives at the Messrs. Melville's hands.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, March 25, the Drama, entitled "THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."

Another of Walter Melville's successful dramas, *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*, is being presented here this week by Mr. Douglas Bruce. Excellently staged and acted by a really capital company, the piece, on Monday evening, was received with unstinted applause. Miss Ethel Bracewell was pathetic as Molly Vernon, to which she imparted a winning grace and sweetness, and acted with distinct ability; Miss Lydia Mannington as the adventuress, Marion Franklin, played with considerable skill and power, and Miss Emmie Barton was satisfactory as Rose Seymour; Miss Daisy Meynard created a good impression by her clever delineation of the dressmaker, Isabella Jones. Mr. Stanley S. Gordon in the rôle of Jack England gave an earnest and convincing portrayal of the character, and was received with applause; Mr. Frank Adair presented a careful study of the scheming Captain Caversham; and Mr. George H. Asquin as Dick Punch made the most of his opportunities, and kept the audience well amused. Mr. Geo. Mitchell contributed a capital embodiment of the repentant forger, James Sutton; and Mr. Vincent W. Carlyle submitted a manly rendering of the Rev. Robert Everton. Mr. C. Franklyn capably sustained the part of Detective Weathersby, and the minor rôles were satisfactorily acted. Mr. E. de Hague Body is the acting-manager for Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett.

THE PRINCE'S, POPLAR.

On Monday, March 25, the Drama, entitled "THE EXECUTIONER'S DAUGHTER."

A good audience witnessed on Monday the performance here of Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's drama, *The Executioner's Daughter*, which was produced in a highly successful manner by Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy's capable company, end evoked continuous and hearty applause. An excellent rendition of Mons. Roche, the Executioner of Paris, is presented by Mr. J. B. Murray, who left nothing to be desired, while an admirable Tom Holmes was found in Mr. Syd T. Russell. Too much praise can hardly be bestowed on Miss Nelly Howitt for her fine playing as the Executioner's daughter, Annette, much power and pathos being displayed. Mr. Hugh Mewburn adds considerably to his reputation by his clever portrayal of Felix Marius; and Mr. G. S. Rhodes makes a hit as Vivian Ormonde. An interesting impersonation of the crippled Christian is seen in Miss Nellie Moore; and Miss Constance Stow is pleasing as Helene Marie. Mr. W. Ruddle Brown gives substantial proof of his ability by his fine exposition of Paul Revel; and an intense and earnest reading of Kretch is given by Mr. W. Matthew. Miss Nita Langdon acts with dramatic distinction the unthankful part of Felice; and Miss B. St. Ruth is painstaking as Sally King. Mr. William Le Blanc is effective as General Le Maire; Mr. G. Arthur Lloyd is well in the picture as Parie Abbe; and capital support is given by Mr. Fred Lunn as Ferrand, Mr. George Smith as Jean, Mr. Louis Scott as Sergeant Meunier, Mr. Edward Hill as Barrel, Mr. James Abbey as Captain Guillardt, and Miss Flora White as Mme. Claun. The piece is mounted in a complete manner, reflecting great credit on all concerned. The general-manager, Mr. Harry Lyons, is courteous and assiduous in looking after the comfort of his patrons.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, March 25, the Farcical Comedy, in Three Acts, by Weedon Grossmith, entitled "THE NIGHT OF THE PARTY."

Whole-hearted and unrestrained laughter has been heard at the Kingston playhouse every night this week on the occasion of the performance of Mr. Grossmith's highly diverting comedy, which is being produced under the author's personal direction. From the rise to the fall of the curtain there is scarcely a moment that there is not a broad grin on the faces of the audience. Mr. Sib Smith, in the part of Mr. Crosbie, is responsible for most of the fun, and makes the most of his many opportunities. Mr. Douglas Munro makes an admirable Flambert. Excellent impersonations of their parts are given by Miss B. Mervyn as Lady Hampshire and by Miss Lilian Williams as Paulina. Miss Florence French acquits herself well as the gipsy Vandelier. Others who do good work are Mr. Ernest Rivarz as Alderman Hargen, Mr. Frank H. Denton as Mr. Frank Frayne, Mr. Eric Forth as Sir Charles Hampshire, and Mr. Stanley Arthur as Mr. Bogle.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, March 25, Balfe's Opera, entitled "THE BOHEMIAN GIRL."

The last week of Mr. J. W. Turner's English opera season at the Standard was commenced on Monday with a performance of *The Bohemian Girl*. Although the répertoire of pieces undertaken by this company is extremely large, every opera is carefully mounted and staged, and much praise is due to Mr. Turner and his excellent body for the excellent representations given. The rôle of Thaddeus was played by Mr. F. J. Hargrave with marked success. Throughout the evening he maintained a high standard of excellence. Mr. John Ridding displayed considerable ability in his delineation of Count Arnheim, his acting at times being full of pathos and his singing all that could be wished for. He gave a capital rendering of "The heart bowed down"; Mr. Sidney Clifford scored a great success as Devilshoof, his singing being much appreciated; Mr. P. Newton ably supported the part of Florestein. Miss Jessie Dennis sang her music well, and altogether rendered admirable service as the Gipsy Queen; and the part of Buda was brought into sufficient evidence by Miss Maud Esdale. The rôle of Arline fell to Miss Christine Gomez, on whom there is nothing but praise to bestow. Her singing was most capable, and she was heard to great advantage throughout this opera. The chorus and orchestra worked well under the able guidance of Mr. T. Lawton. Other operas for this week are *The Daughter of the Regiment*, *Il Trovatore*, *Satanella*, and *Faust*.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 25, the Play entitled "A BUNCH OF VIOLETS."

The regular dramatic season was resumed here this week with a visit of Mr. Russell Rosse's company in Sydney Grundy's pretty comedy *A Bunch of Violets*. An excellent company includes Mr. Walter Maclean, who gives a very fine impersonation of Sir Philip Marchant, his acting being really good, notably in the third act, in which an admirable display of histrionic ability is given. Mr. Charles Goold supplies a finished performance of the bluff but good-natured Yorkshireman Mark Murgatroyd. The leader of the Sons of Toil and the Nonconformist Conscience has a capable representative in Mr. Dennis Bryan, who gives a powerful impersonation of Jacob Schwarz. The rôle of Mrs. Murgatroyd is undertaken with distinct success by Miss Eleanor Delaporte, an actress of considerable ability, and it would be difficult to obtain a more capable exponent of the character. Mr. W. Burgess Barratt presents a careful study of the crafty and cunning secretary Harker. Lady Marchant is sympathetically and conscientiously played by Miss Maude Abbott. Lord Mount Sorrell has a capable representative in Mr. George Bellamy, and the Hon. Harold Inglis is made the most of in the capable hands of Mr. Archie Selwyn. Miss Winifred Ingham is a sweet and charming Violet. The principal piece is preceded by a new musical comedietta by William Drew, entitled *The Gold Cure*. The land of the Zuyder Zee just now occupies a prominent position in dramatic favour, and it is in that picturesque country that the author has laid the slight story of his new sketch. The scene is the exterior of a hut in a village in Holland, where a jolly Dutchman courts the fair Gretchen. Hans, however, is too much addicted to schnapps to please his sweetheart, who finds in a book a recipe that claims to cure of the love of intoxicating liquors. She prepares the mixture according to the directions, and administers a dose to Hans. The result is alarming, Hans going through a series of agonised contortions that terrify the girl. Hans, who has had previous possession of the bottle and replaced the drug by a draught of his own favourite beverage, has, however, only been shamming, and presently bursts into hearty laughter. Gretchen is reassured, but produces a marriage certificate and a teetotal pledge, and declares Hans shall not sign one without the other. The Dutchman at length consents, and the playlet is felicitously ended. Mr. Charles Goold gives a characteristic assumption of the burly and jovial Dutchman, and his paroxysms of pain are very grotesque. Miss Emelie Holt makes a comely Gretchen, and sings a song incidental to the part in cultivated style.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, March 25, for the First Time in London, the Romantic Play, in Four Acts, by Richard A. Greene, entitled "THE ANGEL OF UNREST."

Napoleon I.	Mr. Alec Flood
Papa Bompasse	Mr. Henry Belding
Paul Brandt	Mr. Creagh Henry
General Renaudot	Mr. Aubrey Fitzmaurice
Colonel Bernaise	Mr. Richard A. Greene
Captain Lemesnil	Mr. Alexander Bradley
Captain Leblanc	Mr. George Chase
Captain Beaupre	Mr. L. P. Danks
Mons. Lepine	Mr. Laurence Vining
Herr Kolsch	Mr. James Chippendale
Herr Grondwetter	Mr. Gerald Clarke
Hugle	Mr. James Chippendale
Jurgons	Mr. Dudley Walton
Tugot	Mr. Fred Stone
Mme. Renaudot	Miss Patti March
Lisette	Miss Rita Imeson
Julie	Miss Florence Tressilian

Mounted on a scale of magnificence seldom equalled by a travelling company, *The Angel of Unrest*, a story of 1812, has reached the metropolis within a month of its provincial production. The striking title of the play has reference to the tireless energy and desire for conquest of the First Napoleon; but though his personality dominates the piece, it is peopled with characters which give it a definite and connected story. No appeal is made to the sensations by abnormal effects, but a number of thrilling episodes stimulate interest and engross the attention throughout. Details of the plot were given in our correspondent's notice of the first production at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, on March 4, but a brief recapitulation of the leading incidents may not be amiss. The period of the play is that of 1812, the time when Napoleon entered upon his futile Russian campaign. Bonaparte has given orders for the capture of Mons. Lepine, the President of the League and Council of 33, which has for its object the removal of Napoleon. The first act is laid in Mons. Lepine's house, where preparations for celebrating the marriage of his daughter Lucie with Captain Lemesnil, an officer of Napoleon's Army, but a member of the League, are in progress. The wedding ceremony over, the bride and bridegroom return from the church, and Lepine is warned by Paul Brandt, a young Bourbonist in the English Naval Service, that Napoleon has given instructions for his arrest, and the President immediately seeks safety in flight. Subsequently orders come from Napoleon demanding the attendance of the newly-made bridgroom, and the youthful bride is left in tears. The second act takes the audience to Russia, where a farmhouse near the Borodino is occupied by the temporarily victorious French Army. Lucie and her maid Lisette have been taken care of by Brandt, whose liberty is also threatened. Lemesnil, to whom the capture of Lepine has been entrusted, is subjected to a vigorous cross-examination by Napoleon, during which he declares that he married Lucie in order the more easily to secure Lepine, and a highly dramatic scene is reached when the Emperor confronts Lemesnil with Brandt, who denounces the former as a spy. Brandt resolutely refuses to reveal Lepine's hiding-place, and Napoleon orders his arrest; but just as Lemesnil is on the point of effecting his capture, Brandt skilfully draws his assailant's sword from his scabbard, and has him at his mercy. Brandt is suddenly taken from behind, and Lemesnil is about to kill him, when "Papa" Bompasse, a veteran of the Imperial Guards, and a faithful friend of Brandt, rushes forward and despatches the spy with his bayonet, Julie entering at the moment and attributing the deed to Paul. The escape of Brandt is effected, but in the third act Napoleon takes a subtle means for capturing him. Julie has found refuge at the house of General Renaudot at Moscow, and thither Napoleon repairs and tells her that Brandt's fidelity to her was prompted by an unholy love, and that the death of her husband was accomplished in order to further his own purpose. Julie believes the statement, and, acting under the Emperor's directions, sends a message to Brandt to visit her at midnight. Brandt duly arrives, and is received with scorn by Julie; but Bompasse, in a stirring speech, bears witness to the true facts of the case, and declares that it was his hand that delivered the fatal thrust. Julie is stricken with remorse, and advises flight; but it is too late, for Napoleon is at hand, and Brandt is seized. Suddenly, however, flames break out on all sides, and the city is seen to be on fire. Napoleon, hurriedly giving orders for the execution of Brandt, leaves the building, and Bompasse, knocking up the levelled revolver of an officer who is about to shoot Brandt, releases the latter and gets him away in safety.

The last act deals with Napoleon's inglorious retreat from Moscow, hotly pursued by the Russians. In the depths of the forest the Emperor laments the destruction of his hopes, and prepares to return to France. Hardly has he departed than Bompasse disposes of the sentry, and makes the way clear for the meeting of Brandt and Julie, between whom a mutual love has arisen. Meanwhile, Bompasse has received a stray bullet in his breast, and dies in the arms of his friends.

The opportunities for an effective setting have been taken full advantage of with an utter disregard of expense. The apartment at General Renaudot's quarters is sumptuously furnished, and the effects of the burning city are obtained with remarkable reality. Equally admirable is the forest set, with its lanes of snow-laden trees, and the flames and smoke mingling in the distance. The costumes, too, are elaborate, the splendid uniforms and rich costumes of the ladies making an imposing display. No less meritorious is the acting of Messrs. Alec Flood and Aubrey Fitzmaurice's company. Mr. Alec Flood, by whom the piece is produced, comes as near to the likeness of Napoleon as historical research permits, and his assumption of the hauteur and dignity of the Emperor is very fine. Mr. Flood seizes upon every opportunity for facial play, and his acting is pointed and expert. Mr. Henry Belding adds another to his series of triumphs in the part of the veteran, "Papa" Bompasse, who, with grizzled features and military bearing, is the very embodiment of a member of the "Old Guard." The thrilling lines of the part owe much of their effect to his fine delivery, while there is a grim humour about the impersonation which proves very welcome. Mr. Creagh Henry is a chivalrous Paul Brandt, his erect bearing and well-marked elocution giving a finished character to the part. A constant call is made on the dramatic skill of Miss Florence Tressilian, who makes a comely Julie, and is captivating alike in smiles and tears. Her acting is instinct with delicacy and grace, and her ability in the portrayal of emotion is evident throughout. Mr. Aubrey Fitzmaurice makes a soldierly General Renaudot, and displays a firmness of touch in dealing with the character that makes it prominent in the working out of the play. The recreant Captain Lemesnil is imbued with the requisite characteristics by Mr. Alexander Bradley, who cleverly avails himself of every chance presented in a difficult part. Mr. Richard A. Green is also well adapted to the rôle of Colonel Bernaise; and Mr. Laurence Vining acts with great ability as Mons. Lepine. Miss Patti March represents Mme. Renaudot with refinement; and Miss Rita Imeson is a coquettish Lisette, her pertness toward "Papa" Bompasse being highly relished. Mr. George Chase and Mr. L. P. Danks share the responsibilities of two officers; Mr. James Chippendale satisfactorily combines the parts of a Russian peasant and of a burgher of the City of Dantzic; a fellow burgher being ably sustained by Mr. Gerald Clarke. The curtain had to be raised at the end of each act in acknowledgment of the applause, and the attitude of the large audience at Stratford pointed to the probability that *The Angel of Unrest*, a fine play perfectly produced, is destined to have a long and victorious march, under the general managership of Mr. F. Martin Morris.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, March 25, the Drama, entitled "MONTE CRISTO."

The version of Alexandre Dumas's famous novel introduced to the Broadway frequenters this week is a clear and well-arranged adaptation of this well-known story, a very difficult one to dramatise effectively. The name of the adapter does not appear on the programme, but he must be complimented on his success. The audience follow the development of the plot with interest, and reward the various situations with loud applause. Mr. Booth plays Edmund Dantes with earnestness and vigour; while Miss Lallie Forsyth ably supports him in the trying rôle of Mercedes. Miss Amy Manfree is a charming Sophie Danglars; and Miss Alice West presents an excellent character-study as La Carconte. Mr. Agustin Bowerman is very good indeed as Baron Danglars; Mr. Beckitt gives a capital rendering of the character of Nortier; Mr. C. W. Crowe's exposition of that of Fernand Mondego is admirable; Mr. Walter Huron is good as Villefort; Mr. Leonard Marshall as Albert is well placed; Mr. Walter Martin is an impressive Abbé Faria; and Mr. H. G. Griffin is commendable as Morel. Mr. J. W. Braithewaite is a clever and amusing Caderousse, his quaint humour being very welcome among so many serious parts. Mr. Sydney White as the Inspector, Mr. A. Braithwaite as Henri, and Mr. Sam Elton as Pierre, all contribute their best efforts to the success of the performance.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

The students of the Royal Academy of Music gave an orchestral concert on Tuesday afternoon at Queen's Hall, the programme commencing with Sir A. C. Mackenzie's "Marcia Funebre," from *Coriolanus*, in memory of the late Sir August Manns, who died March 1, 1907. During the performance the large audience remained standing. The orchestra also most ably supported Miss Elsie Comley in her neat and finished performance of Dvorák's Andante Sostenuto and Finale (Allegro con Fuoco) from Pianoforte Concerto in G (Op. 33). In Max Bruch's "Ave Maria" Miss Mary Fielding greatly pleased the audience by the fervent manner of her singing, the young students in the orchestra in no way overpowering the vocalist. One of the most interesting and successful features of this concert was the admirable clarionet solo of Mr. Herbert Stutely, who was heard to great advantage in Mozart's Adagio and Rondo (Allegro) from Concerto in A, in which the good tone and finished execution of the young performer was justly rewarded by the hearty applause of the audience. A Scherzo (MS.) for orchestra written by Mr. Percy A Bowie proved a bright and attractive composition, the young composer being at the close cordially recalled to the platform. Miss Gwladys Roberts in scena, "Hymn to Aphrodite" (*Sappho*), by Granville Bantock, deserved praise for her endeavour to impart dramatic feeling to her singing; and Miss Pitt Soper sang the air "Singt dem göttlichen Propheten" from Graun's *Der Tod Jesu* with considerable skill and intelligence. Chopin's delightful Romance (Larghetto) and Rondo from Pianoforte Concerto in E minor was admirably executed by Miss Catherine C. Matthews, although somewhat overpowered by the orchestra. Other clever performers were Miss Audrey Whitaker, heard in "Kol Nidrei" violoncello solo (Max Bruch); and Mr. Hubert Baker, who sang Mozart's air "Dalla sua pace." The orchestra, which was conducted by Sir A. C. Mackenzie, concluded the concert with a spirited performance of Sullivan's "Overture di Ballo."

A smoking concert was held on the 19th inst. in the large Assembly Rooms of the Crown and Dove Hotel, Bristol, for the benefit of Mr. Herbert Somerville (conductor-pianist), late of *Dare-Devil Dorothy*, *Trip to Chinatown*, and other companies. Mr. Harry Hare, who arranged the concert, occupied the chair, and the programme was contributed to by the following:—Messrs. Charles Goodman (comedian), Glover (baritone and pianist), Arthur Abbott (coster comedian), Fred Lapham, Frank Elliston (ventriloquist), Siddo (boy juggler), F. Edward Cook (conjurer), Carlton Howard, George Atkinson, Harry Inch, Bert Symons (dancer), Herbert Pockson, Wallace Arney, Jack Aubrey, Harry Belding, Syd Carter, Frank Thorne, Arthur English, Jack Leonard, Fred Smith, and Will Hollister (instrumentalists). Mr. Hare's orchestral band played selections from popular musical comedies, under the conductorship of the beneficiaire.

DRAMA AT THE LYCEUM.

CHAT WITH MR. ERNEST CARPENTER.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

This evening the Lyceum Theatre will open under the management of Messrs. Ernest Carpenter and Mr. Henry R. Smith. We obtained the ideas of these gentlemen in an interview with Mr. Carpenter the other day.

"What we intend to do," said Mr. Carpenter, "is to cater for a public in the West of London that we consider has been neglected for some years, and that is, the real lovers of drama of the class that used to support the best of the Princess's and Adelphi dramas in the old days. Our productions will be carried out on a superior scale, in spite of the fact that our prices of admission will be less than half those of any other West-end theatre. In fact, these prices would be only possible at such a playhouse as the Lyceum, with its capacity for accommodating four thousand people. When Mr. Smith secured the lease of the property and approached me, I found that his views were very much in accord with mine. I have been engaged during the whole of my career in playing in and producing dramas, and we are both convinced that the secret of successful catering to-day is to give the public good stuff at popular prices.

"Our plans are to make first-class productions of romantic and picturesque drama, as distinguished from the ordinary sordid transpontine melodrama. We have got in our safe plays by all the leading authors of to-day, awaiting production. On Saturday we open with a romantic play of *The Prisoner of Zenda* type. It is by Mr. Walter Howard, and is called *Her Love Against the World*. Then we have in reserve a play to follow on, dealing with the period of the French Revolution, and written by Messrs. Arthur Shirley and Benjamin Landeck. We shall engage a special company for each piece, so that the actors and actresses will be chosen to fit the parts. In the first production, Mr. Norman Partriege will play the principal male rôle, and Miss Nora Kerin will be the leading lady. Others in the cast are Messrs. Eric Mayne, Scott Craven, Fred Grove, Fredk. Ross, Harry Barford, Gus Oxley, Edmund Waller (son of Mr. Lewis Waller), and Misses Valli Valli, Marie Rignold, and Lulu Loudén. The old traditions of the Lyceum will be maintained as to the scenic 'effects.' Scenes have been painted by Messrs. Ryan, Helmsley, David Young, and W. R. Cox.

"In order to produce big dramas effectively, we have had to reconstruct and rearrange the whole of the electric lighting apparatus, as it was not fitted for theatre work. The house has been redecorated from top to bottom, inside and outside, and a new fireproof curtain has been provided.

"I may add that we hold a five years' lease, and have come here with the determination of making this the home of drama in the West-end of London. We shall produce an old-fashioned pantomime at Christmas."

Although his managerial control of the Lyceum Theatre is his first venture in the Metropolis, Mr. Ernest Carpenter's name has long been known in theatrical circles. For nearly twenty-five years he has been engaged in producing and running plays, and latterly in managing theatres. Mr. Carpenter was leading man to Miss Deering at the age of twenty. He was Romeo, Orlando—in fact, he tells us that he played every kind of part, from Hamlet to Perkyn Middlewick. His first theatrical ventures were in Lancashire. There proving successful, he began operations in the Potteries, where again fortune was pleased to smile on his efforts. Then he invaded Bristol and Brighton, and in the latter town converted a failure into a striking success. His one exploit as a theatre builder, in the literal sense, took place at Swindon. There he erected the Queen's Theatre. It was there, too, that he gained his first experience of municipal life, being elected as an alderman of the first Swindon Town Council. To-day he has a seat on the Brighton Town Council.

TOURING MANAGERS' MEETING.

An encouraging report was presented at the first annual general meeting of the Touring Managers' Association, Ltd., which was held in the admirably-appointed rooms of the Managers' Club, Savoy Mansions, on Wednesday. Mr. E. Lockwood presided, and amongst those present were Mr. J. Bannister Howard, Mr. G. M. Polini, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon, Mr. Rollo Balmain, Mr. Fred J. Little, Mr. Herbert Ralland, Mr. Alfred Paumier, Mr. Lionel Glenister, Mr. Reginald Burch, Mr. M. V. Leveaux, Mr. Arthur Gibbons, Mr. Wentworth Croke, Mr. Leslie Moreton, Mr. J. Forbes Knowles, and the hon sec., Mr. G. B. Lambert.

Mr. Lockwood congratulated the Association on the continual increase of business, and prophesied greater prosperity in the future. He spoke in high terms of the work of Messrs. Polini, Bannister Howard, Balmain, and Weatherby. It was announced that a deputation from the Actors' Association had been received, and terms arrived at with regard to payment for rehearsals. Questions relating to the interests of travelling managers were discussed, and it was resolved that the Association would support any reasonable action taken by a manager affected, the premises and staff of the Association being put at the disposal of touring managers, whether members of the Association or not, for a meeting to discuss the matter. It was contended that the small drama men who really "feed" the theatres all the year round are so taken advantage of that they are unable to live. Every touring manager was urged to back up the Association in their efforts to obtain fair and equitable terms. The shares in the Association amounted to a thousand, and if managers would take up a few more they would find their investment a very profitable one.

A paragraph in the report stated that "the club at the present moment shows a promising aspect for the future. The call for membership, together with the administration as at present, points to most favourable results, and your directors trust that, in the near future, the Theatrical Managers' Association, together with the Suburban Managers' Association, may see their way to amalgamate with this Association in order that theatrical business will be arranged and transacted from one common centre." It should be added that the position of the club has materially improved since the issue of the balance-sheet. Subscriptions since received, and due from newly-elected members, amount to a considerable sum, and furnish the satisfactory balance of nearly £400.

The following officers for the ensuing year were elected:—Mr. E. Lockwood (president), Mr. E. Graham-Falcon (vice-president), Mr. J. B. Howard (hon. treasurer), Mr. G. B. Lambert (hon. secretary), Messrs. Muskerry, Tilson (hon. solicitors), Messrs. Bryden, Fedden, and Co. (hon. counsel), and Mr. Clifton Alderson, Mr. Rollo Balmain, Mr. Milton Bode, Mr. Cecil Barth, Mr. Lester Collingwood, Mr. Wentworth Croke, Mr. C. St. John Denton, Mr. Geo. Edwardes, Mr. R. Glenister, Mr. Wm. Greet, Mr. W. H. Hallatt, Mr. Chas. Harrington, Mr. W. W. Kelly, Mr. M. V. Leveaux, Mr. Leslie Moreton, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot, Mr. Norman V. Norman, Mr. G. M. Polini, Mr. A. Paumier, Mr. G. Brydon-Phillips, Mr. Herbert Ralland, Mr. Bertie Shelton, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. Brandon Thomas, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, and Mr. John Tully were elected members of the committee.

A RECORD in dramatic dates is evidently aimed at by Mr. Alfred Calmour in his forthcoming play for the Scala Theatre, which takes us back to the Court of Pharaoh at the ancient city of Memphis, some 4,000 years before Christ. The production of a work dealing with so remote a period of the world's history is assisted by the results of recent Egyptian researches, of which Mr. Calmour has no doubt availed himself to the full.

"THE COACHMAN WITH YELLOW LACE."

Play, in Four Acts, by Charles Hannan, Produced at the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, on Monday, March 25.

The Duchess of Balcarra	MISS SYLVIA MORRIS
Clancy de Vere	MISS MAY DAY
Villon	MR. H. H. BARRINGTON
Shirland Dane	MR. C. F. COLLINGS
Philip of Eldon Towers	MR. A. P. KAYE
Sir Oval of Belvedere	MR. H. HEWITSON
Phyllis	MISS MAY SETON
Mary	MISS NELL GILMORE
Magdalen	MISS FLORENCE LOVEL
A Page	MR. EDWIN BROWN
Lavender Man	MR. J. JOHNSON

The game of "hidden treasure" is interestingly played in the drama which Mr. Charles Hannan has founded upon his novel, "The Coachman with Yellow Lace," brought out at the Hammersmith Lyric on Monday. The wealth alluded to was deposited in various country houses belonging to an old miser, who left behind him a chart giving a key to the hiding-places. A duplicate chart comes into the possession of an adventurer named Villon, who compels his daughter, posing as the Duchess of Balcarra, to gain admission to the houses and purloin the treasure. Consequently, when Shirland Dane, the miser's son, who has inherited the property, goes to take possession, he finds it gone. Under an assumed name the young man has met and fallen in love with the Duchess, who returns his affection. He is induced to join in a game of cards at the Duchess's garden, where the play opens, discovers he is being cheated, and denounces a "gentleman of fashion" named Sir Oval of Belvedere, as the culprit, a duel being prevented by the exertions of the Duchess. Shirland Dane, and his friend, Philip of Eldon Towers, visit the Duchess in the second act, and the latter sees in the lady's coachman a remarkable likeness to a girl he had formerly met and loved. The "coachman" is, in fact, the girl in question, who wears the Duchess's livery in order to assist the deception. A diamond brooch belonging to the Duchess which Shirland had found during his quest at Kingston, and which he accidentally leaves on the Duchess's drawing-room table, is restored to the owner by her servants, and when Shirland revisits the house he recognises the trinket. In order to account for its presence in the house at Kingston, the Duchess says that she had been lured there by Sir Oval, and Shirland immediately concludes that it is he who is the thief, and accuses him of it on his arrival. A duel is again imminent, but the Duchess once more interposes, and declares her intention of holding a court of inquiry in her own garden. The trial duly takes place, and Sir Oval is adjudged innocent. Time is thus obtained by the Duchess, who has determined to induce Villon to restore his ill-gotten gains to their various hiding-places, so that Shirland may discover them on another search. Villon, however, is a confirmed gambler, and has lost all the money at cards to Sir Oval of Belvedere, and the Duchess is in despair. The course of true love is smoothed out in the last act, for there is still one remaining house that has not been sacked, and Shirland takes possession of what is left of his inheritance, makes light of the Duchess's share in the thefts, and finally gets rid of Villon.

Stirring scenes and much poetic sentiment are to be found in the new play, the dialogue of which contains many a neatly-turned phrase. The "curtains" are not so effective as the author of *The Electric Man* and the adaptor of *The Cigarette-Maker's Romance* might be expected to contrive, and the allusions to the neighbouring suburb of "Shepherd's Bush" proved a little unfortunate. A large audience was, nevertheless, well pleased with the performance, to which the company at the Lyric, in the chief cases, did complete justice. Mr. C. F. Collings, who plays the part of Shirland Dane, is particularly to be praised. He was courtly in his manner, commanding in appearance, natural in his love-making, and vigorous in speech. His plumed hat and brave costume became him admirably, and the cheers he awakened were loud and enthusiastic. Miss Sylvia Morris tackled the difficulties of the part of the Duchess of Balcarra with determination, and succeeded in giving a portrayal in which dramatic strength and emotional ability were evident. The despair of the young girl when she realises that it is her lover whom she has been the means of robbing was effectively expressed, while her share of the love passages were treated with delicacy and grace. Miss May Day looked comely in the gold-embroidered livery of the title-rôle, and her sympathetic delivery added greatly to the effect of the character. Mr. H. Hewitson had a suitably repellant appearance as the unscrupulous Sir Oval of Belvedere. He assumed a lowering scowl, spoke in deepest tones, and laid the sinister colours thickly upon his impersonation. The gambler, Villon, was impressively presented at the hands of Mr. H. H. Barrington, whose passionate utterances were strikingly delivered; and an admirable impersonation of Philip of Eldon Towers was given by Mr. A. P. Kaye, whose elocution is greatly to be commended. Miss May Seton, Miss Nell Gilmore, and Miss Florence Lovel, as a trio of maids in the Duchess's household, who make desperate love to the coachman, combined to present the droller side of the play. The piece is laid in the period of George II., and every opportunity for picturesque display in costumes is taken.

A VAST programme has been arranged for the thousands of holiday-makers who will visit the Crystal Palace on Easter Monday. The variety shows given at intervals will include Les Kyasyas, Brilliant and Brilliant, the Brothers Ethairien, the Bounding Pattersons, and Horace and Doras; while in the theatre afternoon and evening performances will be given of *La Poupée*. A Southern League match, Crystal Palace *v.* Watford, will be played on the football ground at 3.30; Mr. Spencer will make a balloon ascent at 2.30; and at the same time there will be a great athletic and cycling meeting. No one, moreover, should miss the ostrich farm, where the novel sight of a lady riding an ostrich is to be witnessed, in addition to a beautiful collection of feathers. The mental telepathy séance of Mr. Howard Crispin and his daughter will take place in the Egyptian Court; Messrs. Noakes and Bell, the well-known conjurers and entertainers, will be found in the Electric Theatre; and Kirk and Saraski's ladies-under-water acrobats in the North Tower Gardens. Other attractions include the "Queen of Sheba," Maxim's flying machine, fairy archipelago, water chutes, rapids, electric canoes, topsy-turvy railway, mazes, helter-skelters, Old English fair, panorama, boating, dancing on the lawns, a grand evening concert by massed bands, and a display of fireworks by Messrs. C. T. Brock and Sons.

AT Brompton on Monday, Mr. Frank Curzon, lessee of Wyndham's Theatre, was sued by Mrs. Ellen Cooper, to recover £200 damages in respect of serious injuries said to have been sustained at the theatre through falling down the stairs leading to the ladies' retiring-room, the lighting of which it was alleged was defective. Evidence was given by the electrical engineer at the theatre to the effect that the lights were in good order in the room in question on Aug. 29. The Judge told the jury that they would no doubt take into consideration the fact that the plans of the stairs had been passed by the London County Council, the body whose stringent requirements were no doubt often considered in excess of what was really necessary by theatrical proprietors. The jury awarded plaintiff £40, and judgment was entered accordingly, with costs.

A CHAT WITH MR. STANLEY COOKE.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

"So you have really left off playing *Charley's Aunt* at last?"

"Yes. I was very loth to say good-bye to the dear old lady; but one never knows, it may only be au revoir again this time, as it was before. Of course, *Charley's Aunt* will never stop running, and although Mr. Brandon Thomas wished me to continue, I thought it better to take breath, and with it a change. I do not think it good for an actor to become too much associated with one character, as managers are apt to get an idea one can play nothing else, and if one waited for *Charley's Aunt* to reappear in other plays it might entail some rather lengthy vacations. No, I do not believe in "vacations"—at least, not enforced ones. Last year, at Terry's Theatre after playing Babbs twice a day for four weeks, Mr. Thomas very generously gave me a week's holiday—on the salary list. He was good enough to say I deserved it.

"I celebrated my 2,000th performance of *Charley's Aunt* last May at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, and in all have played the part 2,275 times. I played Dick Whortles in *The Lady of Ostend* over 600 times, and Lord Cyril Garston (*The New Clown*), under my own management, for a year. For the time being I am an "Electric Man," which in the nature of things should have a long 'life,' for, according to the best authorities, 'electricity *is* life.' When, however, his course is run, I hope the next long run I shall enjoy will be in my new three act farce, which expert opinion has predicted to have staying powers. It is now waiting the psychological moment for production.

"I certainly think the music-hall has done much to injure theatrical business in the country, but not so much as the feeble theatrical productions themselves. In my opinion the crux of the matter

Photo. by Omey.

MR. STANLEY COOKE AS CHARLEY'S AUNT.

lies in the bad performances so frequently given by inexperienced people, whose only recommendation is that they are cheap, and generally they have not even had the advantage of proper coaching, in consequence of the incompetence of the stage manager or producer. How often do we find this person a bumptious, overbearing individual, who, dressed in a little brief authority, makes a point of bullying the most inexperienced, knowing full well that he will be too nervous to resent it. Thus by slow degrees the goose with the golden eggs (i.e., the playgoer) has been killed, and he, having lost the habit of going to the theatre, spends his evenings playing bridge, and patiently awaits the advent of the London actor-manager and his carefully rehearsed company in the autumn. The real playgoer's attendances at the local theatre become confined to some five or six weeks a year instead of one night a week when the theatre is open. Oh, yes, the local manager is also to blame—in many instances he does everything possible to hinder the travelling manager from doing his best to give a decent performance. Bad local scenery and still worse properties, the travelling partner to the contract being told that if he doesn't choose to have unsuitable properties, &c., he must find others. Even in the most ordinary things, "Hang the art, give me the money" principle has never yet paid in theatrical affairs, and never will. Yes, I have a suggestion as to the remedy. I believe that in the large cities the playgoer could be wooed back to regular attendance at the theatre by a stock company of really competent players playing sound plays produced as in a West End theatre. In Manchester, Liverpool, or Glasgow a good play should run as long as a pantomime. There are, I believe, plenty of good actors, but we lack good stage managers. Many a good play has been ruined for the want of an embryo Pinero to produce it. In the smaller towns I advocate a modified form of stock—a company playing say four pieces and staying a month. What is saved in travelling expenses could be expended on the company and productions. This plan would also minimise the expense of pictorial printing, and the play would once more become '*the* thing.'

"Yes, I was recently playing in the music halls. Why not? The music-hall artist comes to the theatre, why should not the theatre return the compliment? The conditions of the music hall are certainly better than many of the theatres, and the audiences generally are both numerous and appreciative.

"It may interest you to learn that I have recently taken up golf, and am an enthusiast, but my present average for 18 holes is 140."

THEATRICAL PATENTS.

The concise descriptions that we give below of recent patent applications are specially contributed by Messrs. Howard and Co., Patent Agents, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, London, W.C., who will assist readers in all patent matters:—

22,685. Theatrical appliances. B. J. B. Mills. Southampton-buildings, London. Relates to double or multiple stage arrangements to facilitate the changing of scenery, &c. A double front stage is mounted on wheels on transverse rails, so that one half is opposite to the proscenium opening, while the other half is in a side chamber out of sight. The stage carrier framework supporting suspended scenery and lower rails for carriages, which move in slots in the stage and support the non-suspended scenery. Fixed side-floors just below the level of the stage are slotted to allow for the passage of the rails, and a fixed stage is arranged at the back of the movable stage. A series of slotted girders for suspended scenery are arranged at right-angles to one another at the back of the stage, and communicate with one another and the guides, so that the scenery can be turned, reversed, or moved on rollers into the back corners of the stage for storage.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

DEATH OF ANNIE GOWARD.

Miss Annie Goward, who was a niece of the late Mrs. Keeley, and the wife of Mr. Charles Fawcett, died on Thursday, the 21st inst. She was the daughter of Mrs. Keeley's youngest brother, Alfred Goward.

Miss Goward made her first appearance at the Alexandra, Liverpool, under the management of the late Mr. Edward Saker. Thence she migrated to a then little known spot on the map called Paignton, but now quite a fashionable watering-place, about two miles from Torquay. The Bijou Theatre was run on first-class lines by a local magnate named Dendy. His whole heart was in his little theatre, and his great delight was to work the limelights—often with disastrous results to himself. As he practically owned the village, he was in a position to make miniature productions on a lavish scale, principally for the delectation of a few visitors from Torquay, and an audience mostly made up of the fisher-folk from the adjacent village of Brixham. Mr. Singer, of sewing-machine fame, would occasionally occupy the stalls, with his family of twenty daughters. He had had four wives.

At Paignton, Miss Goward gained considerable experience as chambermaid, Mr. E. M. Robson being the low comedian. It is said that the trial performance of *The Pirates of Penzance* took place at the Bijou, Paignton. It was at Paignton that Miss Goward met her fate and changed her name to Fawcett, Mr. Fawcett being a member of the company.

Miss Goward's next engagement was at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, where she was engaged for the stock company by the late Mr. Mercer Simpson. Mr. Edward Compton was the leading man. Here she had a varied experience, notably in Shakespeare, playing with the late Adelaide Neilson in *The Winter's Tale*, &c. With the same company, on tour, she also played a round of parts with the late Charles Mathews. Upon the occasion of a special performance of *Ici on parle Français*, by the late Mr. J. L. Toole, before His Royal Highness the then Prince of Wales, Miss Goward was the Anna Maria. At the close of the performance His Highness graciously handed her his buttonhole, and congratulated her on her performance. Needless to say, the souvenir was carefully treasured.

Her next engagement was under the management of Mr. John Douglas at the Standard, Shoreditch. Here she played and toured for several seasons. Mr. Henry Neville, Mr. Pateman, and the late Charles Harcourt frequently starred at Mr. Douglas's theatre. Miss Goward was a most versatile actress; but perhaps the part that will be best remembered by the public will be her Bella, the servant in *Our Flat*, which she created and played for over 700 nights at the Strand Theatre, under the management of Mr. Willie Edouin. Her husband, Mr. Charles Fawcett, also played Reginald, the disappointed author. Having been associated for some years with Mr. Edouin, many parts fell to her lot, notably Mrs. Plumper in *The Lady Killer*, Jane, the cook, in *Beauty's Toils*, and Mrs. Fluffy in *Katti*, all the three pieces being from the pen of her husband, Mr. Fawcett.

She also played in pantomime at the Prince's, Manchester, under the management of the late Mr. John Hollingshead. The three sisters, Misses Ada, Edith, and Addie Blanche, were engaged at the time for the principal parts. Her husband was resident stage-manager at the time.

Her next London engagement, after the run of *Our Flat*, was at the Comedy, under the management of Mr. Charles Hawtrey. Here she was highly successful in *The Sportsman*; as Cleopatra in *The Mummy*, with Mr. Lionel Brough in the title-rôle; and in Miss Clo Graves' clever comedy, *The Mother of Three*, in which Mr. Cyril Maude, Miss Rose Leclercq, and Miss Fanny Brough also appeared. Miss Goward, who played the slavey "from the home," who used to sleep with her head "under the sink," will be remembered for one line alone which convulsed the house, on being asked if she had any morals, replying, "Yes, ma'am, two. One to wear, and one at the wash."

The interment took place on Tuesday last at Hendon Park cemetery, in the presence of a few friends. Many beautiful flowers adorned the coffin, among which were wreaths and crosses from her old and valued friends, Mr. Albert West, Miss Laura Sedgewick, Mrs. Clara Campbell, and Miss Nellie Campbell. There were other beautiful wreaths sent from Manchester by Miss Ada Blanche, Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Rignold, and the members of the company of *What the Butler Saw*, in which, quite recently, she made her last appearance as Mrs. Hake.

PORTABLE THEATRES ASSOCIATION.

At the Prince of Wales's, Birmingham, on Wednesday afternoon last, the proprietors of portable theatres held a meeting for the purpose of forming themselves into an Association. The chair was taken by Mr. A. E. Drinkwater. Amongst those also present were Messrs. E. Ebley, Alfred Denville, G. Gilbert, G. Austin, J. Johnson, W. Haggar, jun., J. Langley, F. Blake, Douglas Newell, Lalla Newell, Viola Jennings, — Hudson, H. Whitmee, and J. F. Graham. There were elected as members: Mesdames Mitford, Bond, Sinclair, Vickars, and Poulton, and Messrs. West, Hodson, Allworth, T. Allen, Beale, Davis, Leland Jones, Chas. Weight, King, Holloway, and De Marr.

MR. DRINKWATER having alluded to the object for which the meeting was assembled,

MR. DENVILLE read telegrams of sympathy from Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. John Hare, and Mr. Alexander.

MR. DUDLEY NEWELL proposed that the entrance fee to the Association should be half-a-crown, and that in one month from date it should be raised to half-a-guinea.

MR. AUSTEN seconded, and the resolution was carried.

MR. DENVILLE then proposed that Mr. Drinkwater should be elected chairman of the Association.

MR. WHITNEY seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

MR. NEWELL proposed that Mr. Denville should be elected secretary. The motion was seconded by MRS. GILBERT, and carried.

The SECRETARY read a letter from Mr. William Webb, manager of the North-Eastern Banking Co., Ltd., Morpeth, who consented to accept the treasurership of the Association. On the proposition of MR. GEORGE AUSTIN, seconded by MR. FRED BLAKE, it was resolved to appoint Mr. Webb to the post.

Messrs. Hudson and Newell were elected auditors. Those present were formed into a general committee, and Messrs. Newell, Blake, and Langley were chosen as an emergency committee. The subscription of membership of the Association was fixed at five shillings per month.

The Secretary having read letters from the Copyright Play Protection Association saying that it was determined to put a stop to the piracy from which authors suffered in regard to portables, Mr. DENVILLE said he had written in reply stating that the members of the Travelling Theatre Managers' Association would pay half-a-crown each performance for inferior pieces, and up to five shillings for the better ones, and use their original manuscript.

MR. DRINKWATER said if the Association could secure the right to play a piece, say, fifty times in the course of a year, and could allot that amongst the members of the Association, they would get better terms if they would guarantee that each would play it a certain number of times.

It was agreed that the secretary should be authorised to negotiate with the Copyright Play Protection Society.

In a discussion which followed, it was explained that the Association would make charitable grants in deserving cases, and would support a member in the event of his being involved in litigation in respect of professional usage. It was settled that no one should become a member of the Association until he had been elected by the committee by a majority of two-thirds. Dealing with the question of liability under the new Workmen's Compensation Act, the SECRETARY said they had obtained counsel's opinion to the effect that an actor or actress was similar to a domestic servant, and managers were therefore liable. Lloyd's offered to take insurances at 10s. per cent.

MR. DRINKWATER made a strong appeal on behalf of Actors' Day. He hoped all present would support Actors' Day Fund as far as they could, and try to induce the members of their companies to do so.

MR. DENVILLE thought they should combine and send up fifty per cent. of their takings to the Fund.

After further discussion, the meeting separated.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

A vocal recital by the pupils of Madame Eugénie Joachim was given on Monday afternoon in the concert room. The recital might almost be termed a sacred concert, as the works performed were, with only two exceptions, of that nature, therefore the organ accompaniment by Dr. Warwick Jordan (Professor) was appropriate. Four of Mme. Joachim's pupils were heard in examples from the great oratorios, and although the students at first seemed slightly nervous in singing to the organ, they nevertheless acquitted themselves ably. All wind instruments are difficult to sing to, and next to the flute, the organ is a severe test of the vocalist's purity of intonation. Miss Katie Tucker and Miss E. Barwell-Holbrook sang the duet, "The Lord is my strength," from Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, but were far more successful in Mendelssohn's duet, with chorus, "I waited for the Lord," from the *Hymn of Praise*. Miss Rita Milner was heard in "The Spirit Song," by Haydn, and recit. and arioso, "And he journey'd," "But the Lord is mindful," from Mendelssohn's *St. Paul*, which Miss Milner sang with care and expression. In Handel's recit., "O let eternal honours," and aria, "From Mighty Kings" (*Judas Maccabæus*), Miss Katie Tucker was much overtaxed by the difficult florid music, although she may be credited with intelligent singing and the neat execution of several shakes. These examples from the great oratorios require great singers. At all our principal music schools the students seem to have a fixed idea that the more difficult the music the greater the success will be to the singer, and this is a pity, as there are many fine voices among the pupils that otherwise would be heard to much more advantage. Miss Gilderoy-Scott was much applauded in Schubert's beautiful "Litanei" and Lully's "Bois Epée"; and Miss E. Barwell-Holbrook has considerable success in "Ave Mavia," by Cherubini, and Gounod's "Jerusalem." Miss Dorothy Holden presided at the pianoforte, and not a little of the undoubted success of the recital was due to the care and skill of Dr. Warwick Jordan in the organ accompaniments.

The students' orchestral concert given at the City of London School on Wednesday evening attracted a large audience. Dr. Cummings conducted the orchestra, which was first heard in Gounod's overture "Mirella." A first performance of a Concertstück (MS.) for pianoforte and orchestra, by Mr. L. A. Collingwood, was also included in the programme. In the new work the young composer has, as all students do, attempted too much; there is some clever writing for the orchestra, and the wind instruments are skilfully introduced, but the absence of any consistent theme for the pianoforte portion and the mass of diffuse detail for the orchestra were against the good impression the Concertstück would otherwise have made. What little part the solo instrument had in the new work was ably performed by the composer, who received a hearty recall at the close. Mr. Collingwood ought to re-write and simplify his Concertstück, and give more importance to the pianoforte part, as the work deserves it. In Mendelssohn's Pianoforte Concerto in G minor, Misc Dadine Sutherland was particularly successful, giving quite a brilliant performance of the rapid finale the orchestra most ably seconding her efforts. The vocalists were Miss Elsie F. Haughton and Mr. Robert Carr. The latter, who possesses a musical and well-trained baritone voice, was somewhat handicapped by the loud accompaniment of the orchestra in his two songs, "Son of mine" and "The Rebel," by Wallace. The young vocalist, who sang with capital dramatic expression, was loudly applauded. Miss Elsie F. Haughton made a favourable impression on the audience by her singing of Max Bruch's "Ave Maria." There has been at students this week quite a run on this particular "Ave Maria." The orchestra, which were in good form, and the wind particularly so, concluded the programme with an excellent performance of Mendelssohn's "Ruy Blas" overture.

On Wednesday afternoon the second organ recital, on this occasion by Dr. C. J. Frost, was given in the concert room of the Guildhall School. The programme commenced with J. S. Bach's delightful Fantasia and Fugue in G minor, followed by the Adagio non troppo, Allegro, and Finale from Josef Rheinberger's Sonata No. 5 in F sharp major. Two charming examples of Chevalier Lemmens' Allegretto in B flat and Fantasia in A minor were given, and Dr. Frost also played a musicianly Postlude in C of his own composition, and in the florid passages in "Hommage à Mozart" (Morceau Symphonique), by J. B. Calkin, the organ was heard to great advantage. Dr. A. L. Pearce's Concert Fantasia in B flat minor and major, and Sir Edward Elgar's popular march "Pomp and Circumstance" concluded an interesting recital, in the course of which the organist was warmly greeted.

MR. DANCE'S PIECES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Will you permit me to correct a little inaccuracy which crept into your paragraph of last week, in which you stated that I had sold Mr. Charles Macdona some of my pieces? It is quite true that I have disposed of the rights to him of *A Country Girl*, *The Duchess of Dantzic*, *Veronique*, *The Girl from Kay's*, and *The Cingalee*, all of which he takes over immediately. *The Little Michus* I have also sold to him; but he does not take it over until next Christmas. *The Beauty of Bath* and *The Catch of the Season* he has also acquired from me, but not until the end of next spring.

I trust you will find space for this explanation, because managers who have booked the three latter pieces for the coming autumn have written respecting the contracts which they hold with me.—Yours faithfully, GEORGE DANCE.

17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W., March 28, 1907.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

MAKES THE SKIN AS SOFT AS VELVET.—Beetham's "LAROLA" preserves the Skin from the effects of the sun, winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, tan, &c., and KEEPS THE SKIN SOFT, SMOOTH, and WHITE at all Seasons. INVALUABLE for the COMPLEXION, DELIGHTFULLY SOOTHING AND REFRESHING after walking, golfing, cycling, motoring, dancing, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles, 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. BEETHAM AND SON, CHELTENHAM.—[ADVT.]

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham arrived home on Sunday from his holiday trip to Egypt, and immediately began rehearsals for the revival of *The Liars*, travelling up from Brighton, where he is at present staying, every day for the purpose. Sir Charles and Miss Mary Moore will both appear in their original parts in Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's comedy, which is due at the Criterion on or about April 10.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree has found the desire to witness his double bill, consisting of *The Red Lamp* and *The Van Dyck*, so strong that he has practically decided upon continuing it at the close of the Shakespeare Festival. Subsequently the new play, written by Mr. Louis N. Parker, on the subject of Joan of Arc, may be expected, with Miss Viola Tree as the heroine, and probably Mr. Tree himself and Charles VII. of France. In September Mr. Tree starts on a short tour, during which the first opportunity of seeing the famous actor as Macbeth will be afforded.

Mr. Martin Harvey has been playing throughout this week to large and enthusiastic audiences at the Alexandra Theatre, Greenock. Mr. Harvey has also been making the utmost of the exquisite neighbourhood about the Clyde-side hive of industry, and though as a motorist he has no desire to figure as a record-breaker, being content with record-breaking in another sphere of enterprise, he, with Mrs. Martin Harvey (Miss N. de Silva) and friends, have within the last few days enjoyed some wonderful runs, and viewed some no less fine scenery. Miss Muriel Harvey, we are glad to state, is now practically restored to health, and her parents are now happily relieved of anxiety concerning her. On Monday Mr. Harvey, Miss de Silva, and the company appear at the Royal, Newcastle.

Mr. George Edwardes suspended the performances at Daly's during the week, in order to give the artists, who have been playing without intermission for over 150 performances, a much-needed rest. Mr. Edwardes is of opinion that it is fairer to the public to adopt this method rather than weaken the cast for a prolonged period by giving the artists their holiday in rotation while the play is running. The performances of *The Lady Dandies* will be resumed on Monday with the full strength of the company.

Mr. William Mollison will be seen in his impersonations of Shylock, Macbeth, and Richard III. for the first time in London, at the Shakespeare Theatre, next week. The attractions will also include the St. James's productions of *As You Like It* and *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush*, so that the playgoers of Clapham and neighbouring suburbs are assured of a dramatic feast for the Easter holidays.

At the annual general meeting of the Birmingham Theatre Royal Company, Limited, held on Tuesday, the directors reported a trading profit of £1,973 5s. 10d. on the year ending December last. After writing off the sum of £593 11s. 2d. for depreciation on equipment, and setting aside the sum of £165 for redemption fund, there remained a balance of £1,209 14s. 8d. net profit in part redemption of the deficiency standing in last year's accounts. The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said they were glad to be able to record a substantiad improvement on the trading of the first year. Their greatest difficulties had been the dearth of first-class touring attractions and the fact that for three months in the summer it was impossible to open the theatre without incurring a loss. He firmly believed that there must be a reduction of capital, and was strongly opposed to a drifting policy, preferring to deal with the deficit at the earliest possible moment. If they wiped out the deficit and wrote down the shares to their fair value there was every hope of the company being able to pay a dividend.

Mr. Ernest Wintour, who died at Wealdstone last Sunday, after being incapacitated by a long and painful illness of nearly two years, was a well-known and clever comedian. His last London engagement was with Miss Kitty Lofting at the Savoy Theatre. By the generosity of his brother, Mr. William L. Dobell, of La Comédie Anglaise, he had every necessary comfort and attention, and was devotedly nursed to the end by his fiancée, Miss Mabel Luxmore. The deceased, who was forty-nine years of age, was buried at Wealdstone Cemetery on Thursday.

Mr. H. E. Bellamy has sent a cheque to the secretary of the Actors' Benevolent Fund for £17 13s. 3d.—less 40s. disbursed in emergencies—collected from the members of the D'Oyly Carte Répertoire Opera Company. Mr. Cecil Paget has forwarded £2 2s. 9d. gathered by means of the fund's box at the Crown Theatre, Peckham; and Mr. Wilfred Stanford has forwarded a further sum of £1 19s. from the Camden Theatre box.

Mr. Reeves-Smith, on behalf of a well-known American firm, has signed contracts with Mrs. Humphry Ward for the production of *The Marriage of William Ashe* in England. An adaptation of Mrs. Ward's book, by Miss Margaret Mayo, was performed all last season in America, with considerable success, Mr. Reeves-Smith playing the part of William. Mr. Reeves-Smith opens on Monday, the 8th prox., at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, with *The Last of His Race*, afterwards visiting Liverpool, Manchester, and Hull. Should the play realise expectations, it will be produced in London in September.

The complete cast of *The Palace of Puck*, which is to be produced at the Haymarket on Tuesday, will consist of Mr. Frederick Kerr, Miss Marion Terry, Miss Beatrice Terry, Mr. H. V. Esmond, Mr. Ben Webster, Mr. H. Marsh Allen, Mr. E. W. Tarver, Mr. M. Elphinstone, Mr. Harry Norton, Miss Miriam Clements, Miss Mona Harrison, and Miss Vera Cockburn. The action of the play takes place in France, and the period is the present day. *Compromising Martha* will continue to serve as a curtain-raiser.

At the usual fortnightly social gathering of members of the Actors' Association, which was held this week on Thursday afternoon, a dramatic reading of *Othello* was given in place of a lecture and debate. It was rather unfortunate that the attendance was meagre, for the speeches of the different characters were delivered with fine effect and with a due appreciation of the meaning of the great poet's lines. Mr. Acton Bond read the directions, Mr. F. H. de Quincy appeared as Othello, Mr. Kenyon Musgrave as Iago, Mr. Edwin Holloway as Cassio, Mr. Reginald Maurice as Roderigo, Mr. Wm. Dexter as Brabantio, Mr. Thomas Holding as the Duke of Venice and Montano, Mr. John Beamish as Lodovico, Miss R. Mayne Young as Desdemona, Miss Barbara Fern as Emilia, and Miss Marian Bird as the Messenger.

The Managers' Club will have the last Social of the season on Sunday evening, April 14, when the chair will be occupied by Mr. Frank Weathersby, who has undertaken the programme. So extremely successful have the Ladies' Socials proved that the committee have determined that the club's last function of the season shall also be graced by the presence of the fair sex. Morning dress will be *de rigueur*.

Mr. Ernest Leicester has sailed for Melbourne, where he opens as leading actor on April 28. Mr. Leicester, whose virility and dramatic resource are sure to speed him quickly in the favour of Australians, for some time played the lead in the stock company at the Surrey Theatre, and like other of Mr. Conquest's principal actors, migrated afterwards to the West-end.

"The Senior Partner" is the title chosen for the play, by Louis N. Parker, with which the Vaudeville will inaugurate its season of comedy pure and simple. Miss Billie Burke will have the principal part, which has been specially written for the present charming "Belle of Mayfair." Another important engagement is that of Mr. Charles Hawtrey, now happily recovered from the effects of the recent operation which prevented him taking up his part in the new play at the Haymarket. The story of *The Senior Partner* is laid in Boston, U.S.A., during the period of the Tea Riots in 1773, which immediately preceded the American War of Independence.

Mr. Henry Watson has been engaged by Mr. Wentworth Croke for the part of Oscar Stephenson in his autumn tour of *The Prodigal Son*.

A great gloom was cast over the closing stages of the pantomime at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, by the not unexpected but astonishingly rapid fatal termination to the illness from consumption of the musical director, Mr. Gill, on Tuesday night. The deceased gentleman leaves a young widow and infant child. Their immediate wants have been seen to by the generosity of the *Cinderella* company and a few unprofessional friends in the locality.

Mr. Bernard Copping will, on Saturday, terminate a successful fourteen weeks' tour, under the management of Mr. J. B. Mulholland, in the dual rôle of Walter Everest and the automaton in Charles Hannan's clever play *The Electric Man*. The performance of the piece at the Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, this week, has been witnessed by a number of the officers and men from the Russian battleships visiting our shores, and, judging from their hearty laughter, the difficulties of following a performance in a foreign language did not prevent them from realising the amusing complications to which the inventor's electric monstrosity gives rise.

Baron Harriss's No. 1 *Prince of Pilsen* company, with Miss Sophie Harriss, Mr. Frank Crimp, and Mr. Harry Kilburn, supported by a powerful cast, has been secured as the Easter week attraction at the Opera House, Harrogate. The success which has attended the tour has been almost phenomenal, return dates at most of the theatres visited having been booked at increased percentages.

The installation meeting of Yorick Lodge of Freemasons, No. 2,771, was held recently at the Trocadero, when Mr. George Robins was placed in the chair as successor to Mr. Clarence Sounes. Mr. J. Bannister-Howard was appointed Director of Ceremonies.

The first visit of Mr. Ian Maclaren and his répertoire company to the Theatre Royal, Brighton, gave playgoers of "London-by-the-Sea" an opportunity of passing their verdict on a new exponent of Shakespeare, and their opinion was recorded in no uncertain fashion. On the opening night *Hamlet* was presented, when Mr. Ian Maclaren's enactment of the Prince met with such favour that he was honoured by repeated recalls at the conclusion of each act. Other Shakespearian plays presented were *The Merchant of Venice*, *Twelfth Night*, and *As You Like It*, in all of which Mr. Maclaren further advanced in favour by his performances of Shylock, Malvolio, and Orlando. The climax of Mr. Maclaren's success was reached, however, in *Othello*, when the curtain had to be raised six times on the last act. The week's programme was further varied by *David Garrick* and *She Stoops to Conquer*. Mr. Maclaren, who has the advantage of being supported by a well-selected and talented company, has arranged for a return visit to Brighton next spring.

Mr. Mark H. Lindon, the highly-esteemed managing-director of the Theatre Royal, West Stanley, has been again returned as a member of the Stanley Urban District Council. Mr. Harry Masterman, the popular manager of the Theatre Royal, Castleford, who has served on the Urban District Council for the past eleven years, was also re-elected on Saturday last by a large majority.

"What the Butler Saw" has just finished its third week at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, and the enthusiasm of the audience on the last night was equal to that displayed on its first production there. This entertaining comedy by Judge Parry and Mr. Fred Mouillot has been revised and improved in many particulars, several scenes being rewritten and the part of the Butler being greatly strengthened. Its drawing powers have been so great in every town visited that Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche are now negotiating for a West End theatre with a view to its revival in London this June.

Mr. Bannister Howard's well-known company in *La Poupée* is assured of a hearty welcome at the Crystal Palace Theatre, where it opens with a matinée to-day and an evening performance, and will continue at the Palace throughout next week. The excellent cast includes Mr. Gus Danby as Hilarius and Miss Cissy Wade as the Doll.

Mr. W. Maycock is a contributor of one guinea to the fund for the relief of the widow of the late Charles Garthorne.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Kelly (Miss Edith Cole) gave an "At Home" at the New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, on Wednesday, when the elegantly appointed theatre looked at its best. A numerous gathering assembled to honour the occasion. The entertainment provided was recherché in every respect, and host and hostess are to be congratulated on the success of the very agreeable function. During the early part of the week the ordinary theatrical entertainments have been suspended, the Moody-Manners Operatic Company commencing a brief season with a sacred concert on Good Friday.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree has a nephew at the Oxford Preparatory School who is showing unmistakable signs of inheriting a share of his uncle's great talents. Young Claude Beerbohm last week produced *Oliver Twist* in the great hall of the school, and played Fagin with an intensity and finish that were surprising. Young Beerbohm, who had drilled the other youthful players into quite respectable performers, met with a great reception. The dresses were lent by Mr. Tree.

The first of the "Suffragette" plays is a "dramatic tract," in three acts, and is entitled *Votes for Women*. The new piece, which is by Miss Elizabeth Robins, will be produced for a series of matinées at the Court Theatre on the afternoon of April 9. The cast will consist of Messrs. Athol Forde, Aubrey Smith, E. Holman Clark, P. Clayton Greene, Percy Marmont, Lewis Casson, and Edmund Gwenn, and Misses Maud Milton, Frances Ivor, Jean MacKinlay, Gertrude Burnett, Dorothy Minto, Agnes Thomas, and Wynne Matthison. The entire action of the play is comprised within the limits of six hours, from noon on Sunday till six o'clock the same evening.

The Commissioners Committee's monthly meeting, fixed for Monday last, was not held owing to the number present being insufficient to form a quorum. The next meeting is fixed for Monday, April 29, at 3.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Actors' Association held a meeting on Monday last, when there were present Messrs. Acton Bond (chairman), J. Cooke Beresford, Lewis Casson, H. Athol Forde, and Chas. Cruikshanks (sec.). Mr. Henry Ainley was elected a member of this committee. The committee recommended the appointment of Messrs. Haydon and Haydon, of 32, Great St. Helen's, E.C., as hon. auditors of the Actors' Association. The committee resolved that a suggestion should be made to the Council that the list of "unpaid" subscriptions be submitted to the Council on the 2nd prox., with a recommendation that the names of members who were not abroad and were in arrear should be removed from the register.

The usual weekly meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday last, when there were present—Mr. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), Mr. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman), Mr. Henry W. Mote (solicitor), Misses Carlotta Addison, Georgina Hamilton, and Kate Phillips, and Messrs. Henry Ainley, J. Cooke Beresford, Clarence Blakiston, Acton Bond, Lewis Casson, C. F. Collings, Burton Cooke, H. Athol Forde, C. V. France, Frederick Morland, Kenyon Musgrave, Frederick Volpe, and Chas. Cruikshanks (sec.). The hon. solicitors reported progress in several matters, and that they had advised members on points submitted.

Miss Fanny Brough was elected a member of the Council to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Quinton McPherson. The Council accepted the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, and appointed Messrs. Haydon and Haydon, of 32, Great St. Helen's, E.C., as hon. auditors of the Association. The Council also adopted the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee as to the "unpaid" subscriptions, and instructed the secretary to place before them a list of members in arrear so that the matter might be dealt with at their next meeting.

A case of alleged insufficient ventilation at a provincial theatre was under consideration. The secretary referred to a letter from the management, and the explanation given was deemed satisfactory. Dr. Gairdner, of Ayr, and Dr. Henry, of Govan, was elected hon. medical officers to the A.A. Margery Chard, Wilson Gunning, Lallie Forsyth, and Elizabeth Robins were nominated for election, and a former member was nominated for reinstatement. The Suggestion Book was considered and an entry made. The offices of the Association will be closed on Easter Monday.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee held a meeting on Tuesday last, when there were present Messrs. Acton Bond (chairman), Henry Ainley, J. Cooke Beresford, Lewis Casson, A. E. Drinkwater, H. Athol Forde, C. Aubrey Smith, and Chas. Cruikshanks (sec.). The draft of a suggested circular-letter to theatrical managers dealing with the question of the comfort of actors and actresses in the way of dressing-rooms, &c., and of the necessary conveniences in connection therewith was considered at considerable length, and ultimately it was agreed that all the absent members of the committee should be supplied with copies of the suggested letter in order that they might express their views on the subject before the letter was submitted to the Council for their approval. Certain expenditure in connection with the "social" meetings was authorised.

The Subscription Committee held a meeting on Tuesday last, when there were present Messrs. Acton Bond (chairman), Henry Ainley, J. Cooke Beresford, Burton Cooke, C. Aubrey Smith, and Chas. Cruikshanks (sec.). Proposed amendments concerning the method of payment of subscriptions were considered, together with the Articles of Association governing the subject and the revision suggested in those Articles to meet the case. The secretary reported that if the changes were made the insurance company had arranged to adapt the payment of premiums to the altered circumstances.

Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Homewood (Miss Joan Blair) will be back in England in the middle of April, after an absence of more than thirteen months—a break of twelve days at home *en route* from South Africa to Canada excepted—during which they have been playing important parts in two répertoire companies, those of Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler in Africa, and Mr. E. S. Willard in Canada and the United States. Mr. Homewood thus completes his fifth, and Mrs. Homewood her third, visit to America, but notwithstanding the long spell of hard work, they are eager for more.

Messrs. Barr, Moering, and Co., Transit House, Jewin-street, E.C., have been honoured by Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree with the order for the removal of his scenery, requisite for the performances at Berlin before H.M. the Kaiser. The weight is about sixty-five tons, and it is the largest quantity ever shipped from England at one time. Half the ship was taken up, and a special train will be necessary from Bremen to Berlin and back.

Miss Dorothy Cacey, who has recovered from her recent severe accident at Brighton, will shortly revive Mr. H. V. Esmond's comedy, *When We Were Twenty-one*. A first-class company is being engaged, and it will include, besides Miss Cacey, Mr. Riddell Robinson and Miss Mildred Hodson. The tour will be under the experienced direction of Mr. Frank Nelson.

A new three-act comedy, entitled *The Giftie*, by Margery Stanley Clark, will be produced by the Edward Terry Dramatic Club on Thursday, April 18, at Ladbroke Hall. The performance will be in aid of the Chiswick branch of the League of Mercy.

The Brixton Theatre, which shows every sign of returning popularity, will have a powerful Easter attraction in Mr. Weedon Grossmith's laughable farcical comedy, *The Night of the Party*, in which Mr. Sebastian Smith will appear as Crosbie. The following week Conan Doyle's stirring work, *Sherlock Holmes*, will be presented. Mr. R. W. Allum is making every endeavour to bring back prosperity to the theatre, and is securing a list of well-tried successes that should help him materially.

Interesting engagements have been made for Messrs. Herbert Leonard and Walter Slaughter's new light romantic opera, to be produced at the Shaftesbury on Saturday, April 27. In the cast will be found Messrs. Courtice Pounds, Walter Passmore, Johnny Danvers, Powis Pinder, Arthur Playfair, Ivor Foster, Algernon Newarth, and Oscar Adye; Misses Kitty Gordon, Claudia Lasell, and Marie George.

Mr. Sidney Bacon entertained the inmates of the Gateshead Workhouse on the 20th inst. to a performance at his theatre of Messrs Levy and Cardwell's pantomime. The men were also made happy by presents of tobacco, and tea was given to the women.

"The Finding of the Sword," a new play, by the Countess of Cromartie, is to be produced at three matinées, on April 30, May 2 and 3, at the Playhouse, in aid of St. Vincent's Home for Destitute Children. The cast will include Mr. Matheson Lang and Miss Edyth Olive.

The cast for *The Judgment of Pharaoh*, to be produced at the Scala about April 22, is being rapidly formulated, a number of sterling artists having already been engaged. Miss Nora Lancaster, who has lately been playing in the provinces with such gratifying results, has been secured for one of the leading characters, while others have been allotted to Mr. James Fernandez, Mr. Brandon Thomas, Mr. Edmund Gurney, and Miss Cecil Cromwell.

The Hicks Theatre, where *My Darling* is captivating large audiences, is to be the scene of the production, about the end of April, of an American comedy entitled *Brewster's Millions*, adapted by Winchell Smith and Byron Ongley from a story by George Barr McCutcheon, which was produced on the last day of the year at the New Amsterdam Theatre, New York. The interest of the play lies in the efforts of the chief character to secure a large fortune, bequeathed by his eccentric uncle, on condition that he gets rid, within a year, of every dollar formerly left him by his grandfather. Brewster, who is debarred from giving the money away or indulging in reckless gambling, tries all legitimate means of relieving himself of the cash, but every speculation only serves further to enrich him, until at the end, by a stroke of luck, he finds himself penniless. The chief part will be played by Mr. Gerald Du Maurier.

Mr. William Lockhart has been fortunate in the matter of long engagements. During his eighteen years of stage-life he counts twelve years of steady employment under only five managers, viz., Mr. Herman Vezin, Mr. Wm. Greet, Mr. Louis Calvert, and Mr. Gordon Starkey. Mr. Lockhart finishes his engagement with *Sunday* at Poplar on April 20.

Miss Louisa Peach, who achieved such popularity as leading lady at the Britannia during the late Mrs. Sara Lane's management, has joined Mr. Morton Powell's company to play her original part of the Countess Natalie in *The Woman Who Gambles*. The rôle is an exacting one, and Miss Peach's success this week at the West London has been well won.

"Les Cloches de Corneville" will constitute the Easter attraction at the Marlborough, matinées being given on Monday and Thursday. The company, which is that of Mr. E. St. Alban, numbers many well-known artists, including Mr. William Everard, who has achieved 500 performances as the Marquis; Mr. Fred Dark, to whose credit stands 100 renditions of the Bailie; Mr. Richard Martin, who has played Gobo on 1,500 occasions; Mr. Charles Ross as Grenicheaux; and Mr. E. St. Alban, who has represented Gaspard, the miser, over 800 times. Miss Marion Ayling will appear for the 200th time as Germaine; and Miss Madge Roberts will repeat her impersonation of Serpolette, a part which in her hands has also run into some hundreds.

"Tales of Hoffmann," the Offenbach play with which the German Comic Opera Company of Berlin reopens the Adelphi Theatre on Monday, April 15, will have the advantages of all the original costumes, properties, and artists from the Komische Oper, where the work was produced in the autumn of 1905. Herr Gregor will also bring over from Berlin a chorus of sixty voices, the entire orchestra of sixty performers, together with the stage-manager, machinist, and electrician.

Mr. Alfred Lester, the lost policeman of *The New Aladdin*, has added to his achievements by his assumption of the waiter in *A Restaurant Episode* at the Palace Theatre, and a chorus of praise on all sides has testified to the completeness of his triumph. Mr. Lester's air of melancholy and resignation is deliciously comic, and every line of the part is invested with unctuous effect by his droll method of delivery. People who laughed over the comedian's "scene-shifter" and roared at his "lost policeman" will grow still more hilarious over the weary waiter.

Artists touring in India can always rely on seeing a copy of *The Era* at Mr. Jack Gunn's rooms at the Frere Hotel, Bombay. When a company visits the town, Mr. Gunn sends the paper to the theatre for the convenience of the visitors.

At a dinner given in his honour at the Royal Yacht Hotel, Jersey, on the 21st instant, Mr. C. Robert Perkins, the retiring lessee of the Jersey Opera House, was the recipient of a handsomely illuminated address and a half-hunter watch, suitably engraved, subscribed for by his patrons, together with a rose-bowl, presented to him by his co-directors in the New Channel Islands Entertainment Company. Amongst the guests was Mr. Edward Marris, the new lessee, who reopens the Opera House to-night with his own company in *The Dandy Doctor*. Mr. Wybert Rousby, who was also to have been a guest, was unable to be present owing to ill-health.

At Bow-street Police-court, on Monday, Thomas Martin, a scene-shifter at Drury Lane Theatre, was charged with stealing clothing. A long series of thefts at this theatre, it was stated, had baffled detection. Twenty new costumes, each worth £10, were taken recently. On the 22nd inst. the door of one of the ballet-rooms, containing stage property worth £2,000 to £3,000, was forced open. The wardrobe mistress afterwards made the door secure, but on Saturday it was again broken in. The management obtained the services of a detective, who concealed himself in the ballet-room, and, after waiting half an hour, saw the prisoner enter and switch on the electric light. Then he appeared to hear footsteps, listened intently, and withdrew without touching anything. When leaving the theatre he was detained, and a parcel containing two articles of clothing belonging to the theatre was found upon him. The prisoner was remanded for inquiries.

At the conclusion of the Easter term of the Royal College of Music on Wednesday the following awards were made:—Council Exhibitions—Pianoforte, Dorothy I. Greenway, £10; singing, Jessie R. Patey, £10; Florence M. Atkin, £10; violin, Gladys Raymond, £10; Lorna G. S. Downing, £10. The Charlotte Holmes Exhibition (£15), Adina J. Newton (violin); the John Hopkinson Gold and Silver Medals for pianoforte playing went respectively to Ellen C. Edwards and Winifred Gardiner; the Council Prize, value £3 3s., for organ extemporising, to Harold W. Rhodes; the Challen Gold Medal for pianoforte playing to Ellen C. Edwards; the Scholefield Prize (£3) for string players to Charles Warwick-Evans; the Clementi Exhibition for pianoforte playing, value £28, to Adelaide E. Bonnar; the Henry Leslie (Herefordshire Philharmonic) Prize (£10) for singing to Maria Yelland; the Arthur Sullivan Prize (£5) for composition to Frank H. Tapp; the Dannreuther Prize (£9 9s.) for the best performance of a piano concerto with orchestra to James Friskin. The Royal Amateur Orchestral Society's Scholarship for singing was awarded to Beatrice L. Lewthwaite.

A large audience assembled at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, on Thursday evening, when Miss Bessie Butt, the popular Cinderella of the pantomime, took her benefit. There were numerous floral and other tributes, and the event was specially noticeable for the presentation of a handsome diamond half-hoop ring won by Miss Butt in a local beauty competition. The well-known "Owl" cake is this evening to be presented to Miss Butt, who has won for Mr. Lester Collingwood his first distinction in that direction.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Lines to the Lily.

That delightful author and essayist, Mr. Richard Le Gallienne, while waiting recently for the other guests at a farewell supper to Mrs. Langtry at the Hotel Belleclaire, New York, knocked off a poem to the Jersey Lily. It began:—

I do not bring you flowers,
Or singing birds,
To say farewell,
Nor even words;
Nor to the altar of your eyes
Do I bring sighs;
Such antiquated tribute
To the youth
Of the eternal Spring
I do not bring.

After enumerating a number of other things which he did not bring, Mr. Le Gallienne mentioned what were his tributes, amongst others his "little hoard of star-dust."

The Playhouse Booking.

Mr. Alfred Turner, Mr. Cyril Maude's manager, tells the *Morning Leader* that Mr. Maude's booking experiment means more work, more letters to answer, and a larger staff to maintain; but from the point of view of the public the conveniences considerably outweigh the added labour. Every seat at the Playhouse is booked until halfway through April. The management have not had one complaint from a playgoer, and have just ordered a complete set of new costumes for *Toddles*.

Mr. Tree as Mr. Morgan.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree, says *Tit-Bits*, is a great practical joker. A certain member of his *Twelfth Night* company combined "starring" with keeping a picture shop in the West End. One afternoon, when the play was running, Mr. Tree was in the company of two ladies and a gentleman, and suggested that they should enter this particular establishment. A nervous shopman was in charge, and as the quartet walked round inspecting the paintings, Mr. Tree addressed his friend, who understood the joke, as Carnegie. Mr. Tree posed as Pierpont Morgan. The shopman became flustered, and was in the depth of despair when they left without making a purchase. The same night Mr. Tree met the actor-picture dealer at the theatre. "I heard you had a visit from Carnegie and Morgan this afternoon," said Mr. Tree casually. "Yes, and my fool of a shopman let them go without inducing them to purchase anything." "Hard luck," said Mr. Tree; "what kind of chaps are they?" "My man says that Carnegie's a gentleman, but Morgan is a beastly wretch!"

Shaw on Our Dramatists.

Mr. Bernard Shaw's opinions of English dramatists, when he was critic of the *Saturday Review*, were peculiar. Mr. Pinero, he said, is no interpreter of character, but simply an adroit describer of people as the ordinary man sees and judges them. . . . There is a sense in which Mr. Jones's plays are far more faulty than those of most of his competitors, exactly as a row of men is more faulty than a row of lamp-posts turned out by a first-rate firm. His qualities are creative imagination, curious observation, inventive humour, originality, sympathy, and sincerity; and the risks of trusting to these are, like the rewards, very great. Mr. Barrie . . . has no eye for human character, only a keen sense for human qualities.

Actresses and Matrimony.

The question "Should Actresses Marry?" has been answered in several ways in the *Express*. Miss Edna May thinks every woman should marry, actress or otherwise; Miss Marie Studholme hopes nobody will insist on actresses marrying dramatic critics; Miss Sybil Arundale opines that the luckiest thing an actress can do is to marry a man who can keep her, so that she can leave the stage; Miss Eva Moore replies, "Marriage is a purely domestic and private affair, and nothing whatever to do with the stage"; Mr. Cyril Maude considers that an actress would be most happy in her married life if her husband were an actor, because their hours would be similar, and they could be more together; and Mr. James Welch wishes the kindly-intentioned friends of the stage who meet to discuss more or less intimate matters concerning actors and actresses would leave them and their private lives alone.

A Theory of Acting.

Mr. Bernard Shaw's *Saturday Review* criticisms, which have just been published, in two volumes, by Messrs. Archibald Constable and Co., contain a vast amount of quotable matter. The following remarks on the art of acting occur in a "notice" of *The Chili Widow*.

"The actor's walk is addressed to the spectator's sense of grace, dignity, or strength of movement, and his voice to the listener's sense of expressive or beautiful tone. . . . Now, the power of complying with artistic conditions without being so preoccupied by them as to be incapable of thinking of anything else is hard to acquire, and can be perfected only by long practice. Talma estimated the apprenticeship at twenty years.

"The habit can never become as instinctive as keeping one's balance, for instance, because failure in that for even an instant means a fall, so that the practise in it is life-long and constant; whereas the artistic habit lapses more or less in the absence of an audience, and even on the stage can be forgotten for long periods without any worse consequences than a loss of charm, which nothing may bring to the actor's attention. The real safeguard against such lapses is a sense of beauty—the artistic sense—cultivated to such a degree of sensitiveness that a coarse or prosaic tone, or an awkward gesture, jars instantly on the artist as a note out of tune jars on the musician.

"The defect of the old-fashioned system of training for the stage was that they attempted to prescribe the conclusions of this constantly evolving artistic sense instead of cultivating it, and leaving the artist to its guidance. Thus they taught you an old-fashioned stage-walk, an old-fashioned stage-voice, an old-fashioned stage way of kneeling, of sitting down, of shaking hands, of picking up a handkerchief, and so on, each of them supposed to be the final and perfect way of doing it. The end of that was, of course, to discredit training altogether. But neglect of training very quickly discredits itself; and it will now, perhaps, be admitted that the awakening and culture of the artistic conscience is a real service which a teacher can render to an actor."

A Word for Rayner.

Mr. Laurence Irving is strongly in favour of there being some degree in the infliction of punishment for murder. "Rayner," says Mr. Irving in the *Daily Express*, "under stress of hunger and its attendant miseries, having pawned everything, down to his woollen muffler, and then being refused assistance, shoots William Whiteley. Then he shoots himself. And can anyone question that in those moments when he lay moaning on the floor, asking only to be allowed to die, and in the succeeding days and weeks, when that sad, wrecked, loathsome thing, his life, was being given back to him—can anyone question that in that interval he suffered all, and far more than all, the pangs of hanging?"

We shall be obliged if our readers will send us any amusing anecdotes they may hear, or accounts of any quaint incidents they may witness while acting or rehearsing.

"LES HANNETONS."

Comedy, in Three Acts, by Brieux, Translated by H. M. Clark, and Produced at the Imperial Theatre on Monday, March 25.

Brochot .....MR. EDMUND GWENN
Pierre .....MR. CHARLES V. FRANCE
Charlotte .....MISS MABEL HACKNEY
Isabelle .....MISS DORA BARTON
Langlois .....MR. H. ASHETON TONGE
A Gentleman .....MR. NIGEL PLAYFAIR
Phrasie .....MISS FLORENCE ADALE
Lady from the Fourth Floor..MISS L. DUNCAN
The Waterman .....MR. KENNETH RIVINGTON

M. Brieux is an all-round satirist. In *Blanchette* he attacked popular education; in *Ménages d'Artistes*, art; in *L'Evasion*, science; in *L'Egrénage*, universal suffrage; and in *Les Bienfaiteurs*, he "went for" charitable effort. *Les Hannetons* is devoted to the exposure of the folly of endeavouring to "shirk" the troubles of marriage by the practice of concubinage. When a middle-aged man has lived with a mistress for a year or two, she becomes, as the Gentleman says in *Les Hannetons*, "a habit." To go without her would be like going without his pipe; in fact, it would be worse. "If he have caught the Benedick," says Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, "it will cost him a thousand pound ere he be cur'd." Pierre, the professor of natural history in *Les Hannetons*, has "caught the Charlotte," and he is incurable. He thinks he has arranged his life so as to be free from all annoyance. His future is assured by a pension; and, in order to avoid the worry of a wife and family, he has "set up housekeeping" with a young work-girl. They have not a taste in common. Pierre's hobby is botany; Charlotte worships a pet poodle. Her only amusement is quarreling with her protector and making it up again with amorous effusions. Pierre meets by accident an old schoolfellow, Brochot, now become a veterinary surgeon. He also is a ardent botanist, and they seem likely to become warm friends. Charlotte immediately objects to Brochot; and, when Pierre insists upon going to keep an appointment with the "vet.," she locks the door of the flat, and throws the key out of the window. In its descent, the key hits the hat of a passer-by, who happens to be a Gentleman who occupies a lower floor of the house, in company with a "little friend" of the opposite sex. The Gentleman comes up to remonstrate, and demand an apology; not that he wants one, but he has to satisfy his "little friend's" demands. The two men realise that they are fellow-sufferers; and, in pity and sympathy, Pierre allows the Gentleman to bully him aloud for the benefit of the little friend who is listening below. Charlotte, who not only lives on the whirlwind, but revels in it, and enjoys the storm as well as directing it, keeps the game alive by pretending to leave Pierre. He, utterly worn out by her temper, determines to let her go, and get rid of her. But his passion is revived by the information, which comes from the Gentleman from the fourth floor, that Charlotte has been false to him with Brochot. The two men have a scene, in which Brochot confesses that Charlotte has "gone wrong" with him, but assures Pierre that she still loves her protector passionately. Pierre hesitates between the physical attraction which Charlotte still has for him and the prospect of liberty and peace. But Charlotte does not intend to let him escape. She gets up a sham suicide from the Pont Neuf, taking care to jump into the Seine when rescue is at hand in the shape of a waterman in a boat. She returns to Pierre's lodgings to change her clothes; and a whole battery of argument and reproach is directed on Pierre, who has to pay the waterman a hundred francs for "saving the lady's life." Brochot, the Gentleman from the Fourth Floor, Isabelle, a young and mischievous kept woman and a friend of Charlotte's, the concierge and his wife, and the Gentleman's little friend—a lady palpably rouged, with dishevelled hair and slovenly attire—all join in urging Pierre to resume his bondage. When his Circe returns from her bedroom, nicely dressed, and employs her usual methods of persuasion—throwing herself on his breast, weeping, and kissing and hugging him—Pierre is completely conquered, and the curtain descends on his abject surrender and submission. To-morrow it will all begin again, and so on till one or other of the combatants expires. Death only can release the Professor from his slavery.

For those who like this sort of piece, *Les Hannetons* is just the sort of thing they would like. The members of the Stage Society who were present at the Imperial Theatre on Monday stood the extremely outspoken dialogue and the unmistakeable physical frankness of the play without turning a hair. Not a blush was seen, not a murmur heard, when Pierre and Charlotte discussed whether he was the first to possess her person; and when, after kissing him on a particular spot on the back of the neck, she proceeded to still more intimate demonstrations of passion, the details were taken quite as a matter of course, though some may have felt as if they owed an apology to the characters on the stage for "assisting" at such an essentially private conference. Let us hope that the production of *Les Hannetons* will "do good," and that any members of the Stage Society who may be thinking of forming connections outside the bonds of wedlock may change their minds after seeing the piece.

The comedy was acted with a completeness of finish without which the performance of such an essentially realistic work would have been vain and offensive. Mr. Charles V. France as Pierre was admirably well made up, and played the part throughout with an ease which was never lax, and a composure which never degenerated into indifference. A more thoroughly satisfying and illusive interpretation of the rôle could not have been desired. Mr. Edmund Gwenn put plenty of bright and alert energy into his impersonation of Brochot, and dealt discriminately with what may be called a "serio-comic" character—for we suppose Brochot's expressions of feeling in the last act must be taken as genuine? Miss Mabel Hackney realised very skilfully the character of Charlotte; and the vigour of her violence and the acerbity of her "nagging" were irreproachably effective. Miss Dora Barton depicted the impertinent shallowness of Isabelle simply and naturally; and Mr. Asheton Tonge supplied a neat bit of character-acting as the Concierge. Mr. Nigel Playfair, with a big beard and a gold pince-nez, was irreproachable as the Gentleman; and Miss Florence Adale made a useful contribution to the cast as Phrasie, Miss Lola Duncan, looking the Lady of the Fourth Floor well; and Mr. Kenneth Rivington being commendable as the Waterman. The play had evidently been well rehearsed, Miss Janet Achurch being responsible for its production.

DEATH OF VAL VOUSDEN.

To the men of my generation the death of Val Vousden will come to some degree as a surprise, and to a larger degree as a pang. He had disappeared from public view so long that many of us thought he had died years ago; and now that we know that he survived so many years, and that those years were so darkened by the vicissitudes of fortune, there comes back the surging recollection of all he was to us in the days of his prime. For Val Vousden was an artist that you loved instinctively as a man, altogether apart from his great gifts. He was a showman of the old school in every sense, the good and the bad. He was entirely self-made and self-trained. His music, his songs, his whole entertainment were all created by himself, and were all learnt in the hard school of professional experience. He did not step from the drawing-room or the college, or even the dramatic school, into an engagement, but was almost born on the stage; and beginning as a child in that fascinating but perilous world, he knew all its ups and downs, and was one of the few who survived from that almost prehistoric time when the travelling actor went from town to town, amid many frowning faces and many shut doors.

He was, as I have said, almost born on the stage; he was certainly born just over the way from the stage. Old Dubliners remember the once-famous Hawkins-street Theatre. The father of Val Vousden lived opposite this theatre, and among the father's customers were naturally many of the stock company which then belonged to that theatre. Matthews, the chief scene painter, one of these customers, took a fancy to the bright little lad, and thus it was that at eight years of age Val Vousden appeared as one of the fisher boys in *Masaniello*, and so started his stage career. He had a pretty voice, a fine figure, great grace, and thus was able to play many parts with success, to sing well, dance well, impersonate different characters with great rapidity of change. He was one of the first of the quick-change artists.

While still a youth he got engagements in England, pricipally as a dancer. Then he went to Burslem, in Staffordshire, and found some success there as a teacher of dancing, and there also found his wife, Miss Hawthorne, who was the reigning belle of the town. It was during the Exhibition of 1851 that he first conceived the idea which was to lead him to large fame, and for many years to large fortune. Struck by the differences in manner, appearance, and habit of the different nationalities that then crowded the streets of London from all parts of the world, he conceived the plan of an entertainment in which these different nationalities would be represented in turn.

After his marriage he had returned to his native country, was harlequin in the old Queen's Theatre in Brunswick-street, and was in receipt of what was then considered a big salary. But he longed to appear for himself, and thus it was that he started the entertainment known as "The Unity of the Nations." I saw it when I was a child, and often and often afterwards, and perhaps my memory of it is clothed with the light of imaginative and enthusiastic youth; but, even allowing for these things, I can think of it still with enthusiasm as a very beautiful, finished, and artistic performance. No man ever appealed to the pubilc more boldly on his own artistic merits. He had nothing on the scene but a simple curtain and a piano; but with his charming voice, figure, and versatile facial expression, with the skill and practised art he put into everything, he was able to hold the attention of his audience for two whole hours. And it is a high tribute to the excellence of the performance that he was able to perform this achievement almost every night for year after year, for decade after decade—I had almost said for two whole generations of men and women.

As I remember the performance, Val Vousden's voice was not strong, but he managed it with such skill, he had so thoroughly mastered his art, and was in such complete command of his resources, knowing both their range and their limitations, that you thought the singing perfect. And his songs, written always by himself, were full of kindly feeling and toleration, and appealed to one's charity and indulgence for erring, weak, and unsuccessful humanity very eloquently and very persuasively. There is one song in particular, the echoes of which still ring in my ears more than forty years after I first heard it. It was called, "Let each man learn to know himself," and though the words have escaped me, I remember the sentiment as an appeal to broad and generous charity to all men.

I have said that he was a showman of the old school in the bad sense as well as the good; that is to say, he had the power to make several fortunes but not to keep one. It was partly because he was without thrift, but it was largely because he was so full of heart. I remember one of my fellow reporters on my first paper went to Val Vousden once to ask him for a small subscription for some brother who had fallen on evil days. "Will five pounds be enough?" was Vousden's immediate reply; as a matter of fact, half a sovereign was more like the sum he was expected to give, and was all that he should have given. It was thus that after earning as much as £3,000 in a year, and doing so for many years, poor Val Vousden found himself penniless in his old age. And that led to a painful episode in his career. I borrow from the *Irish Packet* a small extract from an article written by "J. B. H.," a well-known Dublin dramatic critic, in which this episode is told touchingly. The article bears the title, "From Stage to the Workhouse: Valentine Vousden To-day." It says:—

To-day the guardian of the poor or the visitor to the weekly meetings of the North Dublin Union may occasionally, as he passes to the boardroom, see on the righthand side, close to the male inmates' quarters, a figure apart from, and yet one of, that motley and melancholy gathering of the poor. With all the weight of his more than eighty years, he stands still upright and firm, save for the occasionally depressed head and melancholy gait. His fine, clean-cut features and still bright eyes mark him out as one you cannot pass unnoticed, and a wealth of long white hair forms a kind of silver glory around the really sweet and amiable face. It is Valentine Vousden! And you will hear him humming a little air in almost childish simplicity as he passes quietly up and down the courtyard.

This article, published as far back as 1903, had the good effect of producing a change in the condition of the once popular and prosperous favourite. He was taken out of the workhouse, and put in a home in Bexhill, and there he died this week, happy, or at least resigned, after all these vicissitudes, and with his weight of eighty-five years, spanning an epoch in which there were as many transformations in his beloved profession as in his own chequered career. And with him dies one of the last, if not the last, of the old race of monologue entertainers.

T. P.

MISS CAMILLE CLIFFORD remarked on leaving the International Hall of the Café Monico on Monday night, when the workers on the different papers owned by Edward Lloyd, Ltd., brought a successful "smoker" to a conclusion: "If you journalists always spend your time in this manner, I should like to write for the press." It was truly a night with the stars. Mr. Neil Turner, general-manager of the *Daily Chronicle* and *Lloyd's News*, was chairman, and Mr. J. A. Collings stage-managed.

GENEE AT THE PLAYHOUSE.

A matinée, under the auspices of the Duchess of Somerset, and distinguished by much aristocratic patronage, was given by the kind permission of Mr. Cyril Maude at the Playhouse, in aid of the funds of the Alexandra Hospital for Children with Hip Disease and the Southwark Invalid Kitchen. The chief novelty of the bill, which was largely musical in its attractions, was the production of *The Dryad*, a dance-play, in two tableaux, by Miss Dora Bright (Mrs. Knatchbull). The story sets forth the love disappointment of a wood nymph. A certain Dryad, who queens it beneath the slumbering moon, has subdued all mortals to her loveliness and the magic of her dancing, thus rousing the envy of the implacable Aphrodite, who caused her to be imprisoned in an oak tree, only granting her freedom to come forth once in every ten years, between sunset and sunrise, until she should find a mortal faithful to her during the allotted term. A shepherd passing through the wood on the night of her freedom, sees her dancing beneath the moon, and is lured to love her, and vows eternal constancy. When the dawn breaks she bids him farewell, gives him flowers, and re-enters the tree, which closes round her. After ten years have passed away, the Dryad comes forth again, seeking to allay the longing she has kindled; but her lover has not been constant, and the wood is empty. She dances through the night, and, glancing at her beauty in a translucent pool, deludes herself with the hope of human constancy. When the dawn breaks the shepherd is seen wandering through the grove with another. He has forgotten a passing fantasy, and the wood nymph's charms have faded from his memory. The authoress is responsible for a dainty musical setting, which is scored for pianoforte and orchestra. The piece has been most artistically treated, the blending of horns, wood wind and muted strings being very pleasant to the musical ear. *The Dryad*, apart from its story, is quite a pastoral symphony in its way, reminding one now and then of Mendelssohn's *Midsummer Night's Dream* music.

A great feature of the performance was the appearance of the incomparable Genée as the Dryad. She told the story of the wood nymph's love with the sweetest eloquence of movement and gesture. Her joyous dance when the Dryad is assured in the first tableau of the Shepherd's love was in strong contrast to the restrained and saddened movements in the second, and the storm of applause at the conclusion caused the curtain to be lifted several times, Mr. Gordon Cleather, who sang the Shepherd's song so sweetly, sharing in the honours, as well as the authoress. We should hear of *The Dryad* again. Why not at the Empire?

In the early portion of the programme, after the overture had been played by the New Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Thomas Beecham, Miss Rosina Filippi's Eastern episode, *Abdullah's Garden*, was given. It will be remembered that it was originally performed recently at Terry's Theatre by Miss Stella Patrick Campbell and other pupils of the authoress. Miss Campbell repeated her interesting representation of Lala, and the song sung in Abdullah's garden (composed by Mr. Hubert Bath) was well rendered by Miss Laura Urquhart. Mr. David Bispham then sang "Drink to me only" and "Quand 'ero paggio," from Verdi's *Falstaff*, after which the curtain rose on the Dressing-room Scene from *The Clandestine Marriage*. Mr. Cyril Maude again amused us by his perfect representation of the tetchy and ancient Lord Ogleby, the impersonation being as finished as it was droll. Mr. Eric Lewis's services were fortunately available in the part of Canton, the Swiss valet, a most interesting realisation; Mr. King Fordham was well placed as Brush; and Miss Alexandra Carlisle was altogether demure, dainty, and coquettish as the Chambermaid.

The Follies were announced in a selection from their répertoire, but it was explained from the stage that Mr. Pelissier was suffering from laryngitis, and that therefore the famous pierrots could not appear. Mr. Lewis Sydney, however, kindly stepped into the breach, and with anecdotes and a piano sketch kept the fashionable crowd highly amused.

THE SAD CASE OF GRACE BALMAIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I have received letters from several correspondents in reference to the sad position in which the widow of my late friend, Dick Mansell, has been left. It comes, I might say, as a shocking discovery to poor Mansell's many friends that he died practically destitute. He was a man of very great pride and self-respect, and he would rather starve to death than make appeals for assistance to friends, and even to a relative, who loved and was always ready to help him. And thus it was that he died in poor lodgings, and without any of the little comforts, almost without the bare necessaries of the living, much less of the dying. He had, amid the black disaster in which his once prosperous career ended, one great consolation, and that was the unstinted devotion and attention of the loyal and faithful woman who was his wife, known professionally as Miss Grace Balmain. To the last hour she respected his wishes in keeping silence as to his position and hers, preferring to starve with him than disobey him; was ready to sacrifice herself for him, even to deny herself food, rather than that he should want; and I have heard a touching story of his last hours illustrative of this noble devotion, which is too sacred and too poignant to publish, even to the eyes of friends. In such a case, the members and the lovers of the dramatic profession have one which especially appeals to their generosity. I therefore ask you to open your columns to an appeal in Miss Balmain's behalf. Some gentlemen have already been kind enough to become members of a committee to look after the appeal, and others doubtless will join later on, when the case becomes known. Meantime, the following gentlemen have consented to act: Sir William Bull, M.P., Mr. George R. Sims, Mr. J. Bannister Howard, Mr. Austin Melford, and myself. Mr. G. M. Polini, of the Managers' Club, has kindly consented to act as secretary, and Mr. Pedgrift, of *The Era*, as treasurer of the fund.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

T. P. O'CONNOR.

THE Jewish Operatic and Dramatic Company again repeated on Monday evening at the Pavilion Theatre J. Lateiner's play, *Satan in Paradise*, in which Mr. and Mrs. Charles Natansohn scored a striking success by their artistic impersonations of Yossele and Henele. During the week *The Rich Beggar*, *The Polish Boy*, *Max and Devil*, *The Exile*, and *Holy Sabbath* have been performed.

MR. EDITOR.—Sir,—In your notice last week of the performance at the Burnley Empire, your correspondent says: "The Merrinos give a merry turn." The name should be, yours truly, THE MERRIONS (Will, Harry, and Fred).

"THE GIPSY GIRL."

A New Musical Play, in Two Acts; Book and Music by Claude Arundale, Lyrics by Follett Thorpe, Additional Numbers by Claude Arundale and Tom Hefferman, produced for the first time in London at the Waldorf Theatre, on Friday, March 22.

Colonel Charlton .....MR. LEONARD RUSSELL
Freddie .....MR. AUBREY FITZGERALD
Prof. Willoughby .....MR. PERCY CLIFTON
Jack Willoughby .....MR. GORDON CLEATHER
Augustus Short .....MR. JOHN M. HAY
Pedro .....MR. LAURENCE WENSLEY
Inspector .....MR. JOSEPH BRUCE
Policeman .....MR. VINCENT EARNE
A Farmer .....MR. GEORGE STONE
Horatio Victorious .....MR. FRED EASTMAN
Mrs. Willoughby .....MISS ANNIE ESMOND
Marion Willoughby .....MISS GRACE ARUNDALE
Evangeline Josephine Short..MISS KITTIE DAVIS
Florette .....MLLE. ANDRÉE CORDAY
A Waitress .....MISS KITTY MACKAY
Katrina .....MISS SYBIL ARUNDALE

The gipsy maid, whether in a novel or a play, is invariably surrounded by an atmosphere of romance and mystery. And so Mr. Claude Arundale, the author and composer of the new musical play at the Waldorf Theatre, has but followed the ordinary course in giving a romantic colouring to the simple story of his wandering heroine. Katrina travels the country as a member of the company of a showman, known as Horatio Victorious. The caravan pulls up at "The Jolly Ploughman," on the road to Huntington, and here Jack Willoughby first meets the pretty gipsy maid, and quickly falls in love with her, much to the disgust of his father, the strait-laced Prof. Willoughby, and his equally proper mother. Then, of course, he has a rival in Pedro, a young gipsy, whose passionate pleading has not in the least softened Katrina's heart towards him. His suit being rejected by her, he plans and duly carries out a scheme to gratify his revenge. He steals a bangle from the inn, and gives it to Katrina as a present he has purchased for her. The loss having been discovered the gipsies are accused of the theft, and when the bangle is discovered on the girl's wrist, the case against her seems clear enough. Jack declares his love, and the right to defend Katrina, the chorus of accusing villagers bringing the first act to a conclusion.

The scene of the second act is Huntingdon Fair, giving a realistic representation of the various shows. The police have a warrant for Katrina's arrest for theft, and she disguises herself as a boy, Marion, Jack's sister, taking her place as a dancer in the show run by Victorious. Wearing a mask, Marion has an interview with her sweetheart, Freddie, who makes certain disparaging remarks concerning her, which he has reason to regret when he discovers who the lady really is. The police are baffled, and eventually Katrina's innocence is proved, and, moreover, the discovery is made that she is the daughter of the Squire, Colonel Charlton, having been stolen in her infancy by gipsies, and brought up by them in ignorance of her real parentage.

The book does not count for much in a modern musical play; considerably more importance is attached to the music, and Mr. Claude Arundale has supplied melodies, which, if not distinguished by originality, possess the merit of being, for the most part, spirited and pleasing, this description specially applying to the concerted numbers. For the lyrics, Messrs. Follett Thorpe, Claude Arundale, and Tom Hefferman are responsible, and they have done their work well.

If *The Gipsy Girl*, which was first seen at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, on May 15, 1905, takes rank amongst the successful productions of the season, it will be principally due to Miss Sybil Arundale for her performance of the leading rôle, Katrina. As actress, vocalist, and dancer, Miss Arundale worked untiringly, and with the most gratifying success. Her first songs, "Sing on, little gipsy maid" and "The Ideal Lover," proved the excellence of her voice and her cultured style. Later she took part in a pretty duet with Mr. Gordon Cleather, the representative of Jack Willoughby, and made a decided hit by her rendering of the ditty, "If only I'd been born a boy." Miss Arundale in her disguise made a capital boy; she also presented a charming appearance in the conventional white skirts of a ballet dancer; and in the first act she evoked quite a storm of applause with a Polish dance. Mr. Gordon Cleather was a fine, handsome Jack Willoughby, and made excellent use of his baritone voice, more particularly in his rendering of the tuneful ballad, "Love is a golden crown." Mr. Fred Eastman gave a good character-sketch of the showman, and in the second act appeared in several well-known stage characters, including Romeo and Julius Cæsar. His ditties, "It makes you open your eyes" and "The troubles of a showman," were capitally rendered. Mr. Aubrey Fitzgerald did all that was possible with the part of the dude, Freddie, who yearns for poetic honours, and has an odd cackling laugh. He scored with his song, "Steady, Freddie." Mr. Percy Clifton was well placed as Prof. Willoughby, and Mr. John M. Hay was eminently satisfactory as the host of the country inn, with the song, "The home-brewed ale." Mr. Laurence Wensley deserves a word of praise for his embodiment of the vindictive gipsy, Pedro; and Mr. Leonard Russell was good as Colonel Charlton. Miss Grace Arundale was a bright and pleasing Marion Willoughby; and her song, "On the shelf," with a spirited chorus, was very favourably received. Mlle. Andrée Corday was a very animated Florette, a French barmaid, and her songs, "The gay Grisette" and "C'est le premier pas qui conte" (with chorus), were greeted with much applause. Able assistance was given by Mr. George Stone as an old-fashioned farmer; Mr. Joseph Bruce, as an inspector; and Mr. Vincent Earne, as a rural policeman. Miss Annie Esmond was a fine-looking Mrs. Willoughby; and Miss Kitty Davis as the innkeeper's daughter and Miss Kitty Mackay as a waitress were acceptable representatives of those parts. There was a capital chorus, and Mr. Arthur Wood had the direction of an admirable orchestra. The play was produced by Mr. Harry Bishop, and its reception on the first night was of an enthusiastic character.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The orchestral concert at the Royal College on Friday evening, March 22, began with Beethoven's Overture and Incidental Music to Goethe's "Egmont," the solos being sung by Miss Gladys Honey. An excellent performance of the Overture was given by the young students under the bâton of Sir Charles V. Stanford. The orchestra also greatly distinguished themselves in the entr'acte after Act IV., and in the music accompanying Clara's death; while the playing of the wind instruments in the orchestra deserves special praise. Miss Honey gave Clara's song, "Die Trommel gerühret" with spirit, and was much applauded in her second air, "Freudvoll und leidvoll." The English extracts were taken from Bell's Modern Translations by kind permission of Messrs. Bell and Sons. In memory of Sir August Manns, the "Marcia Funebre sulla morte d'un eroe" (which Beethoven arranged for orchestra from his piano sonata, Op. 26), was played, the band producing a full, impressive tone. The orchestra also ably supported Mr. Charles Warwick-Evans in his violoncello solo of E. von Dohnanyi's "Concertstück," and were heard in Mozart's Symphony in G minor (1788). Miss Maria Yelland, the only vocalist at this concert, displayed a fine voice to great advantage in Handel's recitative and air, "Ombra mai fu," being recalled several times to the platform.

"PEER GYNT" IN NEW YORK.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. Richard Mansfield's embodiment of Ibsen's fantastic rover, Peer Gynt, at the New Amsterdam Theatre, is a notable achievement, and considered merely as a feat of mechanics, the placing of Ibsen's striking dramatic poem on the stage is an undertaking to excite wonder and admiration. Mr. Mansfield's acting version abridges the original text by curtailing the scenes in the desert, omitting the incidents in the Cairo madhouse altogether, and shortening the rest of the dialogue wherever it has been possible. What remains consumes more than four hours in the acting. Five acts are required, and eleven elaborate, spectacular scenes. Of speaking characters there are forty-five, besides two score dancers, and as many more mute figures. For the most part the rôles are small, but some of the smallest are of much significance. Peer Gynt, of course, is the dominating figure, and he is on the stage almost continuously. We see him at first in his youth, a lazy, uncouth, shiftless product of wild Norwegian huntsman life. He is a creature of utter selfishness, a victim of weak surrender to the impulse of the moment. As he repeats throughout the play, "he is himself." He will ever "go round about," never "through." Thus he goes forth into his world, conquering all obstacles by avoiding them, compromising ever with difficulties, living for the attainment of material pleasure. At the outset of the play he concocts a romantic story of how he has been spirited away on the back of a wounded reindeer, the lie being designed to explain to Ase, his mother, his long absence from home. He carelessly tosses off her reproaches, flings her on the roof of the mill-house, and, learning that a wedding is in progress at Hegstad Farm, slouches down the mountain to mingle with the guests. Shortly afterwards he is found lying on his back behind a wall, reading strange shapes into the drifting clouds, and listening to the scornful bantering of his name by the merry-makers. At last he joins the throng and meets Solveig, the woman who for ever is destined to remain his ideal of purity, loveliness, gentleness, and trustfulness. They fall in love, but again yielding to his weakness, Peer gets drunk, brawls, and ends by kidnapping the bride and running off up the mountain with her on his back. Now it is morning in the mountains. Recollections of the pure Solveig have quickly tempered Peer's passion for Ingrid, the bride, so he "realises himself" by abandoning her, and, worn out by his excesses, sinks into slumber. Before his distorted imagination rise the Dovre King's daughter and fairies of Norse folk-lore, who lead him to the weird court of the King of the Trolls. The imps receive the boy into their realm, and he straightway announces his intention to be one of them, and wed their Princess. But when they prepare to slit his eyelids, so that he can never again see the actual world, he cries out, and they vanish, leaving him in darkness. Out of the gloom sounds the voice of the Great Boyg, Spirit of Compromise, bidding him again to "go around," and he awakes to find Solveig watching over him. She disappears, and again he is left alone. The scene changes to a hut in the mountain, which Peer has built in order to live the life of a hermit. But the faithful Solveig once more seeks him out. This dream of happiness is scarcely begun when the Green Clad One, a hideous she-demon, symbol of sensual pleasure, and her Ugly Brat, a hairy, misshapen offspring, typical of Consequences, begotten in Peer's evil thoughts, rise before him. Conscience stricken, he again departs on his round-about way, bidding Solveig to wait. Now comes Peer's return to his mother's cottage in search of comfort, and her death scene with the reckless son soothing her last hours. In the fourth act thirty years have elapsed, and Peer, in his pursuit of material pleasure, has prospered. He pictures himself the coming Emperor of the World, but suddenly finds himself penniless and forsaken, marooned on the coast of Morocco by his false friends, who run away with his yacht. Then he wanders into the desert, encounters the sensuous Arab maiden, Anitra, and her dancing attendants, and sets himself up as a prophet. In the final act, preceded by a vision of Solveig, now grown old, waiting in the cottage, Peer reappears in a shipwreck off the coast of Norway. His disillusionment has set in, for now he is beginning to ruminate upon the emptiness of material joys. Yet he will still "go around," even when he meets in the fury of the storm the Silent Passenger, a symbol of death's messenger. Peer, the egoist, is again weak enough to allow others to drown as he saves himself from the wreck. A festival is in progress when, unrecognised in his rags and wrinkles, he at last approaches his old home. The Dovre King, in the form of an old man, again confronts him, and points out that, in spite of himself, he has lived his life according to the motto of the trolls—"to thyself be enough." At the first cross-roads he meets the Button Moulder, Death, who dooms him to the melting-pot, there to be reminted. Peer begs off for a time from the Button Moulder, and finds the loyal Solveig awaiting him at the cottage, faithful to her promise, and still steadfast in her understanding of his true, ideal self. "Then tell me what thou knowest," he asks. "Where was I as myself, as the whole man, as the true man? Where was I with God's stamp upon my brow?" "In my heart, in my hope, and in my love," she answers. The eyes of the selfish visionary are opened at last. He discerns the true Peer Gynt in the ideal built by the woman's faith. The Kaiserdom of the World, which he sought afar, has existed all along in the cottage on the mountain, and in a woman's loving ideal. As the final curtain falls, Peer sinks to rest on the bench beside the cottage, with Solveig watching over him, her lullaby mingling with the voice of the Button Moulder heard in the distance, who warns him of the final meeting, when he will go into the melting-pot, the dross of his nature to be separated from the pure metal.

MR. LESTER COLLINGWOOD, of the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, entertained the principal members of his record *Cinderella* pantomime company at the Woolpack Hotel on Sunday. After a sumptuous repast, many toasts were proposed and acknowledged, Mr. Collingwood alluding to the great success won by Miss Bessie Butt as Cinders and the Brothers Obo as the Ugly Sisters. Mr. and Mrs. Bushell, of the Gaiety, and Mr. Bert Wilson, of the M.H.A.R.A., were among the specially invited guests.

THE status of the super has been defined by Judge Lynn of New York, who on Wednesday dismissed the actions of Sylvestre and Giovanni Milano, who had been engaged at the Metropolitan Opera House as the populace, army, vassals, &c., and had shaved off their moustaches in anticipation of a prolonged engagement, but were discharged. In the address to the jury the Judge said:—"These men are not artists, are not men of any talent, are not singers or painters. Supers are simply men who go on the stage to make a group. It requires no particular talent that I know of to be a super other than probably that they must have size and width. They claim because they have had their moustaches removed that therefore the contract must be for seventeen weeks. Some men are better looking without moustache. I do not know that the taking off the moustache is conclusive proof of a contract for seventeen weeks."

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"THE ERA"

SHILLING FUND

FOR THE

MUSIC HALL HOME.

Mr. Barrasford and Miss Vesta Victoria join in a strenuous appeal for the generosity of the profession in support of *The Era* Shilling Fund. When, twelve months ago, we brought before our readers the claims of this deserving charity, a very considerable sum of money was collected in separate shillings. That last year's appeal, however, and most of the money obtained by it, are, as Miss Marie Lloyd would say, "a thing of the past, old dear."

Subscribed to date, 2018½ shillings.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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Edinburgh theatrical and vaudeville sports, per Walter P. Wells	40	0	0
Contents of collecting-box at the Hippodrome (late Tivoli), Leeds, one of Mr. Barrasford's halls, per Charles Weldon	5	7	9
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Belford and Mars	0	5	0
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A Gus Elen Autograph	0	0	6

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		Gus W. Blake	1

Collected by Mr. Harry Conlin, Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, £4 7s.

Bros. Egbert	10	Us again, again	1
Us again, again, again, again	7	Us again, again, again	1
Albert Egbert	5	Gladys Cooper	1
Harry Conlin	5	Doris Cooper	1
Rosie Coleman	5	Vera Elvey	1
Mark Sheridan	5	M. Claire	1
Gwladys Elvey	5	Mr. Whitehead	1
Edna Loftus	5	Ian Lloyd-Mackenzie	1
Daisy Dormer	5	Herbert Darnley	1
S. Egbert and Mac.	5	Harry Nelson	1
Mark's Room	4	Erchie Mitchell	1
Mac's Bar, 3 Rose-street, Edinburgh	3	Harry Bendon	1
Harry Lupino	2	A. R. Pole	1
Us again	2	Us	1
Betty Green	1½	Cade Burnett	1
		Deane Tribune	1
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B. Elton	1	Ernest Laws	1
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Fanny Fields	5	Patty Yole	2
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Roze and Calvert	2½	W. E. D. V.	1
W. W. Walton	2½	W. Clarke	1
Churnell	2½	O. L. Rendell	1
F. R.	2	Wirson Kurat	1
J. K.	2	T. Dare	1
Miss Mab Paul	2	Geo. W. Thorpe	1
Adelaide	2	H. B.	1
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E. Dubois	1	Bee Cycles	1
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J. Kellino	1	Lester Carey (Three Careys)	1
Albert Kellino	1	Lennie and Hast	1
Will Kellino	1	Butterflies	1
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Cissie Conyers	1	Fred Bentley	1
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Gus Walker	1	Olive Tempest	1
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Cecil Kingsley	1	May Beatty	1
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LONDON VARIETY THEATRES

THE CANTERBURY.

"A primrose by the river's brim, A yellow primrose was to him, And it was nothing more," wrote the greatest of the Lake poets; but to the poetic souls of Messrs. A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott Lord Beaconsfield's favourite bloom suggests verse and song, and at the Canterbury "*Primrose*," *of Primrose Farm*—a charming play-title, by the way—has been winning the hearts of the Lambeth folk. She is courted and serenaded by that sweet-voiced and cultured singer, who for the nonce is the romantic Lubin of the storyette set forth by librettist and composer. From behind the creeper-clad wall of the farmhouse, Primrose shyly hides herself; but the melody of the "neighbouring swain" moves her to show herself, and love will out. Miss Lea then doffs her fanciful dress as the lad, and puts on a pretty frock to sing "Banish sorrow," the brilliant waltz song from the opera of *Princess Toto*, which she gives with a *brio* and *abandon* that bring down the house. She further displays her versatility in Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford's number "I'm going back to the Fatherland," wearing the roomy knicker-bockers adopted by the juveniles of the sterner sex dwelling in the Netherlands. She is supported by Miss Millie Moore as a Dutch girl. Her great triumph comes with "Queen of old Samara," written and composed by Mr. J. F. Lambe, and sung with immense success by Miss Lea in pantomime. The song has a pretty, captivating melody, and Mr. George Adney Payne made a special arrangement on Wednesday whereby Miss Lea was supported by an excellent chorus, and the number went with a bang. Miss Lea looked very dapper and neat in a principal boy's dress, and showed herself to be a capable actress.

The dramatic novelty of the bill is *The Unbidden Guest*, a short powerful play by G. W. Appleton, which takes us to the land of diamonds—South Africa. Bess, the loyal and devoted wife of Dick, is in despair at the ill-luck of the latter, who will lose a "claim" for the sake of a few hundred dollars. His luck is dead out, and despair reigns in the little shanty. The arrival of a stranger diverts the thoughts of the united couple from their trouble, and the newcomer is invited to shelter himself, and also asked to have a cup of tea. He had been drinking heavily, and asks for whisky. While Dick goes to fetch the remaining bottle from an inner room, "the unbidden guest," with mad stupidity, endeavours to kiss Bess. Dick, who returns at this moment, in his rage avenges the insult to his wife by striking the stranger to the ground with the bottle. The prostrate body does not move, and the horrified pair think that they are looking on a corpse. Dick has no sooner dropped it in the river than Bess discovers in the stranger's coat pocket 1,000 dollars. They both agree not to touch the dead man's gold, and have just made up their minds to leave their dwelling, when there by the window stands, "ghost-like," the form of the man supposed to be killed. He is glad to discover they are honest folk, and he also recognises in Dick an old schoolfellow, who will now, we need hardly say, have a "lift" that will bring him within measurable distance of prosperity. Miss Alice Yorke acted with a strength and intensity that held the house in thrall, and the humanity of the whole thing forcibly appealed both to gods and stalls. We should hear a good deal more of *The Unbidden Guest*.

Miss May Mars, who appears early in the bill, makes a big success as the "Queen of the Nile," in the song "In the Shade of the Pyramids." Miss Mars looks superb, and sings admirably. Other attractions in the Canterbury bill include Miss Teresa de Sylva; the Carlyles, whirlwind dancers; Mr. J. P. Ling, comedian; the Ten Dixie Girls, in *The Silver Coon*; Mr. David Poole, ventriloquist; Diamond and Beatrice, in musical speciality act; the Piccad American Pantomime Company, with *The Burglars of New York*; Miss Abbie Mitchell, creole singer; Mr. Harry Champion, comedian; and Miss Lottie Lennox, the popular singing comedienne.

THE BEDFORD.

As usual, Mr. B. P. Lucas has an excellent company at this comfortable house in Camden Town, and he is nightly able to see very large audiences enjoying the excellent fare provided. Sketches invariably meet with much approval here, and great receptions nightly have been given to *That Brute Simmons*, which, it will be remembered, was originally produced at the New Theatre in St. Martin's-lane. It is not often one encounters a play from a West End house, and the innovation has much to commend it. The clever little piece, which was written by Messrs. Arthur Morrison and H. C. Sargent, is being produced under the guidance of Mr. F. W. Purcell, who has certainly shown enterprise in placing it before a music hall public. Audiences are extremely amused over the troubles of Simmons, who has married a supposed widow, with nagging ways that are hardly conducive to happiness. Her first husband, who was thought to have been drowned, appears after five years' absence, and there is the amusing scene between the two men as to which shall go away, but which ends, after a very fiery interview with Mrs. Simmons, in both decamping and leaving the good woman to her own devices. The little comedy is capitally acted. Mr. Tom Mowbray is excellent as the henpecked Simmons; Mrs. Simmons is played quite in the right spirit by Miss Ethel Stalman, while Mr. George Elliston as the lost husband, Bob Ford, puts into the character plenty of clever comedy. *That Brute Simmons* is presented with a finish and smartness most creditable to all concerned.

That old comic favourite, Mr. Charles Austin, is as quaint as ever, and his coughing song brings forth much laughter, while he also creates mirth as a widow who sings of her husband, "Mr. Perkins." Miss Madge Osmond, a clever young lady, is making her name as a male impersonator, and does so with some catchy songs. Miss Eva Hope and company appear in duologues from the works of Charles Dickens. On the night of our visit she gave Jo, the crossing-sweeper, the Marchioness, and Nancy. As the companion of the brutal Bill Sikes she is seen at her best, and plays the part with tremendous force, while Mr. Jack Wayho gives a vigorous portrayal of Bill. The selections are well received, and Miss Eva Hope meets with a hearty reception. A lively turn is provided by the Californian Girls, four clever young people endowed with some bright and catchy songs. They wind up their turn with some neat dancing, and their "cartwheels" secure for them great applause. Prentice and Brite, an amusing couple, contribute a clever comedy act, and *Mad Jasper* is the title of a dramatic episode presented by Messrs. Charles D. Wright and company.

A clever turn is that of Mr. Montague Biggs, who designates himself as a speciality artist, but he really is a female impersonator. When he first steps on the stage in black evening dress the audience almost believe that they have got the wrong number displayed, so complete is his disguise. Mr. Biggs' first song, "The trickiest girl in Mayfair," is very catchy, while he finishes off with a good impersonation of the one and only Marie Lloyd in her "Coster Wedding" ditty. Mr. C. Randolph King displays his talents as a quick-change artist, and his various changes into yokel, sailor, Chinaman, and other characters are done in the shortest time imaginable. He finishes with a very clever sketch of a miser, which shows him to possess considerable dramatic skill. The Gamanos present an acceptable musical turn; and Miss Sadie Stanley is a chic comedienne. There are also some fine pictures of the race for the Grand National shown on the Imperial Bioscope. Mr. A. F. Lovesey is ever on the alert to attend to the comfort of the Bedford patrons.

EALING HIPPODROME.

The reappearance of the "stars"—after the great eclipse—has been particularly welcome at Ealing. This week Mr. E. W. James provides a full budget of attractions. Little Agnes Tina, "the wonderful child mimic," aged 10, is certainly a phenomenon. Pleasing features in her presentation are her perfect enunciation, a fresh young voice, and a captivating personality. In addition to her first number, the ballad "Lovey-dovey," Miss Tina gives a song in French, à la Fougère, and a German rendering of "In sheltered vale," and concludes her unique performance with impersonations of some favourite artists, including Miss Vesta Tilley, Mr. H. Lauder, with "Stop your tickling, Jock," Mr. Fred Wright in his Geisha song, and Miss Marie Lloyd. It is hardly necessary to add that this clever little maid has half a dozen recalls. Bosanquet, the popular virtuoso, is happily associated with the sweetest melody-making, while his Bosanquephone or vox humana, almost speaks. Excerpts on the violin from the schools of Kubelik, Sarasate, and Paganini are equally successful.

Mr. Alec Kendall is a laughter-provider of the first order, and the most frigid of audiences would be compelled to storms of merriment by his quaint and witty patter; the artist's song, "Geography," fairly catches on, and the ear of the house is charmed and tickled with his funny tales and patter. The Glen Roy troupe of characteristic dancers and speciality performers give a fine display of national dancing, England, Scotland, and Ireland being each represented by the clever troupe. The gem of their performance is the "Three Highlanders," coupled with a triangular duel with claymores; an ensemble song, "Boys of Britannia," is spiritedly rendered, and the Glenroys conclude their acceptable performance with an Irish jig in which the five members of the troupe join.

Lambert and Glover have an amusing episode in their comedy duo, *The Birthday*. A gentleman is about to celebrate his natal-day when his chambers are invaded by an unknown lady of dashing—not to say, commanding—appearance. Without ceremony she proceeds to "lay down the law," the while she smokes, drinks, and plays all sorts of pranks; but, in the end, under the influence of hypnotism she becomes more docile, and promises amendment in the future. As a medium for merriment the scena gains its end, and is well received. Nothing more genuinely comic than the "humorous darkie" of Mr. Will English can be imagined. This delightful "darkie" possesses a tuneful morsel in his song, "Daisy," while his manipulation of hat, stick, and match is a comedy in itself. Mr. Fred Clements contrives to be very funny in his two catchy numbers, "Studying the face" and "Presence of mind." Mr. Clements' popularity is never in doubt, and he scores a distinct success. Miss Maudie Ford has a tuneful refrain in her song, "Barbados"; she is, besides, a dainty and winsome sand-dancer. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope displays fine series of films incidental to hippopotamus hunting on the great Nile lakes, and the finish of the Grand National is also illustrated. The overture, a selection from *Carmen*, is admirably rendered by Mr. Kennedy Russell's capable band, which has thoroughly settled itself to its duties. Mr. L. Westcott Hicks, the acting-manager here, continues to direct his department with skill and courtesy.

(*For other Variety Notices see pages 21 and 19.*)

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA.

Owing to pressure on our space, we have been compelled to hold over the weekly instalment of the above. The series will be continued next week.

ON THE ROAD, APRIL 1.

Alice-Sit-by-the-Fire.—T. R., Hull.
All-of-a-Sudden Peggy.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
Amasis.—Tyne T., Newcastle.
Angel of Unrest.—T. R., Chesterfield.
Anna of the Plains.—T. R., Darlington.
An Unwedded Wife.—

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "THE ERA," LTD., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

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(two doors off Wellington Street)
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephone, 4747, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. P.—A Life of Pleasure *was produced at Drury Lane, Sept. 21, 1893. The play was subsequently transferred to the Princess's.*

J. T. G.—*The principal parts in* Forbidden Fruit, *produced at the Adelphi, July 3, 1880, were played by J. G. Taylor, Robert Pateman, E. H. Brooke, H. Cooper, H. Procter, A. Greville, E. B. Norman, and Misses Bella Pateman, Helen Barry, Marie Williams, and Clara Jecks.*

PEDRO.—*Miss Connie Ediss sang "High Society" and "Not the proper way to treat a lady," in* A Runaway Girl *and* The Circus Girl *respectively.*

G. C.—*Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera,* The Sorcerer, *was first produced at the Opéra Comique, Nov. 17, 1877.*

BILL.—*The late Wilson Barrett revived* The Silver King *at the Lyceum on Sept. 2, 1899.*

C. K. W.—*The first time Astley's Theatre was burnt out was on Sept. 17, 1794. It was again burned on Sept. 1, 1803; and again on June 8, 1841.*

TORQUAY.—*Her first appearance on the London stage was in 1875, at Covent Garden, in* Babil and Bijou.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth or Death or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence, every additional word One Penny.

The charge for a notice of Marriage, not exceeding forty words, is Two Shillings and Sixpence, every additional word One Penny.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

CHALMERS.—At Clapham on the 27th inst., the wife of Kendal Chalmers, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

BEADON-HUMPHREYS.—March 27, at St. Andrew's, Ashley-gardens, Westminster, by Rev. the Hon. J. Stafford Northcote, Valentine, eldest son of Richard W. Beadon, of Woodgate, Culmstock, Devon, to Marguerite Frances (Daisy), daughter of the late Alfred Humphreys, and of Mrs. Humphreys, 188, Brixton-road, S.W.

JENKINS—REALI.—On March 20, at the Parish Church, Putney, by the Rev. W. Waller, Ethel Reali (professionally known as Royal) to Arthur Jenkins, third son of the late Capt. Edward Jenkins, of Gravesend.

SILVER WEDDING.

LE HAY—LOWRY.—On March 25, 1882, at Holy Trinity Church, Carlisle, by the Rev. F. Richardson, John Le Hay to Marian Lowry.

DEATHS

ALEXANDRA.—March 15, at her residence, 30, Carlton-mansions, Maida Vale, N.W., Ada Alexandra, comedienne.

FAWCETT.—Annie Olivia, née Goward, the dearly beloved wife of Charles S. Fawcett, died March 21, 1907, aged 48. Deeply mourned.

GOODWIN.—March 19, at her residence, 150, Lambeth-road, Miss Bonnie Goodwin, American actress.

GOWARD.—March 21, Mrs. Charles Fawcett, professionally known as Miss Annie Goward, actress.

HARVEY.—William Harvey (late of the Brothers Harvey, and son of W. H. Harvey, of Harvey and Connolley), who died on the 23rd inst. at 20, Portland-place North, Clapham-road, S.W., after a lingering illness. American and Australian papers please copy.

WINTOUR.—On Sunday, March 24, at Wealdstone, of hæmorrhage of the lungs, Ernest Wintour, aged 49. Deeply mourned.

IN MEMORIAM.

HARVEY.—In loving memory of my dear husband, Frank Harvey, who passed away March 29, 1903. Never forgotten by his devoted wife and family. R.I.P.

SPINK.—In loving memory of Beatrice Mary Spink (Ena Bertoldi), the beloved wife of George Spink (Dandy George), who died April 1, 1906. Sleep well, dear wife.

FOR SYMPATHY.

Miss V. WINIFRED HAMILTON (Mrs. John S. Graham) wishes to thank Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Little, Mr. George Sinclair, Miss Violet Matthew, and Miss Kate James for beautiful wreaths; also Mr. and Mrs. Goody, of Weymouth-terrace, Hackney, and Messrs. Owen and William Goody, of Clapton (their sons), for magnificent harp of roses and lilies, with broken strings; also all the ladies and gentlemen of the profession who so kindly sent letters and telegrams of sympathy to her in her sad bereavement. Too numerous to answer separately at present. All are requested to accept this as a token of sincere thanks. 2, Inver-terrace, Upper Clapton, N.E.

Miss EMMA VICTOR and family wish to thank friends for their sympathy shown to them in their sad and great bereavement.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen :—

Miss Leslie-Cudd—Saturday, March 30.
Mme. Ella Russell—Saturday, March 30.
George D'Albert—Saturday, March 30.
Ella Vane—Sunday, March 31.
Minnie Palmer—Sunday, March 31.
W. Clarkson—Sunday, March 31.
Frank Eden—Sunday, March 31.
Charles Locke—Sunday, March 31.
Emma Stockley—Sunday, March 31.
Edith Rosaire—Sunday, March 31.
John Peachey—Tuesday, April 2.
Cossie Noel—Tuesday, April 2.
Hetty Hertzfeld—Tuesday, April 2.
Cora Marriott—Tuesday, April 2.
Prof. Buers—Tuesday, April 2.
Charles Taylor—Tuesday, April 2.
Gipsy Woolf—Tuesday, April 2.
Silvanus Dauncey—Wednesday, April 3.
Lawrence Kellie—Wednesday, April 3.
Mrs. Colin Hazlewood—Wednesday, April 3.
Guinevere Shilton—Wednesday, April 3.
Cliff Page—Wednesday, April 3.
Mrs. E. Carter Livesey—Thursday, April 4.
Mlle. Marcelle Chevalier—Thursday, April 4.
Robt. Watt—Thursday, April 4.
Leo Montague—Thursday, April 4.
Zarmo—Friday, April 5.

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A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

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Ackroyd, Mr. L.
Adams, Miss Nellie
Allandale, Mr. Fred
"Alec"
Alexander, Miss Edna
Allen, Mr. Bert
Anarto, Mr. Arthur
Andrews, Mr. Dollie
Arthurs, Miss Lilly
Ashanti Village Troupe
Ashburnham-Newton, Mr. Cecil
Ashwell, Miss Lena
Austin, Mr. Henry
Baker, Mr. G. M.
Bantini, Miss Teresa
Barker, Mr. John
Barroni, Mr. H.
Barton and Ashley.
Beau-Ideal Troupe
Beaute, Mons.
Bernard, Mr. Albert
Blande, Miss Ethel
Bloom, Mr. J. G
Birch, Mr. C.
Blarney and Kennard
Bradford, Mr. Chas.
Brett, Mr. Edwin
Brewsters, The
Brooke, Miss Cynthia
Brough, Miss Fannie
Brown, Mr. Ben
Bullock, Mr. Clifford
Byron, Miss Maggie
Caban, Mr. C.
Cabans, The
Cabley, Mr. G. H.
Campbell, Miss A.
Carman, Mr. Harry
Catlin, Mr. Will
Champion, Mr. Harry
Chaplin, Mr. Sydney
Chard, Lieut.
Chipperfield, Mr. J. W.
Cingalee Troupe
Clements, Mr. Fred
Clifford, Mr. Nat
Colin, Mr. R.
Collins, Mr. Albert
Coma, Mr. Arthur
Cooney, Mr. E.
Coppin, Miss Daisy
Corsbie, Miss Dorcas
Courtice, Mr. Thomas
Cranston, Mr. W. J.
Cronin, Mrs.
Crown Trio
Curre, Mr. Carne
Darnley, Mr. J. H.
Daunton, Miss Edith
Davis, Mr. T. G.
Delmar, Mr.
Dent and Harris
De Bessell, Mr.
Desmond, Miss D.
De Vere, Mr. Walter
Dewey, Miss Maude
Devin, Mr. W.
Dexter, Prof. F. H.
Dormer, Miss D.
Doyle, Mr. Charles
Drewitt, Miss R.
Duncan, Mr. Albert
Dunning, Mr.
Durant, Mr. F. D.
Edwards, Sisters
Eglington, Mr. Harry
England, Miss Daisy
Evans, Miss Lulu
Faber, Mr. Arthur
Fair, Mr. W. B.
Feeley, Mr. Claudius
Fernandez, Mr. James
Florence and Lillian
Garbois, Mr. W. H.
Gay, Miss Maisie
Gaze, Mr. Leslie
Godart, Miss Gertrude
Gordon, Mr. J. B.
Grand, Mrs. M. R.
Grans, Mr. Frank
Grey, Miss Kathleen
Gribben, Mr. Harry
Hallett, Mr. Wilson
Halter, Mr. Frank
Hardeen, Mr. Theo.
Harper, Mr. Edgar
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Hawtrey, Mr. Geo. P.
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Hollister, Mr. Herbert
Howard, Mr. G.
Howard, Mr. T. M.
Hunt, Miss Minnie
Huxley, Miss Gladys
Ingleton, Mr. George
Irwin, Mr. Ed.
James, Mr. Sidney
Jones, Mr. Ernest R.
Jones, Miss T.
Keen, Mr. Kit
Kendal, Mr. Alec
Kenyon, Mr. Neil
Lane, Mr. Jack
Langtry, Mrs.
Lorenzo, Signor
Lindo, Mr. Frank
Linwood, Mr. Lance
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Mackney, Mr. E. W.
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Mersano, Mr. C.
Merrin, Mr. Dick
Milton, Mr. Arthur
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Moore, Miss Carrie
Morimura
Morton, Miss Effie
Moseley, Mr. Horace
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Mulvery, Mrs.
Murray, Mr. G. C.
Nairn, Mr. H.
Napier, Mr. C.
Netta, Miss Clarice
Norman, Mr. A. W.
Norman, Mr. Leslie
Norrie, Mr.
O'Connor, Mr.
Osmond, Mr. Henry L.
Ousley, Mr. Chas.
Paull, Miss Ethel G.
Pearson, Mr. J. Boyd
Perkins, Mr. S.
Pleon, Mr. Harry
Potter, Mrs. Brown
Powell, Mr. A.
Prinz's Lions
Purchase, Mr. A.
Ray, Miss Belle
Ray, Miss Gladys
Richards, Mr. N.
Riche, Mr. Evan
Rivington and Gordon
Rollenson, Mr. Albert
Rooney, Mr. M. J.
Rosine, Mr. Carl
Satsuma, Mrs.
Scott, Mrs. Veretta
Seaforth, Selina
Seguin, Mr. Chas.
Soldene, Miss E.
St. Aubyn, Mr. Carlton
Stella, Sisters
Stoneham, Mr. W. A.
Stuart, Mr. Laurie
Stuart, Mr. Maxwell
Tempest, Miss Marie
Terrier, Madame F.
Thorne, Mr. George
Tribe, Miss Maude
Valesco, Miss Ivy
Vanda, Mlle.
Vandy, Mr. Paul
Vansittart, Mr. C. B.
Vasco
Vassar, Dr. Carl
Vernon, Miss H.
Villion, Miss Gertrude
Vivian, Miss E.
Walsh, Miss Maude
Walton, Mr. W. W.
Watson, Mrs. J. B.
Wilkinson-Scott, Mr. C.
Willoughby, Miss Nance
Winona, Mr. Edwin
Wybrow, Mr. Chas.
Wylie, Mr. Laurie
Yorke, Mr. Leonard

THE FORESTERS'.

Lew Lake and company are here once more with their farcical absurdity, *The Bloomsbury Burglars*, and Mr. Lake is treating East-Enders to his comical and lively representation of Nobbler, the burglar. The little piece seems to create as much merriment as it has done on former occasions when presented before practically the same audience. Mr. Bob Morris as the impudent window-cleaner, Mr. Ernest Webb as the imperturbable flunkey, and Miss Kitty Wilmore as a "fickle jade," ably assist Mr. Lew Lake in the production. Milstead and Bell are seen and heard to advantage in a musical comedy act, the singing of "My Arizona maid" being particularly pleasing. Mr. Tom Moore shows his talents as a vocal comedian by his delivery of a song on the subject of "Temptation"; and Mr. Richardson Taylor creates a feeling akin to wonderment at his ventriloquial feats, his whistling and mimicry being specially commendable.

Miss Josephine Colona and her company, under the management of Mr. Arthur St John, appear in the detective drama *The Master Hand*. In this there is plenty to thrill even the blase sensation hunter. There is, for instance, a great murder syndicate, the heads of which conspire to bring about the death of anyone to whose existence they happen to take an objection. They are not men who will be content with half measures in carrying out their fell designs. However, there is opposed to them a master mind—rather, he is called a "master hand"—in the person of Detective Nelson Keane, a gentleman of daringly original ideas, and sufficiently bold and reckless to accomplish them. Against this subtlety of intellect and physical bravery are matched the collective mental capabilities and stop-at-nothing dare-devilry of the Great Murder Syndicate, and, of course, it looks like a case of Greek meeting Greek. But the detective has a certain advantage. His sweetheart is in the company of the conspirators. She is supposed to be the daughter of the chief of the gang. What happens hereafter need not be told—it can be guessed. The playlet is extremely well acted, Miss Colona charming everybody and gaining universal sympathy for her representation of the heroine; and Mr. Arthur St. John acquitting himself creditably in the rôle of the detective. There are suitable exponents for the other rôles.

A turn which must commend itself to all lovers of high-class and refined vocalism is that of Blanche and Powell, whose interpretation, to organ accompaniment, of "Il Bacio" and "The Lost Chord," created a most favourable impression in the minds of the hearers. Mr. Will Lear proves exceedingly entertaining with his "Fireman" song; and the Treshams make for merriment with their comedy act, *Roads Up*. A descriptive comedian of considerable merit comes along in Mr. Phil Rabey, whose ditties, "Whatever was I to do?" and "Auld Lang Syne" are features of the programme. A laughable story is that entitled "The Haunted Hotel," told in vivid pictorial fashion by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

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„ ..	dep.	2*12	Bolton	„	5 1
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Neyland ..	„	10A55	Sheffield ..	„	3 15
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I admit that I have without any authority or justification, performed your copyright play, entitled "The Sign of the Cross," at Alexandria.
I very much regret having infringed your rights, and apologise to you for having done so.
I hereby undertake not to perform, or cause to be performed the said play, or any substantial parts thereof, nor to use in connection with any plays announced or represented by me, the title, "The Sign of the Cross," or any other title, in such a way as to be calculated to deceive persons into believing that the play so announced or represented is the play, "The Sign of the Cross," written by the late Wilson Barrett.
I further agree that you shall be at liberty to publish this apology and undertaking, or the substance or effect thereof, in "The Era," and a leading Scottish newspaper.
I also agree to pay four and a half guineas for damages, the cost of summons, and the cost of advertising this apology and undertaking.
Dated this 14th day of March, 1907.
Witness to the signature of FRED BOLTON,
WM. ROBERTSON
Solicitor,
43, Church-street, Dumbarton.

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"The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," by Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor, author of "Dramatic and Musical Law" ("The Era" office), seems to be the one compendious and indispensable authority on the subject, as vexed as the "Bermoothes" and as tortuous as a Chancery suit, that has long been wanted. It is in every essential a text book for the perplexed layman, and no solicitor or barrister worth his salt ought to think of taking or appearing in "proceedings" without consulting its pages. It must suffice, after what has been said, to state little more than that the contents include five chapters, respectively named "Copyright as Opposed to Performing Right," "Performing Right," "Infringement and Remedies," "Musical Copyright," and "International and Colonial Copyright." The work, for all its precise authority, is not dry reading. The statutes, with the elucidatory notes, necessarily impose a task on the reader which takes some tackling, but they had to be there. The cases adduced, however, are full of interest. Certain of them might fitly find a place in the romance of copyright. There was the fight of Charles Reade with George Conquest over "It's Never Too Late to Mend," for instance, and the equally interesting conflict of Mr. J. A. Cave with Chatterton over "The Wandering Jew." The latter was a famous battle. Chatterton took it to the House of Lords, and was finally beaten, to the unspeakable relief of Mr. Cave, who is never weary of relating the story. Had the result been otherwise, it would have meant his ruin. I well remember meeting him on the day of his victory and "crashing a cup with him" in honour of the same. "The Law of Copyright" is dedicated to Mr. A. W. Pinero.—Sportsman.
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THE ERA

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1907.

THE NEW AND OLD LYCEUMS.

The opening of the Lyceum Theatre this evening with a return to theatrical entertainments revives a host of IRVINGITE memories; but quite as interesting, in its way, is the early history of the house from its original establishment. The Lyceum is one of the London theatres—the list is being steadily diminished by successive demolitions—which possess "histories"; and the name is connected with the curious conflict between the old patent theatres and the so-called "summer" establishments—a conflict which led to the eventual victory of the latter. The matter has been most ably and extensively dealt with by Mr. WATSON NICHOLSON in his book, "The Struggle for a Free Stage in London," which has recently been published by Messrs. ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE and Co., and should find a purchaser in everyone interested in the drama. The ground on which the present Lyceum Theatre stands was once occupied by Exeter House, the town residence of CECIL, Earl of EXETER, son of the great Lord BURLEIGH. The first building which bore the name of the Lyceum was erected in 1765, from the designs of an architect named JAMES PAYNE—who had obtained a lease of the property—for the exhibitions of the Society of Artists. In 1768 the Royal Academy was established at Somerset House; and the Lyceum was tenanted successively by a conjurer named FLOCKTON; CHARLES DIBDIN, with an entertainment; PHILIP ASTLEY, with equestrianism; a "phantasmagoria"; and other shows. As early as 1794, Dr. ARNOLD, the composer, turned a portion of the structure into a theatre, but was prevented from obtaining a licence by the opposition of the managements of the patent houses. Eventually, by his influence as organist to GEORGE III., ARNOLD succeeded in getting a licence for the summer months only. In 1809, after the burning down of Drury Lane Theatre, the company appeared at the Lyceum; and at the expiration of his season ARNOLD announced that he would open for the summer with a new comic opera and a grand ballet. For seven seasons the Lyceum, or English Opera House, as it was called, progressed prosperously, and ARNOLD announced the opening of a season in 1816, which was to continue throughout the year. The proprietors of Covent Garden and Drury Lane lost no time in petitioning the PRINCE REGENT against such an invasion of their rights, and the proposed season ha dto be abandoned. Performers engaged at Drury Lane who had filled up the time while the great patent house was closed by appearing in the Opera House, were threatened with forfeiture if they went to the Lyceum. This prohibition was the origin of the actor-manager system, the minor concerns adopting the policy of making their best actors managers and proprietors, so that the patent houses could not buy them off.

The contest came to a climax. The "winter theatres," which in GARRICK'S time only opened for 160 nights in the year, were now open all the year round, with the exception of six or seven weeks in August and September. In 1822, after the accession of George IV., the winter and summer theatres came to an arrangement. The summer theatres were allowed a four months season without interference from the winter houses. In 1830 the old Lyceum was burnt down, and in 1832 an eight months' season was granted to the new house.

In 1834 the present building was opened to the public. By 1835 it was generally reported that ARNOLD had lost four thousand pounds since he began business in his new establishment, and the management became a commonwealth. In 1838 a drama was produced, called *The Queen's Command*, in which "Mr. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, the author of the piece," made his first appearance in London as the representative of the great dramatist whose name he bore. The play was withdrawn after eight nights, and a succession of experimental lessees followed. But there was "no luck about the house" till 1860, when FALCONER became the manager, and made a tremendous hit with his drama *Peep o' Day*. FECHTER'S season was also successful, at the beginning; and then came more brief essays, ending in Mr. BATEMAN taking the house in 1871. In the November of that year *The Bells* was produced, with results that are firm in the memories of all playgoers.

The Lyceum has, indeed, as CARLYLE said of the National Convention, "heard the chimes at midnight." FREDERIC LEMÂITRE has trodden its boards in *Robert Macaire;* and the management has offered "to all ladies and gentlemen, on paying for their seats at first prices to the boxes, private boxes, balcony, and pit, an excellent iced cream or water ice gratis." BALFE has produced an opera within its walls; and in a farewell speech has said: "I am exceedingly sorry, ladies and gentlemen, that I was ever such a fool as to became manager of an English theatre, and I solemnly promise you that I will never again appear in such a capacity." The Lyceum has been taken by the great unacted for the performance of their works, and has been occupied by MUSARD with promenade concerts. It has re-echoed with laughter evoked by the KEELEYS and with applause evoked by PLANCHE'S graceful extravaganzas. RISTORI and CHARLES DILLON have both been seen on the Lyceum stage; and Mr. BANDMANN as Narcisse, and a Japanese troupe imported by Professor RISLEY, have enjoyed its hospitality. Miss NEILSON has been admired there in *Life for Life;* and the Brothers MANSELL have tried their luck with *Chilperic*. Mrs. STIRLING has won plaudits in a drama about *Lady Mary Wortley Montague;* and CARTER, the "Lion King," has given his performances with the King of Beasts. Few playhouses have had such varied experiences; few are connected with such glorious achievements. The Lyceum is exactly the theatre at which the experiment of melodrama at moderate prices may be tried without being interfered with by tradition; and we wish the experiment every possible success.

HACKNEY EMPIRE.

Maintaining that high standard of excellence which characterises this hall, the management present to their patrons this week a programme of exceptional variety and interest. The premier place is held by Miss Vesta Tilley, the magnetic influence of whose name is quite sufficient to ensure crowded audiences throughout the week. Miss Tilley, on the evening of our visit, gave three songs, the first, "I'm a jolly young bachelor," enabling her to portray with genuine effect the young man-about-town. Her second, "Here's jolly good luck to the girl who loves a soldier," secured her appearance in the smart uniform of a private. The last item, "King Baby," which was given as an encore, permitted her to make a bid for popular approval in a somewhat new line of business with complete success. All three songs served to display once again Miss Tilley's inimitable gifts, and not the least noteworthy feature of her act was the irreproachable manner in which she was attired. Mr. King Kingston, the Australian tenor, displays a good voice in "Doreen" and "Somebody," the effect of the turn being enhanced by some beautiful pictures. His reception is cordial.

Mr. Frank Leslie, who opens the programme, does well with "I've been dreaming." A particularly smart act is that presented by the Macarte Sisters. Their playing and dancing, together with their tight-wire act, are alike excellent, while the novel serpentine dance in mid-air brings a clever show to a brilliant conclusion, a well-earned call being the deserved result. Messrs. Frank Bertram and company appear in a comedy sketch, *The Chaperon*. The plot, similar in nature to that of the ever-famous *Charley's Aunt*, turns on the non-arrival of a mother at her son's chambers to play propriety during the visit of her prospective son-in-law, with the result that the son, in desperation, has to get his man to get into her clothes and assume the rôle. Of course, the scope for fun fast and furious is unlimited, and of their many opportunities Mr. Bertram and the lady and gentleman who support him take full advantage. Constant laughter rewarded their efforts, Mr. Bertram as the supposed mother being really amusing. A coon artist of great ability is Mr. Thomas E. Finglass, his song of a plaintive nature being cleverly rendered, and the dance very smart.

Miss Rosa Loader, a musical mimic at the piano, makes a good impression. In the guise of a servant describing the vocal efforts of the guests at a party given by her mistress the night before, she utilises the opportunity to satirise familiar types of amateur musicians. A good call rewards her efforts. On the night of our visit Mr. Dion Wade was indisposed, and Mr. T. W. Rowley appeared as a substitute. In his first song, "The bally wedding," he did well, but in his second, "It's no business of mine," in which he appeared as a dame, he made an unmistakable hit, very loud applause being accorded him at the end of his amusing act. The bottom of the bill this week is occupied by Alexandre and Hughes, two very capable entertainers. In their cross-talk they provoked considerable amusement, while the musical side of their turn is of a high order. Their success was complete. The American Bioscope retains its reputation for up-to-date subjects, the films shown embracing both the Grand National and one of the football matches in the Semi-final for the Cup last Saturday, both of which appeal strongly to the sporting instincts of the audience. Unqualified praise must be accorded Mr. Walter Johnston and his excellent orchestra, the selection from *My Lady Molly* being admirably rendered as an overture, and their assistance throughout the evening being very valuable. Mr. John Christie and Mr. D. E. Charles courteously attend to the front of the house.

"BAMBOO FLOWER" is the name of the four-year-old daughter of Chung Ling Soo, the famous Chinese wonder worker, and, despite her tender years, she is already an accomplished conjurer and illusionist, but the regulations of the L.C.C. preclude at present her performance being seen by any but a favoured few.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens.

THEATRES AND MUSIC HALLS COMMITTEE.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee reported that they had elected Mr. H. J. Greenwood to be their chairman and Mr. Jocelyn Brandon to be their vice-chairman for the ensuing year. They had also elected Mr. Greenwood as their representative on the General Purposes Committee.

THE PALACE.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee reported that they had considered a drawing, submitted by Mr. J. Emblin-Walker, showing certain works in connection with the stalls seating proposed to be executed at the Palace Theatre of Varieties, Shaftesbury-avenue, with a view to complying with Nos. 44 and 45 of the suggestions made by the Council for the structural improvement of the premises; and they recommended that Mr. Emblin-Walker be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing submitted by him, provided the angles at the bases of the pillars at the back of the stalls be rounded off to the satisfaction of the Council.

Agreed to.

PUTNEY HIPPODROME.

The Committee having considered a drawing submitted by Messrs. F. Matcham and Co., showing the proposed method of improving the sighting of the gallery at the Putney Hippodrome, recommended that Messrs. Matcham and Co. be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing submitted by them.

Approved.

WYNDHAM'S THEATRE.

The Committee reported that they had considered a drawing, submitted by Mr. E. Lytton, showing the proposed method of installing automatic drums for working the flies at Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross-road. They recommended that Mr. Lytton be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing submitted by him, provided the undermentioned conditions be complied with—that all details in connection with the electrical and other arrangements be carried out in a satisfactory manner and in accordance with the regulations of the Council; that the moving parts be efficiently guarded; that a system of emergency switches be installed at various points by means of which the whole apparatus can be immediately brought to rest; and that, should the Council at any time hereafter consider it necessary, a man be stationed in the fly while the apparatus is at work, so that prompt aid may be available in case of accident.

The recommendation was approved.

OLYMPIA.

The Committee also approved, provided that certain conditions be complied with, of drawings submitted by Mr. E. D. Robbins, showing the arrangements in connection with the Office Furniture Exhibition proposed to be held at Olympia from July 11 to 13, 1907, and a drawing submitted by Mr. F. H. Payne of the lift proposed to be erected at the premises in connection with the forthcoming International Building Trades Exhibition.

At the close of the meeting the Council adjourned for the Easter recess.

THE EUSTON.

There was little chance of standing-room at the palatial theatre of varieties in the land of the great railway termini last week, for from the northern heights came solid cohorts of admirers of the one and only Marie Lloyd, to welcome that popular little woman in a way that has something of special British heartiness about it. Like the beautiful Queen whose blandishments enslaved the triumvir Marcus Antonius, custom does not stale Miss Lloyd's infinite variety. She revived last week her great success, "In country—in town," for the chorus of which the celebrated Parisian melody, "La Mattchiche," provides a most alluring setting. She then describes the customs (mostly matrimonial) of various countries, referring incidentally to such distant parts of the globe as Samoa, Persia, and Hottentot land. Was it not Robert Louis Stevenson who inveighed against the American lady missionary obsessed with anxiety to fetter the Samoan maidens with corsets and skirts? The author of "Treasure Island" roundly asserted that they looked the perfection of grace with the simple blanket thrown over their shoulders. Miss Lloyd winds up her triumphant turn by singing of the ways of Sunny Spain—"The land of King Alfonso, where men and maids go on so"—and has some difficulty in getting away to her other engagements.

Miss May Henderson always finds a very large number of admirers at the Euston, who applaud the dusky comedy queen in a manner that emphasises that youthful lady's popularity. As a nigger gal with eccentric proclivities and with primitive notions as to frocks—her skirt being made of sacking, *à la* Topsy—May lets herself go in a dance which is particularly smart. She is also blessed with a tuneful coon ditty with a striking chorus. Mr. T. E. Finglass also dons the livery of the Ethiop to sing a pretty lilt concerning "The black sheep of the family," who apparently has learnt how to dance very gracefully. There is much more than ordinary cleverness in this turn. We have had many parodies of "In the shade of the old apple tree"—the fruit always lends itself to comedy—and Mr. Ernie Mayne sings in unctuous style many humorous lines that elicit demands for an encore. Miss Gladys Huxley has a successful number in "Au revoir, my little hyacinth," which, it will be remembered, was one of the successes of *The Beauty of Bath* at the Aldwych Theatre, when it was sung by Miss Ellaline Terriss. Miss Huxley does the song complete justice, and is heartily received.

A graceful athletic show is presented by the Athlones, whose muscles are finely developed on the Sandow principle; and Miss Abbie Mitchell, the Creole plantation singer, is an interesting turn. Mr. and Mrs. Royston Dene are playing here in their powerful dramatic episode, *At the Stroke of Twelve*, in which the lady introduces her famous sleep-walking scene, as played by her in all the principal theatres of Australia and the East. The actress is both intense and powerful. As a concluding item we have Mr. John F. Preston's company in *Saved from the Harem*, a music-hall version of Max Goldberg's piece, *Secrets of the Harem*, a scene of which formed the groundwork of the dramatic entertainment given during the strike at the Scala Theatre. The Union Jack, a sailor bold, and tars, ever ready to succour a captive maiden imprisoned in the harem of an unamiable caliph, provide all the necessary excitement, and the varieties introduced into the harem scene add to the interest evoked by the production.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON has forwarded one guinea as his subscription for 1907 to the Showmen's Guild. Will many more showmen please forward their subscriptions, recollecting that the more they financially support the Guild, the more it can do for the interests of the showmen in preserving their fairs and liberties? The hon. treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, of *The Era*, will be pleased to acknowledge all subscriptions forwarded.

THE Midland Railway's new Sunday service will be invaluable to companies whose way lies between the North of England and South Wales and the West of England. The new service begins on Sunday next, and a reference to the advertisement in another column will show the facilities afforded.

"HALF-A-DOLLAR."

A Farcical Sketch, in Two Scenes, by W. A. Haines and Alan Borthwick, produced at the Granville, Walham Green, on Thursday, March 28.

Harry Hilton ..... MR. ALAN BORTHWICK
Kate ..... MISS MARY MACKENZIE
Nelly ..... MISS GLADYS ERSKINE
Harry Hutchins ..... MR. W. A. HAINES

The question of mistaken identity, "doubles," and remarkable resemblances have been responsible in many instances in actual life for awkward and absurd situations, and that experiences of the kind should be used, perhaps in exaggerated form, for stage purposes seems but natural. We had a very successful example of it in the play *Tom, Dick, and Harry*, and we could quote many more. In the amusing sketch *Half-a-Dollar*, which the authors, Messrs. Haines and Borthwick, produced on Thursday night at the Granville, the principle of the likeness between two persons and the predicaments that arise therefrom has received somewhat original treatment. A young lady going to a fancy dress ball alights outside the establishment where that function is being held. Her cabman demands a sum of money which she thinks is in excess of what is due to him. That sum is half-a-crown, or what would be called by the average Jehu "'arf-a-dollar." The lady indignantly walks away, dropping her ticket for the ball, which the cabby promptly picks up, and for which his natural astuteness is not long in finding a use. He follows his fare, and for the moment we see no more of him. Next we see a young gentleman, who is also going to the dance. He is dressed as a cabman, and there is a great similarity in height, figure, and general outward appearance with the genuine driver who has preceded him with the object of securing his fare. It is not necessary to detail what happens in the dancing hall. Suffice it to say that the "fancy dress" cabman is mistaken for the genuine article, and the same amusing *contretemps* occurs in the case of two young ladies who are also gowned alike and look alike.

The little company work extremely well. Mr. Alan Borthwick as Harry Hilton, the sham cabman, shows that he can assume the manners of a gentleman at one moment and of a cockney Jehu the next. Mr. W. A. Haines is to be commended upon his portrayal of the real cabman, his dialect being capitally sustained and his intoxication being well simulated. Miss Mary Mackenzie and Miss Gladys Erskine are seen and heard to advantage in their rôles of the two young ladies.

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE.

Notwithstanding the fact that the present week is limited to five working days in the amusement world, Mr. Arthur J. Barclay, with all that liberality which has invariably marked his management here, presents a programme which, without exaggeration, may be described as brilliant. The result, as might be expected, is business of an exceptionally satisfactory description, while cheers and laughter vie with each other for the ascendency from beginning to end. A tuneful beginning is made by the orchestra, under the artistic direction of Mr. H. Petersen, the overture being very finely rendered. Mr. Ernie Mayne, "the Simple One," whose personal appearance is sufficient in itself to ensure him a warm reception, is heard to the greatest advantage in a couple of really clever parodies—"The Zuyder Zee" and "The Old Apple Tree"—and is loudly acclaimed for both. Bright, pretty, and well costumed, Miss Ella Retford immediately ingratiates herself with the house, and is vociferously cheered, especially for her rendering of a good song about "Fatherland," and for the subsequent neat dance she executes in sabots.

An artist who made herself immensely popular here on her first appearance a few months ago is Miss May Henderson, the coon comedienne, who, on the present occasion, enhances, if possible, her reputation as one of the liveliest and most original performers. The haunting song in which she encourages the gallery boys to join in her wild "whoop!" fairly takes the fancy of the audience, who assist her with gusto. Miss Henderson is simply brimming over with infectious gaiety, and her high spirits soon communicate themselves to her hearers. Another dainty little lady who never fails to bring Walthamstow to her feet is My Fancy, whose wonderful step and sand dancing seems to increase in merit every time she appears, working with unflagging energy every moment she is on the stage. The admirers of My Fancy would fain have more did time permit. An instantaneous success is made by that mysterious gentleman, "Mr. C.," who appears to be possessed of two distinct voices at the extreme opposite ends of the register. Mr. C.'s singing, for example, of "Killarney," in which he produces at one moment notes of a very high soprano and immediately afterwards is revelling in the deepest bass, is simply astonishing. The gentleman's very funny patter also keeps his hearers in constant amusement.

Another welcome "first appearance here" is made by Mr. T. E. Dunville, who, on Monday night, came, was seen, and conquered without a moment's hesitation. The extraordinary elasticity of the "lone comedian's" facial muscles keep the audience in a perpetual roar of laughter, while the singing of "That's extra" is followed by an equally amusing rendering of a ditty about swimming, both being inimitable. Mr. Dunville may be congratulated on having jumped at a bound into a prime place for favouritism with Mr. Barclay's patrons, who will look eagerly for his name in future bills. As usual, Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope shows a series of clever and interesting pictures.

Two sketches, widely dissimilar, but equally good of their kind, make up the remainder of this complete and liberal programme, the first being the dramatic episode, *At the Stroke of Twelve*, produced by Mr. and Mrs. Royston-Dene and company. This is a cleverly-constructed little piece, telling of a mysterious murder committed "at the stroke of twelve," for which a man, who declares himself innocent, stands condemned to death. A lady, however, haunted by a guilty conscience, takes to sleep-walking, after the manner of Lady Macbeth, and, to the horror of her husband and a detective, re-enacts the murder scene over again in her sleep, and proves herself the culprit. Mrs. Royston-Dene as Isabel Trevelyan, plays the difficult rôle with a tragic intensity seldom to be seen on the variety stage, and holds the audience spell-bound by the force of her acting. Loud and prolonged cheers reward the talented actress for her rendering of a part that must be a great tax on her strength. Mr. Royston-Dene is dignified and firm as the husband, speaking with good emphasis throughout. Mr. A. Field-Fisher is quiet and forceful as the detective, Martin Grainger; and Miss Sheelah Desmond as Grace looks charming and plays agreeably. The other playlet is the well-known sketch, *The Night Alarm*, which has been seen on these boards before, but is none the less welcome. Mr. Ernest Ball as the intrepid fireman plays with abundant dash and vigour, and is applauded to the echo. The chief actor is supported by an efficient company, while the mounting of the piece is very realistic.

MR. JOHN MITCHESON writes:—"Permit me to thank you for the paragraph you inserted in *The Era* on my behalf during my misfortune in failing health and loss of eyesight, the result of which has brought me voluminous letters of condolence from all parts of the United Kingdom. The kindly-worded letters of sympathy from my brother agents has afforded me great gratification."

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Miss Ada Reeve, who has been taking a long rest at her charming house at Chideock, near the sleepy old seaside town of Bridport, has completely recovered her health and spirits, and will again delight her legion of admirers—this time at the Empire, where she will appear on Monday in new songs and new dresses. A warm welcome awaits this incomparable comedienne.

The event of the week was the marriage on Thursday of Miss Marie Courtenay, Miss Marie Lloyd's (Mrs. Alec Hurley) only daughter, to Mr. Harry Aylin, the popular jockey. The ceremony took place at the Church of St. Stephen the Martyr, Avenue-road, N.W., at 1.30. At Granville Lodge, the charming residence owned by them in King Henry's-road, Mr. and Mrs. Alec Hurley were at-home to a number of friends of both the contracting parties. The bride is in her eighteenth year.

Mr. Gus Elen has now decided to accept the terms offered him by Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger through Mr. George Foster, and in September will sail for New York. His salary will total that of several Cabinet Ministers.

The case for the music hall artists in connection with the arbitration was opened by Mr. G. R. Askwith on Thursday, the 21st, by Mr. W. H. Clemart, who dwelt principally upon the barring clause, though he dealt with the artists' case in general prior to his closing statement. The proceedings were continued on Friday, and then adjourned until Tuesday, when Messrs. Joe O'Gorman and Wal Pink were heard on various points connected with the case for the artists. At the conclusion of the sitting on Wednesday an adjournment was made over Easter. Among the witnesses called were Messrs. Albert Gilmer, Walter de Frece, Jesse Sparrow, Sam Poluski, Ella Retford, Walter Munroe, Geo. Gray, Harry Blake, and C. C. Bartram.

The company of artists who sailed to Las Palmas on board the Sekondi as guests of Sir Alfred Jones opened on Monday, March 18, at the Teatro Perez Galdos as the "Compañia Inglesa de Variedades," and scored a tremendous success. *Motoring* "went" as well as it did at the Oxford, and Mr. Harry Tate also scored in his *Golfing*, and in the song, "Holding hands." Mr. Malcolm Scott gave "Smiles" and "Touchee Foot"; Mr. Edgar Romaine opened the bill with his song, "Soldiers"; and Miss Claire Romaine, who took the place of Miss Fanny Fields, submitted with her customary vivacity "Don't mind me." Mr. M. R. Morand obliged with the romanza, "Sally."

The programme was printed in English and Italian. Mr. Walter McEwen was the manager, and Miss Theresa Foote accompanied. All the English visitors loyally supported the company, and the house was packed. Every consideration was shown to the artistic crowd by the Spaniards, who took a very great interest in the venture. The wanderers return to England to-morrow, after a delightful holiday, many of them being due to open on Easter Monday.

The Russian petty officers and men were driven to the Hippodrome on Tuesday, where a cordial welcome awaited them, the whole audience rising and cheering in the heartiest fashion. Mr. Fred Trussell, during the entertainment, welcomed them in the name of the directors in a very pithy speech.

In the evening the boys of the Russian fleet went to the Alhambra, where Mr. George Scott had prepared one or two special items for their delectation. Programmes were printed in Russian for their benefit, and a special troupe of Russian dancers regaled them with snatches of their native songs. In a private box were the Russian Ambassador, Lord Tweedmouth, Sir Edward Grey, and Admiral Fisher.

The Mysterious Howards, now at the Palace Theatre with their silent mental telepathy act, appeared on Sunday at a little party given by Mr. Alfred de Rothschild. Among the many articles given for description in strict silence was a curious watch, enclosed in a 20 dollar piece, belonging to Mr. Pierpont Morgan. This was described minutely, and the millionaire could only ejaculate "Wonderful." The Japanese Ambassador was also present, and personally tested the pair with some curious coins of his country. At the conclusion of the entertainment, Mr. Rothschild asked whether a Bank of England note's number could be transmitted, at the same time producing one. It contained eight figures, and was given out without the slightest hesitation.

It will be remembered that a part of the Howards' entertainment is to offer a new pack of cards, and allow the audience to open it and select a card which will be written down on a blackboard on the stage. A lady in the little gathering on Sunday night was rather sceptical, and offered a card from a neighbouring table. It presented no difficulty, and was at once transmitted. Mr. Rothschild, in company with his guests, expressed their wonderment at the remarkable feats that had been displayed.

Sir Edward Ward, Permanent Under-Secretary of State for War, has written to the Howards, on behalf of Mr. Haldane, thanking them most warmly for the wonderful and interesting entertainment that was given on the occasion of the British War Office dinner held recently.

In the Easter bills for the Canterbury and Paragon we find the name of Miss Nellie Beacon, a charming young actress with a powerful voice. This lady is making strong headway under the direction of Alfred Saker and Co., in whose hands she has placed her entire business.

The Magic Circle, an association of professional conjurers, which was instituted rather more than twelve months ago, held its second annual grand séance at St. George's Hall on Tuesday evening. During the evening an interesting little ceremony took place. Mr. Leipsic, the American conjurer, was formally presented by the president, Mr. Nevil Maskelyne, with the society's "Jewel of the Inner Circle," a medal which he was enjoined to wear at all entertainments in which he is professionally engaged. The performances were received with marked favour by a large audience.

Dr. F. Osmond Carr, who is composing the music for the next ballet at the Empire, has the distinction of being a musical graduate of both Oxford and Cambridge. A native of Bradford, where he was born in 1858, he will be remembered as the composer of *Joan of Arc* (1891), *In Town* (1892), *Blue-Eyed Susan* (1892), *Morocco Bound* (1893), *His Excellency* (1894), and *Biarritz* (1896). Dr. Carr's first work was the comic opera *Faddimir*, which dates from 1887, and the libretto of which was written by Mr. "Adrian Ross," then a Cambridge tutor. The theme of the new ballet relates to Sir Roger de Coverley's visit to Vauxhall Gardens.

The programme at the Islington Empire this week consists of a series of Animated Pictures, lasting throughout the whole performance.

The Florodora Girls are appearing this week at the Middlesex with great success in their novel comedy scena, *Two's Company, Three's None*. By their introduction of a boy from the gallery they cause screams of laughter.

Mr. Ernest Dottridge, of Oldham, writes:—"In your last week's issue, in the 'Variety Gossip,' you have a paragraph stating that Mr. Farrell, of Farrell and Wilmott, would open the Empire Theatre on Monday next. Please allow me to contradict this statement. They are simply a turn engaged with a variety combination who are at the said theatre this present week. The Empire Theatre is, and always has been, owned by the Oldham Empire Theatre of Varieties Co., Ltd., and is under my management."

Mr. Frank Wilson, the acting-manager of the Paisley Hippodrome, severed his connection with that establishment on Saturday. He has faithfully discharged his duties as Mr. E. H. Bostock's representative in Paisley since the opening of the house, and he leaves with the general regret of many patrons and friends.

Certain changes are to take place in the staff of Moss' Empires from April 18. Mr. Alan W. Young, at present district manager for Liverpool, Manchester, and district, goes to the head office at Cranbourn Mansions to superintend the various departments there, excepting those dealing with accountancy and finance. Mr. W. S. Gordon Michie, the chief accountant of the company, superintends these departments. Both are Scotchmen from Aberdeen.

Mr. Young is well known to the profession, and was acting-manager of the Sheffield Empire for five years. He was acting-manager for the new Olympia, Liverpool, for eight months, and has been district-manager for Liverpool and Manchester districts for the past eighteen months. During the latter portion of these eighteen months Mr. Young has acted as chairman of district-managers at their meetings. This position he will still retain. Prior to coming into this profession, Mr. Young served his apprenticeship with Mr. Moss's solicitors, becoming assistant to Mr. Thomson, the secretary of the company, so that, directly and indirectly, he has been connected with the company over twelve years.

Mr. Albert Bulmer, acting-manager at Olympia, succeeds Mr. Young as district-manager. Mr. Bulmer, previous to his appointment to Olympia, was for seven years manager at the Tower, New Brighton, and prior to this was connected with the Carl Rosa Co.

Mr. Ernest Wighton, the assistant at Olympia, succeeds Mr. Bulmer as acting-manager. Mr. Wighton is a brother of Mr. David Devant, of Maskelyne and Cook, and has been a number of years with Mr. Keller in America as manager. Mr. Wm. Agnew, another Scotchman, succeeds Mr. Wighton as assistant at Olympia.

The New Royal Hippodrome, Belfast, opens on Easter Monday next under the direction of Mr. Will Sley (Manchester) and the management of Mr. Harry Downs, formerly of New Alhambra, Belfast. Mr. Edgar Haines has been appointed musical director, Mr. George Dobler advertising inspector, and Mr. J. Quick, stage-manager. The new building is the largest and most sumptuously-furnished theatre of its kind in Ireland, and it will be conducted on temperance principles. It is situated in Great Victoria-street, at the corner of Grosvenor-street, by the side of the Palace, and is capable of holding about three thousand people. Miss Lydia Yeamans, the famous mimic, will have the honour of heading the opening bill at the new theatre.

The Blackpool Hippodrome was to be reopened on Thursday, the 28th, under the management of Mr. T. P. Dingnan, a gentleman well-known and highly respected at the Brighton of the North. Matinées will be given to-day and on Easter Monday.

Mr. J. H. Whittaker, chef d'orchestre, Empire Palace, Birmingham, completed eight years of admirable service at that establishment on Wednesday, the 20th, amid the congratulations of numerous friends, who, for his many admirable qualities, voiced the hope that his services may be long retained under the same regime.

The death has taken place at Bexhill-on-Sea of Mr. Valentine Vousden, aged 85 years. He was in his early days a very popular entertainer. One of his most successful sketches was *The Unity of Nations*. The idea of this was suggested by the vast crowds from all parts of the world who visited the London Exhibition in 1851, where he was then performing. He wrote all his own songs, the best-known of these being "Let each man learn to know himself." Ill-fortune overtook him in his old age, and about four or five years ago he became an inmate of the North Dublin Workhouse. His friends removed him, however, to a home at Bexhill, where he spent his last years in comfort.

Mr. Frank Keegan, the well-known comedy cyclist, during the first house at the Palace, Cork, on Saturday night, met with a serious accident, dislocating his hip. He is now in the North Infirmary of the town, and is having every attention. Mr. Henry Kemble, the popular manager of the Palace, Cork, is showing much solicitude regarding his welfare.

Miss Florrie Gallimore and Josie Delaine have been secured by Mr. Ernest Dottridge for his forthcoming pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, at the Empire Theatre, Oldham. Miss Gallimore will be Dick, and Miss Delaine, her pretty and charming daughter, will be second girl.

By reports from Nottingham it is evident that Mrs. John Lawson has made more than her usual success with *The Devil's Sunday*. The local Press all speak in the highest terms of this clever lady's reading of the leading part. Next week this episode is the main attraction at the Holborn Empire.

Miss Marie Kendall, at the Palace Theatre, Bradford, on Tuesday evening, introduced to the audience her younger sister, and claimed in dulgence for her maiden effort in song and dance. Although obviously suffering from nervousness, the charming young débutante made a promising effort, and the audience heartily encouraged her.

Miss Ethel Ra Leslie concludes to-night at the Shepherd's Bush Empire five weeks' London season. This popular lady has been the lucky recipient of several beautiful bouquets, and at New Cross Empire one very lovely shower bouquet bore the inscription, "From a few admirers. Welcome back!" Miss Ra-Leslie opens on Monday a seven weeks' tour at Cardiff.

Mr. J. H. Milburn and Mr. J. W. Hall have been working together for the first time in seventeen years at the Palace, Dundee, and in celebration thereof the plastic-featured one relaxed as he presented his brother comedian with a handsome diamond ring. Mr. Hall suitably acknowledged the gift in a humorous speech in the Yorkshire dialect through the phonograph on which Milburn loves to take records of old and new favourites.

Great Yarmouth beach has many advantageous sites for open-air concerts, Christy minstrel entertainments, and the like, and Mr. Herbert Tinkler has been instructed by the Corporation to let by auction for terms of five years, at the Star Hotel, Great Yarmouth, on Monday, April 8, a concert-ring opposite the coastguard station, and a ring for minstrel entertainments. Mr. W. Edgar Stephens, the Town Clerk, will give further particulars.

At the Paragon, by kind permission of the directors, a special grand matinée will be given by Mr. H. H. Wells on Thursday, April 18, in aid of the Lord Mayor's Cripple Children's Fund. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs will attend in state.

At the Granville, Walham Green, on Thursday, was produced by Messrs. Haines and Borthwick, a new and original farcical sketch in two scenes, entitled *Half-a-Dollar* (by W. A. Haines and Alan Borthwick), with the following cast:—Harry Hilton, Mr. Alan Borthwick; Kate, Miss Mary Mackenzie; Nelly, Miss Gladys Erskine; Harry Hutchins, Mr. W. A. Haines.

Messrs. Richard Warner and Co., Ltd., have entered into an arrangement with Signor Rossi, formerly Maitre de Ballet of the Alhambra, to open an academy for the purpose of teaching all kinds of dancing, and to supply complete ballet troupes and choruses. One of the novel features introduced by Signor Rossi will be chorus ladies in special graceful dances up to date. Messrs. R. Warner and Co., Ltd., have also opened a special branch for supplying first-class artists and orchestras for public, masonic, and private dances, at homes, fêtes, &c.

"If yer can't get work yer can't get the sack, is an argymint that's sensible and sahnd," from Mr. Gus Elen's point of view. This celebrated coster comedian may be seen at the Hackney Empire next week in his latest contribution on the unemployed question. Gus is a man who has commanded widespread admiration, and to-day his name is as popular as it was when "'E dunno where 'e are," "Never introduce your donah to a pal," "If it wasn't for the 'ouses in between," and "It's a great, big shame" set the world talking

Living at Clapham Common in a delightful villa residence, crammed full of souvenirs of his theatrical career, the famous coster comedian is an enthusiastic gardener, and takes a great interest in fruit and flower growing, in pheasant breeding, and in poultry raising. He is, likewise, a skilful angler and shot, and in his magnificent car, which cost over £1000, he has covered thousands of miles.

Mr. Arthur Newton mentioned before Mr. Denman at Marlborough-street a summons that was heard a week ago against Mr. William Edward Clery, who is also known as Mr. Austin Fryers, of Hengler's Circus, Argyll-street, W., accusing him of having obtained credit for over £20 without disclosing the fact that he was an undischarged bankrupt. Mr. Newton said that facts had come to the knowledge of prosecutors that there was a syndicate—the British Sports Syndicate—running the entertainment, and the account for the printing had been paid by that syndicate. It was clear that Mr. Clery did not order the printing for his personal benefit, and he (Mr. Newton) would now ask the magistrate in the circumstances to allow the summons to be withdrawn. Permission was granted.

Mr. John Lawson has definitely decided to produce *The Unwritten Law* at the Holborn Empire on May 6. The production had to be temporarily abandoned owing to the difficulty of getting a young lady to create one of the leading parts. This, however, has now been overcome, and the necessary preparations are well in hand.

When Dr. Bodie was at Liverpool some time back, a little girl was taken to him, but she was either too young or in such a condition of general health as to be unfit for immediate treatment. Dr. Bodie suggested to the mother that she should see him with the girl on his return to Liverpool, and at the same time he gave the child a post-card photo. of himself. When in due season Dr. Bodie again visited Liverpool, the patient, with the post-card photo. in her hand, awaited him at the hall where he was appearing. The doctor took her on the stage and cured her, and when she ran off the first words she said to her mother were:—"Mammy, God has heard my prayer, and sent Dr. Bodie to cure me, and he has cured me now." It was an incident that brought tears to many eyes.

Dr. Bodie opens again in London on Monday next at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, with his own company. He is packing the Empire, Bristol, to the doors nightly this week, despite the fact of its being the slackest of the year.

Miss Anna de Grey, secretary of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, acknowledges with many thanks the donations of clothing from Miss Bertha N. Graham, Mrs. Vernon Cowper, Mrs. Harry Bawn ("My Fancy"), Mrs. and Miss Collins. Mr. W. Manning has also sent her £1.

The daily Press of Friday in last week chronicled the breaking-out of a fire on the previous night in Liverpool-road, N., at what is known as "The Times Laundry," and a curious incident in connection remains to be told. Mr. Charles Coverdale, the well-known comedian, happened to be leaving the Islington Empire at eleven o'clock on the night in question, when he noticed a fire-engine rattle by. He followed in its wake, and made the unpleasant discovery that it was his own property which was on fire. The house, 14, Liverpool-road, was completely gutted, and it is therefore not surprising to learn from the comedian that the contents of the laundry were "badly scorched."

The family of Mr. Coverdale own eleven other shops adjoining; but the damage was confined to No. 14 through the prompt action of the fire brigade, which, as Mr. Coverdale points out, "collared and cuffed the fire, the shop afterwards presenting a very bad front, and looked very dicky. The fire gave it socks."

In reference to the summons for assault granted by Mr. Denman at Marlborough-street to Mr. Clive Darril, the Australian giant, for an alleged assault on him by Mr. Fred Trussell, we need only say that one reporter of a halfpenny journal at least has made many statements that are based on the unsubstantial fabric of his own imagination. A very different complexion will be put upon the case when the magistrate adjudicates upon it. Mr. Trussell has no aspirations to be considered a gladiator, and has really much respect for giants.

Miss Lois du Cane and her clever company, in the finely-acted sketch, *A Prodigal Wife*, written by Frederick Maxwell, will be one of the chief attractions at the Bedford during the holiday week.

The Variety Artists' Federation on the 21st inst. became a Registered Trade Union, with a number. The publishing of a newspaper as one of the objects of the Federation has been agreed to by the Registrar.

Mr. Frank Roy will present a new dramatic episode, entitled *The Rebel*, from the pen of Clare Shirley, at a special matinée, to be held at the London, Shoreditch, on Wednesday next.

Mr. Stafford Smith, who was associated with the late Wilson Barrett, is about to send out on tour a dramatic sketch, *Across the Continent*. With all its exciting incidents it only occupies thirty minutes for its performance. The special new scenery is being painted by Mr. F. H. Bull; and the costumes are being supplied by John Hyman and Co., of Leicester-square. Richard Warner and Co. have the bookings.

Mr. Arthur Conquest, having just concluded a most successful pantomime engagement at Drury Lane Theatre, commences his vaudeville season on Monday next at Balham, in *The Sioux*, with the Syndicate halls to follow. He returns to Drury Lane Christmas next

The 505th meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the offices of the M.H.A.R.A. on Wednesday. Mr. Pat Carey was in the chair, and also present were Messrs. Geo. Smythson, Chas. Pastor, Chas. Coborn (vice-president), Harry Wright, Fred W. Millis (vice-president), J. Alexander, Jeff Vendome, Harry Blake, Jack Collinson, C. Douglas Stuart (secretary), and Douglas White (treasurer). Mr. Goddard, proprietor of the Osborne Arms, Reading, was appointed agent in that town, and the agency at West Bromwich was transferred from the Theatre Vaults to the Oddfellows' Arms, opposite the Hippodrome. The offices of the M.H.A.R.A. will be open for the issue of vouchers to-day as usual.

Miss Millie Howell returns to town this week after a ten weeks' successful provincial run, opening on Monday at the Stratford Empire for a long engagement on the Stoll tour.

Miss Jeannie Bodie, daughter of Dr. Walford Bodie, has just taken a leading part in a French play at Macduff. The performance was given in the large music room of the Manor House, Dr. Bodie's Highland home, by Miss Bodie, her French governess, and several young ladies of Macduff, including the Misses Kitty and Mary George, daughters of Colonel J. J. George, V.D., the Town Clerk. The play was a great success. Miss Bodie is only fifteen, and will most likely adopt the stage as a profession. She speaks four languages fluently, has a fine voice, and is quite an accomplished musician.

The treasurer of the Music Hall Home Fund returns his thanks to the energetic collectors who sent in their cards this week, which has been the means of sending up the Fund to over 2000 shillings. He hopes that other collectors will make up another thousand during the coming week. It is for such a good cause—the relief of the aged and unfortunate members of the variety profession.

Hercat's popular sketch, *Her House in Disorder*, bottoms the bill, and is going strong at the Crouch End Hippodrome this week. Miss Hetty Lane now plays the landlady.

Mr. Bates Maddison, over whose sketch, *What the Butler Did*, all Richmond grew hilarious last week, brings another of his sketches to the Standard, Pimlico, on Easter Monday. It is called *Charley's Uncle; or, What Has She Got?* and is played by an excellent cast of comedians, including Mr. Frank Hill (a principal comedian of Criterion comedy companies), Mr. Bert Phœnix (lately Mr. Geo. Edwardes's companies), Miss Ella Danecourt (at one time leading juvenile to Mr. Lawrence Irving), and Miss Beatrice Fisher (late Mrs. Brown Potter's companies).

Messrs. B. F. Keith, F. F. Proctor, and Percy G. Williams, the principal members of the new vaudeville "combine," have expressed the utmost satisfaction with the present vaudeville outlook in America, and the members of the "opposition," Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger, are exceedingly optimistic. According to a leading American newspaper, the performers take the same rosy view of things, and agree that the golden age has arrived at last. Such artists as Miss Vesta Victoria, Mr. Henry Lee, Mr. Tom Nawn, and Miss Josephine Cohan were "bubbling over with satisfaction" when they were interviewed on the subject.

Vesta Victoria, who had just responded to eight encores of "Poor John," at the Alhambra Theatre, said:—"It's just as it should be. There must be competition, or pretty soon there won't be anything left for either the performer or the public, and in the end even the managers would suffer equally. I don't care what they say or promise, I know that sooner or later, with one or two men controlling the variety field, salaries would go down. Artists would be discouraged. The quality of the performances would deteriorate sadly. The public would gradually drop away from the variety theatres, and then what would we all have? Nothing.

"Now, I am not speaking so much for myself as for the native talent here in America. I can make a good living on the other side, no matter what might happen here. But at the same time, where would I be at if I wanted to come to America and there was only one man to talk to about making a contract? Wouldn't I have to accept the price he offered or stay away? Of course I would. For years I had to sing in London at practically the same figure, in spite of the fact that I was worth a lot more money, because I was drawing a lot more patronage."

Miss Josephine Cohan, who in private life is Mrs. Fred Niblo, declared that the new order of things was "just lovely."

The Spanish Moor, Zaid, whose novel speciality on the rings, assisted by Orienta, has awakened such intense interest at the London Pavilion, where he has been rebooked, makes his fourth return visit to the Gaiety Theatre, Birmingham, next week. This interesting speciality will be a leading feature of the Great Shrewsbury Fête in August.

Mr. Henry Kemble, the general-manager of the Palace, Cork, has commenced agency business, and intends opening offices in London in June. He will retain the management of the above house, for which he will have the exclusive bookings.

Mr. George Bastow's friends will hear with considerable pleasure that the famous exponent of "Varmer Giles" is rapidly approaching the period of convalescence after his illness.

At Bow County Court on Friday, March 22, before Judge Williams, Mme. Estelle, of the Excelsior Quartette Company, sought to recover from Messrs. Dan Thomas and Fred Clements, comedians, the sum of £7 for salary, and £1 10s. 4d. in respect of railway fares, said to be due under an agreement. The plaintiff's case was that in December last she entered into an agreement with the defendant whereby she and the other members of her troupe were to receive £7 a week to appear in a pantomime which defendants were producing and sending to various towns in the country. The plaintiff alleged that Mr. Thomas agreed to pay railway fares out of London and on the return journey, but said this agreement was afterwards disputed, and, after journeying to Sheerness, Stalybridge, North Shields, Hartlepool, and elsewhere, the company found themselves stranded at Ilkeston, and had considerable difficulty in getting back to London.

The defendants emphatically denied having entered into any agreement as to the paying of railway fares for the plaintiff's troupe, and pointed to the contract, in which no reference to fares was made. Mr. Thomas did not dispute that £7 was owing to the plaintiff for salary, but he called a Mr. Linton, who stated that Mr. Thomas gave him £7 to take to Mme. Estelle, but the lady refused to accept this unless the money which she alleged was due to her for railway fares was also paid. His Honour said there was certainly no reference in the signed contract to fares being paid, and judgment would therefore be only for £7 admittedly owing for salary, without costs.

The Four Harrys are in Paris enjoying the sights. They include Harry Lauder, Harry Tich, Harry Randall, and Harry Fragson. There is also with them one George—Foster.

Mr. Tom Hearn, the laziest juggler on earth, opens on the Keith Circuit, New York, on Monday. Before starting for America he handed to the hon. treasurer the sum of £2 17s. collected for the Music Hall Home Fund.

In view of the peasant rising in Roumania, which possibly foreshadows a far graver political crisis, Mr. Charles Urban, at the Alhambra, will supplement his forthcoming Easter "Trip to Palestine" by a recently taken series of scenes in Bukarest, secured only by the courtesy and special command of the Roumanian Minister for War. The three films, which illustrate the infantry of King Charles drilling in the barrack-ground, a turn-out of the splendidly-horsed field batteries, and a march-past of the Lancers, give a complete epitome of the Roumanian Field Forces, and are therefore of paramount interest at the present juncture.

Camilla D'Alberg, who, as we have already stated, is due to appear at Hammerstein's Roof Garden, New York, on June 17, has received a cable asking her to start her performance on June 3, so she will be leaving England the middle of May. Notwithstanding the absence of the actress-manageress in America, her comedy company will continue to play in *In at the Finish* in England and abroad.

Mr. Herbert Shelley has turned his thoughts bull-dogwards, and has bought Our Sammy by Bravo Billy from Midnight by champion Prince Albert. This is as it should be, for he is none other than the grandson of that old bulldog fancier who was the contemporary of Lamphier, Tom Turton, Jesse Oswell, and other old-timers, and owned such dogs as Duchess by Spring, Druid by Dan—a dog weighing some 60lb., which was sold by Bill George for £100, in those days considered a tall figure.

The latest quotations for music hall shares are as follows:—Alhambra, 1½; Canterbury, ½; Empire (15s. paid), 1½; Empire (10s. paid), 1⅛; London Pavilion Ord., 4¾; London Pavilion Pref., 5; London Coliseum, ⅛; Metropolitan, ⅝; Moss Empire, 5; Moss Empire 5 per cent. Pref., 4⅛; Oxford, 6⅜; Palace, 10s. 6d.; Tivoli, 6; Varieties Consolidated Theatres, 9-16.

Mr. Charles Dare's No. 1 company of famous minstrels will tour this summer as starring engagements at the principal halls have been booked into 1908. His No. 2 company of twenty-five performers is exclusively engaged for Douglas Head, Isle of Man, from May until the end of September; and his No. 3 company will be at Colwyn Bay. Who says the taste for burnt-work comedy and minstrelsy has died out?

Rich and Rich created a unique record last week in Southampton by playing complete performances at both the Palace and the Hippodrome there on Thursday and Friday evenings.

Les Frasettis leave on Sunday for Holland to play a return tour, and to assist in the promotion of the Anglo-Dutch *entente*.

Vesta Tilley, who has been appearing at the Hackney Empire this week with immense success, was born at Worcester, but spent the greater part of her early days in Birmingham. Her present permanent residence is in London, a charming house at Tulse Hill. Miss Tilley is the daughter of the late Harry Ball, and she recently told the writer how she got her stage name. "I was, until about twelve years of age, always appearing in male characters. People were in doubt whether I was really a boy or a girl, there being nothing in my name, 'The Great Little Tilley,' to indicate. I was at this time fulfilling a long engagement at the old Royal, when the manager suggested to my father that my name should be altered to 'Lady Tilley.' My father, however, ran over a few words in an old dictionary lying on the table, and selected 'Vesta,' which I also liked. The two titles, 'Vesta' and 'Lady' were then put in a hat, and I was commanded to take one out, which should be my stage name. I did so, and was happy to find it was 'Vesta.'

"Up to two years ago," says Miss Tilley, "I was frequently ailing, and long journeys—for the matter of that, short ones, too—were a source of much dread to me. The motor-car has given me the fresh air needed. I have had no serious accidents. Our worst journey was from Newcastle to Birmingham in a recent snowstorm. We had to stop several times on the way to have the snow cleared off the front of the car. I can stand the worst kind of weather now, whereas two years ago such an experience would have killed me." Miss Tilley's pet idea is to establish "Vesta Tilley" cots in children's hospitals in as many of the large towns as she can. At the present time she renders a good deal of service to charitable objects by requests for modest donations in return for her autograph, which is so persistently demanded and so cheerfully given. She would raise a part of the money requisite to the establishment of each cot by benefit performances, and the remainder of the money would, of course, have to come out of her own pocket.

EAST HAM PALACE.

A treat is provided this week for the patrons of this very pretty and comfortable palace of amusement, which is being numerously patronised. Miss Jeannette Hall, ballad vocalist, gives two numbers, her rendering of "Angels are near thee" being especially good and displaying her fine voice to the utmost advantage. The audience are quick to show their appreciation of the lady's efforts. Mr. T. E. Dunville, who is "hanging here for a week," is a great favourite, and very funny are his songs, "That's extra" and "Recipes," especially the latter, in which the eccentric one gives advice on any or every matter under the sun, much to the amusement of all. The pantomime *Aladdin* has a place in the bill. Mr. Dan Thomas is very funny as Widow Twankey, and keeps the house in roars throughout the piece. Miss Daisy Yates is a very dashing Aladdin, and promptly wins the hearts and applause of all. With the assistance of Mr. Thomas, the couple give a very amusing skit of the popular music hall performances, which is not only funny but clever, and receives the unstinted plaudits of the audience. Miss Amy Bellwood is delightful as the Princess Badroulbadour, and makes the most of her opportunities. Mr. Arthur Jenner is an ideal Emperor (on the rocks), and sings his number, "In Lotus Land," with effect, the chorus ladies assisting admirably. Mr. Chas. Dore succeeds in getting any amount of fun out of his part of the Vizier. Messrs. Haverley and Homer are droll Chinese policemen, Slip and Slod, and work hard throughout, their dancing being especially clever. Mr. Arthur Mordant appears as Abanazar the Magician with success. Miss Marie Lewis makes a first-rate Genie of the Ring; Miss Minnie Saunders is pleasing as the Slave of the Lamp; and the same remark applies to Miss Cissie Ford in her part of Catchee and Miss Emmie Ford in her portrayal of the Vizier's son. A special word of praise must be given to the Four Dandies Quartette of dancers, who do some very finished dancing, which is much appreciated. The ladies of the chorus add much to the success of the production. The dresses are very pretty, and the scenery and effects are excellent. Ruffell's Bioscope brings the entertainment to a close with a very clear film, showing the race for the Grand National.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

MR. CHAS. AUSTIN is featuring with great success his funny new song, "The late-lamented Mr. Perkins, written and composed by Chas. Collins and W. H. Wallis. The publishing rights have been acquired by the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Co.

"WHAT you can't get you can always do without" is the ascetic title of Mr. Chas. Whittle's latest philosophical number. The words and music are by Messrs. C. W. Murphy and Dan Lipton, and the song will shortly be produced in their popular sixpenny edition by the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Co., Ltd.

THE Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co. have just secured the publishing rights of two bright numbers, both written by A. A. Bagley, and composed by J. Chas. Noore, entitled "Does my tiara shine?" and "How-do-do, Mr. Black, I'm back," both of which will shortly be produced by Miss Amber Austa.

MESSRS. CHARLES COLLINS and Fred. E. Terry have written and composed for Mr. Charles Deane a very catchy song, entitled "Follow the girls," which has been accepted by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter.

MESSRS. JOHN P. HARRINGTON and Jas. W. Tate have just accepted a commission from Mr. W. Selkirk, the producer of big naval and military spectacles, to specially write and compose for him a new and original spectacular military production, in two scenes, which will first see the light on the Stoll tour, in Sheffield, on May 6 next. It will be produced on a scale of great magnificence, and will embrace four speaking parts and a veritable host of supernumeraries.

MR. J. F. LAMBE'S idyllic song, "Queen of old Samara," with which Miss Lilian Lea has been so phenomenally successful, at the Canterbury this week, will shortly be introduced into Miss Marie Santoi's *Japanese Tea-Garden* sketch, on tour. Mr. C. St. John Denton is also having it specially "featured" in his production of *Kitty Grey*. The same ubiquitous song has also been secured for Mr. Fred W. Warden's *Goody Two Shoes* Easter pantomime, at Belfast.

MESSRS. MELLOR, LAWRANCE, AND GIFFORD'S latest successful song, "I'm going back to the Fatherland," is being eagerly inquired for and snapped up for seaside exploitation by pierrots for the forthcoming season, which is little to be wondered at, considering the truly wonderful success which this Monte Carlo Co.'s publication has achieved nightly in the hands of Miss Lilian Lea, at the Canterbury, Talbot and Pearce, at the Metropolitan, and Miss Ella Retford, at Walthamstow, to say nothing of charming Miss Lena Verdi, on the Stoll tour.

THE clever author-composer of "Queen of old Samara," Mr. J. F. Lambe, is to be congratulated on having found another big "winner" in his delightful Irish ballad, "Kitty Brady, my Irish lady," which, in the hands of Miss Madge Temple, has been winning "golden opinions from all sorts of people" in the provinces, and will have a West End production very shortly. The Monte Carlo Publishing Co. have this number in the press.

"MY CHATEAU ON THE RHINE," by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford is now being specially "featured" by Talbot and Pearce and has "caught on" immensely everywhere. Mr. Donald Hall is also producing this "goey" German song. It is published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co., in their "Sixpenny Successes" series.

REHEARSALS of Messrs. John P. Harrington and Jas. W. Tate's new Jap-coster sketch, *Cockneys in Japan*, which these prolific writers have specially written and composed for Mr. Alec Hurley and his talented company, are now being pushed forward with all speed, and we may expect a West End production of this important thirty-minutes sketch at an early date. Report speaks most highly of the music, particularly of a number entitled "My little gal across the sea," which will, of course, be published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. in due course.

A RECENT number of the New York *Music Trade Review* contains an article on the popular songs of the day, in which category, of course, Miss Vesta Victoria's "Poor John!" holds a place in the very first line, and speaks thus of a popular number by Jerome and Schwartz, which is published by the energetic firm:—"My Irish Rosie" is at present doing a great business for Francis, Day, and Hunter, both with the performers and the trade. It is one of the best Irish songs on the market to-day. Pierce and Roslyn have made a big hit with it at Proctor's, Newark, N.J., house; Cora Routt scored greatly with it at the Metropolis, New York, Sunday last; Kathryn Miley took three and four encores after singing "My Irish Rosie" on Sunday at the Dewey, New York; Katharine Trayer, of Libby and Trayer, is making a big success with it at Pastor's; Mabelle Darr, of the Gay Masqueraders, is booming merrily with the same song; Hattie Williams, in the *Little Cherub*, is taking three and four encores nightly; and Bonita, in her great imitation of Hattie Williams, is doing exactly the same. It is also the song hit of *Wine, Woman, and Song* company.

MISS MABEL GREEN, the charming and dainty artist of *Little Michus* fame, will introduce at her forthcoming engagements, commencing at Manchester on April 9, Charles Wilmott and H. E. Darewski, jun.'s, "Humpty and Dumpty," which quaint cameo of a song has been published by Messrs. Francis and Day.

AMONG the many purchases of the week made by Messrs. Francis and Day are included "Why don't you leave it alone?" (sung by Johnny Danvers), by Fred Murray and George Everard; "My baby, sleep," a pretty lullaby, by Charles Wilmott and S. H. Gambrell; "With your kiss on my cheek," by F. J. Barnes and R. P. Weston; "On a see-saw with you," by Lawrance, Mellor, and Gifford; "The lily in the vase of gold," by R. P. Westbarr and H. E. Darewski, jun.; "Follow the girls" (Charles Deane), by Fred E. Terry and Charles Collins; "Drinks" (Wallis Arthur), by C. J. Winter; and "Aida," a graceful dance, by Celian Kottaun.

MISS EDITH BLANDE is producing a new sketch, entitled *Love in Short Frocks*, at the Empire, Camberwell, on Monday.

A MESSAGE of dire distress reaches us from Miss Amy Blanchard, once well known as a burlesque actress and vocalist, who, through illness and bereavement, is practically homeless and without friends. Miss Blanchard, who has worked in both branches of the profession for upwards of fifty years, has reached the advanced age of 64, and appeals to her brother and sister artists for help to start a small business with which to gain a livelihood. Miss Blanchard's present address is 37, Sidney-street, Brighton

THE position of bandmaster to the Corporation of Brighton for a season of twelve weeks, commencing July 1, is now open. Candidates must have had experience elsewhere in conducting large military bands, and must possess an extensive and up-to-date library of music. Application is to be made prior to 10 a.m., on Wednesday, April 10, to Hugo Talbot, Town Clerk, Brighton.

MARRIAGE OF MARIE LLOYD'S DAUGHTER.

Thursday, with its bright sunshine and pleasant breeze, was quite an ideal day for a wedding, and much interest was taken in the nuptials of the well-known young jockey, Mr. Harry Aylin and Miss Marie Victoria Courtenay, the daughter of Miss Marie Lloyd (Mrs. Alec Hurley). The ceremony was performed at the Church of St. Stephen the Martyr, Avenue-road, N.W., the Rev. F. Betts, the Vicar, being the officiating minister. The service was fully choral. The arrival of the numerous wedding party was witnessed by a large crowd, which had gathered outside the church, and the sacred building was also well attended. The bride, who is only seventeen years old, arrived in a carriage and pair, accompanied by her mother and grandfather, Mr. John Wood, who gave her away. As she walked up the aisle, leaning on the arm of her grandfather, the young bride, petite and pretty, was the cynosure of many admiring eyes. She looked charming in an Empire gown composed entirely of Valenciennes lace, with a long silk sash, caught at the back with a large pearl butterfly. Her ornaments also included a pearl and diamond necklace and pendant, the gift of her mother; and diamond earrings, the gift of the bridegroom.

There were six bridesmaids—Miss Maudie Wood, Miss Ada Martine, Miss May Wood, Miss Mollie Poluski, and Miss Billie Israel. The first two wore hyacinth-blue ninon and quaint Norwegian bonnets, adorned with flowers, and the three little ones had frocks of frilled Valenciennes lace and pretty "Sans Gêne" bonnets, tied with pale blue strings.

Miss Marie Lloyd, attired in a chiffon and lace dress, headed the procession up the church. The bridal gown and the bridesmaids' dresses were all designed by Miss Marie Lloyd, who is exceedingly clever in the millinery line, and always designs the costumes she wears on the stage.

Mr. Bernard Dillon was the best man. On the completion of the ceremony, the usual custom of signing the register in the vestry was duly carried out.

A reception was afterwards held at the house of the bride's mother and step-father in King Henry's-road.

The long list of invited guests included Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Stoll, Mr. and Mrs. G. Adney Payne, Mr. Frank Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Randall, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Stratton, Mr. and Mrs. Wal Pink, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Elvin, Mr. and Mrs. S. Poluski, Mr. and Mrs. J. Corney, Mr. and Mrs. G. Foster, Mr. and Mrs. H. Masters, Miss Rose Hamilton, Mrs. C. Mitchell, Miss Marie Loftus, Miss Daisy James, Miss Victoria Monks, Miss May Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Tennyson, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan, Mr. and Mrs. F. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Walter de Frece (Miss Vesta Tilley), Mr. and Mrs. J. de Frece, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Hyams, Mr. and Mrs. Bon Sayers, Miss Alice Hewitt, Miss Cora Hine, Mrs. Alice J. Wilson, Mr. C. Blythe Pratt, Mr. Gus Elen, Mr. Fred McEvoy, Mr. and Mrs. Page, Mrs. G. Le Brunn, Mr. and Mrs. Barney Hyams, Mr. William Clarkson, Mr. and Mrs. "Pony" Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Joe O'Gorman, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gibbons, Mr. and Mrs. T. McNaughton, Mr. and Mrs. C. McNaughton, Miss Amba Austa, Miss Madge Lessing, Miss Clarice Mayne, Miss Amy Clevere, Mrs. Maud Wilson, Mr. Leon Zetland, Mr. and Mrs. E. Romaine, Miss Fanny Fields, Mr. and Mrs. Jousiffe, Mr. and Mrs. G. Barclay, Mr. and Mrs. A. Lotto, Mr. and Mrs. George Fuller (Miss Katie Lawrence), Mr. H. J. Didcott, Mr. B. Doyle, Mr. S. Joel, Miss Ruby Celeste, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lyons, Mr. Arthur Roberts, Mr. Arthur Collins, Miss Lucy Weston, Mr. Jas. Tate, Mr. J. Dillon, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Courtenay, Dr. Jackson Lang, Mr. F. Fredericks, Mr. and Mrs. Abrahams, Mr. and Mrs. Edelstein, Mr. J. L. Graydon, Miss Lottie Graydon, Mrs. Ellis, Mr. Clyde Aylin, Mr. Monti Aylin, Mr. Geo. Aylin, Mr. Kempton Cannon, Mr. J. Cannon, jun., Miss Ray Hartley, the Sisters Pine, Miss Nettie Le Comte, Mr. and Mrs. O. Madden, Mrs. Levey, Mr. and Mrs. J. Morell, Mr. Orlando Powell, Mr. H. Ray Keen, Mr. D. Maher, Mr. C. Elphinstone, and Mr. J. Brown.

On the lawn in the rear of the house the portraits of the bride and bridegroom were taken, and other interesting groups were also photographed. The health of the newly-wedded couple was drunk in bumpers of champagne, and to the accompaniment of a selection of music played by an excellent orchestra. The wedding presents, which were very numerous and handsome, included a gold chain purse-bag and a cheque from Mr. Alec Hurley. The wedding cake was of charming design, and on two flags attached to it were the names of the bride and bridegroom—"Marie" and "Harry."

Later in the afternoon the newly-married couple left for Brighton *en route* for Germany, where the honeymoon is to be spent.

[*Photo by Ellis and Walery.*

[*Photo by Bieber.*

Miss Marie Courtenay, daughter of the well-known comedienne, Miss Marie Lloyd, and Mr. H. Aylin, the clever jockey, who were married at the Church of St. Stephen the Martyr, Avenue Road, N.W., on Thursday last.

"THE CRUISE OF H.M.S. VICTORY," a perfect little music comedy, is this week being played by Arthur Watson, Flo Stanley, and company, at the Surrey Theatre. Since its original production at the Empire, Camberwell, it has been in request all round, and MR. WATSON is rapidly getting his date-book filled up. The sketch, which, by the way, is from the pen of Miss Flo Stanley, goes north to Salford and Liverpool for a couple of weeks, and then returns to town, opening at the Stoke Newington Palace.

MR. ALEC KNOWLES, the well-known Press representative of the Empire Theatre, is retiring from that position, and the directors of the company, as an appreciation of his seven years' service, have presented him with a cheque for fifty guineas.

EASTER VARIETY CARNIVAL.

The coming of the daffodils coincides with the return of the stars, who rejoin London's irregular forces of variety after coquetting with the theatre stage in pantomime. Eastertide therefore is marked at the Palaces and Empires by a general strengthening of the programmes. At the ballet houses the spring festival at one time was chosen as the period of new productions; but *Queen of Spades* at the ALHAMBRA has not been long produced there, and *The Débutante* at the Empire, with Adeline Genée in the leading part, is still in the height of its success. Many of the outlying halls, however, will introduce into their Easter bills new sketches, dramatic or otherwise. One thing is certain, that variety in its widest interpretation, and in its most attractive guise, will be found everywhere, and though fine holiday weather is predicted, there will be plenty of amusement-seekers left in this overgrown metropolis of ours to appreciate the excellent programmes that are here briefly summarised.

To the novelty at the LONDON HIPPODROME we have already drawn attention. *The Typhoon* will undoubtedly be another revelation of the newer developments of stage mechanism and theatrical realism; and a very big attraction is the Tyrolese Giantess.

The Easter programme at the PALACE contains well-varied and cosmopolitan turns. Fred Niblo, the American raconteur, will return to the scene of his initial success on this side; Mlle. Juliette will submit a new exhibition of the training of sea lions; Kartelli will perform some extraordinary feats on a slack wire; and La Belle Tortajada, and Alfred Lester, with his "tired" waiter sketch, will remain in the bill. Josephine Cohen, the well-known American burlesque actress, will also make her first appearance in Europe with a new sketch, *A Friend of the Family*.

At the Alhambra Mr. Alfred Moul and Mr. George Scott present an Easter programme with, as the main attraction, the two ballets, *L'Amour* and *The Queen of Spades*. Among the variety turns are the Four Golondrinas, including Miss Anita Manuela, the Spanish nightingale, who makes her first appearance in England; Miss Kitty Traney, in her juggling and sporting act; De Biere, the mysterious; Mlle. Bresina, French soubrette; and the Millman Trio are other attractions.

The EMPIRE will present an Easter programme full of variety, and illumined by the lustre of great names. Miss Ada Reeve, who has been induced to forgo a long rest, appears in new songs and new dresses, and is sure of a great welcome after her enforced absence from the stage. Mr. Bransby Williams introduces a new sketch, in which he gives us life-like imitations of "stars" past and present. Those who have not yet seen the ballet, *The Débutante*, in which the incomparable Mlle. Genée appears, should on no account miss it, as a new ballet, *Sir Roger de Coverley*, is soon to be produced. A new series of living pictures is being presented; while the Sisters Hengler and the Great Lumars are also in the holiday bill.

The OXFORD announces a grand combination of bright particular stars for their Easter company on Monday, when a special matinée will be given with full evening attractions. George Robey, Marie Lloyd, the Poluskis, Dan Crawley, Mark Sheridan, Cinquevalli, T. E. Dunville, Carlotta Levey, Phil Ray, Fred Earle, Ella Retford, the Stella Troupe, Tom Wootwell, Ike Scott, and Ruffell's Bioscope form a very strong programme.

Mr. Frank Glenister, at the LONDON PAVILION, again presents Mr. George Mozart, with his brow crowned with American bays, in new descriptive monologues by Albert E. Ellis and Chris Davis. Other popular contributors to the Easter variety will be John E. Coyle, Marie Dainton, Hal Forde, May Henderson, Jordan and Harvey, Will Edwards, Florence and Lilian, Francis, Howard and Collinson, Frank Maura, Kit Keen, Les Fleurs Polonaises, and others.

The TIVOLI holiday bill is claimed by Mr. Joseph Wilson to be the strongest ever presented at a West-End hall. It includes Little Tich, Harry Lauder, Fragson, George Robey, T. E. Dunville, the Poluskis, Harry Tate, Alexandra Dagmar, Abie Mitchell, Madoline Rees, and others. It is interesting to note that there are four "Great Harrys" in the programme, viz., Lauder, Tich, Fragson, and Tate.

Mr. George Robey, Mr. Harry Tate, Mr. Tom Dunville, the Poluskis, Phil Ray, and Sam Mayo form a wonderfully strong contingent of comedians at the CANTERBURY, where Mr. Fred Miller will also present the Great Northern Troupe, the Stella Troupe, Madoline Rees, Nellie Beacon, Juan D'Alberti and company in *V.C.*, the Sisters Wingrove, and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.

At the head of the CHELSEA PALACE bill will be found the Six Brothers Luck in *Blazes*. Brett and Orford will exploit the humour of *Mixed Bathing*; and the funny men will be headed by Tom Woottwell and G. W. Hunter. George D'Albert, the Three Sisters Chester, Elsie Steadman, Lilian Elfreda, Jeapes's Animated Graphic, and Lieut. Travis, will be also among the attractions.

At the ROYAL STANDARD Mr. T. S. Dickie's Easter company will include Bransby Williams, John E. Coyle, Ross and Grayson, Peggy Pryde, Billy Williams, Harry Pleon, Cissie Lupino, the Fimans, in *The Fire Station*, Bates Maddison's company in *Charley's Uncle*, Steeley and Dowton, Chas. Sloman, Nina Gordon, Blanche Marion, Reed and Wright, Amy Lloyd, Metz and Metz, Dave Laird, and the Edisonograph.

All the London suburban houses of the Moss-Stoll circuit put out strong inducements for Easter patronage. At the HACKNEY EMPIRE Mr. Gus Elen's latest "argymint" in song, "If yer can't git work yer can't git the sack," will be heard. The hit of the bill at the HOLLOWAY EMPIRE should be Mr. G. P. Huntley's sketch, *The Punchbowl*. Fresh from his South African triumphs, Eugene Stratton will star at the STRATFORD EMPIRE. At the NEW CROSS EMPIRE the backbone of the bill is made up of *My Pal Jerry*, Syd May, Ruth Lytton, Mark Merry, and Carter Livesey. The SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE will rely on Vesta Tilley as its star attraction.

The one and only Chirgwin will head the SOUTH LONDON bill, to which the other contributors will be Ernie Mayne, My Fancy, the New York Nippers, Jessie Nesbit, Archy Cray, Jeanette Hall, the Tatlers, Ernest Ball, Ruffell's Bioscope, and Fred Winn's company in *The Light at the Window*.

The GRANVILLE'S Easter attractions include Ethel Arden and George Abel's company in *Three of a Kind*, Fred Earle, Ross and Grayson, Percy, Vernon's Bioscope, Three Laurels, J. W. Kenway, May Marton, Florrie Forde, Daisy Dormer, Maud Levin, Keen and Waller, Howard and Collinson, *That Brute Simmons*, and George Mozart.

The holiday bill at the BUSTON is headed by Harry Lauder. Miss Clarice Mayne makes her first appearance at the house, and Benson and Geoffreys, Lilian Lowe, Norman and Leonard Trio, Madoline Rees, the Golden Graces, Nat Clifford, the Lancashire Lads, and Ruffell's Bioscope provide the other attractions.

The big names at the PARAGON are Joe Elvin, Little Tich, and Harry Tate. Other favourites in the holiday scheme are Mark Sheridan, G. H. Elliott, Nat Clifford, the Doreen Girls, Lilian Lowe, Ella Retford, Nellie Beacon, Idalia May, and several more.

The METROPOLITAN has a programme of exceptional strength. Mr. George Robey, who will be particularly busy on Easter Monday, returns to a house where he is enormously popular; and the incomparable Cinquevalli will also be among the stars retained by Mr. Jack Edgar.

The CAMBERWELL PALACE will present John Lawson in the thrilling sketch *Sally in Our Alley*, Mark Sheridan, Duncan and Godfrey, Austin Rudd, Lawrence Barclay, and Harry Ford will head the comic forces. Carlotta Levey, Daisy Dormer, Percy Curry, Vernon's Bioscope, Five Bogannys, and Marba and Verity will also be among the attractions.

Mr. Albert Gilmer, at the PALACE THEATRE, Stoke Newington, relies on the following well-assorted programme for the Easter holidays: The Sousloffs, Frank Boyce, Crissie Cross, Chas. Deane, Burt Shepard, Edie Gray and Coons, Forrest Combination, Esta Stella, Dolly Denton, Atlas and Vulcana, Ten Dixie Girls, Kurkamp, John E. Coyle, and Palace Pictures.

"THE TWO MARY ANNS."

Sketch, in One Scene, produced for the first time at the Shepherd's Bush Empire, on Wednesday, March 27.

John Buncom ..... MR. H. DE SOLLA
Ella ..... MISS STROUD WILSON
Lord Hersee ..... MR. GERALD CLIFFORD
Mortimer Perkins ..... MR. O. E. LENNON
Mary Ann ..... MISS RUSHHOLME

This amusing novelty, produced by Messrs. Ferdinand Conti and R. M. Harvey's company, is a variation of an old theme, but proved to be most acceptable. The plot is embellished by several musical numbers of the musical-comedy type, and the sketch would make a very attractive item in any music-hall programme. At the opening of the piece we learn that old John Buncom, rescued from a wreck some eighteen years ago a baby girl. This child was never claimed, the only clue to its identity being a locket found on its neck. The child was adopted by Buncom, and has grown into a very pretty young lady. It appears that the old seaman has advertised a yacht called The Mary Ann for sale, and down from town comes Lord Hersee with a view to purchasing it. His lordship is well known to the old man as plain "Mr.," he having only recently succeeded to the title. The young lord had written to Buncom informing him of his intended visit; but when he arrives it does not occur to the old man that this is the Lord Hersee who has communicated with him. The young fellow apparently knows the history of Ella, the sea-child, and is very much in love with her. Shortly afterwards arrives a little Cockney tailor and his "young lady." The tailor, Mortimer Perkins, is at once taken by the old seaman for Lord Hersee, and as soon as they are alone he proceeds to describe the boat he has for sale. It happens that Mortimer's sweetheart is also named Mary Ann; and then, of course, there is the usual talking at cross purposes, one character speaking of a boat, the other thinking it is his sweetheart who is being discussed. Mary Ann, learning of the mistake, is very disgusted; and she and Perkins quarrel. However, all ends happily, with the prospect of a couple of early weddings. The sketch was excellently mounted and capably played. Prime honours must go to Mr. O. E. Lennon for his amusing impersonation of Mortimer Perkins. Mr. H. de Solla played the part of the Old Salt excellently. Both Miss Stroud Wilson and Miss Rushholme played and sang well; and Mr. Gerald Clifford was extremely good as Lord Hersee.

At the same performance was also played for the first time a new sketch by Eileen Guilbert, entitled

"ALL THROUGH YOU."

Kitty Lonsdale ..... MISS EILEEN GUILBERT
Mabel Ferrars ..... MISS JENNY LYNNE
Percival Burnaby Burton .. MR. F. HULME SHARP

This little farce has one or two musical numbers by J. Nuremberger. The scene is the sitting-room used by a couple of bachelor girl friends, both in love with the same fellow, a noodle of a familiar type. One of the girls, in order to find out which of them the "dude" is really in love with, makes up as a maiden aunt, and discovers her friend and the fellow in circumstances which leave her no doubt upon the point. This sketch is quite neatly written and constructed, and with more vigorous playing and a little elaboration of the purely comic business would become a really entertaining item.

"WHAT THE BUTLER DID."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—As the business representative of Mr. Bates Maddison's sketch companies, I should greatly appreciate the favour of an insertion of this letter in the columns of your justly-esteemed journal.

I produced (for Mr. Maddison) at Richmond Theatre, on March 18, an original comedy sketch, written by Albert Voyce, and entitled *What the Butler Did; or, The Man with Two Wives*. The sketch was an immediate success, as the accounts in your own and other professional and local journals proved.

During the week Mr. Ivan Gore announced that he had also written and sold a sketch with the same title.

Mr. Bates Maddison has produced his sketch, and registered the title. He has spent considerable time, energy, and capital on the purchase and production, and is assured by Mr. Voyce that he took every care to ascertain that the title had not been previously used.

I myself searched the registers on Mr. Maddison's behalf.

Under these circumstances, Mr. Maddison feels justified in claiming the title in question, and he wishes to inform all whom it may concern that he intends to protect his claim.—Yours faithfully,

ROGER ALWYN.
(Manager for Mr. Bates Maddison.)

MR. CHARLES URBAN, of the "Urbanora" firm so famous for its animated pictures, was elected a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London at its recent meeting.

(For other Variety Notices see pages 16 and 19.)

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE OXFORD ANNIVERSARY.

Troops of friends and a large contingent of the public that loves to seek its recreation at the music halls came to the Oxford on the evening of the 22nd to assist at the fourteenth celebration of the anniversary of the famous variety house, which was somewhat belated in consequence of the strike. Mr. C. Blyth-Pratt, who has succeeded to the management since last year's celebration, quite rose to his responsibilities, and made excellent arrangements for presenting one of those gigantic programmes that are customary on festival occasions. The house was very artistically decorated for the occasion, and flags and flowers added to the architectural beauties of its interior, the box-fronts being singled out for a special scheme of embellishment that displayed considerable taste. No less than forty-seven turns were listed. The stars beamed brightly. Mr. Harry Lauder came to sing in his own pawky way of "Ma Lassie." "Ma Laddie" afterwards appeared in the person of Jessie Preston, who treated the character in uproariously comic fashion. Mr. Morny Cash amused us in a Lancashire dialect song; Mr. Wilson Hallett mimicked the little ones in their untutored efforts at reciting, and in effective fashion reproduced the ballad, "Daddy," as it might be sung by a little girl of the mature age of five or six. The reception accorded to Miss Clarice Mayne, comedienne and mimic, proclaimed that she is rapidly growing in popular estimation. Mr. Bransby Williams temporarily returned to the scene of his earlier triumphs to recite two pieces. Miss Bessie Slaughter, a new comer, displayed culture and charm of voice in her rendering of "The Lost Chord." There was laughter in plenty for the amusing equivoque to be discovered in "I shut my camera," delightfully rendered by Miss Kitty Loftus; and the dancing of the Great Northern Troupe fetched the house.

Miss Marie Lloyd was a favourite with old Oxford audiences, but her position in the affections of the public was never higher than now, and never more firmly established. "The custom of the country" and "Tiddly-om-pom" are spicy examples of the London diva's power and eloquence of diction, and her reception had all the heartiness that loyal cockneys invariably mete out to their favourite stars.

The spindle side of the programme was also distinguished by such names as Miss Madge Lessing, who gave "Henry Klein"; Miss Queenie Leighton, who sang the Drury Lane Theatre version of "Is London like it used to be?"; Miss Victoria Monks, who had a rousing welcome in "Won't you come down and open the door?"; Miss Amber Austa, who was applauded in "Oysters and Clams"; Miss Alice Hollander, who came from the Hicks Theatre to sing Angelo Mascheroni's "Ave Maria"; Miss Gladys Huxley, who reached the hearts of the melody-loving gallery with "Au revoir, my little hyacinth"; Miss May Henderson, with the lively lilt, "You shall have a lovely home, Joanna"; and Miss Maggie Carr, who made one of her rare appearances to sing "I'm gwine to break away."

A neat comedian, with a style peculiarly his own, was found in Mr. Marriott Edgar, who easily scored in "On the sands"; Tom Leamore, always a prominent leader of comedy at the Oxford, was well fitted with a medium for his drollery in "What a friend!"; Harry Champion was responsible for "I see you've got the old brown hat on," a number quite in his most characteristic vein; and Dan Crawley fetched the house with "I finish 'em off." Kurkamp sang his usual solo from *Il Trovatore*, and the pretty melody "Loveland"; and other turns appearing were the Borellis, Sisters Ernesto, Sisters Caselli, Dorothy L. Clarke, Billy English, Charles Mildare, and James Stewart. After the National Anthem had been played at the conclusion of a long and most interesting programme the films of the Grand National—the cross-country Derby, which had been run at Aintree in the afternoon—were projected on the screen by Ruffell's Bioscope, but most of the audience had departed.

THE HIPPODROME.

Though this is what is generally termed in the amusement world an off-week, when managers are content to mark time while waiting for the arrival of the Easter carnival, the directorate at the Hippodrome is presenting a programme having both interesting and startling novelties. Mariedl, the Tyrolese giantess, who has left her father's farm and much useful work behind to become the cynosure of all eyes, is introduced at every performance by a gentleman who speaks of her religious devotion and her love of children. Her great height is her heritage from a distant ancestor, and neither her parents nor her sister, who accompanies her, measure more than the normal number of inches. Her smile as she shakes hands with the occupants of the stalls betokens placid content; but occasionally there is a wistfulness steals over her features, and one thinks that the thoughts of Mariedl are far away among the peasant folk of her native mountains, and that the sound of the *ranz des vaches* across the fertile valleys is echoing in her heart.

The sensation of the bill is Kearney P. Speedy—well named, indeed, when one considers the nature of his lightning descent through space from a ladder above the Hippodrome into the arena tank, 130ft. below. Nobody knows when Speedy took to swimming and diving. His first great feat was accomplished at Jefferson City, Missouri, when he was a boy, over a bluff that hid the river 96ft. below it. In his own words: "I got playing baseball down the main street one day, when I saw father coming up. He got a little ahead of me, and was going like a Red Indian. I started off like another Red Indian for the bluff. He thought that would hold me. I went over that 96ft. fall. That made a bit of a sensation." After appearing with certain minor shows he joined Cole's Circus some ten years ago. Something happened to the ballooning man, so Speedy took his place. He wasn't content with the usual parachute descent, but must needs get himself and his parachute shot out of a cannon tied to the balloon. He once fell over 1,300ft. before the parachute condescended to open, but came down all right. Speedy never goes deeper than 18ins., he says, and the whole of his back is never wetted despite the tremendous fall. He always strikes the water with the top of his head. If he struck anywhere else—"Well, they'd just walk slowly after me, that's all. There's no 'if' about this thing. You come out with a smile on your face—or they dig you out"—which is a very effective and very American way of putting the matter.

On Tuesday both Mariedl and Speedy had a very special audience, the Russian sailors who had come to London being present at the invitation of the Hippodrome directorate, upon whose behalf Mr. Fred Trussell welcomed them. Other turns in the bill are Sam Elton, whose unique entertainment with plates is a revelation of quiet and ingenious fun; and A. D. Robbins, whose cycling feats on tandems are as intrepid as they are clever. There is no such word as fail in the lexicon of this remarkable bicyclist, who has a spice of humour in his composition. Tina Clementina's sporting act is a clever display of canine and equine training, the dogs of all sizes including a fox-terrier who not only "loops the loop" with wonderful nonchalance, but even repeats the feat after the fall of the curtain. The Mezettis manage very cleverly not only to sustain, but to increase the humour of their horizontal-bar show; the Piccolinis are particularly versatile in their Lilliputian variety act, showing themselves to be expert cyclists, shots, and acrobats. Clever work is also done by Prince Kokin, Japanese juggler;

the Renard Trio of acrobats; Genaro and Theol, contortionists; Hélène and Emileon, athletes; the Lukushimas, with a Japanese pot-pourri; the Chrono-Megaphone, the latest invention in animated photography; and Lavater Lee, the Hippodrome droll, who is always worth seeing and hearing, is a particular favourite with the youngsters.

THE SURREY.

Mr. Frank Macnaghten has a distinctive clientele to cater for at this time-honoured theatre, and so well has he gauged the tastes of his patrons that, no matter what the season is, this spacious house is packed twice nightly by an enthusiastic audience, quick in their appreciation, and liberal in their applause. The most novel item on the programme is Leoni Clarke with his unique collection of performing cats, rabbits, rats, monkeys, mice, and birds, which together number some hundreds. Among the many interesting items of this performance is the spectacle of a file of pretty cats treading their way along a row of rats, mice, and birds, and not attempting to molest them in the slightest degree. The Blondin Monkey is a queer, but intelligent little chap, walking the tight-rope and turning somersaults with an ease and assurance quite human. The cats are not to be outdone, one Carroty Tom playing the tin whistle and blowing a horn with marvellous energy; while a handsome tabby climbs a rope to the dome of the auditorium, gets into a miniature parachute car, and comes down gracefully on to the stage. In the concluding act numbers of rats of many colours come out of their home and board a miniature train, which whirls them around at lightning speed.

Arthur Watson and his merry crowd are here in that pot-pourri of fun and frolic, *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*. Set in two excellent scenes of Portsmouth Harbour and on the deck of the Victory, we find the Admiral Lord Teasum and his wife at cross purposes while in search of their long-lost niece. The admiral enlists the services of one of the crew, Dick Hatchway, to find out all he can about his wife; and Lady Teasum engages another member of the crew, Jack Marlingspike, to discover any little intrigue the admiral may be engaged in. When these two worthies compare notes, complications ensue that keep the ball of fun rolling merrily to the end, when the admiral and his wife become reconciled, and their long-lost niece is found in the charming young waitress at the Harbour Hotel. Most of the fun and frolic falls to the share of Mr. Arthur Watson as Jack Marlingspike, and Mr. Harry Watson as Dick Hatchway. Miss Flo Stanley as the niece Polly is very chic and charming; Miss Nellie Grant invests Lady Teasum with a bright modernity; and other parts are well filled by Mr. Bob Leardo as the admiral, Mr. Joe Burley as Trotter, the hotel waiter; and the dances of the three Sisters Dudley evoke great applause.

In direct contrast is the exciting little drama, *The Call to Arms*, a story of the Peninsular War, admirably played by the Vaudeville Comedy Company. Produced under the direction of Mr. John Rintoul, the company work loyally together, and make the most of the parts assigned them. Miss Helena Walbeau as Lenoria acts with deep feeling and power; Miss Gracie Fordyce invests the part of the pretty betrayed Elsa with delicacy and refinement; as the Colonel, Mr. Herbert Pearson is manly and earnest; Mr. Ernest Percy as Lenoria's brother has little to do, but does that little thoroughly and well. As the scheming renegade, Hector La Roche, Mr. J. G. Leighton gives a capital character-study; and Mr. Charles Ludlow does excellently well as the money-lender, Orlando Orpinton.

Little Zola has returned to the home of his many former triumphs, and once again a Surrey audience follow the little comedian with rapt attention and vociferous appreciation. His song, "Four foot two and a bit," is very funny, while his topsy-turvy nursery rhymes are simply irresistible. Miss Rhoda Paul is an acceptable "extra," and both as a male impersonator and in the rendering of her song, "Oh, girls, men beat you every time," proves herself to be a talented young artist. Florence Yayman is a happy coon caricaturist, her gollywog dancing having a style entirely her own. Raby gives a clever parody on the coon songsters, and a doleful ditty, "Yes, they're very kind to me." Walker and May are a welcome addition to any variety theatre programme, their dancing and singing being of the best; while the sympathies of the audience are completely won by the skill and precision of the blind dancing comedian. Laurie Wallis is chic and smart, and in her quick-changing international dances and skipping exercises displays a pleasing animation. Raymond's Bio-tableaux has a most interesting film in "The Hooligans of the Far West." The admirable order maintained in every part of the house is eloquent of the high efficiency of Mr. Charles Craig, the acting-manager, and his loyal staff.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

As a change from the ordinary programme, a series of Bioscope pictures are being presented at the Islington Empire this week, and care has been taken to secure as much variety as possible in the films exhibited. The Suffragettes have not been overlooked, and a most unattractive representative of the ladies who are clamouring for the right to exercise the Parliamentary franchise is seen apparently addressing a crowd, and she is followed by an elderly dame, who one would have supposed, from her venerable aspect, belonged to a generation that had no sympathy with the Suffragette movement.

Those who have not had an opportunity of visiting "Bonnie Scotland" are able to gain a knowledge of an interesting portion of that country by a series of pictures taken from a locomotive travelling on the railway which runs through Rossshire. There are also illustrations of the method of washing linen practised by the Scotch women; while another film shows a shooting party with a lady doing great execution among the birds, those brought to the ground being taken charge of by a retriever dog. Presently, going farther afield, we take a trip to far-famed Niagara, and are enabled to obtain numerous views of the wonderful Falls, just as if we had joined the party of excursionists whom we see on the way there. "Climbing the Dolomite" very vividly illustrates the difficulties and obvious risks of mountain climbing, an adventurous traveller undertaking the dangerous journey skywards, piloted by two guides who display remarkable agility and sure-footedness in their ascent of the mountain.

A highly interesting home subject is the "Race for the Grand National," which was run on the 22nd inst. We behold the winner, Eremon, being saddled for the great race, the jockey springing into the saddle, the big jumps where several of the riders came a "cropper," the exciting finish, and finally the winning horse again with its trainer, who is being congratulated on the result of the race.

What may be termed the domestic drama is powerfully and pathetically illustrated by "The Law of Pardon." A man discovers his wife in the act of writing a letter in reply to one just received from her lover, and, despite the intercession or their child—a pretty little girl—he resolves to have a separation. The necessary legal proceedings are taken, and by the decision of the Court the wife is separated from her husband. The child falls dangerously ill, and is visited by a Sister of Mercy—France is the scene of the story. The mother, hearing of the illness of her little one, gains admittance to the house, and persuades the good Sister to allow an exchange of costume, so that thus disguised she can tend her ailing child. In the end the erring wife is forgiven. "The Village Witch" is another dramatic story told by means of pictures; and the good old English sport of fox-hunting finds fitting illustration, the films representing every phase of a meet in the country.

There is also an abundance of comic relief, notably "The Early Bird," the adventures of an inebriated young man in evening dress, who is conveyed home by the milkman; "How to Make Time Fly," showing how a mischievous little girl plays pranks with clocks; "Rich for One Day," "Funny Faces," and "The Villain Still Pursued Her," the dream of a dramatic author. On Good Friday the living pictures, entitled "Christ Among Men," were shown.

The Empire orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Alf. Petersen, plays a capital selection of music, opening with the overture descriptive of "A Voyage in a Troopship." With Mr. George L. Wilson as manager and Mr. Harry Blight as acting-manager there is no lack of careful supervision in front of the house.

QUEEN'S, POPLAR.

Very good business is being done here this week with the excellent company of artists arranged by the genial and energetic general-manager, Mr. Jack Woolf, and the patrons of this comfortable establishment can rely with confidence on enjoying a pleasant and entertaining performance. The Alaskarno Trio are well to the front in their line of business as Risleyists, with various clever and daring tricks, the boy member being warmly applauded for his comedy efforts, which are really smart. The Lurias (Frank and Alice) create much laughter in their droll, up-to-date extravaganza, *Cinders*, in which they introduce some good patter, and Mr. Frank Luria sings with effect "The same old church." Miss Irene Meldon, a young and talented comedienne, makes a distinct hit with her songs, "Dear little girl" and "I want my Loo Loo"; and the child soprano, Miss Elaine Chantler, is accorded a flattering reception. A brilliant electrical and carpet-spinning act is given by the Four Spanish Goldinis, who are to be highly commended for their successful manipulation of heavy carpets, while the effective dance by the child member of the troupe, on a pedestal charged with electricity, is provocative of great applause. Genuine amusement is caused by Mr. Charles Ashdowne, whose eccentricities and leg-mania business are keenly relished; and Miss May Henderson, described as the "Dusky Comedy Queen," fairly brings down the house with her excellent songs and characteristic dancing.

The prominent feature of the programme is the presentation by Mr. Fred Storey and company of *Rip Van Winkle*, which is exceedingly well staged and finely acted. Mr. Storey gives a splendidly-finished portrayal of Rip Van Winkle, playing with power, earnestness, and intensity. Full appreciation of the requirements of the part makes the performance of Gretchen by Miss Lilian Holmes almost perfect; and Mr. A. Maitland Stapley is successful as Derrick. The children, Heidrich and Meeni, are prettily rendered by Master Reginald Connor and Miss Norah Thornton, and well depicted in the later scenes by Mr. Keith Fraser and Miss Gwendolin Burney. The Bioscope pictures, "At the Seaside" and "The Wicked Stepmother," complete a thoroughly good bill. The orchestra, under the bâton of Mr. Fred Venton, contribute some excellent music, notably, "The Ningara March" and "The Gazeka Lancers"; and special mention must be made of the kindly courtesy and attention always ready to be given towards the comfort of the patrons by the assistant acting-manager, Mr. Morris Abrahams.

FUNERAL OF MISS BONNIE GOODWIN.

Miss Bonnie Goodwin, whose death we recorded last week, was laid to rest on Monday afternoon in the beautiful grounds of the London Necropolis Company, at Brookwood. A service (Episcopalian), conducted by Canon Warpole, was held at ten o'clock in the morning at St. Mary's Church, Lambeth Palace, and a few minutes before noon the mourners assembled in the waiting-rooms of the London Necropolis Company's private station at Westminster Bridge-road, and started on the sad journey by train to Brookwood, Mr. T. G. Jenner having charge of the party. There were Mr. Samuel George Lyon (husband of the deceased), Mrs. Pauline Whitford (mother), Miss Marie Lyon (daughter), Dr. Robert G. Reid, Nurse Bilson, the five little black boys who were known as Bonnie Goodwin's Piccaninnies, and Mr. H. Harrigon.

[*Photo by Hand.*

THE LATE BONNIE GOODWIN.

The ceremony at the graveside was performed by Canon Skelton, whose magnificent delivery of the service was strikingly impressive. The grave had been prettily decorated at the surface with fragments of Scotch fir, and the sides of the grave were lined with bracken. The coffin bore the inscription:—

Bonnie Lizzie Barnard Lyon
(Bonnie Goodwin),
Born July 9, 1866,
Died March 19, 1907.

After the coffin had been lowered—the company's patent device being employed to accomplish this—a Stars and Stripes was reverently dropped upon it, along with Mr. Lyon's wreath. The flag had been presented to the deceased lady some considerable time ago by a friend, Mrs. Fanning, who also sent a floral tribute on the present occasion. The husband's wreath took the form of a harp composed of arum lilies, white chrysanthemums, and maidenhair fern; and another pretty floral emblem was "In loving memory, from Marie" (daughter). The five piccaninnies each carried a bunch of white flowers, which were thrown into the grave at the conclusion of the service. Other wreaths were received from Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ginnett, Mr. Fred Miller, Nurse Bilson, J. Heeley and W. F. Heeley, Mr. and Mrs. Pete (Pete and Juno), "Deepest sympathy, from Virginia," Curtis and Vanity, Dr. and Mrs. Reid, Mr. and Mrs. Fanning, Mrs. Jenny Wren, and Mr. and Mrs. Dippel.

ACTORS' ACRE AND BROOKWOOD.

The other day it became the sad duty of a member of our staff to attend the obsequies of a well-known member of the variety profession. The funeral arrangements were carried out by the London Necropolis Company, and while waiting for the special train which was to convey the mourning party from Westminster Bridge-road to Brookwood, Mr. J. B. Walker, the general-manager of the company, showed us over the magnificent premises in which this great funeral business is conducted. Here—at Westminster Bridge-road—will be found the Necropolis private railway station, in which are several waiting-rooms, furnished with light oak, the floor being laid with choice parqueterie. On the right-hand side of the platform is a pretty private chapel, with a handsome oak catafalque in the centre and oak stalls for the clergy and congregation. Private mortuaries are provided on the ground level, where bodies can rest until the time of interment.

Going on to Brookwood, we took an opportunity, under the interesting guidance of Mr. George Bennett, who has been superintendent of the cemetery for forty-one years, of renewing our acquaintance with the many natural and artificial beauties of this City of the Dead. We could not imagine a more pleasing resting-place for the bodies of those who have "passed on" than these five hundred wooded acres of the London Necropolis. Trees of every kind flourish here. Silver birches and copper beeches add beauty with their contrasting foliage, and cypress trees and shrubs galore give warm welcome when the winds are cold, while stately wellingtonias stand like giant sentries, keeping a lonely vigil over the sleepers. In addition, there is the splendid show of flowers on every side, many of the graves being a mass of glowing bloom. Indeed, there is not a more beautiful cemetery in the whole world. Wandering about the cemetery, one is constantly met with names that, in their time, were regarded as household words. Here lies Lord Sherbrooke, one time "Bob Lowe," Chancellor of the Exchequer; there a Chitty, formerly Lord Justice, and not the least famous of a great legal family; here, again, a most potent peer of the realm, there a famous soldier, a doctor, or a divine.

We turn to a large plot of ground which is called the Actors' Acre. It holds many who were once the public favourites, and among them may be mentioned three of the Renad family—Fredk. Harwood Cooper, who lived to be seventy-eight, Emily Cooper, and Jeanne Juliette Renad Cooper, wife of Mr. Charles Renad; the Cooke family, the Clarksons, Mr. Samuel May, the famous costumier, the Renwicks, Samuel Forster and Samuel Johnson, Mrs. Jane Stephens, who reached eighty-three years, and who was affectionately nicknamed "Grannie," the Empson and Guyer families, Rebecca Francisco Isacchi, and John William Anson. The latter was the founder of Actors' Acre, and a memorial, erected by numerous friends, stands to his memory on a portion of the ground belonging to the Dramatic and Musical Sick Fund, of which, too, he was the founder.

The writer was much impressed on Monday at Miss Goodwin's funeral with the excellence of the arrangements. Everything worked smoothly and in perfect decorum. Particularly was this noticeable at the graveside, where, in place of the old and often rather distressing method of lowering the coffin by ropes, a device called the "National Burial Device" was in use, and, controlled by the funeral director, acted automatically when the time for committal arrived. In different parts of the cemetery private waiting-rooms are provided, where mourners can await their return train, and refreshments can be obtained if desired. In a hundred other ways those who use the Brookwood Necropolis will find their convenience studied by the company. The business of the London Necropolis Company (whose address, by the way, is 121, Westminster Bridge-road, S.E.) extends to everything that pertains to the burial of the dead, from embalming, cremation, the making of coffins, the provision of mortuary chambers and chapelle ardente, conveyance with hearse and carriages, to the interment and the very gravestone itself. During our visit Mr. Bennett was good enough to take us round the various workshops, and a most attractive half-hour or more was spent witnessing the different operations in the preparation of monumental masonry, the sawing of the rough block, the rubbing and polishing, carving and letter-cutting, designing, &c. There are several greenhouses in the grounds, and a farm adjoins. Altogether, we can hardly imagine a more delightful way of spending a fine day than in this picturesque estate, the loveliness of which seems to put a new aspect upon death.

THE PALACE, STOKE NEWINGTON.

Despite the proximity of the holidays, excellent audiences are being drawn to the Palace, Stoke Newington, this week by the attractive programme which Mr. Albert Gilmer sets before his patrons. It is essential in the programme of a theatre of varieties that the items which go to make up the entertainment should be varied, and it is, no doubt, to Mr. Gilmer's happy knack of presenting a well-contrasted series of turns that much of the success of this hall is due. The principal feature of this week's performance is the wonderful exhibition of animal-training by Captain Taylor's (late Lockhart's) elephants. The animals go through their work with a sagacity that seems almost human, and appear to vie with their two-footed colleagues in the bill to obtain the approbation and approval of the audience. Nothing could be funnier than their antics in the dinner scene and in their orchestral performance, and a special word of praise to due to the bulky quadruped that concludes its performance by riding round the stage on a tricycle. Of trick cyclists there are many, but none excel and few equal the clever and original business presented by the Marsumas in their all too short act, which is one of the best of its kind before the public. Not only are they daring and skilful riders, but they supplement their feats with a quaint humour that adds materially to the attractiveness of the performance.

Mr. Charles Austin is always sure of a warm welcome, and his never-failing fund of fun and resourceful methods keep his audience convulsed the whole time he is on the stage. He knows how to put his audience in a good humour the moment he steps from the wings, and he is on the best of terms with them throughout. He possesses no mean powers of mimicry, and he might with advantage develop this branch of his art. A very popular turn is that provided by Mr. W. H. Downes, the coloured vocalist, who appeared some few years ago at the Gaiety in the musical comedy *My Girl* with considerable success, and his reception in the North of London is no less enthusiastic than it was in the West.

The Lorrisons contribute an amusing turn, consisting of some lively patter, and the dance with which they conclude finds much favour. In the sketch furnished by the Compact Comedy Four there is some excellent singing, and opportunity is provided for one of the company to exhibit his powers as a comedian. Miss Mignon Tremaine sings a very taking coon song, but it is her pretty and graceful dancing that wins for her the greater part of her success. There is plenty to laugh at in *The Topsy-Turvy School*, presented by Collinson's Combination, especially when the gentleman who impersonates Johnny Green calmly submits himself for castigation at every mention of his name. Some smart dancing is executed by the young ladies of the troupe, and the concertina solo executed by one of them should not pass without a word of recognition. Miss Blanche Marion's vocal efforts are received with every sign of favour, and the Palace Pictures remain a special and attractive feature of the programme.

"A TEST OF FRIENDSHIP."

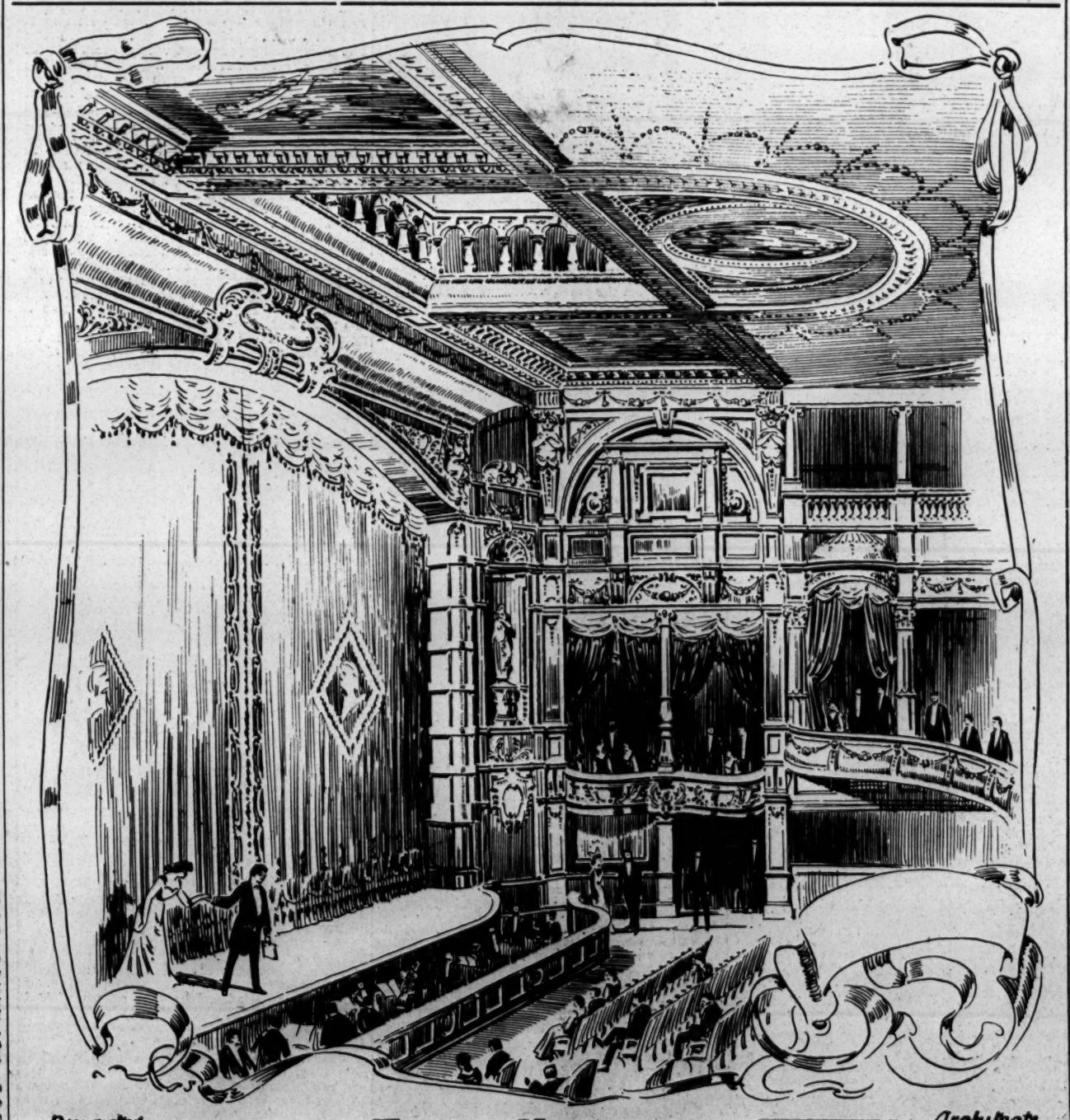
A Sketch, by Percy Ford, produced at the Empire, Camberwell, on Monday, March 25.

Dick Maynard .....Mr. Henry Bentham
Jack Foster .....Mr. J. Dunlop

Of strong dramatic interest, this powerful sketch, elaborately staged and admirably acted, was received on its production here on Monday evening with great enthusiasm. The little piece was suggested by a story written by Major-General Baden-Powell, and is a stirring episode of the Matebele War. Dick Maynard and Jack Foster are officers in the same regiment. The latter is seriously wounded, and his close friend Dick refuses to leave him to the mercy of the savage hordes which surround them. Dick makes Jack as comfortable as possible by the camp fire, and mounts guard. While they are awaiting relief Jack asks his comrade why he always wears a gloomy expression, and Dick says he is always thinking of his faithless wife, whom he still loves in spite of her wrongdoing, and says he only wishes to live to find the man who took her from him. Jack urges his friend to forget and forgive, and in order to divert his thoughts talks of their days at Eton when their friendship first began. At length Jack grows weaker from his wounds, and, thinking he is dying, confesses that it was he who stole Dick's wife. Dick's first impulse is to leave his false friend to his fate, but the sound of firing is heard, and a horde of savages surround them. Dick stands by his prostrate comrade, and successfully repels the attack till help arrives, when the friends clasp hands with Dick's remark, "Friends once, friends always." Messrs. Henry Bentham and J. Dunlop are deserving of the warmest praise for their sterling work. They succeeded in conveying to the audience all the author had intended, and the approbation awarded was unanimous and enthusiastic. The producers were Messrs. Philip Reid and Percy Ford, and a special word of praise is due to the pretty set by Mr. Bingham Sedgwick and the incidental music by Mr. J. C. Moore.

Other excellent items in the current programme are Miss Agnes Molteno and company in the song-scena *An Old-time Story; or, A Dolly and a Coach*; Leonard Barry and company in a new edition of *The Mouchers' Walk*; Reginald Leyland in his burlesque scena *A Visit to the Italian Opera*; Miss Edith Glenfell in her monologue *A Would-be Star*; Freda Grenfell, a dainty comedienne; Peggy Primrose, chic and smart; and Jeape's Animated Graphic.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.



Proprietor—Mr. Walter Gibbons. Tooting Hippodrome. Architects—Messrs. Frank Matcham & Co.

Mr. Walter Gibbons is the proprietor of the newest Hippodrome, which is shortly to be erected on a very important site in Tooting. The new building will be worked in conjunction with other important halls under his control, and also with the new one being erected at Willesden.

The house has been designed by Messrs. Matcham and Co., for two shows a night. The width of the auditorium is 90ft., with accommodation for over 4,000 people, the means of access and exit being so arranged that no clashing will occur between the patrons leaving and those entering the building. To make the scheme of ingress and egress more perfect, waiting-rooms fitted with every comfort and convenience are to be arranged for early comers.

There will be a deep stage, with the usual property and dressing-rooms attached, and an uninterrupted view of the former will be given from all parts of the building. The theatre will be of fire-proof construction, and supplied with an asbestos safety curtain, with hydrants and appliances, in the most desirable positions for the extinction of fire; will be heated with hot water pipes and coils; in fact, the safety and comfort of the audience has had every consideration. The ventilation will have special attention, a sliding roof being introduced. The decorations are quiet but effective, and the whole building will be carpeted and furnished in a luxurious style. Electric light is to be installed everywhere, and there is no doubt when Mr. Gibbons opens the doors of his new house it will be found worthy to rank with the best in London.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

FAIRS, FEASTS, AND WAKES IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND WALES FOR APRIL.

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ENGLAND.

April 1. Bakewell (3500)
April 1. Bilston (24,000)
April 1. Birkenhead (111,000)
April 1. Blackheath (21,000)
April 1. Cheltenham (49,600)
April 1. Clevedon (6000)
April 1. Doncaster (29,000)
April 1. Exeter (47,000)
April 1. Gainsborough (17,000)
April 1. Garston (17,300)
April 1. Great Grimsby (63,005)
April 1. Halesowen (9000)
April 1. Hampstead Heath
April 1. Hendon (Welsh Harp) (17,000)
April 1. Hinckley (11,300)
April 1. Hockham (600)
April 1. Jarrow-on-Tyne (31,300)
April 1. Lindfield (2300)
April 1. Malvern (16,500)
April 1. Middlesbrough (91,300)
April 1. Midsomer Norton (6000)
April 1. Morecambe (12,000)
April 1. New Brighton (10,000)
April 1. Newcastle-on-Tyne (214,803)
April 1. Newmarket (10,700)
April 1. Northampton (87,000)
April 1. Northwich (17,600)
April 1. Norwich (11,700)
April 1. Plymouth (107,509)
April 1. Portsmouth (189,000)
April 1. Queen's Road Manchester
April 1. Richmond (Surrey) (31,000)
April 1. Rothwell Feast (6211)
April 1. Rushden (12,000)
April 1. Ryde (11,000)
April 1. Salford (Trinity Market) (221,000)
April 1. Selby (8000)
April 1. Shipley Glen
April 1. Southport (48,400)
April 1. South Shields (97,300)
April 1. Stafford (20,275)
April 1. Thornaby (16,000)
April 1. Tring (1400)
April 1. Tunbridge Wells (33,400)

April 1. Wanstead Flats (9200)
April 1. Wormwood Scrubbs
April 2. Folkestone (30,700)
April 2. Hexham (7000)
April 2. Hitchin (10,000)
April 2. Longton (35,000)
April 2. Romsey (4200)
April 2. Thame (3000)
April 3. Barnard Castle (4300)
April 3. Bridport (5700)
April 3. Dawlish (4000)
April 3. Yarmouth (38,425)
April 4. Accrington (43,000)
April 4. Derby (106,400)
April 5. Bicester (3300)
April 5. Swindon (45,000)
April 6. Swinton and Pendlebury (19,000)
April 6. Gloucester (48,000)
April 6. Huddersfield (103,500)
April 6. St. Colomb (60,846)
April 8. Brighouse Fair (10,750)
April 10. Worksop (13,000)
April 13. Glossop (21,500)
April 13. Ravensthorpe Feast (5162)
April 16. Luton (36,400)
April 18. Wareham (2000)
April 20. Bedford (35,200)
April 20. Chesham (7300)
April 20. Crediton (4000)
April 20. Devizes (6600)
April 20. St. Austell (3477)
April 23. Barnoldswick (7400)
April 23. Bewdley (2866)
April 24. Guisborough (6500)
April 24. Hatfield (4000)
April 25. Bracknell (2200)
April 25. Iron Acton (1000)
April 27. Alton (5590)
April 27. Horncastle (4000)
April 29. Holmes Chapel (956)
April 29. Knutsford (4673)
April 29. Darlington (44,500)
April 29. Horwich (15,000)
April 29. Lincoln (49,000)
April 29. Longton (330)
April 29 Newchurch (4000)
April 29. South Shields (97,300)
April 30. Axminster (3500)
April 30. Cobham (2300)
April 30. Newick (1083)

SCOTLAND.

April 1. Dunfermline (1742)
April 4. Govan (76,351)
April 4. Lanark (6440)
April 4. Stirling (18,403)
April 8. Dundee (153,066)
April 15. Leven (6000)
April 19. Hamilton (32,775)
April 29. Edinburgh (208,069)

WALES.

April 1. Cardiff (164,000)
April 1. Holywell (6725)
April 1. Maesycwmmer (800)
April 1. Menai Bridge (1800)
April 1. Merthyr Tydvil (26,500)
April 1. Mold (4000)
April 1. Newport (Monmouth) (67,000)
April 1. Pontypridd (23,000)
April 1. Tredegar (18,000)
April 5. Wrexham (14,966)
April 8. Newtown (6500)
April 16. Aberdare (43,000)
April 22. Pontypool (6000)
April 24. Merthyr Tydvil (26,500)

Mitcham Awake.

When the story is fully told of the awakening of the people of Mitcham to the knowledge of their civic rights, no little credit will be given to the Showmen's Guild. The rousing manifesto issued on behalf of the people of Mitcham and protesting against the filching of public rights, guaranteed by charter, without any appeal being made to the people of Mitcham, was so gross an example of class legislation that indignation speedily manifested itself, and the result of that arousing of public interest in civic matters has led to a revolution on the District Council.

The People's Will.

Not only were the people of Mitcham indignant over the filching of their fair rights, but they had many other reasons with which showmen are not directly concerned, in revolting against the rule of the self-chosen oligarchy that had hitherto ruled the Parish Council. The crowding of the people of the great City over the border into Mitcham and the opening up of great residential districts, near to the railway and tram termini, brought a great multitude of new settlers in the old village of Mitcham. This new and populous quarter has been for years past without an articulate voice in the management of public affairs.

Why the People Won the Election.

First and foremost, because the people felt that the old members of the Council, although most excellent men, did not interpret the spirit of the times, nor did they endeavour to serve the poor and to understand their needs so well as they served the rich, and identified themselves with preserving the privileges of the well-to-do classes. The old Parish Council had not protected the people's rights with regard to their old charter fair, nor had they put any effective pressure upon the Conservators to induce them to allow the use of another portion of the common for the carrying on of the fair.

The Hopeful Outlook.

The election has resulted in a great victory for the people, and the new Parish Council is known to contain a decided majority in favour of continuing the fair under local control on another portion of the people's common. From the very first it was well known that the movement to abolish the fair was entirely promoted by a very small minority of the people of Mitcham, and engineered by a small clique of men interested in exploiting building estates close to the common lands. This narrow-minded clique tried to justify their selfish proceedings under the plea that the fair was in some sort of way a disgrace to Mitcham. They forgot the deep love of the toiling classes for their old-established fairs. Whilst making a pretence of being the people's representatives, they refused to consult the people, but determined to impose their autocratic will without as much as "by your leave."

The New Conditions.

We have now a majority on the Parish Council at Mitcham who are pledged to look after the interests of the whole of the people, and not one class or section only. Democratically chosen and popularly elected, these men will carry into the Council chamber a new spirit, and will interpret the powers they possess in accordance with the mind of the people. Realising the importance of the election, the Rev. T. Horne and Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, acting for the Showmen's Guild, went down to Mitcham on the eve of the election and seized every opportunity of getting into personal touch with a number of the candidates; they attended committee meetings of the various groups, and the final open public meeting of the old candidates, who have suffered so serious a diminution in their numbers. Acting entirely without party bias, Messrs. Horne and Pedgrift did extremely useful work, and they have every confidence that when the request is made to the new Parish Council to strengthen the demand of the people for the removal of the fair to a more suitable site on the people's common lands that the matter will be more favourably entertained. In various interviews the Guild delegates drew attention to the facilities afforded by the London County Council in order that the people of London may have popular fairs at the Bank Holidays, and that this good work was about to be extended by the opening up of two new fairs on Clapham and Wandsworth Commons.

London's Great Example.

It cannot be too often stated that the London County Council sets a bright example to all public authorities in providing for the open air amusements of the toiling millions. On the breezy open spaces of Hampstead, Wormwood Scrubs, and Blackheath (and now, we understand Clapham Common and Wandsworth Common are to be added to the list), the people of London, rich and poor alike, can have popular amusements in the open air provided by the showmen and open-air entertainers. It is no small argument to say that where London leads other towns—particularly the outlying towns of the great City—may safely follow. This has been the argument that has had telling weight during the recent contest at Mitcham, and we therefore anticipate that when the time of the fair comes round again the showmen will be welcomed on a new site on Mitcham Common, and the old fair, under newer and better conditions, will supply the people's needs.

Woburn Fair.

Threatened fairs live long, and Woburn is an interesting example of this truth. For many years past efforts have been made to do away with the fair, and all sorts of hindrances have been brought forward by the local authorities to prevent its occurrence. Elections have been fought and won on this question of the fair by the champions of the people's rights, and now there is a sweet calm, and everybody goes to the fair to show that, although its enemies have lost, yet they cannot refrain from its enjoyment. The amusements at the March Fair were entirely in the hands of the local showmen. Mr. Christopher Smith supplied the galloping horses, steam swings, and throwing games, Mr. Short exhibited bottle batteries and variety stalls; there were numerous small concerns—confectionery and toy stalls—by local caterers, and the fair was, from a business point of view, very successful.

Retford Fair.

The principal concerns here were supplied by Councillor Tuby, of Doncaster, the celebrated Yorkshire caterer. The splendid cinematograph theatre was, as usual, a big success, the motor-cars and galloping horse sets were the principal machines, and Mr. Tuby's other novelties included Winchester ranges, rifle saloons, and swings. The other amusement-providers were Messrs. Hunt, Gillat, and Illingworth, whose well-known concerns constituted the minor varieties of the fair.

Charity Begins at Home.

Showmen are proverbially charitable. It is no unusual thing for them to give a benefit for local charities during one of the fair days. We think this trait of the showman's character is altogether admirable, for it shows that although for the time being he may be only a visitor to any particular town, yet he recognises that charitable institutions have a claim upon him just as much as though he were a resident. At the annual committee meeting of the Showmen's Guild at Manchester, a proposal was discussed for raising money for the working funds of the Society, and the suggestion that benefits should be organised for the defence work of the Showmen's Trade Society was received with the greatest enthusiasm and unanimity. It was felt that showmen as a class had been liberal in giving benefits to help other classes, and that the time had now arrived when "charity should begin at home." Reference was made to the handsome donation to the Society's funds received year by year from the Bolton Ball, and also the extremely satisfactory result of the united fairground benefit at the last Rotherham Fair. This effort, although organised at a few hours' notice, resulted in £25 for the Guild funds. At the committee meeting a number of influential showmen and fairground lessees were present, and several gentlemen promised a benefit on one of the fairgrounds they controlled during the coming season. Amongst these were Messrs. P. Collins, John Collins, G. Green, T. Hurst, and J. H. Geoghegan (jointly), J. Whiting, W. Mitchell, and W. Holmes.

Queen's Road Fair, Manchester.

The Organising Chaplain of the Guild hopes to inaugurate this scheme of self-help amongst showmen at the coming Manchester Fair during Easter week, and in order to strengthen this excellent scheme the chaplain proposes to hold a meeting of showpeople on Easter Sunday on the fairground, and also to bring the claims of the Guild before the general public by conducting a Guild service in the evening in one of the shows. At the showmen's meeting the official reply of the Home Secretary with regard to the Chester County bye-laws will be read, and the bearings of the Rawtenstill Corporation Bill will be placed before the meeting. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance of members from the other Lancashire fairs.

Hanley Wakes.

The movement to interfere with Hanley Wakes has fallen through. At last week's meeting of the Hanley Council it was agreed that the spaces for shows in the Market-square should be let as usual for the Wakes week in August.

Wanstead Flats Fair.

We hear rumours of a disquieting kind concerning this extremely popular and well-managed fair. Petitions are said to be in circulation for signature in favour of abolishing the fair. Whatever may be the motives of the promoters of these petitions, we can assure them that every effort will be made by the showmen tenants to defend their trade interests, and we feel quite certain that for every signature against the fair a hundred and more can be obtained in its favour. The City Corporation is the deciding authority, and we feel sure that their enlightened policy of providing amusements for the people at holiday times will not be reversed by the petition of a few narrow-minded people who object to the open-air amusements of the working classes.

Shrewsbury Spring Fair.

P. Collins provided the principal attractions of this fair—the theatre of animated photography, the racing motor set, the helter-skelter, and other concerns. Minor novelties, stalls, &c., were by Messrs. Humphries, Hall, Hughes, Chaplain, Fossett, Greatorex and Co.

Guild Subscription.

Per W. Wilmot.—J. Wilmot, jun., 5s.

SHOWMEN'S LETTER-BOX.

Important letters await :—

Ball, Alf
Forrest, Swales
Gray, Fred
Manning, J.
Manders, J.
Turner, F.
Wilson, W.

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.

RELIGION AND EDUCATION.

BY THE HON. CHAPLAIN.

The work of the Church of God amongst travelling showmen is a striking example of the adaptation of means to an end—in other words, specialisation that so distinctly marks the age in which we live.

It is the purpose of this article to show the growth of an extremely interesting and important branch of specialised work, touching the educational and religious needs of a large class in the community. It is significant that, until quite recent years, this large and industrious class of people were almost entirely misunderstood by the great mass of the people to whose very necessities at holiday times they so effectively ministered.

Although not a village or town in the United Kingdom was without a visit some time in the year from a number of those itinerant entertainers, yet almost next to nothing was known about them as a class in the community. It was not until eighteen years ago, when the showmen were obliged to combine and organise themselves for trade defence purposes, that the people of England began to realise the importance of the show and fairground industry. Almost from the beginning of this movement of trade defence the Church has recognised the importance of definite work amongst showpeople. The present Archbishop of York, when Bishop of Lichfield, took part in work on the fair-grounds in connection with the Evangelist Brotherhood. The parochial clergy in various parts of the country took advantage of the fair to carry on evangelistic work, not only amongst the showmen, but also the crowds of people who came on the fair-ground on the Sundays of the fair. Amongst other places where this work has been done, special mention must be made of Longsight, Manchester; Holbeck, Leeds; Hull, Gloucester, York, Norwich, Wrexham, Bolton, Huddersfield, Rotherham, Nottingham, Killamarsh, and King's Lynn.

For many years past the mission priests of the Society of St. Andrew, in the Diocese of Salisbury, follow the fairs with a church van, and minister to the spiritual and educational necessities of the showpeople in their diocese.

The writer of this article has been associated with the work of the Showmen's Guild from its inception in the year 1889, and has acted up to the present year as its honorary organising Chaplain. He has given most of his holidays and free time to distinctly spiritual work amongst the showpeople, conducting services in co-operation with parochial clergy at great centres of show life—at St. Agnes', Birch, Manchester, at Rotherham, Hull, and Gloucester Fairs; at King's Lynn; at Farnworth; Treorchy and Porth, Wales; and has enlisted the active co-operation of the following clergy, who have undertaken honorary local chaplaincies in connection with the Guild :—The Revs. Howard Swinstead, Berwick Salome, Oxford; R. De C. Thelwall, Burbage, Wilts; H. Norburn, St. Agnes', Birch; H. S. Butler, Preston; A. Dixon, Denton; H. Greenway, Northfield, Rotherham; R. Gordon Roe, King's Lynn; F. J. Metcalfe, Killamarsh; J. J. Luce, Gloucester; E. W. Legg, Diocesan Missioner, Salisbury; W. Thomas and G. Francis, Porth, Wales; T. Tissington, Treorchy, Wales; A. Huddle, St. Nicholas', King's Lynn; G. Smallpiece, Hempton, Norfolk; N. J. Devereux, St. Mary's, Hoxton; and J. Thomas, Brentwood.

The plan of work has been entirely controlled by the parochial clergy, the Showmen's Chaplain only supplying the special details that long experience amongst showpeople has taught him. Both at King's Lynn, Treorchy, and at Porth the plan has been for the church choir to procession from the Parish Church to the fairground, and there, by arrangement, to take possession of one of the show booths, and the Guild service, a very simple form of Church service, with a selection of hymns from the Durham Mission Book sung by the choir, the vicar of the parish officiating, the sermon being preached at his request by the organising chaplain, the Rev. T. Horne.

At Longsight Wakes, Manchester, for many years past, at the request of the rector, the Rev. H. Norburn, the Chaplain has preached at the Parish Church (within easy reach of the fairground), and, then, after evensong, a special Guild service is held in the schoolroom on the fairground, and largely attended by the showpeople. At this service short addresses are given by the Rector and the Showmen's Chaplain. A special feature of the work, both at King's Lynn and at Longsight, is the systematic visitation of the vans by the parochial clergy, and the invitation to the children of the vans to attend the Sunday schools. In addition to this, opportunity is afforded the mothers of the fair to bring their little ones to Holy Baptism.

Very similar work to the above is carried on every year at Holbeck Feast, Leeds, by the parochial clergy. Hearty mission services are held in one of the show-booths; the choir, headed by Cross-bearer, walk from the church through the fairground, and every use is made of the opportunity that the fair affords for mission work amongst the showmen and also the crowds of people drawn by curiosity to the fairground. A very special feature of the work at Holbeck is the help rendered by the showpeople in giving the use, not only of their booth, but of cinematograph apparatus for the display of sacred pictures. Here, too, the vans are visited, and the unbaptised sought out.

At Gloucester Fair the plan adopted was—a sermon at morning service at the Parish Church of St. Nicholas by the Showmen's Chaplain, and a mission service on the fairground at night after evensong, the singing being led by the Evangelist Choir, and addresses given by the Chaplain.

The above instances of definite Church work on show-grounds demonstrate the growing importance of this special branch of the Church's work. So conscious of its importance is the Organising Chaplain that he has surrendered his fixed work in London, and is arranging an itinerary that will include the principal fairs in the United Kingdom. He proposes (with the approval of the parochial clergy concerned) to conduct services on almost every Sunday from Easter to Advent in various parts of the country where the showmen are known to be fixed up and stationed for the Sundays.

As at present arranged, the itinerary will include centres like Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Gloucester, Hull, Bradford, Rotherham, Halifax, York, with centres in Wales at Porth, Treorchy, Wrexham, and Neath; in the West of England, at Exeter and Penzance; in Scotland, at Glasgow and Ayr, with, possibly, other centres as opportunities are afforded.

With the full approval and blessing of the Bishop of London, and the active co-operation of the parish clergy, the Chaplain began his work in January by conducting Sunday services in the circus arena at the celebrated Fun City, Olympia, and a bright catechetical service for children at the World's Fair, Islington. This work was blessed with signal success, and lasted the whole of the time (seven weeks), during which these huge fairs were held.

Following this work (which must always be a feature of his enterprise), the Chaplain journeyed to King's Lynn, and on the Sunday of the fair, after preaching in the Parish Church in the morning, conducted service in a show booth, which was attended by practically the whole body of showpeople on the ground. As regards the Diocese of London, as already said, the Bishop is in the fullest sympathy with the Chaplain's work. The very important centre of show life is the great industrial Diocese of Manchester, and the Bishop of Manchester has given the Chaplain authority to act as Chaplain to the showmen in his diocese.

The Bishop of Gloucester not only expressed cordial approval, but has given a promise to take part himself, if possible, in the next effort that is made at Gloucester Fair.

The Bishop of Lincoln, in an encouraging interview with the Chaplain some time back, also expressed the keenest interest in the work of the Guild, and desired to help it in every possible way in his diocese.

The above somewhat fragmentary account of the work already accomplished is only the outcome of what the Showmen's Chaplain has been able to do from time to time as opportunity was given him, and practically limited to the periods covered by his annual holiday and occasional week days and Sundays, when the urgency of the work justified the break from his fixed clerical duty.

With regard to the showmen themselves, it is of importance to remember that they are quite able and ready to support this work, and that no appeal will be made towards this mission to the outside public.

The Warden of the Guild, the veteran showman, "Lord" George Sanger, is a liberal contributor to its support, and the Guild Executive Council comprises the most prominent showmen in the world of shows.

The Rev. Thomas Horne preaching to the Showmen at Olympia.

The Guild Chaplain will be glad to hear (before finally making up his itinerary) from the clergy in whose parishes large gatherings of showmen occur. Letters may be addressed to him at the offices of the Guild, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C., and, at the outset of his work, he wishes it to be clearly understood that, without the consent of the clergy, and, wherever possible, their active co-operation, he will not enterprise any work. This is a Church Mission and not "free lance" work.

In parishes where there are only small gatherings of show folk the Chaplain will readily supply the local clergy with the Order of Service, and will put them in communication with members of the Guild taking the local fair.

In a general way, the following hints may be useful to the clergy anxious to carry the Church's message to the fair-ground :—

(1) Do not attempt a service until you are quite sure the bulk of the show folk are staying over the Sunday. At small fairs it is sometimes necessary for the show to pack up and move away on the Sunday

(2) Visit the vans, just as you would visit houses in your parish; but do this at a time when you see they are not engaged at their business. You will find them always appreciative of this attention. If you arrange a service, unless your church or schoolroom is near at hand, always get a show booth in which to hold it. You will not find any difficulty if you go to the principal proprietor or lessee of the ground.

(3) Invite the children to the Sunday school; tell the mothers if they wish to bring their little ones to baptism you will suit their time, and that you not only understand the difficulties of their work but that you are prepared to bring the church to them on the fair-ground if they cannot come to the church.

It cannot be too widely known that, in addition to the movable dwellings in which they follow the fairs, most of the showpeople have permanent homes, where the children are left to be educated until they are past school age, and of necessity come under the Church's influence at these fixed centres of their life. It is the greatest of all mistakes to imagine that they are gipsies, and that their moving life keeps them out of the circle of the Church's influence. It is quite true that from Easter to Advent the adult showpeople are very little at home, and it is the recognition of this fact and its practical bearing on their life that has led to the organisation of the Guild.

A NEW list of Paul's films, containing particulars of the latest successes, "His First Topper," "Saved by a Sailor," "The Knight Errant," and many others is now available. 33⅓ per cent. discount, it should be added, is to be allowed from the list price of 6d. per foot.

LORD GEORGE SANGER AND THE HOME SECRETARY.

AMENDED BYE-LAW GRANTED.

Our Lancashire and Cheshire showmen readers will be glad to hear the result of the petition sent by the Showmen's Guild against the proposed bye-laws of the Cheshire County Council. It will be seen that the Home Secretary has insisted on the saving clause being added, and thus the showmen have won the day.

Whitehall, March 25, 1907.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of Dec. 10 last on the subject of certain bye-laws made by the County Council of Cheshire dealing with steam organs, &c., and music near houses, I am directed by the Secretary of State to say that he has been in communication with the Council on the subject, and the bye-law dealing with steam organs has been amended, so as to except from its operation any fair, feast, festival, or wake lawfully held. A copy of the amended bye-law is enclosed herewith. —I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY CUNYNGHAME.

G. Sanger, Esq., President of the Showmen's Guild, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

(Copy.)

COUNTY PALATINE OF CHESTER.

BYE-LAWS.

For the good rule and government of the administrative County of Chester (excepting the municipal boroughs situate therein), duly made by the County Council of such county, under Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 1888, on the fourteenth day of March, one thousand nine hundred and seven.

ORGANS.

(1) No person shall in any street or public place, or on any land adjoining or near to any street or public place, use or play, or cause to be used or played, any steam organ or other musical instrument worked by mechanical means, to the annoyance or disturbance of residents or passengers, provided always that such bye-law shall not apply to any fair, feast, festival, or wakes lawfully held.

MUSIC NEAR HOUSES.

(2) No person shall sound or play upon any musical or noisy instrument, or sing in any street or public place, within one hundred yards of any dwelling-house or office, to the annoyance of any inmate thereof, after being requested to desist by such inmate, either personally or through his servant, or through a constable: Provided that this bye-law shall not apply to properly-conducted religious services, except where the request to desist is made on the ground of the serious illness of any inmate of the house.

MUSIC NEAR CHURCHES.

(3) No person shall sound or play upon any musical or noisy instrument, or sing in any street or public place, within one hundred yards of any place of public worship, or public entertainment, or other place of public assembly in which persons are for the time being assembled, to the annoyance or disturbance of any person or persons so assembled, after being requested to desist by any constable, or by any person so annoyed or disturbed, or by any person acting on his behalf.

MUSIC NEAR HOSPITALS.

(4) No person shall sound or play upon any musical or noisy instrument, or sing in any street or public place, within one hundred yards of any hospital, infirmary, convalescent home, or other place used for the reception or treatment of the sick after being requested to desist by any constable, or by any inmate or officer of such hospital or other place, or by any person acting on his behalf.

PENALTIES.

(5) Any person who shall offend against any of the foregoing bye-laws shall be liable on summary conviction for each offence to a penalty not exceeding forty shillings.

Sealed with the Common Seal of the County Council of the Administrative County of Chester, this fourteenth day of March, one thousand nine hundred and seven, in the presence of

(Signed) GEORGE DIXON,
Chairman of the Council. L. S.
(Signed) REGINALD POTTS,
Clerk of the Council.

CINEMATOGRAPH PATENT.

These particulars have been supplied by Messrs. Hughes and Young, Patent Agents, 55-56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C., who will give advice and assistance free to our readers on all matters relating to the protection of inventions, designs, and trade marks.

Mr. R. R. Beard, of 10, Trafalgar-road, Peckham, Surrey, has invented new improvements relating to kinematographs. Means are provided for readily bringing the film into longitudinal register by adjusting the dog, or beater, which draws the slack film down after exposure, a corresponding adjustment being imparted to the shutter, so that the light is cut off during the movement of the film. The beater is carried by two discs, the spindle of which is carried by a frame, which is pivoted so as to turn co-axially with the main shaft. The beater is adjusted by a handle, carrying a toothed sector, engaging a rack carried by a frame. The beater spindle is geared to the shaft, which carries the operating-handle and the feed drum. A balance weight may be fixed to the outer end of the spindle. The shutter is adjusted by gearing, connecting it to the pivoted frame. A pinion is mounted on a pivoted arm, carrying a toothed sector, engaging a toothed sector fixed to the pivoted frame.

Pendlebury.

The concerns here were Kemp's "Dreamland," Haydn's temple of occult mystery, Priest's dime museum, Ball's novelty booth, the riding and other machines of Messrs. Wm. Mitchell, T. Hurst, Harrison, Richards, and Shuttleworth, shooting ranges and throwing games by Messrs. Jewel, Henshaw, Sedgwick, Black, Booth, Jones, Brannan, Tallis, Edwards, Wright, and Gilmore.

Film Novelties.

SHOWMEN will do well to consult the advertisements of the leading cinematograph firms in the current issue of *The Era*, as many novelties are advertised. We refer to the Urban, Pathé-Gaumont, Vitagraph, Walturdaw, Paul, New Bioscope, Ruffell's, and the Sheffield Photo Co. productions.

A GRAND fête will be held in the grounds of Eccleshall Castle, by kind permission of G. W. Carter, Esq., on Wednesday, July 24.

A GRAND theatre fête and gala is to be opened on May 18 at Pendarren Park, Merthyr Tydfil. Application for spaces for roundabouts, swings, novelties, &c., which will be strictly limited, are to be made to Mr. A. Jackson, of 57, Chancery-lane, W.C.

MRS. REBECCA DROOKO writes from Liverpool :—"The following amounts were collected last week at the Empire, Liverpool, to enable me to purchase an invalid chair for my husband, and we both tender our grateful thanks to the following gentlemen for their kind assistance :—Ryder Slone, 2s. 6d.; E. A. E. Ford, 2s. 6d.; 3452 V.A.F., 2s. 6d.; Burns and Burns, 2s.; Willie Benn, 2s.; Tschernoff, 2s 6d.; Warner, 1s.; J. C. Taylor, 2s.; H. C. Barry, 2s.; and Boy Glen, 1s."

JOCK MCNAB, the famous Scotch comedian, has been engaged at a large salary for America, with his Scotch sketch, *The Egyptian Mummy*. He opens after his pantomime season.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

COLLINS'S.

A new comedy sketch, entitled *My Wife's Husband*, by Mr. G. D. Lynch, which had a trial-trip at the Middlesex some time ago, has been one of the most attractive items in the programme at Collins's this week. It is briskly played by Mr. Douglas Cox and company. The plot turns upon the compulsory marriage of a young Englishman in Cuba with a Spanish girl, who takes this step to avoid wedlock with an objectionable native suitor. As a matter of fact, the Englishman is an unwilling party to the marriage, but the alternative is exceedingly unpleasant, not to say deadly. However, after the ceremony has been duly performed, he is permitted to take his departure, and at once sails for England. Five years elapse, and he is leading a gay bachelor life in London, when he one day receives a telegram informing him that his Spanish wife has discovered his address, and is on her way to claim him as her husband. Mr. Adolphus Dove makes a confidant of his manservant, Simpson, and tells him the story of his strange marriage. And now what is to be done? Adolphus has an idea, which he proceeds to carry into immediate effect. While a loud and repeated knocking at the front door announces the arrival of the lady from Cuba, he quickly exchanges coats with Simpson, and instructs that astonished individual to play the part of Mrs. Dove's husband. It is the old device of the master and man exchanging places, Adolphus's intention being to get rid of his wife at any cost. The lady then makes her appearance, followed by her husband carrying her valise in the assumed rôle of the valet. Mercedes is surprised to find that the man she married in Cuba five years ago has apparently grown shorter, and that his beard has disappeared. The supposed husband plaintively admits that he has "shrunk," and having only a scant knowledge of what happened in Cuba, he makes rambling remarks which surprise the lady and induce her to ask him what he is talking about. She also shows a disposition to be jealous, and, producing a neat little revolver, gives evidence of her skill in the use of that weapon. Then, over a glass of champagne, she informs Simpson that the rejected suitor for her hand is in London, and will no doubt call him out. Finally Simpson confesses that he is not the man she wedded in Cuba; but it appears that the couple played the leading parts in a Scotch marriage, and Adolphus, apparently regardless of legal complications, gets rid of his Spanish bride by liberal gifts of bank-notes to her and to his "wife's husband." Mr. Douglas Cox plays his part with a keen sense of humour, and he has excellent support from the lady and gentleman who complete his company, but whose names do not appear on the programme.

Amongst the comedians appearing here this week is Mr. Arthur Reece, who scores with the song "Send us a few more girls" and another ditty. Mr. Edwin Boyde, deputising for Mr. Michael Nolan, who is indisposed, continues to meet with success; Sidney and Maud do exceedingly well as duettists and dancers; and the Wyffs cause considerable merriment by their performance in a farcical absurdity, entitled *The Parson's Mishaps in a London Flat*, the comical incidents recalling to mind the adventures of another reverend gentleman who was responsible for the once-popular saying, "I don't like London." The New York Nippers in *Bedtime* give a brisk and varied entertainment; and Orpheus plays upon a variety of musical instruments, to the evident delight of the audience. Other contributors include Miss Marguerite Broadfoote, comedienne; Rogers and Weston, comedy artists; Mr. Ben Albert, comedian; and Miss Marie Paroli, comedienne. The pictures shown by the L.C.C. Bioscope are also interesting. The orchestra here, conducted by Mr. Kopski, is composed of ladies, who do their work exceedingly well. Mr. F. F. Wade is the energetic manager at this hall.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

The exceptionally attractive programme that Mr. Nelson Francis, the popular manager of this house, is presenting is meeting with the hearty approval of Brixtonians, and considering the proximity of the holidays audiences have been large. One of the many strong items in the bill is Paul Cinquevalli, the world-renowned juggler, who more than sustains his wonderful reputation. Some of his tricks are really astonishing, and his manner of execution is neat and facile in the extreme. Amongst many other feats, that of balancing two billiard balls on the top of a cue, and then keeping the temporary column upright with his chin as the plinth, shows what a complete master he is of the art of jugglery. The success of his performance is greatly added to by the comicalities of his assistant, who provokes much laughter. Professor R. Dunning is responsible for a clever ventriloquial show, which is going as well as ever. With the aid of his many puppets he causes immense laughter, and is the recipient of generous applause.

Geoffreys and Benson are presenting a sketch, entitled *Spoofed*, which is meeting with a very good reception. Although the plot is certainly one that is not new, the situations evolved from it are amusing. Husband and wife are arranging to present *Romeo and Juliet* for the approval of invited friends. The scene is the final rehearsal. The husband, after many breakdowns have occurred, informs his wife that he considers her Juliet absolutely hopeless, but at the same time takes care to tell her that he considers his Romeo perfection. The result is a scene, which ends in the wife retiring. After a while the supposed new servant, who has only recently arrived, enters, and by her clever acting completely succeeds in deceiving her supposed master. After causing much laughter by their nonsense, the end comes by the new comer turning out to be the much-maligned wife. Hence the title.

Arthur Slater, a whistling comedian, can certainly be placed in the front rank of sifflеurs. He gives many clever imitations of birds and animals, and brings his performance to a conclusion by whistling that popular overture, "Poet and Peasant." A most prominent part in the evening's amusement is played by Sam Mayo, the immobile comedian. His woebegone appearance and general make-up are excellent assets, and so deafening is the applause awarded him that it is some time before he is allowed to depart. Kahn and Kahn are mystifying all with their sleight-of-hand tricks. The Royal Korries are giving a novel and interesting show, the singing and dancing of the lady especially being much admired. Willie Gardner, described on the programme as America's champion skate-dancer, certainly dances like a champion. He seems quite at home, whether on roller or ice skates, and his exhibition of buck-dancing on skates is really wonderful.

A very pretty turn is that provided by Bert Coote's Yankee-Doodle Girls, whose singing and dancing leave little to be desired. Although only quite young, they perform quite like old hands, one member especially showing herself to be a dancer of considerable ability. The Three Sisters Sprightly have a little sketchlet written around the game of golf, and bring their turn to a conclusion with some clever dancing. Miss Lottie Govell displays hereditary ability in a couple of numbers, both of which are very well received. She also proves herself to be an expert dancer. The Panhards have some amusing jokes, which cause much laughter, and the male member shows himself to be a possessor of an excellent voice. The attractions of a most enjoyable entertainment are completed by some excellent pictures on the Bioscope. Mr. Francis Winchcombe, Mr. Nelson Francis' most able aide-de-camp, does everything possible for the comfort of his patrons.

"THE SHPIELLER."

A New Sketch, in Five Scenes, by Ivan Coherney, with incidental music by Sam Aarons, Produced at the Paragon, Mile End, on Monday, March 25.

Characters in Reality.

Marcus Judah ..... Mr. Ivan Coherney
Leah Judah ..... Miss Kathleen Russell
Mr. Goldstein ..... Mr. Harry Jackson

Characters in Dream.

Michaels, Litter, Hoppy ..... Mr. Sam Lee
Abrahams, Constable Longears, Diamond Dick, Inspector Truman ..... Mr. Alf Collins
Browney, Goldberg, Karnopski ..... Mr. Harry Jackson
Joe Finkle, German Mike ..... Mr. Philip Hartley

Those who are well acquainted with London are aware that the East End possesses characteristics that distinguish it from all other parts of the great city; and Mr. Coherney, the author of the above new sketch, produced on Monday, appears to have had the intention of presenting certain aspects of life in the busy, thickly-populated neighbourhood in which the Paragon is situated. The first scene is Marcus Judah's home in Brick-lane. The man was at one time in a good position, but the once thriving manufacturer is now getting a bare living as a tailor's machinist. The secret of his fall is the love of gambling; and though he owes his ruin to indulgence in this vice, he still entertains visions of regaining his former position by the same means that cost him his fortune. Then Marcus falls asleep and has a strange dream. He draws a winning ticket in a lottery and becomes possessed of £500. The gambling fever reasserts itself, and in his dream Marcus has some thrilling experiences. The third scene represents Aldgate on the day of the Grand National, and the following scene is the Shpielling Room in Whitechapel, in other words, a gambling den. However, the dream brings home to Marcus the evil fate of the desperate gambler; he is taught a salutary lesson, and all ends happily. Mr. Ivan Coherney, the author of the sketch, gives an excellent embodiment of Marcus Judah, the gambler; and Miss Kathleen Russell is well suited as Leah, his wife. Mr. Harry Jackson undertakes four characters with satisfactory results; and other parts are ably played by Mr. Sam Lee, Mr. Alf Collins, and Mr. Philip Hartley. The dresses and scenery leave nothing to be desired.

The Paragon company this week includes Rezene and Robini, Mr. Albert Setine, Miss Lottie Govell, Mr. Jack Camp, Miss Daisy Jerome, Miss Margaret Parker and company in *Sunshine*, Mr. J. P. Ling, Miss Clarice Mayne, the Three Demons, Mr. Herbert La Martine, and Miss Lillie Soutter. The selection from *Chilperic* given by the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Arthur Grimmett, is much appreciated. Mr. Chas Beecham continues to give careful supervision in front of the house.

RICHMOND THEATRE.

On Monday, March 25, a New Japanese Musical Episode, in Two Scenes, Written by Michael Ring and Composed by E. W. Rogers, entitled "CHERRY BLOSSOM."

Mr. Bradley ..... Mr. Cyril Dane
Kamakura ..... Mr. Arthur Budd
Ninko ..... Mr. Johnnie Schofield
Cherry Blossom ..... Miss Raynor Golden
Saucee ..... Miss Noel Gordon

We are back again in the land of the merry little Japs, with all the dainty embellishments of colour and gaiety of the East. After a spirited opening chorus, Cherry Blossom, a geisha girl, confides to the audience that she is in love with an Englishman, one Bradley; but a Lord High Somebody has also fallen a victim to the charms of this dainty divinity, and is enraged when he discovers that Mr. Bradley has succumbed to the charms of Cherry Blossom. Anon a full contingent of merry Japs appear, warbling "We want to vote." With the Japs comes Ninko, the keeper of the tea house, who has been touring in England, and has picked up many European habits and not a few experiences. His hopeless confusion over a simple conundrum was one of the funniest hits of the evening. Another was a song in which he related the adventures that overtook him as the tutor at an English ladies' school. Ninko discovers Cherry Blossom and Mr. Bradley together, and overhears the latter propose to his pet geisha. A duet and full chorus, "Say, must it be?" was here a happy interpolation. Finding it impossible to gain possession of Cherry Blossom by fair means, Mr. Bradley offers to buy her from Ninko for a thousand yen, but she has already been disposed of to Kamakuro. An altercation follows, and a duel is arranged for the following morning. During the interval, Mr. Bradley enters and offers Ninko the price of Cherry Blossom, and Kamakura receives from the Emperor the polite hint that his services are no longer required. The episode, produced by Mr. Michael Ring, was lavishly mounted, and went with a swing from start to finish. The scenery and dresses are superb, and the music is dainty and tuneful. Of the interpretation, premier honours go to Mr. Johnnie Schofield as Ninko; he was paradoxically a perfectly delightful old vagabond, and his witticisms, drolleries, and dances were all clever. Mr. Cyril Dane did well as Bradley; and Miss Noel Gordon proved a pert and pretty Saucee. Kamakura, an unthankful rôle, was capitally played by Mr. Arthur Budd; and the title-rôle, Cherry Blossom, found a fascinating exponent in Miss Raynor Golden. The production was further enhanced by a bevy of pretty Japs, who danced, coquetted, and warbled to the entire satisfaction of the audience. At the fall of the curtain the author did not take the call, but a delightfully officious old duck, which had figured in the performance, waddled out from the O.P. side, and stood before the footlights, dimly conscious of its own importance. Having received the "call," the bird was promptly whirled off by an astute stage-hand. But *Cherry Blossom* is charming.

Of the other good things in a well-crammed bill, eccentric comedy found a capable exponent in Mr. Chas. Lilburn, who confided to the audience that he "Thought they would like to know"; and, later, he appeared in a suit of pyjamas, and caused a lot of fun with a ditty dealing with the results of various gentlemen who slipped into oblivion by reason of a broken heart. There is a good deal of humour in *The Burglar and the Première Dancer*, as interpreted by the Two Jagos. Although the burglar's object is apparently felony, he soon wins the friendship of the lady artist, and together they give a representation of a "Coon Band" on the piano. Their ability was further evidenced in variety business, new and old. An old favourite here, Miss Nellie Chandos, sings her coon ditties with unflagging vivacity, and creates a success in a lyric, entitled "I wish I were you." Her dancing won for her a unanimous verdict of approval. Mr. Max Guy's clever orchestra did admirably in a pot-pourri of the popular airs of the season; it proved quite a refreshing item. The poses of Michel Nero were sufficiently realistic to win applause, and physically he seemed peculiarly adapted for the rôles he assumed. His weight-lifting demonstrated his strength in a marked degree; as an athlete, too, Nero has nothing to be ashamed of, on the contrary, his skill is wonderful. Mr. Charles Cardow boasts considerable mimetic ability; his "Scene at a Railway Station" was one of the best things he did. His representation of a modern melodrama afforded him a further opportunity to display his versatility; it was excellently done. The Bioscope is an apt finish to a more than excellent bill.

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The Publisher,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
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COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E., April 29, May 13, 27, June 3, 10, 17, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING, Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER, May 6, 13, 20, 27, Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26, Sept. 2, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER, April 11 (3 nights), May 20, 27, June 10, Aug. 5, 12, 19, Sept. 2, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON, May 6, 20, Aug. 5, 12, 19, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD, April 22, May 20, 27, June 3, Aug. 12, 19, 26, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON, June 3, 10, Aug. 12, 26, Sept. 2, 9, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER, May 20, 27, June 17, 24, Aug. 5, 12, 19, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON, April 15 (three nights), May 2 (three nights), Sept. 2, 9, on.
Address, Milton Bode, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-class Companies.
GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE.
May 13, June 10, 17, and 24, July 8 and 29.
METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD, May 13, July 29, Aug. 5, onwards.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD, May 13, Aug. 12, onwards.
Address, Sidney Bacon, Metropole T., Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD, April 15, May 13, 20, 27.
(Six Nights), April 22, May 2 (Three Nights).
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON, April 8, May 27, Aug. 5, 19, Sept. 2, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY, April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 20 (Three Nights Only).
E. Graham-Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, April 8, 15 (six nights), 22, May 2 (three nights).
E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-class Companies.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS, May 6, July 15, Oct. 28, Nov. 4, 18, 25 (?), Dec. 2, 9.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE, May 20, July 15, Oct. 21, Nov. 11, 18.
Big Musical Comedy Wanted for Whit Week.
H. W. Rowland, Theatre, Folkestone.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, and 20.
Apply, Mr. Robert Arthur, 24a, Regent-street S.W.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON, May 27.
Apply, Fredk. Mouillot, 1 and 2, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEST BROMWICH, Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Gen.-Man., Mr. Herbert Vere.
WANTED, First-Class Melodramas, Musical Comedies, &c., vacant April, May, on.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Attractions.
QUEEN'S T., FARNWORTH, BOLTON, May 13, 20, 27, June 10.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE, May 6, 20, Aug. 26, Sept. 2.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

NEW ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BELFAST.
Proprietors, Alexandra Theatre Co.
One of the Handsomest Theatres in Ireland.
WANTED, Big Productions, Oct. 7, 14, 28.
J. Leicester-Jackson, 36, Atlantic-avenue. Wires, "Sunbeam, Belfast."

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, May 13, June 17, July 1, 8, 22, and 29.
Apply, T. W. Rowe.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for April 18, 19, and 20 (three nights); also April 22 and 29.
Required, Sound Attraction for Aug. 5, Bank Holiday, and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, Thos. Swinton.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD, E.
April 29, May 13 and 20.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for the above Dates.
Fred Fredericks.

BRIDLINGTON SPA THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.
Thoroughly Up-to-date, Re-opens July 29.
Electricity throughout; new scenery; large stage dimensions.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Opening week (no dramas).
Henry Hague, General-Manager.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April 22 (Fair week), May 13, 27 (?), June 24 (?) (Royal Show week), Aug. 5, on, with exceptions.
Address, Frank King.

ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April 29, through obliging Manager; also vacant May 13, 20, and 27, Aug. 12.
Apply Manager Charles Trenchard.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Company, three nights, April 18, 19, and 20; also vacant April 29, six nights. Address, Gerald Harding.

STANLEY, DURHAM, NEW ROYAL, LTD.
WANTED, Big Attraction May 6, to oblige Frank Stuart, Esq.
Apply, Mark H. Lindon.

VICTORIA THEATRE, BROUGHTON.
Manager and Licensee, J. Fred Watson.
WANTED, Strong Attractions, April 22 and 29, all May and June; must be strong shows, or save stamps.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, April 15, 22, July 15, 22, 29.
Apply, Stanley Rogers, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-Class Companies.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER, Vacant May 13, Dec. 16, onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH, Vacant April 25, Aug. 5, onward, with exceptions. (Last three nights of each week).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY, Vacant April 15, May 6 13, onward, with exceptions.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY, Vacant April 22, 29, May 6, 13, onward, with exceptions.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE, Vacant April 8, 15, 22, onward, with exceptions.

"THE LOST CHORD," Vacant August 5, onward, with exceptions.

"SPAN OF LIFE," Vacant April 8, May 27, onward, with exceptions.

"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S," Vacant May 13, 20, 27, onward, with exceptions.

Companies "Farmed" through Fit-ups.

To Let, on Royalty, "THE PRAIRIE FLOWER" and "OUR BRITISH EMPIRE."

Excellent Plants Printing.

All communications to Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
One of the finest and best-equipped Theatres in the Provinces.
Holding capacity over 3,500.
Proprietor, Mr. Albert Smith.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates.
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES,"
April 15, May 27, June 3.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
July 1, Aug. 5, 12, 26.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Sept. 2, 30, Oct. 7, 14.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
April 22, 29, May 6.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

Miss ANNIE HUGHES.
WANTED, Dates, August, September, October, November, for "TOMMY" and
"SWEET NANCY."
Miss ANNIE HUGHES as TOMMY, by Jerome K. Jerome, and SWEET NANCY, by Robert Buchanan. Three nights of each play.
"'Tommy' is a great play. Annie Hughes is a great actress." "Sweet Nancy is Annie Hughes and Annie Hughes is Sweet Nancy."
All Spring and Summer Dates filled.
Address, Miss ANNIE HUGHES, Lyceum T., Ipswich.

FRANK M. THORNE'S CO.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this money-maker, May 6, only vacant date this year.
Apply,
F. M. THORNE, Alhambra, Stourbridge.

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
Continued Success. Third Year.
WANTED, May 6 (Yorks or Lancs), Wire for May 6, May 6, wire.
May 20 (Whit), Midlands.
Aug. 12, follow Alexandra, Birmingham.
FRANK AYRTON,
Theatre Royal, West Stanley.

WANTED, April 11 (three nights) and 29 (week) (to precede and follow Glasgow), for Alfred Sutro's "The Perfect Lover." Entire production from the Imperial Theatre. Bookings include Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Glasgow, Dublin. Wire, H. V. NEILSON, Londesborough Theatre, Scarborough.

LINGFORD CARSON'S CO.
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, April 22, May 6, Sept. 9, 30, and Xmas.
This and next, Prince's Theatre, Preston.

"WHEN WE WERE TWENTY-ONE."
By H. V. Esmond.
Miss Dorothy Cacey's Co.
Miss Dorothy Cacey as The Firefly.
Mr. Riddell Robinson as Richard Carewe.
Miss Mildred Hodson as Phyllis.
Other important engagements pending. The majority of all the first-class theatres already booked.
WANTED, Managers with immediate vacant dates. Please apply to FRANK NELSON, West Pier, Brighton.

MR. ALEC FLOOD'S and
MR. AUBREY FITZMAURICE'S CO.,
"THE ANGEL OF UNREST,"
a Story of 1812.
The greatest success of Napoleon Plays.
Refer Mr. H. Cecil Beryl and Mr Chas. F. Williams. Everything carried; magnificent pictorials.
WANTED, April 22, to follow Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, and Dates onward, including Whit.

Wire, F. MARTIN MORRIS, Borough Theatre, Stratford. Letters to Theatre Royal, Chesterfield.

Messrs. ARMADALE and WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, July 29, Aug. 5, Sept. 23, Oct. 7, onwards,
for the above Attraction.
Address, F. BROOKE WARREN,
110, Woodvale, Dulwich, London, S.E.

"LIFE OF A SHOWMAN."
WANTED, Sept. 23, 30, November 4, only open time this year. Magnificent production.
Address, SANTE, Theatre, Chorley.

WANTED, for "Life" and "East Lynne," April 22 and 29 (precede Edmonton), May 20, June 10 (precede Leicester), 24, and July, Powerful Company. "Wanted by the Police," Sept. 9 and 16 (follow Swansea). "Robinson Crusoe," vacant Jan. 27, Feb. 10. HERBERT BARRS, Victoria Theatre, Mansfield.

"THAT WOMAN FROM FRANCE."
Miss Blanche St. Albans as "The Woman."
WANTED, Whit, June 3, 17.
J. LEICESTER JACKSON,
36, Atlantic-avenue, Belfast.

"A HEART'S DESIRE."
"A HEART'S DESIRE."
A Powerful Cast, including Frank V. Fenn, Cecil, V. Proctor, and Miss Enid Edoni.
WANTED, various Summer Dates, First-Class Seaside Theatre. Managers desiring an Attraction communicate, Messrs. ELLIMAN, 5, Vernon-street, Dublin.

"AS GOOD AS GOLD."
WANTED, for this Fine Attraction, through misunderstanding, May 6, also Whit week, and on, with exceptions. SAMUEL JAMES, 8, Warwick-court, Gray's Inn, W.C.

MISS EMMA LITCHFIELD'S COMPANY.
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
WANTED, June 17, July 1, on.
A Most Successful Production.
Address, STUART CLEVELAND,
Theatre Royal, Scarborough.

"THE PRICE OF HER SOUL."
WANTED, April 15 and 22.
Address,
JOHN B. SHINTON, Prince of Wales' T., Salford.

"SHERLOCK HOLMES,"
H. Hamilton Stewart in title-rôle.
WANTED, First-Class Theatre, between London and Nottingham, April 15; also Autumn dates (South). WALTER J. BAYLIS, Marina Theatre, Lowestoft.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, April 15, May 20 (three), June 3, on. Practically everything carried, and every sheet of printing new and specially cut. Bookings include: Junct., Manchester; Osborne, Manchester; O. H., St. Helen's; O. H., Harrogate; G., Walsall; Col., Oldham; G., Burnley; M., Bootle; R., Leeds; R., Rotherham; Met., Glasgow; Alex., Hull; &c.
Wire, E. A'DELL, to-day, Col., Oldham; next, Empire, Cradley Heath.

WANTED, Theatre, Aug. 5,
"YOU NEVER CAN TELL,"
By Bernard Shaw.
Summer Tour,
Mr. E. Taylor Platt's Company
(by arrangement with Messrs. Vedrenne and Barker, Court Theatre, London).
Vacant Aug. 5.
Wire, TAYLOR PLATT, Court Theatre, London.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Whit, May 20, for this ideal Holiday Attraction; new uniforms and effects; band of drums, fifes, and bugles for parade.
"A SISTER'S SIN."
Wanted, Whit, May 20, for this intensely Human Drama; picturesque costumes; exceptional cast.
F. G. KIMBERLEY,
Star, Liverpool; next, Osborne, Manchester.

FRANK J. PITT and CHARLES HALLING'S CO.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, for this Successful Attraction, April 29,
May 13, June 17, 24,
July 29, Aug. 12.
Sept. 23, Sept. 30, on.
King's, Sutton-in-Ashfield, April 1.

"FOR AULD LANG SYNE."
WANTED, First-class Theatres.
FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Bilston.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
WANTED, Easter, Easter, Easter.
FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Bilston.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, Easter Week.
FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Bilston.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Aug. 26, on, with exceptions.
FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Bilston.

THEATRES WANTED.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
including Miss MINNIE WATERSFORD
(Mrs. Cross).
WANTED, Whit Week (through oblig.ng), also May 27, June 24, Aug. 5, and on, with exceptions. New printing, special scenery, and Effects. April 1, Jubilee T., Weymouth.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, having large Stage and large Holding Capacity, for Christmas Production
of
JAMES KIDDIE'S
JAMES KIDDIE'S
JAMES KIDDIE'S
Colossal Gorgeous Pantomimes,
"LITTLE ALADDIN,"
"LITTLE CINDERELLA,"
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
Can arrange for two, three, or four weeks for the above sure success.
Can play two houses nightly if required.
Address
JAMES KIDDIE, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

PANTOMIME.
WANTED, to negotiate Theatre for next Christmas, for First-class Production, four weeks or longer. For particulars, G. BRYDON-PHILLIPS, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, Strand, W.C.

THE FAMOUS
NATIVE CHOIR FROM JAMAICA.
after causing a furore daily during the past three weeks at
St. George's Hall, Liverpool,
will commence their tour of the United Kingdom at the
PIER PAVILION, ST. ANNES-ON-THE-SEA, on Good Friday.
To follow: Manchester, Blackpool (3 dates), Lincoln, London, Ryde, Birmingham, Rhyl, &c.
A NOVELTY!
A SENSATION!
Hundreds turned away nightly at Liverpool.
WANTED, April 8 and onwards, with exceptions. Twelve Performers.
Can give whole Entertainment if desired.
Three changes of costume.
Splendid lithos.
Apply for booklet, &c., to Managers, Messrs. H. E. JONES and A. DOUGLASS, 21, Water-street, Liverpool.
Telephones, 5650 and 2449 Central.
Wires, "Motherland, Liverpool."

"THE GAY DRAGOONS."
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"THE GAY DRAGOONS."
A New Musical Up-to-Date Entertainment.
A New Musical Up-to-Date Entertainment.
A New Musical Up-to-Date Entertainment.
Full Company of
Nine Persons.
Special Scenery by Banks.
Uniforms by T. McBride and Sons, London.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Pier Pavilions, Halls, &c.,
at
Popular Watering Places, Spas,
and
Fashionable Resorts.
Share or Rental.
Whit Monday open.
Managers kindly write
at once to
CHARLES DURIE,
Play Productions, Ltd.,
37, King-street,
Covent Garden, W.C.

WANTED, Theatres, Halls, &c., April 8, onwards, for Australian picture and concert company. Wire, to-day, Hippodrome, Blyth; Monday, Co-operative Hall, Ashington.

ARTISTS WANTED.

EDWARD MARRIS' COMPANIES.
WANTED, for Special Week, in Channel Islands, April 8, Soprano, for Sans Gêne and Gentleman for Napoleon, in "The Duchess of Dantzic." Preference given to those who have played the parts. Return fares paid. Wire lowest terms, EDWARD MARRIS, Opera House, Jersey.

EDWARD MARRIS' COMPANIES.
WANTED, for Special Week, in Channel Islands, April 15, Gentleman for Sir Peter and Ladies for Nanoya and Lady Patricia, in the "Cingalee." Preference given to those who have played the parts. Return fares paid. Send lowest terms, EDWARD MARRIS, Opera House, Jersey.

EDWARD MARRIS' COMPANIES.
WANTED, for Special Week, in Channel Islands, April 22, Lady for Winnie Harborough and Gentleman for Theodore Quench in "The Girl from Kay's." Preference given to those who have played the parts. Return fares paid. Send lowest terms. EDWARD MARRIS, Opera House, Jersey.

WANTED, Principals and Chorus for Summer and Autumn Tour of Light Opera. Send full particulars and photo (returnable). Mrs. ANN HUGHES, Solatlyn, Thurleigh-road, Balham, S.W.

WANTED, Artists, "Gamester of Metz," Juvenile Gentleman and Chambermaid. Absolute lowest Summer terms, photos. (indispensable), to Theatre, Bursiem, CHARLES MERCH.

WANTED, heavy man, chambermaid, sing and dance; 2 gentlemen vocalists; responsible all lines; rehearse Tuesday, London. Write (no callers), W. G. GOLD, 142, Pentonville-road, N.

WANTED, for Wordless Play, Ladylike Actress, no dancing, Juvenile and Aristocratic Old Man. Write, Box 4,585, "The Era."

"THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH" CO.
WANTED, to Rehearse at once, thoroughly experienced Heavy Man, for Captain Leo, capable of big struggle; must strip well and have fine appearance. Full measurements, chest, &c., age, height (not less than 5ft. 11in.), photos. where not known, and all particulars, to
Mr. SAM LIVESEY,
Palace Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Miss GRACE WARNER'S REPERTOIRE CO.
WANTED, immediately, Good Versatile Actor, capable of range of parts, able to sing; must dress well, tall. Photo and full particulars to 176, Keithley-road, Colne.

WANTED, recognised Leading Gentleman, for Drama; must be tall. State height, terms, references, parts played. MARK BLOW, 3, St. James-avenue, Brighton.

WANTED, First-Class Juvenile Man, tall, good appearance, also Petite Young Lady for Light Comedy. Rehearse next week; no joint entertained. Particulars, age, height, lowest terms, references, and photos, A. HAMILTON WARDEN, Metropole Theatre, Aberdillery.

ATHENÆUM SCHOOL OF MUSIC,
GLASGOW.
Appointment of Elocution Master.
WANTED, Known, the Governors invite Applications for the position of Teacher of Elocution and Dramatic Art, about to become vacant. Further particulars may be obtained from the Subscriber, with whom applications and testimonials are to be lodged on or before Saturday, April 6.
JAMES LAUDER, Manager and Secretary.
St. George's-place, Glasgow, March 20, 1907.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS WANTED.

"AN UNWEDDED WIFE."
WANTED, Heavy Gentleman, for Blackstone. All particulars, terms, references, height, age, &c., J. EDWARD WHITTY, Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Lady and Gent, Spring Tour; experience unnecessary; professional tuition. Write for town interview. MANAGER, 10, Kildowan-rd., Goodmayes, Essex.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, join, Refined Concert Party, Mabel Burnet Steytler, South African Reciter, 'Cellist, Accompanist. Inquiries, c/o Bolus, 90, Cannon-street, London.

WANTED, Known, Young Comedienne, Instrumentalist, Cornet, Banjo, Mandoline, English Concertina, Piano, experienced performer, capable of Lines, would join Musical Turn, Partner, or anything with immediate bookings. Box 4,592, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Summer Concert Party; young lady wishes to join during the season; Brilliant Pianist, Accompanist, Singer, and Reciter; south preferred. ENID NISBET, Marlboro', Dawlish.

WANTED, Known, young trained foreign Actress, graceful character dancer, wishes foreign part on London Stage, or Engagement at Hall. Letters, Box 4,587, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Solo Dancer, in First-class Musical Comedy or Drama; South Coast preferred. IRIS, 4, River-road, Reading.

WANTED, Known, Young Frenchman, à la Farkos,
and with two distinct Specialities besides, Disengaged for Smart Summer Party.
Address, Box 4,573, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, good Baritone desires to join refined Al Fresco Concert Party; good répertoire; late London Concert. M., Diamond House, Saltburn

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, all Lines, next season. Lowest terms, photos., age, last two references, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Pantomime Chorus and Show Ladies. Send photograph, age, height, and other measurements, lowest salary. ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, for Pantomimes next Xmas, Principal Girls, Comedians, Conductor, Chorus, not less than 5ft. 5in. Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Brothers Brooks, at Liberty for Pantomime, 1907-8. Concluded five seasons, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden. Thank same firm for offer to return.
Also Sisters Brand, at Liberty 1907-8. Concluded Big Success, two seasons, Grand, Islington, and Nottingham, second boy and girl. Coms., H. BLACKMORE; or, 113, Lilford-rd., Camberwell, London S.E.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams "Theatrical."

OLDHAM SCENIC STUDIOS.
WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed.
H. O. RICHARDSON,
Theatre Royal.

WANTED, by Sidney Beltram, Contracts, travelling or stock, scenery repainted, or salary engagement. Address, Waterloo Hotel, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, A. W. Moore, Scenic Artist, at Liberty for Contract or Engagement. Address, 20, Park-st, Middlesbrough.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, a thoroughly experienced Manager to take entire charge of important Music Hall Sketches; must be capable of press work and able to play part. Terms must be reasonable; practically permanent engagement; guarantee necessary. Apply, Box 4,582, "The Era."

WANTED, good Pantomime Producer. Send names and addresses, last two references, age, lowest terms. ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Assistant Manager, for Music Hall. Apply, with references, to
Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, a Steady, Reliable, Advance Agent, for Circus Tenting. Lowest terms to WHITE, 28, West Derby-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, Stage Carpenter, with Knowledge of Electric Work. Permanency to a suitable man. Age, references, lowest terms, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, Active Man, with knowledge of Carpentering, in Scenic Touring Exhibition; must be able repair and touch up scenery. State salary required, and references. MANAGER, Exhibition, Corn Exchange, Kelso, N.B.

"HER LUCK IN LONDON" CO.
WANTED, first-class carpenter, must be able to understudy small important part. Photo and fullest particulars to CHARLES A. LEICESTER, T. R., Croydon.

WANTED, good Poster and Ticket Writer.
A. E. PICKARD, Britannia Panopticon, Glasgow.

WANTED, a few First-Class Billposters. Wages, 30s. to 32s.,
according to qualifications.
Apply to JOHN MACDONALD and SON,
34, St. George's-road, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, W. C. Burns, vacant to manage any class concern, road, rail, or resident, over twenty years' practical experience, Theatre, Variety, Circus, Pictures, &c. Note.—Life abstainer; well up in bars, two houses nightly; book-keeping and advertising; highest refs. Would accept management Billposting business. 138, Duchess-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement, any Business, position of trust; gentlemanly appearance, trained for the church, Freemason; accept as Baggage with good show; low terms. If required, wife as Wardrobe Mistress; good pianist; well educated. HILL, 27, Cross-street, St. Clements, Oxford.

WANTED, Position as Manager or Acting-Manager, good Suburban Theatre; age 39; fifteen years' experience; fair knowledge Music Hall work. Box 4,553, "The Era."

WANTED, by Young Man, smart and energetic, Engagement, as Assistant-Manager in Theatre or Seaside Pavilion, experienced; security or premium. Box 4,575, "The Era."

WANTED, a Situation to Assist Manager at a Watering-place, College education, age 23, business experience, excellent references; small remuneration accepted. MITCHELL, 5, Windsor-terrace, Whitby.

WANTED, an Engagement by Charles F. Meadows, at Lib. April 8, for Advance, Resident Bill-Inspector or Acting-Management, just concluding seven years with G. W. Bowes, Esq., as Advertising and Business-Manager. All coms., Gwyn Hall, Neath, South Wales.

WANTED, Offers, as Advance Agent; 8 years' experience; splendid references. ERNEST LLOYD, 97, Riverview-gardens, Castlenau, Barnes, London.

WANTED, Engagement, now or Autumn, by a thoroughly experienced Carpenter, Resident or Tour; Practical Bench Hand; full equipment of tools. C/o Buckley, Fern Lea, Lees, Oldham.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, by Master Carpenter, Resident, Engagement, in Theatre or Stage-management of Music Hall; experienced, reliable, and abstemious. W. A. STOLTUCK, T. R., Waterford.

WANTED, Engagement, by J. Hayes, Practical Carpenter and Scenic Artist, Resident or Tour; Mrs. H., Chorus and Dancer. Knightstone Pavilion, Weston-super-Mare.

WANTED, Engagement as Practical Bill-poster, Inspector, or Agent; exceptional references for sobriety and attention to duties. EMBERSON, Grand Theatre, Woolwich.

WANTED, by Young Lady, tall, good appearance and address, Engagement as Assistant, any capacity; excellent typist and correspondent. T., 38, Gunter-grove, Chelsea.

WANTED, by Young Lady, Evening Employment; good knowledge of book-keeping.
Box 4,576, "The Era."

WANTED, by Married Couple, the management of Bars; experienced; three years in present situation. Direct, A. J., 202, Maxey-road, Plumstead, Kent.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

WANTED, for R.M. Liner, First Violin, 'Cello, or Basso, and Flute; good players and readers; no stewards' work of any description; second-class accommodation. Apply at once to D. G. PHAIR, Bandmaster, 69, Great Ormond-street, W.C.

WANTED, to open April 8, Cornet, used to Variety Business. State lowest terms to C. LOMAS, Musical-Director, Hippodrome, Maidstone.

WANTED, for Permanent Staff 4th Border Regt., good Cornet and Bass Players; an opportunity to rejoin for pension. Apply, T. CHOAKE, Bandmaster, The Castle, Carlisle.

WANTED, Cornet, for Hippodrome, Hastings, to open Easter Monday. Terms 30s. Wire, ALBERT CATT, Musical-Director.

WANTED, Good Cornet and Clarionet at once, for Town Band. Shares.
PHILLIPS, 4, Richmond-avenue, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, B flat clarionet player for Eastbourne Town Band; ex-Army man preferred; pitching, terms shares. Apply, Band Sec., Hartington Hotel, Eastbourne.

WANTED, good Second Horn. Apply, stating age, salary, references, to F. CAMP, Mus.-Dir., Gaiety Theatre Varieties, Birmingham.

WANTED, Orchestral and Solo 'Cellist, Second Cornet, and Double Drummer; must have Tympanies, for long Seaside Engagement. Box 4,586, "The Era."

WANTED, an Oboe Player, for Newport, to Open at Once. Apply, stating experience, salary required, with copies of recent testimonials, to Mr. W. LEA, Empire Theatre, Cardiff.

WANTED, competent Harpist, Accompanist, for Windermere Steam Yachts and Lakeside Pavilion Orchestra, open May 17, Season. Age, refs., BATESON, Bowness, Windermere.

WANTED, Good Flute and Piccolo Player; permanency to suitable person. Terms, age, and references, to J. R. BINGLEY, Musical-Director, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Grimsby.

WANTED, Flute and Piccolo, to open April 8, must be thoroughly experienced in variety business. Apply FERRI, musical director, Hippodrome, Stockton-on-Tees.

WANTED, First-Class Pianist, Watchmaker, or Singer preferred; must be strictly steady; others save stamps. Box 4,583, "The Era."

WANTED, Handy Man (must be able to play piano occasionally), for pictures; one who is willing to work in the advertising department, and assist generally. Salary 30s. A permanent place to the right man. Experience not necessary. State references, &c., to
MANAGER,
Pictures, Waterloo Rooms, Glasgow.

WANTED, First-Class Musicians, String Players and Pianists, for White Star and Cunard Steamships; Musical duties only. Good accommodation. State age and experience, with references. Conditions on application to Mr. C. W. BLACK, 19, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street,, W.C.
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, "A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violinist), Disengaged, composer of music "Silver King," &c. Dramatic Music, &c., composed and arranged. 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Leader (Cornet), also a Euphonium, Tenting or otherwise; good répertoire music. LEADER, 16, Cairo-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Engagement, by Mr. Lorenzo Lewis, Variety Pianist-Conductor (Arrange). Concluded Panto., Moss and Stoll's Tour. Can combine magnificent great Portable Organ. 744, Oxford-road, Reading

WANTED, Known, W. H. Brinkworth, Musical Director, Violin, Piano, Composer, Arranger, 10 years Grand Theatre, Islington. 144, Heyworth-road, Clapton, N.

WANTED, Engagement by Musical Director (Violinist), Disengaged after May 11; good refs. and répertoire. Address, Box 4,571, "The Era."

WANTED, Summer Engagement, Leader or First Violin, Lady Pianist, or Violin, Bass, or Bombardon, Cornet, Trombone, Double Drums, and Effects; would engage together or separate; good references; any business. CONDUCTOR, Grand Theatre, Falkirk.

WANTED, immediate re-engagement as Leader or First Violin, theatres, restaurants; London or suburbs. OSCAR CREMER, 10, Caithness-road, Mitcham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement as First Violin, well up in any business; good references. Address, H. S. SOLOSKY, 20, Beaumont-sq., London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, by good experienced Violinist; any business; good references. G. W., 33, Brewerton-road, Oldham.

WANTED, by good Violinist, Engagement; experienced in Dramatic and Variety; Leader or First Violin. J. C., 11, Gilpin-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, by good Second Violin, Engagement for season. Seaside, or permanent, in Music Hall. HILL, 33, Holmes-street, Rose Hill, Derby.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Violinist, to combine B flat Clarionet, at Liberty April 13; age 33 years; A.M.U. A. H. ELSMORE, 38, Upper Thomas-st, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, engagement, second violin, any business any place. VIOLINIST, care of Boa, 29, Lauriston-street, Edinburgh.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Deputising by Cornet or Trumpet; at Liberty from May 12 till July 15, seaside preferred. Address next week, S. STANLEY, Moody-Manners Opera Co., Birkenhead. Following week, Southampton.

WANTED, by Second Cornet, Summer Engagement, Orchestral or Military. A. W. BRIGHT, Grand Theatre, Croydon.

WANTED, Engagement as Solo Cornet, any business.
WM. FLETCHER, 95, Hornby-street, Bury, Lancashire.

WANTED, by experienced Solo Cornet, Engagement, any Bus.; can open immediately. NUTTALL, Solo Cornet, Hippodrome, Coventry.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Good Orchestral Cornet (Viola), Transposer, age 33. Apply, CORNET, 47, East-street-buildings, Baker-street, London, W.

WANTED, by good Cornet Player, Summer Engagement or Second Repiano; First-class offers only; Orchestra preferred; age 34. Box 4,584, "The Era."

WANTED, Re-engagement as First B Clarionet, Soloist; Military or Orchestra; good reader and transposer; reference ready if required. G. ROSS, 7, Alma-terrace, Rock-road, Torquay.

WANTED, Known, Disengaged, through theatre closing, Double Bass; abstainer; good refs. T. C. TROLLEY, 31, Havelock-street, Swindon, Wilts.

WANTED, Engagement, by Good Bassoonist, Concert, Theatre and Variety experience. BASSOON, 50, Merrion-street, Briggate, Leeds.

WANTED, by good Bassoon, at Liberty for permanency or season, brilliant soloist; any business. LYONS, 108, Forest-road, Dalston, N.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Double Bass Player, combine Bombardon; good ref. E. LAZZARI, 24, Hoxton-road, Torquay.

WANTED, Engagement by competent Trombonist, any business; good refs.; at Liberty after April 6. BERT ROBINSON, 109, Hornby-rd., Blackpool.

WANTED, by Good Euphonium Season Engagement. Any business. Good experience. G. COWLAND, 51, Mendora-road, Fulham, S.W.

WANTED, immediately, Engagement as French Horn, in string or military band; over twelve years' experience; good refs. A. W. V., 85, Chamberlayne Wood-rd., Kensal Rise.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, for Little Girl, on 'Cello; also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLE, 35, Granville-square, King's Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, by 'Cellist, Engagement, Theatrical, Orchestral, and Hotel experience; combine brass if necessary; Disengaged May 27. Apply, G. BERNARD GOODALL, Violoncellist, Taj Mahal Orchestra, Bombay.

WANTED, by Solo 'Cellist, of Monnaie Theatre, Brussels, Engagement for Summer Season. A. JANSSENS, 30, Avenue des Arts, Bruxelles, Belgium.

WANTED, Known, Lady 'Cellist, First-Class; experienced Orchestral Player; young, good appearance; Disengaged Whitsuntide; good offers only accepted. Box 4,579, "The Era."

WANTED, an Engagement as 'Cello or Violin, thoroughly experienced; good references. Variety or Theatre. INKPEN, Theatre, Richmond, Surrey.

WANTED, Known, Arthur Cowen, Viola, Grand Theatre, Glasgow, is open to accept Summer Engagement. Permanent address, 20, Monteith-row, Glasgow.

WANTED, an Engagement, as Oboe and Cor Anglais; would take Viola if required. Best of references. G. EDMONDS, 4, Frances-street, Sunderland.

WANTED, Engagement as Oboeist, any business; well up in Variety Work; excellent references. OBOE, 34, Stanbridge-road, Putney, S.W.

WANTED, by Lady Harpist, Solo and Orchestral, Summer Engagement.
Box 4,580, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, by Musical Directors and others, that Mr. E. Everett (Flute and Piccolo Player) has removed to 22, Cuthill-road, Denmark Hill, S.E. Open to Engagements. Managers' and Conductors' References.

WANTED, by experienced Flautist, Engagement; thoroughly reliable; at Liberty April 8. FLAUTIST, 8, Kent-street, Leicester.

WANTED, by good, reliable Flautist, ex-Army man, Engagement. Address,
H., 3, Bath-villas, Twickenham-road, Isleworth.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Experienced Orchestral Pianist; can combine Viola; good offers invited; London preferred.—Box 4,476, "The Era."

WANTED, by young Professional Lady Pianist and Vocalist, Engagement, permanent, Orchestra, &c., Classical or Variety Music; good sight reader. Terms, Miss J. UPSTILL, 4, Park-mansions, Paradise-street, Rotherhithe.

WANTED, Permanent Engagement, as Pianist or Conductor; compose, arrange, &c.; thoroughly experienced. R. ALLEN, 21, Berridge-road, Sheerness-on-Sea.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Drummer, steady and reliable, Disengaged shortly; good references if required. GEISS, 37, Devonshire-street, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Double Drummer, lady; is also an excellent Pianist and Accompanist, thoroughly experienced; best references. Box 4,588, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Drums, Disengaged April 8.
MUSICIAN, 149, Tennyson-road, Stratford, E.

WANTED, Engagement, Double Drums and Effects, any business. Address,
53, Mount Sion, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, engagement, by first-class Double Drummer; thoroughly experienced; Variety preferred. Good references. LILLE, 177, Ball's Pond-road, Islington, N.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, Double Drummer, experienced, Theatre, Variety, Orchestra. AMY VETTA, 48, Crewdson-road, Clapham-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Mme. H. E. Angless's Ladies' Orchestra, open to accept engagements. From three to thirty performers. 78, Norwood-road, Herne Hill, S.E.

WANTED, by Rabottini's Popular Orchestra, Attractive Uniforms, for Seaside, Exhibitions, Concerts, &c. Apply, F. P. RABOTTINI, 157, Blythe-road, West Kensington, London.

WANTED, Known, Godfrey Holbech's Band, patronised by Royalty. Highest testimonials. Open for Summer Engagement. Any number as required. Smart uniform.
Apply to GODFREY HOLBECH,
14, Hugh-street, Eccleston-square, London, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements for Orchestra, any number, smart uniform, up-to-date répertoire; highest references. LOUIS METZ, 62, Wellington-road, Charlton, S.E.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands, apply Bureau, 8, Bedford-terrace, Kensington. Quartet Disengaged, scarlet and gold or evening dress.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

KING OHMY'S GRAND CIRCUS, HYDE.
WANTED, Big Sensations and Startling Novelties, for April 8 and future dates, also useful Circus Turns in all Lines; nothing too big; money no object for great Acts new to this country.
Address,
KING OHMY,
The Tower Circus, Blackpool.

WANTED, a Fine-built Lady Gymnast, about 18 years, First-class Performer. State height. Apply, with photo., O. V., Empire, Swansea.

WANTED, Youth or Young Man, Tumbler, for Comedy Troupe Acrobats; everything found. State tricks. &c., Box 4,559, "The Era."

WANTED, smart Tumbler, at once. Particulars.
DERBY, Tower, New Brighton.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Young Lady, good appearance, to learn Gymnast's, Contortionist's number; those used to same preferred. Sivado, R.O., Pal., Bristol.

WANTED, smart reliable Groom, used to Ponies. Address,
C. Caban, Exhibition, Gloucester.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Circus and Hippodrome Proprietors, Managers, and Agents to Know that the Three Ohmys,
Greatest of all Lady Acrobatic, Somersault Bareback Riders, on Three Beautiful Trained Horses, specially engaged at the Tower Circus, Blackpool, where they can be seen during the next two weeks, appearing in the Greatest Act ever placed before the English Public, will shortly be at Liberty. All Agents should see this Great Up-to-date Act. Address, Claude Ohmy, Tower Circus, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Chloë Convere, with her Marvellous Cake Walk Horse, "Kentucky Beau." Just returned from the Continent. Shortly at Liberty for Stage or Circus. Address, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Two Dominoes, Comic Act, Clown and Donkey, vacant April 1 and 8, through changing date.
71, Kennington-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Onda and Leon, Comedy Triple Bar Act, vacant April 8. Address, Alhambra, Morecambe.

WANTED, April 1, 8, 15, by Mons. Twisto, Contortionist (The Human Eel). Great Success, Circus, Rochdale (second visit this season). Wire, Circus, Rochdale.

WANTED, Tenting by the Three Altons, Marvellous Contortionists, Barrel Experts, and Gardon and Gardon, Muscular Gymnasts; genuine and reliable Acts, by three genuine performers. 6, Victoria Park-road.

WANTED, Known, Paulette, in novel comedy, acrobatic table, cycling act. Two acts, galas. Per., 106, Bigland-st., Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, engagement, all-round gymnast, head and hand, topmount, comedy, or straight; good figure; troupe or partner. Zac, G.P.O., Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Young Man, wishes to join Comedy Triple Bar Act. Address, Peters, care of Pettigrew, 122, Ingram-st., Glasgow.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, for Tour, now and on, Lowest Combination Terms. Call, Pavilion T., Wolsingham, Co. Durham, April 1:—Nicholson's Pictures, Bob Pearson, Ada Clare, Hastings, Miss C. Walker-Hennessy, The Izons, Auxetophone, Nichelson's Sketch Co., R. Bentley, Lily Pender, Royal Victorian Boys. Rehearsal 1 p.m. Letters, Joe Hennessy, Manager, P. T., Wolsingham.

Scarborough.

WANTED, Monday, April 8, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines. Nothing too Big. Full particulars to Morgan, Aquarium.

WANTED, Variety Artists to send open dates, lowest terms, to Dottridge, Variety Agent, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, April 8, Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest. Hall small. P. Reymond, as above.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, April 8 and onwards.
A. E. Pickard, Britannia, Glasgow.

THE IMPERIAL
VARIETY, THEATRICAL, AND CONCERT AGENCY,
19, Green-street, Leicester-square, W.,
under the direction of
Chas. Hector, late of the L.C.C. Halls, and Henry Stowe, Pianist and Composer.

WANTED, Artists, Specialities, Pierrot Troupes, and Acts of every Kind, to Know that they may be engaged through this Agency. Send photos., lithos., list of bookings, and lowest terms.
Song, Scena, and Sketch Bureau. Songs, Scenas, and Sketches written. Music put to words. Latest production, "The Lady who could," written by Chas. Hector; Music by Walter Slaughter. Bands provided, Artists, Instrumentalists, for Public, Masonic, and Private Banquets, At Homes, Garden and River Parties, Fêtes and Galas. Artists can arrange to have songs played over and rehearsed by calling and making an appointment with Mr. Stowe. N.B.—All our clients are insured for £100 for 12 months. Office Hours 11 to 6. Chorus Ladies Wanted.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Artists all Lines,
Artists all Lines,
Artists all Lines,
Artists all Lines,
THE DAYTON FAMILY,
THE DAYTON FAMILY,
THE DAYTON FAMILY,
Palace Varieties, Cork.
Suitable Acts can have twenty weeks' comfortable engagements.

Call, April 1, Victoria Rooms, Cheltenham: Vernon's Bioscope, Cecilian Family, E. W. Selman, Ivy Gallard, Hannaway Brothers, Sansom Trio, Gratton and Esmond, Geo. Bernard, Miss Lucerne, Stanley Baltimore.

Managing-Director, Mr. O. Maus Dayton.
General-Manager, Mr. Geo. Bernard.
Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Ralph.

WANTED, Artists of all Descriptions, April 8 and on.
Write or call, with full particulars,
J. W. Johnson,
Variety and Pantomime Agent,
86, Waterloo-road, S.E.

GRAPHO and JACKSON'S AL FRESCO ENTERPRISES.

WANTED, Refined Al Fresco Artists, all Lines, to rehearse May 6, for long season. Lowest terms and photos. to Grapho and Jackson, Aquarium, Scarboro'.

WANTED, First-Class Artists only, for First-Class Variety Theatres, immediate and future dates, also Pantomime.
Jess Verno's Agency, 16, Elizabeth-st., Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone 2076 Royal.

WANTED, Artists, single and double turns, two weeks, April 29, May 13, 27. Chas. A. James, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Refined Al-Fresco Artists, all Lines. Send particulars, references, dates, lowest photo., Vivian's Agency, 83A, Bold-street, Liverpool. Letters only.

WANTED, Known, Artists wishing to be booked for First-class Music Hall Engagements, to communicate with Brooks's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now on. Apply,
Mr. J. J. Scott, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Al-fresco Artists, all Lines; must be Versatile and thoroughly Refined. State particulars, répertoire, age, photo. S., 63, Melrose-road, Wandsworth, London.

WANTED, Artists in every line for the North, Tops, Bottoms, and Middle of Bills. April, May, and on. Good small turns write. Address, Drew Bayley, Agent, Theatre Royal, Perth.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, open Monday, also First-Class Bioscope Operator. Wire lowest terms, Brook, Hippodrome, Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, coming North, to send dates and terms,
Anderson's Agency, 6, Great Clyde-street Glasgow

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Will Hunter's Pierrots, first-class alfresco artists, all lines, for Tynemouth, must be well up in Musical Comedy numbers, Concerteds, and Sketches. Send age, height, lowest terms, and full particulars, Will Hunter, Town Hall, Huddersfield.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, for above Theatre, April 8, onwards, new to Castleford, one house nightly except Saturdays; small town. State lowest first letter. Beanland and Emerson.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Concerts and Music Halls. Interviews by appointment only. Scottish Musical Agency, 107, George-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, April 8, 15, and 22,
Stars in all Lines,
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for smaller items.
State towns at Liberty for.
Can fix big numbers any odd weeks.
Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to Brooks's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Turns of every Description desirous of appearing at Special Matinée at a London Syndicate Hall.
An excellent opportunity for Provincial and unrecognised Talent. Call or write (stamp), Dave Hyman, Agent, 167, Stamford-street, S.E.

WANTED, for Combinations, Rochdale, April 15, and Dewsbury, April 29, some really good early turns; no dumb-shows. Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

VENTOM SWIFT'S AGENCY, ALHAMBRA, EDINBURGH.

WANTED, the very best of talent, April 8, onwards, April 8, onwards; must be first-class, or useless; those coming North with odd weeks vacant, communicate.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.

WANTED, Talent all Lines.
James Fioni's Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1686, Royal.

WANTED, Good Speciality Acts, for Summer Seaside Halls. Terms, lithos., and particulars to Brooks's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-av., W.

GRAND THEATRE and EMPIRE, DONCASTER.

WANTED, the greatest possible Acts in the business in all Lines, any price for the right stuff. Wire or write full particulars to Leo Fritz's Variety Agency, 40, Glenshaw-mansions, Brixton-road, S.W. Telephone 457 Brixton.

PALACE OF VARIETIES, OLDBURY.
Proprietors, Messrs. Tyrer and Bostock.

WANTED, Specialities, Novel Acts, really Funny Comedians, Doubles doing Singles, immediate dates and onwards. Hall small. Lowest, with lithos., W. B. Bostock, Manager.

CIRCUS and HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
Rehearsal Monday next, 2 o'clock, for:
"Hicks's Clerks" and Variety Company.

WANTED, big Attraction, on Share, for April 29. Smith and Co., Red Lion Hotel, Rochdale.

HENRY KEMBLE'S AGENCY.
HENRY KEMBLE'S AGENCY.
HENRY KEMBLE'S AGENCY.
Temporary Office, Palace, Cork
(till June 6; then London).
(till June 6; then London).

WANTED, April 15, 22, and onward,
Novelties, Big Specialities,
Novelties, Big Specialities,
Novelties, Big Specialities,
Animal Shows, &c.
Animal Shows, &c.
Animal Shows, &c.
For London and the Country.
Send Dates, Lithos., Terms.
Mr. Kemble, at the close of the season, June 6, will open offices in London when he will devote most of his time to the Agency. He will retain the General-Management and have the Sole Bookings for the above Hall (Palace, Cork), where all communications for the present should be addressed.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, all Lines, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, late of Blackpool, Morecambe, &c. Address next week, 46, Coram-street, Russell-square, W.C. Can only be seen by appointment.

WANTED, Novelties, Specialities, all Lines. Dates waiting for right people. Lithos. and lowest terms, Dempsey and Warwick, St. James's Hall, Manchester.

WANTED, a Talented, Pretty, Juvenile Step and All-round Dancer; good salary, steady engagement, and best care taken. Apply, Madcaps, 20, Rusthall-av., Bedford Park, W.

WANTED, Star Comedians, Comediennes, Speciality Acts, now and onwards,
for Best Syndicate Halls, &c.
Bookings, lowest, lithos.,
"Lord" Geo. Aytoun's Agency,
120, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E.
Provincial Representative, Frank Lynne.

WANTED, good Vocalists, Comedians, Speciality Artists,
for Glasgow and District,
May, June, July;
also First Violinist for Orchestra;
must be experienced in Variety business.
H. L. Skivington, Empire, Greenock.

WANTED, six Coloured Boys, about 14 years, must have good voices and Speciality Dances, or else useless; also Big Boot Dancer. Apply, stating capabilities, &c., Harry Instone, Royal Varieties, Oldham.

WANTED, for Fête, April 8, onward, S. Wales, Troupe of Performing Dogs and Ladder Act. Lowest terms, Gannon, Agent, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, good Back Bender, 16 to 18, for Comedy Sketch.
Address, Box 4,581, "The Era."

QUEEN'S HALL, RADCLIFFE.

WANTED, latest picture shows, share or certainty, complete change weekly. June 10 to August 3, Theatre closed for decorations. Address, Santz.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, thoroughly competent; electric; two hours' show for two weeks, commence Sunday.
Wire, Photo, Sheffield.

WANTED, Bioscope Show, with latest Pictures, to last one hour each evening; everything must be found, Machine, Operator, Gas, Films, Sheet, &c. Wire lowest to Fant Abbott, Post Office, Halifax.

WANTED, an experienced Bioscope Operator (lime and electric), with machine and latest films. Particulars, Mirth, Prince of Wales's Hotel, Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Nellie Nora, Musical Act, Monday next, also April 8. Big Success, Aquar. Wire, 15, Bedford-street, Scarborough.

WANTED, by Mlle. Sylvesto, Lady Contortionist, April 15, 22, May 27, all June. This, Bromwich; next, Queen's Theatre, Keighley, Yorks.

WANTED, Monday next, by Babs Lloyd and Nellie Vance, Comedy Artists; just finished Barrasford Tour and Panto. Wire, Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, April 8, 15, 22, Phedona, in her Electrical Musical Act. Great success. This, Stockport; next, Pier, Southend. Coms., Charles Massey, Victoria Hall, Sunderland.

Wagner.

WANTED, Known, the Yorkshire Paderewski, Refined Musical Speciality, "A Bachelor's Pastime." Sure Success. Monday next, Palace, Tottenham. Liberty April 22. Offers invited.

WANTED, Engagements, Al-fresco or Piers, Refined Comedian; first-class experience, large répertoire. George Dix, perm., 36, Dorothy-road, Clapham Junction, S.W. April 1, Palace, Croydon; 8th, Islington Empire.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

The Greatest Mystery of Modern Times.
WANTED, Wanted, Known,
MYSTERIOUS LILITH,
MYSTERIOUS LILITH,
in her Palace of Roses.
MYSTERIOUS LILITH,
MYSTERIOUS LILITH,
in her Palace of Roses.
The Prettiest and most Sensational Mystery ever presented. Elaborately Staged.
Always a draw.
Always a sensation.
Proprietors and Managers requiring a big Attraction should secure this Star Act.
Also, LILIAN WARREN'S VOCAL PICTURES, with beautiful Dissolving Effects.
This week, Royalty Theatre, Morecambe. April 1, Grand Theatre, Hanley. Offers invited for May 13, 20, and June 17. Sole Proprietress, Lilian Warren.

WANTED, Dates, L'Estrange Comedy Pot-Pourri Entertainer, the man who charmed and made the King of Benin laugh, in mirthful gambols, introducing Dog Act, Sleighbells, Comedy and Burlesque Magic, Shadowgraphy, &c. The smartest varied Act in existence. 28, Westmoreland-road, Bayswater, London.

WANTED, Monday next, and all April, by J. H. Crew, a First-class Comedian. Wire, 77, Trafalgar-road, Peckham, London. Permanent.

WANTED, Monday next, April 1, by Stave, the Renowned Musical Electric Comedy Artist. Wire till Monday, Palace, Sunderland.

WANTED, by Paddy Sloan, Patter Comedian and Dancer, April 8, 15, and 22. Write or wire, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth; next, Royal T., Stockport.

WANTED, immediate and future Dates. George Battle, Actor-Vocalist,
Address, Care of "The Era."

WANTED, by Little Joey Stirling, Comedian, Original and Most Funny, April 1 and 8. This week, Tivoli, South Shields. This week, Tivoli, South Shields. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Mozzetto, the famous Juggler and Comedy Assistant, vacant Mon. Wire immediately, Mozzetto, Central Hall, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Lenton and Bertram can be engaged for their marvellous Thought-reading and Mental Telepathy Acts. 251, Seven Sisters-rd, London, N.

WANTED, April 1, wire, Queen's Theatre, Castleford, the Great Kyoto, Japanese Comedy Sensational Contortionist, Conjurer, Juggler, and Dog, Laughing and Applauding Hit, a sure big draw; also Miss May Geraldine, a dainty Vocalist, Comedienne, and Dancer, with catchy Chorus Songs. Wire above quick; also vacant April 15, to follow Dublin.

WANTED, The Vokes's (Ned and Tessie), the Funniest Musical Act before the Public. Liberty Monday. 16, Moreton-street, Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday, on, Jack Sheppard, World's Greatest Handcuff King and Prison Breaker; also Miss Ruby Vesta, in the Greatest Trunk Mystery on the Stage. Wire or write, 12K, Victoria-dwellings, Battersea, S.W.

WANTED, Monday next, by The Two Palmers, Maud and James, Refined Comedy Duettists; also good Single if required. Wire, 7, Thebertton-st., West Islington, London.

WANTED, by Ariel and Astarte (Lady and Gentleman) Gymnastic Pot-Pourri Act, April 15. Address, Hippo., Sheerness.

WANTED, Known, Vacant Easter Monday, Agnese and Arthur Lynch, in American Picture Songs. Wire, Albert Hall, Southport, until Sat., Midnight. After, see Card.

WANTED, Monday next, also April 8, The Percys (Harry, Lillie), Duettists, Dancers, Speciality Performers. Distance no object. Wire, Circus, Spennymoor.

WANTED, by the Gentrys, refined Comedy and Acrobatic Artists, in "Wanted, a Maid," April 8 and 15. Letters, Hippodrome, Blackpool (two weeks).

WANTED, April 8, 22, The Monckton, in Musical Comedy Episode, "Are Wives Dummies?" Hit of every programme. Return, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Monday next, through Hall closing, The Dunvilles, Great Comedy Musical Act, "Les Domestiques de la Maison." Wire, to-day, New Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, April 8, 15, Eventio and Bush, fully-protected Pot-Pourri Fantastical Absurdity, "The Juggler's Dream," Singing, Juggling, Dialogue, &c. 1st, Circus, Rochdale.

WANTED, Monday next, also April 8, by Sword and Robb, Comedians and Dancers. Wire, Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Sterling and Cashen, Military Comedy Duo and Dancers. At liberty, April 1, 15. Wire, 13, West-square, Lambeth, S.E.

WANTED, Monday, also April 8, by Reed and Lerne, Novel Comedians. Wire, Hippodrome, Wakefield.

WANTED, Known, Wright and Elton (Original Comedy Act), vacant April 1, 8, 15, 22. Wire, Hipp., Brighton; then, 83, Lenthall-road, Dalston.

WANTED, Monday and 8th, by Gravetta and Parr, clay modellers, jugglers, vents., impersonations of celebrities, &c., pot pourri. Palace, Carlisle, until Sunday.

WANTED, April 15 and 22, by Titan, Telka, and Wyllie (three Acts), Strong Man Show, Musical Act, and Ballad Vocalist. April 1, Town Hall, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Les Henris, Elegant Equilibrist and Gymnast, Big Draw, Free April 1 and 8. Wire, Gaiety, Birmingham.

WANTED, April 8, 15, by Los Granadas, Trampolin Comedy Gymnasts, a Novelty. Monday, Theatre Royal, Perth.

WANTED, Known, the Great Four Herberts, the Jolly Californian Farmers and Maid, are free to accept Fêtes, Galas, Seasides, &c., for June 10, 17, 24. Offers respectfully invited. April 1, Palace, Southampton; April 8, Palace, Blackburn. Communications, Madame Herbert.

WANTED, Easter and later, by The Florias, Celebrated Continental Slack Wire Artists and Equilibrists extraordinary. Enormous success everywhere. Write or wire, 2, Old Nelson-street, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Monday next, April 1, by Stanley's Urchins, Renowned Singing and Dancing Act by Boys. Wire Offers, Stanley, Hippodrome, Stalybridge.

WANTED, Whit week and later dates by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist. Two first-class acts. Monday, Roscommon, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Tom Garland, the real Ventriloquist, who draws everywhere, April 15 and 22. Managers watch me next week, Tivoli, Manchester.

WANTED, April 8 and May 6, for successful Sketch. "Her House in Disorder," by Hercat and Co., Bottom Bill and going strong Crouch End Hippo. this week. Address, care of "The Era," or Pacey and Reeves

WANTED, by Ella's Lions,
April 29,
May 6, 13, and 27,
London preferred.
Communications week April 1,
Palace Theatre, Plymouth.

WANTED, Known, Caban's French Circus, Ponies, Donkeys, Goat, and Dogs, at Liberty from April 8, with exceptions. All communications, address, C. Caban, Exhibition, Gloucester.

WANTED, Known, Devereux's famous Dogs, the dogs with human brains; the show that draws. Liberty May 13. Big shows, galas. Hippodrome, Dover.

Disengaged. Disengaged. Disengaged.
WANTED, Known, Ginger, late of Mdme. Carrie Laurie's Company "The Kindergarten," wishes to join good Comedy Sketch or Trio; can open immediately. Wire or write, 59, Lambeth Palace-road, Westminster, London, S.E.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Young Man, good All-round Tumbler, wishes to join Comedy, Sketch, or Troupe; also Clever Boy, to learn, slight knowledge. Box 4,508, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagements, Public or Private, Harmon's Bioscope, Marionettes, also Royal Punch and Judy, with Toby. 326, Earlsfield-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, engagement cinematograph, up to date films (England and Ireland), any length of show. Wire or write. Thomas Power, cinematograph, Post-office, Dublin.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman, Silver King (regd.), Auctioneer, Valuer, Expert and Authority to the United Kingdom and Van Dwellers' Association, Auctioneer to Lord George Sanger (England's Greatest Showman), and Leading Showmen of Great Britain. Sales and Commissions conducted in any part of the World. If you want to Buy or Sell anything connected with the Business, consult Tom Norman, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand. Change of address. Wanted to purchase or engage all kinds of Novelties and Curiosities (alive or dead), if suitable for exhibition.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Market Workers to send to Simons for up-to-date List, which shows special money-making lines at low prices.

100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch, E.C.

WANTED, Known, .22 "R" and "D" cartridges, Globes, Balls, Winchester and New Military Repeaters, Pistols, and all repairs done. Greene, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known.—A Word to the Wise is Sufficient. A Client writing June 25, 1906, says:—Bag puncher took £300 in a little over three months. For price, write Sole Agents to the Makers, viz., the Mills Novelty Co. Minerva Automatic Co., 14, Charterhouse-buildings, E.C. Largest Variety of Automatic Machines in the trade. No Junk. Note Change of Address.

Auctioneers.
WANTED, Known, Great Value Offered in Secondhand Silver Watches.
Auctioneers only supplied.
Write to-day for full particulars,
C. G. Clacher, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.
Try one of my famed parcels, containing Ten English Lever and Twelve Silver Geneva Watches. Best Value ever Offered.
In great demand. Price, £5 5s.

WANTED, Showmen to save money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of specially prepared paints, colours, varnishes, brushes, &c., and every requisite for decorating caravans, roundabouts, swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. Leete and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Known, all kinds of Showmen's Painting undertaken, Oil Paintings, Scenery, Letter-Cloths. Roche, Artist, 22, Lansdown-rd., Lee, London, S.E.

WANTED, Novelties and Freaks of Nature, for Bagan's Waxworks, Belfast, North-street; also Lady Palmist and Tattooist, on shares; good opening.

WANTED, Novelties, for
Humber's Waxwork,
George-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Good Novelties, immediate Dates; must have good Outside Flash; also Electric Tattooist. Address, "Exhibition," c/o Mr. Humphreys, ironmonger, Ton-y-Pandy.

WANTED, Novelties, Freaks, sale of books and post-cards allowed; can open at once. Chas. A. James, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, good Novelties for best position in London, Easter Holidays. Wire for Monday, Estelle, Exhibition, 335, High-st., East Ham, E.

WANTED, Freaks and Novelties, April 15 and onwards, for eight weeks' run in Glasgow. A. E. Pickard, American Museum, Glasgow.

WANTED, Phrenologist (gent.); terms, shares; splendid opening for one well up in the business. For particulars, apply, Box 4,545, "The Era."

WANTED, for Hancock's Palace of Varieties, one or two Lady Paraders; must be thoroughly used to the Business, to live out; can join at once. Apply, Hancock, Old Fair Field, Okehampton-road, St. Thomas's, Exeter. The lease of the Winter Gardens, Plymouth, has expired.

WANTED, Smart Doorsman, for Living Picture Exhibition; one that can Lecture to the Pictures; good job to a good man. Send terms, &c., to Sagar (late Collins), Wonderland, Fair Ground, Coventry.

TOWER, NEW BRIGHTON.
TOWER, NEW BRIGHTON.
Notice.
WANTED, Novel Propositions of all kinds,
for the occupation of Spaces in our

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COMMENCING at WHITSUNTIDE.

Anything that is New and Novel.
Anything that will take Money.
Anything that amuses the Public.
Nothing too large, nothing too small.
A very big Show of the "Savage South Africa" or "Buffalo Bill" type wanted for the Sports Velodrome, which is a third of a mile long, and fitted with two Magnificent Grand Stands.
100 SHOPS AND SIDE SHOWS TO LET.
A Good Menagerie Wanted. Houses and Cages ready, and use of present collection.
Troupe of Pierrots to tender for use of Outdoor Dancing Platform and Bandstand, and under-cover Accommodation in wet weather.
SPECIAL NOTICE.
The whole of the Thirty-five Acres of beautiful GROUNDS attached to the TOWER, NEW BRIGHTON, will this Season be thrown open to the Public FREE (Bank Holidays excepted) from 10 a.m. till 5.30 p.m., and as the number of visitors to New Brighton is estimated at FIVE MILLIONS annually, it is confidently anticipated that this

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will be far and away the Greatest Show Arena in this Country.
All communications,
William Holland, Manager.

WANTED, to Let, Land for Stalls and Shows. Apply, Albert Ellis, Secretary, Starr Estate Fairground Co., 81, Central Beach, Blackpool.

COVENTRY WHITSUNTIDE GREAT FAIR.
WANTED, Known, Proprietors of Roundabouts, Shows, Swings, &c., are informed that there is Space to Let at the above Fair. Apply, Superintendent, 11, West Orchard, Coventry.

WANTED, to Let, Splendid Spaces, facing sea, for Pierrots and others, at Tankerton-on-Sea. S., 25, Montague-place, Russell-square, W.C.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

SHOWMEN'S GUILD.
President: Lord George Sanger.
Short Notice.
WANTED, Known, Important Meeting, Queen's-road Fair Ground, Manchester, Easter Sunday, 6 p.m., Chester Bye-Laws, Rawtenstall Fair, the Rev. T. Horne on the Work of the Society.
T. Hurst,
Hon. Sec.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, Important,
that the next meeting of the British Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union will be held at Blackburn, on Wednesday, April 4, at 2.30 p.m.
Members to assemble on the Fair Ground at 2.30 sharp.

Signed, T. Hurst, Sec.

WANTED, Known, Caban's French Circus, Ponies, Donkeys, Goat, and Dogs, at Liberty from April 8, for Exhibitions (as Side Show), &c. Address, C. Caban, Exhibition, Gloucester.

WANTED, Galas, Prof. Carcass' Talented Punch and Judy and Toby, Specially Engaged this week at Bury, the Gala to follow; thirty years' experience, not thirty minutes. Perm., 5, Old Elm-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, P. Marland's Royal Punch and Judy, with Champion Dog Toby, at Liberty Fêtes, Galas, &c. 142, Chesham-rd., Bury.

WANTED, Known, Harold Pyott, the Smallest Man on Earth, just finished most successful and comfortable Engagement with Fred Burnette, Esq., Waxworks, Glasgow. Open Monday next, Humber's, Aberdeen, to follow Stewart's Edinburgh. Dis. May 20. Write, Humber's Waxwork, George-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, by Fred Potter, Planksman and Descriptive Vocalist, Situation with Auction Mart; young, experienced, and reliable. 30, Layton-road, Leicester.

WANTED, Situation, by Smart Young Auctioneer; understands business thoroughly; knows good firms; undeniable references. Box 4591, "The Era."

WANTED, by Leading Society Tottooist, Space in Show or Exhibition, where good business can be done. Tattooist, 24, Albert-street, Aldershot.

BLACKPOOL SANDS.
WANTED, Known, the South Shore Pleasure Beach is the only site in Blackpool for Open-air Attractions.
The grounds are forty acres in extent, right on the sea front, and are situated immediately next the Promenade at the Electric Tramway Terminus. From April 1 to Dec. 31, 1905, 4,000,000 passengers were carried on these tramways. The permanent attractions now include the "River Caves of the World," "Maxim Flying Machine," "Sea Circus," &c. Great Canadian Water Chute and Scenic Railway from Coney Island now being erected for next season, commencing at Easter. For sites and concessions for really good Novelties apply personally. Office on grounds. Letters only, 14, Balmoral-road, Blackpool.

ARMLEY FEAST GROUND, LEEDS.
WANTED, to Let, by Tender, the Ground on which the Feast is Held, Sept. 2, 3, and 4, 1907.
The Ground is square, adjoins the Main Street, and contains about Three and a half Acres.
The party taking the Moor will have to pay the Waterworks' Charge of about 30s. for the use of Water for Exhibitors' use. One-half of the Accepted Tender will have to be paid at the time of such Acceptance, and the remainder on Aug. 1, 1907. If this condition is not complied with, the amount Deposited will be forfeited.
All the Tenders to be sealed and Endorsed, "Tender for Armley Moor," and sent to the Undersigned not later than April 13, 1907.
The Highest or any Tender not necessarily Accepted.
John Hunter, Clerk to the Common Right Trustees, 159, Armley-road, Armley, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, one or two Spaces to Let at Moderate Rentals, including Scenic Stalls and Gas Fittings, second Scottish Tour, eighty-first consecutive exhibition in three years. Apply, Manager, Trades Exhibition, Public Hall, Jedburgh, N.B.

WANTED, Good Position, for Stereoscope, 144 Pictures, small space.
Letters, 43, Sydney-square, Peckham, London.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch, is going ahead with up-to-date Lines in Field Glasses, Fancy Goods, Clocks, Jewellery, &c.

There is no cheaper house for you.

WANTED, to Sell, Road or Rail Living and Luggage Van, two years old, 17ft. by 7ft., with skylight along top; living compartments, with fittings complete, comprising bed, chest of drawers, cupboards, lockers, and stove; back part, top, and sides for packing; lamp lockers beneath.
Price £59 cash.
Apply, John Holmes,
Fair Ground, Norwich, Easter Monday and Tuesday; Great Yarmouth Friday and Saturday; following week, Lowestoft.

WANTED, to Sell, Splendid Showy Panelled Road Living Wagon, built by Jones, Hereford, patent axles, brass caps on wheels, fitted, complete, cost £80, price £28, suit gentleman or showman. Apply, Tourist, 6, Southampton-street, Islington, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Cheap Photographic Van, either road or rail, comprising Living-room, Studio, Dark-room, &c.; 18ft. front, open out 18ft. back, fitted up throughout with gas, large gas generator, purifier, sundry photo apparatus, tools, &c., all in thorough working order. Photo and all particulars on application. Can be seen working. Apply, Manager, Photo Van, Darnall, Sheffield.

WANTED, to Sell, Caravan, little used, well fitted, ready for road. Bargain for cash. Owner going abroad. Box 4,574, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, new, shop soiled, from 5s.; Card Delivery, Games, Fortunes, Electrics. Manager, 5, Denning-road, Hampstead.

WANTED to Sell, Automatic Machines, Husbands, Babies, Love-Letters, Palmistry, Lunatics', Marriage, and Liars' Licences. Mburics, 39, Argyle-square, W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, Quantity of Automatic Machines, Rifles, and odd gear, at Bottom Prices. Apply before 11.30 a.m., 104, Bishopsgate Without.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines of every Description, best and cheapest. Wormald, 123, Blythe-road, Olympia, Kensington, London. Established 1887.

WANTED, to Sell, large Distorting Mirrors, cheap for cash; also Roller Skates.
Box 4,578, "The Era."

WANTED, to Purchase, immediately for Cash, Large Modern Roundabout (not motor-cars), working by electric motor preferred, or adapted to be so worked; must have Grand Organ and Brilliant Electric Display, and be in perfect condition in every respect. Would prefer to purchase without wagons, engines, or dynamo. Reply to Box 4,570, "The Era" Office, London, enclosing photo. and stating fullest particulars, absolute cash price, and where can be seen working.

WANTED, to Purchase, immediately, on Reasonable Terms, Roundabout, with 36 horses, traction engine, electric light, organ, &c., complete; must be in first-class condition, and ready to open. Tom Norman, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office.

WANTED, a Paper or Brass Organ at once, and Traction Engine. Price and particulars, address, Blake, 104, Joy-street, Belfast.

WANTED, to buy Small Hand Roundabout; Also,
Small Trumpet Organ to Work by Hand.

Wood, 94, Kenbury-street,
Camberwell, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, gentleman having £200 to £500 to invest, wishes to join travelling auctioneer; must be already established.
Send full particulars to
Box 4,595, "The Era."

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that the following is a complete COPYRIGHT LIST OF FAIRS, FEASTS, WAKES, AND CARNIVALS IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND WALES FOR APRIL. (COPYRIGHT TO THE ERA.)

ENGLAND.

April 1. Bakewell (3500)
April 1. Bilston (24,000)
April 1. Birkenhead (111,000)
April 1. Blackheath (21,000)
April 1. Cheltenham (49,600)
April 1. Clevedon (6000)
April 1. Doncaster (29,000)
April 1. Exeter (47,000)
April 1. Gainsborough (17,000)
April 1. Garston (17,300)
April 1. Great Grimsby (63,005)
April 1. Halesowen (9000)
April 1. Hampstead Heath
April 1. Hendon (Welsh Harp) (17,000)
April 1. Hinckley (11,300)
April 1. Hockham (600)
April 1. Jarrow-on-Tyne (31,300)
April 1. Lindfield (2300)
April 1. Malvern (16,500)
April 1. Middlesbrough (91,300)
April 1. Midsomer Norton (6000)
April 1. Morecambe (12,000)
April 1. New Brighton (10,000)
April 1. Newcastle-on-Tyne (214,803)
April 1. Newmarket (10,700)
April 1. Northampton (87,000)
April 1. Northwich (17,600)
April 1. Norwich (11,700)
April 1. Plymouth (107,509)
April 1. Portsmouth (189,000)
April 1. Queen's Road, Manchester
April 1. Richmond (Surrey) (31,000)
April 1. Rothwell Feast (6211)
April 1. Rushden (12,000)
April 1. Ryde (11,000)
April 1. Salford (Trinity Market) (221,000)
April 1. Selby (8000)
April 1. Shipley Glen
April 1. Southport (48,400)
April 1. South Shields (97,300)
April 1. Stafford (20,275)
April 1. Thornaby (16,000)
April 1. Tring (1400)
April 1. Tunbridge Wells (33,400)
April 1. Wanstead Flats (9200)
April 1. Wormwood Scrubbs
April 2. Folkestone (30,700)
April 2. Hexham (7000)
April 2. Hitchin (10,000)
April 2. Longton (35,000)
April 2. Romsey (4200)
April 2. Thame (3000)
April 3. Barnard Castle (4300)
April 3. Bridport (5700)
April 3. Dawlish (4000)
April 3. Yarmouth (38,425)
April 4. Accrington (43,000)
April 4. Derby (106,400)
April 5. Bicester (3300)
April 5. Swindon (45,000)
April 6. Swinton and Pendlebury (19,000)
April 6. Gloucester (48,000)
April 6. Huddersfield (103,500)
April 6. St. Colomb (60,846)
April 8. Brighouse Fair (10,750)
April 10. Worksop (13,000)
April 13. Glossop (21,500)
April 13. Ravensthorpe Feast (5162)
April 16. Luton (36,400)
April 18. Wareham (2000)
April 20. Bedford (35,200)
April 20. Chesham (7300)
April 20. Crediton (4000)
April 20. Devizes (6600)
April 20. St. Austell (3477)
April 23. Barnoldswick (7400)
April 23. Bewdley (2866)
April 24. Guisborough (6500)
April 24. Hatfield (4000)
April 25. Bracknell (2200)
April 25. Iron Acton (1000)
April 27. Alton (5590)
April 27. Horncastle (4000)
April 29. Holmes Chapel (956)
April 29. Knutsford (4673)
April 29. Darlington (44,500)
April 29. Horwich (15,000)
April 29. Lincoln (49,000)
April 29. Longton (3300)
April 29 Newchurch (4000)
April 29. South Shields (97,300)
April 30. Axminster (3500)
April 30. Cobham (2300)
April 30. Newick (1083)

SCOTLAND.

April 1. Dunfermline (1742)
April 4. Govan (76,351)
April 4. Lanark (6440)
April 4. Stirling (18,403)
April 8. Dundee (153,066)
April 15. Leven (6000)
April 19. Hamilton (32,775)
April 29. Edinburgh (208,069)

WALES.

April 1. Cardiff (164,000)
April 1 Holywell (6725)
April 1. Maesycwmmer (800)
April 1. Menai Bridge (1800)
April 1. Merthyr Tydvil (26,500)
April 1. Mold (4000)
April 1. Newport (Monmouth) (67,000)
April 1. Pontypridd (23,000)
April 1. Tredegar (18,000)
April 5. Wrexham (14,966)
April 8. Newtown (6500)
April 15. Aberdare (43,000)
April 22. Pontypool (6000)
April 24. Merthyr Tydvil (26,500)

WANTED, Known, the Seventy Thousand Showmen who use the Columns of "The Era" and are moving about should know that they can make "The Era" Offices their Permanent London Address. Letters received will be held till called for, or immediately re-addressed according to instructions. Address all communications respecting the Letter Department to the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Showmen who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any Railway Bookstall to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED TO SELL.

EMPRESS THEATRE OF VARIETIES HARTLEPOOL.

Fully Licensed Bars Throughout.

Now in its Fourth Successful Year of Variety Conducted Twice Nightly.

WANTED, to Sell, outright, with immediate possession as a going concern,

through ill-health of the Proprietor. who must go abroad.

Freehold Property.

All communications to be addressed to HARRY BURNS, General-Manager.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, to Sell, the Great Pantomime, "Crusoe's Adventures." Undoubtedly the Finest Production in the Provinces. The beautiful Scenery by Conrad Tritschler, R. C. Oldham, D. G. Hall, F. Lemaistre, W. R. Young, and Henry Emden, Six Full Sets, Three Half Sets, and Four Front Scenes. Over 450 Magnificent Costumes, made by Miss Nash, from designs by Comelli. Elaborate properties, electrical effects, &c. &c. Apply to J. F. GRAHAM, Manager, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.
"The Era" Dramatic and Musical Annual for 1907 is up to its usual standard—in fact, it is, if possible, smarter than ever. There is an excellent budget of articles from the pens of Miss Ellen Terry, Miss Cicely Richards, Miss Pollie Emery, Messrs. Frank Cooper, Arthur Collins, Charles Collette, Frank Curzon, Edward German, Cliff Ryland, and many others. The illustrated obituary, the alphabetical list of plays produced in London and the provinces, and all the other valuable features of the Annual are as complete as ever, and make this handbook extremely useful not only to members of the profession, but to the infinitely wider circle interested directly or indirectly in the drama.—Whitehall Review.

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Rehearsal at 12 for :—
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Rehearsal at 11 a.m. for :—
"Moving In," Proveanies, Bioscope, Anartos, Stylo, Beatrice Bonnie, Kathleen Cogan, Forest and King, Henry Coutts, Will English.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
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EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
La Milo, Harold Hughman, Gladys Mavius, Bros. Lang, Five Delevines, Harry Lawson, Godfrey James, Gwennie Hasto, Carrie Joy, Bioscope.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Dusty Rhodes, Ed. E. Forde, Marzella's Birds, Carney and Armstrong, Chas. Vincent, Strolling Players, Lily Tiso, Van Biene and Co., Bioscope, Illustrated Song.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Tom Costello, New Macs, Dorrells, Sisters Jonghmann, J. Alexander and Co., Billy Farrell, Ryder Slone, Boy Glen, Bioscope, "Isle of Ooma."

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Bella and Bijou, Margaret Ashton, Glenn and Griffiths, Chas. Norton, Nipper Lane, Musical Jees, Lily Langtry, Lupino Bros., Bioscope, Tschernoff's Dogs.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Nellie Wallace, Bioscope, The Findens, Simms and Simms, Maggie Walsh, Hartley Wonders, Spry and Monti, Park's Eton Boys.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Wilkie Bard, Isabel Dillon and Co., Aldridge, The Tupps, Fernee's Juveniles, "Mysteries of the Cliff," Tray and Rich, Huxter Bros., Lil Hawthorne, Bioscope.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Duchess of Tooting," Bert Harrow, Lally, Punch and Judy Girls, Robertys, Frank Couch, Albert Whelan, Blanche Vincent, Bioscope, Speedy.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Gus Elen, Boswell's Circus, Starr and Leslie, Walter King, Daisy Jerome, Kellinos, Ian Colquhoun, Woodhouse and Wells, Genaro and Theol, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
G. P. Huntley and Co., Frank Leslie, Thos. Finglass, Sisters Macarte, Dion Wade, Alexandre and Hughes, Mlle. Ameda, Frank Bertram and Co., The Gothams, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Lew Lake and Co., Syd May, Ruth Lytton, Carter Livesey and Co., Jackley Trio, Mark Merry, Elsie Claire, Phil and Nettie Peters, Leipsig, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Eugene Stratton, Cissie Curlette, Bros. Dean, Mlle. Von Etta, Millie Howell, Les Strads, Illustrated Song, Doris Trevelyan, Fulbrook and Co., Bioscope.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Chung Ling Soo, Ethel Ra Leslie, Lileth Leyton and Co., Herbert Rule, George Newburn, Madge Grey, Roma and Romani, Chas. Kay, Clarke and Glenny, Bioscope.

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EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Fred Storey and Co., Arthur Gill, Ruby Dahl, J. W. Rickaby, Vetter Bros., Carlos Menard, Chronophone, Ed. Arthur and Co., Kroney Bros.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Horace Goldin, Harry Bedford, McConnell Trio, Elly Adair, Hall and Earle, Harry Leybourne, Illustrated Song, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
"The Little Stowaway," Tom Owen, Belloni's Cockatoos, Mendel, C. Randolph King, Celtic Comedy Trio, Bioscope, Dare's Minstrels, The Kirbys, Frank Darwin, Gertrude Bradshaw.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
George Gray and Co., Fanny Erris, Nellie Coleman, Dome, Lily Burnand, Three Tauberts, Howard and Harris, Frank Lynne, Bioscope.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Casey's Panto, Sylvesta, Bioscope, Bohemians, Garganys, Jeannie Mackay, Billy McClain and Co., Jas. Brady, Karno Four, "No. 99."

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 11 a.m. for :—
"The Treasure Ship," Bioscope, Illustrated Song, Trapnells, The Gems, Topsy and Usher, Harry Clifford, "Heartstrings," Four Royal Welshmen, McBanns.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Vesta Tilley, Bros. Horne, May Evans, Lady Fauntleroy, Allis and Cassati, The Boccaccios, Rosa Loader, Russell Brandow, Robb Gilmore, Bioscope.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Mlle. Classeum's Art Bronzes, Knick Knacks, Roxborough and Wright, George Ridgwell, Three Missouris, Kate Trail, Fitzroys, Pictures, Hunt and Thomas.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 11 a.m. for :—
Mrs. Brown Potter and Co., G. H. Keith, Rhoda Bros., Florence, Barney Armstrong, Lena Brunton, Hurley and Cole, Seeley and West.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Bros. Egbert, Eva Barrie, The Howards, Edie King, Sinclair and Whiteford, H. E. High, Jess Thorne, Pictures, Vasilescu Troupe.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.
(Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance.)
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
George Leyton, Mlle. Spada, Frank Sylvo, Sisters Charnley, McNaughton, Garstang, and Co., Pictures, Society Quartette, Chas. Clarke, J. W. Rowley.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
The Kremos, Victor Newman, Three Cape Girls, Musical Schaffers, Illustrated Song, Bioscope, George Christian, Mlle. Pom Pom.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.
ARTISTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT THE ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON, IS WITHIN THE AREA ABSOLUTELY BARRED BY US.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras. Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, or at least TWO WEEKS, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

N.B.—Silence in every case a polite negative. Artists are requested not to enclose stamped envelope. Letters marked "Private" will be delayed.
Telephone, 1399 Gerrard. Wires, "Twigsome, London."

THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
"Three of a Kind," George Mozart, Florrie Forde, Daisy Dormer, Fred Earle, Pat Rafferty, G. W. Kenway, Percy Curry, May Martin, Maud Levein, Ross and Grayson, Three Delaires, Howard and Collinson, F. W. Purcell's Company, in "That Brute Simmons," Pictures.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Both Performances.
J. Lawson and Co., Harry Forde, Mark Sheridan, Five Bogannys, Austin Rudd, Lawrence Barclay, Percy Curry, Carlotta Levey, Daisy Dormer, Duncan and Godfrey, Marba and Verity, Pictures.

EMPIRE, COVENTRY.
(Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance.)
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
George Lashwood, Mlle. Sylvia, Alice Blandford, Lucretia, Fred Frampton, Katie Butler, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND
(Now in course of erection).
Artists and Agents please note that Bookings for the above Theatre have now commenced.

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"MILITARY MAD."
Sung by Sam Walsh.

"THE FRENCH GIRL AND THE ENGLISH MAID."
Sung by Miss Ruby Ray and Charles Angelo.

"IN THE HIELANS" (Gerald Grafton),
Sung by Edmund Payne and Miss G. Alwyn in "The New Aladdin" at the Gaiety Theatre.

"THAT'S THE REASON NOO I'WEAR A KILT" (Lauder and Kendall).
Sung by Harry Lauder.

"HULLO, OLD MAN!" (G. A. Stevens).
Sung by Miss Victoria Monks.

"I'M A BACHELOR" (Arthurs and Lyle) and "JOLLY GOOD LUCK TO THE GIRLS WHO LOVE THE SOLDIERS" (Leigh and Lyle).
Sung by Miss Vesta Tilley.

"THE SONG WITHOUT A NAME" (the "Ah-Ah-Ah" Song).
Written, Composed, and Sung by Fred Hastings.

"ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD" (Castling and B. Scott).
Sung by Miss Dora Lyric.

"HENNY KLEIN" (Jerome and Schwartz)
Sung by Miss Madge Lessing.

"ROUND THE CLOCK; or, THE STRENUOUS LIFE" (Redmond and Thurban).
Sung by Fred Curtis.

"IN DEMERARA" (Castling and F. Godfrey).
Sung by Miss Marie Kendall.

"I'M A LITTLE BIT DEAF TO-DAY." (Bateman and Leigh).
Sung by Edgar Curtis.

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Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not re-booked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follows:—

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MR. W. LEA.
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N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

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Chas. Semere, Dale and O'Malley, F. V. St. Clair, Queenie May, Rose Elliott, Harry Conlin, Harvey Boys, Lucy Coventry, Meer and Mora, Roland, Voelkers, Pictures.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.
Tally Ho Trio, Percy Hanna, Crystals, W. Ellwanger and Co., John Tiller's Co., in "Dick Whittington."

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"DON'T BE AFRAID, LITTLE SOLDIER."
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DRAMATIC and MUSICAL CALENDAR.
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CALLS.

FOR WEEK COMMENCING

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 1907.

PROVINCIAL CIRCUIT.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal, 11 sharp.
Bert Goldin, Lloyd Phillips and Co., Will Lear, Bros. Lennetti, The Custances, Pictures, Albano Family.

PALACE, LINCOLN.
J. H. Darnley and Co., Vera Mayne, The Krags, Lise Rolland, John Macauley, Three Transfields, D. W. Watson, Minnie Fenton, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BATH.
Otto and Olga, Gladys Witton, Thornbury, Simosa San, Violet Nunn, Maitland Trio, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, "Tree of Truth."

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal, 11 sharp.
Harmony Four, T. C. Jaques, Flo Chevalier, Max Duffek, Tom Kelso and Co., Lombarts Bros., Arthur Goodman, Penstone, Bert Dansen.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Rehearsal, 11 sharp.
George Formby, Fioretti and Elly, Tiny Arnold, Joe Dale, Coolvilles, Matweef Hugostons, Brull and Hemsley, Harry Vardon, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, HALIFAX.
Rehearsal, 11 sharp.
Marie Kendall, Rich and Rich, T. C. Edwards, Elsie Roby, Steve McCarthy, Three Pirmans, Luigi Salvino, Mooney and Holbein, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
"Prince of Monte Carlo," Edie Endon, Alskarno Trio, Florrie Bray, Beau and Belle, The Henres, Sisters Hall, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Rehearsal, 11 sharp.
Chas. Vandyke and Co., Edna Latonne, Four Herberts, Wallzu, Barlee and Smith, Charles Torbay, Charles Mildare, Mysterious Cross, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

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THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.
Picture Entertainment.

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.
Managers of touring companies are hereby notified that the Rotherham and Chesterfield Theatres are the premier places of entertainment in these respective towns, and that all other places of amusement are rigidly barred. All applications for dates at Leeds, Rotherham, and Chesterfield to be addressed to the Head Offices at Sheffield.

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THE BRITANNIA.
Matinée Monday.
Harry Champion, Albert and Edmunds Co., Tom Moore, Hillman and Russell, The Ashwells, Billy French, Raymond, Little Zola, The Mayvilles, Chris Baker.

FORESTERS.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Bartholomew Girls, Steinway Glee Singers, Stacey and Williams, Tom Collins, Beattie Kent, Chas. Valvo, Satsuma, Flo Warner, Jack Rae, Raymond, Leonard Mortimer and Co., Rhoda Paul.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
Harry Anderson, Winnie Derson, Leoni Clarke, W. B. Raby, Clifton and Gibson, Walker and May, Bros. Redmond, Fatmah Diard, Milsted and Bell, Raymond, Maudie McDonald, Vaudeville Co.

SURREY THEATRE.
All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band parts.
Matinée every Monday.
Billy Williams, Will Johnson, Daisy Martell, Jack Martin, Tivoli Girls, Richardson Taylor, Raymond, Arnold Bell and Co., Bernard and Weston, "Love-Makers" Co., Phil Rabey.

Notice.—All artists carrying Scenery must have it Fireproof, according to L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

All Bill Matter or Notification of Appearance must be sent in 14 days prior to opening. All Artists must attend Band Rehearsal, or their Contracts may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

N.B.—All Billing Matter, accompanied by Pictorials, and Business Communications relating to the Provincial Circuit, must be addressed to the

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"CHEERO."
"ALL ALONE IN OLD COLOGNE."
"MOLLY BAWN."
"GROW, LITTLE MUSHROOM, GROW."
"IOLA."
"DOWN ON THE BEAUTIFUL RHINE."
"SAN ANTONIO."
"WANDA FROM ANACONDA."
"MY MONTANA MAID."
"CAN'T YOU FIND A LITTLE TIME TO SAY 'GOOD EVENING'?"
"WEDDING BELLS."
"WON'T YOU FLOAT WITH ME IN MY GONDOLA?"

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CALLS for MONDAY, APRIL 1, 1907.

Rehearsals at 1 p.m.

PALACE THEATRE, PLYMOUTH.
Ella's Lions, Rowland Hill, Yolande Noble, Frank Cumminger, Mountford and Walsh, J. C. Scatter, Daisy Morrell, Vernon's Bioscope, Mark Melford and Co.

PALACE THEATRE, BRISTOL.
Tom Foy and Co., Frank and Violet Payte, Fred S. Peake and Co., Fred Villars, Cole De Losse Duo, Will Souls, Vernon's Bioscope, Herbert Lloyd.

PALACE THEATRE, SUNDERLAND.
"Belle of Barcelona," Leotard Bros., Lidden and Hayward, Ben Harris' Nippers, Hans and Lux, Francis O'Flynn, Vernon's Bioscope, Frank Seeley.

KING'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD.
"The Daybreakers," Gracie Lawn, Bugler Carr, Dave McNeil, Bros. Obo, Jennie Lee, Lavelle Bros., Vernon's Bioscope, The Three Romas.

PALACE THEATRE, DUNDEE.
Corman's Juveniles, Dolly Denver, The Nettas, Jay W. Winton, Halma, Andy Fagan, Keith and Merson, Vernon's Bioscope, John Grun Marx.

PALACE THEATRE, ABERDEEN.
Fred Ginnett's "Turpin's Ride to York," Martine and Son, Madge Allan, Silvertone Quartette, Onda and Artell, Albert Windsor, Rejected Remounts, Queenie Seymour, Vernon's Bioscope, Ryan and Hall.

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